

Inside this issue:

Football, volleyball playoff wins

State tennis

Cross country teams qualify for state

Downtown revitalization mural project

Firearms deer season



Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Staples, Minnesota

\$125

Staples-Motley Elementary overjoyed with new gym

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The first reactions of Staples-Motley students included a lot of wide eyes and jaws dropping.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Oct. 23, with two student representatives, members of the Staples-Motley School Board and administration. Following the ceremony, all the students in the school were invited to gather for a group photo, many of them seeing the gym for the first time.

Principal Alan Berg said it was fun to hear the reactions of students throughout the day, as they came out of gym class and were talking in the building. He quoted one fourth grade student, who had experienced the previous setup, saying "It's way better than the old gym."



Elementary gym

Bleachers and baskets are installed at the new Staples-Motley Elementary school gym.

Superintendent Shane Tappe backed up those reactions, saying "It was worth the entire project after seeing the kids' faces."

Tappe noted the sacrifices that parents, students

and staff made while the project was being completed, but the final result is now here.

"It is amazing what has come to fruition," said Tappe.

See **GYM** on page 12a

New gym officially open

Student representatives Cade Ingersol and Danni Borash open the new Staples-Motley Elementary School gym with Principal Alan Berg. School board members holding the ribbon, Lisa Anderson and Ryan Wright, left, and Jeremy Reeck and Bryan Winkels, right. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Lions looking for help with Pine Grove Park Christmas lights

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council was given an update on plans for the Christmas lights project this year and into the future.

Bob Schafer of the Staples Host Lions Club was at the Oct. 24 meeting and told the council that the Lions will be the lead group on the lights project this year but they would like help with planning and operating the display in the future. When the project started, the displays had been set up by the city and community groups helped operate it. This year the Lions are the main organizers and are planning to set up the displays.

Schafer said they got the project going late last year when the project transferred over to the club, but "now we would like to keep the momentum going."

But with an aging population in the Lions Club, Schafer said they would like more groups to help.

"It is a sharing situation. We are trying to make this a sustainable effort," said Schafer.

Some of the issues that the Lions ran into were electrical outlet problems and issues created with melting snow and an ice storm.

"We want to be good stewards of this display, there's a huge investment in this," said Schafer.

The council approved a \$2,500 donation from the

Lions Club to update the electrical infrastructure at Pine Grove Park.

Attorney update

Staples City Attorney Joe Krueger updated the council on activity this year. He said the crime statistics were similar so far this year compared to other years but there is one major trend that is affecting the city.

He said his office has handled 80 cases in the Todd County portion of Staples so far this year, with a standard mix of thefts, disorderly conduct and domestic assaults. "We're not seeing an uptick in any one area," said Krueger.

But one trend that is happening in Staples and in

See **COUNCIL** on page 3a



New trees/shrubs planted in Motley, part of Energy and Environment Plan

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

A number of projects have been completed in the City of Motley during 2023, thanks to their Energy and Environment Plan, the result of a partnership between the city and Region Five Development Commission (R5DC).

Most recently, the city's three parks saw improvements with the planting of new trees and shrubs, along with the purchase of drinking fountains with bottle fillers for two of the parks.

Other projects completed to date included having a fall clean-up day Oct. 21, and retrofitting the lighting in the fire hall to LED bulbs. Conducting an energy audit on city buildings is expected to be completed in the near future.

All of these projects were made possible, thanks to BJ Allen, Deputy Director of R5DC, who helped Motley secure \$20,000 in funding. These funds were from a \$5,000 grant received by R5DC from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), along with a \$5,000 matching grant from the Motley Lions Club and a \$10,000 match from Sourcewell.

Bruce Brotherton, Motley's Public Works Director, shared that the project started with a commu-

nity survey in 2022, which helped identify needs and desires for improvements in town. The items identified included having a fall clean up day, planting more trees and greenery, and reducing the city's energy

consumption which would help save money.

Brotherton said that Sarah Lenzen, an administrative assistant at city hall, was very helpful when it came to selecting the various plants and trees, as well

as where to place them. He and Maintenance Assistant Bryan Stevens took care of all the plantings and installed the drinking fountains.

See **MOTLEY** on page 12a



New trees at Veterans Park in Motley

Public Works Supervisor Bruce Brotherton (left) and Maintenance Assistant Bryan Stevens are pictured with one of the snow crabapple trees planted recently at Veterans Park in Motley. Planting larger trees and shrubs in the city's parks was one of the projects on the city's En-

ergy and Environment Plan (facilitated by Region Five Development), with funding from USDA through Region Five Development, Sourcewell and the Motley Lions Club. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Weather

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 1	38	22	M. Cloudy
Nov. 2	38	27	M. Cloudy
Nov. 3	39	32	Cloudy
Nov. 4	40	30	Cloudy
Nov. 5	38	30	Cloudy
Nov. 6	36	23	Snow
Nov. 7	36	26	P. Cloudy

Last Year, 2022

	High	Low	Cond.
Nov. 1	70°	36	Sunny
Nov. 2	72	58	M. Sunny
Nov. 3	55	49	Cloudy
Nov. 4	43	29	Sunny
Nov. 5	45	28	M. Sunny
Nov. 6	46	36	Sunny
Nov. 7	32	19	Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 46° Low = 30°

*Compiled by
Dale Hausmann,
WCCO's Staples area
Weatherwatcher*

Public Notices

Todd Cty

Commiss Minutes

9A

ISD #2170

10A

Todd Cty BOA

10A

Obituaries

Jean Flack

Arlene Swanson

New mural is latest Downtown Revitalization project



Staples mural project nears completion

A new mural has been painted on the west wall of Tower Pizza in Staples, one of the projects of the Downtown Revitalization plan, and funded by a Blandin Boost Grant. Pictured Oct. 17, from left, are Eric Neznik, owner of Tower Pizza; Renee Kroll, representing Downtown

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

Thanks to a Blandin Boost Grant to implement the City of Staples' down-

town revitalization plan, funding was made possible for a mural to be painted on the west wall of Tower Pizza.

Jon King, a professional

Revitalization Committee and Discover Staples; artist Jon King of Minneapolis; Melissa Wyman, Staples Economic Development Director; Jordan Goodwater, representing Downtown Revitalization Committee and Discover Staples. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

artist from Minneapolis, was hired to paint the brightly colored mural, which boasts of flowers and other plants, such as wild onions, that are native to

this area.

After first sketching the design, King began painting Oct. 10, making use of a few sunny days and temperatures in the 50s and 60s.

As of Oct. 18, he was nearly finished with the project.

Melissa Wyman, Staples Economic Development Director, shared that the Blandin grant which funded this project had been made possible by the efforts of the Downtown Revitalization Planning Committee and the Staples EDA (Economic Development Authority). The original grant was for \$100,000 and can only be used to implement the Downtown Revitalization plan which focuses on placemaking projects.

The mural is just one of the downtown projects that have been completed to date. Others include the Hwy 10 flower box revitalization and additional barn quilts in the downtown area, a project partially funded by the Blandin grant.

There are many other downtown projects in the works, Wyman said, going on to mention wayfinding signage, 'Welcome' banners on Hwy 10, lights to wrap around the street pole lights which would be left up year 'round, and metal banners in the downtown area (the committee is working with Precision Metalcraft to create these). Recently, the Downtown Revitalization committee approved installing LED lights on the Batcher Block Opera House (BBOH) along 2nd Ave. and 5th St. NE, which will light

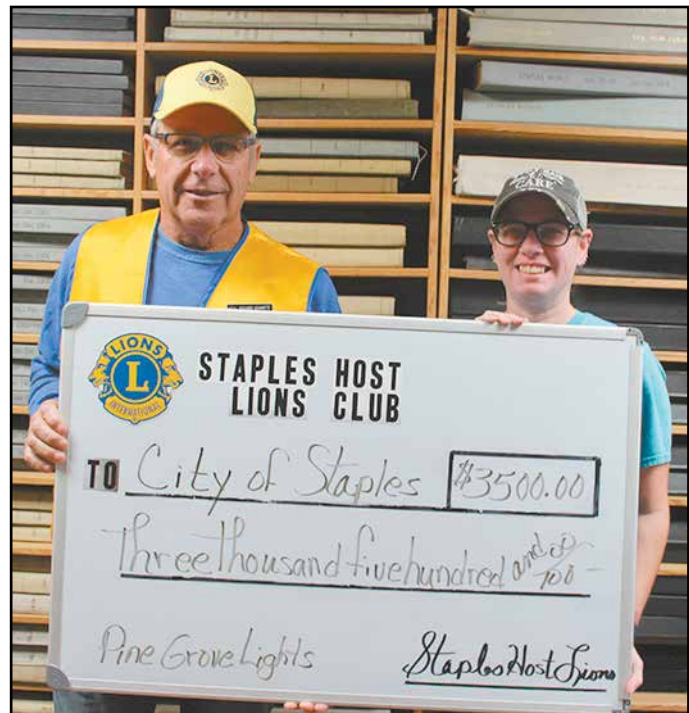
up that stretch of downtown.

Other ideas have been brought up, but applications have not yet been received. These include expanding the Christmas tree lighting that the historical society does each year to include a community event, lights at the Northern Pacific Depot, a downtown (urban) park, and a historic tour of downtown.

Wyman said that most of the grant funding has been committed. However, if projects fall through or others get prioritized, then some of those allocations can change and new projects funded. "Ultimately, the two Downtown Revitalization groups make those decisions and submit applications for funding based on what they believe to have the most impact," Wyman said.

When asked about the possibility of another mural being painted, Wyman said an additional mural could be funded if the Downtown Revitalization committees identify this as a priority. If not, this would need to be funded through other grants or fundraising.

The Blandin grant needs to be allocated to projects by the end of 2023, Wyman said. However, projects can be completed in the spring/summer of 2024.



Funds for park lights

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$3,500 to the City of Staples, with the funds allocated for holiday lights at Pine Grove Park in Staples. Pictured, from left, are Lion Rick Adamietz and Lacey Aguirre, City of Staples Parks and Recreation Director.



Donation for dugouts

The Staples Host Lions recently donated \$4,000 to LEAP, with the funds designated for the Staples-Motley Diamond Club's dugouts at the JV Baseball Field. Pictured, from left, are SM Superintendent Shane Tappe and Lion Rick Adamietz. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Lakewood Health System honored with UCare excellence award



With Lakewood's award

Miranda Haugrud, population health and performance improvement coordinator at Lakewood, accepts the award from Hilary Marden-Resnik, UCare president and CEO, and Dr. Tenbit Emiru, UCare executive vice president and chief medical officer. (Submitted photo)

UCare held its 15th annual "A Salute to Excellence!" event Sept. 21, at the Delta Hotels in northeast Minneapolis to recognize 21 clinics and care systems with top results in 2022 Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures – including preventive care, disease management, behavioral health, maternity care, care transitions and medication management. Lakewood was honored for improving the health of UCare members enrolled in PMAP/MinnesotaCare plans.

"We are honored by this award as it shows the true dedication and care Lakewood employees give our patients," said Lake-

wood's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Albrecht. "Ensuring the health and well-being of our patients and community is our top priority and we appreciate the opportunity to be recognized for that commitment."

"At UCare, we are deeply grateful for the extraordinary efforts our health care partners take to put their patients and UCare members first," said UCare President and CEO, Hilary Marden-Resnik at the event. "This evening of celebration, gratitude and awards is one of the highlights of the year. We enjoy taking the time to recognize health care partners like you who enable us to fulfill our quality care promise to members."

Motley area law enforcement report

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

- Oct. 18 - 24**
 - Oct. 6 - Motley police received a report of theft at the 200 block of Cedar St. E., Motley.
 - Oct. 24 - The MCSO received a report of a stolen camper at the 3200 block of Ridge Rd., Motley.
 - Oct. 24 - Morrison County deputies responded to a suspicious activity

complaint at the 1200 block of Hwy 10 S., Motley.

Oct. 21 - A Morrison County deputy responded to a report of a damaged mailbox at the 2500 block of Azalea Rd., Motley.

Oct. 21 - The MCSO received a report of a female black dog with a red collar that ran away from a home at the 26000 block of Hwy 10, Cushing.

Oct. 19 - A Morrison County deputy issued a citation to Teresa Walker, 66, for speeding.

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Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1948

• Oct. 28, 1948 - Todd county is planning on a county-wide immunization program starting in November, and the first of the series will start at Clarissa on Nov. 1, according to Miss Mary Mraz, Todd County's public health nurse, under whose supervision the entire program is being carried out.

• Oct. 28, 1948 - Two Staples young men, Russ Dahl and DeWayne Kurpius, who enlisted in the United States

• O •
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
• O •

Army Air Force, are now located at Sheppard Field at Wichita Falls, Texas. Both have enlisted for a period of three years.

• Oct. 28, 1948 - Two Staples young men, Kenneth Johnson and William Galvin, narrowly escaped serious injury Sunday when enroute to Moorhead where both are students at the Moorhead State Teachers college.

Near Perham they were following a pickup truck, and as they went to pass the truck, apparently got on the soft shoulder of the highway. Seeing that they could not right the car, they headed for the ditch. The car rolled over twice and is completely smashed, according to the reports received by The World.

Two other young men were riding with the Staples boys, but their names are not available.

All four were taken to the hospital in Perham, and were released after their few scratches and bruises had been examined and taken care of by a physician.

• Oct. 28, 1948 - "Roses in June" might be supplemented by the saying "Strawberries in October" in the Staples vicinity, and



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the July 12, 1979 edition of the Staples World featured Motley High School students Brenda Ackerson, right, and Nola Bacon, who were awarded scholarships to participate in the third annual Minnesota Rural Youth Institute, on the campus of Southwest State University at Marshall. Ackerson was nominated by Charles Funk, her vocational agriculture teacher, for her contributions in the local FFA Chapter. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Ackerson. Bacon was nominated by Faye Pepin, her home economics instructor, for her involvement in local FHA activities. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Bacon.

Bonnie Madson of Staples correctly identified both. Dana Bacon, of Rosemount, wrote in to say, "Hard not to identify one's own sister (Nola Bacon at the time, now Schultz), and my brother Lee told me Brenda Ackerson was the other lady." Thanks for participating in our mystery photo.

Dynamic leadership series by CLC, SBDC

Submitted by North Central Small Business Development Center

Central Lakes College Workforce Solutions, formerly Customized Training, is excited to announce the launch of a dynamic and comprehensive workshop series, "Leadership and Management in the 22nd Century." This four-part series will kick off in January, 2024, and is designed to equip professionals with the essential skills, knowledge, and strategies required to thrive in today's complex arena.

Leadership and Management in the 22nd Century will empower attendees to lead with confidence,

inspire innovation, and effectively navigate the challenges and opportunities that the future holds. The workshop schedule is as follows:

- Leading with Impact: The Art of Communication and Conflict Management - Jan. 10, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 - Cultivate and Connect: Crafting Company Culture and Employee Engagement - Feb. 7, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
 - Sustainable Success: The Road to Change and Continuous Improvement - March 6, 8:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.
 - Summit Session: Culmination and Determination - April 3, 8:30 a.m.- 10:30 a.m.
- The series is a partnership between Workforce Solutions and the North Central Small Business

Development Center (SBDC), who work to help small businesses start, grow, and succeed. "In today's rapidly evolving landscape, the demand for visionary leaders and adept managers has never been greater," said Katie Heppner, Regional Director of the North Central SBDC. "Whether you are a seasoned manager, an emerging leader, or someone aspiring to make a meaningful impact, this series will provide the tools and inspiration to help you elevate your leadership skills and enhance your management style."

Leadership and Management for the 22nd Century will be a hands-on, productive learning experience. During the series, each participant

will complete a CliftonStrengths for Leaders assessment; Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) assessment; a leadership development plan; an employee engagement plan; and a change roadmap.

To register for the workshop, visit https://mnscu.rschooltoday.com/public/costoption/class_id/279023. The registration link can also be found on the North Central SBDC Facebook page. Early Bird pricing is \$400 per participant. After Dec. 1, the cost will be \$500 per participant.

Questions about the workshop can be directed to CLC Workforce Solutions at 218-855-8145 or training@clcmn.edu.



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.

Kenny Zetah who are all juniors.

The highlights of the trip included a 9 a.m. departure from Motley and dinner with a former Motley teacher, Bob Torgrimson, when the group reached Redwood Falls.

• Nov. 1, 1973 - Gary Mueller of Staples joined the staff of The Staples World recently, and his prime function will be to assist in the solicitation and sale of advertising.

Gary is a graduate of Staples high school, and also attended Brainerd Vocational School for two years. He is a veteran of four years' service in the U.S. Navy, having been stationed in Vietnam for a year, had two years in Morocco, and was a Norfolk, Va., for nearly a year.

Although Gary has been affiliated with The World since Oct. 1, it has been on a part-time basis because of Todd county jury duty. However, at the conclusion of the court term, Gary will be employed on a full-time basis.

• Nov. 1, 1973 - Mrs. Diane Danculovich, the Welcome Wagon hostess called on seven newcomers and welcomed them to our community. They are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hemp, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Gertner, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Dolezel, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Wangerin, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Nurnberger, Mr. and Mrs. Don Brovillard, and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Brown.

25 Years Ago - 1998

• Oct. 29, 1998 - Rev. and Mrs. Herb Garland will speak at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1, at the Staples Alliance Church.

Rev. Garland grew up in Staples, graduated from Staples High School, met his wife, Kathy, at St. Paul Bible College, then pastored a church in Kentucky before going to Colombia, South America in 1960 with the Christian and Missionary Alliance.

The Garlands pioneered the work in Venezuela where they have been since 1981.

• Oct. 29, 1998 - Frankie Lou Thorn has a guest appearance on the television show "Vengeance Unlimited" Thursday, Oct. 29. The program airs at 7 p.m. on KSTP Channel 5 (ABC). The episode is called "Ambition."

Thorn is the daughter of Bill and Terrie Brown of Staples and the granddaughter of Marge Krough and Alyce Thorn of Staples.

• Oct. 29, 1998 - "Our hope would be to make Centennial Lane more appealing to the eye and to say something about our community," Ken Klose told the Staples City Council as he presented a plan for landscaping improvements around the city's Community Center.

Klose, chair of the city's Forestry and Beatification (FAB) advisory board, provided a computer generated photo of Centennial Lane with three new trees on the north side of the Community Center, several park benches, some rock and key-stone landscaping along the hill and plantings of shrubs and flowers.

10 Years Ago - 2013

• Oct. 31, 2013 - The Staples Motley girls tennis team posed for a "fun" photo with their third place trophy following state competition at Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis Oct. 22 - 25.

Team members include Alexandra Fischer, Lauren Nelson, Sarah Koopmann, Ashley Smith, Lexi Johnson, Megan Han, Grace Wolhowe, Nikki Edin, Kaleigh Hosier, Christina Smith, Emily Israelson, Mikayla wing, Kelsey Zetah. They are coached by Head Coach Kayla Huether and Assistant Coaches Emily Nelson and Mary Freeman.

• Oct. 31, 2013 - Jaelin Beachy set a school and conference record in the 100 yard freestyle at the Mid State Conference meet on Oct. 25, at Detroit Lakes.

Beachy's time of 55.22 seconds was more than a second ahead of the second place swimmer. She also won the 50 yard freestyle race to earn All Conference in two events.

COUNCIL continued from page 1a

THC ordinance updates

other jurisdictions is that cases are not settling before the trial or they are waiting until the eve of the trial to settle.

"We still have to be prepared and ready to go to trial that day," said Krueger. "That creates extra work and expenses in having to prepare."

The expenses could include interviewing witnesses and officers involved, and going over officer camera videos and squad car videos. The audio from those videos has to be transcribed, adding another layer of costs. Also officers are being called to the court to testify so they will often get paid to show up and then just go back home when the case is settled.

Krueger said he doesn't know why the trend is happening, but he suspects it could be because meetings are now usually done by Zoom, an online platform, instead of face to face.

He said when the prosecutor, defendant and defending attorney are in the same building at the same time, it seems like it is easier to work out deals. He said the Todd County court is allowing more settlement conferences for gross misdemeanor charges but not for misdemeanor cases.

Krueger said on the civil side of the city attorney work, he has worked on helping get hazardous buildings condemned and taken down. He has also helped update the THC and tobacco ordinances and added civil penalties for

building code violations.

THC ordinance

The council updated the city fee schedule by adding a \$200 licensing fee for a business selling THC products, a substance made from marijuana.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen requested the addition be approved because the city has gotten a request for a THC license, but the form wasn't completed.

Nelsen said under current Minnesota law, a THC license is not allowed in liquor stores, but a new 2023 statute will allow it. He asked the council if they would like to update the city ordinance for the year 2024, or just wait until 2025, when all THC commerce will be overseen by the new Office of Cannabis Management.

The city's THC law prohibits an establishment to sell the products if it is near a school, day care, park or church. Nelsen said cities can impose reasonable regulations, but since the Minnesota laws have changed, not allowing it in certain stores could be considered unreasonable.

Nelsen said the new Minnesota law has population requirements so that communities must allow a certain number of THC sellers according to the community's population. He said if a business wanted a license in Staples, they would have to allow at least one in the city. He also said there is a difference between selling low dose THC products and selling higher levels of cannabis.

Gas pump struck by DWI suspect

On October 26, 2023 at approximately 11:27 p.m., the Minnesota State Patrol responded to an incident in at the 7 Oaks Express gas station off Highway 71 in Bertha.

Preliminary information indicates a Buick Rendezvous struck a gas pump and was on fire. The Minnesota State Patrol arrested a 44 year old female from Bertha

for DWI.

No injuries were reported and the incident remains under investigation. The subject was booked into the Wadena County jail and results are pending from a blood test along with charges. The State Patrol was assisted by the Wadena County Sheriff's Office and Bertha Fire Department.

Stolen gun used for self-inflicted gunshot

Cass County Sheriff Bryan Welk reports that on Oct. 27, at 9:49 a.m., the Cass County Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from an adult female, age 46, from a residence in Sylvan Township, rural Pillager, reporting that a male party, age 31, who is known to her, entered her residence and took a firearm from the residence without permission.

Deputies responded to the address and located the suspect's unoccupied pickup truck near a garage at the residence. Deputies observed the male suspect in the garage. A short time

later, deputies entered the garage and found the male party suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Medical aid was immediately rendered and the male was transported via airplane to Centra-Care Hospital in St. Cloud with the extent of injuries unknown at this time.

Assisting at the scene were the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office, Baxter Police Department, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Pillager Fire and Rescue, and North Memorial Ambulance.



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As firearms deer hunt arrives, our public lands beckon

This is a week when getting a good night's sleep may be difficult for many of the more than 400,000 Minnesota firearms deer hunters whose season begins on Saturday, Nov. 4. Anticipation, last minute preparations, and just plain excitement will contribute to—if not insomnia—then fitful sleep, or some degree of sleep deprivation. Perhaps that's as it should be, if a deer hunter is to get the most from this once-a-year event.

Just where these deer hunting experiences will take place is often much more than habit or whim, but is instead a matter of tradition. Groups of friends, extended families, often some combination of both, may have histories of deer hunting togetherness that span decades. "Deer country" can mean quite different things. It can mean the deep woods of northeastern Minnesota, the farmland that was once prairie in the west and southwest, the mixed forest and farmland of central Minnesota, or the rugged bluff country that borders the Mississippi in the southeast. Minnesota deer hunters are as diverse in their territorial preferences as is our geography.

Some will hunt deer on private land, their access often a result of an ownership or friendship connection with a member of a "deer

camp" group. Many others, likely most, will hunt on public land, the abundance of which many Minnesotans take for granted: that old "familiarity breeds contempt" principle. We often don't fully appreciate what is familiar, and what is too easily within our grasp.

In counterpoint, an article appeared recently in one of Minnesota's major print and online media, describing an ex-Minnesota Viking's entrepreneurship in acquiring and developing lands for deer hunting in one of Wisconsin's counties famous for producing trophy whitetails. His long-term objective is reported to be a handsome profit from the eventual sale of the acreages he is acquiring and developing for hunting. But for the near-term, these lands will be the site of guided private deer hunts, some of which—with lodge accommodations, meals and amenities—could, as was also reported, cost a hunter as much as \$7,000 for a stay of several days. The desired payoff is a good chance for a bragging-size buck.

It bears noting that the deer for which some sportsmen will pay handsomely on these Wisconsin properties are not fenced, captive deer. They're wild, with the lands managed and the harvest regulated to produce superior bucks, something this area was already known for. It should also be emphasized that in America, and elsewhere in the world, there is a long history of catering to sportsmen who are in search of the best fishing or hunting, with their ample financial means often buying them access to both exceptional sporting

opportunities and luxury treatment. Quail hunting plantations in the American South, salmon fishing camps in the Canadian Maritime provinces, and pheasant hunting lodges in South Dakota, are a few examples that come to mind.

Not only are the grandest private land guided hunting opportunities often beyond the means of the "average Joe," but there is only so much of the exceptional to go around. On the above-described Wisconsin trophy deer hunting properties, there is reported to be a waiting list of some 3,000 people. It's a seller's market, for sure, with more wanting the opportunity than can be accommodated.

If this sounds like a rant against capitalism, or the whining of a jealous sportsman who would like to trade places with the well-heeled "sports" who have preferred access to the best hunting and fishing, it isn't. Rather, it's a lead-in to an expression of just the opposite—gratitude—for the blessing that Minnesota's public lands and waters offer not just deer hunters, but hunters of pheasant, goose, duck, turkey, ruffed grouse, dove, rabbit, and squirrel: have I missed any?

As noted in last week's column, Minnesota has 1,503 Wildlife Management Areas open to public hunting, which total 1.37 million acres, scattered border to border north to south and east to west. There are almost 15,000 acres in federal Waterfowl Production Areas. Most include not only wetlands that produce ducks and geese, but upland acreage that support deer, pheasants, and other

small game. Minnesota's Designated Wildlife Lake program also offers public hunting opportunities. The program includes roughly 50,000 acres on 37 lakes in 22 counties, offering habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, and other marshland wildlife.

Minnesota's two national forests, the Chippewa and Superior, offer public hunting opportunities for deer and small game. In North Central Minnesota, some 660,000 acres within the Chippewa National Forest's overall 1.6 million acres are managed by the U.S. Forest Service for public use. The Superior National Forest in the northeastern "Arrowhead" country encompasses 3.9 million acres, the majority of which is also designated as multiple-use, hunting included.

Within Minnesota's 60 state forests, 4.2 million of the 17.7 million acres within their boundaries are DNR forestry-administered state land. Most of this acreage is open to public hunting. In addition, many of Minnesota's 66 State Parks and 169 Scientific and Natural Areas offer deer hunting to control deer numbers. There are also thousands of acres of county-administered tax-forfeited land, plus limited parcels of military and other government-administered lands, open to public recreational use, hunting included.

If Minnesotans are seeking public places to hunt—deer hunters included—they need not look far. If, that is, they can live without the pampering and the high price tag.

Quote of the week

“Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn’t know you left open.”
— John Barrymore

Local journalism critical to American society

By Lee H. Hamilton
Hamilton Lugar School
of Global & International
Studies

A report from Northwestern University's Medill School puts it bluntly: The loss of local journalism that we're seeing in the United States is "a crisis for our democracy and our society." I couldn't agree more.

We rely on free and vigorous news media for the effective functioning of our democracy, at all levels of government. An informed citizenry is an empowered citizenry.

When we lose news coverage, we lose oversight of our public officials. We need the press to be constantly looking in every nook and cranny where our politicians are working. America's founders recognized this, enshrining freedom of the press in the First Amendment.

Early American newspapers, of course, were often partisan and aligned with political factions, but they played a crucial role in creating an identity for the new nation. The French political philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville, a keen observer of the young American republic, wrote that its newspapers were "the power which impels the circulation of political life."

We still rely on news media to understand the workings of government. Newspapers, especially, play a key role in civic education and community engagement, which are essential to good governance. While serving in Congress, I learned that visiting a local newspaper office was a great way to learn what constituents were thinking.

But trends in business and technology have devastated local news. With the rise of the internet, Americans increasingly got their news online; many concluded they didn't need to read the local paper. Newspapers relied primarily on advertisers to make money, but businesses found they could better target their ad dollars online. Newspaper revenue declined precipitously.

Closings and mergers followed. The United States has lost more than a quarter of its newspapers since 2005, according to the Medill School. Most of the newspapers that have shut down were weeklies serv-

ing small towns and rural communities. That's been the trend here in Indiana, where a third of all weeklies disappeared in a recent 15-year period. Readership of the state's newspapers shrank by half.

More than one in five Americans now live in what scholars refer to as news deserts, communities that lack or are at risk of losing local news sources. Seventy million people live in counties without a newspaper or served by only one paper. The newspapers that remain employ fewer journalists.

Studies have shown that, without strong local news, there's more corruption in government, and taxes and municipal bond costs are higher. Not surprisingly, voting rates are lower when no one is covering elections. As Americans increasingly get their information online or from partisan cable TV, political polarization grows more extreme. Fake news and conspiracy theories proliferate. This is an important cause of the dysfunction we're currently seeing in Congress.

It's true that news media have evolved throughout our nation's history. Radio and TV disrupted the news business before the internet; and, if print newspapers go extinct, people will still seek out news. We are seeing some encouraging signs with the growth of high-quality, reliable online news organizations, some of them following a non-profit model. But digital news outlets employ relatively few journalists compared to the newspapers of the past, and they tend to be concentrated in affluent urban areas and state capitals. Rural communities and small towns are increasingly left without local news.

On a positive note, the situation is widely recognized as the crisis that it is. Universities, nonprofits and advocacy groups are working to find solutions. Major philanthropies such as the MacArthur and Knight foundations are pledging hundreds of millions of dollars to revitalize local news. Civic-minded individuals and organizations are stepping up to buy local newspapers or start new ones.

It's essential that these efforts succeed. The future of our democracy and our society depends on it.

Keeping kids safe from fentanyl

By Amy Klobuchar
U.S. Senator

Fentanyl is cheap to produce, easy to disguise as prescription or over-the-counter pills, and can be deadly in doses small enough to fit on the tip of a pencil. Cartels have harnessed the power of social media to sell this deadly drug, leaving our kids in danger. In fact, one pill can kill.

I will never forget the story of Minnesota teenager Anastasia Shevtsova. She was struggling with depression when she bought four fentanyl-laced pills over Snapchat that killed her. Anastasia was not a drug user. She was only 15 years old – not even old enough to drive a car by herself or go to her senior prom.

Anastasia's story is sadly too common. When Devin Norring, a 19-year-old in Hastings, was suffering from dental pain and debilitating migraines, he bought what he believed was Percocet to feel better. The pill he bought was laced with fentanyl, and it killed him.

In our increasingly digital world, drug trafficking doesn't only happen in alleys or on street corners. Last year, the Drug Enforcement Administration investigated 390 drug overdose cases and found that a third of them had direct ties to social media. Anastasia and Devin's tragic stories make it clear – il-

legal drugs are being sold online on social media platforms, and children and teenagers are especially vulnerable. Kids can sit quietly in their rooms and use social media to buy deadly drugs. Today, anyone with a smartphone is a drug dealer's potential target.

In 2021, Minnesota had a record number of deaths from opioid overdoses. Over 90 percent of those deaths were related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl – a four-fold increase from 2018. Hundreds more Minnesotans died from opioid overdoses than from car crashes. That's an average of more than two lives lost every day.

Social media has been a gateway to drugs for too many kids, and we must meet this threat with the all-hands-on-deck response it requires. That is why I am leading and cosponsoring several bipartisan bills to crack down on online drug dealing, including legislation to hold social media companies accountable by requiring them to report drug trafficking on their platforms to law enforcement. This will help law enforcement crack down on illegal drug sales and protect kids.

Ending the fentanyl crisis also means halting the flow of fentanyl before it ever reaches our country. Earlier this year I worked to pass the bipartisan FEND Off Fentanyl Act in the Senate, which would officially declare international fentanyl trafficking a national emergency and provide new

authorities to impose tough sanctions on transnational criminal organizations in China, Mexico, or any other fentanyl supply chain hub. And in 2018, we passed my bipartisan legislation to crack down on international fentanyl and synthetic drug shipments being smuggled into the U.S. through the mail.

I am also fighting to get cutting-edge technology to detect and intercept fentanyl to our borders and bolster federal law enforcement's ability to investigate online fentanyl trafficking. These tools are important, but we also need more funding for law enforcement. That's why I lead bipartisan legislation to hire and retain more law enforcement officers.

Fentanyl isn't just a threat to those struggling with addiction. It's a threat to anyone who – maybe in a moment of pain or peer pressure – takes a single pill laced with this deadly drug. For overdose victims and their families, these fleeting moments can have permanent, tragic consequences. I don't want any more families to know this pain. On my part, I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to tackle the scourge of fentanyl and keep our kids safe, but everyone should pass on to their kids, grandkids, neighbors, and families that "one pill kills."

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.

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Fairness: The Staples World tries conscientiously to report fairly and accurately. If you feel we fall short of this objective at any time, please direct your complaint to the manager whose name appears on this page.

Note to Advertisers: Advertisers should check their ad following first publication. This newspaper shall not be liable for failure to publish an ad or for the typographic error or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first day's insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the cost of that portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The publisher reserves the right to cancel any advertisement at any time.

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Old buildings getting reused in small towns

By Deb Brown
saveyour.town

Adaptive reuse is a term most rural people know.

Because we've been doing it all of our lives. We recognize the value and beauty in old buildings and want to preserve as much as we can. Some examples of converting one building into another include:

The First National Bank in Gary, SD became a meat locker and catering company.

An old service station in Darlington, WI is now a brewery and antique store.

The old high school in

Grinnell, Iowa is now a hotel.

A church in Malvern, Iowa was turned into an art studio and gallery (see image below).

A grain elevator in Lansing, Iowa was converted into a coffee shop.

And many buildings are being turned into housing, which is desperately needed in rural towns.

I'll be talking about adaptive reuse on our free webinar November 6.

There's a famous saying by architect and sustainability expert Carl Elefante: "The greenest building is the one that is already built."

Quote of the week

“How far that little candle throws its beams!
So shines a good deed in a naughty world.”
— William Shakespeare



October Storytime at Staples Library

The Staples Public Library holds monthly Storytime programs with activities, crafts and snacks. Our stories during October were about raccoons with participants making raccoon crafts. Join our next Storytimes on Sat., Nov. 4 or Weds., Nov. 15 at 10:30 a.m. Call the library at 218-894-1401 to sign up. The Staples Friends of the Library sponsor this program.

Above: Alana and Samuel Reigstad, Ruby Maroney, Bjorn LeBlanc, Faith Frisk, Ray Biggar and Autumn, Audrey and Owen Mertens. (Submitted photo)



Construction continues at ‘The Nest’

Wells Concrete was at work at Staples-Motley Middle/High School’s southeast end Oct. 19, installing pre-cast concrete wall panels at ‘The Nest,’ a project anticipated to be completed by December of 2024. ‘The Nest’,

a collaborative effort with Lakewood Health System, is an activities and wellness addition that will support students and the local community. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Cardinal Calendar

Staples-Motley School events

November

- **VETERANS DAY PROGRAM** Nov. 9, 9:45 a.m., SMHS Gym
- **THANKSGIVING BREAK - No School** Nov. 23 - 24

All Staples-Motley Upcoming Events are subject to change. Go to www.isd2170.k12.mn.us for up to the minute information.



If you’re going to use, know.

Over half of pills bought online or on the street contain potentially lethal doses of fentanyl.

Test strips and info at fentfacts.com



LakelandDental

NO INSURANCE, NO PROBLEM! Call to hear about our **Lakeland Dental Savings Plan**

www.lakelandedental.com
Email: info@lakelandedental.com

Staples Office: (218) 894-2201
Clarissa Office: (218) 756-2234
Long Prairie Office: (320) 732-6141

HEALTHY MOUTHS.... One smile at a time



Staples Host Lions Wreath Sales

Pre-Order Ends 11/10

Wreaths will be available for pick-up/delivered the week of Thanksgiving.

Check the box that applies to you.

- ☐ Yes, I'd like my wreath delivered.
(Delivery only available if prepaid and within 5 miles of town)
- ☐ No, I will pick my wreath up from Williams Floral & Nursery.

Mail to: Staples Host Lions, P.O. Box 143, Staples, MN 56479

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Quantity _____ X \$25 _____

Enclosed is cash / check (circle one) for \$ _____

Make checks payable to Staples Host Lions



Breana Dell Clayton, OD
Independent Optometrist at Costco, Baxter, MN



218-855-5756

- Comprehensive Eye Exam...\$80
- Contact Lens Exams starting at...\$115

Membership not required for eye exams, but is needed to purchase glasses or contact lenses. Call or visit us at www.claytoneyecaremn.com

Mark Your Calendar

November 2

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

November 3

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

November 6

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

November 7

EXPERIENCE STRENGTH AND HOPE AA GROUP MTGS IN STAPLES are held at the Staples Congregational Church, 204 5th St. NE, Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

‘GRIEF SHARE’ GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP is held on Tuesdays from 6 - 8 p.m., at Motley Free Methodist Church, through Dec. 12. For more information, call 218-352-6888.

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

November 8

RUBY’S PANTRY (NEW DAY/ TIME THIS MONTH) will be held Wednesday, Nov. 8, from 4:30 - 6 p.m. at the parking lot of Central Lakes College in Staples.

Arts & Craft Fair

November 18

9am ~ 2 pm

Staples Community Center
425 4th Street NE ~ Staples, MN

Marlene at The Junkyard Change of Hours Notice

NOVEMBER: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat., 9 a.m.-3 p.m. & Sun., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

CLOSED: NOV. 8, 13, 14 & 15
CLOSED: Thanksgiving Day
Last day is Nov. 26 unless SOLD OUT early!

Holiday Fresh Greens Arrive Nov. 16. Wreaths, Garlands, Magnolia, HUGE Pine Cones and other Fresh Greens. Also Metal Trees and Country Style Bells for your own creations! Supplies are limited.

Follow us on Facebook:
Marlene Card-Reeck
27593 Todd Line Rd., Staples.
At the original Junkyard on Warner Rd.



LAMPLIGHTER COMMUNITY THEATRE AND STAPLES MOTLEY SCHOOLS PRESENTS



LIONEL BART'S

OLIVER!
Book, Music and Lyrics by Lionel Bart
Freely Adapted from Charles Dicken's Oliver Twist
Performances Thursday-Saturday

NOVEMBER 16-18 AT 7PM AND SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19 AT 1PM

CENTENNIAL AUDITORIUM
400 2nd St NE Staples MN

Ticket prices \$12 | 10 and under \$6
Presale: \$10 | 10 and under \$5
Tickets can be purchased at www.lctstaples.com

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All other performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com



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newspaper.
*Gift cards available.
224 4th St. NE
Staples, MN
Staples World

Hello World

ONLINE BIRTHS REMOVED AT THE REQUEST OF LAKEWOOD HEALTH SYSTEM.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples
Staples Alliance
1512 8th St. NE, Staples 218-894-2891
Pastor Zach Jones
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA 6:00 p.m.
Assembly of God
914 3rd Ave. NE, Staples 218-894-1081
Pastor Roy Miles
Small Groups (Bible classes
for all ages).....9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.
Children's Church (Kids start in main
worship service).....11 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Sonlight (kids ages 4 yrs.-6th grade)
.....After school to 5:30 p.m.
Youth Group (Teens, 7th-12th grade)
.....After school to 5:30 p.m.
Church of Christ
27343 490th St., Staples.....218-894-2609
Pastor Barry Klein
Facebook Live
Bible School (youth and adult).....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY:
Teen Youth/Adults Bible Study 7-8 p.m.
Faith Lutheran
430 12th Street. NE., Staples.....218-894-1546
Pastor Carl Larson
Pastor Chris Mathiason
Sunday Worship Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and
Coffee Fellowship.....10:05 a.m.
Sacred Heart Church
310 4th St. NE, Staples
Church.....218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Thursday and Friday.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday.....8:30 a.m.
Seventh Day Adventist
421 Dakota Ave. SE, Staples
218-894-0033
Saturday Worship 9:30 a.m.
Sabbath School 10:45 a.m.
Thomastown Covenant
15940 251st Ave., Staples.....218-894-3923
Pastor Scott Jorgenson
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH 6:30 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class.....10:30 a.m.
United Methodist
310 5th St. NE, Staples.....218-894-2248
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
(Nursery Available for Sunday Worship)

Aldrich
Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Eric Clapp.....701-261-2394 (cell)
Sunday Worship.....8:15 a.m.
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Cushing
Bethany Lutheran
25430 Bison Rd.Cushing, MN
320-749-2140
Pastor Carl Larson
Pastor Chris Mathiason
www.bethanylutherancushing.org
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Communion 1st and 2nd Sunday
of each month
Lincoln Evangelical Free
1354 320th Street, Cushing, MN 56443
Phone: 218- 575-2449
www.lincolnefree.org
Facebook Lincoln E Free
Office Hours: Tues. - Thurs., 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Senior Pastor: Don Reigstad
Community Life Pastor: Jim Brown
Associate Pastor: Joe Reigstad
SUNDAY
Church Worship Gathering.....10:00 a.m.
YouTube Channel 10:00 a.m.
Cushing Baptist
26298 Bear Rd., Cushing
Pastor Dan Holmes.....320-749-2583
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible study 7:30 p.m.
Leader
Swan Valley Lutheran
Leader.....218-397-2470
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister
of Word and Sacrament
Sunday Worship
January - July 9 a.m.
July - January 11 a.m.
Maple Hill Lutheran
Sandy Knight, Synodically Authorized Minister
of Word and Sacrament
Leader.....218-397-2470 (Rural Pine River)
Worship and Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Motley
Motley Free Methodist
33 Wellwood St. E
Motley 56466.....218-352-6888
Jim Johnson, Senior Pastor
Casey Reynolds, Assistant Pastor
Sunday Worship.....9:00 and 10:30 a.m.
facebook live.....9 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
AWANA 4:00-5:30 p.m.
Youth Group 6:00-8:00 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class.....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.

St. Michael
1st St. and Birch, Motley 218-894-2296
Pastor Fr. Aaron Kuhn
Parochial Vicar, Fr. Gabriel Walz
MASS:
Tuesday.....6:30 p.m.
Saturday 4:00 p.m.
United Methodist
847 3rd Ave. S. Lane, Motley.....218-352-6466
Pastor Greg Leslie
www.motleyumc.net
Sunday Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Monday AA meeting.....8:00 p.m.

Oylen
Oylen Alliance
Cty. Rds. 7 and 9, Oylen
218-472-3440 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Maltore
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....11:00 a.m.
Pillager
First Lutheran Church
Pastor Mathew Sundquist
717 River Street S, Pillager, MN
218-746-3775
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Casino Assembly of God
Pastor Dan Johnson
N. of Motley, Hwy. 64, E. on Cty 34 to Cty. 104.
Phone.....218-746-3839
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....7:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY 7:00 p.m.
First Baptist
903 River Street South, Pillager
Pastor Jake Anderson
218-746-3768
curious@fbcpillager.com
Worship Gathering 10:00 a.m.
Connection Point.....9:30 a.m.

Hewitt
Church of the Nazarene
114 Front Street, P.O. Box 146 Hewitt, MN
218-924-2028
Jim and Linda McGaffey, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....10:45 a.m.
WEDNESDAY PRAYER 7:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
(LCMS)
524 Front Street, PO Box 116, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.
Hewitt Community Church
Hwy. 210, Hewitt, MN
Pastor Kenneth Uhren
Sunday Worship.....10:30 a.m.

Verndale
Verndale Alliance
109 NW Brown Street, Verndale, MN 56481
218-445-5619
Senior Pastor Tony Stanley
Heath Belknap, Pastor of Student Ministries
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.
Sunday Bible Fellowship Classes 11-11:45 a.m.
Family Life Church
402 NE Clark Drive, Verndale 218-445-5568
VerndaleFLC@gmail.com
Pastor Amos Self.....218-371-7189
Tahna Rurup, Connections & Media Pastor
Tillman Phagan, Kid's & Food Shelf Pastor
Ryan Wolfenden, Youth Pastor
SUNDAY
Youth Prayer 9:20 a.m.
Worship Service.....10:00 a.m.
Prayer Meeting 5 p.m.
WEDNESDAY
Life Groups 6:30 p.m.
Hope Chapel Alliance
18126 County Road 7, Verndale
218-445-5643 or 218-472-3316
Pastor Neal Maltore
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Family Night.....5:30 p.m.
Immanuel Lutheran Church
of Bartlett Township (LCMS)
17097 460th St., PO Box 37, Verndale
Pastor Robin Fish
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Bible Study.....6:30 p.m.
Verndale United Methodist
10 3rd Ave. SW, Verndale
218-445-5108
Pastor Jill Pawlowski
Sunday Worship.....9:00 a.m.
Central United Methodist
5 miles N on Cty Rd 26 (Nimrod tar)
Pastor James Middendorf, 320-260-4950
Sunday Service.....9:00 a.m.
Bible Study.....10:30 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Seeds of Hope.....7:00 p.m.

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

Obituaries

Jean Flack

Jean Corinne Flack, 88, of Park Rapids passed away October 14, 2023, peacefully at home surrounded by her husband and three children.

Services were held October 21 at the Peace Lutheran Church near Nevis.

Jean was born December 22, 1934 at home in Aastad Township, Ottertail County, to Palmer and Mildred (Haarstad) Baasen. The family later moved to Moorhead where Jean graduated from high school in 1952. Jean married O. Allen Flack on December 29, 1952.

Jean and Al moved to Staples in 1959 where they raised their four children. After their children were all school-aged, Jean worked as a nurse's aide at Staples Hospital. Jean also worked in various capacities at Benson Optical for many years. In 1986, she completed her training as an LPN and worked at the nursing care center in Staples for several years.

In 1992 Jean and Al moved to their home on Island Lake north of Park Rapids where they enjoyed many years together. In 2018 they moved to Crystal Brook Senior Living Center in Park Rapids.

Jean was an active member in her church homes over the years. She participated in Bible studies, Circle, Altar Guild and



served as a Stephen Minister. She was a member of the Sons of Norway. Jean enjoyed family, traveling, playing bridge, quilting, rosemaling, solving cryptokuip puzzles and time with her book and birthday club friends. Jean and Al made the BEST lefse ever.

Jean is survived by Al, her husband of 70 years; one son. John (Jan) Flack of Moorhead; two daughters, Carol (Carl) Larson of Baxter and Becky (Bryan) Lambrechts of Milbank, SD; six grandchildren, Jenny Flack, Dennis Flack, Jonathan Larson, Christian Larson, Erik Lambrechts and Amanda Lambrechts and nine great-grandchildren.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents; one brother, Plinny Haarstad and one son, Paul Flack.

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Arlene Swanson

Arlene May McGillivray Swanson passed away peacefully October 23, 2023, at her home in Brainerd.

A Memorial Service will be held Thursday, November 2, at 11:30 a.m. at the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel in Baxter. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the services. Lunch will be served following the service.

Burial will be at Evergreen Cemetery in Brainerd.

Arlene was born September 7, 1936, to Archie and Viola McGillivray in Staples.

She grew up in Staples and married Gilbert Bartylla and together they had seven children.

Arlene married Sherman Swanson in 1979. They made their home in Brainerd and lived on Lake Edward in Arlene's dream home built by Sherman.

Arlene attended the Brainerd Vocational School years later and got a job as Administrator for the Brainerd Bricklayers Union. She was involved in the Paul Bunyan Soakers camping group for over 10 years. Arlene and Sherman traveled around the state selling their wood art.

Arlene and Sherman were certified in Foster Care through Crow Wing County and had over 40 children in their home over 12 plus years. After retirement, they traveled from coast to coast.



She will be dearly missed by Sherman, her husband of 44 years; 10 children, Deb (Al) Steffen, Sherry Bartylla, James Bartylla, Susan Renfrow, Bruce Bartylla, Teresa (Tracy) Wetzstein, Scott (Mona) Bartylla, DeAnne Churchill, Sue (Tony) Roberts; one brother, Jack McGillivray; 18 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren and six great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three grandchildren, Jenna, Ryan and Bret; one sister in-law, Bea McGillivray and two sons-in-law, Mark Renfrow and Gary Bollum.

Thank you to Good Samaritan Hospice and Home Instead Home Care for the excellent care mom received.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Baxter.

w45c A00006B2023NV01

Grateful Quotes

Thanksgiving is a special time of the year where families and friends come together to purposefully express gratitude. It's a busy world where it's easy to find things to complain about. That's why it's becoming more important to take time out of your day to stop and reflect on all the good things.

What better reason is there to be grateful, than spending time with loved ones over a delicious meal? Here are some happy Thanksgiving quotes from inspirational historical figures about the importance of having a thankful and grateful heart - Thanksgiving sayings that may resonate with you and share it when you gather with your loved ones this Thanksgiving season.

"Thanksgiving Day is a good day to recommit our energies to giving thanks and just giving." – Amy Grant

"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse." – Henry Van Dyke

"I've always had fond memories of cooking Thanksgiving." – Wylie Dufresne

"Thanksgiving is a time of togetherness and gratitude." – Nigel Hamilton

"That's one of the great things about Thanksgiving: Football's on!" – Michael Strahan

"No one has ever become poor by giving." – Anne Frank

"I'm thankful for every moment." – Al Green

"Thanksgiving is a season that is very much in accord with the themes and teachings of Jesus Christ." – John Clayton

"Christians were instructed to serve others and the thanksgiving was for the grace of God and the fact that God offered a way for man to return to a positive relationship with Him." – John Clayton

"Thanksgiving is one of my favorite American traditions. I quickly picked it up when I moved to the U.S. from Sweden." – Marcus Samuelsson

"We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction." – Harry Ironside

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our Thanksgiving." – W.T. Purkiser

"Thanksgiving is probably my favorite holiday – it's a day that's American to the core and it's a day that's all about what and how we eat." – Marcus Samuelsson

"There is one day that is ours. Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American." – O. Henry

"Over the Thanksgiving holiday I took time to reflect on what is most important to me and realized I need to find a way to put the fun back into racing." – Kurt Busch

"Thanksgiving just gets me all warm and tingly and all kinds of wonderful inside." – Willard Scott

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

Longbella Drug Store
"The Prescription Store"
2nd Ave., Staples • 218-894-2242
Motley and Pillager

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

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

Staples True Value
"Just Ask Rental"
Open 7 days a week.
Staples, MN 218-894-3263

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

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Rutten, Noska place fourth in state tennis

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

Lauren Rutten and Ronnie Noska showed they are among the best tennis players in the state with a fourth place finish in the state doubles tournament. Their shot-making ability turned a lot of heads during the two day tournament in Minneapolis, Oct. 26-27.

Heading into the tournament, they had only played four matches together as a doubles team, making them possibly the least experienced doubles team there.

“We had wanted to provide them more opportunities to do so, but rain outs didn’t allow that to happen,” said Coach Katie Noska. “They would be going up against top players that make playing doubles their craft.”

If the Cardinals were still working on their teamwork, it might have showed in their first few games in the first round against Hannah Oie and Kayla Jahn of Lac Qui Parle/Dawson-Boyd. They fell behind 2-1 in the first set, but they stormed back and dominated the rest of the match, winning 6-2, 6-1.

In the second round, they faced Erin Witter and Taylor Elliott, a doubles team from Rochester Lourdes, the top ranked team in the state. Rutten and Noska flew through the first set, winning 6-1, but were met with tough resistance in the second set. It was close but they went down 6-4.

“Lauren and Ronnie regrouped, got loose again and played an impressive third set,” said Coach Justin Edin.

The Cardinals showed their ability to make shots against a good team, winning decisively, 6-1, to advance to the semifinals.

There they met the top seeded doubles team, Fatemeh Vang and Nana Vang from Blake. That duo had placed second in the state in Class AA the previous year but the team was moved to Class A this year. The Cardinals played well in the first set but fell 6-2. In the second set, they couldn’t find a weakness in the eventual state champions and lost 6-0.

For Noska, it was her first loss of the season, going into that match undefeated on the very last day of the season.

In the third place match, they met another team from Rochester Lourdes, this time their top two singles players, seniors Caroline Daly and Elyse Palen. Those two had placed second at last year’s state doubles tournament.

In the first set, Rutten and Noska showed how well they can play in a tight match and edged out a 6-4 win. In the second set, Rutten said the points and games were just as close, but they ended up on the wrong end of each game, falling 6-0. Because it was so competitive, Rutten said they thought they would have a good chance in a third set, but they were only allowed to play a 10 point super-tiebreaker to decide the match. They lost 10-5 to place fourth in the tournament.

“The tiebreaker just didn’t go our way,” said Rutten.

Through this tournament, Rutten said she developed a love for doubles, with the different hitting angles and alleys to hit her ground strokes. Both Rutten and Noska wowed the crowd by consistently hitting the lines with hard passing shots.

“I could see how much they enjoyed having each other on the court in the high pressured environment of state,” said Coach Noska.

Rutten said she enjoyed playing with Noska as they developed a team chemistry.

This may have been one of the toughest and deepest state doubles tournaments ever, with many top singles players switching to doubles because last year’s singles champion was back and appeared unbeatable.

Rutten noted that they were the top public school team in this year’s tournament, just like she was the top public school player in last year’s state singles tournament, where she placed third. Some of the private schools have access to year-round training facilities and other advantages.

The amazing success at state for Rutten came after a couple of years where she was denied a trip to state in the true second match at the section tournament. Rutten said those disappointing losses not only gave her incentive to improve her game, but helped her grow in many other aspects of life, not just tennis.

“I matured, I learned you can’t win them all,” she said.

The tournament concluded Rutten’s tennis career at Staples-Motley, where she helped the team get back to the state tournament last year. She also led them to an undefeated regular season that ended with a loss in the finals of the section playoffs.

“It still hasn’t hit me that we didn’t make it as a team this year,” Rutten said.



Lauren Rutten



Ronnie Noska

Coach Noska said “As a mom and coach I couldn’t be prouder of their accomplishment together. It was a gutsy move for the two of them to switch over to doubles, knowing they both had a realistic chance at a state appearance in singles again this year. Considering all the variables, they have everything to be proud of and nothing to hang their heads about.”

Rutten ended the season 26-3 and finished her high school career with a 134-44 record.

Noska ended her season at 27-2 and so far has a career record of 77-16 with three years left to play.



The state players consult with Coach Nikki Paskewitz as the Staples-Motley fans look on.



Team huddle

Coach Gretchen Bestland has the team’s attention during a timeout in the playoff win. (Staples World photos by Dawn Timbs)

Volleyball sweep in playoff opener

The Staples-Motley volleyball team played focused and at a high level for three straight sets to defeat Pillager 3-0 on Oct. 26.

“It was good to get a 3-0 win against Pillager since we had dropped a set to them during the regular season due to a number of unforced errors on our side,” said Bestland. “In this game, the girls were able to limit the amount of errors and were able to control the tempo which were both key focus areas.”

Bestland said setter Annie Schlosser did a great job of spreading the ball around, which kept the defense shifting and allowed all of the Cardinal attackers to be effective.

The Staples-Motley servers were also on target, collecting 12 aces in the three sets.

“These girls have worked hard and getting ranked fifth in a very competitive section is a great achievement which allowed us to have a home section game,” said Bestland. “It made for a fun night to get a section win at home in front of our awesome student section and fans.”

In the second round, the Cardinals face Melrose, who beat them in the play-



Playoff action

Annie Schlosser reaches up to set the ball while Ellie Moulton (24) and Miranda Schotzko get ready to hit.

offs last year. That game is Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 7 p.m. at Melrose.

Team results
Staples-Motley 3, Pillager 0; 25-16, 25-14, 25-15
Steffany Sullivan: Aces-3, Digs-1

Ellie Moulton: Aces-1, Assists-2, Kills-6, Digs-9

Lilly Tyrrell: Aces-2, Digs-5
Miranda Schotzko: Kills-3, Blocks-2
Livi Lorber: Aces-2, Assists-3, Kills-9, Blocks-2
Jade Storry: Aces-2, Kills-5, Digs-11
Annie Schlosser: Assists-28, Kills-1, Blocks-1
Tamara Strelli: Aces-2, Kills-12, Blocks-1, Digs-7



Supported by fans

Ellie Moulton and Lilly Tyrrell and the Cardinal student section watch as Tamara Strelli goes to save a deep shot in the playoff win. Below, players and fans gather for a photo after the game.



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EQUITIES, INC.
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Todd County Commissioners Minutes

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON SEPT. 19, 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 19th day of September, 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.

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

Consent Agenda
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
• To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for September 5th, 2023 as presented.
Accept Shanae Fortson's resignation as Administration Assistant on 9/8/2023.
• To hire Amber Percy as a Part Time Dispatcher, Grade 6 Step 9. Start date of 9/20/2023
• To approve Heidi Iten to fill the open seasonal Office Support Specialist II position. Grade 5, Step 1 at \$20.46. Start date: TBD

Auditor-Treasurer
On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 402763 through 402785 in the amount of \$88,079.51 and (Regular) 57324 through 57363 in the amount of \$48,504.00 for a total of \$136,583.51.
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 804478 through 804554 and (Regular) 711008 through 711058 for a total of \$107,052.98.
On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601028 through 601044 and (Regular) 517497 through 517514 for a total amount of \$83,654.90.
On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

COUNTY DITCH MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENTS FOR TAXES PAYABLE 2024
WHEREAS, the Auditor-Treasurer's office along with the County Ditch Inspector have been proactively working on improving the cash

flow balances within Fund-40 County Ditches on an annual basis to maintain positive cash flow, and;

WHEREAS, per County Board suggestion, recommendations for the July 2022 through June 2023 assessment cycle were discussed at the County Board Work Session on September 5, 2023, and;

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute allows for the Ditch Authority to approve maintenance fund assessments on a yearly basis without incurring the expense of a public hearing if statute requirement criteria have been met, and;

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the County Board to transition from the past practice of collecting after spending to maintaining a revolving collection comparative to expense trends and to keep assessments occurring as close to real time as possible for the potential property owners affected.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners in their capacity as the Todd County Ditch Authority hereby approves the Maintenance Fund/Ditch Assessments for the 2024 Tax Payable Year as a one year repayment period without interest applied per the attached list.

Todd Wadena Community Corrections
Kathy Langer provided the County Board an update on the STS Shop Building replacement plans that suffered severe damage as a result of a tornado and further damage due to the weight of the snow on the building. Final building plans have been approved and bids for construction will be ready for release soon.
Cannabis Ordinance 1st Reading. Public Hearing
The County Board opened the meeting for public comment and held discussion on considering an ordinance prohibiting the use of Cannabis in public places and in places of public accommodation. No public comment was received. This proposed ordinance will move forward to its scheduled 2nd Reading – Public Hearing on October 17, 2023.

Ditch/Ag Inspector
On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Acting as Ditch Authority, set October 3, 2023 as the date for a landowner Informational Meeting with a start time of 6 p.m., to be held at the County Board Room.
On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

BEAVER DAM AND BEAVER EXPENSE AUTHORIZATION UPDATE
WHEREAS, on March 3, 2009 Resolution #2009-03/3-17 was passed by the Ditch Authority authorizing the County Ditch Inspector to approve up to \$500 per dam, of expenses to remove the dam, to be assessed to the County Ditch systems,

and;
WHEREAS, the March 3, 2009 Resolution did not address beaver trapping or expenses for contractors used to locate dams, and;

WHEREAS, the costs for dam removal and beaver trapping has gone up significantly since 2009, and a contractor is occasionally used to locate dams with a drone or an amphibian ATV on ditch systems that are too treacherous to access by foot, and;

WHEREAS, as was stated in the previous Resolution, petitions for removal of beaver dams are a frequent and routine occurrence and the solution for removal of beaver dams is routine, frequent and required of the ditch authority, and;

WHEREAS, beaver trapping expenses are related to dam removal but can occur without a dam needing removal.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Todd County Board of Commissioners acting as the Ditch Authority hereby authorize the County Ditch Inspector to approve expenses to be assessed to the County Ditch systems provided the following conditions are met:

- a) The expense is directly related to the removal of a beaver dam from the County Ditch systems.
- a. The expense is estimated to be less than \$1,000 per dam for dam removal.
- b) The expense is directly related to the report of beaver activity on the County Ditch systems.
- a. The expense is estimated to be less than \$1,000 per report of activity for beaver trapping.
- c) The expense is to hire a contractor to use a drone or amphibian ATV to search for a dam or blockage on the County Ditch systems.
- a. The expense is estimated to be less than \$500 per occurrence, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is understood this Resolution replaces and supersedes all prior County Board actions, oral or written, relating to the subject matter hereof.
Planning & Zoning
On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and approve the Preliminary Plat with the following conditions.

1. Creation of a property owners association agreement including mandatory membership of all property owners with inclusion of Todd County as a participating member.
2. Creation of deed restrictions, covenants, or other instruments in accordance with Section 7.16C (iii) of the Planning and Zoning Ordinance with inclusion of Todd County as a participating member.
3. No additional impervious surface shall be allowed within the shore or bluff impact zones.
4. No outward expansion shall be allowed to existing structures. Lot

6 shall be allowed to construct one lake side deck not to exceed 150 square feet.

5. Boat mooring site shall not exceed 9 slips.

6. No construction or placement of accessory structures will be allowed within the common space.

7. Applicant must obtain additional permits and authorizations as required by other agencies including but not limited to the Sauk River Watershed District.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To remand the Tammy Brusewitz Request for CUP back to the Planning Commission with the 60 day extension to the application to confirm setbacks, use within the zoned area and consider establishment of condition regarding a visual screen prior to feedlot establishment.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the findings of the Planning Commission and grant the CUP on parcels 26-0017100 and 26-0016900 with the following conditions.

1. There shall be no loading/unloading of materials within the public roadway.
2. Off-street parking shall be provided for all business traffic.
3. Storage of supplies and finished products shall be stored meeting all setback requirements.
4. Land use permits shall be required for all future construction.
5. Applicant must abide by all other applicable federal, state, and local standards.

On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the Sauk River Watershed Fiscal Agent agreement as presented and sign.

Soil & Water
On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Approval of a tree planter from DNR at no cost to Todd County or the SWCD.

Health & Human Services
On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To rename the Health Services Manager position to Adult Services Manager.
On motion by Noska and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To rename the Behavioral Health Supervisor and Waiver Supervisor positions to Adult Services Supervisor.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve changing the name of the Health Services Unit to Adult Services Unit.
Rick Hest provided the County Board an update on its current programming and operations.

On motion by Denny and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the 2024 donation to Hilltop Regional Kitchen of \$7,000.

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report
The County Auditor-Treasurer provided a summary of the upcoming 5 elections affecting portions of Todd County Voters scheduled for November 7, 2023 with absentee voting opening on Friday, September 22, 2023 for these election events. A reminder that the 2nd half real estate tax payments for certain parcels are due on October 16, 2023.

County Commissioner's Report
The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.
Commissioner Denny attended the Hilltop Kitchen, constituent meetings regarding roads and Solid Waste meetings.
Commissioner Becker attended the Wellness, Personnel, TWCC, Dept Head, AMC Fall Conference, and Staples City road project meetings.
Commissioner Noska attended the TWCC and TCDC meetings.
Commissioner Neumann attended the CMCOA, Personnel, Dept Head, Expo walk-thru, AMC Fall Conference and Solid Waste committee meetings.

County Coordinator's Report
The County Coordinator reported on meetings attended including the Lake Shamineau preconstruction meeting, AMC Fall Conference. A reminder was provided that the Justice Center roof project has started within the last week and will continue for the remainder of September.

Adjourn
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the meeting was adjourned for the month of September 2023.

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS
VENDOR NAME..... AMOUNT
DAKOTA WHOLESALE
TIRE\$4,320.00
LONG PRAIRIE LEADER \$2,632.00
RITT'S WELDING WORKS
LLC\$4,789.00
SUMMIT COMPANIES... \$4,918.00
TRUENORTH STEEL... \$78,593.46
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING
INC\$12,557.09
ZIEGLER INC\$2,421.45
56 PAYMENTS LESS
THAN \$2,000\$26,352.51
Total:\$136,583.51

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS
VENDOR NAME..... AMOUNT
DHS - SWIFT\$24,860.07
V #17064-COST EFF
HEALTH INS\$2,155.14
ITEN FUNERAL HOME-

BROWERVILLE\$2,533.72
RURAL MN CEP INC ... \$13,821.90
SAND CREEK EAP LLC \$2,347.50
SCHULLER FAMILY FUNERAL
HOMES-WADENA\$3,500.00
USPS-POC.....\$5,241.00
121 PAYMENTS LESS
THAN \$2,000\$52,593.65
TOTAL:\$107,052.98

VENDOR NAME..... AMOUNT
CARLSON/BARBARA J. \$3,600.00
17324\$5,022.00
17353\$2,096.22
17302\$3,436.35
LITTLE SAND GROUP
HOME\$10,311.84
NORTHERN PINES MENTAL
HLTH CTR INC\$2,090.00
PRESBYTERIAN FAMILY FOUNDATION INC.....\$8,520.43
17183\$2,468.22
STEP\$8,504.35
VALLEY LAKE BOYS
HOME INC\$7,750.00
VILLAGE RANCH INC.. \$15,059.58
25 PAYMENTS LESS
THAN \$2,000\$14,795.91
TOTAL:\$83,654.90

On a motion by Becker and second by Noska, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held September 19, 2023 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on October 3, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal:
/s/ on file
Randy Neumann,
County Board Chairperson

s/ on file
Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TODD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS HELD ON OCTOBER 3, 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 3rd day of October, 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.

Approval of Agenda
On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To adopt the agenda as presented with the removal of item 4.9 Hire Richard Berry as PT Road Deputy and addition of item 10.2 Final Cover Contract Award.
Consent Agenda
On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motions were introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:
• To approve the Todd County Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2023 as presented.
• To accept the resignation of Emily Olson, Seasonal Worker at Solid Waste Department as of September 2, 2023.
• Accept the retirement of Lori Becker, Highway Accountant effective 12/15/2023.
• Approve the retirement of Deana Callahan, Administrative Assistant, effective December 28, 2023.
• To approve Jessica Miller to fill the open Eligibility Worker position. Grade 6, Step 2 at 22.33. Start date: TBD
• Accept Melissa Morazan resignation as Full Time Jailer on 10/5/2023.
• Accept Lateshia Harden resignation as Full Time Jailer on 10/5/2023.
• Hire Ethan Wise for the PT Deputy position start date TBD, starting pay will be \$27.65 Grade 10 step 1.
• To approve Sidewalks Saloon & Grill tobacco license application allowing them to sell tobacco products in 2023.

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 achievement during Quarter 3 of 2023.
Auditor-Treasurer
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the September 2023 Auditor Warrants number (ACH) 903469 through 903522 in the amount of \$1,017,693.57 (Manual) 876 through 884 in the amount of \$88,227.42 and (Regular) 241497 through 241611 in the amount of \$642,490.86 for a total of \$1,748,411.85.

On motion by Becker and second by Noska, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 402786 through 402807 in the amount of \$69,438.24 and (Regular) 57364 through 57396 in the amount of \$42,070.90 for a total of \$111,509.14.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services Commissioner Warrants number (ACH) 804555 through 804585 and (Regular) 711059 through 711106 for a total of \$42,976.64.

On motion by Becker and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous rollcall vote: To approve the Health & Human Services SSIS Warrants number (ACH) 601045 through 601054 and (Regular) 517515 through 517526 for a total amount of \$56,760.75.

2024 County Fee Schedule – Public Hearing

The County Board opened the meeting for public comment and held discussion on the proposed 2024 County Fee Schedule. No public comment was received. This proposed fee schedule will move forward to the next board meeting on October 17, 2023 for potential adoption.

Hands of Hope Resource Center
On motion by Denny and second by Becker, the following resolution was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote:

A RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2023 AS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH
WHEREAS, domestic violence is not just a family issue, it is a crime, and should be a concern of all Minnesotans. Domestic violence is also the leading cause of homelessness amongst women and children in Minnesota, and;

WHEREAS, victims often suffer long term physical and mental health issues upon leaving a violent relationship. The costs in medical bills, lost wages, court costs, therapy costs etc. costs Americans billions of dollars every year, not to mention the destruction to families, friendships, and communities and;

WHEREAS, in Minnesota in 2023 there have been 23 domestic homicides to date, with three months of the year left. Hands of Hope Resource Center in Todd County has worked with 101 primary victims, both men and women so far this year, as domestic violence is not gender specific, and;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Hands of Hope Resource Center will continue to advocate and support crime victims/survivors in their search for justice and safety. Our agency seeks continued support from our county commissioners, our judicial system, our law enforcement and our communities, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Hands of Hope Resource Center asks the Todd County Board of Commissioners to proclaim October 2023 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Todd County, and continue to support Hands of Hope Resource Center in educating, advocating and promoting positive change for those living with violence and abuse.

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

Final Payment Authorization – 2022 Highway Construction Contract

WHEREAS, the contract with Central Specialties Inc for the 2022 Highway Construction Contract known as SAP 077-607-010, SAP 077-621-021, SAP 077-624-020, SAP 077-626-009, SAP 077-634-007/SAP 080-603-007, SAP 077-655-002/SAP 080-655-002, CP 22-73 & CP 77-22-01 located on various routes in Todd County, has in all things been completed, and;

WHEREAS, construction work on this contract was scheduled and completed in 2022 with the value of the total work certified being \$5,343,655.37, and;

WHEREAS, partial payments amounting to \$5,056,738.29, have been previously been made to the contractor as work progressed, and;

WHEREAS, it has been determined that \$286,917.08 still remains to be paid to Central Specialties Inc.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners does here accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Todd and authorize final payment as specified.

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

Minnesota Local Road Improvement Program Todd County State Highway 48 Project Recommendation

WHEREAS, Minnesota Counties can apply for funding support for transportation infrastructure projects on local roads as part of the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Local Road Improvement Program which has approximately \$102.967 million in bond funds (with a cap of \$1.5 million per project) available for constructing or reconstructing local roads in Fiscal Years 2024-2026, and;

WHEREAS, Local Road Improvement Program Funds can be used for reasonable elements associated with roadway construction activity and that all other costs associated with project development and delivery need to be funded by either a combination of State Aid Highway Funds or Local County Levy Funds, and;

WHEREAS, funding may be requested for projects that will reduce traffic crashes on rural County State Aid Highways and County Roads (Rural Road Safety Account), reconstruct routes that have regional significance (Routes of Regional Significance Account), or for the local share of a trunk highway project (Trunk Highway Corridor Account), and;

WHEREAS, the Todd County Public Works Department recommends that the following project be submitted for State of Minnesota Local Road Improvement Program Funding in Fiscal Year 2026 as a Route of Regional Significance:

- Todd County State Aid Highway 48 from State Trunk Highway 287 to State Trunk Highway 71
- A Mill and Bituminous Overlay Project with Centerline Pipe Replacements, Aggregate Shouldering and a Vertical Grade Correction near the Long Prairie Municipal Airport

See **TCC** on page 10a

TO THE VOTERS OF TODD COUNTY, IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Notice is hereby given that a Special County General election will be held in the following polling places within Todd County:

- Long Prairie City at Long Prairie City Hall, 615 Lake St S, Long Prairie, MN 56347
- Long Prairie Township at Long Prairie Township Hall, 25411 County 12, Long Prairie, MN 56347
- Reynolds Township at Reynolds Township Hall, 21797 County 11, Long Prairie, MN 56347

on Tuesday the (7th) Seventh day of November 2023 at which the polls will be open from the hours of Seven (7) o'clock AM to the hour of Eight (8) o'clock PM for the purpose of electing a candidate for the following office:

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 3

Contact your Municipal Clerk or the County Auditor's office for polling place location information or visit the Todd County Website at www.co.todd.mn.us

Witness my hand and seal this 19th day of October, 2023

Denise Gaida, Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
320-732-4414

SAMPLE BALLOT

General Election Ballot
County Election Ballot
Todd County, Minnesota
November 7, 2023

Instructions to Voters:
To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ●

County Offices	
Special Election for County Commissioner District 3	
To fill vacancy in term expiring January 6, 2025 Vote for One	
☐	Bob Byers
☐	Bob Kunz
☐	Write in, if any

O25-N1C



NOTICE
LAKE SHORE
AERATION WARNING
LAKE SHAMINEAU

Open water along the shore with thin ice around the edges on the south shore of Lake Shamineau. Starting November 15, 2023 and into the early months of 2024. For inquiries call 763-535-1079.

44-45pnp

NOTICE
LAKE SHORE
AERATION WARNING
LAKE SHAMINEAU

Open water along the shore with thin ice around the edge on the West shores of Lake Shamineau. Starting November 2023 and early months of 2024. For inquiries call 218-821-1470.

44-45pnp

TODD COUNTY
BOARD OF
ADJUSTMENT
215 1st Ave. South,
Long Prairie, MN 56347
320-732-4420
toddplan.zone@co.todd.
mn.us

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on **Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** the Todd County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing in the Commissioner's board room, 215 1st Ave. South, Suite 301, Long Prairie, Minnesota.

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

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

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Introduction of Board of Adjustment Members and process review
- The applicant is introduced
- Staff report
- Applicant confirms if staff report accurately represents the request
- Public comment
- Board review with applicant, staff, and public
- Approval of agenda
- Approval of October 30, 2023, Board of Adjustment meeting minutes

1. Nicholas and Abigail Klimek: Section 23, Beim Lake, Leslie Township
Site Address: 15494 Galaxy Road, Osakis, MN 56360
PID: 15-0027100

•After-the-fact Variance request to reduce the ordinary-high-water-mark setback from 150' to 64' for the construction of a deck in Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning.

•After-the-fact Variance request to reduce the ordinary-high-water-mark setback from 150' to 64' for the construction of a dwelling addition in Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning.

•After-the-fact Variance request to increase the peak height limit from 18' to 26' for dwelling roof repair in Natural Environment Shoreland Zoning.

Adjournment.

Next Meeting:
November 16, 2023

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

Todd County Board of Adjustment
Richard Johnson, Chair
45pnc

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TODD
DISTRICT COURT
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No. 77-PR-23-260
Case Type: INFORMAL PROBATE

In re the Estate of
Yvonne Dorothy Dickman
DECEASED

Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's

☒ Last Will dated September 17, 2003 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Name
Kevin Lynn Dickman
Address
108 Timberline Drive N
Colleyville TX 56034

As personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Dated: October 5, 2023

Gina Devilbiss-Hendry
Probate Registrar

Kim Peterson,
Court Administrator
45-46pnc

Staples-Motley School Board Minutes

ISD #2170
SCHOOL BOARD
MEETING #2
Sept. 18, 2023, 6 p.m.
District Office

MINUTES

Call to Order
Call to Order by Chair Winkels, 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order with Wright, Trout, Reese, Winkels and Reeck present (comprising a quorum). Member Anderson was absent. Also attending: Supt. Tappe, Principals Berg and Ferdon, Williams representing ICS, a number of staff, students and community members, Staples World Managing Editor Anderson and recording secretary Larson. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Recognize Public Chair Winkels welcomed those in attendance.

Consent Agenda Approval of Minutes from the August 21 regular meeting.

Approve the 2023-2024 agreement with The Vintage Golf Course.

Approve the Leave of Absence request from Jessica Williams, paraprofessional
Approve the Leave of Absence request from Caitlyn Hacker, MS/HS Teacher.

Approve the Fundraiser requests from the Music Boosters.

Approve the renewals of:
Allison Vangsness - Student Council; Holton Truax - Weight Room Supervisor, Fall 2023, Kristina Haataja - Music Programs; Sarah Decker - MS Student Council; Jill Kneisl - Yearbook; Allison Vangsness - Yearbook.

Approve the resignations of:

Sam Schimpp - Paraprofessional (effective

8-31-2023); Kathy Robben - Paraprofessional (effective 8-25-2023; Melissa Jewison - Food Service - Elementary (effective 9/20/2023).

Approve Staff Hires:
Penney Omodt - Food Service Elementary; Chris Jennissen - MS/HS Title Interventions; Amanda Weishair - SLPA Elementary; Taylor Anderson - Bus Driver; Stacy Beto - Food Service MS/HS; Andrew Capistrant - Bus Driver; Melissa Jewison - MS/HS Media Dept. Paraprofessional; Kathy Blessing - Part time Food Service MS/HS; Cade Bestland - Vocal Music Programs; Theresa Kavanaugh - Food Service - Elementary; Iain Sams - MS/HS Paraprofessional; Katrina Fligge - JH Volleyball Coach.

Approve the Fundraiser request from Boys Basketball.

Approve the 2023-2024 Sourcewell Program & Services Agreement

Approve the leave of absence for Rebecca Gonzales, JH Volleyball Coach.

Approve the request for six consecutive PTO days from Sarah Larson.

Approve the TCC 2023-2024 Food Service Contract.

Approve the Fundraiser requests from Student Council.

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

Donations and Grants Motion by Wright, seconded by Reese, to approve the Resolution to accept Grants and Donations in the amount of \$8,218.07. MC

Thank you to National Restaurant Association, Football Boosters and Sourcewell for your generous donations.

Finance Items

Financial Report presented by Business Manager Hill

Motion by Trout, seconded by Wright, to approve the August vouchers. MC

General Fund, \$489,359.80; Food Service, \$10,888.33; Community Service Fund, \$11,370.62; Construction Fund, \$1,542,610.71; Debt Service Fund, \$1,425.00; Fund 45, \$9.43; Fund 47, \$0.00.

Motion by Wright, seconded by Reeck, to approve the August receipts. MC

General Fund, \$1,577,188.26; Food Service, \$7,842.72; Community Service Fund, \$18,563.45; Construction Fund, \$300,702.23; Debt Service Fund, \$104,422.28; Fund 45, \$2,130.59; Fund 47, \$0.00.

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Reeck, to certify the proposed tax levy at maximum; payable in 2024. MC

(Public Announcement: The Truth In Taxation meeting will be held on Monday December 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the District Office Conference Room at which time the budget and levy will be discussed and the public will be allowed to speak.)

Personnel

Motion by Reese, seconded by Trout, to approve the termination of Julia Steward, elementary paraprofessional. MC

Motion by Reese, seconded by Winkels, to accept the retirement of Liz Koskieniemi. MC

Thank you, Liz, for over 23 years of service to the Staples-Motley School District.

Facilities

ICS Update presented by Williams

Reports:

School Board
FED
Sourcewell - Minutes from July 18, 2023

Principals Ferdon reported on a great first week of school. Principal Berg reported that the "Getting to Know You" conferences before the school year were a big success with 100 percent of families wanting them to continue next year.

Superintendent Tappe thanked Buildings and Grounds Director Peterson and his staff for getting the buildings ready in a short period of time. The Ground-breaking Ceremony for the Lakewood Nest on Sept. 29 and the ribbon cutting at the Elementary Gym on Oct. 23. SMEA report by President Kniesl and VP Evans

Activities/Community Ed Director Lee shared that we're almost half way through the fall athletic seasons and the winter community ed brochure will be out after MEA weekend.

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Wright, to move into Closed Session for Superintendent performance review and discussion as permitted by MN Statute, section 13D.05, subdivision 3(a). MC

Reconvene in Closed Session for Superintendent Performance Review

Motion by Wright, seconded by Winkels, to call the Closed Session to order. MC

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Reese, to reconvene in Open Session. MC

Motion by Winkels, seconded by Wright, to move into Closed Session for Negotiations strategy pursuant to MN Statute 13D.03. MC

Reconvene in Closed Session for Negotiations strategy

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Trout, to call the Closed Session to order. MC

Motion by Reeck, seconded by Wright, to reconvene in Open Session. MC

Adjournment

Motion by Wright, seconded by Trout, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. MC

--Approved minutes submitted by Trisha Larson, Recording Secretary.

45pnc

Todd County Commissioners Minutes

TCC continued from page 9a

and;

WHEREAS, this project is listed on the Todd County Public Works Department Proposed Five Year Construction Plan and funding through the Local Road Improvement Program will help address existing roadway deficiencies such as deteriorating pavement surface, deficient centerline culverts, adjacent low shoulders and a localized area that is prone to seasonal flooding.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby support the recommendation of the Todd County Public Works Department for submitting a State of Minnesota Local Road Improvement Program Funding Application of \$800,000 for a Fiscal Year 2026 Construction Project located on County State Aid Highway 48 from State Trunk Highway 287 to State Trunk Highway 71.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Todd County Board of Commissioners does hereby agree to pay all additional costs associated with the County Road 48 Project that are beyond the Local Road Improvement Program Grant and agrees to maintain all construction improvements made on County State Aid Highway 48 that are funded by the Local Road Improvement Program.

Administration

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: To approve the list of comparable counties as presented to be used with the Classification and Compensation Study being conducted by Gallagher.

On motion by Noska and second by Denny, the following motion was introduced and adopted by unanimous vote: Award bid to Burski Excavating, Inc., for \$194,725.75 and authorize solid waste director to sign contract upon receipt of necessary contract documents (performance bond, payment bond, proof of insurance and responsible contractor).

County Auditor-Treasurer's Report

The County Auditor-Treasurer provided a reminder that the 2nd half real estate tax payments for certain parcels are due on October 16, 2023. It was also noted that absentee voting is open for the upcoming

November 7, 2023 election and the A/T Office is providing curbside voting for interested voters.

County Commissioner's Report

The Commissioners reported on meetings and events attended.

Commissioner Denny attended the GRRL, Hands of Hope, Prairie Lakes, Emergency Services Board and Prairie Lakes meetings.

Commissioner Becker attended the Insurance, Rainbow Rider, Facilities, public hearing for Mississippi Watershed, Personnel, Region V, Regional EMS, and Wellness meetings.

Commissioner Noska was out of state so was not able to attend a couple meetings.

Commissioner Neumann attended the Opioid, Insurance, Rainbow Rider, Facilities, Safety, Personnel committee meetings.

County Coordinator's Report

The County Coordinator reported that the Master Gardeners has completed some upgrades to their booth area in the Grandstand. The closing on the second parcel purchase has been completed and the office continues to move forward with the class/comp study process.

Recess

Chair Neumann recessed the meeting until October 17, 2023.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME.....	AMOUNT
ANOKA CO GOVERNMENT CENTER	\$8,375.00
CROW WING RECYCLING	\$3,337.25
EBSO INC	\$270,718.90
F-M FORKLIFT	\$40,549.00
FARM-RITE EQUIPMENT, INC	\$5,210.58
HEALTH PARTNERS ENTAL	\$7,322.77
LONG PRAIRIE SANITATION INC	\$6,294.77
MERTEN/KRISTOPHER	\$18,487.50
NYHUS CHEVROLET INC	\$21,632.16
PETERS LAW OFFICE, P.A.	\$6,270.00
PRAIRIE LAKES MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE AUTH	\$86,883.00
TODD CO AUD-TREAS	\$7,294.54
VERIZON	\$7,355.09
WATERGUARDS, LLC.	\$19,551.00
19 PAYMENTS LESS THAN 2000	\$10,422.96
AVI SYSTEMS	\$8,213.00
CITY OF LONG PRAIRIE	\$432,217.98
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	\$5,629.00
JOHNSON/DENNIS & KATHLEEN	\$5,607.05
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	\$14,192.65
MN DEPT OF FINANCE	\$8,791.00
MORRISON COUNTY	\$51,889.40
RAMSDALL/VIOLET	\$9,550.00
SHIRLEY'S GAS & GROCERIES INC	\$6,389.01
STAPLES ADVANTAGE	\$3,059.12
STEP	\$12,239.96
VOYANT COMMUNICATIONS, LLC	\$3,478.28
WIDESTH SMITH NOLTING INC	\$4,610.00
WONDERLICH/SCOTT A	\$5,147.75
27 PAYMENTS LESS THAN 2000	\$11,416.58
CARD SERVICES COBORNS	\$4,769.03
CARDMEMBER SERVICE	\$3,203.87
CENTRA CARE	\$11,532.50
FLEET SERVICES/WEX BANK	\$9,380.51
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	\$2,000.00
HLATKY/DEVONA	\$23,136.78
KNOW INK	\$34,125.00
LONG PRAIRIE OIL COMPANY	\$4,512.77
METRO SALES INC	\$2,614.76
MIDDENDORF/KURT	\$20,932.50
MIDDENDORF/NATHAN	\$6,400.00
MINNESOTA POWER & LIGHT	\$21,524.23
OYSTER/ROBB	\$6,900.00
RINGDAHL ARCHITECTS INC	\$23,625.00
TOWMASTER	\$126,639.00
UITTENBOGAARD/JOHN	\$32,800.84
WETTSTEIN/JOHN	\$3,807.98
47 PAYMENTS LESS THAN 2000	\$15,653.80
GALLAGHER BENEFIT SERVICES INC	\$9,825.00
PARTY WORLD	\$3,386.50
WEX BANK-SINCLAIR	\$2,883.76
25 PAYMENTS LESS THAN 2000	\$12,638.05
SCHMIDT/DOUGLAS & MARY	\$175,083.75
2 PAYMENTS LESS THAN 2000	\$673.50
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$69,526.36
US BANK	\$9,718.89
MN DEPT OF REVENUE	\$5,237.00
7 PAYMENTS LESS THAN 2000	\$3,745.17
TOTAL:	\$1,748,411.85

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

VENDOR NAME..... AMOUNT

CENTRAL APPLICATORS INC

\$14,780.75

FRIEDRICH'S TIRE & OIL CO INC	\$2,813.90
H & L MESABI COMPANY	\$23,059.75
KNIFE RIVER CORP.	\$33,787.46
NORTHERN STAR COOP	\$2,328.32
NUSS TRUCK & EQUIPMENT	\$7,810.88
SEACHANGE PRINT I NNOVATIONS	\$2,083.61
48 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	\$24,844.47
Total:	\$111,509.14

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WARRANTS	VENDOR NAME..... AMOUNT
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	\$3,262.70
DHS - SWIFT	\$2,423.55
V #4106 - COST EFF HEALTH INS	\$4,723.35
MORRISON CO PUBLIC HEALTH SERV	\$5,937.79
V #15377 - COST EFF HEALTH INS	\$3,699.48
PERISH/ALAN	\$3,157.06
73 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	\$19,772.71
Total:	\$42,976.64

VENDOR NAME.....	AMOUNT
HEARTLAND GIRLS RANCH	\$10,106.00
MERIDIAN SERVICES INC	\$2,156.01
MLPS FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGICAL SRVS LLC	\$3,018.75
OAKRIDGE HOMES INC - CLARISSA	\$2,000.36
PINEHAVEN YOUTH AND FAMILY SRVS INC ...	\$20,012.71
PRAIRIE LAKE YOUTH PROGRAMS	\$10,921.63
24 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	\$8,545.29
Total:	\$56,760.75

On a motion by Denny and second by Becker, the preceding minutes of the County Board meeting held October 3, 2023 were duly approved by unanimous vote at the Todd County Board of Commissioners at the Regular Board Meeting held on October 17, 2023.

Witness my hand and seal: /s/ on file
Randy Neumann,
County Board Chairperson
/s/ on file
Denise Gaida,
Todd County Auditor-Treasurer
45pnc

PERFECTION IS EFFORTLESS

Butcher's Deluxe Package
4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
8 FREE PureGround™ Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)

\$99.99
74222DRG separately \$699.94
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE

Limited Time: Get 8 FREE Burgers

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Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Photos exemplary of product advertised. Limit 2. 8 free 6 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 74222. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. All products, prices, and sales are subject to Omaha Steaks, Inc. Terms of Use: OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use031. Expires 12/31/23. | 23M4958 | Omaha Steaks, Inc.

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Closing in on the win

Steven Petrich (64) sacks the quarterback late in the game as Elijah Claussen(65) and Noah Larson (52) close in. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)

Playoff comeback win

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples-Motley football team flipped a switch in the second half, turning a 14-0 deficit into a 24-14 win at Pillager in their first Section 6AA playoff game Oct. 28.

Early in the game, the Cardinal offense was inconsistent and had a couple of missed opportunities, but got rolling in the second half.

The defense was also inconsistent in the first half, coming up with many big plays but also allowing two big plays that led to scores. The defense played lights out in the second half. Here's an example of how much the defense improved: their first play from scrimmage resulted in a Pillager touchdown while the last play of the game resulted in an interception.

Staples-Motley started with the ball and punted after three plays.

On Pillager's first play from scrimmage, they faked a handoff and their quarterback ran through a big hole all the way for a touchdown.

The teams exchanged punts before Alex Schultz caught a 32 yard pass from Eli Rutten. That drive ended with an interception in the end zone.

The Cardinals forced a fumble but then had to punt.

Another defensive stop came when Gavin Chenoweth made a leaping one-handed interception on a long pass.

The next drive stalled and Staples-Motley punted again.

On the next drive Pillager had another long run to the eight yard line and they punched it in from there to make the score 14-0.

Late in the half, Staples-Motley started driving. Rutten through a pass over the middle to Elijah Blue, who made a leaping catch, tearing the ball away from the defender and coming down at the two yard line. The Cardinals ran up to spike the ball and stop the clock with one second left. With time for one play only, they tried to punch it in but were stopped short and the half ended with the score still at 14-0.

The second half started out looking a lot like the first, but the Cardinal defense seemed to be able to read the plays better and get off the blocks better, so they forced a quick punt.

Two dropped passes led to a Staples-Motley punt, but that is where the defense completely turned the game around.

Blake Neelan broke through the line to tackle an outside run well behind the line of scrimmage. On the next play, Drake Dukowitz and Neelan stopped a runner for no gain. On third down, Sawyer Ferdon flew off the right end and sacked the quarterback with Neelan helping finish the play. With the defense gaining field possession, the Cardinals were in position to finally get on the board.

Staples-Motley turned to



Big play

Blake Neelan starts the Staples-Motley comeback by tackling a player behind the line.

the power package of Elijah Claussen, normally a line-man, at quarterback. They had tried the formation a few times previously without much success, but now they started forcing cracks in the defense. They went on a steady drive that resulted in a short touchdown pass from Claussen to Schultz.

Neelan ran the ball in for the extra point to make the score 8-14.

Right away, the defense forced another fumble that Turner Beachy fell on to get the ball back.

After a crucial fourth down conversion where Rutten completed a pass to Schultz, Neelan and Claussen made first down runs and Claussen punched in a six yard touchdown run with Dustin Converse leading the blocking into the end zone. Claussen also ran for the extra point, following a lead block from Dukowitz. That made the score 16-14 with five minutes left in the third quarter.

Pillager ran the kick-off back to the 25 yard line, with Blue making a shoe-string tackle to prevent it from going all the way. Pillager got close to scoring but on fourth down, Colbe Tappe stepped in front of a receiver, forcing a high throw and incomplete pass.

The offense took over, going on a long drive that ate up the clock and produced the winning margin.

Rutten and Schultz connected on a pass on third and eight to keep the drive going. Ben Tyrrell made a 21 yard run to get deep into Pillager territory. Claussen passed to Schultz to gain a first down on another third and eight. Neelan caught a pass to get a first down at the two yard line. Claussen punched it in from there, following the blocking of Steven Petrich. On the extra point he broke through the middle again, with Petrich, Dukowitz and Luke Bjerga blocking a huge hole, giving the Cardinals a two score lead at 24-14.

The defense stepped up again when Tappe recovered a fumble. Staples-Motley punted, but Schultz was the punter who kept getting off long kicks, even into the wind, to keep good field position. This time he rolled the ball to the seven yard

line, leaving Pillager a long way to go with little time left. With time running out, Beachy broke up a pass, Petrich got in for a sack, then pressure forced the Pillager quarterback to toss the ball deep downfield, where Beachy was able to snare it and get down as time ran out.

Staples-Motley bench ran onto the field to celebrate the playoff win. After shaking hands with their opponents, they were joined by a large group of parents and fans, hugging each other on the field.

The Cardinal defense recovered three fumbles and had two interceptions in the game. The linebackers and safeties got most of the tackles, with Tappe, Schultz, Bjerga, Beachy and Neelan leading the way. But much of that was because the defensive line held their position, with Dukowitz, Ferdon, Petrich, Claussen and Noah Larson creating a lot of stops.

With the defense playing so well, the offense had many opportunities to run plays. They outgained Pillager 359-255 and had 20 first downs compared to eight for Pillager.

Although they used Claussen to punch in the scores, the Cardinals were led by Rutten at quarterback for many of their big drives. He passed for 172 yards, completing 15 of 22 passes with one interception. He also had a couple of scrambles that he turned into 10 yard gains. Claussen completed four passes for 43 yards.

Schultz was the primary target, catching nine passes for 122 yards. Blue caught three passes for 51 yards, while Peyton Mithun, Neelan and Tyrrell were also on the receiving end of passes.

Claussen led the team with 58 yards rushing, but it wasn't easy, taking 18 attempts to get those yards. Neelan had 31 yards on 10 carries, Tyrrell had 28 yards on four runs and Blue had three carries for 12 yards.

Pillager racked up 223 rushing yards, but had little to show for passing, completing four for 32 yards. They were hurt most by the five turnovers that ended drives.

Cardinal cross country teams qualify for state

Staples-Motley qualified two teams for the State Cross Country Meet at Long Prairie on Oct. 27, as the girls team won the Section 6A title and the boys were second in their race to advance.

The state meet will be Saturday, Nov. 4 at the Les Bolstad Golf Course in St. Paul. This is a new location for the meet. The boys team will run at noon and the girls will start at 12:45.

Kyanna Burton and Audrey Brownell were the top two runners in the girls race, finishing stride for stride with only one hundredth of a second separating them. They have been two of the top runners in the entire state this season and showed that they will be contenders for the state title on Saturday.

Bella Hines was an excellent third runner as she has been all year, finishing 11th. Aleea Holst stepped up with a great race, finishing right behind Hines. Naila Mikhaeil was the fifth finisher in a fast time, giving the Cardinals a clear win as

a team.

This was the sixth straight Section 6A title for the Staples-Motley girls.

The Cardinal boys had been relying on their top runner Issiah Tabatt and team depth for their scores this season. In the section meet, the top three runners all had extraordinary races to propel the team to state.

Tabatt ran another excellent race to place second, his highest ever section finish and his fourth straight top five finish for Section 6A. Logan Robben joined him in the top ten, finishing eighth, his second top ten finish in the section. Dillan Robben obliterated his personal best on this tough course, finishing 15th in 17:35. Each of the top three finished ahead of their counterpart on the Sauk Centre team, giving the Cardinals a cushion needed to place second and earn a trip to state. Gage Bjerga nearly got into the 17 minute range as the fourth finisher. Elijah Greenwaldt and Odin Trif provided the depth the team needed to clinch their sev-

enth straight trip to state.

Team results

Section 6A cross country championships

Girls results

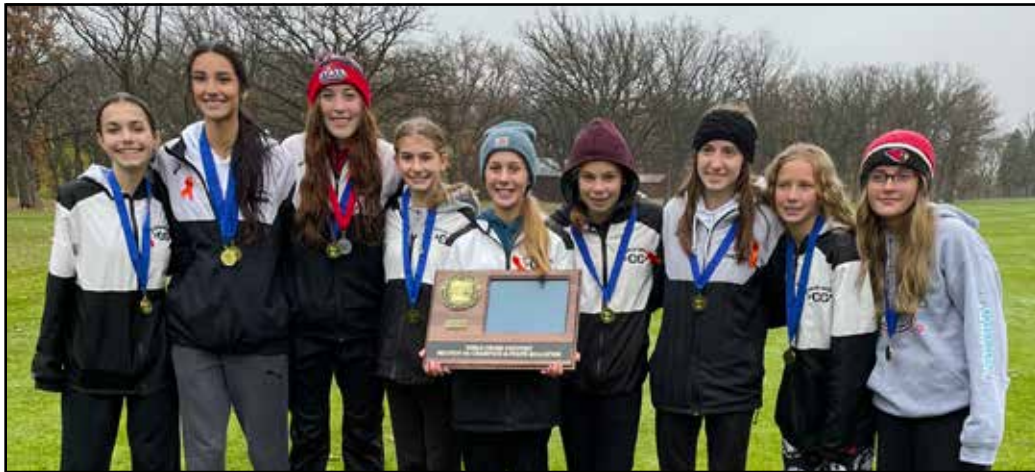
Staples-Motley 39, Wadena-Deer Creek 84, Minnewaska 102, West Central Area 147, Melrose 153, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 177, Sauk Centre 188, Morris 208, Ottertail Central 237, Pillager 295, Benson 309, Brandon-Evansville 315, Osakis 344, Verndale 357, Alexandria Community Christian 367

Kyanna Burton 19:10, 2. Audrey Brownell 19:10, 11. Bella Hines 20:44, 12. Aleea Holst 20:56, 20. Naila Mikhaeil 21:20, 35. Suhaila Mikhaeil 22:12, 70. Leah Greenwaldt 24:02

Boys results

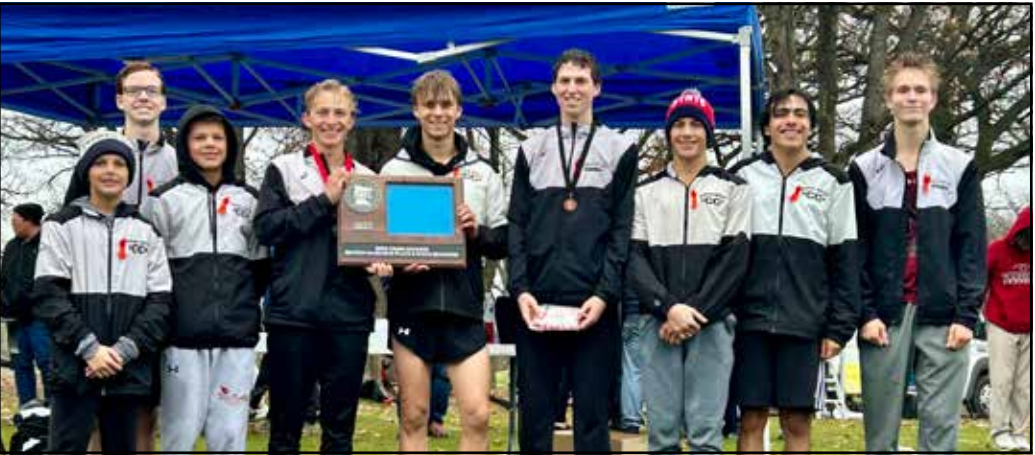
Bertha-Hewitt 48, Staples-Motley 71, Sauk Centre 76, Minnewaska 121, Wadena-Deer Creek 171, Ottertail Central 172, West Central Area 180, Osakis 196, Melrose 233, Long Prairie-Grey Eagle 306, Ortonville 312, Benson 342, Morris 352, Brandon-Evansville 356, Pillager 414

2. Issiah Tabatt 16:51, 8. Logan Robben 17:17, 15. Dillan Robben 17:35, 21. Gage Bjerga 18:08, 25. Elijah Greenwaldt 18:30, 26. Odin Trif 18:32, 43. Blaine Plattner 19:18



Section champions

Section 6A champion girls, from left, Suhaila Mikhaeil, Kyanna Burton, Audrey Brownell, Bella Hines, Elise Trif, Leah Greenwaldt, Naila Mikhaeil, Aleea Holst and Maddie Kist. (Submitted photo)



State meet team

Section 6A second place boys team, from left, Garrett Bjerga, Dillan Robben, Gage Bjerga, Issiah Tabatt, Odin Trif, Logan Robben, Elijah Greenwaldt, Ivan Lozano and Blaine Plattner. (Submitted photo)



Eli Rutten has a lane to pass, thanks to blocks by Elijah Claussen, left, and Drake Dukowitz (66).



Gavin Chenoweth reaches up to snare an interception



GYM continued from page 1a

The school had previously used the large lunch room as their gym, and for eating lunch. Berg said they have been without a gym of any kind for 14 months, because the cafeteria was remodeled.

"We used a tent, the playgrounds and the soccer fields. School Board Chair Bryan Winkels said that he attended the school starting in kindergargen. "We had lunch and kickball in the same room" he remembered.

At the school board meeting that evening, Tappe thanked the school board members for committing tot he project and seeing it through.

"This is the first time the elementary has had a full gym," noted Tappe.

He also thanked Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Leroy Peterson for the amount of time he has put into the school building projects. Tappe said Peterson came in a 4 a.m. one morning because contractors were taking out a door:

There are still a few updates to be made to the new gym, such as installing a scoreboard.



Wonder of a new gym

Jaws dropped, eyes widened, students smiled, hugged, danced, pointed and jumped as they gathered to open the new Staples-Motley Elementary School gym. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



THANK YOU

for making a difference!

Congratulations to these 5-Star employees

Deanne Schimpp, Revenue Integrity Manager
Nominated by TJ McCall, Radiology Director

"Deanne consistently demonstrates all of our values at Lakewood and actively plays a role in contributing to our Mission. Charging and coding are in the background of patient care, but play a vital role for our patients. Reviewing the charge master can be like reading a book in another language, but Deanne is always there to jump in and help. Ensuring that all charges are correct for our patients is so important. Deanne does her job with integrity and accountability. She has had to contribute a lot of computer work to the OCHIN transition, which is no easy feat. Thank you for being an advocate for our patients behind the scenes."

Karen Tellie, Senior Services Administrative Assistant
Nominated by Ashley Wallgren, RN, Care Center Director of Nursing

"During our recent EMR transition to Point Click Care (PCC) in the Care Center, there were many processes that needed to be reviewed, edited, or removed. One being the Care Center MDS schedule. Karen readily took on the project. She presented a very organized, efficient, easy to follow MDS Schedule. Karen went above and beyond in her role to be innovative in creating this new process, providing a high-quality presentation of the product she had completed, and truly showed compassion to ensure our needs were met while she asked for feedback from the team."

Kevin Olsen, EMT-P, Ambulance
Nominated by Amanda Svir, RN, BSN, CEN, Director of Emergency & Trauma Services

"Kevin continuously goes above and beyond. He picks up hours with the aim to meet patient needs. He also works in another department supporting patient care. That department leader states, 'He has been an amazing asset to the team. He has great patient care and the staff enjoy working with him'.

Kevin also teaches ALS to help nurses and Lakewood staff learn and grow. On top of that, he coordinates and executes mock codes throughout the organization. Kevin is knowledgeable and supportive of patients and staff. Recently Kevin came in on his weekend off and transported a very sick co-worker to a higher level of care because air transport was unable to fly. The patient said 'Kevin was an angel.' With all these things Kevin continuously goes above and beyond and genuinely aligns with Lakewood's values and Trust culture."

Gretta Trantina, RN, Surgical Services Scheduling Supervisor
Nominated by Stacey Sauve, RN, Director of Surgical Services

"Gretta displays many of Lakewood's values in her work she does every day. Gretta has continued to show compassion and support for her team, our patients, and many others throughout Lakewood. She has an enormous amount of knowledge in the OR and is a huge asset for our team. She takes the time to ensure that every little detail is taken care of, to ensure our patients are getting high quality care. Gretta has went above and beyond with our new OCHIN conversion. She has taken the time to learn for herself to help in making the conversion successful. Gretta has worked many tireless hours on our surgeon's preference cards, trying to ensure we have what they need to take great care of our patients during this transition. A special thank you to Gretta for all you do for our patients, surgeons, staff, and your fellow leaders."

Sheri Zylka, RN, Hospital
Nominated by Ivy Ruzynski, RN, BSN, Quality Improvement Director

"Sheri's attention to detail not only allows her to be an exceptional nurse, but allows her to serve as an excellent patient advocate as well. Her detailed review of a patient's prescription indicated inconsistencies. Sheri took the correct steps and reached out to pharmacy to get it corrected. Thank you, Sheri for having patient safety on your mind and your due diligence to detail."

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Staff backing up students

Staples-Motley students and staff gathered for an all-school photo at the opening of the new gym.

MOTLEY continued from page 1a

Updates at Motley dog park also

A total of seven trees were planted recently. These include four maple trees in Converse Park; one maple in the Petstop and Rec area; and two Spring snow crabapple and one elm tree in Veterans Park. A number of bushes have also been planted, including 31 Crimson Pygmy Japanese Barberry (29 on the north side of the pavilion

at Converse Park and two at the dog park) and nine Spirea next to the tennis court. A total of six Panicle Hydrangeas have also been planted at Veterans Park.

Brotherton expressed his appreciation to everyone who has been involved in the project, going on to note that there are great things happening in Motley.



Shrubs add color

New Crimson Pygmy Japanese Barberry shrubs were planted recently at Converse Park in Motley, part of the city's Energy and Environment Plan. In addition to adding color and decor, the shrubs will help keep people off of the rock area outside the pavilion. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

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