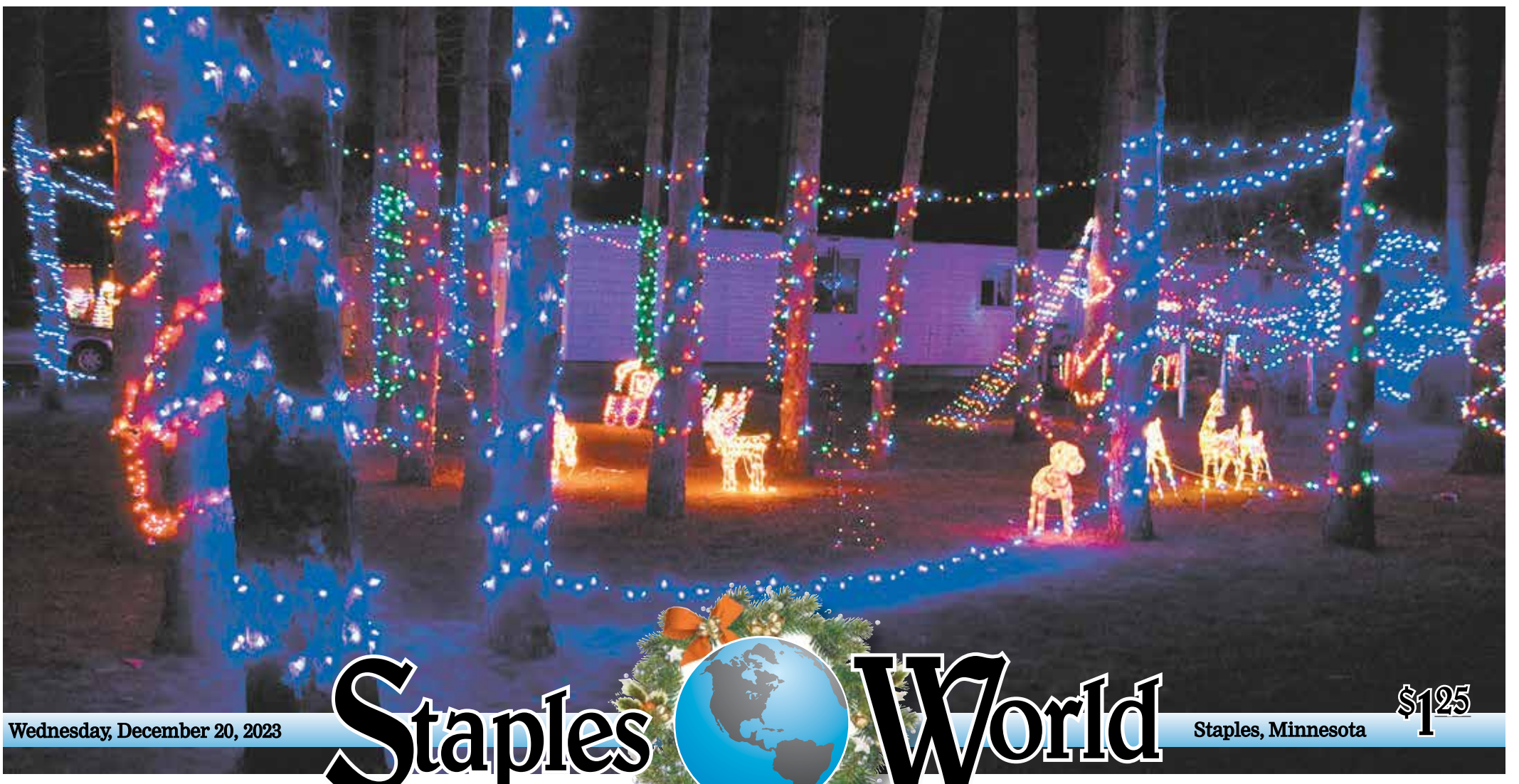
Inside this issue:

Holiday answers from third grade students
Magic Forest Preschool concert
Wrestling tournament win
More Polar Xpress photos

8 10499 02493 3



Enchanted Christmas forest

The Christmas lights display at the Pine Ridge Park housing development, at the 1400 block of 8th Street NE in Staples, has been growing for the past few years and is now an extravagant forested display. (Photo by Mark Anderson)

Wednesday, December 20, 2023 Staples World Staples, Minnesota $1.25

Staples lowers city budget again

By Mark Anderson
Managing Editor

The Staples City Council approved a tax levy increase of 2.5 percent at their Dec. 12 meeting. The preliminary budget approved in September had a 4.3 percent increase, which was cut down to 3.8 percent at a November meeting and the final budget was reduced more so it will be a 2.5 percent increase.

The budget presentation at the Dec. 12 meeting showed a large increase in the city's tax capacity, which is the valuation of all taxable properties, as determined by the county assessor offices. Part of the tax capacity increase is new buildings going onto the tax rolls and part is due to rising valuations of homes throughout the city.

The amount of tax increase created by the budget depends on the amount that a person's home valuation increased.

City Administrator Jerel Nelsen gave examples of homes in the Wadena County and Todd County portions of the city, showing that the home valuations in Todd County rose more than those in Wadena County.

An average home in Wadena County was evaluated at $120,000 in 2023 but rose to $156,000 in 2024. According to the projection, such a home would pay about $74 more in taxes in 2024.

Homes in Todd County had larger valuation increases. A $120,000 home in 2023 is now valued at around $171,600. That home would see a $158 increase in taxes for the year, $18 of that because of the city's 2.5 percent increase.

Nelsen pointed out some of the revenue increases, such as increased Local Government Aid from the state, and grants from the American Recovery Plan Act, Small Cities Assistance and Public Safety Aid.

Nelsen said costs are rising with wage increases, higher costs for professional services and the addition of the 2024 election onto the budget plan. The council approved a new wage scale for part time and seasonal staff, with around a four percent increase and larger increases for mowers and part time park rangers.

There are several one time expenditures on the budget for 2024, including building the storm shelter at Dower lake, replacing the pavillion roof at Dower Lake, Wilson Park playground equipment, painting and carpet at City Hall and police equipment.

Nelsen said the city sales tax revenue is coming in above what they were estimating. That tax goes to fix up the Staples Community Center and will end when the specified revenue is obtained.

Council member Mary Theurer said "I appreciate all the work" of getting the levy down from the original 4.3 percent increase.

Public Works

Public Works Director Scott Grabe said they recently discovered that an electric line project in 2018 had bored a hole directly through a sewer pipe at 617 8rd St. NE. He said it wasn't

See **COUNCIL** on page 3a





Staples World
Christmas Edition

Weather

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 20	39	25	P. Cloudy
Dec. 21	40	28	Cloudy
Dec. 22	40	33	Cloudy
Dec. 23	43	39	Cloudy
Dec. 24	44	36	Showers
Dec. 25	41	30	Showers
Dec. 26	37	27	Snow

Last Year, 2022

	High	Low	Cond.
Dec. 20	-7°	-13	Sunny
Dec. 21	0	-10	Sunny
Dec. 22	-9	-11	Snow
Dec. 23	-7	-12	Cloudy
Dec. 24	4	-8	Sunny
Dec. 25	3	-11	Snow
Dec. 26	5	-4	M. Sunny

Average Temps:
H = 22° Low = 8°
Everyone have a Merry Christmas!

Compiled by Dale Hausmann, WCCO's Staples area Weatherwatcher

Public Notices

Fawn Lake Township **9A**
Motley Townsip **9A**
Todd Cty Official Printing **9A**

Obituaries

Nolan Bacon
Robert Lein
Geneva Mollenhauer
Stanley Schuette



Christmas dance performance

The Music General dancers gave a performance of Christmas dances to the crowd at the Staples-Motley boys basketball game on Dec. 11. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





A very merry Veterans Park

Veterans Park in Motley is all decked out for the holidays, thanks to the efforts of Bryan Stevens and Bruce Brotherton, both of whom work for the city's public works department. The other city parks have been decorated as well, and passers-by will notice a few new displays at the dog park and skating rink. Bright colored decorations on light poles along Highway 10 add to the festive spirit on display in Motley. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley approves zero percent increase to its 2024 levy

By Dawn Timbs
Staples World reporter

At their regular meeting Dec. 11, the Motley City Council approved the total levy for 2024 ($424,181), which is a zero percent increase from last year's certified levy. They also adopted the final budget for 2024 as presented.

The total certified levy includes sums of money for the following funds:

- General: $238,461
- Fire: $27,051
- Street Improvement: $58,000
- Beaulieu Project Bond: $40,000
- 2011A Street Improvement: $23,669
- 2012A Street Improvement: $37,000.

At their September regular meeting, the council had approved a proposed total certified levy of $470,706, which was a 10.97 percent increase from last year's final levy. This proposal, plus two other 2024 tax levy options were presented at the December meeting by City Clerk/Treasurer Kari Jacobson. These included a two-percent increase, along with the zero percent increase.

Council member Steve Johnson made the motion to accept the zero percent increase to the levy, which was seconded by council member Nikki Bjerga.

Johnson prefaced his proposal by noting that it has been "quite a year" for the City of Motley and that a lot of changes had taken place during 2023. He felt this would be a good year to have a zero percent levy increase and to show what a great job everyone has been doing.

"I'm very proud of our city," Johnson went on, noting its skating rink and the beautiful Christmas displays, thanks to the efforts of Bryan Stevens and Bruce Brotherton in the public works department. (During the meeting, Brotherton credited Stevens with setting up a lot of this year's holiday decorations.)

Johnson also praised the work of Jacobson, who came on board as City Clerk/Treasurer this past October. He noted that Jacobson had gone through the city's budget with the council line by line (at a budget workshop) and he found her work to be "very impressive" and worthy of an "A-plus" grade.

Bjerga also praised Jacobson, saying that she appreciated all of the hard work she's done over the past several weeks.

Bjerga noted that a lot of the city's savings would come from *not* hiring a second police officer, which had been a part of the proposed levy. During his later report, Police Chief Al Yoder, who came on board this past October, said he felt things had been going well and didn't feel it was necessary to hire a second officer at this time. He noted that this could be revisited down the road, but that in the meantime, the city would be saving money.

Chief Yoder went on to note that he'd taken some police calls at home, which he was willing to do if it would save the city money. Bjerga thanked Yoder for being willing to work nights and weekends.

Subsequently, the council approved not hiring a second officer, along with canceling all postings of that position.

Mayor Pat O'Regan said he supported the zero percent levy increase, adding that his only concern is spending down the city's budget reserve.

In other matters the council:

- HEARD from Bob Storry of Motley during the public hearing portion of the meeting. Storry said his proposed property taxes were going up 47.8 percent and that the City of Motley portion showed a 53 percent increase. The council noted that Storry's tax increase was due to the increase in his taxable market value, which is determined by the county.
- LEARNED that Administrative Assistant Sarah Lenzen (who had previously given her notice) is willing to continue working a couple of days a week. Jacobson recommended leaving things as they are, and not hiring another assistant at this time. The council approved pulling the ads for that position.
- SET next regular council meeting for Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. It will be preceded by a work session at 4:30 p.m.

Staples Area Church Directory

Staples

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Trinity Lutheran
1000 4th St., NE, Staples 218-894-2372
Rev. Robin Collins
Sunday Divine Service .....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Class ...10:30 a.m.

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

Aldrich

Balsamlund Lutheran
19550 490th Street, Aldrich
Eric Clapp.....701-261-2394 (cell)
Sunday Worship.....8:15 a.m.
Sunday School .....8:30 a.m.

Cushing

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

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

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

Leader

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

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

Motley

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

St. John's Lutheran
497 3rd Ave. S, Motley.....218-352-6399
Pastor Vicar Paul Koehler
Sunday School and Bible Class .....8:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship.....9:30 a.m.

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

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

Oylen

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

Pillager

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

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

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

Hewitt

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

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

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

Verndale

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leaf River Township

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

w52c

The Season of Rejoicing

Pastor Carl Larson, Faith Lutheran Church, Staples

"And Mary said, "'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked with favor on the lowliness of His servant.'" *--Luke 1:46-48*

As I read the words that Mary spoke after meeting her cousin Elizabeth, I understood her reflections to be more than an expression of praise of what is to come. Rather, as Mary spoke the words, 'God my Savior', she was sharing her confession of faith. And when she proclaims "my spirit rejoices in God my Savior" she was expressing her joy that she was already in God's presence and her need to be set free from the difficulties of the world by a God that understands all things was already being fulfilled. Mary is telling all, in these few verses, that she not only looks forward to the time of God's coming in the Christ child, but she was also celebrating her awareness that God had always been within her.

And as this is Mary's confession, so it also is ours. For we also confess that God is our Savior. And although we acknowledge that we use our education, our expertise, our skillfulness, our technology and our legislation to work through much of the chaos that we have created in this world, it's ultimately to God that we turn to lead us to deliverance from our created disorder. It's to God, who fashioned the universe and created all things good, that we turn toward to find true and lasting peace, justice, hope and love each and every day, not just at this time of the year.

The 20th century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "In the Child of Bethlehem, the life of the world that is to come has come into the life of the world that is." This Season of Advent, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the coming of the Christ Child, is also a time, that we like Mary, continue to rejoice that our Lord and Savior is with us in the here and now, walking with us in our daily living. Amen.

"Teach us, in this Advent season,
To find beauty in simplicity,
To find richness in plain living,
To find self-worth in self-giving,
That we may be truly prepared
Tor the day of our Lord's coming,
Who came not as a mighty king
But as a child born in a manger in a barn,
And who gave his life as a servant for our salvation.
Grant this, we pray, in his name, Amen."

--Waldo Beach., Christmas Praise

God's blessings to you, in this season of rejoicing.

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

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

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

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

To update your church information or to advertise on the Church Directory, email: jwinter@staplesworld.com. or call 218-894-1112. As always, continue to email your Ministerial pastoral message or advertisement to: jwinter@staplesworld.com



Staples Host Lions donate

The Staples Host Lions recently donated $1,500 to the Staples Chamber of Commerce with funds designated to the free community Thanksgiving and Christmas meals served at Timbers Event Center in Staples. Pictured, from left, are Kathleen Ferrel, chamber member; and Lion President Rick Adamietz. (Staples World photo by Dawn Timbs)

Motley area police report

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

Dec. 12 - Motley Police received a report of a vehicle fire at the Dollar General Store in Motley. The Motley Fire Department was paged.

Dec. 12 - Motley Police responded to a report of subjects smoking marijuana at the dog park in Motley. Upon the officer's arrival the subjects' vehicle had left.

Dec. 11 - Motley Police received a call from a resident at the 200 block of Hwy 10 W., Motley, reporting a missing wallet.

Dec. 8 - Motley Police dispatched Motley Fire for a carbon monoxide alarm at the 300 block of Mill Pond St., Motley.

Dec. 7 - Motley Police received a report of two wallets that had been found while a woman was cleaning up her yard in Motley. The wallets did not belong to her.

Dec. 12 - Morrison County deputies assisted state patrol with a pursuit eastbound on Hwy 10 in Motley.

Dec. 12 - The MCSO received a report of a structure fire at the 33000 block of Maple Ln., Motley.

Staples Police report

Recent reports taken by the Staples Police Dept. include:

Dec. 4, Staples Police, along with Todd County Sheriff's Dept, attempted a warrant arrest on a wanted individual in the 24000 block of Thunder Rd. The individual law enforcement was looking for was not on scene but officers and deputies encountered three other individuals exiting a vehicle. Upon contact, a male identified as Justin Grunwald, 35, with active warrants, reentered the driver's seat and ingested a small baggie of narcotics. He was removed from the vehicle and handcuffed before being transported to Lakewood Health System Hospitald by ambulance. Richard Grunwald, 36, was identified as one of the other individuals from the car and arrested for his active warrants.

Dec. 4, Staples Police responded to the 28000 block of Warner Rd to assist Todd County Sheriff's Dept. with a possible domestic disturbance. The complainant had advised dispatch that the male involved may be attempting to strike a female with a vehicle. Police arrived on scene after deputies and stood by for officer safety.

Dec. 4, Staples Police assisted Todd County Sheriff's Dept. with arresting Daniel Jillson 40, of Brainerd and Timothy Marsh 68, of Staples for outstanding warrants following a traffic stop in the city of Staples. Both arrestees were transported by Todd County Sheriff's Dept. to be turned over to Crow Wing County deputies in Motley.

Dec. 5, at 12:02 a.m., Staples Police, along with Todd County Sheriff's Dept, Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. and MN State Patrol searched property in the 200 block of Wisconsin Ave. SE seeking an individual with multiple felony warrants.

Dec. 5, Staples Police assisted Todd County Sheriff's Dept. looking for a wanted individual in the 24000 block of Thunder Rd. Two individuals, Samantha Doesken, 33, of Pillager and Caitlyn Gifford, 29, of Backus were arrested. Neither were the primary individual law enforcement was looking for. A stolen RV was also recovered and impounded.

Dec. 5, Staples Police assisted Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. with an ongoing domestic involving a weapon. Law enforcement arrived on scene and were met by an individual in the front yard with a large kitchen knife. Police were able to negotiate with the individual and come to a peaceful resolution. Once the scene was secure and the individual was detained, Wadena County Sheriff's Dept. began their investigation with police standing by for safety.

Dec. 6, Staples Police received a theft complaint from the 400 block of 5th St. SE. Officers are investigating.

Dec. 6, Staples Police received a parking complaint about a vehicle parked all day in a two hour parking spot. Officers informed the owners it was their last warning since they already had multiple warnings.

Dec. 6, Staples Police received a complaint of a possible burglary on the 400 block of McKinley St. SW. Officers are investigating.

Dec. 7, Staples Police responded to reports of a domestic occurring on the 800 block of 6th St NE. Parties were separated for the night.

Dec. 9, Staples Police responded to Staples-Motley High School to cite a juvenile with possession of tobacco.

Dec. 8, Staples Police received a report of a domestic assault that had occurred the previous night. Police arrested Brandon Aldridge, 42, for domestic assault, domestic assault by strangulation and 2nd degree assault.

Dec. 8, Staples Police received a report of harassing text messages. Officers advised the complainant on how to get a restraining order.

Dec. 9, Staples Police took a bicycle that was found on the 300 block of Dakota Ave. SE and stored it.

Dec. 12, around 3 a.m., Staples Police observed a suspicious subject riding bike on the 400 block of 4th St. SE. Police spoke with the subject when the police patrolled near them. Police recognized the subject and they were advised. Police conducted extra patrols in the area.

Todd Cty Sheriff's report

Recent reports taken by the Todd County Sheriff's Office:

Dec. 17: At 4:08 p.m., the Todd County Sheriff's Office responded to a one vehicle crash on Cty Rd 11, south of Hwy. 210, in rural Staples.

A 2016 Kia Soul driven by Erika Ruiz, of New Ulm, was traveling south on Cty Rd 11. Ruiz failed to stop at the stop sign at Cty 11 and Hwy 210, losing control of her vehicle, ultimately rolling the vehicle, coming to a rest in the ditch on the west side of the roadway.

Ruiz was evaluated on scene by medical personnel. The front seat passenger, Melissa Robson, was transported to Lakewood Health System, where she was later transported to St. Cloud hospital with serious injuries. Alcohol is believed to be a factor.

The TCSO was assisted on scene by the Staples Fire Department, Staples Ambulance, Staples Police Department and Scott's Southtown Towing, Staples.

Dec. 5: Approximately 10:01 p.m. Todd County Deputies responded to a one vehicle rollover on Cty 14 near the intersection of 275th Ave., Browerville. Charles Symanietz, 18, was traveling home to Avon when he fell asleep at the wheel. Symanietz lost control, hit a field approach and rolled the vehicle. Symanietz was freed by mechanical means and taken by ground EMS to Centra Care Hospital in Long Prairie for non-life-threatening injuries. Alcohol/drugs do not appear to be a factor. The TCSO was assisted by the Browerville Ambulance and fire dept.

Nov. 23: 4:48 a.m. the Todd County Sheriff's Office received a report of a one vehicle rollover with unknown injuries at the intersection of State Hwy 287 and Cty Rd 98 outside of Grey Eagle. It was determined the vehicle was heading east bound on Cty Rd 98, negotiated a curve too fast going off road and striking a telephone pole. Three individuals were involved in the accident, with one of the occupants air lifted to the St. Cloud hospital for medical care. The other two occupants sustained minor injuries and were treated at the Centra Care Hospital in Long Prairie. The incident is still under investigation.. The TCSO was assisted by the Grey Eagle Fire Dept. and the Melrose Ambulance.

Looking back

75 Years Ago - 1948

∘ Dec. 16, 1948 - A Santa Claus Special will bring Merry St. Nick into Staples on the morning of Dec. 21, according to T. A. Gregory, trainmaster in Staples for the northern Pacific railway company who had contacted Santa Claus. Santa is so busy these days that he was unable to make his trip direct to Staples, so the N. P. will provide a special train for him and he will arrive at the N. P. depot at 10 o'clock and will go directly to the Staples theatre where the first free show for the town children will be given at 10:15 o'clock. The name of the show is "King of Wild Horses," and there will be a "Stooge" comedy and two other cartoons. The same show will be presented in the afternoon for the rural children, at 2:15 o'clock.

- o -
Compiled by
Dawn Timbs
- o -

∘ Dec. 16, 1948 - What might have been, and what might have resulted in a bad fire Thursday morning, was found in time when Little Janice Chapin, who was looking after her two smaller sisters, noticed fire in the home.

Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chapin, were outside doing work, and Little Janice ran outside and told them, "the house is burning up."

A hurried investigation showed that fire, caused from an over heated stove pipe, was burning between the ceiling and the upstairs floor.

With the aide of snow, water and a lot of quick work the blaze was brought under control and extinguished.

The presence of mind of this little girl has saved the family their home, and surly if ever a medal was to be given for a heroic deed, Little Janice would get it.

∘ Dec. 16, 1948 - Arrangements were completed Dec. 13, with Wadena radio station for engineers of the station to come to Staples to make wire recordings of a group of Christmas carols sung by the Staples Men's Civic chorus.

The program will be broadcast from KWAD from 8 - 8:30 p.m., the evening of Dec. 21; again on Christmas Eve and again on Christmas morning from 11:30 - a.m. - noon.

∘ Dec. 16, 1948 - The Staple City council, at its meeting Dec. 14, voted to start a rat eradication program within the city of Staples, thus doing away with one of the worst pests in the city, and one which has caused thousands of dollars worth of damage over a period of the last few years.

The same company which "de-ratted" the city dump grounds will be contacted for this project, and it is anticipated that this eradication will start within two weeks at the least.

50 Years Ago - 1973

∘ Dec. 20, 1973 - Staples High school band director Mark Evans has been appointed by Minnesota Education Association President William (Mort) Mondale as liaison between the MEA and the state Teachers Retirement Association (TRA).

∘ Dec. 20, 1973 - The A-1 4-H Club entertained the residents of the Mary Rondorf Home recently. They presented a variety program which included two acts selected as winners at the county Share the Fun festival. They were "The Wedding of Fred and Frannie Farkle," an original skit, and a vocal trio consisting of Bruce, Alan and Lee Paskewitz, as they sang "The Fourth Man." The program concluded with the club singing Christmas carols and serving refreshments to the residents.

Fifteen of 21 members were present from the club. They were Margaret Paskewitz, Denise Heldman, Carol Arent, Bruce Paskewitz, Perry Arent, Gary Pasekewitz, Alan Paskewitz, Jim Macho, Phil Arent, David Stoerzinger, Diane Paskewitz, Lee Paskewitz, Brad Heldman, Diana Arent, Louise Paskewitz, and Mrs. Robert Paskewitz, leader.

∘ Dec. 20, 1973 - Jim DePaolo of Future Homes, Wadena, will attempt to set a world's record for bathtub sitting, starting at 8 p.m. Dec. 20. He plans to remain in the bathtub until Dec. 22, at 5 p.m., the attempt at a world's record will be made in the office of Future Homes in Wadena and the public is invited to stop in and see if Jim can set the record.

∘ Dec. 20, 1973 - Officers of the Staples Chamber of Commerce were elected Thursday evening, Dec. 13. Heading the organization during 1974 will be Jack Wilson, president, Robert Doll, vice-president; Lee Jenkins, secretary; James D. Randgaard, treasurer; Dr. Jon Theurer and Mrs. Joy Lester, directors.

25 Years Ago - 1998

∘ Dec. 17, 1998 - Some would consider winning the Lottery to be the big thing in life. Dave Bartylla has won better. "It is better than winning the lottery when you match all six antigens for a transplant," he said.

He's gone through a transformation the past three weeks, from a very sick man to one on the road to complete recovery. The difference was a kidney and pancreas transplant on Nov. 23, a gift from an unknown donor.

"It came at Thanksgiving, and by Christmas I should be feeling pretty darn good. It's a great Christmas present," Dave said,

∘ Dec. 17, 1998 - Awards for the 1998 Staples Motley football team were announced at the team's recent awards banquets. They included Mid-State All Conference selections Chris Goff, Matt Heier, John Reis and Mark Carlson. Goff was also most valuable lineman; Heier was naemd most valuable offense and most valuable defensive back; and Carlson was the team's most valuable player. Ben Mosack was named most valuable offense and Cardinal Charcter award winner; Adam Putnam was named most valuable lineman and Nate Henrickson was given the Mr. Spirit award; and Pat Jensen was named most valuable defensive player.

∘ Dec. 17, 1998 - The Motley City Council met in regular session Dec. 8, at the motley City Hall. It was Karla Peterson's last regular meeting as Mayor of Motley. Her two year term is complete Jan. 1, 1999.

Incoming as mayor is Bill Postel, former mayor of Motley, who was re-elected in November.

∘ Dec. 17, 1998 - The Staples Motley Cardinal girls basketball team last week downed New York Mill 60-52 on Tuesday night before stomping on Swanville 64-25 on Friday.

10 Years Ago - 2013

∘ Dec. 19, 2013 - Playing the role of Santa Claus for 30 years, Kevin Grondahl of Staples has heard some interesting requests. One child asked Santa for Harley arts for his dad's motorcycle. Just this year, someone asked for a woodchipper for Christmas trees. Last year a boy sat on Grondahl's lap and asked for sulpheric acid. "Whoa, turbo, what do you want that for?" Grondahl asked him. "He turned to me and said seriously, "experimental purposes, mostly,' said Grondahl.

It started in 1983 when Grondahl was asked to be Santa for a Batcher's Department Store open house. He said there was a long line around the corner with over 200 kids.

The next year, he started working at the community center and decided a Santa was needed for the annual craft show. He set it up with a photographer to take photos of kids with Santa.



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.



Mystery solved

Last week's mystery photo published in the Dec. 10, 1998 edition of the Staples World featured members of the Staples Motley High School SADD chapter (Students Against Destructive Decisions), who were joining in an upcoming national "Lights on for Life" program. From left, Casey Dause, Tashia Kort, Lindsey Williams, Vanessa Erickson and Traci Weishalla, all of whom were pointing to the headlights of advisor Loree Brenna's car. All motor vehicle drivers were asked to turn on their headlights Dec. 18, as a way to remember anyone killed or injured in alcohol-related crashes.

Lindsey Wiiliams of Staples remembered everyone in the photo, as well as the context. Thanks for participating in our Mystery Photo.

COUNCIL continued from page 1a

Staples water tower in excellent shape

discovered because the house hasn't been used until recently. Grabe said the city will accept responsibility for the repair.

The council approved updated language in their agreement with Western Area Power Association (WAPA) the hydro power company that supplies around 23 percent of the electricity for Staples. Grabe said they get the power at a better rate than from the city's main energy supplier, Missouri River Energy. He said MRE will increase rates for 2024 but it won't have a significant effect on Staples.

The Staples water tower had a good review after an inspection. Grabe said structurally it is very strong and the inspection had a few recommendations but nothing was in violation of safety rules. He said they won't need to do anything to the water tower until the next inspection in 2028.

Two council members had questions about city infrastructure. Doug Case asked about the concrete approaches to alleys being broken up from the three garbage haulers who go through the city each week.

"The alleys take a beating from those trucks," said Case.

Council member John Jewison asked about street lights that have been going out near the Staples Community Center, so that when people leave sporting events at night, it is very dark out. Grabe said they have had an issue in the past where headlights are tricking the photo cells into turning off.

In other news, the council

∘ Approved garbage haulers licenses for G&T Sanitation, Long Prairie Sanitation and Waste Management.

∘ Approved pawn broker license for Like-Nu-Pawn.

∘ Approved tobacco licenses for Ernie's Liquor & Tobacco, Staples Bakery & Convenience, Staples Off-Sale Liquor, Dollar General, Jon's Family Foods, Family Dollar, Southside Mini Mart, Casey's, Orton's Staples Holiday and Staples Tobacco Shop.

Ray's Smoke Shop, Staples
Opening Tursday, Dec. 21
Hours: 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

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

Mild weather testing anglers' patience

Two Christmases ago, my landscape architect-son—whose artistic side is considerable—created what in the art world would be called a "public art installation," here on the lake ice just down the hill from the family cabin.

He bored 100 holes six inches or so into the ice, arranged in a rectangular pattern, with my manual ice fishing auger; which says something about either his endurance or his commitment to art. In each hole he placed a lighted candle, more than one of which had to be relighted on that dark, breezy evening. When all were lit, it made an impressive sight, though no doubt perplexing to snowmobilers or anglers who might have been within sight of it on the lake. A logical question might be "why?" But, after also living with a career art teacher for a period now approaching a half-century, I've learned that there is not always a link between art and why.

- o -
Inside the Outdoors



Mike Rahn

- o -

No comparable artistic activity is planned for this coming Christmas holiday. At least not out on the ice, here in close proximity to some of this lake's deepest waters, and at a wide point on its 2,700 acres. That's because now, writing this with just a week before Christmas, there are still long, narrow, fjord-like gaps of open water. Our seasonal notes tell us that we are roughly two weeks behind the ice-up dates for the last several years, with open water still.

Unseasonably warm temperatures, wind, and even rain showers have upset the transition that ice anglers have been waiting for. Capitalizing on this state of affairs, trumpeter swans have continued to use this lake for resting when they're not out in nearby harvested crop fields feeding on waste grain. The aquatic vegetation, snails, and other invertebrate life of the shoreline shallows are ice-bound and now off-limits, except in several places where aerators are in operation, and where there will be a narrow band of open water all winter long.

As proof of how much variation there can be in applying Nature's laws, a neighboring lake that is connected to ours by a stream-like thoroughfare—much smaller at less than 1,200 acres, shallower, and with numerous islands, points, and bays to break the wind—was reported to be ice-covered before the first of December. These two lakes offer proof that ice-up can be very much a moving target, even within the same watershed, or zip code!

Not only are depth and wind exposure important factors in ice formation, but current from inflows and outflows, as well as underwater springs, can not only delay ice formation, but can also erode ice from beneath. Whereas deep, solid ice can support the heaviest pick-up-and-wheelhouse rigs, variable ice quality from one location to another on the same lake can endanger ice anglers who have a false sense of security from the mistaken assumption that lakes freeze uniformly across their entire surface.

Despite the absence of a thick, solid sheet over our lake and other large lakes, there has already been measurable angler traffic on the most sheltered reaches where the ice is likely to be thickest; likely, but not guaranteed. This aggressive angling is especially found near public access points, which tend to be located at relatively sheltered points on a lake. In a pattern not unlike the formation of the ice itself, as the day/night cycle of winter temperatures slides downward—as it inevitably will—anglers will push out farther and farther onto the lake's broadest reaches.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends four inches of new clear ice for foot traffic; 5-7 for a snowmobile or small all-terrain vehicle (ATV); 7-8 or a heavier side-by-side utility vehicle; 9-10 for a small car or pickup; 11-12 for a medium SUV or small truck, 13-17 for medium and heavy trucks, and 20 inches or more for a heavy-duty truck with a pull-behind wheelhouse-type fishing shelter.

Yet even when normally safe ice depths have formed, dangerous anomalies can add risk to an angler's life and limb. One of these is an ice pressure ridge. These commonly form when ice contracts and expands during substantial fluctuations in air temperature, especially when there is little or no snow cover to act as an insulator and modulate these temperature swings.

Cold temperatures cause ice to contract, to crack, and these cracks to fill with water from beneath, then refreeze. Warming air temperatures cause the ice to expand, ice edges are forced together, and a ridge of ice forms. Though we often see that ridge thrust up on top of the surrounding ice surface, sometimes the colliding, crushing force pushes that ridge downward instead, and the ridge is less apparent. The broken ice at these ridges can be weaker, and can give way under weight. Several years ago, a pair of anglers on a side-by-side utility vehicle broke through such a pressure ridge on the lake that is next to ours, and drowned. A cautionary tale to be sure.

The latest and greatest in modern ice angling structures are the aforementioned wheelhouse-type shelters. They can offer such comforts-of-home options as cooking facilities, satellite TV, and indoor plumbing. But this can come at a price. While other anglers are fishing from their portable flip-over or pop-up style Otter or Eskimo shelters on early ice, those who would like to be fishing in the lap of wheelhouse luxury may be unable to do so safely. I recently heard this lament from a towing service employee who had come to the rescue when one of our vehicles was disabled. He had just purchased such a luxury fishing shelter, but was having to leave it parked in his driveway and fish from his portable shelter while awaiting safe ice to form on a favorite lake.

So far this winter there has been little if any enduring snow cover. This would be ideal for making deep, solid ice if we were seeing normal early winter temperatures. Many ice anglers' Christmas wish is that we will avoid large doses of snow until the winter temperature regimen becomes more seasonable and cold, and lake ice reaches optimum depths. This would be much-preferred over some recent winters when much of the northland was blanketed with heavy snow before solid weight-bearing ice could form. This led to slush layers atop that ice, making on-ice travel difficult at best, impossible at worst.

May this, and our other winter outdoor adventuring wishes come true.

Quote of the week

"Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."
— Francis Pharcellus Church, New York Sun, 1897

Rural business considered in congress

By Kalee Olson
Senior Policy Associate
Center for Rural Affairs

Small business lenders from across the U.S. have joined the Center for Rural Affairs in support of the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Act of 2023. The bill—which was introduced in the Senate and House of Representatives this fall—calls for improvements to the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP).

RMAP supports the development and ongoing success of rural small businesses through loans and technical assistance provided by Microentrepreneur Development Organizations (MDOs). Since RMAP was established in 2008, entrepreneurs and microenterprises in more than 45 states have received support through the program. This national footprint underscores the significance of RMAP to rural communities and has spurred MDOs from across the U.S. to join the Center in advocating for the bill.

In November, 46 organizations representing 28 states and Washington, D.C., sent a letter to top leaders of the House and Senate agriculture committees asking them to support the legislation and the rural small businesses RMAP is designed to serve. In their leadership role, committee chairs often wield the most influence in setting a course of action for the committee including the development of a new farm bill.

The letter was also shared with lawmakers represent ing each signee's state or district to promote the bill Once a bill is introduced in Congress, members are able to sign on to the legislation as a signal of their support Before taking this step, how ever, many lawmakers seek out additional information particularly how the pro posed bill will affect their constituents and state. By working in coalition with MDOs, we are better able to educate lawmakers and provide local context that is essential to their deci sion-making process.

This collaborative ef fort is a strong example of small business lenders and technical assistance pro viders coming together to support rural communities As farm bill negotiations progress, we will continue to advocate for the bill with MDOs and congressional of fices across the country. If successful, its components will be included in the final omnibus legislation.

We encourage you to con tact your representative or senators to express support for the Rural Microentre preneur Assistance Act.



Staples-Motley senior is a nominee

Christian Bachmann, son of Dayton and Samantha Bachmann, is being nominated by Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach to the U.S. Military Academy (MSMA) in West Point, N.Y.' the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, Md.; and the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colo. Bachmann, pictured fifth from left, is a senior at Staples-Motley High School and resides in Motley. Others pictured, from left, are Calvert Burkholder, Eli Hanson, Avery Browen, Ariana Doll, Congresswoman Fischbach, Bjorn Messick, Ashley Eblen, Ellie Gertken. Not pictured, Leo Nordick. (Submitted photo)

Congresswoman Fischbach meets with service academy nominees

Each year, Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach has the opportunity to nominate students to the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) in West Point, N.Y.; the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA) in Annapolis, Md.; the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA) in Colorado Springs, Colo.; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) in Kings Point, N.Y.

This year, Congresswoman Fischbach nominated nine high school seniors for the service academies. If students are accepted, upon their graduation the cadets will earn a Bachelor of Science degree and become commissioned as an officer in the U.S. military with a requirement to serve a minimum of five years in active-duty service.

"I am honored to nominate such remarkable students from Minnesota's Seventh District to the United States Service Academies," said Rep. Fischbach (MN-07). "It is encouraging to see young men and women with such promising futures feel called to serve our country. I join their families and communities in celebrating this achievement and I look forward to watching them grow into the leaders of tomorrow. "

The Congresswoman is nominating Christian Bachmann of Motley to the U.S. Military, U.S. Air Force, and U.S. Naval Academies; Avery Browen of Detroit Lakes to the U.S. Naval Academy; Calvert Burkholder of Alexandria to the U.S. Military, U.S. Naval, and U.S. Air Force Academies; Ariana Doll of Frazee to the U.S. Naval and U.S. Air Force Academies; Ashley Eblen of Belgrade to the U.S. Air Force Academy; Ellie Gertken of Richmond to the U.S. Military and U.S. Naval Academies; Eli Hanson of Sartell to the U.S. Air Force Academy; Bjorn Messick of Fertile to the U.S. Air Force Academy; and Leo Nordick of Fergus Falls to the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (not pictured).

If you or someone you know is interested in attending a service academy, they can apply directly to Congresswoman Fischbach's office. The Congresswoman's Service Academy Board interviews candidates and makes nomination recommendations. For more information, or to begin the application process, visit her website.

Longbella Drug by Lakewood Health System transition

Starting Jan. 1, 2024, Longbella Drug will be under new ownership, becoming Longbella Drug by Lakewood Health System. As the transition deadlines approaches, representatives from Lakewood and the current Longbella Drug have put together some important timeline and insurance information to share with customers and the community.

All Longbella Drug locations will be closed from Saturday, Dec. 30 through Jan. 1, 2024. The Longbella Drug location downtown will close permanently after Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, while the pharmacies located at the Lakewood Pillager and Staples clinics will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024. The new Longbella Drug location at The Plaza will open on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.

We are asking all current customers to plan ahead and order prescriptions accordingly, based on the above dates. Pick up all prescriptions by Friday, Dec. 29, 2023 to avoid running out of medications during the temporary closures.

We continue to work through the ownership transition and have plans in place to minimize any interruption for patients. Longbella Drug's current pharmacy network/prescription insurance contracts will be extended for 2024 and we are setting up new pharmacy network/prescription insurance contracts to continue all current coverage and expand once we have all the contracting complete.

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work through this transition. We look forward to continuing to serve the community in 2024.

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Letters: Readers are encouraged to express their views by writing letters to the editor. Letters are verified for authenticity, so please include a name, address and phone number. Only the author's name and city will be published. Letters may be edited for spelling and grammar errors, libel, length and other factors. Private thanks, solicitations and libelous letters will not be published. Letters are printed on a space available basis. The editor reserves the right to reject letters.
The deadline is 12 noon, Friday. Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.

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.

Member: Minnesota Newspaper Association, MCAN Advertising

Special Christmas church services

Area churches are planning special services for Christmas Eve, Sunday, Dec. 24, and Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25.

These include:

• Faith Lutheran, Staples
Dec. 24
9 a.m. Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service
Christmas Eve
3 p.m. Candlelight Service
5 p.m. Candlelight Service

• Mary Mother of the Church (Area Catholic Community)
Dec. 24,
Christmas Eve
4 p.m. Sacred Heart, Staples
4 p.m. St. Ann, Wadena
6 p.m. - St. Joseph, Bertha
6:30 p.m. - St. Hubert, Bluegrass
Dec. 25
Christmas Day
12 a.m. - St. Ann, Wadena
8 a.m. - Assumption of Our Lady, Menahga
8 a.m. - St. Frederick, Verndale
10 a.m. - St. John the Baptist, Bluffton
10:30 a.m. - St. Michael, Motley

• Staples United Methodist Church
Christmas Eve
4 p.m. Candlelight Service, Pastor Dan Crocker officiating.

• Motley United Methodist Church
10 a.m. - Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service
Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

• Staples Alliance Church
Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. Service

• Thomastown Covenant Church
10:30 a.m. - Christmas Eve Morning Worship with Children's Program
Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. Candlelight Service

• Trinity Lutheran, Staples
Christmas Eve
5:30 p.m. includes celebration of the Lord's Supper; close with candlelight singing of Silent Night
Christmas Day
9 a.m. Service will include the celebration of the Lord's Supper

• Verndale Family Life Church
Christmas Eve
8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. Morning Worship Services

• Motley Free Methodist
Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. Service

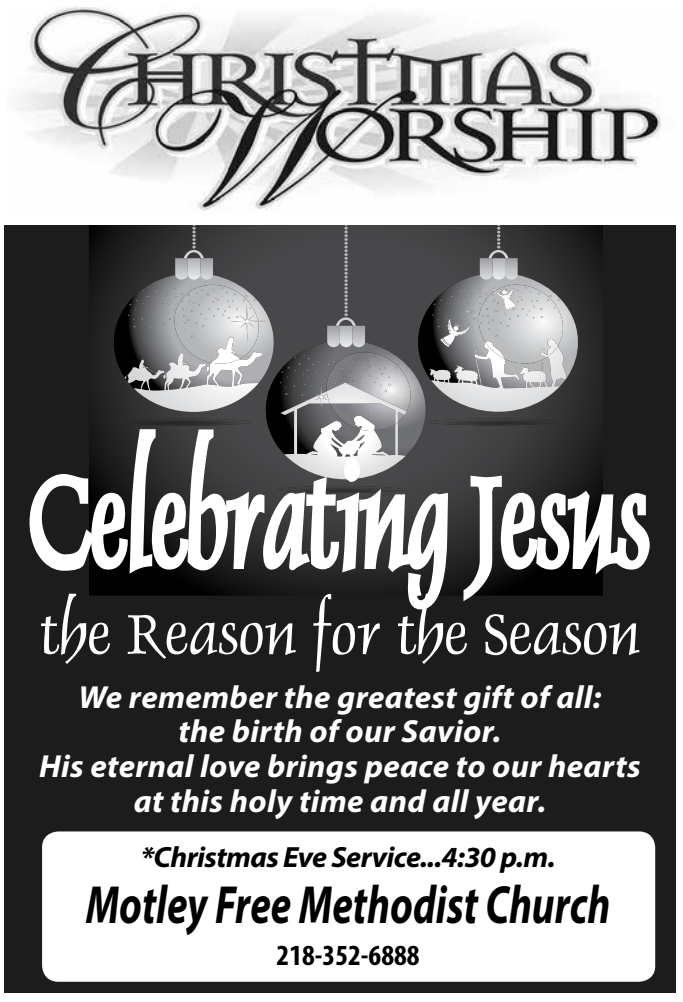
• St. John's Lutheran, Motley
Christmas Eve
5 p.m. Candlelight Service

• Staples Assembly of God
Christmas Eve Morning
10:30 a.m. Service

• Staples Church of Christ
10:30 a.m. - Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service
Christmas Eve
4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

• Staples Seventh-day Adventist Church
Saturday, Dec. 23
9:30 a.m. Worship Service

• Lincoln Evangelical Free Church
10 a.m. Christmas Eve Morning Worship Service
Christmas Eve
4:30 p.m. Candlelight Service



'Pulchritudo' at St. Michael's Dec. 29

The Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition on display; Sacred Christmas Concert

The second annual "Pulchritudo - A Celebration of Beauty in Catholic Music and Art" will be held at St. Michael's Church in Motley Friday, Dec. 29.

Beginning at 6 p.m., guests are invited to view the Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible (along with other religious artwork), which will be on display in the lower level of the church. Wine and appetizers will be served during this time.

The Saint John's Bible is the first hand-written, hand-illuminated bible in 500 years, a project commissioned for St. John's University in Collegeville, and led by the Queen of England's calligrapher, Donald Jackson.

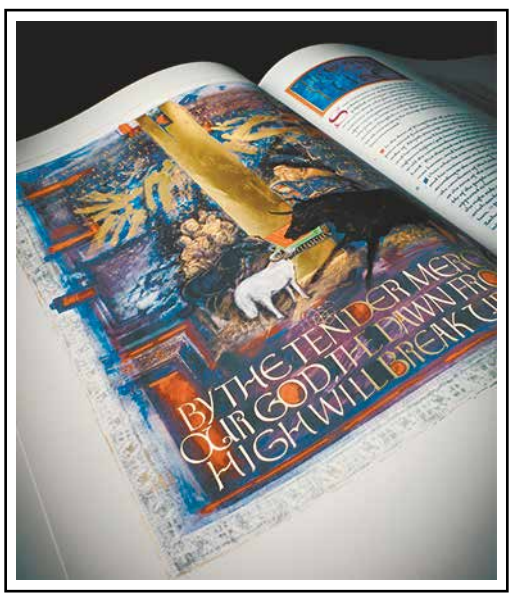
According to online information, 'The Saint John's Bible is a singular achievement: the complete text of the Bible, written on calfskin vellum using traditional tools and inks. As a work of sacred art, it ignites the spiritual imagination of all those who view its pages. It stands alone. However, the beauty, richness and inspiration of The Saint John's Bible are not limited to those able to see the original pages in a museum setting.

'Because of the Heritage Edition, a masterpiece in its own right, people around the world can experience The Saint John's Bible. Limited to 299 seven-volume sets, the Heritage Edition of The Saint Johns' Bible is true to the scale, beauty, and artistic intent of the original manuscript.'

The Pulchritudo event in Motley will feature five volumes of the St. John's Bible Heritage Edition.

At 7:15, the Sacred Christmas Concert, featuring musicians from area Catholic parishes, will be held in the Sanctuary.

For ticket information and reservations, call 218-894-2296. Proceeds from the event will go toward the church's new addition.



The Birth of Christ

"The Birth of Christ", part of the Heritage Edition of The Saint John's Bible, is one of the major illustrations that will be on display at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Motley Friday, Dec. 29, at 6 p.m. (Photo courtesy of Saint John's University, Collegeville)





Mark Your Calendar

December 21

'Walk With A Doc' Thursdays at 5:15 p.m., at Lakewood Health System's main campus in Staples. Meet at the main entrance. For more information about this free program, visit https://walkwithadoc.org/join-a-walk/locations/staples-minnesota

December 22

Women's OPEN AA Recovery Meeting Every Friday in person, 10:30 a.m., Motley Free Methodist Church (lower level), 33 Wellwood St. E. Motley. All women welcome.

December 22-24

North Pole Light Display At Pine Grove Park, Staples, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 5-8 p.m., through New Year's Eve. Free Will donation.

December 25

AA group Mtgs In Motley are held at the United Methodist Church, 847 3rd Ave. S., on Mondays at 8 p.m.

December 26

Experience Strength And Hope AA group Mtgs In Staples are held at the Church of Christ, 27343 490th St., Tuesdays at 7 p.m. For info., call Dan at 218-640-7228.

Wadena County Republicans Mtgs are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the Wadena VFW at 7 p.m. If you wish to eat early you may order from the menu prior to meeting.

Dementia Caregiver Support Group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 11 a.m. - noon, at Faith Lutheran Church in Staples. Facilitated by Dementia Community Action Network. No cost, no need to register. For info., call Cristina Rodriguez, 320-640-6724.



1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Ensley Harthan recently completed 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, a program at the Staples Public Library sponsored by The Staples Friends of the Library. Pictured with Library Assistant Angie Johnson and her mom, Stacy, Ensley received her readering certificate, hardcover book and stuffed animal. (Submitted photo)



Hello World

Online births removed at the request of Lakewood Health system.



Gingerbread houses taking shape at the Staples Library

Gingerbread house making was recently held at the Staples Public Library, sponsored by the Staples Friends of the Library. Above: Alex, Nathan and Landon Beard with their father and Ieekiel, Sean, Illias and Ireland Liedl with their father. (Submitted photos)



Annabeth, Lilah and Elsie Dottenwhy and Esther Edin.



Marcella, Genevieve and Harrison Underhill.

Obituaries

Stanley Schuette



Stanley Schuette, 93 of Northfield and formally of Plato and of Staples, passed away November 29 at his home.

Services will be held in the Spring of 2024 and are currently pending.

Inurnment will be in Evergreen Hill Cemetery, Staples.

Stanley Henry Schuette was born January 13, 1930, to Arthur W. and Emma D. (Albers) Schuette in Plato. He was raised on the family farm in Helen Township, McLeod County, Minnesota. He attended elementary school in Plato and graduated from Steven's Seminary (Glencoe High School) in 1948. He joined the U.S. Army in August 1948. His basic training was in Fort Knox, KY, where he tested high in remembering the "dits and dots" of Morse Code and was sent to Carlisle Barracks, PA, for specialized training. Stanley served in Japan at Fushimi Momoyama listening station with the 126th Signal Service Company and the 8610 Army Auxiliary Unit as a signal service officer during the Korean Conflict. Following his Honorable Discharge as a Lance Corporal in May 1952, he attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Stanley took a job with IBM after graduation and moved to Des Moines, IA where he met Peggy Bedard (Kraschel). They married on June 8, 1958, in her hometown of Harlan, Iowa, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Stanley and Peggy had three daughters, Jean Marie, Anne Elisabeth and Margaret Leigh. After marriage they lived in Des Moines, Staten Island, New York, New Jersey, California and Chicago, Illinois. After leaving IBM Stanley took a job with the RCA project in Greenland, where he lived for a year and installed military satellites. After the project was completed, he worked for Air Inc. and Collins Radio. Stanley and Peggy purchased land and a farmstead outside of Staples in 1963. After Peggy's passing in 1967, he and his children settled on the Staples farm in 1970.

On April 22, 1976, Stanley married Carolyn Reidel Henry of Staples and expanded his family to include her two sons and five daughters. They shared 37 years of road trips, family get-togethers and a love of trying new restaurants.

Stanley enjoyed being with his family and friends, classical music, reading, good food, science fiction and Star Trek. He had an amazing memory for history and random facts and figures.

He was a past member of the Staples United Church of Christ, Staples Men's Chorus and Minnesota Woodlot Owners and a former township clerk of Villard Township.

He is survived by his daughters, Anne (Gerald) Krause of Northfield and Margaret (Gary Rathmanner) Schuette of Winsted; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews; one sister, Joan (Chuck) Solger of VT; one brother, David of Pine River; Carolyn's children, Michael (Lauri) Henry of Santa Fe, NM, Karen Pipek of Staples, Colleen (Scott) Swantner of Port Townsend, WA, Sheila (Scott) Becker of Staples, Sara (Mark) Hoemberg Staples, Merrie (Dennis) Breitenfeldt of Long Prairie and David (Julie) Henry of Kenmore, NY; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wives, Peggy and Carolyn; one daughter, Jean Rowe; one sister, Doris Weymeyer; four brothers, Victor, Donald, Arthur and Howard; sister-in-law Beatrice, and step-son-in-law, Gary Pipek.

w52c A00006B2023DC20

Robert Lein

Robert "Bob" A. Lein, 79, of Motley, passed away December 7, 2023, at Lakewood Health System Hospital in Staples.

He was born February 11, 1944 to Benedict and Emily (Olson) Lein in Perham. Bob moved to Minneapolis and worked for the Sprinkler Fitter Union for 35 years. He belonged to the Union for 50 years.

Bob is survived by two sons, Robert and Michael; four brothers, Richard, Daniel, Nick and David and one sister, Lucy.

He is preceded in death by one son, David and his parents.

Arrangements are by the Brenny Family Funeral Chapel, Staples.

w52c A00006B2023DC20

Geneva Mollenhauer



Geneva Julene Mollenhauer, 96, of Crosby passed away peacefully November 18, 2023 in her sleep.

Memorial services were held December 16 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Crosby.

Geneva was born January 23, 1927 to John and Henrietta (Van Heel) Olmschenk at home in Staples.

She attended Sacred Heart Elementary School, graduated from Staples High School and the New York Hairdressing Academy in Fargo, ND. In 1948 she married Douglas Seeley. They had four children, Keith, Julie, Janie and Kraig. In 1954, she opened a beauty shop in their home. As life changed, Gen worked afternoons at the Cuyuna District Hospital as a nurse's aide, coming home to afternoon appointments in her beauty shop.

In 1971, she married Victor Mollenhauer, moved to Owatonna and gained three more daughters, Judy, Jeanne and Vicki. She waitressed at Jerry's Supper Club until the early 90's. Not one to be idle, she became a Tupperware dealer traveling all over Minnesota.

After Vic died, Gen returned to Crosby in 1995 and worked at TJ's Riverside Family Restaurant. She was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, a lifetime member of Owatonna VFW Post 3723, Ironton American Legion and Red Hat Ladies. Volunteering was dear to her heart, especially at the Care Center delivering mail or assisting with resident outings. "Have Keyboard, will travel" found her playing music for area senior groups and the Care Center.

Her greatest fulfillments were preparing meals and feeding her kids and any neighborhood kids hanging around. She baked homemade bread three times a week and made the most delicious cinnamon rolls every weekend for coffee company after playing cards. Gen also had a passion for quilting/crafting with friends, working puzzles. Holidays and birthdays were always full of family, friendship, laughter and a bit of advice. She was a proud Blue Star Mother and participated in many events and parades honoring our veterans.

Gen is survived by two sons, Keith (Rose) Seely, Crosby and Kraig (Leslie) Seely, Deerwood; Three daughters, Judy (Charles) Gilman, Carmichael, CA, Julene (Richard) Matthies, Arvada, CO and Crosby and Janell (Thomas) Stanton, Crosby; 18 grandchildren (Jess, Allison, Cole, Sherri, Vicki, Stephanie, Brittany, Katharyn, Jenie, Tamara, Vincent, Matthew, Billie, Michael, Michele, Jessica, Hannah and Kelly), 35 great-grandchildren; 14 great-great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Victor; her parents; siblings Oliver Olmschenk, Lucile Nichols, Irene McGillivray, and daughters, Jeanne Mollenhauer and Vickie Weinzetl.

The family would like to say a special Thank You to the CRMC Care Center staff and Moment's Hospice for their care.

Arrangements were with the Koop Funeral Home in Crosby.

w52c A00006B2023DC20

Nolan Bacon



Nolan Bacon, 84, formerly of Leader and Wadena, passed away December 13, 2023, in Brooklyn Center.

Formal memorial arrangements are pending for June, 2024.

Nolan was born to Laurence and Ruth (Olson) Bacon on April 2, 1939 in a house west of Leader that is still in the Bacon family today. His father passed away in October 1946 and for a time he and his older brother, Dennis, lived with his paternal grandparents while their mother attended teachers training in St. Cloud. When his mother remarried, he moved to a farm north of Nimrod. He enjoyed and excelled at track and cross country and graduated from Sebeka High School in 1957.

Soon after high school, Nolan enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving in Alaska, Nebraska and Florida. He came back from northern Alaska to marry Ellen Frisbie in Hibbing on March 25, 1959 and they became parents to their first of six children in 1960. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, he worked for a time with Morgan Adhesives near Akron, Ohio, before relocating to Minnesota in 1966 and eventually settling in Leader in 1968. He worked primarily in construction for most of his remaining active years, taking classes at the technical college in Staples and partnering with Dennis until his untimely passing in 1976. He cooked both on a Louisiana oil rig and as a private caterer and joined his Olson cousins in their landscaping work for a short time in the 1990's. He also obtained a fireworks license and put on a small number of town shows near Motley for some time. He was a member of the Leader Lions.

Nolan never seemed to fully retire until his health no longer allowed him to live on his own. He had been in multiple accidents over the years and in 2019 he eventually needed to move to a nursing home where his health needs could be fully met - first in Little Falls and then in Brooklyn Center. He lost some of his mental acuity but retained his humor until the end.

It would be no stretch to remember Nolan as someone smart, colorful and gregarious, almost too much so at times. He loved to cook, hunt, fish, keep a garden and be the life of a party. He enjoyed reading Western novels, playing pinochle and cribbage and listening to country music. He was a devoted Christian who both believed in and created opportunities for atonement and he made a life-changing stride for everyone in his life when he gave up drinking for good in early 1986. He was deeply active in AA from then until his move to Little Falls in 2019 and went out of his way to be a mentor to other followers of Bill W.

Nolan is survived by his wife, Ellen; five children, Brett (Mary Beth), Lee (Gretchen), Nola Schultz, Dana (Michelle) and Travis (Kerri); 14 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his father, Laurence; mother, Ruth; stepfather, Herb Crackel; one brother, Dennis; one sister, Mary; one son, Laurence Everett and one granddaughter, Liv.

w52p A00006B2023DC20



Stacy Mammenga
12-23-73 ~ 4-22-21
Loving Memories of my
Sweet Son on your
50th heavenly birthday.
My heart still aches in sadness,
My secret tears still flow,
for what it meant to lose you
no one will ever know.
Although you can't be here with
me, We're truly not apart
Until the final breath I take,
You'll be living in my heart.
Dearest Son to hear your
voice and see your smile
and just to sit and talk to you
would be my dearest wish
today on this your birthday.
Thinking of you today and
always
I will love you forever.
Love, Mom
w52p

The Family of
Kraig Kruse
would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, food, thoughts, hugs, visits and memorials at the time of his passing. We thank all those who helped care for Kraig.
We are planning
a Celebration of Life
for Kraig this summmer.
Donna Kruse
Kris and Ralph Judd & Family
Keri and Mike Salber & Family
Kelly and Allen Scott & Family
Kurt Kruse & Family
Korrine and Tony Kautz & Family
Kory and Michele Kruse & Family
Kolby and Megan Kruse & Family
Willie, Sam & Elliot Kruse
Brandon and Ashley,
Ava & Addie Kruse
Ray Kruse
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Boys basketball team goes cold late in loss

The Staples-Motley boys basketball gave up too many second chances and missed too many outside shots in a 64-60 loss to Upsala on Dec. 11. The Cardinals also lost 93-73 to West Central Area on Dec. 15.

Against Upsala, Staples-Motley held the lead for most of the game, but fell behind at the end of the first half and again at the end of the second half.

In the first half, Grant Bestland was effective with finishing shots and scored seven points as the Cardinals took a 27-21 lead. But Upsala scored the next ten points when Staples-Motley allowed an offensive rebound and a steal, missed shots and let Upsala get an open three point shot.

Eli Rutten broke the streak with a fast break basket, but the Cardinals went into halftime down 31-29.

In the second half, Rutten tied the game up right away with a steal and a basket. The team started draining three point shots with Conner Kuhns, Avandre Brandt, Rutten and Logan Robben all making one. It gave the team an eight point lead. Bestland and Kuhns both made three pointers to maintain the lead, but Upsala started getting more offensive rebounds and pulled ahead by one.

In the final minutes, the Staples-Motley shooting touch went cold. Several players had open shots but the ball wasn't dropping. Late in the game, Upsala scored off another offensive rebound for a three point lead and made free throws to reach the winning margin.



Fighting for the rebound

Alex Schultz (5), Avandre Brandt (32) and Eli Rutten (right) converge on the ball.

Team results

SM 58, Upsala 64

Scoring: Eli Rutten 12, Conner Kuhns 10, Grant Bestland 10, Alex Schultz 10, Avandre Brandt 8, Logan Robben 8



Grant Bestland



Conner Kuhns

First half deficit leads to loss

The Staples-Motley girls basketball team fell behind in the first half and weren't able to come back in a 59-48 loss to Henning on Dec. 15.

The Cardinals were down by 12 at halftime. They actually outscored Henning in the second half, but it wasn't enough to make up the difference.

Defensively, the team was unable to stop one player for Henning who scored 35 points, 11 at the free throw line. Henning made 15 of 17 free throws while Staples-Motley made three of seven.

Team results

SM 48, Henning 59

Scoring: Lauren Rutten 17, Liv Lorber 15, Izzy Olander 6, Cami Anderson 6, Ellie Lange 2, Pam Lawrence 2



Pressure defense

Logan Robben (42) and Avandre Brandt (32) clog up the passing lanes against Upsala. (Staples World photo by Mark Anderson)

Wrestlers win duals tourney in Wisconsin

A week after winning a duals tournament in North Dakota, the Staples-Motley wrestling team traveled the other direction and won a duals meet in Wisconsin. The Cardinals are undefeated this season, including winning three tournaments.

The Cardinals were undefeated at the Osceola duals on Dec. 15, winning over a ranked Wisconsin team and a Minnesota team that's received votes in the rankings in Class AA.

The two toughest matches were a 44-25 win against Hudson, ranked sixth in Wisconsin, and 46-21 against New London-Spicer, a good Class AA Minnesota team.

Against Hudson, the Cardinals earned five pins from; Gage Bjerga, Colbe Tappe, Owen Winter, Adrian Gomez and Steven Petrich to turn the tide on the team score. Caden Kramer also picked up extra points with a 15-0 technical fall.

Against New London-Spicer, the Cardinals lost at the four upper weights but picked up six pins in the lower and middle weights.

Team results

SM 44, Hudson 25

106 Garrett Bjerga W ff, 113 Gage Bjerga W fall, 120 C.Kramer W 15-0 tech. fall, 126 Eli Greenwaldt L fall, 132 Jack Carlson L 5-2, 138 Turner Beachy W 10-6, 144 Riley Reese L 3-0, 150 Blake Neelan L 9-6, 157 Colbe Tappe W fall, 165 O.Winter W fall, 175 Dustin Converse L 10-1, 190 Luke Bjerga L fall, 215 A. Gomez W fall, 285 S. Petrich W fall

SM 54, Cumberland 9

106 Gage Bjerga W fall, 114 Kramer W 6-3, 120 Greenwaldt W fall, 126 Cooper Tappe W fall, 132 Carlson W fall, 138 Beachy W 10-6, 150 Neelan L 5-2, 157 Colby Tappe W fall, 165 Winter L 4-2, 175 Converse L 4-2, 190 L. Bjerga W fall, 215 Gomez W fall, 285 Petrich W ff

SM 46, New London-Spicer 21

106 Gage Bjerga W fall, 113 Kramer W 11-1, 120 Greenwaldt W fall, 126 Cooper Tappe W fall, 132 Carlson W fall, 138 Beachy L 3-0, 144 Reese W 5-4, 150 Neelan W fall, 157 Colby Tappe W fall, 165 Winter L 11-5, 175 Converse L 5-1, 215 Gomez L fall, 285 Petrich L fall

SM 83, Boyceville 0

Wins: Gage Bjerga, Kramer, Greenwaldt, Carlson, Beachy, Reese, Neelan, Colby Tappe, Converse, L. Bjerga, Gomez, Petrich.

Moe finishes swimming career with section medals

Staples senior Sabina Moe competed at the 6A Section Swim Meet on November 9-11. This meet consists of nine teams throughout the region who all send their top swimmers. The top 16 advance to finals and the top eight earn individual or relay medals.

Sabina competed in the maximum four events, making it to finals in each event and earning three medals for her team. The first event was the 200 Medley Relay (50 backstroke, 50 breaststroke, 50 butterfly, 50 freestyle). In order, the relay consisted of Claire Anderson, Sabina, Molly Petrowitz, and Berit Gustafson. She swam a career best 33 seconds in the 50 breaststroke, helping her team take 7th place. Next, she swam the 100 fly and earned a career best time of 1 minute 11 seconds. This was a three and a half second drop from her personal best and solidified a 15th place finish. Sabina's third event was the 200 freestyle relay. Sabina swam first followed by Stella Moe, Abi Nagorski, and Berit Gustafson. Sabina swam 27 seconds in her 50 freestyle and her team took 6th with a time of 1 minute 48 seconds. Sabina's final event was the 100 breaststroke, her favorite. She was seeded 9th but ended up taking the 5th spot, with a time of 1 minute 14 seconds. This was close to a four second drop from her season best. She voiced feeling that she did the absolute best she could and had an emotional celebration with her teammates following the race and award ceremony.

Talking to Sabina about her swim career, she recalled that when she started swimming with the Staples-Motley team, she had some swimmers she idolized. One swimmer in particular was Lili Schneider, the superstar of the Staples Motley team. Sabina voiced that after years of training and countless miles swam, she is on par with the swimmer she most looked up to as a 6th and 7th grader. Sabina recognizes that this is quite an accomplishment. She said that she hopes she can be that inspiration for some of the younger swimmers with the Little Falls team. She also noted that she plans to continue swimming at the club level when she heads off to college next year.



Sabina Moe

Team banquet

Staples swimmers Sabina Moe and Cecily Moe enjoyed the end of season banquet with their team earlier this December. Sabina earned her 5th athletic letter in swimming and received an All Conference Honorable Mention after finishing 3rd in the 100 breaststroke at the Granite Ridge Conference meet in late October. She was the highest point earner for the team this season. The girls got to celebrate one last time with their teammates. Congratulations to both girls on a great season.

Submitted by Connie Moe

Football players named All District, All Section

The Staples-Motley football team recently announced ten players named All District and five players named All Section.

Six of the All District players were First Team: Elijah Claussen, Blake Neelan, Alex Schultz, Steven Petrich, Colbe Tappe and Luke Bjerga. Honorable Mention All District went to Eli Rutten, Ben Tyrrell, Peyton Mithun and Drake Dukowitz.

All Section players were Claussen, Neelan, Schultz, Petrich and Bjerga.

The Cardinals also named team awards at their year end banquet.

Letter winners: Neelan, Riley Reese, Tappe, Noah Larson, Benet Robinson, Bjerga, Alex Schultz, Ramiro Gallardo, Rutten, Sawyer Ferdon, Mithun, Andrew Salcido, Conner Kuhn, Jacob Becker, Gavin Chenoweth, Petrich, Turner Beachy, Claussen, Elijah Blue, Dukowitz, Tyrrell and Dustin Converse.

Attitude Award: Salcido

Belief Award: Neelan

Character Award: Tyrrell

Desire Award: Converse

Effort Award: Chenoweth

Team First Award: Mithun

Scout Team Player Award: Blue

12th Man Award: Kuhns

Breakthrough Player Award: Schultz

Bringing the Wood Award: Bjerga

Bricklayer Award (best blocker): Petrich

Unsung Hero: Nick Schultz (coach)

Academic All District (varsity players grades 10-12 with a 3.7 cumulative GPA or higher): Colbe Tappe, Benet Robinson, Alex Schultz, Eli Rutten, Peyton Mithun, Riley Reese, Noah Larson, Sawyer Ferdon, Andrew Salcido



Swimming friends

Sabina and Cecily Moe with two of their close friends from the Little Falls swim team. From left, Sabina, Claire Anderson, Cecily and Emma Catlin. (Submitted photos)

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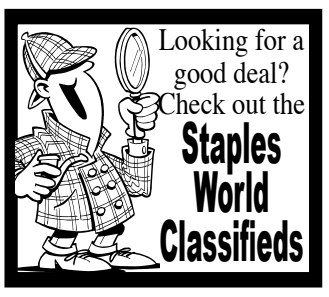
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FAWN LAKE TOWNSHIP 2024 TOWNSHIP OFFICE OPENINGS

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

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

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

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

Kelly Miller, Clerk
218-531-0287
Fawn Lake Township.
52-1pnc

MOTLEY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS NOTICE OF FILING

Motley Township is accepting filings for:

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

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

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

The filing fee is $2.00.

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

Ken Swecker, Clerk
Motley Township.
52-1pnc

STAPLES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILING

Staples Township is accepting filings for:

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

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

The filing period for these offices opens at the home of the Clerk located at 48301 County 21, Staples, on January 2, 2024 and closes at 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2024.

Filing fee is $2.00.

Please contact Bonnie Thoele at 218-296-2151 to file for office.

Bonnie Thoele, Clerk
Staples Township.
51-52pnc

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORCLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: June 12, 2015

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $91,121.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Jose G. Garcia Montanez, a single man

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Central Minnesota Credit Union

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on June 12, 2015 as Document Number 494587; as modified of record by document recorded on December 29, 2021 as Document Number A529700 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC by assignment recorded on June 21, 2023 as Document Number A536833 in the Office of the County Recorder of Todd County, Minnesota.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lots 5 and 6, except West 100 feet thereof, Block 3, Locke`s Addition to the Village of Long Prairie, Todd County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 620 4TH AVE SE, LONG PRAIRIE, MN 56347

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

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: $92,202.03

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Central Minnesota Credit Union

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: LoanCare, LLC

TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 36-0085000

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 1011283-0001100379-2

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 04, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

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

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on July 5, 2024.

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

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

Dated: November 08, 2023

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Sung Woo Hong, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
25 Dale Street North
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(23-1148-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
47-52pnc

COUNTY PRINTING TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Todd County, will receive sealed bids until Noon, Friday, December 29, 2023 at the County Auditor-Treasurer's Office. Bids will be opened at the County Board meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at or near 9:05 a.m. in the County Board Room, for publication for the year 2024 as may be required by the County of Todd, a municipal corporation, as follows:

Designation of the Official Newspaper

This requires the publishing of official proceedings by the Todd County Board, and other legal and public notices required by all Todd County Departments, publication of the financial statement and publication of the list of lands in Todd County, delinquent in taxes for the year 2023, which have not been attached to prior judgment.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so require pursuant to M.S. 279.07, and to waive any informalities therein.

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/ Treasurer
51-52pnc

COUNTY PRINTING TODD COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Designation of Extra Printing

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of Todd County, Minnesota will receive sealed bids for the extra publication of the Financial Statement for the year 2023 as required by law until Noon, Friday, December 29, 2023. Bids will be opened at or near 9:05 a.m. on January 2, 2024 in the County Board Room.

This requires the extra publication for distribution of the Financial Statement to the remaining parts of the county not covered by the distribution of the official paper. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond in such an amount as may be determined by the County Board. The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its judgment of the public interest so require pursuant to M.S 279.07, and it waives any informalities therein.

Denise Gaida
Todd County Auditor/ Treasurer
51-52pnc

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

Estate of Gary Ray Schwanke Decedent

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

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

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

Dated: December 8, 2023

BY THE COURT

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

Attorneys for Petitioner
Joseph A. Krueger
QUINLIVAN & HUGHES, P.A.
124 Lake Street South
Long Prairie, MN, 56347
Attorney License No: 0328911
Telephone: (320) 251-1414
FAX: (320) 251-1415
Email: **jkrueger@quinlivan.com;**
52-1pnc

MCAN
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network
mcan STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

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Join the Minnesota Department of Agriculture food safety team as a Retail Food inspector! Visit https://mn.gov/mmb/careers and search Job ID 71479 (west metro), 67448 (southeastern MN), and 67262 (central MN).

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WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES
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GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPPIES
One solid black male. One black and tan female. 14 weeks. Exceptional quality www.BlackGermanShepherdsUSA.com call Mark 320/208-4531

MISCELLANEOUS

FREE HIGH-SPEED INTERNET
for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs include Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time $20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxsip Telecom today! 866/433-5324

GIVE A GREAT GIFT THIS SEASON
Send 100% guaranteed, delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! This package comes with 8 FREE PureGround Filet Mignon Burgers! Order The Butcher's Deluxe Package! ONLY $99.99. Call 844/513-2857 and mention code 74222DRG or visit www.omahasteaks.com/Deluxe8464

MISCELLANEOUS

SAFE STEP
North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and $1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

GET YOUR DEDUCTION
ahead of the year-end! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous year-end tax credit. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501

SWITCH TO DISH
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ONLY $279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.3 million readers!!! **1-800-279-2979**



All is calm, all is bright

A farmhouse on County Road 125 northwest of Staples has home, barn and trees lit up for Christmas. It is a Christmas contrast with photos from the Polar Xpress event, with screaming kids catching wind in their hair, below, and families watching the chugging model trains going by. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)





Coming Your Way:
Our Best Wishes!



SouthSide Mini Mart
223 6th St. SE, Staples • 218-894-2757
Ken's Collision & Glass Center
219 6th St. SE, Staples • 218-894-3714

Brightest Joy



May peace and happiness light your way this Christmas and always. Thanks for your business, and best wishes for a very merry holiday season.
Ideal Construction Company
Staples
218-894-3105

Season's Greetings!



We hope your holiday is filled with more than enough joy to go around.
Merry Christmas and best wishes for a prosperous and happy New Year!
Motley Discount Liquor
796 Hwy. 10 S, Motley • 218-352-6681



May your holiday be filled with an abundance of health, happiness, hope and good will to all.
MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
Angie, Frankie, Julie, Jordan, Niki
MCNB Mid-Central National Bank
Staples | 218-894-3900

Faith makes all things possible.
Hope makes all things work.
Love makes all things beautiful.
May you have all the three for this Christmas.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!



LONGBELLA DRUG
Downtown Staples 894-2242 | Staples Clinic 894-8761
www.LongbellaDrug.com

Merry Christmas
R.D. OFFUTT FARMS



Glory to The Newborn King!
With resounding gratitude and best wishes to all at this glorious time of year.
Japke Decorating, Carpet and Gift
Staples | 218-894-1551

May Peace, Joy and Love be with you wherever you travel.



Staples Auto License Bureau
211 4th St. NE, Staples
218-894-2866



God gave His greatest gift to us on that first Christmas Day and may the wonder of it always guide and light your way...
MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Mayer, Porter & Nelson, Ltd.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
218-894-1399 • Staples







Preschool Christmas concert

Children in the Magic Forest Preschool held a Christmas concert on Dec. 14. Left, they ring bells while singing. Above, kids act out a song about trees.

Top photo, after the concert, the children were surprised to have Santa come in to talk to them and ask them what they want for Christmas. (Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



Spread the Joy!

In the air and on the ground it feels like Christmas all around. People laugh and children play counting down to Christmas Day.
And as we deck the halls and tree we send a wish to all of thee who've helped to make our year so bright:
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night!

Giza Plumbing & Heating
218-894-2284



Sending warm bear hugs, loving kisses and many wishes for the wonderful occasion of Christmas. May all have a splendid Christmas filled with lights, songs and cheer.

Magic Forest Childcare & Preschool
1411 8th St. NE,
Staples 56479

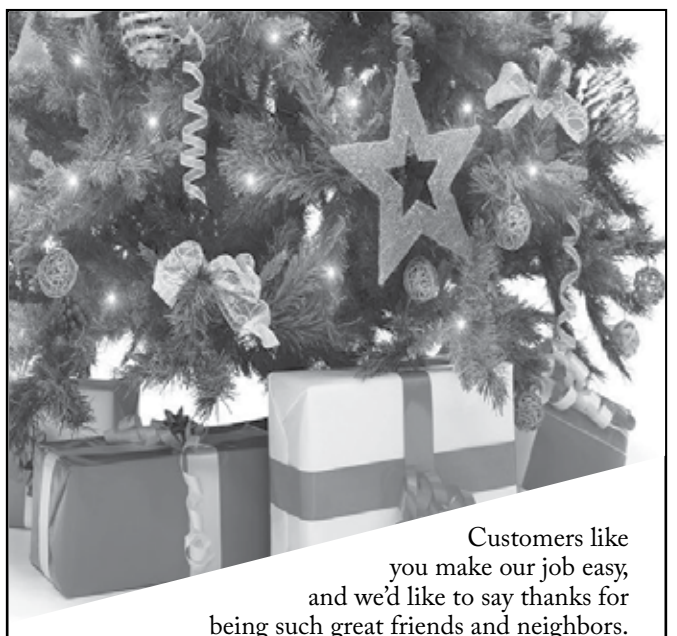
Faith. Joy. Peace



May this holy season bring happiness and contentment to your heart and soul.

Merry Christmas!

Dr. Seth Dokken
Dr. Jesse Fenstermacher
Staples Eye Clinic, Inc.
922 US Hwy. 10 E, Staples
218-894-1331



Customers like you make our job easy, and we'd like to say thanks for being such great friends and neighbors.

Thanking You Is at the Top of Our To-Do List

We hope your holiday season is equipped with all of the fixings that matter most: **friends, family, community, love, good cheer, peace, goodwill and everything that makes you happy.**

Merry Christmas!

117 Hwy 10 S, Motley, MN 56466
Phone: 218-352-6366
Store Hours: M-F, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

MOTLEY HARDWARE

We Wish You...



ALBIE ELECTRIC LLC

Jamie Albie



May the joyous spirit and blessings of Christmastime resound in your heart and home all year.

We greatly appreciate your friendship and support at the holidays and year round, and we thank you for being a continued part of our success and good fortune.

PHB Excavating, Inc.
800-930-5007

Heather Wiegand's class, SMES



Jaclyn Toepper

2. I think the best holiday gift would be ornaments. The reason I think that is because people would like them. I would give it to my mom and dad because I love them. That is why I think the best holiday gift would be ornaments.



Aubry Bunn

2. I think figits are the best holiday gift for Shelby. She lost her figits. She also likes figits a lot. That why I think figits are the best holiday for Shelby.



Shelby Cavegn

2. I think the best holiday gift would be LOL dolls. The reason I that is because I would give it to Aubry. Because she likes LOL dolls. That is why I think the best holiday gift would be LOL dolls.



Elizabeth Dorothy

1. I think the moose celebrates by going to Canada to visit his family there. Yes, I think a moose could pull Santa's sleigh. That's what I think about the moose.



Lacey Elfstrom

3. Christmas trees started at Germany. They used apple, candles, nuts, pretzels and paper flowers to decorate. I think we decorate Christmas trees so that it is not just a plane tree. I think the best tree ornament is a frame with a picture in it.



Delano Grulke

1. The famous moose went to Nashvill and went to Dower Lake and celebrated with his family. Then Santa comes and talks to the moose and Santa says can you pull my sleigh. The moose said YES!



Lilly Holmberg

2. I think the best holiday gift would be a hug because it cheers someone up. I would give it to everyone because they are fun. That is why I think that is the best gift.



Aiden Kuechle

2. I think the best holiday gift would be a plant. The reason I think that is because my mom loves plants. I would give it to my mom because my mom would love plants. That is why I think the best holiday gift would be plants.



Lyncoln Laney

1. I think the moose celebrates by drinking hot cocoa. And he eats marsmellows. A moose stole Santa's sleigh and crashed it.



Sophia Puentes

2. I think the best holiday gift is a plushie. They are cute and cuddly. You might get a youtuber plushie. That is why plushies are the best holiday gift.



Blake Robinson

1. I think the moose celbrates by walking around. He will make hot cocoa. And break santa's sleigh.



Chloe Siltman

2. What would be the best holiday gift to give? A bag of ther favorite candy? A VR headset? What is it? I think it is love to your family.

2023 Questions

The Staples World asked third-grade children in our area to write a short response to one of the following questions. We'd like to thank the teachers for helping with this project.

1) This year a famous moose traveled through the area on Thanksgiving. How do you think the moose celebrates the holidays? Could a moose pull Santa's sleigh?

2) What would be the best holiday gift you could give, and to whom would you give it?

3) How did Christmas trees become part of the holiday tradition? Why do people decorate trees and what is the best tree ornament?



Rhyson Stickney

2. I think the best holiday gift would be a transformer. I would give it to a friend because he is a good leader and classmate. That is why I think the best holiday gift would be a transformer.



Emma Tauring

2. I think the best gift is Love. The reason is that I love peaple. I would give it to my family because I Love my family. That is why I think Love is the best holiday gift.



Brooks Twardowski

1. This year a wild moose it started in Iowa and then it went all the way to browervill Mn. The next day it was in Staples by dower lake. There were a lot of visitors there, people think that it is going to Canda. I bet the moose has never ever seen this in his life that is crazy werid! I bet the moose thinks he is going to Hollywood!



Jackson Vangsness

2. I am going to give candy to Ms. Wiegand. Because Ms. Wiegand is the best. Because Ms. Wiegand is fun. She let us watch Charolette's Web.



Cygnus Walz

1. I think the moose does celabrate! Because it went back to Canada. I think the moose could pull santa's slay! I even think it could do it by it's self! So happy holidays to all! See you later!



Michael Bartel

1. I think to moose celebrates the holidays with a Christmas tree and rainbow lights.



Pete Kautto's class, SMES



Cullen Fraundorfer

1. The moose celebrates the holidays by traveling around the USA. The moose gives presents every where he goes.

Could a moose pull Santa's sleigh? Yes, a moose can pull Santa's sleigh because it is very strong.



Asher Carry

1. I thick the moose celebrates the holidays because it traveled acros the state. I thinck the moose can pull Santa's sleigh?



Neil Vogt

1. Yes, the moose could pull santa's sleih because he is strong.



Lila Dottenwhy

3. The Christmas trees become part of the holiday so Sanat can put presents under the tree. They decorate the tree become it will look nice. The best ornament is the angel.



Andrea Borntrager

3. The reason people decorate the trees is to celebrate a halday. Becaue it is Jesus birthday and to spend time with your family.



Kara Vejtasa

1. I think the moose celebrates the holiday by traveling. I do think the moose can pull the slegh because he is strong.



Corvyn Mudek

3. I think Christmas trees became part of the holiday because they needed some more decorations or they needed somewhere to put the presents. The best ornament is probably a important family memory in a ornament.



Makenna Lang

1. I think the moose celebrates by going to travel from place to place.

Yes I think a moose can pull Santas sleigh because a moose is strong.



Piper Noska

1. This moose celebrated Thanksgiving by traveling to different States!

Yes, I think that moose can pull Santa's sleigh! The End.



Caleb Schmidt

2. The best holiday gift you could give for my mom and Dad a tractor.



Jocelyn Fonteyn

2. The best holiday gift I would give is some socks.

I would give the gift to my family and friends. The end.



Ava Kroll

3. Because the Romans used it to decorate their temples at their festival and Christians used it as a sign of lasting life with God.

Because people like tradyitions. The best tree ornament is the star on top.



Serenity Lindula

2. I would give a chocolates box to my family. My family likes chocolates boxes.

I would give my mom a stuffed penguin because it is her favorite.



Woodroe Rassler

1. The moose celebrates holidays by moving to towns like Staples. A moose can pull Santa's sleigh. A moose can run really fast and the moose can pull it really fast. A moose can run so fast that it can get to the North Pole in two seconds.



Jason Edwin Rodrigues-Reyes

1. I think the famous moose celebrates by going to new areas.



Jagger Vogt

2. What would be the holiday gift you could give and to whom would you give it? A book to give to my firend.



Owen Erickson

2. I would give a spiderman action figure to my brother.



Jaxsen Suomi

3. Christmas trees became part of the holiday tradition because they are big. People decorate trees so it will be colorful. The lights are the best ornaments.

2023 Questions

The Staples World asked third-grade children in our area to write a short response to one of the following questions. We'd like to thank the teachers for helping with this project.

1) This year a famous moose traveled through the area on Thanksgiving. How do you think the moose celebrates the holidays? Could a moose pull Santa's sleigh?

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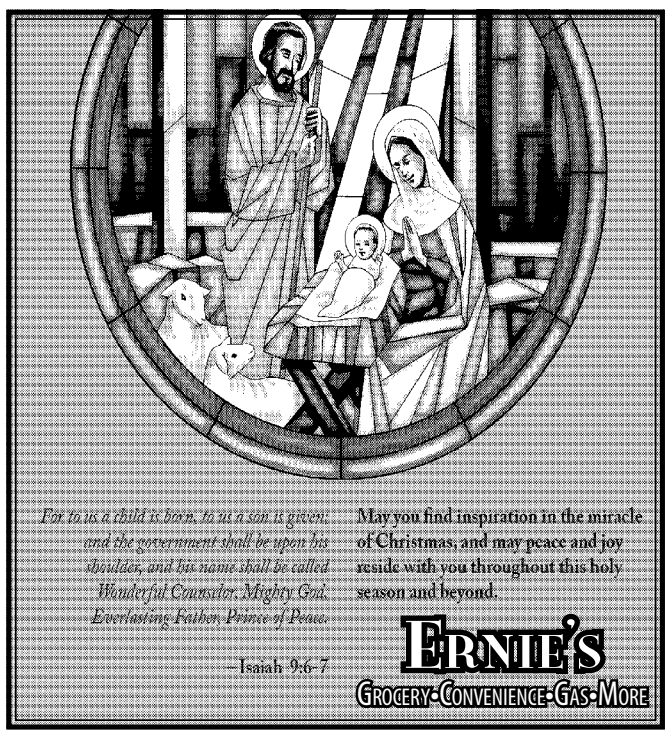

Merry Christmas
Wishing you peace, joy and all the best this wonderful holiday has to offer.
May this incredible time of giving and spending time with family
bring you the joy that last throughout the year.
EMBROIDERY OLD 10 APPAREL SCREEN PRINT
old10apparel@gmail.com
STAPLES, MINNESOTA
218-895-5220

We'd Like to Shout It From the Rooftops:
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thanks to all of our friends and clients for making this an outstanding year for us. We owe our success to your loyal support, and we wish you and yours a very happy holiday!
CENTRAL BUILDING SUPPLY
827 2nd Ave NW, Staples • 218-894-3794


Happy Holidays
from our family to yours
The Strength of Community
UNITY BANK
www.unitybanking.com
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Hope your Christmas is...
Simply Spectacular!
Filled with splendor and happiness too, we wish a great season to all of you!
Jon's FAMILY FOODS
A GENUINE DESIRE TO SERVE OUR CUSTOMERS
203 Warner Rd., Staples
218-894-3360
Clarissa, 218-756-3533


For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
—Isaiah 9:6-7
May you find inspiration in the miracle of Christmas, and may peace and joy reside with you throughout this holy season and beyond.
ERNIE'S
GROCERY-CONVENIENCE-GAS-MORE

Sarah Larson's class, SMES



Jacob Roelofs

2.My favorite gift I could give someone would be a new pillow. I would give my mom it so she can sleep better.



Asher Moore

2. If I could give someone a gift it would be my mom. I would give my mom a Harry Potter clock.



Adrian Luna Santiago

2. If I could give anybody any gift it would be my Mom and Dad. I will give my Dad a gaming set up. I will give my mom a Harry Potter PS5 controller and coat and big blanket.



Emmitt Winter

1. I am answering if the moose can move Santa Sleigh. I think yes it can pull the sleigh because moose are basically reindeer because they are both strong. They both have horns that are big.



Preslee Boozell

2. If I could give the best holiday gifts, it would be to my mom. I would give her a giant house and maids. Also a private jet and money that would be the best gifts for my mom.



Elizabeth Potter

2. The best holiday gift I could give would be is a homade card and give them money. I would give it to my big sister and brother.



Corlynn Tappe

2. The best gift and who to receveive it would be my brothers. I would give them multiple things but I have three brothers Colbe, CooPer, Camrik. I would give Colbe some pajama pants. I would give CooPer football cards and fruit snacks. Also I would get Camrik football cards too and I am giting hem a new phone case and that is what I would give my brothers for Christmas.



Skylar Patterson

2. What would be the best holiday gift you could gifte and to whom would you gifte it my sister because I would give her a pajama pants a newnew iPhone case and a make up.



Edward Trout

2. The best holiday gift I could give to my grandpa would be a book. My grandpa gets bored at home sometimes.

I thought why don't I get grandpa a book. After all it is almost Christmas and I haven't thought of anything else. Besides he works so hard. That is why I think that my grandpa deserves a book.



Violet Thoe

3. I think people use Christmas trees for decoration because people must have fun chopping trees. And people decoraite trees because people want to light up the place the tree is in. My favorite ornament is the one that you can put a pic in so if someone dies and you miss them you can look at the ornament



Sophia Noska

2. My favorite gift I could give to someone is I would give them a card and spend time with them. It would be my grandma.



Arlo Capistrant

1. This year a famous moose traveled throught the area of Staples on Thanksgiving. I think the moose celebrates the holidays by exploring the World. I think that a moose maybe could pull Santa's Sleigh, it depends how meny gifts are in the sleigh.



Wishing you and your family much peace, harmony and joy, as together we celebrate the miracle of Christmas.

Merry Christmas

BRICKS TRAVEL CENTER MOTLEY MN

Motley



Easton Seely

2. If I could give one person a gift it woud be Emmit because he is nice. And he is funny. I wold get him a nice note.



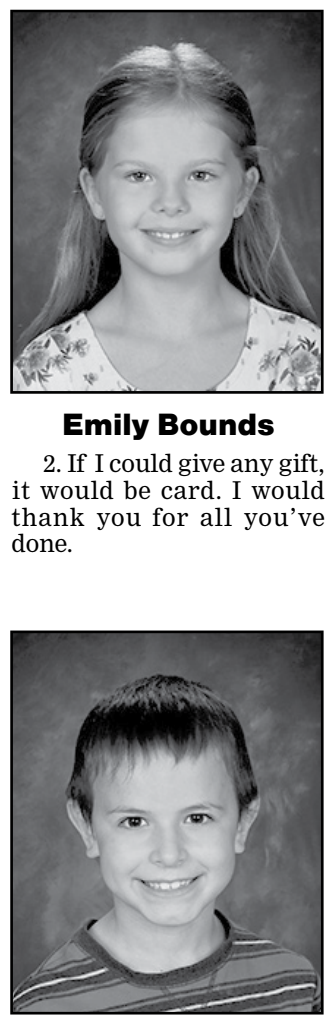
Joseph Scharen

2. What would be the best holiday gift I could give to my sister? I would give her a Barbie doll.



Riley Carter

2. What would be the best holiday gift you could give and whome would you give it to? Well my Dad, and I would give him a brand new speaker because he is in love with music! Or I would get him new tools or a new couch.



Emily Bounds

2. If I could give any gift, it would be card. I would thank you for all you've done.



Noah Ripley

1. I think the moose celebrates the holiday with a feast of food. Yes a moos can pull Santa's sleigh because the moose is strong and big.

The best holiday gift is a set of betteries for Rudolph. To help light up Rudolph's red nose.

Christmas trees became part of the holiday tradition because it represents life. It's fun to decorate the tree and the best part is not an ornament but the star because it's shiny and has always existed.

Jaxson Dause

2. The best holiday I would give to someone would be my mom. I would her a dog. She likes dogs.



Lynden Dahlvang

2. The best haiday gift I could give to my mom, it would be a phone.



Jamesen Hansen

2. The best gift would be an American Girl doll to my sister. She can also get accessories for her doll.



Many thanks to you, our neighbors and friends, for bringing us so much joy this past year!

May you enjoy all the best this special time of year has to offer!

Orth Insurance Agency

227 4th St. NE, Staples
218-894-2525







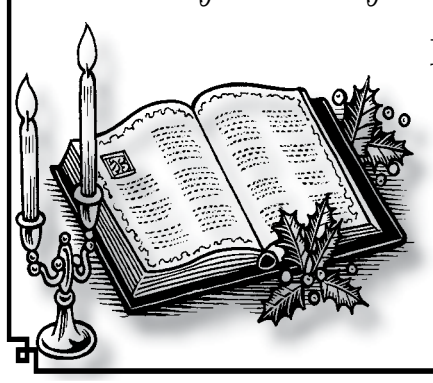
And suddenly there was the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest."
Luke 2:13

TOWER PIZZA

414 2nd Ave. NE,
Staples
218-894-3299

A Story For the Ages

The wonder and joy of the Christmas story never grows old or goes out of style.



Rejoice in the birth of a Savior!

Staples True Value

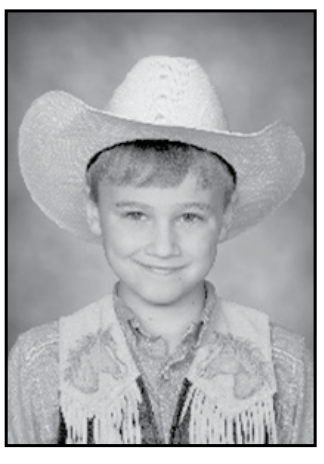
Staples

Shela McIlravy's class, SHAS



Olive Doll

2. I would give Grandpa new tools because he works so hard.



Eldin Haehnel

1. With his Family and eating grass. No, he couldn't because he is too heavy and too clumsy.



Finnegan Hanson

2. I would help people in need if they would need the help.



Frances Reese

3. It became a tradition because it would be fun to decorate a tree. The best tree ornament is the angel on top.



Tia Mertens

2. I would give the poor people food who don't get enough. I want to help them.



David Oeltjenbruns

1. They travel to town to celebrate. A moose could pull Santa's sleigh because they are like reindeer.



Alexis Olander

2. I would give food, shelter and water to the sick and the poor. I would give toys to the children who don't have toys.



Aundrea Olander

2. The best gift I could give is $100,000,000 to my dad because every time I ask him what he wants for Christmas, he says $100,000,000.



Mara Pesta

1. I think the moose celebrates the holidays with a party with all of the animals. A moose could probably pull Santa's sleigh if it stays on the ground.



Allison Hoppe

2. I would give my love to Jesus.

2. The best holiday gift I could give is food and water to the homeless.



Kolton Reese



Rose Roberts

2. The best gift I could give would be to give my family the best life possible so we could have so much fun every day.

2023 Questions

The Staples World asked third-grade children in our area to write a short response to one of the following questions. We'd like to thank the teachers for helping with this project.

1) This year a famous moose traveled through the area on Thanksgiving. How do you think the moose celebrates the holidays? Could a moose pull Santa's sleigh?

2) What would be the best holiday gift you could give, and to whom would you give it?

3) How did Christmas trees become part of the holiday tradition? Why do people decorate trees and what is the best tree ornament?

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

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Terri, Becky, Jenny, Jordyn, Keri, Lorree, Mary, Stacy

Terri Kobliska
Branch Manager

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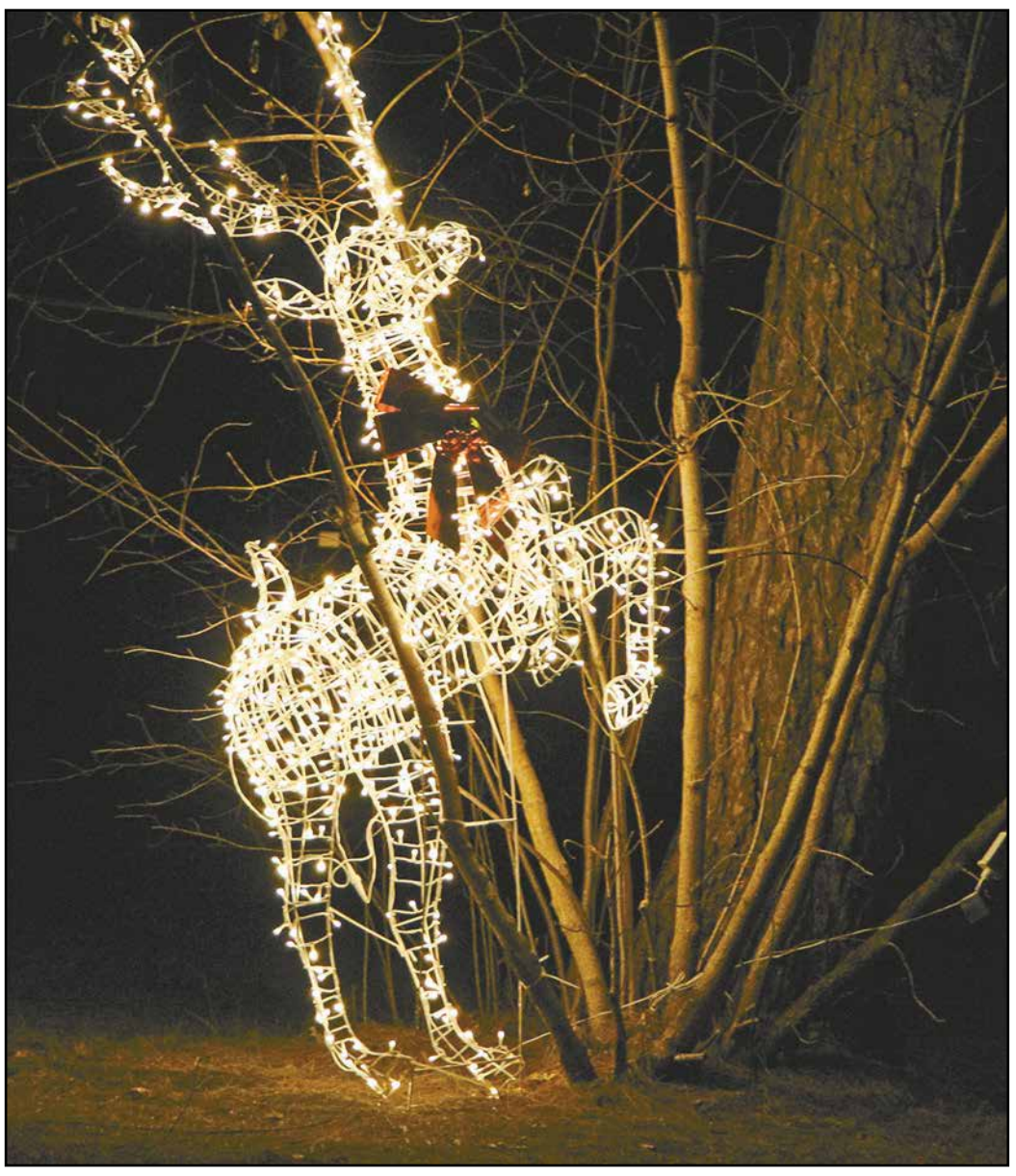


Decorating the community for Christmas

New flamboyant displays of Christmas lights and decorations are up around Staples. At left, more decorations at the Pine Ridge Park display along 8th Street NE. Lower left, a deer dances through some trees at the

Below, another display on the 400 block of 8th Street NE has trees decorated for a smaller sized enchanted forest.

(Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)







History comes alive at Polar Xpress

Part of the wonder of the Polar Xpress event at Central Lakes College was the historical displays set up among the model trains, Christmas trees and train bells. Both children and adults stopped to look at artifacts provided by the Staples Historical Society. Below, a group looks at the 1880s era railroad woodworkers bench that was on display in Staples for the first time.

Event organizer John Wolak said the event will have new features next year, and he is already working on a new theme to interest both kids and adults.

The event was held Dec. 9-10.

(Staples World photos by Mark Anderson)



