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FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Volume 11 • Issue 3

Shop Local for your Valentine's Delights!



By Cheri Roshon

We all know, living in small towns, that "things" are usually cheaper if we go to a larger town to purchase what we need. But do we factor in the cost of driving to Rochester, Minneapolis, or any of the places that the price of a product may save a buck? Or the time we spend getting there?

Or, most importantly, how our local friends and neighbors are doing their part to have available the things we need to have for our daily living without driving to another town?

Starting a business in a small town is a gamble. There are less people to buy from us, and maybe not such a wide variety in the things we can stock.

(continued on page 7)

Announcements

• The United Methodist Church of Dodge Center at 20 First Street NE offers a dine in and carry out meal from 5:00-6:00pm the third Wednesday of each month.

Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Exploring Washington, D.C.: A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience for 8th Graders

By Cheri Roshon

For 8th graders, a visit to Washington, D.C. is more than just a field trip, it's an unforgettable experience that brings history, government, and culture to life. This exciting journey takes students on a hands-on exploration of some of the most significant sites in American history, from battlefields to na-

tional landmarks, providing a deeper appreciation for the nation's past and present.

The adventure kicks off with a pizza party and pool time at a hotel in Ohio, giving students a chance to relax and bond before diving into history. The next morning, they visit the Flight 93 National Memorial in the Appalachian Mountains, where they will learn

2025 Polar Plunge



This weekend, February 8th, teams will be taking the Polar Plunge in Rochester Minnesota. The event takes place at Foster Arend Park and the weather is expected to be 21 degrees with snow flurries.

(continued on page 9)

8-12
BREAKFAST

8TH GRADE DC GROUP IS HOSTING
BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER



02-09-2025

8AM-12PM | SUNDAY
DODGE CENTER LEGION
\$7 FOR ADULTS | \$5 FOR KIDS

about the heroic passengers who fought back during the 9/11 attacks. This stop is a powerful reminder of courage and sacrifice. Next, students travel to Gettysburg, one of the most important battlefields of the Civil War. They'll explore the Gettysburg Visitor Center and Cyclorama, participate in the "Heroes of Gettysburg" evening battlefield walk, and gain a deeper understanding of the soldiers who fought there.

(continued on page 9)

Triton FFA

STEAK FEED

Saturday, February 22nd • 4:00-8:00 PM
Faith Community Church, West Concord

4:00-6:00 PM Drive Up Available
4:00-8:00 PM In-Person Dining to the Public and Donors
- Take Out Meals Available -

Snow date announcement would be made on KTTC and on Triton website. Same time and location.

\$15⁰⁰
Steak
Dinner

**Kids Hot Dog
Meal \$7.00**

**FEBRUARY 11
and
FEBRUARY 25
at
The Annadine**

Cabin Fever Tuesday Bluesday

2:30 PM - 5:00 PM • 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the Month

**CARDS • GAMES (SCRABBLE ETC.) ARE AVAILABLE,
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**February 6th & 20th
from 7-10PM
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A Parents Priority

If you are a parent, know someone who is a parent, has a parent, and you would agree that parenting can be very difficult-this is for you! Parenting has its challenges at every stage and age. Mark Twain is said to have said, "When they (children) are thirteen, put them in a barrel and nail the lid shut, then feed them through the knothole. And "When they are sixteen, plug the knothole."

A parent's priority is to gradually transfer a child's dependence away from the parents until their dependence rests solely on God. Our children, when they are little, depend on us for everything. Over time, we will help transfer their dependence to where they will no longer depend on us, but instead, they depend on the only One who will ever be completely faithful and true to them in every single way. We teach them to depend on God.

Do you realize that as a parent and a follower of Jesus Christ, God has put within you the power to change generations and generations to come? Deuteronomy 6 gives us the two most important principles that we will ever live out as a parent and/ or a follower of Jesus. Moses restated the Ten Commandments that Israel had received 40 years before and then he gave one of the greatest teachings on parenthood in all of scripture. He said to teach your children to fear the Lord, teach them to live according to God's commands and when you do, not only will you be changed, but the next generation and the generation after that will be different too. We must train the next to depend on the One and only God who created everything instead of

on anyone else. To raise-up the next generation we need to do two things:

- Love our God. The Bible says this. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all of your soul and with all of your strength." Notice, the scripture does not say with some, or with a little bit, or with a percentage, but we are told to love God with all of our heart. All!!!

Whenever I go to get a flu shot, I try to act all brave and the nurse pulls out the needle-mostly I just look away and wait until its over! Once I receive the shot- what did she actually put into my body? To keep me from getting the flu, she gives me a little bit of the flu. Just a little bit, which makes me immune to the whole thing, and I would argue that as parents, so many parents unknowingly give their children just a little bit of the things of God, making them immune to all of His goodness and glory and power and majesty. They find themselves knowing just a little bit about God but not knowing God personally and intimately in a life-changing way. Now, the problem is, in the world that we live in, there are a lot of things that can distract us from loving God with all of our heart. We work so hard pouring ourselves into our careers trying to get more things and we end up not giving our children what they really need, which is us and a deeper relationship with the only One they need to really know ultimately; God, and God alone.

You may be thinking to yourself, I do love the Lord with all of my heart, yet you don't have time to worship with God's people and honor His name. This isn't just for parents it is for all believers. When we don't make

'time' for church, for God, or for God's people, that sends a significant message to our children and the other children and people in your community and your church family. How important is your role to your children, grandchildren, with the believers around you? I came across a study a few years ago that I thought was interesting about kids who grow up and become active Christ Followers as adults.

- If mom and dad went to church, then seventy-two percent of kids will go as adults. That's pretty awesome.

- If only mom went to church, the percentage drops to fifteen percent. This is mirrored in the church family too- if church is only for women and children that percentage is reflected there too. Men, and especially dads, how important is your role?

- If dad only went to church, it's back up to fifty-five percent. DADS/ MEN, NEVER underestimate the value of your role in disciplining and leading your children to know Christ. And your example to other men and young people in the church is crucial- especially if there aren't other godly men in a student's life.

If neither mom nor dad went, the number drops down to only six percent of kids who will grow up and follow Christ and be active in a church.

Love the Lord your God with all of your heart. That means not only in your words, but in your actions. Men and women of God, Moms and Dads, Grandparents, do you love God with all of your heart, or with some of your heart? Because just a little bit, may not be what our kids need. They need the whole counsel, the glory of God.

"Christ is not valued at all, unless He be valued above all. Christ is not Lord at all unless He is Lord of all." St. Augustine. Secondly:

2. We are called to lead our families spiritually. When our children are little and even when they are adults. We can't choose for them or force our faith on them, but we can talk about God. We can share what He has done in us and for us. We can be examples and witnesses of His grace. Our marriages can be marriages that our adult children want to emulate. We can be generous, and our children will see the joy we have in giving and being a part of helping others. Spiritual talk becomes not just something we do on the weekends on the way to church or youth group or Celebrate Recovery, it becomes a part of seven days a week, of everything that is going on. We lead our children, young and old, spiritually.

Our role is to transfer dependence. To work ourselves out of a job! They no longer depend on us, now they depend on God. How do we do that?

- We love God. It starts with us. If you want to half-heartedly let life happen, let me promise you, life will happen, and you will kiss your kid's goodbye, send them off to college, walk them down the aisle, and you are going to wonder, "Where did it all go?"

- Lead them. As Christ followers we are to lead- our own lives and the lives that we are responsible for- in our families, in our realms of influence at church, in the community, wherever God has placed you in that role.

Overall: Love God with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength. Then lead as He calls you to lead.

Area Church Directory Finish Well!

No one has ever shown the mighty power or performed the awesome deeds that Moses did in the sight of all Israel. — Deuteronomy 34:12

Moses remained committed to the Lord until the very end of his life. He was a child of God, a diligent leader of God's people, a prophet, and much more. Moses is described as a "man of God" and a "servant of the Lord" in the closing chapters of Deuteronomy. He knew who he was and whose he was. That makes a difference in one's life. Moses was faithful. Though he was certainly not perfect, Moses finished well.

When we think about finishing well, we realize it is not a last-minute commitment. We can stay focused even when we must take detours and alter our plans. When we fall, we get up with the Lord's help. When things do not go the way we thought they would, we cannot allow our feelings and thoughts to get in the way of doing God's will. We know we depend on the Lord in all things, and we stand firm in his strength.

When our time comes to leave our home on earth to go to our eternal home in heaven (unless Jesus returns before then), we want to say, "I have fought the good fight . . . I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7). And we want to hear our Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!" (Matthew 25:21).

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, help me to be fully committed to doing your will until the very end of my life. May you be glorified! Amen.

CLAREMONT

1st Presbyterian Church

200 East Street, Claremont • 528-2320
Pastor Doug Walters
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont • 528-2404
Pastor Alan Broadwell
Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.

DODGE CENTER

Faith Lutheran Church

308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
507-374-2174
Traditional Worship 9a.m.; Fellowship 10a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253
<https://gracedc.church>
Worship 9a.m.; Sunday School 10:30a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
Roger Langworthy • 507-374-6400
Kidz Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center
Rev. Chad Christensen • 507-374-6885
Sunday Morning Worship at 8:15a.m.,
Fellowship Time Following

St. John Baptist De La Salle

20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church

104 1st St. NW, Dodge Center
Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561
Sunday 10a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church

410 3rd Ave. SW
Dodge Center • 507-374-6895
Sabbath School 9:15a.m.; Saturday Worship 11a.m.

Anchor of Hope Church,

a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

203 E. Main St., Dodge Center • 507-374-6755
Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

Bible Lutheran Church

(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)
11 1st Ave. N.E., Dodge Center
www.biblelc.org • 612-803-1212
Sunday School 9:15a.m.; Worship 10:30a.m.
(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

First Congregational Church

12 Second Street NW
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873
www.congregationalchurchdc.com
Keith Mosier, Pastor

WEST CONCORD

Faith Community Church

305 State Street N, West Concord • 507-527-2244
Pastor David Brederland
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School
www.fcwc.org
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353
Sunday: 9:15a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran, ELCA

301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
Pastor Chad Christensen • trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn
Sundays 9:45a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on
Facebook.
Sunday School 10:30a.m.
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00a.m.
at church and via Zoom
Call church for more information on ministries and events.

Church of Christ

55087 200th Ave., West Concord • 507-527-2723
Pastor Peter Moen
9:00a.m. Sunday School; 10:00a.m. Worship
concordchurchmn.com

Zwingli United Church of Christ

"The Berne Church"
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340
Pastor Karen Larson
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**For advertising information
call Terry at 507-951-7417**

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Kevin Forrest Kispert

Kevin Forrest Kispert, 63, of Dodge Center, MN passed away on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, in Dodge Center, MN.

Kevin was born on August 22, 1961, in Faribault, MN to Forrest and Lois (Lyman) Kispert. Kevin enjoyed life and was a wonderful man. He worked at McNeilus Steel, Inc. for 25 years. He will be remembered for his witty humor, and his love of sports, especially hockey and baseball. He was a loving husband, dad and papa. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Judy Kispert; his children, Connor (Tyler) Kispert, Courtney (Coltan) Ebertowski, Douglas (Sharla) Ques-

nel, Joshua (Erica) Quesnel; grandchildren, Nolan, Everly, Oliver Quesnel, Scarlett Kispert, Oakley Ebertowski, Sebastien; mother, Lois Kispert; mother-in-law, Dorene Dostal; brothers, Todd (Shelley) Kispert, Loren (Merle (Betsy)) Kispert, Brett (Corey) Kispert; and many friends and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Forrest Kispert; and father-in-law, Lloyd Dostal. A celebration of life was held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW in Dodge Center, MN.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South St SW Dodge Center, MN 55927, 507-374-2155. Blessed be his memory.

Royce Merlin Code

Royce Merlin Code, 70, of Claremont, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, January 19, 2025, at his home.

He is survived by his brother, Lyndon (Bonnie) Code of Northfield; niece, Lynn (Russell) Lemke; nephew, Jay (Grace) Code; great

nieces, Brittney, Brandi, Bridgette, Stena; great nephews, Avery and Gaven; and cousins, Harvey (Jill) Degen, Myron Hanson and Beverly Acker. He was preceded in death by his parents, Aylmer and Janice (Cheney); and cousin, Dwight Degen.

Funeral services were held at 11 AM, Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at Little Prairie United Methodist Church, 2980 130th Street East 2980 130th Street East Dundas, MN 55019. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the church and a reception followed. Interment was in Groveland Cemetery in Dundas.

Funeral arrangements are trusted to Bierman, Benson & Langehough Funeral Home & Crematory. www.northfieldfuneral.com



West Concord Fire Department French Toast Breakfast

When: Sunday, February 9th 7am to 1pm

Where: West Concord American Legion

What: French Toast, Sausage Links, Eggs Free Will Donations

The fundraiser's benefits will go to West Concord's Fire Department member Michaela Neuzil to assist with medical expenses due to an ATV accident on 1/31/2025





BINGO

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Ellingson Announces CEO Transition: Jeremy Ellingson Steps Into Leadership Role Following Roger Ellingson's Retirement

WEST CONCORD, Minn. — — Ellingson, a leading construction firm specializing in agricultural drainage and underground trenchless services, is proud to announce the retirement of Roger Ellingson and the appointment of Jeremy Ellingson as the new CEO.

Founded in 1970, the family-owned business has grown under Roger's leadership, transitioning from a modest family operation to a national industry leader. Roger, who

joined in the early days, has driven Ellingson's expansion and success over five decades, fostering a family-oriented culture and innovative spirit.

Reflecting on his tenure, Roger said, "As I step down, I am filled with gratitude and pride. Leading this extraordinary team has been an incredible journey. Our success is a collective achievement. I am confident Jeremy will continue to drive our future success."

Roger will remain on the company's board of directors, ensuring his vision and insights guide Ellingson forward. Jeremy, with over 30 years in the company, steps into the CEO role with enthusiasm and a commitment to upholding the company's core values. "It's an honor to lead Ellingson. I'm inspired and humbled to continue the legacy and values Roger established," said Jeremy.

About Ellingson:

Founded in 1970, Ellingson is an independent water and infrastructure management company offering technology-driven construction planning, design, and installation services. Known for its safe, quality solutions, Ellingson serves the agriculture, utilities, environmental, and oil & gas industries.



Jeremy Ellingson

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Winners will be contacted by e-mail and told where to pick up their gift certificates and chocolates.

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**Rainey Dobbs
& Giavanna Lundi
featured in the
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preseason
yearbook of
Minnesota
high schools**

*The top players in Minnesota
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Breakdown's comprehensive
200-page, full-color yearbook
released prior to
each season*



Dodge Center, Minn. – Triton High School is featured in Breakdown Sports Media's annual yearbook of Minnesota high schools. In the full-color, 200-page preview, top players from around the state are featured with photos, statistics, scouting reports, and a short Q and A. The yearbook also includes capsules on all programs in the state, section previews, feature stories, preseason rankings and All-Breakdown teams, historical records, and full-page skills Q and As with selected players. Breakdown Sports Media and our annual preseason yearbooks are Minnesota's No. 1



resource for players, coaches, fans and sports enthusiasts. We've covered boys' and girls' basketball since 2001, girls' volleyball and boys' hockey since 2008, baseball since 2014, and softball starting in 2018. The goal of The Breakdown is simple: We want to offer players, coaches and fans the most com-

prehensive guide to Minnesota high school athletics. Please visit our website at www.BreakdownSportsUSA.com. We welcome all suggestions and comments for upcoming editions by email at tim@BreakdownSportsUSA.com.

**Fall 2024 Journalism and Mass
Communications Honor Roll**

On behalf of the faculty and staff in the William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications, it is announced that Jude J. Gosse of Dodge Center, Minn., has been named to the School of Journalism and Mass Communications Honor Roll for the Fall 2024 semester. *Journalism honor roll is determined as follows: Students with a semester GPA of 3.75 or higher who have completed at least 12 hours with letter grades are recognized on the honor roll in fall and spring. Credit/No Credit grades are not accepted.*



Jude Gosse

**NDSCS Announces Fall 2024 President's Honor Roll,
Recognizing Academic Excellence**

WAHPETON, N.D. — North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) is proud to announce that 555 students have been named to the Fall 2024 President's Honor Roll. This recognition is awarded to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic performance, achieving a grade point average of 3.5 or higher while completing at least 12 credits with letter grades. Students from across the region and beyond

have earned this distinction, reflecting NDSCS's commitment to academic excellence and student success. The honorees represent a variety of programs, showcasing the diverse educational opportunities available at NDSCS. **Honorees include:**
West Concord: Alyvea Corley, Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

**Cummings named to
Luther College
Dean's List for Fall 2024**

DECORAH, Iowa — Ava Cummings of Claremont is among the 611 students recently named to Luther College's Fall 2024 Dean's List. To qualify, a student must earn a semester grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale. *About Luther College*
At Luther College in beautiful Decorah, Iowa, students explore big questions and take action to benefit people, communities and society. Our academic programs, experiential approach to learning and welcoming community inspire students to learn actively, live purposefully and lead courageously for a lifetime of impact. Learn more at luther.edu.

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Talking Winter Skin Health with U of M

The winter months bring fun activities for those willing to brave the outdoors, but time outside in the dry and cold air can be harsh on our skin. Dr. David Pearson, an associate professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School and a dermatologist with M Health Fairview, talks about how to keep your skin healthy during the winter.

Q: What unique challenges does our skin face in the winter?

Dr. Pearson: Our skin is our interface with the environment. As temperatures and humidity levels drop, one of the first places we experience this is on our skin — particularly in places like Minnesota, where it gets very cold and dry. Unsurprisingly, a number of studies show that skin and fingernail moisture content is much lower during the winter months. When our skin dries out, its barrier function is compromised and we become more susceptible to external allergens, irritants and even infections. The effects of cold can range from being a nuisance to quite dangerous. Frostbite can occur when the skin temperature gets to 28 F — this only takes about 30 minutes when the thermometer reads 0 F. Our skin isn't physiologically equipped for unprotected, prolonged exposure to these temperatures, so be sure to wear warm coats, hats and gloves when you're going outside.

Q: What common skin issues do you see during the winter?

Dr. Pearson: We see lots of dry skin, even incidentally, in people who come in for other skin concerns. Winter is often a more difficult time for people with eczema — especially on their hands. Winter itch is a common rash resulting from excessive dryness that resembles a dried-up riverbed, with red, itchy, cracked skin. This is most common on the legs and usually spares body folds and the face, and we treat it with moisturizers and sometimes prescription topical anti-inflammatory medications. We also see many irritant reactions, such as frequent tis-

sue use during respiratory virus season or rashes from licking your lips. I specialize in autoimmune connective tissue diseases and see a lot of Raynaud's and pernio (chilblains). Raynaud's is the rapid onset of white or blue discoloration of the fingers and/or toes from cold exposure due to constriction of blood vessels. Perno is the delayed onset of tender pink bumps on the fingers and toes one to two days after cold exposure.

Q: What are your go-to recommendations for those suffering from dry winter skin?

Dr. Pearson: Moisturize, moisturize, moisturize! It's pretty intuitive, but it bears repeating. The environment treats our skin differently in the winter and we may have to change our behaviors to acclimate. I recommend a thick moisturizing cream that you have to scoop out of a jar or squeeze out of a tube over those with a pump handle, which tend to be used for thinner products. I don't like a lot of additives, perfumes or scents — keep it simple. Ceramides are a good ingredient to look for and may help restore the skin barrier. I also recommend a gentle soap that doesn't have perfumes or scents, as these can irritate the skin. Some data suggests humidifiers can be helpful in certain circumstances, but probably less so than moisturizers.

Q: Should people still wear sunscreen/SPF in the winter?

Dr. Pearson: In short, yes. Getting into a routine with sunscreen improves the consistency of use, so I often recommend working in a combined moisturizer/SPF product every day. The long answer is a little more nuanced. In Minnesota, our UV index — how much ultraviolet light reaches us — is pretty low in the winter. People's skin is usually covered up in the winter, but there's actually a fair amount of reflection of UV light from the snow. Prolonged exposure through outdoor activities (or long drives) can add up. If you're lucky enough to travel south or upwards in elevation, I would definitely recommend applying sunscreen like you would during the summer months.

Q: What are you doing to advance research in the dermatology field?

Dr. Pearson: As the director of the Autoimmune Connective Tissue Diseases Specialty Clinic, my interests are focused on lupus, dermatomyositis, scleroderma, morphea and vasculitis, among others. Our group is involved in several industry-sponsored clinical trials aimed at developing new and better therapies for these diseases which currently have limited treatments and can be devastating to people who suffer from them. I'm par-



ticularly interested in the environmental triggers of these skin diseases. I'm working with Drs. Michael McAlpine and Tianhong Cui, both in the U of M's mechanical engineering department, to develop novel, skin-interfaced sensors. Like many autoimmune diseases, the conditions I study are characterized by periods of both increased and decreased activity, and we still have a lot to learn about why and when flares will happen.

Dr. David Pearson is an associate professor of dermatology at the University of Minnesota Medical School, a dermatologist with M Health Fairview and the director of the Autoimmune Connective Tissue Diseases Specialty Clinic. His research interests include environmental triggers of autoimmune connective tissue diseases, effects on quality of life and development of novel therapies for these conditions.

You're Invited!!

Join us for a...

Community Dinner

Menu: Breakfast for Dinner-Brinner!!

Wednesday, February 19th

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Out of the Dark Suicide Prevention	Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch
Triton School Arts & Academics	Community Pathways of Steele County
Dodge County Food Shelf	Transitional Housing of Steele County
City of Claremont	City of Dodge Center
City of West Concord	City of Blooming Prairie
Pantry of Faith	Steele County Mounted Posse
Cedar Valley Services	Hospice Programs
Salvation Army	Steele County Humane Society
Fairview Care Center	Steele County Healthy Seniors
Let's Smile	Beds for Kids
Homeless Teens	Junior Achievement
Grandparents for Education	Claremont Fire Department
Claremont First Responders	St Mary's School
Bruce Schmoll benefit	Triton Post Prom
Triton Softball	Rice Lake Church
Veterans Adventure Group	Dodge County Community Foundation
Toys for Tots	Blooming Prairie Youth Dance team
Triton DC trip	Triton HS Music trip
Brad Ahrens Benefit	Triton FFA Alumni
Blooming Prairie Quarterback Club	Steele County Purple Ribbon
Presbyterian Church Claremont	Razorback Wrestling
Boy Scouts Pack 348	Cobra Cagers
Venom Wrestling	Feed Our Starving Children
Dodge County Free Fair	Crisis Resource Center
Secret Santa	Boy Scouts Pack 250
TEAM Parent Group	Claremont Hogfest
Just for Kicks	BP Backpack Program
BP Cancer Research	Allied Charities of MN
BPHS Spanish Club	Dodge Center American Legion
Boy Scouts Troop 231	BP Youth Group & Cheerleaders
Triton Wolfridge Trip	Santa Anonymous
Blossoming Community Foundation	Steele County United Way
Special Olympics / Polar Plunge	Steele County Food Shelf
TYFSA Program	BP Trap Team
American Legion Baseball Program	American Legion Softball Program
Triton HS Band	Riverside Cemetery
Dodge Center Cub Scouts	Dodge County Veterans Services
BP Ambulance & Fire Dept	Faith Lutheran Church
Dodge Center Ambulance	Dodge Center Fire Department
BP Ministerial Assn	Claremont Ballfield at Harmer Park
RCTC Baseball	Dodge Center Lions
Legion Auxiliary	Triton Track & Field
Pheasants Forever	Quilts of Valor

Total donations for 2024
\$223,518

STATE of MINNESOTA taxes paid \$364,561.93

Shop Local for your Valentine's Delights!

(continued from page 1)

But most of the businesses around these parts are willing to try their best to find what you want, and at a competitive price. Sure, you can go online and find almost anything these days, but you will also spend time to find what you want, can't ask any questions, and oh yeah....pay for shipping and handling. And as I have found out recently, you may not get the product that was advertised. And just TRY to get your money back! In most cases, that won't happen.

I believe the people in this area are honest, friendly, and willing to meet you halfway to make a deal. And look around! We have bakeries, clothing stores, gift shops, and some of the best restaurants around. Gift certificates are an easy way to gift the ones you love! You can purchase everything from guns to tires. Or cookies to massages. Even flowers to liquor. Perhaps your mom would like a gift certificate for her house to be cleaned? Or your father needs some hunting supplies? Grandma and grandpa could use a gift certificate to a restaurant so they can have a night out, and not have to cook. How about a



round of golf, or a goat yoga class at Windy Willow Adventures? And jewelry! Who wouldn't like the gift of bling? A day at the spa with a massage, a foot bath and a facial, all topped off with a new hair style? All these things can be found near you, and the people who sell them to you stand by their products, and are proud to be able to sell them to you.

So, I invite you to sit down and make a list of the people you wish to gift this Valentine's Day, and shop local! Save time and money, and get the perfect gift for the ones you love!

Thanks a Bunch!
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Poem Inspires Painting

*In Flanders fields, the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

This poem written by Canadian physician John McCrae following the burial of a friend on May 2nd, 1915 was inspired by the poppies growing wild in Belgium during the first world war. The soil disturbed by digging trenches, graves and frequent arial bombing,

turned out to be a perfect seed base for the red poppy flower. He noticed how rapidly the poppies grew around the graves. The poem took him about twenty minutes to write and endures even a century later encapsulating the memory of those who sacrificed their life to stop the German advance in that battle. The VFW Buddy Poppy sales held before Memorial Day each year since 1922 was also inspired by this poem.

About five years ago Rita Gilbert of West Concord was asked to paint a mural for the American Legion Hall and she agreed to try her hand at a smaller canvas. This past February she started working on it and collected pictures of poppy fields to draw from for the painting. A 4' x 5' canvas was chosen for the project. She finished the painting in October in time for Veteran's Day. It was donated to the American Legion Post 295. There will be a Donut Day on March 4th for Fat Tuesday and you can see it then if you stop by to purchase a box of doughnuts.



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Exploring Washington, D.C.: A Once-in-a-Lifetime Experience for 8th Graders

(continued from page 1)

The following day includes a guided tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield National Military Park, a visit to the National Cemetery where President Lincoln gave his famous Gettysburg Address, and lunch at the historic Farmhouse Restaurant.

Before heading to Washington, students will also explore Monticello, the beautiful home of Thomas Jefferson, and stop by the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, where they will learn about the bravery and dedication of U.S. Marines. Upon arriving in the nation's capital, students will embark on an illuminated nighttime tour, seeing iconic

landmarks like the U.S. Capitol, Jefferson Memorial, FDR Memorial, Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, and Korean War Memorial—a breathtaking way to introduce them to the city.

Over the next few days, students will experience history firsthand. They will take a walking tour of Arlington National Cemetery, witness the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and participate in a wreath-laying ceremony—a powerful and moving tribute to the nation's fallen heroes. They will also visit the Iwo Jima Marine Memorial, honoring the bravery of U.S. servicemen.

The trip includes a tour of Capitol Hill, a stroll past the White House, and a special dinner and theater performance for a taste of culture and entertainment. One of the highlights is a visit to Mount Vernon, George Washington's historic estate, where students will learn about the first president's life and leadership. No visit to D.C. would be complete without exploring the Smithsonian museums. Students will visit the National Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of American History, and the National Museum of the American Indian, where they will encounter incredible artifacts and exhibits that bring history and science to life. The excitement continues with a riverboat dinner and dance cruise on the Potomac River, giving students a chance to celebrate their unforgettable journey with music, food, and fun on the water.

The final day of the trip is filled with meaningful visits to some of the most poignant sites in Washington, D.C. Students will stop at the Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and World War II Memorial, reflecting on the sacrifices made throughout history. They will also visit the Holocaust

Museum, a powerful and emotional experience that teaches the importance of remembrance and understanding.

Before heading home, students will make one last stop at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History and the National Museum of American History, where they can see the Star-Spangled Banner, Abraham Lincoln's top hat, and more fascinating artifacts that define the American story.

This unforgettable trip provides students with a deeper appreciation for American history, government, and culture. Walking in the footsteps of past leaders, witnessing the power of democracy in action, and exploring the sacrifices made for freedom will leave a lasting impression on every student. More than just a tour, this journey is an experience that brings learning to life, shaping the way young minds understand their country and its history.

Of course, an experience like this comes with a cost—\$1,970 per student. To make the trip accessible, families are actively fundraising through community events like Burger Nights and Breakfast Sundays at local American Legions in Dodge Center, a cash raffle with a \$1,500 grand prize, chocolate bar sales, Hegge's Pizza sales, Family Trivia Night and Kwik Trip car wash tickets. Cash donations are also welcome to help students achieve their goal.

For those interested in supporting this incredible educational opportunity, please contact Mandy Cain 507-259-6775. More information can also be found on the school's website at www.tritonschools.org. All donors—individuals and businesses—will be recognized in a special "Triton Thanks You" article at the end of the school year.

2025 Polar Plunge

(continued from page 1)

The West Concord Fire Department has seven fire department members and six family and friends participating in the cold water jump. Each jumper raises pledges to donate to the Minnesota Special Olympic organization. So far in 2025 there has been \$2,146,534 raised by 13,903 people in the Polar Plunge. In 2024 over \$5 million was raised by more than 21,500 plungers.

The first Polar Plunge took place in 1998, and since that time over 100,000 people have participated. The Polar Plunge is the biggest fundraiser for Special Olympics Minnesota. All funds raised by Plungers help Special Olympics Minnesota provide year-round training and services to thousands of athletes with intellectual disabilities across the state. The Polar Plunge is presented by the Law Enforcement Torch Run, a movement of volunteers dedicated to increasing awareness and funds for Special Olympics Minnesota athletes across the state.

Special Olympics is a movement happening 365 days a year. They host nearly 100 events every year that range from sports competitions to inclusive health fairs to the Polar Plunge and more. Minnesota will be hosting the Special Olympics USA Games in 2026, an event that will bring 100,000 people to Minnesota.

Special Olympics is the world's largest sports organization for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, providing year-round training and activities to 5 million participants and Unified Sports partners in 172 countries. Special Olympics competitions are held daily, all around the world—including local, national and regional competitions, adding up to more than 100,000 events a year.

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How to Keep Birds Fed and Happy this Winter

By Robin Trott,
U of MN Extension educator

As Minnesotans, we know how tough winter can be, and backyard birds face the same challenges. When the snow piles up and temperatures plummet, natural food sources become scarce. This is when bird feeders become a lifeline, providing essential nutrition to help birds survive until spring.

Why bird feeding matters during Winter

Minnesota winters are especially tough for birds. Insects, berries, and seeds—key food sources in warmer months—are gone. By putting out food, we give birds the calories and energy they need to stay warm and healthy. Many species, like chickadees, woodpeckers, and nuthatches, stay in the state through winter, and your backyard feeders provide a reliable source of food.

Best foods for winter bird feeding

To keep birds healthy, offer foods high in fat and calories. Here are some great options for winter bird feeding:

Black oil sunflower seeds: These are a favorite among nearly every bird species. They're rich in fat, easy to crack, and a top food choice in winter.

Suet: Packed with energy, suet is perfect for woodpeckers and nuthatches. Some suet

cakes come with added ingredients like berries or seeds to attract different species.

Nyjer (Thistle) seed: Ideal for finches, nyjer is high in fat and a perfect choice for smaller winter visitors.

Peanuts: Jays and woodpeckers love peanuts. They're high in fat, making them great for winter.

Mealworms: Mealworms are great for insect-eating birds, and they can be offered dried or live.

Feeders to attract winter birds

Birds need more than just good food, they also need feeders placed in sheltered spots that protect their food from the elements and are accessible to a variety of bird species. Choosing the right type of feeder and positioning it properly ensures that birds can feed safely and comfortably, helping to support their health and survival during harsh winter months.

Here's what works well in winter:

Tube feeders: Great for smaller birds like chickadees and finches. They also keep seeds dry.

Platform feeders: These are perfect for larger birds like doves and jays. Be sure to keep them clean to avoid attracting unwanted guests like squirrels.

Suet feeders: Ideal for woodpeckers and other insect-eating birds, suet feeders offer the high-fat nutrition they need in winter.

Tips for a successful feeding station

Helping birds is great, but there are some things to keep in mind:

Keep feeders clean: Clean feeders regularly to prevent mold and bacteria, which can



harm birds. Use soap and water, then rinse thoroughly.

Squirrel-proof: If squirrels are stealing food, consider squirrel-proof feeders, or place them in hard-to-reach spots.

Space feeders: If you have several feeders, space them out to reduce competition and stress among birds.


Winter birdwatching

Winter birdwatching is a fun way to connect with nature. Whether you're an experienced birder or a beginner, the cold months offer the

chance to spot resilient birds that stick around. By keeping feeders stocked and offering the right food, you'll be helping birds survive while enjoying the beauty of nature from your window.

As temperatures drop, your backyard feeders can make all the difference. Keep your birds well-fed, and you'll enjoy a variety of species visiting your yard all winter long.

Happy birdwatching!



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Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: I have seen numerous times where a bicyclist will not stop at a stop sign, if they are sharing the road with automobiles. I have seen a couple of close incidents where the bicyclist is almost hit as well. Are bicyclists under the same rules if they are sharing the road with automobiles?

Answer: There was a state law change back in August of 2023. It states, "a bicycle operator who approaches a stop sign must slow to a speed that allows for stopping before entering the intersection or the nearest crosswalk. If there is not a vehicle in the vicinity, the operator may make a turn or proceed through the intersection without stopping." Nothing in this subdivision changed the right-of-way requirements. It is important to note that bicyclists must still stop at intersections controlled by a red light, a peace officer, or a person authorized to control traffic.

Essentially, the bicyclist can yield or perform a "rolling stop" at a stop sign if they don't violate anyone else's right of way. When approaching a stop sign, the bicyclist should be traveling slow enough to stop before the crosswalk if necessary. However, after yielding, if there is not a pedestrian crossing in front of them or other traffic approaching near enough to constitute an immediate hazard, they may continue without making a full stop.

Question: What allows private for-profit ambulance companies to run tax-exempt license plates on their vehicles?

Answer: Vehicles owned by ambulance services specifically intended for emergency response or providing ambulance services are exempt under the Minnesota State statutes. All services must have a valid license issued by the board. The license shall specify the base of operations, the primary service area, and the type or types of ambulance service for which the licensee is licensed. The licensee shall obtain a new license if they wish to expand their primary service area, or to provide

a new services.

Question: Can you talk about railroad crossing safety and the laws that cover it?

Answer: I have responded to and investigated a number of train/vehicle crashes in my career. A majority of them resulted in fatal or serious injuries to the vehicle occupants. In Minnesota, failure to yield the right of way, disregard of a traffic control device, improper turn and inattention and impatience are cited as the most common factors contributing to motor vehicle/train crashes.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has worked to share the following rail safety tips:

- Yield the right-of-way to trains at highway-rail crossings. It's the law.
- Never drive around lowering gates, it's illegal and deadly.
- Never race a train to the crossing; even if it is a tie, you lose.
- Always expect a train on the tracks; trains do not follow set schedules.
- Look for a second train when crossing multiple tracks.
- Exit your vehicle immediately if it stalls on the crossing, get clear of the tracks and call 911.

- Always stop your vehicle, behind the white line when crossing gates are down or lights are flashing. Wait for the crossing gates to rise and lights to stop flashing; look both ways, listen and proceed with caution.

The chance of death or serious injury from a motor vehicle/train crash is 11 times greater than for other highway collisions. At 50 mph, it takes a fully-loaded freight train 1.5 miles to come to a full-stop. By the time the train engineer sees a vehicle or pedestrian on the tracks, it is often too late.

Because of their size, approaching trains may appear to be traveling at a slower speed therefore drivers often misjudge the distance of the train.

As a bicyclist or pedestrian you must always look both ways before crossing railroad tracks, cross only in designated areas and never cross when gates are down. Railroad tracks and property close to the tracks (rail-

road "right-of-way") belong to the railroad. People who don't have permission to be on railroad property are trespassing. Even if there is not a "No Trespassing" sign, it's still illegal and dangerous to be on the property.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and of course, drive sober.

Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk Make a Game Plan for Super Bowl LIX and Commit to Sober Driving

For Super Bowl LIX on Sunday, February 9, 2025, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Wabasha County Public Health are teaming up to remind drivers: Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk. Get ahead of the game and create your plan now. If you're going out to a Super Bowl party and you plan to drink alcohol, make sure you plan for a designated driver to get you home safely at the end of the night. If you're hosting a party, prepare plenty of food and non-alcoholic drink options for your guests, especially for the designated drivers. If you're a designated driver, be the night's MVP and keep that commitment front and center.

"Super Bowl is a special night each year for our community to come together to celebrate, but we need responsible drivers on our roads," said Tammy Fiedler, Public Health Director "If you are planning to be away from home during Super Bowl LIX, make a game plan to ensure you don't find yourself without a designated driver if you need one. If you're hosting a party, make sure you take care of your designated drivers. Remind your friends and family: Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk."

Drunk driving can have a range of consequences, including the possibility of causing a traumatic crash. These crashes could cause you, someone you love, or a total stranger to suffer serious injuries or even death. Help set up your team — your friends, family, and other partygoers — for a night of success.

Host a Winning Party

If you're hosting a Super Bowl party, prepare plenty of snacks and non-alcoholic drinks for your guests and the designated drivers. Ask your guests to designate their sober drivers in advance. Remind drinking guests that they have a long evening ahead of them, and encourage them to pace themselves, to eat food, and to drink plenty of water.

Another important reminder: Never serve alcohol to minors. If an underage person drinks and drives, the person who provided the alcohol can be held liable for any damage, injury, or death caused by the underage driver.

Be the DD MVP

If you're planning to be a designated driver, know that you're the night's MVP. Commit to a sober evening. If you are attending a party or are at a bar or restaurant, enjoy the food, the company, and the nonalcoholic drinks. Your positive influence could help keep others on the right track. If someone you know has been drinking and tries to drive, take their keys and help them get home safely. Remember: You're the night's quarterback, and others are relying on you.

Drivers should be safe during the Super Bowl by planning ahead if they intend to drink. They shouldn't wait until after drinking to plan how to get somewhere. Impairment clouds a person's judgment. Drivers should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare for a sober ride home.

If a driver finds they are unable to drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been drinking and is considering driving, friends should be proactive — take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots a drunk driver, contact local law enforcement.

For more information on impaired driving, visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving.



The Vikings may be out of the running to become Super Bowl Champions this year, but driving responsibly is always a win! As you enjoy the game and festivities with friends and family this Super Bowl Sunday, remember that the best play of the day is getting home safely.

In honor of the Vikings, here's a Purple Pride Mocktail recipe to enjoy during the game:

- 1/2 cup grape juice
 - 1/2 cup sparkling water
 - 1 splash of lemonade
- Garnish with a lemon slice and a few frozen blueberries



United Way Announces New Name: United Way of Southeast Minnesota

United Way of Southeast Minnesota is excited to announce a new chapter in its 100-year history. Formerly known as United Way of Olmsted County, the new name of United Way of Southeast Minnesota reflects its expanded service area and continued commitment to Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted, and Winona Counties.

As United Way celebrates its centennial, they remain dedicated to responding to the greatest needs in our region by inspiring people to get involved, give back, and take action. United Way envisions a resilient region defined by care and collective action where residents are healthy, households are financially secure, and young people succeed in school and life.

This new identity is a milestone in United Way's journey to serve Southeast Minnesota comprehensively and collaboratively.

"Over the past century, our region and world have grown increasingly interconnected, and this change reflects our

commitment to meeting these evolving needs. By uniting the unique strengths and addressing the distinct needs of Dodge, Fillmore, Olmsted, and Winona counties, we are building a resilient future where every individual has the opportunity to thrive. Together with our partners, donors, and volunteers, we will continue to tackle the most pressing challenges and ensure that hope and opportunity are within reach for all," shared Jerome Ferson, President at United Way of Southeast Minnesota.

Community members are encouraged to visit United

Way of Southeast Minnesota's new website, www.uwsemn.org, to learn more about its services and how they are shaping the future of our region.

#

About United Way of Southeast Minnesota

United Way of Southeast Minnesota mobilizes our community to action so all can thrive.

For 100 years, United Way of Southeast Minnesota has seen how our communities' greatest challenges are connected — and how we can bring people and resources together to address them. We

meet basic needs today while working alongside community members to help create a better future for tomorrow.

That's why we're here, always listening and ready to respond. Working together with our neighbors, we're strengthening local resilience and advancing health, youth opportunity, and financial security for all. We fund programs that make a difference; provide free resources and referrals to anyone who may need them; and collaborate



UNITED WAY
Southeast Minnesota

and convene with multiple sectors to address challenges.

Every day, our communities show that when people unite to take action, change is possible. Together, we're creating a future where everyone, everywhere can reach their full potential.

For media inquiries please contact:

Stephanie Rudeen VP of Resource Development
United Way of Southeast Minnesota
507-287-2003
stephanier@uwsemn.org

CONCORD TOWNSHIP Election Notice

Notice is hereby given that Concord Township, in Dodge County, will on Tuesday March 11, 2025 conduct the Town Election at the Concord town hall. Polls will be open from 5:00-8:00 pm. Inclement weather date will be March 18, 2025.

CONCORD TOWNSHIP Annual Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that Concord Township, in Dodge County, will on Tuesday March 11, 2025 conduct the Annual Township Meeting at the Concord town hall beginning at 3:30pm. Inclement weather date will be March 18, 2025.

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Diamond Rio 9:00 PM

Saturday, July 12



Wade Hayes 7:00 PM



Noah Alexander Music 3:00 PM



Leavin' Page Town 5:00 PM



The Bellamy Brothers 9:00 PM

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CONCORD TOWNSHIP TO LET QUOTES

Quotes will be opened at the regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 13, 2025, 7:00 P.M. at the Concord Town Hall. Quotes are requested for the following:

Crushed rock, 8000 ton, more or less. Crushed to 7/8", shall conform to specification No. 3138 (class 2), except that the material passing No. 200 sieve shall be modified to <10 percent. The Township requires rock to be spot spread by June 1st prior to chloride application. The remainder shall be delivered & truck spread by June 15th. **Quotes shall be itemized by material and truck/spreading.**
Lawn mowing of Township Hall and Concord Park
Ditch mowing: 38 miles plus or minus, top-cut July, deep cut fall
Ditch spraying: 38 miles plus or minus sprayed as needed to control noxious weeds/brush.
**All quotes must include a certificate of insurance showing proof of liability cover-
age.**
Mail quotes to: Mike Jones, Concord Township Clerk, 57302 State Hwy 56, West Con-
cord, MN. 55985, before 5:00PM, March 13, 2025. Please mark Sealed Quote on enve-
lope. Quotes may also be delivered in person or e-mail to: concordmnclerk@gmail.com

The Concord Township Board reserves the right to reject all quotes, to waive defects and
to award in the best interests of Concord Township.

By Order of the Concord Township Board
Mike Jones, Clerk
February 8, 2025

SUMMARY PUBLICATION
SECTION 1115. CANNABIS AND HEMP BUSINESSES

On January 16, 2025, the City of West Concord, Dodge County, Minnesota adopted Res-
olution 25-05 Ordinance 115, an ordinance Adopting West Concord City Code Chapter 11,
Section 15, Cannabis and Hemp Business Regulations.


Ordinance 25-05 adopts regulations for cannabis and hemp businesses, including estab-
lishing a retail registration requirement for cannabis retail businesses and lower potency
hemp edible retailers delegating it the county; limits the number of registered cannabis re-
tail businesses within the city; and adopts additional regulations and restrictions on
cannabis and hemp businesses.

It is hereby determined that publication of this title and summary will clearly inform the
public of the intent and effect of Ordinance No. 115, and it is directed that only the above
title and summary of Ordinance No. 25-05 conforming to Minn. Stat. Sec. 331A.01 be
published, with the following:

NOTICE

A printed copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 115 is available for public inspection by
any person during regular office hours at the office of the West Concord City Clerk, 180
Main Street, West Concord, MN, 55985 by standard mail, or by electronic mail, and at any
other public location which the Council designates.

FOR COMMUNITY RELEASE



Dakota County Sheriff's Office

Joe Leko, Sheriff

Bulletin #24-4
10/01/2024


REWARD OFFERED

ENDANGERED MISSING PERSON

Nicole "Nikki" Anderson

- 5' 10"
- 135 lbs
- Last seen wearing a long grey
sweater and camouflage pants.


Nicole Anderson was last seen in
Randolph Township in Dakota
County the morning of Saturday,
July 6, 2024.



Last known image of Anderson ^
on 7/6/2024 at 08:54 hours.

She was on foot and does not have
her cell phone, wallet, or
medications.

The Dakota County Sheriff's Office is offering a reward of \$5,000 for information regarding Nicole
Anderson's whereabouts or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance. Private parties
have pledged an additional \$40,000 reward to be distributed independently of the Sheriff's Office.
Only tips received through the Dakota County Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers that lead to the
location of Nicole Anderson or the prosecution of those involved in her disappearance are eligible
for the reward.



Anyone wishing to provide a **completely anonymous** tip may contact Crime
Stoppers at, **1-800-222-TIPS**, or www.CrimeStoppersMN.org

Reference DCSO Case # 24-000819

1-800-222-8477

Dakota County Sheriff's Office | 1580 Highway 55, Hastings, Minnesota 55033
651-438-TIPS(8477)

FOR COMMUNITY RELEASE

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, January 13, 2025

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the January 13, 2025
Dodge Center City Council regular meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for
viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.
Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Cathy Skogen, Gary Trelstad, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon
Dostal, Lee Mattson, Sheriff's Deputy, Jeremy Dostal, John Fox, Mark Barwald, Vanessa
Hines – Widseth and Kathy Freeman
Absent:
City Council approved the following items:
• Agenda and consent agenda to include: Minutes from December 23, 2024 City Coun-
cil Meeting; Resolution 2025-002 – A Resolution Designating Official Depositories; In-
teragency Agreement with Dodge County Sheriff; Hiring of Paid-On-Call Ashley Opina,
Jonathon Butler and Isaac Kenworthy; MMUA Services Agreement Amendment; Combat
Veterans Motorcycle Association Raffle Permit; Variable Frequency Drive Quote; On-Site
Laptop Quote; Library Board Appointment – Abby Ingersol and Payment of Bills;
• Purchase of replacement sewage tanks for WWTP in the amount of \$3,000;
• A second quote for variable frequency drive from Automatic Systems in the amount of
\$10,077;
• Use of Fire Station for fund raiser for Chaplains;
• Authorizing Fire Chief to look into removal of wall in wash bay area;
• Authorizing Fire Chief to declare a surplus of SCD's with the option to sell or dispose
of property;
• Nomination of Gary Trelstad as Acting Mayor for 2025;
• Resolution 2025-001 – A Resolution Designating an Acting Mayor for 2025;
• Messenger as the 2025 legal newspaper for City of Dodge Center;
• Updates to the Personnel Policy Handbook;
• Charge for sump pump inspection remain as is until it can be discussed at upcoming
work session in February;
• Contract between City and County to Provide Law Enforcement Protection.
Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

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