



Serving the Triton Area

# The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

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JULY 2, 2025

Volume 11 • Issue 13

## More Berne Wood Fired Pizza Activities



July offers a number of things to do at the Berne Wood Fired Pizza venue. Wednesday July 9th at 5pm is Kid's Night with Zollman Zoo and the New Feral Cats and Soul Train. On Friday July 11th at 8:30am it is coffee in the country with the puzzle challenge and bucket golf with live music by RavensFire.

Wednesday July 16th at 5pm is the Chubs and Incognito. On Wednesday July 23rd at 5pm is True North and JoJo Green.

(continued on page 5)

## Dodge Center Business Woman named Citizen of the Year

This year the Dodge Center Lion's Club picked Beth Hanggi as the Citizen of the Year. Beth is a Dodge Center native, growing up here with her brother and sister. She started a furniture refinishing business in 1988 after graduating from college. She also worked at the Eden Prairie community center aquatic department. In 1990 she accepted her father's offer to join him in the family insurance business.

Fahning and Associates offers insurance plans for life, health, long term care, Medicare supplements and Medicare advantage plans, employee benefits, annuities and IRAs. They have served the area for over fifty years.

Beth met her husband Ralph while he was an art teacher at Claremont Public School District and later at the Triton School District after the schools combined. Ralph later took a position with the Grand Rapids School and they moved to Bowstring Lake near Deer River Minnesota. Beth commutes to the Dodge Center office each week and Ralph has retired and does abstract painting in his studio on the lake.

Beth was nominated for the honor due to her activity in the community. She is very involved in the United Methodist Church in Dodge Center, is on the Dodger Days Committee and current Chamber of Commerce president. Beth believes the strong points of



Beth Hanggi

Dodge Center include the citizens here who are warm, welcoming and supportive to each other. The community is progressive with a lot of industry for a small town and many businesses which employ over fifty employees each. The city has lots to do with a beautiful park system and plenty of amenities to entertain people and clubs to promote the city. It is an attractive town with well kept neighborhoods. It is fortunate to be in a good location with two major state highways intersecting here and a close drive to numerous larger cities.

## Announcements

- **Ginny's (Farmers Market / Crafts / Flea).** Dates: May 28th - September 24th every Wednesday: weather pending. Time: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Set up Starts at 2:00 p.m. Location: 213 Ellington Street West Concord, MN 55985 (Empty Lot Behind Ginny's's Drive-In).
- **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](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## HogFest 2025

Claremont's HogFest is just around the corner. This year the event is planned for August 1st through 3rd. Plans are in the works for city wide garage sales so look at the July 30th issue of the Claremont Messenger for a map and listing of advertised sales.

On Friday August 1st at 5pm the food vendor trucks and beer sales begin. The garden tractor pulls begin at 6pm. A kids scavenger hunt will take place between 6 and 7pm. From 8pm to midnight there will be live music by the Old Country Boys.

On Saturday August 2nd there will be breakfast burritos served from 8 to 11am at the Pavillion. A Bake sale will run at the same time and place.

(continued on page 4)



**Open Regular Hours  
July 2 & 3**

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# Choose the Wise Path

There are all kinds of roads or paths to take. Some are physical- like yellow bricks, highways, trails in the woods or just the road to grandma’s house. Others are more philosophical- the road less traveled- the road to freedom, the road to discovery, the road to your future...

The road we take determines where we will end up. The only way to end up at the right destination is to choose the right road. The metaphor of life as a journey is a familiar one. It is found in the Bible as well as in classical literature. The Odyssey of Homer describes Ulysses' ten-year journey from Troy to his home in Ithaca, and Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress is an account of Christian's journey from the City of Destruction to the heavenly city. The Wizard of Oz is Dorothy’s journey to Emerald City.

The Bible frequently exhorts us to choose the right path, and sadly all around us the culture we live in thinks there are "many ways to God" and any path you sincerely follow will eventually take you there. No matter someone’s sincerity- one can be sincerely wrong.

Jesus made it clear that in this life we can take only one of two ways, and each of them

leads to a different destination. Everybody has to choose either the crowded road that leads to destruction or the narrow road that leads to life; “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.” Matthew 7:13-14. There's no middle or alternative way.

You can find steps to discover meaning in life from a number of resources. You can read philosophy, or psychology or self-help books. Yet, the best place to seek wisdom and direction is still from the book written by the creator of the world and His Words which are: “God-breathed and are useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17. As followers of Christ, we are to desire to learn and grow in wisdom.

It is while we walk with God that we learn to enjoy the blessings of God. People have been trying to discover meaning for their lives since the beginning. Sadly, we haven’t always made the best choices nor chose to follow God’s design for us. Human and scientific studies agree with the truth and wisdom of the scriptures. When we are contemplating the direction of our lives- the path that God wants us to take we should begin with these 5 areas and include them in our plans. And it’s important to consider this for yourself, and if you are married- consider these 5 areas for the trajectory of your marriage as well.

As believers- flying by the seat of our pants isn’t very honoring to our faith walk with Jesus. Jesus knew His direction, He knew His path and He never turned from it.. even though He knew the ending. For us- we might think that He had it easier- I’m not so sure- I do enjoy the adventure- most of the time- if I knew the ending- I would probably work less and get a bit lazy in my faith and plans for the future. In our lives as we follow Jesus- as we set our paths on the direction He places before us- we will find a life of joy, purpose and passion ! To find that path you need to begin with-

- Self-Reflection Set aside time to examine your priorities, passions, and values. Journaling or meditating on questions like "What makes me feel alive?" or "What legacy do I want to leave?" can spark new realizations about your purpose. Jesus was on a journey- and He still took time every morning, “while it was still dark” he went up a mountain to pray. Mark 1:35. Jesus knew his path- yet He sought guidance too. I desire to live out my faith one day at a time on the path He has laid out for me. Knowing God has a plan- frees me to be in discovery for that plan. Secondly...

- Cultivate Meaningful Relationships Genesis 2:18. Connection is a vital part of human life. Nurturing deep relationships with family, friends, or communities helps create a sense of belonging and can provide emotional and spiritual nourishment. God said in the very beginning, “it is not good for man to be alone.” And that isn’t only for married couples; Adam wasn’t a complete human until there was another person. Elijah

needed a helper- God gave him Elisha, Naomi had Ruth, David had Jonathon, and Jesus had his three and his 12. Who is in your inner circle- what relationships are you cultivating? Don’t go your path alone.

- Commit to Personal Growth. Purpose evolves as you grow. Seeking knowledge, challenging yourself, and pursuing hobbies or goals aligned with your values can bring deeper satisfaction over time. We aren’t meant to vegetate on the couch- we are to grow and learn. Peter wrote, “For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 2 Peter 1:5-7.

- Serve Others Acts of kindness and service often instill a profound sense of meaning. Whether it’s volunteering, mentoring, or contributing to causes you believe in, giving to others enriches both their lives and yours. You were created for this very thing- to serve others.

What is God calling you to do? You are created to serve others- is serving others a part of your future path? We know it is if you are following Jesus. That’s what you were created for! Maybe it’s mowing someone’s lawn or pulling their weeds. Maybe it’s just sitting with a shut in and listening and visiting. Maybe you are called to teach students or adults in your church. Maybe God is calling you to begin another ministry or become a pastor or missionary.

Serving the Triton Area

# The Messenger

Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord

**MAIL**

35 West Main Street, P.O. Box 33  
Dodge Center, MN 55927

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**For advertising information  
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507-951-7417  
or email:  
hometownmessenger@gmail.com**

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### 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://gracede.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 8:30a.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 You Tube and on website)

**First Congregational Church**  
12 Second Street NW  
Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873  
www.congregationalchurchdc.com  
Mark Martig, Pastor

### Area Church Directory

**Light Rising in the Darkness**

*If you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. — Isaiah 58:10*

The roles of mom, dad, brother, and sister can be broader than traditional definitions suggest. My mom has embodied an expansive view of motherhood throughout her life. She not only raised my siblings and me alongside our father, but she also served as a Christian school principal for 35 years and as an elder in her church. Her influence reached far beyond our home—spending summers in Ukraine, Uganda, and Russia, as well as three years in Bangkok to help establish Christian schools.

When I was a single father with sons ages 7, 4, and 1, my mom stepped in to help me, sharing as a grandmother the same energy and devotion she had shown as a mother. Her love, especially in times of need, reflected God’s calling to spend herself on behalf of others. She’s always been a square peg in a world that tries to fit people into round holes, and that uniqueness is her strength. The churches, orphanages, and schools she has served have benefited deeply from her gifts—as have we, her family.

God promises his servants: “You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail.” Is there someone in your life whose faith and service reflect God’s light and bless others in remarkable ways?

*Lord, thank you for all whose love and service reflect your light. Bless those who give generously of themselves. May their lives be like well-watered gardens, ever refreshing others. 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.

### 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 Tom Isaacson  
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at:  
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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### Gerald "Gerry" Henry Fahning

Gerald "Gerry" Henry Fahning, 93, of Dodge Center, MN passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at Mayo Clinic St. Mary's Campus in Rochester, MN.

Gerry was born on October 30, 1931, in Zumbrota, MN to Henry and Julia (Erickson) Fahning. He grew up outside of Cleveland, MN, on a farm with his sister and three brothers. Gerry graduated from Cleveland, MN high school in 1949.

After high school he attended the University

of Minnesota St. Paul campus until 1951. In 1951, he was drafted into the United States Army and served in South Korea until he was honorably discharged in 1953. In the fall of 1953, he resumed his studies at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1956. While attending the University of Minnesota he joined the fraternity Alpha Gamma Rho.

In 1955, Gerry took an internship for the summer with Dodge County Extension and oversaw the 4-H. At the end of the summer, they asked him if he would come back as a hired Dodge County Extension 4-H leader and he did. So, in 1956, he came back to Dodge County. He loved working with people and 4-H; teaching and helping people develop skills in the agricultural areas.

Gerry met his future wife, Mary Washburn in 1956, when they lived in the same room-

ing house in Dodge Center. They married on June 8, 1958.

Gerry left Extension in 1962, and started his own insurance business, his parent company being the New York Life Insurance Company. He was an agent for New York Life for over 55 years. His daughter, Beth joined him in business in 1990, forming Fahning and Associates, LLC. This business continues.

He had a great devotion to his family and to Dodge County. Gerry served on the Dodge County Fair Board for 18 years. He was elected as a councilman for the City of Dodge Center, a position he held for over 15 years. He also served on many city committees and boards. Gerry was a founding member of the Dodge Center Lions Club which was chartered in 1968. He earned one of Lions Club's highest awards, the Melvin Jones Fellow Award. He was a member of the Dodge Center American Legion Post #384 Wells-Peterson. Gerry helped organize the Dodge County Expo, an event that was near and dear to his heart. He was a member of the Dodge Center United Methodist Church, serving on many committees and involved with many functions of the church.

Gerry loved to hunt, fish, watch sports, garden and chat over a cup of coffee, if cookies were involved it would be even better. He enjoyed watching his children in their activities as they grew up and watching his grandchildren in their activities whether it was plays, music, sports, or 4-H.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Fahning; daughter-in-law, Wendy Fahning; brother, Eugene (Al) Fahning; sister, Helen

Enstrom.

Gerry is survived by his son, Paul Fahning; daughters, Beth (Ralph) Hanggi and Barbara (Dan) Lauer; three grandchildren, Heidi Fahning (John Gerritsen), Chad (Brooke) Fahning, and Hannah Lauer; one great-grandchild, Evelyn W. Fahning; brothers, Wayne (Marilyn) Fahning, Dayton (Annette) Fahning; and numerous nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 28, 2025, at the United Methodist Church, 20 1st St NE in Dodge Center, MN. Reverend Chad Christensen officiated. Visitation was from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Friday, June 27, 2025, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW in Dodge Center, MN and one hour prior to his service at the church. Military Honors were provided by the Dodge Center American Legion Post 384 following his service at the church. Inurnment will be held at a later date in Spring Valley Cemetery in Spring Valley, MN.

In lieu of flowers, the family would prefer donations to the Dodge Center United Methodist Church, Dodge County 4-H, Dodge County Salvation Army, Dodge Center Lion's Club or donor's choice.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Stacey Hanson, Prairie Meadows and their staff, St. Croix Hospice, and Fairview Nursing Home and their staff, for the wonderful care they have given Gerry this past year.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit <http://www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com>. Czaplewski Funeral Homes, 25 South Street, Dodge Center, MN 55927 (507)374-2155. Blessed be his memory.



## DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

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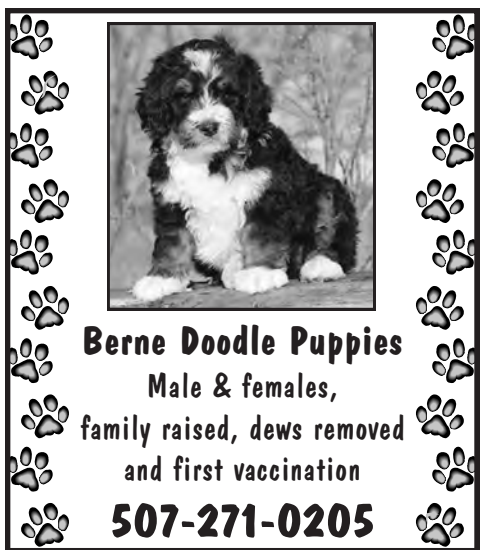
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# HogFest 2025

(continued from page 1)

The Antique tractor pull begins at 9am with rolls and coffee served a half hour prior. Beer sales begin at 10am and the food trucks open at 11am. A petting zoo will be held from 10am to 2pm. Face painting is held from 11am to 3pm. The bean bag tournament starts at noon. A silent auction will be held from 1 to 6pm under the tent. A free gaming trailer will be

open from 4 to 6pm. A sweet corn and pork feed is scheduled from 4 to 7pm at the Pavilion. The Claremont Pub has horse races at 5pm and there will be a foam party for kids from 6 to 7pm. Live music starts at 7pm with the Non Prophets.

On Sunday at 7:30am rolls and coffee will be served at Harmer Park and the TYFSA Venom 10U softball tournament starts at 8am. Car Show registration is from 8 to 10am with the Car, Bike and antique tractor show from 10am to 1pm. Food trucks open at 9am and the beer sales start at 10am. The Rockin' Hep Cats will be playing from 10am to 1pm. The parade starts at 1:30pm and is followed by the Fireman's Water Fights on Mains Street.

## Highway 56 Detour for Road Improvements South of West Concord

WEST CONCORD, Minn. – Motorists on Highway 56 between West Concord and Highway 14 are encountering detours as construction crews make road improvements, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Construction crews will be making concrete pavement repairs on Highway 56 from West Concord south to Highway 14 near Dodge Center. They will patch and replace damaged concrete panels or repair or seal joints.

The work takes time to remove the concrete, repair and wait for the concrete to cure or gain strength to hold vehicle traffic. The two-lane highway only has space for the repairs and construction equipment, so no through traffic is allowed. Residents will be able to reach their homes and businesses along the highway. Detour The roads will be closed to through traffic. Residents will be able to reach their homes and businesses but may have to use alternate routes at times. Work was scheduled to begin June 23 and be completed by mid-July, weather permitting. Highway 56 will be closed from Dodge County Road 34 to West Concord (Dodge County Road 24).

• Detour route: If going south, go east on Dodge County Road 24, south on Dodge County Road 7, east on Dodge County Road 20, south on Dodge County Road 7 to Dodge Center and west on Dodge County Road 34 to reach Highway 56

• If going north, take the above detour route in reverse. Additional project work To learn more about this project, go to MnDOT's web-



site where you can also sign up for email and text message updates. A map of the detour route is also included on a link at the website. This is part of a series of concrete pavement repairs occurring on state highways in south-east Minnesota from 2025 to 2026. Crews are wrapping up work on Highway 63 south of Spring Valley as they begin to move to Highway 56 next week. Work is also planned during 2025 at one more site:

• Highway 14 westbound east of Dodge Center. This work is planned after the Highway 56 work is completed. Westbound motorists will encounter lane closures, but no detours are planned. Stay connected, informed

• Check out upcoming MnDOT southeast Minnesota construction projects

## • MAKE SOME MEMORIES! •

### GRANDSTAND EVENTS NOTE NEW LINEUP!

- ★Bull Riding with Fireworks Following
- ★Stock Car Races
- ★Auto Cross Races
- ★Trailer Races
- ★Demolition Derby

### NEW ATTRACTIONS Commercial Vendors & Most New Attractions located in and around Ice Arena

- ★Pretty Bird Paradise
- ★Foam 'N Fun Zone
- ★2U Entertainment Gaming Trailer
- ★Booze 'N Tuna Band
- ★Magic Village
- ★Jolly Pops sponsored by Kasson Public Library

**DODGE CO.  
FREE FAIR**

**JULY 16 - 20**

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Celebrating 168 Years

### MORE FEATURE EVENTS

- ★4H & FFA Shows
- ★Speed Puzzle Contest Friday
- ★Kiddie Pedal Pull
- ★Ragtown Band
- ★JT & The Gunslingers Band
- ★Accentra Bean Bag Tournament Saturday
- ★Community Celebration Church Service

### OPEN CLASS BUILDING EXHIBITORS:

REGISTRATION MONDAY, JULY 14  
from 12:00 PM - 8:00 PM

**NEW! Online Registration available June 1**

### ATTENTION SENIORS:

**FREE LUNCH IN ICE ARENA - COMMERCIAL BUILDING**

Hot Dogs, Chips, Beans & Dessert

**Senior Day, Friday, July 18 at Noon.**

Please confirm attendance by Monday, July 14: 507-634-7736.

**Entertainment at 11:00 AM by Magic Village**

### ADVANCE RIDE TICKETS

**MEGA \$70 • SPECIAL ARM BAND \$25 • 6 RIDES \$20**

Tickets sold at local stores, the fair office and online at  
[www.dodgecountyfreefair.com](http://www.dodgecountyfreefair.com)

### TOWNSHIP SQUARE FEATURES:

**Fair Prince & Princess Contest**

Thursday, July 17 at 4:30 PM

**Minnesota State Amateur Talent Contest**

Saturday, July 19 at 12:30 PM

Registration starts at 12:00 PM

More information for both events on our website.



For complete schedules, entry forms and sponsorships, visit us at:

[www.dodgecountyfreefair.com](http://www.dodgecountyfreefair.com)



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More Berne Wood Fired Pizza Activities

(continued from page 1)

On Friday July 25th at 8:30am is coffee in the country and the Trivia Contest. Wednesday July 30th will be a Classic Car show and live music by Foster Grand and the Stella Vees.

Wednesday August 6th at 5pm is the Artisan Market Night and music by Vintage Tones and Six Mile Groove. On Friday August 8th it will be coffee in the country again where you

can learn to crochet and play bucket golf with live music by Nancy Tobiason Kramer. Wednesday August 13th will be live music starting at 5pm with Local Hooligans and Collective Unconscious, a CSN&Y tribute band. Friday August 22nd will be the last coffee in the country with a puzzle challenge and a trivia contest starting at 8:30am.

SURVIVAL DAYS 2025



Moms, Dads, and Grandparents

Send in a cute photo (no larger than 4x6) of son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter (Baby, parents, or grandparents must be West Concord residents.)

OPEN TO CHILDREN 0-36 MONTHS OLD as of 7/25/25

ALL PICTURES MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOON ON JULY 7, ALONG WITH ENTRY FORM AND \$5 FEE.

Email to: wntrbrz@hotmail.com or Mail to: Crystal Winter - 514 5th Street, West Concord, MN 55985 or drop off at Heritage Bank or City Hall

PLAN TO ATTEND THE ROYALTY PAGEANT AT LION'S PARK on Friday, July 25th at 6:30pm!



Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Address, Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted By (if other than parent)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Child \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

More details and additional forms at Heritage Bank and City Hall.

If you are planning to have a garage sale during Survival Days, contact Kim Jones at [jones.kim@frontier.com](mailto:jones.kim@frontier.com) or private message via Facebook.

Your ad will be placed in The Messenger paper for no charge, listed on the Survival Days Facebook page, and added to a list of all sales that will be available at City Hall. Deadline is July 11 to be included on the The Messenger listing.



Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Saturday, July 19 from 9-10am

Solito by Javier Zamora

Javier Zamora's adventure is a 3,000-mile journey from his small town in El Salvador, through Guatemala and Mexico, and across the U.S. border. He will leave behind his beloved aunt and grandparents to reunite with a mother who left four years ago and a father he barely remembers. Traveling alone amid a group of strangers and a "coyote" hired to lead them to safety, Javier expects his trip to last two short weeks.

At nine years old, all Javier can imagine is rushing into his parents' arms, snuggling in bed between them, and living under the same roof again. He cannot foresee the perilous boat trips, relentless desert treks, pointed guns, arrests and deceptions that await him; nor can he know that those two weeks will expand into two life-altering months alongside fellow migrants who will come to encircle him like an unexpected family.

A memoir as gripping as it is moving, Solito provides an immediate and intimate account not only of a treacherous and near-impossible journey, but also of the miraculous kindness and love delivered at the most unexpected moments. Solito is Javier Zamora's story, but it's also the story of millions of others who had no choice but to leave home.

Genre: Memoir, Nonfiction

First Published: September 2022, 384 pages (hardcover)



NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2025 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Survival Days Committee is seeking nominations for "2025 Citizen of the Year" This person does not need to live in the City of West Concord. He or she must have contributed to the West Concord Community.

Nominations are due by: Monday, July 7th, 2025, at 5:00 pm

Nomination forms and boxes can be found at West Concord City Hall, Casey's, and Heritage Bank. The Citizen of the year 2025 will be announced Friday, July 25th at the Miss West Concord Pageant to be held at Lion's Park at 6:30 pm.



# The Circus is Coming to Dennison



Thanks to the sponsorship of the Dennison Lions Club & Fireside Lounge, the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus is coming to Dennison, MN on Thursday, July 31st, to the lot across from the Dennison Lutheran Church located at 37514 3 Ave. with shows at 5:00 & 7:30 pm.

C&M Circus has been providing quality, local family entertainment for 40 years.

This authentic One-Ring, Big Top Circus has been featured on the A&E Special: Under the Big Top, Nick News: On the Road with Circus Kids and most recently OETA's Big Top Town.

This year, we're very excited to bring you our brand new 2025 performance featuring Big Cats presented by Trey Key, our Aerialist Extraordinaire Simone on the trapeze, the Perez Daredevil Duo on the Tight Rope and Wheel of Destiny, the high energy Macias family hand and foot juggling, and everyone's

favorite Circus Clown Leo Acton.

## Circus Day Schedule

### 9:30 a.m. - Tent Raising & Tour

Everyone is invited to watch the Big Top rise! You'll also get a chance to tour the grounds and get a behind-the-scenes look at our show! Learn about life on the road and the care our animals receive.

### 4:00 p.m. - Midway Opens

Pony Rides, Moon Bounce, Giant Slide, Face Painting, Concession Stand and Box Office open up for some extra fun!

### 5:00 & 7:30 - Circus Performance

Get ready for an amazing show the whole family will love! Each show lasts about 90 minutes.

## Tickets

### Advance Tickets Prices

Adult Ticket - \$13 Child (2-12) or Senior (65+) - \$8 Advance tickets can be purchased BEFORE Circus Day from these locations:

**Heritage Bank - Dennison**

**Dennison Depot**

**Fireside Lounge & Supper Club**

**Parkside General Store - Nerstrand**

A higher percentage of advance tickets goes back to the sponsor, meaning more money-back into your community! You'll also save money and can skip the lines at the box office!

### Box Office Prices

Adult Ticket - \$16 Child (2-12) or Senior (65+) - \$9 Box office tickets go on sale at the Circus grounds starting one hour before each show.



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One  
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# DENNISON

★ Thursday, July 31 ★

Across from Dennison Lutheran Church - 37514 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

**Showtimes: 5:00 & 7:30 pm**

**Sponsored by: Dennison Lions Club & Fireside Lounge**

Advance Adult - \$13  
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Circus Day Adult - \$16  
Circus Day Child/Senior - \$9

Get Tickets

Buy before circus day at...

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Courageous  
Listening



By Benya Kraus  
President & CEO Southern  
Minnesota Initiative Foundation

My Grandma Vivan Zimmerman was one of Tim Penny’s earliest and most emphatic supporters during his initial run for Congress – so much so that she convinced my Grandpa Jim, an active member of Waseca County’s Republican Party, to vote for Tim despite the “D” behind his name.

This traversing across political identities seems almost miraculous in today’s eyes. But I am told that it was Tim’s willingness to listen, his commitment to knock on the doors of every house in the district, to see national problems with the specificity of a local context, that won my Grandpa over. Tim brought these virtues to his role as President of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) for nearly two decades. As I now step into the role of the next SMIF president, I can’t help

but feel my Grandma’s pride and hopefulness that I, too, may carry forward Tim’s legacy of service and courageous listening.

It is a courageous thing to listen.

In light of the recent acts of violence that have shaken our state, I’ve found myself reflecting on what it means to truly listen — especially in difficult, divided, and uncertain times. These moments test our belief in the goodness of our neighbors and the strength of the communities we call home. And yet, I come to my first week in my new role with a deep sense of gratitude and knowing that this spirit of connection and care still defines who the vast majority of Minnesotans are — thanks in large part to the civic institutions, like SMIF, that model the virtues of empathy, trust and shared responsibility. Our work to foster belonging across our programs and region feels all the more urgent. I’m grateful to step into this role with all of you, to live out our values more boldly, and to keep listening — one of the most powerful tools we have to build community — as we move forward together.

Listening requires us to temporarily suspend our own judgments and ways of thinking of the world, in order to make space for another’s story to take shape in our mind — and potentially, to take hold of our heart. We may find that when we listen, we see problems and uncover new solutions we didn’t see earlier. Or maybe we listen, and the stories we hear don’t change our minds at all and instead, give us a perspective on why others may see things differently. However, sometimes when we really listen, we are called to hold two opposite things true at the same

time. Living in paradox runs almost counter to the very human, biological desire to sort and categorize the world around us.

Yet, I am no stranger to paradox.

For one, I am both native and newcomer. I was born in Bangkok, Thailand where I spent most of my childhood and high school years, but I also enjoyed summers on the family farm in Waseca County, where my dad’s side of the family has farmed for six generations. As the daughter of a first-generation Thai immigrant and a blonde-hair, blue-eyed Minnesota farm boy, I’ve had the gift of seeing southern Minnesota through the eyes of both parents. Since moving back six years ago, I feel connected to a family history tied to this prairie land, yet still miss the taste of lemon-grass and scent of jasmine flowers from my childhood home.

I am a social entrepreneur who co-founded a national nonprofit that encourages young people to return to their rural hometowns, embracing fresh perspectives and new ways of building community. And yet, I’m also a Rotarian and a Catholic who loves tradition and the wisdom found in faith institutions and having friendships with people older than me. I’m a humanities student who also earned her master’s in business administration, energized by private sector solutions while also attentive to community needs that arise from market failures. I worked to redirect national philanthropy toward rural America, and also believe that the most innovative investment strategies are forged at the local level.

Living in paradox takes courage because very often, you don’t feel “enough” of either identity. And when one part of myself gets

territorial of the other, it takes courage to remind myself that all the parts of me need each other.

I believe this is true for us as a region, too. We need all of each other.

At SMIF, we are a funder, convener and capacity builder for southern Minnesota. Our issue areas focus on Entrepreneurship, Early Childhood Education, and Community Vitality — and while almost all of us can agree that these are important factors for a thriving community, we likely have different, perhaps paradoxical, ideas on how to get there. Rather than see paradox as a peril, I see it as a promise. It is a promise to listen deeply and courageously, to build a region that is resilient because of its dynamism and diversity, to strive for a culture that balances the needs between old and young, newcomer and native, private and public, small and large.

In my first 100 days in this role, I’ll be hitting the road to every corner of our region, eager to listen with the same courage and persistence as my predecessor, Tim Penny. I look forward to hearing your stories and weaving together the paradoxes of our region as we craft a shared path, and shared identity of who we are, together.

I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at [benyak@smifoundation.org](mailto:benyak@smifoundation.org) or 507-455-3215.

*About Benya Kraus*

Benya Kraus is the President & CEO of Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation. Benya is the co-founder of Lead for America and served as the Network Advancement Director at Resource Rural.

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## Celebrate Independence Day Safely

Celebrate safely and responsibly this July 4th. Whether you are hosting friends, attending community celebrations, traveling or enjoying fireworks, safety should be a top priority.

**Fireworks safety:** Fireworks are a leading cause of injury every July. Leave fireworks to the professionals and attend a public fireworks display, rather than lighting off your own. If you choose to use consumer fireworks, never allow young children to handle fireworks – even sparklers can cause serious burns. Always have water or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of an accident or fire, light one firework at a time and move away quickly and never try to relight a “dud.”

**Grilling safety:** If cooking outdoors, keep grills away from structures, such as your



house and deck. Never leave the grill unattended and keep children and pets away.

**Travel safety:** During the holiday, there will be more people on the roadways. Remember to buckle up and keep your hands on the wheel and your eyes on the road. Don't drink or use impairing substances and drive, and make a plan for a safe ride home. As always, put the cell phone down and keep a watchful eye out for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorcycles.

**Water safety:** Many families enjoy time in

our lakes or the pool. Remember – adult supervision at all times when children are near the water, always swim with a buddy, and use personal floatation devices for inexperienced or non-swimmers.

**Pet safety:** Loud noises and the flashing of fireworks can be distressing to pets – keep pets indoors in a quiet safe space and ensure that your pet wears identification in case they get lost.

Have a safe and happy Fourth of July!



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*\*Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger*

## To the Editor:

### Big Ag's corporate culture of indifference has been years in the making Here's how it played out in Minnesota

A corporate culture of indifference permeates America. A crash earlier this month that resulted in the death of 43 dead pigs near our family farm in Dodge County, Minnesota is illustrative of this indifference. Disposal of the dead pigs was easy. Within hours, the euthanized pigs were added to dead boxes or composting stations in area swine factory farms, heaped a little higher with pig piles of dead pigs.

Years of corporate conditioning has created this culture of indifference. Thanks to decades of corporate propaganda, a corporate culture of indifference encourages farmers to look away, as thousands of small farmers are forced out of business. In the transition to a corporate nation, multinational giants such as Hormel, JBS, Smithfield, Tyson and others, have created a closed system that is only open to those farmers willing to construct a factory farm to industry specifications. Only those farmers who construct a large industrial facility capable of holding several thousand animals are given access to the corporate marketplace. Tethered to multinational corporations through a series of contracts, multinational corporations have successfully created a corporate network of contract growers that extends deep within America's rural areas. In the wake of this fundamental change, thousands of independent farmers and farm families have been forced off the land.

Twenty years ago, as my family and other neighbors fought installation of the largest factory farm in the State of Minnesota at the time, the Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation published a pamphlet titled "When an Activist Group Comes to Town: Protecting Your Community from Unwanted Division." The surprisingly detailed guide purports to offer advice to "local governments and communities in addressing controversies caused by rural economic development." In reality, the publication addresses only one type of rural development—industrial-size animal feedlots aka "factory farms." Their own corporate propaganda acknowledges that factory farms (referred to as "expanded farms" by the industry) are often blamed for driving 'family'

farmers out of business."

"When an Activist Group Comes to Town" characterizes those who oppose factory farms as "activists," a reference to farm families like mine who have been on the land for generations, and "outside special interests," a subtle reference to the Land Stewardship Project (LSP), a Minnesota nonprofit that works with communities to promote sustainable agriculture. Fighting installation of corporate factory farms next to intergenerational family farms, LSP became increasingly involved in legal battles as residents faced off against multinational corporate giants, industry lobbyists and corporate attorneys.

As corporate agriculture strips wealth from rural communities, a corporate culture of indifference turns a blind eye to the environmental impact of corporate factory farms—thrift of groundwater resources by water-intensive industrial operations, contamination of waterways with high nitrates and other pollutants, and pollution of the air with dangerous methane, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide and other dangerous emissions which contribute to climate change. To those involved in this abusive form of corporate agriculture, it's just the "smell of money."

The corporate culture of indifference also extends to immigrant laborers. As a child, our closest neighbors were migrant workers living in neighboring migrant camps. Each summer, migrant families from Mexico traveled to Minnesota to pick asparagus and other vegetables. My parents never hid my siblings and me from the corporate injustices plaguing rural communities, as we observed the crude living conditions—cement block huts with no air conditioning, no bathroom, no stove, and no oven. A gang bathroom provided toilets and shower facilities for the nearly 200 migrant workers and their children, while a single hot plate heated food for families living inside these crude facilities.

Under today's system of corporate agriculture, the seasonal migrant workers of my youth have graduated to low-paying year-round positions working inside corporate factory farms and meat processing plants operated by multinational giants. For decades, these giants and their corporate pawns have lured immigrant laborers seeking a better life into rural areas, serving as the foundation of corporate agriculture.

This fundamental change to the makeup of rural communities has not gone unnoticed by

rural residents. Industry propaganda such as "When an Activist Group Comes to Town" initially referred to pushback by community members as "racism," and as a "major argument used to create opposition to expanding farms," as "they will employ non-English speaking people and thus strain local school districts and bring increased crime to communities. The assumption that the addition of immigrants who do not speak English will bring crime to communities is racist and unsupported by research and experience. Fear of different cultures is at the heart of racism."

Yet, today's corporate rhetoric targets immigrant laborers working inside corporate factory farms and corporate meat processing facilities—the very same laborers ushered into rural areas by multinational giants. With threats of deportation, this is nothing more than a corporate power play to instill fear in today's immigrant laborers.

In order to promote the corporate agenda, groups such as the Republican-aligned Farm Bureau help to promote corporate policy. Farm Bureau members are encouraged to run for public office, not to promote our democracy, but to further the corporate agenda and protect their own corporate interests. "When an Activist Group Comes to Town" encourages proponents of modern agriculture aka corporate agriculture to "work to create a 'farm-friendly' environment in your county and township." More specifically, it instructs them to "vote for and support pro-agriculture candidates for county commissioner and township officer. Actively recruit farmers to serve as elected officials, and don't be afraid

to take your turn serving as a township supervisor.

Work with your farm groups to educate local elected officials about modern agriculture. Make sure farmers are represented in land use planning discussions in your county . . . Be there to support other farmers in your community as they apply for a permit for a new or expanded facility."

This culture of corporate indifference has consequences. Today's rural Americans stand among the ashes of hometowns ravaged by corporate giants, crushed by the corporate intruder.

Corporate agriculture has not only destroyed the rural spirit and harmony of living as one with the land but of living with one another as well. The gloomy shadow of corporate factory farms evaporates friendships, corporatizes the food system, annihilates independent farmers, breaks the animals' connection to the land, and shatters the joys that make up rural life.

In this culture of corporate indifference, trouble is brewing in rural America that is now evident on a national level: the ideological divides, the emboldened racism, the hate and rancor. In this cruel atmosphere of indifference, we will eventually discover that we need one another.

For further inquiries contact:

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## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol



**Question: I heard something about kids needing to ride in the back seat if possible. What is the age on that?**

Answer: Back on August 1, 2024 there were new car seat guidelines put in place along with this. The back seat is the safest place in most vehicles. Children under 13 must ride in the back if it is available.

- Children under 2 years of age must ride in a rear-facing car seat until they reach the weight or height limit of the car seat. If they are too heavy or too tall for the car seat, they must switch to a front-facing car seat. Once they turn 2 years old, if they are under both the height and weight limits, they must stay in the rear-facing car seat until they are too tall or heavy for the seat.

- Children older than 2 who exceed the rear-facing height or weight limit of the car seat must sit in a forward-facing car seat until they reach the height or weight limit (typically 40-60 pounds, depending on the manufacturer).

- A child from 4 to 9 years old must use a booster seat and be secured with a safety belt if they are too tall or too heavy for the car seat.

- When a child is 9 years old, or they exceed

the weight or height limit of the booster seat, they must sit without the booster and be secured with a seat belt.

**Question: I thought I heard something about a new law in regards to caretaker information included on driver's license or identification card record. Do you have any information on this?**

Answer: You can now use your Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) records to let law enforcement know if you're the caretaker for someone else. That way, if you are involved in a crash, law enforcement officers will know that there is someone at home who depends on you. They can quickly respond and ensure that the people you care for are not left alone. The new law gives you reassurance that your loved ones will be taken care of if something happens, reducing your anxiety and stress about leaving them alone.

**Question: I was just talking with someone the other day and they mentioned there is an age requirement for operating an "e-bike." Can you get me more information on this?**

Answer: When it comes to E-bikes, a driver's license or permit is not required. However, the minimum operator age is 15 years old. E-bikes are primarily regulated in the same manner as bicycles and nearly all bicycle laws apply.

Riding a bike, walking or using a wheelchair on your neighborhood sidewalks can be a safe and convenient way to get around, but only if everyone follows the laws. Whether you are on the sidewalk or driving near a bicyclist or pedestrian, always be aware of your surroundings and keep the state laws in mind.

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



Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Troy Christianson –

Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.

## Slow Down, Pay Attention. Do it for Them.

The Minnesota Network of Employers for Traffic Safety (MN NETS), Minnesota Safety Council and State Farm are calling on drivers to think of the lasting consequences of risky driving behavior. Their newest statewide campaign "Slow Down. Pay Attention. Your Driving Matters. Do It for Me" encourages all of us to think about the real, lasting impact of our driving choices — not just for ourselves, but for the people who care about us most.

**The campaign includes:**

- Two new videos highlighting everyday distracted driving risks.

- Shareable social media messages.

- 5-Minutes for Safety talks and workplace reminders.

- Fact sheets and conversation starters for families and coworkers.

Let's be the example, both at work and on the road. Together, we can protect one another, reduce crashes, support a culture of safe, intentional driving, and drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



## Know the Sign. Save a Life.

Trains can't stop quickly. A freight train going 55 mph can take a mile or more to come to a full stop — that's the length of 18 football fields. In Minnesota, from 2020 to 2024, there were 178 rail crossing incidents resulting in 12 deaths and 58 injuries — most of which could have been prevented.

Emergency Notification System (ENS) Sign Awareness Day! The campaign is dedicated to shining a spotlight on the lifesaving importance of the Blue and White ENS Signs posted at railroad crossings. The ENS signs provide a phone number and location information needed to quickly report emergencies or safety concerns around tracks and trains directly to the railroad. These signs can help you save a life, but only if you know where to find them and how to use them.

**As a safety refresher, here are key tips:**

- Always expect a train. Trains can come at any time from either direction.

- Slow down, look both ways, and listen. Don't rely only on signals.

- Never stop on the tracks. Make sure there's space to fully cross.

- Obey all signs, signals, and gates. Never try to beat a train or drive around lowered gates.

- At multiple tracks, check each direction. Another train may be coming.

- If your vehicle stalls on the tracks, exit immediately and move away in the direction the train is coming from. Look for the blue Emergency Notification System (ENS) sign or call 911.

- Stay alert, stay safe to help prevent crashes before they happen. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



## Keep Grass Off the Road. Keep Riders Safe!

Yard work season is in full swing, and as we fire up our mowers and tidy up our lawns, it is important to keep in mind that grass clippings on the road can be deadly for motorcyclists. Even when they look dry, grass clippings are still about 85% water, making them as slick as ice. Add a little rain, and they become even more dangerous, especially on curves or during sudden stops.

**Preventing this is simple:**

- Mow with intention: Make your last pass the one closest to the street, so clippings stay on your lawn.

- Aim wisely: Position your mower to blow clippings back into the yard. They naturally fertilize and hydrate your lawn as they decompose, so it's a bonus!

- Most people don't intend to create a dangerous situation, so with a little extra care, we can make our roads safer for everyone during motorcycle season.

- Thanks for doing your part as we work together to move Minnesota toward zero deaths.





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SHOW!  
Dusk**

# CANNON VALLEY FAIR ★ JULY 3-6, 2025

## Cannon Falls, Minnesota

### 2025 SCHEDULE

#### June 28th

9 am-5pm 4H, FFA & WSCA Open Horse Show – Horse Arena

#### July 2nd – ENTRY DAY

2-7 pm – Open Class Exhibit Building Entry  
2-7 pm – 4 H Building Exhibit Entry and Judging

#### July 3 – KIDS DAY

9 am – 5 pm – Livestock Entry  
9 am – 12:30 – Girl Scouts Art Project – LEGION PAVILION  
10 am – Goodhue County Commissioners Meeting – PAVILION  
10 am – Noon – Wanda the Clown – STROLLING THE GROUNDS  
11 am – 11:30 am – Zeko & Vito Show – FREE STAGE  
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – All Day Wristband Special  
1 pm – 3 PM – Wanda the Clown – STROLLING THE GROUNDS  
1:30 PM – 2 pm – Zeko & Vito Show – FREE STAGE  
2 pm – DEMO DERBY Pit Gates Open  
3 – 5 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Market Sheep Show Weigh-In and Check-In  
6 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Market Sheep Show  
**6 pm – DEMO DERBY Starts**  
**9:00 – Midnight – THE BOOZE CRUIZERS – FREE STAGE**

#### July 4th – VETERAN & SENIOR CITIZEN DAY – FREE GROUNDS ADMISSION DAY!

11 am – Grande Day Parade Starts  
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – All Day Wristband Special  
2 pm – Harness Horse Racing – GRANDSTAND – FREE Admission  
3 pm – 4-H Dog Project Demonstration – ARENA  
**8:30 – Midnight – CURSED BY LIGHTNING – FREE STAGE**  
**Dusk—Fireworks Show**

#### July 5th

8:30 am – 4-H & FFA Dairy Show – ARENA  
10 am – 4-H & FFA Goat Show – SHEEP ARENA  
10:30 am – 11:30 am – Dr. Street Magician – STROLLING THE GROUNDS  
11 am – 1 pm – Caricatures by Jen – PAVILION  
Noon – DR.Street Magic Show – FREE STAGE  
Noon – District VI Holstein Show  
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – All Day Wristband Special  
1 pm – Auto Cross Pit Gate Opens  
2 pm – 3 pm – Dr. Street Magician – STROLLING THE GROUNDS  
2 pm – 4 pm – Caricatures by Jen – PAVILION  
3 pm – 6 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Beef Check-In and Weigh-In  
3:30 pm – DR.Street Magic Show – FREE STAGE  
**5 pm Auto Cross Starts – GRANDSTAND**  
6 pm – 4-H & FFA Beef Show – ARENA  
7 pm – Cannon Valley Youth Jackpot Beef Show  
**8:30 – Midnight – THE DAD'S BAND – FREE STAGE**

#### July 6th

9 am – 4-H & FFA Sheep Show followed by Open Class Sheep Show – SHEEP ARENA  
10 am – 4-H & FFA Rabbit Show followed by 4-H & FFA Poultry Show  
11 am Auto Cross Pit Gate Opens  
1 pm-11 pm – Gold Star Amusements OPEN – All Day Wristband Special  
2 pm – 4-H Demonstrations – 4-H BUILDING  
**3 pm – Auto Cross Starts- GRANDSTAND**  
6 – 8 pm – Livestock Released & Building Exhibits Released  
**7 pm – 10 pm – Mark Perkins – FREE STAGE**

Admission to the fairgrounds is  
\$7.00 per person daily  
(5 and under Free)  
or Season Pass  
available  
for \$15.00.

**PARKING  
IS  
FREE!**

Demo  
Derby &  
Auto Cross grandstand admission  
per event is \$15.00 per person  
or \$5.00 for those under  
12 years  
and under.  
Pit Pass is available  
for \$25.00.

Harness Racing  
GRANDSTAND  
Admission  
is FREE.

### AUTO CROSS

#### SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JULY 5 & 6

Pit gate open at 11:00  
Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 1:30 P.M.

- Compact Car 4 cyl
- Compact Car 4 cyl AWD
- Mid Size Car 6 cyl
- Mid Size Car 6 cyl Powder Puff
- Mini Vans
- Full Size Car
- Full Size Car Front Wheel Drive
- Full Size Car Rear Wheel Drive
- Compact Truck/SUV No V8
- Compact Truck/SUV V8
- Full Size Truck 2x4
- Full Size Truck 4x4



ADULTS: \$15 – CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 • PIT PASS: \$25  
For rules and regulations go to: [www.cannonvalleyfair.org](http://www.cannonvalleyfair.org)

#### SATURDAY JULY 5 SUNDAY, JULY 6



Mark Perkins

### DEMOLITION DERBY

#### THURSDAY, JULY 3 – 6 PM

Pit gate open at 2:00 P.M.  
Grandstand Ticket Gates Open 3:00 P.M.

- Mega Stock Mid Size Car (Youth)
- Mega Stock Mid Size Car (Adult)
- Mega Stock Mini's
- Mega Stock 80's & Newer
- Mega Stock Full Size Truck
- Limited Weld Mid Size Car
- Limited Weld Mini's
- Limited Weld Full Size Car
- Limited Weld Full Size Truck



ADULTS: \$15 – CHILDREN 12 & UNDER, \$5 • PIT PASS: \$25  
For rules and regulations go to: [www.cannonvalleyfair.org](http://www.cannonvalleyfair.org)

### HARNESS HORSE RACING

#### FRIDAY, JULY 4 – 2 PM



**Fireworks**  
July 4 – Dusk

8:30 PM – Midnight

FREE ADMISSION & FREE PROGRAMS

**WWW.CANNONVALLEYFAIR.ORG**




# Legal Notices

July 2, 2025

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD MESSENGER -

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## 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.

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



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

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](http://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)

### DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES

#### Monday, June 9, 2025

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of the June 9, 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](http://www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us).

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Gary Trelstad, Cathy Skogen, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, Meredith Brose, Jeremy Dostal, John Fox, Vanessa Hines, Isaac Gronseth, Tyler Vermeersch, Jeff Brion and Kathy Freeman.

Absent:

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda to include: Minutes from May 12, 2025 City Council Meeting; May 19, 2025 Special Council Meeting, May 27, 2025 Special Council Meeting, April 8, 2025 HRA Meeting, Hiring of Jason Anderson – Paid-On-Call Paramedic, Hiring of Quinn Short, Lifeguard and Payment of Bills;
- Commence abatement of property located at 606 5th St NE. Owner has until 5:00 p.m. on June 23, 2025 to bring property up to code at which time the property will be abated;
- Commence abatement of property located at 213 2nd St SE. Owner has until 5:00 p.m. on June 23, 2025 to bring property up to code at which time the property will be abated;
- Commence abatement of property located at 18 1st Ave NE. Owner has until 5:00 p.m. on June 23, 2025 to bring property up to code at which time the property will be abated
- Test air quality in the area of Freerksen Trucking at a cost of approximately \$8,000;
- Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$5,218.50 and the cost of a plug for work on the 2025 Road Improvement Project;
- Council pledging \$100 for each employee satisfying the City's annual Wellness Bingo activity.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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[www.iconicfest.com](http://www.iconicfest.com)

### Friday, July 11



Rumbleseat 7:00 PM



Diamond Rio 9:00 PM

### Saturday, July 12



Noah Alexander Music 3:00 PM



Leavin' Page Town 5:00 PM



The Bellamy Brothers 9:00 PM

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