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JUNE 4, 2026

Volume 11 • Issue 22

A summer staple



By Jocelyn Aldrich

For several generations, Ginny's Drive-In has been a staple in the West Concord community. Known for their amazing burgers and tasty ice cream, Ginny's has been serving the West Concord community since May of 1980. For many in the West Concord area, summer just isn't "summer" until Ginny's Drive-In is open for business.

Virginia "Ginny" and Bob Sendle founded Ginny's Drive-In. Ginny was a mother, wife, and the office manager at the West Concord Enterprise. Bob was the West Concord Police Chief. Ginny's Drive-In began because the Sendle family recognized that the nearest drive-in restaurant was 10 miles away.

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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.

(continued on page 2)

Base for the Future

By Tyler Weeks

Sweat drips down your face as you stand poised at the batter's box. The culprit: a summer sun blazing overhead. Dirt coats your uniform—signs of the many innings you and your team have already played. Despite your fatigue, the electric cheers of the crowd are enough fuel for you to grit your teeth, dig your feet into the ground, and clutch the bat in anticipation of the underhand pitch flying your way. These descriptions may seem foreign to the average reader, but members of the Triton Youth Fastpitch Softball Association, better known as TYFSA, experience this on a weekly basis. When Tom Bond

began the non-profit Venom Softball team in 2011, it was a way for young ladies and their parents in West Concord, Dodge Center, and Claremont to root themselves in the sport. Since then, hundreds of youths have improved their skills, built quality sportsmanship, and used the healthy environment to grow on and off the pitch. Longtime supporter and treasurer Chris Pluto can attest to these developments firsthand.

Chris Pluto: "TYFSA provides a safe place for young ladies to be part of an organization that promotes community and engagement with other communities. We have been doing tournaments for years and created events that



we are proud of. The feedback has been positive, too, bringing fields, dugouts, scoreboards, and support."

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1st Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Event a Success



The Dodge County Sheriff's Office Chaplains would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who supported our 1st Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Event on March 21st. Because of your incredible generosity, we were able to donate \$34,000 to the Dodge County Sheriff's Office to help update and enhance their drone program.

These upgraded drone capabilities will assist deputies and emergency responders with search and rescue operations, critical incidents, disaster response, crime scene documentation, and public safety missions throughout Dodge County.

This event would not have been nearly as successful without the tremendous support of our local businesses, sponsors, volunteers, entertainers, and community members who stepped up to support law enforcement and public safety in Dodge County. Your generosity and partnership truly made this possible.

A very special thank you to Angie and Sean Malloy at The Studio for all of the hard work, time, and dedication they put into organizing and supporting this event. Also a big thank you to Dale Gruber and Heath Loy who approached us with the idea to begin with and put in many hours and miles helping with planning and promoting. We are incredibly grateful for your commitment to our community and local law enforcement.

(continued on page 5)

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Difficulties of the Secret Place



By Ashley Dudek,
founder of Isaiah Ministries, bringing
Biblical teaching to help overcome
life's everyday challenges.
www.isaiahministries.cc

Emotions got the best of me, yet again.
Thoughts that I do not want echo in my mind

Announcements

- **GriefShare support group meets Monday nights, 6:30 -8:30 pm, at Anchor of Hope Church, 203 East Main Street, Dodge Center.** Contact retired pastor Dale E. Rood at 507-633-2772 for more information. Registration is available on the GriefShare website or by calling Pastor Rood, or just by coming. This is for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives.
- **Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran Church in Dodge Center June 15-19 from 1-3p.m. each day. All are invited to come. 507-633-2253.**

Do you have an announcement?
Email:
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repeatedly. Rumination has reared its ugly head. Annoyed eyes. Loose words spilling out. Jealousy. Comparing. Lost temper with hubby. Angry with self. These are just a few ways I am messy. The greatest thing for me to do in the midst of these “messes” is to go to the Secret Place, but at times that is easier said than done.

The best things for us can sometimes be the hardest things to do. The last two months I have discussed the topic of the Secret Place and the benefits of it. If you missed those articles or want a quick review, here you go:

The Secret Place is partially your one-on-one time with Jesus, with your Bible and perhaps journal out, and at a much deeper level, it is a life that remains in the hiddenness of the Lord. It means you dwell, abide, and stay in all of Jesus’s promises, truths, direction, and love for you—no matter what. You talk to Him at your inner core, and you do not stop.

The benefits of the Secret Place are limitless! A few of them include working through conflict, overcoming fear, healing from trauma, and learning the Father’s love. Last month we discussed how the Lord can guide, speak to, and protect us in the Secret Place as well.

Even though the Secret Place is the best thing for us, guess what? It can be one of the hardest things to actually enter into and stay in. There are numerous reasons why the Secret Place can be difficult, such as distractions, emotional or physical pain, lack of motivation, not feeling the Lord, not knowing what to say or do with Jesus, not being sure how to read the Bible, depression, or as al-

luded to earlier, feeling too messy to enter into the presence of the Lord.

In this article and the articles to come, I am going to address various difficulties of the Secret Place and some solutions around them. Go grab a cup of joe or some tea, and if you feel a little too messy for Jesus, by the time you are done with this article, you will have realized you are not, and I bet you will even be motivated to go talk to the big guy upstairs!

Some may feel that they have messed up so badly they cannot enter into conversation with Jesus.

Oh, my friend, if you believe this, you are mistaken. The Lord will take you in no matter what you have done. Did you know that the majority of the Bible is written about and even by people that messed up? That is right, A LOT of the people in the Bible screwed up—and screwed up bad!

I will give you one scenario of a man named David. David made an “oopsies” by committing adultery. Then he had the husband of the woman he committed adultery with killed. Yep. You can read the full story in 2 Samuel 11–12. What is amazing, though, is that he repented (see Psalm 51) and was known as a man after God’s heart (see Acts 13:22). He was a man after God’s heart not based on performance (things he did or did not do) but because of his personal relationship and adoration with God. Another person in the Bible that made some pretty big errors was Paul. Prior to Paul becoming a follower of Jesus, he even persecuted Christians!

Studying about these men’s lives could be a

good thing to do in the Secret Place and will probably make you not feel so bad about the things you have done wrong. Neither of these men let their identity fall under their “mess-ups,” but they knew they were sons of God and were loved by Him; therefore, they talked to the Lord and kept talking to Him. They remained in the Secret Place.

If you believe that you are too messed-up to spend time in the presence of the Lord, that is one FAT LIE from the enemy. I think this verse might help you out a little too. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

As you read 1 John 1:9 above, do you see the word all? That means no matter what you have done or said, if you repent, you are forgiven! Don’t let shame keep you away. Come out from the bushes as Adam and Eve did, and let Father God clothe you with love and compassion. Understand your identity in Him and remain hidden in those truths.

Perhaps you are asking yourself, “But what if I am in the midst of making mistakes, sinning, and messing up?” The same principle holds true: go running to the Lord in the midst of the screwups. Any good parent would want their child to go to them when they are struggling, right?! What makes our heavenly Father any different? Again, do not let shame keep you away. Go talk to Jesus about whatever it is you’re struggling with. Ask Him the roots to why you are doing what you are doing, strategy to overcome it, and strength in the midst of it.

(continued on page 3)

Area Church Directory

Fight the Good Mental Fight

I delight in God's law; but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin. . . . — Romans 7:22-23

It is hard to overstate how much our minds are like battlefields. This is true for all believers in Christ, including the apostle Paul, who describes his own struggles in our text for today.

In this passage Paul says that one set of thoughts in his mind is turned toward God and aims to do good. The other set of thoughts, however, is turned toward evil and wants to sin. Paul thanks God in Christ that he is indeed saved. But in the very next verse he recognizes that he is still of two minds; he is a slave to God’s law at the same time that he is a slave to sin. In verse 24 Paul seems to despair of living in this sort of spiritual duplicity. “What a wretched man I am!” he says.

In this way Paul expresses the frustrating way the Christian life goes—we are pulled one way and tugged the other by opposing powers within us. Though we are truly and irrevocably saved through the blood of Jesus Christ, we are at the same time slaves to our sinful old selves.

Thus we are in constant battle. Who will rule our heart and mind today? Who will rule our thinking about our work, marriage, or politics? The inner thoughts that we barely even notice may really be spiritual combat.

Though the battle rages on, we can ultimately say, with Paul, “Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!”

O God, you have freed us from the curse of sin and death. But we need your power in our minds each day. Guide us to live by your Spirit. Amen.

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www.fccwc.org
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

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Trinity Lutheran, ELCA

301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
[TrinityLutheranChurchWestConcordMN](https://www.facebook.com/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
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concordchurchcmm.com

Zwingli United Church of Christ

“The Berne Church”
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Email your church announcements,
schedule, etc. to the The Messenger at:
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Difficulties
of the
Secret Place

(continued from page 2)

Another comforting verse to help you not feel so alone is “For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not

practice; but what I hate, that I do” (Romans 7:15).
Solution:
• If you have repented for your sins, know YOU ARE FORGIVEN!
• If you have sinned and not yet repented, then I would suggest you do. Remember, in a nutshell, repenting is telling the Lord you are sorry, and turning away from whatever it is you did.
• If you feel shame or guilt, I would recommend looking up various verses on forgiveness. Read them over and over. Renew your mind to the fact that you are clean. Yes, YOU

ARE CLEAN. What a beautiful gift! You can look up verses by doing a simple internet search or even looking in the back of your Bible at the concordance (most Bibles have this). I’ll get the ball rolling by giving you a few Scriptures on forgiveness right now that you can go look up: Isaiah 1:18, Psalm 86:5, and Colossians 1:13–14. Understand that condemnation is not of God either. Here are a couple verses around this topic as well: Romans 8:1 and 1 John 3:20.
4. If you are still feeling stuck in shame or guilt, I would also encourage you to talk with the Lord about these feelings. Sit down, go for a walk or a drive, or whatever it is, and pour out your heart to Him. The other day I messed up bad. Like if it was a test, I would

have gotten an F minus. I would have been so embarrassed if anyone heard how I spoke to and treated my husband. Geez! I was completely in the wrong. I felt so ashamed and was starting to spiral down into that dark pit of self-anger and even depression. Therefore, I went to the Lord and we talked about it. All of my anger “toward my husband” was not even about him. It was rooted in trauma from my past, not feeling physically good, my cup being drained, and what I believe to have been some spiritual warfare too. Talking with the Lord is so good. There is a reason why I did what I did. There is a reason why you did what you did or are doing what you are doing; the Lord will show it to you. He will do this with kindness and love; you need to just give Him a chance.
5. Understand your identity in Christ. You are NOT YOUR MISTAKES. You are a child of God, redeemed, strong, and a conqueror! You can look up verses on identity in Christ by doing a simple internet search as well. The first part of the book of Ephesians is loaded with them.
You are NOT too messy for Jesus. I promise. You are loved. — Ashley



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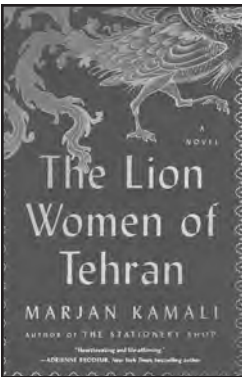
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Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library
Saturday, June 6 from 9am-10am

The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali

In 1950s Tehran, seven-year-old Ellie lives in grand comfort until the untimely death of her father, forcing Ellie and her mother to move to a tiny home downtown. Lonely and bearing the brunt of her mother’s endless grievances, Ellie dreams for a friend to alleviate her isolation.
Luckily, on the first day of school, she meets Homa, a kind girl with a brave and irrepressible spirit. Together, the two girls play games, learn to cook in the stone kitchen of Homa’s warm home, wander through the colorful stalls of the Grand Bazaar, and share their ambitions of becoming “lion women.”
But their happiness is disrupted when Ellie and her mother are afforded the opportunity to return to their previous bourgeois life. Now a popular student at the best girls’ high school in Iran, Ellie’s memories of Homa begin to fade. Years later, however, her sudden reappearance in Ellie’s privileged world alters the course of both of their lives.
Together, the two young women come of age and pursue their own goals for meaningful futures. But as the political turmoil in Iran builds to a breaking point, one earth-shattering betrayal will have enormous consequences.
Genre: Historical Fiction, First Published: July 2024, Pages 327 (Hardcover)



Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library
Wednesday, June 17 from 1-2pm

The Housemaid by Freida McFadden
Book #1 in The Housemaid Series

Every day I clean the Winchesters’ beautiful house top to bottom. I collect their daughter from school. And I cook a delicious meal for the whole family before heading up to eat alone in my tiny room on the top floor.
I try to ignore how Nina makes a mess just to watch me clean it up. How she tells strange lies about her own daughter. And how her husband Andrew seems more broken every day. But as I look into Andrew’s handsome brown eyes, so full of pain, it’s hard not to imagine what it would be like to live Nina’s life. The walk-in closet, the fancy car, the perfect husband.
I only try on one of Nina’s pristine white dresses once. Just to see what it’s like. But she soon finds out... and by the time I realize my attic bedroom door only locks from the outside, it’s far too late.
But I reassure myself: the Winchesters don’t know who I really am. They don’t know what I’m capable of...
Genre: Mystery/Thriller, First Published: August 2022, 336 pages (paperback)



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Evonne Mae Carlson

It is with both sadness and celebration that we announce the passing of Evonne Mae Carlson, who left this world peacefully at her home with her son by her side in Dodge Center, MN, on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at the age of 90. As Evonne's health began to decline, she chose to stay at home on the family farm, which allowed her to spend precious time with her family and friends.

Evonne was born on May 19, 1936, to Peter and Ragna (Baker) Wang in Elkhorn Township, Iowa. Evonne radiated joy, strength, and resilience throughout her life. Evonne was a proud graduate of Glyndon High School. She then attended nursing school in Red Wing, MN, where she met her husband, Don.

She spent many fulfilling years as a nurse at the Rice County District One hospital in Faribault, MN and at the Fairview Nursing Home in Dodge Center, along with the Charter House Mayo Clinic Retirement Home in Rochester, MN, where her love for the community shone through the strong relationships she built with residents and staff alike. Her commitment to making a difference in the lives of those around her was evident in both her professional and personal endeavors.

Evonne was a devoted member of Faith Lutheran Church in Dodge Center, MN as well as a member of the Hardanger Group. She enjoyed volunteering at the Dodge Center Library and spending time with her grandchildren, especially when they went out for ice cream. She also loved tending to her flowers, bird watching, and sewing.

Evonne married Don Paul Carlson on November 27, 1958, in Glyndon, MN. Together they had four children; Donna, Kristi, Terry and Chad. In 1958, the couple lived in Faribault, MN and then moved to a hobby farm in Wasioja, MN in 1969. In 1973, they moved to their dairy farm in Dodge Center, MN.

Evonne is survived by her daughter, Donna (Corey) Schmidt of Bryan, TX and son, Chad (Peggy Witt) Carlson of Dodge Center; grandchildren, Katherine, Elizabeth, Gerald, Lori, and Ryle; great-grandchildren; Callie, Kolten, Greyson, Maverick, and Emersyn; siblings, Marlene Mikkelsen of Fargo, ND and Ronnie (Doreen) Wang of Glyndon, MN; and many nieces, nephews, and extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Don Carlson; son, Terry Carlson; daughter, Kristi Carlson; grandson, Guy Carlson; siblings, Melvin, Ola "Doc", Ellen, Richard "Dick", and Peter.

Join us in celebrating Evonne's generous spirit, her love for her community and life on the farm, and the legacy she leaves behind. In her memory, let us gather to share stories, laughter, and the joy she brought into our lives. As we remember her, may her spirit of kindness and compassion inspire us all.

During this incredibly difficult time of loss, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for

the outpouring of love, kindness, and support we have received in memory of Evonne. Your comforting words, warm embraces, and acts of compassion have provided us solace as we navigate through our grief.

A celebration of life was held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at the Dodge Center Community Center, 35 E Main St in Dodge Center, MN. Visitation was held one hour prior to her service at the Community Center. A private family graveside service will be held at a later date in Wildwood Cemetery in Wasioja, MN.

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

William Louis Van Epps

William "Billy" L. Van Epps, 85, of Wanamingo, died on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, surrounded by his loving family. He was born June 1, 1940, in Winner, SD, the son of William and Elsie (Armbruster) Van Epps. From an early



age, Billy lived with an impairment that impacted his life, but he never let that stop him. Billy was a dedicated worker, on both the family farm and as a farm hand on his Uncle Elmer and Aunt Mary's cattle ranch, driving tractors through the fields, disking the soil and fertilizing, raking hay, and milking cows. He spent half of every year with his Uncle Elmer and Aunt Mary until a year before Elmer's passing. Billy also worked at a recycling center in Winner, SD and later in Kasson after moving to Minnesota, where he worked with machinery and sorted materials.

There were numerous activities that brightened Billy's day, whether it was Twins baseball, playing cards, turtle hunting, dancing to the Chicken Dance, playing guitar while singing, and sleeping outside (camping). There are not many people that Billy met that don't have a keychain or placemat made by him in his spare time. Billy's impairment didn't discourage him as he also enjoyed riding horses through the RideAbility Program and had played on the Miracle League Baseball Team. When Billy moved to Kenyon, the community embraced him, the Kenyon Veteran Color Guard made him a honorary member and police chief Lee had brought Billy under his wing, presenting him with his own uniform and "badge".

He always saw the positive and good in the world and the people he met; his gentle soul and enthusiastic nature are what his family will miss most. Billy was always a friend and a protector, especially of little kids. He took great pride in how he rocked the babies and cared for the children in his life.

Billy resided with Riverview Services from 2019, until the time of his passing. During

that time, he formed a special bond with his housemates, who became his best friends. Together, they enjoyed going out to eat, bowling, shopping, and sharing countless laughs. Billy also attended Hillcrest Center, where he spent time with peers and participated in many of his favorite activities. He especially loved the annual Carnival, where he enthusiastically played games, and Prom, where he could always be found dancing the day away. One of Billy's favorite daily routines was helping staff by getting the mail each day. Known for his playful spirit and sense of humor, Billy was a favorite among many staff members and had a special way of keeping everyone on their toes.

He is survived by his brother, Ralph (and Cindy) Van Epps of Kenyon; brother-in-law, Ed New (and friend, Jody); nieces and nephews, Todd (and Teresa) Van Epps, Scott (and Sarah) Van Epps, Faye (and Joy Fott) Heinis, Julie (and Dan) Keils, and John (and Robin) New; great-nieces and nephews, Michelle (and Christopher) Aggen, Daniel (and Alexandra) Van Epps, Katherine Van Epps (and Jake Dreifort), William Van Epps (fiancé, Grace), Sophia New, Cynthia (and Dalvin) Smith, Chelsy (and Jon) Urreta, and Trevor Keils; six great-great nieces and nephews, and numerous cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Mary New.

A memorial service will be held at 3pm on Friday, June 12, 2026, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Kenyon with a visitation from 2pm until the time of service.

Layne "Bing" Edward Bucher

Layne "Bing" Edward Bucher, 89, of Zumbrota, passed away peacefully on May 24th, 2026, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN.



Bing was born December 16th, 1936, to Edward and Matie Bucher, and grew up in Berne, MN. He attended

country school through the eighth grade before graduating from West Concord High School. He joined the National Guard for a short time, and was a salesman at Bucher's Implement and Sears. Early on, Bing was a dreamer, someone who showed the people around him what was possible if you never give up.

On September 9th, 1961, he married Kathryn Horky, the love of his life, and together they built a life they loved, 63 years of marriage, raising a family rooted in West Concord, and eventually a life in Zumbrota where they worked to turn a dream into something real, opening the Zumbrota Dairy Queen and running it as a family for nearly 40 years. He was an entrepreneur, an ideas man and his wife was his partner who made his dreams a reality. They traveled around selling mini donuts to put their kids through college, and eventually started Zumbrota

Mini Storage as well.

What people who knew Bing will remember most is not what he accomplished, but how he made them feel. He had a rare and genuine curiosity about people and their lives, their stories, where they came from and where they were going. He was the kind of man who could make a stranger feel like a friend within minutes.

He was a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Zumbrota, a lifelong fan of Twins baseball, a lover of sweet treats and oldies music, and a man who never passed up a long ride in his Ford Mustang Convertible. He enjoyed many travels with his wife and grandkids all over, especially visiting Florida each winter to escape the cold and watch spring training games.

One of his greatest gifts was his laugh. Infectious, genuine, and completely his own, it filled every room he walked into. His family will carry that laugh, and his goofy, one-of-a-kind spirit, with them always.

He is survived by his children, Steve (Linda) Bucher of West Concord, Joan (Dan Thoreson) Bucher of Zumbrota, and John (Sandi) Bucher of Kasson; grandchildren, Jacob Bucher, Shelby (Christopher) Schley, Sara (Maclan) Bushlack, Vince Thoreson, Kari Thoreson, Paige (Preston Loyek) Bucher, and Megan Bucher; and great-grandchildren, Adeline Bushlack, Eva Bushlack, Harper Schley, Hadley Schley, and a baby Bushlack and baby Schley on the way.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Edward and Matie Bucher; his beloved wife, Kathryn Bucher; and his siblings, Larry Bucher and Latona Hogle.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, June 6th, 2026, at 11:00 AM at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Zumbrota with visitation from 9:30-10:30 AM at Mahn Funeral Home. Burial will be at the St. Paul's Catholic Church Cemetery in Zumbrota. Memorials are preferred to the Church of St. Paul, Zumbrota Area Ambulance, and Zumbrota Area Fire Department. Online condolences may be placed at www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com. Arrangements made by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel.

(obituaries continued on page 5)

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Joe Kocinski Accounting Scholarship (1-\$1,000) Norah Freiderich
Buss Brothers Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$1,000) Nola Behne
Claremont American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship (1 - \$200) Landon Nauman
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Landon Nauman, Logan Skjeveland, Andrew Swenson, Abigail Wirkus
Dodge Center Alumni Scholarship (2 - \$500) Addison Oakland & Wade Swenson
Dodge Center Lions Scholarship (8 - \$500) Nola Behne, Mason Bills, Rainey Dobbs, Norah Freiderich, Addison Oakland, Andrew Swenson, Wade Swenson, Abigail Wirkus
Donald L. Sanford Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$300) Jacob Kasper
Dr. G. E. Olson Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$250) Rainey Dobbs
Edward Earl Weckerling Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$200) McKenzy Purinton
Faith Lutheran Church Scholarship (2 - \$500) Mason Bills; Autumn Dean
Fortress Floors Scholarship (1 - \$1,500) Casey Senne
Future Engineer Scholarship (2 - \$750) Emanuel Ascencio & Andrew Swenson
Gustavus Adolphus College Damian Kanzenbach
Excellence Scholarship (\$42,000/year)
Alumni Referral Scholarship (\$2,000/year)
Select Music Scholarship (\$12,500/year)
Henslin Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$600) Topanga Spencer
(2 - \$300) Ollie Akkerman; Judith Orozco Arreguin
Jaelyn Laue Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$1,000) Nola Behne
KMTelecom Scholarship (2 - \$500) Norah Freiderich; Jade Scovill
LaMae Pearl Rislov Memorial Scholarship (7 - \$300) Nola Behne, Brynja Cochran, Rainey Dobbs,
Varzaes Jackson, Roselyn Liudahl, Addison Oakland, Abigail Wirkus
Mary Delzer Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$300) Alan Ortiz
Mayo Clinic Dependent Scholarship (2 - \$3,000/year) Landon Nauman; Abigail Wirkus
Minnesota State University – Mankato Landon Nauman
Presidential Scholarship (\$21,500 over 4 years)
David & Janis Larson Foundation Endowed Scholarship (\$21,500 over 4 years)
Natalie Thornton Webb Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$600) Kerisma McMahan
Robert D. Kelly Memorial Scholarship (2 - \$500) Mason Noaeill; Alan Ortiz
Steele Waseca Electric Cooperative Scholarship (1 - \$1,000) Brady Staub
Triton Booster Club Scholarship (6 - \$500) Nola Behne, Rainey Dobbs, Roselyn Liudahl,
Addison Oakland, Andrew Swenson, Abigail Wirkus
Triton Education Minnesota Scholarship (5 - \$200) Kerisma McMahan, Mason Noaeill,
Alan Ortiz, Logan Skjeveland, September Wilson
Triton FFA Alumni (3 - \$1,000) Noah Kasper, Emery Moe; Brady Staub
Triton Foundation Scholarship (2 - \$750) Frankie Gann, Kerisma McMahan
United Methodist Church of Chester, IA Scholarship (1-\$500) Ariana Himli
University of Chicago Jade Scovill
Odyssey Scholarship (\$79,156/year)
University Scholar Award (\$2,000/year)
First Phoenix Scholarship (\$5,000/year)
Verna Musolf Memorial Scholarship (1 - \$200) Judith Orozco Arreguin
Vernon Edda Mutual Insurance Good School Citizen Scholarship (1 - \$200) Ollie Akkerman
Virginia Tech Full Athletic Scholarship Pierce Petersohn
Young Minds Change Lives: Red Cross Blood Drive Scholarship (3 - \$500) Rainey Dobbs, Damian Kanzenbach, Abigail Wirkus

Larry Russell Rasmussen

Larry Rasmussen, 81, of West Concord, died on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at his home.

He was born March 12, 1945, in Claremont, the son of Russell and Deloris (Erickson) Rasmussen. Larry started his life in Byron until the Rasmussen family moved to West Concord. He attended West Concord High School where he met the love of his life, Arla Baumgartner, who was a dear friend of Larry's sisters, Linda and Colleen. Larry and Arla were married on March 12, 1966, at Trinity Lutheran Church in West Concord, celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this year. In the early years of their marriage, Larry enjoyed their hobby farm where they had mostly animals.

A hard and true work ethic is how Larry was described as he loved to work. Working for construction, he hung drywall for many jobs, serving the Owatonna and Hayfield communities with his craft. When Larry wasn't working on the weekends, he was working with family on house projects as they could.

1st Annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Event a Success

(continued from page 1)

We are truly thankful to everyone who attended, donated, sponsored, volunteered, and helped make our first annual fundraiser such an incredible success. The continued support from our community means more than words can express, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

You can view all of the businesses, sponsors, and supporters who helped make this event possible by visiting our website at www.chaplainfundraiser.com.

Thank you for standing behind law enforcement and helping support public safety in Dodge County.

His talent didn't end there, as Larry had a wonderful green thumb during his retirement, spending hours in his garden with his vegetables that he would later can. When he was younger, Larry enjoyed fishing trips with his family, and this carried on to later in life when he looked forward to going on those trips with his dad and guy friends every year. Larry cherished time with his family, whether it was spending Thanksgiving and Christmas with his grandchildren and great-grandchild or visiting his sister Marge's house for coffee and many sweets to choose from, with family and friends to start the day.

He enjoyed his life to the fullest; God blessed us with so much. Larry's accomplishment was providing for and giving his family a good home.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Arla of West Concord; their sons, Troy, Scott, and Cory; grandchildren, Taylor, Karissa, Dion, Halie, Garrett, Hope, Charlotte, Cole, Kody, Layla, Reghan, Megan, and Emily; 17 great-grandchildren; siblings, Steve (and Myrna) Rasmussen, Linda (and Dan) Lulf, Colleen Snaza, and Karla (and Randy) Wencil; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; son, Kurtis Rasmussen; sister, Margaret (and Dennis) French; and brother-in-law, John Snaza.

Funeral services were held at 11 am on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at Michaelson Funeral Home, West Concord Chapel with a visitation from 9:30 am until the time of service. Interment was in the St. Vincent de Paul Cemetery in West Concord. A luncheon followed the burial at the West Concord American Legion.

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Base for the Future

(continued from page 1)

Aimed at “promoting excellence in girls’ fastpitch softball,” TYFSA has given opportunities for youth to play competitively for 15 years now. Starting in elementary school, coaches start building up the foundations of fastpitch softball, focusing especially on teamwork and sportsmanship. They emphasize individual instruction, team practices, and healthy bonds even in the off-season. Regardless of the weather, their indoor facilities give players the chance to practice hitting, pitching, and fielding in preparation for the summer months. With high school divisions alongside their 8, 10, & 12U options, Venom Softball provides competition and sportsmanship at nearly every age level. As the players grow older, there are more chances to play competitively, join tournaments, travel to games, and eventually move into college-level settings. Fields across the Triton community help to facilitate these practices.

“We’re encouraging Triton to use the fields in West Concord, Claremont, and Dodge Center. We have fields in each community to ad-

vocate usage for TYFSA, but also for tournaments bringing in participants from Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin to support our local economy.”

Among other means of building the community, Chris can attest to West Concord’s well-known Friday Under the Lights games. This event draws spectators to watch three teams play at each age level, boosting support for TYFSA and building community morale. Alongside a triple-play tournament for 10U & 12U divisions at Dodger Days, the team also hosted its first tournament at Hogfest in Claremont last August to great success. If there is interest, TYFSA has expressed willingness to return to their new field in 2026. The result of these tournaments, local businesses, and community support has also allowed them to build a new storage shed for their West Concord field. Its construction last fall let them accommodate gear, store maintenance equipment, and support the teams for years to come.

“We own up to the area. We’ll be better able to keep people at the field. The positive feedback from tournaments has also brought more people and players to the area.”

Beyond the economy, the organization has significantly impacted the players. Those striving to bring their softball skills to a college level can apply for scholarships through their weekly meat raffle at Harold’s Club. To name a handful of the countless youth who have benefited from their support, Alyssa Knutson and Gigi Lundi have both played for Rochester Community and Technical College. Meanwhile, Brielle Dessner plays for Bethel University and Madison

Hazleton at Valley City State University. With Karli Zetah playing at St. Mary’s and Alexis Dahlberg also being a past TYFSA player, the organization has been home to so many youths encouraged to chase excellence. Many choose to mentor the young ladies after graduation, showing just how tight-knit the Venom Softball team has become through the years.

“They have all have been with TYFSA for many years. We provided a home for them and a base for the future, both in softball and life. Softball is more than just a sport [to them]. It’s an atmosphere where the ladies feel comfortable to play and share. We’re fostering a time to grow and learn together for their future.”

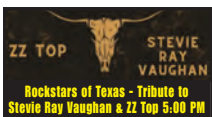
Even after putting yourself in the shoes of a Venom Softball player, it’s hard to establish the true value found in this kind of community. When the game comes to an end, you and your team clutch your medals in triumph, and the people shuffle out of their bleachers, the truth might still evade you. Graduating from high school and moving on to college settings may help in understanding what these games don’t directly tell you. Beyond the long training sessions, the sweat-filled summers, and the bonds you’ve built with your division, your time at Venom Softball and in other sports has an inherent value. They build your skills and give you lasting friendships. They may even provide you with a future career. But most importantly, they provide a base for the future.



Former TYFSA players Brielle Dessner and Alexis Dahlberg in their uniforms.



Friday, July 10



Friday & Saturday
JULY 10 & 11
2026

Saturday, July 11



2 DAY
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2026 Pat Lund Memorial Scholarship Recipients named and awarded

The Reading Center Board of Directors is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 Pat Lund Post Secondary Scholarship awards: Caden Hojer, Faith Nash, Sophia Picotte, and Brady Staub.

Awards were presented on May 27, 2026 at 6 p.m. by Judge Kevin Lund during a program at The Reading Center in Rochester.

About the Lund Awardees: Brady Staub
Brady Staub is graduating from Triton High School, where he is a member of the Minnesota Honor Society and lettered in football and track. Brady tutored at The Reading Center for five years.

Brady plans to attend the University of Wisconsin – River Falls where he will study Agricultural Business in hopes of becoming a crop farmer.

About his dyslexia challenges, Brady says, “Dyslexia challenged me since I was young. I couldn’t put words and letters together, and it was a struggle for me to keep up with my classmates. I went to get extra help, to see special education teachers, but nothing ever worked. Later, I was taken to The Reading Center to get tested and get a tutor. I have been tutored for five years, and it has helped me go from being behind in my class to one of the top students. Without my tutor and



dyslexia, I probably wouldn’t be as successful as I am today, not only in the classroom, but also in my outside life every day. I have been able to adapt and grow from what I have learned to understand and be a better person overall.”

About the Pat Lund Memorial Scholarship

Patrick “Pat” Lund (1963-2022) was a Reading Center alumnus who was a thirty-year fixture in the Southeastern MN sports reporting field. Most of his career was spent at KTTC-TV in Rochester. He had a legacy of mentoring younger television journalists and photojournalists and was the second inductee into the Tight End Hall of Fame in 2021. Despite being held back in 1st grade and struggling through high school and college, Pat persevered and worked in his dream career as a sports reporter. Pat didn’t let his dyslexia stop him from achieving his goals.

The Lund family is celebrating Pat by helping others with dyslexia to reach their goals.



Brady Staub

The Lund family, in partnership with The Reading Center, has created an annual scholarship in his honor to help dyslexic students reach their post-secondary education goals.

This opportunity is annually open to The Reading Center alumni up to age 30 who are currently enrolled or have confirmed plans to continue their education through a university, technical school or other training program. Scholarship awards are for up to \$1,000 per year, will be paid directly to the school and are renewable for up to 4 years if studies are continued.

Dodge County

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Garden plots are still available in Dodge Center, Kasson, and West Concord.

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A summer staple

(continued from page 1)

They also wanted to have a local restaurant that was open during the evenings in the summer months. They decided to lease the building that is now Ginny's. The building was formerly Ken's Drive-In from 1964-65 and later Phyl's Drive-In from 1966-67. When the Sindle family leased the building, remodeling was desperately needed. Restoring the building and purchasing the needed equipment was truly a family and community effort. Local contractors labored and supplied materials, and Bob worked diligently to order the necessary equipment. Finally, through the trials and the dedication, Ginny's opened on schedule. On Thursday, May 8, 1980, Ginny's Drive-In was open for business. Running the Drive-In was a family effort. Bob helped get the Drive-In running in the morning. The Sindle children, Linda and Danny, also worked at the Drive-In, and Ginny helped oversee the daily operations. In addition, other local women helped to fill in the shifts.

Nearly 50 years later, Ginny's Drive-In is still providing tasty summer treats to the West Concord community. In 2015, Lynn Nelson and her partner took over the Drive-In. Lynn later bought out her partner and is now committed to continuing the Ginny's Drive-In legacy. Lynn enjoys running Ginny's because

of the people she gets to engage with and the food she gets to have a hand in making. The Concord Meat Locker provides Ginny's with their signature hamburger patties, keeping the burgers locally sourced and fresh. Lynn says she enjoys the unique aspect of owning the Drive-In because they are so rare now.

Ginny's Drive-In provides more than just juicy burgers and tasty ice cream. Each Wednesday from 4-7 pm, a small farmers' market is available for the community. The farmer's market provides access to fresh produce and unique crafts each week. Ginny's Drive-In has also been known to host several car shows throughout the years, as well as a family movie night. Stay tuned for upcoming events on the Ginny's Drive-In Facebook page, and don't forget to share their posts with your friends and family.



Ginny Sindle when Ginny's first opened

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GOODHUE VOLKSFEST

JUNE 10-14, 2026

GOODHUEVOLKSFEST.COM



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Medallion Hunt | First clue drops
 5pm | **Pickle Ball Tourn.** | Heritage Park | \$30/team
 7pm | **Pool Games** | Goodhue Pool

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

7pm | **Bar Olympics** | 2nd St Pub
 5-7pm | **Volunteer Kickoff Party** | Corner Bar

7:00pm GATE | 8:00pm MUSIC
 GA \$25 PRE-SALE & AT GATE
 VIP \$60 PRE-SALE & AT GATE

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

1pm | **Pedal Tractor Pull** | Broadway/2nd Ave
 4-7pm | **Sharp Sound DJ** | 2nd St Pub
 4-7pm | **Kids Bounce Party, 12yr ↓** | GHS Gym 3
 6pm | **Miss Goodhue** | GHS Gym 1 | \$5/Person
 7pm | **Street Dance** | N 2nd St.



SATURDAY, JUNE 13

8am reg. | **Udder Run** | Front of GHS | \$20/ea adv or \$25/ea day of
 8am-1pm | **Car & Tractor Show** | St. Peters Church
 8:30-11:30am | **Burrito Breakfast & Quilt Show** | St. Peters Church
 8:45-10am reg. | **Road Rally** | Goodhue C-Store | \$5/person
 9am | **Volleyball Tourn., Co-ed** | Rosie Park | \$30/team
 9am-3pm | **Craft and Vendor Market** | Lion's Community Center
 10am-Gone | **Minnow Shirts** | 2nd St Pub
 10am | **3-on-3 Basketball, 11yr ↑** | GHS Gym 1 & 2 | \$100/Team
 10am-12pm | **Kids Bounce Party, Toddler ONLY** | GHS Gym 3

11am-1pm | **Touch A Truck** | GHS Parking Lot
 11am reg. | **Bean Bag Tourn.** | Rosie Park | \$40/team
 12pm-2pm | **Kids Bounce Party, 12yr ↓** | GHS Gym 3
 1pm | **Bingo** | Fire Hall
 1-4pm | **Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull** | 3rd Ave
 1-3pm | **Emma Marie Live** | 2nd St Pub
 3-6pm | **Ron Bubnitz Live** | Corner Bar
 3-7pm | **360 Photo Booth** | Food Court
 4-7pm | **Hayden Ashworth Live** | 2nd St Pub
 6pm | **Street Dance** | N 2nd St.
 10pm | **Fireworks** | Rosie Park

6:00pm GATE | 6:30pm MUSIC
 GA \$50 UNTIL 5/15 | \$60 5/15+ & AT GATE
 VIP \$110 UNTIL 5/15 | \$130 5/15+

SUNDAY, JUNE 14

9am-11:45am | **Dads Belgian Waffle Feed** | Lion's Community Center
 5yr ↓ Free | Kids \$7 | Adults \$13
 9am | **Community Worship Lutheran Service** | GHS Gym 1
 11am | **Kids Coin Quest, 4-12yr** | Rosie Park
 1pm | **Parade**

2-5pm | **Hayden Ashworth Live** | Corner Bar
 2-5pm | **Tim Emmons Live** | 2nd St Pub
 2:30pm | **Fire Dept. Water Fight** | Fire Dept.
 4:30pm | **Monty's Traveling Reptile Show** | Rosie Park Pavillion



Fire at the Falls



DAVID NAIL Wild Bill & The Bruisers



















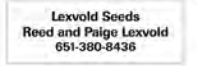












Natalie Webb

FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER

12-5:00PM

OPENING FRIDAY JUNE 5TH



HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Public Works Department will be flushing all fire hydrants and main water lines throughout the spring, summer and fall months. Dates and times will vary.

This process may cause some water discoloration and low water pressure for a short period of time. **If you see the city crew flushing hydrants in your area, avoid running tap water and using the washing machine until the flushing has been completed.**

If you encounter discolored water after hydrant flushing, shut the water off for several minutes, then check for clarity by running cold water for a few minutes allowing new water into the pipes.





OPERATING GOLF CARTS

A permit may be revoked or temporarily suspended if upon probable cause, the City Administrator finds that the:

- Owner/driver operated the vehicle in violation of City Code Section 10.10.
- Insurance required by law is no longer valid.
- The application for permit contained false or misleading information or documentation.

 Persons under 21 without a valid drivers license are ineligible for a permit.

Mary's Angels

RIDE FOR ALZHEIMERS

Saturday, June 6th, 2026

RAIN OR SHINE

Registration starts at 9:30 am
Kick stands up at 11:00

ROUTE:
 UNCLE MONY'S - Hayfield
 Breakfast available at your expense
 HUNTER'S BAR - Myrtle
 GENEVA BAR & GRILL - Geneva
 Lunch will be provided.
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 BP TAVERN - Blooming Prairie
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COUNTY OF DODGE
THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Estate of Janel Marie
Torgerson a/k/a Janel M.
Torgerson, Decedent
Court File No.
20-PR-26-309
NOTICE AND ORDER
OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL
AND
APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on August 18, 2026 at 10:00 am, via zoom, a hearing will be held in this Court at 22 6th Street East, Mantorville, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, October 20, 2021, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Lisa Torgerson, whose address is 16170 Crystal Hills Drive, Lakeville, Minnesota, 55044 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Notice is also given that (sub-

ject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.
BY THE COURT
Groehler, Debra
Judge of District Court
Aimee McCormack
Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner
Travis M. Ohly
Ohly Law Office
1850 North Broadway
Rochester, Minnesota, 55906
Attorney License No: 0347176
Telephone: (507) 289-4529
Email: travis@ohlylaw.com

LEGAL NOTICE

APPROVED MINUTES
OF THE COUNTY
BOARD OF
COMMISSIONER'S
MEETING
MAY 12, 2026
STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY
ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE
COUNTY OF DODGE
MANTORVILLE, MN

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. The following actions were approved:
* Agenda as presented.
* The following Consent Agenda items: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3.
* Signatures to resolution #2026-15 – Designate 630th Street & CSAH 42.
* Payment of the following bills:
01 Revenue Fund
\$ 292,771.81

13 Road and Bridge Fund \$ 66,371.17
16 Environmental Quality Fund \$ 102,753.44
41 Ditch Fund \$ 4,722.00
Total \$ 466,618.42
* The following personnel actions: A.1, A.2, B.1, C.1, C.2, C.3, D.1, D.2, D.3, D.4.
* The following May 6, 2026 Planning Commission Recommendations:
- IUP #26-02 Spinler
- IUP #26-03 Trygstad
- IUP #26-04 Kasper – LRB
- IUP #26-05 Kasper – Mining
- IUP #26-06 Weber w/recommended changes to conditions #3, #5 & #16.
* Waiving the variance fee for Joshua Kasper.
* IT Director to proceed with joining AMC/MNCITLA's Cyber Response Team, Chair to sign MN Cyber Response Team Provider Agreement as recommended, and IT staff participation in voluntary assistance program to support other counties in the event of a cyber incident.
* Deputy Wolters to take assigned squad outside county limits & amending county's take-home squad policy as discussed.
* Signatures to resolution #2026-16 – 2026/2027 Snowmobile Club Sponsorship.
* Adjourning the meeting at 11:29 a.m.
This is a summary only. A complete set is available in the Administration Office at the Government Services Building in Mantorville, MN.

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Announcement?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

SECTION 00 1110
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Dodge County
22 6th Street East
Mantorville, MN 55955
Project: 2025-10327 - Dodge County Annex Site Remodel

General Notice

Dodge County (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Dodge County Annex Site Remodel

Notice is hereby given Electronic Bids for the construction of the Project will be received online through QuestCDN.com (Online Bidding Only) until June 12, 2026 at 10:00 local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read on Microsoft Teams. The Microsoft Teams Meeting Link is:
<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/241169140597587?p=uWVr6COI2oxyXRakZ>
Meeting ID: 241 169 140 597 587 Passcode: F23W58gq or by dialing +1 651-964-3755 Phone Conference ID: 720 797 799#. The Board of Commissioners of Dodge County will consider such bids and the responsibility of the bidders after 6:00 PM on June 23, 2026 (date) for possible contract award.

1.1 The Project includes the following Work:

Base Bid: Removal and restoration of site amenities at the Dodge County Annex Building. Including but not limited to Bituminous pavement restoration; concrete steps, sidewalks, and retaining wall removal and replacement. Vegetation removal and replacement; grading and turf restoration

Deduct Alternate 1: Shall include the removal of 553 SF of Concrete Sidewalk, 74 LF of Handrail, Concrete Stairs (Refer to Site Plan and Concrete Steps Detail for quantity), Landscape Block Retaining Wall (Refer to Site Plan and Detail 2 on Sheet C1.0 for Quantity) (See Site Plan Sheets for Original Bid Set Plans) Deduct Alternate 1 also includes the removal of two Pedestrian Light Posts (See Electrical Plans).

DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY
Site Improvements	LS	1
Deduct Alternate #1	LS	1

A Bids will be received for a single prime Contract. Bids shall be on a Lump Sum Price basis as indicated in the Bid Form. Each bid shall be accompanied by a 5% Bid Security per the Contract Documents.

OBTAINING THE BIDDING DOCUMENTS:

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:

A Complete digital project bidding documents will be available on May 20, 2026, at www.questcdn.com. You may download the digital plan documents for \$30.00 (additional \$25.00 for submitting bid) by inputting Quest project #10215396 on the website's Project Search page. Please contact QuestCDN.com at 952-233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance in free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information. An optional paper set of project documents will also be available on May 20, 2026, at Widseth, 3777 40th Avenue NW, Suite 200, Rochester, MN 55901 for a nonrefundable price of \$75.00 per set. Please make your check payable to Widseth, Rochester, MN. Please contact us at 507-292-8743 if you have any questions.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:

Organization: WIDSETH: 3777 40th Avenue NW, Rochester, MN 55901

2.1 There will be NO Pre-Bid Meeting.

The Owner reserves the right to hold all bids for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled closing time set for receiving bids. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities, to reject any or all bids, and to award the Contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

2.2 For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

2.3 Each bid must be accompanied by a Bidder's Bond or Certified Check made payable to Dodge County in a sum equal to at least 5% of the bid amount. Bids must be sealed and addressed to Dodge County Administration, 721 Main St. N., Mantorville, MN 55955, and plainly labeled "Bid for Annex Site Remodel"

2.4 The right is reserved to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects therein.

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS ISSUED BY:

3.1 Owner: Dodge County

Title: County Administrator

Date: May 20, 2026



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