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AUGUST 6, 2026

Volume 11 • Issue 31

Minnesota Primary Election to be held August 11th

The Minnesota primary election will be held next Tuesday, August 11th. A primary election determines which candidates will be on the ballot in the November general election.



(continued on page 5)

The Messenger Proudly Serves Our Hometowns

By Terry Campbell, Managing Editor

The Messenger has been printing and distributing weekly in Dodge County since the beginning of the year. We appreciate all the positive comments we are hearing from businesses and readers, and appreciate the continued growth of our voluntary subscribers and businesses that advertise inside.

(continued on page 8)

Announcements

- GriefShare support group for anyone experiencing loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives, meets Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, beginning August 13th, at Anchor Of Hope Church, 203 E. Main St., Dodge Center, MN. Contact Dale E. Rood, pastor emeritus, at 507-633-2772, or go to the GriefShare website.
- 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.
- Dennison Days August 7 & 8.

(See schedule inside)

Do you have an announcement?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Festival in the Park in Kasson this weekend



The thirty-seventh annual Festival in the Park will be held this weekend in Kasson. Most activities are held at the Veteran's Memorial Park. On Friday August 7th at 5pm the food vendors will be open at the park and a kid's

dance, face painting, Kiddie Train, bounce house and video game trailer will start at 5:30pm. Bingo will be held from 6 to 8pm and a movie will be shown starting at 9pm.

A 5k and kids run starts at 8am Saturday. Kid inflatables will be open from 9am to 5pm. The Car, UTV and antique tractor show is held from 10am to 2pm. 10am to 4pm will be kids face painting and Rookie the Clown.

Food and craft vendors will be open from 10am to 9pm on Saturday. The Corn Hole tournament starts at 10:30am and the kid's Pedal Pull starts at 11am.

Hyper Space Laser tag will be at the south softball field from 11am to 3pm. The K-M cheerleading Dunk Tank is open from 11am to 4pm.

(continued on page 6)

Wasioja Seminary Ruins Ceremony



Ribbon cutting ceremony for Wasioja Seminary project included state and local elected representatives and design firm personnel.

Submitted

On July 28, a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the completion of the stabilization of the Wasioja Seminary ruins. The project reflects years of dedicated effort by many Minnesotans, from local historians to state legislators who supported funding through a grant provided by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society.

(continued on page 7)

Last Civil War Soldier Buried in Dodge County to be Honored August 8th

Private Abner Aaron Johnson, the last Civil War veteran buried in Dodge County, will be honored in a ceremony at 1:30 PM on Saturday, August 8th, 2026, at Maple Grove Cemetery in Kasson, Minnesota.

(continued on page 4)

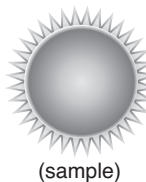
The Messenger Find and Dine Game

This month the image hidden within the pages of the Messenger will be a hot blazing sun.

We hide the image in a different place within the pages of the paper each week.

We will draw one winner from all the submissions each week for a \$25.00 gift card to a local restaurant.

When you find the hidden image e-mail your name and mailing address and the page where you found the image to messenger-drawing@gmail.com



(sample)

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Difficulties of the Secret Place: You Don't Feel the Lord



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

I sit in the riverbank of your creation. With water flowing. And wind less than blowing.

Melody chirps in the air. Fragrance of peddles in the breeze.

Your world lies at my tips. But why the dam that interrupts belief. It's evident that you are the turning of the leaf.

Whirling, static, haze of mind. With looping, cycling, and spinning that pays a fine. Feelings mimic this ride.

It's been strokes that I have felt you. Sensed you.

The gnats bite like the unbelief that I tread. Swarm and swarm is an understatement.

But even though I don't see you. I acknowledge, speak, pray to you. What would I do without you.

This has to mean something. The Bread even toasts, that I am blessed. John 20:29 will confess.

So, feelings and emotions. Take more than a rest, leave. Because I really do believe.

We are now in conclusion with the series of, "The difficulties of the Secret Place." The last few months we talked on how various things can keep us from the Secret Place such as feeling too messy, depression, and now today's article as alluded to in the above poem, you don't feel the Lord.

If the Secret Place is a new concept for you or need a friendly reminder of what it is, 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.

There are times when I can sense the presence of the Lord, and it feels so amazing as tears fill my eyes and I am overtaken by Jesus's existence and holiness. I get emotional, but in the very best way. When I feel

like this, the Secret Place is very easy to enter into and stay in! However, this does not always happen.

There are times when I do not feel Jesus at all. In fact, there was probably a three-to-four-year time period when I did not shed one tear of experiencing His majesty. I felt so numb. I remained in the Secret Place and talked to the Lord daily. He was still speaking, guiding, and encouraging me. However, I still felt like a dried-up well. I have walked this walk long enough to know that even though I may not feel the Lord, that does not mean He is not in the room.

If we are not feeling the presence of the Lord, does that mean He is not there? Of course He is there! **We cannot always lean into our feelings (or sensations) for guidance and assurance; we need to lean into the Word of God for our direction and validation.**

If we are not feeling the presence of the Lord, does that mean He is not hearing our prayers? No way! Of course He is hearing you and me! On the topic of being tired when you pray, I even heard one pastor say, "You might be tired, but the Holy Spirit is not tired." At times, if someone (or even yourself) is needing prayer for healing, deliverance, or anything, if we do not feel the Lord or if we are tired, we may think our prayers won't be as powerful. Well, that is silly because it is not us doing the healing or deliverance—it's Jesus in us. We are the ones speaking; He is the one doing the work.

So please, whether it is in your own personal time or when you are with others, if you

do not feel the Lord or if you are tired, that does not mean He is not in your midst nor hearing you. HE IS THERE! HE DOES HEAR YOU! Remain in the Secret Place. Pray the prayer. Not only read the Word, but trust the Word. For example, you may not be feeling the love of Jesus, but guess what, the Bible says you are loved, SO YOU ARE LOVED, BELIEVE IT! The sensation of His presence will come again.

Perhaps you have never experienced the Lord as I described a couple paragraphs back.

(continued on page 3)

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KASSON

First Congregational Church
515 Walnut Street, Mantorville • 507-635-3011

Church of the Nazarene
Pastor Johannes Marsland • 507-721-2500
205 Mantorville Ave S, Kasson
Sunday 6pm worship

Community Celebration Church
Pastor: Steve Larson • 507-634-1463
27337 Co. Hwy 34, Kasson
Sunday worship 9am & 10:30am

First Baptist Church
Pastor: John Todor
305 4th St, Kasson
Sunday 9:30am Sunday school; 10:30am worship

Church of the Holy Family
Father John Lasuba • 507-634-7520
1904 Mantorville Ave N, Kasson
Sunday 8:30am Mass; Wednesday 9am Mass

St. Peter's Episcopal Church
Pat Dee pastoral asst. • 507-634-6081
101 1st St, NE, Kasson
Sunday 10am worship; Wednesday 5:30pm community meal

Mount Sion Lutheran WELS
Pastor Karl Christie • 507-634-3183
600 8th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 9am worship

South Zumbro Lutheran LCMC
Pastors: Pete Wytenbach & Jeff Bernards
4830 120th Ave SW, Kasson
Sunday Worship 9:00a.m.

St. John's Lutheran ELCA
John Welsenburger, Deborah Lyanga, Kristin Schlauderaff
507-634-7110
301 8th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 9am; Wednesday 6:30pm

Pleasant Corners Evangelical Church
Pastor: Jacob Hanson • 507-634-7823
21927 650th St, Kasson
Sunday 11am

Area Church Directory Finding Honey

If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit. — Proverbs 25:16

Late summer to early fall is usually the time when beekeepers "find" honey. At that time of year for bees, the days of gathering pollen and nectar are winding down. Wise beekeepers provide extra room in the hive, taking advantage of the bees' hoarding instinct and "tricking" them into making more honey than they need. A healthy hive will often have two to three times as much honey as the bees will need for winter. The beekeepers then take the extra honey, making sure to leave enough for the bees to survive on.

Finding honey is not so difficult with the hive boxes and removable frames we have today. In the wild, though, it can be a lot more challenging to find and gather this treasure. Through the centuries people have learned to search for honey in hollow trees, small caves, remote cliffs, and other protected spots that are near abundant varieties of flowering plants.

While honey is sweet, our proverb for today tells us to "eat just enough" and not too much. It makes good sense not to overdose on honey—or on any of the sweet things in life. Wisdom calls us to a healthy balancing act.

Sadly, the siren song of our world today is that "more is always better." But finding honey reveals the wisdom of enjoying sweet things in life within wholesome limits.

In what ways is the Spirit of God directing you to set wise limits in your life?

Thank you, Lord, for the sweet things in life. Guide us to follow you and to gain a heart of wisdom. In Jesus, Amen.

KASSON

Grace Methodist Church
Pastor: Jacob Hanson • 507-634-7823
801 5th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 9am worship; 10am fellowship
10:30am Sunday school

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Loren Olson • 507-634-7481
101 6th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 10am worship; 11am fellowship

Kasson Church of Christ
Pastor: Dale DePeel • 507-254-7258
901 8th Ave NW, Kasson
Sunday 10am worship
Wednesday 7:30pm prayer service

HAYFIELD

Cedar Creek Church
Pastor Barry Durkee • 507-477-2255
30 East Main Street, Hayfield
CedarCreekChurch.org
Worship 10:00a.m. Sundays

West St. Olaf Lutheran, ELCA
Pastor Paul Thompson • 507-365-8222
West: 70640 260 Ave, Hayfield • WestStOlaf.org
Worship 10:00a.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
Pastor Kristen Anderson • 507-477-2248
104 1st St SE, Hayfield • churchoffice@trinityhayfield.com
Sunday Worship 9:00a.m.; Sunday School 10:00a.m.

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**For advertising information
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or email:**

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Obituary / Religion

August 6, 2026

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD, KASSON, MANTORVILLE, HAYFIELD MESSENGER -

Page 3

Jessica Kay Radtke

Jessica Kay Radtke, age 48, of West Concord, MN died on July 28, 2026, at St Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN. She was born July 19, 1978, in Owatonna, MN to Glenn and Janet (Wencl) Radtke. She was baptized at Peace Lutheran Church in Claremont MN and graduated from Triton High School, Dodge Center, MN.

Animals were her passion! She took great pride in feeding and taking care of them and named every one of their pigs, goats, chickens, ducks, cows, dogs and cats.



She loved her family and would be up early when there was a family gathering, often being the first to arrive. She especially enjoyed time with the babies and younger kids. Favorite things to do were reading, especially history; mythology and the Bible; spending time at the library, playing video games; watching Disney movies; she knew every princess and character in all the stories! Jessica was so knowledgeable of things that interested her and was ready and willing to share information with others. She had great organizational skills and time management: she was an alarm clock for her family, knew when to pay bills and would always be sure to arrive on time for appointments and celebrations. Things she especially loved were country music, unicorns, and German Chocolate Cake.

Jessica was a special girl and very well loved, a bright light and so kind to everyone. Born with Turner's Syndrome, she had health challenges throughout her life, but faced obstacles with a positive attitude, strength and determination. She put up a good fight and is now at peace, with a buffet of chicken tenders and Pepsi! Jessica will be missed by all that knew her and shared time with her even though her time on earth was short. God Bless Jessica!

Jessica is survived by her mother, Janet

Radtke of West Concord; brother, John Radtke (Debra Oelkers) of West Concord; also many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. She was preceded in death by her father, Glenn; grandparents, Richard and Betty Wencl, Don and Arlane Radtke; cousin, Elizabeth Wencl; and great-grandparents.

A Celebration of Jessica's Life will be held 1-4 PM, Saturday, August 8, 2026, at the West Concord American Legion.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the donor's choice.

Difficulties of the Secret Place: You Don't Feel the Lord

(continued from page 2)

Feelings of awe and wonder as tears build up in the best way possible. Maybe you feel like a dried-up well too, and it's always been like that. If you do feel dry, no worries. Remember, the Lord is still answering prayers and working even if you're not sensing Him. With that said, if you are wanting to experience the Lord with more emotion, I would encourage you to ask Him.

I was talking to my husband right around the three-to-four-year mark of me feeling pretty dull, and I told him that I wanted to sense the presence of the Lord more. He replied, "Pray that it comes back, even more than it has ever been." So I did, and it came!

It was a normal day as I grabbed my coffee and plumped on my couch with my Bible open. I picked up where I left off the day prior which was in Leviticus 9.

Then, when I got to verses 22-24 and Leviticus 10:1-7 I felt the presence of God.

All of a sudden, my mind was enlightened and eyes grew wide. Something clicked in my brain with the words I was reading and I said aloud, "There is something here!" Meaning there is something the Lord wants to teach me. He sure did have something to show me—He taught me about His holiness.

He did this by sparking a fire within my brain and I took that fire and studied the Scriptures by using a commentary. As I studied, revelation brewed. Oh guys, His holiness, may we grasp it and not forget it. God (Jesus) being holy means He is set apart. Nothing is like the Lord God Almighty. NOTHING. We need to honor His holiness and not profane it. Once this exposure came, so did the tears. Oh, how I pray for more encounters and revelations like that one for both you and me!

I pray, in the name of Jesus, whoever is reading this will be touched by your presence in an overwhelming way, that they will experience your holiness and splendor. I pray they, too, will open the Word and revelation will fall. As they wait for it, God, let them know you are still ever so close and love them dearly. Amen!

Solution:

- You "not feeling" the Lord does not mean He is not there or working. HE IS THERE! Sometimes we will not always sense Him, and that is okay. Don't let that discourage you. Continue to press into Him. **Lean into the truths of the Word, not your feelings.**

- If you are wanting to experience the Lord at a more emotional level, then ask. Simply pray, "Jesus, I want to be overcome by your presence."

- As you wait for the Lord to reveal Himself in this matter, be patient. It may not happen right away. Stay in the Secret Place as you worship, pray, and get into the Word of God. A lot of spiritual endurance is getting produced in you as you do this, much more than you realize!

Although, "not feeling the Lord" may want to keep you from the Secret Place, do not let it. Feelings can lie. And guess what, you are even blessed when you believe and you do not see! Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. (John 20:29)

Blessings my friends, Ashley

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Last Civil War Soldier Buried in Dodge County to be Honored August 8th

(continued from page 1)

The ceremony is open to veterans, those with an interest in Civil War history, and the general public. Wearing Civil War era attire is encouraged. Private Johnson's descendants are most cordially invited to attend as special guests.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is conducting the ceremony with the assistance of the American Legion Post 333 Veterans Honor Guard.

The "Last Union Veteran" Abner Aaron Johnson was born in Lunenburg, Essex County, Vermont on 18 March 1844.

Abner enlisted in the 12th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment when he was 16 years old on 16 October 1861.

Abner died on 10 October 1938 at 94 years old.

He is the last Civil War veteran buried in Dodge County.

SUVCW William Colvill Camp #56, Department of Wisconsin, will be presiding over the ceremony. The ceremony will feature the Last Soldier dedication ritual of the SUVCW and includes the placing of a Last Soldier Marker on the veteran's grave.

Camp #56 of the Department of Wisconsin, whose territory is the entire state of Minnesota supports the national goal of identifying and placing a marker on the grave of the last Union veteran buried in each of Minnesota's 87 counties. The members of Camp #56 consider the Last Soldier ceremony an honor and a fitting tribute for a Union soldier whose service helped preserve the liberties Americans enjoy as a nation today.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a national veterans organization made up of the descendants of Union soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The SUVCW has more than 6,000 members across the country and is the successor to the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the veterans organization formed after the Civil War by soldiers who served in the Union Army. The last member of the G.A.R., Albert Woolson from Duluth, Minnesota died in 1956.

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Minnesota
Primary
Election
to be held
August 11th

(continued from page 1)

Only one candidate can be on the ballot for each party in November. The winner of the

August primary election will represent their party on the November election ballot. Each candidate will have their party affiliation listed next to the candidate's name. You can only vote for candidates from one political party in the primary election. If you vote for candidates from more than one political party on the primary ballot your votes will not count. You decide when you vote which one of the parties you will vote for. In the General election on November 3rd one may vote across party lines. County, township, city and school board candidates are non-partisan and will not have a party affiliation designated.

The places and times for polling places is listed in the chart below for cities and townships in Dodge County.

Dodge County Polling Places

Precinct	Polling Place Address	Polling Place Times
Ashland Township	Ashland Town Hall 18944 660th St Dodge Center, MN 55927	10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Canisteo Township	Canisteo Town Hall 66968 250th Ave Kasson, MN 55944	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Claremont	Claremont City Hall 140 West Front St Claremont, MN 55924	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Claremont Township	Claremont Town Hall (American Legion) 220 W Front St Claremont, MN 55924	10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Concord Township	Concord Town Hall 55319 201st Ave West Concord, MN 55985	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Dodge Center – North	Dodge Center City Hall 35 E Main St Dodge Center, MN 55927	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Dodge Center – South	Dodge Center City Hall 35 E Main St Dodge Center, MN 55927	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Ellington Township	Ellington Town Hall 55019 130th Ave West Concord, MN 55985	10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Hayfield	Hayfield City 18 W Main St Hayfield, MN 55940	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Hayfield Township	Hayfield Town Hall 19 Center Ave N Hayfield, MN 55940	10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Kasson – North	Kasson-Mantorville High School – South Gym 101 16th St NE Kasson, MN 55944	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Kasson – Central	Kasson-Mantorville High School – South Gym 101 16th St NE Kasson, MN 55944	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Kasson – South	Kasson-Mantorville High School – South Gym 101 16th St NE Kasson, MN 55944	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Mantorville	Mantorville City 21 5th St E Mantorville, MN 55955	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Mantorville Township	Mantorville Town Hall 60126 240th Ave Mantorville, MN 55955	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Milton Township	Milton Town Hall 54368 250th Ave West Concord, MN 55985	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Ripley Township	Ripley Town Hall 67019 130th Ave Claremont, MN 55924	10:00 am to 8:00 pm
Vernon Township	Vernon Town Hall 73067 250th Ave Hayfield, MN 55940	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Wasioja Township	Wasioja Schoolhouse 21118 600th St Dodge Center, MN 55927	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
West Concord	West Concord City 180 E Main St West Concord, MN 55985	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
Westfield Township	Westfield Town Hall 11563 Highway 30 East Blooming Prairie, MN 55917	10:00 am to 8:00 pm

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Kasson Ambassador Candidates

Sydney Swanson

Sponsored By: Hardware Hank

Parents:
Joel & Tomi Swanson



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: I'm excited to see the town come together and support each other at this year's Festival in the Park. I also look forward to exploring the amazing small business booths this year.

Hannah Bjerke

Sponsored By: Mrs. Patty's Sweet Treats

Parents:
Christa Thompson & Ryan Bjerke



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: I look forward to the parade and seeing my friends and family out and about at the festival. I also like to look at the sidewalk chalk and see the creativity of others.

Emma Engdahl

Sponsored By: The Main Alternative

Parents:
Nick & Becky Engdahl



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: I look forward to the parade the most because it is an opportunity for the entire community to come together. It shows the number of activities and the variety of businesses present in Kasson and the local area. I also love all the smiles seen throughout the parade route.

Avery Hemann

Sponsored by: John Buckingham Realty

Parents:
Jen & Justin Hemann



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: It's nearly impossible to choose what I'm most looking forward to at Festival in the Park because there are so many fun activities, vendors, and experiences, all while the whole community comes together. If I had to pick one favorite part, it would be the live music. There's nothing better than spending a summer evening listening to great performances, catching up with friends, and ending the night with fireworks. I also look forward to the sidewalk chalk contest and the medallion hunt with my family. Some of my favorite traditions are getting henna with my sister, shopping throughout the park, watching the parade and the bellyflop contest, and going to the Fireman's Dance. Festival in the Park is always one of the highlights of my summer.

Madeline Gore

Sponsored By: KMTelecom

Parents:
Cristofer & Stephanie Gore



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: In the Kasson Festival in the park I look forward to the belly flop contest because of the excitement and crowd that comes together. As well as the fireworks which are always a hit and the parade to close off the festival!

Grace Roethler

Sponsored By: RISE PT & Health

Parents:
Amy & Jeremy Roethler



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: I look forward to meeting and connecting with new people!

Aubrey Quam

Sponsored By: Ready, Set, Learn

Parents:
Jon & Erin Quam



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: I look forward to the fireworks the most because they bring everyone together and all ages can enjoy.

Eleanor Gore

Sponsored By:

Scot Suess State Farm Insurance

Parents:
Cristofer & Stephanie Gore



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: During Kasson Festival in the Park, I most look forward to the events such as the parade, bellyflop contest, and so much more! I've enjoyed being involved in the parade throughout volleyball the past years, and watching the bellyflop contests since I was a kid has always been exciting. The Kasson Festival in the Park has always been something I look forward to because I'm never bored with all of the fun things to do.

McKayla Drenth

Sponsored By: Just Like Home SACC

Parents:
Daniel & Aletha Drenth



Looking Forward to Most at Festival 2026: I really look forward to seeing the Kasson community all come together as well as celebrating alongside friends, family, and neighbors. I think it is always very special to see all ages come together to enjoy activities like the parade while also supporting the businesses there. I love this sense of community as well as all coming together in the end to watch the fireworks, which I always enjoy watching.

Festival in the Park in Kasson this weekend

(continued from page 1)

Bingo games are from 1 to 4pm in the West Pavilion.

Sidewalk art begins at 9am with judging at 2pm.

There will be a belly flop contest at the pool at 5pm and the Kasson Ambassador and Junior Ambassador ceremony will be held at 6pm.

From 7 to 9pm there will be a free concert with Brad Boice and the Big Wave.

The Fireman's Dance will be held at the Fire Hall from 9pm to 12:30am featuring Branded Hot Country. Fireworks are scheduled for 9:30pm.

Sunday morning there will be a 9am church service in the West Pavillion and food and craft vendors will be open from 10am to 3pm.

A Kiddie Parade will start at 12:45pm and the Grand Parade will start at 1:30pm.

There will be family entertainment at the Fire Hall from 2 to 6pm.



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Wasioja Seminary Ruins Ceremony

(continued from page 1)

Speakers at the event included Dodge County Commissioner Dave Kenworthy; former State Senator Dave Senjem, who now serves as an Olmsted County Commissioner; State Representative Duane Quam; State Senator Carla Nelson; and local historian Jim Checkel.

The speakers emphasized the significance of the Seminary ruins in Minnesota history. The structure is the last remaining remnant of the original buildings from the first three higher education institutions in the state: the University of Minnesota, founded in 1851; Hamline University, founded in 1854; and Wasioja Seminary, founded in 1860.



The speakers also honored the contributions of David Hanson and Dale Morris, two individuals who worked for years to identify ways to stabilize the ruins before funding became available and who worked tirelessly for the dream.

The speakers reflected on how the stabilized structure will help future generations understand the themes of sacrifice and service. They recalled how students from Wasioja



Seminary walked from the school to the nearby recruitment office to volunteer as some of the first Minnesotans to serve in the Union Army during the Civil War, following President Lincoln's call for troops.

Many attendees at the ribbon-cutting ceremony were able to sit in the shade on benches constructed as part of an Eagle Scout project. The names of the "Boys of Wasioja"—the students who volunteered to serve in the spring of 1861—are carved into the backs of

the benches. With the stabilization complete, the building where their historic walk began will remain standing for future generations to see.

The project was the culmination of efforts by numerous volunteers and by Architect Angela Wolf Scott from MacDonald & Mack Architects; Archeologist Jeremy Nienow, formerly Nienow Cultural Consultants, now Braun Intertec; and Contractor Ray Stenglein, Environmental Associates, Inc.



The Messenger Proudly Serves Our Hometowns

(continued from page 1)

If you haven't seen us yet, Hello! Here is a little history. The Messenger Newspapers started over 25 years ago in the towns of Dennison and Nerstrand, as the Mainstreet Messenger. At that time, we were exploring a monthly community news publication for smaller communities in the area, at a time when many of the weekly local papers began to shut down or were purchased and absorbed by larger papers, many times leaving the communities without dedicated local news coverage.

With continued support from our hometowns, we grew to include Wanamingo, Goodhue-Bellechester, Mazeppa-Zumbro-Falls, Dundas, Randolph-Hampton-Castle Rock and Kenyon.

In 2017 we expanded to West Concord and Claremont when those papers discontinued publication, and then Dodge Center when the Dodge Center-Hayfield Star Record discontinued publication. Our focus in Dodge County had primarily been the Triton area communities, however as our coverage and community support grew, we combined the three communities of Claremont, Dodge Center & West Concord into one paper a few years ago. About three years ago, the city of Dodge Center asked if we would consider becoming a legal newspaper to serve as the city legal newspaper. The Triton School

Board made the request shortly afterward and we began the process of qualifying as a legal newspaper in the state of Minnesota. By Minnesota statute, a publication can be a "legal" newspaper when published twice monthly, and making legal notices available on line and on the state's Legal Notice website. This allows newspapers to serve their communities when publishing every week becomes financially unfeasible. As many small towns lose businesses there is insufficient advertising income to support a local newspaper, as much of a newspaper's revenue is advertising sales.

After meeting the requirements required by the MN State Statutes, we became a legal

newspaper in Dodge County. At this time, we have since become the legal newspaper in Dodge County for the City of Claremont, the City of West Concord, the City of Dodge Center, Triton School District, Concord Township and numerous attorneys in southern Minnesota. Most recently, for 2026, Dodge County selected us to be the legal county newspaper in the county. This is all because of the community and county wide support, businesses and voluntary subscription support for a weekly alternative. We bring over twenty-five years of newspaper publishing experience in the county, as well as being raised, living and working here, including owning and operating a number of

retail businesses over the years in the county starting with a Kasson business in 1985. The Messenger now proudly publishes every week, serving the Dodge County communities of Claremont, Dodge Center, West Concord, Kasson-Mantorville and Hayfield, along with Byron and the many townships in the county. We appreciate your continued support and look forward to growing our local coverage of your hometowns. If you have news, story ideas, comments or suggestions, we welcome your input.

Make sure you receive The Messenger every week with your voluntary subscription that supports your Hometown Messenger.

DENNISON DAYS

RAIN OR SHINE
SATURDAY
FOOD STANDS
OPEN AT 11AM!

August 7 & 8, 2026



FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 KICK OFF
Biggest Dip and Pie Eating Contest
Cash Prizes!
Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon

LIVE MUSIC
Old Country Boys
7-11PM
Presented by Cattlemen's Saloon, Fireside Lounge, Sapphire Cocktail Lounge

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
Shane Martin
7:00PM
Presented by Cattlemen's Saloon, Fireside Lounge, Sapphire Cocktail Lounge

Saturday Schedule of Events

- 8-11a.m. **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** Under Mainstreet tent
Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church. \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 & under, 3 & under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk.
- 8a.m. **Farmers Market Downtown**
Citywide Garage Sales
Classic Car Show on Mainstreet Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Registration \$10. Trophies at 1p.m. Contact Jason Aldorfer 612-203-4172
- 8:30a.m. **Euchre at Fireside Lounge** For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602
- 9:00a.m. **Scavenger Hunt - \$100 Cash Prize!** Meet and sign up at the tent. Hunt will begin at 9am.
- 10a.m. **Truck & Tractor Pull on the Hill** For more information contact Dave Remme 507-649-0710
Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (at Mainstreet intersection) Sign up begins at 9:30a.m.
- 11a.m. **Food Stands Open**
- Noon **Kids Bingo** Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11
Costume Kickball Tournament Hosted by Cattlemen's Saloon. Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon
- 1:00p.m. **Car Show Trophies Awarded**
- 1-3p.m. **Kids Carnival**
- 1:30p.m. **Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade** (Ages 12 & Under)
\$300.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry! Sign up at Noon. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
- 2:30p.m. **Cattlemen's Saloon Bags Tournament - Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place!**
Sign up at Cattlemen's or call 507-782-9061
- 4:00p.m. **Power Tool, Gift Card & Purse Bingo** Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
- 6:30p.m. **Keg Toss - 100% Payout! \$5/throw** Across from Fireside Lounge
- 7:00p.m.-12a.m. **Live Music - Shane Martin** 18+ event. No Cover Charge. 21 to drink.
Presented by ProBuilt Construction and Fireside Lounge & Supper Club

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Trophies at 1:00PM
TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL
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**SATURDAY, AUGUST 8
KIDS PEDAL
TRACTOR PULL
10:00 AM**

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SATURDAY at 1:30 PM!
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RAFFLE**
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Legal Notices

August 6, 2026

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD, KASSON, MANTORVILLE, HAYFIELD MESSENGER -

Page 9

PUBLIC NOTICE SEALED BIDS ACCEPTED FOR COMMERCIAL GARAGE DOOR

The City of West Concord is accepting sealed bids for a commercial garage door from the Fire Hall.

- The door is 9'x10'
- Age: approx. 2 years old, in like new condition.
- Minimum bid is \$700. Estimated value is \$1,400.
- Bidding Deadline: 4:00 PM, August 18, 2026. Winning bidder will be announced at the August 20th Regular Council meeting.
- Submission Requirements: Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "GARAGE DOOR BID" and delivered to:
City of West Concord
180 Main St.
P.O. Box 435
West Concord, MN 55985
The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

LEGAL NOTICE APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING JULY 14, 2026 STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY

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ADMINISTRATION OFFICE COUNTY OF DODGE MANTORVILLE, MN

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
The following actions were approved:
* Agenda as amended to add item 13 (closed session) to the agenda.
* The following Consent Agenda items: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3.
* Signatures to resolution #2026-24 – Agreement to State Transportation Fund Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Terms & Conditions SAP 020-624-028.
* The following personnel

actions: A.1, B.1, C.1, C.2, C.3, D.1.
* Payment of the following bills:
01 Revenue Fund \$ 382,156.22
11 Human Services Fund \$ 4,167.50
13 Road and Bridge Fund \$ 110,257.28
16 Environmental Quality Fund \$ 114,324.42
19 Eda/Hra-Dodge County \$ 8,085.00
37 Debt Fund-County Go \$ 75,770.00
80 Agency Fund \$ 860.00
Total \$ 695,620.42
* Signatures to resolution #2026-25 – Resolution ap-

proving State of MN JPA w/the county on behalf of its County Attorney & Sheriff.
* The following Planning Commission recommendation as reviewed on 7/1/26:
- IUP #26-07 Rohwer
* Signatures to resolution #2026-26 – ZA #26-03 Chapter 16.
* Opening the meeting to the public at 10:42 a.m.
* Adjourning the meeting at 10:43 a.m.
This is a summary only. A complete set is available in the Administration Office at the Government Services Building in Mantorville, MN.

CITY OF DODGE CENTER, MN ORDINANCE NO. 169, SECOND SERIES

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3 OF THE CITY CODE TO CLARIFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF BILLING

SECTION 1. The Dodge Center City Council Ordains the City Code, Chapter 3, Section 3.05, subd. 1, is hereby deleted and recreated to read as follows:

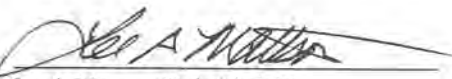
Subd. 1. Billing, Payment and Delinquency. All municipal utilities shall be billed monthly and a utilities statement or statements shall be mailed, emailed, posted to a customer's online account, or otherwise provided to each consumer. All utilities charges shall be delinquent if they are unpaid within twenty (20) days after the date of the bill. All payments must be received by the close of business on the bill due date. In the event that the bill due date falls on a Friday, Holiday, Saturday or Sunday, bills received prior to opening on the next business day shall be deemed to be paid within said period. A penalty shall be added to, and become part of, all delinquent bills. If service is suspended due to delinquency, it shall not be restored at that location until a reconnection charge has been paid for each utility reconnected in addition to amounts owed for service and penalties.

SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval and publication, as required by law.

Approved by the Council this 27th day of July 2026.


Bill Ketchum, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lee A. Mattson, Clerk-Administrator

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, July 13, 2026

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of July 13, 2026, Dodge Center City Council special meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Cathy Skogen, Gary Trelstad, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, Melanie Leth, and Jared Sheperd.

City Council approved the following items:

- Close the meeting pursuant to section 13D.05, subdivision 3(b) for confidential attorney client privilege discussion of the lawsuits Andrew Jacob v. City of Dodge Center and Aeris Younge v. City of Dodge Center.
- Meeting opened at 5:22 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, July 13, 2026

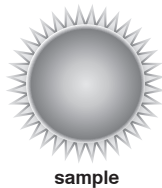
This published information is a summary of the full minutes of July 13, 2026, Dodge Center City Council regular meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing at City Hall, 35 East Main Street or online at www.ci.dodgecenter.mn.us.

Present: Mayor Bill Ketchum, Cathy Skogen, Gary Trelstad, Paul Blaisdell, Braedon Dostal, Lee Mattson, Stephanie Gonzalez

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and Consent Agenda to include: Minutes of the June 22, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting, Minutes of the June 22, 2026 City Council Special Meeting, Library Board Meeting Minutes of April 2026 and May 2026,
- Authorizing Mattson to move forward with Richard Welsh land development discussion between the County and the City.
- Authorizing Staff to move forward with paying bills as soon as possible to avoid late payments and fees.
- Directing Staff to take appropriate action with the Agreement from the State of Minnesota regarding Lead Line Program.
Meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

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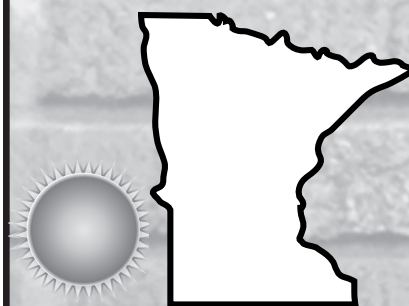
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2026 KASSON FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

Monday, August 3

Medallion Hunt all week
until Medallion is found
*city limits of Kasson

Friday, August 7

5 p.m. - Food vendors in the park
5:30-7 p.m. - Kids Dance by stage (ages 0+)
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - Kiddie Train, Face Painting by Karen, Hyper Space Video Trailer, Kloen Inflatable (socks required)
6 p.m. -8 p.m. - Bingo (West Pavilion)
9 p.m. - Movie in the Park- Heaven Is For Real

Saturday, August 8

Craft Show, Food Vendors, Kid Activities

7:30 a.m. - Sign up for 5K Run (\$25) (South End of Park)
8 a.m. - Goat yoga at Elmore Family Chiropractic. Cost- \$10.00
8 a.m. - 5K, Kids Run (10 & under) Starts on South end of Park.
8 a.m. -10 a.m. - Car, UTV & Antique Tractor Show Registration (located at 2nd & 7th)
9 a.m. - Treasure Hunt (Ages 1-9) (East side of park in volleyball pits)
9a.m.- 5 p.m. Kids Inflatables (socks required, Age 10 & Under)
9a.m. - Sidewalk Chalk Art (ages 18 & under)
9a.m. - 6 p.m. West Central Entertainment DJ
9:30 a.m. - Corn Hole Tournament registration
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - Car, UTV & Antique Tractor Show
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Face Painting by Karen/ Rookie The Clown (10-1 & 1:30-4)
10 a.m. - Ball Drop (Ages 5 & under, 6-8 & 9-12) (located on far north softball field)
10:30 a.m. - Corn Hole Tournament
11 a.m. - Pedal Pull (Ages 4-12) (7th St & 4th Ave NW)
11a.m. - 3 p.m. - Hyper Space Laser Tag (Closest/ South Softball field)
11 a.m.- 4 p.m. - K-M Cheerleading Dunk Tank
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Bingo, West Pavilion
1:00 p.m.- Adult AND kid eating contests (By Gazebo)
2:00 p.m. - Sidewalk Chalk Judging begins
3:30 p.m. - Sidewalk Chalk Awards
(Gazebo, must be present to win)
5:00 p.m. - Belly Flop Contest
6:00 p.m. - Kasson Ambassador Ceremony and Junior Ambassador Ceremony
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. - Free Performance- Brad Boice & The Big Wave
9:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m. -Fireman's Dance
(@ Fire Hall- Branded Hot Country)
9:30 p.m. - Fireworks -Rain date - TBD

97.5 FM
Live Broadcast
11:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Kratos Strength
Classic
10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Sunday, August 9

Craft Show, Food Vendors

9:00 a.m. - Church Service - (West Pavilion)
Ecumenical Church Service - Sponsored by South Zumbro Lutheran Church, and St. John's Lutheran Church
12:45 p.m. - Kiddie Parade Ages 0-4th grade, meet at Stone Arches by pool, will end at 4th Ave
1:30 p.m. - Grand Parade NW side of Kasson
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Family Entertainment @ Fire Hall

All events at North Park unless otherwise noted.

FOOD VENDORS

FRIDAY OPEN AT 5 • SATURDAY 10 AM- 9 PM • SUNDAY 10 AM- 3 PM
LION'S BURGERS, BRATS, HOT DOGS, CHEESE CURDS, ONION RINGS, CORN DOGS, MEXICAN ENTREES, SHREDDED PORK, MINI DONUTS, SHAVED ICE, COTTON CANDY, KETTLE CORN, KIDS MEALS, DEEP FRIED GREEN BEANS, CINNAMON ROLLS, DEEP FRIED PICKLES, LEMONADE, WHOOPIE PIES, DIRTY SODAS, BRISKET, SMOKED MAC AND CHEESE, FRUIT SMOOTHIES, TEA, TAIWANESE SAUSAGE WITH RICE, PHILLY STEAK SANDWICHES, SHRIMP KABOB, MISC. SNACKS

CRAFT/SALE VENDORS

FRIDAY 5 PM- 9 PM • SATURDAY 9 AM- 6 PM • SUNDAY 10 AM- 3 PM
HOME DECOR, THRIFTING ITEMS, HATS, MUGS, STICKERS, CAN COOLERS, APRONS, TUMBLERS, CAR COASTERS, BABY BLANKETS, WOOD ITEMS (FLAGS, CROSSES, AND MORE), PERMANENT JEWELRY, 3D PRINTS, SOY CANDLES, LOG DECOR, RUGS, QUILT LADDERS, JEWELRY, KEY CHAINS, CROC BUTTONS, LEGO SETS, HOMEMADE LEATHER GOODS, METAL ART, LIGHTED SIGNS, ETCHED ART, BACKPACK BUDDIES, TOYS, CUSTOM MAGNETS, BEESWAX WRAPS AND BAGS, HOODED BATH TOWELS, PILLOWS, HAIR WRAPS, AND MORE!!



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