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SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Volume 11 • Issue 35

Steele County Woman Named Princess Kay of the Milky Way

Jena Hanson, a 20-year-old college student from Owatonna, was crowned the 73rd Princess Kay of the Milky Way, serving as Minnesota's dairy ambassador.



Jena Hanson, representing Steele County, was officially crowned on August 26, 2026, at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds during an evening ceremony. She is a 20-year-old student at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, pursuing a degree in Dairy Management, and has prior experience working with dairy farmers in Steele County. While Jenna didn't grow up on a dairy farm, she began working on a local dairy farm during high school and developed a great respect for the dairy industry.

(continued on page 7)

New Staff at K-M School

Tiana Wiebke is a Kasson native and graduate of University of Minnesota – Twin Cities. Tiana will be starting her first full year as an Early Childhood Special Education teacher after working part-time at K-M last year.

Olicia Chladek is from Elgin, MN and a graduate on Minnesota State University – Mankato. She taught 1st grade at Maple River the last two years and will be teaching 1st grade at K-M this year.

Matt Bevis is from Owatonna and graduated from the University of South Florida St. Petersburg. Matt joined K-M last winter and is returning as a K-4 Special Education teacher.

Alyssa Sciuilli is from Ohio and is and is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College. She will be teaching 10th grade English at K-M.

Samantha Van Pelt is from Austin, MN and attended Riverland Community College and Winona State University.

(continued on page 4)



Left to Right: John Scheevel, Emily Threinen, Brianna Kirchner, Tiana Wiebke, Olicia Chladek, Abby Bense, Samantha Van Pelt, Alyssa Sciuilli, Molly Conway. Not Pictured: Matt Bevis and Ashley Von Arx

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, 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.

Do you have an announcement?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Hemp Maze Open Near Zumbrota



The Hemp Maze is open on Highway 52 between Zumbrota and Pine Island.

The address is 47385 Hwy 52 Blvd, Zumbrota. The Hemp Maze is a fun walk through a field of hemp, much of which is ten feet tall. They get the plants to grow that tall by adding supplemental lighting during two months during the summer to trick the plant into continual growing. Lights on photosensitive plants keep the plants from maturing. This in turn keeps the plants focusing on growth.

(continued on page 5)

61st Annual Marigold Days September 12 & 13



The end of summer is in sight and there is still Marigold Days to look forward to.

(continued on page 6)

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Pastors Corner It's Back to School Time

By John Todor, Pastor
First Baptist Kasson

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6,7

Every year during the summertime, we as parents have the pleasure of having our children at home throughout the day. We enjoy this time with our kids, because it is a time we could spend together as a family - church, traveling, picnics, parks, zoo; there are so many enjoyable things we get to do together as a family. But now the time has come for our children to return to school.

Each year as the new school year begins, my heart feels overwhelmed. Whether your students are going to kindergarten for the first time, or they are starting their freshman year in college (as our daughter is), it's a time filled with exciting possibilities and scary un-

knowns.

We all want to see our children thrive. Our goals consist of helping encourage them to do their best, seeing them learn, grow, and get along with others. While we each hold our own specific goals for individual children, there is one thing we can do that will launch them into the new school year with a fresh wave of hope and God-centered thinking. We can pray. As another school year begins, a high priority for us, followers of Christ should be praying for our kids.

There is nothing more important we can do at this time as parents than to pray - for ourselves, students, teachers and for our schools. Prayer is powerful and praying God's word over those we love and appreciate is a won-

derful gift that has eternal rewards.

With this in mind, please join me by praying with me the following prayer:

Dear God, we pray for your blessing and favor today over our teachers, our children, and our schools. We thank you in advance for all that you have in store for every teacher, every child, and every classroom in our schools. We ask that you unfold great blessings and gifts in the coming days, that this would long be remembered as a year you worked in amazing ways, on behalf of every person we're praying for.

Heavenly Father, when anxiety or pressures start to rise, please surround us all with your constant care and security, knowing that it's your peace that will guard our hearts and

minds in you. Give to all students, teachers, and caregivers a clear sense of your love. May they feel your presence throughout this school year. Guide their choices, their quest for knowledge, and their relationships. Use their successes and failures as opportunities to grow in understanding of who you would have them to be. Continue to shape them, that they may walk in the way of Christ, grow strong in the Spirit's love for all people, and know the complete joy of life in you.

*In the name of Jesus, our wonderful Lord and Savior we pray,
Amen.*

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308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
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Grace Lutheran Church

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Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253

<https://gracedc.church>

Worship 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center

507-374-6400

Kids Church 9:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center

507-374-6885

Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 a.m.,

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Mass Saturday 5 p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church

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Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561

Sunday 10 a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church

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Dodge Center • 507-374-6895

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(American Assoc. of Lutheran Churches)

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www.biblelc.org • 612-803-1212

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(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

First Congregational Church

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www.congregationalchurchdc.com

Mark Martig, Pastor

Area Church Directory

The Heart Command

I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." — Romans 7:7

Most people agree that the commandments we have been discussing lately—about promoting justice, honesty, respect for others and their property, and more—offer clear, practical boundaries for living together in society. Guidelines like these are found in all kinds of societies around the world.

We might even think, like many of God's people in ancient Israel did, that keeping these commands is possible. But the law doesn't satisfy God's requirements for our hearts. The apostle Paul painfully realized this when he wrestled with the darkness in his own heart. Though he thought he had been able to keep these commandments through his actions, he was cut to the heart when he read, "You shall not covet." God commands that we show love not only through our actions but also with our hearts. By this standard, we are all guilty of failing to love others.

Thankfully, our heart problem can be solved. "While we were still sinners," Paul writes in Romans 5:8, "Christ died for us." Jesus is the only one who could ever satisfy the demands of God's law for perfect obedience and love. And since we are forgiven through Jesus' sacrifice for our sake, the Holy Spirit gives us new hearts directed toward loving God and our neighbors.

Our new life in Christ moves us beyond mere outward obedience. By trusting Jesus, our restless hearts find true satisfaction in him alone, so that we can truly love others.

Jesus, thank you for rescuing us. By your Spirit, fill our hearts so that we can love others as you have loved us, Amen.

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Obituaries

September 3, 2026

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

Page 3

Gladys L. Gale

Gladys L. Gale, age 98 of Faribault, MN, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at Ivy Hill Senior Living in Faribault.

Gladys Lorraine, the daughter of Haaken and Borghild (Schenald) Vold was born on March 31, 1928 in Kenyon, MN. She attended West Concord High School and graduated with the class of 1946. On September 19, 1948 she was united in marriage to George D. Gale in Wanamingo, MN. George preceded her in death on October 25, 2015. Gladys worked at the Paul Bunyan store for a short time and then was a sales clerk at Brett's Department Store. She enjoyed gardening, dancing, entertaining and spending time at their home in Tucson, AZ.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl (Keith) Radel; by grandsons, Brandon Finnegan and Dustin Finnegan; great grandchildren, Isaac Finnegan, Tim Finnegan and Hanna Finnegan; by son-in-law, Randy Finnegan and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Haaken and Borghild Vold, husband, George D. Gale, daughter, Nancy Finnegan and by five brothers, Raymond Vold, Hilton (Audrey) Vold, Arvel (Orene) Vold, Arland (Pearl) Vold and LeRoy (Linda) Vold.

Memorial services will be held on Thursday,

September 3, 2026 at 11:30 a.m. at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory of Faribault with Bernadette Tatge, Pastoral Minister, officiating.

Visitation will be held at the Parker Kohl Funeral Home & Crematory on Thursday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Gerald (Jer) Richard Olson

It is with deep sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of Gerald (Jer) Richard Olson on August 27, 2026. While he had been managing other medical conditions in recent years, he was taken from us by a pulmonary embolism.

Jer was born July 25, 1968 to Dan and Marian (Vrieze) Olson. He lived his life in Dodge Center, MN where he was known for his red hair, long beard, wearing bibs daily and the pliers in his pocket. He was known to be able to fix or build most anything. Jer was incredibly stubborn, he lived his life his way with little need for material things, and a very tight circle of friends and loved ones. He didn't like crowds, he didn't like too many people, but if he chose you, you knew. You knew from his humor and one liners, from his willingness to lend a helping hand, by his smirk and the twinkle in his eyes.

He loved his daughters Dusti Olson and

Carly Kahl, he loved his Harley, he loved cool weather, his dog Mac, his father Dan (Carol Kinney) Olson and his sister Wendy (Rodney) Myer. He was blessed with 4 grandsons; Malyk and Brayden Schaefer, Carter Olson and Kooper Olson. He was blessed with a niece and nephew; Elle and Abraham Myer.

He valued his close friends who dropped in with home cooked meals, things that needed to be fixed, and stories to share. For those who hadn't seen him recently, he remembered you, we talked about you, and the memories and good times were important to him.

Jer is reunited in heaven with his amazing mother Marian, as well as his grandparents Oscar and Anna Olson, Wilton (Bud) and Doris Vrieze, cousins, aunts and uncles and many friends he lost too soon. His father, Dan, has lost too much over the years and this loss hits hard, please stop by the shop to visit in the future.

We plan to celebrate Jer where he was most comfortable; at his home. All are welcome on Friday September 4th from 4-7 pm. 403 East Main Street Dodge Center Mn. It will be a casual gathering, many of us will be wearing bibs because Jer was right; they are the most comfortable and they can hold a pliers.

Dolly Parton

"Global icon and humanitarian, Dolly Parton, known to the world as a beloved singer, songwriter, philanthropist, actress, playwright, and author died peacefully August 25, 2026 in Nashville, Tennessee. She was 80 years old.

Dolly is preceded in death by her beloved husband of 59 years Carl Thomas Dean (1942 – 2025), her mother Avie Lee Caroline Owens (1923 – 2003), and father, Robert Lee Parton, Sr. (1921 – 2000).

A rhinestone life that shone bright enough for the world to see, Dolly will forever stand as an inspiration not only through her timeless music and prolific songwriting, but also her wit, warmth, and kindness that made us all feel like family. Dolly Parton's legacy is one of love, compassion, and resilience. With a seven-decade career, she inspired multiple generations of artists and fans with her music and an unwavering commitment to making the world a better place. Her songs will continue to resonate with people of all ages, and her philanthropic work will have a lasting impact.

At Dolly's request, a small, private service was held for immediate family. Dolly's fans and friends from around the world are encouraged to pay tribute to Dolly on social media by tagging @DollyParton or by leaving a message at www.dollyparton.com

In lieu of flowers the family asks for donations to be made to Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at www.imaginationlibrary.com"

Credit: Dolly Parton Social Media

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New Staff at K-M School

(continued from page 1)

She is starting her first year at K-M as High School EBD special education teacher.

Abby Bense is from Elk River, Minnesota. She attended Buena Vista University and St. Cloud University. This will be her second year in education. She will be the K-M middle and

high school social worker.

Brianna Kirchner is from Mankato. She earned her degrees from MSU-Mankato and the University of North Dakota. This is her tenth year in education. She will be the K-M middle school counselor.

Emily Threinen is a 2020 K-M graduate. She has been a special education paraprofessional for the last five years while earning her degree from MSU-Mankato. She also completed her student teaching at K-M. This will be her first year as a classroom teacher.

John Schreevel is from Winona. He earned his degrees at Winona State University and his Masters at Emporia State University. This will be his twelfth year in education and he will be teaching middle school phy-ed at

KM.

Ashley Von Arx is from Rochester. She is a graduate of St. Mary's University. This is her seventh year in education and she will be teaching 7-8 grade English at K-M this year.

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• **Appetizers provided** • **Cash bar available** • **\$25 per person** •

Dress the Part! (optional) Come dressed in your favorite 1950's or 1960's attire for a chance to win our Best Costume Award!

Saturday, September 26
4:00-7:00 p.m.

West Concord Historical Society
400 West Concord Ave.
West Concord, MN 55985

To make reservations, please send \$25.00 per person to: West Concord Historical Society, Box 58, West Concord, MN 55985 by no later than Friday, September 11 or stop by the WCHS office to make a reservation. Reservations are non-refundable.

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Hemp Maze Open Near Zumbrota

(continued from page 1)

These fiber plants will grow 12-15 feet tall by the end of September. It takes at least ten minutes to navigate the hemp maze. There is also 13 hole disc golf course. Pet are welcome if kept on leash. The maze paths were cut in prior to the August 22nd open, and the cut plants are left laying on the path to provide material to walk on. The store on the farm sells and promotes a variety of hemp products.

Hemp is the oldest agricultural crop on our planet, one that has long been used by a number of great civilizations. It is misunderstood and almost always mistaken for cannabis. In a quote from an article published in Popular Mechanics in 1938: "American farmers are promised a new cash crop and it will provide thousands of jobs for American workers throughout the land." Hemp was once claimed the New Billion-Dollar Crop. With such an

extremely wide range of potential applications. Still, it took the government not even a year after this publication to pass harsh restrictions on cannabis and hemp that essentially buried the entire industry down in the ground. For almost a century, hemp has been forgotten and stigmatized due to the sea of misconceptions spread by the Reefer Madness propaganda.

Hemp is one of the oldest crops cultivated by humans. It was once praised for having thousands of different applications. Considering that, it seems beyond reason that it didn't even take 100 years for hemp and marijuana opponents to completely destroy the agricultural heritage of the United States. Fortunately, with the passing of the Industrial Hemp Act in 2014 (also known as the Farm Bill), U.S. farmers have been granted the right to cultivate hemp again in the country after 77 years of harsh prohibition. As the awareness and U.S. hemp supplies continue to grow, the plant will, sooner or later, cause the snowball effect, and innovation will only go further.

Today, the vast majority of people assume that hemp is the same thing as marijuana. While these two are, indeed, connected, they are distinct cousins. Sadly, modern society has never got the chance to experience the incredible benefits that come with using hemp. Fortunately, as times are changing, more and

more people become aware of how hemp can improve the quality of our lives.

During World War II, the US government was in great need of more raw material to make solid, durable ropes. This material had been severely limited during their battle with Japan. This is when the government came up with a campaign named "Hemp For Victory", encouraging US farmers to start cultivating hemp to support the United States in the war. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) even promoted a public commercial to underline the benefits of hemp as an industrial material.

There is a huge promise in using hemp for building homes in the future. Hemp concrete, or hempcrete, offers plenty of benefits, including amazing thermodynamic insulation, being hypoallergenic, and absorbing CO2 as it ages. As a result, hempcrete becomes stronger over time, unlike mainstream materials, let alone the reduction of your carbon footprint.

When it comes to durability and construction, hempcrete homes produce zero construction waste. It turns out even more huge when you consider that 55% of the world's energy consumption is associated with construction waste.

Unlike other cars, you don't need to buy a new vehicle to start using hemp biofuel, because it can be used in cars that used to run on regular oil. Thomas B. Reed, a chemical engineer at Colorado School of Mines, has

stated that an acre of hemp can produce as much as a thousand gallons of gasoline. It's no wonder that the industry experts estimate that this sustainable fuel will sooner or later put regular oil out of business.

Hemp is actually a decent clothing material, superior to its counterparts in almost every aspect? Hemp is more porous and breathable. Even materials like cotton won't let your skin breathe as easily as hemp. Hemp excels at durability. Hemp fiber is the most durable of all plants. Hemp-made clothes tend to last much longer than their counterparts. Hemp is eco-friendly and sustainable. As much as we prefer cotton over other mainstream clothing materials, we cannot be indifferent towards its water insensitivity. It requires 50% more water to grow than hemp, not to mention that it uses 25% of the world's pesticides. Hemp, on the other hand, requires no use of pesticides.

The popularity of hemp seeds has been well deserved by their nutritional value. Commonly used by vegetarians and athletes, hemp seeds are often mentioned among chia and flax as superfoods. Eating hemp seeds comes with the following health benefits:

Hemp seed flour is gluten-free, packed with nutrients, and serves as a superior source of energy. The flour contains 33% protein and is second to soy in terms of protein content.

(continued on page 6)



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Dodge Center Foundation Seeks Grant Applications

The DODGE CENTER FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization established to serve the greater Dodge Center community by providing leadership and funding to qualified projects that enhance the quality of life for area residents. The Dodge Center Foundation promotes philanthropy and raises funds to meet these goals.

Local organizations interested in seeking funding from the Dodge Center Foundation should fill out a Grant Application and submit it to the Dodge Center Foundation's Secretary, Diane Page, at dpageno2@gmail.com. Or mail the completed application to the Foundation at P.O. Box 276, Dodge Center, MN 55927. The deadline is September 21, 2026. Grant Application forms may be picked up at Dodge Center City Hall, 35 East Main St., Dodge Center, MN 55927.

The Dodge Center Foundation only funds projects that meet requirements of community development, such as maintaining or creating community assets in areas such as recreation, arts, education or personal health. The Board of Trustees of the Dodge County Foundation would like to encourage all organizations interested to submit an application for consideration.



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Hemp Maze Open Near Zumbrota

(continued from page 5)

Moreover, the protein that comes from hemp seed flower is more easily digested by the body, making it perfect for those with dairy, gluten, wheat, or nut allergies.

Hemp extracts consist of cannabinoids found in the leaves of hemp.

CBD, short for Cannabidiol, is one of the better-researched compounds, with a plethora of documented health benefits. The patent

held by the US Health and Human Services says:

“Cannabinoids have been found to have antioxidant properties, unrelated to NMDA receptor antagonism. This newfound property makes cannabinoids useful in the treatment and prophylaxis of a wide variety of oxidation-associated diseases, such as ischemic, age-related, inflammatory, and autoimmune diseases. Cannabinoids are found to have particular application as neuroprotectants, for example in limiting neurological damage following ischemic insults, such as stroke and trauma, or in the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and HIV dementia.”

Using hemp hurds for animal bedding can prove beneficial in many aspects. First of all, hemp is extremely absorbent and it can hold 4 times its own weight, not to mention that it

can last much longer than straw or pine bedding. Moreover, hemp bedding doesn’t tend to catch dust, which is great for horses with heart issues. It also prevents the odor better than wood or straw shavings. All animal owners who care about their wellness should consider switching from the aforementioned materials to hemp.

When you clean up your soil with conventional crops, such as soy, corn, or wheat, you need to come to terms with the fact that they will deplete the nutrition of your soil, causing it to dry out and eventually erode. Hemp is much different than its more commonly used counterparts. Its deep roots help stabilize the soil structure, not to mention that they also naturally shade out weeds. Growing 6-16 ft tall in 110 days, hemp can be a natural solution for farmers who don’t want to use costly and toxic herbicides. As the plant absorbs heavy-metal pollutants from soil, it is, slowly but surely, purifying the earth.



61st Annual Marigold Days September 12 & 13

(continued from page 1)

Riverside Park will swell to overflow as people come from far and near to enjoy the great Mantorville celebration.

There will be the customary antique market, collectibles and crafts over the weekend, food trucks, car show and live music to entertain you. It is a great time for all ages. Bingo and the Miss Mantorville pageant, Fireman’s Dance and fireworks. A flower and quilt show and of course Marigold displays.

The Grand Parade will be held Sunday afternoon at 1:30pm followed by the Fire Department water fights.

Look for a complete schedule of events in next week’s Messenger.

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Terry Campbell at (507) 951-7417

Office: (507) 649-3327

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

61ST ANNUAL MANTORVILLE Marigold Days

SATURDAY LIVE MUSIC

10 AM - Wilkinson James
Noon - Backup Sound System
2:00 PM - B and The Sting
4:00 PM - Uptown Jazz
6:00 PM - Fever Pitch

SUNDAY LIVE MUSIC

11:30 AM - Stryker
2:00 PM - LP and the 45s

Rain or Shine!

September 12th & 13th

LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Rice County Steam & Gas Engines Welcomes You

Gates
Open 7am

51ST ANNUAL SHOW

September 4-6, 2026



FEATURING: Allis-Chalmers

- ALL MAKES & MODELS OF TRACTORS & EQUIPMENT ARE WELCOME -

* CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

Saturday Afternoon, North side @ Music Bldg

* PARADE OF TRACTORS - DAILY @ NOON

* TRACTOR PULL - Sunday 9:00 am

* KIDS PEDAL PULL - Saturday 2:00 pm

* RAILROAD TRAIN RIDES - DAILY

LIVE MUSIC & BEER GARDEN

FRIDAY

1:00-4:00 pm *Charlie Sticha Band*

4:00-8:00 pm *Old Country Boys*

SATURDAY

10:00-Noon *Square Dancers*

1:00-4:00 pm *Bent Highway Band*

4:00-8:00 pm *Dakota Ramblers Band*

SUNDAY

8:00 am *Non-Denominational Church Service*

1:00-4:00 pm *Czech Area Concertina Club*

General Information Contacts:

Bill Becker 507-581-1225

Jeremy Sevcik 507-403-1614

Carmen Sevcik 507-649-0352

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INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK:
ricecountysteamandgas.com

Rice County Steam & Gas Showgrounds * 11988 Faribault Blvd * Dundas, MN 55019
(Located South of Dundas on Highway 3)

Steele County Woman Named Princess Kay of the Milky Way

(continued from page 1)

Originally planning on becoming a large animal veterinarian, she is now pursuing a career in Dairy Management. Hanson was selected from ten finalists who competed statewide, with Isabella Schiffler and Jaiden Smith of Stearns County named as runners-up.

As Princess Kay of the Milky Way, Hanson will serve as the official goodwill ambassador for nearly 1,500 Minnesota dairy farm families over the next year. Her duties include public appearances, classroom visits, and speaking engagements to educate consumers about the nutritional benefits of dairy and the

sustainability practices of Minnesota dairy farmers.

A unique tradition of the Princess Kay program involves sculpting the princess's likeness in a 90-pound block of butter. Hanson's first official duty will be to sit in a rotating cooler at the Dairy Building during the Minnesota State Fair on August 27 and 28 while Minnesota artist Gerry Kulzer carves her likeness. Other finalists will also have their likenesses sculpted throughout the fair.

Hanson has been active in the dairy community and youth organizations, including FFA and 4-H, and has participated in choir, orchestra, and tennis during high school. She was chosen for her personality, communication skills, and knowledge of the dairy industry, which are key criteria for the Princess Kay selection. Additionally, she is one of the scholarship winners among the finalists, alongside Schiffler and Claudia Frenchick.

Throughout her year-long reign, Hanson will help connect consumers to Minnesota's dairy farms, promoting awareness and appre-



ciation for the state's dairy industry while participating in various educational and promotional events.



5th ANNUAL Oktoberfest 2026
WEST CONCORD, MINNESOTA

Purchase a Limited Edition Mug for \$20 and Draft Beer Refills are \$5 during event

Saturday, September 19th
3:00 - 7:30 pm
Under the Tent at the West Concord Muni
124 Main Street, West Concord, Minnesota

- Visit and snap a picture with our "Bavarian" Llamas! Watch them complete an obstacle course. Llama photos Available 4 - 7pm.
- Check your strength at the Strongman Challenge. Sponsored by Kratos Athletic Center. Challenges held throughout the event.
- Join in on the Beer Run at 5pm and win prizes!
- Coloring Pages for the kids. Sponsored by Ready Set Learn of Dodge County!
- Come in your German costume - contest judging at 6pm! Prizes for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place, both Men & Women.
- Drink Specials & More

The West Concord American Legion will be serving Brats, Kraut, German Potato Salad or Chips and non-alcohol drink for \$12 (4-7pm)




Featuring Live Music by The Dan Stursa Band

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Dodge County Fairgrounds

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Tickets can be purchased at Mantorville Square or call 507-259-1775 or 651-380-1246



















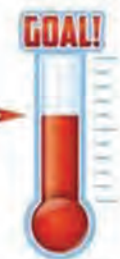


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Dodge Center United Methodist Church

Help us reach our fundraising goal!



Join us for our Annual Fundraiser Community Dinner

Suggested \$15 donation
(Open to all in the community)

Pork Loin

Mashed Potatoes & gravy

Green beans & Dinner roll

Choice of dessert: Bars

DINE IN & takeout available (no pre-sales)



United Methodist Church

20 1st Street NE

Dodge Center, MN

September 16, 2026

5:00 - 6:00 pm (serving until gone)

Pancake Breakfast to benefit the Dodge Center Ambulance Service

Hosted by Eden Progressive Gophers 4-H Club



Hot Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Fruit
Milk, Juice & Coffee

*Same price
Same great 4-H'ers*

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2026

Where: West Concord American Legion

Time: 7:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Suggested Price: \$8 for 5 yrs old - Adults
4 years old & under free

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Dodge County 4-H

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Legal Notices

September 3, 2026

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

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LEGAL NOTICE

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING JULY 28, 2026 STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE COUNTY OF DODGE MANTORVILLE, MN

Do You Have An Announcement?

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hometownmessenger@gmail.com



The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The following actions were approved:

* Agenda as presented.

* The following Consent Agenda items: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4.

* LHTF to issue grant to City of West Concord in the amount of \$100,000 for proposed housing development project.

* The following personnel actions: A.1, B.1, B.2, C.1, C.2, D.1.

* Payment of the following bills:

01 Revenue Fund \$ 289,655.63

13 Road and Bridge Fund \$ 302,976.84

16 Environmental Quality Fund \$ 13,549.61

52 The Midway \$ 270.00

80 Agency Fund \$ 6,415.33

Total \$ 612,867.41

* Issuing credit card to Environmental Services Department to be used by park staff for maintenance items as discussed.

* Adjourning the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

This is a summary only. A complete set is available in the Administration Office at the Government Services Building in Mantorville, MN.

LEGAL NOTICE

Dodge County currently has an opening for a board member of the Cedar River Watershed District. Interested individuals must live within the district. This position is filling the vacancy of an existing term with the term ending in March of 2029. Any individual interested should send a letter of interest with identifying information and credentials to Dodge County Administration, C/O County Administrator, 721 Main Street N. Mantorville, MN 55955. Any questions, please call (507) 635-6239. The Dodge County Board will make an appointment to this board before the term begins.

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES Monday, August 10, 2026

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of August 10, 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, Meredith Brose, Deputy Breuer, Gerald Runnells, Randy Langworthy, Al Denny, Thomas Donohue

City Council approved the following items:

- Agenda and Consent Agenda to include: Minutes of the July 27, 2026 City Council Meeting, SCDP Subordination, and Payment of bills,
 - Tabled the nuisance code violation decision regarding the 602 10th Ave NW property,
 - Award the \$50,000 mastic project, including 13 manholes and 2 water shutoffs to Barga Inc., as budgeted.
 - Approve a bid not to exceed \$6,570 for purchasing sealant material for the in-house road crack-sealing project the Maintenance Department will complete.
 - Approve a bid not to exceed \$3,872 for replacement of concrete to include 2 buckled sidewalks and curb, as well as a bid not to exceed \$12,607 for concrete slab replacement at the pool.
 - Waive repayment responsibility from the homeowners affected by 54 incorrectly calibrated water meters through the mid-July estimated reading and to direct staff to pursue monetary compensation from the vendor, Badger Meter.
 - Approve Resolution 2026-011 to acknowledge acceptance of Robin Koss-Viker's application for a non-transferrable home occupation interim use permit to operate a salon at 1305 5th St NW.
 - Approve Resolution 2026-012 to acknowledge acceptance of Thomas Donohue's application for a non-transferrable home occupation interim use permit to operate a pest control business at 1218 Highway Street NW.
 - Approve staff to move forward with drafting an ordinance amending Chapter 6 of the City Code relating to Building Construction to allow plumbing plan reviews by CMS.
 - Approve and accept the lowest demolition bid on the 501 1st St SW property up to \$24,300, with bids including removal of all materials, fill, soil, and seed for erosion control.
 - Approve the Airport Beacon grant amendment request to the State to authorize amending the Airport Lighting construction contract contingent upon receipt of federal funding.
 - Approve a food truck parked on City Property for the Center Clinic Wellness Day at the Community Center on Saturday, September 26, 2026,
 - Approve a petting zoo on City Property for the Center Clinic Wellness Day at the Community Center on Saturday, September 26, 2026.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING AUGUST 11, 2026 STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY 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 presented.

* The following Consent

Agenda items: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3.

* The following personnel actions: A.1, A.2, A.3, B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4, B.5, C.1.

* Funding 50% of requested amounts for opioid settlement fund distribution to Dodge Center Ambulance & West Concord Fire & Ambulance as discussed.

* Public Health's request to increase staff FTE by .20 as requested using opioid settlement fund distribution.

* Payment of the following bills:

01 Revenue Fund \$ 55,543.55

13 Road and Bridge Fund \$ 35,033.48

16 Environmental Quality

Fund \$ 94,165.35

52 The Midway \$ 174.00

Total \$ 184,196.38

* Signatures to resolution #2026-27 – Drug Court Sober Fest 2027 Donation.

* Out-of-state travel for Assistant County Attorney Behrns to attend Prosecutor Training in September in Oklahoma as requested.

* Adjourning the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

This is a summary only. A complete set is available in the Administration Office at the Government Services Building in Mantorville, MN.

NOTICE OF ROAD ALTERATION AND VACATION HEARING CONCORD TOWNSHIP, DODGE COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the town board of Concord Township, Dodge County, Minnesota will conduct a public hearing on the 10th day of September, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Concord Town Hall located at

55319 201st Avenue, Concord, MN for the purpose of considering and acting upon a petition it received calling for the alteration and/or vacation of the following described road:

Alter: Platted width of 554th St. is 100'. Alter the platted width to the standard township 66' from 201st Avenue east to the hamlet of Concord east border.

Vacate: All of the alley located in Block 19 between Commerce Street and Park Street, Original Plat, Concord, Dodge County, Minnesota.

All persons interested in this matter are encouraged to attend the hearing.

Dated: August 15, 2026

Michael Jones

Concord Township Clerk

NOTICE OF BIDS – GARAGE DOOR

The City of West Concord is accepting sealed bids for the sale of the overhead garage door at the Fire Hall.

Condition: The door is sold AS IS. The City of West Concord makes no warranties, express or implied, regarding the condition or usability of the door.

The door is approx. 9x11 and 2 years old.

Removal: The successful bidder will be responsible for all costs and arrangements associated with moving the door from city property by October 1, 2026.

Bidding Deadline: All bids must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. Winning bidder will be announced by the September 17, 2025 Council Meeting.

Minimum bid is \$250.

Submission Requirements: Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "GARAGE BID" and delivered to:

City of West Concord

180 Main St.

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West Concord, MN 55985

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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