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OCTOBER 22, 2026

Volume 11 • Issue 40

ELECTION DAY

November 3, 2026

Claremont Mayoral Candidates

(see page 6)

Dodge Center City Candidates

(see page 6)

Claremont City Council Candidates

(see page 7)

West Concord City Council Candidates

(see page 7)

Triton School Board Candidates

(see page 8)

Announcements

• Meet the School Board Candidates Monday, October 26 from 7-8:30p.m. Candidates will have the opportunity to share about themselves and answer questions about their run for school board. (see ad on pg. 8)

• 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

A Learning Journey

By Jocelyn Aldrich

Trombones, a career in wholesale management, and a call to the ministry. You might be

Dodge Center Legion Theft

A Dodge Center man has been accused of embezzling thousands of dollars from the Dodge Center American Legion according to a court document which was filed in Dodge County Court last Thursday.



Rich Wilburt
Klindworth, Jr

(continued on page 23)

wondering what these three items have in common. While each requires great dedication, they all find their answer in Rev. Dr. Daren Flinck.

A musician and a businessman, Flinck has also spent the last 30+ years in the pastoral ministry. However, his journey to the ministry was not immediate. His career began in the wholesale business realm. Although his hometown pastor had once asked Flinck if he had ever considered pursuing the ministry, Flinck didn't see how additional education would fit into his already busy schedule. He was working nights at the time and was also trying to balance family responsibilities. But soon he decided that if this was truly God's calling, God would make a way. He prayed and said, "Lord, if this is something you want

me to do, help me not to an obstacle."

Soon after, Flinck's boss moved him to work the day shift. It was an answer to prayer. Soon after, he was accepted at the College of Saint Scholastica.

(continued on page 3)



Rev. Daren Flinck

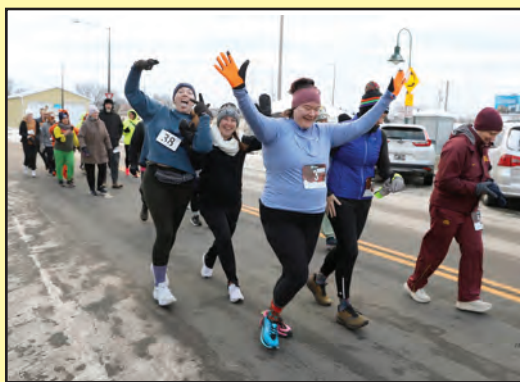
Midnight Hounds Album Release Party



Saturday evening at the Pure Rock Studios in Rochester the Midnight Hounds performed live as celebration of the release date of their new album "Atomic Sand". They performed all fifteen tracks of the album in a set that lasted just over an hour. Then they switched gears and played an acoustic set with Layne on guitar, Teresa on fiddle and Travis on cello.

(continued on page 5)

The Main Alternative hosts its 5th Annual Turkey Day 5k Thanksgiving Morning



November 26, 2026 (Thanksgiving morning) will be the 5th year a local business woman will host a 5k run/walk which benefits two local programs that give back to the community at large. Stevie Gransee, owner of You Knead Therapy at The Main Alternative, started her venture with a small 5k including family and close friends to come together for a healthy activity, comradery and delicious Bloody Marys afterwards.

(continued on page 5)

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"Let His Light Shine!"

By John Todor, Pastor
First Baptist Kasson

A couple of summers ago, my family and I had the privilege of taking a trip North of Duluth and we visited the beautiful and famous "Split Rock Lighthouse", located on the

North Shore of Lake Superior. As many of you know, this lighthouse was built in response to the great winter gale of Nov. 27-29, 1905, that claimed 78 lives and disabled or destroyed 29 ships. At the time of its construction, there were no roads to the area and all building materials and supplies arrived by water and were lifted to the top of the cliff by crane. The light was first lit on July 31, 1910, and it saved many, many lives during its years of service.

As the guide was joyfully leading us through this beautiful National Historic Landmark, nicely explaining how the lighthouse was used as a refuge to lost ships for guidance and safety purposes, the Lord reminded me of another lighthouse, a spiritual one. The lighthouse is the perfect metaphor

for describing the Christian life. The attributes of Split Rock Lighthouse, are similar to the hope we have in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

• Jesus came as refuge to a dying, sin-sick world and He offers His salvation to all who believe in His name - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

• Split Rock Lighthouse warned ships of danger, and the mission of God's people here on earth is to provide spiritual direction to all who would listen. We are God's lighthouse because Jesus lives in us. Jesus Christ is our guiding light. He came to show us the way to our heavenly Father and has given us that same "light" to shine before mankind. When believers in Christ work together in unity,

their fellowship of faith provides spiritual light in the world's darkness (Philippians 2:15-16).

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:14-16).

Dear Christian friend, how does your light shine? Be a shining light for Him today!

You are called with a holy calling

The light of the world to be;

To lift up the lamp of the Savior

That others His light may see. — Anon.

Everyone's Invited to our

TURKEY DINNER

Sunday, November 1st
at Dennison Lutheran Church
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**For advertising information
call Terry at 507-951-7417,
Journey at 507-384-1521
or email:
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SHOP

LOCAL

Area Church Directory

Jesus, Name Above All Names

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . . . — Philippians 2:9-10

There are a lot of big names out there: Zuckerberg, Apple, Xi, Trump, Oprah, AI. Does our world rise or fall with these names?

Or how about some names closer to home: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, ALS, Down Syndrome? Or what about labels that society might apply to us: divorced, disabled, addicted, infertile, fired, foreclosed, forgotten, paroled? Do any of these have the power to make or break us?

No. Our reading today proclaims that no name, whether it carries princely power or brings us problems or roadblocks, is greater than Jesus— not even light years close.

None of those names went down low, "taking the very nature of a servant" and "becoming obedient to death" to raise us up. None of those died on a cross to give us new life.

Jesus is the only One whom God gave the name greater than any other name. He is the only One we should bow to. We can take him more seriously than any other name or label, for he himself is God, and he rules over all things.

This month, let's reflect on the various names of Jesus and what they show us about him. Each one reveals something marvelous and matchless about Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom every knee and power and threat will bow, "to the glory of God the Father." We are in his hands, and he puts all things in their place.

Thank you, Jesus, for all you have done to give us new life and faith in the power of your name. May we honor your name above every name. Amen.

DODGE CENTER

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

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

Praise Fellowship Church
602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
507-374-6400
Kids Church 9:15a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church
201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center
507-374-6885
Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30a.m.,
Fellowship Time Following

St. John Baptist De La Salle
20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5p.m.

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

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

**Anchor of Hope Church,
a 7th Day Baptist Congregation**
203 E. Main St., Dodge Center • 507-374-6755
Saturday 10a.m. Worship; 11:45a.m. Sabbath School

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

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

CLAREMONT

1st Presbyterian Church
200 East Street, Claremont • 528-2320
Pastor Doug Walters
Sunday Worship at 10:00a.m.

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

WEST CONCORD

Faith Community Church
305 State Street N, West Concord
507-527-2244
Interim Pastor, Steve Anderson
Sunday 9:30a.m. Worship; 10:45a.m. Sunday School
www.fccwc.org
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

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

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

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

Zwingli United Church of Christ
"The Berne Church"
23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340
Pastor Beth Anthony
Sunday 10:00a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook
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A Learning Journey

(continued from page 1)



Dodge County Cowboy Church
2ND SUNDAY NIGHT
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

November 8



KASSON CHURCH OF CHRIST
901 8TH AVE NW
KASSON MN 55944
Marette Jorgenson, 507-421-4761

For 12 years, Flinck had worked in the wholesale business department. Reflecting on that season of his life, he noted that it was now “time to answer a different calling.” After graduating from the College of Saint Scholastica with a completed four-year degree, Flinck continued on to earn his Master of Divinity as well as earning his doctorate. Rev. Dr. Flinck spent 34 years in full-time ministry before he decided to retire two years ago.

However, the period of retirement didn’t last long, as Rev. Dr. Flinck was asked to return to the ministry. Today, he serves part-time at the Kenyon United Methodist Church (UMC), and in June of this year, he was asked to also serve at the Dodge Center UMC. Rev. Dr. Flinck also serves as a supplemental chaplain for Mayo Clinic. He has been involved in many aspects of the ministry, including the MN UMC Conference, various camping efforts, and he now serves on the Kenyon Foundation Board, which helps to bring funding to the Kenyon area. He is also a member of the Rochester Community Band and Trombones Anonymous, where he continues to use his trombone skills. He is currently interested in more ways to get involved in the Dodge Center community. He hopes to join the ministerial group in Dodge Center and also find ways to help the sister churches in the area. Reflecting on his time with the

Dodge Center UMC, he says, “I do see a very dedicated group of leadership that are really working hard to do the right things, and I think they are doing the right things.” Rev. Dr. Flinck notes that he has learned a lot in his time serving the local UMC churches, and he is eager to continue to learn. Eventually,

the goal will be for each of the local UMC churches to find new clergy. However, for the time being, he says, “I’m just an ordinary guy with an extraordinary message.” Rev. Dr. Flinck continues to be willing to share that message.

OBITUARY

Leslie Dale DeRaad Sr.

It is with deep sorrow and loving remembrance that we announce the passing of Leslie Dale DeRaad, who left this world peacefully on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, MN. Born on August 14, 1937, in Geneva Township, Freeborn County, Leslie graced us with his presence for 89 remarkable years, leaving behind a legacy of love, laughter, and dedication.

Leslie was born to Nanko and Jennie DeRaad in Albert Lea, where he spent his formative years. A proud graduate of Albert Lea High School, he found his calling early by assisting his father at their family's Mobil gas station in Clarks Grove. His journey continued as he served his nation with honor in the United States Navy for four years, starting in 1957.

Upon completing his service, Leslie embraced a new path in the field of welding, first with Dunn Welding Company in Minneapolis. In 1977, his entrepreneurial spirit shone through when he opened his own welding shop on Main Street in Dodge Center, MN, which he successfully operated until his retirement.

Leslie's life was enriched by his marriage to Manuella Diaz on May 19, 1961. Together, they built a family and shared countless adventures until Manuella's passing. He was a devoted father to his children: Leslie David DeRaad of Kasson, Lorette DeRaad of Kasson, Lynn DeRaad of Rochester, and Lorne DeRaad of Kasson. His legacy also lives on through his 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren, each of whom he cherished deeply.

An active member of his community, Leslie was known for his skill in pool, darts, horse-shoes, bowling, and bean bag games. Les spent many Sunday afternoons at his home in Dodge Center playing pool in the pool room with his grandchildren, enjoying homemade tortillas from Minnie. Beyond his love for games, he enjoyed watching wrestling, old westerns, and game shows on television. Fishing and camping were also some of his favorite pastimes. He spent the last few years living with his daughter and two grandsons in Kasson. He enjoyed going to the legion for a captain coke and old timers' stories.

Leslie had an unforgettable personality marked by a twinkle in his eye and a penchant for humor. His wisecracks often left people chuckling, and those who knew him well understood that his jests were always made in good spirit and love.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Manuella; his parents, Nanko and Jennie; his son, Leslie Jr.; daughter, Dawn Mitchell; grandson, Andrew Sahr; and sisters, Joan McGregor, Ruth Waldemar, Betty DeRaad, and Donna Lechner.

A celebration of Leslie's life will be held on Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Charlie's Eatery and Pub, located at 1654 Hwy 52, Rochester, MN. The DeRaad family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the hospital staff for their compassionate care during this difficult time.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Leslie's memory may be made to a charity of your choice, honoring his spirit of kindness and community.

Leslie Dale DeRaad will be remembered as a man of integrity, humor, and warmth. His memory will forever remain in the hearts of those who were fortunate enough to know him.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN 55940 (507) 634-6510. Blessed be his memory.



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New Memories

Sometimes during life when we become troubled and start thinking of our past, and having negative thoughts, we need to STOP and gain control of our life again.

This happens to many of us during our lifetime. First we need to remember, and be grateful for the life God has given us. We need to be grateful for Jesus Christ. Thank God for every day God gives us on His earth.

We can't change what we did yesterday, but we can control our actions of this day.

Jeremiah 29:11 "God's plans give a future and a hope".

Focus on the love you have for your family. Be grateful for every day.

Remember to hug your children every day.

Your friend,
Larry Blood

Holden Lutheran Church

All Saints Dinner

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Dine In: 12-2 and 4:30-6:30

**Meat Balls and Gravy* Pulsa
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To Go Meals are available but reservations for these meals are preferred.
Call (507) 789-6677
Email: holdendinner@gmail.com

Jeffrey Frank Eisterhold

Jeffrey Frank Eisterhold, 59, of Kasson, MN passed away surrounded by his family on Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Hospital Methodist Campus in Rochester, MN after a courageous 4-year battle with pancreatic cancer.

Jeffrey was born on March 1, 1967, in Albert Lea, MN to John and Linda (Zeiner) Eisterhold. He graduated from Albert Lea high school and Austin Vo-tech school. He then graduated from IBM Programmer University. He worked as a programmer for IBM for 20 years and was currently working for Western Digital.

Jeff has lived in Kasson since 1991. He married Laura Allen on September 28, 1991. He enjoyed snowmobiling, golfing, watching the MN Wild, deer and pheasant hunting. You would often find him tinkering in the garage taking things apart and putting them back together. He was "Mr. Fix-it". Most of all he loved to spend time with his children and grandchildren.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Laura Eisterhold of Kasson, MN; children, Daniel (Nutso-vary Puy) Eisterhold of Byron, MN and Kelly (Brandon) Myrom of Kasson, MN; two grandchildren, Rory Myrom and Bellamy Myrom; parents, John and Linda Eisterhold; mother-in-law, Ruth Allen; brothers, Doug (Tara) Eisterhold and Greg (Judy) Eisterhold; brother and sister-in-law, Craig and Sheri Allen; nieces and nephews, Ramsey Eisterhold, Shay (Sara) Eisterhold, Abigail Eisterhold, Emily Eisterhold, Dohrian Eisterhold, and Shai Nichols; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Bernard and Leona Zeiner and Herman and Florentina Eisterhold; and his father-in-law, Gerald "Jerry" Allen.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, October 23, 2026, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson, MN with Pastor Pete Wyttenbach officiating. Visitation will be 4:00-7:00 p.m. Thursday, October 22, 2026, at Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson, MN and also one hour prior to his service on Friday. Inurnment will be in St. Margaret's Catholic cemetery in Mantorville, MN.

Your presence and support are deeply appreciated. In lieu of flowers, if you wish to make a contribution, memorials can be sent to the K-M Area Care and Share, PO Box 222 Kasson MN 55944 or directly to his family.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN 55940 (507) 634-6510. Blessed be his memory.

DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



Daniel Anders Lybeck

Daniel Anders Lybeck, 67, passed away at his home in Dodge Center, Minnesota.

Daniel was born on July 5, 1959, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, to Amos O. Lybeck and Margaret E. Hauger Lybeck. He grew up in Byron and graduated from Byron High School. Following high school, he served in the United States Marine Corps and received an honorable discharge.

Daniel attended Rochester Community College and went on to earn a degree in civil engineering from Fargo, North Dakota. He worked for McGee and Betts for several years before continuing his career with the City of Rochester until retirement.

Daniel enjoyed reading, playing the trumpet, putting puzzles together, and checking the Farmers' Almanac for weather predictions. He also had a fondness for trucks. Frugal and practical, he was often the first person to get up and clear the table.

He liked teasing people and making them smile. A loyal son and brother, and friend. Daniel regularly checked on his mother and siblings. He loved his extended family, enjoyed visiting his cousins, and kept in touch with family members and friends. These everyday gestures were part of how he showed his care for the people in his life.

Daniel is survived by his sister, Amy Lybeck of Red Wing, Minnesota; his nieces, Ashley Spriggle of Red Wing, Minnesota, and Nicole Lyons (Mason) of Gilbert, Arizona; two great-nephews; one great-niece; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his older brother, Bruce Lybeck.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11 AM on Friday, October 30, 2026, at Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home in Rochester, MN. Following a luncheon, Inurnment will be at Grandview Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dodge Center Ambulance service for continued education certifications for cardiac related events. Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Lybeck family; to share a special memory or condolence please visit www.ranfranzandvinefh.com

Carol Ann Clough

Carol Ann Clough left us on October 15, 2026, at the age of 87.

Born on February 11, 1939, in West Concord, Minnesota, Carol was the seventh child of Bernard Matthias Meyer and Irene Emma Van Den Hemel Meyer. Her life was a testament to resilience, strength, and unwavering love for her family and friends.

Growing up in West Concord, Carol graduated from West Concord High School in



1957. On July 5, 1958, Carol married James Wesley Clough, beginning a 39-year journey of love and companionship until Jim's passing. Together, they shared amazing adventures on a 40-acre hobby farm where they raised their seven children: Susan, Sally, Sarah, Sharon, Sonja, Scott, and Joe. Later in life, Carol found companionship with Don Lohrbach, and they enjoyed many years together.

In addition to running the family hobby farm, she pursued various jobs, including driving a school bus and working in the local canning factory. After retirement, Carol and Jim moved to Babbitt, MN, where she was the first woman allowed in the Babbitt Legion club.

Carol was a skilled and vocally colorful fisherwoman. She also found joy in crafting hundreds of afghans and other crocheted projects that earned ribbons and prizes at county fairs. Family gatherings were never complete without spirited games of cards and dominoes, where her lively personality and competitive spirit were always on full display (and where you quickly learned not to sit next to her!)

Carol's legacy is lovingly carried forward by her children, her 14 grandchildren, and her 9 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her siblings, Louise Erickson, Pat Kubat, and John Meyer. She was predeceased by her cherished husband, Jim, her parents, her sister, and eight brothers (one stillborn).

Carol's life was celebrated on October 19, 2026, 11:00am, at a private family service at Christ the King Church (202 4th St NW, Byron, MN); followed by a public gathering from 12pm-2pm at the Byron American Legion Post 119 (505 Frontage Road NW, Byron). Her family invited all who knew and loved her to join in this celebration of a life well-lived and a woman deeply loved.

Carol's feisty spirit, her fierce loyalty, and her boundless love will be sadly missed but will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing her.

"And though she be but little, she is fierce." ~ William Shakespeare

Jacob Andrew "Jake" Buchl

Jacob Andrew "Jake" Buchl, 30, of Kasson-Mantorville, Minnesota, passed away on Thursday, October 8, 2026. He was born in Quincy, Illinois to John and Linda (Witschen) Buchl, Jake was a beloved son, brother, nephew, uncle, cousin, caregiver, and friend. He



cared deeply about others and sought connection through music, conversation, and shared experiences.

A 2014 graduate of Kasson-Mantorville High School, Jake was voted "Most Involved" by his classmates. He enjoyed participating in student council, knowledge bowl, FCCLA, football, basketball, track, singing in choir, and playing saxophone in the band.

Following his football concussions, Jacob faced years of challenging health issues including sensitivity to light and sound. He ap-

proached his recovery with determination, making significant progress while finding joy and meaning in music even as symptoms persisted.

A dedicated self-taught guitarist, singer, and songwriter, Jake created and recorded original songs, wrote poetry and performed in small venues in the surrounding Rochester area. He also shared music with residents of Pine Haven nursing home in Pine Island, where he worked as an activities assistant.

Jake loved hiking, kayaking, and exploring nature, both alone and with friends and family. He frequently invited others on hikes and struck up conversations with people from all walks of life. We recall him spending time with the homeless and on one occasion inviting them into our home for a meal and a change of clothes. He inherited his Great Grandpa Ratto and Great Grandma Witschen's love for gardening and enjoyed collecting and planting a variety of seeds.

In 2026, Jake completed the Ophthalmic Assistant Training Program at Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences. Upon looking for work as an ophthalmic assistant in North Dakota, Jacob came across an opening with the U.S. Postal Service in Bisbee, ND, close to the Buchl Family Farm where his father grew up. He quickly jumped on the opportunity and completed training soon after being hired. He was just getting started with this new position.

Jacob is survived by his parents, John and Linda; his siblings, Benjamin (Elisabeth), Samuel, Hannah (Neal) Abbott, and Joshua; his nephews and nieces, Stanley, JT, Linly, Kolbe, and Mae; his grandfather, Andrew Witschen; and many extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Stanley and Catherine Buchl and Bernice Witschen.

A funeral mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 24, 2026, at Holy Family Catholic Church, 1904 Mantorville Avenue North in Kasson, MN. Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the time of his mass at the church. A light luncheon will follow Mass. Interment will be in St. Margaret's cemetery in Mantorville, MN.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Aiden's Light or Holy Family Catholic Church in Jake's honor. The family welcomes memories, photographs, videos, and music celebrating his life. A scrapbook will be available at the church, and we invite you to help fill its pages with your favorite memories of him.

Jake will be remembered for his humor, free spirit, beautiful music, love of nature, and genuine interest in people and their stories. He was kind beyond measure and will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

To honor Jacob, please talk to a stranger, help someone who is homeless, visit someone who is homebound or in a nursing home and sing to and with them. Invite someone to take a walk with you. Message an old friend. Always be kind to one another and thus Jacob's love will live on.

To share a special memory or condolence please visit www.czaplowskifuneralhomes.com, Czaplowski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE Kasson, MN 55940 (507) 634-6510. Blessed be his memory.

The Main Alternative hosts its 5th Annual Turkey Day 5k Thanksgiving Morning

(continued from page 1)

What started with about 30 people participating and raising about \$400 has grown into an event that draws in nearly 300 people from not only Dodge County, but surrounding towns as well as people from out of state! Last year's event brought in just over

\$10,000, the largest amount raised to date, that was split and donated to the Dodge County Food Shelf (SEMCAC) and the Dodge County Salvation Army, both exclusively serving Dodge County, MN. The Dodge County Food Shelf is able to use the funds raised to purchase much needed groceries to stock and have on hand for people in our community who need it most. SEMCAC is able to purchase more groceries per dollar than we as the public, so the cash donation can be stretched much farther than people purchasing groceries and donating them on their own. The Dodge County Salvation Army chapter is able to use funds to help community members in need when disasters cause hardships, including but not limited to house fires, flooding, etc. The Dodge County Salvation Army and SEMCAC do a lot of work in conglomeration with each other to support those in need within our county. We are quite fortunate to have both and the Turkey Day 5k is happy to give to them and uphold the motto "People Helping People." Stevie is always appreciative of any and all

local businesses and people who wish to sponsor the event whether through monetary contributions that help pay for shirts and race medals for participants or by donating prizes (kids' prizes, gift cards, etc.) for the drawings and costume contest. Many participants come yearly with their families and have made it a Thanksgiving morning tradition. Stevie and her fantastic group of volunteers (mostly family members and friends) enjoy giving back to the community and seeing familiar faces return year after year. Many come for the spectacular Bloody Mary bar (only for those ages 21+) that includes your normal fixings like pickles and olives, but also boasts locally made meat sticks, shrimp, many pickled items, hard boiled eggs, and more! No one has been disappointed! If Bloody Marys aren't your thing, the Dodge County Salvation Army will be serving up coffee, hot chocolate, hot cider and water along with post-race snacks such as bananas, cookies and other goodies.

If you have not attended this event in the

past you definitely need to make this event a priority. Not a runner? No problem! There is a nice mix of walkers and runners (some competitive, many not) and the 2.5k option is great for those with small children. Also, all participants are eligible to win prizes!

You may sign up by scanning the QR code on the poster, otherwise check out our Facebook event page, 5th Annual Turkey Day 5k, and find the sign up link in the discussion area. Be sure to register by November 10 at noon to be guaranteed a shirt.

If you would like to become a sponsor, please reach out to Stevie at sngnansee@gmail.com with any questions or to get a copy of a sponsorship form. All sponsorships and donations are greatly appreciated and make the event that much more fun. Also, sponsors are highlighted individually in the weeks leading up to the event, so it's a great way to showcase your business and have the community learn about what you have to offer.

Do You Have A Local Story Idea?

Email:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Midnight Hounds Album Release Party

(continued from page 1)

Then the band came back on stage to play some of their new material for the crowd and they did not disappoint. A live band in a small venue is always great and this being a recording studio the sound was spot on. They just kept churning out great music and were definitely in the groove building the excitement of the event. They were really rockin' and the last half hour was just song after song of terrific tunes. They have a wealth of good material for a new album and this is certainly a rock'n'roll band you should see live if you have a chance.

The new cd is available at Mantorville Art Guild in Mantorville and all major streaming services.



The Main Alternatives 6th Annual
TURKEY DAY 5K

NOVEMBER 26 2026

Start at 8 AM
@Kasson Mini Mall
13 West Main Street, Kasson MN

REGISTER HERE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE DODGE COUNTY FOOD SHELF AND DODGE COUNTY SALVATION ARMY



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Claremont Mayor Candidates

There are four candidates for Claremont Mayor
Ethan Johnson

I have lived in Claremont for about eight years. I married the love of my life in September 2025, and we plan to start and raise our family here in Claremont.

Most recently, I have worked in the commercial construction industry. I am currently self-employed, operating a commercial door installation and sales business. In the coming years, I plan to grow the business to employ three to six people. Before entering the construction industry, I worked at the ethanol plant here in Claremont for a time. I also spent several years building dirt-track racing engines in Byron, Minnesota.

I have served on the Claremont City Council for two years and as chairman of the Hogfest board for one year.

I would like to continue making smart decisions for the City of Claremont. I moved here because I value the character of our small, tight-knit community, and I want Claremont to remain an affordable place to live and raise a family.

One of my goals is to do what we can to bring a gas station and convenience store back to town. I also want to create more opportunities for the community to come together and ensure that everyone feels welcome here.

Over the past few years, we have seen significant growth in community engagement. That involvement has created a great deal of momentum toward making Claremont better than ever. I will do my best to keep that momentum going and ensure decisions are made by people who are genuinely invested in the long-term future of our community.

Heather Gray

I purchased my home in Claremont in June 2018, so next June will mark nine years in the community. Although I have enjoyed living here, I tend to keep to myself and, as a result, know only a few people. I am originally from Canada and became a naturalized U.S. citizen. My parents, who are in their mid-80s, live in Rochester, as does my sister, while my brother lives in Arizona. As a single mother, I raised my two sons on my own. I am proud to say that both have built successful careers in engineering and are wonderful fathers. They each have two children, making me the grateful grandmother of



Ethan Johnson

four wonderful grandchildren.

I have more than 20 years of experience working in a family-owned small business. In addition to the day-to-day operational responsibilities, I managed all accounting functions, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, payroll reporting, budgeting, and financial reporting. I also worked closely with management on planning and decision-making by providing budget analyses and other financial information. In addition, I have more than 20 years of experience as a legal assistant, working in a variety of legal fields and for several law firms. I also spent five years with the Olmsted County District Court, where I gained valuable experience in the judicial system. I worked for Rochester Public Schools for approximately nine years, providing administrative support to assistant principals and counselors. During that time, I was also responsible for coordinating and preparing for state testing throughout the entire school. I am currently employed by Olmsted County as an Eligibility Specialist. In this role, I determine eligibility for multiple public assistance programs, prepare and analyze budgets, interpret complex policies and regulations, and make decisions regarding the approval or denial of applications.

Throughout my career, I have developed strong skills in budgeting, financial management, policy interpretation, administration, problem-solving, and working with people from diverse backgrounds. These experiences have provided me with a solid foundation for making informed, fair, and responsible decisions. I served as an appointed member of the Claremont City Council for approximately one year. During that time, I became concerned about some of the decision-making processes and ultimately chose to resign. It often appeared that important decisions had been made by a select few before council meetings took place, which left me feeling that my time and efforts were not being used as effectively as they could be.

As an introvert, public service was not something I initially sought out. However, after spending countless hours reviewing city finances, audits, payroll records, meeting minutes, and other public documents, I became increasingly invested in the future of our community. Those efforts ultimately led me to decide to run for Mayor.

I am a straightforward person who believes in honesty and transparency. I tend to say what I think and do not sugarcoat issues, which can sometimes be off-putting to others. At the same time, I believe effective leadership requires integrity, accountability, and a willingness to address difficult issues directly. I am confident that I possess those qualities, along with knowledge and experience that could benefit the community. Mr. Hudson, who is also running for Mayor, presents himself very well and is knowledgeable about the issues facing our city. While we have similar goals and share many of the same ideas about what Claremont needs, I believe my extensive review of the city's operations and finances has given me valuable insights that I would bring to the position.

My priorities as Mayor would be: Ensuring that decisions are made with input from all segments of our community. Families are im-

portant, but so are our senior residents who live on fixed incomes and still contribute through their tax dollars. Every resident deserves to have their voice heard and considered. Promoting responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars through strong accountability, transparency, and sound financial oversight. Bringing integrity, openness, and public trust to City Hall, with a focus on serving the needs of community members while also supporting our employees in fulfilling their responsibilities effectively. Ensuring fair and equal treatment for all residents. City ordinances should be applied consistently and enforced fairly, without favoritism or selective enforcement. Fostering an active and engaged City Council that provides meaningful oversight and serves as an effective check and balance within city government. Strong governance requires participation, accountability, and adherence to established financial controls to safeguard public resources. Encouraging collaboration, respectful dialogue, and informed decision-making so that the city can move forward in a way that benefits the entire community.

My vision for Claremont is to make it a community that people are proud to call home and one that others look to as a model of community involvement and quality of life. I want Claremont to be known as a place where neighbors help one another, residents feel valued, and everyone has an opportunity to contribute. I believe community members who are willing to donate their time, skills, and talents to improve our city and help reduce costs should be welcomed and encouraged to do so. I have heard stories about residents coming together to clean parks and participate in community activities for families and children. I would like to see more opportunities that bring residents together, strengthen community pride, and foster a greater sense of belonging.

A top priority for many residents is property taxes. Rising costs have affected everyone, but they can be especially challenging for single-income households, families on tight budgets, and seniors living on fixed incomes. Through my review of city finances,



I have identified opportunities for cost savings and more efficient use of taxpayer dollars. With the AI-Corn TIF ending and careful budget management, I believe there is an opportunity to provide meaningful tax relief while continuing to meet the needs of our community.

I also believe residents should evaluate candidates based on their track record, priorities, and commitment to serving the entire community. Effective leadership requires making decisions that benefit all residents rather than advancing the interests of a select few.

Finally, I would like to see the City Council function as an active, engaged governing body that provides leadership, oversight, and long-term planning for the city. I believe there should be more opportunity for discussion and collaboration before formal decisions are made. Together, we should develop a long-range plan that reflects the needs and priorities of our residents, including responsible planning for infrastructure, equipment maintenance, and future growth. Claremont has tremendous potential. I believe it is time to approach city government with fresh ideas, meaningful citizen involvement, transparency, and a commitment to doing the work necessary to build a stronger community for everyone.

Tim Hudson and Dustin Klemmenen are also on the ballot for Claremont mayor but did not respond to the request for interview.

Dodge Center City Candidates

There is only one mayoral candidate, Mindy Hedberg and she didn't respond to a request for an interview. There are two city council seats open and only two candidates. Alan Denny did not respond to a request for an interview.

Randy Langworthy

I have lived in the community 35 years this time around, other wise, I was born and raised on a farm just 4 miles NW of Dodge Center

My wife Nadine and I, have a daughter Karma, 4 grandkids and two cats. I have a Brother Roger, and a sister Loretta. My parents and oldest sister are both passed.

After HS I went to Rochester Trade School , 2 year Mechanist course. Worked in that field for 3 years after and then went to work for Mayo Clinic in Rochester (42years). I was maintaining laboratory equipment, in the clinic buildings and the two hospitals. I have been retired now for 6 years.

I have served on committees, as a board member. I am a Dodge Center Lions member, serve on the board, Riverside cemetery board member, Church council, Dodge County Sheriff's Posse for over 20 years.

I'd like to see Dodge Center grow, in peoples and business , and for the uptown to become alive like it was in yester year.

I've heard it said that we need our Band Shell back up town again, People enjoy music. I would like to address some of the complaints I have heard and see if we can find ways to make improvements.



Randy Langworthy

Claremont City Council Candidates

Tracy Boyum

I have lived in the community for almost 4 yrs.

I have a husband Duane we have been together 34 yrs.

We have 4 kids 8 grandkids and 3 dogs.

I work for Viracon for 9 have done PCA work for Megan Chabot Family for 6 yrs.

I have never held a public position before which is a good thing not part of the good old boys club.

I would love to see the community grow and have actual business in town ma pa store a gas station bakery/sandwich shop.

My Goals would be to bring Claremont back to live the people that live in the community have a voice. Have transparency and integrity when dealing with the city unlike today.



Tracy Boyum

Bret Nordstrom

I have lived in Claremont since the summer of 2017.

I have one teenager.

I have ten years of experience with Mc-Neilus Steel and 2 years of experience as a Garage door service technician since 2014.

This would be my first public office position.

I would like to provide ideas for the growth of Claremont. There has seemed to be a lack of input given and when it is it seems to not be well received. I would like to be a stabilizing force in trying to take input and shape it to get practical results for our city.

Short term I would like to see some progress towards bringing back amenities to Claremont. That will help the long term of starting to re-attract businesses and people to come back. I also would like more working together versus against each other.

Rick Butler

Lived in Claremont pretty much my whole life. Married have a daughter, son in law and granddaughter. Presently work at Mayo Clinic valet services before that hotel manager, water park manager, factory lead per-



Bret Nordstrom

son, factory worker. Was on city council for 4 years then mayor for 2 years when Hwy 14 project started. Reduce spending especially with wages the city of Claremont cannot afford those wages. Listen to the citizens and try to get done what they want done.

Lisa Martinez

I have lived in Claremont since 2005, but grew up there as a kid also as grandparents moved to Claremont as migrant workers since the 80s.

I am married to Daniel Martinez we have been married for 25 years. Have 3 children Kallista Martinez, Anali Martinez and Daniel Martinez Jr.

I work at Oshkosh Corporation as an International Finance Analyst, have been with the company for 21 years.

I have been a Vice Mayor and City Council for Claremont in the past .

The biggest thing I would like to accomplish would be to create transparency for all the citizens and to let them know their voices are heard. Make sure everyone is treated equally and have an open line of communication.

My goals for city council; Maintain a bal-



Lisa Martinez

CAST YOUR

Vote

ance general fund budget, Develop long term financial budget, Increase supply of housing and Increase community engagement, participation and communication with citizens

Cindy Johnson

I have lived in the community for 64 years. I grew up in Claremont, graduated from Claremont High School, we raised our girls here and I'm still here. I have been married to Jim Johnson for 43 years and we have two daughters and eight grandchildren.

My favorite hobbies are baking and sewing. At one time I used to do wedding flowers, bake wedding cakes and cater (I still dabble a little from time to time). The most important thing to me is making memories with my family and friends.

I worked at Jostens for 42.5 years along with a few other part time jobs here and there. I primarily worked in customer service, sales and marketing. I have no public office experience but am always willing to learn and try new things.

My main objective is to be a positive representative of our community by listening to everyone's concerns/questions and seeking solutions. My primary goal is to let people know that they are heard and that their opinion matters and to provide clearer communication.

Andrew Edge, Dean Gray and Krystal Sultze are also candidates for Claremont city council but did not respond to the request for interview.



Cindy Johnson

West Concord City Council Candidates

There are two candidates for two open positions on the West Concord city council

Galen Koekeritz

We purchased the old hardware store at 207 West Main St in early 2019, Purchased our house at 324 State St in late 2019, and moved our business Minnesota Implement down here full time in 2022 when we purchased to old Stur-Dee welding building at 268 West Main St.

I Grew up in Afton Mn with my parents Orin and Roxanne Koeckeritz, and my brother Lance. Been with my Life and Business partner Lois Johnson for 24 years.

I Have been a welder / metal fabricator since I was 8 years old, I am 53 now. I Grew up in the family excavating and landscape business. I worked random jobs here and there including building large scale robotics for the rail road, mainly for the experience, but always come back to building a



Galen Koekeritz

business is where my heart is. I have been an Auto Dealer, Construction and demolition crew leader, Elector-hydraulic technician, Auto mechanic, motorcycle mechanic/dealer, and a dozen other trades over the years. I Started Minnesota Implement in 1998, Building attachments for the farm, excavating and landscape industries. I partnered with Lois in 2002. We decided in 2019 that if we ever wanted to retire out of our business, we would have to grow, and moving the business to West Concord and buying a home here were our first big steps in that plan. Since Minnesota Implement moved down here, we have grown to 18,000 sq ft of manufacturing, retail and warehouse space, and have employed up to 10 people per season as both part time and full-time workers. Our Goal is to grow the shop to around 30 employees within the next 5 years.

I was appointed to a vacated West Concord council seat in 2024. This 2 years on council has been my first venture into any political realm.

I would like to help re-vitalize the Main Street business corridor, I would like to make sure that the businesses and citizens that are here get the support they need to stay here, and help draw in new citizens, new businesses and restaurants to our community. I also would like to help develop or draw in affordable housing within the community, and help create stability and growth for both the community and our people. I feel that a growth minded community is good, but all too often cities focus so much on growth, that they forget about the needs of people who al-

ready live there. I want to make sure that all people have a voice and are heard.

Nick Kilen

I have lived in West Concord since June of 2020. I have one daughter (in the picture with me) who is turning 24 in a few weeks. I also have one dog named Davina who is a chihuahua mix. You more than likely have seen us walking around town as we go as much as we can weather permitting. I also foster for camp companion and currently have a rat terrier named Agatha.

My work background is i am a union HVAC worker for the last 12 years. Currently working in Zumbrota. Before that I work construction in different areas for the most part of my working life. I have done other odds and ends jobs but main construction.

I have no public office experience. I hope to continue to help the city to grow and thrive. I love living in a small community where people know each other, look out for each other and care about each other.



Nick Kilen



Kasson-Mantorville Care and Share

Giving Trees

Beginning November 13th, Giving Trees will be located at:

- Hardware Hank Kasson
- County Seat Coffee House Mantorville

Pick up a tag to provide Christmas gifts for a child in our community this holiday season.

Return your UNWRAPPED purchases with gift tag to either of the Giving Trees by TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8th

Questions:
Contact Melanie at (507) 259-9959 or kmcsavingtrees@gmail.com

Triton School Board Candidates

Triton school board has four openings and seven candidates.

Wally Bluhm

I have lived in the Triton community since 2015. I also have deep roots in Dodge County, having grown up in Kasson from the age of nine through college. This area has been home for most of my life, and my family and I are proud to call the Triton community home today.



Wally Bluhm

I am married to my wife, Sarah, and we have a son, Elliot, who attends Triton High School. Our family's experience at Triton has been extremely positive. We have seen firsthand how much the teachers, staff and administration care about their students, and that experience is a major reason I want to give back to the district.

I currently work as a Strategic Account Representative for McNeilus Steel, where I work directly with one of our largest customers. Prior to that, I spent 15 years in management with Hy-Vee.

My career has given me extensive experience in leadership, customer service, problem-solving, budgeting and working with people with different viewpoints. I believe those experiences would translate well to serving on the School Board.

I have not previously held public office. This is my first run for elected office.

I believe that can also bring a valuable perspective to the board. I am willing to ask questions, listen to different viewpoints and approach decisions with an open mind rather than assuming that something should continue to be done a certain way simply because that is how it has always been done.

My biggest priority is addressing Triton's declining enrollment. Enrollment affects nearly everything else the district does, from funding and staffing to the opportunities we can provide students.

I also want to help ensure Triton remains financially responsible while protecting the programs and opportunities that make families want to choose our district. That means looking carefully at spending, asking difficult questions when necessary and looking for creative solutions, including partnerships and co-ops when they make sense.

Most importantly, I want every decision I make to start with one question: What is best for our students?

My goal is to help keep Triton a school district our communities are proud of and one that families want to be part of.

Strong schools and strong communities go hand in hand. I want Triton to provide students with the best educational and extracur-

ricular opportunities we reasonably can while being responsible with taxpayer dollars. I also want the School Board to have an open relationship with parents, staff, students and community members.

I won't always have every answer, but I will listen, ask questions and be honest with people about the challenges we face and the decisions we make.

Bruce Huber

My wife and I and our family of four children moved to Dodge Center in 1998 to teach at Triton High School. Sandy and I both retired in 1998 after teaching Family and Consumer Science and Industrial Technology for forty years.



Bruce Huber

Our oldest son Matt, graduated in 2001 from Triton and attended the US Air Force Academy. He previously flew C130's for the Air Force but is no longer active-duty military. He just returned from a six-month deployment with the Michigan Air National Guard and is currently a Lieutenant Colonel. Matt works for a military contractor on the east coast while living in Michigan. He is married with two young children. Our middle son Mike, graduated in 2003 from Triton and attended North Dakota University before enlisting in the Air Force where he served several tours loading B1 bombers before coming a flight engineer on the Osprey where he served several more tours. He is also married and was honorably discharged as a Tech. Sergeant from the Air Force and is currently employed by Allegiant Airlines as a Safety Engineer and lives with his wife in Las Vegas. Our youngest son Mark, graduated from Triton in 2007 and graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Business and Marketing. He's taken a slightly different career path and is a Screen Actors Guild member working mainly in the Los Angeles area but has worked both coasts. He also does stunt work and has experience in the production side of the television and movie industry. Our daughter Damiana is a weekend shift manager at Daikin in Owatonna and has two daughters, Kerisma who graduated from Triton last spring and Nelly who is a junior at Kasson-Mantorville HS. All of our children benefitted greatly from the education they got at Triton.

I began my teaching career after graduating from the University of Northern Iowa at Britt High School in north-central Iowa before getting married in 1980 and teaching in Grundy Center High School in north-east Iowa. I taught at Grundy Center for 18 years before moving with our family to Dodge Center. Both of our parents were aging and we felt the need to centrally locate ourselves to better help both sets of parents. We taught at Triton for 20 years before retiring.

This is my first attempt at holding public office. I was a union president of the Grundy Center Education Association as well as the Triton Education Minnesota union. I hold leadership roles in our local church men's organization (Knights of Columbus) as well as our county political party affiliation. I was

asked to get more involved in our community and I chose to seek this position.

My role as a member of the Triton School Board is to approve policies that provide our students at Triton with the best possible means to be successful. We are also tasked with being stewards of the funds that keep our school district solvent and thriving. In these times of declining enrollments and limited federal and state funding, keeping programs that benefit all students becomes even more challenging. We must hire and retain the best possible teaching staff that prepare our children for life after high school, whether that be post-secondary education, technical training or direct entry into the workforce.

My primary goal for our Triton communities is to keep our school moving in a positive direction. We must find a way to provide our students with the skills needed to be successful, contributing members to both our local and regional economy. We must also recognize the changing needs of the businesses and industries around us so flexibility is a crucial part of any plan.

Christi Runnells

I moved to the area in the summer of 2013 upon being hired as the Triton High School Counselor. I grew up in Wisconsin but attended college at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and wanted to return to Minnesota after completion of graduate school at the University of Iowa. I was excited to be back in Minnesota, planned to get a little experience and then move back to the Twin Cities. Instead, I have stayed here ever since because Triton became home, and I was committed to improving opportunities for Triton High School students and supporting the staff in any way I could. I poured my heart and soul into Triton and still feel a very strong connection to this special place.



Christi Runnells

My husband, Jeff, and I live near the school with our three young children. I have worked in education and child care since my first jobs as a teenager. For the last 16 years, I have been in public education at three different school districts. The majority of this time, I was employed as the Triton High School Counselor from Fall 2013-Summer 2025. I have also been employed as a special education paraeducator and substitute teacher and in summer roles in Cobra Care, special education, and high school credit recovery. I am now in my second year working as a high school counselor for Pine Island.

While this would be my first position in public office, I believe my recent firsthand knowledge of the student and staff needs at Triton will complement the viewpoints of the current seasoned board members.

The two big issues on everyone's mind are enrollment and budget. Significant work will need to be done in order to stabilize and hopefully increase enrollment as well as end continual deficit spending. Maintaining student enrollment will be essential as it is the core foundation of a district. Additionally, a

school is only as good as its teachers. The district must take good care of its people to continue to see student success. I hope to find ways the district can best support all staff at Triton so that they can provide the best for all students.

Triton has made great strides in communicating the awesome things happening within its doors, yet community members still don't fully understand the many amazing opportunities available to Triton students. I would like to see the entire community, even those who don't currently have children in the district, be well-informed. I will encourage collaborative problem-solving and bringing all community voices to the table. My heart is in Cobra Country, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue to serve.

Wendy Kenworthy

I grew up just outside of Dodge Center. My husband and I have lived on our farm just south of Wasioja, since 2001.

My family consists of my husband of almost 29 years, David, three step-kids ages 43, 41, and 39, and our two kids ages 23 and 20. Plus two very spoiled puppies.



Wendy Kenworthy

I currently work in inside sales at McNeilus Steel. Prior to that I worked at the Dodge Center Public Library and spent 12+ years as an administrative assistant with Triton Public Schools.

This is my eighth year as a member of the Triton School Board. Prior to working for the library, I previously served on the Dodge Center Library Board and volunteered with the Friends of the DC library.

I would like to be part of a team that brings our district out of SOD. We've put a lot of work in so far and I want to see us through the entire process.

Every year we see more growth and unity as a Triton community, not just three communities combined. I want to see us attract more families and keep those folks in our communities attending our school rather than open-enrolling elsewhere.

Brian Ginder Lloyd Henslin Jr. and Dale Jensen did not respond to the interview.

Open Forum

Meet the School Board Candidates

Mon. Oct. 26th
7:00-8:30 PM
Welsh Equipment PAC
Triton High School

CANDIDATES WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE ABOUT THEMSELVES AND ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR RUN FOR SCHOOL BOARD.

COME LISTEN, LEARN, AND GET TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES BEFORE ELECTION DAY!

Halloween Spooktacular

By Cheri Roshon

As the ghouls and goblins gather to celebrate Halloween, Free Family Fun will be happening in Dodge Center on October 31st from 2-4p.m.! The Triton Student Council has partnered up with the Dodge Center Lions Club to bring you a fun filled adventure that is free to join with a food drive to support those in our community who need a little boost to make their holidays special.

So, let's get this party started! It begins with a Trunk or Treat set up in the bus corral parking lot by the playground. There will be spooky set ups in the trunks of cars for your trick or treaters to visit and to drop off a holiday donation for the holiday food shelf to help others. In the Elementary south gym you will be entertained by a DJ and dancing for the whole family. Be sure to dress accordingly in a costume of your choice, because at 3:30 during the dance there will be a costume contest, too!

The activities start at 2pm and end at 4pm, so be sure to be on time to scare up some fun!

Food shelf donations are non perishable canned or boxed items and will be gathered at the Trunk or Treat, or during the dance. Park in the main Elementary parking lot and you



will see the Student Council's "Trick or Canning" food drive station to drop off your donations.

So, get dressed up and come on down for some holiday fun!

Hope to see you there!

Triton Community Ed's Holiday Market

By Cheri Roshon

Once again it is time to start gearing up for the Annual Holiday Market, a well-loved and special event. Triton School is hosting this event in conjunction with the Triton Community Education program and the Salvation Army of Dodge County, and it promises to be a lot of fun with all the activities planned. It will be held from 10 am to 1 pm on December 12th.

Some of the activities for all ages include free pictures with Santa, horse drawn wagon rides, holiday games, hot cocoa, many crafts to enjoy, and an indoor light show! Add this to the local vendors and crafters with unique one of a kind items just in time for holiday gift giving, and you've got yourself a winner!!

Watch for a reminder in the Messenger as the event draws closer. In the meantime, interested vendors may contact Triton Community Ed at (507) 418-7550, or email Kristi Faber at kfaber@triton.k12.mn.us for more information. This is a great way to kick off the Christmas season with the whole family, and we hope to see you all there!

HELP FOR OUR TRITON FAMILIES
WEST CONCORD, DODGE CENTER & CLAREMONT
MUST BE FULL TIME RESIDENT OF LISTED TOWN,
HAVE CHILDREN 18 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER
LIVING AT HOME AND ATTENDING SCHOOL

CLAREMONT - SANTA ANONYMOUS
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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MIDDLE OF NOVEMBER AT CITY HALL,
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TO CITY HALL DROP BOX OR CHURCH

WEST CONCORD - CARING & SHARING TREE
PAULA GIESLER - 507-259-4416
• PICK UP APPLICATION AT CASEY'S, CITY
HALL OR HERITAGE BANK-RETURN TO
WC CITY HALL BY NOV 13TH

DODGE CENTER - SANTA ANONYMOUS
CAROL JOHNSON/DODGE CENTER LIONS
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• PICKUP & RETURN APPLICATIONS AT
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Museum Musings

PRAISE THE LARD

By Colleen Sathrum Hayne

Are you saying to yourself, “Did I read that title right?” Yes, you did. If you’re in my age range and grew up on a farm, you likely have lard memories from your childhood as I do.

In my 1950’s childhood small diversified farms were abundant. Almost everyone had chickens, pigs, and dairy cows. The regular rhythm on the farm meant that when a hog was butchered rendering of lard would soon follow.

In my mind’s eye, I can still see the stoneware crocks that my mom filled with lard and we used all year. The most desired lard was the leaf lard that was from fat found around the kidneys of a hog. It made the best biscuits and pie crusts. The rest of the fat came from the back and belly of the hog and was used for everyday frying and soap making.

So how did farm women turn raw fat into lard for household use? It was a serious process. First the fat had to be chopped and put into a heavy kettle or Dutch oven.

To keep the fat from scorching before it melted into lard, a cup of water was added to the bottom of the pan. During the process the water evaporated. The fat was melted at low heat and stirred almost continuously. When cracklings floated to the top and the fat was almost clear, the lard was done. To get the best product, the melted fat was strained through layers of cheesecloth or flour sacks and then poured into crocks, metal pails, or Mason jars. Some homes had lard presses that they used to press the cracklings and salvage the last bit of fat from the process. The cracklings could be saved to eat for a snack or used in cooking to make things like “Crackling Cornbread.”

Kept in a cool spot in the house, the lard could stay fresh for a year, unrefrigerated.

My mother didn’t save the cracklings, but tossed them out on the edge of our farmyard. That’s where you could find me—sitting on the ground eating the cracklings which I found most delicious.

We often had popcorn those days as a snack after my dad finished milking. Out came the lard to be melted in the bottom of the popcorn pan and then the popcorn kernels followed. That was wonderful popcorn.

One of my earliest memories is of my mom making laundry soap in our old, rustic basement. She used my grandma’s recipe and warned me to stay away from her as she worked. That’s because lye was involved. Here’s the Sathrum family recipe for making soap: “5 pounds of lard, melted; 1 quart plus one cup soft water; put one can lye in the soft water and let cool to lukewarm; add the melted lard and two tablespoons powdered Borax into the lukewarm lye water; stir until it leaves the sides of the pan; pour into a box and let harden; cut into squares and let it age; the older it gets the better it is.” Lye/lard soap really was a good cleaner.

There were a great many other uses for lard. Many farm wives canned meat until post World War II. Canned meat covered with lard would keep for 6 months which was very convenient before freezers were common in households. Lard rubbed straight on asphalt, tar, and axle grease stains was recommended as a spot remover before laundering work clothes. Lard melted and mixed with a lump of rosin was recommended for coating machines to protect them from rust.

Lard was used as a home remedy for chest colds. Simply mix one part turpentine and two parts lard, and heat the mixture while taking care because it was highly flammable. When it cooled enough the compound could be rubbed on the chest for relief of cold symptoms.

Chickens who were attacked by insects and parasites were given an ointment on their heads that was made of kerosene and lard. It was said to be effective.

Lard was so much in demand in the early 1900s that in 1912 the Post Office issued instructions for mailing it. It could be sent no more than 50 miles from West Concord. To be mailed the lard needed an inner cover and a strong outer cover of wood, metal, or corrugated pasteboard. It had to be wrapped so that no lard could escape and must be marked “perishable.”

Post World War I the U.S. was exporting 2 billion pounds a year of lard. Think of that! At the July 1939 Concord Township Farm Bureau meeting, three speakers from Hormel suggested that a “Lard Week” be instituted to promote and encourage the use of lard instead of “cheaper and inferior substitutes”. In 1941 the Dodge County Pork and Lard Committee was formed to help consumers realize that lard, in the committee’s view, was the best shortening for the least money.

During both World Wars Americans were asked to use less lard and save it for the soldiers. In 1944 a biscuit recipe using lard was developed to feed the troops. The biscuits had the high calories soldiers needed and stayed fresh for 6 to 9 months. No more hardtack.

Lard vigorously came under attack when Procter and Gamble introduced its vegetable shortening product, Crisco, in 1911. In 1961 the American Heart Association, recipient of large contributions from Procter and Gamble, called on Americans to limit animal fats. This powerful anti-lard and butter message gave a huge boost to vegetable shortening products and frightened Americans concerned about their health.

In the late 1990’s scientists made public something new and important they had learned: trans fats hidden in vegetable shortening and margarine were worse for people’s health than lard or butter. Lard made a comeback in culinary circles. As a minimally processed food, it contained zero artificial trans fat, lower saturated fat than butter, as well as some mono unsaturated fats similar to those in olive oil. All the bakers who never gave up using lard in their pie crusts were vindicated.

When Jimmy Hoffa wrote his autobiography in the early 1970’s he remembered the hard times of his childhood. “A slab of bread ‘buttered’ with lard and, if you were lucky seasoned with salt and pepper was a luxury.” Do you, too, have a lard story?



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your favorite scarecrow. The sale is open the next three weekends, Thursday through Sunday from 10am to 7pm. They are located just a mile north of Kenyon on Highway 56 at 45986 Hwy 56. The items are restocked often so you will always have a great shopping experience.



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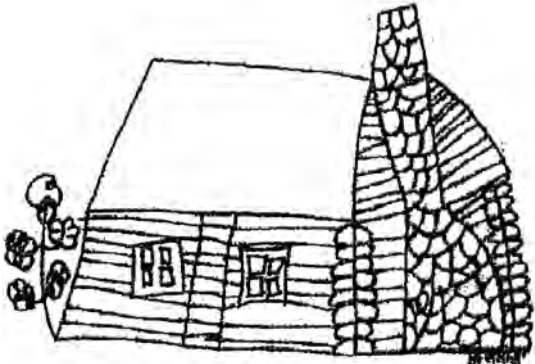
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Farm Girl Chatter Fall Is Around the Corner... and So Is the Hay

By McKell Lemmerman

This means now that some livestock producers are being pushed into feeding hay much earlier than normal. Those bales that were supposed to sit perfectly stacked in the shed until winter are getting rolled out sooner than planned.

Farmers have enough on their plates already.

Soon the combines will be rolling, trucks will be hauling, and now somebody has to remember to feed hay too. It's a wonderful time of year when the days get shorter but somehow the to-do list gets longer.

For now, we'll keep watching the sky, praying for rain, and counting the hay bales.

Around here, we may not be able to control the weather, but we'll sure find a way to work around it.

Well folks, it's that time of year again. Fall is creeping around the corner, which means harvest is coming, cattle work is picking up, and before we know it, we'll be wondering where the heck summer went.

Normally, this is when farmers start getting ready for harvest and thinking about the long winter ahead. But this year, Mother Nature apparently decided to turn the faucet off.

The pastures are starting to look more like the African safari. Grass is drying up, growth is slowing down, and the cattle and other livestock are getting hungrier after each bite.



My oldest cow "starving" for a sweet corn cob, and she did in fact eat it in pretty much one gulp! Haha



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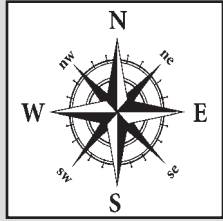
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Oh Canada



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

We took a trip up the North Shore in September to spend a night in Thunder Bay, Canada. The scenic drive was spectacular as the leaves were turning color and the weather was perfect. One of the stops we made both coming and going was Betty's Pies at Two Harbors. Betty's started in 1958 and sells 700 pies a day during the peak summer rush. The food was great as well as the pies.

I have always considered Canada to be just like northern Minnesota. I used to go skiing in Thunder Bay in the 1970's. The people seem just like us, only friendlier. We stopped at Grand Marais and exchanged our Ben Franklin's for some Canadian currency. The exchange rate was \$133 Canadian for \$100

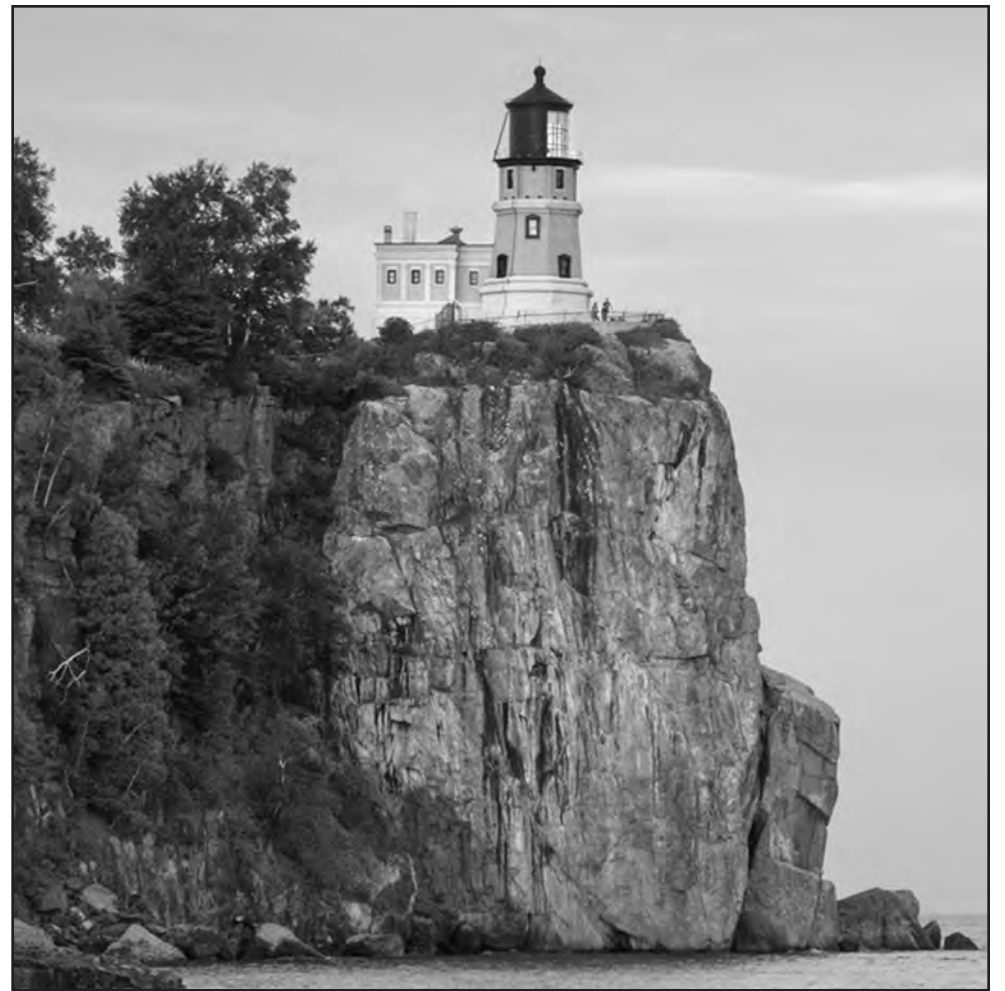
American. But the Canadian money is so colorful. There is a different color for each denomination. And it is a durable plastic coated material with a transparent reflective band in it. The one-dollar coin has a picture of a Loon and is called a "Loonie" The two-dollar coin has a picture of a Polar Bear and is called a "Toonie".

We had to stop at a Tim Hortons as soon as we arrived. We bought a box of "Timmies", which are the donut holes. Next was supper at a Pizza parlor where we enjoyed pizza and my wife was able to watch two hockey games at the same time on the tv monitors. We stopped at a grocery store where my wife bought "Shreddies". I thought they were Wheat Chex, but north of the border they are gourmet breakfast cereal. One is allowed to return to the states with up to \$200 in groceries and we put that rule to the test.

We stopped at Split Rock Lighthouse on the way home to tour the world's most famous lighthouse. There was a movie presentation about the reasons for building the lighthouse. In 1905 there were 29 ships wrecked on the lake and the State appropriated \$75,000 to build a lighthouse, 187' above the waterline to warn ships away from the rocky shores. The 1,000 watt lightbulb cast a beam that was visible 25 miles across the water. At the time there were no roads in the area and all materials and supplies were shipped in on boats. It was completed in 1910 and the road was built in 1924. Quite impressive to tour the lighthouse and see how the staff kept the beam shining across the waves every night to protect the big ships on Lake Superior.

It was quite sobering to realize the number of ships and sailors who were lost in storms on Lake Superior. Since 1816 over 240 ships have been sunk due to storms on the world's largest freshwater lake. The last one was on November 10, 1975 and was immortalized by Canadian Gordon Lightfoot's song "The Wreck of the Edmond Fitzgerald." The winds reached 60 mph with waves up to 35' high that fateful night.

The Edmond Fitzgerald was the largest ore boat on Superior when it was built in 1958. 729' long and carried 27,402 tons of iron ore mined in Minnesota and loaded at Silver Bay. The ore boat made 748 round trips to Detroit Michigan traveling over a million miles. A round trip took 5 days. The ship's hold could be loaded with taconite pellets in 4 1/2 hours. Unloading took fourteen hours. It could reach 16 mph even when fully loaded. The Ed-



mund Fitzgerald had luxury staterooms which accommodated first class passengers who were guests of the shipping company. There was no one but the 29 man crew on board on the final trip.

It was a 74 degree day and before leaving

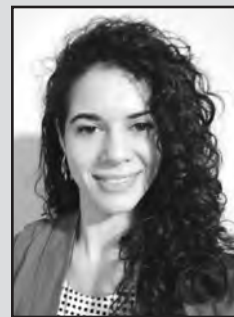
we took the hike down to the lake to admire the sight from the water's edge. My wife couldn't resist taking a swim in Gitche Gumee, an Ojibwe word for "big sea". Had to prove the world's most dangerous lake was no match for her.

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A Minnesotan: Decorations



By RosaLin Alcoser

As the days get shorter, the nights longer, and the air gets colder fall start to bring in the end of the year. While some might be eager to skip over the fall months and go straight to the Christmas holiday season fall holds my favorite month of the year. Which is of course October, because I love Halloween.

Part of what I've always liked about Halloween— and most other holidays— is decorating. And yes, my Halloween and Fall decorations have been up since per season Football started. Because if my husband is going to be watching the Vikings play in August I get to have my leave garlands and skeleton out at the same time.

Decorations are a key part of Halloween. Because decorations are part of the magic that makes Halloween magical and in some cases terrifying.

When I was a child going out to trick-or-treat, after dark it was the decorations that separated the scary houses from the none scary houses. Since even a house decorated in a way that is terrifying after dark isn't too scary during the light of day. Most houses in the area where not the scary and where easily approachable in the dark. There was one house though that scared me enough that I ran away from it crying.

I don't remember what I was that year or how old I was. I do remember wearing a jacket so it was a typical Halloween in Minnesota. What I can remember is that the whole yard was decorated like a grave yard with skeleton hands sticking up out of the ground and colored lights leading up to the grange door. Where I was terrified out of my mind by a Zombie which I fled from abandoning any promise of candy. In reality was a teenager in costume, who did feel bad about scaring me so badly that he did give my sister and extra candy for me.

If I saw that same yard display now I would think it was cool, however, then I was terrified enough to flee the seen and temporarily halt my goal of obtaining candy. Because decorations are holidays matter and at Halloween the decorations separate the mundane from the magical and the down right terrifying.



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West Concord Gala this Weekend

The West Concord Foundation 1st Annual Gala is happening Saturday, October 24th at the Bell Tower Center. The doors open at 4pm and it is family friendly and there is no cost to attend. There is a cash bar and a pie bake off contest and fundraiser. You get to taste and vote for your favorite. Anyone can enter the Pie Bake-off contest. Just bring two of the same pies to enter for the judging. There is no entry fee. Attendees may vote for People's Choice of their favorite pie and there will also be a judge's choice. Award ribbons will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Drop off your pie entry by 4pm on Oct 24th.

At 5pm there will be an introduction to the West Concord Area Foundation and a grant



award ceremony honoring the local non-profits who are making a difference in the local community.

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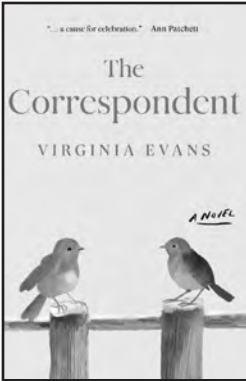
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Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Saturday, November 14 from 9-10am *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans

Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness.

Genre: Literary Fiction
First Published: April 2025



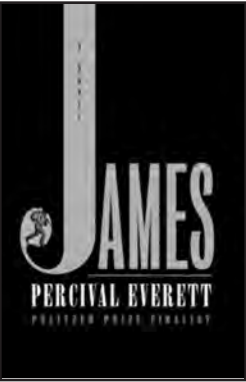
Join us for Book Group at the West Concord Library Wednesday, November 18 from 4-5pm *James* by Percival Everett

Pulitzer Prize winning fiction novel for 2025. A brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

Brimming with nuanced humor and lacerating observations that have made Everett a literary icon, this brilliant and tender novel radically illuminates Jim's agency, intelligence, and compassion as never before. James is destined to be a major publishing event and a cornerstone of twenty-first-century American literature.

Genre: Historical Fiction
First Published: March 2024






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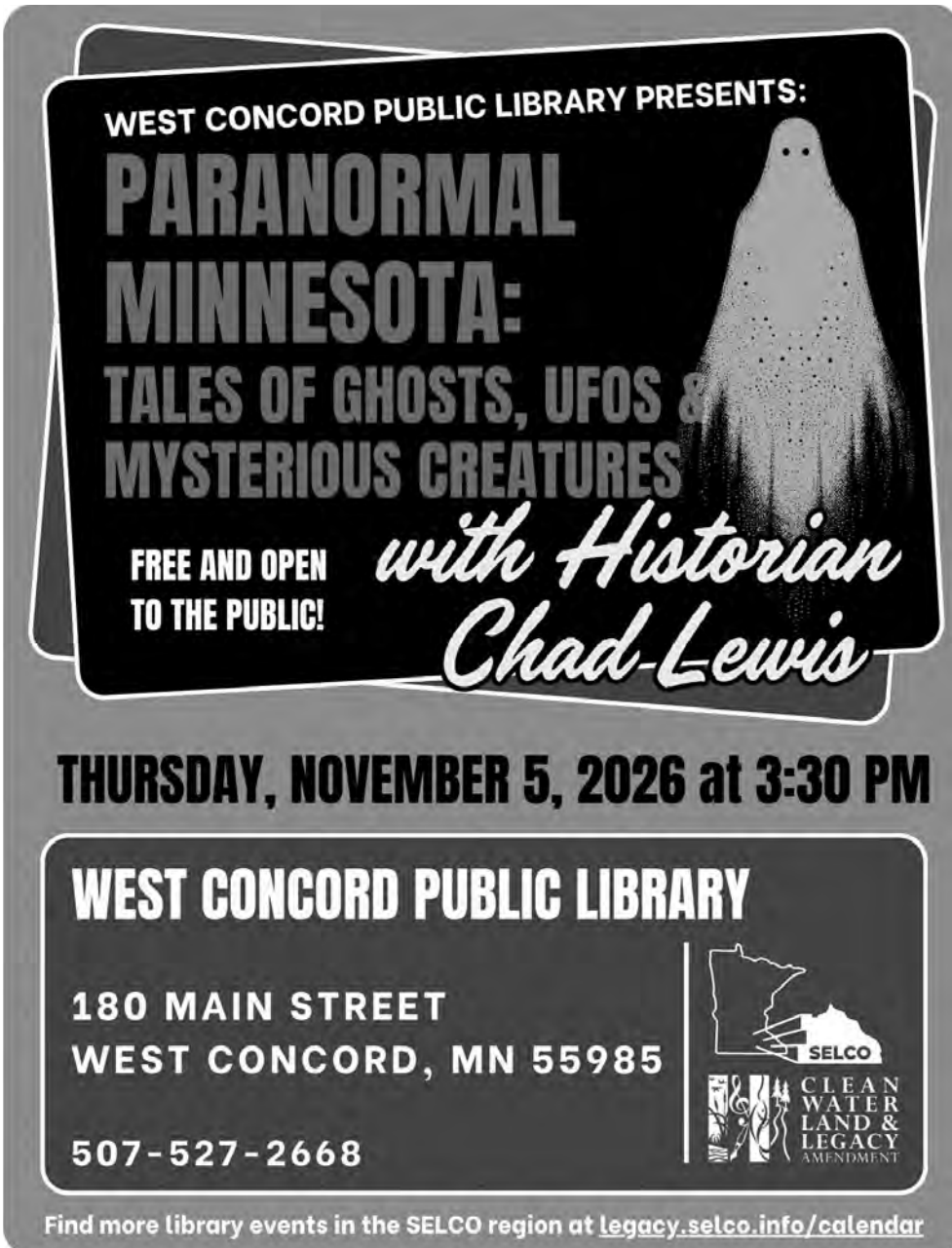
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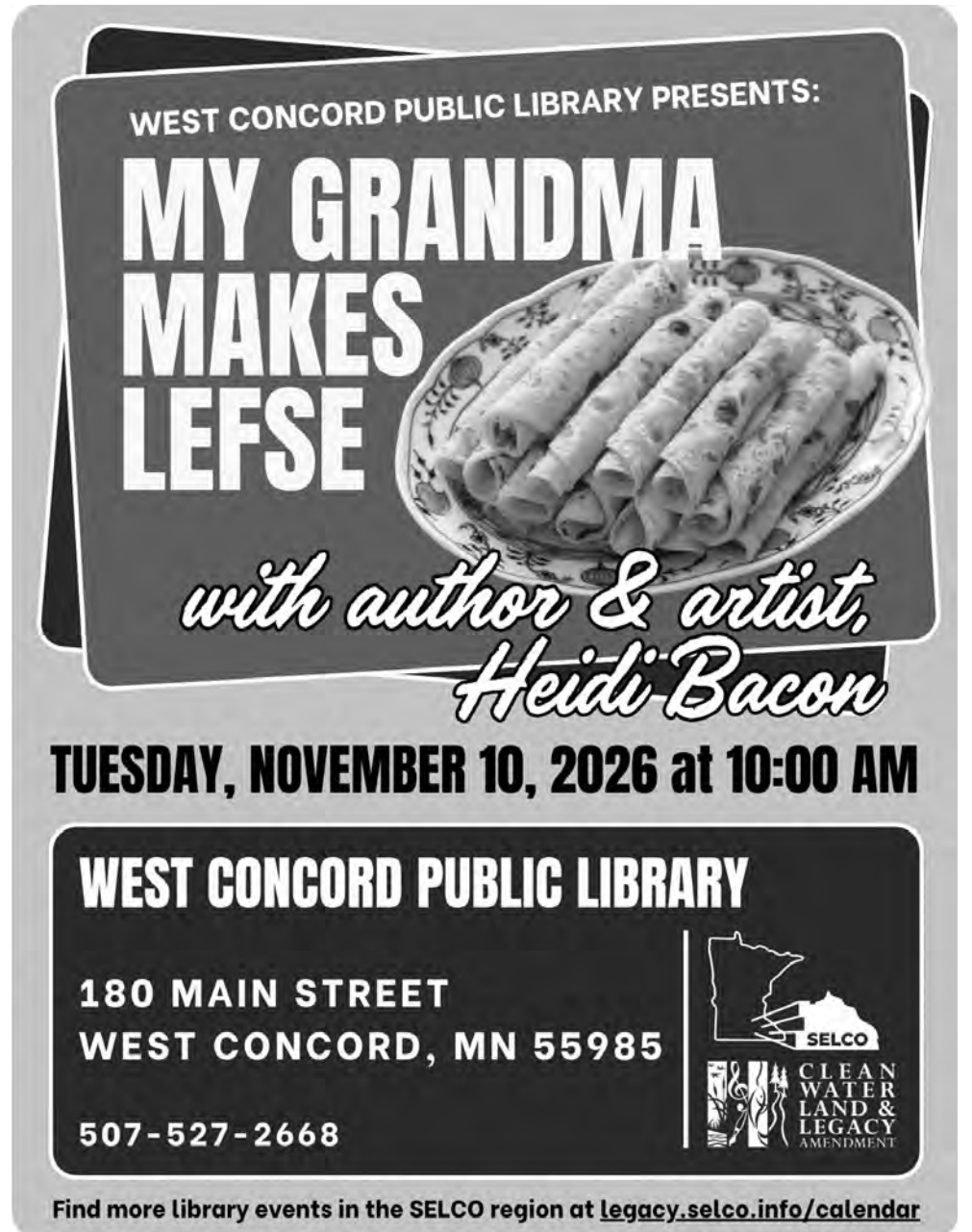
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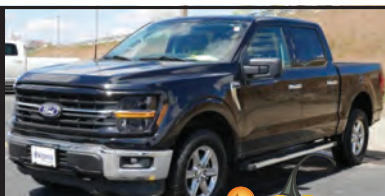


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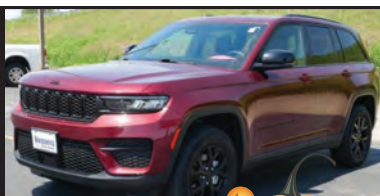
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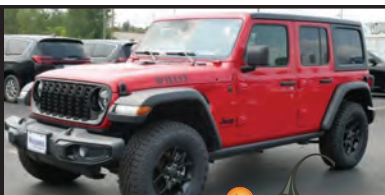
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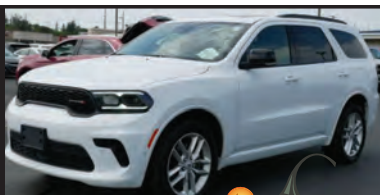
2025 JEEP WRANGLER WILLYS



37,137 miles, 4WD, 2L, 4 cyl, 8 spd
auto, rear view camera, forward
collision warning, keyless entry
#P260451

BEST PRICE
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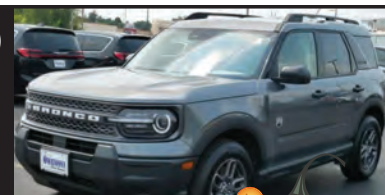
2025 DODGE DURANGO GT PLUS



31,396 miles, 3.6L, V-6, 4WD, 8 spd
auto, 3rd row seating, heated seats
& steering wheel, keyless entry
#P260472

BEST PRICE
\$34,349

2025 FORD BRONCO SPORT BIG BEND



30,444 miles, 4WD, 1.5L, 3 cyl,
8 spd auto, alloy wheels,
keyless entry
#P260502

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\$26,349



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*To be so effective
that we are
helpful to others.*



West Concord Class of 1966 Reunion



Row 1: Alice Meyer Miesbauer, Sheila Matti Stensland, Barbara Loquai, Heather Kutzler Johnson, Carol Ferguson Ladwig, Janelle Wichser Taylor. Row 2: Steve Bjerke, Kathy Ryan Houglum, Mary Gillard, Doug Gochnauer, Daryl Derby. Row 3: Leon Charlton, Glen Fuerstneau, Scott Messenger, John Derby

The West Concord Class of 1966 held their reunion at the Historical Society on Saturday, October 3. - Submitted



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Care and Share

November 12	Dinner 5-7pm
Kasson Fire Hall	Silent Auction 5-7:15pm
101 E Main St, Kasson	Live Auction 6:30pm

Drinks available for purchase

The K-M Area Care and Share is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to support families and individuals in need within the Kasson and Mantorville area with food, gifts, and cash donations during the Christmas Season, as well as helping those in hardship throughout the year.

- Donations:
- Can be dropped off before November 10th at K-M Community Education (606 16th St NE) between 9am-3pm
 - Cash donations can be dropped off at Alerus Bank in Kasson or mailed to:
K-M Area Care & Share
PO Box 222
Kasson, MN 55944
 - Can be dropped off at the Kasson Fire Station at the west main doors on Wednesday, November 11 between noon-6pm, or Thursday, November 12 from 7am-noon.

Questions?
Contact the K-M Community Education Office at (507) 634-4464 or email: kmcareandshare@gmail.com

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Cash bar hosted by:



PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND ENCLOSE IT WITH YOUR DONATION

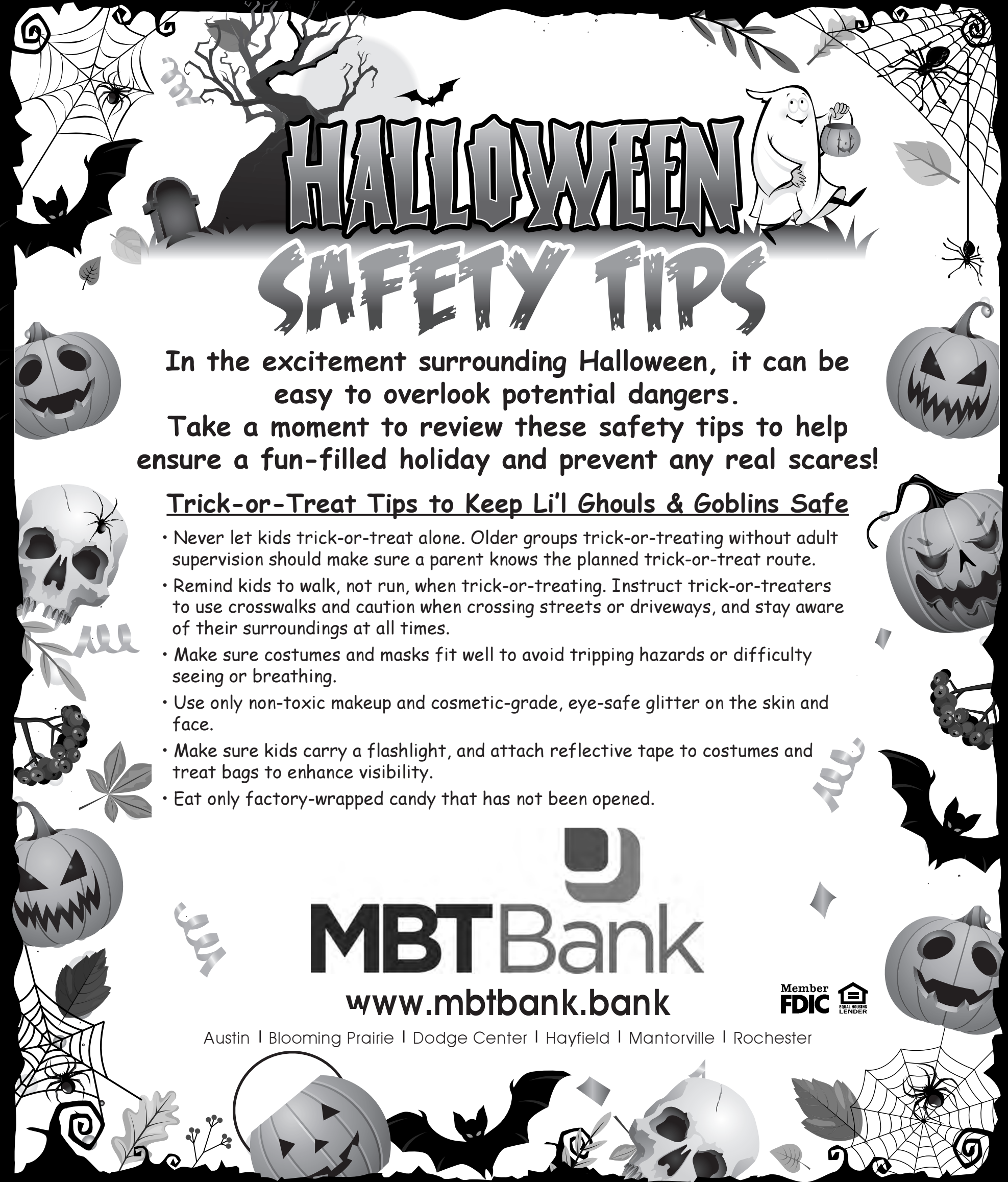
Individual or Business Donating _____
Address _____
Phone Number _____
Email _____
Cash or Check \$ _____
Auction Item _____ Value of Item \$ _____

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The Caring & Sharing Tree provides the opportunity to help those in need at Christmas.

This program is available to full time residents of West Concord, MN with children 18 years and younger, living at home and attending school.

Applications are available at Casey's, Heritage Bank and City Hall, West Concord, MN.
Return applications to WC City Hall by November 13, 2026



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

In the excitement surrounding Halloween, it can be easy to overlook potential dangers.

Take a moment to review these safety tips to help ensure a fun-filled holiday and prevent any real scares!

Trick-or-Treat Tips to Keep Li'l Ghouls & Goblins Safe

- Never let kids trick-or-treat alone. Older groups trick-or-treating without adult supervision should make sure a parent knows the planned trick-or-treat route.
- Remind kids to walk, not run, when trick-or-treating. Instruct trick-or-treaters to use crosswalks and caution when crossing streets or driveways, and stay aware of their surroundings at all times.
- Make sure costumes and masks fit well to avoid tripping hazards or difficulty seeing or breathing.
- Use only non-toxic makeup and cosmetic-grade, eye-safe glitter on the skin and face.
- Make sure kids carry a flashlight, and attach reflective tape to costumes and treat bags to enhance visibility.
- Eat only factory-wrapped candy that has not been opened.


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How Changes in Weather Can Affect Your Dog's Mood

Have you ever noticed that your dog's mood shifts with the weather? Storms, heat, cold, and the changing seasons affect our dogs, just like they affect us. Most dogs can even sense when the weather is about to change.

But how does hot or cold weather affect dogs? Understanding the impact of these changes on your dog can help you prepare them for the forecast ahead.

Colder climates are where Northern breeds like American Eskimo Dogs and Siberian Huskies thrive. Longhaired or double-coated breeds like German Shepherd Dogs and Newfoundlands typically enjoy cooler weather, too. They often become more active and playful during the winter months.

In contrast, some dogs, such as hairless breeds, toy breeds, senior dogs, and dogs with conditions such as hypothyroidism, Cushing's disease, or arthritis, may become less active or playful during winter months.

Seasons usually change gradually, giving your dog time to adjust. Relocating to an entirely new climate, however, can cause sudden shifts in your dog's mood. You may notice that they become more or less active, and some dogs even show signs of irritation if the weather makes them too uncomfortable.

A move to a cold climate can be shocking for dogs that aren't used to chilly temperatures. Some dogs may seek out warm places, like heating vents, blankets, or your bed. You might also notice your dog becoming cuddlier in the cold.

Whether it's hot or cold, understanding the cause of your dog's sudden lethargy or increased activity level can help you determine if the change in mood is circumstantial or medical. Lethargy is a common symptom of many illnesses and should be taken seriously, so make sure your dog isn't exhibiting any other abnormal signs. If they are, consult your veterinarian immediately.

You can also help your dog acclimate to the cold. Put a limit on outdoor time, and be sure to clean any salt or ice off of your dog's paws when you come inside.

Depending on your dog's coat type, you might also want to dress them in something warm. With so many dog sweaters, jackets, raincoats, and booties to choose from, keeping your dog warm is easier than ever. However, it's important to note that you should never leave an item of clothing on an unsupervised dog. Also, ensure that anything you put on your dog fits properly and is not too tight or loose.



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Can Eggs Help with Osteoporosis?



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Osteoporosis: Bone loss tends to sneak up on you. You wake up a little shorter, your back complains after simple chores, or a small stumble turns into a fracture you never saw coming. Osteoporosis means your bones lose strength and structure over time, which raises the odds of breaks in the hip, spine, and wrist. The good news is that your bones are living tissue, and they respond to the signals you send through food, movement, and daily habits. That's where a familiar breakfast staple comes in. Recent research shows that egg yolk proteins may offer natural support against the very process that leaves bones fragile.

Here's the part that gets me excited. When

egg yolk proteins are broken down into tiny fragments called peptides, they seem to work on both sides of the bone equation. On the defense side, one study found that the smallest water-soluble peptides reduced the number of cells that wear bone away, even shutting off the internal "switches" that tell those cells to keep breaking down bone. Think of it like flipping several off switches at once, stopping the damage before it spreads. On the rebuilding side, a second study found that these same tiny protein pieces helped bone-forming cells grow, mature, and lay down more calcium and minerals, making bones denser and tougher. Together, that means less bone being torn down and more being built back up, which is exactly the balance you want for strength and fracture prevention.

So how do you put this to work in real life? Reach for pasture-raised, low-linoleic acid eggs, and don't skip the yolk, since that's where these helpful proteins live. Pair them with collagen-rich foods and the nutrients that bones truly depend on, like vitamin D, magnesium, and vitamin K2, which help direct calcium where it belongs. Eggs aren't a magic cure, and they work best alongside smart movement and a well-rounded approach to your health. But they give your body one more natural, drug-free tool to protect bone density, stay mobile, and hold onto your independence as the years go by.

Stomach Woes: Here's something I hear all the time: "Oh, that's just how my stomach is." A new survey found that more than half of Americans believe stomach troubles are simply a normal part of life. You know the

ones I mean. The tight waistband after a meal. The sudden bloating that shows up out of nowhere. The gas that just won't quit. Most folks shrug it off, blaming it on getting older or having a "sensitive" stomach, and they carry on like nothing's wrong. But here's what I've come to understand over the years, and it's worth sitting with for a moment. Those daily annoyances aren't as harmless as they seem. When your digestion is out of balance, it doesn't stay quiet in your belly. It reaches into your energy, leaving you dragging when you'd rather feel strong. It touches your mood, your focus, even how you show up for the people you love. Your body is talking to you, and these little signals are its way of asking for help. The good news? When you stop treating discomfort as "normal" and start listening, you open the door to feeling

truly well again, from the inside out. Start by paying closer attention to what your body is telling you—those uncomfortable signals don't have to be your everyday reality. Small changes can make a big difference, like adjusting your diet to include more whole, fiber-rich foods that support gut health or drinking plenty of water to aid digestion. Practicing mindful eating, such as chewing slowly and stopping when you're full, can also help ease strain on your stomach. If discomfort persists, consider seeking guidance from a health professional to uncover the root cause and create a plan tailored to your needs. When you take these steps, you're giving your digestion—and your overall well-being—the care it deserves.

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

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Dear Savvy Senior,

My mother has several chronic health conditions and needs a home caregiver to help with daily activities. I know she wants to stay at home as long as possible, but how do I know when it's time to consider an assisted living facility or nursing home?

—Exhausted Daughter

Dear Exhausted,

Most older adults hope to remain in their own home as long as possible, and with the right support many can. But there may come a point when home care is no longer enough to meet a person's medical, safety or social needs. While moving to an assisted living facility or nursing home is never easy, recognizing the warning signs early can help you avoid a crisis and make the transition less stressful.

If you answer "yes" to several of the following questions, it may be time to start exploring other care options.

Is home care becoming too expensive?

Eight to 10 hours of care a day, seven days a week, can easily cost \$100,000 a year or more. That's well above the median annual cost of a one-bedroom assisted living apartment (about \$70,000), though still less than a private room in a nursing home (about \$128,000), according to Genworth's Cost of Care Survey.

Does she need more medical care?

If your mother needs ongoing nursing care or frequent medical monitoring, a nursing home may be the better choice. If she mainly needs help with daily activities, assisted living may be enough.

Is she falling, forgetting medications or going to the hospital more often? Frequent falls, medication mistakes and repeated hospitalizations are often signs that living at home is becoming unsafe.

Does she have dementia?

Wandering, confusion or unsafe behaviors can make home care increasingly difficult. Memory care communities provide a secure environment and specially trained staff.

Does it take two people to help her?

If she needs two people to assist with transfers, bathing or toileting, both the cost and safety risks of home care rise significantly.

Is her home still safe?

Stairs, narrow bathrooms and the lack of features like grab bars or a walk-in shower can increase the risk of falls. Home modifications may help, but they aren't always enough.

Is she isolated or neglecting personal care?

Loneliness, poor nutrition, weight loss, or neglecting bathing and grooming can all signal that she needs more support than can realistically be provided at home.

Is caregiving overwhelming?

If you're constantly worried, sleep-deprived or neglecting your own health, it may be time to consider a higher level of care. Planning ahead gives your family more choices and helps avoid making an important decision during a medical emergency.

Keep in mind that Medicare generally doesn't pay for long term stays in assisted living or nursing homes. It only covers limited skilled nursing care after a qualifying hospital stay. Understanding what Medicare covers and what it doesn't can help you avoid costly surprises.

If you're unsure what level of care your mother needs, an Aging Life Care professional can assess her situation and recommend appropriate options. An initial assessment can cost \$300 to \$800 or more. You can also use a senior care advising service like A Place for Mom, which provides free guidance because it is compensated by participating care communities.

To research facilities, visit Caring.com. For Medicare-certified nursing homes, use Medicare's Care Compare tool at Medicare.gov/care-compare. You can also contact your local long-term care ombudsman to learn about complaints or quality concerns involving facilities you're considering.

The best time to choose a care community is before a crisis forces the decision, giving your mother more choices and your family greater peace of mind.

Apples and Healthy Weight



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

You have heard the rhyme, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." But what does an apple really do for you? Does any apple work, or only certain kinds? A few answers can be found here.

Medications - A 2015 study published in JAMA Internal Medicine by Davis et al observed that those who consumed one apple a day required less prescription drugs. Those who eat one apple a day probably make other healthy choices as well that contribute to this positive association between apples and reduced drugs.

Heart Disease - A 2017 study published in Molecular Nutrition Food Research by Bon-donno et al compared apples high in flavonoids, which are found in the apple skin, with apples low in flavonoids and observed improved blood flow through the brachial arteries when the high flavonoid apples were eaten. In other words, these apples improved the blood flow through the body. The darker red apples that are not too sweet are the apples with high flavonoid content.

Cholesterol - A healthy control of cholesterol has also been improved with an apple a day. A 2017 study in the Journal of the Science of Food and Agriculture by GC Tenore compared modern apples with the Annurca apple and observed that two small Annurca apples a day significantly lowered the bad cholesterol and increased the good cholesterol. The Annurca apple is known for its higher flavonoid content. Older, heritage apples typically have high flavonoid and polyphenol content.

Blood Sugar - Those individuals who had a daily intake of apple polyphenols, which are

from the skin of the apple, had an improved ability to manage blood sugar compared to individuals who did not consume the polyphenols. This observation was reported in a 2017 study published in Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice by Shoji et al. One possible reason for this improved sugar control is the polyphenols seem to reduce the speed of sugar absorption in the intestines by closing the primary "door" that sugar uses to pass through the intestines, according to Schulze et al in their 2014 published study in Molecular Nutrition and Food Research.

Colon Health - The ability of the polyphenols of apples to "close the door" on sugar transport to cells is one of the pathways to stop the growth of cancer cells in the colon, as observed in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry. A cancer cell has many "doors" to bring in sugar to accelerate growth, so polyphenols help to close these doors and inhibit the growth of cancer cells. The peeling of the apple contains the highest content of effective polyphenols with antioxidant activity, anti-bacterial activity, and anti-cancer activity, which was documented in a 2016 study by Lin et al in the Journal of Food Science.

The older apple varieties that have high polyphenol content include - Braeburn, Jonathan, McIntosh, Gravenstein, and Annurca. Avoid the newer varieties that have been bred for increased sugar content and size.

An apple a day is a key principle for improved health. A personalized health plan that includes an apple a day as part of a whole food program will provide great benefit to whole body health. Many individuals in southern Minnesota have already received their personalized plan and have observed blood sugar levels decrease, cholesterol levels improve, inflammation decrease, acid reflux disappear, and the body shift to a healthy weight.

A free online webinar with Dr. Noel Aldrich, Nutrition Specialist, will be presented on Tuesday, October 27 at 7 pm. "Feel Stuck in a Rut? How to Finally Reset Your Body and Feel Better Than You Have in Years - Without Extreme Diets." This one-hour session will introduce you to how quality nutrition therapy can help you reach your health goals. Free registration for the webinar is available through this website link:

<https://wellness.nutritionproportion.net/registration-page>

Or scan this QR code:



**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Elder Network is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit that was formed in 1988. We have been serving Dodge County since 2022, and are working to provide the community with supportive services and information for older adults and caregivers. We want to take the time to honor those living with breast cancer and bring awareness to early cancer screening. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, "when cancer is caught early, it is easier to treat." Sage, a Minnesota Cancer Screening Program, offers FREE breast and cervical cancer screenings for Minnesotans who meet eligibility requirements. Call 1-888-643-2584 or email health.sage@state.mn.us for more information to learn about early screening and its benefits. Our Dodge County staff member, Pa Cha Vang, is available to contact for caregiver support, educational opportunities, and referrals. Feel free to contact Pa Cha at 507-285-5272 or pachav@elder-network.org.

Funded in part by the SEMN Area Agency on Aging.



Farmers
Keep Watch
for UFO's
While
Combining

Last week a farmer in Stevens County, Minnesota reported a UFO in his corn-

field. The sheriff department received a call late on Wednesday afternoon about foreign debris discovered while harvesting corn. The metallic object was eleven feet in diameter and had charring on it consistent with falling through the atmosphere.

The farmer estimated the object had been in the corn-

field for at least six weeks based on the corn plants underneath it. The object, roughly the size of a vehicle, was moved to a secure location on Thursday. Authorities found serial numbers on the metallic object so the mystery of the origin may soon be solved.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor:
A Fight For Our Democracy

Beginning with a religion of hate for Christians and Jews, New York City's socialist mayor, Zohran Mamdani, declared, "We will prove that there is no problem too large for government to solve, and no concern too small for it to care about." When you couple this with another radical socialist and ally of Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, who said, "All within the state, nothing outside the state, nothing against the state," you can appreciate the fact that the late President Ronald Reagan was right when he said, "The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: 'I'm from the government, and I'm here to help'" (See Decision: The Evangelical Voice For today, October 2026).

As we look at what is happening across America, there should be little doubt as to what the Democrat Party has in store for us if they are able to prevail in the upcoming mid-term elections. While it is true that there are Democrats who will tell you that this behavior does not represent the party, it does not change the fact that what is happening 'right before our eyes' has a purpose that has been in the planning stages for decades: the destruction of the United States of America. Unless we can stop it, it is coming for your children; your grandchildren; and for you. If you do not believe me, just look to Europe and what has happened to places like England and France. Wake up people!

Their names are Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Abdul El-Sayed, Zohran Mamdani, Hassan Piker, and Bernie Sanders. Like a cancer that is finding its way into our towns, cities, and neighborhoods, their calls are to "defund the police," "end support for God's chosen people, Israel," "take over public ownership of utilities, banks, major industries, and private businesses" and "open up the borders and permit everyone who crosses over to vote." But there is more....

In Minnesota, they are Amy Klobuchar and her 100% voting record on the killing of our babies and her support for turning boys into girls and girls into boys. They are Kieth Ellison and the damage he did by looking the other way when the State of Minnesota was being ripped off by his Muslim brothers and sisters to the tune of billions of dollars. They are our Secretary of State, Steve Simon, and State Auditor, Zack Filipovich, for being part of Tim Walz's team of destruction. But there is more....

Her name is Peggy Flanagan. As Tim Walz's right hand lieutenant governor, she not only "cut" her eye teeth working for her progressive "hero," the late Paul Wellstone, but she knew exactly what was happening under the leadership of a governor who almost destroyed the state. And if that is not enough, she not only received assistance from Bernie Sanders in her campaign for the United States Senate, but she denounced Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip as genocide, called for the abolishment of ICE, and championed the support of Medicare for everyone. Ladies and gentlemen, having Margaret "Peggy" Flanagan representing Minnesota in Congress, after what she and her boss did to us, would be like giving a gun to the enemy. For lack of a better vernacular, this woman is a danger to America.

So what is the point? What is the bottom-line? It is namely this: until the Democrat Party stops killing our babies; until the Democrat Party stops supporting homosexuality and the mutilation of our children through gender altering surgery; until the Democrat Party is willing to stand up to a culture that is trying to destroy America and the State of Minnesota through theft and intimidation (See Europe); until the Democrat Party no longer supports Democratic Socialism but stands on the infallible Word of God, you are lying to yourself if you claim to be a Christian and, yet, continue to vote for a party whose mantra has become death and destruction across America. The Battle For Your Soul (Turning Points)!

Dr. James Russell Lehman
Kenyon MN

NOTICE OF MUNICIPAL GENERAL ELECTION

The City of Dodge Center will conduct a Municipal General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. Polling hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Dodge Center City Hall, 35 East Main Street, Dodge Center. The City will conduct an election for two (2) Councilpersons for four-year terms and one (1) Mayor for a four-year term.

Given under my hand this 14th day of October 2026.

Lee A. Mattson, City Administrator

NOTICE OF STATE GENERAL ELECTION
DODGE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

To the clerks and voters of Dodge County in the State of Minnesota.

Notice is Hereby Given, that a General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at the polling places and times designated below, for the purpose of voting for candidates for the following offices:

Polling Place Location and Times:

Dodge Center - South and North Precincts	Dodge Center City Hall 35 E Main St Dodge Center, MN 55927	7:00 am to 8:00 pm
--	--	--------------------

FEDERAL OFFICES

One United States Senator
One United States Representative - District 1

STATE OFFICES

Governor and Lieutenant Governor
Secretary of State
State Auditor
Attorney General

COUNTY OFFICES

County Commissioner
County Sheriff
County Attorney
Soil and Water Conservation Supervisor, Districts 3 & 4

CITY OF DODGE CENTER OFFICES

Mayor
Council Member (vote for up to two)

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Dated: October 8, 2026



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TRITON ISD NO. 2125 – SUMMARY SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 – 6:00 P.M. TRITON HIGH SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER – DODGE CENTER, MN & ZOOM VIDEO

CONFERENCING

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of September 21, 2026, Triton School Board meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing in the Triton District Office, 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, or online at www.triton.k12.mn.us.

[ton.k12.mn.us](http://www.triton.k12.mn.us).

Present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, J. Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Dale Jensen, Brian Ginder, Scott Curran, Luke Lutterman, Jaxon Marine, Tina Kozisek, and others.

The School Board approved

the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda including the August 17, 2026, regular meeting minutes as presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer’s report; removing Aimee Lake as signer for Heritage Banke; adding Jaxon Marine as signer for Heritage Bank; open enrollment/nonresident agreements for students #092126A, #092126B, #092126C, #092126D, #092126E, #092126F, #092126G, #092126H, #092126I, #092126J, #092126K, #092126L, #092126M, #092126N, #092126O, and #092126P; contracts for Gabrielle Guzman as Para-

professional and September Wilson as Paraprofessional; approve extra-curricular contracts for Diane Meyer as MS Student Council Advisor, Lesley Vander Waal as Cobra Crew Co-Advisor, Diane Meyer as Web Co-Advisor, Marisa Starkson as Web Co-Advisor, Robert Ickler as FFA Advisor, Terri Flicek as Assistant FFA Advisor, Jamie Bodenstab as Head Dance Coach, Jaime Geers as Assistant Dance Coach, Rebecca Goossens as BPA Advisor, Morgan Coy as Band Director, and Kristy Faber as HS Student Council Advisor;

- Resolution Accepting Donations;
- Overnight stay for students to attend the band/choir trip

to Chicago April 30-May 1, 2027;

- 2026 Payable 2027 Levy Certification – “Maximum Amount;”
- Facility Conditions Assessment and Long Range Planning with ISG;
- Changing the November Board Meeting from November 16, 2026, to November 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. and setting November 9, 2026 to canvass election results.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Dodge Center Legion Theft

(continued from page 1)

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office began to investigate the suspected fraud in August. The Dodge County American Legion Bookkeeper/commander, Rich Wilburt Klindworth, Jr is facing a felony charge, accused of using the Legion’s credit card for up to \$75,000 in personal purchases over the last two years.

The Dodge Center Legion is still going through financial statements to determine the scope of the fraud at this time. It is alleged that 536 of the 600 purchases made through Amazon with the Legion’s card were for personal use. This amounts to approximately \$35,000 and an additional \$40,000 were made for personal purchases through other companies.

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Department also executed a search warrant at Klindworth Jr.’s home where they located numerous items which had been purchased with the Legion’s card. Klindworth Jr. is charged with one count of felony financial card transaction fraud. He was released without bail following his first court appearance and is due back in court early next year.

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2125 (TRITON PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
CLAREMONT, DODGE CENTER, AND WEST CONCORD
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2125 (Triton Public Schools), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November 2026 for the purpose of electing four school board members for four year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: 

School Board Member Vote for Up to Four

- ☐ WALTER ALAN BLUHM
- ☐ BRIAN GINDER
- ☐ LLOYD HENSLIN, JR.
- ☐ BRUCE HUBER
- ☐ DALE JENSEN
- ☐ WENDY KENWORTHY
- ☐ CHRISTI RUNNELLS
- ☐ Write-in, if any
- ☐ Write-in, if any

The precincts and polling places for this general election are the polling places and precincts, or parts of precincts located within the school district’s boundaries, that have been established by the county or municipal governing bodies as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.14.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. Most polls for said election will open at 7 o’clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o’clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: August 17, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Dale Jensen
School District Clerk

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NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 204
KASSON-MANTORVILLE SCHOOLS
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 204, (Kasson and Mantorville), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026, for the purpose of electing three (3) school board members for four-year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s), like this: 

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
VOTE FOR UP TO THREE

- ☐ PATRICK MADERY
- ☐ MARK TORKELSON
- ☐ JIL AINE RENDLER
- ☐ ALBERT J. BRAND
- ☐ MARK GRANSEE
- ☐ write-in, if any
- ☐ write-in, if any
- ☐ write-in, if any
- ☐ write-in, if any

The combined polling places for this election and the precincts served by those polling places will be designated by the county for the state general election.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. Most polls for said election will open at 7 o’clock a.m. and will close at 8 o’clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on election day.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
Eric Mesa
School Board Clerk

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LEGAL NOTICE

APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER’S MEETING SEPTEMBER 22, 2026 STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE COUNTY OF DODGE MANTORVILLE, MN

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.
- * Veteran Services Officer to return unused grant funds to the MN Department of Veteran Affairs as requested.
- * Environmental Services Department to apply for Greater MN Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling, and Composting grant to build addition to ReUse Center at a cost not to exceed \$175,000.
- * Signatures to resolution #2026-30 – 2027 Solid Waste Market Price Resolution.
- * Signatures to resolution #2026-31 – Abatement Hearing for PID: 10.010.0300 & 10.010.0301.
- * The following personnel actions: A.1, A.2, A.3, B.1, C.1, D.1, E.1.
- * Payment of the following bills:

01 Revenue Fund	\$ 76,917.56
13 Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 188,355.95
16 Environmental Quality Fund	\$ 22,579.43
Total	\$ 287,852.94
- * Signatures to resolution #2026-32 – 2027 Preliminary Budget Adoption.
- * Property tax penalty & interest abatement request in the amount of \$466.84 for parcel 24.951.0312 as recommended.
- * Signatures to resolution #2026-33 – Root River One Watershed One Plan.
- * Signatures to resolution #2026-34 – SEMMCHRA Preliminary Resolution.
- * Signatures to resolution #2026-35 – Request to Accept Veteran Services Donation.
- * Adjourning the meeting at 6:23 p.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 CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Jared Sultze called the Regular City Council Meeting of the City of Claremont to order on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mayor Jared Sultze, Council Member Krystal Sultze, Council Member Ethan Johnson, and Council Member Donna Gregory. Absent: Council Member Debbie Ellis. Others present: City Administrator Elizabeth Sorg, City Attorney Mark Rahrick, Scott Eells, Kelli Ortiz, Derek Gasner, Kindra Gasner, Ashley Martin, Travis Martin, and Timothy Hudson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda was made by K. Sultze, seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Input

Ashley Martin from Hayfield introduced herself to the Council as a candidate running for District 4 County Commissioner. She invited attendees to review her responses published in the DCI and encouraged residents to bring forward any county-level issues they would like addressed if she is elected.

Tim Hudson, East Street N., offered several comments on agenda items. He expressed concern about the ongoing trend of increasing property tax levies, noting that residents on low and fixed incomes who have not built equity are finding the increases unsustainable. Regarding the pickleball court, he supported the volunteer effort to paint lines as a cost-effective solution, noting that the existing court was seeing more activity. On the proposed dog park fencing, he questioned whether the estimated cost of approximately \$17,000 represented an appropriate expenditure at this time. He also raised questions about the purpose of the Harmer Park fence and the upcoming parcel split, asking specifically what the repurpose of the split would be and what the market value of the property is.

Kindra Gasner, E. Front

Street, clarified that her request on the agenda to paint pickleball court lines would come at no cost to the city. She stated that her family would supply the paint and perform the work themselves, and she was seeking only the city's permission to proceed.

Approve the Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of Minutes of the August 4, 2026 Regular City Council Meeting and Resolution No. 26-18: Resolution Certifying Past Due Bills to Dodge County for Collection with 2027 Property Taxes was made by K. Sultze and seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports Finance Committee

Motion to approve the financial reports was made by Johnson, seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Payment of Bills

Motion to approve payment of the bills on the amended bill list was made by Johnson, seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Parks Committee Council Request

The Council considered the request from the Gasner family to paint pickleball court lines on the existing basketball court in Henning Park. Gregory expressed support for the volunteer donation of time and materials, while raising a question about the current placement of the basketball hoops and whether any planned relocation of those hoops should occur first, so as not to require repainting. Mayor Sultze and others noted that discussions had previously taken place regarding moving the basketball hoops, but that the posts are embedded in concrete beneath the slab and would need to be cut off and rebuilt, which had not yet been resolved. Users of the court appear to have little attachment to the existing basketball infrastructure and for the current season the group could simply paint a pickleball court configuration and revisit the basketball hoop question in the spring. Council Member Gregory suggested a parks committee meeting in early spring to address the basketball hoop matter comprehensively. Johnson suggested the city should formally authorize the

work since it would be conducted on city property. Motion to authorize the Gasner family and their group to paint pickleball court lines was made by Gregory and seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Committee

No report.

Planning And Zoning Committee

No report.

Public Health & Safety Committee (Health, Fire, Police, Weeds) Rental Property Inspections

Administrator Sorg reported that she, Donna Gregory, and Debbie Ellis had met to discuss establishing a rental property inspection program for the city. The committee recommended that the city begin conducting inspections this year if possible, or next year at the latest.

Sorg noted she had a call scheduled for the following day with a third-party inspection company to review the scope of inspections, particularly focusing on health and safety criteria. The committee recommended inspections occur on a two-year cycle, with the cost of inspections to be borne by the property owner. Sorg indicated that the city code would need to be amended and that additional guidance would be sought from the inspection company. City Attorney Mark Rahrick clarified that cities issue rental licenses as a precondition for renting property. If a property fails inspection and the owner does not bring it into compliance, the city may ultimately revoke the rental license, removing the owner's ability to rent the property until it is brought back into compli-

ance. He also noted that structural safety issues would involve the building inspector and could potentially result in a condemnation. Mayor Sultze noted that the immediate concerns motivating the discussion included the absence of basic safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and CO2 detectors in some rental units. A full report was expected at the next meeting.

Gregory raised a question about the ownership structure of the Claremont Manor, noting that it was unclear who ultimately owns the property. City Attorney Rahrick indicated he was still working on that question. Mayor Sultze acknowledged that the management company, Lifestyle, does not own the property, and that the actual ownership

(continued on page 25)

**CITY OF DODGE CENTER
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

RFQ – SYSTEMS INTEGRATOR PRESELECTION

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

The City of Dodge Center (City) is seeking submissions from qualified systems integrators for the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements project. The selected integrator will provide control panel fabrication and SCADA integration services, which will be incorporated into the construction contract as a prenegotiated, competitively established allowance managed by the general contractor.

The project generally includes Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements, consisting of preliminary treatment expansion, oxidation ditch improvements, new bioreactor, final clarifier improvements, UV disinfection, sludge storage tank expansion and improvements, administration building improvements and site improvements.

A copy of the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) may be obtained from <http://www.questcdn.com>.

Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) must be submitted by email no later than November 4, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. Central Time to:

- Mark Barwald at mbarwald@ci.dodgecenter.mn.us
- Jennifer Svenes at jsvenes@neroeng.com
- Craig Britton at craig.britton@widseth.com.

Submissions shall be prepared at the Respondent’s expense and become public records of the City. Confidential data must be clearly identified as such; the City will determine whether the data meets the requirement of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.

The RFQ is subject to revision after the date of issuance via written addenda. Any such addenda will be posted to <http://www.questcdn.com>. It is the responsibility of each Respondent to obtain all RFQ addenda prior to submitting their SOQ.

The City anticipates short-listing two (2) Proposers to participate in a subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) and potential in-person interviews. However, the City, acting through its authorized representatives, shall have the right to reject any and all submissions and waive any informality or irregularity contained in said submittals. The Owner reserves the right to shortlist a greater or fewer number of firms based on the quality of submissions received and the competitiveness of the field.

This project is being financed by the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority through the Clean Water Revolving Fund.

Dated October 16, 2026.

CLAREMONT CITY COUNCIL

(continued from page 24)

appears to be a board or investment group, which makes identification difficult. Council Member Gregory referenced a Southeast Minnesota meeting she had attended where the concept of long-term affordable housing structures with grandfathered terms was discussed, and asked that the ownership question be properly resolved. City Attorney Rahrnick suggested that the rental license application process itself could be structured to require disclosure of ownership information, which would help address this concern.

EDA

No report.

City Engineer
Derek Olinger

No report.

City Administrator

City Administrator Sorg shared a community announcement. Residents Cindy Johnson and Jamie Sultze are organizing a food shelf fundraiser and community supper on Monday, October 5th at the Legion from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Donation boxes will be placed at local businesses by Labor Day, and collected items will be used to stock a community refrig-

erator known as Larry's Fridge. The supper will feature homemade soup, rolls, and a dessert bar at no charge, with monetary donations encouraged. The event is planned to repeat on the first Monday of each month from October through March. Sorg indicated she would post the information on the city's website.

City Attorney Mark
Rahrnick

No report.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Fence Estimates for
Harmer Park and
Dog Park

Johnson introduced the fence estimates, explaining that the request for a dog park fence estimate was initiated to give the Council a general sense of costs for future planning purposes, and was not a proposal for immediate action. He suggested a potential location on the east side of Harmer Park. Gregory proposed that, before the city proceeds further with a dog park concept, a community survey should be conducted to gauge resident interest, noting that several people had previously expressed doubt about whether they would use such a facility. Mayor Sultze agreed that a survey

would be appropriate when the idea is more actively considered, and that any survey should include estimated costs so residents can make an informed response.

Regarding the Harmer Park fence itself, Mayor Sultze noted that he would like to obtain additional quotes, having spoken with another fencing company that indicated they could submit an estimate. The Council agreed to table the item and seek additional bids. There was also a brief discussion about whether the city's own setback rules—requiring fences to be placed two feet inside the property line—would apply, and whether a variance might be needed given the proximity of the property line to the intended fence location. Mayor Sultze noted that the property is in the process of changing hands, which adds a further consideration to the planning process. The fence estimates were tabled pending receipt of additional bids.

Truth In Taxation: Set
Date for Public Input on
Final Budget and Levy

Sorg noted that the city has historically held the Truth in Taxation public input hearing at the regular December Council meeting. She confirmed the date would be De-

cember 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the regular meeting location. Motion to set December 1 at 7:00 p.m. as the date for the public input hearing on the final budget and levy was made by Gregory and seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution No. 26-19:

Approving A Parcel Split

City Attorney Rahrnick explained that parcel splits in the city limits require city approval before Dodge County will process the split. Sorg clarified that the split involves a parcel adjacent to Harmer Park, and that the purpose is to separate the farmstead with bins and storage structures from the homestead. A diagram was referenced to illustrate the division. Attorney Rahrnick confirmed that the split would have no effect on taxes or existing city obligations. Motion to approve Resolution No. 26-19: Approving a Parcel Split was made by Johnson and seconded by K. Sultze. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Ellis'
LMC Learning Experience

Council Member Ellis was not present. No report was given.

Final Word

No final comments were given.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by K. Sultze and seconded by Johnson. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m. Elizabeth Sorg, City Administrator Jared Sultze, Mayor

State of Minnesota
Dodge County
District Court
Third District

Court File Number:
20-PR-23-644

Case Type: Informal
Probate

Notice of Informal Probate
of Will and Appointment
of Personal Representative
and Notice to Creditors
Estate of Betty Ann Staf-
fon aka Betty A. Staffon,
Decedent

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS AND CREDI-
TORS:

Notice is hereby given that a second amended application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will dated May 25,

2000, Separate Writing sated January 17, 2013 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the second amended application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed Faron Dean Staffon whose address is 59279 205th Avenue, Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative or may object to the appointment of Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. §524.3.607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. §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 (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 9-30-2026

Deanna Verdick, Probate Registrar

Brooke Delano, Court Administrator

Personal Representative,
Faron Dean Staffon

59279 205th Avenue

Dodge Center, Minnesota 55927

(507)-272-3281

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
COUNTY OF DODGE
THIRD JUDICIAL
DISTRICT

Court File No.

20-PR-26-674

In Re the Estate of:
JOYCE ANN STIVERS,

a/k/a
JOYCE ANN RENKEN
STIVERS, a/k/a

JOYCE A. STIVERS, a/k/a
JOYCE STIVERS

NOTICE AND ORDER
OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL
AND
APPOINTMENT OF
PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND
NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on November 30, 2026 at 9:15 a.m. a remote hearing will be held from the Dodge County Courthouse, 22 6th St. E, Mantorville, MN 55955, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of Decedent, dated March 18, 2021, and for the appointment of Kathleen Peterson, whose address is: 709 22nd St. NE, Kasson, MN 55944, AND Darloe Kuball, whose address is 604 West Main St, Kasson, MN 55944 as Co-Personal Representatives 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 representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the Estate. PLEASE SEE NOTICE OF REMOTE HEARING AND INSTRUCTIONS.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 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.

/s/ Debra A. Groehler
10/08/2026

Judge Date
Brooke Delano

Court Administrator
Attorney for Personal Representative

Daniel L. Ziebell
ZIEBELL LAW OFFICE,
P.A.

13 W Main St., PO Box 248
Kasson, MN 55944-0248

Attorney ID# 280380
Phone: (507) 634-7887

ziebellllaw@kmtel.com

DODGE CENTER SUMMARY COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, September 28, 2026

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of September 28, 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, John Fox, Vanessa Hines, Randy Langworthy.

City Council approved the following items:

- Approve and accept the consent agenda to include: Minutes of the September 14, 2026 City Council Meeting, Minutes of the July 2026 Library Board Meeting, Minutes of the August 2026 Airport Board Meeting, Minutes of the August 2026 EDA Board Meeting, Minutes of the August 2026 Park Board Meeting, McNeilus County Zoning Request, Cloud Server Conversion, and Payment of bills,
 - Resolution 2026-018: A Resolution Ordering Improvement and Preparation of Plans,
 - Order to abate on 111 1st St SW,
 - Order to abate on 250 East Hwy St,
 - Ambulance Service's planned purchase of a new full-featured monitor with the use of a \$25,000 grant,
 - The \$6500 purchase of new radios and \$700 purchase of a new pager for the Ambulance Service,
 - Reschedule the Truth in Taxation hearing date to December 14, 2026,
 - Retain current staff health insurance plans for 2027,
 - Resolution 2026-017: A Resolution Approving the Proposed Budget of the City of Dodge Center and Authorizing the City Administrator to Certify the Proposed Tax Levy Request to the County Auditor, with a net levy of \$2,899,906,
 - The Leathers Cobra Country Proposal up to the \$403,468.32 estimated amount,
 - Disconnect the local line that rolled to the County dispatch number,
 - Move forward with offering up to \$15,000 for the 102 Central Ave North property and if the offer does not go through, to proceed with the condemnation process,
 - Resolution 2026-016: A Resolution Approving State Airport Fund Grant Agreement With The Minnesota Department of Transportation.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Legal Notices

Dodge County Planning Commission Public Hearing Notice

The Dodge County Planning Commission will meet on Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at 7:00 PM.
To participate in the Public Hearings, citizens can come in person or join via Microsoft Teams. Please visit the Dodge County Environmental Services Public Hearings page for the meeting link: https://www.co.dodge.mn.us/departments/environmental_services/public_hearings.php
Item 1: Rezone
For additional information on request and commenting procedures or if you have trouble getting on the Teams Meeting, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 507-635-6272.

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 204 (KASSON-MANTORVILLE), MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 204 (Kasson-Mantorville), Minnesota, on November 3, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following question:

School District Question Approval of New School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 204 (Kasson-Mantorville), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District's referendum revenue by \$500 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2026 for taxes payable in 2027 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the new referendum authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 204 (Kasson-Mantorville), Minnesota, be approved?

PASSAGE OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The property tax portion of the revenue authorized will require an estimated referendum tax rate of 0.07686% for taxes payable in 2027 of the referendum market value of all classes of taxable property in the School District, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.01, Subdivision 3, which excludes certain agricultural property, seasonal property and post-secondary student housing.

The projected annual dollar increases for typical residential homesteads, apartments, commercial-industrial properties, and most other classes of property within the School District are as shown in the table below, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. Agricultural property will pay taxes for the proposed referendum based only on the value of the house, garage and one acre of land. Seasonal recreational residential property (i.e., cabins) will pay no taxes for the proposed referendum.

The figures in the table below are based on School District taxes for the new referendum revenue authorization only and do not include tax levies for other purposes:

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Taxes for Referendum Only*	
		Annual	Monthly
Residential Homesteads, Apartments, and Commercial-Industrial Property	\$100,000	\$77	\$6
	125,000	96	8
	150,000	115	10
	175,000	135	11
	200,000	154	13
	225,000	173	14
	250,000	192	16
	275,000	211	18
	300,000	231	19
	325,000	250	21
	350,000	269	22
	375,000	288	24
	400,000	307	26
	450,000	346	29
	500,000	384	32
	550,000	423	35
	600,000	461	38
	650,000	500	42
	750,000	576	48
	1,000,000	769	64

The precincts and polling places for the special election will be the precincts and polling places used for the state general election.

All qualified electors residing in said School District may cast their ballots at the polling places for the precincts in which they reside during the polling hours specified above.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in the special election. Unregistered individuals may register to vote at the polling places on election day.

Dated: June 29, 2026.

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ , Clerk
Eric Mesa

Notice of Public Hearings and availability of environmental report

In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV and 345 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line Project

PUC DOCKET NUMBER: E002, ET2, ET6675/CN-25-117 | CAH DOCKET NUMBER: 28-2500-41617

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public hearings on the Certificate of Need Application filed by Great River Energy, ITC Midwest LLC, and Xcel Energy (collectively, the Applicants) for the proposed PowerOn Midwest Project. The Project would involve construction and operation of approximately 340 miles of new 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and additional 345-kV circuits on replacement or existing structures across southern Minnesota, along with related substation expansions and upgrades.

The proposed facilities in Minnesota include:

- Approximately 271 miles of new 765-kV single-circuit transmission lines from the South Dakota border connecting with the Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County, Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County, and North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County, with an additional connection from Lakefield Junction to the Iowa border.
- Approximately 31 miles of new 345-kV circuit between the Pleasant Valley and North Rochester substations, replacing existing single-circuit structures with new double-circuit-capable structures.
- A second 345-kV circuit added to an approximately 38-mile segment between North Rochester Substation and Hampton Substation in Dakota County, primarily using existing double-circuit-capable structures.
- Expansions and upgrades at Lakefield Junction, Pleasant Valley, North Rochester, and Hampton substations, including 345-kV transmission line connections between select existing and expanded substations.

The project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) Long Range Transmission Planning Tranche 2.1 portfolio, approved by the MISO Board of Directors in December 2024 as part of the MISO Transmission Expansion Plan 2024 (MTEP24). The Applicants state that the project is needed to address projected reliability issues, support compliance with national reliability standards, improve regional transmission capability, and provide capacity to serve forecasted residential, commercial, and industrial demand. The Applicants also state that the project would support replacing aging or less cost-effective generation with new generation resources, including carbon-free resources, while maintaining electric system reliability.

IMPORTANT: This proceeding concerns whether the project is needed. Granting a certificate of need would not approve a specific transmission line route or guarantee approval of a route permit. If a certificate of need is granted, specific routes would be reviewed in separate route permit proceedings, with additional opportunities for public comment at meetings and hearings. The Applicants expect to file route permit applications no earlier than the first quarter of 2027.

In-Person Public Hearings

Date	Hearing Location	Time
Monday, November 9, 2026	St. Leo Church (Gym) 415 S Hiawatha Avenue Pipestone, MN 56164	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Monday, November 9, 2026	Murray County Central Schools (Gym) 2420 28th Street Slayton, MN 56172	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	Worthington Event Center 1447 Prairie Drive Worthington, MN 56187	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	Windom Community Center 1750 Cottonwood Lake Drive Windom, MN 56101	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Thursday, November 12, 2026	Fox Lake Event Center 730 125th Street Sherburne, MN 56171	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday, November 12, 2026	Golden Bubble 11575 State Highway 22 Wells, MN 56097	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Friday, November 13, 2026	Austin Eagles Lookout Aerie 703 107 11th Street NE Austin, MN 55912	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Monday, November 16, 2026	Dodge County Fairgrounds Midway Building 100 11th Street NE Kasson, MN 55944	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these hearings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearing. To find out if a hearing is canceled due to bad weather or other reasons, call 1-855-731-6208 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Online Public Hearing via WebEx

Date: Monday, November 16, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
(The hearing ends when all attendees have commented or at 9:00 PM. Log in at the start time to ensure participation.)
Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link:
<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m692095c2a8eac8e7efe30f48b01df5f4>
Webinar Number: 2480 280 7515
Webinar Password: GakXRvpi846 (42597874 from phones)
Join by Phone: 1-415-655-0003
Phone Access Code: 2480 280 7515

If you are joining the hearing via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the hearing, use the raised-hand function or the chat function to send a message to the hearing moderator. If you are joining the hearing by phone, press *3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

Public Hearing Information

The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable Joseph Meyer, an administrative law judge with the Court of Administrative Hearings, who will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation.

The purpose of the public hearings is to obtain public input and compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the certificate of need application. Specifically, interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of state staff and the Applicants; and (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the certificate of need application and on the environmental report.

- Comments received at the hearings and during the comment period will be used to inform the record and help the Commission make its final decision.
- The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online hearings.
- The hearings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or at the scheduled end time of the hearing, whichever occurs first. It is recommended that all interested persons arrive at the scheduled start time.
- Members of the public may participate without intervening as a party; representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted until December 7, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Comment

- Should the Commission grant a certificate of need for the PowerOn Midwest Project?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in a certificate of need?

Submit Comments

Online: <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments>
Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us
U.S. Mail: Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Environmental Report

The Commission has completed an Environmental Report (ER) for the project. The ER outlines the affected resources, evaluates potential human and environmental impacts, describes approvals required from other government agencies, and considers possible alternatives (where applicable).

The ER is available for review and download on the Commission's eDocket System. Print copies of the ER will be available for review at the in-person public hearings. A limited number of electronic copies (flash drives) of the ER will also be available to take home. For questions about the availability of the ER please contact Commission staff.

Evidentiary Hearings

Members of the public may attend and listen to the evidentiary hearings, but these hearings will not provide opportunities for public comments. To provide oral comments, please attend one of the in-person or online public hearings described earlier in this notice.

The evidentiary hearings will be held in the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Hearing Rooms at 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101, beginning on November 18, 2026, at 9:30 AM. The hearings may continue on November 19 and 20, 2026, if needed, as determined by Judge Meyer.

Additional Information

Minnesota Statutes and Rules. This project is being reviewed under Minn. Stat. ch. 216B.243 and Minn. Rules ch. 7849. The rules and statutes are available for review at: www.revisor.mn.gov

Review Process. Information on the review processes for certificates of need for large energy facilities is available on the Commission's website at: puc.eip.mn.gov/certificates-of-need.

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling. Visit edockets.state.mn.us, select Sign In/Register and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. To view all documents filed in this matter, visit edockets.state.mn.us, select Search Documents, enter the docket number (25-117), and select Search.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter, visit edockets.state.mn.us and select Subscriptions.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number, your name, mailing address, and email address.

PUC Project Website. <http://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/25117>

Contacts

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ACROSS

1. Trampled

5. Dashboard unit, acr.

8. "Be quiet," onomatopoeically speaking

11. Clean the whiteboard, e.g.

12. Morally wicked

13. Former anesthetic

15. Bad luck precursor

16. Banned apple spray

17. "Ringo Starr's instrument, pl.

18. *Home of the bagpipes

20. Big one, at 7-Eleven

21. Contemplate

22. Jewelry stone

23. Hindu queens

26. Something earned

30. Tokyo, formerly

31. *Riddim pair music genre

34. Spock's famous body parts

35. *Animal, source of violin bow strings

37. Scott Joplin's "Maple Leaf ____"

38. Away from port (2 words)

39. Not much (2 words)

40. Post-graduate journey?

42. Always, to a poet

43. Baby bear (2 words)

45. Beach-comber's collection

47. Cholera

48. Popular pie nut

50. Glazier's unit

52. *Flute player

55. Pointy teeth

56. 36 inches

57. Sticky stuff

59. Hot ____ buns

60. Code word for K

61. Mauritania's Eastern neighbor

62. Soda pop container

63. Ems follower

64. Highest point

DOWN

1. *Piano has at least ____ pedals

2. Part of a glass, pl.

3. Leading oil-producers' grp.

4. Indicate

5. Home to Teatro alla Scala

6. Popular core exercise

7. Deer social group

8. Synagogue

9. Cannabis plant

10. Store posting, abbr.

12. Old-fashioned carry-on bag

13. Straight ones in drafter's toolbox

14. *Louis Armstrong's instrument

19. "And Then ____ Were None"

22. "Wow!"

23. User's "getaway"

24. Sun-dried brick

25. Water wheel

26. Intense anger

27. Painter's prop

28. Angler's basket

29. Former Russian leaders

32. Snatch

33. Toothy fish

36. *Lute family instruments

38. "Perfect" Buddhist

40. Theatrical prompt

41. Former Portuguese money

44. Edible herb

46. Brain teaser

48. Like average Jane

49. British peers

50. Prefix for "beyond"

51. Any minute, arch.

52. Type of fish net

53. Daytime TV program

54. Enameled metalware

55. Federal Communications Commission

58. *Standard number of strings on guitar

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6 5 4 3 2 8 9 6 7

5 4 3 2 7 9 6 8 5

1 9 7 4 3 8 5 2 6

6 1 4 7 3 8 2 5 9

4 8 1 7 5 6 2 9 3

5 9 2 3 6 1 4 7 8

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