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Coffee and Treats Thursdays Returning to West Concord Historical Society

Coffee and treats Thursdays are returning to the West Concord Historical Society building beginning Nov. 5 and will continue throughout the winter months. Each day will begin at 9 a.m.



The Flame Room setting provides an opportunity for people who may become isolated in the winter to visit with other community members.

Participants often come with small family heirlooms and antiques to share with visitors along with "remember when" stories involving West Concord. - Submitted

District 24A House Candidates

Duane Quam is the incumbent running on the GOP ticket. He has served in the Minnesota Senate since 2010. I have lived in the

community for almost 50 years. Duane is married and he and his wife Pat have two sons and two grandchildren. His dad and many uncles/cousins live, farm, work in the area.

Duane is an experienced problem solver, with extensive experience in the private sector. Managing large-scale projects, developing new products/innovations, fixing issues, and planning ahead to prevent unintended consequences. (IBM, Motorola, Bosch)

He has served on the Byron School Board, Zumbro Education Governing Board and the Minnesota state house. Duane authored the first bill to pass in the historic tied house, 133-0.

His core beliefs are God, country and community. "I'm Christian, and babies are people, even before birth. One grandson was born about six weeks premature.

I could have held him in one hand" Duane comments. "America is not perfect, but is the best country to be part of. SE Minnesota has



Duane Quam



Heather Holmes

great people and communities. We need to work together and help each other."

Duane states his priorities for the next session.

(continued on page 6)

State Senate Candidates for District 24



Nels Pierson



Simon Glaser

Nels Pierson is the GOP candidate for the Minnesota State senate seat vacated by retiring Carla Nelson, who has held the seat since 2010.

(continued on page 5)

Announcements

• **Surviving The Holidays**, a GriefShare support group focused on helping to get through the holidays after loss of a loved one, will meet Thursday night, November 12, 6:30-8:30 pm at Anchor Of Hope Church, Dodge Center. Contact Rev Dale E Rood at 507 633 2772 for further info or to preregister.

• 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.



Triton's Holiday Market is Back!

By Cheri Roshon

Well, 'tis the season," so they say! And time again for the community to come together and celebrate the season of good will toward men! On Saturday, December 12th, Triton's Community Education joins with Dodge County's Salvation Army to bring sweets and treats to all the good boys and girls of all ages. There will be 3 hours of family fun to join in on, starting at 10 am and going until 1 pm.

You can park and enter through the Main Elementary Door.

(continued on page 4)



West Concord Area Foundation Pie Bake-Off

Saturday, October 24th the West Concord Area Foundation held their first annual Gala with a Pie Bake-Off contest and fundraiser at the Bell Tower Center.

(continued on page 7)



Judge's Choice:

1st - Paula Trenda - Lemon Blueberry Meringue
2nd - Tatyanna Bond - Strawberry Rhubarb
3rd - Hannah Maderg - Cherry

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Salt and Light in Election Season

By Johann Marsland

Imagine a single candle lit in a dark room. Its flame does not instantly flood the entire house with brilliance, yet it pushes back the shadows nearest to it. As more candles are kindled nearby, the darkness retreats further. This is the quiet, powerful way Christian faithfulness transforms communities, cultures, and governments; not primarily through grand speeches or national campaigns, but through ordinary believers living as disciples among their friends, neighbors, and towns.

Jesus declared in Matthew 5:13-16, "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." Salt preserves what would otherwise decay; light exposes what hides in darkness and guides the way. When Christians consistently practice love, integrity, and justice in daily relationships, they act as preservative and illumination in the places that matter most the communities where they live, the schools their children attend, the local businesses they support, and the conversations they share over coffee or just across the fence.

The greatest commandment, Jesus taught, is to love God and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). Neighbor-love is not abstract. It looks like showing up for the elderly widow next door, mentoring a struggling teenager, speaking truth with grace in political discussions, and modeling honesty in small transactions. These acts are the yeast Jesus spoke of in Matthew 13:33; a small amount that works through the whole dough

until the entire loaf rises. A community flavored by such love becomes less susceptible to the corruption, division, and cynicism that poison public life.

Politics does not begin in distant capitals. It begins in the character of the people in relationship with others. When Christians live as faithful witnesses refusing gossip, practicing forgiveness, caring for the vulnerable, and pursuing justice they cultivate a healthy civic environment. Proverbs 14:34 reminds us, "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." Righteousness is not imposed from above; it is established from the ground up through lives transformed by the gospel.

This local faithfulness has ripple effects. A

community marked by mutual care and moral clarity elects better local leaders, supports wiser policies, and holds officials accountable. Over time, these local patterns influence wider spheres. The early church did not seize the Roman Empire by force; it transformed it from within through lives of sacrificial love, quiet courage, and unwavering truth. The same pattern holds today.

Yet living as salt and light is incomplete without responsible engagement in the public square God has placed us in. Scripture calls believers to seek the welfare of the city (Jeremiah 29:7) and to pray for those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). Voting is one concrete expression of that calling. So is serving on school boards, attending town meetings, vol-

unteering for local initiatives, and encouraging godly candidates.

Do not underestimate the power of a life lived faithfully close to home. Light one candle. Be the salt in your street. Love your neighbors well. Then step into the public responsibilities that flow from that love. Register. Vote. Speak. Serve. Get involved in local governance. The kingdom of God advances not only through sermons and songs, but through ordinary Christians who refuse to hide their light under a basket—and who refuse to leave the stewardship of their communities to others. The transformation of politics begins right where you live.



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DODGE CENTER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Area Church Directory
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.

CLAREMONT

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

St. John Lutheran Church
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507-527-2244
Interim Pastor, Steve Anderson
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www.fccwc.org
Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

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

Trinity Lutheran, ELCA
301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
trinitychurchwc.net
Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:
Trinitylutheranchurchwestconcordmn
Sundays 9:30 a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on Facebook.
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.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
9:00 a.m. Sunday School; 10:00 a.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 10:00 a.m. Worship; Find us on Facebook
Email your church announcements,
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hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Obituaries

October 29, 2026

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

Page 3

David "Dave" Duane Folkert

David "Dave" Duane Folkert, 60, of Kasson, Minnesota passed away surrounded by his family on Monday, September 28, 2026.

David was born on July 24, 1966, in St. Peter, MN and was later adopted by Vince and Una (Hanson) Folkert in November of that same

year.

Dave attended and graduated from Mayo High School, Class of 1985, in Rochester, MN. After Graduation he went on to work at Mayo Clinic in the Shipping Department for over 20 years. After that he worked in the service industry at different bars/restaurants in Kasson. He went on to marry Aaron Brookins in 1994. Later they had two children, Abigail of Woodbury, MN and Kameron of Richlands, NC.

Dave will be remembered for his sense of humor, willingness to help others, and his excitement for Minnesota sports (yes, all of them), traveling and seeing many of the major league stadiums, snowmobiling trips, and getting together with friends and family just because. Growing up he loved his cars, trucks, and going to all sporting events (Spring Training with his dad) which later turned into his own kids' sporting events where he watched from the front row if he was not on the sidelines as a coach. He loved to brag about both of them, Abi with her sports accomplishments

and Kam when he joined and served in the U.S. Marines.

Dave is survived by his children, Abigail and Kameron Folkert. He was preceded in death by his parents, Vincent and Una Folkert.

Dave's family is planning a celebration of life. Once those details become available, it will be posted at www.czaplewskifuneralhomes.com.

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.

Daniel Lee Greene

Daniel Lee Greene, 72 of Dodge Center, MN passed away peacefully surrounded by his wife and two daughters on Sunday, October 18, 2026.

Daniel was born on December 22, 1953, at Saint Mary's Hospital in Rochester MN to Wallace and Millicent (Payne) Greene. He grew up in Wasioja with his 4 older siblings: Phillip (Diann), Lorna, Steve (Linda) and Ken. He Graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1972.

After high school he got his CDL and discovered a love for driving semi-trucks. He was an over the road truck driver and also

had a son, Joel from a previous Marriage.

He met Marjo in the summer of 1987, they got married in April of 1988. Together they had their first daughter, Brittany in July of that same year. Their second daughter, Amanda was born in October of 1989. When he wasn't working on the road in his semi's you could find him either on his motorcycle, helping his friends with whatever projects they needed help with or tinkering in the garage fixing up anything he could get his hands on. With all the different titles he held his favorites were always dad and grandpa (papa).

Daniel is survived by his wife, Marjo; son Joel; two daughters, Brittany (Nic Neubauer) and Amanda Greene; 9 grandchildren; and his 4 siblings. He was preceded in death by

his parents, Wallace and Millicent Greene.

A memorial service was held at 1:00 p.m. Friday, October 23, 2026, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 25 South Street SW in Dodge Center, MN. Reverend Dale Rood officiated. Visitation was held one hour prior to his service at the funeral home. Inurnment was in Wildwood Cemetery in Wasioja, MN. A luncheon followed at the Dodge Center American Legion, 401 Hwy St W in Dodge Center, MN.

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

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Triton Updates



Luke Lutterman
Triton Superintendent

The 2026-27 school year is off to a great start. Our students continue to work hard and improve, and our staff members continue to be great for one another, our students, families, and community. I appreciate you taking

the time to read this important information regarding our school's financial situation and student achievement.

As shared throughout the 2025-26 school year, deficit spending in prior fiscal years led to Triton being in Statutory Operating Debt (SOD). Several factors contributed to this situation, including enrollment declines over the last decade and rising operational and student service costs. Our focus remains on providing high-quality learning experiences for all students as we address the issue with high levels of responsibility, transparency, and careful planning.

I am pleased to report that we have made tremendous progress in our financial recovery. Although our audit from the 2025-26 school year noted deficit spending, which we predicted, we were able to reduce deficit spending, and we are on track to exit SOD at the end of this fiscal year.

To recover financially, future budget alignments and conversations will be necessary. Please remember that throughout this process, maintaining high-quality student learning experiences and maintaining opportunities in a positive and safe environment will be our top priorities.

At the October School Board Meeting, a presentation on student achievement and our Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR) Plan were presented. In accordance with CACR Legislation, school districts set goals focused on five areas.

1. All children are ready for school
 2. All racial and socioeconomic achievement gaps between students are closed
 3. All students are ready for career and college
 4. All students graduate from high school
 5. Prepare students to be lifelong learners
- This school year, Triton will be focusing on the following goals in line with CACR focus areas.

Goal Area 1 -

All Children Ready for School

By the end of the 2026-27 school year, 100% of eligible families will participate in at least one Kindergarten transition event.

Goal Area 2 -

Close Achievement Gaps

Increase MCA 2026-27 Reading Proficiency for the identified student groups (Special Education, Multilingual Learners, Free/Reduced Lunch) to be at or above the state average for achievement of that group, as measured by state accountability assessments.

Goal Area 3 -

All Students Are Ready for College and Career

100% of the Class of 2027 will be College or Career Ready, as measured by the Redefining Ready Framework Metric.

Goal Area 4 -

All Students Will Graduate From High School

Triton High School will have a 100% Graduation rate for the class of 2027.

Goal Area 5 -

Prepare Students to be Lifelong Learners

All students in the class of 2027 will complete a postsecondary plan, community service experience, college visit, and reflection on the application of the school district's Profile of a Graduate Competencies through their Senior Capstone Project Experience.

Overall, we are navigating the 2026-27 school year with a great sense of accomplishment and positive momentum. We are balancing financial recovery with a continued commitment to improvement. We will continue to be as transparent as possible with our financial planning and will continue to make Triton a positive place to learn and work by prioritizing student experiences and strong parent and community partnerships.

Thank you again for taking the time to read this article and for your continued support. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Together #WeAreTriton

Luke Lutterman
Triton Superintendent
llutterman@triton.k12.mn.us
(507) 418-7530

Got a Great Local News Story?

Tell us about it today!



Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Triton's Holiday Market is Back!

(continued from page 1)

Here you will find horse drawn sleigh rides waiting to whisk you away, maybe even through some snow?

There will be free pictures with Santa, and you can decorate cookies with the girl scouts. There will be crafts to make to bring home and hot cocoa to sip on while you do so.

And gift giving just got easier, too! Local vendors and crafters will have unique products on display for those hard to buy presents for, because these gifts are handmade and one of a kind! The winter wonderland will put you in a festive spirit for your holiday shopping pleasure as you peruse the colorful displays of gifts and sweets. As you can tell, the elves among us have outdone themselves again, so be sure to avoid the Christmas Last Minute Shopping Blues and find that special hand crafted gift for everyone on your list.

Triton Community Ed, The Salvation Army, and Triton School Staff would like to wish you a very merry holiday season!

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www.saveyour.town

State Senate Candidates for District 24

(continued from page 1)

I moved to the area back in 1995. I grew up on a dairy farm near Butterfield, MN. I have lived in Oronoco, Rochester, Stewartville and now live in Rochester Township. I have been married for 26 years to my wife Nicole, and we have 5 children ranging in age from 6-23.

My work after growing up on a farm primarily revolves around real estate and development along with being a business owner of two small businesses.

In 2014 I was elected to the MN State House of Representatives, and I served for 8 years in that body. In 2022 redistricting occurred and that took away much of the area I had represented and at the time my 5 child was coming to our home through international adoption, so we took a break from running for office.

Believing in democracy and capitalism would be core principles for me. Having recently watched the events unfold in Minnesota surrounding the fraud of programs that were meant to help people has reinforced to me that government growth and lack of ac-

countability need to be addressed.

What I would like to accomplish as a Minnesota State Senator. Addressing the fraud and making sure it does not happen again. Also, holding those who did not identify the fraud and holding them accountable for allowing and diminishing our public trust.

My goals for the community. Reduce government spending. Eliminate fraud. Allow individuals more control of their land and person freedoms.

Simon Glaser is running on the DFL ticket for the Minnesota State Senate seat. I have proudly lived in the Rochester area for nearly sixteen years, where I have worked as a public school teacher, raised my family, and led my union. I have spent more than half my 30-year long career as an educator teaching students here in Southern Minnesota. As a union organizer, I have become closely connected to the people that live, work, raise their families and choose to grow old here. I hope to continue to represent the needs of my neighbors and advocate for the working families living in Dodge and Olmsted County at the state legislature.

I am a father to two kids and a husband to my wonderful wife. I am very family oriented which is why I care deeply about making life easier and more affordable for the working families of our community. I am especially motivated to make starting a family more affordable for the countless young people who are currently putting off the Ameri-

can dream as they struggle to make ends meet.

I am a public school teacher of 30 years and a dedicated member of my union where I eventually served as Vice President. I have spent the sixteen years I have lived here teaching in Rochester Public Schools, currently at John Marshall High School. My decades of teaching have been driven by a desire that every student—no matter their background—receives the high-quality education they deserve. These experiences have not only prepared me to run for public office, but have motivated me to be a voice for my district and Minnesotans at the state legislature. I want to continue being an advocate and deliver for families on the issues that matter to them most.

Outside of the classroom I have also been deeply involved in community and faith based advocacy. As an active member of Rochester's teachers' union, I have served in many roles, including vice president, negotiations team member, and government relations representative—fighting for fair wages, better working conditions, and policies that benefit both teachers and students. Beyond education, I have been deeply involved in community advocacy. Working alongside local community and faith-based groups, I mobilized volunteers, led phone banks, and trained community members to advocate for policies that strengthen our local community.

I believe that at a time where public faith in our institutions is wavering, and so many hard working Minnesotans are struggling, it is crucial to send everyday working Minnesotans, not career politicians, to St. Paul. I have not held a public office before, and see that as a strength in my candidacy. I am not entrenched in deep party divides, and would bring an outside perspective to challenge government and deliver results for hard working Minnesotans. Further, through teaching, organizing for my community and leading my union, I have had the privilege of serving my community in different roles. I have testified on educational issues before the Minnesota Senate, and sat in my legislators' offices advocating for better compensation, healthcare, and pensions for educators. These experiences have given me the skills and insight into what issues people in my community are faced with right now and this experience is something I hope to bring to the

state legislature.

As a public school teacher, I understand the struggles of working people. That's why I have dedicated years of my life to fighting for working people as a union leader. My experience is rooted deeply in my years spent as both an educator and community servant, and I want to bring this perspective to St. Paul as a legislator. I am guided by the idea that government works best when all Minnesotans are guaranteed both dignity and opportunity. What drives me is educating and empowering the next generation, helping build a stronger community and advocating for policies that allow individuals and families to live a good quality life. This is what I hope to achieve as the next State Senator for Senate District 24. I'm not running for the title, or to level up my career, I'm running to deliver real results for the people of Southern Minnesota and continue my decades long track record of service.

My campaign's top priorities are to bring down costs, fight fraud, repair our broken healthcare system, and defend and advocate for the needs of our rural communities. Life keeps getting more expensive, no matter your party, and I can't shake the feeling that we used to do a better job looking out for the everyday people in this country. I believe that whether it is high costs of housing, or unaffordable healthcare expenses, we can and must work to bring down costs for Minnesotans.

I also take the issue of fraud very seriously. I believe the number one job of elected officials is to protect people's tax dollars, but our state government failed to do that. I would proudly work across the aisle with republicans to ensure that fraudsters are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. I would also work to expand government transparency, and ensure taxpayers have a government they can trust to do its job correctly and efficiently. We need to ensure that taxpayer money is going where it is supposed to and that the government program resources reach the people they are supposed to.

Along those same lines, a doctor's appointment should never break the bank. Healthcare costs have skyrocketed to unacceptable extremes in recent years and bad actors in Washington, D.C. continue to undermine people's right to care, cutting life saving benefits and programs that people need to live. Minnesotans need to be able to access healthcare without it emptying their bank accounts or putting them in debt. I will fight to ease and expand healthcare access, and rein in the out of control costs.

Rural communities in my district and across the state also deserve a voice. Recently we have seen what powerful and private interest groups are willing to do to bring their agenda to people's doorstep. No one should feel powerless in these situations and our rural communities especially need someone in office that is able to guarantee their interests are at the forefront of conversations and decisions that can affect their livelihoods. That is why I support pausing any and all new construction on hyperscale data centers until we have established thorough protections, review processes, and regulatory systems to guarantee that these projects will not destabilize rural communities.

Information Wanted on Family Farms

Dodge County was settled by farm families beginning in 1854, and the contributions of those families were significant in making our county what it is today.

Every year the number of family farms in our county dwindles. We have gone from 1770 farms in 1920 to 617 in 2023.

The Dodge County Historical Society is collecting and preserving information about our farm families. We have information on the ninety-six Dodge County Century Farms and eight Sesquicentennial Farms that are registered with the Minnesota Farm Bureau.

We are asking those families to share historical information and photos featuring their families' past lives on the farm.

And we have created our own project that we're calling Heritage Farms. If your farm has been in your family 75 years or more, we would like you to share your information with us and become a Heritage Farm. To qualify, your family had to establish their farm in or before 1951.

"We are encouraging everyone that has had a family farm of 50 or more acres that has 75 or more years of continuous ownership by consecutive generations to contact us," Jean Bartel, president of the Dodge County Historical Society, said.

"We want all farms that fill that criteria, even if the farm has been sold," she explained. "We are looking for photos that show the progression of the farm, from a sod house or log cabin, and the beautiful barn that great-grandpa was so proud of, or a prized farm animal, maybe the draft team, or the first tractor along with today's record of fieldwork."

The historical society is also interested in wedding photos and family photos of each generation that toiled on their farm. Aerials are welcome, as well as early ground shots of the farmhouse and outbuildings. "Maybe you have a grain receipt or the purchase of an implement or prized animal," Jean said, "or perhaps a land grant or an interesting entry on the abstract. If you are digging through that box in the attic and aren't sure if it's something of interest, please bring it to us!"

We have printable forms to fill out on our website at <https://dodgecountyhistorical.mn/projects-2/>, or call the museum and we will email or mail it to you. Please let us know you will be bringing your precious photos and papers to the Museum. We want to be sure someone is there that can scan your information and return it to you before you leave. Or, if you can't get to the Museum, we can come to you!

You can contact the Dodge County Historical Society by email at dodgecountyhistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or phone 507-635-5508 and leave a message. - Submitted



District 24A House Candidates

(continued from page 1)

"I want to continue to legislate rules and procedures that prevent and stop fraud, ensuring that the people needing help get it. We need to fix our Department of Education to focus on providing our children with the skills and knowledge to pursue their dreams and succeed in life. We have many great schools in our area, but mandates are crushing them with debt, and diverting classroom time and resources from core education. We need business cost and regulations to be competitive with our neighbors."

His goals for the community are to: Strengthen the local schools, by replacing mandates with options to best help their students pursue their dreams and succeed in life. Return government to being a servant of the people, decreasing the property tax burden by passing on the savings for decreasing fraud, and improving local power by giving more power to the people that actually know you and live in our community.

Heather Holmes is the DFL candidate.

I have lived in Byron for just about 20 years. We moved here in November of 2006. My husband Amos and I are high school sweethearts and have been together since we were 16. We have one kiddo, Jay, who is off to col-

lege this year. We've also got two tree frogs and a tortoise named Yoda at home.

I've got a degree in biology, and I have over 20 years of experience working in biological research. Early on in my career, I worked in environment science (the Great Lakes, coral reefs in Belize, and Sequoia National Forest), and agriculture. My time since then has been spent on research in the biomedical sciences and most recently radiology. I love learning about the world and how things work.

I served on the school board for Byron Public Schools for a few years before running for this same position for the Minnesota House back in 2024.

I believe everyone should be able to live their lives authentically and with dignity. This includes the ability to provide for yourself and your family. I believe our economy should work for everyone, not just those at the very top. Our government can do great things, but we need to ensure we have elected officials willing to put people first over politics.

My biggest goal is ensuring that our communities in Greater Minnesota feel like they've got a seat at the table when decisions are made in St. Paul. Since 2024, our campaign has knocked on over 10,000 doors. I've heard from far too many people that the needs of their community get ignored. I want to see that change. As a former school board member, adequate funding of our schools is incredibly important to me. We've seen so many of our school districts in the area have to rely on levies and referendums to keep up with rising costs. This puts an unfair burden on the taxpayers in these communities. Another issue that I would like to focus on is access to healthcare, and this includes our

ambulance services. So much of Greater Minnesota (and all of Dodge County) rely on ambulance services staffed by volunteers. Many of these services are struggling to remain operational. We need to ensure that people have access to the care they need regardless of their zip code.

I believe we deserve vibrant rural communities where we can live, work, and raise our families. Too many young people end up moving away from where they grew up be-

cause they aren't able to find jobs, housing, or childcare. Many older residents have to leave their communities when they can't get home care or a place in assisted living or a nursing home. I want to see the legislature work on policies that ensure people have what they need to stay, and that small businesses can thrive. What works in one town may not work in another, so we need flexible solutions that fit the needs of each community.

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West Concord Area Foundation Pie Bake-Off

(continued from page 1)

Ten varieties of pies were brought by local bakers and attendees were able to sample each one and vote for their favorites. Each vote accompanied a donation to the newly formed organization, an affiliate of the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF). This fund generates growth which is used to support grants for local public and community benefits. This year the fund made a donation to the West Concord Police Department toward the purchase of body cameras. Fundraising helps the local fund grow under the SMIF non-profit organization.

The Gala included kid's games like leaf art, ring toss, pumpkin tic-tac-toe to keep the young ones entertained. There was a cash bar and lots of socialized before the main event. Every one was able to taste each of the pies and it was delicious. A short video presentation of the SMIF program explains the benefits of the organization to southern Minnesota communities and how the West Concord Area Foundation receives funds and disperses them.

The votes were tallied and winners received 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons.



People's Choice:

1st - Autumn Maderg - Banana Cream; 2nd - Naomi Froyum - Pumpkin
3rd - Hannah Maderg - Cherry

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308 2nd St. NW Dodge Center, MN

HARVEST FEAST DINNER
BAKE/QUILT SALE

Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Bake and Quilt Sale 4:30 pm

Dinner: 5:00 - 7:30 pm

Meatballs and Ham
Mashed Potatoes/Gravy
Cole Slaw Corn
Rolls Relishes
Pies

Adults-\$20 Youth (ages 5-9)-\$5
4 years and younger free

Dine in family style or take-outs available

WEST CONCORD
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
2026 CARING & SHARING TREE

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

Fabric Material Handler

Dodge Center, MN
Hours: 25 hrs/week
 8:30 am - 2 pm Monday - Friday
Wage: \$17-\$18/hr

Why This Job: The Parent Shift

This role is great for parents looking to work part-time hours while the kids are at school or individuals looking to work in a fast-paced, growing, online-retail environment with a flexible schedule.

Job Details:

- Measure and cut fabric using rotary cutter
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- Must be able to move bolts of fabric around our large shop

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 Through March
at 7:00
 at the
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Find the pumpkin hidden somewhere in The Messenger this week and enter for a chance to win a gift card to a local restaurant.

E-mail the page the pumpkin is on, along with your address to:
messengerdrawing@gmail.com

The winner for this week is
COLLEEN WILSON of Dodge Center!

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Legal Notices

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 pur-
porting to be the Will of
Decedent, dated March 18,
2021, and for the appoint-
ment 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 admin-
istration. 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 per-
sonal representatives will be
appointed with full power to
administer the Estate, includ-
ing the power to collect all
assets, pay all legal debts,
claims, taxes and expenses, to

sell real and personal prop-
erty, and do all necessary acts
for the Estate. PLEASE SEE
NOTICE OF REMOTE
HEARING AND INSTRUC-
TIONS.
Notice is also given that (sub-
ject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801)
all creditors having claims
against the Estate are re-
quired 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 Repre-
sentative
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
ziebelllaw@kmtel.com

Dodge County Board of Adjustment Public Hearing Notice

The Dodge County Board of Adjustment will meet on Thursday November 12, 2026 at 8:30 AM.
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: Setback Variance
For additional information on request and commenting procedures, please contact the Environmental Services Department at 507-635-6272.

LEGAL NOTICE

IMPORTANT PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD NOTICE

*This will affect your 2027 property taxes and
eligibility for Property Tax Refund.*

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year?

Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2026.

What is a qualifying relative?

For occupied agricultural or residential property, “qualifying relative” means a parent, stepparent, child, stepchild, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece. This relationship may be by blood or marriage.

When do I apply?

You must apply on or before December 31, 2026.

Once homestead is granted, annual applications are not necessary unless they are requested by the county assessor.

Contact the assessor by December 31, 2026 if the use of the property you own or occupy as a qualifying relative has changed during the past year.

If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status.

What if I want to apply for agricultural homestead on an unoccupied property?

Special agricultural homestead allows property owners to receive homestead on unoccupied agricultural property if certain requirements are met. Contact the assessor’s office for more information.

Dodge County Assessor’s Office
(507) 635-6245

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.

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