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NOVEMBER 4, 2026 Volume 11 • Issue 42

Space Race Disc Golf Friday, November 6



There is a fundraiser competition MVP Space Race disc golf on Friday November 6th at the new 18 basket course at Lion's Park in Kasson. Registration ends at 6pm Friday.

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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.

• 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.

• 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.

Severson Auto Service Opens in Kasson

Severson Auto Repair opened shop in Kasson last week at 19 North Mantorville Avenue. They have owned and operated an auto repair business in Rochester at 1601 3rd Avenue for the last two years. Owner Derik Severson grew up in Hayfield and began his career as a mechanic eighteen years ago in Rochester. He worked at this shop in Kasson 2013 for Timothy O'Marro and was ready for the opportunity to reopen the business after the passing of Tim last January.



Cassandra and Derik and their furry friends

Derik and his wife Cassandra are happy to be part of the Kasson business community and understand the importance of independent entrepreneurs in small towns.

(continued on page 5)

Grace Lutheran Church Supports Global Missions



Grace Lutheran Church in Dodge Center is committed to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A month-long effort to raise support for church missions beyond the local congregation began on the first Sunday of October—a day designated as Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday. After the Divine Service that day, members of the local group of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) distributed little coin boxes for worshipers to collect "mite offerings" for LWML mission grants. Inspired by the poor widow's "mite" offering mentioned in Mark 12 and Luke 21, these small, individual mite donations have raised over $100 million in nationwide mission support since 1942, the year the LWML began as an official auxiliary of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS).

(continued on page 5)

ReUse Center Expands its Hours



The Dodge County ReUse Facility, 406 16th St NW, Kasson is expanding its hours. The facility will now be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Drop off days will be on Monday and Wednesday and there will be no drop off fee.

Our new second part-time staff member is Pam Murphy. She joins Renae in keeping the facility organized and running smoothly.

As of Sept 30, this year, the facility kept the following out of the trash. The number if items diverted was 15,343. The weight of the material diverted from the landfill or Waste to Energy Facility was 144,000 pounds or over 72 tons. More than 6,400 people attended sales at the facility.

(continued on page 9)

Pine Island Data Center Settlement

(ABC 6 News Rochester) — A settlement has been reached in the Pine Island data center lawsuit case, according to a joint release from the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Google, and Ryan Companies.

The agreement comes after the MCEA filed the lawsuit, arguing a more thorough environmental review needed to be conducted on the project.

(continued on page 8)

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Pastors Corner

Thanksgiving: Counting the Big and Little Blessings

By Pastor Robbin Robbert

As Thanksgiving approaches, perhaps it is time to take a moment and consider just how much we have to be thankful for. Sometimes we hesitate to take all our wants and concerns to God because we think they are too small or insignificant. After all, how can we bother God with our everyday worries when there are wars, cancer, suffering, and death in the world? But our heavenly Father is never too busy for us. He cares about the big things in our lives, and He cares about the little things, too. No concern is too small, no prayer too ordinary, and no burden too insignificant to bring before Him. We are His children, and He invites us to bring everything to Him in prayer.

Sometimes, when we have been through a difficult time, we become so anxious to return to our normal routines that we forget to stop and give thanks to the One who carried us through. When the test results are good, the surgery is over, the loved one is recovering, the storm has passed, or the problem has finally been resolved, we breathe a sigh of relief and move on. But before rushing back into the busyness of life, shouldn't we pause and thank God? He has heard our prayers, strengthened us in our worries, comforted us in our fears, and sometimes answered our prayers in ways we never expected. Let us not be so eager to put our troubles behind us that we forget the One who walked with us through them.

The elections are over. Whatever our political opinions or disappointments may be, perhaps we can all agree that it is time to turn our attention away from grumbling about what we think is wrong and start counting the many things God has done right. We can be thankful for family and friends, neighbors who care, a warm home, food on the table, the beauty of creation, and the simple gift of another day. We can give thanks for the blessings we often take for granted: a conversation, a child's laughter, a beautiful sunrise, a helping hand, or the peace that comes from knowing we are not alone. These everyday blessings are little foretastes of heaven, reminders of the goodness and grace that God showers upon us.

This Thanksgiving, let us remember that gratitude is more than a holiday tradition or a prayer before the meal. It is a way of looking at life through the eyes of faith. We will never have everything exactly the way we want it, and life will always bring its share of disappointments and unanswered questions. But we have a Father who loves us, a Savior who gave His life for us, and the sure promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ. As Psalm 107:1 reminds us, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever!" May we spend less time counting what we think God has not done to our satisfaction and more time counting the blessings He has given us, both big and small. Happy Thanksgiving!

"1 When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,

When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,

Count your many blessings, name them one by one,

And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;

Count your blessings, see what God hath done;

Count your blessings, name them one by one;

Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

2 Are you ever burdened with a load of care?

Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?

Count your many blessings, ev'ry doubt will fly,

And you will be singing as the days go by. [Refrain]

3 When you look at others with their lands and gold,

Think that Christ has promised you His wealth untold;

Count your many blessings, money cannot buy

Your reward in heaven, nor your home on high. [Refrain]

4 So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,

Do not be discouraged, God is over all;

Count your many blessings, angels will attend,

Help and comfort give you to your journey's end. [Refrain]"





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Area Church Directory

Pioneer and Perfecter of Faith

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.
— Hebrews 12:1-2

Our reading today invites us to reflect on the life of faith as a race marked out for us.

And who has gone before us to mark it out? Jesus, the pioneer (or trailblazer) of faith.

He did it all, providing this great gift for us. He paved the way when we were so lost in our sin that we were like dead people walking in darkness (Isaiah 9:2; Ephesians 2:1-5). He made us alive to faith. He justified us, he sanctified us, and he sustains us through every trial. Jesus lights the way for us, and he will bring us safely through to where he is. As the apostle Paul describes it in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Some Bible translations describe Jesus' role here as the "author and finisher" of faith, and that reminds me of some treasured gifts that grace our family's home. My mother-inlaw and late sister-in-law gifted us with beautiful, handmade quilts. They "authored" these treasures, designing them on graph paper, choosing colors, cutting pieces of fabric, and quilting them together. They also "finished" these artworks beautifully, down to the last binding stitch. I benefit from these gifts of grace, resting under someone else's finished work.

In our life of faith, we depend on Jesus' accomplished work. From start to finish, we can fix our eyes on him, following his lead and relying on his guidance and finished work every step of the way.

Pioneer and Perfecter of faith, where would we be without you? Lead and guide us, Lord, and may we rest in you. 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://gracedc.church
Worship 9a.m.; Sunday School 10:30a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church
602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
507-374-6400
Kidz 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

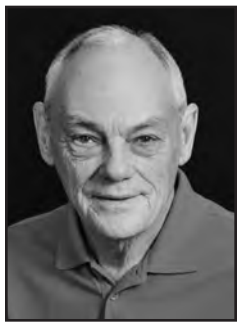
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Raymond (Ray) John Malsom

Raymond (Ray) John Malsom passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Sunday, October 25, 2026. He was 87 years old. Ray was born in Aberdeen, SD to Anton and Rose Malsom, where he attended Central High School and Northern State College. Aberdeen is where he met his wife of 62 years, Rita Olsen.





Ray was a proud veteran of the United States Navy, serving his country from 1956-1960. He enjoyed sharing stories of his duty on the USS Peterson, as well as his travels to numerous countries across the world. His career began as an insurance salesman, and in 1970, he accepted a position as a supervisor for southern South Dakota with the Minneapolis Star Tribune. During his tenure he received several Supervisor of the Year awards, then moved his family from Yankton, SD to Dodge Center, MN when he was promoted to Regional Circulation Manager. Ray was later promoted to State Circulation Manager and retired in 2002 after 32 years of service.

Ray thoroughly enjoyed cooking (he made an incredible spaghetti sauce and fall-off-the-bone ribs), golfing, Minnesota Vikings football, and socializing with his friends at the Dodge Country Club. He especially loved family gatherings and was an avid conversationalist. Anyone he encountered would be entertained by stories of his ancestors, travels, hole-in-one at the golf course, political views or the achievements of his family members. He was gifted with the ability to make an instant friend given his warm and welcoming nature.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother-in-law, Gary Brandenburg; a sister, Carol Brandenburg; and a sister-in-law, Chloe Olsen. Ray is survived by his wife, Rita Malsom; 3 children, Tammy (Terry) Brandt, Melissa (Phil) Pflaum, Jesse (Rachel) Malsom; 7 grandchildren, Trevor (Brittaney) Kispert, Preston (Emma) Pflaum, Donovan Malsom, Leah Pflaum, Landon Malsom, Spencer Pflaum, Olivia Malsom; 2 step-grandchildren, Adam (De) Brandt, Sarah (Jeff) Ross; 2 great-grandchildren, Abigail (Abby) Kispert, Augustine (A.J.) Pflaum; 4 step-great-grandchildren, Jack Gerwill, Mackenzie Brandt, Bode Brandt, Savannah Ross; 3 siblings, Lori (Richard) Schultz of Helena, MT, Diann (Jack) Von Wald of Aberdeen, SD, Paul (Deb) Malsom of Nevada, IA; brother-in-law ,Ron Olsen of Sun Lakes, AZ; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Richard and Debbie Steffeck of Bismarck, ND; 6 nephews and 7 nieces.

His family loved him dearly and will miss his gentle, kind-hearted soul.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, November 6, 2026, at Faith Lutheran Church, 308 2nd St NW in Dodge Center, MN. Visitation will be held one hour prior to his service at the church. Inurnment will be held at a later date at Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Preston, MN.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent directly to Raymond's family to go towards a scholarship to help a creative writing and journalism senior Triton student.

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.

Helen Marjorie Spaid (Rosie) Leqve

Helen Marjorie Spaid (Rosie) Leqve, 104, of Kasson, MN passed away peacefully surrounded by her family of Monday, October 26, 2026.



Helen was born on December 25, 1921, in Ogden, Utah. When Helen was six, the family moved to the Palisade area in Northern Minnesota. She graduated high school from Aitkin, MN at the age of 19. She planned on going to school for nursing, but that changed when World War II broke out.

She put her dreams of becoming a nurse aside to join the war department. Before she was able to get on the greyhound bus to California, she worked at picking potatoes to earn enough money for the ticket. She left not knowing what she would be doing or where.

She spent three years assembling and riveting the inner wing on B17s at Lockhead base in Burbank, CA. While working there she hurt her shoulder and was sent home to Minnesota. After her shoulder healed, she applied to Civil Service to continue her work for the war department. She spent time in Sioux City, Iowa, for schooling and then on to Ogden, Utah to work on Hill Field Airforce base.

There she worked as a mechanic on the tail gunner turret. She also worked in armament cleaning guns including, machine guns, which were for the troops overseas. Helen remembered that they were expected to buy war bonds with the little bit of money that was left at the end of the month.

Once a month the girls were bussed to a dance on base. It was there that she met a solider from Kasson, MN. They started seeing each other and on February 24, 1945, she became Mrs. Merlin Leqve at the Methodist Church. They moved off base into a block house in Sahara Village, Utah. Helen remembered very well the day the war ended. She tells what a joy it was. Everyone was shouting, flags were waiving, people were crying, laughing, kissing, totally jubilant.

Her husband, Merlin was discharged in November 1945, and they moved back to Kasson. They soon bought a 100-acre farm in Byron and raised four children. Diane, Larry, Lynn, and Karen all graduated from Byron High School.

Helen has left a huge legacy for the next generation. Her scrapbook is in Ogden, Utah at Hills Airforce Base. Her story is in the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. You will also find her story in the Mantorville Historical Museum.

In June 2026, Helen was awarded the American Spirit Award from the New Orleans World War II Museum. She was also honored in 2026, by the Minnesota Senate. She has had honors from the Kasson American Legion Auxiliary for being a member for 62 years. She was a member of the American Rosie Riveters Association and one of the last original Rosie's. She was an active member of the Kasson Presbyterian Church.

After turning 90, Helen started doing speaking engagements. She was in high demand at service groups, clubs, and museums. She especially enjoyed speaking with the Byron elementary and high school students. It was in 2026, at 104 years old she last spoke in front of a crowd.

Helen's sense of independence and adventure has served her well her whole life. She loved to travel and has made it to all but one state in the U.S. In fact, at the age of 80, she took a job at Daniels Restaurant in Kasson, MN, as the hostess so she could pay for a trip to New England.

Reading westerns (Louis L'Amour) was one of Helen's favorite pastimes. Helen loved doing the 100-mile garage sale with her daughters every year. She was an avid "thrifter" and had at least one garage sale at her home every year.

Helen played cards, embroidered, and collected everything from chickens to salt and pepper shakers. But her favorite thing to do was socialize. She loved being around people. At 104, you couldn't keep her home. One of her last days was spent doing what she enjoyed most, going to an estate sale, talking to everyone, and coming home with a new salt and pepper shaker.

There are many more experiences of Helen's we could add but we are out of space. 104 years of experiences are hard to condense. Just know that those who knew and loved her will miss her, and be forever changed because of her.

Helen is survived by her children, Diane (Wendall) Engelstad of Owatonna, MN, Larry Leqve of Iowa, Karen (Robert) Tracy of Kasson, MN; four grandchildren, Kendra (Kevin) Hackney, Kyle Englestad, Tammy Leqve, and Wayne Leqve; five great-grandchildren; and a sister, Irene Gasner from Owatonna, MN.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Merlin Leqve; son, Lynn Leqve; brother, Kenneth Spaid; and her parents, Cecil and Esther Spaid.

A funeral service was held at 11:00 a.m. Monday, November 2, 2026, at the First Presbyterian Church, 101 6th Ave NW in Kasson, MN. Visitation was held from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Sunday, November 1, 2026, at Czaplewski Family Funeral Homes, 801 7th St SE in Kasson, MN and one hour prior to her service at the church. Interment was in Grandview Memorial Gardens in Rochester, MN with special honors provided by the Kasson American Legion Post 333.

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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Loraine Ina Ripka

Loraine Ina Ripka, 69, of Owatonna, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at Owatonna Hospital due to complications following a recent cancer diagnosis.



Loraine grew up on the family's dairy farm with her parents, Anton "Tony" and Alma, and 11 living brothers and sisters in Dodge Center, Minnesota.

During high school, Loraine developed health issues that led to her first major surgery. She completely recovered and graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1975. Following high school, Loraine worked at Josten's in Owatonna for six months before her second surgery, which resulted in an eight-month coma from March to November of 1976.

Loraine's life was not an easy one, but she was a fighter and beat the odds repeatedly. Throughout the years that followed, Loraine faced extraordinary challenges with a quiet resilience and courage that was an inspiration to all who knew her.

After waking up from the coma, Loraine had to re-learn basic life skills like how to walk, how to talk and how to dress and feed herself. Once she was back on the farm for recovery, her devoted parents continued to help with her therapy and care daily on top of their farm chores. Loraine's family poured so much love into her that she was eventually able to move to an apartment and live independently in Owatonna for several years.

Over time, Loraine needed to have more help with daily living. Although she lived with a traumatic brain injury that changed the trajectory of her life, it never erased the core of who she was. She never complained. She liked silly jokes, had a great sense of humor and a smile that lit up the room.

There were seven total brain surgeries and Mayo Clinic in Rochester called Loraine's life a "miracle." The family extends their deepest gratitude for the dedicated and compassionate care of the doctors and nurses over the decades, the caregivers at her group homes, including REM Woodvale where she had been living, and those who gave her rides to the local Episcopal Church when she was able to attend there in the past. Loraine had a deep faith, and although she couldn't understand God's plan for her life, she trusted Him. The family remembers how much her precious life brought all of them together. "We just think Loraine is God's miracle!" her mother had stated in a 1986 newspaper article.

Loraine loved spending time with her family, watching Vikings football, going out to eat and attending the county fair every year. She enjoyed family holiday gatherings, music and family wedding dances.

She worked at Cedar Valley Services for 30 years as an assembly worker. That is where she met Brian Schumacher who became the love of her life. Despite her cancer diagnosis this year, Brian wanted to have a "commitment" ceremony. He truly loved her. Loraine and Brian had a spiritual union on July 17, 2026 in the presence of beloved family, friends, co-workers and their house mates and staff. It was a very hot day, but it was a grand celebration at Mineral Springs Park. It was the last time many of her family members would see her this side of heaven. She was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.

Loraine is survived by the love of her life Brian Schumacher, her siblings, Art (and Mary) Ripka, Gladys Mulari, Henry Ripka, Evelyn Neubauer, Shirley (and Lou) Ripka, Margaret (and Mike) Lerfald, and twin sister Loretta (and David) Wencl; brother-in-law, Sam Weeks; and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Anton "Tony" and Alma Ripka; siblings, Lawrence (and Barb) Ripka, Anna (and Richard) Finger, Leo Ripka, Joyce Weeks, and Robert; sister-in-law, Marilyn Ripka; brother-in-law, Ron Neubauer; nephew, Brian Ripka; niece's son Cameron Burger, and her aunts, uncles and several cousins.

A funeral service will be held at 10:30 AM on Saturday, November 7, 2026, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna with Pastor Nate Palmer officiating. A visitation will be held from 9:30 AM until the time of service. Interment will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, November 9, 2026, at Riverside Cemetery in Dodge Center.

Gene Alan Gullickson

Gene Alan Gullickson, 66, of West Concord, passed away on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at home with his wife, Brenda, by his side.



Gene was born to Eugene and Barbara Gullickson (Schaefer) on November 15, 1959 in Rochester. Gene had met Brenda Peterson on August 27, 1993, at a party that his cousin told him to go to. Brenda saw him on his motorcycle and demanded a ride. Since that day, they were inseparable. He asked her to marry him and they picked out rings and were married a year after they met on August 27, 1994. Although their marriage wasn't perfect, they loved each other fiercely.

They welcomed their first child in 1997, their baby girl, Cheyenne. She was her Daddy's joy. He had always wanted a little girl since forever, he told Brenda. Two years later they welcomed their second in 1999, baby boy Brock. When he found out he was having a boy, he said his little family was complete and perfect.

Gene and family always went on some kind of vacation in the summer. Either camping on the North Shore, Galveston, TX, Sioux Falls to The Falls, or just in their backyard. Gene's family always came first. Since the kids were able to play at parks, they always stopped at any park they found to let them play and make new "friends". Gene also was a big kid at heart and chased them around and played. Gene is/was the best Dad ever!

Gene always made time to go to extended family gatherings. When he was invited to a family gathering he made sure to go. His aunts, uncles and cousins held a very special place in his heart. He always told Brenda his Aunts were the best cooks, and they were always surprised at how much "Gene Alan" could eat.

He loved everyone with all his heart. He was the most genuine man you would ever meet.

When he met Brenda, who has several nieces and nephews, he adopted them and loved to be around them. He just had this special aura that attracted kids, and as they grew up, they always loved having Uncle Gene around.

Gene was just the perfect person.

One of his proudest moments was walking his daughter Cheyenne down the aisle to marry the love of her life, Carlos, this past summer.

His advice when asked how to have a happy marriage was "never dwell on the little stuff and don't live in the past and look to the future".

Gene is survived by his forever loving wife, Brenda of 32 years; daughter, Cheyenne (Carlos Zavala); son, Brock Gullickson (Brittney O'Brien); five beautiful grandchildren, he was so proud to be called Grandpa and Papa: grandsons, Ryker and Thomas; granddaughters, Sofia, Dolores and Hayzel; and cannot forget his precious dog, Bubbles; mother, Barbara "Barb" Gullickson; brother, Danniel (Mavis) Gullickson; aunts, Bonita Hokanson, LaVonne Schaefer, Janet Schaefer, Roxanne Milbeck, Alice Gullickson, and Janie Gullickson; uncles, Norman Schaefer, Galen Schaefer, and David Gullickson; and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his dad, Eugene Gullickson; mother-in- law, Berndadine Peterson; grandparents, Wilbur and Inez Gullickson and, Harold and Erma Schaefer; aunts, Shirley Braaten, Geraldine Wallaker, and Marie Schaefer; uncles, Dale Schaefer, Lowell Schaefer, Bob Braaten, Robert Wallaker, Harlan Hokanson, Jim Gullickson, and Neil Gullickson; and cousins, Debi, Gerald, Sharon, Jimmy, and John.

Brenda, Cheyenne and Brock would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Mike Braaten, Rachel Helberg, and Charlie Schutz. Thank you for giving him rides, and just being there for him when he needed you. We are so grateful for you.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 1 PM – 4 PM at Michaelson Funeral Home in West Concord with a short prayer service and sharing of memories starting at 1:30 PM.

Do You Have An Announcement?

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hometownmessenger@gmail.com

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Grace Lutheran Church Supports Global Missions

(continued from page 1)

Upholding their motto to "Serve the LORD with gladness! (Psalm 100:2)," the LWML has joyfully proclaimed Christ and honored God by granting funds to hundreds of church ministries and programs that provide critical care for the needs of people in body and soul.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, the Rev. Timothy Sandeno and his wife Lisa visited the church to tell people about their call to serve as LCMS missionaries in Germany. Beginning in January 2027, Pastor Sandeno will provide Word and Sacrament ministry at the Spangdahlem Air Base while also working to establish a church in the area near the base. As a U.S. Naval Academy graduate and someone who served in the U.S. Navy both active and reserves, he is especially suited for this call to serve. The congregation received a collection for his ministry and individuals also sent gifts directly to LCMS Mission Advancement, which supports over 100 missionaries and their families around the globe. Local readers may be interested in knowing that Rev. Sandeno spent part of his childhood in Kasson and Owatonna.

On Sunday, Oct. 25, a day known as "Reformation Sunday" for many Lutheran churches, the Rev. Mark Moss, a mission engagement associate with the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) preached and gave an informational presentation after the service. His sermon, which he entitled "The Greatest Teaching," was based on John 8:31–36. During his visit, he informed the congregation about the work of LHF, an organization that publishes and distributes Christian education materials such as Martin Luther's Small Catechism in nearly 90 countries. LHF has translated materials into more than 190 languages. Jesus said, "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16:15, ESV)." Having sent congregation members on several mission trips to Kenya, supporting missionaries in the past and present, the members of Grace Lutheran Church want to be part of that work of spreading the Gospel and teaching people God's Word.

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Severson Auto Service Opens in Kasson



(continued from page 1)

Severson Auto Repair will work on all makes and models of vehicles domestic or imports and even e-vehicles. They perform everything from oil changes and alignments, tires and brakes, to new engine installation.

The Rochester shop has eight bays and six technicians and two advisors. The Kasson location has two bays with one technician and one advisor and an office manager. You may stop in, call or make an appointment for your vehicle service on line. There is a comfortable lobby where you may relax while your vehicle is being serviced.

The shop is open Monday thru Friday from 7:30am to 5pm. The phone number for the Kasson store is 507-634-4243. You can make service appointments online at www.serversonautoservice.com

Cassandra is also very active in Driving Hope for Furry Friends, which helps with Camp Companion and Paws and Claws to find forever homes for local homeless pets as well as managing a food drive for the animals at both facilities. Their Dachsunds Tuke and Tug are often at the shop and love to interact with customers. Cassandra has also published some children's coloring and reading books starring their pets.

Space Race Disc Golf Friday, November 6

(continued from page 1)

The addition of 9 new baskets to the course has just been completed and this weekend will be the first time on the expanded course. This will be the 4th annual Space Race and they light the course like none other and usually sell out spots for the event.

The city has donated matching funds up to $10,000 and the fundraiser is to generate donations to receive it. Volunteers have been instrumental in getting the course complete and operational.

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Pine Island Data Center Settlement

(continued from page 1)

The city of Pine Island held a closed meeting on Wednesday, to discuss what was pending litigation. In that meeting Aubree Derksen, a resident of Pine Island said an attorney speak on behalf of the residents opposed to the data center to ensure their calls were heard during the closed session.

"Because we had representation we had a seat at the table," Derksen said. "We were in the room when these conversations were happening and we got to shape what it looked like."

Back in May, a Goodhue County judge issued a temporary restraining order to prevent construction on the project.

According to the release, as part of the settlement, the proposed data center will be the first in Minnesota to undergo a new state environmental review process.

Under the agreement, MCEA will dismiss the lawsuit, and Google and Ryan Companies will undergo a new Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). That worksheet will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for review.

The parties have agreed to propose that the MPCA's study will cover a detailed analysis of how the data center proposal would affect a wide range of environmental and community concerns, including water and energy impacts, noise, and light pollution.

Ryan and Google have also agreed to develop a plan to mitigate those effects, which will be presented to the MPCA and the City of Pine Island.

Pine Island residents, other government agencies, and all Minnesotans will have a chance to review and comment on the new study and mitigation during a proposed extended 60-day comment period.

If the MPCA decides that the EAW and mitigation plan are adequate, they will be returned to the Pine Island City Council, which will then gather final public comments and vote on the proposed mitigation plan.

There can be no construction on project until the MPCA and city approve of the plan.

MCEA CEO Kathryn Hoffman released the following statement on the settlement:

"For too long, AI data center proposals in Minnesota have been shrouded in secrecy. This settlement brings transparency, democracy, and proper oversight back into the process, and provides Pine Island residents with critical information about how this proposal stands to impact their community and our shared natural resources," said Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), the plaintiff in the case. "Going forward, we will continue to monitor the process and review the information as it's released."

Pine Island resident Aubree Derksen, a member of the Stop the Pine Island Data Center group also released a statement:

"My neighbors and I deserve to have a say in something that could completely transform our community and way of life, but so far we've been denied that at every turn of this process," said Pine Island resident and Stop the Pine Island Data Center member Aubree Derksen. "Today, we take a long overdue first step toward righting that wrong."

Peter Fitzgerald, the senior vice president of Ryan Companies, released the following statement:

"Ryan Companies is pleased the lawsuit has been settled. Over the last three years, Ryan has built lasting relationships with the Pine Island community to deliver clear community benefits alongside a project that meets and exceeds the state's highest standards.

"The settlement confirms that previous city approvals remain valid and we welcome the additional review by the MPCA. We believe this is a best-in-class project that has the potential to become the national standard for responsible data center development. In addition to the commitments made to the community and school, the project is investing in Minnesota's grid with a historic clean energy investment. We are also limiting water use with a closed loop system that protects our water resources. We are now adding enhanced review and municipal protections with this agreement."

Luke Hellier, the public affairs manager for Google, also released a statement on the settlement:

"Google is pleased to reach a constructive resolution that allows Project Skyway to move forward in Pine Island," said Luke Hellier, Public Affairs Manager, Google. "The goal has always been to build world-class infrastructure while serving as a responsible neighbor and resource steward. This agreement ensures the project meets robust environmental standards while delivering local economic benefits. Google appreciates the collaborative work with Ryan Companies, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and the City of Pine Island to secure a sustainable path forward."

ReUse Center Expands its Hours

(continued from page 1)

The facility was built with funds from a Statewide Sustainable Materials and Resource Management Grant through the MN Pollution Control Agency and a Greater Minnesota Recycling and Composting Grant through the MN Pollution Control Agency, explained Rita Cole, Dodge County Environmental Services and Dodge County Renovation ReUse Waste Management Administrator.

She thanked Marti Electric, Big Sky Builders, Preferred Heating and Cooling, Home Improvement Professionals, Knutson Plumbing, Affordable Portables, Duke Rental, Up-n-Running, Ponds and More, and CHS for all the work they have done and are doing to complete the building.

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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING OCTOBER 13, 2026 STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE COUNTY OF DODGE MANTORVILLE, MN

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

The following actions were approved:

* Agenda as amended to include addition of items 5.2 and 10.4 to the agenda.

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

* Payment of the following bills:

01 Revenue Fund	$ 416,368.14
13 Road and Bridge Fund	$ 67,623.55
16 Environmental Quality Fund	$ 103,261.47
19 Eda/Hra-Dodge County	$ 8,085.00
80 Agency Fund	$ 755.00
83 Forfeit Land Fund	$ 858.00
Total	$ 596,951.16

* The following Planning Commission recommendation as reviewed on 10/7/26:

- Brain Carstensen – IUP #26-08

* Signatures to resolution #2026-36 – ZA #26-04 Chapter 16, 17 & 18.

* AB Systems proposal for the replacement of the Public Health stoop and north door at a cost of approximately $17,525.00 as presented.

* Rejecting the Annex south entry site improvement bid of Commercial Midwest Roofing.

* Awarding the Annex south entry site improvement project bid to SL Contracting at a cost of approximately $349,790 as presented.

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

* Current insurance plans with $100 increased deductible, continuing with the same VEBA contributions as 2026 for all plan options for 2027.

* Signatures to resolution #2026-37 – 2027 TZD Grant.

* Lift Station Maintenance Agreement with the City of Kasson for Fair Grounds at a cost of $100 per month as presented.

* Appointing Paul Fiebiger to Cedar River Watershed District as Dodge County's representative until 4/1/27.

* Adjourning the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

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

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A LIVESTOCK FEEDLOT PERMIT AND PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that there will be a public informational meeting from 8:00-8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 11 located at 61502 150th Ave. Claremont, MN 55924 to consider the following: The existing facility of Wolf Farm is proposing the change of animal units and species raised on their property. This existing facility is located in Dodge County, Claremont Township, Section 24, SW 1/4. The existing facility consists of 966.5 total animal units and the proposed changes will increase the total animal units to 972. Wolf Farm is no longer raising pigs in the < 55 lbs. category, increased the number of feeder cattle raised, and added goats. The facility consists of total confinement barns, total confinement barns with below the floor liquid manure storage, liquid manure storage in a circular steel tank, with solid manure being stored in a pack. These changes result in an animal unit increase of 5.5 animal units.

This publication was prepared on behalf of Brandon and Stacy Wolf

(Oct. 29, 2026)

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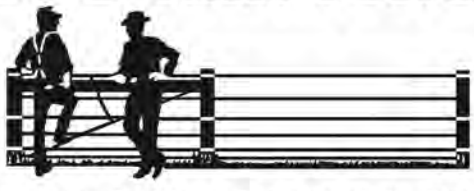
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Happy Thanksgiving!

There's no time like Thanksgiving to share our gratitude with all of the valued customers, associates and friends who have made our year so special.

We appreciate your loyalty and support and wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

We will be closed Thursday, November 26th
so our employees can enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday.

HERITAGE BANK

www.heritagebankmn.com

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NORTHFIELD: 1520 Clinton Lane 507-645-6736

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