

## FIRST DOLLAR



### Code 4 Guns & Gifts

Congratulations to Dean and Laura Anfinson and Justin Godbee of Code 4 Guns and Gifts on their First Dollar! Code 4 is your one-stop silencer shop located in Spicer, offering barrel threading, Form 4, trusts, and background checks. They also sell new, used, and consigned firearms, and offer conceal and carry classes. The charming gift shop features locally sourced Spicer, Green Lake, and Minnesota-themed items perfect for locals and visitors alike! You'll recognize owners Dean and Laura as the managers of Green Lake County Park. Dean's long-time dream of owning a gun shop has become a reality, now perfectly paired with Laura's flair for curating unique gifts. Code 4 truly has something for everyone!

## MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE



10 YEARS

Congratulations and thank you to Zach Gerdes, Nathan Essendrup, Robin Wothe, Dan Lippert, Caleb Laurence, Krista Willis, Shana Shuck, and Joe VanderArk of Kandiyohi County Farm Bureau Federation on 10 years of membership!

### Kandiyohi County Farm Bureau Federation

Farm Bureau advocates for farmers and rural communities at every level of government, while also offering members benefits like insurance, equipment discounts, and business resources. They focus heavily on leadership development, education, and public outreach to strengthen agriculture and rural life in Minnesota. Through local and statewide programs, Farm Bureau Federation builds community, promotes policy, and supports the next generation of ag leaders.

## RIBBON CUTTINGS



### Les Schwab Tire Center

Congratulations to General Manager Joseph Singhurst, Assistant Manager Bel Stavens, and their team at Les Schwab Tire Center on their recent ribbon cutting! Les Schwab offers a range of services to keep you on the road. Whether you need a simple tire rotation or more extensive vehicle maintenance, they've got you covered. What truly sets Les Schwab apart is their commitment to community. We're excited to see them make a positive impact in the Willmar Lakes Area!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Chamber Connections:

- May 2 – MinnWest Technology Campus
- May 9 – KCEO Trade Show
- May 16 – Cardinal Pride
- May 30 – Willmar Stingers

### Business After Hours

- May 20 – Quist Wealth Management

Learn more at  
willmarareachamber.com/events

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



**Ashley Roemhildt**  
Customer Success Manager  
(320) 582-6500



**Angie Mateski**  
Director of Youth Services  
(320) 235-5411



**Jeff Schmitz**  
Chaplain  
(320) 905-0345

## LEADERSHIP PERSPECTIVES VISITS THE CAPITOL



Leadership Perspectives visited the State Capitol to engage directly with local legislators, Representative Dave Baker and Senator Andrew Lang. They gained valuable insight into what motivated them to get involved in public service and heard from several other lawmakers who shared their perspectives on policies aimed at building a stronger Minnesota.

A highlight of the day was witnessing Representatives Dave Pinto and Dave Baker - Co-Chairs of the Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee - officially sign their budget bill, with our cohort proudly serving as witnesses. Representative Kristin Robbins also joined them to discuss the important work of the Fraud Prevention and State Agency Oversight Policy Committee, which she chairs.

The class was honored by a visit from Speaker of the House Representative Lisa Demuth, who offered her thoughts on the end-of-session outlook, including the looming question of whether a special session will be necessary. To cap things off, they were briefed on HF 2210 by one of its authors, Representative Andrew Myers, then had the unique chance to discuss, debate, and vote on the bill - right on the House floor.

## STUDENT JOB FAIR & CAREER EXPO



The Willmar High School gym buzzed with energy last Thursday as 1,250 students from schools across Kandiyohi County explored career opportunities with more than 40 employers. Special thanks to our partners — Business Education Network, Willmar Public Schools, Kandiyohi County Economic Development, Ridgewater College, Central Minnesota Jobs and Training Services, Inc., and Southwest Initiative Foundation — for helping make this event a success. To encourage interaction, students received bingo cards to engage with employers from a wide range of industries. Those who completed their cards were entered into a drawing for gift cards. A big thank you to Walt's for generously donating the prizes, and to Jennie-O for donating snacks to keep the vendors fueled.

## CHAMBER CHAT

THURSDAY MORNINGS @ 10:00AM  
With Chamber President James Miller



Thursday mornings on Open Mic, Chamber President James Miller hosts Chamber Chat. Recordings are available on KWLM's website or on Spotify. Little Crow Ski Team, Pheasants Forever, Les Schwab Tire Center, Pizza Ranch, and KCEO were featured this month.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION



On April 3rd, the Willmar Lakes Area business community came together to honor exceptional leaders who are driving our region's success and vitality! It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the past year's achievements, celebrate retiring Chamber Board Members, and recognize key contributors to our thriving community.

**Legacy Award**  
Ross Marcus, Marcus Construction

**MIL0 Award**  
Jeff Jensen, West Central Technology, Inc.

**Exemplary Leadership Award**  
Michelle Marotzke, Kandiyohi County Economic Development

### 5 under 45 Emerging Leaders:

Amber Barber, 320 Real Estate Co  
Brittany VanDerBill, B. VanDerBill Consulting  
Naomi Hinz, The Main Pointe School of Dance  
Griffin Leitch, Anderson Larson Law Office  
Kelsey Baker, Kandiyohi County

### Retiring Board Members:

Angie Caskey, Jennie-O  
Kelly O'Farrell, CDS  
Scott Norling, Life-Science Innovations  
Stephen Gardner, Willmar Electric Service

We also recognized significant Membership Milestones and looked ahead to the exciting initiatives that will shape our future.

*Here's to continuing the work that makes Willmar Lakes Area a place to grow, connect, and succeed! Let's keep building a stronger, more vibrant business community together!*