

Chairman's Circle Investors



MINNESOTA PAID LEAVE LAW



The Chamber recently partnered with Vinna Human Resources to present an informative session on Minnesota's new Paid Leave Law. Vinna covered key updates, eligibility, and what employers need to know to stay compliant. Stay tuned as more sessions may pop up as the new legislation evolves.

FIFTH GRADE AG TOURS



During the first week of May over 250 fifth-grade students had the opportunity to tour Riverview LLP – Louriston and Cojo Dairy. These on-site visits gave students a firsthand look at modern dairy operations, animal care, and life on the farm—turning classroom learning into real-world experience. A big thank you to our generous transportation sponsors, volunteer chaperones, and the amazing Louriston and Cojo teams for making these tours possible.

BUSINESS EDUCATION NETWORK



The Business Education Network and Willmar Public High School recently welcomed Duinick, CLUES, Healthy Fusion, and the Latino Community Association to Zero Hour. Students checked out these awesome organizations while thinking about what they might want to do in the future. The visit aligned with Día del Niño, and students enjoyed conchas served by Jennifer and Robert from the Latino Community Association, who also shared details about the upcoming May 17th Cinco de Mayo festival. Healthy Fusion offered samples of their flavorful drinks, along with "Fusion Dollars" as a fun incentive.

Zero Hour is the first hour every other Wednesday for students to catch up on tests or missing work. Those who do not have work to catch up on are in the commons area until classes start. This provides the opportunity to showcase all the fantastic businesses in the Willmar Lakes Area.

AI TOOLS FOR YOUNG PROS



AI isn't just for techies — it's the secret weapon for emerging leaders. Big thanks to Steve Gasser with Vivid Image for showing neXt members how to ditch the busywork, lead with creativity, and get more done (without losing your mind). Smarter tools. Bigger impact. And the edge to make you truly remarkable!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Jon De Groot
Superintendent
(320) 978-8700



Avis Mikhail
Owner
(586) 404-2203



Kristin Johnson
Executive Director
(320) 231-1729



Jerret Mohr
General Manager
(320) 222-8473

CHAMBER CHAT

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



Thursday mornings on Open Mic, Chamber President/CEO James Miller hosts Chamber Chat. Recordings are available on KWLM's website or on Spotify. Main Pointe School of Dance, Central Community Transit, Mid-Minnesota Development Commission, and Willmar Rotary were featured this month.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE



Congratulations and thank you to Kyle Grimm, Michelle Goltz, and Kayla Reiffenberger of Co-op Credit Union on 20 years of membership!

Co-op Credit Union

Dedicated to providing financial services that support member success, the Willmar branch is proud to be part of a network of four locations across Minnesota — including Montevideo, Benson, and Canby — marking 85 years of service. Originally located inside Cub Foods, the Willmar branch relocated in 2019 to a new building at one of the busiest intersections in town, continuing its legacy of growth and community commitment.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Community Christian School

Congratulations to Community Christian School on the ribbon cutting of their new STEM Lab! STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics, and opens doors to endless possibilities for students. This incredible space will empower young minds to explore, experiment, and innovate, preparing them for the careers of tomorrow. This achievement was made possible through the unwavering support of the community and the success of dedicated fundraising efforts. What was once a dream is now a reality—a true testament to the power of vision, hard work, and heart. A special shout-out to Marcus Construction for bringing this vision to life.



Quist Wealth Management

Congratulations to the Quist Wealth Management team – Ken Quist, Mark Odendahl, Jon Warner, Shanna Quist, Janine Hubbard, Emily Thein, and Abby Stark – on ribbon cutting of their stunning new office located at 901 1st Street South in Willmar! The transformation of the space is nothing short of remarkable — a true reflection of their forward-looking vision and commitment to excellence. Quist Wealth Management continues to set the standard for personalized, professional financial guidance in our community. Their mission is to empower clients to achieve financial clarity and confidence through thoughtful planning and trusted advice. The new office isn't just a beautiful space, it's a symbol of growth, progress, and the trusted relationships they build every day as they help you pave the road to your financial future.



Metro by T-Mobile

Congratulations to Avis Mikhail and his team at Metro by T-Mobile on the grand opening of their new store located at 1709 1st St South in Willmar. The sun was shining as guests enjoyed bounce houses, a food truck, dunk tank, giveaways, and more. Metro by T-Mobile offers a wide range of affordable wireless plans, no annual contracts, the latest smartphones, and exceptional nationwide 5G coverage—keeping you connected wherever you go.

CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

- May 30 – Willmar Stingers
- June 13 – Ampact
- June 27 – Willmar Bus
- June 6 – Great Lakes Combatives
- June 20 – Willmar Fests
- Learn more at willmarareachamber.com/events