



WILLMAR LAKES AREA CHAMBER

SUPPORTING BUSINESS IN KANDIYOHI COUNTY

Embrace Change | Drive Momentum | Champion Growth

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Chairman's Circle Investors





WILLMAR LAKES AREA CHAMBER GOLF CLASSIC

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DOING MORE WITH LESS - WITHOUT BURNING OUT RECAP



Jennifer Liberty Clark with Dale Carnegie Training recently shared valuable tips on recognizing, avoiding, and overcoming burnout in today's fast-paced world. With workloads increasing and many businesses and organizations striving to do more with fewer people, finding a healthy work-life balance has become more challenging than ever. Diving into the Four Phases of Attitude: Excitement, Frustration, Looking, and Re-commitment, Jennifer offered practical insights on how to push through daily challenges and stay the course. Her strategies encouraged attendees to not only recognize when they're feeling stretched thin, but also to take proactive steps to maintain focus, energy, and resilience in both their professional and personal lives.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Advanced Ministry Technologies


Ryan Zimmer, Owner
(651) 485-8249




ess
Every day counts.

Trisha Sunde
(320) 305-1956


CHAMBER CONNECTIONS

September 5



Developing Networks. Advancing Careers.

September 12


THE VILLAGE

September 19


RC
RIDGEWATER
COLLEGE

September 26


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shared vision. innovative design.

Chamber Connections are hosted Friday mornings 7:30-8:30am at different member locations. Everyone gets a chance to introduce themselves and share a brief update on their business or community happenings. The host ends the Connection with an overview of their business followed by a drawing for door prizes.

Learn more at willmarareachamber.com/chamber-connections

CHAMBER CHAT



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



KWLM
1340 AM 96.3 FM
NEWS/TALK





Thursdays mornings on Open Mic, Chamber President/CEO James Miller hosts Chamber Chat. Recordings are available on KWLM's website or on Spotify. Kandiyohi County Fair, Dale Carnegie Training, Willmar Area United Campus Ministries, and Woodland Centers were featured this month.

RIBBON CUTTINGS



Willmar Middle School

The Willmar community recently gathered for an open house and ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the new gymnasium and renovations at Willmar Middle School. Families, students, staff, and community members explored the updated facility, while connecting with educators and school leaders. The celebration showcased the district's commitment to creating a modern, welcoming learning environment made possible through strong community support. The 21,000-square-foot expansion features 14,600 square feet of gym space, along with remodeled offices, a fitness center, and other refreshed areas that will serve students for years to come.



Prairie Lakes Youth Programs

Prairie Lakes Captain's Academy

Congratulations to Prairie Lakes Youth Services on the ribbon cutting of Captain's Academy's new location at 1005 Lakeland Drive Northeast in Willmar. The move was made necessary after the former site at the MinnWest Technology Campus was damaged by a lightning strike and related fire and water damage. The new non-secure facility can house up to 12 male juveniles with an on-site manager and continues to provide vital independent living skills and transitional services to help youth successfully return to the community.

MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE



South 71 Veterinary Clinic

40 YEAR
Membership
Milestone

South 71 VETERINARY CLINIC & SUPPLIES

Congratulations to Dr. Ryan and Jessica Tollefsrud of South 71 Veterinary Clinic on 40 years of membership and support. Since 1984, South 71 has provided compassionate, comprehensive care for large and small animals across West Central Minnesota. Their new office offers more patient rooms and greater accessibility, creating a welcoming space for pets, owners, and staff alike. With 24-hour emergency services and a dedicated team, their mission remains the same—delivering the best care for pets and their families.

PAID LEAVE IS COMING TO MINNESOTA.
IS YOUR BUSINESS READY?



MINNESOTA
PAID LEAVE

Starting Jan. 1, 2026, Minnesota Paid Leave will offer payments and job protections to Minnesotans when they need time off work for some of life's most important moments – like welcoming a child, recovering from a serious illness, or caring for a loved one. As an employer, you play an important role in helping your employees learn about and access the program.

Minnesota Paid Leave and local chambers of commerce are teaming up to hold in-person engagement sessions for employers. At these events, you'll get an overview of the program, hear the latest updates, and get answers to your questions. Learn how to set up your Paid Leave accounts, designate a Paid Leave Administrator, and make key decisions that will shape how Paid Leave works in your organization.

The Willmar Lakes Area Chamber is proud to host Minnesota Paid Leave for an information and engagement session:

Monday, September 22, 2025
10:00-11:30am
Willmar Conference Center | 240 23rd St. SE, Willmar

All employers are invited to attend. Advance registration is welcome but not required. Light refreshments will be served.

Register at willmarareachamber.com/events