

For release January 23, 2023

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Throughout the U.S. newspapers of all sizes have been bought up by large chains or distant investors who often close offices, fire reporters and offer hollowed out versions of the former product — creating “news deserts” in which local news is no longer easily accessible.

A local “news conversation” group has been meeting since last September to discuss the situation in the Menomonie area.

“Where’s the Local News?” is the topic of a brainstorming session the group will hold on Thursday, February 9, 1:30-3:00 pm in the Menomonie Public Library (Community Room) and will include an online option. The facilitator is Bruce Siebold, long-time Menomonie resident. Siebold worked at UW-Stout as a business professor/administrator. He is owner of Rusk Prairie Consulting Group, specializing in strategic planning and change management. A follow-up session will be held in March.

To date, the local “news conversation” group has:

- Compiled a list of local news sources (print, online)
- Researched “news deserts” in our area and beyond
- Identified and begun to cover gaps in local reporting (citizen journalists)

Those interested in attending in-person on Feb 9 are asked to register at

<https://forms.gle/wfq5AWj1VkJDcfgLH8>