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AUGUST 27, 2026

Volume 11 • Issue 34

Cats and More Cats

How many cats have you seen in one place? There is a cat sanctuary near Faribault that may house more cats than you have seen in your lifetime.



(continued on page 7)

St. Rose of Lima celebrates 21st Ice Cream Social



On Sunday August 16th the St. Rose of Lima Church hosted an ice cream social at the grounds of the restored church from 1 to 4pm.

(continued on page 6)

Announcements

• GriefShare support group for anyone experiencing loss of a loved one, friend, or other significant person in their lives, meets Thursdays, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, at Anchor Of Hope Church, 203 E. Main St., Dodge Center, MN. Contact Dale E. Rood, pastor emeritus, at 507-633-2772, or go to the GriefShare website.

• 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.

Do you have an announcement?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Triton Welcomes New Teachers

Triton School district welcomes four new teachers this year.

Jenny Justice will be a Middle School Special Education teacher.

Jenny grew up in Oronoco, on Lake Shady, when it was still a lake.

She attended Augsburg College and has taught in seven school districts over her twenty year career in Special Education.

She has three children, the youngest is actually her grandson, who was adopted at three years old. He is now thirteen.

In her free time Jenny enjoys spending time in the pool as well as snow activities.

Winter is her favorite season, as snowmo-



L to R: Jenny Justice, Jen Grove, Grace Hanson, Emma Ogren

West Concord High School Class of 1956 Reunion held August 14



Back row: Joanne Paulson, Doug Matti, Linda Vrieze, Marvin Twernbold, Jerry Stensland, Darlene Felber. Front row: Jim Raddatz, Stewart Agerter, Kay Wright. Glenn Hanson, Rosalie Johnson. - Submitted

biling has been a lifelong pastime.

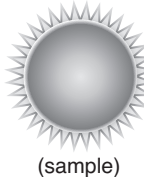
Jennifer Grove will be the Triton Special Education coordinator.

She is from Red Wing and attended college at Loras.

(continued on page 3)

The Messenger Find and Dine Game

This month the image hidden within the pages of the Messenger will be a hot blazing sun. We hide the image in a different place within the pages of the paper each week. We will draw one winner from all the submissions each week for a \$25.00 gift card to a local restaurant. When you find the hidden image e-mail your name and mailing address and the page where you found the image to messengerdrawing@gmail.com.



(sample)

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Pressing On the Upward Way



Israel Walters,
Praise Fellowship Church

For Pastor Israel Walters of Praise Fellowship Church, the call to full-time ministry was gradual. Throughout his life, the Lord continued to show him the direction he was to go. With each step, he began to see a little more of the plan God had for his life of ministry. Now, he serves as the full-time pastor at Praise Fellowship Church.

The journey to full-time ministry began at Praise Fellowship Church (PFC). He attended very early on in his life, and this experience provided the foundation that he needed as he began his journey. It wasn't long until he sensed the Lord calling him to ministry. He says, "shortly after graduating from high school, I knew that God was leading me in the direction of full-time ministry. Upon realizing this, I began getting involved more in ministry outreaches and mission trips while seeking the Lord's direction." During this season, Pastor Walters also took some Bible teaching classes. He later sensed the Lord calling him to pursue additional education. He says, "in 2020, [I] sensed the Lord leading me to go to a Bible College in Oklahoma. While attending college, I met Maleca, whom I am now married

to, and we now have two daughters: Hadasah and Athaliah. While there, I also felt nudged in the direction of Pastoral Ministry." It was during this time that Pastor Roger Langworthy, of PFC, reached out to Israel and Maleca to come assist at PFC with the intent of having Pastor Israel and Maleca Walters transfer into the role of lead pastor. So, after graduating from Bible college in 2023, the Walters made the move to Dodge Center and took the next step.

Since the transfer in April, Pastor Walters is grateful for the encouragement he has received from Pastor Langworthy. Pastor Walters reflects on this season, saying, "having Pastor Roger mentor us and come alongside us during this transition has been a tremendous blessing. His wisdom, encouragement, and support have helped make this season both meaningful and rewarding."

In addition to the encouragement received from Pastor Langworthy, Pastor Walters is also enjoying the peace that comes from following the Lord's calling on his life. He says, "My favorite aspect of pastoral ministry has been the assurance and joy of knowing that I am walking in God's calling for my life...seeing lives transformed, encouraging people through difficult seasons, and witnessing God's faithfulness firsthand has been one of the greatest blessings of ministry." While challenges may arise in any new position, Pastor Walters is thankful for the support he has received from the PFC community. He

notes, "God has been faithful throughout this season of transition. He has continued to provide grace, guidance, and encouragement as I have stepped into this pastoral role. We have been especially blessed with an amazing congregation that has shown tremendous love, support, and care for our family."

As Pastor Walters continues to navigate this new role, he is excited to witness how God will continue to work through the community at PFC. He highlights, "one of the things we are most excited about for the future of Praise Fellowship is the continued growth and impact of the ministry. As we make improvements to our facilities and expand opportunities for ministry, our focus remains

firmly rooted in the mission God has given us. At Praise Fellowship, our mission is simple: to love God, to love people, and to make followers of Jesus Christ...as we look ahead, we are trusting God to help us reach every generation throughout Dodge County and surrounding areas, building a church where people can find hope, experience transformation, and be equipped to follow Jesus and lead others to Him." With a firm desire to see lives transformed by Jesus Christ, PFC is eager to continue to press on in the path that the Lord has established for them.

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DODGE CENTER

Faith Lutheran Church

308 2nd St. NW, Dodge Center
507-374-2174

Traditional Worship 9 a.m.; Fellowship 10 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

404 Central Avenue N, Dodge Center
Rev. Elliott Malm • 507-633-2253

<https://gracedc.church>

Worship 9 a.m.; Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Praise Fellowship Church

602 Central Avenue S, Dodge Center
507-374-6400

Kids Church 9:15 a.m.; Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Dodge Center Methodist Church

201 1st St. NE, Dodge Center
507-374-6885

Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 a.m.,
Fellowship Time Following

St. John Baptist De La Salle

20 2nd St. NE, Dodge Center • 507-374-6830
Mass Saturday 5 p.m.

Living Water Assembly Church

104 1st St. NW, Dodge Center
Roy Andrews • 507-374-6561

Sunday 10 a.m.

Dodge Center SDA Church

410 3rd Ave. SW

Dodge Center • 507-374-6895

Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.; Saturday Worship 11 a.m.

Anchor of Hope Church, a 7th Day Baptist Congregation

203 E. Main St., Dodge Center • 507-374-6755
Saturday 10 a.m. Worship; 11:45 a.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 9:15 a.m.; Worship 10:30 a.m.
(weekly sermons available on YouTube and on website)

First Congregational Church

12 Second Street NW

Dodge Center, MN 55927 • 507-633-6873
www.congregationalchurchdc.com

Mark Martig, Pastor

Area Church Directory

Finding Honey

If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit. — Proverbs 25:16

Late summer to early fall is usually the time when beekeepers "find" honey. At that time of year for bees, the days of gathering pollen and nectar are winding down. Wise beekeepers provide extra room in the hive, taking advantage of the bees' hoarding instinct and "tricking" them into making more honey than they need. A healthy hive will often have two to three times as much honey as the bees will need for winter. The beekeepers then take the extra honey, making sure to leave enough for the bees to survive on.

Finding honey is not so difficult with the hive boxes and removable frames we have today. In the wild, though, it can be a lot more challenging to find and gather this treasure. Through the centuries people have learned to search for honey in hollow trees, small caves, remote cliffs, and other protected spots that are near abundant varieties of flowering plants.

While honey is sweet, our proverb for today tells us to "eat just enough" and not too much. It makes good sense not to overdose on honey—or on any of the sweet things in life. Wisdom calls us to a healthy balancing act.

Sadly, the siren song of our world today is that "more is always better." But finding honey reveals the wisdom of enjoying sweet things in life within wholesome limits.

In what ways is the Spirit of God directing you to set wise limits in your life?

Thank you, Lord, for the sweet things in life. Guide us to follow you and to gain a heart of wisdom. In Jesus, Amen.

CLAREMONT

1st Presbyterian Church

200 East Street, Claremont • 528-2320

Pastor Doug Walters

Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

St. John Lutheran Church

4532 SE 84th Avenue, Claremont • 528-2404

Pastor Alan Broadwell

Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.

WEST CONCORD

Faith Community Church

305 State Street N, West Concord
507-527-2244

Interim Pastor, Steve Anderson

Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship; 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

www.fcwc.org

Facebook: WC Faith Community Church

Hegre Lutheran, ELCA

51939 Highway 56 Blvd., Kenyon • 507-527-2353
Sunday: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran, ELCA

301 Highland St., West Concord • 507-527-2778
trinitychurchwc.net

Sunday worship video is posted on Facebook:

[TrinityLutheranChurchWestConcordMN](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchWestConcordMN)

Sundays 9:30 a.m. Worship in building and live streamed on

Facebook.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday Men's Bible Study, 7:00 a.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

9:00 a.m. Sunday School; 10:00 a.m. Worship
concordchurchmn.com

Zwingli United Church of Christ

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23148 Co. Hwy. 24, West Concord • 507-356-4340

Pastor Beth Anthony

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Obituary / Community

August 27, 2026

- DODGE CENTER, CLAREMONT, WEST CONCORD, KASSON, MANTORVILLE, HAYFIELD MESSENGER -

Page 3

Lester Merle Thomas

Lester Merle Thomas, 97, of Owatonna, died on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at The Brooks. He was born May 23, 1929, in West Concord, the son of Merle and Etta (Erdman) Thomas. Lester grew up in West Concord before moving to Owatonna in 1949, where he married the love of his life, Ruth Olean Hillestad, on June 2, 1950, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Lester started working at Muckle Manufacturing for two years until he left to do carpentry work for Merrill Jensen. He also worked at National T - grocery store



before landing his career at the Owatonna Public Utilities where he worked for over 32 years as a lineman and retired in 1986 as a Line Foreman. After "retiring", Lester worked part-time for NAPA as a parts delivery driver for 10 years. Following his retirement from NAPA, in 1996, Lester became the custodian for Our Savior's Lutheran Church until 2005.

Lester was an active member of the community; he maintained the Thompson Cemetery in Havana Township for 26 years, was a member of several committees at church and served as an usher, a member of Owatonna Eagles Aerie #1791 since 1983, and member of Sons of Norway for several years. He also spent numerous hours volunteering; as a Cub Scout leader, PTA McKinley School, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and as a Semcac Driver

for Meals on Wheels. When he wasn't engaged in the community, Lester enjoyed bowling, golfing, fishing, hunting, wood-working, gardening, farming for Heers Farm for 30 years, and watching ALL the Owatonna High School sporting events.

He is survived by his children, Greg (and Darlene) of Pequot Lakes, Curt of Minnetonka, and Randi (and Steve) Dallmann of Carrollton, TX; grandchildren, Shauna (and Nathan) Magedanz, Molly (and Nick Bachelder) Dallmann, Maggie Dallmann (financé, Adam Dorety), Lauren (and Matt) Ellison, Shelby (and Miller) Harveaux, and Marshall (and Ashley) Thomas; 10 great-grandchildren; and siblings, Lucille Larson and Chuck (and Irene) Thomas.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; his parents; his siblings, Ray (and Dolly), Eugene (and Lucille), Joyce (and LeRoy) Engle, Lorraine (and Bill) Stetler, and John; and brother-in-law, Lew Larson.

Visitation will be from 4pm to 7pm on Friday, August 28, 2026, at Michaelson Funeral Home in Owatonna. Funeral services will be held at 11am on Saturday, August 29, 2026, with visitation one hour prior at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Interment will be in the Owatonna Memorial Gardens in Owatonna.

Memorials are preferred to Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Owatonna Athletic Department, State School Orphanage Museum, or donor's choice.

Triton Welcomes New Teachers

(continued from page 1)

Her pastimes are paddleboarding, hiking and watching Ted Lasso.

Grace Hanson will be teaching Elementary music this year.

She is from Rantoul, Illinois and attended Lawrence University.

She lived in Wisconsin and Spain before moving here.

Her hobbies are reading and watching movies.

Emma Ogren will be a High School Special

Education teacher this year.

She is from Dodge Center and attended the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

This will be her first year as a full-time educator.

Emma is looking forward to being involved in many school activities at Triton.

Her family has worked in all areas of education and she would like to contribute her talents as well.

Her pastimes are reading, music, movies, volleyball and getting outside.

Dodge Center Foundation Seeks Grant Applications

The DODGE CENTER FOUNDATION is a non-profit organization established to serve the greater Dodge Center community by providing leadership and funding to qualified projects that enhance the quality of life for area residents. The Dodge Center Foundation promotes philanthropy and raises funds to meet these goals.

Local organizations interested in seeking funding from the Dodge Center Foundation should fill out a Grant Application and submit it to the Dodge Center Foundation's Secretary, Diane Page, at dpageno2@gmail.com. Or mail the completed application to the Foundation at P.O. Box 276, Dodge Center, MN 55927. The deadline is September 21, 2026. Grant Application forms may be picked up at Dodge Center City Hall, 35 East Main St., Dodge Center, MN 55927.

The Dodge Center Foundation only funds projects that meet requirements of community development, such as maintaining or creating community assets in areas such as recreation, arts, education or personal health. The Board of Trustees of the Dodge County Foundation would like to encourage all organizations interested to submit an application for consideration.



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• Appetizers provided • Cash bar available • \$25 per person •

Dress the Part! (optional) Come dressed in your favorite 1950's or 1960's attire for a chance to win our Best Costume Award!

Saturday, September 26
4:00-7:00 p.m.

West Concord Historical Society
400 West Concord Ave.
West Concord, MN 55985

To make reservations, please send \$25.00 per person to: West Concord Historical Society, Box 58, West Concord, MN 55985 by no later than Friday, September 11 or stop by the WCHS office to make a reservation. Reservations are non-refundable.

Name(s) _____
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☐ I can't attend, but I would like to donate: \$ _____

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Join us for the Student-led show, The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon!

*There is only 1 weekend,
so don't miss it!*

Our last summer show is "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" by Don Zolidis, directed by Noah Witty and Julian Thurmes. The show runs August 28-30: Friday & Saturday at 7:00 pm and Sunday at 2:00 pm.

About the show

The fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm are turned on their heads in this fast-paced, rollicking ride as two narrators and several actors attempt to combine all 209 stories. The stories range from classics like Snow White, Cinderella, and Hansel and Gretel to more bizarre, obscure stories like The Devil's Grandmother and The Girl Without Hands. A wild, free-form comedy with lots of audience participation and madcap fun.

This MTC project is student-run as much as possible. Students research and propose a script; they cast and direct the

show, using student actors. Students design and implement the set, and they select-or-create costumes. Adult artists are available to advise and ensure safety, but adults work as instructors/helpers rather than implementers.

Meet the cast & crew

Amelia Broring: Enchantress, Crab person 2
Amber Butler: Girl, Prince 2, Queen, Cinderella
Eli Dejardin: Rumpelstiltskin, Johannes
Knox Goundry: Narrator 2
Ben Hess: Prince, Prince 3
Samuel Horning: Hansel, Father, Dwarf 1, Grandma
Luke Ingram: Lights, Stage Manager
Kayleigh Kammel: Fisher girl, Witch 2
Sutton Kammel: Dirt Merchant, Girl Without Hands, Plinkie Plie
Harvey Knutson: Narrator 1
Emmarie McNeil: Rapunzel, Crab Person 1, Little Red
Madysen Nelson: Witch, Snow White
Thackery Schar: The Devil, Chet Dobray, King 2
Ivy Van Zuilen: Actor, Mother, Raven
Oliver Westphal: Audience Member, Woodcutter
Ben Whalen: The Wolf
Samantha Wilson: Gretel, Talking Fish, Dwarf 2
This show is family friendly; tickets are



Back row: Eli Dejardin, Samuel Horning, Harvey Knutson, Knox Goundry, and Thackery Schar Middle row: Oliver Westphal, Noah Witty, Julian Thurmes, Ben Hess, and Amber Butler Front row: Ben Whalen, Sutton Kammel, Kayleigh Kammel, Emmarie McNeil, Madysen Nelson, and Ivy Van Zuilen
Not pictured: Amelia Broring, Samantha Wilson, and Luke Ingram



\$10. Reservations can be made online at www.mantorvilletheatrecompany.com or by phone (507-635-5420). Walk-ins are also

welcome! All seats are general admission. We can't wait to see you there!

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St. Rose of Lima celebrates 21st Ice Cream Social

(continued from page 1)

The celebration included a live music performance, a homemade quilt raffle, and a chance to reminisce with friends and neighbors.

Michael Wilmes, West Concord resident and local historian, presented a talk about the history of the church with interesting facts about the people and the community. The bell was ordered and shipped from the east coast and came down the Atlantic seacoast, up the Mississippi River and lastly by land from Red Wing to Pine Island and then to the church property. It weighed 3,000 pounds and was hoisted up into the belfry by block and tackle. Around 1976 someone attempted to steal the bell and dropped it from the bell tower onto the ground. It was located a few years later and recovered without any damage from the theft. It was then installed in the current loca-

tion in the cemetery behind the church.

Another story involved a railroad worker who was killed in an accident on the railroad in the area during the late 1800's. There was no identification or information as to who he was or where he came from. Without family or next of kin to notify, the people of the church gave him a burial, even though he was unidentified. It speaks to the hard-working settlers who would gladly care for one they didn't know and give him a dignified burial.



LABOR DAY WEEKEND

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51ST ANNUAL SHOW

September 4-6, 2026



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* KIDS PEDAL PULL - Saturday 2:00 pm

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1:00-4:00 pm *Charlie Sticha Band*

4:00-8:00 pm *Old Country Boys*

SATURDAY

10:00-Noon *Square Dancers*

1:00-4:00 pm *Bent Highway Band*

4:00-8:00 pm *Dakota Ramblers Band*

SUNDAY

8:00 am *Non-Denominational Church Service*

1:00-4:00 pm *Czech Area Concertina Club*

General Information Contacts:

Bill Becker 507-581-1225

Jeremy Sevcik 507-403-1614

Carmen Sevcik 507-649-0352

***Registration** of all golf carts & ATV's will be required. Proof of Insurance. No cycles.

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INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK:
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\$35 in advance \$45 at door

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Square or call 507-259-1775 or 651-380-1246**



Cats and More Cats

(continued from page 1)

The Furball Farm Cat Sanctuary is the place to go if you would like a cat fix. There are currently 350 cats at the facility. All feral rescues and many snatched from being euthanized.

It all started with a concerned cat lover named Julie about ten years ago. She learned that some feral cats were going to be trapped and euthanized in Faribault. Julie and her husband owned a couple of restaurants in the southern metro area and had just bought a farm outside Faribault. Her husband was looking forward to utilizing the new garage, complete with a lift for automobiles. Before he was able to put it to use, Julie bought home some cats. They took up residence in the garage. The lift became their catwalk. A few cats turned into twenty and the garage was soon overflowing with cats.

As the cats were welcomed to a caring home, where they were spayed and neutered vetted and cared for, her dreams of a larger facility became a necessity and then a reality. A large insulated and heated building was constructed on the farm and volunteers showed up to help care for the cats. Their mission was to end the suffering of unwanted cats. People were generous to donate and supplies and funds flowed in to care for the rescued feral cats. Furball Farm Cat Sanctuary is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, tax exempt.

As the numbers grew, Julie envisioned an outdoor area to accommodate fresh air and nature like the feral cats had survived in prior to



being rescued. A large donation arrived for the very purpose and the outdoor exercise yard was soon built. Concrete walkways and artificial turf were enclosed in chain link fence to allow a visual of outdoor freedom.

As interest grew, daily visitors have become the norm. From one to five pm, the parking lot is full of cars and people fill the cat sanctuary interacting with the cats. All are feral cats who have been given a home and while some acclimate to people, others keep their distance. Visitors are advised to let the cats approach you and if one sits still on a bench for very long the cats will come to you.

There are daily podcasts uploaded featuring some of the favorite cats and new arrivals. The sanctuary has an online livestream 24 hours a day watched by viewers all over the world. There are cameras all over the property which alternate video feeds to give access to all areas and cats in the farm. You can log on to u-tube and enjoys cat antics twenty-four hours a day.

The visiting hours are every day, including holidays, from 1:00pm – 5:00pm. Children must be near their adult at all times. Children under the age of 5 must be carried or hand-held the entire duration of their visit. During that time volunteers are cleaning, caring for and feeding the cats. For the safety of our cats, please refrain from loud voices and noises, and no running in our sanctuary.

The Furball Farm Cat Sanctuary is looking for dedicated volunteers who are willing to give 4+ hours a week to help care for their



wonderful fur babies. Potential volunteers must visit the cat sanctuary first. Visit and talk to us! There are currently over fifty volunteers and many drive over an hour each way to help out.

Help needed is sweeping, vacuuming, disinfecting and deodorizing the sanctuary, Washing dishes and water fountains, Cleaning & brushing cat trees, Scooping poop (all day long) and doing laundry. There is always a need for general supplies: Clumping cat litter, Cleaners (bleach/Fabuloso/Mr. Clean/Odoban), Sanitizing wipes & sprays, Garbage bags, paper towels and treats like Temptations / Churu and canned cat food. You may donate supplies through Amazon WishList, Chewy Wishlist or Walmart Wish-list, purchases from their online store or through PayPal, Venmo or by credit card.

Their goal is to find a forever home for the cats that begin to trust humans in our care. Please know that many cats come with baggage. Many have never had human kindness or interaction. They will take time to adjust to a new home, it could be weeks or months,

please be patient. Adopters must be 21 years of age or older. Adoption fees are \$160 for adults, and \$250 for kittens.

The farm also has an AirBnB with 3 bedroom, 4 beds and 1 ½ bath. It is very popular, with 149 reviews from all over US and overseas. It is for cat lovers only. This beautiful old freshly updated farm house is on the same property as Furball Farm Cat Sanctuary! Renting the Airbnb will allow you to see behind the scenes! Visit the cats anytime between the hours of 9am-9pm on the days you are booked! Marley and Teddy are the resident cats there and they will keep you company! (They can go in and out).

The FurBall farm Cat Sanctuary has their own veterinarian on staff who does all the health care for the cats and conducts weekly spay and neuter operations. They do not accept cats from others as they encourage people to care for the cats around you as they already have a home. Spaying and neutering is promoted for all feral and farm cats as to minimize the population of cats which are not cared for.

**Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.*

To the Editor:

I am proud to endorse Kailee Thompson for Dodge County Attorney.

My endorsement isn't based simply on a résumé or campaign promises. I've had the opportunity to work directly with Kailee and have seen firsthand the professionalism, work ethic, judgment, and commitment she brings to the County Attorney's Office every day.

Of the two candidates seeking this office, Kailee brings the broadest range of criminal prosecution experience. She has prosecuted cases across the spectrum of criminal law, giving her firsthand experience with the variety and complexity of cases the Dodge County Attorney's Office handles every day. That matters. The County Attorney makes difficult decisions every day that impact victims, defendants, law enforcement, and the safety of our communities. Experience handling serious criminal cases and understanding what it takes to successfully prosecute those cases is incredibly important.

Kailee also has experience as a public defender, which I believe has made her an even better prosecutor. She understands our criminal justice system from both sides of the courtroom. She understands the constitutional rights of defendants, the responsibilities of prosecutors, and the importance of building strong cases that are fair, thorough, and able to stand up in court.

From my perspective as Sheriff, I also know what kind of partner Kailee is to law enforcement.

She works with our deputies and investigators on cases every day. She provides guidance during investigations, helps work

through difficult legal issues, and makes herself available 24 hours a day, seven days a week when our staff needs assistance. That relationship between prosecutors and law enforcement is extremely important to successfully investigating and prosecuting criminal cases.

Just as importantly, I've watched Kailee fight for victims and their rights. Behind every criminal case is a victim, a family, or a community that has been impacted. Kailee understands that responsibility and works hard to make sure victims have a voice throughout the process.

Kailee is young, aggressive, hardworking, and eager to take on the challenges of leading the Dodge County Attorney's Office. She has the energy to move the office forward while continuing the high level of service our residents have come to expect.

As Sheriff, I depend every day on a strong partnership between the Sheriff's Office and County Attorney's Office. We have different responsibilities, but ultimately share the same goals — keeping our communities safe, holding offenders accountable, protecting constitutional rights, and standing up for victims.

I have confidence in Kailee's ability to lead that office.

I encourage Dodge County voters to learn more about Kailee, her experience, and her qualifications at thompsonfordodge.com.

Kailee Thompson has the criminal law experience, integrity, work ethic, and commitment to victims that I believe Dodge County needs in its next County Attorney. She has earned my trust, and she has earned my endorsement.

Scott Rose
Dodge County Sheriff

To the Editor:

I am endorsing Kailee Thompson for Dodge County Attorney. As a recently retired Dodge County Deputy Sheriff, I have had the privilege of witnessing Kailee's unwavering commitment to justice, ethics, and public service.

Kailee's extensive experience in the legal field, combined with her deep understanding of the local issues facing our community, makes her the ideal candidate for this pivotal role. Her proactive approach to law enforcement and legal advocacy has not only won her respect among peers but also built trust within our community. She possesses the integrity, professionalism, and dedication necessary to champion the needs of Dodge County residents.

I believe Kailee will bring fresh perspectives and innovative solutions to the office of the county attorney. Her vision for a safer and more just community resonates deeply, and I do not doubt that she will work tirelessly to uphold the law and serve the best interests of our citizens.

I strongly encourage the citizens of Dodge County to elect Kailee Thompson for this important position. She will be the leader we need in our legal system, and I am confident in her ability to make positive decisions that will benefit all of Dodge County.

Thank you for considering my endorsement.

Sincerely,
Deputy Mark Dyshaw
Dodge County Sheriff's Office (ret)

To the Editor:

Building strong math skills empowers students to succeed in school and in their future careers. That's why Math Corps partners with Triton Public Schools to help kids thrive!

Math Corps is an AmeriCorps tutoring program that trains local people to help students build stronger math skills. Serving during school hours, tutors work with small groups of 2-3 students to provide targeted practice and skill building. With the extra time and support, students make greater gains and get on track faster than their peers!

Our tutors come from all walks of life — whether you are a recent graduate, retiree, parent, or career changer, you can make an incredible difference in students' lives! While serving, tutors receive a paycheck every two weeks, student loan forbearance and interest repayment, and extra money for college tuition or student loans. Full-time tutors may also qualify for additional benefits like free individual health insurance and childcare assistance.

If you're interested in making a lasting impact in your community, we are looking for two additional Math Tutors for the 2026-27 school year. Apply by September 21 to begin serving in October at Join.ReadingAndMath.org or by calling 866-859-2825.

April Stensgaard
Senior Manager, Math Corps

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Page 9

**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 –
SUMMARY SCHOOL
BOARD MINUTES
REGULAR SCHOOL
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026
– 6:00 P.M.
TRITON HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER –
DODGE CENTER, MN
& ZOOM VIDEO CON-
FERENCING**

This published information is a summary of the full minutes of July 20, 2026, Triton School Board meeting. A copy of the full minutes is available for viewing in the

Triton District Office, 813 West Highway Street, Dodge Center, or online at www.triton.k12.mn.us.

Present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, J. Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr., Brian Ginder, Luke Lutterman, Kristy Faber, Jaxon Marine, Tina Kozisek, Candice Vagt, and others.

The School Board approved the following items:

- Agenda and consent agenda including the June 8, 2025 regular meeting minutes as

presented; budget update; claims and bills; treasurer's report; designate Heritage Bank of West Concord, N.A., Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund and Old National Bank as official depositories for ISD #2125 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year; Board stipends, paid quarterly, \$40.00 per full Board meeting, \$25.00 for other related meetings, \$80.00 for full day meetings, \$250.00 additional yearly stipend for Board Chair; authorize the use of Ratwik, Roszak and Maloney, P.A. as our designated legal counsel for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The following positions are authorized to contact the legal counsel: Board Chair, Superintendent, and Administrators who have received prior approval from the Superintendent; district staff authorized to make electronic fund transfers; open enrollment agreement for #072125A; contracts for Joe Giesler as Assistant Building, Grounds, and Transportation Supervisor, Morgan Reuvers as TES Teacher, Jessica Maes as TES Special Education Teacher, Candice Vagt as Childcare Program Manager, Travis Scanlan as Custodian,

Amelia Spilde as TES Special Education/ECSE Teacher, Caroline Otto as TMS Special Education Teacher, Emma Ogren as THS Special Education Teacher, Schedule C Coach List for Fall 2026, Dale Tate, Drew Kelly, Chris Edwards, and Dave Kunz as Junior High Football Coaches, Laurie Essig as Head Volleyball Coach, Karissa Eipers as C Squad Volleyball Coach, Courtney Brink, as Junior High Volleyball Coach, Jamie Bodestab as Head Cheer Coach, Jaime Geers as Assistant Cheer Coach; resignation for Traci Gray as Special Education Coordinator effective July 6, 2026;

- Designate the Dodge County Independent as the official newspaper for the 2026-2027 fiscal year;
- MREA Membership Renewal for fiscal year 2026-2027;
- Resolution Adopting Independent School District No. 2125 FY 28 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan;
- Resolution Approving Independent School District No. 6012 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Ten-Year Plan;
- SRO Memorandum of Agreement for 2026-2027;

- ZED Special Education Coordinator Position;
- ZED MARSS Agreement;
- Committee Meeting Dates for 2026-2027;
- Facilities Sponsorship Partnership Agreement with Heritage Bank – East Gym;
- Facilities Sponsorship Partnership Agreement with Welsh Equipment – Performing Arts Center;
- Contract with the Center for Effective School Operations (CESO);
- Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election;
- School Board Handbook.

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

**TRITON ISD NO. 2125 –
SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD
STUDY SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 10,
2026
TRITON HIGH SCHOOL
MEDIA CENTER –
DODGE CENTER, MN**

-Meeting Proceedings-

Chair Wendy Kenworthy called the meeting to order at

6:00 p.m. Those members present: Wendy Kenworthy, Rebecca Knutson, Jim Jensen, Dale Jensen, Lloyd Henslin, Jr.; absent: Scott Curran and Brian Ginder. Also present: Superintendent Luke Lutterman, Principal Shane Van Beek, Principal Tanisha Fox, Dean of Students Tricia Johnson, Community Education Director Kristy Faber, others.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

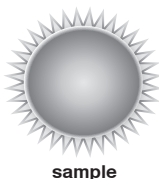
Items discussed:
Update from Artificial Intelligence Committee
Long Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Presentation from ISG
Activities Update
Update on Handbooks (Student, Staff)
Discuss Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates
Summer Work Facility Updates
Discuss Timeline for Superintendent Evaluation
Future Agenda Items/Board Announcements

Chair Kenworthy adjourned the meeting 7:11 p.m.

School District Clerk



FIND and DINE



sample

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NOTICE OF ROAD ALTERATION AND VACATION HEARING CONCORD TOWNSHIP, DODGE COUNTY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, the town board of Concord Township, Dodge County, Minnesota will conduct a public hearing on the 10th day of September, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Concord Town Hall located at

55319 201st Avenue, Concord, MN for the purpose of considering and acting upon a petition it received calling for the alteration and/or vacation of the following described road:
Alter: Platted width of 554th St. is 100'. Alter the platted width to the standard township 66' from 201st Avenue east to the hamlet of Concord east border.

Vacate: All of the alley located in Block 19 between Commerce Street and Park Street, Original Plat, Concord, Dodge County, Minnesota.

All persons interested in this matter are encouraged to attend the hearing.

Dated: August 15, 2026

Michael Jones

Concord Township Clerk

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