



THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2025 VOL. 119 NO. 32 COUNTYSTAR.COM

**3.14:** Braham's annual event adds up to another fun-filled Pie Day. **PG 6, MORE PHOTOS ONLINE** 



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

### A real-life soap opera

A pair of girls enjoy the "Bubbly Foam Party" as part of North Branch's Night to Unite held in Central Park. For more photos from North Branch's, Cambridge's, and Isanti's events, go to www.isanti-chisagocountystar.

# Cambridge Intermediate School avoids wrecking ball

BY BILL STICKELS III EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Editors note: This is the fourth in a series of articles regarding the upcoming Cambridge-Isanti Schools referendum vote, focusing on one specific building.

If the Cambridge-Isanti School District had listened to almost every expert several years ago, the upcoming bond referendum would have taken place back then, would have looked vastly different, at least as far as the Cambridge Intermediate and Primary Schools are concerned, and it would have been significantly more expensive for taxpayers.

According to District Finance Director Chris Kampa, at that time, the district was looking at a nearly 100 year-old boiler system in the Intermediate School on the verge of failing. Complicating matters, that system had been retrofitted to also provide heat to the Primary School when that building was constructed in 1960. The connection was made via hard-to-reach underground tunnels. This retrofit greatly increased the cost and difficulty of making the mandatory replacement.

According to Kampa, if any



With the exception of the upholstery color, the seats in the Cambridge Intermediate School auditorium/gymnasium are believed to be nearly original to the building's construction.

section of the boiler/steam pipes had failed during the colder, winter months, it would have rendered both school buildings unusable until repairs could be made. In fact, Kampa said one section did collapse, but it was in October, and the buildings didn't require heating. He added that emergency repairs cost the district \$100,000.

Based on this, plus all the other fixes/updates needed at the Intermediate School, most of the recommendations were to demolish the historic

building and start over new, plus either demolish the Primary School or adding in its own boiler system.

"That option would have cost approximately \$90 million," Kampa said.

Instead, the district chose to work with experts who asserted there was a way to fix the problem without demolishing the complex — and to do it with no impact to taxpayers to boot. According to Kampa, the district was able to borrow against its own

SEE **REFERENDUM**, PAGE 2

# Third Bluejacket All School Reunion set for Saturday at fairgrounds

**STAFF REPORT** 

NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The third iteration of the Cambridge-Isanti All School Reunion is all set to take place this Saturday, Aug. 9, with a more condensed schedule than the previous vears.

The first All School Reunion, which took place in 2017, was a huge success, bringing in around 3,000 Bluejacket graduates. The second event was originally scheduled for 2020, however it wound up being delayed by a year due to COVID. The end result was a smaller turnout of approximately 2,000.

This year, after a four-year hiatus, organizers are hoping the attendance will rebound to at least closer to the inaugural event. At the same time, they have organized a somewhat stripped-down schedule that focuses a little more on classmates mingling with each other.

SEE **REUNION.** PAGE **2** 

**PUBLIC NOTICES** 

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There's sure to be many selfies again taken during the All School Reunion on Saturday.

### AGE in North Branch



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# **REFERENDUM:** Constructing new school buildings would have cost \$90 million

future Long Term Facilities Maintenance revenues. Plus, it got permission from the State to use remaining COVID

"One of our proudest achievements was preserving the Cambridge Primary/Intermediate building," Kampa said. "Through strong partnerships and creative financing strategies, we were able to develop a plan to repair and restore the existing structure without increasing the tax burden on our community. This approach not only saved a valued community asset, but did so at a fraction of the cost."

Still, that left a laundry list of 30 needed projects, at an approximate cost of \$7.5 million, to be included in the upcoming bond referendum.

#### **PROPOSED PROJECTS**

The Cambridge Intermediate School -formerly the Cambridge Middle School and before that, the Cambridge High School; is the oldest building in the entire district, having been first constructed in 1936. There have been a total of seven building additions: 1954, 1957, 1961, 1974, 1976, 1994, and 2015.

"It has a lot of interior finishes to do," Ellie Gilliam of Nexus said.

Like the Cambridge Primary School, a vast majority of the individual projects feature relatively minimal costs. The only project over \$1 million is the replacement of four, twenty-plus year old rooftop air handling units. However, when adding up all the projects updating portions of the building — some of which are original to the building's initial construction, it comes to nearly \$3 million of the total cost.

Most recognizable among those updates is the well-known auditorium/ gymnasium. There, the seating, which appears to have only received a change in fabric colors, would be replaced. Additionally, the stage (which is still used

'Through strong partnerships and creative financing strategies. we were able to develop a plan to repair and restore the existing structure without increasing the tax burden on our community.'

#### Chris Kampa

C-I Schools Finance Director

as opposed to the Cambridge Primary School's stage) would be made ADA

Some of the other areas that are most likely original to the building include the terrazzo flooring, internal and external doors, miscellaneous casework, and lockers.

Beyond that, sections of the building need to be rearranged or repurposed in order to more efficiently use the space. The choir room would in part be converted into a new teachers lounge. "An Intermediate School doesn't need both a band and choir room," Gilliam said.

The old, unused locker rooms would be converted into special education space. Like with Isanti Primary School, the Early Childhood Education entrance and office would be moved so all EC space would be grouped together. This will also allow EC to have its own completely secure entrance to the building. There would also be a new playground built for Early Childhood on the north side of the building.

For a full list of the Cambridge Intermediate School's proposed projects and their estimated cost, plus additional photos, go to www.isanti-chisagocoun-



Like the Isanti Primary School, many lockers in the Cambridge Intermediate School have severely rusty floors.



The floors and many of the doors throughout Cambridge Intermediate School are at least 50 years old, if not also original to when the building was first constructed nearly 100 years

# **REUNION:** Opening ceremony featuring marching band, welcoming remarks at 4 p.m.

FROM PAGE I

Gates at the Isanti County Fairgrounds will open at 3 p.m., with an opening ceremony taking place at 4 p.m. — three hours later than the 2021 reunion. The opening ceremony will feature a raising of the flag, the Bluejacket Marching Band playing the National Anthem and school song, and welcoming remarks from Chris Miller and Bruce Danielson.

From then until midnight, there will be a car show and art show, a variety of food trucks, plus music and karaoke by Holm Made Sounds. Beyond that, however, attendees are being left to simply get caught up

with classmates from their or any other year. There will also be two events taking place ahead of the actual reunion. At 1 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 8, there will be an alumni golf tournament at Purple Hawk Country Club.

Additionally, a new event is being held Saturday morning in the form of the Officer Paul Elmstrand Memorial 5K run. That will take place at 8 a.m. at the Cambridge-Isanti High School parking lot.

Tickets for the reunion can be purchased at zeffy. com by searching "Blue Jacket All School Reunion. They can also be purchased at the gate. The price is \$20. Registration for the Paul Elmstrand Memorial Run can be made at runsignup.com.





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AUGUST 7, 2025

#### MON, WED & FRI

#### **Exercise with Connie**

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. From 10:30-11:30 a.m.

#### **MON & WED**

#### 500 Cards

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch at 12:45 p.m.

#### **MON & THUR**

#### **Alcoholics Anonymous**

7p.m. Main Street Church 6500 Main Street, North Branch, MN. Enter east door. Informational Hotline is 763-312-1088

#### MON - FRI

#### **Senior Dining**

North Branch, Chisago County Senior Center 11:45 a.m. Diners need to pre-register at least one day in advance call 651-674-1956 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. An annual registration form is required before dining.

#### **MONDAYS**

#### Bridge

1 to 3 p.m. at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

#### Scrabble (2nd Monday)

10 a.m. to Noon at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

#### Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families

7 p.m. at Cambridge Lutheran Church , 621 Old Main St N, Cambridge Mn 55008 For more information contact Rebecca at 612-702-2844 or CoraJayne 612-210-1605

#### Mahjong

Noon to 3 p.m. at Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

#### Fresh Beginnings Alanon

Family Groups meets Monday's 7 - 8 p.m. at Access Church, 4359 - 392nd St., North Branch. Visit minnesotanorth-al-anon.org

#### **Book Club**

Third Monday 11 a.m. to noon at Isanti SAC, 140 Buchanan St., N. #164 Cambridge. Isanti County Library lends the books and there is no cost to participate. For info: sacs@midconetwork.com



The Beatles tribute band A Hard Days Night will be the featured performers during North Branch's Summer Concert Series in Central Park Tuesday, Aug. 12.

#### **TUES & THURS**

### Boxing for Those w/Parkinson's

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 115 Adams Street South, Cambridge. For more information, call 763-221-6883.

#### **TUESDAYS**

#### **Braham Parkinson's Support**

7 p.m. third Tuesday of the month. Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church, 905 Central Drive W., Braham. For info. call Lonnie Anderson at 612-423-1863.

#### Alzheimer's Support

Third Tuesday of each month from 10-11 a.m. at GracePointe Heritage Center, 322 River Hills Place North, Cambridge. For info call Lyndsey Larson 763-691-6172.

#### **Memory Cafe**

First Tuesday of every month, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at GracePointe Crossing Heritage Center, 322 River Hills Place North, Cambridge. Contact Julie at 763-306-5066 for info.

#### Music

Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave. Music provided before the meal 11:15 a.m.

#### Dominos

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave North Branch at 10 a.m.

#### **Dominoes**

10 a.m. to Noon at the Cambridge SAC

#### WEDNESDAYS

#### Cribbage

9 to 11 a.m. at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

#### Wizard

11 a.m. to noon at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

#### **Pinochle**

12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Cambridge SAC

#### Mahjong

12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

#### Alanon

7 p.m. at the Isanti Alano Club, 790 Heritage Blvd. Isanti. 763-444-4605

#### **Chisago County Drop-In Center**

Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Street Church, 6500 Main Street, North Branch. For individuals 18 yrs or older living with mental illness. Info: 651-213-5600 or Adultmentalhealth.org.

#### **THURSDAYS**

#### East Central Baby Cafe

Free drop-in breastfeeding support from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Adult Enrichment Center, 540 5th Ave NW, Cambridge, MN. For info. call 763-689-1711.

#### Cambridge-Edgewood AFG

Cambridge-Edgewood Al-Anon Family Group meets

#### from 7-8 p.m. at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old Main Street N. Visit minnesotanorth-al-anon.org for info.

#### **Parkinson's Support Group**

Third Thursday of the month – 1-2:30 p.m. The Levande, 2011 6th Lane SE, Cambridge, MN for info call 763-325-0100

#### Bingo

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave North Branch at 10a.m.

#### **Hand and Foot**

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave North Branch at 12:30p.m.

#### 500

12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

#### Bunco

Third Thursday 10 a.m. to Noon at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

#### ACA Adult Children of Alcoholics/ Dysfunctional Families Meeting

7 p.m. at Access Church, 4359 392nd St, North Branch. For info. call 612-251-6556 or email acanorthbranch@ gmail.com

#### Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family Group

From 7-8 p.m. at Access Church, 4359 392nd Street, North Branch. Visit minnesota-al-anon.org for info.

#### Medicare and Medicaid 101 Open House

Third Thursday of the month from 1-3 p.m. Get your questions answered by trained agents. (763) 689-7390 or ecrlib. org for info.

#### **FRIDAYS**

#### Cribbage

12:45 p.m. at the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch.

#### AUG 9

#### All School Reunion

at Isanti County Fairgrounds. Gates open at 3 p.m. Opening ceremony at 4 p.m. Food trucks, music, car show, art show.

#### Officer Elmstrand Memorial 5K

begins at 8 a.m. at Cambridge-Isanti High School parking lot. Register at runsignup.com.

#### Summer Spectacular Car Show

hosted by Rum River Rods. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Main Street, downtown Isanti. Food trucks on site.

#### Isanti Street Dance

featuring the band Rustic. 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. Main Street and 1st Ave. downtown Isanti. Food trucks and beer wagon.

#### **AUG 10-14**

#### Joy Lutheran VBS

6–8 p.m. nightly, Joy Lutheran Church, Cambridge. For ages 3–10. Theme: the story of Joseph. Register: PTL4joy@yahoo.com.

#### **AUG 10-15**

### Vacation Bible School at Bethesda Church

Kickoff rally Aug. 10, 2–4 p.m.; VBS Aug. 11–15, 9 a.m.–noon. For ages 4–entering grade 6. 38180 Hemingway Ave., North Branch. Register: tinyurl.com/ VBSinNB.

#### AUG 12 MyChart 101

Noon at Zion Lutheran Church, Chisago City (lunch) or 3:30 p.m. at North Branch Senior Community Center (appetizers). Free class on using MyChart, for older adults and

#### **Waters of Chisago County**

caregivers. Register by Aug 8:

651-674-1025.

This presentation explores the health of Chisago County's lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. Presented by Barbara Heitkamp, Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership educator. 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Recommended for adults. Registration required.

#### North Branch Summer Concert Series

featuring Beatles tribute band Hard Days Night. Storytime begins at 6:45 p.m. Concert begins at 7 p.m. Food trucks, bounce house, kids activities begin at 6 p.m. Central Park.

#### **AUG 13**

### Chisago County baby shower & toddler event

9–11 a.m., North Branch Area Education Center, 38705 Grand Ave. If you've had a baby between 2020–2025, enjoy donuts, gifts, play, resources, lactation consultant. No registration required.

# Braham community invited to attend Highway 107 public meeting

The community is invited to attend a public meeting hosted by the City of Braham on Wednesday, Aug. 13, to learn about plans to reconstruct and improve Highway 107 in Braham, Isanti County, reports the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The open house-style event will be held 6-7:30 p.m., at the Braham City Hall, 201 Broadway Ave. S. Guests can stop by, view a design layout and learn more about the project. MnDOT and

city staff will be available to answer questions. Construction timing and traffic impacts will be discussed at a later date closer to construction.

MnDOT will reconstruct and improve Highway 107 from Highway 65 to Isanti County Road 4 (Sixth Street NW) in Braham, which includes new storm sewer, city water main and pedestrian updates. The project is currently in the design phase and is scheduled for construction in 2027 or 2028 (TBD next summer).

For more information, project map or MnD-OT contacts, visit the project web page at www. mndot.gov/d3/projects/braham.

MnDOT invites and encourages participation by all. If you need an ASL, foreign language interpreter, or other reasonable accommodation, or need documents in an alternative format (such as braille or large print), please email your request to Janet Miller at ADArequest.dot@state.mn.us or call 651-366-4720. ~ MNDOT

### Isanti County Medallion Hunt

The Isanti County Parks Department will kick off its 11th annual Find it in the Parks Medallion Hunt on Monday, Aug. 18. Participants will have the chance to search for a hidden medallion worth \$1,000 in prizes.

New clues will be posted daily at 8 a.m. beginning Aug. 18 on the county's parks website at www.co.isanti.mn.us/184/Parks-Recreation. The hunt will continue through Friday, Aug. 22 or until the medallion is found.

The event is limited to the six Isanti County parks. Whoever finds the medallion must return it to the Isanti County Parks Department Office at 555 18th Ave. SW in Cambridge to claim the prize. The medallion hunt is

sponsored by donations from Crawford's Equipment, Cambridge Family Dental, Larson's Cycle, Walmart, Coborn's Grocery, Cub Foods and Mills Fleet Farm.

For more information, contact Barry Wendorf at the Environmental Services Division at 763-689-8220 or barry. wendorf@co.isanti.mn.us. ~ lsantiCounty 4 ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR CountyStar.com AUGUST 7, 2025

# American Eagle ads might be sexist, but they're not racist

he recent uproar over a series of American Eagle commercials featuring actress Sydney Sweeney has me perplexed.

For those unfamiliar, Sweeney is a gorgeous, 27 year-old actress who has quickly made a name for herself based on several roles — most of which are on series

only shown on streaming services, and are rather "mature" in nature. Now, she is the new spokesperson for American Eagle bluejeans. If you are unfamiliar with these commercials, they are essentially a modern-day ripoff of the controversial Brooke Shields Calvin Klein bluejeans ads, which were decried for sexualizing the then-15 year-old Shields.

I would completely understand a similar uproar over Sweeney's ads based on the current environment of not using women as eye candy for men. But while that issue has been brought up regarding these ads, the biggest backlash has been from the theme of the words she says and the tagline "Sydney

Sweeney has great jeans.'

**Thousand** 

Words

Bill

Stickels III

What is wrong with that? Well, according to many, touting a gorgeous, blonde hair, blue eyes, white female as having great "genes/jeans" is not-so subtly referencing eugenics and Adolf Hitler's "superior race."

Granted, the wordplay of "genes" versus "jeans" could be considered rather minimalistic humor, but I find it a very long stretch to call it in essence Nazi-like propaganda. For one, my guess is American Eagle had already settled on using this new tagline before selecting Sweeney. They could have gone with a gorgeous brunette or red-head and all of this would have been moot. But, they chose Sweeney, most likely because she is a major star right now, and based on the fact she has done multiple nude scenes, isn't against being viewed as eye candy.

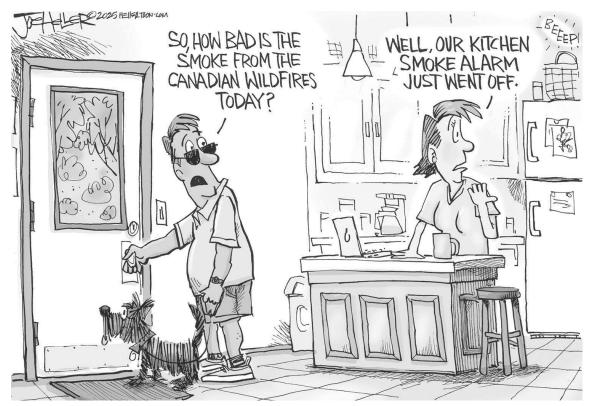
Besides Shields' CK ads, the other comparison being made is Beyonce's recent Levi bluejeans ads, where the gorgeous singer is photographed in similar poses to Sweeney. These comparisons brought up a new, unasked question in my mind. What if it was American Eagle's original plans to run a whole series of ads under that same theme, but rotating gorgeous celebrities of different races, and they just happened to start with a white blonde with blue eyes? For all we know, they could have been planning on stating the exact opposite of what they are being accused of. People of any skin/ hair/eye color can have "great genes/jeans."

Now, we will never know if that is the case. If they continued to roll out the series of ads, they would simultaneously be accused of trying to refute the allegations after-the-fact from those critics and placating to those critics after-the-fact from those who disagree with the

critics.

This theory may very well be far-fetched. But, in my opinion, it is just as far-fetched as the claim that Sweeney is being used to push a modern-day eugenics agenda. Or even more far-fetched, that she is complicit in spreading that message.

BILL STICKELS III is editor of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be directly reached at 651-407-1245, through our main office number at 763-689-1181,



#### **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

#### Myths vs. Facts

#### To the editor,

A few weeks ago, a writer challenged my letter to the editor. The average blue-collar worker, baby boomers average \$1223 per month from social security. Correction; the \$3,874 plus housing, medical taxpayer dollars come from welfare programs not social security, my mistake.

Regardless, Democrats open border State/ Federal taxpayer burden will cost taxpayers billions. Refer to HHRG-118-JU01-Wstate-CamarotaS-20240111 taxpayer dollars spent on illegals. The migrants the writer met I bet came into this country legally.

I reached out to get information from many writers' concerns regarding Medicare/Medicaid from H.R.1 legislation. Tina Smith's office plead the 5th. Pete Stauber's office sent me the facts directly from "Council of economic advisors"

Myth: Just tax breaks for millionaires Fact: Bill will add up to \$13,800 for the working-class family of four per year. Millionaires pay the majority of federal taxes (Tax Foundation).

Myth: Kicks families off of Medicaid and SNAP. Fact: This legislation strengthens Medicaid and SNAP for those who rely on it; pregnant women, children, seniors, folks with disabilities, low-income families by eliminating waste fraud and abuse specifically, removing illegals. HR-1 bill enforcing work, volunteering, or education requirements for able-body adults without children to 20 hours a week. On July 23, 2025, local news reported millions of Medicaid fraud paid in Minnesota. Bill Clinton did the same with welfare reform bill, work requirements, able-body adults must be employed to receive their welfare check. Thanks Bill Clinton. Welfare needs to be completely overhauled.

Myth: Bill cuts Medicare. Fact: This bill does not touch Medicaid. Go ahead and fact check. Demo-

crats currently have a 19% approval rating. Division started when Trump threw his hat into the political arena from Democrats. Career Repub-

lican/Democrat politicians created a \$36 trillion deficit. It was time for a government shakedown. Trump in six months created great trade deals, inflation stabilized even with tariffs, second quarter GDP up 3%, two trillion international investments and growing,113 billion FY2025 tariff revenues.

**Jerry Grell Cambridge** 

#### Help protect our voting rights

#### To the editor.

Our rights are not guaranteed — they must be protected. That's why a group of concerned residents is coming together to form a local chapter of the League of Women Voters in Isanti County, and we're calling on our neighbors to join us.

At a time when voting rights are under attack across the country and misinformation clouds the truth, we believe it is more important than ever to stand up for the values that protect all of us: fair elections, equal representation, and access to trustworthy, nonpartisan information.

The League of Women Voters has a long history of defending democracy and advancing civil rights. Our local chapter will carry on that mission right here at home — by watching how decisions are made, asking tough questions, and ensuring that no one is left behind in the demo-

If you care about your rights — the right to vote, the right to be heard, the right to fair and transparent government — then now is the time to act. Join us as we build a space for civic engagement, advocacy, and education in Isanti County.

Our first public meeting is scheduled for August 9, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the East Central Regional Library, Opportunity Room, and we invite everyone to be at the table.

Democracy only works if we do.

Karin L. Becklin-Greene Isanti County League of Women Voters Organizing **Committee** 

### **Your Best Source for Community Information**

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Noon Monday

AN EDITION OF ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

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# Rooted in community, committed to every learner

s the first days of a new school year draw closer, excitement is building across our community. Educators are putting the finishing touches on buildings and classrooms. Leaders are



Communi-

Christina Thayer Anderson finalizing schedules and preparing for student welcomes. Bus drivers, custodians, food service staff, support teams, coaches, community education staff, and countless others are getting ready to greet each and every Bluejacket with care and purpose. From our youngest Bluejackets in ECFE to the graduates of 2026,

learning and growth. At the heart of our work is a simple truth: strong schools and strong communities go hand in hand. Our schools thrive when we work in partnership with families, community members, and local organizations. We are guided by your voiceconversations at every event from

we are thrilled to welcome back

our learners and families for what

promises to be a meaningful year of

parent-teacher conferences to summer community events, feedback in surveys, committees and advisory councils, and the hopes and dreams you share with us throughout the year. We especially see this in Community Education, where programs are shaped by what our community seeks and values. Whether it's enrichment classes, early childhood programming, or adult education, these offerings reflect shared priorities and a commitment to lifelong learning for

Public education is a promise. It's the promise that every student—regardless of background, ability, or life circumstance—deserves access to opportunity, support, and high-quality learning, every day. We take that promise seriously. We are committed to serving all learners and all families, just as they are. We meet learners where they are, and we walk with them toward their goals.

That means supporting not just academic growth, but the social, emotional, and developmental needs of the whole child. We believe in building welcoming environments, strong partnerships with families, and wraparound supports to ensure every learner can thrive. Our educators are mentors, advocates, and partners in your child's journey.

Our schools are deeply woven into the fabric of this community. They are more than places of learning—they are hubs of connection, support, and inspiration. Whether you're a classroom volunteer, a lifelong learner in a Community Education course, a grandparent cheering from the stands, or a neighbor who simply believes in the power of education, you are part of our story. You remind us that our mission extends beyond the school day and beyond the classroom, enriching lives and strengthening our entire community.

This year, as we continue our commitment to educate, empower, and inspire every student, every day, we invite you to stay connected. Not sure how to get connected? Visit our Volunteer with Us website www.c-ischools.org/community/volunteer or send us an email dist-communications@c-ischools.org. We need you! Your influence and your support matters. Your engagement makes us stronger. And your belief in the power of public education helps every Bluejacket shine. We are proud to serve this community, honored to be your advocates, and grateful to be your partners. It's going to be a great year!

Chirstina Thayer Anderson is director of Community Education of Cambridge-Isanti Schools. She can be reached at 763.689.6220 or canderson1@c-ischools.org.



STEVE DEWEYIIUTAH STATE UNIVERYSITY BUGWOOD.ORG

Siberian Elm leaves are alternate and toothed

Extension

**Gardener** 

**Tatting** 

# Siberian Elm a highly invasive species

've been noticing a lot of new growth in an area near my home that was for several years a horse pasture. So far this year, it has quickly been populated by dozens of "new" shrubs that I now know are the very invasive Siberian Elm plants. And recently I've noticed many of

> that same plant growing on roadsides that haven't been mowed. Walking along my own street who's borders are rarely mowed, I see this plant becoming more and more prevalent. And once you notice it, you start seeing it along roadsides and open grassland everywhere.

Some quick facts about this plant are:

- It's seed germination is very high
- It quickly dominates disturbed prairies and takes over.
- 3. It grows in areas with poor soil and low moisture.
- 4. It has an extensive root system but young plants are pulled easily.
- 5. It is a prolific seed producer.

6. It can cross pollinate with native elms.

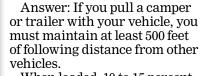
There are various methods of control. One is Herbicide control. That can be done by cutting the stem and applying glyphosate or triclopyr to the cut stump. Oil-based triclopyr ester products can also be sprayed along the base of an un-cut stem, coating all sides of the lower 12-18 inches of the main stem. These are systemic herbicides that are taken up by plants and move within the plant, which can kill leaves, stems, and roots.

You can find more information on the Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture web site under Siberian elm (Ulmus pumila) Chisago County Master Gardeners is part of a collaboration between Chisago County and The University of Minnesota Extension to deliver practical education and research you can use at home, at work and in your community. You can reach Chisago County Extension services by email at mnext-chisago@umn.edu or by phone at 651-277-0151.

# The basics of safe trailer towing

uestion: I see a lot of motorists pulling campers and trailers that don't have experience or simply don't know what they are doing. I see some crashes that I suspect are due to this. Can you talk about pulling campers

and trailers?



When loaded, 10 to 15 percent of the trailer's weight should be balanced on the hitch between the trailer and vehicle. When correctly loaded, the trailer's floor should be level. After the first few miles, stop and check the hitch, tires, lights and load. Repeat this process at all rest

stops.

Ask A

**Trooper** 

Jesse Grabow

Travel at a slower speed. Many trailers have smaller wheels that turn faster than your car wheels, causing heat buildup that can lead to trailer wheel bearing failure.

Remember that the brakes on your vehicle were probably not designed to handle heavy

trailer loads. A sudden stop at high speed could flip both the trailer and the car.

Speed up carefully, using a lower gear if necessary. Maintain enough following distance to prevent the need for sudden stops. When passing other vehicles, remember the additional length of your trailer and be aware that your ability to accelerate is reduced.

Wind and rain will affect your ability to handle and control a vehicle pulling extra weight. When towing a trailer or camper in wet or windy conditions, slow down more than you would normally do in such weather.

Allow plenty of room for turns. Long trailers will swing closer to the edge of the road than your vehicle.

Pay extra attention to your vehicle's cooling system when towing extra weight. Your engine will overheat more easily in warm weather, at high speeds and in hilly areas.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on X @MSPPIO\_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

### Play Inc seeks actors for fall production

Play Inc Arts is set to return to Leader for their second Dinner Theatre production following last year's sold out production of Choose Your Heist.

This year, Play Inc will bring a heartfelt family production entitled Mom's Gift. In this comedy with a heart, Mom has been dead for 11 months and shows up at her husband's birthday party as a ghost with a mission. Like Clarence in It's A Wonderful Life, she has to accomplish a task to earn her wings. Only what the task actually is is a mystery. There are so many things to fix. The

problem is complicated by the fact that the only person who can hear or see Mom is her daughter, who has been ordered by the court to spend Dad's birthday with him as part of her Anger Management Program. One by one, the family's secrets are peeled away, revealing a shocking truth that surprises even our ghost. This is a heartwarming piece that will appeal to performers of an experiences.

To prepare the production, Play Inc is holding auditions on Saturday, August 16th from 10:00 am until Noon. The

casting needs for Mom's Gift include six actors which includes two actress's ages 20-30, an actor presenting in his 30's, and actor and an actress about 60, and actress in her 40's, an actor in his 30's and an actress in her 70's.

Performances are in late September and tickets will be on sale early next month. For a full character breakdown, rehearsal informationt, and to sign up for an audition, visit www.playincarts.org. ~ Play Inc. Arts

#### STUDENT NAMES IN THE NEWS

#### **Student Achievement Lists** Degrees

Anna Ramberg (Asian Studies and Accounting), of Cambridge, from Augustana University.

Oerto Gutierrez (Associate of Arts) of Isanti; Derek Dowell (Associate of Arts) and Katrina Page (Bachelor of Science in Homeland Security) of Cambridge; and Patrick White (Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice), Magna Cum Laude,

of North Branch, from University of Maryland Global Campus.

**Larissa Block** (Bachelor of Science, Early Childhood Education) and **Molly Siedlecki** (Bachelor of Science, Video Production), of Cambridge; Megan Vanhout (Bachelor of Science, Dietetics), of Isanti; and Brittany Kellum (Master of Science, Rehabilitation Counseling), of North Branch, from University of Wisconsin-Stout.

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Isanti Ambassador Chloe Olson shows off her cleaned pie plate during the Ambassadors Pie Eating contest. Olson ate through the entire plate of "pie" (actually chocolate pudding) and whipped cream in under one minute. For more Pie Day photos, go to www. isanti-chisagocountystar.com.



This couple and their dog enjoy their pie while relaxing in front of the city's digital sign.



Members of the Braham state tournament softball team modeled the pies being auctioned off.



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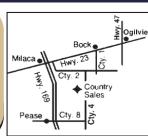


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County Star, Pine City Pioneer, North Pine County News, Kanabec County Times and Advertiser as well as being able to sell into other newspapers, shoppers and online. Must have strong phone skills, be able to multitask, be good with computers and have strong organizational skills. Wage is \$16-18/hour.



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### **GRAND OPENING ALL-CLASS REUNION**

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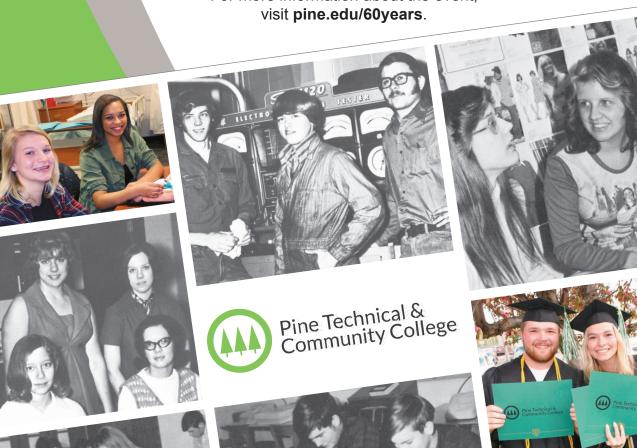
### Friday, October 10

4:00-6:00 PM

**Pine Technical & Community College** 900 Fourth Street SE, Pine City

The College invites alumni to share stories, **photos, or memories** from their time at PTCC by emailing 60years@pine.edu. Submissions will be included in a special archive featured during the celebration.

For more information about the event.



# Cambridge changes animal control services

BY BILL STICKELS III

EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Cambridge residents needing to procure their impounded pooch will now need to do so from a new

The city of Cambridge is entering into a new agreement with Michelle Russell for the city's animal control services. Russell does business as an animal controller under the name Isanti County Animal Control, along with operating an animal boarding and training business under the name On-Line Retrievers, based out of Ogilvie.

According to Cambridge Police Chief Shawn Machin, the city needed to contract with a new animal control service after Gratitude Farms, based out of East Bethel, had its interim use permit for animal control services revoked by the East Bethel City Council.

Machin recommended going with Russell as she currently has animal control contracts with both the city of Isanti and Isanti County.

"The fact that all other agencies in Isanti County currently use Isanti County Animal Control offers a regional benefit," Machin said. "It streamlines coordination, ensures continuity in procedures, and reduces confusion for residents whose pets may cross into neighboring jurisdictions."

Machin said that when looking at the number of impounds the city has had in the past year, the cost for the services should be relatively comparable. Gratitude Farms charged a flat, \$400 per month fee. Isanti County Animal Control will charge \$100 per animal, mileage reimbursement, plus \$30 per day per dog for boarding if the dog is not picked up in a timely manner. He estimated the new cost would be between \$435

Council member Aaron Berg, who previously worked for the city of East Bethel, acknowledged his familiarity with the contentious relationship between the city and the owner of Gratitude Farms and the controversy surrounding the city's revocation of its IUP.

"As you might know, social media has accused me of being on 'Team Tammy' (Gimpl, the owner of Gratitude Farms)," Berg said. "Therefore, I would like to make a motion to approve the animal control agreement with Michelle Russell."

"I would second that, and I am on 'Team Tammy," Council member Bob Shogren said. "I think she's a good business person. And I believe the city of East Bethel has screwed her over."

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **APARTMENT COMPLEX ON PAUSE**

It looks like the construction of an apartment complex just north of the old Perkins Restaurant property will be put on hold for at least a half-year.

According to Cambridge City Administrator Evan Vogel, Reuter Walton, the developer of the proposed complex, was unsuccessful in July in obtaining Minnesota Management and Budget bonding, despite the city being willing to act as a conduit for that bond. Vogel said Reuter Walton will now have to wait until December to make a second attempt at receiving MMB



The Hardy family of Rust Hill Ranch, Chisago County Farm Family of the Year 2025 recipient.



Pam Streed of Red Pine Winery Isanti County Farm Family of the Year 2025 recipient.

# Isanti and Chisago county families named Farm Families of the Year

Two Isanti and Chisago county families have been recognized as 2025 Farm Families of the Year by the University of Minnesota for their contributions to agriculture and their communities.

The Farm Family Recognition Program, coordinated by University of Minnesota Extension, the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences, and the College of Veterinary Medicine, has honored Minnesota farmers since 1979. The awards are presented each August at Farmfest.

County has been in the family for more than 100 years. Pam Streed's great-grandparents purchased the property after emigrating from Sweden. In the 1950s, her grandparents planted rows of red pine trees across the

The Streed farm in Isanti

chapter, Red Pine Winery. About 15 years ago, Pam and her mother attended a University

land. Those trees later inspired

the name for the farm's next

of Minnesota seminar on growing wine grapes. The sandy soil seemed a good fit, so they planted a test plot. By 2014, the Streeds expanded to a full vineyard covering five acres with five cold-hardy grape varieties. All work, from pruning to picking, is done by hand. The family uses sustainable practices and drip irrigation to maintain vine health. The wine is made and bottled onsite, sold in a small tasting room and at local stores.

The winery also gives back by hosting community events, supporting fundraisers, contributing to university research and making its space available to local nonprofits. Pam's mother lived on the farm until her death last year at age 94.

Becky and Matt Hardy of Rust Hill Ranch in Chisago County were also honored. Becky grew up on her family's farm, homesteaded in 1919 by her Norwegian ancestors, the Rustebakke family. In 2021, the Hardys

started Rust Hill Ranch, a 40-acre small-scale, diversified farm producing grass fed lamb and beef, forest-raised pork, and pastured chicken and eggs.

The Hardys raise animals using traditional methods, rotating them through pastures to improve soil health and support natural ecosystems. Matt handles the livestock while Becky manages a large garden, coordinates events and sells at the local farmers market. Their children, Bennett and Avery, help with chores.

Matt serves on the East Central Chapter board of the Sustainable Farming Association and the Chisago County Soil and Water Board. He also works to connect farmers with resources through USDA programs and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, advocating for policies that strengthen small farms and rural communities. ~ University of Minnesota

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Robert Sylvester of Stacy received a new roof through the Roof Deployment Project.

# Stacy Army veteran receives new roof through national program

Robert Sylvester, a U.S. Army veteran, received a new roof Monday, July 28, as part of a national initiative recognizing military service.

The project was coordinated through the Owens Corning Roof Deployment Project, which partnered with Purple Heart Homes to assist veterans in need of home repairs. Advantage Construc-

tion Inc., a Minnesota-based contractor, handled the installation and provide labor at no cost. Roofing materials were donated by the Owens Corning Foun-

Since launching in 2016, the Roof Deployment Project has provided new roofs to more than 675 military families across the country. ~Owens Corning Foundation

### How powerboats impact lakes below the surface

While large surface waves from powerboats are a staple of recreational watersports, a new University of Minnesota study shows that underwater turbulence, especially from wakeboats, can damage lakebed ecosystems.

Researchers at the University's St. Anthony Falls Laboratory studied the impacts of powerboats over the 2022 and 2023 field seasons. Using acoustic sensors and sediment samples, the team measured water pressure, velocity and quality at two lake locations and depths.

The study tested seven recreational boats under typical cruising and surfing conditions. Findings showed all powerboats generate turbulence

that can disturb lakebeds. Wakeboats, in particular, can resuspend sediment, releasing phosphorus that may trigger algae blooms.

To minimize impact, researchers recommend operating all powerboats in at least 10 feet of water, and wakeboats in at least 20 feet during surfing.

"Being mindful of where and how you boat makes a huge difference," said Jeff Marr, study co-author. "Deep water operation and avoiding shallow areas helps protect our lakes.

The study, supported by over 200 donors and the Environmental Natural Resources Trust Fund, will continue through 2025, examining wind-driven wave effects on lake ecosystems.

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#### ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORTS

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on July 20 - Aug. 2. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Mason James Guernsey (DOB 09/27/1990) of Isanti, was charged July 21 with one count of Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct-1st Degree-Penetration-Use force as defined in section 609.341; one count of Domestic Assault - By Strangulation; and one count of Domestic Assault. Mohamed Aden Amin (DOB 04/09/1984) of

Minneapolis, was charged July 21 with one count of Drugs - 2nd Degree - Possess 50 grams or more narcotic - not cocaine, heroin or meth; and one count of Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

Caden David Lilley (DOB 12/29/2004) of Cambridge, was charged July 22 with Threats of Violence - Display/exhibit/brandish replica/BB gun; Reckless Disregard Risk.

Joshua Wolfgang Lanerd (DOB 08/04/1995) of Rush City, was charged July 23 with Predatory Offender - Knowingly commits act or fails to fulfill registration requirement.

Francine Carol Berg (DOB 03/20/1978) of Isanti, was charged July 28 with Threats of Violence - Reckless Disregard Risk.

Andrew James Lapinski (DOB 08/13/1988) of North Branch, was charged July 28 with Threats of Violence - Reckless Disregard Risk. **Brandon Theodore Endicott (DOB** 

10/24/1985) of Ogilvie, was charged July 28 with Domestic Assault. Sandra Ann Anderson (DOB 05/26/1974)

of Cambridge, was charged July 29 with Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent.

#### CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORTS

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on July 20 - Aug. 2. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Danial Atherton Hess (DOB 05/02/1988) of Wyoming, was charged July 21 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp. Sherry Ann Hess (DOB 12/03/1962) of Shafer, was charged July 21 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Sale - Schedule IV controlled substance

Anna Marie Ganley (DOB 04/12/1989) of Wyoming, was charged July 21 with Drugs - 5th

Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp. Amie Jo Phillips (DOB 04/27/1998) of Crosby, was charged July 21 with Drugs - 5th Degree

- Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp. Jennifer Skye Bild (DOB 01/24/1974) of

Forest Lake, was charged July 24 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Tracy Lee Olstad (DOB 07/27/1972) of Shafer, was charged July 24 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.







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Ryan, Savannah Ekstedt, with Sgt. Dave Janssen presenting

L-R Officer Kyle Lund, Officer Duane Southworth, Tanner

L-R Tanner Ryan, Randy Nelson, and Savannah Ekstedt.



L-R Tanner Ryan, Randy Nelson, Savannah Ekstedt, Officer Kyle Lund, and Officer Duane Southworth.

# Four honored with Life Saving Award

guide

The North Branch Police Department honored four individuals with the Life Saving Award on Sunday, July 27, for their roles in saving a man's life earlier

The ceremony took place at the North Branch Fire Hall and recognized the swift efforts of two automotive shop employees and two police officers following a medical emergency on Friday,

That morning began like any other at Russell's Automotive in North Branch. With owner Jason Russell away on a family vacation, lead mechanic Randv Nelson was overseeing operations with help from two recent high school graduates, Tanner Ryan and Savannah

Nelson suffered a major heart attack

during the workday. Ryan and Ekstedt discovered him unresponsive and without a pulse. They immediately called 911 and began CPR, continuing until North Branch Police Officers Kyle Lund and Duane Southworth arrived to take

Nelson was transported by ambulance to the North Branch Fire Department, where he was airlifted to a Twin Cities hospital. He required three defibrillation shocks en route before being stabilized.

While the recovery has been slow and, at times, painful, Nelson said he is grateful for those who acted quickly and gave him a second chance at life.

# WORSHIP

#### **Baptist**

the awards.

#### First Baptist Church

304 S. Main St., Cambridge, 763-689-1173. Call the church office or visit our website for current service times and programs. firstbaptistcambridge.org

#### North Isanti Baptist Church

Lead Pastor: Travis Blake 2248 313th Ave. NE, Cambridge, MN 55008. www.nibchurch.com Email: nibchurch@msn.com 763-689-3576. 8:30am Worship Service (traditional

10:45am Worship Service (contempo-

rary style)

#### Springvale Baptist

Pastor Zane Hall 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Sunday Worship Wednesday: 6:00 pm Band of Brothers Thursday: 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study 410 County Road 6 NW Stanchfield, MN 55080 763-689-1373 springvalechurchmn.org

#### **Sunrise Bible Church**

41300 Second St., North Branch, Pastor David Stertz. Sunday school for all ages 9:30am, Sunday morning Worship 10:30am, Sunday evening 6pm, Wed. Kids 4 Truth & Bible studies for all ages 6:30pm. More info at sunrisebiblechurch.org or 651-674-4107.

#### **Catholic**

#### **Christ the King**

305 Fern Street N Cambridge, MN 55008 763-689-1221 Friday 8:30am Saturday 4pm email brigitte@isantiacc.org Website: isantiacc.org

#### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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#### **Evangelical Covenant**

#### **Karmel Covenant Church**

5799 County Road 6, Princeton, MN 763-389-3169 Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am Karmelcov.org

#### **Evangelical Free**

#### Dale Evangelical Free Church

45268 Brunswick Rd. Harris, MN 763-689-5817 Pastor/Teacher Dr. Harvey Martin. Sunday School – all ages 9am. Sunday Service 10:25am. www.daleefc.com

#### Kost Evangelical Free Church

37405 Kost Trail, North Branch, MN -Jct. of CR 11 & CR 72 651-583-3281 · Kostchurch.org Pastor losh Jensen Sunday worship service 9:30 am followed by fellowship & Sunday School Youth group Wednesdays 7 pm Respawn Gaming Ministry for teen boys – 2 Fridays per month.

#### Oxlip Evangelical Free Church

29237 Roanoke St NW, Isanti (1 mile West of Cty 5 and Hwy 47) 763-444-5134 oxlip.org 9am Worship Service 10:45am Christian Education Awana children's ministry Wednesdays Bible Class 10:30am 6:30 to 8pm

#### Wyanett Evangelical Free Church

12 Miles West of Cambridge on Hwy 95 www.wyanettevangelicalfree.org Pastor Bruce Talso 763-221-4469 Sunday School 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Mondays - Women's Evening Bible

#### Study 6:00 pm Tuesdays - Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm

Wednesdays - Midweek Bible Study/ Praver 2:00 pm Thursdays - Women's Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m. at Heart Matters Ministry, 403 1st St. Princeton A LOVING CHURCH PROCLAIMING A

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#### Calvary Evangelical Lutheran **Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)**

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my.calvaryofrushpoint.org. Office: calvaryrushpoint@gmail.com

#### **Cambridge Lutheran Church** (ELCA)

621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge 763-689-1211 Traditional service: 8:30 a.m. Contemporary service: 9:30 a.m. www.cambridgelutheran.org -Facebook: fb.com/CambridgeLutheran Fall

#### Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)

32962 Vickers St. NE, Cambridge, 763-689-5333 Pastor Samuel L. Biebert. Sunday Worship 9am, Sunday School/ www.christcambridge.com

#### First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

43779 Gates Ave., Harris 651-674-4498. Handicapped accessible.

Pastor Vicki VanderVegt Sunday Worship 9:20am Coffee & fellowship following service

Email: firstlutheran@q.com www.firstlutheranharris.org

#### Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

1155 Joy Circle, Cambridge 763-689-4355 www.joylutheran.net Pastor James Ritter 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

#### Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)

6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch 651-674-5576 Pastor Glen Kleppe Sunday Worship 8am www.livingbranch.org email: office@livingbranch.org

#### Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

3921 277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040 763-444-5315 Pastor Sue Olson All Are Welcome! Sunday Schedule Worship: 9:00 am Communion the 1st & 3rd Sunday

#### Salem Lutheran Church

4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017. 763-689-1687 Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 resuming in the YouTube: tinyurl.com/CambridgeLutheran Coffee fellowship after worship

#### Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

www.salemlutherandalbo.com

8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958, North Branch, MN 55056 (9 mi, E, of Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one block on Erickson Road). 651-674-4606. Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.sllchurch.org

Email: sll.church@gmail.com 8:15am Worship with fellowship folSt. John Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) 28168 Jodrell St. NE, North Branch

Located 6 mi. E. of Isanti on Co. Rd. 5: (or 7 mi. W. of North Branch on Co. Rd. 5): then 1-1/2 mi. S. on Co. Rd. 12, 763-444-5988, Paul Anderson, Pastor; Sunday 9am Worship; 10:20am Adult Bible Study; Thursday 6:30pm Bible study. Email: stjohnluther an @att.net

#### St. John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

980 West 4th Street, Rush City 320-358-3623 Sunday 8:45am Worship Monday 10am Longer Look Bible Study stjohnsrushcity.org

#### St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

400 SE 8th St., (Isanti #4 E.), PO Box 37. Braham 320-396-3103 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible 10:30am Worship. ststephensbraham.org

#### Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch 651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon In person and online worship 9 am worship 10 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour 9 am Sunday School www.trinitynorthbranch.org office@trinitynorthbranch.org

#### Methodist

#### Common Ground - A United **Methodist Community**

404 Cypress St. North, Cambridge. 763-689-2071. Pastors Amelia & Andrew Buschena. Sunday 9:30am Worship. Livestream of services and more info at commongroundumc.org. Everyone Counts!

#### **Non-Denominational**

#### **Grace Gospel Church**

37126 MN-65, Stanchfield, MN 55080 763-308-5618 Coffee fellowship: 9:45am Service: 10:00am Pastor: Tim Miller www.gracegospelmn.org info@gracegospelchurchmn.com Located just north of Grandy on 65, across from East Central Diesel, with three large crosses near the road. We look forward to having you!

#### **Journey of Faith**

Bible based worship. 651-600-9878. faiththroughaction777@gmail.com Sunday fellowship 9am Worship & Youth Ministry 10am Come as you are. All welcome. Junction Bowl. 123 Cajima Street, NE, Isanti. Refreshments served.

#### JustPassinthru IHS Ministries

Becoming Agape – Allowing the Holy Spirit to transform lives 763-228-0883 Meeting at Crossroads Commons 1001 1st Ave. E., Suite 100, Cambridge justpassinihs@gmail.com

Justpassinthru.net Pastor Tom Bakke Sunday mornings at 10 am Sunday nights and Wednesdays

#### **Pentecostal**

#### The Journey New Life Church 601 Heritage Blvd NE, Isanti

Pastor David L. Willis. Sunday 10am Worship & the Word & Kids' Church. Sunday 6pm Family Worship. Wednesday 7pm Family Breakout Classes. 763-689-4471

Thejourneynlc.org

This directory is paid for and made possible by the participating churches listed. Proud to sponsor and salute our local churches





www.MinnesotaEquipment.com 763-444-8873



763-689-3360



#### To Advertise in this Spot, **Contact:**

### **Kellie Champion**

Classified Ad Consultant 651-407-1237 Email: sales@countystar.com

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR AUGUST 7, 2025 CountyStar.com

#### **CITY OF NORTH BRANCH ANNUAL DISCLOSURE**

Annual Disclosure of Tax Increment Districts for the Year Ended December 31, 2024

TIF District Name:	Prairie Partners Venture TIF - ESSBY	Redev Dist 2 Gateway	TIF 2005-A
Current net tax capacity	161,768	176,339	134,318
Original net tax capacity	4,456	10,411	10,939
Captured net tax capacity	157,312	165,928	123,379
Principal and interest payments due during current year	241,687	177,800	0
Tax increment received	178,490	198,524	140,178
Tax increment expended	242,143	179,504	270,995
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	Jul-25	Dec-00	Jul-25
Date of required decertification	12/31/2038	12/31/2025	12/31/2031

TIF District Name:	TIF 2017-1 Flashing by Design	TIF 2018-1 Willow Grove	TIF 2020-1 Everlong Holdings
Current net tax capacity	23,206	15,225	23,386
Original net tax capacity	2,027	623	101
Captured net tax capacity	21,179	14,602	23,285
Principal and interest payments due during current year	25,070	9,035	(
Tax increment received	26,250	16,415	28,271
Tax increment expended	8,380	14,202	1,180
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	Jul-25	Jun-25	Jul-25
Date of required decertification	12/31/2028	12/31/2046	12/31/2030

C00000 000000	TIF 2023-1	
TIF District Name:	Boka Haven	
Current net tax capacity	0	
Original net tax capacity	0	
Captured net tax capacity	0	
Principal and interest payments due during current year	0	
Tax increment received	0	
Tax increment expended	0	
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	Jul-26	
Date of convirad description	10/01/0051	

Additional information regarding each district may be obtained from

Sharon Wright, Finance Director 6408 Elm Street, P.O. Box 910 North Branch, MN 55056 (651) 674-8113

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 7, 2025

#### **NOTICES**

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Economic Cambridge Development Authority has developed its Annual PHA Plan and the 5 Year Capital Fund Plan for Fiscal Year beginning 2026 in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Authority's Office located at 121 South Fern St., Cambridge, MN. The Authority's hours of operation are Monday through Thursday between 8 AM and 2 PM. A public hearing will be held at 5:45 PM on September 15, 2025 at the Cambridge City Hall located at 300 Third Avenue NE.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 31; Aug. 7, 2025

#### PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF ISANTI PLANNING COMMISSION Public Hearing on August 19th,

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, August 19, 2025, at 6:00pm at the Isanti City Hall located at 110 First Avenue NW; the Planning Commission will hold

a Public Hearing on the following

Inc. to renew an Interim Use Permit for 303 Credit Union Drive NE, Suite 5 to continue the operation of a tattoo parlor under City Ordinance 445 Section 21.

Jared Haas Associate Planner

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 7, 2025

#### ASSUMED NAME OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA

AND REGISTRATION

I, Steve Simon, Secretary of State the chapter of Minnesota Statutes listed below with the Office of the Secretary of State on the date listed

1) Request by Idle Hands Tattoo

BY ORDER OF THE CITY OF ISANTI, MINNESOTA.

#### **SECRETARY OF STATE** CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Existence and

of Minnesota, do certify that: The entity listed below was filed under below and that this entity or filing is registered at the time this certificate

Name: Heritage Plumbing Date Filed: 07/25/2025

File Number: 1570707300025 Minnesota Statutes, Chapter: 333 Home Jurisdiction: Minnesota This certificate has been issued on: 07/28/2025

Steve Simon

Secretary of State State of Minnesota Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 31; Aug. 7, 2025

#### **PROBATE**

STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY DISTRICT COURT 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FILE NUMBER: 30-PR-25-56 CASE TYPE: INFORMAL PROBATE

In re the Estate of Daniel E

Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative ...
Creditors (Ancillary)
ALL INTERESTED

PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of

the above-named Decedent's

Last Will dated January 21, 2021 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Name: Nicole Tebo Address: S528 Stephenson MI 49887

as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred. Probate Registrar:

Date: 7/23/2025

Court Administrator: Erin Boettcher

Date: 7/23/2025

Attorney Personal Representative

CLARK A JOSLIN Attorney License No.: 52802 221 NW 2nd Avenue Cambridge MN 55008 Telephone: 763-689-4101

E-Mail: cjoslin@joslinmoore.com Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 31; Aug. 7, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY DISTRICT COURT 10TH JUDICIAL

DISTRICT COURT FILE NUMBER: 30-PR-25-57 CASE TYPE:

**INFORMAL PROBATE** In re the Estate of Pamela Ann

Gorsegner, Deceased Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to

#### INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that ar application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's

Last Will dated September 4,

has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Self-Represented Litigant Sharon Lyn Brown

Address 303 Main ST SW, Preston MN 55965

Email 9712\_brown@outlook.com Phone Number 763-516-0104

as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber. lease or distribute real estate

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Probate Registrar Date 7/24/2025

Court Administrator Erin Boettcher Date <u>7/24/2025</u>

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 7, 14,

#### **FORECLOSURES**

#### PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION
OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY
OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR
WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 10, 2020 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT MORTGAGE: \$238,400.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Larry D. Byars and Barbara F. Byars, Husband and Wife, and Lorrel Deanne Dewanz An Unmarried Woman, as joint tenants MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Bay Equity LLC, its successors and assigns TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#:1006166-SERVICER: BSI 0004121453-8 Financial Services LENDER: Bay Equity LLC. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Isanti County Minnesota, Recorder, on December 11, 2020 as Document No. A499107 ASSIGNED TO: SERVIS ONE, INC DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES by an Assignment of Mortgage dated

01/15/2025, recorded on 01/17/2025 as Document No. A535069. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Block 5, Rum River Meadows 2nd Addition, Isanti County, Minnesota. PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1206 Rum River Drive SW, Isanti, MN 55040 PROPERTY I.D: 16.111.0310 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: Two Hundred Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred Seven and 80/100 (\$230,707.80) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all preforeclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/ or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00AM on September 23, 2025 PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff's Office, 2440 Main Street South, Cambridge MN 55008 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on March 23, 2026, or the next business day if March 23, 2026 holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." Dated: August 7, 2025 SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES Randall S. Miller & Dr.; Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Edinburgh Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: 952-232-0052 Our File No. 23MN00045-3 A-4849246 08/07/2025, 08/14/2025, 08/21/2025, 08/28/2025, 09/04/2025, 09/11/2025 Published in the Isanti-Chisago

County STAR on Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28; Sept. 4, 11, 2025

#### 102 Services

ing repairs, 25 years experience. 320-396-4152 Contact Rosemary. Braham

Get up to 50 channels free. monthly No charge. Dave's Antenna. and 320-515-0270.

Minnesota Services: office/commercial cleaning and painting call 320-436-5221 for a bid. Local family owned business with over 25 years experience

Small engine repair, EETC Certified full service (lawnmowers, trimmers, snowblowpowersports) SAVE 15-30% Mora, MN 320-364-0509

PLACE A CLASSIFIED TODAY 763.689.1181

**Tree Service** 

removal, trimming, stump grinding (even if we don't cut your trees!), hazard limbs, vard friendly equiprience. Insured. Call for free estimate 763-443-2631

Need a Legal Published? Call 763.689.1181

#### Central Boilers. HDX EPA certified **OUTDOOR WOOD**

P&G Outdoor: niors Fall Lawn Cleanup Special. Lawn mowing, rough terrain mowing, tree branch waste removal, pole saw work, trail grooming, odd jobs. 320-679-3375 or 608-547-3054.

109

Lawn Care

# 112

Tree Fellers - Tree ment. 25+ years expe-

#### low as \$230 per month! Call Rasmussen Construction Inc. 612-

FURNACE. \$2,000

Tax Credit. Prices as

805-2362 150 **Help Wanted** 

115

Heating & Cooling

Centennial School District is hiring paras for all grade levels for the 2025-2026 school year. Positions may include supporting students one-on-one or in small groups, assisting spe-

cial education students. lunchroom, and recess duty. Starting wage is \$20.00/hour. Visit isd12.org/joinour-team to apply.

#### 150 Help Wanted

City of Forest Lake NOW HIRING Building Official to lead building inspections division. Salary range \$48.04 -\$59.80/DOQ. Please submit resume, cover letter and city application to: Abbi Wittman, Community Development Director at: Abbi.Wittman@ci.forest-lake.mn.us

White Bear Country Inn is hiring Shuttle Driver. Shifts may vary depending on need. Please, call Jacqlyn 651-429-5393

#### 201 **Child Care**

**Deb's Tiny Tots** experience. Infant thru school ages Certified CPR/First Aid. Braham. 763-333-4990.

#### **302** Feed/Seed/Hay

For Sale – hay, mixed ses, also \$4/bale cocks. 320-515-0270.

#### 351 **Antiques**

Wanted Antiques and agates. Central Minnesota. 651-238-0909.

#### 358 **Firewood**

16-Inch seasoned mixed hardwood. Two cord loads \$475. 20inch outdoor stove mixed hardwood, cord loads \$450. Two cord loads 16" birch or oak \$475. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-

#### 362 Miscellaneous

Buying sports card Sunday, collections call Tom 612-701-7396

Looking for that perfect gift for an anniversary or birthday? Think about giving a subscription to the Kanabec County Times. Call our office today (320)679-2661 to start delivery - we accept Visa or Mastercard!

### NOTICED.

Reach potential customers easily with a display ad.

TO PLACE AN AD CALL OR STOP IN! Isanti-Chisago County Star 651-407-1237

**OR EMAIL** sales@countystar.com

#### 401 **Auctions**

Aug. 10:02 a.m. Iom Phyllis Junnila, Owners. Kanabec County Fairgrounds, 701 So. Union St., Mora. Boat, motors, pontoon, electric boat lift, pool table, craft lumber, sporting household. items, tools, much misc. See website. Auctions by Norby, Col. Kevin C. Norby, Auctioneer, Lic # 33-03. midwestauctions.com/norby, facebook.com/auctionsbynorby1, auctionsby norby.com, 320-279-0712.

#### 404 **Garage Sales**

Multi-family garage sale Thursday 8/7 through Saturday 8/9. Past liquor store, off of Dala Lane. Furniture, kids. household. Watch for signs

#### **Deputy Sheriff**

Performs intermediate work patrolling county roads observing for law violations, enforcing laws and ordinances, responding to calls for service, and completing required paperwork and reports. Other benefits: Entry Level/Lateral Deputy Hiring Bonus, take home squad car, yearly uniform allowance, and lateral deputy



sick leave bonus program. \$33.88 to \$44.61 DOQ.

Apply online at www.chisagocountymn.gov by August 31, 2025

Place an ad today! Call 763.689.1181 or email sales@countystar.com to place a classified ad!



# **North Branch** Area Chamber of Commerce

## 651-674-4077 • 6063 Main Street, Ste B. North Branch, MN 55056



August 2025





**LOCATION: Flickabirds Resort** 50091 Clover Trail Rush City, MN

**CATERED BY: Flickabirds** 

**SPEAKER: Chris Swanson** 

TOPIC: Strengthing, supporting and empowering entrepenuers to succeed

AUGUST 12TH LUNCHEON 11:30AM - 1:00PM CONTACT@NORTHBRANCHCHAMBER.COM 651-674-4077



register at northbranchchamber.com & network with us!

- LRS PORTABLES
- MAYTAG LAUNDRY
- TLG OUTDOOR SERVICES, LLC
- CHISAGO COUNTY HRA
- NORTHBROOK CHURCH
  - VIKING COCA-COLA
- NORTH BRANCH GOLF COURSE
- ANDERSON & KOCH FORD
- PRISM DESIGN & EMBROIDERY
- RE/MAX CATHY & ZAK CARCHEDI **ARROWHEAD TRANSIT** 
  - MIDCO
  - **-**LAKES REGION EMS
- **USA NORTHLAND DIRECTORIES**
- OPTIONS FOR WOMEN OF CHISAGO COUNTY
  - POST HASTE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
  - EDWARD JONES ADAM CABRERA ANYTIME FITNESS NB
- BOZEMAN-NEWTON INSUARANCE AGENCY • FOCUS FINANCIAL
- LAKES & PINES COMMUNITY ACTION COUNIL

- ACCESS CHURCH

- JONES CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
  - RISE TREE SERVICE
  - FLICKABIRDS RESORT
  - **-** COLORFUL BEGINNINGS
  - CLEAR CREEK DENTAL
- BENJAMIN FRANKLIN PLUMBING
  - EAST CENTRAL ENERGY
    - PIZZA PUB
  - IMAGE CONTRACTING
    - ECM PUBLISHERS
- BULRUSH GOLF CLUB WOMEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE
  - LAMPERT LUMBER

■ ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR ■ WAYNE'S GREENHOUSE & GARDEN CENTER

- VISION PRO OPTICAL
- RUDDY'S RENTAL
- HERMANN INSURANCE OLSON POWER & EQUIPMENT
- WILD RIVER STATE PARK
- JOSH LEONHARDT / COLDWELL
  - PARKER SATROM LAW
  - TOM KADLEC CHEVROLET
    - VFW POST 6424

Thank you for renewing your membership with the Chamber!



Annual Golf Classic

FORE G'S X NORTH BRANCH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



REGISTRATION OPEN & LIMITEDC ALL FORE G'S AT 612-360-6300 TO SIGN UP

SAVE THE DATE THURSDAY AUGUST 21ST, 2025

### North Branch Area Chamber of Commerce Fall Harvest Festival **Business** Expo Saturday | September 27th | 10am-3pm New North Branch Area High School **Food Trucks** Entertainment Giveaways Variety of Vendors & Businesses Family Friendly Enjoy a colorful mix of arts, crafts, goodies, local businesses, entertainment, and more. Whether you're here to shop, snack, connect, or just soak up the season, this is the one event you won't want to miss!

FREE ADMISSION

Indoor & Outdoor Event

FREE: for chamber members

\$10 for non-chamber members



# Morning Networking

Morning coffee networking is an informal meeting over coffee where people can connect, exchange ideas, and find opportunities. It can be a vital tool for career advancement, mentoring, and networking. JOIN US!

Tuesday August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 8:00-9:00am Hosted by NorthBrook Church 6943 St. Croix Trail North Branch, MN 55056











For Member News, Chamber Focus, Community Updates and other information check out our website at www.northbranchchamber.com

Please thank these businesses for sponsoring the North Branch Area **Chamber News!** 

Bring this ad in for \$10 OFF Tire Rotation Chisago City North Branch 651-213-6550 Enter from North Ave & Chisago City Water Tow NE Corner of Hwy 35 & 95

East Store - 5846 Old Main St. Mon - Sat 9am-9pm • Sun 11am-5pm West Store - 5466 St. Croix Trail Mon - Sat 9am-9pm • Sun 11am-6pm 651-674-4082 Check out our website for the latest news & specials

www.northbranchliquors.com

NORTH BRANCH LIQUORS







I-35, North Branch, MN

651-674-4465

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Forest Lake 651-464-7368 **North Branch** 

651-674-7000 U-HAUL

651-674-5902

www.ruddysrental.com www.ruddyspartytown.com