

HOME STRETCH:

Bluejacket, Viking winter sports regular seasons shortly reaching an end.

PAGE 8

Feeding bellies and feeding souls

C-I Breakfast Club experiences tremendous growth in first months of existence

BY MELISSA STRAND
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

On an early Friday morning, the Cambridge Library basement fills with the sweet aroma of cinnamon rolls. Thirty volunteers are bustling about setting up breakfast for the soon-to-arrive high school students. As the 150 students from Cambridge-Isanti High School start streaming in around 7 a.m., they are greeted by volunteers offering hugs to everyone coming through the door, which are happily reciprocated. The volunteers at the C-I Breakfast Club are there to serve their youth, showing them the importance of community and how they are loved and valued.

The Breakfast Club was an idea that came to fruition through Jake and Christy Venada of St. Michael, who formed the first one in the basement of their home in 2014. According to their website, their goal was to create a space for high school students to enjoy a full breakfast and hear a teaching from the Bible. Since their first Breakfast Club, the Venadas have helped many groups start up throughout Minnesota and in other states. One of those such groups was started by Aminta

‘We need to do something so the kids know that people care about them, so there’s hope...’

Aminta Geisler
Founder, C-I Breakfast Club

Geisler in Spring Lake Park six years ago. “We took their formula and implemented it, and since then, with my nonprofit, I’ve been able to help start 10, so it’s really been fun,” stated Geisler.

A series of unfortunate situations with high school kids where depression took over was what moved Geisler and her friend to form their first Breakfast Club in Spring Lake Park. They decided to help combat these issues by creating a space where students can experience how much they are cared about in their community.

“We need to do something so the kids know that people care about them, so there’s hope. You know, they’re supposed to be the most connected generation because they have those phones. Still, the phones are actually isolating, so to be in person...and we’re really intentional about giving hugs and giving high fives, looking them in the eye and telling them we’re glad they’re here. So, by the time they leave, they know it matters to be in person and actually together, not just over a phone...and food just brings everybody together, right?” Geisler stated.

SEE BREAKFAST CLUB, PAGE 2



JAMIE NICOLE PHOTOGRAPHY | CONTRIBUTED
Aminta Geisler greets Cambridge-Isanti High School students with a big hug as they enter the C-I Breakfast Club.

Veterans Administration

eying Cambridge for new clinic

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

While nothing has been formally put to paper yet, positive signs have been sent that Cambridge might become the location of a new Veterans Administration clinic.

According to Cambridge City Administrator Evan Vogel, the VA has been looking at a number of properties within the city limits that might meet its needs for a VA clinic. Vogel said the property chosen would have to be large enough for a 20,000 to 30,000 square foot single-story building, plus at least 155 parking spaces. He explained the prop-

erty would be purchased by a private developer who would also construct the building for the VA to lease on a long-term basis.

“This is encouraging and very exciting,” Vogel said of the prospects of a VA clinic opening. “Cambridge is in a little bit of a desert as you don’t see another VA until you get up to St. Cloud, down to the metro area, or north to Duluth. This is a real opportunity to enhanced service opportunities for veterans in the area.”

While no specific timeline has been established, Vogel said the VA has set

SEE VA CLINIC, PAGE 2

Illuminate Isanti’s future dimming

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Isanti City Council is on the verge of pulling the plug on Illuminate Isanti, the city’s three-year-old Christmas lighting event, due to increasing costs and decreasing revenue.

According to Isanti Community Development Director Stephanie Hillesheim, 2024’s event, which for the first time was open the entire month of December and featured no admission fee, only garnered \$9,798.74, with \$9,000 of that coming from business sponsors and the remainder coming from donations from attendees.

At the same time, Hillesheim said the total expenses to put on the event

this year came to approximately \$60,000, meaning the city lost approximately \$50,000 putting on the event this year. Of those expenses, a majority of the cost (approximately \$39,000) came from paying Public Works staff overtime and hiring a couple of seasonal staff members exclusively for putting on the event.

Hillesheim added the staff time turned out to be higher than anticipated due to the increased amount of maintenance needed to keep the displays working properly for the entire month, plus adverse weather conditions that damaged some of the displays.

“Leaving the stuff out there for a long time just added to our hours,”

SEE ILLUMINATE, PAGE 9

1845 Old Main Street S, Cambridge, MN 55008	000 286th Lane NW, Isanti, MN 55040	4872 State Highway 23, Brook Park, MN 55007	 RE/MAX RESULTS 763.552.7477 teamlundeen.com 
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\$500,000	\$50,000	\$149,000	

BREAKFAST CLUB: Participation caused meeting to move to larger location

FROM PAGE I

STARTING C-I BREAKFAST CLUB

Having moved to the Cambridge community this past summer after her husband Ben took a position as the head football coach and science teacher at the Cambridge-Isanti High School, they felt it was essential to get involved in the community they lived in. With the help of many volunteers, Geisler launched the C-I Breakfast Club in October of this past year.

“So many people reached out and were like, ‘Are you going to start a breakfast club up here?’, and only if I could get a team together...because it really is a team effort, it’s not just one person, it’s a village,” said Geisler.

The breakfast club is 100% volunteer-funded, and all the donations go directly to purchasing food. The club relies on contributions from local businesses and community members to make this happen twice a month.

“We’ve had over 40 businesses and individuals donate to the breakfast club already, which is unbelievable and says a lot about the Cambridge community. I think they are caring and believe in their young people, so that’s been amazing,” said Geisler. It costs about \$7 to \$8 per student to provide food, which is quite an investment, with roughly 160 to 180 students attending each breakfast.

The C-I Breakfast Club quickly outgrew its first meeting space at the Party Room in downtown Cambridge back

in October, forcing them to find a new meeting location, which turned out to be the Cambridge Library.

“The very first time, we blew the capacity of that, so we met there one more time, and you couldn’t even walk through the room because it was so full,” stated Geisler. “It has had tremendous growth. Breakfast Clubs typically grow slower, so for us to start and be at this point already, it has taken most breakfast clubs four to five years to get to this point, so it has been super fun that in three months we got to this point.”

Students can expect a full-course breakfast complete with Breakfast Club’s signature food, Monkey Bread. They offer a variety of other food, including cheesy potatoes, sausage, bacon, fresh fruits, donuts, yogurt parfaits, and an assortment of drinks. It’s all free due to the community’s support, and students can take as much as they want and come back for seconds. After eating, they get a short, inspiring message to give them hope, letting them know how valuable they are and that people care about them and God cares about them.

“I think it just shows kids are just looking to belong,” Giesler said when talking about their attendance numbers, “They want somewhere to belong, and everyone belongs at Breakfast Club. That’s the phrase we talk about a lot. It doesn’t matter what’s going on in your life, whether it’s going well or bad.



JAMIE NICOLE PHOTOGRAPHY | CONTRIBUTED

Aminta Geisler utilizes a pair of ladders as visual aids for her Bible-based message at a recent C-I Breakfast Club. The two ladders represent the two choices youth are given: to follow God and his plan for their lives or to follow the way of the world (money, fame, etc.).

If you’re doing well in school or doing poorly, making good or bad decisions, you belong here. We love you. Please come. I think that message is, ‘We’re glad you’re here; it’s OK to be you, and we’ll love you as you are.’ The Venadas, who started it, their tagline is, ‘Feeding Bellies and feeding souls,’ and that’s what we do,” Geisler said.

Follow C-I Breakfast Club on Facebook to stay updated on its activities. The club meets twice a month on Fridays at the Cambridge Library. To volunteer or donate, visit their website at <http://amintageisler.com/> or email amintajoy@gmail.com.

VA CLINIC: Property will be purchased, building constructed by private developer

FROM PAGE I

a deadline of mid-February for developers to answer the VA’s Request for Lease Proposals.

COUNCIL DECLINES ORDINANCE CHANGE

The Cambridge City Council is holding firm on its regulations for the maximum weight of vehicles able to park in driveways within the city limits.

During a previous council meeting, a resident who drives semi-trailers for a living asked if the council would consider increasing the maximum weight of vehicles able to park in driveways from the current 12,000 pounds up to at least 20,000 pounds; the weight of the resident’s semi. He said not being able to park his semi at his house creates issues with making sure

‘Cambridge is in a little bit of a desert as you don’t see another VA until you get up to St. Cloud, down to the metro area, or north to Duluth.’

Evan Vogel

Cambridge City Administrator

it will start in cold weather, plus it makes it difficult for him to wash it on weekends.

According to Community Development Director

Marcia Westover, the Planning Commission recommended denying the ordinance amendment request, or at most making anyone wishing to park larger commercial vehicles on their property obtain an Interim Use Permit from the city.

During discussion, the council’s primary concern was what kind of damage these heavier vehicles would inflict on city streets. Additionally, Councilmember Aaron Berg was concerned about neighbors being subject to having to hear the louder engines running especially when warming them up in the winter.

Ultimately, the council voted 4-1, with Mark Ziebarth casting the lone nay vote, to reject amending the ordinance and to take no further action in terms of allowing for an IUP request.

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MON, WED & FRI
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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

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



CONTRIBUTED

Tax-aid volunteers from AARP will again be available via appointment to provide assistance to seniors on Thursdays at the North Branch Library and Saturdays at the Cambridge Library.

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

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
Music

Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch Area musicians and vocalists donate their time and talents to provide music 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

Square Dancing Lessons
6:45-8:30pm. Isanti Intermediate School. Call Kim 612-961-8128 or Community Ed 763-689-6189

South Dakota State University Alumni

Second Tuesday of each month 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Club Lounge Grace Pointe Crossing 1545 River Hills Drive NW, Cambridge. Come visit and reminisce.

PrimeTime Singers Rehearsal

Senior citizens, age 60 and over. 1:30 p.m., at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old N. Main St, downstairs in the Choir Room. No auditions or fees required; new members always welcome. 612-619-2111.

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

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 more 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 more information.

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

ACA Adult Children of Alcoholics/ Dysfunctional Families Meeting
7 p.m. at Access Church, 4359 392nd St, North Branch. For more information call 612-251-6556 or email acanorth-branch@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 more information.

Tax help with AARP
AARP tax-aid volunteers will be available for assistance by appointment only at the North Branch Public Library between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. through April 10. Call 320-679-4700 to schedule an appointment.

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

SATURDAYS
Tax help with AARP
AARP tax-aid volunteers will be available for assistance by appointment only at the Cambridge Public Library between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. through April 12. Call 320-679-4700 to schedule an appointment.

FEB. 5
Outdoor classes at school are cool! webinar
MNDNR webinar online. Join us for a discussion on how students have been able to integrate fishing, hunting and other outdoor pursuits into their school class offerings. Register online mndnr.gov/discover

Managing weeds with more than just herbicides webinar
Debalin Sarangi, Extension weed scientist, Tom Peters, Extension sugarbeet agronomist, and Eric Yu, Extension educator-Crops Register at z.umn.edu/SF2025

Environmental Assessment Worksheet available for proposed Cambridge park, housing development

BY MARCIA WESTOVER
MWESTOVER@CI.CAMBRIDGE.MN.US

The City of Cambridge is proposing a City park and a new single-family residential development. The property is approximately 119 acres. The park will comprise approximately 35 acres and the residential development 84 acres. The park is planned to incorporate a swimming beach, playground, event center, parking lot, and open space with a trail system. The residential development is proposed to have 336 housing units. Of these, approximately 78 units will be alley loaded homes and 258 traditional front-loaded homes. The residential development proposes city streets, open space, and stormwater requirements. As part of the project development process, an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) has been prepared and will be available for public and agency review and comment beginning January 28, 2025.

The EAW identifies the project purpose and need and identifies potential social, economic, and environmental effects. The EAW is available for review at the following locations:

- Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Ave NE, Cambridge, MN 55008
- East Central Regional Library, 111 Dellwood Street N, Cambridge, MN 55008
- Hennepin County Library, Business/Science/Gov Docs-2nd Floor 300 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 54401

A public meeting for verbal comments will be held Monday, February 3, 2025, in the council chambers at Cambridge City Hall located at 300 3rd Ave NE, Cambridge, MN 55008. The deadline for submitting comments is February 27, 2025. All comments should be directed to: Marcia Westover, Community Development Director, 300 3rd Ave NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 or via email at: mwestover@ci.cambridge.mn.us.

Cambridge-Isanti Dollars for Scholars launches 2025 Give-a-Thon

STAFF REPORT
NEW@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Cambridge-Isanti Dollars for Scholars has launched its 2025 Give-a-Thon, offering multiple ways for community members to contribute to scholarships for Cambridge-Isanti High School graduates. The organization, which has provided post-secondary education and training scholarships since 1990, transitioned from its traditional two-day Phonathon event to the Give-a-Thon in 2023 due to the decline in landline use. The new format resulted in a record-breaking \$236,100 in scholarships awarded to the Class of 2024 — the highest amount in the organization's history. Donations to the Give-a-Thon can be made by mail, text, or online. Mail: Send checks payable to Cambridge-Isanti Dollars for Scholars

to Cambridge-Isanti Schools, 625A Main St. N., Cambridge, MN 55008. Text: Text "GIVE-ATHON2025" to 44-321. Online: Visit ci.dollarsforscholars.org, click on the News & Events tab, and follow the Give-a-Thon 2025 campaign link. Cambridge-Isanti Dollars for Scholars is a locally operated nonprofit organization run by a volunteer Board of Trustees. The organization's mission is to provide scholarships to every graduating senior at Cambridge-Isanti High School. It is a chapter affiliate of Scholarship America, the nation's largest private scholarship provider. For more information, visit ci.dollarsforscholars.org.

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OPINION

Get to work before everyone loses

In this ongoing battle between the Minnesota House of Representative Democrats and Republicans, each party has now posted a legal victory. First, it was the Republicans who prevailed in their claim that Governor Walz jumped the gun in declaring a special election for the vacant District 40B seat. Walz declared the special election would be held on Jan. 28, however, the court ruled it couldn't take place until at least 22 days after the legislative session begins, which most likely pushes it back until March at the earliest.

Several days later, the Democrats scored their own legal victory when a different court ruled the number establishing a quorum was based on the total number of seats in the House and not on the number of seats currently filled. What this ruling did was wipe out every action the House Republicans had taken while the Democrats were boycotting.

Here's the crazy thing about all of this: I think both court rulings were correct, yet they were also the worst rulings in terms of negative impact on Minnesotans in general.

Walz did jump the gun, probably to regain a 50/50 split in the House. Just look at recent history. When Republican Kurt Daudt announced his resignation on January 10, 2024, Walz declared a special election would be held on March 19. In the case of District 40B's vacancy, the vacancy was declared on Dec. 27. So, based on nothing else but the precedence set with Daudt's resignation, this special election should take place in March as well. What this means, though, is the residents of District 40B won't have a voice in the House for nearly two more months.

The juxtaposition is even more severe for the second ruling. Yes, the number for a quorum should be stagnant and not flexible depending on vacant seats. It is that way for city councils, and county and school boards. Take a look at Isanti City Council, which has had several vacancies lately. If the number for a quorum was flexible, there would have been times when just two council members would have made a quorum. Even though it would take a major calamity to create more than a couple of open seats in the House, the definition of what constitutes a quorum should be consistent throughout all forms of government.

However, this ruling also gives Democrats the ammunition they need to continue their boycott, even to the point of holding the State Legislature hostage until that special election is held.

And that, right there, is the last thing the Democrats should do. Instead, they should get their rear-ends to the State Capital immediately, even if there isn't some sort of "power-sharing" agreement in place. At the very least, there is a ton of behind-the-scenes work that wouldn't be dependent on which party holds the majority. Ideally, there should also be a good number of non-partisan bills that could be passed.

To not do that would mean it doesn't matter who "won" the legal battles, because ultimately, the entire state of Minnesota would lose.

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, ext. 156 or editor@countystar.com.



Worth a Thousand Words

Bill Stickels III



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appeal to Heaven

To the editor,

We rejoice in victory for freedom in the recent election. But there will be much resistance to this. We must continue to maintain the victory through servant prayer.

So join us in the Appeal to Heaven, Sunday, Feb. 2, at 5 p.m. at Grace Gospel Church, Grandy.

Bob Lex
For concerned citizens

Things that make me say 'hmmm'

To the editor,

Our country now wants to deport people and keep some groups of people out of our society. People and families wishing, hoping, dreaming of a chance, just a chance at the American dream so they can improve their lives. They say that these people could be or they may turn into criminals?

At the same time we release/pardon known criminals, murderers, from the January 6 attack on our country's capital back into our society. People died trying to defend our Capital. These people were given the American dream free of charge

from birthright in the United States. They did not have to uproot their families, homes, and experience strife and hardship to hope for the American dream.

Hmmmmmm!

Doug Cicha
Isanti

A generous county worker

To the editor,

I appreciate the people who plow our roads in Isanti county. They do a great job. Some go above the realm of their job. Last week I was out for a walk on one of the days it was snowing. A guy who was plowing snow saw me and stopped. He said, "Do you want this?" He was wearing a bright, reflective vest. When I replied, "Yes," he took the vest off and gave it to me. He was concerned about me being visible to cars and trucks. Some nice people will literally give you the shirt (or vest) off their back. It was so refreshing to be the recipient of his generosity. A little kindness goes a long way.

Ronald Ekerholm
Isanti Township

ADDITIONAL COLUMNS ONLINE

• **North Branch School News:** Navigating change together: Rowing the Viking ship toward success

• **Master Gardener:** Tree myths - part one

• **Ask a Trooper:** A flash of blue means safety for you

To read these columns, go to:
www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com/opinion/columns

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OBITUARIES

Curtis Dale Olson

Curtis Dale Olson, 72, of Cambridge passed away peacefully on Sunday, Jan. 19, 2025.

He was born Sept. 3, 1952, to Oscar and Lillie Olson in Vancouver, WA, the third of five children. Curt was raised in Minnesota and graduated from Anoka High School. He served four years in the Marine Corps and later graduated from Bethel with a Bachelors of Business Administration.

He moved to Cambridge and was blessed with four children from his first marriage. In 2001 he re-married, adding two step-daughters.

Curt was an avid sportsman, was self-employed as a watch repairman and worked many years for Medtronic. He was a man of

God, skilled in many areas, quick-witted, and was the best whistler. Curt's love for his family never wavered despite his many years complicated with dementia.

Curt was preceded in death by his parents and nephews, Joel Brandon and Dan Olson.

Curt is survived by loving wife, Cindy; children Eva (Matt) Frank of St. Louis Park; Katie (Luke) Neuman of Clearwater; Reed (Katie) Olson of Hermosa, SD; Ryan (Claire) Olson of Lake Leelanau, MI; step-daughters Angela Bourke of Blaine; Amy (Kyle) Sandven of Elk River; 28 grandchildren; siblings Linda Brandon (Michael Nielsen) of Zephyr Cove, NV; Gary (Peggy) Olson of Ham Lake; Cheryl Olson-Mills of Crosby; and David (Belinda) Olson of Kingston, ID. Curt is survived by many nieces, nephews, and other family members.

Memorial Service 11a.m., Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, at First Baptist Church in Cambridge, MN. Visitation begins at 10a.m. Military honors by Cambridge American Legion following the service with luncheon to follow. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Jodi G. Moore

Jodi G. Moore passed away on Jan. 22, 2025, in Cambridge, MN, at the age of 56.

She was born on Aug. 8, 1968, in Coon Rapids, MN, to Jeffrey and Jennifer (Jacobs) Rootes. She was a graduate of Elk River High School, Class of 1986.

Her passion for helping others led her to pursue a career in nursing, and in 1996, she earned her Nursing Degree from Anoka Ramsey Community College. Jodi's professional journey was marked by her dedication to care and compassion, as she worked as a manager nurse at Cambridge Health Care Center and later served as the director of nursing at Camilia Rose in Coon Rapids.

On Dec. 8, 2007, Jodi's heart found its match when she married Edward Moore, at Cambridge Lutheran Church.

Jodi's love for animals was profound, and she opened her heart and home to several rescued and adopted pets over the years. She found great joy in the simple pleasures of life, such as making a batch of salsa, reading a novel, tending to her vegetable and flower gardens or baking.

Jodi's life was further enriched by her role as a mother and grandmother. She is survived by her husband, Edward; three children, Vanessa (Simon) Thunstrom of Isanti, Tony (Amanda) Meyer of St. Michael, and Travis Meyer of Cambridge; five grandchildren, Olivia, Courtney, Hailey, Charlotte, and Owen, who brought immeasurable joy to her life, and she cherished every moment spent watching them grow.

She also leaves behind her brothers, Jason (Vicki) Rootes of Montrose and Justin (Molly) Rootes of Shakopee, as well as her beloved grandmother, Geri Rootes of Elk River. Jodi's gentle soul and thoughtful nature touched the lives of many other relatives and friends who will miss her dearly.

A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025, at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home in Cambridge. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com.



Joseph "Joe" R. Nelson

Joseph "Joe" R. Nelson passed away peacefully on Jan. 23 at the age of 81 surrounded by loved ones. Was preceded in death by his parents Roy and Lucille Nelson and his brother and sister-in-law, Cliff and Karen Nelson. Survived by his wife JoAnne of



60 years, Children; Jackie Nelson, Joe (Linda) Nelson, Sherri (Greg) Wills, grandchildren Courtney and Megan, great granddaughter Maddie Jo, siblings Walter (Carol) Nelson, Judy (Lonnie) Anderson and Cathy (Mike) Greeley, and very special friends Sam Seim and the Ruther family. During 50+ years of training horses, Joe and JoAnne made many friends, too many to list, but they are dear just the same.

"I make my last ride to the country up there, where the grass grows lush and the water runs cool. That you'll take me by the hand and say Welcome Home Cowboy, Amen."

Karen Loraine (Deskin) Boylan

Karen Loraine (Deskin) Boylan, 82, a mother, sister, grandmother and aunt peacefully passed away on Jan. 19, 2025, after a short illness, surrounded by her family. Karen was born on May 24, 1942 in Rice Lake WI. In 1952 she moved to White



Bear Lake, Minnesota. She spent most of her childhood near White Bear Lake and Forest Lake area and graduated from Forest Lake high school. Shortly after graduation, Karen met and married Paul Boylan. Paul and Karen had two boys, James and Carl. Karen raised her two boys on Navy military bases while Paul served. When the boys became adults, Paul and Karen moved to Florida to live on a sailboat for a

couple of years. Karen worked as an LPN while in Florida. Paul and Karen divorced shortly after and Karen moved back to Minnesota. Karen bought her own house in Isanti, MN, near her mother Hattie Deskins. Karen assisted her mother, Hattie in living an independent life near her, in her own home until Hattie passed away unexpectedly in 2008. Karen made a career at Mary T Residential Services in Coon Rapids, MN. Karen was active in Tops Club Inc, holding the position of secretary and weight recorder for many years. Karen was always a strong, independent caregiver.

As a mother of two, grandmother, aunt, great grandmother of several; Karen enjoyed watching all the children grow. She also enjoyed spending time with her beloved dog, CheeChee, bird watching, crocheting, needle point and playing video games with Alex.

Karen is survived by her children James (Crystal) Boylan and Carl (Laurie) Boylan and their children, James children: Tonya, Kelly and Karla and Carl's children: Dallie (Alissa), Marcus (Corinne), Mollie and Alex. Karen is also survived by her sister, Donna and her children Michael (Anne), Kia, Jim, Laura (Dan) and several grand nieces and nephews. Karen also adored her niece, Pamela and husband, Mark. Karen also has numerous other cousins, nieces and nephews.

Karen is preceded in death by her mother Hattie Deskin, father Rinal Deskin and bothers, Larry and Roger Deskin.

A celebration of Karen's life will be held on Feb. 2, 2025, from noon to 4 p.m. at Rushseba Town Hall in Rush City, MN. 51533 Forest Blvd., Rush City, MN 55069. We will have a luncheon and are hoping to hear many stories and memories of Karen. She will greatly be missed.

Online condolences may be shared at: StrikeLifeTributes.com.

STUDENT NAMES IN THE NEWS

To check out the latest student achievements visit our website. CountyStar.com

Pamela "Pam" Gay Heidelbergger

Pamela "Pam" Gay Heidelbergger, born March 12, 1962, in Moorhead, Minnesota, to Lowell and Beverly Wagner of Sabin, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on the morning of Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025, in Isanti, Minnesota. She was 62 years



old and passed peacefully from congestive heart failure.

Pam will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 23 years, Rick Heidelbergger; her children, Jesse Plocher (Annie), Jami Eilers (Aaron), and Carla Thiel (Matt Dickson); and her cherished grandchildren: Madison, Culley, Farrah, Alyssa, Makenzi, Jacob, Cadence, Valerie, Vada, and Norah. She is also survived by her mother

Bev Walker (Ron), her father Lowell Wagner, and her siblings Todd Wagner; Brenda Dennis (Doug); and Barb Strother (Stuart). Pam's memory will live on in the hearts of numerous relatives and friends.

A creative soul with a keen eye for beauty and purpose in all things, Pam expressed her talents through sewing, quilting, gardening, piano playing, berry and rock picking, and making homemade jellies. Her sense of humor brought joy to those around her.

In 2001, she married Rick Heidelbergger and together they built a life in Isanti. In their later years, Pam and Rick enjoyed collecting treasures at auctions and spending time fishing.

Pam studied accounting and applied her skills at Pine Point Wood Products, Vernon Sales, and Mom's Auto Salvage. Her dedication to her work reflected her meticulous nature and passion for detail.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, Jan. 30, 2025, at Constance Free Church, located at 16150 Crosstown Blvd NW in Andover, Minnesota. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m., followed by the service at 11 a.m., with a luncheon at noon. Burial will take place afterward at the Church's cemetery.

Pam's warmth and creativity touched many lives. May her memory bring comfort to all who knew her.

Kristin Kaye Holm (Laase)

Kristin Kaye Holm (Laase), 54, of Zimmerman passed away on Friday, Jan. 24, 2025 at her home surrounded by family.

She was born June 8, 1970 in Cambridge, Minnesota to David and Shanon (Wilcox) Laase. Kristin grew up in Cambridge and graduated from Cambridge High School in 1988. She went on to attend the University of Minnesota - Duluth and earned a bachelor's degree in finance and attended the University of St. Thomas where she received her MBA in finance.



Kristin enjoyed spending time with her family and relaxing with a good book, but one of her biggest passions was being a devoted Minnesota hockey fan, she loved her Wild and Bulldogs, but her favorite team was any team her son Max was on. Through her battles with cancer, she didn't miss many of his games.

She was preceded in death by her father David Laase, grandparents John & Myrtle Laase, John & Florence Wilcox.

Kristin is survived by her husband Dean Holm, son Maxwell Holm, mother Shanon Olson, stepfather Dallas Olson, stepmother Jean Laase, brother Dan Laase (wife Nina), stepbrothers David Olson (wife Sarah), Christopher Olson (wife Ann), Jason White (wife Kelly), Jeff White, along with brothers and sisters in law, and many nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

Memorial Service 1 p.m., Monday, Feb. 3, 2025 at Calvary Lutheran Church at Rush Point. Visitation 2-5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025 at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home in Cambridge and one hour prior to the service at the church. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com.



Fred Nolan of the Bluejacket Education Foundation presents a check for \$11,151.81 to the Cambridge-Isanti School Board as part of the organization's ongoing grant series. This round of grants will go towards eight teachers in six different schools. All told, the foundation has donated \$41,000 over the last two years to 27 teachers for equipment or projects in classrooms. Plus, it has created a \$60,000 endowment.

AARP Tax-Aide volunteers will be available for assistance by appointment only at the Cambridge Public Library each Saturday from February 1 to April 12, between 9am and 3pm. We will be meeting in the Great Northern Room on the lower level of the Library. AARP is the nation's most extensive volunteer-run tax preparation and assistance service. They work with low to moderate-income taxpayers, especially those 50 and older, to help them

get all the deductions and credits they deserve.

For an appointment, please call Seven County Senior Federation at 320-679-4700.

Once your appointment is made, you can either pick up your packet at the Cambridge Library, or ask Seven County Senior Federation to mail it to you when you are making your appointment. -The East Central Regional Library

Allina Health
CAMBRIDGE MEDICAL CENTER

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Audrey Jacqueline (“Jackie”) Lund

Audrey Jacqueline (“Jackie”) Lund, age 83, of North Branch, peacefully passed away Jan. 22, 2025, at Ecumen North Branch Assisted Living, with members of family by her side.

Jackie was born April 7, 1941, in Fish Lake Township, MN to Clarence and Dorothy (Calander) Johnson. She was baptized at Fish Lake Lutheran in Stark, confirmed at Spring Lake Lutheran, attended grade school at Fish Lake Country School and graduated from North Branch High School in 1958. After graduation, she moved to Minneapolis to work in the typing pool for an insurance company, living in an apartment with other girls with whom she worked (she

was only 17 when she graduated high school!). Jackie met and dated Paul, and they were married at Spring Lake Lutheran Church on Oct. 13, 1962. They had two sons, Lance and Lorne, and one daughter, Lynette.

If there is one single word to define Jackie, it would be “caregiver”. After spending her first few years of marriage caring for her children, she went to work at Green Acres Nursing Home (now Ecumen) in North Branch. She first started working for a “little while to help pay for the bunk beds” that she and Dad picked up for Lance and Lorne. That little while turned into a 37-year career, during which she worked as a nurse’s aide (CNA) and medical aide, having provided care for countless residents, including her parents-in-law.

In addition to caring for all those people, she was her husband Paul’s primary caregiver for 42 years after his stroke. Jackie was a strong advocate for Paul. In addition to tending to his personal needs, she was his voice/interpreter when he couldn’t speak for himself, his extra hand and runner to get the “right” tool when something needed to be fixed, and tow driver for the riding mower to the Dalstorp Cemetery when the grass needed mowing. She also had to learn and take on a number of roles that, in her generation, were traditionally reserved for the man of the house. Literally every facet of her life was affected. Mom’s strength and resolve to care for Dad was unmatched, and she also finished raising two high-school aged children and got them off to college.

Jackie was also involved in her community and church. She and Paul were founding members of the Adults with Disabilities support group in North Branch. She was a long-time editor/chief correspondent for the “Vine and Branches” church newsletter, helped with the annual Krop Kakor supper each October, helped deliver food to the food shelf and attended Ladies’ Aid. When she was no longer able to drive, her church circle met each month in the Ecumen community room, so she could continue to attend. Family was also very important to Jackie. Though she was in the hospital over Christmas, she was able to celebrate with Lynette, Kai, Emmarie and Jameson on the Saturday before her passing.

Jackie is survived by her two sons, Lance (Chia Lee) and Lorne (Jayne), her daughter Lynette, grandsons Kai, Cy (Stephanie Cerda), Corbin and Trenton, step-granddaughter Megan Simmons, great-granddaughter Emmarie and great-grandson Jameson. She is also survived by her sister Clarice Johnson of Minneapolis, brothers Del Johnson of North Branch and Michael (“Gust”) Johnson of Minneapolis, several cousins and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband Paul, parents Clarence and Dorothy Johnson and sister Marlayne Domyahn.

The family would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to the many health caregivers that Jackie has had, especially the staff of St. Croix Hospice and Ecumen North Branch. We truly appreciate your compassion and support. Memorials are preferred to Spring Lake Lutheran Church or the North Branch Food Shelf.

Memorial Service 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 27, 2025 at Spring Lake Lutheran Church. Visitation one hour prior. Interment church cemetery. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.



Seniors invited to free Dine & Discover event on Feb. 13

STAFF REPORT
NEW@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Chisago Age Well Coalition is hosting a free Dine & Discover event on Tuesday, Feb. 13, featuring food, fellowship, and information. The event includes a panel of community presenters discussing activities, social networks, support services, and entertainment for seniors.

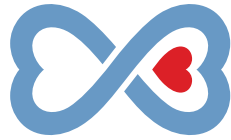
Chisago County Public Health will provide resource tables at each site, and attendees will receive a list of community programs and resources.

9 a.m. at Rusheeba Senior Living, 700 W 14th St. in Rush City, participants will hear from Jayne Mund, of Family Pathways Senior Services, Chisago County Veterans Service officer Bryan Brown, Sue Means of the Rush City Women’s Club, and Kelly Rogstad, North Branch Trinity Lutheran Church’s Senior Social. A continental breakfast will be served.

North Branch Senior Center, 38790 Sixth Ave. North Branch will host an afternoon senior social event at 3:30. Participants will hear Kelly Rogstad of North

Branch Senior Social, Carol Gilquist of the North Branch Senior Community Center, Molly Carlson, of Family Pathways Senior Services, and Georgia Afton of Friends & Company. Appetizers will be provided.

Registration is requested by Friday, Feb. 7. Sign up online at North Branch Community Education (Senior Offerings) at https://northbranch.cr3.rschooltoday.com/public/getclass/category_id/-1/program_id/14 or call 651-674-1025.



Heart to Heart



JANUARY
28

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Tuesday, January 28, 2–3 pm

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Mora, MN 55051

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HEALTH

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BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Bluejacket senior Zoe Klocksien finished in fourth place at the Bluejacket All-Around Invite with a score of 36.4. To see additional action photos from the past week, go to www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com.

C-I, NB SCOREBOARD - JANUARY 22 - 28 & UPCOMING HOME GAMES - JAN. 30 - FEB. 8

January 22
C-I gymnastics 136.1, Princeton 118.225
*Zoe Klocksien - 1st place bars (8.7), beam (9.2), floor (8.65), All-Around (35.25); Anika Michaelis - 1st place vault (8.9)
Northern Tier girls hockey 4, Chisago Lakes 4

January 23
C-I wrestling 40, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City 25
C-I wrestling 47, Coon Rapids 18
C-I wrestling 64, Ogilvie 10
C-I boys swimming & diving 80, Chisago Lakes 98
*1st place finishers: Eddie Steman (diving), Reid Streed (100 fly), 400 free relay
C-I boys basketball 89, Big Lake 71
*Emerson Droubie - 41 points
C-I girls basketball 67, Big Lake 50
*Bre Knight - 29 points
Northern Edge boys hockey 2, C-I 8
*Bennett Bergloff (C-I) - 4 goals
NB wrestling 51, Somerset 18
NB wrestling 62, St. Croix Lutheran 10
NB gymnastics 136.525, St. Francis 120.325
*Dakota Esget - 1st place bars (8.675), floor (9.3), All-Around (35.925); Ella Dick - 1st place vault (9.275), beam (9.075)

January 24
C-I girls wrestling @ Simley Invite
*Phoenix Fure - 1st place (112 pounds)
C-I girls basketball 57, Zimmerman 52
*Bre Knight - 36 points, eclipsed 1,000 career points
Northern Tier girls hockey 5, Princeton/Becker/Big Lake 2

January 25
C-I boys swimming & diving @ Bluejacket Invite - 5th/5 teams
*Top finishers: Joshua Clinkenbeard - 3rd place (50 freestyle), Eddie Steman - 3rd place (diving)
C-I gymnastics @ Bluejacket All-Around Invite (no team scores)
*Top finishers: Aubrey Wilson - 2nd place tie (36.7), Zoe Klocksien - 4th place (36.4)
NB gymnastics @ Class A True Team Meet - 6th/10 teams
*Top finishers: Dakota Esget - 1st place bars (9.725), All-Around (37.75)
NB wrestling @ St. Croix Falls Invite - 13th/18 teams
*Top finisher: Jack Baker - 4th place (120 pounds)
NB boys basketball 51, Grand Rapids 54

January 28
C-I boys swimming & diving 73, Anoka 90
*1st place finisher: 200 free relay
C-I girls basketball 41, Princeton 48
*Bre Knight - 11 points
C-I boys basketball 72, Princeton 71
*Emerson Droubie - 27 points
Northern Tier girls hockey 4, Princeton/Becker/Big Lake 0
*Taylor Kozak - 2 goals
C-I boys hockey 1, Becker/Big Lake 3
NB boys basketball 56, Big Lake 81
*Ethan Thorsen & Jacob Knoespel - 20 points
NB girls basketball 65, Big Lake 61
*Ella Kuhlman - 38 points
NB gymnastics 139.9, Princeton 122.0
*Dakota Esget - 1st place vault (9.6), bars (8.975), floor (9.6), All-Around (37.025); Ella Dick - 1st place beam (8.9)

To see both schools' full schedules, go to www.mississippi8.org. Schedules are subject to change with minimal advanced notice based on weather, availability of officials, or other reasons. Note: Northern Edge boys hockey is a co-op between North Branch and St. Francis. They play their home games at the East Bethel arena.

Thursday, Jan. 30
•C-I boys swimming & diving vs. Princeton (5:30 p.m.)
•NB gymnastics vs. RPHF (6 p.m.)

Friday, Jan. 31
•C-I girls basketball vs. Monticello (7 p.m.)
•NB wrestling - Home Invite (5 p.m.)
•Northern Edge boys hockey vs. Monticello (7 p.m.)

Saturday, Feb. 1
•NB girls basketball vs. Cloquet (1 p.m.)

Tuesday, Feb. 4
•C-I boys swimming & diving vs. Tartan (5:30 p.m.)
•C-I gymnastics vs. Monticello (6 p.m.)
•NB girls basketball vs. Chisago Lakes (5:15 p.m.)
•NB boys basketball vs. Chisago Lakes (7 p.m.)
•Northern Edge boys hockey vs. Breck (7 p.m.)

Thursday, Feb. 6
•C-i boys swimming & diving vs. Columbia Heights (5:30 p.m.)
•C-I boys basketball vs. North Branch (7 p.m.)
•NB girls basketball vs. C-I (7 p.m.)

Friday, Feb. 7
•C-I wrestling vs. Stillwater (6 p.m.)

Saturday, Feb. 8
•C-I girls basketball vs. Big Lake (2 p.m.)
•C-I boys hockey vs. Little Falls (3 p.m.)

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ILLUMINATE: Last December’s month-long event cost city \$50,000

FROM PAGE I

Hillesheim said, “because we were out there repairing and fixing stuff. We saw the windstorm that came through. If that had happened every week, we would have spent even more days out there.”

“I don’t think it is sustainable,” said interim Mayor Luke Merrill. “We tried this year, and I really hoped everyone would come in and see a QR code and think ‘maybe I should donate a few dollars to keep this going,’ but it didn’t happen. I don’t know how we can spend that much staff time and money on it.”

“I knew this thing would become a money pit,” added Councilmember George Hemen. “I was hoping we would be able to find a way for it not to become one, but you can’t argue with these numbers.”

Painting an even grimmer picture of the event’s prospects, City Administrator Josi Wood noted that rough attendance calculations indicated about 5,000 people attended it throughout the entire month. She noted that since it wasn’t paid admission like in previous years, they couldn’t get exact attendance numbers. Despite that, even the rough estimates of 5,000 were larger than the attendance figures from either of the first two years.

Doing very basic number crunching, Merrill noted that in order for the event to break even, it would have required every attendee to voluntarily donate \$10. By way of comparison, admission tickets for the two previous years were \$12 for anyone 13 years old and up, and \$5 for seven to 12 year olds.

The council stopped short of taking formal action on the event’s future, opting to wait until Councilmember Steve Lundeen, who has been the biggest advocate for it on the council, could voice his opinion on the topic. Lundeen was absent from the Jan. 21 meeting due to an emergency job he had to perform at work.

Additionally, the council instructed staff to come up with possible alternatives for running the event. Some of those alternatives could be putting on a greatly scaled-back event that wouldn’t require as much staff time, offering to let an outside organization take over running it, or not holding the event at all and trying to sell the purchased displays to another lighting event. Another suggestion was to modify the displays and put them out along Main Street and other downtown streets.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO NON-PROFITS

The catalyst for this discussion was Hillesheim’s request for the council to consider how much of the donated money would go to the non-profits that volunteered to engage with attendees at the event. Originally, the council was willing to split 40% of the on-site donations between the six non-profits. However, given only receiving just short of \$800 that would have meant each organization would have only received \$53.25.

Ultimately, after a discussion that centered around the idea that “volunteers” shouldn’t expect money in return, the council approved splitting the full \$800 between the six organizations.

University of Minnesota leads effort to track bird flu’s threat to Minnesota wildlife

BY RACHEL CAIN
RCAIN@UMN.EDU

With \$1.267 million in funding approved by Governor Tim Walz on Jan. 3, researchers from the University of Minnesota’s College of Veterinary Medicine will lead a collaborative effort to address highly pathogenic avian influenza and its emerging threat to Minnesota wildlife.

For two years, highly pathogenic avian influenza, also known as “bird flu” or HPAI, has made headlines for its devastating impact on free-ranging birds, free-ranging mammals and the poultry industry. More information is emerging about its spread to cows and humans, yet little is known about its impact on wild animals.

Through the Emerging Issues Account, the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) recommended expedited funds for more research into HPAI’s impact on Minnesota wildlife. The account supports efforts to address unexpected and urgent needs, especially those where a delay could threaten natural resources or human health. This timing is critical to prepare for a potential resurgence of HPAI this spring.

“The College of Veterinary Medicine is uniquely equipped to advance Minnesota’s health and well-being through cutting-edge research, workforce development, and exceptional diagnostic and clinical services,” said Laura Molgaard, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. “Our interdisciplinary approach is a key asset in addressing the connections between human and animal health and finding solutions to this critical issue for Minnesota.”

College of Veterinary Medicine professors Arno Wuenschmann and Declan Schroeder aim at establishing a Minnesota wildlife virus surveillance program, collaborating with state, federal and tribal biologists; wildlife rehabilitation centers; zoos; the Humane Society’s wildlife unit and others.

The team will:

- Establish a wildlife health network of rehabilitators and tribal biologists that will be trained to safely collect and submit samples to the University of Minnesota’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
- Collect and test 9,000 samples from free-ranging birds and mammals across the state for HPAI virus.
- Run a newly established assay, developed in the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Schroeder Lab, that quickly confirms the presence of live HPAI virus in samples. Results will be reported to submitters in real time.

“The current HPAI outbreak is a ticking time bomb for animal and human health — it is two years in and the virus continues to spread in unforeseen patterns beyond birds to wild and domestic mammals, including humans,” said Wuenschmann.

Having greater understanding of the virus and which species its impacting will help experts develop better mitigation strategies and warnings for the public, and agricultural and health sectors. As part of the program, anonymized results will be reported in weekly updates on a publicly accessible University of Minnesota web page.

The team hopes this program can serve as a new resource for future virus outbreaks in Minnesota involving free-ranging animals.

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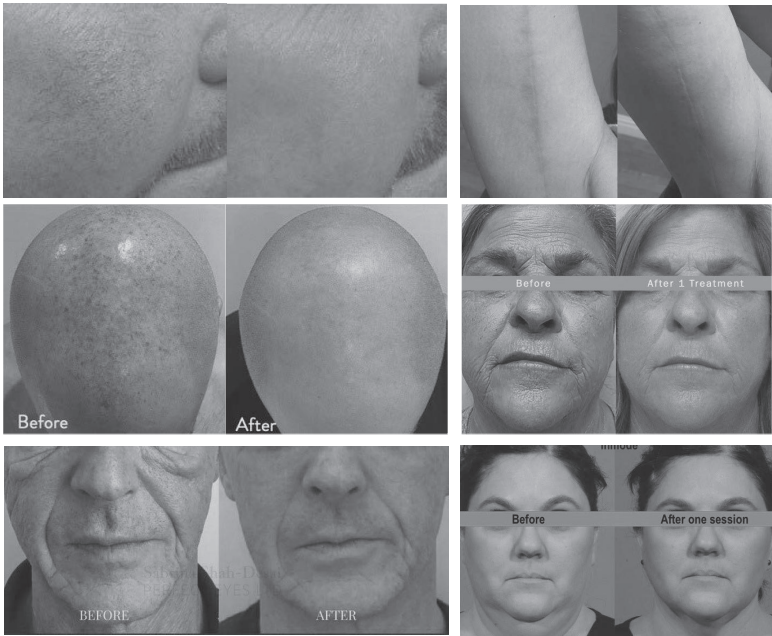
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- Depression
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- Sleep Dysfunction
- Coughs, Earaches, Fatigue
- Annual Physical Exams
- Sports Physicals
- Medicare Wellness Exams
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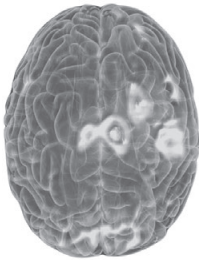
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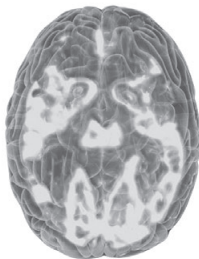
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Arts funding available for Youth, Professional Artists, and Arts Organizations

The East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) is accepting applications for the March 1st grant deadline. Funding is available to artists, k-12 students, and eligible arts organizations located in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine Counties. Available grants include:

K-12 Student Art Scholarship: this \$599 arts scholarship funding is for special arts learning projects or programs for youth. The program provides at least one student award annually, based upon a competitive review of submitted applications. Applications must be for a specific art project that will advance the skills of the student in their art form. The Arts Council is interested in funding projects such as training with a mentor or summer art programs such as music or visual art camps. All young artists in kindergarten through 12th grade, who strive to improve their artistic abilities, can apply.

Essential Artist Award: this \$9,000 Essential Artist Award program is designed to recognize, reward, and encourage outstanding professional artists. The Council will fund artists

at various stages in their professional careers. The Essential Artist Award will allow artists to set aside time to work, purchase supplies and materials, undertake advanced study (not related to a degree) or to pursue other artistic career goals.

Essential Support Grant: This program provides general operating support to high quality, established arts organizations that produce, present, or exhibit works of art; to organizations that provide a broad range of services to artists; and to community arts groups that make arts learning available to regional individuals of all ages and abilities. The Essential Support grant program offers \$3,000 to \$10,000 of funding to qualified organizations to maintain their ongoing organizational operating needs. This program recognizes that organizations with an established record of programmatic service and administrative stability should have access to funds to support their organizational goals and objectives, and to maintain their ongoing programs, services, and facilities without any emphasis on new initiatives or programs

as justification for funding. In addition to the above grants the April 1st grant deadline will be here soon. Applications will be open mid-February for the April 1st deadline. These grants for artists include Resiliency Grant – up to \$600; Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grant – up to \$2,000; and the Mid-Career Artist Grant – up to \$3,600. Grants for organizations include Resiliency Grants - up to \$600; Art in Our Schools Grant – up to \$5,000; Small/Arts Project Grant - \$500 to \$5,000; and the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund Grant - \$5,000 to \$20,000.

ECRAC hosts online zoom and in person grant information sessions for anyone interested in learning more about ECRAC and these grant programs. These sessions cover basic information about ECRAC grant programs, as well as recent changes to the grant application processes. Check out the ECRAC Events Calendar for dates and times for these grant information sessions and to register: <https://www.ecrac.org/art-community/events-calendar>

For more information, please contact



Katina Eklund, Grant Program Officer, East Central Regional Arts Council, at grantinfo@ecrac.org or by calling 320-336-0200.

For further details on eligibility and how to apply, please check out the ECRAC website at ecrac.org. If you have questions about which grant application is a good fit for your art project please don't hesitate to reach out. - The East Central Regional Arts Council

W O R S H I P *guide*

Baptist	Evangelical Covenant	Lutheran			
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	Karmel Covenant Church 5799 County Road 6, Princeton, MN 763-389-3169 Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson Sunday School for all ages 9:00 am Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am Wednesday AWANA 6:30 pm Wednesday Youth Group 6:30 pm Karmelcov.org	Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) West Central Drive & County Road 4, Braham 320-396-2755 Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service - BELC Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Live on Facebook Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday thru Thursday	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	651-674-4606. Pastor Vicki VanderVegt. slchurch.org Email: slchurch@gmail.com 8:15am Worship with fellowship following	Non-Denominational
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 style) 10:45am Worship Service (contemporary style)	Evangelical Free	Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Rush Point (ELCA) Pastor Vicki Vandervegt. 320-358-4829, 600 Rush Point Dr. 10:30am Worship with Fellowship following my.calvaryofrushpoint.org . Office: calvaryrushpoint@gmail.com	Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS) 6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch 651-674-5576 Pastor Glen Kleppe Sunday Worship 8am Sunday School @ 9:15am Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am Tuesday Adult Bible Studies @ 1pm & 7pm Wednesday Youth Group @ 6:30pm www.livingbranch.org (http://www.livingbranch.org) office@livingbranch.org	St. 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: stjohnlutheran@att.net	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!
South Isanti Baptist Church 3367 Cty. Rd. 5 NE, Isanti. 763-444-5860, Pastor Bob Venneman. Sunday Worship 9:30am. Wednesday "Life & Light" Bible studies for all ages. Adults & children. For info call or go to southisantibaptist.org .	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	Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA) 621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge 763-689-1211 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service 9:15 & 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service www.cambridgelutheran.org - fb.com/CambridgeLutheran	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 · 1ST & 3RD Sunday Traditional · 2nd & 4th Hybrid- Traditional & Contemporary Sunday School: 10:30 am Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays Wednesday Schedule 5pm Wednesday Meal 6pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	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	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.
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	Kost Evangelical Free Church 37405 Kost Trail, North Branch, MN – Jct. of CR 11 & CR 72 651-583-3281 · Kostchurch.org Pastor Josh 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.	Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS) 32962 Vickers St. NE, Cambridge, 763-689-5333 Pastor Samuel L. Biebert. Sunday Worship 9am, Sunday School/Bible Class 10:30am www.christcambridge.com	Salem Lutheran Church 4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017. 763-689-1687 Join us for worship every Sunday at 9am Sunday school for 3 yrs to 6th gr. begins at 9:30am Coffee fellowship after worship www.salemlutherandalbo.com	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 Study. 10:30am Worship. ststephensbraham.org	JustPassinthro 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 MN justpassinihs@gmail.com Justpassinthro.net Pastor Tom Bakke Sunday mornings at 10 am Sunday nights and Wednesdays
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.	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 6:30 to 8pm	Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) 109 Second Ave NW, Isanti 763-444-9201 Pastor Daniel Shantu Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Sunday Service 9:30 a.m. Home of Heavenly Sunshine Preschool email: office@faithlutheranisanti.com	Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch 651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon In person and online worship 8 am & 10 am worship 9 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour 9 am Sunday School www.trinitynorthbranch.org office@trinitynorthbranch.org	Methodist	Pentecostal
Catholic	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/Prayer 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 LIVING MESSAGE!	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	Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA) 8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958, North Branch, MN 55056 (9 mi. E. of Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one block on Erickson Road).	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!	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.

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Applications available at City Hall are available on our website at http://ci.north-branch.mn.us/i_want_to/apply_for/employment.php You may also contact City Hall at 651-277-5228 and request an application if you do not have an internet connection. The completed application must include a cover letter, resume, completed and signed application submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 14, 2025 and can be emailed to matthewwh@ci.north-branch.mn.us or mailed/dropped off in a sealed envelope to Human Resources, City of North Branch, PO Box 910, North Branch, MN 55056. EOE/AA



Snowman and Snow-Sculpture Contest

FOR CAMBRIDGE RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES

Now – February 21st

CATEGORIES:

- Best Business Snowman
- Best Traditional Snowman
- Most Creative Snowman
- Overall Favorite Snowman

To enter, submit photo, address and phone # to info@ci.cambridge.mn.us

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EMPLOYMENT

PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE I

Job Posting Public Works Department
Salary: \$32.62 - \$40.78 per Union Contract
Opening Date: January 20, 2025 Closing Date: February 7, 2025

The City of North Branch, Minnesota is seeking (2) Maintenance I employees for the Public Works Department. Candidates should have experience in any or all of the following: concrete work, street repair, parks and grounds maintenance, vehicle and equipment maintenance, wastewater collection and treatment, single and tandem axle snow plow truck operation, and light and heavy equipment operation.

A high school diploma or equivalent is required. Two years municipal experience is preferred and as described in the job description. Successful candidates must have a Class A Commercial Driver's License with tanker endorsement within 6 months. Successful candidates must pass a physical and a drug and alcohol screening test. Successful candidates will be required to be on a rotating on-call schedule and must be able to respond within 20 minutes. The starting salary is \$32.62/hr per hour which is based on a unionized three Tier System plus excellent benefits.

Applications available at City Hall are available on our website at http://ci.north-branch.mn.us/i_want_to/apply_for/employment.php You may also contact City Hall at 651-277- 5228 and request an application if you do not have an Internet connection. The completed application must include a cover letter, resume, completed and signed application along with proof of Class A license with tanker endorsement and submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 7, 2025 and can be emailed to matthewh@ci.north-branch.mn.us or mailed/dropped off in a sealed envelope to Human Resources, City of North Branch, PO Box 910, North Branch, MN 55056. EOE/AA



Probation Officer

Performs intermediate work and is responsible for investigative and supervisory services of Chisago County Probation for the District Court of the 10th Judicial District and the Minnesota Department of Corrections (DOC). Bachelor's degree and minimal experience, or a combination of equivalent education and experience.

\$31.96 to \$42.09 DOQ.



Apply online at www.chisagocountymn.gov by February 12, 2025.

Cannabis Substance Use Prevention Coordinator

Create and support prevention, education, and recovery programs focused on substance misuse prevention and treatment options. The programs must include specific cannabis-related initiatives, and serves to bridge the gap between community, health care, government, and social service systems to build trust and empower priority populations by collaborating to implement substance misuse initiatives.

\$40/hour; contract-ed; no benefits.



Apply online at www.chisagocountymn.gov by February 12, 2025.



CITY PLANNER

The City of North Branch, a fast-growing and dynamic community, is accepting applications for a City Planner position. The City Planner researches and analyzes the comprehensive plan, zoning issues, city code, reviews development proposals, and provides on planning and zoning matters. The Planner also performs park planning for the City's parks, trails, and open space system and oversees the City's Geographic Information System.

Minimum qualifications are an undergraduate degree in Planning, Urban Studies, Landscape Architecture, or Geography/GIS and two or more years of relevant planning experience. Municipal experience is desirable. **Starting salary** is \$36.05 per hour plus benefits, with a full salary range of \$36.05 - \$42.82 per hour.

To apply, please complete a City of North Branch job application form and submit with a cover letter to the Community Development Director, PO Box 910, North Branch, MN 55056. Applications are available at City Hall are available on our website at http://ci.north-branch.mn.us/i_want_to/apply_for/employment.php You may also contact City Hall at 651-277-5226 and request an application if you do not have an internet connection. The completed application must include a cover letter, resume, completed and signed application submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 19, 2025 and can be emailed to nathans@ci.north-branch.mn.us or mailed/dropped off in a sealed envelope to the Community Development Director, City of North Branch, PO Box 910, North Branch, MN 55056. EOE/AA