



RACE TO THE TOP: Viking, Bluejacket track and field qualify several for state meet. **PAGE 8**

State Hospital buildings to be demolished

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

A majority of the remnants of the old Cambridge State Hospital will soon be wiped away.

According to Isanti County Administrator Amanda Usher, the state is preparing to demolish all the buildings and tunnels that remain on the former State Hospital grounds, excluding the townhome-style buildings.

"I received notice from the state they are moving forward with demolition on that property, potentially starting in July," Usher said.

In late 2023 and early 2024, the County Commissioners were

considering, based on a suggestion from former State Representative Kurt Daudt, purchasing the former state hospital land under the condition the state pays for the demolition of select buildings. However, before the commissioners came to a consensus about making the purchase, Daudt retired from his House of Representatives seat and a request for the county to purchase the land under those conditions was never brought before the State Legislature.

Usher said the state didn't give her a reason why it is now demolishing the buildings, however, she theorized it might have something to do with an increase in liability

for people breaking into the buildings.

"There were concerns brought to the state facilities director about safety hazards at that property," Usher said.

Usher also said the state didn't specifically say what its future plans were for the site outside of turning it into green space "for future potential development."

The county commissioners agreed to keep a close eye on it in case the state decides to officially put it up for sale.

"I love the green space piece, but I prefer to have control of it (the land)," Commissioner Bill Berg said.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The state of Minnesota has informed Isanti County that the state has scheduled to demolish all buildings and tunnels on the former Cambridge State Hospital grounds, except for the newer townhome style cottages.

A sweet pursuit Cambridge native seeks out hidden bakery gems

BY STACY VERDICK CASE
NEW@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Friday, June 6 is National Donut Day in the United States, a tradition started in 1938 by the Salvation Army as a fundraiser. Donut Day was a way to commemorate "Donut Girls" who served donuts to soldiers during World War I offering them a sweet reminder of the comforts of home. Donut Day is a holiday that Kara Johnson, Cambridge's very own "Donut Girl" can get behind. She has visited more than 200 donut shops all over Minnesota and beyond.

Johnson, whose Instagram handle is @karas.donut.treks, started her journey during the pandemic as a way of helping a struggling independent bakery.

"I had seen on Facebook, someone had posted about a bakery that was struggling during the pandemic because a lot of their business was people taking donuts to work or churches. So, I thought, let's go visit the bakery."

That act of kindness to a small business became a new hobby.

"I've always loved donuts," said Johnson. "I thought well this would be a fun project let's just hit a different donut place each week and just see how long it lasts. I don't even know what I was thinking at the beginning, like maybe we could find 10 donut places or maybe 25. I had no idea that I would be in the 200s now, four years later."



CONTRIBUTED

Kara Johnson holds up a donut during one of her 240 bakery visits, part of her sweet treks.

It's 240 to be exact, with no repeats and an additional 73 on her "future treks" spreadsheet.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Johnson's family has had mixed feelings when it comes to her hobby.

Her youngest daughter is on board and will routinely text her that she's added stops to the spreadsheet. Her husband's feelings are conflicted.

"I'll say, 'I think I'm going to be done this year.' He's like, 'you're never going to be done,' and he acts annoyed with it sometimes when we're traveling. But he always enjoys them (the donuts) once we get them. He's kind of along for the ride."

Johnson, whose donut treks have been featured on multiple news outlets, works as a teacher in the Robbinsdale School district but doesn't try to hide her passion from her students.

"I have a fourth-grader that calls me the donut queen and so they have fun with it."

Of course, people gift Johnson donut-themed gifts. Johnson leans into all the donut collectibles. "I have a little donut shelf in my laundry room that has some donut books on it and a donut pillow and donut mug and a donut bank," she says. "It's just fun."

THE HUNT

Johnson says Minneapolis and St. Paul are Meccas for donuts, but she has exhausted most local shops. To keep with her self-imposed no repeats rule she has had to expand the search for locations to include places some might see as nontraditional spots.

SEE **SWEET PURSUIT**, PAGE 2



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SWEET PURSUIT: Johnson encourages adventure

FROM PAGE I

“I’ll go to a new place, like a new city, and I’ll Google bakeries or donuts and nothing really comes up. Then you have to kind of branch out into the grocery stores or even a gas station. And also places like Mexican bakeries or an Ecuadorian bakery. You know that I’ve driven by a million times and I’ve never given it a thought that maybe they would have a donut and sure enough you go in and they have a version of a donut.”

For her part, she encourages followers to try the bakery they’ve never been to before. “I’m a big believer in living every day to the fullest. Life is short. Eat the donuts. Explore new businesses and just get out there. Don’t stick to your same little routine. Just try new places.”



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM
WWI Salvation Army “Donut Girl” poster.

Donut shops have not reached out to Johnson directly to ask her to visit, but the ones she has visited have loved her journey. “I’m usually taking pictures, (so I) take a minute to explain why, and then they think it’s really cool and they want to take down my Instagram account so they can follow me. Some have been really honored that I’ve included them and that I would make a post about a little hole-in-the-wall bakery. It’s been neat. I love taking a minute to talk to the owners if they’re there or the manager.”

THE BEST DONUT

With so many donuts to choose from, Johnson didn’t rush to name a favorite. “I would say my favorite donuts are any donut that is filled with something really unique. I don’t know, like an espresso doughnut filled with some coffee-flavored buttercream or something. There’s Voodoo Donuts.” — a donut shop out of Portland, Oregon with locations around the west coast. “They made one called Mango Tango. It was mango inside and then it had a frosting on top that was the drink Tang. I like really unique flavor combinations, but at the same time I also like a basic old fashion if it’s done really well.”

When pressed about the best in the Twin Cities, Johnson finally settled on one.

“You know, honestly, I think the best donuts are not really a bakery. It’s a gal that came from, I think Thailand and she started a donut business in the last couple of years working out of someone else’s kitchen in Saint Paul. It’s really cool. She’ll have different flavors every weekend and this became kind of the thing to do. They’ll sell



CONTRIBUTED

Johnson’s laundry room donut shelf.

out really fast. It’s called Fluffy Bakery out of Saint Paul. She does little pop-ups different places so I think it’s the kind of thing where you have to follow her Instagram account and see where she’s going to be.”

DONUT TREKS TO COME

Johnson says she’s not sure how much longer she can go on visiting one new shop a week. A quick look at her future treks list hints that the journey could continue for at least another year. There are a few donut trucks Johnson has yet to visit, but it’s difficult to keep up the pace.

“Yeah, I don’t know how much longer I’ll go with the consistency of every week. I think I’ll always be trying to chip away at my list of places to go to. And I think it’ll always be something that I enjoy as a hobby, but I don’t know, quite honestly, how much further I’m going to go with the week by week cause it just gets hard.”

Johnson is asked what she would like to accomplish with her treks and if she had considered creating a book filled with the donut places. “I don’t know how I would organize it but we’ll see. It could be fun.”

Another apartment complex may be built in Cambridge

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

A Twin Cities based housing developer hopes lightning will strike twice in constructing an affordable apartment complex in Cambridge.

Reuter Walton, who constructed and still owns the Bridgewell Apartment Complex next to the Cambridge Christian School, has entered into a purchase agreement for two parcels of land just north of the former Perkins building. The company is planning on constructing two separate buildings on that land that would in total feature 180 apartments.

The developer is asking the city of Cambridge to give preliminary approval for tax-exempt conduit bonds through Minnesota Management and Budget. A conduit bond is when a government entity is issued tax-exempt bonds on behalf of a third party. This allows the third party to receive more favorable finance rates. The government entity is not liable for paying off the bonds, so there is no financial risk. The government entity collects a fee from the third party for acting as a conduit. For this project, which is estimated to cost \$28 million to complete, the city would collect \$280,000.

There are some significant differences between this proposed project and Bridgewell. The land to be purchased is currently outside city limits, meaning the city will have to annex the land. This also means the city would need to extend utility services to the land.

Additionally, the city would require an extension of Garfield Street North along the west side of the property at the developer’s expense. In turn, the developer would ask for Tax Increment Financing to offset the extra costs of the street extension. TIFs take the added tax revenue from the increased property value and applies that money toward specific construction costs. According to City Administrator Evan Vogel, a TIF could take over 20 years before it comes off the books, however considering the large increase in property value and the relatively small costs the TIF would pay off, this TIF would most likely come off the books in a fraction of that time.

If everything goes according to plan, Reuter Walton Vice President of Development Paul Keenan projects construction would begin in the spring of 2026, with an estimated completion being sometime in 2027. Keenan said the project may be done in either one or two phases, depending on the issuance of the MMB bonds.

QUESTIONS REGARDING TIF

Council member Molly Christian asked how many TIFs the city currently had on the books and whether the city was overextending itself with them. Vogel said he believed there are approximately 12 TIFs currently. He added that in consulting with the city’s financial advisors, there isn’t any concern with the amount of subsidy being issued by the city.

Christian also asked if the TIF was applied to the county’s and school district’s taxes. After Vogel indicated that it would, Christian cautioned against forcing the county and school district to not be able to collect the full tax amount without their input. Mayor Jim Godfrey countered that by saying if the TIF wasn’t approved, the project would not happen and everybody would receive the same amount in taxes as before anyway.

Christian also stated her concern over adding yet another apartment complex to the city, citing “a significant number of people who were not happy with the number of apartment buildings in Cambridge.”

Vogel acknowledged also hearing those opinions, however, based on the size of the two parcels, plus the fact city utilities would still need to be connected, “it is much more challenging to make the math work” with lower-density housing.

“If you were looking at duplexes or quads in this area, there would not be enough volume to spread out the costs,” Vogel said. “That’s an assumption, but I believe it is a pretty reasonable assumption.”

Ultimately, the council gave preliminary approval of the conduit bonds by a 4-1 vote, with Christian casting the lone nay vote. During the June 16 meeting, the council will be asked to formally approve the conduit bond agreement. The council will take up the questions of annexation and TIF at future council meetings.

Isanti County may add DMV services

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Isanti County drivers and vehicle owners may a year from now have two “one-stop” locations for obtaining or renewing driver’s licenses and renewing license plate tabs and other Department of Motor Vehicle services.

Currently, people needing to obtain their first driver’s license or renew it have to go to the Isanti County Government Center, while renewing vehicle license plate tabs or other DMV services are performed at the Deputy Registrar’s office on Ashland Street. However, the Deputy Registrar, which is a privately owned business, is in the process of being sold, with the new owner looking to move the offices into the City Center Mall and adding driver’s license services.

Fearing a reduction in revenue because of this new competition, the Isanti County Commissioners unanimously approved starting the process for the county to also offer both services at the Government Center.

“That (driver’s licenses) is a pretty significant revenue for us to do those services,” said Isanti County Administrator Amanda Usher.

Isanti County Commissioner Todd Christensen also pointed out that many people already mistakenly think they can get their tabs at the Government Center, so it would make sense now to actually offer that service. He added he felt people would also feel like their personal data would be more secure with the

county rather than a private business.

Usher admitted the Deputy Registrar’s planned service expansion caught the county off guard. Prior to 2024, such a change would have to have gone before the county commissioners. However, that is no longer the law.

Commissioner Steve Westerberg questioned if the county should compete with a private business. Isanti County Auditor-Treasurer Angie Larson noted that 30 years ago or so, there was a handshake deal between the county and the Deputy Registrar’s Office the two would not offer the same services. However, the change in ownership, plus the change in the laws effectively negates that unofficial agreement.

According to Larson, the county must get legislative approval to add DMV services. It is too late to get that approval during the 2025 legislative session, even considering there will be a special session in the near future. Therefore, as a preliminary step, the county has crafted a letter to local state representatives alerting them to this potential change so a bill can be introduced early in the 2026 legislative session.

Larson added this would also give the commissioners plenty of time to formally decide if they wanted to add DMV services, and if they decide against it, the county would just tell the state legislature they no longer wish to have the bill considered. Additionally, if they decide to go forward with it, this gives the county plenty of time to figure out any logistical issues with offering the expanded services.

‘That (driver’s licenses) is a pretty significant revenue for us to do those services.’

Amanda Usher
Isanti County Administrator

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

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@midco-network.com

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 more 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
A social gathering for people with memory loss and their loved ones to connect, build support networks, and have fun. 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 more info.



Jerry Frasier will perform at Cambridge Library on June 10.
Blvd. Isanti. 763-444-4605

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

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

Chisago County Drop-In Center

Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. located at Main Street Church, 6500 Main Street, North Branch. For individuals 18 yrs or older living with mental illness. This is a place to spend time with peers in planned activities and groups. Our stff is also available to assist with connecting to resources and services. More info: 651-213-5600 or Adult-mentalhealth.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 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.

Parkinson's Support Group
Third Thursday of the month – 1-2:30 p.m. Walk-

er Methodist Levande, 2011 6th Lane SE, Cambridge, MN for more 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 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.

Medicare and Medicaid 101 Open House
Stop in to the Cambridge Library the third Thursday of the month from 1-3 p.m. to get your questions answered by trained agents. No pressure, just come on in and ask away! You may find out you know more than you think! (763) 689-7390 for more information or visit eclib.org.

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

JUNE 7
Master Gardeners Plant Sale

9 a.m. to noon at the Cambridge Community Garden 1700 E Rum River Drive S. Hosted by the Isanti County Master Gardeners. Credit cards and cash will be accepted

JUNE 8-12
Vacation Bible School
A free Vacation Bible School at North Isanti Baptist Church, 2248 313th Ave. NE, Cambridge, for kids ages 4 thru entering 6th grade. Register at nibchurch.com/vbs or call the church at 763-689-3576.

JUNE 10
AARP Smart Driver Class
12:30 - 4:30 p.m. at the Braham Event Center. Cost: \$20 for AARP members, \$25 for non-members Registration: Please call 612-750-1496 to register. Attendees of this class will receive a certificate that they can present to their insurance agent for a potential discount on their auto insurance.

Magician Jerry Fasier
10:30 a.m. at Cambridge Library. Fun for the entire family. Reserve your spots for this program by registering online at eclib.libcal.com

JUNE 11
Salad Luncheon
First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rush City will host a Salad Luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a free will offering and the public is invited. The church is located at 1000 S. Jay Ave in Rush City.

JUNE 12
Free Well Water Screening Clinic
11 a.m.–4 p.m. at Chisago Lakes Town Hall, 12400 316th St, Lindstrom. Bring at least one cup (8 oz.) of water in a clean plastic or glass container. Staff will test for nitrate and chloride, with results available on-site or by email.

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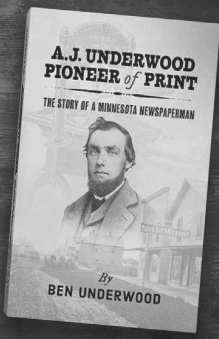
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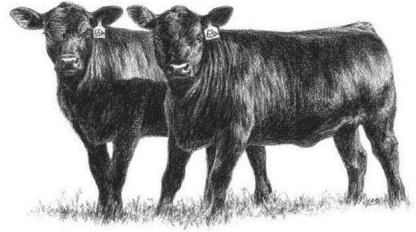
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Presidents, Popes, prostrates, postal service, prayers

The following quote comes from George Washington's farewell address. It relates to predictions of government. "However (political parties) may now and then answer popular ends, they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion." September 17, 1796



LEO THE XIV MAKES HISTORY

The 1.4 billion Catholics around the world, represented by Cardinals, have chosen their successor to Pope Francis. They sought a shepherd, a missionary, a teacher of humanity, someone capable of leading a Samaritan church close to the wounded, the suffering and the impoverished. Someone who would help overcome polarizing forces in the church and society, and someone who would make peace-building his goal. Some would say Pope Francis had led the way for the church, and many see the connecting threads between he and Leo XIV. Leo XIII in 1891 made the change of industrial era, migrations, poverty, displacement, and rapid changes. Now Pope Leo XIV will make

changes for this digital age. The significance of being an American may help many return to the church. There are moral issues that continue, but they are being dealt with. There are financial issues that will still have to be dealt with. This Pope is a man of God and believes Jesus is the way to eternal life. He intends to be a bridge builder. That means finding ways to bridge differences and build unity. As the Catholic church needs renewal and reform, so do all other denominations. Pope Leo is a teacher of humanity who wants us all to understand the gift of being called human. We are all sinful. We need the forgiveness which our Lord Jesus provided through His death on the cross, and His resurrection. This is a significant time in the life of Americans, as well as the world. We need God's word to guide us, but to allow guidance we all need to be reading the Bible. I hope it also brings sincere meaning to love your neighbor as yourselves.

PROSTATE CANCER

I'm surprised that President Biden had not been tested for PSA since 2014. Now he is suffering from stage 4 prostate cancer at the age of 82. From firsthand experience, I have been battling prostate cancer for two decades and it just doesn't give up. As a result, I get a PSA test every four months and a Choline Pet scan during each of my trips to Mayo. I have had two radiation treatment series and every four months an injection of

synthetic hormones called Luperon to discourage the cancer growth. My surgeon from decades ago told me some cells escaped when they were removing the prostate. Those cells have been very hard to kill. It seems like we have it under control, but within five years it seems to raise its ugly head. Some drugs have been fairly tough on my body, such as Xtandi. Perhaps in Biden's case, they just didn't want to make anything public and they used the excuse that nobody over 70 needs a PSA test. Over the years I have learned and published material that if men live long enough, they will more likely than not have prostate cancer. For example, they said if you live to the age of 60, you will have a 60% chance, at age 80 an 80% chance, etc. This is a reminder to men beginning at age 40 to have a PSA test and know your Gleason score. The Gleason score helps tell the stage of the cancer.

POSTAL SERVICE A MESS

Delayed deliveries, frequent rate increases, regulations and lack of efficiencies have brought about a mess at the US Postal Service. I'm not referring to our local post office and the service they provide, or those where we mail newspapers in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Locally, they are very helpful. To get prompt delivery, the category that paid newspapers are mailed in varies greatly, providing more time and cost of delivery. We enter newspapers in various mailing centers, even to local communities, to expedite delivery.

It appears to me that the postal service doesn't have qualified leaders or they are not using outside services such as experienced transportation people to gain efficiencies. I think they could do a lot to simplify their regulations. The postal manual is getting more pages. Recently, we found that at many of the post offices where we enter mail there are undelivered addresses that we have not been alerted to. Now we're trying to claim refunds for the non-delivery. Stealing mail is now happening to fraudulently secure names and personal information. Keep your representatives in Congress alerted to this shortfall which is affecting mailing throughout our country.

A PRAYER FOR OUR VETERANS

Oh, God, Our Heavenly Father, you have blessed us with brave men and women who are willing to defend our freedom. May your protection and grace surround them each day. Let Your healing hand be upon those who suffer wounds and injuries. May those who have made the ultimate sacrifice rest forever in Your Holy Presence. Comfort the families who mourn and are left to remember the precious lives of their loved ones. Help us to honor and support them. Let us ever be mindful of each sacrifice made on behalf of the American people by our sons, daughters, husbands, wives, mothers, fathers, and friends. Amen GENE JOHNSON is Publisher Emeritus of Press Publications, owner of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be reached at ppinfo@presspubs.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Is this really what you voted for?

To the editor, People will die so the Republicans can pass their big, awful, draconian, terrible, deadly budget bill. The bi-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that 15 million people will lose health insurance due to cuts to Medicaid and other Trump administration changes. These cuts will undoubtedly lead to more deaths from lack of healthcare. The bill will end funding for most clean energy programs and repeal parts of the Clean Air Act adding more pollution to our skies. The CBO also projects a 7% rise in energy costs. Republican politicians will cut \$300 billion from SNAP. This is not a "boost yourself up by your own bootstraps" cut. These cuts do not just cut waste, fraud and abuse. They are not "trimming the fat," they are cutting to the bone. Children and adults will die from these cuts. Republican politicians could have made smaller tax cuts and smaller spending cuts but they didn't. Their budget proves, without a doubt, that they care more about the rich people who bribed them for votes than they care about the rest of us. The Republicans will add \$3.8 trillion to the national debt. These same Republicans will scream bloody murder about the national debt and budget deficits every time a Democrat is elected, but I digress. Even if the Senate doesn't pass this bill, remember, your Republican house member voted to have people die so they could extend their tax breaks.

SEE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, PAGE 5



Your Best Source for Community Information

Isanti-Chisago County Star is published every Thursday by Northstar Media, Inc., 930 Cleveland St. S., Cambridge, MN 55008. Periodicals postage paid at Cambridge, MN 55008. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Isanti-Chisago County Star, 930 Cleveland St. S., Cambridge, MN 55008

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ISANTI-CHISAGO

COUNTY STAR

Published by

Northstar Media, Inc.

PRINTERS · PUBLISHERS

930 South Cleveland, Cambridge, MN 55008

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
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NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

AN EDITION OF
ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

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Celebrating the changing of seasons

As the school year draws to a close and the days stretch longer and warmer, we find ourselves in a season of change—one filled with reflection, celebration, and new beginnings. From preschoolers getting ready for kindergarten to high school seniors preparing for what's next, this is a time when accomplishments are recognized and the next chapter begins to take shape. These milestones remind us how quickly time passes and how much growth can happen in a year.



C-I Schools Community Ed
Christina Thayer Anderson

Graduation is just one of many meaningful accomplishments we celebrate in our schools and throughout life. This June, we honor learners of all ages. From our seniors at Riverside Academy and Cambridge-Isanti High School to adult learners in our Adult Education programs—some returning to the classroom years later to finish what they started—each graduate's journey is a powerful testament to perseverance. Completing a GED, gaining English language skills, or exploring new knowledge all reflect the same dedication, courage, and hope. We see that same spirit in students earning their driver's licenses, in youth diving into summer enrichment, and in preschoolers joyfully preparing for kindergarten. Every achievement matters. Every journey counts.

As an educator and a parent, I'm struck each year by just how fast time moves. My own children are growing by leaps and bounds right before my eyes—and no matter how much I try, I can't seem to slow it down. Between the preschooler's hilarious stories and tiny voice, our elementary-age kids' impressive gains in both academics and athletics, and our middle schooler truly coming into her own, I am constantly in awe of who they are becoming. Even in the chaos of sibling bickering and endless snack requests, I find myself wishing I could freeze time, just for a moment, to soak it all in. These are the seasons that shape us—quietly, steadily, and with meaning that often reveals itself only when we pause to reflect.

While this school year may be ending, our connection to the community will not be paused. In fact, summer is one of the most exciting times for Community Education. District leadership staff and our Community Education teams will be out and about at parades, the county fair, farmers markets, and neighborhood events—meeting families, sharing resources, and celebrating everything that makes our schools and community strong! You'll see us at the Rodeo Days Parade, at Kids Day at the Fair, and throughout local parks and community spaces, offering programs and opportunities for connection at every stage of life. These are more than events—they are chances to build relationships, foster belonging, and celebrate what it means to be part of a vibrant, connected community.

We are so proud of our students, our families, and our community members of all ages who have reached new milestones this season. Whether you're preparing for your first day of kindergarten, your first job, or your next big adventure in retirement, it's a time to celebrate your achievements. No matter your age or life stage, we hope you feel a deep sense of accomplishment—and that you feel inspired to keep learning, exploring, and engaging with your community. As the seasons shift once again, may you find meaning in the growth around you and joy in the new paths ahead.

From all of us in Community Education and Cambridge-Isanti Schools: congratulations to all who are celebrating milestones big and small. Thank you for letting us walk alongside you. We are honored to be part of your journey.

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

Minnesota's 100 deadliest days

Question: I caught part of the news the other night and heard something about the 100 deadliest days. Can you get me more information on that?



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Answer: I certainly can. Here is some information we shared on the Minnesota Department of Safety blog. The Minnesota State Patrol is urging drivers to make smart, safe decisions as the state enters what is known as

the "100 deadliest days" on the road.

This stretch, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, is the most dangerous time of year to travel in Minnesota. It coincides with peak travel nationwide and a troubling spike in fatal crashes.

In 2024, Minnesota saw 151 traffic deaths during this period. By year's end, at least 479 people had died on the state's roads.

The four main contributors to fatal crashes remain consistent: speed, alcohol, lack of seat belt use and distraction. Last year, each played a major role in Minnesota's traffic deaths:

- Speed: 138 fatalities
- Alcohol: 124 fatalities
- Unbelted: 108 fatalities
- Distraction: 29 fatalities

"These are the leading killers on our roads," Bogojevic said. "And we see the consequences play out every day—in the Twin Cities and rural counties across Minnesota."

She said troopers continue to encounter drivers making dangerous choices—speeding down highways, texting behind the wheel, not buckling up and driving impaired.

The state patrol and more than 300 agencies across Minnesota plan to increase enforcement over the summer.

Expect more patrols, targeted campaigns and greater coordination with local agencies.

"If you're speeding, driving impaired, unbelted or distracted, expect to see us," Bogojevic said.

But law enforcement says it can't turn the tide alone. They are asking all Minnesotans to do their part.

- Slow down and give yourself time to get where you're going
- Stay off your phone
- Buckle up—everyone, every time
- Never drive impaired, by alcohol or drugs

"If every driver made those choices, we could flip the script," Bogojevic said. "This summer doesn't have to be deadly. It can be the safest."

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).

Policing through partnership: Building a stronger, safer Cambridge

In the past year, the Cambridge Police Department has embraced a renewed commitment to community policing. As Chief of Police, I've seen firsthand the positive impact of investing in relationships and programs that go beyond emergency response. My goal as Chief is to create an environment where our officers aren't just showing up when something goes wrong, we're striving to do our part to help build the kind of community we all want to live in.



Cambridge Police Chief
Shawn Machin

One of the most exciting additions to our department over this past year has been the implementation of a therapy dog program. Our new therapy K9, Jack—short for Bluejackets—will be working with School Resource Officer Kevin Gross. Jack is more than a friendly dog; he'll provide emotional support to students, crime victims, and community members during stressful situations. Whether he's comforting children at school or helping calm nerves after a traumatic event, Jack reinforces the importance of mental wellness in public safety.

Last summer we expanded our community engagement efforts, with a strong focus on being present and visible to our community. Our officers regularly visited daycares, patrolled local parks on foot and bike, and launched a new initiative, "Freezees with a Cop", to give kids and families a chance to connect with officers in a relaxed, positive setting. Programs like "Shop with a Cop" and "Shop with a Hero" have grown as

well, helping us bring smiles to children during the holidays while reinforcing the human side of policing. These programs also highlight the importance of having strong partnerships within the community. Without these partnerships, these programs would not have succeeded.

Community policing also means preparing for real-world challenges. In this last year, we introduced robbery prevention and response training for local businesses. By equipping store owners and employees with practical strategies and direct communication with our officers, we're building resilience and preparedness into everyday operations. In the future, we hope to provide threat assessment training and site reviews for area businesses to help them better prepare for incidents.

Looking ahead, we're excited to help foster the development of new community watch groups throughout Cambridge to give residents an even greater role in keeping our neighborhoods safe. We'll also begin assigning specific officers to designated areas of the city, where they will focus on quality-of-life crimes. Quality of life crimes are nuisance issues that affect daily life, like vandalism, noise complaints, and petty theft. Having specific officers assigned to an area will provide citizens with a point of contact to discuss the issues they are facing. These targeted efforts will allow our officers to build relationships, understand the unique challenges of each area, and work collaboratively on solutions.

The progress we've made this year marks an important step forward—but it's just the beginning. With continued collaboration, the Cambridge Police Department is committed to building a safer, stronger, and more connected Cambridge for all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

If you did not vote for these policies, let your congressman or senator know by calling or writing. There is another way. You can join the millions of us that are protesting these policies. You can become active in expressing your view that these policies are not humane, fiscally responsible, or moral. There should be no shame when you realize that you've been fooled and lied to. Our democracy and the world we leave our children and grandchildren is at stake. Will you join us?

Jeffrey Benny
Cambridge

To whom it may concern

To the editor,
First and foremost, I want to thank Kathy Leick for her kind and truthful words and agree with Minnesota's pathetic flag. Keep writing! Also want to thank supporters that appreciate my

letters to the editor and I assure you I write on behalf of you all.
Watching Democrats venomous hatred towards Musk and President Trump whom won by a landslide is simply disgusting. The world is coming to an end, we are all gonna die according to Democrats and supporters. No policies, just hatred. Ilhan Omar and other Democratic woman swearing like truck drivers and name calling should be fired. Remember one Democrat supporter said name calling was childish. However, this person called Trump a dictator. Perfect example of Democrats' motto: "do as I say but not as I do".
Recently murder loving Minnesota's DA office let out an illegal criminal who was supposed to be detained by ICE. Driving drunk killed an innocent Minnesota mother, Psychocrats could care less about the hundreds murdered and raped by Democrats' precious

illegal killers. My opinion anyone who supports not removing violent illegal criminals is evil and stupid!
Quinnipiac approval rating on Democrats in congress is 21% much like CNN/MSNBC. Another two Democrats leaving this fraudulent, pathetic, lying Democratic party: Senator Jason Pizzo and Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson had enough.
Trump won 53% of young voters while Democrats spend \$20 million desperately learning how to connect with young male voters. Psychocrats lying in regards to Joe Biden's mental acuity, telling us he's sharp as a whip, always aware of what's going on. Bunch of hogwash. Biden's cronies who were not politicians allegedly running our country? Remember Jill Biden telling Joe after a disastrous debate, "Oh Joe you answered all the questions!" Something you would tell your 4 to 5-year-

old. This fraudulent behavior makes Watergate look like a parking ticket.
You Democrat supporters can have your tax happy, welfare/Medicare, Medicaid fraudulent wasteful government spending, schools tanking, police hating, fear-mongering, murdering criminals, illegal murder/rapist, hatred swearing woke, violent protesting, transgender supporting party.
When is the last time you got a tax cut from Democrats? Trump has already reduced the Federal Reserve inflation rate and core PCE price index fell to lowest level since March 2021. Aggregate wages and salaries rose 0.5% for the third straight month, reflecting job gains and wage growth. Gas now \$2.58 a gallon. Lastly, To anger a conservative lie to them, to anger a liberal, tell them the truth.

Jerry Grell
Cambridge

OBITUARIES

Allan Rodney Swedeen

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Allan Rodney Swedeen. He was born on July 27, 1946 in Cambridge, MN. Allan passed away peacefully at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis, MN on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at the age of 78. He was a loving husband to Kathy Swedeen for almost exactly 58 years. Allan was also a loving brother, father, grandfather and friend.

Allan attended the Springvale schoolhouse for grades one-eight, and attended high school in Cambridge. He graduated in 1964. He then worked for the Cambridge-Isanti school district as a custodian. As a perk to working in the school, Allan could

exchange notes with a certain young lady in her locker and that's how the romance between Allan & Kathy Swedeen began. Kathy graduated in 1966 and the two were married on June 3, 1967 at Christ the King Catholic Church in Cambridge. He worked for the school district for 15 years while also working at Midland as a gas station attendant to support his growing family. Allan was an extremely hard-working man who loved country music and working on his 40-acre hobby farm with his faithful wife, Kathy (Winch) Swedeen. He and Kathy raised two daughters and one son on this farm, west of Cambridge. Making hay with his family was always a highlight of his summer. His collection of Allis-Chalmers tractors served as a practical hobby that filled various needs as well as bringing him great joy.

Country music was a passion for Allan, as he was a rhythm guitarist and singer for the local country-western band named "Half-Mile Back" that was well-known in the area. Allan also enjoyed hunting and fishing with many family members and friends over the years. Most of all, he cherished the annual blueberry picking family reunion held at Echo Lake Campground in northern Minnesota. In 1980, Allan took a full-time maintenance position for the Osseo school district and worked there faithfully for 28 years, retiring in 2008. Upon retirement, Kathy & Allan were able to enjoy a few years of traveling around the US with their pickup camper to various locations. Throughout the years, Kathy & Allan were regularly found working side-by-side on the various projects that a hobby farm requires. As time went on and Allan's health weakened, he could be most often found in his shed, still listening to country music, occasionally yelling at his radio during Minnesota TWINS or Vikings games and discussing the current news with family and friends.

Allan will be greatly remembered for his willingness to always lend a hand to anyone who needed help and also for his friendliness to everyone he met.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Lorraine (Bachman) Swedeen, infant brother, four grandchildren, brothers-in-law Dale Smith and Allan Peterson.

Allan is survived by his faithful wife, Kathy (Winch). His children, Tammy (Chuck) Seafolk, Mark (Denise) Swedeen, and Lynnea (Tony) Beberg, his brother, Lloyd, (JoAnn) Swedeen, and sisters, Yvonne Smith and Marilyn Peterson. Papa was a beloved grandpa to Matthew, Michael, Caleb, Luke, Micah, Aaron and Brianna. He also leaves behind four great-grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

Celebration of Life Gathering 4-7 p.m., Friday, June 6, 2025 at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home in Cambridge. Private Graveside Service at Cambridge Union Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to the American Heart Association. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com.

Send your business news, accomplishments and awards to editor@countystar.com.

Daniel Hiljus

August 29, 1961 – May 1, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announced the passing of Dan Hiljus on May 1, 2025. Daniel was born to Dean and Joyce Hiljus on August 29, 1961 in Chisago City, Minnesota.

His childhood was spent growing up in the Isanti Cambridge area, where he loved to trap, fish and be with his brothers and cousins. After graduation in 1979, he went into the United States Navy and served as a Saturation Diver. He was proud to call them shipmates and friends. His final duty in the military was to be part of the team to train water safety survival to the Blue Angels in Pensacola Florida, NAS. Once retired he worked as a United States postal carrier for 25 years. He made many friends on his route and at work. He had a good heart, a Samaritan, to all along his journey in life. Finally, he could tell you a good story with laughter.

Daniel is proceeded in death by his father, Dean Hiljus; stepmother, Shirley Hiljus; stepfather, Larry Smieja; grandparents Roy and Fern Hiljus, Chester and Ruby Winch, and Lawrence and Angus Smieja.

Daniel will be forever loved by his wife, Linda; son, Daniel; daughter Sophia; his mother, Joyce Smieja; brothers, Kevin "Sandie" and Craig "Elise"; his stepsiblings, Lance "Deb", Lynne, Leigh, Marie, Brenda, Dan, and Debbie. Many cousins, nephews, family, and friends.

Celebration of Life
June Ann Poff

Saturday June 7, noon-4 p.m. at Stacy Lions Park, 5860 Stacy Trail, Stacy, MN 55079
June Ann Poff (Howard) passed away unexpectedly February 27, 2025. June was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, sister-in-law, aunt and friend.

She was proceeded in death by Parents Roy and Lorraine Howard and Husband Douglas.

Survived by sons, Troy (Shannon), Trevor, Derek (Lauren); bonus children, Kelly (Chris) Fedun, Shawn Turnvall; grandchildren, JoHannah (Austyn), Bentley, Kylie, Tanner, Hunter, Lily, Lila, Dylan; great-granddaughter, Evelyn; siblings, Sonny (Percy), Bert (Pinky), Gean, and Lorraine, best friends Patsy & Kathy, sibling inlaws Dan (Kathy), Deb (Jim) Nelson Denise (Terry) Hanna, Dede (Kevin) Bombard; many nieces, nephews other relatives, friends.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

- Student Achievement Lists**
Braydon Sparks of Isanti (President's) from Western Technical College

Aliah Williams of North Branch (Chancellor's List) from Western Carolina University

Aaron Swedeen of Stanchfield (Dean's List) from Cedarville University

Hailey Bistodeau of North Branch (Dean's List) from Buena Vista University

Melanie Anderson, Bekah Fish, Dominick DiPaolo, Jeremy Johnson, Logan Murphy, Paige Peaslee,

- Amanda Pedersen, Abigail Scott, and Peyton Smith** of North Branch; **Daniel Berg, Mikayla Ertz, Elizabeth Groen** and **Veronica Hemming** of Rush City; **Alexander Fennern** and **Erin Kruse** of Cambridge; **Hunter Carlson** of St Francis; **Hannah Kopel** of Stanchfield; **Kyle Warzecha** and Braham; and **Heather Wilson** of Isanti (Dean's) from Winona State University.

McKenna Miller (President's); and **Elinor Tetzlaff** (Dean's) of North Branch from Central Lakes College

Cora Hudella and **Abby Randall** of North Branch (Dean's) from The University of Wisconsin-Superior

Donald "Don" James Ferrian

Donald "Don" James Ferrian passed away on May 19, 2025, at the age of 78. Born on April 18, 1947, in Elk River, Minnesota, he was the youngest of eight children of Peter and Daisy Ferrian.

Don grew up on a farm in Frankfort Township, where he learned the value of hard work—a trait that shaped his life. A journeyman plumber, he worked at Thompson Plumbing for 29 years and was always busy with projects, including building several family homes between 1986 and 2005. He was quick to lend a hand, helping friends and neighbors with everything from leaks to garages. He enjoyed fishing, Bingo nights, and casino trips with his beloved wife of

43 years, LeeAnn. He valued time with family and friends, often sharing stories and laughter. Don is survived by LeeAnn; his children Ronald (Tammy), Travis (Stephanie), and Samantha (Blake) Reilly; grandchildren Sean, Angela, Rian, Jayle, Adelyn, Cameron, Harper, Maverick, and Cooper; great-grandchildren Loraine and Jackson; and siblings Alvin (Carol) and Margaret. He was preceded in death by his parents, six siblings, and daughter Susan.

Don's legacy of generosity, dedication, and love for family will be dearly missed. A Celebration of Life will be held Monday, June 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Joy Lutheran Church in Cambridge, Minnesota, with visitation one hour prior. A time of fellowship and refreshments will follow.

Craig George Barr

Craig George Barr, age 88 of Isanti, died on May 30, 2025 after a two year battle with cancer. He was born August 18, 1936 at Bemidji, Minnesota to George and Lois (Findley) Barr. He married Marlys Larson on June 30, 1957 and they were the parents of two children; Ellen Barr of Andover and Bryan Barr, (Debbie) of Isanti. They lived in Bemidji until 1967 when they moved to Isanti and Craig began a thirty-four year career teaching elementary school in the St. Francis school system.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, his children, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A family celebration will be held at a later date. Online condolences can be made at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

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ISANTI-CHISAGO
COUNTY STAR



Northbound Liquor to start selling THC drinks

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Northbound Liquor, the city of Cambridge's Municipal liquor store, is hoping to see a rebound in slumping sales with the introduction of THC beverages.

According to Cambridge City Administrator Evan Vogel, the store's management has made this request after noticing the overall decreased sales.

"A lot of patrons are going to places where they can get these products," Vogel said. "So that's a cost-benefit consideration. According to our store manager and assistant manager, we have had customers come in, ask if we have these products, right now we don't, so the answer is no, and they will just turn around and leave."

Council member Aaron Berg put it more succinctly. "Our residents have been going to Isanti for two years now to get their THC water," Berg said. "So we're losing revenue to another municipal liquor store within seven miles." At the same time, Berg said he didn't like the idea of the city selling these products, "this is more of a business decision than a personal decision."

Council member Molly Christian stated she was against the idea of the city selling any sort of marijuana or cannabinoid products, even if it means losing revenue.

"I think there is a difference between a private business and a city

business," Christian said. "And just because we can do something, it doesn't mean we should do something."

Ultimately, the council voted 3-2 to approve the sales of THC beverages at Northbound Liquor. Berg and Christian cast the nay votes.

RAILROAD CROSSING TO BE RECONSTRUCTED
BNSF has informed the city it has discovered surface and subsurface defects at the railroad intersection with 40th Ave SW on the south side of the city.

According to Public Works Director Todd Schwab, BNSF's standard operating procedure once discovering needed repairs is to "offer" to pay half of the costs to repair the intersection, with the city paying the other half. In this case, however, the railroad tracks at that intersection are also the boundary between the city of Cambridge and Isanti Township. Therefore, while BNSF will still pay half, the other half will be evenly split between the city and township.

Schwab added the timing of this project is ideal as BNSF has scheduled it for mid-summer, which will be at the same time as 40th Avenue SW and South Main Street will be closed for the city's street improvement project.

The city's portion of the project would be \$26,680, plus the cost of half of the pavement restoration, which can be performed by the same company who is awarded the South Main Street project.



PATRICK TEPOORTEN | CONTRIBUTED

North Branch Area Public Schools students pull weeds from a garden during the school district's annual Community Service Day on May 29.

Vikings lead through service

Service is a defining value across North Branch Area Public Schools. Each spring, Community Service Day brings this commitment to life, connecting students and staff through hands-on projects that make a meaningful impact.

Throughout the day, thanks to donated transportation services from 4.0, students and staff worked side by side at dozens of locations, contributing time and energy to serve others. From community parks to senior centers, ball fields to roadside clean-ups, each service team met local needs that

strengthen the fabric of our towns.

Students across the district engaged in a wide range of service projects that brought lasting impact to our communities. They worked together to restore parks and public spaces by raking, mulching, and clearing invasive buckthorn; cleaned up litter along roadsides and at local ball fields; and helped beautify gathering places like Riverwalk Park, Harder Park, Lions Park, and Anderson Park. Others served through creative contributions sharing music,

art, and kind conversation to uplift senior citizens and community members.

Each project addressed a real need and gave students the opportunity to contribute to something greater than themselves. They led with empathy, worked with purpose, and discovered how leadership grows through service, collaboration, and humility. Staff members modeled these values by guiding, encouraging, and joining in throughout the day.

The joy was unmistakable! Smiles, laughter, and shared accomplishment revealed the deep fulfillment that comes from giving back. The Viking spirit of service brought out the best in everyone.

Service is deeply rooted in the culture of North Branch Area Public Schools as a way of learning, leading and growing. Community Service Day reflects how students develop leadership by putting compassion into action. As they serve others, they build confidence, and discover their ability to lead with purpose. When students and staff work together to meet real needs in our communities, we grow forward together, in service, leadership and Viking pride. SKOL! Vikings!

SARA PAUL is superintendent of North Branch Area Public Schools. She can be reached at 651-674-1000 or spaul@isd138.org.

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Comprehensive PLAN REVIEW

Open House

Tuesday, June 17 • 6:30pm • City Hall

Residents and property owners of North Branch are invited to participate in the City of North Branch Comprehensive Plan review process, starting at an open house on June 17, 6:30pm, at City Hall.

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BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

There are other sky walkers

North Branch’s girls pole vault trio of Ella Dick (left), Dakota Esget (center) and Brooke Giese (right) made it a perfect three-for-three in qualifying for the Class AA State Track and Field Meet. Ella won the Section 7AA championship, with Dakota finishing third and Brooke finishing fourth, but qualifying based on clearing the state meet standard.

Viking girls send five individuals, two relays to state

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The North Branch girls track and field team will again be well represented at the Class AA State Track & Field Meet, qualifying five individuals in three events, plus two relay teams.

The Viking pole vaulters earned a clean sweep in the event, qualifying all three section entrants to compete at state. Junior Ella Dick will be making another trip to state. She won the section championship by clearing 11 feet, even. Senior Dakota Esget will also be returning to state. Dakota finished in third place by clearing 10 feet, 6 inches, which eclipses the state qualifying standard of 10 feet, even. That height is exactly what junior Brooke Giese cleared, which means she too will be competing at state despite finishing fourth at the

section meet.

The other two individual state qualifiers came via section championship races. Senior Ella Kuhlman too first in the 400, while sophomore Sophia Thorsen dashed to first place in the 200.

North Branch’s two state-qualifying relays also did so by winning the section championship. The 4x200 relay of Kuhlman, Sophia Benedict, Esget, and Thorsen won the event by over two seconds over runner-up Rock Ridge. The 4x100 relay, which features Kuhlman, Esget, Dick, and Thorsen; edged Rock Ridge by just over a half-second.

The Class AA State Meet will be held at St. Michael-Albertville Wednesday and Thursday, June 11 - 12. Both the prelims on Wednesday and finals on Thursday begin at 9 a.m.

Jackets send six individuals, two relays to state

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Competing in one of the toughest sections, the Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket track and field teams managed to qualify for the Class AAA State Meet in seven different events.

As predicted, the pole vaulters led the way for the Bluejackets, advancing two boys and two girls to the state meet. For the boys, Calvin Piescher continued his dominance, taking first place by clearing 15 feet, 2 inches — a full foot higher than the second place finisher from Andover and teammate Wesley Kennedy, who qualified for state by eclipsing the state meet qualifying standard of 13 feet, 2 inches. Kennedy finished in third via tiebreaker, clearing 14 feet, 2 inches.

C-I’s Abby Kryzer did likewise in the girl’s pole vault, capturing the section championship by clearing 11 feet, 4 inches, which was 3 inches higher than the second-place finisher from Forest Lake. Bluejacket Aubrey Wilson also advanced to state by clearing the state meet qualifying height of 10 feet, 10

inches. That height gave her third place in the meet. Abby and Aubrey will be the lone representatives of the Bluejacket girl’s team at state.

Junior Jackson Ziebarth will be the busiest at the state meet. Jackson qualified individually in both the 100 and 200, winning the section championship in both events. He is also part of the state-qualifying 4x100 relay team that also features Anders Lillemo, Knox Andrus, and Cole Arneson.

The final individual qualifier is Jay Ziebarth. Despite finishing fourth in the discus, his throw of 158 feet, 10 inches was over 9 feet beyond the state meet qualifying standard.

Rounding out the C-I qualifiers is the 4x800 relay team of Lucashio Larson, Peyton Dombek, Hunter Husby, and Hunter Jacobson. The quartet claimed the section championship to advance to state.

The Class AAA State Meet will be held at St. Michael-Albertville. Prelims and some finals will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10. The finals are scheduled for Thursday, June 12, beginning no sooner than 3:30 p.m.

Viking golf sends three to state

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

North Branch Viking golf continued its recent successes, having three duffers qualify for the Class AA State Meet, with a fourth just missing a berth via a head-to-head tiebreaker playoff.

The Viking boys team will have two competing at state. Freshman Nick Melvin will be making his third state meet appearance after finishing in fourth place with a two-round total of 151. He

will be joined by Sophomore Carter Magnison, who needed a one-hole head-to-head tiebreaker to qualify for his first state meet.

The Viking girls will again be represented by senior Ashley Bistodeau, who finished in fifth place with a two-round total of 176. This will be her second state meet appearance. Seventh-grader Sawyer Peterson was on the wrong end of a two-hole tiebreaker, finishing just outside of qualifying for state.

The State Meet will be held Tuesday



CONTRIBUTED

The North Branch boys golf team captured the Section 5AA team runner-up trophy during the section tournament held at Pebble Creek Golf Club.

and Wednesday, June 10 - 11 at Ridges at Sand Creek.

In the section team tournament, North Branch’s boys captured the

Section 5AA runner-up trophy, behind Totino-Grace. The Viking girls finished in third place, behind Totino-Grace and Legacy Christian Academy.



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Arrowhead Transit launches ‘RideSmart 2025’

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Public transit riders in Isanti and Chisago Counties who have been frustrated with inconsistent service should now find a lot more structure in what was admittedly a chaotic situation.

On June 2, Arrowhead Transit launched a completely restructured scheduling service, featuring time-specific stops at popular destinations along predetermined routes. Additionally, Arrowhead has expanded its Dial-a-Ride option for curb-to-curb rides within Cambridge and North Branch.

“I was part of the previous system,” said Chisago County Administrator Chase Burnham, in reference to when Isanti and Chisago County jointly ran Heartland Express. “We just didn’t do good enough.”

“RideSmart 2025 isn’t just a redesign, it is a full system reset,” said Assistant Director of Operations Sandra Wheelcor. “It’s the result of countless hours spent listening to our riders, meeting with the community, asking tough questions on what’s working and what’s not working. We didn’t ‘tweak’ a schedule or add stops, we broke the system down and started fresh.”

The crux of RideSmart 2025 involves over 13 new or redesigned routes between cities in Isanti and Chisago Coun-

ty, including Saturday and Sunday routes. Each of these routes features a bus arriving and departing from cities at the same time each day. Within those cities, specific drop-off locations have been established. For example, bus routes to or from Cambridge include stops at the Isanti County Government Center, Cambridge Medical Center, Anoka-Ramsey Community College, Cambridge-Isanti High School, City Center Mall, and Cub Foods.

Stops in the city of Isanti include the Intermediate School, City Hall, the post office, and Middle School. Stops in North Branch include County Market and Gateway North.

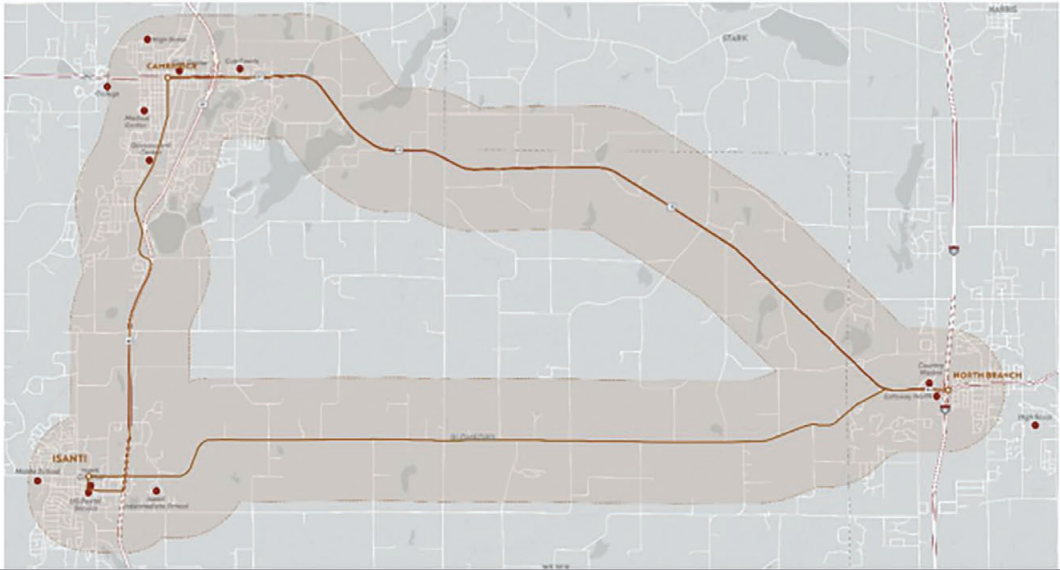
Included in the weekday commuter routes are ones from Cambridge to Braham, to Rush Point; an Express Route from Cambridge to Braham; a route connecting Cambridge, Isanti, Pine Brook, and Grandy; another that connects Cambridge, Isanti, and Long Lake; and of course a route from Cambridge, to North Branch, to Isanti.

Each of these weekday commuter routes begin between 5:30 and 8 a.m. for the morning route. There is also an afternoon schedule for each of the routes.

Weekend routes include Isanti to Cambridge to Braham; and Cambridge to North Branch to Wyoming to Chisago City on Saturdays; plus a Cambridge to North Branch

Tri-City Commuter Local Bus Route

Effective 06/02/2025



CONTRIBUTED

This map shows the new tri-city bus route that runs between Cambridge, North Branch, and Isanti six times each weekday.

Sunday route.

“These maps follow the routes to a ‘T,’” Arrowhead Public Relations Director Dominick Olivanti said, “and will always be at these places at these times.”

Another key component for these routes is they are known as “deviated routes.” What this means is anyone wishing to be picked up or dropped off within three-quarters of a mile away from the primary route

roads (called the route deviation corridor) simply must contact Arrowhead’s dispatch ahead of time.

DIAL A RIDE

Besides the new predetermined routes, Arrowhead is featuring an expanded curb-to-curb service in Cambridge and North Branch. For \$3 one way, riders can get picked up and dropped off at specific locations within an expanded

area of Cambridge and North Branch.

“As part of the RideSmart 2025 redesign, the service boundaries have been expanded to include growing residential areas on the outskirts of town,” said the RideSmart 2025 report.

To see maps of all the routes, and for more information about Arrowhead’s services, go to www.arrowheadtransit.com and click on county schedules.

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August 19 funded by
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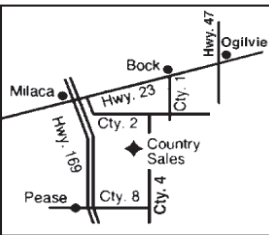


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North Branch

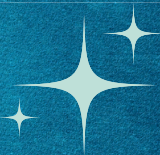
Area Chamber of Commerce

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

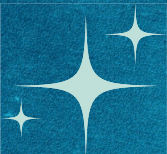


June 2025





SAVE THE DATE





LOCATION:
American Legion
6439 Elm St, North Branch

CATERED BY: County Market

Speaker: John Perlich & Addie Miller
Topic: 2025 MN Legislative Updates

JUNE 10TH LUNCHEON
11:30AM - 1:00PM
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GREEN THUMB – Lawn & Garden Guide

Starting seeds - Starting plants from seed is a fun and economical way to get your garden going for the season. Starting from seed also usually gives you a better selection of plant varieties that transplants do. Nurseries, catalogs, and online companies make it easy to find seeds of all kinds for your garden. Some plants like native perennials require stratification - a cold period - while others like carrots, radishes, and greens should be direct sown (planted in your garden bed) when the soil is workable. Seeds for warm season crops like tomatoes and peppers require about 8 weeks to germinate and grow before planting them outside. So it's good to start these seeds indoors.

Selecting plants that thrive - Key to a sustainable landscape is selecting plants with growing needs that match your site's growing conditions. Planting in conditions such as light, soil type, and spacing, to name a few, are crucial to plant performance and longevity. Forcing a plant to grow in unsuitable conditions will result in poor plant growth, susceptibility to diseases and insect damage, and eventually removal of the plant.

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Plant growing needs - Basic plant needs include temperature, soil, oxygen, water, nutrients and light. As gardeners, we know it's important to choose plants hardy for our USDA cold hardiness zone and that understanding our specific site conditions help us determine what plants will grow well in our gardens. Healthy soil provides microorganisms, oxygen for healthy root growth (called porosity), moisture, nutrients and stability. However, as gardeners, we know we sometimes have to help out by watering during dry times and fertilizing. We also need to space plants properly. Spacing plants based on their mature size enables plants to grow to their mature size and form while increasing air flow and light across the entire plant. Sufficient air flow and light not only promotes blooming and fruit, but also reduces pests (insects, diseases, wildlife) by reducing hiding places and humidity that can increase if plants are planted too close together.

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PLANT ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

Submit a soil sample - Your soil is the foundation of your landscape, so understanding your soil is key to selecting plants that perform well in your landscape. Forcing a plant to grow in the wrong type of soil stresses that plant, reducing leaf growth, bloom and overall vigor. The University of Minnesota Soil Testing Lab provides information about your soil and recommendations for how to improve it. Visit the soil testing lab for information on how to submit a soil sample.



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WORSHIP guide

Baptist

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 style)
10:45am Worship Service (contemporary 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 sunrise bible church.org or 651-674-4107.

Catholic

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.
763-444-4035
Email: annseton76@gmail.com. Mass: Tues. & Wed. 8:30am. Sun. 8:30am.
stelizabeth-isanti.org.

Evangelical Covenant

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

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 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.

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

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
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Lutheran

Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Central Drive W. & Cty Rd 4, Braham
320-396-2755
Sunday: 10 a.m. Worship Service - In-person & Live on Facebook
Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tues., Wed., Thurs.

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

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 - fb.com/CambridgeLutheran

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

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
Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
VBS! June 22nd-26th; 6-8pm
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 Fall
Coffee fellowship after worship
www.salemlutherandalbo.com

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).
651-674-4606.
Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.sllchurch.org
Email: sll.church@gmail.com
8:15am Worship with fellowship following

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

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 Study.
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.
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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
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651-600-9878.
faiththroughaction777@gmail.com
Sunday fellowship 9am
Worship & Youth Ministry 10am
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JustPassinthru IHS Ministries
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1001 1st Ave. E., Suite 100, Cambridge MN
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.

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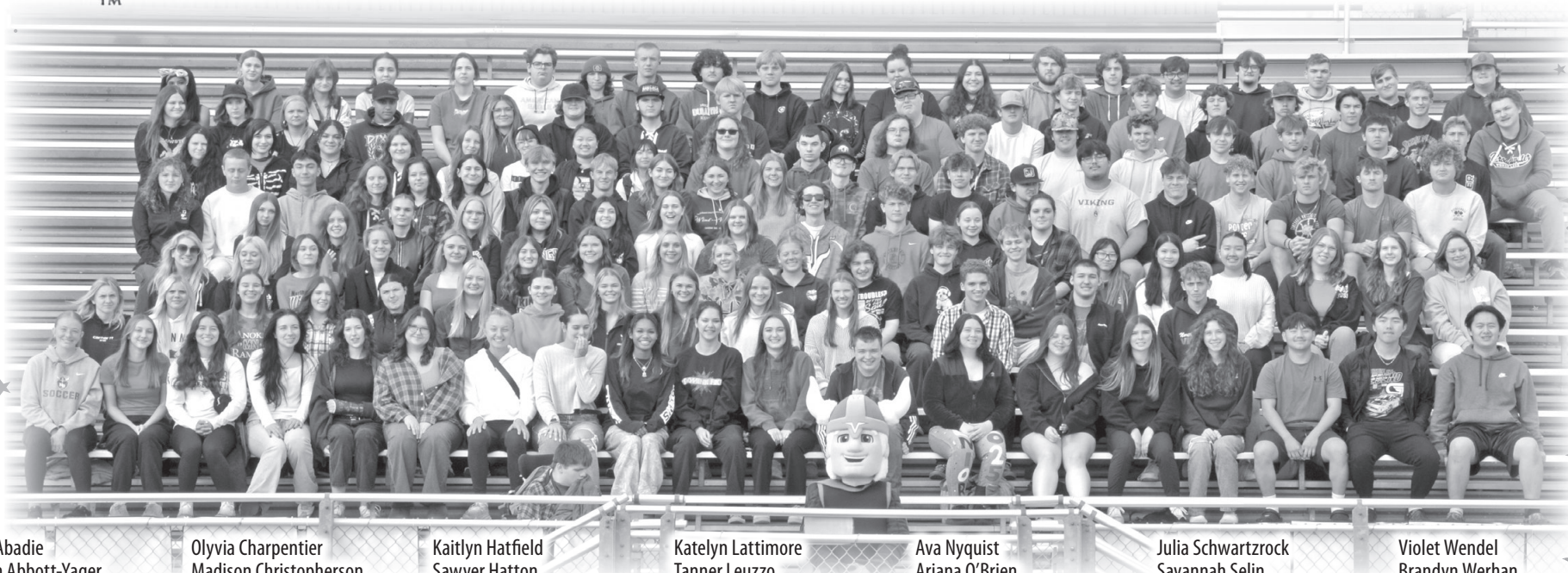
Class Color: Red **Class Motto:** "YOLO" **Class Flower:** Daisy

Class Song: "Thick of it" - KSI ft. Trippie Redd

President: Elle Nielsen • **Secretary:** Ashley Bistodeau

Public Relations: Madison Moran

Members: Carissa Miller, Rachel Anderson, Jack Baker, Drake Mellen, Joseph Mench, Karlee Norring, Marie Abadie



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Nevaeh Abbott-Yager
Ethan Ahlquist
Hayley Alexander
Savannah Alger
Kristen Allen
Travis Allison
Rachel Anderson
Alana Archambault
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Jack Baker
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Owen Beck
Jaxon Belevender
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Jacob Laqua

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Natalie Scheibe
Adyson Schloer
Aubrianah Schloer
Kayli Schmidt

Julia Schwartzrock
Savannah Selin
Austin Semler
Xavier Shaugobay-Mendes
Deacon Simonson
Jacob Sinn
Ethan Sittlow
Alexander Sklavenitis
Avery Smith
Jake Sorteberg
Addison Stamm
Landin Steeves
Jordan Stumm
Jasmin Suppon
Zachary Sway
Jackson Thelander
Mason Thornton
Abigail Thurmer
Nora Toussaint
Hayden Trendera
Madelyn Trippe
Chuyee Vang
Lucy Vang
Meyah Varnadoe
Layla Verdick
Nolen Volner
Daniel Ward
William Warner
Natilee Weilage
James III Weinkauff

Violet Wendel
Brandyn Werhan
Mairen Wisti
Ava Wright
Jalen Xaiyasang
Angela Xiong
Diana Yang
Zakary Zachrison
Zoe Zachrison
Emma Zarbok

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Congratulations to the Class of 2025 Graduates!



Friday, June 6, 2025 • Time: 7pm • Cambridge-Isanti High School Gym
Class Color: Royal Blue Class Motto: “Sometimes you never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory”

President: Addison Asmussen • Vice President: Chloe Smith • Officers: Annalee Fowler, Jayden Kuhlman, Julia Sickler

Evan Aho
Colton Alcock
Lillian Alexander
Amber Alm
Brady Andersen
Eva Anderson
Kaitlyn Anderson
Reese Andrus
Grady Arends
Elizabeth Arett
Caleb Arndt
Addison Asmussen
Landon Aufderhar
Cadence Austin
Alexis Bach
Logan Bartelt
Maia Bayne
Amelia Beard
Chase Belland
Katherine Benson
Richard Benson
Riley Berg
Taylor Bergen
Ethan Bergloff
Halloran Bergman
Samuel Bettendorf
Allen Betts
Isabelle Bishop
Jenna Bjergo
Evan Bleess
Colton Block
Bryce Blumer
Lillah Boettcher
Allen Bongaarts
Alyssa Bothman
Ty Bowland
Isaiah Brady
Mason Brandt
Callie Bremer
Gavin Brown
Sean Brown
Addison Bulow
Evan Burg
Evan Burgess
Gabriel Burhite
Patchamon Butrat
Gabriel Caballero-Wheeler
Anna Cain
Layla Campbell
Ariel Carlsten
Austin Carpenter
Ellie Cashin
Simon Catton
Rae Charlebois
Avery Chartrand
Owen Chen
Braxden Chouinard
Wyatt Cieluch
James Clark
John Clifton

Mason Cline
Madison Collins
Bjorn Conley
Averi Conzemius
Addyson Crain
Joshua Crawford
Reshard Cronemiller
Lillian Currie
Joshua Currier
Hunter Curtis
Olivia Curtis
Emma Dallman
Breanna Danielson
Collin Danielson
Ha Linh Dao
Chasity Daudt
Ellie Davis
Antonio Diaz
Henry Dixon
Natalie Dochniak
Peyton Dombek
Mason Dorsey
Emerson Droubie
Montrell Dubra
Andrew Earsom
Jayden Edwards-Perez
Alexis Engen
Dominic Englund
Joshua Englund
Gunnar Erickson
Marccus Erickson
Jack Evangelist
Zayden Fall
James Fehrman
Courtney Flanigan
Annalee Fowler
Benjamin Fowler
Zachary Fox
Lucas Frank
Paige Fredrickson
Gloria Friedland
Sidney Fritz
Mercedes Fuhol
Phoenix Fure
Lillianna Fussy
Aubrey Gagnon
Trevor Gammel
Tyler Gammel
Olivia Garaghty
Wyatt Garvey
Zachary Gebert
Quinlin Geving
Logan Gimpel
Cameron Gleason
Olivia Goldeman
Lucia Golyer
Alivia Good
Jarred Goodman
Richard Green
Samantha Grovenburg

Maddison Gustafson
Micah Gustafson
Noah Hadjiyanis
Morgan Hagman
Lyla Hajek
Talon Haley
Mya Hall
Haylee Hall
Corbin Halstensgard
Paxton Hammond
Brandon Hansen
Zachary Hanson
Quinton Harcey
Hunter Hass
Emily Haugen
Sierra Heinz
Jacob Henderson
Lucas Henderson
Luke Hentges
Abigail Herbert
Audrey Herbst
Ava Hilger
Xzavior Hillmon
Olivia Hingtgen
Zachary Hirsch
Madison Hohn
Griffin Holcomb
Jareth Hollabaugh
Dylan Howell
Hunter Husbyn
Jack Hutchens
Neva Ihrke
Rylie Izzo
Zachary Jacques
Lucas Janssen
Mesa Jenniges
Alexander Johnson
Cameron Johnson
Drew Johnson
James Johnson
Sophia Johnson
Josaphine Jones
Tanner Jones
Gabriel Jost
Mikayla Kafer
Tobias Kane
Chloe Kennedy
Alice Khamthani
Tristan Kislenger
Zoe Klocksien
Kai Knick
Breanna Knight
Elliot Knudsvig
Ava Knutson
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Finn Kuhn
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Franco Lee
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Allison Lewandoski
Jacob Lewandoski
Amanda Lilley
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Sydney Lorsung
Keagen Lowman
Autumn Lundeen
Austin Lymer
Preston Mace
Isobel Madison
Adelin Martel
Shawn Martin
Fernando Martins Avila De Paiva
Annabelle McCarthy
Landon McCourt
Winry McCourt
Jordan McKinley
Beckett McLean
Isabella Meissen
Bash Melendez
Ryan Merchlewitz
Claire Michaels
Ava Miller
Samantha Mitchell
Brandon Montag
Lorena Morate
Alec Morrison
Daniel Morrison
Landon Morton
Malaysia Moua
Jessica Murphy
Kyle Murphy
Savanna Murray
Melanie Muyres
Parker Myhr
Wyatt Nelson
Makenzie Neumann
Tanya Ngo
Cordelia Nins
Carter Nohre
Nova Norlin
Abigail Novak
Wyatt Nowling
Emily Nyquist
Morgan O'Connor
Mercedes Olmstead
Annabelle Olson
David Olson
Laynie Olson
Joshua Osei-Dankwah
Sylvi Overby
Aric Patneau
Ava Patneau
Mckyla Peitso
Grace Peters

Zachary Peterson
Kathryn Phillips
Thomas Phillips
Braidan Potvin
Maleah Pratt
A'Nyjah Presswood
Samuel Price
Christian Prihoda
Michael Provost
Spencer Pudlick
Emma Ramacher
Andy Ramos
Steven Ranalls
Carter Rand
Jaden Rehbein
Jamison Rehbein
Jack Reibel
Elizabeth Reichel
Daulton Reichow
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Riley Roberts
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Colin Rouse
Caden Ryan
Danielle Rynning
Kenneth Sanchez
Aften Sandquist
Gryphon Sarff
Joshua Sauro
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Brady Scheid
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Deke Scott
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NOTICES

REQUEST FOR BIDS FLINK AVENUE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
SAP 225-118-004
FOR THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH CHISAGO COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bids for the construction of Flink Avenue Trail Improvement Project will be received online through QuestCDN vBid™ until Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 2:00pm local time. Immediately following expiration of the time for receiving bids, representatives of the City of North Branch will publicly view Bids at an online Bid opening meeting. Those interested in viewing the online Bid opening are welcome to join the meeting by logging on to <https://zoom.us/join> or calling 309.205.3325 and entering Meeting ID 935 2888 2694 and Passcode 061959. The as-read online Bid results will be available at www.questcdn.com following the Bid opening.

The Project includes the furnishing of all labor and materials for the construction complete in-place, of the following approximate quantities:

- 2,100 C Y Excavation – Common (P)
- 4,700 C Y Common Embankment (CV) (P)

- 2,500 S F Steel Sheet Pile Wall
 - 500 L F Ornamental Metal Railing
 - 20,900 S F 4" Bituminous Walk
 - 1,300 L F 18" RCP Storm Sewer
 - 600 L F Concrete Curb and Gutter B618
- The provisions of MINN. STAT. 16C.285 Responsible Contractor are imposed as a requirement of this contract. All bidders and persons or companies providing a response/ submission to the Advertisement for Bids of the City of North Branch shall comply with the provisions of the statute.

Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at www.questcdn.com. Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the website for a nonrefundable fee of \$55 by inputting Quest project #9701977 on the website's Project Search page.

The website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered only through the website www.questcdn.com. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from other sources.

Bids will only be accepted via the electronic bidding service through QuestCDN.

The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all Bids and to waive any Bids received without explanation. No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of 60 days.

For all further requirements regarding Bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

DATED: May 27, 2025
BY THE ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

s/s Matthew Hill
City Administrator
City of North Branch
PUBLISHED IN: Isanti-Chisago County Star June 5, 2025 and June 12, 2025

Finance & Commerce
June 5, 2025 and June 12, 2025

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 5, 12, 2025

ASSUMED NAME

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333
The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in

order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: Samsonette
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 30174 Washington St. NE, Isanti, MN 55040

APPLICANT(S):
Name: Samatha Neumann
Address: 30174 Washington St. NE, Isanti, MN 55040

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/ her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Samantha Neumann
MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: samsonette.art@gmail.com

Work Item
Original File Number
STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED 4/25/2025 11:59 PM

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 5, 12, 2025

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ISANTI DISTRICT COURT TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File No.: 30-PR-25-36

In Re: Estate of Gloria Fay Rosen a/k/a Gloria Rosen, Decedent.

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on July 22, 2025 at 2:00 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Isanti County Courthouse, 555 18th Ave. SW, Cambridge, MN 55008, remotely by Zoom (contact Court Administration at 763) 290-7020 for instructions on how to attend), on a petition for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Decedent's Will dated February 28, 2020, and for the appointment of Gayle Bostrom, whose address is 1275 130th Ave NE, Blaine, MN 55434 as personal representative

of the Decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; sell real and personal property; and do all necessary acts for the Decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-80, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT

Dated: April 29, 2025

/s/ Judge Jason Steffen

Judge of District Court

LINDBERG LAW OFFICE, P.A.

Grant W. Lindberg

MN# 0347644

100 Buchanan St. N., Suite 2

Cambridge, MN 55008

Telephone: (763) 689-6896

Facsimile: (763) 689-6819

e-mail: grant@lindberglawoffice.com

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

Published in the Isanti-Chisago

County STAR on June 5, 12, 2025

ISANTI AND CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORTS

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on May 11 - 31. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Tanner James Porter (DOB 03/16/2000) of Isanti, was charged May 12 with two counts of domestic assault.

Jason Herbert Small (DOB 05/04/1970) of Big Lake, was charged May 12 with one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct-1st Degree-Penetration or Contact with Person Under 13; one count of Criminal Sexual Conduct-1st Degree-Penetration - Victim Under 16-Significant Relationship; one count of Criminal Sex Conduct-1st Degree-Penetration -Victim Under 16-Signif Rel-Multiple Acts Over Time; one count of Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim Under 13-Actor > 36m Old; and one count of Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Significant Relationship-Under16-Multiple Act.

Michael Dean Grinager Jr. (DOB 03/31/1990) of Isanti, was charged May 13 with one count of Attempted Murder - 1st Degree - Peace Officer, Prosecuting Attorney, Judge or Prison Guard; one count of Attempted Murder - 2nd Degree

- Without Intent - While Committing a Felony; one count of Possess Ammo/Any Firearm - Conviction or Adjudicated Delinquent for Crime of Violence; and one count of Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon.

Dennis Jerome Reynolds (DOB 10/18/1985) of Saint Paul, was charged May 15 with one count of Check Forgery-Make or Alter a Check; and one count of Check Forgery-Offer/Possess W/ Intent to Defraud.

Tanner Roy Bergum (DOB 06/04/1998) of Brooklyn Park, was charged May 19 with two counts of Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 - Not Small Amount Marijuana.

Dwight Mayfield, Jr. (DOB04/12/1989) of St. Paul, was charged May 23 with Threats of Violence -Reckless Disregard Risk.

Nelson Tyler Ball (DOB 09/13/1997) of Aitkin, was charged May 27 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 - Not Small Amount Marijuana.

Devyn Lloyd Opp (DOB 11/16/2003) of Saint Francis, was charged May 28 with one count of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Substantial Bodily Harm - Under Influence Alcohol; and one count of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Sub-

stantial Bodily Harm - Alcohol Concentration .08 or More.

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on May 11 - 31. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Gerald Wade Nickaboine, Jr. (DOB 11/22/1995) of Rush City, was charged May 12 with Assault-4th Deg-Correctional Employee; Probation Officer; Prosecutor; or JudgeAssault.

Quentin Reginald Garbow (DOB 09/24/1989) of Rush City, was charged May 12 with Assault-4th Deg-Correctional Employee; Probation Officer; Prosecutor; or Judge.

Ryan William Edwardson (DOB 03/15/1992) of Virginia, MN, was charged May 16 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Justin Charles Rehbein (DOB 05/17/1987) of North Branch, was charged May 21 with Domestic Assault - By Strangulation.

Vincent Vemang Cha (DOB 09/03/2006) of Minneapolis, was charged May 23 with one count of Theft-Take/Drive Motor Vehicle-No Owner Consent; one count of Attempt Theft-

Take/Drive Motor Vehicle-No Owner Consent; and one count of Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Michael Steven Holt (DOB 02/22/1979) of Shafer, was charged May 23 with one count of Drugs - 1st Degree - Possess 50 grams or more - cocaine or methamphetamine; and one count of Drugs - 2nd Degree - Possess 50 grams or 100 dose units - Amphetamine/PCP/ hallucinogens.

Anthony Brian Domeier (DOB 04/07/1975) of North Branch, was charged May 27 with Fugitive from Justice from Other State - extradition waived.

Jason Anders Moll (DOB 09/13/1970) of North Branch, was charged May 30 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

Robert John McDonnell (DOB 02/03/1996) of North Branch, was charged May 30 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

Jake Jerome Sauer (DOB 03/20/1997) of Wyoming, was charged May 30 with Threats of Violence - Reckless Disregard Risk.

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55 Motorcycles

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102 Services

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109 Lawn Care

P&G Outdoor: Lawn mowing, rough terrain mowing, tree branch waste removal, pole saw work, trail grooming, odd jobs. 320-679-3375

112 Tree Service

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150 Help Wanted

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160 Hire Me

Do you manage freight? Have you been frustrated with your vendor? My name is Adam and I have been working in the transportation industry for 20+ years. Call me today and I will be your One Stop for all your Freight Shipping needs. Capacity on Demand. Call or text 651.230.1405

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300 For Sale

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351 Antiques

Wanted Antiques, lamps, signs, toys, tools, deer horns, crocks. Gary, 651-238-0909. East Central Minnesota.

358 Firewood

16-Inch seasoned, mixed hardwood. Two cord loads \$475. 20-inch outdoor stove wood, mixed hardwoods. Two cord loads \$450. Two cord loads 16" birch or oak \$475. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815.

16-Inch seasoned, mixed hardwood. Two cord loads \$475. 20-inch outdoor stove wood, mixed hardwoods. Two cord loads \$450. Two cord loads 16" birch or oak \$475. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815.

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362 Miscellaneous

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401 Auctions

Saturday June 7 9:00 a.m. Live On-Site Personal Property. Roger & Gerri Teich Estate. 2119 Highway 65, Mora. Vehicles/Equipment/Trailers/Boats, Outdoor Equipment, Garage/Shop, Household. Col. Byron Robyn, Auctioneer, Lic. no. 33-21. 320-291-9566, robyn2229@gmail.com, midwestauctions.com/robyn, auctionsbyrobyn.com.

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404 Garage Sales

St. Mary's of Mora Rummage Sale. May 29-31, 8a.m.-5p.m.; June 5-7, 8a.m.-5p.m.; June 8, 10a.m.-2p.m.; June 12-13, \$5.00 Bag Sale 8a.m.-5p.m.

407 Estate Sales

Estate Sale: 18408 Edgewater Rd NE, Pine City. 8 a.m.-3 p.m June 6-7. Antiques, housewares and garage items!

452 Rentals/ Residential

For Rent: 2 bedroom apartment with detached garage in the City of Pine City. \$1,200.00 per month. Available Immediately. For more information please call 320-629-7537 or 320-364-3997

Whispering Pines Apartments in Mora. 2 bedroom, 1 bath apartment available July 11. Rent is \$975. Please call 320-203-7771 for further information.

452 Rentals/ Residential

Ogilvie Square Apartments
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12 pk
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\$18.99

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deannaschmidt@ecumen.org

Rushseba
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EMPLOYMENT

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Apply online by June 17, 2025 at
www.chisagocountymn.gov.



Public Safety 911 Emergency Dispatcher

Performs difficult work receiving, recording, and responding to emergency and non-emergency calls; dispatching and coordinating law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel to caller locations, operating multi-line phone systems and enters data into a database; monitors and transmits on local, regional, and statewide radio resources; completes required reports. \$26.83 to \$35.34.

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Location: Welia Center/Mora High School
2:30 pm - 11:00 pm during the school year
7:00 am - 3:30 pm during the summer
1.0 FTE

Qualifications: Must have at least 12 months of experience with commercial custodial supplies, cleaning methods and techniques. Must be able to use commercial custodial supplies with personal protective equipment and operate job-related equipment with appropriate training. Must be able to evaluate and solve problems, be organized, prompt, and work well with others.

Education: High School Diploma/GED, 2+ years of commercial cleaning experience, knowledge of SDS and safety protocol, and basic computer skills are preferred. Must be able to pass a criminal background check.

Salary & Benefits: Per SEIU Custodial Agreement. \$16.63 - \$19.31 per hour - Dependent on Qualifications. Benefits include health, dental, life, and long term disability insurance, employee assistance program and paid sick time.

Application Deadline: Open until filled
Start Date: As soon as possible

For more information contact
Chip Brandt at (320) 679-6200 x. 5024
or cbrandt@moraschools.org
Apply online:
www.moraschools.org



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