

ISANTI-CHISAGO

COUNTY STAR

FREEZE FRAME: Annual plunge into Rush Lake raises money for local fire departments. **PAGE 9**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The Bluejacket gymnastics team proudly hold up the Section 7AA championship trophy.

They're baaaack!

Bluejacket gymnasts end six-year state team meet berth drought

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket gymnasts will be making a return to the spotlights of the Minnesota State High School League Class AA Team Gymnastics Meet — their first appearance in the team competition since 2020, which was the culmination of an 11-year section championship streak.

The Bluejackets, who are the record-holders for most Class AA state team meet berths, earned their 31st appearance by winning the Section 7AA Championship, held in Elk River on Friday, Feb. 13, with a score of 140.925; outdistancing runner-up Elk River/Zimmerman by 1.225 points.

"I'm so proud of these girls," head coach Wendy Rooney said. "From the start of the season, they had a goal of winning sections and they never lost focus of that goal."

According to Rooney, the



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Bluejacket senior Aubrey Wilson hits her full-twisting bars dismount during the Section 7AA Meet.

key to the team's success is how balanced their individual scores are on each event.

"Many teams rely on their top one or two scorers to carry their team score," Rooney explained. "But for us, any of the five girls

competing on an event have the potential of getting a similar score as the others. So, if one girl struggles on an event or we are missing someone due to injury, there's at least one other who could lessen the impact to our team score."

This was on full display during the section meet. On all four events, C-I's lowest counting score was less than one point below the highest score. In fact, on vault and bars, there was a less than four-tenths of a point difference between their top and lowest counting score. By way of comparison, Elk River's closest margin between top and lowest counting score was just over a half-point.

All of that, however, doesn't matter if the team as a whole doesn't execute their routines well. The Bluejackets ended up with the highest team score on vault, bars, and floor — a stat even the coaches were

SEE GYMNASTICS, PAGE 7

K9 Karma posthumously given HERO award

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Isanti County K9 Karma, who tragically died from heat stroke following his involvement in the apprehension of two drug suspects last August, is being honored with the Hero Animal of the Year Award by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association.

According to a press release from the MVMA, the award "recognizes an animal that has saved or preserved human life."

"Karma was an extraordinary professional working dog trained in narcotic certification and patrol apprehension whose courage, loyalty, and steadfast dedication exemplified the highest standards of service," read the press release. "Karma lived too short of a life, but he is the definition of HERO: someone admired for



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Karma, pictured here during Isanti's Night to Unite, was nominated for the Hero Animal of the Year Award by two of East Central Veterinarians' doctors.

SEE KARMA, PAGE 11

North Branch to collect from charitable gambling proceeds

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The city of North Branch will be collecting off the top of local charitable gambling proceeds to fund "public green spaces and recreational infrastructure."

A council of four approved the ordinance unanimously, allowing the city to collect 10% of net income from local pull tabs. This cut would come out after "prizes actually paid, allowable expenses, and taxes imposed by law."

Thus far, improvement funding for parks and recreational spaces has come from park dedication fees in new developments, and maintenance from the general fund, said Nate Sondrol, North Branch's community development director.

"That's been a constant issue that they've faced for achieving

their desired improvements," Sondrol said.

Charitable gambling organizations will submit the funds quarterly, along with an accounting of the calculations of the funds.

Only fundraising from gambling conducted at sites located within North Branch will be subject to the ordinance, according to an email from Matthew Hill, city administrator. The majority will come from electronic pull-tabs, he said at the council's February meeting, but all gambling is subject to the ordinance, including bingo and raffles.

There are three organizations based in North Branch that currently have state charitable gambling licenses: American Legion Post 85 North Branch, which collects proceeds from gambling

SEE GAMBLINE, PAGE 11

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BUILT **Ford** PROUD

Dr. Mary Olson headed to FFA Hall of Fame

Veterinarian picked for co-creating Miracle of Birth Center at Minnesota State Fair

BY HOPE MURRAY
EDITOR@MORAMINN.COM

A well-known current Kanabec County resident and former Cambridge veterinarian is being recognized for her work in creating the CHS Miracle of Birth Center, held annually during the Minnesota State Fair.

Dr. Mary Olson will be inducted as a member of the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame Class of 2026. She is among eight individuals who will join the 252 previously inducted members.

According to FFA, a selection committee consisting of FFA members, alumni and supporters, agricultural educators, and foundation representatives selected the final inductees.

"The committee evaluates nominees, based on information in the nomination packet, using criteria that emphasize each individual's influence within Minnesota FFA, their commitment to advancing agricultural education, and their substantial service to agriculture and agribusiness," said Steve Olson (no relation to Mary Olson), co-chair, Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame committee.

For Mary Olson, this recognition is "delightful."

"It was a complete surprise," Olson said. "This is a big honor from the FFA to be inducted into their Hall of Fame. It's a humbling experience, and I hope I'm worthy of it, but I'm not. I'm just humbled."

The inductees into the Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame will be formally announced and recognized at the Minnesota FFA Alumni and Supporters Annual Conference on March 7 at South Central College in North Mankato.

A formal induction ceremony will be held at Mariucci Arena on the campus of the University of Minnesota on April 20, during the State FFA Convention.

BIRTH OF A VETERINARIAN

While Olson has been a well-known presence in Kanabec County and a Mora resident for most of her life, she grew up all over, traveling with her family to wherever her father, Fred Ahlgren, was stationed with the U.S. Army.

"So for the first 15 years of my life, I never lived anywhere longer than three years except for St. Paul, which was four years because he was stationed in a number of different places and so we would move every three years," she said. "But he was born in Ogilvie, and after he retired, he went back to the University of Minnesota and for a while was the oldest graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School."

After her father graduated, he decided that he wanted to move the family back closer to where he was born. After a year in St. Paul where his father worked at a law practice, they settled in Mora when Olson was in 10th grade.

After graduating from Mora High School in 1968, Olson decided to attend the University of Minnesota.

"I was in the College of Education and graduated as a math and chemistry teacher in 1972," she said. "And at that time I was dating my now husband (Don Olson), and he was in the College of Engineering going to graduate as an electrical engineer. But he wanted

to move back to his family's farm, and tentatively, they were going to start milking cows and farming."

The plan was for Mary to work as a teacher through the winter while Don farmed.

"So he was going to be working all summer, and I was going to be working all winter. And I wasn't thinking that this was going to work very well if we continued to think about getting married,"

She also admits she wasn't enamored about becoming a teacher.

"I started soul searching and decided that veterinary medicine would be the place that I wanted to be," Olson said. "It's because it combined medicine, which I was very interested in, with working with animals. And I knew that I would prefer working with animals than being a human physician."

She approached the College of Veterinary Medicine to see if her credits would transfer. She found she had all the prerequisites complete except for one pass-fail class "that should have been for a grade, so I appealed that and put my application in," Olson said.

She also asked for assistance from her supervisor in the College of Home Economics. During her senior year as an undergraduate, she worked for that college, cleaning in various laboratories.

"My job was to wash glassware," she said. "I was either told or asked if I would clean the rat room, which was a room that rats were housed in until the experiments was over."

Cleaning the rat room involved cleaning cages full of rat droppings and general disarray. She cleaned everything in the room, washed everything, scrubbed the floors with a disinfectant

"At the end I'd look over my room and everything was tidy and clean and smelled wonderful, and I would just leave that room knowing that it looked good," she said. To get into the College of Veterinary Medicine, she needed several references.

"So I asked my supervisor if he would write me a letter of reference, and he said he would. The next week he said he wasn't going to write my letter of reference. He said the Dean of Home Economics is going to write your letter of recommendation," she said. "I got in."

Olson was only one of 13 females in the veterinary medicine program.

"I heard later that someone had told one of my relatives that I would not get in because I was a woman," she said.

She and Don married during her second year of vet medical school, while Don was farming with his brother Richard. Don and Richard Olson farmed and they milked cows.

After Richard went through a divorce, "Don and I decided that potentially him milking cows two to three times a day was not the lifestyle to raise children with and try to be active," Olson said. "There was a buyout program for dairy cows in the late 1980s, and we did use that buyout so that he no longer milked and went back into the engineering field."

While Mary worked as a veterinarian and a partner at East Central Veterinarians, Don started his own business called Northland Automation. The couple's two sons, Paul and Eric are both engineers. Their daughter Mariah is a pharmacist at Coborn's, and her husband Corey Brossart, is an electrical engineer. The Olson sons and son-in-law all work for Northland Automation, specializing in microwave popcorn packaging machinery and other products.



CONTRIBUTED

Former Cambridge veterinarian Dr. Mary Olson holds a lamb at the Miracle of Birth at the Minnesota State Fair. Dr. Olson will be inducted into the FFA's 2026 Hall of Fames

BIRTH OF A BIRTHING CENTER

In the late 1990s, Mary and Dr. Florian Ledermann, a veterinarian from Alexandria, were serving on a committee of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association called the Large Animal Public Relations Committee.

"Our mission was to try to have people understand what large animal veterinarians did," said Olson who, at the time, was volunteering at MVMA Surgery Suite at the state fair, moderating "in a fish bowl" while small animals were operated on. "And on one of the days after I left my moderating position, I thought, that's such a successful exhibit for people to understand what small animal veterinarians do."

"But the large animal veterinarians are at the mercy of the things that come off the AP wire — stories that veterinarians are tainting milk, or being cruel to animals or whatever. And we were not doing anything to help people understand that that's not our life, that we get up at 2 o'clock in the morning in all kinds of weather to go deliver calves and treat cows, and we are pretty dedicated at doing these things."

She and Ledermann believed they could do something during the 12 days of the Minnesota State Fair to educate the public.

"Today, the majority of children grow up with little or no knowledge of where their food comes from, other than from the grocery store. Even their parents may have only a vague notion of what happens on a farm. It was from this reality that the concept of the Miracle of Birth Center originated."

She visited a Miracle of Birth Center in Michigan, while Ledermann traveled to one in Kansas, and both believed they could do it better. They knew people weren't going to stand around for eight hours, waiting for an animal to be born. Olson shared her concerns with the executive director of MVMA.

"And he said, 'But if we build it, they will come.'"

After meetings with Minnesota FFA — who would assist with taking care of the animals — and the U of M Veteri-

'I hope I'm worthy of it, but I'm not. I'm just humbled.'

Dr. Mary Olson
FFA Hall of Fame recipient

nary School — where young, prospective vets would help with medical care — the Miracle of Birth Center opened at the state fair in 2001. This collaboration with MVMA, FFA and the veterinary school is now one of the most successful exhibits at the state fair, with thousands visiting to witness the births of cows, pigs, lambs and goats.

Although Olson is retired from working as a veterinarian full time, she is still active with the Birth Center, which is a year-round commitment.

"I go year by year," Olson said, when asked how long she would consider volunteering. "We have some very good younger co-chairs in our organization. So every year, I ask them if it's time for me to go. And they've been pleasant. 'You're not going anywhere.' So we'll see how long my body holds up."

When asked what she would like her legacy to be, Olson did not hesitate.

"That's not difficult for me to do. Again I go back to my good friend, Dr. Ledermann. Every year before he retired, when he would talk to the FFAs, and they were getting ready to open the state fair, he would say, 'You're all 14, 15, 16 years of age, and you're thinking about what you want to do, and what you want to be, and how much money you're going to make, and where you want to live, and how big your house is going to be, and that you have a boat, and a snowmobile, and all the other things that might be going through your mind.'

"He said, 'What you will find to be the most satisfaction is how you have served others.' And I just find that to be true. If I can leave this earth having served others that's all I care about. That's the way it is."

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

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon

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

Book Club

Third Monday 11 a.m. to noon at Isanti SAC, 140 Buchanan St., N. #164 Cambridge. Isanti County Library lends the books and there is no cost to participate. For info: sacs@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 info. call Lonnie Anderson at 612-423-1863.

Alzheimer's Support

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

Memory Cafe

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

PrimeTime Singers

Cambridge Lutheran Church, 1:30 p.m. A community choir for ages 60+, no audition or fee required. Fellowship follows rehearsal. Info: 612-619-2111.

Grief Share

Faith Lutheran Church, 109 2nd Ave. NW, Isanti. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. 763-444-9201.

Celebrate Recovery

At First Baptist in Cambridge(304 Main St S.) every Tuesday. There is a light meal at 5:45 p.m., large group at 6:30 p.m., and small groups at 7:30 p.m. Visit Celebraterecovery.com for more info.



CONTRIBUTED

We R Able hosts the Fiddle Sisters for a concert on Feb. 26.

WEDNESDAYS

Alanon

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

Chisago County Drop-In Center

Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Street Church, 6500 Main Street, North Branch. For individuals 18 yrs or older living with mental illness. Info: 651-213-5600 or 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 info. call 763-689-1711.

Cambridge-Edgewood AFG

Cambridge-Edgewood Al-Anon Family Group meets from 7-8 p.m. at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old Main Street N. Visit minnesotanorth-al-anon.org for info.

Parkinson's Support Group

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

ACA Adult Children of Alcoholics/ Dysfunctional Families Meeting

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family Group

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

Medicare and Medicaid 101 Open House

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

Tax Help with AARP at North Branch Public

Library from noon to 3 p.m. through April 16 By appointment only by calling Seven County Senior Federation at 320-679-4700.

SATURDAY

GriefShare

At Joy Lutheran Church, from 9-10:30 a.m. each Saturday, except for the 1st Saturday of each month. Contact Mary Schuett, 561-222-3347, for more information.

Joyful Walking Club

The 1st Saturday of each month, from 9-10 a.m., around the perimeter of Joy Lutheran's ball field in Cambridge. Contact Mary Schuett, 561-222-3347, for more information.

Tax Help with AARP

at Cambridge Public Library from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through April 18 By appointment only by calling Seven County Senior Federation at 320-679-4700.

FEB 21

Anoka-Ramsey Candlelight Ski Night

Friluftsliv ("free-looftsliv") is Scandinavian for "open air life". Join us for some FREE Friluftsliv fun on the Cambridge Campus Outdoor Patio. ARCC invites the community to cross-country ski, snowshoe, or hike the lighted trails, enjoy campfires, free s'mores, hot cocoa and coffee, enjoy outdoor winter games, sledding, and music. 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

FEB 26

We R Able Fiddle Sisters Concert

At Chisago County Senior Community Center at 5 p.m. All are welcome. For more info and pre-registration call 320-358-3616.

SENIOR CENTER WEEKLY EVENTS

CAMBRIDGE

140 Buchanan Street

Mondays

Bridge - 1 to 3 p.m.
Mahjong - noon to 3 p.m.

Tuesdays

Dominoes - 10 a.m. to noon
Coloring - 9 a.m.
Hand and Foot - 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Wednesdays

Cribbage - 9 to 11 a.m.
Wizard 11 a.m. to noon
Pinochle 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Mahjong noon to 3 p.m.

Thursdays

500 - 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Bunco - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Third Thursday of month)

CHISAGO COUNTY

38790 6th Avenue, North Branch

Mon, Wed, Fri.

Exercise with Connie - 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Monday & Wednesday

500 - starting at 12:45 p.m.

Tuesdays

Music - provided before the meal - 11:15 a.m.
Dominoes - starting at 10 a.m.

Thursdays

Bingo - starting at 10 a.m.
Hand and Foot - starting at 12:30 p.m.

Fridays

Cribbage - starting at 12:45 p.m.

More than 50 Minnesota authors unite for statewide 'Authors for Minnesota Day' on Feb. 28

Independent bookstores in Cambridge and North Branch will host local and nationally recognized authors on Saturday, Feb. 28, as part of "Authors for Minnesota Day," a statewide effort to support indie bookstores and raise funds for immigrant rights.

From noon to 4 p.m., more than 50 authors will sign books at 24 bookstores across Minnesota, including Scout and Morgan in Cambridge and The Enchanted Quill in North Branch. Participating authors include award-winning and best-selling writers such as Allen Eskens, Jess Lourey, William Kent Krueger, and Margi Preus.

"It is in how we treat those who are most vulnerable that we should be judged," Eskens said. "In unsettling times, our better angels call upon us to step up and do more to support those who need our help."

The event benefits the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and the Women's Foundation of Minnesota Immigration Rapid Response Fund. Visitors can receive a free signed book with an on-site donation, while supplies last. Multiple bookstore visits are encouraged, creating a "bookstore crawl" experience.

Scout and Morgan co-owner Mallory Hayes said the day offers a chance to connect the community with authors. "We're dedicated to showing up for our community in as many ways as possible," Hayes said. "The needs are so high right now in the Twin Cities that participating in Authors for Minnesota Day is another chance to help our neighbors."

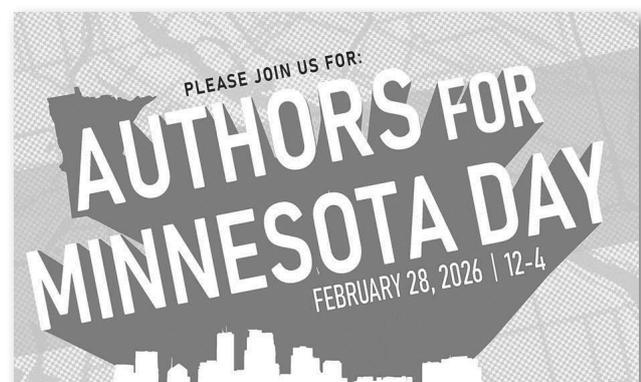
'We're dedicated to showing up for our community in as many ways as possible.'

Mallory Hayes
Co-owner of Scout and Morgan

Authors were drawn to the event as a way to support local bookstores and advance social justice. Bao Phi, a Vietnamese-American author and poet, said, "The opportunity to contribute to social justice movements, immigrant rights movements, and independent bookstores is always welcome... I've found the best way I do all of that is through my art."

Other participating bookstores include Black Garnet Books and Red Balloon in St. Paul, Once Upon a Crime and Inkwell Booksellers in Minneapolis, and Content Bookstore in Northfield. Authors will rotate among stores, with up to four per location.

Readers unable to attend in person are encouraged to support the cause online through bookstore websites or by donating directly to the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota and the Women's Foundation of



Minnesota.

The event grew out of a grassroots effort led by Lourey, who noticed the strong community role played by Minnesota's independent bookstores. "Storytelling is about seeing the world through a new set of eyes, and so it's always been political," Lourey said. "Supporting the written word and bookstores who are fighting for justice is a natural extension of that."

For more information on participating authors and bookstores, organizers suggest visiting the Indie-bound website or individual bookstore sites. - Authors for Minnesota

‘Polar plunge’ or ‘refreshing dip’?

ast Saturday, I covered the Fire and Ice Plunge out at Rush Lake, whose proceeds benefit the Rush City and Cambridge Fire Departments. As crazy as it sounds, even though we were standing out on a sheet of ice, it felt great just being outside and breathing in some nice, fresh air.

Once I got home, I was compelled to grab one of my photos of plungers and then one I had taken of the thick blocks of ice that were cut out to create the hole, and send it via a Facebook post to a college friend of mine, telling her to show the photos to her kids.

You see, this friend lives in Franklin, Tennessee. Around the first of the year, she made a post with photos and videos of her daughter and a friend participating in an “exhilarating” polar bear plunge into the Atlantic Ocean. Coincidentally, the air temperature was about the same for both of these events — about 50

degrees. Obviously, the major difference was the fact that they were on a beach running into water that wasn’t that much colder than the air temperature.

A few weeks after my friend’s post, I saw a Myrtle Beach polar bear plunge was canceled because it was “too cold.” Granted, there have been a few events in the upper Midwest that legitimately were canceled due to extremely cold weather, but those at least required temperatures below zero.

More often than not, cancellation or modifications need to be made because it was too warm. Two years ago, the same Fire and Ice Plunge was almost canceled because the ice wasn’t thick enough. But, even for that, they just had spectators stand on shore while only the participants ventured out onto the lake.

I also remember covering a polar plunge out on Long Lake, where they wound up filling the fire department’s pool in the parking lot due to thin ice. I think it was during those years that the Special Olympics’ polar plunges turned into running into the open water from the shore. But even in those instances, there was at least some ice in the water.

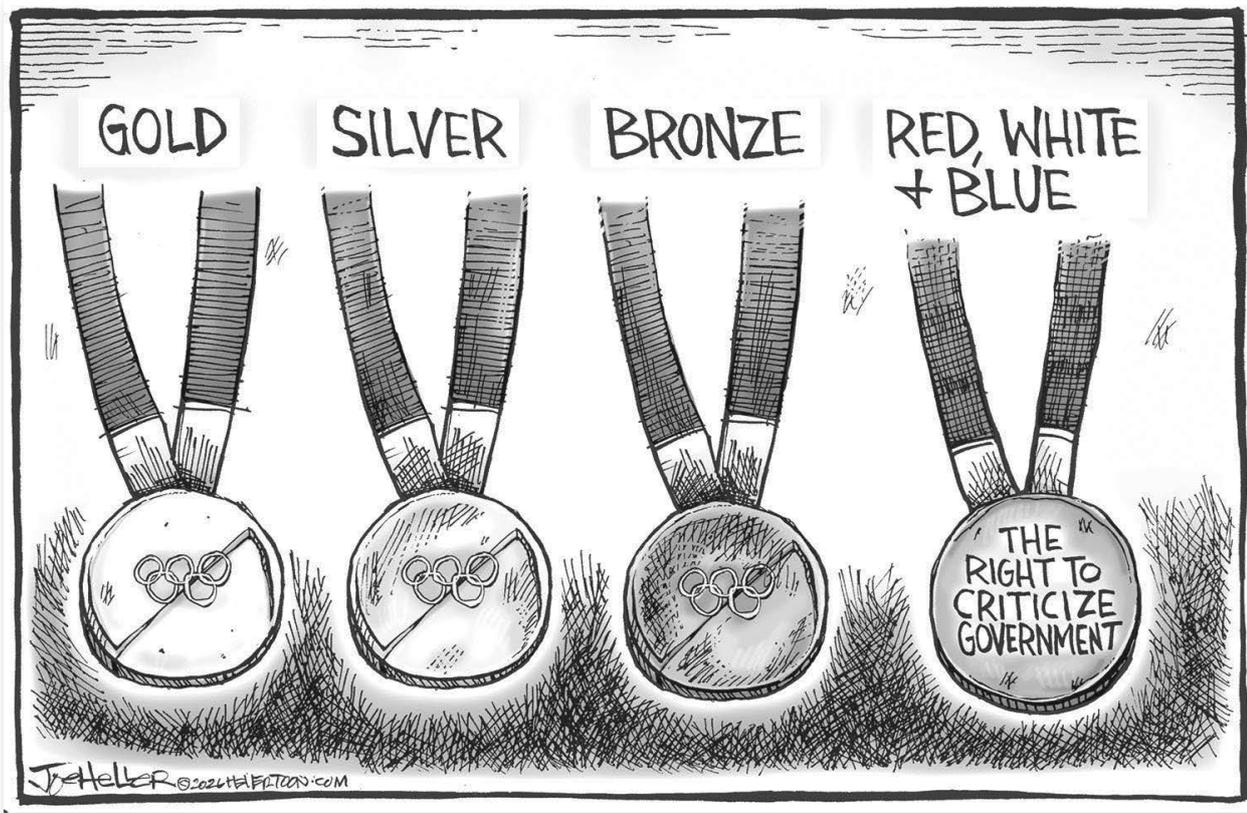
What it all comes down to is that it is a little annoying when southerners misappropriate the term “polar plunge.” For us in the bold north, the conditions under which they hold their events are considered as at worst a “refreshing” dip, not an “exhilarating” plunge. Any attempts to associate the two together only minimize the experience.

BILL STICKELS III is editor of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be directly reached at 651-407-1245, through our main office number at 763-689-1181, ext. 156 or editor@countystar.com.

Have a story worth sharing?

We’d love to hear from you! If you have a local story that’s interesting, funny, heartwarming, or just too good to keep to yourself, send us an email at

editor@countystar.com



Proper right turns explained

Question: Hi Sgt Grabow, I took my driver’s training course many years ago. One thing I remember from my training is the steps that goes into making a right-hand turn, including:

1. Looking to my right to make sure no one/nothing is there.
2. Putting on my right turn signal.
3. Looking again for no obstacles.
4. Proceeding to move over to the curb to allow forward-moving traffic (behind me) to not be disrupted by my right-hand turn.



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

In my nearly 12 years back in the community, I could very easily count on both hands the number of people that have followed this method for making a right turn. Very few drivers, if any, move over to the right when making their turn, let alone use their signals. Can you provide clarification on this?

Answer: A traffic lane is a part of the street or highway wide enough for a vehicle or line of vehicles to drive safely. You are in a traffic lane whenever you drive on any street or highway. Lanes may not always be marked, but they exist whether marked or not. You must stay within a single traffic lane without weaving or straddling the lane markings. If it is a solid white line, you should not cross over it. Some areas have marked turning lanes.

Many highways and streets have pavement markings. White lines separate lanes of traffic traveling in the same direction.

- White dashes: You can change lanes where this marking is present.
- Shorter and thicker white dashes: The lane is ending.
- Solid white line: You should not change lanes. Solid white lines also mark crosswalks, stop lines

at intersections, parking stalls and the edges of a roadway.

- Double solid white lines: You must not change lanes.
- Solid white line with bicycle insignia: This area is for bicycle or electric-assist bicycle traffic only.
- If you are on a bicycle, you must travel in the same direction as adjacent traffic

You often need to change lanes to turn, merge with traffic or do other driving activities. Changing lanes can be dangerous and must be done carefully. To stay safe, make sure you have space to the side behind and ahead of your vehicle before moving into another lane. Turn your head to check the lane you are moving into for vehicles. Don’t rely solely on mirrors; you may miss vehicles in your blind spots.

Drivers who turn improperly cause many traffic crashes. Move safely into the correct lane well ahead of the place where you will make the actual turn.

• Slow down before turning. Signal your intent at least 100 feet before the turn. Signals let pedestrians and drivers know what you plan to do.

• While waiting to turn, keep your wheels straight and your foot on the brake. If your vehicle is struck from behind, you are less likely to be pushed into oncoming traffic.

• Continue signaling until you begin your turn.

• Do not make sudden turns from the wrong lane.

• Watch for traffic or obstacles in the road you plan to enter.

• Always finish your turn in the correct lane.

• If the car ahead of you is signaling for a left turn, slow down and prepare to stop.

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).

Your Best Source for Community Information

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4 p.m. Tuesday

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4 p.m. Tuesday

LEGALS DEADLINE:
Noon Monday



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Building a love of reading together

February is “I Love to Read Month”, and across Cambridge-Isanti Schools we celebrate the joy, power, and lifelong impact of literacy. Reading opens doors to imagination, knowledge, opportunity, and confidence. It allows students to think critically, communicate clearly, and engage meaningfully with the world around them.



**C-I Schools
Community Ed
Christina
Thayer
Anderson**

As we continue to celebrate I Love to Read Month, it feels important to step back even further, to the very beginning of a child’s learning journey, and reflect on where literacy truly starts.

It starts long before a benchmark assessment, standardized tests, and Board-approved curriculums. It starts in living rooms, in bedtime routines, in conversations, in curiosity, and in connection.

Research consistently affirms what educators and caregivers know to be true: early language exposure and responsive relationships shape a child’s brain development in powerful ways. The simple acts of talking, singing, reading, and playing together build vocabulary, strengthen comprehension, and develop the

social-emotional skills that allow children to thrive in school. When families and educators partner early, children benefit in even greater ways.

That is why our Early Learning programs are such a vital part of our district’s work. Supporting literacy does not begin in kindergarten. It begins in Early Childhood Family Education classes where children learn through play alongside trusted adults, in preschool classrooms where learning core academic skills through play happens throughout the day, and in open gym mornings where parents and grandparents connect with one another. It continues in our parenting support groups, where families build confidence, share questions, and learn together in welcoming spaces.

These early experiences shape more than skills — they build confidence, a sense of belonging, and readiness to learn.

In Cambridge-Isanti Schools, we are committed to serving all caregivers and students by creating environments where they feel seen, heard, and supported from the very beginning. This work happens in partnership with families and our broader community. Whether they have lived here for generations or just moved into our community, whether a child enters school ready to soar or needs additional support, our responsibility is the same: to walk alongside them.

If you are a parent, grandparent, caregiver, or

community member with a young child in your life, I invite you to explore our Early Learning programs. Our opportunities and school buildings are not just for students, they are for all. In every Early Learning experience, we aim not only to prepare children academically, but to build community and nurture confident, capable learners.

Public education brings together expert educators, engaged families, and supportive community partners to create environments where students are challenged, supported, and inspired. These foundations build over time and open doors to meaningful futures.

When children feel connected, they learn. When families feel supported, children thrive. And when schools and communities work together from the earliest years, literacy becomes more than a goal — it becomes a shared promise.

As we celebrate I Love to Read Month, let us remember that every story read aloud, every conversation at the dinner table, and every early learning experience contributes to a child’s future. Together, we continue building readers, thinkers, and compassionate community members one relationship at a time.

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.

Leading with integrity: Honoring NBAPS school board members

February is School Board Appreciation Month, a time to recognize leaders whose steady work shapes the future of our schools and community. This statewide recognition, supported by the Minnesota School Boards Association, highlights the important work of elected school board members on behalf of students and communities.



**NB School
News
Sara
Paul**

School board service is governance work. It requires long-term thinking, careful study of complex information, and thoughtful consideration of competing priorities, all grounded in what is best for students. Our North Branch Area Public Schools board members carry that responsibility with focus and care.

Clarity of role matters. The board sets direction, establishes policy, safeguards resources, and ensures accountability. They focus on the “why,” allowing our administrative team to lead the “how.” This alignment creates stability and supports strong student outcomes. In seasons of both progress and challenge, strong governance provides stability and direction.

Fiscal stewardship is central to their work. Every dollar invested in our district reflects the trust of families, taxpayers, and community members. Board members review budgets in detail, analyze data, and consider both immediate needs and long-term sustainability. Their decisions align resources with priorities, supporting

rigorous academics, meaningful career and technical pathways, extracurricular opportunities, student supports, and programming that prepares students to graduate with a plan and a purpose.

That stewardship is reflected in measurable results. Over the past five years, the district’s bond rating has improved four times, moving from a Baa2 to an A1 rating. Independent evaluators have recognized the district’s strong operating performance, disciplined budget management, steadily improving reserves, manageable long-term obligations, and an improving enrollment trend. These indicators affirm the board’s responsible approach to managing taxpayer resources.

Board members serve with preparation and professionalism. They listen to community voices, deliberate respectfully, and remain committed to transparent decision-making. Trust grows through consistency and integrity.

School board members dedicate countless hours to meetings, work sessions, and community engagement because they believe in public education and in the potential of every Viking student.

On behalf of our staff, students, and families, I extend sincere gratitude to our NBAPS board members for their service, fiscal responsibility, and steadfast commitment to our community. Forward Together, we continue our shared work to strengthen opportunities and deliver on our promise to students.

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

Calling volunteers for C-I school repairs

School referendums are very difficult for communities of all shapes and sizes, not just Cambridge-Isanti. It is tricky to balance the need for school updates with taxpayers’ desire for fiscal responsibility and lower taxes. While the local ISD911 referendum questions in November

failed, voter turnout was strong at 24% (state average is about 8% in similar elections). That said, it is great to see so many people from our own community interested in getting involved and casting a ballot. This is now your opportunity to get involved again, by volunteering.



**Inside
Isanti
Luke
Merrill**

I was a vocal advocate for lower taxes in the recent referendum. However, I also personally vowed that if the community decided to vote no and the referendum questions failed, I would use my platform to form a volunteer list and provide it to the school district. The ultimate goal is to make this a true community volunteer effort, without imposing a blanket tax on those who may not be able to afford the referendum or those who do not

want to contribute. Trades people, stay-at-home mothers, kids, businesses, laborers, church groups, etc. We have the opportunity to support the schools in a way that is comfortable and affordable for everyone. It doesn’t matter whether you voted yes or no. This will be a true community effort for our schools.

Thus far, I have gathered about 50 volunteers and we will continue recruiting more. Through volunteer format, we were able to find volunteers to re-upholster some of the equipment in the CIHS weight room (thank you Mr. Simons & volunteers).

We can work together to tackle some of the other smaller projects the school needs to complete for our community’s children. Projects like the tile in the locker-rooms, carpet in the media center, the additional sidewalks and ADA ramp needs, etc. Small projects can go a long way towards saving the school district money; money which can then stay in homes or be invested elsewhere in the schools for critical infrastructure.

If you are interested in volunteering, please complete the Google survey below and share it with your friends and neighbors. The survey information will be sent directly to the school district leadership as a potential option for use in projects or a manner that they deem appropriate. Together, we can work in a way that provides every resident, every taxpayer, and every business with the choice and the opportunity to improve our schools. Let’s make every day a great day to be a Bluejacket and a taxpayer!

If you’d like to volunteer, please scan the QR code or enter <https://forms.gle/ukShAtjAE4VTpRKM7> in your web browser or Google Search. You can also email me at LukeJMerrill@aol.com if you have questions or would like a link sent directly to you.

LUKE MERRILL is mayor for the city of Isanti. He can be directly reached at 763-516-5082, or Lmerrill@cityofisanti.us.



Arts grant applications are open

The following arts funding is available to artists and K-12 students located in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine Counties, including the sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands:

Essential Artist Award. This \$9,000 Essential Artist Award program is designed to recognize, reward, and encourage outstanding professional artists and culture bearers. The Council will fund artists and culture bearers at various stages in their professional careers. These Essential Artist

Awards will allow artists and culture bearers to set aside time to work, purchase supplies and materials, undertake advanced study (not related to a degree) or to pursue other artistic career goals.

K-12 Student Art Scholarship. This up to \$599 arts scholarship funding is for special arts learning projects or programs for kids. The program provides at least one student award annually, based upon a review of submitted applications. Applications must be for a specific art project that will advance

the skills of the student in their art form. The Arts Council is interested in funding projects such as training with a mentor or summer art programs such as music lessons or art camps. All young artists in kindergarten through 12th grade who strive to improve their artistic abilities can apply.

Applications must be submitted by March 2, 2026, no later than 11:59 p.m. To apply, visit www.ecrac.org. You may also reach out to ECRAC’s Grant Program Officer at grantinfo@ecrac.org, or 320-336-0200. -ECRAC

OBITUARIES

Gerald LeRoy Robinson

Gerald LeRoy Robinson age 96 of Cambridge, MN formerly of LaCrosse, WI, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at his home on February 5, 2026.

Gerald was born on September 29, 1929 in LaCrosse, WI to Loyal and Margaret Robinson. He attended grade school and eventually graduated from Central High School in LaCrosse, WI. Shortly after graduation, Gerald enlisted in the US Army. He was stationed in Japan and Germany as a Military Police Officer. He served for four years and was honorably discharged. He returned to his hometown to marry his high-school sweetheart, Arline Mae Galstad in

Caledonia, MN. They made their home in LaCrosse, WI and Gerald was employed at Trane Company until his retirement. After retiring, Gerald and Arline hit-the-road in their new RV, traveling the American south, enjoying country music and great food. After their extensive traveling, they decided to settle-down close to their children. It just so happened that some of their children were living in Cambridge, MN and so they decided on Cambridge as their new home. Gerald and Arline were able to really enjoy being grandparents and great-grandparents. Spoiling them "rotten".

Gerald was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Arline; daughter-in-law Marilyn Robinson and Granddaughter Jill Robinson.

He is survived by his children Jerry (Diane) Robinson, Pam Robinson, Nancy (Larry) Hofschulte, Karen (John) Lodico and David Robinson.

Grandfather of nine; great-grandfather of 12; and one great-great-grandchild.

Gerald is also survived by his sister Donna (Jim) Pangier

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home 763-689-2244

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Student Achievement Lists

Christina Gorecki, of Braham; **Kyle Hanson**, **Samantha Haring**, **Kris Morgan**, **Elijah Olson** and **Emily Raths**, of Cambridge; **Holly Bonte**, **Jack Borer**, **Deanna Fairbanks**, **Delana Glunz**, **Cadyn Hallberg** and **Olivia Hansen**, of Isanti; **Paige Bauer**, **Sophia Benedict**, **Veronica Carlson-Ross**, **Gina Dufeck**, **Chloe Fortuna**, **Amanda Hals**, **Grace Heimer**, **Kaitlyn Lundquist**, **Riley Peek**, **Kortney Rottier**, **Jenna Shoultz-Thao**, **Luke Urhammer**, **Kayleigh Weidendorf**, **Kathleen Winters** and **Mason Young**, of North Branch; and **Summer Como**, of Rush City (Dean's) from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

Becca Sundvall, of Cambridge (Dean's) from the University of North Dakota.

Degrees

Anders Baxter (Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders) and **Kayley Cox** (Bachelor of Business Administration, Marketing), of Isanti, from the University of Wisconsin-

Eau Claire.

Zack Anderson (Bachelor of Science, Chemistry), Summa Cum Laude, and **Annika Gunderson** (Bachelor of Science, Elementary Education and Modern Language), of North Branch, from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Stephanie Gagne (Bachelor of Arts, Health and Physical Education), of Cambridge; **Theresa Beck** (Bachelor of Arts, History), **Tiegan Koeppen** (Bachelor of Science, Computer Science), and **Carson Nybo** (Bachelor of Arts, Biology), of North Branch; and **Lillian Arneson** (Bachelor of Arts, Biology), of Rush City, from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Scholarship

Tyler Monson, of Rush City, Morris Scholars Award, University of Minnesota Morris, \$28,000.

Megan Widell, of Rush City, Prairie Scholars Award, University of Minnesota Morris, more than \$32,000.

Cancer virus imaging helps to uncover potential therapeutic targets

New research from the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry and Masonic Cancer Center is providing important new insights into the structure of a human virus that causes blood cancer. The findings were recently published in Nature Communications.

The research team, led by Wei Zhang, an associate professor in the School of Dentistry, Masonic Cancer Center, and Louis Mansky, director of the Institute for Molecular Virology and a professor in the School of Dentistry, Masonic Cancer Center, analyzed human T-cell leukemia virus (HTLV), a human retrovirus that causes adult T-cell leukemia/lymphoma and is related to HIV. As there is no current treatment for this disease, the research team used high-resolution imaging of the virus to help uncover where therapies might be successful.

The researchers used cryogenic transmission electron microscopy and tomography (cryo-EM/ET) — imaging techniques that produce high-resolution, 3D images of cellular structures by rapidly freezing samples to extremely low temperatures before imaging — to examine the HTLV capsid protein. A capsid protein is the shell that surrounds a virus, protects its genetic material and plays a crucial role in its molecular assembly. This is a promising target for treating HTLV because researchers recently successfully used this method to treat HIV.

The study found: Using the cryo-EM/ET process, researchers are successfully able to study the capsid protein's



structure — a powerful tool that can help develop structure-based drug designs.

For the first time, researchers were able to identify how the virus is assembled and reproduced. In one example, researchers measured the distance between the capsid protein and the outer layer of the virus which provides information about how the capsid protein is distributed within the virus particle.

The team found that a specific negatively charged molecule required for building HIV particulars can be used, but is not required, to also treat HTLV. This could inform drug design as this is a location where investigational drugs bind for HIV.

"These high-resolution images will be useful for helping us understand why HTLV infectivity is strongly correlated with being associated with cells, where virus spread occurs through direct

cell-to-cell contact. This remains a long-standing question in the field and could help guide the design of treatments for HTLV infection — a highly important task, knowing there are currently no such approved therapeutics," said Mansky.

The team plans to conduct further research to study how the HTLV capsid protein helps to build virus particles and identify how therapeutics, such as antiviral drugs, could be directed to interfere with this process.

The University of Minnesota team collaborated with researchers at the University of Delaware and the University of Central Florida on this study. This research was supported by funding from the National Institute of Health and the Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota School of Dentistry

Call for Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission applicants extended

CAMBRIDGE PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

The Cambridge City Council is seeking one (1) individual to serve on the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission. This position is for a regular three (3) year terms. Residency within city limits is required.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission is an advisory board that reviews and makes recommendations to the Cambridge City Council on the development and organization of city parks, trails, and recreational programs. The Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission typically holds one (1) regular meeting quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October and additional meetings as needed.

If you are interested in serving on the Cambridge Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, please contact Amy Norling for an application at 763-552-3257 or anorling@ci.cambridge.mn.us. Applications may also be obtained at Cambridge City Hall at 300 3rd Avenue NE or online at www.ci.cambridge.mn.us.

The application deadline is 4:30 pm, Tuesday, March 10th, 2026. Potential applicants will be interviewed for appointment at the regular City Council meeting on Monday, March 16th, 2026 at approximately 6pm.

The city will use the list of interested applicants to fill any unexpected commission vacancies that may arise during 2026.

ISANTI-CHISAGO
COUNTY STAR

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GYMNASTICS: Team's 31st state meet qualifier most in Minnesota Class AA history

FROM PAGE 1

surprised to learn.

"The judging on a couple of the events was tight," Rooney said. "But obviously, they were consistently tight for every team, which is all we can ask for."

As for the gymnasts themselves, not a single member of the team knew they won until it was officially announced, which is the standard operating procedure for sections.

"We want them to focus only on what they can control, which is their own routines," Rooney said. "Sometimes in the past someone tried to get a sneak peek or have a parent or friend slip them information. But this team staunchly kept their focus only on themselves."

The end result was a series of squeals, tears, and hugs as the results were revealed (see video coupled with this story on the Star's website).

The Bluejackets will now compete against the other seven Class AA section champions in the state meet at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 20.

Since the team has the second-lowest section-winning score, plus the fact this will be a new experience for all but senior Aubrey Wilson — who has twice



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Bluejacket Anika Michaelis hits her signature splits on the beam during the Section 7AA Meet. The sophomore qualified for state on the event.

competed in the state individual meet, Rooney says the only goal they have is to compete their best routines of the season and to enjoy the experience.

INDIVIDUAL STATE

The thrill of advancing to state as a team also helped take away the sting of the individual results of the section meet for Wilson. The senior, defending

section all-around champion wound up tying for third in the all-around this year. Since only the top three all-around scores advance to individual state, a tie-breaker of adding up just the head judges' scores was required to determine which of the two would advance to state. When those scores were also tied, a second tiebreaker of execution deductions was needed.

Unfortunately, a rare fall on the beam wound up being Wilson's downfall.

That fall also meant she will not be competing on her favorite event at individual state. Wilson did take second place on bars and floor, plus her placing third on the vault means she will compete on those three events in her high school swan song at state.

Wilson will be joined at individual state by sophomore Anika Michaelis, who placed fourth on the beam with a score of 9.325, qualifying her for her first individual state meet.

The Class AA Individual State Meet will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, also at Roy Wilkins.

VIKINGS SEND TWO TO STATE

The North Branch Vikings will be represented in the Class A State Individual Meet by two gymnasts.

Senior Ella Dick qualified for state in the all-around. She will be joined by junior Sophia Thorsen, who won the vault section title and qualified on the floor.

The Class A Individual State Meet will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, also at Roy Wilkins.

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI, NORTH BRANCH SCOREBOARD: FEBRUARY 11 - 17

February 11

C-I boys basketball 70, Zimmerman 75

February 12

C-I girls basketball 51, Sauk Rapids-Rice 37

C-I boys hockey 4, Northern Edge 1

February 13

C-I gymnastics @ Section 7AA Championships - 1st/7 teams (140.925)

*State qualifiers: Aubrey Wilson - vault (8.975), bars (8.85), floor (9.4); Anika Michaelis - beam (9.325)

C-I wrestling 26, St. Francis 35 (Section 7AAA Quarterfinals)

C-I girls basketball 24, Becker 78

C-I boys basketball 53, Becker 81

NB girls basketball 37, Princeton 74

NB boys basketball 48, Princeton 79

February 14

NB gymnastics @ Section 7A Championships

*State qualifiers: Ella Dick - all-around; Sophia Thorsen - vault, floor

NB wrestling 45, Mora 20 (Section 7AA Play-in)

NB wrestling 0, Pierz 75 (Section 7AA Quarterfinals)

Northern Edge boys hockey 1, Spring Lake Park 9

February 17

C-I girls basketball 55, Zimmerman 59

C-I boys basketball 82, Zimmerman 72

C-I boys hockey 1, Rock Ridge 7 (Section 7AA Quarterfinals)

NB boys basketball 56, Monticello 91

NB girls basketball 10, Monticello 92

Northern Edge boys hockey 0, Grand Rapids 11 (Section 7AA Quarterfinals)



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti's Colin Maki tries to tip the puck past Northern Edge goalie Gage Husby while being closely defended by a Northern Edge player.

Read Local

Keep up with your community!

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Cambridge-Isanti archers take aim at Princeton's Frozen Open

Members of the Cambridge-Isanti archery team take aim during the Princeton Frozen Open on Feb. 14 in Princeton. The local archers joined teams from across the region for a day of competition, showing steady focus and strong sportsmanship throughout the event..

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI, NORTH BRANCH HOME, POSTSEASON SCHEDULES: FEB. 19 - 25

To see both schools' full schedules, go to www.mississippi8.org. Schedules are subject to change with minimal advanced notice based on weather, availability of officials, or other reasons.

Thursday, February 19

- C-I boys basketball vs. North Branch (7 p.m.)
- C-I boys swimming @ Coon Rapids - Section 7AA prelims (6 p.m.)
- NB girls basketball vs. East Central (7 p.m.)

Friday, February 20

- C-I gymnastics @ Class AA State Team Meet (11 a.m.)
- C-I boys basketball vs. Chisago Lakes (7 p.m.)
- C-I boys diving @ Coon Rapids - Section 7AA championships (6 p.m.)
- NB wrestling @ Rock Ridge - Section 7AA Individual Tournament (TBD)

Saturday, February 21

- C-I wrestling - Section 7AAA Individual Tournament (home) (TBD)
- C-I boys swimming @ Coon Rapids - Section 7AA finals
- C-I gymnastics @ Class AA State Individual Meet (11 a.m.)
- NB wrestling @ Rock Ridge - Section 7AA Individual Tournament (TBD)
- NB gymnastics @ Class A State Individual Meet (6 p.m.)

Tuesday, February 24

- C-I boys basketball vs. Big Lake (7 p.m.)

Wednesday, February 25

- C-I girls basketball @ TBD - Section 7AAAA Quarterfinals
- NB girls basketball @ TBD - Section 7AAA Quarterfinals



Tuesday, February 24
2:00-3:00 PM

Welia Center | Fitness & Community Room
200 N 9th St | Mora, MN 55051

Navigating life with heart disease—you're not alone.

Heart to Heart is a welcoming support group for individuals living with heart disease or recovering from a cardiac event. Members of our cardiac rehabilitation team guide discussions on heart-healthy habits, stress management, and current treatment options. **Because caring for your heart includes caring for yourself.**

Have questions or want to learn more?

Call Welia Health Cardiac Rehabilitation at **320.225.3364**.

Scan the QR code for more upcoming dates or visit WeliaHealth.org/SupportGroups to explore all Welia Health Support Groups.



Light goose harvest opportunity begins Feb. 18

Hunters can help reduce the population of light geese through a federally authorized spring conservation harvest from Feb. 18 through April 30. Light geese are a group of overabundant migratory waterfowl that include snow geese, blue-phased snow geese and the smaller Ross's geese. This conservation action aims to reduce damage by these geese to fragile

ecosystems in their arctic breeding habitat.

Hunters may get a permit starting Feb. 18 from DNR license agents (mndnr.gov/licenses/agents.html) online (mndnr.gov/licenses) or by phone at 888-665-4236. Harvest regulations are on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/waterfowl/lightgoose). - MNDNR



Participants take an icy plunge for local fire departments

The 10th annual "Fire and Ice Plunge" took place on Saturday, February 14 with participants braving the cold water of Rush Lake — although not so much cold air temperatures, to raise money for the Rush City and Cambridge Fire Departments. Besides the plungers' donations, money was raised through sponsorships and a silent auction.



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North Branch robotics team advances to world championships

North Branch FIRST Tech Challenge Team 7288 RoboGlaciers has qualified for the World FTC Championships in Houston, Texas, at the end of April.

Team 7288 is one of seven teams from Minnesota advancing.

Teams qualify through a point system based on robot performance, judges interviews and awards received. North Branch took second in its division, was selected as part of the second-seeded alliance team, and received second place for the Design Award.

“This team has worked tirelessly since September and throughout last summer to build up their portfolio and design a great robot,” program lead Becky Leuer said.

“Most of this team has been together for five years with one goal and they achieved it by securing a berth in the championships. Needless to say, they are very excited.”

Another North Branch team, 8626 FIRE, also competed this season and were selected as part of the fifth place alliance in the elimination rounds.

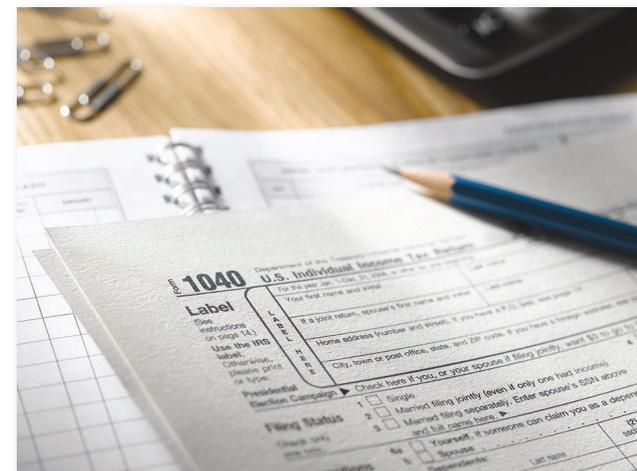
Now the team must raise money to attend the world championships. Anyone who wants to support the RoboGlaciers can contact nbftc@isd138.org or the activities office in North Branch. -NBAPS



CONTRIBUTED
Team 7288, Ava Gardner, Tori White, and Rylee Zarbok one of seven teams from Minnesota going to the World-FTC Championships in Houston.



CONTRIBUTED



Minnesotans can help the state's at-risk wildlife at tax time

Minnesotans can support the conservation of the state's rare and vulnerable wildlife with a contribution to the Nongame Wildlife Fund through their state tax returns.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Nongame Wildlife Fund provides crucial support to more than 500 at-risk wildlife species, such as osprey, bald eagles, river otters, mussels and more.

The program relies on donations to support wildlife field research, habitat enhancement projects and educational programs, including the popular DNR EagleCam and FalconCam. All donations to the fund are double-matched by the Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat license plate fund.

“Minnesotans value wildlife and natural resources, and the Nongame Wildlife Fund tax checkoff is a great way to support that,” Nongame Wildlife Program Supervisor Kristin Hall said. “Together, we can work toward a prosperous future for Minnesota's wildlife.”

Tax filers can contribute any amount using the Nongame Wildlife Fund checkoff on Form M1, Individual Income Tax, or Form M1PR, Homestead Credit Refund. If filing on paper, look for the loon icon to invest in Minnesota's at-risk wildlife.

People can also support the program anytime on the DNR's donating for wildlife webpage (mndnr.gov/donate) or by mail to DNR Nongame Wildlife Fund, 500 Lafayette Road, PO Box 25, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Learn more about the program and how the DNR is using donations in The Wild Word newsletter (mndnr.gov/eco/nongame/newsletter.html)

More information about the Nongame Wildlife Program is available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/nongame). -MNDNR



Wednesday, February 25
1:30-2:30 PM

Timber Pines Assisted Living
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KARMA: Award presented during annual MVMA veterinary conference

FROM PAGE 1

courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities. Karma's legacy will continue to inspire all who serve and remind us of the profound bond between handler and K9—a bond built on trust, respect, and shared mission."

Karma was nominated for the award by Dr. Jennifer Schurrer and Dr. Megan Trauba, both from East Central Veterinarians.

"It is with the utmost respect and solemn admiration that I write this letter in recognition of K9 Officer Karma," wrote Schurrer. "It is my highest honor to recommend Karma as an exemplary professional working dog whose contributions and sacrifice will never be forgotten."

At East Central Veterinarians, we provided Karma's wellness care and any other care Karma had needed," Trauba said. "This news (of his death) weighed heavy on all of the staff here. As one of the veterinarians that oversaw Karma's care, this news weighed heavy on me, especially since I had just seen him very recently (prior to his death)."

"Thank you and the association for recognizing K9 Karma with the Hero of the Year award," Isanti County Sheriff Wayne Seiberlich said. "It means a great deal to Deputy Miller, our agency, and our community."

The award was presented to Seiberlich and Miller during the 2026 MVMA Veterinary Conference held Jan. 28 - 31 in Minneapolis.

GAMBLING: Ordinance includes any and all charitable gambling within city limits

FROM PAGE 1

at its own restaurant and bar and at Muddy Cow of North Branch; North Branch Area Hockey Association, which collects proceeds from gambling at Pizza Pub of North Branch and Tailgater's Sports Bar & Grill; and North Branch Volunteer Firefighters Relief Association, which collects proceeds from gambling at Olde Brick Inn, according to data from the Minnesota Gambling Control Board.

Any funds raised at sites outside of North Branch by these organizations are not subject to the ordinance. However, JJ's Bowl and Lounge in North Branch fundraises for Minneapolis-based Chops Inc., and these funds will be subject to the 10% collection, per Hill's email.

After state taxes, these four organiza-

tions pulled in \$408,762 at North Branch gambling sites in 2025 according to the state gambling board, 10% of which is \$40,876.20.

Any and all charitable gambling within the city will be subject to the ordinance, including under short-term permits.

Mayor Kevin Schieber was absent from the meeting, but expressed his full support for the new ordinance via a statement, in which he suggested some money be used to light the local football and baseball fields.

The ordinance goes into effect seven days from its passage, which the council effected at its Feb. 11 meeting. Hill said the three main organizations have been contacted in advance.

Minnesota DNR seeks public comments on proposed OHV grant-in-aid trails

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is accepting public comments on two proposed off-highway vehicle trail projects under the grant-in-aid program.

The OHV GIA program is a cost-share partnership between the DNR and local government sponsors and clubs. The GIA funds help maintain and develop trails for all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and off-road vehicles.

THESE PROPOSALS ARE OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chatfield Connector: This proposal would formally designate an existing 22.5-mile route as part of the GIA program, linking existing roads and trail segments. This route would connect the Chatfield ATV Trail in Fillmore County to new recreation opportu-

nities using about 13 miles of existing roads currently open to ATV use and 9.5 miles of mostly existing trail on private land. The trail would be open to ATV use. The city of Chatfield is the local government sponsor, and the Chatfield ATV Trails Club would be responsible for trail maintenance.

Seven Beavers Connector: This proposed 3.5-mile route in St. Louis County is located about 14 miles southeast of Hoyt Lakes. The route would follow an existing corridor used for forest resource management and snowmobile use. The proposal would formally designate the route under the GIA program, linking the East Range multi-use system and the Seven Beavers multi-use bridge. The route would cross lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, St. Louis County, the state of Minnesota and private landown-

ers. The route would be open to ATV and OHV use. St. Louis County is the local government sponsor and the Ranger Snowmobile and ATV Club would be responsible for trail maintenance.

The DNR will accept written comments until 4:30 p.m. March 18 by:

Email to OHV.Planning.DNR@state.mn.us. Please indicate the name of the proposed trail(s) being commented on in the subject line and email body.

Mail to Molly Lou Pintok, principal planner, Minnesota DNR, Parks and Trails Division, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155

Maps of the proposed trail segments are on the DNR OHV trail planning webpage (mndnr.gov/input/mgmtplans/ohv/plans/plans.html). For more information, call Molly Lou Pintok at 651-259-5095. -MNDNR

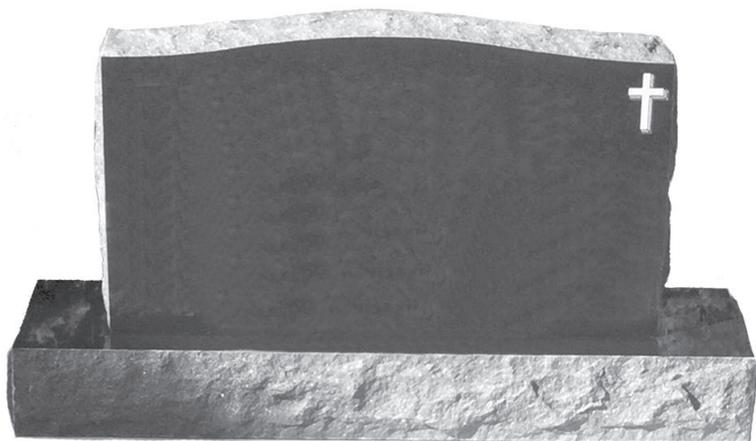
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More teen sleep is linked to less sedentary time

Adequate sleep and physical exercise are cornerstones of a healthy lifestyle. In 2023, only about a quarter of high school students in the U.S. met the guideline for daily exercise, and another recent survey found over 75% of adolescents do not get the recommended amount of sleep per night.

A new study by researchers at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health examined how sleep contributes to sedentary behavior and overall activity levels in teens. The study, published in the *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, suggests when teens sleep longer, and at times better aligned with their biological clocks, they are more likely to engage in physical activity.

Researchers reviewed data from 260 ninth-grade students in Minnesota. All student participants wore activity trackers continuously for seven days, allowing researchers to objectively measure sleep duration, sleep

timing, sleep efficiency and physical activity levels — including sedentary time, light physical activity, and moderate to vigorous physical activity. The team also included demographic factors such as sex, race and parental education levels. They found:

Longer sleep was associated with less sedentary time. For each additional hour of sleep, adolescents spent about 26

'The kids that are sleeping more are also the kids that are spending less time sitting around on the couch.'

Kayla Johnson
School of Public Health
Researcher

fewer minutes sedentary on weekdays and 19 fewer minutes sedentary on weekends, suggesting that extra sleep time may replace inactivity during the day.

Closer alignment with adolescents' natural circadian rhythms — also known as the internal clock — was linked to higher activity levels. Shifting to a later sleep schedule was linked to higher levels of physical activity across all categories.

More time spent sleeping was not associated with reduced activity levels. Sleep duration was not related to



time spent doing moderate to vigorous physical activity on either weekdays or weekends, suggesting that increased sleep did not come at the expense of exercise.

"There's a common fear that if teens sleep more, there will be less time for them to be

active," said Kayla Johnson, a researcher at the School of Public Health and lead author. "Our results suggest the opposite. The kids that are sleeping more are also the kids that are spending less time sitting around on the couch."

Future research will explore

how sleep and physical activity behaviors develop over time, how these behaviors vary across populations, and other factors that could influence these patterns. - The University of Minnesota School of Public Health

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Free Winter Trail Day to offer skiing, snowshoeing in Cambridge

Isanti County Parks and Little Wilderness will host a free Winter Trail Day event Saturday, Feb. 28, at Springvale County Park in Cambridge.

The event runs from 9 a.m. to noon at the park, 3361 Hwy. 95 NW, and will offer opportunities for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and hiking on about 3 miles of groomed trails, including a beginner-friendly loop.

Organizers will have a trailer on-site with youth and adult cross-country skis, boots and snowshoes available for free use on a first-come, first-served basis. Participants are encouraged to arrive early to claim equipment, and those with their own gear are welcome to bring it.

After time on the trails, attendees can warm up by a bonfire, socialize and learn about upcoming events from Little Wilderness and Isanti County Parks. S'mores kits and hot cocoa, cider and coffee will be available for a small fee.

Access to the park, parking and equipment rental are free. Dogs are welcome on a leash but are not allowed

on groomed ski trails. A porta potty will be available on-site. Parents and guardians are responsible for supervising their children during the event.

Springvale County Park is located in Springvale Township on the north side of Highway 95, six miles west of the city of Cambridge.

Questions before the event can be directed to angie.littlewilderness@gmail.com. More information is available at littlewilderness.co/new-events-2/minnesota-snow-shoe-ski-meet-up-gj96w and co.isanti.mn.us/184/Parks-Recreation.

If the Winter Trail Day event is canceled, information will be posted to the Isanti County Parks Facebook page.

The event is made possible through a Connecting People to the Outdoors Legacy Grant by the Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails Commission.

For more information, contact Isanti County Parks Director Barry Wendorf at barry.wendorf@co.isanti.mn.us or 763-689-8220.



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)

Sunrise Bible Church

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

Catholic

Christ the King

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

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN. 763-444-4035
Email: brigitte@isantiacc.org
Mass: Tues. & Wed. 8:30am.
Sun. 8:30am.
isantiacc.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 (school year only): 9-10 a.m.

Sunday Worship (in person & online): 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday Programming (school year only):
Family meal at 5:30 p.m. with AWANA and Youth Group from 6:30-8 p.m.

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 to 7:30pm

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)

Dr. Suzanne Begin, Minister
905 Central Drive West
320-396-2755
www.brahamlutheran.org
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
In-person & Live on Facebook
9:00 - 9:45 Sunday School
Children may join worship service or be picked up by an adult
All Are Welcome!

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.
Contemp service: 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
www.cambridgelutheran.org
Facebook: fb.com/Cambridgelutheran
YouTube: tinyurl.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)

33525 Jefferson Street NE, 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 10am
Sunday School 9am
Sunday Adult Bible Study 9am
LENT SERVICES TUESDAYS @ 7PM
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 & Pastor Rebecca Holland
All Are Welcome!
Sundays
9 am Worship & 10 am Sunday School
Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays
Wednesdays 6 pm Confirmation

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.slchurch.org
Email: slchurch@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.), Braham 320-396-3103
9am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study.
8am Worship.
ststephensbraham.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch 651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon
In person and online worship
8 & 10 am Worship
9 am Coffee Hour
9 am Sunday School
www.trinitynorthbranch.org
office@trinitynorthbranch.org

Methodist

Common Ground - A United Methodist Community

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

Non-Denominational

Grace Gospel Church

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

Journey of Faith

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

JustPassinThru IHS Ministries

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

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FORECLOSURES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

State of Minnesota, County of Isanti, Tenth Judicial District, Civil No. 30-CV-25-756, First National Bank, Plaintiff vs. Dylan Investments LLC; D.B. Graphics, Inc.; Dennis George Buchana; Tammy Jane Buchanan; Platinum Bank; and John Doe, Mary Roe, and XYZ Corporation, whose correct names are unknown to Plaintiff, Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under and by virtue of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for Judgment dated December 15, 2025, and entered December 19, 2025, in the above-cited action, a certified copy of which has been delivered directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to said Plaintiff in the above-cited action from said Defendants, the Sheriff of Pipestone County will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the premises described in said Judgment to pay the debt secured by the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 26, 2021

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$709,000.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Dylan Investments LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company MORTGAGEE: First National Bank

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING:

Recorded on May 27, 2021, as Document Number A504965 in the Office of the County Recorder of Isanti County, Minnesota.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti

Common Street Address(es): 801 Highway 65 NE, Isanti, MN 55040 Tax Parcel ID No: 16.020.1100

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

That part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE1/4 of SW1/4) of Section Twenty (20), Township Thirty-five (35), Range Twenty-three (23), described by metes and bounds as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the SE1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 20, Township 35, Range 23, thence north along the north and south quarter line a distance of 440 feet; thence west and parallel with the south line of said SE1/4 of SW1/4 a distance of 600 feet; thence south and parallel with the east line of said SE1/4 of SW1/4 a distance of 440 feet to the South line of SE1/4 of SW1/4; thence east along the south line of said SE1/4 of SW1/4 a distance of 600 feet to the point of commencement, subject to highway easements of record and mineral reservations of record, Isanti County, Minnesota.

AMOUNT DUE UNDER JUDGMENT: As December 19, 2025, the amount due under the Judgment entered in the above-cited action on December 19, 2025, is no less than \$673,009.81, consisting of the judgment amount of \$673,009.81 plus interest accrued and accruing at a rate of

\$69.11 per day since October 21, 2025, together with accrued and accruing fees and costs and the costs and expenses of sale.

PURSUANT to the said judgment, the above-described property will be sold by sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 5, 2026, at 10 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff's Office, 2440 S Main St, Cambridge, MN 55008 to pay the debt by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within six months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

DATED: January 20, 2026

MORTGAGEE: First National Bank DeWitt LLP
By: /s/ Zachary P. Armstrong
Name: Zachary P. Armstrong
Attorneys for Plaintiff/Mortgagee
901 Marquette Avenue, Suite 2100
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 305-1400

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 1, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$279,837.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Chris Yaritz and Sharon Newsom, spouses married to each other, joint tenants

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: August 3, 2022 as DOCUMENT: A518039 in the Office of the County Recorder in Isanti County, Minnesota.

The mortgage was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: Planet Home Lending, LLC

Assignment dated: September 29, 2025

Assignment recorded: September 30, 2025

Assignment recording information: DOCUMENT: A540107

All in the records of the County Recorder in Isanti County, Minnesota.

TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 16.089.0130

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 2, Isanti Hills 4th Addition, Isanti County, Minnesota

Abstract Property

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 516 Cottonwood St SW, Isanti, MN 55040

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Planet Home Lending, LLC

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE: \$298,098.63 AS OF 1/16/2026.

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Isanti County, Minnesota at public auction as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 2, 2026 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff's Office, 2440 S Main St, Cambridge, MN 55008 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagor, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 P.M. on October 2, 2026, or the next business day if October 2, 2026 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS,

MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Publication to begin the week of: 02/05/2026

Planet Home Lending, LLC, Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee

The Sayer Law Group, P.C., Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee

925 E. 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703 THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 2026

NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY WASHINGTON

Judicial District: Court File Number: 82-CV-26-130

34 Case Type: Name Change

In the Matter of the Application of: Marla Jean Baird-Adams

Affidavit in Support of Order for Publication and Order for Publication (Minor Name Change) (Minn. Stat. § 259.10, subd. 1)

On Behalf of: Grayson Jade Charles Kessel

For Change of Name to: Grayson Jade Charles Baird

STATE OF MINNESOTA County of Washington

The undersigned applicant states that:

1. I have filed an Application for Name Change in Washington County District Court for change of name for the minor child (ren) from Grayson Jade Charles Kessel to Grayson Jade Charles Baird

2. I do not know the address of the non-applicant parent.

3. The last known location of the non-applicant parent was: California (No known address)

4. The last known location of the non-applicant parent's employment was: Father Randy, Thrift Store in Braham MN (store is now closed)

5. The names and addresses of the non-applicant parent's parents, brothers or sisters, children, and, other close relatives are: Randy Kessel (father) Candy (sister last name unknown) Piper Kessel (daughter)

6. I have made the following efforts to get the non-applicant parent's address from these persons: The court, father & sister. There are two current orders in place to restrict contact. HRO & OFP.

Therefore, I request that the Court allow publication of the Notice of Hearing. I further request that the Court set a new hearing date, if necessary.

I declare under penalty of perjury that everything I have stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116.

Date: 1/26/2026

Applicant: _____

Order for Publication

Based on the above Affidavit, IT IS ORDERED: Notice shall be given by publication once week for three consecutive weeks in the legal newspaper of the county of the other parent's last known work address in Braham, Isanti County, MN

Dated: 2026.01.28

Judge of District Court: Meslow, Douglas (Judge)

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 12, 19, 26, 2026

DALBO TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all residents of Dalbo Township, County of Isanti, State of Minnesota, that the Dalbo Township Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10th, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Dalbo Town Hall, located at 39798 Nacre Street NW, Dalbo, Minnesota. In the event of inclement weather, the Annual Meeting will be held one week later on Tuesday, March 17th, 2026 at 7:00 PM. The purpose of the Annual

Meeting is to conduct all business prescribed by law. To be placed on the agenda, please contact the Town Clerk, Deborah Marlon, at 763-742-0289. Due to the Annual Meeting falling on the second Tuesday in March, the regular March township board meeting will be held on Monday, March 9th, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 19, 26 2026

CITY OF NORTH BRANCH ORDINANCE NO. 407-26

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA, PERTAINING TO THE PROCUREMENT OF CHARITABLE GAMBLING PROCEEDS FOR PARK AND TRAIL ADDITIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUNDING.

WHEREAS, the City of North Branch is authorized to promote the general welfare, public safety, and public good of its residents; and

WHEREAS, the maintenance and improvement of public parks and trails are essential for the quality of life of the residents of North Branch; and

WHEREAS, local charitable gambling organizations operating within the City of North Branch contribute to the community, and the City desires a mechanism to support public infrastructure through a portion of these proceeds;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH ORDAINS:

Section 1. Purpose, Intent and Authorization

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish a legal framework for the City of North Branch to procure a dedicated percentage of the net gambling proceeds from charitable gambling organizations operating within the city limits, for the sole purpose of funding the maintenance, repair, additions and improvement of City-owned parks and trails. The City Council is authorized by the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 349.213, as it may be amended from time to time, to impose additional restrictions on gambling within its limits, including the collection of a portion of net profits derived from lawful gambling.

Section 2. Definitions.

- Charitable Gambling Organization: Any organization licensed by the State of Minnesota pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 349.16, as it may be amended from time to time, to conduct lawful gambling activities within the City of North Branch and as further authorized under North Branch City Code.
- Net Gambling Proceeds: The gross receipts of lawful gambling minus prizes actually paid, allowable expenses, and taxes imposed by law.
- City: The City of North Branch, Minnesota.

Section 3. Procurement of Proceeds.

A. Every Charitable Gambling Organization operating within the City of North Branch shall remit ten percent (10%) of its Net Gambling Proceeds to the City.

B. The remittance required by this section shall be made quarterly and shall be accompanied by a report detailing the calculation of the Net Gambling Proceeds for the period, and such report shall be in a form acceptable to the City in order to ensure compliance with the City's reporting requirements under Minn. Stat. 349.213, as may be amended from time to time.

C. The City Council is authorized to establish, by resolution, rules and procedures for the collection, reporting, and auditing of these proceeds to ensure compliance with this Ordinance and state law.

Section 4. Establishment of the Park and Trail Improvement and Maintenance Fund.

A. All funds procured by the City under Section 3 of this Ordinance shall be deposited into a dedicated, segregated fund to be known as the Park and Trail Improvement and Maintenance Fund.

B. The monies in the Park and Trail Improvement and Maintenance Fund shall be used exclusively for the ongoing maintenance, repair, capital improvements, and development of public parks and trails owned or operated by the City of North Branch, and the use of such

funds shall be determined at the time of adoption of the City's annual budget or whenever said budget is amended.

C. All expenditures authorized under this Ordinance shall be reported by City staff to the designated state agency annually pursuant to Minn. Stat. 349.213 subd.1(f)(2), as may be amended from time to time.

Section 5. Conflict and Severability.

A. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

B. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision, and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

C. This Ordinance shall supplement existing regulations on the operation of Charitable Gambling Organizations as reflected in the North Branch City Code, chapter 18, article 4, as may be amended from time to time.

Section 6. Enforcement.

Failure of a Charitable Gambling Organization to comply with the requirements of this Ordinance shall be deemed violation of City Code, and shall subject to enforcement action under City Code Section 18-97, as may be amended from time to time, including the potential suspension or revocation of any operating license.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage and publication as required by law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of North Branch, Minnesota, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

APPROVED: _____

Mayor

ATTEST: _____

City Clerk

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 19, 2026

NOTICE OF HEARING ON IMPROVEMENT CITY OF ISANTI Railroad Avenue & Main Street Walk Improvements Project

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of Isanti will meet in the Council Chambers of the City Hall at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, to consider the making of street improvements on Railroad Avenue from Main Street to Palomino Road. The improvement shall consist of street reclamation, replacement of curb & gutter as needed on the west side of the road and full reconstruction of the curb on the east side of the road with the addition of a concrete sidewalk along the back of curb on the east side. The project will separately include the installation of a sidewalk on the north side of Main Street from Credit Union Drive to Richard Avenue.

The improvements will be done pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 429.011 to 429.111. The area proposed to be assessed for such improvements are those properties which abut each of the proposed improvement areas separately. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment will be available at the hearing. Such persons as desire to be heard with reference to the proposed improvements will be heard at this meeting.

The total estimated cost of the Railroad Avenue Improvement is \$517,552.88. Based on the above estimated project cost a per parcel assessment range of \$1,935.96 - \$8,751.60 is anticipated depending on assessable frontage length. The average assessment is estimated at \$5,263.20.

The total estimated cost of the Main Street Walk Improvements is \$73,013.10. Based on the above estimated project cost a per parcel assessment range of \$35,535.78 - \$37,476.81 is anticipated depending on assessable frontage length. The average assessment is estimated at \$36,506.50.

In addition, there will be a Project Information Open House held at City Hall on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, from 4:30 PM to 5:30 PM. A brief presentation will be made at

4:30 PM. Anyone wishing to obtain information and ask questions about the project may stop in anytime during this open house.

Josi Wood, City Administrator
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 19, 26 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Cambridge Planning Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008, to discuss the following public hearing items and other items on the agenda.

1. PUBLIC HEARING – A request by Northside Commons LLC, 132 2nd Ave NE, Cambridge MN, 55008; for site address 801 20th Ave NE, Cambridge MN, 55008; for a Road Right-of-Way Vacation. The legal description is part of the SE ¼ of the SW ¼, Section 21, Isanti County, Minnesota.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – A request by Kristina Bergstad & Ashland Dellwood Partners LTD, 33 10th Ave S, Suite 120, Hopkins, MN, 55343; for site address 222 Ashland St N, Cambridge, MN 55008; for a variance for parking to be allowed on non-impervious surface. The legal description is Lots 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, & 11, Block 1, Bunkers Addition, Isanti County, Minnesota.

More information is available at Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, MN 55008, including full legal descriptions. Cambridge Planning Commission Meetings are typically scheduled on the 1st Tuesday of every month and are open to the public.

Marcia Westover
Community Development Director
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 19, 2026

CITY OF HARRIS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Harris Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., at Harris City Hall, 43970 Ginger Avenue, Harris, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to consider applications for two Interim Use Permits to allow two 960 kilowatt (960 kW) ground-mounted solar arrays, each consisting of approximately four (4) acres, on parcel number 14.00221.00, located within the R-2 Zoning District.

All persons interested in the matter may appear and be heard at the hearing, either in person or by written submission.

Following the public hearing, the Planning Commission will make a recommendation to the Harris City Council. The City Council will consider the matter at its March 9, 2026, regular meeting.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2026.

Chante Carlson
City Clerk, City of Harris, Minnesota
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 19, 2026

CITY OF HARRIS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Harris Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Harris City Hall, 43970 Ginger Avenue, Harris, MN, to consider a Preliminary Plat application to subdivide parcel 14.00274.00.

All interested persons may appear and be heard. Written comments may be submitted prior to or at the hearing.

The Planning Commission will forward a recommendation to the City Council, which is scheduled to consider the matter at its March 9, 2026 meeting.

For information, contact the City of Harris at 651-674-7546 or clerk@harrismn.com.

Dated: February 10, 2026

Chante Carlson, City Clerk

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 19, 2026



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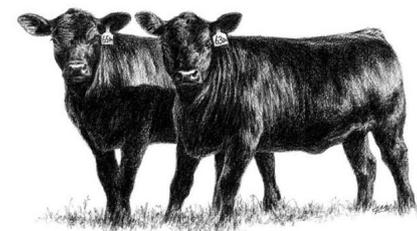
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