

SIMPLY THE BEST: Check out the much-anticipated reveal of the 2025 Readers Choice voting.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

No place like home plate

Players kicked up plenty of dust during the Jethro Doberstein Kickball Tournament at Sandquist Family Park in Cambridge on Sept. 27. The event featured a silent auction at noon, a kids’ game, and a 50/50 cash drawing, all in support of a fun-filled community day.

Preliminary levies nearly identical

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

In an unusual moment of synchronicity, the cities of Cambridge, Isanti, and North Branch, plus Isanti County, each are going forward with a preliminary levy increase within one percent of each other — between 5% and 6%.

Additionally, the city of Cambridge and Isanti County took similar paths before settling on their amounts — 5% and 5.74%. According to Cambridge Finance Director Caroline Moe and Isanti County Administrator Amanda Usher, when the budget process first began earlier this year, both governments were looking at a double-digit percentage increase in the preliminary levy over last year.

According to Moe, she took steps she is normally hesitant to take in order to get the preliminary levy down to an acceptable amount. Specifically, Moe said she is taking one-time revenue, for example, the sale of city-owned land, and applying that to reduce the 2026 levy increase. The downside to doing that, she said, is that it will put additional strain on future levies.

With the county, Usher said they are taking an across-the-board budget cut approach. After all budget requests were initially turned in,

SEE **LEVIES**, PAGE 12

Residents express concern over school zone traffic

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

North Branch’s busiest school-zone street is also home to the most car collisions, and residents are demanding changes.

A Facebook post about near-misses with young students in crosswalks and dangerous speeding generated multiple comments from community members, sharing their stories of unsafe activity during the busy before- and after-school rush.

Police chief Dan Meyer said Grand Avenue traffic has been a concern since he started with the city 27 years ago, but traffic has increased immensely in the last few years.

Meyer told the council the daily number of vehicles using Grand Avenue has more than doubled since 2022. The current closure of County Road 30 is playing a part, he said, and thinks traffic will decrease when that re-opens, but “aggressive driving and speeding” issues will remain.

With 14 car collisions so far this year, Meyer said Grand Avenue outpaces everywhere else in the city, and he only has so much staff to go around for traffic

enforcement, which he views as a short-term solution anyway.

“We can try to calm the traffic while we’re out there,” he said, adding his officers have been making stops and staying visible, “...but as soon as we’re out of there, stuff starts ramping up again.”

The city did receive a grant to update its Safe Routes to School program, which hasn’t been done since 2011, according to Nate Sondrol, the city’s community development director. They are awaiting approval from MnDOT on the contractor, Alta Planning and Design, which will hopefully begin collecting community input this fall and winter, he said.

The city has taken measures to improve pedestrian safety in the last several years, including adding rectangular rapid flashing beacons at the intersections of Grand Avenue and Maple St., 381st St. and 378th St. These are the button-activated lights attached to pedestrian crossing signs near crosswalks.

It placed in-crosswalk signs at Grand and Maple to remind drivers that state law requires stopping at crosswalks to allow pedestrians to cross, signs that school volunteer Charles Klopp says “get hit all the time” by inattentive drivers.



MOLLY WHELAN | COUNTY STAR

Traffic along Grand has doubled since 2022.

The city also extended walking trails to new developments along Grand Avenue.

SEE **GRAND AVE**, PAGE 15



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SCHOOLSIDE VILLAGE in North Branch

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Leaves changing colors near Pine City.

TA LABRAUN | PINE CITY PIONEER



When, where to see best fall colors

BY T.A. LEBRUN
EDITOR@PINECITYMN.COM

Pumpkin spice lattes, cozy sweaters, cool weather, and fall colors – well, we can have a pumpkin spice latte this week anyway. With warmer than usual temps, the fall colors aren’t quite as brilliant as they usually are this time of year, and we can expect some more warm weather in the 70s and 80s through Sunday and into the 60s next week.

With temperatures ranging from 5-15 degrees warmer than usual this time of year, fall color is being delayed. However, with

an adequate amount of rainfall this summer in central Minnesota, fall colors are expected to be bright. If you traveled north, you may have noticed delayed fall color as well with color not as bright due to dryer conditions, especially in northwest Minnesota.

FALL COLOR FORECAST

In northern Minnesota, expect to see peak or near peak colors by October 5, with past peak colors starting around Oct. 12, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

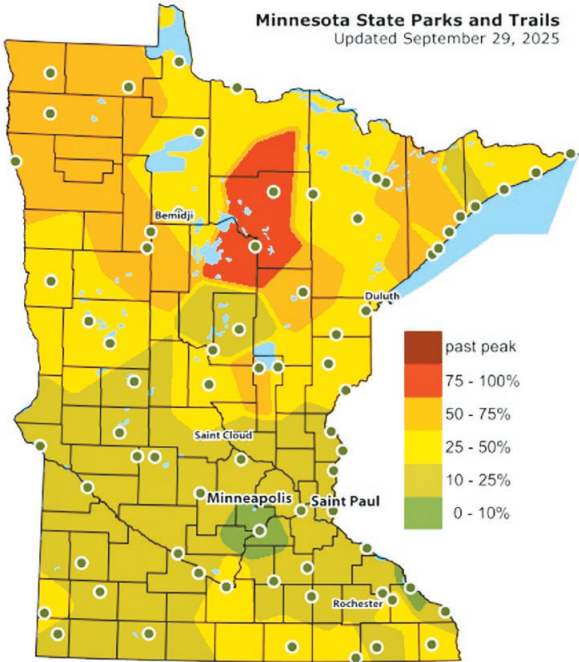
In central Minnesota near Pine

City, Mora, Hinckley, and Cambridge, expect to see peak or near peak colors by about Oct. 11, with colors past peak starting on about Oct. 17.

In southern Minnesota, expect to see peak or near peak colors by October 17 with past peak colors starting around Oct. 22.

Experts say if the sunny days and cool nights continue, we are on track to some beautiful fall color displays, barring any hard freezes.

For an up-to-date map on regions to find the best fall color, visit https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/fall_colors/index.html.



RUM RIVER ISANTI VFW POST 2735

410 Railroad Ave South, Isanti, MN 55040
(763) 444-9787

Non Profit

Kids Events for Easter & Fall Festival
Celebrations of Life • Benefits • Bike Rodeo



Open Mic

First Sunday of the month
Live Entertainment

Friday & Saturday 8pm
Check Facebook for dates & times

Oct. 2nd.. Karaoke, 3rd.. Bad Jack, 4th.. DJ Darrell,
10th Cold Front, 11th.. Jonah & The Whales, 17th.. Slippery
Steve & Scary Gary, 18th.. Rustic the Band, 24th..
Elephant in the Room, 25th.. Wreckless, 31st.. DJ Red



Bingo

Mon. & Wed. 6pm
Sat. 2pm
(two coveralls)

Meat Raffle

Mon., Wed. & Fri.
5:30pm

LIC #00291

Full Menu with Daily Features

Taco Tuesday • Fish Fry Fridays • Desserts
First Saturday of the Month - Prime Rib

Etabs Available!
Lottery & Pull Tab Booth!

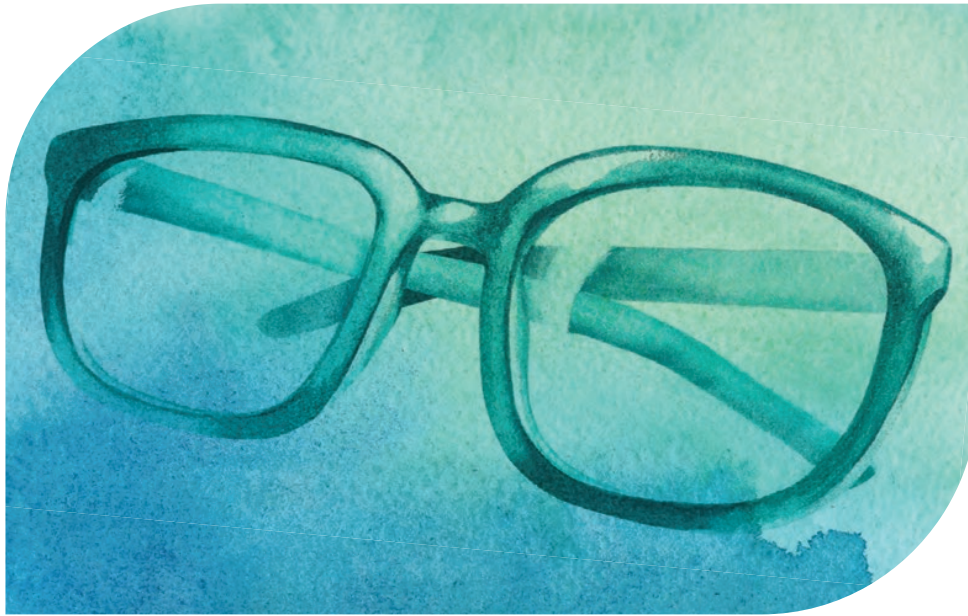
LIC #00291

Happy Hours

11am - 1pm • 3pm - 5pm 10pm - 12am

Breakfast

Wed. - Fri. 7:30am - 11am
Sat. & Sun. 7:30am - 2pm



WELIA HEALTH EYE CARE CENTER FRAME SHOW!

Tuesday, October 7TH
12pm - 6pm

25% OFF
your 1st complete pair
of frames & lenses

50% OFF
your 2nd complete pair
of frames & lenses

Includes prescription sunglasses.
Excludes our budget packages. No other discounts apply.

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Enjoy light refreshments!



320.679.2020 WeliaHealth.org
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This institution is an equal opportunity
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MON, WED & FRI
Exercise with Connie
At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. From 10:30-11:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Scrabble (2nd Monday)
10 a.m. to Noon at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families
7 p.m. at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old Main St N, Cambridge Mn 55008 For more information contact Rebecca at 612-702-2844 or CoraJayne 612-210-1605

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

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

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

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



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The annual Hayride for Food Drive is on Oct. 5 in Cambridge from noon to 4 p.m.

River Hills Place North, Cambridge. Contact Julie at 763-306-5066 for info.

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

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

Dominoes
10 a.m. to Noon at the Cambridge SAC

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.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

Chisago County Drop-In Center
Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Street Church, 6500 Main Street, North Branch. For individuals 18 yrs or older living with mental illness. Info: 651-213-5600 or 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-Edge-wood AFG
Cambridge-Edge-wood 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.

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

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

500
12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Cambridge SAC, 140 Buchanan St, Cambridge

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

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

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

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.

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

OCT 5
Hayride for Food Drive
2675 337th Ave. NE, Cambridge, noon-4 p.m. The 16th annual free event features hayrides, kids' activities, food, auction and prize drawings. Guests are asked to bring a nonperishable food item or cash donation to support local food pantries and the Salvation Army. For more info email bbbloomgren@q.com

Fall Fest
Faith Lutheran Church, Isanti. Worship at 9 a.m., dinner 11 a.m.-1 p.m. (\$16 adults, \$10 ages 6-10, under 5 free, takeout available). Raffle items and prizes. Proceeds benefit church outreach and ministry.

Rush City Fire Department pancake breakfast and open house
Rush City Fire Hall, 325 W. 5th St., 8 a.m.-noon. Register for prizes, see fire trucks.

OCT 9
Fall bowling We R Able
4-6 p.m., JJ's Bowl and Lounge, 6427 Ash St., North Branch. Balls and shoes included. Info: 320-358-3616.

Inside Sales Representative

Northstar Media is looking for a motivated person who likes to work with customers over the phone as an Inside Sales Rep. Mon, Tue, Wed, 20-25 hours per week in the Cambridge office. Responsibilities include classified ad sales, service and church directory ad sales, and special page/section ad sales in the Isanti-Chisago County Star, Pine City Pioneer, North Pine County News, Kanabec County Times and Advertiser as well as being able to sell into other newspapers, shoppers and online. Must have strong phone skills, be able to multitask, be good with computers and have strong organizational skills. Wage is \$16-18/hour.

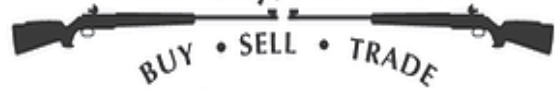
If interested, please submit resume to Jeff Andres, Publisher jeff@northstarmedia.net.

Pine City GUN & KNIFE SHOW

October 10 - 11, 2025

Pine City Armory

1305 Main St. S
Pine City, MN 55063



Friday 4pm - 8pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm

Admission: \$8.00 per day



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Cambridge, MN 55008

www.crocodileproductionsinc.com

Welcome to the 2025 Best of results

The time has finally come! In this week's edition, you will find the highly anticipated results of the Star's 2025 Best of Readers' Choice.

The Best of is by far our largest project of the year. Between the nomination period in May, the voting period in late July and early August, and putting together the results special section, Star staff put in the equivalent of two months of seemingly eating, drinking, and sleeping Best of (yes, I have even dreamed about it). Our ad department and publisher spend considerably more time than that as well.

Despite that, the Best of is a labor of love for us. We started it back in 2020 during the pandemic, primarily as a way to show a little love for the various businesses and individuals who were struggling to survive. That continues to be our main focus to this day.

It is meant to be 100% positive. Unlike social media, where even a positive review of a business can get overshadowed by someone's buzzkill via countering with a negative review, our Best of results can't be publicly refuted — or at least it shouldn't be. It is a true form of popular vote, with everyone having equal opportunities to help determine the outcome.

What makes it even more enjoyable for us is seeing how much businesses and individuals have embraced this contest. During the nomination and voting periods, we see tons of social media posts asking they be nominated or to vote for them if they are fortunate enough to be in that round. We've also seen some pretty inventive ways of self-promotion. One in particular that sticks in our minds is a certain nominee finding a bunch of "Vote for Pedro" t-shirts, crossing out "Pedro" and writing in that person's name.

Back in 2020, we were fairly satisfied with the participation in this endeavor. Now, that pales in comparison to this year's. We wound up with 8,472 nominations and just under 67,000 total votes!

With those increased numbers, we have noticed how the results aren't nearly as predictable as they first were. With that, there is a much higher onus on businesses and individuals to openly ask for nominations or votes.

Another new feature we are excited about is that we held a photo contest for our front page. Congratulations go out to Ronda Szlavich, whose photo of a robin feeding its babies was our favorite among the dozen entries.

One final note: Last week, I had the pleasure of being a guest on "The Realst Agents" podcast, where we talked about the Best of, plus a little about my personal history with the newspaper, concluding with the podcast's traditional four questions they ask every guest. Look for a link to this episode on the Star's Facebook page.

So, enjoy going through the results of this year's contest. And remember, it's never too early to start thinking about who you would nominate come next May.

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



**Worth a
Thousand
Words**
Bill
Stickels III



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Crime needs to be addressed

To the editor,

Crime in this country is out of control. Judges and DAs are letting convicted felons out with no cash bail with several prior criminal convictions. Turning felonies into misdemeanors so it appears that crime is down, just a few examples;

- Alexander Dickie 39 prior criminal arrest allegedly killed a college girl Logan.

- Antony Jelks six prior criminal arrest let out allegedly raped a 4-year-old girl and she ended up with a STD

- Anna Giataitelli attacked beaten and raped in 2020 predator let out five times.

- Recently Iryna Zaruska left Ukraine from bomb shelter to escape the war. Came to U.S. for safety then entered a NC rail train and was brutally stabbed in the neck allegedly by Decarlos Brown with 13 prior convictions, should have been in prison. Out on cashless bail. What if this was your child?

- How many times have you watched local Minnesota news and the first 10 minutes are shooting/murders that were committed and criminal has several prior arrests?

- Conservative activist Charlie Kirk, father, husband, Christian, wonderful human being, gen-z loved him. Politically assassinated.

- Murderers and rapist allowed in this country by the thousands from open borders.

- President Trump assassination attempts times two; 2022 attempted assassination Brett Kavanaugh; Steve Scalise gravely wounded; Mellisa Hortman allegedly murdered by Vance Boelter.

- Chicago, Labor Day weekend 58 people shot, eight killed and the Chicago Mayor claims there's no crime problems, refusing federal national guard help.

- Recent AP-NORC pole on Crime, 81% Major issue 18% Minor, 1% no problem

The criminal murderers are being presented as the victims however, the law-abiding people getting murdered are presented as the bad guy.

Here are the issues surrounding crime, defund police, cashless bails, open borders, protecting criminals is more important than protecting law-abiding people. Charlie Kirk, no criminal record or drug abuse record; after his assassination there was no violence, rioting, cars burned, no looting, buildings burned, people getting beat up, just folks holding vigils. No assassination attempts on Biden. The solution is simple; keep repeat offender criminals in prison, reinstate the death penalty.

**Jerry Grell
Cambridge**

LETTER GUIDELINES

The *Isanti-Chisago County Star* encourages readers to share their viewpoints of community issues by writing Letters to the Editor. Publishing decisions are made on questions of free speech, good taste, public interest and public sensitivity.

The *Star* reserves the right to edit for accuracy, clarity, libel and civility and reserves the right not to publish a letter or to hold a letter to a later edition. Personal complaints or attacks, plagiarized material, religious treatises or submissions from organized letter-writing campaigns will not be published.

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

- Letters must be submitted by noon on Tuesdays to editor@countystar.com or via mail to 930 S. Cleveland St., Cambridge MN 55008. The *Star* reserves the right to extend its deadline in the interest of timeliness of letters and/or space availability.
- Letters to the editor must be 400 words or less.
- Each letter writer may have one letter published every 30 days, or four print cycles.
- Anonymous letters will not be published. Letter signatures must include the writer's first and last name, community of residence and phone number.

Phone numbers will not be published.

- Only letters originating from writers who live, work or have some other relevance to the *Star* circulation area will be published.
- An identification line may be added to the writer's letter identifying his or her occupation or title as it applies to the topic of the letter.
- Special rules apply during election season.

For questions about the *Star's* policies on letters contact the editor at 763-689-1181 ext. 107 or editor@countystar.com.

Your Best Source for Community Information

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COUNTY STAR



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NEWS DEADLINE:
Noon Tuesday

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

LEGALS DEADLINE:
Noon Monday



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The Newspaper shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of the advertisement. The Newspaper shall not be liable or responsible for any error in any advertisement except to give the Advertiser credit for so much of the space occupied by the advertisement as is materially affected by the error; credit shall be by refund or republication of the advertisement at the election of Newspaper. Such credit shall not be given for more than one incorrect insertion unless the Publisher is notified in writing of the error before the repetition of the insertion. When the Advertiser wishes to correct or change copy submitted as a "proof," the Newspaper shall not be liable for the changes or corrections unless they are received by the Newspaper within a reasonable length of time before the deadline for publication. If an advertisement is requested to run after copy deadline, the Newspaper will not honor an adjustment request if an error occurs. No specific page or position shall be guaranteed. The Advertiser or Agency shall indemnify the Newspaper for any attorney's fees incurred in defending against claims, pay any judgments against the Newspaper, and pay associated expenses and losses that are caused by the publication of any advertisement submitted by or published at the direction of the Advertiser or Agency, including claims for libel, copyright infringement, and invasion of privacy.

Fascination with trains

From an early age, I have had a fascination with trains. They could be passenger or freight, they could be steam locomotive or diesel electric.



About the
Town
Gene
Johnson

Perhaps this was brought on by the fact that I grew up in White Bear Township on Otter Lake Road next to the Soo Line tracks. Actually, it was the Sault St. Marie Railroad that ran from Minneapolis to Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. As a young child, I knew we had an 8 a.m. passenger train going east and at 5 p.m. the passenger train was returning to Minneapolis.

As a child I had a wind-up train and always wished for an electric train. At the end of World War II, the Gilbert Hall of Fame in New Haven, Connecticut, who had been a manufacturer of three rail electric trains introduced the two rail, real life style 3/16th gauge train set. My parents purchased one for me in 1946 and I was delighted. It was a 462 engine with a baggage car and three coaches. That was the beginning of building layouts in our basement.

Over the years I have collected American Flyer, Lionel, LGB and several other brand toy trains, both foreign and U.S.

For our 57th wedding anniversary in August, Kathy and I wanted to do something special. We met after my first wife, Joan, died from a diabetic condition. My daughter, Julie, was 10 years old when Kathy and I were married.

The memorable moment of the wedding day was when we were leaving the church and Julie came running up to Kathy in a very excited way and said, “Now I can call you mom!”

Our honeymoon was to Glacier

National Park, Banff and Lake Louise, including Lake Moraine. From there we went to Washington and visited some relatives and then to California where there were more relatives.

We visited Disneyland and Knott’s Berry Farm, and on the way home took a helicopter ride into the Grand Canyon. The 6,000-mile trip is one we will always remember.

Our anniversary celebration turned out to be a 2 ½ hour dinner in a private dining compartment aboard the Wisconsin Great Northern Railroad Dinner Train at Trego, Wisconsin, just north of Spooner.

The private car gave Kathy and I time to reminisce on our years of marriage. I think if we were there when the leaves were changing color, it would have been very pretty. There was a scenic stop crossing the Namekagon River.

The coach we were in was articulated and had a bend in the middle. The oldest car on the train was the one ahead

of us from 1912.

The owners of the Wisconsin Great Northern are Craig and Mardell Freeland. They have quite a number of cars at their newly built depot and railyard. They were also able to purchase the Mark Twain Zephyr that had been in a trainyard in Madison, Illinois near St. Louis. They obtained the Zephyr in 2020 and are continuing to restore it for future excursions. The Zephyr was built in 1958 and it passed through eight private owners over 62 years before it was brought to Trego.

We have also enjoyed the train excursion out of Osceola, Wisconsin and the train that begins in Durango, Colorado which climbs a narrow gauge up the mountainside to Silverton and Telluride.

All over the world traveling by rail is fascinating to Kathy and me.

GENE JOHNSON is Publisher Emeritus of Press Publications, owner of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be reached at ppinfo@presspubs.com.

Move over for emergency vehicles

Question: I seem to encounter a fair amount of emergency vehicles running in emergency mode (lights and sirens.) I also can’t help but notice how many people don’t pull over and yield to them. Can you bring some attention to this?



Ask A
Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Answer: Great topic for conversation. When an emergency vehicle (such as an ambulance, fire truck or police car) with flashing red lights and sounding a siren or bell approaches your vehicle on a two-way road, you must pull to the right and

stop.

On a one-way road, pull to the nearest side and stop. If you are in an intersection, proceed through it before stopping. Remain stopped until all emergency vehicles have passed.

A law enforcement officer with probable cause to believe you have violated this law may arrest you within four hours of the violation.

You do not need to stop if the emergency vehicle is separated from your lane of traffic by a physical barrier like a fence, wall or median strip.

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).

Friends of Isanti Library host annual book sale

The Friends of the Isanti Area Library will hold their 14th annual used book sale Oct. 10–11 at the Isanti Community Center.

The sale runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. Hundreds of books, along with movies, CDs, audiobooks and vintage titles, will be available. A “Buck-A-Bag” sale is scheduled for Saturday.

Proceeds benefit the Friends of the Isanti Area Library, a nonprofit that supports library services and programs in the community.

Volunteers are being sought to help sort books ahead of the event. More information is available at isantifriends.org or by calling 763-913-8410. - The Friends of the Isanti Area Library



New study reveals gaps in autism diagnosis for girls

Researchers at the University of Minnesota recently discovered the most compelling evidence to date that girls present with different symptoms of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) compared to boys — highlighting the need for new and innovative approaches to improve diagnostic practices.

For decades, autism researchers have sought to understand the differences and similarities between autistic males and females. ASD is commonly considered a male-dominant condition, with three to four males diagnosed for every female. Females are also typically diagnosed later than males. Research led by Dr. Casey Burrows, an associate professor in the Medical School on the Twin Cities campus and licensed psychologist at the Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain, analyzed data spanning 18 years and over 4,000 participants to investigate potential sex differences in autism symptoms in children. This study followed younger siblings of autistic children, who are at higher likelihood of developing autism themselves. This method reduces bias caused by studies that only focus on children who

come to clinical attention on their own. The research sheds light on why females are underdiagnosed and offers recommendations on how to improve early identification.

The study, published in JAMA Network Open, found:

ASD traits can present differently in males and females.

Notably, females showed fewer issues with eye contact — a key early marker of ASD — than males.

When researchers accounted for sex differences in how autism is best measured, females had milder symptoms.

Many existing studies only include children who are already diagnosed, missing girls who go undetected during early screenings and perpetuating diagnostic bias.

“Sex-related biases are likely baked into the current ASD identification system,” said Burrows. “We think there are more females exhibiting autism-related concerns than epidemiological estimates would lead us to believe, and we want to improve early detection for these females. For example, our findings show that

females are less likely to show difficulties with eye contact, which is probably the best-known autism symptom. It’s no wonder then that we’re missing autism concerns in females.”

Current diagnostic thresholds do not account for sex differences, but implementing sex-specific thresholds may improve early identification for girls. Burrows advocates for a shift in research practices, including recruitment methods that reduce bias — such as sampling children with a family history of autism — and expanding diagnostic criteria to include traits that are more common in females, like milder difficulties with eye contact and inflexible behaviors.

“Typically developing girls and boys show differences in their language and social development,” said Jed Elison, a professor in the College of Education and Human Development and co-author of the paper. “It makes sense that we should take those differences into account when studying something like autism, which is defined by social challenges and is often accompanied by language delays.” - The Masonic Institute for the Developing Brain

Minnesota Starwatch for October 2025

BY DEANE MORRISON
MORR1029@UMN.EDU

This year, the moon and planets dominate October’s skies.

The month opens with Venus outshining everything else in the predawn sky. Look for it low in the east, just before dawn starts to break. Don’t wait too long, as our sister planet will soon be lost in the rising sun’s glare. To Venus’s upper right, three bright objects form a diagonal line. Highest is Jupiter; in the middle is Procyon, in Canis Minor, the little dog; and holding the anchor position is brilliant Sirius, in Canis Major, the big dog.

At nightfall, a waxing moon opens the month in the south, below the big Summer Triangle of stars. The moon glides steadily eastward to keep a rendezvous with Saturn on the 5th. The moon’s glare will probably wash out the Circlet of Pisces, a dim ring of stars above Saturn and below the Great Square of Pegasus. The Circlet represents one of two fish that join to form the constellation Pisces.

The next evening—the 6th—the moon reaches fullness. As the closest full moon to the fall equinox, this is the harvest moon. This year, though, it’s essentially a tie with September’s full moon, which was almost as close to the equinox. But unlike September’s, October’s full moon will be a supermoon. It falls less than two days before perigee, the point in its orbit when the moon is closest to Earth. Moon fans will notice its large size, which is best appreciated when the moon is close to the horizon.

But the moon doesn’t rest on its laurels. The evening of the 9th, it will be close to the lovely Pleiades star cluster. During that night, the moon will glide right across the Pleiades. And don’t miss it in the predawn sky on the 19th, when a thin old crescent moon visits Venus.

OBITUARIES

Patrick A. Meyer

Patrick A. Meyer, known affectionately as Pat to his friends and family, was called home to the Lord on September 29, 2025, at the age of 75. His life story began on February 7, 1950, in Albert Lea, Mn.

Pat attended Kiester-Walters High School and graduated in 1968. During his school years, he was involved in baseball, football, basketball, and track. After high school, Pat served in the United States Army.

In his professional life, Pat took pride in his work and knowledge of his trade, establishing many friendships throughout the years in the different cities where he worked. Pat served as Public Works Director in the cities of Kiester, Long Prairie, and Isanti, Mn.

For those who knew him, you know that Pat was not one to show much affection or praise... until it came to grandkids, nieces and nephews, and puppies. Instead, he showed his love through acts of service. Pat was a faithful husband and provider. Every morning, he made coffee for Mrs. Pat, just the way she liked it. He kept their cars gassed up and maintained, and made sure to walk the dog at least twice a day -- rain or shine.



Grandpa Pat always made an effort to attend music and dance recitals, sporting events, and school programs. He enjoyed volunteering at their church, Long Lake Lutheran, often serving as a greeter and usher. He was even known to participate in the Live Nativity program at Christmastime, donning biblical robes and sharing the story of Christ's birth.

Pat had a lot of hobbies throughout his 75 years and always enjoyed keeping busy. Among his favorites were fishing, hunting, 4-wheeling, traveling and exploring new places, woodworking, agate hunting and rock polishing, cooking, grilling, and making sourdough. He was well-known for making the very best rice pudding, which was loved and enjoyed by family and friends.

Patrick Anderson Meyer was a perfectly imperfect child of God, as are we all, and he believed deeply in the redeeming power of Christ's love and grace.

Pat is survived by his wife Pat Weiss-Meyer, sons Lee (Melissa "Lissa" Benson) Meyer of Chaska, Grant (Heidi) Meyer of Rice, step children Chad (Heidi) Weiss of Surprise, AZ, Kay Weiss of Fargo, ND, Brent (Charissa) Weiss of Cambridge, seven grandchildren: Harper and Sawyer Meyer, Kapria, Adyson, Drake, Ellie, and Liam Weiss, sister Susan (Mike) DeFranco of FL, brothers Dan (Laurie) Meyer of Apple Valley, Jeff Meyer of Owatonna, and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Marcia (2008) and Floyd (1984), as well as two of his brothers -- Matthew (2014) and Michael (2018), and his beloved Yorkshire Terrier, Tobie (2024).

Memorial Service 11 a.m., Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at Long Lake Lutheran Church. Visitation one hour prior to the service. Private Niche placement in MN State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.



Gary V. Green

Gary V. Green age 87 of Milaca, formerly of Cambridge, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at home on September 28, 2025.

Gary is survived by his loving wife, of 67 years, Gayle; children Allan (Denise), Brian (Vikki) and Lynn (Ed) Hanson. He was the proud Grandfather of Nick (Heidi) Green, Andy (Kady) Green, Ben (Nichole) Green, Emily (Rick) Weeks, Courtney Hanson and Heather Hanson. He was blessed to be a Great-Grandfather of Carson, Gavin, Wyatt, Sawyer, Dawson, Shiloh, Makayla, and Kennidee Green; Keegan, Coralyn, Rikson, Lexi, Emilyo, Aryan and Carmella Weeks; Piper, Leighton, Tucker, Tate and Lawson Connor and Laken Peterfeso.

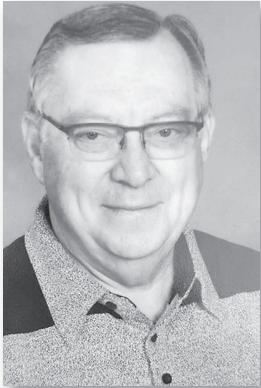
He is also survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents Verna & Edith, granddaughter Kaija Green, grandson Charlie Hanson; brothers Ronald and Dennis and cousin Kenneth Olson.

Funeral service 11 a.m. Friday Oct. 3 at Cambridge Lutheran Church 621 Old N. Main St. Cambridge. Visitation is 1 hour prior to the service at church. Interment at Cambridge Lutheran Cemetery.

Online condolences can be shared at www.carlsonlillemoen.com

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



Steven Ronald Kranz
February 20, 1958 – September 22, 2025

Steven Ronald Kranz, age 67, of White Bear Lake, passed away on September 22, 2025, at Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

Born on February 20, 1958, Steven was the son of Ronald and Shirley Kranz, who preceded him in death. After graduating from St. Francis High School in 1976, he proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1976 to 1979. Following his service, he began a long and dedicated career with the downtown Minneapolis Post Office, where he worked for more than 40 years before retiring in 2022.

He is survived by his sister, Lori Kranz (Bob Dickson); former wife, Beth Beckman; daughter, Laura Sears; son, Jayson (Tia) Kranz; and three beloved grandsons, Cayden, Slayde, and Layne.

Steven will be remembered for his strong work ethic and the immense pride he took in being a grandfather.

The family is grateful for the support of friends and welcomes memorials to the Invisible Wounds Project, 840 Lake St. S, Unit B, Forest Lake, MN 55025, or online at www.iwproject.org/donate-now.

North Branch
names 2025
Homecoming
Queen and King

On Sept. 26, North Branch High School celebrated tradition, spirit and community by crowning Allen Everett and Jade Knoespel as its 2024 Homecoming King and Queen, bringing smiles and applause from classmates, friends and family during the festive coronation ceremony.

Tusen Tack announces
key staff additions

Tusen Tack Programs announces the addition of Jackie Moen and Vivian Sjoselius to its leadership team.

Jackie has been hired as the executive director, a newly created position for Tusen Tack Programs aimed at supporting its growing community impact. She started on September 2, bringing 27 years of experience in executive leadership, strategic planning, project management and grant writing.

Vivian Sjoselius was hired as Event Coordinator and joined the Tusen Tack team on August 25. She has more than 20 years of experience in customer relations, event management and volunteer coordination.

Tusen Tack Programs



Jackie Moen



Vivian Sjoselius



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ISANTI-CHISAGO
COUNTY STAR



Bluejackets earn top two section doubles seeds

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Showing the talent depth of this year's players, the Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket girls tennis team has been awarded the #1 and #2 seeds for the Section 7AAA individual tennis tournament.

Earning the #1 seed is the combination of junior Anya Lowman and freshman Allie Troolin. During the first half of this season, one of the two were placed on the first doubles team, while the other typically held the second or third singles position. About halfway through the season, however, the two were teamed together permanently, going undefeated in team matches. Their only loss as a tandem came in the first round of the eight-team Hibbing tournament. They wound up winning the consolation championship.

Earning the #2 seed is the sister combination of senior Evie and sophomore Scarlet Porta. Impressively, the Portas received the second seed despite never playing with each other as a doubles team for the Bluejackets. Evie competed the entire season as the team's first singles player, while Scarlet spent a majority of the season as the team's second singles player, occasionally dropping down to the third singles position.

The Section 7AAA Individual Tournament begins on Oct. 2, with the semifinals and finals scheduled for Oct. 9 at the Rogers Tennis Club.

As a team, the Bluejackets were awarded

the #2-seed for the Section 7AAA tournament. In the quarterfinals, held on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at home, C-I defeated Coon Rapids 7-0. They will now face Centennial at home on Oct. 7 in the semifinals. A win there will send them to the girls team's first-ever section championship, which will be held at 4 p.m. on Oct. 13 at the Rogers Tennis Club. Most likely, they would face #1-seed Blaine. During the regular season, C-I lost a close match to the Bengals 4-3, with the deciding match going three sets.

This is the first year in which girls tennis has been broken up into three classes. Besides C-I, Section 7AAA is comprised of Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Centennial, Coon Rapids, Duluth East, and Forest Lake.

NORTH BRANCH ALSO SEEDED SECOND

Coming off their most successful season in school history that included a three-way Mississippi 8 Conference championship, the North Branch Vikings received the #2 seed in the Section 7AA team tournament.

In the quarterfinals, the Vikings hosted #7-seed Cloquet, defeating the Lumberjacks 7-0. They will now face the winner of #3 Hibbing versus #6 Hermantown. Rock Ridge received the #1 seed in the section.

Seeding for the Section 7AA Individual Tournament was held on Wednesday, Oct. 1, after this edition went to press. The first rounds will be held on Thursday, Oct. 2. The section semifinals and finals will be held on Oct. 9.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Bluejackets Anya Lowman and Allie Troolin exchange a quick high-five of encouragement between points of their Section 7AAA team quarterfinal first doubles match against Coon Rapids.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

(Top photo) Cambridge-Isanti's Carly Asmusen took first place in the 100 butterfly during the Bluejackets' home meet against Becker. She repeated the first place finish, plus added a first place in the 200 freestyle in C-I's meet at St. Paul North/Tartan.

(Left photo) Cambridge-Isanti's Emma Bosma prepares to make a set as teammate Addie Larkin gets into position to go in for the kill during the Bluejackets match against Becker.

C-I BLUEJACKET, NB VIKING HOME, SECTION SCHEDULES

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.

Friday, Oct. 3

- C-I football vs. St. Francis (Homecoming) (7 p.m.)
- NB football vs. Grand Rapids (Homecoming) (6 p.m.)

Saturday, Oct. 4

- C-I girls swimming & diving home invite (1 p.m.)

Tuesday, Oct. 7

- C-I girls tennis vs. Centennial (Section 7AAA team semifinals) (4 p.m.)
- C-I boys soccer @ TBD (Section 7AAA quarterfinals)
- C-I girls soccer @ TBD (Section 7AAA quarterfinals)
- NB boys soccer @ TBD (Section 7AA quarterfinals)
- NB girls soccer @ TBD (Section 7AA quarterfinals)
- NB volleyball vs. St. Francis (7 p.m.)

Tuesday, Oct. 14

- C-I volleyball vs. St. Francis (7 p.m.)
- C-I, NB boys & girls cross country @ St. Francis - Mississippi8 Conference Championships (3 p.m.)

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI, NORTH BRANCH SCOREBOARD: SEPTEMBER 24 - 30

September 24

C-I girls soccer 0, Duluth East 7
NB girls tennis 2, Rock Ridge 5
NB girls tennis 7, Marshall 0

September 25

C-I girls tennis 7, Big Lake 0
*Bluejackets clinch three-way Mississippi 8 Conference Championship with North Branch & Monticello
C- girls soccer 1, Princeton 1
C-I boys soccer 3, Princeton 0
*Alex Martin - 2 goals
C-I girls swimming & diving 83, Becker 95
*1st place finisher: Carly Asmusen (100 butterfly)
NB boys cross country @ Hibbing

*Top finisher: Caleb Rueter - 27th place
NB girls cross country @ Hibbing
*Top finisher: Ava Witkowski - 62nd place
NB boys soccer 0, Chisago Lakes 0
NB girls soccer 1, Chisago Lakes 0
NB volleyball 3, Zimmerman 1

September 26

C-I football 19, Elk River 51
NB football 22, Duluth East 12
NB girls tennis 5, Chisago Lakes 2
*Vikings clinch three-way Mississippi 8 Conference Championship with C-I & Monticello

September 27

C-I volleyball 1, Maranatha Christian Academy 2
C-I volleyball 0, Blaine 2

C-I volleyball 0, Totino-Grace 2
NB girls tennis 6, Harding/Como 1
NB girls tennis 6, Rosemount 1
NB girls tennis 6, Cannon Falls 1
NB girls soccer 2, Duluth Denfeld 2

September 29

C-I boys soccer 1, Watertown-Mayer 1
NB boys soccer 1, Princeton 4
NB girls soccer 4, Princeton 0

September 30

C-I boys cross country @ Hinckley-Finlayson
Top finisher: Hunter Jacobson - 1st place
C-I girls cross country @ Hinckley-Finlayson
Top finisher: Makenna Sjoberg - 1st place
C-I girls tennis 7, team 0 (Section 7AAA team

quarterfinals)
C-I girls swimming & diving 98, North/Tartan 83
*1st place finishers: 200 medley relay, Carly Asmusen (200 freestyle, 100 butterfly), Alison Willits (200 individual medley, 100 backstroke), Faith Foley (50 freestyle), Anika Michaelis (diving)
C-I volleyball 3, Becker 1
NB girls tennis 7, Cloquet 0 (Section 7AA team quarterfinals)
NB boys cross country @ Hinckley-Finlayson
*Top finisher: Caleb Rueter - 19th place
NB girls cross country @ Hinckley-Finlayson
*Top finisher: Ava Witkowski - 38th place
NB boys soccer 0, Cloquet 5
NB volleyball 3, Princeton 1



North Branch Area Chamber of Commerce

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October 2025



LOCATION: American Legion
6439 Elm St, North Branch

CATERED BY: Dickey's BBQ

SPEAKER: Rob Greer
TOPIC: Connecting the Dots: How to use
empathy and curiosity to solve problems,
connect customers to solutions, and enhance
your culture.



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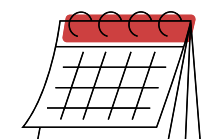
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HOMEImprovementGUIDE

Home Interior Trends On The Rise

Trends that seem ubiquitous one day can seemingly vanish before the sun rises again just 24 hours later. That’s especially true in the digital age, when overnight celebrities and viral videos can be on the tips of everyone’s tongue before being forgotten entirely when the next online sensation emerges in an increasingly rapid news cycle.

Home trends typically benefit from a longer shelf life than viral

videos and other fads that originate on the internet, and that’s something renovation-minded homeowners should consider when improving their homes. Homeowners preparing to do just that can consider these notable trends, which the online renovation experts at Houzz suggest will be particularly popular in the year ahead.

• **Arches:** Houzz cites arches among the more popular modern trends, and the experts at Better Homes & Gardens note this unique, eye-catching style has been gaining popularity for several years. Better Homes & Gardens suggests that part of the appeal of arched doorways could be their deviation from a more traditional door shape. That uniqueness draws the attention of residents and visitors alike, and Houzz notes that arched windows, cabinets and even millwork details are part of the pivot toward arches.

• **Stove alcoves:** If it’s a touch of history homeowners want, kitchen range alcoves might be just the project for them. Range alcoves call an earlier time to mind when wood burning stoves were commonplace. The report from Houzz notes range alcoves immediately draw attention, which undoubtedly adds to their appeal.

• **Wood for warmth:** Homeowners who hear “wood and warmth” might think fireplaces, but Houzz reports that wood elements are being incorporated into interior designs as a means to giving homes a more cozy vibe. Ceiling beams, trim, wall paneling, and cabinetry are utilizing wood to add warmth to a home.

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Talking tick-borne diseases with University of Minnesota

Across Minnesota, there has been an uptick in tick-borne disease diagnoses — ranging from Lyme disease, the most common tick-borne disease reported in Minnesota, to emerging threats like Powassan virus and Alpha-gal syndrome (red meat allergy).

Benjamin Clarke, PhD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus, speaks about the growing threat of tick-borne diseases, common misconceptions and what people can do to protect themselves.

Q: In general, what are the concerns around tick-borne diseases?

Dr. Clarke: Attention to the severity of tick-borne diseases has been overlooked by both the medical community and the public. There are misconceptions that diagnostic tests are completely reliable and that antibiotics can resolve any infection. The emergence of the Lyme pandemic was only realized by screening insurance records for patients exhibiting flu-like symptoms that were resolved by antibiotic treatment. Under these criteria, we now realize the true magnitude. In 2023, there were 89,000 cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by state health departments; however, approximately 476,000 people were diagnosed with Lyme disease, which was only uncovered by reviewing insurance

records.

Q: Can one tick bite transmit more than one illness at the same time?

Dr. Clarke: One tick bite can transmit multiple infectious disease agents, though similar symptoms between different diseases can cause confusion. For example, the blacklegged tick is responsible for spreading Lyme disease, but the symptoms are mimicked by other infections such as babesiosis, anaplasmosis or the Powassan virus.

The onset of disease can become more complicated, resulting in confusion for diagnosis and treatment plans.

The bacteria causing Lyme disease are the overwhelmingly most common tick-borne disease, while the other potential infectious agents are less common. Combinations of two or more diseases resulting from a single tick bite are a troubling possibility.

Q: What should people know about newer tick-related issues like Powassan virus or red meat allergy?

Dr. Clarke: The Powassan virus is spread by blacklegged ticks and causes inflammation in the brain. There are no effective medical treatments, and the disease has the greatest impact on the elderly, with about 10% mortality. The red meat allergy is a provocative disease because it does not involve an infectious disease. Rather, it's an

immune response to the saliva from the lone star tick. The tick bite causes an acute and severe allergic response to all red meats, including products containing gelatin. Neither chicken nor fish will cause the allergy. Consumption of the red meat can result in severe anaphylaxis, causing death.

Q: What can people do to protect themselves as tick-borne illnesses are on the rise?

Dr. Clarke: The best protection is vigilance. Use a tick repellent, such as DEET or permethrin, when you venture outdoors. Wear light-colored clothing, making ticks more apparent and easier to remove. Wear long trousers and long-sleeved shirts, and tuck the pant cuffs into your socks to block easy access to your skin. Also, consider the time of day and weather. Ticks avoid direct sunlight, hot temperatures and low humidity. Early mornings and late afternoons are active times for the ticks. Ticks are most active in the early spring, coinciding with the melting snow, and late fall around the first freeze.

Q: What work are you doing at the University of Minnesota to advance research into tick-borne diseases?

Dr. Clarke: Several investigators are studying tick-borne diseases. My laboratory studies how Lyme disease



bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, cause inflammation. We also engage community-based research to increase awareness and to solicit submissions of ticks. These ticks are analyzed for pathogens, and to assess the total microbial community in the tick to identify factors favoring disease transmission.

Dr. Benjamin Clarke is a professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Duluth Campus. His research interests include Lyme disease, immunology and endocrinology, and the development of active learning tools to teach biomedical concepts.

Bluejackets Homecoming 2025

Powder Puff Game - Oct. 3 - 4pm
Tailgating - Oct. 3 - 4:30-6:30pm
Football Game - Oct. 3 - 7pm
Homecoming Dance - Oct. 4 - 7-10pm

HOMECOMING 2025

ROYAL PAGES

Hailey Jadwin (IPS), Ginny Klimek (CPS), Jaxton Bostrom (IPS), Walter Porta (CPS)

HOMECOMING 2025

ROYAL COURT

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Wesley Kennedy
Gus Knowlton

Brendan Lindberg
Tucker Mulder
Jackson Ziebarth

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Jovie Ebertowski
Faith Foley

Lilia Osei-Dankwah
Elsie Schneider
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LEVIES: All preliminary levies can still be decreased, cannot be increased in final levy

FROM PAGE I

resulting in the double-digit increase, all departments were instructed to slash one percent from that request. Usher noted some departments wound up voluntarily decreasing their requests by more than one percent.

Additionally, the commissioners agreed to take the contribution requests of outside non-profits and cut them by 5%. These organizations are not run by the county; however, they offer valuable services to county residents. Since government bodies are not allowed to make donations, they can instead make contributions in consideration of the services those organizations provide. The entire board felt that making a flat cut to everyone's requests

was the only fair way to alleviate the financial impact on next year's levy. At the very least, it was more preferable to completely eliminating contributions to some of the organizations, which most likely would result in eliminating that organization's services to the county, if not the dissolution of the organization itself.

The city of Isanti is likewise going with a 5% levy increase. As has been its process recently, the city reached that number by thoroughly combing through all aspects of its budget, cutting little bits here and there.

Although not directly connected with Isanti County, the city of North Branch is also joining in on the common amount, coming in at an increase of 5.93%. This is a decrease from the

original proposed levy, which featured an 8.5% increase. To get to that amount, \$170,247 were cut from the initial staff budget requests.

The one outlier to the common levy increases is the Cambridge-Isanti School District. Its preliminary levy, which Finance Director Chris Kampa states is established by the state and thus the district has no control over, is set at an increase of .79%.

There are three more aspects of the preliminary levy that all the government entities have in common. The first is that since tax bases have increased due to the continued influx of new residents and businesses, the tax rates will go down. This means if a property has the same valuation for 2026 as it did for 2025, that property owner's taxes will

go down.

The second and third commonalities are connected to one another. All the government entities remind residents that preliminary levies aren't necessarily what the final levy will be. There is a ceiling amount that cannot be increased in the final levy. The final levy, however, can be lower than the preliminary levy, which is exactly what each entity is striving to do.

"We still have a lot of work ahead of us between now and December (when the final levy must be approved)," Isanti County Chair Alan Duff said.

Note: Molly Whelan contributed the North Branch information to this story.

W O R S H I P *guide*

Methodist

Common Ground - A United Methodist Community

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

Grace Gospel Church

37126 MN-65, Stanchfield, MN 55080
763-308-5618
Coffee fellowship: 9:45am
Service: 10:00am
Pastor: Tim Miller
www.gracegospelmn.org
info@gracegospelchurchmn.com
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

Long Lake Lutheran Church



3921 277th Avenue NW
Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-5315
info@longlakeluth.org

Baptist

First Baptist Church

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

North Isanti Baptist Church

Lead Pastor: Travis Blake
2248 313th Ave. NE, Cambridge, MN 55008. www.nibchurch.com
Email: nibchurch@msn.com
763-689-3576.
8:30am Worship Service (traditional style)
10:45am Worship Service (contemporary style)

Springvale Baptist

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

Sunrise Bible Church

41300 Second St., North Branch, Pastor David Stertz. Sunday school for all ages
9:30am, Sunday morning Worship
10:30am, Sunday evening 6pm, Wed.
Kids 4 Truth & Bible studies for all ages 6:30pm. More info at sunrise biblechurch.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 6:30 to 8pm

Wyanett Evangelical Free Church

12 Miles West of Cambridge on Hwy 95
www.wyanettevangelicalfree.org
Pastor Bruce Talso 763-221-4469
Sunday School 9:30 am
Morning Worship 10:30 am
Mondays - Women's Evening Bible Study 6:00 pm
Tuesdays - Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm
Wednesdays - Midweek Bible Study/Prayer 2:00 pm
Thursdays - Women's Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m. at Heart Matters Ministry, 403 1st St. Princeton
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Lutheran

Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Central Drive W. & Cty Rd 4, Braham
320-396-2755
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - In-person & Live on Facebook
Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tues., Wed., Thurs.

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)

Pastor Vicki Vandervegt.
320-358-4829, 600 Rush Point Dr.
10:30am Worship with Fellowship following
my.calvaryofrushpoint.org.
Office: calvaryrushpoint@gmail.com

Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA)

621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge
763-689-1211
Traditional service: 8:30 a.m.
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)

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

Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)

6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch
651-674-5576
Pastor Glen Kleppe
Sunday Worship 10am
Sunday School 9am
Sunday Adult Bible Study 9am
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
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Sundays
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Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays
Wednesdays 6 pm Confirmation

Salem Lutheran Church

4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017.
763-689-1687
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www.salemlutherandalbo.com

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MN DNR NEWS BRIEFS

DNR seeks input on year-round bass season

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is asking for input on new fishing rules that would allow for a year-round bass season that includes a period for harvest and a period for catch-and-release fishing.

The proposed expedited rules would adjust the inland waters fishing regulations by creating a year-round bass season. Portions of the year would be catch-and-release only while the other parts of the year would allow for bass harvest.

All the current harvest periods would remain the same, with catch-and-release-only bass season periods expanding to include periods that until now were closed to bass fishing. If enacted, the new rule would go into effect for the 2026 fishing season.

The Minnesota DNR is taking input on this proposal through Thursday, Oct. 23, and more information is available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/input/rules/fisheries/continuous-bass-season.html). Input can be submitted to Shannon Fisher at shannon.fisher@state.mn.us or 651-259-5206, or via U.S. mail to Bass Season Rules/Shannon Fisher, Box 20, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500

Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Fall turkey hunting begins soon

The Minnesota fall turkey hunting season offers hunters a challenge and another way to experience the outdoors. Fall turkey season is open Saturday, Oct. 4, through Sunday, Nov. 2.

Hunters are allowed to take one turkey of either sex during the fall season. Fall turkey hunters may use a crossbow, bow or shotgun afield. Fall turkey licenses are available for purchase online (mndnr.gov/buylicense), by calling 888-665-4236 or in person anywhere Minnesota DNR licenses are sold.

More information about fall turkey hunting is available on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/hunting/turkey) and in a recorded Minnesota DNR outdoor skills webinar (youtube.com/watch?v=EVS-PoNTEew).

Cisco, whitefish sport netting to open

Netting for harvesting cisco, also referred to as tullibee, and whitefish for personal use will be open this fall on designated lakes. Whitefish and cisco sport

netting is open to Minnesota residents only. About 700 Minnesotans participate each year.

Netting schedules vary by lake and are based on expected water temperatures. As the water temperatures cool, game fish head to deeper water while cisco and whitefish come to shallow water for fall spawning.

Some lakes that are more susceptible to factors that impact water temperatures will open and close to netting with a 48-hour notice posted at lake accesses, other public places, and the DNR website. Other lakes are open to netting based on the set netting schedules listed on the DNR website.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources allows netting when there is little chance that fish other than cisco and whitefish will be caught. Game fish incidentally taken in nets must be returned to the water immediately.

Complete regulations, including designated lakes, netting schedules and requirements related to use of gear and invasive species, are available on the Minnesota DNR website (files.dnr.state.mn.us/rfp/regulations/fishing/whitefish-tullibee.pdf).

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404

Garage Sales

Annual 4-H Rum-mage Sale. \$5.00/bag. Too big for a bag, make honest offer. Books 25/\$2.00. Kanabec County 4-H building at the fairgrounds. 8-5, Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 9-11 and next 6 weeks weather permitting.

405

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Moving & estate sale October 4th & 5th, 10:00-4:00 Hay Creek Road, Sunrise Township. Antique furniture, linens, dishes, bikes, skis, boots, lawn game sets, car trunk liner, rubber mats, Thule rack, dog beds, kennels, fish tanks, tools & equipment incl. ladder, log splitter, mower, pressure washer, rain barrels, snow blower, and much more

404

Garage Sales

Garage Sale Terhaar & Hampey, 10/10-11/25. Women's pants, jeans, capris, sweat-shirts, short sleeve shirts, long sleeve shirts, jackets, household items. 419 Fair Ave. W., Mora. 9a.m.-3p.m. both days

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GRAND AVE: Drivers are speeding in the school zone

FROM PAGE I

The school district began providing crossing guards in the afternoon at Maple and Grand earlier this year, but one commenter quoted in the meeting agenda packet said they are no longer at the crosswalk by the time middle school students arrive to walk or bike home.

Council member Patrick Meacham pointed out one percent of vehicles captured by speed trailers are going more than 10 miles per hour above the speed limit is not as harmless as it may sound—that’s seventy vehicles a day.

“Same thing with 85% of vehicles that are traveling 34 or less—that leaves almost, roughly 1,042 per day that are driving 35 miles per hour or faster,” he said. Chief Meyer agreed. “When you’re talking that many vehicles, one percent is a problem,” he replied. Meacham went on to ask “what solutions are out there that isn’t staff?”

Klopp suggested increasing traffic fines, while Mayor Kevin Schieber suggested the city providing additional volunteer crossing guards.

Schieber and City Administrator Matthew Hill also pointed out upcoming changes to nearby roads may redirect traffic in ways that reduce congestion.

Council member Robert Canada suggested discussing the issue at the next public safety commission, to which he serves as the council liaison.

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35th Annual Sinclair Lewis

WRITER’S CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Sauk Centre High School Auditorium

PRESENTERS:

Leif Enger *The Wily Rewrite*

Brenda Hudson *Story by Story: Voicing Your Life*

Lillie Gardner *Writing Dialog That Speaks*

Klecko
Keynote Speaker

Cost is \$85: includes lunch, breaks, and reception at the Palmer House Hotel

College students and senior citizens may register for \$80; high school students free, but must register and pay \$25 for lunch and breaks.

To register make checks payable to
“Sinclair Lewis Writers’ Conference,” and mail to:
Sinclair Lewis Writers Conference
PO Box 25
Sauk Centre, MN 56378

NOTE: *The Sinclair Lewis Writers’ Conference is also available as a virtual event: \$40*

For conference details, go to www.sinclairlewiswritersconference.org or call Jim Umhoefer at 320-429-0825

Live Here...Live Well

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NOW HIRING - Stop in for an application and check out the new updates!

We accept all private pay, Elderly Waivers, and CADI waivers
We are memory care and assisted living licensed

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Northern Pines offers quality customized care tailored to meet your needs.

Joy Lutheran Church’s Annual Fall Harvest Festival

Friday, October 10

We’re serving

homemade soups, breads & bars

Lunch 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Supper Served 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Freewill offering

Baked Goods & Produce for Sale

We hope you can come & join us!!!

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Goldenwood, 3 blocks west of Main Street (Old 65)
On Central Avenue, Cambridge • 763-689-4355

GRAND OPENING ALL-CLASS REUNION

Join us as we celebrate 60 years of education, innovation, and community at Pine Technical & Community College!

Friday, October 10
4:00-6:00 PM
Pine Technical & Community College
900 Fourth Street SE, Pine City

1996-2010 Fun Facts!

- **Pine Technical Institute** was renamed Pine Technical College in 1996
- **New programs in healthcare, business and computer technology** emerged to meet regional workforce needs
- **The PTCC Foundation** was established in 1999 and continues to provide scholarships to students today
- **The College was run by President Robert Musgrove**
- **Online learning platform D2L** created hybrid and online learning options
- **Community Tennis Courts** were removed from campus in 2010

For more information about the event, visit pine.edu/60years

The College invites alumni to share stories, photos, or memories from their time at PTCC by emailing 60years@pine.edu.



It's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer –
but *early diagnosis saves lives!*

Schedule your 3D tomo mammography appointment today.



320.679.1313

WeliaHealth.org