



NO PLACE LIKE HOME: Sandquist Park to host Section 7AAA softball tournament Friday. **PAGE 7**

Cambridge council rejects TIF application

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

An affordable apartment complex proposed to be constructed just north of the former Perkins property in Cambridge may be derailed after the Cambridge City Council denied a tax increment financing application from the developer.

Reuter Walton is proposing to construct a two-building, 180-apartment complex, with 100% of the apartments being classified as “affordable,” meaning tenants must earn no more than 60% of the area median income, and rent will be capped at approximately \$1,300 a month for a one-bedroom unit to \$1,740 a month for a three-bedroom unit.

The TIF request is in response to the city requiring Reuter Walton to extend Garfield Street North and 5th Avenue NE, plus extending city utilities onto the property. According to the developer, and backed by Ehlers’ financial analysis of the project, these added costs make the project’s total costs financially unfeasible through private investment alone. The cost of constructing the complex itself is estimated at \$55 million, with the added infrastructure costs being in excess of \$2.5 million.

A TIF is taking the difference between the taxes paid currently on a property and the taxes that will be paid based on the new property value once the project is complete, and applying a majority of that difference back on certain

construction costs. The city, county, and school district still receives the tax amount based on the pre-construction value of the property. In this case, an estimated \$2,339,487 in tax revenue over the next 25 years would be directed towards the added infrastructure costs.

During an hour-long public hearing before the council, a crowd that was estimated to be around 100 people listened to a roughly three-to-one ratio of Cambridge residents who voiced their opposition to the project as a whole, much less giving TIF to a multi-million dollar company, versus those approving of the project and TIF.

‘Although I personally understand the mechanics and administrative structure of the proposed TIF use, the concerns expressed by my constituents carry considerable weight.’

Aaron Berg
Cambridge Council member

For its part, the council spent over 20 minutes trying to get a grasp of the complexities of TIFs and weighing the positives and negatives, along with the at times passionate public comments.

“I don’t see why the taxpayers of not only the city of Cambridge, but also those of the county at large should be responsible for the improvements needed for the projects,” Council member Molly Christian said.

“Although I personally understand the mechanics and administrative structure of the proposed TIF use, the concerns expressed by my constituents carry considerable weight,” Council member Aaron Berg said. “I also recognize our community’s housing needs and have been supportive of the thoughtful development that serves the long-term interest of this

SEE TIF, PAGE 8



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Safety first

This youngster came prepared for the annual Isanti County Touch a Truck event with his own headphones. Attendance at the Isanti County Fairgrounds was large despite occasional light rain showers. Go to www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com for more photos.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

An image of the Star’s editor’s vehicle traveling on Highway 95 at the Isanti County line west of North Branch is captured by one of the Flock cameras installed as part of a trial program.

Sheriff defends Flock camera trial program

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Despite the admittedly rough public revelation of the installation of eight license plate readers along major Isanti County roadways, Isanti County Sheriff Wayne Seiberlich staunchly stands behind his decision to utilize the controversial system on a trial basis.

Simply put, Seiberlich believes the Flock Security System’s license plate reader cameras have the potential to be a valuable tool for law enforcement. He gives one particular incident as a prime example.

“I think everyone in this room knows who Brynlee Nelson is — a seven-year-old girl kidnapped in Zimmerman and taken a long way away from her family,” Seiberlich said. “Flock cameras were a huge part in why that girl was found.”

WHAT THEY CAN, CAN’T DO

Seiberlich described what the LPR cameras can and can’t do. These specific cameras are fix-mounted on a pole, pointed at an angle to enable a still image to be taken of a passing vehicle’s rear license plate, which can also indicate the vehicle’s make, model, color, and other

distinguishing features such as a luggage rack. From this angle, the driver’s or any passengers’ identity cannot be seen in the image. The cameras cannot pan, optically zoom in, or transmit a video feed.

The still images from the camera are transmitted to Flock’s server, which stores them in each law enforcement department’s independent file. These files only contain the still images. They do not contain information such as the name, address, social security number, or phone numbers of the owner of the vehicle. Nor does

SEE SHERIFF, PAGE 8

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Tuesday, May 26
2:00-3:00 PM

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



Thursday, May 28
2:00-3:30 PM

Mora United Methodist Church
500 Clark Street | 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.



You don't have to face vision loss alone.

The **Low Vision Support Group** welcomes individuals experiencing vision loss, along with loved ones. Connect with others who truly understand, share experiences and coping strategies, and discover resources that support independence and confidence in daily life. Sponsored and led by **State Services for the Blind**, with support from Welia Health.

Have questions or want to learn more?

Call Stacy Shablott, CTRS, Aging Eyes Program Coordinator, at **651.249.5118**.

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



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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
Exercise for Those w/Parkinson's
 Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m., 3:45 p.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.

Knitting Night
 hosted by the North Branch Library. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. All forms of needlework welcome. Recommended for adults. No registration required.



Color with Deb presented by We R Able on May 26 in Rush City at the SCRED Building.

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 Adultmentalhealth.org.

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

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

Parkinson's Support Group

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

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.

Baby Storytime
 co-hosted by Cambridge Library and ECFE. Begins at 9:30 a.m. at Cambridge Library through May 21.

Recommended for ages birth to 23 months. No registration necessary.

Spring bowling with We R Able
 We R Able offers drop-in bowling every other Thursday evening from 4 to 6 p.m. at JJ's Bowl and Lounge, 6427 Ash St., North Branch. The spring season dates are: May 14, 28, June 11, and 25. Balls and shoes are included in the fee. For more information call 320-358-3616.

SATURDAY
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.

MAY 24
The Historic Grass Lake Mission Church annual meeting
 2 p.m. followed by Swedish/English hymn singing led by Minneapolis Swedish Institute vocalist Brian Wass, accompanied by Judy Peterson on a restored 100-year-old pump organ. Lyrics will be provided. Guests can tour the ongoing restoration at 2650 133rd Ave., Braham. Refreshments (fika) served.

MAY 26
Color with Deb We R Able
 5-7 p.m. at the SCRED Building at 425 S. Dana Ave. in Rush City and join Deb Murray for "Color with Deb". There is a suggested donation of \$5-10 to attend. Spring coloring pages will be provided and participants are invited to bring their current project to show and share. For more information call 320-358-3616.

MAY 28
Historical Marker Dedication
 At Voyageur Park at 5:30 p.m., followed by a reception from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Pine City VFW. Pine City will dedicate what is believed to be the nation's first historic marker recognizing the birthplace of the rural Pride movement.

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.

Cambridge, Isanti County legislative requests denied

STAFF REPORT
 NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

With the conclusion of the 2026 Minnesota Legislature, two significant requests from area local governments were given the short end of the stick. Isanti County was asking for state permission to hold a referendum vote in November for a .25% local sales tax increase in order to fund the construction of a new highway department facility. Previously, Commissioner Chair Alan Duff indicated positive feedback from the state tax committee following his testimony before the committee. However, it appears the request stalled

before even being introduced to either the House or Senate floor.

According to County Commissioner Chair Alan Duff, there were 50 tax referendum requests made this legislative session. Isanti County's was one of 37 that did move forward from the Senate to the House, however the House didn't accept any of those 37.

The city of Cambridge was also left out in the cold regarding the \$1.24 billion bonding bill for infrastructure improvements. The city was hoping to receive additional state aid to offset the costs of upgrading the central stormwater sewer line at the same time as the Highway 95 expansion project is taking

place.

"There were \$6 billion in bonding requests from cities, counties, and school districts," Cambridge City Administrator Evan Vogel said. "There was only \$1.2 billion in the entire bonding bill, and only about 45% of that went to local infrastructure.

"I'm not done looking (for alternative funding sources)," Vogel continued, noting there is still a federal funding request for \$1 million that has the support of all federal representatives of the city.

Two local entities, though, were successful in receiving bonding bill funding. The city of North Branch will

be receiving \$1 million towards the construction of an interchange at I-35 and 400th Street. This project, which is a partnership between the city, Chisago County, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, would extend 400th Street over I-35 and construct on and off ramps. This would allow traffic — especially trucks — to bypass downtown North Branch when exiting I-35 to head east on Highway 95 or vice-versa.

The other entity to receive a bonding grant is New Pathways, who received \$250,000 to go towards its new shelter being constructed in Cambridge, which is set to be completed by August.



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Star's paid letters to the editor policy again in effect

Tuesday, May 19 was the first day for the first round of candidates filing to run for office in the November elections. This first round runs through Tuesday, June 2, and is for any election that definitely or may require a primary election.

Locally, besides US and state positions up for election, this includes the mayor and city council positions up for election in Cambridge and Isanti, plus Isanti and Chisago County Commissioner and sheriff races. The filing period for North Branch mayor and city council, plus both Cambridge-Isanti and North Branch School Boards — all of which don't call for a primary election — will open July 14.

With this first filing period, the Isanti-Chisago County Star is again instituting its paid political letter-to-the-editor policy. In short, this policy states any letter to the editor that directly or indirectly

tries to influence who or what a person votes for is subject to a publishing fee of \$25 for up to 250 words, plus 10 cents for each additional word above 250. For easy math, if a letter is over 250 words long, it will cost 10 cents per word.

For clarity, when I say "indirectly tries to influence," that means a letter that references any of the political parties. However, if a letter is addressing a specific topic, it would not be subject to the fee. Using a current event as an example, a letter saying "I oppose the new state flag..." would not be subject to the fee. But a letter stating "I oppose the new state flag the Democrats forced upon us..." would be subject to the fee. Granted, some of these letters will fall within a gray area in this policy, and those letters will be reviewed by multiple editorial personnel to determine if it warrants the fee. Letter writers will be notified of the fee amount and given the opportunity to run or not. Payment must be received before letters are run.

We are also adding another condition to this policy due to issues we experienced in the past. Letter writers must provide their full home address or the address of an area business they own. The full address will not be published, but we will use it on the Secretary of State's polling location finder. If the letter writer can vote for the race or ballot question they are referencing in their letter, or if they own a business that would be directly impacted by that race or ballot question, their letter can be published. If the letter writer has no direct connection to the race or ballot question, their letter will not be published.

Once the filing period is over, I will be sending emails to all candidates letting them know about our letters to the editor policy, submitting a filing notice to be published in the Star, plus our plans for publishing voters' guides. Those plans will depend on if and how many races require a primary election.

As with anything, anyone who has a question or concern about the Star's policies, feel free to contact me.

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

The debt we owe -



Joe Heller © 2026 HARBETON.COM

There's a new law regarding school buses



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Question: Did I hear something about a new law about stopping for school buses?

AnsWER: In March 2026, Minnesota law changed to require drivers to stop at least 20 feet away from a school bus whenever the red lights are flashing. The stop arm does not need to be fully extended. This new requirement aims to remove confusion and clarify expectations for every

driver on the road.

What changed
In the past, some drivers waited until the stop arm was fully extended before stopping. That is no longer the case.

Now, the rule is simple: When a school bus's red lights begin flashing, you must stop — at least 20 feet away from the bus.

- This applies whether the stop arm is extended or not.
- This applies when ap-

proaching from behind the bus.

- This applies to oncoming traffic on undivided roads.
- This change removes guesswork and helps protect students as they enter or exit the bus.

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" @MSPP10_NW or reach

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. 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 5 p.m. Mondays to editor@countystar.com or via mail to 930 S. Cleveland St., Cambridge MN 55008
- 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 (exceptions made for rebuttals).
- 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.

PAID ENDORSEMENT POLICY

The *County Star* accepts election letters

endorsing or advocating for or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcements. The fee is \$25 for the first 250 words, plus 10 cents per additional word; no word limit. This policy is only in effect during election season (from the candidate filing date through election day.)

Like other letters to the editor, the writer's name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers are not published. The *Star* has the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid endorsement.

Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

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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The 2026 election campaigns have begun

Would it surprise you if I told you that 2026 was an election year? If you have not started to see the newspaper articles, tv commercials, and targeted advertisements from candidates and parties, you will soon. While there will be a flurry of activity in our state, and in the country as a whole, I would contend that some of the most important offices are right here at home. If you think discussing and debating the best way to fix streets, acceptable response time for police or fire, how to add, maintain, improve City amenities, or what appropriate levels of local taxation might be, then you should consider running for City Council or Mayor.

Locally elected leaders are among the most accessible and responsive in the state. They work hard on behalf of their residents every day to find ways to provide them good

services, and maintain critical infrastructure, in as cost-effective a way as possible. This requires time, effort, and interest, but it also provides an excellent opportunity to get involved to support and improve the community that we call home.

The City of Cambridge will have three seats on the ballot in 2026 including the Mayor, and two at-large council seats. All of these offices are for four-year terms. If you are, or may be, interested in running for a City Office there are a few key things to keep in mind:

You must be a U.S. Citizen, you must be at least 21 years old, you must be a resident of the City of Cambridge, you must pay the filing fee (\$15) and must file within the appropriate filing period. The filing period this year is from May 19th (this past Tuesday) until June 2nd. In order to file you will need to fill out an Affidavit of Candidacy, which can be found on the City website at <https://www.ci.cambridge.mn.us/your-government/elections/candidates-for-office>. Your Affidavit of Candidacy and filing fee must then get submitted to the City Clerk, Monica Sieberlich, no

later than 5pm on June 2nd, 2026. After that you may choose to withdraw your candidacy by June 4 at 5pm.

I would also encourage any candidate to thoroughly review the candidate-specific information available on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website to help you better understand campaign finance rules and more.

These non-partisan offices offer one of the best ways for residents to get involved in shaping their community. They provide the opportunity to tackle today's problems while laying out a vision for the future. I would like to invite any resident who is considering running for one of the open seats in the City of Cambridge to reach out to me directly at evogel@ci.cambridge.mn.us. I would be more than happy to schedule a time to sit down with you to answer questions you may have or talk about how the City functions. The work cities do is challenging but it is rewarding and full of purpose.

Evan Vogel is the City Administrator for the City of Cambridge. If you have any questions related to this column, please feel free to reach out by email at evogel@ci.cambridge.mn.us or by phone at 763-689-3211.



Cambridge
City Views

Evan
Vogel

The power of opportunity and community

As we head into the final weeks of the school year, there are so many events, celebrations, and student experiences that capture the learning, growth, and opportunities happening across North Branch Area Public Schools. This time of year provides a chance to reflect on the many ways students are exploring interests, building skills, finding connections, and preparing for their future.

That work looks different for each student.

Our youngest Vikings have many exciting experiences to look forward to during these final weeks of school, including the Vehicle Fair, Viking Fun Run, Teddy Bear Band Concert, and spring field trips. These moments create joy, build connections, and positive memories connected to school and learning from an early age.

Our middle school students have also been involved in engaging experiences this spring, including the Determined RED breakfast, the high school and middle school mentor event at Base Camp in Fort Snelling, science enrichment projects, and activities focused on real world application and problem solving. Events like the 8th Grade Leader Lunch and middle school track meets continue creating opportunities for students to build leadership, connections, and Viking pride.

Future Forward Day gave high school students opportunities to interact with local businesses, tradespeople, first responders, and industry professionals while learning more about career paths and opportunities available after graduation. Experiences like these help students connect learning to real life and better understand the many directions available to them in the future.

That same focus on career connected learning is happening through hands-on experiences and work based learning opportunities across pathways connected to business, culinary arts, health care, manufacturing, agriculture, and skilled trades. Programs like Air Force JROTC continue giving students opportunities to build leadership, technical skills, and confidence while exploring future possibilities.

Our schools also continue working to create places where students feel connected, supported, and like they belong.

This spring has been filled with opportunities for students to share their talents, cultures, and passions. From

K-12 Viking music performances and the high school production of Mamma Mia! to Native American cultural activities and Viking Hmong and Hispanic Nights, students have had opportunities to celebrate who they are and support one another. Those experiences help students feel seen, valued, and proud to be part of the Viking community.

One of the things I appreciate most about North Branch is how often our community invests in students. Whether it's families participating in Walk and Roll Viking Style events, students spreading encouragement during Community Service Day and Chalk the Walk for Hope, or community members supporting scholarships and school programs, there is a shared commitment to helping young people succeed. That support becomes especially visible during Scholarship Night. Each scholarship represents someone in this community choosing to invest in a student's future and reminding students that people believe in them.

We are also fortunate to have organizations whose generosity continues creating opportunities for students year after year. The North Branch Area Education Foundation, the Edelstein Family Foundation, and the Maximizing Impact Endowment Fund continue making a lasting difference through scholarships, grants, and expanded opportunities for students.

I also want to share how proud I am of the leadership happening here in North Branch around teacher workforce development. After more than a year of collaboration and advocacy across Minnesota, the Minnesota Teachers Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee was awarded a \$3 million grant to expand teacher apprenticeship programs statewide. Serving as Co-Chair for this statewide effort has been incredibly rewarding, expanding the success of Viking innovation across Minnesota.

As we continue our strategic work, I look forward to engaging our community in bold conversations about the future of North Branch Area Public Schools. Our Viking community cares deeply about preparing students for life beyond graduation while also creating schools where students feel connected, challenged, and supported. Those priorities continue guiding our work as we continue creating opportunities for each student to discover their strengths, interests, and future path.

Moving forward together is alive and well, and our students are better because of it.

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

Believing in students, schools, and community

May is one of the fullest seasons in a school year. There are concerts, field trips, classroom celebrations, final projects, awards, scholarship events, spring activities, graduation preparations, and all the everyday moments that continue right up to the last day of school. It is a season filled with pride, joy, reflection, and, if we are honest, a little exhaustion too.

As I look back on this school year, I find myself thinking about how much there is to recognize and how impossible it is to capture it all. Students have

grown in quiet and powerful ways. Staff members have gone above and beyond in ways others may never fully see. Families have encouraged, supported, adjusted, and partnered with us through busy and challenging seasons. Neighbors, partners, and supporters, some we know well and some we had never met before, stepped forward to support our schools, our students, and our staff.

That is the beauty of public education. It belongs to all of us.

This year brought real challenges, including pressures and circumstances far beyond the walls of our schools. Yet through it all, our staff continued to show up for our learners. Families continued to partner with us. Community members continued to remind us that schools are not separate from the communities they serve. They are at the heart of them.

At Cambridge-Isanti Schools, our mission is to educate, empower, and inspire every student, every day, in partnership with our community. Those words remind us that student success is not the work of schools alone. It takes the care and commitment of staff members across our schools, all of our programs, and every department, along with families, volunteers, local businesses, organizations, and neighbors who invest in young people and in the future we are building together.

We see the promise of public education in classrooms where students are building academic skills, confidence, curiosity, and real-life readiness. We see it in early learning programs where our youngest Bluejackets

begin to develop a strong foundation and a sense of belonging. We see it in career and college experiences where students move from imagining their futures to creating and building their next steps. We see it in Community Education programs that serve learners from birth through senior citizens, and in the activities, arts, athletics, partnerships, and connections that help students discover who they are and what they can become.

Our strategic plan continues to guide this work. We are strengthening alignment across our schools and programs and continuing to advance academic growth so students graduate with the skills, confidence, and plans they need for their futures. We are working to ensure our schools, programs, and spaces are welcoming and inclusive for everyone who walks through our doors. We are continuing to support student and staff health and well-being. And we are doing this work in partnership with families and our community because we know strong schools help build a strong future.

As the year comes to a close, I am especially grateful for the people who kept showing up: the staff member who noticed a student needed encouragement, the family member who offered patience and support, the volunteer who gave time, the community partner who offered resources, the student who kept trying, and the colleague who supported another colleague on a difficult day.

Not every act of care receives public recognition or makes it into a newsletter, social media post, or newspaper column. But those moments matter. They are the steady foundation of a strong public school system. Thank you to our students, staff, families, and community for showing up in big and small ways throughout the year. In the busy, joyful, challenging, and meaningful moments, you remind us what makes Cambridge-Isanti Schools special: people who care deeply, believe in young people, and understand that our schools and community are stronger together.

Christina Thayer Anderson is director of Community Education and Engagement of Cambridge-Isanti Schools. She can be reached at 763.689.6220 or canderson@ci-schools.org.



NB School
News

Sara
Paul



C-I School
News

Christina
Thayer
Anderson

OBITUARIES

Kevin Michael McGruder

Kevin Michael McGruder, 22, of Mora, Minnesota, left this world unexpectedly in a car wreck on his way home from work on May 15, 2026. He was born October 9, 2003, in Wyoming, Minnesota, and grew up in the Cambridge-Isanti area in the care of his grandparents, Theresa and Chuck Nesbitt.



Kevin was hilarious, warm-hearted, and full of life. His smile was infectious! He had a soul that could connect with yours without saying a word. The pure beauty of who he was, you could see it in his eyes and feel it in his smile. He loved his people fiercely, and those who loved him just the same will carry him forever.

He is survived by his grandparents, Theresa and Chuck Nesbitt and Gene Ziemann; his mother, Tiffany Greene; his siblings, Anna, Elijah, and Jackson; his aunts, Trina, Tabitha, and Cheyann; his cousins, Cody, Lennea, Summer, and Miles; and countless friends and family who loved him deeply and will miss him every day.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, May 29, 2026, at the Josiah Center, 1600 Gervais Ave, Suite 2, Maplewood, MN 55109. A private family prayer and gathering begins at 3 p.m., with a service open to friends and extended family at 4 p.m.

To honor Kevin, the family welcomes flowers at the service and cards sent to PO Box 221, Cambridge, MN 55008.

Kathleen "Kathy" Sydnes

Kathleen "Kathy" Sydnes passed away on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at the age of 78.

Kathy was born on April 26, 1948, in Canby, Minnesota, the eldest of six closely connected siblings. She possessed unmatched energy from an early age, pouring herself into work on the family farm, mentoring her younger siblings, and participating in several academic clubs.



After high school, Kathy moved to the Twin Cities, where she embarked on a rewarding career as a young female professional. She took pride in every role she held, ultimately finding her best skill in identifying the best skills in others.

Kathy met the love of her life, Joel, in the summer of 1971. He had a twinkle that only her sparkle could match. They welcomed their daughter, Cameo, in 1972 and the three shared a special bond as a small family. Kathy and Joel later settled in Aitkin, Minnesota, where they created a beautiful home surrounded by Joel's woods and Kathy's garden. Together, they were a testament to enduring love, mutual respect, and true partnership.

Kathy will be lovingly remembered as a mother, grandmother, sister, and auntie — but by all as their very best cheerleader.

Kathy is survived by her daughter, Cameo and son-in-law, Chad Zehnder; her granddaughters, Sydney and Natalia; her sisters, Mary (Rick) Garrison and Lori (Mark) Nothom; her sisters-in-law, Nancy (Rocky) Waite and Trudy (Vern) Holm; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joel Sydnes; her parents, George Devorak, Violet Schumacher and her husband, Ray Schumacher; her siblings, Charles Devorak, Patricia Devorak, and Joseph Devorak; and her siblings-in-law, Dale Sydnes, Edie Peterson, and Susie Bonstrom.

A celebration of Kathy's life will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2026 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Strike Life Tributes in Cambridge, Minnesota, with an opportunity to share memories at noon.

Online condolences can be placed at: StrikeLifeTributes.com

James "Jim" Kays, age 88, passed away on May 16, 2026, surrounded by the love of his family after a courageous and short battle with cancer. A lifelong resident of the Stanchfield area, Jim built a life rooted in work, family, and the community he called home.



Jim proudly served his country in the United States Army from 1960 to 1963. Following his military service, he returned home and spent many years working for himself, building a reputation as someone who could do just about anything. He owned and operated his own septic and sewer business and was well known for his backhoe work, hauling, and dump truck jobs throughout the

area. Jim was never one to sit still except if in his recliner watching Westerns. He enjoyed tinkering on projects, collecting things that caught his interest, fixing equipment, and staying busy outdoors, especially mowing lawn with whatever mower seemed to work that day.

Beyond his work, Jim will also be remembered for his personality and the joy he brought to others. He was known for his dancing skills and for enjoying life in his own unique way. Family and friends will remember the stories, laughter, music, and memories shared with him throughout the years.

In his final days, he was surrounded by the people

James "Jim" Kays

who loved him most, offering comfort, support, and companionship. Though his passing leaves an emptiness, his family takes comfort in the many memories, lessons, and moments they shared with him.

In life it is important to spend time with loved ones, sharing stories, and taking pictures. For those we love, never leave us. They live on in the stories we tell, the lessons they taught, the love they gave, and the photos we took.

Jim was preceded in death by his daughter Jacquie Nordby, wife Joyce, and parents Francis and Edna (McFarlane) Kays.

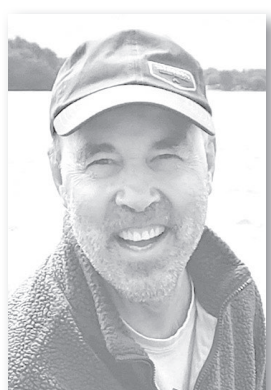
Jim is survived by his daughters, Jodi Kays and Jolene (Kevin) Wojahn; sons-in-law, Chad Anderson and Gordon Nordby; grandchildren, Molly (Paige) McDowell, Taylor Nordby (Stephen Labs), Andi (Stephen) Youngberg, Sydney (Jeremy) Brown, Emily Hackler (Matthew Babela), Olivia Hackler, and Lilly Anderson (Benjamin Knapper); great grandchildren, Miles Knapper and Willow Youngberg; sisters, Jeanne Sullivan, Geneva Anderson, Marilyn "Mickey" (Steve) Klinger, and Mary Ellen Freelove; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 30, 2026, at the Braham Event Center. A Short Service will be held at noon led by Pastor Julie Beck with a light luncheon to follow. Inurnment and Military Honors will be held at 2 p.m. on Monday, June 29, 2026, at the Oakwood Cemetery in Mora with the Mora American Legion Post 201 providing Honors. Arrangements are entrusted to the Hamilton Funeral Homes - Rock Chapel in Braham. Condolences may be posted at www.hamiltonfhs.com.

Peter Thomas Thiry

Peter Thomas Thiry, 62, of Cambridge, passed away peacefully at home in Cambridge, MN on May 12, 2026, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Pete was born to Richard and Sonja Thiry on June 28, 1963, in Rush City. He grew up on a farm outside of Isanti, Minnesota where he had lots of space to explore and play with his brothers and sisters. Pete graduated from Cambridge High School in 1981. During his high school years, he played football, wrestled and was involved in many activities. It was also during this time that he met his high school sweetheart Julie Ranum and they were married in 1983. They raised their family at their home west of Cambridge,



where his sons were able to enjoy nature and explore with him.

Pete was adventurous, friendly, and an eternal optimist. He was known for his twinkling eyes and a fabulous smile that never faded. He possessed a natural warmth that drew people to him. He built a successful career as the Director of International Purchasing for Stearns, Inc. This role allowed him to travel the world, and he always returned home eager to share countless stories of his global adventures.

Above all else, Pete was a devoted family man. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Julie; his sons, Jake (Jaime) of Minnetrista, Alex (Atessa) of Loretto, and Ben (Chanel) of St. Paul; and his four adored grandchildren, Wyatt, Will, Ezra, and Eva. He is also survived by his mother, Sonja Thiry; his brother, Patrick (Julie) Thiry; his sister, Pam

(Jim) Watson; his parents-in-law, Lyle and Dorothy Ranum; his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Susan (Cam) Conrad; and many cherished nieces, nephews, and lifelong friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Richard; his sister, Kim; and his brother and best friend, Tommy.

From a young age, Pete found his greatest happiness and peace in the outdoors. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved fishing, hunting, and spending quiet time in nature. Whether he was on the water, sitting in a tree stand, or gathered with loved ones at the cabin, the wilderness was his sanctuary.

One of Pete's greatest joys was introducing his sons to the outdoors and sharing countless adventures with them. He also took immense pride in watching "the guys," as he proudly called them, play sports over the years. He treasured every moment spent in the stands and the deep conversations that followed the games. For Pete, sports were never about wins or losses; they were about building character, perseverance, teamwork, and humility. He was profoundly proud of the men his sons became. He adored and loved his daughters-in-law and the love and care they've added to our family.

Pete had a strong faith, which he relied on and that brought him peace and comfort. We believe he is in Heaven, pain free, on the water and at peace. Pete will be remembered for his adventurous spirit, his unwavering optimism, and his love of life. He leaves behind a legacy of love and strength that will continue to live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

Memorial Service 11 a.m., Friday, May 29, 2026, at Cambridge Lutheran Church. Visitation 5-7 p.m., Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service. Private interment in Cambridge Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials preferred. Condolences at: www.carlsonlillemoen.com

Dr. Paul Bergley

Dr. Paul Bergley, age 64, of Isanti, passed away at home on May 15, 2026. He faced his cancer with remarkable courage and unwavering grace, meeting each day with the same strength and determination that defined his life.



Paul Michael Bergley was born May 17, 1961 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to Kenneth and Joann (Fuller) Bergley. Paul served in the Army National Guard. He graduated from Northwestern College of Chiropractic in 1987. Paul was honored to care for patients at his clinic, Isanti Family Chiropractic. He loved going

to the lake, gardening, hiking, camping and riding his bikes. He married Amanda Cogley (Meyers) on January 7, 2024.

He is survived by his loving wife, Amanda; children, Sarah (Nathan) Boring, Andrew (Christi) Bergley and their children Olivia and Levi, Martha (Grant) Olson, and Ben (Jadelyn) Bergley; step-children, Collin Cogley and Mitchell Cogley; brother, Bruce Bergley; sister, Karen Anderson; and by many other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents and by a sister, Susan Dejno.

Funeral service 10 a.m. Friday, May 22 at Oxlip Evangelical Free Church in Isanti. Visitation 4-6 p.m. Thursday, May 21 at Strike Life Tributes in Isanti and also one hour prior to the service Friday at the church. Interment Isanti Union Cemetery. Online condolences can be placed at: StrikeLifeTributes.com

STUDENT NAMES IN THE NEWS

Scholarship

Lukas Neyhart of Cambridge, The Heart Scholarship Program \$3,000 scholarship from Pizza Ranch

C-I, NB SCOREBOARD

May 13
 C-I girls golf @ home invite - 2nd/11 teams
 *Top finisher: Nora Gustafson - 8th place (91)
 NB softball 6, Cloquet 7
 NB baseball 2, Cloquet 4
 NB girls golf @ Purple Hawk - 3rd/11 teams
 *Top finisher: Jenna Minke - fourth place (87)

May 14
 C-I boys golf @ Elk River - 9th/9 teams
 *Top finisher: Keegan Westman - 16th place (83)
 C-I baseball 1, Zimmerman 2
 C-I baseball vs. Zimmerman double header second game - canceled (rain)
 C-I softball 10, Zimmerman 0
 C-I softball vs Zimmerman second game of double header - canceled (rain)
 *Bluejackets clinch Mississippi 8 Conference Championship
 NB boys golf @ Elk River - 1st/9 teams
 *Top finishers: Drake Dimich - first place (75), Aiden Peterson - third place (77), Nicholas Melvin - fourth place (78)
 NB softball 7, Rock Ridge 12
 NB softball 2, Chisago Lakes 0

May 15
 C-I boys golf @ Grand National Golf Club - 16th/20 teams
 *Top finishers: Jacob Bostrom & Noah Ihrke - 49th place tie (80)
 C-I boys track and field @ Class AAA State True Team Meet - 8th/12 teams
 *First place finisher: Calvin Piescher (pole vault)
 C-I softball 8, Duluth East 3
 NB boys golf @ Grand National Golf Club - 5th/20 teams
 *Top finisher: Nicholas Melvin - 10th place (74)
 NB baseball 8, Rock Ridge 4
 NB boys tennis 7, St. Cloud Cathedral/Saint John's Prep 0 (Section 6A quarterfinals)

May 16
 C-I baseball 4, Duluth East 9
 C-I baseball 12, Duluth Denfeld 0

May 18
 C-I girls golf @ Princeton - 2nd/9 teams
 *Top finishers: Allie Nystrom - 2nd place (79), Amber Grecula - 3rd place (84)
 C-I boys golf 1, St. Francis 2 (Rum River Cup)
 NB girls golf @ Princeton 4th/9 teams
 *Top finisher: Jenna Minke - 5th place (85)
 NB baseball 4, North St. Paul 5

May 19
 C-I baseball 5, Princeton 2
 NB boys tennis 3, Mora 4 (Section 6A team semifinals)
 NB softball 1, Duluth Denfeld 6 (Section 7AAA double elimination tournament first round)



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

(Top photo) Cambridge-Isanti's Bennett Bergloff applies the tag to a Zimmerman baserunner during the Jackets' game against the Thunder.
 (Left photo) Bluejackets Avery Crittenden and Melody Traczyk lightly collide while going after a fly ball during C-I's game against Duluth East. Fortunately, Traczyk was able to hold onto the ball for the out.

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI, NORTH BRANCH SECTION TOURNAMENT SCHEDULES: MAY 21 - 30

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, May 21
 •C-I baseball vs. Coon Rapids (6 p.m.)
 •NB boys tennis @ Rogers (Section 6A Individual Tournament)
 •NB softball vs. Grand Rapids @ Cloquet - Section 7AAA double elimination tournament elimination game (12:15 p.m.)

Friday, May 22
 •C-I softball vs. TBD - Section 7AAAA tournament @ Sandquist Park (3:30 p.m.)

Tuesday, May 26
 •C-I boys & girls golf @ Grand National Golf Club - Section 7AAA prelims
 •NB girls golf @ Giants Ridge - Section 7AA prelims

Wednesday, May 27
 •C-I baseball @ TBD - Section 7AAAA double elimination tournament first round (time TBD)
 •C-I boys & girls track & field @ Forest Lake - Section 7AAA prelims
 •C-I boys & girls golf @ Grand National Golf Club - Section 7AAA finals
 •NB baseball @ TBD - Section 7AAA double elimination tournament first round (time TBD)
 •NB boys & girls track & field @ Rock Ridge - Section 7AA prelims
 •NB boys golf @ Giants Ridge - Section 7AA prelims

Thursday, May 28
 •C-I baseball @ TBD - Section 7AAAA double elimination tournament second round (time TBD)
 •NB baseball @ TBD - Section 7AAA double elimination tournament second round (time TBD)
 •NB boys & girls golf @ Giants Ridge - Section 7AA finals

Friday, May 29
 •C-I boys & girls track & field @ Forest Lake - Section 7AAA finals

Saturday, May 30
 •NB boys & girls track & field @ Rock Ridge - Section 7AAA finals

Bluejacket Hall of Fame 2026 inductees announced

The Bluejacket Hall of Fame Committee is excited to announce the Class of 2026. The inductees are as follows:

- Al Boesche
 - Laurie Solle
 - 1998-1999 Girls Basketball Team
 - 1993-1994 Baseball Team
 - Brittany Hegquist Akers
 - Tessa Kahring Janousek
 - Dennis Scheel
 - Ed Oliver
 - Chris Peterson
 - Julie Wilson Schuster
- Cambridge-Isanti High School has

a long and rich tradition of athletic competition and fine arts accomplishments. The purpose of this Hall of Fame is to recognize career accomplishments of our Bluejacket Alumni. The next induction ceremony will take place on Sunday, August 16, 2026. The banquet will be at Cambridge Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall beginning at 5 p.m., with a social hour beginning at 4 p.m. Tickets will be available online for anyone who is interested in attending. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/blue-jacket-hall-of-fame-induction-2026-tickets-1988870980642?aff=oddtcreator>

Specific banquet or Hall of Fame questions can be directed to the Cambridge-Isanti High School Athletics and Activities office. Nomination forms for the Bluejacket Hall of Fame can be found at www.c-is-schools.org, click on Activities, click on the Bluejacket Hall of Fame and the form is on the Hall of Fame Website. Nominations are always being sought for deserving alumni and remain on file for 10 years. ~ Bluejacket Hall of Fame

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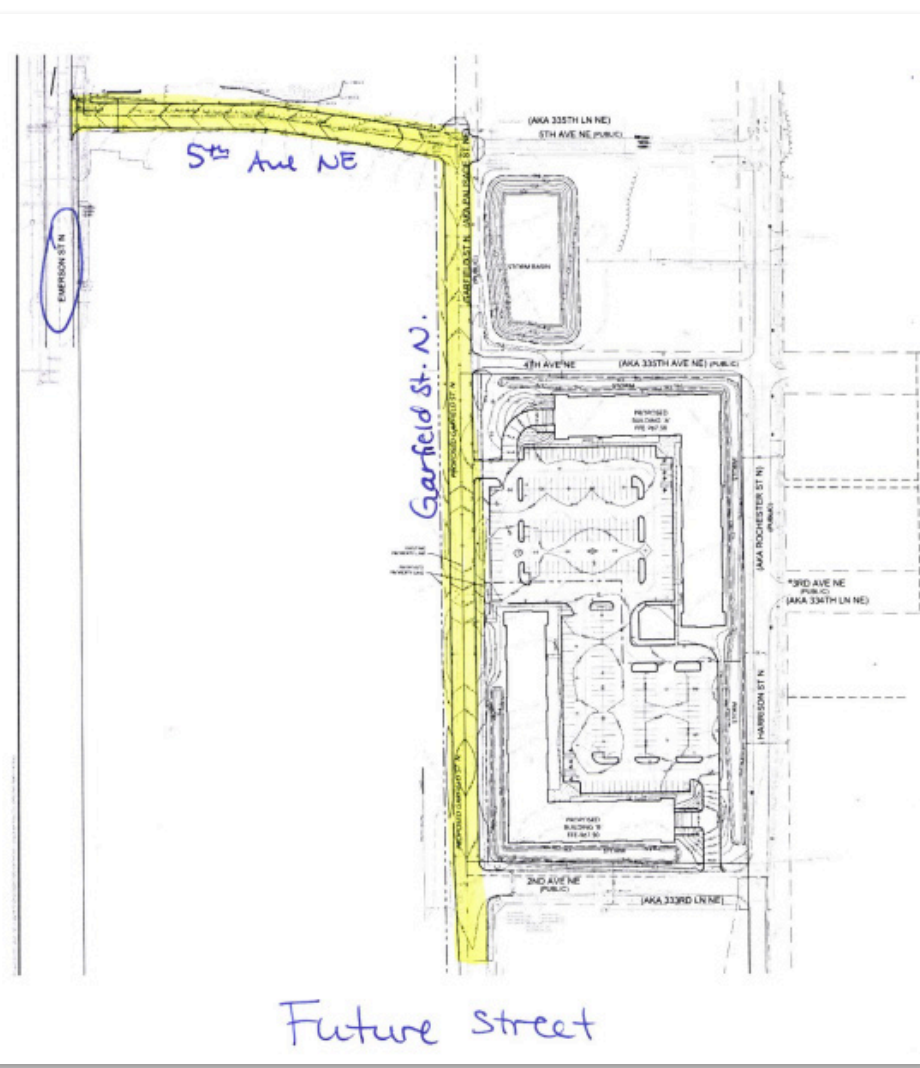
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CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA PACKET

A rough diagram shows the Garfield Street N. and 5th Ave NE extensions behind Reuter Walton's TIF request.

TIF: Council denies request on 3-2 vote

FROM PAGE 1

community. I have also observed the developer's extensive portfolio, the majority of which consists of market-rate development such as this. I also recognize that street and utility extensions are typically considered a standard obligation and cost of development." "When we were doing the housing study, it was indicated to us that one of the things we needed to do as a city was to have a variety of housing options for our residents," Council member Mark Ziebarth said. "The intent of this particular project was to provide a number of options for our citizens.

"The development of the area under consideration today has not been able to move forward, and this particular plan would allow for the infrastructure to be

developed and to allow for the growth and development on the north side."

"I don't come into anything with a preconceived idea of I am going to vote this way or that way," Mayor Jim Godfrey said. "Being an educator, I believe all of us are experiencing something for the first time. Before we move on with TIF districts of this scale, maybe we need to do a little more pre-education of the city in general, so we know what is exactly going on. So we need to do a better job of letting people know ahead of time of the ins and outs and ups and downs of this."

Ultimately, the council denied the TIF request on a 3-2 vote, with Godfrey, Christian, and Berg voting to deny, and Council members Bob Shogren and Ziebarth voting to approve it.

NB council struggles with its' own new charitable gambling ordinance

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Good intentions are colliding with reality as North Branch grapples with how to enforce a new ordinance requiring local charitable gambling beneficiaries to support the local community.

Shortly after passing the ordinance, which requires 10% of local charitable gambling proceeds to be remitted to the city for parks and athletic space improvements, the council was confronted with an out-of-town applicant looking to raise money at the local Muddy Cow restaurant.

Another component of the new ordinance "requires that a minimum of 50% of the Charitable Gambling Organization's expenditures remain in the city's trade area," which includes the city proper and seven neighboring townships and cities.

For most of the organizations that currently fundraise in North Branch, meeting that requirement may not be difficult. These organizations include the local American Legion, the North Branch Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Association, and the North Branch Area Hockey Association.

The new applicant, Merrick Inc., however, is based in Vadnais Heights and conducts most of its business in the Twin Cities metro, according to Mayor Kevin Schieber. The state gambling board lists 29 other gambling sites around the state at which Merrick raises funds, though Schieber indicated Muddy Cow would be its 31st.

"If most of their sites are in the Twin Cities and nothing's really up this way, it's not clear to me how they're going to be able to meet that requirement of 50% or more impact to the community," Schieber said.

Further, through an email from City Administrator Matthew Hill indicates that only locally-raised funds would be subject to the 50% rule, the ordinance is less clear, indicating

'If most of their sites are in the Twin Cities and nothing's really up this way, it's not clear to me how they're going to be able to meet that requirement of 50% or more impact to the community.'

Kevin Schieber
Mayor, North Branch

only that half of an organization's "expenditures" be local.

The organization apparently means to follow the rules, but Schieber said the "how" remains unclear.

"We just didn't get much of an answer, other than 'we intend to comply,'" Schieber said.

And Merrick isn't the only one – Chops Inc., a Minneapolis-based organization, fundraises at JJ's Bowl & Lounge, netting \$67,761 from March 2025 through April 2026, according to the state gambling board's website.

Its most recently posted 990 tax form indicates this amount represents 10.3% of Chops' 2024 revenue,

\$655,929. Data on the organization's 2025 revenue is not yet available from the Internal Revenue Service.

Chops also lists Muddy Cow of North Branch as a gambling partner, but the state gambling board website shows no fundraising data from this relationship.

Council agreed to table Merrick's application to its May 27 meeting in order to give city staff a chance to get a clear answer on how it intends to comply with the new ordinance in the event its application is granted.

SHERIFF: Seiberlich stands behind belief license plate readers are a valuable tool

FROM PAGE 1

it contain direct links to that information.

"All we know is a vehicle with that license plate passed by that camera," Seiberlich said. "We don't know who was driving that vehicle."

Because of this, Seiberlich states these cameras do not violate a person's privacy or Fourth Amendment rights. "Courts, including federal appellate courts, have upheld that a warrantless search using LPR as constitutional and found they are not 'searches' under the Fourth Amendment," Seiberlich said. "There is no expectation of privacy towards a vehicle's exterior or a government issued plate which is required to be visible on public roadways."

Through Flock's own terms and conditions, which is shared by the Sheriff's Office's policy, all data collected from the cameras except for any associated with an active criminal investigation, must be destroyed after 30 days.

Seiberlich said this is actually half the time frame mandated

by Minnesota state statute.

RETRIEVING DATA

There are two triggers that prompt law enforcement to review camera images. The first is if a license plate number has been registered with the National Crime Information Center as being involved in a crime. In that case, an alert will be sent to law enforcement indicating that vehicle had its image captured on a camera. Law enforcement will still have to research the specifics that prompted the alert. While there are many crimes that law enforcement can program to trigger an alert, Seiberlich said Isanti County will only be alerted in four instances: an Amber Alert, a stolen vehicle, a missing person, or the registered owner of the vehicle has an arrest warrant.

"Traffic stops will not be made solely on an LPR alert," Seiberlich said.

The second way is for an officer to do a data search for a full or partial license plate number, or for a general vehicle description. In those cases,

a stringent procedure will be followed (see next week's article and video).

Flock's terms and conditions also proclaim Flock does not transfer data to any outside parties not authorized to receive the information by the host law enforcement, including ICE/Homeland Security. Seiberlich said while some law enforcement will give some outside law enforcement automatic access to data collected from its cameras, Isanti County isn't giving such access to anyone during the trial period. If any outside law enforcement wishes to review images collected by Isanti County's cameras, they will have to fill out a data request.

Because of all this, Seiberlich insists over 99% of the images collected will never be seen by human eyes.

ABUSE OF DATA?

Seiberlich acknowledges there has been some abuse of other Flock systems by law enforcement.

"Let's look at where. Texas, when you had an officer

stalking his ex. Colorado, where some gal was accused of stealing something," Seiberlich said. "Is it the camera that was the issue, or was it poor law enforcement? Find me one case in Minnesota where that happened. And then find me one case in Isanti County. You cannot compare your deputies in Isanti County to other officers."

"Do cops do dumb things? Sure they do. What I am saying is Minnesota laws are far more restrictive than Texas and Colorado. Is it possible? I'm not going to say its not. Of course it is. But its not fair to prejudice our officers for something we have not done based on somebody else."

Ultimately, Seiberlich reminds residents this is only a trial run of the system. He insists if after the trial concludes the results don't warrant spending \$24,000 a year for the eight cameras, he won't even approach the commissioners for permission to sign a formal contract with Flock. And if he discovers some of the "what ifs" are proven to be true,

he will cut all relations with Flock immediately.

"If credible evidence of misuse of this system is confirmed, if it is discovered that third parties obtained private information from Flock, or if government overreach is proven, I will reconsider the use of the product," Seiberlich said. "But absent from factual support, fear alone cannot be the standard by which I reject proven tools designed to protect the public."

And if the court of public opinion continues to be upset with his initiating this trial program?

"Whether I serve as one term as your sheriff, or two or three terms, that's up to you," Seiberlich concluded. "But if this decision ultimately ends my career as a sheriff, I will look back on the last four years knowing I did the best I could for public safety. And if we never have a Brynlee Nelson in Isanti County, well then go ahead and find someone else to do my job because I will be proud of what we accomplished in the meantime."



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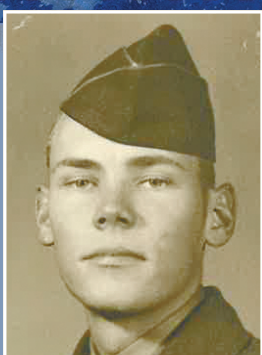
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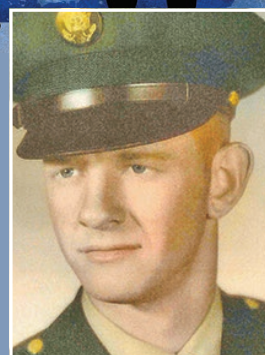
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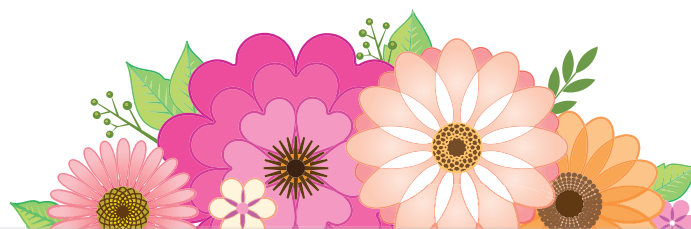
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THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026
VOL. 120 NO. 17 COUNTYSTAR.COM

HEAD TO HEAD: Jackets, Vikings face off on baseball, softball fields and tennis courts. PAGE 10

VA clinic officially opening in Cambridge

Goodbye Perkins, hello Chipotle

Isanti County Sheriffs to replace K9 Maverick

It's almost 'post time' for Beyond the Yellow Ribbon's annual fundraiser dinner

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Nordenstrom pleads guilty to theft by swindle

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Kimberly Sue Nordenstrom, of Isanti, has pleaded guilty to one count of theft by swindle of nearly \$100,000 from the Isanti County Sheriff's Foundation.

Nordenstrom, who was the treasurer and one of the founding members of the organization set up to offer financial support to the Isanti County Sheriff's Office for expenses above and beyond its yearly budget, was initially charged with one count of felony theft by swindle and one count of felony theft on Oct. 7, 2025.

According to court records, Nordenstrom used the foundation's name and non-profit status to secure a grant for a Twin Cities organization that had not yet achieved 501(c)3 status. However, once the money was deposited into the foundation's account at MinnCo Credit Union, Nordenstrom transferred the money to a sub-account she recently opened without the knowledge of the other foundation board members.

Nordenstrom subsequently withdrew the money and used it to pay off personal debt and purchase farm equipment.

When interviewed by the Chisago County Sheriff's Office, which was investigating the case due to multiple conflicts of interest with the Isanti County Sheriff's Office, Nordenstrom claimed she planned to pay the money back once she mortgaged her home. During her plea hearing, Nordenstrom told Judge John Klossner she did, in fact, repay the money, but not until after she was arrested.

Nordenstrom's sentencing is scheduled for Aug. 26. Under Minnesota sentencing guidelines, she could receive up to 20 years in jail and/or a fine of

up to \$100,000. It is anticipated that the charge of felony theft will be dismissed at the time of sentencing based on an agreement with the prosecution.

Nordenstrom is also expected to plead guilty to attempted identity theft in Pine County for a separate 2025 incident in which she allegedly used personal information of the owner of Brook Park Auto & Recycling, who she had a previous business connection, to try to obtain a personal loan in the amount of \$140,000.

Her next court appearance in that case is scheduled for June 9. The maximum sentence



ISANTI COUNTY SHERIFF'S FOUNDATION FACEBOOK PAGE
Kimberly Sue Nordenstrom.

in that case is 10 years in jail and/or a \$50,000 fine.

Memorial Day *May 25*

Isanti

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GREETINGS

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Salute To Armed Forces - Medley

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Members of the Isanti County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota State Patrol, Cambridge Police, and Isanti Police pay respects to the local officers killed in the line of duty. (Far left photo) Cambridge Police Chief Marlow Zwiers was killed while directing traffic on Nov. 1, 1968. (Top middle photo) Isanti County Deputy Clifford Lindgren was killed in a shootout on July 21, 1957. (Bottom middle photo) Marshal Frank Dahlin was killed during a burglary attempt on Dec. 21, 1926. (Above photo) Minnesota State Patrol officer Timothy Bowe was killed assisting a shooting call in Chisago County on June 7, 1997.

Memorial Day *May 25*



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NB council split on license plate reader program

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

While the North Branch council was unanimous on a policy regulating automatic license plate reader cameras, support for going forward with a Flock Safety contract passed on a narrow 3-2 margin.

Council members Jim Ibinger and Jeff Goulet broke with the majority and stuck to their initial reluctance to pay Flock Safety \$63,000 over three years for seven ALPR cameras installed and running in North Branch.

The cameras capture images of the rear of vehicles that pass by the fixed cameras, recording license plates and vehicle make, model, and color, along with other general vehicle identifiers such as luggage racks.

Supporters state this data can be used to track vehicles believed to be used in the commission of crimes, including kidnapping, and can help find missing or vulnerable adults.

Critics, however, point to security vulnerabilities with other Flock products and past abuses by law enforcement in other jurisdictions, including stalking.

While they both supported the draft policy regulating the use of ALPRs, which Chief Dan Meyer

wrote and has modified several times at the council's behest, Ibinger ultimately argued the money would be better spent on police officer pay.

Travis Miles, the city's human resources generalist, recently presented data to the council indicating the city does not meet state standards for the number of officers needed for a community of North Branch's size.

Goulet initially bristled at the since-disproved possibility that paying for access to the Flock system's data alone, without any North Branch cameras, would cost the same or more than adding cameras, arguing that would have indicated the data was valuable to Flock and discrediting their assertions that all data belongs to the city.

Flock is providing and installing all seven cameras for free. The yearly charge of \$3,000 per camera is to keep it running and connected to the system.

As per the council-approved policy, the Chisago, Pine, and Isanti County Sheriff's Offices, plus Wyoming, Lakes Area, Forest Lake, Isanti, and Cambridge Police Departments are authorized to access North Branch's ALPR data. Meyer is required to get council approval before sharing data with other jurisdictions, and has the power to cut off access in the event an approved jurisdiction is suspected of misuse.

The policy also pledges not to allow data from the city's Flock cameras to be used in immigration enforcement, because immigration is a civil matter and not within local law enforcement's jurisdiction. Other departments nationwide have allowed Immigration and Customs Enforcement to use their data.

Minnesota departments using this technology are subject to biennial audits of system access and use. ALPR data not related to an active criminal investigation must be destroyed no later than 30 days from the date of collection, with the exception of exculpatory evidence, which must be retained until a criminal matter is resolved; and data related to a participant of the address confidentiality program must be destroyed upon the written request of the participant.

Meyer said it will be "a couple months" until the cameras are installed due to the permitting process for installing the cameras at the designated locations. Installation on county roads must be approved by the Chisago County Commissioners. Cameras installed on state highways and I35 must be approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation. Once the cameras are installed, Meyer will have 10 days to register them with the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

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 brigitt@isantiacc.org
Website: isantiacc.org

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.
763-444-4035
Email: brigitt@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
Community Campfire Gathering June 3, July 1, Aug 5; 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Bring lawn chair and singing voice
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/Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.
Contemporary/Commons: 9:30 a.m.
KidZone 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 Adult Bible Study 9am
Tuesday Bible Study 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.sllchurch.org
Email: sll.church@gmail.com
8:15am Worship with fellowship following

St. John Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

28168 Jodrell St. NE, North Branch
Located 6 mi. E. of Isanti on Co. Rd. 5; (or 7 mi. W. of North Branch on Co. Rd. 5); then 1-1/2 mi. S. on Co. Rd. 12. 763-444-5988, Paul Anderson, Pastor;
Sunday 9am Worship;
10:20am Adult Bible Study;
Thursday 6:30pm Bible study.
Email: stjohnlutheran@att.net

St. John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

400 SE 8th St., (Isanti #4 E.), Braham
320-396-3103
9 :15 am 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
9 a.m. Worship
10 a.m. Coffee Hour/Fellowship
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

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

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FORECLOSURES

Minnesota.

Check here if all or part of the described real property is Registered (Torrens)

8. The physical street address, city, and zip code of the mortgaged premises: 408 Cherry Ave N, Braham, MN 55006.

OTHER FORECLOSURE DATA
9. The person holding the Mortgage:
is not a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30.

The name(s) of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are Valley Strong Credit Union.

10. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is Figure Lending LLC.

INFORMATION REGARDING FORECLOSURE

11. The requisites of Minn. Stat. 580.02 have been satisfied.

12. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$68,079.00.

13. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is: \$84,297.52.

14. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Isanti County, Minnesota, at public auction on 06/30/2026, 10:00 AM., 2440 Main St S, Cambridge, MN 55008.

15. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagor or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months after the date of sale.

16. Minn. Stat. 580.04(b) provides, "If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, the notice must also specify the date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property redeemed under section 580.23." If this statute applies, the time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. on 12/31/2026.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED

WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Name of Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:

Valley Strong Credit Union
Name and address of Attorney for Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:
Schneiderman & Sherman P.C.
8530 Eagle Point Blvd.
Suite 100
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
26-000473-1

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on April 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28; June 6, 2026

ASSUMED NAME

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333
The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: the Gaming Nirvana

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1870 2ND AVE SE STE 140 PMB 127 CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA

APPLICANT(S):
Name: ELLIOTT KLEINSCHMIDT
Address: 1870 2ND AVE SE STE 140 PMB 127 CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA

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

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

SIGNED BY: Elliott Kleinschmidt

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: elliottk@thegamingnirvana.com

Work Item 1646205800022

Original File Number 1646205800022

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

04/30/2026 11:59 PM
Steve Simon Secretary of State
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 14, 21, 2026

NOTICES

CITY OF ISANTI 2026 FILING FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Isanti will accept filings for Affidavits of Candidacy for the following municipal offices to be elected at the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026:

- Mayor – 4-Year Term
- City Councilmember (Two Seats) – 4-Year Terms

Filing Period:
Tuesday, May 19, 2026, through Tuesday, June 2, 2026.

Location & Hours For Filing:
Affidavits of Candidacy must be filed at Isanti City Hall, located at 110-1st Ave NW, Isanti, MN 55040, during regular business hours:

- Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

For June 2, 2026 only, filing will remain open until 5:00 PM.

Filing Fee:
A filing fee of \$15.00 is required at the time of filing.

Primary Election Information:

A Municipal Primary Election will be held on August 11, 2026, only if:

- More than two (2) filings are received for the Mayor seat, and/or
- More than four (4) filings are received for the City Councilmember seats.

If two (2) or fewer filings are received for the Mayor seat and four (4) or fewer filings are received for the Councilmember seats, no Municipal Primary Election will be held. In that event, the election for these offices will take place at the General Election on November 3, 2026.

For more details on running for office, visit the elections page on the

City of Isanti website.

If you have questions, contact Jaden Strand at jstrand@cityofisanti.us.

Posted: May 14, 2026

Published: May 14, 2026, May 21, 2026, May 28, 2026

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 14, 21, 28 2026

CAMBRIDGE PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Cambridge Planning Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 2, 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 Nicholas Ostman, 1440 Carriage Hills Dr S, Cambridge MN 55008; for an Interim Use Permit for the Keeping of Chickens. The legal description is part of Lot 20, Block 2, Carriage Hills 1st Addition, Isanti County, Minnesota.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – A request by Early Years Academy, Inc; PO Box 431, Cambridge MN, 55008; for site address 1155 Joy Circle SW; for an Interim Use Permit for Daycare of greater than 16 persons. The legal description is a lengthy metes & bounds descriptions including part of the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 5, Isanti Township, 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 May 21, 2026

CITY OF NORTH BRANCH ORDINANCE NO. 407-26 AMENDMENT (changes highlighted in bold)
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 and possible new additions of City-owned parks and trails systems, as well as city-owned land for athletic fields/complexes. 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,

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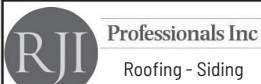
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PUBLIC NOTICES CONTINUED

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.

D. The City Council requires that a minimum of 50% of the Charitable Gambling Organizations expenditures remain in the City's trade area, which includes the City of North Branch, North Branch Township, City of Stacy, Oxford Township, City of Harris, Fish Lake Township, Sunrise Township, Chisago Lake Township

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 be 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 and can be charged with a misdemeanor by the police department pursuant to City Code Section 1-11.

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 May 21, 2026

SUMMARY PUBLICATION

Ordinance 816 amended Title XV Land Use, Chapter 115 Tobacco Regulations, Sections 115.02 Definitions, 115.03 License, & 115.06 Prohibited Sales; and Chapter 156 Zoning, Sections 156.007 Definitions and 156.040 Business Districts, to define and allow Cigar Bars in certain zoning districts. A complete copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge for inspection.

ATTEST:
Monica Seiberlich,
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Administrator

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 21, 2026

SUMMARY PUBLICATION

Ordinance 817 amended the Zoning Map for certain real property located in Section 28, Township 36, Range 23 (PINs: 03.028.3000 and 03.028.6700). The properties were changed from RA Rural Residence/

Agricultural to R-3 Multiple family residence district. This property is located west of Highway 65, north of 333rd Lane NE (2nd Ave NE), and east of the existing Isanti County highway department buildings. A complete copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge for inspection.

ATTEST:
Monica Seiberlich,
City Clerk/Assistant to the City Administrator

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 21, 2026

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ISANTI TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 30-PR-26-33

In re the Estate of Eric Richard Hanson, Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF TESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on 06/16/2026, at 2:00PM REMOTE a hearing will be held in this Court at Isanti County Courthouse, 555 18th Avenue SW, Cambridge, MN 55008, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Anthony T. Smith, whose address is 1916 Jefferson Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 5/11/2026
BY THE COURT
Carrie Doom
Judge of the District court

Dated: 5/11/26
Erin Boettcher
Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner, Anthony T. Smith
Charles M. Austinson (#0386542)
Smith Jadin Johnson, PLLC
7900 Xerxes Avenue South,
Suite 600
Bloomington, MN 55431
Telephone: (952) 500-8303
FAX: (612) 235-7927
Email:caustinson@sjlawfirm.com

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 21, 28, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP ISANTI COUNTY, MINNESOTA NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING TO CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN UPDATED RIGHT-OF-WAY ORDINANCE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of Cambridge Township will hold a special meeting on Monday, June 8, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Town Hall, 33525 Flanders St. NE, Cambridge, MN. The purpose of the meeting is to conduct a public hearing on the proposed "Cambridge Township Right-of-Way Ordinance," which updates and replaces the Town's current right-of-way ordinance. Interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing

Darrell Vosika, Clerk
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 21, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF ISANTI ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

June 2, 2026

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, June 2, 2026 at 6:30 P.M., at the Isanti City Hall located at 110 First Avenue NW, Isanti, Minnesota; the Economic Development Authority will hold a Public Hearing on the following items:
1. To consider a request for financial assistance from the EDA Revolving Loan Fund under the Restaurant Recruitment Program. The request is for a loan in the amount of \$100,000 for The Creamery Kitchen and Taphouse for the project located at 104 Main Street West Suite 104, Isanti, MN.
The summary of the terms of the proposed business subsidy request is available for inspection at City Hall, during regular business hours. After the public hearing the Authority will consider approving the granting of the business subsidy.

A person with residence in or the owner of taxable property in the granting jurisdiction may file a written complaint with the City if the City fails to comply with Sections 116J.993 to 116J.995, and no action may be filed against the City for the failure to comply unless a written complaint is filed. All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their views orally or in writing prior to the hearing.

Stephanie Hillesheim
Community Development Director
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NORTH BRANCH PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the North Branch Planning Commission will hold Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at North Branch City Hall, 6408 Elm Street, North Branch, Minnesota. The purpose of this public hearing is to allow for public testimony regarding a proposed Zoning Text Amendment to the Design Standards Chart in City Code Section 66-210 to amend side setbacks from 6 feet to 10 feet minimum for all residential zoning districts.

Applicant(s)
City of North Branch
Property Owners(s)
NA

General Location(s)
NA

Legal Description
NA

PID(s)
NA

Pertinent information about this request is on file at City Hall. Persons interested in providing comment as to this request may do so in writing at or before the public hearing. Comments may be sent to: Ryan Saltis at rsaltis@northbranchmn.gov.

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk
tkostuch@northbranchmn.gov
(651) 277-5224

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NORTH BRANCH PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the North Branch Planning Commission will hold Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at North Branch City Hall, 6408 Elm Street, North Branch, Minnesota. The purpose of this public hearing is to allow

for public testimony regarding a proposed Zoning Text Amendment to the Design Standards Chart in City Code Section 66-210 to amend the Maximum Base Density for R-3 zoned properties.

Applicant(s)
City of North Branch
Property Owners(s)
NA

General Location(s)
NA

Legal Description
NA

PID(s)
NA

Pertinent information about this request is on file at City Hall. Persons interested in providing comment as to this request may do so in writing at or before the public hearing. Comments may be sent to: Ryan Saltis at rsaltis@northbranchmn.gov.

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk
tkostuch@northbranchmn.gov
(651) 277-5224

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 21, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NORTH BRANCH PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the North Branch Planning Commission will hold Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at North Branch City Hall, 6408 Elm Street, North Branch, Minnesota. The purpose of this public hearing is to allow for public testimony regarding a proposed Zoning Text Amendment to City Code Section 66-943 relating to development design standards and potential amendments to the design overlay district map.

Applicant(s)
City of North Branch
Property Owners(s)
NA

General Location(s)
NA

Legal Description
NA

PID(s)
NA

Pertinent information about this request is on file at City Hall. Persons interested in providing comment as to this request may do so in writing at or before the public hearing. Comments may be sent to: Ryan Saltis at rsaltis@northbranchmn.gov.

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk
tkostuch@northbranchmn.gov
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CLASSIFIEDS

102 Services
Alterations and clothing repairs, 25 years experience. 320-396-4152 Contact Rosemary. Braham

Designs by Jeff: Custom airbrushing, vehicle wraps, fleet graphics, signs, logo designs. Over 35 years of experience. DesignsByJeff.com 763-443-3135

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150 Help Wanted
BUSINESS MANAGER - Siren School District seeks Business Manager. School business office experience preferred. Knowledge of fund accounting, DPI reporting, budgeting & Skyward helpful. Degree in accounting/business/finance preferred. Salary DOE. lseaman@siren.k12.wi.us or WECAN. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted
DRESSER, WI - Full-time Public Works. Street/utility repair & maintenance. CDL required or obtainable. Benefits included. Submit cover letter, resume & references to vod@centurytel.net or villageofdresser.com. Open until filled. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted
HELP WANTED: Local small business is hiring for a part-time house cleaning position. Must be a hard working, self motivated individual with attention to detail and reliable transportation. Training provided. Call 612-244-6714

150 Help Wanted
ELECTRIC UTILITY FACILITY TECHNICIAN - Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Co., Grantsburg, WI, 40 hrs/week. Plant operation, maintenance, repairs. HS diploma, mechanical skills required. Training provided. Apply by 5-29-26: danathrongard@nweco.com or PO Box 9, Grantsburg, WI 54840. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted
ELEMENTARY LITTLE PIRATES AIDE - Grantsburg School District. FT, 9-month, 4K position. Energetic, creative person needed to support lead teachers in classroom and playground. Apply via WECAN or call 715-463-2320. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted
ELEMENTARY teachers (2) - Siren School District, NW Wisconsin. FT, 2026-2027 school year. Start 8-20-2026. Coaching positions also available. Send materials to Carrie Herman, Principal, 24022 4th Ave, Siren, WI 54872. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted
OSCEOLA, WI - Northwire, Inc. Job Fair, June 4, 6:30 AM-6:30 PM, 110 Prospect Way. Production positions, all shifts. Signing bonus, direct hire, on-spot interviews. Full benefits. northwire.com/about-us/careers Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted
Press Publications NOW HIRING Contributing Writer Topics may include: Recreation, local events and personalities, nature and stories from around the lake. Please, send resume and three writing clips to whitebearnews@presspubs.com

150 Help Wanted
Press Publications Now Hiring Full-Time STAFF WRITER Responsibilities: Coordinating editorial content and layout for our newspapers and website. Candidate should have a degree in Journalism (or related field) and relevant experience. Please send resume to White-BearNews@PressPubs.com along with three writing samples.

150 Help Wanted
Plastech Corporation in Rush City, MN is now hiring Press Operators for all 3 shifts. \$16-\$18 per hour. Find more details at www.plastechcorporation.com

150 Help Wanted
PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES (2) - Village of Clayton, Polk County, WI with full benefits. Water/waste-water systems, streets, parks & equipment maintenance. CDL & certifications required or obtainable within 1 year. Pay DOQ. vclaytonct@amerytel.net Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted
REPORTER: The Sun in Osceola, Wis., and the Country Messenger, in Scandia/Marine on St. Croix, Minn., are looking for a freelance reporter to help report the news of our communities. Send resume and writing clips to: Matt Anderson, editor, c/o The Sun, PO Box 248, Osceola, WI 54020 or email: editor@osceolasun.com.

150 Help Wanted
ROOFERS, Experienced, flat roofing, McPhillips Bros. Roofing, North St. Paul, MN. Competitive wages, health, dental, life insurance, profit sharing & 401k. Email: kim@mcphillipsbros.com or apply at 2590 Centennial Drive. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted
SCANDIA, MN - Part-time Office Assistant, 21-28 hrs/wk. Office support, permits, website/social media, newsletters. HS diploma, 1 yr experience, valid driver's license required. \$22-\$25/hr. Apply by June 15. cityofscandia.com Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

152 Seasonal
NEED EXTRA CASH!
Starting May 18th, we need some seasonal help.
10-25hrs per week. Loading and unloading equipment for customers. Cleaning and some simple maintenance.
Apply in person. We are looking forward to meeting you.
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301 Farm Misc
Retiring - Selling Hay Equipment
Sturgeon Lake Area 218-380-3332 (Jim) 2022 Inline-Rake, Enorossi RT9, 9 wheel hydro lift.
2015 John Deere Diskbine 635 Moco, 11-5 cut
2019 John Deere Baler 460 mega-wide, flotation tires, net wrap, 4'x6' bales.
706 International Farm tractor, diesel with cab. Heavy duty loader. Case International with bucket and grapple. Flotation tires front and back.

358 Firewood
FIREWOOD 16" oak or mixed. Delivery. Custom processing. Tree/yard debris clean up. Ed Johnson 763-220-9308
2 cord loads of 16" mixed hardwood, oak, or birch \$475. 2 cord loads of 20" oak \$450. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815.
Need a Legal Published? Call 763.689.1181

361 Lawn & Garden
Fully decomposed black cow manure \$150 free local delivery 320-224-9878

362 Miscellaneous
17 Alumacraft canoe model QTC17C with 3 paddles and 3 Gander Mountain seat cushions. Like new condition- only used about 3 times. Paid about \$1000 for all, \$500 cash. Cambridge 763-350-3540.
Buying sports card collections call Tom 612-701-7396

369 Want to Buy
CASH FOR VINTAGE CLOTHING! Got old clothes in the attic, basement, or barn? Stinky, torn, or stained? Doesn't bother me! 612-400-2825

401 Auctions
Thursday, June 4, 10:00 a.m. Living Estate Auction. Gary Koland, Owner. 64385 Hammond Rd., Finlayson, MN. Restored Model T Pickup, Collector's Cars and Vehicles, Tractors and Machinery, Gas Engines and Garden Tractors, Collectibles, Firearms and Sporting, Shop and Misc. Reinhardt Auction Service, Auctioneers: Steve Reinhardt, lic. #01-12, Carol Reinhardt, lic. #01-15, www.reinhardtauctions.com, 218-845-2260.

404 Garage Sales
YOU CAN'T MISS THIS ONE! Huge Moving Sale. Everything must go. High quality items, tools, furniture, antiques, collectibles, books and household items. cash only. 60+ yrs of accumulation. 9-5 May 21 -23 May 24 9-2, 18302 Edgewater rd NE, Pine City.

452 Rentals/Residential
Saturday, May 30th, 9:30 a.m. Bob Anderson Living Estate Sale. 2853 Highway 65, Mora. Antiques & Collectibles, Tractors, Farm & Garden, Sporting Goods, Traps, Guns & Ammo. Chelsey Brook Farm Auction Co., Auctioneer, David Anderson, License # 33-26. 320-364-0847.
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FOR RENT IN PINE CITY: one bedroom apartment-1st level, \$800 deposit, \$800 per month no pets, no smoking, call Sandy 763-464-4129

The Classifieds
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Wage is \$17-\$19/hour plus attainable bonuses

Sales Representative

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Responsibilities include display ads, inserts and special page/section ad sales in newspapers, shoppers and online.

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

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