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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023
VOL. 117 NO. 8 COUNTYSTAR.COM

THE STRUGGLE IS REAL: Jacket, Viking teams fall frustratingly short during postseason. **PAGE 8**



CONTRIBUTED

The Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket Mock Trial team, comprised of (front row, from left) Sydney Lorsung, Mahkaela Francis, Alison Hernandez, (back row) Coach Michael Galligan, Elijah Olson, Kylie Venhuizen, Sophia Masters, Thomas Moran, Blake Neubauer, Niko Pearson, and Kaden Kaar; will be competing in U.S. Federal District Court during the state competition March 2 and 3.

CIHS Mock Trial found guilty of beating all competition, sentenced to return to state

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

For the second consecutive year, Cambridge-Isanti's Mock Trial team is advancing to the state competition. And as an added bonus, this year's state competition will be live, rather than virtual like last year.

The Bluejacket Mock Trial team just completed a consecutive undefeated season, winning the Apollo Invitational Tournament, going 4-0 in the Regional regular season, defeating Chislm, Apollo, Buffalo, and Glencoe. They clinched their trip to state by defeating Apollo a second time in the Region 1 finals. The team maintained a first or second place ranking out of 20 teams in the Minnesota Northern Division Super Region throughout the season.

Mock Trial is a competition where teams of students from schools portray lawyers and witnesses as they argue a fictional case in front of actual judges against an opposing high school. The judges score each team members' performance, including everything from lead and assistant attorneys, witnesses, and even bailiffs, with the team's total score deciding the outcome.

This year's team is led by senior co-captains Sophia Masters and Thomas Moran, accompanied by senior standout performers Elijah Olson, Blake Neubauer, and Kylie Venhuizen. Underclassmen contributing their expertise and gifted performance are Junior Alison Hernandez and Sophomores Mahkaela Francis and Sydney Lorsung. The team is supported by the hard work of the Timekeeper and Bailiff roles played by freshmen Kaden Kaar and Niko Pearson.

Mock Trial season begins with case preparation in mid October through December and a scrimmage just before Christmas Break. The competition season runs from January through early March.

"This team was laser focused and incredibly determined in their hard working effort to attempt to make another run into the post-season," said coach Michael Galligan. "The coaching staff couldn't be more proud of the professional and poised nature they all exhibited through a grueling season of perfecting their case and practicing their craft."

The state competition will be held on March 2 and 3 in the Federal U.S. District Court building in St. Paul.

Isanti County Administrator finalists revealed

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

After conducting their own search for a new county administrator, the Isanti County Commissioners have announced three finalists have emerged as front-runners for the position — Chad Struss, Camille Hepola, and Tom Mortenson.

Struss is the most well-known name and the only finalist currently working for the county. He is the current Chief Financial Officer, more commonly known as the county auditor-treasurer. Hepola's name may sound familiar to some, but for other reasons. She is the former KARE11 weekend



Chad Struss

16 years in various duties within the auditor-treasurer department.

Hepola's name may sound familiar to some, but for other reasons. She is the former KARE11 weekend

SEE FINALISTS, PAGE 5

Isanti County Commissioner meetings to be live streamed

BY BILL STICKELS III
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

In an effort to make government meetings more accessible to the general public, the Isanti County Board of Commissioners is joining an increasing list of government agencies who will be live streaming its meetings.

According to IT Manager Trisha Wentworth, the county can begin streaming the commissioners' regular meetings as early as their next meeting on Tuesday, March 7, assuming there are no technical glitches. She said there will be a link to the live stream on the county's website in the same place as the agendas are found. To find the agenda, go to co.isanti.mn.us/agenda-center/county-board-of-commissioners-2.

"There will be a little TV icon," Wentworth said. Currently, the commis-

sioners' meetings are recorded, however it typically takes a couple days for the recording to be placed on the website. Because of that, Wentworth said no additional money needed to be spent and no new equipment needed to be installed in order to live stream.

At first, it will only be the regular meetings that will be live streamed, Wentworth said. However, in the future, they may expand it to the Committee of the Whole meetings as well.

The Isanti City Council recently approved live streaming its meetings via YouTube and possibly Facebook Live, however the city needed to purchase and install some new equipment in order to guarantee a quality stream. The city of Braham has also indicated it is looking into live streaming its meetings.



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Nashville artist's new song recalls growing up in Isanti

BY STACY VERDICK CASE
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Minnesotans know singer/songwriter and Isanti County native Troy Castellano's music even if they don't know his name. Castellano has written several local jingles including the Minnesota Russco earworm. But now he hopes to catch on with the country music scene as well. On Feb. 10, Castellano released a new single, "Hell We Raised," inspired by his childhood growing up in Isanti County.

STARTING AT AN EARLY AGE

Castellano got his first guitar when he was three, "A toy one. I remember probably around seven or eight, telling my mom I wanted a real guitar, and that Christmas, I got an electric guitar and amp from Sears."

His mom was the first person he ever wrote a song for though he wasn't able to play it for her. "I wrote a verse and I called mom to come downstairs 'I wanna play something for you'. And then she sits down and looks me right in the eye and I was nervous. I'm like I can't do it. I couldn't play it for her."

He learned to play guitar from one of his teachers at Isanti Primary. "Mr. Woodall. He looked like Wolfman Jack. I would stay after and he taught me the basic chords and I think one of the first songs I learned from him was 'Country Roads' by John Denver."

Mr. Woodall wasn't the only local teacher who encouraged Castellano in his music career. Local band teacher Mr. Anderson also helped guide him to his career, "he realized that I wanted to be in the band room, but I didn't want to be in a band. I kept coming in there and looking when he'd bring his guitar. He wrote me a pass out of my study hall. He said, 'you can come down here every day, I'm gonna bring my guitar, you can play it too.'"

Eventually, this interaction led to Castellano's first recording of an original song. "I had written this song (and) he said, can you stay after school for a little bit? He got the other two music teachers, one played drums, one played keyboards, and (Anderson) played bass and I play guitar and they all learned my song and we recorded it."

Over the years Castellano played in different cover bands around the Twin Cities. "I would go through these cycles 'let's just go play have fun' and then, 'oh man I really want to create (my own music).' I wanted to create but those

bands weren't the outlet." In his words, "I'd rather create than imitate."

To that end, in 2014 Castellano moved to Nashville to pursue his career as a songwriter. "If you've got music in your heart and soul. This is a place to be. There's just so many like-minded people."

Since moving to Nashville, Castellano has written over 500 songs to varying degrees of success. His song "Grateful" was recorded by Chris Golden and reached number 1 on the country christian charts. Keith Urban had one of his songs on hold in 2017, but ultimately it didn't make the cut for Urban's album. Two of his songs were used in the series finale of the TNT television show "Claws."

"You just never know where things are gonna go. I'm always pitching songs."

NOT ONE TO JUST TAKE

A few years back songwriter Victoria Banks approached Castellano to see if he knew of anyone who might be willing to donate a keyboard. Banks, whose husband is a teacher, needed one to use in his classroom to teach his students the phases of the moon. Castellano had an old Casio that his kids weren't using anymore so he graciously donated the instrument.

As a thank you, he received a video. "The students all wrote the lyrics together in this video. They are all arm and arm, like a kumbaya moment. They're all arm and arm and, and singing so loud that he had to calm them down. And I just looked at that and I said, you know, that's the teacher, that's getting through, and he's doing it with music."

Seeing this inspired Castellano to do more. He started asking his musician friends if they had instruments they weren't using. He asked if he could get them into the hands of students would they be willing to donate the instruments?

They agreed.

In 2018 Castellano formed Instruments for Education, a 501C non-profit that connects instruments that are no longer used to students in need in and around Nashville. "Since 2018 we've donated over 560 instruments."

"When I moved to Nashville, it was like, hey, can you introduce me to . . .? Can you play my song? Hey, can you do . . .? I felt like I was always asking more than I was giving. And that was another reason why I started Instruments for Education. I don't want to be that guy who's always taking. I want to



JEANNE CASTELLANO | CONTRIBUTED

In an effort to encourage kids to play music, Castellano has formed Instruments for Education, a non-profit that connects instruments that are no longer used to students in need.

give. I want to give back and give back to kids."

The dream of giving back to kids is still in its fledgling stages, set back a little by the pandemic, but Castellano hopes to expand the organization. First to the whole of Tennessee and then possibly nationwide. "Right now, I'm a one-man show. We need to get some grants and we need to get some funding that actually grows this beyond where we're at. That's probably the most frustrating part is trying to grow with no budget."

The organization has found some help from the music industry in Nashville. Instruments for Education has been able to host some auctions to help raise funds thanks to artists like Keith Urban who donated eight tour-used guitars from his 2011 Defying Gravity Tour. "He left a note which is on our Instruments for Education website that said, 'share this with the kids.' I sent him some videos of some of the kids receiving the guitars. He's a big star. I'm very thankful that he donated those guitars."

Most recently, the organization received a special donation at one of its instrument drop locations. An acoustic guitar was placed in the drop box with a note that read, "we found this guitar in the debris of the 2020 Nashville tornado and we put it all over social networks to find out if anyone would claim it. We did it for quite a while and nobody claimed it. So we're donating it to you."

The guitar which was surprisingly undamaged from the storm had signatures on it. "It was from the 2010 Play On, Carrie Underwood tour. It was signed by Carrie and signed



by Billy Currington. There's a couple of other faded signatures. Maybe the rain washed it out or something. Amazingly the guitar is in total, 100% shape, no cracks, not busted up, it's actually playable."

Instruments for Education, instrumentsforeducation.org, will be auctioning the Carrie Underwood guitar so they can purchase other instruments with the proceeds.

HELL WE RAISED

Though he's in Nashville Castellano's roots are still here in Isanti County, and his new single 'Hell We Raised' is about growing up here. The song has a strong contemporary country feel, and mentions local landmarks like camping by the Rum River and "laying rubber on Whiskey Road."

The song relives memories that as a parent Castellano is grateful his kids aren't participating in. "I look back now

and it's like, man, that's why I say in the song 'things we shouldn't have done.' The one line says 16 going on 21 because we were doing all those things that you're supposed to be 21 before you're allowed to do it."

There is a definite nostalgic hook to the song that Castellano hopes to pair with vintage photos of Isanti in the 1970s and 80s in the upcoming music video for the song.

The song is gaining momentum online, "everybody seems to be receiving it really well up there," but Castellano hopes for more. "It would be so cool. If we could get K102 to spin it. That would be awesome."

"Hell We Raised" can be streamed on Spotify, and Apple Music, and is available on iTunes. Links to where you can listen to the song are on his official website TroyCastellano.com.



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MONDAYS

North Branch – Fresh Beginnings Al-anon Family Groups

From 7 to 8 p.m. at Access Church, 4359 392nd Street. Free childcare is provided. Visit minnesotanorth-al-anon.org.

Senior Activity Center Cambridge

Bridge 1-3 p.m. 140 Buchanan St N #164, Cambridge, MN

Exercise with Connie

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. From 10:30-11:30 a.m.

500 Cards

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

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

Boxing for Those with Parkinson's

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 115 Adams Street South, Cambridge. For more information, call 763-221-6883.

In-person Senior Dining

Braham Event Center at 11:45 a.m. Diners need to pre-register at least one day in advance by calling North Branch Catholic Charities at 651-674-1956 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. A completed annual registration form is required before dining.

TUESDAYS

A Memory Café

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Heritage Center at GracePointe Crossing, 322 River Hills Place North Cambridge, MN

Braham Parkinson's Support Group

7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church, 905 Central Drive W., Braham. For more information call Lonnie Anderson at 612-423-1863.

Alzheimer's Support Group

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10-11 a.m. at GracePointe Heritage Center, 322 River Hills Place North, Cambridge. For info contact Lyndsey Larson at 763-691-6172.

Senior Activity Center Cambridge

Hand & Foot noon -3 p.m. 140 Buchanan St N #164, Cambridge, MN

Chisago County Senior Center Music

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



Kids 5 and up are invited to North Branch Public Library each Thursday from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. or the Cambridge Library on Monday, Feb. 27 from 4 to 5 p.m. for building with Lego bricks and other materials.

meal 11:15 a.m.

Knitting Night

Come stitch at the North Branch Library starting at 6:30 p.m. All experience levels welcome. Materials will be provided or bring your own project.

WEDNESDAYS

Senior Activity Center Cambridge

Cribbage 9-11am, Wizard 11-12:30, Pinochle 12:30-3 p.m. 140 Buchanan St N #164, Cambridge, MN

Preschool Storytime at NB Library

Jan. 11 through April 26 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Preschool storytime is designed for children ages 3-5, and siblings are always welcome. No registration necessary.

Exercise with Connie

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. From 10:30-11:30 a.m.

DivorceCare

Feb. 8 – May 10, 6:30 – 8p.m., in the Fireside Rm and follow the same schedule as the kids/student programming so will not meet on MAR 15 or APR 5. Families with children K-12 are encouraged to utilize our kids and student ministry options. Call First Baptist Church, 304 Main Street South, Cambridge to register at 763.689.1173. www.firstbaptistcambridge.org

THURSDAYS

East Central Baby Cafe

Free drop-in breastfeeding support from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the upper-level conference room at the Adult Enrichment Center, 540 5th Ave NW, Cambridge, MN. For more information, call 763-689-1711.

Baby Storytime Cambridge Library

Jan. 26 through March 9 at 9:30 a.m. Each storytime will include reading, singing, and playing. This program is recommended for newborns up to 23 months. We will meet in the Discovery Center, located in the children's area of the library.

Building Bricks Free Play

Kids ages 5 and up are invited to the North Branch Library to build with Lego bricks and other materials from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. through March.

Cambridge-Edgewood AFG

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

Senior Activity Center Cambridge

500 noon-3 p.m. 140 Buchanan St N #164, Cambridge, MN

Parkinson's Support Group for 2023

3rd Thursday of the month – 1-2:30 p.m. Walker Methodist Levande, 2011

6th Lane SE, Cambridge, MN for more information call 763-325-0100

Jammin' with Joe

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. From 1-2:30 p.m.

FRIDAYS

Exercise with Connie

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. From 10:30-11:30 a.m.

FEBRUARY 23

We R Able Concert with Jenni Thyng

We R Able invites area residents to enjoy a musical performance by Jenni Thyng of North Branch at the Chisago County Senior Center at 6 p.m. For more information call 320-358-3616. The address for the event is 38790 6th Ave., North Branch.

Teen Board Game Night

at the North Branch Library from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Games and snacks will be provided. The North Branch Area Library is located at 6355 379th St., North Branch, and can be reached at 651-674-8443. For more information, visit eclib.org.

FEBRUARY 25

Gardening with a Changing Climate

A Master Gardener Lecture In Person – 10 a.m. at the Cambridge Public Library. No registration necessary for this event. Everyone is welcome to join us in the Great Northern Room on the lower level of the library.

FEBRUARY 27

Lego Club

Kids ages 5 and up are invited to build with Lego bricks and other materials at the Cambridge Library from 4 to 5 p.m.

MARCH 3

ScholarDazzle

6 - 9 p.m. at The Braham Event Center. We look forward to gathering with friends and colleagues to support Cambridge Campus students and their education. To learn more about how you can get involved, purchase tickets, or become an event sponsor, visit www.scholarDazzle.com.

Common Ground Concert Series

Presents Kenny Krona with special guest Ed Schmidt. 7 p.m. at Common Ground United Methodist Church, 404 Cypress St. N., Cambridge. Purchase tickets at www.showtix4u.com/event-details/70489.

North Branch development has slowed, but still steady

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

A host of interdependent factors keep North Branch appealing to potential businesses and developers, who still call the city daily to inquire about opportunities.

This was the upshot of a presentation by Jason Ziemer, the city's Community Development Director, to the North Branch Area Chamber of Commerce.

Ziemer, who has been with the city for eight months now, described the state of the city as "positive and excited." He said development is slowing a bit but interest remains strong.

"We have not necessarily seen a drop," he said. "A lot of it is just trying to find the right fit."

North Branch's distance from a metro area can be "both a blessing and a challenge," he said, "especially when you're trying to convince a developer we're not really that far from Minneapolis-Saint Paul."

The city's strengths include housing diversity, school strength, small business health,

active living, and community investment in the form of taxes, Ziemer said.

"They all kind of go together," he said. "You can't really have one without the other."

Ziemer said the city and businesses need to tell the story of what makes North Branch unique and leverage that to attract development. "How do we convince them to come out here and take a chance?" he asked.

Ziemer said his priority is supporting small businesses, particularly in downtown. "Small business is really the lifeblood of everything," he said, later adding "Downtown is the heart of every community."

Ziemer also brought specific details on developments in progress, too: construction on the new Chipotle Mexican Grill and Starbucks Coffee Company will begin on April 23. Each of the two buildings will feature a drive-through or drive-up option.

Ziemer also said two tenants are "hopefully" signing leases soon for the North Branch Outlet Mall, with a "couple" more interested in leasing.

Help catch leprechauns at Rush City Library

BY ECRL
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Calling all builders, tinkerers, and engineers. The Rush City Public Library has been overrun by leprechauns, and they need your help. Join Leprechauns on the Loose and help them catch these mischief-makers. Here's how:

•**March 1 to 15:** Build a leprechaun trap at home, then bring it to the library. Traps are due by 5 p.m. Thursday, March 16, so we can catch the leprechauns when they come out on St. Patrick's Day (March 17).

•**March 21 and 22:** Return to the library and receive a report on how successful your trap was and receive a small prize for

your help.

•**March 30:** Your inventive traps will be on display for all to see at the library until March 30.

•**March 30-April 1:** Pick up your trap and bring it home. Traps remaining after April 1 will be discarded.

This program is geared toward kids of preschool and school age. Registration is required and now open on the events calendar at eclib.org. Space is limited.

The Rush City Public Library, a branch of the East Central Regional Library system, is located at 240 W. 4th St., Rush City, and can be reached at 320-358-3948. Visit eclib.org or follow the library on Facebook and Instagram (@eclmn) for more news and events.

Who is responsible when not wearing seatbelts?

Question: Last week there was an auto accident that left one adult and three children dead. There were no seat belts or child restraints used. Who can be held responsible in this crash?



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Answer: If there is a crash, the driver is ultimately responsible for the safety of everyone in the vehicle. As a driver it is important to protect all passengers by simply making sure everyone is properly seat belted in the vehicle.

If stopped by law enforcement outside of the scenario of a crash, the driver or adult passenger not wearing a seatbelt will be issued a citation. The driver will be issued the citation for any juveniles not wearing a seat belt or children who are not properly restrained.

MINNESOTA CAR SEAT LAW AND STEPS

In Minnesota, all children must be in a child safety seat until they are 4' 9" tall, or at least age 8, whichever comes first.

•Rear-facing seats: All infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing car seat until they have reached the height and weight limits allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

•Forward-facing seats with harness: Toddlers and preschool-age children who have reached the height and weight limits of the rear-facing car seat should use a forward-facing seat with harness until they reach the weight limit of the harness allowed by the car seat manufacturer.

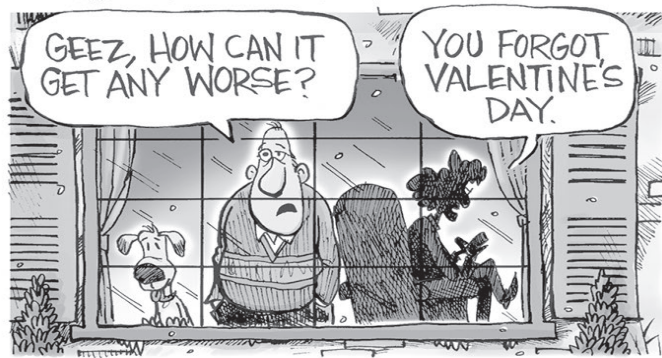
•Booster seats: School-age children who have reached the height and weight limits of the forward-facing seat can sit on a booster seat. The booster must be used with a lap and shoulder belt.

•Seat belts: Buckling up with a seat belt is for children 8 years old or who have reached 4 feet 9 inches. Your children are ready for adult seat belts when they can sit with their back against the vehicle seat, knees bent comfortably and completely over the seat edge without slouching, and feet touching the floor.

THE LAW IS FOR SAFETY

Minnesota law states that drivers and passengers in all seating positions must wear seat belts or be in the correct child restraint. Belts should be tight across the hips or thighs and should never be tucked under the arm or behind the back.

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 Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Perpetuation of false voter fraud claims

To the editor,

President Trump created the "Big Lie" of election fraud and voter irregularity. The lie was perpetuated infinitely until his followers believed it to be true. The lie has become a GOP obsession despite there being no legitimate proof and some 60 lost legal claims.

Our four GOP U.S. Representatives, including Pete Stauber, are marching to Trump's tune as just this past week they wrote MN Secretary of State, Steve Simon, urging him to investigate the problem of aliens voting in our elections. Their baseless claim reeks of race-baiting. Simon's office responded that aliens voting in our elections did not constitute a problem. The state has approximately 3.5 million registered voters and between the years 2018-2021, there were only 62 convictions involving voter irregularity of any kind.

Following his election in 2016 Trump claimed he had not only won the electoral count, but the popular vote as well. He created a Commission, headed by the Kansas Secretary of State, Kris Kobach to investigate voter fraud. Kobach examined 20 years of voting records in a county that had 130,000 registered voters. Of the millions of votes cast over those years only 40 non-citizens attempted to register to vote. It was further determined that most of these 40 attempted to register by mistake or confusion while only five actually voted. The President's own Commission proved that no significant voter fraud existed.

Just as Stauber, Emmer, Fischbach and Finstad pressed on with the Big Lie an audio recording was released of a meeting of Wisconsin officials held two days after the 2020 election where Wisconsin Trump Campaign Chair, Andrew Iverson recognized the Biden election win, but also said, "Here's the drill...we'll fan the flames...we'll do what they need...be on standby in case there's stunts we need to pull." As one who's been an election judge and Civics teacher, I believe in the validity and integrity of our elections; gerrymandering and voter suppression aside.

Pete Boelter
North Branch

Was 'Orange Frog' worth it?

To the editor,

I did not participate in an Orange Frog workshop and have no comment from personal experience, but I have kept up with the articles on the topic in the local newspapers. The Feb. 16 editions reported on the February 7 meeting of the Isanti County Commissioners and gave

insight as to why the Orange Frog Happiness Advantage program was considered costly and subsequently canceled. These costs seem to have resulted in a large part from how the delivery of the program was structured:

- The facilitators from the International Thought Leader Network conducted the workshops personally and incurred expenses for airline travel from their east coast headquarters, lodging and meals while here
- Supplies for the workshops were shipped here individually for each session
- Salaries for their time spent conducting the workshops were incurred
- And possibly ancillary expenses.

According to the inside cover of the 2022 Orange Frog Happiness calendar, the Orange Frog workshops were the means to implement a wellness initiative targeted at offsetting the mental health effects of Covid-19. (The calendar was available to the public at the April 2022 Senior Fair). That goal is admirable and Commissioner Berg's comment in the Star indicated that he heard from people who appreciated the program and got positive encouragement from it. He further indicated that one of the issues in our community is isolation.

To Commissioner Berg's point, I saw an interview in January with Robert Waldinger MD of Harvard on PBS's Amanpour and Company discussing the book "The Good Life: Lessons from the World's Longest Scientific Study on Happiness." It's a study that began in 1938 comparing two groups: Harvard undergraduates and at risk youth from Boston neighborhoods. Dr. Waldinger stated that "life is hard and can hit you head on but being engaged with people that you care about and that care for you acts as a safety net to help us get through the challenges in our life." He further commented that "relationships are more important to our health than one's cholesterol level and that being more engaged in community life helps us deal with aging and loneliness." He added that the growth of technology in our lives has taken time away from other activities: volunteering, club memberships and church attendance among others. Covid has made the situation worse.

Perhaps a follow-up survey of participating workshop groups would be helpful in measuring whether the program was successful in meeting its stated mission. The atmosphere surrounding the program is still too heated so time will need to pass for objective responses.

Eileen Stitz
Cambridge

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NEWS DEADLINE:
Noon Monday

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CLASSIFIED DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

LEGALS DEADLINE:
Noon Monday



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FINALISTS: Candidates to be interviewed by entire commissioners 9 a.m. Tuesday

FROM PAGE 1

news anchor, along with her husband, Cory, who himself was recently in the news as a third-party candidate for governor of Minnesota.

Most recently, Hepola has worked as a senior administrative manager for Hennepin County. According to a report in the Aug. 24, 2022 Pioneer Press, she was one of five finalists for the position of city manager for North St. Paul.

Mortenson is the least known finalist. He was briefly the county administrator for Becker County in 2011. According to an article in the Detroit Lakes Tribune that was published at the time of his hiring, Mortenson is a retired colonel who held key positions involving the US's involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq. He also served as Emergency Preparedness Li-

'Everyone on the panel agreed those three rose to the top.'

Julia Lines

Current Isanti County Administrator

aision Officer for the Army Reserve during Hurricane Katrina, according to the article.

According to current County Administrator Julia Lines, she, along with Chair Mike Warring and Vice Chair Alan Duff conducted initial interviews of 25 candidates who had applied for the position. The list was narrowed down to 10 based on candidates' qualifications. Those 10 received phone screening interviews from those three, along with Isanti County

Probation Director Tim MacMillan and Human Resources Generalist Sharon Katka.

"We are very happy with those top three candidates," Lines said. "Everyone on the panel agreed those three rose to the top. So it was an easy discussion at the end of the day."

"That process went really well," Duff said.

All three finalists will be interviewed by the entire board of commissioners during their Committee of the Whole meeting at 9 a.m. on Feb. 28. According to Duff, each interview should take approximately one hour. This meeting is open to the public. The commissioners may vote on their choice at their March 7 meeting.

Whoever is chosen will replace Lines, who turned in her resignation back in late January. Her last day on the job is slated for March 9.

All North Branch Water & Light applicants to be interviewed

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The current four remaining North Branch Water and Light Commission members, whose terms technically expired at the beginning of the new year, will have their terms extended another month.

After posting for applications for the five-person commission, the city received five applications for seats on the commission, including one from council member Peter Schaps, who was recently disqualified by the city council from serving due to his position on the city council. Schaps had served on the commission for four-and-a-half years according to his application.

Three of the remaining applicants currently sit on the commission — Commission Chair Nathan Keech, Phil Carlson, and Sean Peterson. Current commission member James Baxter did not reapply. The fourth applicant, Patrick Meacham, finished an appointed term on the city council in December 2022, but opted against running for re-election. While on the council, Meacham was also part of the NBW&L's transition team (along with current councilmember Kelly Neider), which was formed as part of NBW&L's "winding down." Rather than giving the three current commission members a "free pass" back onto the commission as was originally proposed, the North Branch city council will now conduct interviews of all four applicants.

Councilmember Kelly Neider first suggested only Meacham should need to go through an interview. When appointing members to the Planning Commission, Neider said, the council agreed that prior service on other committees or the council did not exempt candidates from interviews. In fairness to Lorraine Moeller, the Planning Commission applicant who had not served in the past and thus had to undergo an interview, Meacham should be interviewed, too, she said.

Neider was informed that the planning commission interviews had been performed already by Community Development Director Jason Ziemer and council member Travis Miles, a decision which was made by the council at the Jan. 10 meeting.

Neider said she was expecting them to come before the council for interviews, with Schaps agreeing.

"It's the council's decision, for most everything we do here," Schaps said.

Mayor Kevin Schieber assigned the task to Ziemer on the record at the Jan. 10 meeting and asked if anyone else on the council wanted to be part of the interviews. After a pause, Miles was the only council member to express interest, with council member Bob Canada volunteering as an alternate.

Returning to the NBW&L applications, Neider restated her opinion that

interviewing current commissioners was unnecessary, and only Meacham should be required to interview.

But, as council member Miles pointed out, Moeller's status meant both candidates underwent interviews for the planning commission — thus, all four eligible NBW&L applicants should be interviewed.

A motion to interview only Meacham failed 3-2, with Neider and Schaps casting the yes votes. A motion to interview all four candidates then passed 3-2 along the same lines.

The council scheduled interviews beginning at 5 p.m. before its next regular meeting on Feb. 28. Appointments will be discussed at the March 14 regular meeting.

LENT ANNEXATION OFFICIAL (AGAIN)

The annexation of a portion of Lent Township, agreed upon last year, was again on the agenda during the Feb. 14 meeting. Due to Lent Township's plans to merge with the city of Stacy, several property owners on the border between Lent Township and the city of North Branch had requested to be annexed into the city of North Branch instead. According to City Administrator Renae Fry, both municipalities filed paperwork with the state but did not publish a map in a newspaper of record. The cities have since remedied this and will re-file.

The council also revisited the topic of contacting city staff outside normal working hours. Fry told the council that in the event of a "true emergency," when there is an immediate need to protect the citizens or public assets, the city has a preparedness action plan.

Council and staff did not confirm any specific incidents, but the issue came up after city clerk Ragini Varma sent out an email about the initial special closed session to evaluate Fry, which was originally scheduled for Jan. 19 after council members Neider and Peter Schaps requested it. Such meetings require three business days' notice to the public.

The email was sent on Sunday, Jan. 15. The following day was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, an official government holiday.

Canada inquired about overtime when staff are asked to work weekends, which Fry told him was not a factor as most city staff involved in scheduling meetings are salaried.

"It's not a cost factor; it is, however, a courtesy factor," Fry said. "To expect that staff are going to be available at 4 o'clock on a Sunday afternoon, particularly on a holiday weekend, was concerning to me."

Fry said contacting the mayor is a more appropriate action if a council member feels a situation is an emergency.

City of Cambridge looks towards eventful future

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

While the city of Cambridge continues to bask in the glow of current growth, city officials are even more excited about the not-so-distant future of the city.

"We have a lot of businesses and developments coming on live here," Mayor Jim Godfrey said. "Coming up in 2023, of course the only one anyone ever talked about (Pizza Ranch). Especially on social media, it seems like this was the only thing that was happening in Cambridge."

Seriously, however, Godfrey mentioned a lengthy list of businesses and residential developments that have opened or are about to open, including the third Kwik Trip, which will be located near the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Cambridge Campus; Scooters Coffee, which is being built on Highway 95 just west of the railroad tracks; Embrace Orthodontists, which is constructing new offices next to Culver's; and Popeye's Chicken, which is planned to be built next to the new MinnCo building.

But the most exciting news that Godfrey could announce was the old Ben Franklin building on Main Street has finally been purchased. According to Godfrey, Thistle & Ivory, a home decor retailer just closed on the building and will be remodeling it, with hopes of opening up later this summer.

All of that, though, is just the tip of the iceberg of what's to come in the next two or three years. There are two major projects almost definitely set to take place, with another two major projects with the potential of coming to fruition.

The project with the most certainty is the new Cambridge Medical Center. Although Allina just announced a delay in the beginning of construction, the new medical center will become a reality. The next nearly certain project is the expansion of Highway 95 through downtown.

The two potential projects include the Northern Lights Express passenger train project that has found new life at the state and federal level due to an emphasis by politicians to fund infrastructure projects. With that project, Cambridge is being looked at as the second depot stop as the train makes its way from the Twin Cities to Duluth.

The second potential project is a wellness/community center for the area. The feasibility of such a project is in the initial stages of being studied, with surveys of area residents set to begin within the next week.

"The purpose of this project is to explore the possibility of adding a wellness center/community center to make us something of a regional hub," Godfrey said. "We also want to explore



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge Mayor Jim Godfrey

avenues to provide a top-of-the-line community amenity with minimal tax impact. Nothing about this is predetermined. The (feasibility) committee has said 'we need something to meet the need, what is that something?'

"It's a large goal," admitted Godfrey. "It's not guaranteed to happen. If we discover it is not feasible, we will just have to put that in the drawer for a while and see when it can be."

IMPROVING THE DOWNTOWN EXPERIENCE

In addition to all of that, Godfrey said the city is in the midst of taking a serious look at making downtown Cambridge more attractive to residents and other visitors.

"The effort is focused on three broad categories," Godfrey said, "business attraction/retention, parking, and the pedestrian experience."

Among the nearly 50 ideas that came out of conversations with business owners and the general public, a few rose to the top of the "to-do" list. One of which was a facade improvement grant, which is an extension and increase in dollars offered of the current downtown improvement grant. Another possibility is a fire suppression program that would give financial incentives to businesses to hook up to the main water line in exchange for agreeing to update the building's sprinkler system.

"That would make downtown so much safer," Godfrey said.

In terms of parking, the city recently completed the purchase of the old Woody's Auto lot a block north of Highway 95 on Main Street, which will be turned into public parking. Godfrey said the city will also be improving striping and signage so people can find public parking easier.

For pedestrians, the city has purchased additional pedestrian crossing signs. It is also looking at doing a way-finding/pedestrian study.

"That should help us identify areas for improvement and opportunities to create a unified image of downtown," Godfrey said, "and making it quaint and homey and get people where they want to go safely."

OBITUARIES

Jean Englund

Jean Englund, 87, of Isanti, died on Feb. 16, 2023, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in Minneapolis, MN to Herman and Olive (Hall) Stanius on Oct. 7, 1935. She attended country school in Oxlip and graduated from Cambridge High School in 1953. She married Kenneth on May 18, 1957, and together they raised three children: Jimmy, Carol and Carrie.

Jean lived in Cambridge and worked at the local grocery store until they moved to Bradford in 1960. Jean was a farm wife, housewife and loving day care provider to many neighborhood children. She enjoyed cooking, canning, flower gardening and traveling to thresh-

ing shows in their motor home. Kenny and Jean also enjoyed many polka dances and festivals with their friends. Thursday and Friday night dinners at the Roadhouse, with friends and family, were also special.

Jean and Kenny's farmhouse became a home for so many. It was always warm and there was plenty of food on the table and coffee in the pot. The door was always open and many memories were made around their kitchen table.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband Kenneth; grandson Andy Englund; son-in-law Ron Fleischer; parents Herman and Olive Stanius; siblings Laverne (Ardelle) Stanius, Margaret (Gerald) Nelson, Joyce (Russell) Willemsen, Norma (Bill) Swanson, Dennis (Sharon) Stanius, Maxine (Howard) Johnston and Dwaine (Betty) Stanius; and brothers-in-law Lester Lambert and Donald Grams.

Jean is survived by son James (Wendy) Englund; daughters Carol Fleischer and Carrie (Mitchell) Borchardt; sisters Betty Lambert and Joann Grams; grandchildren Jay (Amanda), Justin, Kendra (Jonathan), Heather and Kaitlin (Ross); great grandchildren Kaid, Evelyn, Oaklyn and Karson; sister-in-law Sharon Stanius, brother-in-law Ernie (Betty) Englund; as well as many other dear friends and relatives.

Funeral Service 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at Long Lake Lutheran Church. Visitation 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24 AT THE CHURCH and one hour prior to the service. Interment in Long Lake Community Cemetery. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Mitchell B. Turnvall

Mitchell B. Turnvall, age 70, of North Branch died Feb. 14, 2023, at Prairie Senior Cottages in Isanti.

Mitchell Boyd Turnvall was born May 14, 1952, in Braham, Minnesota to LaVerne and Shirley (Lindell) Turnvall. He grew up in Linwood Township and North Branch and graduated from Hopkins High School in 1970.

On Dec. 4, 1993, Mitch married Mitzi Milz at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in East Bethel. They have made their home in North Branch since October 1998. Mitch worked as a salesman, in order fulfillment and was a delivery driver along with running a hobby farm in his spare time. If there was any time left, he spent it attending

auctions, playing cribbage, bowling, fishing, hunting, watching Twins games and collecting Terry Redlin prints. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by a brother, Jackie Turnvall, niece, Julie Marie Larsen and his in-laws, Kenneth and Marcella Milz. Mitch will be lovingly remembered by his wife, Mitzi; three children, Shawn Turnvall, Kelly (Chris) Fedun, and Jesse Turnvall (Conlee Hogoboom); step-daughter, Missy; siblings, Mickie (John) Tulp, and Jeffrey Turnvall; and by many other relatives and friends.

A Funeral service was held at 2 p.m. Monday, February 20 at Strike Life Tributes in Cambridge. A visitation was held one hour prior to the service. Interment Fridsborg Cemetery, East Bethel. Online condolences can be made at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

Ruth Larson

Ruth Larson, 96, died on Feb. 19, 2023, at her son Andrew's home, surrounded by her caring family.

Ruth was a true Isanti girl, the sixth child born to Swedish immigrants, Andrew and Emma Rask in Isanti on March 3, 1926, in a howling snowstorm.



Her mother quietly dedicated her to the Lord's service in that difficult birth. As it happened, Ruth one day found a book titled "Mary Slessor of Calabar," a book about a missionary in Africa and subsequently determined to be like Mary, to go anywhere God would send her. Her elementary years in Isanti and high school years in Cambridge were filled with youth activities in bands, choirs, clubs and good

'ole small town fun. Her large extended family was very well known for their musical gifts and for their church involvement at Elim Baptist in Isanti. It was at a revival meeting where Ruth entrusted her heart and life to the Lord Jesus and set her compass to serve him.

After graduation from high school, she attended Bethel Bible College in St Paul, MN where she met a certain Dana Larson who was also preparing for the mission field. They were meant for each other, as they say. After Dana's seminary education, and hard goodbyes to family and all they knew, the couple along with a baby son, boarded the "Marine Swallow" to sail to Assam, India. They were commissioned by the Baptist General Conference to grow and serve local churches. Ruth and Dana spent the first few years in language study, learning the culture and adding to their little family. The last 10 years of their service was lived out in a remote village near the Himalayan foothills in Assam (NE India) where they nurtured a small but growing congregation and ran a basic clinic for common ailments and leprosy patients. By then, their family had grown to eight children with a large community of believers who became very dear to Ruth. When Ruth was 91 years old she returned with family members to visit these dear friends in Assam.

One would think that 20 years in India would be enough missionary service. But no! When Ruth and Dana were not allowed to return to India, they were re-commissioned to serve in NW Argentina in similar church planting ministry. This time in a new language - Spanish - and accompanied by 5 of their children. Again, they fell in love with the Argentine culture, people and this time, the Andes Mountains and desert region they were in. It was a whole different environment from tropical India. Their seventeen years there were full of meaningful friendships, adventurous road trips to outlying churches, appreciating Argentine food and music, and the joy of being ambassadors for Christ.

During all their years of missionary service, Ruth and Dana always returned to Isanti every five years for their furloughs where they could renew family ties and share their missionary work. Elim Baptist church was an important link for them, the place where Ruth grew up, where she married Dana and where she worshiped with her family. When they retired they continued to work in the Hispanic church in Minneapolis for 10 years before moving up to Cambridge to live with son Stephen Larson and his family. Ruth was well-known for her piano playing at hymn sings, commitment to prayer and love for the church.

Ruth was preceded in death by her husband, Dana Larson, baby son Mark, daughter Martha Thomsen, grandson Joel Dean, grandson Colin Larson, her parents Andrew and Emma Rask and all her siblings.

She is survived by son Jonathan (Mary Kay) Larson, son Timothy (Cynthia) Larson, daughter Bette (Gordon) Dean, son-in-law Jeffery Thomsen, daughter Sara (James) Wiegner, son Andrew (Jodie) Larson, son Samuel (Peter Duffin) Larson, son Stephen (LaDonna) Larson, 20 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Funeral Service 11 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, 2023, at First Baptist Church in Cambridge with a visitation one hour prior. Memorials suggested to Converge, PO Box 850001, Orlando, FL 32885-9930 or to the family for the Ruth Larson nursing scholarship in Assam, India. Online condolences can be placed at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

Audrey L. Rud

Audrey Loy Rud, age 82, of Cambridge, MN passed away on Feb. 17, 2023, surrounded by family at GracePointe Crossing.

She was born April 26, 1940, in George, Iowa. Audrey was the third daughter of late Herman and Stellva Essman.



She attended North Isanti Baptist Church and was a Registered Nurse throughout her career. She enjoyed gardening, quilting, and spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother-in-law Robert Gardner and brother-in-law Donald Baker.

Audrey is survived by her husband of 60 years, Donovan Rud; son and daughter-in-law Jeffrey (Kelly) Rud of Cambridge; daughter and son-in-law Kimberly (Paul) Gaier of Oshkosh, WI; grandson Devin (Lisa) Nelson; and great-granddaughters Myla and Raya; grandson Justin Rud; grandson Dillan (Jaclyn) Nelson and great grandson Shiloh; granddaughter Britta (Zach) Hoffie, great granddaughter Adalyn and great grandson Oliver; grandson Daniel Rud; step grandson Luke Malamisuro; step grandson Micah Malamisuro; Six sisters and one brother Sallie Gardner; Morla Baker; Beverly (John) Gerken; Melva (Paul) Ferm; Herman (Valerie) Essman; Pauline (Kenneth) Ahrendt; Wyona (Roger) Stewart; sister-in-law Janice (Adrian) Sundberg; sister-in-law Jeanne (Bob) Erickson. Audrey also leaves many family members and friends who will sadly miss her.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 4 at 11:30 a.m. at North Isanti Baptist Church, 2248 313th Avenue NE, Cambridge, MN 55008. Visitation begins at 10 a.m. at the church. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Joyce L. France

Joyce L. France passed away on Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023, at GracePointe Crossing in Cambridge. She was 94 years old.

Joyce was born on April 10, 1928, in Granada, Minnesota to parents William and Vivian (Farnham) Bjorklund. She was united



in marriage to James T. France on Dec. 20, 1945. Joyce lived her life taking care of family and her community. She volunteered countless hours with many organizations but was especially proud to be a member of the Isanti VFW Post 2735 Auxiliary and her years of being a volunteer driver for Isanti County. She will be dearly missed by her loving family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband James; siblings, Ewald Trautman, Robert (Donna) Bjorklund, Richard (Joanne) Bjorklund, Jeanne Wimmer; and Ronald (Carroll) Bjorklund; brothers and sisters-in-law, Tom (Florance) France, Archie France, Richard France, Deloris (Wilfred) Gohr, Elise France, and Mike (Carol) France; and grandson Zachary.

Joyce is survived by her children, James R. (Diane), Jerry (LeEtte), John (Sue), Joel, Jeff (Pat), and Judy (Don); 24 grandchildren; 28 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren; many other relatives and friends.

A Gathering of Family and Friends with a Time of Remembrances will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at the Braham Event Center. Inurnment will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 14, 2023 in the Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis. Arrangements are entrusted to the Hamilton Funeral Homes- Rock Chapel in Braham. Condolences may be posted at www.hamiltonfhs.com.

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

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

DeLores B. Points

DeLores B. Points passed away on Feb. 16, 2023, at GracePointe Crossing at the age of 94 years.

She was born on June 1, 1928, in Fish Lake Township, Chisago County, Minnesota, the only child of Chester and Julia Lindquist. She grew up in the Pine Lake area east of Cambridge, Minnesota, attending District #27 country school through eighth grade and graduating from Cambridge High School in 1946.

On the Monday after graduation, she began working at the Cambridge Woolen Mills where she worked until 1948. While working there she was honored to ride on the Woolen Mills float in the Swedish Parade as Miss Cambridge Woolen Mills.

On Oct. 11, 1947, she was united in marriage to Ansel Points of Rush Point. They resided in the Rush Point area for 39 years where they raised their family. DeLores was employed for 5 ½ years at Control Data in Cambridge and in the later years enjoyed doing daycare for grandchildren Andrea, Brandon, Carissa, Philip, Dan, and Ben. These were special days for her.

The family raised a large garden and DeLores always canned many quarts of vegetables and fruit. She enjoyed cooking and baking for the large family of five sons and one daughter and they especially enjoyed her buns, cinnamon rolls, and glorified rice. It was important to DeLores to provide birthday parties for the children and large holiday meals for the family to enjoy.

In 1976 she was elected to the Rush Lake Baptist

Cemetery Board where she served as secretary and also helped plan the annual Homecoming Service each year in June. DeLores has been a member of the Border Bells Homemaker Club since 1954 and served as secretary for several years. Prior to 1952 she attended Rush Lake Baptist Ladies Aid and in the later years, the Ladies Aid of Fish Lake Baptist Church where she was a member.

In later years, DeLores enjoyed making cookies and Bon Bons for Christmas and delivering them to friends in rest homes and taking them to family Christmas get-togethers. One year she and Ansel made over 100 dozen cookies which were enjoyed by all.

DeLores enjoyed going to TOPS meetings and made many good friends there. She also attended monthly meetings of Self Help for the Hard of Hearing.

After retiring, DeLores and Ansel enjoyed traveling and camping. Two of their favorite campgrounds were the St. Croix State Park and Burlington Bay at Two Harbors, where they enjoyed many happy times with family and friends.

She was preceded in death by husband Ansel, parents, Chester and Julia Lindquist, grandson, Daniel Points, and daughter-in-law Edie Points (Dennis). She is survived by five sons; Steven (Wanda) of Elko New Market, Gary (Susan) of Stanchfield, Dennis of Isanti, David (Debra) of Amery, WI, Kevin (Kim) of Maplewood; and daughter Sharon (Mark) Krueger of Cambridge; 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Service was held at 11a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023, at First Baptist Church in Cambridge. Visitation was one hour prior to the service. Interment at Rush Lake Baptist Cemetery in Rush Point. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Michelle Robinette

Michelle Robinette nee Hammond, of Cambridge passed away on Feb. 11, 2023, surrounded by her children. She was born on April 20, 1944, she was a strong, caring woman of God.

Michelle was a stage actress in her youth, and she went on to express her artistic talents in many ways, including playwriting, singing, and storytelling. She served the community of St. Paul for many years as a foster parent and daycare provider, while also serving on several mission trips. In 1998, she founded Robin's Nest Children's Home in Jamaica, which remains a renowned safe haven on the island to this day.

She was our Mom, Nana, Auntie, Ms. Michelle, and friend, and she will be profoundly missed.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents Ruth and Ansel Hammond, mother Anne Hammond, and brother John Lee.

She is survived by her loving children Cindy (Rod) Tyler, Wendy (Alan) Lily, Tony (Geri) Robinette, Candy Hoover, Lyndy Burch, Matt Robinette, and Regina (Juan) Moran. She also leaves behind her 21 cherished grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and foster children.

Her celebration of life services will be held in Minnesota on March 18, 2023 (Twin Cities), and March 25, 2023 at the First Baptist Church (Cambridge). More details to follow.



Sandi (Stanley) Gagne

Sandi Gagne peacefully died in her sleep Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023. She was 55 years old.

Sandi was born July 11, 1967 to Gwen and Wayne Stanley. She was a loved wife, mom, grandmother, and friend to many.



She was preceded in death by her dad, Wayne; father-in-law Richard Gagne; and mother-in-law Georgene Gagne.

She is survived by her mom, Gwen; brother Loren (Julie) Stanley; sister Dianne (Mike) Nowak; sister Denise Stanley; husband Cameron Gagne; sons Jake (Amy), Ryne and fiancée Brianna; daughter Stephanie Gagne; granddaughter Ivy; and many nieces, nephews,

and other relatives and friends.

There will be a Celebration of Life on Saturday, Feb. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. at SACS Friendship Cafe, 140 Buchanan Street N. #164, Cambridge, MN.

When we get to the end of our lives together, the house we had, the cars we drove, the things we possessed won't matter. What will matter is that I had you, and you had me!

James "Jim" C. Britz

James "Jim" C. Britz passed away peacefully on Feb. 14, 2023.

Jim was raised in Sunrise, MN. He was an experienced horseman, worked at Swifts and retired as a truck driver from Dahlen. Jim was an avid outdoorsman in every way.



He was preceded in death by son, Miles; infant daughter; wives, Emma Bernette and Judith Mertz; parents, Floyd and Myrtle; brother, Thomas; sister, Bonnie; daughter-in-law, Judith.

He is survived by daughter, Darlys Ali; brother, Curt; sisters, Hazel Schrul and Carol Whalen; six grandchildren, Charles (Tiffany) Britz, Daniel (Heather) Britz, Ahmad

(Naoko) Ali, Imani (David) Woodard, Sahib Ali; Maryam Bloomquist; eight great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; also nieces, nephews, cousins & other extended family.

Memorial Service 11 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 27 at Roberts Funeral Home, 8108 Barbara Ave., Inver Grove Heights, MN. Visitation one hour prior to service. Interment General Lutheran Cemetery in South St. Paul.

Kenneth Johnson

Our dad, Kenneth Johnson, faithful husband, father and grandfather passed away early Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at his home in Cambridge MN surrounded by his children.

Dad was born in 1931 in Mountain Lake, MN to Arthur and Angeline (College) Johnson. He had an elder sister, Phyllis, and two younger brothers, Duane and Richard. Dad grew up on a farm in Bingham Lake, then the family moved to Winnebago. After graduating, he spent his winters working at many jobs in Idaho, Washington, California and all over the west with his brother Duane. In the spring he would return to Minnesota and work in construction.

In 1958 he married Murna Hicks. Mom also grew up in Winnebago. Dad then attended and graduated from Dunwoody Institute. He worked for UPS for many years as a mechanic and later as a Fleet Supervisor in Northern MN. They lived in Columbia Heights with their three children. In 1975 we all moved to Grand Rapids, MN where we met and made lifelong friends (and later in-laws!) with the family of Larry and Naomi Virkus. In 1980 Dad's job moved him to Cambridge.

Dad was a hard-working man who took care of his family. He had a dry sense of humor. He could be very sweet and sassy! We want to extend a thank you to all the people from St. Croix Hospice who were so caring of him and so helpful to us.

Dad was preceded in death by his parents; sister, and brothers. Mom died in June of 2021. Dad missed her so much. We are comforted by the fact that he is with her now in the arms of our savior, Jesus.

Our dad, Ken, is survived by his children, Vicky (Kevin) Virkus of Grand Rapids, MN; Debra (George) Johns of Cambridge, and Greg (Dawn) Johnson of Cambridge; and his sisters-in-law, Kay (Ambrose) Sonnek of Minnesota Lake, Wilma (Burt) Wolner of Blue Earth, and Marlene (Richard) Johnson of Stillwater. He has nine grandchildren; Kari, JaNell, Jake, Rachel, Ben, Elias, Michael, Kaleb, and Elsa He was also blessed with twelve great-grandchildren.

Our family has decided to have a memorial service in the spring so more family members can attend. It will be announced at a later date. Thank you to everyone who has been so kind. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements with Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.



Vasaloppet Art Show announces 2023 People's Choice Awards

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Over 600 people visited the Vasaloppet Art Show the weekend of Feb. 10-12. The art show, held in conjunction with the Vasaloppet Ski Race was presented by the Kanabec County Art Association. Visitors viewed 96 pieces of art created by 37 area artists. Several artists were first time entrants.

Justin Quinn, Professor of Art at St. Cloud State University, was the Gallery Guide on Friday evening. He chose Jacque Sabolik's "Winter's Dawn" and Val Raivo's "D&C Disturb and Comfort" to receive the Judge's Choice Awards.

Visitors had the opportunity to vote for their favorite works of art in several categories.

Receiving the most votes: Emotional Response Category: Terri Hendricks' "Willow Weeps for her Empty Nest," Jeremy Funk's "The Best Day of My Life" and Jeff Bracken's "The Sweet Smell of Hay."

Most Creative Category: Don Semelhack's "Wired," Cyrus Raivo's "Anders, the Hardy Moskito" and Cyrus Raivo's "Carnivorous."

Favorite Category: Keith Raivo's "Sandhill Crane," Bev Peterson's "Trellis on 23" and Leah Kehr's "Vinter."

Congratulations to them and all the artists in the show.

Thompson recognized for distinguished service by MAAP

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Norse Area Learning Center (NALC) teacher Chris Thompson is a 2023 "Exemplary Award Recipient" from the Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs (MAAP).

Thompson was recognized for 25 years of distinguished service in alternative education - including the last four here at the Norse Area Learning Center, being a well-respected alternative education teacher, presenter, leader and advocate for ALC programming.

Early section action yields frustrating results

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The first weekend of section postseason competition for local winter sports teams turned out to be a bit of a buzzkill as several teams experienced less-than-expected results.

GYMNASTICS

Although the Bluejackets entered the Section 7AA meet as the favorites on paper, the team's overall lack of experience in this high-pressure meet showed as C-I stumbled to a third place finish with a score of 140.4. Anoka claimed their first section championship in 42 years with a season-high score of 143.650. Elk River was second with a score of 142.125.

The Jackets got off to a solid

start, scoring a 36.125. After that, though, the wheels came completely off as 12 of the 20 routines featured major deductions. Despite that, the team was right in the hunt for first place until their final rotation on the beam. Any hopes of a magical finish were quickly dashed as all five competitors fell once during their routine, along with other deductions produced the team's lowest score on the apparatus since their first two meets of the season.

The team's struggles also showed up in the individual results, with only sophomore Abby Kryzer (9.075) and freshman Aubrey Wilson (8.8) advancing to state on the bars. They will compete on that event at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium at 11 a.m. on Saturday,

Feb. 25.

For North Branch, their team expectations weren't as lofty, especially considering the #1-ranked team in Class A (Big Lake) is in their section. North Branch wound up finishing fifth out of seven teams with a score of 131.125.

Individually, sophomore Dakota Esget earned a trip to state by finishing third in the all-around with a score of 36.125. Her top score was 9.5 on vault, which was the second-highest score of the meet on that event. She will compete at 6 p.m. on Saturday at Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

WRESTLING

The Jackets entered the team section tournament with the fourth seed, however they left getting defeated by #5-seed Elk River 39-30. The Elks broke a 15-15 deadlock with two pins and a decision in the middle weights, creating a hole C-I couldn't quite climb out of. The Jackets will have the opportunity to send a number of individuals to state this weekend at Blaine.

Like the Viking gymnasts, North Branch's wrestlers were also facing long odds in their section team tournament as Class AA #1-ranked Simley was also in their section. They were hoping, though, to make it out of the first round as they were going up against Mahtomedi, who they had defeated during the regular season. The Zephyrs, however, turned the tables on NB and won the section match 43-36.

BOYS HOCKEY

The Jackets were hoping for a third or maybe even second seed in the Section 5A tournament, however they wound up with the #4 seed, where they were matched up for a third time against Princeton. C-I did complete the sweep of the Tigers, winning 6-4 in the quarterfinals. Now, they face off against the section #1 seed Little Falls Flyers on Saturday, Feb. 25. The Flyers defeated C-I 5-1 earlier in the season. Should the Jackets upset the Flyers, they will advance to the Section 5A finals on Wednesday, March 1 at Elk River, against the winner of the #2-seed Monticello versus #3 seed St. Cloud Cathedral semifinal game.

Before that, C-I ended their regular season with a 5-2 win over Irondale, a 8-5 win over Wadena-Deer Creek, and a 3-1 loss to Academy of Holy Angels.

Northern Edge had their season abruptly end with a 15-1 loss to Duluth Marshall in the Section 7AA tournament.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

In regular season action, North Branch broke their losing streak with a 57-36 win



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Alison Barber, Cambridge-Isanti's lone senior, completes her gymnastics career on the beam at the Section 7AA meet at Elk River.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti's Gordy Lawson continues to fight for control of the puck despite getting knocked down behind the net during the Jackets' game versus Wadena Deer-Creek.



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

North Branch's Jack Baker earned a pinfall victory over Mahtomedi's Mac Schultz at 106 pounds during the Vikings' opening round match of the Section 4AA team tournament.

over Breck. Before that, they lost to Becker 67-28. After the win over the Mustangs, NB lost to Princeton 49-40 and Chisago Lakes 65-50. Their final game of the regular season — hosting Cambridge-Isanti, is being pushed back by a day due to the anticipated snowstorm. That game will now be played at 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 24.

The Jackets had their seven-game winning streak come to an end at the hands of Becker as the Bulldogs topped C-I 81-58. They also lost to Monticello 56-44.

North Branch's section tournament begins on Tuesday, Feb. 28, with the Vikings most likely receiving the #5 seed in the six-team section. They will probably travel to Hibbing for the quarterfinals.

C-I's section tournament picture is a lot fuzzier as the Section 7AAAA seedings are determined by coaches' voting. The most likely scenario, based on head-to-head results is the Jackets will receive the #4 seed. However they could also drop behind Andover and be seeded #5. Either way, those two teams will probably face each other in the quarterfi-

nals, which are on Wednesday, March 1. The only question will be who will be the higher seed and thus the home team.

BOYS BASKETBALL

North Branch had their three-game winning streak snapped last week, and they are unfortunately now on a two-game skid after dropping a close game to Becker 68-65 and falling to Princeton 86-65. NB promptly ended that mini skid with a 82-68 win over Chisago Lakes. Their final game of the regular season — at Cambridge-Isanti, was postponed to Thursday, March 2 due to the anticipated snowstorm.

The Jackets went 2-1 in their games last week, dropping a high-scoring game to Big Lake by a score of 90-80, but then defeating Becker 79-53. They concluded by breaching the century mark with a 100-68 win over Monticello. Kobe Karels scored 31 points against the Magic, with John Troolin adding 26. Besides their home game against North Branch, C-I still has a game against Anoka on Monday, Feb. 27, which is also a postponement from earlier in the season.



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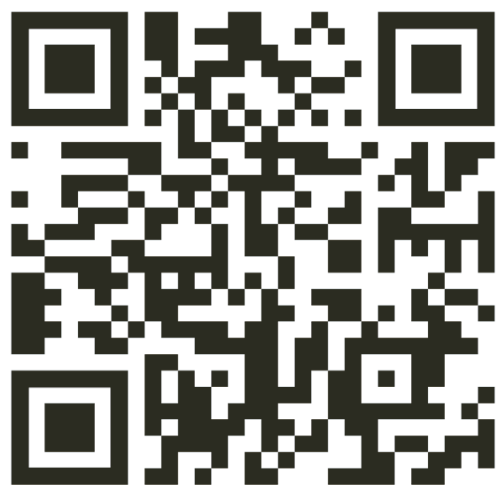
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Raptor love: A look inside the nest of two Minnesota bald eagles

BY JACKIE BUSSJAEGER
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

February is the month when eagle parents are getting ready to produce the next generation of high-flying predators. Their teamwork as they protect the nest from predators, incubate eggs and hunt for food in the icy winter conditions are true #couplegoals.

“They tend to stay together; you could say until death do us part or until a better mate comes in,” said Lori Naumann, spokesperson for the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program, which manages the nest camera and livestream. “They have a stronger fidelity to the territory than they do to their partner. If they feel this is a great territory, with a great food source year round, they will defend their territory, and it is a coveted site.”

Millions of people from Minnesota and beyond enjoy an up-close view of these behaviors in real time through the DNR EagleCam livestream. The EagleCam first started in 2013, and is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year.

Watching the feed, one might catch the female moving sticks around, prepping the nest for eggs that will come along sometime in mid-February. Eagle nests are massive structures, built high out of the reach of ground predators and added to year after year. The male and female know just how to divide their roles, the female incubating eggs at night while the male sits close by defending the territory.

“He’s paying attention to what’s going on in the whole area while watching over her as well,” Naumann explained. “He will jump down and they both will weave the sticks together which strengthens the pair bond, shows them the other one is a good partner, they know how to be an eagle, and they are trusted to provide food and protect the nest.”

As DNR scientists, they have to be careful not to anthropomorphize, even though fans of the eagles love to do so anyway. Members of the Friends of the Minnesota Nongame EagleCam Facebook page call the current pair Nancy and Beau.

“They are rabid followers, and they are very passionate about this particular nest,” Naumann said. “Some of the people watch the camera constantly. It amazes me how much they catch.”

There are a few privileged photographers who were aware of the nest before it had a camera in it, and they still visit the site to take photos. Each year they produce a calendar of photos that they sell to benefit the Nongame Wildlife program.

The popularity of the nest cam skyrocketed during the pandemic, Naumann said people were looking to connect with nature and keep themselves entertained at home. When the chicks hatched in March 2020, there were viewers from 150 countries and all 50 states. The stream is used frequently in school curriculum and in spaces such as care centers and meeting rooms, where it adds a touch of the wild.



MINNESOTA DNR EAGLE WEBCAM

This screenshot of the Minnesota DNR’s Eagle Webcam was taken a few hours before the major snowstorm was supposed to hit the area on Feb. 22. According to information on the page, the heavy snow will actually work as extra insulation for the two eggs.

Recent research has even suggested that exposure to livestream wildlife cameras can help improve quality of life and promote a deep love of conservation in viewers. Eagles have bounced back to healthy numbers since they were dangerously threatened by hunting and chemical pollutants in the mid-1900s, but these birds are a charismatic face for the Nongame Wildlife Program, which works to conserve other threatened species in Minnesota.

Sometimes, it seems that people love eagles more than eagles love each other. The EagleCam is not always family-friendly viewing, and the DNR gives a warning that the lives of wild eagles can often be brutal and difficult to watch.

Many chicks don’t make it through the difficulties of life in the nest. Eggs usually hatch a few days apart, resulting in varying sizes between siblings, and it’s rough to be the littlest. Siblings have been known to peck at each other and even push each other out of the nest. In some cases where food was in short supply, eaglets and even adult eagles have eaten the weakest member of the aerie.

Adults face many challenges as well—in recent years the territory has been in a shakeup as first one

male disappeared, then another, with avian influenza as the suspect.

Not to mention, eagles like to eat some things that people consider cute and fuzzy—and sometimes when they arrive in the nest, they aren’t quite dead yet.

“It’s usually very bloody and gruesome,” Naumann said. “But viewers who have been watching a long time get accustomed to that, and they get excited when food comes into the nest. It’s tough to watch sometimes, but one of the things is that people have realized that this is nature. They’ve become a little bit more accustomed to it.”

EagleCam viewers got to witness the laying of two eggs so far. The parents will incubate the eggs for about 35 days. In March, there should be a few fluffy nestlings opening their beaks wide to accept deliveries of bits of fish and animal protein from their hardworking parents.

The exact location of the nest is kept secret to protect the birds from disturbance, but anyone can swing by the nest virtually. Visit the EagleCam at www.dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/eaglecam/index.html.

ISANTI AND CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORTS

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Feb. 12 - 18. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Brett Alan Engelkens (DOB 07/11/1971) of Princeton, was charged Feb. 13 with one count of criminal vehicular operation - substantial bodily harm - under influence alcohol; and one count of criminal vehicular operation - substantial bodily harm - alcohol concentration .08 or more.

Jesse James Berwald (DOB 12/06/1976) of Isanti, was charged Feb. 13 with theft - take/use/transfer movable prop - no consent.

Laura Lee Hawes (DOB 04/05/1955) of Coon Rapids, was charged Feb. 14 with financial exploitation - vulnerable adult - deprives property or resources for benefit of someone else.

Debora Jean Fisher (DOB 06/25/1955) of Isanti, was charged Feb. 16 with one count of criminal vehicular operation - substantial bodily harm - under influence alcohol; and one count of criminal vehicular operation - substantial bodily harm - under influence combination alcohol/controlled substance.

Todd Wayne Koukol, Jr. (DOB 07/30/1988) of Princeton, was charged Feb. 17 with two counts of criminal sexual conduct - 1st degree - penetration or contact with person under 13 - actor > 36m older; and one count of false imprisonment - intentional restraint.

Erin Chevon Blandford (DOB 01/09/1985) of Isanti, was charged Feb. 17 with one count of terroristic threats - reckless disregard risk; and

one count of theft - take/use/transfer movable property - no consent.

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Feb. 12 - 18. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Manuel Campos Medina (DOB 08/03/1987) of North Branch, was charged Feb. 13 with drugs - 5th degree - possess schedule 1,2,3,4 - not small amount marijuana.

Ricky James Bedell (DOB 10/13/1979) of Pine City, was charged Feb. 13 with one count of possess ammo/any firearm - conviction or adjudicated delinquent for crime of violence; and one count of tear gas/stun gun - prohibited possess/use.

Shawn Henry Anderson (DOB 08/09/1981) of Clear Lake, WI, was charged Feb. 13 with fugitive from justice from other state (extradition waived).

William Raymond Craft, Jr. (DOB 12/18/1969) of North Branch, was charged Feb. 14 with dangerous weapon firearm assault - 2nd degree - dangerous weapon.

Amber Bonita Burdick (DOB 05/26/2000) of Saint Paul, was charged Feb. 14 with one count of drugs - 5th degree - possess schedule 1,2,3,4 - not small amount marijuana; and one count of fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle.

Michelle Leah Horan (DOB 02/19/1979) of North Branch, was charged Feb. 17 with drugs - 5th degree - possess schedule 1,2,3,4 - not small amount marijuana.

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Informational meeting for Level 3 offender relocation scheduled

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In accordance with Minnesota State Statutes, the Isanti Police Department is releasing information and scheduling a community notification meeting regarding a level 3 predatory offender who is moving into the area.

According to a press release from the Isanti Police Department, Joshua Joseph Foster recently moved to

the vicinity of 5th Avenue Court Southwest in the city of Isanti. Because of his status, a community notification meeting will be held at the Isanti Community Center at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28. Representatives from the Department of Corrections and the Isanti Police Department will be available to provide useful information on public safety and answer questions.

“This notification is not intended to increase fear but rather raise awareness,” read a posting on the Isanti Police Department’s Facebook page. “The

Isanti Police Department may not direct where this individual does or does not reside, nor can this agency direct where he/she works or goes to school.

“Abuse of this information to threaten, harass or intimidate a registered individual is unacceptable and such acts could be charged as a crime. Such abuses could potentially end the ability of law enforcement to provide these notifications.”

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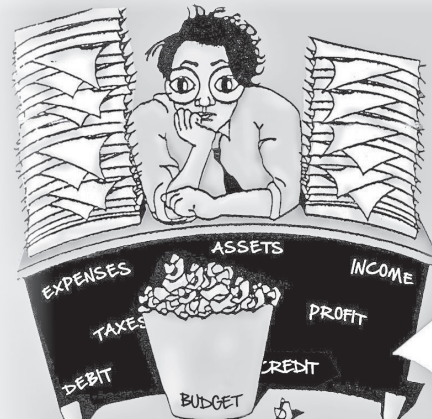
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WORSHIP *guide*

Baptist

First Baptist Church

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

North Isanti Baptist Church

Lead Pastor: Travis Blake
2248 313th Ave. NE, Cambridge, MN 55008. www.nib-
church.com
Email: nibchurch@msn.com

763-689-3576. 8:30am Worship Service (traditional
style) 10:45am Worship Service (contemporary style)

South Isanti Baptist Church

3367 Cty. Rd. 5 NE, Isanti.
763-444-5860, Pastor Bob Venneman. Sunday Worship
9:30am. Wednesday "Life & Light" Bible studies for all
ages. Adults & children. For info call or go to
southisantibaptist.org.

Springvale Baptist

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

Sunrise Bible Church

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

Catholic

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.
763-444-4035
Email: annseton76@gmail.com. Mass: Tues. & Wed.
7:30am. Sun. 8:30am. stelizabeth-isanti.org.

Evangelical Covenant

Karmel Covenant Church

5799 County Road 6, Princeton, MN
763-389-3169
Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis
Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson
Sunday School for all ages 9:00 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
Wednesday AWANA 6:30 pm
Wednesday Youth Group 6:30 pm
Karmelcov.org

Evangelical Free

Dale Evangelical Free Church

45268 Brunswick Rd,
Harris, MN 763-689-5817
Pastor/Teacher Dr. Harvey Martin. Sunday School – all
ages 9am. Sunday Service 10:25am.
www.daleefc.com

Kost Evangelical Free Church

37405 Kost Trail, North Branch, MN 55056. Jct. of CR 11 &
CR 72, SE of North Branch. 651-583-3281.
Pastor, Josh Jensen
Kost Student Ministries Mondays 6:30pm. Worship
Service Sundays 9:30am. More info: www.kostefc.org

Oxlip Church

9am Sunday Worship Service
Sanctuary seating or Online: Facebook and YouTube
Pastor Leroy Scheumann
29237 Roanoke St NW, Isanti, MN 55040
www.oxlip.org
763-444-5134

Wyanett Evangelical Free Church

12 Miles West of Cambridge on Highway 95
www.wyanettefc.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 6:00 pm
Wednesdays - Midweek Bible Study/Prayer 6:00 pm
Thursdays - Women's Morning Bible Study - 9:30 am
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Lutheran

Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

West Central Drive & County Road 4, Braham
320-396-2755
Pastor Andrea Bonneville-DeNaples
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - BELC
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Live on Facebook
Sunday: 9:30 am Worship Service on KBK 95.5 FM
Sunday School 9:45am
Office hours 9:00 a.m. to Noon Tuesday thru Friday

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)

Pastor Vicki Vandervegt.
320-358-4829, 600 Rush Point Dr.
10:15am Worship with Fellowship following
my.calvaryofrushpoint.org.
Office: calvaryrushpoint@gmail.com

Cambridge Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge
763-689-1211
9 a.m. Traditional Service
10 a.m. Contemporary Service
www.cambridgelutheran.org -
fb.com/CambridgeLutheran

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)

32962 Vickers St. NE, Cambridge, 763-689-5333
Pastor Samuel L. Biebert.
Sunday Worship 9am, Sunday School/Bible Class
10:30am
www.christcambridge.com

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

109 Second Ave NW, Isanti
763-444-9201
Pastor Ian Coen-Frei
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.
Home of Heavenly Sunshine Preschool
email:
office@faithlutheranisanti.com

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

43779 Gates Ave., Harris.
651-674-4498. Handicapped accessible.
Pastor Craig Lundstad-Vogt.
Sunday Worship 9:30am, 10:30am coffee
and fellowship.
Email: firstlutheran@q.com
www.firstlutheranharris.org

Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

1155 Joy Circle, Cambridge
763-689-4355
www.joylutheran.net
9:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

3921 277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040 763-444-5315.
Pastor Sue Olson
Worship Sundays at 9am in-person, in parking lot or
online
longlakeluth.org
Ash Wednesday Services at 1:00 & 6:00 pm with drive by
at 1:45 pm on Wed. Feb. 22nd

Salem Lutheran Church

4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017. 763-689-1687
Join us for worship every
Sunday at 9:00am, Sunday
school for 3 yrs to 6th gr.
begins at 9:00am. Coffee

fellowship after worship
www.salemlutherandalbo.com

Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958, North Branch, MN
55056 (9 mi. E. of Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one
block on Erickson Road).
651-674-4606.
Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.
slchurch.org
Email: sl.church@gmail.com
8:30am 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 Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMC)

31075 Genesis Ave., Stacy, MN 55079
651-462-5115.
Office Hours - 9:00am - 1:00 pm
9:00am Services,
Sunday School following Service (10:15am).
Email - stjohns@midconetwork.com.
Website - stjohnlutheranchurch-stacymn.org

St. John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

400 SE 8th St., (Isanti #4 E.), PO Box 37, Braham
320-396-3103
9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study. 10:30am
Worship.
ststephensbraham.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

38460 Lincoln Trl, North Branch
651-674-7047. Pastor Greg Wilcox
In-person and online Worship
Sundays at 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour & Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Email:
office@trinitynorthbranch.org
or visit www.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

Bethesda Church

38180 Hemingway Ave., North Branch, MN 651-674-5873.
Pastor Mark Huber.
9am Worship Service.
10:30am Sunday School
and adult Bible studies.
bethesdachurchnb.com

Lakeside Christian Church

32393 Rendova Cir. N.E., Cambridge (3 mi. E of Cambridge
just off Hwy. 95). 763-689-3649. Ministry Coordinator
Jeff Bonkoski. Administrative Assistant Sharon Dahl.
Sunday 9:30am Worship.
Retreat house & personal retreat cabins available. Call
for reservation. Email:
lakesidesecretary@gmail.com.
lakesidechurchcambridge.org

Journey of Faith

Bible based worship.
651-600-9878.

faiththroughaction777@gmail.com

Sunday fellowship 9am
Worship & Youth Ministry 10am Come as you are. All
welcome. Junction Bowl. 123 Cajima Street, NE, Isanti.
Refreshments served.

JustPassinThru IHS Ministries

Becoming Agape – Allowing the Holy Spirit to
transform lives
763-689-6987
Meeting at Crossroads Commons 101 1st Ave. E., Suite
100, Cambridge MN
justpassinihs@gmail.com
JustpassinThru.net
Pastor Tom Bakke
Sunday mornings at 10 am
Sunday nights and Wednesdays

Kingdom of God Resources and Training

150 Birch St. N, Cambridge MN 55008
Kingdomofgodresourcesandtraining.com
Ministry coordinators Mike and Leslie Kelzenberg
Saturdays 8:30-9:30, 10-11, 11:30-1:00
And other events: See web site
kingdomofgodrandt@gmail.com 763-346-7292

River of Life Church

Meeting at 242 3rd Ave NW, Cambridge in The Bridge
Outreach (TBO) Building.
Mark Radeke, Pastor. 763-689-5115.
Sundays 10:00am
Nursery provided
River Kid's for ages 4 yrs to 5th gr during the 10:00am
service
riveroflifehome.com

Pentecostal

The Journey New Life Church

601 Heritage Blvd NE, Isanti
Pastor David L. Willis.
Sunday 10am Worship &
the Word & Kids' Church.
Sunday 6pm Family Worship.
Wednesday 7pm Family Breakout Classes.
763-689-4471
Thejourneynlc.org



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Email: starclass@countystar.com

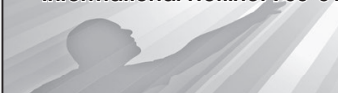

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Kingdom of God
Resources and Training
Saturday's classes & ministry:
9:00-10:00, 10:00-11:00 & 11:30-1:00
Kingdomofgodresourcesandtraining.com
150 Birch St N, Cambridge

K.O.G
Healing from Covid, covid
response, covid medication.
Physical, mental and
emotional.
Saturday's 12:00-1:30

East Central MN
Alcoholics Anonymous
Informational Hotline: 763-312-1088

www.district6online.org
Help is just a call or click away.

NOTICES

NORTH BRANCH TOWNSHIP GRAVEL QUOTES

North Branch Township will be accepting road gravel quotes until February 27 at 3:00 p.m. 2023. Quotes must be in a sealed envelope labeled 2023 Road Gravel Quote if U.S. mailed to P.O. Box 872, North Branch, Mn 55056 or quotes can be emailed to shawnw@twp.northbranch.mn.us. Quotes must include a current certificate of liability and workers compensation insurance if currently not on file with the Township. Quotes will be reviewed and awarded at the March 2 regular meeting for North Branch Township. This meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

The road gravel quotes are for a modified class 5 aggregate specification 3138-3 in the MNDOT Standard and Specifications for Construction-2018. The quantity is 6,000 ton more or less, with the #4 sieve modified from 50-70%, and the # 200 sieve modified from 8-11%. Material to be delivered using belly dump trucks, minimum of 4 trucks/600 ton each day of hauling to various roads within North Branch Township shown on the attached map.

Proposed roads may be subject to change at the discretion of the town board. Road gravel project is to be quoted per ton, scale tickets per load hauled to be provided at the end of each hauling day. Trucks may be randomly weighed, the township will get a gravel sample from the gravel pit to be tested prior to start of project, the supplier will also provide 2 gravel sample test gradation to the township. Payments to the supplier will be made monthly at each town board meeting, invoice to be mailed to clerk 1 week prior to meeting.

Shawn Williams
North Branch Township Clerk
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on Feb. 16, 23, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Isanti County will test electronic voting equipment to be used for the marking of ballots in the township elections to be held on March 14, 2023. The public accuracy test will be held on Monday, March 6, 2023 at 9:00am. The test will be conducted at the office of the Isanti County Auditor-Treasurer, Isanti County Government Center, 555 18th Avenue SW, Cambridge MN 55008. The public is invited to attend.

Chad Struss
Isanti County Auditor Treasurer
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on Feb.23, 2023

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: Britt Asher
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 7590 373rd Ave NW Dalbo MN 55017 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name: Brittany Benson
Address: 7590 373rd Ave NW Dalbo MN 55017 USA

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: Brittany Benson
MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: bbq.berticus@gmail.com
Work Item 1374648500020
Original File Number 1374648500020

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED
02/15/2023 11:59 PM
Steve Simon
Secretary of State
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on Feb. 23, March 3, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

February 16, 2023
The Isanti County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Isanti County Government Center, 555 18th Avenue SW, Cambridge, MN 55008 to consider the following requests:

1. The request of Amanda Latsch, 1992 338th Lane NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 to install a septic system with less than the required setback from the road right of way of a Township Road and with less than the required setback from the side property line and with less setback than the required setback from the single family dwelling. Legal description is Pt Lot 7 Block 2 Soderberg's Addition and Pt SW ¼ of the NW 1/4 of Section 28, Township 36, Range 23, Cambridge Township.

2. The request of Sauk Lake Cabin LLC, Ricky Chow, 388 16th Avenue NW, New Brighton, MN 55112 (Property Address: 3810 416th Avenue NW, Braham, MN 55006) to vary the Isanti County Zoning Ordinance, Section 11, Shoreland District, Subdivision 3 #b as it relates to new private access drive regulations. Legal description is Lot 2 Block 1 Lory Lake Shores of Section 5, Township 37, Range 24, Maple Ridge Township.

3. The request of Eric Dirksen, 28049 Yellow Pine Street NW, Isanti, MN 55040 to construct a structure/hoop type building with less than the required setback from the side property line. Legal description is Lot 5 Block 2 Bradford Estates of Section 35, Township 35, Range 24, Bradford Township.

4. The request of David & Sarah Nistler, 30619 Julliard Street NE, North Branch, MN 55056 to

reconstruct an addition (kitchen, basement & 2nd story) to the single family dwelling with less than the required setback from the ordinary high watermark of the creek and to construct an attached garage and breezeway with less than the required setback from the ordinary high watermark of the creek. Legal description is the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ Fct Except N 430' of Section 14, Township 35, Range 22, North Branch Township.

Trina Bergloff
Isanti County Zoning Administrator

This further serves as notice that if the legal criteria are met for members to participate in the meeting by telephone or interactive technology, some members may do so.

If you would like to attend this meeting via Tele - Conference, please go to the Isanti County webpage at www.co.isanti.mn.us for instructions.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on Feb. 23, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

February 16, 2023
The Isanti County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** at the Isanti County Government Center, 555 18th Avenue SW, Cambridge, MN 55008 to consider the following requests:

1. The request of Harvey Johnson & Roberta Johnson, 35319 Forest Blvd, North Branch, MN 55056 to present a preliminary plat of Trollin Wildlife Estates. Legal description is Pt Govt Lot 2 of Section 25, Township 37, Range 23, Stanchfield Township.

2. The request of Geraldine Larson & Jean Larson, 6173 County Road 6 NW, Princeton, MN 55371 for a conditional use permit for a rural tourism request to operate a one day event annually (Fall Equinox Festival) the last weekend of September. Legal description is the SE ¼ of the SW ¼ & W ½ of the W ½ of the NE ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 2, Township 36, Range 25, Wyanett Township.

Trina Bergloff
Isanti County Zoning Administrator

This further serves as notice that if the legal criteria are met for members to participate in the meeting by telephone or interactive technology, some members may do so.

If you would like to attend this meeting via-Tele-Conference, please go to the Isanti County webpage at www.co.isanti.mn.us for instructions.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on Feb. 23, 2023

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NORTH BRANCH PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the North Branch Planning Commission will hold Public Hearing on Thursday, March 9, 2023, 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 request

Preliminary Plat approval from GS2, LLC for the purpose of platting the existing 38-acre parcel into one (1) lot for commercial development and two (2) outlots.

Applicant(s)
GS2, LLC
Property Owner(s)
GS2, LLC
General Location(s)
38700 Falcon Avenue
PID(s)
11.00399.00

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: Jason Ziemer at jasonz@ci.north-branch.mn.us.

Jason Ziemer, Community Development Director
jasonz@ci.north-branch.mn.us
(651) 674-8113
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on Feb. 23, 2023

FORECLOSURES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 26, 2016 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$189,036.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Gabriel T. Schreiber and Maureen Schreiber, husband and wife MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. nominee for

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC LENDER: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Isanti County Minnesota, Recorder, on October 11, 2016, as Document No. A461683. ASSIGNED TO: Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust F by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 01/26/2022 and recorded on 01/26/2022 as Document No. A512869. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 7, Block 7, PARKWOOD SOUTHEAST, Isanti County, Minnesota PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1039 TAFT STREET SOUTH, CAMBRIDGE, MN 55008 PROPERTY I.D.: 15.164.0900 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: Two Hundred Five Thousand One Hundred Seven and 79/100 (\$205,107.79) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00AM on April 6, 2023 PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff's Office, 2440 Main Street South, Cambridge MN 55008 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or

assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section 580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on October 6, 2023, or the next business day if October 6, 2023 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "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." Dated: February 16, 2023 Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, as trustee of Stanwich Mortgage Loan Trust F Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Edinbrough Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: 952-232-0052 Our File No. 22MN00193-1 A-4774331 02/16/2023, 02/23/2023, 03/02/2023, 03/09/2023, 03/16/2023, 03/23/2023
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on Feb. 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2023

CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Cambridge Township, County of Isanti, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at the Cambridge Township Hall (located in the Isanti County Historical Society Building at 33525 Flanders St. NE. Cambridge). In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March (21st). If inclement weather also postpones the election and meeting on the third Tuesday, the Board must set a date within 30 days following the third Tuesday in March.

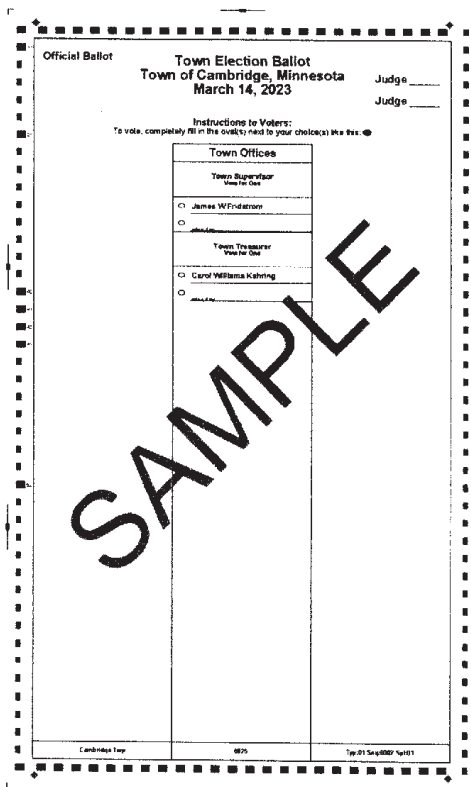
The Election Poll hours will be open from 10:00a.m. to 8:00p.m., at which time the voters will elect: one Supervisor for a three year term and one Treasurer for a two year term. Absentee ballots are available at the Isanti County Auditor's Office.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:05p.m. to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law.

The Board of Canvass will meet following the close of the Annual Meeting to certify the official election results.

DARRELL VOSIKA 2/10/2023
CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP CLERK
SAMPLE COPY OF BALLOT

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on Feb. 23, March 2, 2023



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- Correspondent Banker - All Locations
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- Operations Lead - Clara City
- Loan Portfolio Officer - Clara City
- Compliance Manager - Clara City
- VP Loan Officer - Clara City, Watertown
- Part-time Teller - Howard Lake

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16
Lost & Found
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20
Notices
 Press Publications in White Bear Lake is seeking a staff writer to join its award-winning team. As a staff writer-reporter you will be responsible for coordinating editorial content and layout for our newspapers, website and social media pages. In addition to writing stories, the job will require attending meetings, taking photographs, assisting with the layout process, coordinating, writing occasional editorial columns and maintaining a positive relationship with the community at large. We are looking for a candidate who is an efficient writer, passionate about local community news and great at time management. Candidates should have a degree in journalism (or a related field) and have relevant experience. To apply, please send resume, cover letter and three writing samples to quadnews@presspubs.com.

102
Services
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Now Hiring Non-Emergency Medical Drivers!
 Attaboys, Inc is under new ownership and is looking to hire Non-Emergency Medical Drivers in and around Mora. Please apply if you enjoy working with the public, need supplemental income due to disability or retirement, or have a desire to assist your community. Use company vehicles & fuel, and earn \$0.40 per mile.
Requirements: Valid MN Driver's License and clean driving record.
Please call Kelly at 320-237-4227 for additional information.



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COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR
 Lakes and Pines Community Action Council, a private non-profit organization, is seeking a professional to assist in the on-going planning, development, management and implementation of the Agency-wide systems that support multiple projects which promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families with low-incomes. This position provides direction and supervisory responsibility for employees in the Community Services Department and provides oversight of anti-poverty programs, such as homeless prevention, financial literacy, senior services, application assistance and tax preparation clinics. Responsibilities include: grant writing and execution, research and program planning, public administration, and grant reporting. Bachelor's Degree in public administration, planning, urban/rural studies, social work or a related interdisciplinary human service field; work experience in community service programs management, planning or coordination; and successful experience in social science research methods, statistical analyses, budgeting, grant writing, and securing funding is required. Must have proven administrative experience in a supervisory capacity and possess excellent communication and time management skills. Business travel required. Full time position with generous benefit package. Starting salary is dependent upon qualifications: \$24.57- \$26.74 per hour.
For information, application and/or accommodations, please contact Lakes and Pines C.A.C., Inc. 1700 Maple Avenue East, Mora, MN. 55051; 320/679-1800 or www.lakesandpines.org.
Application deadline is: 12 p.m., February 27, 2023. Agency's Employment Application is required of each applicant for consideration.
 Minorities, women, and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. Lakes and Pines is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



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Office Support Specialist Land Services



Maintains land use, zoning, and building records in accordance with regulations. Assists Land Services Coordinator in land use and planning and zoning administration. Provides front reception and general clerical, customer support, and building permit and inspections intake.

For full job description and to apply online, go to www.chisagocountymn.gov. Deadline: March 5, 2023.



Now Hiring!

Lab Technicians/Technologists

Welia Health is hiring multiple full and part-time Lab Technicians/Technologists. This is a Bonus Eligible Position, where you will be responsible for the collection, processing, and testing of specimens while following the proper health protocols.

Qualifications:

- Graduate from accredited MLT (CLT) or MT (CLS) program, or equivalent education and training, with certification as an MLT/CLT or MLS/MT.
- New graduates must pass national certification exam (ASCP BOR) within 6 months of employment.

weliahealth.org/join-our-team/



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Information Technology Director

Looking for an Information Technology Director to help lead our IT Department. As the Information Technology Director, you are an essential piece to the Welia Health leadership team. Information Technology Director's primary job duties include overseeing all technology operations, devising action plans, and establishing IT policies and procedures, analyzing the organizational requirements of all department to determine technology and security needs, build relationships with vendors and creating cost-efficient contracts, and coordinate all IT professionals to provide guidance. Our organization offers a competitive salary and a comprehensive benefit package.

Welia Health is an equal opportunity provider.

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Now Hiring!

Are you a Pharmacist or Pharmacy Tech who would like to work for a pharmacy with world-class service? If so Welia Health is looking for new team members. The expertise of our Pharmacy staff is essential to the Welia Health care team. Job duties for a pharmacist include preparing and distributing prescription medicines, verify patient information, instruct patients on how to take medications safely, provide general health and wellness advice, and advise patients on any other issues related to prescriptions. Pharmacy Tech primary job duties include preparing patient prescriptions, receive prescription requests, pricing prescriptions, managing inventory, process insurance, and packaging and labeling pill and prescription. Previous experience is preferred but not required. Our organization offers competitive pay and a comprehensive benefit package.

weliahealth.org/join-our-team/

Welia Health is an equal opportunity provider.





Now Hiring!

Are you a Paramedic who would like to become a part of an elite EMS team? If so, Welia Health is looking for new team members. The expertise and critical thinking of our Paramedic Staff is essential to the Welia Health care team. Paramedic's primary job duties include responding to 911 calls, assessing patient injuries quickly, perform CPR, preform transfers, maintain supplies, patient charting, utilize equipment, and maintain and drive an ambulance. Previous experience is preferred but not required. Our organization offers competitive pay and a comprehensive benefit package - most of these positions are SIGN ON BONUS ELIGIBLE.

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Welia Health is an equal opportunity provider.



HELP WANTED PROGRAM RECEPTIONIST ENERGY – HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Are you looking for a fun, fast-paced rewarding job? Do you enjoy helping seniors and low income individuals/families? Would you like to give back to your community and other communities? Lakes and Pines Energy Assistance Program is looking to fill the position for the Program Receptionist. This position will be scheduled to work 10 AM to 6:30 PM, Monday – Friday.


Lakes and Pines CAC, Inc. offers a competitive salary starting at \$16.53 to \$16.95 per hour (depending on experience). There is a benefit package including medical, dental and life insurance. Lakes and Pines also offers a retirement plan with 5 percent match after meeting enrollment requirements. Vacation and sick leave and 13 paid holidays per year (including one floating holiday).

Essential Functions

- Greet incoming customers and answer questions
- Be discreet and tactful while maintaining customer confidentiality and conducting oneself in a professional manner.
- Provide clerical support to department.
- Operate standard multi-line phone system.
- Must have the ability to empathize and communicate with customers
- Be able to work with diverse population and low income families

To apply for this rewarding position you can download an application from our website, www.lakesandpines.org. You can also call (320)679-1800 for an application, special accommodations or additional information.

Applications will be accepted until March 6, 2023 at 4 PM. No resumes accepted.



Lakes and Pines CAC, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. Women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans are encouraged to apply.



- OPEN POSITIONS -

C.N.A.: Part-time/Full-time, varied shifts, every other weekend. Flexible scheduling. WI certification. \$1,000 sign-on bonus on 2nd paycheck, \$1,000 retention bonus after six months of successful employment.

RNs: Full and part-time positions available in EMERGENCY and MED SURG departments. Varied shifts, flexible scheduling, competitive benefit package. Bonuses up to \$8,000.

LAB TECH: 32 hrs/week, rotating call avg. 1 night/wk, 1 weekend shift (24 hr) every 3 weeks, rotating holidays. New graduates encouraged to apply. Up to \$2,500 bonus.

CLINIC CMA/LPN: Full-time position, M-F with rotating Saturdays. \$1,000 sign on bonus on 2nd paycheck, \$1,000 after 6 months of successful employment.

CLINIC CMA/LPN: Casual position, varied shifts with rotating Saturdays. \$500 sign-on bonus on 2nd paycheck, \$500 after 6 months of successful employment.

BUSINESS OFFICE MANAGER: Full-time, M-F, 2+ years of healthcare revenue cycle management experience preferred.

HIM MANAGER: Full-time, M-F; 1 year health information management experience required, knowledge of coding and privacy regulations; current RHIA, RHIT, CPC or CCS credential or willing to obtain within 1st year.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT COORDINATOR: Full-time, days; RHIT/RHIA or current RN license with 3 years hospital experience. Prefer QI experience.

LPN-NURSING HOME: Full-time/part-time positions, varied shifts, includes every other weekend; competitive benefit package, includes \$1,000 sign-on bonus, \$1,000 after 6 months of successful employment.

RN-NURSING HOME: Full-time/part-time positions, varied shifts, includes every other weekend; competitive benefit package, includes up to \$5,000 bonus.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION: Full-time, days, M-F.

HR ASSISTANT/ADMIN SECRETARY: Full-time, M-F, 8:00am-4:30pm; HR experience preferred.

PATIENT REGISTRATION REPRESENTATIVE: 22 ½ hours per pay period; Mondays and Wednesdays 3:45pm-8pm, every other Saturday 8am-2pm

PATIENT REGISTRATION SUPERVISOR: Full-time days primarily; possible fill-in evenings and weekends

PATIENT REGISTRATION REPRESENTATIVE: Casual, varied shifts

INFECTION PREVENTION RN: Full-time, M-F, Infection Prevention Certification and experience desired but will train for right candidate.

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Hospital RN

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Join the Welia Health family, where our patients are extended family.

Where you can:

- experience 1 to 1 learning and mentoring
- build close relationships with patients
- new, or soon to be, graduates are strongly encouraged to apply
- opportunities to be cross trained in multiple areas including (ER, ICU, OB, Outpatient Services)
- join a team of engaged and driven professionals.

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Join Our Team! Now Hiring:

- EMT (Bonus Eligible)
- Paramedic (Bonus Eligible)
- MLT/MLS (Bonus Eligible)
- Phlebotomist (Bonus Eligible)
- Dietician
- Imaging Tech
- Pharm Tech
- Nursing Assistant
- Clinic LPN/CMA/RN
- Hospital RN (Bonus Eligible)
- Coding Specialist-Inpatient
- Patient Service Specialist
- IT Director
- Certified Athletic Trainer
- Emergency Department Unit Coordinator/Registration Associate
- Certified Sterile Processor
- Certified Surgical Technologist
- Dietary Aide/Cashier
- Physical Therapist
- Speech/Language Pathologist



Apply Here

HELP WANTED CERTIFIER 1 ENERGY – HOUSING DEPARTMENT

Are you looking for a fun, fast-paced, rewarding job? Do you enjoy helping seniors and low-income individuals/families? Would you like to give back to your community and other communities? Lakes and Pines Energy Assistance Program is looking to fill the position for Certifier 1. This position will be scheduled to work 10 AM to 6:30 PM, Monday – Friday.

Lakes and Pines offers a competitive salary starting at \$14.01 per hour (depending on experience). There is a benefit package including medical, dental and life insurance. Lakes and Pines also offers a retirement plan with 5 percent match after meeting enrollment requirements. Vacation and sick leave and 13 paid holidays per year (including one floating holiday).

As a Certifier 1, your primary responsibilities will be to review Energy Assistance Program customer applications for completeness, then process the household data using multiple programs to determine if the household is eligible for assistance.

Essential Functions

- Working knowledge of computers and ability to file data electronically.
- High school diploma or the equivalent
- Good math skills
- Be able to maintain accurate and legible records
- Good communication skills, verbal and written
- The ability to empathize and communicate with customers
- Be able to work with diverse populations

To apply for this rewarding position you can download an application from our website at www.lakesandpines.org. You can also call (320) 679-1800 for an application, special accommodations or additional information.

Applications will be accepted until March 6, 2023 at 4 PM. No resumes accepted.



Lakes and Pines is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans are encouraged to apply.



Now Hiring!

Dietary Aide/Cashier

Part-Time, 40 hours bi-weekly

Looking to start a career in nutrition? Already have some customer service experience? If so Welia Health is looking for a new team member in nutritional services.

The Dietary Aide/Cashier assists customers at the serving line and at the cash register.

The hours are mostly to cover the evening cashier shift from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. and every other weekend.

We offer a competitive pay and benefit package.

Welia Health is an equal opportunity provider.

weliahealth.org/join-our-team/




Progressive Living Solutions is a local North Branch residential adult group home provider supporting high functioning adults with mental illness and other disabilities. Looking for kind and nurturing caregivers to assist us in our fun and laid-back social environment, by providing supervision and other supports to our residents. No physical cares or restraining actions required. Our residents are kind individuals and there are no threats of physical injury while on shift. Offering a competitive hourly wage, paid training, annual bonus, and a \$500.00 new hire bonus.

Hiring immediately for Full Time & Part Time positions!

PM Direct Support Professionals 3pm-10:15pm & Awake Overnight Direct Support Professionals 10pm-7:30am with rotating weekends.

Please call to discuss these opportunities!
(651) 277 – 7777 or apply online at www.PLSMN.net/Jobs

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