



BACK TO WORK: C-I, North Branch winter sports ramp back up following holiday break. **PAGE 7**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Grin and bear it

Cambridge-Isanti's Blaise Wentworth has a tight headlock cinched in for a near-fall of his opponent during the annual Bluejacket Individual Invite. Wentworth would eventually gain a pinfall victory in this match en route to a fourth place finish at 172 pounds.

Rejected cannabis store owner threatens lawsuit

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The city of Cambridge's headache over receiving simultaneous cannabis dispensary applications might soon become a full-blown migraine.

Through his attorney, Roger Vannelli, whose interim use permit request to open a cannabis dispensary at 626 Main Street North was rejected by the council in favor of an application submitted for the same type of store to be opened at 130 Cleveland Street North, has demanded a "litigation hold" on any and all documents and information related to the council's actions. A litigation hold isn't an official lawsuit, but it does alert the recipient(s) of a possible future lawsuit and forbids the recipient(s) from "destroying" any documents related to the possible lawsuit.

According to a letter from Libby Law Office sent to City Administrator Evan Vogel and each member of the council, along with being independently sent to the Star, the council allegedly violated state statute by "decide(ing) to create a mess for itself, making up a legal standard of 'first come, first served,' acted arbitrarily in what constitutes a complete application, and brought a lawsuit upon the city.

"By your votes and actions, you treated our client disparately, acted arbitrarily and capriciously, denied our client due process, and opened everyone up to potential liability," the letter reads.

The letter points out the Cambridge Planning Commission, along with city staff, advised the council it could amend its cannabis ordinance to allow for two stores to be opened within city limits. When it was originally adopted, the ordinance allowed for only one cannabis store, which at that time was the minimum allowed by state statute. Once the city's population increases to over 12,501 — something some are predicting will happen within the next two years — the city will be required to increase its maximum to at least two stores.

"You should have followed their advice," the letter

'By your votes and actions, you treated our client disparately, acted arbitrarily and capriciously, denied our client due process, and opened everyone up to potential liability.'

Letter from Roger Vannelli's attorney

SEE LAWSUIT, PAGE 6

Isanti County amends cannabis cultivation ordinance, includes unpopular condition

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

After several months of discussion on the Planning Commission, the Isanti County Commissioners have approved amending the cannabis cultivation portion of its overall cannabis ordinance, expanding where the legalized plant can be grown with a state-issued license. At the same time, however, the commissioners added a condition that proved to be unpopular with several would-be local growers.

The major component of the amendment is the county will now allow cannabis cultivation within Agriculture/Residential Districts. Previously, cannabis cultivation was only allowed in an Industrial District.

As a condition of making this amendment, however, the county added "the principal operator of the business must reside on the parcel

where the cultivation occurs and must have obtained homestead status for that parcel."

During a public hearing regarding the amendment, several would-be cultivators voiced their opposition to that condition, stating while they understood the condition from a safety and security standpoint, it would place additional financial constraints on them. Specifically, smaller business owners are looking at leasing land as a more cost-effective way to open their business.

According to Commissioner Steve Westerberg, the primary reason for including that condition is other conditional use permits within the Agricultural/Residential District already have that condition. Therefore, the Planning Commission was simply following a precedent already established.

"So, we are being consistent with

SEE CULTIVATION, PAGE 6

'If the homestead requirement is removed, then it is going to allow big tobacco to come in. They have the money and resources to come in and crush any small, local operations.'

Jeff Edblad
Isanti County Attorney

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Minnesota's state parks, recreation areas offer fun, affordable winter adventures

Minnesota's state parks and recreation areas are ready to welcome visitors for a full season of winter recreation, with opportunities ranging from skiing and snowshoeing to wildlife watching and peaceful candlelit walks. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites Minnesotans to embrace the season by getting outdoors, trying something new, and enjoying the magical beauty that winter brings to parks and trails across the state.

Here are a few favorite outdoor activities to try this winter:

BIRDWATCHING

Winter birding in Minnesota offers a unique opportunity to see species adapted to cold climates and the quiet, leafless landscapes make it easier to spot birds. Several parks offer free winter birding programs, including Itasca, Lake Bemidji, Minneopa, Nerstrand Big Woods, Wild River and William O'Brien state parks. Find details on the Parks and Trails event calendar at mndnr.gov/ptcalendar.

SNOWSHOEING

Snowshoeing opens up a whole new side of Minnesota's state parks and recreation areas. Once the ground freezes and a protective blanket of snow settles in, visitors can roam beyond summer trails to explore quiet backwaters, frozen wetlands and wooded corners that are not accessible

in other seasons. Many state parks and recreation areas offer snowshoe rentals for \$6 per day. More information about rentals and snowshoe programs, like guided walks and beginner classes, is on the DNR snowshoeing webpage (mndnr.gov/state_parks/snowshoeing.html).

WINTER HIKING

Hiking is a rewarding way to experience winter landscapes while staying active in colder months. Some state parks have plowed or packed trails; these locations are listed on the DNR winter hiking webpage (mndnr.gov/state_parks/winter_hiking.html). Plus, visitors can attend special winter hiking events, including first day hikes to start off the new year and family-friendly candlelight events.

ICE FISHING

Minnesota residents can fish without a fishing license in many Minnesota state parks, and this includes ice fishing. If you're new to the sport, check out one of the state park ice fishing programs to get tips for a successful fishing trip; details are on the state parks ice fishing webpage (mndnr.gov/state_parks/ice_fishing.html).

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Groomed ski trails at 22 state parks give beginners and seasoned skiers alike a smooth, quiet route through forests, prairies and lakeshores.

Additional groomed trails are available at some state forests and state trails. Skiers ages 16 or older need a Great Minnesota Ski Pass, which costs \$10 per day, \$25 per year, or \$70 for a three-year pass. Find trails and ski pass information at the DNR cross-country ski webpage (mndnr.gov/skiing) and get the latest trail conditions on the DNR's snow depth and groomed trail conditions page (mndnr.gov/snow).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Learn about even more winter activities on DNR's winter guide webpage (mndnr.gov/winterguide).

PLANNING AND SAFETY TIPS

Being prepared is key to making a trip to a state park or recreation area enjoyable and safe.

Before leaving home, check the website of the location you plan to visit (mndnr.gov/parklist) for visitor alerts that may affect your trip.

To find which locations offer specific types of trails, amenities or rental equipment, use the ParkFinder tool (mndnr.gov/parkfinder).

Visitors need a vehicle permit for state parks and recreation areas. The cost is \$7 per day or \$35 per year. The DNR recommends buying a one before leaving home using the state park vehicle permit webpage (mndnr.gov/permit). Visitors can also buy permits onsite when ranger stations are open.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR ARCHIVES

Snowshoeing is just one of the many winter activities available at Minnesota State Parks and recreation areas.

Visitors may also use the state park library program (mndnr.gov/librarypass) to check out a seven-day state park pass at no cost from one of more than 200 participating libraries.

Check the weather forecast before heading out, and dress appropriately for the conditions. Those new to winter out-

door recreation in Minnesota can check out the DNR's guide to dressing for Minnesota winters (mndnr.gov/dressing-forwinter).

Always check ice depth before going on frozen water and remember ice is never 100 percent safe. Learn about ice safety on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/icesafety). -MNDNR

New business identity theft protections begin

On January 1, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State launched a set of protections for business owners impacted by business identity theft.

Business identity theft is a nationwide problem. It occurs when someone creates a company in the name of someone else without permission, reactivates a business entity without the knowledge or consent of the business owner, or changes the address on business filings. Victims often face debts, collection calls, or damaged credit histories - all without a clear path to

resolution. Previously, the only options for targeted business owners were costly court actions or law enforcement intervention.

The new Business Identity Recovery process offers individuals affected by this crime a free and fast way to correct their records. With new legal authority to intervene on behalf of targeted businesses, the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State can now investigate and redact illegitimate filings after a business owner reports a wrongful filing.

This new program is the result of a years-long effort by the Secretary of State's office to develop a legislative proposal to address the problem. The legislation passed with broad bipartisan support and was signed into law in early 2025.

"Our office has heard the voices of Minnesotans frustrated by the complicated and expensive steps needed to correct their business records after a bad actor takes over their accounts," said Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon. "That's why we did the work

to develop a solution and get it signed into law to help ensure business owners have a way to reclaim their identity and get back to doing business."

Minnesota is one of the first states in America to implement this new process to help business owners impacted by business identity theft.

Learn more: <https://www.sos.mn.gov/business-liens/business-identity-recovery/> -MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE

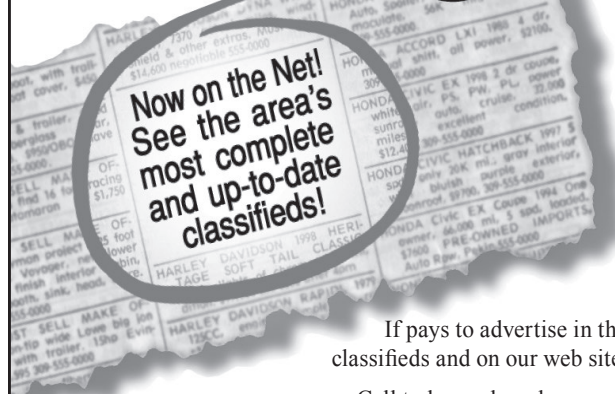
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MON & THUR Alcoholics Anonymous

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

MON - FRI Senior Dining

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

MONDAYS

Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families

7 p.m. at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old Main St N, Cambridge Mn 55008 For more information contact Rebecca at 612-702-2844 or CoraJayne 612-210-1605

Fresh Beginnings Alanon

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

Book Club

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

TUES & THURS

Boxing for Those w/Parkinson's

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 5

p.m. at 115 Adams Street South, Cambridge. For more information, call 763-221-6883.

TUESDAYS

Braham Parkinson's Support

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

Alzheimer's Support

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

Memory Cafe

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

PrimeTime Singers

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

Grief Share

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

Celebrate Recovery

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



Fare for All Low Price Food Sale is Jan. 9 at Rush City High School.

terecoverly.com for more info.

WEDNESDAYS

Alanon

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

Chisago County Drop-In Center

Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main Street Church, 6500 Main Street, North Branch. For individuals 18 yrs or older living with mental illness. Info: 651-213-5600 or Adult-mentalhealth.org.

THURSDAYS

East Central Baby Cafe

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

Cambridge-Edgewood AFG

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

Parkinson's Support Group

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

ACA Adult Children of Alcoholics/ Dysfunctional Families Meeting

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family Group

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

org for info.

Medicare and Medicaid 101 Open House

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

SATURDAY

GriefShare

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

Joyful Walking Club

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

JAN 9

Fare For All low-price food sale

Fare For All is returning to Rush City High School (at Door 5) on Friday, Jan. 9, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Fare for All is open to ALL. There are no eligibility requirements and pre-registration is not needed, just show up and shop. Please note that Fare for All accepts cash, credit, debit, and EBT cards, but they do not accept checks.

JAN 13

We R Able crafts event

At the North Branch High School art room 38175 Grand Ave., North Branch from 6-8 p.m. For more info call 320-358-3616.

SENIOR CENTER WEEKLY EVENTS

CAMBRIDGE

140 Buchanan Street
Mondays
Bridge - 1 to 3 p.m.
Scrabble 10 a.m. to noon (second Monday of month)
Mahjong - noon to 3 p.m.
Tuesdays
Dominoes - 10 a.m. to noon
Wednesdays
Cribbage - 9 to 11 a.m.
Wizard 11 a.m. to noon
Pinochle 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Mahjong 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Thursdays
500 - 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Bunco - 10 a.m. to noon (Third Thursday of month)

CHISAGO COUNTY

38790 6th Avenue, North Branch
Mon, Wed, Fri.
Exercise with Connie - 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Monday & Wednesday
500 - starting at 12:45 p.m.

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

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

Fridays
Cribbage - starting at 12:45 p.m.

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How social media use impacts teen body image

Social media usage among teens is more prevalent than ever before. In recent years, researchers have begun investigating how much social media affects teen weight concerns and body image issues. A new study from the University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development and Stanford University uses an innovative method to track teen's social media usage and body image over time.

The study, published in JAMA Pediatrics, followed a group of 154 teenagers ages 13 to 17 over the course of six months. The researchers used an app called Screenomics, which runs in the background of smartphones and takes screenshots to track social media usage. The participating teenagers used social media between zero and over eight hours daily during the study period.

The team examined all social media apps, and focused on six of the most popular: Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, Discord, X (formerly Twitter) and TikTok. They also sent regular surveys to the study participants to understand weight concerns and dieting frequency. They found:

The innovative Screenomics tool allowed for objective measurement

of social media use. This is a major improvement from previous studies, which relied on self-reported data that was often inaccurate and biased.

Teens typically spent just over an hour each day using social media, with some spending over eight hours daily online. However, the amount of time teens spent across all social media apps was not associated with weight concerns or dieting.

Teens who used Snapchat, TikTok and X for longer periods of time reported more weight concerns than their peers who used these platforms less often.

"Although many people are still worried about screen time, when it comes to teen social media use, duration of screen time may be less important than the content on these platforms," said lead author Xiaoran Sun, an assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Development. "We now know that certain platforms expose teens to more potentially harmful content than others. To protect teen mental health and body image in the future, we'll need to explore ways to limit exposure to that content."

Future research will build on the Screenomics tool to determine what so-



cial media content is related to negative body image issues, such as unrealistic body images, eating disorder groups and advertising for weight loss drugs.

University of Minnesota collaborators include Ting Xu, a graduate student in the College of Education and Human Development.

Research was supported by the Na-

tional Institute of Mental Health, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the Stanford Maternal and Child Health Research Institute, the Department of Pediatrics at Stanford University, and the University of Minnesota Grant-in-Aid of Research, Artistry, and Scholarship program. - The University of Minnesota College of Education and Human Development

Please don't give us another 'literally anybody else'

Well, my column from a month ago titled "How to defeat Walz next November" certainly became outdated fast. Or, at least the crux of the column did.

Walz, in his speech announcing he decided not to run for re-election, put full blame on the Republican's — or more specifically Trump's "dirty" tactics. However, I, like many others have mentioned, think the real reason is precisely what I wrote before: during his second term in office, the state has become an unmitigated disaster, making even his most ardent supporter to have a hard time justifying his re-election.

Don't get me wrong. I don't approve of the vicious mudslinging that has become a staple of many candidates' tactics, not to mention a considerable part of Trump's daily communications. At the same time, you can't exactly blame his

opponents for persistently bringing up Walz's shortcomings, as long as they are factual, verifiable, and they don't hit below the belt.

I also don't buy that Walz fell on his own sword for the sake of sparing all us Minnesotans from being caught in the crossfire. For one, in today's political environment, politicians don't do what's best for the general public. They do what's best for the party. And two, Walz dropping out of the race won't lessen Trump's attacks against Minnesota.

I, admittedly along with others, also think Walz's heart just wasn't in this campaign. Shortly following the assassination of House Speaker Melissa Hortman, Walz basically admitted he was willing to step aside in order for Hortman to have an uncontested run as the Democratic candidate for governor. After her death, however, there wasn't another candidate the Democrats were willing to back, so Walz was left with little choice but to run again.

Either way, with Walz out of the picture, Democrats now will need to find a new candidate to hang their hats on. The biggest name to almost immediately be mentioned is Senator Amy Klobuchar. Even many Republicans acknowledge she would probably be the most formidable candidate to go against. Plus, she could run a "zero risk" campaign. If she were to lose, she would still have her seat in the U.S. Senate.

At this time, though, she appears to be the only Democrat with a snowballs chance of winning. The other two names most mentioned: Attorney General Keith Ellison and State Auditor Steve Simon, are too close to Walz. The election would invariably turn into a repeat of the last presidential election where Kamala Harris replaced Biden.

When all is said and done, my bottom line still remains. Hopefully both parties offer up at least a semi-appealing candidate. Barring that, I can only hope history repeats itself and another candidate like Jesse Ventura comes along.

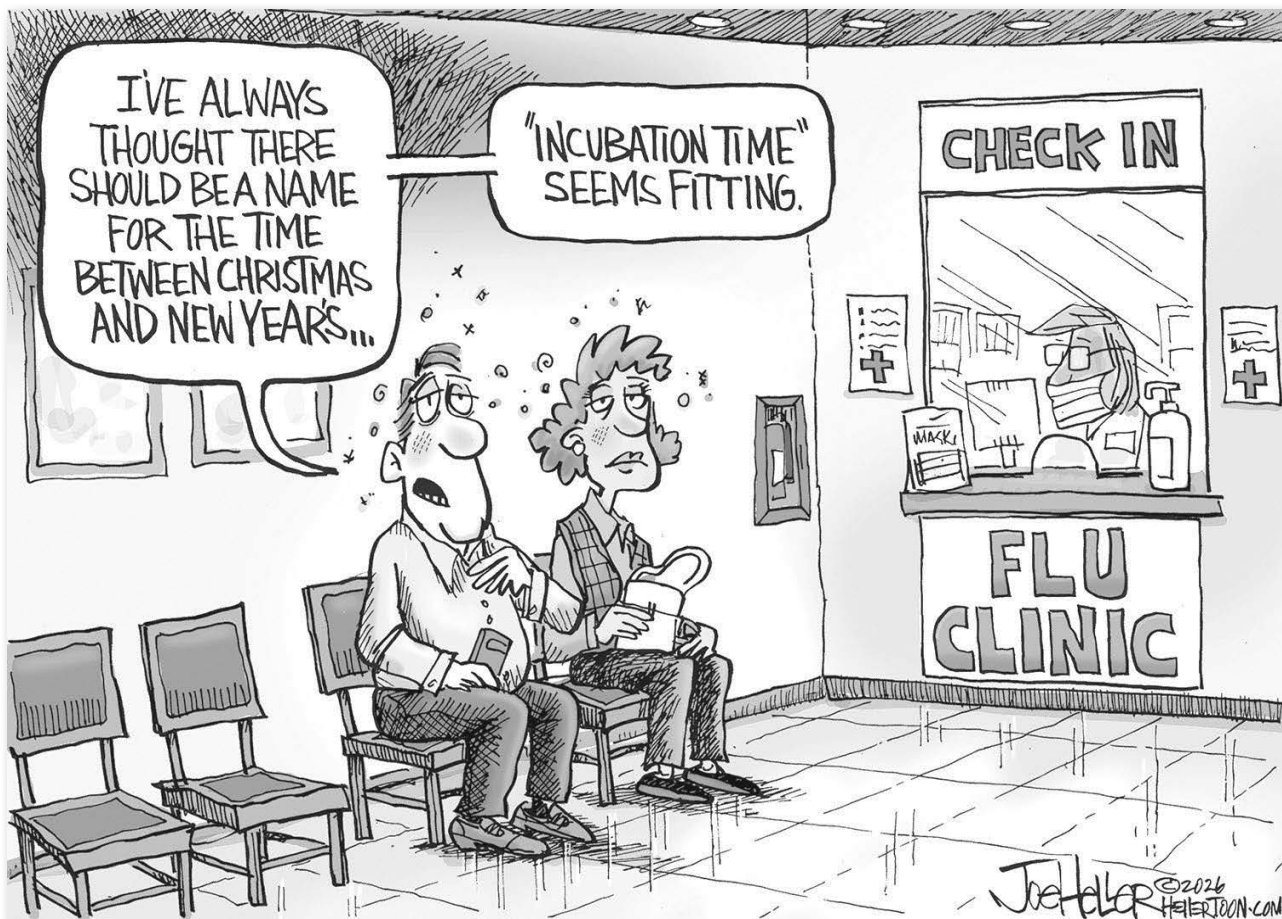
BILL STICKELS III is editor of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be directly reached at 651-407-1245, through our main office number at 763-689-1181, ext. 156 or editor@countystar.com.



Worth a Thousand Words

Bill

Stickels III



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for Salvation Army support

To the editor,
The Isanti County Salvation Army Unit would like to thank the area residents who supported our Red Kettle Campaign. The donations received in the kettles located in Braham, Cambridge and Isanti is a testament to your generosity.

To those who volunteered to ring the bell we extend a special THANK YOU. The money raised is dedicated to supporting the needs of Isanti County residents. In addition to supporting individual families, this past year, our unit provided Easter hams, Thanksgiving turkey baskets, school supplies to local schools and support for several food shelves.

Wes Harding
Isanti County Salvation Army

Land of 10,000 frauds

To the editor,
Now that they woke up, they are finding fraud under every rock. Some heads should roll. All states should look into it also. The state or federal government should have raised concerns long ago. A simple exception spreadsheet comparing disbursements by state, dollar amounts versus population/demographics, history,

and other key indicators.

States that don't manage these funds should be disqualified from any federal funds that are part of the particular program. Once they clean up this mess, I'm sure we will see a reduction in taxes, but don't bet on it.

Steve Graning
Cambridge

Problem with over-serving

To the editor,
I'm writing as a concerned resident regarding an ongoing issue in our community: local bars continuing to serve patrons well past the point of sobriety. As a result, many residents — particularly women — no longer feel safe or comfortable patronizing these establishments. What should be enjoyable social gathering spaces too often become venues where intoxicated people are over-served, leading to poor behavior, harassment, assaults, and an overall sense that these establishments prioritize sales over public safety.

Minnesota law clearly shows that this issue is not just a matter of etiquette or business practice — it's a legal matter. Under Minnesota Statute § 340A.502, it is unlawful for any person to "sell, give, furnish, or in any way procure for another alcoholic bev-

erages for the use of an obviously intoxicated person." This law clearly reflects the public policy that alcohol cannot and should not be served once someone's level of intoxication is apparent.

In addition, Minnesota's Dram Shop law (Minn. Stat. § 340A.801) allows a person injured by an intoxicated individual — or the family of someone harmed — to pursue a civil action against an establishment that "caused the intoxication ... by illegally selling alcoholic beverages." In other words, when bars or restaurants over-serve visibly drunk patrons and someone is hurt as a result, establishments can be held accountable.

These laws exist to protect public safety, yet they appear to be routinely ignored. Over-serving alcohol puts patrons, staff, and the broader community at risk, and it drives away responsible customers who want safe places to gather.

I urge bar owners, licensing authorities, and local officials to take this issue seriously — through better training, stronger enforcement, and accountability. Our community deserves nightlife that is both enjoyable and safe for everyone.

Doug Lauseng
Cambridge

Your Best Source for Community Information

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Clear expectations that protect learning

Last fall, North Branch Area Public Schools (NBAPS) made a thoughtful decision to place clear limits on cell phone use during the school day. The purpose was simple: protect learning and create classroom environments where students can focus, connect, and engage fully.

As we move through year two of these changes, I have been engaging with students, teachers, school leaders, school board members, and parents to reflect on lessons learned. These conversations are grounded in daily experience and open dialogue and have helped us better understand how this decision is shaping classrooms and school culture across our district.

Students have shared that classrooms feel more focused and more connected. They described improved peer interactions, increased attention during instruction, and learning spaces that feel calmer and more supportive of learning. Teachers echoed these observations, noting smoother instructional flow, stronger classroom culture, and more consistent engagement throughout the school day.

School leaders play a critical role in making this work successful. Principals and district leaders help

create clarity, support consistency, and ensure expectations are applied thoughtfully across classrooms. Their leadership connects policy to practice, supports staff, and keeps student learning at the center of decision making. Strong leadership ensures that changes like this are implemented with care and responsiveness to the unique needs of our elementary, middle school, and high school communities.

Our school board's role in this work has also been essential. Their commitment to clear policy intent and responsible stewardship ensured the focus remained on learning. Equally important was their trust in professional practice, allowing educators to apply expectations with consistency and sound judgment.

This work reflects one of our core values at NBAPS: partnership. Students, families, educators, school leaders, and board members have all contributed to shaping how this change functions in our schools. We addressed questions as they arose, clarified expectations, and made adjustments when necessary. This shared approach strengthened trust and reinforced our collective responsibility for student success.

Many families have shared concerns about the amount of time students spend on technology, particularly social media. Research and recent publications, including *The Anxious Generation*, identify social media as a significant contributor to distraction, anxiety, and reduced attention during the school day.

Establishing clear expectations for personal technology use helped curb access to social media during learning time, allowing classrooms to remain places of focus and connection while we continue teaching responsible and thoughtful technology use. Our responsibility is to design learning environments that support attention, relationships, and meaningful learning.

Our vision calls us to inspire dreams, build integrity, and instill hope. Protecting learning sometimes requires making clear choices that are not immediately popular. At the outset, many students did not support these changes. Over time, and after experiencing the impact in their classrooms, students shared that they now support the decision and recognize its positive effect on their learning and wellbeing. Setting high expectations takes courage. When expectations are clear and rooted in care, students rise to meet them and recognize how those standards help them succeed.

Next week, a panel of our students and staff will be presenting at the Minnesota School Board Association conference to share this Viking story, highlighting what is possible when clear expectations and strong relationships guide our work.

Forward together.

SKOL! Vikings!

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



NB School News
Sara Paul

Gardening trends in 2026

That's a wrap on 2025. I hope it was a great gardening year for you with more successes than challenges.

Winter is a good time to think back on the last gardening season and make note of what worked well, what didn't, and what you want to do differently next year. With that in mind I've come across a couple of articles on what's trending in the gardening world in 2026. Here are just a few.

Houseplants make gardening accessible to everyone regardless of space. They bring beauty and wellness indoors and also cleanse the air in your home. Look for new introductions at your local garden centers this year. Proven Winners has introduced a new line of houseplants called leafjoy. New varieties of Snake plants, Monstera and Philodendron are also on deck for 2026. Kokedama is a decorative planting technique that grows houseplants in compact, soil filled balls wrapped in a natural fiber.

Also trending are new plant supports made from plant-based materials. Climb-itt is an eco-friendly pole support for twining plants made from potato skins and elephant grass. 2nd Sand from Organic Mechanics

is a product made from colorful recycled glass. Add it on top of houseplant soil for a bright addition of color.

Outdoors the interest in growing fruit at home continues. Our own Chisago County Master Gardener Diane Patras-Smith is teaching an in-person community education class on February 12th on growing raspberries, strawberries and blackberries. Contact North Branch Community Ed for details. She is also teaching a class on March 17th through CCMG on growing blueberries. You can contact our office to sign up for that one. Apples, pears, plums, cherries, grapes, currants, serviceberries and gooseberries can all be grown successfully in our zone. If you want to push the zone a little you can try cold hardy varieties of peaches and apricots.

Rewilding is a trend where landowners let a portion of their properties "rewild". This is not just letting your landscape go. Intentionality is needed with a focus on allowing regionally native plants to flourish while deterring invasive species. This trend includes everything from planting native flowering plants and grasses to reducing lawn areas and adopting practices like leaving the leaves or small woodpiles in certain areas around your property to create habitat for overwintering insects and pollinators.

Light pollution, especially bright white lights, not only block our view of the night sky but also throw off the feeding and mating

habits of nocturnal creatures like bats and moths. Products like solar lights provide a softer ambient light while still providing enough light to light our paths and illuminate focal features.

On the whimsical side there is a new petunia called Firefly that glows in the dark. The secret behind the plant's ability to glow is the addition of genetic material from a type of bioluminescent mushroom. You may be seeing more of this enchanting plant at local garden centers, or you can go to the website of the company Light Bio, who developed it.

Boutique flower farms have emerged to give us options for finding locally grown flowers that are fresher and more seasonal. Favorites like dahlias, zinnias and heirloom annuals can be found at local flower farms and farmers markets.

And finally, bold jewel tone colors are back. Combine these bright colors with a method called maximalist gardening to design full and exciting spaces. Perfect for gardeners who don't shy away from gardens jam packed with color.

These are just a few of the many new gardening trends. If any of them pique your interest I hope you enjoy doing your own research as you make your 2026 gardening plans.

Chisago County Master Gardeners is part of a collaboration between Chisago County and The University of Minnesota Extension to deliver practical education and research you can use at home, at work and in your community. You can reach Chisago County Extension services by email at mnext-chisago@umn.edu or by phone at 651-277-0151.



Extension MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM Chisago County



Master Gardener Leslie Scharafanow

Can you text 911?

Question: I have heard a person can text 911 if they need to. Can you explain what that is about?

AnsWER: Here is some information we shared on the Department of Public Safety's blog.

Text-to-911 is a different way to get help when you can't make a voice call. Texting should only be used when you can't make a voice call. People who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing or speech impaired may use text-to-911 as a first contact option. Remember: "Call if you can, text if you can't."

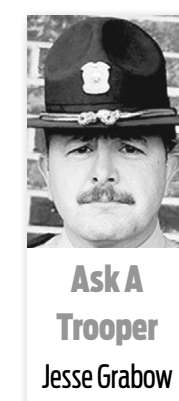
How to text 911:

- Enter the number 911 in the "To" field.
- Text message should include your location and type of emergency.
- Send the message.
- Be ready to answer questions and follow instructions.

- Use simple words.
- Do not use abbreviations, emojis, pictures or slang.
- Do not text and drive.

It is a crime to text 911 with a false report. If you accidentally send a text to 911, send another text or place a call to let the dispatcher know that there is no emergency.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow - Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on X @ MSPPIO_NW or reach him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).



Ask A Trooper Jesse Grabow



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LETTER GUIDELINES

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

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

writer's first and last name, community of residence and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published.

- Only letters originating from writers who live, work or have some other relevance to the *Star* circulation area will be published.
- An identification line may be added to the writer's letter identifying his or her occupation or title as it applies to the topic of the letter.
- Special rules apply during election season. For questions about the *Star's* policies on letters contact the editor at 763-689-1181 ext. 107 or editor@countystar.com.

LAWSUIT: Letter offers city council only two solutions to avoid future costly litigation

FROM PAGE 1

continued.

The letter also points out the Planning Commission offered a secondary recommendation to approve Vannelli's application and reject the other one "because it was more ready to open, was further away from residential neighborhoods and was much more likely to be economically viable — these would be articulable reasons to choose our client's application that are not arbitrary or capricious."

During the Nov. 17, 2025 meeting, when the dueling applications first came in front of the council, it instructed city staff to see if it could be determined which application was turned in first. (See article in the Nov. 20 edition of the Star).

That request only complicated the matter as staff was able to establish Vannelli turned in his application first by a mere nine minutes. However, staff also determined his application was initially "incomplete" due to not containing a copy of his drivers license. This determination was the main catalyst for the council awarding the IUP to the North Cleveland Street location.

"Our client was not informed that his application was allegedly missing a perfunctory document, namely the copy of the driver's license," stated the letter.

A copy of the city's cannabis sales application shows directly below the applicant's signature line is a list of "required attachments with application." The first item listed is "Current State of Minnesota License."

The letter goes on to point out the other applicant failed to pay the required application fees at the time of submittal.

"Here's where the disparate treatment from the city comes in," the letter claimed. "City staff treated the other applicant better than ours."

However, according to Cambridge Community and Economic Development Director Marcia Westover, it was discovered a staff member told that applicant the fees did not need to be paid at that time. Therefore, Westover advised the council they shouldn't hold that against the applicant.

ADDITIONAL ALLEGED VIOLATIONS

The letter also accuses the council — specifically Council member Molly Christian — of making statements during discussions that violates state statute.

"You violated Minnesota Statute in particular when you voted against allowing any cannabis registrant. In your role as councilperson, you cannot prohibit the establishment or operation of a cannabis business," the letter claimed. "Your vote violates Minn. Stat. 342.13. In fact, that statute was enacted specifically to prevent votes like

'The city is confident that it made an appropriate decision consistent with city ordinances and state law and that a court would reach the same conclusion.'

Evan Vogel

Cambridge City Administrator, on behalf of the city council

yours, where you substituted your own personal morality for the law."

That vote was a combination of two motions: to approve the application for the North Cleveland Street location under the added condition of a soil bearing test be made to determine if any hazardous waste remains at the site, and to reject Vannelli's application. Those motions were approved 3-2, with Christian and Mayor Jim Godfrey voting "nay."

"I have seen the impact of addiction," Christian said prior to the vote. "Our constituents don't want this. We don't want this. I cannot morally vote for this."

While admitting he would rather not see any cannabis stores open in Cambridge, Godfrey also stated he would rather change the ordinance to allow for two stores in order to avoid potential litigation. (See article in the Dec. 4 edition of the Star).

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The letter concludes by offering only two ways the city could avoid a lawsuit from Vannelli.

"Our client would prefer for the city of Cambridge to rectify the wrongs it made these past two months, and is willing to sit down with the city and come to an amicable resolution... which will either include allowing two licensed cannabis retail locations, or approving our client as he was 'first.' If not, our client shall proceed with litigation against the city of Cambridge and any other persons involved in this wrongdoing."

CITY'S RESPONSE

In an email to the Star, City Administrator Evan Vogel says the city refutes Vannelli's claims.

"Consistent with the discretion afforded to local government by state law, the city has an ordinance that limits the number of cannabis retailers. During council's discussion, staff provided information about legal compliance and risk mitigation in rendering a decision on the application presented. The city is confident that it made an appropriate decision consistent with city ordinances and state law and that a court would reach the same conclusion."

CULTIVATION: Local growers claim condition would make starting business financially difficult

FROM PAGE 1

other ordinances within the county," Westerberg said. "If we were to make that change (only for cannabis cultivation), we would open the door to problems with the other businesses."

Another reason for the condition, according to Isanti County Attorney Jeff Edblad, is to try to prevent "big tobacco" from overrunning the county with cultivation businesses.

"One of the big pushes nationwide for cannabis is big tobacco," Edblad said. "And if the homestead requirement is removed, then it is going to allow big tobacco to come in. They have the money and resources to come in and crush any small, local operations."

"One of the things that has been happening in California is they are running into this very problem," Westerberg added. "They legalized

cultivation to be small business owners. But right now, it has totally changed. It's almost impossible to start (a cultivation business) and compete with big tobacco."

Isanti County Administrator Amanda Usher pointed out what makes this county different from others is it doesn't have separate agricultural and residential districts.

"It is agricultural, slash, residential," Usher said. "Many counties just have 'ag' districts. So, for cannabis cultivation just out in an ag district, the ordinances surrounding that could be different."

Ultimately, the ordinance amendment was approved unanimously, with multiple commissioners repeating the common theme that it is a virtual guarantee any cannabis ordinances are bound to be amended several times over again.

Winter snow cleanup can raise heart attack risk

Walking in a winter wonderland may sound serene and peaceful, however, shoveling your sidewalks to take that walk could quickly change delightful to deadly. According to the American Heart Association, the world's leading nonprofit organization focused on heart and brain health for all, research shows that the exertion of shoveling snow may lead to an increased risk of a heart attack or sudden cardiac arrest. In rural communities where EMS responses can be delayed and minutes matter, it's important to be aware of the signs and symptoms and seek treatment quickly.

The American Heart Association's 2020 scientific statement, Exercise-Related Acute Cardiovascular Events and Potential Deleterious Adaptations Following Long-Term Exercise Training: Placing the Risks Into Perspective—An Update, notes snow shoveling among the physical activities that may place extra stress on the heart, especially among people who aren't used to regular exercise. Numerous scientific research studies over the years have identified the dangers of shoveling snow for people with and without known heart disease.

"Research has found that the strain of heavy snow shoveling may be as demanding on the heart than taking a treadmill stress test. Combined with the dangers of exertion in extremely cold weather, you're looking at a perfect storm for a heart-related event," said Robin Germany, MD, Minnesota American Heart Association Board President. "The impact can be worse on those people who are the least fit."

Germany noted several ways snow shoveling affects heart health:

The act of shoveling snow is mostly arm work, which is more taxing and demanding on the heart than leg work.

While straining to lift heavy loads, such a shovelful of snow, you often unconsciously hold your breath, which causes big increases in heart rate and blood pressure.

Exposure to cold air causes constriction of blood vessels throughout the body, disproportionately raising blood pressure and simultaneously constricting the coronary arteries.

"The movements of snow



shoveling are very taxing and demanding on your body and can cause significant increases in your heart rate and blood pressure," Germany said. "Combined with the fact that the exposure to cold air can constrict blood vessels throughout the body, you're asking your heart to do a lot more work in conditions that are already diminishing the heart's ability to function at its best."

Germany cautioned that the impact of snow removal is especially concerning for people who already have cardiovascular risks like a sedentary lifestyle or obesity, being a current or former smoker, having diabetes, high cholesterol or high blood pressure, as well as people who have had a heart attack or stroke.

"People with these characteristics and those who have had bypass surgery or coronary angioplasty simply should not be shoveling snow in any conditions," she said. "We often see events in people who are usually sedentary, they work at a computer all day or get little or no exercise. Then once or twice a year they go out and try to shovel the driveway after a heavy snowfall and that unexpected exertion can unfortunately lead to tragedy."

Germany recommends the following tips to reduce increased risk from snow shoveling:

- If you have known or suspected heart disease or risk factors for heart disease, get someone else to do your snow removal for you!

- If you must shovel the snow, start gradually and pace yourself. Always cover your mouth and nose, wear layered clothing, as well as a hat and gloves.

- Ideally, push or sweep the snow rather than lifting and throwing it, that action involves a little less exertion.

- Be extra careful when the wind is blowing, the wind makes the temperature feel even colder than it is and will increase the effects of the cold on your body.

- If you are able, use an automated snow blower rather than shoveling. While you should still proceed with caution and be mindful of how your body is feeling, research shows that using a snow blower doesn't raise your heart rate quite as high as shoveling.

The American Heart Association urges everyone to learn the common signs of a heart attack and stroke. If you experience chest pain or pressure, lightheadedness or heart palpitations or irregular heart rhythms, stop the activity immediately. Call 9-1-1 if symptoms don't subside shortly after you stop shoveling or snow blowing. If you see someone collapse while shoveling snow, call for help and start Hands-Only CPR if they are unresponsive with no pulse.

Learn more about cold weather and cardiovascular disease heart.org.

Additional Resources:

- AHA health information: Cold Weather and Cardiovascular Disease
- AHA health information: How to Stay Active in Cold Weather
- AHA health information: Emergency Treatment of Cardiac Arrest
- Journal of the American Medical Association manuscript: Cardiac Demands of Heavy Snow Shoveling - The American Heart Association

countystar.com

C-I, NB SCOREBOARD: DEC. 30 - JAN. 6

December 30
 C-I boys hockey 3, Providence Academy 4 (OT)
 C-I boys basketball 48, Forest Lake 64
 C-I girls basketball 35, Stillwater 74
 NB wrestling 42, Pine City/Hinckley-Finlayson 34
 NB wrestling 24, Rock Ridge 50
 NB wrestling 57, Ashland 17
 Northern Edge boys hockey 7, Worthington 1
 *Riley Dufour - hat trick

December 31
 Northern Edge boys hockey 8, Faribault 0
 *Alex Hoffman - 2 goals, Gage Husby - shutout

January 2
 C-I girls basketball 35, Sartell 75
 C-I boys hockey 2, Monticello 3 (OT)

January 3
 C-I girls wrestling @ Champlin Park Tournament
 *Top finishers: Ava LaPoint (106 pounds), Ashlyn Bondeson (112 pounds), Kimber Senlycki (136 pounds) - third place
 C-I boys wrestling @ Bluejacket Invite
 *1st place finishers: Wyatt Wald (114 pounds), Brady Huntley (121 pounds)
 C-I gymnastics @ MGJA Invite - tied for 8th/17 teams (135.95)
 Top finisher: Anika Michaelis - 8th place vault (9.05)
 C-I boys swimming and diving @ U of M Invite
 *Top finisher:
 C-I boys basketball 55, Hibbing 68
 NB gymnastics @ Princeton Invite - 4th/10 teams
 *Top finishers: Ella Dick - fourth place, vault; Sophia Thorsen - fourth place, floor

January 6
 C-I girls basketball @ North Branch - ppd
 C-I boys basketball vs. North Branch - ppd
 Northern Tier girls hockey vs. Osseo - ppd to Jan. 19
 Northern Edge boys hockey at Mora - ppd to Jan. 12

C-I, NB HOME SCHEDULES: JAN. 8 - 17

To see both schools' full schedules, go to www.mississippi8.org. Schedules are subject to change with minimal advanced notice based on weather, availability of officials, or other reasons. Note: Northern Tier girls hockey is a co-op between Cambridge-Isanti, St. Francis, and North Branch. Northern Edge boys hockey is a co-op between North Branch and St. Francis. Their home games are at East Bethel.

Thursday, January 8
 •C-I girls wrestling vs. Mora, Princeton, Zimmerman (6 p.m.)
 •Northern Edge boys hockey vs. Pine City (7 p.m.)

Friday, January 9
 •C-I girls basketball vs. Monticello (7 p.m.)
 •NB wrestling vs. Washington Technology Magnet (6 p.m.)

Saturday, January 10
 •Northern Tier girls hockey vs. Cloquet @ Isanti (1 p.m.)

Tuesday, January 13
 •C-I boys basketball vs. Becker (7 p.m.)
 •C-I boys hockey vs. Chisago Lakes (7 p.m.)
 •Northern Edge boys hockey vs. Princeton (7 p.m.)

Wednesday, January 14
 •C-I gymnastics vs. Princeton (6 p.m.)

Thursday, January 15
 •C-I wrestling vs. Princeton & Andover (5 p.m.)

Friday, January 16
 •C-I wrestling - Bluejacket Duals (4 p.m.)
 •Northern Tier girls hockey vs. Visitation @ Isanti (5:30 p.m.)
 •NB boys basketball vs. Monticello (5:30 p.m.)

Saturday, January 17
 •NB boys basketball vs. Hibbing (1 p.m.)



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR
North Branch's Brooke Giese executes a tuck tsuk while being closely spotted by head coach Chris Johnson during the Princeton Invite.

Braham Hall of Fame nominations requested

STAFF REPORT
 NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Braham Hall of Fame Committee is once again looking for nominations for induction into the Braham Hall of Fame Class of 2026. Nominees can fit into any of three categories: Athlete/Fine Arts participant, Coach/Director, or At Large.

To be eligible as an athlete/fine arts participant, the person must be a Braham graduate and be out of school at least seven years. Any coach/director — past or present, is eligible. At Large nominees include any member of the community who has made significant contributions to Braham High School

and/or the Braham community. In order to submit a nomination, a person must provide the name and mailing address of the nominee, the nominee's accomplishments and/or contributions. The person making the nomination must also submit their name, address, and telephone number.

Nominations should be submitted to the Braham Hall of Fame, care of Edie Kaunonen, 1395 River Hills Parkway NW, Cambridge, MN, 55008. The deadline for submitting nominations is Jan. 22.

Any questions regarding the nomination and selection process can be sent to that address or to 763-645-1267.

NORTH 65 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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2026

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The Chamber of Commerce exists to be the **Catalyst** for economic growth, the **Convener** of leaders and collaborators, & the **Champion** for strong communities.

We invite you to join us today. Visit North65Chamber.com to get started.



MONTHLY CHAMBER LUNCHEON

Chamber Luncheons are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at Noon.

City of Isanti | NORTH 65 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | EAST CENTRAL

MONTHLY ENTREPRENEUR Workshops

Tuesday, January 6, 2026

Idea to Execution: What Problem Does Your Business Solve?

Our local business panel will dive into the real-world ups and downs of entrepreneurship and the secrets to mission-driven success.

4:30PM - 6:30PM
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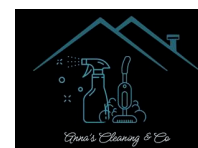
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Please thank the following businesses for sponsoring the North 65 Chamber News Page.

NOTICE TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

UNDER MINN. STAT. §216B.16, SUBD. 1



On October 31, 2025, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy or the Company), filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to increase natural gas rates. The request with the MPUC is to increase gross retail natural gas rates by 8.2 percent or \$63.40 million effective January 1, 2026, sixty-two (62) days after filing, without suspension, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16.

The Company requested, pursuant to Minn. Stat § 216B.16, subd. 3, that a temporary (interim) rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million overall bill increase, be effective on January 1, 2026. The MPUC elected to suspend the proposed rate increase under Minn. Stat. 216B.16, subd. 2, as discussed in the Company's Notice and Petition for Interim Rates (Petition), included in the Application. The Commission authorized an interim rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million, overall bill increase, that will be effective on January 1, 2026. The interim revenue request for 2026 will be uniformly billed as a 16.19 percent increase on the base rate portion of customers' bills, which includes the customer charge, distribution charge, and distribution demand charge where applicable (exclusive of fuel and purchased energy costs and certain rate riders). An interim rate will remain in effect until a final rate level is determined.

The typical residential gas customer uses 71 therms per month. On average, the proposed \$63.40 million rate change would increase the bill for a typical residential natural gas customer by \$7.11 per month or \$85.32 annually. The interim increase, for that same monthly amount of 71 therms on average, will be \$5.84 per month or \$70.08 per year for 2026.

In addition, the Company proposes to implement certain other tariff revisions in its Gas Rate Book, Volume 2D.

Over the past several years, the Company has proceeded through a cycle of capital investments necessary for the safe and reliable operation of its gas system and has continued to incur costs to serve new and existing customers. Xcel Energy has also experienced significant annual increases in inflation, labor costs, and other expenses necessary to serve our customers. Recovering these costs is critical to Xcel Energy's ability to continue to successfully provide safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas service to its customers long into the future.

Typically, final rates become effective within 10 months of the date of the Application, unless the review period is extended by the MPUC. The Company anticipates that the review period will be extended in this proceeding. Any over-collection of interim rates during the review period will be refunded with interest to customers in a manner determined by the MPUC.

Xcel Energy is requesting this rate increase to meet its current cost of providing natural gas services, including a reasonable return on equity. The following tables contain the effect of the interim and proposed rates increases on customer classes:

AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

| Monthly Therm Use | Present Rates* | Interim Rates | Proposed Rates |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 10 | \$19 | \$21 | \$23 |
| 30 | \$40 | \$43 | \$44 |
| 50 | \$60 | \$65 | \$66 |
| 71 | \$82 | \$88 | \$89 |
| 100 | \$111 | \$119 | \$120 |
| 200 | \$214 | \$227 | \$228 |
| 300 | \$316 | \$336 | \$336 |

SMALL COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SERVICE

| Monthly Therm Use | Present Rates* | Interim Rates | Proposed Rates |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 50 | \$67 | \$73 | \$80 |
| 100 | \$114 | \$123 | \$131 |
| 189 | \$199 | \$211 | \$221 |
| 200 | \$209 | \$222 | \$232 |
| 250 | \$256 | \$272 | \$282 |
| 350 | \$350 | \$371 | \$383 |
| 500 | \$492 | \$520 | \$534 |
| 750 | \$728 | \$769 | \$786 |
| 1,000 | \$964 | \$1,017 | \$1,039 |
| 3,000 | \$2,851 | \$3,006 | \$3,056 |
| 5,000 | \$4,738 | \$4,994 | \$5,073 |

INTERRUPTIBLE RETAIL SERVICE

| Class | Monthly Therm Use | Present Rates* | Interim Rates | Proposed Rates |
|--------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Small | 6,745 | \$4,633 | \$4,898 | \$5,001 |
| Medium | 46,220 | \$27,353 | \$28,555 | \$30,196 |
| Large | 617,483 | \$350,615 | \$364,315 | \$379,449 |

INTERRUPTIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

(Does not include the cost of natural gas)

| Class | Monthly Therm Use | Present Rates* | Interim Rates | Proposed Rates |
|--------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Small | 6,745 | \$1,729 | \$1,998 | \$2,097 |
| Medium | 118,174 | \$19,722 | \$22,724 | \$26,990 |
| Large | 2,119,680 | \$88,455 | \$99,345 | \$88,455 |

* The present rate levels identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Docket No. G002/GR-23-413.

Public hearings will be held at various locations in Xcel Energy's natural gas service area. Counties, municipalities, and customers will be notified once the hearings are scheduled.

The proposed rate schedules and a comparison of present and proposed rates are available at:

https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings/minnesota_natural_gas_rate_proposal (Make sure "Minnesota" is selected in the top left-hand corner) The documents may be examined during normal business hours at either our General Offices located at 414 Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis or at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Those who wish to intervene or testify in this case should contact the Minnesota Court of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Telephone: (651) 361-7900, TTY: (651) 361-7878. Public notice of hearing dates and locations will be published in local newspapers in Xcel Energy's service area.

Questions on the rate increase may be directed to Amber Hedlund at (612) 337-2268. Comments may also be mailed to Amber Hedlund at 414 Nicollet Mall, 401-7th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

STUDENT ACHIEVERS



Cambridge Primary School: Piper Erickson

Piper is a kind and compassionate student who looks out for others and always has a smile to share! She is hardworking and strives to be her best. Piper participates respectfully in class, follows expectations in our building, and goes above and beyond in her interactions with peers. We are so proud of her perseverance and determination academically, alongside her friendliness. She remains joyful each day and brightens up any room. Piper is a wonderful example of a Caring Critter in a number of ways and we love having her in our classroom family!

Art and Science Academy: Ty Beldin

Ty Beldin is in his 6th grade year at Art and Science Academy and is a role-model for us all. Ty looks out for his fellow classmates and has an impeccable sense of doing what is right. Ty is consistent in his school work; he puts in his best effort and works well with others. In addition to his strong work ethic, Ty demonstrates outstanding character both inside and outside the classroom. He shows respect to teachers and peers alike, and is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Distance Learning Academy: Kylie Russell

Kylie Russell is an exceptional student in the DLA program for several reasons. Kylie consistently shows up to do the work. If you look at her pacing for courses and why she is ahead of pace, it's because she shows up week after week and puts the time in to get the work done. Kylie reaches out when she needs assistance and asks great questions to make sure she understands the work and what is expected of her to do well. The best part about the work Kylie has completed this semester is how her voice shines through. The work she turns in is authentically her own, and her writing style and voice that come through in her work show well-thought-out opinions, discussions, and answers. It is fun to read Kylie's thoughts about the topics in her English course. Kylie's ability to show all different sides of an issue while eloquently stating her own thoughts on matters is one of the many reasons her writing continues to get better and better. We are lucky to have Kylie in our program.

Cambridge Primary School: Kyzer Gunderson

Kyzer Gunderson, a 2nd grade student at Cambridge Primary School, exemplifies responsibility, respect, and kindness. Kyzer is always willing to help others, he is kind to both his peers and adults, a great listener, and hard working. He is a team player both on and off the field. In his free time he enjoys playing soccer, football, and playing piano. Kyzer is a student who leads by example. Keep up the great work Kyzer!

Art and Science Academy: Austin Schneider

Austin is a kindergarten student at Art and Science Academy that always exemplifies the qualities of a STAR student. Austin demonstrates respect on a daily basis to staff and his peers and tries his best in all that he does. Austin is kind to his classmates and is always ready to lend a helping hand. He comes to school each day with a positive attitude ready and excited to learn and participate. We are thrilled to have Austin with us at Art and Science Academy and are so proud of his hard work at school. Great job Austin!

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OBITUARIES

Corey William Wetther

Corey William Wetther, 56, of Isanti, MN passed away unexpectedly on Friday, December 26, 2025 at his home.

He was born May 13, 1969 in Cambridge, MN to David and Lillian (Reineccius) Wetther. Corey was baptized and confirmed at Cambridge Lutheran Church.



Corey grew up in rural Isanti, graduating from Cambridge High School in 1987. He continued his education at St. Cloud State earning a Bachelor's Degree.

While attending college he worked at the Royal Oak Charcoal Plant in Isanti; just like his brothers. His lifetime career was spent in the health, social and

human service industry; managing and working in community group homes.

He often volunteered with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters, the Salvation Army and the Special Olympics. His many interests included spending time with family, sports, traveling, golfing and gardening. Most recently, he attended and was actively involved at New Hope Community Church in Cambridge.

He formed many friendships through his work, church and on the golf course.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers; Tim Wetther, Jon Wetther, and Terry Wetther.

Corey is survived by his siblings; Carole (Larry) Wilson of Isle, Larry (Janice) Wetther of Stanchfield, Tom (Diane) Wetther of Cambridge, Tina (Rob) Marshall of Isanti, and Robin Wetther of North Branch; niece; nephews; cousins; other relatives and friends.

Celebration of Life Gathering 2-5 p.m., Saturday, January 10, 2026 at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home in Cambridge. Interment will be in Cambridge Lutheran Cemetery in the spring. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com

George Stenger

George Stenger, loving husband, dad, and papa, passed away at Ecumen North Branch on Jan. 1, 2026. He was 89 years old.



George served in the Army and was a retiree of the Union Pacific Railroad. He truly loved his family, farm, and his dog Max.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Shellie Fisk; sons, George Jr. and Mark; granddaughter, Michelle; parents Leona and Edward; sisters Eleanor (Bernard) Suchy, Marion (Bill) Schwartzbauer, Anne Cooley, Delores Germain; brothers, Eddie and Ray;

sister-in-law, Carol Stenger, nieces, Cathy Suchy and Janet Jensen; nephews, Danny Guegel and Edward Stenger III.

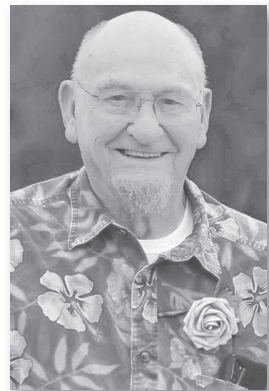
George is survived by his wife of 67 years, Carole Stenger; his children, Scott of Rush City, Carrie (Chris) Swanson of Wyoming, Paul of Harris, Chris (Kazusa) of Everett, Washington; daughter in-laws Shelly Cooper of Cambridge and Mary Stenger of Rush City; granddaughter Heather (Dave) Powell; many grandchildren (16), great grandchildren (22); brother Joe, sister-in-law Jolene, brother-in-law Jim (Karen) Guegel of Colorado, and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass 11 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026. Visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rush City, MN. Interment will take place at a later date.

Our most sincere thanks to Ecumen North Branch, Ecumen Hospice, the North Branch American Legion Post 85 and VA for their genuine care and compassion of George and support for his family.

Harold L. Bauer

Harold L. Bauer, Born August 19, 1935 to Mathew and Stella Bauer of So. St. Paul, MN, passed away at Fairview Hospital, Wyoming, MN on November 22, 2025 at the Age of 90. Harold was a beloved Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather, Brother and



Uncle, who loved and lived for his family. Family gatherings were a highlight of his life, as well as sharing good times with dear friends.

As a young man he began trade school for Pipefitting and built his career to the commercial side of pipe and steam fitting, boilers, heating and air. In the 70's he opened Combustion, Heat and Power, Inc. and was a successful business owner until he retired in North Branch in the early 2000's.

In his youth he enjoyed skiing, motorcycles, horses, musical instruments, singing and more. He married his sweetheart Eileen Patricia Amon in 1952. They had five children together. He was a jack of all trades; nothing was too big for him to take on. He enjoyed skeet shooting, hunting, fishing, dancing and motorized everything.

In 1960 he purchased hunting/recreational land in Greaney, MN. He and his son Matthew, built a cabin that is still enjoyed by Matthew's family. Harold took great joy calling this his Legacy.

Harold is survived by his daughters Holly (Curt) Zellmer, Denise Bauer, and Daughter-in-Law Lorrie Bauer. Grandchildren Nikki (Eric) Peterson, Jillian (Ben) Aschittino, Hope (Tony) Denn, Colton (Alexys) Bauer, and Paige Bauer. Great Grandchildren Trenton Setterstrom, Rae Aschittino, and Mitchell Aschittino. Sister MaryAnn Marty, Sister-in-Law Mary Campbell, Many Nieces, Nephews, and dear Friends.

Harold is preceded in death by his wife Eileen, daughters Pamela Ketcher, and Cherie Lee, Son Matthew Bauer, and grandson Vince Zellmer, and his Brothers, Sister, Mother and Father

Harold was a pillar of faith and love, a man whose strength was matched only by tenderness he held for his family. They were his greatest joy and his proudest blessing. He lived a full and independent life and when his journey drew to a close, he did so with grace, confident in his homecoming to Jesus. Now safely in the Lord's care, he rests in perfect peace. He will be missed dearly and remembered with profound love.

A Celebration of Life has been scheduled.

Marilyn Kay Robinson

Marilyn Kay Robinson, age 69, of Cambridge, MN, passed away Friday, January 2, 2026, at her home with her loving husband of 46 years by her side.

Marilyn found joy in the everyday simple things: morning pontoon rides sipping coffee with her husband, fires on the deck, watching the wildlife on the lake, and feeding the squirrels and birds. She loved her family, wintering in Florida, and her dog, Clarabell. She would set up her easel in front of the window and found peace and joy in painting what was in her heart. Above all Marilyn was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother.

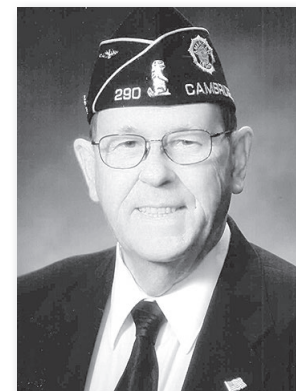


She is survived by her husband, David Robinson; children, Bryce (Lexi) Robinson and Amber (Josh) Brenneman; along with grandchildren Cole, Ellie, Belle, and Lucy Brenneman; sisters Nancy (Charles) Johnson and Linda Hass. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard Halverson and Edna Sampson, and grandchild Lilly Brenneman.

Private family gatherings will be held. Online condolences can be made at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

James E. Thoreson

James E. Thoreson, known to many as Jim, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025, at Rusheba Station in Rush City, Minnesota.



James Elmer Thoreson was born on Aug. 1, 1938 to Ludwig and Elsie (Burg) Thoreson in St. Paul, Minnesota. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy, dedicating many years to faithful and honorable service. His time in the Navy reflected his strong sense of duty, integrity, and commitment to others. After retiring from military service, Jim continued serving with distinction through his

work with the National Cemetery System for ten years.

Above all, Jim will be remembered for his deep love for his family and friends. His greatest legacy is the life of service, devotion, and kindness he shared — one that will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

He was preceded in death by his parents Ludwig and Elsie Thoreson; beloved wife, Sally Thoreson; and his sons, Eric Thoreson and Scott Thoreson.

Jim is survived by his children Mark (Kim), Tina (John), Penny, Kelly (Kenny), Todd (Julie), Patricia (Clem), and Tamara (Ron). He was a proud grandfather to 20 grandchildren and a cherished great-grandfather to many great-grandchildren.

A graveside service will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at Fort Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the: American Legion Post #290, 220 Main Street South, Cambridge, MN 55008.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the Funeral and Cremation Service of Rush City ~ Olson Chapel www.FuneralAndCremationService.com.

Michael Earl Sandberg

Michael Earl Sandberg passed away on December 12, 2025. He was 77 years old.

Michael was born October 31, 1948 at Kanabec County Hospital. His parents were Earl and Isabelle Sandberg of Grasston. He was joined by his brother,



Gary in 1951, Sister Debbie in 1953 and sister Denise in 1960. Michael grew up in Grasston. He attended Grasston Elementary School and Braham High School. He graduated in 1966 from Braham.

Michael was drafted into the United States Army in 1968. He was in Vietnam for a year and a day as he told his sister. When his tour of duty in Vietnam was satisfied, he returned to Grasston, on leave from the

Army and married the love of his life Linda Kleven of Mora on November 1, 1969. He completed his obligation to the Army stationed in Oklahoma.

Michael and Linda returned to Minnesota, lived for a short time in Mora and then moved to the Coon Rapids area where they remained. They had two children, Daughter Joey Lee in 1975 and son Brandon Michael in 1979.

Michael was admitted to the hospital with significant health issues on November 25, 2025 and he did pass away from those issues. He was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Gary. He is survived by wife Linda, daughter Joey and son Brandon. He is also survived by siblings Debbie Sandberg of Mora, Denise Sandberg of Lovillia Iowa and Tonia of Minneapolis.

Michael was cremated and family will be holding a celebration of his life on April 4, 2026 at the Coon Rapids VFW from noon - 4 p.m.

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Roger Leland Carlson

Roger Leland Carlson, 94, of Cambridge passed away naturally on December 6, 2025 at Levande by Vivie in Cambridge, surrounded by the love of his family and the peace of his faith. He was born on July 19, 1931, in Isanti, Minnesota, to Charles and Myrtle (Dahl) Carlson.



Roger graduated from Cambridge High School in 1949, after which he honorably served his country as a radar operator in the Air Force, stationed in Kirksville, MO.

On July 12, 1952, Roger married the love of his life, Gloria Rystrom. After finishing his military service, they made their home in Cambridge and raised their four children. Roger was a devoted family man, always ready

to help Gloria, his children, and grandchildren in any way he could. He loved a project! He filled his family's lives with warmth, humor, wisdom, and unwavering support.

Roger and Gloria owned and operated Carlson Photography (formerly Stadin Studio) from 1955-1993. Roger was an active member of the MPPA (MN Professional Photographer's Association) for many years. His talent was recognized numerous times with awards in print competitions, and his peers honored him with a lifetime membership for his contributions to the craft. Roger was admired and respected by colleagues and customers alike. Throughout his career he provided treasured photographic memories for families and the community at large. Roger retired from his photography career in 1993, selling the studio to his son and daughter-in-law.

Roger and Gloria remained active over the years.

They did everything from snowmobiling in Yellowstone, downhill and cross-country skiing, square dancing, to walking the beach in Florida. They were great spectators and fans of their grandchildren's sporting events and other special activities. Roger and Gloria loved to travel. They took numerous road trips with Roger as the pilot and Gloria as the navigator. Their travels included trips across the country as well as regular visits to their condo in Florida. In 2015 they took their once in a lifetime trip to Alaska. Roger was a leather artist and craftsman, creating many beautiful pieces over the years. He was most proud of the full-size saddle he designed and made, winning the sweepstakes award at the Minnesota State Fair with his entry.

Roger had a quiet and steady faith and was an active member of Cambridge Lutheran church, chaperoning youth trips, serving on church council, helping prepare the annual Lutefisk supper, and ushering well into his senior years.

Roger was preceded in death by his wife, Gloria, his parents, brothers Gordon and Norman, sisters Lucille Sundberg and Veona Carter, brothers-in-law Paul Hjelm, Loren Sundberg, and Clayton Carter.

He is survived by children Steve (Sue) Carlson of Anchorage, AK, Sharon (Art) Stark of Craig, CO, Judy (Dale) Durie of Circle Pines, MN, Marcia (Mark) Keckstein of Bradenton, FL; eleven grandchildren, and twelve great grandchildren.

The family wishes to thank the wonderful care providers and support staff at Levande by Vivie, along with Ecumen Hospice for their loving care and support in the last several months of Roger's life.

Memorial Service 11 a.m., Saturday, January 17, 2026 at Cambridge Lutheran Church. Visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment in the church cemetery. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Thomas W. McGuire

Thomas W. McGuire, age 74, of Rush City died December 27, 2025 at Ecumen North Branch.

Thomas William McGuire was born February 17, 1951 in Minneapolis, Minnesota to William and Laura (Lood) McGuire. Tom graduated from high school in 1970 then continued on to college at Anoka Tech for Auto Mechanics.



In August of 1982 he married Vickie Thompson and they made their home in Cambridge.

Tom worked most of his life as chef and loved to feed people. He was an excellent cook. He also dabbled in other careers such as cabinetry, auto mechanics, and driving truck.

He enjoyed wood working, making many intricate pieces, some we get to treasure forever. Tom was a big family guy and loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren. He was also fond of fishing, painting, and talking. Tom never met a stranger. Together with his wife, they would enjoy going to concerts. They would often camp at the Minnesota State Fair where they enjoyed the music and atmosphere. They are now both greatly missed.

He is survived by his son, Justin (Courtne) McGuire; daughter, Amanda (Toby) Fauska; brother, Daniel McGuire; grandchildren, Cassidy, Katelyn and Alex; and by many other relatives and friends. Besides his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Vickie McGuire; brothers, Michael and Mark; and sister, Debbie.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m on Friday, Jan. 16 at Strike Life Tributes in Cambridge. A time for visiting will be held one hour prior to the service. Online condolences can be made at: StrikeLifeTributes.com.

DNR seeking feedback on proposed rules for Minnesota fur farms

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comments on proposed administrative rules governing fur farms as directed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2024. That legislation established separate statutory provisions for fur farms and directed the DNR to develop rules applicable specifically to fur farm operations.

The proposed rules strengthen

the framework for identifying problems early, ensure consistent practices, and reduce the chance that undetected issues could contribute to the spread of wildlife diseases.

The DNR welcomes written comments on the proposed rules until 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. Submit comments to Leslie McInenly, populations and regulations manager, by email to

leslie.mcinenly@state.mn.us, by calling 651-259-5220, or by mail to Leslie McInenly, populations and regulations manager, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - Section of Wildlife, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

More information is available on the DNR rulemaking webpage (mndnr.gov/input/rules). Free copies of the proposed rules are available upon request. -MNDNR

Patricia Ann Cariveau

Patricia Ann Cariveau, 91, of Milaca MN, formerly of Rapid City, passed away peacefully on January 1, 2026. A celebration of Patty's life will be held at Our Lady of the Black Hills Church in Piedmont South Dakota on January 9, 2026. Visitation is 10:30 -11:30 a.m., the Rosary will be prayed at 11:30 a.m. and the funeral mass is at noon. Lunch will be served in the church hall immediately following the funeral. Burial will be at Black Hills National Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Arrangements by Kirk Funeral Home, Rapid City, SD.

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To all who served, sponsored and shared in our Senior New Year's Eve Luncheon at Open Arms Church in Grasston. We had about 60 volunteers who served about 160 Seniors this year. What a wonderful event!

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- Kalbow Corporation Napa – Sandstone
- Total Health Chiropractic – Cambridge
- Royal Neighbors of Grasston – Grasston
- Braham VFW – Braham
- Scott's Muffler & Welding Co – Pine City
- Ahlgren's Law Office – Mora
- Frandsen Bank & Trust – Braham

To Our Guests ... We Honor You! Goodbye 2025, Hello 2026!

Fungi from Minnesota can kill emerald ash borer beetles

A new study from the University of Minnesota found that several species of parasitic fungi were effective at killing emerald ash borer beetles, one of the most devastating forest pests to ever hit North America.

Funding for this project was provided by the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center, supported by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Decades of research have gone into developing management tools to protect ash trees from emerald ash borer. Ash trees are important in urban areas where they can comprise up to 20% of the urban forest, but they are also a dominant tree in Minnesota's northern marshlands. Additional tools are needed to protect ash trees in these remote areas where other forms of management are less feasible.

One tool which has shown promise at slowing the growth of emerald ash borer populations is the auto-

dissemination device, which traps beetles and coats them with spores of insect-killing fungi. Once covered in spores, the beetles can fly out of the trap and spread spores to one another through mating.

"The idea behind the autodissemination device is to let the beetles do the work. They'd be spreading the spores, infecting their neighbors. This would be especially useful in hard-to-access forests, like the black ash marshes of northern Minnesota," said lead author Colin Peters, a graduate student in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

University of Minnesota researchers tested ten fungi from Minnesota to assess for their ability to kill emerald ash borer when used in these traps in a lab setting. It is important to study fungi from Minnesota to avoid introducing non-native fungi to the state and because Minnesota fungi are well adapted to local conditions.

Recently published in *Forests*, the study found:

All of the fungi used in the study were successful at infecting emerald ash borer beetles.

The lifespan of emerald ash borer beetles varied depending on which fungus they were exposed to in the trap.

Three Minnesota-sourced fungi, and one commercially available fungus, reliably reduced emerald ash borer beetle lifespan and were consistently seen sprouting from dead emerald ash borer beetles.

"With a billion ash trees in Minnesota, we need to explore all possible methods to try and control this devastating pest. Laboratory studies show that biological control of the beetle using fungi is possible and the next step is to figure out how to get this to work under field conditions," said co-author Robert Blanchette, a professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

The researchers are now testing the four most successful fungal strains in autodissemination devices placed at sites across Minnesota's state parks and forests, partnering with state and private land managers. - The University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences

WORSHIP *guide*

Baptist

First Baptist Church

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

North Isanti Baptist Church

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

Sunrise Bible Church

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

Catholic

Christ the King

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

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.
763-444-4035
Email: brigitte@isantiacc.org
Mass: Tues. & Wed. 8:30am.
Sun. 8:30am.
isantiacc.org

Evangelical Covenant

Karmel Covenant Church

5799 County Road 6, Princeton MN
763-389-3169
Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis
Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson

Sunday School for All Ages (school year only): 9-10 a.m.

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

Wednesday Programming (school year only):

Family meal at 5:30 p.m. with AWANA and Youth Group from 6:30-8 p.m.

Evangelical Free

Dale Evangelical Free Church

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

Kost Evangelical Free Church

37405 Kost Trail, North Branch, MN – Jct. of CR 11 & CR 72
651-583-3281 · Kostchurch.org
Pastor Josh Jensen
Sunday worship service 9:30 am followed by fellowship & Sunday School
Youth group Wednesdays 7 pm
Respawn Gaming Ministry for teen boys – 2 Fridays per month.

Oxlip Evangelical Free Church

29237 Roanoke St NW, Isanti
(1 mile West of Cty 5 and Hwy 47)
763-444-5134 oxlip.org
9am Worship Service
10:45am Christian Education
Awana children's ministry Wednesdays 6 to 7:30pm

Wyanett Evangelical Free Church

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

Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)

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

Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA)

621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge
763-689-1211
Traditional service: 8:30 a.m.
Contemp service: 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
KidZone 9:15 & 10:30 a.m.
www.cambridgelutheran.org
Facebook: fb.com/Cambridgelutheran
YouTube: tinyurl.com/Cambridgelutheran

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)

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

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

43779 Gates Ave., Harris.
651-674-4498. Handicapped accessible.
Pastor Vicki VanderVegt
Sunday Worship 9:20am
Coffee & fellowship following service
Email: firstlutheran@q.com
www.firstlutheranharris.org

Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

33525 Jefferson Street NE, Cambridge
763-689-4355
www.joylutheran.net
Pastor James Ritter
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)

6486 Elm St (PO Box 335),
North Branch
651-674-5576
Pastor Glen Kleppe
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7PM
Sunday Worship 10am
Sunday School 9am
Sunday Adult Bible Study 9am
www.livingbranch.org
email: office@livingbranch.org

Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

3921 277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-5315
Pastor Sue Olson &
Pastor Rebecca Holland
All Are Welcome!
Sundays
9 am Worship & 10 am Sunday School
Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays
Wednesdays 6 pm Confirmation

Salem Lutheran Church

4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017.
763-689-1687
Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30
Sunday School 11:00 resuming in the Fall
Coffee fellowship after worship
www.salemlutherandalbo.com

Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958,
North Branch, MN 55056 (9 mi. E. of Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one block on Erickson Road).
651-674-4606.
Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.slchurch.org
Email: sl.lchurch@gmail.com
8:15am Worship with fellowship following

St. John Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

St. John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Methodist

Common Ground - A United Methodist Community

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

Non-Denominational

Grace Gospel Church

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

Journey of Faith

Bible based worship.
651-600-9878.
faiththroughaction777@gmail.com
Sunday fellowship 9am
Worship & Youth Ministry 10am
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1001 1st Ave. E., Suite 100, Cambridge MN
justpassinihs@gmail.com
JustpassinThru.net
Pastor Tom Bakke
Sunday mornings at 10 am
Sunday nights and Wednesdays

Pentecostal

The Journey New Life Church

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ASSUMED NAME

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Chelle Rodriguez Development**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **1402 ZACHARY ST S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA**

APPLICANT(S):
Name: **Michelle J Rodriguez**
Address: **1402 ZACHARY ST S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA**

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

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

SIGNED BY: **Michelle Rodriguez**
MAILING ADDRESS: **None**
Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **michellejrodriguez@outlook.com**
Work Item **1577920300025**
Original File Number **1577920300025**

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED 09/10/2025 11:59 PM
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 1, 8, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CONTINUATION ON THE NORTHWEST OLD TOWN STREET AND UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will meet at North Branch City Hall, located at 6408 Elm Street, North Branch, MN at 7:00 p.m. on January 13, 2026, to consider the making of Northwest Old Town Street and Utility Improvements, an improvement to Cedar Street (Elmwood Terrace Apartments to Branch Ave), Elm Street (Oakview Ave to 8th Ave), 10th Avenue (TH 95 to Cedar Ave), 11th Avenue (Elm St to Cedar St) and 12th Avenue (TH 95 to Cedar St), pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 429.011 to 429.111. The area proposed to be assessed for such improvements are the properties that have access and benefit from the proposed improvement. The estimated cost of the assessable improvement is \$539,100; the total estimated project cost is \$5,547,000. A reasonable estimate of the impact of the assessment will be available at the hearing. Such persons desiring to be heard with reference to the proposed improvement will be heard at this meeting.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 1, 8, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Harris City Council will be having a public hearing to consider water and sewer extension to I35 on January 12, 2026 at 7pm. The project under consideration starts at approximately 300 feet west of Garden Ave and ends at east side of I35. Those not able to be present at this meeting should submit their opinions in writing to the Harris City Clerk, 43970 Ginger Ave, Harris MN, or email the clerk at Clerk@harrismn.com prior to the hearing. Additional information is available from the city office during normal business hours. The public is invited to comment during the hearing or provide written comments at or prior to the hearing. All persons desiring to be heard with reference to the proposal will be heard at this meeting.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 8, 2026

CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR A CANNABIS MICROBUSINESS (CITY FILE 25-038)

You are hereby notified that the East Bethel Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a Conditional Use Permit for a cannabis microbusiness. The hearing will be held in the East Bethel City Hall located at 2241 221st Ave NE on **Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at or about 7:00 p.m.**

Applicant: **Evan Jones, Happy Earth Made Products (H.E.M.P.) LLC**
13332 Rose Street, NW, Andover, MN 55304

Owner: **Michael W. Stewart, Jr. and Kristin L. Stewart, 23773 Johnson Street NE, LLC 13122 Muzny Street, Needville, TX 77461**
Location: **23773 Johnson Street Northeast, East Bethel, MN 55055**
PIDS: **#29-34-23-34-0010**

Request(s): **A conditional use permit for a cannabis microbusiness. (City Code Section 48 Subd. 4(M))**

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments to City Hall prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Interim Community Development Director **Kendra Lindahl, AICP** at **klindahl@landform.net** or mailed to City Hall at **2241 221st Ave NE, Kendra Lindahl, AICP**

Interim Community Development Director City of East Bethel
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 8, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF ISANTI PLANNING COMMISSION

Public Hearing on January 20th, 2026

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Isanti City Hall located at 110 First Avenue NW;** the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the following item(s):

1) Request by Pump Republic Gym for a Conditional Use Permit for 687 East Dual NE, Suite C to operate a fitness center under City Ordinance 445 Section 21.

2) Request by Weathered Wood MN for a Site Plan Review for 27977 Hwy 65 to construct an accessory commercial building under City

Ordinance 445 Section 18.
BY ORDER OF THE CITY OF ISANTI, MINNESOTA.

Jared Haas
Associate Planner
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 8, 2026

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ISANTI DISTRICT COURT TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File No.: 30-PR-25-107
In Re: **Estate of Rosemary Lou Carpenter a/k/a Rose Mary Lou Carpenter, Decedent.**

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF DESCENT
Gary L. Carpenter ("Petitioner") has filed a Petition for Determination of Descent.

It is Ordered that on January 27, 2026, at 3:20 p.m., a hearing will be held, remotely via Zoom, in this Court at 555 18th Ave. SW, Cambridge, Minnesota, on the petition.

The petition represents that the Decedent died intestate more than three (3) years ago leaving property in Minnesota. The petition requests the Court, determine the descent of such property, and assign the property to the persons entitled.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the petition will be granted.

Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by:

Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order to each interested person by United States mail at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing.

Publishing this Notice and Order in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 524.1-401(3).

BY THE COURT

Dated: December 11, 2025
/s/ Carrie A. Doom
Judge of District Court

Dated: December 11, 2025
/s/ Erin Boettcher
Court Administrator

LINDBERG LAW OFFICE, P.A.
Grant W. Lindberg
MN# 347644
100 Buchanan St. N., Suite 2
Cambridge, MN 55008
Telephone: (763) 689-6896
Facsimile: (763) 689-6819
e-mail: grant@lindberglawoffice.com

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 1, 8, 2026

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

Court File No. **30-PR-25-109**
In Re: **Estate of Jacqueline Gale Erickson, a/k/a Jacqueline G. Erickson, a/k/a Jacqueline Erickson, Decedent.**

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN AN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (ANCILLARY PROCEEDING)

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on the 3 day of March 2026 at 3:20 o'clock p.m., a hearing using remote technology will be held by this Court on the petition of **Stephanie A. Stegall** for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of the heirs of the above named decedent, and for the appointment of **Stephanie A. Stegall**, whose address is 2629 Folkner Road, Hixson, TN 37343, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent, in an unsupervised administration. Information on how to participate in the remote hearing can be obtained by calling the Court at 763-290-7020.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing.

If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. If objections are filed, another hearing may be scheduled. Any charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceeding be given to the Attorney General Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 501B.41, Subdivision 5.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative

or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law, and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date to all interested persons and persons who have filed a demand for notice.

Dated:
BY THE COURT **Wynn, Heather**,
Judge of District Court
Court Administrator **Erin Boettcher**
Attorney for Petitioner:
Gary C. Dahle, #218947
2704 Mounds View Blvd.
Mounds View, MN 55112
Phone: 763-780-8390
Fax: 763-780-1735
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 8, 15, 2026

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Towers, LLC proposes to build a 199.5-foot Lattice Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is none. The Site location is 506 340th Trail NE, Cambridge, Isanti County, MN 55008. Lat: 45-34-59.9, Long: -93-15-28.9. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1313947. ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS - Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC

Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS - Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Lisa Skeens, l.skeens@trileaf.com, 1821 Walden Office Square Suite 500, Schaumburg, IL, 60173, (630) 227-0202

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 8, 2026

ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Dec. 28 - Jan. 3. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Daniel James Stewart (DOB 06/04/1985) of Braham, was charged Jan. 2 with two counts of Threats of Violence -Reckless Disregard Risk.

CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Dec. 28 - Jan. 3. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

nalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.
Paul Allen Kern (DOB 09/04/1990) of Forest Lake, was charged Dec. 31 with Assault - 4th Degree - Peace Officer - Demonstrable bodily harm.
Juan Silvano Cruz (DOB 05/10/1993) of Rush City, was charged Jan. 2 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.
William Casey Solomon (DOB 02/17/1986) of Chisago City, was charged Jan. 2 with Threats of Violence - Explosives/Incendiary Device.

Jonathan Chet Winch (DOB 02/25/1990) of St. Croix Falls, WI, was charged Dec. 29 with Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony.

Ryan John Rysdam (DOB 06/23/1983) of Wahkon, was charged Dec. 29 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or parapher-

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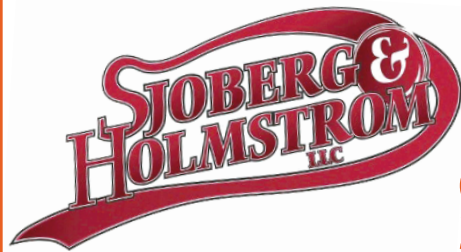
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362 Miscellaneous

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362 Miscellaneous

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BEST PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise to always provide the very best price.

PART OF THE COMMUNITY

We believe businesses should make their communities stronger.



Winner Best Sanitation Provider/ Garbage Hauler



Enjoy One **FREE** Additional month if you sign up before **December** Exp. 1/31/2025