

# ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR



**TIME'S RUNNING OUT:** Voting in 2025 Readers' Choice Best of Contest closes 5 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 3



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Besides the typical free hot dogs, Isanti's Night to Unite will again feature free waffle deserts, while supplies last.

## Traditional activities scheduled for Night to Unite

STAFF REPORT  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Night to Unite, formerly known as National Night Out, will be taking place this Tuesday, Aug. 5. Each of the three local cities — Cambridge, Isanti, and North Branch — will be hosting their own get-togethers, along with offering to stop by individual block parties.

The Cambridge Police Department is hosting its event at the Cambridge Fire Hall from 4 to 7 p.m. There will be free hot dogs and hamburgers, chips, drinks and root beer floats while supplies last. For the kids, there will be a bouncy house, face painting, plus a few other activities.

In North Branch, the city's Night to Unite will take place in lieu of the weekly Summer Concerts in the Park. This year, there will be two locations for the official event: Central Park and Sunrise River Park, with both events running from 5 to 7:30 p.m. North Branch will also be offering free food, a DJ, a bouncy house, plus other activities. Something new this year at Central Park is a "Bubbly Foam Party" from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Last year, the city of Isanti held its first Night to Unite event, held in conjunction with an open house for the new police department building located at 901 East Dual Blvd NE. The event was such a success, they decided to do it again this year. Isanti's event will again be held from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Isanti Police Department building. Isanti will also offer free hot dogs, chips and a drink. However, as an added bonus, a limited number of free treats from Now That's Waffles food truck will be offered.

Additional activities in Isanti will include meeting Isanti County therapy dog Cooper, a K9 demonstration by Isanti County Deputy Miller and his partner, Karma, plus members of the Isanti County Mounted Patrol will be on hand.

All three cities also offer to make appearances at neighborhood events taking place that evening. To invite members of the Cambridge Police Department, call 763-689-9567. To invite members of the North Branch Police Department, email danm@ci.north-branch.mn.us. To invite members of the Isanti Police Department, call 763-444-4761.

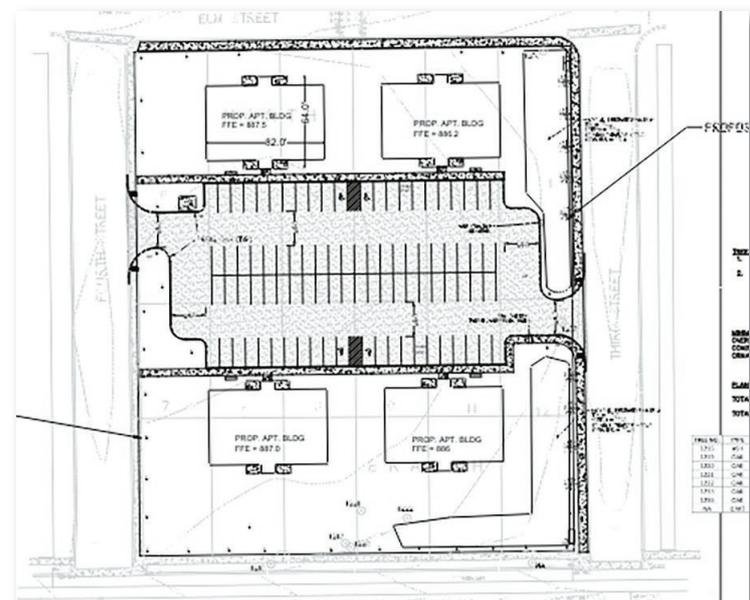
## Four-building apartment complex to fill old Main Street School property

BY MOLLY WHELAN  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Plans for apartments on a vacant lot near downtown North Branch are one step closer to reality now that the city council has granted a special permit to allow for construction of multiple buildings on the site.

The developer, Bigfork Valley LLC, plans to build four buildings containing eight units each on the 2.4-acre parcel, with an 88-space parking lot in the middle, according to city documents. There would be an entrance/exit on the east and west sides of the property.

City code allows only one principal structure per lot, so while apartments are a permitted use in the central business district, a special permit is required to make a community of several



NORTH BRANCH CITY COUNCIL AGENDA PACKET

This general layout of the property shows the four apartment buildings with the parking lot in the middle.

SEE COMPLEX, PAGE 8

## Isanti dad reels in success with paint-your-own fishing lures

BY STACY VERDICK CASE  
NEW@COUNTYSTAR.COM

On a 30-below February day, Brian Kujawa looked around and realized that even though his family was together in the same room, they were disconnected from each other. "I looked up and my family was sitting in the living room together. I noticed that we were all on our tablets and phones, watching TV. Nobody was talking to each other." That's when the idea for Create-a-Lure was born.

Kujawa went looking for something that his family could do together, and he found blank fishing lures. "I started painting them, you know, with my daughter and my other kids, and they really liked it, and that was when kind of the light bulb moment happened for me, that there is nothing else like this out there."

That's when Northern Lights Toys was born with their first

product, Create-A-Lure, a kit that comes with everything needed to create a one-of-a-kind fishing lure. Kujawa hopes that when a kid catches a fish on a lure they painted themselves, it will help solidify their love of fishing and get more kids outdoors and away from their screens as it did with his kids. "I did this specifically for my daughter. Because I wanted her to get more involved in fishing, and it worked. We were up at Lake of the Woods. She reeled up this monster 42-inch Northern."

### NORTHERN LIGHTS TOYS

Before starting Northern Lights Toys, Kujawa was an electrician who had never worked in retail, so developing a retail product took a lot of trial and error. It took a full year to get his business up and running, and even then, he didn't have a completed



CONTRIBUTED

Brian Kujawa and daughter Aurora hold the first fish she caught using a hand-painted Create-A-Lure.

SEE LURE, PAGE 7

32873 Flanders Street NE, Cambridge, MN



Welcome to your own slice of lakefront paradise! This beautifully

updated 3-bedroom, 2-bath walkout rambler sits on 7 private acres with approximately 390 feet of shoreline on peaceful Fannie Lake. Just minutes from town and schools, this property offers the perfect blend of convenience and seclusion.

\$505,000

000 Oslin Road, Mora, MN



erty just outside of Mora city limits with endless potential! Features include 2,900 feet of Spring Brook creek, ATV/UTV trails, mature woods, and abundant wildlife-perfect for hunting, outdoor recreation, or peaceful country living.

\$425,000

301 Roosevelt Street S #G, Cambridge, MN



neighborhood! Built in 2005, this move-in ready townhome offers spacious bedrooms and an upper-level full bath with double sinks. Nestled in a small, low-traffic area with easy access to Hwy 65.

\$225,000

33559 Rhinestone St NW, Princeton MN

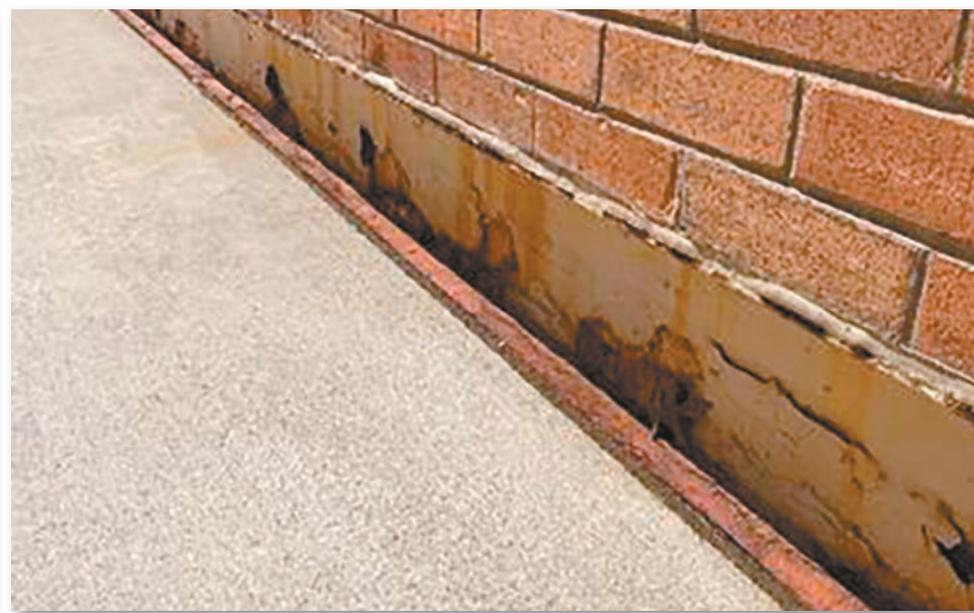
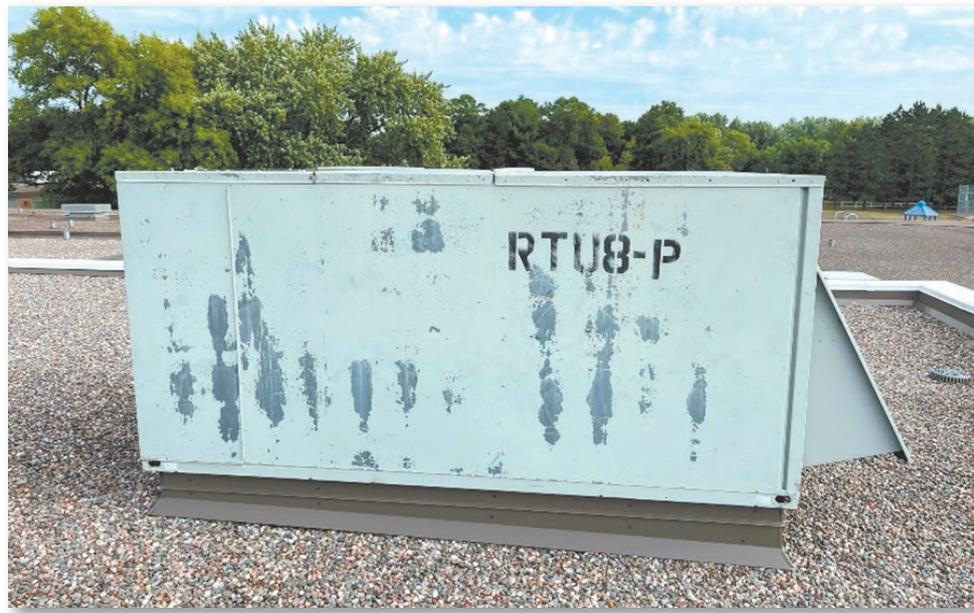


Welcome to your own lakeshore retreat on Green Lake; known for fishing, boating, swimming and general recreation. Well maintained lawn with a hard packed sandy beach. Dock & boat lift stay as well as many other items with this TURN-KEY property; offering you a great opportunity to own a home or cabin and to be able to just move right in. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, and a detached garage with a spacious bunk room. Welcome to the Lake!

\$525,000

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The only proposed projects at Cambridge Primary School that would eclipse \$1 million are the replacement of six outdated rooftop air handling units (left photo) and the reconstruction of the gym masonry cladding and other exterior reconstruction (right photo).

# Cambridge Primary School looks to maximize, update space

BY BILL STICKELS III  
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

*Editors note: This is the third in a series of articles regarding the upcoming Cambridge-Isanti Schools referendum vote, focusing on one specific building.*

Like Isanti Primary School, the Cambridge Primary School is in need of increasing its usable space, along with updating aging amenities. Unlike its Isanti counterpart, CPS won't need to undergo a physical expansion to accomplish this. Still, there are 30 projects, at an approximate cost of \$8 million, that are being proposed as part of Question 1 of the school district's bond referendum vote.

Cambridge Primary School, also known as Cambridge Elementary School to longtime residents and former students, was originally built in 1960. Since then, it has undergone five additions: in 1967, 1989, 1994, 2008, and 2014.

While the total amount of space isn't projected to increase from the upcoming referendum, the building would undergo a bit of an internal makeover in order to make more efficient use of space.

According to Ellie Gilliam from Nexus, specifically the kindergarten space could be rearranged in order to cluster its classrooms closer together. Another suggestion is to remove the stage in what is currently the multipurpose room — formerly the cafeteria, before one of the building additions.

"That stage really is not used right now," Gilliam said. "So we could bring it down to ground level and making it either office or small group space."

All told, the "space modernization improvements" for CPS only comes to about \$2.1 million. The remainder of the cost would go towards deferred maintenance projects.

When looking at all 30 projects, only two of them

individually eclipse the \$1 million mark. Reconstruction of the gym masonry cladding and other exterior reconstruction is tabbed to cost \$1.15 million. Another \$1.18 million would go towards replacing six outdated rooftop air handling units.

Beyond that, some of the other more significant projects include taking out old lockers and replacing them with more, smaller ones; renovate and expand restrooms by the gym and north upper and lower levels; refurbish locker rooms and eliminate shower areas; replace an elevator to the lower level that no longer works; plus, like other buildings, replacing outdated and damaged casework, flooring, doors; and various other updates.

For a full list of the Cambridge Primary School's proposed projects and their estimated cost, plus additional photos, go to [www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com](http://www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com).

## Cambridge Medical Center recognized among World's Best Smart Hospitals

Cambridge Medical Center has earned a spot on Newsweek's 2025 list of the World's Best Smart Hospitals, joining other Allina Health facilities in being recognized for high-quality, expert care.

The annual ranking by Newsweek and its partner Statista highlights hospitals that lead in the use of advanced technologies to improve patient care, including artificial intelligence, robotics, and electronic functionality.

"We are proud to see Cambridge Medical Center recognized among the World's Best Smart Hospitals," said Dr. Sanjay Singh, executive vice president and chief clinical executive

at Allina Health. "This honor reflects our commitment to innovation, safety, and delivering exceptional care to our communities."

Cambridge Medical Center is part of the Allina Health system, which includes more than 90 clinics, 12 hospital campuses and a broad range of specialty care and wellness services across Minnesota and western Wisconsin. More information is available at [allinahealth.org](http://allinahealth.org). - Allina Health

## Chisago County prepares for annual Relay for Life event

Chisago County's annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life is set for Friday, Aug. 22, at Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Center City. The event, held against the scenic backdrop of the church at 1 Summit Ave, will bring the community together to honor and remember those who have faced cancer.

Starting at 5 p.m., attendees can enjoy a variety of activities, including food trucks serving a range of options, a silent auction featuring local items, and yard games for all ages. The festive atmosphere encourages families and friends to gather, share stories, and support one another in the fight against cancer.

The main program begins at 6 p.m., highlighted by an honorary survivor speaker who will share their personal journey and inspire hope among participants. This portion of the evening offers a chance to reflect on the strength and resilience of cancer survivors and

those still battling the disease.

As dusk settles around 8 p.m., the event takes on a solemn and moving tone. Hundreds of luminaria will be lit around the church grounds. Each luminaria represents a life touched by cancer, whether in memory or celebration, creating a glowing tribute visible from afar.

Organizers invite everyone to join in this powerful community event, whether in person or by supporting through donations online. Those unable to attend can contribute at [https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=110217](https://secure.acevents.org/site/STR?pg=entry&fr_id=110217). The Relay for Life remains a vital part of Chisago County's commitment to fighting cancer through awareness, fundraising, and hope.

The community is encouraged to come out, share in the evening, and show solidarity with those affected by cancer in this annual tradition. - American Cancer Society

**Celebrating You, North Branch!**

**COMMUNITY APPRECIATION**

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**AUGUST 12**

**Concerts in the Park**

At Central Park, North Branch. Food trucks and vendors start at 6PM, music by *Hard Day's Night* begins at 7PM.

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**Vacation Bible School August 10-15**

**Bethesda Church - North Branch**

Register at [Tinyurl.com/VBSinNB](http://Tinyurl.com/VBSinNB)  
... or click on this QR Code

Join us for a great week of Bible stories, crafts, games, snacks and music as we learn how each one of us is unique and important to God!  
**No cost for VBS ... freewill offering.**

Sunday, Aug 10 ... Family Fun ... 2-4 pm  
music, games, face painting and yummy snacks.  
Say hello to the mini horses!

Monday Aug 11 to Friday Aug 15 ... 9 am to Noon  
Kids age 4 to kids entering grade 6 this fall.

Bethesda Church  
38180 Hemingway Ave, North Branch  
952 226-6651 [BethesdaChurch.com](http://BethesdaChurch.com)

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## MON, WED & FRI

### Exercise with Connie

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

## MON & WED

### 500 Cards

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

## MON & THUR

### Alcoholics Anonymous

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

## MON - FRI

### Senior Dining

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

## MONDAYS

### Bridge

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

### Scrabble (2nd Monday)

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

## Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families

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

### Mahjong

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

### Fresh Beginnings Alanon

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

### Book Club

Third Monday 11 a.m. to noon at Isanti SAC, 140 Buchanan St., N. #164 Cam-



CONTRIBUTED

**CLIMB Theater comes to Bluebird Amphitheater in Isanti to perform Babe the Blue Ox: Color Our World on August 6.**

bridge. Isanti County Library lends the books and there is no cost to participate. For info: sacs@midconetwork.com

## TUES & THURS

### Boxing for Those w/Parkinson's

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

## TUESDAYS

### Braham Parkinson's Support

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

### Alzheimer's Support

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

### Memory Cafe

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

### Music

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

### Dominos

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

### Dominoes

10 a.m. to Noon at the Cambridge SAC

## WEDNESDAYS

### Cribbage

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

### Wizard

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

### Pinochle

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

### Mahjong

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

### Alanon

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

### Chisago County Drop-In Center

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

### Bingo

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

### Hand and Foot

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

### 500

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

### Bunco

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

### ACA Adult Children of Alcoholics/ Dysfunctional Families Meeting

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

### Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family Group

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

### Medicare and Medicaid 101

Third Thursday of the month from 1-3 p.m. Get your

questions answered by trained agents. (763) 689-7390 or eclrib.org for info.

## FRIDAYS

### Cribbage

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

## AUGUST 1

### Pie Day

Braham's annual Pie Day runs from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Features pie baking contest, car show, craft show, medalion hunt, music and other entertainment, pie auction, pie eating contest, plus more. For full schedule, go to www.pieday.com.

## AUG 3 - 7

### NorthBrook VBS

NorthBrook Church is hosting Vacation Bible School, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the new NorthBrook Church Building (6943 Saint Croix Trail in North Branch.) Pre-K through 5th grade. All are welcome. Registration online at <https://www.myvbs.org/nbchurch>

## AUG 5

### Night to Unite

4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Isanti Police Department, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Cambridge Fire Hall, 5 to 7:30 p.m. in North Branch Central Park.

## AUG. 6

### CLIMB Theatre performs "Babe the Blue Ox: Color Our World"

6 p.m., Bluebird Amphitheater, Isanti. Interactive play for kids up to 10. Free. Info: (800) 767-9660 or mail@climb.org.

## AUG 7

### Book Club

5:30 p.m. at Dana's Bookstore, 120 Heritage Blvd NE #3 in Isanti. We'll be discussing Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. All are welcome.

**Submit information for upcoming events to: editor@countystar.com**

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## Recalling my personal happy place

Coming back to work after a lunch break, I let out a long sigh of contentment. "Was it a good lunch," queried one of my coworkers. "No, it's just such a beautiful day," was my response.

I don't need to tell you it has been a wacky summer so far. We have had countless days of high heat and humidity. And true to the old saying, when it rains, it pours. The whole summer just seems to be in a never-ending cycle. The only good part of that is that this cycle typically brings us the rain during the middle of the week, leaving the weekends dry. Add to that the newest "weather" condition — air quality alerts from Canadian wildfires.

But today (Tuesday), we seem to have hit the sweet spot. Partly cloudy skies, highs in the upper seventies or lower eighties, a slight breeze, and fresh air.

Stepping outside took me right back to my childhood days at the cabin. While a majority of the time, there was little downtime and plenty of action in the form of swimming, skiing, fishing, etc., every once in a while, especially under these conditions, you couldn't help but soak it all in.

The preferred spot to do that was the captain's chair on the pontoon boat — an Ercoa purchased in Braham way back when. Back then, pontoon boats were much more bare-bones. The only permanent seating was a U-shaped bench surrounding the driving console, which was centered on the boat width-wise.

The captain's chair was about the height of a bar stool. Since it wasn't affixed to the boat or even placed in a pedestal slot, you could arrange it so it was the perfect distance away from the railing to enable you to prop your feet up, no matter what height you were. Then it was just a matter of cradling your neck in your interlocked fingers and closing your eyes.

There, with the sun shining on your body, a light breeze keeping you cool while at the same time gently rocking the boat and supplying a rhythmic sound of waves slapping the shoreline, and other random sounds such as birds tweeting, frogs croaking, or even the distant sound of a boat motor, it was enough to calm even the most hyperactive soul.

Admittedly, as I grew up a little more and technology advanced, those sounds became at least interlaced, if not overcome by music (and 80s music at that). But it wasn't enough to ruin the other stimulants, especially the rocking of the boat. That was always my favorite.

A rocking boat stays with you long after you've gone back onto land. You might not always notice it, but as you lay your head down on your pillow at night, the feeling returns, rocking you right to sleep.

**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

#### PAID LETTER:

#### \$123.6 million, are you kidding me?

To the editor,

Does ANYONE think that the ridiculous amount of \$123,600,000 the Cambridge-Isanti school district wants to spend will help one single student be able to learn the basics of reading, writing or math? This is a whopping \$18,000 per family with four kids! I provide free financial counseling to many young and elderly families in Isanti County and many of them are being taxed into oblivion! Actually destroyed, losing their cars and their homes! And for what? Oh, yes excuse me they will spend \$45,000 on "network-level graphics upgrades for school standardization." We certainly can't live without that! Whatever that is. Also, they propose spending millions for theatre curtains, wireless mics, new lights for the athletic field in case the old ones burn out, and hey, we absolutely need artificial turf for TWO MILLION more! What's another TWO MILLION! After all isn't it better to have artificial turf that is used 10 to 30 times a year than being able to put milk on the tables of the struggling families of Isanti County?

Let's go on. NO one believes that we can go another day without spending tens of thousands on additional tennis courts and of course they MUST be lit! Speaking of lighting, while we are at it, we can't leave out the crucial need of lighting those DARK scary softball fields! That is far more important than health insurance, yes you would be shocked at how many of our families or parents in our community that just can't find the money to buy health insurance for families. But at least our softball fields will be lit. Whoops I misspoke, we also are going to get a better sound system at those fields and even a new path! Can't live without a new path!

Now to the important additions... we finally will get a culinary arts lab! Yippee! The school will have a culinary lab while our families struggle to put food on their tables. The next two are priceless!

No ridiculous! Our hard earned money will be spent on "soft-seating furniture groups" where the students can sit around in comfort and "chat." Oh, I can't forget they will get additional "calming/reset"

rooms. And the private restrooms for those students that aren't sure what they are...

I am positive that all these improvements will definitely raise test scores! VOTE NO!

Keith Kersten  
Stanford Township

#### I am so confused

To the editor,

I am so confused and am hoping someone out there can help me understand. First they take away financial restriction on the food shelves so that anybody that wants free food can get it. Then the feds stop funding the food shelves. Asking the general population to fill the shelves.

I get upset when I see people driving Navigators getting food that I just donated and I am retired on social security. Then I read last week that the illegals are getting double and more than I get. Then I heard the Muslims get to go to the food shelves twice and month and the American families only get to go once a month. I still don't understand why we as Americans have to pay to provide Muslims that go to the food shelves with halal meat.

What happened to Americans first? I want as much social security as the Muslims and illegals get. I paid it in, they didn't.

I am really surprised to see that the pork producers are complaining because so many businesses have stopped serving pork. Wonder if the government is silencing that.

Kathy Leick  
Stanchfield

#### Current administration not helping us

To the editor,

There is so much wrong with the current administration. They only do things for Trump, not for us. It's a dictatorship in the making. It seems the American people are not their focus. They are taking away more than giving, hurting more than helping. Taking away jobs, food for people, healthcare services, cut veterans benefits, our military is in disarray

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

## Your Best Source for Community Information

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**NEWS DEADLINE:**  
Noon Tuesday

**ADVERTISING DEADLINE:**  
4 p.m. Tuesday

**CLASSIFIED DEADLINE:**  
4 p.m. Tuesday

**LEGALS DEADLINE:**  
Noon Monday



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# Congratulations graduates

**G**raduations and graduation parties are now history for the summer.

Whether you graduated from high school, college, vocational school, private school or home school, you all need to be congratulated for the hard work and determination to enhance your knowledge of the world around us. Education doesn't stop. It goes on in life with advanced programs, on-the-job training, and through wherever your career path takes you.

What I have learned over the years is surround yourself with good, ethical, hardworking people. They set good examples and you can learn a lot from them.

Another tip is to be kind to everyone you meet. Try hard at whatever you do. Go the extra mile. It will be noticed and you will be rewarded. Another aspect of this is to be an encourager. The best way to succeed in life is to help someone else succeed in theirs.

Your career path may change several times as our technology develops and expands. It always opens new doors. Your interests will change as well. The opportunities will continue and never stop ways to continue your education. Find a mentor, someone ahead of you who can look up to in your career, marriage and eventually parenting, and never be afraid to ask for help.

Then don't forget to thank your parents. Give them the respect and honor they deserve. They have been there to support you in so many ways. They want the best for you and the older you get, the smarter they seem to be. Then don't forget to tell them you love them.

Making new friends is important at every stage of life. Appreciate the relationships from school, but continue to make new friends.

Be sure to try new things, such as new foods, new hobbies, a new skill, and experience new cultures and other things which cross your path and are of interest.

Take good care of your physical body. Be disciplined in caring for it by eating well, getting exercise and getting enough rest.

Jeremiah 29:11 sums up why we need to do all the aforementioned things. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

## LAKE HISTORY

Did you know that the first Tilt-a-Whirl in the world was at the Wildwood Amusement Park in 1927? This comes from Forgotten Minnesota.

## GROWING POSTAL RATES

By now I'm sure our readers are aware that the first-class Forever stamp has increased to 78 cents, which is having its effects.

This is going to reduce casual correspondence and mailing of holiday cards, as well as difficulties for newspapers and other types of communication that use the US mail.

Physical mail has been declining the last number of years, primarily due to the ease of digital mail. Businesses now send their invoices digitally, as well as mail that comes online as either spam or junk mail soliciting business and merchandise.

The US Postal Service has increased price hikes to twice a year. This is shifting consumer behavior.

Community newspapers are being forced to make difficult decisions in staffing, deliveries, and subscription rates.

In Minnesota this past year we have had a dozen community newspapers close due to rising costs and the lack of advertising.

We now have in Minnesota a number of online newspapers filling the gap and trying to live on donations. Some are doing very well.

The post office is very important for communication of information throughout the entire country. It needs to look for ways to increase efficiency, reliable delivery, and to accommodate newspapers, magazines and package delivery at competitive prices.

When a newspaper closes, people don't realize what they have missed. Statistical information on marketing research has shown that the response to printed material is greater than that of digital, but in many cases the digital is free and very easy to use. We have also had people tell us we can't trust online responses to advertising as we can when our responses are local.

Change is inevitable. Our communities have to be grateful for our advertisers and serve them well, as well as find ways to increase response to their print advertising.

It's another reason to say thank you to our advertisers and subscribers, as well as city, county and state governments for their public notices - an important and necessary means of communicating to citizens at the city, county and state level.

**GENE JOHNSON** is Publisher Emeritus of Press Publications, owner of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be reached at [ppinfo@presspubs.com](mailto:ppinfo@presspubs.com).

**About the Town Gene Johnson**



**Ask A Trooper**  
Jesse Grabow

# Shocking advice for new drivers

**Q**uestion: I have a new driver in the house and they asked a question that got me thinking. If someone has a crash and hits a power pole, what should they do in that situation?

**A**nswer: If your car comes into contact with a utility pole, wire or power box, you should:

- Stay in your vehicle and call 911.
- Only get out of the vehicle if it is on fire.
- If you must get out, jump from the vehicle with both feet together

er and shuffle your feet on the ground as you move away from the scene.

• Always assume all wires and equipment are electrified.

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 [jessegrabow@state.mn.us](mailto:jessegrabow@state.mn.us)).

# Hummingbirds heading south

**M**any hummingbirds begin their migration south anytime from late July to early August. Take a break from cutting the spent blooms from your flowers. Even brown and faded blooms can still contain the sweet nectar that's vital to the hummingbirds as they journey south.

The following late blooming flowers are most attractive to the hummingbirds:

Cardinal Flower (*lobelia cardinalis*) is a scarlet-colored native wildflower which is considered one of the best perennials to attract both butterflies and hummingbirds. It puts up vivid scarlet flower spikes from July through September. Grows well in moist to wet soil conditions in full to partial sunlight.

Monarda (commonly known as Bee Balm) comes in a variety of colors. *Monarda fistulosa*, also known as Bergamot, is a native characterized by its lavender-pink flowers that bloom from mid-summer to early fall. The tubular flowers are popular with hummingbirds and a host of other pollinators. They are prized for their high nectar content. The plants thrive in dry to medium moisture soils and require good air circulation.

Penstemon, also commonly known as Beardtongue is a genus of native wildflowers commonly found in Minnesota. Butterflies, hummingbirds, the hummingbird moth and other long-tongued pollinators will pay a visit to your yard to enjoy this plant. The plants thrive in full sun and can grow in a variety of soil conditions.

Salvia, another MN native wildflower, are stalwarts of any wildlife garden. The plants produce tubular, nectar rich flowers that are irresistible to hummingbirds. It will grow in full to part sun and prefers medium to dry soil conditions.



Agastache, also called Purple Giant Hyssop, or Hummingbird mint, is another native wildflower characterized by its lavender to white tubular flowers and aromatic leaves. Anise Hyssop (*Agastache Foeniculum*) is another native variety valued for its licorice-mint flavor. All varieties attract pollinators and are drought tolerant.

While I utilize the native varieties in my gardens, I also add cultivars of the same plants. This gives me a wider range of bloom colors, heights and disease resistance. (Cultivars are versions of native plants that have been modified in some way by humans. Often cultivars of native varieties are also termed "nativars").

In my gardens I find that the pollinators, including hummingbirds, generally go to the native varieties first, however, they don't seem averse to nectar from the native cultivars.

Take a break from "deadheading". Sit with a cool drink and watch the hummingbirds and other pollinators enjoying the "flowers of your labors."

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](mailto:mnext-chisago@umn.edu) or by phone at 651-277-0151.



**Master Gardener**  
Sue Kirchner

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUE FROM PAGE 4

- what should their job be now?

Should they be used against us, instead of for us? Farmer programs eliminated. The Department of Education - dismantled - along with it, the future of education for our youth. Will they be able to go to college or will there be a college for them to go to? Loss of federal grants for students and funding our local schools depend on. Is FEMA going away? The tariffs are hurting the economy and no end in sight for price increases. The fraud they were looking for - didn't happen. Can the States handle all that the federal government won't do for us anymore? Looks like the States are on their own to handle any future crisis.

Who's paying for all his retribution lawsuits? Can our local Republicans answer my questions? Can they tell me what they are doing to help us to live better? How long is it supposed to take? Years?

Most disturbing is the immigration policy. Not all immigrants are bad or here illegally. There are many here legally and many that ICE are trying to deport - just because of their name, the color of their skin, the type of work they do - which in my mind is discrimination. I also believe violent immigrants should not be here. But, that is not what is happening with ICE deportations. It seems the ICE agents are the ones who are violent and doing it illegally. They knock them to the ground, handcuff them, not asking for identification, information or documentation. People are unable to contact family or lawyers and many don't know what's happening.

Would you want that to happen to you? It could, so, be aware as you travel and go about your daily lives. They are put in detention centers with inhumane living conditions. "Alligator Alcatraz" in Florida sounds

like worst of them, living with mosquitos, alligators and pythons, almost like a concentration camp. They should have due process. The current administration chooses to ignore judges' rulings. We should continue to protest this kind of treatment of anyone.

**Cathy Nelson**

## East Cambridge An appeal to Heaven

**To the editor,**

The battle for America is still raging but victory is still in sight if we keep the prayer going.

Join with us in the appeal to Heaven, Sunday, Aug. 3, 5 p.m. at Grace Gospel Church, Grandy.

**Bob Lex**  
**For Concerned Citizens**

**Visit us online!**

ISANTI-CHISAGO  
**COUNTY STAR**



## OBITUARIES

### Yvonne Marie Newman

Yvonne Newman, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister, and friend, passed away peacefully on July 22, 2025, at Northern Pines Assisted Living in Pine



City, at the age of 86.

Born on August 23, 1938, to Edgar and Elizabeth (Emge) Carpenter in Rice County, Farib-

ault, Minnesota, Yvonne lived a life rooted in resilience, love, and unwavering devotion to her family. Her early years were shaped by humble beginnings—her clothes were made from flour and sugar sacks, and she faced challenges from a young age, including surgery on her right eye at just three years old.

Yvonne's childhood took her to many different places before she eventually graduating from Brahm High School in 1957. In school, she participated in class plays and oratory competitions. Her education continued at Humboldt Technical Airline School in 1958.

She met the love of her life, Charles, at a dance at the Rice Bowl, and they were married on October 16, 1963. Together, they built a life in Champlin, Minnesota, where Charles worked as a custodian and Yvonne as a school cook—a role she would proudly hold for many years. Her career in school food services spanned multiple districts, including Pine City, Cambridge-Isanti, and Anoka-Hennepin.

Yvonne found her greatest joy in motherhood. The births of her two sons, Michael and Richard, were defining moments of her life. She and Charles eventually settled on five acres in rural Pine City, where they built a home and enjoyed countless peaceful days watching birds and wildlife from their windows.

Yvonne was a woman of many talents. She loved sewing and quilting, baking, writing letters, and visiting with friends. Her hands were rarely still, whether crafting something beautiful or preparing something delicious. Her kindness and warmth extended far beyond her family, touching friends and neighbors alike.

After Charles's passing, Yvonne continued to live independently during retirement. She cultivated lasting friendships and was a vibrant part of the Chesterfield apartment community in Pine City, often enjoying lunch dates and organized activities. Her final days were spent in the care of the compassionate team at Northern Pines Assisted Living, and the family extends their deepest gratitude to the staff there, as well as to St. Croix Hospice, for the comfort and dignity they provided in her final chapter.

Yvonne's family is proud of her strength, her independence, and the legacy of love she leaves behind. She once wrote, "The most important people in my life are family—yes, the entire blended family—children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Love to be shared. I wish I had more years than God planned for me to be with all of you."

She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Yvonne is survived by sons Michael (Carol) Newman, Richard Newman, Steven (Linda) Newman, Harold (Lois) Newman; grandchildren Elizabeth (Brandon) Zahnow, Abby (Nick) Newman, Rose (Dylan) Doolley, Nicole Newman, Benjamin Newman, Stacy (Brent Linn) Newman, Jessica (Derek) Newman; great grandchildren Alma Zahnow, Leona Dooley; many step grandchildren, step great grandchildren; siblings Sharon Fix, Teresa Morgan, Dennis (Judy) Carpenter; brother-in-law Dennis Kunzer; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by parents Elizabeth & Edgar Carpenter; husband Charles Newman; brothers-in-law Joseph Fix, Donald Morgan; niece Charlotte Noyes; stepson Darrell Newman; stepdaughter Shirley Tolonen.

Pastor Rob Spahr will officiate funeral services for Yvonne: 11 a.m.; Wednesday, July 30, 2025 with a time for reviewal and visitation one and a half hours prior to the service, all at the First Presbyterian Church of Pine City. Yvonne will be interred at Birchwood Cemetery in Pine City.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to:

Family Pathways Food Shelf  
P.O. Box 257  
Pine City, MN 55063

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the: Funeral and Cremation Service of Pine City, Swanson Chapel

www.FuneralAndCremationService.com

### Kenneth Walter Olson

Kenneth Walter Olson, age 87, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on July 23, 2025. Born on March 22, 1938, to Elizabeth and Walter Olson at Swedish Hospital in Minneapolis, Kenny was



raised in Cambridge, Minnesota. He graduated from Cambridge High School in 1956, often sharing fond (and funny) stories about the mischief of his youth.

In 1961, Kenny co-founded Walter E. Olson and Sons Construction alongside his father. A man of tireless work

ethic, Kenny often said, "I was born to work," and his dedication proved it. Whether operating heavy machinery or hauling countless loads of dirt and gravel, he found joy and pride in his work. Over the years, he worked alongside his brother Dicky to build the company into a respected local business. He also served ten years with the Cambridge Fire Department.

Kenny had a passion for buying land, classic cars, and tractors, often restoring and reselling them. He loved the rumble of a Harley Davidson, the excitement of an auction, and the simple joy of a drive down memory lane—usually accompanied by a story or a good joke.

He married Diane Johnson on March 1, 1958. Together, they had two daughters, Kim and Rhonda, and made their home in

Cambridge. The couple divorced in 1976. He later married Marge Sager in 1980; they were together until 2003.

In 1968, Kenny purchased a piece of lakeshore property on Skogman Lake that became known as "The Lake Lot." It became a beloved gathering place for friends, family, and classmates to make special memories over the years. In his later years, he treasured traveling with his family and his dear friend Kathy, creating even more lasting memories.

Kenny is preceded in death by his parents, Elizabeth and Walter Olson; stepmother, Violet Olson; ex-wife Diane Olson; daughter, Kim; sister, Joyce; brother-in-law, Pete; and special friend, Kathy Niemi.

He is survived by daughter, Rhonda (Mark) Leaf; son, Jeremy Olson; his brother, Richard (Karyn) Olson; ex-wife, Marge Olson; grandchildren Brittini Buller, Briana (Blake) Berg, and Blair (Andrew) Hendel, Jason and Jordan Olson and nine great-grandchildren. He will also be deeply missed by many cherished friends and extended family.

Memorial Service 11 a.m., Thursday, July 31, 2025 at Cambridge Lutheran Church. Visitation one hour prior to the service. Private interment. Condolences at [www.carlsonlillemoen.com](http://www.carlsonlillemoen.com). Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Friends may gather one hour prior to the service at the church

Private interment.

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

Online condolences can be shared at [www.carlsonlillemoen.com](http://www.carlsonlillemoen.com)

### Julia Elizabeth Coleman

Julia Elizabeth Coleman (nee Larkin) age 91 of Springvale Township, MN., passed away peacefully at Ecumen North Branch on July 25, 2025.

Julia was born in St. Louis Park, MN to James Larkin and Margaret Reichert



Larkin on April 3, 1934. Shortly before graduating from Cambridge High School, Julia married Richard Louis Coleman on May 17, 1952, before he entered the military.

Upon Richards' return from his military service, they settled in Ramsey, MN. Together, they raised three

children. Julia worked numerous odd jobs while tending to her children, but remained a steadfast homemaker.

Julia had many hobbies to keep her busy.

She excelled doing needle work, traveling with her husband, spending time with her grandchildren, playing cards and keeping up with current events and visiting Hinkley, MN

She was known to bring joy and happiness to all of her family, friends and acquaintances that took the time to visit with her.

Julia was preceded in death by her husband Richard Louis Coleman, parents James & Margaret Larkin, daughter Patti Coleman, sisters Evelyn Dudgeon, Josephine Zieske and Janice Swanson; brothers Jerome and Vernon "Pete" Larkin.

She is survived by her children Randall Coleman and his significant other Linda Jo Mealey and Bruce Coleman. Grandchildren; Staci (Mark) Bergloff, Great-grandchildren Dillon, Abigail and Ethan Bergloff.

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

Online condolences can be shared at [www.carlsonlillemoen.com](http://www.carlsonlillemoen.com)

### Adam Norman

Adam Norman of North Branch passed away surrounded by his family at Regions Hospital in St. Paul Wednesday, July 23, 2025 at the age of 44.

Adam Allan Norman was born on August 30, 1980 to Bruce and Cynthia (Straka) Norman in Montevideo, Minnesota.



He loved fishing and hunting, karaoke and football. He also loved grilling out and family time - playing with the kids, the nieces and nephews, and target shooting at his Mom's house. Adam was a jokester and always smiling. He was the first one to greet you and say "Hello!"

Adam is survived by his fiancée Sarah Goranson and her sons Eddie and

Manuel Perales all of North Branch; parents Bruce Norman of Montevideo, Cindy Rogers of Mora, Brian Shufelt of Onamia; brother Matthew Norman of North Branch; sister Rebecca (Tyler) Johnson of Rush City; grandparents Maryann and Richard Straka of Onamia; nieces Morgan, Emma, Abigail, Elizabeth; nephews Elijah and Emmett; many cousins, uncles, other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents Milo Jr. and Marilyn Norman.

There will be a memorial service for family and relatives planned for Adam: 11 a.m.; Saturday, August 2, 2025 at the Olson Funeral Chapel of Rush City. Everyone is invited to attend a Celebration of Life to remember and celebrate Adam: 2 p.m.; August 2, 2025, at 51943 Government Rd, Rush City.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the: Funeral and Cremation Service of Rush City, Olson Chapel [www.FuneralAndCremationService.com](http://www.FuneralAndCremationService.com)

## In Memory

7 / 11 / 1939 – 7 / 15 / 2025

With great sadness the death of Donald

L Lindman son of Orville R Lindman of the Isanti County Farm. Our trapping days will be missed, but my lake home is our memory.

Sister Sylvia Lindman Okerstron



# LURE: Company has earned multiple awards, is now being sold at various retailers

FROM PAGE 1

product. Kujawa was learning from the school of hard knocks. “I was using glue dots to hold them (the lures) in, but when glue dots freeze, they stopped working. So now I just got boxes with empty lures. (It was) a lot of time and a lot of money. A lot of being scammed by different people. The amount of scams.” Kujawa shakes his head. “It seems like almost 50% of all businesses out there are just out there to scam the other 50% of good businesses.”

By the end of 2020, Create-A-Lure was ready for market, and because of pandemic vendor cancellations, Northern Lights Toys was able to secure a booth at the St. Paul Ice Fishing Show. “That’s really kind of what kept me going. I did the Saint Paul Ice Fishing Show, and thanks to all the people who were there for their support. We only sold about 150 or so, but that was enough to take it to the next step, and I just kept on going with it.”

When asked what he would have done if it hadn’t worked out, Kujawa shrugs. “There is no plan B, just rolling and going with it. It’s been tough, you know, and it has not been easy.”

The business has been financed 100% by Kujawa, who invested his life’s savings into his toy company. He admits that it’s been difficult at times. “We went back to ramen noodles and Hamburger Helper for the past four years. Back to buying clothes at the Goodwill, not being able to get them (his family) certain things at certain times that they want, but it’s finally starting to come around. My wife has been very supportive in all of it, and I mean, she’s been there with me.”

### QUALITY MATTERS

As a product, Kujawa wanted Create-A-Lure to be more than just a craft kit where the final product is only good for sitting on a shelf. He created a usable product that will be in tackle boxes 20 years from now. “They sell us garbage now. All these toys that I buy for my kids, it’s broken in a week. It’s just junk. I want to bring some actual quality.”

The commitment to quality means that Kujawa and his staff have to fill the tiny paint pots by hand. “The best paint I found is made in New York, and they’re not going to put it in the paint pots for me the way I needed, so I get to do it.”

Kujawa estimates that 60% of his product materials, like the paint, are manufactured in the United States, but some pieces he has been unable to source domestically. And like other small businesses who have to import products, he is feeling the pinch. “I’m forced to order those in China, so tariffs have been fun. I saw my bills go up by a few grand every single time, and it’s just like, this isn’t fun.”

Other pieces, like the product boxes, he’s been able to find printers in Minnesota. “The lumber all comes from Northern Minnesota forests, the forest farms, the reusable ones where they replant after they harvest.”

All the hard work has paid off. In April 2025, Northern Lights Toys was able to move into their new facilities in Isanti. “I did this all in my garage for the last four years, and I needed to expand. I was only able to fit four or five pallets in there at a time, but then nobody could work, so I’d have to drag out the pallets every single day until they got picked up, and hopefully it wasn’t raining, or snowing. So I started shopping around for a place. We popped around here for about four months or so, looking at all kinds of different places, and came to this one.”



Create-A-Lure creator Brian Kujawa, with the various lure sizes currently available, plus the 2024 ICAST award he earned.

STACY VERDICK CASE | COUNTY STAR

### MILITARY SERVICE

Kujawa is an Army Veteran who is proud of his service to his country. “I was in the First Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas. That’s where I deployed two times to Iraq, once in Baghdad, and then the other one was Kirkuk, so middle northern Iraq. The first tour was the rough one. It was a bad time. I saw enough bombs dropping that I don’t ever want to see that again.”

His time in the service has given him a deeper perspective on the world and how what he’s doing now fits in. “Watching the way that people are acting now through social media and with the amount of hate and violence that’s out there. That scares the crap out of me, to be honest with you. I do not like that. And if this can bring some joy and maybe calm people down and just have some fun with their lives, so be it. Fish don’t care about politics. If we all spent more time in a boat together, we’d be less partisan.”

His time in the service has also given Kujawa a unique way to quality control. “The paints are non-toxic and washable. I know because I had to eat them. It’s the army side of things. If they’re going to do it, I’ve got to do it too,” Kujawa laughs. “Let’s face it, a kid’s probably going to try and eat it. I don’t want them getting sick, so I could take your word for it; otherwise, I could just take a taste test right now and just be done with it. The sealer is nontoxic, and then the hooks come in a separate bag and with hook protectors on them, so that way the kids can’t accidentally poke themselves.”

### AWARD WINNING TOYS

The International Convention of Allied Sportfishing Trades is the world’s largest sportfishing trade show. It’s hosted annually in Orlando, Florida, by the American Sportfishing Association. It’s an event that can launch a new product that is focused on the fishing market. According to the website, the event “serves as a launchpad for new products, industry innovations, and global debuts, making it a key destination for anyone in the sportfishing and boating industries.”

It’s where Create-A-Lure made a giant leap forward. “I actually did it (entered the awards) on a whim three years ago. I had no idea how big this show was. I didn’t know what to expect. I just want more business down south where they have open water all year long. I didn’t win my first year with Kids Tackle, but I submitted it to the New Product Showcase.”

Create-A-Lure won. “That’s kind of where everything’s really started to



STACY VERDICK CASE | COUNTY STAR

Kujawa’s dedication to putting out a high-quality product means each of the Create-A-Lure paint pots are filled at the company’s new assembly building.

take off,” said Kujawa. “I got more orders from it.”

That win opened doors for Northern Lights Toys, which now can be found in Dick’s Sporting Goods, Scheels, North 40 Outfitters, and Amazon, and they plan to be in Cabelas, Bass Pro Shops and Academy Sports by the end of the year.

ICAST 2025 was July 17-20, where Kujawa entered his new Create-A-Lure Lunker edition into the contest in Best Kid’s Tackle 2025 and won.

Create-A-Lure’s momentum shows no signs of slowing. With national retailers stocking Northern Lights Toys’ award-winning kits and another ICAST victory in hand, Kujawa’s sights are firmly set on continued growth.

“You just gotta keep on putting your best foot forward every chance you can,” Kujawa said. “That’s how you get noticed.”

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FDIC-INSURED

# COMPLEX: Council deems four, eight-unit buildings a better fit than previous proposal

FROM PAGE 1

smaller buildings instead of one large building. One condition of the permit is that none of the buildings can be sold separately from the others without first legally subdividing the property, said Nathan Sondrol, the City Development Director.

In 2022, the city was approached by a different developer wanting to construct an L-shaped apartment complex on that same site. However, that developer retracted his request following backlash from city council members and the general public.

With the current proposal, staff and council members argued that four two-story buildings with a total of 32 units were a better fit for the mostly residential surrounding area than earlier plans for a single building with 65 units.

Mayor Kevin Schieber spoke in favor of the plans to fill the long-vacant lot, praising the developer for planning to plant more trees than are required or currently exist on the lot. "I don't see a problem with this," he said. "I think it's time to kind of welcome somebody who's trying to invest in our community."

While the permit approval is a vital step in the process, Bigfork is not yet clear to start building as planned. Their elevations do not meet city design standards for materials, which means they either need to get an exception from the city or change their design plans.

Sondrol said the developer is flexible on things such as siding color, giving options that show both blue and tan in addition to Class 1 materials such as brick and natural stone.

# North Branch mayor's term may increase to four years

BY MOLLY WHELAN  
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

North Branch appears poised to double its mayoral term in an attempt at more efficient governance.

The council expressed support and directed staff to prepare the necessary paperwork to put it into effect, though whether it will be in place for the 2026 mayoral election remains to be seen.

Mayor Kevin Schieber said he specifically brought it forth during a non-election year to give the council and staff time to consider it.

Schieber said serving as mayor while also campaigning for re-election less than two years into his first term, as he did last fall, was challenging.

"It felt like I kind of had a foot on each side," he said, "and I had a hard time trying to balance everything."

Freshman Council member Jeff Goulet later articulated this sentiment as "either you're not campaigning well, or you're not doing your duties."

Keeping the mayor to a four-year term, as council members serve, could provide better continuity for staff, council members, and residents, Schieber said.

"Am I going to tell you that I want to be mayor for four more years?" Schieber said. "Probably not. But it isn't about the names and the people that are in these seats, right?"

"It's about our environment, and the culture, and trying to make sure that we are embracing the idea that we're going to put community first, right? And then we're going to support each other even if, at times, we don't agree with each other."

Council member Patrick Meacham, who is serving his second non-consecutive term as an appointed city council member, said four years made more sense to him, too.

"I feel like I'm just hitting my stride at a year-and-a-half, two years," he said.

Goulet and Council member Robert Canada, who won re-election alongside Schieber last fall, pointed out that campaigning every two years can put a strain on a potential candidate's personal and professional life, not to mention the financial burden.

Goulet listed four pros and cons of each option, concluding that his only remaining concern was voter engagement, leading him to suggest keeping mayoral elections in the same year as presidential elections, when turnout is much higher.

City Administrator Matthew Hill said state statute allows for four-year mayoral terms, and city code requires an ordinance to change the term. As to what kind of majority is needed, and whether they can keep in line with presidential elections, Hill said he would bring more information to an August council meeting.

# CLIMB Theatre to perform 'Babe the Blue Ox: Color Our World'

CLIMB Theatre will perform "Babe the Blue Ox: Color Our World" at the Bluebird Amphitheater on Wednesday, Aug. 6, at 6 p.m., in partnership with the City of Isanti Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

The play follows Babe the Blue Ox, who feels bluer than usual while her friend Paul Bunyan is away on one of his famous adventures. Seeking a journey of her own, Babe sets out to find new friends but struggles to

connect with others. Along the way, she meets creatures who teach her new ways to play, helping her build friendships and bring more color to the world.

The interactive show runs about 35 minutes and is designed for children up to 10 years old.

Founded in 1975, CLIMB Theatre is a youth-focused organization based in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. The touring company brings performances to schools, li-

braries and communities across the Midwest, using theatre to promote positive behavior skills and inspire acts that benefit individuals and their communities.

For more information or to bring CLIMB Theatre to your area, call (800) 767-9660 or email mail@climb.org. Visit www.climb.org. -CLIMB



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# Deer season details available now, hunting licenses on sale Aug. 1

Hunters can now review the 2025 Minnesota deer hunting regulations, and deer hunting licenses will be available to purchase starting Friday, Aug. 1.

Deer season details for each deer permit area and electronic copies of the 2025 Minnesota hunting regulations are available on the DNR deer hunting webpage (mndnr.gov/hunting/deer). Print copies will be available in mid-August wherever licenses are sold. Regulations translated into Hmong, Karen, Somali and Spanish will be available online in mid-September.

“We love getting ready for deer season each year. Many hunters prepare for time out in the forests and fields like it’s a major holiday,” said Paul Burr, acting big game program coordinator. “We’re reminding hunters to closely review the new hunting regulations and all the details that apply to them, so they’re ready to enjoy deer seasons.”

This deer season, the DNR has simplified how to buy a firearms deer license. There is now one statewide firearms deer license. The B season license has been eliminated, and a statewide license is valid during both the statewide firearms A season and the late southeast B season. Prior to this change, due to the expansion of the CWD management zone in the southeast, only two DPAs (338 and 341) still required a B license to participate in the late southeast B season, while neighboring DPAs allowed hunting during both seasons with either the A or B license. To simplify regulations and reduce confusion, there is now just one license that can be used for both the statewide firearms and the late southeast season.

Another important change is related to chronic wasting disease testing. Self-service stations will be available in CWD management and surveillance zones during opening weekend of firearms season and the following Monday (Saturday, Nov. 8, through Monday, Nov. 10), and during CWD special hunts. Because of the expanding footprint of CWD in Minnesota, the DNR will prioritize collecting baseline surveillance data in three new areas and had to shift staff resources to accommodate this increased workload.

**BE AWARE OF BAG LIMIT CHANGE, ANTLERLESS LOTTERY DEADLINE**  
For the 2025 deer season, 103 deer permit areas have



kept the same designation as the previous season. Two DPAs have lower bag limits to reduce the harvest of antlerless deer, with the intent of increasing deer populations. Twenty-five DPAs have increased bag limits this year.

Winter conditions were favorable to deer populations for the second consecutive winter, contributing to increased harvest opportunity this deer season. Harvest designations remain conservative in northern Minnesota, where deer populations are still in recovery from the severe winters of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

Firearm and muzzleloader hunters who want to harvest antlerless deer in a DPA designated as antlerless permit lottery must purchase their license by Thursday, Sept. 4. Hunters who purchase their license by Sept. 4 are automatically entered into the lottery for the DPA or special hunt area they declare.

No application is needed to take antlerless deer in permit areas with either-sex, two-deer limit, three-deer limit, or five-deer limit designations. Hunters should note that DPA 183 has been split into two smaller DPAs (153 and 154), and these DPAs have last

year’s designation of lottery with a one-deer limit.

### CWD SAMPLING CONTINUES

Hunters should check the CWD testing requirements and available sampling options for the DPAs where they hunt. Hunters can find DPA-specific information on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/deerhunt). Hunters are required to have deer one year or older sampled in all CWD management and surveillance zones if they harvest their deer during the opening weekend of the firearms season (Nov. 8-9).

In all areas outside CWD management and surveillance zones — or in these zones outside of opening firearms weekend — hunters can also have their deer sampled for CWD, if they choose. Multiple CWD sampling options are available to these hunters, including mail-in kits (mndnr.gov/cwd/cwd-kits.html), the partner sampling program (mndnr.gov/cwd/cwd-partners.html) or by appointment at a DNR area wildlife office (mndnr.gov/areas/wildlife).

Hunters can request a mail-in kit before hunting or use their unused kits from previous years. However, CWD mail-in kits received prior to Nov. 1, 2024, have shipping labels that are no longer valid. Hunters who wish to use these kits will need to request a new shipping label using a form available on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/cwd/cwd-kits.html).

For a guide on finding the most up-to-date information throughout the deer season, including details about individual DPAs, preparing for hunting, to find CWD sampling locations or to request a mail-in sampling kit, visit mndnr.gov/deerhunt.

### DEER SEASON DATES FOR 2025

Archery: Saturday, Sept. 13, through Wednesday, Dec. 31

Youth and early antlerless: Thursday, Oct. 16, through Sunday, Oct. 19

Firearms: Saturday, Nov. 8, with various closing dates depending on location

Muzzleloader: Saturday, Nov. 29, through Sunday, Dec. 14

Late CWD (DPAs 605, 642, 643, 645, 646, 647, 648 and 649): Friday Dec. 19, through Sunday, Dec. 21 - MN DNR

## Lung Disease SUPPORT GROUP

Connect with others who understand the challenges of living with lung diseases like **COPD, asthma, pulmonary hypertension, or pulmonary fibrosis**. Our group offers education and support from pulmonary rehabilitation specialists. Share experiences, ask questions, and learn valuable coping strategies.

**Tuesday, August 5, 1–2 pm**

Welia Health  
Conference Rooms  
301 S Hwy 65  
Mora, MN 55051

Visit [WeliaHealth.org/SupportGroups](http://WeliaHealth.org/SupportGroups) or scan the QR code for details on upcoming Lung Disease Support Group dates, as well as all Welia Health Support Groups.



Everyone is welcome to these **FREE** sessions.  
Questions? Call Rehabilitation Services at 320.225.3356.

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### Bingo

Mon. & Wed. 6pm  
Sat. 2pm  
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5:30pm

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### Breakfast

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Sat. & Sun. 7:30am - 2pm

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## Wine of the Month



**\$9.99**

**Yellowtail Wines 1.5L**

## Liquor of the Month

**Platinum Vodka 1.75**

7X **\$12.99**

10X **\$18.99**



**\$12.99**

**Troublemaker Red Blend 750mL**



**Jose Cuervo 1.75**

**\$12.99**

**Authentic RTD**

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**Double Strength Margarita**



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**ISANTI MAYOR SPECIAL ELECTION**

The city of Isanti will be holding a special election on Tuesday, Aug. 12 in order to elect a new mayor to fill the remainder of Jimmy Gordon's term, which runs until Dec. 31, 2026. The top two candidates in the primary election — former mayor Jeff Johnson and current interim mayor Luke Merrill — advanced from last March's primary election. Isanti residents who are eligible to vote can do so between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at their regular polling location — Isanti City Hall or Isanti Community Center.

Prior to the primary election, the Isanti-Chisago County Star asked all three candidates the same four questions and gave them a maximum total word limit of 400. Johnson's and Merrill's unedited answers to those questions are reprinted below. The results of the special election will be posted on the Star's website at [www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com](http://www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com) and Facebook page as soon as they are relayed to us on Aug. 12.



**JEFF JOHNSON**

City of residence:  
Isanti

**Why are you running for mayor?**

I am running for mayor because I have seen firsthand the positive changes we can achieve together. In my first term as your mayor, I eliminated corruption in City Hall, increased city revenue, improved infrastructure, and modernized police and public safety standards, all while keeping property taxes low. Now, I want to continue serving Isanti by keeping taxes low, balancing the budget, and addressing challenges like inflation's impact on families. My goal is to build on our progress and ensure every resident benefits from a transparent, thriving, and safe community.

**How do you propose to balance lowering taxes with providing requested amenities?**

Balancing taxes and amenities requires innovative solutions. By eliminating corruption and streamlining expenses, I was able to keep taxes low while improving infrastructure and public safety. Moving forward, I will prioritize community needs through careful budgeting and partnerships, ensuring residents benefit from vital amenities without unnecessary financial burden. My experience managing budgets and building consensus among citizens and city leaders has prepared me to lead Isanti toward an even brighter future. Fiscal responsibility and transparency will continue to guide all of my decisions.

**Isanti and the surrounding area continues to be a popular destination of people looking to move. What are your thoughts about the city's current and future growth?**

Isanti's growth reflects its appeal, and my focus is on managing this responsibly. By improving infrastructure, increasing revenue, and ensuring public safety meets modern standards, while keeping taxes low, I laid the foundation for future development in my first term as your mayor. I will continue balanc-

ing growth with our community's values—keeping taxes low, supporting local businesses, and preserving Isanti's unique charm. Thoughtful planning ensures our city remains a destination where families can thrive.

**Besides taxes, if you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?**

If I had to focus on one agenda item, it would be addressing inflation's impact on families. Rising costs strain households, and I would work to provide relief by maintaining low taxes, enhancing local services, and creating opportunities to support financial stability. I will advocate for initiatives such as expanding tax relief for families, partnering with local businesses to offer more affordable services, and working with other local and state government officials to find synergy, efficiency and savings for you. Additionally, I will work to attract and support small businesses that create good-paying jobs, ensuring our local economy remains strong Together, we can ease this burden while ensuring Isanti remains resilient and prosperous.



**LUKE MERRILL**

City of residence:  
Isanti

**Why are you running for mayor?**

To be the strong, vocal leader that our community needs. We need leaders that will fight for the people & their rights to live a safe, happy and healthy life. Without being taxed to the hilt to do it!

**How do you propose to balance lowering taxes with providing requested amenities?**

This is something that I have been very adamant about since I got on City Council. Every dollar we spend on unnecessary amenities is another dollar that residents are taxed. We already have plenty of amenities: Including our great parks, events for kids,

the rodeo, the community center, BMX arena, etc.

When evaluating a recreational amenity and its feasibility, I look at its rough cost, and divide that cost by 2,500 (number of homes in Isanti). That will quantify the cost of the amenity per household. For example, the amphitheater was nearly \$300,000 to build. Which means roughly every single home was taxed \$120 for that project. The average resident will likely never even go to the amphitheater. Was it worth taking \$120 from every household for that project? No, I don't think it was. For comparison, one street dance costs roughly \$5,000, and 2000-3000 people attend. The street dance has higher attendance, by far, in just one event, than the amphitheater will get in a whole year. The amphitheater has an expected lifespan (before needing major repairs) of 20 years. So, basically \$15,000 per year is the cost/depreciation of the facility. That means the amphitheater and its events cost taxpayers 3x as much, per capita. Value added to the community MUST be considered when spending the community's money. I would rather we spend money on the necessary amenities: good streets, sidewalks, police, safe drinking water, plowing, etc.

**Isanti and the surrounding area continues to be a popular destination of people looking to move. What are your thoughts about the city's current and future growth?**

I'm a proponent of natural market growth, meaning no forced subsidies of the growth. Especially with housing. If you move here from the metro, to "get away from the metro", do not expect Isanti to become like the metro. The majority of the community wants Isanti to stay small, responsible & safe. I think the city of Isanti is currently on a healthy track of natural market growth.

**Besides taxes, if you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term as mayor, what would that topic be and why?**

Every decision we make is taxpayer centralized, so this question isn't necessarily easy to answer. If I had to choose one goal, it would be that THE PEOPLE have the freedom to do what they decide with their: money, property, families and businesses, while the city stays out of the way, but helps facilitate when necessary.

**GREEN THUMB** – Lawn & Garden Guide

**BACKYARD IDEAS ON A BUDGET**

Many people enjoy the possibilities that outdoor living offers and admit they would spend more time outside if the exterior spaces of their homes featured more amenities. According to a 2024 survey by Allstate Protection Plans, Americans love outdoor living and entertaining. Seventy-six percent of those who own outdoor products use their backyards, porches, patios, or balconies at least three times a week. About 25 percent of Canadians spent more time in managed landscapes in 2022 compared to 2021, according to a survey commissioned by the TurfMutt Foundation.

It's clear people from all walks of life value time spent outdoors, but many homeowners cannot afford a major backyard overhaul. Thankfully, there are budget-friendly upgrades anyone can embrace to maximize style and function.

**Source thrift shops**

Thrift shops are ideal places to find gently used items for the yard. Scour the aisles for patio sets, planters and more at deeply discounted prices. If you can't find a matched set, look for patio pieces that have similar lines and materials to create a cohesive look and feel.

**Grab some pallets**

There's an entire craft offshoot involving the repurposing of pallets acquired from warehouses or hardware stores. Pallets can be transformed into everything from tables to sectionals to benches. Visit [www.instructables.com/Pallet-Furniture/](http://www.instructables.com/Pallet-Furniture/) for building ideas, or check out YouTube video tutorials offering tips on getting started. Pallet furniture can be much more affordable for those on tight budgets, particularly since pallets are often free.

**Lend a hand**

Taking on some of the backyard renovations yourself can save money. Speak with a contractor, mason or landscape architect to see if you can pitch in to lower costs. You might be able to tear out existing landscape to reduce labor expenses so that the professional can come in and get started right away.

**Reuse and refresh**

While thrift stores are one place to find inexpensive outdoor living items, you also can transform older furniture or hand-me-downs with some sanding and a coat of paint. Breathe new life into found items with paint, fresh cushions and enthusiasm.

Renovating an outdoor living space is achievable in a budget-friendly way with some creativity and know-how.

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**ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR**

# North Isanti Baptist seeks clothing donations for back-to-school giveaway

North Isanti Baptist Church is accepting donations for its eighth annual Back-to-School Giveaway, set for Aug. 13-14 from noon to 7 p.m. at the church, 2248 313th Ave. NE in Cambridge.

The church is seeking new or gently used clothing for children and adults, including shoes, boots, coats, hats and mittens. New socks and underwear are also welcomed. All items will be available free to area families, with remaining donations sent to a homeless ministry in the Twin Cities.

Last year, more than 700 people attended the event to receive free clothing and school supplies.

Donations may be dropped off at the church Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. No pre-registration is required to attend the giveaway.

For more information, call 763-689-3576. -North Isanti Baptist Church

# Grant-funded ECE Fiber passes tests

Officials from the Minnesota Legislature and the Office of Broadband Development joined East Central Energy staff in Pine City on July 17 to observe speed testing and review the progress of the cooperative's state-supported broadband expansion.

The visit marked a milestone in ECE's fiber buildout, funded in part by \$15 million in grants awarded in December 2022 through the state's Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program. The project spans Isanti, Kanabec and Pine counties and aims to deliver high-speed fiber internet to 7,584 homes and businesses in some of the region's most underserved areas.

Sen. Aric Putman, chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Broadband and Rural Development, and Rep. Nathan Nelson of District 11B joined the visit. They were accompanied by Bree Maki and Mike Wimmer of the Minnesota Office of Broadband Development. The group watched

performance testing by Connected Nation, the state's contracted verifier, which is ensuring the network meets speed and coverage requirements.

The delegation also stopped at MinPack, a commercial printer in Pine City that recently switched to ECE Fiber. Business owner Brent Thompson shared how faster, more reliable internet has improved operations at both his business and home.

ECE's board approved the broadband initiative in October 2022 with a goal to close the digital divide in rural areas long overlooked by traditional providers. So far, the cooperative has installed more than 2,200 miles of fiber, connected over 5,000 members and 300 businesses, and created 45 new jobs, including line technicians, designers and support staff.

The network follows ECE's electric lines, with about 60 percent overhead and 40 percent underground. This approach allows for

efficient installation and helps reduce construction costs. By owning and operating the system, ECE maintains control over service quality and long-term sustainability.

Recent changes to grant requirements and provider eligibility have not affected the cooperative's commitment to building a future-ready fiber network. ECE leaders say fiber is critical to supporting technologies such as artificial intelligence, remote work, smart devices and online learning.

"This is more than an infrastructure project. It is a long-term investment in access, equity and the future of the communities we serve," said ECE President and CEO Justin Jahnz. -EastCentralEnergy

# 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](http://firstbaptistcambridge.org)

### North Isanti Baptist Church

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

### Springvale Baptist

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

### Sunrise Bible Church

41300 Second St., North Branch, Pastor David Stertz. Sunday school for all ages  
9:30am, Sunday morning Worship  
10:30am, Sunday evening 6pm, Wed.  
Kids 4 Truth & Bible studies for all ages 6:30pm. More info at [sunrisebiblechurch.org](http://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](mailto:brigitte@isantiacc.org)  
Website: [isantiacc.org](http://isantiacc.org)

### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN. 763-444-4035  
Email: [brigitte@isantiacc.org](mailto:brigitte@isantiacc.org)  
Mass: Tues. & Wed. 8:30am.  
Sun. 8:30am.  
[isantiacc.org](http://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 Worship Service 10:00 am  
[Karmelcov.org](http://Karmelcov.org)

## Evangelical Free

### Dale Evangelical Free Church

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

### Kost Evangelical Free Church

37405 Kost Trail, North Branch, MN – Jct. of CR 11 & CR 72  
651-583-3281 · [Kostchurch.org](http://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](http://oxlip.org)  
9am Worship Service  
10:45am Christian Education  
Awana children's ministry Wednesdays 6:30 to 8pm

### Wyanett Evangelical Free Church

12 Miles West of Cambridge on Hwy 95  
[www.wyanettevangelicalfree.org](http://www.wyanettevangelicalfree.org)  
Pastor Bruce Talso 763-221-4469  
Sunday School 9:30 am  
Morning Worship 10:30 am  
Mondays - Women's Evening Bible

Study 6:00 pm  
Tuesdays - Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm  
Wednesdays - Midweek Bible Study/Prayer 2:00 pm  
Thursdays - Women's Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m. at Heart Matters Ministry, 403 1st St. Princeton  
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## Lutheran

### Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Central Drive W. & Cty Rd 4, Braham 320-396-2755  
**Sunday:** 10 a.m. Worship Service - In-person & Live on Facebook  
Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Tues., Wed., Thurs.

### Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)

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

### Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA)

621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge 763-689-1211  
Traditional service: 8:30 a.m.  
Contemporary service: 9:30 a.m.  
[www.cambridgelutheran.org](http://www.cambridgelutheran.org) -  
Facebook: [fb.com/CambridgeLutheran](https://fb.com/CambridgeLutheran)  
YouTube: [tinyurl.com/CambridgeLutheran](https://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](http://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](mailto:firstlutheran@q.com)  
[www.firstlutheranharris.org](http://www.firstlutheranharris.org)

### Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

### Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)

6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch 651-674-5576  
Pastor Glen Kleppe  
Sunday Worship 8am  
[www.livingbranch.org](http://www.livingbranch.org)  
email: [office@livingbranch.org](mailto:office@livingbranch.org)

### Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

3921 277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040 763-444-5315  
Pastor Sue Olson  
All Are Welcome!  
Sunday Schedule  
Worship: 9:00 am  
Communion the 1st & 3rd Sunday

### 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.salemutherandalbo.com](http://www.salemutherandalbo.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](http://slchurch.org)  
Email: [slchurch@gmail.com](mailto:slchurch@gmail.com)  
**8:15am** Worship with fellowship following

*This directory is paid for and made possible by the participating churches listed.*

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### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://ststephensbraham.org)

### Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch 651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon  
In person and online worship  
9 am worship  
10 am Fellowship and Coffee Hour  
9 am Sunday School  
[www.trinitynorthbranch.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.gracegospelmn.org)  
[info@gracegospelchurchmn.com](mailto: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](mailto:faiththroughaction777@gmail.com)  
Sunday fellowship 9am  
Worship & Youth Ministry 10am  
Come as you are. All welcome.  
Junction Bowl. 123 Cajima Street, NE, Isanti. Refreshments served.

### JustPassinThru IHS Ministries

Becoming Agape – Allowing the Holy Spirit to transform lives  
763-228-0883  
Meeting at Crossroads Commons  
1001 1st Ave. E., Suite 100, Cambridge MN  
[justpassinihs@gmail.com](mailto:justpassinihs@gmail.com)  
[JustpassinThru.net](http://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](http://Thejourneynlc.org)

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[www.MinnesotaEquipment.com](http://www.MinnesotaEquipment.com)

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**Kellie Champion**

Classified Ad Consultant

651-407-1237

Email: [sales@countystar.com](mailto:sales@countystar.com)



**PUBLIC NOTICES CONTINUED**

phase needs to have its separate bid.

**COMPLETION OF WORK:** All work under the Contract must be completed with a reasonable timeline. No timeline specific at this time

**TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS:** Complete project bidding documents are available upon request via US Mail. Please contact Brakemeier Properties INC at 952-448-2333 or via email Contactus@bpimgmt.com

**BID SUBMITTAL:** A bid shall be submitted via US Mail no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only accept written bids through US Mail.

**OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED:** The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

**DATED:** July 25, 2025

**/S/ Dustin Brakemeier  
Manager  
Published:  
Star Tribune: or other paper TBD  
TBD**

**Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 31, 2025**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
BRAKEMEIER PROPERTIES INC  
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS  
Suburban Mobile Home Park  
301 11th Street SE  
Little Falls MN 56345**

**RECEIPT AND OPENING  
OF PROPOSALS:** Proposals for the work described below will be received via US Mail until 1:00 p.m. on August 25, 2025 at which time the bids will be opened and read by management. The results will be emailed to the Bidder.

**DESCRIPTION OF WORK:** The work includes the construction of approximately:

- ITEM QTY UNIT
- Phase One: Fall of 2025
- 76 Water Sewer Service for each homesite
- 76 Water Sewer connection to each existing mobile home
- 3500 feet of 6 inch water main
- 3500 feet of 8 inch sewer main
- Phase Two: Fall of 2025
- 91000 square feet removal of the

existing bituminous road  
91000 square feet of road bed sand 16 inches thick  
91000 square feet of class 5 road bed 8 inches thick  
Phase three: Sumer of 2026  
7000 feet of surmountable concrete curb  
91000 square feet 2 lifts of bituminous road

Work collaboratively with various related projects, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications. This project is subject to Responsible Contractor Certification. Contract bid to be divided into 3 phases. Each phase needs to have its own separate bid.

**COMPLETION OF WORK:** All work under the Contract must be completed with Connexus Energy timeline. No timeline specific at this time

**TO OBTAIN BID DOCUMENTS:** Complete project bidding documents are available upon request via US Mail. Please contact Brakemeier Properties INC at 952-448-2333 or via email Contactus@bpimgmt.com

**BID SUBMITTAL:** A bid shall be submitted via US Mail no later than the date and time prescribed. For this project, the Owner will only accept written bids through US Mail.

**OWNER'S RIGHTS RESERVED:** The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract to other than the lowest bidder if, in their discretion, the interest of the Owner would be best served thereby.

**DATED:** July 26, 2025

**/S/ Dustin Brakemeier  
Manager  
Published:  
County Star: or other paper TBD  
TBD**

**Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 31, 2025**

**CAMBRIDGE SELF STORAGE  
AND ISANTI SELF STORAGE**

This is notice of intent to sell items located at Cambridge Self Storage and Isanti Self Storage. If Lisette Chumley F26, Gia Williams J78, Charles Anderson B19, Travis Green J62, Demetrica Norris OE25, Taylor Johnson J44, Glenn Williams G02, Matthew Reynolds E157, Ciara Spain E165, Alissa Myers E184, and

Sarah Haroldson E107, do not pay their balances in full by August 20, 2025, at 9AM, online auctions will be held August 21, 2025, at 9AM at www.selfstorageauction.com. The units appear to contain household and garage items.

**Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 24, 31, 2025**

**ASSUMED NAME**

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE  
CERTIFICATE OF EXISTENCE  
AND REGISTRATION**

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Existence and Registration

I, Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota, do certify that: The entity listed below was filed under the chapter of Minnesota Statutes listed below with the Office of the Secretary of State on the date listed below and that this entity or filing is registered at the time this certificate has been issued.

Name: Heritage Plumbing  
Date Filed: 07/25/2025  
File Number: 1570707300025  
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter: 333  
Home Jurisdiction: Minnesota  
This certificate has been issued on: 07/28/2025  
Steve Simon  
Secretary of State  
State of Minnesota

**Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 31; Aug. 7, 2025**

**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: Rootfly Services**  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1870 2nd Ave SE Suite 140, Box 102 Cambridge MN 55008 USA  
APPLICANT(S):  
Name: Orion Content Management, LLC

Address: 3500 South DuPont Hwy, DJ 101 Dover DE 19901 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: Ky Vu  
MAILING ADDRESS: None  
Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:  
ARFS@INCSERV.COM  
Work Item 1568904900023  
Original File Number 1568904900023

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

07/14/2025 11:59 PM  
Steve Simon Secretary of State  
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 24, 31, 2025

**OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE  
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED  
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07/14/2025 11:59 PM  
Steve Simon Secretary of State  
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 24, 31, 2025

**PROBATE**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY DISTRICT COURT 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FILE NUMBER: 30-PR-25-56 CASE TYPE: INFORMAL PROBATE**  
In re the Estate of Daniel E. Cooley, Deceased (Ancillary Probate)  
**Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to**

**Creditors (Ancillary) TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:**  
Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will dated January 21, 2021 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

**Name:** Nicole Tebo  
**Address:** S528 Section St, Stephenson MI 49887  
as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

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 (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Probate Registrar:  
Date: 7/23/2025  
Court Administrator: Erin Boettcher  
Date: 7/23/2025  
**Attorney for Personal Representative**  
CLARK A JOSLIN  
Attorney License No.: 52802  
221 NW 2nd Avenue  
Cambridge MN 55008  
Telephone: 763-689-4101  
E-Mail: cjoslin@joslinmoore.com  
**Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 31; Aug. 7, 2025**

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

**16**  
**Lost & Found**  
Found Cambridge Aldi parking lot mothers ring. Description required to claim 763-444-9050

**109**  
**Lawn Care**  
**P&G Outdoor:** Lawn mowing, rough terrain mowing, tree branch waste removal, pole saw work, trail grooming, odd jobs. 320-679-3375

**150**  
**Help Wanted**  
Centennial School District is hiring paras for all grade levels for the 2025-2026 school year. Positions may include supporting students one-on-one or in small groups, assisting special education students, lunchroom, and recess duty. Starting wage is \$20.00/hour. Visit [isd12.org/join-our-team](http://isd12.org/join-our-team) to apply.

**351**  
**Antiques**  
**Wanted Antiques** and agates. Central Minnesota. 651-238-0909. Gary.

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

**112**  
**Tree Service**  
**Tree Fellers** - Tree removal, trimming, stump grinding (even if we don't cut your trees!), hazard limbs, yard friendly equipment. 25+ years experience. Insured. Call for free estimate 763-443-2631

**358**  
**Firewood**  
**16-Inch seasoned,** mixed hardwood. Two cord loads \$475. 20-inch outdoor stove wood, mixed hardwoods. Two cord loads \$450. Two cord loads 16" birch or oak \$475. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815.

**361**  
**Lawn & Garden**  
**Lawn mower for sale** JD 535m 0-turn, 270 hours, 48" deck, nice shape, \$2000 320-425-7237

**CHIMNEY/ROOFING INSULATION SERVICES** 612-845-0289  
**WANTED FORD TRUCK 97-08 REPAIRABLE** 612-845-0289.

**115**  
**Heating & Cooling**  
**Central Boilers.** Classic Edge Titanium HDX EPA certified OUTDOOR WOOD FURNACE. \$2,000 Tax Credit. Prices as low as \$230 per month! Call Rasmussen Construction Inc. 612-805-2362.

**362**  
**Miscellaneous**  
**Buying sports card** collections call Tom 612-701-7396

**362**  
**Miscellaneous**  
**Looking for that perfect gift** for an anniversary or birthday? Think about giving a subscription to the Kanabec County Times. Call our office today (320)679-2661 to start delivery - we accept Visa or Mastercard!

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**150**  
**Help Wanted**  
Hugo Feed Mill NOW HIRING PartTime/Full Time Cashier  
Stop by our shop to apply 5582 146<sup>th</sup> St., N., Hugo

**201**  
**Child Care**  
**Deb's Tiny Tots** experience. Infant thru school ages. Certified CPR/First Aid. Braham. 763-333-4990.

**Small engine repair,** EETC Certified full service (lawnmowers, trimmers, snowblowers, powersports) SAVE 15-30% Mora, MN 320-364-0509

**Minnesota Janitorial Services:** office/commercial cleaning and painting call 320-436-5221 for a bid. Local family owned business with over 25 years experience.

**150**  
**Help Wanted**  
Hugo Feed Mill NOW HIRING PartTime/Full Time Cashier  
Stop by our shop to apply 5582 146<sup>th</sup> St., N., Hugo

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**Small engine repair,** EETC Certified full service (lawnmowers, trimmers, snowblowers, powersports) SAVE 15-30% Mora, MN 320-364-0509

# Voting is Open!



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**VOTING ROUND:** Wed., July 9 at 9 a.m. – Sun., August 3 at 5 p.m.

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# CLASSIFIEDS & EMPLOYMENT

**404**

**Garage Sales**

8/7-8/9 9a.m.-5p.m.  
air conditioners, tools,  
hardware, house-  
wares, grill, fishing  
rods, more. 2191 175<sup>th</sup>  
Ave Mora

**407**

**Estate Sales**

Sat, Aug 2, 2025: 9 –  
6 p.m. Queen size  
bed, Corner Curo  
cabinet, and two more  
cabinets, Several  
recliner,  
kitchen table, set of  
dishes, treadle singer  
sewing machine,  
tread-mill, John Deere  
Tractor with model  
4720 variety of attach-  
ments, quilting fabric  
and much more. 4512  
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by August 17, 2025

## Looking for Head Custodians



Chisago Lakes Middle School and Lakeside Elementary are looking for a Head Custodian to oversee and participate in the cleaning and maintenance of a school building to ensure a safe, clean, and functional environment for students, staff, and the public. Boilers License Required or ability to obtain within 6 months of hire.

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Apply Online:

[www.applitrack.com/chisagolakes/onlineapp/](http://www.applitrack.com/chisagolakes/onlineapp/)  
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If interested, please submit resume to Jeff Andres, Publisher  
[jeff@northstarmedia.net](mailto:jeff@northstarmedia.net).

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3

Think about which three independently owned businesses you'd miss most if they were gone. Stop in and say hello. Pick up a little something that will make someone smile. Your contribution is what keeps those businesses around.

50

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68

For every \$100 spent in independently owned stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll, and other expenditures. If you spend that in a national chain, only \$43 stays here. Spend it online and *nothing comes home.*

1

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\* Employment statistics courtesy U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2/6/2009; 68/43 courtesy Civic Economics study, 2008.



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