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THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025
VOL. 119 NO. 24 COUNTYSTAR.COM

C-I, NB GRADUATION PHOTOS: See page 7 and go to www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Rising to the occasion

Cambridge-Isanti pole vaulter Calvin Piescher claimed second place in the Class AAA State Track and Field Meet held at St. Michael-Albertville, behind only Chaska's Joshua Schmidt, who broke the state record. For more state meet results, see page 8 and next week's edition.

Illuminate Isanti shines on at least one more year

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Illuminate Isanti is being saved from going dark, at least for 2025, thanks to the efforts of a group of Isanti residents.

Calling themselves "Isanti Together," this group is in the process of contracting with the city of Isanti to co-host the December event this year, with the ultimate goal of Isanti Together fully taking over in future years. Part of those plans include the group applying for 501c3 non-profit status.

According to the contract the Isanti Council is anticipated to approve at its June 17 meeting, as co-hosts of the event, the city will contribute \$15,929.51 towards this year's event, under the condition that any financial sponsorships or donations raised by Isanti Together will first go to offset that amount. Any additional money raised must go into an account exclusively earmarked for future Illuminate Isanti events.

Additionally, Isanti Public Works will be responsible for the setup and teardown of the larger displays such as the big snowflake tree, giant snowman, angel wings, walk-through present, starburst, and others. However, other tasks such as snowplowing will take top priority over Illuminate Isanti tasks.

Isanti Together will be responsible for setting up and tearing down all of the remaining displays.

The contract specifies that if the group is not able to put up all the displays, it will just be smaller as Public Works will not lend a hand to complete the setup. Additionally, IT will be responsible for securing volunteers for the nights the event will be manned, recruiting food trucks and/or other vendors, plus maintaining the smaller displays. Finally, the city will not allow any overtime pay to be collected due to working on Illuminate Isanti.

After the event is concluded the city and Isanti Together will hold a debriefing of this year's event to determine what, if any, contributions the city will make for future years' events. Based on state statute, however, if Isanti Together does become an official non-profit organization, the city would not be allowed to make direct financial contributions.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Currently, the plan is to have the event open following a similar schedule to last year. The lights will be turned on from 5 to 10 p.m. from December 11 through Dec. 25. It will be manned with volunteers and feature food trucks and other activities Thursday, Dec. 11 through Sunday, Dec. 14, and again Thursday, Dec. 18 through Sunday, Dec. 21. Santa will also be on hand for some of those dates, however when and for how long depends on how much Santa charges per appearance.

North Branch Midsummer Days features traditional favorites

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

One year away from its 100th anniversary, the 2025 North Branch Midsummer Days is sticking with the most recent popular events.

The 99th annual event will be held a week later than normal, running from Wednesday, June 18 through Sunday, June 22. The first day features the open-

ing of the carnival rides at 5 p.m. in Central Park. Wednesday will also be wristband night, with unlimited rides from 6 to 10 p.m. for \$25.

The other event that runs from Thursday through Saturday is Bingo at the American Legion tent. Two to three times during the day, there is Bingo for all ages in two-hour sessions. Each session has a \$500 jackpot. Thursday and Friday night features Ultimate Cash

Bingo for adults 18 years old and over.

Friday night features an age 21+ admission concert by the band Six to Midnight, also at the American Legion tent. There is a \$10 admission fee. The concert starts at 8:30 p.m. with a cash bar going until 12:30 a.m.

Also, Friday night is the fireworks display, which will be shot off from the



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SEE MIDSUMMER DAYS, PAGE 11

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Flag facts, etiquette ahead of Flag Day

BY DONNA CHERRIER

HEATH PERKINS AMERICAN LEGION, POST 51

As we approach Flag Day and an upcoming Flag Retirement Ceremony on June 14 at the Cambridge American Legion, we reflect on how our flag came to be and the etiquette surrounding our nation's symbol.

The American flag has been a symbol of freedom and unity since 1776. It is known as "Old Glory," a name coined by Captain William Driver in 1831.

America's flag has taken on many different looks since it was said to be created by Elizabeth Griscom Ross, better known as Betsy Ross, a Philadelphia resident and seamstress. According to stories passed down throughout history, Betsy was employed by George Washington to embroider the ruffles on his shirts. Washington asked Betsy to create a flag from sketches that were presented to her.

MANY VERSIONS OF THE FLAG

There have been 27 versions of the American flag. The first, adopted by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1777, had 13 red and white stripes and 13 white stars in a blue canton, symbolizing the original colonies.

It was last updated in 1960 when Hawaii became the 50th state. The 13 original stripes still honor the founding colonies.

The colors of the flag are

symbolic. The red stands for hardiness and valor; the white for purity and innocence; and the blue for vigilance, perseverance, and justice.

BIRTHDAY OF FLAG DAY

Wisconsin teacher Bernard J. Cigrand, known as the "Father of Flag Day," began promoting the flag's birthday on June 14, 1885. He gave over 2,188 speeches, wrote extensively, and led both the American Flag Day Association and the National Flag Day Society.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations throughout the country, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day on May 30, 1916. But it wasn't until August 3, 1949, that President Harry S. Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 as National Flag Day.

ETIQUETTE DURING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was written in August 1892 by Francis Bellamy. When reciting the Pledge, one should stand at attention facing the flag with the right hand over the heart. When not in uniform, men should remove any non-religious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute.

FLAG ETIQUETTE

Displaying the American flag in a respectful way is important in honoring its symbolism. When on display, according to nationalflagfoundation.org, it should be placed to the left of the observer; other flags to the right.

The American flag should always be the highest flag displayed in a group of flags. If the poles are all of the same height and in a straight line, the United States Flag should always be placed in the position of honor, to its own right, the observer's left. When a flag is hung from a staff from a wall or building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half-staff. When displayed from the same flagpole with other flags, the American flag should always be at the top. When it is hung over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east.

Normally, it should be only displayed between sunrise and sunset. If it is to remain raised at night, it should be illuminated by a light.

Folding the American flag properly takes some time to learn. This can be seen at military funerals with the flag that draped the casket being presented to the family by military personnel. There are step by step instructions, including illustrations, at nationalflagfoundation.org. During flag retirement ceremonies on Flag Day, each flag is folded ahead of time in this manner before being placed on the fire.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

When the American flag is carried in a parade and passes by, www.vfwauxiliary.org offers some great flag etiquette tips. People should stand up, remove their hats, place their hand over their heart, and stop any conversations they may be having at the moment. If flags are carried by an honor guard, pay respect to the flag and the veterans. Uniformed military and veterans should also render a military salute as the flag passes by. It is not necessary to salute small hand-held flags that may be carried in parades or by those attending the parades.

The complete United States Flag Code can be found at www.legion.org. This code was established in June, 1923, when the National Flag Conference met in Washington.

FLAG RETIREMENT

When the United States flag has flown proudly, but is beginning to look frayed, faded and worn, it needs to be properly retired. Throwing an American flag in the trash is unacceptable and disrespectful.

If an American flag is no lon-


ger suitable for flying, it should be carefully removed from its place of honor and taken to either a local VFW or American Legion. There it will be folded into a military fold and held for proper retirement on Flag Day, June 14.

The American Legion passed a resolution in 1937 about flag retirement ceremonies, and it has been an important ritual ever since. The approved method of disposing of unserviceable flags has long been that they be destroyed by burning.

Every year, on June 14, Americans celebrate Flag Day in the United States. It is, understandably, the day that ceremonies are held across the country, usually towards evening, to say goodbye to those symbols of freedom that have served us well in the past.

The public is invited to join the Cambridge American Legion and the Cambridge Sea Cadets on Saturday, June 14, at 11 a.m., as they hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony behind the American Legion building, located on Main Street in downtown Cambridge.

NORTH BRANCH SUMMER CONCERT SERIES






FREE

Tuesday evenings
Food trucks & fun begins at 6 PM
Story Time at 6:45 PM
Concerts start at 7 PM

JUNE 17	Viking Plaza NBHS	Minnesota State Band <i>Official Band of Minnesota</i>
JUNE 24	NB Central Park	Native American Dance & Drum Exhibition <i>Keith Secola - Musician</i>
JULY 8	NB Central Park	Church of Cash <i>Johnny Cash Tribute Band</i>
JULY 15	NB Central Park	The Whitesidewalls <i>Doo-wop, Rockability, Rock & Roll</i>
JULY 22	NB Central Park	On Tap <i>Country and Rock Band</i>
JULY 29	NB Central Park	Monroe Crossing <i>Bluegrass Band</i>
AUGUST 5	NB Central Park	Night 2 Unite - No Band <i>Community Night Out</i>
AUGUST 12	NB Central Park	Hard Days Night <i>Beatles Tribute Band</i>
AUGUST 19	NB Central Park	Next Door Down <i>Andy Spofford Variety of Hits</i>

This concert series is brought to you by:



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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from The East Central Regional Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from The Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



June 17-July 15, July 29, and August 12 funded by ECRAC Funding

August 19 funded by The North Branch Area Education Foundation



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SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FUN & FREE

DISCOVER DOWNTOWN CAMBRIDGE CONCERTS (STREET DANCES) 5pm-8:30pm Downtown Cambridge			ANNUAL ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR & CHALK ART CONTEST Saturday, August 16 th 10am-3pm City Center Mall	
June 19 SongBlast dueling guitars	July 17 Austin Healy southern rock	Aug 21 Divas Gone Country country	CONCERTS IN THE PARK 5pm-7pm Cambridge City Park	
KIDS' EVENTS 10am-2pm Cambridge City Park			June 27 Taylor's Version A tribute to Taylor Swift	
June 26 Bounce Houses in the Park	July 24 Art in the Park		July 25 Lookin' Back A tribute to Boston	
Aug 28 Little Blue's Traveling Zoo & Snake Discovery	Aug 29 Benny & The Jets A tribute to piano rock			

All events have a backup location for bad weather. MORE INFO AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE! Follow us on our Facebook page called "Cambridge City Hall, Minnesota" to stay up-to-date with city news and events.





FACEBOOK

Songblast performs June 19 as part of the Discover Downtown Concert Series in Cambridge.

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 information contact Rebecca at 612-702-2844 or CoraJayne 612-210-1605

Mahjong

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon

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

Book Club

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

TUES & THURS

Boxing for Those w/Parkinson's

New Pathways is looking to raise \$3.5 million to build a permanent shelter for families experiencing homelessness in Central Minnesota, the non-profit announced Monday. The facility would double the group's capacity and centralize services such as job support and case management.

The campaign, called "Hope Lives Here," is already three-quarters funded through private donors, churches and community partners. That leaves roughly \$900,000 left to raise.

Minnco Credit Union is offering a June match of up to \$50,000 to help close the gap. Every dollar donated this month will be matched.

"This isn't just about building a shelter—it's about building hope," said Executive Director Mary Westlund.

The new building would include private, ADA-accessible living units and a trauma-informed design to offer safety and dignity. More than half of those served by New Pathways are children. For former clients like April, the

impact is personal.

"We had been sleeping in our car with our kids," she said. "New Pathways didn't just give us a place to stay—they gave us a future."

New Pathways has served more than 4,000 individuals since it opened in 2000.

Donations can be made online at: <https://newpathwaysmn.networkforgood.com/projects/201711-hope-lives-here-capital-campaign>

-New Pathways

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 115 Adams Street South, Cambridge. For 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 Cam-

bridge 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 Adulmental-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 information call 612-251-6556 or email acanorth-branch@gmail.com

Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family Group

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

Medicare and Medicaid 101 Open House

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

FRIDAYS

Cribbage

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

JUNE 14

Isanti Street Dance featuring Jonah and the Whales

7 - 10 p.m. Food and beer vendors on site. The stage is

located at the intersection of Main Street and First Avenue NW.

JUNE 17

Cambridge Surplus Food Distribution

Food will be distributed starting around 2 - 4 p.m. or until gone. Please don't arrive at the fairgrounds before 1 p.m. Anyone wanting food MUST register. No one is allowed to pick up for another family without prior authorization. Watch signs for parking. If you have any questions, call 612-402-6100, if no answer leave a message and someone will get back to you. If you don't live in Isanti County or have never been here, please call a few days ahead to verify address. We appreciate everyone's cooperation.

North Branch Summer Concert Series featuring Minnesota State Band

This concert will be held at Viking Plaza next to the high school. Also features food trucks, portable splash pad and other activities starting at 6 p.m. Story time 6:45 p.m. Concert 7 p.m.

JUNE 18

Berry Festival & Car Show

From 1 - 3 p.m. 2011 6th Lane SE, Cambridge. Bring your classic car. Live Music from Troy Castellano and light refreshments. Please bring a lawn chair. For info. Meg Mumm 763-325-0100 megmumm@vivie.org.

JUNE 19

Songblast

Discover Downtown Concert Series. 5:30 food trucks, booths and activities. 6:30 to 8:30 band please at the intersection of 2nd Ave S and Main Street Downtown Cambridge. Bad weather backup location is Cambridge City Center Mall. Limited seating bring a camp chair.

Romantasy Book Club

5:30pm at Dana's Bookstore, 120 Heritage Blvd NE, #3, Isanti We'll discuss The Serpent & the Wings of Night by Carissa Broadbent. All are welcome.

Fall Prevention Seminar

2:30 p.m. at Friendship Cafe/Senior Activity Center, 140 Buchanan Street N, Cambridge. Learn how to proactively assess the aging senior's house for anything that might be a health risk. Call for info, 763-689-6555, ask for Shirli.

New Pathways aims to double shelter capacity



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Congrats to the Class of 2025

As I was sitting watching the Cambridge-Isanti High School Class of 2025 graduation ceremony last Friday night, I started noticing this year's ceremony was, to say the least, walking a fine line between being enthusiastic and a bit too rambunctious. Nothing done was what you would call embarrassingly obnoxious. Still, there was a larger number of whoops and hollers when certain names were read, a few standing ovations from a small number of graduates, plus it seemed like more parents were brazenly moving around to the point of hugging their graduates just as they stepped off the stage.

I guess this wasn't totally unexpected from this class. It was even noted in one of the valedictorian speeches that at one time, this class was described as "the worst freshman class to ever enter Cambridge-Isanti High School." That makes sense. This class was in eighth grade during the infamous pandemic year of 2020. I recall a comment made during a school board meeting about how this class completely forgot how to engage socially in large groups because of the extended distance learning.

To be fair, their antics were far from the worst I've personally ever seen. I've mentioned before the Class of 2001, who almost had their ceremony stopped because they brought in something like a dozen beach balls. The result of that class was a drastic change in the ceremony's program, along with several years of public warnings about stopping the ceremony if actions got out of hand. To the credit of the current high school staff, that admonishment has been omitted for the last several years, including this year's.

In fact, maybe this year's class should be commended for actually having a little bit of fun during their ceremony without going over the edge. As embarrassing as 2001's ceremony was, I found the following years' ceremonies to be too stiff, if not downright boring. Graduating high school is something that should be celebrated, not treated as a solemn, serious occasion.

Then, there's another reason Cambridge-Isanti, along with all the other area schools should be commended. Unlike down in the Twin Cities or over at St. Cloud, the police didn't need to be called in for anything other than traffic control.

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

Previous letter filled with misinformation

To the editor,

Just how much misinformation does one need to pack into a letter to the editor before that letter is rejected? For example, if one about gardening included tips and practices that would obviously fail to yield fruit, would that be enough? If one about fishing declared that hookless lures catch more fish than lures with hooks, would that do it?

A letter writer in the June 5 issue of the Star claimed that Trump won the 2024 election "by a landslide." Not true. Trump did not receive even 50% of the votes cast.

He said Democrats believe "the world is coming to an end, we are all gonna die." Clearly, this is false. Does he know that Republican Senator Joni Ernst responded to a town hall question about the budget bill by saying "we're all going to die.?"

The writer complained that "one Democrat said name calling was childish" but then "called Trump a dictator." Perhaps this one Democrat was simply expressing an opinion based on Trump's words and actions.

Regarding name calling, the writer refers to Democrats as "psychocrats" and "police hating, fear-mongering, (supporters of) murdering criminals and illegal murder/rapists" and uses the words "hatred swearing woke, violent protesting, transgender supporting" to describe the Democratic party. I take offense. Simply untrue.

He continued. "You Democrat

supporters can have your tax happy welfare/Medicare, Medicaid fraudulent wasteful government spending ...". He should know that everyone (including him) pays for Medicare and Social Security with every paycheck and has a contract with the government to receive benefits in return.

Finally, he asks "When was the last time you got a tax cut from Democrats?" Fair question because tax cuts seem to be a strictly-GOP offering. The truth is that every GOP tax cut benefits the wealthy far more than it does the lower and middle classes. Also, Democratic presidents usually inherit financial messes from Republican predecessors, and tax cuts would make things worse. IMO, Trump's administration is making a big financial mess.

The letter writer is entitled to his opinion, but he went far beyond that. He demonstrated how misinformation -- spread by a narcissistic felon/loser and his supporters -- has turned the political divide into a trench.

Loren W. Brabec Braham

Law and order

To the editor,

Police and law enforcement seem to be hated by the left in this country. Police are doing their jobs, trying to keep us all safe; arresting law breakers, keeping the peace. But they are not getting very much support and getting all the blame when things go bad. Remember defund the police was their cry.

Now they also hate ICE agents who are deporting all the terrorists the last administration let in through the open border. Now they love criminals and illegals, and have no regard for the crimes, drugs, murders, rapes, and many more crimes they committed in this country.

These latest attacks on ICE agents throwing bottles, bricks, whatever they can get to attack these agents, burning cars, etc. is outrageous. It is a crime to attack another person, why is it suddenly okay to attack police and ICE agents? Is it because they wear a uniform, that they don't matter any more?

Vicious attacks need to be prosecuted, these are men and women just like all of us with families, dads, mothers, brothers, and sisters; they are not less than others, they deserve our respect and encouragement for the job they are doing. We all need to obey the laws, not just some of them.

These are riots that are happening now in California, not peaceful protests, attacking police and burning cars is not peaceful. There are many foreign organizations behind all these attacks on our law enforcement — those who want to take down our freedoms, and install Marxism, or Communism, they want to control all of us. They want globalism.

I do pray this can all be calmed down and the law enforced, we are a country of law and order not of riots and disorder.

Judy Hansen Cambridge

Your Best Source for Community Information

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Editor..... Bill Stickels III
editor@countystar.com
Editor Assistant..... Stacy Verdick Case
news@countystar.com
Publisher Jeff Andres
jeff@northstarmedia.net
Advertising/Classifieds Kellie Champion
sales@countystar.com
Graphic Designer..... Kassie Goodroad
starcomp@countystar.com
Circulation Scott Kittelson
circulation@countystar.com



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Building a stronger NBAPS for the year ahead

As another school year concludes, we mark the end with the familiar milestones: graduations, celebrations, and a collective exhale; and, the Viking saga continues after the final bell as we reflect, refine, and prepare to better serve our students and communities as we continue to move Forward Together.

This past year, we launched a district-wide facilities study to closely examine the current state of the capacity in each building. This effort has been instrumental in helping us understand both our strengths and our areas of need. From heating systems to classroom spaces, we are taking a close look at how our infrastructure supports student learning and how it can be improved.



NB School News
Sara Paul

This proactive approach ensures our long-term planning is aligned with the needs of our students today and accommodates our growing communities in a cost-effective manner.

Professional development doesn't take a vacation. Over the summer, our educators dive into learning of their own, engaging in training that enhances their instructional strategies, supports mental health and social-emotional learning, and incorporates technology in innovative ways. This investment in our teachers translates directly into a more vibrant, supportive, and effective classroom environment come fall.

You might not notice it, but you'll definitely feel it. Each summer, our custodial and maintenance teams work tirelessly to deep clean every inch of our schools—from floors to ceilings, classrooms to cafeterias. This labor-intensive work not only creates a welcoming environment but also contributes to the health and well-being of everyone who walks through our doors. Their behind-the-scenes dedication is the quiet

heartbeat of our buildings.

For many of our students, school continues during the summer. Summer school programs offer critical academic support, enrichment opportunities, and a chance to stay engaged in a structured setting. Meanwhile, our Youth Connections program continues to provide families with safe, nurturing, and educational care options during the summer months, ensuring stability for working families and fun, growth-oriented experiences for kids.

Every summer, the North Branch Summer Concert Series brings our community together in the best way—through music, laughter, and great company. Held Tuesday evenings at Central Park (and once at Viking Plaza near the high school), the fun starts at 6:00 PM with food trucks and kids' story time, and the concerts kick off at 7:00 PM. The Concerts represent our partnership with the City of North Branch, and it's one of the things that makes summer here so special. Beyond the music, it's a place where great

conversations happen. These moments help us stay connected, share ideas, and build Viking pride. It's simple, fun, and a great reminder of what makes North Branch feel like home.

As we look forward to the coming school year, we do so with deep appreciation for the work that often goes unnoticed. From data analysis to deep cleaning, from facilities planning to community building events, each contributes to a stronger NBAPS. Our commitment is clear: to reflect intentionally, plan wisely, and act boldly in the service of our students.

Thank you for your continued support, and enjoy a safe and restful summer. We can't wait to welcome everyone back, refreshed and ready to move forward together in the fall. SKOL! Vikings!

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

Controlling Buckthorn – Where do I begin?

For decades, controlling the spread of buckthorn has been a challenge for woodsmen, farmers, and homeowners alike. The Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) is an aggressive invader of forest and woodland understories in eastern North America. Originally introduced in the 19th century, buckthorn was coveted as a highly desirable hedge plant due to its ability to grow quickly, produce dense vegetation, stay green late into the fall, and produce abundant, attractive fruit. Unfortunately, these same traits make buckthorn a highly successful invasive species that can easily dominate natural areas. Consequences of buckthorn invasion are prolific, ranging from loss of native plants and animals to increased erosion and lowered water quality. The thickets created by buckthorn also degrade natural resources and make it harder for people to enjoy the outdoors.

Over the years, there have been a wide variety of approaches developed to remove buckthorn. Common approaches include hand cutting or pulling, forestry mowers, chemical herbicides, and even controlled grazing by animals like goats.

While all these approaches can be effective at reducing the amount of buckthorn in a forest, they rarely have lasting effects. Buckthorn produces large amounts of seed, and it can also regenerate from root and stump sprouts. It is usually dioecious, with male and female flowers on separate plants, with female plants far outnumbering the male plants. Germinating new plants often escape treatment, and incompletely treated stems easily resprout. The combined growth of seedlings and sprouts can quickly fill the ecological void created

by buckthorn removal, often necessitating continued, repeated management at great ecological and economic cost. In short: we know how to kill buckthorn, but we don't know how to keep it from coming back. Research at the University of Minnesota is currently being done to determine which native plants can be best utilized as a cover crop to mitigate the regrowth of buckthorn and other invasive species.

Fall is considered the best time of year to remove buckthorn, as herbicide applied to cut stems is readily absorbed into the roots of the plant as it works to store nutrients for the winter. Since buckthorn leaves remain green longer than most other woodland plants, it is easy to pick out and thus minimize any damage being done to the surrounding plants. However, identifying and removing buckthorn can be done at any time of the growing season. Removing the seed-producing female plants can be especially beneficial.

Community members are invited to gain some first-hand knowledge regarding how to recognize buckthorn and physically remove it from your property. Join the Chisago County Master Gardeners at Clayton Anderson Family Memorial Park, 38689 Hemingway Avenue, North Branch MN on Saturday, June 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Gardeners will be working to remove an existing buckthorn stand in preparation for further development of the park. Bring gloves and get your hands dirty or simply come with questions. You are welcome either way! Can't make it? Please contact the Master Gardeners at our North Branch office (651-401-3325) with questions you might have about this or any other garden topic.

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

DNR cautions lake and river property owners about improper use of hydraulic jets

BY SHANE MCBRIDE

SHANE.MCBRIDE@STATE.MN.US

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources frequently receives questions about devices that generate water current to blast muck and aquatic plants away. They have various trade names, but the DNR refers to these devices generically as hydraulic jets. Even though they can be purchased in Minnesota, they cannot be used in any way that disturbs the bottom of a waterbody or destroys plants.

A person may legally operate a hydraulic jet if it is placed at the

surface of the water in such a way that it does not disturb the bottom or destroy rooted aquatic plants. It should be directed slightly upward toward the water's surface. This can prevent dead vegetation and duckweed from collecting around docks and boat lifts.

"We want people to know why it's important to protect aquatic plants," said Shane McBride, DNR aquatic plant management consultant. "Plants are important to lakes and rivers because they help maintain water clarity, prevent erosion, stabilize the bottom of the waterbody, and provide hab-

itat for fish and wildlife. Aquatic plants are protected under state law."

Specific regulations govern aquatic plant removal and prescribe the situations that require permits from the DNR. Regulations and a guide to aquatic plants can be found on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/shorelandmgmt/apg/regulations.html). To apply for an aquatic plant management permit, visit the Minnesota DNR's permitting and reporting system (mndnr.gov/mpars).

E-bike age requirement

Question: I was just talking with someone the other day and they mentioned there is an age requirement for operating an "e-bike." Can you get me more information on this?



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Answer: When it comes to E-bikes, a driver's license or permit is not required. However, the minimum operator age is 15 years old. E-bikes are primarily regulated in the same manner as bicycles and nearly all bicycle laws apply.

Riding a bike, walking or using a wheelchair on your neighborhood sidewalks can be a safe and convenient way to get around, but only if everyone follows the laws. Whether you are on the sidewalk or driving near a bicyclist or pedestrian, always be aware of your surroundings and keep the state laws in mind.

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 Tip. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on X @ MSPPIO_NW or reach him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

Cambridge Library 'Storytimes' to be held around town

Join us for a special outdoor Storytime Around the Town at the Cambridge Farmers Market on Saturday, June 21 at 12pm. Come prepared for stories, music, and movement along with some fun activities.

The Cambridge Farmers Market is located at 122 Buchanan St. N., Cambridge, MN 55008.

No registration necessary, everyone is welcome.

Other Storytime Around the Town dates:

July 9th - K and A Mini Golf

July 16th - with Play Inc Arts at the Library

July 19th - Cambridge Farmers Market

July 23rd - Dairy Queen in Cambridge

July 30th - Isanti City Hall at our Outreach Library -East Central Regional Library

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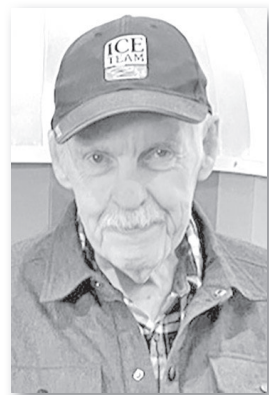
NEWS

OBITUARIES

Robert L. Siems

Robert L. Siems, 82, of Cambridge, MN passed away on Saturday, June 7, 2025 at Prairie Senior Cottages in Isanti.

He was born December 28, 1942 in Beatrice, Nebraska to Willis and Beatrice (Lancaster) Siems.



Robert grew up in Pickrell, NE and graduated from Cortland High School in 1962. He enlisted in the US Army and served in the Vietnam War. Following his return, he served in the Army Reserve for nine months and received an honorable discharge.

On August 30, 1966 he was united in marriage to Nancy Eckel in Herkimer, Kansas. They made their home in Pickrell and Beatrice, Nebraska, where

they welcomed two children and in 1969, they moved to Brooklyn Park and later completed their family with their third child. Robert loved fishing in the Cambridge area and in 1979 the family moved to Cambridge.

Robert worked in the paper industry, working as a truck driver and in the warehouse. He was a member of Teamsters Union Local 638 and served as Union Steward for several years. He retired in 2000 after 30 years of service.

Robert enjoyed spending time in his extensive flower and vegetable gardens and volunteered with the 4-H Garden. He loved fishing and hunting. Over the years he was on a bowling team and enjoyed throwing horseshoes with his father Willis. Robert was a hard worker and an excellent provider for his family. He loved spending time with his family and was especially fond of his grandchildren. He and Nancy made several trips over the years throughout the U.S., several times visiting family.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Roger, Bill and Wayne.

Robert is survived by his wife; Nancy, son, Tony Siems; daughters, Rochelle (Brian) Durgin, Colleen Siems; five grandchildren, Allison (David) Ramsey, Payge Goldman, Celeste Goldman, Emily Durgin, Zach Durgin; three great grandchildren, Samuel and Rayden Ramsey, and Owen Howard; sister, Joyce Lienemann; sister-in-law, Linda Siems; nieces, nephews other relatives and friends.

Celebration of Life Service 1 p.m., Friday, June 13, 2025 at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home. Visitation begins at 12:30 p.m.. Interment in Fort Snelling National Cemetery at a later date. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Sandra Mae Pearson

Sandra Mae Pearson, age 73, of Isanti passed away Wednesday, June 4, 2025. She survived a battle with cancer 20 years ago, but it returned recently and quickly took her.

Sandra was born September 28, 1951 to parents, Gerald & Della Pearson. She grew up in the Weber area and graduated from Cambridge High School in 1969. After completing the Nursing Program at Anoka Ramsey College in 1971, she worked as an LPN at Memorial Hospital in Cambridge until retirement.

Sandra enjoyed an active social life with her many life-long friends. She also enjoyed travel and taking pictures of people and places she'd been. She was the best aunt ever for her niece and nephews, and her ten grand nieces and nephews. Sandra had a very kind heart and lived her life to the fullest with faith, family and friends. She will be dearly missed.

Sandra was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her sister, Cindy (Dave) Gunderson; niece, Soo Peterson; nephews, Dan and Aaron Gunderson; and other relatives and friends.

A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at South Isanti Baptist Church with visitation one hour prior to the service and lunch following. Burial will be at Stanchfield Baptist Cemetery following lunch. The family would like to thank all the friends and relatives who visited her, and St. Croix Hospice for their services. Online condolences can be placed at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

Deborah Calander

Deborah Calander, age 73, of Isanti passed away at home on May 18, 2025 after a long battle with cancer.

Deborah Kaye Calander was born on February 2, 1952, the youngest child and only daughter of Henry and Goldie Steenerson. She lived on a farm in



rural Anoka, MN with her parents and older brothers, Larry and Bob, until Henry built a new home. After the passing of her father in 1966, she remained in that home until she married Calvin "Sonny" Calander. In her early years, Debbie worked as a carhop and waitress, babysitter, cleaned houses, modeled, and was a very ambitious lady from a young age. She graduated from Anoka Senior High in the spring of

1970 and married Sonny on October 10, 1970.

After they married, Debbie worked at a store in Anoka until their first son, Scott, was born. She soon joined her husband in Ft. Stewart, GA, where he was stationed in the United States Army. When Sonny finished his service they moved to an apartment in Anoka for a year before buying a home near Long Lake in Isanti. Two more children followed, Bryan in 1976 and Callie in 1981. In the early '90s, Sonny and Debbie built a home just down the road, where the family still calls home. When their children were all in school, Debbie began volunteering in the Cambridge-Isanti School District, which eventually turned into a 20-year career as an instructional assistant.

Debbie was passionate about many things. She had a deep love of gardening with her flower gardens being the envy of most. She was a fervent supporter of St. Jude Children's Hospital, cherished her western movies, inherited a love of birds from her mother, and loved to travel. Classic country music was a favorite of hers, specifically Dolly Parton, with Islands in the Stream being her most beloved song. More than anything, Debbie was so proud of her family. She had a heart of gold, the most beautiful smile that she never failed to share, and a home open to everyone. She was the most dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, and she will be so missed by all who knew her. As she always said to us, we'll "love you the mostest."

Her legacy continues on in her devoted husband, Sonny; children, Scott (Jen) Calander; Bryan (Amber) Calander; and Callie Calander; grandchildren, Marissa, Dylan, Tyler, Maddie, Aidan, Morgan, Jacob, Macklin, Peyton, Averil, and Piper; and honorary family, Sarah, Greg, Lorren Bo, and Reagan Paris. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepfather, Howard Grover; brothers, Larry and Bob Steenerson; and honorary daughter, Jeannice Akerson.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, June 27 at Long Lake Lutheran Church in Isanti. A memorial visitation will be held from 4 - 7 p.m. Thursday, June 26 at Strike Life Tributes in Isanti and also one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday. Online condolences can be made at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Student Achievement Lists

Isaiah Maydole of North Branch (Dean's) from Milwaukee School of Engineering

Trevor Haupert of Cambridge and **Logan Orr** of Isanti (Dean's) from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse

Braden Grams of Braham; **Jaemon Schultz**, and **Carter Wothe** of Cambridge; and **Kyle Armstrong** of Rush City (Dean's) from Minnesota State Community and Technical College

Arin Zimpel of Braham (President's) from Minnesota State Community and Technical College



CONTRIBUTED

Dalbo resident wins 2025 Bush Fellows

Naima Dhore, of Dahlbo, has been named a 2025 Bush Fellow by the Bush Foundation.

The prestigious fellowship honors individuals leading bold change in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and 23 Native nations across the region. Dhore was among a select group recognized for advancing innovative ideas to shape stronger, more inclusive communities.

Dhore is one of Minnesota's first Certified Organic vegetable farmers and the founder of the Somali American Farmers Association.

Dhore's work focuses on expanding land access and food sovereignty for immigrant and refugee farmers, while promoting culturally rooted agricultural practices. With the support of the Bush Fellowship, she plans to study public policy, business sustainability and global agricultural leadership to further dismantle barriers to farming in the state.

Fellows in the 2025 cohort are addressing a wide array of challenges, including autism support, amputee advocacy, cancer care through doula services, and climate-resilient housing. Many, including Dhore, aim to learn from global models, bringing insights from places like Scandinavia and Japan back to their communities. -Bush Foundation



CONTRIBUTED

Honoring those who served

Donna Hubbard of Anderson Koch Ford presents a \$1,000 donation to local veterans in support of the Circle of Honor Veterans Memorial, which will be built in Central Park in North Branch.

C-I, NB Class of 2025 enthusiastically celebrates graduating



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



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State tournament action

Cambridge-Isanti's Micah Gustafson and Keagen Lowman strategize between sets during the Class AA State Doubles Tournament. The duo defeated their first-round opponents 6-1, 6-1 and then took the #1 seeded and eventual runner-ups to the limit, falling in three sets 6-2, 3-6, 2-6. North Branch's Wyatt Helberg also had a successful state tournament, finishing fourth in Class A singles.



JOSH LOWMAN | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti's Wesley Kennedy finished in sixth place in the boys pole vault during the first day of the Class AAA State Track and Field Meet held at St. Michael-Albertville.

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Our mission is to enrich, empower, and elevate people throughout life’s journey.

Butterflies show lead pollution still a problem in Twin Cities

BY CHRISTOPHER KELLY
KELL0545@UMN.EDU

While laws to limit pollution have been around for decades, heavy metal pollutants like lead remain a problem in many areas. Lead and other metals in the soil or air can move through urban ecosystems, impacting the health of humans, plants and animals.

In a pair of new studies in *Science of the Total Environment* and forthcoming in *Evolutionary Applications*, researchers with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Long Term Ecological Research Program asked how this pollution might impact butterflies in greenspaces around the Twin Cities, and why some species may tolerate pollution better than others. They also wanted to know whether butterflies were absorbing lead through their food sources or through more direct routes of exposure to contaminated soil or air.

Funding for this project was provided by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources and by the National Science Foundation through their Long-term Ecological Research program.

The research sets the stage for a broader understanding of pollution risks in the Twin Cities, said author Emilie Snell-Rood, a professor in the College of Biological Sciences. "Butterflies can give us clues on routes of exposure and impacts not just on wildlife health, but also human health. Humans are just a part of the urban ecosystem."

The research team found: Butterflies in greenspaces with elevated soil and air lead pollution carry high levels of lead in their bodies. Higher lead concentration correlated with smaller wing size across all species studied, suggesting lead exposure is somewhat stressful.

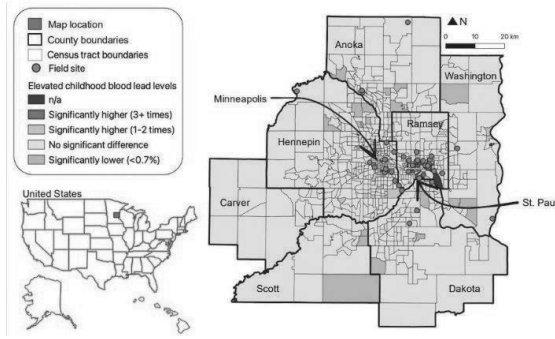
Species that have larger ranges and an evolutionary history with plant toxins are more tolerant of lead. Butterflies that have been feeding on toxic plant families for millions of years may harbor adaptations for environmental stress that can protect them from lead pollution.

"We found correlations between lead and smaller wing size across all common butterfly species that we studied. Lead was mostly outlawed in the 1970s, yet we are still being exposed and experiencing consequences from this pollutant. And lead is just one pollutant," said postdoctoral researcher and project leader Lindsey Kemmerling.

Map of the Twin Cities showing correlation between areas with elevated childhood blood levels and butterfly test sites.

Lead pollution remains a public health issue for children and wildlife in Minnesota. Orange and red areas indicate census districts with elevated childhood blood lead levels. Field sites for studying butterflies are indicated in blue. Credit: Lindsey Kemmerling, College of Biological Sciences using data from the Minnesota Department of Health.

"Recent research has shown that butterfly abundance has declined by over 20% in the last 20 years, a



CONTRIBUTED

truly tragic number," said Kemmerling. "Testing why some species are better or worse at tolerating pollution can point us to which species might require the most urgent conservation support. Our work shows that species with smaller habitat ranges and species that don't feed on plants that contain natural toxins are likely the most vulnerable to pollution."

The research demonstrates that public health and species conservation go hand in hand, and shows where pollution mitigation efforts could be targeted locally. The team hopes that their continuing research will help them understand specific drivers of heavy metal pollution in some parts of the Twin Cities.

MIDSUMMER DAYS: Bingo, street dance, waterball, fireworks highlight event schedule

FROM PAGE 1

North Branch Middle School baseball fields. Like last year, this display takes the place of a Fourth of July display. The fireworks will start at dusk. If there is rain, the display will be postponed to Saturday night.

Saturday begins with the annual golf tournament at the North Branch Golf Course at 8 a.m. At 9 a.m. is the Kids Olympics, which are slated to be held at Riverwalk Park. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Any kid from preschool to 12 years old can participate.

Back at the American Legion tent, a free hot dog lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Right in the middle of the free lunch is the Kiddie Parade, which begins at noon on Elm Street in front of City Hall. The parade will loop around

the block. Kids are encouraged to wear a costume. Awards will be given to the top five entrants.

Later in the afternoon will be the annual waterball fight, at a time yet to be determined.

The day ends with the second age 21+ concert under the American Legion tent. Saturday's performance will be the band Roadhouse 6.

Finally, Sunday features the Midsummer Days parade, which runs along Main Street. The parade starts at 2 p.m. This year's Grand Marshall is John Dolin.

Festivities conclude with a street dance originating from the American Legion tent. This free concert will feature the band On Tap and will run from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on June 1 - 7. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Luis Alberto Caiza Tuqueres (DOB 01/08/2000) of Minneapolis, was charged June 3 with one count of Kidnapping-To Commit Great Bodily Harm/Terrorize; and one count of False Imprisonment-Intentional Restraint. Justin Wayne Nolan (DOB 04/12/1986) of Oklahoma City, OK, was charged June 3 with two counts of Stalking - Pattern of Stalking Conduct; and one count of Threats of Violence -Reckless Disregard Risk.

Christopher Robert Hamlin (DOB 08/17/2005) of Cambridge, was charged June 4 with two counts of Assault-3rd Degree-Substantial Bodily Harm.

Ty Mitchell Valland (DOB 04/22/2005) of Circle Pines, was charged June 4 with

four counts of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Great Bodily Harm - Gross Negligence; four counts of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Great Bodily Harm - Und Infl cannabis/hemp/CBD/THC; one count of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Great Bodily Harm - Und Infl combination Alc/ Cntrl Subst/Cannbis/Hemp; and three counts of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Substantial Bodily Harm- Und Influence Combination (i), (ii) or (iii).

Jeremy Joseph Schaak (DOB 12/16/1987) of Duluth, was charged June 6 with one count of Drugs - 3rd Degree - Possess 10 grams or more a narcotic drug other than heroin; and one count of Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

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763-689-4101

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Trio of health businesses holds grand opening

Three health-related businesses have joined forces to open “True North Collective,” located along Second Avenue SW in downtown Cambridge. The three businesses held a joint ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate their grand opening. Surrounded by family, friends and representatives from the North 65 Chamber of Commerce and city of Cambridge, Dr. Katie DeVries, owner of TrueNorth Chiropractic (top left); Jackie Giese, owner of No Limits Wellness (top right); and Kelsey Abraham, owner of Northern Pines Wellness (bottom left) cut their respective ribbons.

TrueNorth Chiropractic specializes in neuro-based, prenatal, and pediatric health, along with whole family care. No Limits Wellness specializes in personal and group training sessions, youth boxing, “Mommy & Me” workouts, plus nutritional coaching. Northern Pines Wellness specializes in adult physicals, reproductive health, postpartum care, well child visits, functional medicine, hormone balancing, urgent care, and more.

WORSHIP *guide*

Baptist

First Baptist Church

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

North Isanti Baptist Church

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

Springvale Baptist

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

Sunrise Bible Church

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

Catholic

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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

Evangelical Covenant

Karmel Covenant Church

5799 County Road 6, Princeton, MN 763-389-3169

Evangelical Free

Dale Evangelical Free Church

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

Kost Evangelical Free Church

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

Oxlip Evangelical Free Church

29237 Roanoke St NW, Isanti (1 mile West of Cty 5 and Hwy 47)
763-444-5134 oxlip.org
9am Worship Service
10:45am Christian Education
Awana children's ministry Wednesdays 6:30 to 8pm

Wyanett Evangelical Free Church

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

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.
Office: 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 - fb.com/CambridgeLutheran

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)

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

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)

6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch 651-674-5576
Pastor Glen Kleppe
Sunday Worship 8am
Sunday Adult Bible Study @ 9:15am
VBS! June 22nd-26th; 6-8pm
www.livingbranch.org
email: office@livingbranch.org

Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

3921 277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040 763-444-5315
Pastor Sue Olson
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.salemlutherandalbo.com

Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

St. John Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

St. John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Methodist

Common Ground - A United Methodist Community

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

Non-Denominational

Grace Gospel Church

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

Journey of Faith

Bible based worship.
651-600-9878.
faiththroughaction777@gmail.com
Sunday fellowship 9am
Worship & Youth Ministry 10am
Come as you are. All welcome.
Junction Bowl. 123 Cajima Street, NE, Isanti. Refreshments served.

JustPassinThru IHS Ministries

Becoming Agape – Allowing the Holy Spirit to transform lives
763-228-0883
Meeting at Crossroads Commons
1001 1st Ave. E., Suite 100, Cambridge MN
justpassinihs@gmail.com
JustpassinThru.net
Pastor Tom Bakke
Sunday mornings at 10 am
Sunday nights and Wednesdays

Pentecostal

The Journey New Life Church

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

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

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58 Trucks/Vans/SUVs

Ford 04 150 pick-up extended cab 8' box, 160,000 miles \$4,900 612-390-2472

16 Lost & Found

We can help! Place a LOST & FOUND line ad FREE for 1 week! Call 763-250-9159 to place your ad in the Kanabec County Times, Pine City Pioneer, Isanti-Chisago County Star, & Advertiser.

102 Services

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

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

Get up to 50 channels free. No monthly charge. Dave's TV and Antenna. Call 320-515-0270.

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

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.

52 Cars

05 Chrysler Sebring convertible, Florida car, no rust. 75,000 miles, \$5,950, 612-390-2472

55 Motorcycles

2005 Suzuki Boulevard LS 650. Good shape 4,500 miles. \$1,500 or BO 218-838-9881

For sale: 01' Kawasaki 1500cc 1,700 mi, one owner, good condition \$2700-320-237-7718

58 Trucks/Vans/SUVs

2013 Dodge Caravan Lt grey 124,000 miles, good condition, remote start, \$8,200 or BO 763-227-9785

150 Help Wanted

Legacy Endeavors is hiring compassionate and dedicated Direct Support Professionals for Full-Time, Part-Time, and Floater positions. Duties include: Assisting individuals with daily activities such as: Meal prep, personal care, medication mgmt., transportation to appts, and so much more. \$18-\$21/hr. Apply today. Email or call Jessica Ander-son at janderson@legacyendeavors.com 651-587-8965

157 Part Time

Help wanted PCA 1-day per week every other Wednesday and every other Sunday. Up to \$25.00 per hour. 9:00-5:00 Stanchfield 320-396-2276

160 Hire Me

Do you manage freight? Have you been frustrated with your vendor? My name is Adam and I have been working in the transportation industry for 20+ years. Call me today and I will be your One Stop for all your Freight Shipping needs. Capacity on Demand. Call or text 651.230.1405

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201 Child Care

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

305 Pets/Services

For Sale Miniature Poodle puppies, friendly, adorable. Best offer. 320-983-5661 VM.

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.

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.

TERRY'S FIREWOOD 16" cut & split mixed hardwood \$260 cord, red oak \$290 cord. 22" for outside stove mixed hardwood \$250 cord, red oak \$280 cord. Delivery available. 651-245-6735

362 Miscellaneous

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369 Want to Buy

Wanted: Electric typewriter in working condition. Call 612-845-2407 and leave message.

Wanted: Someone to repair the weights on grandfather clock. Call 612-845-2407 and leave message.

401 Auctions

Saturday June 14th 10a.m. TJ's Depot, North Maddy St, McGregor, MN. Various primitives, collectibles, and antiques. Auctioneer: Bob Janzen lic. 01-14. 218-927-4488. www.janzenauctions.com

Saturday June 28th, Live only Estate Auction at 28479 St Hwy 18 Finlayson, MN 55735. Vehicles, tractors, snowmobiles, ATV, mowers, construction equipment. Auctioneer: Doug Maser lic. 33-24MN. 320-630-6651. www.amazingauctions.us

404 Garage Sales

Quamba Lake 10+ Sales, Thursday and Friday, 6/19-20, 8-4; Saturday, 6/21, 8-1. Days and times may vary per sale. Maps available at each sale. Start at 2141 Stafford, Mora.

452 Rentals/Residential

For Rent: 2 bedroom apartment with detached garage in the City of Pine City. \$1,200.00 per month. Available Immediately. For more information please call 320-629-7537 or 320-364-3997

Ogilvie Square Apartments
Affordable Housing for Seniors (62+)/Individuals with Disabilities
1-Bedroom Apartments Available
Heat, Water, and Trash Included
On-Site Laundry & Plug-In Parking
Controlled Entry for Your Safety
Rental Assistance for Qualified Applicants
Income Restrictions Apply
Contact Marj at 320-496-5415

Need a Legal Published? Call 763.689.1181

405 Moving Sales

Moving Sale Everything must go! June 13-14 8:00-5:00 1854 Waterbridge Blvd S, Cambridge. Scrapbooking, furniture etc.

Moving Sale June 13&14, 8:00-4:00 Restored tractors: Farmall A&C, antique Edison record player and turning lathe, Fenton glassware, large desk, tools, household, toys, miscellaneous. 1625 110th Ave, Ogilvie

You've Got It! Somebody Wants It!
Sell it in the classifieds - 651-407-1237 or email sales@countystar.com

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Bass Lake Lumber (Grantsburg, WI)

We're hiring a local delivery driver—home every night!

- Class A CDL preferred
- Experience with building materials a plus
- Hands-on role:** build loads, help in the yard, deliver to customers
- Strong customer service and teamwork skills required

Apply in person at Bass Lake Lumber or call 612-627-0833!



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Notice of Employment Opportunity Grantsburg School District ASST PRINCIPAL (HS/MS) ATHLETIC / SUMMER SCHOOL DIRECTOR

TYPE: Full-Time, 220 Day Contract, Administrative Position

DESCRIPTION: Grantsburg School District, a high-achieving and student-centered district, is seeking a dynamic leader to serve in a multifaceted role as Assistant Principal (split between High School and Middle School), District Athletic Director, and Summer School Director.

This position offers a unique opportunity to impact students' academic, extracurricular, and summer learning experiences.

The ideal candidate is an experienced educator with a proven record of leadership, a passion for student growth, and the organizational skills to manage complex, high-impact programs.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Support the principals in academic achievement, discipline, and climate as Assistant Principal at both the high school and middle school.
- Oversee all athletic programs, promoting student growth, participation, and competitive excellence.
- Design and lead engaging summer programming across grade levels.
- Collaborate with staff, families, and community partners to support student success.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Valid administrative license (or eligibility) required.
- Master's degree in Educational Leadership or related field.
- At least 5 years of successful teaching and/or administrative experience.
- Strong skills in communication, team-building, and program management.
- Proficient with scheduling software, student data systems, social media, websites, and athletic management tools.
- Preference given to candidates with successful experience in athletics oversight and summer programming.

Join a district that values innovation, relationships, and results. Apply online on WECAN at <https://wecan.waspa.org/> by submitting a letter of application, resume, transcripts, three letters of reference, and credentials/DPI license.

Josh Watt, Superintendent
Grantsburg School District
480 E. James Avenue
Grantsburg, WI 54840

DEADLINE: This job post will be open until filled.

DESIRED START DATE: 7/01/2025 or a soon as possible



Notification of Employment Opportunity Grantsburg School District

Job Title: Special Education Aide at Grantsburg High School

Job Description: Grantsburg High School is seeking a compassionate and dependable Special Education Aide to support students with disabilities in both general and special education settings. This role involves working under the direction of licensed special education staff to provide academic assistance, behavior support, and personal care as needed, while helping implement Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). The aide will assist in adapting materials, supervising students in various environments, promoting social and communication skills, and maintaining a safe and inclusive atmosphere. Additional responsibilities include collecting progress data, supporting student independence, collaborating with staff, and maintaining confidentiality at all times. In addition to supporting classroom instruction, this person will also perform bus/lunch duty, supervise study hall, and perform office duties as assigned.

Hours: This position is a full-time, 9-month position with benefits. Hours are from 7:45am - 3:45pm. Starting Date is August 21, 2025.

Qualifications: State certification as a Special Education Aide or ability to obtain.

Hourly Rate of Pay: Per support staff schedule.

How to Apply: Applicants are encouraged to apply by using the Wisconsin Education Career Access Network (WECAN) site at <https://wecan.education.wisc.edu/#/>. You may also send a letter of application, resume, credentials (3 current letters of recommendation and transcripts) and a copy of certification to the address below.

Deadline: Position will be open until filled.

Contact: Matt Haase
Grantsburg High School
480 East James Ave., Grantsburg, WI 54840

The School District of Grantsburg is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, pregnancy, status as a parent, national origin, age, disability (physical or mental), family medical history or genetic information, political affiliation, military service, or other non-merit based factors.

Notice of Employment Opportunity Grantsburg School District CAREER & TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION TEACHER

DESCRIPTION: This position offers the opportunity for collaboration with a supportive and talented team of educational professionals. Use of state-of-the-art equipment including a fabrication lab with plasma cutters, laser engravers, vinyl cutters and 3D printers and more! Potential block classes: Woodworking, Metals/Welding, Engineering, Building Construction, and CNC/Clean Manufacturing - plenty of time for hands-on learning!

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must possess or be willing to acquire WI licensure in Technology Education, (#1220) or have the ability to acquire through the Experienced-based pathway to licensure (#8013).
- Applicants should be prepared to deal with aspects of the personal, social and academic needs of high school students.
- Must be able to possess the skills necessary to communicate effectively with parents to build educational partnerships.
- Interested applicants should be willing to take part in school and student improvement initiatives.

QUALIFICATIONS:

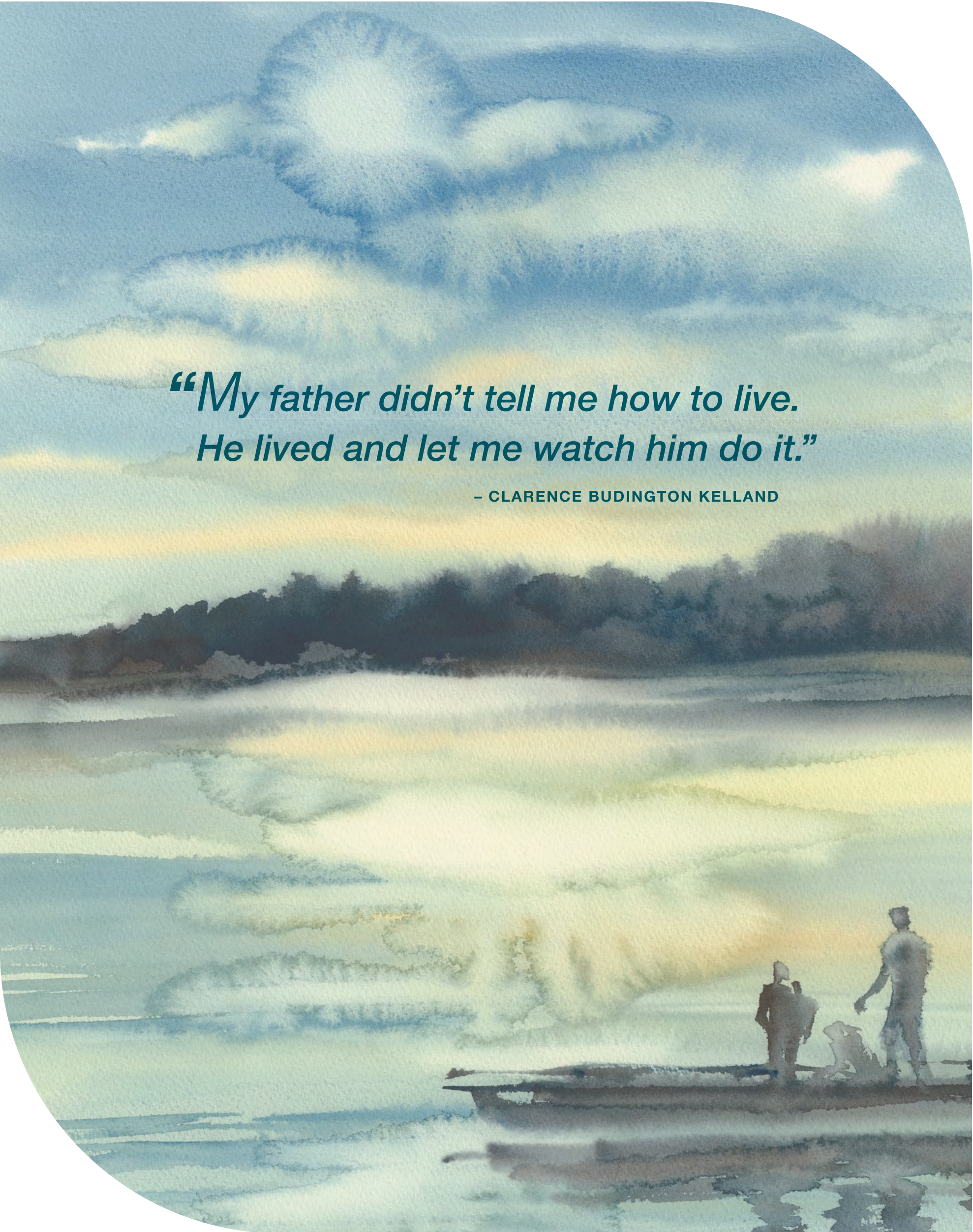
- If you are passionate about teaching and excited to help students learn valuable skills, we encourage you to apply!
- Candidates must enjoy working with students, building positive relationships and creating an engaging learning environment.

GHS is seeking qualified, enthusiastic applicants for this position. YOU may be the perfect fit! Join an Award-Winning Staff! GSD is home to a close-knit community of talented and committed educators. Applicants are encouraged to apply through the Wisconsin Education Career Access Network (WECAN) site at: <https://wecan.education.wisc.edu>.

CONTACT:
Matt Haase, Principal
Grantsburg High School
480 E. James Avenue,
Grantsburg, WI 54840
715-463-2531

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*“My father didn’t tell me how to live.
He lived and let me watch him do it.”*

- CLARENCE BUDINGTON KELLAND

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2018 Ram 1500

Vin: 1C6RR7TM5J5227265
Stock #: L11803
Mileage: 102,788
Pre-Owned
Big Horn, 4WD, Crew Cab, Pickup
Exterior: Granite Crystal Metallic Clearcoat
Interior: Diesel Gray/Black
8-Speed Automatic w/OD
Intercooled Turbo Diesel V-6 3.0 L/18, 19 CITY / 27 HWY



\$25,475

2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited

Vin: 1C4RJFBG4MC616189
Stock #: R10366
Mileage: 43,630
Pre-Owned
4WD, Sport Utility
Exterior: Blue
Interior: Black
8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Regular Unleaded V-6 3.6 L/220
18 CITY / 25 HWY



\$28,267

2020 Jeep Grand Cherokee Summit

Vin: 1C4RJFG8LC178681
Stock #: R9200
Mileage: 65,408
Pre-Owned
4WD, Sport Utility
Exterior: Diamond Black Crystal Pearlcoat
Interior: Black
8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Regular Unleaded V-6 3.6 L/220
18 CITY / 25 HWY



\$32,987

2020 Ram 1500 Laramie

Vin: 1C6SRFJT6LN220848
Stock #: T9953A
Mileage: 101,164
Certified Pre-Owned
4WD, Crew Cab, Pickup
Exterior: Bright White Clearcoat
Interior: Black
8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Regular Unleaded V-8 5.7 L/345
15 CITY / 21 HWY



\$28,000

2023 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD LT

Vin: 2GC4YTE72P1704412
Stock #: R9622
Mileage: 25,552
Pre-Owned
4WD, Crew Cab, Pickup
Exterior: Bright White
Interior: Jet Black
6-Speed Automatic, Gas V8 6.6L/



\$51,002

2017 Jeep Grand Cherokee Summit

Vin: 1C4RJFT4HC697182
Stock #: T9998A
Mileage: 134,704
Pre-Owned
4WD, Sport Utility
Exterior: Granite Crystal
Interior: Jet Black
6-Speed Automatic, Gas V8 6.6L/



\$20,000

2017 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LTZ

Vin: 3GCUKSEC6HG336172
Stock #: T1006A
Mileage: 88,267
Pre-Owned
4WD Crew Cab Pickup
Exterior: Iridescent Pearl Tricoat
Interior: Cocoa/Dune
8-Speed Automatic, Gas V8 5.3L/325
15 CITY / 20 HWY



\$28,535

2024 Jeep Compass Limited

Vin: 3C4NJD7RT535.00173080
Stock #: P11873
Mileage: 20,552
Certified Pre-Owned
4WD, Sport Utility
Exterior: Bright White
Interior: Cocoa/Dune
8-Speed Automatic, Gas V8 5.3L/325
15 CITY / 20 HWY



\$25,784

2020 Ram 3500 Tradesman

Vin: 3C63R3GJ1LG292154
Stock #: T9810A
Mileage: 31,382
Certified Pre-Owned
4WD Crew Cab Pickup
Exterior: Bright White Clearcoat
Interior: Black
8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Regular Unleaded V-8 6.4 L/392



\$39,686

2022 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD LT

Vin: 1GC4YTE76NF250042
Stock #: X11927A
Mileage: 81,730
Pre-Owned
4WD, Crew Cab, Pickup
Exterior: Summit White
Interior: Jet Black
6-Speed Automatic, Gas V8 6.6L/



\$47,453

2022 Buick Envision Essence

Vin: LRBFP46ND169355
Stock #: R5222
Mileage: 28,295
Pre-Owned
4WD, Sport Utility
Exterior: Ebony Twilight Metallic
Interior: Ebony seats
9-Speed Automatic, Turbocharged Gas I4 2.0L/
22 CITY / 29 HWY



\$37,775

2024 Ram 2500 Tradesman

Vin: 3C6MR5AJ7RG250749
Stock #: T9848AA
Mileage: 1,691
Pre-Owned
4WD, Regular Cab, Pickup
Exterior: Diamond Black Crystal Pearlcoat
Interior: Diesel Gray/Black
8-Speed Automatic w/OD, Regular Unleaded V-8 6.4 L/392



\$44,426

2025 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD Work Truck

Vin: 1GC5KLE72SF228847
Stock #: 10906A
Mileage: 31
Pre-Owned
4WD, Extended Cab, Pickup
Exterior: Summit White
Interior: Jet Black
10-Speed Automatic, Gas V8 6.6L/



\$52,286

2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 High Country

Vin: 1GCUKJED5S2207012
Stock #: 10892A
Mileage: 3,944
Pre-Owned
4WD, Crew Cab, Pickup
Exterior: Iridescent Pearl Tricoat
Interior: Jet Black/Umber
10-Speed Automatic w/Paddle Shifters, Gas V8 5.3L/325, 16 CITY / 19 HWY



\$65,581

2023 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 High Country

Vin: 1GCUDJE89PZ248828
Stock #: T1003A
Mileage: 58,388
Pre-Owned 4WD Crew Cab Pickup
Exterior: Iridescent Pearl Tricoat
Interior: Jet Black
10-Speed Automatic w/Paddle Shifters, Turbocharged Diesel I6 3.0L/
22 CITY / 27 HWY



\$48,936

2018 Chevrolet Equinox LT

Vin: 3GNAXSEV6JL119750
Stock #: 10939A
Mileage: 75,889
Pre-Owned, AWD, Sport Utility
Exterior: Storm Blue Metallic
Interior: Jet Black
6-Speed Automatic, Turbocharged Gas I4 1.5L/
24 CITY / 30 HWY



\$15,654

2019 Chevrolet Equinox LT

Vin: 3GNAXUEV5KS629400
Stock #: 10942A
Mileage: 91,483
Pre-Owned, AWD, Sport Utility
Exterior: Cajun Red Tintcoat
Interior: Jet Black
6-Speed Automatic, Turbocharged Gas I4 1.5L/92
25 CITY / 30 HWY



\$15,742

2020 Chevrolet Silverado 3500HD High Country

Vin: 1GC4YVE77LF173609
Stock #: 10807A
Mileage: 93,696
Pre-Owned, 4WD, Crew Cab, Pickup
Exterior: Cajun Red Tintcoat
Interior: Jet Black
6-Speed Automatic, Gas V8 6.6L/



\$50,897



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