

SENIOR MOMENT: Bluejacket gymnast eclipses school beam record during final home meet. PG 8

A foundation of faith and a future of hope: Inside East Central Minnesota Habitat’s mission to change lives

BY STACY VERDICK CASE
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

In the heart of Cambridge, the restoration of a house by East Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity is almost complete. For Susan Morris, the Executive Director of ECM Habitat, this project isn’t just about fresh paint or refinished cabinets; it is about restoring a sense of stability for a family in need. For Morris, the project is also a testament to how finding a new purpose can help heal a grieving heart.

A year ago Morris, a former Isanti County Commissioner, was happy being retired from public service when her life took a sudden turn. Her husband passed away from cancer just five weeks after being diagnosed, and Morris found herself needing to return to work to stay in her home. A friend from church mentioned Habitat for Humanity was looking for a new director, so Morris applied.

“It wasn’t a path I expected to be on,” said Morris. “But it’s one that makes sense.”

Because of her previous experience in government, Morris knows who she needs to speak with to help grow Habitat’s reach in the community. The work she’s doing has given her a new sense of belonging.

“I didn’t realize how much I was floundering in life,” she said. “Getting this job working for Habitat has given me so much purpose. I’m just over the moon excited”.

BUILDING TOGETHER IN CAMBRIDGE

This current project has become a true community effort, highlighted by a partnership with Pine Tech’s construction technology group and many other volunteers from the community.

“We had to basically gut the house,” Morris said. “Now we’re in the business of putting it back together again and making everything new.”



CONTRIBUTED
A student from Pine Technical College’s construction technology group stains baseboards before installation.

The goal is to have the home ready for a new family by May. Applications are currently being accepted for this project, with eligibility based on housing need, willingness to partner with Habitat, and ability to repay an affordable, zero-interest mortgage. Applicants must fall within a certain income range and complete

SEE HABITAT, PAGE 10

Cambridge Launderers and Cleaners building sold

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Despite fears of major hazardous waste clean-up costs, not only did the former Cambridge Launderers & Cleaners property sell via an online auction, it garnered multiple bids.

According to Isanti County Auditor-Treasurer Angie Larson, the nearly month-long online auction garnered a total of 80 bids from 11 different bidders. The winning bid, made by Adam Hage, was for \$18,800.

While she admits she doesn’t know what Hage’s intentions are for the property, Larson stated he made the purchase knowing full well its history and the possible added costs. Additionally, she said Hage was part of a one-time tour of the inside of the building for bidders while the auction was still open.

“I had never been inside the building until that tour,” Larson said. “It is actually much cleaner than I expected.”

The building was one of a dozen tax-forfeited properties in Isanti County that were auctioned off. All but one of those properties have officially been sold, bringing in a whopping \$495,475. The largest winning bid was for an 80-acre property in Dalbo Township, where nine bidders placed 388 bids, with the winning bid being \$380,250.

Unfortunately, the county will only receive a fraction of the final purchase amounts, according to Larson. Based on recent changes to state statute, the county will only see 25% of the final

SEE SOLD, PAGE 10

Journey Into the Woods with Play Inc Arts

Play Inc Arts has a long history of presenting a varied line up of theatrical productions. Over the years they’ve produced classics like Fiddler on the Roof and The Sound of Music as well as modern hits like The Producers and Beauty and the Beast. This year, Play Inc Arts is proud to present Into the Woods, the beloved Tony Award-winning musical by Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine. This imaginative and emotionally rich production will run Feb. 7, 8, 13, 14, and 15 at the Richard G. Hardy Performing Arts Center, inviting audiences to step into a familiar fairy-tale world—and discover what happens after “happily ever after.”

Into the Woods intertwines the stories of Cinderella, Little Red Riding Hood, Jack (of beanstalk fame), Rapunzel, and a Baker and his Wife whose wish to have a child sends them on a

quest into the woods. As the characters pursue their deepest desires, the show explores themes of community, responsibility, and the unforeseen consequences of getting what we wish for.

Known for its witty lyrics, soaring music, and profound storytelling, Into the Woods balances humor and heart with Sondheim’s signature complexity. Play Inc Arts’ production emphasizes both the whimsy of classic fairy tales and the poignant humanity at the core of the story, making the show resonate with audiences of all ages.

“Into the Woods challenges us to look beyond simple endings and consider how our choices affect others,” said director Aaron Knudsvig. “Act I follows individual wishes and pursuits. Act II



CONTRIBUTED
Performance for Into the Woods begin Feb. 7 and run through Feb. 15

SEE PLAY INC ARTS, PAGE 10

35219 Isetta Trail NE, Cambridge • 4 Bed, 4 Bath, 9.5 Acre  Custom built rambler 5 minutes from town! Enjoy main level living with laundry in the mudroom off the kitchen and garage as well as a main level primary bedroom suite. Beautiful open floor plan with neutral colors, recessed lighting, LVP flooring, hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances and granite counter tops in the kitchen. The walk-out lower level has a great family room, bedroom, bathroom and storage. \$650,000	1824 Nixon Street S, Cambridge • 4 Bed, 3 Bath  This beautifully maintained home features an inviting open-concept floor plan, ideal for both everyday living and entertaining. The main level offers three spacious bedrooms, including a private primary suite with a walk-in closet and private bath, along with the convenience of main-level laundry. The finished lower level expands your living space and is perfect for entertaining, featuring a stunning wet bar, family room with a home theater, an additional bathroom, and a versatile bonus room. \$415,000	3070 Ivy Street S, Cambridge • 4 Bed, 2 Bath  Freshly updated and professionally remodeled home in the established and desirable Goldenwood neighborhood. Open living floor plan shows off the new vinyl plank flooring and the pretty kitchen with brand new cabinets & countertops, an updated center island, new stainless steel appliances and updated light fixtures throughout. The walkout lower level has a nice sized laundry room, two additional bedrooms, lots of storage and a second family room/rec room. \$365,000
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County Star collects another ten MNA contest awards

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Isanti-Chisago County Star continues to collect state-wide accolades for its high-quality work via the Minnesota Newspaper Association’s annual Better Newspaper Contest. For the third year in a row, the Star earned double-digit awards in this year’s contest.

“Even though we have become known for consistently placing in multiple categories at MNA, it is still extremely flattering to be recognized for our efforts,” Star editor Bill Stickels III said. “And the fact it is different judges each year only further validates that reputation.”

Each year, MNA partners with other states’ newspaper associations in judging each other’s contest entries. This year, it was the Illinois Press Association that judged nearly 4,000 entries in 57 categories. Within most categories, newspapers are grouped within similar circulation sizes.

“Since we are a free-distribution newspaper, we are currently placed in the largest weekly circulation group,” Stickels said, “which means we are being directly compared to newspapers that have at least twice the staffing we have.”

This year, the Star had 10 entries in six different categories, placed in the top three. Editor’s assistant Stacy Verdick Case alone earned half of the Star’s awards.

“Stacy is the office’s ‘Swiss Army Knife,’” Stickels said. “She’s willing to take on just about any challenge and usually does it very well.”



COUNTY STAR

“I am happy that our award-winning news team at the Star received more accolades for their work,” Publisher Jeff Andres said. “I am very proud of them and grateful to be working with them.”

Case took home first place in the Business Profile category for her story about Northern Lights Toys’ Create-A-Lure. She also placed third in the same category for her feature on Happy Dog Lodge. The video version of that story earned Case second place for Best Use of Video. Her video of Minnco Credit Union gathering up its Angel Tree donations with the Cambridge Fire Department placed third.

“Stacy already told me her goal for next year is to single-handedly sweep a category,” Stickels quipped.

Case’s final award was third place in

the Best Use of Information Graphics category for her article about homelessness in the area. This brings her total to 13 awards.

Photographer Dee Ann Sibley once again came away with a pair of awards for her stellar photos from the Isanti Rodeo, earning first place in both Sports Photo and Photo Story — three or more photos on the same subject.

“For some reason, no matter what state they are from, judges love rodeo photos,” Stickels said. “I was talking with another editor, and he proclaimed they made it a priority to cover a rodeo

so they could enter it in the contest. But, even if every contest entry were rodeo photos, I would bet on Dee Ann’s being the best shots.”

All told, Sibley has won 13 photography awards, all but one being for her rodeo coverage.

Stickels earned two awards this year. He took first in the Portraits and Personalities Photo category for capturing a butterfly landing on the nose of Naturalist Tom Anderson during the Irving and John Anderson County Park’s Fall Festival. He also placed third in the Social Issues category for his three-part series on Minnesota’s predatory offender program.

Stickels has now earned a total of 22 MNA awards. Seven are in a writing category, and 15 are in a photo category. All but one have been during his time at the Star.

Rounding out this year’s awards is Jorge Perales, who contributes North Branch High School sports photos. Perales placed third in the Sports Photo category for his shot of Viking girls soccer goalie Sharis Garcia Velazquez making a clutch save against Herman-town.

Since Stickels became editor in May, 2016, the Star has earned a grand total of 54 awards.

“What I am most proud of is in those nearly 10 years, eight different people have won awards in 15 different categories for the Star,” Stickels said. “That really shows it has always been a team effort and that we aren’t a one-trick pony.”



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

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

MONDAYS
Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families
7 p.m. at Cambridge Lutheran Church , 621 Old Main St N, Cambridge Mn 55008 For more information contact Rebecca at 612-702-2844 or CoraJayne 612-210-1605

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

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

PrimeTime Singers



CONTRIBUTED
Jim Anderson performs at the Chisago County Senior Center Feb. 12 as part of We R Able.

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

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

Celebrate Recovery
At First Baptist in Cambridge(304 Main St S.) every Tuesday. There is a light meal at 5:45 p.m., large group at 6:30 p.m., and small groups at 7:30 p.m. Visit Celebraterecovery.com for more info.

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

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

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

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

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

ACA Adult Children of Alcoholics/ Dysfunctional Families Meeting
7 p.m. at Access Church, 4359 392nd St, North Branch. For info. call 612-251-6556 or email acanorthbranch@gmail.com

Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family Group
From 7-8 p.m. at Access Church, 4359 392nd Street, North Branch. Visit minneso-ta-al-anon.org for info.

Medicare and Medicaid 101 Open House
Third Thursday of the month from 1-3 p.m. Get your questions answered by trained agents. (763) 689-7390 or eclib.org for info.

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

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

FEB 10
Paul Bunyan's footprints
Public historian Johnathon Jaeger dis-cusses Paul Bunyan's history, 6–7 p.m. at the Cambridge Public Library. Registration encouraged.

FEB 12
Romantasy Book Club
At 5:30pm we will be meeting at Dana's Bookstore in Isanti to discuss Shield of Sparrows by Devney Perry. Join us! Dana's Bookstore, 120 Heritage Blvd NE #3, Isanti.

Isanti County Master Gardener event
6:30pm at the Cambridge Library. You will learn about the interesting and unique qualities various flowers and vegetables possess and the best planting location to maintain a beautiful and viable plant.

We R Able Valentine Concert
At the Chisago County Senior Center at 5 p.m. meal, followed by music by Jim Ander-son. Guests are invited to wear Valentine colors. Please call 320-358-3616 for more info.

SENIOR CENTER WEEKLY EVENTS

CAMBRIDGE
140 Buchanan Street
Mondays
Bridge - 1 to 3 p.m.
Mahjong - noon to 3 p.m.

Tuesdays
Dominoes - 10 a.m. to noon
Coloring - 9 a.m.
Hand and Foot - 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Wednesdays
Cribbage - 9 to 11 a.m.
Wizard 11 a.m. to noon
Pinochle 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Mahjong noon to 3 p.m.

Thursdays
500 - 12:30 to 3 p.m.
Bunco - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Third Thurs-day of month)

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Mon, Wed, Fri.
Exercise with Connie - 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Monday & Wednesday
500 - starting at 12:45 p.m.

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

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

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



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Second roundabout coming to North Branch

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

North Branch is get-ting another roundabout, which the city is hoping will improve traffic safety in the city's school zone.

Chisago County will add the "long-awaited" single-lane oblong round-about at the intersection of Lincoln Trail, also known as County State Aid Highway 14, and Hemingway Avenue, be-ginning summer 2027.

Joe Triplett, the county's public works director, told the city council the project would be funded by a \$1 million federal Highway Safety Improvement Program grant, for which the county had to compete with the other seven

metro area counties in Minnesota.

The intersection allows vehicles traveling west to skip from CSAH 14, which connects with Lindstrom and U.S. Trunk Highway 8, over to State Highway 95, missing the school zone entirely.

A roundabout, rather than a tradition inter-section with stop signs, will make that easier and more convenient, Triplett said.

"The big goal was really to get as much of that through traffic away from the school as possi-ble," Triplett said.

Lincoln Trail and Hem-ingway Avenue is not a perfectly perpendicular intersection and creates no 90 degree angles.

The county, Triplett

said, determined that a modified roundabout design was chosen as the "least impactful" alternative to the current traditional four-way intersection.

Vehicles that continue on Lincoln Trail into the school zone will have gone through the traf-fic-calming measure that is a roundabout, reduc-ing speed and improving pedestrian and bike safety, per the county's presentation.

The design phase of the project began in the fall of 2025. This year, the county will work on acquiring property and finalizing the design before beginning utility relocation and construc-tion in 2027.

Triplett said construc-tion will start after the



NORTH BRANCH COUNCIL ATTENDANT PACKAGE

school year ends and finish before the new one begins. The county will build a bypass to allow traffic to take Highway 95 during construc-

tion, rather than going through the nearby Casselberry Ponds devel-opment.

Arresting journalists highlights dangerous trend

Last Thursday and Friday, I attended the annual Minnesota Newspaper Association convention, where they held breakout sessions on topics such as the importance of the media, especially right now, here in Minnesota. Ironically, at nearly the exact same time, two journalists were being arrested simply for covering an anti-ICE protest that interrupted a church worship service.

History is sprinkled with examples of contentious relationships between governments and the media. These are often highlighted by verbal altercations or attempts to silence the media via financial or legal methods, namely lawsuits. Lately, there have been an increased number of instances where news offices have been raided by police at the behest of some politician in the guise of “conducting an investigation.”

The arrest of Don Lemon and Georgia Fort, however, takes things to a whole new, dangerous level. Obviously, it is a direct, overt violation of the First Amendment’s Freedom of the Press. You hear about journalists being arrested in other countries, but that’s not supposed to happen here in the United States of America.

While it is true social media has blurred the line between legitimate journalists and social media influencers who self-identify as “journalists,” Lemon and Fort are undeniably legitimate. Lemon was previously an anchor for CNN, and Lemon is recognized as being an award-winning member of the National Association of Black Journalists. Even in their current positions as “independent journalists,” they still contribute content to various news agencies.

Even more troubling, however, is these arrests were made possible via a federal grand jury indictment. In other words, federal prosecutors were able to convince a group of regular Minnesota citizens that these two were somehow breaking the law while covering the protest. The only way that conclusion could be made is by equating anyone in close proximity to criminal activity such as this as actually participating — and thus approving of said activity.

This misconception has rapidly risen as of late. No matter how objective a journalist’s or news organization’s reporting is, if the subject of the coverage doesn’t align with someone’s opinions, they are automatically labeled as being “biased.”

I recently came across this with our coverage of the student anti-ICE protest. We received several comments about how our placement of the photo across the top of page one was “condoning” their actions. However, to this day, I have yet to publicly state my position on ICE.

I could give dozens of examples of covering something I personally didn’t agree with, but I won’t. Why? Because if I admitted to being opposed to something specific, that will only perpetuate the idea my reporting is biased.

This might be only an irritant to me or other smaller media markets for now. However, the more we allow the distrust in the media as a whole, the easier it will be for politicians to try to control the media — including us — through these more aggressive tactics. And if our Freedom of the Press begins to crumble, it won’t be long until other freedoms fall apart too.

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

Can we afford a new city park?

To the editor,

Cambridge officials are planning a new city park on Fanny Lake. It would be good if they give us city residents and property tax payers an update of those plans, including how much the park would cost to build and how much on-going maintenance costs would be.

With the ever higher costs of just about everything under the sun, it is most important to get all the facts out there and for both officials and residents to be clear about what they want. And more importantly, what they are willing to pay for with their property taxes. I could be wrong, but I suspect a lot of city residents have little or

no idea of the proposed new park plans.

Anne Baynton
Cambridge

Appeal to Heaven

To the editor,

Jonathan Edwards prayed, and revival came to the American Colonies. History has been changed time after time because of prayer. It still works if we do it.

Join with us in the Appeal to Heaven, Sunday, Feb. 8, 5 p.m. at Grace Gospel Church, Grandy.

Bob Lex
For Concerned Citizens

LETTER GUIDELINES

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

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

phone number. Phone numbers will not be published.

- Only letters originating from writers who live, work or have some other relevance to the *Star* circulation area will be published.
- An identification line may be added to the writer’s letter identifying his or her occupation or title as it applies to the topic of the letter.
- Special rules apply during election season.

For questions about the *Star*’s policies on letters contact the editor at 763-689-1181 ext. 107 or editor@countystar.com.

‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.’

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Dec. 15, 1791

Your Best Source for Community Information

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Noon Tuesday

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4 p.m. Tuesday

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Noon Monday



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Finding our way back to one another



Anoka-Ramsey
Shannon Kirkeide
Dean of Academic and Community Outreach

What sustains us as human beings? If you ask the world’s longest-running study on happiness, the Harvard Study of Adult Development, the answer is simple — not wealth, not status, not even genetics. It’s connection. Genuine, human connection. The kind that reminds us we belong to one another.

Yet for many in our communities, this time of year can make that sense of belonging feel harder to reach. Winter in Minnesota has a way of wrapping us in quiet — sometimes comforting, sometimes isolating. The early sunsets, the cold air, the current tensions in our state and the hustle of daily life can leave us feeling disconnected, even from the people living right next door.

That’s exactly why traditions of togetherness matter.

And it’s why the 23rd annual Candlelight Ski/Hike Friluftsliv Festival at the Anoka-Ramsey Communi-

ty College Cambridge Campus is more than just an evening outing.

On Saturday, February 21, from 5:30-8 p.m., the campus will once again glow with luminaries along the trails, inviting all of us — friends, families, neighbors — to step outside and embrace friluftsliv (“free-loofts-liv”), the Scandinavian philosophy of an “open-air life.” It’s a reminder that joy and connection can flourish even in the coldest months when we gather around fire pits, share food and laughter and simply show up for one another.

This year’s festival will bring back beloved traditions: complimentary s’mores, hot cider, cocoa, and tea; sledding on the back-patio hill; outdoor games and cozy propane-heated seating; and the chance to wander beautiful candlelit trails at your own pace. We’re also thrilled to welcome back live music with local musician Drew Peterson, whose warmth and storytelling will add to the evening’s charm.

And everyone is invited. Come as you are and bring anyone who could use a little winter light.

Connection, of course, doesn’t end with one evening. The Harvard study also suggests that maintaining strong relationships takes intention: spending time with loved ones, listening deeply, offering support,

forgiving freely and bringing a spirit of positivity into our interactions. These small acts build what researchers call “social fitness” — the everyday habits that strengthen our bonds and create happier, healthier lives.

As Anoka-Ramsey celebrates its 60th anniversary, we’re reminded that the college’s story has always been rooted in relationships — with students, families, local schools and the many businesses and community members who shape this region. Our past, present and future are built on connection.

So consider this candlelight event more than a festival. Think of it as an invitation — to step outside breathe the crisp winter air and remember that we are part of something larger than ourselves. That, even in challenging times, community has the power to steady us.

We hope to see you there, cups of cocoa in hand, finding warmth in the company of your neighbors. Together, we can brighten the winter and renew the connections that sustain us.

Shannon Kirkeide is the Dean of Academic and Community Outreach for Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Cambridge Minnesota. She can be reached at 763-433-1897 or Shannon.Kirkeide@anokaramsey.edu

Investing in Our community: A new path to policing in Cambridge

Law enforcement recruitment has changed significantly since I first became an officer in the early 2000s. Early in my career, it was common for departments to receive dozens, and sometimes more than 100, applications for a single police officer opening. Today, departments across Minnesota and the country are facing real challenges in attracting qualified candidates. Cambridge is no exception.

Rather than lowering standards or looking for short-term fixes, we are taking a different approach — one focused on intentional planning, community connection and developing the next generation of officers right here at home.

The Cambridge Police Department recently received funding through the State of Minnesota’s Intensive Comprehensive Peace Officer Education & Training (ICPOET) program. This funding allows the city to create a police cadet position that supports an individual through their education, training and licensing process to become a full-time police officer. Only eight agencies statewide were selected for this highly competitive program, and Cambridge was fortunate to be one of them.



Cambridge Police Chief
Shawn Machin

What makes this opportunity unique is its focus on recruiting someone from our own community, or someone who wants to make Cambridge their long-term home. The ICPOET program is intended to reduce some of the barriers that prevent capable individuals from pursuing a career in law enforcement, particularly the cost of education and training. Through this program, the city can help offset those expenses while the cadet gains real-world experience and a better understanding of the community they will one day serve.

Our goal is straightforward: to hire a future officer who understands Cambridge, cares about this community and wants to build a career here. Officers with ties to the community often bring a stronger sense of accountability and commitment to the job. Those connections matter, and they help support trust, communication and effective policing.

Cambridge is fortunate to have strong support from its residents, city administration, mayor and City Council. That support allows the police department to focus on thoughtful policing, community engagement and long-term planning. In recent years, the City Council and city administration have taken steps to ensure Cambridge remains a competitive and supportive employer, recognizing that investing in employees also benefits the community as a whole.

This cadet position is not a shortcut, and it does not lower standards. The individual selected will be required to meet all professional, academic and licensing requirements to become a Minnesota peace officer. What this program does provide is structure, mentorship and guidance throughout the process, helping ensure that when a cadet earns their license, they are prepared and invested in serving Cambridge.

Recruitment is not just a police department issue — it is a community issue. Information about the ICPOET Police Cadet position and the application process can be found on the City of Cambridge website at www.ci.cambridge.mn.us under the Jobs section. As both a police officer in this community and a citizen who lives here, I ask for your support as we work to find the best possible candidate for our next officer. We look forward to seeing who from our community may step forward to help shape the future of policing in Cambridge.

Shawn Machin is the Police Chief of the Cambridge Police Department. If you have questions related to this column, please feel free to reach out by email at smachin@ci.cambridge.mn.us or by phone at (763) 689-9567.

Volunteers made Illuminate Isanti successful

As the final details and displays of “Illuminate Isanti” are removed from Bluebird Park, I want to take an opportunity to talk about the successes and changes in the event. This Christmas season, leadership of the event transitioned into a new volunteer group named “Isanti Together.”



Inside Isanti
Luke Merrill

With their help, this year’s event turned out to be the best yet! Rather than allocating roughly \$50,000 of taxpayer dollars/staff time to the event, a city collaboration with these volunteers and local businesses made this event possible for virtually zero taxpayer dollars, other than some city staff time to help transition this year.

I have personally volunteered the last three years at this event because I enjoy Christmas lights and the event was important to our community. However, the sticking point of this event, for the current council, had always been the aforementioned costs to taxpayers. In 2022, a different city council group invested roughly \$100,000 into starting this event. In 2022 and 2023, the event was \$12.50 per attendee. Even with ticket revenue, the net costs were difficult to stomach. In 2024, we made the event free in hopes of getting more donations. The residents enjoyed free admission, but we wanted to do more. In early 2025, we had the difficult conversation as a council to decide between two options: Ending the event and selling the items purchased in 2022 to recoup some sunk costs. Or the alternate, which was our goal, was to have a group run the event and at least maximize the value of those already sunk-costs for as long as possible.

ble.

Out of the rubble of the difficult, taxpayer-focused, discussion came a handful of passionate community members who heard our calls for community engagement and formed the “Isanti Together” group. Many months of collaboration between the city council and Isanti Together, led late into the fall of 2025. Once the snow fell, the volunteer group hit the ground running. They did a great job accomplishing their goal of fundraising to cover all the explicit costs. Showing, that with a volunteer group, it is hopefully a sustainable community event for the future.

Two council members and I attended the first night this year to help “Light the Tree.” Each of the three nights I attended, there were small changes throughout the park that made the event better. New signage, new layout, a food court area, different entertainment, etc. It was awesome! I was also able to help during their group cleanup day.

Overall, from the start of this process to the final cleanup, it was impressive how organized and well the group worked together. I believe the event is now on a sustainable path, but it took community members stepping up. City governance should be a community effort; get involved any way that you can and make a difference. The collaboration this year was a huge win and I cannot say enough about all those that supported our Isanti Christmas event.

Santa’s Tip: If you would like to be involved with Isanti Together, please contact them at IsantiTogether@outlook.com or give them a follow on Facebook.

LUKE MERRILL is mayor for the city of Isanti. He can be directly reached at 763-516-5082, or Lmerrill@cityofisanti.us.

ISANTI AND CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORTS

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Jan. 25 - 31. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Jeriod David Knerr (DOB 09/25/1977) of Isanti, was charged Jan. 27 with two counts of Threats of Violence -Reckless Disregard Risk; on Jan. 30, he was charged with receiving stolen property.

Elizabeth Ann Peil (DOB 02/17/1980) of Forest Lake, was charged Jan. 30 with Burglary-1st Deg-Dwelling-Occupied-Non-Accomplice Present.

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Jan. 25 - 31. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Jesse Dean Tesch (DOB 04/13/1992) of Lindstrom, was charged Jan. 27 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp; on Jan. 28, he was charged with Predatory Offender - Knowingly commits act or fails to fulfill registration requirement.

Mark Allen Reed (DOB 03/24/1972) of Rush City, was charged Jan. 30 with domestic assault.



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OBITUARIES

Robert “Bob” George Peterson

Robert “Bob” George Peterson, age 93, passed away peacefully at his home in rural Isanti on Thursday, January 29, 2026. Bob was born on February 22, 1932 at the home of his paternal grandparents in Spencer Brook Township, Isanti County, MN.



His parents, Marvin and Vera (Hushower) Peterson, gave him the middle name, George, because he was born exactly 200 years after George Washington, a fun fact he mentioned whenever he was asked his birthday.

He attended country school in Oxlip and graduated from Cambridge Isanti High School in 1950. He went on to join the National Guard in the Aircraft Control and Warning Unit. After his service, he attended Minneapolis Vocational School for welding and became a Boilermaker in 1955. He worked many jobs in Minnesota, North Dakota, Fort Collins, CO, and Corpus Christie, TX. As a proud union Boilermaker, Local 647, he developed important and lasting friendships that continued long after his retirement in 1994. It was always a highlight for him to get together for breakfasts and attend the annual Christmas party with Boilermaker friends.

In 1958, he married Carmella (Van Heel) Peterson and together they raised five children. He was proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He attended sporting and music events while they were school age and as they became adults, he spent lots of time helping them with projects. Whether it was working on family cars, supporting grandchildren with go karts and race cars, or caring for their pets, he was always extremely generous with his time, talent, and resources.

Bob embraced his Swedish heritage and appreciated being able to live on the same land his ancestors settled on when they came to Minnesota in the late 1800s. He traveled to Sweden several times. The first time in 1978 was a special trip with his dad, visiting the birthplaces of his paternal and maternal grandparents. It was during that trip a special connection was made with Swedish family. Since that very first trip, his children have been able to meet and develop relationships with their beloved Swedish “cousins”. Although most of Bob’s family resides in Minnesota, he had special ties to his family in Indiana where his mother was born and raised. Those trips to Elkhart created wonderful memories with his cousins.

Bob could talk to anyone and everyone. His memory was incredibly sharp. He was the “go to” personal historian when a date, name or event needed to be recalled. He had a plethora of interests, ranging from playing cards and games with family, dirt track racing, travelling, reading, watching historical documentaries, political activism, storytelling, taking road trips, and helping neighbors and friends. He was a master welder and was often asked to help with welding projects in the community. He truly cared about people and the greater good. Above all things was his deep love for his family and his attentiveness to their well-being.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Carm; son, Jason; brother, Jim (Faye). He is survived by his children, Jeff, Tim (Debby), Kari (Toby), and Scott (Cathy); grandchildren, Aisha (Josh) Edwards, Jarett Peterson, Zach (Colleen) Peterson, Jake (Jess) Peterson, Mike Peterson, Ashley (Nick) Bartz, Brittnei (Jake) Jensen; eight great grandchildren and one on the way. He will also be remembered by many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A Celebration of Life gathering in Bob’s memory will be held on Saturday, May 2 at 11 a.m. at Able Hearts CCC (formerly Spencer Brook United Methodist Church) 6823 305th Lane NW Princeton, MN 55371. Lunch will follow. A private family burial at Christ the King Catholic Cemetery, Cambridge, MN will be held later.

To know him was to love him.

And to love him is to miss his sweet presence every day.

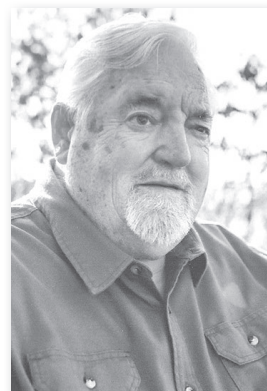
Rest easy now, Dad. We love you.

Thank you to our caregiving team at St. Croix Hospice (Princeton) for their love and care through this journey.

Online condolences can be made at StrikeLifeTributes.com

James (Jim) Martin Staff

James (Jim) Martin Staff, age 85, of Isanti, passed away on January 30, 2026, after a life defined by hard work, devotion to family, and quiet humor. A Remembrance Gathering will be held at the Isanti Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Jim was born on August 11, 1940, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, to William and Irene (Simonson) Staff. He was united in marriage to the love of his life, Patricia (Rieken) Staff, and together they shared 62 years of marriage, partnership, and unwavering commitment to family.

Jim worked as a Heavy Equipment Operator for 35 years, a career that reflected his unmatched work

ethic and pride in a job well done. Known for his generous spirit and quick wit, Jim was someone people could always count on—whether for help, advice, or a laugh at just the right moment.

He found great joy in attending threshing shows and had a lifelong love of old engines and farm equipment. Often behind the camera, he served as the family’s videographer, capturing moments big and small. In later years, he devoted countless hours to converting and archiving old family videos, a true labor of love meant to preserve family history. Along with his many interests, Jim was a playful prankster whose humor and timing kept those around him smiling.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife, Patricia (Patty) Staff; daughters, Tracy Lehn and Terry Kay; his favorite son-in-law, Jeff Lehn; four grandchildren, Josh Lehn, Taylor Lehn, Taryn Kay, and Tyler Kay; and three great-grandchildren, Henry, Penelope, and Leo Lehn. He is also survived by his brother, Les (Karen) Staff and nieces Tamara (Jamie) Brateng and Michelle (Michael) Hunter. Among those who will miss him dearly is his beloved pet, Björn, who held a special place in his heart.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Staff; his mother, Irene Staff; his stepfather, Charles Staff; and many aunts and uncles, including his special aunt, Dorothy Mae Lee.

Jim will be remembered not only for his generosity and dedication, but also for the personal touches that meant so much to his family—his written messages, poems, and beloved good-morning serenades. To his daughters, he was a constant source of love and guidance. Long before GPS, Jim was the family’s MapQuest, always making sure his favorite girls got where they needed to go.

His legacy lives on in the many lives he touched and the family he loved so deeply.

Special thanks to the local EMTs and First Responders for their care and support over the past several years.

Online condolences can be placed at: StrikeLifeTributes.com.

Merideth Ann (Johnson) Coleman

Merideth Ann (Johnson) Coleman, a lifelong resident of Braham and a woman of profound faith and kindness, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on Sunday, February 1, 2026, at the age of 68. Her passing followed a courageous journey navigating the lingering consequences of multiple strokes.



Born on June 1, 1957, to H. Curtis and Winnifred Johnson, Merideth was a daughter of the Braham soil. Aside from a few short years, she spent her entire life on the very land that was part of her parents’ family’s farm—a place that grounded her and held her dearest memories.

A graduate from the Braham school district,

Merideth dedicated the majority of her professional life to the children of her community. As a long-time paraprofessional for the Braham schools, she offered patience and guidance to countless students, leaving an indelible impact on generations of local families.

Merideth’s life was a living testament to her faith. A devoted fourth-generation member of the Braham Evangelical Covenant Church, she was known by all as a woman who truly exuded the “fruits of the spirit”: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control.

Her greatest joy was her family. She was a loving wife to her husband, Bill, and a devoted mother to her sons, Josh and John. Her favorite days were those spent at Cass Lake, where decades of summers were filled with fishing, swimming, and the simple joy of being together. Whether she was baking in her kitchen, cheering loudly during a football game, or doting on her beloved grandchildren, her presence was a source of warmth and steady light.

She was preceded in death by her parents, H. Curtis and Winnifred Johnson, her brother Bruce Johnson, and her cousin Julie.

Merideth is survived by her loving husband, William Coleman; sons Joshua Coleman (Hanna) and John Coleman (Jessica); granddaughters Bae and Iris; brother David Johnson; sister Iverne Sutton; and by many other relatives and friends.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.” — Galatians 5:22-23

A Memorial Service will be held at 1 a.m. on Friday, February 13, 2026, at Braham Covenant Church, with Pastor Jake King officiating.

Visitation will take place one hour before the service at the church.

A luncheon and time for fellowship will follow the service.

A private inurnment will be held this summer at Braham Mission Covenant Cemetery.

LaVerne M. Klobucar

LaVerne M. Klobucar, age 101, of Osseo, formerly of Cambridge, passed away January 25, 2026 at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids.



LaVerne M. Klobucar (Olson) was born on May 15, 1924 in Dalbo, Minnesota to Nels and Hilma Olson. She attended Dalbo Grade School and graduated from Cambridge High School in 1942. After attending the Minnesota School of Business, she returned to Cambridge and worked for Attorney Gillespie for several years. She moved to California where she worked for Northrop Aircraft. While in California

she met her future husband, John Klobucar. They were married in 1953 at Salem Lutheran Church in Dalbo.

They returned to California and spent a year there before returning to Minnesota. They lived on the Iron Range for a few years where he worked as

a land surveyor, building the town of Hoyt Lakes. Their two daughters were born in Virginia, Minnesota. He was transferred to Arizona for a year to work for the Copper Mines. They then returned to Minnesota and purchased their first home in Osseo, Minnesota.

LaVerne was a “stay at home” mom until she became involved with the “Meals on Wheels” program in Brooklyn Park. She later started the program in the Osseo – Maple Grove area where she served for several years. The program now also consists of Champlin, Rogers and Corcoran.

In 2008 they moved to the Cambridge area and re-joined Salem Lutheran Church in Dalbo, where she had been baptized, confirmed and married.

She is survived by her two daughters, Colleen Klobucar and Kathy (Tim) Lijewski; granddaughters, Danielle (Mohammed) Aldawood, Nikki Andrews; great-grandsons, Cayden and Caleb; and many other family and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, John; brother, Harry and sister, Viola.

Memorial service will be held at noon on Tuesday, April 7 at Salem Lutheran Church in Dalbo with a visiting time one hour prior. Online condolences can be placed at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Marion L. Jernell

Marion L. Jernell, age 94, of Isanti passed away January 21, 2026 at Prairie Senior Cottages. Marion Louise Jernell was born June 25, 1931 in Burlington, Wisconsin to Eugene and Bertha (Nichols) North. She grew up on a farm in Waterford and attended country schools. Marion was married to Bruce Jernell for 54 years and they made their home in Isanti. She worked as a bookkeeper at Dairy Queen and at several auto dealerships. Marion was an avid bowler and golfer and she was very good at both. Marion and Bruce were snowbirds and loved traveling to several southern states in the winters. They also enjoyed dancing.

Marion will be lovingly remembered by her children, Karine Platt, Gary Friberg, Kathleen (Robert) Scott and Forrest (Catherine) Friberg; 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren; and by other relatives and friends. Besides her parents she is preceded in death by her husband, Bruce; and siblings and their spouses, George (Verna) North, Harry (LaVonne) North, Janet (Milton) Foat, and Charles (Lorraine) North.

Memorial service 11 a.m. on Monday, February 16th at Strike Life Tributes in Cambridge. A time for visiting will be held one hour prior to the service. Interment will be June 25 at Long Lake Community Cemetery, contact the family for details. Online condolences can be made at StrikeLifeTributes.com.



Memorial vintage snowmobile race revs up again

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Enthusiasts of vintage snowmobiles weaving around an ice track will want to make their way to Back to Captains on Long Lake this Saturday, Feb. 7.

At noon, the flag will drop on the twelfth running of the Andy Englund “Fast Fifty” Vintage Snowmobile Race. The race, put on by Midwest Vintage Snowmobile Racing, was created in 2013 in memory of Englund, who tragically died in a vehicle crash in 2012. Since that time, with the exception of 2021, when it was canceled due to COVID, the Fast Fifty has been held at either Long Lake, Green Lake, or Rush Lake, no matter what the weather may be.

While previous years have experienced anywhere between harsh cold to a little too warm — including one year when contestants were racing in the rain, the conditions appear to be optimal with plenty of ice, a fresh coating of snow, and temperatures in the upper teens to low twenties.

According to Wendy Englund, Andy’s mom, the race has raised money for local organizations such as the Isanti County Sportsmans Club, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and many others.

“We started the race in his memory to raise money for all the things he loved most: hunting, fishing, vintage snowmobile racing,” she said.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. inside Back to Captains. At 11:15 a.m., all sleds must report to tech for transponders. The lineup is scheduled for 11:30 a.m., and the drivers’ meeting is at 11:45 a.m. The flag will officially drop at noon.

Race classes include HR, HD, Enticer 250, and Women’s. Trophies will be awarded to the top five finishers in each class. There will be a silent and



live auction following the race. For race information, contact Mitch at 763-234-5394. To make a donation, contact Wendy at 320-496-7624. Additional information can be found at www.midwestvintagesnowmobileracing.com or on Facebook at Andy Englund Memorial Race.

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Photo Credit:
Bella Sollé Photography

JAN. 29 - FEB. 2 SCOREBOARD

January 29
C-I boys swimming & diving 75, Monticello 100
*First place finishers: Joshua Clinkenbeard (100 backstroke), Aiden Larkin (100 breaststroke)
C-I gymnastics 136.25, Monticello 143.15
*Aubrey Wilson - first place, floor (9.5)
C-I wrestling 11, Becker 42
Northern Tier girls hockey 0, Forest Lake 10
C-I boys hockey 2, Duluth Marshall 6
NB wrestling 21, Princeton 49
NB wrestling 30, Chisago Lakes 44
NB boys basketball 79, St. Francis 85
NB girls basketball 12, North Branch 81
NB gymnastics 136.925, Chisago Lakes 130.75
*First place finishers: Ella Dick, vault (9.45), Emma Fenton, beam (9.25), Sophia Thorsen, floor (9.375)
Northern Edge boys hockey 5, St. Paul Academy & Summit 1

January 30
C-I girls basketball 31, Minneapolis Southwest 56
C-I boys hockey 5, Pine City 4 (OT)
*Bennett Bergloff - 4 goals, including overtime game-winner
NB wrestling @ home invite - 4th/8 teams
*Top finishers: second place - Drew Steinke (121 pounds), Aiden Schwartz (152 pounds)

January 31
C-I boys wrestling 46, Coon Rapids 18
C-I boys wrestling 42, Totino Grace 27
C-I boys wrestling 48, Blaine 18
C-I girls basketball 33, Forest Lake 77
Northern Tier girls hockey 2, Simley 6

February 2
C-I girls basketball 22, St. Francis 58
C-I gymnastics 141.9, Becker 139.9
*First place finishers: Aubrey Wilson - beam (9.85, new school record), floor (9.575)
C-I boys hockey 8, Osseo 0
*Bennett Bergloff - hat trick
C-I boys basketball 82, St. Francis 49
NB girls basketball 24, Chisago Lakes 73
NB boys basketball 72, Chisago Lakes 77
NB gymnastics 136.075, Monticello 145.875
*Ella Dick - first place, vault (9.45)

C-I, NB HOME & SECTION PLAYOFF SCHEDULES: FEBRUARY 5 - 14

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

Thursday, February 5
•C-I girls basketball vs. North Branch (7 p.m.)
•NB boys basketball vs. C-I (7 p.m.)
•Northern Edge boys hockey vs. Becker/Big Lake (7 p.m.)
•Northern Tier girls hockey @ Forest Lake - Section 7AA Quarterfinals (7 p.m.)

Friday, February 6
•C-I wrestling vs. St. Francis (6 p.m.)

Saturday, February 7
•NB girls basketball vs. Grand Rapids (noon)

Tuesday, February 10
•C-I boys basketball vs. Monticello (7 p.m.)
•NB girls basketball vs. Becker (5:15 p.m.)
•NB boys basketball vs. Becker (7 p.m.)

Wednesday, February 11
•C-I boys basketball vs. Zimmerman (7 p.m.)

Thursday, February 12
•C-I boys hockey vs. Northern Edge (7 p.m.)

Friday, February 13
•C-I girls basketball vs. Becker (7 p.m.)
•C-I gymnastics @ Elk River - Section 7AA Championships (5 p.m.)
•C-I wrestling @ Andover - Section 7AAA Tournament (TBD)
•NB girls basketball vs. Princeton (5:15 p.m.)
•NB boys basketball vs. Princeton (7 p.m.)

Saturday, February 14
•NB gymnastics @ Princeton - Section 7A Championships (6 p.m.)



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Bluejacket Rilynn Herbst hits a pike gainer off the end of the beam during C-I's meet against Becker. Rilynn's 9.125 score contributed to breaking the all-time team beam score of 37.95.

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STUDENT ACHIEVERS





NBA Middle School: Dustin Goggin

This is Dustin Goggin, an 8th grader at North Branch Area Middle School and this month's IC County Star Student Achiever! Staff were asked to choose the student that best displays their RED behaviors of respectful, enthusiastic and determined on a consistent basis. The staff overwhelmingly choose Dustin! Dustin enjoys school and is a member of the baseball team and a student leader. His favorite subjects are math and science! In his free time, he enjoys watching and playing baseball and taekwondo! Dustin and his parents are so proud that Dustin was chosen for this award by staff!



Cambridge Middle School: Devin Perry

Devin Perry has been selected as a Star Achiever from Cambridge Middle School. Devin is an 8th-grader at CMS, and he demonstrates excellent academic and character skills. One example is that Devin recently created a new plan for table dismissal at lunch time. Through observation over a few weeks, Devin noticed that our dismissal process used to dismiss tables to the lunchline, didn't seem to be fair for all tables. Devin used math by collecting data of the likelihood of each table to be dismissed fairly over a weekly time period. He then used this data to create a new dismissal pattern that is more equitable for all students. Wow! Nice work Devin!



Art and Science Academy: Casey Davidson

Casey Davidson is a wonderful member of our community at Art and Science Academy and is incredibly well deserving of being recognized as a STAR Student of the Month. Casey, a fifth-grade student at ASA, consistently shows a great attitude toward learning and has a positive outlook on things. Casey is respectful to classmates and adults alike, and she helps others when needed. She is willing to put forth her best effort in projects, even when things get challenging. Casey's calm and positive demeanor set a wonderful tone for our classroom, and we are so happy to share the day with her! Thank you for being you, Casey!



NBA Education Center: Mazie Magrone

Mazie Magrone, daughter of April Magrone of North Branch, has been recognized as an outstanding student in Mrs. Summer's kindergarten class. Mrs. Summer shared that Mazie is enthusiastic about learning. She is engaged in the classroom discussions, and she helps other students. In addition, Mazie follows the BEE rules of being Safe, Respectful, Responsible, and Ready to Learn. She has been a joy to have in class. Mazie's favorite subject is math because she loves counting how many days of school they've had each day. When asked about her future, Mazie says she wants to become a brain surgeon because she wants to help fix people's brains. Mazie also says her favorite sport is golf!



Cambridge Middle School: Mabel Ruyman

Mabel is a creative, determined, and helpful 6th grade student who brings strong ideas and positive energy to Cambridge Middle School. She is passionate about advocating for her peers through Student Council, where she was elected by her classmates and then re-elected as a grade-level representative, a role she takes seriously. Mabel consistently shows initiative, willingly helping with projects and stepping up when support is needed. She works hard academically, earning A Honor Roll, and approaches learning with focus and determination. Just as importantly, she is friendly, welcoming, and kind, helping to create a positive and inclusive school community.



Art and Science Academy: Harmony Gehrke

Harmony Gehrke, a fourth-grade student at Art and Science Academy, was named the January STAR student of the Month in recognition of her shining example of kindness and responsibility in our classroom. She consistently follows our safety rules, takes care of her belongings, and is always the first to help a classmate in need. Whether she's walking safely in the hallway or helping to clean up, Harmony makes our classroom a better place to learn and be. She is a wonderful role model of responsibility and safety. Amazing work Harmony!



Norse Area Learning Center: Ada Stone

Senior Ada Stone is an engaged and motivated student fully prepared to graduate and take her next steps with confidence. A natural leader in our school community, she is diligent in keeping up with her coursework and consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic. Ada is also employed at Sunrise River Elementary School, where she has built meaningful relationships with elementary students who eagerly look forward to seeing her at lunch each day. Her commitment, responsibility, and positive influence make her truly deserving of the Student Achiever Award.



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HABITAT: Organization welcomes volunteers for more than just building houses

FROM PAGE I

sweat-equity hours by working alongside volunteers. While Morris admits that being accepted for a Habitat house can be a little like winning the lottery, she still wants to encourage people to try. “Don’t let the process scare you,” Morris said. “You could be the next Habitat homeowner. Habitat homes truly change the trajectory of people’s lives.”

AGING IN PLACE

Even though building houses is the most visible part of Habitat’s mission, they also work to ensure residents can stay in their homes. The Age in Place program provides critical home modifications for seniors, such as ramps, handrails, bathroom updates, and other modifications. “We’re open for modifications as long as it’s within a budget,” says Morris. “I just recently had somebody say I can pay for the materials, but I can’t afford the labor. Well, that’s a win-win for us. If they can buy the materials, I can get the labor in there to get the work done.” This program can be a literal lifeline for older homeowners. “Most people don’t even know this resource exists,” she said. “That’s why getting the word out is so important.” The Age in Place programs recently won a \$10,000 grant from East Central Electric and a \$5,000 grant from Allina. With this money, the program is poised to help even more seniors across Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, and Mille Lacs Counties. Morris says the volunteers they work with love the Age in Place projects. “They can see the impact of their work in a day or two, and it makes a huge difference for the homeowner.”

THAT ALL STARTED WITH A HABITAT HOUSE

The true impact of Habitat’s work is best measured in the lives of the families it serves. Research shows 72% of Habitat homeowners report improved mental and physical health, while 92% go on to earn higher degrees.

‘Everyone has something they can contribute. You don’t have to pick up a hammer to make a difference.’

Susan Morris
Executive Director
East Central Minnesota
Habitat for Humanity

One story that resonates deeply with Morris involves a young woman whose story is on the ECM Habitat Facebook page. “When her mom received [a Habitat] house, she was about 13 years old. They had never had a safe, stable place to live. They moved every few months, and they lived in some very scary places.” When her family was awarded the Habitat home, “it was the first time in her life as a 13-year-old girl, she felt safe.”

The family worked their 200 hours of sweat equity on their house, but didn’t want to quit. Morris recounts, “They said, ‘Do we have to stop here?’ They were told no, you don’t have to stop. They end up racking up like 800 hours of sweat equity.” That experience created a culture in their family of giving back to their community. “Both the grandmother, the daughter, and the granddaughter have all won national awards for the amount of time and for the amount of time they give back through non-profits in their community. That all started with a habitat house.”

LOOKING AHEAD TO FUTURE BUILDS

Housing demand across East Central Minnesota continues to outpace supply. Morris says her phone rings almost daily with stories from families in crisis. “If I could build a house every day, I still couldn’t meet the need,” she said. For now, Morris is focused on the two 2026 builds ECM Habitat has planned. One in Cambridge and one on land donated by Redeemer Lutheran Church in Pine City. The goal is for that build to begin this summer.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

While construction volunteers are always needed, Morris emphasizes that helping Habitat doesn’t require building skills. Volunteers can assist with office work, fundraising, organizing materials, or social media. Donations and grant support are also critical, with the majority of



CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers painting walls in the Habitat house in Cambridge. Applications are now being accepted for persons interested in owning the house on 3rd street.

funds going directly toward program services. “Everybody has something they can contribute,” Morris said. “You don’t have to pick up a hammer to make a difference.” For more information about applying for a Habitat home, volunteering, or supporting the Age in Place program, visit ecmhabitat.org or contact the ECM Habitat office in Cambridge.

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Public Works purchases drone from Braham

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Cambridge Public Works is adopting a new approach to its battle against mosquitoes this summer. According to Public Works Director Todd Schwab, most cities are moving away from foggers, opting to mitigate the insects in their larval stage. One of the methods Cambridge has employed over the last three years is releasing minnows into the city-owned retention basins. He said the minnows feed on the mosquito larvae before they can hatch into adult form.

The other method is to apply larvicides to areas of standing water. That is where the drone would come in. Schwab said Braham originally purchased the drone for its mosquito control, but the pilot certification process became a challenge for their staff. He said Cambridge already has one staff member certified as a drone pilot, plus there are a couple of others who are in the process of getting certified. Schwab emphasized there are no camera mounts on the drone, so there are no concerns over invading residents' privacy. "The drone will never, ever be equipped with a cam-

era or infrared," Schwab said. "It is an agricultural drone." He said the drone will eliminate the need for public works employees to wade through the wetland areas, noting one of the staff got stuck twice last year and needed assistance getting out. Schwab said Braham is asking \$6,000 for the drone, which is less than half the cost of buying a new fogger. He said the 2026 public works budget included \$14,000 for a new fogger, "so it's money well-spent." He added a new drone, similar to this would have cost around \$20,000.

SOLD: Sale not huge windfall for county

FROM PAGE I

amount, with the state collecting 75%. Previously, both the county and the school district in which the property was located received 40% of the total amount each. "I told the commissioners, these auctions of tax-forfeited properties aren't

guaranteed financial windfalls for the county," Larson said. "But the real benefit is it gets these properties back on the property tax roll." Larson said the county will hold another auction later this year for properties that entered tax forfeiture in 2024 and 2025.

PLAY INC ARTS: Local talent featured

FROM PAGE I

asks those individuals to come together as a community and work together." Performances will feature a talented cast of local performers and a creative team dedicated to Play Inc Arts' mis-

sion of producing accessible, high-quality theatre that engages, entertains, and inspires. For tickets and more information, visit www.playincarts.org or follow Play Inc Arts on Facebook. - Play Inc Arts

Isanti County increases sales tax request amount

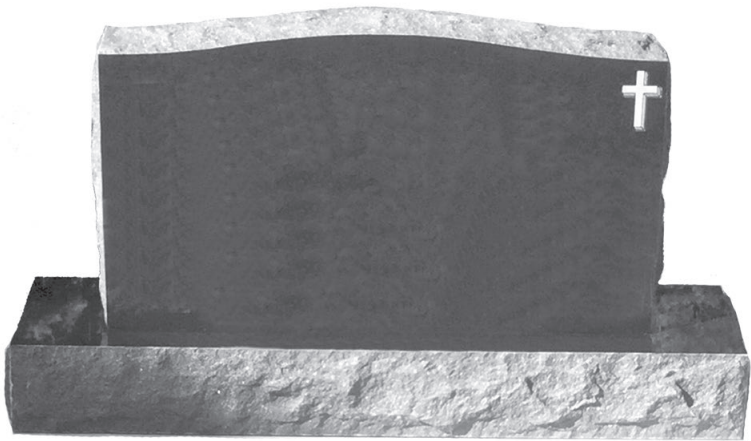
BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Based on the increased estimated costs to construct a new highway department facility, the Isanti County Commissioners have approved raising the total amount they are requesting to raise from a local option sales tax to \$25 million. This request will first be heard by the Minnesota State Legislature during its next session, which begins on Feb. 17. If the request is approved by the legislature, the county will hold a public referendum vote during the November elections, where it will have to be approved by a majority of the voters in order to be enacted. If the referendum passes, the one-quar-

ter-of-one-percent (.25%) sales tax increase would be in place until the \$25 million has been collected, or after 25 years, whichever comes first. According to Highway Department Engineer Justin Bergerson, based on the most recent cost estimates, the \$25 million raised through the sales tax would cover the entire bond amount. Even if the estimated costs continue to increase, there is still plenty of time to modify the site plans to cut costs back down to that amount. To fully explain the proposed project, the county has set up a page on its website that can be directly reached at <https://www.isanticountymn.gov/882/Highway-Department-Facility>.

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Too cold for comfort: Keeping pets safe in Minnesota’s deep freeze

This winter has already been a tough one in Minnesota: ice, snow, and temperatures stuck in the single digits have become the norm. While the frosty landscape looks beautiful, it can be dangerous for our pets. Dogs and cats might love playing in the snow, but extreme cold brings real risks like frostbite and hypothermia. The good news? With a little planning, you can keep your furry friends safe. Let’s talk about when it’s too cold and what you can do to protect them.

HOW COLD IS TOO COLD?

There’s no single magic number, because tolerance varies by breed, coat thickness, age, and health. But here are some helpful guidelines:

- Below freezing (32°F / 0°C): Most pets, especially short-haired dogs and cats, should not be outside for more than

10–15 minutes without shelter.

- Below 20°F (-6°C): Frostbite risk rises significantly, especially with wind chill or wet fur. Even hardy breeds can develop hypothermia or frostbite with prolonged exposure.
- Rule of thumb: If it’s too cold for you without heavy gear, it’s too cold for your pet.

FROSTBITE AND HYPOTHERMIA RISKS

Frostbite can occur at any time temperatures are at or below freezing, often affecting ears, paws, tails, and noses. Signs include pale or bluish skin, pain on touch, and swelling as the tissue warms. Hypothermia symptoms include shivering, weakness, and lethargy. If you suspect either condition, seek veterinary care immediately.

PRACTICAL WINTER SAFETY TIPS

- Limit outdoor time: Keep walks short during extreme

cold and avoid prolonged exposure.

- Dress for the weather: Short-haired breeds benefit from coats, and booties protect paws from ice and salt.
- Provide shelter: Outdoor pets need insulated, dry housing with bedding and protection from wind.
- Watch for deicing chemicals: Salt-based products can irritate paws and cause illness if ingested. Use pet-safe alternatives and wipe paws after walks.
- Hydration matters: Pets still need fresh water in winter. Heated bowls prevent freezing and encourage drinking.

WHY IT MATTERS

Minnesota winters are long, and our pets rely on us for safety. A few simple precautions, limiting exposure, providing proper gear, and monitoring for signs of frostbite, can



prevent emergencies and keep tails wagging all season. Take a few minutes today to check your pet’s winter gear, review your outdoor routine, and make sure you have pet-safe deicers on hand. For more information and

resources on winter pet safety, visit:

- Winter Pet Safety — American Veterinary Medical Association
- ASPCA Cold Weather Tips - The University of Minnesota Extension

WORSHIPguide

Baptist	Lutheran	Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)	St. John Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)	Non-Denominational
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	Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Dr. Suzanne Begin, Minister 905 Central Drive West 320-396-2755 www.brahamlutheran.org 9:30 a.m. Worship Service In-person & Live on Facebook 9:00 – 9:45 Sunday School Children may join worship service or be picked up by an adult All Are Welcome!	33525 Jefferson Street NE, Cambridge 763-689-4355 www.joylutheran.net Pastor James Ritter 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service	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	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!
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)	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	Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS) 6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch 651-674-5576 Pastor Glen Kleppe Sunday Worship 10am Sunday School 9am Sunday Adult Bible Study 9am www.livingbranch.org email: office@livingbranch.org	St. John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) 980 West 4th Street, Rush City 320-358-3623 Sunday 8:45am Worship Monday 10am Longer Look Bible Study stjohnsrushcity.org	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.
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.	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.	Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA) 3921 277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040 763-444-5315 Pastor Sue Olson & Pastor Rebecca Holland All Are Welcome! Sundays 9 am Worship & 10 am Sunday School Holy Communion: 1st and 3rd Sundays Wednesdays 6 pm Confirmation	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	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
Catholic	Oxlip Evangelical Free Church 29237 Roanoke St NW, Isanti (1 mile West of Cty 5 and Hwy 47) 763-444-5134 oxlip.org 9am Worship Service 10:45am Christian Education Awana children's ministry Wednesdays 6 to 7:30pm	Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA) 621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge 763-689-1211 Traditional service: 8:30 a.m. Contemp service: 9:15 & 10:30 a.m. KidZone 9:15 & 10:30 a.m. www.cambridgelutheran.org Facebook: fb.com/Cambridgelutheran YouTube: tinyurl.com/Cambridgelutheran	Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) 38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch 651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon In person and online worship 8 & 10 am Worship 9 am Coffee Hour 9 am Sunday School www.trinitynorthbranch.org office@trinitynorthbranch.org	Pentecostal
Christ the King 305 Fern Street N Cambridge, MN 55008 763-689-1221 Friday 8:30am Saturday 4pm email brigitte@isantiacc.org Website: isantiacc.org	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!	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	Methodist	
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN. 763-444-4035 Email: brigitte@isantiacc.org Mass: Tues. & Wed. 8:30am. Sun. 8:30am. isantiaac.org		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	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!	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
Evangelical Covenant		Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA) 8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958, North Branch, MN 55056 (9 mi. E. of Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one block on Erickson Road). 651-674-4606. Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.sllchurch.org Email: sll.church@gmail.com 8:15am Worship with fellowship following		
Karmel Covenant Church 5799 County Road 6, Princeton MN 763-389-3169 Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson				

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FORECLOSURES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

State of Minnesota, County of Isanti, Tenth Judicial District, Civil No. 30-CV-25-756, First National Bank, Plaintiff vs. Dylan Investments LLC; D.B. Graphics, Inc.; Dennis George Buchana; Tammy Jane Buchanan; Platinum Bank; and John Doe, Mary Roe, and XYZ Corporation, whose correct names are unknown to Plaintiff, Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that under and by virtue of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order for Judgment dated December 15, 2025, and entered December 19, 2025, in the above-cited action, a certified copy of which has been delivered directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to said Plaintiff in the above- cited action from said Defendants, the Sheriff of Pipestone County will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the premises described in said Judgment to pay the debt secured by the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 26, 2021

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$709,000.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Dylan Investments LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company

MORTGAGEE: First National Bank

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING:

Recorded on May 27, 2021, as Document Number A504965 in the Office of the County Recorder of Isanti County, Minnesota.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti

Common Street Address(es): 801 Highway 65 NE, Isanti, MN 55040

Tax Parcel ID No: 16.020.1100

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

That part of the Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE1/4 of SW1/4) of Section Twenty (20), Township Thirty-five (35), Range Twenty-three (23), described by metes and bounds as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of the SE1/4 of SW1/4 of Section 20, Township 35, Range 23, thence north along the north and south quarter line a distance of 440 feet; thence west and parallel with the south line of said SE1/4 of SW1/4 a distance of 600 feet; thence south and parallel with the east line of said SE1/4 of SW1/4 a distance of 440 feet to the South line of SE1/4 of SW1/4; thence east along the south line of said SE1/4 of SW1/4 a distance of 600 feet to the point of commencement, subject to highway easements of record and mineral reservations of record, Isanti County, Minnesota.

AMOUNT DUE UNDER JUDGMENT: As December 19, 2025, the amount due under the Judgment entered in the above-cited action on December 19, 2025, is no less than \$673,009.81, consisting of the judgment amount of \$673,009.81 plus interest accrued and accruing at a rate of \$69.11 per day since October 21, 2025, together with accrued and accruing fees and costs and the costs and expenses of sale.

PURSUANT the said judgment, the above-described property will be sold by sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 5, 2026, at 10 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff's Office, 2440 Main Street S., Cambridge, MN 55008 to pay the debt by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within six months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

DATED: January 20, 2026

MORTGAGEE: First National Bank DeWitt LLP

By: /s/ Zachary P. Armstrong Name: Zachary P. Armstrong Attorneys for Plaintiff/Mortgagee 901 Marquette Avenue, Suite 2100 Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 305-1400

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 22, 29; February 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 1, 2022

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$279,837.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Chris Yaritz and Sharon Newsom, spouses married to each other, joint tenants

MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: August 3, 2022 as DOCUMENT: A518039 in the Office of the County Recorder in Isanti County, Minnesota.

The mortgage was assigned for value as follows:

Assignee: Planet Home Lending, LLC

Assignment dated: September 29, 2025

Assignment recorded: September 30, 2025

Assignment recording information: DOCUMENT: A540107

All in the records of the County Recorder in Isanti County, Minnesota.

TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 16.089.0130

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 3, Block 2, Isanti Hills 4th Addition, Isanti County, Minnesota

Abstract Property STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 516 Cottonwood St SW, Isanti, MN 55040

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: CrossCountry Mortgage, LLC

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Planet Home Lending, LLC

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE: \$298,098.63 AS OF 1/16/2026.

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/ or applicable statutes. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Isanti County, Minnesota at public auction as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 2, 2026 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff's Office, 2440 S Main St, Cambridge, MN 55008 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 P.M. on October 2, 2026, or the next business day if October 2, 2026 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Publication to begin the week of: 02/05/2026

Planet Home Lending, LLC, Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee

The Sayer Law Group, P.C., Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/ Mortgagee Assignee

925 E. 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION

OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 12, 19, 26; March 5, 12, 2026

ASSUMED NAME

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Knot Just Pine MN**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **1272 340th Ct. NW, Cambridge, MN 55008**

APPLICANT(S): Name: **Jeff Olson and Dawn Olson**

Address: **1272 340th Ct. NW, Cambridge, MN 55008**

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: Jeff Olson

MAILING ADDRESS: 1272 340th Ct. NW, Cambridge, MN 55008

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: Knot.Just.Pine.MN@gmail.com

Work Item **1621970600030**

Original File Number **1621970600030**

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED 1/16/2026 11:59 PM

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 29; February 5, 2026

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: **IronMark Stripping and Markings**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **30993 TULIP ST NW CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA**

APPLICANT(S): Name: **IronMark Services LLC** Address: **30993 TULIP ST NW CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA**

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

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

SIGNED BY: **Tanner Jerome Beckerleg**

MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **tannerbeckerleg@gmail.com**

Work Item **1624993000027**

Original File Number **1624993000027**

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED 01/28/2026 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 12, 2026

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: **The Original Burrito King**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **11425 300TH AVE NW PRINCETON MN 55371 USA**

APPLICANT(S): Name: **North Star Concessions LLC**

Address: **6935 327TH LN NW PRINCETON MN 55371 USA**

If 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: **Shawn Nichols**

MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **northstarconcessionsllc@gmail.com**

Work Item **1620119100021**

Original File Number **1620119100021**

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED 01/09/2026 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 12, 2026

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF: ISANTI JUDICIAL DISTRICT: 10TH DISTRICT COURT

Court File Number: 13-PR-26-11

Case Type: Probate

In Re the Estate of Richard Alan LaValle Decedent (Deceased Person)

Notice and Order for Hearing on Petition for Formal Adjudication of Intestacy, Determination of Heirship, and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors

It is ordered and notice is given that a hearing will be held as follows:

Date: March 19, 2026 Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: 313 North Main St. Center City, MN 55012 -via zoom for the formal adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of:

Name: Robert J. Ryan

Address:23800 Pickett Ave, N Scandia, MN 55073

as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in: an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition should be filed with the Court before, or raised at, the hearing.

If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Date: BY THE COURT: Catherine Trevino (Judge)

District Court Judge OR Court Administrator

Attorney for Personal Representative: Name: Kirsten J. Libby

Firm: Libby Law Office, P.A

Address: 855 Rice St, STE. 100 St. Paul, MN 55117

Attorney License No.: 0326227

Telephone: 651-487-1208

Email: kirsten@libbylawoffice.com

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on January 29; February 5, 2026

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

Court File No.: **30-PR-26-3**

In Re: Estate of Gladys Loger, Decedent.

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR SUMMARY ASSIGNMENT OR DISTRIBUTION AND FOR PROBATE OF WILL (EXEMPT ESTATE)

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 17 day of March, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., a hearing will be held by this Court via remote technology at the Isanti County Government Center, Cambridge, Minnesota, on the petition of Leonard W. Loger, Jr., that the Estate assets be summarily assigned or distributed.

The petition requests the probate of an instrument purporting to be the Decedent's last Will dated September 8, 2022.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

Judge of District Court **John Klossner**

Court Administrator: Nathan P. Fuglestad

Attorney for Petitioner FUGLESTAD LAW OFFICE

P.O. Box 277, 6349 Main St. North Branch, MN 55056 (651) 674-6259

fuglestadlaw@gmail.com

Att. Reg. No. 223839

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 12, 2026

NOTICES

CITY OF NORTH BRANCH ORDINANCE AMENDMENT NO. 406-26

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA, AMENDING SECTION 2-72 OF THE CITY CODE RELATED TO THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE OF THE NORTH BRANCH CITY COUNCIL.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION 1.

That Section 2-72 of the North Branch City Code, setting forth the schedule for regular meetings of the City Council, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“The North Branch City Council shall hold its regular meetings on the **second (2nd) and fourth (4th) Wednesday of each month** at the North Branch City Hall, or such other place as the Council may designate, with said meetings to commence at **6:00 PM**. If such Wednesday shall fall on a holiday, the regular business session shall be held at any other time the city council may deem proper. Work sessions may be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM when deemed necessary or advisable by the Mayor or City Administrator, and no action shall be taken during work session. During the month of December, the city council will only meet on the second Wednesday of the month. All meetings shall be held in the City Hall as designated by the city council.”

SECTION 2.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3.

This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force immediately upon its passage and publication according to law.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of North Branch, Minnesota, this 27th day of January, 2026.

Kevin Schieber, Mayor

Attest:

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 2026

CITY OF NORTH BRANCH ORDINANCE NO. 408-26

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA, AMENDING THE 2026 FEE SCHEDULE TO ADD

FEES RELATED TO CANNABIS AND LOW-POTENCY HEMP PRODUCTS

WHEREAS, the City of North Branch is authorized by Minnesota Statutes to regulate and license the sale of cannabis and low-potency hemp products within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to establish a clear and comprehensive fee schedule for the application and operation of businesses related to cannabis and low-potency hemp products; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the appropriate fees should align with the current state statute fees as reflected in the official license application in use at City Hall; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that amending its fee schedule is necessary and appropriate for the public health, safety, and welfare of its residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH, MINNESOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT OF 2026 FEE SCHEDULE

That the 2026 Fee Schedule is hereby amended by adding the following categories and corresponding fees.

Microbusiness - \$500 Initial Registration Fee, \$1,000 Annual Renewal

Mezzobusiness - \$500 Initial Registration Fee, \$1,000 Annual Renewal

Lower-Potency Hemp Edible Retailer - \$125 Annual Registration Fee

Cannabis Retailer - \$500 Initial Registration Fee, \$1,000 Annual Renewal

Medical Cannabis Combination Business - \$500 Initial Registration Fee, \$1,000 Annual Renewal

SECTION 2. REPEALER.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed and superseded to the extent of the inconsistency.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication as required by law.

Passed by the City Council of the City of North Branch, Minnesota, this 27th day of January, 2026.

Kevin Schieber, Mayor

Attest:

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 2026

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION

I, Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota, do certify that: The following business entity has duly complied with the relevant provisions of Minnesota Statutes listed below, and is formed or authorized to do business in Minnesota on and after this date with all the powers, rights and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties and restrictions, set forth in that chapter.

The business entity is now legally registered under the laws of Minnesota.

Name: North Star Concessions LLC

File Number: 1619681600020

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter: 322C

This certificate has been issued on: 01/08/2026

Steve Simon

Secretary of State

State of Minnesota

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 12, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF ISANTI PLANNING COMMISSION

Public Hearing on February 17, 2026

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Isanti City Hall, located at 110 First Avenue NW;** the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the following item(s):

1) Request by Frederick Miller for a Zoning Text Amendment to allow cigar lounges as a permitted use in B-1 and B-2 districts city-wide under City Ordinance 445 Section 21.

2) Request by Isanti Eye Clinic for a Site Plan Review for Parcel ID 16.126.0080 to construct a commercial eye care clinic under City Ordinance 445 Section 18.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY OF ISANTI, MINNESOTA.

Jared Haas

Associate Planner

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on February 5, 2026

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ST. PAUL

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GRAND CASINO ARENA

CLASSIFIEDS & EMPLOYMENT

102
Services

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

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

**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.

**150
Help Wanted**

ACCOUNTANT III - Plastech Corporation, Rush City, MN. 1st shift, Monday-Friday. Prepare, review, and publish monthly and year-end financial statements per GAAP. Handle day-to-day accounting operations, A/P and A/R questions. Requirements: Two-year accounting degree, two years experience in general ledger accounting and financial statement preparation. Pre-employment background check and drug screening required. \$27.00-\$29.00/hour. Apply at plastechcorporation.com or [call/text 651-407-5700](tel:651-407-5700). Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR - Advanced Food Products, Clear Lake, WI. 2nd shift. 4-year degree OR high-speed manufacturing experience (CPG preferred). Strong conflict-resolution and problem-solving skills. Excellent communication and facilitation abilities. Details and application at www.afpllc.com/careers/. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

BRAIDERS & EXTRUSION OPERATORS - Northwire, Inc., Osceola, WI. All shifts available. Basic qualifications: High school diploma/GED or high-ered, computer skills required. Must pass drug test, background screen, and pre-employment physical exam. Apply in person or send resume to: Northwire, Inc., 110 Prospect Way, Osceola, WI 54020 or email HumanResources_No_rthwire@lemo.com. EOE: disability/veteran. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

**150
Help Wanted**

CNC SETUP & MACHINE OPERATOR - EM Machine, Grantsburg, WI. CNC turning centers and mills, 1st or 2nd shift. Experience preferred but will train. Inspect parts using measuring instruments. Shop maintenance & cleanup. Benefits: employee paid health insurance, 401(k) with match, vacation and holiday pay, overtime available. Pay commensurate with experience. Call 715-463-3950 or email mike@emma-chine.net. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

CNC SETUP/MACHINIST - Advance Design & Systems, Pine City, MN. Full-time, day shift, Monday-Friday. Responsibilities: Read setup sheets and prints, select tooling in sequence, review control panel and compare to prints, verify completed parts made to print, multi-task and operate other machines during run time. Pay based on experience. Submit resume to resume@advancedesignsys.com or apply in person at 325 Airport Rd NE, Pine City, MN 55063. 320-629-6697. www.advancedesignsys.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

CUSTODIAL WORK - Greenview, Inc. Age 55+ workers needed for part-time light custodial work at William O'Brien or Wild River State Park in Minnesota. Apply online at www.greenviewmn.com or call 651-639-1913. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

EXPERIENCED PROCESS TECHNICIANS - Plastech Corporation, Frederic, WI. 2nd shift. \$29.00-\$31.00/hour. Apply at plastechcorporation.com, [call/text 651-407-5700](tel:651-407-5700), or email hr@plastechcorporation.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

GENERAL SHOP LABORER - EM Machine, Grantsburg, WI. Shipping and receiving parts and material, sawing parts, general maintenance and shop cleanup. Need Microsoft Office and general computer skills. Benefits: employee paid health insurance, 401(k) with match, vacation and holiday pay, overtime available. Pay commensurate with experience. Call 715-463-3950 or email mike@emma-chine.net. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

International Paper hiring Maintenance Mechanic in Arden Hills, 11pm – 7am \$32.45/hr - \$42/hr Boiler licence required ipworksfornemo.com

**150
Help Wanted**

Mahtomedi NOW HIRING Volunteer for City Commissions 3 year appointmnets on the Planning Commission, Parks Commision, Environmental and Finance Commissions. If interested, contact 651*/426*3344 or online at www.mahtomedi.gov

MAINTENANCE & PRODUCTION POSITIONS - 3M, Cumberland. Maintenance: \$29.36/hour. Production: \$21.84-\$25.22/hour. \$2/hour shift premium for 2nd & 3rd shifts. Benefits include: 3 medical plans, up to 12 paid holidays, up to 3 weeks vacation first year, 401(k) with match, employee stock purchase program, paid parental leave, disability plan, life insurance, dental, vision, and more. Apply at 3M.com/apply. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST - Northwood Technical College, Superior Campus. Full-time (2080 hours/year). Repairs, preventative maintenance, and facilities upkeep. Steady week-day hours with minimal weekend rotation. Support student success in a safe, efficient, high-performing campus environment. Complete job description and qualifications at www.northwoodtech.edu/employment. Deadline: Feb. 12, 2026. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN - Advanced Food Products, Clear Lake, WI. 2nd shift, 2p-10p. Post-secondary education or vocational training in industrial maintenance, mechanical or electrical engineering preferred. Basic understanding of mechanical, electrical, pneumatic, and hydraulic systems. Ability to read blueprints and schematics. Welding, machining, and fabrication experience a plus. Details and application at www.afpllc.com/careers/. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

MS ASSISTANT VOLLEYBALL COACH - Prairie Farm and Clayton School Districts seeking qualified, student-centered coach for PFC MS Volleyball Co-op starting Fall 2026. Season runs mid-August through mid-October. Submit letter of interest to Alethea Seeger at aseeger@prairiefarm.k12.wi.us. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

**150
Help Wanted**

MS FOOTBALL COACH - Prairie Farm and Clayton School Districts seeking qualified, student-centered Middle School Football Coach for PFC MS Football Co-op starting Fall 2026. Season runs mid-August through mid-October. Submit letter of interest to Scott Mateski at mateskis@claytonsd.k12.wi.us. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

MULTIPLE POSITIONS - McMillan Electric Company, Woodville, WI. Now hiring: Mechanical Designer, Buyer, Shipping and Receiving Supervisor, Production Operators (Mon-Fri, 7:00 AM-3:00 PM). Highly competitive salary and generous benefits package. Apply at www.mcmillanelectric.com or email resume to HR@mcmillanelectric.com. 715-698-2488. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

NOW HIRING - 1ST SHIFT OPENINGS - Rosenbauer America, Wyoming, MN. Quality Control Technicians: \$24-\$31/hr; Electrical Assembly: \$22-\$29/hr; Paint: \$22-\$29/hr; Mechanical Assembly: \$22-\$29/hr; Kitting/Materials Handlers: \$22-\$29/hr; Production Supervisors: \$35-\$46/hr. Join our team supporting the missions of saving lives and protecting property. Apply at www.buildfiretruks.com or contact 651-462-8032. 5201 260th St., Wyoming, MN 55092. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

PRODUCTION OPERATORS, PROCESS TECHNICIANS, TEAM LEADS, MAINTENANCE AUTOMATION - Nolato Contour, Baldwin, WI. Stable, fast-growing company. Clean, modern facility with multiple career paths and promotion opportunities. Contact: 715-684-4614 or apply at 660 Vandenberg St., Baldwin, WI. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR - Advanced Food Products, Clear Lake, WI. 3rd shift. Bachelor's degree or 2-4 years food processing/manufacturing experience (previous supervisory experience preferred). Self-motivation and safety awareness required. Ability to manage multiple priorities in fast-paced environment. Details and application at www.afpllc.com/careers/. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

**150
Help Wanted**

PROJECT MANAGER - EM Machine, Grantsburg, WI. Lead projects from planning through delivery. Collaborate with production, engineering, purchasing, leadership. Maintain documentation, schedules, resolve issues, support continuous improvement. Requirements: Manufacturing/industrial project management experience preferred, strong organizational and communication skills, manage multiple projects. Benefits: employee paid health insurance, 401(k) with match, vacation and holiday pay. Call 715-463-3950 or email mike@emma-chine.net. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDE - Grantsburg High School. Full-time, 9-month position with benefits, 7:45 am-3:45 pm. Support students with disabilities in general and special education settings. Provide academic assistance, behavior support, personal care, help implement IEPs. Adapt materials, supervise students, promote social/communication skills, collect progress data. Also perform bus/lunch duty, supervise study hall, office duties. Requirements: State certification as Special Education Aide or ability to obtain. Pay per support staff schedule. Apply via WECAN at <https://wecan.education.wisc.edu/#/> or send letter of application, resume, credentials (3 current letters of recommendation and transcripts) to: Matt Haase, Grantsburg High School, 480 East James Ave., Grantsburg, WI 54840. Open until filled. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AIDE - Grantsburg High School. Full-time, 9-month with benefits, 7:45 am-3:45 pm. Support students with disabilities, academic assistance, behavior support, implement IEPs. Requirements: State certification as Special Education Aide or ability to obtain. Pay per support staff schedule. Apply via WECAN at <https://wecan.education.wisc.edu/#/> or send application, resume, credentials to: Matt Haase, 480 East James Ave., Grantsburg, WI 54840 or matt.haase@gk12.net. Open until filled. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

**150
Help Wanted**

TEACHER / SUPPORT SUBSTITUTES - Grantsburg School District. In-classroom subs (teachers and aides) and support staff (secretaries, custodians, food service). Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent. Teacher/Aide positions require WI DPI licensure or ability to acquire. Must enjoy working with children, excellent communication skills. Send application or resume to: Elizabeth Moritz, elizabeth.moritz@gk12.net, 715-463-2320; Addison Czeck, addison.czeck@gk12.net, 715-463-2455; or Matt Haase, matt.haase@gk12.net, 715-463-2531. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

White Bear Township NOW HIRING Seasonal Maintenance Worker Up to 40hrs/wk, Mon-Fri 7a-3:30p. Applications available at Township Admin Office 1281 Hammond Rd, White Bear Township or at www.whitebeartownship.org

**150
Help Wanted**

White Bear Township NOW HIRING Seasonal Maintenance Worker Up to 40hrs/wk, Mon-Fri 7a-3:30p. Applications available at Township Admin Office 1281 Hammond Rd, White Bear Township or at www.whitebeartownship.org

**351
Antiques**

Antiques Hunting, agates, lamps, postcards, signs, toys, marbles. 651-238-0909.

**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.

**362
Miscellaneous**

Buying sports card collections call Tom 612-701-7396

CAREER FAIR for Schwing America, Inc., February 12th 10am-2pm, 5900 Centerville Rd 55127

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!

**452
Rentals/Residential**

Whispering Pines 2 bedroom apartment available with washer in unit. Rent is \$975. Please call 320-203-7771 for further information.

**501
Real Estate Wanted**

Recently married Army Veteran looking to buy 10+ acres to build a home or purchase an existing home to raise a family. Preferred location Isanti or Chisago County. Call or text 651-278-5882

Where those in the know go

Sell your stuff quickly in the Classifieds. It's simply the best way! To place an ad, stop in at THE ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR or CALL 763.689.1181 OR EMAIL sales@countystar.com TO PLACE AN AD

Arrowhead Transit is hiring full-time & part-time Bus Drivers out of our Cloquet, MN office! Drivers transport passengers to and from designated locations and assist riders as needed. CDL with passenger endorsement preferred; paid CDL training provided for qualified applicants. Starting wage: \$21.93/hr with full benefits and a 403(b) retirement plan with employer match. Apply today at aeoa.org – Careers. AA/EOE. Call the hiring manager with questions at 218-322-6518.

East Central Solid Waste Commission

Mora, Minnesota

Fiscal & Human Resources Director

Status: Full-Time • Location: Mora, MN

About the Position

The East Central Solid Waste Commission (ECSWC), a joint powers organization committed to responsible environmental stewardship and long-term infrastructure planning, is seeking an experienced and motivated Fiscal & Human Resources Director. This leadership role supports financial integrity, operational efficiency, and team development across the organization.

Key Responsibilities

- Financial Management
 - Lead budgeting, accounting, and procurement compliance
 - Oversee payroll, accounts payable/receivable, and general ledger operations
 - Prepare annual budgets and long-term financial forecasts
 - Ensure GAAP-compliant financial practices
 - Support capital project planning and cost tracking
 - Provide financial analysis and reporting to the Executive Director and Board
 - Prepare and monitor the Commission's investment portfolio to ensure responsible and strategic financial stewardship
- Human Resources & Administration
 - Manage recruitment, onboarding, and staff development
 - Develop and maintain internal processes that ensure accuracy, compliance, and efficiency
 - Support cross-department communication and team cohesion
 - Prepare financial and HR updates for the Executive Director and Board

Compensation & Benefits

Starting pay: \$36.17- \$45.82 per hour, based on qualifications and experience, along with a comprehensive benefits package that includes:

- Health insurance
- Retirement contributions
- Paid leave

Application Instructions

Submit a cover letter, resume:

East Central Solid Waste Commission
Attn: Executive Director
1756 180th Avenue, Mora, MN 55001
Or email: johnk@eastcentralsolidwaste.com



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EMPLOYMENT

CAMBRIDGE BUILDING MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

The City of Cambridge is accepting applications for a **full-time Building Maintenance Supervisor position**. Responsibilities include maintaining City owned properties, planning for future maintenance projects, and supervising custodial staff. Maintenance work includes plumbing repairs, HVAC system maintenance, painting, and fixing building/equipment. Position also supervises contractors for certain projects, as needed. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma and equivalent two years moderate experience in building maintenance. Applicants must possess a valid driver's license and boiler's license. Starting salary ranges from \$34.02-\$37.74 per hour. Position is eligible for full benefits including health insurance, retirement plan and paid leave. Applications, as well as a complete job description, can be obtained at Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 or at <https://www.ci.cambridge.mn.us/your-government/employment>.

Application deadline is 4:30pm on February 11, 2026.

CAMBRIDGE PART-TIME CUSTODIAN

The City of Cambridge is accepting applications for a **part-time Custodian position**. Responsibilities include cleaning and maintaining grounds at Cambridge City Hall, City Center Mall and other City owned properties. Normal hours for the position are expected to be 6 am-10 am on Monday-Friday. Minimum qualifications include a high school diploma or GED with considerable experience with custodial work. Applicants must also possess and maintain a valid driver's license. Starting salary will range from \$21.71-\$23.26 per hour depending on qualifications. While the position is not eligible for health insurance benefits, the position does include vacation, sick and holiday pay as defined in personnel policies. Applications, as well as a complete job description, can be obtained at Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 or at <https://www.ci.cambridge.mn.us/your-government/employment>.

Application deadline is 4:30pm on February 11, 2026.

Custodian Full Time

Monitoring, cleaning, and conducting general maintenance on county buildings and grounds, cleaning, sanitizing, and stocking restrooms, vacuuming carpets and mopping floors, washing windows, assisting with seasonal snow and ice removal, and completing reports. \$20.05 to \$26.40 DOQ.



Apply online at www.chisagocountymn.gov by February 17, 2026.

Anoka-Ramsey Community College is Hiring in the areas of **Dental Hygiene, Dental Assistant, and Nursing**, located at our Cambridge Campus.

Did you know that teaching at a 2-year college doesn't require a teaching degree? Most of our General Education Faculty positions require a graduate degree in the field you will be teaching in. Our Technical Faculty are required to have a degree and/or certificate, licensure, and occupational experience in field.

Interested or have questions on whether or not you meet the minimum requirements, please reach out to mindy.labossiere@anokaramsey.edu

Review our open positions:

https://minnstate.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Minnesota_State_Careers?q=anoka



Check out our online jobs board!

Call Kellie at 651-278-5882 for all your employment advertising needs!



We're Hiring

Co-Director | Initiators Fellowship
Help grow rural social entrepreneurship.

Apply by Feb. 16

Visit ifound.org/about/careers

Equal Opportunity Employer, Lender & Provider



Be a part of the much-anticipated 2026 National Pheasant Fest & Quail Classic. The annual national convention and outdoor trade show focuses on wildlife conservation, upland game bird hunting, bird dogs, wildlife habitat management, pollinators and more!

The smart way to sell your stuff!

Call 763.689.1181 or email sales@countystar.com - to place an ad!

BIG GAME WATCH PARTY



Come enjoy The Big Game
Sunday, Feb. 8 at 5:30pm

**.75¢
Wings**

(during game)

**FREE
nacho bar
& chili hot
dogs**

(at halftime)

**Happy hour
pricing on
drinks**

(during game)

*Pull Tabs &
Etabs Available!*

**Saturday
Meat Raffle - 1:30pm**

Bingo - 2pm

LIC #00291



Reservations
Preferred!

*Treat
your Sweetheart*

to a delicious dinner!

SATURDAY, FEB. 14 · 4-9PM

Two Dinner Special

\$65

*add 3 extra
shrimp, deep
fried or boiled
for \$5*

Choice of Walleye (breaded or broiled), Ribeye or Cavatappi with Meatballs & Vodka Sauce

Includes: vegetable, choice of potato, soup, or salad with a dinner roll & dessert to share

Newlywed Game 6:30-7pm (3 lucky couples will be selected to play the Newlywed game)

1st place free night at Isanti Best Western hotel, 2nd place \$50 gift certificate, 3rd place \$25 gift certificate

410 Railroad Ave South, Isanti, MN 55040
(763) 444-9787

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and event updates

