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SAYING GOODBYE: Local veterinarian helps pets cross over the rainbow bridge at home. PAGE 7



Isanti County K9 Officer Maverick was more concerned with playing with his Kong toy than listening to Officer Jonathan VanderVegt (standing) talk about the German shepherd's accomplishments during his official retirement.

BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

K9 Maverick retires from duty

BY BILL STICKELS III  
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Back in 2019, when Isanti County's newest K9 officer was given the name "Maverick," little did anyone know just how appropriate that name would be.

"He's sorta nuts," original handler Officer Jonathan VanderVegt said of the 90-pound German shepherd. "I think his favorite hobby is scaring people walking past my squad car. People walk by, and the whole squad car will start to shake. He became well known for scaring people. He's like a bull in a china shop. He's been a beast on the streets when he needs to be."

VanderVegt relayed a couple of stories where this approach served Maverick and other officers well, both of which involved tracking down a suspect who might have had a gun. The first was in the city of Cambridge where the suspect fired a weapon (perhaps accidentally), causing officers to back off and call in Maverick. The K9 quickly found the suspect and clamped onto his shoulder.

"Maverick was literally spinning the suspect around like a

'He's sorta nuts. He's like a bull in a china shop. He's been a beast on the streets when he needs to be.'

Officer Jonathan VanderVegt  
Maverick's original handler

top," VanderVegt said. "It made our approach much safer since the suspect was on his back with 90 pounds of angry shepherd spinning him."

Another time, officers were tracking a suspect whom they had seen brandishing a gun in his waistband. Maverick tracked him down and grabbed him by the thigh until officers could restrain him. Unknown to the officers, the suspect had pulled the gun from his waistband and laid it on the ground. However, Maverick wound up dragging him about 20 feet away, making the gun unreachable.

In that same incident, VanderVegt said Maverick came

across a pit bull while tracking the suspect.

"You're always concerned about (coming across) other dogs while tracking," he said. "I was concerned the pit bull would interfere with Maverick. So I'm yelling at the guy to get the dog back away, but he just stood there. Maverick just ran by and pushed off the pit bull."

That aggressiveness also led to some comedic scenes. On one call, Maverick was sent into a house a suspect was believed to still be in.

"The guy was in a La-Z-Boy, and he had left it just before we came in," VanderVegt said. "Maverick was so excited to find the bad guys he smelled the guy was just there, so he bit the chair on the armrest and dragged the chair out of the room. He was like, 'Is this close enough, Dad?'"

Unfortunately, that same attitude is what is prompting his retirement.

"He is going to be turning nine," Chief Deputy John Gillquist said. "He is seeing signs of slowing down. His hips are tightening up a little bit. It is a good time to retire

SEE MAVERICK, PAGE 2

Cambridge officially imposes data center moratorium

BY BILL STICKELS III  
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The city of Cambridge is officially placing a one-year moratorium on the construction of data centers within the city limits.

The council had previously instructed staff to do some initial research into data centers in order to determine if an official moratorium is needed. During an official moratorium, more extensive research will be performed leading up to crafting appropriate ordinances and city codes on the subject.

"There is a gap in State regulation surrounding data centers," Community and Economic Development Director Marcia Westover said in her overview of the agenda topic. "It would be best to see if new legislation comes from the State in the next year. If new laws are not produced, at a minimum we've had

'City staff need time to examine potential benefits and risks and prefer to have an ordinance in place prior to a request of this scale.'

Marcia Westover

Cambridge Community and Economic Development Director

a chance to study and research potential ordinance language with a moratorium in place."

Westover said staff looked closely at three proposed data centers in Minnesota: at Pine Island, Monticello, and Hermantown. Through that research, staff came to the conclusion that if a

SEE MORATORIUM, PAGE 2



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Horsing around

Attendees of the Isanti Police Department's Night to Unite Kickoff event got to get up close and personal with one of the Isanti County Mounted Patrol's horses.

|                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29977 Crocus St NW, Isanti<br>4 Bed • 3 Bath • 3 Acres                                                                                               | 8825 Greeley Loop, Braham<br>3 Bed • 2 Bath • 43 Acres                                                                                                          | 420 Village Court, Cambridge<br>3 Bed • 3 Bath                                                                                                        | 808 5th Ave SW, Isanti<br>3 Bed • 2 Bath                                                                                                                                | 3097 325th Ave NW, Cambridge<br>4 Bed • 2 Bath • 3.51 Acres                                                                       |
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# MAVERICK: K9 officer to be replaced by Meeko

FROM PAGE I

him before he injures himself.”

As cold as it may sound, the official procedure for retiring a K9 officer is for the county commissioners to declare him surplus property and sell him to his handler for one dollar.

In this case, Maverick will go live with Officer Nate Fisher, who has been Maverick’s handler since last December.

Rest assured, though, that Maverick will adjust to being retired just fine.

“As crazy as he is at work, at home he’s a completely different animal,” Fisher said. “He’s great around my wife and kids. He loves just lounging in the yard and chewing on his Kong. He’s just a regular dog at home.”

Maverick’s retirement will mean Isanti County will temporarily be without a K9 officer for a few months. Maverick’s replacement, who has already been named Meeko, will be going through training through November before being ready for duty. Officer Fisher will also be Meeko’s handler.



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# Research Brief: Less cannabis use among adolescents, but social disparities persist

New research from the University of Minnesota Medical School found that rates of cannabis use during adolescence have declined since 2013, though some large disparities persist.

Past studies have shown that cannabis use during adolescence is associated with a variety of negative impacts — including emotional distress, adverse academic outcomes and brain development and functioning — that can persist into adulthood. Though there has been an overall decrease in cannabis use among Minnesota adolescents over the past decade, prior studies have been limited in their ability to examine the nuances in this trend — particularly the differences in use between social groups.

Researchers at the University of Minnesota Medical School were determined to dig deeper. Their study, published this week in Social Science and Medicine, used extensive school-based survey data to examine how rates of cannabis use and disparities among its users have changed from 2013 to 2025. Using data from the Minnesota Student Survey, they compared the prevalence of cannabis use across survey years and across social identities, including assigned sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, racial and ethnic identity and socioeconomic status. The researchers examined data from 9th and 11th grade students beginning in 2013.

The study found:

- The prevalence of past 30-day cannabis use declined among adolescents from 2013 to 2025, from 13% to 5%.
- For almost all social identities, marginalized youth (such as youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth) had significantly elevated odds of reporting cannabis use compared to the privileged group on that identity

variable.

- Some social groups — particularly racial and ethnic groups — saw a decline in comparative cannabis use. For example, in 2013, non-Hispanic Black, African or African American youth were 51% more likely to use cannabis than Non-Hispanic white youth; in 2025, they were 10% less likely to use cannabis than white youth.
- Some of the largest disparities remained stable from 2013 to 2025. In particular, American Indian/Alaska Native youth, LGBTQ+ youth and youth experiencing poverty were all three times more likely to use cannabis than white, straight and non-impo-

erished youth, respectively, across the time period.

“This is kind of a good news, bad news story,” said Marla Eisenberg, lead author of the study and a professor in the Medical School on the Twin Cities campus. “We were really glad to see that the major decreases in cannabis use across Minnesota youth were not just limited to some groups. And in some cases, we saw real improvements in terms of disparities. But for LGBTQ+ youth in particular, disparities got better for a while, but then got worse again. This highlights an area we really need to focus on.”

Previous research has shown that social stigmatization — such as bullying rooted in discrimination — is a major contributor to disparities in cannabis use. The researchers recommend that efforts to advance health equity, therefore, will be more effective if they directly address reducing stigma and discrimination, particularly as it affects LGBTQ+ youth.

Research reported in this publication was supported by the University of Minnesota School of Public Health Cannabis Research Center.

# MORATORIUM: Staff gives itself one year to research

FROM PAGE I

hyperscale data center were to be constructed here, most or all of the land would have to be annexed into the city limits. This also means city utilities would need to be extended.

She did note there may be some perceived benefits to a city such as tax base growth, stabilization, and employment opportunities

both during construction and once the data center is operational. She added that what would need to be researched very closely is whether those benefits outweigh the negatives that have frequently been voiced across the country.

“Determining what a ‘regular’ data center is compared to a hyperscale data center will be something that needs to be defined in addition to many other factors,” Westover

summarized. “City staff need time to examine potential benefits and risks and prefer to have an ordinance in place prior to a request of this scale.”

The council unanimously approved the one-year moratorium with little discussion outside of thanking Westover and her staff for their work so far and for the much harder work yet to come.

Green Thumb

Lawn & Garden Guide

HOW TO CREATE A POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE

• Focus on a “healthy” environment, not a perfect landscape.

• Choose plants that provide food and habitat for pollinators.

• Plant a bee lawn. Replace lawn areas that are difficult to mow with shrubs and flowers.

• Adopt best practices in landscape maintenance to improve plant health and eliminate the need for pesticides.

Pollinators help plants that bring us food and other resources. By carrying pollen from one plant to another, pollinators fertilize plants and allow them to make fruit or seeds. Pollinator health is critical to our food system and the diversity of life across the world.

Bees are one of the most well-known pollinators, but there are a variety of other pollinators, including ants, flies, beetles and birds.

Each of us can contribute to pollinator-friendly environments.

• Plant flowers with pollen and nectar.

• Create habitat and nesting sites for pollinators.

• Eliminate the use of pesticides that are dangerous to pollinators.



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MON & THUR  
Alcoholics Anonymous

7p.m. Main Street Church  
6500 Main Street, North  
Branch, MN. Enter West 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-regis-  
ter 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 Luther-  
an 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 minneso-  
tanorth-al-anon.org

Book Club

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

TUES & THURS  
Exercise for Those  
w/Parkinson's

Tuesdays and Thursdays at  
10:15 a.m., 3:45 p.m. and 5 p.m.  
at 115 Adams Street South,  
Cambridge. For more infor-  
mation, call 763-221-6883.

TUESDAYS

Braham Parkinson's Support

3 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 McKenna Dold  
763-691-6172.

Memory Cafe

First Tuesday of every  
month, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at Gra-



FACEBOOK

Flagrant Foul will be teaching improv comedy at the Cambridge Public Library on Aug. 8.

cePointe Crossing Heritage  
Center, 322 River Hills Place  
North, Cambridge. Contact  
Julie at 763-306-5066 for info.

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 Cam-  
bridge(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.

Knitting Night

hosted by the North Branch  
Library. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. All  
forms of needlework welcome.  
Recommended for adults. No  
registration required.

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 liv-  
ing with mental illness. Info:  
651-213-5600 or Adultmental-  
health.org.

THURSDAYS  
East Central Baby Cafe

Free drop-in breastfeeding  
support from 11 a.m. to 12:30

p.m. at the Adult Enrich-  
ment 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 minneso-  
tanorth-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 ecrlib.  
org for info.

Baby Storytime

Co-hosted by Cambridge  
Library and ECFE. Begins  
at 9:30 a.m. at Cambridge

Library through May 21.  
Recommended for ages birth  
to 23 months. No registration  
necessary.

Spring bowling with We R Able

We R Able offers drop-in  
bowling every other Thursday  
evening from 4 to 6 p.m. at  
JJ's Bowl and Lounge, 6427  
Ash St., North Branch. The  
spring season dates are: May  
14, 28, June 11, and 25. Balls  
and shoes are included in the  
fee. For more information call  
320-358-3616.

SATURDAY  
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.

AUG 8

Isanti Street Dance

Skitzo Fonik performs from  
7 to 11 p.m. on Main Street in  
Isanti.

Learn improv comedy

Learn the basics of improvi-  
sational comedy with Flagrant  
Foul from 10:30 a.m. to noon at  
the Cambridge Public Library.  
Ages 8 and up. Registration  
required.https://ecrlib.libcal.  
com/

AUG 11

North Branch Summer Concert  
Series

AJ Spoff performs country,  
rock, pop and original music

at 7 p.m. in Central Park. Food  
trucks at 6 p.m. and story time  
at 6:45 p.m.

Tuesday crafts with Sue

Create summer-themed  
crafts from 6-8 p.m. at the  
North Branch High School art  
room, 38175 Grand Ave. Open  
to all abilities. Info: 320-358-  
3616.

AUG 13

Left-Handed Day bingo

We R Able hosts a 5 p.m. meal  
followed by Left-Handed Day  
and Family Day bingo at the  
Chisago County Senior Center,  
North Branch. Suggested meal  
donation \$5-10. Info: 320-358-  
3616.

Dine and discover:  
Alzheimer's and dementia

Learn about dementia diag-  
nosis, treatment and caregiver  
support at 9 a.m. in North  
Branch, noon in Chisago City  
or 3:30 p.m. in Rush City. Reg-  
ister by Aug. 7: 651-674-1025.

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 Thursday of

month)

CHISAGO COUNTY

38790 6th Avenue, North  
Branch

Mon, Wed, Fri.

Exercise with Connie - 10:30  
to 11:30 a.m.

Monday & Wednesday

500 - starting at 12:45 p.m.

Tuesdays

Music - provided before the  
meal - 11:15 a.m.

Dominoes - starting at 10  
a.m.

Thursdays

Bingo - starting at 10 a.m.

Hand and Foot - starting at  
12:30 p.m.

Fridays

Cribbage - starting at 12:45  
p.m.

# Minnesota DNR invites conversation about wildlife

Everyone interested in wildlife is  
invited to chat with the Minnesota De-  
partment of Natural Resources' wild-  
life managers in DNR offices across the  
state, or by phone, on Thursday, Aug. 20  
from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

"People have a lot to talk about when  
it comes to Minnesota wildlife and  
habitat, and we're asking folks to please  
stop by or give us a call," said David  
Trauba, DNR wildlife section manager.  
"Hearing people's experiences with  
wildlife and what's important to them

helps us connect what we do with how  
people experience the outdoors, and  
that's immensely valuable."

Conversation topics can include any-  
thing related to wildlife. Hunters might  
have questions about public land and  
how to access it, hunting regulation  
changes, or how wildlife is faring in  
their area. Bird watchers might want to  
hear about wetland and prairie resto-  
ration projects taking place nearby.  
Others might benefit from discussing  
techniques to manage damage to agri-

cultural crops caused by wildlife.

While the Aug. 20 office hours pro-  
vide dedicated time for conversations  
about wildlife, DNR staff are always  
happy to talk with members of the pub-  
lic throughout the year.

These wildlife conversations began  
in 2018 with the release of the state-  
wide deer management plan (mndnr.  
gov/deerplan) and have continued and  
broadened to encourage discussions  
about all wildlife and habitat topics.

When it comes to deer, potential top-

ics include general discussions about  
deer, upcoming hunting season chang-  
es, chronic wasting disease manage-  
ment, topics for the DNR deer advisory  
committee's consideration, and other  
thoughts and feedback regarding deer  
management.

To find an area wildlife office location  
and contact information, visit the Min-  
nesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/wild-  
life/talk-about-wildlife.html). -MN DNR

# Get out and vote

Next Tuesday, Aug. 11, is an extremely important date. Why? It is Minnesota's primary election.

For many years, the primary election was only for the staunchest of political interests. There were often few to no local races in which a primary election was triggered. The city of Cambridge didn't even call for primary elections for mayor or city council until 2018. Since then, though, every election year has seen at least one local race trigger a primary, with the most (six) coming in 2022.

This year, there are four races across Isanti and Chisago Counties: Cambridge City Council (seven candidates for two seats), Isanti Mayor (four candidates), Isanti County Commissioner District 5 (three candidates), and Chisago County Commissioner District 2 (three candidates).

Some will say the local primaries aren't all that earth-shattering. In all honesty, I can't totally argue with that. Only one candidate will be eliminated from the county commissioner races, two from the Isanti Mayor race, and three from the Cambridge Council race. That means all of the candidates have at least a 50% chance of advancing to the general election.

But if you have a candidate you really want to advance — or conversely one or more candidates you really don't want to advance, it is imperative to vote. In primary elections, it isn't unusual for someone to get eliminated by only a few votes.

There's another, even bigger reason to vote this year. Several statewide races feature contested primary races for one or both political parties. In the Minnesota Governor's Republican race, not one but two candidates have chosen to ignore the "official" party endorsement and remain on the ballot — meaning there will be three names on the ballot. For Tina Smith's US Senate seat, both parties have contested primaries.

This means the general voting public once again has the power to decide who they would prefer to see on the general election ballot. Even more so, we have the power to dictate the future of statewide elections. These votes could very well establish if we are content to continue on relying on the party endorsement or if we should dismantle that process and start fresh with what admittedly might turn into a free-for-all in the primary.

Granted, there are rules specific to state-wide primary elections that mandates voting for candidates in only one of the political parties. This does tend to be problematic for us true independents who don't solely associate with a single party. However, I just view it as needing to prioritize which party's races I would rather help determine who is going to be on the general election ballot.

Thus, the combination of the local and state-wide primary races makes it almost more important than ever to do your civic duty and get out to vote both on Aug. 11 and especially on Nov. 3.

**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](mailto:editor@countystar.com).



Worth a Thousand Words  
Bill Stickels III



## Ask a Trooper: A refresher on stop signs

**Q**uestion: I have a question on stop signs procedures. Can you go over this? I think it would be good for everyone to be aware as I think some people forget or get confused. Thank you for all you do.

**A**nsWER: Yes, I can. That is a great topic and something that can and should be covered.

**Stop Signs:**

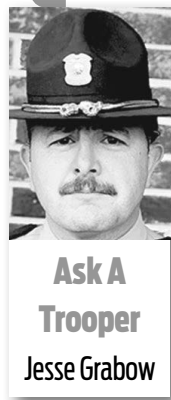
- Come to a complete stop at stop signs.
- If there is a marked stop line, stop before the line.
- If there is a pedestrian crosswalk, stop before entering the crosswalk.
- Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists and traffic before proceeding.

**Obstructed View:**

- If your view of the intersection is obstructed, be prepared to stop again for traffic or pedestrians in your path.

You must also come to a complete stop:

- Before entering a road from an alley, private



Ask A Trooper  
Jesse Grabow

- driveway, parking lot or parking ramp. Always stop
  - before crossing a sidewalk or crosswalk.
  - At an intersection or crosswalk with a traffic signal displaying a red light. Wait until the light turns green and your path is clear before proceeding.
  - At any intersection or crosswalk, marked or unmarked, where a pedestrian or bicyclist is crossing
  - the road. Stay stopped until they have passed your lane.
  - At a flashing red traffic light. Treat it as you would a stop sign.
  - At a freeway ramp meter when the light is red.
  - At a railroad crossing with a stop sign.
  - When a flag person or traffic device directs you to stop.
  - At a bridge that has been raised to open a path for boats.
- A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on "X" @ MSPPIO\_NW or reach him at, [jesse.grabow@state.mn.us](mailto:jesse.grabow@state.mn.us)).

Let your voice be heard

Send letters to:

[editor@countystar.com](mailto:editor@countystar.com)

## Your Best Source for Community Information

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ISANTI-CHISAGO

# COUNTY STAR

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Noon Tuesday

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

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

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Noon Monday

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# Where community and college come together

Honestly, how is it August already? The older I get, the faster time seems to move!

That said, as I cling to these last summer days, I also begin to feel the excitement for what's next at this time of year. Students are preparing for new classes, new opportunities, and new goals. Families are helping loved ones take their next steps. Across our communities, we see the energy and optimism that comes with a fresh academic year.

At Anoka-Ramsey Community College, the start of the semester is about much more than registering for classes. It is about opening doors.

Community colleges have always played a unique role in helping people move forward. Whether a student is coming straight from high school, returning after years in the workforce, exploring a career change, or taking classes while balancing work and family responsibilities, everyone deserves a welcoming place to learn and grow. That commitment to access, affordability, and opportunity remains at the heart of everything we do.

One of the things I appreciate most about the Cambridge Campus is the strong connection between the college and our local communities. Our current and former students are your neighbors, coworkers, family members, and friends. Local employers help shape workforce training programs. Community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, School Districts and more partner with us to support student success. Together, we create oppor-

tunities that strengthen not only individual lives but our entire region.

That spirit of collaboration will be on full display during Experience Anoka-Ramsey on August 5 and August 12 at the Cambridge Campus.

Experience Anoka-Ramsey is designed to help new students feel connected before classes even begin. Students often discover that success in college is about more than what happens in the classroom. During Experience Anoka-Ramsey, they can connect with advisors, tutoring services, disability support services, TRIO and other student support programs that are available at no additional cost. They can learn about academic programs, meet faculty members, explore student clubs and organizations, connect with athletics and even learn more about campus dining options.

Perhaps most importantly, they can begin building relationships.

Starting college can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be. Research and experience consistently show that students are more likely to succeed when they feel welcomed, supported, and connected. Experience Anoka-Ramsey allows students to put faces to names, ask questions and begin feeling like they belong here from day one.

As we prepare for another academic year, I continue to be inspired by the students who choose Anoka-Ramsey as the starting point for their educational journeys. Their goals may differ, but they share a common desire to learn grow, and create a better future for themselves and their families.

If you know someone who is considering college, exploring career options, or simply wondering what opportunities might be available to them, I encourage them to visit us. The doors are open, the welcome is genuine and the possibilities are endless.

**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



Anoka-Ramsey  
Shannon Kirkeide  
Dean of Academic and Community Outreach

## Allina Health earns national recognition for sustainability efforts

Allina Health earned national recognition from Practice Greenhealth for its sustainability efforts. The system and individual sites, including all its hospitals, received awards.

Allina Health received the System for Change Award for setting systemwide sustainability goals and tracking progress and outcomes.

Abbott Northwestern Hospital received a Greenhealth Leader Award and a Circle of Excellence Award for Waste.

12 additional Allina Health sites received Greenhealth Champion Awards: Buffalo Hospital, Cambridge Medical Center, Faribault Medical Center, Mercy Hospital, Mercy Hospital – Unity Campus, New Ulm Medical Center, Owatonna Hospital, River Falls Area Hospital, St. Francis Regional Medical Center, United Hospital, United Hospital – Hastings Regina Campus and Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Institute – Golden Valley.

“We’re honored to be recognized by Practice Greenhealth for the progress we’ve made in reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions across our health system,” said Suzanne Savanick Hansen, manager of environmental sus-

tainability, Allina Health. “These awards reflect the commitment and creativity of our teams and the measurable impact of the sustainability programs we’ve implemented.”

Systemwide, Allina Health continues to strive toward the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050. These goals align with the international Health Care Climate Challenge.

Thanks to the ingenuity of Allina Health care team members, Allina Health has developed innovative ways to support initiatives, including the sustainability revolving fund. The health system created a budget to fund projects to reduce environmental impact. Savings generated through energy-efficient projects are reinvested in future sustainability measures.

With the sustainability revolving fund, the health system has purchased energy efficient lights as well as reusable metal trays for operating rooms at United Hospital in St. Paul. The trays help maintain sterility for surgical instruments while eliminating large amounts of single-use blue wrap that previously was discarded after each use.

“The investment in these trays will save more than \$100,000 annually while significantly reducing the amount of plastic waste generated in our operating rooms,” said Hansen.

The health system continues to use Rheaply, a reuse platform that allows surplus furniture and supplies to easily be redistributed within the system or properly donated, rather than being discarded. Green Teams, which consist of employees who support sustainability efforts at the sites, continue to lead projects such as a metal recycling initiative, Clean Sweep Days, in which they clean out storage areas and identify reusable items, and Earth Day events.

Buffalo Hospital, River Falls Area Hospital and St. Francis Regional Medical Center each purchase 100% renewable electricity from their utility providers.

“Our responsibility to community health extends beyond the care we provide in our hospitals and clinics,” Hansen said. “Reducing waste, lowering emissions and supporting environmental stewardship are import ways we help keep our communities healthy and safe.” ~ Allina Health

*Editor's note: Cambridge City Council candidate Ronda Szlavich returned her primary election guide answers ahead of our deadline, however they were inadvertently omitted from last week's edition. We apologize for this error.*

### CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL



RONDA SZLAVICH

City of residence: Cambridge

**Why are you running for election for Cambridge city council?**

After attending several Cambridge City Council meetings, it became clear that our leadership needs change. Every day, I read about how frustrated our residents are with recent ordinances, policies, and decisions. Too often, citizens show up to meetings only to be ignored. I share that frustration. I chose to run because I refuse to sit on the sidelines. I am running to be a clear, listening voice for everyone in Cambridge who feels unheard. Together, we can bring transparency and community-focused leadership back to city hall.”

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

A city council exists to serve its residents, yet too many neighbors in Cambridge feel completely ignored when complex ordinances and policies are passed. We cannot fix divisive local issues until we repair the broken communication between council leadership and the public.

If elected, I will push for accessible digital summaries of upcoming votes and active community outreach. By prioritizing transparency, we ensure every resident has a real voice. I am running to ensure city hall finally starts listening to you again.

**What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?**

My voting process relies entirely on deep research and active communication. First, I will gather public input directly from Cambridge residents by posting social media polls and engaging in online discussions to get real feedback. Second, I will do thorough, exhaustive research on every angle of the presented topic. Finally, I will collaborate with fellow council members to understand their perspectives. Clear communication is the absolute key to local governance. I will never vote blindly; my decisions will always be shaped by hard facts and the verified voices of the community.

## Back-to-School Giveaway will offer free clothing and school supplies

North Isanti Baptist Church will hold its 9th annual Back-to-School Giveaway on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 12-13, from 12-7 p.m. both days.

Items available to area families will be: new or gently used children's and adult clothing, shoes, boots, coats, hats and mittens, as well as new socks and underwear.

In addition to free donated shoes, new shoes will be available for purchase for \$3 (cash only) from the Twin Cities' nonprofit "Shoe Away Hunger," which will be set up in a separate building on-site.

School supplies (no backpacks) will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis with some restrictions. No pre-registration is necessary.

Free children's haircuts will also be offered.

The church is located at 2248 313th Ave. NE, Cambridge (near Cambridge Middle School). Call the church at 763-689-3576 with questions. ~North Isanti Baptist Church



Pickup your local Star for current news in your community and more!

ISANTI-CHISAGO  
COUNTY STAR

# Free food featured at Cambridge, Isanti Night to Unite



A staple of most Night to Unite events is getting together and meeting your neighbors over free food. (Left photo) Cambridge’s event again featured root beer floats. (Middle photo) All area events offered hot dogs. (Right photo) Isanti’s event again offered treats from the Now That’s Waffles food truck.

## Talking food safety and cyclospora with the University of Minnesota

Though Minnesota has seen no confirmed outbreak clusters of cyclospora infections, 41 states have reported cases, including larger outbreaks in Michigan and Ohio. The cyclospora parasite causes severe intensive gastrointestinal issues including explosive and watery diarrhea.

University of Minnesota Extension Educator Autumn Stoll, who specializes in food safety, shares what consumers can do at home to prevent illness and put their minds at ease.

Q: Should Minnesotans be concerned about cyclospora in Minnesota?

Stoll: As of July 27, the number of suspected cases of cyclosporiasis has jumped to 11,500 in 41 states, with more than 4,000 cases confirmed. Given this surge in cases, it is likely that there are more sources of contamination beyond the iceberg lettuce that was initially implicated. Cilantro and parsley are suspected in some outbreak clusters in North Carolina, but haven’t been confirmed. There may be other sources. Previous outbreaks have been linked to other crops such as snow peas, raspberries, basil, cilantro, bagged spring mix and green onions. Most of these crops are eaten fresh, not cooked. While it’s reasonable to be cautious, we

are hearing reports of people skipping fresh fruits and vegetables altogether or avoiding all lettuce. That isn’t necessary. We recommend people continue enjoying fresh produce while following good food safety practices and monitoring foodborne illness outbreaks via the CDC and food recalls via the FDA. Consumers are advised to continue to use best practices such as washing all produce under running water and cooking produce to 158 degrees Fahrenheit to kill potential pathogens.

Q: Are Minnesota-grown crops at risk?

Stoll: In Minnesota, the majority of produce growers use well water to irrigate their vegetables. This well water is far less risky than surface water like ponds or streams, since it is not open to the environment and is not likely to have fecal contamination. Therefore Minnesota-grown produce is not likely to be implicated in the outbreak or be contaminated with cyclospora. As a part of regular risk-reduction on their farms, growers are recommended to test their well water each year for generic E. coli, which indicates fecal contamination.

Q: How does this parasite spread?

Stoll: Cyclospora is a foodborne par-

asite that causes an intestinal illness called cyclosporiasis. Symptoms of cyclosporiasis include severe diarrhea, abdominal pain, vomiting and nausea. Fortunately, cyclospora is not spread from person to person. However, the parasite is spread through human feces, taking up to two weeks to become infectious once passed. Cyclospora spreads when the infectious parasite contaminates food or water that is then consumed by others or used on or around produce. After a person consumes contaminated food or water, it can take up to two weeks before symptoms appear, making outbreaks difficult to trace the source of cyclospora. Anyone can become infected with cyclospora, but certain groups are more likely to develop severe illness or complications, including young children, older adults, pregnant individuals and immunocompromised people.

Q: What can people do to reduce risk?

Stoll: The only reliable way to inactivate cyclospora is to cook contaminated food to an internal temperature of at least 158 degrees Fahrenheit. Washing produce does not reliably remove all cyclospora, but it can help reduce contaminants. Do not wash produce with soap, bleach, vinegar or other special wash

water additives. These wash water additives are not effective at removing cyclospora, and any residue left on produce may cause an upset stomach.

When preparing fruits and vegetables, remove the outer leaves of leafy greens, and then rinse the remaining leaves under cold running water. Scrub the rind of firm produce with a soft brush before peeling.

Keep up-to-date on current foodborne illness outbreaks and food recalls. Keep fresh produce in its original packaging whenever possible. The packaging contains important information such as the brand, lot number, and purchase details, which can help you determine whether a product is included in a food recall.

Q: How does your work at the University of Minnesota support food safety in the state?

Stoll: Extension’s food systems team offers a wide range of education to ensure consumers, cottage foods producers, food service professionals and fruit/vegetable growers follow safe and best practices for producing safe food — and protecting Minnesota consumers from illness. Learn more at extension.umn.edu. ~ University of Minnesota Extension

### ISANTI AND CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORTS

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on July 19 - Aug. 1. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

**Cory Lawrence Rosa** (DOB 01/17/1986) of Saint Cloud, was charged July 22 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

**Brett Randall Terrell** (DOB 06/12/1973) of Tuscaloosa, AL, was charged July 22 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

**Richard Leon Baldwin** (DOB 02/21/1980) of Minneapolis, was charged July 23 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

**Paul Allan Haataja** (DOB 09/30/1984) of Isanti, was charged July 24 with Burglary-1st Deg-Dwelling-Occupied-Non-Accomplice Present.

**Brock James Locker** (DOB 03/05/2006) of Isanti, was charged July 24 with one count of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Great Bodily Harm - Gross Negligence; one count of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Great Bodily Harm - Under Influence Alcohol; three counts of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Substantial Bodily Harm - Gross Negligence; and three counts of Criminal Vehicular Operation - Substantial Bodily Harm - Under Influence Alcohol.

**Bailey Robert Kollmer** (DOB 01/09/1997) of Willernie, was charged July 27 with Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon.

**Chong Xiong** (DOB 04/07/1982) of Saint Paul, was charged July 28 with one count of Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent; and one count of Receiving Stolen Property.

**Delray Auers Wilkinson** (DOB 04/25/1993) of Isanti, was charged July 29 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

**Christopher Lee Schimmelman** (DOB 03/28/1997) of Isanti, was charged July 30 with one count of Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon; and one count of Theft-Take/Drive Motor Vehicle-No Owner Consent. On July 31, he was

charged with one count of Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon; one count of Threats of Violence -Reckless Disregard Risk; and one count Threats of Violence - Display/exhibit/brandish replica/BB gun; Cause or Attempt Cause Terror.

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on July 19 - Aug. 1. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

**Shawn Patrick Herrera** (DOB 04/10/1974) of St. Paul, was charged July 22 with Issue Dishonored Check-Offense.

**Perry Easton Lockrem** (DOB 02/27/2005) of North Branch, was charged July 22 with Theft-Take/Drive Motor Vehicle-No Owner Consent.

**Jonathan William Strobel** (DOB 08/06/1996) of Sartell, was charged July 27 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

**Steven Edward Ackerman** (DOB 05/27/1964) of Wyoming, was charged July 28 with Domestic Assault - By Strangulation.

**Lucas William Wolf** (DOB 01/20/1981) of Champlin, was charged July 28 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

**Amanda Marie Partridge** (DOB 03/29/1988) of Chisago City, was charged July 30 with Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent.

**Michael David Rowles** (DOB 01/30/1996) of North Branch, was charged July 31 with one count of Assault - 4th Degree - Peace Officer - Demonstrable bodily harm; and one count of Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

**Shawn Christopher Wlaschin** (DOB 03/05/1986) of Lindstrom, was charged July 31 with Burglary - 3rd Degree - Enters w/out consent with intent to Steal/Commit Felony or Gross Misdemeanor.

**Misty Dawn Scott** (DOB 10/20/1974) of Lindstrom, was charged July 31 with Burglary - 3rd Degree - Enters w/out consent with intent to Steal/Commit Felony or Gross Misdemeanor.

## Minnesota August 2026 starwatch

BY DEANE MORRISON  
MORRIO29@UMN.EDU

This year, August serves a smorgasbord of celestial delights in both the morning and evening skies.

In the west, Venus is still bright, though steadily sinking into the sunset. On the 16th, its beauty will be enhanced by a young crescent moon shining next to it.

During the first half of the month, the Andromeda Galaxy — the Milky Way’s closest large neighbor galaxy — will be near the northeastern horizon at nightfall and perhaps easier to find than when it’s high in the sky. Look for a faint smear of light to the lower right of the W-shaped constellation Cassiopeia and to the left of the Great Square of Pegasus, which will also be near the horizon. Binoculars will help. The Andromeda Galaxy is approximately 2.5 million light-years away and belongs to the constellation of the same name.

In the morning sky, the iconic winter constellations are sweeping westward past Mars. The red planet begins the month between Orion and the brilliant star Capella, in Auriga, the charioteer, and ends it near the Gemini twin stars, Castor and Pollux. A waning moon joins Mars on the 9th. On the 10th, the moon forms a nearly isosceles triangle with Castor and Pollux.

This year no moon will interfere with the annual Perseid meteor shower, which should peak in the predawn hours of the 13th. Perseid meteors are fast, often colorful and known for leaving persistent trails.

On the night of the 27th to 28th, the full moon glides through Earth’s umbra, or dark inner shadow, in a deep lunar eclipse. The moon makes first contact with the umbra at 9:34 p.m. on the 27th; reaches maximum eclipse at 11:13 p.m., when about 94 percent of the moon will be engulfed in the umbra; and ends with the moon’s exit from the umbra at 12:52 a.m. on the 28th.

# MN DNR reports heightened fish mortality during prolonged heat

With hot summer weather creating stressful conditions for fish in lakes, rivers and streams across the state, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is sharing what people can do if they see a fish mortality event — and how they can help prevent them.

“We have been seeing chronically stressful conditions this summer for fish and are receiving continued reports of fish mortality events,” DNR Fish Health Supervisor Isaiah Tolo said. “People should be aware that they might see dead fish. We also want them to know what to do to report these events and what actions they can take to protect our fisheries.”

## CURRENT CONDITIONS AND MORTALITY EVENTS

Reports from the public, public utilities and fisheries staff have recorded surface water temperatures of 86 degrees Fahrenheit and higher in several Minnesota lakes and the Mississippi River. Cold water fish like lake cisco and other salmonids become stressed when water temperatures exceed 75 degrees and cool water species like northern pike can handle temperatures up to 84 degrees.

Fish mortality reports for 2026 so far include 212 reports spanning 102 waterbodies across the state, as far north as Lake of the Woods on the state’s northern border and as far south as Albert Lea on the southern border.

Among those reports, the Fish Health Laboratory received 65 reports for 29 waterbodies in a four-day period from July 16-20. Notably, fish are particularly susceptible to mortality in lake systems impaired by excessive nutrients, caused by urban and agricultural runoff. That’s because the conditions in these lake systems already pose a challenge for fish by accelerating decomposition and algae growth, and then are affected by low dissolved oxygen availability and warmer water

temperatures.

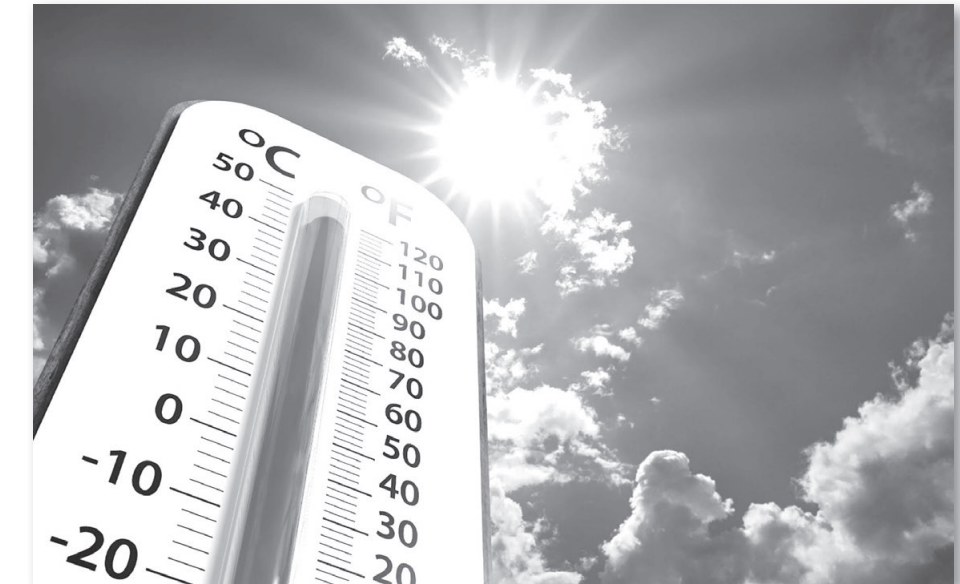
The recent string of reports is the second of two “pulses” of elevated fish mortality events this summer. The first happened throughout June following rapid high temperatures after a colder winter and primarily affected lakes in the Twin Cities metro area. The current pulse is happening due to consistent high temperatures with little precipitation and is affecting a wider distribution of lakes across the state with varying levels of water quality.

A notable number of recent mortality events are affecting species that are sensitive to high temperatures. These include northern pike and muskellunge, cisco, and larger fish of all types because they have a smaller gill surface to body mass ratio compared with smaller fish. For example, several events report hundreds of dead northern pike with few other species affected. Dead and dying cisco have been reported on Lake Koronis in Stearns County. Large dead lake sturgeon have been washing ashore on Otter Tail Lake in Otter Tail County. The wide distribution of these events in the state indicates that fish populations across the state are experiencing similar conditions.

Water temperatures during Minnesota summers are increasing, and this summer is no exception. On average, according to climatology data, Minnesota lakes are about 3 to 4 degrees warmer and have lost an average of 10-14 days of ice cover in the last 50 years. The continued warming trends accelerate decomposition and algae growth. Research also indicates that summer fish kills are likely to increase with climate forecasts.

**HOW TO HELP**

Minnesotans have a role to play in preserving and protecting the state’s fisheries. Anyone can report fish



mortality events they observe on the Minnesota DNR website ([mndnr.gov/fishkills](http://mndnr.gov/fishkills)). This webpage also includes details about what can cause these events.

“Reports from members of the public are an important way we receive information about fish mortality,” said Tolo. “Those reports reach an interagency team of fish and water quality professionals.”

**HOMEOWNERS AND LAND MANAGERS**

Those who own and manage waterfront property have an important role to play in protecting and restoring natural shorelines, which are important parts of good habitat for fish in their lakes. Promoting lake and stream-side tree cover and aquatic plants in lakes helps establish thermal refuges for fish. Information on natural shorelines and restoration is available on the DNR website ([mndnr.gov/lakescaping/index.html](http://mndnr.gov/lakescaping/index.html)). Riparian and non-riparian landowners alike can help reduce nutrient runoff into lakes and rivers, an important step in improving the

overall resiliency of aquatic ecosystems. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has useful tips on preventing runoff, and restoration ([pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/minimizing-fish-kills-in-minnesota](http://pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/minimizing-fish-kills-in-minnesota)).

**FISHING IN HOT WEATHER**

Anglers should be aware that fish are stressed due to warm water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen availability and are at a higher risk of experiencing angling mortality, which means fish are less likely to survive after being caught, handled and released.

Anglers should be cautious during heat waves, especially if they are targeting species sensitive to thermal stress such as pike, muskellunge and walleye. Avoid overhandling fish during these conditions.

More information about fish mortality events in general, as well as links to other resources and agencies involved in responding to these events, is on the Minnesota DNR website ([mndnr.gov/fishkills](http://mndnr.gov/fishkills)). - MNDNR

# Saying goodbye to a beloved pet at home

**BY SIERRA KINGEN**  
EDITOR@HINCKLEYNEWS.COM

Pets bring joy, compassion, life, and love to a pet owner’s life. However, there does come a time in every owner’s life where they must say goodbye to their beloved family member. This is where Dr. Renee Schott steps in.

For many pet owners, the hardest appointment is also the hardest ride: the final drive to a veterinary clinic with an animal who is sick, frail, or in pain. In rural communities, that drive can be even more difficult. Families may have to travel long distances while trying to keep an ailing pet calm and comfortable. Many do not realize that another option exists.

Dr. Schott, a North Branch-based veterinarian with 16 years of experience, is helping families across east central Minnesota say goodbye to their pets through in-home pet euthanasia with CodaPet.

“In-home pet euthanasia is a medical service where a veterinarian comes directly to a family’s home to gently and compassionately end a pet’s life,” Dr. Schott explains. “It focuses on comfort, dignity, and peace, allowing a beloved animal to pass away in the place where they feel safest, surrounded by the people who love them most.”

**PROCESS**

While the medical objective is identical when it comes to euthanasia, the sequence and experience look very different. For in-office procedures, the family must transport the pet, navigate a public lobby, and enter a clinical exam room. The process often moves according to the clinic’s rigid daily schedule. For the in-home procedure, Dr. Schott explains she enters the home quietly, introduces herself, and meets the family and pet where they are most comfortable. “Whether that’s on a living room rug, a favorite dog bed, or under a tree in the backyard.”

After the introductions and area is established, Dr. Schott begins the next stage; sedation—the comfort stage, “I administer a gentle sedative that allows the pet to fall into a deep, completely pain-free sleep over five to 15 minutes,” Dr. Schott states.

This time period allows the family a calm, uninterrupted window to stroke their pet, share stories, and say their final goodbyes.

Once the pet is fully asleep, the final injection is given. According to Dr. Schott, it is a peaceful and completely painless stage.

“If the family has chosen cremation, I handle the transition of the pet’s body to my vehicle with the utmost care and dignity and make the necessary

arrangements,” Dr. Schott explains. This is the final stage of in-home euthanasia; aftercare.

**BENEFITS**

In-home euthanasia has different benefits than bringing a sick pet to the veterinary office. “Pets remain calm in their own territory, which is especially important for animals with severe mobility issues, pain, or high veterinary anxiety,” Dr. Schott explains.

Other benefits of pursuing in-home euthanasia are privacy for grief. According to Dr. Schott, families can openly express their sorry, cry, and say goodbye without feeling rushed or watched by strangers in a public waiting area.

Household companions can be present to witness the passing, which helps them understand the loss and prevents the behavioral distress that often occurs when a friend simply disappears. Rural convenience is another benefit Dr. Schott says in-home euthanasia has, “For rural families, it eliminates long, painful, drives to a distant clinic with an uncomfortable or actively dying animal.”

**CHALLENGES**

However, unlike scheduling a time with the vet, in-home euthanasia comes with unique challenges.

“In rural areas, veterinarians face long drive times across significant distances,

navigating unpredictable county roads and changing weather conditions,” Dr. Schott explains.

Unlike a controlled, sterile clinic, every home layout, lighting situation, and physical space is different. A mobile veterinarian must be highly adaptable to ensure the medical aspect goes flawlessly, regardless of the surroundings.

“Providing this care requires balancing the technical, precise medical needs of the animal with the intense, unique emotional needs of a grieving family in their personal space,” Dr. Schott says.

**DR. RENEE SCHOTT**

“Since focusing heavily on mobile end-of-life care with CodaPet at the start of 2026, I have had the privilege of supporting 256 families through this transition in their homes,” Dr. Schott says.

Long before that, she frequently provided this gentle gift privately for friends and family in the comfort of their own homes. “Because my background includes years as a wildlife veterinarian, I have also performed a vast amount of euthanasia for wild animals, where minimizing stress and ensuring a peaceful, dignified passing is the absolute highest priority.”

**PRICING**

In-home services generally carry a higher cost than a

standard in-clinic procedure. Dr. Schott says this difference accounts for the veterinarian’s dedicated travel time, vehicle mileage, and the fact the doctor is blocking out a significant, exclusive window of time to focus entirely on one family rather than seeing multiple patients an hour in a clinic setting.

**GETTING INTO CONTACT**

If a family chooses to say goodbye to a loved one at home, families can use specialized online networks like CodaPet, which connect pet parents directly with compassionate, licensed local veterinarians offering mobile end-of-life care in the family’s specific zip codes. “Local primary care clinics are also a great resource, as they often keep a trusted list of mobile practitioners to refer to when a family requests at-home care.

“I often tell people that while this is the hardest day in a pet parent’s life, being able to provide a soft, peaceful landing for a beloved animal is some of the most meaningful work I do,” Dr. Schott adds.

Families can learn more about Dr. Schott’s in-home pet end-of-life care, service area, and what to expect during a visit through at <https://www.codapet.com/veterinarians/dr-renee-schott>.

OBITUARIES

## Arlene G. Stensrud

Arlene G. Stensrud, of Cambridge, MN, went home to be with Jesus on August 2, 2026, at the age of 99.

She was born to Lars and Leonora (Orpen) Balandby in Chicago on May 19, 1927. During the Depression the family moved to Iowa for work opportunities and eventually purchased a farm where they raised crops, chickens and hogs. Arlene’s first language was Norwegian.

Arlene was a born teacher. As a very young child she would create worksheets on her little typewriter for anyone who would be her student. She graduated from high school in Kensette, IA and then earned a war-time teacher certificate from Waldorf College. Over the years she continued her education and ended up one credit shy of her Master’s Degree. She started her 39 year teaching career at the age of 19 teaching high school business and shorthand. Sometimes her students, who came back from the war, were older than she was. Later she taught elementary students in Iowa and Osceola, WI. In recent years, several of those 4” grade students from Joice have kept in regular contact with their favorite teacher “Miss B”.

Arlene met Robert Stensrud when he returned from the service in 1948 and they married in 1950. They were a match designed by God. Both were active in their community, sports, music, church and had many friends.

Rod was born in 1953 and Randy in 1959. Arlene was a pioneer for women in the workplace as she went back to teaching when Rod was 2 weeks old. She and Bob were always there to support their kids in school, sports, music lessons, church activities, fun birthdays and memorable holidays. The kid’s friends were welcome in their home and always got a good snack or meal.

After moving to Cambridge, MN in 1964, Arlene had a long career teaching English and Middle School reading. She loved the challenge of turning kids. (especially young boys who hated to read) into successful readers. Bob and Arlene made great efforts to create special memories for their nephew Lane and niece Lana who lost their mom as babies

Arlene loved to decorate for every holiday even including fall, winter, spring and summer. Christmas Eve fondue became a family tradition that we continue to this day.

After waitressing in Denver one summer, Arlene discovered a passion for cooking and finding new recipes. Beautiful presentation of the food was as important as the ingredients

Bob and Arlene liked to golf, take drives, travel, fish and eat breakfast out. Every summer Arlene would plan a big educational trip for the family which was always a week too long for Bob. Attending grand-children and great-grandchildren’s events and activities were an important focus of their life. They loved coming to the cabin in the summer. After Bob passed in 2006 Randy became Arlene’s lifeline for 20 years. His selfless dedication and attention to Arlene’s needs allowed her to stay in her home until she couldn’t walk and spent 4 months at Gracepoint in Cambridge.

Her sharp mind and memory was clear to the very end. She was anxious to get to her heavenly home but was grateful for an amazing 99 years on earth. She made the world a better place.

She will be missed by Randy, Rod (Noel), Greta (Trevor Larson), Adeline, Hugh, Abby (Scott Pirnstill), Ryan, Jack, Ross (Amanda), Sutton, Shep, her brother Richard (Julie), Lane, Lana and all of the Stensrud nieces and nephews and everyone who knew and loved her.

At her request a private memorial service will be held.

Blessed be her memory.

Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home & Cremation Services of Cambridge. [www.carlsonlillemoen.com](http://www.carlsonlillemoen.com)



## William G. Stickels Jr.

William George Stickels Jr. died peacefully in hospice on July 28, 2026. He was 83 years old.

Bill was born in Sioux City, IA on Feb. 10, 1943, the oldest of five children of William Sr. and Adele. He graduated from Sioux City Central in 1961 and enlisted in the Air Force in 1963. During his service, he was stationed overseas in Crete.

While he was stationed at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois towards the end of his time in the Air Force, a twist of fate introduced him to the love of his life, Betty (Gerber). They were married in St. Louis, MO on November 4, 1967.

The two moved to Minneapolis, MN and then St. Louis Park, MN, where their son, William (Bill) III was born in November 1970. They moved to Cambridge in 1972, where their daughter Wendy was born in April 1975.

Over the years, Bill worked for multiple companies in small wiring assembly, plus a stretch as a deputy for the Isanti County Sheriff’s Office and a



part-time EMT in Cambridge.

In his spare time Bill enjoyed the outdoors, camping, hiking, fishing, taking photos, listening to music, and watching sports. He loved nature and all kinds of animals, but especially the family’s dogs — Yankee, Shadow, Rommel, Tia, and Mollie; plus “grand-dogs” Lucy, Louie, and Rudy.

More than anything, he loved spending time with his family, whether that was coaching his son’s hockey teams, spending countless hours in chalk-filled gymnastics gyms as his daughter’s number one supporter, or doing anything with his wife.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother.

He is survived by his wife Betty; his son Bill III of Cambridge; his daughter and son-in-law Wendy and James Rooney of Cambridge; brothers Ron (Angie) Stickels of Hot Springs, AR, Scott (Eileen) Stickels of Tyler, MN, Walt (Shirley) Stickels of Riverton, WY; sister Barb (Mark) Bradshaw of Dakota City, NE; and numerous nieces and nephews.

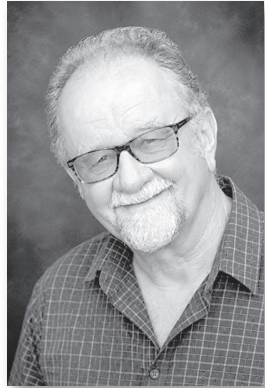
A Celebration of Life visitation will be held on Thursday, Aug. 13 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home, 311 Ashland St. S, Cambridge. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to your favorite animal rescue organization, the Cambridge Police or Isanti County Sheriff’s Office’s therapy K9 programs, or the East Central MN Chapter of Let’s Go Fishing.

## Donald Lee Behrmann

Donald Lee Behrmann, affectionately known to family and friends as “Don” passed away peacefully with his wife by his side on July 24, 2026, at the age of 73. He lived a life defined by love for his family, exhibited a strong work ethic he inherited from his parents, and a deep appreciation for the outdoors.

Born on November 21, 1952 in Montevideo, MN, Don was the son of George Behrmann and Emma (Hieb) Behrmann. He grew up with the values of integrity and kindness that would guide him throughout his life.

Don was united in marriage to his loving wife Mary Jo, on August 20, 1988 at Joy Lutheran Church in Cambridge. They built their



## Janice E. Nelson

Janice E. Nelson, age 85, of Isanti passed away on July 31, 2026 at CountrySide Living in Grasston. Her final days were spent with Curt, Colleen, Walt and grandkids by her side.

Janice Elaine Nelson was born on January 5, 1941 in Minneapolis to Hjalmer and Ruby (Stoie) Anderson. Jan grew up in Fridley, Minnesota; raised in the home that her father and grandfather built. She was in the very first graduating class at Fridley High School in 1959.

In 1960, she married Kenneth Nelson at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fridley. They made their home in Fridley and had two children, Gail and Curtis. In 1972, they moved to Isanti, Minnesota. Jan was able to live in this house until September of 2025, at which time she moved in with her son and his wife. In February, Jan moved to Grasston to spend her final months living at, and being loved on, by the owners and staff at CountrySide Living.

Jan earned her associates degree in 1989 from Anoka Ramsey Community College-Cambridge Campus. Over the years, Jan worked at many different companies, the last, and most memorable was Blue Fox Tackle where she proudly told everyone she was a “happy hooker”. Over the years, she enjoyed yearly camping trips to Poplar River Campground, campfires, gardening, and hosting family and friends. In later years, she enjoyed scrap booking, watching football and NASCAR and hanging out with her children, grandchildren and friends. Gma Jan was able to enjoy many winters in Florida with Gail and her family. And loved going to as many of her grandchildren’s activities as she could.

Jan is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Curt and Colleen Nelson; son-in-law, Walt Edel; grandchildren, Christine, Michael, Matthew, Alicia and Noelle; great-grandchild, Owen; special friends, Angie, Shannon, Gordy, and Art and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and friends. Jan never met a stranger. She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ken; daughter, Gail Edel; and sister, Darlene Finnamore.

A special thank you to Kelli and Corey from CountrySide Living and the staff at St. Croix Hospice for loving on Gma Jan and taking such great care of her.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17 at Strike Life Tributes in Isanti. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Burial will be in Isanti Union Cemetery. Online condolences can be placed at [StrikeLifeTributes.com](http://StrikeLifeTributes.com).



BECOME A

Hero

Donateblood

Public visitation 10-11 a.m., Saturday, August 8, 2026 at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home. Family service at 11 a.m.. Interment in Cambridge Union Cemetery. A Public Celebration will be held Saturday, August 29, 2026 at Don and Mary Jo’s home beginning at 2 p.m.

OBITUARIES

Muriel Maxine “Tootsie” Bloom Shand

Muriel Maxine “Tootsie” Bloom Shand, age 86, of Cambridge passed away July 26, 2026 at GracePointe Crossing.

Muriel was born December 18, 1939 in Milaca, Minnesota to Marvin and Lillian (Hagglund) Bloom.



She was raised in Milaca and graduated from Milaca High School in 1957. On February 1, 1964 Muriel married James Shand. They made their home in Minneapolis until 1971 when they moved to Isanti. They were active members of Long Lake Lutheran Church for many years. After James passed away, Muriel moved to North Isanti Baptist Church to be close to family and became an active member. Muriel was employed as a secretary at several places, including many years at Honeywell.

Muriel loved time with her grandkids and great-grandkids, serving at church, traveling, baking, playing games and she was a big MN Vikings fan. She was a faithful servant, wonderful mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

She is survived by her children, Michael (Debbie) Shand, Jacquelyn Koecher, and Jennifer (Brian) Bergman; grandchildren, Tyler, Nick and Chris Koecher, Jake (Kayleigh) Bergman, Kristin (Bradley) Fisher, and Ben Bergman; great-grandchildren, Evelyn, Layla, Eleanor and Henry; half-brothers, Roger (Kathy) Bloom, and Alan Bloom; and by other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, James; brother, Vernon Bloom; sister, Shirley Janzen; sister-in-law, Nancy Bloom; and brother-in-law, John Janzen.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 29 at North Isanti Baptist Church in Cambridge with a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be in the church cemetery. Online condolences can be placed at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

Walter “Wally” Lee Rieken

Walter “Wally” Lee Rieken, age 77 of Isanti, passed away unexpectedly surrounded by his family at home on July 26, 2026.

Wally was born on August 17, 1948, in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, to Walter and Maerena (Johnson) Rieken. He grew up in Fergus Falls before moving to Bloomington, where he graduated high school in 1967. On May 26, 1973, he married Jacque Lynn Gramer, beginning a life-long partnership rooted in love, loyalty, and the steady teamwork that carried their family through every season. After living in Burnsville and Champlin, they settled in Isanti in 1978; a home Wally filled with hard work, humor, and unwavering devotion to the people he loved.



Wally spent decades as a Heavy Equipment Operator and took great pride in being a Local 49er. He was one of the hardest workers anyone could meet: steady, skilled, and always willing to put in the extra effort. At home, his happiest hours were in the pole barn, surrounded by tools, tractors, and whichever shop cat had claimed him for the day (especially Smokey). But his greatest joy was his family. He showed his love through the work of his hands, the reliability of his presence, and the quiet ways he made life better for everyone around him.

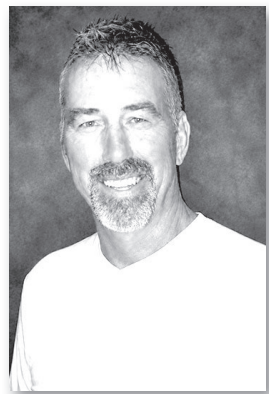
He is survived by his wife, Jacque; children, Tricia Rieken, Todd (Melissa) Rieken, and Jennifer (Craig) Nystrom; sister, Patricia Staff; grandchildren, Emily and Allie Nystrom; Ella, Andrew, Brynna, and Avery Rieken; and many relatives and friends who will remember his kindness, his humor, his unmatched work ethic, and the deep love he carried for his family. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service was held Friday, July 31 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Isanti. Online condolences can be placed at: StrikeLifeTributes.com.

Jay Alan Quarnstrom

Jay Alan Quarnstrom, 65, of Cambridge, MN, passed away on July 31, 2026, surrounded by his loving family, after a courageous and hard-fought battle with pancreatic cancer.

Jay was born on August 31, 1960, in Braham, MN, to Milo and Wanda (Kienitz) Quarnstrom. He graduated from Cambridge High School with the Class of 1978. Jay moved to Texas, where he began working in masonry alongside his lifelong friend, John Collins. During those years, Jay developed the skills, strong work ethic, and dedication that would guide him throughout his career. After returning to Minnesota, he worked for Crosstown Masonry and later for M.A. Mortenson Company. A proud member of Cement Masons Local 633, Jay became a respected general foreman and cement finisher.



Throughout his career, Jay was known as a respected boss and leader. He led by example and earned the admiration of those who worked alongside him through his diligence, fairness, and commitment to excellence. His work took him throughout the United States, where he contributed to the construction of many well-known sports stadiums and arenas.

Jay retired at the age of 55 and moved to Winter Haven, Florida for a few years. Later, he returned to his Minnesota roots and came out of retirement to work once again for M.A. Mortenson Company, completing Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas as his final project. Afterward, he began volunteering at Prairie Senior Cottages in Isanti. His volunteer work developed into a fulfilling part-time position that he held for five and a half years. Alongside his wife, Julie, whom he married in 2016, Jay devoted himself to caring for the residents and enriching their lives as much as they enriched his.

Jay found his greatest happiness in life’s simplest moments-taking golf cart rides in Florida with Julie while looking for gators, sitting together on their porch, or enjoying a game of Rummy 500. He cherished the special bond he shared with each of his sons, Brian, Colton, and Mason, and loved taking road trips to Texas. Jay also shared a special bond with his step-granddaughter, Kynlee.

An avid golfer, Jay participated in many men’s golf leagues with his longtime golf partner, Jim Blossberg. He also traveled throughout several states to golf with his good friend, Dale Gustafson. Above all, Jay took tremendous pride in his three sons, Brian, Colton, and Mason, and in all they accomplished.

Jay was preceded in death by his parents, Milo and Wanda Quarnstrom; and his sister-in-law, Connie Stamm.

He is survived by his loving wife, Julie; sons, Brian Quarnstrom, Colton Quarnstrom, and Mason Quarnstrom; stepchildren, Amanda Aherin, Tyler (Kelsea) Peterson, and Emily (Tyler) Carpenter; four grandchildren; eleven step-grandchildren; siblings, Julie (Jerry) Nelson, Mona (Les) Herman, Kathy (Richard) Smith, Jim (Kathy) Quarnstrom, Susan (Dale) Anderson, and Kelly (Jeff) Lillemoen; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends.

Memorial Service 7 p.m. Monday, August 10, 2026 at Cross Pointe Church, 34047 Blackfoot St. NW, Cambridge. Visitation two hours prior to the service. Interment Isanti Union Cemetery. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home of Cambridge. carlsonlillemoen.com

Tanya Karen Krueger

Tanya Karen Krueger, 53, of St. Cloud, MN, formerly of Cambridge, passed away July 31, 2026 of natural causes.

Tanya was born July 12, 1973 in Rochester, Minnesota to John and Karen (Jacobson) Krueger. She entered this world just seven minutes after her twin brother Eric. Her family joked she was in a hurry to get here to make sure her twin didn’t get to have all the fun without her.



Tanya’s family spent time living in Rochester, MN and Waseca, MN during her early years. In 1979 the family moved to her mother’s home town, Cambridge, MN where they stayed. She attended Cambridge Public Schools.

Throughout her childhood Tanya could be found either getting the highest score of anyone on her Ms PacMan Atari game, or roller skating around the neighborhood. Those skates rarely came off her feet, and when an actual roller rink opened in town, she was more excited than anyone. Tanya also loved attending dance class and was the star of the show at recital time. At home she and her friends would turn on her dad’s stereo and dance to the music.

As a young adult, Tanya fell in love with the city of St. Cloud. She made her home there and stayed for all of her adult life. Tanya loved her “town” and was always eager to show her guests all the unique places she found that made St. Cloud so special to her.

While Tanya did not have children of her own, she cherished her four nephews and spent hours having fun with them. Her nephews lit up when they knew Auntie Tanya was coming to visit. Two of their most memorable activities were laying outside and finding shapes in the clouds, and crawling under the Christmas tree looking up at the lights.

Tanya spent several years driving school bus for the St. Cloud public schools, and then later drove for Gold Cross Medical Transport. She loved meeting all the new people who rode with her, but especially loved her regulars and often brought them small gifts and candy.

Tanya is survived by her parents John and Karen Krueger of Cambridge, sister Julie Krueger-Higgins (Steve) of Cambridge, twin brother Eric Krueger of Braham, nephews Bradley Anderson Jr., Samuel (Lauren) Anderson, Benjamin Higgins, and Anthony Krueger, aunts and uncles Pam (Steve) Baar, Mark (Charlene) Jacobson, Kent Jacobson, Ed (Karen) Krueger, Gloria Karsky (Jerry McFarlane), Carmen (Dean) Briggs, also many cousins, other family members and friends.

Memorial Service is at 2 p.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2026 at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home. Visitation one hour prior to the service. carlsonlillemoen.com

Flagrant Foul teaches the art of improvisational comedy

Play Inc. Arts will introduce participants to the fundamentals of improvisational comedy during a free program at the library on Saturday, Aug. 8.

The “Learn Improv Comedy with Flagrant Foul” program will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon and is open to ages 8 and older. Families are welcome to attend and watch, but registration is required for each person who plans to participate in the improv activities.

The session will be led by Flagrant Foul, a troupe of comedy performers from Play Inc. Arts.

Play Inc. Arts is a community arts organization serving Cambridge, Isanti and the surrounding area. The organization aims to provide opportunities for both visual and performing artists to develop their skills while encouraging creativity and personal growth. It also offers programs designed to expand public appreciation of the arts and welcomes both students and adults interested in exploring artistic opportunities.

Those interested in participating can register in advance at <https://ecrlib.libcal.com/> - East Central Regional Library

Bear season: Get license, review rules

Hunters who entered the lottery for a bear hunting license should check whether they were selected. The MN DNR mailed postcards to lottery winners in early June, and hunters also can check their status on the DNR website.

The deadline to purchase a lottery-awarded bear license is Saturday, Aug. 1. Any unsold lottery licenses will be available to eligible hunters beginning at noon Wednesday, Aug. 5.

Hunters purchasing a license online or through the DNR’s mobile app must first create an online account. Those who have previously purchased a license online, by phone or in person will need their nine-digit MNDNR number, found on their most recent license, to set up the account.

Hunters interested in purchasing an unsold license should create an account before Aug. 5, as licenses sell out quickly. - MNDNR

Send your business news, accomplishments and awards to [editor@countystar.com](mailto:editor@countystar.com).



# WORSHIPguide

## Baptist

**First Baptist Church**  
 304 S. Main St., Cambridge,  
 763-689-1173. Call the church office or  
 visit our website for current service  
 times and programs.  
[firstbaptistcambridge.org](http://firstbaptistcambridge.org)

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

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

## Catholic

**Christ the King**  
 305 Fern Street N  
 Cambridge, MN 55008  
 763-689-1221  
 Tuesday 6 pm Mass  
 Friday 8:30am  
 Saturday 4pm  
 email [brigitte@isantiacc.org](mailto:brigitte@isantiacc.org)  
 Website: [isantiacc.org](http://isantiacc.org)

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**  
 207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.  
 763-444-4035  
 Email: [brigitte@isantiacc.org](mailto:brigitte@isantiacc.org)  
 Mass: Wed. 8:30am.  
 Sun. 8:30am.  
[isantiacc.org](http://isantiacc.org)

## Evangelical Covenant

**Karmel Covenant Church**  
 5799 County Road 6, Princeton MN  
 763-389-3169  
 Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis  
 Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson  
 Sunday School for All Ages (school  
 year only): 9-10 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship (in person & online):  
 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday Programming (school year  
 only):  
 Family meal at 5:30 p.m. with  
 AWANA and Youth Group from  
 6:30-8 p.m.

## Evangelical Free

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

**Kost Evangelical Free Church**  
 37405 Kost Trail, North Branch, MN –  
 Jct. of CR 11 & CR 72  
 651-583-3281 • [Kostchurch.org](http://Kostchurch.org)  
 Pastor Josh Jensen  
 Sunday worship service 9:30 am fol-  
 lowed by fellowship & Sunday School  
 Youth group Wednesdays 7 pm  
 Respawn Gaming Ministry for teen  
 boys – 2 Fridays per month.

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

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

## Lutheran

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

**Calvary Evangelical Lutheran  
 Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)**  
 Pastor Vicki Vandervegt.  
 320-358-4829, 600 Rush Point Dr.  
 10:30am Worship with Fellowship fol-  
 lowing  
[my.calvaryofrushpoint.org](http://my.calvaryofrushpoint.org).  
 Office: [calvaryrushpoint@gmail.com](mailto:calvaryrushpoint@gmail.com)

**Cambridge Lutheran Church  
 (ELCA)**  
 621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge  
 763-689-1211  
 Traditional/Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.  
 Contemporary/Commons: 9:30 a.m.  
 KidZone 9:30 a.m.  
[www.cambridgelutheran.org](http://www.cambridgelutheran.org)  
 Facebook: [fb.com/Cambridgelutheran](https://fb.com/Cambridgelutheran)  
 YouTube: [tinyurl.com/Cambridgelutheran](https://tinyurl.com/Cambridgelutheran)

**Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)**  
 32962 Vickers St. NE, Cambridge, 763-  
 689-5333  
 Pastor Samuel L. Biebert.  
 Sunday Worship 9am, Sunday School/  
 Bible Class 10:30am  
[www.christcambridge.com](http://www.christcambridge.com)

**First Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
 43779 Gates Ave., Harris.  
 651-674-4498. Handicapped accessi-  
 ble.  
 Pastor Vicki VanderVegt  
 Sunday Worship 9:20am  
 Coffee & fellowship following service  
 Email: [firstlutheran@q.com](mailto:firstlutheran@q.com)  
[www.firstlutheranharris.org](http://www.firstlutheranharris.org)

**Joy Lutheran Church  
 (Missouri Synod)**  
 33525 Jefferson Street NE, Cambridge  
 763-689-4355  
[www.joylutheran.net](http://www.joylutheran.net)  
 Pastor James Ritter  
 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service  
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

**Living Branch Lutheran Church  
 (LCMS)**  
 6486 Elm St (PO Box 335),  
 North Branch  
 651-674-5576  
 Pastor Glen Kleppe  
 Sunday Worship 10am  
[www.livingbranch.org](http://www.livingbranch.org)  
 email: [office@livingbranch.org](mailto:office@livingbranch.org)

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

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
 4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017.  
 763-689-1687  
 Join us for worship every Sunday at  
 10:30  
 Sunday School 11:00 resuming in the  
 Fall  
 Coffee fellowship after worship  
[www.salemlutherandalbo.com](http://www.salemlutherandalbo.com)

*This directory is paid for and made possible by  
 the participating churches listed. Proud to  
 sponsor and salute our local churches*

**Spring Lake Lutheran Church  
 (ELCA)**  
 8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958,  
 North Branch, MN 55056 (9 mi. E. of  
 Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one  
 block on Erickson Road).  
 651-674-4606.  
 Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.[slchurch.org](http://slchurch.org)  
 Email: [slchurch@gmail.com](mailto:slchurch@gmail.com)  
**8:15am** Worship with fellowship fol-  
 lowing

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

**St. John's Lutheran Church  
 (Missouri Synod)**  
 980 West 4th Street, Rush City  
 320-358-3623  
 Sunday 8:45am Worship  
 Monday 10am Longer Look Bible Study  
[stjohnsrushcity.org](http://stjohnsrushcity.org)

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
 (Missouri Synod)**  
 400 SE 8th St., (Isanti #4 E.), Braham  
 320-396-3103  
 9 :15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible  
 Study.  
 8am Worship.  
[ststephensbraham.org](http://ststephensbraham.org)

**Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
 38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch  
 651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon  
 In person and online worship  
 9 a.m. Worship  
 10 a.m. Coffee Hour/Fellowship  
[www.trinitynorthbranch.org](http://www.trinitynorthbranch.org)  
[office@trinitynorthbranch.org](mailto:office@trinitynorthbranch.org)

## Methodist

**Common Ground - A United  
 Methodist Community**  
 404 Cypress St. North, Cambridge.  
 763-689-2071.  
 Pastors Amelia & Andrew Buschena.  
 Sunday 9:30am Worship.  
 Livestream of services and more info  
 at [commongroundumc.org](http://commongroundumc.org).  
 Everyone Counts!

## Non-Denominational

**Grace Gospel Church**  
 37126 MN-65, Stanchfield, MN 55080  
 Coffee fellowship: 9:45am  
 Service: 10:00am  
 Pastor: Tim Miller  
[www.gracegospelmn.org](http://www.gracegospelmn.org)  
[info@gracegospelchurchmn.com](mailto:info@gracegospelchurchmn.com)  
 Located just north of Grandy on 65,  
 across from East Central Diesel, with  
 three large crosses near the road.  
 We look forward to having you!

**Journey of Faith**  
 Bible based worship.  
 651-600-9878.  
[faiththroughaction777@gmail.com](mailto:faiththroughaction777@gmail.com)  
 Sunday fellowship 9am  
 Worship & Youth Ministry 10am  
 Come as you are. All welcome.  
 Junction Bowl. 123 Cajima Street, NE,  
 Isanti. Refreshments served.

**JustPassinthru IHS Ministries**  
 Becoming Agape – Allowing the Holy  
 Spirit to  
 transform lives  
 763-228-0883  
 Meeting at Crossroads Commons  
 1001 1st Ave. E., Suite 100, Cambridge  
 MN  
[justpassinihs@gmail.com](mailto:justpassinihs@gmail.com)  
[Justpassinthru.net](http://Justpassinthru.net)  
 Pastor Tom Bakke  
 Sunday mornings at 10 am  
 Sunday nights and Wednesdays



**763-689-3360**

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# CLASSIFIEDS

55

Motorcycles

**For sale** 1985 Honda Classic Night Hawk 700. Runs good. New battery and title. 320-496-0199 \$1000

56

Campers/RV's

FOR SALE: 2019 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel Camper. Forest River Sierra 42' long, 6 Slide outs, Many accessories. Used only 5 months. Stored indoors. Like new. \$39,500 Call Jim 612-390-1699

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

150

Help Wanted

Centennial School District NOW HIRING: Kid's Club Staff, Custodians, Nurses, Food Service Staff, Para-professionals To apply visit: [isd12.org/join-our-team](http://isd12.org/join-our-team)

EMS Clinical/Student Success Coordina-tor - Northwood Tech, part-time (1,250 hrs/yr), any campus (Ashland, New Richmond, Rice Lake, Superior). Build clinical partnerships, support EMS students. Grant-funded through 6/30/27. Apply by 8/14/26: [northwood-tech.edu/employment](http://northwood-tech.edu/employment) Find this ad and others at [www.applylocal.jobs](http://www.applylocal.jobs)

Food Service Worker - Clayton School District. Food prep, meal service, dishwashing, cleaning. Up to 5.75 hrs/day, starting \$18.11/hr, training provided. Open until filled. Send letter/resume: [sturzlp@claytonsdk12.wi.us](mailto:sturzlp@claytonsdk12.wi.us) Find this ad and others at [www.applylocal.jobs](http://www.applylocal.jobs)

150

Help Wanted

Greenview, Inc. - Custodial Work: PT light custodial work at Wild River State Park, MN. For age 55+ workers. Apply: [www.greenviewmn.com](http://www.greenviewmn.com) or call 651-639-1913. Find this ad and others at [www.applylocal.jobs](http://www.applylocal.jobs)

Hospice of the Midwest is looking for volunteers. Please, scan QR Code for more info

Northwood Tech Job Openings - College Health Nurse, New Richmond (FT): support student/staff health & wellness. Math Lab Specialist, Rice Lake (PT): help students build math confidence. Apply: [northwoodtech.edu/employment](http://northwoodtech.edu/employment) Find this ad and others at [www.applylocal.jobs](http://www.applylocal.jobs)

Route Driver - Murtha Sanitation, Baldwin WI. Part-time/full-time, family owned. Side load & front load routes. Call to inquire: 715-684-3700 Find this ad and others at [www.applylocal.jobs](http://www.applylocal.jobs)

150

Help Wanted

PT Childcare Provider - Clayton School District Bears Club. Provide daycare for ages 2?10, up to 29 hrs/week. HS diploma preferred, \$18.11/hr. Apply by 8/14/26: [sturzlp@claytonsdk12.wi.us](mailto:sturzlp@claytonsdk12.wi.us). Find this ad and others at [www.applylocal.jobs](http://www.applylocal.jobs)

PT Special Education Secretary - Grantsburg Elementary School, hiring for 2026-2027. See details at [gk12.net](http://gk12.net) or contact lbby Moritz, 715-463-2320, [elizabeth.moritz@gk12.net](mailto:elizabeth.moritz@gk12.net). Find this ad and others at [www.applylocal.jobs](http://www.applylocal.jobs)

SEMI-TRUCK DRIVERS - Quality Grain Services. Hopper bottom trailers, 150-mile radius WI/MN. Full/part-time/fill-in. Home nightly, no weekends. \$22-24/hr, 401k. Call (715) 495-1233 or (715) 643-2307. Find this ad and others at [www.applylocal.jobs](http://www.applylocal.jobs)

154

Full Time

**Class A Truck Drivers**  
Year round work available. Regional propane in Fall & Winter. Sand & Gravel in Spring/Summer. Full time. Home nightly. Great benefits. \$28-\$32/hr. [www.plaistedcompanies.com/job-listing/](http://www.plaistedcompanies.com/job-listing/) to apply or call Anna at 763.633.6593

300

For Sale

2007 Glastron GX 185 BR \$13,400  
 Used – Like New Red & White Sporty bow rider. Volvo Penta 3.0. Only 154 hours! Engine is gone over every yr. Just changed oil. Aft sun pad, floor storage locker, glove compartment, storage under seats, and engine compartment for lots of storage. Cockpit cover. Bow cover. Bimini top. AM/FM CD stereo. Depth sounder  
 Quick release bumpers. Snap in/out cockpit carpet  
 Extended swim platform with fold down ladder. Comes w/ trailer and extra tire . Trailer has breakaway tongue. Seating in perfect condition w/ no rips, tears, or sun damage. Always stored indoors, summer and winter.  
 Cash only  
 651/\*328\*7288

300

For Sale

2019 Spark Jetski 2 Up. Only 128 Hours. Includes floating lift and top of the line Triton trailer w/ MN life-time license. Call Jim 612\*/396\*5183

**Selling my 90 year old father's 2014 Lexus 460L 65,000 miles. White. Has always been garaged. Serviced at Mplwd \$24,900 or Best Offer 612\*/599\*1729**

362

Miscellaneous

**Antiques Wanted.** Hunting, fishing, trapping, logging, Lake Superior agates, advertising signs, art glass, Swedish/Norwegian items. Agates, Central Minnesota. Gary. 651-238-0909.

358

Firewood

**2 cord loads** of 16" mixed hardwood, oak, or birch \$475. 2 cord loads of 20" oak \$450. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815.

362

Miscellaneous

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

452

Rentals/Residential

**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

**Apartments for rent** near Mora, two bedroom senior apartment. Utilities included. No smoking or pets. \$1,100/month. efficiency apartment no washer or dryer no smoking or pets \$850/month call/text 320-250-5199 320-360-5568

452

Rentals/Residential

Pine City - newly remodeled 1100sf home All new appliances. Lake access. \$1,600 per month. Includes all utilities. (763) 286-2810.

452

Rentals/Residential

**Mora Apartments** 1 bed, 1 bath, \$875/month. Studio \$740/month. Washer/Dryer on-site. No pets, no smoking/vaping/e-cigs. 612-470-3319, [moratroveproperty@gmail.com](mailto:moratroveproperty@gmail.com)

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

YOU'VE GOT IT.

Someone else wants it!

Call 651-278-5882 to place an ad



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# EMPLOYMENT

**OFFICE MANAGER  
ATTORNEY**

Provide high level administrative and organizational support to the County Attorney's Office possessing general oversight over all functions and workflow. Directly supervise and direct the work of Legal Assistants, Paralegals and other support staff.



**Chisago COUNTY USA**

**\$41.56 - \$54.73  
DOQ.**

**Apply online at  
www.chisagocountymn.gov  
by August 17, 2026.**

**FINANCIAL SERVICES AND  
CHILD SUPPORT MANAGER**

Provide overall support, direction and management for all of the Income Maintenance Programs, Child Support services, managing program planning, service design and program implementation, especially related to the Income Maintenance Programs and Child Support services.



**Chisago COUNTY USA**

**\$49.50 - \$65.18  
DOQ.**

**Apply online at Minnesota Merit System by  
August 17, 2026:  
https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/  
mnmeritsystem**



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## SUMMER ACTIVITIES FUN & FREE

|                                                                                                              |                        |                                                                          |                                                                                                                                             |                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>DISCOVER DOWNTOWN<br/>CAMBRIDGE CONCERTS<br/>(STREET DANCES)<br/>5:30pm-8:30pm<br/>Downtown Cambridge</b> |                        |                                                                          | <b>ANNUAL ARTS &amp; CRAFTS<br/>FAIR &amp; CHALK ART<br/>CONTEST<br/>Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup><br/>10am-3pm<br/>City Center Mall</b> |                                               |
| June 18                                                                                                      | Bad Jack               | Classic, southern and party rock                                         |                                                                                                                                             |                                               |
| July 16                                                                                                      | Jonah & The Whales     | 70's, 80's, 90's, 00's and more                                          |                                                                                                                                             |                                               |
| Aug 20                                                                                                       | Ragtown                | Country to classic rock                                                  |                                                                                                                                             |                                               |
| <b>CONCERTS IN THE PARK<br/>5pm-7pm<br/>Cambridge City Park</b>                                              |                        |                                                                          | <b>KIDS' EVENTS<br/>10am-2pm<br/>Cambridge City Park</b>                                                                                    |                                               |
| June 26                                                                                                      | Big Shots              | Tribute to Billy Joel                                                    | June 25                                                                                                                                     | Bounce Houses in the Park                     |
| July 31                                                                                                      | American Heartland     | Tribute to CCR, Bob Seger, Tom Petty, John Mellencamp, Bruce Springsteen | July 23                                                                                                                                     | Art in the Park                               |
| Aug 28                                                                                                       | The Culture Collective | Tribute to Prince                                                        | Aug 27                                                                                                                                      | Little Blue's Traveling Zoo & Snake Discovery |

**All events have a backup location for bad weather. More info available on the city website.**



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