



ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
 Rob Sanvik Agency
 651-237-0977
 (North Branch / Chisago)
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 763-689-2028
 (Cambridge)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024
 VOL. 118 NO. 45 COUNTYSTAR.COM

FALLING JUST SHORT: North Branch Viking volleyball, football finish as section runner-ups. **PG 9**

2024 LOCAL GENERAL ELECTION WINNERS

**Isanti County
Commissioner Dist. 1**



Alan Duff
2,582 (59.71%)

**Isanti County
Commissioner Dist. 3**



Steve Westerberg
2,821 (68.75%)

**Isanti County
Commissioner Dist. 4**



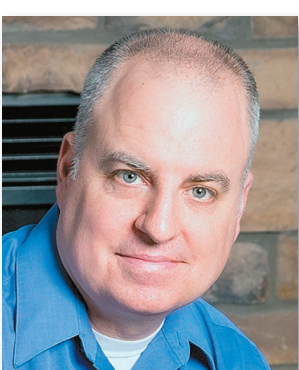
Todd Christensen
2,097 (54.24%)

**North Branch
Mayor**



Kevin Schieber
3,173 (56.95%)

**North Branch
City Council**



Jeff Goulet
2,280 (27.12%)

**North Branch
City Council**



Robert Canada
1,859 (22.12%)

SEE ELECTION WINNERS, PAGE 8

South Main Street project concerns center around traffic impact

BY BILL STICKELS III
 EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

In a somewhat surprising change of pace, a public hearing regarding a street improvement project that included the construction of a roundabout yielded no objections to the controversial traffic flow controller. Instead, multiple Cambridge residents focused their objections on the shrinking of South Main Street from four lanes to three.

According to City Engineer Greg Anderson, the plans for the reconstruction project that is set to be completed next summer include changing South Main Street from Highway 65 north to 24th Ave SW to one driving lane in each direction, plus having a center lane for left turn only in either direction. In addition, there would be right turn dedicated lanes where needed along that stretch.

Anderson further clarified those plans, saying there wouldn't be any "left turn lanes to nowhere" in the areas where there is no intersection. For those stretches, an "island" would be painted in yellow that could be converted to a turn lane in the future if new intersections were constructed.

He added that from 24th Ave SW to downtown, where the pavement is obviously newer and not in need of repair, plans call for re-stripping it to three lanes.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTYSTAR

For the stretches of South Main Street that don't currently require a left turn lane, the center lane will be striped like this.

SEE CONCERNS, PAGE 2

Donnay new Health and Human Services Division Leader

BY BILL STICKELS III
 EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

It might not have started out that way, but Jodi Donnay has now been given her dream job in being named Isanti County Health and Human Services Division Leader.

"I really did not envision myself working in public service," Donnay said. "My training and experience and license is in marriage and family therapy."

That all changed almost 19 years ago to the day when Donnay was hired for a position at that time titled mental health worker (currently titled behavioral health unit). In 2013, she was promoted to supervisor of the Aging and Disabilities Unit. "(But) as I said in my in-

terview process, I have been looking forward to this (being named Division Leader) for a very long time," Donnay continued. "I really found a home working for Isanti County. I was born and raised here, I raised my family here."

The Health and Human Services Division covers a broad range of departments, including Aging and Disabilities, Behavioral Health, Child Support, Children's Services, Financial Assistance and Economic Support, and Public Health. Some of the services it provides are adoption, adult protection (mainly dealing with vulnerable adults), various child services, services for people with developmental disabilities, financial services for

low-income residents, immunizations, and the milk depot, just to name a few.

"I'm just so passionate and excited for the work that we do," Donnay said.

Through working with the county over the years, Donnay has become well versed in adult mental health, which Donnay said "has undergone so many changes in my time as a supervisor."

Now, though, she is looking forward to working with, and getting to know better, the other areas of HHS.

"I'm so excited to learn more about the other areas of Health and Human Services where

SEE DONNAY, PAGE 2

FEATURED LISTINGS

RUM RIVER CONDOS #112 & #207
 610 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti
 1BR/1BA and 2BR/1BA condos with shared amenities, heated garage, storage, patio, & secure access.
\$149,900 & \$164,900

VACANT LAND
 XXX County Rd 5 NW, Isanti
 47 acres recreational land w/ hunting shack, ponds, woods, possible build site, views, & abundant wildlife.
\$225,000

BUILDABLE LOT
 1945 Parker St, Mora
 Last lot available! 1.17 acres in a quiet neighborhood near schools, hospital, trails, & shops. Ideal walkout.
\$42,000

COMMERCIAL LAND
 1400 Highway 23, Ogilvie
 Attention developers & investors! Prime 4-acre retail site offers exceptional visibility & business opportunities.
\$465,000



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DONNAY: New Division Leader has worked for county since 2005

FROM PAGE 1

I'm not as well-versed," she said. "But I feel I do come in with a good deal of knowledge and experience collaboratively working with many other departments within Isanti County."

Donnay will be taking over for Penny Messer, who will be retiring at the beginning of January after 15 years as HHS Division Leader.

"Penny has done an amazing job as a leader," Donnay said. "She is leaving us in a really great place."

Donnay's first day on the job will be Nov. 28, which will give her and Messer around one month to create a smooth transition of power.

"I really think that is essential in order to set me up to know what I'm doing when I do take the reigns from her in January," Donnay said.

For her part, Messer is very pleased with Donnay being named her successor.

"The board and the interviewing committee made an excellent choice," Messer said. "I will be leaving Isanti County Health and Human Services in very good hands in Jodi."

'I will be leaving Isanti County Health and Human Services in very good hands in Jodi.'

Penny Messer
Retiring Isanti County Health and Human Services Division Leader

CONCERNS: Residents not convinced new three-lane layout can handle traffic flow during peak times of day

FROM PAGE 1

As was presented before, the leftover width would be converted into a 10-foot wide bituminous walking/biking trail. The previously mentioned roundabout would be at the intersections of South Main Street, 40th Ave SW, and the Kwik Trip entrance/exit.

Bypassing the roundabout debate, a couple of residents spoke up during the public hearing portion of the presentation, stating they drive on that stretch during peak traffic times and based on their own observations, they didn't think one driving lane in each direction would suffice.

Anderson countered their observations by saying during the planning stages of the project, they did a traffic count during those peak times, and the reconfigured street could easily handle the levels of traffic, even at peak times, and could continue to handle the projected traffic levels 20 years into the future.

"Whatever improvements we do now, we want to make sure they will still work 20 years into the future," Anderson said, "because that's the life we expect to get from the street."

Anderson noted that the level of traffic on Highway 95 is much higher, yet MnDOT's plans for the 2026 Highway 95 reconstruction project through downtown Cambridge still calls for three lanes from

Fern Street to Birch Street.

"I know it might not look like a three lane road can handle that much traffic, but it can handle a lot more than you expect," Anderson said.

Another resident questioned what would happen with the intersection with Highway 65, which includes two left turn lanes on northbound Highway 65 to get onto South Main Street.

"If you take away one of those turn lanes, you will have traffic backed up halfway to Isanti," he said.

Anderson said there are no plans to take away one of the turn lanes since that would be a decision that MnDOT would have to make.

"We will have to taper (cars) in before they reach the roundabout," Anderson said.

Anderson said the next step is to submit the plans to MnDOT since part of the estimated \$6.8 million project will be paid for with State Aid money. State Aid money is funds given to select cities that can only be used for fixing predetermined higher-volume streets within that city. For Cambridge, that amount comes to \$650,000.

Once MnDOT approves the plans, the city will advertise for bids in March 2025 and award the contract in April 2025. The project will begin in May and be completed sometime in October 2025.

'I know it might not look like a three lane road can handle that much traffic, but it can handle a lot more than you expect.'

Greg Anderson
Cambridge City Engineer



MEMBER FDIC



Turkey BINGO!

Thursday, November 14 • 12:30–3:30PM

American Legion, 6439 Elm St., North Branch

Turkey dinner will be served. No cost!
Space is limited, RSVP BY NOVEMBER 8.



Peggy Anderson
651-674-8000



1974-2024

ARROWHEAD
TRANSIT

YEARS



TEXTING WHILE DRIVING IS ILLEGAL IN MINNESOTA
DON'T THUMB IT UP.



PAUL JOHNSON, SPEAKER

COMMUNITY GRIEF SEMINAR

"Making it Through The Holidays"

Tuesday, November 26
6:30pm at
STRIKE LIFE TRIBUTES
CAMBRIDGE
720 1ST AVE. E

Facing the holidays as a grieving individual can be both overwhelming and seemingly impossible to deal with. We would like to invite all families to share in an evening program designed to give practical suggestions on how to cope with the additional stresses of the holiday season.

The seminar will be held by Paul Johnson, nationally known speaker on grief issues and former faculty member of Bethel University. A special Christmas tree ornament in memory of your loved one will also be available for those who pre-register. We will provide one remembrance ornament in memory of each loved one whose family we have served the past year and to other families who pre-register by November 9th. An ornament is available in memory of each loved one even if your family was not served by our funeral home. Additional ornaments will be available through early December.

To pre-register for this 30th annual seminar and order the Christmas tree ornament in memory of your loved one, call Cambridge at 763-689-2070 or Isanti at 763-444-5212.



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www.StrikeLifeTributes.com

MON, WED & FRI

Exercise with Connie

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

MON & WED

500 Cards

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

MON & THUR

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

MON - FRI

Senior Dining

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

MONDAYS

Bridge

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

Scrabble (2nd Monday)

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

Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families

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

Mahjong

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon

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

TUES & THURS

Boxing for Those w/Parkinson's

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

TUESDAYS

Knitting Night

Come stitch at North Branch Library from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. All forms of needlework welcome. Materials provided or bring your own.

A Memory Café

Meets the first Tuesday of each month from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Heritage Center at GracePointe Crossing, 322 River Hills Place North, Cambridge.

Braham Parkinson's Support

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

Alzheimer's Support

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

Music

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch Area musicians and vocalists donate their time and talents to provide music before the meal 11:15 a.m.

Dominos

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

Dominoes

10 a.m. to Noon at the Cambridge SAC

Square Dancing Lessons

6:45-8:30pm. They'll be at the Isanti Intermediate School. This is a low impact exercise that's good for the mind and body. Call Kim at 612-961-8128 or Community Ed 763-689-6189

South Dakota State University "Jack Rabbits" Alumni and Friends

Meets second Tuesday of each month from 6:3 to 8 p.m. at Club Lounge Grace Pointe Crossing 1545 River Hills Drive NW, Cambridge. Come visit and reminisce.

PrimeTime Singers

A choir of senior citizens, age 60 and over, who love to sing and share their music with others. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m., at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old N. Main St, downstairs in the Choir Room. Coffee and treats follow every rehearsal. No auditions or fees required; new members are always welcome. Director is Arne Everson; phone, 612-619-2111.

WEDNESDAYS

Cribbage

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

Wizard

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

Pinochle

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

Mahjong

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

THURSDAYS

East Central Baby Cafe

Free drop-in breastfeeding support from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the upper-level conference room at the Adult Enrichment Center, 540 5th Ave



CONTRIBUTED

Join the Isanti County Historical Society for a veterans day celebration on Nov. 11 from noon to 4 p.m.

NW, Cambridge, MN. For more information, call 763-689-1711.

Cambridge-Edgewood AFG

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

Parkinson's Support Group

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

Bingo

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

Hand and Foot

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

500

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

Bunco (Third Thursday)

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

ACA Adult Children of Alcoholics/ Dysfunctional Families Meeting

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family Group

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

FRIDAYS

Cribbage

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

NOV. 1

Stand against Child Abuse Gala

5 p.m. at the Braham Event Center. Tickets are \$40 to purchase call 763-252-6120 north-starface.org

Cambridge Library Book Sale

In the Library's Opportunity Room (111 Dellwood Street North, Cambridge) 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Nov. 1 and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Nov. 2. Proceeds will support future library programs.

NOV. 5

Pork Dinner, Bake Sale & Silent Auction

4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Fish Lake Lutheran Church, 43353 Cedarcrest Trail, Harris. For more info: www.Fishlakelutheran.org

NOV 7

Growing with Rise Fundraising Gala

At Minneapolis Marriott Northwest - 7025 Northland Dr N, Brooklyn Park. Doors open at 5 p.m. for a social hour which includes games and a cash bar. During dinner guests are entertained with our mission-focused program, including awards for the people we serve and our valued community partners for their accomplishments. It also features a Live Auction with several exciting prizes. For questions contact Tom at tbrinker@rise.org or 763-792-2450.

NOV. 8

Free Veteran's Breakfast

7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Cambridge-Isanti High School Cafeteria Food and beverages will be provided by People's, Starbucks, Nat'l Guard, American Legion. Questions/comments please contact Michael Galligan at: mgalligan@c-ischools.org

NOV. 8-10

Bountiful Boutiques

From 7 to 9:00 pm at Chuck-er's Spare Room in Rush City. There will be a silent auction, door prizes, games and shopping specials. All proceeds from the silent auction, games and more will benefit the Rush City Food Shelf. The public is invited for this evening of fun. Facebook-rushcitysbountifulboutiques

NOV 9 - 10

Underground Art Sale

Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Leader Foundation Room (Downstairs), 135 Main St. S. Cambridge. A collaboration between the Leader and local artists. A portion of the sales will be donated to local non-profits.

NOV. 10

Home for the Holidays Craft and Vendor Fair

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Isanti Community Center (on First Ave. between County Rd 5 and Main St.) 208 1/2 First Ave. NW, Isanti, MN 55040

NOV. 11

Veterans Appreciation Dinner

South Isanti Baptist Church welcomes all military veterans to an appreciation dinner at 6 p.m. South Isanti Baptist Church is located at 3367 County Road 5 NE. The event is free, but call or email to let them know how many will be coming at 763-444-5860 or pasbob@usfamily.net

ASA Veterans Day Program

9:30 a.m. at Art and Science Academy Middle School, 1005 7th Ave NE, Isanti. Free entry. Refreshments provided.

Veterans Day Open House

Noon - 4 p.m. at the Isanti County Historical Society, 33525 Flanders St. NE, Cambridge. Military themed displays and refreshments.

NOV. 14

Growing Christmas Trees in Isanti County

Presented by the Isanti County Master Gardeners. 6:30 p.m. at Cambridge Library, Great Northern Room This presentation will describe the process of growing Christmas Trees as a farm crop—from planting to harvest—generally a period of about 10 years. Several of the significant challenges and pitfalls will be addressed, as will the opportunities and benefits. How marketing and sales are approached will also be covered.



The right job will put a smile on your face. Check out our Classified section!

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Hopefully the final words on NBW&L

One of the biggest hot-button topics of the just-completed North Branch mayor and council elections was the nearly two year-old sale of the electrical assets from North Branch Water & Light to East Central Energy. Normally, I wouldn't delve into campaign topics, either before or after the election concluded. However, current Mayor Kevin Schieber has proclaimed it will be an agenda topic during an upcoming meeting, so I feel it would be good to interject an unbiased, outsider's thoughts into this subject.

As it has historically been, any debate about NBW&L tends to get so convoluted it is impossible to comment on all the differing nuances. Therefore, for this, I'm going to stick to the two most debated topics: who was in favor or not in favor of the sale, plus some of whether or not the sale should have taken place.

The first topic is easy to comment on since that is all public records. I will focus on the three most-mentioned names in this round of debate: current Councilmembers Kelly Neider and Peter Schaps, and current Mayor Kevin Schieber. Back in June 2022, both Neider (who was on the council) and Schaps (who was on the NBW&L Commission) voted in favor of the purchase agreement with ECE.

In January 2023, both of them changed their minds and tried to delay or outright stop the finalizing of the contract and voted against it. As for Schieber, he was not on the council or the NBW&L Commission in June 2022. He did vote to approve the final sale in January 2023.

Here's my take on this part: Councilmembers absolutely have the right to change their mind on topics. However, in this case, they would have had to deal with the most likely heavy financial cost of backing out of the deal. As for Schieber, even though he did vote to finalize the contract, it doesn't necessarily mean he was in favor of it in June 2022.

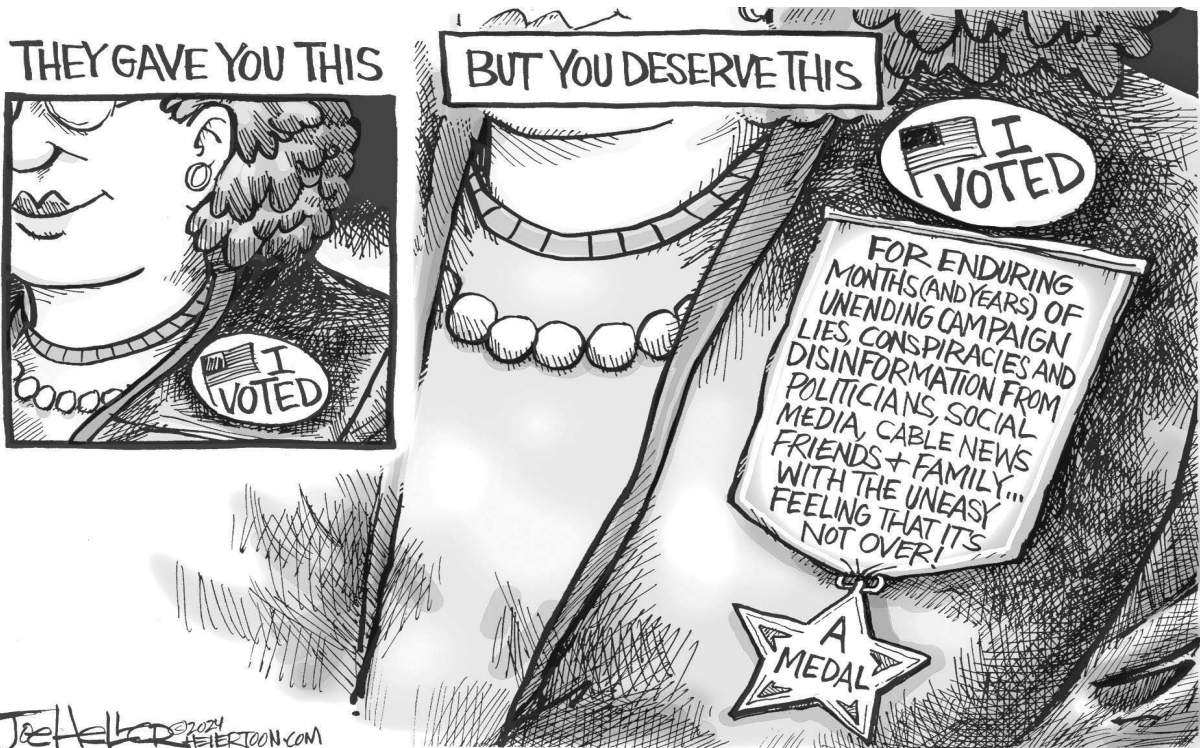
The biggest argument against the sale to ECE is that the city gave up anywhere between \$500,000 and \$1 million per year (depending on whose figures you believe). The problem with this is it makes it seem like they gave away the assets. In fact, the assets were sold for over \$5 million.

To me, that makes this loosely comparable to a person winning the lottery. They have the choice of taking a smaller amount immediately or receiving the full amount over a duration of time. In other words, the city chose to receive between five to ten years of profits all at once.

But here is why it is a loose comparison. If the city had decided to keep the assets, it also assumed the risk of bearing considerable, unexpected expenses that would have shrunk the profits. I'm sure people remember the blackout a portion of North Branch went through earlier this year. If the city had still owned the electric assets, the expenses to fix that issue, plus any future issues would have to be absorbed by the city.

So, was selling to ECE the right thing to do? Well, that all depends on your own personal philosophies. In other words, there is no right or wrong answer. So how about everybody let the past stay in the past and focus on today and the future?

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you election workers

To the editor,

I voted at the Cambridge City Hall on November 5. I observed a smooth running operation as the election workers treated voters with courtesy, professionalism, and efficiency. Especially in these fraught times, we owe all election workers a debt of gratitude for their willingness to give back to their communities and take on the responsibility of conducting this essential function of our democracy. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Karen S. Lee
Cambridge

Thanks to food packing volunteers

To the editor,

We were so thrilled about and grateful to the people of the many civic, business, church and ministry groups, as well as the "lone" individuals and families, who came to the LifeRice city-wide food packing event at Cambridge-Isanti High School on Saturday, Sept. 26. Everyone who helped was a huge blessing! Sixty thousand highly-nutritious meals were packed, some of which will go to the hungry in Honduras, with International Health Service of Minnesota, and some of which will go to the hungry in Ukraine, with Hand in Hand Logistics of Isanti.

We want to call special attention to the young people and leaders from the local Sea Cadets program, who came at 7 a.m.

to unload and carry in many heavy bags of supplies, helped set everything up, and then stayed for the first two-hour packing segment. What a blessing!

We were also exceedingly blessed by the churches, businesses, civic groups and individuals who contributed financially to this event, helping make the event possible. And, a big thanks to Bill Stickels (editor of this paper), who answered a fairly last-minute request to cover the event.

Thank you all so very much! We have a wonderful community!

Jeff and Kathy Boyum
LifeRice Director

Let's turn the page

To the editor,

I do hope we can get our country back to some decency and respect for one another. Let's replace respect and concern, and compassion for others; and stop the hate, and demeaning others and even violence. Let's turn the page on nastiness and lies.

We can have discussions about different views without violence. Let's turn the page. Freedom of speech and religion is established in our First Amendment to the Constitution. Why is censorship happening and many things being taken down?

Can't we discuss things? Remember the Golden Rule: Do unto others as you would have others do unto you. Let's turn the page. Parents rights are being challenged; let's keep them in charge of their children; it's only reasonable. Let's turn the page.

Let's turn the page on the open

border, boys in girls bathrooms and sports games, shutting down oil and gas, and electric car mandates. We want a free market. Let's turn the page.

Our Pledge of Allegiance says "One Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all". The Constitution says "We the People."

Let's turn the page and come together.

We formerly sang songs like this one together. If we all sang this together, what a great nation we could be.

*America America
O beautiful for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America America
God shed His Grace on thee
And crowned thy good with
Brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea!
Would' that be great?*

Judy Hansen
Cambridge

Senior drivers

To the editor,

Some seniors require a disabled parking permit because of an injury, use of a cane, walker, or other mobility issue. I have used a walker the past six years and decided I needed a disabled parking permit to make life easier. I requested one through my primary physician, who had to sign off on the application form. I went to my local government office and submitted the form. I go my parking permit but to my

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 5

Your Best Source for Community Information

Isanti-Chisago County Star is published every Thursday by Northstar Media, Inc., 930 Cleveland St. S., Cambridge, MN 55008. Periodicals postage paid at Cambridge, MN 55008. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Isanti-Chisago County Star, 930 Cleveland St. S., Cambridge, MN 55008

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Circulation Scott Kittelson
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ISANTI-CHISAGO

COUNTY STAR

Published by

Northstar Media, Inc.

PRINTERS · PUBLISHERS

930 South Cleveland, Cambridge, MN 55008

MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
FREE PRESS
1867

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

AN EDITION OF
ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

NEWS DEADLINE:
Noon Tuesday

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

LEGALS DEADLINE:
Noon Monday

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Finding common ground for our community's success

In our Cambridge-Isanti community, there is something special, a unique strength that shines through when it matters most: we show up for one another. The dedication we have to support our schools, families, and neighbors is a testament to who we are. Whether it's on the sidelines of a Friday night game, at a school event, during a post-storm clean-up, or during local gatherings, our community stands together, ready to lend a hand, share a smile, and celebrate the success of our youth and families.

Today, amidst the political conversations that sometimes divide us, there's something we can all rally behind—the success of our young people. Student success is about more than academics; it's about sparking a passion for life-long learning, nurturing resilience, encouraging adaptability, and teaching the skills needed to build meaningful relationships. Together, we can foster these qualities in our students, setting them up to thrive no matter where life takes them.

As a school district, we remain committed to our mission to educate, empower, and inspire in partnership with our community. This partnership is key as we face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. We're dedicated to creating learning environments where every student has the support they need, including those learning a new language, navigating the pressures of a complex and social media-driven world, or finding their place in our community. To tackle these challenges, we need all of us—each perspective, each voice, each passion for bettering our community and creating pathways for our youth.

In addressing the needs for updated and adequate space in our facilities, for supporting mental health and well-being for all, for ensuring that every student graduates with a plan for the future, and for meeting the needs of every student every day, it's essential we come together. Even when we don't all agree, it's our shared commitment to students and families that brings us to common ground.

This spirit of collaboration is what fills me with hope as this week and the decision on November 5 looms ahead. Regardless of the day's outcome, our schools, leaders, and educators will continue to prioritize positive outcomes for youth and their families above all else. Let's remember that our community's future rests in the hands of our children and that our shared investment in their success will always be stronger than any differences between us.

Thank you for being a part of our story and of this journey. Together, let's continue to build a community where every child, every family, and every neighbor is supported and empowered for a brighter future.

Christina Thayer Anderson is director of Community Education of Cambridge-Isanti Schools. She can be reached at 763.689.6220 or canderson1@c-ischools.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR FROM PAGE 4

surprise a month later I received a letter from the state canceling my drivers license.

Imagine my surprise that I had a permit, but couldn't drive a car to utilize it. I sold my Jeep and now will sell my muscle car. I bought a four-wheel mobility scooter which gets me around most of the time. Then I realized that without a drivers license, I couldn't fly commercial, vote, or any other circumstances requiring an ID.

My son and I went to a restaurant in North Branch for lunch recently and I was refused an alcoholic drink without an ID. I guess the state

will designate a drinking problem on the drivers license, which a restaurant can refuse service. We left and went to another restaurant.

This cancellation was done without prior contact by the state giving me any option to keep my license. This is just another example of government infringing on our rights. Maybe its something my doctor stated on the form. All seniors should be warned about the possibility of losing their driving privilege if requesting a disabled parking permit.

**Steve Graning
Cambridge**

CORRECTION

In the article on page 6 in last week's edition titled "Local students compete in international Peace Poster contest, the second and third place winners were transposed in the press release sent to us. It should have said Bailee Eisenschenk took second place and Emilee Determan took third place.

Proper railroad crossing etiquette

Question: Every once in a while, I notice some vehicles stop in the road at the railroad tracks when nothing is coming. Can I pass them when they do this?



Ask A
Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Answer: Some vehicles, such as passenger vans, buses, and larger trucks, are required to stop at all railroad tracks, whether or not a train is present. Do not pass these vehicles. It is illegal to pass any vehicle within 100 feet of a railroad crossing.

Here are some additional safety tips:

- Yield the right-of-way to trains at highway-rail crossings. It's the law.
- Never drive around lowering

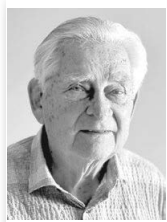
gates, it's illegal and deadly.

- Only cross tracks where they are marked with pedestrian crossing markings.
- Never race a train to the crossing, even if it is a tie, you lose.
- Expect a train on the track at any time, trains do not follow set schedules.
- Look out for the second train when crossing multiple tracks.
- Immediately get out of your vehicle if it stalls on the crossing, get clear of the tracks and call 911

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 Twitter @MSPP10_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

Going through a friendship recession

A recent issue of Rotary magazine draws attention to the decline in friendships due to death, moving to a new community, job trans-



About the
Town
Gene
Johnson

ferring, and generally speaking, the reality of getting older.

It's easy for one's close friends to grow apart, and replacing them seems overwhelming.

It's obvious that being part of an organization like Rotary enhances and grows friend-

ships like many other organizations in which you can participate.

Research has shown how important friendships can be to our mental and physical health. Some suggest you may even live longer.

For Kathy and I, friends offer help on major decisions. Sometimes they are even more helpful than family. Many times friends have helped us clarify with objectivity.

It seems like in all cultures of the world this friendship recession is growing and not improving.

The author of the Rotary

article, Kate Silver, starts off the article with "You've got a friend." She relates some people have found ways to make connections.

I'm sure you've discovered that if you walk a dog, that's a good way to bring up conversation with others who are walking their pets. It takes a common ground. You have to smile and talk to people.

Over the years Kathy and I have hosted over 20 foreign students and adults through different programs like Rotary. Those friendships in many cases have continued and we've even met those people in their home countries.

Here to Make Friends, a book by Hope Kelaher, suggests that everyone have an anchor institution, whether it's a place of worship, schools, clubs, or a café.

Think about people in your social network whom you already know and like. Be sure you reach out to them with a birthday message or an invitation to dinner, and when you do that, ask them to bring a friend that you haven't met.

Discover what you like about a new person you have met and engage them. Ask how they spend leisure time, where they vacation, what they like about certain shopping opportunities.

All this takes time and it will not necessarily be easy, but the

end result is rewarding.

In the newspaper business, I have often said we have to make new friends because we lose so many through column and editorial writing.

Whether you agree or disagree, I'm always pleased to hear from you with a letter, a note, or a call.

Share your opinions, your thoughts, your ideas. We're all different, but we bring a lot of thoughtful information to the table.

THE RED FLAG

Scams today are so prevalent and it's so easy to be caught up with them, whatever your age.

A good warning I heard recently is if someone is trying to make you frightened or threatened, the red flag should go up. It's very likely a scam.

Scammers are getting more and more clever and finding new ways to catch people off guard. There are many premium offers that look good and some are even told will be complimentary, but you can't trust them. I think retailers and promotional people that are legitimate are losing out because of all the scamming. Remember local businesses can be trusted and are here to serve you.

GENE JOHNSON is Publisher Emeritus of Press Publications, owner of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be reached at ppinfo@presspubs.com.

A little help along the way

In life, it's often the little moments that surprise us with the greatest lessons. That happened to me last week as I observed a kindergartner, deep in concentration, bending down to tie the shoe of his classmate. It wasn't quick nor smooth—



NB School
News
Sara
Paul

there was a lot of fumbling, some loose loops, and a couple of "wait, let me try again." And yet, there was magic in this moment.

The young student on the receiving end of the help stood patiently, never huffing in frustration or rushing his friend. He watched with patience as his classmate tried to remember just how those bunny ears are supposed to work, waiting as they both learned together.

Watching this interaction, I realized there were profound lessons tucked into this tiny exchange. How often do we, as adults, let impatience creep in when things don't go as fast or as smoothly as we would like? How

often do we take a task from someone because we think it will be "easier" if we just do it ourselves? These two children demonstrated an alternative—a willingness to let each other try, to support one another even if things took a little longer.

These kindergartners reminded me that patience, and kindness aren't complicated but require intentional effort. In that small interaction, one student was learning the challenge of helping others and practicing new skills, while the other was learning patience and acceptance. In those few minutes, they both gained something invaluable.

It's easy to get caught up in the hustle, pushing ourselves and each other for quick results. But sometimes, slowing down is what is needed; fumbling and trying, and getting better together. This small act of kindness and patience showed me the power of being present for each other, and being willing to give—and receive—a little help along the way.

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

OBITUARIES

Lois (Peterson) Bismarck

Lois (Peterson) Bismarck went to be with Jesus, her Lord and Savior, on Nov. 3, 2024, at the age of 91, while at GracePointe Crossing in Cambridge, MN.

She was born to Joseph and Esther Peterson in Grandy, MN on Sept. 28, 1933. She was lovingly referred to as “sis” by her four brothers.



As a young child, she had a life-long best friend named “Tootsie”.

Oct. 8, 1948, she married Wallace (Wally) Bismarck. He would often jokingly refer to her as his first wife, as they were married 73 years. They made their home on a multi-generational home east of Grandy.

Together they raised their five children, believing and teaching them about morals

and values, faith, family, community and country.

Lois was a member of Stanchfield Baptist Church. She served as a Sunday school teacher, deaconess, kitchen helper were just a few roles she served. She lived out her faith with love and by example.

The Bismarck’s lived in a community that believed in helping each other, not for pay, but “that’s just what we do”. Pay it forward and a hand shake on a deal meant something. This neighborhood had fun in many ways (always involved a cup of coffee). They had Bible studies, bowling leagues, Christian Women’s, Grandy Good Cheer Guild, Birthday Club, Border Bells just to name a few. Lots of parties and many laughs all in good clean fun.

Coffee time at Grandma Myrtle’s was a daily event where current events were the topic of discussion.

When grandchildren and great grandchildren came, she would rock them tenderly and lovingly singing, “Jesus loves me” to them all. As they grew, she taught them all to “love one another”.

In their retirement years, Lois and Wally took many bus trips together to various parts of the US, Canada, and even made a trip to England. They became “winter Texan’s” for several years in Harlingen, Texas. Many cards were played there, potlucks, and parties. Lois was a member of the Red Hatter’s and many new friends were made.

When her health declined, Wally and Lois made the move to Riverwood Village and eventually settled at GracePointe in Cambridge.

After husband Wally passed away in September 2022, she would have some adjustments to make being alone. Lois being Lois found new friends. She loved people!

Besides her parents she was preceded in death by husband Wallace Bismarck; sister Helen “Betty” Elizabeth Peterson; brothers Gordon Peterson, Kenneth Peterson, Donald Peterson; nieces and nephews.

Lois is survived by her five children Bradley (Luna) Bismark, Deborah Gerrety, Julie (Steve) Gustafson, Roxi (Ron) Emerick, Dan (Katie) Bismarck; 16 grandchildren, 33 great grandchildren; brother Warren (RoseAnn) Peterson; God child Alan Miller; many nieces and nephews.

Special thanks to the staff of GracePointe Crossing and Optage Hospice Care during her final days. Their kindness and extended love mattered!

In lieu of flowers, Memorials are preferred to Trout Lake Camperships and St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

Funeral Services 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 8, 2024 at Stanchfield Baptist Church. Visitation one hour prior. Interment in the church cemetery. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Degrees

Jintara Khu Yang of North Branch, (Bachelor of Science, Business Administration) from University of Maryland Global Campus

Lorna Fay Johnson (Lindblad)

Lorna Fay Johnson (Lindblad), of Stanchfield, peacefully passed away on Monday, Oct. 28, 2024, in the presence of family. She was 94 years old.

Lorna, and her twin sister Loris, were born on Sept. 8, 1930, in Stanchfield, Minnesota to parents Leonard and Emily (Grant) Lindblad. Loris and Lorna were inseparable growing up on the family farm with their older brother Lenny. She graduated from Braham High School in 1949. After high school, Lorna moved to Minneapolis and worked downtown at Archer Daniels for 10 years.

Lorna was united in marriage to Roger Johnson on Oct. 5, 1957, in a double wedding with her twin sister Loris and Walen Swenson. Roger and Lorna initially made their home in Minneapolis but upon starting their family, moved to Stanchfield to raise their children, Ron and Rhonda in her family homestead. Lorna was a stay-at-home mom who thoroughly enjoyed taking care of her family. She loved the outdoors, working in the garden, cross-country skiing (well into her 80’s), and being a cat mom to any stray that wandered into the yard. Once her children entered high school, she joined the workforce at the Cambridge Star newspaper. Loris joined her years later and they both continued working there until their early 80’s. They had a hard time leaving because they loved their “Star people” and at the prompting of family to retire would say, “But they treat us so nice there.” Lorna was a hard worker who never complained, even when needing to haul her laundry into town to the laundromat every Monday until she was 86. At that time, she finally got a reprieve when they sold the farm and moved into Cambridge and she had her own new washer and dryer.

Lorna didn’t just work hard in her home. She and Roger were both passionate about their relationship with Christ. They were not just church attenders. They were church workers and taught their children to do the same. Lorna served her church by leading Sunday School, leading the song service, was a deaconess, and in her later years served coffee and treats every Sunday morning with her sister until she could no longer attend due to her health. Lorna lived out her faith in a tangible way and she truly let Jesus’ love shine through her. This was shown in her calm, sweet spirit.

Lorna was preceded in death by her parents, husband Roger, brother Leonard Lindblad Jr; twin sister Loris (Walen) Swenson, and many other brother and sister in laws, nieces and nephews.

She is survived by her son Ron, daughter Rhonda (Erick) Bates, grandchildren Josh and Emilie, sister-in-law Donna Lindblad, and many nieces and nephews, relatives and friends.

A Funeral Service was held on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, at Stanchfield Baptist Church with Pastor Caleb Zahl officiating. Interment was in the Stanchfield Baptist Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to the Hamilton Funeral Homes – Rock Chapel in Braham. Condolences may be posted at www.hamiltonfhs.com

Lisa Kay Anderson, age 66, of Cambridge passed away peacefully at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids on Tuesday, October 29 after a hard-fought battle with breast cancer.



She was born March 14, 1958 to her parents Charles Olson and Delight (Barnes) Olson in Columbia Heights, MN – the youngest of five kids.

Lisa graduated from Columbia Heights High School in 1976, and

Lisa Kay Anderson

then attended school to become a dental assistant. She worked as a dental assistant for 15 years, with most of career being at Foley Dental Office in Coon Rapids, MN.

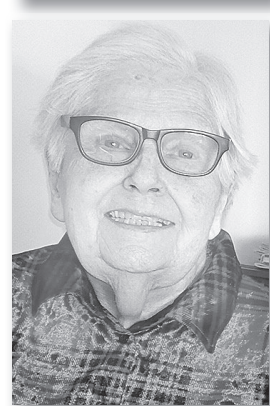
It was at that job where she met her boss’ brother, Brian Anderson. Brian and Lisa began dating and moved to Cambridge where Brian began his dental practice. They got married in 1988. In 1993, Lisa gave birth to their only child, Heidi.

Once Heidi was born, Lisa became a stay-at-home mom. Not only did Lisa take care of Heidi while she was growing up, she also provided care and support to her aging mother.

Lisa’s favorite things to do were watch Twins games, go on walks with her many dogs, and travel. One of her favorite trips was to

Barbara Anita (Orton) Leasure

Barbara Anita (Orton) Leasure was born in Zion, Illinois on Oct. 20, 1933 and passed away in Cambridge, Minnesota on Oct. 30, 2024. Her parents were Irvin and Esther (Jensen) Orton. Barbara was the older sister to Marcia.



Barbara grew up in Driftwood, Oklahoma and was involved in many singing and scholastic competitions. She attended college in Enid, Oklahoma and earned a registered nursing degree in 1954.

Barbara met Lewis Leasure in Enid, Oklahoma. She married Lewis in 1954 and they drove for 9 days from Oklahoma to Fairbanks, Alaska where Lewis was to be stationed at Eileson Air Force Base. Their son Michael was born in 1955. After Lewis’ honorable discharge in 1956, they moved to southern Minnesota to be near Barbara’s relatives. In 1957, they welcomed daughter Jan into their family. They moved to Cambridge, MN in 1963.

When her kids were young, Barbara had a reputation for baking large pans of cinnamon and caramel rolls for them (and the kids in the neighborhood) to

enjoy.

Barbara worked for 27 years at the Cambridge State Hospital and retired as the RN administrative supervisor in 1990.

After retirement, she was an active volunteer for many local groups. She also enjoyed playing the piano and organ. Barbara was passionate about supporting organizations that promoted the health and well-being of animals. She was active in the Cambridge United Methodist Church since 1963.

Predeceased by her parents, sister, and son Michael.

She is survived by her husband Lewis and daughter Jan.

Memorials preferred to any organization that promotes kindness toward animals or Isanti County Food Pantry Box 506 Cambridge MN 55008.

Per Barbara’s wishes, there will be no service. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Japan, where Heidi lived for over a year. Most of all, she cherished time spent with her family and friends.

Lisa is preceded in death by her mother and father, brother Vernon Lodge, and her beloved dog Cuddy. She is survived by her husband Brian, daughter Heidi, brothers Wayne, Chuck (Barb), sisters Jan (Tim) and Dawn (Daryle), and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial gathering will be held from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, November 7 at Strike Life Tributes in Cambridge. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Lisa’s name to the Minneapolis Metsquerade or the International Institute of Minnesota. Online condolences can be made at StrikeLifeTributes.com.



CONTRIBUTED

North Branch FD gets a BBQ boost

Dickey’s Barbecue Pit served up a feast to the North Branch Fire Department during a November 4 meeting. The fire crew enjoyed smoked pulled pork, chopped brisket, and sides as part of the restaurant’s ongoing support for local first responders. “This meal was our way of showing appreciation for the amazing men and women who dedicate their time to keep our community safe,” said Dickey’s owners. The family-owned restaurant plans to expand its outreach to other first responders in the area.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Annual turkey donation

Howard Lewis from the Rotary Club of Cambridge and Isanti drops off 35 frozen turkeys at the Cambridge Family Pathways Food Shelf as part of the organization’s annual Thanks-giving donation to the food shelf.

The importance of watering evergreens in autumn

Evergreen trees and shrubs, including white pine, red pine, Austrian pine, Norway spruce, white spruce, arborvitae, mugo pine, balsam fir and more, need water until the ground freezes.

Given the drought conditions in recent years, trees are not getting the one to two inches of rainfall per week that they so desire to thrive and sustain themselves. They are especially thirsty in late fall with the aim of preventing needle desiccation, also known as winter burn or winter scorch.

Over the next few months, desiccation can occur when the amount of water lost by a tree exceeds the amount absorbed by the root system. Winter burn can present as brittle needle tips here and there, a few dead branches or even

an entire tree that turns brown and crispy. The damage can also be most significant on the side of the tree facing the wind. Evergreen trees and shrubs do not go entirely dormant like deciduous trees that lose their leaves. Therefore, they are still actively respiring and losing water through their needles in fall and winter. Adequate water will help evergreens avoid unsightly winter burn and stress.

It’s important to mention white pines here. Master Gardeners are asked a lot about white pines and the golden color that some of the needles turn in autumn. Thankfully, this is completely normal for these majestic trees. Healthy white pine trees lose their two-year old needles in the fall, leaving only the current season’s growth attached. Soft, wispy needles will grow in the spring and these stately trees will fill out nicely once again.

While deciduous trees provide us with a short fragrant burst of spring flowers, leaves that quake and blow in the summer breeze, tasty stone fruits

and apples, and fabulous fall foliage, only evergreen trees and shrubs gift us with year-round green color and protection from wind and barren landscapes all winter long. In order to show our appreciation, we can water them correctly and efficiently before the ground freezes.

Most tree roots responsible for water uptake are in the top two feet of soil and are spread beyond the dripline, which is the outermost part of the tree. Therefore, it’s best to water all around the dripline with a soaker hose or garden hose and to avoid wasting water by watering the needles overhead. Watering deeply once or twice a week is sufficient, and skipping any light watering that only promotes shallow root systems. Remember that sandy soils hold less moisture than clay or loamy soils and to water accordingly.

Mulching properly under trees and shrubs is a secondary way to help maintain moisture and to decrease water evaporation. It adds another layer of protection and can keep the

tree from succumbing to the effects of drought and desiccation in winter. The best mulch is made from tree bark or wood chips. Non-dyed mulch is preferred as it’s more natural. Remember that mulch will break down eventually and need to be added to every year or so. One caveat: if you have pets, avoid cocoa bean mulch as it contains chemicals that are poisonous. Apply two to three inches of mulch around the tree, keeping it several inches away from the tree trunk. If mulch touches the tree trunk, mold and mildew will eventually rot the bark and make way for fungal diseases to develop. A great way to think about mulching correctly is to remember – mulch like a donut, not a volcano!

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

The City of Cambridge has completed and submitted our service line materials Inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line Inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) at <https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>. To complete the service line Inventory of our system we went through records, did onsite inspections, and had homeowners send in photos. As of 08/27/2024, our Inventory contains 0 lead, 7galvanized requiring replacement, 260 unknown material, and 3140 non-lead service lines.

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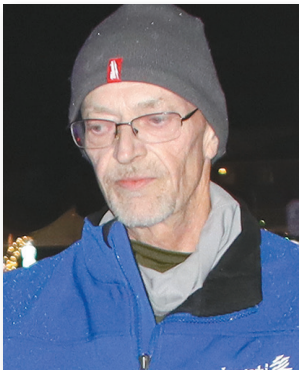
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2024 LOCAL GENERAL ELECTION WINNERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

City of Isanti City Council	City of Isanti City Council	Isanti City Council Special Election	City of Cambridge City Council	City of Cambridge City Council	Isanti County Referendum Question
					*Shall the office of Isanti County Auditor-Treasurer be appointed rather than elected at the expiration of the current term?
Steven Lundeen 1,299 (26.72%)	George Hemen 1,213 (24.95%)	Jeff Holmgren 1,729 (61.25%)	Mark Ziebarth 2,438 (32.67%)	Molly Christian 2,233 (29.92%)	No - 17,172 (74.43%) Yes - 5,900 (25.57%)

The Auditor-Treasurer position will be back on the ballot in the 2026 election

MN House Dist. 28A	MN House Dist. 28B	Cambridge-Isanti School Board	Cambridge-Isanti School Board	Cambridge-Isanti School Board	RESULTS FROM UN-CONTESTED RACES
					CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4 Ben Montzka 4,950 (98.35%) CHISAGO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5 Dan Dahlberg 4,298 (98.6%) NORTH BRANCH SCHOOL BOARD Shelly Johnson 5,137 (32.3%) Tim MacMillan 5,601 (35.2%) Heather Naegele 4,928 (31%)
Jimmy Gordon 17,550 (68.11%)	Max Rymer 16,768 (65.06%)	Heidi Sprandel 8,368 (28.44%)	Brette Halverson 7,491 (25.46%)	Becky Roby 7,346 (24.97%)	

COMPLETE RESULTS OF CONTESTED RACES (UNOFFICIAL UNTIL VERIFIED BY CANVASING BOARDS)

ISANTI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DISTRICT 1: Alan Duff (Incumbent) 2,582 59.71% Rick Schneider 1,704 39.41% DISTRICT 3: Steve Westerberg (Incumbent) 1,917 56.17% George Carlson 1,258 30.66% DISTRICT 4: Todd Christensen 2,097 54.24% Mike Warring (Incumbent) 1,752 45.32%	Molly Christian 2,233 29.92% Tom Schibilla 1,761 23.60% Ashlee Aaser 970 13.00% CITY OF ISANTI CITY COUNCIL Steven Lundeen (Incumbent) 1,299 26.72% George Hemen 1,213 24.95% Zach Launderville 1,206 24.80% Taylor Lundeen 1,098 22.58% City Council Special Election Jeff Holmgren 1,729 61.25% Jacob Miller 1,069 37.87%	NORTH BRANCH MAYOR Kevin Schieber 3,173 56.95% Lorraine Moeller 2,351 42.19% NORTH BRANCH COUNCIL Jeff Goulet 2,280 27.12% Robert Canada (Incumbent) 1,859 22.12% Jim Ibinger 1,635 19.45% Ka Bao Jennrich 1,424 16.94% Paul Schneidewind 1,137 13.53% CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI SCHOOL BOARD Heidi Sprandel (Incumbent) 8,368 28.44% Brette Halverson 7,491 25.46% Becky Roby 7,346 24.97%	Esther Schultz 5,951 20.22% MN HOUSE DISTRICT 28A Jimmy Gordon (R) 17,550 68.11% Tim Dummer (D) 8,163 31.68% MN HOUSE DISTRICT 28B Max Rymer (R) 16,768 65.06% Mary J. Murphy (D) 8,983 34.85% U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 8 Pete Stauber (R) 244,495 57.99% Jen Schultz (D) 176,722 41.92% U.S. SENATOR Amy Klobuchar (D) 1,791,607 56.20% Royce White (R) 1,290,810 40.49%
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FAMILY PATHWAYS

National Family Caregivers Month
NOVEMBER

November is National Caregiver's month, a time to recognize and honor all caregivers. Whether you care around the clock or occasionally, you are important!

Thank You

Visit our website to learn more about our Programs
FamilyPathways.org



North Branch Area Community Education
Proudly Presents

\$2 Admission

Arts Fest

Saturday
November 23
9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Located at the
North Branch Area
High School

Featuring over 200 artists!

Please bring nonperishable
food items for local food shelf.

No strollers or pets please.

Take the free shuttle from
middle school parking to and from
high school. Shuttle time 9am-3:30pm.
38175 Grand Avenue, North Branch, MN

\$2 Admission

Community Resources

Family Pathways
1.800.834.7211 • Available 24/7

Social Services
Chicago City _____ 414.713.4600
Isanti City _____ 763.694.1711
Camden City _____ 728.679.6150

Housing, Food & Transportation
Lakes & Pines _____ 888.812.6802
MN Food Shelf _____ 888.782.6372
Heartland Express _____ 763.694.8131
(public transportation)

Legal & ID
Chicago & Isanti City _____ 763.694.2800
Lakes & Pines City _____ 888.382.7166

 **The Star is now on Instagram!**
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COUNTY STAR

 See what's happening today!



JOSH LOWMAN | COUNTY STAR

Jacket harriers shine at state

Cambridge-Isanti had one girl and one boy compete in the Class AAA State Meet. For the girls, Makenna Sjöberg finished in 87th place with a time of 20:05.8. For the boys, Hunter Jacobson finished 118th with a time of 17:05.7. North Branch also had one boy run in the Class AA State Meet. Jordan Stumm finished 104th with a time of 17:21.4.

Hawks twice dash Vikings' state tournament hopes

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

In a matter of 24 hours, the #2-seeded Hermantown Hawks upended the #1-seeded Vikings in a section final game, preventing North Branch from advancing to the state tournament in volleyball and football.

NORTH BRANCH 1, HERMANTOWN 3

Both the North Branch and Hermantown volleyball teams entered the Section 7AAA championship match, played at Cloquet Middle School, fielding a senior-heavy lineup, meaning it was “now or never” for achieving their dreams of taking the floor at the Xcel Energy Center in the state tournament. The Vikings’ roster features six members of the Class of 2025, while the Hawks had nine seniors.

During the first set, it wasn’t as obvious who would come out on top between the outwardly emotional Hawks and the stoic, business-like Vikings. Both teams kept long rallies alive with some stellar defense, with neither team being able to gain a large-point advantage. Ultimately, though, it was the Hawks who came out on top with a 26-24 first-set win.

Hermantown kept that momentum going in their direction in the second set, cruising to a 25-14 win and a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five match.

The third set started similar to the second, with Hermantown coming out strong and putting North Branch’s backs against the wall. The Vikings showed they wouldn’t quietly succumb to the Hawks’ attacks, coming from behind to win the third set 26-24.

Now with a little momentum on their side, North Branch jumped out to a lead in the fourth set. However, a well-timed timeout from Hermantown was all that was needed for the Hawks to regain their composure, rally to a lead of their own, and ultimately claim the section championship with a 25-19 fourth-set win.

NORTH BRANCH 28, HERMANTOWN 35

In high school sports, the pendulum of momentum can swing from one team to the other at any time. The North Branch football team learned this lesson the hard way during the Section 7AAAA championship game,



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

North Branch quarterback Jacob Robillard tries to shake off a would-be Hermantown tackler during the Section 7AAAA championship game.

played at Duluth Denfeld High School.

For the entire first half and first minutes of the third quarter, everything was going North Branch’s way. The Vikings took a 14-0 lead over Hermantown on a 35-yard run by Dooley Beaver and a bruising 3-yard TD run by Tyler Minke. Even when Hermantown narrowed the lead to 14-7 late in the second quarter, North Branch took less than two minutes to regain a two-touchdown lead at halftime.

When Hermantown fumbled their first play from scrimmage of the second half, North Branch extended their lead to a seemingly insurmountable 28-7 lead. But, that’s when the dreaded momentum swing happened.

Following the Hawks narrowing the gap to 28-14 on a 27-yard TD pass, the Hawks executed a successful onside kick, which led to another 20-plus yard touchdown pass, making the score 28-21 in favor of North Branch.

On the ensuing kickoff, the Hawks once again recovered an onside kick. This led to Hermantown tying the score at 28 each early in the fourth quarter.

Hermantown finished their come-from-behind rally with a seven-yard run with just under five minutes remaining. North Branch’s offense was able to move down the field to the red zone, however, a desperation pass on third down landed in the arms of



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

North Branch's Heidi Hedberg goes up for a kill attempt past a Hermantown blocker during the Section 7AAA championship.

a Hermantown defender in the end zone, squashing the Vikings’ hopes of sending the game into overtime, not to mention their dreams of playing in their third-straight state tournament.

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Join us this month as Welia Health optometrist **Dr. Joe Mork** visits the Caregivers Support Group and leads a discussion on Low Vision.



Joe Mork, OD

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The Caregiver's Support Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Mark your calendar for the next session on December 11.

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Student Achievers



Isanti Intermediate School: **Delphine Schoen**

Delphine Schoen, a 5th-grade student at Isanti Intermediate School, is an excellent choice to be recognized as one of our Student Achievers. Known for her kindness and dedication, Delphine works hard in all she does and shines especially bright in art. She loves staying active through Gaga-ball and soccer, showing her enthusiasm and team spirit. An avid reader, Delphine is captivated by fiction, with her favorite series being Keepers of the Lost Cities. Her passion and positive energy make her a wonderful part of our school community.



North Branch Area Education Center: **Macie Allaman**

Macie Allaman, daughter of Jeff and Dana Allaman of Stacy, has been recognized by her kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Kahl, for her hard work and respectful attitude in the classroom. Mrs. Kahl nominated Macie for consistently going above and beyond to help her classmates, always being the first to volunteer as a helper, and setting a wonderful example for others. Macie shared that her favorite part of kindergarten is math, as it's what she enjoys most at school. She also loves recess, especially playing on the monkey bars! When she grows up, Macie dreams of becoming a doctor.



Isanti Intermediate School: **Lucas Sand**

Lucas Sand, a 5th-grade student at Isanti Intermediate School, is a remarkable choice to be honored as one of our Student Achievers. Known for his leadership qualities, Lucas consistently sets a positive example for his peers and is always ready to encourage others. Outside the classroom, Lucas enjoys riding his dirt bike and snowmobile and spends much of his free time wrestling with the Rum River Wrestling Club. He also loves hanging out with his friends and cousins, showing his strong sense of community both in and out of school.



Sunrise River School: **Hudson Braden**

Hudson Braden is an excellent role model for his peers. He is a hard worker, is kind to everyone, and exemplifies respectful behavior. He helps out younger students without having to be asked, and does so with a smile on his face. Hudson is always striving to do better and loves to challenge himself. I am lucky to be Hudson's teacher!

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November 2024





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LOCATION:
American Legion
6439 Elm St, North Branch

CATERED BY: County Market

Speaker: Chamber Board "State of the Chamber"

NOVEMBER 12TH LUNCHEON
11:30AM - 1:00PM
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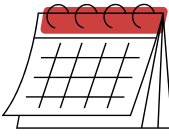
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The Spring & Home Expo is coming back!

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Welcome New Member!

Robert Canada for Council

North Branch, MN

- Phone: (651) 895-0602
- Rob.Canada@aol.com

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**Please welcome newly appointed
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OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Star of Hope Holiday Food Drive
Join the Isanti-Chisago County Star in helping fill our food shelf this holiday season. From Nov. 7 to Dec. 12 donate a non-perishable food item at our office 930 Cleveland St. S Cambridge or one of our partner locations: Warm and Wooly, 38500 Tanger Dr. Suite 207, Norht Branch; Empire Insurance 6063 Main St. Suite A, North Branch; Scout and Morgan Books 114 Buchanan St N, Cambridge; Johnson’s Decorating Center 120 Heritage Blvd, Suite 5, Isanti. Financial donations are also accepted.

Free Home Cooked Turkey Dinner with all the Trimming Delivered!
The North Branch Lions are looking for volunteers to help deliver meals on Thanksgiving. Please contact John at Post-Haste 651-237-1115. Monetary donations are also welcome. If you or someone you know someone would like to receive this meal please contact Post-Haste Business Solutions 651-237-1115; North Branch Chamber of Commerce 651-674-4077; Your local church; or The Chisago County Senior Center 651-674-8658. Please reserve by Monday Nov. 25 by noon.

The Rush City Christmas Caring Tree
A caring tree will be set up in the Rush City Public Library starting on Tues., Nov. 19 through Sat., Dec. 7. The tree will be decorated with Christmas Wish tags from chil-

dren in the Rush City School District. Select a Christmas Wish tag(s), purchase gift(s) for the child and return them unwrapped to the Rush City Public Library by Tues., Dec. 10. Questions can be directed to Marilyn at (651)674-7336 or Shari at (320)358-33463.

Give the Gift of Reading at Cambridge Library
Starting on Wednesday, November 13, drop by the Cambridge Public Library and pick a tag from our giving tree! The library is partnering with Isanti County to give new books to children in need this holiday season. Our tree is located just inside the library’s front entrance (off Dellwood Street). How to participate: Select a tag from the tree located at the library; Purchase a NEW book or two for the child -- identified by age and gender only -- on your tag; Return your unwrapped book with the tag to the Cambridge Library; Books are due Wednesday, December 11. Monetary donations are also accepted and will be used to purchase additional books.

NOV. 1 – 30 Warm Winter Wear
Help families stay warm this year. Donate your new or gently sed hats, scarfs, boots, ski/snow pants, mittens/goves and coats. Drop off donations at Anderson Koch Ford during business hours. 5577 St. Croix Trail, North Branch.

Salvation Army seeks additional bell ringers

BY DAN FURRY
DAN.FURRY@USC.SALVATIONARMY.ORG

One of the familiar signs of the upcoming holiday season is the sound of a ringing bell accompanied by the sight of a Salvation Army bell ringer at a red kettle. In just two weeks, The Salvation Army’s red kettles will be out in force at store entrances and street corners throughout the metro area.

The season will kick off Saturday, November 16th with the lighting of The Salvation Army “Tree of Lights” in St. Paul’s Rice Park, starting at 5:30 pm. The program will feature former Minnesota Lynx star Lindsay Whalen and this year’s Red Kettle Community Chair Dan Stoltz, CEO of Blaze Credit Union. and a performance, as well as a performance from three-time Grammy winners The Sounds of Blackness.

This year’s Red Kettle goal in the Twin Cities is nearly \$2 million and is a critical element to The Salvation Army’s overall holiday fundraising campaign, as roughly two-thirds of the organization’s funding is raised in the last three months of the year. Kettle donations are essential to help provide struggling families with food, housing and financial assistance throughout the year.

Bell ringers needed
After several years of declining kettle revenues

due to COVID-19 and harsher than normal weather, kettle volunteers and revenues saw an increase in 2023. Both volunteer and revenue numbers rebounded but have not yet returned to pre-pandemic numbers.

In order to meet its campaign goal, The Salvation Army has a vital need to register additional bell ringers to meet their fundraising target. Their goal is to register enough volunteers to ring for 15,000 hours, but thus far the organization reports that only 4,000 hours have been reserved.

“Volunteers are the foundation of our red kettle campaign, because a kettle with a bell ringer will raise between \$80 and \$100 an hour—enough to feed three families for a week,” said division commander Lt. Colonel Randall Polsley. “All the analysis we’ve done confirms that a kettle without a ringer collects no donations, so volunteering as a bell ringer makes all the difference.”

The need for assistance remains high. Due to inflation and stagnant wage growth, more than three-fourths of Americans now report living paycheck to paycheck1. In addition, 65,000 Minnesota households are behind on their rent by an average of \$2,2502 and are at risk of eviction. Higher prices for food, rent and utilities are forcing many families to choose be-

tween feeding their families and paying rent.

“As more and more people come to The Salvation Army for help, we in turn rely on volunteer bell ringers for their help at this most important time of year,” said Sophie Crowell, volunteer relations director.

“Tap To Give” Technology
Last year, The Salvation Army tested a new digital payment technology at several dozen kettle locations in the Twin Cities, and they will be expanding its use of Tap To Give devices this year. The devices are designed to allow kettle donors to make a gift for as little as \$5 with a quick 2-second tap of their chipped credit card or smart phone.

“Many people no longer carry cash with them, and with Tap To Give, we’ve made it incredibly easy to quickly make a small donation at the red kettle,” Polsley said.

The kettle tradition started in San Francisco in 1891 when Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee collected coins in a kettle to fund a Christmas dinner for the poor and destitute. The idea spread and, today, that tradition continues throughout the world.

Individuals, families, churches, businesses and others can find out more information and begin their own bell ringing tradition by signing up at RegisterToRing.com.



EARLY DEADLINE
for the November 28 Issue of the

ISANTI-CHISAGO
COUNTY STAR

The deadline for ALL Ads and News will be

Friday, November 22
at NOON

Closed Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 28 & 29

Isanti-Chisago County Star Circulation Audit			CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL
5. Audited Circulation, Distribution and Net Press Averages - Print Edition			
CVC Account Number: 01-4409		Thursday	Isanti-Chisago County Star Cambridge, MN
Audit Period Summary			
Average Net Circulation	(5-H)		8,397
Average Gross Distribution	(5-F)		8,478
Average Net Press Run	(5-A)		8,488
Audit Period Detail			
A. Average Net Press Run			8,488
B. Office / File			10
C. Controlled Distribution			
1. Carrier Delivery			7,416
2. Bulk Delivery / Demand Distribution			1,030
3. Mail			7
4. Requestor Mail			0
5. Waiting Rooms			0
6. Hotels			0
7. Events, Fairs, Festivals and Trade Shows			0
8. Education			0
9. Restock & Office Service			0
Total Average Controlled Distribution			8,453
Controlled Returns			(81)
TOTAL AVERAGE CONTROLLED CIRCULATION			8,372
D. Paid Distribution			
1. Carrier Delivery			0
2. Single Copy			0
3. Mail			25
4. Waiting Room			0
5. Hotels			0
6. Education			0
7. Restock & Office Service			0
Total Average Paid Distribution			25
Paid Returns			(0)
TOTAL AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION			25
E. Sponsored / Voluntary Paid Distribution			
1. Carrier Delivery			0
2. Single Copy			0
3. Mail			0
4. Waiting Rooms			0
5. Education			0
Total Average Sponsored Distribution			0
Sponsored Returns			(0)
TOTAL AVERAGE SPONSORED CIRCULATION			0
F. Average Gross Distribution			8,478
G. Total Unclaimed / Returns			(81)*
H. Average Net Circulation			8,397

Consider donating deer hides

Saturday, November 9 marks the beginning of the 2024 Firearm Deer Hunting Season.

Along with all the anticipation of harvesting a deer and filling the freezer, the Isanti County Chapter of the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, is encouraging area hunters to also consider donating their deer hides to the Hides for Habitat Program. By donating their hide to MDHA, hunters are helping the deer of the future. A great way to give back.

MDHA's Hides for Habitat program is a flagship program of MDHA and since its inception in 1985 has generated over \$6 million dollars and over a million

hides to help fund statewide habitat projects. This program works because of hunters who donate their hides to the orange MDHA logo collection boxes around the state and because of dedicated Chapter volunteers that process the hides before selling them.

The Isanti County Chapter uses the funds to purchase trees, food plot seed, (corn, soybeans, sunflowers and a variety of Frigid Forage) for our members to plant to improve habitat, helping a variety of wildlife. Some funding is also used for scholarships to send local kids to Forkhorn Camps and sponsor two scholarships for "Dollars for Scholars".

They have used funding from this program to help with land acquisitions, which then is turned into Wildlife Management Areas, which are open to the public for hunting.

To donate your deer hide this season, simply look for the orange boxes with the MDHA logo on them. To locate an official MDHA Hides Drop Station, check their Facebook page "Isanti County MDHA" or visit MDHA website at mndeerhunters.com or call 800-450-3337. **-Isanti County Chapter of Minnesota Deer Hunters Association**



MN DNR NEWS BRIEFS

DNR webinars

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources invites people interested in wildlife and outdoor skills to check out the fall program schedule for the Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship webinar series.

On Wednesday, Nov. 13, Monica Bryand, executive director of the Urban Bird Collective, will share tips on photographing birds. Bryand will also talk about some of her favorite birding spots for the fall migration and the work of the Urban Bird Collective.

The Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series webinars are free and offered year-round, though registration is required. Visit the Outdoor Skills and Stewardship webpage of the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/discover) for the registration portal, more information about upcoming webinars and recordings of past

webinars.

Deer harvest numbers available online

People who are interested in deer harvest data can find current harvest data and past harvest reports on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' deer reports and statistics webpage (mndnr.gov/mammals/deer/management/statistics.html). The page also features an interactive map and graph that visualize the data.

In Minnesota, archery deer season began Sept. 14 and continues through Tuesday, Dec. 31. Firearms "A" deer season begins Saturday, Nov. 9, with various closing dates depending on a hunter's Deer Permit Area. Muzzleloader season begins Saturday, Nov. 30, and continues through Sunday, Dec. 15.

Zebra mussels confirmed in Eagle Lake in Sherburne County

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Eagle Lake, near the City of Big Lake in Sherburne County.

A dead zebra mussel was found at the Eagle Lake public water access in 2021, but no live specimens were found at that time. The DNR continued to annually monitor Eagle Lake for zebra mussels by conducting shoreline searches and water sampling for larvae. Last week, a DNR invasive species specialist found live adult and juvenile zebra mussels attached to the wheel of the Eagle Lake public access dock as it was being removed for the season.

In recent years several of the new zebra

mussel populations in Minnesota lakes were first reported by property owners and lake service providers removing docks, boats and boat lifts at the end of the season. The DNR reminds people to carefully check boats and trailers, docks and lifts, and all other water-related equipment for invasive species when removing equipment for seasonal storage.

People should contact a Minnesota DNR aquatic invasive species specialist if they think they have found zebra mussels or any other invasive species that was not already known to be in the water body.

More information is available on the aquatic invasive species page of the DNR website. **-MN DNR**

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YOUR NEWS

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ISANTI-CHISAGO

COUNTY STAR

REMINDER: Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday, November 2

Following repeated abuse, compost site to be staffed at times

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The honors system is out at the North Branch compost site — but not before it will cost North Branch \$40,000.

Contractors and non-residents have been abusing the site, which was open but staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year for North Branch residents to drop off yard waste and pick up compost.

It just has to be regulated," said Public Works Director Shawn Williams.

"It's become like a free-for-all," he said, adding that while contractor abuse — including dumping from dump trucks — is the main problem, there is also illegal dumping of appliances and used oil.

The site was opened in 1993 when leaf burning was banned, and for the first three years, the compost site was able to manage the amount of refuse through burning. For a period between 2006 to 2015, grant funding covered the cost to grind and haul the compost pile to a wood-burning incinerator in St. Paul that provided renewable energy.

Since 1985, North Branch has annually paid to have the waste ground up, a cost that has swelled from \$5,000 to a projected \$40,000 this year. The cost is covered by the general and storm water funds, according to the staff report.

Williams proposed grinding the large pile that has accumulated and starting it with Public Works employees for limited hours on weekends and certain weekdays, to which the council agreed.

SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES NOT AN OPTION

A proposal from the city council to explore expanding the use of Chisago County Sheriff's deputies for North Branch law enforcement is dead in the water.

Council member Peter Schaps proposed the idea after hearing the total maximum levy amount the council eventually approved, arguing it could result in a cost savings. Schaps invited Chisago County Sheriff Brandon Thym to speak to the council, to which the sheriff replied he would do so if the council extended a formal invitation.

In considering whether to do that, the council heard from North Branch's chief of police Dan Meyer, who pointed out that if the sheriff's department were to expand its presence in North Branch, they would likely have to hire staff, which the city is seeking to do now and in the 2025 budget anyway. Recruiting for law enforcement is down all over the country.

Interim City Administrator Linda Woulfe pointed out that the sheriff's department already responds to calls as at no cost to the city.

Additionally, adding the sheriff's office as a contractor would likely mean of who would take charge in the event of an investigation arising from a call, Meyer said.

Councilmember Robert Canada, who has extensive law enforcement experience and serves as the council's public

UNITED TO END WORLD HUNGER

Volunteers fill meal packages to be sent to areas around the world such as Ukraine, Honduras, or any other place where people are going hungry. Approximately 150 volunteers filled and boxed around 30,000 packages. This is the first food packing LifeRice has held in Cambridge since pre-COVID.

KEYS TO KEEPING KIDS SAFE FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

BY BILL STICKELS II
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Editor's note: This is part three of a three-part series of articles based on information presented at the Oct. 14 Level 3 predatory offender public meeting in Cambridge.

Even in the event a Level 3 registered predatory offender moves out of an area, just like Howard Lawrence Wanza Jr. did in Cambridge, it doesn't mean the threat of someone falling victim to a sexual assault is lessened. In fact, the Minnesota Department of Corrections states that is when the risk is even greater.

DOC Notification Coordinator Brad Vandervest notes that as of Oct. 14, which was the date of the public notification meeting for Wanza, there were 87 registered predatory offenders living in Isanti County, with only three (including Wanza) being Level 3, which prompted a notification meeting to be held at the time they moved into the county. Statewide, there are approximately 18,673 registered predatory offenders.

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 2

SEE CHILD SAFETY, PAGE 2

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Salute to Veterans

November 11, 2024

Freedom isn't Free...Thank You to all of our Military Personnel for the Sacrifices you have made for our Freedom.

The Historical Significance of Veterans Day

Veterans Day originated as Armistice Day and marked the end of hostilities of World War I that occurred at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Therefore, the day is always recognized on November 11th, regardless of the day of the week the 11th falls on.

The day was originally set aside to honor the Veterans of World War I with a day of parades and remembrances as well as a pause in activities at 11am on the day.

In 1938, it was made a legal federal holiday for all. However, after World War II and the Korean War, Congress recognized a need to expand the meaning of the day to recognize all of our

Veterans and not just those of World War I.

In 1954, the word "Armistice" was replaced with "Veterans" as a way to formally include all Veterans of all American wars in the day of remembrance.

Veterans Day is a day not only to remember those who died in service to our country, but also to recognize those who continue to serve today. Americans are encouraged to say thank you to those who fulfill this patriotic duty to maintain the freedoms of our country. This year, Veterans Day, November 11, 2021, falls on Thursday.

Q: What are the Armed Forces of the United States?

A: The Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard

Q: What is the oldest branch of the U.S. military?

A: The Army

Q: What is the largest branch of the U.S. military?

A: The Army

Q: Who is the only U.S. President to have received the Medal of Honor?

A: President Teddy Roosevelt

Q: When was Veterans Day established?

A: Originally celebrated as Armistice Day on November 11, 1919, it became a national holiday in 1938. The name was changed to Veterans Day in 1954.

Q: What is the largest military base in the world, based on population?

A: Fort Bragg in North Carolina

Thank you Veterans!

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W O R S H I P *guide*

Baptist

First Baptist Church

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

North Isanti Baptist Church

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

South Isanti Baptist Church

3367 Cty. Rd. 5 NE, Isanti.
763-444-5860, Pastor Bob Venneman. Sunday Worship 9:30am. Wednesday "Life & Light" Bible studies for all ages. Adults & children. For info call or go to southisantibaptist.org.

Springvale Baptist

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

Sunrise Bible Church

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

Catholic

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

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

Evangelical Covenant

Karmel Covenant Church

5799 County Road 6, Princeton, MN
763-389-3169
Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis
Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson
Sunday School for all ages 9:00 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
Wednesday AWANA 6:30 pm
Wednesday Youth Group 6:30 pm
Karmelcov.org

Evangelical Free

Dale Evangelical Free Church

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

Kost Evangelical Free Church

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

Oxlip Evangelical Free Church

29237 Roanoke St NW, Isanti
(1 mile West of Cty 5 and Hwy 47)
763-444-5134 oxlip.org
9am Worship Service

10:45am Christian Education
Awana children's ministry Wednesdays 6:30 to 8pm

Wyanett Evangelical Free Church

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

Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

West Central Drive & County Road 4, Braham
320-396-2755
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service - BELC
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Worship Service Live on Facebook
Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday thru Thursday

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)

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

Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA)

621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge
763-689-1211
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
9:15 & 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
www.cambridgelutheran.org -
fb.com/CambridgeLutheran

Christ Ev. Lutheran Church (WELS)

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

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

109 Second Ave NW, Isanti
763-444-9201
Pastor Daniel Shantu
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.
Home of Heavenly Sunshine Preschool
email:
office@faithlutheranisanti.com

First Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)

6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch
651-674-5576
Pastor Glen Kleppe
Sunday Worship 8am
Sunday School at 9am
Sunday Adult Bible Study at 9am
Tuesday Adult Bible Study at 7pm (Begins 9/17)
www.livingbranch.org
office@livingbranch.org

Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

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9:10am Sunday School
10am Contemporary Worship Service
Wednesday Schedule
5pm Wednesday Meal
6pm Worship
6:30pm Confirmation

Salem Lutheran Church

4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017. 763-689-1687
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Sunday at 10:30am, Sunday
school for 3 yrs to 6th gr.
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fellowship after worship
www.salemlutherandalbo.com

Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

St. John Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMC)

31075 Genesis Ave., Stacy, MN 55079
651-462-5115.
Office Hours - 9:00am - 1:00 pm
9:00am Services,
Sunday School following Service (10:15am).
Email - stjohns@midconetwork.com.
Website - stjohnslutheranchurch-stacymn.org

St. John's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Methodist

Common Ground - A United Methodist Community

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

Grace Gospel Church

37126 MN-65, Stanchfield, MN 55080
Coffee fellowship: 9:45am
Service: 10:00am
Pastor: Tim Miller
www.gracegospelmn.org

info@gracegospelchurchmn.com
Located just north of Grandy on 65, across from East Central Diesel, with three large crosses near the road.
We look forward to having you!

Lakeside Christian Church

32393 Rendova Cir. N.E., Cambridge (3 mi. E of Cambridge just off Hwy. 95). 763-689-3649. Ministry Coordinator Jeff Bonkoski. Sunday 9:30am Worship.
Retreat house & personal retreat cabins available. Call for reservation. Email: lakesidesecretary@gmail.com. lakesidechurchcambridge.org

Journey of Faith

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

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justpassinihs@gmail.com
Justpassinthru.net
Pastor Tom Bakke
Sunday mornings at 10 am
Sunday nights and Wednesdays

Pentecostal

The Journey New Life Church

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



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NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF ISANTI PLANNING COMMISSION

Public Hearing on November 19, 2024

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, November 19 2024, at 6:00pm at the Isanti City Hall located at 110 First Avenue NW; the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the following item(s):

1) Request by Weathered Wood Reclaimed Barnwood for a Site Plan Review for 27977 Highway 65, to add a 30' extension to a lumber sales building under City Ordinance 145 Section 18.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY OF ISANTI, MINNESOTA.

Jared Haas

Associate Planner

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 7, 2024

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE LEGAL NOTICE LEAD COPPER

The City of Cambridge has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) at <https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>. To complete the service line inventory of our system we went through records, did onsite inspections, and had homeowners send in photos. As of 08/27/2024, our inventory contains 0 lead, 7 galvanized requiring replacement, 260 unknown material, and 3140 non-lead service lines.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 7, 2024

ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Oct. 27 - Nov. 2. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Paul Steven McKay (DOB 02/21/1993) of South Saint Paul, was charged Oct. 28 with one count of Check Forgery-Make or Alter a Check; and one count of Check Forgery-Falsely Endorse.

CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Oct. 27 - Nov. 2. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Nathan Scott Kammerud (DOB 01/06/1985) of Dresser, WI, was charged Oct. 29 with Fugitive from Justice from Other State.

Meckella May Ione Anderson (DOB 08/14/1992) of Taylors Falls, was charged Oct. 29 with Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent.

Lance Michael King (DOB 08/14/1979) of Shafer, was charged Oct. 30 with Domestic Assault - By Strangulation.

Mitchell Scott Evjen (DOB 11/18/1992) of Anoka, was charged Oct. 31 with Receiving Stolen Property.

Joseph James Melberg (DOB 01/01/1998) of Lindstrom, was charged Nov. 1 with Domestic Assault - By Strangulation.

Stephen Joseph Mead (DOB 11/23/1990) of North Branch, was charged Nov. 1 with Domestic Assault.

Cory Lee Vorbeck (DOB 07/29/1989) of North Branch, was charged Nov. 1 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

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Temporary Editor

March 2025-July 2025

With an upcoming leave of our permanent editor of the *North Pine County News*, we are looking for a temporary editor to fill in for March, April, May, June and possibly a week or two in July 2025. Ideally this is a person who is an experienced editor with knowledge of InDesign, page layout and story writing.

If you enjoy finding the mix of features, civic, events, business, previewing and equipping readers for the coming week, this could be a great fit. The editor writes, edits, assigns stories to freelancers and coordinates coverage for the *North Pine County News* as well as works with neighboring editors on regional stories, planning and training.

Northstar Media and Kanabec Publications publish seven weekly papers, operate a central printing plant, interactive websites, leading social media audiences, and are also a part of Press Publications and Sentinel Publications. The combined family-owned company includes 20 community papers/related print and digital products.

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Notices

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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

Diesel Problems? Call the experts: East Central Diesel 763-689-9470 eastcentraldiesel.net

102

Services

Up to 49 channels for free. No monthly bills. Dave's TV and Antenna: 320-515-0270

Wanted: Ford Truck 1997-2008 parts or repair truck. Call 612-845-0289

201

Child Care

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

301

Farm Misc

Tillable farmland wanted. Looking to rent land for corn and soybeans in the Mora area. Call or text 612-702-6976.

302

Feed/Seed/Hay

Grass Hay 5x5 twine tied, 200 bales @ \$35, 100 bales @ \$25. Good hay. 218-343-0948.

305

Pets/Services

Puppies for Sale: Chihuahua Pomeranian cross. \$300. Vaccinated/wormed. Adult size weight is 8 lbs. Call 320-983-5661

358

Firewood

16-inch Seasoned, Mixed Hardwood. Two cord loads for \$475 delivered. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815.

358

Firewood

16-inch split oak – 2 cord loads for \$500. 20-inch outdoor stove wood, mixed hardwood – 2 cord loads for \$450. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815

For Sale: Aspen firewood, fireplace size. \$150 per full cord. Phone 320-496-3904.

362

Miscellaneous

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369

Want to Buy

Wanted: Moose & deer horns, hunting & fishing items, Stanley planes, ice fishing spears, agates, advertising signs. Call Gary 651-238-0909 cell. Mora, MN

404

Garage Sales

4-H Annual Rumage Sale. \$5.00/bag. Too big for a bag, make an honest offer. Books 25/\$2.00. Thurs., Fri., Sat., Nov. 14, 15, and 16. One more week weather permitting. 4-H Exhibit Building, Kanabec County Fairgrounds.

452

Rentals/Residential

HOUSE RENTAL: 1 bedroom house near Ann Lake. Small pets OK. Hot water heat, hardwood floors, \$800 month. Call 320-272-4788 after 5 p.m.

Pole shed garage storage – couple's rates. Housing rentals available in Bradford/Cambridge:1 bdrm/1ba, small kitchen or 3 bdrm/1ba house. 612-964-9625

501

Real Estate Wanted

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