

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!: From our entire staff, have a safe and fun Fourth of July weekend.

Isanti Rodeo celebrates 50 years of existence

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Isanti Firefighters Rodeo has come a long way since its meager beginnings back in 1976 — from receiving little-to-no coverage even in the local newspapers to being nationally recognized as one of the premier rodeo events.

According to former Chair Tom Pagel, the rodeo almost was a “one-and-done” situation. It was first held Sept. 17 through 19, 1976, at the T&B Stock Farm northeast of Isanti and wasn’t well-received.

“Although it was well-planned and involved the Lions, fire personnel, and community members, it was a financial disappointment,” Pagel recalls. “The Lions Club was not interested in doing a second year of the rodeo and approached the Isanti Fire Department to see if they were interested.”

Pagel said the members of the fire department were very divided about accepting the offer.

“A couple of the firefighters, Jim Houston and John Bartz, carried the torch (for the rodeo),” Pagel said. “Traditional fundraising for the fire department had consisted of having Bingo, and prizes were bags of Red Oak charcoal. Several of the older firefighters thought Bingo was a safer means of fundraising. After some heated discus-



DEE ANN SIBLEY | COUNTY STAR

sions, the members voted to host the second rodeo.”

The second rodeo was held Aug. 6 and 7, 1977, and was renamed as the Isanti Firemen’s PRCA Rodeo. It was held near the old water tower — just north of

where Fire Station #1 currently sits on First Avenue. It also included a post-rodeo dance featuring the local Cedar Creek Band. These changes proved to be popular, as 3,875 spectators attended it.

FROM LOCAL TO NATIONAL

Pagel said the first years of the rodeo featured several local contestants who went on to compete professionally in rodeos sanctioned by the International Professional Rodeo Association and the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Specifically, Pagel mentioned Dale Yerigan, who went on to become a World Champion in steer wrestling. Yerigan is currently the general manager of the IPRA.

“The annual rodeo quickly became a major summertime event in East Central Minnesota,” Pagel said, “and teamed up with national and local sponsors, and a phenomenal fan base. It continues today as the department’s major fundraiser.”

The third rodeo again featured a change in dates, with it moving to mid-July to coordinate with the town’s celebration and parade. That celebration, which was being called “Chief Isanti Days,” was sponsored by a group of Isanti businessmen that later became the Isanti Chamber of Commerce and is now the North 65 Chamber of Commerce. According to an ad in a 1977 edition of the Cambridge Star, “Jubilee Days” was also held at the same time in August as the second rodeo. Sometime between then and 1980, “Jubilee Days” replaced “Chief Isanti Days” as the

SEE RODEO, PAGE 8

Arson sparks outhouse removal from Cambridge parks

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The city of Cambridge has experienced a rash of portable bathrooms being set on fire in city parks, resulting in the temporary removal of all outhouses and the closure of the permanent restrooms at City Park.

According to a press release from the city, “Over the past several weeks, the Cambridge Police Department and Cambridge Fire Department have responded to multiple intentionally set fires involving portable toilets located in city parks.

“While some may view these incidents as harmless pranks, they are anything but. In

SEE ARSON, PAGE 8

LP breaks ground on large manufacturing facility in North Branch

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

After sitting vacant for years, the city of North Branch’s Interstate Industrial Park finally not only has a tenant, but one that city officials believe will encourage other companies to take root in the area.

LP Building Solutions, a leading manufacturer of high-performance building products, has officially broken ground on a new LP SmartSide ExpertFinish Trim & Siding manufacturing facility. The approximately 350,000-square-foot facility will be built on a recently acquired 120-acre site within the Industrial Park. It is expected to create 125 jobs at full capacity and is slated to begin production in the first quarter of 2028.

“The addition of the 120-acre LP



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Representatives from the city of North Branch and LP Building Solutions hold a ceremonial ground-breaking at the company’s future site in North Branch’s Interstate Industrial Park.

SmartSide ExpertFinish manufacturing facility is a welcome development for the North Branch community,” North Branch Mayor Kevin Schieber said. “Along with creating

best-in-class building products, I’m impressed by LP’s strong commitment to high-quality jobs and its

SEE LP, PAGE 8

420 Village Court, Cambridge	3823 259th Ave NE, Isanti	48089 Autumn Court, Stanchfield	29977 Crocus St. NW, Isanti	8825 Greeley Loop, Braham
3 bed 3 bath. Beautifully maintained rambler in a desirable 55+ community featuring vaulted ceilings, updated kitchen, main-level laundry, spacious lower level, solar panels, and low-maintenance living.	2 bed 2 bath. Charming country home on 2.5 wooded acres! Spacious living areas, fireplace, oversized garage, new roof, new septic, wildlife, privacy, and beautiful mature trees.	3 bed 2 bath. Beautifully updated home with lake views, heated garage, hot tub, maintenance-free deck, gorgeous gardens, peaceful backyard, and numerous recent improvements throughout.	Spacious 4-bedroom, 3 bath home near Lake Francis featuring multiple living spaces, wood-burning fireplace, main-level laundry, walkout lower level, and numerous exterior updates. Enjoy beautiful views, mature trees, and abundant wildlife.	3 bed 2 bath. Historic creamery transformed into a remarkable countryside retreat on 43 picturesque acres with a spring fed pond, handcrafted character, abundant wildlife, and endless possibilities.
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REALTOR

Cambridge Police looks to rebuild Neighborhood Watch

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Cambridge Police Department is aiming to reinstitute a longtime community crime-prevention program, with the possibility of adding a modern-day twist.

Neighborhood Watch is a concept that has been around since 1972. According to the National Neighborhood Watch website, it is “one of the oldest and best-known crime prevention concepts in North America. The program received a boost in participation following the September 11 attacks. However, it also suffered negative press following a coordinator in Florida fatally shooting an unarmed teenager, plus a couple other incidents of citizens taking the law into their own hands.

Cambridge Officer Kevin Gross said there are a couple of Neighborhood Watches already established in Cambridge that have been successful.

“I just talked with a teacher at the high school who had one on a street that was having problems with car break-ins, vandalism and whatnot,” Gross said. “As soon as they started one, it went away.”

Gross said the style of the proposed programs Cambridge is looking at is strictly observing and reporting.

“This isn’t a vigilante group,” Gross said. “There’s only so many cops out at a time and sometimes we might be tied up on another call. But if we have other eyes out there, that’s why we want to start this.”

Gross said it is very easy to start up a program in an area. Ideally, it would be a smaller, close-knit area of maybe 10 to 12 houses, depending on the layout of the houses.

“You don’t want to have something like six blocks by six blocks,” he said. “That’s a lot of people. Keep it small so you know your neighbors, have that open

communication, know what’s going on, know your neighbors’ schedules.”

Each group will have a “captain” — the person who organizes group meetings (there should be at least two per year) and who can be a direct contact with the police. Gross said while anyone can call the police at any time about anything, some people are a little more apprehensive out of fear of “wasting an officer’s time.” The group captain can be given the information and determine if a call to the police is warranted.

One of the meetings can be in conjunction with Minnesota’s Night to Unite, which this year takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 4. Gross said it’s a good time to get together over a community grill or potluck. Plus, officers set that time aside to visit those neighborhoods.

“Those meetings are important, just so you are staying up with each other,” Gross said.

Ultimately, the goal is with a full police force, each officer would be assigned a “grid” of the city in which that officer would be responsible for. That officer would then be the first point of contact for the watch group.

USING MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Gross said the group is most effective by setting up a direct form of communication among the neighbors. This can be as basic as a group text where anyone can report an observation, and it can be determined if anyone else finds it suspicious or if it is fine.

For those who are comfortable with current technology, there are some doorbell cameras that can be linked together and provide video accessibility to others in the neighborhood. Gross emphasized, however, this isn’t a situation where data is saved on an outside network. The communication could also be somewhere in-between where someone can send out a group text saying “check your doorbell cameras



around such-and-such a time.”

“Just having the connections,” Gross said. “I really think just people talking and having those groups together and knowing what’s going on in your neck of the woods is great. And it helps us to know.”

Anyone interested in setting up a Neighborhood Watch can get a startup kit by contacting Officer Gross, Officer Dan Owl, or Police Chief Shawn Machin at 763-689-9567. There will also be another public information meeting sometime prior to Night to Unite.

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\$13.99

High Noon
All Varieties 8 pk
\$19.99

White Claw
NA + All Varieties
12 pk, cans
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All Varieties + Gin
\$9.99

Clos Du Bois
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ISANTI-CHISAGO
**COUNTY
STAR**

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MINNESOTA
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

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

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

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

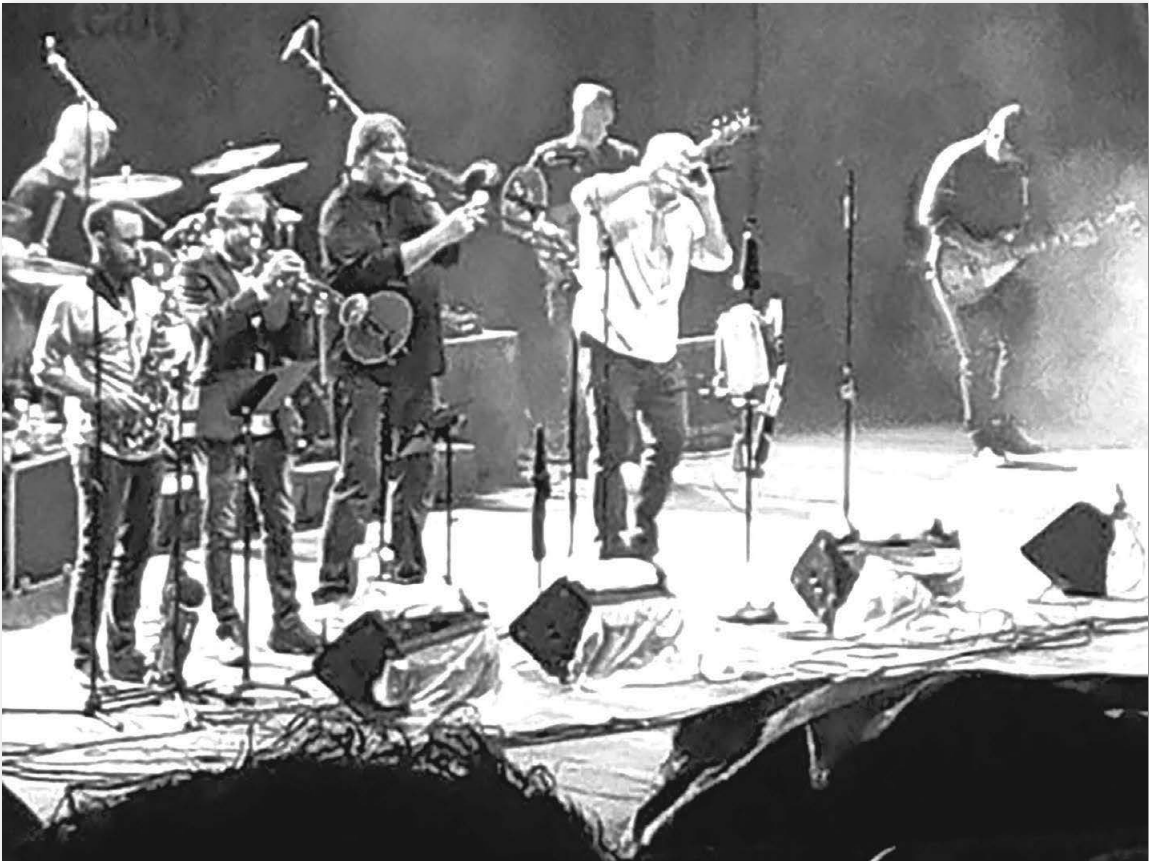
Fresh Beginnings Alanon
Family Groups meets
Monday's 7 - 8 p.m. at Access
Church, 4359 - 392nd St.,
North Branch. Visit minneso-
tanorth-al-anon.org

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

TUES & THURS
Exercise for Those
w/Parkinson's
Tuesdays and Thursdays at
10:15 a.m., 3:45 p.m. and 5 p.m.
at 115 Adams Street South,
Cambridge. For more infor-
mation, call 763-221-6883.

TUESDAYS
Braham Parkinson's Support
3 p.m. third Tuesday of the
month. Braham Evangelical
Lutheran Church, 905 Central
Drive W., Braham. For info.
call Lonnie Anderson at 612-
423-1863.

Alzheimer's Support
Third Tuesday of each month
from 10-11 a.m. at GracePointe
Heritage Center, 322 River
Hills Place North, Cambridge.
For info call McKenna Dold
763-691-6172.



FACEBOOK

North Branch Summer Concert Series continues July 7 with Transit Authority.

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

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

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

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

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

Chisago County Drop-In Center
Open 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Main
Street Church, 6500 Main
Street, North Branch. For

individuals 18 yrs or older liv-
ing with mental illness. Info:
651-213-5600 or Adultmental-
health.org.

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

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

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

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon Family
Group
From 7-8 p.m. at Access
Church, 4359 392nd Street,

North Branch. Visit minneso-
ta-al-anon.org for info.

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

Baby Storytime
co-hosted by Cambridge
Library and ECFE. Begins
at 9:30 a.m. at Cambridge
Library through May 21.
Recommended for ages birth
to 23 months. No registration
necessary.

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

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

JULY 7
North Branch Summer Concert
Series
Transit Authority performs
a variety of musical genres at
7 p.m. in Central Park. Food
trucks at 6 p.m. and story time
at 6:45 p.m.

JULY 9
Books for Bros book club
5:30 p.m. we will be meeting
at Dana's Bookstore in Isanti to
discuss The Blade Itself by Joe
Abercombie. Join us at Dana's
Bookstore, 120 Heritage Blvd
NE #3, Isanti.

JULY 10
Splash Splash Summer Bash
11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Bluebird
Park Amphitheater

SENIOR CENTER
WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

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

CHISAGO COUNTY
38790 6th Avenue,
North Branch
Mon, Wed, Fri.
Exercise with Connie -
10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Monday & Wednesday
500 - starting at 12:45
p.m.

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

Thursdays
Bingo - starting at 10
a.m.
Hand and Foot - start-
ing at 12:30 p.m.
Fridays
Cribbage - starting at
12:45 p.m.

Continued Flock criticism prompts additional North Branch council meeting

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The “ayes” had it — but critics of Flock Safety are gaining ground in pursuing severance of North Branch’s contract with the surveillance giant. Eight individuals spoke against the contract at the council’s final June meeting, having been invited by Mayor Kevin Schieber to voice their concerns during public comment. Several others raised objections before the council approved the contract in mid-May, but Schieber, along with Council members Patrick Meacham and Robert Canada, voted to go through with the contract anyway.

While council members Jim Ibinger and Jeff Goulet approved the policy regulating the city’s use of ALPRs, they voted against the actual contract with Flock. Bailey Tepoorten, whose remarks lasted longest, read a long list of news headlines reporting on abuse by individual officers, for purposes of stalking former romantic partners, among other things. Headlines also announced that departments that had agreed not to share data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement actually did. Tepoorten also expressed dismay at a change to Flock’s terms of service, which he and other critics claim could allow Flock to sell customer data. Flock

disputed this account in a blog post, which has also been criticized. Other concerns included false arrests following a mistaken identity made by Flock’s AI, wherein it incorrectly identified license plates, leading to a dog attack on a person not involved in any criminal investigation. One public commenter, identified only as Sam, told council a petition to rescind the contract had reached 63 signatures before the start of the meeting. The council ultimately directed staff to schedule and publicize a public meeting on the subject, and asked what phase of the contract process the city was in. According to City Administrator Matthew Hill, the contract has been



signed and the down payment submitted, but he was unaware whether the check had cleared. At press time, the city has yet to specify a date and time for this meeting.

Concert in the Park brings back fond memories

ast Friday, I was really looking forward to Cambridge's first Concert in the Park. While, between Cambridge, North Branch, and Isanti's summertime free concerts there's at least one or two I make a special mark in my calendar for, this one in particular had me going out of my way to make sure I was able to attend.

You see, the band performing was Big Shots, which is a Billy Joel tribute band. As I've mentioned in this space before, I consider Billy Joel to be the greatest singer/songwriter of all time. For proof of this statement, I can easily point to his multitude of hits — enough to fill three "Greatest Hits" albums and still have songs left over that many would argue warrant being included as a greatest hit. But I also have a more personal reason for making this statement.

Back in somewhere around my teen years and early 20s, whenever the family would take a trip up north to the cabin that included my grandpa coming along, I would inevitably be grandpa's "copilot." Like many from this generation (Gen X), I considered no roadtrip could be accomplished without some form of musical accompaniment. Obviously, his music preference was vastly different than mine. And while I could tolerate a certain amount of his music, the thought of nearly two hours of it wasn't all that appealing.

At one point, I think I was bestowed the opportunity to choose what we would listen to. So, probably out of sheer desperation to find something that was mutually palatable, I grabbed Billy Joel's "Greatest Hits Volume I & II." Well, much to my pleasant surprise, not only did grandpa like it, he loved it. After that, every time we got into the car together, he asked me to play it.

As a humorous side note, some of those trips were on the shorter side, and since we were playing a cd, that meant every time we started the car and inserted the disc, it would start over at the beginning. This meant we heard the first songs many more times than the last songs. In fact, I'm not sure how many times we actually switched to Volume II.

At one point, I did get adventurous and grabbed my "Greatest Hits Volume III" CD. However, that one didn't go over as well. Looking back, I guess I understand why. That third volume is songs from the mid-80s into the mid-90s, and Billy Joel's songs did more reflect that decade's style. I also remember that he completely missed the message of the song "We Didn't Start the Fire," and was therefore somewhat offended by the lyrical references to events grandpa had lived through.

Regardless, those road trips are among my most cherished memories of time spent with one of my namesakes. And while even the band's lead singer acknowledged they couldn't fully replicate The Piano Man, their renditions were close enough for me to wax nostalgic.

BILL STICKELS III is editor of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be directly reached at 651-407-1245, through our main office number at 763-689-1181, ext. 156 or editor@countystar.com.



Worth a Thousand Words
Bill Stickels III



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Everyone should be celebrating Fourth of July

To the editor,

This July Fourth our beloved country will be celebrating our 250th anniversary of the founding of our republic, and it's my hope that every American will celebrate this milestone.

John Kennedy, Louisiana Senator, had this to say about America: "I think America is the greatest country in all of human history, and the whole world knows it. When was the last time you heard of someone trying to sneak into China? People want to come here. We're not perfect, but we're good. America caught the disease of slavery, but we beat it back." (Don't forget 360,000 Union soldiers, many of them white, died to free the slaves).

Kennedy concludes, "Our values include freedom, rule of law,

personal responsibility, the idea that the circumstances of your birth do not have to determine the outcome of your life."

One immigrant from Argentina who's been a citizen in America for five years left everything behind in her home country and said it was a hard road to get here. So why did she come?

"I, like many other immigrants came here to pursue a positive that only American could offer. I wanted to go where I knew I could maximize the possibilities of living my best life."

Then she concluded, "I came here with one goal in mind: to build a better life for myself by working hard in a career that I love — a dream that was getting more and more out of reach at home. In only six years I've reached a standard of living and degree of happiness I hadn't experienced before, and I have immense hope for the future — a future I cannot imagine being

able to reach anywhere else."

Sing this Lee Greenwood song with me:

"From the lakes of Minnesota, to the hills of Tennessee

Across the plains of Texas, from sea to shining sea

From Detroit down to Houston and New York to LA

Well, there's pride in every American heart

And it's time we stand and say That I'm proud to be an American where at least I know I'm free

And I won't forget the men who died, who gave that right to me

And I'd gladly stand up next to you and defend her still today

Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land

God bless the USA"

So this July Fourth, be thankful and blessed to live in America — and let's all celebrate.

David E. Johnson
Cambridge

Limits on riders for teen drivers



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Question: My kid just received their driver's license. It was during this time that I found out they are limited on their passengers. They want to give their friends a ride but I think more people should know about this on the limitations.

Answer: Teen drivers are only allowed to have one passenger under the age of 20 for the first six months they have their provisional license, unless there is also a parent or guardian in the vehicle.

For the second six months they have

their license, teen drivers are limited to no more than three passengers under the age of 20 without a parent or guardian also in the vehicle.

The limit does not apply for passengers under age 20 who are members of the driver's immediate family.

A portion of state statutes were used with permission from the Office of the Revisor of Statutes. If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow — Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on "X" @MSPP10_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

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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Published by
Northstar Media, Inc.
PRINTERS • PUBLISHERS
930 South Cleveland, Cambridge, MN 55008



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countystar.com • Phone: (763) 689-1181

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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2026 ELECTION CANDIDATE FILING NOTICES

Aronson running for Isanti County District 5 Commissioner

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

My name is Stephanie Aronson. I grew up in Isanti, graduated from Cambridge-Isanti High School, and returned home after college committed to building a future in the community that raised me. Along the way I earned a BA in English and dual Master’s degrees in Business Administration and Criminal Justice. Earning three degrees in three disciplines gave me a broad foundation in communication, analysis, and leveraging resources in a creative way.

I founded Vixen Defense, a local business offering firearms training and practical self-defense education, to be accessible, comfortable and useful for people of all backgrounds and experience levels. I know what it takes to manage limited resources, serve the public and make hard calls without a safety net. I know that real leadership is about knowing how to bring the right people, tools and partnerships together to solve problems.

I am running for County Commissioner in District 5 because I believe Isanti County deserves more than endless promises of less taxes and less spending that inevitably deliver fewer services, shrinking accessibility and a county continually playing catch-up to problems. I believe we deserve more infrastructure and services for those who live, work, play, raise families and retire here. More investment in the future and with our youth. More honest conversations about where exactly the money is going and how much bang we’re getting for our buck.

Isanti is my home. It’s where I am from, where I live, where I work, where I play and take daily walks with my dog in the county parks. I have spent more than a dozen years putting my money, my time and my roots into this county. I would be honored to serve as a voice for the future. For more information about me, check out isantigungirl.com.



Stephanie Aronson

LaRowe running for Isanti County District 5 Commissioner re-election

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Thank you, Isanti County, for your trust and support. I have an appreciation for our department heads for working with the commissioners to ensure prudent budgeting.

We had a zero base county budget in year one and 1.99% in years two and three by leveraging a reserve fund we’ve set aside resources for the needs, and for the future of our departments. We passed a strong resolution to protect your Second Amendment rights, return to you the right to vote for county auditor/treasurer, cut unnecessary spending, improved connectivity with fiber optics, saved unnecessary renovation of Isanti Government Center that would have cost taxpayers \$18 million, and stopped the unnecessary silo effect with employees. We took a cut in pay from the previous commissioners salaries. I did not vote for an increase in our salaries and do not collect my per diem’s for the committees I serve on.

I currently serve on the Central Minnesota Council on Aging, East Central Regional Development Commission, East Central Regional Juvenile Detention Center, Lakes and Pines Board of Directors, Library Board, Public Health Commission, Tax Abatement Policy Committee, and Health and Human Services Advisory and Education Committee.

One of the most rewarding parts of serving as commissioner is meeting residents where they are — at township meetings, community events, local businesses, fairs, and gatherings throughout our county. As a county with deep agricultural roots, I value the opportunity to listen to farmers, families, business owners, and residents from every corner of Isanti County. I look forward to meeting many more.

As your commissioner, I will continue to focus on fiscal responsibility, public safety, and making sure Isanti County remains a great place to live, work, farm, and raise a family.



Kristi LaRowe

Maher running for Cambridge Council

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Hello, my name is Andrew Maher and I am running for Cambridge City Council.

For the last 8 years, my wife and I have proudly raised our children in this fantastic community. We have enjoyed the small town feeling we get living here and how passionate the community is, whether at the city council meetings or our infamous Walmart Rock!

I am choosing to run to help ensure our community thrives by focusing first on our residents who call Cambridge home. I would like to keep local tax rates low, leaving more money in the pocket of our citizens. I would also do my best to keep invasive AI tools out of our community. Saying no to the Flock camera systems and AI data centers will help protect the privacy of our residents while also protecting the resources we need.

Mainly, my focus will be on maintaining a local government that is genuinely transparent and open to the public. Our city officials work for the citizens, not the other way around. I promise to be upfront with our community to ensure every decision we make puts the people of Cambridge first.

I am running for the community, so I would love to hear from you first hand. My email is maherforcambridgecouncil@gmail.com. Please reach out if you have any questions, thoughts or concerns about our community or about electing me for Cambridge City Council. Thank you for reading this and thank you for participating in one of the most important roles a citizen can do, voting to be heard!



Andrew Maher

Merrill running for Isanti Mayor re-election

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

What a great year the City of Isanti had in 2025! We made meaningful improvements to city services, parks, public safety, streets, and effectively reduced the tax rate by another 5%. Building on this momentum, I am announcing my candidacy for re-election as Isanti Mayor.

Tax efficiency has always remained my primary focus. I’m proud that Isanti’s leadership team has accomplished the largest city tax rate reduction in all of Minnesota: a 23% decrease since 2023. Our goal has been to cut the tax rate faster than inflation, so families can feel stable in their homes. Along with that reduction, we’re also budgeting better for long-term infrastructure — some items as far as 40 years.

Public safety remains a major priority. Our police department is fully staffed for the first time



Luke Merrill

in years. Through improved long-term planning and capital investment, including bringing maintenance in-house, we are increasing our law enforcement service quality with better vehicles, while also saving money.

The Creamery building on Main Street was purchased in 2025 and is being renovated, with plans to reopen the restaurant soon! Having lived in Isanti for 34 years and growing up blocks from the Creamery, I have always valued its importance to our city. Bringing it back was a community goal, and I’m proud to have supported the return of a high-value, locally owned small business.

This year, I worked hard to create a fundraising task force to improve our city parks. The new skatepark build, happening right now in Bluebird Park, is our first major fundraising project and will be zero cost to taxpayers. Contact me to get involved!

Thank you for making this community a great place to live and for supporting me as your Mayor. We will continue working hard for you! I can be contacted at 763-516-5082, LukeJMerrill@aol.com, or www.LukeJMerrill.com

DuBose running for Chisago County District 2 Commissioner

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

I am Chris DuBose and am excited to be running to once again be Chisago County Commissioner. I’ve served the area for almost 30 years as a volunteer (Rotary, Foundation, Good Neighbors, Youth Coach), Commissions (County and City Planning, Parks, Sewer, Police, Economic Development, Budget, and many others), Elected (Mayor, City Council, Lake Improvement, and County Commissioner), and was the Police Commissioner and joined the departments together into LAPD.

I have been very active in all these positions, have demonstrated strong leadership and have been successful in getting things done. A few of my notable accomplishments are:

- Reforming the zoning ordinances to allow landowners to better use their land by revising the septic ordinance, enabling home businesses that don’t disturb neighbors, permitting pole barn construction without a



Chris DuBose

house, tightening solar ordinance four times to better fit environment.

- Successfully lobbied for Chisago/Center Lakes channels and bridges between all the lakes in the Chisago/Lindstrom/Center chain.
- Leading the reconstruction of the Little/Big Green Lake channel. Organized the Lower St Croix Watershed joining 15 watersheds and counties to enable millions in grants for water quality.
- Led the Economic Development Authority to create workforce and commuter studies that highlight that our county possesses a well trained and motivated workforce. These were used to attract LP Smartside facility that is worth \$150 million and will employ over 125. I pushed to expand the Chisago City Industrial Park that landed Kendall Howard whose new expansion will employ 225 and become one of the county’s largest employers.

I want to encourage a better commercial tax base to relieve the huge tax burden that homeowners currently bear. I will help run a stricter budget while still paying a fair wage to our valued employees. I have the experience and I will bring energy, enthusiasm, and leadership back to District 2 of the County Board.

Visit us online at

CountyStar.com



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

New Pathways celebrates ribbon cutting

New Pathways celebrated its ribbon cutting in Cambridge with the North 65 Chamber of Commerce. Employees of New Pathways were joined by chamber members, family and friends to mark the occasion. Doing the honors of cutting the ribbon is Ella, whose family previously went through New Pathways' program.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Newton Financial celebrates ribbon cutting

The owners of Newton Financial joined members of the North 65 Chamber of Commerce and the city of Cambridge for a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of the business' new office building at 512 Main Street South in Cambridge.

STUDENT NAMES IN THE NEWS

Student Achievement Lists

Kathryn Boster of Braham; Jenna Bjergo, Jocilyn Broda, Per Ekerholm, Lindsie Sullivan, and Sophia Yaggy of Cambridge; Norah Block, Dallas Fix, Kaylie Prenovost, and Rebekah Wolf of Isanti; Alexandra Ellis, and Katelynne Pachuca of North Branch; Alexander Dahl, Lucas Golon, and Meghan May of Rush City (Dean's) from University of Minnesota Duluth

Landon Mold of North Branch (Dean's) from Saint Mary's University

Timothy Steven Jakoblich, and Cynthia Peterson of North Branch (Dean's) from Iowa State University

Logan Westman of Stanchfield (Dean's) from Carthage College

Degrees

Daniel Berg (Bachelor of Arts, Film Studies), and Veronica Hemming (Bachelor of Arts, Psychology), Summa Cum Laude, of Rush City; Bekah Fish (Bachelor of Science, Exercise and Rehabilitative Science), Jenny Lindner (Master of Science, Nursing and Organizational Leadership), and Paige Peaslee (Bachelor of Science, Geoscience), Summa Cum Laude, of North Branch, from Winona State University.

Megan Vanhout (Master of Science, Nutrition and Dietetics), of Isanti; and Adam Shoberg (Bachelor of Science, Manufacturing Engineering) and Natalie Tveit (Bachelor of Science, Computer and Electrical Engineering), of North Branch, from University of Wisconsin-Stout Polytechnic.

Gene Haas Foundation grant supports North Branch robotics teams

The Gene Haas Foundation has awarded a total of \$10,000 to support five North Branch FIRST Tech Challenge teams.

Hope Riska of Productivity Inc., representing the Gene Haas Foundation, presented the grant check June 23 to the North Branch robotics program. Each of the five teams received a \$2,000 grant during the 2025-26 season.

Program leader Becky Leuer said students prepared the grant applications before they were submitted.

"The funding covers a little more than half of what it costs to operate the program and is very much appreciated," Leuer said.

The North Branch FIRST Tech Challenge program relies on volunteer mentors to guide each team and is seeking two to three additional mentors for the 2026-27 season. Those



CONTRIBUTED

interested in volunteering can contact the North Branch Activities Office at 651-674-1512 for more information. -NB Robotics

Jennissen reappointed to regional loan fund board

Kelby Jennissen has been reappointed to the East Central Regional Development Commission's Revolving Loan Fund Board of Directors, continuing to represent Isanti County.

Jennissen is a financial advisor with Newton Financial Solutions and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Concordia College.

The commission's Revolving Loan Fund provides gap financing to small businesses in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs and Pine counties.

The East Central Regional Development Commission is a public agency governed by representatives appointed by county boards, townships, municipalities, school boards and citizens at large from the five-county region. - The East Central Regional Development Commission



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Reader's Choice 2026
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The top 5 nominees made it on the voting ballot.

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9 facts about the Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is a document that indicates the founding principles of the United States of America. The declaration was issued by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and announced the separation of the 13 British colonies in North America from the United Kingdom.

That significance means the public may want to learn more about the Declaration of Independence. Here are some key facts.

1. While Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, it was carefully reviewed and modified by other members of the Continental Congress, notably John Adams and Benjamin Franklin.
2. The Continental Congress actually voted for independence on July 2, 1776. The written Declaration was dated July 4, 1776, but it wasn't actually signed until August 2nd of that year. John Adams thought July 2nd would be marked as the national holiday.
3. Fifty-six delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, but not all were present on that day in August.
4. While many know that John Hancock signed first, with his prominent signature readily visible, it is believed that Thomas McKean of Delaware was the last person to sign.
5. Others signed according to state delegation and in columns, starting with the northernmost state (New Hampshire) to the southernmost (Georgia).
6. About 200 copies of the Dunlap Broadside were printed. Today, 26 copies remain.
7. The original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence has been lost.
8. The Declaration of Independence was not universally accepted, and many people in the colonies remained loyal to the British monarchy and opposed American independence.
9. The Declaration of Independence has a message written on the back of it. It reads, "Original Declaration of Independence dated 4th July 1776."



RODEO: Event held in four locations, three different months during 50-year history

FROM PAGE I

mid-July community event.

In 1981, the rodeo made another physical move, now being located across First Avenue at the property that later became the school district bus parking area. Bleachers were added using old power poles donated by Anoka Electric Cooperative for the bleacher frames and planks borrowed from Isanti Lumber, and later from Sylvester Bros. Lumber, for the seating.

Pagel noted the rodeo has always received support from area businesses, organizations and individuals. A few examples of this were the Norsemen Motorcycle Club helping park cars, the Isanti County Highway Department loaning old wooden snow fences to separate the crowd from the competition, and all the local law enforcement and medical departments helping keep attendees safe. Additionally, even though they backed out of being the primary organizers of the event, the Lions Club has operated a food concession at every performance.

A year later, in 1982, the rodeo moved one last time to its current location, with the land being given to the fire fighters as part of a LAWCON (Land and Water Conservation Fund) grant. This allowed for a permanent arena and bleachers to be installed. It was

also around that time the rodeo became sanctioned by the IPRA and began drawing contestants from all over the US and Canada.

The last significant change came via the formation of the Isanti Firefighters Rodeo Association as an independent non-profit organization and sole owners of the property. According to Pagel, this was done due to the city of Isanti becoming concerned over the increasing crowds and corresponding potential liability issues. As part of this, the city was granted first right of refusal should the property ever be sold.

Since that time, as the demand for tickets continued to increase, additional seating — including handicapped accessible, box seats, and VIP sections have been added. Currently, the rodeo’s two-night performances have attracted over 11,000 spectators each of the last two years.

MORE THAN JUST A RODEO

Over the years, other forms of entertainment have been added to the main rodeo performances. Some of those included mutton busting and goat tying for kids, 4H drill teams, businessman’s calf roping, and, for risk-takers, the “Ring of Fear.” This contest featured nine volunteers standing in a tubular ring as a bull is released into the arena.

The last person to stay inside their ring was the winner. Other variations of this game have been played, including “Cowboy Poker,” which features the last person sitting at a poker table after a bull is released being the winner.

Other events held either in conjunction with the rodeo or as separate events at the rodeo grounds include demolition derbies, tractor pulls, “engine blowups,” and musical concerts. Perhaps the most popular addition has been the post-rodeo concerts, which have featured local, regional, and even national bands.

FIRST AND FOREMOST A FUNDRAISER

What should never be forgotten is the reason for holding the rodeo, which is as a fundraiser for the Isanti Fire District. According to Pagel, over \$1.7 million has been spent out of rodeo profits for improved equipment, training, and fire station improvements.

Looking back at how far the rodeo has come, Pagel can’t help but get a little emotional.

“Each year’s fundraising rodeo is a special milestone for the Isanti Firefighters and the community,” Pagel said. “Not many communities anywhere have an event this size that has lasted for 50 years. I am so proud of this rodeo and the dedicated members of the

Isanti Fire District who provide 24/7 fire and rescue services.”

THIS YEAR’S SCHEDULE

The 50th anniversary performance will take place Friday and Saturday, July 10 and 11, with mutton busting and goat tying beginning at 5:30 p.m. each night. Friday’s post-rodeo dance features the band, Maiden Dixie. Saturday’s post-rodeo dance features the bands Them Pesky Kids and Six to Midnight.

Jubilee Days events surrounding the rodeo include the annual parade starting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 9; Splish Splash Summer Bash in Bluebird Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, July 10; and Kids Day activities including BMX balance bike races, games, a kiddie parade, Isanti Lions corn feed, plus more from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, July 11. There will also be the popular Turtle Races at noon and Outhouse Races at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Finally, the annual Isanti Ambassador Coronation will be held in the Cambridge-Isanti High School Performing Arts Center at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 12.

For more information, including a full event schedule, go to the North 65 Chamber of Commerce website at north65chamber.com.

ARSON: \$5,000 reward offered for information

FROM PAGE I

some cases, the fires have spread, causing nearby trees to catch fire. Fortunately, police and firefighters were able to extinguish the fires before they spread further. However, these incidents demonstrate how quickly an intentionally set fire can grow beyond its original source. Had these fires continued to spread, they could have threatened neighboring homes, endangered residents, and caused significant property damage.”

The Cambridge Police Department is actively investigating these incidents and is asking for the public’s assistance. Anyone with information about these fires, or who may know who is responsible, is encouraged to contact Detective Trevor Corbett at 763-689-9567 or TCorbett@ci.cambridge.mn.us.

Individuals may also provide anonymous information through the Minnesota Arson Hotline at 1-800-723-2020. The Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators administers the Minnesota Arson Reward Project, which offers rewards of up to \$5,000 for information that assists investigators and leads to the arrest of those responsible for qualifying arson-related crimes.

In regards to the removal of the outhouses the press release states, “While we recognize this may inconvenience park users, this temporary measure is necessary to reduce the opportunity for additional crimes and protect our community.”

LP: Facility to be anchor in long-vacant industrial park

FROM PAGE I

focus on long-term employee retention. The City of North Branch continues to see strong growth, and our proactive investments in infrastructure position us well to support this new facility. Congratulations, LP Building Solutions, and welcome to the North Branch team.”

“This Industrial Park has sat dormant for nearly 20 years,” North Branch Economic Development Authority Chair Sara Paul said. “Nate (Sondrol, North Branch Community Development Director) was really keen on trying to figure out as a team how we get an anchor here. This is important to our whole region. We lack industrial development. So, having this anchor here, that is going to be key.”

“This investment reflects the strong momentum behind the LP SmartSide ExpertFinish portfolio and our confidence in its future,” LP CEO Jason Ringblom said. “The North Branch facility expands our manufacturing network, strengthens our ability to serve customers, and reinforces our long-term commitment to

‘The addition of the 120-acre LP SmartSide ExpertFinish manufacturing facility is a welcome development for the North Branch community’

Kevin Schieber
North Branch Mayor

Minnesota.”

The North Branch facility will be the largest and most efficient ExpertFinish site in LP’s network, reflecting the scale of investment and continued demand for the product. It will be LP’s fourth ExpertFinish manufacturing location and the second one purpose-built for ExpertFinish production, following the opening of LP New York in 2023.

Located near key new construction and repair and remodeling markets in the Midwest, the facility will help support growing demand for LP SmartSide ExpertFinish products. Siding will be manufactured and primed at LP siding mills before being shipped to North Branch, where team members will apply one of 22 prefinished colors to create ready-to-install exterior siding products that help eliminate the need for

painting after installation.

This investment builds on LP’s long history in Minnesota, where the company has operated since opening its Two Harbors siding mill in 1985. Once complete, North Branch will become LP’s 12th siding facility and 22nd manufacturing facility across North and South America.

The groundbreaking marked a long process that was a cooperative effort between North Branch, Chisago County, and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

“Today we celebrate the public-private partnership that helped bring LP Building Solutions to North Branch,” Minnesota DEED Commissioner Matt Varilek said. “We’re invested in LP’s success and grateful for their commitment to Minnesota.”

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Star intern learns newspaper business from all sides

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

For Kellen Johnson, a University of Kansas business student who just finished his freshman year, the inner workings of a community newspaper are a complex, engaging puzzle.

In his role as intern at the Isanti-Chisago County Star, Johnson has rotated through different departments, spending time in the mailroom, the front office, and currently, the press room.

“I think community newspapers are valuable and I’d like to learn more about how business operates,” Johnson said.

Johnson says that working in the pressroom has been the most enjoyable part of the internship. “There’s just so many different parts and different things going, everything’s different each day. So, I think that’s been the most fun so far.”

Johnson acknowledges that the press team, is “very, very knowledgeable” and has been helpful in his training.

When asked what readers would find surprising about the newspaper business, Johnson said the collective effort required to produce a publication. “I’d say just all the different people that it takes to form the newspaper and get it to where it needs to be and what it should be, just all the different steps and the whole process to do it.”

Johnson said he remains open to learning about the editorial side of the paper during his time in Cambridge even though he has no interest in becoming a journalist himself. “I think a little bit of knowledge (about the editorial process) would be really fun to have.”



Isanti-Chisago County Star intern Kellen Johnson feeds a fresh plate into the press.

He believes that his generation finds importance in community news. “There’s a lot of interesting stories that are very community specific that you don’t get that elsewhere,” Johnson said.

Highway 65 reconstruction begins July 7

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is reminding motorists commuting along Highway 65 north of Cambridge about an upcoming closure and detour, beginning Tuesday, July 7.

According to MnDOT, crews will resurface and update more than 10 miles of Highway 65 from south of 357th Ave. NE at the end of the four-lane divide to south of Kanabec County Road 45/120th Ave. north of Braham.

The project will be completed in two phases. The first phase will run north to Stanchfield at the County Road 3 intersection and take until late summer to complete. The second phase will begin in the spring of 2027.

During the first phase, there will be times of single-lane traffic, narrow lanes, and complete road closures. See the map on our website for detour routes.

WORSHIPguide

Baptist

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

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

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 sunrise bible church.org or 651-674-4107.

Catholic

Christ the King
305 Fern Street N
Cambridge, MN 55008
763-689-1221
Friday 8:30am
Saturday 4pm
email brigitte@isantiacc.org
Website: isantiacc.org

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN. 763-444-4035
Email: brigitte@isantiacc.org
Mass: Tues. & Wed. 8:30am.
Sun. 8:30am.
isantiaac.org

Evangelical Covenant

Karmel Covenant Church
5799 County Road 6, Princeton MN 763-389-3169
Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis
Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson

Sunday School for All Ages (school year only): 9-10 a.m.
Sunday Worship (in person & online): 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Wednesday Programming (school year only):
Family meal at 5:30 p.m. with AWANA and Youth Group from 6:30-8 p.m.

Evangelical Free

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

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 to 7:30pm

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

Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Dr. Suzanne Begin, Minister
905 Central Drive West
320-396-2755
www.brahamlutheran.org
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
In-person & Live on Facebook
Community Campfire Gathering June 3, July 1, Aug 5; 5:00-7:00 p.m.
Bring lawn chair and singing voice
All Are Welcome!

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

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

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

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)
33525 Jefferson Street NE, Cambridge
763-689-4355
www.joylutheran.net
Pastor James Ritter
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)
6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch
651-674-5576
Pastor Glen Kleppe
Sunday Worship 10am
VBS! June 21-25th 6-8pm
www.livingbranch.org
email: office@livingbranch.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Methodist

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

Non-Denominational

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

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

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

Pentecostal

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

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NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ISANTI DISTRICT COURT TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
File Type: Quiet Title
Court File No. 30-CV-26-349
SUMMONS
Blake Pierre, Plaintiff,
vs
City Wide Properties, Inc., a Minnesota corporation, and all other persons known or unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest or lien in the real estate described in the complaint herein, Defendants.
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
1. **You are being sued.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Complaint is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that start a lawsuit and affect your legal rights, even if nothing has been filed with the court and even if there is no court file number on this Summons.
2. **You must BOTH reply, in writing, AND get a copy of your reply to the person/business who is suing you within 21 days to protect your rights.** Your reply is called an *Answer*. Getting your reply to the Plaintiff is called *service*. You must serve a copy of your *Answer* or *Answer and Counterclaim* (Answer) within 21 days from the date you received the *Summons* and *Complaint*.
ANSWER: You can find the *Answer* form and instructions on the MN Judicial Branch website at www.mncourts.gov/forms under the "Civil" category. The instructions will explain in detail how to fill out the *Answer* form.
3. **You must respond to each claim.** The *Answer* is your written response to the Plaintiff's *Complaint*. In your *Answer* you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the *Complaint*. If you think the Plaintiff should not be given everything they asked for in the *Complaint*, you must say that in your *Answer*.
4. SERVICE: **You may lose your case if you do not send a written response to the Plaintiff.** If you do not serve a written *Answer* within 21 days, you may lose this case by default. You will not get to tell your side of the story. If you choose not to respond, the Plaintiff may be awarded everything they asked for in their *Complaint*. If you agree with the claims stated in the *Complaint*, you don't need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for what the Plaintiff asked for in the *Complaint*.
To protect your rights, you must serve a copy of your *Answer* on the person who signed this *Summons* in person or by mail at this address:
Lodge Law Office
1250 E. Moore Lake Dr., Ste. 215C
Fridley, MN 55432.
5. Carefully read the Instructions (CIV301) for the *Answer* for your next steps.
6. **Legal Assistance.** You may wish to get legal help from an attorney. If you do not have an attorney and would like legal help:
• Visit www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp and click on the "Legal Advice Clinics" tab to get more information about legal clinics in each Minnesota county.
• Court Administration may have information about places where you can get legal assistance.
NOTE: Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still serve a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.
7. **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an ADR process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota Rules of Practice. You must still serve your written *Answer*, even if you expect to use ADR.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that no personal claim is made by plaintiffs against any of the defendants.
You are hereby notified that the object of said action is to determine the title and adverse claims to the lands hereinafter described and that such action affects the following described land situated in Isanti County, Minnesota, described as follows:
The South 658.46 feet of the East 330.80 feet of the West 1323.2 feet of the North Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 16, Township 34, Range 24, Isanti County, Minnesota, as measured along the West and South lines of said North Half of the Southwest Quarter.
And an order that plaintiff is the owner in fee simple of the property described herein and that none of said defendants have any right, title, estate, interest or lien thereon, except as alleged in the Complaint.
Dated: April 23, 2026
STEVEN J. LODGE, PLLC
s/Steven J. Lodge
Steven J. Lodge, #256146
Attorney for Plaintiff
1250 E. Moore Lake Dr., Ste. 215C
Fridley, MN 55432
(763) 205-3058
steve@lodgelawoffice.com
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 18, 25; July 2, 2026

CITY OF HARRIS
NOTICE OF FILING FOR CITY ELECTION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that filing for Mayor and City Council will be 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and close at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at Harris City Hall, 43970 Ginger Ave, Harris, MN 55032.
OFFICES TO BE FILLED: One (1) Mayoral position, which serves a two-year term and two (2) Council member positions, which serve a four-year term. All terms begin January 11th, 2027. The candidate must pay the \$15.00 filing fee at the time of the filing.
Tanya Smolke
Harris City Clerk
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 2, 2026

CITY OF EAST BETHEL
NOTICE OF CANDIDATE FILINGS FOR OFFICE
The candidate filing period will be open between Tuesday, July 14, 2026, and Tuesday, July 28, 2026, during office hours. All candidate filings must be received by Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at 5:00 PM.
Candidate filings for the following offices are to be filed with Administration at East Bethel City Hall, 2241 221st Avenue NE, East Bethel, MN, 55011-9790:
• Mayor
• City Council Member at Large, 2 seats
The Election for these City Offices will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 in the City of East Bethel, County of Anoka, State of Minnesota between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Carrie Frost
Elections Coordinator
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 2, 9, 2026
ASSUMED NAME
OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333
The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.
ASSUMED NAME: K Mell-Bowers Consulting
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 2157 CLEVELAND WAY S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA
APPLICANT(S):
Name: Freedom Ridge Enterprises, Inc.
Address: 2157 CLEVELAND WAY S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA
If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.
By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.
SIGNED BY: Katherine Mell-Bowers
MAILING ADDRESS: 2157 CLEVELAND WAY S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: k_m_mell@hotmail.com
Work Item 1651808400027
Original File Number 1651808400027
STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
06/08/2026 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 2, 9, 2026
PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF EAST BETHEL
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
You are hereby notified that the City of East Bethel Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to review the following:
Consideration of a proposed ordinance creating regulations for short-term rentals within the City of East Bethel. The proposed ordinance would establish standards and procedures for permitting short-term rentals through the issuance of a City administrative license or, in certain circumstances, an Interim Use Permit. The proposed regulations upon short-term rentals may address zoning eligibility, occupancy, parking, septic capacity, operational standards, inspections, enforcement, and limitations on use.
The hearing will be held in the East Bethel City Hall located at 2241 221st Ave NE on: Tuesday July 28th, 2026, at or about 7:00 pm
A complete copy of the proposed ordinance can be found on the City's website:
<https://www.ci.east-bethel.mn.us/> not less than ten (10) days prior to the Public Hearing.
Or, may be secured in hard copy from the City's Community Development office during regular business hours. Or, please email Senior Planner Eric Johnson at eric.johnson@ci-east-bethel.mn.us for an email copy of the proposed ordinance.
If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Eric Johnson - Eric.Johnson@ci-east-bethel.mn.us or via US MAIL to City Hall at 2241 221st Ave NE. City of East Bethel, MN 55011
Date: 6/29/26
Eric Johnson
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on July 2, 2026

CLASSIFIEDS

60
Boats & Accessories

2007 Glastron GX 185 BR
\$13,900
Used – Like New Red & White
Sporty bow rider. Volvo Penta 3.0. Only 154 hours! Engine is gone over every yr. Just changed oil. Aft sun pad, floor storage locker, glove compartment, storage under seats, and engine compartment for lots of storage. Cockpit cover. Bow cover. Bimini top. AM/FM CD stereo. Depth sounder
Quick release bumpers. Snap in/out cockpit carpet
Extended swim platform with fold down ladder. Comes w/ trailer and extra tire .
Trailer has breakaway tongue. Seating in perfect condition w/ no rips, tears, or sun damage. Always stored indoors, summer and winter.
Cash only
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Call 763.689.1181 or email sales@countystar.com to place a classified ad!

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

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

150
Help Wanted

ASSOCIATE DEGREE NURSING INSTRUCTOR - Northwood Technical College, New Richmond. Part-time/adjunct. Teach face-to-face, online, hybrid classes. Apply by July 10 at [northwoodtech.edu/e](http://northwoodtech.edu/employment) employment. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

PLACE A CLASSIFIED TODAY
763.689.1181

150
Help Wanted

BALDWIN-WOODVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT ?
Now hiring: Special Ed & General Ed Paraprofessionals, Food Service Worker, Assistant Cook, multiple coaches (football, basketball, volleyball), and bus/van drivers. Apply via WECAN or District Office, 550 Hwy 12, Baldwin. Contact Michelle Sell, 715-684-3411 ext. 1103. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

Centennial School District NOW HIRING: Kid's Club Staff, Custodians, Nurses, Food Service Staff, Paraprofessionals To apply visit: isd12.org/join-our-team

Clayton School District, WI seeks PT Paraprofessional providing student support services. Up to 29 hrs/week, \$18.11/hr. HS diploma required. Send letter of interest & resume with references by July 7 to Patrick Sturzl, (715) 948-2163. Find this ad and others at [www.ap](http://www.applylocal.jobs)plylocal.jobs

150
Help Wanted

Grantsburg High School, WI seeks a qualified, creative Special Education Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year, starting this fall. For details, visit www.gk12.net or contact Matt Haase at 715-463-2531 or mat-t.haase@gk12.net. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

POWDER COAT APPLICATOR, Hanger/Packer - Rocket Powder Coating, Centuria. Weekday & weekend shifts. No experience needed, will train. \$17-24/hour, retirement match, paid holidays. Email jeremy@rocket-powdercoat.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

PRODUCTION OPERATORS - Phillips-Medisize, New Richmond. No experience needed. Rotating days/nights. Competitive pay, full benefits, 401K, paid time off, career advancement. Apply at KOCHcareer-s.com/MOLEX. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150
Help Wanted

SALON 4862 Now leasing 3 chairs in well established professional salon
This opportunity is for stylists who already have a clientele and are ready to work in a consistent, elevated, drama-free environment
Please, contact Sara for more information 651-755-3058

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

ZOO KEEPER - Safari Country, near Baldwin. Full or part-time. Feed, clean, and monitor animals. Self-motivated individual wanted. Call/text 715-977-8750 or email Safari-CountryWi@gmail.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150
Help Wanted

Thermal Plastic Design, Inc., St. Croix Falls, WI is hiring: Mold Maker 1st Shift (sign-on bonus), Senior Project Engineer, 2nd Shift Mold Tech, and 2nd Shift Production Supervisor (sign-on bonus). We pay for experience! Resume: HR@tdimolding.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

358
Firewood
2 cord loads of 16" mixed hardwood, oak, or birch \$475. 2 cord loads of 20" oak \$450. Delivery charge over 25 miles. 320-679-1815.

FIREWOOD 16" oak or mixed. Delivery. Custom processing. Tree/yard debris clean up. Ed Johnson 763-220-9308

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

362
Miscellaneous

Free Fill. Free pine trees. Near Grasston. 612-554-1609.

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401
Auctions

Sunday, July 12, 11:02 a.m. Ken & Kathy Lilienthal Personal Property Auction. Kanabec County Fairgrounds. Long Rifles, Hand Guns, Ammo. 2019 Arctic Cat 'Prowler Pro XT' w/ Dump. 2020 6.5'x12' RLBL Alum Utility Trailer 'Parker Little Pup' w/Drop Down Ramp. 6' Push Blade for Arctic Cat 'Prowler Pro XT', Sentinel Gun Safe, Diggitt 20'x30' Metal Garage Carport Shed. Eskimo Portable Fish House. Birch Fire Wood. Coin Collection. Electric Power Lift Recliner Chairs. Way too many items to list. Auctions by Norby, midwest-auctions.com/norby, auctionsbynorby.com, 320-279-0712. Col. Kevin C. Norby, Auctioneer, Lic. #33-03.

452
Rentals/ Residential

FOR RENT IN PINE CITY: one bedroom apartment- 1st level, \$800 deposit, \$800 per month no pets, no smoking, call Sandy 763-464-4129

Mora Apartments 1 bed, 1 bath, \$940/month. Studio \$740/month. Washer/Dryer on-site. No pets, no smoking/vaping/e-cigs. 612-470-3319, moratroveproperty@gmail.com

501
Real Estate Wanted
Recently married Army Veteran looking to buy 10+ acres to build a home or purchase an existing home to raise a family. Preferred location Isanti or Chisago County. Call or text 651-278-5882

Need a Legal Published? Call 763.689.1181

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Happy Birthday, America!

