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ISANTI-CHISAGO
COUNTY STAR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2026
VOL. 120 NO. 36 COUNTYSTAR.COM

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KICKING IN: Get to know the 2026 C-I, NB fall sports teams in our annual showcase. **PAGES 15 - 19**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Welcome to the community

The Cambridge and Isanti Ambassadors hand out gift bags to teachers new to the various schools in the area during the 28th annual New Teacher Luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club of Cambridge & Isanti and the North 65 Chamber of Commerce. See pages 8 and 9 for photos of the new teachers for Cambridge-Isanti and North Branch Area Public Schools.

North Branch cancels Flock contract

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM



STACY VERDICK CASE I | COUNTY STAR

The city of North Branch is going forward with canceling its three-year contract with Flock Security. Doing so, however, will most likely cost the city a pretty penny.

In May, the council approved entering into a three-year contract with Flock for the installation and use of seven license plate reader cameras, which would be strategically placed in higher-traffic spots within city limits. The cost for the service, which gave access to the data collected by the cameras to the North Branch Police Department along with other law enforcement agencies as permitted by the city, was $63,000 over the three years. The service was being paid for using law enforcement funds from the state. The vote was split 3-2, with Council members Jim Ibinger and Jeff Goulet voting nay.

The council approved the contract despite vocal opposition from a number of residents for various reasons. That vocal opposition only intensified following the vote, prompting the council to call for a special work session/public information meeting. During that meeting, Mayor Kevin Schieber, who had voted in favor of the contract and was defending the system via social media, called for placing a pause on the installation of the cameras. Additionally, the council directed staff to place bags over the three already-installed cameras.

During the Aug. 12 council meeting, the council unanimously approved the pause (they couldn't take formal action during the work session) until staff received information from Flock regarding the financial consequences of canceling the contract. The council also instructed Public Works to remove the three cameras already installed and secure them to prevent damage from potential vandalism.

The council received their answer from Flock regarding cancellation costs during the Aug. 26 meeting, and they were not happy about what they heard.

According to City Administrator Matthew Hill, Flock advised him that while they can stop the installation and remove the equipment, the city remains responsible for the financial obligations outlined for the duration of the three-year term.

Hill said a review of Flock's terms and conditions by the city's attorney at Flaherty & Hood concurred with Flock's assertion.

"The provided agreement does not contain a 'termination for convenience' provision that would allow the city to unilaterally cancel the contract and seek reimbursement for fees already paid," Hill relayed to the council. Hill added that the city has already paid Flock $21,000 for the first year of the contract.

"In my opinion, the city of North Branch should not owe anything further to this contract," Schieber countered. "I know what the city attorney said, but I think there's a lot out there — a lot of misrepresentation, a lot of answers that were not brought forthright with enough completeness. And I think we should fight this."

During the discussion, Schieber read a litany of questions he directly asked Flock regarding accessing data from the LPRs and the cameras' capabilities. In short, he said he was far from satisfied with their answers.

"I felt like I had to repeatedly ask the same questions to get a complete answer," Schieber said. "There's so much mistrust. I think Flock

SEE **FLOCK,** PAGE **2**

Chisago County man charged with child sexual abuse

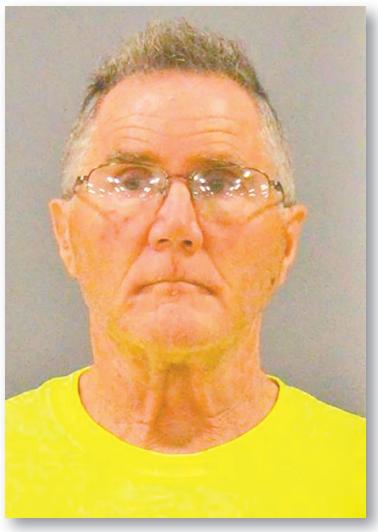
STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

A Pine City man, Kirk Douglas Brune, 68, has been charged by the Chisago County Attorney's Office with one count of first degree criminal sexual conduct and one count of second degree criminal sexual conduct for a number of offenses that allegedly happened over a period of years.

According to the criminal complaint, on July 10, 2026, Chisago County Health and Human Services received a child maltreatment intake regarding sexual abuse occurring to two juvenile females. A forensic interview was arranged at North Star Family Advocacy Center.

During the interview, a 17-year-old female stated that throughout her childhood, she and her two siblings would go to a relative's house in Stacy and stay overnight. The juvenile female stated that Brune would come into her room to put her to bed and touch her sexually when she was around six to eight years old,

SEE **SEXUAL ASSAULT,** PAGE **2**



CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Kirk Douglas Brune of Pine City has been charged with two counts of criminal sexual contact by chisago County.

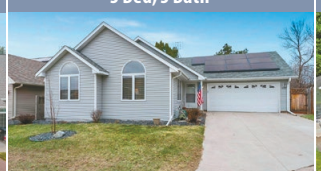
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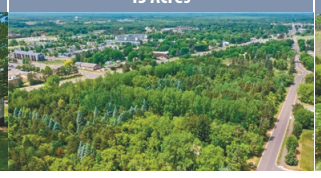
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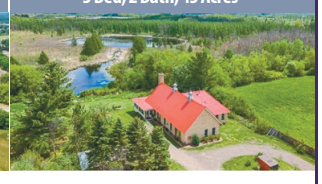
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13 Acres



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$500,000

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FLOCK: Canceling contract costs up to $63,000

FROM PAGE I

created so much mistrust by not being forthright when being questioned about their product."

Schieber also addressed Flock's recent announcement about cutting the data retention length from 30 days to seven.

"Well, the customer already possessed the option to control the data retention timeline," he said. "So, what did that do? Chief (Meyer) already knew he could restrict it to one day if he wanted to."

"I think Flock did a real disservice to themselves by not being forthright," Council member Robert Canada, who also voted to approve the contract, said. "You (Schieber) asked questions. I asked questions, and some of the give-and-take between the Q&A that we had for the past year, and it seems like we've been deceived."

Ultimately, the council unanimously approved canceling the contract and giving written notice that the city would not be renewing the contract at the end of the three years. Hill said that action was needed due to there being an auto-renewal clause that would kick in without at least 30-day advance written notice.

'I felt like I had to repeatedly ask the same questions to get a complete answer. I think Flock created so much mistrust by not being forthright when being questioned about their product.'

Kevin Schieber
North Branch Mayor

The council did not formally instruct staff to look into fighting payment of the second and third years of the contract. However, Schieber indicated they had time before the second payment was due to look into contesting those payments.

SEXUAL ASSUALT: Brune could face 30 years

FROM PAGE I

according to the complaint.

She said she never said anything because she didn't want to ruin Brune's relationship with the family.

Another forensic interview was conducted with another sibling who is now 20 years old. She attested to staying at the same relatives' house in Stacy and that she repeatedly received sexual abuse from the age of seven until she was 13 or 14. In the report, she stated the abuse happened in different areas of the home and especially after she bathed or showered, saying Brune would brush her hair.

According to the report, the female stated Brune would wear nothing under his robe and sit behind the female, where he would sexually assault her. She reported another incident happened in Brune's vehicle where he reportedly pulled to the side of the road and began kissing her. She stated when they arrived home, Brune pulled her into the laundry room and sexually assaulted her, according to the complaint.

She stated that almost every time she went to Brune's home, something uncomfortable would happen and that Brune would kiss her on the lips or make inappropriate or uncomfortable statements to her. The female told authorities that in 2020 at Brune's new home, he took her into the garage and apologized to her for what he had done to her, according to the complaint.

Chisago County Sheriff's Office investigators spoke with the mother of the three girls who stated she called Brune in July when she heard what happened to two of her daughters and asked if he had molested them, with Brune responding that he did, according to the complaint.

The first degree criminal sexual conduct (penetration, victim under 16, significantly related, multiple acts) charge comes with a maximum prison sentence of 30 years and/or a $40,000 fine. The second degree criminal sexual conduct (victim under 13, actor greater than 36 months old) charge comes with a maximum prison sentence of 25 years and/or a $35,000 fine.

A warrant was issued for Brune's arrest, and he arrived at the Chisago County Jail.

North Branch now allows accessory dwelling units

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

City of North Branch residents wishing to add an inhabitable secondary structure onto their property can now do so, assuming they get a conditional use permit approved.

After multiple lengthy discussions by the Planning Commission, an amendment to City Code Chapter 66 was brought before the council to allow such buildings within the AG, RR, and R-1 zoning districts.

Other primary conditions of the ordinance include a maximum floor area of 750 square feet; a maximum of one ADU per property; the property owner must use either the principal dwelling or the ADU as their primary residence; a minimum of one additional off-street parking space is required; and detached ADUs are limited to the rear or side yard, except for qualifying five-acre RR and AG lots, and forty-acre R-1 lots. For those exceptions, the ADU may be placed in the front yard. Finally, ADUs cannot be used for short-term (under 30-day) rentals.

LEAF PICKUP REMAINS FOR NOW

The city has been considering the viability of its leaf pickup program, which features Public Works going through the neighborhoods and vacuuming up leaves that have been piled up along the edge of the property. Currently, the city offers this service twice a year — several weeks in the spring and again in the fall.

According to City Administrator Matthew Hill, last spring approximately 681 of the 4,900 residential parcels had utilized this service, which equals a participation rate of approximately 14%.

The program requires 450 total staff hours per calendar year, plus an excess of 40 repair hours per truck. The city currently owns two trucks. These trucks drive approximately 3,000 miles each year.

In terms of expenses, the program costs about $61,800 per year, with $29,668 going to labor, including benefits. Repairs and maintenance costs are just short of $4,000 per year, with fuel costs of $1,444. There is also a vehicle replacement Capital Improvement Plan based on a 20-year cycle of $26,750.

Hill said he asked seven refuse haulers that service North Branch about offering compost bins to residents, and none indicated a willingness to provide the option.

Hill gave the council three options to choose from: 1. Maintain the status quo; 2. Implement a user fee, or 3. Discontinue the service altogether.

The council, however, decided to go with a fourth option: put off deciding until the city collected data on the fall leaf cleanup.

"I believe we need to get more public feedback," Mayor Kevin Schieber said. "I want to know how many people use it, how many people would be willing to pay a user fee as well."

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Saturday, September 19

ONLY $18 PER LOCATION

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A listing of all garage sales and a map will run in the Sept. 10 issue of the Isanti-Chisago County Star.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF YOUR SALE MUST FIT ON THE FOLLWOING LINES.
Larger ads will cost more. PLEASE PRINT

happy LABOR DAY

Our offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7, in honor of Labor Day.

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OUT&ABOUT

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-register at least one day in advance call 651-674-1956 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. An annual registration form is required before dining.

MONDAYS

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

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

Book Club
Third Monday 11 a.m. to noon at Isanti SAC, 140 Buchanan St., N. #164 Cambridge. Isanti County Library lends the books and there is no cost to participate. For info: sacs@midco-network.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 information, call 763-221-6883.

TUESDAYS

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

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

Memory Cafe
First Tuesday of every month, 10 - 11:30 a.m. at GracePointe 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 Cambridge(304 Main St S.) every Tuesday. There is a light meal at 5:45 p.m., large group at 6:30 p.m., and small groups at 7:30 p.m. Visit Celebraterecovery.com for more info.

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.



We R Able is hosting a drop in bowling event on Sept 10 from 4 - 6 p.m. at JJ Bowl and Lounge in North Branch.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

SEPT. 8

Craft 'n' chat
Create watercolor book page art from 6:30–7:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Public Library. Ages 15 and up; registration required. Materials provided. https://ecrlib.org/

Basic tech help
One-on-one help with basic laptop and mobile device questions at 1 p.m. at the Cambridge Public Library. Geared toward seniors; registration required. https://ecrlib.org/

SEPT 10

Drop-in bowling
We R Able offers drop-in bowling from 4–6 p.m. at JJ's Bowl and Lounge, 6427 Ash St., North Branch. Bowling continues every other Thursday through Nov. 19. Info: 320-358-3616.

SEPT 13

Kids Archery Day
11 a.m – 2 p.m. at the Isanti Archery Range.

SENIOR CENTER WEEKLY EVENTS

CAMBRIDGE

140 Buchanan Street

Mondays
Bridge - 1 to 3 p.m.
Mahjong - noon to 3 p.m.

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

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

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

CHISAGO COUNTY

38790 6th Avenue, North Branch

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

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

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

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

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

Midco launches new mobile service in Cambridge, Isanti

Midco today launched Midco Mobile in Cambridge and Isanti, giving customers a new low-cost wireless option from a company they already know for internet service. With plans starting at $15 per month and support from local Minnesota-based teams, Midco Mobile expands the company's commitment to providing affordable connectivity solutions across the region and marks a significant milestone in the company's 95-year history.

Midco Mobile introduces two clear, value driven plan options, with pricing starting at just $15 per month:

- Flex, a by the gig plan starting at $15/month
- Unlimited, offering unlimited talk, text and data for $30/month

The service provides reliable nationwide coverage and international options, enabling customers to stay connected at home and on the go without sacrificing simplicity or value.

"Midco Mobile brings together the connectivity services households rely on at a price point that makes sense," said Midco President and Chief Operating Officer Ben Dold. "We're excited to give Cambridge and Isanti customers a simpler, more affordable mobile option backed by a team they already know and trust."

Midco Mobile is designed to integrate seamlessly into the Midco customer experience, especially for internet customers looking for a straightforward mobile onboarding process. Customers can bring their own compatible device or purchase a new one through Midco's online store, making it easy to get started. Importantly, Midco Mobile is supported by the same local team that already serves Midco's internet customers.

"Customers are looking for affordable mobile service without unnecessary complexity," said Rudy Robinson, Midco Director of Retail and Mobile Sales. "Midco Mobile gives Isanti County customers a simple choice, competitive pricing and support from local teams who understand their needs."

Visit Midco.com/Mobile to learn more. -Midco

A quarterback quandary, with a capital 'Q'



Worth a Thousand Words

Bill Stickels III

Well, here we go with another Minnesota Vikings season filled with eternal hope that "this is the year," and yet at the same time complete uncertainty over what the end result will be. Like usual, all these mixed emotions originate from questions about our starting quarterback. Ever since Kirk Cousins departed, the position has been up for grabs. And even when a starter was named, there was constant speculation about how long that player would last as the starter.

In 2024, Sam Darnold emerged as the starter, with many fans very wary about his potential success given his history of being a headcase. To our surprise, he did go out and have an absolutely stellar season — that is, until the most important games of the season. For those, Darnold's past caught up with him, and he reverted back to his "I was seeing ghosts" persona.

Despite that, there were many who felt the Vikings should pay Darnold based on his regular season results and hope he could repeat those results, minus the late season and playoff game collapses. However, someone within the organization didn't agree with that approach (who exactly that was is still up for speculation) and we let Darnold leave for a major payday and ultimately a Super Bowl championship with the Seattle Seahawks.

Side note: As I've mentioned before, I was in favor of not re-signing him. Once a headcase, always a headcase was my philosophy. And I still contend that keeping him would not have produced the same results as he achieved in Seattle.

With Darnold gone, we opted to go with a first-round draft pick in J.J. McCarthy in 2025. Despite a crazy come-from-behind win at Chicago in the season opener, McCarthy has been less than spectacular, with many calling him a total bust. He also has proven to be either injury prone or unwilling to play through pain (depending on your perspective). Carson Wentz came in and gave us slight hope for a Darnold-like performance until he legitimately got injured and was out for the rest of the season.

That left us bouncing back and forth between McCarthy when he wasn't "injured" and former Gopher Max Brosmer. And despite all that, we still wound up falling just short of making the playoffs with a 9-8 record.

That brings us to this year, and the emergence of former Arizona Cardinals quarterback Kyler Murray as our game one starter, with Wentz returning as the backup and McCarthy under-performing enough — and again getting "injured" — to be relegated to third string.

Will Murray resurrect his career and put up numbers as he did early in his career in Arizona? Or will he be like the past couple of years: injury-prone and underperforming? Only time will tell. As the "eternal optimist," as I have been labeled at here in the Star's offices, I choose to go with however the quarterback quandary sorts itself out, the Vikings will wind up with a 10-7 record.

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

PAID LETTER:

Minnesota needs good jobs

To the editor,

I became a bricklayer through an apprenticeship. I learned the trade by working alongside people who knew it, earning a paycheck while I built the skills I needed for what would be my career. That experience taught me that when we talk about Minnesota's workforce, we should be talking about how people actually get trained for good jobs.

Amy Klobuchar has put forward a specific plan to do that. As governor, she wants to add 10,000 apprenticeship and skills-training opportunities in our state. She also wants to build on the success of apprenticeships in the trades and expand this model into fields like health care, advanced manufacturing, and technology.

Meanwhile, what has Lisa Demuth offered on the campaign trail to bolster or support our workforce? Her "jobs" agenda is remarkably thin on specifics – it makes a vague mention of "job creation", but doesn't actually explain how Minnesotans will get the training and skills those jobs require.

We need skilled workers, and Minnesotans need clear pathways into good-paying careers. I know from experience that apprenticeships can provide exactly that. I want a governor with a concrete plan to create more of those opportunities, and Amy Klobuchar has one.

William Roll
Cambridge

PAID LETTER:

Isn't it interesting

To the editor,

•Recently James O'Keefe walked into a primary voting pole place (Minnesota) dressed as a Somali vouching for his dressed-up Somali's friend. James asked the voting employee if they needed proof of address or driver's license for the person being vouched for? She stated, "No as long as you're a registered voter in this district." (Remember you can vouch for eight people.) This is how easily it is to cheat in voting poles and mail in ballots. Just look at the fraud from "feeding our future" for children and Medicare/Medicaid. Anyone that claims there is no voting fraud, my suggestion; a trip to see the Wizard of Oz for ignorance.

•A California-funded homeless shelter hands out meth pipes to the homeless, supported by Democrats. 26 million in State-Federal tax programs. Pathetic.

•Angie Craig and Peggy Flanagan's campaign agenda go after Trump and ICE. Wow great strategy, What about tax cuts to property taxes, license tabs, social security, businesses and same benefits given to welfare recipients, Somalis and illegals. You will never hear tax cuts/spending cuts from any Democrat campaigning.

Suddenly Klobuchar is going after fraud; she knew about fraud years ago, did nothing; what a fraudulent liar along with Walz, Flanagan, Ilhan Omar, Keith Ellison. The brazen corruption is alarming. Democrats protecting murdering illegals and billions in tax fraud just to secure their precious votes and campaign monies from fraud.

•Former Democrat congresswoman Sheila Cherfilus allegedly paid for Tesla, a cruise, Tiffany jewelery, diamond ring with FEMA Funds.

•Ilhan Omar's net worth went from 6m-30m to $95,000 Omar is an embarrassment, supports Sharia law; she should be fired. Islamic Jihadist Muslims should never be in our political systems. Watch Omar's videos supporting her Somali friends.

•Democrats now talking about inflation? Really? Under Biden inflation hit a 40 year high. Gas was $4.60 a gallon, Democrats did not complain then? Eggs, meat products, groceries in general were up substantially. No tax reliefs from Democrat's then!

•Definition of a socialist; someone who wants everything you have... except your job. Name a country that flourished under Socialism? Good luck!

President Trump is the most transparent president ever. He speaks to the press and voters daily. Do I agree with Trump 100%? No, However, Biden will go down as the worst president ever.

Jerry Grell
Cambridge

Your Best Source for Community Information

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Publisher ..... Jeff Andres *jeff@northstarmedia.net*
Editor ..... Bill Stickels III *editor@countystar.com*
Editor Assistant ..... Stacy Verdick Case *news@countystar.com*
Advertising/Classifieds ..... Gary Glick *marketing@countystar.com*
Graphic Designer ..... Kassie Lex *starcomp@countystar.com*
Classifieds ..... Kris Ann Williams *starclass@countystar.com*
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LEGALS DEADLINE: *Noon Monday*

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Unlocking potential through partnership



NB School News
Sara Paul

The launch of a new school year provides a remarkably clear picture of what we believe at North Branch Area Public Schools: students thrive when families, educators, students, and community work together.

Throughout Welcome Days, orientations, activities, and our first official day of school, I watched those partnerships taking shape. Families brought what they know best: their children. Educators brought their expertise, care, and high expectations. Students arrived with their own strengths, curiosity, experiences, and potential. Our work is to bring those assets together to prepare every learner for success in school and in life.

At the middle school, I watched students practice opening their lockers with parents standing beside them. Some quickly mastered the combination. Others paused, reset the dial, and gave it another try. Parents encouraged without taking over, allowing their children the opportunity to figure it out.

By the first day of school, many students approached those same lockers with growing confidence and independence. Some doors opened immediately. Others required another turn of the dial. In both cases, students were learning something bigger than how to open a locker. They were building confidence in their ability to navigate something new.

At our elementary schools, I watched another form of partnership. Kindergarten families brought children filled with strengths, personalities, interests, questions, and experiences into their classrooms. Parents handed them off to trusted adults who were ready to learn who they are and build upon what they already know and can do.

That partnership matters. Families know their children in ways we cannot on the first day of school. Our educators bring professional expertise about teaching, learning, and child development. Students themselves are active participants in their learning. When we bring those assets together around shared expectations and goals, we create powerful conditions for success.

These experiences also bring our foundational values at NBAPS to life.

We ALIGN our work around a clear purpose: to prepare all learners for success in school and in life. We recognize the strengths and potential of every student while maintaining high expectations for learning, character, responsibility, and achievement.

We ENGAGE others because education is shared work. We mobilize community engagement and build meaningful partnerships among students, families, staff, and our broader community. Students benefit from trusted adults who encourage them, challenge them, listen to them, and create opportunities for them to lead and contribute.

We MEASURE because our commitment to students requires more than good intentions. We ensure mutual accountability for measurable progress toward shared goals. We pay attention to whether students are learning, growing, attending, developing skills, and becoming increasingly prepared for what comes next.

And we EXTEND our impact by recognizing that our community is one of our greatest assets. We commit resources to district priorities and develop partnerships and shared solutions that expand opportunities for students.

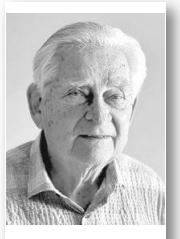
As I move through our schools in the weeks ahead, I will be looking for these values in action.

I will notice the student who asks the question that takes learning in a new direction. The student who tries a different strategy when the first one does not work. The student who notices someone is uncertain and offers to help. The older student who encourages a younger learner. The teacher who recognizes a strength in a student and finds a way to build upon it. The family member who shares an insight that helps us better understand a child. And I will look closely at whether these experiences ultimately result in students learning and achieving at high levels.

These moments remind us that our role is not to unlock potential for students as though we hold the combination. Students already come through our doors with tremendous strengths, abilities, experiences, and possibilities. Our responsibility is to recognize those assets, provide excellent instruction, create meaningful opportunities, maintain high expectations, and build the partnerships that allow students to discover just how much they are capable of doing. Sometimes we see that process unfold in the biggest accomplishments of a school year. And sometimes, it begins with a student standing in front of a locker, confidently turning the dial.

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

A Change of season



About the Town
Gene Johnson

Brisk temperatures in the morning, leaves changing color and schools resuming classes are all indicators of a change of seasons.

Some children are starting the beginning of their education in public or private schools. High schools and colleges are underway, and for many people, continuing education is a lifelong priority.

The Boys Town newsletter this month mentioned, "School can mean different things to different students. For some it means being bullied and mistreated. For others it's a place of miracles."

Change is evident everywhere we look – in science, technology, medicine, health care, shopping, travel, space exploration and education.

Not every student needs a four-year college degree. Vocational schools have benefits also: predictable hours, apprentice programs, good salaries and job security. Skilled labor is currently in short supply.

TEACHERS COUNT

Education is changing dramatically with artificial intelligence. Teachers continue to be challenged by demands of parents, society and cultures.

Teachers have been an important part of my life, and they continue to influence, correct and encourage. My wife, Kathy, with a background in music and elementary education, parenting, and proofreading my column, has been a great life partner in our 58 years of married life.

PLANNING AHEAD

Wherever you are in life's aging process you need to be planning ahead, part of which is goal setting. Every fall, both Kathy and I write our plans or goals for the coming year, whether it be education, travel, major purchases or evaluating our living situation. Then, we would take time together and compare our notes. Almost always, they were very similar. This gave us an important road map for the coming year. It brought about agreement regarding our resources and how they were to be used. Kathy always enjoyed researching and planning travel. We held the purse strings tight so that we would have savings and not spend more than we earned.

One of my philosophies was to find ways to have three sources of income.

Another philosophy of life is to say yes to opportunities.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Voting is important, and elections are just around the corner. Get all the information you can to make an informed vote for whom you feel are qualified candidates. Before you believe everything you read online, be sure it comes from a trustworthy source. Our papers will provide candidate profiles in the Voters' Guide published in the coming weeks.

GAIN WISDOM

Many famous people have given us bits of wisdom about moving forward in life. Denzel Washington said, "Don't be afraid to fail. Be afraid not to try." Julia Child commented, "The only way you become a really good cook is by making every individual mistake possible." Maya Angelou said, "You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have."

BRAIN DRAIN

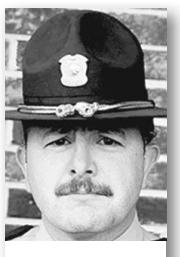
The Wisconsin Newsmedia Association gave some recent information about the brain drain occurring in the state. They commented that, "a Wisconsin-born adult who moves to another state is more likely to have a college education while those from other states who move to Wisconsin are less educated. This produces a serious brain drain."

Since 2020 Wisconsin has added more residents than it has lost through domestic migration. As a result, educational attainment among current Wisconsin residents remains close to the national average.

If policymakers wish to take additional steps to address Wisconsin's brain drain, they may consider steps taken by other states. Ohio has incentivized college students to stay in the state through programs such as discounted mortgage interest rates for recent graduates. Texas has focused on attracting existing businesses from other states by providing relocation assistance and tax incentives. Minnesota has developed a network of local organizations that recruit people to move to rural areas of the state.

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

Tips for proper seatbelt usage



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Question: I see a lot of people not wearing their seat belt correctly. Several of them, have the shoulder belt worn underneath the shoulder/arm. Can you provide some education on this?

Answer: Seat belt use is required with a properly adjusted and fastened seat belt, including both the shoulder and lap belt when the vehicle is so equipped. You are more likely to survive a car crash if you use both the lap and shoulder belts together.

• Lap belt: Adjust the lap belt to fit snugly across your hipbones or upper thighs. It should never be positioned across your abdomen or the soft part of your stomach.

• Shoulder belt: Adjust the shoulder belt to fit snugly across your chest and the middle of your shoulder. When positioned correctly, the seat belt is much less likely to cause injuries in the event of a crash.

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





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ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

OBITUARIES

Anetta Joyce (Wolf) Splittstoser

Anetta Joyce (Wolf) Splittstoser, 89, known and loved by nearly everyone as Joyce, was welcomed into heaven on Aug. 25, 2026.

Joyce was born May 12, 1937, in Ainsworth, Nebraska, to Melton and Clara Wolf. In 1957, she married her beloved husband, Glenn Splittstoser. They shared 57 years together and raised their five daughters on their dairy farm in Dalbo, MN, before Glenn's passing in 2014.



Joyce's home was always welcoming, with coffee and sweet treats ready for anyone who stopped by. She loved bringing family together through holidays, dinners, and traditions. She was also a devoted keeper of memories, preserving photographs, stories, and family history so future generations would remember the people and moments she treasured.

Above all, Joyce loved Jesus. Her faith was the foundation of her life, and she wanted everyone around her to know the Lord she loved.

Joyce married Gene Lindner in 2018. He preceded her in death in 2024.

She spent her final days at A Place at the Table. Her family is deeply grateful for the love and care she received there, especially from her truly amazing caretakers, Amy, Geri, Mya, and Joan.

Joyce was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Glenn Splittstoser; her second husband, Gene Lindner; her grandson, Tyler Carlson; her great-grandson, Atlas Tharp; her brothers, Jim and Lee Wolf; her sister-in-law, Rosie Wolf; and her stillborn baby sister, Mary Elizabeth Wolf.

She leaves behind her daughters, Corrine (David) Pearson, Vicki Carlson, Denise (Sean) Woodiwiss, Suzanne (Rick) Evenson, and Tricia (Clint) Krueger; sister Esther Anderson; brother Paul (Shelly) Wolf; sisters-in-law Irma Parzyck and Liz Wolf; 17 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren, soon to be 29; and many other relatives and friends.

Without Joyce and Glenn, this family would not exist. Their love created the roots from which generations have grown.

She was deeply loved, will be deeply missed, and will never be forgotten.

Funeral Services were held on Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026 at Wyanett Ev. Free Church. Interment in Dalbo Baptist Cemetery. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge. carlsonlillemoen.com

Frank Paul Holmgren

Frank Paul Holmgren, age 83, of Fayetteville, NC formerly from Cambridge, MN, died on August 21, 2026.

Frank was born Aug. 29, 1942, in Minneapolis, MN to parents Genevieve G. (Birge) Holmgren and Carl E. Holmgren. Frank was raised in NE Minneapolis along with his siblings Carl, David, Richard and Linda. Frank graduated from Edison High School in 1960 and joined the United States Navy. He served proudly as a Seabee in the Navy from 1960 to 1963.



Frank married his first wife Sheila J. Hill in Minneapolis, MN in 1964 and together they had two children, Keith and Kendra. In 1975, Frank married Carol R. (Schroeder) Tinkham in Clear Lake, SD and he gained three more daughters; Yolanda, Rhonda and Melissa.

Together, Frank and Carol spent over 40 happy years with their family at their home on Skogman Lake in rural Cambridge. While in Cambridge, Frank became an active volunteer with the American Legion at Howard McCarty Post 290. He proudly served his local post in most all positions, as well serving at both the District and Department level. Frank was a proud member of the Color Guard at Post 290 for many years. After the passing of his wife, Frank lived out his life in Fayetteville, NC soaking up the sun and enjoying life after years of cold MN winters.

He was preceded in death by his wife Carol R. Holmgren; his parents Carl E. Holmgren and Genevieve G. Holmgren; siblings Carl, David and Linda.

Frank is survived by his children Keith (Kimber) Holmgren of Carlsbad, CA, Yolanda (Kevin) Dailey of Menomonee Falls, WI, Kendra (William) Salmon of Fayetteville, Rhonda (Peter) DeBartoli of Henderson, NV, Missy Golden of Cambridge, MN; ten grandchildren; one great grandchild; his brother Richard (Lynn) Holmgren of Shoreview, MN; his half-sister Laurie Sager of Andover, MN and many other close family and friends.

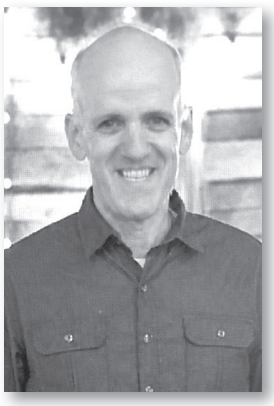
Services and Burial will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery October 2, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

If desired, memorial donations can be made to the veteran's charity of your choice as Frank took great pride in his service to our country.

Eric Steven Lofboom

Eric Steven Lofboom, age 55 of Cambridge, MN went to heaven on August 24, 2026.

Eric was born on April 9, 1971, in Canoga Park, California to his loving and devoted mother Janice Olive Lofboom and at a very young age was adopted by James Arthur Saari. Together they raised Eric on Fish Lake in Harris, Minnesota. Eric attended and graduated from North Branch High School in 1990. He found his work home of 29 years at Phillips Distillery in Princeton, MN where he met the love of his life Minnie. Eric and Minnie were married in 2006. Together they enjoyed raising their fur babies Lucy and Boots, traveling to many baseball, and a few basketball stadiums around the United States. Eric loved spending time in Duluth: he enjoyed tracking the ships (daily) and visited Canal Park several times a year.



In keeping with his kind heart, Eric donated many organs, giving the precious gift of life to several others. Through this selfless final act, a part of Eric will live on bringing hope and a second chance to others.

Funeral Service 11 a.m., Saturday, August 29, 2026 at Fish Lake Lutheran Church, Harris, MN. Visitation 5-8 p.m., Friday at funeral home and one hour prior to the service at the church. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge. Carlsonlillemoen.com

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR
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Data centers, community growth, and looking ahead

BY JUSTIN JAHNZ
JUSTIN.JAHNZ@ECEMN.COM

Most of us use a data center every day without ever thinking about it.

When we send a text message, check a bank balance, stream a movie, or ask an artificial intelligence program a question, there is a good chance the information is being processed in a building full of computer servers somewhere else in the country.

Those facilities have become an essential part of modern life. As technology continues to advance, demand for data centers continues to grow. That growth is creating conversations in communities across the United States, including here in Minnesota.

It is easy to understand why.

Data centers support innovation and economic growth. They provide the computing power behind many of the tools we use every day. They are also becoming increasingly important as artificial intelligence expands into nearly every part of our economy.

The United States is engaged in a global competition to develop the technologies that will shape the future. Artificial intelligence is expected to influence everything from healthcare to manufacturing. The infrastructure supporting those innovations matters. It would be difficult for America to remain a technology leader if the computing facilities powering tomorrow's economy existed primarily overseas.

At the same time, local communities have every right to ask questions.

What would a large data center mean for the electric grid? Could it affect reliability? Who pays for the infrastructure required to serve these facilities? How can communities ensure that growth improves quality of life rather than creating unintended consequences?

Those are reasonable questions. They deserve thoughtful answers.

At East Central Energy, we believe the discussion should not be about stopping growth. It should be about managing growth responsibly.

Any major project that requires significant amounts of electricity must be carefully evaluated before becoming reality. That means understanding infrastructure needs. It means studying potential impacts on the electric system. It means working closely with our wholesale power supplier and regional partners to ensure reliability remains strong.

Most importantly, it means keeping the interests of current members front and center.

Electric cooperatives are different from many other businesses. We are owned by the members we serve. Our responsibility is not to maximize profits for outside investors. Our responsibility is to make decisions that reflect the long-term interests of the communities we call home.

That perspective matters when discussions turn to large electric loads.

If a major project ever seeks service within our area, we will ask some important questions. Will the project support the community? Will infrastructure investments be fair? Will existing members be protected from unnecessary costs? Can reliability be maintained for everyone who depends on our system?

Those questions should be asked before decisions are made, not after.

That is also why partnerships with local governments and community leaders are so important. Economic development works best when utilities, developers, elected officials, and residents all have a voice in the process. Communities deserve transparency. They deserve information. They deserve confidence that their concerns are being heard.

Across the country, utilities and policymakers are working through these same issues. The goal is to find ways to support growth while protecting the consumers who already rely on the electric system every day. That balance is critical.

Technology will continue to evolve. Electricity demand will continue to grow. New opportunities will emerge that would have seemed unlikely only a few years ago.

As those conversations unfold, ECE's commitment remains unchanged. We will continue to focus on reliable service. We will continue to advocate for affordability. We will continue to work alongside local officials and community leaders to ensure that growth benefits the people who live here.

That is what membership means. That is what local ownership means. And that is the responsibility we take seriously every day.

Add your voice to the conservation conversation by joining a Minnesota DNR advisory group

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is recruiting new members to serve on several key advisory groups related to natural resource management. The DNR has a long and proud tradition of working closely with advisory groups as we manage natural resources across Minnesota. With their diverse membership, advisory group members share a wide range of important perspectives and experiences with DNR.

Because no single group can effectively and credibly address the full scope of DNR's resource management responsibilities, we rely on several different advisory groups, each of which allows members to focus on particular aspects of our work to help shape thoughtful, balanced, and community-informed decisions. We're currently seeking new members to join several key advisory groups and continue this legacy of collaboration.

The advisory groups for which DNR is seeking applicants include:

- Catfish Fisheries Work Group
- Esocid (i.e., northern pike and muskie) Fisheries Work Group
- Panfish Fisheries Work Group
- Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee
- Lake of the Woods Fisheries Input Group
- Natural Heritage Advisory Committee
- Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee
- Recruit, Retain, Reactivate Advisory Council
- Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee

"Public input is essential to ensuring DNR's work reflects the experiences, needs, and aspirations of the people we serve," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen. "In alignment with our mission to work with Minnesotans, I encourage anyone who is passionate about the outdoors and wants to make a difference to consider one of the advisory committees that helps shape DNR decisions."

The DNR aims for each advisory group to include people from a diverse mix of backgrounds, perspectives, locations and experiences to lend a breadth of knowledge and insight to the groups.

Those interested in serving on any of the following advisory groups can learn more about deadlines and how to apply on the DNR website (engage.dnr.state.mn.us/advisory-group-appointment-opportunities).

CATFISH FISHERIES WORK GROUP

The Catfish Fisheries Work Group discusses catfish-related management and research topics to learn about and contribute to understanding of catfish management and advise DNR staff on management issues and research.

The group is seeking applicants who represent a broad range of interests and viewpoints.

Terms: Two or three years. Members can reapply but can serve no more than two consecutive terms.



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Meets: Several times a year, with at least two in-person meetings annually.

Learn more: Fisheries work groups webpage (mndnr.gov/fishgroups).

ESOCID FISHERIES WORK GROUP

The Esocid Fisheries Work Group discusses northern pike and muskellunge-related management and research topics to learn about and contribute to understanding of pike and muskie management and advise DNR staff on management issues and research.

At this time, the group is seeking applicants who are specifically interested in northern pike.

Terms: Three years with the option to renew for a second term.

Meets: Typically four times annually, with up to two in-person meetings.

Learn more: Fisheries work groups webpage (mndnr.gov/fishgroups).



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PANFISH FISHERIES WORK GROUP

The Panfish Fisheries Work Group discusses panfish-related management and research topics to expand understanding of panfish management and advise DNR staff on management issues and research.

Terms: Three years with the option to renew for a second term.

Meets: Typically twice per year, once in person.

Learn more: Fisheries work groups webpage (mndnr.gov/fishgroups).

FISH AND WILDLIFE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee makes policy and program recommendations to the Legislature and DNR commissioner for desired outcomes related to protecting, restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat, fish and wildlife population management, fish and wildlife monitoring and research, communications and engagement, and improvements in the management and use of money in the game and fish fund.

The committee publicizes its work through an annual report and public meeting. In even numbered years, the report focuses on DNR outcomes achieved and improvements related to game and fish fund expenditures. In odd-numbered years, the report focuses on outcomes related to protecting habitat, fish and wildlife population management, monitoring and research, and communications and engagement.

The committee is seeking applicants who are Minnesota residents and who have purchased a personal or commercial Minnesota hunting, fishing or trapping license since Jan. 1 of the previous calendar year or licensed their vehicle with an active critical habitat license plate.

Terms: Two or three years, members are eligible to serve up to six consecutive years.

Meets: Monthly. Committee members work on their own time to produce an annual report.

Learn more: Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee webpage (mndnr.gov/faw_advisory_committee).

LAKE OF THE WOODS FISHERIES INPUT GROUP

The Lake of the Woods Fisheries Input Group discusses fisheries issues, reviews technical information, weighs management alternatives, and provides practical counsel on the Lake of the Wood's management.

The group is seeking applicants who have an interest in Lake of the Woods fisheries management and who represent either of the following slots: 1) Representative employee or owner of a resort on the south shore of Lake of the Woods or 2) Local angler that resides in Lake of the Woods or Roseau County and does not have a direct business or economic interest tied to angling in Lake of the Woods.

Terms: One management planning cycle (10 years), until the member no longer represents the applicable stakeholder group or slot for which they applied (e.g., local angler/resort representative), or until they no longer wish to serve as a member of the group. Open seats include one for someone who represents a resort based out of the south shore of Lake of the Woods and a local angler from Lake of the Woods or Roseau County who does not have a direct business or economic interest tied to angling on Lake of the Woods.

Meets: Annually in late winter during non-planning years and up to eight times in planning years.

Learn more: Lake of the Woods webpage (mndnr.gov/lakeofthewoods).

NATURAL HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Natural Heritage Advisory Committee advises the DNR on issues relating to sustaining the state's natural heritage, biological diversity and ecosystem services. Members make recommendations to help protect high quality prairies, forests, wetlands and other native habitats, and the diversity of plants and animals they support.

The committee is seeking applicants who live in Minnesota and who have knowledge, demonstrated dedication or experience related to natural resource management, conservation biology, ecological education and outreach, or other aspects of Minnesota's natural heritage.

Terms: New member appointments will begin in January 2027 and are for three-year terms.

Meets: First Wednesday of every other month.

Learn more: Natural Heritage Advisory Committee webpage (mndnr.gov/nhac).

PARKS AND TRAILS LEGACY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee provides recommendations to enhance promotion, coordination and accountability for the coordinated network of parks and trails throughout the implementation of the 25-year Parks and Trails Legacy Plan (legacy.mn.gov/sites/default/files/resources/parks_trails_legacy_plan_0.pdf).

The committee is seeking applicants with backgrounds in outdoor recreation, outdoor skills building, youth programs, education, parks and trails accessibility, natural resources, marketing, integrated technology, tourism, or business.

Terms: Two years, with the potential of being reappointed for a maximum of three terms.

Meets: Every other month (six times annually) at parks and trails facilities throughout the state.

Learn more: Parks and Trails Legacy Advisory Committee webpage (legacy.mn.gov/ptlac).



MN DNR FACEBOOK

RECRUIT, RETAIN, REACTIVATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

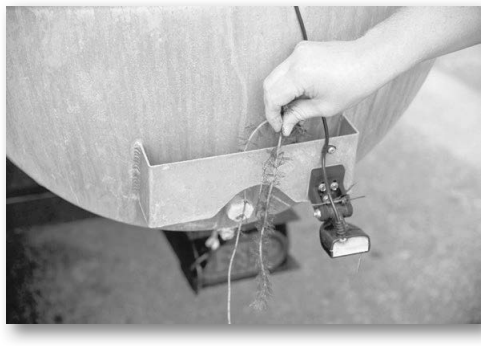
The Recruit, Retain, Reactivate Advisory Council aims to increase the number of hunters and anglers in Minnesota and build support and awareness of hunting and angling traditions and opportunities.

The council is seeking applicants who are active leaders in the hunting and fishing community, with a vested interest in efforts to grow participation in hunting, angling and trapping.

Terms: At least two years.

Meets: Quarterly and as needed for working group meetings.

Learn more: Minnesota R3 Council webpage (mndnr.gov/r3/council).



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STATEWIDE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Advisory Committee provides advice and diverse perspectives on direction, management, research, outreach needs, communications and funding strategies for preventing the spread of AIS.

The committee is seeking applicants who have a range of personal and professional experience with AIS issues.

Terms: Up to three years.

Meets: Eight times a year, either online or in a central Minnesota location.

Learn more: AIS Advisory Committee webpage (mndnr.gov/aisadvisory).

Introducing new teachers to Cambridge-



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti High School:(Front row) Josh Young, Elizabeth Young, Principal Steve Gibbs, Kyle Leeson, (Back row) Brent Swaggert, Activities Director Matt Braaten, Jacob Ziebarth, Chris Hepp



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Early Childhood Family Education: (Front row) Madison Fagerland (DAPE IPS E-2, IIS), Kirsten Charles, Emily Maki, Kailey Edling, Brooke Pool, (Back row) Krystal Nelson (Speech E-2 IPS), Julie Sandquist, Director Kim Goodmanson, Grace Pullman, Brittany Tiedemann, Sara Mager



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Woodland Campus: Pangie Nascene, Niki Pfutzenreuter, Principal John Droubie



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Cambridge Primary School: (Front row) Brooke Jordan, Sydney Farniok, Hannah Deeth, (Back row) Jen DeBoer, Abigail Nolan, Maddie Johnson, Principal Eric Bjurman, Tara Larkin



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Isanti Intermediate/STEAM: Tanya Sedlecki, McKenzie Mickolichek, Sophie Lind, Principal Sara Edwards



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Isanti Middle School: Hannah Pagel, Holly Erickson, Dirk Anderson, Amber Schroeder, Steve Sworsky, Principal Randy Pauly

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Isanti, North Branch Area School Districts



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Isanti Primary School: Matt Dockendorf, Michelle Glasgow, Ana Kay, Evia Zakovich, Principal Shane Dordal



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Cambridge Intermediate School: Tara Larkin, Principal Laura Yehlik, Tamara Tabaka, Rachel Johnson, Tim Coleman



CONTRIBUTED

North Branch Middle School: (Front row, from left) Principal Kelly Detzler, Justin Haag, Samantha Pederson, Grace Christopherson, Katie Erickson, Superintendent Sara Paul, (Back row) Jade Hibbard, Assistant Principal Matt Lattimore, Robert Blackwell, Sara Carlston, and Ben Wacker.



CONTRIBUTED

Sunrise Elementary and North Branch Education Center: (Front row, from left) Madison Boeke, Lauren Sertich, Kaley Paehlke, Rachel Dahl, Tristen Geving, Assistant Principal Carrie Hoffman, Community Education/Early Learning Director Erica Bjerketvedt, (Back row) Superintendent Sara Paul, Principal Taylor Swanson, Alyssa Hempel, McKayla Swanson, Amanda Hals, Cassie Johnson, and Geri Erickson.



CONTRIBUTED

North Branch Area High School and Norse Learning Center: (Front row, from left) Assistant Principal Amanda Daeger, Superintendent Sara Paul, Molly Burrow, Paige Stevenson, Chelsie Rosa, John Roggemann, Joe Stauffer (Back row) Assistant Principal Jacob Truby, Matt DiMartino, Robert Blackwell, Principal Clint Link, Tyson Bohoney, and Luke Swiatek.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Local businesses welcomed new teachers of the Cambridge-Isanti and Braham Area School Districts, plus the Anoka-Ramsey Community College Cambridge Campus with a delicious meal during the 28th annual New Teacher Luncheon.

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Main Street Revitalization Program fuels investments across Central Minnesota

More than $4 million in grants supported 127 projects and are projected to generate up to $47 million in community and business investment

Since 2023, the Initiative Foundation has helped distribute more than $4 million in Minnesota Main Street Economic Revitalization grants to support 127 projects across 10 Central Minnesota communities. The investments helped business owners, nonprofits and community leaders improve commercial properties, strengthen downtown districts and enhance community spaces throughout the region.

Collectively, those grants leveraged more than $34 million in additional local and private investment, generating nearly $39 million in documented project investment. For every $1 awarded through the program, communities, businesses and organizations invested nearly $10 of their own funding in redevelopment and improvement projects. As hometown improvements move forward, the Foundation anticipates the program could ultimately support as much as $47 million in total community and business investment.

The program supported projects in Braham, Brainerd, Cass Lake, Cold Spring, Isanti, Little Falls, Long Prairie, Pine River, St. Cloud and Walker, communities that collectively span nine Central Minnesota counties: Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns and Todd counties.

"These projects are great examples of what can happen when local businesses and organizations have access to resources that help move important investments forward," said Amy Trombley, vice president for community at the Initiative Foundation. "From downtown storefronts and community gathering spaces to housing improvements and new construction, these investments are helping communities build on their strengths and create opportunities for future growth."

Established by the Minnesota Legislature and administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) through regional partners, including the Initiative Foundation, the Minnesota Main Street Economic Revitalization Program provided matching grants to spur local investment in commercial corridors and business districts across the region.

Grants covered up to 30 percent of eligible project costs, requiring businesses and organizations to provide the remaining investment to help turn public funding into significantly larger community and business improvements.



CONTRIBUTED

Rockstad and Co. Relics & Wares in Isanti (above) and the Park Cafe in Braham are among local grant recipients.

FINAL GRANT ROUND: 18 PROJECTS

The Foundation recently completed administration of the program's final grant round, awarding $423,307 to support 18 projects in Braham, Cass Lake, Isanti, Little Falls and Walker. Those projects leveraged an additional $3.2 million in local investment and have all been completed.

The following examples highlight five of the 18 projects supported through the program's final funding round:

Isanti: Rockstad and Co. Relics & Wares, a Main Street boutique, completed landscaping and signage updates and invested in overall store improvements and upgrades.

Cass Lake: Northern Dreams Gymnastics is building a new facility in downtown Cass Lake, giving its growing gymnastics program room to grow. The expansion provides a larger, safer space for athletes and is the first ground-up construction project in downtown Cass Lake in two decades. Read more in IQ Magazine.

Walker: Chase on the Lake Resort & Spa, a historic resort on Leech Lake, demolished and rebuilt its courtyard and completed exterior improvements, including landscaping, trim, paint and a lobby renovation.

Braham: The Park Cafe, a family diner on Main Street, made improvements including demolition work, spray-foam insulation, new main-floor flooring and upgrades to its second-floor apartments, including new windows.

Little Falls: The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota refreshed its facility on West Broadway with lighting and heating improvements, parking lot work, painting and upgrades to create a state-approved kitchen.

Grant totals for the final funding round were:

Isanti: $94,320
Cass Lake: $96,000
Walker: $55,751
Braham: $81,322
Little Falls: $95,914

A list of funded projects, grant recipients and community investments is available at ifound.org.

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Lawn & Garden Guide

PREVENTING PESTS IN YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

Many yard and garden pests can be controlled successfully without pesticides. There are many insects and diseases found in landscapes that create only cosmetic problems and not plant health problems, so treatments are not necessary.

Pest prevention starts with a healthy landscape. The wrong plant in the wrong place can attract diseases, insects and unwanted wildlife. Learn about selecting the best plants for Minnesota landscapes based on your site and pest resistance.

To treat or not to treat

To determine the best method for pest control in your yard and garden, we recommend integrated pest management (IPM) methods that include long-term solutions that pose less risk for your health and environment. Successful IPM practices may still use pesticides as part of a strategy, but they may not always be the first method for dealing with pests.

Nonchemical ways to control insects, plant diseases, weeds and wildlife

Before you can find a solution to a problem, it is important to identify the pest correctly when searching for answers. There are many identification and problem-solving tools available.

Selecting pesticide products

When pesticides do become part of the IPM strategy, choose them wisely and use them safely. Pesticides that are available to the public are often assumed to be safe. Pesticides are only safe to use when you follow the directions on the product labels.

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NEW LOCATION

The *Isanti-Chisago County Star* can now be picked up at Hermann Insurance, 310 W 4th St in Rush City.

Look for the red Star box in front of the building.

Papers are delivered Thursday afternoon.

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

Isanti County invites public to Highway Department Open House

Residents can tour the existing headquarters and learn about the plans for a new facility

Isanti County is inviting residents to attend an open house at the Isanti County Highway Department on Thursday, Sept. 17, from 4 to 6 p.m. to learn about the proposed new Highway Department facility and tour the existing headquarters.

The open house will be held at the current Highway Department facility, located at 232 Emerson St. N. in Cambridge. Attendees will have an opportunity to tour the existing facility and learn more about plans for a proposed replacement facility.

Built in 1949, the current Highway Department building is now more than 75 years old and no longer provides the space, equipment storage, or operational functionality needed to support a modern county highway system. Today, the department is responsible for maintaining approximately 360 miles of roadway, along with 37 bridges, signs, and other transportation infrastructure that support residents, businesses, farms, and emergency services throughout Isanti County.

The proposed replacement facility is being designed to address current space, equipment storage, maintenance and operational needs while supporting the department's long-term responsibilities for reliable road maintenance and emergency response.

Residents are encouraged to attend, ask questions, and learn more about the project's purpose, proposed design, and funding considerations. Additional information is available at www.isanticountymn.gov/882/Highway-Department-Facility. ~ Isanti County Highway Department



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

MnDOT makes millions available for electric vehicle fast-charging stations

More than $41 million dollars is available to expand Minnesota's electric vehicle (EV) charging network, the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced today.

MnDOT's third, and largest, round of investments through the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program includes up to $41.2 million in federally funded grants focusing on expanding fast-charging infrastructure in Greater Minnesota.

"NEVI funding is used to further develop a fast-charging network and will go a long way towards reducing range anxiety for long-distance travel needs in our state," said MnDOT Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger. "Expanding our fast-charging network will provide more confidence, flexibility and opportunity for people in Minnesota who are driving EVs, or who want to in the future."

In Minnesota, EV ownership grew by 1,000 percent – from about 9,000 to 90,000 – since 2018.

To date, MnDOT has released two rounds of EV charging funding totaling more than $16 million, supporting 24 fast-charging sites through a combination of federal, state and private investment along I-94, I-35, and I-90. The funds for round three are a combination of 80% Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) dollars and a 20% investment by each grantee. Eight NEVI-funded stations are currently open.

The NEVI program was created in 2021 as a part of the IIJA. It invests in building a nationwide EV charging network that is accessible and reliable. MnDOT's grant program is a way to distribute the NEVI funds to private and public partners who will own and operate the charging stations.

The request for proposals (RFP) is now available, and proposals are due Nov. 2, 2026. Learn more about the RFP and explore the current map of EV-funded stations in Minnesota on the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program in Minnesota webpage. ~ MNDOT

NORTHBOUND LIQUOR

September SPECIALS

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$22.99
Bud, Bud Light & Michelob Gold Light 24 pk, 12oz can

$21.99
MGD, Miller Lite & Miller Extra Lite 24 pk, 12 oz

Downeast Cider All Varieties 12 pk cans
$16.99

$17.99
Nutrl 8 pk

Wine of the Month

Apothic Excluding Inferno
$8.99

Gray Duck 1.75
$21.99

$24.99
Crown Royal All Flavors 750ml

Liquor of the Month

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THE 2026 CONTEST
GREW 115%
2026: 74,305 votes from 2,758 people
2025: 66,955 votes from 2,343 people

Are You A WINNER OR FINALIST?

Readers' Choice 2026 BEST of Isanti-Chisago County

Scan the Code

Results will be revealed to the public in a printed Winners Directory in late September / early October!

isanti-chisagocountystar.com/bestof

Businesses who want to participate in this special issue and learn more can fill out the form at the QR code above.

Hardy mums provide color that returns every fall



Shorter days and cooler nights signal that autumn is right around the corner. Colors shift not only in our trees, but across our gardens. Chrysanthemums, those bright, cheerful fall bloomers, are suddenly everywhere. The mums stacked outside big-box stores and grocery stores are annual florist mums: great for porch pots but not bred to survive a Minnesota winter.

University of Minnesota researchers have been breeding northern-hardy perennial mums since 1977. These mums are selected for winter survival (reliably hardy in Zones 3-9), strong branching, and dependable blooms.

Because mums naturally set buds as daylight wanes and temperatures cool, choosing several varieties can give you color from late August through first frost.

Plant them in full sun and well-drained soil and enjoy fall color that returns every year; no more tossing out porch mums after the first freeze.

WHY CHOOSE HARDY MUMS?

Hardy mums offer:

- True winter survival.
- Reliable perennial performance.
- Earlier bloom periods (many begin before September 1).
- Cold and frost tolerance.
- A wide range of colors and flower forms.

MINNESOTA-BRED MUM VARIETIES

Cushion mums: compact, dome-shaped, early blooming

The University of Minnesota's first mum-breeding breakthrough was the cushion habit: a tidy, dome-shaped plant completely covered in flowers. These 12- to 18-inch mounds tuck easily into front borders and perennial beds.

Cushion mums are ideal for gardeners who want neat, compact plants with dense floral coverage.

Upright mums: classic form, reliable hardiness

Before cushions became the standard, upright mums dominated fall gardens. UMN still maintains hardy upright selections for those who prefer a traditional look.

These grow 18 to 24 inches tall, with blooms held at the top of sturdy stems. They pair well with ornamental grasses and other late-season perennials.

Shrub cushion mums: Mammoth™ series: huge plants, thousands of blooms

For sheer impact, the Mammoth™ series delivers. These shrub-sized mums can reach 3 to 4 feet across by their second year and produce thousands of flowers.

Their frost tolerance keeps them blooming well into October. Mammoth™ mums are excellent for gardeners seeking low-maintenance, high-impact perennials.

Wave mums: low, wide, and ground-covering

Wave mums form broad, low mounds with blooms nearly to the ground, creating a carpet-like "snowdrift" of color. They stay around 12 inches tall but can spread up to 24 inches, making them excellent for edging, slopes, or mass plantings.

Whether you love the tidy domes of cushion mums, the bold presence of Mammoth™ shrub mums, or the spreading waves of ground-cover mums, hardy chrysanthemums offer something for every Minnesota garden. Consider adding one, or several, this fall. They'll keep your landscape glowing long after most perennials have faded.

Find out more about the University of Minnesota hardy chrysanthemum breeding program https://mnhardy.umn.edu/chrysanthemums.

MN

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Pigskin Preview gets Bluejacket fans ready for some football



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The Bluejacket fourth grade team scrimmages on the varsity field prior to the high school team.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti player Cyrus Anderson won a raffle for smashing a whip cream pie in the face of varsity head coach Ben Geisler during the annual Pigskin Preview held at CIHS on Wednesday, Aug. 26. The event also included food trucks, bounce houses and introductions of all teams giving them the opportunity to run through the giant inflatable helmet.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Members of the North Dance Studio performed during the Pigskin Preview.

City of Cambridge Recycle Event

Saturday, September 19, 2026 • 9a.m. - noon
Cambridge City Hall, at 300 3rd Avenue Northeast

The City of Cambridge in partnership with Evergreen Recycling is hosting a recycle day. Everyone is encouraged to bring their old **electronics, appliances, fluorescent bulbs, batteries and mattresses** in for recycling. Items accepted include:

Computer Towers, laptops, tablet, cell phones	No charge
Lead acid batteries, household wire & cords, copper	No charge
All flat Computer Screen Monitor	$10
Tube Computer Monitors & TVs 20" and smaller	$20
Tube TVs 21" – 30"	$30
Tube TVs 30" +	$40
Larger, console TV, rear projection	$50
Flat Screen TVs	$20
Printer, scanner, fax, typewriter, VCRs, DVD player	$5
Satellite receiver, stereo components (each), boom box	$5
Tires – Auto/light truck	$7
Tires – Semi	$17
Tires – Tractor	$45 - $60
Appliance	$10
Appliances with freon & water softener	$15
Fluorescent Bulbs	
Straight 4' and under	$1
Straight over 4'	$2
Round, u-tubes, plug-ins, screw-ins	$1
Mattresses- All (per)	$25
Box Springs- All (per)	$20

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Interested in sports, news, school events, special features & community events? Sounds like you need to pick up the Star and read all about it!

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR





BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti's Kyla Terhell shields Coon Rapids' Brynlie Wold from the ball during the Bluejackets' home game against the Cardinals.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti's Nico Levitski collides with Anoka's Mustapha Bojang while trying to get control of a loose ball during the Bluejackets' game against the Tornadoes.

C-I, NB SCOREBOARD: AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 1

August 27
C-I girls tennis 5, Buffalo 2
C-I girls tennis 3, Alexandria 4
C-I girls tennis 5, Bemidji 2
C-I girls soccer 0, Irondale 1
NB girls tennis x, Osseo x
NB girls tennis 6, Duluth Denfeld 1
NB girls tennis 7, Cloquet 0
NB boys soccer 1, Proctor 2
NB girls soccer 0, Hermantown 6
NB girls cross country @ Princeton Early Bird Invite
*Top finisher: Lyla Stiner - 3rd place (23:48.5)
NB boys cross country @ Princeton Early Bird Invite - 1st/3 teams
*Top finisher: Caleb Rueter - 1st place (17:33.4)

August 28
C-I volleyball 2, Greenway 0
C-I volleyball 0, Rush City 2
C-I volleyball 0, Proctor 2
C-I volleyball 2, Rock Ridge 0

August 29
C-I girls soccer 2, Sauk Rapids-Rice 0
C-I boys soccer 1, Anoka 6
NB boys soccer 2, Hibbing 1
NB girls tennis 0, Rock Ridge 7
NB girls tennis 2, Delano 5
NB volleyball 3, Hopkins 0

August 31
C-I girls soccer 1, Coon Rapids 4

September 1
C-I volleyball 1, Anoka 3
C-I boys soccer 3, Watertown Mayer 2
NB volleyball 1, Grand Rapids 3
NB girls soccer 0, Jordan 5

C-I, NB HOME SCHEDULES: SEPTEMBER 3 - 12

To see both schools' full schedules, go to www.gobound.com. Schedules are subject to change with minimal advanced notice based on weather, availability of officials, or other reasons.

Thursday, Sept. 3
•C-I girls tennis vs. Annandale (4:30 p.m.)

Friday, Sept. 4
•NB football vs. Two Harbors (7 p.m.)

Tuesday, Sept. 8
•NB girls tennis vs. Big Lake (4 p.m.)
•NB boys soccer vs. Zimmerman (5 p.m.)
•NB girls soccer vs. Zimmerman (7 p.m.)
•NB volleyball vs. Forest Lake (7 p.m.)

Thursday, Sept. 10
•C-I girls tennis vs. Monticello (4 p.m.)
•C-I girls soccer vs. St. Francis (5 p.m.)
•C-I boys soccer vs. St. Francis (7 p.m.)
•NB girls soccer vs. Monticello (5 p.m.)
•NB boys soccer vs. Monticello (7 p.m.)
•NB volleyball vs. Cloquet (7 p.m.)

Saturday, Sept. 12
•NB volleyball home invite (9 a.m.)
•NB boys soccer vs. Legacy Christian (1 p.m.)

Banning State Park campground to close after Labor Day

Starting Tuesday, Sept. 8, Banning State Park's campground will close for a construction project to replace the park's shower building.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources anticipates that the campground, which includes 33 sites and a camper cabin, will remain closed during the entire 2027 camping season while construction is completed.

"We know some visitors may be disappointed to lose a season of camping at Banning, but we're excited to reopen the campground in 2028 with a shower building that fits the needs of today's campers," said Clarissa Payne, park supervisor at Banning State Park.

The new building will include modern restrooms, accessible single-occupancy showers, two family-assist restrooms, an adult changing station and dishwashing stations.

Camping alternatives near Banning State Park include:

St. Croix State Park – 211 drive-in sites across three campgrounds

Moose Lake State Park – 33 drive-in sites

Several state forest campgrounds, including:

Willow River Campground, General C.C. Andrews State Forest – 36 rustic drive-in sites

Gafvert Campground, Nemadji State Forest – 18 rustic drive-in sites

Boulder Campground, St. Croix State Forest – 22 rustic drive-in sites

About Banning State Park

Established in 1963, Banning State Park is located near Sandstone and covers more than 6,000 acres along the Kettle River. Visitors can hike to Wolf Falls, explore the remains of a historic sandstone quarry, paddle churning rapids, view sandstone formations and glacial potholes, and enjoy many other activities. To learn more, visit mndnr.gov/banning. -MN DNR

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CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI BLUEJACKET GIRLS TENNIS



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

2026 Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket girls tennis: (in alphabetical order by last name) Leah Anderson, Stella Anderson, Mia Bergquist, Cadence Blakeborough, Samantha Brekke, Daphnie Call, Reagan Carlson, Sage Christensen, Kayla Deblieck, Jada Draper, Charlotte Earl, Rozlyn Farr, Adelaide Fenger, Bailey Flom, Lauren Fogel, Jovi Geisler, Lily Grell, Lana Howell, Leah Jardon Juarez, August Johnson, Josie Knudsvig, Rachel Kopp, Jaylyn Kral, Brynlee Laase, Anya Lowman, Rylee McBride, Laike Middag, Lillie Miller, Kendall Mortenson, Olivia Nelson, Izabel Nesbit, Reese Oliver, Emily Olson, Josephine Orvik, Veronica Pardo, Ada Pitrone, Scarlet Porta, Ellen Ross, Hailey Ryder, Alice Schmitt, Clarabelle Sjodin, Delilah Sjodin, Hazel Smith, Elsa Sommers, Addison Sullivan, Aliya Swenson, Allison Troolin, Evelyn Williams. Note: Only members of the current varsity team is pictured.

Head coach: Thea Lowman
Assistant coaches: Macy Selken, Mike Johnson, Diana Gagnon, Jim Lepping

Who are the players to watch this year? We return eight letterwinners from our 2025 State Tournament, Section Champion, and Conference Co-Champion team. We look for these players to use their experience to lead on the courts. Returning All-Conference players to watch this season are Anya Lowman and Allie Troolin, who were named Mississippi 8 Doubles Team of the Year in both 2024 and 2025; and Scarlet Porta. Other returning letter-winners to watch are Roz Farr, Laike Middag, Emily Olson, Claire Sjodin, and Addy Sullivan.

What will be the keys to the team's success this year? The core of our team is a group of athletes who are strong leaders, passionate about the sport of tennis, and have had great successes in high pressure situations on the tennis courts. We are looking for these players to utilize these experiences and their love of their team to step into this season's positions with determination while helping guide those new to varsity.

What challenges will the team face? Replacing seniors lost to graduation is always one of the challenges of a season. With having graduated our first singles All-Conference player from last season and three All-Conference Honorable Mention players, we're working on finding doubles pairings and a singles line-up that will be most effective this season. As players move into higher positions and transition from doubles to singles and vice versa, players are focusing on using their past experiences and successes as a foundation for confidence during tough matches.

What are your goals for the 2026 season? Our primary goal is to boost our individual tennis games each time we step on the courts in order to strengthen and deepen our team as a whole. In doing so, we're always looking to clinch those four team points needed to win each match as we compete strongly against the top teams in our conference and section.

Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Conference: Becker, Monticello, Section: Blaine, Duluth East, Forest Lake

NORTH BRANCH VIKING GIRLS TENNIS



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

2026 North Branch Viking girls tennis (in no particular order) Brianna Bjerketvedt, Ainslee Hunter, Harmonee Koep, Hailea Koep, Evelyn O'Donnell, June Peterson, Sophia Podoll, Charlotte Santjer, Julia Schlagel, Eliana Smit, Cosette Trampe, Faith Wurdemann, Bekah Wurdemann.

Head coach: Joel Santjer
Assistant coaches: Cathy Crudo, Brandon Hunter, Rachel Wurdemann, Bryant Meyer

Who are the players to watch this year? We're really in a whole squad situation this year. We've got a lot of seniors on the team that have been playing for a long time, so it's a huge year to see all that work come to fruition. We've had to replace 4 seniors from last year, so we'll see how those new players step into different roles.

What will be the keys to the team's success this year? We've been working really well as a team. We'll be keeping an eye on our doubles, as well as our depth positions to see if we can lock up points in those spots.

What challenges will the team face? We have a tough conference, tough section, and the schedule can hit you fast, so it'll be more of an idea of the pace of the season, rather than one particular team.

What are your goals for the 2026 season? To keep turning out better people through competition, grow the program, and build relationships.

Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Rock Ridge will be a tough section opponent coming off of a state championship, and a lot of teams are right there with them. The conference is full of tough teams as well, with several all vying for the top spot. Should be some close matches throughout.

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NORTH BRANCH VIKING FOOTBALL



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

2026 North Branch Viking football: (Starting with seniors) Austin Schloer, Jack Puelston, Matthew Phillips, Dalton Nesseth, Paul Jackson, Elisha Herron, Emmit Hansen, Brandon Giese, Reegan Dick, Isaac Cornelius, Nolan Bahr, Josh Eiynk, Irvin Weinrich, Braxon Scherer, Liam Mandt, Mitchell Lutz, Apollo Leija, Brody Laffin, Jackson Kelly, Mason Henry, Sam Gilbert, Will Determan, Jashaun Carlson, Riley Bruneau, Dhaylen Brachrodt, Jayden Albrecht, Jameson Winters, Lane Tomford, Elias Strini, Reid Sjodahl, Devin Schrader, Talon Ryan, Mitchell Pribyl, Fisher Nigbor, Jeremiah Mudrick, Jack Mitchell, Brady McWilliams, Roman Mastarone, Jaxon Loren, Parker Lindner, Evan Kleidon, Lucas Hunter, Easton Honer, Emmett Fritsch, Allen Erickson, Karter Carlson, Matthew Carlson, Cohen Baker, Braydin Rasmussen, Nicholas Andreotti.

Head coach: Justin Voss
Assistant coaches: Kyle Kahl, Dan Johnson, Kyle G, Mason Niederkorn, Eli Erickson, Matt DiMartino, Drew Van Eerden, Nick Schlender, Ian McWilliams, Everett Appleby

Who are the players to watch this year? This year brings many new faces to our offensive line and backfield. With the departure of last year's senior class, we are excited to see new players step into key roles across the offense. Our defense will see a similar transformation, with new faces taking on vital positions. Despite all the changes, we can't wait to watch our younger athletes put in the work to grow throughout the season, supported and encouraged by our returning leaders and our Seniors!

What will be the keys to the team's success this year? The key to our success this year comes down to making measurable improvements each week. Alongside that continuous growth, positively supporting one another will keep our football family connected through all the ups, downs, and grind of the season.

What challenges will the team face? One of our greatest challenges this season will be integrating new faces into new roles. While there will certainly be a learning curve early on, strong leadership from our senior class will be pivotal in building up these players and supporting their growth.

What are your goals for the 2026 season? Our first goal is to play our best football in weeks 6, 7, 8, and into section play. This means every opportunity our young athletes have to improve will directly impact our ability to make that goal a reality. Our second goal is for coaches and players to make a positive impact on everyone in our program. Supporting one another, showing kindness, and building each other up creates the bond and trust we need to navigate the low points of the season and create a positive experience for the young people in our program!

Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Based on last year's success, Grand Rapids and Hermantown have earned their spots as the top two teams in our district/section.

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI BLUEJACKET FOOTBALL



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STA

2026 Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket football: (in jersey numerical order) Knox Andrus, Carter Ward, Mason McKinnon, Landon Bartelt, Makolaj Videen, Carter Berg, Grant Oliver, Christian van Gorden, Kaden Hansen, Simeon Porta, Tayton Westpahl, Conrad Vavra, Bjorn Erickson, Thomas Ruza, tanner Juday, Gavin Swanson, Parker Stewart, Cyrus Anderson, Tate Lines, Wyatt Rock, Avery Geving, Peyton Coplan, Noah Whiteford, Gavin Childs, James Livingston, Caiden Rouse, Tucker Pearson, Elijah Lindell, Avery Bratvold, Lucas Shegog, Matvi Pais, Jacob Flynn, Dalton Brown, Danan Larweck, Joe Shwe, Owen Govednick, Nick O'Brien, thomas Huynh, Thomas Reidell, Cameron Conde, victor Lauritzen, Logan Conde, Tayelan O'Malley-Lee, Konner Pechuman, Graham Harcey, Weston Ramesbothom, Daniel Winkler, Henry Pearson, Brett Zak, Draydon Martin, Hunter Belland, Lane Nelson, Rowdy Houtsma, Lucas Ruza, Paul Machogu, Evan Jorgenson, Victor Curtis, Wyatt Kaufmann, Sylus Emmel, Trevor Wold, Oliver Kaufmann, Ethan Wick, Aidan Carew, Dalton Olson, Derek Ramlet, Brycen McCoy, Max Prihoda, Lucas O'hotto, Ricky Fisk, Michael Mosman, Ayden Eklund, Lucas Scheifels, Stanley Harcey, Nick Zentgraf.

Head coach: Ben Geisler
Assistant coaches: Dylan Brouillard, Ken Downey, Zach Gordy, Eric Graham, George Leistikow, Nicholas Oeltjen, Deven Olson, Joel Preston, Steve Sheedlo, Joe Simons, Jarad Ziebarth

Who are the players to watch this year? Knox Andrus - Tayton Westphal - Henry Pearson - Grant Oliver - Peyton Coplan - Simeon Porta - Max Prihoda

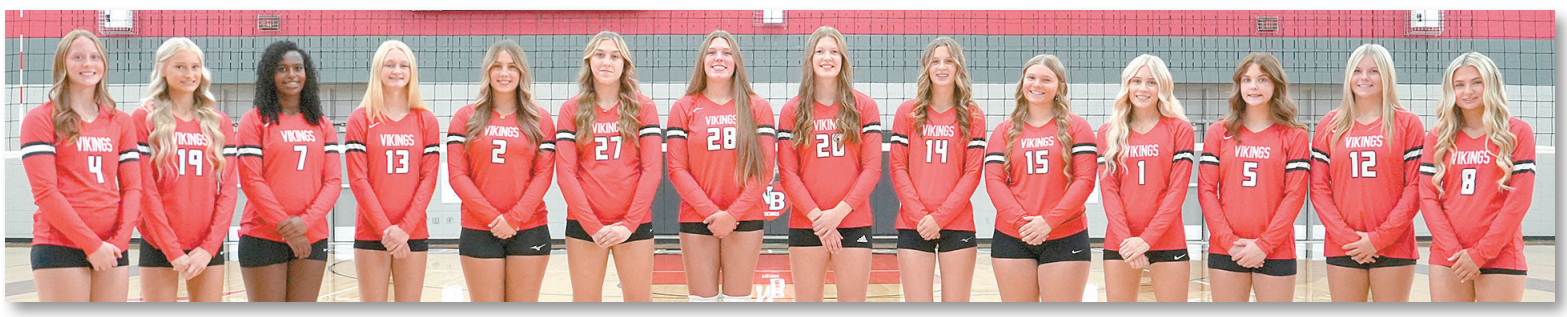
What will be the keys to the team's success this year? If we can stay healthy we can win some games. We have good team speed, and depth at most every position

What challenges will the team face? Our schedule is brutal we play #2 (Monti), #1(Spring Lake Park), #3 (Elk River) ranked teams back to back to back. It's quite the gauntlet. Elk River & Monticello are BOTH in our section

What are your goals for the 2026 season? We need to get better each week. We truly think that if we can continuously improve that we can beat any team. Our big goal is to make it to State this year.

Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Elk River and Monticello.

NORTH BRANCH VIKING VOLLEYBALL



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

2026 North Branch Viking volleyball: (In jersey numerical order) Ava Schroepfer, Emerson Volner, Sophia Thorsen, Sophia Petersen, Rachel Halseth, Victoria Thurmer, Emily Peterson, Lauren Thiel, Alison Allaman, Jenna Minke, Savannah Schroepfer, Amelia Lattimore, Brooklyn Maki, Josie Hubbling.

Head coach: Mike Selbitschka
Assistant coaches: Tammi Minke, Lauren Hicks, Macy Skroch, Galytea Pierce, Megan Carlson

Who are the players to watch this year? Amelia Lattimore, Savannah Schroepfer, and Jenna Minke have All-Metro or All-State potential.

What will be the keys to the team's success this year? We are in great shape to compete at a very high level. We have many returners and are loaded with girls that are pushing to take it to the next level. We made a few adjustments with positions this year and I believe will benefit us well. We will have a strong offensive mindset and many options to move the ball around too

What challenges will the team face? Our serve receive has struggled in the past. We must increase our Serve rec numbers and reduce our errors to stay competitive and successful.

What are your goals for the 2026 season? I fully expect if we stay healthy and commit to doing the work to prepare, we will make a run for both a conference and section championship. We are some great returners and have made great strides over the past few years to improve with new players coming up

Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Sections will be tough this year, we have very strong teams in Princeton, Grand Rapids, Hermantown and Cloquet. In our conference, it will be between Princeton, Monticello and us I believe.

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CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI BLUEJACKET VOLLEYBALL

Head coach: Arei Stokes
Assistant coaches: Taylor Heifort, Heidi Michurski, Katie Sohn
Who are the players to watch this year? Seniors Emma Bosma, Nora Willmert, and Addie Larkin. Sophomore Farrah Plocher.
What will be the keys to the team's success this year? Playing as a team with energy. Limit unforced errors and understand that volleyball is a game of mistakes. We are not the same Bluejackets Volleyball team people are used to.
What challenges will the team face? Changes. I'm a new coach and things are different for them as well. We are learning that we have to adapt to each other.
What are your goals for the 2026 season? Show what C-I volleyball can do. We are here to compete with teams and want to have fun proving ourselves.
Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Being new to the area it's been an interesting time learning teams. While I don't know everyone, the girls do and we are excited to play against Forest Lake.



JOJO'S PHOTOGRAPHY

2026 Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket volleyball: (In numerical order) Farrah Plocher, Addie Larkin, Kendrah Chouinard, Jade Heifort, Nora Gustafson, Kallie Ostlund, Madi Reed, Addison Caza, Avery Rikimoto, Jordana Avery, Emma Bosma, Emma Zehoski, Nora Willmert.

NORTH BRANCH VIKING GIRLS SOCCER

Head coach: Josh Kopp
Assistant coaches: Tyler Johnson
Who are the players to watch this year? SR Reese Moryn - Our lone SR and who has been a varsity player since she was a Freshman. JR Kinley Barie - Returning for her 4th year as a varsity midfielder and forward. JR Alyson Hammond - Her 3rd year as a varsity starter.
What will be the keys to the team's success this year? Our program identity and consistency with everyone understanding and buying into our culture. We have some talented players across various ages, from our lone SR all the way to our new incoming 7th graders
What challenges will the team face? Overall program depth as we continue to seek larger numbers in the program. Developing inexperience to experience with our young players/roster and those returning coming into new roles at a higher level of play.
What are your goals for the 2026 season? Development throughout the year is our main expectation and key to the season with a young and generally inexperienced varsity roster. We want to see where we are at the end from where we were at the beginning. Our program standards that we expect to be competitive day in and day out, while maintaining the fun atmosphere of the program.
All of our players continually learn and understand that to be successful we have to be there for each other. We have to push our program teammates, as well as showing a lot of love for one another to grow.
Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Conference: St Francis. Section: I think Section 7AA is up for grabs this year! This year you could realistically include Cloquet, Duluth Denfeld & Hermantown as top contenders.



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

2026 North Branch Viking girls soccer: (in jersey numerical order) Alexis Sway, Karsyn Anderson, Lilliana Gronberg, Madison Devall, Reese Moryn, Kinley Barie, Addison Fenderbosch, Madelyn Mastarone, Maisie Faye Ricketson, Alyson Hammond, Laura Bartel, Anya Diehl, Alexandra Bailey, Maria Capritta, Kendra Stertz, Brynna Peterson, Kennedy Mandt, Keila Garcia Velazquez.

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI BLUEJACKET GIRLS SOCCER

Head coach: Tyler Hayft
Assistant coaches: Sarah Gruetzman, Steve Larson, Erikah Cooper, and Shelby Bergman
Who are the players to watch this year? Key players to watch are Allie Nystrom, Avaeh Martin, Jenna Thomas, and Olivia Herbert
What will be the keys to the team's success this year? Keys to success this year will be to increase our off the ball movement and being fully immersed in the game.
What challenges will the team face? A major challenge this year will be staying healthy, injuries were a huge problem last year.
What are your goals for the 2025 season? My goals for this season will be to finish in the top 3 of the conference and top 6 of the section.
Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? An opponent to watch this year will be Monticello. They look to have a fantastic team this season.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

2026 Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket girls soccer: (In jersey numerical order) Alyvia Hepp, Olivia Herbert, Siena Wolcyn, Emma Meier, Avery Janssen, Carli Larson, Irene DeRushia, Finley Nelson, Keira Burton, Rilynn Herbst, Averi Darling, Wendy Becerra, Allie Nystrom, Lillian Poelman, Avaeh Martin, Alysa Aldinger, Emery Dobda, Jenna Thomas, Kyla Terhell.

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CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI BLUEJACKET BOYS SOCCER

Head coach: Joe Kassa
Assistant coaches: Mike Bednar, Sean Bakken
Who are the players to watch this year? We have a strong returning core of players at all levels of the pitch. Jaydon Fuhol and Nico Levitski will be anchoring the defense, while Damien Kassa and Greycin Kreyer will be looking to feed balls in from the wing to Colton Becker and Javier Catalan as often as possible.
What will be the keys to the team's success this year? The key to our success will be the same as it has been the past couple years; quick ball movement, accurate passing, and ball pressure.
What challenges will the team face? We did graduate out a couple key players last season including our Goalie, so filling those voids may be a challenge early on in the season.
What are your goals for the 2026 season? Our goal is to improve on last seasons success, and continue to compete for the top spot in conference.
Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Opponent to watch in Conference is Monticello, and sections it would be Blaine.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

2026 Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket boys soccer: (In jersey numerical order): Alex Martin, Aidan Thompson, Damien Kassa, Greycin Kreyer, Noah Ihrke, Diego Sendel, Zachary Bauer, Nico Levitski, Javier Catalan, Colton Becker, Wyatt Overman, Hayden Erickson, Jaydon Fuhol, Nathan Nestrud, Xavier Amdahl.

NORTH BRANCH VIKING BOYS SOCCER

Head coach: Chad Johnson
Assistant coaches: Jessica Audette (JV), Hunter Brandel (C-Squad) Ross Otto (Volunteer)
Who are the players to watch this year? I would like to say the whole team. But since I have to be specific, I would say Ryan Neumann, Drew Peek, Colby Rafftery, Stephen Gerten and Jackson Puelston are the top players to watch.
What will be the keys to the team's success this year? To stay focused and work as a team to build up the pressure on the opponents. We need to be willing to take more chances to score on the offensive side of the pitch. Teamwork, movement of the ball, containing the other team in their half. We will need to conserve our energy by playing smart but still play hard and keep the intensity at a high level.
What challenges will the team face? We have a large group of players returning this year from last year's squad. We have some younger players that will need to fill some large shoes. We will need to stay focused and work as a team in order to put the ball in the back of the net. We have a some newer players in defensive back line with players that have stepped into starting roles, they need to keep their composure and move as a unit to protect our goalie
What are your goals for the 2026 season? To improve on our season last year. As always to win our section and move onto the state tournament. If you ask any one of the players, they want to make it to State this year. Which is always the goal. In order to do that we need to stay focused and take each game as it comes up, and we can accomplish anything we put our minds and hearts too. We are building the program as we just added a C-Squad to our program. We have 49 players from 7th – 12th.
Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? I believe we have a chance to be that team this year that everyone will underestimate. If I had to pick a team. The section opponent would probably be Cloquet and Denfeld and the conference opponent would probably be either Monticello or Princeton.



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

2026 North Branch Viking boys soccer: (In no particular order) Jackson Puelston, Drew Peek, Stephen Gerten, Spencer Miller, Colby Rafftery, Thomas Ryder, Donovan Stertz, Ethan Thelander, Joey (Tsavneej) Moua, Caleb Otto, Luke Jensen, Ryan Neumann, Rowan Mechtel, Zarek Gavit, Benjamin Herges, Blake Onasch, Ryan Robotti, Jace Lee, Rowan Hammond, Carson Perrault.

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI BLUEJACKET GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING

Head coach: Kurt Williams and Allissa Grabowska
Assistant coaches: Kate Goebel, Madison Fagerland, Melissa Wilits
Who are the players to watch this year? Anika Michaelis and Evelyn Shmitt (Diving) Ali Willits (100 Back) Carly Asmussen (100 Fly) Raelynn Dybvig (sprint free)
What will be the keys to the team's success this year? Stepping up to fill places in the lineups after graduating nine seniors last year.
What challenges will the team face? Gaining competition experience with our younger crew that will step up into the lineup openings.
What are your goals for the 2026 season? Build upon our section point total from last year and continue to develop speed and strength throughout our team.
Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Conference: Monticello, Section: Blaine



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

2026 Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket girls swimming and diving: (Starting with seniors) Alison Willits, Sophia Jensrud, Adalyn Schulz, Mckenna Soulak, Evellyn Schmitt, Alyssa Thill, Julliana Linder, Anika Michaelis, Sophie Maikkula, Brita Williams, Aurora Lovely, Michaela Corty, Annika DeRushia, Amelia Niles, Kaarin Romstad, Faith Olson, Annabelle O'Brien, Ari Pitts, Noella Michaelis, carly Asmussen, Juliet Chulla, Autumn Guldseth, Aaliyah Browen, Mckenzie Long, Sophie Sutton, Lily Christensen, Emma Wandzel, Lula Putzke, Raelynn Dybvig.







CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI BLUEJACKET BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY





CONTRIBUTED

2026 Cambridge-Isanti Bluejacket girls and boys cross country: (in no particular order, both teams mixed together) Gage DeBlieck, Austin Donnay, Jameson Epple, Brady Huntley, Nolan Izzo, Grady Jennissen, Aiden Kolbeck, Lucashio Larson, Oliver Meyer, Jack Roberts, Brock Sjoberg, Abigail Skiba, Easton Dombek, Hudson Dombek, Owen Earl, Jeremiah Guldseth, Aiden Jesberg, Tobias Latvala, Boston Machin, Comella Miller, Aubrey Otten, Andrew Schiller, Julia Steman, Sydney VenHuizen, Emma Erhart, Aidan Hogden, Ashley Husbyn, Grant Kennedy, Hannah Kolbeck, Lucia Larson, Anna Meyer, Connor St. James, Kourtney Towle, clara Baker, Howard Caza, brandon Deering, Justin DeRushia, James Giese, William Gilbert, Axel Gross, Alex Hanzel, Sawyer Howard, Gage Laase, Hunter Landon, Esther Larson, Gavin Milz, Ashlianna Montinola, Aviry Newton, Devin Perry, Nathan Reitz, Alette Schoen, Otto Schroeder, Austin Torkelson, Oliver Weber, Olivia Michalke, Grace Michalke, Haven Smith, Kathryn Belsheim, Kathleen Belsheim, Sophia Reyes.

Head coach: Josh Lowman
Assistant coaches: Linda Droubie, Brooke White, Scott Matti

Who are the players to watch this year? Boys: Returning all-conference runners Lucashio Larson and Jeremiah Guldseth; returning honorable mention runner Hudson Dombek, Austin Donnay and Grant Kennedy bring with more experience and a slew of freshmen look to contribute immediately including: Alex Hanzel, Otto Schroeder, Gavin Milz, and Gage Laase

Girls: Returning Honorable mention runner Lucia Larson. Olivial Michalke, Ashley Husbyn, Julia Steman, and Sydney Venhuizen bring with a lot of varsity experience as well. Look for contributions from Esther Larson, Clara Baker, Hannah Kolbeck, and Cornelia Miller as well.

What will be the keys to the team's success this year? Boys:

Huge numbers...experience needed. With the reigning conference champ (Hunter Jacobson) off serving his country in the Navy, we start a new chapter. We will return a good core of runners with experience but a huge part of our success will fall upon our injected 9th grade talent. Look for them gain steam as we progress throughout the season and they become more acclimated with a 5K race.

Girls:

The biggest challenge to the girls will be filling the voids from last season. We lost our top three runners. I think that they (current runners) will be MORE than up to the challenge. It will be a good mix of ages that will vie for varsity spots. They, along with those young guys, should see improvement throughout the season as we pile on the miles and races.

What challenges will the team face? See keys to teams' success.

What are your goals for the 2026 season? Boys: The boys surprised a lot of teams last year nabbing the runner up spot in the conference meet. Our ultimate goal is to win the first conference title in over 15 years. This could be the year to do it!

Girls: The girls finished 4th in last year's conference meet. The goal is always to improve. We are looking to reestablish ourselves as a top three team in the Mississippi 8.

Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? Boys: Conference: Big Lake and Becker have had a strangle hold over the team championship for years. This could be the year that things open up. I would look for ourselves and Chisago Lakes to challenge for what could be an extremely close conference championship! Section 7AAA: We share a section with the returning AAA State Champion team; Blaine. I would look to them to repeat and win the section again. After them, there could be a battle for the 2nd place and a trip to state. I see Andover and Forest Lake as two teams that could grab that opportunity. Cambridge-Isanti will look for a possible top 4 showing or maybe be even better dependent on how we progress.

Girls: Conference: I think that the team that everyone will be chasing are the Becker Bulldogs. They have talent, youth, and experience. It should be there conference to win. After them, it could get interesting with Monticello, Chisago Lakes, Zimmerman, and ourselves duking it out. Section 7AAA: Forest Lake looks to be the favorite. I then think that Blaine could grab that 2nd spot. Duluth East always has a strong showing as well. The Bluejackets will look to maintain or maybe even move up from their 6th place finish last season.

NORTH BRANCH VIKING BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Head coach: Norm Nagel
Assistant coaches: Natalie Bristol, Ashton Salow

Who are the players to watch this year? (Boys) Caleb Rueter just missed going to state last year. Ethan Rueter, John Steffen, and Patrick Damiani. (Girls) Ava Witkowski will lead our girls team. This will be Ava's fifth year on varsity. Ruby Hanson is a six-year letter winner.

What will be the keys and challenges to the team's success this year? Stay healthy, Keep on growing the young athletes, we are very young and very excited to see them grow as an athlete

What are your goals for the 2026 season? The big one is have fun. Move up in the M8 Conference and the section meet. Achieve team academic Gold. Team Growth. Have an All Conference Athlete. Send someone to State. Fill a MS full team

Who is the opponent to watch for this year in the conference/section? M8 Conference.. Boys, Becker, Big Lake and Cambridge are very strong 7aa Section... Hibbing and Grand Rapids will have deep squads this year M8 Conference... Girls, Chisago and becker will be the teams we will chase 7aa Section...Hibbing, Hermantown and Chisago will also have deep squads



JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

2026 North Branch Viking boys and girls cross country: (Boys) Ethan Rueter, Caleb Rueter, John Steffen, Donovin Moe, Brookes Trampe, Nolan Gravdahl, Patrick Damiani, Nolan Rueter, Wyatt Freeman, Jacob Lapinski, Christian Sanders, Luke Voss, Uriah Horn, Carmelo Santiago, Oliver Krosschell, (Girls) Ruby Hanson, Maddy Doohen, Grace Nigbor, Ava Witkowski, Elizabeth Damiani, Lily Stelmack, Vayda Kester, Karli Folsted, Lyla Stiner, Gianna Gilkerson, Maya Anderson, Savannah Voss, Anysia Smit.

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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)

Catholic

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

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.
763-444-4035
Email: brigitte@isantiacc.org
Mass: 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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Dr. Suzanne Begin, Minister
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www.brahamlutheran.org
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9:00 - 9:45 Sunday School
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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 | 8:30 am
Contemporary | 9:15 & 10:30
KidZone 9:15 and 10:30
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 8am
Sunday Adult Bible Study 9am
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
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

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

To Advertise in this Spot, Contact:
Gary Glick
Classified Ad Consultant
651-407-1240
marketing@countystar.com

Arrow TANK AND ENGINEERING CO.
763-689-3360

Specialists In Auto Collision Repair
Since 1978
Perry's Auto Salon LLC
1-320-358-4211
875 So. Bremer Ave., Rush City


The right job will put a smile on your face. *Check out our Classified section!*
763-689-1181 • 930 S. Cleveland Cambridge • countystar.com
ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

PUBLIC NOTICES

FORECLOSURES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Minn. Stat. 580.025, 580.04
Minnesota Uniform Conveyancing Blanks
Form 60.2.1 (2009)
DATE: August 4, 2026

YOU ARE NOTIFIED that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described Mortgage:

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGE TO BE FORECLOSED

1. Date of Mortgage: August 23, 2019

2. Mortgagors: Tracey Setterlund; Unmarried

3. Mortgagees: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC, its successors and assigns.

4. Recording Information:

Recorded on August 27, 2019, as Document Number A485815, in the Office of the ? County Recorder ? Registrar of Titles of Isanti County, Minnesota.

5. Assignments of Mortgage, if any:

Assigned to LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC, by written assignment recorded on March 8, 2024, as Document Number A529058 in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGED PREMISES

6. Tax parcel identification number of the mortgaged premises: 150480280

7. Legal description of the mortgaged premises:

Lots 1 and 2, excepting the West 45 feet of Lot 2, Block 6, Conger`s Addition to the Village of Cambridge, Isanti County, Minnesota.

Check here if all or part of the described real property is Registered (Torrens) ?

8. The physical street address, city, and zip code of the mortgaged premises: 609 2nd Ave Sw, Cambridge, MN 55008.

OTHER FORECLOSURE DATA

9. The person holding the Mortgage:

? is not a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30.

The name(s) of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are loanDepot.com, LLC

10. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC, its successors and assigns

100853706001327632.

INFORMATION REGARDING FORECLOSURE

11. The requisites of Minn. Stat. 580.02 have been satisfied.

12. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was $ 156,905.00.

13. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is:

$147,375.84.

14. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Isanti County, Minnesota, at public auction on 10/07/2026, 10:00 AM., 2440 Main St S, Cambridge, MN 55008.

15. The time allowed by law for redemption by Mortgagor or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months after the date of sale.

16. Minn. Stat. 580.04(b) provides, "If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, the notice must also specify the date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property redeemed under section 580.23." If this statute applies, the time to vacate the property is 11:59 p.m. On 04/08/2027.

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

Name of Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:
loanDepot.com, LLC
Name and address of Attorney for Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:
Schneiderman & Sherman P.C.
8530 Eagle Point Blvd.
Suite 100
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
26-002314-1

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 13, 20, 27; September 3, 10, 17, 2026

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number: 30-PR-26-62

Case Type: Informal Probate
Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors

In re the Estate of Mark Alan Schmidt a/k/a Mark A. Schmidt a/k/a Mark Schmidt, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's

Last Will dated May 20, 1996

has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Name: Lisa Jean Schmidt

Address: 32067 Hornsby Street NE North Branch MN 55056

as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Attorney for Personal Representative SARAH ELIZABETH BERGER Attorney License No.: 393547
Sarah Berger Law PLLC
2738 West River Parkway
Minneapolis MN 55406
Telephone: 612-548-1544
E-Mail: sarah@sarahbergerlaw.com
Probate Registrar
Dated: August 26, 2026
Erin Boettcher, Court Administrator
Dated: August 26, 2026

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3, 10, 2026

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

Court File No.: 30-PR-26-63

In Re: Estate of Paul LaMarr Nelson, aka, Paul L. Nelson, Decedent.

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on 10/13/2026 REMOTE at 2:00PM a hearing will be held in this Court at 555 18th Avenue SW, Cambridge, Minnesota, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of Decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Melissa Stauffer, whose address is 6029 307th Avenue NE, Cambridge, MN 55008, as personal representative of the Decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the

hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent's estate,

including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the Decedent's estate.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 08/21/2026
Klossner, John (Judge)
Judge of District Court
Dated: 08/21/2026
Erin Boettcher
Court Administrator
JOSLIN & MOORE LAW OFFICES, P.A.
Clark A. Joslin
MN# 52802
221 NW 2nd Avenue
Cambridge, MN 55008
Telephone: (763) 689-4101
Facsimile: (763) 689-9794
e-mail: cjoslin@joslinmoore.com
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3,10, 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY
DISTRICT COURT 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number: 30-PR-26-63
Case Type: Formal Unsupervised
Notice of Remote Zoom Hearing

In re the Estate of Paul LaMarr Nelson , Deceased

You are notified this matter is set for a remote hearing. This hearing will not be in person at the courthouse.

Hearing Information
Probate Hearing
October 13, 2026
2:00 PM

The hearing will be held via Zoom and appearance shall be by video unless otherwise directed with Judicial Officer Carrie A. Doom, Isanti County District Court.

The Minnesota Judicial Branch uses strict security controls for all remote technology when conducting remote hearings.

You must:

• Notify the court if your address, email, or phone number changes.

• Be fully prepared for the remote hearing. If you have exhibits you want the court to see, you must give them to the court before the hearing. Visit https://www.mncourts.gov/Remote-Hearings for more information and options for joining remote hearings, including how to submit exhibits.

• Contact the court at 763-290-7020 if you do not have access to the internet or are unable to connect by video.

• If you need an interpreter, contact the court before the hearing date to ask for one.

To join by internet:

• Type https://zoomgov.com/join in your browser's address bar.

• Enter the Meeting ID and Meeting Passcode (if asked):
Meeting ID: 161 642 3439
Passcode: 633567

• Update your name by clicking on your profile picture. If you are representing a party, add your role to your name, for example, John Smith, Attorney for Defendant.

• Click the Join Audio icon in the lower left-hand corner of your screen.

• Click Start Video.

Para obtener más información y conocer las opciones para participar en audiencias remotas, incluido cómo enviar pruebas, visite www.mncourts.gov/Remote-Hearings.

Booqo www.mncourts.gov/Remote-Hearings oo ka eego faahfaahin iyo siyaabaha aad uga qeybgeli karto dacwad-dhageysi ah fogaan-arag, iyo sida aad u soo gudbineyso wixii caddeymo ah.

Important!

You may be connecting from home, but it is still a court hearing. Pay attention and follow all rules.

Dated: August 24, 2026
Erin Boettcher
Isanti County Court Administrator

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3, 10, 2026

NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Cambridge Economic Development Authority has developed its Annual PHA Plan and the 5-Year Capital Fund Plan for Fiscal Year beginning 2027 in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Authority's Office located at 121 South Fern St., Cambridge, MN. The Authority's hours of operation are Monday through Thursday between 8 AM and 2 PM. A public hearing will be held at 5:45 PM on October 19, 2026, at the Cambridge City Hall located at 300 Third Avenue NE.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 27; September 3, 2026

NOTICE OF BID

Cambridge-Isanti Public Schools
625 Main Street N, Cambridge, MN 55008

Sealed bids for Snow Removal Services for the 2026-2027 school year will be received by Independent School District #911, Cambridge, MN until 2:30 P.M., CDT, Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at the Education Services Center located at 625 Main Street N, Cambridge, MN 55008. Bids received after that will be returned unopened.

Envelopes containing bids must be sealed and marked on the lower left-hand corner "Snow Removal Services." Name and address of the bidder must also appear on the envelope. Bids should be sent to:

Chris Wilmot
Buildings & Grounds Director
Independent School District #911,
625 Main Street N
Cambridge, MN 55008

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

Detailed bid specifications and bid forms are available at the above address or on our website, c-ischools.org/page/budget-finance and Public Bids/Notices, or by calling Chris Wilmot, Buildings & Grounds Director, at 763-689-6211.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3, 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF CHISAGO DISTRICT COURT
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
FAMILY DIVISION

Case Type: Custody
Court File No.: 13-FA-26-180
SUMMONS

In Re the Matter of: Caitlin Shea Fox, Petitioner, and William Arthur Fox, Co-Petitioner, and

Marla Jean Baird-Adams Respondent Parent A, and Cary Barry Kessel, Respondent Parent B.

To the above-named Respondents:

This summons is an official document that affects your rights. A copy of the paperwork regarding the lawsuit is served on you with this summons. Read this summons and attached Petition carefully. If you do not understand it, contact an attorney for legal advice.

1. Petitioners have filed a lawsuit asking the court to decide custody and parenting time of the minor child.

2. You must serve upon Petitioners, and file with the court, a written Answer to the Petition.

3. If Petitioners are requesting child support, you must file a Financial Affidavit along with your Answer.

4. You must pay the filing fee. If you have a low income and can't afford to pay the fees, you can ask the court to waive them. For information about fee waivers, go to the Fee Waiver Help Topic on the Minnesota Judicial Branch website mncourts.gov/help- topics/fee-waiver-ifp.

5. All court forms are available from your local courthouse and on the Court's website at mncourts.gov/forms. Go to Child Custody / Parenting Time in the Category List.

6. You must serve your Answer and Financial Affidavit upon Petitioner **within 21 days** of the date you were served with this Summons, not counting the day of service. If you do not serve and file your Answer and Financial Affidavit, the court may grant Petitioner everything they are asking for in their Petition.

Notice of Parent Education Program Requirements

Parenting education may be required in all custody or parenting proceedings. You may contact court administration for additional information regarding this requirement and the availability of parent education programs.

Date: August 27, 2026
RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
/s/ Summer J. Nelson
Summer J. Nelson, #0400593
NELSON LAW OFFICE LLC
12705 Lake Blvd,
PO BOX 577
Lindstrom, MN 55045
Ph: (651) 300-0036
summer@nelsonfamilylawoffice.com
Attorney for Petitioners

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3, 10, 17, 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA CHISAGO COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

File Number: 13-FA-26-180 Case Type: Custody
Notice of Remote Zoom Hearing

Cailtin Shea Fox, William Arthur Fox and Marla Jean Baird-Adams, Cary Barry Kessel

You are notified this matter is set for a remote hearing. This hearing will not be in person at the courthouse.

Hearing Information
Review Hearing
October 30, 2026
9:00 AM

The hearing will be held via Zoom and appearance shall be by video unless otherwise directed with Judicial Officer Bridgid E. Dowdal, Chisago County District Court.

The Minnesota Judicial Branch uses strict security controls for all remote technology when conducting remote hearings.

You must:

• Notify the court if your address, email, or phone number changes.

• Be fully prepared for the remote hearing. If you have exhibits you want the court to see, you must give them to the court before the hearing. Visit https://www.mncourts.gov/Remote-Hearings for more information and options for joining remote hearings, including how to submit exhibits.

• Contact the court at (651) 213-7010 if you do not have access to the internet or are unable to connect by video.

• If you need an interpreter, contact the court before the hearing date to ask for one.

To join by internet:

• Type https://zoomgov.com/join in your browser's address bar.

• Enter the Meeting ID and Meeting Passcode (if asked):
Meeting ID: 160 053 1093
Passcode: 948640

• Update your name by clicking on your profile picture. If you are representing a party, add your role to your name, for example, John Smith, Attorney for Defendant.

• Click the Join Audio icon in the lower left-hand corner of your screen.

• Click Start Video.

Para obtener más información y conocer las opciones para participar en audiencias remotas, incluido cómo enviar pruebas, visite www.mncourts.gov/Remote-Hearings.

Booqo www.mncourts.gov/Remote-Hearings oo ka eego faahfaahin iyo siyaabaha aad uga qeybgeli karto dacwad-dhageysi ah fogaan-arag, iyo sida aad u soo gudbineyso wixii caddeymo ah.

To receive an eReminder for future court dates via e-mail or text, visit https://mncourts.gov/hearing-ereminders or scan the QR code below to enroll.

Dated: July 30, 2026
Mallory Pasiowitz
Chisago County Court Administrator
cc: Caitlin Shea Fox; William Arthur Fox; Marla Jean Baird-Adams

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3, 10, 17, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

City of Isanti
Planning Commission
Public Hearing on September 15, 2026

Notice is hereby given that on **Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 6:00pm at the Isanti City Hall located at 110 First Avenue NW;** the Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the following item(s):

1) Request by T-Mobile Central LLC for a Conditional Use Permit to change signal hardware on a tower on parcel 16.053.0080 under City Ordinance 445 Section 21.

BY ORDER OF THE CITY OF ISANTI, MINNESOTA.
Jared Haas
Associate Planner

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CITY OF EAST BETHEL CITY COUNCIL COUNTY OF ANOKA STATE OF MINNESOTA
AMENDMENT OF AN ORDINANCE REGULATING NUISANCE FIREARMS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of East Bethel City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:00 P.M., at the City Hall, 2241 221st Avenue NE, East Bethel, MN.

The hearing will be to consider a proposed amendment to ordinance under Chapter 42, Article IV – Firearms to clarify and revise the ordinance regarding the penalties for nuisance discharge of firearms.

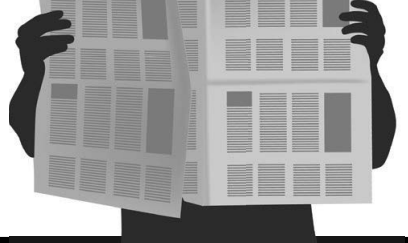
The public is invited to provide comments at the hearing.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County Star on September 3, 2026
Matt Look
City Administrator

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3, 2026

Don't worry we've got it all covered for you, pick up the Star and read all about it!

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR



PUBLIC NOTICES CONTINUED

NORTH BRANCH ORDINANCE 416-26

ORDINANCE NO. 416-26

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 66 REGARDING ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU'S), DEFINITIONS, DISTRICTS AND STANDARDS

The North Branch City Council hereby ordains as follows:

Section 1. Adding Language Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units

City Code Chapter 66 is hereby amended by adding Section §66-950 Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) as follows:

§66-950 ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS (ADU'S)

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide standards for accessory dwelling units (ADU's) that offer additional housing opportunities while preserving the character of existing residential neighborhoods. These standards are intended to ensure that ADU's remain subordinate to the principal dwelling and are compatible with surrounding residential development.

(b) Applicability. Accessory dwelling units may be permitted as a Conditional Use in the AG Agricultural, RR Rural Residential, and R-1 Single-Family Residential zoning districts. ADU's shall comply with all provisions of this section in addition to the regulations of the underlying zoning district.

(c) Types of Accessory Dwelling Units.

(1) Attached ADU: Located within or physically attached to the principal dwelling.

(2) Detached ADU: Located in a detached accessory structure subordinate to the principal dwelling.

(d) Conditional Use Permit Required. Accessory dwelling units require approval of a Conditional Use Permit in accordance with Sections 66-64 through 66-66.

(e) General Standards.

(1) Only one (1) accessory dwelling unit shall be permitted per property.

(2) A legally established principal single-family dwelling shall exist on the property prior to approval of an accessory dwelling unit.

(3) The owner of the property shall occupy either the principal dwelling or the accessory dwelling unit as their primary residence.

(4) The principal dwelling shall remain the primary residential use of the property. The accessory dwelling unit shall remain subordinate and incidental to the principal dwelling.

(5) The maximum floor area of an accessory dwelling unit shall not exceed 750 square feet.

(6) Accessory dwelling units shall not be subdivided or sold separately from the principal dwelling.

(7) Short-term rental use of an accessory dwelling unit or the principal dwelling is prohibited. Rental periods shall be no less than thirty (30) consecutive days.

(8) All accessory dwelling units shall comply with all applicable Building Code, Fire Code, Plumbing Code, Electrical Code, Mechanical Code, and other applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

(9) Manufactured homes, recreational vehicles (RV's), travel trailers, campers, shipping containers, and tiny homes constructed on chassis or wheels shall not be permitted as detached accessory dwelling units unless expressly authorized elsewhere in this chapter.

(10) Accessory dwelling units shall be connected to approved public water and sanitary sewer systems where available. Utility connections may be provided through the existing service lines serving the principal dwelling or through separate service connections, subject to review and approval by the City Engineer, Public Works Director, Building Official, and applicable utility provider. Where private well and septic systems are utilized, the applicant shall demonstrate that the existing or proposed systems have adequate capacity to serve both the principal dwelling and the accessory dwelling unit, subject to approval by the applicable reviewing authority.

(11) Failure to maintain owner occupancy or comply with this section or any Conditional Use Permit condition may constitute grounds for revocation of the Conditional Use Permit.

(f) Location Standards.

(1) Location. No accessory dwelling unit shall be located in the front yard, with the following exception(s):

a. Lots nominally five (5) acres or larger and zoned RR Rural Residential or AG Agricultural; or

b. Lots forty (40) acres or larger and zoned R-1 Single-Family Residential.

(g) Dimensional Standards.

(1) Setbacks shall comply with those required for principal structures in the underlying zoning district in City Code Section 66-210.

(2) Maximum size shall be 750 square feet.

(3) Height shall comply with the underlying zoning district.

(h) Parking.

(1) A minimum of one (1) additional off-street parking space shall be provided for each accessory dwelling unit.

(2) The required parking space shall be shown on the site plan submitted with the Conditional Use Permit application and shall comply with all applicable parking, driveway, and surfacing requirements of this chapter.

(3) The location and design of the required parking space shall be subject to review and approval by the City through the Conditional Use Permit process.

(i) Architectural Standards. Exterior building materials shall match or be substantially similar to the principal dwelling. Roof pitch, siding, trim, colors, and architectural details shall maintain compatibility with the principal dwelling.

(j) Utilities and Addressing.

(1) All accessory dwelling units shall obtain all required building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, and utility permits prior to occupancy.

(2) Utility connections shall be installed in accordance with all applicable City standards, State Building Code, State Plumbing Code, and the requirements of the applicable utility provider.

(3) The City Engineer, Public Works Director, Building Official, and applicable utility provider shall determine the appropriate method of water and sanitary sewer service based on the proposed site plan, utility capacity, applicable codes, and site conditions.

(4) Separate addressing shall be provided when required by the Building Official, Fire Department, Chisago County, or emergency service providers.

Section 2. Amending Language Regarding Definitions

City Code Section §66-8 Definitions, is hereby amended by adding the following underlined language.

s

§66-8 DEFINITIONS

Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) means a subordinate dwelling unit located on the same lot as a legally established principal single-family dwelling that provides complete, independent living facilities. An Accessory Dwelling Unit shall not be considered the principal use of the property.

Section 3. Amending Language Regarding Uses Within Zoning Districts

City Code Section §66-6 Uses Within Zoning Districts, is hereby amended by adding the following underlined language to the Zoning Use Table.

§66-6 USES WITHIN ZONING DISTRICTS

Within Section F. Accessory Uses of the Zoning Use Table, add the following use:

District Uses	Notes	Standards	R1	R2	R3	RR	AG	PUB	OSP	CBD	B	BN	I1	I2	SO
F. ACCESSORY USES															
Permitted Accessory Uses															
Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)			C			C	C								

Section 4. Summary Publication.

The following summary is approved by the City Council and shall be published in lieu of publishing the entire ordinance pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 412.191:

Ordinance 416-26 Amending Chapter 66 of the City Code Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's). This ordinance contains the districts where accessory dwellings units are permitted within the City and includes definitions and standards for ADU's

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall have full force and effect upon its passage and publication.

Passed by the City Council of the City of North Branch, Chisago County, Minnesota, this 26th day of August 2026.

Kevin Schieber, Mayor

Attested:

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 3, 2026

ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Aug. 23 - 29. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Bryan David Alksnis (DOB 08/28/1995) of Brook Park, was charged Aug. 24 with Harassment; Restraining Order - Violate Restraining Order.

CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Aug. 23 - 29. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Donald Matthew Rousseau, Jr. (DOB 09/08/1989) of Stacy, was charged Aug. 24 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Mark Edward Larson (DOB 07/24/1983) of St. Croix Falls, WI, was charged Aug. 24 with Fugitive from Justice from Other State - extradition waived.

Davina Waynell Ingersoll (DOB 11/04/1976) of North Branch, was charged Aug. 27 with Drugs - 2nd Degree - Possess 25 grams or more cocaine or methamphetamine.

Paul David Viney (DOB 06/26/1968) of Mora, was charged Aug. 28 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Joie Suzanne Richardson (DOB 09/09/1999) of Mora, was charged Aug. 28 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

London Ann Reichow (DOB 08/15/2003) of East Bethel, was charged Aug. 28 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

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Chimney/Roofing Insulation Services. 612-845-0289.

Wanted: Ford Truck 97-08 Repairable. 612-845-0289.

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

112 Tree Service

Tree Fellers – Tree removal, trimming, stump grinding (even if we don't cut your trees!), hazard limbs, yard friendly equipment. 30+ years experience. Insured. Call for free estimate 763-443-2631

150 Help Wanted

ANDERSON'S COLLISION, MECHANICAL & TOWING in Grantsburg is hiring an Automotive Mechanic. Competitive pay + commission, weekly direct deposit, IRA match, paid training, flexible scheduling. Call (715) 463-5275 or email autofix613@gmail.com. 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

CITY OF SCANDIA seeks full-time Maintenance Worker for streets, parks, buildings, utilities, drainage. HS diploma, driver's license required. $29.44-$32.77/hr plus benefits. Apply by Sept 21, 2026 at cityofscandia.com/jobs. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT is hiring a PT Custodian for the Middle School, M-F 4:30-8:30pm, 12-month position, must lift 50 lbs. Apply at www.gk12.net. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT is hiring a full-time, 10-month Special Education Admin. Assistant to support students and instructional teams in multiple schools. Apply at www.gk12.net. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted

GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT has an immediate opening for a GMS Special Education Aide. Apply at www.gk12.net. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

KORTH TRANSFER is now hiring full-time Class A CDL drivers with tanker endorsement for dairy hauling. Set days off, up to 5 weeks vacation, 16 paid holidays, retirement plan. $0.58/mile plus hourly wait pay. Apply at korthtransfer.com or 1300 Fuhrman Dr., Reedsburg, WI. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Cambridge Lutheran Church is seeking a P-T Office Mgr. 28 hrs/wk. Primary Duties: Office management, accounts payable/receivable & facility use coordination. Requires 2 yrs exp in office environment & computer skills. Submit resume to: Mary Chapman - mec@cambridge-lutheran.org.

PHILLIPS-MEDISIZE hosts an in-person Hiring Event Thurs., Sept. 10, 9am-3pm, 705 Wisconsin Drive, New Richmond, WI. Walk-ins welcome; 1st, 2nd & 12-hr rotating shifts. Apply at KOCHcareers.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

Rudy's Redeye Grill is HIRING a broiler cook for nights & weekends. Must have one yr exp. Cll Jacqlyn @ 651*/272*3783 or send resume to Jschoen@whitebearcountryinn.com

Rudy's Redeye Grill is HIRING a line cook/prep cook for nights & weekends. Must have one yr exp. Cll Jacqlyn @ 651*/272*3783 or send resume to Jschoen@whitebearcountryinn.com

WORN AGAIN, INC. thrift store in Amery is hiring a full-time (35-38 hrs/wk) self-motivated team member; every other weekend required. Benefits include Life AD&D, dental, vision, HRA. Apply in person or email wornagaininc@gmail.com, Attn: Colleen. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

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351 Antiques

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

358 Firewood

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

362 Miscellaneous

Buying sports card collections call Tom 612-701-7396

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401 Auctions

Saturday, Sept. 12, 10:00 a.m. Live On Site Auction. Estate of Elroy Berg, Glen Berg as PR. 7711 165th Ave. NE., Forest Lake, MN. Motorhome, 2009 Holiday Rambler Admiral 30'. Farm Equipment, Kubota M5040 w/Cab. Farm/Outdoor/Shop, 2011 John Deer Gator, Yamaha YT6800 Lawn Tractor. Collectibles & Household. Auctioneer, Col. Byron Robyn, Lic. #33-21. 320-291-9566, robyn2229@gmail.com, midwestauctions.com/robyn, auctionsbyrobyn.com.

Sunday, Sept. 13th, 10:30 am. Real Estate & Personal Property of Douglas, Vanessa, Kellie & Brandon Lund (Owners). 38880 Kestrel Ave., Lawler, MN. 78 acres. An older, but structurally sound 3-bedroom, 2 bath year round home. Contact Janzen Auctioneers for special real estate terms or questions. Vehicles, Tractors, Trailers, Farm Implements & Related, Garage/Shop Tools. Janzen Auctioneers Lic. #01-14, www.janzenauctions.com, 218-927-4488.

401 Auctions

Sunday, Sept. 6th, 9:00 am. Janzen Auction Building, 942 2nd St. NW, Aitkin, MN. Industrial Trucks. Collector Truck, 1948 Chevy Loadmaster ton & half dually flatbed w/hoist. Vehicles. Camping Packages, 2006 Sportster Sportsman 5th wheel, Tractors & Equipment Related. Trailers, 1994 Triton 5th wheel livestock trailer. ATV's, 2004 Polaris Sportsman 600 twin four-wheeler. Snowmobiles. Boating Related, 1994 Kennedy 16 ft. pontoon w/25 HP Mercury OB. Lawn & Garden. Firearms & Ammo. Shop & Garage Tools. Collectible Fish Spears. Items of Interest. Household Furniture & Household Related. 218-927-4488, www.janzenauctions.com, www.midwestauctions.com/janzen. Auctioneer Lic. #01-14.

452 Rentals/ Residential

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

453 Share Rent

Male roomate wanted $750/month. All utilites included and washer and dryer to share. Own ½ bathroom. Call James Between 3:30p.m. &7p.m. for more 952-217-7705

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

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North Branch Area Chamber of Commerce

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- Business Tug of War
- Live Music by Charlie Templin
- HERO Zone with Firefighters, Police/Sherrif, EMT's
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Oct. 13, 2026
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TBA

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