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THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026
VOL. 120 NO. 23 COUNTYSTAR.COM

SOLID STATE: Bluejackets, Vikings sending strong contingency to State Track & Field Meets. **PAGE 7**

Dance troupe gives audiences 'Taste' of Irish culture, history

BY STACY VERDICK CASE
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

It's not every day a troupe of world-class performers visits Cambridge-Isanti High School's 700-seat Richard G. Hardy Performing Arts Center. However, on June 10, the PAC will raise the curtain on A Taste of Ireland, a show that brings a mix of Irish dance, music, and history to the stage for one night only.

One of the principal performers, Cian (pronounced Key-in) Walsh, actually prefers performing in smaller venues like Cambridge.

"The more intimate spaces are the ones that we love. Everyone might think, 'Oh, we're in a big, huge theater,' but personally, I prefer a more intimate, kind of cute theater. Just in terms of the show, how interactive, how expressive you can show your personality on stage, and you've got the opportunity to do a little bit of freestyle. When we're closer to the audience, when we're closer together on stage, the show really thrives in those types of venues. You can get more of a connection.

"It's quite an interactive show, so we kind of like to bounce back and forth sometimes. I'm one of the principal performers, so I do a solo for close to 10 minutes. (At the end) I'll jump into the audience and sit down next to someone, and the audience gets a good laugh out of that. It kind of breaks that fourth wall."

Walsh, who won a Ceili Dance World Championship before joining the cast, has been dancing since he was six years old. His parents are both Irish dancers who own a dance school called The Kiely-Walsh Academy in Cork, Ireland. He competed in dance for 14 years before joining the cast of A Taste of Ireland in 2022 for the Celtic Christmas Tour in New Zealand. Since then, he has worked his way up to principal dancer, touring the globe with a tight-knit group of dancers.

"Everyone at Taste of (Ireland) are like one big family as well. It's not any way close to a normal your nine-to-five job that you go in, and you're with your coworkers for the seven or eight hours. Then you go home, and you carry on with the rest of your day. When

you're on tour, you're with each other 24/7. You're living with each other basically. You cook, clean, do everything together. We are a very tight-knit group, which is great."

LIFE ON THE ROAD

A quick glance at the tour schedule makes it clear the company has very little time to enjoy each of the cities they visit. In Minnesota, they have seven performances in nine days, including the Cambridge show.

"We won't get a whole lot of time off in smaller areas. We'll kind of arrive on the day, do the show, and then stay there. Then in the morning we head away, off to the next place, but in bigger cities we might have a day off or two days off if we're lucky."

They tour for extended periods before having a chance to go home. "We'll do three months (on the road), and then I might be at home for two-three weeks, and then another three months, at home for the same amount of time. Then I think I'm away from August



CHRIS HARDY | CONTRIBUTED

Cian Walsh (foreground) performs "Acapella" during a recent "A Taste of Ireland" show. Walsh, along with other world-class Irish dancers will be performing at the CIHS PAC June 10. Tickets are still available.

SEE TASTE, PAGE 2



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Mulch appreciated help

North Branch second-graders spread mulch around the playground at Harder Park as part of the school district's annual "Community Service Day" on Friday, May 29.

Four local primary elections triggered

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

As the first round of election candidate filings concludes, four local races have enough candidates to force a primary election on Aug. 11 to reduce the numbers for the general election.

The most-contested race is for Cambridge City Council, where seven candidates are vying for the two open seats. Current Council members Aaron Berg and Bob Shogren both are attempting to keep their seats. They are being challenged by former Council member Joe Morin, Tom Schibilla, William Dordal, Andrew Maher, and Ronda Sziavich. The top four candidates from the primary election will advance to the general election.

The Isanti Mayor race has four candidates. Current Mayor Luke Merrill is being challenged by former Mayor Jeff Johnson, Christopher Brooks, and

Joshua Lehn. Isanti County Commissioner District 5, which includes the city of Isanti precinct 2; plus Isanti, North Branch, and Oxford Townships, has three candidates. Current Commissioner Kristi LaRowe is being challenged by Stephanie Aronson and Joseph Fischer.

The final primary election will be for Chisago County Commissioner District 2, where current Commissioner Rick Greene is being challenged by former Commissioner Chris DuBose and Paula Hanson.

In the Isanti mayor and two county commissioner races, the top two candidates from the primary election will advance to the general election.

While not requiring a primary election, the Cambridge Mayor and Isanti City Council seats will be contested

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 2

<p>31789 Lakeway Drive NE, Cambridge</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>Spacious 1-acre property featuring a private in-law suite, heated workshop, walkout lower level, beautiful gardens, updated mechanicals, and room for multi-generational living.</p> <p>\$585,000</p>	<p>29977 Crocus St. NW, Isanti</p> <p>4-bedroom home near Lake Francis featuring a fireplace, walkout lower level, main-level laundry, beautiful views, mature trees, and numerous updates.</p> <p>\$524,000</p>	<p>8825 Greeley Loop, Braham</p> <p>Historic creamery transformed into a one-of-a-kind retreat on 43 acres with a spring-fed pond, wildlife, fruit trees, stunning views, privacy, and endless charm.</p> <p>\$665,000</p>	<p>2271 335th Ln NE, Cambridge</p> <p>4 bedroom, 2 bathroom home in a quiet Cambridge neighborhood. Features fresh updates, second kitchen, newer well, septic and HVAC systems, fenced yard, and low taxes.</p> <p>\$275,000</p>	<p>420 Village Court, Cambridge</p> <p>Beautifully maintained rambler in a desirable 55+ community featuring vaulted ceilings, updated kitchen, main-level laundry, spacious lower level, solar panels, and low-maintenance living.</p> <p>\$325,000</p>
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Team Lundeen
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TASTE: Dancer prefers intimacy of performing in smaller venues such as CIHS's PAC

FROM PAGE I

right up to Christmas, so that would be about five months away before I come home for Christmas.”

While on the road, the team tries to bring a sense of normality and familiarity to their hotel rooms. On the company's TikTok page (@atasteofirelandcompany), there are videos of the dancers making meals in their rooms.

“We've all got our air fryers or our portable woks and different things. So we do our grocery shops, and cook normal dinners rather than heating up something in the microwave or something kind of quick like that. Especially when you're on tour for 10 months of the year, you need to be looking after yourself in terms of what you eat and not just surviving through the day on microwavable stuff.”

Sharing these meals has become a way for the cast to connect after long days on the road. “We do enjoy amongst ourselves when someone comes out with a new recipe, or someone makes something new, or tries something new, and then it gets a few other people on it. More ways to just keep us going on tour and keep it lively amongst us.”



CHRIS HARDY | CONTRIBUTED

The “A Taste of Ireland” troupe are on the road three months at a time, with only a two or three-week break between.

THE PHYSICAL TOLL

The performances are athletic and physically grueling. Walsh's 10-minute solo, in particular, requires monumental stamina and serves as a key moment of each show. To endure week after week, the troupe leans heavily on prevention and recovery.

“We do our best to look after ourselves as well. Whether it's before the show in terms of warming up, foam rolling, stretching, eating well, taking vitamins, and different things to help, and then after the show, we're in the ice bath looking after ourselves like that as well. It is quite grueling, but also, I feel like when we're on stage performing, we don't necessarily feel it because there's such a buzz. Whether it's the audience or just the music or just the vibe, there's such a buzz. So as long as we look after ourselves outside of the show, we can get into autopilot mode. And as tired as we might feel, we're all young

and fit, so it never bothers us really.”

As for sleep, Walsh says most of that is done on the bus. “You'd be surprised. After we do a show that finishes at 9:30, 10 o'clock, you've got so much adrenaline that sometimes it can be tough to sleep, but when we get on the coach, if we've got a three- or four-hour drive, that's usually the point where everyone tries to catch up on their sleep.”

Walsh admits the lifestyle is not without its challenges, noting, “the toughest part really, is being away for so long, being away from home, away from your family, and friends.”

However, he maintains a grounded perspective on his career. “But we can't complain. With the job that we have and how lucky we are to say that we can travel the world doing something we love. So we always have to pinch

ourselves. And when we're feeling a little bit down, or if we're going through a little tough period, we kind of have to sit back and be like, okay, it's not really that bad. I'm traveling the world, able to perform in different theaters, the crowds are on their feet, cheering along. It can be tough, but you just gotta remember that you're really lucky and be grateful to be able to do this as well.”

A TASTE OF IRELAND

The show takes audiences on a journey through the history of Ireland. The performance covers, “its creation through to the Vikings coming over, the tough times of the Irish potato famine, and the Easter Rising, right up to modern-day Ireland. We like to take the audience on that kind of journey with us and tell the story and history of

Ireland through the world-class Irish music and Irish dancing.

“I do hope people take away an understanding of the history and what Ireland's been through down the years. Because people might have an affiliation to Ireland, but they might not have fully understood the history, or they might not know. I just hope that it portrays the kind of hardship and the tumultuous times that Ireland went through, and then where it is today.”

A Taste of Ireland will be at the Richard G. Hardy Performing Arts Center on June 10 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are still available and can be purchased online through Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/4u8B9v2>

ELECTION: Candidates in four local races to appear on Aug. 11 primary ballots

FROM PAGE I

in the general election. Current Cambridge Mayor Jim Godfrey is being challenged by local businessman Jeremiah Sedler. In Isanti, current Council members Nick Pedersen and Erika Zdon face a lone challenger in Theodore Knudson. This means at least one current council member will keep their seat.

In Chisago County, current District 3 Commissioner

Marlys Dunne is being challenged by Cyle Cramer.

All other county races are uncontested. They include Isanti County Commissioner District 2 (incumbent Bill Berg), Isanti County Sheriff (incumbent Wayne Seiberlich), Isanti County Attorney (incumbent Jeff Edblad), Chisago County Commissioner District 1 (current North Branch School Board Chair Tim MacMillan), Chisago County Sheriff (incumbent Brandon Thyen), and Chisago County Attorney (in-

cumbent Janet Reiter).

One other race of special note is for Isanti County Auditor/Treasurer, which returns to being an elected position following a referendum vote in 2024. Kara Eastlund is the only candidate running for that position.

All candidates have until 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 4 to withdraw their name and not be on the ballot.

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MON & THUR Alcoholics Anonymous

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

MON - FRI Senior Dining

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

MONDAYS

Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon

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

Book Club

Third Monday 11 a.m. to noon at Isanti SAC, 140 Buchanan St., N. #164 Cambridge. Isanti County Library lends the books and there is no cost to participate. For info: sacs@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 Lyndsey Larson 763-691-6172.

Memory Cafe

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

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.

WEDNESDAYS

Alanon

7 p.m. at the Isanti



Join the Peace Walk on June 6 at 9 a.m. The group meets in the parking lot at 95 and Birch in Cambridge.

Alano Club, 790 Heritage Blvd. Isanti. 763-444-4605

Chisago County Drop-In Center

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

THURSDAYS

East Central Baby Cafe

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

Cambridge-Edgewood AFG

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

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.

JUNE 6

Plant Sale

8 to 11 a.m. North Branch garden club will hold its annual sale in the Hungry Farmer parking lot across from Central Park.

Peace Walk

9:00 am. The group meets in the parking lot at 95 and Birch, and the walk takes about half an hour. Anyone is welcome to join.

JUNE 9

Tuesday crafts with Sue

We R Able hosts crafts from 6-8 p.m. in the North Branch High School art room, 38175 Grand Ave., North Branch. Open to all abilities. Info: 320-358-3616.

JUNE 10

Salad Luncheon

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be a free will offering and the public is invited to attend. First Evangelical Lutheran Church 1000 S. Jay Ave, in Rush City.

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.

Cambridge seeks more data regarding controversial facilities

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Even though nobody has formally approached the city of Cambridge regarding constructing a data center within city limits, the city is proactively compiling information regarding if Cambridge can even be home to such a facility.

Cambridge Mayor Jim Godfrey broached the subject before the entire council during his report at the June 1 council meeting.

"I've been reading a lot, in fact, on Facebook today, there was another long story, about data centers," Godfrey said. "And so I've been entertaining the thought the council might like to explore a moratorium. I don't think we are a prime location, but I also don't know what our zoning code is (on them), what the water usage is, what the draw on our energy grid is. Are we waiting for something bad to happen before doing a moratorium?"

According to City Administrator Evan Vogel, if the council passed an official moratorium — such as they did regarding cannabis a couple of years ago- the city would be legally obligated to conduct a full-scale, detailed study.

"If a moratorium goes into effect, you would have to have a demonstrable study into the question at hand," Vogel said. "That's not a pro or con; that is just certain actions will have to be followed."

As it is, the council acknowledged having questions regarding the basic components of a data center: How much land is required? How much energy? Would East Central Energy be able to support the additional strain on its system?

Vogel said city staff is capable of doing that sort of research on its own and presenting its findings in a month or two. At that point, the council can then decide if a moratorium is needed.

In the meantime, the council was in complete agreement that if someone did approach the city, it would exercise full transparency with the general public.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Officers promoted to Sergeant

Cambridge Police Chief Shawn Machin swears in officers Tanner Peetz, Peter Erickson and Samantha Vigstol as the department's new Sergeants during the June 1 Cambridge City Council meeting. With their promotions and the expected swearing in of new officers, the police department will be at what the city envisioned as "fully staffed" for the first time any of the current staff members can remember.

Time to ride the electoral winds of change

About two years ago, in this space, I stated how the election process needed to be altered to return the electoral power back to the masses and out of the hands of the party elite. Two years later, and it appears the political climate is in fact shifting to agree with those sentiments, at least in Minnesota.

Leading up to and during this past weekend's Republican and Democrat endorsement conventions, there have been obvious signs the current system of only the candidates endorsed by the majority of the party delegates advancing to the primary election was wearing thin. Before this, any candidate who dared to even contemplate advancing to the primary despite not receiving a party's endorsement was vilified by that party.

Even earlier last week, when Angie Craig announced she wasn't even seeking the Democratic Party endorsement for US Senate, she was met with rather harsh criticism. Now, a week later, and she is far from alone. In that same

office's race, Republican Michele Tafoya officially filed on Monday, June 1, to be on the primary ballot despite not getting the party endorsement. There are also rumblings that Royce White will join Tafoya and make the primary a three-person race for the Republican Party's general election candidate.

Then there's the Governor's race. Mike Lindell has already proclaimed he will still run in the primary without receiving the party's endorsement. That announcement almost seemed to have been met with a "yeah, whatever." But now, after the "clicker" fiasco, the Republican Party leadership has given Lisa Demuth permission to continue campaigning despite appearing to lose the endorsement to Kendall Qualls (on Tuesday, June 2, she announced she would do just that). This would set up a second three-person primary race just within the Republican Party.

Finally, Dr. Scott Jensen is continuing his campaign for State Auditor even though current Braham Mayor, Nate George, received the Republican endorsement.

With all this political "upheaval," some are suggesting the endorsement process should be eliminated. I couldn't agree more. With the current process, less than one-half of a percent of all registered Minnesota voters determine who their party's candidate should be.

However, I don't agree with what seems to be the main solution to the problem: moving up the primary election to earlier in the year. While this might be fine for the state and US elections, it would not work for local elections that require a primary election. Under that scenario, such local elections would also have to start earlier, or it would force local governments to pay for yet another election to be held.

My solution would be to still hold endorsement conventions, but have the top two candidates advance to the primary election. The conventions aren't all bad. At the very least, holding them boosts the host city's economy for a weekend. Plus, the delegates, who admittedly are generally most vested in the political process, still have somewhat of a louder voice in the process. At the same time, the loudest voice can still be the general voting public.

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



Worth a Thousand Words

Bill

Stickels III



Bike smart, ride safe



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Question: In last week's article you wrote about e-bikes. Can you also just provide a reminder on all around bicycle safety? Thank you.

Answer: If you're riding a bicycle, you must:

- Obey all traffic control signs and signals, just as you would when driving.
- The only exception is that bicyclists may treat stop signs as yield signs when the intersection is clear.
- Use signals, if able, to let people behind you know when you're turning.

• Use good judgement. Remember that you are sharing the road, and it is important to be predictable to avoid a crash.

• Use a headlight and rear reflectors when it's dark.

If you are driving near a bicyclist:

• Stay three feet away when passing.

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).

LETTER GUIDELINES

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

- Letters must be submitted by 5 p.m. Mondays to editor@countystar.com or via mail to 930 S. Cleveland St., Cambridge MN 55008
- Letters to the editor must be 400 words or less.
- Each letter writer may have one letter

published every 30 days, or four print cycles (exceptions made for rebuttals).

- Anonymous letters will not be published. Letter signatures must include the writer's first and last name, community of residence and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published.
- Only letters originating from writers who live, work or have some other relevance to the *Star* circulation area will be published.
- An identification line may be added to the writer's letter identifying his or her occupation or title as it applies to the topic of the letter.
- Special rules apply during election season.

PAID ENDORSEMENT POLICY

The *County Star* accepts election letters endorsing or advocating for

or against a ballot measure, party or candidate as paid advertising announcements. The fee is \$25 for the first 250 words, plus 10 cents per additional word; no word limit. This policy is only in effect during election season (from the candidate filing date through election day.)

Like other letters to the editor, the writer's name, address and phone number are required. Phone numbers are not published. The *Star* has the right to reject letters which don't meet publishing standards and will determine if the letter qualifies as a paid endorsement.

Paid letters will be identified with a label and may or may not appear on the opinion/letters page.

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

Your Best Source for Community Information

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

Publisher Jeff Andres
jeff@northstarmedia.net

Editor..... Bill Stickels III
editor@countystar.com

Editor Assistant..... Stacy Verdick Case
news@countystar.com

Advertising/Classifieds Kellie Champion
sales@countystar.com

Advertising/Classifieds Gary Glick
marketing@countystar.com

Graphic Designer..... Kassie Lex
starcomp@countystar.com

Circulation Scott Kittelson
circulation@countystar.com



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



AN EDITION OF
ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

NEWS DEADLINE:
Noon Tuesday

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

LEGALS DEADLINE:
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Cambridge-Isanti High School students selected to perform at Minnesota's largest high school theater celebration

Students to take the stage at historic State Theatre during Hennepin Arts' Spotlight Showcase June 8 - 9

Students from Cambridge-Isanti High School will join more than 1,200 students from across Minnesota at Spotlight Showcase, Minnesota high school theater's biggest celebration, presented by Hennepin Arts. They will perform a selection during Spotlight Showcase at the historic State Theatre in Minneapolis on Monday, June 8.

Spotlight Showcase celebrates student achievement in theater performance, technical theater, student journalism and musical performance after a year of participation in Hennepin Arts' statewide Spotlight Education program.

Hennepin Arts' Spotlight Education program annually serves nearly 8,000 students at more than 100 high schools throughout Minnesota. The statewide program supplements theater education through production assessments, workshops, arts journalism opportunities and access to theater professionals from Minnesota and Broadway.

Spotlight Education helps students build confidence, critical thinking, empathy, collaboration skills and an appreciation for the performing arts. The statewide program is part of Hennepin Arts' nonprofit

mission to expand access to arts education and create meaningful opportunities for students in communities across Minnesota.

"For many students, Spotlight Showcase is more than a performance, it's the moment they realize their passion for theater and music can truly become part of their future," said Andrea Mokros, interim CEO of Hennepin Arts. "These students step onto the State Theatre stage and work alongside professional artists, directors and technicians in an experience that mirrors the professional theater world. As a nonprofit organization serving communities across Minnesota, creating these opportunities for students statewide is central to our mission. Whether they dream of performing on Broadway, working behind the scenes or simply discovering their voice and confidence, Spotlight Showcase celebrates their creativity, dedication and courage while showing them what's possible."

In addition to featured school performances, Spotlight Showcase highlights Minnesota theater educators and alumni and includes opportunities for students to participate in specialized learning tracks,

including:

- Triple Threat on Hennepin
- Technical Theater Career Pathway
- Student Publicist Program
- Spotlight Orchestra

Spotlight Showcase also provides select students the opportunity to compete for national recognition through the National High School Musical Theatre Awards® (The Jimmy Awards®).

Spotlight Showcase takes place Monday, June 8, and Tuesday, June 9, at the State Theatre in downtown Minneapolis. Tickets can be purchased at hennepinarts.org/events/spotlight-showcase-2026.

For more information about Spotlight Education and Spotlight Showcase, visit hennepinarts.org/education.

Spotlight Showcase proudly employs professional staff from Minnesota, Broadway, and beyond to collaborate with students across all areas of theater. Bourgoin Productions serves as producer.

Spotlight Education is made possible with support from Xcel Energy and PNC Bank. -Hennepin Arts

A legacy that spans generations

This week, North Branch Area Public Schools had the privilege of welcoming representatives of the Edelstein Family Foundation back to our community for the first time in decades.



NB School News
Sara Paul

Their visit was a powerful reminder that the impact of education and those who invest in it can extend across generations.

Through research conducted by local historian Max Malmquist, we can track the Edelstein family's connection to North Branch schools dating back more than 116 years. Samuel Edelstein operated a store that served local families and students in the

early 1900s, providing clothing, footwear, school supplies, and other necessities during the formative years of our community. His son, Jacob Edelstein, became the valedictorian of North Branch's first high school graduating class in 1909.

Today, the Edelstein Family Foundation continues that legacy through scholarships that help North Branch students pursue their dreams after graduation. The Foundation has been investing in North Branch students since the 1960s.

As I thought about how best to honor the Edelstein family during their visit, I kept coming back to the importance of music in the life of Ruth Edelstein Easton. That made our choir concert the perfect setting for this recognition. It was a meaningful way to celebrate the family's extraordinary legacy in a place filled with student talent, creativity, and community-values that have long reflected the spirit of the Edelstein family.

The visit also provided an opportunity to reflect on other members of the Edelstein family whose lives and contributions extended far beyond North Branch. Among them was David Edelstein, who went on to establish the Sugar Beet Company and the well known Sparkle brand. David shared a close and lasting friendship with Victoria Keller's family, creating personal connections that continue to link the Foundation's history to those who carry its mission forward today.

During the Foundation's visit, two Edelstein Scholars shared their stories and the impact the scholarship has had on their educational journeys. One presenter was Adam Trampe, a North Branch

graduate, Edelstein Scholar, and current member of the North Branch Area School Board. Adam reflected on the opportunities the scholarship helped create and the importance of giving back to the community that helped shape him.

Joining Adam was Annabelle Lattimore, one of our newest Edelstein Scholars. Annabelle presented Victoria Keller with a commemorative tree as a symbol of the Foundation's enduring impact on North Branch students. She described the tree as representing the roots of legacy and the branches of opportunity, a fitting tribute to the Edelstein family whose commitment to education has spanned more than a century.

It was especially fitting that this presentation took place in the Edelstein Auditorium. Every student who performs on that stage, every audience member who gathers in that space, and every memory created within those walls serves as a reminder of the Edelstein family's lasting commitment to North Branch.

Tonight, the auditorium bears their name. The tree tells their story. And the more than 540 scholarship recipients whose names fill its branches since 2012 are living examples of their legacy. The actual number is undoubtedly much higher, as the Edelstein Family Foundation has been providing scholarships to North Branch students for more than six decades.

Listening to both presentations was especially meaningful. Together, Adam and Annabelle represented the lasting impact of the Foundation's generosity. One reflected on opportunities already realized. The other looked ahead to opportunities yet to come.

As Vikings, we are grateful to Victoria Keller and the Edelstein Family Foundation for their longstanding commitment to North Branch students. The Edelstein family story is woven into the history of our schools, and their investment continues to make a difference in the lives of students today. The Foundation's generosity has helped generations of Vikings pursue their dreams, strengthen their communities, and carry forward the values that define North Branch.

More than a century after the Edelstein family first became part of our community, their commitment to North Branch students remains as strong as ever. For that, we offer our sincere thanks and a proud SKOL Vikings.

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

New Pathways to host open house at new facility

Community invited to tour expanded space supporting families facing homelessness

New Pathways is proud to invite the community to tour its new facility during an Open House on Friday, June 26, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Community members, partners, and supporters are encouraged to attend and learn more about the organization's growing impact.

This special event offers a first look at the organization's expanded space, designed to better serve families experiencing homelessness through shelter, stability, and comprehensive wraparound services. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the facility, meet staff, and learn more about how New Pathways is growing its impact in the community.

"This new space represents so much more than a building. It is a place where families can find stability, support, and hope," said Jennifer Henthorn. "We're excited to open our doors and share this milestone with the community that makes our work possible."

The new facility expands New Pathways' ability to serve more families while strengthening programs and providing more consistent, comprehensive support. Every space is intentionally designed to

help families build stability and move toward lasting independence, from housing assistance and resource coordination to supportive services and case management.

Event Details

Location: 1615 Garland St S, Cambridge, MN Date: Friday, June 26 Time: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lunch will be provided while supplies last. All are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact:

Jenny Henthorn
Community Engagement Coordinator
New Pathways, Inc.
P.O. Box 366
Cambridge, MN 55008
763-691-0121 ext. 2
Fax: 763-552-0122 www.newpathwaysmn.com

About New Pathways
New Pathways supports families facing homelessness by providing shelter, wraparound services, and compassionate care. Through strong community partnerships and a commitment to dignity and stability, New Pathways helps families rebuild their lives and move toward lasting independence. -New Pathways

CORRECTION

The "MAS Productions Brings High Tech Media to Cambridge" in the May 28 issue contained several errors. The family previously lived in Malaysia, not Thailand. They were seeking religious asylum, not political asylum. The family's last name is Younas, not Youna. The article also should have stated that five families in addition to the Berg family helped bring the Younas family to Cambridge.

Read Local
Keep up with your community!



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OBITUARIES

Gwendolyn Heffner

Gwendolyn Heffner, of Isanti, passed away on May 28, 2026, at the age of 87.

Gwen was born on December 15, 1938, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to Edward and Geraldine (Mashek) Martie. She grew up in New Brighton and St. Anthony, graduating from Marshall High School. On January 26, 1957, she married Nick Heffner, and together they raised their family in the northern metro. Gwen worked at Minco Products in Fridley for 30 years. After retirement, she and Nick moved to Isanti and enjoyed spending their winters in Alabama.

Gwen was well known for sending cards and letters to family and friends—whether to celebrate an occasion or simply to let someone know she was thinking of them. She also enjoyed nature, gardening, puzzles, and reading.

She will be lovingly remembered by her children, Chris (Nancy) Heffner, Wendy (Chuck) Wilson, and John (Michele) Heffner; 11 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; and one great-great granddaughter; along with many other relatives and friends. Gwen is reunited with her husband of 65 years, Nick; her daughter, Catherine Montague; her parents; and her brother, Jack Martie.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, June 5, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Isanti, with visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Online condolences may be shared at StrikeLifeTributes.com.



Take a Kid Fishing Weekend is June 5-7

Each year in early June, Take a Kid Fishing Weekend is an opportunity for adults to share the fun of fishing with kids.

“This is a great time of year to take kids fishing. The weather is usually pleasant, and the fish are often found close to shores and piers,” said Benji Kohn, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources volunteer mentor program coordinator. “Try heading out to a nearby lake and cast out with a hook, bait and bobber. Kids will be all smiles when they catch fish.”

Take a Kid Fishing Weekend is from Friday, June 5, to Sunday, June 7, and this year, the weekend coincides with a pause in fishing license sales as the DNR transi-

tions data to Minnesota’s new electronic license system. During the pause in license sales, anglers may fish without a license from 12 a.m. Tuesday, June 2, through 11:59 p.m. Monday, June 8. All other fishing season regulations and bag limits will remain in effect. At 12 a.m. June 9, the new electronic license system will open for anglers and hunters.

Youth 15 and younger do not require fishing licenses at any time of the year, though they must observe all fishing seasons and regulations.

Visit the Minnesota DNR’s take a kid fishing webpage (mndnr.gov/takeakidfishing) for more information and resources~MNDNR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

(Front row, from left) Andrew Berthiaume, Ryan Becker, Mitchell Johnston, plus (back row) Isanti County Sheriff’s Officers Evan Oltz, Brandon Oliver, Simcha Gavzy, and Thomas Jerome were recognized for saving the life of Jeff Johnston, who had a heart attack on May 4.

Officers, citizens recognized for life-saving action

STAFF REPORT

NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

A combined effort of three citizens and four Isanti County Sheriff’s Officers helped save the life of a heart attack victim, earning each an accommodation for their actions.

According to Isanti County Sheriff Wayne Seiberlich, on May 4, the Isanti County Sheriff’s Office received a report of a male in cardiac arrest at a residence in Wyanett Township. Telecommunicators advised responding deputies that CPR was already being administered by civilians on scene and that the nearest ambulance was approximately 26 minutes away.

Deputy Evan Oltz was the first deputy to arrive and was directed to the rear of the residence. There, he observed the victim, Jeff Johnston, lying on the ground. Ryan Becker was performing chest compressions while Jeff’s son, Mitchell Johnston, was maintaining the victim’s airway.

Deputy Oltz immediately prepared an Automated External Defibrillator and enlisted the

assistance of a third civilian, Andrew Berthiaume — the individual who had called 911 — to help expose the victim’s chest for AED placement. Seiberlich said it took eight AED shocks to resuscitate Jeff.

Additional responders soon arrived, including members of the Dalbo Fire Department, Sergeant Brandon Oliver, Deputy Simcha Gavzy, and Simcha’s Field Training Officer, Thomas Jerome. While Deputy Jerome handled scene management, Deputy Gavzy assumed chest compressions while Sergeant Oliver deployed a LUCAS mechanical CPR device, allowing responders to provide continuous, high-quality compressions while Dalbo Fire personnel established an airway using a bag-valve mask.

By the time ambulance personnel arrived, the coordinated and “relentless” efforts of Ryan Becker, Mitchell Johnston, Andrew Berthiaume, responding deputies, and Dalbo Fire personnel had restored Jeff’s heart rhythm, and he was breathing on his own. Jeff was subsequently transported by Life Link air ambulance to

a medical facility, where he ultimately made a “remarkable” full recovery from his heart attack.

“The outcome of this incident is a testament to the critical importance of immediate action and teamwork during a medical emergency,” Seiberlich said. “Without the swift response and dedication demonstrated by those involved, it is unlikely Jeff would be with us today.”

The deputies who responded to this incident approached the Sheriff’s Office administration and recommended that Ryan Becker, Mitchell Johnston, and Andrew Berthiaume be formally recognized for their extraordinary actions, which Seiberlich said was “wholeheartedly” agreed on by administration.

“The Sheriff’s Office also recognizes the professionalism and dedication of the responding deputies, who modestly regard their actions as simply ‘part of their duties,’” Seiberlich concluded. “Their commitment to serving and protecting the community played a vital role in the successful outcome of this event and deserves equal acknowledgment.”

WILDER PAGEANT



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STUDENT NAMES IN THE NEWS

Student Achievement Lists

Cole Dordal and Winry McCourt of Cambridge; and Ashley Schintz of Isanti (Dean’s) from The University of Wisconsin-Superior

Scholarship

Jackson P. Rydberg (Accounting) of Cambridge, National Merit University of St. Thomas scholarship

Remembrance Gathering

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Bluejacket track and field qualifies for state eight individuals, one relay, in eight events

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Cambridge-Isanti and North Branch track and field teams saw very similar results from their respective section championships, with pole vaulters and sprinters leading the state meet qualifiers.

The Bluejackets will be sending two pole vaulters from both boys and girls to the state meet, with one of them coming in with the best qualifying height in Class AAA. For the boys, Calvin Piescher and Wesley Kennedy went 1-2, qualifying both for a return trip to state. Piescher, who previously broke the state regular season record by clearing 16 feet, 6 inches, topped his teammate by nine inches and the third-place finisher — who also qualified for state based on eclipsing a qualifying height — by over two feet with a height of 16 feet, 1 inch. Kennedy's section second-place height of 15 feet, four inches is the third-best qualifying height for the state meet.

Senior Aubrey Wilson also convincingly won the section girls pole vault championship, clearing a personal best 11 feet, 7 inches — also nine inches higher than the second-place finisher. Wilson enters the state meet with the best qualifying height by seven inches.

Joining her will be teammate Annabelle O'Brien, who will be making her first state meet appearance. The freshman finished third at the section championships, however her final height of 10 feet, 10 inches eclipses the state meet qualifying standard.

Senior sprinter Jackson Ziebarth will have a busy state meet, qualifying in the 100, 200, and as part of the section champion 4x100 relay team that includes Simeon Porta, Knox Andrus, and Anders Lillemo. Ziebarth's qualifying time in the 100 of 10.66 seconds is the fastest qualifying time in Class AAA. The 4x100

relay team's qualifying time of 41.65 seconds is the second-fastest in Class AAA.

Bluejacket senior Hunter Jacobson will also be competing at state after placing second in the 800. His time of 1:53.36 is the second-fastest qualifying time in that event. Piescher also qualified in the long jump, Deven Olson qualified in the discus, and junior Lilly Gravem qualified in the triple jump to round out C-I's state meet berths.

The Class AAA State Meet prelims — which also includes the boys pole vault finals — will be held starting at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 4, at St. Michael-Albertville High School. The Class AAA finals will begin no earlier than 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 6.

NORTH BRANCH QUALIFIES IN SIX EVENTS

The Vikings continued their dominance in the girls' pole vault, going 1-2-3 for the second year in a row. Unfortunately, only Ella Dick (first place, 12 feet even) and Brooke Giese (second place, 10 feet, 10 inches) qualified for the state meet. Savannah Schroeffer's third-place, personal-best vault of 9 feet, 6 inches was short of the state meet qualifying height of 10 feet, 2 inches. Dick enters her final state meet appearance with the second-highest qualifying height, with her personal-best height of 12 feet, 3 inches tied with two other qualifiers for the best height this season.

Junior Sophia Thorsen is returning to state in the 100 and 200, plus for the first time in the long jump, and as part of the section-champion 4x100 relay team, which also includes Dick, Rachel Halseth, and Kailie Kopp.

Rounding out the Vikings' qualifiers is Nolan Weidenhamer, who qualified in the boys' long jump.

The Class AA State Meet prelims — which also in-



DAVE HARWIG | COUNTY STAR

North Branch's Sophia Thorsen and Ella Dick finished first and third in the Section 7AA 100 meter finals. Thorsen and Dick will team up in the 4x100 relay at the State Class AA meet.

cludes the girls' long jump — is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, June 5, also at STMA. The Class AA finals are scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 6.

Melvin, Minke qualify for Class AA State Golf

STAFF REPORT
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The North Branch Vikings are advancing one boy and one girl to the Class AA Individual Golf Tourna-

ments.

For the boys, sophomore Nicholas Melvin won the Section 7AA tournament, shooting a two-round score of 151. As a team, the Vikings finished in third place.

For the girls, junior Jenna Minke finished in third place at the section meet with a two-round score of 172. As a team, the Vikings had a best-ever finish as section runner-ups.

Melvin and Minke will compete in

the State Class AA Tournament on June 9 and 10 at the Ridges at Sand Creek. Melvin is scheduled to tee off at 8:42 a.m. Minke's tee off time was not yet scheduled as this edition went to press.

Minnesota DNR: Prioritize safety as recreational boating season kicks off

The long Memorial Day weekend marked the traditional start of Minnesota's boating season, which means the state's lakes and rivers see increased traffic.

While the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reports that recent years have seen declines in boat-related fatalities (nine in both 2023 and 2024, and seven in 2025), 2026 has already had its first fatalities. It's a reminder that things on the water can turn tragic quickly so safety should be the top priority.

"Our lakes and rivers are second to none and it's great that for so many people, summer means spending time on the water," said Capt. Adam Block, DNR boating law administrator. "Our goal is for every boater who leaves the shoreline to make it home safely."

The following are safety tips for all boaters to ensure a fun, memorable and successful boating season:

Wear a life jacket, don't just bring it. The law requires children under 10 to wear a life jacket when the boat is underway, but wearing one is the best way for people of all ages to survive an accidental fall into the water, which remains cold. Even strong swimmers

can become incapacitated quickly.

Leave alcohol on shore. Operating a boat under the influence is illegal and the single greatest factor in fatal boating accidents.

Check safety equipment. Ensure life jackets are in good condition and fit the wearer. On motorboats, ensure carbon monoxide detectors, fire extinguishers, navigation lights, and sound-producing devices are in good condition. Wear the engine cut-off lanyard anytime the boat is underway.

Own your wake. Large wakes can be hazardous to other people recreating on the water and negatively affect the shoreline and shallow areas.

Take a boater education course. New requirements that went into effect in 2025 mean many boaters must complete the course. As of July 1, 2026, anyone born after June 30, 2000, must obtain their certification. See the DNR website for more information (mndnr.gov/safety/boatwater/boater-education-law.html). Through May 22, anyone who signs up to take the online Boater's Safety Exam will receive 20% off the cost by using the code MNSAFE-BOAT26. - MNDNR

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Minnesota DNR seeking public input on draft rules for regulating gas resource development

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has published a notice of intent (files.dnr.state.mn.us/input/rules/rulemaking/r4995-notice-of-intent.pdf) to adopt rules that would regulate gas resource development projects and is inviting the public to comment on these draft rules through July 2, 2026.

In 2024, Minnesota prohibited gas production in the state without a permit from the DNR. At the same time, DNR and other state agencies were authorized to establish rules to regulate gas resource production in the state. The draft rules on which DNR is currently seeking comment would establish its part of this regulatory framework.

PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

The DNR invites anyone interested in the regulation of gas resource development in Minnesota to review the draft rules and provide comments. The 45-day public comment period starts on May 18, 2026, and will end at 4:30 p.m. on July 2, 2026.

Anyone may submit written comments on the proposed rules to GasRulesDNR@state.mn.us. Please visit the DNR website (mndnr.gov/input/rules/gas-rules.html) for more in-depth information and additional documentation on the draft rules.

After the closing of the comment period, the DNR will review and consider all comments prior to making a decision on whether to adopt the rules, with or without amendments.

ABOUT THE GAS RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND THE RULEMAKING PROCESS

In February 2024, an exploration company confirmed the discovery of helium gas on private land in Lake County and reported that the drilling results indicated the potential for commercial production. At the same

time, interest has grown in natural hydrogen resources along a geologic formation known as the Midcontinent Rift System. In Minnesota, the rift system extends from Lake Superior to the Iowa border. There has been no prior development of gas resources in Minnesota and the state lacks a regulatory framework for commercial gas production.

In 2024, DNR was directed to use the expedited rulemaking process to adopt or amend rules to address several gas production regulatory topics, including permitting, reclamation, financial assurance, siting and setbacks, and pooling and spacing. The DNR was given a May 22, 2026, deadline to publish a notice of intent to adopt those rules in the State Register. For more information about this rulemaking process, visit the DNR website (mndnr.gov/lands_minerals/gas_program/gas_rules.html). -MN DNR

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June 2026

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Speakers: John Perlich and Hanna Zinn
Topic: John and Hanna will bring a grounded, inside-baseball perspective on a legislative session defined by "divided" government, incremental wins, end-of-session brinkmanship, and the ongoing tension between public policy and electoral politics.

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MN DNR NEWS BRIEFS

Minnesota DNR webinar series offers new sessions this summer

Webinars on muskellunge fishing and the state's muskie plan, surveying fish in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, sampling rare or threatened fish species, moose research, and changes in duck harvest are part of the summer lineup for the Minnesota Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"After a cool spring, many Minnesotans are eager to get outside for some summer fun," said Benji Kohn, DNR volunteer mentor program coordinator. "Our webinars share some great tips and information to help further people's understanding of and interest in fishing, hunting, trapping, fisheries management and wildlife biology."

The DNR hosts these live webinars every other Wednesday at noon. Upcoming topics include:

July 15 – How we sample rare or threatened fish species in Minnesota

Brett Nagle, native fish biologist, will share a glimpse into rare fish species, how the DNR surveys them, what's been learned through those surveys, and why these fish are important to our larger ecosystem.

July 29 – Minnesota moose research

Amanda McGraw, moose scientist, will talk about the latest moose research in Minnesota, what the DNR is learning about this iconic northern Minnesota cervid and how the moose population is doing across the state.

Aug. 12 – Exploring changes in duck harvest distributions in the central and Mississippi flyways between 1960-2019

Bram Verheijen, wildlife research biometrician, will talk about the dynamics of waterfowl harvest distributions in the central and Mississippi flyways from 1960 to 2019.

Attending a webinar

All webinars are captioned and free. Pre-registration is required to participate in the live events. The DNR posts recordings of each episode online for those who can't attend live, and registration is not required to view recordings. Episode descriptions, registration information and archives are available on the Minnesota DNR Outdoor Skills and Stewardship Series webpage (mndnr.gov/discover).

For other education and learning opportunities from the DNR, visit:

The education and safety training webpage (mndnr.gov/education-safety) for information on boat and water safety, hunter education, firearms safety, natural resources education, and recreational vehicle safety.

The I Can! webpage (mndnr.gov/ican) for details on this program that helps people of all ages learn about camping, paddling, mountain biking, fishing and archery.

Critical wellness training for firefighters

Firefighters face a higher risks of cardiovascular disease, emotional trauma and cancer than the general public due to hazardous exposures, physical stress and exposure to traumatic events.

This reality has MnFIRE, a nonprofit that helps firefighters prioritize their health and well-being, pushing to do more across the state. MnFIRE provides no-cost health and wellness training and resources to all MN fire service members and departments.

MnFIRE trainings cover cancer, cardiac health, emotional

wellness, sleep, fitness, nutrition and more topics. To date, MnFIRE has reached firefighters in more than 84% of departments across the state and aims to reach new recruits each year.

MnFIRE training satisfies the annual wellness training requirement for public employees in Minnesota Statute 299A.465, the public safety law guaranteeing continued employer paid health insurance for firefighters who are duty disabled by job related injuries.

Fire departments can schedule no-cost training at mnfiretraining.org. - Minnesota Firefighter Initiative

WORSHIP *guide*

<p>Baptist</p> <p>First Baptist Church 304 S. Main St., Cambridge, 763-689-1173. Call the church office or visit our website for current service times and programs. firstbaptistcambridge.org</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Sunrise Bible Church 41300 Second St., North Branch, Pastor David Stertz. Sunday school for all ages 9:30am, Sunday morning Worship 10:30am, Sunday evening 6pm, Wed. Kids 4 Truth & Bible studies for all ages 6:30pm. More info at sunrisebiblechurch.org or 651-674-4107.</p> <p>Catholic</p> <p>Christ the King 305 Fern Street N Cambridge, MN 55008 763-689-1221 Friday 8:30am Saturday 4pm email brigitte@isantiacc.org Website: isantiacc.org</p> <p>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton 207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN. 763-444-4035 Email: brigitte@isantiacc.org Mass: Tues. & Wed. 8:30am. Sun. 8:30am. isantiacc.org</p> <p>Evangelical Covenant</p> <p>Karmel Covenant Church 5799 County Road 6, Princeton MN 763-389-3169 Lead Pastor: Jason Hovis Pastor of Youth: Kohl Hanson</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Evangelical Free</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Wyanett Evangelical Free Church 12 Miles West of Cambridge on Hwy 95 www.wyanettevangelicalfree.org Pastor Bruce Talso 763-221-4469 Sunday School 9:30 am Morning Worship 10:30 am Mondays - Women's Evening Bible Study 6:00 pm Tuesdays - Men's Bible Study 5:00 pm Wednesdays - Midweek Bible Study/Prayer 2:00 pm Thursdays - Women's Morning Bible Study 9:30 a.m. at Heart Matters Ministry, 403 1st St. Princeton A LOVING CHURCH PROCLAIMING A LIVING MESSAGE!</p>	<p>Lutheran</p> <p>Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) Dr. Suzanne Begin, Minister 905 Central Drive West 320-396-2755 www.brahamlutheran.org 9:30 a.m. Worship Service In-person & Live on Facebook Community Campfire Gathering June 3, July 1, Aug 5; 5:00-7:00 p.m. Bring lawn chair and singing voice All Are Welcome!</p> <p>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</p> <p>Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA) 621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge 763-689-1211 Traditional/Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m. Contemporary/Commons: 9:30 a.m. KidZone 9:30 a.m. www.cambridgelutheran.org Facebook: fb.com/Cambridgelutheran YouTube: tinyurl.com/Cambridgelutheran</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS) 6486 Elm St (PO Box 335), North Branch 651-674-5576 Pastor Glen Kleppe Sunday Worship 10am VBS! June 21-25th 6-8pm www.livingbranch.org email: office@livingbranch.org</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA) 8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958, North Branch, MN 55056 (9 mi. E. of Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one block on Erickson Road). 651-674-4606. Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.slchurch.org Email: sll.church@gmail.com 8:15am Worship with fellowship following</p>	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>Methodist</p> <p>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!</p>	<p>Non-Denominational</p> <p>Grace Gospel Church 37126 MN-65, Stanchfield, MN 55080 763-308-5618 Coffee fellowship: 9:45am Service: 10:00am Pastor: Tim Miller www.gracegospelmn.org info@gracegospelchurchmn.com Located just north of Grandy on 65, across from East Central Diesel, with three large crosses near the road. We look forward to having you!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>Pentecostal</p> <p>The Journey New Life Church 601 Heritage Blvd NE, Isanti Pastor David L. Willis. Sunday 10am Worship & the Word & Kids' Church. Sunday 6pm Family Worship. Wednesday 7pm Family Breakout Classes. 763-689-4471 Thejourneynlc.org</p>
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Class Motto: "Dreams don't work unless you do"

Class Song: "Rivers & Roads" - The Head and The Heart (2011)



Agnes, Morgan R.
Alcock, Madison N.
Allaman, Tucker W.
Altier, Addison S.
Alvar, William J.
Anderson, Aayden J.
Anderson, Emma M.
Anderson, Ethan D.
Anderson, Kyah R.
Anderson, Kyle
Aubin-Skinner, Zachary
Balderas, Bryan C.
Barie, Brady P.
Barton, Sevren A.
Benson, Gavin
Bernal, Alex L.
Boley, Gracie E.
Bowes, Aaron M.
Brandvold, Liberty L.
Brown, Asiah
Bryngelson-Flohr, Aaron J.
Budd, Jordyn
Buehring, Austin N.
Cady, Greta L.
Cados, Julian E.
Capaul, Christopher E.
Carlson, Evan M.
Carver, Kason J
Conroy, Brendt J.
Coston, Tianna N.
Crudo, Vincent N.
Das, Isaiah M

Demont, Payton. E
Dick, Ella S.
Dionne, Ruby J.
Dufek, Vincent E.
Dykhoff, Josie R.
Edmonds, Jacob R.
Erickson, Olivia A.
Erickson, Tate H.
Everett, Allen V.
Farrell, Hunter R.
Fazendin, Olivia K.
Ferrell, Koven G.
Frederickson, Tyler R.
Garcia Velazquez, Sharis M.
Garcia Velazquez, Sharleen M.
Garcia, Alayna K.
Giese, Brooke L.
Gilkerson, Evelina G.
Giroux, Serenaly J
Gloe, Damian A.
Goeltl, Aaron D.
Grams, Kylie J.
Grimm, Aiden E.
Grover, Grace L.
Haase, Chloe E.
Hall, Edward L.
Halseth, Joshua P.
Hammel, Logan C.
Hammond, Kaytlin C.
Hannigan, Jameson P.
Harkey, Tiana M.
Heath, Anabelle E.

Hedberg, Heidi J.
Helderman, Jacob L.
Her, Lily K.
Herman, Brayden D.
Hernandez, Bianca L.
Hess Rojas, Sofia M.
Heule, Tatum M.
Hibbard, Beau W.
Hicks, Jemma C.
Hilton, Grace N.
Hockensmith, Kylie J.
Hodgson, Andria M.
Holmberg, Ethan A.
Houck, Lana M.
Hunter, Brooke J.
Hunter, Maggie B.
Hurd, Julian P.
Jackson, Kaitlyn
Jackson, Shakarah M.
Jacobson, Lucy D.
Jarmuzek, Jaylin M.
Johnson, Charlotte M.
Johnson, Ellcey M.
Johnson, Trystyn S.
Johnson, Tucker J.
Karnes, Andrew W.
Klanderud, Tate A.
Knoespel, Jacob R.
Knoespel, Jade M.
Kopp, Kailie J.
Korlin, Landen M.
Kvale, Ellarae

LaBore, Joselyn M.
Laffin, Kiera L.
Lairson, Mars J.
Lajiness, Camren A.
Larson, Parker S.
Lattimore, Annabelle M.
Lawrence, Kaeden R.
Lawrence, Mason R.
Lee, Chivalrous T.
Lee, Keely G.
Leistikow, Zoe G.
Leland, Austin M.
Lemon, Alexis L.
Lewerenz, Addison D.
Lifto, Peyton
Little, Grant A.
Listrom, Lillian E.
Lor, Millenium
Loren, Aydan R.
Lutzke, Taylor R.
Major, Joseph D.
Mann, Morgan D.
Marthaler, Dylan T.
McNamara, Madisyn M.
McWilliams, Carter R.
Melby, Ava R.
Meyer, Jocelyn R.
Mitchell, Brody J.
Moe, Dominic R.
Moffet, Alayna C.
Mongare, Zuri K.
Morkert, Dylan J.

Morris, Landon W.
Nelson, Connor W.
Nelson, Dylan P.
Neu, Kathleen E.
Nuveen, Isabel
Nybo, Madyson
Olson, James R.
Orf, Madison M.
Oswell, Jack S.
Overson, Aubrey M.
Pederson, Bo L.
Perrault, Kailey S.
Pfeifer, Abigail M.
Pierce, Davien
Piper, Oliver S.
Raine, Logan M.
Richardson, Jayvyn A.
Riveness, Kaiah M.

Roderick, Faith R.
Rosales, Natalia I.
Russell, Kylie
Rydberg, Jessica L.
Sanvig, Jady N.
Scheibe, Landon J.
Scheler, Daniel T.
Schlagel, Jackson A.
Schleusner, Gabrielle L.
Schloer Dickey, Jace M.
Schneider, Ryan P.
Schoenhals, Kadence L.
Shepard, Kaylynn J.
Simonson, Brandon J.
Smith, Dayton D.
Sobaszkiwicz, Trevor R.
Soderlund, Anthony A.
Spinler, Patirck D.

Steele, Lillian E.
Steele, Taylor C.
Stone, Ada L.
Sullivan, Kara K.
Swager, Kallee M
Swanson, Jameson C.
Synicyn, Makenzie
Taff, Brady A.
Teeselink, Isaaq R.
Thao, Louie
Thor, Blong
Thorsen, Ethan J.
Triden, Sara A.
Troxell, Ryan M. Jr
Tveit, Marshall G.
Valentine, Rocco L.
Vang, Alex Y.
Vang, Alyssa K.

Vickers, Keara L.
Volk, Trent D.
Witkowski, Andrew
Wolfe, Sophia
Wright, Kira
Wytttenback, Jordan
Yang, Amandy
Yang, Giovanni
Yang, Karen
Young, Teagan
Zwetz, Carter

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 Henry Anderson
 Jackson Anderson
 *Jazlyn Anderson
 Kate Anderson
 Taylor Anderson
 Mya Andrews
 Ash Apitz
 Wil Apitz
 *Jaylyn Arenz
 Cole Arneson
 Dane Arneson
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 **Connor Audette
 *Gavin Baar
 *Mary Balthazor
 Leo Barrett
 Piper Bastian
 Landon Beck
 Bailey Beckman
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 **Madison Blomquist NHS
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 Myah Bohanon
 Bailey Bollin
 Caiden Borgquist
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 Isaac Boughton
 Genevieve Brace
 **Joseph Bromwich
 **Brock Brown
 Olivia Buckingham
 **Payton Buckley NHS
 Chloe Budish
 Lexi Burg

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 Blake Busse
 Maceo Capdevila
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 Ian Cieluch
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 **Rhyan Golyer
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 **Abigail Govednik NHS
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 Lillian Hefty
 **Alysa Hehn
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 **Morgan Hemsworth NHS
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 **Julia Henderson
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 **Jude Hiland
 Madelyn Hogleund
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 William Hovseth NHS
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 **Kennedy Howard Brune NHS
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 Mason Oslund
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 Hyolee Thao
 Abigail Thompson
 Cole Thompson
 Lillian Thompson
 Gavin Thorsen
 Makyla Thurman
 Hannah Tilus-Tierney
 *Claire Townsend
 Kaylee Tramm
 Peyton Vander Lee
 Graycie Vang
 Kilyn Vang
 Summer Vang
 Parker Vangrinsven
 **Ciara Vanhout
 Drayson Vanhout
 *Senzo Vue
 Wyatt Wald
 Ava Wandersee
 Isabella Warnest
 Raynna Watson
 *Mason Wayman
 Ella Weber
 **Isabelle Weidenbach
 *Lillian Weimer
 Quinten Welsh

Blaise Wentworth
 **Kaden Westberg
 Logan Westerlund
 **Hannah Westman
 *Taylor Westman
 **Ben Westover
 Avery Wetterling-Bjostad
 **Whitney Whiteis NHS
 Zachary Wiczorek
 Miranda Wilke
 *Malory Williams
 **Aubrey Wilson NHS
 **Dawn Wilson
 Logan Wilson
 Savannah Wimperis
 Logan Witte
 **Judd Woehrl
 *Faith Wolfe
 Regan Wood
 Jacoby Wren
 Piper Wright
 Theo Xiong
 **Claira Yang
 **Hee Yang
 **Nou Yang
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NORTH BRANCH 2025 DRINKING WATER REPORT

Making Safe Drinking Water
Your drinking water comes from a groundwater source: six wells ranging from 220 to 762 feet deep, that draw water from the Mid-Proterozoic sedimentary, Mt. Simon, Quaternary Buried Artesian and Mt. Simon-Fond du Lac aquifers.

North Branch works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Matt Fraley, Public Works & Utility Director, at (651) 755-8578 or mfraley@northbranchmn.gov if you have questions about North Branch's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least some small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily mean that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by visiting the website epa.gov/safewater.

North Branch Monitoring Results
This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage Basics of Monitoring and testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html>).

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

• **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

• **Contaminant:** Any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water.

• **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency

• **MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

• **MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

• **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

• **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

• **N/A (Not applicable):** Does not apply.

• **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool.

ppb is the same as micrograms per liter (µg/l).

• **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million in water is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).

• **ppt (parts per trillion):** One part per trillion is like one drop in one trillion drops of water, or about one drop in 20 Olympic sized swimming pools. ppt is the same as nanograms per liter (ng/l).

• **PWSID:** Public water system identification.

optimal concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances/ Emerging Contaminants

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water. MDH, EPA, and other health agencies may have developed comparison values for some of these compounds. Some of these comparison values are based solely on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations nor the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. These values may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impractical for a water system to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant). Sample data are listed along with comparison values in the table below; it is important to note that

these comparison values are not enforceable.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The significance of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little to no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions-like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity—may need to take extra precautions. We are notifying you of the unregulated/emerging contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

Unregulated contaminant monitoring helps EPA to determine where certain contaminants occur and whether the Agency should consider regulating those contaminants in the future.

• More information is available on MDH's A-Z List of Contaminants in Water (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html>)

• Fourth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 4) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html>)

• Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>)

• EPA has developed a UCMR5 Program Overview Factsheet (<https://www.epa.gov/system/operations/documents/2022-02/ucmr5-factsheet.pdf>) describing UCMR 5 contaminants and standards.

In the past year, your drinking water may have tested for additional unregulated contaminants as part of the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>) and results are still being processed. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 5 (UCMR 5) Data finder allows people to easily search for, summarize, and download the available UCMR 5 analytical results (<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-data-finder>).

UNREGULATED/EMERGING CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Sodium* (2024)	20 ppm	18.9 ppm	8.19 - 18.90 ppm
Sulfate (2024)	500 ppm	3.86 ppm	2.07 - 3.86 ppm

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

Service Line Material Inventory
North Branch has completed and submitted our service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health. The service line inventory is publicly available, and you can check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>). You may also contact us at mfraley@northbranchmn.gov (Matt Fraley). In Round 1, we sent mailers to homeowners asking them to submit photos of the water service at the water meter through an online portal. Our staff reviewed these submissions to identify the material type. Last summer, for homes that did not respond in Round 1, staff conducted in-person inspections. This included placing door hangers and scheduling inspection appointments, with staff spending several weeks in North Branch completing these visits. We also used data from the water department related as of 11/17/2025, our inventory contains 2 lead, 37 galvanized requiring replacement, 593 unknown material, and 1673 non-lead service lines.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Sources

Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water and found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water, and is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are six main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

• **Microbial contaminants,** such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.

• **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.

• **Pesticide:** Generally, any substance or mixture of substances

intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest.

• **Herbicide:** Any chemical(s) used to control undesirable vegetation.

• **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

• **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

• How North Branch is protecting your drinking water source(s);

• Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;

• How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at Source Water Assessments (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa.html>) or call 651-201-4700 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health problems, babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk. You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. There is no safe level of lead.

Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes from service lines but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** before drinking tap water flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.

• Activities such as taking a shower, doing laundry or dishes help keep water moving in your home system but are not a replacement for running the tap before you drink if it has not been used for a long period of time.

• The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead,

consider other options to reduce your exposure.

2. **Know your service line materials** by contacting your public water system, or you can search for your address online at the Minnesota Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (<https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>).

• **Protect Your Tap:** A quick check for lead (<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/protect-your-tap-quick-check-lead>) is EPA's step by step guide to learn how to find lead pipes in your home.

3. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.

4. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if you have young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.

• Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to purchase a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:

Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (<https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam>)

The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.

5. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run. You can use a filter certified with ANSI/NSF standards 53 and 42 for lead reduction.

• Read about water treatment units:

Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html>)

Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and other steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at:

• Visit EPA Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>)

• Visit the Minnesota department of Health Lead in Drinking Water (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html>)

• To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/lead/fs/common.html>)

6. **Be Aware:** Head Start Programs, Child Care Centers, Public and Charter Schools all have requirements to test for lead in drinking water. These programs can learn more about requirements and resources for testing and remediation at MDH Drinking Water in Schools and Child Cares (<https://www.web.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/schools/index.html>)

Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER – Tested at customer taps.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Action Level	90% of Results Were Less Than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead (11/02/23)	0 ppb	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	2.52 ppb	0 out of 20	0 - 4.1 ppb	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Copper (11/02/23)	1.3 ppm	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0.55 ppm	0 out of 20	0.02 - 0.77 ppm	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS – Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Barium (08/05/24)	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.05 ppm	N/A	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries;

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION – Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG or MRDLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	N/A	80 ppb	22 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	N/A	60 ppb	5.9 ppb	N/A	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.26 ppm	0.78 - 1.34 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAAS

OTHER SUBSTANCES – Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.68 ppm	0.65 - 0.71 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Potential Health Effects and Corrective Actions (If Applicable)

Fluoride: Fluoride is nature's cavity fighter, with small amounts present naturally in many drinking water sources. There is an

overwhelming weight of credible, peer-reviewed, scientific evidence that fluoridation reduces tooth decay and cavities in children and adults, even when there is availability of fluoride from other sources, such

as fluoride toothpaste and mouth rinses. Since studies show that optimal fluoride levels in drinking water benefit public health, municipal community water systems adjust the level of fluoride in the water to an

optimal concentration between 0.5 to 0.9 parts per million (ppm) to protect your teeth. Fluoride levels below 2.0 ppm are not expected to increase the risk of a cosmetic condition known as enamel fluorosis.

PUBLIC NOTICES CONTINUED

NOTICES

More Details About Our Community Water System

- Your drinking water is treated to disinfect against microbes, add fluoride, prevent corrosion of lead and copper, remove iron and manganese, remove hardness, improve taste.
- Two Million gallons of water is available in storage for system capacity and helping to maintain pressure with water towers.
- We have 51.25 miles of water mains that move finished drinking water from our six wells or two water treatment plants to your home.

The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is not being directly mailed to all customers, but a copy is available upon request at The City of North Branch City Hall; 6408 Elm St., North Branch, MN 55056

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 4, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 412-26 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH

The North Branch City Council hereby ordains as follows:

Section 1. Rezoning to AG Agricultural

The official zoning map of the City of North Branch is hereby amended as follows:

The Subject Property identified in EXHIBIT A (PID: 11.00458.00) is hereby rezoned from RR – Rural Residential to AG – Agricultural. The rezoning is consistent with the amended Land Use Plan and guiding of the Subject Property.

Section 2. Effective Date

The City Clerk is hereby directed to revise the Official Zoning Map consistent with this ordinance.

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

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

Approved: _____
Kevin Schieber, Mayor

Attested: _____
Matthew Hill, City Administrator

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 4, 2026

FORECLOSURES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Minnesota Uniform Conveyancing Blanks

Minn. Stat. 580.025, 580.04 Form 60.2.1 (2009)

DATE: April 23, 2026

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

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGE TO BE FORECLOSED

- Date of Mortgage: July 11, 2022
- Mortgagors: Elijah Benner, an unmarried person.
- Mortgagees: Figure Lending LLC.
- Recording Information: Recorded on July 15, 2022, as Document Number A517553, in the Office of the County Recorder of Isanti County, Minnesota.
- Assignments of Mortgage, if any: Assigned to Valley Strong Credit Union, by written assignment

recorded on October 2, 2024, as Document Number A532993 in the recording office stated in paragraph 4.

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGED PREMISES

6. Tax parcel identification number of the mortgaged premises: 14.044.0080

7. Legal description of the mortgaged premises:

That part of Lot 1 of Auditor's Subdivision Number 7, to the Village of Braham, described as followed Commencing at a point 649 feet South of the Northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2, In Township 37 North, of Range 23 West, Isanti County, Minnesota then South along the East line of said Forty, a distance of 240 feet, then at a right angle West 350 feet then North at a right angle, and parallel with the East line of said Forty, a distance of 240 feet, and thence at a right angle 350 feet, to point of commencement and there to terminate.

Excepting therefrom that part thereof lying southerly of a line described as follows: Said line to commence at a point 746.67 feet south of the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of Section 2, In Township 37 North, of Range 23 West, Isanti County, Minnesota as measured along the east line of sold Northwest Quarter; thence deflecting to the right (West) 90 degrees, 350 feet, more or less, to the West line of said Auditor's Lot 1, and said line there terminating, 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: 408 Cherry Ave N, Braham, MN 55006.

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 Valley Strong Credit Union.

10. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is Figure Lending LLC.

INFORMATION REGARDING FORECLOSURE

- The requisites of Minn. Stat. 580.02 have been satisfied.
- The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$68,079.00.
- At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is: \$84,297.52.
- 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 06/30/2026, 10:00 AM., 2440 Main St S, Cambridge, MN 55008.
- 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.
- 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 12/31/2026.

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

Name of Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:

Valley Strong Credit Union
Name and address of Attorney for Mortgagor or Mortgage Assignee:
Schneiderman & Sherman P.C.
8530 Eagle Point Blvd.
Suite 100
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
26-000473-1

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on April 30; May 7, 14, 21, 28; June 6, 2026

ASSUMED NAME

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Chloe Jean Pottery**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **32424 GOLDENROD ST NW CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA**

APPLICANT(S):
Name: **Chloe Jean Nelson**
Address: **32424 GOLDENROD ST NW CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document.

If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

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

SIGNED BY: **Chloe Nelson**
MAILING ADDRESS: **None**

Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **cjnelson924@gmail.com**
Work Item 1649662000022
Original File Number 1649662000022

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

05/22/2026 11:59 PM
Steve Simon Secretary of State
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 28; June 4, 2026

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: **The Wild Conifer Co**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **40509 GOLDEN AVE NORTH BRANCH MN 55056 USA**

APPLICANT(S):
Name: **Zoey M Evgen**
Address: **40509 GOLDEN AVE NORTH BRANCH MN 55056 USA**

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

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

SIGNED BY: **Zoey Evgen**
MAILING ADDRESS: **40509 GOLDEN AVE NORTH BRANCH MN 55056**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **Thewildconiferco@yahoo.com**
Work Item 1648745600022
Original File Number 1648745600022

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

05/17/2026 11:59 PM
Steve Simon Secretary of State
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on May 28; June 4, 2026

PROBATE

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

Court File No.:

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INSTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In Re: Estate of Karl William Kriesel a/k/a Karl W. Kriesel, Decedent.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on June 30 2026 at 2:00 PM, a hearing will be held remotely by this Court at the Isanti County Government Center, 555 18th Avenue SW, Cambridge, Minnesota, for adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Diane A. Kriesel, whose address is 7466 313th Avenue NE, North Branch, MN 55056, as personal representative of the estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Judge of District Court: Klossner, John (Judge)

Court Administration: Erin Boettcher

Nathan Fuglestad Attorney for Petitioner

FUGLESTAD LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 277,
6349 Main St.
North Branch, MN 55056
(651) 674-6259
Att. Reg. No. 223839

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 4, 11, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPROVAL OF A HOUSING PROGRAM FOR A MULTIFAMILY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND THE ISSUANCE OF REVENUE OBLIGATIONS UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTERS 462C AND 474A, AS AMENDED, FOR THE BENEFIT OF CAMBRIDGE FAMILY APARTMENTS I LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, OR ANOTHER AFFILIATE, SUCCESSOR, OR ASSIGNEE OF REUTER WALTON DEVELOPMENT, LLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Cambridge, Minnesota (the "City") will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 15, 2026, at or after 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers of City Hall, located at 300 Third Avenue NE in the City, to consider a proposal that the City approve and authorize the issuance of one or more series of tax-exempt or taxable revenue obligations (the "Obligations") pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 462C and 474A, as amended (the "Act"), for the purposes of providing a loan to Cambridge Family Apartments I Limited Partnership, a Minnesota limited partnership, or another

affiliate, successor, or assignee of Reuter Walton Development, LLC (collectively, the "Borrower"), to finance all or a portion of the costs of (i) the acquisition, construction, and equipping of an approximately 90-unit multifamily housing development for occupancy by persons of low and moderate income and facilities functionally related and subordinate thereto to be located at or about 2233 333rd Lane NE in the City (the "333rd Lane Project"); (ii) the acquisition, construction, and equipping of an approximately 90-unit multifamily housing development for occupancy by persons of low and moderate income and facilities functionally related and subordinate thereto to be located at or about 33388 Rochester Street NE in the City (the "Rochester Street Project," and together with the 333rd Lane Project, the "Projects"); (iii) any required reserve funds; (iv) capitalized interest during the construction of the Projects, if necessary; and (v) the costs of issuing the Obligations. The Borrower will own the Projects, and will be solely responsible for payment of principal of and interest on the Obligations when due. The principal amount of the Obligations proposed to be issued to finance the 333rd Lane Project is estimated not to exceed \$8,500,000, and the principal amount of the Obligations proposed to be issued to finance the Rochester Street Project is estimated not to exceed \$8,500,000; provided, however, that the aggregate principal amount of the proposed Obligations is estimated not to exceed \$17,000,000.

Following the public hearing, the City Council will consider a resolution approving a housing program prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Act and granting approval to the issuance of the Obligations.

The Obligations, if and when issued, will be special, limited obligations of the City, and the Obligations and interest thereon will be payable solely from the revenues and assets pledged to the payment thereof. No holder of any Obligation will have the right to compel any exercise of the taxing power of the City to pay the Obligations or the interest thereon, nor to enforce payment against any property of the City, except money payable by the Borrower to the City and pledged to the payment of the Obligations. Before issuing the Obligations, the City will enter into an agreement with the Borrower, whereby the Borrower will be obligated to make payments at least sufficient at all times to pay the principal of and interest on the Obligations when due.

At the time and place fixed for the public hearing, the City Council will give all persons who appear at the hearing an opportunity to express their views with respect to the proposal. In addition, interested persons may direct any questions or file written comments respecting the proposal with the City Administrator, at or prior to said public hearing.

Dated: June 4, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CAMBRIDGE, MINNESOTA

/s/ Evan Vogel
City Administrator

City of Cambridge, Minnesota

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 4, 2026

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

City of Cambridge

The following information represents the annual disclosure of tax increment districts for the year ended December 31, 2025.

	TIF 6-15	TIF 6-16	TIF 6-17	TIF 6-18	TIF 6-20	TIF 6-21	TIF 6-22	TIF 6-23	TIF 6-24	TIF 6-25
Current net tax capacity	118,934	53,833	94,958	5,686	98,824	209,496	54,583	54,692	6,401	-
Original net tax capacity	1,933	606	19,802	4,883	1,479	-	1,181	3,319	6,708	-
Captured net tax capacity	117,001	53,227	75,156	803	97,345	209,496	53,402	51,373	-	-
Principal & Interest Payments due in 2026	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tax Increment Received in 2025	150,582	68,126	96,848	1,226	122,512	261,900	67,017	64,018	492	12
Tax Increment Expended in 2025	131,255	579,729	84,325	983	115,276	248,045	59,998	58,168	492	418
Month and year of first tax increment receipt	7/2016	7/2018	7/2018	7/2020	7/2020	7/2023	7/2023	7/2025	7/2025	7/2026
Date of required decertification	12/31/41	12/31/43	12/31/33	12/31/45	12/31/45	12/31/48	12/31/48	12/31/51	12/31/51	12/31/51

Additional information regarding Cambridge TIF Districts may be obtained from:

Caroline Moe-Cambridge Finance

300 Third Ave NE

Cambridge, MN 55008

763-689-3211

cmoe@ci.cambridge.mn.us

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on June 4, 2026



North Branch approves TIF for 55+ affordable housing

Development also to include land for future retail

BY MOLLY WHELAN
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

North Branch may see development on one of its most visible slices of open real estate, despite objections from multiple council members on providing tax increment financing for the project.

North Branch Independent Senior Living LLC, a development group comprised of three people, convinced three members of the North Branch City Council to move ahead with plans to finalize a TIF financing agreement for the first phase of their planned development.

The parcel in question sits on the southwest corner of Highway 95 and Falcon Avenue, north of the Boka Haven Senior Living facility.

Phase 1 includes a 107-unit mixed-income independent living facility restricted to tenants age 55 and older, with 20% of units reserved for people who make 50% or less of the area median income. Phase 1 also includes one assisted living facility. The northern half of the land is slated to include retail tenants.

The sticking point of the project is access.

Jeff Anneke, one of the members of the development LLC, said they have tried to market the parcel in the past, but the visibility from the highway does not come with easy access.

Currently, the only entrance to the parcel requires potential customers and residents to drive down Falcon and turn onto 386th St. With retail and restaurants planned for the north part of the development, the extra driving has been unappealing to potential corporate tenants.

Anneke said they had interest from a Culver's restaurant at one point, but they pulled out because of the lack of an easy entry from the highway.

"Culver's was the perfect example," Anneke told the council. "Huge visibility from the northeast corner. They do not want their customers driving around down Falcon and onto 386th to access the site."

The solution the LLC and the city worked out was to add an entrance from Highway 95 that would connect in a cul-de-sac with 386th St. The entrance portion would cost an estimated \$678,000, for a total of \$1,088,000 for the full L-shaped access road connecting with 386th St. This is the portion of the project that would push the TIF funding timeline up to 20 years, and that timeline didn't sit well with Council members Jeff Goulet and Jim Ibinger. Goulet said the city and schools are

just coming back from a period of over-development that began 25 years ago, and he was not comfortable taking a risk on something like that happening again, even if it means North Branch may get the kind of businesses residents have been asking for.

"I know everybody wants a grocery store," he said, "but do they know how much it costs to get one?"

Sara Paul, Superintendent of North Branch Area Public Schools and Chair of the North Branch Economic Development Authority, spoke in favor of the development at the meeting, with an answer ready to Goulet's question: "Is it worth 20 years to you?"

"As a resident, yes," Paul said. "As a chair of the EDA perspective,

when we weighed this conversation, yes. There's trade-offs with every decision, but that's the feedback I have for you."

A second option would only have required up to 15 years of TIF funding, but would not have connected the parcel directly to the highway. Instead, it would only have extended 386th St. at an estimated cost of \$410,000.

When it comes to attracting tenants to set up in North Branch rather than

another community, Anneke said having the infrastructure already in place can make or break a deal.

"Usually, these folks, too, are looking at multiple locations," he said, "and readiness is one of the determining factors."

Initially, the version of the plan that included the entrance would have required the full 26 years of TIF funding. However, the developers and city staff met following the April 28 meeting where the project was first presented and agreed on fee reductions and other considerations to share the cost of the road extensions.

Council and staff were impressed by this, claiming most developers do not return to negotiate if TIF is not granted immediately on their terms.

Mayor Kevin Schieber, along with Council members Patrick Meacham and Robert Canada, were of the mind that ensuring the project's success meant going "all or nothing" and taking the 20-year TIF option.

Schieber tempered his approval with the caveat he would be unlikely to be interested in awarding TIF funding to future projects for his remaining tenure, particularly for Phase 2 of this project, which is to include additional independent and assisted living facilities.

'I know everybody wants a grocery store, but do they know how much it costs to get one?'

Jeff Goulet
North Branch Councilmember

CLASSIFIEDS

<p>55 Motorcycles</p> <p>For Sale. 1985 Honda Classic 700 Night Hawk. Runs great! With title. \$1800 OBO. 320-496-0199.</p>	<p>102 Services</p> <p>Designs by Jeff: Custom airbrushing, vehicle wraps, fleet graphics, signs, logo designs. Over 35 years of experience. DesignsByJeff.com 763-443-3135</p> <p>Get up to 50 channels free. No monthly charge. Dave's TV and Antenna. Call 320-515-0270.</p>	<p>150 Help Wanted</p> <p>GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT seeking Career & Technology Education Teacher for 2026-2027. Details at www.gk12.net, click Employment. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs</p>	<p>150 Help Wanted</p> <p>Plastech Corporation in Rush City, MN is now hiring Press Operators for all 3 shifts. \$16-\$18 per hour. Find more details at www.plastechcorporation.com</p>	<p>150 Help Wanted</p> <p>REPORTER: The Sun in Osceola, Wis., and the Country Messenger, in Scandia/Marine on St. Croix, Minn., are looking for a freelance reporter to help report the news of our communities. Send resume and writing clips to: Matt Anderson, editor, c/o The Sun, PO Box 248, Osceola, WI 54020 or email: editor@osceolasun.com.</p>	<p>351 Antiques</p> <p>Wanted Antiques. Agates, hunting, fishing, sterling silver, advertising signs, call 651-238-0909. Central MN.</p>	<p>401 Auctions</p> <p>Tuesday, June 16. 10 a.m. Estate Auction. Estate of Dawn & Jack (Rocky) Metso, PR Melissa Akurugo. 6606 Metso Rd., Kettle River, MN. Tractors, Haying & Farm Machinery, Firearms & Sporting, Dozer, Trailers, Farm & Shop, Primitives, Household. Reinhardt Auction Service, www.reinhardt-auctions.com, 218-845-2260. Auctioneer, Steve Reinhardt, Lic. #01-12.</p>	<p>404 Garage Sales</p> <p>Multi-family sale North of West Rush Public Access. Household, outdoor, books, pet items, something for everyone. June 12th & 13th 8a.m. follow signs</p>	<p>452 Rentals/Residential</p> <p>North Branch 1 Br. \$760 per month. Clean, quiet 7 unit bldg. No smoking, no pets. 612-772-6416</p>
<p>56 Campers/RV's</p> <p>5th Wheel Camper 2019 Forest River Sierra: 42' long, 6 slide outs, washer/dryer, residential stainless refrigerator, center island, 2 tv's, 2 A/c's, king bed. Outdoor kitchen w/microwave, refrigerator, gas grill, and hot & cold water. Automatic leveling. Used only 5 1/2 months. Stored indoors. Call Jim 612-390-1699</p>	<p>150 Help Wanted</p> <p>ELECTRIC UTILITY FACILITY TECHNICIAN Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Co., Grantsburg. Full-time, M-F. Mechanical skills & equipment experience preferred. Training provided. Apply by May 29: danathrongard@nwe-co.com or PO Box 9, Grantsburg, WI 54840. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs</p>	<p>GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT, hiring for 2026-2027: Grade 3 Teacher, Special Ed Aide, Little Pirate Aide. Visit www.gk12.net or call 715-463-2320. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs</p>	<p>Press Publications NOW HIRING Contributing Writer Topics may include: Recreation, local events and personalities, nature and stories from around the lake. Please, send resume and three writing clips to whitebearnews@presspubs.com</p>	<p>300 For Sale</p> <p>16' Aluma Craft Boat 35HP Evinrude, Counsel Stiring, Rollar Trailer plus many extras, \$2000 or best offer. 651/770*8126</p>	<p>358 Firewood</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>404 Garage Sales</p> <p>DOWNSIZING SALE: Lots of GUY STUFF, TOOLS, household, unique items- Friday/Saturday, June 5/6. 9-3. 19046 Island Resort Road Pine City rain or shine</p>	<p>452 Rentals/Residential</p> <p>FOR RENT IN PINE CITY: one bedroom apartment- 1st level, \$800 deposit, \$800 per month no pets, no smoking, call Sandy 763-464-4129</p>	<p>501 Real Estate Wanted</p> <p>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</p>
<p>102 Services</p> <p>Alterations and clothing repairs, 25 years experience. 320-396-4152 Contact Rosemary. Braham</p>	<p>CHIMNEY/ROOFING INSULATION SERVICES 612-845-0289 WANTED FORD TRUCK 97-08 REPAIRABLE 612-845-0289.</p> <p>CHIMNEY/ROOFING INSULATION SERVICES 612-845-0289 WANTED FORD TRUCK 97-08 REPAIRABLE 612-845-0289.</p>	<p>MAINTENANCE MECHANIC Barron County Waste-To-Energy. Rotating 12-hour shifts, 7p-7a. \$30-\$36/hr. Strong mechanical & safety skills required. Competitive benefits. Apply at barroncountymi.gov. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs</p>	<p>PROJECT COORDINATOR (Part-time) Burnett County Tourism Coalition seeks organized, detail-oriented candidate to support tourism promotion, administration & communications. Submit cover letter & resume to bctc548@gmail.com by June 15. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs</p>	<p>FOR SALE: CAMPER Jayco Featherlite 22' Excellent condition. 2009 \$8,500 218-460-0764</p> <p>FOR SALE: John Deere 250 Skid Steer 1,000 original hours. Good condition. 2014? 218-460-0764</p>	<p>FIREWOOD 16" oak or mixed. Delivery. Custom processing. Tree/yard debris clean up. Ed Johnson 763-220-9308</p>	<p>Huge Garage Sale around Devil's Lake. Friday, June 5th and Sat., June 6th 9-6. 1577 Devil's Lake Dr.</p>	<p>Johnston's Clean Out Sale. Thursday, June 11th 7:30-5:00. Kitchen, sewing, angels, jewelry, linens, frames, books, misc. 747 Sunset Lane, Mora.</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS Call 763.689.1181 or email sales@countystar.com</p>
<p>CHIMNEY/ROOFING INSULATION SERVICES 612-845-0289 WANTED FORD TRUCK 97-08 REPAIRABLE 612-845-0289.</p>	<p>SIREN SCHOOL DISTRICT seeking full-time Elementary Physical Education Teacher for 2026-2027. Coaching opportunities available. Send resume to Carrie Herman, 24022 4th Avenue, Siren, WI 54872. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs</p>	<p>NURSING INSTRUCTOR Northwood Technical College, New Richmond, seeks full-time ADN Instructor. Some evening/Saturday hours possible. Apply by June 14 at northwoodtech.edu/e employment. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs</p>	<p>The Classifieds The Classifieds The Classifieds Call 651-278-5882 or email sales@countystar.com to place your ad.</p>	<p>305 Pets/Services</p> <p>For Sale Cavapoo puppies. Wormed and ready to go. \$200. 320-983-5661 leave a voicemail.</p>	<p>Buying sports card collections call Tom 612-701-7396</p> <p>Looking for that perfect gift for an anniversary or birthday? Think about giving a subscription to the Kanabec County Times. Call our office today (320)679-2661 to start delivery - we accept Visa or Mastercard!</p>	<p>The smart way to sell your stuff! Call 763.689.1181 or email sales@countystar.com - to place an ad!</p>	<p>EXPERIENCED LINE COOK Great pay for the right person. 30-40 hours pr week, including weekends. Weekend dishwasher Sat & Sun only Apply in person 6am - 2pm 118 Main St Cambridge, MN</p>	<p>PEOPLES Cafe</p>

EMPLOYMENT

CHILD PROTECTION SUPERVISOR

Supervises program operations and staff for the Child Protection Division, delegates staff work assignments, screening intakes, consults with staff and attorneys on case preparation and presentation, and assists with the development and compliance with the department budget. \$42.77 to \$56.32 DOQ.



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NOW HIRING

Inside Sales Representative

Northstar Media in Cambridge is looking for a motivated person who likes to work with customers over the phone.

Mon., Tues., Wed. - 20-25 hours per week.

Responsibilities include classified ad sales, service and church directory ad sales, and special page/section ad sales.

Wage is \$17-\$19/hour plus attainable bonuses

Sales Representative

Kanabec Publications in Mora is looking for a motivated person who likes to work with customers over the phone and in person.

Mon., Tues., Wed., 20-25 hours per week

Responsibilities include display ads, inserts and special page/section ad sales in newspapers, shoppers and online.

Wage is \$17-\$19/hour plus attainable bonuses

If interested, please submit resume to Jeff Andres, Publisher jeff@northstarmedia.net.

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Wine of the Month

Jim Beam Regular Only 1.75 \$26.99

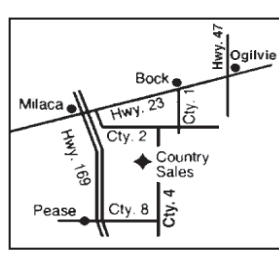
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