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ISANTI-CHISAGO
COUNTY STAR

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026
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BUMP AHEAD: Fall sports schedules slow down during MEA weekend. **PAGE 8**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The sweetest pit stop

Taking a break from the action, a young attendee sorts through her candy haul during the Frankenstieners Car Show on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Isanti County Fairgrounds.

City of Isanti union employees authorize possible future strike

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Members of one of the three unions representing city of Isanti employees have formally voted to authorize a strike in the future if negotiations with the city continue to go unresolved.

"This past week, members of AFSCME Local 2889-11, city of Isanti employees, voted to authorize a strike," read a press release from the union. "This decision comes after nine months at the bargaining table, where our Union has been working diligently to reach agreement on a first contract that addresses long-standing wage disparities and guaranteed employer contribution amounts to insurance premiums.

"The city is still not willing to meet these very reasonable asks, and so our local union is preparing for direct action in support of a fair contract. The parties remain in contract mediation at this time, and our local union is committed to reaching a settlement that meets the needs of our members, while preserving excellent service to the residents of Isanti."

Isanti City Administrator Josi Wood confirmed the vote, but emphasized there has been no formal strike declaration.

"I have confirmed at this time that the city of Isanti members have not filed a petition with the Bureau of Mediation Services for a strike," Wood said via email. "We are currently undergoing mediation with the AFSCME Council 65, Local 2889-11 group. The city's representatives at the table are and have been actively seeking a fair resolution."

"AFSCME is unfairly representing this, in my opinion, to try and influence city council before this week's negotiations," Isanti Mayor Luke Merrill said in a comment made from his official mayor's Facebook account on the union's Facebook page. "Pushing this strike threat is a way to pressure three incumbent city officials to give more money to avoid a strike, right before an election.

"The city had no issues with the other unions (Police, Public Works), which we just settled a few months ago with compensation that both parties agreed was fair," Merrill continued. "There is no data that I've seen to suggest these folks in this union are underpaid. That doesn't mean we don't appreciate them. It means their union rep hasn't done a good enough job proving their case. I personally work on facts and numbers."

"We would certainly already have those studies done, so I guarantee my labor representative has that information," said Wyatt Johnmeier, Communications Specialist for AFSCME Council 65 in response to Merrill's Facebook comments. "Them being underpaid was mentioned in the strike authorization notice that was sent out. We represented the facts, nothing more."

According to Johnmeier, there are six city employees in basic administrative positions who are members of this union. This is their first bargaining session as union members.

Pop in for soda, stay for the community

BY STACY VERDICK CASE
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

When boutique owner Jakki Kay asked her neighbor and frequent customer, Christi Patrick, "Do you want to know what I'm thinking?" she didn't expect Patrick to have an LLC, a business name filing, and a bank selected for Sota Girls within two days.

"I have a very wild Type Z personality, so you never know what I'm thinking," Kay said. "I told her I was going to open a dirty soda shop or start a dirty soda business, and she should do it with me. She looked at me and said, 'OK.' I was like, 'Really?' And she said, 'Yeah.' Then I said, 'Let's do it.'" Kay laughed. "She's Type A. Within two days, she came to me with everything. I was like, 'I like it. I like it. All right, we're doing it.'"

Both women had experience opening and operating their own stores. Patrick owns Pretty Little Signs, a craft studio in Isanti, and Kay owns Four13 Boutique, a clothing store in Isanti.

Six months after that spontaneous idea, Sota Girls has become a lively local gathering place. The business recently won Best New Business and Best Woman-Owned Business in the 2026 Isanti-Chisago County Star Best Of contest.

A THIRD SPACE

Located next door to Pretty Little Signs, Sota Girls has a walk-through connection to the craft studio. Customers can grab a drink and join community events, including the biweekly "She Belongs" group meetings on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. "It's where every woman belongs. We have a little meeting, and we do really fun stuff. We talk about issues that really hit home for women," Patrick said. "We talk about relationships, communication in your

SEE **SOTA GIRLS,** PAGE **9**



CONTRIBUTED

Christi Patrick (Left) and Jakki Kay owners of Sota Girls



Local couple takes on a modern day adventure down the river

BY T.A. LEBRUN
EDITOR@PINECITYMN.COM

"I don't know if it's the excitement of 'Tom Sawyer' or people being in awe of the stupidity," quips Mike Swan, who says he's had a lot of interest from his friends in his and his wife's plan to launch their houseboat from the St. Croix.

Swan, who has a background in construction, having rebuilt his current home on Cross Lake, has been working on building a houseboat since May, along with his wife Kathy. They will be launching the boat in a couple of weeks with the plan to spend the winter on it traveling the southern states from Hudson.

The adventure started with YouTube channel surfing.

"Over a year ago, I was going through some illness and pretty tied down," recalls Swan. "I was on YouTube and looking at videos of yachts and boats and heard about the Great Loop where you go down the Mississippi through Mobile or New Orleans, down to Florida, up the East Coast and back up to the Great Lakes."

Swan saw someone doing the trip on a smaller 30-foot barge-type houseboat with an outboard motor. "This guy could stop anywhere," recalls Swan. "We said we needed to do this and started researching boats."

The first boat Swan looked at was in Tennessee, but it was in rough shape. Then they found a 30-foot Sunchaser Party Hut pontoon in Iowa. Swan decided he didn't want to take on any problems an older boat might have, and having knowledge of construction and wiring, he decided he would. He first took the cabin off the boat and stripped it down to the deck. He added another pontoon to make it a tritoon to help stabilize the boat in rough waters. He then started work on an 18-foot cabin that consists of a bathroom/shower; a galley kitchen with a stove, refrigerator, and sink; storage shelves for clothes and other essentials; and a living room with sleeping cots and chairs. Windows surround the living room.

The 96-square-foot cabin is well-insulated and will have a small wood stove and a diesel heater with forced ventilation. The plan is to travel at about 4-5 miles per hour.

Swan notes that they've many generous friends helping them out. "Not only with physical help, but someone gave us a 12-foot rowboat we can use as a dinghy and other materials we could use," he adds. "Things in the boat each have a story."

The Swans launched their boat on the Snake River from the boat access in town on Wednesday to float around Cross Lake for a couple of days to make sure it floats well and that all is in order before making the big trip.

There is a little bit more finishing work that needs to be done, but in about two weeks, they'll launch from Hudson and travel down the St. Croix to the Mississippi and then to the Ohio River. The plan is to go upstream about 50 miles until they get to the Cumberland River, which will bring them to Kentucky Lake off the Tennessee River.

"You can stay on your boat and anchor anywhere," said Swan, adding that he's hoping to avoid using marinas. He said that artificial intelligence helped them map out their trip so that at the stops, they can walk to get supplies and gas.

We have a beautiful home on the lake but liked the simplicity of the boat," said Swan. "It'll be a time to get out and have some introspection. We are excited about meeting people and sharing about the love of God on the river."

A public Facebook page has been created so people can follow along on their journey. The Facebook page is titled "SwanToon," the name of their boat, and can be found at https://www.facebook.com/groups/1151579490242202/.

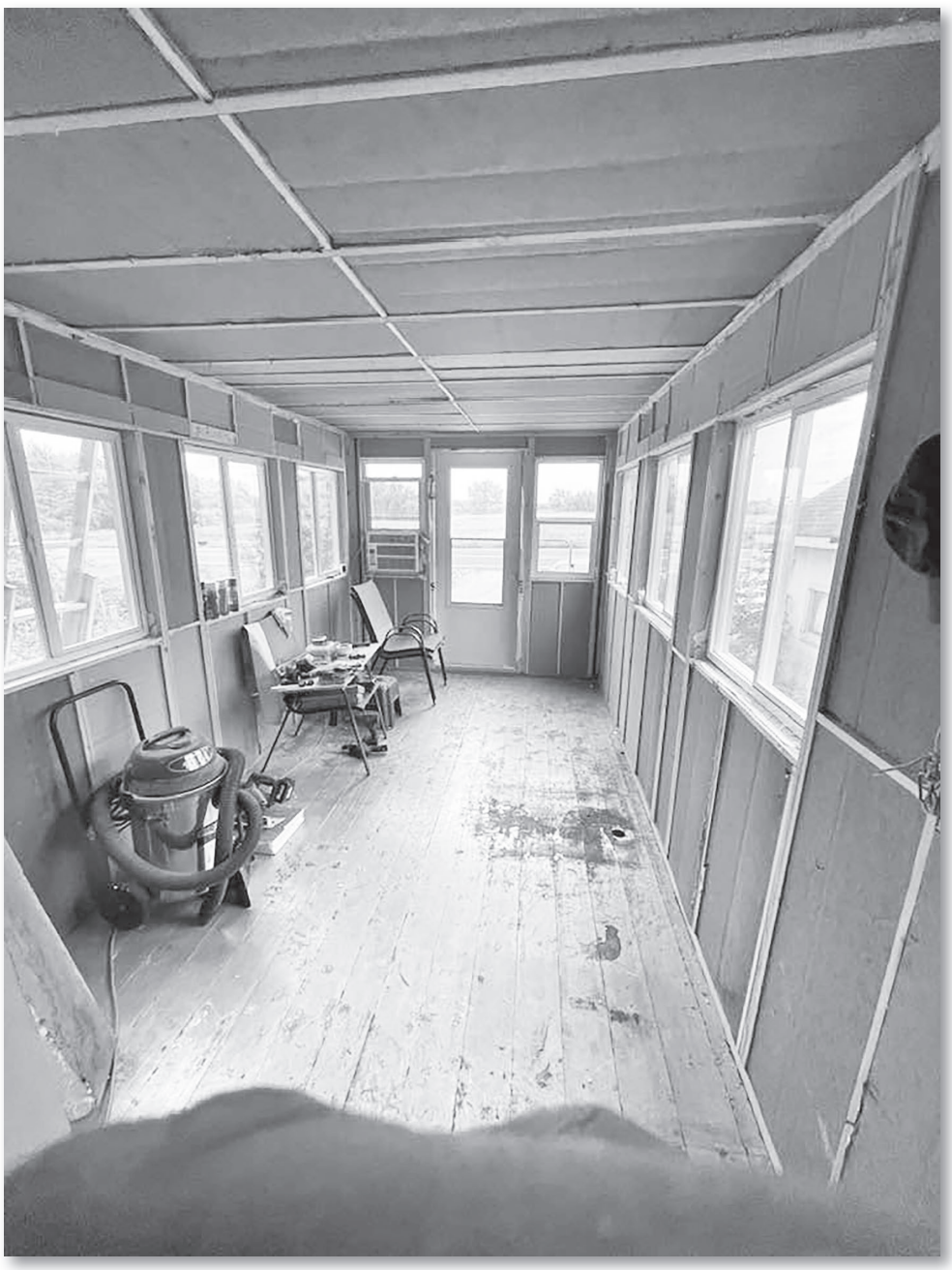
The couple is planning to be gone until about April, with their son holding down the fort back home. When they're ready to come back, they'll put their boat into a marina and then take it back to Cross Lake for the summer and maybe take it to the Apostle Islands.

"It's going to be an adventure!" said Mike.



T.A. LEBRUN | PINE CITY PIONEER

Kathy and Mike Swan give a 'thumb's up' and a cheer to the SwanToon successfully launching on the Snake River.





T.A. LEBRUN | PINE CITY PIONEER

(Left photo) The 'SwanToon' makes its maiden voyage on the Snake River to Cross Lake to work out any issues before setting out on its longer journey. Above is the inside of the vessel before a kitchen, bathroom and other fixtures.

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MON & THUR

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

MON - FRI

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

MONDAYS

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

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

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

TUES & THURS

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

PrimeTime Singers
The PrimeTime Singers meet Tuesday's at 1:30 p.m. in the Choir Room at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old N. Main St., Cambridge. Community choir for singers 60 and older. No membership fee or audition. Coffee and fellowship follow. Call 763-689-1023.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



FACEBOOK

The First Baptist Church in Cambridge is hosting their annual free Fall Carnival on November 16.

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.

OCT. 16

Fare for All food sale
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Rush City High School, Door 5. Hot Buys, $25 Mega Meat Packs and $10 Produce Packs will be available. Open to all; no eligibility requirements or preregistration. Cash, credit, debit and EBT accepted. Checks are not accepted.

Book crawl at Scout & Morgan Books
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Scout & Morgan Books, 114 Buchanan St. N., Cambridge. Part of the East Central Minnesota and St. Croix River Valley Book Crawl.

OCT. 17

Cambridge Book Club
10:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Opportunity Room at Cambridge Public Library. Monthly book club for adults. The book recommendation will be decided at the meeting.

OCTOBER 18

PFLAG Monthly Meeting
2 p.m. Held at Common Ground, United Methodist Church, 404 Cypress Street N., Cambridge. Everyone interested in supporting the LGBTQ+ community is welcome. For more info visit www.ecmnpflag.org

OCT. 19

Learn how to use Libby
10 to 11 a.m. at Cambridge Public Library. Learn how to access free eBooks and eAudiobooks through Libby.

North Branch Book Club
11 a.m. to noon at North Branch Area Library. The book club meets the third Monday of each month and is hosted by North Branch Librarian Kaylen.

OCT. 20

Super Storytime and Craft
4 to 5 p.m. at Cambridge Public Library. Stories, songs and crafts for children ages 5-8 and sib-lings. No registration required.

Chisago County Fix-It Clinic
4 to 7 p.m. at North Branch Area Library. Bring broken household items, such as small appliances, electronics or toys, for help with repairs. Free.

North Branch Knitting Night
6:30 to 7:45 p.m. at North Branch Area Library. Bring a current project. All forms of needlework are welcome.

Free hearing screenings
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Falcon National Bank, 905 Sixth Ave. Court NE, Isanti. Offered by the Isanti Lions Club.

OCT. 21

North Branch Storytime
10:30 to 11 a.m. at North Branch Area Library. Stories, songs and learning activities.

Cambridge Storytime
10:45 to 11:15 a.m. in the Great Northern Meeting Room at Cambridge Public Library. Stories, songs and learning activities.

OCT. 22

Picasso Style Faces
Two sessions available 1 to 2 p.m. or 6 to 7 p.m.at Cambridge Public Library. Celebrate Pablo Pi-casso's 145th birthday by creating art inspired by cubism. Registration required.

Community Bingo
6:30 to 7:45 p.m. at North Branch Area Library. Free bingo with prizes. Recommended for ages 8 and older.

OCT. 23

Baby Storytime
10:45 to 11:45 a.m. at Cambridge Public Library. Storytime with ECFE for children from birth to 23 months.

Free hearing screenings
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Oxlip Church, 29237 Roanoke St. NW, Isanti. Offered by the Isanti Lions Club.

Bible-based drama
7 p.m. at Just Passin' Thru-HIS, 1001 First St., Suite 100, Cambridge, in the Crossroads Commons building. Sherry Pearce will present Reluctant Heroines of the Old Testament, featuring Leah, Deborah and Jehosheba.

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.

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Submit information for upcoming events to: editor@countystar.com

Did Columbus discover America?



Worth a Thousand Words

Bill Stickels III

Last Monday was Columbus Day in 30 U.S. states, or Indigenous Peoples' Day in 17 states, including here in Minnesota. Inevitably, every year on that day, the debate fires up again about what the holiday should be called. Also inevitably, many of the arguments for not calling it Columbus Day are that Columbus didn't actually "discover" America.

Before I go on, in the interest of full disclosure, I was raised during a time where we were taught the whole story about Christopher Columbus and his three ships, the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria. We were taught the whole rhyme of "Christopher Columbus sailed across the ocean blue in fourteen hundred and ninety two." We were also taught he was attempting to sail to "the Indies" (sometimes mistakenly stated as sailing to "India") and thus dubbed the people he encountered "Indians."

In fact, that kind of teaching and thinking was so standard; as a kid I had a desk lamp with a model of the Santa Maria at the base.

Now, we know better. We know there were many others who had come across this land now known as North America well before Mr. Columbus — the Vikings being one of them. And of course, there were already those "Indians" (Native Americans/Indigenous People).

Despite all that, I am here to say that yes, Christopher Columbus discovered America.

Now, before you reach for your poison pens, hear me out. How many times have you heard or said yourself "I just discovered..." a great new restaurant, or a quicker route home, or any piece of information you were previously unaware of? A common, cute, self-deprecating expression used today is "I was today years old when I learned this."

There are two typical responses to those statements. Either "I didn't know that" or "I've known about that for a long time." But with the latter response, people don't usually get mad about your use of the word "discovered."

Well, social media wasn't around in the 15th century, but essentially, that is what Columbus would have proclaimed, and he probably got the same response.

The definition of discovered is, "to obtain sight or knowledge of for the first time." Therefore, by the true definition of the word, Christopher Columbus discovered America because it was new to him and many other Europeans. Remember, back in those days, a lot of people still believed the world was flat.

Still, that doesn't change the debate about calling Oct. 12 "Columbus Day" or "Indigenous People's Day" or some other name. To that, I say, why don't we just eliminate it as a holiday completely? Whatever the name is, basically the only people who get the day off are postal workers. Heck, even retailers don't offer Columbus Day sales like they used to.

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAID LETTER:

Vote for Tim Dummer

To the editor,

With the chaos and corruption currently in Washington DC, we cannot dismiss the importance of this upcoming election in November. If you are concerned about the masked ice workers terrorizing our communities, sex offenders protected by Washington (release the Epstein files!), cutting assistance to the poorest among us while gifting the billionaires tax breaks, wars started without congressional approval, tearing down our White House without any approval for a ballroom that no one asked for, the attacks on public education, the eroding of women's rights, the grifting and enrichment of personal gain that is going unchecked, and increasing inflation....then vote for a local representative that will not rubberstamp the current administration's decisions that has led us here.

We need a local representative that represents the people of our district, not what a particular party wants. We need a representative that places people over party. We need a representative that has a moral compass and will not defend corruption just to keep his/her job. I invite you to get to know the very guy I believe will be a wonderful representative for all of us, his name is Tim Dummer. It doesn't matter if you are republican or democrat, it only matters if you are in his district. He will represent you. He is all about people over politics.

We are so lucky to have a chance to vote for a representative that was a teacher and cares deeply about ALL our children and their rights to an education. He will support our teachers and our schools. He loves his wife, and respects women, and would never, ever, consider covering up for sexual abusers no matter how much money they have. He walks the walk of a Christian, he doesn't just speak the words as if Jesus were some mascot to introduce at political events as I have seen so many in Washington doing. He cares about those who are struggling financially, those without a voice, and those without power. He understands fiscal responsibility and what it means to live on a budget. He will work to support efforts to reign in inflation. He is an educated man with creative ideas, and life experience that leads his actions.

Please consider a vote for an honorable man who wants to serve his community by making life better for all of us, not a select few. Tim Dummer is an honorable man.

Susan Clay
Cambridge

No real alternatives

To the editor,

We are all being pushed hard by increasing costs and stagnant wages. According to usafacts.org, real wage growth (the excess of wage increases over inflation) has been a measly 0.3% year-over-year as of August 2026.

I live within the city of Cambridge. We have two fiber internet providers so I called the alternative provider to see if I could save any money. The competitor charges almost exactly the same as what I am already paying for a similar level of service.

I called an alternative waste hauler and what they charge is almost exactly the same as my current hauler. The hauler informed me that since I am in city limits, the rate is governed by an agreement with the city.

It begs the question, why have alternative service providers if they cannot compete on price?

Thomas Lindhart
Cambridge

Are we selling off Isanti County's rural character?

To the editor,

When residents participated in the Imagine Isanti County comprehensive planning process, one message came through louder than anything else: voters strongly desire to preserve our county's genuinely rural character.

However, Isanti County's current land development policies fail to deliver on that vision.

County Commissioners have argued that reducing the minimum residential lot size in the county's Agricultural/Residential district to 2.5 acres helps farmers keep farming. That sounds reasonable—until you examine the underlying economics.

Smaller lots can preserve farmland, but only if total housing density remains strictly capped. Grouping four houses on 2.5-acre lots instead of 10-acre lots on a 40-acre parcel leaves significant contiguous land for agriculture. But the county hasn't simply reduced

SEE **LETTERS TO EDITOR,** PAGE **5**

Your Best Source for Community Information

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Merge safely by matching traffic speed



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Question: First, thank you for sharing our concerns on traffic safety. I see an increase in drivers not accelerating to enter the main flow of traffic, until they are on the main roadway. This also happens, but less often, when exiting the main flow by slowing down before in the exiting lane. This recently happened to my neighbor's son who rear ended a car pulling onto the highway. I would think that there would be accident data on these types of situations. Thank you again for your service and for keeping us informed.

Answer: Thank you. Let's talk about this as it pertains to entering the freeway. Entry ramps are short, one-way roads that provide access to freeways. At the end of most entry ramps, there is an acceleration lane that allows you to increase your speed to safely merge with traffic already on the freeway.

To avoid disrupting traffic flow or cutting off other drivers when you merge, adjust your speed to match the vehicles already on the freeway. You must yield to other vehicles when merging. Use your turn signal to let other drivers know your intention. Watch for an opening in the nearest traffic lane and merge into the flow of traffic when you can do so safely.

Do not stop on the ramp or in the acceleration lane unless it is absolutely necessary. When an acceleration lane is not available and a "Yield" sign is posted on the entry ramp, obey the sign. Stop if necessary. Do not force your way into the lane of traffic.

When it comes to getting off the freeway, it is helpful to know where you need to exit the freeway before you begin driving. Watch for signs that provide information about upcoming exits. As you near your desired exit, signal your intent to change lanes and move into the deceleration lane when you can do so safely. This gives you time to slow down before reaching the exit ramp and helps you avoid obstructing faster-moving traffic.

If you miss your exit, proceed to the next one. Do not back up or make a U-turn to return to the desired exit.

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).

Simon to answer election questions in Cambridge

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon will discuss elections at Anoka-Ramsey Community College in Cambridge at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27.

The event comes as Minnesota voters prepare for the midterm elections and early voting is underway. Residents will have an opportunity to hear from the official responsible for overseeing the state's elections and ask questions about how the process works.

Karin L. Becklin-Greene, a member of the League of Women Voters of Isanti County, encouraged people to attend amid misinformation and concerns about election security.

"The League of Women Voters works to help people become informed voters, regardless of their political choices," Becklin-Greene said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

lot sizes—it has drastically increased housing density.

Historically, county agricultural zoning allowed two nonfarm homes per 40-acre parcel. That was later increased to four development rights. Under current rules, development rights can be transferred and concentrated, allowing up to 13 buildable parcels within a single 40-acre quarter-quarter section.

That changes everything.

We cannot preserve the rural character envisioned in Imagine Isanti County simply by labeling 2.5-acre residential subdivisions "agricultural."

When farmland is zoned for higher housing density, buyers no longer pay for its agricultural value—they pay for its development potential. While this allows current landowners to monetize their property, artificially inflating land prices makes acreage unaffordable for the next generation of working farmers. It also creates an intergenerational divide: established landowners benefit from selling off lots, while younger farming families face priced-out markets and taxpayers inherit long-term infrastructure costs.

Dispersed rural development creates a permanent burden for county taxpayers. Scattered housing requires expanded road maintenance, snowplowing, culverts, emergency response, and school transportation. While new homes add to the property-tax base, county leaders have yet to prove that this revenue covers the full 30-year cost of sprawling infrastructure.

If these policies align with what residents asked for in Imagine Isanti County, or if they truly help working farmers, county leaders should show us the numbers:

•How much total development potential has been added compared to 20 or 40 years ago?

•What impact has density concentration had on farmland purchase prices?

•What is the projected long-term tax burden for servicing scattered rural development?

Preserving the rural future promised in Imagine Isanti County and maximizing speculative land development are two fundamentally different goals. It's time our land-use policies reflected what residents actually asked for.

Lynnae Bina
Isanti County

Talking fall vaccines with U of M



With fall underway, respiratory illnesses are becoming more common. Dr. Katherine Montag Schafer with the University of Minnesota Medical School shares why fall is an important time to get vaccinated, what's new with this year's vaccines, and how vaccination can help prevent serious illness.

Q: Why is fall a good time to get vaccinated against respiratory illnesses?

Dr. Montag Schafer: Respiratory illnesses tend to reach their peak during the cooler months of the year. Many of the viruses that cause these illnesses are targets of vaccines, including influenza, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). Fall is an ideal time to prepare and prime our immune systems for these viruses.

Vaccinations are the best tools we have to help prevent serious illness if we do end up crossing paths with these viruses. Because vaccines take time (about two weeks) to teach and strengthen the immune system, it's best to get vaccinated before these viruses become widespread in our communities.

Q: How are this year's vaccines different from previous seasons?

Dr. Montag Schafer: Every year, the influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are updated to be formulated for the active strains of virus known to be circulating in the world. This is necessary because the viruses are constantly mutating, so the vaccine composition needs to be updated to match these active, disease-causing viruses.

This year, there is a new influenza vaccine that is made by different technology compared to previous years. Typically, the influenza vaccines are made by growing the virus in eggs or cell culture, then inactivating it and using it to make vaccines. This year, in addition to the standard vaccine, an additional vaccine has been approved for use that was created using mRNA technology. This method gives the body the material needed to create a piece of the virus and trains the immune system to recognize it. This technology has also been used to create the COVID-19 vaccine. It is advantageous as it is egg-free and can be manufactured more rapidly. This new vaccine is approved for use in individuals 50 years and older. In one trial, it was found to be more effective at preventing influenza infection compared to the standard vaccine.

Q: What is one thing you wish more people understood about vaccines and preventing serious illness?

Dr. Montag Schafer: Vaccines are the best tool we have against serious illness and resulting hospitalizations. This translates to fewer days being out of commission at home, school, and work. With these benefits at the forefront, I recommend that everyone prepare for the possibility of side effects. The most common include injection site pain, low-grade fever, fatigue, headache and muscle aches. These are usually mild and will go away on their own; however, ice packs and over-the-counter pain relievers can help. Your local pharmacists and primary care clinics are ready to answer your questions about what pain relievers are safe for you to use. Moral of the story: The benefits outweigh the negatives!

Q: When is the best time to get these vaccines?

Dr. Montag Schafer: Everyone should be vaccinated by the end of October. Given this, September and October are the months to get your doses at your local pharmacy, clinic, or other community vaccination event. To decrease the number of appointments needed, consider obtaining multiple vaccinations at one time. This is an efficient and effective solution. For example, receiving influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations at the same time does not change the likelihood of side effects and it does not change the effectiveness, compared to receiving each dose on its own. For those who would rather receive their doses on separate days, there is no specific amount of time that the doses need to be separated.

Q: How does your work advance health in Minnesota?

Dr. Montag Schafer: My work as a pharmacist in a primary care clinic focuses on making sure everyone has access to the medicines and vaccines that they need to achieve health. Oftentimes, this involves helping people navigate the health system. There are so many hurdles along the way when it comes to getting the care and resources we need, like insurance, supply chains, education and training, and so on. It truly takes a health care team! Don't hesitate to ask for help, whether it's at your clinic, your pharmacy or anywhere along the way. ~ The University of Minnesota Medical School



MILESTONES

OBITUARIES

Rosemary Miller

Rosemary A. Miller, age 78, of Winter, WI passed away on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at her home.

Rosemary Alice was born March 2, 1948, in Braham, MN, the daughter of Vern and Marjorie (Most) Schusted. She was raised in Braham and graduated from high school there in 1966. Rosemary moved to Minneapolis, MN where she worked as a waitress and secretary. She traveled with her brother for a time before returning to Minnesota where she started working as an actuary for an insurance company. On February 19, 1982, Rosemary was joined in marriage to Michael Miller in Brooklyn Park, MN where they called home. Rosemary went onto being an administrative assistant for several years. Rosemary and Michael moved to Winter, WI where they had owned a simple cabin there from the 1980's that they had turned into an all-season home for their retirement. Rosemary was a gifted artist and enjoyed painting, drawing and various kinds of craft work. She also enjoyed hunting, fishing, refurnishing furniture, camping and annual vacations with Michael.



Rosemary is survived by her husband of 44 years, Michael; two children, Bryan (Heather) Pope of Bloomington, MN, Kelly Jo Pope of Coon Rapids, MN; three grandchildren, Kristina Cranston, Justus Pope, Shawn Pope; three siblings, Vern Schusted, David Schusted and Cheryl Hoskins; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Rick Schusted.

A celebration of Rosemary's life will be held at a later date to be announced.

In honor of Rosemary's life, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation instead of flowers.

Minnesota Lions Diabetes Foundation Inc
Attn: Treasurer Mike Edwards
11080 16th St. NE
St. Michael, MN 55376
http://mnlionsdiabetes.org/donate

Online condolences may be left for Rosemary's family at www.bratley-nelsonchapels.com.

Send your business news, accomplishments and awards to: editor@countystar.com



CONTRIBUTED

Roxies hope presented Family Pathways with a $35,000 donation for the domestic violence prevention programs.

Family Pathways receives $35,000 donation during Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Family Pathways Receives $35,000 Donation from Roxie's Hope During Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Family Pathways is honored to announce a generous $35,000 donation from Roxie's Hope to support survivors of domestic violence and help continue essential services throughout East Central Minnesota and Western Wisconsin.

The donation was presented following Family Pathways' recognition of Roxie's Hope with the Margaret Johnson-Barr Award at the organization's 2026 Awareness & Empowerment Dinner. The award recognizes individuals of distinction whose work and achievements have advanced and protected the safety, healing, and voices of those experiencing domestic violence.

Roxie's Hope has been a dedicated supporter of Family Pathways and its Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services, helping provide critical resources and support to survivors and families seeking safety. In June, Roxie's Hope announced that it would be concluding its work as a nonprofit organization. While Roxie's Hope's organizational journey is coming to an end, its impact will continue through this generous gift.

The $35,000 donation will directly support survivors and their children staying at Family Pathways' domestic violence shelter in Minnesota. These funds will help provide a safe place to stay and essential support for individuals and families navigating the difficult process of leaving an abusive situation and rebuilding their lives. During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, this generous gift serves as a meaningful reminder of the importance of community partnerships in ensuring survivors have access to safety, stability, and the resources they need to move forward.

Family Pathways is deeply grateful for Roxie's Hope's years of partnership and the lasting impact the organization has made in the community. This gift will help carry that commitment forward, ensuring survivors continue to receive the care, advocacy, and support they deserve. -Family Pathways

Isanti County 4-H member named 2026–2027 Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassador

Sam Murrell, a 4-H member from Long Lake Leaders, has been selected as a 2026–2027 Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassador. Sam lives in Cambridge and is a 10th grader at Braham Area High School.

Sam was selected for his passion for agriculture, Agriscience, commitment to 4-H, and interest in sharing agricultural knowledge with others. He is one of 28 youth leaders selected to represent Minnesota 4-H and agriculture during the 2026–2027 program year.

Sam joins a cohort of 26 outstanding youth leaders, ranging from 10th graders to first-year college students, who represent communities across Minnesota. Building on the work of past teams who reached thousands of youth through hands-on agriculture education and advocacy projects, this new team is stepping up to lead.

The Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassador program gives youth opportunities to build leadership, communication, and teamwork skills while promoting agriculture and educating communities statewide. Ambassadors serve from Oct. 1, 2026, through Sept. 30, 2027.

Throughout the year, Sam and fellow ambassadors will lead hands-on youth workshops in 4-H Plant Science, support programs such as 4-H and FFA Crop Scouting, and represent Minnesota 4-H at community and statewide events, including Farmfest, the Women in Agriculture Leadership Conference, county fairs, and the Minnesota State Fair. They will also connect with University of Minnesota researchers, commodity groups, and agribusiness professionals, and partner with schools and community organizations to promote agricultural literacy and help people understand where their food, fiber, and fuel come from, as well as the many industries and careers that support Minnesota agriculture.

Request an Ambassador for Your Event

Schools, businesses, and community organizations can request a Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassador to help lead educational activities, speak about agriculture, or participate in community events. Requests should be submitted at least two weeks before the event through z.umn.edu/requesta4hagambassador.

LEARN MORE

To meet the 2026–2027 team and learn more about the Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Program, visit extension.umn.edu/4-h-ambassadors/minnesota-4-h-agriculture-ambassadors. -Minnesota 4-H Youth Development



CONTRIBUTED

Sam Murrell 4-H Agriculture Ambassador



CONTRIBUTED

New volunteer signed up displays all volunteer opportunities in one place.



CONTRIBUTED

New tap to give electronic donations will be located at kettles to make giving easier.

Salvation Army Red Kettle registration now open using new sign-up system

Thousands of bell ringers are needed starting Nov. 14; new platform now displays all volunteer opportunities

The Salvation Army is encouraging individuals, families, businesses, churches, and community groups to sign up as volunteer bell ringers as registration is open for this year's Red Kettle Campaign. Through its new "Golden" volunteer registration platform, The Salvation Army makes it easier for people throughout the country to discover and sign up for a variety of local volunteer opportunities—including to ring a bell at a red kettle.

A familiar holiday tradition, the ringing bell and red kettle represent an opportunity for people to make a meaningful difference for neighbors experiencing hardship. A typical bell ringer can raise between $80 and $100 per hour, helping provide critical support for The Salvation Army's programs and services throughout the year. The campaign is set to begin November 14 and will run through December 24.

"Every hour spent ringing a bell helps The Salvation Army reach more people who are struggling to make ends meet," said Lt. Colonel David Harvey, Northern Division commander. "These donations help provide food, housing assistance, and other essential services to our neighbors in need—not just during the holidays, but throughout the year."

Bell ringing is a simple, rewarding way to give back, whether volunteering individually, with family and friends, or as part of a workplace, church, or community group. Even a short shift can make a difference, and every additional volunteer helps The Salvation Army raise more funds to meet local needs.

"The new Golden platform is particularly versatile because, in addition to registering for bell ringing, it allows you to view and select from among any available volunteer opportunity," said Sophie Crowell, Volunteer Services director. "Searching by geography is simple, too, allowing you to find openings in your location."

The tradition of the red kettle started in San Francisco back in 1891 when Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee set out a soup kettle to collect funds for a Christmas meal for the destitute. The idea spread and has become a tradition seen around the world.

Individuals and groups can learn more, register to ring a bell or explore other volunteer opportunities at SalvationArmyNorth.org/Volunteer. ~ Salvation Army

Cambridge-Isanti high school theater joins Spotlight program

Students at Cambridge-Isanti High School will have expanded access to professional theater training and performance opportunities this school year as part of Hennepin Arts' statewide Spotlight Education program for 2026-2027.

Cambridge-Isanti High School is among 107 high schools selected across Minnesota to participate in the yearlong initiative, which provides nearly 8,000 students with high-quality arts education, professional production feedback, and hands-on workshops both onstage and behind the scenes.

"Hennepin Arts is reaching students in every corner of Minnesota and changing lives through the arts," said Ari Koehnen Sweeney, Vice President of Arts Education & Partnerships at Hennepin Arts. "Through Spotlight Education, young people are finding their voice, building confidence, discovering a sense of belonging and developing skills that will help them succeed in school, in their careers and throughout their lives."

Throughout the 2026-2027 academic year, Cambridge-Isanti students will receive constructive feedback on their theatrical productions from industry professionals, along with access to educational masterclasses and skills-building workshops focused on collaboration, creativity, and self-expression.

The program will culminate in the annual Spotlight Showcase on June 14–15, 2027, where more than 1,200 students from participating schools across Minnesota will gather to perform on stage at the historic State Theatre in downtown Minneapolis.

Spotlight Education is supported in part by the Minnesota State Arts Board through the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, made possible by the 2008 Minnesota Legacy Amendment. ~ Hennepin Arts



Stacy Verdick Case | COUNTY STAR

CI High School Theater (left) performed excerpts from their Prince of Egypt performance at the 2025-2026 Hennepin Arts statewide Spotlight Education Program.



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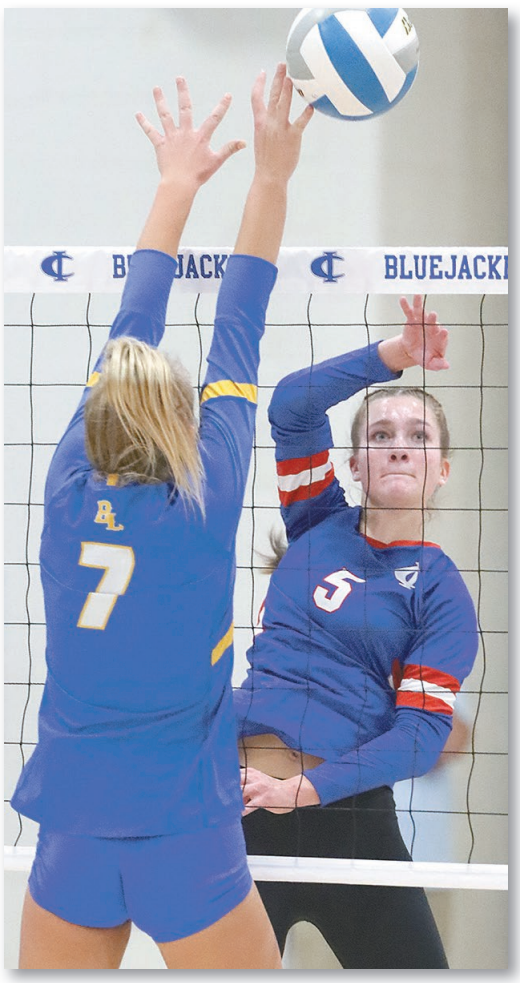
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Yes, we print that



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Aliya Swenson and her doubles partner Reese Oliver clinched the 4-3 team win over Duluth East with their three-set win at third doubles in the Section 7AAA semifinals.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti's Jade Heifort tries to angle a spike past Big Lake's Mira Nestande during the Bluejackets' match against the Hornets.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Cambridge-Isanti's Carly Asmussen took first place in the 200 freestyle and 100 butterfly during the Bluejackets' meet against Princeton.

C-I, NB HOME & SECTION SCHEDULES: OCT. 15 - 21

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

Thursday, Oct. 15
•NB boys soccer @ Grand Rapids (Section 7AA semifinals) (7 p.m.)

Tuesday, Oct. 19
•C-I girls tennis @ Rogers (Section 7AAA individual tournament semifinals & finals)

Tuesday, Oct. 20
•C-I volleyball vs. Duluth East (7 p.m.)
•C-I girls swim & dive triangular (5:30 p.m.)
•NB boys & girls cross country - Mississippi 8 Conference Championships @ North Branch Golf Course (3 p.m.)
•NB volleyball vs. Rush City (7 p.m.)

Wednesday, Oct. 21
•C-I football vs. Irondale (7 p.m.)
•NB football vs. Hermantown (7 p.m.)

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI, NORTH BRANCH SCOREBOARD: OCTOBER 8 - 13

October 8
C-I girls tennis 4, Duluth East 3 (Section 7AAA Team Semifinals)
C-I girls soccer 7, Hibbing 1
*Finley Nelson - hat trick
C-I boys soccer 1, Sauk Rapids-Rice 0
C-I volleyball 3, Monticello 1 (25-14, 16-25, 25-16, 25-23)
NB girls tennis 5, Grand Rapids 2 (Section 7AA Team Semifinals)
NB volleyball 3, Becker 1
NB boys soccer 1, Mesabi East 1

October 9
C-I girls swimming & diving @ Section 7AA True Team - 7th/8 teams
*Top finisher: Anika Michaelis - 1st place (diving)
C-I football 22, St. Francis 6
NB volleyball 0, Sauk Rapids-Rice 2
NB volleyball 2, Rockford 0
NB football 14, Grand Rapids 49
NB girls soccer 1, Big Lake 7

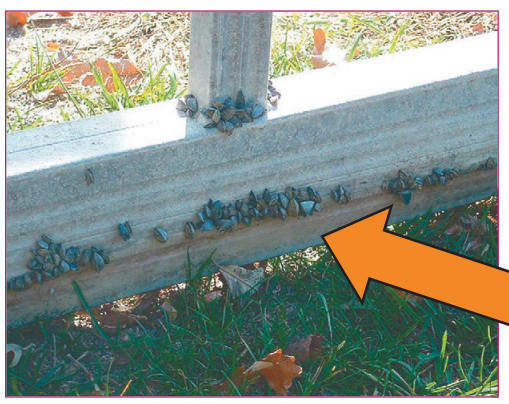
October 10
C-I girls tennis 2, Forest Lake 5 (Section 7AAA Team Championship)
*Bluejackets finish as Section 7AAA runner-up
NB volleyball 2, Pequot Lakes 1
NB volleyball 2, Bemidji 0
NB volleyball 2, St. Michael-Albertville 0

October 12
C-I volleyball 3, Big Lake 1

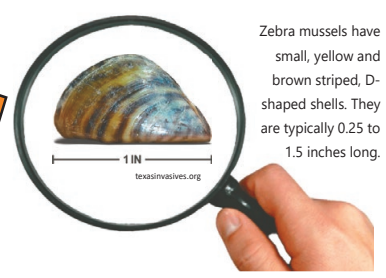
October 13
C-I girls tennis @ Section 7AAA Individual Tournament
*Advanced to semifinals: Scarlet Porta (singles), Anya Lowman & Allie Troolin (doubles)
C-I girls cross country @ Princeton
*Top finisher: Lucia Larson -23rd place (20:17.9)
C-I boys cross country @ Princeton
*Top finisher: Jeremiah Guldseth - 4th place (16:13.7)
C-I volleyball 0, Princeton 3
C-I girls swimming & diving 88, Princeton 96
*First place finishers: Carly Asmussen (200 freestyle, 100 butterfly), Raelynn Dybvig (50 freestyle, 100 freestyle), Anika Michaelis (diving), 200 freestyle relay, 400 freestyle relay
C-I boys soccer 0, Blaine 7 (Section 7AAA quarterfinals)
C-I girls soccer 0, Duluth East 4 (Section 7AAA quarterfinals)
NB girls cross country @ Princeton
*Top finisher: Lyla Stiner - 27th place (20:26.3)
NB boys cross country @ Princeton
*Top finisher: Caleb Rueter - 7th place (16:19.6)
NB volleyball 3, Big Lake 0 (25-16, 25-22, 25-18)
NB boys soccer 4, Chisago Lakes 1 (Section 7AA quarterfinals)
NB girls soccer 0, Duluth Denfeld 9 (Section 7AA quarterfinals)
NB girls tennis 0, Rock Ridge 7 (Section 7AA finals)
*Vikings finish as Section 7AA runner-up

Pulling Your Dock or Lift in Chisago County?

Make Sure to Check for Zebra Mussels



1. **INSPECT** your dock, lift, boat, or raft for zebra mussels. Check posts, wheels, and support bars. Juvenile zebra mussels feel like sand paper.
2. **REPORT** to waterresources@chisagocountymn.gov with detailed pictures and location if you find zebra mussels or any unknown aquatic invasive species.



Zebra mussels have small, yellow and brown striped, D-shaped shells. They are typically 0.25 to 1.5 inches long.

21 Day Dry Time State Law

Any dock, lift, or equipment removed from a lake or river needs to dry for **21 days** before being put in a different lake or river.

After drying for **21 days**, decontamination is still required (to remove all plants and animals) before putting it in another lake or river.

Chisago COUNTY USA

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ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR
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DNR tree seedlings available to order

More than 3.5 million native, bareroot tree and shrub seedlings are available for landowners to order for spring planting through the Minnesota DNR's State Forest Nursery.

Seedlings are ordered through the online ordering system (webapps.dnr.state.mn.us/nursery). Customers are encouraged to create a LoginMN account to track and view orders. Customers who check out as guests can still order, but will not be able to track and view their order history using the system. Those using cost share or claiming tax-exempt status will need to create an account.

"Our tree and shrub seedlings are great for large scale plantings and reforestation projects. Bareroot seedlings are easy to plant and some DNR offices even lend out tree planters you can attach to your tractor," DNR Assistant State Forest Nursery Manager Matt Thompson said.

The nursery has an ample supply of white pine and white spruce this year. These trees make great additions to the winter landscape by providing valuable wildlife shelter. The nursery is also excited to offer several varieties of shrubs, such as dogwoods, nannyberries and cherries, as well as pre-made mixed species seedling packets to fit woodland goals. The minimum order is 300 seedlings or one 250-seedling packet. Orders can be customized in increments of 100 per species. Depending on site conditions and future forest goals, an open acre can accommodate 300 to 700 seedlings.

Landowners are encouraged to contact a local DNR forester (mndnr.gov/woodlands/cfm-map.html) for site-specific planting advice. Landowners planting 3 acres or more of open, historically forested land, may also qualify for the DNR's Field to Forest Cost Share program (mndnr.gov/woodlands/cost-share.html). After planting is complete, the program reimburses up to 75% of tree planting costs and provides an additional $500 per acre. Funding is limited, so sign up early to give a forester plenty of time to visit the property and help create a tree planting plan, which is required to receive cost share.

Nursery seedling sales will remain open through Friday, March 12, 2027 or until stock is sold out. For inventory and ordering information, visit the nursery webpage (mndnr.gov/nursery).

~MN DNR

SOTA GIRLS: Social Media has expanded Sota Girls' reach beyond Isanti County

FROM PAGE I

marriage, and grief. Right now, we're doing a series on 'Who are you without the role?' It's about introducing yourself without saying you're a mom, grandma, or business owner, and getting back to the roots of who you are without being called Mom every day. We've talked about mental health. Leah from Body by Aesthetics came in to talk about weight loss and menopause. Serenity Circle came in to talk about mental health during Mental Health Awareness Month. It's been amazing, and it's a safe place for them. Lots of laughter, lots of tears, lots of note-taking. It's one of the ways we give back to the community."

Both women want to be part of the community.

"I was born and raised here in Isanti, just a couple of blocks from where we're located," Kay said. "When I was a kid, we had Mr. Pete's. That's where kids could hang out, have pizza, and play video games. It was the place to go after school. We haven't had anything like that in years, and now we're that place. We're a safe spot for kids to come after school. They love us, and it's so fun."

Sota Girls has also become a popular daytime workspace for remote workers, parents, and community groups, even though that was not the goal when the owners opened the shop.

"We're both business-minded women. Dirty soda was something very popular in the West and South, and we thought, 'We've got to jump on it.' We're so glad we did because what it created is a place for kids," Patrick said. "We just never expected that."

VIRAL SUCCESS AND EXPANDING MENUS

For those who have never tried a dirty soda, it's a soft drink that combines favorite sodas, lemonades, or energy drinks with flavored syrups and creamers. Sota Girls offers rotating seasonal menus alongside specialty items like apple nachos.

The dirty soda concept took off in Isanti, partly because of Patrick's unexpectedly viral TikTok video. "My son works in Duluth, and I wanted to show him all we had gotten done on the shop. I made this quick little video on TikTok to show him what it looked like, and we went viral."

Patrick quickly changed the name of her personal TikTok account to Sota Girls. The account now draws customers from across the state. "People would say, 'Hey, we saw you on TikTok. You show up on our page,'" Kay said. "I'd ask, 'Oh my gosh, are you from Cambridge?' They'd say, 'No, we're from Lakeville.' They drove all the way from Lakeville because we showed up on their For You page."

The demand led the co-owners to expand. Within weeks of opening, Patrick and Kay launched a mobile food trailer. It booked every weekend from June through October within its first three days. The trailer has since become a fixture at local graduation parties, baby showers, and high school homecoming events.

COMMUNITY OVER COMPETITION

Kay and Patrick describe their partnership as a good fit. "I can't even express how well it works with us. She's the yin to my yang, pretty much 100%," Patrick said. Despite managing multiple businesses, the co-owners prioritize family, with support from their spouses and children, who help run the shops.

That commitment extends to local schools and organizations. Even when their children aren't involved in specific programs, Sota Girls regularly donates to local football, hockey, and girls varsity soccer teams, as well as community silent auctions and health fundraisers. They also host vendor spotlights for local artisans who lack brick-and-mortar storefronts.

Kay said they want every customer to feel valued. "I'm a huge customer service person, so I always tell Christi that every single person, every single day, who walks in here could go anywhere else. They didn't have to come here today. They could have gone to Starbucks, Caribou, or Scooters. For some reason, they walked in here today. How will it be different for them?"

That same spirit shapes how the co-owners support other women-owned businesses, Kay said. "We are advocates for women-owned businesses, too, and we don't think of ourselves as competition. Women come in and say, 'I've been so nervous to ask you, but I'm thinking of starting a dirty soda business, opening a boutique or opening a craft studio.' We say, 'Let's sit down. What do you want to know?' We're an open book because that's how women should be. It should be community over competition."



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The Sota Girls food truck has been booked solid since it's inception. Above they serve drinks to students at the Cambridge-Isanti tailgate party during home coming celebrations.

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Frankensteiners Ball heats up Isanti County Fairgrounds

Record-breaking temperatures led to record-breaking participation at the 21st annual Frankensteiners Ball car show held at the Isanti County Fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 10.

The event, which is put on by the Frankensteiners Car Club based out of Minneapolis, attracts over 1500 cars (according to the organization's Facebook page) of all sorts of styles from vintage to custom modified. It also serves as one of the first trunk-or-treat of the Halloween season.

Proceeds from the event are donated to multiple organizations such as Family Pathways.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



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Braham chosen for Engage Rural Civic Arts Cohort

BY HOPE MURRAY
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Braham is one of five rural Minnesota communities selected for the 2026-2027 Engage Rural Civic Arts Cohort.

According to Department of Public Transformation, five teams of civic leaders, artists and cultural workers, and activators working in rural communities of fewer than 20,000 people in Minnesota and Native nations will participate in the 12-month curated cohort experience.

Each team will develop strategies for civic engagement and receive $12,000 in funding to support the strategies in their communities.

"The ... cohort will leverage art-based strategies to address loneliness and isolation, center land repatriation within economic development, create more representative and accessible pathways for civic engagement, navigate infrastructure projects affecting downtown businesses and residents, and cultivate belonging and youth leadership," according to a news release from Engage Rural.

Included among the Braham Core Team are Dr. Suzanne Begin, Braham Brewing Company owner Mary Lodin, city council candidate Keith Lusk and artist and children's book illustrator Dacia Sjolund.

According to Begin, as plans were coming together for the formation of ARTHOUSE Braham, she was "specifically looking for funding opportunities." Because she also has a relationship with the Initiative Foundation, the information on the cohort ended up in her email. After discussing the grant proposal with others who are working with Thriving Communities, she was compelled to apply.

"We applied, and we made the final cut, and Mary and I did an interview, but we had to be quiet. We couldn't tell anybody about making our final," Begin said. "The whole idea is using art as a way to gather and have civic conversations.

"One of the things that we identified in our application is there are people that gather, some places more than others, but there's a noticeable void. Not everybody is at the table. And in particular, those that are other challenged, be it physically or mentally."

Department of Public Transformation is a nonprofit organization that develops creative strategies for increased community connection, civic engagement, and equitable participation in rural places. Its 150-year vision is one where "rural communities across the country acknowledge, support, and integrate art, artists, and cultural workers as vital contributors to economic, community, civic, and social life."

Engage Rural Core Teams are made up of three to five rural community artists/cultural workers, community activators, and civic leaders. Selected Core Teams will spend 12 months developing creative strategies for civic engagement in their communities, with resources and guidance from DoPT staff.

Project funding will support the implementation of those strategies, and cohort members will participate in project check-ins, exchange visits, workshops, and gatherings with fellow cohort members, featured guests, and DoPT staff. Program offerings will be adapted for the unique cultural, economic, and social needs of each participating community. This program is application-based, and participation will be at no cost to selected cohort members.

Begin is looking forward to the challenge of what the cohort will bring to the community and the possibility of it growing in the future and involving more local residents.

"We purposely were vague in our application, because the whole idea of using art as a tool for engagement is fascinating," she said. "There are many social needs in this community, but we can't attack them until all the voices are heard."

Isanti New Hope Church to move

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Isanti branch of New Hope Community Church will be moving, albeit a relatively short distance.

The church, which is currently located on Dahlin Ave NE near downtown Isanti, previously purchased 40 acres of land just to the south of Coborn's and the Isanti Municipal Liquor Store. Before construction is to begin, the church requested the land be annexed into the city in order for city water and sewer to be extended onto the property.

According to Community Development Director Stephanie Hillesheim, the property may be annexed into the city via property owner petition since it is contiguous to the current city limits. Additionally, the property runs adjacent to a B-2 Business District and can be zoned the same once annexed. B-2 Business Districts allow for religious institutions.

After a required public hearing before the Planning Commission in August, the commission unanimously recommended approving the annexation request.

In addition to approving the annexation, the council approved a request from the church to pay off a deferred assessment balance of $158,502.63 through a structured, two-year repayment plan rather than a single lump-sum payment upon annexation. The deferred assessment was originally levied in 2008 with an original amount of $77,888.27.

The church has not publicly announced a timetable for when the new church building will begin or be completed.

ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Sept. 27 - Oct. 10. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Chaz Lee Brosh Paulson (DOB 02/01/1989) of Blaine, was charged Sept. 29 with Receiving Stolen Property.

Ryan Lloyd Cecka (DOB 11/29/1982) of Zimmerman, was charged Oct. 5 with one count of Burglary - 3rd Degree - Enters w/out consent with intent to Steal/Commit Felony or Gross Misdemeanor; and one count of Damage to Property - 1st Degree - Value Reduced Over $1000.

Tyler Glenn Erickson (DOB 03/09/1995) of Isanti, was charged Oct. 6 with Assault - 4th Degree - Peace Officer - Demonstrable bodily harm.

Jacob Robert Mundt (DOB 11/11/1990) of Minneapolis, was charged on Oct. 6 with Domestic Assault.

Marcus Jeffrey Lucas (DOB 11/09/1954) of Isanti, was charged Oct. 6 with Receiving Stolen Property.

Zachary Cain Clark (DOB 04/23/1985) of Braham, was charged Oct. 6 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Daniel Harold Mittelstadt (DOB 09/25/1974) of St. Paul, was charged Oct. 6 with one count of Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent; and one count of Receiving Stolen Property.

Julie Kay Lind (04/20/1963) of Harris, was charged Oct. 7 with Criminal Vehicular Homicide - Operate Motor Vehicle in Grossly Negligent Manner.

Tracy Edward Zins (DOB 09/03/1967) of Cambridge, was charged Oct. 8 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Sept. 27 - Oct. 10. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Dennis Steven Reller (DOB 08/08/1984) of Forest Lake, was charged Sept. 28 with one count of Drugs - 2nd Degree - Possess 25 grams or more cocaine or methamphetamine; and one count of Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

Kenneth Davids Lee, Jr. (DOB 03/01/1997) of Lindstrom, was charged Oct. 1 with Fugitive from Justice from Other State.

Jacob Steven Coult (DOB 08/31/1982) of Lindstrom, was charged Oct. 2 with Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle.

Randy Thomas Bedell (DOB 09/26/1978) of Pine City, was charged Oct. 5 with Fugitive from Justice from Other State.

Chad Lewis Larsen (DOB 08/13/1989) of Miltown, WI, was charged Oct. 6 with Theft-Take/Drive Motor Vehicle-No Owner Consent.

Jessica Christine Asia (DOB 05/08/1981) of Roseville, was charged Oct. 9 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

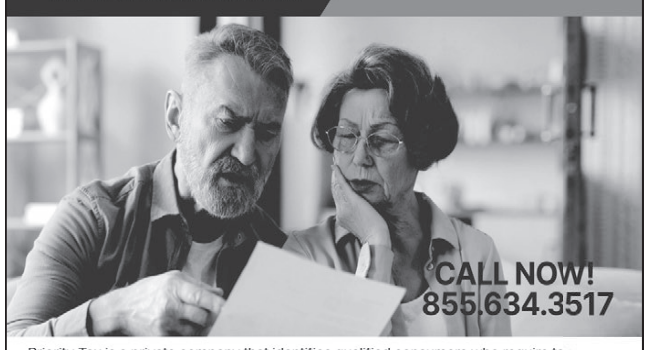
Danielle Melissa Davis (DOB 08/19/1982) of Pine City, was charged Oct. 9 with one count of Burglary - 3rd Degree - Enters w/out consent with intent to Steal/Commit Felony or Gross Misdemeanor; and one count of Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Kaleb Joseph Wasson (DOB 07/12/2002) of Chisago City, was charged Oct. 9 with Damage to Property - 1st Degree - Value Reduced Over $1000.

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www.CountyStar.com

Bountiful Boutiques return to Rush City Nov. 6-8

Rush City's 13th annual Bountiful Boutiques pop-up event will run Nov. 6-8 at nine locations on or near Old Highway 61.

More than 40 local artists, cooks and crafters will offer handcrafted and other goods. The boutiques will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

Shoppers can pick up a passport at their first stop or use the one included with this year's postcard. Those who visit all nine locations can enter to win a grand prize. A gift basket also will be given away at each location.

A free "Shop, Laugh, Give. Win" after-hours event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at Chucker's Spare Room. The evening will include a silent auction, door prizes, a wine raffle and games. Proceeds from the auction, games and other activities will benefit the Rush City Food Shelf. Participating boutique vendors also will support the local food shelf.



FACEBOOK

Shopers at Bountiful Boutiques in Rush City in 2025

The public is invited. More information is available on Facebook at Rush City's Bountiful Boutiques. ~ Bountiful Boutiques



Everything Equine and Wine Roadshow coming to North Branch

University of Minnesota Extension will present its "Everything Equine and Wine" Roadshow Thursday, Nov. 5, at North Ridge Winery in North Branch.

The educational event, designed for horse owners ages 18 and older, will run from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. and combine horse-care education with a social dinner.

Topics will include Minnesota Paid Leave rules for horse lovers, practical parasite control strategies and tips for extending hay supplies. The presentations will provide research-backed strategies for horse health and pasture management.

Check-in and dinner begin at 5:30 p.m. Dinner is included with registration. Alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages will be available for purchase on-site.

Registration is required and ends one week before the event or when capacity is reached.

To register and learn more, visit z.umn.edu/WAGN. ~ University of Minnesota Extension

WORSHIP *guide*

Baptist

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

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

Catholic

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

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

Evangelical Covenant

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

Evangelical Free

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA)
621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge
763-689-1211
Traditional | 8:30 am
Contemporary | 9:15 & 10:30
KidZone 9:15 and 10:30
www.cambridgelutheran.org
Facebook: fb.com/Cambridgelutheran
YouTube: tinyurl.com/Cambridgelutheran

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

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

Joy Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)
33525 Jefferson Street NE, Cambridge
New Location
763-689-4355
Pastor James Ritter
8:30 a.m. Traditional Service
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Living Branch Lutheran Church (LCMS)
6486 Elm St (PO Box 335),
North Branch
651-674-5576
Pastor Glen Kleppe
Sunday Worship 8am
Sunday Adult Bible Study 9:15am
Sunday School 9:15am
www.livingbranch.org
email: office@livingbranch.org

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

Salem Lutheran Church
4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017.
763-689-1687
Join us for worship every Sunday at 9am
Sunday School 9:30am resuming in the Fall
Coffee fellowship after worship
www.salemlutherandalbo.com

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

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

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch
651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon
In person and online worship
8 & 10 a.m. Worship
9 a.m. Coffee Hour/Fellowship
9 a.m. Sunday School
www.trinitynorthbranch.org
office@trinitynorthbranch.org

Methodist

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

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

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

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

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

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PUBLIC NOTICES

FORECLOSURES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 4, 2020 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $170,848.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Amy Helget and Hans Solberg, both single MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Bay Equity LLC, its successors and assigns TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#:1006166-0004098637-5 SERVICER: Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services LENDER: Bay Equity LLC. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Isanti County Minnesota, Recorder, on May 11, 2020, as Document No. A492285. ASSIGNED TO: Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 06/06/2023 and recorded on 06/09/2023 as Document No. A523820 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 9, Woodcrest Park, Isanti County, Minnesota PROPERTY ADDRESS: 33560 Rochester St NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 PROPERTY I.D: 03.058.0330 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Four and 34/100 ($155,724.34) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00 AM on November 10, 2026 PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff`s Office, 2440 Main Street South, Cambridge MN 55008 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale.If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on May 10, 2027, or the next business day if May 10, 2027 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "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." MORTGAGORS RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None Dated: September 24, 2026 SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Edinburgh Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: (248) 335-9200 Our File No. 25MN00142-2 A-4887747 09/24/2026, 10/01/2026, 10/08/2026, 10/15/2026, 10/22/2026, 10/29/2026

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on September 24; October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2026

NOTICES

SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026

The complete minutes are available for public inspection at the office of the City Administrator, 300 3rd Ave. NE, Cambridge, Minnesota.

Members Present: Mayor James Godfrey; Council Members Aaron Berg, Bob Shogren, Molly Christian, and Mark Ziebarth.

• Called meeting to order at 6:00 pm

• Approved Consent Agenda Items A through H

• Declared October 4-10th, 2026 as Fire Prevention Week

• Declared October as Manufacturing Month

• Reviewed the Body Worn Camera Audit Results

• Reviewed the Post Board Audit Results

• Approved Conditional Offers for the Finance Department

• Approved the Purchase of Large Print Scanner for Community Development

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 2026

CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION ORDINANCE NO. 2026-05

On September 28th, 2026, the City Council of the City of East Bethel adopted Ordinance No. 2026-05 amending Chapter 50, Section 50-1, parts (a) & (b)(1) of the East Bethel Code of Ordinances relating to Rental Properties. The amendments are set forth below and shall become effective ten (10) calendar days after official publication.

Section 1. Amendment to Section 50-1(a) – License required; definitions. Section 50-1(a) of the East Bethel Code of Ordinances is amended as follows:

Delete: *No person shall allow to be occupied or let to another for occupancy a unit or units in a rental dwelling for which a license has not been granted by the city.*

Add: *No person shall allow to be occupied or let to another for occupancy a unit or units in a rental dwelling for a period of thirty (30) consecutive days or more for which a license has not been granted by the City. Short-term rentals involving occupancy for periods of less than thirty (30) consecutive days shall be regulated pursuant to Chapter 51 of this Code and shall not be subject to the licensing requirements of this Chapter.*

Section 2. Amendment to Section 50-1(b)(1) – Rental Dwelling Definition. Section 50-1(b)(1) of the East Bethel Code of Ordinances is amended as follows:

Delete: *Rental dwelling means any structure or portion thereof which is designated or used for residential occupancy by one or more persons who are not the owner or a member of the owner's family. For the purpose of this chapter, family is defined as follows: Family means those persons legally related to each other in a linear relationship such as spouses, grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren and siblings. Family does not include branching relationships such as aunts, uncles or cousins.*

Add: *Rental dwelling means any structure or portion thereof which is designated or used for residential occupancy by one or more persons who are not the owner or a member of the owner's family, where such occupancy is for a period of thirty (30) consecutive days or more. A rental dwelling does not include a short-term rental regulated pursuant to Chapter 51 of this Code. For purpose of this Chapter, family means those persons legally related to each other in a linear relationship such as spouses, grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren, and siblings. Family does not include branching relationships such as aunts, uncles, or cousins.*

The full text of Ordinance No. 2026-05 is available for inspection at East Bethel City Hall during regular business hours, located at 2241 221St Ave. NE, East Bethel, MN 55001 and may also be obtained by contacting the City Office at 763-367-7844. This Notice shall be published in the City's official newspaper on October 15th, 2026 or promptly thereafter.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 2026

CITY OF EAST BETHEL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07

On September 28th, 2026, the City Council of the City of East Bethel adopted Ordinance No. 2026-07 amending Appendix A, Section 25.2 Fence height of the East Bethel Code relating to fence height in required front yards abutting county highways. The amendments are set forth below and shall become effective ten (10) calendar days after official publication.

Sec 25.2 Fence height., Part D is amended to read:

D. Exception for front yards abutting a County Highway. Notwithstanding subsection C above, fences six feet in height and less may be placed within a required front yard that also abuts a County Highway, provided the fence complies with applicable traffic visibility requirements set forth herein.

and,

Existing subsection D, "Fences four feet in height and less," shall be redesignated as subsection E within the same 25.2 subsection.

The full text of Ordinance No. 2026-07 is available for inspection at East Bethel City Hall during regular business hours, located at 2241 221St Ave. NE, East Bethel, MN 55001 and may also be obtained by contacting the City Office at 763-367-7844. This Notice shall be published in the City's official newspaper on October 15th, 2026 or promptly thereafter.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 2026

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY

District Court 10th Judicial District Court File Number: 30-PR-26-73 Case Type: Informal Probate Notice of Informal Probate of Will and

Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors

In re the Estate of Janet Elizabeth Anderson a/k/a Janet E. Anderson, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

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

Last Will dated December 2, 2025

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

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

Name:

Willy J Anderson

Sarah J Anderson

Address:

38687 Oakview AVE North Branch MN 55056

212 E St George AVE Grantsburg WI 54840

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

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

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

Attorney for Personal Representative CLARK A JOSLIN

Attorney License No.: 52802

221 NW 2nd Avenue

Cambridge MN 55008

Telephone: 763-689-4101

E-Mail: cjoslin@joslinmoore.com

Probate Registrar

Dated: October 9, 2026

Erin Boettcher, Court Administrator

Dated: October 9, 2026

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 22, 2026

STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY DISTRICT COURT 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Court File Number: 30-PR-26-46 Case Type: Informal Probate

Notice of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors (Without a Will)

In re the Estate of Marcellus Michael Kalthoff, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Probate Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been granted.

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

Self- Represented Litigant: Katherine M. Hedges

Address: 2364 Golf DR Woodbury MN 55129

Email:

Phone Number:

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

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

Probate Registrar

Dated: August 4, 2026

Erin Boettcher, Court Administrator

Dated: August 4, 2026

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 22, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

CITY OF HARRIS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Harris Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, October 26, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Harris City Hall, 43970 Ginger Avenue, Harris, MN, to consider an amendment to Chapters 51: Water Regulations and 53: Sewer Regulations .

All interested persons may appear and be heard. Written comments may be submitted prior to or at the hearing.

The Planning Commission will forward a recommendation to the City Council, which is scheduled to consider the matter at its November 9, 2026 meeting.

For information, contact the City of Harris at (651) 674-7546 or clerk@harrismn.com.

Tanya Smolke, City Clerk

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 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: **Bear Painting**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **22543 E Martin Lake Dr NE Stacy MN 55079 USA**

APPLICANT(S):

Name: **Mac Groveland Painting Inc.**

Address: **22543 E Martin Lake Dr NE Stacy MN 55079 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: **Eli Baumann**

MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **eli@macgrovepainting.com**

Work Item **1675362100023**

Original File Number **1675362100023**

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

10/07/2026 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 22, 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: **White Bear Painting**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **22543 E Martin Lake Dr NE Stacy MN 55079 USA**

APPLICANT(S):

Name: **Mac Groveland Painting Inc.**

Address: **22543 E Martin Lake Dr NE Stacy MN 55079 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: **Eli Baumann**

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **eli@macgrovepainting.com**

Work Item **1675366000025**

Original File Number **1675366000025**

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

10/07/2026 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 22, 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: Mac Grove Painting

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 200 Exchange St. S., Unit 319, Saint Paul, MN 55102, USA

APPLICANT(S):

Name: Eli Baumann

Address: 200 Exchange St. S., Unit 319, Saint Paul, MN 55102

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: Eli Baumann

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: eliteminn@gmail.com

Work Item 1564281200022

Original File Number 1564281200022

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED June 9, 2025 11:59 PM

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 22, 2026

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE ASSUMED NAME I AMENDMENT TO ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

Read the instructions before completing this form. Filing Fee: $50 for expedited service in-person and online filings, $30 if submitted by mail 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 consumers to be able to identify those conducting business. Note: Information provided when filing a business entity is public data and may be viewable online. This includes but is not limited to all individual names and addresses.

1. File Number: (Required) List the name of this company currently on file with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State: (Required) 1564281200022. Mac Grove Painting

AMENDMENT OPTIONS: Complete as many amendment options that apply. Complete an option only if you are changing the information related to that option.

2. The assumed name is changed to: No change

3. The principal place of business is changed to: 22543 E. Martin Lake Drive NE, Stacy, MN 55079

4. The mailing address is changed to: (only list a mailing address if you cannot receive mail at the principal place of business address). If you're removing the mailing address, you must list "NONE". No change listed

5. The applicant is changed to: (Applicant is the name and address of all persons, or entity conducting business under the above Assumed Name). Note: Updating the Applicant field will replace all current applicants on file. Attach additional sheets if necessary. A PO Box by itself is not acceptable.

• Mac Groveland Painting Inc., 22543 E. Martin Lake Drive NE, Stacy, MN 55079

• Eli Baumann, 22543 E. Martin Lake Drive NE, Stacy, MN 55079

6. 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: September 29, 2026

Printed name and title: Eli Baumann, Owner, Mac Groveland Painting Inc.

Email Address for Official Notices Enter an email address to which the Secretary of State can forward official notices required by law and other notices: eli@macgrovepainting.com

Check here to have your email address excluded from requests for bulk data, to the extent allowed by Minnesota law.

List a name and daytime phone number of a person who can be contacted about this form: Eli Baumann, (651) 216-8082 Filed: October 2, 2026, 11:59 p.m. Work item: 1671933700025

Entities that own, lease, or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed must register with the MN Dept. of Agriculture's Corporate Farm Program. Does this entity own, lease, or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed?

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 15, 22, 2026



Central MN Council on Aging Advisory Committee Opening

Central Minnesota Council on Aging is currently accepting applications to fill the **Isanti County** representative seat on our advisory committee, effective January 2027. Are you an engaged aging service provider, older adult, family caregiver, or community member looking for an opportunity to make a positive difference? If you either work or live in Isanti County you could be a candidate for this committee.

As a member of the Advisory Committee you will play a vital role in:

- Advising the board of directors in the development of our area plan.
- Identifying the needs of older adults and caregivers in the region.
- Reviewing grant proposals and making funding recommendations to the board of directors.

For application or more information go to: www.cmcoa.org

Central MN Council on Aging
cmcoa
Supporting our aging community

Application deadline: October 27, 2026

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Clark A. Joslin
221 NW 2nd Ave., Cambridge
763-689-4101

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CLASSIFIEDS

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Alterations and clothing repairs, 25 years experience. 320-396-4152 Contact Rosemary. Braham

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

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

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

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

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

112 Tree Service

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

115 Heating & Cooling

GAS FURNACE: Ruud 96% efficiency, 70k BTU, two-stage , like new $400, Install available 320-364-3511.

150 Help Wanted

AMERY HOUSING AUTHORITY seeks Facility Manager for Evergreen Village Apartments. Handle tenant applications, rent collection, activities, lunch program. Requires 2 years office/bookkeeping experience, QuickBooks, Microsoft Office. Medical experience preferred. Email resumé: aha@ameryhousing.org Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs.

BASS LAKE LUMBER - Grantsburg, WI is hiring an Inside Sales & Hardware Associate. Strong computer/organizational skills, building materials experience a plus. Apply in person or call 715-488-2471. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

BASS LAKE LUMBER - Grantsburg, WI is hiring a Forklift Operator/Backup Dispatcher for their lumber yard. Computer skills required, hands-on work, customer service focus. Apply in person or call 715-488-2471. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

FULL-TIME CAREGIVER needed in our Amery home, Monday-Friday, 9am - 5pm. Assist wife with progressive MS, light housekeeping, meal prep. No lifting required. $18-$20/ hour. Call Matthew 715-554-3638. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

GRANTSBURG SCHOOL DISTRICT has an immediate opening for Student Information Support (Scheduling) at iForward online charter school. Full-time, 12-month, on-site. Strong organizational skills needed. Details and apply at www.gk12.net. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

KORTH TRANSFER hiring full-time dairy hauling drivers. Class A CDL with tanker required. $0.58/mile, set days off, 16 paid holidays, up to 5 weeks vacation, retirement plan. Apply: www.korthtransfer.com or 1300 Fuhrman Dr., Reedsburg. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

MCNALLY INDUSTRIES, Grantsburg, seeks Manufacturing Programming Engineer II. Develop CNC programs for precision parts. BS degree and 5-7+ years experience required. Full benefits, 401K match, 9/80 schedule. Resume: hr@mcnallyindustries.com. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

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

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEBSTER seeks School Bus Drivers. $26.09/hour plus $1,500 sign-on bonus. Must have or be willing to obtain CDL with S and P endorsements. Apply at District Office or www.webster.k12.wi.us. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEBSTER seeks applicants for Youth Sports Coordinator, High School Boys Basketball JV2 Coach, High School Assistant Hockey Coach, and Middle School Girls Basketball Coach. Details: www.webster.k12.wi.us/district/employmentopportunities.cfm. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA seeks part-time Municipal Court Clerk, 10-15 hours/week, $20-$26/hour. Manage case files, dockets, fines; assist Municipal Judge. Clerical experience preferred. Email court@vil.osceola.wi.us for application. Open until filled. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

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300 For Sale

For Sale: Bicycles-

Trek 7300 hybrid, 57 cm frame, well maintained $190; Trek 7300 hybrid, 48 cm frame with extra soft seat, well maintained $190 – buy both and get 2 helmets and a mobile wooden rack for hanging them on; a pair of Thule roof mount bike racks, never used- bought new for $500, selling for $140. Cash only. 763-350-3540.

305 Pets/Services

Beautiful chai color English Setter puppies available $800. Contact 320-360-5568

351 Antiques

Antiques Wanted. Postcards, WW2, items, duck, fish decoys, Halloween, hunting knives, fountain pens, guns, smoking pipes, fishing lures, Native American Items. Gary 651-238-0909.

358 Firewood

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

362 Miscellaneous

Buying sports card collections call Tom 612-701-7396

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!

407 Estate Sales

Estate Sale October 15th-17th

Furniture, tools, bikes, books, household wares, and much more!
27453 Bayshore Dr NW, Isanti

452 Rentals/ Residential

Mora Apartments 2 bed, 1 bath, $995/month. 1 bed, 1 bath, $875/month. Studio $740/month. Washer/Dryer on-site. No pets, no smoking/vaping/e-cigs. 612-470-3319, moratrovemanagement@gmail.com

452 Rentals/ Residential

Studio apartment available near Mora or Hinckley $850/month. No smoking, no pets. Contact 320-360-5568

501 Real Estate Wanted

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

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SHAWN WILLIAMS

CITY OF NORTH BRANCH

MAYOR CANDIDATE

Question 1: Why are you running for election?
I have deep roots in North Branch and a desire to serve the community. I am running for Mayor because I believe in a city that works for everyone. A city with safe neighborhoods and parks where families can go at ease, accessible housing, and thriving commercial growth. With my extensive municipal background, I have the experience to deliver real results. The current administration has made too many poor decisions that have financially harmed all North Branch residents; we can do much better!

Working to balance revenue and expenditures - Bring commercial growth - Investing in infrastructure

I am asking for your support to build a strong future together.

Question 2: Besides taxes, If you were only allowed to focus on one topic during your term, what would that topic be and why?
I would prioritize strengthening and investing in our community's infrastructure and utility systems. Reliable roads, water and sewer systems, public safety, and other essential infrastructure are the foundation of a strong, safe, and growing community.
My focus would be on maintaining the infrastructure we already have, planning responsibly for future needs, and prioritizing strategic projects that prevent small problems from becoming costly ones. Good infrastructure supports residents, helps local businesses, improves quality of life, and better prepares our community for future growth and challenges.
A strong infrastructure strategy also requires thoughtful financial planning. That means maximizing the revenue streams we already have while looking for opportunities to increase and identify new sources of revenue. Developing new revenue opportunities can help shift more of the financial burden away from property taxes and levies, while ensuring we have the resources necessary to maintain and improve the systems our community depends on.

Question 3: What process will you take for deciding how to vote on agenda topics, especially ones that are of greater public interest?
I do not support Flock cameras. The Flock camera debate in North Branch is a good example of why listening to residents must be part of the decision-making process from the beginning. Decisions that affect the community should not be made without first understanding the concerns, priorities, and perspectives of the residents who live there. In this case, residents pushed hard enough to get city leaders to take a closer look at the decision and the contract involved. The community pressure forced leadership to see that Flock was not the right choice for our community. However, the city was then left facing significant costs to get out of the contract. Costs that could have been avoided or reduced if the contract and its implications had been fully understood before the decision was made.
In my role as Director of Public Works and Utilities for the City of North Branch, I gained firsthand experience managing municipal infrastructure and understanding the responsibilities that come with providing essential services. Combined with 30+ years serving on the North Branch Township Board, including my current role as appointed clerk, I have gained extensive experience and a strong network of colleagues I can rely on for additional perspective. Using this experience and perspective, I will amplify residents' voices and help build a better future for all North Branch residents.
My approach will be to make informed decisions in our residents' best interest by listening to residents, gathering the facts, and considering the financial and long-term impacts. I believe residents should feel heard and know that I value their input.

Prepared and paid for by Shawn Williams, 5722 409th Ct, North Branch, MN 55056

Low Vision
SUPPORT GROUP

OCTOBER 22

Thursday, October 22
2:00-3:30 PM
Mora United Methodist Church
500 Clark Street | Mora, MN 55051

You don't have to face vision loss alone.

The **Low Vision Support Group** welcomes individuals experiencing vision loss, along with loved ones. Connect with others who truly understand, share experiences and coping strategies, and discover resources that support independence and confidence in daily life. Sponsored and led by **State Services for the Blind**, with support from Welia Health.

Have questions or want to learn more?
Call Stacy Shamblott, CTRS, Aging Eyes Program Coordinator, at **651.249.5118**.

Scan the QR code for more upcoming dates or visit **WeliaHealth.org/SupportGroups** to explore all Welia Health Support Groups.

welia HEALTH

Best of Reader's Choice Award

Open House

When: 9AM – 6PM
Wed., Oct. 28th & Thurs., Oct. 29th

Where: 930 S Cleveland, Cambridge, MN

Readers' Choice 2026 BEST of Isanti-Chisago County

We want to celebrate with you!

Stop by to pick up your Best of Reader's Choice Award

Take a photo with your award!
We look forward to seeing you there!

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

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10am-2pm

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2026 FALL HOME Improvement Guide

COST-EFFECTIVE CURB APPEAL BOOSTERS

One shouldn't judge a book by its cover. However, that often is hard to do, particularly when it comes to homes. Curb appeal bears significant influence regarding how a property is perceived. A property that is neat and aesthetically appealing probably will be preferable to one that looks like the homeowners did not maintain it.

Boosting curb appeal is a common focus of sellers before listing a property. But what can those who don't have big budgets for major overhauls do to improve their curb appeal? Plenty of projects can offer maximum output with minimal investment.

Refresh the front door: Painting the front door can add brightness and improve the look of a home's entryway. Most exterior paint costs between $30 and $40 per gallon, so this is undeniably a budget-friendly improvement. If money allows, replacing the door altogether will generate bang for your buck.

Improve or add landscaping elements: Landscaping should be designed to highlight the home's best features. It should look symmetrical and feel manicured. If it's not possible to plant new flowers or bushes, simply cleaning up debris and weeds, and trimming existing greenery can make it feel neater and more polished.

Clean up: Power-washing the siding, cement walkways and garage door can create instant impact. It's amazing how much dirt and mildew can reduce the luster of a home. Cleaning off years of grime can be a fast and inexpensive refresh.

Reseal the driveway: Make sure the driveway is clean and tidy. If it has cracks or discoloration, filling in cracks and applying a new coat of sealer will make a big difference. Homeowners can hire someone to reseal the driveway or do the work on their own.

Add more lighting: Updating front porch lights and accent lights around the property will cast a more positive glow on a home, both literally and figuratively.

Add a seating area: If space by the front door allows, add a bench or some chairs to create a welcoming seating area. A potted plant or two nearby will help the area seem intentional.

Improving curb appeal doesn't have to cost a lot of money. A few easy touches can boost the look of any property.

Isanti Rental .com
421 W Dual Blvd. Isanti, MN 55040
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