



HEARING THE CALL: Class of 2026 Bluejacket Hall of Fame inductees formally honored. **PAGE 9**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

You say you want a revolution

Sons of the American Revolution member Grant Kruger, portraying George Washington, does a demonstration firing of a Revolutionary War-era musket during the Isanti County Historical Society's Heritage Day on Saturday, Aug. 15.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The city of Cambridge will create an ADA pedestrian ramp in the sidewalk directly out from the Post Office's ramp. The two vehicles pictured show approximately where handicapped parking spots will be placed.

ADA sidewalk ramp to be added in front of post office

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

People with mobility issues will have easier access to the Cambridge Post Office; however, it will not happen until sometime next summer.

The Cambridge City Council unanimously approved installing an ADA pedestrian ramp midway down the sidewalk, right in front of the Post Office's ADA ramp into the building. Additionally, the parking spots on either side of the ramps will be designated as handicapped spots to prevent the new ramp from being blocked by non-handi-

capped-tagged vehicles.

The action was the result of a resident's request during last month's public forum portion of a council meeting. The resident complained the current handicapped parking spot, which is on Second Avenue SW, is still a considerable distance away from the ramp into the Post Office, which is on the south side of the building. At the same time, she said the solution couldn't be to simply move the handicapped parking spot to in front of the building on Main

SEE **RAMP**, PAGE 2

North Branch extends Flock pause, awaits cancellation consequences

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The city of North Branch is officially extending its pause on the installation of additional Flock license plate readers around the city and is asking Flock to take down the three cameras already installed. However, the council stopped short of canceling the contract until it finds out the financial implications of canceling it. According to City Admin-

'We just don't have the right answers to know how we could cancel this (contract).'

Kevin Schieber
North Branch Mayor

istrator Matthew Hill, while Flock was not charging the city for the initial installation of the cameras, "any request to remove already installed cameras would likely fall outside the project's original scope."

Additionally, Hill said Police Chief Dan Meyer has made attempts to contact Flock to find out what the costs would be for the cameras' removal and for the outright cancellation of the contract, which was for three

years at a cost of \$63,000. As of the Aug. 12 meeting, however, Flock has not provided that information.

Mayor Kevin Schieber said he is recommending an indefinite pause because, "I think there are some questions we need to get answered first.

"We just don't have the right answers to know how we could cancel this (contract)," Schieber said. "That's not saying we are not going to — I feel like that is the right path to go

down — (but) I think we just need more answers."

Council member Patrick Meacham said he was fine with the pause in order to get more answers; however, he felt the council should openly schedule which upcoming meeting the council will formally vote on canceling the contract. He said that would show residents they were serious about putting this issue to bed rather than dragging it out an unknown

SEE **FLOCK**, PAGE 2

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Cambridge council rejects sod request

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The grass isn't always greener when using sod, at least when comparing it to other replacement methods.

That's the message that was sent by the Cambridge City Council in response to a petition request by residents of South Dellwood Street. The 17 signers were calling for the city to replace the grass that has been torn up by the street construction project along Dellwood with sod rather than via hydroseeding.

According to City Administrator Evan Vogel, the city previously had used sod to replace grass along street improvement projects. However, in recent years, the sod hasn't been surviving despite the city watering it for the required 30 days after planting. He added that often, the sod dies out during the winter and therefore isn't discovered until the following spring. Specifically, Vogel used the 2024 project as an example where, in the spring of 2025, the city had to pay an extra \$69,000 to re-sod.

Because of this, Vogel said the city changed its project contracts to call for replacing the grass with hydro-mulch seeding. While admittedly this method takes longer to provide a fully green yard, the likeli-

hood of it establishing a deeper root system and thus surviving for years is much higher.

According to City Engineer Greg Anderson, the added cost of now sodding the 17 properties would be approximately \$12,900. However, as was pointed out by Mayor Jim Godfrey, if the city were to switch to sod for these properties, it would have to extend the same offer to all other properties within the 2026 project areas. To do that could potentially increase the cost to the city — and therefore all taxpayers — by approximately \$150,000. He added that number could be much higher if any of the initial sod didn't take and had to be re-sodded next spring.

Vogel admitted the residents probably feel misled, as their original grass was sod, and during the neighborhood meetings it wasn't specifically mentioned that the grass wouldn't be replaced with sod. Anderson also admitted they had to tear up more than just the boulevard grass and city-owned right-of-way in order to attach each residence to the new sewer system. How much of each resident's yard was disturbed, however, varied.

Council member Mark Ziebarth noted he has personal experience on this matter as his property was part of the 2024 street improvement project.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Residences along the west side of South Dellwood Street have various amounts of their front lawns torn up during the street improvement project. Seventeen of the residents unsuccessfully petitioned the city to replace the damaged grass with sod instead of via hydro seeding.

He said it was pretty obvious which residents continued to water the sod and which ones stopped. Those who stopped saw their sod die by the spring. In his own yard, he saw had both sod and hydro seed and both wound up surviving.

Ronda Szlavich, who lives in that area and served as the spokesperson for the petitioners, said they were fine with the boulevard being hydroseeded since it was never sodded to begin with. However, the grass from the walking path to their doorsteps was originally sod, and all the neighbors meticulously kept it full and green. She added that the apartment complex to the south of their properties used hydroseeding, and it looks terrible.

"We were told (at the neighborhood meetings) that our lawns would be put back to the way they were," Szlavich said. "When we bought our homes, we had sod. We are thinking, in our minds, sod, not hydro seed."

Council members Molly Christian and Aaron Berg agreed that in hindsight, and probably going forward with future projects, some form of voluntary increased assessment would be appropriate for those who insist on going with sod. However, that would also need to include some form of waiver stating that if the sod dies after 30 days, the property owner would bear the entire re-sodding cost.

Vogel said implementing a policy like that, or even going

with an outright waiver where a homeowner rejects the use of hydro seeding and agrees to pay for sod out of their own pockets, would be "hazardous."

Ultimately, Christian reluctantly made a motion to go with the original contract of hydro seeding.

"I know it's not going to be a popular (motion), but it's the responsible one," Christian said. "Otherwise, we are talking about the potential of over \$200,000 (in costs)."

"I agree with everything you said," Godfrey added. "Hundreds of thousands of dollars, how is that fair to every taxpayer?"

The motion was approved 3-2, with Berg and Council member Bob Shogren voting nay.

Old Town to get 'bare bones' improvements

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

After months and months of planning, replanning, adjusting, seeking feedback, and virtual haggling, North Branch's Northwest Old Town street improvement project is ready to go forward, with the most basic of improvements being made.

The approved project will include the replacement of an undersized water main located along nine blocks of the project area, spot improvements of sanitary sewer located in areas where water main replacement would occur, and pavement replacement in areas of water main replacement.

The total cost of the project is now estimated at just over \$2.2 million. Most importantly, at least as far as the affected residences are concerned, this "bare bones" project will not have an assessment imposed on each of the properties.

This plan, however, may not mean the final plan is set in stone — or maybe more appropriately, asphalt. The council is keeping open the possibility of installing a sidewalk along Elm Street. That addition would be a new, separate project whose funding might include a "Safe Route to School" grant.

ASH TREE COUNT

Like many cities, North Branch is facing a major infestation of Emerald Ash Borer unless some sort of mitigation plan is put into motion.

"The city of North Branch is currently facing a significant public safety and infrastructure risk due to the Emerald Ash Borer," City Administrator Matthew Hill said.

Hill said after consulting with WSB, it has been determined the city must

prioritize the mitigation of brittle, dead ash trees. The first step in this process is to determine how many Ash trees are currently planted on public property, which includes parks, boulevards and other city-owned grounds.

He said the Minnesota DNR did a "rapid assessment," which basically means they slowly drove around city streets counting Ash trees. That assessment yielded approximately 2,700 Ash trees; however, that also included trees planted on private properties. Hill said a more accurate estimate would be between 1,500 to 2,000 Ash trees on public land.

Hill recommended commissioning WSB to do a detailed count that would include not only the number but an estimate of how many trees might already be infected with EAB. Once this count is complete, that would help staff determine the next steps to take, which would most likely include cutting down dead or dying trees, plus possibly stump removal.

Hill said removal of the trees would cost a minimum of \$50,000, depending on how many trees would need to be removed. He added that while there are some grants out there specifically geared toward EAB, the city isn't eligible for any of the current grants. There might be a grant come October that the city may be eligible for.

The cost of WSB's tree count is just over \$34,000. According to Finance Director Sharon Wright, that money isn't currently budgeted; however, she was confident she could move some money around to pay for it. The council unanimously approved contracting with WSB to conduct the Ash tree count. It also instructed Wright to provide an exact funding source at a future meeting.

RAMP: Project to be completed at same time as water line replacement

FROM PAGE I

Street since people would still have to double-back to Second Avenue SW to utilize the pedestrian ramp at the end of the sidewalk.

Public Works Director Todd Schwab said creating the mid-sidewalk cutout and moving the handicapped parking spot was possible; however, he advised the council to not have it done until next summer. He said there is a water line that runs from the main line to the Post Office directly under the section of sidewalk that would be cut out. That line is scheduled to be replaced next summer.

"We don't want to put a ped ramp

in, only to have to tear it out to put the water line in next year," Schwab said.

He added there still will be additional costs to the city to put in the ADA pedestrian ramp, even if it is done in conjunction with the water line replacement.

"It's more expensive to install a ped ramp than a regular sidewalk," he said.

However, he couldn't predict what that additional cost would be. He explained what that means is that if the council had the pedestrian ramp installed now, it will cost \$10,983 plus the unknown additional costs next summer.

FLOCK: Council instructs Public Works to take down three cameras already up

FROM PAGE I

length of time.

Schieber also stated he continues to see the value of the LPRs in aiding law enforcement in the "worst of the worst" offenses; however, he understands the public's concerns over the misuse of the system and what safeguards are in place to prevent such abuse.

Since the Aug. 12 meeting, Flock has publicly announced they are adding tighter restrictions to accessing the LPR's data, including shrinking the time the data is saved down from 30 days to just seven days. The company will also be enhancing the mandatory audit process.

Even though the three installed

cameras are not active and have had black bags placed over them to ensure they aren't recording anything, Schieber and Council member Jim Ibinger recommended the council instruct Public Works to take them down "for safekeeping." Hill, however, cautioned against taking that action since legally, the cameras themselves are owned by Flock. Therefore, it should be Flock who removes them.

Ultimately, the council unanimously approved continuing the indefinite pause and the immediate removal of the three cameras by Public Works, despite Hill's cautions. The council also did not follow through on Meacham's suggestion of declaring which meeting the vote on canceling the contract will take place.

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 minnesotanorth-al-anon.org

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

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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



Jenni Thyng performs Aug. 27 at the Chisago County Senior Center.

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 eclib.org for info.

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

Spring bowling with We R Able
 We R Able offers drop-in bowling every other Thursday evening from 4 to 6 p.m. at JJ's Bowl

and Lounge, 6427 Ash St., North Branch. The spring season dates are: May 14, 28, June 11, and 25. Balls and shoes are included in the fee. For more information call 320-358-3616.

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

AUG 22
Storytime around the town
 Enjoy stories, music and activities from noon to 12:30 p.m. at the Cambridge Farmers Market, 300 Third Ave. NE. No registration required.

AUG 23
GriefShare support group
 A 13-week GriefShare support group begins at 3 p.m. at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old North Main St., Cambridge. Info: info@cambridgelutheran.org.

AUG 25
Color with Deb
 Enjoy coloring, a meal and conversation from 5-6:30 p.m. at the SCRED Building, 425 S. Dana Ave., Rush City. Suggested donation \$5-10. Info: 320-358-3616.

AUG 27
Kid's Event: Traveling Zoo & Snake Discovery
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cambridge City Park, 810 2nd Ave SW; the bad-weather backup location is the Cambridge Fire Dept at 300 3rd Ave NE.

Jenni Thyng concert
 Enjoy a 5 p.m. meal followed by a concert by Jenni Thyng at the Chisago County Senior Center, 38790 Sixth Ave., North Branch. Suggest-

ed meal donation \$5-10. Info: 320-358-3616.

AUG 28
Cambridge Concerts in the Park

The Culture Collective: A Tribute to Prince 5 to 7 p.m. at Cambridge City Park, 810 2nd Ave SW; the bad-weather backup location is the City Center Mall at 140 Buchanan St N.

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.

10th annual Maddy Nelson Memorial Foundation Cornhole Tournament

STAFF REPORT
 NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Maddy Nelson Memorial Foundation will host its 10th annual cornhole tournament Sept. 12 at the Isanti County Fairgrounds. Registration is already halfway to capacity for the annual fundraiser, which supports the foundation's mission of helping children facing life-threatening illnesses and their families. Check-in and warm-ups begin at 8 a.m., with tournament play starting at 9 a.m. Registration is \$75 per team. Tournament rules and online registration are available at maddynelsonmemorialfoundation.org/cornhole-tournament.

Proceeds from this year's tournament will benefit Camp Breakaway, an organization that provides programs and experiences for children and families facing serious illnesses. Over the past decade, community support has allowed the Maddy Nelson Memorial Foundation to assist organizations throughout Minnesota and across the country that share its mission. For more information about the Maddy Nelson Memorial Foundation, visit maddynelsonmemorialfoundation.org. More information about Camp Breakaway is available at camp-breakaway.org.

PrimeTime Singers begin

The PrimeTime Singers will resume for the fall season on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 1:30 p.m., in the Choir Room at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old N. Main St. in Cambridge. The PrimeTime Singers are a community choir of senior citizens age 60 and over, who love to sing and share their music with others. They sing both secular and sacred music and perform for various events throughout the greater East Central MN area, at senior centers, retirement homes, and for special events. The choir gives a concert in the spring.

Now entering its twenty-seventh year, the choir numbers over thirty-five members, representing a cross section of people from several east central communities. No audition is required, just a love of singing in a choir. There are no dues or membership fees. All are welcome. The choir is directed by Arne Everson. Call 612-619-2111 for more information. Coffee and treats are served after every rehearsal. Lots of good conversation and good friendship is shared. New members are especially invited to join. - PrimeTime Singers

OPINION

Getting down to the grass tacks

I was talking with my mom a few weeks ago about mowing lawns. During this recent dry spell, her backyard was growing somewhat faster than the front yard (which isn't saying much since the front yard wasn't growing at all). I mentioned how I hated doing only part of the yard since it would then look uneven, although nobody would notice since it is separated by the house and a fence.



Worth a Thousand Words
Bill Stickels III

This attitude goes back to our old house, which had a bigger yard. Again, even though some of it was visually separated by the house or large trees, I hated the idea of not mowing the entire thing. Getting back to the current house, I've spread grass seed over patches of bare ground to make the grass fuller and more even. I even considered some type of hydro seeding as a solution, but ultimately went with plain grass seed, which eventually has been quite successful despite inconsistent watering.

What I'm getting at is everybody is a little bit of a "yard snob." We all want our yards to look nice. As such, I fully sympathize with the residents along South Dellwood Street who are going through having a portion of their yards being torn up from the street reconstruction (see article on page 2).

They previously had nice yards. I should know; I drove by them at least a couple of times a month. Now, they have areas of dirt. And the city's replacement plan is for hydro seeding, which looks really ugly at first. Based solely on that, I would be asking for sod too.

The thing is, though, that isn't the only consideration. As the city said, sod has a much lower likelihood of survival. In fact, I wish they had hydro seeding back during the street reconstruction at our aforementioned old house.

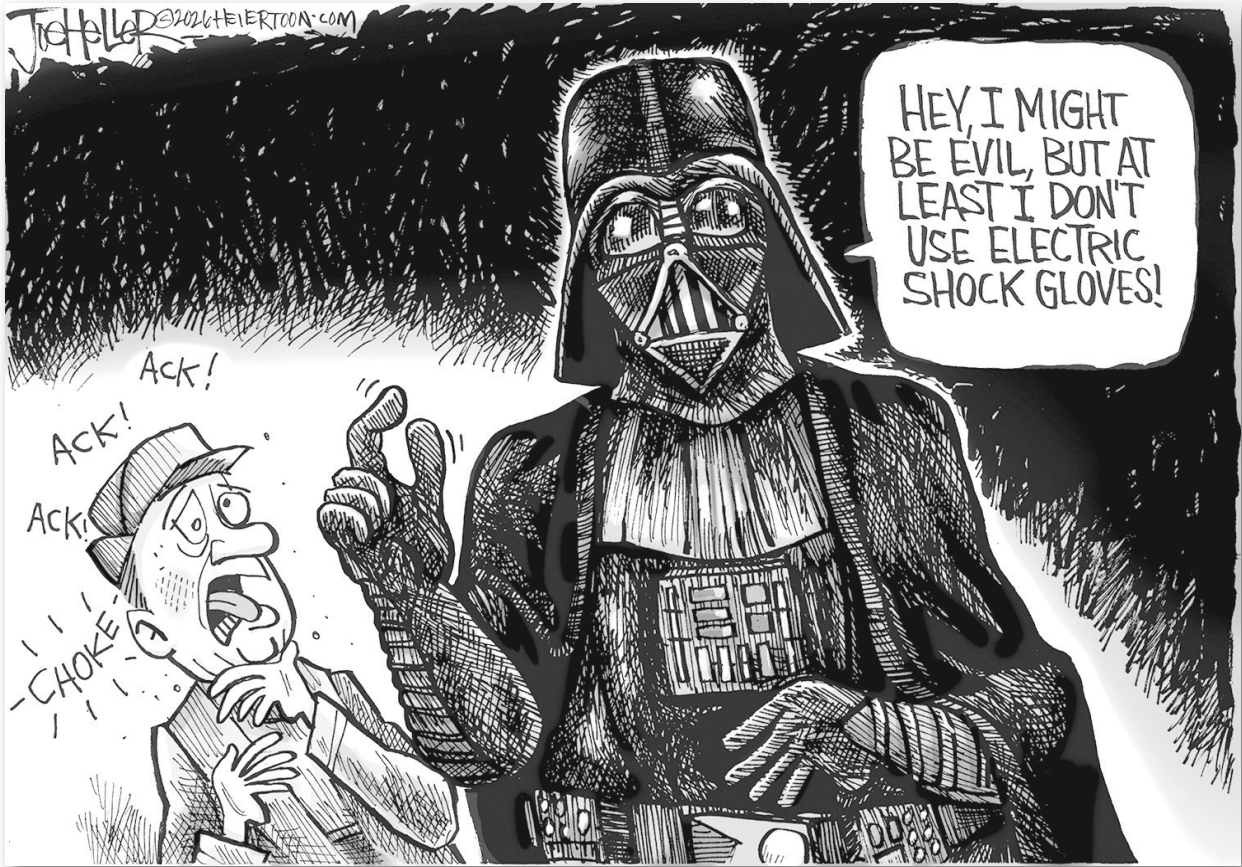
You see, part of that yard includes a significant slope on the south property line, which runs adjacent to the street and was completely torn up during the project. The city replaced the grass (which admittedly was nothing but wild grass and weeds) with sod, even though we knew full well the sod wouldn't survive. With that kind of slope, even when they watered it for 30 days, all the water would run off into the street.

Ultimately, we just had to let the wild grass and weeds take hold again until it gradually filled in to create some semblance of grass. But it never looked like lush, full, green grass.

While there isn't such a slope along Dellwood, the affected yards are exposed to harsh sunlight. And even though the residents claim they will do everything possible to keep the sod from dying, based on this current drought and the unknown weather coming up this winter, nobody can guarantee the sod will last.

But, at least, the odds are somewhat better with the hydro seeding. It will just take a little patience. Plus, it won't be such a sizable financial burden on the city, and by extension, the taxpayers.

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

Use caution when riding e-bikes

To the editor,

About two years ago, a scooter passed me while I was driving home from McDonalds at over 30mph. Why do I bring this up? I live on a walking path/bike path behind Pine Village Mobile Home Park. Five years ago I posted a metal sign saying "Slow Down Caution Children Playing." I posted it when regular bikes were the norm. There is a blind curve right before a narrow bridge where I have seen near misses because the speed traveled exceeded what common sense dictates for the path's conditions.

Since e-vehicles emerged, traffic has increased significantly and so has the speed. I hear the clatter of tires going over the bridge. Only now, that noise

doesn't last as long as it used to. I see e-bikes/scooters riding side-by-side, talking, and not paying attention at very fast speeds. I have an e-bike but have yet to travel this path and I no longer plan to.

I hope this letter is not a case of 'I told you so.' I am beyond that point. It is going to happen, the only question is when. I checked on my permanent metal sign, which is mounted on the solid metal pole in my yard. It is no longer there. So now I sense the urgency of writing this letter.

Timothy Hann
Cambridge

LETTER GUIDELINES

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

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

GUIDELINES FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS

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

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

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

PAID ENDORSEMENT POLICY

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

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

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

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

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

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NEWS DEADLINE:
Noon Tuesday

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4 p.m. Tuesday

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

LEGALS DEADLINE:
Noon Monday



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New beginnings bring growth

Back-to-school season brings a lot of change, and much of that starts well before students walk through our doors.

Over the past several weeks, our staff and leadership teams have spent a great deal of time preparing, training and working together for the year ahead. We are also adjusting to new systems and tools designed to make information easier to find, improve accessibility and create more consistent ways for families and community members to connect with us.

We know change takes time. We will not get everything perfect right away. We will keep listening, learning, and improving.

Our learning this summer has gone beyond systems and technology. As our district leadership team explored The Courage Advantage presented by Steve Fredlund, one message especially stayed with me: growth does not always feel comfortable. New beginnings can be exciting, but they can also bring uncertainty. Moving forward often asks us to learn, adapt and trust the people around us.

I am feeling that in a very personal way this year. Our fourth child is heading to kindergarten, which means we will have one child in high school, one in middle school and two in elementary school. I am excited for the challenges, discoveries, friendships and opportunities ahead for her. I am also incredibly grateful for the educators and staff who will walk alongside her, just as they do for thousands of students every day. Every family experiences this

season a little differently. For some, it is a first day of kindergarten. For others, it may be the start of a senior year or watching someone leave home for college, the military, the workforce or a new community. These moments can hold excitement, pride and possibility alongside a little uncertainty about what comes next.

That is part of growth. And none of us moves through those new beginnings entirely on our own. Throughout our community, families, volunteers, and local organizations continue to support our learners and schools in meaningful ways. This time of year, that includes partners who generously support our Back-to-School Kickoff and our Here to Help efforts, ensuring students who need backpacks, school supplies, and other essentials are ready to begin the year with what they need.

Those acts of support are a powerful reminder of what is possible when a community invests in its schools, its educators and, most importantly, its learners.

Sometimes growth is learning a new system or finding a better way to do something. Sometimes it is walking into kindergarten for the first time. Sometimes it is watching someone you love take a much bigger step into their next chapter.

Each new beginning asks something a little different of us. It may take courage, patience, flexibility or a willingness to try again. And often, it helps us discover something we could not see from where we started.

As we begin this school year, I am grateful for the people beside us and excited for all that lies ahead. There is so much possibility in a new beginning — and even more when we move forward together!

Christina Thayer Anderson is Director of Community Education and Engagement of Cambridge-Isanti Schools. She can be reached at 763.689.6220 or canderson@ci-schools.org.



C-I Schools Community Ed
Christina Thayer Anderson

Connecting learning with opportunity

A new school year is just around the corner, and with it comes another opportunity to think about all we want for each Viking who enters our schools. Along with the classes they will take, the activities they will join, the relationships they will build, and the milestones they will reach, we want each student to discover what they're good at, explore what interests them, and have opportunities to build on their strengths.

Each student brings something different to our schools. Our job is to recognize those strengths, help them grow, and create experiences that allow each Viking to see where their interests and abilities can take them. That belief continues to shape the work of North Branch Area Public Schools.

Learning comes alive when students engage with authentic experiences. Hands-on learning, work-based experiences, career exploration, industry partnerships, and real-world problem solving help students connect their learning to the world around them. Along the way, they develop confidence, curiosity, adaptability, and the skills needed to navigate an ever-changing future.

Our students benefit from partnerships with more than 25 local and regional employers and organizations. Students are learning alongside engineers, healthcare professionals, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, educators, first responders, and skilled tradespeople. These experiences help students connect their interests with the many opportunities available throughout our region and beyond. Each experience helps students better understand who they are, what they value, and where their passions and talents can lead.

Serving as both Superintendent of North Branch Area Public Schools and Chair of the North Branch Economic Development Authority provides a unique opportunity to deepen these partnerships. Listening to the evolving needs of our community and bringing people together around a shared vision helps ensure that students continue to benefit from experiences that are relevant, engaging, and connected to the world they will help shape.

Each investment in the student experience strengthens the future of the communities we serve. As students discover their strengths, explore their interests, and develop confidence in what they can do, they are better prepared to learn, lead, contribute, and thrive. At the same time, businesses cultivate future talent and our communities benefit from young people who are prepared for what comes next. By connecting learning with opportunity, we are helping each Viking build on their strengths, broaden their experiences, and leave our schools with the confidence and choices to pursue a future that is meaningful to them.

Next week, many of our staff will return, joining the team members who have been diligently preparing for the upcoming school year. Soon after, our students will return and bring our schools fully to life. As we begin another year together, I am grateful for the educators, families, businesses, organizations, and community members who invest their time, talents, and belief in our Vikings.

The first day of school will mark the beginning of thousands of individual journeys. Our job is to make sure each one is filled with opportunities to discover, explore, grow, and see what is possible.

Here's to a great year ahead and to helping each Viking make the most of all the opportunities before them. SKOL! Vikings!

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



NB School News
Sara Paul

Proper turns prevent crashes

Question: Can you talk about how people need to make proper turns? I see a lot of unsafe maneuvers when it comes to turning.

Answer: Drivers who turn improperly cause many traffic crashes. Move safely into the correct lane well ahead of the place where you will make the actual turn.

- Slow down before turning. Signal your intent at least 100 feet before the turn. Signals let pedestrians and drivers know what you plan to do.
- While waiting to turn, keep your wheels straight and your foot on the brake. If your vehicle is struck from behind, you are less likely to be pushed into oncoming traffic.
- Continue signaling until you begin your turn.
- Do not make sudden turns from the wrong lane.
- Watch for traffic or obstacles in the road you plan to enter.

- Always finish your turn in the correct lane.
- If the car ahead of you is signaling for a left turn, slow down and prepare to stop.
- When waiting to make a left turn at a green light with oncoming traffic, position your car into the intersection where your body is even with the curb line. You may only be able to make the turn when the light changes to yellow.

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).



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Restaurant inspection data could help prevent foodborne illness and outbreaks

Each year, about 60% of all foodborne illness outbreaks in the U.S. occur in restaurants. While inspections performed by local health officials routinely identify food safety risks and violations, the information collected is typically used to address compliance issues at individual establishments rather than being used as a broader public health tool.

A new University of Minnesota School of Public Health study suggests that restaurant inspection data could be put to a new use — and play a larger role in preventing foodborne illness. By linking restaurant inspection reports with foodborne illness surveillance and outbreak investigations, public health officials may be able to better identify risks, understand how illnesses spread and stop outbreaks before they start.

To explore this potential, the team reviewed research comparing outbreak and non-outbreak restaurants, investigations of individual foodborne illness cases, evaluations of restaurant grading and public disclosure programs, and studies exploring opportunities and challenges associated with linking inspection and illness surveillance data.

Published in the Journal of Food Protection, the study found:

Restaurant inspections could serve as a valuable form of hazard surveillance. By linking routine restaurant inspection data with foodborne illness surveillance systems, public health agencies may be able to better identify risks, understand transmission pathways and prevent future outbreaks.

Restaurants linked to outbreaks often show

warning signs before illnesses occur. Across multiple studies, restaurants associated with outbreaks were more likely to have histories of violations related to sanitation, hygiene, hand-washing and cross-contamination, suggesting that inspection findings may help identify conditions that increase the risk of foodborne illness transmission.

Public disclosure of inspection results appears to improve food safety outcomes. Research from New York City and other jurisdictions found that posting inspection grades in restaurants was associated with improved compliance with food safety standards and reductions in illnesses.

“Foodborne illness surveillance and restaurant inspections share the same ultimate goal of preventing people from getting sick, but these systems are often operating separately,” said Melanie Firestone, an assistant professor in the School of Public Health and lead author. “Bringing them together would allow us to better understand the relationship between food safety violations and illness outcomes, identify emerging risks more quickly and provide public health agencies with another tool to prevent foodborne illness transmission in restaurants.”

Differences in how restaurant inspection data is collected and stored can make public health analysis difficult. More standardized and accessible inspection data, along with strong collaboration between food safety regulators, public health researchers and practitioners, could improve efforts to identify risks and prevent foodborne illness outbreaks. -U of M School of Public Health

OBITUARIES

June Marie Johnson

Zoe Marie Profant

June Marie Johnson, age 85, of Belmond, Iowa and formerly of Isanti passed away August 14, 2026 at home.

June was born June 22, 1941 in St. Cloud, Minnesota to Maxwell and Violet (Nelson) Fandrey. She graduated from Holdingford High School. On February 20, 1965 she married Arthur M. Johnson in Minneapolis. June worked as a nursing assistant at the University of Minnesota. In 1971 they moved to Isanti where they raised their three children, Tracy, Lona and Dee. June was active at Lake Francis Chapel teaching Sunday School, leading the music and she served the church in any way that she could. June enjoyed cooking,

spending time outdoors, dancing, coloring, flowers, butterflies, hummingbirds and music. Most of all, she loved being with her kids, grand-kids and great-grand-kids.

June will be lovingly remembered by her daughters, Lona Garrison (Jeff Crawford) and Dee Reed; grandsons; Michael (Melissa) Johnson, Allan (Cari) Bates, Matthew Johnson, Bret Johnson, Corey Johnson, Ryker Johnson, Rusty Ruzynski, and Joseph Close; granddaughter,

Kasha Lee Garrison (Steven Fisher); great-grandchildren; Tristan Johnson, Leon Ruzynski, and Vincent Fisher; along with many honorary grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren; June's foster family, the Konsors; nephews, nieces and friends. Besides her parents she was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur; son, Tracy; brothers, Leroy, Clifford, George and Leonard; sister, Iverne; and foster sister, Gwentha and husband Richard Konsor.

Funeral service 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22 at Strike Life Tributes in Isanti with a visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in East Bradford Cemetery. Online condolences can be placed at StrikeLifeTributes.com.

Zoe Marie Profant, 61, passed away peacefully on Monday, June 15, 2026, at her residence in Hoosick Falls, New York. She was born on September 20, 1964, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The cherished daughter of Leslie and Joan (Hookland) Freeman. Zoe



graduated from Braham High School and later dedicated her career to caring for others, working as a home health aide for Bayada Hospice in Bennington, VT.

Zoe was a deeply devoted mother and grandmother. In recent years, she relocated to the Hoosick Falls area to be closer to her beloved grandchildren, who were the absolute joy of her life. A woman of gentle pleasures, Zoe loved spending

quality time with her loved ones, reading, taking walks, and relaxing with her favorite Hallmark movies. Her warmth and dedication to her family, along with her caring spirit, will be profoundly missed by all who knew her.

She is survived by her children, Brady (Darcie) of Vermont, and Jonah Profant of Indiana; her adored grandchildren, Emeris Zoe-Rae, Aiteall, and Counsel "Ellie" Profant, sister, Joan (Roy) Townsend, brothers, Leslie (Greta) Freeman, John (Rhoney) Freeman and her stepfather, Bill Porter. Many dearly loved nieces and nephews; Brent, Jacob (Leah), Jessica, Nycole, Alaxandra, Lori, and Addison. Along with great-nieces Madelyn, Brylee and Breah and great-nephews Jordan, Lincoln and Tatum. She is preceded in death by her mother Joan Porter and father Leslie Freeman.

A Celebration of Life will be held at The Dusty Eagle in Dalbo on Aug. 23 from 2—4 p.m.

"There is nowhere you could go that I won't be with you." — Gramma Tala, Moana.

Arts Grant Deadlines Approaching

The East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) is offering grant information sessions in preparation for the upcoming October 1, 2026, and February 1, 2027, arts grant deadlines. Grant info sessions are for both artists and organizations to assist with questions about who is eligible, what can be applied for, when

you should start our application, and where to find everything to apply for an ECRAC arts grant. These sessions cover basic information about ECRAC arts grant programs, tips and best practices, as well as recent changes to the grant application process and guidelines. If you've already attended a grant information session, a refresher is a great way to keep you up to date!

Artists and eligible Organizations located in Minnesota's Region 7E, the counties of Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine, including the sovereign Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe lands, may apply for art grant funds. Now is a great time to start planning your art project and thinking about applying while funds are available.

Grant Information Sessions for Artists will be both in-person and online. The in-person sessions will be held at the ECRAC office at 540 Weber Ave in Hinckley, on August 25th at 2 PM, Sept 15th at 3 PM, Dec 16th at 3 PM and Jan 5th at 3 PM and Feb 9th at 10 AM. The online sessions will be held via Zoom on Aug 27th at 10 AM, Sept 17th at 10 AM, Dec 17th at 10 AM, Jan 5th at 6:30 PM and Feb 11 at 11 AM.

If you're with an art group, non-profit organization, school, or public entity and want to learn about funding available for your organization's art project for the upcoming ECRAC grant deadlines, ECRAC will host both in-person and online grant information sessions. The in-person sessions will be held at the ECRAC office at 540 Weber Ave in Hinckley on Aug 25th at 10 AM, Sept 15th at 10 AM, Dec 16th at 3 PM and Jan 13th at 1 PM. The online sessions will be held via Zoom on Aug 27th at 2 PM, Sept 17th at 2 PM, Dec 17th at 2 PM and Jan 16th at 6:30 PM.

Registration is required and a link to register can be found at ecrac.org on the ECRAC Events Calendar page, or by contacting ECRAC's Grant Program Officer, by emailing: grantinfo@ecrac.org or by calling 320-336-0200. We hope to see you there, but you may also reach out to schedule other dates for a grant info session if the above dates and/or times don't work out for you.

This activity is made possible with funds provided by The McKnight Foundation and by the voters of Minnesota thanks to legislative appropriations from both the General Fund and the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. - The East Central Regional Arts Council



Clean energy training coming to North Branch

Residents of Chisago and Isanti counties have an opportunity this fall to learn more about clean energy and energy efficiency through a free training program offered by Minnesota's Clean Energy Resource Teams, or CERTs.

The Community Energy Ambassadors program will be offered through North Branch Community Education and is designed to help participants build knowledge about clean energy topics while developing skills to engage others in their communities.

The four-week course will cover subjects including home energy efficiency, heat pumps, solar energy and electric vehicles. Participants will also have opportunities to connect with other community members interested in clean energy and receive support in developing a local clean energy project.

The program will meet from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays from Sept. 17 through Oct. 8 at the North Branch Area Education Center.

According to CERTs, the training is free and open to residents of

Chisago and Isanti counties.

Registration is available through North Branch Community Education. More information and registration details can be found at the community education website.

The Community Energy Ambassadors program is part of CERTs' statewide effort to help Minnesotans learn about energy-saving practices and clean energy technologies while encouraging local community involvement. - Minnesota Green Corps

Emerging Farmers' Working Group Seeks New Members

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is seeking 11 members to serve two-year terms on the Emerging Farmers' Working Group (EFWG). Minnesotans interested in enhancing opportunities for new and emerging farmers to start or sustain an agricultural business are encouraged to apply by Monday, Sept. 14.

"The goal of the Emerging Farmers' Working Group is to ensure that the experiences and ideas of farmers from across Minnesota help shape the resources intended to serve them," said Assistant MDA Commissioner Patrice Bailey. "As we continue to build out

our Emerging Farmers Office and its programs, the group's guidance will be essential to meeting farmers where they are. We are grateful to past and departing members, whose perspectives have shaped this work and strengthened support for emerging farmers across the state."

Established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2020 under the Walz-Flanagan Administration, the EFWG was the first state-level advisory group of its kind in the nation. Since then, 62 members representing 32 Minnesota counties have served across six cohorts, helping ensure that emerging farmers

have a voice in shaping state programs, policies, and resources.

The MDA welcomes applications for the seventh cohort from anyone interested in serving and is particularly seeking the perspective of farmers or aspiring farmers who are:

- Women
- Veterans
- People with disabilities
- American Indian and Alaska Natives
- Members of communities of color
- Members of the LGBTQIA+ community
- 35 years old or younger

- Living in urban areas with populations of 5,000 or more

Members will serve from November 2026 through May 2028. Meetings are held in person or virtually. Members may choose to receive a stipend for their service. Applications for the EFWG must be submitted by 11 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14. Visit the Emerging Farmers' Working Group webpage to apply and learn more. Questions may be directed to the Emerging Farmer Office at mda.emerging.farmers@state.mn.us. - The Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Minnesota DNR announces state park license plate design contest

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is inviting Minnesotans to help in creating the next Minnesota state parks license plate. The theme for this plate is the North Shore and the Lake Superior agate. The North Shore refers to the western shoreline of Lake Superior from Duluth to the Canadian border.

The DNR encourages anyone with a connection to Minnesota’s outdoors to participate. Artistic experience isn’t required — creative ideas from Minnesotans of all backgrounds are welcome.

Vehicles with the new plate, which is expected to be available for purchase in January 2027, will be able to enter all Minnesota state parks and recreation areas without a vehicle permit.

“This exciting contest will both benefit Minnesota state parks and trails as well as showcase the iconic North Shore and the Lake Superior agate, our Minnesota state gemstone,” DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen said. “Across generations, Minnesotans have walked the North Shore’s rocky beaches hoping to find a Lake Superior agate, and this new plate will celebrate that

heritage as well as the scenic beauty of this landscape.”

Contestants can begin working on their designs now. Entries will be accepted online via the DNR website this fall from Sept. 15 through Oct. 31.

A panel of judges will evaluate entries based on criteria such as creativity, quality, representation of the theme and suitability as a license plate image. Three finalists will be selected in late November, and their designs will be posted on the DNR website. Minnesotans will then have the opportunity to vote for their favorite design. Online voting will take place in early December. The winning design will be announced in mid-December.

ABOUT STATE PARKS AND TRAILS LICENSE PLATES

For Minnesotans who wish to purchase the plate, there will be a one-time \$15.50 fee for the plate itself and a minimum \$60 contribution, renewable annually. Annual vehicle registration fees also apply, although the plate can be purchased at any time without waiting until a vehicle’s annual registration is due.



The first Minnesota state parks and trails license plate launched in 2016, and that plate will continue to be available. The new design will offer a second option to fans of state parks and trails.

“Every plate purchase supports Minnesota’s state parks and trails,” said Ann Pierce, DNR Parks and Trails Division director. “When someone chooses a state parks and trails license plate, they’re directly funding the people and projects that keep these places open, safe and ready for visitors — from the staff who keep things running, to trail

repairs and building improvements.”

The funds support millions of memorable visits to Minnesota’s state parks and trails. Since the first state parks and trails plate launched a decade ago, more than \$16 million in revenue from plate sales has supported state parks and trails.

Complete contest rules are available at mndnr.gov/parksplate/contest, and the entry form will be available at this same webpage when the entry period opens Sept. 15. -MNDNR

Upfront investment in native plants pays dividends against buckthorn

New University of Minnesota research offers land managers a practical strategy for keeping invasive buckthorn from returning: remove the shrub and sow native grasses and wildflowers as early as possible.

The findings, recently published in Forest Ecology and Management, show that timely restoration with native plants soon after buckthorn removal can significantly improve control of common buckthorn, one of Minnesota’s most aggressive invasive species. Managing buckthorn is especially challenging because it can easily bounce back after removal, making effective long-term control strategies essential to prevent reinvasion.

The research was funded by the University’s Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center, supported by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Researchers from the Cover It Up! Project, part of the Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center, have previously shown that seeding native grasses and wildflowers can effectively limit buckthorn returning from seed, but a major question remained: do managers need to remove buckthorn resprouts immediately, or can they wait a few years and still get the same benefits of native seeding? To test this, the researchers compared forest understories where herbicide was used to control resprouts soon after initial management against those where herbicide was delayed a few years.

They found:

- After initial buckthorn removal efforts, treatment the following year with a foliar (leaf) application of the herbicide fosamine ammonium (Krenite) is an effective way to kill many plants.
- Following up with a second application two years later nearly removes all buckthorn.
- Waiting multiple years before the first follow-up treatment is less effective at killing buckthorn.



Adding native plants after the first treatment helps suppress buckthorn by competing with their seedlings. This method is especially effective in areas without a dense tree canopy.

“There is no silver bullet for defeating buckthorn, but our work shows that control is possible with hard work and patience,” said lead author Andrew Kaul, a former postdoctoral researcher in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, currently with the Missouri Botanical Garden.

These results demonstrate that seeding native species immediately after management is more effective than waiting until fall or winter, which is when most buckthorn management typically occurs.

“This work shows how treating resprouts with herbicide and seeding early on in management is key to successful restoration efforts,” said Mike Schuster, a researcher in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

The research team is now testing different methods, rates and seed mixes for restoring native wildflowers and grasses in forest understories and measuring other benefits of this type of management for nature and society.

- The University of Minnesota’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences



Artist Melissa Mickelson of Minneapolis painted a lake trout.

Winners chosen for 2027 trout and salmon stamp, walleye stamp contests

Minneapolis artist Melissa Mickelson has won the Minnesota 2027 trout and salmon stamp contest with an acrylic painting of a lake trout, and Virginia artist John Barnard is the winner of the 2027 walleye stamp contest with an oil painting of a walleye. Judging for both contests was held on July 30.

In the trout and salmon stamp contest, which had seven eligible submissions, there was a tie for first place, with a runoff vote held by the judges to break the tie. Second place went to Stephen Hamrick of Lakeville with an acrylic painting of a rainbow trout. Third place was Micah Hanson of St. Charles with an acrylic painting of a brook trout.

In the walleye stamp contest, which had five eligible submissions, the second place winner was Minneapolis art-

ist Melissa Mickelson with an acrylic painting. Third place went to Owatona artist Ronald Engebretson with a watercolor and color pencil painting.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources uses revenue from voluntary purchases of walleye stamps to fund walleye stocking in Minnesota’s lakes. Revenue from trout and salmon stamps (which are required for anglers ages 18-64 who fish in designated trout waters or possess trout) is dedicated to trout and salmon management and habitat work.

Visit the DNR’s stamp webpage (mndnr.gov/stamps) for more information about habitat stamps and contest guidelines. -MNDNR

Jaguar at Wildcat Sanctuary undergoes veterinary checkup, sterilization

BY SIERRA KINGEN
EDITOR@HINCKLEYNEWS.COM

Louie the Jaguar underwent a veterinary exam and neutering at the Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone.

Just like cats and dogs, the sanctuary cats are also fixed so as not to procreate more kittens in captivity. As an accredited sanctuary, The Wildcat Sanctuary never breeds rescued wildcats, allowing animals like Louie to live in peace while helping educate the public about the captive wildlife crisis.

This is one of the missions the sanctuary holds in place: providing big cats bred in captivity a permanent home and ensuring no other kittens are born in captivity.

Louie underwent a routine neuter as part of his preventative veterinary care. Like most big cats rescued from private ownership and roadside zoos, Louie has no conservation value—his genetics are unknown, and he is not part of a managed breeding program.

LOUIE'S STORY

Louie's story highlights the cruelty of the captive wildlife trade. Before arriving at the sanctuary, he was exploited for paid selfies and public encounters at Oregon's West Coast Game Park Safari long after direct contact with big cats became illegal.

When Louie outgrew the attraction, he spent years confined to a barren con-

crete enclosure until authorities seized him during a major investigation into the roadside zoo.

Louie came to the Wildcat Sanctuary roughly a year ago. "He came to us a really high-stressed cat, very emaciated, probably about a third less of his body weight than he is now," Executive Director Tammy Thies explained.

"He's about 140 pounds now. We realized through different exams over the year that he was not absorbing nutrients, and so he has a pancreatic insufficiency, which means he can't absorb his food," Thies added.

Because of this insufficiency, the sanctuary vets and staff have to give Louie nutrient supplements crushed up to make his gastrointestinal tract and his pancreas work.

Thies explained why the sanctuary would neuter Louie when he could be an endangered species: "As a sanctuary, we don't buy, breed, trade, or sell, and the cats we rescue do not have conservation value and cannot go back into the wild."

"The biggest thing is we want to decrease the chance of any surplus offspring, but also give him [Louie] a happy, healthy life. Neutering him, just like your dog or cat, adds longevity to their life and decrease any type of prostate cancer, infections, things like that," Thies stated.

She added that by fixing these cats, it can calm the feline in captivity because

it helps regulate the hormones the cats have typically in the wild to breed and survive.

As a rescue organization, the cats that come in typically come in with many issues. These issues range from dental and metabolic bone disease, underlying conditions, and others due to being captive-bred by backyard breeders. "They have a lot of genetic health issues and inbred traits. So it's really important for us to get ahead of those health issues, be able to treat them, and monitor them," Thies said.

Louie will be put on a three-year rotating cycle for vet checkups after his surgery. These checkups will, luckily, be held at The Wildcat Sanctuary.

"You know, every cat we rescue, things have been taken from them," Thies stated. "The wild has been taken from them. Often they don't have the proper nutrition or medical care before coming to them. So one of the biggest things we can do to help them in captivity is to give them the proper vet care, preventative and also reactive if they have any health issues."

Now Louie thrives at the Wildcat Sanctuary where he explores natural habitats, swims, climbs, and receives expert lifetime care.

In the care of The Wildcat Sanctuary, Louie has been one of the biggest cats the sanctuary has seen a transformation in, both physically and emotionally.



CONTRIBUTED

Louis the Jaguar

According to Thies, he was really shut down, really nervous. He paced figure eights all the time when he first arrived. He was skinny and dehydrated. Now, Thies said the staff has to come up to his enclosure in order to get his attention. Usually, he's relaxing in his hammock or in the tall bush, or on his log.

"He loves his neighbors. He loves the lions—Kim and Carl—that live next door. Personality-wise, what came as a really high-stress cat is a really calm, cool, collected jaguar now," Thies explained.



Thursday, August 27
2:00-3:30 PM

Mora United Methodist Church
500 Clark Street | Mora, MN 55051

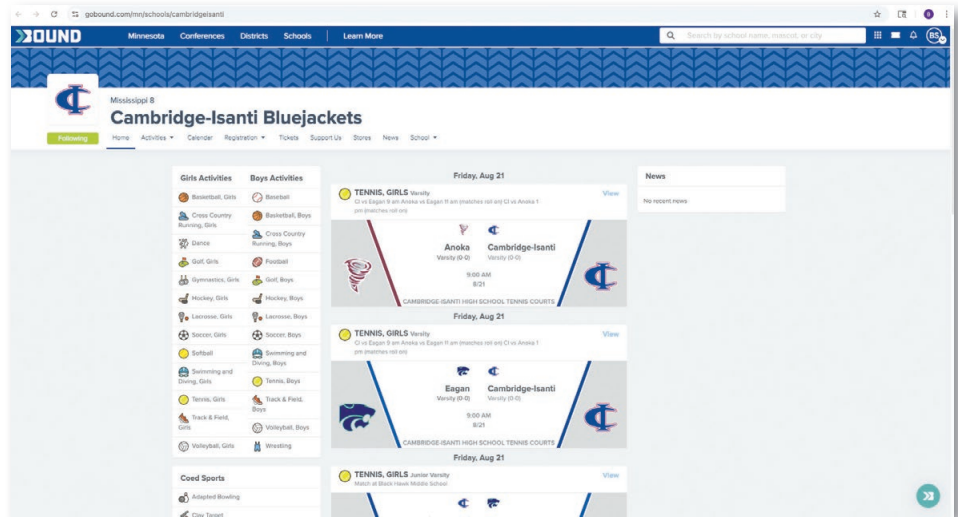
You don't have to face vision loss alone.

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 Shablott, 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.



GOBOUND.COM

Above is a screen grab from the new activities website.

C-I, NB using new activities website

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

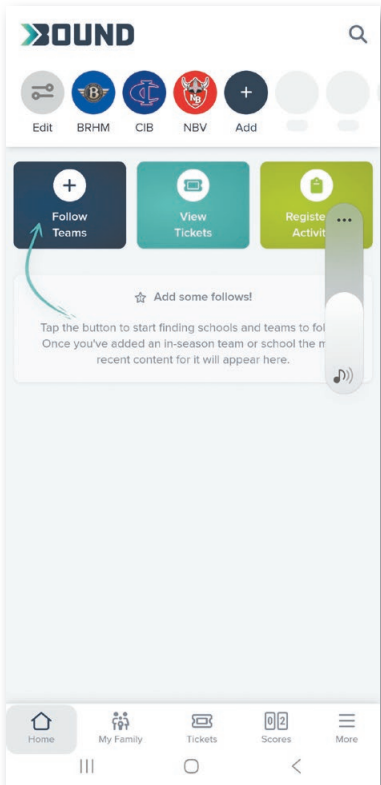
Cambridge-Isanti and North Branch, along with over 500 other Minnesota State High School League schools across the state, are converting to a single website for schedules, ticket purchases, and possibly score recording.

The website www.gobound.com is replacing each athletic conference's individual websites to provide public access to each school's competitive sports schedules. Additionally, the new website offers advanced ticket purchasing. It also features one common location for each sport to report game scores.

The website can be individually customizable. After setting up a free account with password protection, users can select which school or schools to follow. A simple click on that team's logo will bring users to tabs for events, scores, individual activities, tickets, a general calendar, and a news tab.

Additionally, individuals or families can create their own "my family" tab that will only include information for each of their specified sports or activities.

Finally, there is an app version for both Android and iPhone that can be downloaded for a direct connection to the information.



CONTRIBUTED

The bound activities app.

Bluejacket Hall of Fame Class of 2026 officially inducted



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

(Top, left photo) Individuals inducted in the Class of 2026 include (from left) Dennis Scheel (football, basketball, track & field), Julie Wilson Schuster (volleyball, basketball, track & field), Tessa Kahring Janousek (diving), Laurie Solle (community contributor), and Alan Boesche (coach). Unable to attend the ceremony were Brittany Hegquist Akers (diving, gymnastics, track & field) and Chris Peterson (wrestling).

(Left photo) The family of Edwin Oliver (Legacy inductee - football, baseball) receive Ed's Hall of Fame posthumous induction from Hall of Fame Chair Matt Braaten. Pictured are Ed's daughters Brenda Skogman, Becky Golden, and son Brad Oliver.

(Top photos) Being inducted in the team category are the 1998 - 1999 Bluejacket girls basketball team, which was the first girls basketball team in school history to win the section championship and advance to the state tournament; and the 1993 - 1994 Bluejacket baseball team, which was the first and only baseball team to win a section championship and advance to state in school history.

The Bluejacket Hall of Fame held its annual induction ceremony banquet on Sunday, Aug. 16 at the Cambridge Lutheran Church.

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University of Minnesota’s Natural Resources Research Institute unveils first-of-its-kind DRI simulator to future-proof domestic steel production

The University of Minnesota’s Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) is set to deliver a major new technological capability to the Iron Range with a pilot-scale Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) Simulator in Coleraine. The globally unique research platform will give domestic iron ore producers and steelmakers advanced testing capabilities to optimize iron formulations and de-risk major industrial investments.

Developed with foundational support from the Minnesota State Legislature, key backing from the state through the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (DIRRR), federal investment from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and direct input from major steel industry leaders, the facility equips Minnesota to lead the evolution of domestic industrial manufacturing.

The new simulator will allow researchers and industrial partners to replicate real-world shaft furnace conditions across a wide range of temperatures, pressures and gas mixtures. By enabling pilot-scale testing of new feedstock blends, the platform helps safeguard the long-term competitiveness of Minnesota’s iron resources and strengthens the region’s industrial economy.

“Driving innovation and economic opportunity across Minnesota is foundational to our mission as Minnesota’s land-grant university,” said University of Minnesota President Rebecca Cunningham. “This project brings together the best of the University and NRRI to deliver economic strength to, and drive future industrial innovation in, Minnesota. We are proud to be a vital part of this new capability, which will significantly benefit Minnesota, our nation and world.”

“The DRI Simulator represents exactly the kind of research infrastructure

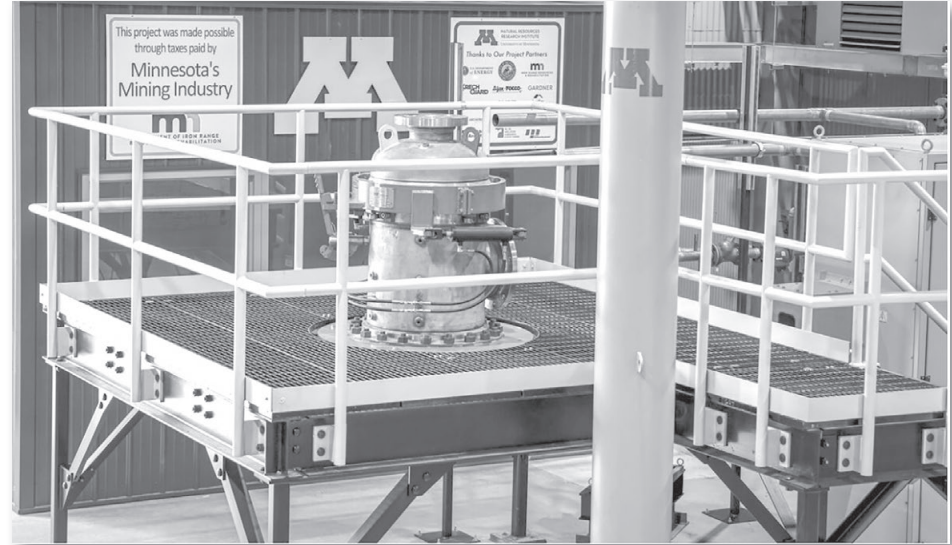
and delivery that NRRI was created by the legislature for the state of Minnesota to build — capabilities that partner with industry to solve complex challenges while strengthening Minnesota’s and the nation’s long-term competitiveness and security,” said Dr. Rolf Weberg, executive director of NRRI. “By providing a testbed for industry and other stakeholders to test, validate and accelerate next-generation iron technologies, this platform helps reduce risk, speed innovation and position Minnesota as a national leader in the future of iron and steel manufacturing.”

The Simulator and other capabilities at the Coleraine site are foundational to the Midwest Industrial Transformation Initiative (MITI), providing a key platform for industrial deployment and partnership development. They also underpin IMPACT, a joint research alliance between NRRI and DOE’s National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR), which advances translational research, testing and demonstration to accelerate technology commercialization.

“The DRI Simulator is an important addition to the capabilities available through our partnership with NRRI,” said Dr. Jud Virden, NLR director. “Through IMPACT, it provides another platform for translating research into technologies that can support the future of industrial manufacturing.”

The initiative also highlights strong alignment with state economic development goals, leveraging regional research to bolster long-term competitiveness across the Iron Range.

“This investment reflects our commitment to ensuring the Iron Range remains at the forefront of mining and steel innovation,” said Ida Rukavina, commissioner of the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation.



SILVER BEAR STUDIO

NRRI's DRI Simulator allows researchers to replicate complex shaft furnace reduction processes at pilot scale. Offering a range of gas mixtures, temperatures and pressures across various feedstocks, this unique equipment de-risks scale-up decisions and advances market-competitive domestic iron, steel and critical material production.

“By supporting world-class research and technology development at NRRI, we are strengthening our regional economy, supporting good-paying jobs and positioning Minnesota to lead the next generation of iron and steel manufacturing.”

NRRI will mark the milestone with key project partners this month before advancing into final equipment calibration and research trials. Once operational, the simulator will allow researchers and industry engineers to run pilot-scale testing under real-world operating conditions.

News Media Note: Images of the DRI Simulator will be available upon request. For more information on research capabilities and project updates, visit nrri.umn.edu.

About the University of Minnesota Natural Resources Research Institute

The Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) is an applied research institute of the University of Minnesota’s Research and Innovation Office, hosted by the University of Minnesota Duluth. NRRI maintains three sites in northern Minnesota with a mission to deliver integrated research solutions that value our resources, environment and economy for a sustainable and resilient future. For more information visit our website. <https://nrri.umn.edu/>

- The University of Minnesota’s Natural Resources Research Institute

What ancient DNA could teach us about health today

BY ALENA MONTANYE THOMPSON
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Why do some people face a greater risk of developing diabetes, heart disease or autoimmune conditions than others? Researchers at the University of Minnesota say part of the answer may lie in DNA inherited from human ancestors tens of thousands of years ago.

Dr. PingHsun Hsieh, who holds appointments in the University of Minnesota Medical School and College of Biological Sciences, is studying how genetic changes passed down through evolution, including DNA inherited from Neanderthals, may continue to influence human health.

Hsieh’s laboratory uses advanced DNA sequencing and computational tools to examine sections of the human genome that have been difficult to study. Scientists have long known that many modern humans carry Neanderthal DNA, inherited when early humans interbred with Neanderthals. Some of those genetic differences may have helped people survive in past environments.

Researchers say some of those same traits could affect health differently today. For example, a genetic change that once helped people conserve energy during food shortages could now contribute to conditions such as Type 2

diabetes.

To better understand these inherited variants, researchers analyzed genomic data from about 50 people representing several populations. Using long-read sequencing and machine learning models, they identified patterns of Neanderthal DNA in large, complex regions of the genome.

The work resulted in a study published in Science that created a global map of structural genetic variants inherited from Neanderthals and Denisovans. The research identified previously overlooked pieces of archaic DNA that may have contributed to human adaptation.

Researchers are now expanding the study to more than 10,000 people from diverse populations. They also plan to compare genetic variants with data from large biobanks that connect DNA information with electronic health records.

The goal is to determine whether specific inherited variants are linked to cardiovascular disease, Type 2 diabetes, autoimmune disorders and other health conditions.

While the research is not expected to change patient care immediately, scientists say it could provide a better understanding of how ancient genetics and modern environments interact to influence human health.

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Schieber running for North Branch mayor re-election

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

My name is Kevin Schieber, and I’m currently in my fourth year as the Mayor of North Branch. When I started my journey in 2022, I had no intention of running for mayor, as I was only entertaining the idea of running for city council. A community leader reached out to me, expressing appreciation that I would run for city council, but also suggested I consider running for mayor instead. I initially laughed it off, but for some reason kept thinking about it that entire day, so I identified a handful of people I respected within the community and had extensive conversations. I did not entirely understand “why” at the time, but strongly felt I was supposed to take this path. Being a leader as an elected official can



Kevin Schieber

be incredibly challenging, and there are times when decisions are made that not everyone will agree with. Looking back over the past four years, I have realized the reason I needed to follow this path is because I knew that I had the mental fortitude to make difficult decisions, and that I would help build and support a team that would empower one another to make North Branch an even better place to live, work and enjoy. To be candid, I did not plan to run for reelection this year. Serving as mayor requires considerable time, and I wanted more personal time for myself and my family. Four years ago, a handful of people encouraged me to run for mayor; this year, many more strongly urged me to run again. They see the positive changes in our city and want that momentum to continue—and so do I. Being mayor is not about me; it’s about “we.” Dedicated and ready to continue serving our community! Please call 763-443-5951 with questions/ support.

New shell egg law allows greater food donations

As of August 1, 2026, charitable food assistance programs in Minnesota that receive donated eggs from retailers are now allowed to distribute them to end consumers up to 30 days past their quality assurance date. Gov. Tim Walz signed the Shell Egg Bill (SF3891) into law on May 26, 2026. The law supports balanced nutrition for all Minnesota families and reduces food waste across the state. For eggs, a “best by…” or quality assurance date represents the guarantee of maintaining grade (usually AA or A). It is not an indicator of food safety, and therefore eggs with a past quality assurance date may still be safe to consume, provided they have been stored and handled appropriately. To be donated, the eggs must meet the following criteria:

- Contained in original packaging (repackaging is not permitted)
- Previously candled and graded
- Not more than 30 days past the original quality assurance date
- Continuously refrigerated

On the receiving end, food assistance programs must apply a new label to the eggs with the following information:

- Name of the food shelf
- “Distribute within 30 days of carton date” OR “Distribute by DATE”
- “Donated Eggs – Not for Resale”

Eggs that have not been distributed to consumers by the end of 30 days past the original quality assurance date must be discarded. For more information, contact the MDA Meat, Poultry, and Egg Inspection program at 651-201-6300 or MDA.MeatPoultryEgg@state.mn.us. Read the full text of the law online. - The Minnesota Department of Agriculture

W O R S H I P *guide*

Baptist

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

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

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

Catholic

Christ the King
305 Fern Street N
Cambridge, MN 55008
763-689-1221
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.
isantiac.org

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/Sanctuary: 8:30 a.m.
Contemporary/Commons: 9:30 a.m.
KidZone 9:30 a.m.
www.cambridgelutheran.org
Facebook: fb.com/Cambridgelutheran
YouTube: tinyurl.com/Cambridgelutheran

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Methodist

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

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NOTICES

CITY OF EAST BETHEL
NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03

On August 10, 2026, the City Council of the City of East Bethel adopted Ordinance No. 2026-03 amending Chapter 66, Article V of the East Bethel Code of Ordinances relating to Administrative Subdivisions. The amendments are set forth below and shall become effective ten (10) calendar days after official publication.

Section 1. CHAPTER 66, ARTICLE V., Sec. 66-134 (3) e. of the East Bethel Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

Delete:
e. A simple lot split can only be done once. If at a later date someone wishes to further subdivide either lot they will need to meet all of the requirements of chapter 66, excepting article V.

Add:
e. A Simple Lot Split shall not be eligible for consideration if the subject property, or any parcel created through a previously approved Simple Lot Split under this Article, has been approved as part of a Simple Lot Split within the preceding ten (10) years. If a property owner desires to further divide the subject property prior to the expiration of the ten year period, the proposed land division shall comply with all applicable provisions of Chapter 66, except Article V.

Section 2. CHAPTER 66, ARTICLE V., Sec. 66-136 e. of the East Bethel Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

Delete:
e. Decision. The city council shall reach a decision on the requested administrative subdivision within 120 days of complete application, unless the applicant agrees to an extension of the review period.

(1) The zoning administrator

may approve the administrative subdivision with conditions that must be met to insure the administrative subdivision is compliant with the regulations of this chapter and the city's zoning ordinance, as set forth in Appendix A to this Code and as may be amended, and other applicable requirements.

(2) The zoning administrator shall prepare findings and deny a subdivision if the administrative subdivision is found to be premature as defined by the criteria of section 66-16 or fails to comply with regulations of this chapter and the city's zoning ordinance, as set forth in Appendix A to this Code and as may be amended, or other applicable requirements.

Add:
e. Decision. The city council, subject to the following subparts, shall reach a decision on the requested administrative subdivision within 120 days of complete application, unless the applicant agrees to an extension of the review period.

(1) Upon determination that an application is complete, the Zoning Administrator shall review the proposed Administrative Subdivision for compliance with the requirements of this chapter, the City's Zoning Ordinance, and other applicable regulations. The Zoning Administrator shall prepare a written staff report and a recommendation for approval, approval with conditions, or denial, for consideration by the City Council.

(2) The City Council shall consider the staff report, findings, and recommendation and may approve, approve with conditions, or deny the Administrative Subdivision based upon compliance with this chapter, the City's Zoning Ordinance, and other applicable regulations.

Section 3. CHAPTER 66, ARTICLE V., Sec. 66-136 f. of the East Bethel Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

Delete:

f. Decision appeal. The applicant may appeal an administrative subdivision denial following the procedures outlined in the city's zoning ordinance, as set forth in Appendix A to this Code and as amended from time to time.

Add:
f. Appeal. Decisions of the City Council regarding Administrative Subdivisions shall be final, subject only to those remedies available under Minnesota law.

The full text of Ordinance No. 2026-03 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 August 20th, 2026.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 20, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 414-26
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION §66-943 DESIGN STANDARDS REGARDING CLASS 1 BUILDING MATERIALS AND THE DESIGN STANDARDS ZONE MAP

The North Branch City Council hereby ordains as follows:

Section 1. Amending Class 1 Exterior Building Materials

City Code Section §66-943 Design Standards, is hereby amended by adding the following underlined language to the list of Class 1 Exterior Building Materials.

§66-943 DESIGN STANDARDS
Within the Class 1 Exterior Building Materials list, add the following material:

vii. Engineered Wood Siding
Section 2. Amending the Design Standards Zone Map

City Code Section §66-943 Design Standards is hereby amended by replacing the existing Design Standards Zone Map with the attached Design Standards Zone

underlined language to the Zoning Use Table.

§66-6 USES WITHIN ZONING DISTRICTS

Within Section A. Residential Uses of the Zoning Use Table, amend the CBD (Central Business District) column as follows:

Attested:

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 20, 2026

Map as depicted in Exhibit A, which shall become the official Design Standards Zone Map of the City of North Branch and is incorporated herein by reference.

Section 3. Effective Date.
This Ordinance shall have full force and effect upon its passage and publication.

Passed by the City Council of the City of North Branch, Chisago County, Minnesota, this 12th day of August, 2026.

Kevin Schieber, Mayor
Attested:

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 20, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

CAMBRIDGE PLANNING COMMISSION
NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Cambridge Planning Commission will hold a regular meeting on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, Minnesota 55008, to discuss the following public hearing items and other items on the agenda.

1. **PUBLIC HEARING** – A request by Mohammed Amro, site address 626 Main St N, Cambridge, MN 55008; for an Interim Use Permit for Cannabis Retail. The legal description is a lengthy description including parts of lots 8,9, 11, and 13, Auditors Subdivision 8, Isanti County, Minnesota.

More information is available at Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE, Cambridge, MN 55008, including full legal descriptions. Cambridge Planning Commission Meetings are typically scheduled on the 1st Tuesday of every month and are open to the public.

Marcia Westover
Community Development Director

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 20, 2026

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NORTH BRANCH PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the North Branch Planning Commission will hold Public Hearing on Tuesday, September 1, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at North Branch City Hall, 6408 Elm Street, North Branch, Minnesota. The purpose of this public hearing is to allow for public testimony regarding proposed updates and amendments to the City of North Branch 2018 Comprehensive Plan. The proposed update includes revisions to various goals, policies, land use guidance, maps, demographic information, and other elements of the Comprehensive Plan to reflect current conditions and the City's long-range planning objectives.

Applicant(s)
City of North Branch

Property Owners(s)
NA
General Location(s)
NA
Legal Description
NA
PID(s)
NA

Pertinent information about this request is on file at City Hall. Persons interested in providing comment as to this request may do so in writing at or before the public hearing. Comments may be sent to: Ryan Sallis at rsallis@northbranchmn.gov. Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk tkostuch@northbranchmn.gov (651) 277-5224

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 20, 2026

FORECLOSURES

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Minn. Stat. 580.025, 580.04
Minnesota Uniform Conveyancing Blanks

Form 60.2.1 (2009)
DATE: August 4, 2026

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

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGE TO BE FORECLOSED

1. Date of Mortgage: August 23, 2019

2. Mortgagors: Tracey Setterlund; Unmarried

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

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

5. Assignments of Mortgage, if any:

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

INFORMATION REGARDING MORTGAGED PREMISES

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

7. Legal description of the mortgaged premises:

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

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

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

OTHER FORECLOSURE DATA

9. The person holding the Mortgage:

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

The name(s) of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender

or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is/are loanDepot.com, LLC

10. If stated on the Mortgage, the name of the mortgage originator, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02, is Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC, its successors and assigns 100853706001327632.

INFORMATION REGARDING FORECLOSURE

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

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

13. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, including taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage, is: \$147,375.84.

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

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

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

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

Name of Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:

loanDepot.com, LLC

Name and address of Attorney for Mortgagee or Mortgage Assignee:

Schneiderman & Sherman P.C.

8530 Eagle Point Blvd.

Suite 100

Lake Elmo, MN 55042

26-002314-1

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

NORTH BRANCH ORDINANCE NO. 415-26

ORDINANCE NO. 415-26
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION §66-6 USES WITHIN ZONING DISTRICTS, TO ALLOW TWINHOMES AND QUAD & TOWNHOMES AS PERMITTED USES WITHIN THE CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD)

The North Branch City Council hereby ordains as follows:

Section 1. Amending Language Regarding Uses Within Zoning Districts

City Code Section §66-6 Uses Within Zoning Districts, is hereby amended by adding the following

District Uses	Notes	Standards	R1	R2	R3	RR	AG	PUB	OSP	CBD	B	BN	I1	I2	SO
A. RESIDENTIAL USES															
Household Living															
Dwelling, Single-Family			P	P			P	P			P				
Dwelling, Single-Family (Prior to December 31, 2022)											P				
Dwelling, Duplex & Triplex				P	P						P				
Dwelling, Twin Homes			P	P	P						P				
Dwelling, Quad & townhome				P	P						P				
Dwelling, Multi-Family (3 to 6 units)				P	P						P				
Dwelling, Multi-Family (7 to 16 units)					P						P				
Dwelling, Apartments					P						P	P			
Dwelling, Apartments Above Commercial											P	P	P		
Dwelling, Prefabricated Home					C	C									

Section 2. Effective Date.

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

Passed by the City Council of

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

Kevin Schieber, Mayor

Attested:

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on August 20, 2026

ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Aug. 9 - 15. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Jason Michael Phillips (DOB 01/16/1984) of Isanti, was charged Aug. 10 with 14 counts of Attempted Murder - 1st Degree - Peace Officer, Prosecuting Attorney, Judge or Prison Guard; 14 counts of Assault-1st Degree-Use of deadly force against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee; one count of Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon; one count of Dangerous Weapons-Reckless Discharge of Firearm Within a Municipality; one count of Neglect of a Child-Results Subst. Harm Physical/Emot Health-F; and one count of Damage to Property - 1st Degree - Foreseeable Risk Bodily Harm.

Nicole Danielle Rode (DOB 12/13/1982)

of Braham, was charged Aug. 10 with Harassment; Restraining Order - Violate w/in 10 yrs of 1st of 2 prev dom violence convictions/adjud.

John Michael Lingen (DOB 10/14/1967) of Isanti, was charged Aug. 10 with Drugs - 3rd Degree - Possess 10 grams or more a narcotic drug other than heroin.

Arnold John Clemensen (DOB 05/31/1973) of Isanti, was charged Aug. 11 with Cannabis - 1st degree - Unlawfully cultivates more than 23 cannabis plants.

Jessica Lynn Johnson (DOB 04/14/1977) of Isanti, was charged Aug. 11 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Oliver Ralph Heille (DOB 11/12/1961) of Minneapolis, was charged Aug. 11 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Elijah Bordeaux Matrious (DOB 09/02/2003) of Minneapolis, was charged Aug. 10 with Violate No Contact Order - Within 10 years of the first of two or more convictions.

Hunter Cogburn Pauly (DOB 03/29/1997) of Cambridge, was charged Aug. 11 with Malicious Punishment of a Child-Child Under 4 Yr..

Pedro Arturo Haycraft (DOB 01/01/2008) of Isanti, was charged Aug. 12 with one count of Assault-3rd Degree-Substantial Bodily Harm; and one count of Threats of Violence -Reckless Disregard Risk.

Paige Marie Fitzsimmons (DOB 10/25/2000) of Milaca, was charged Aug. 14 with Drugs - 2nd Degree - Possess 6 grams or more fentanyl.

Garrett Andrew Ekvall (DOB 06/16/1999) of Isanti, was charged Aug. 14 with Drugs - 2nd Degree - Possess 6 grams or more fentanyl.

Zachary George Williams (DOB 07/02/1992) of Isanti, was charged Aug. 14 with Drugs - 2nd Degree - Possess 6 grams or more fentanyl.

William Davon Hall (DOB 05/29/1997) of Stillwater, was charged Aug. 13 with Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony.

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tara@headlightherald.com
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Green Thumb

Lawn & Garden Guide

YARD AND GARDEN PROBLEMS

Identify the weed, insect, disease or nonliving factors that are causing problems in your garden by submitting a question to Ask a Master Gardener.

For general advice on preventing diseases, infestations, and non-organic issues in your lawn or garden, see:

- Clean and disinfect gardening tools and containers
- How excessive heat affects the vegetable garden
- Managing plant diseases in the home garden
- Non-pest issues in cool-season vegetables
- Preventing plant diseases in the garden

Preventing pests in your yard and garden has advice for maintaining healthy landscapes without pesticides.

The University of Minnesota Plant Disease Clinic is a diagnostic laboratory that provides testing for fungal, bacterial, viral, and other plant health conditions for commercial growers and the general public on a fee-for-service basis.

Weeds in lawns and gardens

"A weed is a plant out of place." By this definition, any plant could be considered a weed if it is growing where it is not wanted, such as plantain in your lawn.

But weeds are more than just a visual intruder.

Weeds can be detrimental to the health of your lawn or garden and should be managed regularly using best cultural practices such as hand removal and mulching. If an infestation occurs, you may resort to using herbicides.

- Weeds compete with desirable plants for space, light, moisture, and nutrients.
- They can be hosts to diseases like aster yellows.
- Weeds can host insects that can carry disease from plant to plant or infect plants by feeding on them.
- They spread vigorously by seed, plant parts, rhizomes or stolons.
- Weeds tolerate a wide range of environmental growing conditions and establish easily in lawns and gardens.
- Some weeds are sometimes a source of allergens.



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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.

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

112 Tree Service

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

150 Help Wanted

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

CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT is hiring a PPT Childcare Provider for the Bears Club, ages 2-10, up to 29 hrs/wk, starting \$18.11/hr. Send letter of application to sturzlp@claytonsd.k12.wi.us. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted

CLAYTON SCHOOL DISTRICT is hiring a Food Service Worker, up to 5.75 hrs/day, starting \$18.11/hr, training provided. Send letter of interest and resume to sturzlp@claytonsd.k12.wi.us. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

NORTHWESTERN WISCONSIN ELECTRIC COMPANY is hiring an Electric Utility Lineworker, Danbury-based, 40 hrs/wk, starting Sept 7, 2026. HS diploma required, valid WI Class A license. Apply by Aug 28 to danathrongard@nwe-co.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE is hiring an ADN Nursing Instructor and a Director, Training & Development, any campus (Ashland, New Richmond, Rice Lake, Superior). Apply at northwoodtech.edu/employment. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted

QUALITY GRAIN SERVICES near Cornorsville, WI, is hiring semi-truck drivers for hopper bottom trailers, FT/PT, 150-mile radius (WI/MN), home nightly, no weekends. Competitive wages, 401k. Call (715) 495-1233 or email Jeff.f@qualitygrainservices.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

RASKA SEWER SERVICE in Osceola is hiring a full-time Portable Toilet Technician, 1st shift, \$20/hr, no experience required, will train. Valid driver's license needed. Call 715-755-4888 or email info@raskasewerservice.com. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

VILLAGE OF BALDWIN Public Works is hiring a part-time Compost Site (dump) Operator, \$17-\$18/hr, oversees site hours/operations, 18+ required. Apply at villageofbaldwin.com or Village Offices by 4:30 PM, Aug 28, 2026. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

VILLAGE OF OSCEOLA is hiring a part-time Municipal Court Clerk, 10-15 hrs/week, \$20-\$26/hr. Duties include case management and courtroom support. HS diploma required. Apply via village website or court@vil.osceola.wi.us. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

150 Help Wanted

Route Driver - Murtha Sanitation, Baldwin WI. Part-time/full-time, family owned. Side load & front load routes. Call to inquire: 715-684-3700 Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

300 For Sale

Selling my 90 year old father's 2014 Lexus 460L 65,000 miles. White. Has always been garaged. Serviced at Mplwd \$24,900 or Best Offer 612/599*1729

351 Antiques

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

353 Building Supplies/Tools

NEVER USED CEMENT 12" BLOCKS: rock face, plus grey blocks-FREE 612-802-3847

300 For Sale

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362 Miscellaneous

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404 Garage Sales

5 Family Garage Sale Clothes, infant to 3x; lots of misc. Thursday Sept. 3rd through Monday, Sept. 7th, 10a.m. -5p.m. 2278 310th St., Mora, up by Camperville

Back to school sale Tons of name brand clothes, women's business and casual, boys SM 9-12, men's SM-XL, home items, pack and plays, crib bedding set, cradle, toys, kitchen items, filing cabinets, desks. Thurs 27th and Fri 28th 8-5. 33 N Union St, Mora, MN 55051 Back in the alley

452 Rentals/ Residential

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

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401 Auctions

Saturday, Aug. 29, 10 am. Bill & Carol Bernard Personal Property Auction, 27847 Aksarben Lane, Aitkin, MN. Skidsteer, Tractor, Farmall B. Vehicles, 1965 Ford F250 Twin I Beam flatbed truck, 1988 Chevy Suburban Plow truck. Boating Packages, 1991 Northwoods 18 ft. pontoon w/ canopy & 25 HP Evinrude OB. Firearms. Shop Tools & Related, Lawn & Garden Related, White LT-145 riding lawn tractor. Items of Interest, Custom built A frame sauna on wheels. Furniture & Related. Janzen Auctioneers, Lic. 01-14 & 01-10. www.janzenauctions.com, www.midwestauctions.com/janzen, 218-927-4488.

452 Rentals/ Residential

Apartments for rent near Mora, two bedroom senior apartment. Utilities included. No smoking or pets. \$1,100/month. efficiency apartment no washer or dryer no smoking or pets \$850/month call/text 320-250-5199 320-360-5568

452 Rentals/ Residential

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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Saturday, September 19

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☒ YOUR SALE LOCATION ON A TOWN-WIDE MAP

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ADDRESS

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Cambridge, MN 55008

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

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