FREE

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

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(Cambridge)

ICE, ICE BABY: Northern Tier girls hockey season begins with pair of home games. **PAGE 10**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Eye to eye

A young girl reaches to pet one of the llamas at the Cambridge First Baptist Church's annual Fall Carnival held Saturday, Nov. 14. Like usual the llamas, along with the horse and pony rides, were a big hit with the kids and adults alike.

Cambridge Public Works to add expanded garage

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Isanti County Highway Department isn't the only public works facility experiencing growing pains. Cambridge Public Works is in the process of constructing a new, 14,000 square foot freestanding building immediately south of the existing storage building at its complex at 800 7th Ave SW.

The new building will consist of seven vehicle storage bays, a dedicated vehicle wash bay, two offices, a staff break room, men's and women's restrooms with locker spaces, and two mechanical/utility rooms.

'We've been planning on funding this project this way since 2006.'

Caroline Moe
Cambridge Deputy City Administrator & Finance Director

According to current Deputy City Administrator and Finance Director Caroline Moe and incoming Deputy City Administrator and Finance Director Amanda Bruzer, the city identified back in 2006 the future need for an expanded garage due to city growth. As such, the city has been setting aside some unused revenue each year to partially cover the costs of the project. To date, the city has approximately $500,000 earmarked for the project, which is estimated to cost approximately $3.8 million. The remaining expenses will be paid via Capital Improvement Bonds that would be paid off through property tax levies.

SEE **GARAGE,** PAGE **2**

Council cancels cannabis cultivation at cinema site

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

A cannabis grower will have to find another location to open an indoor cultivation business after the North Branch City Council refused to amend its ordinance and allow small cultivators to operate within the city's business district.

According to Community Development Director Nathan Sondrol, North South Cannabis LLC has submitted a zoning text amendment application requesting that indoor cannabis cultivation associated with OCM-licensed microbusinesses and mezzo businesses be allowed as a permitted use within the Business Zoning District. Specifically, the company is looking to open its business at the old North Branch Theaters building, located at 38450 Tanger Drive.

Currently, while cannabis retail is allowed in the business district, such cultivation businesses are only allowed in the agricultural and industrial zoned districts.

Sondrol said one of the hitches to approving such a change would be that it wouldn't only be applicable to the old movie theater building, but instead would open up the entire business district — which includes downtown North Branch — to allowing small-scale cannabis cultivation businesses.

That fact was the major sticking point for the council, although for reasons other than the type of business it is.

"To me, it was about removing the cannabis business from the equation and the foot traffic aspect, and then looking at what our business area zone and where that is located, and thinking about what our intent and the match with the Comp plan of our goal is to drive foot traffic to other businesses on the B-business area to benefit the businesses, to fit in with the landscape," Council member Patrick Meacham said.



CONTRIBUTED

A proposal to convert the former North Branch movie theater building into an indoor cannabis cultivator was unanimously rejected by the North Branch City Council.

"I heard business to business was their focus, not direct retail," Mayor Kevin Schieber added. "So does it really fit what the intent of having a business district?"

Council member Robert Canada mentioned he was concerned with how much water would be used, plus what kind of HVAC would need to be added,

SEE **CULTIVATION,** PAGE **2**



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Snowflake parade still on despite possible raindrops

STAFF REPORT
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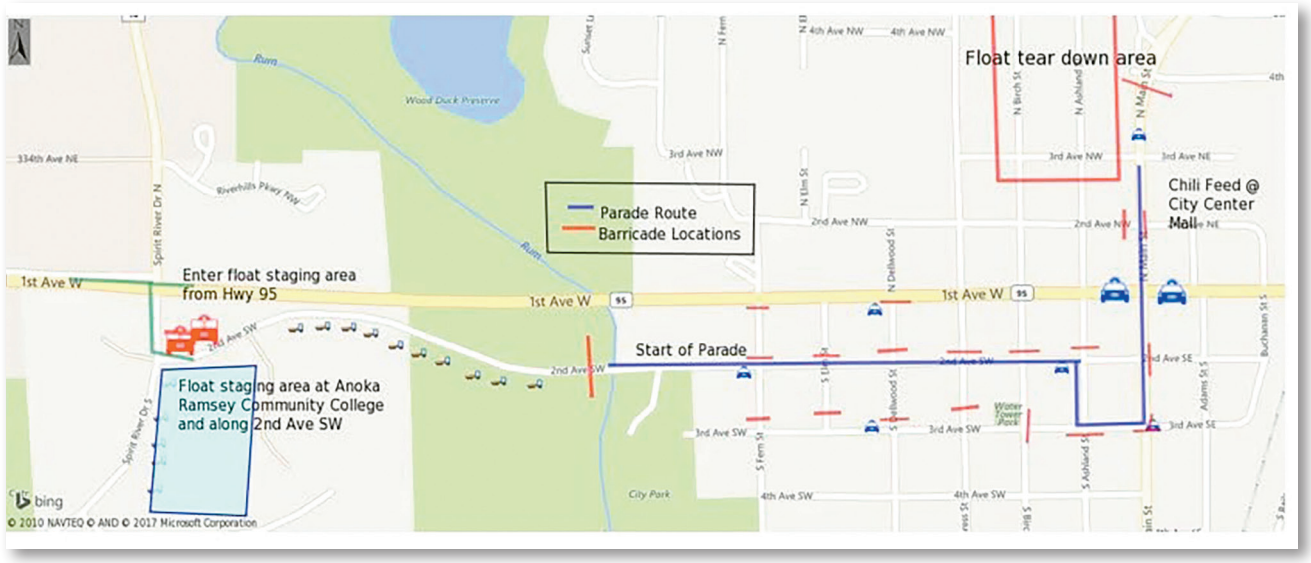

The annual Cambridge Snowflake Parade has been held under all sorts of conditions: unusually warm temps, extreme cold temps, high winds, and even heavy snow. But rain? Nope, that is one condition participants and attendees have never had to endure.

That might change this year, as, depending on which forecast you believe, there's more than a 50/50 chance of liquid precipitation falling during part or all of the approximately hour-long parade, which kicks off at 5:30 p.m.

Despite that factoid, organizers insist the parade will still take place as usual.

"In 2011, we had half of our entries cancel and a couple who got stuck trying to get here due to heavy snow, but it still was held," said Laurie Solle, who helped organize the parade in her previous role as Cambridge Ambassador Program Director. "So, while fingers crossed we won't see any rain this year, it won't prevent us from holding the parade as scheduled."

The parade route is the same as last year. It begins at the staging area at Anoka-Ramsey Community College. It proceeds east on 2nd Ave SW until reaching South Ashland Street, where it turns south for one block. It then turns onto 3rd Ave SW and again heads east for one block to South Main Street. The final stretch has the parade heading north on Main Street through downtown, past the Highway 95 intersection, and concluding at 3rd Ave NW. Float tear-down takes place along 3rd Ave NW, North Birch Street, and North Ashland Street.

Prior to the parade, the annual lighting of the city's Christmas tree will take place promptly at 5 p.m. at the corner of Main Street and Highway 95. This will be the last year the tree will be placed at that location due to next summer's Highway 95 widening.

Like previous years, Santa will be available at City Center Mall from 3 p.m. to approximately 5 p.m. — when he must make his way to take his place at the front of the parade.

Returning this year is the Community Chili Feed, thanks to the Senior Activity Center and Friendship Cafe, who have graciously agreed to take over the feed. The Chili Feed will also be held in City Center Mall from 4 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is $5 per bowl, with proceeds helping to defray parade expenses.

For additional information or questions, email lauriefromcambridge@gmail.com or message the Cambridge Ambassador Program Facebook page.

Proposed Cambridge Shores Park requires archaeological survey

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The city of Cambridge is taking another small but significant — and mandatory — step towards the creation of a new park on the old Munkberg property on the shores of Lake Fannie.

According to Community and Economic Development Director Marcia Westover, because of the known Native American burial ground on the property, city staff has been in contact with the necessary agencies — including the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council and the State Historical Preservation Office — to discover what extra steps must be taken to be able to construct the proposed park while at the same time preserving the sacred burial grounds.

Westover said to date, the city has completed an environmental assessment worksheet, a Phase 1A archaeological assessment, plus had two site visits from MIAC. The end result of all this was that MIAC recommended a buffer around the burial grounds be included, which was already part of the preliminary site plans.

She added SHPO's recommendation that the phase 1a archaeological assessment be completed due to the high probability of archaeological content on the site. The findings of that report indicated the need for a phase 1 archaeological reconnaissance survey. This recommendation was backed by both MIAC and SHPO.

Westover explained the phase 1a survey simply looks back at historical documents of the property. A Phase 1 survey actually goes to the site and digs in a number of spots throughout it to determine if there is any additional archaeological content buried there.

Westover said she received two bids for doing this survey, with the lower bid being $10,805 from KARD-iFacts.

"If we don't have this process complete, any future funding that we want and grants from the state or federal grants can be held up by SHPO," Westover said.

City Administrator Evan Vogel said that while the city hasn't yet applied for any grants for the proposed park, several possible grants have been identified, including the state's Legacy Fund, which could be a substantial source for funding the project. He re-emphasized Westover's statement that the city would not be able to receive any such grant money unless this survey is completed.

"This is a foundational step to help unlock the ability to be more creative in funding strategies," Vogel said.

Council member Molly Christian questioned where the $10,000 would come from, reminding the rest of the council and staff it was agreed no levy dollars would be used on this project. Westover said the money would come from the city's redevelopment fund, which Vogel said was set up from previous one-time revenues and was used to purchase the Munkberg property.

Ultimately, the council approved to conduct the survey on a 3-1 vote, with Christian voting nay and Council member Aaron Berg being absent.

"We've spent a fair amount of money on the last effort, so this will be another $10,000," Christian said. "I'm not a big fan of continuing to spend more money for this site."



CONTRIBUTED

Shopped till they dropped

East Central Habitat for Humanity was awarded a $2,000 shopping trip courtesy of Kohl's Cares. Executive Director Susan Morris and Board of Director member Karla Patrick spent several hours purchasing six shopping carts full of items to make Habitat's offices more kid-friendly as part of an overall remodeling of the organization's offices. The two are pictured with Cambridge Kohl's manager Ryan.

CULTIVATION: NB City Council concerned about no foot traffic

FROM PAGE I

not to mention the need for added security at the site.

"This almost goes back to the data centers, this argument," Canada said.

It was also mentioned in its recommendation to deny the request, the Planning Commission mentioned there is plenty of space in the districts that currently allow this type of business.

Sondrol also mentioned another option the council could choose of issuing a special use permit, which would only apply to that specific property. However, the council didn't even entertain that possibility.

Ultimately, the council unanimously voted to deny the request for the ordinance amendment.

GARAGE: Current public works building didn't account for future facility needs

FROM PAGE I

During the mandatory public hearing on the project, Council member-elect Tom Schibilla suggested the city pay for the entire project through an inter-fund transfer rather than incurring additional debt. City Administrator Evan Vogel said there aren't enough undedicated funds available to cover the $3.3 million needed from bonding.

"We've been planning on funding this project this way since 2006," Moe added.

Bruzer added staff is looking at the option of going through a local bank, which would offer a no-penalty for repaying the full debt amount early, thus saving the city money on interest.

Vogel added there is a definite need for the new building.

"We don't have capacity enough for the public works department as it stands today," Vogel said. "It uses very large equipment. And we already have standards with the MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency) we are not meeting by not having a wash bay. So there are chemicals being stored outside that should not be stored outside. There are vehicles are being forced to sit outside that should not be forced to sit outside."

Vogel added that when the current building was constructed, it was only built to 100% capacity at that time.

"Unfortunately, that problem is costing us today," Vogel said. "Because it makes a replacement have to happen sooner than it should have had to happen. It is our recommendation that we not make that same mistake again, and we plan on a little bit of growth in the future."

He added the plans for the new building are for it to be filled to 60% of the total capacity as of the projects completion.

"That will allow for a certain amount of growth without too much so that it becomes wasteful," Vogel concluded.

Bruzer said the next step would be calling for bids on the project, which will be done in January 2027.

Ultimately, the council unanimously approved the proposal.

MON & THUR

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

MON - FRI

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

MONDAYS

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

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

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

TUES & THURS

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

TUESDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

PrimeTime Singers
The PrimeTime Singers meet Tuesday's at 1:30 p.m. in the Choir Room at Cambridge Lutheran Church, 621 Old N. Main St., Cambridge. Community choir for singers 60 and older. No membership fee or audition. Coffee and fellowship follow. Call 612-619-2111.



FACEBOOK

The Cambridge Lighted Snowflake Parade is Nov. 21.

WEDNESDAYS

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

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

THURSDAYS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SATURDAY

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

NOV. 21

Cambridge Lighted Snowflake Parade
5:30 p.m. parade in Cambridge. A community chili feed will be held beforehand at City Center Mall. Chili is $5 per bowl, with proceeds helping fund the parade.

NOV. 28

Breakfast with Santa
9 to 11 a.m. at Faith Lutheran Church, 109 Second Ave. NW, Isanti. Enjoy a free pancake break-fast, photos with Santa and holiday crafts.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE AND SERVE

Star of Hope Holiday Food Drive
Join the Isanti-Chisago County Star in helping fill our food shelf this holiday season. From Nov. 2 to Dec. 11 donate a non-perishable food item at our office 930 Cleveland St. S Cambridge or one of our partner locations: Empire Insurance 6063 Main St. Suite A, North Branch; Scout and Morgan Books 114 Buchanan St N, Cambridge; and Sota Girls 108 Main St E ste 300, Isanti. Cash donations are also accepted.

Rush City Christmas Caring Tree
The Rush City Christmas Caring Tree will be set up at The Rush City Public Library from Nov. 17 thru Dec. 10. The tree will be decorated with Christmas Wish tags from children in the Rush City School District . Select a Wish tag(s), purchase gift(s) for the child and return them unwrapped to the Rush City Library by Sat., Dec. 12. Your generosity will be appreciated on Christmas morning. Questions, call Marilyn at 651-245-4677 or Shari at 320-358-3463.

Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign
The Isanti County Salvation Army Unit is seeking volunteers to ring bells at kettle locations in Cambridge, Isanti and Braham. Funds raised help meet the needs of Isanti County residents. Sign up at SalvationArmyVolunteer.org. Call or text 763-301-0022 with questions.

Braham Girl Scouts community coat drive
Through December. Donate new or gently used, clean coats in good condition at Friendship Assembly of God Church, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church or Braham Event Center. Coats will be distributed Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. to noon at the Braham Food Shelf, 655 Eighth St. SW, Braham. For more information, contact Tish at 763-244-0450.

Braham Girl Scouts Season of Giving
Nov. 12-Dec. 14 The Braham Area Girl Scouts are collecting toys, games, LEGO sets, gift cards and other gifts for local residents in need. Donations can be dropped off at Friendship Assembly of God Church, Frandsen Bank & Trust, Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church, Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church or Braham Event Center. All donations collected in Braham will stay in the community. For more information or to make a monetary donation, contact Tish Carlson at 763-244-0450.

MINNCO CREDIT UNION ANGEL TREE
Help families in need in our communities by selecting an individual or an entire family from our virtual or in-branch trees, then purchase and wrap presents for them. Drop them off in one of our branches by Dec. 12.
To learn more or to sign up, go to https://bit.ly/4sZmkMd

Please send your holiday giving and service notices to **editor@countystar.com.**

AI: Can't live with it, can't live without it



Worth a Thousand Words

Bill Stickels III

This past week has been quite crazy in terms of modern technology. First, it was Outlook going down for almost a full day. That was immediately followed by the whole national grounding of all major flights. Then there were several banks that experienced outages. Finally, today (Tuesday), there were issues with several of Apple's services.

Naturally, all of these issues have only fed the fire of distrust in modern technology in general, especially when it comes to AI. A while ago, I was thinking how I don't know if there has ever been this much backlash against the advancement of technology. Yet, at the same time, our reliance of said technology is at an all-time high.

People are mounting all sorts of resistance against things like data centers, but at the same time, they are using AI to search out proof of how bad they are. To make it even stranger, they take to social media to spread their condemnation of it.

We here in the newspaper industry are far from immune to this technological conundrum. For the past month or so, there has been a collective uproar within the industry regarding Meta's proposed new policy that would in essence, give it carte blanche over taking our content and using it for its own purposes, including "training AI" and, of course, making money. The technical term for this is "web scraping."

These talks have even gotten to the point of contemplating an industry-wide boycott of all Meta platforms, especially Facebook. At the same time, we admittedly rely heavily on promoting our publications and specific content with social media posts and are making all sorts of attempts to improve our "SEO" (search engine optimization). Note: As of the writing of this column, Meta has indefinitely delayed the implementation of said policy.

Taking it one step further, we are frequently looking into ways of utilizing AI as a labor-saving tool without crossing the line of misusing the technology to the point of fracturing our journalistic ethics and ruining our reputations.

Believe it or not, there are plenty of ways to take advantage of this technology. Obviously, for a long time we've used AI with things like spellcheck or checking grammar. But there are other uses. We can take an uneditable PDF — which previously required us to retype the text — and run it through ChatGPT, which will then convert it into text we can simply copy and paste. We have even done the same thing with handwriting.

Of course, we impose strict safeguards on the program. We specifically tell it not to change any of the words or add extra outside information (something AI is prone to do without such safeguards). We also closely double-check the finished product to make sure everything is as we instructed.

And that is just the tip of the iceberg of what AI can do for us. But we will absolutely be proceeding with caution. As is stated in "Spider-Man," "With great power comes great responsibility."

Besides, if nothing else, our generation is fully aware of the pitfalls of AI becoming self-aware from watching "2001: A Space Odyssey" and the "Terminator" movies.

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

Blue disaster

To the editor,

Under Biden, we had the worst inflation in four decades, $4.60 per gallon gas, eggs $6 doz., GDP in the tank, escalating crime. Groceries up 6-12% depending on what you purchased. Fertilizer for farmers up substantially. Now Democrats talk about bringing cost down when they created inflation. Not one Democrat supporter complained or wrote an editorial in regards to this. Why not? Here's your expectations from socialist blue Tsunami:

•Protecting career criminals; Democrats bailess bonds, lawlessness. Reopen borders for illegal criminals that have raped and murdered several innocent Americans/children. 300,000 children not accounted for in US from Democrats open borders, children sex trafficked, care more about votes then the safety of American citizens. Go after guns but not the murdering criminals shooting them, it's the guns fault. Abolish police departments and ICE. Obama's executive order to detain and deport several thousand illegals from the US with no criminal record. No complaining then.

•Income taxes, property taxes, social security taxes, middle class taxes will climb out of control; you're gonna pay for free Medicaid for all, free exploding welfare programs for those who don't want to work. Tell me the last time you received a tax cut from Democrats?

•Voted in fraud supporters in Minnesota, Klobuchar, Flannigan could have cared less about fraud, got caught by our federal government and Nick Shirley. Protecting their votes they both get from career criminals, fraudsters, career welfare recipients. Klobuchar should have introduced legislation to address the fraud.

• Look what transpired in France/England socialism-open borders now are fighting against Islam. Democrats don't care who gets voted in even with felonies, one in St. Cloud. All they care about is power.

•The brazen Trump hatred from leftist lunatics is appalling. Shame on Trump for GDP pushing 4%, 14 record stock records. GM brings the Silverado truck production back to US from Mexico. John Deere opening a huge manufacturing facility in Indiana. Huge new Steel production facility opening in Southern Iowa, did not choose tax happy red tape Minnesota. All from tariffs implemented. Monthly manufacturing/construction jobs reports exceeding expectations with no governments jobs added. Crime at an all-time low in US. border completely shut down from illegal criminal rapist-murderers. Democrats big plan; go after Trump.

Jerry Grell
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 or to hold a letter to a later edition. 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 noon on Tuesdays to editor@countystar.com or via mail to 930 S. Cleveland St., Cambridge MN 55008. The Star reserves the right to extend its deadline in the interest of timeliness of letters and/or space availability.
- 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.
- 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.

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

Your Best Source for Community Information

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LEGALS DEADLINE: *Noon Monday*

Read, Then Recycle
CONTAINS SOYOIL

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Keeping our community safe this holiday season



Cambridge City Views

Ross Benzen

Deputy Fire Chief

Cambridge Fire Department

As the holiday season approaches, many of us look forward to spending time with family and friends, decorating our homes, and enjoying the traditions that make this time of year special. Here in Minnesota, the holidays also bring colder temperatures, increased use of heating equipment, and plenty of holiday decorations. While these things help make the season enjoyable, they can also create fire hazards if we aren't careful.

The Cambridge Fire Department wants everyone in our community to enjoy a safe and happy holiday season. Taking a few simple precautions can go a long way toward preventing fires and keeping our families, homes, and loved ones safe.

Extension Cords and Holiday Lights

One of the most common concerns during the holiday season is the increased use of extension cords and electrical decorations. Between Christmas trees, outdoor lights, and other decorations, it's easy to overload electrical outlets or use extension cords in ways they weren't designed for.

Extension cords should only be used temporarily and should never be overloaded. Avoid plugging multiple extension cords together or running cords underneath rugs, carpets, or through doorways where they can become damaged. Always inspect cords and holiday lights for frayed wires, damaged plugs, or loose connections before using them.

When decorating outdoors, make sure your lights and extension cords are rated for outdoor use. We also encourage residents to turn off holiday lights when going to bed or leaving the house.

Remember, extension cords should never be used to power space heaters. These appliances draw a significant amount of electricity and should always be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

Real Christmas Trees

For many families, having a real Christmas tree is an important holiday tradition. While real trees bring the wonderful smell of Christmas into our homes, they can also become a serious fire hazard when they dry out.

If you choose a real Christmas tree, make sure it is fresh when you purchase it and keep it watered every day. A dry Christmas tree can ignite quickly, and once burning, the fire can spread rapidly throughout a room.

Keep Christmas trees at least three feet away from fireplaces, heating vents, space heaters, and other heat sources. Make sure your tree is not blocking an exit or doorway, and use only approved holiday lights that are in good working condition.

Once your tree begins to dry out or the holiday season is over, remove it from your home promptly. Don't leave a dried-out tree sitting inside for weeks after Christmas.

Candles and Open Flames

Candles are another popular holiday decoration, but they are also a common cause of preventable home fires.

Never leave a burning candle unattended, even for a few minutes. Keep candles away from curtains, Christmas trees, decorations, and anything else that could catch fire. Candles should also be kept out of reach of children and pets.

We encourage residents to consider battery-operated flameless candles. Today's flameless candles provide much of the same warm holiday atmosphere without the risk of an open flame.

If you do use traditional candles, remember to blow them out before leaving the room or going to bed.

Space Heaters and Home Heating

Living in Minnesota means we rely heavily on our heating systems throughout the winter. As temperatures drop, many households also turn to portable space heaters for additional warmth.

Space heaters can be useful, but they must be used safely. Always keep space heaters at least three feet away from furniture, blankets, curtains, bedding, and other combustible materials.

Space heaters should be placed on a flat, stable surface and plugged directly into a wall outlet. Never plug a space heater into an extension cord or power strip. Turn off space heaters when leaving the room or going to sleep. Never use an oven or stove to heat your home, and never operate outdoor heating equipment, grills, or generators inside a home or garage.

For those who use fireplaces or wood-burning stoves, make sure chimneys and heating equipment are properly inspected and maintained. Ashes from fireplaces and wood stoves should be placed in a covered metal container and stored outside, away from buildings and other combustible materials. Even ashes that appear cool can contain hot embers capable of starting a fire.

Smoke Alarms and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

While preventing fires is always our goal, it's equally important to be prepared if something does go wrong.

Make sure your home has working smoke alarms on every level, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas. Test your alarms regularly and replace batteries when needed.

Carbon monoxide detectors are especially important during the winter months when furnaces, fireplaces, and other fuel-burning appliances are being used more frequently. Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that can be deadly.

Every household should also have a home fire escape plan. Talk with your family about how to get out of the house safely and establish a meeting place outside. In the event of a fire, get out, stay out, and call 911.

A Message from the Cambridge Fire Department

The holiday season should be a time of happiness, celebration, and making memories with the people who matter most. Unfortunately, a fire can change a family's life in a matter of minutes.

As firefighters, we see firsthand how quickly a small mistake can turn into a serious emergency. Many of the fires that occur during the winter months are preventable, and a little extra attention to safety can make all the difference.

The men and women of the Cambridge Fire Department are proud to serve and protect our community throughout the year. However, fire prevention is something we all share responsibility for. By taking a few extra minutes to check your decorations, water your Christmas tree, use heating equipment properly, and make sure your smoke alarms are working, you can help protect your family and your neighbors.

On behalf of everyone at the Cambridge Fire Department, I want to wish you and your families a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season. We hope you enjoy this special time of year, stay warm throughout the winter, and most importantly, stay safe.

Ross Benzen is the Deputy Fire Chief of the Cambridge Fire Department. If you have questions related to this column, please feel free to reach out by email at rbenzen@ci.cambridge.mn.us or by phone at (763) 689-3211.

What might we discover together?



NB School News

Sara Paul

What if some of the best ideas for improving our schools are waiting to be heard?

Over the past five years, North Branch Area Public Schools has made significant progress. We've expanded opportunities, strengthened academic programs, and raised expectations for student success. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. And I'm convinced there is more within our reach.

That conviction has led me to spend more time asking questions.

We've interviewed more than 45 staff members about their experiences and ideas. I've met with parents of students receiving special education services at every school. We've brought parents and community partners together to talk about academics, communication, and financial stewardship.

I'm interested in the details of their experiences. What makes a difference for a student? Where are we getting it right? What opportunities do people see that we haven't yet considered?

We're also seeking out Viking stories. I want to know about the student who discovered a talent, the teacher who found a way to reach a struggling learner, and the family whose experience changed because someone took the time to understand their child. These stories help us recognize what makes success possible and how we can create those conditions for more students.

Now, we want to hear from every family.

Our annual NBAPS Family Survey opened November 18 and closes December 2. We're asking families to share their perspectives on their children's educational experiences, communication, school culture, technology, and district services. Feedback will help us recognize our strengths, identify opportunities, and make thoughtful decisions about where we go next.

Every student walks into our schools with unique strengths, interests, and possibilities. How well do we understand them? What experiences help students discover what they're capable of? And what could we accomplish if we brought together the insights of students, families, educators, and community partners to answer those questions?

We've accomplished a great deal together. Imagine what we might discover next.

SKOL!

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

How early is too early to renew your drivers license?



Ask A Trooper

Jesse Grabow

Question: I know a driver's licenses expires on a person's birthday, but how early can a person renew their driver's license?

Answer: You can renew your driver's license or ID card as early as nine months before the expiration date without shortening the renewal cycle. To make sure you can still legally drive, renew your driver's license on or before the expiration date.

The expiration date depends on which kind of card you have.

Standard

• Driver's licenses and identification (ID) cards (21 years and older): four years.

• Under 21 years old: expires on your 21st birthday. Wait to renew your license or ID until no more than 60 days before your 21st birthday.

• 65 years and older ID cards only: no expiration date.

• Instruction permits: two years from the date of application.

• Provisional driver's licenses: two years from the date of application.

REAL ID

• Same as for standard, except:

• 65 years and older ID cards only: eight years.

Enhanced

• Same as for standard, except:

• 65 years and older ID cards only: four years.

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).

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD

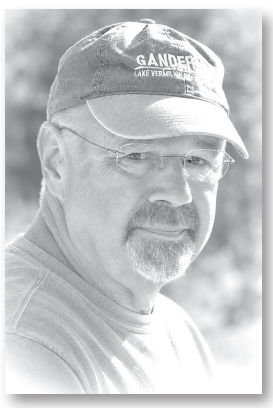
Send your letters to the editor to editor@countystar.com.

OBITUARIES

John J. Lampert

John J. Lampert age 76 of Cambridge, formerly of Center City, MN, was carried by God's angels into the arms of Jesus on November 15, 2026.

John was born on September 19, 1950. His parents were John and Ruby (Thomas) of Minneapolis, MN.



After graduation high school, John started working as a pipefitter for Union Local 539. After many years he obtained his Master Pipefitters License. He also taught at Dunwoody. Instructing students with Locals 539 and 15. In his spare time his received his BA in accounting from Metro State University.

John and his wife Carrie were voracious hunters and fishers, sometimes fishing six days a week. They also hunted deer and bear in Duxbury, MN throughout their marriage. During the summer months, when not fishing, John loved to play golf. He also loved reading history books pertaining to world history and WW II.

They raised and showed horses at halter for many years through the Ottercreek Appaloosas farm with 11 surviving foals.

He is survived by his loving wife, Caroline "Carrie", children Sarah Lampert and Jon III Lampert. John was the grandfather to Ellania, Madden and Talia Lampert; sister Darlene (Steve) Eichten and brother-in-law Bob Johnson and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

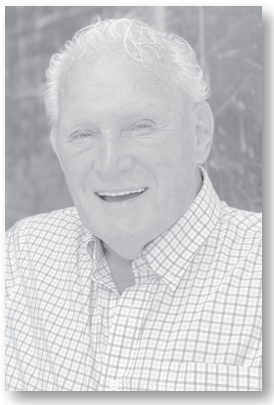
John was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Lisa Lampert; brother Morrie Lampert and sister Debbie Johnson.

A very special thanks to John's sister-in-law, Holly Camillo, who helped care for John physically and spiritually as she prayed with him, read the Bible to him and showered him with love while he was at the hospital waiting for Jesus to come. Also, a special niece Emma who lovingly cared for John by calling him from Finland and praying often with John, while he waited for Jesus to take him home.

A celebration of John's life will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday November 18, 2026 at Cross Pointe Church 34047 Blackfoot St. NW, Cambridge, MN

All Glory goes to God
John 3:16
John gave his heart to Jesus and lived by his word everyday of his life.

Martin "Jack" Perron



Martin "Jack" Perron, age 99 of Isanti, passed away November 15, 2026 at home. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 20 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Isanti with a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment Isanti Union Cemetery. Full obituary next edition.

STUDENT NAMES IN THE NEWS

Student Achievement Lists

Degrees

Chloe Goebel, of Rush City, College of Engineering, Master of Science-Biomedical Engineering, Biomedical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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

A partnership that works

East Central Solid Waste Commission (ECSWC) in Mora, MN, was awarded the MOHR Outstanding Disability Employer Award - Mid-Sized Employer Outstate for its partnership with PHASE-Industries. ECSWC is a regional solid waste management organization serving five counties in east-central Minnesota. ECSWC provides recycling, waste processing, and environmental services for local communities.



CONTRIBUTED

ECSWC Executive Director John Kellas (right), supported employee Brian and PHASE-Industries credentialed employment support professional Amber Kram pose with the award certificate.

The partnership began after Brian, a PHASE-Industries client, expressed interest in working there during an ECSWC facility tour. Brian had been receiving traditional day services for over thirty years. He has now been fully employed at ECSWC for over a year, doing administrative work and data entry. He also occasionally trains staff members on the battery recycling program and works at the Reuse Store."He's a bright light," said John Kellas, executive director of ECSWC. "It's nice to see any time there is a team member who has such a positive outlook on this and is ready to take on whatever is in front of them. He has really helped out our culture."

Brian's quality of life has improved significantly through his employment with East Central Solid Waste Commission. Instead of spending his days in a facility-based setting, Brian now works in the community in a job that aligns with his interests and strengths. "He has this new confidence," shared Amber Kram, credential employment support professional for PHASE-Industries. "He was told he would never work and was deemed unemployable. After thirty-five years, he has left the facility."

Brian has also developed genuine relationships through his work. Kellas has become a friend and mentor, their relationship extending beyond the workplace. In a conversation about how Brian wanted to spend his first-ever paycheck, he told Kellas he wanted to go to a little people wrestling match, a sport he is especially passionate about. For his birthday, Kellas helped Brian's wish come true and attended the match with him. When Brian was hospitalized, Kellas took the time to visit him, demonstrating the authentic care and connection that have developed.

Through his work ethic and positive attitude, Brian has become a true asset to the ECSWC team. "Although there are challenges in some areas, there are superpowers in other areas," said Kellas. "I can't imagine someone wouldn't want him on their team." ~East Central Solid Waste Commission



CONTRIBUTED

Sylvia D. and the orangest pumpkin.



CONTRIBUTED

Waylon T. and the Strangest Shaped pumpkin.

Isanti County youth earn honors in 4-H pumpkin contest

Two Isanti County 4-H members earned recognition in the University of Minnesota Extension's 2026 Grow a Monster: Supersize My Pumpkin contest.

Sylvia D. was recognized in the Orangest Pumpkin category, while Waylon T. earned recognition in the Strangest Shape category.

The statewide contest challenged 4-H youth to grow giant pumpkins using Atlantic Giant seeds and growing guides provided by Minnesota 4-H. More than 650 youth participated, tending their plants throughout the summer and submitting their results for judging.

Entries were evaluated in categories celebrating pumpkin weight, circumference, appearance, vine length and educational displays. Submissions closed Oct. 16.

The annual challenge gives youth hands-on experience with plant science and agriculture while encouraging problem-solving, gardening skills and family involvement.

Each category winner will receive a Minnesota 4-H plant science gift bag and be featured on Minnesota 4-H social media.

"This year's Grow a Monster program has been exciting, seeing participants take a small seed and grow massive pumpkins through their project learning," said Extension Educator Sam Jens. ~Minnesota 4-H

Comfort Lake's proposed delisting reflects districtwide water quality

Our little piece of heaven. Crystal-clear. One of three swimmable lakes in Chisago County.

That's how Jackie Anderson described living on Comfort Lake for the first few years after her family moved there in 1987. Then one Fourth of July, when families gathered at the lake, big lumps of black soil appeared in the water.

Anderson would spend the next 30 years working to improve the water quality of Comfort Lake.

The soil was traced back to Forest Lake's fast-developing business district, which sent untreated stormwater downstream to Comfort Lake via the Sunrise River. The issue sparked the creation of the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD), which was established in 1999. Anderson served for about 25 years on the CLFLWD Board of Managers, including several terms as president.

Now Comfort Lake is poised for removal from the state's impaired waters list.

"It means that we have our lake back. Maybe it's not 100% where it was, but it's 98%" Anderson said in early September. "We can enjoy our lake again, and we don't have to worry about algae growth and sediment. It's wonderful."

Listed as impaired for aquatic recreation because of excessive nutrients, the lake is among seven proposed delistings tied to BWSR Clean Water Fund-backed work that significantly contributed to water quality improvements. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approval finalizes the status.

For the past 10 years, Comfort Lake's seasonal averages have met the deep-lake water quality standard in all areas: phosphorus, water clarity and chlorophyll-a (a measure of algae and cyanobacteria).

"The delisting of Comfort Lake is another milestone in the really unique work of the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District in that this is the second of the six impaired water bodies that we've been able to (delist) in roughly 12 years, which is really an unprecedented timeframe," said CLFLWD Administrator Mike Kinney.



The first, Bone Lake, was delisted in 2024.

Both lakes benefit from significant phosphorus-reduction projects on upstream lakes. Those projects were identified through sequential diagnostic monitoring, which relies on water quality samples more than computer modeling. The four lakes within the district that remain on the impaired waters list are Little Comfort, Moody, School and Shields. To date, the CLFLWD has met 95% of the six lakes' combined 3,245-pound phosphorus reduction goal to meet state standards.

"(The Legacy Amendment) opened up a treasure-trove of various types of grants that we could tap into to help accelerate that work. Without that, it would have probably taken 50 years," Anderson said. "I hope the public understands how important it has been and will continue to be so that we can continue to oversee and clean up and maintain the waters of Minnesota."

Since 2013, BWSR has awarded the CLFLWD more than $3.3 million in Clean Water Fund grants supporting nearly $4.6 million in work directly affecting Comfort Lake. Those 11 grants include two 2025 awards planned for 2026. In September, construction on an iron-enhanced sand filter project affecting Little Comfort Lake was underway, and stormwater management projects in Wyoming and Forest Lake were being designed.

The CLFLWD celebrated Comfort Lake's water quality achievement in mid-June with a short program.

"The lake association is very, very appreciative of the work done by others, the stewards before us, the visionaries that kept their finger on the pulse of the water quality, probably long before water quality hit the radar," Mike Crepeau, Comfort Lake Association president, said in September.

Crepeau moved to Comfort Lake 10 years ago. He'd been looking for a lake home farther north, but he was attracted to the view, the mature trees and the more natural shoreline. The association has made its members aware of lakeshore restoration grants available through the CLFLWD.

"There is a very strong lake stewardship amongst the better share of the lakeshore owners," Crepeau said. "Their work is not in vain."

For the past couple of years, Patsy and Dick Berglund said they have noticed Comfort Lake is clearer and the August algae blooms have not appeared. (Drought conditions also are a factor.)

"I think right now it's much clearer than it used to be. I can stand at the end of the dock and see the bottom clearly and little minnows swimming around," Dick said.

When they returned to the state to work their way into retirement, the Berglunds' search for lakeshore property near the Twin Cities brought them to Comfort Lake about 26 years ago. Dick joined the lake association 20 years ago.

Patsy reflected on the significance of the proposed delisting.

"It means that that all the work that the lake association has done, and encouraging the residents around the lake to take care of the lake, has been paying off," Patsy said. And, she said, it shows that the watershed's upstream phosphorus-reduction projects have been successful.

Just as the CLFLWD will continue to monitor the lake and seek ways to further protect and preserve its water quality, the lake association's work, much of it centered on controlling aquatic invasive species, continues.

"No one said, 'OK, we're done. We can sit back and party now,'" Dick said. "No one ever said, 'Well, we've been delisted, we don't have to do any of this now.'"

~ Ann Wessel, BWSR Conservation Marketing Coordinator

From 400 miles above Earth, AI tracks invasive leafy spurge

Harnessing satellite imagery, AI deep-learning models, and community science data, scientists from the University of Minnesota have tracked the spread of leafy spurge over a twenty-year period.

Researchers from the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology in the College of Biological Sciences are now able to predict areas of future invasion. Their findings, recently published in Ecological Applications, will help farmers, ranchers and land managers combat the spread of the noxious weed.

Funding for this project was provided by the University of Minnesota'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. The project also received funding from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (Agriculture and Food Research Initiative).

Leafy spurge was accidentally introduced from Europe in the late 19th century, and has been a plant of particular concern for farmers and ranchers, especially when it forms dense patches that can stretch for acres. When damaged, the plant secretes sap that is toxic to livestock. From 1960-2000, leafy spurge caused approximately $1 billion in economic losses for farmers and ranchers.

To investigate the spread, the researchers trained a predictive deep-learning computer model on real observations of leafy spurge — including community observations from the iNaturalist app. The model combined those observations with open-source Landsat imagery provided by the U.S. Geological Survey with help from NASA satellites. Even over a twenty-year time span, the researchers could use the model to accurately track leafy spurge.

The study found:

Leafy spurge has rapidly increased in abundance (570%) over two decades (2000-2021).

While many plant ranges are influenced by climate, the massive changes in abundance over the 20 year period occurred primarily around Fargo-Moorhead and Minneapolis-Saint Paul.

Leafy spurge often appears near roadways, suggesting that proactive roadway management strategy could slow the plant's invasion.

During periods of intense drought, leafy spurge was less likely to be detected because it produced fewer flowers.

The detection of newly-invaded areas from satellite imagery improved forecasts of future invasion, which can inform state and federal agencies as they work to manage the invasive species.

"When leafy spurge flowers, it's like someone took a yellow highlighter to the landscape. It's so bright yellow, satellites can see it too," said Thomas Lake, a University of Minnesota PhD graduate, currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Geospatial Analytics at North Carolina State University.

With Minnesota's leafy spurge documented, the research team plans to map the plant across a seven-state area, and study how climate change, insects and rapid plant evolution affect leafy spurge.

"Having a fuller picture of how plants invaded and where they actually occur will help us to make better predictions about where it might eventually end-up," said Ryan Runquist, senior research associate in the College of Biological Sciences.

Farmers and ranchers as well as state agencies will be especially interested in where leafy spurge may spread, given the economic damage caused by the plant.

"Tracking invasive species from satellites vastly improves our capacity to dynamically monitor invasive spread and prioritize limited resources for management," said David Moeller, a professor in the College of Biological Sciences. "Remote sensing significantly reduces bias by allowing detection in areas where observers often miss."

In the future, researchers plan to apply this method and technology to detect the spread of other invasive species. ~ The College of Biological Sciences

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

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR





STACY VERDICK CASE | COUNTY STAR

The tree has been 'planted'

Cambridge Public Works employees put this year's Community Christmas tree in place at the corner of Main Street and Highway 95. The official tree lighting will take place at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21 - just prior to the start of the annual Lighted Snowflake Parade. This will be the final year for the tree at this location due to the Highway 95 expansion. It has yet to be determined where a tree will be placed next year.

Star of Hope Holiday Food Drive

Join the Isanti-Chisago County Star in helping fill our food shelf this holiday season.

NOVEMBER 2-DECEMBER 11

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FAMILY PATHWAYS



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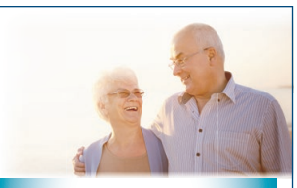
SENIOR HOUSING & SERVICES GUIDE



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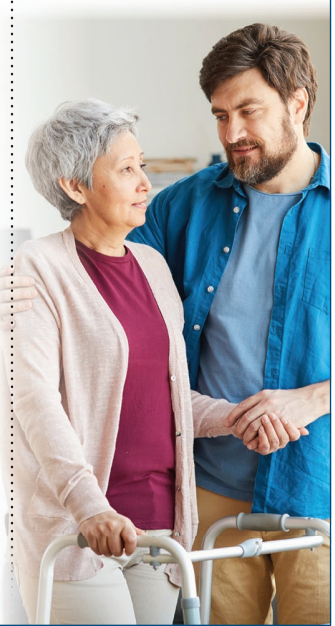

Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 26 • 11am- 1pm

(take out starts at 10:30 - call church to sign-up for take out 763-689-1211)

Free-Will donation. Proceeds to Mission Jamaica.

Volunteers or food donation call Sue @ 763-248-4751

Traditional turkey dinner with all the sides and pie.

Everyone welcome.

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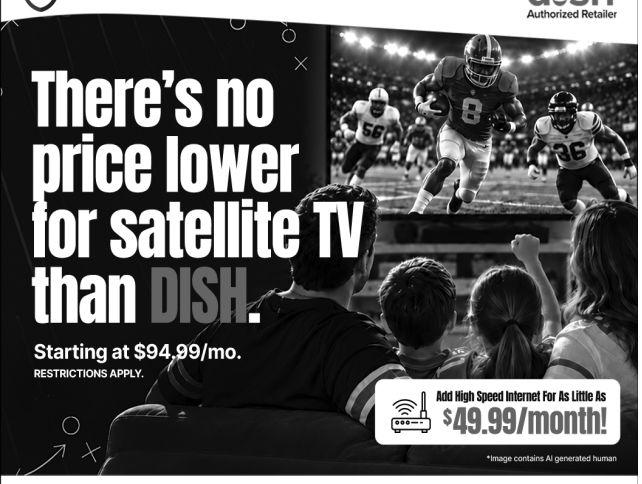

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JORGE PERALES | COUNTY STAR

Let's play hockey

Northern Tier's Bailey Meier defends against a Minneapolis player's attack during the Stars' season-opening game. The Stars lost to Minneapolis 5-0 and defeated Chisago Lakes 3-1 in their first two games of the season.

Enjoy free entrance to Minnesota state parks, recreation areas Friday, Nov. 27

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will waive vehicle fees at all state parks and recreation areas on Friday, Nov. 27, the day after Thanksgiving. The DNR offers four Free Park Days each year to encourage Minnesotans to get outdoors and enjoy the benefits of spending time in nature.

"Heading outside is a great way to enjoy time with friends and family the day after Thanksgiving," said Ann Pierce, DNR Parks and Trails Division director. "In addition, nature has incredible positive effects on our mental and physical wellbeing."

A few activities to try in state parks and recreation areas in late November:

Take a fall nature hike. Keep an eye out for birds and other wildlife, which are easier to spot when the trees are bare.

Try winter camping. More than 25 state parks and recreation areas offer camping opportunities through the winter, from rustic campsites to cozy camper cabins.

Hop on a bike and explore more than 1,500 miles of state trails across Minnesota.

Attend a naturalist event, including a family nature walk at Minneopa State Park or a search for the seven species of woodpeckers that live in Wild River State Park. The full schedule of state park events can be found at mndnr.gov/ptcalendar.

Visitors are encouraged to plan ahead for their visit. It's a good idea to:

Check state park visitor alerts before leaving.

Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately for the conditions.

Visit the information signs near the park entrance for suggestions on what to see and do.

For more information on Free Park Days, visit mndnr.gov/freeparkdays. - MN DNR

Give the gift of the outdoors this holiday season

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has a variety of unique, budget-friendly holiday gift options for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages, abilities and interests. This holiday season, give the experience of learning more about nature, getting outside or supporting the outdoors.

FUTURE FOREST FUND

Help sustain state forests with a gift that gives back. Through a contribution to the Future Forest Fund, Minnesotans can make a gift in honor of a loved one, celebrate a special occasion or demonstrate their commitment to the environment. Donations help the DNR purchase seedlings, support planting efforts and nurture young trees. Learn more and make a donation through the DNR's Future Forest Fund webpage (mndnr.gov/grants/gifts/future_forests.html).

LIFETIME HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES

Give a gift that lasts a lifetime. Minnesota residents and non-residents can purchase lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for themselves or as gifts, with discounted rates available for youth 15 and younger and adults age 51 and older. Initial lifetime license purchases must be made through the DNR License Center. Applications are available by calling 877-348-0498 or by downloading a form online. A Social Security number for the license holder is required, even when the license is purchased as a gift. Fees vary by age and license type, and processing takes about three weeks. Learn more on the DNR's lifetime hunting and fishing license webpage (mndnr.gov/licenses/lifetime).

MINNESOTA CONSERVATION VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE

The Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine is a bimonthly publication packed with beautiful photography and compelling stories about Minnesota's outdoors. A subscription is the ideal gift for nature lovers, as recipients receive a one-year subscription to the magazine and a card announcing the gift. Purchasers can contribute any amount to gift an annual subscription. The suggested donation is $25. Gift subscriptions can be purchased on the DNR's MCV gift webpage (mndnr.gov/mcv/holidaygift).

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS GIFT CARD

Minnesota state parks gift cards can be used for camping and lodging, state park vehicle permits, Nature Store purchases, firewood, equipment rental, tours, I Can! programs and more. Both e-gift cards and physical gift cards can be purchased on the DNR's state parks gift card webpage (mndnr.gov/state_parks/gift_card.html).

NATURE STORE

Nature Stores have an assortment of Minnesota state park and recreation area apparel, jewelry, mugs, books, games, Hiking and Passport club booklets and more, with a unique selection at each store. Winter store hours vary across state parks, so call ahead to check hours before visiting. State parks with the largest selections and extended hours include Gooseberry Falls, Itasca, Tettegouche, Fort Snelling, Lake Carlos and William O'Brien.

Each year, Minnesota State Parks and Trails releases a handmade, limited-edition mug featuring a state park. The 2027 mug will highlight Carley State Park and will be available online on Black Friday and in Nature Stores in coming months while supplies last.

Some items can be purchased online. Online Nature Store orders can only be shipped to Minnesota addresses. To find a nearby Nature Store or browse online items, head to the DNR's Nature Store webpage (mndnr.gov/naturestore).

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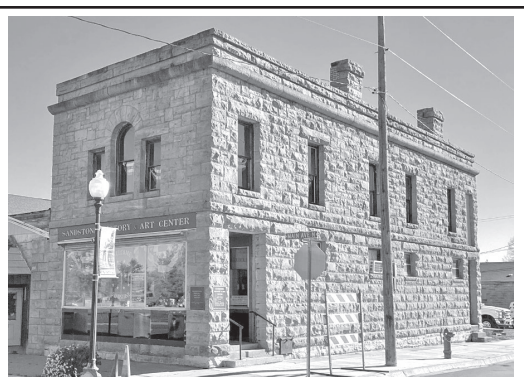

City of Sandstone, Minnesota

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

- Acquisition and Redevelopment of 402 Main Avenue North, Sandstone, MN-

The City of Sandstone is requesting proposals from qualified individuals and/or business owners for the acquisition and redevelopment of 402 Main Avenue North in the City of Sandstone, Minnesota – current home of the Sandstone History & Art Center.

This is an opportunity for an existing or new business to locate and operate at this ideal location in downtown Sandstone. The City is interested in attracting business to Sandstone that will benefit the overall community by providing jobs, services, and/or goods to the area. Priority will be given to proposals that will enhance the existing business climate.

Proposals must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 4, 2026. The full RFP package is available on the City's website: www.sandstone.govoffice.com; via e-mail request to Kathy George, City Administrator: administrator@sandstonemn.gov; or in person at the Sandstone City Hall, 119 – 4th Street, Sandstone, MN.

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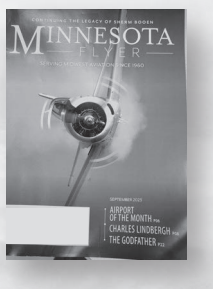
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Minnesota Ag Weather Network Reaches Major Milestone

Expanded system now covers 92% of all agricultural land in the state

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) this year concluded installation of 17 Minnesota Agricultural Weather Network (MAWN) tower stations, completing the largest annual expansion of the network. The system now covers 92% of all agricultural land in the state.

What began as a 13-station network in Central Minnesota expanded steadily over the past three years through investments from Minnesota's Clean Water Fund. That support allowed the MDA to add stations, upgrade existing equipment, and extend coverage into more cropping regions of the state. Today, MAWN is one of the most comprehensive rural weather monitoring systems in the country.

MAWN stations collect real-time information on soil temperature, soil moisture, rainfall, wind speed and direction, humidity, and air temperature. The expanded network makes it easier for growers to access the localized information needed to make decisions about planting, irrigation, nutrient management, and other field operations.

"Having reliable local weather and soil information can make a real difference during the growing season," said Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen. "Farmers rely on that information every day to make decisions in the field. Expanding MAWN means more producers have access to the local conditions they need to manage risk, protect resources, and make the most of every acre."

MAWN's expansion progressed in clear phases. Nine stations were added in 2024, followed by 18 stations in 2025. The largest gain came this year, when 17 tower stations were installed and older stations were upgraded with full soil-monitoring packages.

With this season's installations complete, MAWN now includes 57 stations statewide. When combined with 24 North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network stations operating within Minnesota's borders, the system is nearly at its goal of providing localized weather and soil data within 20 miles of all agricultural land across the state.

The expansion was made possible through partnerships with farmers, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and agricultural organizations across Minnesota. Farmers who host MAWN stations make a long-term commitment to the network by dedicating land for research-grade weather stations designed to withstand Minnesota's climate and remain in place for decades.

Many of the newly served areas have faced repeated challenges from drought, heavy rainfall, cold spring soils, and rapid temperature swings. Expanding coverage in these regions gives farmers better tools to manage risk and make informed decisions throughout the season.

The benefits of MAWN extend beyond agriculture. The same data farmers use to track soil moisture and temperature also supports flood forecasting, emergency management, and severe weather monitoring across Minnesota. MAWN observations help refine flood outlooks, particularly in river basins where snowmelt and rainfall patterns can change quickly, while real-time temperature and wind data support more accurate weather monitoring in areas where observational coverage is limited.

Planning is underway for the final phase of MAWN's expansion. Six stations are scheduled for installation in 2027, focused on regions where coverage remains limited or where growers have requested more localized data. Once complete, the buildout will extend MAWN coverage to 95% of Minnesota's agricultural land.



"The response we've seen from farmers and partners has been incredible," Petersen said. "MAWN grew from a small network into a statewide resource because farmers stepped up to make that growth possible. And now, growers across Minnesota have access to more localized weather and soil information than ever before." ~ MN Department of Agriculture

WORSHIP guide

Baptist

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

Catholic

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

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

Evangelical Covenant

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

Evangelical Free

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

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

Oxlip Evangelical Free Church
29237 Roanoke St. NW,
Isanti, MN 55040
(1 mile West of Cty 5 and Hwy 47)
763-444-5134
oxlip.org
Sunday Service:
9 am Worship Service
10:45 am Christian Education
Awana Children's Ministry (Ages 3 years to 8th grade) Wednesdays 6 pm 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!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Salem Lutheran Church (ELCA)
4638 381st Ave NW, Dalbo, MN 55017
763-689-1687
Pastor Kae Evensen
www.salemlutherandalbo.com
See calendar for activities & services
salemlutheranchurchdalbo@gmail.com
We're on Facebook: special events and live services
Sunday Service & Sunday School
9:00 am June 8, 2026 - May 30, 2027
10:30 am June 6, 2027 - May 28, 2028

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

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

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

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

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

Methodist

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

Grace Gospel Church
37126 MN-65, Stanchfield, MN 55080
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info@gracegospelchurchmn.com
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Justpassinthru.net
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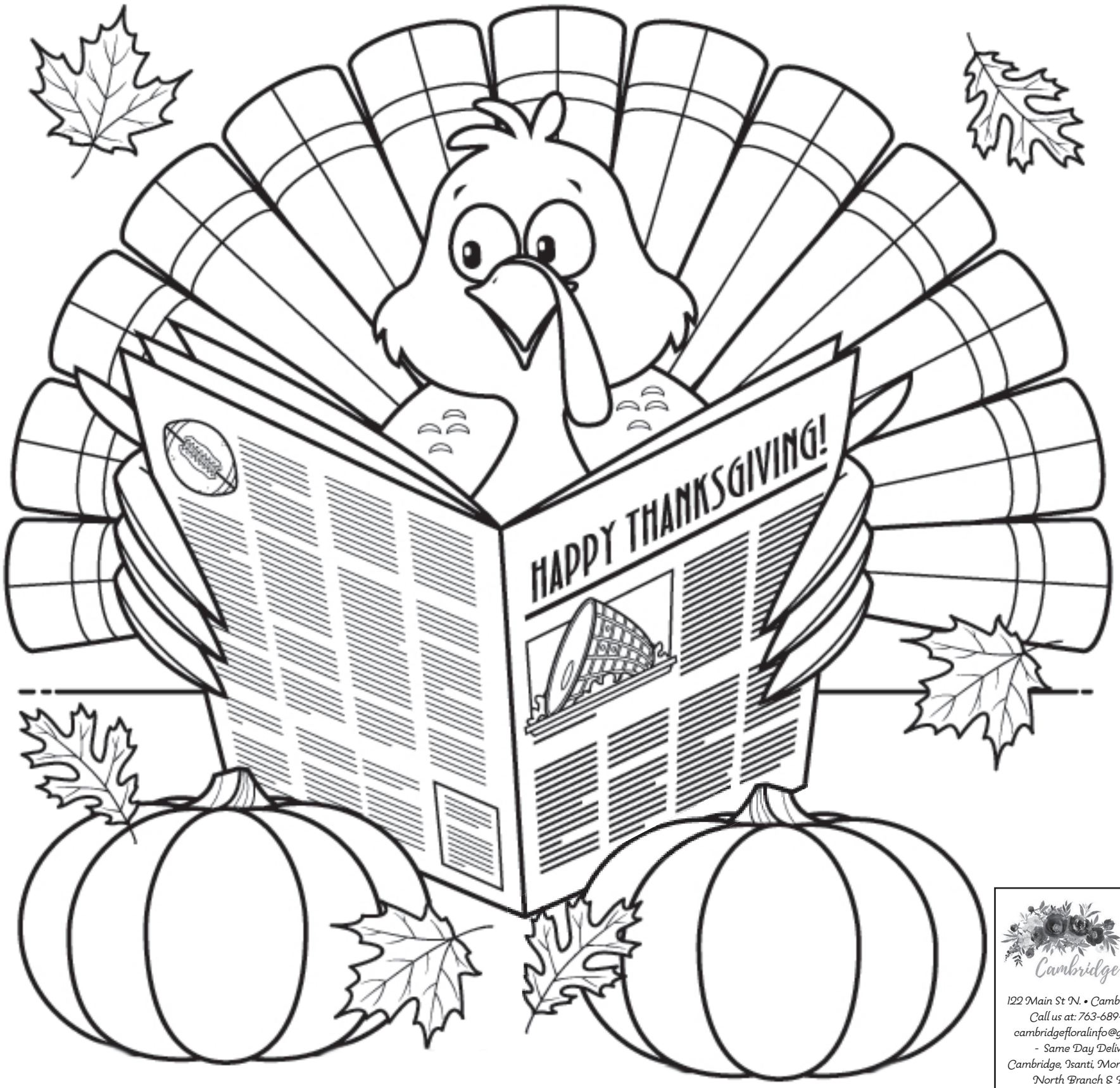

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School district, city conducting soil contamination tests

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Cambridge-Isanti School district is conducting air and soil quality testing at the Cambridge Intermediate and Primary Schools in response to slightly elevated levels of tetrachloroethylene — commonly known as PCE — found outside the southeast corner of the Intermediate School.

According to the school district, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has been doing an environmental assessment of properties near the former Cambridge Launderers and Cleaners building for approximately two years. In June 2026, 10 soil borings were made surrounding CIPS. Of those ten, two came back with slightly elevated levels of PCE. Those two samples had amounts of 125 to 126 micrograms per cubic meter, with 110 micrograms per cubic meter being the maximum amount to be considered normal.

Because of those two slightly elevated levels, the MPCA is recommending two additional tests be conducted. The first is a sub-slab test, which will check for soil vapor directly beneath the buildings. The second is an ambient air test, which will test for PCE in the air. These tests will be conducted twice — over the MEA break and in early winter. The district said testing twice is the standard procedure. Test results take 10 to 14 business days to come back.

"Looking at indoor-air and sub-slab results together gives us a clearer picture of conditions beneath and inside the buildings and helps determine whether any additional steps are needed," the school district said.

SEE PCE, PAGE 11

This map shows which properties have already been tested, need to still be tested, and need or didn't need PCE mitigation. The Cambridge Primary and Intermediate Schools are at the top, left of the map. To see a version of the map that can be enlarged, go to www.isanti-chisagocountystar.com.

CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI SCHOOLS | INVESTIGATE

BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

How low can you go?

Cambridge-Isanti's Kyla Terhell ducks down to try and head a rapidly sinking corner kick during the Bluejackets' game against North Branch. See page 7 for the results of all C-I and North Branch varsity games from the past week.

Cambridge Police moving to updated body camera system

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Cambridge Police Department will begin moving to state-of-the-art body and squad car cameras in February 2027, which the police chief says will greatly improve the use of that data-collection system.

According to Chief Shawn Machin, Motorola notified the department in April 2025 that the camera platform the department currently uses will reach end of life in May 2028.

"Recognizing the need to identify a replacement well in advance of that date, staff began researching available body-worn camera platforms," Machin said. "As the evaluation progressed, it expanded beyond camera hardware to include in-car video, long-term digital evidence storage and sharing, redaction, system integration, connectivity, emergency management capabilities, training, and lifecycle replacement planning."

Machin said part of the research included an extended hands-on trial of Axon, along with a trial of the newest Motorola equipment.

"Based on more than a year of research, demonstrations, hands-on testing, and comparison of both systems, staff recommends transitioning to Axon under the Fleet + Body-Worn Camera proposal," Machin said.

He said besides the body-worn cameras and the in-car systems, Axon offers

SEE CAMERAS, PAGE 11

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FORECLOSURES

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Oak Meadows Townhomes Association (henceforth the "Declaration") recorded in the office of the Recorder for Isanti County, Minnesota on April 13, 2006, as Document No. 364158, which covers the following property:

Lot 10, Block 6, Oak Meadows, Common Interest Community No. 2005-7, Isanti County, Minnesota

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of October 23, 2026, from Ashley Olsen, title holder, to Oak Meadows Townhomes Association, a Minnesota non-profit corporation, the principal amount of Six Thousand, Three Hundred Twenty-Six and 60/100ths Dollars ($6,326.60) for assessments, late fees and related charges, plus assessments, collection costs, attorneys' fees and other amounts will be incurred since said date, including costs of collection and foreclosure;

WHEREAS, no action is now pending at law or otherwise to recover said debt or any part thereof;

WHEREAS, the owner has not been released from the financial obligation to pay said amount;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Declaration and Minn. Stat. §515B.3-116(h), said debt created a lien upon said premises in favor of Oak Meadows Townhomes Association as evidenced by the lien statement recorded on October 6, 2026, in the office of the Isanti County Recorder as Document No. A548355;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the power of sale granted by the owner(s) in taking title to the premises subject to said Declaration, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said property by the sheriff of said county at the Isanti County Sheriff's Department, 2440 S. Main Street, Cambridge, MN 55008, on December 23, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due for said assessments, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorneys' fees as allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by the unit owners, their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of said sale.

The following information is provided pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sections 580.025 and 580.04:

(1) Street Address of Property: 1894 Buchanan Street SE, Cambridge, MN 55008

(2) Name of Transaction Agent, Residential Mortgage Servicer, Lender &/or Broker: N/A

(3) Tax Parcel Identification Number of the Property: 15-169-0320

(4) Transaction Agent's Mortgage Identification Number, if known: N/A

(5) Name of Mortgage Originator, if stated on mortgage: N/A

(6) Date on which Occupant must vacate Property, if mortgage is not reinstated under Section 580.30 or property redeemed under 580.23: 11:59 p.m. on June 23, 2027. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

REDEMPTION NOTICE

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

Dated: October 23, 2026

TOOHEY LAW FIRM, P.A.

By:_____

Jennifer C. Toohey, I.D. #0343742

Attorneys for Lienor

7100 Northland Circle North, Suite 101

Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

(763) 401-4120 Lienor: Oak Meadows Townhomes Association

By:_____

Jennifer C. Toohey

Its: Attorney in Fact

THIS INSTRUMENT WAS DRAFTED BY:

TOOHEY LAW FIRM, P.A.

7100 Northland Circle North, Suite 101

Brooklyn Park, MN 55428

(763) 401-4120

File No. 5538.014

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on October 29; November 5, 12,19, 26; December 3, 2026

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF FORECLOSURE SALE

The below referenced sale scheduled for November 10, 2026 at 10:00 AM , has been postponed to January 12, 2027 at 10:00 AM, located at Isanti County Sheriff`s Office, 2440 Main Street South, Cambridge MN 55008, Isanti Minnesota The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section 580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on July 12, 2027, or the next business day if July 12, 2027 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. Dated: November 19, 2026 SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES Michael Everson #0388310 Attorneys for SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES Randall S. Miller & Associates, PLLC Edinburgh Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 (248) 335-9200 Our File No. 25MN00142-2 PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: May 4, 2020 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $170,848.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Amy Helget and Hans Solberg, both single MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as Nominee for Bay Equity LLC, its successors and assigns TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. MIN#:1006166-0004098637-5 SERVICER: Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services LENDER: Bay Equity LLC. DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Isanti County Minnesota, Recorder, on May 11, 2020, as Document No. A492285. ASSIGNED TO: Servis One, Inc. DBA BSI Financial Services by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 06/06/2023 and recorded on 06/09/2023 as Document No. A523820 LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 10, Block 9, Woodcrest Park, Isanti County, Minnesota PROPERTY ADDRESS: 33560 Rochester St NE, Cambridge, MN 55008 PROPERTY I.D: 03.058.0330 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Isanti THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: One Hundred Fifty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty-Four and 34/100 ($155,724.34) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00AM on November 10, 2026 PLACE OF SALE: Isanti County Sheriff`s Office, 2440 Main Street South, Cambridge MN 55008 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section 580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on May 10, 2027, or the next business day if May 10, 2027 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." MORTGAGORS RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None Dated: September 24, 2026 SERVIS ONE, INC. DBA BSI FINANCIAL SERVICES Randall S. Miller & Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Edinburgh Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: (248) 335-9200 Our File No. 25MN00142-2 A-4893449 11/19/2026

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 19, 2026

NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO DISSOLVE

Autism Matters, Inc., a Minnesota corporation, is in the process of dissolving. The company has filed a Notice of Intent to Dissolve with the Minnesota Secretary of State. That notice was filed July 31, 2026. Any claims against the company must be presented to 34030 Kale Avenue, North Branch, Minnesota, 55056 on or before January 31, 2027.

Dated this 31st day of October, 2026.

Mark Essling

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 5, 12, 19, 26, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ABANDONED PROPERTY

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 345.75, notice is hereby given that tangible personal property has been abandoned during a criminal investigation and remains unclaimed within Spencer Brook Township, Isanti County, MN.

Any person claiming ownership of the tangible property must contact the East Central Drug Task Force at 320-566-4153 within 30 days of the publishing date herein. If the property remains unclaimed, ownership may be transferred in accordance with applicable Minnesota law.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 5, 12, 19, 2026

CAMBRIDGE PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF MEETING

The City of Cambridge Planning Commission will hold a regular meeting on **Tuesday, December 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 Joshua Asp and Terry & Cynthia Pool, site address 2732 Garfield Place S, Cambridge, MN 55008; for an Easement Vacation. The legal description is Lot 26, Block 3, Bridgewater Third Addition, Isanti County, Minnesota.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – A request by Steven Van Brocklin, 538 Old Main St N, Cambridge, MN 55008; for an Interim Use Permit for an Extended Home Occupation. The legal description is lengthy and includes part of Lot 13, Auditors Subdivision 8 of Village of Cambridge, 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 November 19, 2026

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ISANTI DISTRICT COURT

Judicial District: Tenth

Court File No.: 30-PR-26-92

Case Type: Probate

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

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: Donovan Douglas Larson Decedent (Deceased Person).

IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT on December 29, 2026, at 2:00 PM, a hearing will be held remotely at 555 18th Ave SW, Cambridge, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of Decedent and for the appointment of Audrey Eleanor Larson, whose address is 4711 Monroe Street NE, Apt. 2, Minneapolis, MN 55421, as personal representative of the Estate of Decedent in a supervised administration.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or at the hearing. If the petition is proper and if no objections are filed, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN THAT, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present their claims to the personal representative or to the court administrator within four months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

BY THE COURT

Dated: _____

Carrie Doom, Judge

Signature of Judge of District Court

Dated: 10/29/2026

_____

[Signature of Court Administrator Deputy]

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 12, 19, 2026

PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NORTH BRANCH PLANNING COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the North Branch Planning Commission will hold Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 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 a proposed Zoning Text Amendment to City Code Section 66-210 relating to Industrial Zoning District setbacks within the Dimensional and Design Standards Table.

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 Saltis at rsaltis@northbranchmn.gov.

Tonya Kostuch, City Clerk

tkostuch@northbranchmn.gov

(651) 277-5224

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 19, 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, December 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 a Conditional Use Permit for outdoor storage of equipment and materials located at 6202 402nd St.

Applicant(s)

Michael Glenna

Property Owners(s)

Highway 64 Properties LLC

General Location(s)

Northwest corner of 402nd Street and Goodview Ave

PID(s)

11.01072.27

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 Saltis at rsaltis@northbranchmn.gov

Tonya Kostuch

tkostuch@northbranchmn.gov

(651) 277-5224

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 19, 2026

SCHOOL BOARD

SUMMARY PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CAMBRIDGE-ISANTI SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Complete minutes are available for public inspection at the District Office (625 Main St N., Cambridge, MN) or at www.c-ischools.org.

Regular School Board Meeting – October 22, 2026

With Chair Heidi Sprandel, Vice Chair DeEtta Moos, Clerk Mark Solberg, Treasurer Nikki Johnson, and Directors Kevin Gross, Brette Halverson, and Becky Roby; and Ex Officio, Superintendent Dr. Nate Rudolph.

Absent: None

• Chair Sprandel called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

• Approved the meeting agenda.

• Approved the consent agenda.

• Approved the Treasurer's Report subject to audit.

• Adopted the Resolution to accept gifts, grants, or devise of real or personal property,

• Approved the Model UN Overnight Field Trip Request.

• Approved the Concert Choir student trip to Grand Forks, ND.

• Adopted the Minnesota State High School League Foundation Grant.

• Adopted the Resolution Authorizing the Interim Director of Finance to Sign Purchase Agreements.

• Approved the Interim Director of Finance to have Authority with Official Depositories.

• Approved Policies 417, 508, and 533.

• Adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 19, 2026

ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Nov. 8 - 14. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Richard Duane Johnson (DOB 10/06/1979) of Cambridge, was charged Nov. 9 with Threats of Violence -Reckless Disregard Risk.

Christopher Darrell Hayes (DOB 05/29/1982) of Cambridge, was charged Nov. 9 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Jonathon Robert Beckman (DOB 08/16/1985) of Cambridge, was charged Nov. 12 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Amy Jo Heiget (DOB 12/29/1988) of Cambridge, was charged Nov. 13 with one count of Criminal Neglect - Knows/reason to know deprivation will result in substantial or great bodily harm; one count of Criminal Neglect - Deprivation occurred over extended period of time; and one count of Assault-3rd Degree-Substantial Bodily Harm.

CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Nov. 8 - 14. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Steven Michael Alaspa (DOB 12/13/1977) of Lindstrom, was charged Nov. 9 with Domestic Assault.

James Eugene Johns (DOB 07/15/1982) of Saint Paul, was charged Nov. 10 with Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Shii-heim Derrell Collins (DOB 11/29/1995) of St. Paul, was charged Nov. 12 with Fugitive from Justice from Other State - extradition waived.

A Minnesota Newspaper Association AWARD-WINNING publication.
ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR
MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

Talking rural healthcare with University of Minnesota

To mark National Rural Health Day on November 19, University of Minnesota School of Public Health Professor Carrie Henning-Smith, who specializes in health and healthcare in rural communities, discusses the unique challenges and opportunities related to addressing rural health and well-being.

Q: What are the biggest challenges facing rural healthcare today?

Prof. Henning-Smith: Rural residents have a variety of challenges accessing care. In general, they have access to fewer providers, especially specialists, and they have longer travel distances to get to healthcare. Rural workforce shortages are pervasive across nearly every level of healthcare. Rural areas across the country have experienced the closure of critical healthcare facilities and services in recent decades, including hospitals, nursing homes and pharmacies. Research from our Rural Health Research Center shows a decline in obstetric care for rural residents. From birth through old age — and everything in between — rural residents face increasing challenges in accessing the care they need.



Q: Many rural communities are facing clinic closures and greater distances to accessing care. How do these closures impact health?

Prof. Henning-Smith: While healthcare only contributes a small amount toward our overall health — our environment and social drivers of health play a bigger role — access to timely care is still essential. Longer travel distances can make it difficult — or even impossible — for rural residents to access care. My research has found that rural residents have less access to paid sick leave than urban residents, and rural residents face ongoing challenges related to transportation to care. Because of those barriers, rural residents who experience facility closures and greater distances may have a harder time accessing timely routine and preventive care. This can ultimately lead to preventable health issues and costly emergency care. In addition, loss of facilities means loss of jobs in rural communities, which can be challenging in places where healthcare is one of the biggest employers.

Q: What can be done to address persistent healthcare workforce shortages in rural communities?

Prof. Henning-Smith: For several years, I've been collaborating with colleagues at the University and the Minnesota Department of Health to better understand how to recruit and retain the healthcare workforce in rural communities. Not surprisingly, our research shows that the biggest factor associated with becoming a rural healthcare practitioner is having grown up or lived in a rural area; this finding reinforces the importance of high-quality educational opportunities for rural kids from early childhood through higher education. It also shows the importance of training opportunities, like the new rural-focused medical school in St. Cloud. We've found other factors associated with rural practice, too, including the appeal of rural healthcare jobs that have a broad scope of practice, the ability to form lasting relationships with patients, loan forgiveness, and overall quality of life. To recruit rural healthcare providers, we also need to focus on housing, childcare and other community factors that help providers and their families to thrive.

Q: What strengths and resources can rural communities draw on to improve health and well-being?

Prof. Henning-Smith: Despite all of the challenges I've mentioned, rural communities have so many strengths. Rural communities have a long history of being resilient when faced with uncertainty or limited access to funding, infrastructure and other resources. This resilience often looks like resourcefulness, innovation, creativity, and community spirit, which I see in rural communities across the U.S. on a daily basis. Examples of rural resilience might be rural residents banding together to help each other after a natural disaster, finding creative ways to use community buildings for multiple purposes or finding ways to organize mutual assistance programs. Rural communities often contain the ideas and ingenuity to solve the issues they face, and simply need flexible resources to allow them to overcome challenges.

Q: What research are you doing to advance health in rural communities?

Prof. Henning-Smith: Within the School of Public Health, I co-direct the University of Minnesota Rural Health Research Center, where we conduct research on rural access to care and quality of life, including research on aging, social drivers of health, mental health and social well-being, and access to maternity care. Our work has helped to inform federal and state policy to improve rural health and make a meaningful difference in rural communities. But, work on rural health at the University of Minnesota goes well beyond our research center. I lead the University of Minnesota Rural Collective, which provides opportunities for networking and collaboration for faculty and staff interested in rural issues from across the University. In that role, I'm able to see the incredible work related to rural health and vitality happening across all of the University campuses and Extension. That work is often done in partnership with rural communities and is addressing every aspect of rural health across Minnesota and the U.S.

Carrie Henning-Smith is co-director of the School of Public Health Rural Health Research Center, co-director of the University of Minnesota Rural Health Program and a professor in the Division of Health Policy and Management in the School of Public Health. Henning-Smith's research focuses on social drivers of health, mental health, social well-being, and aging and long-term care for rural residents. ~ The University of Minnesota School of Public Health

CLASSIFIEDS

16 Lost & Found

$200 Reward Lost long haired gray and white cat in the area of 3rd & 6th in Mora. Call 612-390-5453 if spotted.

50 Trailers

FOR SALE: Trailer $1500 call 651-295-3618

59 ATV's

FOR SALE: 2020 Polaris Sportsman- low mileage, low hours. Plow included. $4500 Call 651-295-3618

102 Services

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

102 Services

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

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

107 Home/Business Cleaning

Housekeeper

For Disabled Veteran. $20 per hour! 612-709-9158

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

ADVANCED FOOD PRODUCTS is hiring: Forklift Operators $27.28/hr, Dole Operators $29.26/hr, Canner Operators $32.37/hr, Distribution Operator $29.26/hr, Warehouse Coordinator $21-26/hr. HS diploma, pre-employment screening required. Apply: www.afpllc.com/careers Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

BASS LAKE LUMBER seeks a Senior Sales professional in Grantsburg, WI to grow contractor accounts. Building materials sales experience, blueprint reading and take-offs required. Apply in person or call 715-488-2471. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

EMAIL CLASSIFIEDS TO sales@countystar.com

150 Help Wanted

BURNETT COUNTY ADRC OF NORTHWEST WI is hiring a full-time Information & Assistance Specialist helping older adults and people with disabilities find resources. Application at www.burnettcountywi.gov; email to Stacy.Gaffney@BurnettCountyWI.gov or call 715-349-2181, ext. 2135. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

You've Got It! Somebody Wants It! Sell it in the classifieds - 763-689-1181 or email starclass@countystar.com

151 Business Opportunities

Professional Needed

We are looking for someone to strip and wax our tile floors in our Cambridge Office. Three restrooms and two break rooms. Should have own equipment/chemicals. Call Jeff at 651-407-1258 or email jeff@northstarmedia.net

203 Senior Care

Home-Health Aid

1-2 hours 7 days a week. Personal heigene and food prep assistance. $100/week. 612-328-1212

Need a Legal Published? Call 763.689.1181

300 For Sale

Did the Grinch steal Christmas? Knife River Tree Farm, Craig Hovland 320-679-3936, 320-280-0739. Open Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 12-4. West on County Road 6 to County Road 8, 2 miles on 220th Ave

351 Antiques

Antiques wanted: Weather vanes, Aladdin lamps, guns, moose horns, German military, duck, fish decoys, toy marbles, agates, cast iron pans, fancy glass. Gary 651-238-0909

358 Firewood

12 cords 2' oak, ash, maple, dry. 12 cords fireplace wood, mixed, dry. $200/cord. 320-390-0163.

358 Firewood

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

362 Miscellaneous

Buying sports card collections call Tom 612-701-7396

Looking for that perfect gift for an anniversary or birthday? Think about giving a subscription to the Kanabec County Times. Call our office today (320)679-2661 to start delivery – we accept Visa or Mastercard!

Call Now to place your Classified Ad! 763-689-1181

369 Want to Buy

Part-time Program Manager

Responsibilities: Recruit, train, schedule, track programs, reporting, mailings. Supervise youth volunteers. Build strong relationhsips. Oversee program budgets. Resume to cls@cambridgeluther-an.org

501 Real Estate Wanted

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

PLACE A CLASSIFIED TODAY 763-689-1181



Need more help this holiday season?

Call 763-689-1181 for all your employment advertising needs! Email: starclass@countystar.com

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CLASSIFIEDS

PLANT TREES SAVE MONEY

The Field to Forest Cost Share provides:

- Up to 75% reimbursement for tree planting
- $500 per acre
- 3+ acres of open land minimum

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



The Star is now on Instagram!
@ isantichisagocountystar

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

College Doesn't Have to Come With Debt.

Pine Technical & Community College
A member of Minnesota State

You may qualify for
2 YEARS OF FREE COLLEGE
at Pine Technical & Community College

Join us for Scholarship Night:
December 1, 2026

To RSVP, scan the QR code or contact
320-629-5100 or admissions@pine.edu.



EMPLOYMENT

DEPUTY SHERIFF

Chisago COUNTY USA

Patrolling county roads observing for law violations, enforcing laws and ordinances, responding to calls for service, and completing required paperwork and reports. Associate or Technical degree and moderate experience, or a combination of equivalent education and experience; Must be Minnesota POST licensed or eligible to be licensed; Moderate experience as a full time sworn peace officer; Valid driver's license.

2026 Wage Scale: $36.29 to $47.79 DOQ
2027 Wage Scale: $38.88 to $51.20 DOQ.

Apply online at www.chisagocountymn.gov by November 29, 2026.

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY I CRIMINAL DIVISION

Chisago COUNTY USA

Administers and enforces the laws of the State of Minnesota and its political subdivisions. May be assigned to prosecute all levels of crime committed in Chisago County, including misdemeanors, gross misdemeanor, and felony matters, as well as traffic and other petty misdemeanor offenses. Graduation from an accredited law school with a Juris Doctor degree and admission to the Bar of the State of Minnesota; One to three years' experience as a practicing attorney, preferably as a prosecutor or in other areas related to criminal law or the public sector. A license to practice law in the State of Minnesota; Member in good standing of the State Bar Association; Admission to practice in federal bar, desirable. $49.50 to $65.18 DOQ 2026 --- $50.98 to $67.14 DOQ 2027.

Apply online at www.chisagocountymn.gov by November 29, 2026.

Weekly Lutefisk Dinner

Tuesdays Only • 11am – 3pm
Nov 25 - Dec 22

Full Regular Menu

Includes lutefisk, red potatoes, rutabagas, white sauce and butter, cranberry relish, coleslaw, yulekaga bread, Swedish Meatballs and lefsa

(763) 689-3198 • 118 Main St S, Cambridge, MN
Mon.-Sat. 6AM - 2PM • Sun. 6AM - 2PM

PEOPLES Cafe



EARLY DEADLINE

for the November 26 Issue of the

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

The deadline for ALL Ads and News will be

Friday, November 20 at NOON

Closed Thurs. & Fri., Nov. 26 & 27

TELL US WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND!

Help Shape the Future of Arts & Culture in East Central Minnesota

ARTISTS • CULTURE BEARERS • EDUCATORS
COMMUNITY MEMBERS • AUDIENCE MEMBERS
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

TAKE THE SURVEY
bit.ly/3X93cPZ

Takes just 5–7 minutes to complete!
Everyone is welcome to participate!
Surveys accepted through November 30, 2026.

Thank you for helping us build a vibrant future for arts and culture across our region!

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www.ecrac.org

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