FREE

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2026
VOL. 120 NO. 46 COUNTYSTAR.COM

LOCAL WASTE SOLUTIONS
LePage & Sons
YOUR RELIABLE SMALL TOWN TRASH HAULER
Call Us Today!
763.757.7100
www.lepageandsons.com

PLOWING ON: New Isanti County Highway Department facility plans smoothly going forward. **PG 2**



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

The Cambridge-Isanti Theatre Department will be performing "Phantom of the Opera" Nov. 14, 15 and 20 - 22 at the Richard G. Hardy Performing Arts Center.

'The Phantom' haunts CIHS theater

Zorro, Ghostface (from the Scream movies), The Lone Ranger, Batman (and any assorted number of super heroes)...they are all known for their masks, but only one masked man is also known for singing sweeping melodies that have had the world entranced for 40 years: the Phantom of the Opera. And, for the first time the Phantom is making his stage debut at Cambridge-Isanti High School.

Playing November 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, the worldwide smash musical "The Phantom of the Opera" will be presented by the CIHS Theatre department directed by Aaron Knudsvig with technical direction by Angela Gregerson.

Based on the novel by Gaston Lereoux and known for its soaring melodies and beautiful ballads, the musical has been an international smash hit since it opened in London in 1986. It has made more than $6 billion dollars and is one of the most financially successful entertainment endeavors ever. It is currently the second longest running musical in London, and although closed, it is the longest running Broadway musical of all time.

"It's not a show you choose to do without some thought and consideration," Director Aaron Knudsvig said. "You definitely have to have several options for casting in order to choose this show because the vocal demands are some of the most challenging we have ever worked on."

> **'It's not a show you choose to do without some thought and consideration.'**
>
> **Aaron Knudsvig**
> CIHS Theatre Dept. Director

The show has played consistently on Broadway or touring North America since 1988. It is one of the rare shows that has the original professional production still performing, while at the same time allowing high schools to perform it (only two other shows in Broadway history have done that, Les Miserables and Hadestown).

Even with its popularity, the show is not often produced by high schools because of both its vocal and set demands. Currently scheduled, there are only nine high school productions in the country this year compared to 240 productions of the aforementioned Hadestown. This is a special opportunity. If you have been a frequent customer over the decades of CIHS Theatre, you know you can expect a quality production despite the demands this show brings.

To ensure the show is given its full service, the department has rented the essential set element of any quality production: the chandelier which figures into a key moment in the production. It is currently hanging above the audience of the Richard G Hardy Performing Arts Center and is sure to be an exciting element.

"You never know what opportunities you'll be able to give your students, but I don't know that this is a show I'll ever get the opportunity to do again," Knudsvig says. "Never say never of course, because when a show is popular, you'd like to bring it to the audience whenever you can. But, the challenges of this show really require the perfect storm of abilities to do it well." Knudsvig is confident that this cast is meeting those expectations, and he is excited to bring this production to the Cambridge area.

SEE **PHANTOM,** PAGE **XX**

'New' Isanti playgrounds may be installed this year

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The Isanti City Council has decided to let the experts do the work of installing two new (to Isanti) playgrounds rather than having a Public Works employee get a crash course in installation and lead the city and community volunteers through the installation process. The decision also means there is a good chance — weather permitting — the playgrounds will be open before the end of 2026.

The playgrounds in question currently sit in Moir Park in Bloomington. About a month ago, Isanti Mayor Luke Merrill managed to obtain the equipment for free under the condition that Isanti would handle the removal of the equipment and transportation to Isanti.

Public Works Director Josh Becker obtained two quotes for the removal and transportation of the equipment. The first, from Bauer Companies, was for $10,100. However, it did have a $1,500 discount if the city did the transportation part. The original idea was for a Public Works employee to drive down to observe the disassembly

SEE **PLAYGROUNDS,** PAGE **7**

Cambridge resident concludes whirlwind summer as George Washington

BY MELISSA STRAND
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Stepping into the roles of George and Martha Washington this past year has been a success for Cambridge residents Grant and Nancy Kruger.

After Grant joined the Sons of the American Revolution, the organization asked the couple to portray the nation's first president and first lady across the state. In September, the Krugers traveled to Virginia for the George Washington Vigil at Mount Vernon, an annual event hosted by the SAR's National Color Guard at the Washingtons' tomb.

The event, held on Sept. 19, brought together 60 SAR members nationwide to stand guard at the tomb. Re-enactors marched in formation in groups of four

SEE **WASHINGTON,** PAGE **7**



CONTRIBUTED

Grant and Nancy Kruger in costume at Mount Vernon.

Safe for kids. Fast for gamers.
SIMPLE FOR EVERYONE.
ECE FIBER
Powered by East Central Energy
Order Now! Scan the QR code, visit getecefiber.com or call our team at 1-800-254-7944.

NEWS
763-689-1181 ext. 156
editor@countystar.com

ADVERTISING
651-407-1240
marketing@countystar.com

PUBLIC NOTICES
763-689-1181 ext. 153
starlegals@countystar.com

CLASSIFIEDS
763-689-1181 ext. 160
sales@countystar.com

BREAKING NEWS, UPDATES
Whenever, wherever you are!
countystar.com

Highway Department facility plans plow forward

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Plans for the new Isanti County Highway Department facility are close to switching into high gear, with an architectural design all but finalized, along with the overall site plan.

The approximately 76,000 square foot new facility, which will be located in Cambridge's industrial park to the east of Highway 65 and to the north of Highway 95, will replace the existing 39,000 square foot facility that was initially built in 1949. Besides being over 75 years old, the facility is extremely undersized for modern-day highway department equipment. It is also considered a safety hazard for highway department employees.

According to Dan Greuel of Oertel Architects, the new main building includes 45,562 square feet for vehicle storage, 14,142 square feet for maintenance, 6,755 square feet of office space, 3,340 square feet for a wash bay, a 6,891 square foot mezzanine mainly for additional storage, and 945 square feet for holding and loading brine.

Greuel said the office space is separated out between staff space that includes a breakroom/training room and an area for staff's personal storage and restroom/cleaning/changing space which will "keep all that construction muck contained." That space will also have a separate, staff-only entrance. The other section will house the administrative offices and will include a public entry.

The building's layout allows for future expansion, should it be deemed necessary.

According to County Highway Engineer Justin Bergerson, the staff is very pleased with the new building's layout and amenities.

"If I could sum it up in a few words, it would be 'wow' and 'excitement,'" Bergerson told the Isanti County Commissioners. "They were flabbergasted.

"We want this project to be well-done," Bergerson continued. "We want taxpayers to feel they contributed to something that is well-done and not overbuilt; something that will last for another seventy-plus years."

According to Ken Francois of Kraus-Anderson, since June the total cost estimate for the new facility has stayed steady at $26.9 million. He said that included all hard construction costs, along with soft costs such as office furniture and other accessories, plus costs that have already been paid for, such as the land purchase.

"These are estimates," Francois cautioned the commissioners. "Bid day is going to be when we find out what the actual costs are."

Back in July, the county commissioners approved a $10 wheelage tax increase to pay for roughly one-third of the total project cost. That increase is expected to bring in around $440,000 per year. Another roughly $300,000 per year will come from expiring debt. The commissioners are still considering a combination of sources to pay for the remaining costs.

With the site and building plans now complete, the next step will be for the board to approve calling for bids in January 2027. Bids will be received through February, with contracts being awarded in March. Permitting and material procurement will take place in the spring of 2027. Construction is expected to start sometime in the summer of 2027 and should take roughly one year to complete.



CONTRIBUTED



CONTRIBUTED



CONTRIBUTED

It's time for MinnesotaCare enrollees to renew their health care coverage

Minnesotans who rely on MinnesotaCare for affordable health insurance should watch their mail for an envelope with a blue circle and prepare for their annual renewal to ensure uninterrupted coverage into the new year.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services is currently mailing MinnesotaCare renewal forms. Enrollees should check their mailboxes this fall for "the circle in blue when it's time to renew." They can also look up their renewal form now in their online health care account at mn.gov/dhs/online.

"It's important to turn in this paperwork quickly to avoid interruptions in health insurance," said Temporary Commissioner John Connolly. "We want to help eligible Minnesotans keep their coverage to access the care and prescription drugs they need."

The department must verify eligibility every year for MinnesotaCare enrollees to continue their coverage.

Enrollees will receive a mailing with a blue circle on the envelope, informing them that they must either complete and submit a renewal form or that they have been automatically renewed.

Renewal form: After enrollees submit their renewal form through the document upload tool or in the mail, the department will notify them by mail if their coverage is renewed, if they need to provide additional information or if they are no longer eligible for the program.

Automatically verified renewal: Some enrollees' coverage may be automatically renewed if their eligibility is reconfirmed through trusted data sources. These enrollees will also receive a notice in the mail. They should review the information on the notice and report any changes.

MinnesotaCare provides health care coverage to more than 90,000 Minnesotans, paying for a variety of services such as doctor visits, mental health care, prescriptions, hospital stays and preventive care. Enrollees pay no more than $80 per person per month in premiums and have low out-of-pocket costs.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services has created a one-stop shop to help enrollees renew their coverage. Find answers to frequently asked questions, videos and tools to help with the renewal process at mn.gov.dhs/renewmycoverage. ~ Minnesota Department of Human Services

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

MON & THUR

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

MON - FRI

Senior Dining

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

MONDAYS

Women's only Adult Children of Alcoholics and Dysfunctional Families

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

Fresh Beginnings Alanon

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

Book Club

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



Fare for All food sale is back at Rush City High School on Nov. 13.

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.

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.

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. 13

Fare for All food sale

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

NOV. 14

Fall carnival

1 to 4 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 304 S. Main St., Cambridge. The free annual Fall Carnival features activities, games and treats for children of all ages and their families. Everyone is welcome.

NOV. 17

Color with Deb

5-6:30 p.m. at the SCRED Building, 425 S. Dana Ave., Rush City. Coloring and a meal. A $5-$10 donation is suggested.

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.

Avoiding future 'orange cone fatigue'



Worth a Thousand Words

Bill Stickels III

Since Monday, I'm guessing anyone driving east on Highway 95 past Main Street in Cambridge saw the rows of orange cones and immediately thought, "Now what?"

I don't blame them. In fact, that's pretty close to what I said. This past summer, we have been inundated with road construction projects featuring long, complex, inconvenient detours; roads closed simply to minimize traffic going up and down streets in an attempt to shorten said detours; plus even detours of established detour routes.

Obviously, the two main catalysts were the Highway 95 project through Cambridge and the Highway 65 project north of Cambridge. These were certainly at the forefront of commuters' angst. But they also should have been the most anticipated inconveniences. Highway 95 has been tabbed for this project literally for years upon years — to the extent of people taking a "I'll believe it when I see it" stance. And once the specific timeline was nailed down, MnDOT and the city gave plenty of opportunities for people to learn the specifics of the project.

While not on our radar for as long, the Highway 65 project has also been in the works for some time, and MnDOT gave several months' advance notice for when the work would take place. We ran an article spelling out the project's July start time in April.

For these two projects, I think the city received unwarranted criticism. The city had absolutely no input into the Highway 65 project. And while it certainly had input into the Highway 95 project, MnDOT always had the final say on revisions and other decisions.

The other street improvement projects, such as South Dellwood and surrounding Walmart and Menards, and Target, Fleet Farm, Kohls and Aldi — that was all the city's responsibility.

I hate complaining about these projects because I fully understand the city's intentions of keeping its infrastructure in optimal conditions. In fact, I marvel at how detailed and expansive the city's overall plans are for street improvement projects year after year. But for this particular year of those plans, someone definitely dropped the ball.

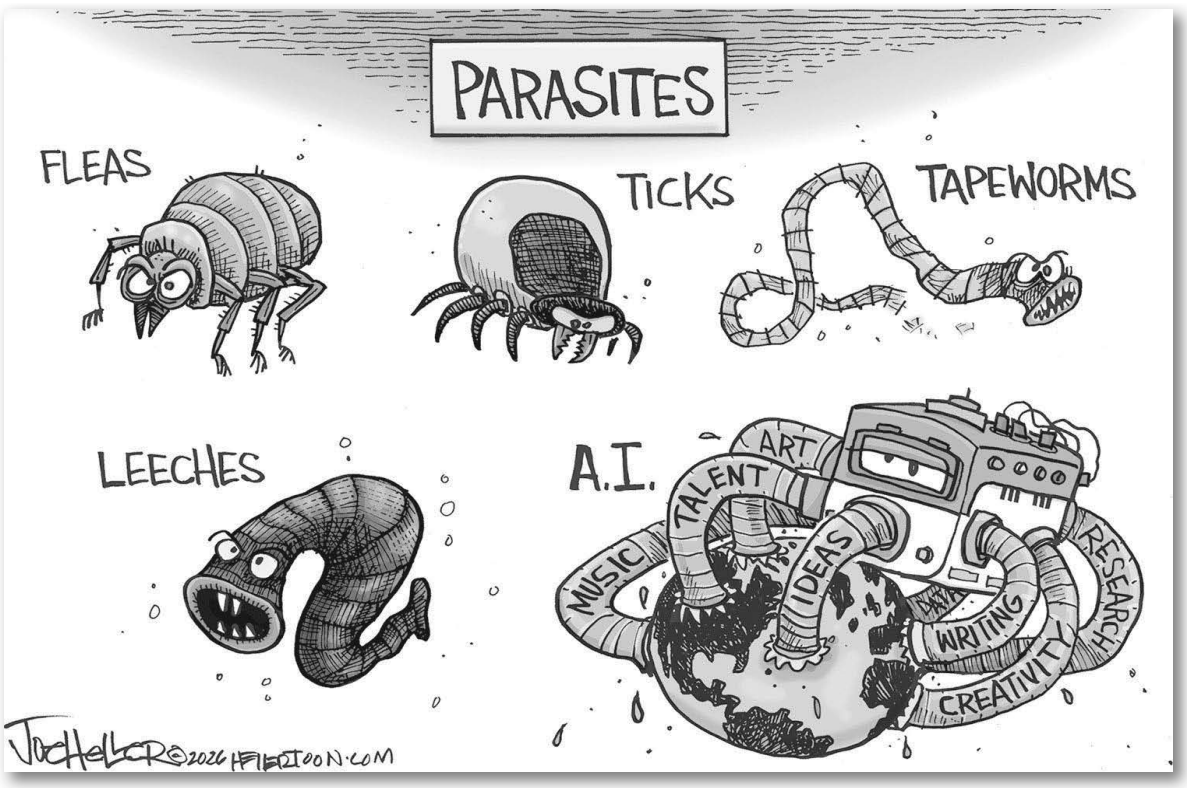
Each year, the projects feel like they are never going to be completed, especially for people most directly impacted by them. However, I don't recall a project lasting this far into November before. To make matters worse, the part of the project that is still yet to be completed impacts a ton of commuters trying to do their shopping.

I'm sure those businesses are really chomping at the bit. I have a feeling the project has impacted their sales more than anticipated. For me personally, it has been over a month since I've tried navigating the construction to get to Walmart. And considering Black Friday sales are beginning, I will bet those businesses are even more concerned about sales figures.

I'm no engineer or street construction expert, so I don't have anything other than loose theories for what went wrong. Maybe it was because the project locations were too spread out. Maybe the order in which the areas were done first should have been different. Or maybe it could have been scheduled so non-residential areas would be worked on at night. Who knows, maybe the project went off exactly as planned, and it was more a lack of communication.

Whatever the reason, I hope the powers-that-be take a long look at what happened and try to figure out how it could have been handled better and how to avoid it happening again.

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

A blue tsunami wave

To the editor,

The American people have spoken across the United States with their votes for the Democratic Party. People have come to realize the Trump administration is the main cause of the crisis and chaos in our country and the Republican Party went along with him on everything.

People realize he has no thoughts or cares for the people of America. His main concern is for himself, how much money he can make, his vanity concerns, like the ballroom and reflecting pool — which cost taxpayers money. He wants to rename everything in his honor.

The war in Iran costs billions of dollars and caused our high gas prices and the tariffs cause high prices on everything else. How can people afford to pay rent, mortgages, food, daycare, insurance, health care and everyday needs? He has no idea about the cost of anything as he can afford anything he wants. The tariffs he is charging Canada are ridiculous. Canada, who has been one our best allies and we no longer have a good relationship with them. Do we have any allies on our side if we need one? He has alienated almost every country, except maybe Russia and China, who would be of no help to us.

His administration has dismantled every part of our government. Judy seems worried about education, but doesn't seem to remember that Trump's Department of Education took away federal funding to states for education needs requiring states to do more and to come up with money that many don't have or don't have in their budgets. So, if someone took away a quarter or half of your income what would you eliminate from your budget so you could survive? You'd have to rethink everything. Education should be a priority, but not according to Trump.

Our military is depleted and they have fired almost every good General in charge, women are looked down upon and requirements have become full of testosterone and all this because of Pete Hegseth, who really has no qualifications to run the Department of Defense. Makes me wonder how our military will survive him.

If you want to talk about fraud and corruption, look no further than the Trump Administration. He or you may want to blame the Biden administration for the bad economy, but the continuing high cost of everything is now on Trump. Remember, day one he was going to fix the economy and two years later they are way worse.

Cathy Nelson
East Cambridge

Hopeful for our community

To the editor,

To my fellow conservatives, while we may be greatly disappointed in last week's state and national election results, I believe we have a lot to be thankful for here in our community.

But most of all we need to remember that the Lord has a perfect plan that we may not always understand and no man can change. I have always believed that Cambridge has been the heart of our community and as I watched it slowly turn away from conservatism and embrace liberal ideology, I witnessed the hardship it put on our most at risk fellow citizens, mainly our seniors and our young families. With the election of Jeremiah Sedler and Tom Schibilla to the Cambridge City Council, that trend has been completely reversed and now with Molly Christensen, we have a true conservative majority on the Council.

While I know there are those that are disappointed on some of the results in the city of Isanti, I do believe Chris Brooks is a good conservative man. I hope everyone gives him a chance and hopefully he will continue the fine work that Luke Merrill has done and keep the frugal conservative direction the city has been

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

Your Best Source for Community Information

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

Publisher ..... Jeff Andres
jeff@northstarmedia.net
Editor ..... Bill Stickels III
editor@countystar.com
Editor Assistant ..... Stacy Verdick Case
news@countystar.com
Advertising/Classifieds ..... Gary Glick
marketing@countystar.com
Graphic Designer ..... Kassie Lex
starcomp@countystar.com
Classifieds ..... Kris Ann Williams
starclass@countystar.com
Circulation ..... Scott Kittelson
circulation@countystar.com

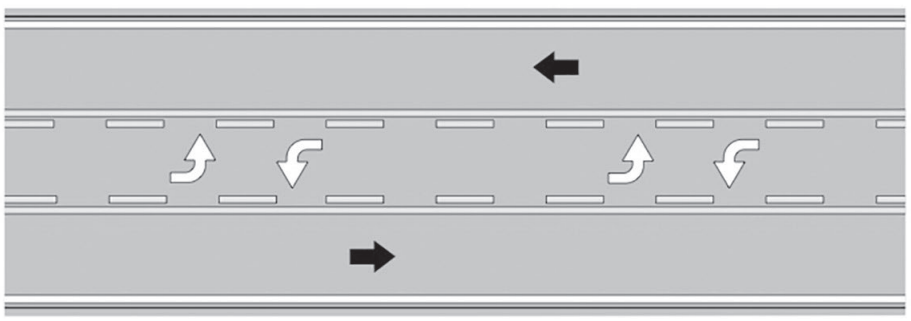
ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR
Published by
Northstar Media, Inc.
PRINTERS · PUBLISHERS
930 South Cleveland, Cambridge, MN 55008

AN EDITION OF ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR
NEWS DEADLINE: *Noon Tuesday*
ADVERTISING DEADLINE: *4 p.m. Tuesday*
CLASSIFIED DEADLINE: *4 p.m. Tuesday*
LEGALS DEADLINE: *Noon Monday*

Read, Then Recycle
CONTAINS SOYOIL

Copyright © 2026 by Northstar Media, Inc.

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER INDEMNIFICATION
The Newspaper shall not be liable for slight changes or typographical errors that do not lessen the value of the advertisement.
The Newspaper shall not be liable or responsible for any error in any advertisement except to give the Advertiser credit for so much of the space occupied by the advertisement as is materially affected by the error; credit shall be by refund or republication of the advertisement at the election of Newspaper. Such credit shall not be given for more than one incorrect insertion unless the Publisher is notified in writing of the error before the repetition of the insertion.
When the Advertiser wishes to correct or change copy submitted as a "proof," the Newspaper shall not be liable for the changes or corrections unless they are received by the Newspaper within a reasonable length of time before the deadline for publication.
If an advertisement is requested to run after copy deadline, the Newspaper will not honor an adjustment request if an error occurs.
No specific page or position shall be guaranteed.
The Advertiser or Agency shall indemnify the Newspaper for any attorney 's fees incurred in defending against claims, pay any judgments against the Newspaper, and pay associated expenses and losses that are caused by the publication of any advertisement submitted by or published at the direction of the Advertiser or Agency, including claims for libel, copyright infringement, and invasion of privacy.



Road with three lanes with traffic moving in both directions. Center turn lane is reserved for traffic turning left from both directions.

Center lane for turning only



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

Question: We have this center turn lane in our town. I witnessed someone passing in this area. Is this allowed?

Answer: No. What you witnessed was illegal and unsafe. A center lane between lanes of traffic traveling in opposite directions may be designated for left turns only. This type of lane is marked by parallel solid and dashed yellow lines. These lines are sometimes accompanied by white arrows on the pavement. Vehicles traveling in either direction can use these lanes to make left turns onto another roadway or a driveway.

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).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

moving towards.

That along with Kristi LaRowe's re-election, which solidifies a conservative majority (four of five County Commissioners) in our county leadership, our great County Sheriff, Wayne Seiberlich's re-election, and the re-election of State Representative Jimmy Gordon and State Senator Mark Koran, we should be very thankful to live among such a strong conservative base in a state dominated by liberals.

While the next two years are most likely going to be very hard to take on the state and national scene, I would remind you that 2028 isn't that far off and I am hopeful that the pendulum will be swinging in our direction, but if not, keeping our eyes and our thoughts on the Lord and His perfect plan, will give us peace and the ability to continue to help our neighbors and be content with what He has given us.

I would also ask you to please pray for President Trump who will be in the fight of his life, on our behalf, these next two years.

Keith Kersten
Stanford Township

Concerns grow over the legality of decorative forest products harvested in Minnesota

As seasonal decorative forest products and greenery appear at markets, garden centers, and holiday events across Minnesota, consumers are being urged to ask an important question: Were these products and greenery harvested legally? Some decorative forest products and greenery gathered from Minnesota's woods may have been cut illegally without landowner knowledge or permission, potentially harming the lands, public or private property, and the forests that communities depend on.

Sustainable harvest of these products requires careful planning with proper protection of the forest by both the landowner and the harvester. Illegal harvesting can significantly damage the forests, disrupt wildlife habitat, and deprive landowners of income from their property. In some cases, the buyers of these resources may have no way of knowing whether branches, stems or boughs were collected with a landowner's consent or under appropriate state, county, or local permitting regulations.

That uncertainty makes traceability essential. Before purchasing decorative forest products this holiday season, consumers should ask sellers where the material was collected, if they had permission to harvest there, and whether required permits or documentation are available. Buyers should be cautious if a seller cannot clearly identify the source or offers large quantities with little information about how the resources were obtained.

Consumers who suspect unauthorized harvesting should document what they observed without confronting anyone or entering private property. Concerns can be reported to the relevant landowner, local law enforcement agency, authorities, or appropriate Department of Natural Resources office.

Responsible purchasing can help protect Minnesota's woodlands. Choosing decorative products from reputable sellers, asking questions about its origin, and reporting credible concerns gives you, the consumer, a practical and important role in discouraging illegal harvesting and in sustaining the state's forests for future generations.

~Minnesota Forest Resources Partnership



Plant bulbs now; you'll be thankful later

As gardeners put away tools and clean up beds, there's still time for one task that pays off next year: planting bulbs. Fall-planted bulbs need cool soil to develop roots before winter arrives. The rule of thumb is simple: if you can still dig a hole, you can still plant a bulb.

Both flowering bulbs and garlic need a period of winter chilling to perform their best. Planting in fall allows roots to establish before the ground freezes, resulting in stronger growth, bigger blooms, and larger garlic bulbs next year.

Before you call it a season, consider planting a few bulbs. It's one of the easiest gardening projects you'll do all year, and one of the most rewarding.

Best flowering bulbs for Minnesota gardens

For the longest season of color, plant a mix of early-, mid-, and late-blooming bulbs.

Glory-of-the-Snow (Chionodoxa): Plant 3-4 inches deep; blooms March-April.

Crocus: Plant 3-4 inches deep; blooms March-April.

Daffodils: Plant 6-8 inches deep; blooms April-May. Deer- and rodent-resistant.

Tulips: Plant 6-8 inches deep; blooms April-May. Best in protected areas to deter deer browsing.

Allium (Ornamental onion): Plant 4-8 inches deep, depending on bulb size; blooms May-June.

Bloom times are dependent on the weather. Early bloomers such as Glory-of-the-Snow and crocus may emerge while patches of snow still linger, while alliums extend the show into early summer.

Planting tips

Choose a sunny, well-drained location.

Plant bulbs in clusters of 5-15 for a natural look.

Water after planting if soil is dry.

Apply a light mulch after the ground freezes.

Plant garlic for a summer harvest

Garlic is one of the easiest and most rewarding crops for home gardeners. Unlike most vegetables, you plant garlic in fall and harvest it the following summer.

For Minnesota, hardneck garlic is the best choice. It thrives in cold winters, produces large, flavorful cloves, and sends up edible flower stalks called scapes in early summer.

Recommended varieties

Music: Large bulbs, mild flavor, reliable producer.

German Extra Hardy: Very cold hardy with a robust, spicy flavor.

Chesnok Red: Rich flavor that shines when roasted.

Metechi: Strong, spicy flavor and dependable winter survival.

Planting tips

Purchase certified seed garlic from a reputable supplier, not the grocery store.

Separate bulbs into individual cloves just before planting.

Plant cloves 2 inches deep, pointed end up.

Space cloves 4-6 inches apart.

Cover with 4-6 inches of clean straw mulch.

Harvest scapes in June and bulbs in July or August.

~ University of Minnesota Extension

Reminder: public invited to suggest future focus areas for Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee Dec. 2

Minnesotans have an important opportunity coming up to engage with the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee. This group is established in state law to make recommendations to the legislature and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding hunting, fishing, habitat management, and related issues.

The committee will hold an online public meeting from 5:30-7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec 2. All Minnesotans are invited to attend. The committee will discuss its prior work and collect public input. That input will help inform the group's focus for 2027. A link to the meeting is available on the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee webpage (mndnr.gov/faw_advisory_committee).

The meeting agenda will include an overview of the committee, a presentation of the committee's 2026 annual report and recommendations (files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/faw_advisory_committee/2026_FWAC_Report_Final), discussion and comment time, and a solicitation of 2027 focus areas.

Current committee members are listed on the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee members webpage (mndnr.gov/faw_advisory_committee/members.html). Detailed information including requirements for appointees, committee responsibilities, past committee reports, and past Game and Fish Fund reports, can be found on the Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee webpage (mndnr.gov/faw_advisory_committee). ~ MN DNR

MILESTONES

OBITUARIES

Edward "Ed" Marinucci

Edward "Ed" Marinucci of Cambridge passed away Friday, November 6, 2026 at North Memorial Health Hospital in Robbinsdale the age of 64.

Edward T. Marinucci was born July 30, 1962 to Richard and Ruth (Silver) Marinucci in Hibbing, Minnesota.



Ed is survived by his sisters Lauri (Eric) Langlie of Glyndon, Toni Anderson of Twin Valley; brother Monte (Jodi) Marinucci of West Fargo, North Dakota; friend Cindy Bolstad; nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Richard and Ruth Marinucci; niece Sesarina Schonheit.

Roger McNear will officiate at a Masonic funeral service for Ed at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 21, 2026 with a time for family and friends to gather one hour prior to the service with military honors to follow all at the Olson Funeral Chapel in Rush City. Following the service, there will be an opportunity to continue to share memories. The interment will take place in the Arlington Cemetery, Boy River Township at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to: Helios Masonic Lodge, 343 2nd Ave SW, Cambridge, MN 55008 or Shrine Hospital, 215 Radio Dr, Ste 100, Woodbury, MN 55125.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to the: Funeral and Cremation Service of Rush City ~ Olson Chapel

FuneralAndCremationService.com

Ronald Allen Buske

Ronald Allen Buske (Ron) passed away suddenly on Saturday November 7, 2026 in North Branch, MN at age 79.

He is survived by wife, Teresa Wasick; children, Chris (Becky) Buske, Jennifer (Tim) Schloe; grandchildren, Patty Schloe, Kate Schloe, Bart Buske and Bert Buske; brothers, Roger (Barb) and Ralph; sister-in-law Rose Buske. Preceded in death by parents, Einar and Alma Buske; wife, Patricia Olson Buske; brother, Jack Buske; nephew, Jess Buske; and sister-in-law, Lynn Buske.



A Memorial Gathering will be held 3-6 p.m., on Monday, November 16, 2026, at Mattson Funeral Home, 343 North Shore Drive, Forest Lake, MN 55025.

In lieu of flowers we suggest a donation to The Wounded Warrior Project or an organization you feel passionate about.

Be good, and if you can't be good, don't get caught.

John Marvin Briegel

John Marvin Briegel, 76, of Cambridge, went home to be with the Lord on November 4, 2026, surrounded by family, following a year-long journey with leukemia that he faced with strength and courage.



John was born on December 21, 1949, in Minneapolis to Kenneth and Leota Briegel. He spent his early years in St. Louis Park before moving with his family to Isanti, Minnesota. He graduated from Cambridge-Isanti High School in 1967.

Following high school, John attended the University of Minnesota and Anoka-Ramsey Community College while working at Uniroyal Tire. He also served in the Naval Air Reserve from 1968 to 1974.

On September 11, 1971, John married his high school sweetheart, Linda Peterson, at Cambridge Lutheran Church. Together, they raised their two children, Michelle and Steve, and built a life centered around family.

In 1972, John started House of Wood Custom Cabinetry on his parents' farm outside of Isanti. Over the decades, he created beautiful, handcrafted cabinets and furnishings, putting his skill and attention to detail into every project. He was later joined in the business by Pat Cahill, who became not only a coworker but a close friend. Their craftsmanship and dedication to quality can still be seen in countless homes and businesses throughout the area, leaving a lasting reminder of the pride they took in their work.

Sports were always a big part of John's life, whether he was playing, coaching, or cheering on his favorite teams. He coached youth hockey, was an active member of the Cambridge Curling Club for over 30 years, bowled in several leagues, and played softball in his younger years. He was also a dedicated Minnesota sports fan, especially when it came to Golden Gopher hockey and the Minnesota Wild.

Two of John's favorite places to be were on the golf course, whether playing in a league or enjoying a casual round with his buddies, and at the family cabin on Half Moon Lake in Wisconsin, where he loved spending time with family and friends.

John's Christian faith was the cornerstone of his life. A devoted member of Cambridge Lutheran Church, he served for many years as chair of the Property Committee and helped schedule and coordinate ushers. He was always willing to lend a hand, whether caring for the church property, helping with a project, or doing whatever else was needed. Just as important to him were the friendships he made there and the many mornings spent sharing coffee and conversation. Being part of the church community brought him great joy.

In retirement, John continued giving his time to others through his volunteer work with Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), supporting those who serve and their employers. He was recently honored with the Seven Seals Award in recognition of his dedication and volunteer service.

John was preceded in death by his parents, Kenneth and Leota Briegel; his parents-in-law, Carl and Darlene Peterson; and his brothers-in-law, Mark and Danny Peterson.

He is survived by his wife, Linda; his children, Michelle (Dawson) Blanck of Mounds View and Steve (Shireen) Briegel of Lakeland, Florida; his sister, Sandra (Phil) Langlotz of Cambridge; his grandchildren, Anna and Connor Schwientek, Olivia Briegel, Kylin and Landon Blanck, Sarah (Eduardo) Monroy and Taylor and Porter Stiles; his sisters-in-law, Rosalie Peterson and Janet (Craig) Becklin; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

John will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who were fortunate enough to know him.

Memorial Service 11 a.m., Friday, November 13, 2026 at Cambridge Lutheran Church. Visitation one hour prior to the service. Interment in the church cemetery. Memorials preferred to Cambridge Lutheran Church Designated Property Fund. Condolences at carlsonlillemoen.com Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Goodbyes are not forever
Goodbyes are not the end
They simply mean we'll miss you
Until we meet again
In Loving Memory of
Jacob Eric Melland
November 14-25, 1997
Love Mom, Dad, Jeremy & family



CONTRIBUTED

Teresa Wederath (center) receiving the Nurse of the Year award from Care Providers of Minnesota.

Ecumen North Branch Nurse honored as Nurse of the Year

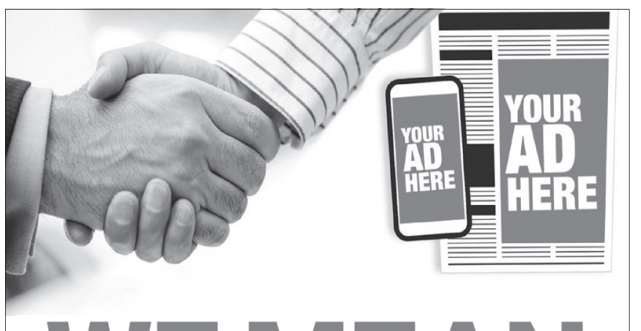
Ecumen North Branch nurse, Theresa Wederath, was recognized today as Care Providers of Minnesota Nurse of the Year. This honor is reserved for caregivers whose impact reaches far beyond the boundaries of their job description.

"For those who have worked alongside Theresa, this recognition comes as no surprise," said Justin Boldt, Ecumen North Branch executive director. "Every day, she brings together exceptional clinical expertise, unwavering advocacy, and a genuine commitment to ensuring that every resident receives the individualized, dignified, and compassionate care they deserve."

Care Providers of Minnesota is a nonprofit membership association working with organizations that provide services along the full spectrum of post-acute care and long-term services and support. Each year, it recognizes a nurse who goes above and beyond to provide exceptional care.

"As a nurse myself, I know that exceptional nursing is about more than clinical expertise. It is about building relationships, advocating for those we serve, and bringing compassion and sound judgment to every interaction," said Cyrus Batheja, RN, EdD, MBA, FAAN, Ecumen president and CEO. "Theresa embodies these values through her dedication to residents, her leadership among colleagues, and her commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. We are incredibly proud to celebrate her and this well-deserved recognition."

Wederath accepted the award today at the Care Providers of Minnesota Annual Convention and Exposition in Shakopee, Minn. Former Ecumen president and CEO, Shelley Kendrick received the Lifetime Achievement Award from Care Providers at today's awards ceremony. ~Ecumen



WE MEAN BUSINESS.

Talk to us about strategic local advertising solutions for your small business!

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
Search for: Isanti-Chisago County Star

WASHINGTON: Nancy Kruger, who portrayed Martha, discovers own ancestry

FROM PAGE I

soldiers, led by an officer at the front and a soldier behind who explained the ceremony to visitors. Members took turns standing ceremonial guard in 15-minute shifts. Grant was one of only two Minnesota SAR members present for the vigil, serving alongside fellow member, author, and journalist Terry Sater.

"It was such an honor," Grant said about standing guard and joining the reenactment, with the chance to share living history with guests at Mount Vernon.

Because Mount Vernon employed its own resident George Washington, Grant graciously removed his blue sash to look less like the estate's official re-enactor, though guests still recognized him. When he entered George and Martha's home, staff asked Grant to remove his hat and wig.

"I can take my hat off, but the hair is mine," Grant joked.

To the staff's surprise, his hair was indeed real. Grant had grown it out specifically for the role, knowing Washington famously preferred to style his own hair rather than wear the powdered wigs popular in his era. For Grant, visiting the home of the man he was so honored to portray was the opportunity of a lifetime.

VISITING FAMILY'S HISTORY

On their journey to Virginia, the Krugers also stopped at Valley Forge, where Grant's ancestor, John Foster, spent the winter of 1777–78 with George Washington. For Grant, it was profound to walk the grounds where an ancestor who helped fight for our country's formation camped during a seasonal pause in combat.

Valley Forge is a small farming community about 20 miles west of Philadelphia, where Washington and 12,000 soldiers from the Continental Army hunkered down for the winter. They stayed there because the British had captured Philadelphia, allowing the Continental Army to monitor British movements while defending against a surprise attack.

"When it comes to history, and what our ancestors endured for us, and here we are 250 years later, and we're still a country…so, it's pretty neat," Grant said, reflecting on seeing where his ancestor camped during the winter of 1777–78.

For Nancy, the journey into the 18th century recently took an unexpected personal turn when she uncovered her own Revolutionary ancestry.

"I was only looking at the men in the family, for whatever reason, so then I looked at my mom's mother…" Nancy explained.

Through the online genealogy database FamilySearch.org, Nancy traced her lineage back nine generations on her mother's side to William Bryan, who served in the Pennsylvania Militia. The discovery makes her eligible for the Daughters of the American Revolution, where her application and family records are currently under official review.

The Krugers are excited they can both claim lineage back to the patriots who fought in the American Revolution, along with their daughters and grandchildren.

"So now, our daughter has joined the Daughters of the American Revolution; she was joining because of me, but now she has both of us. And four of our grandchildren have joined the Children of the American Revolution, so Nancy's been busy making clothes for everyone," Grant said.

UNEXPECTED HONORS

To honor the work the Krugers have put into portraying George and Martha, the Minnesota SAR awarded them medals at its Minneapolis meeting on Sept. 26. They were also recognized for their living history outreach across Minnesota with surprise national-level society medals.

Grant received the George Washington Medal, along with a certificate for the work he's done promoting George Washington this past year. Because she has done so much for the society (before she even knew she was eligible for the DAR), the SAR also presented Nancy with the Martha Washington Medal and certificate. The award recognized the hundreds of hours she spent sewing authentic period costumes for both of them, along with clothing for their teenage grandson, who portrays John Foster's 15-year-old son, Lewis.

FAVORITE MEMORIES

Among all their appearances, the Mall of America event was a summer highlight. Members from all three societies held the event July 3–5, where people from around the world stopped to have their pictures taken with George and Martha Washington.

"The response was so great — that people wanted to meet George and Martha and have photos taken — we ended up being out there for about 12 hours a day," Grant said. "And it was really, really fun…we enjoyed it."



CONTRIBUTED

Terry Sater (far right), the only other Minnesota Sons of the American Revolution member to be invited, marches in four-soldier formation during the ceremony.

In addition to the city of Rush City inviting the Krugers to serve as Grand Marshals of their parade, the couple has hosted presentations for civic organizations, senior living communities, libraries, churches, Scout troops, VFWs, and American Legion posts. They especially enjoy visiting local classrooms.

"And it's amazing when you go to the schools, and you always ask, 'Well, who can name the 13 original colonies? Inevitably, someone's going to say, California," Grant joked. "You know, bless their hearts, the kids."

When visiting schools, they bring period costumes for the children to see and try on. Looking ahead, the Krugers plan to adapt their living-history presentations to align with what the SAR will highlight next year: the Battle of Saratoga, one of the war's first major American victories.

The Krugers are eager to add more events and school presentations to their calendar, sharing their family heritage and our country's founding history.

Living-history presentations are free, though donations to the SAR are welcome. Organizations, schools, or churches interested in scheduling an appearance with George and Martha Washington can email Grant and Nancy Kruger at gkrugeraap@live.com.



CONTRIBUTED

Grant Kruger (left) takes his 15-minute turn standing guard at George Washington's tomb during the annual George Washington Vigil.

PLAYGROUNDS: Council to pay for installation

FROM PAGE I

in order to have an idea of how to reassemble it. And since the employee would be driving back to Isanti each day, they could haul the pieces back.

According to Becker, he was confident Public Works staff would be able to pull all of that off; however, it would be time-consuming and would delay staff from performing other non-time-sensitive duties.

"Woodland Park put us behind a lot of our everyday stuff, and we are now in catch-up mode," Becker said of the recently opened new park made up of natural materials and completely constructed by Public Works. "I'm not saying we can't do it (install the Moir Park equipment), but it is a consideration." He added that a best estimate would be they wouldn't even be able to begin installation until late July 2027.

Council member Erika Zdon said that extended time frame concerned her.

"I'm not opposed to it. I think we got a really great deal," Zdon said. "I'm just saying you are asking someone who doesn't have a ton of time, 'when you take this apart, don't forget what you did for when you put it together in eight months.

"I've put together two parks," Zdon continued. "My family put together the one on South Passage and the one on Hillock. It's just a lot of pieces. A. Lot."

Merrill countered that besides saving transportation costs, the employee hours needed for the installation could be paid for from the park dedication fund, which would save that amount from the general budget. Council member Nick Pedersen added that the installation cost would be paid out of the park dedication fund, no matter who performed the installation.

The second quote was from SafetyFirst. They quoted a price of $9,446.30 to tear the equipment down and transport it to Isanti. Their bid did not include an option for a Public Works employee to observe the disassembly; however, they did quote a price of $14,851 for them to reassemble the equipment this year, or $19,711 if the city waited for them to do it in 2027.

After further discussion that had most of the council leaning towards awarding the project to Bauer Companies, the council suddenly did an about-face that culminated with Council member Steve Lundeen making the motion to "go with SafetyFirst, the whole shabang."

The council also decided to place the smaller of the two playgrounds in Isanti Hills Park, with the Parks and Recreation Committee deciding at its next meeting or at a special meeting where the larger playground should go.



FACEBOOK IMAGE

PHANTOM: Hoping for some sellouts

FROM PAGE I

Knudsvig has been asked by a few people about the show selling out.

"I would love it if we had some sellouts, and tickets are selling at a higher rate than any shows I've directed. Probably the highest since the school did Grease over a decade ago. I can say we haven't sold out any performances yet, but if you like to select specific seats for a performance, you'll want to buy them sooner than later."

Performances are at the Richard G. Hardy Performing Arts Center at CIHS at 7 p.m. on Nov. 14, 20, and 21 as well as 2 p.m. on Nov. 15 and 22. Tickets can be purchased in advance online at www.cur8.com, select buy tickets and search for Cambridge-Isanti. Tickets are also available at the door the day of performances. The ticket booth opens about one hour before performances and a line is expected for this show. Sneak peaks are also available on the theatre's Facebook and Instagram accounts.



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA CAST LIST

Auctioneer/Don Attilo (Il Muto) — Isaiah Eisenbraun
Mdm Giry — Heidi Shatek
Raoul — Aiden Knudsvig
Carlotta — Averee O'Leary
Piangi — Josiah Schlueter
Reyer — Gabe Erickson
LeFevre — Pierce Jones
Andre — Cameron Bleess
Firmin — Chase Shimon
Meg — Kashtyn Ebeling
Christine — Julia Meagher
Buquet — Mason McCourt
Phantom — Jacob Pauly
Il Muto "Cast" — Kayla DeBlieck, Nellavieve Glumac, Abby Rocheford, Alice Heine, Evan Currie, Jamal Her, Elliot Lindberg
Chief Fire Officer — Oakley Bunes
Marksman — Connor St. James
Passarino/Il Muto Cast — Owen Earl
Ballet Girls — Sydney Beckman, Anya Ekerholm, Josie Knudsvig, Sophie Hicks, Delilah Sjodin, Tara Tran, Vy Tran, CC Yang
Ensemble — Emery Allen, Sophie Anderson, Ray Buckingham, Nora Gibbons, Reagan Ludwig, Hannah Rheinhart, Rhea Richard, Andrew Shiller, Abigail Skiba, Paige Washburn, Brita Williams, Hannah Williams

Low Vision
SUPPORT GROUP

Please note time change this month

NOVEMBER 19

Thursday, November 19
1:00-2:30 PM

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

You don't have to face vision loss alone.

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

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

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

welia HEALTH

FAMILY PATHWAYS

SENIOR & CAREGIVER EXPO

Join us as we celebrate National Caregivers Month with a day dedicated to helping older adults and caregivers age and care well.

Event Details:

Braham Event Center
655 8th St. SW.
Braham, MN.

November 19th, 2026
10:00am-2:00pm

LOCAL VENDOR FAIR
EDUCATIONAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS
LUNCH & LIVE MUSIC
PANEL OF LOCAL PROFESSIONALS

651-674-8040
FamilyPathways.org

This event is funded under contract with the Central MN Council on Aging as part of the Older Americans Act program.

Minnco Credit Union
Frandsen Bank & Trust
Your Bridge to Financial Success for Life
Central MN Council on Aging
cmcoa



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Veterans Day breakfast

Cambridge-Isanti High School senior Joyce Samolytz enjoys an extended conversation with veteran Mike Hanson during CIHS's annual Veterans Day Breakfast held Wednesday, Nov. 11 morning. Like usual, the breakfast featured cinnamon rolls from Peoples Cafe, breakfast pizza from Casey's, and coffee and orange juice. The event also featured the unveiling of new shadow boxes for CIHS graduates who died during World War II.

Finally, Business Fiber Internet You Can Count On

Meet Nathan Johnson, who understands firsthand how vital reliable connectivity is for businesses like yours. When you work with Nathan, you can expect:



- ☑ Fiber internet that stays fast during your busiest hours
- ☑ A local person who knows your area and answers when you call
- ☑ Simple pricing and no surprise increases

Call Nathan at 763-691-2059 or scan the QR code to get started.

ECE FIBER
Powered by East Central Energy

ecefiber.com
1-800-254-7944

ECE is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

ALL DONATIONS BENEFIT

FAMILY PATHWAYS



To donate online use the QR Code below

Please reference: Star of Hope Holiday Food Drive

Bring donations to the County Star or one of our partners

Scout & Morgan Books

Empire Insurance Group

SOTA Girls

BOBCAT YEAR-END SALES EVENT



Bobcat S66-2 Skid Loader

As low as 0% for 60 months*
or up to $4,500 Rebate in lieu of financing.



Bobcat T66-2 Compact Track Loader

As low as 0% for 60 months*
or up to $15,000 Rebate in lieu of financing.



Bobcat UV34 Gas Utility Vehicle

As low as 0% for 24 months*
or up to $500 Rebate in lieu of financing.



Bobcat E35 Compact Excavator

As low as 0% for 60 months*
or up to $12,000 Rebate in lieu of financing.

Offers end Dec. 31, 2026

CRAWFORD'S EQUIPMENT CAMBRIDGE MINNESOTA

Bobcat®

Authorized Bobcat Dealer

At the Intersection of 95 and 47 • 763-689-1794 • www.crawfordsequip.com
Mon. - Fri. 7am to 5pm • Sat. 8am to 12:30pm • Sunday Closed

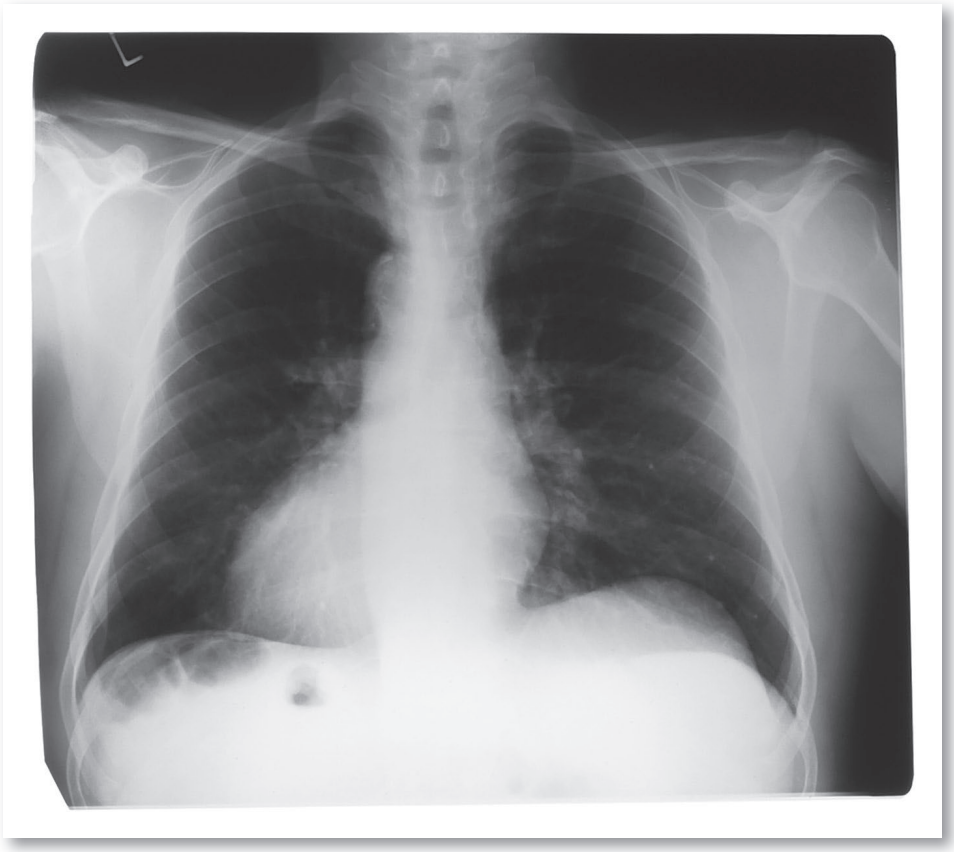
*Offer ends 12/31/2026. Available at participating and eligible dealers only. Offers may vary by product type, series, model, and select units in a dealer's current inventory. Customer must take delivery from dealer stock by 12/31/2026. Offers available on new equipment in the U.S. and Canada only. Some restrictions apply. Contract length and interest rate may vary. Monthly payment amounts are subject to change. Prior purchases are not eligible. See dealer for details. Financing is subject to credit approval by authorized Bobcat finance providers for well-qualified buyers. All finance programs and rates are subject to final approval and may change at any time without notice. Administrative fees may apply. Offer not available to government accounts, national accounts, or municipal/utility bid customers. Bobcat Company reserves the right to modify, extend, or discontinue these programs at any time without prior notice.



ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

Pickup your local Star for current news in your community and more!

Talking lung cancer with University of Minnesota



Lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer death in Minnesota, but advances in screening and treatment are helping improve outcomes for patients. For Lung Cancer Awareness Month in November, Robert Kratzke, MD, with the University of Minnesota Medical School talks about lung cancer risk factors, symptoms, early detection and emerging treatments.

Q: What are the most common risk factors for lung cancer? How can I reduce my risk?

Dr. Kratzke: Smoking is by far the leading risk factor for lung cancer. The link between tobacco smoking and lung cancer is well established, and researchers at the University of Minnesota have helped advance our understanding of how cancer-causing chemicals in tobacco smoke contribute to the disease.

However, not everyone who develops lung cancer has a history of smoking. An estimated 10 to 20 percent of people diagnosed with lung cancer in the United States have never smoked or have a limited smoking history. Other risk factors include radon exposure in the home, secondhand smoke, asbestos and air pollution.

The most important steps people can take to reduce their risk are to avoid smoking or quit if they smoke, limit exposure to secondhand smoke and test their homes for radon. There has also been research that shows maintaining a diet rich in cruciferous vegetables, such as broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower and kale, may help prevent the development of lung cancer in those at risk.

Q: What symptoms of lung cancer should people watch for, and when should they talk with a health care provider?

Dr. Kratzke: A persistent cough that lasts for several months is one of the most common symptoms my patients report after being diagnosed with lung cancer. Unfortunately, these symptoms may not always be investigated as thoroughly as they should be, particularly in people who have never smoked. Coughing up blood is another particularly concerning sign.

These symptoms are often caused by something other than lung cancer, but if they persist, it's important to talk with a health care provider and ask whether imaging, such as a chest X-ray or CT scan, is appropriate. A normal chest CT is reassuring, as it can help rule out lung cancer. Sometimes, insurance companies may be reluctant to authorize these tests if they are considered screening rather than diagnostic exams. If you're experiencing a persistent cough or coughing up blood, make sure your provider and insurer understand that the imaging is intended to evaluate your symptoms, not simply to screen for lung cancer.

Q: Who should be screened for lung cancer, and what does screening involve?

Dr. Kratzke: Lung cancer screening with low-dose CT scans can detect lung cancer at earlier stages, when it may be easier to treat, and has been shown to save lives. In the United States, annual low-dose CT lung cancer screening is recommended for adults ages 50–80 who have a smoking history of at least 20 pack-years (for example, smoking one pack a day for 20 years or two packs a day for 10 years) and who currently smoke or quit within the past 15 years. If you have a history of smoking or are at risk of lung cancer, talk with your primary care provider or a pulmonary medicine specialist about whether lung cancer screening is right for you.

Q: How is lung cancer treated, and what advances in lung cancer research and treatment are improving outcomes for patients?

Dr. Kratzke: We typically start by sequencing the cancer's DNA to identify mutations that may be targeted with specific drugs. We also use imaging to determine the stage of the cancer and whether treatment should include surgery, chemotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapies or radiation.

Lung cancer treatment has advanced tremendously in the last decade. Immunotherapy in particular has revolutionized lung cancer treatment, extending survival and even leading to cures for some patients. Although most patients with stage 4 lung cancer cannot be cured, many now live for years with a good quality of life.

Q: How does your work at the University of Minnesota advance the state's health?

Dr. Kratzke: As we research the treatments and underlying biology of lung cancer, we are addressing an urgent need for the health of our state. The research we are doing in my program, along with my close colleague Dr. Manish Patel, is specifically examining how we can target molecules in the lung cancer cells to make existing immunotherapy even more effective. Along with our other lung cancer clinician colleagues, we are pioneering new treatments every day for our lung cancer patients at the Masonic Cancer Clinic at the University of Minnesota.

Robert Kratzke, MD, is a professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School and medical oncologist with M Health Fairview. Dr. Kratzke is a member of the Genetic Mechanisms of Cancer Program at the Masonic Cancer Center. He has spent his entire career in translational mesothelioma and lung cancer research.

CALL-A SPECIALIST

Your Local Specialists Resource

ATTORNEYS

JOSLIN & MOORE LAW OFFICES P.A.
Clark A. Joslin
221 NW 2nd Ave., Cambridge
763-689-4101

EQUIPMENT

USED PARTS
Tractors • Haybines • Balers
Combines • Choppers
LARSON IMP.
6 Miles East on Hwy. 95
Cambridge, MN
(763) 689-1179
Used Tires • New Tires
Tire Chains

PLUMBING

DOTY'S PLUMBING
Service Residential & Commercial | Remodel
Water Treatment | New Construction
Don Doty - Master Plumber
dotysplumbinginmora@gmail.com
612-390-7396
OVER 25 YEARS • LICENSED
BONDED • INSURED • LIC: PM063068

VETERINARIANS

East Central VETERINARIANS
Serving the Community for 45 years!
Cambridge • 763-689-4604
807 Main St. N
Mora • 320-679-4197
2004 Mahogany St.
www.ecv.vet

TREE SERVICE

NEED A TREE DROPPED BUT, NOT HAULED? SAVE BIG $$$
MATT'S TREE SERVICE
Tree Removal / Trimming • Stump Grinding
Limb Removal • Emergency Service • Full Service Haul Away
MATT'S TREE SERVICE
Certified Arborist • Owner Operated • Locally owned
Bonded, Insured and Licensed mattstreeservice.us
Call Now 612-706-8210
Must mention this ad to receive a 5% discount through the end of December

Your Business HERE! Pick your category and your business will be listed under it!
Call Gary to advertise 651-407-1240 • marketing@countystar.com



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

Solve the puzzle. Help save a life: Give blood or platelets with Red Cross

Receive an exclusive Red Cross x Wheel of Fortune mug for coming to give Nov. 23 through Dec. 6

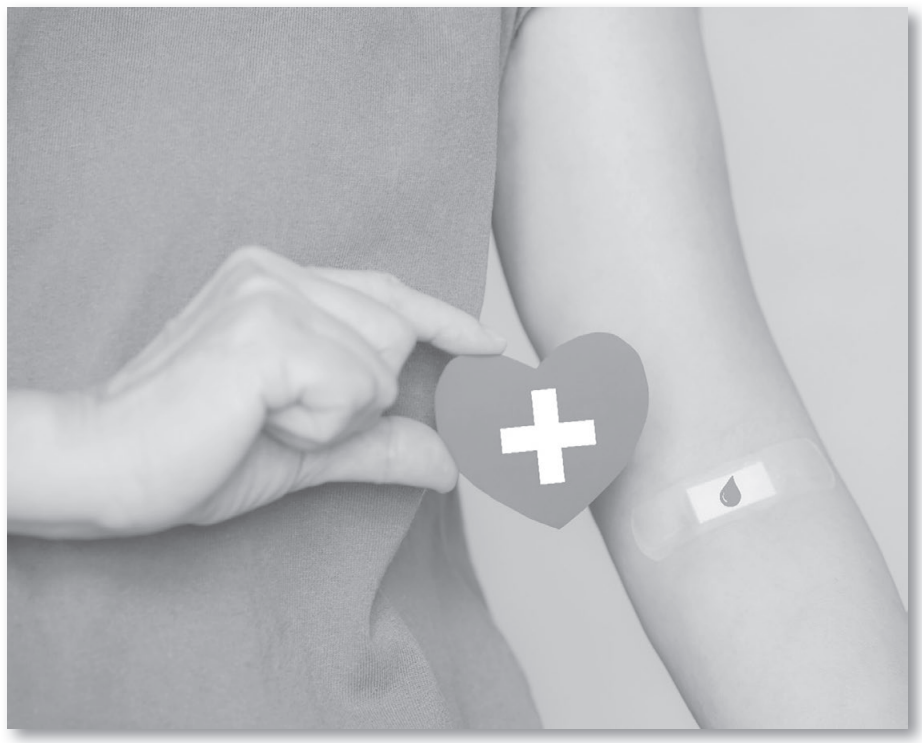
The American Red Cross asks donors to go for a spin and help save lives by giving blood or platelets in November. The last two months of the year can be a challenge for many donors trying to juggle regular donation appointments with packed schedules full of seasonal activities and holiday planning. Donors of all blood types especially those with type O blood are urged to make an appointment to donate now.

The Red Cross and Wheel of Fortune are teaming up to give back to donors this Thanksgiving. Those who come to give blood or platelets between Nov. 23 and Dec. 6, 2026, will receive an exclusive Red Cross x Wheel of Fortune oversized mug, while supplies last. Additionally, all who come to give Nov. 23-Dec. 6 will automatically be entered for a chance to win a three-night trip for two to Los Angeles with entry to a Wheel of Fortune taping. Full details can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/WheelofFortune.

Every spin counts. Every drop matters. Reserve your spot to give blood or platelets by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, downloading the Red Cross Blood Donor App, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

The Red Cross urges donors not to wait to make a lifesaving difference share your good health this holiday season by donating blood for patients in need. In November during National Diabetes Awareness Month, successful donations will get free A1C testing (one result per calendar year; do not fast before donating). For details, visit RedCrossBlood.org/Maze.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities Nov. 16-Dec. 6



HOW TO DONATE BLOOD

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App. -American Red Cross

Minnesotans urged to help track, collect ticks

CONTRIBUTED
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM



Researchers in Minnesota are calling on outdoor enthusiasts, hunters, livestock owners and pet owners across the state to aid in a statewide citizen science effort to map and monitor local tick populations. By recording tick sightings on the iNaturalist app or mailing physical tick specimens, Minnesotans can help researchers update crucial data on tick species diversity, geographic distribution, and animal host relationships throughout the state.

While most people associate ticks strictly with humans and dogs, many species — such as blacklegged ticks, winter ticks, rabbit ticks and lone star ticks — rely on wild game, livestock, and native wildlife. With fall hunting seasons underway, hunters and outdoor recreationists are in a unique position to help gather valuable scientific data from species found on harvested game like deer, game birds, and small mammals.

"Citizen science is one of the most effective tools we have to understand how tick populations are shifting across Minnesota," said Benjamin Cull, a research assistant professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Entomology. "Whether you are out in the woods during hunting season, working on a farm, or simply walking your dog, sending us photos or physical samples of the ticks you encounter gives us a clearer picture of tick activity and health risks statewide."

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Minnesotans can contribute to the project in three simple ways:

Submit via iNaturalist: Download the free iNaturalist app or visit the website, take a clear photo of the tick, and upload the observation. Submissions from Minnesota are automatically tracked by the project team.

Email Photos Directly: Send clear photos showing both the top and underside of the tick to mnticks@umn.edu. Please include the date, location (county or nearest city), and host animal (e.g., deer, dog, horse, human) where the tick was found.

Request a Free Physical Collection Pack: For those who frequently encounter ticks on game, livestock, or pets, free tick collection packs — which include removal tools, storage tubes, data forms, and prepaid return envelopes — can be requested by emailing mnticks@umn.edu.

EXPLORE PUBLIC DATA AND RESULTS

To see real-time updates and findings from the project, the public can access the interactive Minnesota Ticks Dashboard. The site provides educational resources on native and emerging tick species, current seasonal activity trends, and interactive mapping of citizen reports from across Minnesota counties.

For more information about submitting ticks or exploring current survey results, visit the Minnesota Ticks Project StoryMap or email mnticks@umn.edu.

2027 invasive aquatic plant management grant applications open until Dec. 9

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has up to $1,060,000 available to local entities such as lake associations, watershed districts, cities, counties, and Tribal governments for the management of curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, flowering rush and starry stonewort.

Funding comes from Minnesota's invasive species account, which is largely funded by the invasive species surcharge on watercraft registrations and nonresident fishing licenses.

The grant application deadline is 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9. Preliminary award notices will be issued in February 2027, and award funds to reimburse eligible work will be available as soon as March 2027.

Application materials and details about the grant program are on the DNR website (mndnr.gov/grants/aquatic_invasive/control-projects.html).

Invasive aquatic plants are non-native plants that can potentially reduce native plant diversity and create recreational nuisances in water bodies. The DNR's invasive plant management goal is to minimize the harmful effects of invasive aquatic plants while protecting lake habitats and supporting recreational uses.

Management of invasive aquatic plants, including work funding through these grants, requires a permit from the DNR. Permit applications are evaluated using several criteria, including how selectively the treatment targets invasive plants and whether it minimizes potential negative impacts.

Questions can be directed to DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Research and Grants Coordinator Angelique Dahlberg, angelique.dahlberg@state.mn.us or to DNR regional invasive species specialists (mndnr.gov/Invasives/AIS/Contacts.html). -MN DNR

Help shape future of Arts, Culture in East Central Minnesota

What arts and cultural opportunities would you like to see in your community? What is working well today, and where are there opportunities to grow?

The East Central Regional Arts Council (ECRAC) is conducting a Community Arts & Culture Needs Assessment, and we want to hear from you. Whether you're an artist, culture bearer, educator, community leader, volunteer, audience member, or simply someone who cares about the place you call home, your feedback matters.

Your responses will help ECRAC better understand strengths, needs, barriers, and opportunities throughout our region. The information gathered will help guide future grants, programs, services, and partnerships that support arts, culture, creativity, and community life in East Central Minnesota.

The survey takes about 5-7 minutes to complete, and everyone is welcome to participate! Surveys will be accepted until November 30, 2026.

As a thank-you to our community, ECRAC is also offering an optional chance to win a $750 prize through a separate drawing entry form. No purchase, donation, or survey completion is necessary to enter. You can find a link to the survey at our website www.ecrac.org, or by typing this link into your computer: https://bit.ly/3X93cPZ

For more information about ECRAC's grants, programs, services, and opportunities, visit www.ecrac.org

Thank you for helping us build a vibrant future for arts and culture across our region! -East Central Regional Arts Council

Visit us online at CountyStar.com

District judge rejects mental illness plea in Cambridge man's murder trial

BY T.A. LEBRUN
EDITOR@PINECITYMN.COM

A District Ten judge has rejected the mental illness plea of a Cambridge man in the 2024 murder of a Lakeville man in Hinckley.

Kirk Edward Hazlett III, 31, of Cambridge, was charged by the Pine County Attorney's Office in November 2024 with second-degree murder, kidnapping, and burglary stemming from an incident that occurred on Nov. 15, 2024, in Hinckley at a hunting cabin.

The incident involved the shooting death of Kirk Edward Hazlett II, Kirk Edward Hazlett III's father. According to the charging complaint, Hazlett II was shot several times in the head and back with a handgun by his son. The kidnapping charges come from Hazlett III holding his uncle and another man at gunpoint at the cabin while Hazlett III proceeded to kill his father.

The charges were upgraded by Pine County Attorney Reese Frederickson, who called for a Pine County grand jury to determine if there is probable cause on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree murder, first-degree burglary, and two counts of kidnapping. The Grand Jury indicted Hazlett III, finding probable cause for all the charges.

Hazlett III asserted the defense of mental illness and a not guilty plea, which sent the case into a bifurcated trial to address both the not guilty plea and not guilty by reason of mental illness.

In the trial to determine guilt held in July 2025, Pine County Judge Jason R. Steffen found Hazlett III guilty on the charges of premeditated murder in the first degree, intentional murder in the second degree, and two counts of kidnapping. The judge did not find Hazlett III guilty on the first-degree burglary charge.

In the second part of the bifurcated trial held in August to address the not guilty by reason of mental illness defense, the prosecution disagreed with the psychologist's initial report of mental illness and hired another expert who determined Hazlett III did not have a mental illness but was suffering from psychosis at the time of the offense, with the conclusion that the psychosis was the product of voluntary substance use — specifically cannabis, likely exacerbated by alcohol — rather than a qualifying mental illness, and that Hazlett III was therefore criminally responsible.

According to the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order (Phase Two), experts agreed that Hazlett III had experienced genuine psychotic symptoms beginning 11 months prior to the offense, with paranoia increasing over this time, becoming more pronounced, erratic, and aggressive. After the murder and being in jail for about two months, Hazlett's symptoms of mental illness were no longer present.

The findings determined that Hazlett III's delusional beliefs emerged at the same time he started using cannabis frequently. He admitted to daily marijuana use beginning in January 2024 up until the date of the offense; he also reported significant alcohol use, along with taking prescription Adderall.

Dr. Alex Yufik, the court-appointed evaluator, acknowledged that heavy cannabis use can cause "hallucinations, delusions, disorganized thinking, and paranoia" — the same symptoms associated with Brief Psychotic Disorder.

Hazlett III had no prior history of psychosis before commencing heavy cannabis use. He had previously seen providers for ADHD medication over eight years, and none of the providers noted any concerns about psychosis or related symptoms. Hazlett III had also been seeing a therapist consistently for about four years without any such diagnosis.

The court determined that Hazlett III knew what he was doing when he killed his father and confined the two eyewitnesses. He would be excused from responsibility only if his illness caused him to not know the nature of his act or that it was wrong. Court records also note that Hazlett III chose not to kill the eyewitnesses, whom he did not blame in the way he blamed his father, reflecting an understanding that killing is morally wrong.

The defense was unable to prove that Hazlett III's psychotic symptoms arose from a qualifying mental illness rather than from voluntary substance use.



Kirk Edward Hazlett III.

In general, mental illness caused by voluntary intoxication is not a defense, it was stated in the court findings.

The conclusion by the court was that Hazlett III was suffering from psychosis at the time of the offense, he did know the nature of his acts and that they were wrong, and had not proven that his psychosis was the product of a qualifying mental illness rather than his voluntary substance use.

The first-degree murder charge comes with a mandatory life sentence. A sentencing will likely be held in February 2027.

ISANTI COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Nov. 1 - 7. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

David Lucas Goebel (DOB 06/29/2003) of Isanti, was charged Nov. 2 with Financial Transaction Card Fraud-Use-No Consent.

Jason William Tillmans (DOB 12/29/1972) of Minneapolis, was charged Nov. 5 with Drugs - 1st Degree - Possess 50 grams or more - cocaine or methamphetamine.

Michael Eugene Tabaka (DOB 08/16/1961) of Isanti, was charged Nov. 6 with two counts of Drugs - 1st Degree - Sale - 17 Grams or More-Cocaine or Meth w/in 90-Day Period; two counts of Drugs - 1st Degree - Possess 50 grams or more - cocaine or methamphetamine; one count of Felon Convicted Crime of Violence - Firearm or Ammunition Violation; one count of Possess Ammo/Any Firearm - Conviction or Adjudicated Delinquent for Crime of Violence; one count of Drugs - Mfr or Attempt to Mfr Meth in Presence of Child or Vulnerable Adult; one count of Drugs - Aggravated Controlled Substance Crime 1st Degree and 2 aggravating factors; one count of Firearm-Serial Number-Receive/Possess With No Serial Number; and one count of Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORT

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Nov. 1 - 7. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Garron David Ruiz (DOB 05/12/1988) of North Branch, was charged Nov. 5 with Drugs - 1st Degree - Possess 50 grams or more - cocaine or methamphetamine.

Chad Lewis Larsen (DOB 08/13/1989) of Miltown, WI, was charged Nov. 6 with Receiving Stolen Property.

Max Ryan Schantzen (DOB 02/23/1996) of Lindstrom, was charged Nov. 6 with Violate No Contact Order - Within 10 years of the first of two or more convictions.

Upper Red Lake walleye regulations change for winter season

New limit will run from Nov. 15, 2026 – Feb. 28, 2027

The winter season walleye limit on Upper Red Lake will be a four-fish possession limit, with only one walleye longer than 17 inches allowed. This will be the fourth winter in a row with this regulation. The bag limit differs from the 2026 open water season, which had a five-fish possession limit.

"Our fall assessment indicated that the walleye population continues to be in excellent shape. We are dropping the bag limit to four because winter angling on Red Lake is so popular," said Shannon Fisher, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources fisheries section manager. "Lake-wide numbers of spawning-age female walleye remain excellent. We're also seeing strong numbers of young walleye that are just reaching harvestable size, which should make for exceptional fishing over the next few years."

The fall gill net catch on state of Minnesota waters was 35.2 walleye per net with fish of all sizes represented; more than half the catch was between 13 and 16 inches.

This survey result confirms the healthy walleye population status, and appropriate regulation in relation to the agreed-upon harvest plan. Walleye management on Red Lake is a collaborative effort between the Red Lake Nation and the Minnesota DNR, governed by a joint harvest plan agreed upon by the Red Lakes Fisheries Technical Committee. The Upper Red Lake Citizen Advisory Committee reviews walleye harvest totals, regulation options and provides recommendations for the state waters of Upper Red Lake.



The full Upper Red Lake fishing regulations are on the Minnesota DNR website (mndnr.gov/fishing/upper-red-lake-regulations.html). - MN DNR

North Branch Area Community Education
Proudly Presents
$2 Admission
Arts Fest
Saturday
November 21
9 a.m. until 3 p.m.
Located at the
North Branch Area
High School
Featuring over 200 crafters!
Please bring nonperishable food item for local food shelf.
No strollers or pets please.
Take the free shuttle from middle school parking to and from high school. Shuttle time 9am-3:30pm.
38175 Grand Avenue, North Branch, MN
$2 Admission

Free Estimates
Basement and Crawl Space Problems Solved
• Thousands of Satisfied Customers
• Transferable Warranty
• Licensed-Insured
• Providing Realistic Solutions
MN License BC542636
ND License #56638
320-654-9900
www.safedrybasement.com
Leaky basements made dry
Drain tile & baseboard systems
Buckling walls corrected
Foundation repair & wall crack repair
Egress window installation
NOW OFFERING FINANCING
Basement Water Controlled
Providing Service Since 1967
EGRESS WINDOWS
Safe Secure Dry
HOLD-RIGHT™ WALL ANCHORS
STABIL-LOC FOUNDATION PIERS

Butcher's Deluxe Package
MAKES A GREAT GIFT
2 Bacon-Wrapped Filet Mignons (5 oz.)
2 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloin Filets (5 oz.)
4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (4 oz.)
4 Boneless Pork Chops (5 oz.)
4 Classic Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
8 FREE Omaha Steaks Smash Burgers (3.2 oz.)
82792CTT PACKAGE PRICE $89
OmahaSteaks.com/Deluxe4184 | 1.844.890.8532
Ask for 8 FREE burgers on $89+ orders with offer 82792CTT
OMAHA STEAKS® See site for details. Expires 12/31/26. 26M10423

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!
Search for: Isanti-Chisago County Star

Minnesota DNR plants nearly 60,000 seedlings to help forests adapt to emerald ash borer

The planting will help diversify the forest canopy and build resilience ahead of EAB impacts

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recently completed a project to plant 58,800 tree seedlings in the understory of ash-dominated state forest land in north-central Minnesota. This planting seeks to establish a more diverse mix of tree species ahead of the anticipated loss of ash trees to emerald ash borer, which threatens the ecological function of forests where ash are currently the primary species.

Crews hand-planted white cedar, hackberry, silver maple and swamp white oak seedlings grown at the State Forest Nursery on three sites near the edge of known EAB advancement. Research shows that the chosen species can tolerate the tough growing conditions often found in ash-dominated wet forests or swamps. Seedling planting often happens in spring, but fall is preferred on these swamp sites because it's drier and easier for crews to work.

"Our hope is that this project will give us one more tool to keep these ash swamps forested into the future," said Chris Gronewold, DNR Silviculture Program coordinator.

EAB is an invasive insect fatal to all three of Minnesota's ash species. With an estimated 1 billion ash trees in the state, EAB is a threat to tree canopies in forests and urban communities. In northern woodlands, ash often dominate an ecosystem type known as wet forests, which have important ecological functions like water filtration, flood mitigation and providing habitat for uniquely adapted plant and animal species.

With greater diversity of established tree species, wet forests have a better chance of maintaining these functions rather than transitioning away from forest cover after ash trees die. DNR foresters will monitor the sites after planting to track the seedlings' health and growth.

These plantings are among many efforts the DNR and other agencies are undertaking to prepare for, adapt to, and mitigate the damage from EAB. The public can help slow the spread of EAB by not moving firewood outside quarantine zones. EAB is regulated by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. For information on quarantined counties and more, please refer to MDA's Emerald Ash Borer Program webpage (mda.state.mn.us/eab).



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
A LOVING CHURCH PROCLAIMING A LIVING MESSAGE!

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
All Are Welcome!
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.
Everyone Counts!

Non-Denominational

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

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

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

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

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

Arrow TANK AND ENGINEERING CO.
763-689-3360

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

YOUR NEWS & PIE

Just the Way You Like It

FREE



FREE

ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

BEST of Isanti-Chisago County

AND THE WINNERS ARE: Find out if your choices placed in the top three in the Star's Best of contest

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026
VOL. 120 NO. 40 COUNTYSTAR.COM

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 | WEBSITE

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

NEWS 763-689-1181 ext. 156 editor@countystar.com
ADVERTISING 651-407-1240 marketing@countystar.com
PUBLIC NOTICES 763-689-1181 ext. 153 starlegals@countystar.com
CLASSIFIEDS 763-689-1181 ext. 160 sales@countystar.com
BREAKING NEWS, UPDATES Whenever, wherever you are! countystar.com

LOCAL WASTE SOLUTIONS Lampert Lumber
COMMERCIAL · RESIDENTIAL · BIG ITEMS · RECYCLING · ROLL OFFS · STORAGE
Call Us Today! 763.757.7100
www.lampertyards.com

As a free newspaper we do not have the customary revenue that typical subscriber community newspapers rely on to offset some of the news printing and delivery costs.

Your donation helps keep quality reporting, photography and local information available to everyone in our communities.

THIS IS NOT A SUBSCRIPTION.

A 1st Class mailed subscription is $151.00

Call to Subscribe 763-689-1181

In Print, Online and Mobile

Show Your Support today!

Mail or drop off form below or by going online now to countystar.com

(no pie coupon for online donation)

With your voluntary subscription of $30 or more, you will receive a certificate for a FREE PIE at Isanti Coborns, Jerry's Foods or Cambridge Walmart

Hurry, while supplies last!

Pie coupons must be redeemed by December 31, 2026.

Name_____ **Address**_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip**_____ **Phone**_____

Email _____

Payment Options

❑ Check Enclosed Amount $_____

Please select which store you prefer for your pie:

❑ Coborn's Superstore ❑ Jerry's Foods The Neighborhood Place ❑ Walmart Save money. Live better.

❑ Credit Card VISA MasterCard DISCOVER #_____ Expiration Date_____ CVS Code_____

I choose to show my support in the amount of ❑ $25 ❑ $30 ❑ $50 ❑ $ Other _____

Donation of $30 or more for FREE pie

Thank you for your support!

Please send payment and form to: **Isanti-Chisago County Star • 930 South Cleveland, Cambridge, MN 55008**

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE COMMISSIONS UPCOMING VACANCIES

The City of Cambridge is seeking applications for the following vacancies:

- One (1) seat on the Planning Commission for a three-year term (February 1, 2027- January 31, 2030).

- One (1) seat on the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission for a three-year term (February 1, 2027- January 31, 2030).

- One (1) youth representative seat on the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission for a one-year term (February 1, 2027-January 31, 2028).

Applicants must be a City of Cambridge resident. City Council may consider application in the Urban Service Area (USA I) if there is a lack of applications within Municipal Boundary. A Youth Representative shall be in grades 9 through 12. Incumbent Commissioners may also apply for reappointment as long as they do not exceed the term limit requirement.

The Planning Commission conducts a regular monthly meeting, typically on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 PM, with additional meetings on an as needed basis. The Parks, Trails, and Recreation Commission typically holds one (1) regular meeting quarterly in the months of January, April, July, and October and additional meetings as needed.

If you have questions, please contact City Hall at (763) 689- 3211. Applications may be obtained at Cambridge City Hall, 300 3rd Avenue NE or online at www.ci.cambridge.mn.us. The application deadline is 8 AM on December 14, 2026.

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on November 12, 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 invited to Family Pathways Senior & Caregiver Expo

Family Pathways invites seniors and caregivers to celebrate National Family Caregivers Month with an event dedicated to helping older adults and caregivers age and care well.

The event, known as the Family Pathways Senior and Caregivers Expo, will begin at 10 a.m., Thursday, Nov. 19, at the Braham Event Center.

The expo will start with a Vendor Resource Fair, which continues until 2 p.m. Vendors who will be sharing information include Family Pathways; Aging Pathways/Senior Linkage Line; Minnesota Department of Human Services Deaf Blind & Hard of Hearing; Seven County Senior Federation; Alzheimer's Association; Arrowhead Transit; Isanti County Commission on Aging/Senior Activity Center; St. Croix Hospice; Cornerstone Home Care; GracePointe Crossing; Levande by Vivie; Pine City Medical Supplies; Allina-Cambridge Medical Center; Cambridge Memory Cafe; Foster Grandparents; Isanti County Health & Human Services; Veteran Administration; and Lakes and Pines Community Action Council.

Several educational breakout sessions will also be offered. From 10:15 to 11 a.m., a session called Understanding Care Options presented by Lisa Lovering of Family Pathways is planned. Another offered at the same time is Caregiving for Veterans; it will be presented by Jessica Behrends, Veterans Association.

Two other sessions are planned from 11:15 to noon. Those sessions will be AARP with Preventing Frauds and Scams, and Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia, led by Jenna Pogorels, the Alzheimer's Association.

At noon, lunch will be served by Kathy's Kitchen, accompanied by live music from Marie Grundberg. Sponsors for the meal are Minnco Credit Union and Frandsen Bank.

Following lunch, a panel of local professionals will present information germane to seniors and caregivers. Panelists include Dr Amy Haupert, of St. Croix Regional Medical Center; Dr. Carolyn Kampa of Allina Health Cambridge; Natalie Mathewson of Central Minnesota Council on Aging; Jayne Mund, Caregiver Consultant with Family Pathways; and Rebecca Trethewey of EFS Financial Advisors.

No RSVP is needed to attend the expo. Questions can be addressed to Lisa at LisaL@familypathways.org or by visiting the website, FamilyPathways.org

— Staff report

CLASSIFIEDS

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

CLASSIFIED ADS GET RESULTS
Call 763-689-1181 or email starclass@countystar.com

102 Services

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

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

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

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

112 Tree Service

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

The Classifieds
The Classifieds
The Classifieds
Call 763-689-1181 or email starclass@countystar.com to place your ad.

150 Help Wanted

NORTHWOOD TECHNICAL COLLEGE seeks a part-time Accommodation Specialist (Superior) and full-time/LTE Nursing Assistant Instructor ? Mobile Lab (Ashland, New Richmond, Rice Lake or Superior). Apply: northwoodtech.edu/employment. EOE. Find this ad and others at www.applylocal.jobs

The smart way to sell your stuff!
Call 763-689-1181 or email starclass@countystar.com to place an classifeid ad!

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

Place an ad today!
Call 763-689-1181 or email starclass@countystar.com to place a classified ad!

159 Health Care

FOR SALE: Electric wheelchair $750- call 651-295-3618

351 Antiques

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

PLACE A CLASSIFIED TODAY
763-689-1181

358 Firewood

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

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

Mixed Ash firewood, cut, split. $200 full cord. Free local delivery. 612-242-1161.

Seasoned oak firewood $150 large pickup load. Free local delivery. 320-224-9878

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!

EXCESS BAGGAGE WEIGHING YOU DOWN?
Placing a classified ad is an easy and affordable way to advertise your unwanted items to hundreds of potential buyers. Contact us today and start turning the stuff you don't want into something you do want: CASH!
Isanti-Chisago County Star 763-689-1181 or email starclass@countystar.com

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

YOU'VE GOT IT.
Somebody else wants it!
Call 763-689-1181 to place an ad

Looking for a new job? ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR
Check out the Classified section for the perfect fit!



EMPLOYMENT

CHILD WELFARE AND INTAKE SPECIALIST

Chisago COUNTY USA

Provide intake, assessment and case management services for Child Protection, Child Welfare and PSOP programs and support Child Protection teams in other tasks as needed. 36.99 to $48.71 DOQ.

Apply online at Minnesota Merit System by 4:30 p.m. on November 18, 2026, at https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mnmeritsystem

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY WORKER

Chisago COUNTY USA

Managing cases by processing reviews, reviewing cases for completeness and documentation, processing fraud referrals, claims and appeals, assessing and explaining technical and sensitive information to clients, determining initial eligibility, sorting reports and filing documents. $27.64 to $36.40 DOQ.

Apply online at Minnesota Merit System by 4:30 p.m. on November 18, 2026, at https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/mnmeritsystem

Paid Advertisement

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported my campaign, shared my message, offered words of encouragement, and exercised your right to vote. I am incredibly grateful for the trust and confidence the community has placed in me as the newly elected Mayor of North Branch.

As we move forward together, I look forward to continuing to connect with residents, listen to your concerns, discuss the issues facing our city, and hear your thoughts and ideas about North Branch's future.



My message remains the same:

Together, we will build a stronger community through fiscal accountability, collaborative leadership, and a commitment to putting our community first.

As a voice for every resident, I look forward to working together, earning your trust, and creating a strong future for North Branch.

Thank you for this opportunity. Now, let's get to work!

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





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.

NORTH 65 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Our Mission: North 65 Chamber of Commerce, led by its members, promotes business growth, provides resources, and enhances partnerships to support a thriving community.

Please contact us via Phone, Email or Facebook message.
763-689-2505
info@north65chamber.com
@North65Chamber

NORTH 65 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber Awards Gala

Thursday, October 29, 2026

Braham Event Center

Our annual **Chamber Awards Gala** celebrates outstanding organizations and individuals who demonstrate excellence, innovative practices, growth, longevity, and significant community impact.

2026 Chamber Award Recipients

NORTH 65 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAMBER AWARDS 2026

Business of the Year

Large Business
Minnco Credit Union

Mid-Size Business
City Center Market

Small Business
Little Wilderness

Solopreneur
Ohana Chiropractic and Wellness

Emerging Business
Sota Girls

Community Impact Award

New Pathways

Longevity in Business Awards

Chilson Jewelers - 50 Years
Christ Lutheran Church - 50 Years
L J Level - 25 Years

Legacy Award

Monte Dybvig

Chamber Champions

Carol Dybvig
Allen Goldsmith
Shannon Kirkeide

Connecting & Celebrating at the Awards Gala







NORTHBOUND LIQUOR
Largest Wine Selection in East Central Minnesota
763-689-2468

NAPA AUTO PARTS
240 South Garfield
Cambridge
763-689-2411

SCHLAGEL, INC
Manufacturers of a complete line of equipment for bulk material handling.
491 NORTH EMERSON, CAMBRIDGE

JOSLIN & MOORE LAW OFFICES P.A.
Clark A. Joslin
221 NW 2nd Avenue, Cambridge
763-689-4101

Luther 763.689.7600 John Hirsch's Cambridge Motors
WWW.CAMBRIDGE-MOTORS.COM
email:cambridge@lutherauto.com
Service Hrs: 7am-6pm Mon-Fri
Sales Hrs: Mon-Thurs 9-9; Fri 9-6; Sat 9-5

Please thank the following businesses for sponsoring the North 65 Chamber News Page.