



ISANTI-CHISAGO COUNTY STAR

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2023
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AIN'T IT GRAND: Jacket senior John Troolin eclipses career milestone, scores 1,000th point. **PAGE 9**

North Branch to conduct rental housing study

BY BILL STICKELS III
 EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

There is no debate that North Branch needs additional residential rental options. What is up for considerable debate, however, is what type of rentals and where they should be located. To obtain an unbiased perspective on the topic, the North Branch City Council has approved paying the research firm Bolton & Menk \$29,916 to conduct an assessment of rental housing study.

According to Community Development Director Jason Ziemer, of the three proposals under consideration, he felt Bolton & Menk's best fit what the city's goal was for conducting the study, especially when it came to getting community feedback.

"One of the things the selection committee felt really strongly about, which was really highlighted in the RFP (request for proposal) itself, was tied to the need to engage the community," Ziemer said. "The committee felt the Bolton & Menk bid had the most collaborative approach and had the best ideas in terms of the overall community engagement. All housing studies have the same technical review, but we really

wanted to have something that came out of it with an overall implementation plan."

He added that Bolton & Menk's proposal wasn't the low bid, which was approximately \$19,000. However, the bid amount falls below the state statute threshold mandating cities go with the lowest bidder. He also stated that the low bidder didn't include collecting community feedback, and if that had been added to the contract, that firm's bid would have probably been much closer to Bolton & Menk's.

Councilmember Travis Miles, who was the council's representative on the selection committee, added he thought the Bolton & Menk end result material would be more understandable to the general public.

"They could understand it without doing research and research what does this actually mean," Miles said.

He added he was impressed Bolton & Menk did some preview research of North Branch prior to giving their presentation to the committee.

According to City Administrator Renae Fry, the city itself has never

SEE STUDY, PAGE 8



BILL STICKELS III | COUNTY STAR

Heroes in a half shell

Isanti County Sheriff Officer Evan Oltz looks on as the boy he was partnered with for the annual Shop with a Cop event takes a closer look at a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle toy. Each kid was given a \$75 Walmart gift card to use on whatever they wanted to buy. Approximately two dozen kids and cops took part in this year's event.

Recalling the murder of an Isanti officer

Ninety-seven years ago, the village of Isanti and the surrounding community were shocked into silence as grim news cast a veil of darkness over the holiday season.

In the late-night hours of Dec. 21, 1926, Isanti Marshal Frank Dahlin was gunned down while trying to stop a robbery. The night started like any other as Marshal Dahlin made his rounds within the village of Isanti. Taking a short detour to escort young Earl and Viola Katzel home from the ice rink was the only deviation from the nightly routine. Not wanting the children to walk home alone through the dimly lit warehouse district near the tracks, Marshal Dahlin went out of his way as he'd always done to ensure the safety of the citizens he served. The growing

village of Isanti at that time wasn't a particularly dangerous place, but the bustling railroad community did have the occasional disturbance.

After making sure young Earl and Viola made it home safe, Marshal Dahlin continued his rounds. As he approached the warehouse district near Main Street and the railroad crossing around 11:30 p.m., he saw several shadowy figures in the distance. Taking note of the men, Dahlin approached.

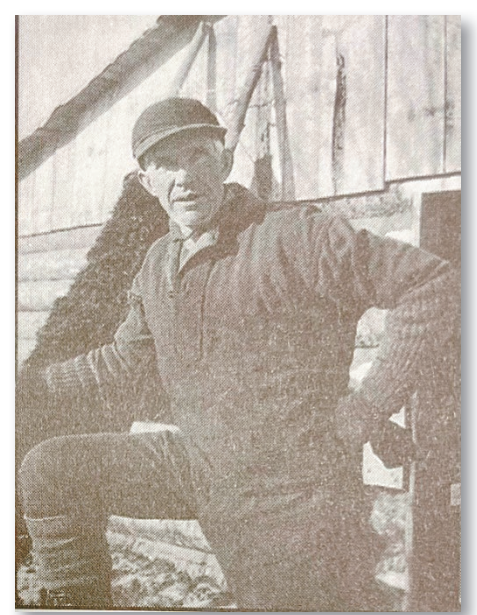
Before he had a chance to identify himself, a barrage of gunfire erupted in Dahlin's direction. Wounded twice but quickly returning fire, Dahlin struck one of the perpetrators twice. An estimated 10 shots rang out into the crisp December air, shattering the winter silence. The break-in attempt at one of

the warehouse offices was thwarted and the men sped off into the night, leaving the mortally wounded Marshal bleeding by the tracks.

Hearing the gunfire, night worker Oscar Spets peered out the window of the Oleson Beanery located on the south side of Main Street, west of the tracks. Oscar quickly awakened business owner W.D. Olseon, who immediately contacted Dr. Hendenstrom. Sheriff Claes Johnson, County Attorney Henry Soderquist, and Dr. Hendenstrom all arrived at the scene.

Although Marshal Dahlin was suffering greatly from his wounds, he was able to give some details of the encounter. By noon on the 22nd, he was showing small signs of improvement

SEE DAHLIN, PAGE 2



ISANTI COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 Village of Isanti Marshal Frank Dahlin.

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DAHLIN: Isanti Marshal fatally shot on routine patrol during attempted robbery

FROM PAGE 1

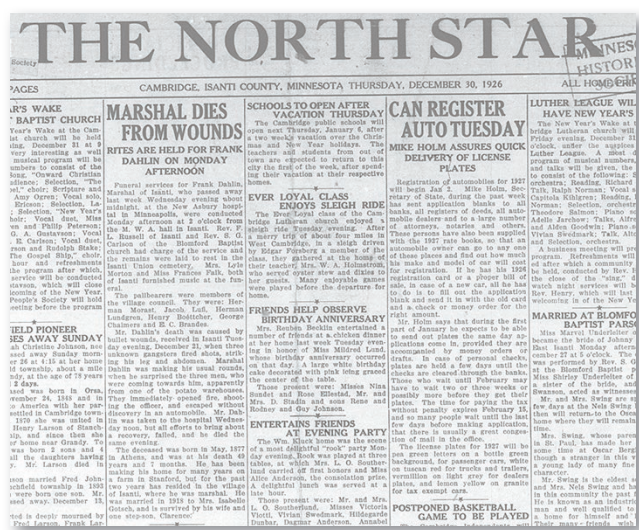
and was loaded onto a train bound for Minneapolis. The surgeons at Asbury Hospital in Minneapolis worked diligently to save his life, but by evening, he took a turn for the worse. On late Wednesday evening, Dec. 22, 1926, Marshal Frank Dahlin succumbed to his wounds. Word of his passing shocked members of the community and local law enforcement agencies.

In January 1927, the Isanti County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution offering a \$400 reward for information leading up to the arrest and conviction of the killers. The village of Isanti added a \$200 bounty to help bring them to justice.

After several months of silence, leads began to trickle in regarding the slaying of Marshal Dahlin. A round-up of a five-man gang began on May 4, 1927, near Elk River where a raging gun battle and car chase ensued. Two of the suspects crashed their car and fled on foot into a densely wooded area. Finally, on May 5 two suspects affiliated with the gang were captured south of Anoka. One of the men in custody, Lester Northrup, "spilled the beans" regarding the men responsible for the murder. Lester had named the other man in custody (brother Jack Northrup) as one of the gunmen.

Immediately following the tip, warrants were issued for the arrest of the gang leader and alleged perpetrator, Frank "Slim" Gibson. Isanti County Sheriff Claes Johnson assisted in the capture of both suspects and personally escorted the two men back into Isanti County. After further questioning the suspects, it was clear that these two and the gang they ran with were bad news. They were wanted in connection to a mini crime spree that included Isanti, Zimmerman, Elk River, Braham, Grandy, Stanchfield, and even North Dakota where they murdered a bank teller. Part of the crime spree included the robbery of an Isanti gas station where the gang shot attendant Gus Peterson. Luckily, Peterson survived his encounter with the brazen criminals.

When pressed about the Dahlin murder, Gibson stated, "We were going to break into the warehouse at Isanti. We were standing outside when this man walked up. I fired two shots with my .38 automatic pistol and the fellow with me (Northrup) fired two shots with his pistol. Dahlin shot back, getting me in



The front pages of the Dec. 23, 1926 and Dec. 30, 1926 editions of The North Star (what is now the Isanti-Chisago County Star) report the shooting and subsequent death of Isanti Marshal Frank Dahlin.

the chest and shoulder. Then we beat it."

Within one day of the suspects' arrival in Isanti County, a special term of court was obtained, and a grand jury was summoned. By the second day, just after 9 a.m., the jury had convened. By noon, the jury delivered their ruling; the men were found guilty of capital murder. Judge A.E. Giddings sentenced both Northrup and Gibson to life in prison at Stillwater Penitentiary.

The local newspaper reported, "They arrived at the prison shortly before six o'clock making the trip in automobiles going via Harris and across the country, avoiding the larger cities, taking every precaution possible the safe delivery of the two bandits."

Even the Minneapolis Journal praised the fast work of local authorities and the judicial system in the capture, conviction, and delivery to prison that spanned only nine days from May 4 to 13 — swift justice indeed.

Convicted murderer Jack Northrup was eventually paroled in 1949 due to ailing health and his accomplice once again made the news 10 years later. While being transferred to St. Peter for a psychiatric evaluation, Gibson along with 15 other inmates escaped. He

was the only one not captured. Several months later, Gibson died in a train accident in California. The other three involved in the crime spree were given lighter sentences to be served at St. Cloud.

Frank Edwin Dahlin was born in Athens Township on May 20, 1877. A lifelong resident of Isanti County, Frank lived his early life on the Athens farm. He eventually moved to Stanford Township with time being spent in the Stanchfield area where he resided for several years. Frank married his wife Isabelle (Gotsch) Dahlin on June 14, 1918, and lived in Isanti until his tragic death.

Although Marshal Frank Dahlin was in service for only one year, his friends and family stated that he cared deeply for his community. A community he ultimately gave his life to protect. Marshal Frank Dahlin is buried at the Isanti Union Cemetery. Fifty years after his death, Isanti's Dahlin Avenue was dedicated in memory of the Marshal's sacrifice to the community.

SAM KLOCKSIEN is Executive Director of the Isanti County Historical Society, which is located at 33525 Flanders St. NE, Cambridge. He can be reached at 763-689-4229 or director@isanticountyhistory.org.



Merry Christmas

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MON, WED & FRI

Exercise with Connie

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. From 10:30-11:30 a.m.

MON & WED

500 Cards

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch at 12:45 p.m.

MON & THUR

Alcoholics Anonymous

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

MON - FRI

Senior Dining

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

MONDAYS

Al-anon Family Groups

From 7 to 8 p.m. at Access Church, 4359 392nd Street. Free childcare is provided. Visit minnesotanorth-al-anon.org.

TUES & THURS

Boxing for Those w/Parkinson's Tuesdays and Thursdays

at 10:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 115 Adams Street South, Cambridge. For more information, call 763-221-6883.

Senior Dining

Braham Event Center at 11:45 a.m. Diners need to pre-register at least one day in advance by calling 651-674-1956 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. A completed annual registration form is required before dining.

Senior Dining

Rush City Community Center 11:30 a.m. Diners need to pre-register at least one day in advance by calling 320-358-3611 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. A completed annual registration form is required before dining.

TUESDAYS

Knitting Night

Come stitch at North Branch Library from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. All forms of needlework welcome. Materials provided or bring your own.

A Memory Café

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Heritage Center at GracePointe Crossing, 322 River Hills Place North Cambridge, MN

Braham Parkinson's Support

7 p.m. on the third Tuesday



Isanti Community Center is hosting a blood drive on Dec. 28 from noon to 6 p.m.

of each month at Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church, 905 Central Drive W., Braham. For more information call Lonnie Anderson at 612-423-1863.

Alzheimer's Support

Meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 10-11 a.m. at GracePointe Heritage Center, 322 River Hills Place North, Cambridge. For info contact Lyndsey Larson at 763-691-6172.

Music

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch Area musicians and vocalists donate their time and talents to provide music before the meal 11:15 a.m.

Dominos

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave North Branch at 10 a.m.

GriefShare

6 - 8 p.m. July 25 - Oct. 3, at First Baptist Church, 304 Main St S, Cambridge

PrimeTime Singers

1:30 p.m. in the Choir Room at Cambridge Lutheran Church. All community seniors, 60+ who like to sing in a choir, are welcome to attend. There is no audition needed and no fee to join. Call 612-619-2111 for more information.

THURSDAYS

East Central Baby Cafe

Free drop-in breastfeeding support from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the upper-level conference room at the Adult Enrichment Center, 540 5th Ave NW, Cambridge, MN. For more information, 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 more information.

Parkinson's Support Group

3rd Thursday of the month - 1-2:30 p.m. Walker Methodist Levande, 2011 6th Lane SE, Cambridge, MN for more in-

formation call 763-325-0100

Bingo

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave North Branch at 10a.m.

Jammin' with Joe, a support group

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch. From 1-2:30 p.m.

Hand and Foot

At the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave North Branch at 12:30p.m.

Grief Support

A 13-week series held Thursday evenings starting in September through November. The class is non-denominational. North Isanti Baptist Church 2248 313th Ave. NE, Cambridge. Those interested should call Jodi Ostrom at 760-371-0612

FRIDAYS

Cribbage

12:45 p.m. at the Chisago County Senior Center 38790 6th Ave., North Branch.

DEC. 28

Blood Drive

From noon- 6 p.m. in the Isanti Community Center, 208 1/2 1st Ave NW, Isanti. Sign up at mbc.org/searchdrives and search by sponsor code 9797.

McNear receives 2023 Holbrook-Humphries award

The Getting In Touch With Literacy Conference is proud to announce our award recipients for the 2023 conference. Donna McNear is the recipient of the 2023 Holbrook-Humphries Award.

The Getting In Touch With Literacy Awards is a historical honor and tradition. The Holbrook-Humphries Literacy Award is presented to an individual who has made significant impact in promoting literacy skills for individuals who are blind and visually impaired. First presented at the GITWL conference in San Francisco in 1999, and named after conference co-founders Cay Holbrook and Janie Humphries Blome, this award honors an individual who has demonstrated innovative ideas, practical implications for intervention, professional publications, and commitment to improving literacy for students and/or adults with visual impairments.

Donna McNear is a teacher's teacher. In more than thirty years as a teacher for students with visual impairments and orientation and mobility specialist with the Rum River Special Education Cooperative in Minnesota, Donna was a literacy champion for children with visual impairments. As a leader in promoting the understanding and use of access technology to build literacy skills for students who are blind and visually impaired, she shared her knowledge, skills,



CONTRIBUTED

Donna McNear receives the prestigious Holbrook-Humphries Literacy Award at the 2023 Getting In Touch with Literacy Conference.

and enthusiasm for technology at a time when many teachers were hesitant to embrace new devices. Literacy is a common thread in Donna's lifetime work, publications, and technical expertise. She epitomizes the criteria for this award with excellent contributions in the areas of collaboration, innovative teaching, and partnerships to promote literacy for students and adults with visual impairment. Among her many accomplishments, Donna worked to develop support and improved access to instruction, materials, and opportunities for children with visual impairments in the Pacific Islands. In 2011, Donna shepherded The Pacific Vision Instruction Project and partnership with UMass Boston to train teachers of the visually impaired from the islands of Guam, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae, Saipan, and American Samoa.

Rush City native is Rafter P Loper of the Year

BY KATIE UDELL
KUDELL@NCHACUTTING.COM

The National Cutting Horse Association would like to congratulate Ella Blazek as the very first Rafter P Loper of the Year. Blazek was awarded on Nov. 11, 2023 at the NCHA Metallic Cat World Championship Futurity with a \$5,000 check, custom Gist buckle and Rafter P gift basket. Rafter P president and founder Brad Pryor hand-selected Blazek from a mountain of potential and hard-working lopers due to the outstanding character traits and work ethic that multiple people described her as having.

Blazek works for renowned horse trainer Kenny Platt in Fort Lupton, Colorado. She is also a fierce competitor in the NCHA. During the 2023 Metallic Cat Futurity, after she was awarded Loper of the Year, she went on to win reserve champion in the T/K Cutting Horses Limited Open on her horse, Ristos Boon, with a 217.5 on Nov. 28.



Pryor modestly states "it's the least I can do to give back to the backbone of the NCHA" when asked about the award. This is not the only award Pryor has started with the NCHA; the Rafter P Hardship Award goes to a youth member in good standing with the NCHA during the Summer Spectacular and Youth World Finals to receive financial assistance.

NCHA Executive Director Jay Winborn looks forward to recognizing hard-work-

ing individuals within the NCHA along with Rafter P. "Our goal is to highlight and encourage the exceptional people that put in the effort to make the NCHA the esteemed organization it is. We are thrilled to recognize Ella Blazek as the 2023 Rafter P Loper of the Year for all of her hard work and dedication to the sport of cutting and NCHA."

To learn more about the National Cutting Horse Association, visit nchacutting.com.

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



BREAKING NEWS

Thursday



That's a wrap

As I've mentioned before, I love Christmas. But there is one aspect of this holiday season that I struggle with: wrapping presents. It is a task I just can't quite do very well.

But it also isn't a task I completely avoid either. I refuse to pass it off to someone else. I also don't like simply utilizing gift bags either. There's just something anticlimactic about only having to reach into the bag and pull out a present, even if it is wrapped up in tissue.



Worth a Thousand Words

Bill Stickels III

I'm not sure where my aversion to this portion of the ritual came from. Sure, I'm not the most crafty person in the world. I also don't feel the need to take a ton of time surrounding a box with colorful paper. I'm sure it is partly because I figure I'm doing all this work just to have it ripped apart on

Christmas morning. That's the reason I don't wait until only a couple of days before Christmas to wrap my presents. For some reason, in my mind, the duration of the present being wrapped makes the effort more worthwhile.

So, last Saturday I set about wrapping. The first issue is always finding an appropriate box. Since I live in a one-bedroom apartment, I don't have a ton of storage space for things like collecting empty boxes. I might keep one or two around as Christmas approaches. Any gifts I order online typically come in a box, and most of the time they fit the gift pretty well. But sometimes even those contain items that are much smaller than the box. Others only come in a padded envelope.

Another issue with selecting the right box is ever since we were kids, we took pride in not making the gift look too obvious. If the box fits too perfectly, it might give a clue as to the contents before the big reveal. So we place smaller items in bigger boxes.

I completely blame my parents on one particular Christmas for this compulsion. My number one item on my wish list was a personalized bowling ball. On Christmas morning, sure enough, there was a box just the right size to fit one in it. However, when I nudged it, the weight was all wrong — it was way too light. I was completely baffled. When I finally opened it up, it turned out to be a "bowling ball seed" that required me to perform a ritual to make it grow.

Getting back to the wrapping, once boxes are found, then there is picking out the right wrapping paper and the all-important eyeball measurement of where to cut it. That's often where I get into trouble. Not only do I sometimes misjudge that, but the actual cutting leaves jagged edges.

Then there's the folding and taping of the paper, which is another adventure that leaves pooches in the paper, strange overlaps, and typically way too much tape. I dismiss that by rationalizing I'm simply making it easier to open. The most aggravating thing on Christmas morning is having a gift that is too difficult to rip open.

Ultimately, I guess wrapping the presents is the cross I have to bear to enjoy seeing the joy on people's faces at the revealing of the perfect gift.

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.



"NEARLY HALF THE STATES HAVE LEGALIZED MARIJUANA. SO, TO BE SAFE, DON'T EAT THE COOKIES + BROWNIES LEFT OUT FOR YOU... BRING THEM BACK FOR US!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Caring Tree a huge success

To the editor,

On behalf of the Rush City Christmas Caring Tree program, we would like to thank all the people who took wish tags from the tree and bought presents for 108 children this year! The Rush City Community residents, friends and businesses are awesome in support of this program!

We would like to thank the Rush City Library for allowing us to put the tree up there and for collecting the gifts for us. It was very much appreciated.

Lastly we would like to thank the individuals, businesses and nonprofit organizations who gave generous contributions. We could not have run the program without their assistance.

All of you have made this a very Merry Christmas for 41 local families! Your generosity and kindness is appreciated. Thank you so very much.

Rush City Christmas Caring Tree Committee

Former students improve community

To the editor,

Interacting with officials and citizens in Cambridge that have been the product of ISD 911 education is rewarding. From our local newspaper to our city government to our school teachers and beyond, these former students have made a difference to our better community.

Of course there are so many that have been valuable contributors to other communities, but seeing

it first hand in Cambridge does remind us. Perhaps this reminder is a result of my experiences in Cambridge since I accepted a teaching position at Cambridge High School in 1976 and was elected to the Cambridge City Council in 2013. Living, working and socializing in Cambridge for all these years has formed this opinion.

Simply put, a reminder that our community is benefited by our educational system and our culture is important. Being grateful is emphasized during the season but the tumultuous world we live in can be overwhelming. However, seeing first hand the good community of citizens where we live can help us be hopeful and grateful all year long.

**Howard Lewis
Cambridge**

Response to previous letter

To the editor,

Newsflash-Trump is not our President, unfortunately Biden is. Mr. Benny claims no one responded to him in regards to CDC's 400,000 Americans died because of a president. Two of us did respond. My response: "To blame a president for Covid deaths is absolutely ridiculous, should we then blame Biden for the deaths from Covid under his watch? Andrew Cuomo placing Covid patents in nursing homes killing elderly folks? What about the deaths in regards to Bird Flu under Obama?"

The government protects Pfizer Corp from being sued for the many deaths related to the Covid shots. Trusting liar Anthony Fauci? Several folks I know that had all three

Covid shots got Covid, Biden and Harris included.

Following Jeff Benny's narrative blaming Presidents for everything under their watch then we both agree Biden is responsible for:

- Massive inflation food, Gas/home heating tripling Worst Inflation since Jimmy Carter
- Interest rates auto/home escalating home sales September/October lowest since the Depression
- Crime up 200% since Biden took office in Democratic cities. No bail, steal \$900 of goods = misdemeanor.
- Pay fair share of your income tax with exception of Hunter Biden and Joe Biden. Impeachment inquiring coming.
- Biden poll numbers plummeting. Even Obama dislikes Biden.
- Two wars under coward Biden's watch
- Federal deficit hits 1.7 trillion 2023
- US Debt hits 34 trillion
- Dictator Biden forcing electric cars on consumers.
- Any deaths from Covid, Fentanyl, illegal migrant murders since Biden's inception is on Biden.
- Afghanistan departure resulting in deaths of our military heroes.
- Biden's free for all open border crisis:

Southwest border "Just encounters" (Fiscal years) 2021-2024 = 4,712,299 "CBP official stats" hundreds of thousands got away, where are they? Foreign nationals at southern border: Afghans=6,386, Egyptians= 3,153, Iranians= 659, Syrians= 538, Russians = 12,605, Chinese= 26,113. All dangerous enemy countries.

SEE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, PAGE 5

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AN EDITION OF
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NEWS DEADLINE:
Noon Tuesday

ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

CLASSIFIED DEADLINE:
4 p.m. Tuesday

LEGALS DEADLINE:
Noon Monday



The publisher shall not be liable for typographical errors which do not lessen the value of an advertisement. The publisher's liability for other errors or omissions in connection with an advertisement is strictly limited to the advertisement in any subsequent issue or the refund of any money paid for the advertisement.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year with the beautiful church services, local concerts and performances. All bring the message of the birth of Christ, as prophesized in the Old Testament and realized in the New Testament accounts of life.

Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and recognize that He is God's Son

who came into the world to sacrifice His life for our sins so all who believe may have eternal life.

For most people, it's an enjoyable time with families, gifting and enjoying all types of parties.

I remember growing up with

my adopted family in White Bear Lake and celebrating Christmas. I remember from my early years of Sunday School and Bible studies how Jesus came to earth and was sacrificed on the cross so each individual person might have eternal life. I remember asking Jesus to be my personal Savior and putting the rest of my life in His hands and care.

The messages of Christmas this time of year remind us that God is still in control, but we have a responsibility to pray and take appropriate action to seek and enhance peace, to feed those who are starving, and to bring the gospel message throughout the world.

God doesn't promise to take away all our troubles and sorrows but if we go to Him for guidance, He will direct our lives. In Jeremiah 29:11 He promises that a life lived for Him will be favored, not harmed. "For I know the plans I have for you, plans for good

and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

My family and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and hope that you find security in the promise from John 3:16 that "God so loved the world that he gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." What better security is there than that in a troubled world?

We trust that you will have joy and peace in your hearts and that the New Year will continue to bring you God's favors.

SNAIL MAIL NEEDS HELP

Mail service throughout the country has deteriorated, in some places more than others. While we spent a few weeks this fall in Panama City, Florida, we found that our first-class mail took two weeks to arrive. If we mailed a larger envelope, in one case it took a month.

But I'm pleased to learn

that our U.S. Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar are looking into the problem. They have received a lot of letters of complaint.

They have asked the Postmaster General to take immediate steps to address the pressing concerns here in Minnesota, which I'm sure are also affecting many other states.

They expressed concern to the Postmaster General about arrangements with Amazon that is already overwhelmed with the stretched postal system.

Postal workers, particularly in the Bemidji area, report chaos as they are told to prioritize the deliveries of Amazon packages over regular mail and lack of staffing to meet the USPS' delivery standards.

One of our former employees who worked in our newspaper office in Mora, Minnesota and has now moved to Cambridge goes to our printing plant to pick up her paper because it takes so long to get to Mora

from Cambridge.

It's very discouraging to us to have newspapers delayed that our readers are depending on for information, from important notices to advertising.

Periodicals, the class of mail that contains newspapers and magazines, have the lowest percentage of on-time delivery rates against standards set by the USPS.

It seems to be at the worst level of service in all my years of publishing community newspapers.

When you experience these delays, your local post office and newspaper and also let your senators know.

I always enjoy letters and emails with your comments about this column. Keep them coming.

GENE JOHNSON is Publisher Emeritus of Press Publications, owner of the Isanti-Chisago County Star. He can be reached at ppinfo@presspubs.com.

About the Town
Gene Johnson

Winter wonders: celebrating cheer and community at NBAPS

As the winter winds twirl around us, there's an undeniable sense of celebration at North Branch Area Public Schools (NBAPS). The air is filled not just with the chill of the season, but also with the warmth of camaraderie, creativity, and community spirit.

Last Friday, the North Branch Area Education Center was brimming with holiday cheer as our students brought Grinch Day to life! Picture this: boys rocking their best Grinch attire, while the girls channeled their inner Cindy Lou with hair piled high—cue the adorable overload!

Viking floral design students have been jingling their way through this holiday season, decking the district with holiday-themed centerpieces and wreaths that could rival Santa's workshop. Our Patron Tour guests got a taste of this beauty too, as these masterpieces adorned our lunch tables, making our mealtime together a festive affair. And in true Vi-

kings fashion, around 30 of these stunning creations found their way to the Chisago County Senior Center, spreading joy and warmth beyond our school grounds.

Viking elementary students provided holiday cheer at the North Branch Tree Lighting Ceremony and the warmth of sweet sounds continued to make spirits bright with Viking middle school choirs and bands during their holiday concerts last week.

Celebrating the wonders of this season extends to the heart and soul of NBAPS—the incredible staff, the amazing students and families we have the privilege to serve, and the support and Viking pride from this community. You all make this place shine brighter than any Christmas lights!

So here's to another incredible year at NBAPS, filled with laughter, learning, and endless moments of joy. As we celebrate the reason for the season, thank you for all the ways love, kindness and cheer are shared across our Viking community. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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



NB School News
Sara Paul

EVs not exempt from laws

Question: My question is why electric cars and trucks do not have front license plates? These are all from Minnesota which is required by law. They are not from out of state.

Answer: Electric vehicles are required to have a front license plate in Minnesota, this is a common equipment violation. Minnesota State Statute (M.S.S.) 169.79 states: "No person shall operate, drive or park a motor vehicle on any roadway unless the vehicle is registered in accordance with the laws of this state and has the license plates or permit confirming that valid registration or operating authority has been obtained."

Vehicles that are allowed to display only one license plate include motorcycles, a dealer's vehicle or vehicle in-transit, classic car, collector car or a vehicle that is of model year 1972 or earlier that is not registered as a collector vehicle and is used for general transportation purpose.

License plates must be displayed on the front and rear of the vehicle. They cannot be displayed in the front windshield or rear window. The plates must be securely mounted and displayed horizontally with the identifying numbers and letters visible. License plates issued to vehicles must also display the month of expiration in the lower left corner of each plate and the year of expiration in the lower right corner of each plate.

The plate must be unobstructed and free from grease, dust or other blurring material (dirt, mud, snow, etc.) so the lettering is visible at all times. It is unlawful to cover assigned letters and numbers or the name of the state of origin with any material, including any clear or colorless material that affects the plate's visibility or reflectivity. This also includes license plate brackets that block the state of issuance and tabs.

Why do we have two license plates? First and foremost, it is the law in Minnesota M.S.S. 169.79. From a law enforcement perspective it is safer to have two plates. For instance...

- If an officer needs to run vehicle information they can get the plate information from the front or rear of the vehicle.
- It makes a suspect vehicle easier to identify if it is encountered from the front or the rear.
- If a suspect vehicle is backed into a parking spot it is more easily identified.
- Identifying a suspect in a crime (from surveillance images) is easier with front and back plates.

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 Twitter @MSPPPIO_NW or reach him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).



Ask A Trooper
Jesse Grabow

MnDOT receives federal funds for Northern Lights Express

BY MARGIE NELSON, MAPL
MARGIE.NELSON@STATE.MN.US

The Minnesota Department of Transportation announced it has received \$500,000 in federal funds to advance the planning of the Northern Lights Express (NLX) passenger rail project. The federal grant provides funds to begin preliminary work on the project, which will provide four, round-trip, daily passenger rail trips from Minneapolis to Duluth/Superior.

Earlier this year, MnDOT applied for the Corridor Identification and Development Program grant through the Federal Railroad Administration. MnDOT will use the CIDP funds to begin updating planning work originally completed in 2017. The funds are a portion of the 80% funding needed from the federal government for the \$592.3 million dollar project. This complements the state match received during the 2023 legislative session, when \$194.7

million was appropriated for NLX.

MnDOT also applied for a Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program grant to fund final design and construction. MnDOT expects a decision before the end of 2023.

"We are eager to move this project forward to final design, but we still have some important steps ahead," said Greg Mathis, MnDOT planning director for passenger rail. "We will have a clearer timeline once we learn about the additional funding from the Federal Railroad Administration. Until then, we will continue to work with BNSF Railway, the NLX Alliance and local communities to get trains up and running."

To learn more about the NLX project, visit [About - Northern Lights Express - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](http://About-Northern-Lights-Express-MnDOT.state.mn.us).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Christopher Wray FBI agent stated terror threats have elevated since Biden took office. Blinking red lights all over. New York Post: Joe Biden's open borders placing us all at risk, "It's a matter of time before America suffers another 911." Cost to taxpayers will exceed 1 trillion for supporting illegals.

Nicole Malliotakis NY Representative uncovers "Freedom of Information law" non profit contractors tasked with erecting shelters for

illegal migrants were obligated to hand out voter registrations to illegal migrants and register them to vote Democrat. Source - The Maria Bartiromo program Dec. 12, 2023.

Lastly, moving forward I choose not respond to any ridiculous political rhetoric.

**Jerry Grell
Cambridge**

OBITUARIES

Betty Jean Kimm

Betty Jean Kimm (nee Andrlle) age 76 of Isanti, formerly of East St. Paul, passed away peacefully at Elim Home in Princeton, MN on Dec. 11, 2023.



Betty was born March 21, in River Falls, WI to Lawrence and Doris Andrlle. Betty had many happy childhood memories visiting the Andrlle (grandparents) farm by

River Falls, WI. Her family moved to St. Paul in the W. 7th Area where

she attended Jefferson grade school and Monroe High School. After high school, she worked several jobs in the city of St. Paul, catching the eye of her future husband Howard Hesse. They were married on Aug. 15, 1972

Betty and Howard lived in St. Paul in the Frog town area for many years, before buying a duplex with her sister Bonnie on the East Side of St. Paul at Rose and Arcade. Tragically, Howard was diagnosed with cancer and died in May 30, 1989.

Betty was summoned to perform jury duty in St. Paul. Little did she know that she was going to meet her second husband, Jerry Kimm. They were married on Feb. 13, 1991. From that union a son, Thomas was born. Becoming a mother was the happiest day of Betty's life. Betty continued to live in St. Paul until 2001, when they

moved to Isanti to enjoying her big surrounding and the safety of living in a small town. Shortly after moving to Isanti, Jerry was stricken with health problems that hindered him from working. Betty returned to work, finding a position at a local convenience store to support her family. She worked for 9+ years before retiring at age 65.

During retirement, she loved to tend her fruit and vegetable gardens. She was really good at growing green beans. She also enjoyed fishing and annual weekend craft fairs with her sisters at Lake Osakis, MN. Family holidays were also a passion of Betty, rarely missing these special events.

In 2013, Jerry passed away, leaving Betty sorrowfully relieved. She decided that she would never get married again, wearing her wedding band to

ward off suitors.

Some good fortune befell Betty in 2016, she received a generous inheritance that enabled her to take a "trip of a lifetime" with her son and sister Bonnie. They boarded a bus that traveled to the southern United States and the Heart of Dixie. Her favorite place was visiting Grace Land and going to the Grand Ole Opray.

Her survivors are her son Thomas, sister Bonnie. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Howard Hesse and Jerome Kimm, sister Virginia Mars and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

A celebration gathering will be held at Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home 311 S. Ashland St. Cambridge, MN from 4 -7 p.m. Friday Jan. 26, 2024.

Online condolences can be shared at www.carlsonlillemoen.com

Radeen R. Nordeen

Radeen "Dusty" Rae Nordeen, of Andover, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023. She was 84 years old.

Known as Dusty by family and friends, she was working at Northwest Airlines when she met Gordy, the love of her life. They were married May 14, 1960, on the opening of fishing season, a sport they both loved doing together.



She later pursued a career as a beautician, opening up her own beauty shop in the walk-out basement of her home. This would allow her to help her husband in running his own excavating company, raising their four girls and taking care of their hobby farm of a handful of cows, a couple

of horses, chickens, peacocks, ducks, guinea hens, dogs, cats and goats (until they ate the neighbors flowers). Life always seemed to run smoothly. She was also known as the neighborhood Avon lady.

In her spare time she loved to sew, bake, cook wonderful meals, crochet, embroider, macrame, and needlepoint. Her outside favorites were fishing, hunting, and flower and vegetable gardening. She loved most of all, spoiling the grandchildren of all ages.

Dusty was also known as a taxi driver to and cheerleader for her four girls at their softball games which her husband coached for several years in the summer leagues. She also drove the girls to school dances, concerts and movie theaters.

As the girls started their families, Dusty and her husband became cheerleaders for the grandchildren and great-grandchildren during baseball, hockey and football games. They also enjoyed attending the nephew's events as well.

Radeen, the matriarch of the family, was a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. She wore those titles with pride, along with sister, auntie, great-auntie and cousin.

Dusty was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon Nordeen; parents, William and Winifred Fetzer; mother and father-in-law, Alfred and Amy Nordeen; sister-in-law, Marjorie Young; brother and sister-in-law, Lloyd and Vivian Stromback; sister-in-law, Carol Nordeen; nephews, Leon Jahn and Mark Nordeen; and grandson, Christopher Podvin.

She is survived by her sister, Marlyene (Lyle Jahn); daughters, Dawn (Don Dailson), Denise Schullo, Doris (Michael Kelly) Nordeen and Donna (Roger Krugen); grandchildren, Darrell (Leva Levenenz) Podvin, Jerome (Sarah Shafanski) Podvin, Covey (Kari) Johnson, Benjamin (Kristi) Schullo, Jessica (Neal) Grythe, JaNita (Jeremy Kofstad), Jacob (Kylie) Krugen and Kendra (Mitch Sellman); great-grandchildren, Matthew Podvin, Eric (Sam) Podvin, Dakota (Taylor) Podvin, Cooper Podvin, Brady Podvin, Ayden Podvin, Kaitlyn and Kaylee Regal, Jaxson Grythe, Hannah, Marcus and Thomas Kofstad, Rayden and Caleb Krugen and Rhett Sellman; great-great-grandson, Lincoln Podvin; along with numerous other relatives who will miss her dearly.

A celebration of life for Dusty will be held on Friday, Jan. 5, 2024, at Thurston-DeShaw Funeral Home in Andover. Guests are welcome to arrive at 1 p.m. with a time of sharing set to begin at 1:30 p.m. followed by a light lunch.

Mark Lund

Mark Lund of Cambridge, MN passed from death to eternal life at home on Dec. 13, 2023 at the age of 64, after a brief and intense battle with cancer.

Mark was born to Robert and Birdice (Larsen) Lund in Cambridge, MN on Sept. 26, 1959. He was



the fourth of five children, and grew up on the family dairy farm in Springvale. Mark attended country school for one year before taking the bus to town. He graduated from Cambridge High School in 1977, then attended the University of Minnesota. Mark was part of Farmhouse Fraternity, and graduated in 1981 with majors in Animal Science and Agricultural Engineering, and a minor in Chemistry. He worked for HB

Fuller for 15 years in the lab, technical support, and eventually the management team.

On June 4, 1988, Mark and Carlotta (Gustafson) began a new life as a married couple, living in rural Stanchfield. They were joined by Kristina in 1990 and Forrest in 1992.

Mark enjoyed hunting, fishing, working with the men's ministry and as a greeter/usher at First Baptist Cambridge and Oxlip Church near Isanti, and spending time with family and friends. He was especially proud of his children, and loved hanging out with them. On the way home from a fishing trip in Canada on July 8, 1996, Mark was involved in a car accident that changed his life. His father Bob, good friend Dan Huff, and Dan's father were killed, and Mark suffered a traumatic brain injury. After years living in the hospital, nursing home, and rehab center, Mark found new adventures in volunteering. He took great delight in serving people, and was known for his quirky sense of humor, harmless pranks, and endearing smile with deep dimples. He also enjoyed playing Wizard with "the guys" every Thursday. Mark's most recent joy was being a grandfather. Three adorable cherubs call him "Morfar", and he saved his brightest, most dimpliest smiles for them.

Mark was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law.

He is survived by his wife Carlotta, four amazing siblings and their families, daughter Kristina (Josiah) Scheumann, and son Forrest (Paige) Lund. He is loved by three little grandchildren, Lucille and Kalmar Scheumann, and Elanor Lund.

Memorials are preferred to READ Ministries/Kremenchuk Evangelical Seminary and Children's Shelter of Cebu. There will be a time of fellowship and refreshments at First Baptist Church of Cambridge on Monday, Dec. 18 at 1 p.m., followed by a service at 3 p.m.. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

Eleanor "Ellie" Ellen Erbele

Eleanor "Ellie" Ellen Erbele, 84, courageously passed into the arms of her Savior Jesus Christ, on Monday, Dec. 11, 2023 at Ecumen in North Branch.

She was born Aug. 31, 1939 in Valley City, North Dakota to Wesley and Mary (Scott) Kelly.



Ellie lived in Minneapolis and enjoyed a vibrant career as an interior designer at Helen Fraser and Associates located at International Market Square.

Later in life she moved back to Cambridge where her girls were raised. She lived in Pine Village and enjoyed her flower gardens immensely. She changed careers and worked for many years in the kitchen at Cambridge Medical Center as a dietary aide. She

was enthusiastic, energetic and brought a sparkle everywhere she went.

The last ten years she lived her life to the fullest and Elmhurst Commons in Braham where Sharon Murphy, and so many others, treated her with love and dignity. Ellie loved expressing her creativity with interior decorating, fashion, drawing her famous cartoons and painting flowers, which she dove into despite the challenges of Parkinson's disease.

Ellie, known to her family as "Granny", brought a fan flare to all her loved ones, all the way down to her great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and two infant grandchildren.

Ellie is survived by her daughters Kelly (Ray) KinCannon of Stacy, Kim Kelly of Cambridge, grandchildren Brittany (Josh) Fedder of North Branch, Tiffany (Erin) Hall of Harris, Trista (Troy) Pleski of Stacy, Kellianne KinCannon of AK, Brandon (Brittany) Anderson of WA, Jordan (Wakako) Nishimura-Anderson of Minneapolis, McKenzie Bitzer of Grasston, seven great grandchildren plus bonus great grandchildren, other relatives and friends.

A Private Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Condolences at www.carlsonlillemoen.com. Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Cambridge.

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Student Achievement Lists

Isabel Linnerooth of Stacy, (Dean's) from University of Sioux Falls Fall

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OBITUARIES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Robert L. Putz

Robert L. Putz, age 84, of Dalbo, passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 14, 2023 at his home.

Bob was born in southern Minnesota to Louis and Eugenia Putz on Feb. 25, 1939. He went to school until he was old enough to start earning his keep. Bob was joined in holy matrimony to Dolores Benson on Nov. 6, 1957. They welcomed five children into their family - Mike, Donald, Craig, Kim and Shannon. Bob worked as a truck driver for ECM and S & T for many years but his true passion was repairing vehicles at his business, Bob's Auto Body in Dalbo. Early in his career, Bob was a volunteer fireman for the town

of East Bethel and his first auto repair shop was conveniently located next to the fire station, so he was always the first person at the fire station. During his free time, Bob liked to camp, fish, collect Minneapolis Moline tractors and vehicles, snowmobile and drive his Little Red Express pick-up truck. Bob was very involved at his church, Karmel Covenant in Princeton.

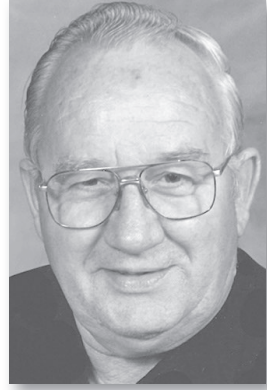
Bob was preceded in death by his parents; sons Donald and Craig; brothers Gene, Ray and Dwayne and sister Linda Cartwright.

Robert is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Dolores; children Mike, Kim (Albert) Wicklund and Shannon (Jodie) Rolf; grandchildren Michael Putz, Jessica (Jesse) Swinger, Jennifer Helmbrecht, William Putz, John Putz, Jesse (Amanda) Putz, Paul (Ciara) Wicklund, Elizabeth (Paul) Gilbertson, Heather Hofstedt (Jason Brown), Chad (Katie) Rolf; many great-grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Funeral service 11 a.m. Friday Dec. 22 at Karmel Covenant Church 5799 County Rd 6, Princeton Visitation one hour prior to service at church. Interment Karmel Covenant Cemetery.

Arrangements by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home 763-689-2244

Online condolences can be shared at www.carsonlillemoen.com



State-mandated funding changes forces C-I Schools levy increase

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

When it comes to property tax levies, Minnesota school districts are caught between a rock and a hard place, but it is the taxpayers who wind up feeling the biggest pinch.

According to Cambridge-Isanti Schools Finance Director Chris Kampa, this is especially true for districts like C-I, where a combination of drastically increased market values and a shift in school funding from the state level to the local level has brought on a \$1.9 million (12.8%) increase in the local levy. What's more, that levy increase won't increase the total amount of money received by the district.

"This is unfortunate because it means that property taxes may go up, but the school district will not see any additional revenue from it," Kampa said. "It is also unfortunate since we've worked hard to minimize the tax impact on our residents."

Kampa explained a school district is the complete opposite of other government entities in terms of setting their budget.

"The process for cities and counties starts with setting their budgets, and then they set the levy to balance the budget," Kampa said. "Schools are the exact opposite. The state funding formulas determine the local levy amount and then we have to balance our budget based on the funding amounts. The key distinguisher is that we do not have control over the state-calculated levy amount."

For next year's budget, those formulas have determined that since the market value in the area has increased so much, the state's formulas figure residents can foot a larger portion of the bill, according to Kampa.

"Adding all property in our community together, the overall value of our community rose 24.5%," Kampa said. "Essentially, the state sees us as a community with greater capacity to pay at the local levy and we no longer qualify for the same amount of equalization aid."

Making matters worse, Kampa says that when you combine the amount of money provided by the state and the amount the state requires a district to assess in its levy, it still doesn't keep up with inflation.

"In 2020, a school bus cost \$100,000," Kampa said as an example. "Today, it's \$140,000. In 2020, we spent \$98,000 on snow removal. Last year, we spent \$570,000. Granted, it was a historical winter, but that still hurts our budget."

Additionally, Kampa noted that while the state did increase the total amount of funding to schools during the last legislative session, they also increased the number of state-mandated programs and policies without equally increasing funding — also known as unfunded mandates. The two most impactful unfunded mandates are unemployment benefits for teachers when school isn't in session, and Minnesota's earned sick and safe time mandate for all employees.

"We're really happy for our employees," Kampa said of these

mandates, "but unfortunately, this was funded with one-time money and it's not expected to last more than a year or two. This is very expensive. This is why we are seeing many districts going into budget cuts despite the 'historic' funding from the state."

In the case of Cambridge-Isanti, Kampa noted how hard of a time the district recently had in restoring its fund balance through severe budget cuts and the passage of the operating levy referendum. All that effort might be for not if the district doesn't start looking at strategic budget cuts immediately. He explained because the district isn't seeing an overall increase in funding, it will begin to again experience deficit spending, which will deplete the fund balance.

"This is a hard one for us," Kampa said in summary. "Our community has provided us with so much support. We've worked really hard to put the district into a strong and stable position financially, which we've done. And we've worked hard to limit the financial impact on our residents, which I would argue we've also done."

"But, this year's levy will hit our residents, and it's not fair. It's a broken system that penalizes communities such as Cambridge and Isanti. We don't believe a student's zip code should determine the financial resources afforded for their education. It should be uniform across the state. But it's not, and that's an issue that we are working very hard to fix, but it's an uphill battle."

North Branch council reaches consensus on levy

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

In an hour-long special meeting before the final regular meeting of the year, the North Branch City Council reached an agreement on the 2024 final levy.

The special meeting was called following the city's truth in taxation meeting where a number of residents and a majority of the council itself voiced opposition to the proposed 18% levy increase over 2023's levy. The primary cause of the increase was several new projects requested by the various departments, including such items as hiring an additional police officer, at least one new squad car, hiring a new public works employee, street and sidewalk improvements, and a new grass wildfire truck for the fire department, plus others. The estimated total of these new requests was \$776,604.

According to Finance Director Sharon Wright, the city has been working on a "lights on only" budget for many years now, which doesn't allow for any sort of extra expenditures such as these. While that approach might have been necessary to maintain financial stability, Wright said she felt the city was now in a position where it could look at improving the city instead of simply maintaining the status quo.

Wright said when calculating the levy proposal, she took the tax capacity

growth the city experienced, added 5% for an averaged inflationary figure, and added in the departments' new item requests. That is where the final levy increase of 18.64% came from. She added when looking at the city's tax rate, this amount equated to an 8.8% increase, but the tax rate would still be around 40% — much lower than the state average.

When calling for the special meeting, Mayor Kevin Scheiber and other council members indicated they would prefer to see a levy increase of no more than 10% and directed Wright to present several alternative levy amounts. Due to the relatively short period to crunch the numbers, Wright decided to go with the "lights on only" figures, then she simply placed all the new item request items into a "contingency fund." That way, she and the council didn't immediately need to give a "yea" or "nay" on each individual new request. They could simply come up with a lump sum amount that could be divided among the new projects on a case-by-case basis throughout 2024.

Ultimately, the council agreed to a total levy amount of \$5.9 million, which equates to an increase from 2023 of 9.7%. That amount sets aside approximately \$140,000 for the contingency fund.

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STUDY: Appointment vote delayed until Jan. 9 meeting

FROM PAGE 1

performed such a study. She said Chisago County did perform one in 2018, however, “unfortunately that study lacked a lot of the specificity of what this council is looking for today.”

Ziemer added Chisago County is currently conducting another study, however again, it isn’t as specific to North Branch as the council would like. He said the city will certainly use the county’s study to gain a second perspective.

As for the cost, Ziemer said the study could be funded through unspent Community Development Department and Economic Development Authority money.

The council unanimously approved going forward with the study through Bolton & Menk.

COUNCIL DELAYS PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

The council approved on a 3-2 vote to delay voting on appointing Patrick Meacham to fill one of the two current vacancies on the Planning Commission until its Jan. 9 meeting.

The vote to appoint Meacham was originally part of the consent agenda, however, Councilmember Peter Schaps requested it be pulled for discussion.

“Typically, items on the consent agenda are non-controversial where the council has had time with discussion,” Schaps said. “We haven’t had any discussion on that matter.”

Meacham, a former council member, clashed with Councilmember Kelly Neider in March 2023; submitting a formal letter of complaint against her for comments she made during discussion of his Water & Light Commission appointment. That letter of complaint led to Neider being censured by the council.

Schaps also argued that appointments were typically made in January, not December.

City Administrator Renae Fry reminded the council this was to fill one of two immediate vacancies, not to renew or replace a seat whose term had expired. For immediate vacancies, she said this council had decided last spring the practice would be for the remaining committee members to interview the candidate(s) and make a recommendation to the council.

“You wanted the applications to be acted on timely and swiftly,” Fry said.

In this case, Meacham was interviewed by the remaining planning commission and it was a unanimous vote to recommend to the council he be appointed.

“What’s being presented to the council did follow the practice you adopted,” Fry concluded.

Mayor Kevin Schieber said he would like to see all appointments as part of a regular agenda item rather than as part of the consent agenda so the council could discuss it further. During the discussion on the Mea-

‘Typically, items on the consent agenda are non-controversial where the council has had time with discussion. We haven’t had any discussion on that matter.’

Peter Schaps

North Branch Councilmember

cham appointment, Schieber indicated that since the next Planning Commission meeting wasn’t until February, he was willing to delay the appointment to the Jan. 9 meeting, which is also when all seats on all commissions whose terms expired would be appointed.

Councilmember Miles repeated Fry’s statement about the agreed upon process for making appointments, emphasizing the part about remaining commissioners interviewing and making a recommendation to the council.

“I think by allowing that to happen tonight, I think that is giving respect to the commissions,” he said.

Ultimately, Schieber, Schaps, and Neider voted in favor of delaying Meacham’s appointment, with Miles and Councilmember Robert Canada voting against it.

North Branch Schools’ levy remains same

BY BILL STICKELS III
EDITOR@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Over the past four years, the North Branch School District has enjoyed a very static levy, with under a 2% average increase each year. The 2024 levy follows that same trend.

According to Finance Director Todd Tetzlaff, the 2024 property tax levy will increase by a mere .93%, which equates to an increase of \$93,344. The total amount of the levy is \$10,144,705.

Tetzlaff said this stability has allowed the district to not have to dip too far into the general fund during times of lesser revenues. He explained that certain at points of the year, the amount of expenses is greater than the revenue.

“Staff salaries make up the largest portion of the general fund,” Tetzlaff explained. “The school board has an established fund balance target (to cover when those expenses are greater than revenue). We are within that target at this time. As long as we are within that fund balance target, we are confident we will not need to cash-flow borrow to meet our expenses.”

He concluded by noting that like all other levies, each individual’s property taxes won’t necessarily increase by that 1%. Other factors such as city and county levies, plus property values will have a much bigger impact on property taxes than the school district’s levy.

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UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Below is the schedules for Cambridge-Isanti and North Branch varsity home games only. To see either school's full schedules, including exact locations of games, go to www.Mississippi8.org. All schedules are subject to change due to weather, availability of officials, or other reasons. Note: Northern Tier girls hockey is a co-op of Cambridge-Isanti, North Branch, and St. Francis. Northern Edge boys hockey is a co-op of North Branch and St. Francis. All Northern Edge home games are played at East Bethel Arena.

Thursday, Dec. 21
•C-I girls basketball vs. Chisago Lakes (7 p.m.)
•Northern Tier girls hockey vs. Osseo (@ East Bethel, 7 p.m.)
•C-I boys hockey vs. Hibbing (@ Cambridge outdoor rink, 7 p.m.)

Friday, Dec. 22
•C-I wrestling vs. Lakeville South & Rogers (2 p.m. & 5 p.m.)
•Northern Edge boys hockey vs. Monticello (7 p.m.)

*Over the winter break, girls hockey, C-I boys hockey, both boys basketball, and C-I wrestling are at holiday tournaments.

LAST WEEK'S SCOREBOARD

C-I BLUEJACKETS

December 14
Boys swim & dive 69, Monticello 103
Girls basketball 59, Princeton 65
*Bre Knight - 23
Girls hockey 5, Hopkins 1
*Chloe King - 2 goals
Boys hockey 5, Northern Edge 0
*Jared Foster & Seth Terhell - 2 goals

December 15
Wrestling @ Rochester (no team scores)
*Wyatt Wald (114 pounds) & Jacob Henderson (189 pounds) - 8th place
Boys basketball 105, Princeton 90
*John Troolin - 40 points, including 1,000th career point

December 16
Girls wrestling @ Hopkins (no team results)
*Ashlynn Bondeson (106 pounds) & Ava Ash (112 pounds) - 5th place in B division
Gymnastics @ St. Cloud Tech - 1st/5 teams (142.25)
*Aubrey Wilson - 36.8 all-around
Girls basketball 35, Sartell 53
*Haylie Jerde - 16 points
Boys basketball 60, Coon Rapids 82
*Elias Dee - 19 points

December 19
Boys swim & dive 80,

Chisago Lakes 101
*Joe Larkin (200 & 500 free), Chris Williams (100 free)
Girls basketball 37, Monticello 74
*Ellie Davis - 18 points
Girls hockey 0, Pine City 4
Boys hockey 6, Becker/Big Lake 3

NB VIKINGS

December 14
Wrestling 57, St. Croix Lutheran 15
Wrestling 63, Mahtomedi 9
Girls basketball 54, Big Lake 55
*Kayla Diedrich - 17 points
Boys hockey 0, C-I 5
Boys basketball 68, Big Lake 80
*Noah Thorsen - 22 points

December 15
Wrestling @ Somerset - 7th/15 teams
*Jack Baker (120 pounds) - 2nd place

December 16
Girls basketball 43, Grand Rapids 47
*Ella Kuhlman - 21 points

December 19
Boys hockey 0, Chisago Lakes 6
Girls basketball 49, Becker 66
*Ella Kuhlman - 20
Boys basketball 87, Becker 93
*Noah Thorson - 19 points



C-I's Emerson Droubie goes up for an uncontested layup during the Vikings' game against Grand Rapids. The game was played at Rush City in order to give Diedrich and other Rush City players now playing for the co-op team a true "home game"



North Branch's Kayla Diedrich goes for a layup during the Vikings' game against Grand Rapids. The game was played at Rush City in order to give Diedrich and other Rush City players now playing for the co-op team a true "home game"



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Isanti Community

Thursday, December 28th
12pm - 6pm



Location: Isanti Community Center
208 1/2 1st Avenue NW, Isanti

Scan the QR code to sign-up, or go to mbc.org/searchdrives and search by sponsor code 9797. Questions? Please contact MBC at 888.GIVE.BLD.

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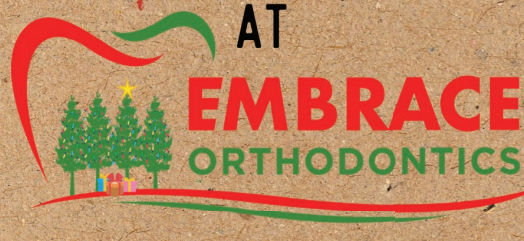


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Please remember to eat, drink, and bring your ID with your name and photo. Appointments are preferred however walk-ins will be welcomed if space permits. Visit mbc.org/coronavirus for COVID-19 safety protocols.

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Mon. & Wed. at 6pm
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Readers' Choice 2023 WINNER
of the Star Isanti-Chisago County

Best Retirement Facility/Senior Living

Finalist:
Best Place to Work, Large (>50 employees)
Best Gym & Best Nurse, Lauren Lemieur

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CONGRATULATIONS
 Congratulations to all of this year's Christmas Coloring Contest entries!

Thank you to everyone who submitted coloring pages! Winners are listed below. Special thank you to the participating businesses that make these contests possible.

<p>Age 4-5 Cub Foods Kyla North age 5 Braham Walmart Ahna Fahnestock age 5 Cambridge Coborn's Audrey Blossom age 4 Isanti</p> <p>Age 6-8 Cub Foods Bryson Jacobson age 7 Chisago City Walmart Arianna Johnson age 8 Cambridge Coborn's Lanex Beeler age 8 Cambridge</p> <p>Age 9-10 Cub Foods Nolan Brady age 9 Cambridge Walmart Eagan Fahnestock age 9 Cambridge Coborn's Eli Jenson age 9 Cambridge</p>	<p>Businesses that made this contest possible include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge Dental Center • Hansen Auction • Local Pawn • Scottie & Son • Kaffe Stuga • Austin Newman Farmers Insurance • Embrace Orthodontics • North Branch Chevrolet • Cambridge State Bank • Century 21 • Dean's Heating & Air Conditioning • MN Appliance Repair • Coborn's • Rush City Car/Truck Wash • Walmart • Anderson & Koch Ford, Inc. • MN Equipment
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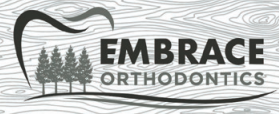
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C hristmas WORSHIP

O' Come Let Us Adore Him

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Spring Lake Lutheran Church

8440 Erickson Rd NE North Branch, MN 55056

Our sister Parish's offer Christmas Eve worship times as follows:

First Lutheran Church

6508 438th St Harris, MN 55032
9:20am

Calvary Lutheran Church

600 Rush Point Dr Stanchfield, MN 55080
3:30pm & 9:20pm

Faith Lutheran Church - ELCA

Main St. & Second Ave., Isanti • 763-444-9201

Celebrate Christmas with Faith!

Sunday, December 24

9:30am - Word & Prayer

5pm - Candlelight Service of Blessing with Holy Communion

St. Stephen's & St. John's Lutheran Churches

400 SE 8th Street • Braham, MN • 320-396-3103 • www.ststephensbraham.org
980 W 4th Street • Rush City, MN • 320-358-3623 • www.stjohnsrushcity.org

Christmas Eve - December 24 Services

8:45am & 5pm at St. John's in Rush City
10:30am & 7pm at St. Stephen's in Braham

Christmas Day

9am at St. Stephen's in Braham

Come and worship the newborn king!

Long Lake Lutheran Church

All are welcome!

(ELCA)3921-277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040

763-444-5315

December 24

Traditional Worship 8:30am
Contemporary Worship 10:30am
Family Christmas Worship 4pm
Candlelight Worship 10pm

December 25

Christmas Day Service 9 am

St. John Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

28168 Jodrell St. NE, North Branch, MN 55056 • 763-444-5988

Christmas Eve (Candlelight Service & Children's Christmas Program)

Sunday, December 24, 4:00pm

No Sunday Morning Service

Join us at church or on Zoom

https://us04web.zoom.us/j/7633613681

Password/Pin # 246810

(Join us a few minutes early to make sure you are connected)

South Isanti Baptist Church

2-1/2 miles east of Isanti on County Rd. 5
southisantibaptist.org 763-444-5860

Sunday, December 24

Join us for worship at 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Worship at 4:30 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate through song and scripture the wondrous Gift of God.



SERVICES & PROGRAM GUIDE

Justpassinthrough IHS Ministries

Christmas Eve Service at 10 am & Christmas Morning Service at 9:30

Jesus Has Come Rumble.com

Justpassinthrough IHS YouTube

Justpassinthrough.net

1001 1st Ave East Suite 100 Cambridge
763-228-0883

Christmas Eve Service at Common Ground UMC

5:00 p.m. in person and online
404 Cypress St N, Cambridge



www.commongroundumc.org

JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve Sunday Services

9am with communion • 4pm Candlelight Service

No Christmas Day Service

New Year's Eve Sunday Service 9am

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CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

600 Rush Point Dr., Stanchfield, MN 55080

Please join us at 3:30pm or 9:30pm on December 24th for Candlelight Christmas Eve worship celebrating the birth of the newborn King!

Our sister Parish churches offer Christmas Eve worship times as follows:

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

9:20AM

6508-438th Street
Harris, MN 55032

SPRING LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

5:30PM

8440 Erickson Rd NE
North Branch, MN 55056

The Unexpected Messiah

Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Services

2pm & 3:30pm

First Baptist Church

304 Main Street South, Cambridge

763-689-1173

firstbaptistcambridge.org



Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch • 651-674-7047 • trinitynorthbranch.org

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

2:30 p.m. - Worship with Holy Communion

Livestreamed on YouTube, available on Facebook later

4:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Monday, December 25

No worship services scheduled

Sunday, December 31

9:00 a.m. - Lessons & Carols Worship

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Sunday, December 24,

9am Worship Service

Sunday, December 24

4pm Candlelight

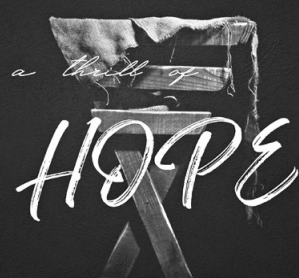
Worship Service

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Contemporary | Dec. 24 • Noon, 2 pm, 4 pm

Festival | Dec. 24 • 3 pm, 5 pm, 10 pm

Traditional | Dec. 25 • 10 am

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WORSHIP *guide*

Baptist

First Baptist Church

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

North Isanti Baptist Church

Lead Pastor: Travis Blake
2248 313th Ave. NE, Cambridge, MN 55008. www.nib-church.com

Email: nibchurch@msn.com
763-689-3576. 8:30am Worship Service (traditional style)
10:45am Worship Service (contemporary style)

South Isanti Baptist Church

3367 Cty. Rd. 5 NE, Isanti.
763-444-5860, Pastor Bob Venneman. Sunday Worship 9:30am. Wednesday "Life & Light" Bible studies for all ages. Adults & children. For info call or go to southisantibaptist.org.

Springvale Baptist

Pastor Zane Hall
9:30am Sunday School
10:30am Sunday Worship
Wednesday: 6:00 pm Band of Brothers
Thursday: 10:00 am Ladies Bible Study
410 County Road 6 NW
Stanchfield, MN 55080
763-689-1373
springvalechurchmn.org

Sunrise Bible Church

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

Catholic

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

207 Whiskey Rd NW, Isanti, MN.
763-444-4035
Email: annseton76@gmail.com. Mass: Tues. & Wed. 8:30am. Sun. 8:30am. stelizabeth-isanti.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 9:00 am
Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
Wednesday AWANA 6:30 pm
Wednesday Youth Group 6:30 pm
Karmelcov.org

Evangelical Free

Dale Evangelical Free Church

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

Kost Evangelical Free Church

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

Oxlip Evangelical Free Church

29237 Roanoke St NW, Isanti
(1 mile West of Cty 5 and Hwy 47)
763-444-5134 oxlip.org
9am Worship Service
10:45am Christian Education
Awana children's ministry Wednesdays 6:30 to 8pm

Wyannet Evangelical Free Church

12 Miles West of Cambridge on Highway 95
www.wyannettefc.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 6:00 pm
Wednesdays - Midweek Bible Study/Prayer 6:00 pm
Thursdays - Women's Morning Bible Study will resume in October
A LOVING CHURCH PROCLAIMING A LIVING MESSAGE!

Lutheran

Braham Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)

West Central Drive & County Road 4, Braham
320-396-2755
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service - BELC
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Live on Facebook
Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday thru Thursday

Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Rush Point (ELCA)

Pastor Vicki Vandervegt.
320-358-4829, 600 Rush Point Dr.
10:30am Worship with Fellowship following
my.calvaryofrushpoint.org.
Office: calvaryrushpoint@gmail.com

Cambridge Lutheran Church (ELCA)

621 Old North Main Street, Cambridge
763-689-1211
8:45 a.m. Traditional Service
10 a.m. Contemporary Service
Dec. 23 Horizon Service: 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve Contemporary Services: Noon, 2 p.m., 4 p.m.
Christmas Eve Festival Services: 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 10 p.m.
Christmas Day Traditional Service: 10 a.m.
www.cambridgelutheran.org -
fb.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

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

109 Second Ave NW, Isanti
763-444-9201
Pastor Barb Vandrasek
Sunday School 8:30 a.m.
Sunday Service 9:30 a.m.
Home of Heavenly Sunshine Preschool
email:
office@faithlutheranisanti.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)

1155 Joy Circle, Cambridge
763-689-4355
www.joylutheran.net
Pastor James Ritter
8 a.m. Traditional Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday school
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Long Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

3921 277th Ave NW Isanti, MN 55040
763-444-5315
Pastor Sue Olson
All Are Welcome!
8:30-9:30 Traditional Worship Service
9:15-10:15 Sunday School ages 3- Grade 5.
9:30-10:30 Adult Education in the conference room.
10:30-11:30 Contemporary Worship Service
Wednesday: 6 p.m. Confirmation

Salem Lutheran Church

4638 381st Ave. NW, Dalbo, MN 55017. 763-689-1687
Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:30am, Sunday school for 3 yrs to 6th gr. begins at 10:30am. Coffee fellowship after worship
www.salemlutherandalbo.com

Spring Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

8440 Erickson Road, PO Box 958, North Branch, MN 55056
(9 mi. E. of Cambridge on Hwy. 95, North one block on Erickson Road).
651-674-4606.
Pastor Vicki VanderVegt.
slchurch.org
Email: sl.lchurch@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 Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMC)

31075 Genesis Ave., Stacy, MN 55079
651-462-5115.
Office Hours - 9:00am - 1:00 pm
9:00am Services,
Sunday School following Service (10:15am).
Email - stjohns@midconetwork.com.
Website - stjohnslutheranchurch-stacymn.org

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.), PO Box 37, Braham
320-396-3103
9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study. 10:30am Worship.
ststephensbraham.org

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

38460 Lincoln Trail, North Branch
651-674-7047 Pastor Paul Cannon
In person and online worship
Sundays at 8 am & 10 am
Coffee Hour at 9 am
Family Sunday School at 9 am
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

Lakeside Christian Church

32393 Rendova Cir. N.E., Cambridge (3 mi. E of Cambridge just off Hwy. 95). 763-689-3649. Ministry Coordinator Jeff Bonkoski. Sunday 9:30am Worship. Retreat house & personal retreat cabins available. Call for reservation. Email: lakesidesecretary@gmail.com. lakesidechurchcambridge.org

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

Pentecostal

The Journey New Life Church

601 Heritage Blvd NE, Isanti
Pastor David L. Willis.
Sunday 10am Worship & the Word & Kids' Church.
Sunday 6pm Family Worship.
Wednesday 7pm Family Breakout Classes.
763-689-4471
Thejourneynlc.org

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JOHN DEERE

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www.MinnesotaEquipment.com

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763-250-9159

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NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ISANTI DISTRICT COURT
Judicial District, 10th
Court File Number: 30-FA-23-282
Case Type: Dissolution with Children

Summons Without Real Estate In Re the Marriage of:
Clayton Wayne Erickson
Petitioner and Stephanie Louise Erickson Respondent

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED
RESPONDENT:

WARNING: Your spouse has filed a lawsuit against you for dissolution of your marriage. A copy of the paperwork regarding the lawsuit is served on you with this summons. This summons is an official document from the court that affects your rights. Read this summons carefully. If you do not understand it, contact an attorney for legal advice.

1. The Petitioner (your spouse) has filed a lawsuit against you asking for a dissolution of your marriage (divorce). A copy of the *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage* is attached to this Summons. There should also be a copy of Petitioner's *Financial Affidavit* attached.

2. You must serve upon Petitioner and file with the Court a written *Answer to the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage* and your *Financial Affidavit*. You must pay the required filing fee. *Answer* forms and the *Financial Affidavit* form are available from the Court Administrator's office. You must serve your *Answer* and *Financial Affidavit* upon Petitioner within thirty (30) days of the date you were served with this *Summons*, not counting the day of service. If you do not serve and file your *Answer* and *Financial Affidavit*, the Court may give your spouse everything he or she is asking for in the *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage*.

3. This proceeding does not involve real property.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING PROVISIONS

Under Minnesota law, service of this summons makes the following requirements apply to both parties to the action, unless they are modified by the court or the proceeding is dismissed:

(1) Neither party may dispose of any assets except (a) for the necessities of life or for the necessary generation of income or preservation of assets, (b) by an agreement of the parties in writing, or (c) for retaining counsel to carry on or to contest this proceeding.

(2) Neither party may harass the other party.

(3) All currently available insurance coverage must be maintained and continued without change in coverage or beneficiary designation.

(4) Parties to a marriage dissolution proceeding are encouraged to attempt alternative dispute resolution pursuant to Minnesota law. Alternative dispute resolution includes mediation, arbitration and other processes as set forth in the district court rules. You may contact the court administrator about resources in your area. If you cannot pay for mediation or alternative dispute resolution, in some counties, assistance may be available to you through a nonprofit provider or a court program. If you are a victim of domestic abuse or threats as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 518B, you are not required to try mediation and you will not be penalized by the court in later proceedings.

IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS BY THE COURT

NOTICE OF PARENT EDUCATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Under Minnesota Statutes, Section 518.157, in a contested proceeding involving custody or parenting time of a minor child, the

parties must begin participation in a parent education program that meets minimum standards promulgated by the Minnesota Supreme Court within 30 days after the first filing with the court. In some Districts, parenting education may be required in all custody or parenting proceedings. You may contact the District Court Administrator for additional information regarding this requirement and the availability of parent education programs.

Dated 9-15-23
County and State where signed:
Isanti, MN

Name: Clayton Erickson
Address: 601 17th Ave SW #115
City/State/Zip: Cambridge, MN 55008
Telephone: 651-273-7152

E-mail address:
Claytonwayneerickson@gmail.com

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 7, 14, 21, 2023

PUBLIC NOTICE CAMBRIDGE TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given to qualified Voters of Cambridge Township, Isanti County, State of Minnesota, that the filing for Town Office will be held for a two-week period beginning January 2, 2024 and ending January 16, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

Filing fee is \$2.00.

Officers to be filled at the March Annual Election are for one Supervisor for a term of three years and one Clerk for a term of two years.

Affidavits of candidacy shall be filed with the Town Clerk at the Cambridge Township Office at 3568 337th Ave NE, Cambridge, MN 55008.

Please call for an appointment: 320-496-5636 or attend the required open filing period of 1-5 p.m. on January 16, 2024 at the above address.

Darrell D. Vosika
Clerk of Cambridge Township
cambridgetownship@gmail.com

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 14, 21, 2023

DALBO TOWNSHIP SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

With the advent of another Minnesota snow season comes the concern about access to work, school, and business. The safety and convenience of the traveling public is the main concern of Dalbo Township. The goal of the Township is to have all Township roads passable within a reasonable amount of time after a snowfall has stopped.

The Township does not assure a completely bare road. Users of the Township road system are reminded to exercise caution and drive with care. The legal speed limit may not be possible at all times.

SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES:

1. DISPATCHING THE SNOWPLOW

The Township will usually not dispatch the snowplow until after the snowfall has stopped. During extended periods of snowfall, some exception may be made. The snowplow will not be sent out in situations that may be hazardous due to restricted visibility.

If snowfall stops during the regular working hours, the plow may be dispatched at that time. If the snowfall stops during the night or early morning hours, the plow will be dispatched at 5:00 AM. Weekend plowing will be handled in a similar fashion.

2. OPERATIONS

Generally, the clearing of the roads will consist of three phases: A. Making the road passable;

B. Widening the road; C. Cleaning up the road. Depending on the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at one time.

3. PERSONAL PROPERTIES:

A. Mailboxes and fences damaged during snow removal will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Only those mailboxes that were properly located and installed,

and which were damaged by actual contact with the snow removal equipment, will be repaired at the Township's expense.

B. Township residents are reminded that it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across public roadways. Piles of snow left on or near the roadway can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Piles of snow increase the chance of snow drifting onto the roadway.

C. Township residents are reminded to remove parked vehicles from Township roads to assist in snow removal.

D. When directed by the Township Supervisors, Chairman of the Town Board, or the local Sheriff's Department, the Township will make every effort to make emergency plowing.

For further information, contact a member of the Township Board of Supervisors.

Dated: December 12, 2023

By: /s/Donn Olson

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 14, 21, 2023

FISH LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILING FOR TOWNSHIP ELECTION

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Fish Lake Township, Chisago County, State of Minnesota, that filing for town office will be held for a two-week period beginning January 2, 2024 and ending at 5:00 p.m. on January 16, 2024.

Affidavits of Candidacy shall be filed with the Town Clerk at the Fish Lake Township Office, 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN 55032. Filing fee is \$2.00 Township office hours are Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To file, come to the town office during office hours or contact clerk@fishlaketownship.com to make an appointment. Office will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on the last day for filing, January 16, 2024.

Officers to be filled at the March Annual Election are:

1 Supervisor (three-year term)
Andrea Nekowitsch
Fish Lake Township Clerk
December 14, 2023

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 21, 28, 2023

FORECLOSURES

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage: DATE OF MORTGAGE: February 5, 2010 ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$85,536.00 MORTGAGOR(S): Marlys Darlene Clementson, An unmarried woman MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., acting solely as nominee for Bank of America, N.A. TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc. MIN#: 1000255-0000335427-9 SERVICER: Nationstar Mortgage LLC LENDER: Bank of America, N.A DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Kanabec County Minnesota on February 26, 2010, as Document No. 235117. ASSIGNED TO: Nationstar Mortgage LLC by an Assignment of Mortgage dated 09/11/2023 and recorded on 09/20/2023 as Document No. 282993. LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Real Property In Kanabec County, Minnesota, Described As Follow: North Half Of Northeast Quarter Of Southeast Quarter Of Northeast Quarter (N1/2 Of NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Of NE 1/4) Of Section Twenty-Nine (29), Township Forty-Two (42), Range Twenty-Three (23), Kanabec

County, Minnesota PROPERTY ADDRESS: 3475 Mahogany St, Isle, MN 56342 PROPERTY I.D.: 05-01065-00 COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Kanabec THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: Sixty-Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy-One and 84/100 (\$67,971.84) THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes; PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows: DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 10:00AM on January 25, 2024 PLACE OF SALE: Kanabec County Sheriff's Office, 18 North Vine St., Ste. 143, Mora MN 55051 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is 6.00 months from the date of sale. If Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. Section580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. Section580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on July 25, 2024, or the next business day if July 25, 2024 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED." Dated: December 7, 2023 Nationstar Mortgage LLC Randall S. Miller and Associates, PLLC Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgage/Mortgagee Edinburgh Executive Office Center, 8525 Edinbrook Crossing North Suite #210 Brooklyn Park, MN 55443 Phone: 952-232-0052 Our File No. 23MN00218-1 A-4803104 12/07/2023, 12/14/2023, 12/21/2023, 12/28/2023, 01/04/2024, 01/11/2024

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 7, 14, 21, 28, January 4, 11, 2023

PROBATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ISANTI DISTRICT COURT TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No.: 30-PR-23-108
NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DETERMINATION OF DESCENT (TESTATE)
In Re: Estate of
ELEANOR ZACHMAN HILL, aka ELEANOR Z. HILL and ELEANOR HILL, Decedent.
CHRISTOPHER L. HILL ("Petitioner") has filed a Petition for Determination of Descent (Testate). It is Ordered and Notice is given that a hearing will be held by this Court using remote technology on 1/23/24, at 1:50 PM, on the Petition for Determination of Descent (Testate).

The petition represents that the Decedent died intestate more than three (3) years ago leaving the property in Minnesota.

The petition requests the Court probate the decedent's last Will dated April 14, 2010, determine the descent of such property, and assign the property to the persons entitled. Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the petition will

be granted.

Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by:

Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order to each interested person by United States mail at least 14 days before the time set for the hearing.

Publishing this Notice and Order in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 524.1-401(3).
Court File No. 30-PR-23-108

BY THE COURT

Dated:
Brosnahan, Amy
Judge of District Court

Dated:
Erin Boettcher
Court Administrator
Scott + Hespen Law, PLLC
Jeffrey P. Scott
MN# 0204420
2356 University Ave W Saint Paul, MN 55114

Telephone: (651) 647-9533
Facsimile: (651) 560-3708
e-mail: jeff@scotthespenlaw.com
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 21, 28, 2023

STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF ISANTI DISTRICT COURT TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PROBATE DIVISION Court File No.: 30-PR-23-98

ORDER FOR HEARING PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

In Re: Estate of
Glen Michael Vechell, a/k/a Glen M. Vechell, Deceased.

The petition of Kathleen A. Vechell dated November 3, 2023, having been filed in this Court representing that the above named decedent has been dead for more than three years leaving certain property therein described, and requesting the probate of the last will of the decedent, if any, and the descent of said property be determined and assigned by the Court to the person(s) entitled thereto.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the petition be heard on the 23rd day of January, 2024 @ 2:30 p.m. by the above named Court at the Isanti County Government Center, 555 18th Avenue SW, Cambridge, Minnesota.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the petitioner give notice of said hearing by Minn. Stat. §524.1-401 to all persons entitled to notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. §524.3-403 and to all persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minn. Stat. §524.3-204.

Brosnahan, Amy
Judge of District Court
Nathan P. Fuglestad Attorney for Petitioner

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

Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 21, 28, 2023

STATE OF MINNESOTA ISANTI COUNTY DISTRICT COURT 10TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

File Number: 30-PR-23-106 Case Type: Informal Probate

Notice of Informal Probate of Will and Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors

In re the Estate of Marilyn Annetta Barker, a/k/a Marilyn A. Soderman Barker, f/k/a Marilyn A. Soderman, f/k/a Marilyn A. Hawkinson, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

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

Last Will dated July 19, 2023 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Self-Represented Litigant: Anita E Hupfer
Address 375 353rd AVE NE

Cambridge MN 55008

Email hupfera@icloud.com
Phone Number 612/390-4738

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

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

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

Probate Registrar: Pamela Kreier
Date: 12/14/2023
Court Administrator: Erin Boettcher

Date: 12/14/2023
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 21, 28, 2023

ASSUMED NAME

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: Bert Jones Production & Design Studio

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1425 CARRIAGE HILLS DR S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 United States

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: **Bertie A Jones**

Address: 1425 CARRIAGE HILLS DR S CAMBRIDGE MN 55008 United States

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

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

SIGNED BY: **Bertie A Jones**
MAILING ADDRESS: None
Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **design@bjpds.com**

Work Item 1434778100023

Original File Number 1434778100023

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

12/11/2023 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State
Published in the Isanti-Chisago County STAR on December 14, 21, 2023

ISANTI AND CHISAGO COUNTY COURT REPORTS

The following felony charges were filed in Isanti County Court on Dec. 10 - 16. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Abshir Abdirisak Omar (DOB 01/01/1999) of Mankato, was charged Dec. 14 with Terroristic Threats-Reckless Disregard Risk.
Adam Steven Hamilton Haskins (DOB 01/07/1980) of Pine City, was charged Dec. 14 with three counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct-1st Degree-Penetration or Contact with Person Under 13; three counts of Criminal Sex-

ual Conduct-1st Degree-Penetration - Victim Under 16-Significant Relationship; one count of Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim Under 13-Actor > 36m Old; and one count of Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim 13-15-Position Authority.

Joshua James Thomson (DOB 04/21/1989) of Cambridge, was charged Dec. 14 with Violate No Contact Order - Within 10 years of the first of two or more convictions.

Branden Lee Schaaf (DOB 09/19/1991) of Cambridge, was charged Dec. 15 with Traffic - DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of

Controlled Substance.

The following felony charges were filed in Chisago County Court on Dec. 10 - 16. All individuals are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

Emily Nicole Koch (DOB 12/03/1992) of Mitchell, SD, was charged Dec. 11 with Theft-Take/Drive Motor Vehicle-No Owner Consent.

Chloe Ann Hoppe (DOB 11/19/2000) of Rice Lake, WI, was charged Dec. 15 with one count of Aiding and Abetting Theft-Take/Drive Motor


Vehicle-No Owner Consent; and one count of Drugs - 5th Degree - Possess Schedule 1,2,3,4 or paraphernalia residual - Not cannabis/hemp.

Travis James Pleski (DOB 10/25/1995) of Lindstrom, was charged Dec. 15 with Aiding and Abetting Theft-Take/Drive Motor Vehicle-No Owner Consent.

Mordecai Reginald Raysor (DOB 08/28/2003) of Saint Paul, was charged Dec. 15 with Drugs - 2nd Degree - Possess 50 grams or 100 dose units - Amphetamine/PCP/hallucinogens.

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8'x 20' flatbed trailer. Red frame, black fenders, white side panels, 5 stake pockets on each side, 4 inch square tube frame, painted wood deck, 8 bolt wheels. Skidsteer Hydra-Mac 1300 yellow.



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EMPLOYMENT



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2023-2024 School Year
1.0 FTE • 184 Contract Days

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Qualifications: Valid Minnesota Teaching License in K-6 elementary education.

Salary: Per Education Minnesota-Mora Negotiated Master Agreement.

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Application Deadline: Open until filled
Start Date: Jan. 4, 2024 or as soon as possible

For more information contact: (320) 679-6200
Randy Qual, Elementary School Principal: rqual@moraschools.org

Apply online at:
www.moraschools.org

It is the policy of Independent School District 332, Mora, Minnesota, to provide equal employment opportunity for all, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation, or age.



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SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL

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Remainder of the 2023-2024 school year

Location: Mora High School

Job Duties include: Working 1:1 or with small groups of students in special education programming. Includes assisting with recess, lunch, aid in toileting and hygiene, and arrival/dismissal supervision. This position will work under the direction of the special education lead teacher and under the supervision of the high school assistant principal.

Qualifications: ParaPro or ParaEducator certification OR (AA degree or 60 semester credits) required.

Experience working in an elementary setting, and CPI/CPR training preferred. Must be self-directed, supportive, and collaborative to meet student and staff needs.

Work Environment: Mora High School is a 7th - 12th grade setting with approximately 800 students. The Special Education Department consists of 8 certified staff with a complement of classroom and individual paraprofessionals that provide support in a level 1-3 setting. MHS is part of the Rum River Cooperative which provides support, training and special education services as well as level 4 programming.

Salary and Benefits: Per Education Minnesota ESP AFL-CIO Agreement. Benefits include health, dental, life, and long term disability insurance, employee assistance program and paid sick time.

Application Deadline: Open until filled
Start Date: As soon as possible

For more information contact: Nick Bakke, High School Assistant Principal nbakke@moraschools.org or (320) 679-6200

Apply online at:
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