



DOMO ARIGATO: Viking robotics member inaugural recipient of rebranded Star feature. **PAGE 12**

Worthy of the spotlight

Theatre crew calls the shots, brings order to chaos

BY HOPE MURRAY
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

Jesse Coplin has been doing theatre for a long time — long enough to be able to control cast and crew with a withering look or a carefully worded suggestion. As stage manager for the upcoming production of “The Matchmaker,” the Cambridge-Isanti senior doesn’t want to raise her voice to maintain order, and so she doesn’t. Most of the time.

“I’m bossy when I need to be,” she said. “I try to respect people unless they disrespect me or my tech crew.”

Jesse and her friends Marilyn Malnar and Rachel Scott have worked enough shows to know how important their jobs as theatre technicians are.

“I don’t think people always realize how important techs are to a show,” Jesse said. “Without

me or Rachel, there would be no show. Without Marilyn, you wouldn’t be able to hear anyone. Without (Logan Johnson, lighting director) there wouldn’t be any lights. People forget that a lot.”

Director Viva Marie Anderson has not forgotten that, and relies on these three young women to — literally — run the show.

As Anderson tells her actors where to move — known as blocking — it is Stage Manager Jesse’s responsibility to write that blocking in her script and refer to it when reminding actors where they need to go. As actors work on memorization, she assists them when they blank on their lines.

Once the run of the play starts, Anderson takes on a more minor role, allowing the



HOPE MURRAY | COUNTY STAR

From left, Marilyn Malnar, Jesse Coplin and Rachel Scott keep a keen eye on a recent rehearsal of “The Matchmaker” at Cambridge-Isanti High School.

SEE SPOTLIGHT, PAGE 2



CONTRIBUTED

Heading to State

North Branch Knowledge Bowl Team 1, comprised of coach Charles Bettendorf, Justine Joyal, Garrett Korkowski, Kobe Yang, Norah Judson, and Josiah Zderad, pose with their second place trophy. Read more about the Knowledge Bowl success on page 2.

Apartment complex, retailer, boat manufacturer, coming to Cambridge

BY BILL STICKELS III
NEWS@COUNTYSTAR.COM

The City of Cambridge continues to reap the benefits of — and live up to — its being named the second hottest housing market of 2021. Within a span of 24 hours, the city announced the finalization of plans for a 159-unit “luxury” apartment complex, the opening of a major manufacturer, along with the confirmation of a new retailer occupying land that has sat unpurchased for longer than most residents can remember.

PARKWOOD ON THE LAKES

Despite the rapidly increasing construction costs, Sirish Samaba, owner of the proposed 159-unit apartment complex, says the time is finally right to go forward with this project.

“We have owned this property for about 13 or 14 years,” Samaba said. “It’s remarkable to see the transformation over those years. Cambridge is so alive and growing at this time.”

Besides the hottest market designa-

tion, Samaba noted a recent market analysis of theirs indicated only a one-half percent availability rate for rentals in the area.

“I believe the timing is perfect. Yes, the prices have gone up significantly,” he said. “I wish we would have done it a couple years ago.”

According to Samaba’s business partner, Erik Miller, the complex, which will sit on 7.28 acres at 2000 9th Avenue SE, will be a four-story building and will include a mix of studio, one-bedroom, two-bedroom, and three-bedroom apartments.

Some of the amenities planned include 119 underground parking stalls, a party room, fitness center, media room, a larger outdoor patio, children play area, plus a dog park and dog spa.

With the underground parking, however, the developers needed to obtain a height variance from the city. According to Community Development Director Marcia Westover,

SEE APARTMENT, PAGE 8

Find tires for your vehicle.

The name-brand options you want. The tires you need. And the services you expect.



Quick Lane® Tire & Auto Center Is Ready To Serve at Hayford Ford HWY. 65, ISANTI • 763-689-5555 • www.quicklane.com



GET UP TO A \$70 REBATE BY MAIL

Or Earn Up To 25,000 FordPass® Rewards Bonus Points When You Buy Four Select Tires*. On These Name Brands: Goodyear, Dunlop, Michelin, BFGoodrich, Continental, Pirelli, Bridgestone, Firestone, Yokohama, Toyo, Nitto. FordPass Rewards Members Also Earn 10 Points Per \$1 Spent On Service Visits, For A Total Point Value Of Over \$100.

*Quick Lane®-installed retail purchases only. Limit one offer per customer. \$70 tire rebate or 25,000 FordPass Rewards Points on Goodyear, Dunlop, Michelin, Pirelli, Continental, Bridgestone and Toyo. \$60 tire rebate or 23,000 FordPass Rewards Points on BFGoodrich, Yokohama and Firestone. \$50 tire rebate or 21,000 FordPass Rewards Points on Nitto. Medium/commercial Toyo tires are excluded. Must be enrolled in FordPass Rewards to receive FordPass Rewards bonus Points. Points are not redeemable for cash. See the FordPass Rewards Program terms and conditions at FordPassRewards.com for information regarding expiration, redemption, forfeiture and other limitations on FordPass Rewards Points. Offer valid 2/1/22 to 3/31/22. Submit rebate by 4/30/22 by mail-in rebate form or online at QuickLane.com. Cannot be combined with any other tire manufacturer-sponsored rebate/offer. Only available in the United States. See participating U.S. Quick Lane for vehicle applications and offer details through 3/31/22. Quick Lane® is a registered trademark of Ford Motor Company.

