

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 9  
CIRCLE PINES, MN

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026**  
VOL. 23 NO. 16 [www.readthecitizen.com](http://www.readthecitizen.com) \$1.50

SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

**The Hugo Fire Department will host its last installment of Fridays with Firefighters from 10 a.m. to noon on Aug. 14 at the Fire Station, located at 5323 140th St. N. Families can stop by the fire station to meet firefighters, check out the fire engines, jump in the bounce house and eat popcorn.**

**BY SHANNON GRANHOLM**  
MANAGING EDITOR

For the first time in the city's history, the Hugo Fire Department (HFD) is awarding lifesaving awards to a team of first responders who changed the life of a resident and his family forever.

At approximately 5:39 a.m., Feb. 20, 2025, Dave Johnson and his wife, Angie Johnson, woke up and everything seemed normal — until it wasn't. During a conversation, Angie asked Dave a question, and he didn't respond. She tried asking him that same question again a second



CONTRIBUTED

**The city of Hugo hands out its first Life Saving Awards.**

and even third time with no response and realized something was wrong. She recognized that Dave was unresponsive and not breathing, and immediately called 911.

On the other end of the call was Washington

SEE **CHAIN OF SURVIVAL**, PAGE 10

**BY LOGAN GION**  
STAFF WRITER

Arrest a drunk driver, chase an escaped chihuahua, mediate a child custody dispute, assist the fire department, return a lost bicycle, investigate mail fraud, locate a missing adult with dementia —within a single day, Centennial Lakes Police Department (CLPD) officers are dispatched to a myriad of calls.

Newly appointed CLPD Police Chief Brian Goetzke, however, believes every incident shares one commonality: “Regardless of the reason (citizens) are calling, in some capacity the situation got bad enough for them to call 911 and ask for help.”

Goetzke took over as CLPD chief of police July 1 after former chief Jim Mork retired. Goetzke has been with CLPD since 2018 and was a patrol sergeant before his promotion.

“There’s way more responsibility as a chief of police than there was as a patrol sergeant, so naturally,

there are some insecurities, right?" Goetzke said. "If you don't feel those insecurities when you're overseeing an entire police department, I don't think you fully understand the magnitude of what you're doing."

Goetzke acknowledged that he will operate CLPD differently than his predecessor did.

"I think that Mork did a great job, but I can't be Mork again because we're two different people," Goetzke said. "I take a lot of things from Chief Mork that worked really well, and take some things that I have for my ideas that I want to try and do, and tailor things to who I am ... I could do a great job as chief. That doesn't mean the next person can't come in and make modifications that are going to benefit the department."

Allowing police officers to reasonably find their own avenue to meet community and department needs is a skill Goetzke refined during his years as

**SEE NEW CLPD CHIEF, PAGE 7**



CLPD | CONTRIBUTED

**Centennial Lakes Police Department (CLPD) Chief Brian Goetzke.**

**\$5 OFF ANY**  
**purchase**  
**of \$25 or more**  
**excludes alcohol**

**Pizza & Salad**  
**Lunch Buffet**  
**\$11.95**  
**m-f from 11am - 2pm**

**WISEGUYS**  
**PIZZA & PUB**

**Not valid with any other offers Expires 8/31/26**

**(651) 407-1094 • 7095 20th Ave S • Centerville, MN | Voted Best Pizzal**



**CIRCULATION**  
651-407-1234  
ppcirc@presspubs.com

**NEWS**  
651-407-1230  
citizennews@presspubs.com

**ADVERTISING**  
651-407-1200  
marketing@presspubs.com

**CLASSIFIED**  
651-407-1250  
classified@presspubs.com

**PRODUCTION**  
651-407-1253  
artmanager@presspubs.com



## Disney's Newsies' helps cast and crew seize the day

**BY LOGAN GION**  
STAFF WRITER

Students have standout theater opportunities in White Bear Lake. Professionals have standout theater opportunities in the Twin Cities. The contrast between the two spaces is as stark as print on newspaper. The path from aspiring to paid actor is not black and white, however, which can give budding performers uncertainty in an already uncertain industry.

To help young creatives stare down the odds, Children's Performing Arts (CPA) is staging "Disney's Newsies" as its first "Summerstock Intensive."

"The purpose of this brand-new Summerstock Intensive program is to train young artists to be prepared and ready to walk into the regional and professional audition space," explained director Braylon Lane. "The ideology of our production is that we're going to teach them to do hard things."

Challenges abound when staging “Disney’s Newsies,” a show about the newsboys’ strike of 1899, when juvenile newspaper hawkers in New York united against Joseph Pulitzer’s and William Randolph Hearst’s wage practices. The cast, mainly ages 15-25, must learn stage combat, move scaffolding while tap dancing and

craft a nuanced character backstory — all at double-time speed.

"At the high school level, the traditional schedule trajectory is seven to eight weeks. At the (professional) level, it's four to five weeks," Lane said.

For Leonardo Fay, a recent graduate of Bethel University who plays lead Jack Kelly, the pressure-cooker scenario is providing him with practical experience before he joins a program at Circle in the Square Theatre and School on Broadway.

"I looked into the creative team (for "Newsies"), and I saw that there was a lot of really well-established people there. It's a preprofessional type of opportunity, and those are pretty rare," Fay said. "It's really nice to see that there are things being built that are stepping stones into the industry."

“It’s brought me more of a view of what it’s like if I wanted to go into regional theater,” agreed Eli Murphy, a graduating White Bear senior and one of Hennepin Arts’ 2026 Triple Threat recipients. “This is another step to what I want to go do.”

This show has also given young creatives insight into areas in which they can excel behind the scenes. Chicago College of Performing Arts student Emily Hubin, for example, plays the show's

female lead and is assistant costumer.

“At first, it was a little bit tricky to juggle and interesting to learn how to do both,” Hubin said, “but I found, as an ADHD person with a brain that can focus on so many different things at once, it’s actually been really fun for me.”

Graduating White Bear senior Holly Flood is assistant choreographer. While she's helped in this area before, the show has given her confidence in an authority position.

"What's helping me thrive is ... I know I'm qualified for this position," Flood said. "I'm able to use creativity to make it all cohesive."

Meanwhile, for Ben Storelee, an incoming sophomore at White Bear Lake Area High School who has already been in numerous shows with the district as well as with

CPA, “Disney’s Newsies” is an opportunity for growth.

“Something that pushes me to work harder is the people I’m around,” Storelee said. “I’m starring next to many college students who are trying to get BFAs, degrees in theater. That motivates me to try harder and dive deeper into the role and actions and vocals.”

Storelee is playing Medda Larkin, the owner of and performer at a vaudeville theater. While Storelee identifies as male, Medda Larkin is female. Storelee's past theater credits include characters with a wide variety of gender identities or lack of identities. He played Belle and the Beast's son, Prince Ben, in "Disney's Descendants," and was the Evan Hansen understudy in this past spring's "Dear Evan Hansen." He has also played an enchanted wardrobe in "Beauty and the Beast" and, most recently, Teen Angel in "Grease."

"In theater, you're playing a character. The character doesn't necessarily have to align with who you are," Storelee said. "Obviously, I'm male presenting, but I play all different kinds of roles."

Storelee, who wants to pursue musical theater professionally, is grateful for the opportunity to play a part like Medda Larkin.

"As a teenage theater kid who is a boy who loves to play things of all kinds, there are rejections you'll get," Storelee said. "There might be a

director that's here for it and there might not be because it's a female role, and I'm a male."

Lane explained that he made the Medda Larkin casting choice for a simple reason: Storelee has the best audition.

“When we were having the auditions for Medda, I don’t think I anticipated somebody that is a male in the role. Then, when Ben put it on his audition form and came to a callback, I said, ‘Holy Buckets!’” Lane said. “I thought, ‘Why the hell not?’”

Similarly, multiple women in “Disney’s Newsies” play roles originally written for men. For instance, Kiara Angilne, an incoming senior at Burnsville High School, plays the character Race, a tenor part.

"He's Jack's sidekick. He's kind of the laid back, chill one," she explained.

Angilne feels that the workload for “Disney’s Newsies” has challenged her. “I am a very fast learner,” Angilne said. “But some of the dances? I’m like, ‘Whoa, I’m not getting this first time. I’m asking questions, not only for the dancing, but overall, as an actor.’”

Bethel University incoming senior Thien-Tam Tang, who plays Crutchie, a character with a disability, is also being tested as an actor, specifically with character creation.

"I don't have any physical disabilities," Tang said. "I have to try to be as accurate as possible, representing something I don't have in a way that's not offensive ... He strug-



PHOTOS BY PAUL DOLS | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

From left, Holly Flood, Eli Murphy, Emily Hubin, Damyre Perry, Ben Storelee, Kiara Angline, Leonardo Fay and Thien-Tam Tang are among the cast and crew members in the upcoming production of "Disney's Newsies."



**Kiara Angline practices her dance moves before the start of a recent rehearsal.**

gles, but he's just like the rest of the newsies. He's one of them."

Inclusion and self-advocacy are the main themes of both "Disney's Newsies" and CPA's Summerstock Intensive, according to Damyre Perry, a River Falls student who plays Albert, one of the newsboys.

“Living with compassion, living with empathy, living with grace and space for other people — but also standing up for yourself,” Perry said. “If you want happiness, you need to advocate for yourself ... No one else is going to be able to read your mind and speak it for you.”

CPA's production of "Disney's Newsies" runs Aug. 8-16 at White Bear Lake Area High School Performing Arts Center, 5040 Division Ave., Door A. For tickets and details, visit [childrensperformingartsmn.ludus.com](http://childrensperformingartsmn.ludus.com).



**Director Braylon Lane goes over safety protocol with “Disney’s Newsies” cast members on the sets currently under construction onstage at the White Bear Lake Area High School Performing Arts Center.**

**Your Local Remodeling, Custom Home  
& Storm Damage Experts.**

***Gregory Contracting***

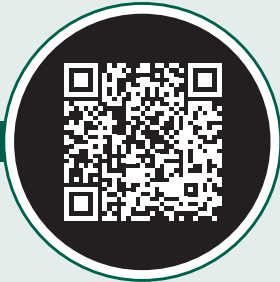
25 Years in Business  
Readers' Choice  
Home Life  
WINNER  
BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS A+

**MARVIN**

651-213-0668 • [gregorycontracting.com](http://gregorycontracting.com)

License: BC692167

  
LUNDS & BYERLYS  
Scan for this week's specials!



4630 Centerville Rd, White Bear Lake | 651-653-0000

***Find us on  
Facebook!***



***facebook.com/  
TheCitizenNewspaper***



ONGOING EVENTS

**MAIN STREET MARKET AND WATER SKI SHOW**  
**When:** 5:30-7:30 p.m., Thursdays through August  
**Where:** Centerville Road near Centerville Elementary School, 1721 Westview St.  
**Details:** Shop among local artisans, listen to live music and grab a bite to eat from a food vendor before walking to the popular Bald Eagle Waterski Show next door at Trailside Park, 7111 Main St.  
**Contact:** info@centervillemn.com

**HUGO SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY ‘500’**  
**When:** 12:45 p.m., Thursday, Aug 6, and every 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of each month.  
**Where:** Rice Lake Centre in Hugo, 6900 137th St. N.  
**Details:** Games begin promptly at 12:45 p.m. Refreshments and coffee will be served. All senior citizens from the area are invited.  
**Contact:** Jim at 763-639-4756 or al-lenj4992@gmail.com.

CURRENT EVENTS

**THE WALL THAT HEALS**  
**When:** 9 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 6 - 2 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 9  
**Where:** Polar Lakes Park,  
**Details:** Traveling exhibit is a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., along with a Mobile Education Center. Special events each day and keynote speaker, General Paul Nakasone at opening ceremony 9 a.m., Thursday.  
**Contact:** whitebearhistory.org/events/



JON NAMYST | CONTRIBUTED

the-wall-that-heals-white-bear-town-ship

**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY ANNUAL COMMUNITY CORN ROAST**  
**When:** 4-8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 6  
**Where:** Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566, 7731 Lake Drive, Lino Lakes  
**Details:** We will have the best corn around and hot dog baskets brought to you by the American Legion riders. There will be carnival games for the kids, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary. The Lino Lakes Ambassadors and candidates will run the games.  
**Contact:** 651-783-0055 or officepost566@gmail.com

**41ST ANNUAL PINE TREE TENNIS CLASSIC**  
**When:** Aug. 6-9  
**Where:** Life Time White Bear Lake  
**Details:** Watch four days of tennis (Open, Masters and Grand Masters) while supporting pediatric cancer research initiatives at Children's Minnesota and around the world. Schedule and ticket information online.  
**Contact:** ptacf.org/2026-tournament

**SUMMER SIGNINGS**  
**When:** 10 a.m.-noon, Friday, Aug. 7

**BLUE HERON DAYS**  
**When:** Aug. 13-16  
**Where:** The Rookery Activity Center, 7690 Village Drive, Lino Lakes  
**Details:** Celebrate Lino Lakes—enjoy a car show, food truck festival, carnival games, bounce houses, miniature golf, open swimming at The Rookery, a parade and more.  
**Contact:** linolakes.gov/407/Blue-Heron-Days

**Where:** Lake Country Booksellers, 4766 Washington Square, White Bear Lake  
**Details:** Authors Stephanie Hansen and Kurt Johnson sign copies of their culinary romance “Moon Tavern,” and Terri Morrison Kaiser signs her historical novel “Wildflowers” during the Farmers Market.  
**Contact:** lakecountrybooksellers.com

**ST. JOSEPH’S SUMMER FESTIVAL 2026**  
**When:** Aug. 8-9  
**Where:** St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church, 171 Elm St., Lino Lakes  
**Details:** A tradition since 1908, this festival includes a fireworks spectacular, great food, a silent auction, live music, Bingo, miniature golf and more.  
**Contact:** 651-784-3015 or www.mystjoes.me

**CENTERVILLE MUSIC IN THE PARK**  
**When:** 6:30-8 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 11  
**Where:** Hidden Spring Park, 1601 LaMotte Drive, Centerville  
**Details:** Local musicians perform at beautiful Hidden Spring Park from June to August each year. Bring your own lawn chairs and blanket. The final performance of the summer on Aug. 11 will be from On Tap, a four-piece, acoustic-style band.  
**Contact:** 651-429-3232

**FOOD TRUCK AND FUN FESTIVAL**  
**When:** 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13  
**Where:** Centennial Middle School, 399 Elm St., Lino Lakes  
**Details:** There will be many food trucks to choose from in addition to a car show and vendor booths. A portion of the evening's food truck sales will benefit the Community Education Financial Assistance Program.  
**Contact:** jorcutt@isd12.org

**FRIDAYS WITH FIREFIGHTERS**  
**When:** 10 a.m.-noon, Friday, Aug. 14  
**Where:** Hugo Fire Department, 5323 140th St. N.  
**Details:** Stop by to meet firefighters, go for a ride in a truck, jump in a bounce house and eat popcorn. Due to construction, traffic can only head west on 140th. Fenway traffic is southbound only and 130th traffic is eastbound only. You can get into the station from Highway 61 normally. However, to get back to 61, you will need to take Fenway South to 130th—130th has traffic flowing east to 61.  
**Contact:** 651-762-6362

**STILLWATER VETERANS MEMORIAL DINNER CRUISE**  
**When:** 5:45 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18; boarding begins at 4:30 p.m., departure will be at 5:45 p.m. and boat will return at 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Stillwater River Boats, 525 S. Main St.  
**Details:** The Stillwater Veterans Memorial will host its 24th annual Benefit Dinner Cruise aboard the Avalon Paddlewheel on the scenic St. Croix River. The annual community event honors military veterans while raising funds to preserve the memorial.  
**Contact:** events.humanitix.com/cruise-svm-2026

Local school psychologist releases chiller, ‘A Thin Place’

Alfred Hitchcock once said, “I find there is nothing more scary than a closed door.” Author Carson McEvoy, however, posits that an open one is worse in his horror novella “A Thin Place.”



CONTRIBUTED Carson McEvoy

The story follows Morgan, a girl whose family moves to a small town in northern Minnesota. At her new home, Morgan discovers a basement door that seemingly leads nowhere. As a morning ritual, she knocks on it for good luck. Years later, something starts knocking back on the other side. McEvoy, a psychologist for the Stillwater School District and, formerly, the Mahtomedi School District, recently spoke with Press about the novella’s journey from inspiration to publication as well as the number of figurative doors on which he had to knock along the way.

**Q. Tell us a little bit about yourself. What is your day job?**  
A. Originally from Roseville, I currently live in Stillwater. My better half and I reside in a 150-year-

old farmhouse with our cats and dog. The horse, fortunately, lives off-site. Currently, I’m a school psychologist in the Stillwater School District, but I’ve also worked in Mahtomedi and Wisconsin. In college, I studied psychology, philosophy and music before continuing on to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

Beyond the thrilling world of work, I’m an avid reader (mostly of whodunits), a chaotic board gamer, and I play trumpet in my community band. Environmental volunteerism is important to me as well, and I currently have the honor of serving on the board of the Pollinator Friendly Alliance, a great local organization.

**Q. Broadly, what is ‘A Thin Place’ about?**  
A. “A Thin Place” follows Morgan, a teenager who finds an odd blue door in the basement of her new home. She whimsically thinks it might bring her good luck as she navigates the adjustment to small-town life in northern Minnesota. As she grows older, she begins to experience shifting forests, shadowy figures

watching her, and a knocking in the night that grows ever more insistent. It’s a slow-burn, slice-of-life horror story exploring themes of family and belonging.

**Q. What inspired you to write ‘A Thin Place’?**  
A. As a kid, I really wanted to be a writer. I’d mostly forgotten about that ambition when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Like many folks, I found myself cooped up with too much time on my hands and figured I should give writing another shot. I made sure to tell a few specific people because then I’d be committed and would have to finish what I started, or quite possibly die of shame. I have an October birthday, so I have always had a love of horror and Halloween. It felt natural for my first story to be spooky.

**Q. Did your job as a school psychologist inspire you in any aspect of this work?**  
A. I’m sure there’s a really good joke about working as a school psychologist and writing a horror story,

SEE ‘A THIN PLACE’, PAGE 15

# HUGO TREE CARE

Specializing in  
Difficult Removal  
**651-429-4705**  
www.hugotree.com  
Certified Arborist





## CHURCH DIRECTORY

Find the church that fits your needs

**THE CHURCH OF St. Genevieve** Celebrate Mass with us!  
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CENTERVILLE & HUGO  
Saturday at 4:30 pm Parish Community Center  
6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville  
Sunday at 8:30 am St. John’s Site  
14383 Forest Blvd N, Hugo  
Sunday at 10:30 am Parish Community Center  
6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville  
**www.stgens.org 651-429-7937**

**First Presbyterian** Church of White Bear Lake  
Join us on Sunday:  
10:15 am in-person Worship and  
Live-streaming on  
YouTube: FPCWBL  
5th and Bloom Ave, White Bear Lake • 651-429-3381 • www.fpcwbl.org



**9:00 a.m. Worship,  
10:30 a.m. Education Hour  
for All Ages, Worship and  
Bible Study are also available  
through our YouTube Channel**  
The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1  
**NEW LIFE CHURCH - LUTHERAN**  
6000 N. 148th St. East of HWY 61(next to Hugo Elementary)  
651-429-1975 • www.newlifehugo.org

Service times are subject to change. Contact your local church or check church web sites for service time and online service information. To make changes or to advertise here, call 651-407-1200

# OPINION

## Immobile

Over the last few weeks, I have a new appreciation for mobility around our communities.

The evening of June 13, I stepped off the back of a pontoon and tore my quadriceps tendon. I knew something was terribly wrong right away, as it felt like the tendon rolled up into my thigh, and I couldn't stand up. My wife Amy took me to the emergency room where I was able to get an MRI and learned that the injury would require surgery. The ER at Regions Hospital was busy, yet the staff was amazing and extremely professional. One of the staff who made sure I was kept comfortable throughout the night was Brenda. After 12 hours, I was released with a leg brace to keep my leg completely straight, crutches, medication and a plan to follow up with an orthopedic surgeon.

Because of the potential for the tendon and muscle to atrophy, surgery was scheduled five days later to reattach the tendon to my knee. It was a relatively quick outpatient procedure, but they warned me the recovery would be long. I had to be in the leg brace for 12 weeks and would have to go to physical therapy for months. It is also my right leg, so it has been difficult to drive.

Surgery was two days before the Manitou Days Boat Show the Press staff helps organize. Amy rented a scooter for me so that I would be able to go and get around. It was so fun to see the vintage boats. I was pretty medicated, but the scooter enabled me to go for a couple of hours and connect with many of the participants and volunteers.

The past several weeks have raised my awareness about how difficult it is for those with mobility issues. During my short time traveling on a scooter between home and work, I have had a few close calls with vehicles, runners and bicycles. I was even honked at by a guy in a pickup while I was in the pedestrian crossing. I was also on the scene where a food delivery driver hit a young girl on a bike. Scootering around highlights how treacherous streets and sidewalks can be in our neighborhoods. In some areas, sidewalks are so uneven the streets are the only option because the bumps can be jarring and painful. The placement of the crosswalk buttons on poles has been a challenging too. Some of them are right in the middle of the sidewalk and difficult to get around. I have learned that crossing Highway 61 on a scooter is confusing and downright scary. Some streets have unfinished sidewalks that are impassable.

It is difficult to open doors on a scooter, and while many people are helpful and friendly, others look at you as if you are someone to be fearful of. A trip to the grocery store was a real eye opener as the upper shelves are untouchable and floor freezers are difficult to see inside. It's hard to open the door to grab milk. I really have an appreciation for the electric scooters with a basket.

Handicap bathrooms are spacious, but I found it more comforting in a tight stall where I didn't feel like I could fall over. You pay attention to where sinks and paper towel holders are mounted. ADA codes are good, but we also need common-sense flexibility.

Overall, the mobility scooter has been eye opening to me and in some ways life-changing these past 6 weeks. The new scooters and batteries are lightweight and can be easily disassembled to lift in and out of a car. One of my co-workers offered her mom's scooter to use and that has reduced the rental fees.

Let's get back to some common-sense planning in our communities and find ways for infrastructure to be more sustainable, practical, affordable and user-friendly. Sidewalks are not needed on all streets, as multi-use bike and walking paths can be marked on the streets. As we navigate around our neighborhoods and local businesses, start seeing walkers, bikers, wheelers and those who are just trying to live and get around safely.

*Carter Johnson is publisher of Press Publications.*



**Publisher's View**

Carter Johnson



## Where there's smoke, there's fire – and heart health risks

Smoke from wildfires is rapidly drifting into the U.S. and the American Heart Association warns that this wildfire smoke exposure may pose an increased risk for heart disease.

“Wildfire smoke contains a lot of pollutants including fine, microscopic particles that can be toxic and cause inflammation and get into the blood vessels,” said Dr. Catherine Benziger, a cardiologist at Essentia Health. “The acute toxic effects include increased risk of arrhythmias, such as atrial fibrillation. It may also increase blood pressure and cause dizziness, headaches, strokes, heart attacks and heart failure exacerbations.”

Several research studies have linked smoke exposure to an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest and a higher volume of visits to local emergency rooms for other cardiovascular disease-related causes.

In research presented at the American Heart Association's Scientific Sessions 2023, investigators found smoke from summertime

wildfires that created short-term spikes in fine particulate matter air pollution was significantly associated with same-day hospitalization for unstable chest pain in Utah.

A study published in the Journal of the American Heart Association found that exposure to heavy smoke during wildfires raised the risk of out-of-hospital cardiac arrests up to 70%. The risk was elevated among men and women, among adults 35-64 years old and in communities with lower socioeconomic status.

Previous findings from the same research group noted that wildfire smoke exposure was associated with increased rates of emergency room visits, not just for breathing trouble, but also ischemic heart disease, irregular heart rhythm, heart failure, pulmonary embolism and stroke. ER visits increased 42% for heart attacks and 22% for ischemic heart disease within a day of exposure to dense wildfire smoke. The increase was most notable for adults age 65 and older.

People with underlying cardiovascular disease risk factors may be at risk for an acute cardiovascular event when exposed to wildfire smoke. Recognizing the signs of a heart attack or stroke are important. Pay attention to your body and call 911 if you have:

- Chest discomfort. Most people having a heart attack feel discomfort

in the center of the chest. It can last more than a few minutes, or it may go away and then return. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

- Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in the arms (one or both), back, neck, jaw and stomach

- Shortness of breath.

- Breaking out in a cold sweat; nausea, rapid or irregular heart-beat, feeling unusually tired; feeling lightheaded

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, offers a zip code-level tracking map of current air quality at [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov). Benziger offers the following tips for reducing exposure to wildfire smoke:

- Stay indoors with doors and windows closed.
- Use high-efficiency air filters in air conditioning systems or portable air cleaners.
- Avoid exertion.
- Keep well hydrated.
- Consider seeking other shelter if your home does not have an air conditioner and it's too warm to stay inside.

- Be mindful that pets may also be affected by the smoke and bring them indoors, as well.

The American Heart Association has resources to help at [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org).



**Movers & Shakers**  
American Heart Association

### THE CITIZEN | ELECTION LETTER GUIDELINES

- Election season is considered to be when filing first begins until the day of the election.
- Limited to 350 words. Paid letters running longer will be charged \$10 per 30 words after that.
- Letters are free unless endorsing a candidate, party or question on the ballot. Endorsement letters will have a \$50 fee. Please call 651-407-1200 to arrange payment by credit card or mail a check payable to Press Publications to 4779 Bloom Ave, White Bear Lake, MN, 55110. Endorsement letters are labeled, “paid letter.”
- Letters for or against a

- candidate will qualify as paid letters.
- Submissions must include a full name, address and phone number for verification.
- Letter-writers must live, work or have another connection to Press Publications coverage area.
- Letters are meant to express opinions. If letter-writers include facts, they must attribute those facts to a reputable source.
- Due to space limitations, letters that don't address local issues are not guaranteed publication.
- Repeat unpaid letters by the same writer about the

- same subject matter will not be published. Repeat paid endorsement letters will be published as space permits.
- Four weeks (or issues) must pass between publication of unpaid letters from the same writer. Exceptions may be made for rebuttal letters at the editor's discretion.
- Submissions containing libelous or derogatory statements will not be published.
- Letters by campaign managers or candidates designed to champion the candidate's position on a specific issue will be accepted as paid letters.

- Letters reprinted as part of letter-writing campaigns are paid letters.
- All letters are subject to editing.
- We reserve the right to not publish any letter.
- The deadline to submit a letter is 5 p.m. Wednesday the week prior to publication.
- The last batch of letters to be printed before the Nov. 3 election will be printed in the Oct. 29 issue and must be received by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct.21.
- To submit a letter, email [news@presspubs.com](mailto:news@presspubs.com) or mail/deliver it to Press Publications.

**THE CITIZEN**

P.O. Box 393  
Hugo, MN 55038  
[www.ReadTheCitizen.com](http://www.ReadTheCitizen.com)

DISCLAIMER: Paid advertisements appear in Press Publications' publications, including print and other digital formats. Press Publications does not endorse or evaluate the advertised product, service, or company, nor any of the claims made by the advertisement. Advertising does not influence editorial decisions or content. Press Publications reserves the right to refuse, reject, or cancel any ad for any reason at any time without liability.

Distributed and mailed bi-weekly in:

Hugo • Centerville • Lino Lakes



**Carter C. Johnson - Publisher**  
[cjohnson@presspubs.com](mailto:cjohnson@presspubs.com)  
**Gene Johnson - Publisher Emeritus**  
[ppinfo@presspubs.com](mailto:ppinfo@presspubs.com)  
**Patty Steele - General Manager**  
[marketing@presspubs.com](mailto:marketing@presspubs.com)  
**Shannon Granholm - Managing Editor**  
[citizennews@presspubs.com](mailto:citizennews@presspubs.com)

**Mary Peterson - Production Manager/ Designer**  
[artmanager@presspubs.com](mailto:artmanager@presspubs.com)  
**Paul Dols - Photo Journalist**  
[photos@presspubs.com](mailto:photos@presspubs.com)

**Circulation**  
[circ@presspubs.com](mailto:circ@presspubs.com)  
**Obituaries**  
[obits@presspubs.com](mailto:obits@presspubs.com)  
**Classifieds**  
[classified@presspubs.com](mailto:classified@presspubs.com)  
**Call a Specialist**  
[callaspecialist@presspubs.com](mailto:callaspecialist@presspubs.com)

COPYRIGHT © 2026 BY PRESS PUBLICATIONS, INC. Material may not be reproduced in whole or part in any form whatsoever.

|                       |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| News.....             | 651-407-1235 |
| Advertising.....      | 651-407-1200 |
| Circulation.....      | 651-407-1234 |
| Classified/Obits..... | 651-407-1250 |
| Production.....       | 651-407-1253 |
| FAX.....              | 651-429-1242 |

Published bi-weekly/Tuesdays by Press Publications, Inc.  
4779 Bloom Avenue  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Friday, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Mailed Subscription Rate:  
\$30.00 per year.  
Subscribe online at [presspubs.com](http://presspubs.com)

HUGO BITS AND PIECES

• The City Council has officially granted Wilson Tool’s request for an honorary street sign. (See “Wilson Tool founder recognized with Ken Wilson Way,” July 9, 2026, The Citizen.) City Administrator Bryan Bear explained that up until now, the city has not had a formal policy in place and city staff recommended the policy be created.

In honor of the business’s 60th anniversary and Ken’s 95th birthday, the public works department went ahead and created the sign ahead of the official designation and Wilson Tool agreed to pay for the costs of the sign. The blue honorary sign will be placed right below the official city street sign for Farnham Avenue (south of 130th Street).

“We just thought what better way to honor Ken and his way and what he built? He created quite an enterprise around the world,” said Dave Kasel, manager of maintenance and facilities.

Wilson Tool also received approval for a special event permit and temporary liquor license for its annual company picnic on Saturday, Aug. 8.

• Thomas Lowenberg and his family donated \$1,000 to the Hugo Fire Department at a recent fire department event.

• The council has officially adopted the 165th Street Alternative Urban Area-wide Review (AUAR). An AUAR is, in effect, a hybrid between an environmental impact statement (EIS) and an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW). Communities use this local government planning tool to evaluate the cumulative environmental impacts of anticipated development scenarios across a specific



CONTRIBUTED

**Hugo Fire Relief Association President Dave Jensen (right) presents Fire Chief Jim Compton Jr. with a \$30,000 check for battery-operated extrication equipment. Over the past several years, various events have been held to raise funds to purchase equipment for the department. The most recent event was the annual golf fundraiser. Over the past four years, this fundraiser has helped raise over \$40,000. July 2026’s tournament was the largest yet; 128 golfers participated.**

geographic area before that development occurs. The council ordered the preparation of an AUAR back in January. The draft AUAR was prepared and distributed for agency and public comment during April and May, and there was a public meeting on March 24 to present

the findings from the draft AUAR.

The city received comments from six governmental agencies and two residents of Hugo. The AUAR was revised as necessary based on comments received and a final AUAR was distributed for a 10-day agency objection period on June

30. The city received no objections to the AUAR and no additional agency comments were received.

• The city will pay Bituminous Roadways Inc. for \$390,349 for work certified through June 20 for the Bald Eagle Industrial Park area street improvement project. City Engineer Mark Erichson noted that concrete work in Phase 1 of the project has been completed along with all the watermain/ hydrant work.

• The council held interviews for applicants to fill vacancies on its various commissions July 22. The council is expected to fill those volunteer positions soon.

• A midyear budget workshop has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26, in council chambers at City Hall.

• It’s that time of year when the city starts to plan for fall. The annual bus tour has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. That same day, the Hugo Fire Department will also host an open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the fire station.

• The council held a closed session to discuss the status of pending litigation in the matter of System Statement Appeal of the City of Hugo, Court of Administrative Hearings, CAH Docket No. 65-2106-41379. (See the city brief below for more information.)

The next City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 17, at City Hall.

Shannon Granholm

WEEKLY WAG

McGee is a fun, affectionate and entertaining young boy. He is a Chihuahua/Jack Russell Terrier mix, and he is just a couple months shy of celebrating his second birthday. McGee may only weigh 21 pounds, but he has a big personality. He has a high energy level, and he is social with other dogs. However, cats are not quite his thing. McGee likes to play with his toys and he likes going for walks and on adventures. He is social and friendly to everyone he meets. He even recently attended a Twins baseball game and had his picture taken with TC Bear.



McGee is house trained and crate trained, although he likes being out with his people best. His foster says McGee is a mix of playful energy and snugly sweetness. If you are looking for an active, loyal companion, and if you like to explore as much as McGee, then he is anxiously waiting for you.

If you are interested in learning more about McGee or adopting him, please fill out an application at [www.ruffstartrescue.org](http://www.ruffstartrescue.org). Once your application is received, Ruff Start Rescue will contact you as soon as possible.

CITY BRIEF

Hugo council approves settlement resolution in pending litigation

HUGO — The council recently held a closed session pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 Subd 3 (b) to discuss the status of pending litigation in the matter of System Statement Appeal of the City of Hugo, Court of Administrative Hearings CAH Docket No. 65-2106-41379.

City Attorney Dave Snyder explained that the pending litigation is between the city of Hugo and the Metropolitan Council related to the city of Hugo’s “efforts to protect its job growth, population growth and household growth in the city for years to come.”

The City Council unanimously approved a settlement resolution.

“(The) resolution of settlement would give the city the basis for a resolution with the Metropolitan Council utilizing planned household population and job growth in the city of Hugo that corresponds with the city of Hugo’s own recommendations; that is to say, corrects the Met Council’s earlier proposed numbers and adopts instead those preferred by the city of Hugo,” Snyder explained. “All other related matters concerning the Metropolitan Council’s handling of system statement adjustments are left pending for council and will be addressed at council’s pleasure in future weeks and months.”

The city of Hugo will use those numbers as its starting point for preparation for the 2050 Comprehensive Plan.

Shannon Granholm

POLITICAL BRIEF

Local candidates file for council, mayoral and school board seats

Multiple municipalities are looking to fill city council and mayoral seats during the Nov. 3 election.

The city of Hugo is looking to fill two City Council seats as well as the mayor’s seat. In Hugo, each council seat is an independent race. In addition to the mayoral seat and an at-large council seat, the remaining council seats represent three wards. Mary Koll and Becky Petryk, incumbent, have filed to represent Ward 1. David Strub, incumbent, has filed to represent Ward 3. Tom Weidt, incumbent, has filed for the mayor’s seat. The at-large seat and Ward 2 seat will be up for election in 2028 along with the mayor’s seat.

The city of Centerville is

looking to fill two regular City Council seats as well as the mayor’s seat. Council seats are determined “at large,” meaning that, from the entire field, the top two vote-getters win seats. Linda M. Broussard and Anita Rios, both incumbents, have filed to be on the Nov. 3 ballot. Similarly, Nancy Golden, the incumbent, has filed to run for mayor. Separately, Kale Kaluptzok has filed to run in a special election to fill the remainder of former Council Member David Kubat’s term.

Meanwhile, Centennial School District has three of its seven seats open for the Nov. 3 election. Voters also determine this race at large. So far, Joe Ackerman, Laura Gannon, Tom Knisley, Gloria Murphy and Jessica Schwinn have all filed to be on the Nov. 3 ballot. Knisley, Murphy and Schwinn are incumbents.

White Bear Lake Area School

District has four of its seven seats open for the Nov. 3 election. Voters also determine this race at large. So far, Dan Arcand, Colleen Berquist, Bob Krominga, Amanda McFarlane, Amy Puschinsky, Melissa Roberts, Christina Streiff-Oji and Ryan Vernosh have filed to be on the Nov. 3 ballot. Streiff-Oji is an incumbent.

Mahtomedi School District has three seats open. Voters also determine this race at large. Ryan Domin, Erica Engelbert-Hensel, Jenny Peterson and Allyson Sellwood have filed to be on the Nov. 3 ballot. Domin and Peterson are incumbents.

The general election candidate filing period for local offices and school districts closed July 28.

For information about official candidate filings, visit [candidates.sos.mn.gov](http://candidates.sos.mn.gov).

SELL YOUR HOUSE FAST FOR CASH  
No Repairs. No Showings. DONE this week!

“Selling my home with Liz Buys Houses was a game-changer!”  
—Michael Beck

We work fast and are ready to help with your sale when you are. Call today to see if our fast cash offer aligns with your home sale needs!

CALL 1-844-978-0683

Not for mobile homes, not for homes listed on the market



Steve Fields  
Minnesota Attorney



DISABLED?  
We've Helped Thousands  
Get Benefits

Contact Us Today  
For Free Advice

Long-Term Disability  
Short-Term Disability  
Social Security Disability

952-529-9416  
[www.GetFields.com](http://www.GetFields.com)

Leading the future of  
Minnesota’s Newspaper Industry

Executive  
Director

- ✓ Full-time leadership position
- ✓ Minneapolis-based
- ✓ Statewide impact



- **Lead** staff, oversee finances and direct daily operations of the Minnesota Newspaper Association & Minnesota News Media Institute.
- **Advocate** for the industry, members and our legislative priorities
- **Partner** with members and the board of directors to enhance all newspapers and work toward long-term goals.

Help shape the future of trusted local journalism

Ready to lead? Apply by August 31  
Tara Brandl, MNA Board President  
[tara@headlightherald.com](mailto:tara@headlightherald.com)  
For full job description, [www.mna.org](http://www.mna.org)

## POLICE REPORTS

*The Washington County Sheriff's Office reported the following calls for service in Hugo:*

- Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies conducted a traffic stop at 2:27 a.m. June 14 on Forest Blvd. N. at 152nd Street N. and issued a citation for undisclosed violations. A second motorist was cited at 6:50 p.m. June 16 in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N. for causing a hit-and-run motor vehicle accident and leaving the scene without reporting the incident to either the police or vehicle owner.
- Juveniles were reported for riding dirt bikes in the 13000 block of Keystone Avenue N. at 3:10 p.m. June 14. Deputies found the elusive youths and advised them of laws and ordinances pertaining to all-wheel vehicles.
- Deputies took a call from the 15000 block of Emerald Drive N. at 2:51 p.m. June 17 which they could not address, after the caller asked a multitude of convoluted what-if questions that would have needed a lawyer to answer. They suggested the caller find the most available attorney.
- A motorist was cited for equipment violation at 1:48 a.m. June 17 in the 6000 block of Egg Lake Road N. A second driver that day was issued a written warning at 10:47 a.m. on Oneka Lake Blvd. N. at Geneva Avenue N. for speeding 40 mph in a 30 mph zone. A third motorist was warned at 4:55 p.m. about using a cellphone while driving in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N. A fourth driver was cited at 5:03 p.m. that day in the 5000 block of Frenchman Road for failure to produce a license or proof of insurance, following a traffic stop for being on the cellphone while driving. A fifth motorist was warned for speeding at 8:40 p.m. in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N.
- A mom in the 15000 block of Enfield Avenue N at 10:05 a.m. June 8 reported a male for asking her daughter, 13, if she wanted a ride home in his van.

### The girl took a picture of the van and retrieved the license number, which she gave to her mom.

- When deputies identified the suspect, the girl confirmed it was him. However, deputies' attempts to get a statement from the suspect were not successful.
- A motorist on 170th Street N. and Jeffrey Avenue N. was warned for not having a front license plate at 8:10 a.m. June 18. A second motorist that day was cited at 3:36 p.m. on Forest Blvd. N. at 159th Street N. for undisclosed violations. A third driver that day was cited at 4:16 p.m. on Forest Blvd. N. at 170th Street N., also for offenses to be named later.
  - A motorist pulled over in the 5000 block of 137th Street N. for displaying license plate tabs that expired in December 2025 was arrested at 9:29 p.m. June 18. During the traffic stop, deputies were talking with the driver and observed signs of impairment. The driver was asked to vacate the vehicle for standardized field sobriety tests and provided a portable breath test sample yielding a 0.133% blood alcohol content.
  - Bad driving week in Hugo continued at 12:49 a.m. June 19 on Forest Blvd. N. and 140th Street N., after deputies initiated a traffic stop for speed and cited the driver. A passenger received a written warning for failing to wear a seatbelt. A second motorist that day was cited at 1:40 p.m. June 19 in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. for making an improper U-turn.
  - Deputies responded to a noise complaint and underage drinking in the 13000 block of Geneva

- Avenue N. at 9:51 p.m. June 19 and spoke to the parent, who allowed them into the house. After discovering the underage grad party downstairs, deputies disposed of all the alcohol and advised both juveniles and the parent about the illegality of underage drinking.
- Patrolling deputies observed a male sleeping in the roadway median on Victor Blvd. N. and Rosemary Way N. at 2:55 a.m. June 20. After the male stated he was homeless and didn't have anywhere to go, deputies found a picnic table at the Kwik Trip and provided him with breakfast, coffee and a bottle of water. Before sending the male on his way, deputies gave him resources for a shelter, shower and food.
  - A motor vehicle parked in the 14000 block of Geneva Avenue N. at 7:21 a.m. June 20 received a citation under the windshield wipers for displaying tabs that expired in April 2026, after deputies conducted a mobile data computer check.
  - Deputies received a driving complaint at 10:41 p.m. June 20 concerning a vehicle headed toward Frenchman Road and Everton Avenue. The driver who phoned in the complaint continued to follow the vehicle until it stopped for deputies. When deputies met the errant driver, they immediately noticed he was intoxicated. He submitted to a portable breath test and produced a 0.22% blood alcohol reading. He was then transported to jail and booked.

### Two juvenile males were reported for shoplifting two containers of sushi and a platter of fruit from the Festival Foods store in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. at 6:08 a.m. June 21. Deputies arriving on scene could not locate the youths or the food.

- A motorist on Forest Blvd. N. and 120th Street N. was cited at 12:51 p.m. June 21 for not having a Minnesota driver's license.
- A burglary was reported at 9:29 a.m. June 22 at a school in the 10000 block of 122nd Street N. and copper stolen.
- In the citation category, Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies cited a motorist for undisclosed offenses on Egg Lake Road and Foxhill Avenue N. at 9:35 a.m. June 22. A second motorist was cited for speeding at 2:04 p.m. June 23 in the 7000 block of 170th Street N. A third motorist was cited at 6:59 p.m. June 24 in the 4000 block of 159th Street N. for failure to provide proof of insurance after being pulled over for displaying registration that expired in September 2025. A fourth motorist was cited at 10:28 p.m. June 24 in the 5000 block of Frenchman Road N. for failure to provide current proof of insurance, after being pulled over for failure to dim their high beams. A fifth motorist was cited for speeding at 11:59 p.m. June 24 in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N. A sixth driver was cited at 12:48 a.m. June 25 on Frenchman Road and Everton Avenue N. for failing to signal and blowing through a stop sign.
- A suspicious vehicle was reported prowling around the neighborhood of 140th Street N. and Fondant Avenue N. at 5:15 p.m. June 22 taking photos of people and businesses.
- Deputies dispatched out on a report of juveniles driving their e-bikes recklessly at 8:30 p.m. June 22 in the 4000 block of 162nd Street N. found the juveniles. But they didn't witness any reckless behavior. Just to be sure, they advised

the youths to be respectful of residences and to be safe while riding the bikes.

### Deputies responded to a vehicle vs stop sign crash at 9:01 p.m. June 22 on 162nd Street N. and Fenway Court N. Deputies' full report did not disclose whether the stop sign or vehicle was at fault.

- A dealership in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N. at 5:28 a.m. June 24 reported an unknown person for taking one of the vehicles on a test drive and never returning.
- After a vehicle was reported stolen from the 4000 block of Victor Path N. at 11:17 a.m. June 24, deputies did a little digging and found out that the complainant's vehicle was not stolen but towed by Frovik's Towing at the behest of the homeowners association.
- Residents in the 8000 block of 126th Street N. at 4:49 p.m. June 24 reported having had a cleaning crew over and finding a meth pipe.
- In the written warning category of offenses, a motorist received a written warning for speeding at 10:14 p.m. June 24 in the 5000 block of Frenchman Road. A second motorist was warned for speeding at midnight June 25 on Oneka Lake Blvd. N. and Geneva Avenue N. A third motorist was warned at 4:34 p.m. June 25 on Frenchman Road and Forest Blvd. N. for failing to move over for deputies at the side of the road conducting a traffic stop on another vehicle.
- Residents in the 6000 block of Egg Lake Road N. reported arguing neighbors at 9:23 p.m. June 24 but didn't need any assistance because the argument was over in a minute anyway.
- A male was arrested at 10:14 p.m. June 25 after deputies responded to a trespassing complaint at a residence in the 4000 block of 159th Street N.
- Deputies initiated a welfare check at an institutional residence in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. at 2:52 a.m. June 26 where they found two juveniles out past curfew who were advised by staff to leave. One of the youths was involved in an attempted theft incident the day before and was issued a citation.

### In the Case of the Hit and Run Ruminant, deputies on routine patrol in the 7000 block of 137th Street N. at 3:17 a.m. June 28, came upon a vehicle partially in the lane of traffic with several airbags deployed.

- Deputies checked around the vehicle and found no one inside, but lots of recent damage indicated that the vehicle had struck a deer. They could not reach the registered owner and had the vehicle towed for being abandoned in the lane of traffic.
- After receiving an open door alert from the 4000 block of Emmet Drive N. at 5:33 a.m. June 28, deputies arrived on scene and found a broken screen door. They contacted the tenant, who was OK, and advised her that the door was broken by high winds.

Loretta Harding

## CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD SNIPPETS

• Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Mike Grossklaus provided information to the School Board regarding the upcoming new teacher workshop, the start of back-to-school activities, and district professional development for the 2026-2027 school year. The new teacher workshop is scheduled to take place the week of Monday, Aug. 17. Back-to-school activities will start the week of Monday, Aug. 24. The district professional development session falls during the week of Monday, Aug.

24, as well.

- The board approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide instructional services that support teacher compensation for READ Act training. During the 2024 legislative session, Minnesota Laws 2024, Chapter 115, appropriated funding to school districts, charter schools and cooperative units that provide direct instructional services to compensate teachers for completing required READ Act training. The 2025-2027 CEA contract

includes an MOU to meet this requirement. Since the contract was approved, a new READ Act training vendor has become available. This vendor offers a training option with different hour requirements that will be used for secondary teachers. The revised MOU reflects this new training option.

- The board will consider adopting a new policy revolving around service animals at a future meeting. Currently, the district does not have a stand-alone policy addressing the rights and

responsibilities associated with service animals on district property and at school-sponsored events (see full story in this week's issue).

- The first day of school for grades 1-5, 6 and 9 will be Monday, Aug. 31. Students entering pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, 7-8, 10-12 and Journey can mark their calendars for their first day of school on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Madeline Dolby

# NEW CLPD CHIEF: Balances officer and community needs

FROM PAGE 1

a field training officer, one of the most challenging positions in a police department. In that position, Goetzke trained new police officers while riding in the passenger seat.

“Think of the first time that new officer responds to an emergency with lights and sirens. I have a 15-year-old daughter who’s got her permit right now. It’s the same kind of feeling,” Goetzke said, laughing.

While Goetzke said that a field training officer is able to instill upon a new officer their views and values on what policing is and should be, the trainer must allow the trainee to find their own way to the answer.

“Just because it’s not the way I would do it doesn’t mean it’s wrong. There’s so many different communication styles, lines of questioning,” said Goetzke. “What your job is as a field training officer is that oversight, making sure they don’t go down the wrong path ... Other than that, you let them work through it. Then we debrief after calls — this is how we did it, this is what we could do differently, but that was good.”

Goetzke plans to extrapolate this attitude across the department because he believes showing individual personalities



CLPD | CONTRIBUTED

Chief Goetzke rides a horse.

of officers, while still meeting citizens’ needs, will strengthen community engagement.

“We’re human; we can’t be robotic in how we do things,” Goetzke said. “When I was a kid, you would see a police car drive by, and it was kind of scary sometimes, kind of intimidating. And for no reason. The police didn’t do anything bad to me as a kid. But I think that was just the perception of it ... We want the people in the community to understand that we are an extension of the community.”

# Agape hosts community event



SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

Agape Spanish Immersion Academy, located in Hugo, held a Workout & Worship event for its families and the community Saturday, Aug. 1. The event included a mat workout class with worship music, drinks by Roxi Supercube, charcuterie cups from Bee and Blossom, bible study and build-your-own flower bouquets with the Bloom Bus.

GO DISCOVER.

Design Your Future.  
Create Your Success.

FOLLOW WHITE BEAR LAKE AREA SCHOOLS

/isd624

A photograph of a graduation ceremony taking place in a large stadium. Graduates in black gowns are seated in the foreground, and many black caps are being thrown into the air. The stadium is filled with spectators.

ENROLL TODAY!

A square QR code located in the center of the advertisement.

isd624.org/enroll

WHY BE A BEAR?

- **Student-centered instruction.**  
We believe all students grow and learn in different ways and at different rates — that all can achieve.
- **Expanded academic opportunities.**  
Our students explore their interests, excel and design their futures.
- **Empowered, supported learning.**  
Students are agents and owners of their learning in an environment that is safe, supportive and challenging — with high expectations for student success.
- **Inspiring, nurturing educators.**  
Our educators facilitate learning and challenge students — fostering curiosity and confidence.
- **Transformative learning.**  
Our flexible learning spaces and learning studios ignite opportunities for communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking.

Int'l Baccalaureate (IB)  
& Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion  
programs available!

White Bear Lake Area Schools

ELEMENTARY BEARS...  
The White Bear Lake Area School District offers a choice of K-5 programs:

- **Neighborhood schools:** Strong academic programs are offered at neighborhood schools located throughout the District.
- **International Baccalaureate:** Matoska International is available to all students in the White Bear Lake Area School District. The program is an International Baccalaureate (IB) world school. The District provides transportation from any point in the school district for resident students enrolled at this school. Learn more at the Matoska International website.
- **Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion:** An Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion program is available at Matoska International and Otter Lake Elementary. The District will provide transportation from any point in the school district for resident students enrolled in this program. Learn more at the Immersion page of the website.

Find complete info at  
isd624.org/  
kindergarten

# Hugo teen making his mark in dirt track racing

At an age when most teenagers are just beginning to think about getting behind the wheel for the first time, Mason Spicer is already competing wheel-to-wheel against seasoned adult racers on dirt tracks across Minnesota and Wisconsin. The 14-year-old Hugo resident began racing Quarter Midgets at age 5 and has steadily worked his way through the ranks, moving into a full-size WISSOTA Super Stock last summer.

Spicer, who will enter 10th grade at White Bear Lake Area High School this fall, views racing as much more than a hobby. Whether he's helping maintain his car, seeking sponsorships during the offseason or spending Saturday nights at Cedar Lake Speedway, he is focused on improving as a driver and pursuing his long-term goal of racing professionally. In this Q&A, Spicer discusses how he got his start in the sport, the challenges of competing at a young age, and what keeps him motivated every time he climbs into the driver's seat.

**Q. Tell us a little bit about yourself.**

A. My name is Mason Spicer. I'm a 14-year-old dirt track racer from Hugo. I started racing Quarter Midgets when I was 5 years old and moved up to a full-size car racing against adults last summer. Racing is more than just a hobby for me. I take it very seriously and work every day to improve, with the goal of one day racing professionally. I'll be going into 10th grade at White Bear Lake Area High School this fall.

**Q. When and how did you first get interest in racing? Who introduced you to the sport?**

A. I got interested in racing at a very young age because my grandpa raced Super Stocks, so I grew up around it. Around 5 years old, I got the chance



Mason Spicer, 14, of Hugo, has been racing since the age of 5.

to drive a go-kart, and that's when my passion really started. My dad's friend, Jeremy, helped me get started by letting me drive his go-kart my first season. My dad eventually bought it so I could keep racing and improving, which led to a track championship. Later on, Jim and Brenda, people my grandpa knew, gave me a chassis that we built into the car I race today.

**Q. What do you enjoy most about racing?**

A. I enjoy the speed and the competition. It's something not many people get to experience, and it gives me something I can keep working at and improving in throughout my life.

**Q. How often do you race and what does your season look like?**

A. I race regularly at Cedar Lake Speedway, with about 20 Saturday night races for my class. I also travel to other tracks in Minnesota and Wisconsin, including Ogilvie Raceway and Princeton Speedway. The season runs from April through October.

**Q. What type of cars do you race and what tracks do you race at?**

**How often do you race?**

A. I race in the WISSOTA Super Stock class on dirt tracks. My car is powered by a Chevrolet small-block V8 and runs on an RJR chassis.

**Q. Are you involved in any other co-curricular activities? If so, how do you balance those with racing?**

A. I mainly focus on racing, but I also play hockey for White Bear Lake. This past season I played defense on the Bantam AA team and plan to try out for the high school team this fall.

**Q. What has been your biggest accomplishment on the track so far?**

A. One of my biggest accomplishments is gaining respect from drivers and fans of all ages while being one of the youngest in my class.

**Q. What is the most challenging part of racing?**

A. The most challenging part is self-funding the car. I rely on sponsorships, so during the offseason I spend a lot of time reaching out to local businesses and building connections. Racing is expensive, especially competing against teams with bigger budgets and

newer equipment. Staying competitive while working with what you have is definitely the hardest part.

**Q. What kind of work do you do on your car? Do you do that yourself or do you have a team that helps support you?**

A. It's a team effort. My grandpa, my crew chief Chad, and I handle maintenance, setup changes, and repairs. I try to stay involved in everything so I can keep improving as both a driver and someone who understands the car.

**Q. What's your favorite racetrack and why?**

A. My favorite track is Cedar Lake Speedway because of the fast straight-aways and the banking. The people there are also a big reason — it's a welcoming environment, and the staff make it a great place to race. I'm excited for the rest of this season and can't wait to see what the future holds as I keep pushing toward my goals.

**Q. What would you like our readers to know about the sport?**

A. There's a lot more to racing than just driving. We spend a lot of time during the week working on the car — maintenance, repairs, setup and getting everything ready for race day. Racing has taught me responsibility, hard work and how to handle pressure. It's a very competitive sport, and there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes that people don't always see. Sponsorship opportunities are available, and any level of support helps me continue to grow in the sport. You can follow my racing journey on Facebook at Mason Spicer Racing. Thank you to my 2026 season sponsors.

Compiled by Shannon Granholm

HIGH-YIELD

Savings Account

Rates As High As

3.50%

APY\*

✓ No minimum balance to open

✓ Full access to funds

ROYAL CREDIT UNION®

See details and open your account at [rcu.org/HighSavings](https://rcu.org/HighSavings)

Insured by NCUA. \*APY=Annual Percentage Yield. APY current as of 7/6/26. Last changed 7/6/26. APY is determined by account balance and subject to change at any time. Minimum balance of \$.01 to earn base APY; \$100,000-\$249,999.99 to earn highest APY. Fees could reduce the balance and earnings on the account. Membership required and account opening upon qualification. To earn the advertised APY, must be Tax Reported Owner on an eligible Royal checking account with at least \$500 in cumulative qualifying direct deposits posted every 45 days. One high-yield savings account per Tax Reported Owner. If requirements are not met, a non-qualified APY applies. Other conditions and restrictions apply. Refer to our disclosures and service fees for more information.

# The Wall That Heals assembles in Polar Lakes Park

BY LOGAN GION  
STAFF WRITER

In Washington D.C., a black-granite wall exists, 493.5 feet long, with 58,318 names etched into it. It is the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, which the National Parks Service maintains, 1,104 miles away from White Bear Lake.

The first week of August, a similar wall, 375 feet long, with the same 58,318 names etched into it, will come to Polar Lakes Park in White Bear Township. It is The Wall That Heals, a Vietnam Veterans Memorial replica and mobile education center.

According to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund website, The Wall That Heals gets its name from the healing process veterans can find by seeing the memorial in their own communities, among their own friends and family.

VFW Fourth District Commander Gary Carlberg remembered the cold response Vietnam veterans received when they came back to America.

“I had friends whose brothers who came home injured, mentally, physically, or didn’t come home at all. (Because of) the way that America treated the Vietnam vets, the Vietnam vets made sure that never happened to my group,” Carlberg said. “When I deployed to the Middle East, the VFWs and (American) Legions had welcome home parades ... but that’s not how the Vietnam vets



PHOTOS BY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND | CONTRIBUTED

The Wall That Heals serves as a mobile education center and gives Vietnam veterans the chance to see the memorial amongst families and friends.

were treated.” “It was a tough time for America,” said White Bear Township Board of Supervisors Chair Ed Prudhon. “It was very difficult for the soldiers coming home. This is such a great deal that they’re actually doing this with the wall now. It should have been done right away.” The township’s Board of Supervisors and staff say they are honored to host The Wall That Heals.

“When they approached us with this, there was absolutely zero hesitation,” added Town Administrator Patrick Christopherson. “We’ve got volunteers from the township as well as the surrounding areas to make this a premier event for us.”

Chair Ed Prudhon thanked The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society for their efforts

to bring The Wall That Heals to Polar Lakes Park.

“It’s quite an accomplishment,” Prudhon said.

“It is so, so cool that we get to host this opportunity,” said White Bear Lake Area Historical Society (WBLAHS) Community Engagement Director Allison Lincoln, “with all the anniversaries of the Vietnam War and also the 250th anniversary of America.”

At 9 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, The Wall That

Heals will have the Welcome Home ceremony, which will feature White Bear High School alumnus and retired four-star general of the U.S. Army Paul Nakasone as keynote speaker.

“The Welcome Home ceremony is specifically named that — it is the welcome home that Vietnam veterans did not get,” said Hanson.

The Wall will then be on display from Aug. 6-9, with help from volunteers from VFW and Legion posts from White Bear Lake, Roseville



A young visitor to The Wall That Heals sees herself reflected in the names etched upon the granite.

and North St. Paul.

“It’s a lot of work to do this, all the organizing and coordinating for The Wall That Heals,” said Carlberg. “But, you know, when it’s something this important and it makes a difference? We enjoy it.”

“I think it’s a great opportunity for people who have never seen the one in Washington, D.C.,” said Board Supervisor Beth Artner. “It’s something we should all see. It’s an important part of our history.”

“I think it’s an op-

portunity for those that weren’t actively participating soldiers to see and hear and learn things that are an important part of our past,” said Board Supervisor Steve Ruzek. “And it’s a nice tribute to those who didn’t make it back.”

The Wall That Heals will be on display Aug. 6-9 at Polar Lakes Park, 1280 Hammond Road, White Bear Township.

**BARTYLLA**  
PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

**Commitment to Ethics & Quality  
Workmanship Since 1994**

• New Construction

• Commercial Plumbing

• Retail Plumbing

• Hotel Plumbing

• Residential Plumbing

• Water Heater Replacement

• Gas Line Appliance Installation

Hugo, Minnesota  
651-429-3877

bartyllaplumbing.com  
bartyllaplumbingandheating@msn.com

**Tuition Special**  
Save \$300 on Tuition when enrolling at Apple Academy  
\$50 OFF for 6 weeks after the 12th week of enrollment \*

**Apple Academy**  
provides safe, fun, and worry-free child care.

\* Existing families refer your friends and family and receive the same discount as a new family after the 12th week of the referrals enrollment. Not valid on School-age care.

1845 Main St., Centerville | 651-762-8911

26427 Forest Blvd.,Wyoming | 651-462-8772

Visit [applecw.com](http://applecw.com) or call for tuition specials

**DOES YOUR BASEMENT HAVE WATER ISSUES?**  
*We can fix it.*  
Schedule your **FREE** inspection!  
651-240-2266  
[DBSthecitizen.com](http://DBSthecitizen.com)  
No obligation. Just answers.

**\$250 OFF**  
BASEMENT REPAIR\*

\*CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS, MUST BE PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF APPOINTMENT. NOT VALID FOR PRIOR WORK.  
OFFER EXPIRES 9/30/26

SCAN TO SCHEDULE

**DBS**  
thumbs up for integrity!

FOUNDATIONS  
BASEMENTS  
INSULATION

LUNDS & BYERLYS

4630 CENTERVILLE RD,  
WHITE BEAR LAKE, MN 55110  
651-653-0000

AUGUST 6–12, 2026 | 12 PACK, 8 PACK

**\$6.99**

**MUST BUY 3**

Pepsi Cola Products  
and Pepsi Prebiotic

# CHAIN OF SURVIVAL: Earns emergency responders first Life Saving Awards

FROM PAGE 1

County Public Safety Telecommunicator Shelli Topaz. While on the line, Topaz stayed calm and coached Angie step-by-step on how to perform CPR while sending help behind the scenes.

Washington County Sheriff's Office Deputies Alec Zachrisson and Ayda Garcia responded within minutes of the 911 call and took over lifesaving efforts.

Hugo Fire personnel Fire Chief Jim Compton Jr., Captain Jason Palmquist and Engineer Brian Esch all responded directly to the scene with an AED and met the M Health ambulance crew in the driveway. Paramedic Jacob Winters and Paramedic Mason Kestner entered the home with them and made their way upstairs to the master bedroom, where they found deputies continuing CPR on Dave.

All in all, Dave received three shocks from an AED, and his pulse was regained. Then began the efforts to get Dave to the hospital for further care.

"The decision was made to backboard Dave and carry him down the stairs out to the ambulance waiting for transport to the hospital," recalled Deputy Chief Dave Jensen. (A long backboard is used to secure and immobilize someone and carry them.) "This was the most challenging part of the process with a 90-degree staircase and an adult male on a long backboard unresponsive; several firefighters were utilized carrying Dave, passing him off to others as they made their way down the stairs."

Dave was successfully transported to the hospital; upon arrival, the crew reported that Dave was once again breathing on his own and even able to sign off on the report.

**Life Saving Awards**

After Dave's save and one other save in 2025, which will be recognized later this year, HFD decided to create an Impact Awards Policy. The policy will be used as a general guideline for recognizing commendable or meritorious



Several first responders are recognized at a Hugo City Council meeting with the city's first official Life Saving Awards for their actions Feb. 20 that saved the life of resident Dave Johnson, pictured in the center, next to his wife Angie Johnson.

acts of firefighters on HFD and individuals from the community. A committee was created consisting of the fire chief, one paid-on-call fire employee, one elected official from the City Council, the city administrator and one member at large.

Compton explained that HFD implemented an AED program back in 2017. Thanks to donations from the Hugo Legion as well as private donations, AEDs have been placed around the city within city buildings and in the homes of firefighters. When the program started, there were eight AEDs; the program has now grown to 28.

"The national average for prehospital survival rates for cardiac arrest is less than 10%," Compton noted. "In 2025, we responded to 21 cardiac arrests and we had two saves, so we fit right into the national average." Compton added that the department's last documented save with an AED was in 2017, the year the program was implemented.

Life Saving Awards are meant to recognize individuals whose actions have had a profound person on another person's life. "It recognizes courage, skill, compassion and a seamless collabora-

tion that defines exceptional emergency response," Jensen explained.

"Every day, first responders are called to their communities. They train for the unexpected, prepare for the unimaginable and respond without hesitation when someone's life is on the line. Whether it is the calm voice of the 911 communications operator gathering critical information and directing resources; firefighters (and) police officers confronting dangerous situations; or paramedics providing lifesaving medical care, each plays an essential role in the chain of survival."

Jensen added, "Their combined actions remind us that saving a life is rarely the work of one person, but the results of a team united by training, trust and unwavering commitment to others."

In addition to the first responders mentioned previously, Firefighter Cory Albertson, Engineer Darek Albertson, Firefighter Chris Bieniek, Lieutenant Bob Bieniek, Chief Engineer Tom Kaspszak, Firefighter Emily Piepier and Firefighter Tom Robinson also received a Life Saving Award for their actions that day.

**'Don't have the right words'**

Mayor Tom Weidt thanked everyone involved in the call. "To see the people that showed up and helped give Dave another day and another chance at life, it is such a proud moment ... When you have the chance to save somebody like this, it is really a special moment and I'm so proud of you guys," he said. "Everybody plays a role in this. If one piece of the chain doesn't work, you never know what is going to happen."

Dave Johnson said he doesn't remember much about that day.

"I remember waking up in a bed in the hospital," he said. "I don't have the right words to say to the people that stepped up and helped me live another day."

Dave's wife Angie shared that they had just moved to Hugo two weeks before the incident.

"It was a huge blessing. It was definitely God's doing to put us here in this community," Angie said.

Managing Editor Shannon Granholm can be reached at 651-407-1227 or [citizen-news@presspubs.com](mailto:citizen-news@presspubs.com).

## Join the Centennial Team!



**Enjoy working with children?**

The Centennial School District is hiring for the 2026-2027 school year. We are currently hiring: Kids Club Staff | Custodians | Nurses | Food Service Staff | Paraprofessionals

**Centennial Job Fair**  
August 6, 2026  
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Centennial High School Learning Commons  
4757 North Road

*"I enjoy being a paraprofessional at Centennial schools because I have an opportunity to impact young lives every day." -Kristine*

**How to Apply** ▶ Visit [isd12.org/join-our-team](https://isd12.org/join-our-team) for information.

Centennial is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).





## COUPONS

August 2026



651-407-1200  
[PRESSPUBS.COM](https://presspubs.com)



**DAIKIN** \*Servicing all brands Licensed, Bonded, Insured

**FREE TRIP CHARGE**  
With repair  
**\$109 value!**

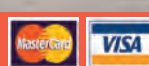
Valid during regular business hours • Expires 8/31/26

**Now offering electrical services!**

24/7 Emergency Service  
Serving the St. Paul and Surrounding Area  
651-426-5220

**Read our reviews and check out our current promotions at**  
[www.krinkies.com](https://www.krinkies.com)

**When you need us, we are here to help.**



Now delivering to portions of Hugo & Centerville



**Now Hiring!**

**\$3.25 Delivery Fee**

**We Deliver Pints, Malts & Rootbeer Floats With Any Pizza Order**  
**651-653-9845**  
**4687 Bald Eagle Ave.**  
[www.WBLPizzaManMN.com](https://www.WBLPizzaManMN.com)

**DELIVERY SPECIAL!**

**16" 3 topping pizza**  
**\$28.95** Plus tax

WBL Pizza Man • 651-653-9845  
All prices subject to sales tax & cannot be combined with any other offers.  
Expires 8/31/26.

**Ice Cream Shop open year round!**



**SUPER MEAL DEAL**

**16" 2 - topping pizza  
10" Cheese Bread  
2 Liter pop**  
**\$28.95** Plus tax

WBL Pizza Man • 651-653-9845  
All prices subject to sales tax & cannot be combined with any other offers.  
Expires 8/31/26.

**Walk in special**  
**16" 2 topping  
2 liter Pepsi product**  
**\$19.95** Plus tax  
**Pick up only**

WBL Pizza Man • 651-653-9845  
All prices subject to sales tax & cannot be combined with any other offers.  
Expires 8/31/26.

**Have an event?**  
Email it to [calendar@presspubs.com](mailto:calendar@presspubs.com)



## Bald Eagle Lake teen pins sixth place at Junior Nationals in Fargo

BY LOGAN GION  
STAFF WRITER

Caden Grenier's summer vacation is only now beginning. The first half of the season, Caden was preparing to represent Minnesota Storm, the state's wrestling club, at the 2026 U.S. Marine Corps Junior Nationals tournament, held July 10-18 in Fargo, North Dakota. Since 1968, the U.S. Olympic Wrestling team has had at least one member from Minnesota Storm.

There, in the 190-pound bracket, Caden placed sixth among competitors from across the country.

"This is my second time going," Caden said. "Every single state in the country sends a team."

This tournament is only the latest achievement in his wrestling career, a career that started before school.

"Probably, when kids that are Pre-K go into a sport, it's because they're pushed by their parent," said Caden's father, Chris Grenier. "I thought he could excel. We have a muscular body type."

Chris was initially concerned about Caden's temperament, though. "He's the kindest kid in the world," Chris said, "but when he got out on that mat, he was able to have good technique and mechanically figure things out."



CONTRIBUTED

A referee declares Caden Grenier the winner of his match.

Caden believes that his ability grew while training at St. Michael's Acad-

emy (STMA). "When I was young, I was not the best ... but I still got to wrestle with the best in practice, so it was fun," Caden recalled. "And I think that's why you get better, when you're wrestling with the best kids every year."

As he grew older, Caden stuck with wrestling because he found his own reasons to enjoy the sport.

"It's not the winning that I like. I don't mind going to practice," Caden said. "Obviously, you want to come home with something, but you don't go to win. You go to wrestling to compete. You've got to love that."

"He practices year round; it's not a seasonal thing," Caden's stepmother, Melissa Grenier added. "He's just a very hard worker."

Caden also encourages other young athletes and parents to embrace a similar mindset.

"As a parent, you've got to figure out how to make your kid enjoy going to practice," Caden said. "You're never going to get far if you push your kid."

Caden pushed himself to get to the Fargo tournament, and he credits his high placement to aggressive play early in the tournament.

"These brackets are 128-person brackets, so they're pretty big. You've got to win a lot of matches. You have to

take it match by match," Grenier said. "More importantly, I'd say that you go first—first guy to throw is normally the one who scores."

Because the tournament is double-elimination with a consolation bracket, Grenier explained that losing early in the tournament puts an athlete on a more difficult path.

"Because you have to wrestle twice as many on the backside, it helps a lot just winning your first few matches," he said. After that, Caden explained that he trusts his instincts and training. "I think you develop a muscle memory. I don't think when I'm out there because I've done it so many times, my body knows what to do."

Caden, now an incoming senior, has and will continue to wrestle for Mounds View High School, though he, Chris and Melissa have moved near Bald Eagle Lake.

While he hopes to lead the Mounds View team to a state championship this year, Caden is enjoying the present.

"I hung out with my friends today, and I haven't seen those guys in a very long time. But that's what I chose for myself," Caden noted before shrugging. "Tomorrow, I'll go to Valleyfair and have fun. That's the second half of the summer."

## Ritch Menne, distinguished Cougars hockey coach, steps down

BY BRUCE STRAND  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

After 34 years with the district, Centennial Cougars boys hockey coach Ritch Menne is resigning. He was head coach for 15 years, with four state trips in his ledger.

The reason: a job promotion that Menne couldn't pass up. He is a salesman for FleetPride, which deals in heavy duty truck parts and service.

"I was in outside sales for years, but now was promoted to Area Manager," Menne said, "where I will be responsible for seven stores in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, with 150 employees."

Parting from his beloved Cougars is painful, although he'll still be around as a devoted fan.

"The decision was unbelievably hard. I loved every second being the high school coach at Centennial," stated Menne. "I told the players that this is something I had to do, but wasn't something I wanted to do as far as coaching. This opportunity for work was just too good to pass up."

He added that both he and his wife shed many tears. "I was blessed to have terrific coaches by my side all of those years and outstanding players to be around," Menne said.

As head coach, Menne led the Cougars to state tournaments in 2013, 2014, 2018 and 2024. His last team had



CONTRIBUTED

Ritch Menne Posed with next year's Cougar captains after announcing his decision to resign

an 18-10 record and lost in the section finals to Andover. Menne had only two losing seasons in his 15-year tenure, compiling an overall record of 247-132-20.

He was also an assistant to Erik Aus when the Cougars were state champions in 2004.

During this time, Menne coached his three sons: Richie, Class of 2015; Jack, 2018; and Sam, 2023.

Menne is a Centennial lifer, having played for the Cougars himself. He noted that he lives five minutes from the rink and will continue to attend games.

## Bear commits to Minnesota Gophers

BY BRUCE STRAND  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Nash Roed, coming off an excellent sophomore season for White Bear Lake, verbally committed to the Minnesota Gophers last week.

He posted on social media: "I am proud and honored to announce my commitment to further my education and play Division 1 hockey at the University of Minnesota! I would like to thank everyone who has helped me get to this point!"

Roed was recruited by Gopher coach Brett Larson to eventually join the Big Ten team.

It was also announced recently

that Roed has been selected to skate for the National Team Development Program Under 18's in the 2026-27 season. That Olympic development program is based in Michigan.

Roed is playing juniors hockey for the Waterloo (IA) Black Hawks, who drafted him in the first round of



CONTRIBUTED

Nash Roed

the 2025 United States Hockey League Phase I Draft. He played in 11 late-season Waterloo games, producing a goal and three assists.

Roed, 16, led the Bears (13-12-3) with 20 goals and 27 assists as a sophomore. In two seasons he has logged 31 goals and 41 assists in 55 games.

Roed's brother, Lleyton, recently completed his second season with the AHL's Coachella Valley Firebirds, while another brother, Nolan, enters his second season at St. Cloud State. Their father, Peter, played professionally for six seasons, competing in the ECHL, AHL, UHL and Germany's DEL.

651-644-6659 | saintsbaseball.com

### Upcoming Games

August 4-9  
vs. Louisville Bats

August 11-16  
@ Iowa Cubs



REMODELING



BATHROOMS ~ KITCHENS  
BASEMENTS ~ TILES  
ALL REMODELING

Twin Cities Premier Home Improvement Company

651-238-6751 • NorconHomes.com

Locally Owned Since 1994 | Insured / Lic #BC105943

ROOFING/SIDING



•Roofing •Siding  
•Soffit •Fascia  
•Quality work  
•Affordable Prices

Fast Free Estimates!

Call, Text or Email MN LIC.#BC665536  
763-208-8862 www.truebluebuilders.org

ROOFING/SIDING



ABOVEBOARD ROOFING  
AND SIDING INC.

Roofing, siding, gutters,  
soffit and fascia  
We also do repairs  
Free estimates  
In business since 2004  
651-238-0601  
Licensed  
bonded insured  
#BC476481



TREE SERVICE



BUDGET  
TREE SERVICE

Quality Work • Reasonable Rates  
Tree Removal  
Tree Trimming  
Certified Arborist  
651-426-8660  
FREE ESTIMATE  
Fast, Dependable, Insured



STUMP GRINDING



STUMP  
GRINDING

Free Estimates  
SAME DAY  
SERVICE  
Fast, dependable, insured  
651-426-8660  
budgettreeservice@outlook.com

TREE SERVICE



GENE'S TREE SERVICE  
& STUMP GRINDING

Licensed/Insured • Free Estimates  
Call Today! 763-785-1629

HALVERSON  
TREE

Board Certified Master Arborist  
Fully Licensed + Insured  
651-478-0710  
HalversonTree.com

A Cut Above  
Tree Service

Licensed Insured  
Free Estimates  
Tree Removal and Trimming  
Emergency Storm Damage  
Stump Grinding  
Local Family Owned Business  
www.facebook.com/acutabovetreecareservice  
www.acutabovetreecareservice.com  
651-334-9063

Deadline for Classi-  
fied Line and display  
ads Thursday 4pm  
651-407-1250  
classified@press-  
pubs.com

Primeau's  
Tree Service

Tree & Shrub  
Trimming/Removal  
46 years of experience  
Family owned  
Certified Arborist onsite!  
651-773-5643

Cameron  
Tree Service

• Affordable Trimming & Removal  
• Storm Damage & Large Tree Removal  
• Stump Grinding  
• Family Owned & Operated  
• FREE ESTIMATES  
• FREE WOOD CHIPS  
• Licensed / Insured  
• Senior / Vet discount

  
(651) 775-8602

WATERPROOFING



GREAT LAKES  
WATERPROOFING

Exterior Waterproofing  
FREE ESTIMATES  
651-340-2901  
NO DIGGING REQUIRED  
Targeting water flow at a fraction  
of the price of drain-tile systems  
Since 1978  
MN License # IR660365  
www.RealWaterproofing.com

WINDOW CLEANING



CUTTING EDGE  
WINDOW CLEANING

We don't cut corners,  
we clean 'em!  
Residential Window Cleaning  
Exterior Only  
Call Jeff for a free estimate  
651-283-8770

# CLASSIFIEDS

Press Publications suggests that you be aware of advertisers requesting payment for shipping merchandise. Confirm and verify all contact resources prior to sending any money. Take caution when responding to text messages that are not local numbers.

23  
Free Items

Free Woodchips  
5 Loads or more  
Hugo Area Only  
651\*/426\*8660

150  
Help Wanted

COOKS HELPER PO-  
SITIONS Annandale  
Public Schools. 3  
open for the 2026-27  
school year. Assists  
with all functions in  
the kitchen including;  
preparing food,serving  
meals, dishwashing  
and cleaning food ser-  
vice areas. Hours are  
Monday-Friday. 4 hrs  
per day at the High  
School. 5.5 hours per  
day at the Elementary  
School.171Days/Year  
Salary Range \$12.45-  
\$18.80 www.appli-  
track.com/isd876/on-  
lineapp/

NOW HIRING!

Graphic Designer  
F/T 30-40 hrs/wk  
Entry level \$14 - \$16  
Exp w/ Indesign, illus-  
trator, & photoshop  
preferred. Main re-  
sponsibility-ad design  
& newspaper layout  
Send resume to art-  
manager@presspub-  
s.com

WEST CENTRAL  
ROOFING in Willmar  
is hiring roofing labor-  
ers for commercial flat  
roofs.\$22-&26/hr  
+benefits. Apply to-  
day: 320/235\*8748  
www.westcentralroof-  
ing.net/roofing-careers

Hospice of the  
Midwest is looking for  
volunteers. Please,  
scan QR Code in ad  
for more info

150  
Help Wanted

NOW HIRING!

GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
Full time 35-40 hours/week  
Entry level position starting at  
\$14 -16/hour  
Experience with indesign, illustrator  
and photoshop preferred. Main  
responsibilities include  
ad design and newspaper layout  
Send resume to  
artmanager@presspubs.com



AN ADORATION HEALTH PARTNER  
Volunteer With Us  
Scan the QR code with the camera  
of your smartphone to learn more.  
  
651.461.1799  
HospiceoftheMidwest.com/Volunteers

150  
Help Wanted

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

300  
For Sale

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

Snowmobile For Sale

2000 Polaris  
500 XCSP  
3500 Miles  
\$950 OBO  
Ethan-651\*242\*0304

2019 Spark Jetski 2  
Up. Only 128 Hours.  
Includes floating lift  
and top of the line Tri-  
ton trailer w/ MN life-  
time license. Call Jim  
612\*/396\*5183  
\$6,500



150  
Help Wanted

300  
For Sale

2007  
Glastron GX 185 BR  
\$13,400  
Used – Like New  
Red & White  
Sporty bow rider. Vol-  
vo Penta 3.0. Only  
154 hours! Engine is  
gone over every yr.  
Just changed oil. Aft  
sun pad, floor storage  
locker, glove compart-  
ment, storage under  
seats, and engine  
compartment for lots  
of storage. Cockpit  
cover. Bow cover.  
Bimini top. AM/FM CD  
stereo. Depth sounder  
Quick release  
bumpers. Snap in/out  
cockpit carpet  
Extended swim plat-  
form with fold down  
ladder. Comes w/ trail-  
er and extra tire .  
Trailer has breakaway  
tongue. Seating in  
perfect condition w/ no  
rips, tears, or sun  
damage. Always  
stored indoors, sum-  
mer and winter.  
Cash only  
651\*/328\*7288



362  
Miscellaneous

GET A BREAK ON  
YOUR TAXES!  
Donate your car,  
truck, or SUV to assist  
the blind and visually  
impaired. Arrange a  
swift, no-cost vehicle  
pickup and secure a  
generous tax credit for  
2025. Call Heritage for  
the Blind Today at  
844\*/220\*9501 today!

362  
Miscellaneous

362  
Miscellaneous



Since  
1989  
Personal Touch Pet Grooming  
“When Quality and Service Matter”  
763 784-4833  
TDD 784-0662  
Dial 711 for Relay Assistance  
Deb Molin  
Certified Master Groomer  
200 Marian Ct., Circle Pines, MN 55014

362  
Miscellaneous

GET DISH SATEL-  
LITE TV + INTERNET!  
Free install, free HD-  
DVR upgrade, 80,000  
on-demand movies,  
plus limited time up to  
\$600 In gift cards. Call  
today! 855\*/562\*4309

NO MORE CLEAN-  
ING OUT GUTTERS  
Guaranteed! Leaf Fil-  
ter is backed by a no-  
clog guarantee and  
lifetime transferrable  
warranty. Call today  
888/755\*5761 to  
schedule a FREE in-  
spection and no obli-  
gation estimate. Get  
15% off your entire or-  
der. Plus, Military &  
Seniors get an addi-  
tional 10% off. Limited  
time only. Restrictions  
apply, see representa-  
tive for warranty and  
offer details.

SAFE STEP NORTH  
America s #1 Walk-In  
Tub. Comprehensive  
lifetime warranty. Top-  
of-the-line installation  
and service. Now fea-  
turing our FREE  
shower package and  
\$1,600 off for a limited  
time! Call today! Fi-  
nancing available. Call  
Safe Step  
833\*/966\*3882

DON'T LET THE  
STAIRS LIMIT YOUR  
MOBILITY! Discover  
the ideal solution for  
anyone who struggles  
on the stairs, is con-  
cerned about a fall or  
wants to regain ac-  
cess to their entire  
home. Call AmeriGlide  
today! 866/852\*5506

REPAIRING OR RE-  
PLACING APPLI-  
ANCES and home  
systems like heating  
and cooling can be  
costly. A home war-  
ranty plan can help.  
Start saving and get  
30% off any plan to-  
day. Workmanship  
Guarantee included.  
Terms apply. Call  
Cinch Home Services  
855/887\*4521

Pet Services



Since  
1989  
Personal Touch Pet Grooming  
“When Quality and Service Matter”  
763 784-4833  
TDD 784-0662  
Dial 711 for Relay Assistance  
Deb Molin  
Certified Master Groomer  
200 Marian Ct., Circle Pines, MN 55014

LIABILITY DISCLAIMER INDEMNIFICATION:

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

# Centennial School Board looks to add new policy around service animals

**MADELINE DOLBY**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Centennial School Board will consider adopting a new policy regarding service animals at a future meeting. Currently, the district does not have a standalone policy addressing the rights and responsibilities associated with service animals on district property and at school-sponsored events.

Federal and state laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Minnesota Human Rights Act, require public school districts to permit the use of service animals by qualified individuals with disabilities. According to Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Mike Grossklaus, while the district has consistently complied with these legal requirements, adoption of a formal policy will provide clear guidance for students, employees, families, volunteers and visitors.

The proposed policy establishes district expectations regarding:

- The definition of a service animal and qualified handlers.
- Equal access to district programs, services, facilities, transportation and activities.
- Responsibilities of handlers for the care and control of service animals.
- Circumstances under which a service animal may be removed.
- Appropriate staff inquiries consistent with federal law.
- Procedures for addressing concerns, such as allergies, safety and the presence of miniature horses.

According to Grossklaus, this policy also clarifies that emotional support, therapy, comfort or companion animals are not considered service animals under the ADA.

He added that district staff and administration recommend assigning this policy as Policy 521.5 - Service Animals. The placement aligns the policy with the district's existing disability nondiscrimination policies, specifically Policy 521 - Student Disability Nondiscrimination.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with adoption of this policy, according to Grossklaus. A second reading and adoption of the policy will take place at a future regular School Board meeting.

## CONSTRUCTION BRIEF

### Otter Lake intersection to reopen a day early

Ramsey County expects to reopen the intersection of Otter Lake Road at County Road J on Aug. 19. The county originally estimated closure of the area until Aug. 20.

Also on Aug. 19, eastbound County Road J and the southbound I-35E entrance ramp will close, weather permitting. During this closure, the entrance to the theater shops and Holiday will be closed on County Road J. Access will be available from Centerville Road and marked via posted detour signs.

Regional Press Newsletter

Sign up for FREE

and be entered to win \$250 in local gift cards.

Go to [presspubs.com/signup](https://presspubs.com/signup)

## CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

In December 2025, the Centerville City Council determined that a new community vision was necessary for downtown Centerville. City staff and planning consultant Bolton & Menk solicited feedback from the public to better understand community needs and concerns. The result was the Downtown Centerville Vision Plan, the final version of which City Planner Nathan Fuerst presented to council for adoption at the council's July 23 meeting. The City Council adopted the Downtown Vision Plan with two amendments. Council expects to implement the plan by making future amendments to its Zoning Code and Comprehensive Plan.

The city has been holding a letter of credit for the completion of public sidewalk improvements for the Old Mill Estates II development. The infrastructure improvements have been made and accepted by the city, and staff recommended releasing the letter of credit in the amount of \$11,750. The developer has submitted plans for Phase III of the project, and a new letter of credit and escrow funds will be applied to this phase.

City staff presented a preliminary look at the potential 2027 budget at a work session prior to the meeting. Council then discussed the 2027 budgeted general fund revenues, expenditures and tax levy. However, city staff's estimates could not include police or fire expenditures, so staff estimated expenses on the high side. The debt service levy for 2027 is estimated to be \$208,440, an 8.9% decrease from 2026 during which the levy was \$228,810. This is a reduction of \$20,370. The general fund levy is estimated to be \$3.4 million, a 6.8% increase over the 2026 general fund levy of \$3.2 million, or an increase of \$222,767. The total 2027 levy is estimated to be \$3.7 million, a 5.8% or \$202,397 increase over the 2026 total levy of \$33.5 million. The preliminary 2027 budget is due to be submitted to the county by the end of September, and the final 2027 budget and levy will be considered for council adoption in December.

The council is halfway

through its strategic planning process; additional time is needed to finalize city goals for next year. At the work session, staff requested that council schedule future planning sessions and get them on member calendars.

The city's public works staff discovered that the security gate's opener/closer has a broken footing, which is in the way of the concrete/drainage repair project pathway. Although the gate opener/closer is almost 30 years old, staff will keep it and move it onto a stationary concrete footing. This way, the gate will still open and close for security reasons but no longer be in the path of the concrete/drainage project. After council approved the repair, Century Security of Forest Lake will fasten the opener/closer onto new block footing and bring it up to code for \$3,430.

The capital improvement plan approved in May will include a salt storage facility for the public works department. According to the estimate from the proposed contractor, the shed alone will cost \$89,000 for materials and labor. The public works yard at the shop does not have a constructed base area where the building will reside. The proposed builder, Greystone Construction, concluded that the amount of material appropriate for this site would cost \$2,500. City staff would do the heavy lifting by hauling materials from Bituminous Roadway in Columbus. With council approval, money for the material will come from the city's equipment fund.

Property owners making improvements regularly encroach slightly into the city's right-of-way/ drainage and utility easements and need an encroachment agreement if council decides certain conditions are met and the fence or shed won't cause harm to the purpose of the easement. At the July 23 meeting, council approved two encroachment agreements, one in the backyard of 1707 Dupre Road for an accessory structure shed and the other at 6805 Grouse Hollow for a black, 4-foot chain link fence.

There are two elections

coming up — the primary election on Aug. 11 and the general election on Nov. 3. By statute, the city must formally approve by resolution the trained election judges who will be working the polling places. Council approved two head judges and eight election judges. City Clerk Teresa Bender will administer the election.

The Constitution of the United States was drafted on September 17, 1787, by the Constitutional Convention. Every year the president of the United States proclaims the week beginning on that date as Constitution Week, and Centerville signs on every year. For 2026, council adopted a resolution proclaiming the week of Sept. 17-23 as Constitution Week.

In her report, City Administrator Athanasia Lewis acknowledged the hard work of Fete des Lacs volunteers, especially Bridget Lemire and the annual festival's organizers. She called out the parade organizers, Centennial Lakes Police Department, the Lions Club and all the volunteers who worked the festival.

Absentee voting is under way, and voters are invited to contact City Hall with questions. Offices up for election are mayor (two-year term), two four-year council member seats and one two-year council member seat by special election. The terms of all the above seats start in January 2027.

The public works department is working to patch various streets in the northeast part of town, along with a portion of the Fete des Lacs parade route. Please contact public works about any asphalt deterioration or potholes in these areas that need to be addressed. Staff are also working throughout the parks and trail system on detail and maintenance projects. One project will involve replacing the Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park hockey boards with new boards for rink containment.

The council next meets at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, at City Hall, 1880 Main Street.

Loretta Harding

# PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF HUGO

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Hugo will hold a public hearing on Monday, August 17, 2026, at 7 p.m. to consider the request of Katie Sells for an on-sale liquor license for Sal's Angus Grill, 12010 Keystone Avenue North. Anyone wishing to comment can be heard at this time.

*Published one time in The Citizen on August 6, 2026.*

CITY OF HUGO

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Hugo has scheduled the Midyear Budget Workshop for Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the Hugo Council Chambers.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Hugo has scheduled the Citywide Bus Tour for Saturday, October 3, 2026, at 10 a.m. Starting and ending location have not yet been determined.

*Published one time in The Citizen on August 6 2026.*

CITY OF HUGO

PLANNING COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

The Hugo Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 27, 2026 at 7:00pm in Hugo City Hall to consider:

The minor subdivision and conditional use permit (CUP) requests from Heidi Harvieux, 12935 Jody Avenue North, Hugo, MN 55038. The minor subdivision request is to subdivide a 20-acre parcel into two parcels at 10

acres in size. The CUP request is to allowed a shared driveway between the two 10-acre parcels, due to the northerly proposed parcel having wetlands across its frontage preventing a driveway. The property is not addressed, but is generally located east of Jody Avenue North and one third of a mile north of the intersection of Jody Avenue North and 122<sup>nd</sup> Street North. The property legally described as that part of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter, Section 36, Township 31, Range 21, Washington County, Minnesota. Full legal description available at Hugo City Hall.

The comprehensive plan amendment, preliminary plat and PUD requests from M/I Homes of Minneapolis/St. Paul, LLC, 5354 Parkdale Drive, Suite 100, St. Louis Park, MN 55416. The proposal is for a development of approximately 553 residential lots and 180 apartment units on approximately 245.59 acres of land. The lots are proposed to be a mix of 65-foot single family lots, 52-foot single family lots, 42-foot wide single -family lots, and townhome lots, as well as commercial sites. The apartment units and commercial sites are proposed to be located along the western portion of the property. The property is generally located north of 159<sup>th</sup> Street North, east of Highway 61, and north and south of 165<sup>th</sup> Street North. and is legally described as the NW ¼ of the SW ¼ of Section 9, AND that part of the W ½ of the SE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 9, AND government lot 5 of section 9, AND the SW ¼ of the Northwest ¼/4 of Section 9, AND that part of the S 263.8 feet of the N 965.6 feet of the SE 1/4 , Section 8, AND that part of the SE ¼ of Section 8, AND that part of the NE ¼ of Section 17, Township 31, Range 21, Washington County, Minnesota. Full legal description available at Hugo City Hall.

Anyone wishing to comment on the request can be heard at this time. **Please call Max Gort, Associate Planner at 651-762-6311 if you have any questions or comments on the application and would like to participate in the meeting.**

# ‘A THIN PLACE’: Horror novella from first-time writer out later this month

FROM PAGE 3

but fortunately, the answer is no. While I’m fortunate enough to work at an amazing school with an incredible team of superb humans, I keep my work out of my writing.

**Q. This book is rooted in small-town, central Minnesota. What spurred you to set the story there?**

**A.** My wife and I visit that area of the state consistently and love the amazing, natural beauty of northern Minnesota, especially the North Shore. Oddly enough, we enjoy visiting in the quieter winter months. Morgan’s new town of Wolf Creek isn’t based on anywhere specific, but there are some references to Minnesota history, with Morgan’s reality at times shifting to the old-growth pine forests of Minnesota before the logging industry mostly wiped them out.

**Q. How long was the process from idea to publication?**

**A.** This story took me a long time to complete, especially considering that it is just a novella. I originally started writing this in June 2020, with lots of restarts and rewrites. I didn’t feel it was ready to query until August 2022. Six years from when I originally started writing it, we’re at publication.

I will say, part of this was because I just sat down and started writing, which often led me to getting stuck or running out of ideas. Several times, I scratched a draft and started over entirely. For the project that came after this, I made sure to write a very detailed outline with each beat of the plot and each character carefully constructed, which made the process significantly faster.

**Q. Did the novella undergo any core changes during editing?**

**A.** Yes, and this process really strengthened the entire novella. The amazing editing team at Dead Fox Publishing did an outstanding job guiding me here. We ended up restructuring the story and fleshing out relationships Morgan had with other characters, es-

pecially with her stepmother. Ultimately, this became the heart of the story. Of course, adding to the overall length also meant the addition of more spooky stuff.

**Q. What was the most difficult scene, sequence or character to get right?**

**A.** The relationship between Morgan and her stepmother, Lynn: I wanted the interactions between these two characters to feel genuine. In many ways, Lynn is the second-most important character in the story, essentially helping Morgan grow up.

**Q. Are novellas more difficult to publish than novels? If so, how did you stay the course?**

**A.** Sometimes I feel like I barely know anything about writing, let alone publishing. What I’ve come to learn is that getting a novella published can be quite a challenge. While I understand the reasoning behind this, I do quite enjoy novellas myself across multiple genres; it pleases me to no end when I spot a novella for sale in my local bookshop.

I went into this expecting quite a bit of rejection. I made sure to query publishers who had a history of publishing novellas. I am grateful that Dead Fox Publishing is physically printing “A Thin Place,” because this can be a rarity.

**Q. Do you have any advice for first-time writers looking to publish their books?**

**A.** What works for me might not work for another. One thing I have learned, to borrow from a famous pirate captain, is that the rules of writing are more like guidelines than actual rules. I was fortunate to get feedback on this story from a wide variety of people long before it was fit for public eyeballs. Being open to critique helped improve “A Thin Place,” and sometimes, I chose to ignore a recommendation — that’s okay, too. In general, I have found that the more perspective I get on a story, the better the final version becomes. Focus on making your story the best version of itself possible and then be willing to work on it even more.

**Q. Where can readers find your book?**

**A.** At this time, you can get it directly from my publisher, Dead Fox Publishing. You’ll also save a bit that way too. It’s also available via Amazon, Barnes and Noble and a plethora of other online retailers. My hope is that it could be found in a few local bookstores in the near future.

**Q. You’re working on another novel. Can you give any details on its status?**

**A.** I recently signed a contract with the Crimson imprint of The Wild Rose Press for my debut mystery novel, “Never Too Old.” We’ve only just started. I can share that it’s a whodunit featuring a remote manor on the North Shore, a classic Minnesota blizzard stranding everyone, and a dying detective with noth-

ing to lose. I’ll be sharing more as I go through editing the work on my Instagram, @carson.mcevoy.writes. “A Thin Place” is available for preorder at Dead Fox Publishing, at deadfoxpub.com/products/a-thin-place. Its publication date is Aug. 14.

Compiled by Logan Gion



CONTRIBUTED  
‘A Thin Place’ is published by Dead Fox Publishing.

FEBRUARY 13 -  
SEPTEMBER 26!

GUYS  
&  
DOLLS

A MUSICAL FABLE OF BROADWAY



952.934.1525

ChanhassenDT.com

entertaining you!  
Chanhassen  
DINNER THEATRES





DAILY  
PULLTABS  
& ETABS

WHITE BEAR LAKE  
AREA HOCKEY  
ASSOCIATION  
#03111

GO BEARS!

|           |                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MONDAY    | 9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S   6:00PM BINGO @ SAK'S                                                                                                |
| TUESDAY   | 6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S                                                                                                                       |
| WEDNESDAY | 9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S<br>5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ DOC'S & BEARTOWN   6:00PM BINGO @ BEARTOWN                                                    |
| THURSDAY  | 6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S   7:00PM BINGO @ WB BAR                                                                                               |
| FRIDAY    | 5:00PM MEAT RAFFLES @ WB BAR & DOC'S<br>6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR                                                                            |
| SATURDAY  | 12:30PM BINGO @ SAK'S   2:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ COOPER'S<br>3:00PM BINGO @ COOPER'S<br>5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ JIMMY'S   6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR |

# Arts and CULTURE

2026

## EMERGING ARTIST: TAYLOR MINDESTROM

BY LOGAN GION  
STAFF WRITER

Preparing to play even one character in a show can take a lot of effort, but Lakes International Language Academy (LILA) incoming sophomore Taylor Mindestrom is playing five this summer.



TAYLOR MINDESTROM

“I love a challenge in theater,” said Mindestrom. “I love pushing myself to the limit.”

In July, Mindestrom said will play various roles in Children’s Performing Arts’ “Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon,” including an enchantress and Cinderella. Then, in August, she will play Snyder in “Disney’s Newsies,” a summer stock intensive staged at White Bear High School’s Performing Arts Center.



MINDESTROM PLAYS REGINA GEORGE’S MOTHER IN CPA’S “MEAN GIRLS.”

“There was a lot more, process wise,” Mindestrom said of her audition process for “Newsies.” She also described a contemporary acting method that the show’s director, Braylon Lane, has been teaching them, called Sonya Cooke’s Seven Pillars of Acting. The method, Mindestrom explained, informs an actor’s choices by having them explore

a character’s circumstances, which informs that character’s desires.

Snyder found this method especially helpful because her character is a cruel warden of a boys’ refuge in late-1800s New York. To explain Snyder’s behavior, Mindestrom crafted a backstory in which her character suffered abuse as both an orphan and a foster child.

“He just grew up thinking, ‘This is the way kids need to be treated. This is the way things are,’” said Mindestrom. “So then he grows up and becomes what he’s been taught his whole life.”

Mindestrom also commented that costumes, especially shoes, help her flip between characters. She wears tap shoes in “Newsies” during its many dance numbers, then wears heels while casting a spell as an enchantress in “Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon.”

After these shows, Mindestrom will explore behind-the-scenes roles in theater. She will assist the choreographer in a show at CPA as well as at her high school. She will also be an assistant stage manager this October for CPA’s production of “Beetlejuice Jr.” After that, Mindestrom will continue auditioning for as many varied types of roles as she can.

“I like experiencing different characters that aren’t like me,” Mindestrom said. “I’m not a witch, and I’m not an enchantress, but it’s cool to be magical.”



PARTICIPANTS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY’S GUIDED WALKING TOUR TRAVERSE LAKE AVENUE IN WHITE BEAR LAKE.

## STEP INTO THE PAST, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

BY LOGAN GION  
STAFF WRITER

Guided walking tours along Lake Avenue in White Bear are back this summer. The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society, who leads the tours, are, however, doing something different this year. “Because there’s so much information to cover, we’ve split Lake Avenue into two different tours,” said White Bear Lake Area Historical Society Executive Director Sara Hanson. “It was too many things to cover in the space, and we ended up running try to (fit everything in.) It was no longer a walking tour.”

July’s tour passed by Clark Avenue, which Hanson described as White Bear’s former main drag.

“It was meant to be the boulevard that introduced people to town,” Hanson said of the now-residential street. “The idea was that you went from the railroad depot straight

down to the lake because the original depot sat at the end of Clark Avenue where the highway is today.”

August’s tour, meanwhile, will explore White Bear Lake’s ice-block industry and the Manitou Bridge history. Hanson will get into why West Park is east of Highway 61.

“Others say, ‘Well, it’s just West Park because it’s on the west side of the lake’ ... Tech-

nically, but that’s not why,” Hanson said. “The West family contributed it.” Many of the places along Lake Avenue, then, make more sense when viewed through an early 20th Century lens.

“One of our overarching questions is ‘How did we get here?’” Hanson said. “People say all the time, ‘Oh, you’re a historian. You don’t want anything to change.’ If nothing

changes, I don’t have a job.”

The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society will hold a guided walking tour of Lake Avenue from 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 26, beginning at the White Bear Lake Armory, 2228 Fourth St. The tours are not chronological; those interested may attend one or both. For more details, visit [whitebear-history.org/events](http://whitebear-history.org/events).



## CALENDAR

### “WAYS OF LIFE-ROOTED IN TRADITION” EXHIBITION BY SHAKUNTALA MAHESHWARI

**Location:** White Bear Center for the Arts, 4971 Long Ave., White Bear Lake

**Dates:** Now through Sept. 17

**Details:** Ethnic art has shaped Shakuntala Maheshwari’s life since childhood. Maheshwari is a practitioner and teacher of Rangoli and traditional Indian tribal arts, including Gond, Warli and Mandana. For inspiration, she draws on these traditions’ storytelling, symbolism and reverence for nature.

### ‘A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM’

**Location:** Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake

**Dates:** Aug. 14-23

**Details:** Step into an enchanted forest where love goes hilariously awry and magic rules the night. Mischievous fairies, feuding lovers and a troupe of bumbling actors collide in this whimsical comedy filled with romance, transformation, and delightful chaos.

### MUSIC ON THE LAWN: 2 GIRLS AND A BOYD

**Location:** White Bear Lake United Methodist Church, 1851 Birch St., White Bear Lake

**Date:** 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 16

**Details:** An acoustic music group, 2 Girls and a Boyd features vocalists Mary Jane Alm and Aimée Lee as well as acoustic guitarist and vocalist Boyd Lee. They are joined by mandolinist and vocalist Richard Kriehn along with harmonica player, percussionist and vocalist Noah Hoehn. This ensemble entertains audiences with a blend of folk, pop, and vocal harmonies.

### POPS ON THE PORCH

**Location:** Fillebrown House, 4735 Lake Ave., White Bear Lake

**Date:** 6:30-8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 20

**Details:** Bring your lawn chairs, blankets and picnic supper, if you wish, and enjoy the big-band sounds of the Moonlight Serenaders while looking across White Bear Lake.