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THE CITIZEN

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WHITE BEAR SCHOOL BOARD: Censures member **PAGE 15**

GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS
HUGO LIONS VOLUNTEER PARK
JUNE 5-7 2026
PARADE • RIBFEST • CRAFT FAIR • TALENT CONTEST
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FILE PHOTOS

Summer starts here

2026 marks the 50th anniversary of Hugo Good Neighbor Days. This year's celebration, scheduled for June 5-7 at Lions Volunteer Park, will include a parade, Ribfest, craft fair, talent contest, live music, Kid Zone and more. Find more information in the special insert inside this issue.

Sheriff gives last report ahead of retirement

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

HUGO — The city of Hugo will pay the sheriff's office \$1,768,814 for services in 2026. That breaks down to \$102.56 per resident.

"Employee wages and benefits are the main drivers of that," said Washington County Sheriff Dan Starry. "We need to be competitive with our neighbors, so we do not lose our deputies to other cities or counties."

Starry recently visited the City Council to present his last annual report ahead of his retirement after his term ends in January.

Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) deputies received 10,040 calls for service within the city in 2025, a 2.6% increase over 2024.

"That is a lot of calls in a year. That is approximately 27 calls for service a day throughout the year," Starry said. "The deputies that are on the streets are doing a great job going to the calls, but also doing the additional stuff as well, stopping traffic, getting out and doing community engagement and meeting the families and kids."

In addition to deputies staying busy in Hugo, detectives and investigators also remain hard at work. Starry noted that the detective assigned to Hugo investigated 265 cases within the city in 2025, which more than doubled from the prior year.

The busiest time for calls in 2025 was 6 p.m., and the slowest time was 5 a.m. Starry says if residents see something suspicious, no matter what

SEE ANNUAL REPORT, PAGE 7

Centennial School Board approves addition of ballot questions

BY MADELINE DOLBY
QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS EDITOR

Residents within the Centennial School District can expect to see two additional questions on their ballot next election season regarding an operating levy and bond referendum associated with the district's long-range plan, also known as Centennial Forward.

According to Superintendent Jeff Holmberg, the bond referendum will total approximately \$108,890,000 million. These funds would be used to address facility

maintenance, safety, academic capacity and educational programs across the district. The proposed operating levy, bond referendum and the addition of the ballot questions were approved by the Centennial School Board at its most recent meeting.

Originally, the long-range plan was estimated to cost around \$225 million. However, revisions made throughout the planning process, based on stakeholder, community and school board member feedback, allowed Executive Director of Business Services Patrick Chaffey and his staff to bring the total costs down.

Included in the projects' costs is room for 20% inflation.

"Deferred maintenance was the starting point of this process... There is not enough money through LTFM (long term facilities maintenance) funding to keep our buildings afloat because we only receive \$2.7 million a year," Chaffey explained. "That's not enough to keep the repairs going."

Chaffey said this spurred a discussion about how the district was going to keep up with the deferred maintenance.

SEE BALLOT ADDITIONS, PAGE 11

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Washington County Library kicks off summer programs in June

Washington County Library's summer programs for kids, teens and adults begins Monday, June 1, and continues through Saturday, Aug. 15.

Summer is traditionally a busy time at libraries. Extra activities for kids and teens can help neutralize summer learning loss while school is out. These programs and activities also encourage library users of all ages to become lifelong readers and learners.

Through the Summer Adventure program, kids ages 0-11 can read, learn, listen and explore with some favorite Minnesota animals. This flexible program can be tailored to each child's interests and learning needs.

Teens ages 12-18 can head out into the community to complete Summer Side Quests that promote literacy of all kinds, including reading, crafting, cooking and gaming.

Adults can join in the fun, too. With the 10,000 Experiences at Your Library program, participants embark on an adventure with Babe to make the most of summer reading and events.

The library is also hosting a wide range of live events throughout the summer. Popular performers visiting Washington County Library include Kalpulli KetzalCoatlucue, Circus Manduhai, Family ROCK, Dazzling Dave Yo-Yo Master, Roe Family Singers, The

Bazillions and more.

All programs are free and open to the public, although some require registration. Summer at Your Library is sponsored by Washington County Library, the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA), Minnesota State Fair, SEALIFE MN and the Minnesota Twins. For additional information, including a complete schedule of summer events, visit a Washington County Library branch, or visit WashCoLib.org.

Washington County Library

Centennial School Board approves 2026-27 budget

BY MADELINE DOLBY
QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS EDITOR

The Centennial School District is projecting a total deficit of \$8,004,990 million for the 2026-27 school year.

The deficit is a result of inflation adjustments for the updates for the long-range facilities maintenance projects, the voter-approved operating referendum plan, food ser-

vice capital projects, debt services changes, trust fund retirement payments and internal service fund.

At its most recent meeting, the Centennial School Board approved the 2026-27 budget. Total revenues are projected to be \$114,066,520; \$2.14 million of that comes from state funding and \$1.37 million comes from tax funding. Expenditures

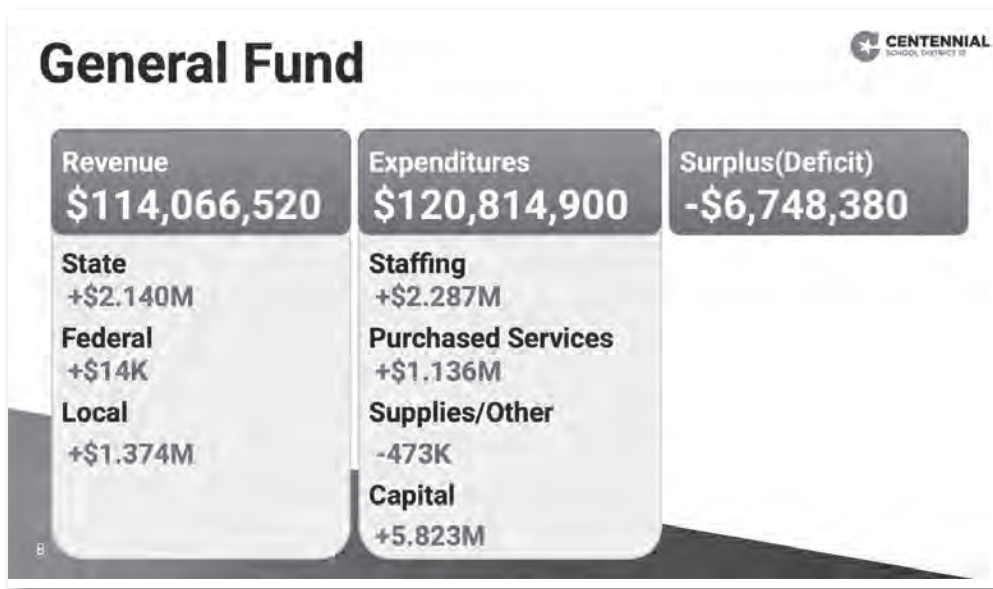
are expected to be \$120,814,900.

Executive Director of Business Patrick Chaffey explained the projection for the basic formula allowance is \$7,683 per student. This represents a 2.69% increase from the prior year's budget. The average daily membership (ADM) is projected to be 6,553.

Chaffey did express concerns about the incoming kindergarten class. "We're sitting at about 360 (students), the budget is for 430 (students). So, we're short about 70 students right now."

The food service fund is projecting a deficit of \$511,711. The community service fund is also projecting a deficit of \$222,614.

Chaffey walked the board through how the district plans to pay for the projected deficits. He said the district has some re-



This chart shows the break down of the district's general fund revenue and expenditures for the 2026-27 school year.

stricted accounts, such as long-term facilities maintenance and operating capital. To help with these accounts, which are governed by the state and the Minnesota Department of Education, Chaffey said the district will

take funds out of the reserve accounts for around \$1.1 million.

Around \$5 million was set aside for the long-range plan, according to Chaffey. He explained money has been set aside over the years knowing it would

go toward a larger scale project.

Editor Madeline Dolby can be reached at 651-407-1226 or quad-news@presspubs.com.

LUNDS & BYERLYS
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TUESDAY	6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S
WEDNESDAY	9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S 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 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR
SATURDAY	12:30PM BINGO @ SAK'S 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR 5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ JIMMY'S

WHAT'S HAPPENING

MAY 28, 2026

www.readthecitizen.com

THE CITIZEN 3

ONGOING EVENTS

CRIBBAGE
When: 1 p.m. Monday, June 1 and the 1st and 4th Monday of every month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo
Details: Senior citizens from Hugo and surrounding area are invited to an afternoon of cribbage. Coffee and refreshments served.
Contact: 651-429-4413

HUGO SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY '500'
When: 12:45 p.m. Thursday, June 4 and the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of every month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th Street N.
Details: Games begin at 12:45 p.m. Refreshments and coffee served. All senior citizens from the area invited.
Contact: 651-592-0369 or barbconnolly1958@yahoo.com

HUGO SENIOR CLUB
When: 1 p.m. Monday, June 18 and every 3rd Monday of every other month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th Street N.
Details: The meeting will include planning activities for future months and monthly luncheons. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Games will be played after the meeting.
Contact: Barb at 651-592-0369 or barbconnolly1958@yahoo.com

CURRENT EVENTS

LIONS VOLUNTEER PARK CONCERT
When: 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, May 27
Where: Lions Volunteer Park, 5524 Upper 146th St. N., Hugo
Details: "A Hard Days Night" performance by Beatles tribute band. Bring lawn chairs.
Contact: 651-762-6342 or ci.hugo.mn.us

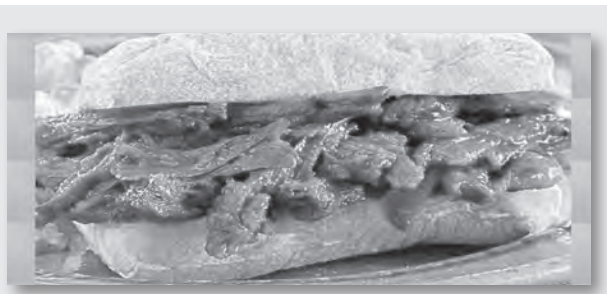
WARGO NATURE CENTER RESTORATION PROJECT DAY
When: 10 a.m.- Noon Thursday, May 28
Where: Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Help restore the natural areas at Wargo Nature Center. Projects will vary by time of year and needs of the site, but may include invasive species removal, garbage clean up or light trail and park maintenance. Register through Anoka County Parks.
Contact: www.anokacountyparks.com

BIKE RODEO
When: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 30
Where: Mahtomedi District Education Center parking lot
Details: Event for children ages preK-11 to learn essential bike safety skills through activity stations and obstacle navigation. Helmets and registration required.
Contact: 651-407-2018 or communityed.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us

CONSTRUCTION BRIEF

Update: County Road J, I-35E interchange

County Road J and Otter Lake Road are fully open, along with all roads and ramps within the project area, to include the northbound exit ramp. Ramsey County encourages drivers to slow down and watch for workers as they are still working in the area. Detour signs are in place and businesses will remain open on County Road J during construction. Learn more about the project at tinyurl.com/kmnh8b9p.



BBQ DRIVE-THRU
When: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 7
Where: Forest Lake Masonic Lodge, 119 8th Ave. SE
Details: The Masons will serve up savory smoked Italian pork or smoked pork mac and cheese sandwiches. Attendees are encouraged to arrive early, as the event is expected to sell out. Proceeds will be given to Memories Made Outdoors, a nonprofit that supports those who serve by creating destination events across the Midwest with activities at no cost.
Contact: forestlakemasons.com

GENEALOGY WORKSHOP
When: 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, May 30
Where: White Bear Lake Armory, 2228 4th St. White Bear Lake
Details: The Harriet G. Walker Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution will provide tips and tricks for finding out if ancestors were part of the American Revolution, and how to join the DAR.
Contact: whitebearhistory.org

GIRL SCOUTS SUMMER FUN: MAKE NEW FRIENDS
When: 3-4 p.m. Sunday, May 31
Where: Podvin Park, 1700

9th St. White Bear Lake
Details: Girls entering grades K-3 can try out Girl Scouts. Play games, make a craft and meet new friends.
Contact: forms.gle/Yep-MmHospoKzejCT8 or 651-303-1584

GREAT LAKES & GREAT ART: HISTORY OF ART IN MINNESOTA
When: 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 2
Where: White Bear Lake Senior Center, 2399 Cedar Ave.
Details: Seminar explores the iconic and emerging artists who have shaped the state's cultural landscape since the 1700's,

and looks at the evolving local art market. Registration required.
Contact: 651-407-2018 or communityed.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us

WOMEN'S SELF DEFENSE SEMINAR
When: 5-8 p.m. Tuesday, June 2
Where: Mahtomedi District Education Center gym
Details: Learn practical self-defense strategies including preemptive tactics, escape maneuvers, verbal interventions and more. Students 13-15 must attend with adult. Registration required.
Contact: 651-407-2018 or communityed.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us

MICK STERLING PRESENTS: HEART & SOUL! THE MUSIC OF HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS
When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 6 and 2 p.m. Sunday, June 7
Where: Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: Three-piece horn section and vocals pay tribute to Huey Lewis and the News. Ticket information online.
Contact: 651-478-7427 or lakeshoreplayers.org

CAR CARE 101: ESSENTIAL VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SKILLS
When: 9 a.m.-noon Tuesday, June 9
Where: 916 Interesiate School District Body Shop, 3300 Century Ave. N., White Bear Lake
Details: Hands-on class for ages 13+ covers the basics of vehicle maintenance. Registration required.
Contact: 651-407-2018 or communityed.mahtomedi.k12.mn.us

100 YEARS OF THE HIPPODROME
When: 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, June 9
Where: White Bear Lake Armory, 2228 4th St.
Details: Hear the stories of the White Bear Hippodrome, from its beginnings as an exhibition building for the Ramsey County Fairgrounds to one of the metro area's first indoor rinks.
Contact: whitebearhistory.org

FRIDAYS WITH FIREFIGHTERS
When: 10 a.m. to noon Friday, June 12
Where: Hugo Fire Station, 5323 140th St. N
Details: Stop by the fire station to meet firefighters, go for a ride on a fire engine, jump in the bounce house and more.
Contact: <https://www.ci.hugo.mn.us/hfd>

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Community garage sale helps raise funds for COTA

Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA) will host its first ever "Heart for Evelyn" benefit garage sale, in honor of Evelyn Otto. It will be part of Centerville's city-wide sale days.

Centerville's city-wide sale days will take place from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Thursday, June 4 and Friday, June 5, and from 8 a.m.-noon on Saturday, June 6.

The garage sale, hosted by Evelyn's grandmother who resides in Centerville, will take place at 7040 Eagle Trail. On Thursday, there will be coffee and donuts available for a donation, along with a bake sale including cookies and other home baked treats.

All proceeds from the sale are raised for COTA in honor of Evelyn



CONTRIBUTED

Evelyn Otto

to assist with transplant-related expenses. Evelyn, born in 2020, has already undergone multiple open-heart surgeries. She has been diagnosed with Dilated Cardiomyopathy and needs a new heart.

Madeline Dolby

POLITICAL BRIEF

Centerville searches for new city council member

The city of Centerville is accepting applications from residents to fill a vacant seat on the city council until January 2027. Residents who are interested in being considered for the vacancy can fill out an application online or stop by City Hall. Completed applications should be emailed to City Administrator Athanasia Lewis.

For additional information contact Lewis at 651-792-7931.

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Service industry challenges

In general, I try to resist the impulse to delve into the dark and seemingly endless rabbit hole of conspiracy theories. However, with the continuing and rapid rise of prices on many of the various services we have come to rely on, combined with the complicated and unpredictable maze of modern customer service, it can sometimes seem like there is a plan or business model that is purposefully stacking the odds against us. The steady rise in the prices of internet connectivity, mobile phones, electricity, insurance, waste collection and other services can at times feel quite demoralizing. Fortunately, the occasional success and positive problem resolution have helped keep a glimmer of hope alive.



Angle of View
Paul Dols

An example of a thought provoking and entertaining counterpoint to conspiracy theories is a video I recently watched featuring astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson debating the moon landing with internet influencer Logan Paul, who starts the conversation with "You think we went to the moon?" The astrophysicist responds with "I know we went to the moon" and playfully

maintains his sense of humor while backing up his point of view with logical explanations to the skeptical young influencer's questions. Citing the evidence of the moon rocks that were shared with laboratories around the world, he said "to be in denial of those means you are intellectually and emotionally disconnected." Tyson explains how gravity works on the moon after Paul shows him a video of an astronaut and comments, "Like doesn't he not look ridiculous hopping around on the moon?" Tyson explained the physics and fuel ratio needed to send a rocket to the moon and back. "Where do you think those rockets were going? To the Piggly Wiggly down the street?" Tyson also pondered why the trip to the moon would be faked nine times, "That's weird. Why would you do that?" He attempts to sum things up in simple terms with the hypothetical example of if NASA had asked Hollywood for help faking the moon landings they would have come to the conclusion that it would be easier to do it "on location."

A recent encounter with customer service was not the result of a conspiracy, but instead ineptitude and challenging communication. Early one morning, after hearing voices and mechanical noise, I looked outside to discover three large garbage trucks converged in front of our house. I hurried out to investigate and saw that a lift holding a recycling container was tangled in an overhead wire that provides internet service. I didn't have a chance to say a word before one of the crew members abruptly informed me that, "This is your fault! The wire is too low!" I was taken aback and explained to him nothing like this had ever happened before and that maybe his crew members weren't watching what they were doing. The lift was finally untangled from the wire and the trucks left. The wire was now noticeably stretched and drooping lower because a fastener had been pulled loose from the house. Worried that the wire could get completely ripped down by another passing truck, I found some orange twine to create a temporary fix and called our cable provider's customer service number. After waiting on hold, I explained the situation. The service representative told me, in her opinion, I should bury the wire. I told her that wasn't going to be happening today and to please schedule a service visit. The scheduled time came and went, so I called again and was told the problem had been resolved and the case closed. Apparently a technician did a drive-by and didn't notice the bright orange twine holding the wire up. Realizing that most of us are probably trying to do the best we can, I made the decision not to vent my frustration on the technician who returned the next day. I sincerely thanked him after he promptly and efficiently fixed the problem and we both went about our days.

Paul Dols is photojournalist/website editor for Press Publications. He can be reached at 651-407-1238



Built by community: The Class of 2026

The end of the school year is an exciting time for students, who look forward to a bit of rest and relaxation in the Minnesota summer sunshine. With final exams completed and projects turned in, they're ready to head to the lake – or quite possibly to the long line at Cup and Cone – to celebrate another successful year.



Movers & Shakers
Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak

The excitement is similar for the adults in their lives, who are likely eager for the fast pace of May to slow to a steadier rhythm. But this season is also bittersweet, especially for families watching students prepare for their next chapter. Whether it's graduating seniors preparing for college or careers, elementary students getting ready for the adventure of middle school, or kindergartners proudly anticipating becoming "big kids" as first graders, this time of year often brings reflection alongside the celebration.

Each spring, I find myself wondering where the time has gone. That feeling is especially poignant this year, as I watch my own son prepare to graduate from White Bear Lake Area High School.

This year's senior class holds a unique distinction: They are the

first White Bear graduates in decades to attend high school in the same building for all four years. They navigated their freshmen year while construction crews worked around them to build the three-story addition and field house connected to the old "round building." During the middle of their sophomore year, they moved into the addition while renovations took place in the former North Campus space. In their junior year, they became part of the district's unified grades 9-12 high school, remaining on Division Avenue as the seniors returned from South Campus.

Throughout those years of transition, these students embraced the opportunities before them. They explored more than 50 college-credit options, participated in programs connected to nine career pathway areas, and engaged in hands-on learning experiences designed to prepare them for life beyond high school. They also found connection and belonging through athletics, activities, clubs, arts, and countless extracurricular opportunities that allowed them to expand their interests outside the classroom.

The confidence, resilience and adaptability they gained along the way will serve them well as they move into the next phase of their lives.

While our graduates prepare to spread their wings, what they leave behind is equally important: a community that has supported them every step of the way. You

are the community that cheered from the sidelines while students wore oversized Rec T-shirts and learned the basics of t-ball. You are the neighbors and families who lined the streets in orange and black for the annual Homecoming Parade. You are the volunteers who gave their time in classrooms, on field trips, at events and behind the scenes. You are the voters and supporters who invested in innovative learning spaces and programming opportunities that continue to benefit students and the broader community.

In White Bear Lake Area Schools, we know that showing up matters.

Students thrive when they know they are surrounded by people who care about them, encourage them, and believe in their potential. The success of this graduating class is impressive, but it is not theirs alone. It belongs to the families, educators, mentors, neighbors, and community members who supported them along the way.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 and thank you to everyone who has shown up for these students through the years. They are ready for the future because of your support, and our community is stronger for having cheered them on.

Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak is the superintendent of White Bear Lake Area Schools.

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- Due to space limitations, letters that don't address local issues are not guaranteed publication.
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- Submissions containing libelous or derogatory statements will not be published.
- All letters are subject to editing.
- Deadline is 5 p. m., Wednesday of the week prior to publication.
- To submit a letter, e-mail it to citizennews@presspubs.com, fax it to 651-429-1242 or mail or deliver it to Press Publications, 4779 Bloom Ave., White Bear Lake, MN 55110.
- Press Publications publishes 99% of the letters to the editor that meet the guidelines.



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WASHINGTON COUNTY BRIEFS

County completes final projects funded by COVID-19 dollars

Washington County has fully expended its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, marking the completion of all the projects funded through ARPA. Washington County was a recipient of \$50,975,893 in ARPA funds to address the expenses and impacts of COVID-19 and offset revenue shortfalls related to the pandemic. The funds were obligated in December 2024 and have been spent on the following areas:

- County infrastructure improvements: \$9,526,847
- Investments in water, sewer and broadband: \$2,750,620
- Supporting the public health needs of county residents and staff: \$37,464,101
- Supporting workers, residents, businesses and others negatively impacted by the pandemic: \$1,234,325

The projects included replacing election equipment, replacing the county's telephone system, installing broadband internet infrastructure in underserved communities, making building modifications and funding construction of the Emergency Housing Services Building and Bluestem Apartments, among others. To learn more about the county's ARPA-funded projects, visit WashingtonCountyMN.gov/ARPA.

County Board approves contract for County Highway 4 roadway project

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$2,457,845 contract with Park Construction Company for the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 4/170th Street roadway improvement project in May Township. The project will repave CSAH 4 from CSAH 15 (Manning Trail) to CSAH 3 (Olinda Trail) in May Township. In addition to pavement resurfacing, the project includes drainage and ditch improvements, a new right-turn lane at CSAH 3 (Norell Avenue), replacement of aging highway signs and updated pavement striping.

The current roadway pavement condition index (PCI) is 34, placing it in the red zone and indicating significant deterioration. The roadway was originally constructed in 1961, with pavement improvements completed in 1992 and 2004. Three contractors submitted proposals, and the low bid was submitted by Park Construction Company.

Spot mowing and spraying for noxious weeds begins June 15

Washington County staff will be spot mowing and spraying for noxious weeds along more than 220 miles of rural roadsides June 15 through July 30, and again in October. This is being done to help comply with the Minnesota State Noxious Weed law administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Mowing will be used to prevent seed set, and the following herbicides will be used to spray the mowed areas: Escort

XP, Milestone VM and Tordon.

Property owners who do not want their roadside sprayed or mowed and are willing to take responsibility for controlling and eradicating noxious weeds on the adjacent roadside may obtain "do not spray" signs. Visit the Washington County North Shop at 11660 Myerson Road in Stillwater Township to pick up signage or call public works staff at 651-430-4300. Be prepared to provide an address, the nearest cross street and a description of where "do not spray" signs will be located.

County will continue homelessness case management and outreach services

Washington County will continue to provide case management and outreach services to community members experiencing homelessness and serious mental illness. The County Board of Commissioners has extended the term of the Project for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) funding through the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

The grant agreement was extended to June 30, 2027, adding one additional year of funding and increased the current grant agreement total from \$668,963 to \$963,963. The PATH program funds two full-time staff who provide case management and outreach services. The program also offers limited direct financial assistance to help people obtain or maintain housing.

County Board approves design contract for County Road 50 corridor study

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$408,567 contract with KLJ Engineering to provide design services for the County Road (CR) 50 Corridor Study in Forest Lake and Scandia.

The corridor study will analyze current and future needs along CR 50 from Trunk Highway (TH) 61 to County Highway 15 (Manning Trail) to provide a vision that helps guide future improvement opportunities. The study aims to build public consensus on a recommended set of corridor improvements by combining community input with data on existing conditions, opportunities and constraints. It focuses on identifying pedestrian, bicycle, safety, drainage and stormwater needs; evaluating rightofway and potential property impacts; and assessing challenges tied to proposed upgrades.

The work also includes developing an access management plan, exploring possible realignments near the 90degree curves between Goodview Avenue and Ingersoll Avenue — including a more direct TH 61/CSAH 15 connection — and preparing cost estimates and funding strategies for the recommended improvements.

CR 50 & TH 61 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT



Washington County

CONTRIBUTED

HUGO BITS AND PIECES

• Members of the Hugo Lions Club visited the City Council to share highlights of the upcoming Hugo Good Neighbor Days, scheduled for June 5-7 at Lions Volunteer Park. (See more information in this week's issue.) The council has agreed to co-sponsor the event, waive the special event permit fee and provide Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies during the event.

• The city of Hugo will pay the sheriff's office \$1,768,814 for services in 2026. That breaks down to \$102.56 per resident. (See the full story in this week's issue.)

• The city has received quotes from two contractors for the placement of Class 5 modified gravel to be placed on the city's rural roads. Dresel Contracting provided the low quote of \$14.69 per ton delivered. The city will need approximately 5,280 tons for a total contract of \$77,563. The roads

included in this year's re-graveling project are Ingersoll Avenue, 175th Street, Inwood Avenue and 180th Street.

• An agreement between the cities of Hugo and Scandia has been amended. In February 2015, the council approved a contract with the city of Scandia for the administration of the state building code. Under this agreement, the city of Hugo has provided plan review, inspection, scheduling and reporting services for all building permits issued by Scandia.

Revisions to the agreement have been made to remove plan review and inspection services for state-licensed facilities. The city of Hugo no longer maintains state delegation for those activities. Additionally, the agreement was updated to reflect the mileage rate to follow the current IRS mileage rate for business.

• Blacksmith Lounge has been

granted a special event permit for all its events in 2026, which include four auctions, seven car shows, one motorcycle swap meet and one White Bear Lake Hockey fundraising event.

• The Hugo Lions will once again serve alcohol at the Tough Mudder event, after the council approved a temporary liquor license. The event is scheduled for June 27 at Wild Wings Game Farm.

• Some changes have been made to the city's capital improvement plan for equipment relating to the fire department. (Look for the full story in the next issue of The Citizen.)

• Some members of the City Council, as well as city staff, may attend the annual League of Minnesota Cities Conference scheduled for June 24-26 in Rochester.

Shannon Granholm

POLICE REPORTS

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

- Deputies were dispatched out to the Hugo Elementary School parking lot in the 14000 block of Francesca Avenue N. at 6:17 p.m. April 8 on a report of two individuals engaging in lewd activity outside the school and inside a vehicle.
- A stalled vehicle was reported to be stuck in the middle of the intersection of Frenchman Road and Victor Hugo Blvd. N. at 6:02 p.m. April 9 and creating a road hazard. A private tow truck carried the vehicle out of harm's way.
- A motorist in the 15000 block of Oneka Parkway N. received a written warning at 7:10 p.m. April 9 for failing to make a complete stop at a stop sign. Another motorist received a written warning at 7:20 p.m. April 9 at the same location for failure to provide proof of insurance, following a traffic stop for failing to turn on headlights while it was raining. The driver told deputies her husband had access to the insurance card and promised to have it sent to deputies within 10 days. A third motorist was warned about speeding at 1:21 a.m. April 11 in the 14000 block of Forest Blvd. N.

• **Deputies stopped a vehicle towing another vehicle in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. at 2:18 a.m. April 11 and advised them that due to the driver's speed on the highway and the time of day, they should find another way to tow the vehicle. The subjects**

told deputies they had a trailer and could load the vehicle on it. Deputies helped, and the parties avoided any citations.

- Deputies responded to a report of juveniles playing with a fire extinguisher from Lions Park at 12:44 p.m. April 11 the 4000 block of Evergreen Drive. Deputies extinguished the hijinks by taking the object away to be placed in the Hugo substation office until it could be returned to its owner.
- Residents in the 15000 block of Ethan Trail N. at 5:25 p.m. April 12 reported toilet paper being littered on their home. Ring camera footage showed several juveniles wearing masks throwing toilet paper onto the house. There was also a white powdery substance resembling baking powder that had been dumped onto the driveway before it rained overnight. Photographs were taken and samples of the powder were uploaded to visual labs.
- A dog bite was reported from the 15000 block of Fanning Drive at 6:52 p.m. April 12.
- Juveniles were back at Lions Park in the 5000 block of Upper 146th Street N. and generated a complaint at 7:07 p.m. April 12. Deputies arrived on scene to advise the youths about their behavior.

• **A loud motorist was cited at 9:56 p.m. April 12 in the 15000 block of Enfield Avenue N. for any one of three offenses, after being pulled over for**

loud exhaust and exceeding the speed limit. The driver also failed to yield to an emergency vehicle before finally pulling into his driveway.

- A juvenile in the 4000 block of 126th Street N. at 11:18 p.m. April 12 reported her bag stolen from Pioneer Park in Little Canada and was advised to contact the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office. The girl said she had already contacted them but wanted deputies to help her retrieve her purse.
- Two motorists were cited for expired registration on April 13, the first at 12:45 a.m. in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. and the second at 6:51 p.m. in the 15000 block of Oneka Parkway N.
- Boats were reported damaged and items stolen from them at 7:50 p.m. April 13 in the 5000 block of 130th Street N.
- A motorist on Victor Hugo Blvd. and Rosemary Way N. received a citation at midnight April 14 for having the vehicle's license plate on the windshield.
- Residents in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. at 8:11 p.m. April 14 reported finding items from the previous owners that looked like live ordinance. U. S. Air Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) technicians advised everyone that the items were old mortars but were inert. EOD then removed the items.

Loretta Harding

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS



PHOTOS BY HUGO FIRE DEPARTMENT | CONTRIBUTED

Sparks from grinder start fire at industrial building in Hugo

At approximately 11:15 on Wednesday, May 13, the Hugo Fire Department was dispatched to a woodworking shop on fire near Highway 61 and 130th Street North.

Upon arrival, smoke and flames were visible coming from the side of the building.

The cause of the fire is the result of sparks from a grinder that a contractor was using to work on the exterior of the building. The fire caught the insulation in the wall on fire, and an employee used a fire extinguisher to try and stop the fire from spreading. Unfortunately, the fire spread inside the concealed walls due to the wind. All occupants evacuated safely and no injuries were reported.

Fire crews were quickly able to stop the spread of the fire, but the unit involved sustained significant smoke, water and fire damage. Fire crews were on scene for approximately three hours.

Auto aid was received from White Bear Lake, Forest Lake, Lino Lakes and Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View fire departments. Washington County Sheriff's deputies and M Health Fairview Ambulance also assisted on scene.



Lightning strike sparks Hugo townhouse fire

A lightning strike is blamed for an early morning townhouse fire Monday, May 18 that displaced a local family and triggered a multi-agency emergency response.

The Hugo Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire at 6:37 a.m. in the 13400 block of Europa Court North. Upon arrival, crews observed smoke rising from the roof of a two-story unit.

While residents evacuated safely, a family cat remained trapped inside the building. Firefighters entered the home, quickly extinguished a fire discovered in the attic and successfully located and rescued the missing pet. Out of caution, neighboring units were also evacuated.

An investigation by the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Division revealed that lightning from a Sunday night storm likely struck a satellite dish on the building. The electrical charge traveled along a low-voltage cable or dryer vent, igniting a smoldering fire within the attic's cellulose insulation that eventually breached the structure.

Crews remained on the scene to check the walls and ceilings with thermal imaging cameras for hidden hotspots and ventilated adjacent units to clear smoke before allowing neighbors to return.

Officials deemed the affected

townhome uninhabitable. The Hugo Lions Club is providing financial assistance to support the displaced family.

The Hugo Fire Department was assisted on the scene by emergency crews from White Bear Lake, Forest Lake, Lino Lakes and Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View, alongside the Washington County Sheriff's Office and M Health Fairview Ambulance.

State, local authorities investigate fatal fire in Grant

At approximately 6:45 p.m. Thursday, May 14, the Stillwater Fire Department responded to a house fire in the 10000 block of 60th Street North in Grant.

Stillwater Engine 1 was the first to arrive on the scene and confirmed a structure fire with heavy smoke. Crews entered the two-story home and discovered one occupant in the home, unconscious, near the main floor stairwell that led to the second level. Crews removed the occupant from the home, and Lakeview Ambulance transported the patient to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, where the occupant later died.

Once the occupant was removed from the home, firefighters were able to knock down the fire within 10 minutes. Firefighters remained on the scene conducting overhaul operations and to assist investigators from the Minnesota State Fire Marshal Division.

Fire departments from Bayport, Hugo, Lake Elmo and Mahtomedi also assisted with the fire, along with the Washington County Sheriff's Office and Lakeview Health Emergency Medical Services.

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ANNUAL REPORT: Council thanks Sheriff Starry for years of service

FROM PAGE 1

time of day, they are encouraged to call 911.

“Please, if you see something call 911. We are here 24/7,” Starry said. “We have deputies right here in the city of Hugo and we would rather have you call when it is occurring rather than a couple hours later and say, ‘I didn’t want to bother you.’ You are never bothering us. Please give us a call.”

Traffic complaints, mainly related to speed, continue to be a concern for Hugo citizens.

“We get a lot of calls related to speeding vehicles and traffic complaints,” Starry noted. “In 2017, we had 555 citations issued; in 2025 we almost doubled that. A lot of citations are being given out, but rest assured there is a lot more education and warnings that are being given as well.”

Starry added that it is not uncommon for deputies to give a warning for a first offense if it is not “excessive.”

In 2025, the WCSO issued 725 petty misdemeanor citations and 273 misdemeanor citations. Of those, 448 were for non-moving violations, 382 for moving violations, 87 warnings and nine accidents.

Other Hugo highlights include:

- There were 170 arrests in 2025, or 12 more arrests than in 2024.

- There were 170 motor vehicle accidents, 19 more than in 2024. Starry noted many of the motor vehicle accidents are car vs. deer.

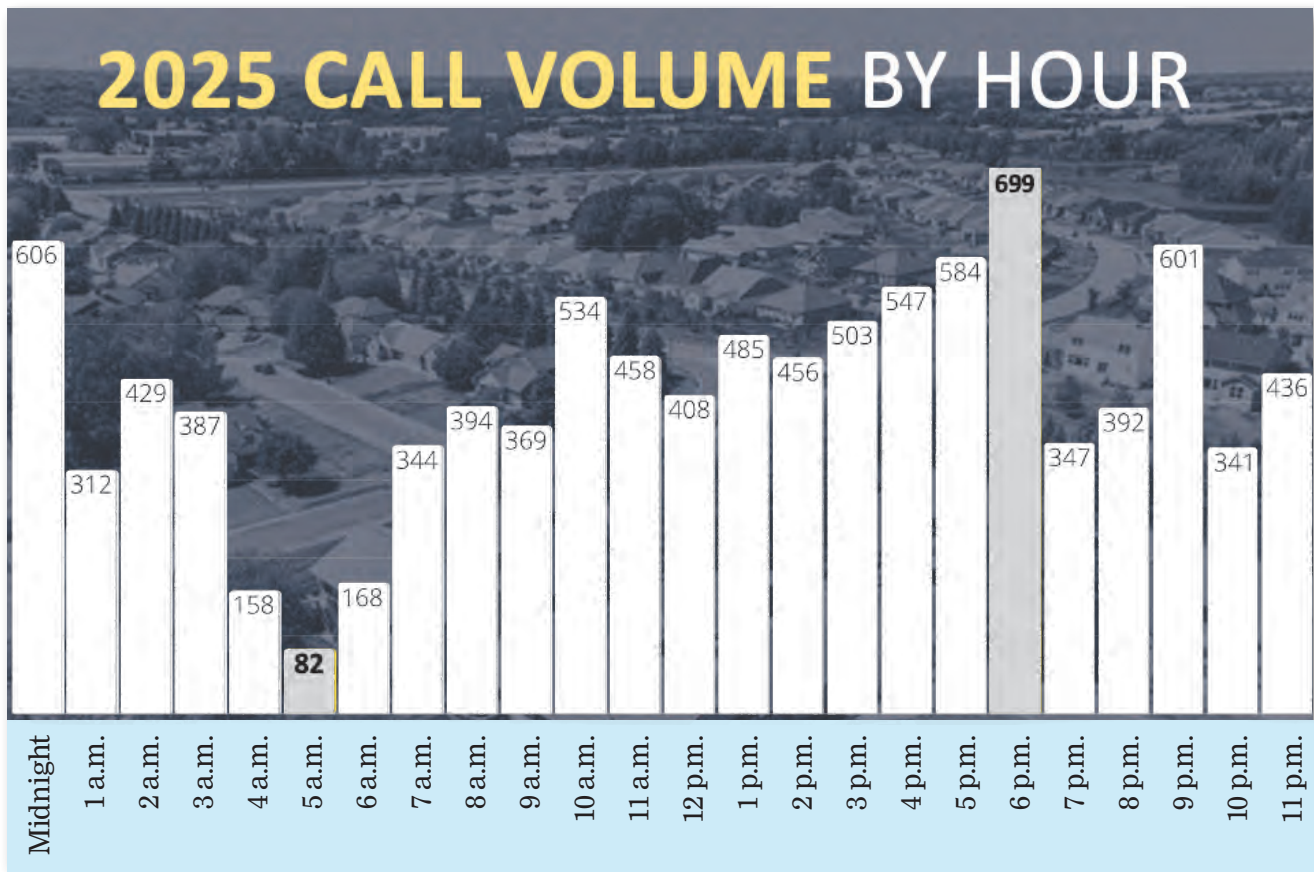
- There were 128 mental health/person-in-crisis calls, three more calls than in 2024.

Another trend the department has been responding to is an increase of calls related to e-bikes.

“I think every city is struggling with this right now,” Starry said. “The number of complaints and accidents that are out there tend to be high ... Our deputies are out there educating adults and kids on the laws.”

Council thanks sheriff for years of service

Mayor Tom Weidt thanked the sheriff for his years of service and friendship over the years. “You have done a great job as sheriff. I don’t think I’ve ever seen



In 2025, the busiest time of day for calls to the sheriff's office was 6 p.m. The slowest was 5 a.m.

CHART CONTRIBUTED

anybody show up at more stuff than you and your wife over the last 10 years. You have made yourself a hard act to follow,” Weidt said. “I hope the best for you and your family, and I appreciate everything you have done.”

City Council Member Becky Petryk thanked Starry for the “outstanding job” he has done, noting that all of the staff that have joined the WCSO under his wing

also do an outstanding job.

City Council Member Mike Miron added, “Thank you for your tremendous service not only to the community of Hugo but the entire county... we wish you a very well-deserved retirement.”

Managing Editor Shannon Granholm can be reached at 651-407-1227 or citizennews@presspubs.com



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Marines



Cmdr. Katie Schulz
Navy



Sgt. Al Vogel
Marines
Vietnam



Cpl. Donald F. Nelson
Army
Korea



Harold R. Wilcox Sr.
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Tec 5
WWII



Gary Wilcox
Army
Sgt E-5
Vietnam War



David Juutilainen
Marines



David Conde
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Corporal E-4v



Elmer Pedersen
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Army
Corporal



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WWII



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Muriel Stine
Navy
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SPC Hunter Hallstrom
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William Stille
Navy



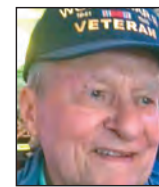
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Army
Private 1st Class



MSgt. Paul V. Jacobson
Marines
WWII and
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SSgt. Peter Laramy
Air Force



Ray Bean
Navy
Quartermaster
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Myron Lee Nelson
Army
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Operator



Ron Radermacher
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Sgt. Matthew Peterson
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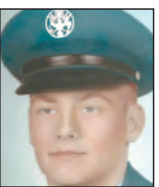
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Earl B. Wismer
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Irvin J. Christensen
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Norman I. Christensen
Army
SPC E-4-1



Rory D. Christensen
Army
Sergeant



Roy D. Christensen Jr.
Army
Sergeant



Roy D. Christensen Sr.
Army
SPC5



Alex Park
Marines
USS Iwo Jima



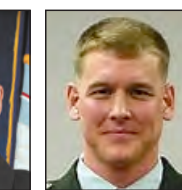
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Navy
Petty Officer 1st
Class
SeaBee



Elden D Arcand
KIA
Army



Victor LaCount
Private First
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CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

• Superintendent Jeff Holmberg recognized the Centennial Area Education Foundation (CAEF) and the support the foundation provides to the district. Co-President Suzy Guthmueller said earlier this month the foundation was about to give out \$15,000 in scholarships to students. She added CAEF was able to raise approximately \$70,000 at its annual gala held in March. Guthmeuller presented Holmberg with a check for \$10,600 to the school district to purchase tubas for the middle school and high school band as part of CAEF's Fund the Need project.

• The board has approved the purchase of "Into Literature" from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. The curriculum will be used in 9-12 English Learning

Arts (ELA). The purchase is for five years, in the amount of approximately \$368,898. This includes student and staff resources. The curriculum will be purchased from the vendor on July 1, 2026. According to Executive Director of Teaching and Learning Mark Grossklaus, the K-5 ELA curriculum will be brought to the board in the spring of 2027.

• The pupil transportation contracts have been approved by the board for type 3 services. The contracts are with Collaborative Student Transportation of Minnesota, Safe Tree Transportation and E-efficient School Transportation. Each contract, according to Executive Director of Business Services Patrick Chaffey, will be five-year terms and have a rate increase of 1.5%

to 3% each year.

• Residents within the Centennial School District will see two additional questions on their ballot this November, following board approval in a 6-0 vote. The questions are regarding a referendum and bond for the Centennial Long Range Plan (see full story in this week's issue).

• Chaffey will serve as a voting trustee of the Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund Plus until this fall. The board approved the appointment in a 5-0 vote (Vice Chair Sue Linser was not present).

• The board adopted the 2026-2027 budget. According to Chaffey, total revenues are expected to be \$114,066,520 million and expenditures are projected to be \$120,814,900 million (see full story

in this week's issue).

• The board accepted several contributions made to Blue Heron Elementary, Golden Lake Elementary, Rice Lake Elementary and Centennial High School.

• Graduation is scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 13 at 3 p.m. at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul.

The next work session will be at 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 1 in the district office. The next regular school board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Monday, June 15.

Madeline Dolby



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Arts and CULTURE 2026

EMERGING ARTIST: LYDIA JERSAK

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

White Bear Lake Area High School Senior Lydia Jersak truly embodies the “emerging” part of Emerging Artist. Her freshman year, she was a backup stagehand. This year, Jersak has had substantial supporting roles in three of White Bear’s shows. What changed? According to Jersak, she started having more fun.



Lydia Jersak

“I was really nervous to be on stage, because I feel people are like, ‘Oh, you either have it or you don’t.’ And I was like, ‘Well, what if I don’t have it?’ ... I could help out with the show, but I could never be the one on stage,” recalled Jersak.

With each passing play, though, Jersak took on more backstage responsibility, eventually becoming the puppeteer for Audrey II in “Little Shop of Horrors.” Jersak remembered, “The first time we did a full run through, and I took off that plant

head, everyone in the house cheered for me, and I was like, ‘Wow, this is really cool.’”

Last winter, Jersak decided to try out for the role of Tilly in White Bear’s competitive One-Act play, “She Kills Monsters.” “I stepped into it, and my interpretation of Tilly was completely different from the Broadway version, but I got a lot of compliments on that because it was unique.” She also realized how freeing acting could be. “In real life, I overthink things a lot—‘Am I making the right amount of eye contact?’ ‘How much do I say to this person to where they like me, but I’m not annoying to them?’ But acting? I just go for it because I’m playing a character.”

Jersak now looks back at her freshman and sophomore years with a bit of frustration. “They weren’t necessarily a waste, but I wish I could get them back because



junior year and senior year have been so amazing for me,” she said.

Jersak’s impressive theater resume this year includes three distinct performances: The stepmother Madame in “Rodger’s and Hammerstein’s Cinderella,” guidance counselor Siobhan in “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime,” and eldest sister Jane Bennett in “Pride and Prejudice.” Jersak believes her variety of roles comes from her attitude toward acting. “I see myself as Play-Doh, and I can mold myself into whatever the next challenge is.”

Going forward, Jersak will appear in Children’s Performing Arts’ summer musical “Newsies,” and will attend Century College’s theater program in the fall. Now that she has confidence in her acting abilities, Jersak plans to strengthen her singing and dancing abilities. “I’m not currently a triple threat, but I want to get to that point,” she stated. While that goal might seem lofty for someone who has not even been acting for two years, Jersak remarked, “Even if my success doesn’t happen right away, I did it for ‘She Kills Monsters,’ I did it



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

for ‘Cinderella.’ Why can’t I do it again?”

Jersak next appears as Jane Bennett in White Bear Lake Area High School’s production of “Pride and Prejudice,” which runs May 22-24, 5040 Division Ave. Door A. For tickets, visit sites.google.com/isd624.org/musical-theatre/tickets.

‘WICKED,’ ‘FROZEN’ ACTOR EMILY KRISTIN MORRIS TO PERFORM AT HANIFL

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Broadway actress Emily Kristen Morris—who played Elphaba in the “Wicked” national tour, Princess Elsa in “Frozen” at the Paramount Theatre in Chicago, and has over 1.5 million followers on TikTok—will play Sarah Brown this summer in “Guys and Dolls” at The Chanhassen. On June 1 and June 22, however, Morris will perform at the Hanifl Performing Arts Center.

At 4 p.m. Monday, June 1, Morris will conduct a vocal master class on the Hanifl stage. “The master class for anyone interested in learning about Broadway, learning about music, or learning about singing,” explained Production and Operations Manager Laura Long. “She’s a positive, uplifting person. I know people are going to enjoy listening to her.”

At 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 22, Morris will perform CPA’s Summer Benefit Concert, delivering a dynamic night of Broadway favorites, beloved classics, and heartfelt moments. Accompanying her is Wesley Frye, a Twin Cities musician and music director who has previously collaborated with Lakeshore Players. VIP tickets for this event include dinner at 5 p.m. and a meet-and-greet with Morris at 5:30 p.m.

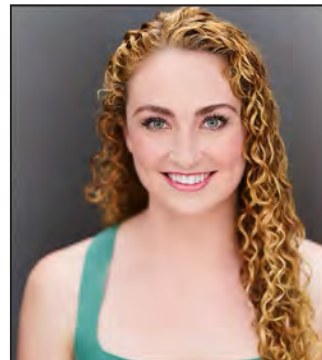
Children’s Performing Arts’ Executive Director Sharon Hanifl-Lee commented, “We want to give people in our community

things they may not be able to otherwise experience, like seeing Emily Kristen Morris when she’s in a Broadway show. So we’re bringing Broadway here.”

Education and Programming Manager Braylon Lane added, “Having Emily Christian Morris is a representation of our dedication and commitment to exposing the youth to opportunities in terms of performing on stage, growing as performers, and growing their life skills.”

Lane also feels that hosting Morris shows young people interested in theater that their goals are not out of reach. “Somebody that you see online that you are a fan of is not unattainable. You can meet those people. They are normal people just like you. You can breathe the same air,” Lane remarked while laughing. “It reinforces kids’ aspirations of being professional performers. This is possible; they can do it.”

For tickets to Emily Kristen Morris’s master class or concert, visit childrensperformingartsmn.ludus.com.



CONTRIBUTED

Emily Kristen Morris

HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS ‘REVOLUTIONARY’ TRAVELING EXHIBIT

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

This summer, the United States of America will celebrate 250 years. Our nation’s founding, however, was not a certainty to the people who lived in the colonies in the 1770s. To help illustrate the reality people of that time faced, the Harriet G. Walker chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) created the American Revolution Experience exhibit. The White Bear Lake Area Historical Society will host this exhibit from May 29-June 6, with a members-only sneak peek on May 28.

“It’s an interactive exhibit which places visitors back into

the Revolutionary Generation,” explained Community Engagement Director Allison Lincoln. “They were faced with a difficult choice: pledge loyalty to the Patriot cause and a new nation or remain loyal to the King and the British Empire.”

In conjunction with the exhibit, the DAR will also host a genealogy seminar from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at the White Bear Lake Armory. During the program, the DAR will help attendees discover if their ancestors fought in the Revolutionary War.

“By collaborating with the DAR and the League of Women Voters we are able to bring these exhibits and their supporting programming to

our community,” said White Bear Lake Area Historical Society Executive Director Sara Hanson. “We are thrilled to have the space at the armory and the ability to host these traveling exhibits to highlight different elements of the 250th anniversary theme.”

While Minnesota and White Bear Lake did not become part of the United States until the second half of the 1800s, Hanson felt that, this year, the historical society could increase their scope. “We are always excited about sharing the stories of our past,” said Hanson, “but the 250th anniversary of the United States gives us a great opportunity to pull in wider stories that depict our 250+ year history.”

Lincoln added that, this

summer and fall, the historical society has a number of exhibits planned that highlight different eras of our past, particularly The Wall that Heals—a three-quarter-scale replica of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C., coming to Polar Lakes Park from Aug. 6-9.

“WBLAHS has got something for everyone this spring/summer to celebrate this monumental anniversary,” Lincoln concluded, “and we’re so excited to be at the heart of it all, leading the charge for our community to get involved in our country’s history.”

For more information about White Bear Lake Area Historical Society’s events, visit whitebearhistory.org/events.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR THEATER SUMMER CAMPS

All camps take place at Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake. To register, visit childrensperformingartsmn.org/classes-workshops.

CURIOS GEORGE’S PAGE-TO-STAGE ADVENTURE

Grades: K-2

Dates: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. June 8-12

Details: Join us for a week of fun with our favorite little friend, George. Students will create their own play based on the beloved children’s book series. Friends and family are invited for a special showcase at the end of the week.

ACTING FOR THE CAMERA

Grades: 7-12

Dates: 12-3 p.m. June 8-12

Details: Professional actor and choreographer Eden Fahy will teach students how to create professional self-tapes, scenework and monologues for the camera. Take your auditioning to the next level and stay current with online submissions. Students will leave with a self-tape to use at their next audition.

SEIZE THE DAY: NEWSIES MUSICAL THEATRE CAMP

Grades: 6-9

Dates: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. June 15-19

Details: This one-week musical theatre intensive is inspired by the musical journey of “Newsies: The Broadway Musical.” Learn the hit songs and dance combos from the iconic show.

MADAGASCAR: I LIKE TO MOVE IT!

Grades: 3-5

Dates: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. June 22-26

Details: Join us for a week of fun with our favorite animal friends from the hit movie ‘Madagascar.’ Students will devise a show with music and characters from the movie they love, learning how to create musical theatre on a basic level.

YES AND! IMPROV

Grades: 8-12

Dates: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. June 29-July 3

Details: Learn about the art of “yes and,” and experience the beauty of on-your-feet storytelling. Throughout the week, students will learn the basic tenets of improv, practice different exercises to strengthen and cultivate their improv skills, and play long-and-short-form improv games. At the end of the week, the students will host their very own improv show for friends and family.

BALLOT ADDITIONS: Board members express support of long-range plan, levy

FROM PAGE 1

nance. This led to the district taking a deeper dive into the facilities and how they're being used. He added he appreciates everyone's input throughout this process.

Proposed concepts, a part of Centennial Forward, include the creation of new and remodeled secure centralized offices and entries at school sites, modern learning environments and increased capacity for specialized programs and building maintenance and infrastructure repairs. Also part of the concept is a new two-station gym addition, featuring a new lobby, concessions and a family locker room for the pool at Centennial High School. The concept additionally includes new tennis courts at the high school and repairs to the existing track surface at Centennial Middle School.

"Every building gets touched," Holmberg said.

The metro average for an operating levy is \$1,519 per pupil with a maximum allowed by the state of \$2,340 per pupil. Currently, Centennial is at \$995 per pupil. According to Holmberg, the proposed operating levy would provide an additional \$375 per pupil per year for a 10-year term, subject to inflation. This would generate approximately \$2.49 million annually for Centennial Schools.

The funds raised through the operating levy would be used for staff wages, benefits and programs.

"Centennial has a strong tradition of academic excellence, student opportunity, and community support," said Holmberg. "Maintaining strong schools requires ongoing investment in both high-quality learning experiences and safe, well-functioning facilities."

School Board Member Gloria Murphy acknowledged the tremendous work done by Holmberg and Chaffey.

"I think you guys have spearheaded this great. You've been transparent to the community members," she said. "I want to thank our input team, our partnership with Nexus... We were at \$225 million in 2025 and have cut this down to \$108 (million). That's huge. I'm looking forward to seeing this go forward."

Board Member Heidi Hansen brought up the fact that the district included the community in the planning process during the last couple of years and said it was a big deal.

"This isn't just a Centennial administration deal. This is a Centennial community project and it's important to everyone," Hansen said. "I think that, for me personally, is one of the most important parts of this entire project... I'm excited for our future."

School Board Vice Chair Sue Linser said the operational levy is really important. She appreciates understanding where the district is at and where the area metro is at.

School Board Treasurer Jessica Schwinn thanked the executive team and the community for their hard

work. School Board Chair Tom Knisley also thanked his fellow board members for their collaboration and willingness to engage in the planning process in a positive way.

Knisley added, "I feel very comfortable supporting this levy request because of all the work we did. Had we not done all this work, I wouldn't be as comfortable as I am."

The ballot questions will read as follows, "Shall the new referendum revenue authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 12 (Centennial), Minnesota be approved?" and "Shall the board of Independent School District No. 12 (Centennial), Minnesota be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$108,890,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities, but not limited to, safety and security improvements, additions/updates to facilities and academic spaces, and various other capital projects?"

According to the memorandum, by voting "yes" for either question, residents would be voting for a property tax increase.

More information about Centennial Forward can be found at www.isd12.org/discover/school-board/centennial-forward-building-the-future.

Editor Madeline Dolby can be reached at 651-407-1226 or quadnews@presspubs.com.

WEEKLY WAG



If you are an active person or family looking for an active companion, then Todd is waiting for you. Todd is a one-year-old Great Pyrenees/Husky mix. He is an 80-pound bundle of energy. Todd is a playful pup and his foster says he is always ready to turn an ordinary day into an adventure. Todd enjoys patrolling and exploring his backyard, so a forever home with a securely fenced yard would suit him well. He also enjoys long walks and playing fetch. Todd is social with other dogs and he is even good with cats. He is leash trained and crate trained, although he likes being with his people best. Todd is intelligent and he is eager to learn. When he is not busy, Todd enjoys soaking up affection and belly rubs. Todd has a zest for life and he would thrive with a human companion or family who will love him and keep up with him. If you are interested in learning more about Todd or adopting him, please fill out an application at www.ruffstartrescue.org. Once your application is received, Ruff Start Rescue will contact you as soon as possible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF HUGO CITY OF HUGO DRINKING WATER

The City of Hugo produces safe, clean drinking water for people who work in, visit and live in Hugo. Our mission is to produce and distribute safe, aesthetically pleasing water in sufficient quantity and a cost effective manner to meet customer needs and to be effective stewards of the public infrastructure. Our product consistently meets higher standards than those set by local, state and federal regulatory agencies. Please visit our website to view the latest consumer confidence report on file. This report can be viewed at www.ci.hugo.mn.us/ccr2025. Please contact 651-762-6301 for a paper copy.

Published one time in The Citizen on May 28, 2026.

CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

- Kelly's Korner Bar has been granted a 2 AM liquor license renewal following council approval. Within the last year, Kelly's Korner Bar has had no issues with their current 2 AM liquor license.

- City staff will work on applying for a grant from the Minnesota Occupational Study and Health Administration. The grant is offered for assistance to municipalities and companies to include safety equipment and training that might not otherwise be purchased and matches dollar for dollar up to \$10,000. Staff hope to use the funds from the grant to purchase an electronic portable message/arrow board that can be used for roadway safety for working crews and community messaging for roadway information. According to the staff report, most boards are solar and range in pricing from approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000.

- Lake Management Inc. will be responsible for the treatment of the pond south of City Hall following council approval. The pond is used as a water supply source to the City Hall's irrigation system. The first full year of the system will be the 2026 season. In 2025,

Lake Management was utilized to provide water treatment to reduce the amount of phosphorus and plant material in the pond. This prevented inoperable irrigation lines/heads. According to the staff report, a second treatment may be necessary later this summer, depending on rain amounts and dilution of the pond.

- The annual presentation on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) permit was presented to the council. An MS4 is a system designed or used to collect or convey stormwater and is not part of a publicly owned treatment works facility (sewage treatment plant). There are six minimum control measures of the MS4 permit. These include public education and outreach; public participation and involvement; illicit discharge detection and elimination; construction site stormwater run off control; post-construction stormwater management; and pollution prevention and good housekeeping for municipal operations.

- A conditional use permit (CUP) and site plan review submitted by Etzel Engineer and Build for a 16,560-square-foot expansion of the existing 55,000-square-

foot industrial facility known as Sutton Transportation at 6855 21st Ave. in the Industrial District of Centerville has been approved by the council. In addition to the building expansion, the project includes improvements to parking and loading areas, updated landscaping and a new outdoor amenity space for employees.

- City staff will proceed with the capital purchases for 2026 listed in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) following council approval. Some of these purchases include new boards for the ice-skating rink at Laurie LaMotte Park, playground equipment at Acorn Creek Park, resurfacing the Eagle Park tennis and pickleball courts, annual street paving, a wood chipper and more.

- City Administrator Athanasia Lewis said the city has received one application for the vacant city council seat. The resident who is appointed would serve on the council until January 2027. Residents who are interested in being considered for the vacancy can fill out an application online or stop by City Hall.

Madeline Dolby

BUSINESS BRIEF

Gasthaus celebrates 60 years of food, beer, entertainment

The Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. The locally owned establishment in Grant will celebrate with a party on Saturday, May 30 from 5 to 10 p.m. Paid attendees can expect a variety of Hofbrau beer imported from Germany, the raising of the Maibaum (May Pole), live polka music, and other entertainment.

Also to commemorate the occasion, the city of Grant has proclaimed via resolution that May 30, 2026, is "Gasthaus Bavarian Hunter Day." Two of the preambles in the resolution state: "the restaurant is an important part of the greater St. Croix Valley restaurant and entertainment scene" and "the restaurant has been a major contributor to the health and happiness of residents and visitors to the city of Grant." Visitors can view the resolution hanging to the right of the main entrance.

The Biergarten will be open every Saturday and Sunday from noon to 6 p.m. in June, July and August.

The Gasthaus is located at 8390 Lofton Avenue N. To learn more about the history of the Gasthaus or to see a calendar of events go to gasthausbavarianhunter.com.

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Miscellaneous
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Garage Sales
Christ the King Lutheran Church 1660 Birch Lake Ave Rummage & Bake Sale Thur 28 8-7 Fri 29 8-12 Bag Sale

Clearwater Creek Annual Neighborhood Garage Sales. Thurs June 4 - Sat June 5th. Many sales to shop, times varies. Otter Lake Rd to Tart Lake Road Lino Lakes 55038. Sale lists & maps available at each sale

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Hugo teen archer tops the field at Western Nationals

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Brecken Lee, 16-year-old archer from Hugo, captured top honors in the bulls-eye category at the recent Western Nationals event, a competition of 298 schools from 35 states.

Lee hit 296 out of 300 targets, her personal best, tying the top overall male archer for the best score of 2,387 archers. She was named top female archer.

The meet April 23-25 was held in Utah hosted by National Archery in Schools Program (NASP). The organization hosts Western and Eastern nationals. Archers can choose which one.

Lee, whose previous best was 291, started with two perfect 50's, then got 48's her last two rounds. No one from Minnesota has ever shot 300 in the NASP.

"Ecstatic," said Lee, asked her reaction. "I was so happy that I finally got done what I wanted to do. I felt like that was a really big reward because I put in a lot of work to improve my form and improve my shot, and it finally paid off at nationals."

Lee has a previous championship at Western Nationals in the 3D category in eighth grade. "My better event has always been 3D and this year I've really dialed in on bulls-eye," she said.

Lee is a sophomore at Lakes International Language Academy in Forest Lake. She's captain of the LILA archery team. White Bear Lake and Mahtomedi



BRUCE STRAND | CONTRIBUTED

Brecken Lee takes aim during practice in her back yard in Hugo. Note the earrings; they are part of her shooting process.

have archery teams as well.

Asked what it takes to be a champion archer, Lee said, "Your mental space needs to be strong ... Any little thing about your shot will change where your arrow is going. You have to be able to block out distractions and block out your previous arrows."

When setting up to shoot, what she thinks about is to "center yourself," then pull back, and, "at the end for my release, I actually say 'ear-ring.' I go

back go my ear-ring to finish my shot."

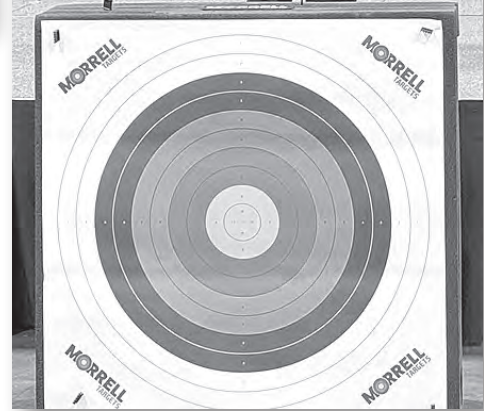
Lee's other passion is theatre. She has performed in school plays, Children's Theatre Company, and community theatre. She's played Grinch twice in "Cat in the Hat." She is also an avid fisherman.

Next for Lee is world open championships in Daytona Beach starting June 18.



CONTRIBUTED

Brecken Lee, of Hugo, with her Western Nationals archery awards.



Cougars win section opener on Saffert no-hitter

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Kendall Saffert twirled a no-hitter for Centennial and the Cougars needed a stellar performance like that to beat Osseo 2-1 in their Section 5AA opener Tuesday.

Gracie Nickle clubbed a home run in the last of the sixth to give the Cougars a 2-1 lead.

Saffert, sophomore right-hander, allowed just one walk while striking out three. An error helped Osseo score an unearned run in the first. Saffert also delivered an RBI single in the second inning, scoring Khloe

Waldemar, who got on base with a single and stole two bases.

Osseo pitcher Samantha Sportel held Centennial to seven hits and no walks, striking out five, allowing Osseo (9-12), which had lost to them 12-3 in conference, to give the Cougars a battle.

Centennial (13-7) faced Maple Grove there Thursday, 4:30 p.m. The tournament continues on Friday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Due to early deadlines, Cougar events on Thursday and later will be covered in next week's paper. However, you can follow them online at presspubs.com.

Bears place 2nd in SEC home track meet

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

White Bear Lake placed runner-up in the Suburban East Conference meet, with excellent showings by Tomi Animasaun and the relay teams. Top four among ten teams were Stillwater 197, the Bears 182.5, Woodbury 174 and Mounds View 173.

Animasaun won the 300 hurdles (38.53) and took second in the 110 high hurdles (15.03), fifth in long jump (21-3) and first with the 4x100 relay team. The Bears' other individual champion was Max Popp in the 3200 run



BRUCE STRAND | CONTRIBUTED

Joseph Wolfe

(9:42.07).

In the relays, the Bears won the 4x100 in 3.43 with Brian White, Animasaun, Antonio Brown and Easton Miles. The 4x200 team was second (3:30.66)

with Samuel Mayer, Abner Condon, Rylan Anderson and Joseph Wolfe. The 4x800 team was third (8:11.35) with Alexander Cantwell, Cooper Hoel, Anderson and Popp. The 4x200 team was fourth (1:32.2) with Tavio Gomez, Brown, White and Dashawn Ballinger.

Also in the top five were Cason Juergens, third, pole vault (13-0, tied); Miles, third, long jump (21-4 3/4); Ballinger, fourth, the 300 hurdles (40.63); Wolfe, fourth, 400 dash (51.30) and Wesley Kapisak and Ballinger, fifth, triple jump (each 41-6 1/2).



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Cooper Daikawa

Centennial Golf
May 28, 2026

Cooper Daikawa, Centennial senior golfer, closed a strong conference season by shooting par 72 for fourth place in the Northwest Suburban Conference finale Tuesday. Daikawa placed third, fourth, fifth, sixth, ninth, 10th and 15th in the 13-team meets, averaging 75 strokes. Daikawa was state runner-up as a sophomore. He didn't reach state last year and will try to get back there at sectionals next week. Daikawa also plays forward on the hockey team. He had 10 goals and 11 assists for the 18-10 Cougars this winter.



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Fiddle shoots 66, wraps SEC title



CONTRIBUTED
Easton Fiddle

Easton Fiddle, White Bear Lake sophomore, ran away with individual honors while the Bears placed fourth in the Suburban East Conference Championship tournament at Troy Burne in Hudson.

Fiddle, a three-time state qualifier, topped the field by six strokes with a five-under-par 66. He finished first in the eight-meet conference season as well. The Bears placed fourth in the season standings.

Blake Munyer shot 83, Easton Jensen 83, Cody Olinger 84 and Grady Giefer 84. Top four teams were Cretin-Derham Hall 307, Stillwater 308, Mounds View 311 and the Bears 316. The Bears placed seventh in an SEC meet Monday at Midland Hills with 311. Fiddle was second with 70. Olinger shot 76.

White Bear Lake Area School Board censures member

BY LOGAN GION
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The ISD 624 school board is publicly censuring Board Member Daniel Skaar following a complaint that Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak made.

During the board's most recent work session, the board listened to an investigative-finding presentation from Attorney Mick Waldspurger of Squires, Waldspurger & Mace, P.A.—a hearing that Skaar requested be conducted in open session. Waldspurger disclosed that the investigation found Skaar violated the Minnesota Government Practices Act and Minnesota Open Meeting Law, as well as ISD 624's Code of Conduct for Board Members and Code of Ethics for Board Members policies.

Dr. Kazmierczak filed a complaint against Skaar on March 3. Shortly afterward, the school board contacted Waldspurger and authorized an investigation. Waldspurger summarized that Skaar made public, critical statements against the superintendent that one could perceive as accusatory.

"The law states that data that a governmental entity maintains on an employee, including the superintendent, are classified as private," Waldspurger stated. He then referenced a 2001 Minnesota Supreme Court case in which a jury awarded damages of \$500,000 for defamation of a school-district employee. "The statements in that case ... certainly were a lot less significant than the statements in the case we're dealing with here," Waldspurger said.

Waldspurger also informed the board that Minnesota Open Meeting Law requires closed-session preliminary consideration of allegations against an employee, unless the person in question requests an open hearing. Waldspurger stated that because Skaar, a sitting board member, publicly called for the superintendent's resignation, he circumvented the board's ability to have a closed session discussion.

"There also were a number of allegations that were made that, I think are fair to say, false and unfounded," Waldspurger remarked. "Suggestions of wrongdoing by the superintendent

with no legitimate factual basis in support of it. Speculation, opinion, perhaps—but no legitimate factual basis."

Separately from Dr. Kazmierczak's complaint, the investigator also found that Skaar sent an email to school board members on April 15, in which he made a motion to authorize an operational audit that included an investigation of last September's enrollment incident regarding 22-year-old Kevin Luebke, who falsely attended as a 17-year-old. "In the same email, he said he would welcome a second and an email vote," Waldspurger said. "That is, in my legal opinion, a clear violation of the open meeting law."

During discussion of the presentation, Skaar asked Waldspurger, "I would like to respond to this, and I should have the ability to respond to this, correct?"

Waldspurger replied, "You had the right—the district hired an outside, neutral investigator, gave you full and fair opportunity to respond—and you elected not to take advantage of that opportunity. The investigator notified you in writing that, by taking that approach, you would be waiving your right to challenge the findings at a later point in time."

Skaar responded, regardless, through multiple gavel bangs from Board Chair Dr. Scott Arcand, "This

isn't really about me; it's about suppression ... Nobody has a right to silence me and prevent the public from hearing what I have to say ... I didn't violate anyone's rights. I didn't break any laws, period."

Board Member Chris Streiff-Oji remarked, "The report is extensive. It's not vague in any way, shape or form. There are specific quotes. There are Facebook posts. There are videos." Addressing Skaar, Board Member Angela Thompson commented, "I didn't want to censure you, but you have not learned anything."

Board Member Kathleen Daniels also addressed Skaar, adding, "You are not a victim. You're not following the policies that we have on our behavior as board members."

Following comments and discussion, five school board members passed the resolution censuring Skaar. Per the resolution, "The School Board hereby places Skaar on notice that if he engages in the same or any similar conduct in the future, the Board may initiate action to remove him from the Board. The School Board hereby disavows Skaar's conduct and will not defend or indemnify him in the event of a lawsuit against him for the conduct described in this Resolution."

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SPOTTED

AROUND TOWN

1. Hugo resident and Scentsy Consultant Tracy Colbeth donated new stuffed animals to the Hugo Fire Department (HFD). HFD uses the stuffed animals to bring comfort to children during an emergency. Colbeth has also previously donated stuffed animals for the annual toy and food drive. — **Hugo Fire Department, contributed**
2. Butterflies were released at North Star Elementary by the students in the first and second grade studio. Over the past few weeks, the students have studied the life cycle of butterflies, learning about the different phases and development. — **White Bear Lake Area Schools, contributed**
3. A bear wanted to have a picnic in rural Hugo. — **Chuck Haas, contributed**



Send us your photos for possible inclusion in Spotted Around Town. Please email your best shot to citizennews@presspubs.com. Please include information about when and where it was taken and who is in the photo.

Vineyards & Breweries

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Wednesday: Key Chain Kash	Evening	Big Wood Brewery
Every Sunday: Acoustic Sunday	1 - 4 pm	Dancing Dragonfly
June 2: Beginner Friendly Yoga	6 - 7 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 2: Trivia with Ryan	6:30 - 8 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 3: Live Music: Gary LaRue	5 - 8 pm	7 Vines Vineyard
June 4: 3D Paper Art Design Class	5 - 7:30 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 4: Trivia Night	6:30 - 8 pm	Dancing Dragonfly
June 6: VIP: Vine to Bottle Tasting Tour (Reservations online)	12 - 1:30 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 6: VIP: Pappouli's Wine Tasting Experience (Reservations online)	2 - 3:30 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 6: Live Music: The Jug Sluggers	6 - 9 pm	Big Wood Brewery
June 7: Live Music: Prairie Beats	3 - 6 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 9: Beginner Friendly Yoga	6 - 7 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 9: Bingo	6:30 - 8 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 10: Live Music: Josh Quinn & Rose Duffey	5 - 8 pm	7 Vines Vineyard
June 10: Cribbage Tournament	5:30 - 7 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 11: Dueling Pianos	6 - 9 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 13: VIP: Vine to Bottle Tasting Tour (Reservations online)	12 - 1:30 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 13: VIP: Pappouli's Wine Tasting Experience (Reservations online)	2 - 3:30 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 13: Permanent Jewelry Pop Up with Alyssa - Worthy and Wild Permanent Jewelry	4-7 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 13: Murder Mystery Dinner	6 - 8:30 pm	Dancing Dragonfly
June 14: Live Music: Michael August	2 - 5 pm	7 Vines Vineyard
June 14: Live Music in the Vines: Elly Rowan	2 - 5 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 14: Live Music: Prairie Anthem	3 - 6 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 16: Beginner Friendly Yoga	6 - 7 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 16: Trivia with Ryan	6:30 - 8 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 17: Live Music: Becky Rae Dalton	5 - 8 pm	7 Vines Vineyard
June 17: Shakespeare in the Vines	7 - 10 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 18: Summer Artisans' Market	4 - 7 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 18: Trivia Night	6:30 - 8 pm	Dancing Dragonfly
June 18: Shakespeare in the Vines	7 - 10 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 19: Art at the Winery	6 - 8:30 pm	Dancing Dragonfly
June 19: Shakespeare in the Vines	7 - 10 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 20: Intuitive Living Summer Expo	11 am - 4 pm	Dancing Dragonfly
June 20: VIP: Vine to Bottle Tasting Tour (Reservations online)	12 - 1:30 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 20: VIP: Pappouli's Wine Tasting Experience (Reservations online)	2 - 3:30 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 20: Shakespeare in the Vines	7 - 10 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 21: Father's Day at the Winery	1 - 4 pm	Dancing Dragonfly
June 21: Live Music: Steve Poynter	2 - 5 pm	7 Vines Vineyard
June 21: Live Music: Bruce Bednarchuk	3 - 6 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 23: Beginner Friendly Yoga	6 - 7 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 23: Bingo	6:30 - 8 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 24: Live Music: Billy McLaughlin	5 - 8 pm	7 Vines Vineyard
June 24: Monthly Book Club	5:30 - 6:30 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 24: Cribbage Tournament	5:30 - 7 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 27: VIP: Vine to Bottle Tasting Tour (Reservations online)	12 - 1:30 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 27: VIP: Pappouli's Wine Tasting Experience (Reservations online)	2 - 3:30 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 27: Above Average Tuba Quartet	6 - 9 pm	Big Wood Brewery
June 28: Dueling Pianos	2 - 5 pm	7 Vines Vineyard
June 28: Live Music in the Vines: Ben Johnson	2 - 5 pm	Two Silo Winery
June 28: Live Music: Flannel Brothers	3 - 6 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 29: Beginner Friendly Yoga	6 - 7 pm	Rustic Roots Winery
June 29: Trivia with Ryan	6:30 - 8 pm	Rustic Roots Winery

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Note: Events are subject to change or cancellation. Please call or check online for the most up-to-date information.



Good Neighbor Days turns 50

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

This year marks the 50th annual Hugo Good Neighbor Days celebration, which follows the 50th anniversary of the Hugo Lions Club in 2025.

Hugo Good Neighbor Days is set to return to Lions Volunteer Park June 5-7. This year's theme is "Getting Our Kicks Since 1976."

Good Neighbor Days is the largest fundraiser of the year for the community and is powered entirely by volunteers and sponsors.

"We have raised over \$1 million to give back to the community," explained Lions President John Kelley. "It's cool to see a group of individuals that selflessly give their time to help raise money. It is cool that we have a community of humans that support this cause and helps us keep the money in the community to (give to) worthy recipients."

Kelley added that 80% of the funds the Lions raise

"It's cool to see a group of individuals that selflessly give their time to help raise money. It is cool that we have a community of humans that support this cause and helps us keep the money in the community to (give to) worthy recipients."

John Kelley
Hugo Lions President

stay within the Hugo community and the other 20% goes to other statewide or nationwide causes.

This year, the Lions have supported families who

have been displaced by house fires, the Veterans Campground at Big Marine, Hopkins School House and Heritage Center and high school seniors, among other causes.

Many Good Neighbor Days staples will return for 2026, including carnival rides, food trucks, music and fireworks. The parade, cornhole tournament and vendor craft fair will also return. Shoppers should get their wallets ready for the craft fair on Saturday and Sunday, as Kelley says they have a record number of vendors.

"We have been getting a ton of inquiries from vendors," he said. "We are at capacity and trying to squeeze them in one (way) or another, anywhere we can find so people have the opportunity, and the community can come out and support them."

The sixth annual Ribfest competition will once again be held in conjunction with Good Neighbor

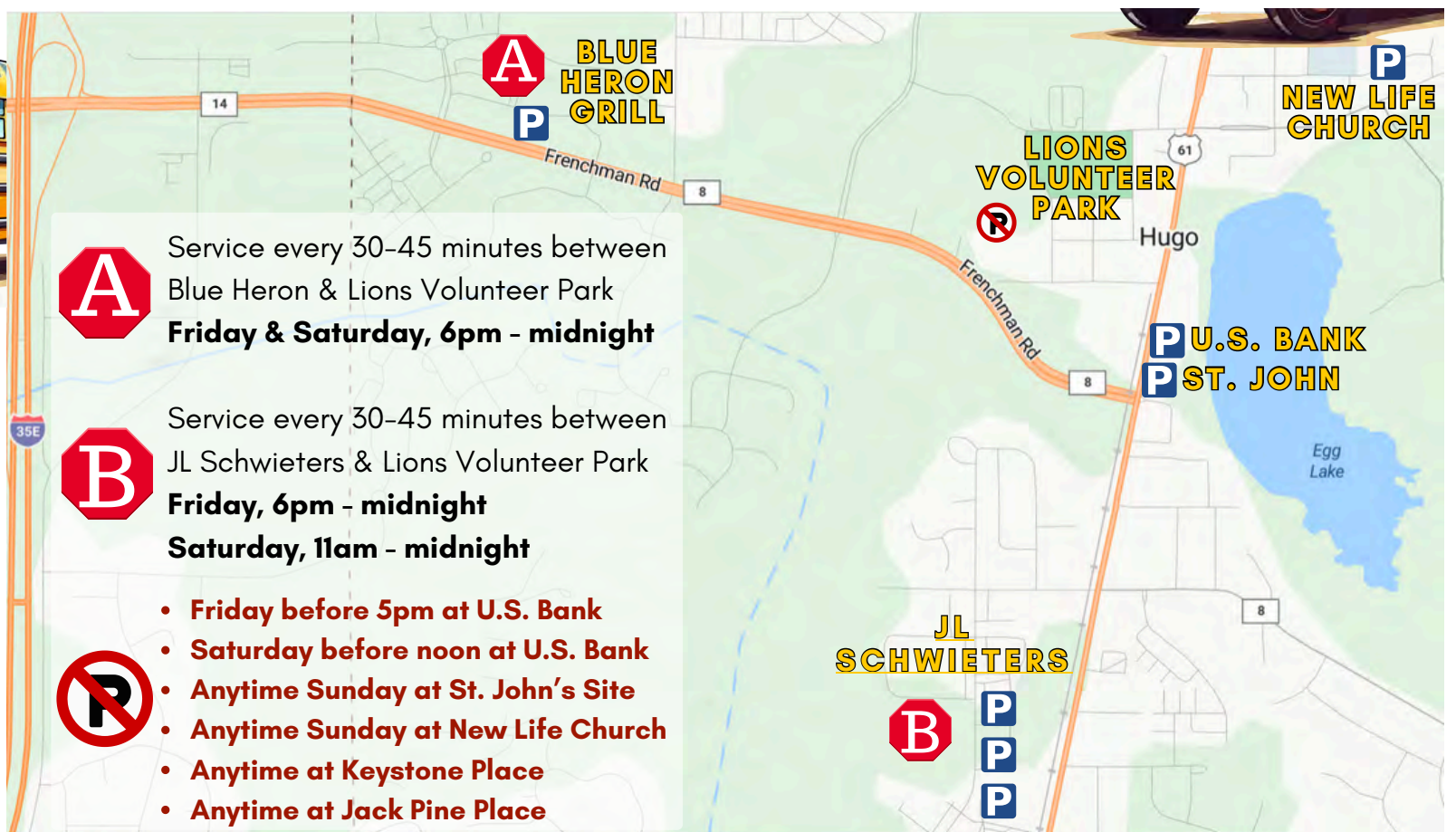
SEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY, PAGE 6

Official Good Neighbor Days Shuttle Routes



Avoid the hunt for parking.

Ride the free Good Neighbor Days Shuttle with service to Lions Volunteer Park from Blue Heron Grill and JL Schwieters Friday and Saturday.



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5PM-10PM FOOD TRUCKS
5PM-11PM CARNIVAL RIDES
6PM-12AM SHUTTLE SERVICE
7:00PM DANCE PERFORMANCE
7:30-11:30PM ... *Maiden Dixie*

Saturday PM

12PM-4PM BATTLE OF THE BANDS
1PM-5PM PAVILION BINGO
1PM-4PM SKATEPARK DEMOS
3:30-5:30 RIBFEST COMPETITION
7:30-11:30 **SIX TO MIDNIGHT**
10PM FIREWORKS

Saturday AM

10AM-6PM CRAFT FAIR
10AM-4PM CORNHOLE
10AM-10PM FOOD TRUCKS
10AM-5PM HISTORY DISPLAYS
11AM-11PM CARNIVAL RIDES
11AM-12PM PARADE
11AM-12AM SHUTTLE SERVICE
12PM-3PM FREE KIDZONE
12PM- RIBFEST TICKET SALES

Sunday

10AM-3PM CRAFT FAIR
10AM-4PM FOOD TRUCKS
11AM-4PM CARNIVAL RIDES
11AM-12PM KIDS NICKEL DASH
12PM-3PM FREE KIDZONE
12PM-3PM HUGO'S GOT TALENT
12PM-3PM PAVILION BINGO
1PM-3PM SKATEPARK DEMOS
3PM AWARDS CEREMONY



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Bob Hanson



Bill Barrett



Marlene and Darrell Granger



Mike Loken

FILE PHOTOS



Jim Leroux



Viola Maslowski



Michele Anderson

Good Neighbors from '95 forward

Good Neighbors aren't hard to find in Hugo. The Lions Club has recognized at least one neighbor every year since 1995. Here is a look back:



- 1995-Lucille and Fran Lutz
- 1996-Lois and Henry Vietor
- 1997-Gert Granger
- 1998-Marlene and Darrell Granger
- 1999-Pat Wittkop
- 2000-Kathy Marier
- 2001-Viola Maslowski
- 2002-Jim Gits


- 2003-Judy Olinger
- 2004-Sharron and Deane Vail
- 2005-Jim Leroux
- 2006-Karen and Len Charpentier
- 2007-Pete Pedersen
- 2008-Gene, Theresa, Katrina and Paula Zerwas
- 2009-Floyd Petty
- 2010-Ray Pribnow
- 2011-Jim and Karen Bever
- 2012-Marlys Schaefer
- 2013-Kris Emerson
- 2014-Marilyn and Myles Stomberg

- 2015-John and Donna Kostuch
- 2016-Michele Anderson
- 2017-Barb Connolly
- 2018-Rick Kissner
- 2019-Bob Hanson
- 2020-Celebration canceled due to COVID-19
- 2021- Dr. Bill Barrett
- 2022- George Reus
- 2023- Jimmie and Rick Gregoire
- 2024- Tim Tanberg
- 2025- Mike Loken

Who will this year's Good Neighbor be? Be sure to look for an article in an upcoming issue of The Citizen.

Appointments for the whole family!

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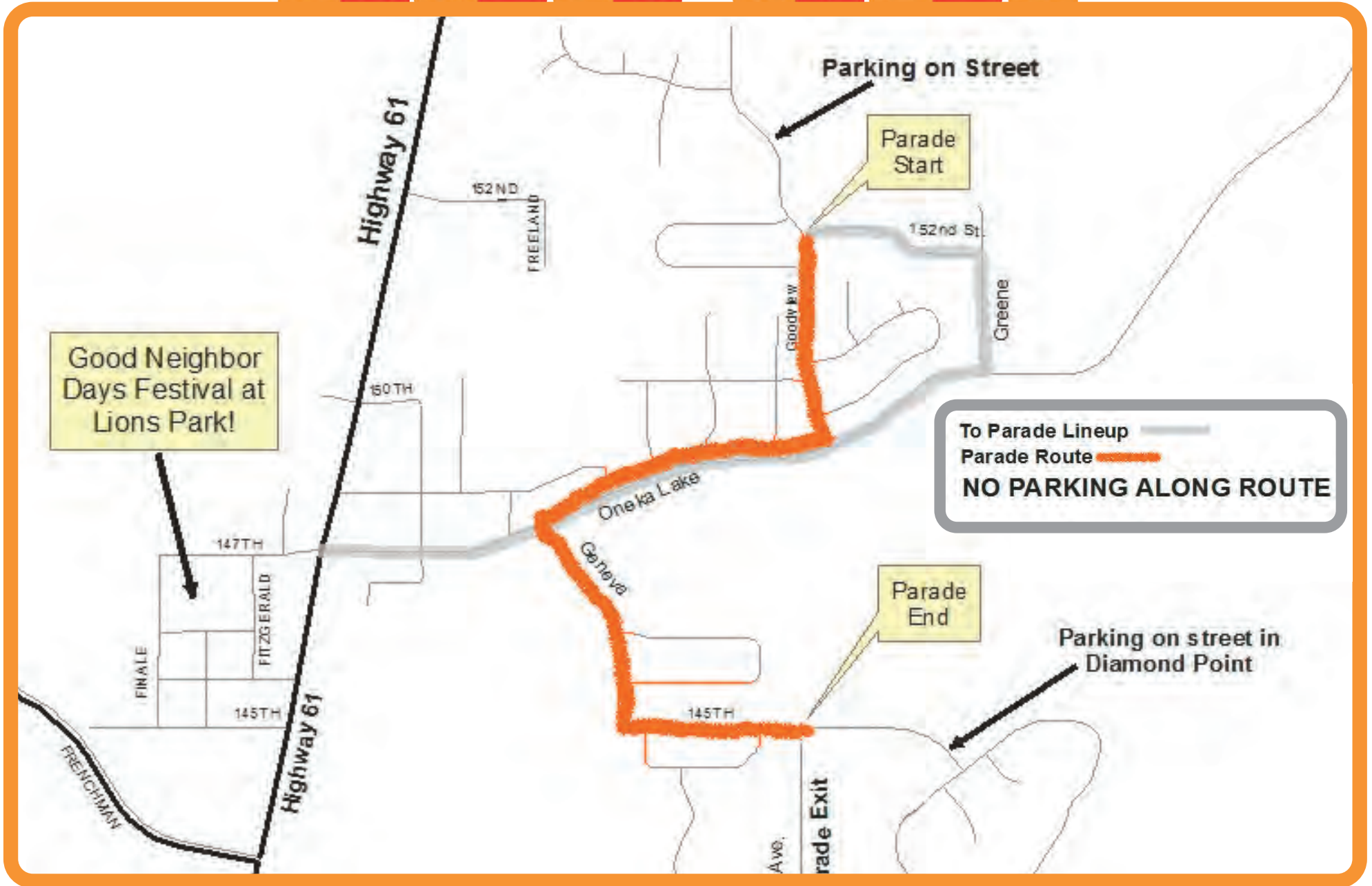
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History comes to life at Good Neighbor Days

The Hugo Historical Commission and the Hopkins Schoolhouse and Heritage Center will bring Hugo's rich history to life during this year's Good Neighbor Days celebration. Community members of all ages are invited to stop by and explore interactive displays, historic stories and hands-on activities that celebrate the people, places, and traditions that shaped Hugo.

The Hugo Historical Commission will feature displays highlighting Hugo's historic barns,



historical timelines and maps, the Train Depot, and the Telephone Exchange—offering visitors a glimpse into the community's past and its early development.

The Hopkins Schoolhouse and Heritage Cen-

ter will share a replica of the historic Hopkins Schoolhouse for visitors to discover and enjoy, along with delightful stories of school days past shared by "Mrs. Fraatz the School Marm," complete with sample 1928 candy. Families and children can also participate in a Hopkins Schoolhouse Coloring Contest, and visitors will have the opportunity to purchase Images of America: Forest Lake books and other history related items.



CONTRIBUTED

The Hopkins Schoolhouse and Heritage Center Committee commissioned a model of the schoolhouse from Les Kuiper that will be used in programming with school children and in promoting the efforts underway to restore the building for the community.



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50TH ANNIVERSARY: 'Great community celebration'

FROM PAGE 1



FILE PHOTO

Residents line up for the grand parade.

Days. In addition to prizes for first, second and third place, there will also be a People's Choice award. Members of the public are invited to purchase tasting tickets and vote for their favorite. Tickets will go on sale on Saturday at noon and the public tasting will be at 4 p.m. Judging will begin at 5:30 p.m. There are still some spots open for teams to sign up. Registration will close Thursday, June 4.

For music, Maiden Dixie is scheduled to perform Friday, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. On Saturday, Six to Midnight will perform from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Back for a third year, the Hugo's Got Talent competition will begin at noon on the Peder Pedersen Pavilion stage. The winning act will receive a cash prize. Any age or talent is welcome to participate. Registration will be accepted through Thursday, June 4.

On Sunday at 11 a.m. there will be a Lions Awards Ceremony where six scholarships will be given out to White Bear Lake Area High School seniors, along with the Good Neighbor of the Year award.

"It is a fundraiser, but it is a great community celebration and opportunity for people to get together," said City Council Member Mike Miron.

Good Neighbor Days attendees are encouraged to take advantage of free shuttles, as parking around the park will be tricky during the event. (See the shuttle map in this issue for more information.)

And don't forget about the Hunt for the Golden Spike. For more information about Good Neighbor Days, visit www.goodneighboradays.com.



CONTRIBUTED

New Life hosts outdoor service

Hugo Good Neighbor Days is a great way to kick off summer and celebrate as a community. To help us enjoy some fresh air outside together, New Life Church - Lutheran will host an outdoor worship service. On at 9 a.m. on Sunday, June 7, worship will be on the lawn next to the parking lot. Padded chairs will be set

up on the grass and ready for everybody. If you have a favorite camping chair or blanket, you are also welcome to bring it. We will have space available for people to sit on their own chairs and blankets. If you have difficulty walking across grass and uneven ground, we will have a space reserved to sit on the edge of the parking lot.

In the event of rain, worship will be moved inside that day. Bring a friend and come join us as we worship God in His beautiful creation! New Life is located at 6000 148th St. N., next to Hugo Elementary School.

Pastor Tim Heinecke

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Pitmasters set to battle at Hugo Ribfest

Backyard pitmasters will fire up their smokers and grills Saturday as the annual Ribfest competition returns to Hugo's Good Neighbor Days festival, bringing a full day of barbecue rivalry and public tasting to Lions Volunteer Park.

Hosted by the Hugo Lions Club, the contest features teams competing for trophies, cash prizes and bragging rights in categories including best ribs and People's Choice. Organizers said competitors will prepare ribs on-site throughout the day before serving samples to the public during the afternoon tasting event.

Tasting ticket sales begin at noon,

with tickets including four rib samples and one People's Choice voting ballot. Public tasting runs from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., or until ribs run out. Winners are expected to be announced later in the evening following judging by a panel that includes celebrity and Kansas City Barbeque Society judges.

According to festival rules, each competing team receives 12 racks of spare-ribs and must cook entirely on-site using their own smokers and equipment. Judges will score entries based on taste, tenderness and appearance.

For more information, visit goodneighboradays.com/ribfest



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HUGO GOOD NEIGHBOR DAYS

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CLUE #1



CLUE #2



CLUE #3

We're the state of hockey, it's safe to say.
Grab a puck and a stick
And find a place to play –
Just as long as the pond's ice is thick.
While the Wild are out,
It was a great season.
No need to pout –
We have no good reason
So the melting of ice says winter is over. So what?
It's time! For a new season, a walk in the park.
It's the Golden Spike hunt – that's the scuttlebutt!
Take the dog out where she can run free and bark.

Look up and down and all around.
The prize will be hidden partially visible.
It cannot be hidden underground.
So gather friends/hunters indivisible.
And speaking of a good outing and not pouting,
We won't hide the Golden Spike under the dirt.
So sad our Timberwolves are done shooting and shouting.
We won't hang it higher than a dunk by Rudy Gobert.

Here's to the rules! Protect your fraternity.
This clue is under Double Secret Probation.
You won't seek answers for an eternity.
Solve all 10 clues for the final explanation.
Stay where it's public not private land,
Leave alone the birdie and a mouse,
Don't go where only HOA members can.
Look in the parks not in an Animal House!

Look for the next clue on June 1
at presspubs.com/citizen

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