



Quad Community Press

Press Publications
4779 Bloom Avenue
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026
VOL. 44 NO. 26 www.quadcommunitypress.com \$1.50

BLAINE POLICE: Ask for help locating missing juvenile PAGE 7



Cast members from "Mary Poppins" pose for a photo. The musical is scheduled to take place at the Centennial High School Performing Arts Center from Thursday, April 29 through Sunday, May 3.

MELISSA CARLSON | CONTRIBUTED

Fly high with Mary Poppins at CHS

BY MADELINE DOLBY
EDITOR

Everyone's favorite nanny will take the stage at the Centennial High School Performing Arts Center as the Centennial Theatre Program performs "Mary Poppins" for its spring musical.

Director Eric Webster said he picked the show for the spring musical because of the music. "I love all the songs in this show. You cannot help but be humming these songs as you leave."

The jack-of-all trades, Bert, introduces the audience to England in 1910 and the

troubled Banks family. Young Jane and Michael have sent many nannies packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again.

SEE **SPRING MUSICAL**, PAGE 11

Residents raise concerns about fire merger

BY MADELINE DOLBY
EDITOR

LEXINGTON — Multiple residents have expressed their concerns about the recent news that the Lexington Fire Department may potentially merge with the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View (SBM) Fire Department.

At the recent Lexington City Council meeting, Mayor Mike Murphy assured residents the city is not doing anything behind their backs, or anything sneaky.

"The Lexington Fire Department is still operating as a fire department, just currently under the management of SBM Fire. They (Lexington) are still responding. They are still taking calls (currently) at this time," he said. (See "Lexington temporarily partners with SBM Fire Department," Quad Community Press, April 9, 2026).

Murphy added the city's decision was not made lightly and was the result of extensive reviews conducted by the City Council, personnel committee, city administration, the city's attorney and the city's finance director.

"That review focused on ongoing concerns

SEE **MERGER**, PAGE 3

Best of the Press returns inviting community to spotlight local favorites

BY SHIVAM VASHISHTHA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The familiar signs of spring in the northeast metro aren't just warmer days and busier patios — they also signal the return of one of the community's most anticipated traditions. The Readers' Choice Best of the Press Contest is back for its sixth year, with nominations officially opening Wednesday, April 29.

Spanning multiple communities and publications, the annual contest gives readers the opportunity to recognize the people, businesses and places that define their local experience. From neighborhood restaurants and small businesses to essential service providers, the contest has grown into a reflection of what residents value most in their communities.

This year's contest has more than 150 categories, covering everything from dining and retail to services, schools and community events.

"It's a great way for our readers and patrons to recognize the places they genuinely value — whether that's a restaurant they love or a service they've trusted for years," said Patty Steele, general manager and marketing director for Press Publications. "Everything is driven by our readers. There's nothing selected by us."

What's new this year: This year brings a notable

expansion. The Citizen and Quad markets will merge into a single, combined contest, broadening participation and increasing visibility

for businesses across a wider area. This change is an indicator of both the growth of the program and continued interest from readers and business owners.

Organizers have also refreshed and modified categories to better reflect current trends and community priorities. Among the highlights:

- Meal for the Money, recognizing affordable, high-quality dining
- Chicken Wings, a category that's sure to spark a debate
- Best Electrician, spotlighting

skilled trades and essential services

• New Business, celebrating recent additions to the local landscape
"Some ideas come from us, but a lot come directly from readers and even businesses," Steele added. "People will call and say, 'How do you not have this category?' and we'll realize — it's a great addition."

While returning favorites remain, these additions aim to capture both everyday needs and evolving tastes.


A boost for local businesses

For many businesses, being named a "Best of" winner carries real impact. Past honorees such as the Hugo American Legion and Cabin 61 have seen increased visibility and

SEE **BEST OF**, PAGE 10

"It's a great way for our readers and patrons to recognize the places they genuinely value"

Patty Steele
General Manager




5 STAR SERVICE
Google

LENFER
AUTOMOTIVE & TRANSMISSION

LINO LAKES
8121 Lake Drive
651.273.8100

www.LenferAuto.com
Mon-Fri: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.



Scan here for your quick and easy appointment!

KEEP YOUR COOL!

FREE

A/C CHECK UP

Test Vent Temperature
 Pressure Test System

Inspect for Visible Leaks
 Document Findings & Advise

Most vehicles. Freon and/or leak detection dye is extra. Limited time. Exp. 5/15/26

OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

\$10^{off}

CONVENTIONAL

Cannot be combined with any other coupon. Limited time.

\$20^{off}

FULL SYNTHETIC

All oil changes include

FREE

VEHICLE CHECK UP

Exp. 5/15/26

WE FIX EVERYTHING!



CIRCULATION
651-407-1234
circ@presspubs.com

NEWS
651-407-1226
quadnews@presspubs.com

ADVERTISING
651-407-1200
marketing@presspubs.com

CLASSIFIED
651-407-1250
classified@presspubs.com

PRODUCTION
651-407-1253
artmanager@presspubs.com



WHAT'S HAPPENING

ONGOING EVENTS

LIVE TRIVIA

When: 6-8 p.m. Wednesdays
Where: Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566, 7731 Lake Drive
Details: General knowledge trivia. No limit on team sizes.
Contact: 651-783-0055

LINO LAKES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesdays
Where: Zoom
Details: Develop your communication and leadership skills.
Contact: Phyllis Moore: 763-268-9366

CRIBBAGE

When: 1 p.m. Monday, May 4; 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

CURRENT EVENTS

DOG WALK FOR VETERANS

When: 1 p.m. Sunday, May 3
Where: Matoska Park, 2345 Fifth St., White Bear Lake
Details: Community dog walk from Matoska Park to the VFW will benefit Believeit, a non-profit that trains service dogs for veterans living with PTSD, MST and other disabilities to restore independence, confidence and hope. Also, drawings and prizes.
Contact: believeit.org

ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB

When: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, May 3
Where: 268 Dennison Ave., Shoreview
Details: Hike paved and non-paved trails, approx. 5 miles.
Contact: stpaulhike.com

ONCE UPON A STORYTIME: CAMOUFLAGED ANIMALS

When: 9-10 a.m. Tuesday, May 5
Where: Wargo Nature Center,
Details: Step into a world where imagination knows no bounds as our storyteller takes you on nature adventures through stories, songs, and crafts. Registration encouraged through Anoka County Parks.
Contact: www.anokacountyparks.com



CONTRIBUTED

COMMUNITY BRIEF



CONTRIBUTED

Families invited to annual Truck Day event

Families are invited to the Centennial Early Childhood Family Education Truck Day event scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 2. There will be a special sensory-friendly time from 10-10:30 a.m. The event will take place at Rice Lake Elementary.

The first 500 children will receive a goodie bag. There will also be a silent

auction from and a raffle. All money raised at the event will go back into the Early Childhood Program for classroom items and improvements of motor rooms and outdoor learning spaces. This year, the program will use the money to purchase a shade canopy for the Early Childhood playground.

Rice Lake Elementary is located at 575 Birch St., Lino Lakes. For more information, visit the event's Facebook page.

Your Local Remodeling, Custom Home & Storm Damage Experts.

Gregory Contracting

License: BC692167

651-213-0668 • gregorycontracting.com

Subscribe Today

With your print subscription you also gain access to all the online news at presspubs.com

\$88 for a 24 month Subscription \$ _____

\$49 for a 12 month Subscription \$ _____

Additional amount to Support Journalism \$ _____

Please tip my carrier \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Today's date: _____

Press Pubs Account# (Optional): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I want to receive the email newsletter

Check payable to Press Publications or
 Credit Card: -Visa -Mastercard -Discover -AMEX

#: _____

Expires: _____ 3 Digit Code: _____

Fill out the form and mail it in to
 Press Publications
 4779 Bloom Ave
 White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Subscribers receive up to
 \$100 value in loyalty coupons

651-407-1200

cirtc@presspubs.com

Please detach this portion and mail with your payment.

With your support we can continue to be your best source for community information

Subscribe

RED, WHITE AND BLOOM

CELEBRATE AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD!

MENARDS[®] GARDEN CENTER

CHEERS TO 250 YEARS!

SCAN TO EXPLORE SEASONAL PLANTING IDEAS & INSPIRATION!

MERGER: SBM Fire Department will visit Lexington on May 21 to answer questions

FROM PAGE 1

and repeated efforts to address some serious operational, staffing leadership and long-term sustainability issues within our fire department," Murphy said.

Because of Minnesota state laws governing private personnel data, Murphy explained a lot of the city's work in the last few months had to be conducted in closed session. He said these meetings were "not about secrecy. It's about protecting the rights of individuals and their personal data."

In the fall of 2025, the city initiated a personnel investigation at the direction of the City Council. According to Murphy, the investigation reported a potential procurement violation that might have occurred at the time. He added that there were questions about whether taxpayers' dollars were spent, or could be spent, without proper approval.

The purchase process was outside the city's established, proper processes. This subsequently triggered the review, according to Murphy. During the investigation, additional issues came to light that expanded the scope of the city's concern.

"What we found was not isolated and not tied to any one specific individual," Murphy said. "It was broader operational failures within the department that have been going on for years."

One of these failures, according to the city, was the breakdown of training oversight, including poor documentation and record keeping; moreover, training was not being

reinforced and tracked. Murphy said multiple individuals had expired EMT certifications but were still responding to active calls as EMTs.

Murphy added that recruitment and staffing have also been a challenge for the department. There has been no clear plan for retention or long-term sustainability. The department has been operating with nine to 11 firefighters for the last few years, according to Murphy, and only four to five individuals have been responding to a majority of the calls.

Other concerns raised by the city included numerous violations of city departmental policies, including concerns about financial controls and the separation of duties involving the relationship between the fire department and the fire relief association.

The city of Lexington does not control, or operate, the Lexington Fire Relief Association or the charitable gambling that takes place at Cowboy's Saloon in Circle Pines. Murphy said the city does have ex officio members on the relief association board, but they are nonvoting members and do not have decision-making authority.

Murphy said the city has not taken any action to dissolve the Lexington Fire Department or permanently contracted with another fire service, nor has the city made any decisions regarding the fire department's assets or equipment.

Maria Nelson, who said she was considering moving to Lexington in the future, is now debating if she should reconsider due to the merger. Nelson asked a few questions regarding the issues Murphy presented as the reasons why the city

decided to temporarily partner with SBM.

"If this was truly a personnel issue, where this decision came from? Wouldn't the process have been to remove that person and then replace them with another?" she asked.

Murphy said that has been done through the city's partnership with SBM Fire. He added that no one within the Lexington Fire Department is currently qualified to run the department.

Lexington resident Justin Willenbring spoke at the last council meeting regarding his concerns about the merger. He left after his comments. He said when he watched the reply, he felt like what was said after his comments was a "slap in the face."

"You guys made it seem like I came up to the podium and fabricated everything ... But now I get to poke holes in everything you guys said, from me being '99% factually wrong,' (and) that I 'didn't want to hear what you had to say,' and how my 'logistics were inaccurate.'"

Willenbring also mentioned the closed meetings. He said Minnesota Statute 13D.05 states that closed meetings are required for active criminal investigations; allegations against an employee; educational data, medical data, welfare data; attorney-client privilege; labor negotiations; and employee evaluations (the employee can request an open meeting).

"With that, was the fire chief notified that he does have the right to request an open meeting?" Willenbring asked.

City Attorney Kurt Glaser said

the fire chief has his own lawyer, and it was ultimately the fire chief's decision whether he would have liked to have an open meeting.

Lexington resident Heidi Foose thanked the council for identifying a problem in the city and taking action.

"The last two years, with aging parents, I've called 911 many times, and it's never been the Lexington Fire Department once. It's always been the Centennial Lakes Police. They're there within seconds, and I would never want anybody else," Foose said. "I feel it's good (to merge). I think this new company (SBM), they would be able to offer better PPE (personal protective equipment)."

Murphy said he understands that a lot of residents are upset, and thanked those who volunteered with the Lexington Fire Department.

"Many firefighters, volunteers, relief association members, our charitable gambling staff for the relief association supporters — you guys have dedicated many years of service to Lexington," Murphy said. "Your help funded critical equipment needed for the department without the cost to the taxpayers. We're in debt to you as a city."

The SBM Fire Department will be at Lexington City Hall at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 21, to answer questions residents may have. Lexington City Hall is located at 9180 Lexington Ave. NE.

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



Are You Getting Enough Fiber in Your Work Day?

Sign up today and get a \$100 gift card!*
*Terms and conditions apply

EarthLink

Reliable Internet **NOW!** **844-453-6983**



Anyone can say they can fix it, **only we guarantee it...for life!**

- Basement Waterproofing
- Foundation Repair
- Crawl Space Repair

SAFE BASEMENTS

Schedule your free inspection: (844) 839-1112
*Certain terms and conditions apply. Ask your Foundation Specialist for details. Contractor ID BC607773



Live at the Lake!
Only 5 years new in Lino Lakes.

Contact us Now

Ron Mikolai Home Team
651-335-9351

Your Local HIRING HUB

"The local newspaper helped us find local candidates to fill our part-time positions"
— Stacy

Call **651-407-1221**



Church Directory
Find the church that fits your needs

THE CHURCH OF St. Genevieve Celebrate *Mass with us!*
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF CENTERVILLE & HUGO

Saturday at 4:30 pm Parish Community Center
6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville

Sunday at 8:30 am St. John's Site
14383 Forest Blvd N, Hugo

Sunday at 10:30 am Parish Community Center
6995 Centerville Rd, Centerville

www.stgens.org 651-429-7937



ST. JOSEPH OF THE LAKES CATHOLIC CHURCH
TOGETHER IN SPIRIT

Join Us for Mass
Mass Times:
Saturday at 5:00 pm
Sunday at 8:30 am and 10:00 am

171 Elm Street • Lino Lakes, MN • 651-784-3015

Breakdowns happen. We'll take it from there.

Let Cinch Home Services help you save on costly repair bills.

With nearly 50 years of experience, we are passionate about protecting our customers and their homes from the expensive costs that come with a home appliance or system breakdown. In fact, we've handled 1 MILLION+ service jobs in the last 3 years.

30% OFF PER MONTH

Our home warranty covers:

- Furnace/Heating Systems
- Air Conditioning Systems
- Electrical System
- Plumbing System and Stoppages
- Toilets
- Refrigerators
- Water Heaters
- Interior Gas Lines
- Ceiling Fans
- Garbage Disposals

And Much More!

Get 30% off your home warranty plan
Don't wait! Call now for our best offer.
(855) 887-4521



TOGETHER PLACE CHURCH
...
"Because we're in this together."

Family Worship
Sunday 10:00 AM

Call 763-784-1607 for Together Times

3860 Flowerfield Rd, Circle Pines
togetherplacechurch.org
facebook.com/togetherplacechurch



We welcome you to worship with us Virtually and in Person

Sunday 9:30 am Fellowship & refreshments following the service

LINO LAKES COMMUNITY CHURCH
7330 Lake Drive | 651-784-7667
admin@linolakescommunitychurch.com & directions
(1 mile south of Target on Lake Dr)

Service times are subject to change. Contact your local church or check church web sites for service time and online service information.

To make changes or to advertise here, call at 651-407-1200.

Mental Health Awareness Month

For those of who don't know, May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. May has been recognized as National Mental Health Awareness has been observed since 1949 to reduce stigma, educate the public and support those with mental health conditions.

As someone who has struggled with mental health for almost a decade, it can be difficult asking for help. Some days it feels like I'm a ghost hovering above my own body and I can't wait to crawl back into bed. Others, I am on Cloud 9 and never want the day to end. Mental health is never linear. It's always changing.



Madeline's Mail
Madeline Dolby

When I was 19, a song by one of my favorite artists, Harry Styles, called "Treat People with Kindness" came out. Now, I don't know how it happened, but the title of the song became my life mantra. If you listen to the song, you will find that it is about encouraging people to be genuinely kind to one another, make small positive changes and embrace a more welcoming world.

Since listening to the song, I've worked on trying to change my mindset to look at the positives in

the world instead of all the negatives. Instead of complaining about having to wake up at 3 a.m. to go to the airport, I think to myself "How lucky am I to be able to afford to go on a fun trip with my friends (or family)!" Instead of complaining about how tired my legs are going to be after long walk with my parents on a Saturday afternoon, I think "I am so glad I'm able to move my body. I'm so glad I'm able to spend time with my parents."

Another thing I've tried to accomplish is not being afraid of complimenting strangers. It sounds weird, I know, but it pushes me out of my comfort zone. I know when I receive a compliment from someone, my mood instantly lifts, and I feel more confident. Why should I not provide those same feel-good feelings to those around me? Who knows, your compliment might just make someone's day, or even their week.

I've realized it is small positive changes, like these, can make all the difference in the world.

While these changes have helped me, I know they might not work for everyone. And resources are available for those who might need extra help. Northeast Youth and Family Services (NYFS) serves a majority of Press Publications' cities and serves students in the Centennial School District.

NYFS is a local nonprofit mental health clinic and community service provider and has served the area since 1976. It offers therapy, medication management and community programs for individuals, families and couples, specializing in youth, children and adult services. The main NYFS office is located in Shoreview on Lexington Avenue N.

Another resource available is the National Alliance on Mental Health, better known as NAMI. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. The organization provides a support group for those struggling with mental health conditions called NAMI Connection. Groups meet weekly, monthly, every other week or monthly depending on your location. Many of these support groups are virtual and attendance is open to everyone across the country.

If you, or someone you know is struggling with mental health issues, know you are not alone. Resources can be found at, www.nami.org or nyfs.org.

And remember to treat people, and yourself, with kindness.

Madeline Dolby is an editor at Press Publications.



UCare cancellation prompts further thoughts

For 300,000 residents within Minnesota and Wisconsin, health care just became one dangerous step closer to impossibility. The cancellation of health insurance provider UCare exemplifies the struggle of those caught between spending an exorbitant amount of their pay check on insurance and remaining uninsured. More pressingly, it shows the need for an alternative solution away from insurance.



Health Care Hurdles
Evie Gardner

UCare was first established in 1984 by the University of Minnesota to give low-income earners access to healthcare. The provider was uniquely inexpensive, offering monthly payments of \$30-\$50 in place of the usual \$300-\$500. At its peak, it had approximately 600,000 users across the state and some western-Wisconsin territories.

The affordability of UCare was a welcome alternative to the extremely expensive U.S. health care system. It provided a resource for those who didn't have the means for more expensive health care. UCare would have been the perfect solution, if it didn't fail.

Typically, Americans receive health insurance through their employers or the Affordable Care

Act marketplace, where individuals compare and enroll in health insurance packages. The government funds programs like Medicaid and Medicare for low-income individuals and seniors. Premiums on insurance are also offered for those between 100%-400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This translates to a yearly salary of \$62,500 or less for an individual, or \$128,600 for a family of four. An estimated 5.8% of Washington county households are in the 100% FPL range.

However, despite insurance, U.S. health care is still notoriously expensive. In 2024, the average price per capita of healthcare was \$15,474, roughly double that of its European counterparts.

Premiums and government subsidies are solutions to the widespread problem of healthcare expenses, but millions are still "underinsured." They have coverage without government assistance, but struggle to pay out of pocket costs. With UCare gone, this title increasingly encompasses Minnesotans.

In all, UCare was short lived, only lasting 42 years following recent financial losses. In 2024, UCare lost an estimated \$1.4 billion due to rising medical costs that outweighed government reimbursements and unpaid claims. After being declared in "hazardous financial condition" by the Minnesota Department of Health, UCare's executive leadership decided to shut down the provider

and transfer 300,000 patients to health insurance provider Medica, which is significantly more expensive.

Now, hundreds of thousands are forced to pay ten times what they would have previously for coverage. These costs open up a broader issue. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, those without health insurance are less likely to get necessary drugs or comprehensive treatment due to price. Once people start to view their health as a second priority, society is threatened.

UCare's cancellation is a threat to public health and proves that the future of health access cannot lie within insurance. What was once a seemingly perfect and inexpensive insurance option had its illusion shattered by money, or lack thereof. Now, individuals are forced to resort to an option that they can't afford. Without government assistance, people are either forced to be uninsured or overspend on health insurance.

These cannot be the only options for those who are uninsured. There must be an alternative way from both insurance and government funding, because subsidies for some just aren't enough to save lives.

Evie Gardner is a junior at Saint Paul Academy and Summit School. She serves as the news editor for the student paper, *The Rubicon*.

QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS | LETTER GUIDELINES

- Limited to 350 words.
- Submissions must include a full name, address and daytime phone number for verification.
- Letter writers must live, work or have another connection to Press Publications coverage area.
- Letter writers are limited to six letters per year

- and at least four weeks must lapse between publication. Exceptions may be made for rebuttal letters.
- Due to space limitations, letters that don't address local issues are not guaranteed publication.
- Repeat letters by the same writer about the same subject matter will

- not be published.
- 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 quadnews@presspubs.com

- 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.



Distributed weekly in:

Blaine • Circle Pines
Lexington • Lino Lakes



Carter C. Johnson - Publisher
cjohnson@presspubs.com
Gene Johnson - Publisher Emeritus
ppinfo@presspubs.com
Patty Steele - General Manager
marketing@presspubs.com
Shannon Granholm - Managing Editor
whitebearnews@presspubs.com

Madeline Dolby - Editor
quadnews@presspubs.com
Mary Peterson - Production Manager
artmanager@presspubs.com
William Peter - Lead Production Designer
art@presspubs.com
Paul Dols - Photo Journalist
photos@presspubs.com

Circulation
circ@presspubs.com
Obituaries
obits@presspubs.com
Classifieds
classified@presspubs.com
Call a Specialist
callaspecialist@presspubs.com

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

News..... 651-407-1227
Advertising..... 651-407-1200
Circulation..... 651-407-1234
Classified/Obits..... 651-407-1250
Production..... 651-407-1253
FAX..... 651-429-1242

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

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

Mailed Subscription Rate:
\$52.00 per year.

Subscribe online at presspubs.com

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Response to Rep. Matt Norris' letter

With mild amusement, I read the letter from Rep. Matt Norris regarding his efforts to combat fraud in Minnesota. Many of the efforts he cited are good ones: New legislation to fully fund fraud prevention, updates to infrastructure and systems that manage these programs, etc.

Bravo. The only problem is this: he's very late to the party.

The worst fraud in Minnesota history has been a widely known

issue for at least five years. What little media there is in Minnesota that takes reporting seriously or responsibly has been pounding the drum about fraud since 2021. However, it fell on deaf ears at the State Capitol, the Governor's office and the Attorney General's office. The Walz administration and the DFL-controlled Legislature chose to ignore the problem, demonstrating negligence at the least or obfuscation at the worst.

Representative Norris, I'm not specifically blaming you, but I do include you with your DFL cohorts who chose to not take

this much more seriously much earlier in the game. Looking ahead, we have a \$3.7 billion surplus (read: over-collection) for 2026-2027. Considering the DFL's lack of curiosity regarding fraud and its history of irresponsible spending — both being compounded by the Walz administration's poor oversight — I have little confidence that anything resembling good financial stewardship of this surplus is likely.

**Howard Clarys
Circle Pines**

CENTENNIAL SCHOOL BOARD NOTES

• Centennial High School Principal Tom Breuning recognized senior Neha Potti for being named a National Merit Finalist. The National Merit Scholarship Program, begun in 1995, is an academic competition for recognition in scholarship. According to Breuning, around 1.5 million students enter the national merit program. Out of the 1.5 million students, Potti is one of 15,000 students to receive the title of finalist.

• Superintendent Jeff Holmberg recognized the district's finance department and Executive Director of Business Services Patrick Chaffey for receiving a certificate of excellence in financial reporting from the Association of School Business Officials.

• The board has approved a memorandum of understanding with the CEA (Centennial Education Association), the local teacher union, according to Executive Director of Human Resources Dan Melde. Under this agreement, the district and CEA will revise the compensation structure for long-term substitute teachers to align with the teacher contract beginning on day one of the assignment, rather than on day 31, according to Melde. He added this adjustment is intended to enhance Centennial's competitiveness in recruiting long-term substitute teachers. Melde said this agreement will go into effect July 1, 2026.

• Adjustments to the 2026-2027 budget will be made following board approval. The updated forecast budget adjustments, according to Chaffey, total \$2.4 million. These adjustments will impact legislative funding decisions, annual enrollment, contract settlements, contracted services and inflation.

• The board adopted a resolution to terminate probationary teachers. According to Melde, there are three main reasons why the district terminates probationary teachers. Those reasons are enrollment and registration, alternative licensing and performance. He added all of these teachers have been told their contracts will be terminated.

• Revisions will be made to the district's long-term facilities maintenance plan following board approval. The plan will be updated to reflect current projects, cost updates and realignment with future projections, according to Chaffey.

• The board has approved the Northeast Metro 916

Intermediate School District's long-term facilities maintenance budget and authorized the inclusion of a proportionate share of the projects in the district's application for the fiscal year 2028 long-term facilities maintenance revenue. According to Chaffey, the School Board of Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School District has approved a long-term facility maintenance program budget for its facilities for the 2027-2028 school year in the amount of \$600,500, of which the district's proportionate share is \$39,095 for pay-as-you-go projects.

• Holmberg and Chaffey provided an update on the district's long-range plan, also referred to as Centennial Forward. The board has had individual and small group meetings that allowed its members to ask questions and provide feedback on the financial impacts of the plan. In May, discussions will continue between the district and stakeholders regarding the plan. At the next regular board meeting in May, the board will be asked to authorize the district to submit the plan(s) to the Minnesota Department of Education for review and comment (see full story in next week's issue).

• Various policies regarding student attendance, projection and privacy of pupil records, immunization requirements, the establishment and adoption of school district budgets and more will undergo revisions following board approval. These revisions include updates in language.

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

The next work session will be at 5:30 p.m. Monday, May 4, in the district office. The next regular school board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 18.

Madeline Dolby

LEXINGTON CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

• Mayor Mike Murphy clarified that the Lexington Fire Department is still operating, with the Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View (SBM) Fire Department supervising. He said this circumstance was due to "ongoing concerns and repeated efforts to address ... operational, staffing, leadership and long-term sustainability issues."

• SBM Fire Department will be at Lexington City Hall on May 21 to answer questions the community may have and "present (the city) with options" as to whether or not SBM will be a permanent replacement.

• Maria Nelson, a potential future resident of Lexington, asked why the position of the fire chief was not filled by another person. Murphy explained that SBM is acting as fire chief at the moment, as there are no qualified candidates available to fill the position. Nelson also asked if there's a potential to rebuild the Lexington Fire Department in the future. Murphy responded that it would be expensive and may not be worth it due to low recruitment.

• Lexington resident Justin Willenbring returned to address the council about his concerns with SBM supervising the fire department. Willenbring said the council has done "the 3 D's: Disparage, deflect and deny," maintaining that response times will increase and implied that the council's closed sessions that were held for the investigation were closed for secrecy's sake, not because of Minnesota laws protecting state employees' confidentiality. Murphy encouraged Willenbring to attend the May 21 meeting to have his questions and concerns addressed by SBM.

• Lexington resident Heidi Foose thanked the council for its quick action to address the issues within the fire department and for coming up with a solution for the time being. She acknowledged that recruitment would take some time and that having SBM to supervise will be helpful so the fire department can stay operating.

The next City Council meeting will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 7, at City Hall.

Hannah Testa

CHURCH BRIEF

St. Joseph of the Lakes hosts annual fashion show

St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church will hold its annual fashion show from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturday, May 2. The fashion show will take place in the church's Great Hall.

There will also be an online silent auction and games. This year's theme for the show is "Pathways to Hopes." Tickets for the fashion show can be purchased at the door.

St. Joseph of the Lakes Catholic Church is located at 171 Elm St., Lino Lakes.

COWBOY'S SALOON

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY: 10 AM - 2 AM
SATURDAY - SUNDAY: 9AM - 2AM

9005 S Hwy Dr, Circle Pines, MN 55014
cowboyyssaloon.co

651-644-6659 | saintsbaseball.com

Upcoming Games

April 28 - May 3
vs. Iowa Cub

May 5 - 10
@ Las Vegas
Aviators

L&B LUNDS & BYERLYS

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

APRIL 30-MAY 6, 2026 | 16 OZ.

\$5.99

L&B Fresh 85% Lean Premium Ground Beef and Patties

SAVE UP TO \$4



COUPONS May 2026

651-407-1200 | PRESSPUBS.COM



Geller Jewelers
*Family Owned & Operated
 Over 100 Years!*
Tues-Fri 10am - 5pm

WE BUY GOLD!

Shoreview
 In the Bridge Court Center
 4535 Hodgson Rd.
 Shoreview, MN 55126
651-481-9750

20% OFF
Any Jewelry Repair
 With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer/discounts. Must present coupon before service. *Expires 5/31/26*

Geller Jewelers
 4535 Hodgson Rd., Shoreview • 651-481-9750

50% OFF
Watch Batteries
 With this coupon. Not valid with any other offer/discounts. Must present coupon before service. *Expires 5/31/26*

Geller Jewelers
 4535 Hodgson Rd., Shoreview • 651-481-9750

Don't Forget Mom on May 10th

CostaProduceFarm.com
 9411 Dellwood Rd, St Paul, MN 55115

\$3 OFF
a 12" Pansy Bowl
 Limit 3 discounted bowls with coupon. One coupon per visit. Expiration 5/31/26
 CostaProduceFarm.com
 9411 Dellwood Rd, St Paul, MN 55115

\$10 OFF
off a \$100 purchase In Home & Garden
 One coupon per visit. Expiration 5/31/26
 CostaProduceFarm.com
 9411 Dellwood Rd, St Paul, MN 55115

Ken's Auto Repair
 Import & Domestic

2525 White Bear Ave. #110-A
 Maplewood, MN 55109
651-340-5380
 www.KensAutoRepairMN.com
 Mon-Fri 7:30 am - 6:00 pm

Now Hiring! Auto Technician

Voted Best Automotive Shop 2 years in a row

FINALIST Best of the Press 2025

- COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR - We do it all
- WARRANTY - 2 year/24k mile
- EXTENDED WARRANTY WORK - Accepted
- WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS
- COMPLIMENTARY - TV, Wi-Fi, refreshments
- SAME DAY SERVICE - On most repairs
- FREE VEHICLE INSPECTION - With all repairs
- NO SURPRISES - All work approved by you
- WORK DONE RIGHT - The first time, on time
- 100% CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

Our Most Important Goal

\$69.95
Front End Alignment
 Ken's Auto Repair 651-340-5380
 Shop supplies, tax & environ. fees extra. Most vehicles. Present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offers coupons or specials. *Exp. 6/15/26* SV

\$159.95
Full Synthetic Transmission Flush
 Includes up to 10 qts. transmission fluid. Ken's Auto Repair 651-340-5380
 Most vehicles, special fluids extra. Present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offers or coupon. *Exp. 6/15/26* SV

\$39.95
Semi Synthetic Oil
 Semi-synthetic oil change up to 5 qts. of oil and standard filter.
\$49.95
Full Synthetic Oil
 Full synthetic oil change up to 5 qts. of oil and standard filter.
 Add tire rotation for only \$10.
 Ken's Auto Repair 651-340-5380
 Diesel commercial vehicles, special oil and special filters extra. Taxes & environ. fees extra. Present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offers or coupons. *Exp. 6/15/26* SV

\$139.95
Air Conditioning Recharge
 Includes: Evacuate, check system for leaks, recharge up to 32oz. R134A refrigerant & AC dye. R1234YF for \$229.95 up to 1lb.
 Ken's Auto Repair 651-340-5380
 Present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offers or coupons. *Exp. 6/15/26* SV

10% OFF
Any Repair Over \$100
 Ken's Auto Repair 651-340-5380
 Up to \$100. Present coupon at time of purchase. Not valid with any other offers or coupons. *Exp. 6/15/26* SV

NORTH STAR MINI STORAGE SHOREVIEW

Gate Access (Daily): 7:00 am - 10:00 pm

MINNESOTA'S Best READERS' CHOICE BRONZE WINNER 2025

Readers' Choice 2025 WINNER

Mon-Fri: 9-5 • Saturday: 9-4 • Sunday: Closed
 483 W. County Rd. E. • Shoreview, MN • 651-483-1100
 shoreview@northstarministorage.com

\$20 OFF
 STORAGE 10X10 UNITS OR LARGER
 1ST MONTH ONLY
 NEW CUSTOMER ONLY
 VALID AT SHOREVIEW LOCATION ONLY
 EXPIRES 5/31/26
 NORTH STAR MINI STORAGE

2nd month FREE
 FOR NON-DRIVE-UP UNITS
 ON 180 SQ FT OR LESS, NEW CUSTOMERS
 ONLY AT THE VADNAIS HEIGHTS AND SHOREVIEW LOCATIONS
 EXPIRES 5/31/26
 NORTH STAR MINI STORAGE

Auto Service

Locally Owned, Locally Operated

415 W Highway 96
651-484-9600

Any Oil & Filter Change \$32.99
 Regular or Full Synthetic up to 6 qts of oil.
 Not valid with any other offers. Tax and shop supplies extra. Expires 5/31/26
 CODE: QD/SV

10¢ OFF
Gallon of Gas
 Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at N. Suburban. Expires 5/31/26
 CODE: QD/SV

20¢ OFF
Gallon of Gas
 with any wash purchase
Valid only at 5990 Hodgson Road only.
 Not valid with any other offer. Valid only at N. Suburban. Expires 5/31/26
 CODE: QD/SV

Urban's FARM & GREENHOUSES

3781 Labore Rd., Vadnais Heights
651-248-9696
 www.urbansfarmandgreenhouses.com

- Tomatoes - many varieties
- Peppers -many varieties including world's hottest
- Hanging baskets
- Sun/shade coleus
- Rieger begonias
- Disease resistant impatiens
- Many bedding plants
- Geraniums
- Cole crops
- Herbs
- Perennials
- And much more!

Curbside order and pickup available. Call for more information.

OPEN APRIL 25TH

7% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE ORDER & 1 FREE
2 1/2" Perennial
with Purchase of \$25 or more
 ***while supplies last

Buy Direct from the Grower & Save.

M-F 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
 Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Not valid with any other offer. Expires 6/23/2026

COPS & COURTS

APRIL 28, 2026

www.presspubs.com

QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS 7

POLICE REPORTS

The Centennial Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- Police responded April 16 to a harassment report in the 4100 block of Lovell Road in Lexington.
- Officers were dispatched April 17 for a domestic incident in the 0 block of Oak Leaf Lane in Circle Pines.
- Officers were dispatched April 17 to a dispute in the 0 block of central Street in Circle Pines.
- Officers completed a traffic stop April 19 in the 6900 block of Lamotte Drive in Centerville for an ordinance violation.
- Officers conducted a traffic stop April 20 in the area of Lexington Avenue and Lovell Road in Lexington that resulted in a warrant arrest.
- Police conducted a traffic stop April 20 in the 9500 block of Lexington Avenue in Circle Pines for a violation.

The Lino Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- Officers responded April 13 to an illegal dumping complaint in the 700 block of Apollo Drive. The officers investigated and determined no apparent crime was committed.
- Officers responded April 13 to a domestic assault in the 7800 block of Century Trail. The male suspect fled from the scene prior to officers arriving. A warrant for his arrest was later issued.
- While on patrol April 13, an officer stopped a vehicle in the 7600 block of Lake Drive because the driver didn't have a license. The adult female was booked in jail for possession of a controlled substance, possession of an open package, driving after revocation and no insurance.
- While on patrol April 14, an officer stopped a vehicle in the area of Apollo Drive and Lilac Street because the registered owner had a warrant. The male driver was arrested and booked into jail.
- An officer responded April 14 to a report of a tractor trailer that drove into the ditch in a construction zone in the 6100 block of Otter Lake Road. The officer documented the scene, and the vehicle was removed from the ditch by a tow truck.
- An officer received a traffic complaint April 14 at a construction site in the area of Otter Lake Road and Ash Street. The officer issued a verbal warning to the driver and provided extra patrol in the area.
- An officer responded April 15 to a driving complaint in the area of Main Street and Lake Drive. The vehicle in question was located unoccupied at a local business. The officer monitored the area but did not observe any traffic violations.
- An officer responded to a report of an altercation involving juveniles on a school bus April 16 in the 300 block of Elm Street. The incident was documented and forwarded to the school resource officer for investigation.
- An officer responded April 16 to a property damage crash involving two vehicles in a parking lot in the 400 block of Elm Street. There were no injuries, and both vehicles were driven from the scene.
- An officer responded April 16 to a report of a property damage hit-and-run crash in the 7400 block of Lake Drive. The officer spoke with both drivers involved and determined there was insufficient evidence that a crime occurred.
- An officer responded April 16 to a motor vehicle crash with injuries in the 7600 block of Sunset Avenue. One driver was transported to a hospital by ambulance. The other driver was issued a citation for a traffic violation.
- While on patrol April 16, an officer stopped a vehicle for a violation in the area of Lake Drive and Interstate 35W. The officer arrested the driver for multiple violations and booked him in jail.
- An officer responded April 16 to a theft at a local business in the 700

block of Apollo Drive. The officer investigated and issued a citation to the suspect.

- An officer responded April 16 to a two-vehicle property damage accident in the area of Lilac Street and Fourth Avenue. Both vehicles were towed from the scene, and one driver was issued a citation for a traffic offense.
- While on patrol April 17, an officer stopped a vehicle for a moving violation in the 900 block of Main Street. The driver was arrested for a driver's license violation and booked in jail.
- An officer responded April 17 to a violation of a harassment restraining order in the 700 block of Town Center Parkway. The investigation is ongoing.
- Officers responded April 17 to a report of ding-dong-ditchers in the 400 block of Aqua Lane. Officers checked the area, but no one was located.
- While on patrol April 18, an officer located an illegal recreational fire in the 7300 block of Lake Drive. The officer spoke with the homeowner and informed them of the city's ordinances regulating fires.
- An officer responded April 18 to a report of a dog bite in the 1900 block of William Lane. The incident was documented, and the dog owner was issued a citation.
- Officers responded April 18 to a theft at a local business in the 700 block of Apollo Drive. The officers located the suspect and recovered the merchandise. While the suspect was in the back of a squad car, they began having a medical emergency. An ambulance responded and transported the suspect to a hospital.
- While on patrol April 19, an officer stopped a vehicle in the 400 block of Aqua Circle because a female passenger had an outstanding warrant. The female was arrested and booked in jail.

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEF

Blaine Police Department asks for help locating missing juvenile

The Blaine Police Department is requesting the public's assistance in locating a missing juvenile. Patrick Keane Jr., 16, was last seen on Saturday, April 11, 2026. He is described as approximately 5 feet, 5 inches tall, 100 pounds, with brown hair and blue eyes. Keane resides in Hopkins but was last seen in Blaine wearing a dark-colored sweatshirt and dark-colored pants. Anyone with information regarding Keane's whereabouts is asked to contact the Anoka County Communications Center at 763-427-1212.

Blaine Police Department

SCHOOL BRIEF

Centennial Students for Change host annual culture fair

Celebrate diversity and community at the Centennial Students for Change fifth annual Culture Fair from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at Centennial High School. There will be food trucks and vendors selling various items. Community members and organizations will also be on site hosting cultural and informational booths, performances and more. Centennial High School is located at 4757 North Road. For more information, visit the Centennial Students for Change Facebook page.



COUPONS May 2026

651-407-1200 | PRESSPUBS.COM

Quad Community Press

Hugo Feed Mill & Hardware



Now is a great time to take care of your lawn & visit our greenhouse.



5582 146th St. N. | Hugo
651-429-3361
www.hugofeedmill.com

GREENHOUSE OPENING IN EARLY MAY

Call or visit our website for details

With 500+ varieties of Peppers & Tomatoes, we have the Biggest & Best selection in the Metro Area!

Bedding Plants • Hanging Baskets • Vegetables • Organics

FERTILOME ROOT STIMULATOR
GET YOUR PLANTS OFF TO A GREAT START!

1 QT, REG. \$13.95
\$8.95 WITH COUPON
1 coupon per customer. Expires 5/31/26
HUGO FEED MILL 5582 146TH ST. N. • HUGO • 651-429-3361

HUGO LAWN SEED
BUY 2 lbs
GET 1 lb FREE
Max value \$7.50.
1 coupon per customer. Expires 5/31/26
HUGO FEED MILL 5582 146TH ST. N. • HUGO • 651-429-3361

Landscaping Supplies • Gardencenter & Nursery



You pick up or we deliver mulch!
651-490-3058
6074 Hodgson Rd. (Hwy. 49)
Lino Lakes/Shoreview
(3 blocks N. of Cty. Rd J on Hwy. 49)

Black Dirt • Garden Blend • Sod • Boulders • Lawn Edging • Sand Box or Beach Sand • Wood Chips & Mulch • Decorative Rock • Paving Stones • Lawn Ornaments • Weed Mats & Poly • Fair Gardens • Excellent Quality • Excellent Prices

www.rockgardens.net

\$5.00 OFF
HANGING BASKETS, PATIO POTS AND DELIVERY
651-490-3058
6074 Hodgson Rd. (Hwy. 49) Lino Lakes/Shoreview
(3 blocks N. of Cty. Rd. J on Hwy. 49)
1 coupon per customer per visit, Exp. 5.31.26
Not valid on sale items. Not valid with other coupons.

BUY 3 GET 1 FREE
SHRUBS, PERENNIALS & ANNUALS
651-490-3058
6074 Hodgson Rd. (Hwy. 49) Lino Lakes/Shoreview
(3 blocks N. of Cty. Rd. J on Hwy. 49) Exp. 5.31.26
Limit 1 FREE plant per customer visit. Not valid with other coupons. Exp. 5.31.26
You can now order online at www.rockgardens.net

SERVICES DIRECTORY

APPLIANCE REPAIR

Bruce's Appliance Repair

Honest Work for Honest Pay
651-270-7360
 Reasonable Rates
-all jokes and laughs are free

Servicing All Major Appliance Brands
 Major Credit Cards Accepted

AUTO SERVICE

VERMEERSCH AUTOMOTIVE

Auto Repair - Oil Lube & Filter Service
 20 years of experience serving White Bear Lake & Centerville - Friendly, Honest Service
651.226.4235
 Monday-Friday 8am-6pm
 7137 20th Avenue North • Centerville
www.facebook.com/vermauto

Complete Auto Repair Center

All makes/models - Foreign & Domestic
 Free Loaner Vehicles - Towing

651-483-4259
 38 Woodlynn Ave Little Canada
www.rsautorepair.com

BATHROOMS

Bathrooms by Young Castle

- Design
- Bath Repair
- Remodeling
- Tub Surrounds
- Free Estimates

HUGE SAVINGS!
 Lic. #20060261
651-257-4706
www.youngcastlebathrooms.com

CABINETRY

SEW SCHNEIDER CUSTOM WOODWORKS

Commercial & Residential

- Cabinet resurfacing and refacing
- Custom exterior work
- Deck refacing

Free Estimates & Callbacks within 24 hours
651-213-6638
schneidercustomwoodwork.com

CARPENTRY

Small Job Specialist
 45 years experience

Basement Finish/Remodel
 Exterior & Interior Painting
 Doors/Windows/Siding
 Ceiling Textures/Roofs
 Kitchen Remodels/Counter Tops
 Decks/Landscaping
 Odd Jobs
 Bathrooms

651.653.9920 / 612.816.8544

CLEANING

JOHNSON JUNK REMOVAL

651-323-4682

Household Waste
 Construction Debris
 Appliances
 Furniture

CONCRETE

Wohlwend
 Concrete & Masonry
 Reliable Contractor
 Since 1985
 Reasonable prices
651-426-2610
swohlwend@myctf.net

Meet Your Specialist



A Cut Above Tree Service

A Cut Above Tree Service is family owned and operated. We are licensed by the state of Minnesota and have a long history of integrity and quality in everything we do. With almost 20 years experience, we are the go-to partner providing a broad range of tree services to the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. Our mission is simple; deliver the highest possible quality service at a fair and competitive price. At A Cut Above Tree Service we take great pride in paying attention to detail, safety, and clean up.

We are proud of our long list of satisfied customers. They understand how much we value their business and their property. We believe good ethics and moral values are more than just business speak - they are the backbone of our business.

Safety is foremost in everything we do. We take every precaution to minimize property damage or personal injury. Our clean safety record speaks for itself. But just in case, we are fully insured!

We are integrity-driven and proud of our honest, straight-forward approach with our customers and our own team. We promise to always do our best to provide accurate estimates at a price that is fair for everyone.

Call today for a FREE estimate! Phone: 651-334-9063 www.acutabovetreecareservice.com

CONCRETE

Bill Lee
 Masonry & Concrete
 Fix & Repair Specialist

ALL YOUR CONCRETE & MASONRY NEEDS

SPECIALISTS - STRUCTURAL GARAGE SLABS
 POLE SLABS - DRIVEWAYS - SIDEWALKS
 - PATIOS - ARCHITECTURAL-COLORED & STAMPED PATTERNS.

651-308-1101

DECKS

NORHLAND
 LANDSCAPING & CONSTRUCTION

We fix heaving and sinking footings and foundations with Helical Pilings

Custom Decks/Footing/Repairs/Remodels/Pole Barns/Garages/ Additions & Porches/All Repairs/ Fences/Roofing/Siding

651-746-4582
northlandlandscape.com
 Bonded Insured | Lic #BC638094

DECK RESTORATION

Deck Cleaning & Staining

Professional - Prompt
 Guaranteed Results

Hand-to-Deck Restoration

651-699-3504
www.RTDservices.com

DRYWALL

Wolf Bros. Drywall Co.
 Total Drywall Services
 New Const & Basement Finishes
 Residential/Commercial
 Family Owned & Operated
 40 yrs • Since 1979
 Insured
CALL LEE
(651) 428-0229
 Forest Lake

ELECTRIC

ARROW ELECTRIC

Small Jobs Welcome

- Repair Circuits • Receptes Added
- Remodels • Panels Replaced
- Ceiling Fans • Master Electrician

EMERGENCY SERVICE
651-383-5123

HANDYMAN

WE DO EVERYTHING!

Roofing • Siding
 Windows • Doors • Gutters • Decks
 Painting • Repairs

And MORE!
BETTER SOLUTIONS bettersol.com
763-742-7500
 Full Service Contractor
 over 40 years experience MN Lic. BC639211

REMODELING



BATHROOMS ~ KITCHENS
BASEMENTS ~ TILES
ALL REMODELING

Twin Cities Premier Home Improvement Company

651-238-6751 • NorconHomes.com

Locally Owned Since 1994 | Insured / Lic #BC105943

HANDYMAN

FREE Estimates! Specializing in

- Handyman • Remodeling • Drywall Repair • Bathrooms • Kitchens

Licensed Bonded Insured

Ron Skibsted, R.S. Construction
 651-271-5000
 License #BC002674

BOB'S HANDY WORK

- Tree removal & trimming
- Repair Carpentry



Veteran-Ret. USN
952-843-8742
bfarah693@gmail.com

HEATING & COOLING

COMFORT PLUS
 HEATING & COOLING

Furnace & A/C
 Installations and Service
 Licensed, Bonded & Insured
651.426.4233 cphvac.net

HOME IMPROVEMENT

ARTISAN
 SINCE 1982

ArtisanConstruction.info

- Additions / Remodel
- Roofing / Siding
- Kitchens / Baths
- Basement Finish
- Porches / Decks
- Garages / Sheds
- Windows / Doors
- Storm Damage

612-961-6161
ArtisanConstruction123@gmail.com
 Free Estimates MN LIC #437164
 Also offering Handy Man Services
 visit us at: HandyDan.info

LANDSCAPING

NORHLAND
 LANDSCAPING & CONSTRUCTION

Ponds & Waterfalls, Paver Patios, Driveways, Concrete, Bobcat Work, Grading, Sod, Retaining, Walls & Tree Work, Plants, Mulch and Rock.

651-746-4582
 Bonded Insured Lic. #BC638094
www.northlandlandscape.com

NORCON HOME SOLUTIONS

Complete Landscape Construction
 Retaining Walls • Paver Patios and Walkways
 Drain Tile • Grading/ Bobcat Work
 Mulch • Rock

Twin Cities Premier Home Improvement Company

651-238-6751
NorconHomes.com
 Insured / Lic #BC105943

Ehman Landscaping

Specializing in:

- Sodding • Seeding • Grading
- Sod Repair • Sod Removal

FREE ESTIMATES
RonEhman@outlook.com
Call Ron 612-720-1893

NATURAL CREATIONS
 DESIGN • BUILD • TRANSFORM



Generations of craftsmanship in every stone. Scan to start your landscape transformation!



naturalcreationsdesignbuild.com

LAWN CARE

SCH Services, LLC

Spring Clean up Specials
 Lawn Care Contracts
 commercial and residential
monthly or per visit
 Sean **651-210-0061**
www.SCHservices.net

R.P.M. LAWN SERVICE

Residential and Commercial
 Specializing in lawn service and fertilization applications
 Outdoor maintenance since 1988
 For free estimates, call Jim or Ron
651-226-5779

PAINTING

Cedar Specialists & Best Painting
 We'll bring your cedar back to life!

Family owned since 1967

Staining, Painting, Cleaning, Stucco Painting, Repairs and Restoration, Siding, trim, shakes, fences, decks, pergolas, gazebos

Residential and Commercial
 Call now for Spring 2026 interior & exterior pricing!
Call or email Brian
 651-238-1850
brian@cedarspec-bestpaint.com

L D MARSHALL PAINTING

Scott or Linda • 651-426-9135 (office)

- Interior painting only
- Stain & Varnish
- Painting of Home Furnishings (furniture, cabinets, mirrors, light fixtures, frames, etc.)

Free Estimates • Established 1987

Free Estimate 35 yrs Experience

Living Colors Pro Painting Pro

- Professional, Residential House Painting
- Interior & Exterior
- Kind, Respectful Service

Please Call Richard
612-394-8978

PLUMBING

HUGO PLUMBING & PUMP SERVICE Inc.
Hometown Friendly Service

- Drain Cleaning
- Hot Water Heating
- Hot Water Heaters & Disposal
- Well Pump Service
- New Construction • Remodeling

Tom Thill 651-433-4866 Lic. #005402

REMODELING

Carter Custom CONSTRUCTION

- Kitchens • Remodels
- Bathrooms • Basements

SPRING PROMO

- PVC & Composite Decks
- 3 & 4 Season Porches

Mention this ad to receive promotion

651-653-0190
cartercustomconstruction.com
MN Lic #BC632066

WM HAYES CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Bathrooms • Kitchens • Basements
Remodeling • Water Intrusion Repair

RoofingMinn.com
Locally owned since 1972

651-429-2682
MN License #BC002810

APPLEWOOD BUILDERS

helping you love your home!

applewoodremodelers.com

612.670.7004
MNLic#BC003215

Olson Construction, LLC

612-868-6837

Room Additions • Kitchens
Basements • Decks
All Remodeling
For more info visit
KOlsonconstruct.com
Lic. #BC-516217

SHERCO CONSTRUCTION INC
Quality Home Building and Remodeling

TIME TO REMODEL?
Kitchen / Bathroom
Basement / Deck

Check out our Models for design ideas.

1 yr financing option available

SHERCO CONSTRUCTION
651-888-4138
License # BC627690

RESTORATION

Your Local Insurance Restoration & Renovation Contractor

YRS

YARES RENOVATION SERVICES
-Exterior & Interior-
-Storm Damage-Fire Damage-Water Damage-Home Renovations-Roofing

License#BC200945 651.333.0007

ROOFING

BEAR ROOFING & EXTERIORS

"Your Local Exterior Specialists"
Residential - Hardie Plank

Roofing • Siding • Windows
Gutters • Fascia & Soffit

651-407-1987
MN Lic. # BC223025

ROOFING/SIDING

- Roofing • Siding • Gutters
- Repairs & More!

Financing / Discounts Available
Quality Service & Products
With Great Expectations
Locally Owned & Operated

763-742-7500
betersol.com

BETTER SOLUTIONS
Full Service Contractor
over 40 years experience MN Lic. BC639211

STUMP GRINDING

STUMP GRINDING
Free Estimates
SAME DAY SERVICE

Fast, dependable, insured

651-426-8660
budgettreeservice@outlook.com

TREE SERVICE

Primeau's Tree Service
Tree & Shrub Trimming/Removal

46 years of experience

Family owned
Certified Arborist onsite!

651-773-5643

BUDGET TREE SERVICE

FREE WOOD CHIPS

651-426-8660

A Cut Above Tree Service
Licensed Insured
Free Estimates

Tree Removal and Trimming
Emergency Storm Damage
Stump Grinding

Local Family Owned Business
www.facebook.com/acutabovetreecareservice
www.acutabovetreecareservice.com

651-334-9063

GENE'S TREE SERVICE & STUMP GRINDING
Licensed/Insured • Free Estimates

Call Today! 763-785-1629

Cameron Tree Service

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

(651) 775-8602

HALVERSON TREE

Board Certified Master Arborist
Fully Licensed + Insured

651-478-0710
HalversonTree.com

WATERPROOFING

GREAT LAKES WATERPROOFING
Exterior Waterproofing

FREE ESTIMATES
651-340-2901
NO DIGGING REQUIRED

Targeting water flow at a fraction of the price of drain-tile systems
Since 1978
MN License # IR660365
www.RealWaterproofing.com

SERVICES DIRECTORY

CLASSIFIEDS

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

14 Local Events

Hymns We Love To Sing, Tues, May 5th 4:30, Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church 900 Stillwater Rd, Mah-tomed, For info call Rev. Alan James 651*/983*3846

23 Free Items

Free clam truck loads of wood delivered White Bear & Hugo areas only
651*/426*8660

104 Hauling/Moving

Scrap metal, appliance p/u 651*/329*0815

110 Rototilling

Cheap Garden Tilling Paul 651/270*1926

150 Help Wanted

NOW HIRING! GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Part time 6-12 hours/week
Entry level position

Experience with indesign, illustrator and photoshop preferred

Main responsibilities include ad design and newspaper layout

Send resume to artmanager@presspubs.com

160 Hire Me

Ann's Awesome-Housecleaning - 20+ Yrs Exp. Dependable. Trustworthy. Ref Avail. C/I/Txt 651*/776*7834

150 Help Wanted

Press Publications NOW HIRING GRAPHIC DESIGNER 6-12 hrs/wk, Entry level position, Exp w/in-design, illustrator, and Photoshop preferred. Send resumes to artmanager@presspubs.com

Help Wanted Age 55 Workers needed for part-time custodial work at rest areas and state parks in Minnesota. Apply online at greenviewmn.com or call 651/639*1913

We make this ... much easier.

Press Publications Classifieds

Call 651-407-1250 to place your classified ad today!

300 For Sale

WELL-MAINTAINED BOAT 2002 Lund Pro-Sport 16.75', 115 HP Mercury & troll motors, many opts, w/Karavan trailer; \$12K OBO; Call 651.308.8587

Pet Services

Personal Touch Pet Grooming
"When Quality and Service Matter"

763 784-4833
TDD 784-0662
Dial 711 for Relay Assistance

Deb Molin
Certified Master Groomer
200 Marian Ct., Circle Pines, MN 55014

362 Miscellaneous

CHOOSE EARTH-LINK FIBER Internet for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 844*/453*6983

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

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

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

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

369 Want to Buy

WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612*/720*2142

WE BUY HOUSES for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844*/978*0683

We Buy Vinyl Records Lps, 45s, Stereo Equip We make house calls by appointment. **White Bear Lake Records** 4775 Banning Ave, WBL wblrecords.com 651/224-4947



403 Flower Sale

FLOWER SALE WBL

Fri, May 8: 9am-8pm
Sat, May 9: 8am-4pm

St. Anne's
2445 East County Road E

404 Garage Sales

HUGE GARAGE SALE! Furniture, home décor, toys, legos, crafts & sewing, New clothes, sporting goods. 3940 Clover Ave Vad. Hgts Thur 4/30-Sat 5/2 8am-4pm

Moving Sale 7987 Highland Dr, LL, Thurs - Sat 5/7 to 5/9 8a-5p, Tools, Yard items, Goofy collect, HH items, Jewelry, Holiday décor, Stampin' Up!

406 Rummage Sales

Rummage Sale Thurs. Apr. 30, 9a-6p
Fri. May 1, 9a-6p
Sat. May 2, 9a-1p
White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church
328 Maple Street
Mahtomed 55115

451 Rentals/Commercial

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY, all real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll free: 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free number for hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

Deadline for Classified Line and display ads Thursday 4pm
651-407-1250 | classified@presspubs.com

BEST OF: Allows readers a chance to weigh in on their local favorites

FROM PAGE 1

customer engagement following recognition in the contest.

“When a business is nominated year after year, it tells other readers that the place is trusted and authentic,” Steele noted. “It shows consistency and that they’re doing something right.”

That visibility is especially meaningful for small and locally owned businesses that rely heavily on community support and word of mouth.

How it works

The process begins with nominations, when readers can submit their favorite businesses and organizations across a range of categories. After the nomination period closes, the top contenders move on to a voting round, where the community determines the final winners.

Specific timelines for nomination and voting phases will vary slightly across publications, but all contests will be accessible through the “Best Of” section at presspubs.com.

Participants are encouraged to nominate early and often, which helps ensure that their favorite spots make it onto the ballot. “Every year, we’ve seen growth in participation,” Steele indicated. “We’ve never gone backward — it continues to build momentum.”

A reflection of the community

At its core, the Readers’ Choice Best of the Press Contest is less about rankings and more about recognition. It highlights the places people return to, the services they trust and the businesses that help shape everyday life in their communities.

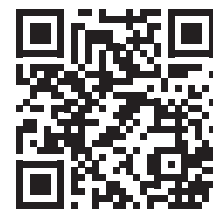
As nominations open at the end of April, readers once again have the chance to weigh in — and to make sure their local favorites get the recognition they deserve.

Reader’s Choice 2026

BEST OF THE PRESS CONTEST



Get ready readers!
You can start to
nominate this week!
April 29 - May 17



Nominate at
[presspubs.com/
quad/bestof](http://presspubs.com/quad/bestof)

PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES - PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF LINO LAKES NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Lino Lakes, Minnesota will hold a public hearing on May 11, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Lino Lakes City Hall, 600 Town Center Parkway, Lino Lakes, Minnesota, to consider the following:

- Drainage and Utility Easement Vacation
 - Property Address: 6030 Blanchard Blvd
 - PID #31-31-22-43-0066 and 31-31-22-73-0070
 - Lot 2, Block 2, Outlot C

For further information regarding the above item, please contact City Engineer, Diane Hanke, at 651-982-2430.

Anyone wishing to be heard regarding these items will be given the opportunity at the time of the hearing. If you have any questions or need special accommodations, please call 651-982-2400.

Roberta Colotti, CMC, City Clerk

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on April 21 and 28, 2026.

CITY OF LINO LAKES ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Project: Lino Lakes Public Works 1189 Main St, Lino Lakes, MN 55014	Architect: Oertel Architects 1795 St. Clair Avenue St. Paul, MN 55105
Owner: City of Lino Lakes 600 Town Center Parkway Lino Lakes, MN 55014	Construction Manager: RJM Construction 830 Boone Avenue North Golden Valley, MN 55427

NOTICE TO QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS – Notice is hereby given that the City of Lino Lakes will receive sealed bids for Bid Package #2 from qualified bidders until **1:00 p.m., Monday, May 4th, 2026** at Lino Lakes City Hall, 600 Town Center Parkway, Lino Lakes, MN 55014.

The project work scope consists of a new public works facility for the City of Lino Lakes. Bid Package No. 2 consists of Building Demolition, Earthwork, Utilities, Site furnishings, MEPs, and interior and exterior finishes.

A bid security in the amount of 5% of the base bid will be required to accompany bids. Bids received after that time will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.

Sealed bids will be received at the Lino Lakes City Hall, 600 Town Center Parkway, Lino Lakes, MN 55014 until **1:00 p.m., Monday, May 4th, 2026** at which time bids will be publicly opened, reviewed, and read aloud. Envelopes containing bids must be sealed, marked **City of Lino Lakes Public Works Facility – Bid Package #2** and the **Bid Category No.** being bid with **attention to Michael Grochala – Community Development Director**. The name and address of the Bidder must be shown on the outside of the envelope. The date and time of the bid is to be noted on the label. Bids received after this time will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.

Bidding documents including the Proposal Form, Drawings and Specifications will be on file at the office of the Construction Manager:

RJM Construction
830 Boone Avenue North
Golden Valley, MN 55427
952-837-8600

A pre-bid meeting will be conducted at the existing Lino Lakes Public Works Facility, 1189 Main St, Lino Lakes, MN 55014, on April 13th, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. If you plan to attend the meeting, we do ask that you pre-register via email with nick.driessen@rjmconstruction.com by EOD April 2nd, 2026.

HOW TO GET PLANS:

Complete digital Bidding Documents are available at www.questcdn.com for \$22.00 by inputting project #10137348 on the website’s Project Search page. Paper Bidding Documents may also be viewed at RJM Construction,

830 Boone Avenue N, Golden Valley MN 55427 or can be purchased from National Reprographics by calling 651-779-8000. Complete set(s) of hard copy Bidding Documents can be obtained through National Reprographics as noted in AIA Document A701, Article 1. A digital download of the documents will be available for purchase for access with check made payable to National Reprographics. They are also available at any of the building exchanges. Plans will be available on or about March 30th, 2026.

Make Bids in duplicate in exact accordance with the proposal form in the Project Manual, and sign in long-hand. No oral, telegraphic or fax bids will be accepted or considered.

Combined bids including multiple bid categories will be accepted. However, in order to be considered bidders must also submit separate individual bids in addition to the combined bid. Combined bids will not be accepted if individual bids are not submitted. Each separate bid or combined bid must appear alone on a bid form and submitted in separate envelopes.

Submit with each bid a certified check, bank money order or acceptable bidders bond issued by a surety meeting city requirements payable to the City of Lino Lakes in the amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid. For requirements, please reference specification section 00 21 00 – Supplementary Instructions to Bidders.

All bids will be evaluated by the Owner, the Architect and the Construction Manager. The Owner reserves the right to accept any bid or reject any or all bids, or parts of such bids and waive informalities or irregularities in bidding. Successful bidders will be required to furnish satisfactory Labor and Material Payment Bond, Performance Bond, and Certificates of Insurance and a signed contract within 10 days of award of contract. No bidder may withdraw his/her bid for at least 60 days after the scheduled bid opening.

The successful bidder must be a “responsible contractor.” The term “responsible contractor” means a contractor as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 16C.285, subdivision 3. Any prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that does not meet the minimum criteria or fails to comply with the verification requirements is not a responsible contractor and is not eligible to be awarded a construction contract for the project or to perform work on the project. A prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that makes a false statement under oath verifying compliance with the minimum criteria will be ineligible to be awarded a construction contract on the project and the submission of a false statement may result in termination of a contract awarded to a prime contractor, subcontractor, or motor carrier that submits the false statement. A prime contractor shall include in its verification of compliance a list of all its first-tier subcontractors that it intends to retain for work on the project. Before execution of a construction contract, a prime contractor shall submit a supplemental verification under oath confirming that all subcontractors and motor carriers that the prime contractor intends to use to perform project work have verified to the prime contractor, through a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer, that they meet the minimum criteria for a responsible contractor.

The schedule for the project is to commence work May 2026 with substantial completion scheduled for July 2027. Work will be completed according to the preliminary project construction schedule issued in the Bid Documents.

Please direct all inquiries to Nick Driessen, RJM Construction at 612-615-5965.

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on April 28, 2026.

CENTENNIAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 12 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY MARCH 2, 2026

(Abbreviated—full minutes available at www.isd12.org or call 763-792-6010 to request a hard copy) LEGAL NOTICE: School Board, Independent School District 12; 4707 North Road, Circle Pines, Minnesota; March 2, 2026.

1. Call to Order Chair Knisely called the Work Study Session to order at 5:30 p.m. in the District Office Board Room. 2. Roll Call The following members were present: Knisely, ex-officio Holmberg, Johnson, Schwinn, Hansen,

Linser, Murphy. The following members were absent: None. 3. Presentation - High School LEAP Changes The presentation is included in board packets. 4. Presentation Middle School Student Success The presentation is included in board packets. 5. Cyber Security We are in the process of negotiating a three-year agreement with Arctic Wolf which we are procuring through Cooperative Purchasing. The Board will be asked to approve the agreement at the March 16 board meeting. 6. Budget Adjustments Executive Director Chaffey presented the list of proposed budget adjustments for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Executive Director Melde explained the three phases of the staffing process. Budget Adjustment conversations will continue through the month of April. 7. Long Range Plan Update Superintendent Holmberg, Executive Director Chaffey along with Brent Jones and Ellie Gilliam from Nexus gave a Long Range Planning Presentation. The presentation is included in board packets. 8. Adjourn at 7:51 p.m.

Craig Johnson, School Board Clerk

Minutes prepared by Jody Josephson

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on April 28, 2026.

CENTENNIAL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 12 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SUMMARY MARCH 16, 2026

(Abbreviated—full minutes available at www.isd12.org or call 763-792-6010 to request a hard copy) LEGAL NOTICE: School Board, Independent School District 12; 4707 North Road, Circle Pines, Minnesota; March 16, 2026.

1. Call to Order Chair Knisely called the Regular Meeting of the School Board to order at 6:30 p.m. in the District Office Board Room. 2. Pledge of Allegiance 3. Roll Call The following members were present: Knisely, ex-officio Holmberg, Linser, Schwinn, Murphy, Hansen, Johnson. The following members were absent: None. 4. Approval of the Agenda Motion to approve the agenda by Johnson, seconded by Murphy. Vote: 6-0-0. Motion carried unanimously. 5. Public Comment None. 6. Consent Items 6.1. Approval of Minutes: Work Study Session Minutes of February 2, 2026 and Regular School Board Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2026. 6.2. Approval of Monthly Disbursements. 6.3. Approval of Personnel Items. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items as detailed in the enclosures by Schwinn, seconded by Linser. Vote: 6-0-0. Motion carried unanimously. 7. Curriculum 7.1. ELA Curriculum Update – Executive Director Grossklaus and Director Rutherford gave an update on ELA curriculum. The presentation is included in board packets. 8. Resource Management 8.1. Approval to add/change Schedule B Positions - Executive Director Melde explained the process to add or change positions on Schedule B. The Schedule B committee recommends increase of the salary for two High School Vocal Activities positions. Motion to approve the changes to Schedule B positions by Hansen, seconded by Murphy. Vote: 6-0-0. Motion carried unanimously. 8.2. Managed Security Services Renewal Agreement - Motion to approve the Managed Security Services Renewal Agreement with Arctic Wolf by Johnson, seconded by Schwinn. Vote: 6-0-0. Motion carried unanimously. 8.3. Adoption of Acknowledgement of Contributions Resolution - Motion to adopt the Acknowledgement of Contributions Resolution by Schwinn, seconded by Murphy. Roll Call Vote – Ayes: Knisely, Linser, Schwinn, Murphy, Hansen, Johnson. Nays: None. Motion carried unanimously. 9. Supplemental Items 9.1. Long Range Plan Update - Superintendent Holmberg gave an update on the Long Range Plan. The presentation is included in board packets. No School Board Action is required. 10. Communication 10.1. AMSD. 10.2. CAEF. 10.3. NE Metro 916. 10.4. SAFF. 10.5. District Committee Reports. 11. Superintendent Report 12. Informational Items 12.1. Dates to Note. 13. Adjourn Motion to adjourn by Schwinn, seconded by Linser. Vote: 6-0-0. Motion carried unanimously. Adjourn at 8:03 p.m.

Craig Johnson, School Board Clerk

Minutes prepared by Jody Josephson

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on April 28, 2026.

SPRING MUSICAL: Senior cast members reflect

FROM PAGE 1

Mary Poppins takes the children on many magical and memorable adventures throughout the show, but Jane and Michael won't be the only ones on whom she has an effect. Even grown-ups can learn a lesson or two from the nanny who advises that "anything can happen if you let it."

"I think that 'Marry Poppins' has a great message of hope, and that being nice is always the right choice," Webster added.

Lydia Carroll, a junior, will take on the role of Mary Poppins. Carroll said she enjoys playing Mary Poppins because of how "sassy she is." Her favorite song is "Feed the Birds."

"I think it has a really good message behind it — don't judge someone by someone's appearance. Everyone is singing together. It's so tear-jerking," Carroll said.

When preparing for this role, Carroll said she struggled with being so organized.

"She is so put together and organized, and that is something that I struggle with myself. Everything she does is practically perfect, so it's hard to step out of that comfort and make choices that can be scary," Carroll explained.

Bert, the narrator of the show, will be played by sophomore Logan Johnson.

"It's a really magical role, and it feels really fun to be leading everyone around," Johnson said. Since Bert is the narrator, Johnson added he has a lot of little solos in the show where he tells the story of what's happening.

His favorite song from the show is "Chim Chim Cher-ee," which is at the end of Act 1.

"It's where Mary Poppins is leaving for the first time. Her and Bert have this duet where they sing and dance, and they fly away. It's really fun," he said.

Johnson is excited for everyone to see the show because the cast has been working really hard.

"I'm really excited for everyone to experience it and everyone to hopefully feel the same wonder and happiness that I feel when I get to put on the show," Johnson added.

Playing Mrs. Brill is senior Eden Cutts. Cutts described Mrs. Brill as "gritty," and said it's fun to get to play her.

"I've always played this bubbly, happy character. It's fun to get to play someone that's stern and has this big, bold personality," Cutts said.

Just like Carroll, her favorite song from the show is also "Feed the Birds."

Cutts added that the show is bittersweet since it's her last show. She said it's really special to go out as a family and cast.

"We get so close, and we have so many memories we made throughout my seven years in the program," Cutts said. "So, it's really special to be able to have one last show with them."

Senior Svea King will play Robertson Ay. Ay is the Banks family's houseboy, who works alongside Mrs. Brill.

King said the most challenging part about her character is a sequence during the show where she has to knock items over on stage.

"I think that can be really tricky to make it look real and fast," she explained.

Her favorite aspect about her character is that he is clueless and earnestly trying to be helpful. On opening night, King is most excited to hear which moments inspire people to laugh during the show. She added she is happy that her last show involves this particular musical.

"I think it's a fun, last hoorah. This show meant a lot to me growing up," King said.

The Banks family will consist of Sophia Smith, Crow Pinsonnault, Madison Rude and Layne Sikkink. Both Smith and Pinsonnault are seniors.

Smith, who plays Winifred Banks, said her favorite song from the show is "Anything Can Happen" because it involves the whole ensemble, and it has a good message about reaching for your dreams.

Her favorite aspect about playing her character is that Banks is a very dynamic character and has an arc where she goes from being "pretty insecure" about herself and her role as a mother, into a confident person.

As a senior, Smith said this last show is "bittersweet."

"I love all the memories that I've had in this program, and I love leaving a legacy for the younger kids," she added.

George Banks will be played by Pinsonnault. Pinsonnault said George is a hard character to work with because he is supposed to be the bad guy, but he empathizes with him.

"As we go through the play, we learn about his childhood story and why he ended up the way he is," he explained. "I think my favorite part about him is his

character growth at the end. I really appreciate how he can change himself and realize the negative aspects of himself to be better as a person."

Pinsonnault's favorite song from the show is when Winifred (Smith) sings "It's Good for Nothing" and "Being Mrs. Banks Part 2," because he has known Smith since they were a duet when they were younger, so it is emotional for him.

"It's talking about our time together and how George can just be himself... And that's what theater provided for me," he added.

Pinsonnault said, as a senior, he is proud of all the work he's done, what he's learned and all the people he has met since joining the department. He added he is excited to go on to new things and come back to see how everyone is doing.

Rude, a sophomore, and Sikkink take on the roles of the Banks children, Jane and Michael.

Rude said her favorite thing about playing Jane is being able to act out some humorous moments.

"I can kind of be myself on stage. Jane is pretty crazy, and I'm pretty crazy. So, I get to run around and let out all my energy on stage, and that's really fun," she explained.

Her favorite song from the show is "Brimstone and Treacle Part 2" because the acting in the scene is really cool and fun. She noted that both of the singing parts are cool to listen to, especially the ending.

"It gives me shivers and chills," Rude said.

In total, there are 103 students in the show, either on stage or behind it helping with costumes and managing the stage and sound booth. Webster said he enjoyed working the whole production team for this show.

"This team has been together for a long time now, and I love so much how everyone works together, does their job exceptionally well and supports each other. It makes it truly special," he said.

Opening night is scheduled for Thursday, April 30 at 7 p.m. Other performance dates include 7 p.m. Friday, May 1; 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 2; and 1 p.m. Sunday, May 3. For more information about the show, go to centennialtheatre.org.

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

SPORTS

AND OUTDOORS



CONTRIBUTED

Kendall Cochran, Grace Nickle and Khloe Waldemar posed with a bat after each of them homered against Elk River.

Cougars clip Elks with homer hat trick

The Centennial Cougars slammed three home runs in a 13-3 win at Elk River on Tuesday in their only game last week. The Cougars are 5-1. Grace Nickle hit a solo homer in the fourth inning. During a seven-run burst in the sixth, Khloe Waldemar, pinch-hitting, cranked out a two-run homer, and Kendall Cochran capped off the rout with a three-run blast, both

clearing the center field fence. Denver Hogberg was 2-for-4 (two doubles, three runs), Lilly Renslow 2-for-4 and Kendall Innes 2-for-3 (double, RBI). Kendal Saffert threw 4 2/3 innings (two runs, seven strikeouts) and got the win with Brooklyn Springman getting the last four outs (one run, three strikeouts).

Bruce Strand

SPORTS BRIEF

BASEBALL

Centennial is 7-1 after two wins last week, over Spring Lake Park 5-1 on Monday at the U of M's Dick Siebert Field, and over Elk River 2-0 on Tuesday. Against SLP, Tommy Meyers threw six innings, allowing one unearned run, striking out 10, and Jake Ruhberg finished. Logan Mielke was 3-for-4, Cooper Sanders 2-for-3 (double, two runs, RBI), Tripp Stensurd 2-for-2 (RBI) and Matthew Siegler 1-for-3 (RBI). Against the Elks, Jaden Anderson spun a four-hit shutout with one walk and five strikeouts. ISteele Johnson knocked in both runs with a single in the seventh inning.

SEE MORE SPORTS, ONLINE AT PRESSPUBS.COM/QUAD/SPORTS

Krinkies
HEATING • AIR • PLUMBING

FREE TRIP CHARGE
With repair
\$109 value!

Valid during regular business hours • Expires 5/31/26

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

*Servicing all brands
Licensed, Bonded, Insured

Read our reviews and check out our current promotions at www.krinkies.com

WINNER 2023
Best of the Press

ACCREDITED BUSINESS

When you need us, we are here to help.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Cooper Sanders

Centennial Baseball
April 28, 2026

Cooper Sanders, sophomore rookie, leads the 7-1 Cougar baseball team with a .478 batting average (11-for-23), nine runs, six runs-batted-in and four doubles, and has their lone home run. Sanders, whose regular positions are pitcher and first base, is the designated hitter this season.

FOUR SEASONS

AIR SPECIALISTS, INC.
"Experts in Indoor Air Comfort Since 1974"

4457 White Bear Parkway,
Ste B, White Bear, MN 55110
651-426-5254
info@4seasonsairwbl.com



CUSTOMER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE MAY 1-3

FRI. 10-7 | SAT. 10-6
SUN. 10-3

HUGE 3-DAY BLOWOUT SALE

WATER TREATMENT PLUMBING & DRAINS HEATING & COOLING ELECTRICAL

OUT OF THIS WORLD SAVINGS!

WHOLE HOME WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM*
INCLUDES BASIC INSTALLATION.

UP TO 30% OFF

FREE GIFT & PRIZES

UP TO 30% OFF

AC OR FURNACE*
INCLUDES BASIC INSTALLATION.

ASK US ABOUT ENERGY EFFICIENT HEAT PUMPS

FREE PETTING ZOO!
SAT. & SUN. 10-3

GENERATORS*

UP TO 20% OFF

We offer a variety of portable and stand-by generators to provide reliable backup power for your home!

WATER HEATERS, PRESSURE TANKS AND SUMP PUMPS*
INCLUDES TANKLESS WATER HEATERS. INCLUDES BASIC INSTALLATION.

UP TO 30% OFF

K5 DRINKING WATER STATION*
INCLUDES BASIC INSTALLATION.

UP TO 30% OFF

WORRY-FREE DRINKING WATER FROM YOUR OWN FAUCET!
NO MORE PLASTIC BOTTLE WASTE!

REGISTER FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A YETI COOLER OR SIGNED KIRILL KAPRIZOV JERSEY*

FREE PIG ROAST

DRAIN CLEANING SERVICES*

UP TO 25% OFF

ALL SALT, WATER FILTERS, AND MORE!*

UP TO 20% OFF

LIMIT 2 SETS OF FILTERS
LOWEST PRICES OF THE YEAR

* Valid only on qualified purchases made during the Open House May 1-3, 2026. Not valid with other offers/discounts. Offer valid for single family residential properties only. Some exclusions may apply. Some services and/or offers listed may not be available in all locations. Financing subject to credit approval. Contest details posted at event. Water test includes hardness, iron, pH, TDS, chlorine and nitrates. Please contact us for details. Aquarius Home Services is an Authorized, Independent Kineticco Dealer.

BRING A SAMPLE OF WATER FROM YOUR HOME OR CABIN FOR A **FREE WATER TEST*** FOR BEST RESULTS, BRING COLD WATER FROM BATHROOM FAUCET.



651.356.6102

AquariusHomeServices.com • 3180 Country Dr. • Little Canada, MN

FANTASTIC FINANCING PROGRAMS*
We offer a variety of financing programs to meet your needs.

