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HUGO COUPLE: Turns love of fall into new pumpkin porch business **PAGE 11**

Hugo Fire hosts open house



SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

The Hugo Fire Department will host its annual open house from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Hugo Fire Station, located at 5323 140th St. N. The event will include fire engine rides, public safety demos, interactive experiences, popcorn and more. Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 4-10. See page 2 for more information.

Residents submit petition against Hardwood Creek Trail extension project

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

HUGO — Eighty-seven residents who live near the proposed Hardwood Creek Trail extension project have signed a petition in hopes of maintaining their privacy.

The Hardwood Creek Regional Trail is a 12-mile multiuse trail that stretches through Forest Lake and Hugo. From the north to south, the existing trail follows the Burlington Northern Railroad corridor, adjacent to Highway 61, from the Chisago County border in the north to 140th Street in Hugo, where it stops. A master plan was approved for trail over a decade ago (2013), and Washington County conducted a feasibility study in 2021.



WASHINGTON COUNTY | CONTRIBUTED

The trail extension would fill a gap in the existing trail network. Once complete, the project would connect to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail (Ramsey County) and ultimately link four counties: Washington, Ramsey, Anoka and Chisago.

SEE PETITION, PAGE 7

American Legion Post 620 donates time to blood drive

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

Once every two seconds: that is how often someone in the U.S. needs blood, according to American Red Cross Regional Communications Manager Samantha Solberg.

“This summer, we were facing a national blood crisis for only the second time in Red Cross history. We were at a point in July when we had half a day supply of type O blood on hand, which is very dire,” said Solberg. “We’re in a much better place now, but the blood

supply does remain extremely vulnerable.”

Joshua Russell, an account manager with the American Red Cross who coordinates with blood drives in the north metro, explained that because blood is biomaterial, donations need to find recipients quickly.

“Blood, once donated, lasts 42 days on the shelf. Essentially, every 42 days, (the supply) needs to be completely recycled with new donations,” said Russell. “Three percent of the population donates blood. Ninety percent of Americans will need a blood product at some point in their life.”

Solberg said that the Red Cross is looking for eligible donations from all blood types in the coming months, and there are fewer barriers to entry than ever before.

“Folks were deferred because they lived in Europe or traveled through Europe in the ’80s and ’90s. There was a big deferral for mad cow (disease). That actually has been lifted,” Solberg said. She added that any individual, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, is now asked the same questions on the health

SEE BLOOD DRIVE, PAGE 9



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WASHINGTON COUNTY BRIEFS

County Board reviews 2025 financial audit results

The Washington County Board of Commissioners recently reviewed the 2025 financial audit results. The auditing firm CliftonLarsonAllen reported an unqualified, clean audit opinion on the county’s financial reports. The audit showed that the county has a strong general fund balance, which serves as the primary resource for maintaining operations between the county’s two major tax collection cycles.

Revenues exceeded expenditures and increased the unassigned general fund balance by \$14.5 million. The county’s other postemployment benefits trust account increased in value by \$10.4 million over the previous year. The county received an additional \$3.5 million over the previous year from state and local housing-related aid programs, strengthening resources available for housing stability and prevention initiatives. Interest and investment earnings (excluding market value adjustments) totaled \$15.1 million, exceeding budgeted amounts.

Washington County qualifies as a low-risk auditee for the 2026 single audit. This designation may help streamline future single audits by reducing the amount of federal program testing required, which can help decrease audit effort and the time required from county staff.

County maintains Moody’s AAA credit rating

Washington County received an update from Moody’s, an independent credit rating agency, confirming that it has maintained its AAA credit rating. Moody’s reaffirmed the rating after reviewing the county’s credit metrics. The agency noted Washington County’s continued strong financial health, manageable long-term obligations and solid positioning to support future capital planning efforts.

County earns Triple Crown award for financial reporting

Washington County received the Government Finance Officers Association’s Triple Crown for financial reporting, earning three national awards for its 2024 financial reporting and 2026 budget. The honors include the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting and the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The county has received the financial reporting award for 40 consecutive years, the popular financial reporting award for seven years and the budget award for 29 years. Washington County is one of three Minnesota counties to

receive the Triple Crown for fiscal year 2024, which recognizes governments that earn all three GFOA awards.

County Board sets 2027 preliminary levy, budget

Commissioners approved a preliminary \$160.7 million property tax levy and proposed \$524 million 2027 budget. The preliminary levy is 7.9% higher than in 2026, driven in part by \$2.56 million in state and federal cost shifts for mandated programs. The county estimates a median-valued home would see about a \$60 increase in county property taxes, or 5.8%, in 2027.

The proposed budget includes:

- \$315.9 million in operating expenses
- \$190 million in capital investments
- \$18.1 million in debt service
- \$143 million for roads and bridges
- \$39 million for long-term capital projects
- \$6 million for parks projects

The board said the budget maintains core and mandated services without adding new programs, while addressing rising costs and infrastructure needs. The levy and budget are preliminary and can be lowered before final adoption but not increased. A public hearing on the proposed budget and levy is scheduled for Dec. 1; final adoption is planned for Dec. 17.

WEEKLY WAG



If you are looking for a sweet, middle-aged little queen, then Rosie is waiting for you. Rosie is a Chihuahua/Dachshund mix. She is 6 years old and she weighs 14 pounds. Rosie is social with dogs and with cats, and she is friendly with people she meets, even kids.

Rosie has plenty of personality, and she can be a bit peppy when the mood is right. But Rosie is mostly content being an affectionate lap pet. She is happiest lounging and napping with her favorite people or near a window where the sun shines through and warms her up. Rosie has a tendency to voice her opinions, so a new forever home with shared walls may not be welcoming. Rosie is crate trained, yet she still has some things to learn. A patient, loving forever family would suit her well.

If you are interested in learning more about Rosie or adopting her, please fill out an application at www.ruffstartrescue.org. Once your application is received, Ruff Start Rescue will contact you as soon as possible.

FIRE PREVENTION

October 4-10, 2026



Hugo Fire Department

Open House Saturday, October 3, 11 am - 3 pm
Hugo Fire Station | 5323 140th St. N.

Kids Fun run starts at noon! Free goodies will be handed out!
Fire truck rides, bounce house, public safety demos, interactive experiences, free popcorn, and more! Enter the fire prevention poster contest to win prizes including a fire station birthday party and a ride to a Hugo school in a fire truck!
Hotdogs, chips, and bottled water will be available for purchase.

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CONTRIBUTED

WATER'S EDGE FALL CRAFT SALE
When: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17
Where: Water's Edge Community Center, 15290 Farnham Ave. N, Hugo
Details: Get a jump start on your holiday shopping; there will be a variety of fall crafts made by your neighbors.
Contact: Toddj@hoaliving.com or 651-253-0867

ONGOING EVENTS

HUGO SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY '500'
When: 12: 45 p.m. Oct.1, 15, 29, and every first, third and fifth Thursday of each month.
Where: Rice Lake Centre in Hugo, 6900 137th St. N.
Details: Games begin promptly at 12:45 p.m. Refreshments and coffee will be served. All senior citizens from the area are invited.
Contact: Jim at 763-639-4756 or allenj4992@gmail.com.

CRIBBAGE
When: 1 p.m. Oct. 5, 26, and every first and fourth Monday of each month.
Where: Rice Lake Centre in Hugo, 6900 137th St. N.
Details: All senior citizens from Hugo and surrounding areas are invited to join us for an afternoon of Cribbage. Coffee and refreshments will be served.
Contact: Alice at 651-429-4413

CURRENT EVENTS

COFFEE WITH DR. K
When: 10-11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 2
Where: Sunrise Park District Senior Center, 2399 Cedar Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: Conversation with Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kazmierczak.
Contact: 651-653-3121

'BEETLEJUICE JR.'
When: Oct. 2-11
Where: Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake
Details: Students from Children's Performing Arts perform the frightful, funny musical. Ticket information online.
Contact: childrensperformingartsmn.org

HAUNTED HISTORY AT THE WARDEN'S HOUSE: AFTERLIFE SENTENCES
When: 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2 and Saturday, Oct. 3
Where: Warden's House Museum, 602 Main St. N., Stillwater
Details: The Twin Cities Paranormal Society presents their spookiest evidence from ghost investigations, along with what showed up on their cameras and audio equipment. Register online.
Contact: wchsmn.org

RIVERTOWN FALL ART FESTIVAL
When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, and Sunday, Oct. 4
Where: Lowell Park, Stillwater
Details: Fine art and handmade jewelry in the heart of downtown Stillwater.
Contact: greaterstillwaterchamber.com/rivertown-fall-art-festival

SUMMER SIGNINGS
When: 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Oct 3
Where: Lake Country Booksellers, 4766 Washington Square, White Bear Lake
Details: Charlotte Babler will sign her book "The Forgotten Many," a thriller based on a true story.
Contact: lakecountrybooksellers.com

HUGO FIRE OPEN HOUSE
When: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3
Where: Hugo Fire Station, 5323 140th St. N.
Details: The event will include fire engine rides, public safety demos, interactive experiences popcorn and more. Kids Fun Run starts at noon.
Contact: 651-762-6362

STAR WATCH
When: 7:30-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3
Where: Big Marine Park Reserve, 17495 Manning Trail N., Marine on St. Croix
Details: View Jupiter, Saturn, star clusters, galaxies, and constellations through giant telescopes, and hear the stories behind them. Registration required.
Contact: 651-430-8200 or washingtoncountymn.gov/star-watch

WELL WATER SCREENING CLINIC
When: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8
Where: Hanifl Fields Athletic Park, 7032 137th St. N., Hugo
Details: The East Metro Water Education Program will host a well-water screening clinic for private well owners. During the clinic, participants can bring in water from their homes to be tested for nitrate and chloride (salt). You can wait for your results or request them via email. Experts will also be on hand to discuss wellhead protection and groundwater concerns, including arsenic, bacteria, pesticides and Perfluorinated Alkylated Substances (PFAS). This clinic is open to everyone, regardless of what city, county or state you live in.
Contact: mnwcd.org/events

HARVEST OF HOPE 5K
When: 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10
Where: Hardwood Creek Regional Trail in Forest Lake
Details: The family-friendly run/walk features a 3.1-mile course, kids' activities, local food trucks and a community gathering. Funds raised through the event support The Luger Foundation's core programs, including financial assistance for NICU families, comfort care packages and gift cards for parents spending long hours at the hospital, and community awareness initiatives aimed at premature birth prevention and support.
Contact: thelugerfoundation.org/events/5k



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Variety is the pumpkin spice of life

Here's an opinion: I think pumpkin spice is just OK. I don't get the hype. In fact, I used to make fun of people who would change their entire personality to revolve around a trendy flavor, an obvious cash grab. How could people be so basic?

Then coffee shops came out with caramel apple drinks. Now, every fall, I guzzle those down while eating apple donuts. I've since realized that there are other areas in my life where I've yucked another person's yum, only to find out that I just like a different flavor of the same thing:

- I hated tomato soup until I added basil and garlic.
- Romantic comedies made me roll my eyes until I watched one with Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn.
- I thought hunting was boring until I tried bow hunting.

Most of us had an adult who told us, "You won't know if you like it until you try it," but I would amend

that saying to "You won't know if you like it until you try a few kinds of it."

At a recent Sunday brunch, I sat near a boy whose parents wanted him to try French toast. Plenty of toppings were nearby, from peanut butter and syrup to fresh berries and cream. Instead, the boy cut off microscopic piece of plain French toast, stuck his trembling teeth out, and took a fake bite.

"I don't like it," he said. His parents rolled their eyes and made him try it again with toppings, but he's already made up his mind, saying, "I'll hate it. I just know it."

At first, I shook my head, judging the situation as a wizened adult —until I realized I still do the same thing.

When I was 21, I joined a gym for the summer. I had gained my freshman 15, was feeling self-conscious and wanted to get back into shape. The first day there, the manager told me my form was so bad I was banned from using the equipment, that I'd gained weight because I was lazy and that I needed to spend thousands of dollars on his personal training routine if I wanted to reach my goals. Naturally, I didn't go back, and I didn't consistently exercise again for over a decade.

A year ago, because of my health, working out became a necessity for me. Concerned, I asked an acquaintance of mine who did powerlifting and strongman competitions to check my exercise forms — the same ones for which the gym manager berated me — and he told me that, besides some common beginner errors, it was perfectly fine. An embarrassing amount of personal gym equipment purchases and months of training later, I can now do a stupid amount of pull-ups.

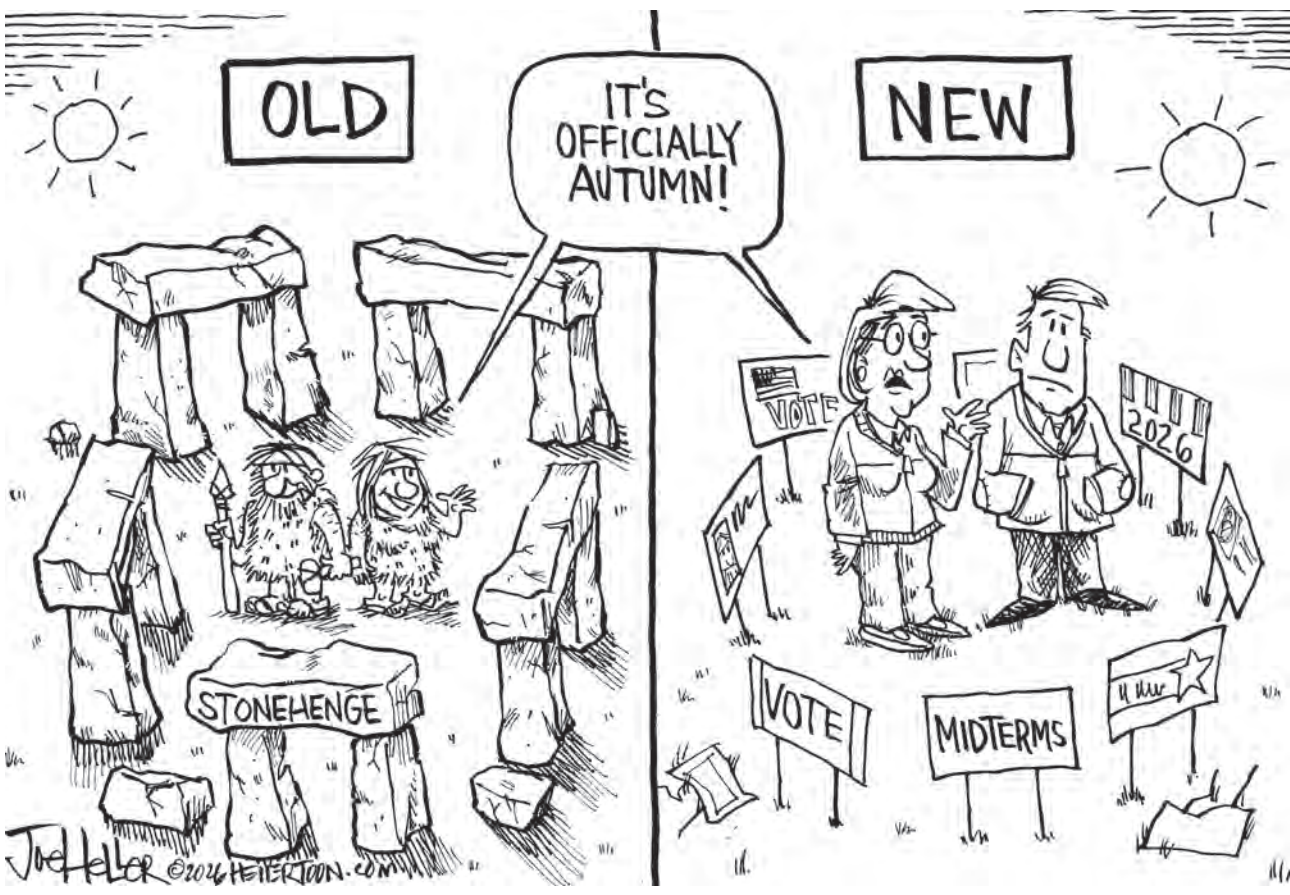
But I haven't joined a gym. I'll hate it; I just know it. Or perhaps I just hated that flavor of gym. Last week, I took a tour of a fitness center that gets funding from other sources than personal training signups. I was nervous, but the employee who gave me the tour was kind and knowledgeable, unbothered that I needed some time to think before I joined. I plan to later this month.

At Press Publications, we get information on a lot of unique, local events (See What's Happening on Page 3). This fall, I encourage you to check one out that makes you a bit nervous in the hopes that you don't do what I did. Please don't let a bad experience from your past keep you from enjoying all of life's flavors.

Logan Gion is Staff Writer for the Quad Community Press.



Looking Out with Logan
Logan Gion



Challenged to grow, prepared to thrive

As we welcome students back for the new school year, we are also thinking of those students who recently graduated. The Class

of 2026 is headed off to college or a new career, and it's a momentous time that reflects years of intentional preparation long before those graduation caps were tossed in the air.

Preparing our students to thrive after graduation means providing meaningful academic challenges across multiple disciplines. Each student has a unique pathway, and all can and should include rigorous learning experiences.

We are helping students see themselves as capable of taking on the challenge of these advanced courses. In the area of Advanced Placement (AP)

courses (a college-level course with the opportunity to earn college credit while still in high school), we saw growth this past year not only in the number of participants, which grew from 443 to 502, but also in the number of exams they took, from 697 in 2025 to 832 in 2026. Additionally, 84% of those AP students received college credit-bearing scores; they've challenged themselves and are succeeding.

Our goal is to have every student take at least one rigorous course before they graduate, and our staff is helping them build the confidence to take on such challenges. Our offerings include AP, College in the Schools (through the University of Minnesota), Articulated College Credit for Career and Technical Education, Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO), and industry certification programs through our partner, Northeast Metro 916.

Promoting strong academic engagement and higher-order thinking is another way we support learners at every level.

We are in our third year of implementing instructional strategies focused on college and career readiness across all content areas. We may see students engaged in Socratic Seminars, collaborative peer study groups, and critical reading of complex texts. In the 2025-26 school year, 90% of our MHS principal-conducted teacher observations featured students utilizing these college-ready instructional strategies.

Helping every student see themselves as capable of meeting academic challenges is foundational to their future success. From the daily classroom experience to graduation day and beyond, our Portrait of a Graduate guides this vital work, empowering students not only to meet academic challenges, but to truly thrive in whatever path they choose.

Barb Duffrin is the superintendent of Mahtomedi Public Schools.



Movers & Shakers
Barb Duffrin

THE CITIZEN | ELECTION LETTER GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PAID LETTER

Rebecca Waxse has the experience to serve

Voters in Minnesota’s Tenth Judicial District will elect a new judge to an open seat this fall. I support Rebecca A. Waxse because she has the experience, judgment and temperament needed to serve our communities fairly.

Rebecca has nearly 20 years of experience in Minnesota courtrooms as both a public defender and private attorney. Her work has included criminal, juvenile, child-protection and family-law matters, and she has represented individuals in more than 10,000 cases. That breadth of experience matters. District court judges must listen carefully, apply the law impartially and make difficult decisions affecting individuals, families, victims and communities.

Rebecca believes a judge must faithfully apply the law, remain impartial, keep an open mind and decide each case on its facts. She also understands the importance of treating everyone who enters a courtroom with dignity and respect.

I have practiced law in Forest Lake for 45 years and have served as the prosecuting attorney for the cities of Forest Lake, Scandia, Marine and Hugo for most of those years. District court judges are the face of the judicial system, and their importance cannot be overestimated. I have appeared before a multitude of judges. In my opinion, Rebecca Waxse has the experience, skills and personal qualities to be an outstanding addition to the Washington County bench.

Michael A. Welch
Forest Lake

PAID LETTER

Support the MVPs

As a former principal at Oneka Elementary School in Hugo and an active community resident, I take our school board elections seriously. With four seats available, we must elect board members who are thoughtful decision-makers, effective communicators and collaborators and, most importantly, board members who will keep student success at the center of their work.

It is my pleasure to support the MVPs: Amanda McFarlane, Ryan Vernosh, Amy Puschinsky, and Christina Streiff Oji for the White Bear Lake Area School Board.

Amanda McFarlane brings more than 20 years as a senior business analyst, with a strong background

in analyzing data, budgets and complex issues. As a district parent, she understands our schools from a family’s perspective. Her ability to examine data and policy logically would be a valuable addition to the board.

Ryan Vernosh brings extensive educational knowledge. A former Minnesota Teacher of the Year and current elementary principal, Ryan understands both classroom education and school leadership. As a parent whose children attended district schools, he offers a vital perspective as both an educator and a parent.

Amy Puschinsky combines school involvement with professional expertise. A district parent and former PTA president, she understands the needs of local families. Her background in financial operations and project management includes budget oversight, compliance and managing complex processes.

I am particularly pleased to see Christina Streiff Oji running for another term. As an incumbent board member, Chris brings firsthand knowledge of board responsibilities. Her grandchildren attend schools in the district, further connecting her to local families. Her leadership provides valuable continuity as our district addresses future opportunities and challenges.

All four candidates bring different skills and perspectives while sharing a deep commitment to our schools and community. I encourage voters to learn about all eight candidates. For me, the four candidates I support are the MVPs: McFarlane, Vernosh, Puschinsky and Streiff Oji.

Go Bears!

Teresa Dahlem
Hugo

Proud of our district

We’re writing to share our appreciation and support for our White Bear Lake Area School District and the people who work so hard to make it a wonderful place for students and families.

Our family has a long history with White Bear Lake schools — four generations of students have attended our schools. Today, we are fortunate to have grandchildren ranging from Early Childhood Family Education all the way through high school. Having watched our schools and community change and grow over the years, we feel especially grateful for the opportunities our grandchildren have today.

We are so pleased to see our community come together around the new high school and the beautiful renovations taking place throughout the district. These improvements are more than just new or

updated buildings. They represent an investment in our students, our teachers and the future of our community.

We also want to recognize our district administration and staff. There is often a great deal of attention given to the challenges facing public education, but we believe it is just as important to acknowledge what is going well. We appreciate the leadership, dedication and countless hours that go into making our schools successful.

We feel incredibly positive about the direction of our district. We are grateful for the educators, staff, administrators and community members who care deeply about our students and work together to provide them with a strong educational experience.

We are proud to be part of a community that continues to invest in its schools and, most importantly, in its children. As grandparents, it is especially meaningful to see our grandchildren benefit from these opportunities and to know that the tradition of White Bear Lake students in our family continues.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making our schools what they are today. We are proud of our district, grateful for its leadership, and excited about the future of White Bear Lake schools.

Go Bears!

Jenny (Kimball) and Kile Nadeau
Hugo

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NAMES IN THE NEWS



Carolyn Wiger

A local celebrity is making an impact during September for National Recovery Month. Hugo resident **Carolyn Wiger**, a standout star from “Survivor 44” and “The Traitors”, is sharing a more personal side of her story as part of “Brave Recovery: The Women Impacted,” a video series from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator’s Overdose Prevention Initiative.

Long before millions of viewers got to know Wiger on reality TV, her life

had already been shaped by another journey: getting sober. Now 17 years into recovery and working as a counselor and life coach, she opens up about her experience with addiction, healing, hurdles caused by stigma, and how recovery shaped who she is today.

“Brave Recovery” brings together women with deeply personal connections to substance use, recovery and overdose to share the experiences that shaped them and challenge the stigma that still surrounds addiction and recovery. To watch Wiger’s story, visit <https://www.advocacyincubator.org/program-areas/injury-prevention/overdose-prevention/carolyn-wiger>.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

Centennial Schools hosts community tour

Centennial School district will host a walking tour of Centennial High School and Centennial Elementary at 6 p.m. Oct. 8, starting in the High School Learning Commons, 4757 North Road, Circle Pines. Those who attend will learn more about the two referendum questions and see the areas identified through the Centennial Forward planning process. This includes:

- The two referendum questions on the November 2026 ballot
- How proposed improvements address identified district needs
- How school spaces and facilities support students, staff and the community

Learn more at isd12.org/centennial-forward.

Kindergarten Preview Day registration now open

Get a sneak peek into kindergarten at Centennial Schools by attending Kindergarten Preview Day at your community school from 9:45-10:30 a.m. Oct. 22. The event will provide an opportunity for families with students starting in fall 2027 to get a tour of the school, connect with the principal and other future classmates, play on the playground and have a snack in the lunchroom. RSVP at isd12.org/enroll.

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POLICE REPORTS

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

- Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies took a report at 12:18 p.m. Aug. 9 from the 6000 block of 177th Street N. about mail and property issues with family members. After the complainant said she suspected her brother of signing up with the USPS to receive scanned images of mail arriving at the residence, deputies filed a report with the United States Postal Investigation Service to aid their investigation.
- Deputies responded to the 5000 block of Upper 146th Street N. at 8:47 p.m. Aug. 9 about juveniles climbing on the roof of Peder Pederson Pavilion. They advised the juveniles that they would receive a verbal warning that night, but if deputies caught them on the roof again, they would receive a citation.
- A motorist was arrested on a warrant at 1:28 p.m. Aug. 10 on Forest Blvd. N. at 120th Street N. after being pulled over and cited for undisclosed traffic violations.
- A large gas line was reported struck by construction workers in the 14000 block of Geneva Avenue N. at 1:34 p.m. Aug. 10. Deputies assisted the Hugo Fire Department by directing traffic, coordinating Xcel trucks and keeping onlookers at a safe distance.
- Residents in the 15000 block of Farnham Avenue N. at 11:36 a.m. Aug. 11 asked deputies to trespass a person from their property due to a previous issue that had happened a few days earlier. Deputies assisted in trespassing the subject.
- A motorist driving 21 miles over the speed limit in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. was identified and cited for speeding at 5:26 p.m. Aug. 12.
- Deputies arrested a motorist at 6:25 p.m. Aug. 12 on Forest Blvd. N. and 159th Street N. following a traffic stop for unidentified violations.
- A home in the 14000 block of Oneka Parkway N. was reported damaged at 11:05 p.m. Aug. 12.

• Road rage was reported at 3:43 p.m. Aug. 13 on 132nd Way N. and 132nd Street N. after the complainant cut off another driver and that other driver became enraged.

- A driver on 145th Street N. at Glenbrook Avenue N. was cited at 5:45 p.m. Aug. 13 for failure to show proof of insurance to law enforcement, after deputies observed the driver fail to properly use a seat belt and conducted a traffic stop.
- A DoorDash delivery driver reported from an unknown Hugo location that he had to pay for the order with his own money and had yet to receive compensation at 5:21 p.m. Aug. 14. Deputies advised the complainant to call customer service and work it out with them. However, if DoorDash failed to pay up, pursuing the action in court would be the next step.
- A motorist was cited for driving after suspension at 6:54 p.m. Aug. 14 in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N., after being pulled over for displaying expired temporary plates. After being identified, the driver was found to be suspended. Before clearing the scene, deputies advised the driver not to drive.

• A resident in the 4000 block of 149th Street N. at 8:38 p.m. Aug. 14 reported his neighbor for making fun of his laugh from across the street, as part of an issue that has been going on for several years. Deputies advised the complainant that they would document the incidents.

- Extra patrol was requested from the 15000 block of Enfield Avenue N. at 11:34 p.m. Aug. 14, after the complainant's house was egged. Although there was no damage, this was the second occurrence in the past two weeks. Deputies agreed to provide extra patrols.
- Residents in the 6000 block of 145th Street N. at 12:38 a.m. Aug. 16 reported their car broken into while parked in Minneapolis. Deputies advised the complainants to make an information report to the Minneapolis Police Department and advise deputies if they saw anything suspicious.
- After Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies investigated a property damage report in the 4000 block of Prairie Trail N. at 1:28 p.m. Aug. 17, they discovered shattered glass from a door on the ground, but no other signs of forced entry or theft. The residence is located near an open field where juveniles in the area have been known to hit golf balls. However, no telltale golf balls were located near the house. The complainant requested documentation only.
- Deputies conducted a traffic stop at 7:24 p.m. Aug. 17 on an e-moto on Flay Road and 130th Street N. and cited the operator. They conducted a second e-moto stop on a juvenile on Farnham Avenue N. and Oneka Parkway N. at 12:04 p.m. Aug. 18.
- Following a report of a fight in the 5000 block of Upper 146th Street N. at 8:53 p.m. Aug. 17, deputies spoke to the people involved who stated they were just friendly boxing. Deputies advised the nice boxers to go somewhere else where the public would not become alarmed.
- A juvenile was reported for trying to kick in a door in the 5000 block of Evergreen Drive N. at 11:43 a.m. Aug. 18.

• Two males were reported for sitting in lawn chairs by a swing set in the 5000 block of Upper 146th Street N. at 4:57 p.m. Aug. 18. The complainant could provide no information as to why law enforcement would need to become involved.

- Responding to a report of juveniles on the roof of a school in the 14000 block of Francesca Avenue N. at 8:09 p.m. Aug. 18, deputies arrived in time to see the youths getting down. The kids were advised of the dangers and consequences of being on the roof.

• Following a report of a disturbance at 12:13 a.m. Aug. 19 on a private road, deputies came upon an adult

male with a flame thrower. He stated he was burning weeds outside the business where he works. Deputies wished him a good night and to carry on safely.

- Deputies on patrol at 1:43 a.m. Aug. 19 in the 13000 block of Fondant Trail N. observed three juvenile females walking on the sidewalk and warned them about curfew laws before a legal guardian picked up one of them and before deputies drove the other two home and spoke with their father. Six juveniles hanging out in the Kwik Trip parking lot in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. at 12:48 a.m. Aug. 20 left after deputies advised them about their curfew violation.
- Deputies dispatched out on the report of an accident at 10:45 a.m. Aug. 19 on Forest Blvd. N. and 125th Street N. arrived on scene to find out that a ladder had caused the accident, as it fell off a truck and was run over by another vehicle. The Minnesota State Patrol took over the scene.
- A landlord in the 12000 block of Everton Avenue N. at 10:53 a.m. Aug. 19 reported her renter's dog for biting her in the left forearm and thigh, causing injury.
- An individual operating a golf cart on the Hardwood Creek Trail near 165th Street N. and Forest Blvd. N. at 5:06 p.m. Aug. 19 was identified and issued a written warning.
- A motorist on 159th Street N. and Forest Blvd. N. was issued a written warning at 5:33 p.m. Aug. 19 for excessive tint, after being pulled over for the tint and an object suspended from the rearview mirror.
- Deputies responded to the report of a male in the 14000 block of Evergreen Avenue N. at 5:46 p.m. Aug. 19 who was impaled with a meat thermometer that had been thrown accurately and with force by his very young son. The victim was transported to hospital by ambulance with the meat thermometer stuck in his thigh.
- A motorist received a written warning at 12:41 p.m. Aug. 20 on 170th Street N. and Jeffrey Avenue N. for passing on the shoulder.
- In the Case of the Pedestrian Pig, a hog was reported for being in the middle of the roadway on Jeffrey Avenue N. and 170th Street N. at 9:09 p.m. Aug. 20.
- A person was arrested on a warrant in the 6000 block of Goodview Trail Circle N. at 8:42 a.m. Aug. 21. A motorist was arrested at 9:55 p.m. Aug. 21 in the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N. for gross misdemeanor failure to provide proof of insurance and other violations, after being pulled over for displaying registration that expired in 2024.
- A bike was reported stolen from the 15000 block of Freedom Drive N. at 12:47 p.m. Aug. 22. At 1:06 p.m. that day, juvenile males were reported for destroying a bike at the skate park in the 5000 block of Upper 146th Street N. The description of the bike didn't match that of the bike reported stolen earlier. At 3:55 that day the parent of the owner of the bike previously reported as stolen reported that she had located her son's bike, the damage status of which remained unknown, in the 4000 block of Rosemary Way N. There was no available camera footage to reveal how the bike left its owner's home.

Loretta Harding

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PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEF

Fireworks display spurs questions

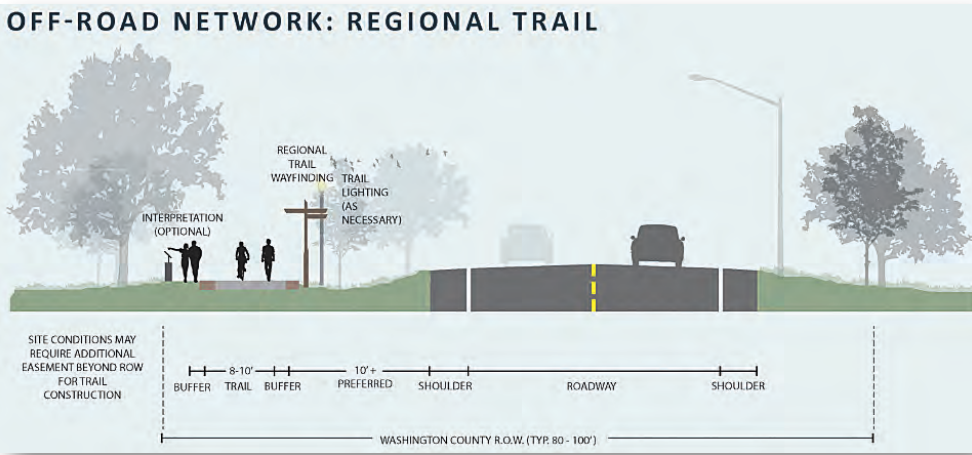
Residents in White Bear Lake, White Bear Township, Hugo and Lino Lakes heard fireworks around 11 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. Area fire departments, law enforcement and the White Bear Lake Conservation District received several noise complaints.

White Bear Lake Conservation District Administrator Jody Savage explained that the conservation district did not issue a permit for fireworks at the private event, because it was not directly on the lake.

Mahtomedi Fire Chief Joel Schmidt confirmed that the fire department was aware of a fireworks display at a private event on Grenelefe Avenue in Grant on Sept. 19. He said the display was conducted by a licensed pyrotechnics company and the appropriate permits were obtained through the required agencies.

PETITION: Residents concerned about tree removal ahead of proposed trail extension

FROM PAGE 1



WASHINGTON COUNTY | CONTRIBUTED

The Hardwood Creek Regional Trail is the county’s most visited regional trail. A trail master plan was developed in 2013; since then, the county has been working to fund and implement the plan’s vision.

The trail extension would fill an important gap in the existing trail network. Once complete, the project would connect to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail (Ramsey County) and ultimately link four counties: Washington, Ramsey, Anoka and Chisago.

City Administrator Bryan Bear explained that the project is being led by Washington County. Back in April, the City Council sent a letter to the county regarding a city/county cost share for trail improvements in the areas ahead of the city’s 2026 street improvement project in the Bald Eagle Industrial Park. Bear noted the city has yet to receive a response from the county to that letter.

The city received the petition, which was submitted by Rich Degnan, at the end of August. The petition demands that the county:

- Halt the design process that is underway that “compromises” the existing tree line along Falcon Avenue.
- Consider a new concept of an on-street/shared lane alignment for the

trail that preserves the existing trees.

- Continue to involve residents in the area and host more neighborhood meetings throughout the process.

Bear explained that certain petitions to the city have legal significance, such as a petition for a street vacation or public improvement; however, this petition does not.

“This petition is one that expresses public sentiment,” he said. “There is no legal significance to the petition; it is the significance that comes with the weight of public opinion for those who signed the petition.”

In talking with county staff, Bear said there is a long way to go before the county gets to a decision-making point. “My assessment is that they are very early in their decision-making process. The project design is not yet complete. There are a number of steps still to go. We do not know what the project will look like at this time. There are engagement steps and many notifications coming here in the future,” he said. “When the project

advances to later steps, it will return to the City Council for further review and approval.”

Degman described the petition as self-explanatory and urged the council members to read it. “We are not against a trail; we are against the removal of a buffer that protects us from Highway 61. Our privacy is the most important thing here,” he said. “I understand they have criteria they are trying to meet but this is neither urban nor rural, it is a combination of both. There is a neighborhood there.”

One resident told the council he was confused about why the county was even considering that piece of property for the future alignment of the trail.

Council Member Dave Strub said hopefully the petition was a “wake-up call” for the county to listen to residents. “I’m not sure how much input we have at this point; we are waiting on them to do the hard work and then we get to do the editing and evaluating of what they are coming up with,” he said. “I’m still comfortable with the process and confident that people are listening.”

Council Member Becky Petryk added, “I think it’s been shown that everyone is taking this very seriously and we as a council will be very involved and be listening to the people that it impacts.”

Council Member Mike Miron said he was also comfortable with the current process county staff are going through but suggested that once dates are picked out for future engagement opportunities and open houses, that the council be notified of those.

“We have an opportunity to make this the best project we can for everyone involved. I don’t know that it will meet everyone’s criteria, but we will certainly have lots of opportunities to affect the outcome of this,” Mayor Tom Weidt said. “The neighbors have made their desires

How to stay informed

- View the trail master plan, open house summaries and online engagement on the project website at www.washingtoncountymn.gov/2805/plans-and-studies.
- Sign up for notifications by email or text (via the above website).
- Contact Design Engineer Erin Blaylock at 651-430-4384 or Erin.Blaylock@washingtoncountymn.gov.

Upcoming county engagement plans

- Host a pop-up neighborhood event in October 2026
- Reconnect with Bald Eagle Estates HOA and Wilson Tool representatives
- Host a second open house in 2026 to provide “technically vetted” concept options for community to weigh in on
- Present to City Council
- Host a third open house in 2027
- Present to parks commission, council in 2027
- Property coordination with affected landowners

clear, and it’s a good start to get a good project. I count on Washington County to follow through and make sure they look at all the different ways that this can be accomplished to meet the needs of everybody involved.”

Bear encouraged residents to continue to stay engaged in the process with Washington County.

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

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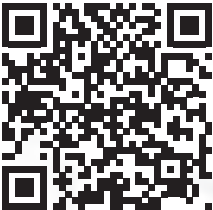
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Arts and CULTURE

2026

EMERGING ARTIST: ELIAS LIMBAG

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

One million years ago, four space dragons created the planet Sklara and ruled over it as gods. The Dragon of Light is an evil dictator who tricks the beings of Sklara into thinking she is good. She banished The Dragon of Darkness, who created shadow beings to fight back. This is The Dragon of Light's trap; she points to the shadow beings as proof that The Dragon of Darkness is malevolent.

To protect the planet Sklara, the dragons created the incarnation of magic itself, with dark-blue skin like the night sky. Her name is Eclipso. She fights the shadow beings at first, then questions the true purpose of her creation as well as the true nature of her identity.

This is the plot of "Eclipso," a musical that Elias Limbag, who attends Central Middle School in White Bear, is working on. In order to craft his musical, however, Elias feels that he needs to understand all the aspects that go into staging one.



ELIAS LIMBAG

Elias began gaining acting experience by doing shows with Children's Performing Arts. Numerous ensemble parts later, he next plays the title character in CPA's junior production of "Beetlejuice," a musical based on the 1988 movie starring Michael Keaton.

During the rehearsal process, Elias has been highlighting both the similarities and the differences between him and his role.

"I've been thinking, instead of 'How can I play the character as it's meant to be?'" Elias said. "I'll look at the source material and ... make it more my own."

Beetlejuice, for instance, is a 716-year-old trickster spirit with self-proclaimed "bio-exorcist" powers; Elias is a 13-year-old human.

"I try to be a good kid, but like, I can be really, really loud. And I feel like Beetlejuice is also a very loud person — not just in the way he speaks, but also his personality," Elias said. "Although we're very different because he is very manipulative."

Recently, Elias received encouragement from his mother to be loud.

"Last summer, I was playing around with a drum kit, and she was like, 'Oh, my God, you sound amazing,'" Elias recalled. "I really like playing the drums ... I feel like it's a good thing to know. That's how I feel about violin, too."

That's right, Elias also plays the violin in orchestra.

"I didn't want to be in choir because I already do a lot of singing," Elias said. "The biggest reason why I chose orchestra is because I always thought the string instruments sounded so majestic."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED
ELIAS BEGAN PLAYING DRUMS RECENTLY. HE ALSO PLAYS THE VIOLIN IN HIS MIDDLE SCHOOL'S ORCHESTRA

Going forward, Elias wants to learn more about the writing and directing side of theater so that he can write a stronger musical. Each station on his journey so far has brought him a deeper under-

standing of art.

"I feel like art has ... helped me be more in tune with my emotions," Elias said. "Basically, every form of art is so beautiful to me. I love making art; I love being a part of art."

CPA HELMS YACHT ROCK THEME FOR MASQUE FUNDRAISER

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

When a theatrical production at Children's Performing Arts sets sail, Strategic Operations Director Sharon Hanifl-Lee wants to make sure every kid who wants to crew is on board.

"We're finding ways to make performing arts education part of students' lives, hitting all of families' and communities' needs," said Hanifl-Lee.

Achieving this mission is not always smooth sailing, so on Oct. 24, CPA is holding its themed Masque fundraiser. This year's theme is Yacht Rock: Smooth Moves and Coastal Grooves.

The evening will include a hosted happy hour, followed by a program of yacht-rock hits that CPA students will perform. Afterwards, there will be food, music and fun, including live entertainment from Kate Beahen. There will also be a silent auction and costume contest. As with years past, dressing on-theme is admired



but not required.

"Some go way over the top, and some just have a few accessories," Hanifl-Lee said. "We really try to make this fun and different from a traditional gala."

While the evening promises to be a pleasure cruise, funds raised from the Masque do much more than keep CPA above water.

"We deal with young families and kids, and the economy is difficult, especially

for that group," Hanifl-Lee said. "We can't raise our programming fees or our ticket prices too much. Otherwise, our families and community wouldn't be able to come and watch."

Other funds go to hiring and retaining staff who ensure that children who attend CPA are hitting educational targets, no matter which role a student takes on.

"There's so much more to theater than being on stage," Hanifl-Lee said. "There's not a lot of other opportunities for kids to experience stage management, the technical side, the directing side. That's one of the huge focuses of our (team): trying to get kids involved in all aspects of theater, to show them, 'Yeah, you can do this.'"

Hanifl-Lee also believes that investing in performing arts programming is investing in the next generation.

"Parents know that (their children) need to be able to communicate. They need to be able to think creatively, connect with others," said Hanifl-Lee. "Whatever your role is, whether you're on stage or you're backstage, you're part of the team. Employers are looking for people who have experience being on a team."

At the end of the day, then, a theater crew, a sailing crew and fundraising donors have a lot in common.

"When you're part of a team, yes, maybe one person will shine at one moment, then another person will shine," said Hanifl-Lee. "It's your job to make sure that it all works together, and that we all lift each other up."

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR FALL THEATER WORKSHOPS

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

PIZZA PERFORMANCE POP UPS

Grades: 6-12

Dates: 6-9 p.m. Saturdays Oct. 10, Nov. 21 and Dec. 12

Details: Students will come together for socializing and pizza, then break into groups to work on scenes assigned to them. At the end of the night, all students will get to perform for each other.

AESTHETICS AND SPECIAL EFFECTS CAMP

Grades: 7-12

Dates: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 15-16

Details: This two-day intensive explores theatrical costume and makeup design basics to prep your student for a well rounded theatrical future. Day one will teach students basic stage makeup and special effects. Day two will highlight basic hand and machine sewing techniques.

KING OF NEW YORK CAMP

Grades: 3-6

Dates: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Oct. 15-16

Details: Register today for our MEA Break mini-camp, grab your tap shoes and start dancing. This camp will feature choreography to songs from "Disney's Newsies" and focus on tap dancing steps and techniques. At the end of the day on Friday, students will showcase what they have learned.

SATURDAY MORNING DROP-IN

Grades: K-2

Dates: 9:30-11:30 a.m. Saturdays, Oct. 17, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5

Details: Classes focus on creative play and fostering imagination. Each week, students will read books, play games, do crafts and create characters. October's theme is "Toy Story 5."

'BEETLEJUICE JR.' CAST SPILLS THE DEETS

This weekend, Children's Performing Arts will stage performances of "Beetlejuice, Jr.," about about a goth teenager named Lydia Deetz forced to move into a new house with her stepmother, Delia, only to find its previous owners' ghosts are still living there. Press Publications recently got to chat with the cast on the CPA show has helped them grow:

• "Everyone's always so supportive. No one's ever really mean to each other ... I just love acting. I just love singing in front of

everybody. I've never really been great at choreography. It's nice to know that I'm getting a bit better every year." — Logan Tich St. Peter's Catholic School, North St. Paul

• "I basically just finished being Scuttle in 'The Little Mermaid,' and Lydia Dietz is the polar opposite of him. Going from a silly character to this goth girl is a pretty big range." — Winnie Pollard St. Odellia's Catholic School, Shoreview

• "The thing about my character (Beetlejuice clone) is that

we have to be exactly like Beetlejuice. It's so fun working with Elias (Limbag). He's our Beetlejuice. We get to see how he works and then follow in his place." — Allie Malitizke Mahtomedi Middle School

CPA's production of "Beetlejuice, Jr." runs Oct. 2-11 at Hanifl Performing Arts Center, 4941 Long Ave., White Bear Lake. For tickets and details, visit childrensperformingartsmn.org.

Compiled by Logan Gion

BLOOD DRIVE: 90% will need, 3% donate

FROM PAGE 1

screening.

Potential donors do not even receive a finger prick during the screening. “We have a new device that’s similar to one you might put on your finger for your pulse at the doctor’s office,” Solberg said.

Still, many first-time donors can be nervous. Russell said that the abilities of the healthcare workers who draw the blood put him at ease.

“Our phlebotomists are professionals, and I’ve given multiple times where I didn’t feel them put the needle in because they’re so good at it,” said Russell.

An opportunity to donate blood is coming up from at the Hugo American Legion (see “If you go” box). Club Manager Marcy Blake said that anyone in the community can come and donate, not just Legion members.

“It’s just like going to any of the donation locations. It’s just that we happen to be a Legion,” Blake said. “We have veterans welcoming people at the door.” Some of the veterans, she added, cannot donate blood, so they donate their time instead to help with the cause. “One of our core values principles at the Legion

is community engagement.”

Besides October, the Hugo American Legion hosts blood drives four times a year.

“It’s spaced out so that if people just want to come to the Legion, they’re able to come back,” Blake said.

Russell noted that, once people donate, they can download the Red Cross app on their phone and track where in the country their contributions are saving lives.

“In the coming weeks, we are looking at hurricane season for our friends down south,” Solberg explained. “That can be a big strain on the blood supply because it can lead to blood drive cancellations, lower donor turnout. When a community is facing something like a hurricane, the last thing they’re thinking about usually is donating blood.”

Regardless of the crisis, Solberg credits blood donors for helping to save lives.

“At some point in your life, either you or someone close to you is going to need blood, and the only way that you can get blood is through someone else donating it,” she said. “Blood is not something that can be created; it’s only something that can be shared.”

BEFORE YOU GO:

- Check blood donation eligibility requirements at redcrossblood.org/eligibility.
- Make an appointment on redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive.

- Bring a valid ID, like a driver’s license.
- Eat iron-rich foods — such as red meat, fish or spinach — the night before.
- Drink extra water the day of your donation.

IF YOU GO: HUGO AMERICAN LEGION

When: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6
Where: Hugo American Legion, 5383 140th St. N.
Details: To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive, type in your zip code and choose Oct. 6 for your date.

WHITE BEAR LAKE POLICE/FIRE

When: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8
Where: 4701 Highway 61 N.
Details: To schedule an appointment, visit redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive, type in your zip code and choose Oct. 8 for your date.

BUSINESS BRIEF

Holiday stores transition to Circle K

Three Holiday convenience stores in Lino Lakes and White Bear Township are scheduled to transition to the Circle K brand as part of the company’s ongoing rebranding of Holiday locations in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest.

The White Bear Township store at 5970 N. Hwy 61 is expected to complete the transition in late September. The two Lino Lakes locations, at 7090 21st Ave. N. and 7509 Lake Drive, will be rebranded in the coming months. The stores will remain open during the transition. Changes will include new exterior signs, fuel canopies, interior graphics and other Circle K branding.

Alimentation Couche-Tard, Circle K’s parent company, acquired Holiday in 2017 and has continued operating the Holiday brand in Minnesota and surrounding states.

“We are excited to introduce the Circle K brand to the residents of Lino Lakes and White Bear Lake while building on the strong foundation Holiday locations have established in the community,” said Joannie

Almjeld, vice president of operations for Circle K’s Northern Tier Business Unit.

For customers, the change also means the end of the Holiday Rewards program and the introduction of Circle K’s Inner Circle rewards program. Existing fuel discount programs with Cub, Coborn’s, Luther Automotive, Menards and other participating partners will remain active.

Circle K said fully registered Inner Circle members will receive a 5-cent-per-gallon discount on qualifying fuel purchases through Oct. 31. The company’s rewards program also offers fuel savings based on qualifying purchases. Some Circle K products and branding are already appearing inside the stores, including the Guy Fieri Flavortown Menu, Polar Pops and Grab-and-Go Fresh Cases.

The rebranding is part of Couche-Tard’s effort to bring its convenience stores under the Circle K name. More information about Circle K and its Inner Circle program is available at circlek.com and through the Circle K app.

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Bears rumble past Raptors

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

White Bear Lake stands 4-0 after beating East Ridge 34-21 behind Brian White III's monster game — 327 yards rushing, four touchdowns — and a couple electrifying plays by two teammates in the last half-minute of the first half.

"It looked like a ping-pong game for a while there," said coach Ryan Bartlett, referring to big plays by East Ridge that kept the game close until the Bears ground game closed it out. "Brian was awesome and our offensive line was blocking really well. Brian doesn't need much room."

White ran 41 times, averaging eight yards per pop, with touchdowns of six, ten, four, and 38 yards. The 5-foot-10, 185-pound senior has 866 yards and 10 touchdowns in four games.

"I run angry. Angry at everything. I like to run angry," grinned White. About running 41 times, he said, "I feel beat up, but I beat up the other team, too,"



PHOTOS BY TODD VOIT | CONTRIBUTED

RJ Stuckey clutches a touchdown pass with 6 seconds left in the half

The O-line consists of guys who were "95%" present at summer weight training, Bartlett said. "They are really working well together." That group includes center Zach Flemino, guards Maison Haas and Reid Golda, tackles Logan Blalock and Jack Firkus, tight end Corbin Weber and wingback Adrian Eicher.

With 35 seconds left in the half, RJ Stuckey zig-zagged 29 yards on a punt return and, after two runs by White advanced the ball to the Raptor 30, got loose for a 30-yard

touchdown pass, caught over the shoulder from Wyatt Stachowiak with :05 on the clock. It was an unlikely 85-yard, four-play advance that gave the Bears a 14-7 lead. "RJ put a good double move on him (the safety) and Wyatt laid it right in there," Bartlett said.

The Bears stayed a touchdown or two ahead in the second half with their 363-yard ground game that also had Hank Stuemke gaining 48 yards in 12 carries. Chase Bachmeier booted four conversions. Defensively, Reid Vickstrom



Brian White III ran for 327 yards and four touchdowns.

made three tackles for loss.

East Ridge (2-2) busted two long TD plays, a 42-yard run by Ethan Laboy and a 61-yard pass from Akeed Ali to Leo Stalsberg. Laboy also had a six-yard TD and most of the Raptors' 246 yards rushing.

The Bears' 4-0 start has come against teams with a combined 4-12 record. Friday they'll try keep it going at Forest Lake (3-1).

Cougars run hard, beat Andover 21-14

The Centennial Cougars (3-1) beat Andover 21-14 on Friday evening. The Cougars ran for 370 yards, led by Tobie Serna with 157 yards and Jack Wiste with 69 yards and two touchdowns. Edwin Ekah

had the first touchdown before leaving the game with an injury. Defensively, Brayden Boesch had two sacks and four other tackles-for-loss.

Bruce Strand



JON NAMYST | CONTRIBUTED

Tobie Serna rushed for 157 yards for the Cougars.

COUGARS SPORTS BRIEFS

CROSS COUNTRY

The Centennial girls won a six-team meet at Chisago Lakes on Tuesday, outscoring the second-place host team 35-54. Alexandra Sindt placed third; Emma Delf, fourth; Madison Chrusciel, eighth; Audrey Julson, ninth; and Emma Nelson, 11th of 56 runners. The Cougar boys were fifth of eight teams, led by Connor Louks in 11th place; Evan Lautenschlager, 17th; and Connor Vig, 23rd.

SOCCER

The Centennial girls (3-5-2) tied Eagan 1-1 on Tuesday and beat Champlin Park 2-1 on Thursday, with goalie Mia Sutch making nine saves. All three goals were delivered by Dara Akpan. The Centennial boys (2-4-3) had a 0-0 tie with Osseo on Tuesday and lost to Champlin Park 5-0 on Thursday.

VOLLEYBALL

Centennial (12-3) was champion of the Hastings tournament Saturday, defeating St. Croix Lutheran 25-13, 27-25; Hastings 25-15, 25-14; and Bloomington Kennedy 25-3, 25-7. On Monday, the Cougars beat Minneapolis Southwest 22-25, 25-10, 25-12, 25-14.

SWIMMING

Elk River defeated Centennial 95-86 on Thursday. For the Cougars, Sophia Nguyen won the 100 freestyle and backstroke, and Amelia Pole won breaststroke.

Bruce Strand

BEARS SPORTS BRIEFS

GIRLS SOCCER

White Bear Lake (8-2) won 4-1 over East Ridge with two goals by Ellyse Oelker and one each from Casi Hernandez and Alexa Paradise. Ali Ellis in goal made six saves. The Bears topped Park 10-0 with goals by Oelker (two), Piper Heinsohn (two), Lilah Shea, Piper Curry, Lila Paradise, Grace Weierke, Alexa Paradise, and Kennedy Becher. Casi Fernandez made four assists.

BOYS SOCCER

White Bear Lake (5-3-3) tipped Park of Cottage Grove 2-0. Diego Rios and Mason Voeller tallied the goals and Logan Metzger made seven saves. East Ridge (7-0-3)

nipped the Bears 1-0. The Bears tied Tartan 1-1 Saturday. The Bears have yielded eight goals in 11 games and have four shutouts.

SWIMMING & DIVING

White Bear Lake is 3-1 after turning back Roseville Area 101-85. Event winners were Charlotte McIntyre (200 free), Anna Miller (medley), Audrey Borofka (50 and 100 free), Anna Zarambo (diving), the medley relay with Eva Hoefer, Mya Sage, McIntyre and Borofka and the 200 free relay with McIntyre, Hoefer, Miller and Borofka.

TENNIS

White Bear Lake (7-8) won 6-1 over Irondale. Lisa Gitzmacher,

Hadley Farrell, Lucy Wolfe and Emma Lutz won at 1-2-3-4 singles. Sofia Sargent/Lauren Carlson and Methok Namsey/Sophia Jansen won at 1-2 doubles.

VOLLEYBALL

White Bear Lake beat Park 3-1 with Pearl Niemioja making 15 kills, Leila Otto 10 and Natalie Steffensmeier nine. Julie Dumroese served seven aces. Malaya Reese made 18 digs and Zoey Niemioja 11.

Bruce Strand



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Aubrie Wirkkala

Centennial Volleyball
September 29, 2026

Aubrie Wirkkala, Centennial volleyball senior, notched her 500th career kill — as well as 10 more — last week in a 3-1 win over Minneapolis Southwest. Wirkkala also passed the 100-ace marker at the service stripe earlier this season. The 5-foot-8 outside hitter is an excellent digger, playing all six rotations. "Aubrie has been a game-changer this year," coach Nicole Christensen said. "Despite an early season injury, she battles every day. Her arsenal offensively has grown and keeps us competitive with every team we face." Wirkkala has signed with UW-Stevens Point.



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Power of 100: White Bear Lake chapter launches with inaugural event

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

Four local women hope to gather 100 or more people on Monday, Oct. 5, to make a big impact on the community at Power of 100 White Bear Lake’s inaugural event at the Dellwood Country Club.

“The more people we get, the larger impact we can have,” explained Treasurer Sarah Gengenbach.

President Kim Gillespie, Vice President Kerry Moser, Secretary Jamie DesJardins and Gengenbach came together to form the executive board for the newly forming nonprofit. Similar groups have met at Dellwood Country Club and White Bear Yacht Club.

Gengenbach, who has lived in White Bear Lake for 25 years, learned about Power of 100 from a co-worker who attended an event through the River Falls, Wisconsin, chapter.

“I started looking into it and said, ‘We have to do this in White Bear Lake.’” She put feelers out there to people she knew from different walks of life who are all passionate about White Bear Lake.

The Power of 100 is a concept that has spread all over the nation in which group members donate \$100 twice a year to be given to a local charity chosen by group vote.

“Conceptwise, it’s so simple. It’s such an easy and quick way to make an impact,” said DesJardins, who has lived in White Bear Lake for 15 years. “Women are busy people, but I feel like women love to make an impact, too, and do things in their community.”

The four founders of the White Bear Lake area chapter said they could have joined another chapter like The Power of 100 Twin Cities, Stillwater or Woodbury, but they felt a group in White Bear Lake would be successful.

“There are a few places in Minnesota that are proud cities, and White Bear, I think, is definitely one of those,” Moser said. “It’s one of those tight-knit communities that believes in giving back, and I think every business in our community is so good at being a supporter of the community. It’s that hometown feel you don’t feel in a lot of cities.”

Moser has called White Bear Lake home for 26 years. She says she’s excited to bring “the easy concept” of Power of 100 to White Bear Lake so community members can see the direct impact their donation is making on local organizations.



CONTRIBUTED
Kerry Moser, Kim Gillespie, Sarah Gengenbach and Jamie DesJardins form the executive board of the Power of 100 White Bear Lake.

“When you donate, sometimes you don’t really know where your dollars are going,” she explained. “(Here), you know your dollars are staying local and its actually making an impact in the community that we live, work and have fun in,” she said.

Going forward, Power of 100 White Bear Lake will host an event in October and April. Attendees do not have to be from White Bear Lake. It’s open to any woman who believes in community, philanthropy and networking.

For the Oct. 5 event, six charities applied for funding, and the board narrowed it down to three. Voters will choose to donate to Bear Boating, Merrick, Inc. or the White Bear Lake Football Boosters Club.

“We’re hoping that it’s going to be a great networking event for people and meeting other people in the community that are like-minded,” Moser said.

Gengenbach added, “I hope we can continue to grow and our impact on the community becomes larger.”

As of press deadline, 30 women have already registered for the event. Organizers say there is no deadline to register, but the sooner the better so they can plan accordingly. If people are unable to attend, they can still donate to the cause ahead of time by visiting <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/donate-to-change-lives-22384>. The Power of 100 White Bear Lake is still working through the 501(c)(3) process, but the board expects that status to be complete prior to the spring event.

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

Hugo couple turns love of fall into new pumpkin porch business

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

Marta Schofield has a confession: She thinks about pumpkins probably more than she should.

She decorates her Hugo home early for fall, fills the porch with pumpkins and gourds, and waits until after Thanksgiving to give Christmas its turn.

So, when she and her husband, Jake Schofield, started talking about ways to build something of their own to do together and share with their 9-month-old son, Lochlan, it’s not surprising that pumpkins entered the conversation.

This fall, the Schofields are turning that love into a new Hugo business, The Signature Welcome Co., which delivers and arranges elaborate porch pumpkin displays for homeowners across the Twin Cities. They began taking orders in August and will start transforming porches September through October.

Marta said she has been thinking about the idea for the business for several years, but it wasn’t until this summer that they decided to give it a try.

“I thought it was a cool idea and such a fun way to get to decorate for fall over and over and over again,” she explained.

Marta’s mom, a business owner herself, gave her the final push she needed over a conversation at dinner. “She said, ‘You should do this . . . Why not give it a shot? What do you have to lose?’”

A few days later, thanks to Marta’s marketing background, the website was up and running. Marta’s mother also helped her come up with the name. All of the names they were tossing around included pumpkins, and her mother encouraged her to think beyond fall, just in case someday the business expands to holiday or spring arrangements.

“We loved the idea of people feeling like we are creating this welcome home moment for them,” Marta explained. “I have pumpkins and gourds all over the house and when I come home, it just feels like home. There is just something about that harvest season that I think is so special, especially when you live in the Midwest and you get to experience the change of seasons.”

Porch arrangements can include a variety of pumpkins, gourds and mums. They range in size from approximately 30 pumpkins to more than 90 pumpkins. Signature Welcome Co. will take care of design, delivery, setup and removal.

“We are really trying to make it as easy as possible for homeowners to enjoy that same fall magic that we have but not have to think through all of the details of making it happen,” Marta explained. “We really tried to think of everything so (homeowners) don’t have to worry about any of it.”

All of the pumpkins are treated with a hot pepper spray to keep the squirrels away. Customers also receive a bottle of the spray to preserve the pumpkins throughout the entire fall season.

The business has turned into something fun for the Schofields to do



PAUL DOIS | PRESS PUBLICATIONS
Hugo resident Marta Schofield is turning her love of pumpkins into a local business—Signature Welcome Co.

together when they come home from their day jobs; Marta works in customer insights for Ecolab in St. Paul, and Jake is an engineer for Polaris in Wyoming.

“Jake and I haven’t found a lot of projects that both of us are passionate about from the beginning. With engineering and marketing, there isn’t always a lot of overlap. So, we were both excited about it, and it’s been fun to get to work on it together and figure out the logistics and what that could look like for our family.”

The Schofields come from generations of farmers and entrepreneurs, and they hope their new venture will teach their son something about taking a chance, working hard and building something from the ground up. Marta’s grandfather started Park Tool with a business partner, and her grandmother founded Chickadee Cottage Tea Room in Lake City, Iowa. Growing up, her parents started Chickadee Cottage Restaurant in Woodbury.

“It’s not the safest thing to start your own business. It is certainly a lot of hard work, but I want him to feel like he can do something like that,” Marta explained. “You can learn just as much if something doesn’t work out as if it does.”

Jake, meanwhile, grew up on a cattle farm in Chetek, Wisconsin.

“Growing up, my dad had two cows, and both had calves. Now, dad has 40 cows, and they all have calves . . . Suddenly it went from two to 80, and for me, it was cool to see it grow and to see him keep chipping away at it,” Jake said. “So, if this thing works out like we hope it does, Lochlan will get to see the same thing.”

Jake said it’s been fun to watch Marta latch onto something. “I haven’t seen her be this excited about anything since Lochlan,” he said.

For this year, the couple will source the pumpkins from a Twin Cities farm, but if the business takes off, someday, they might move to more land and grow their own pumpkins. “It’s just a dream at this point, but it is fun to think about,” Marta said.

For more information about The Signature Welcome Co., visit SignatureWelcomeCo.com.

IF YOU GO
POWER OF 100 WHITE BEAR LAKE
When: 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5
Where: Dellwood Country Club, 1025 Dellwood Lane
Details: Everyone is welcome to attend Power of 100 White Bear Lake’s first event. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for light snacks and a cash bar. Each attendee will donate \$100, and whatever funds are raised will be donated to the local charity that receives the most votes. To register for the event, visit www.powerof100whitebearlake.com.
Contact: powerof100whitebearlake@gmail.com

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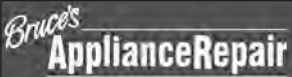
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CHURCH BRIEF



New Life completes fall cleanup

Some volunteers and youth from New Life Church – Lutheran in Hugo recently picked up the trash along Frenchman Road to help take care of the

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Shores of Oneka Lake North receives preliminary approval

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

HUGO — The development proposal from M/I Homes to extend its Shores of Oneka Lake development continues to move forward.

The City Council unanimously approved a comprehensive plan amendment, preliminary plat and planned unit development for the residential and commercial development known as The Shores of Oneka Lake North.

The preliminary plat includes 408 residential lots, 145 townhomes and a 180-unit apartment building. The housing types are proposed to be a combination of single-family homes, villa homes, townhomes and apartments. The plat also includes commercial lots for future commercial development near the new Kwik Trip along 159th Street. (See “M/I Homes asks for ‘continuation’ of The Shores of Oneka Lake,” Sept. 3, 2026, The Citizen.)

Resident input

Resident Joshua Wickander said he was primarily concerned with the proposed apartment building and said it “does not fit within Hugo.” He suggested a compromise and encouraged the council to consider approving the other portions of the development, but not the apartment building.

“It’s not a problem to have high-density housing, it’s a problem when it’s rental property,” he said, adding that the developer should consider condominiums instead of the apartments.

Resident John Hallman encouraged the council to look at what is happening in the city of Lake Elmo. He also suggested that the council consider taking “dark sky” precautions to prevent future light pollution.

“I grew up downtown in a major city and all I could see at night was an orange glowing sky,” Hallman said. “The first night that I stepped out on my porch (in Hugo) and I saw how many stars I could see in my own backyard ... it was unbelievable.”

Sarah Hallman, John’s wife, said she would like to preserve the rural character of Hugo. “The thing that I think really bothers me the most about this is that we are building cheap, dense, disposable homes. The goal is to solve our housing crisis, but what we are really doing with this is we are just shunting it off to the next generation with houses that break down in years, and we are not building things that last.”

Resident Kevin Dickey described the proposal as “overdevelopment” and shared he had concerns including build quality, traffic impacts and school class sizes.

“This development is not what Hugo has been or what Hugo residents want our community to become. This is not thoughtful growth ... It does not reflect good planning in my opinion,” Dickey said. “It’s time for the City Council to prioritize identity, livability and the future of this community over the short-term gains of a high-density development and skyrocketing property taxes.”

Developer, council feedback

Emily Becker, of M/I Homes, pointed out that in the mixed-use area, they are allowed 10-16 units per acre, and they are proposing 10.86; in the low-density residential area, they are allowed three to eight units per acre and they are at 3.27; in the medium-density area they are allowed 3-8 units, and they are at 3.69.

“We really are within the allowed density for the area and what has been planned for. This development has been in consideration for over 20 years now. It is what the comprehensive plan guides it as, and we are following that,” Becker said, adding that the development does propose smaller lot sizes to meet density requirements and avoid wetlands and natural features on the site as much as possible.

In addition to the Forest Lake School District, Becker said they had talked to White Bear Area Schools who have confirmed that students living within the development could open enroll to that district as well.

Mark Guenther, of Fenway Land Company (the company developing the apartment building and future commercial sites), said they looked at the city’s comprehensive plan to make sure their plans fit within that.

“Providing additional rentals with the apartment is needed. That’s what our market analysis is showing,” Guenther said, adding that building an affordable condo is very challenging in today’s market.”



The Shores of Oneka Lake North will sit on approximately 246 acres north of the existing Shores of Oneka Lake development and is proposed to include 408 residential lots, 145 townhomes and an 180-unit apartment.

Council Member Becky Petryk asked about property management of the apartment. Guenther said they are looking into doing it themselves or having it provided by other developers. Petryk also wanted to know what kind of control the council might have over the apartment building going forward.

Juba explained that the site plan would come back before the Planning Commission and the council for approval. Although the city might not have a lot of say in terms of what amenities the apartment provides inside, the developer would have to meet the multi-family requirements in the city code.

Council Member Mike Miron wanted to know more about the phasing of the project. Currently, the project is proposed to be completed in six or seven phases over four to five years.

“I never enjoy seeing tracts of farmland become development, but that is what the land use plan allows for and if that is how property owners determine the sale of their property, then I believe that unless there is something in the land use code that prevents it, they have a right to do so,” Miron said.

Mayor Tom Weidt asked Community Development Director Rachel Juba to provide background on the traffic analysis. Juba noted M/I homes completed a traffic study and all of the evaluated intersections ranked acceptable. The proposed plan was also sent over to Washington County and MnDOT for comments; both agencies were comfortable with the development. The agencies noted the intersection of Highway 61 and 165th Street N. will need to be monitored to see whether future improvements are warranted.

Weidt added, “I think the development is something that will be a nice amenity to Hugo. It is going to change some of the looks that residents near there have, but everything evolves, and this is one of the things that has been talked about, planned and discussed for decades.”

City Council Member Ben Krull said he recently walked the existing neighborhood and talked to several residents who were all pleased with their new homes and neighborhood. He added that he disagreed with some of the residents’ comments about rental housing.

“As a property manager, I own rental property. I have tenants who have more ownership than I have ever seen that are more connected to the community and stay in their apartment a long time, and I have lived next to people who own their homes and don’t care,” he said.

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

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October 3	VIP Vine to Bottle Tasting Tour*	12:00–1:30 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 3	Oktoberfest Live Polka Music	1:00–4:00 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
October 3	VIP Pappouli's Wine Tasting Experience*	2:00–3:30 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 3	Live Music: Two Peace Suite	6:00–9:00 PM	Big Wood Brewery
October 4	Vineyard Tour & Tasting	12:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 4	Acoustic Sunday	1:00–4:00 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
October 4	Live Music: Gary LaRue	2:00–5:00 PM	7 Vines
October 4	Live Music in the Vines: Roger Allen	2:00–5:00 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 4	Live Music: Riverside Unplugged	3:00–6:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 6	Trivia with Ryan	6:30–8:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 7	Live Music: Tim Cheesebrow	5:00–8:00 PM	7 Vines
October 8	Dueling Pianos	6:00–9:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 8	Spyce Pilates	6:30–8:30 PM	7 Vines
October 8	Trivia Night	6:30–8:00 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
October 10	Vineyard Tour & Tasting	12:00 PM and 3:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 10	VIP Vine to Bottle Tasting Tour*	12:00–1:30 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 10	VIP Pappouli's Wine Tasting Experience*	2:00–3:30 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 11	Vineyard Tour & Tasting	12:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 11	Acoustic Sunday	1:00–4:00 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
October 11	Live Music: Michael August	2:00–5:00 PM	7 Vines
October 11	Live Music in the Vines: Ben Johnson	2:00–5:00 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 11	Live Music: Prairie Beats	3:00–6:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 13	Bingo	6:30–8:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 14	Live Music: Josh Quinn	5:00–8:00 PM	7 Vines
October 14	Cribbage Tournament	5:30–7:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 15	Summer Artisans' Market	4:00–7:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 16	Art at the Winery	6:00–8:30 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
October 17	Vineyard Tour & Tasting	12:00 PM and 3:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
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October 17	VIP Pappouli's Wine Tasting Experience*	2:00–3:30 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 18	Vineyard Tour & Tasting	12:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 18	Acoustic Sunday	1:00–4:00 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
October 18	Live Music: Steve Poynter	2:00–5:00 PM	7 Vines
October 18	Live Music: Too Square Band	2:00–5:00 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 18	Live Music: Cole Thomas	3:00–6:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 20	Trivia with Ryan	6:30–8:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 21	Live Music: Becky Rae Dalton	5:00–8:00 PM	7 Vines
October 22	Trivia Night	6:30–8:00 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
October 23	Dinner & Wine Pairing with the Winemaker*	5:30–9:00 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 24	Vineyard Tour & Tasting	12:00 PM and 3:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 24	VIP Vine to Bottle Tasting Tour*	12:00–1:30 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 24	VIP Pappouli's Wine Tasting Experience*	2:00–3:30 PM	Two Silo Winery
October 25	Puppy Yoga	10:00 AM–2:00 PM	7 Vines
October 25	Vineyard Tour & Tasting	12:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 25	Acoustic Sunday	1:00–4:00 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
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October 25	Live Music: Whiskey & Water	6:00–9:00 PM	Big Wood Brewery
October 27	Bingo	6:30–8:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 28	Monthly Book Club	5:30–6:30 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 28	Gary LaRue Concert (ticketed event)	6:30 PM	7 Vines
October 29	Candle Making Experience	5:00–8:00 PM	Rustic Roots Winery
October 29	The Board Loon Workshop	6:30 PM	7 Vines
October 30	Live Music: Billy McLaughlin	5:00–8:00 PM	7 Vines
October 30	Haunted Halloween Masquerade	5:00–9:00 PM	Dancing Dragonfly
October 31	Halloween at Rustic Roots	All day	Rustic Roots Winery
October 31	Live Music: Josh Quinn	7:00–10:00 PM	Big Wood Brewery

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Hugo W2-P3	Peder Pedersen Pavilion 5224 Upper 146th St N, Hugo, MN 55038
Hugo W2-P4	New Life Church, Hugo 6000 148th St, Hugo, MN 55038
Hugo W3-P5	Hugo Public Works Building 8220 140th St N, Hugo, MN 55038
Hugo W3-P6	Rice Lake Centre 6900 137th St N, Hugo, MN 55038

Published two times in The Citizen on October 1 and 15, 2026.

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CENTERVILLE TIDBITS

• Back in May, the council approved capital improvement plan projects for 2026. The water tower fence/gate project was included in the list of improvements and was allocated \$60,000 from water fund 601. While considering security, city staff discovered that the land on which the tower sits is located on old city property with access easements on its southern border that allows fence to be located there. Including fence installation, driveway excavation and reinstallation, limited property survey and potential tree removal, the cost for an amended project was now estimated to be between \$45,000 to \$46,000 and well under the original allotted amount. Staff requested approval of additional components to the project while keeping the cost of the initial budget project under the originally allocated amount of \$60,000. Council approved an expanded scope of work to include surveying property easements, added driveway access on the southern border of the project, and complete security fencing with gates to round out the project for a cost not to exceed \$60,000.

• Going out to meet and greet communities in anticipation of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Tina Bronson, the new executive director of Alexandra House, presented updates to the work performed by her organization. For many years, the city has supported Alexandra House Inc., a domestic violence service provider, for its services to victims in their time of need. Thousands of women, men and children have and will continue to access assistance from Alexandra House. During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the weeks surrounding the traditional community awareness campaign, Anoka County organizations will inform area residents about domestic violence, its prevalence and consequences and what we, as a concerned community, can do to eliminate its existence. Here are a few statistics about how much Alexandra House has served Centerville residents:

- The average number of participants served in Centerville from 2023-2025 is three.
- The average number of services provided for Centerville residents from 2023-2025 is 59.
- The average number of Helpline Calls from Centerville from 2023-25 is six.
- The city has supported Alexandra House with a donation since 2022. The amount has been set at \$2,000 since 2023. After Alexandra House requested that the donation amount be increased to \$2,400 this year, council approved the increase.
- The property owners at 1849 73rd Street can install their new fence, now that council has approved an encroachment agreement. The new 6-foot wooden privacy fence will be in the city's right of way/drainage and utility easement along the west property line 2 feet from the rear lot line. The applicants have completed all necessary documents and paid the appropriate fees.
- At its Sept. 2 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Committee considered park facility usage applications for the use of Laurie LaMotte Memorial Park, and council approved those applications.
- Centennial Community Education will hold T-ball sessions for young children on Wednesday evenings from 5-6:40 p.m. starting Sept. 16 and ending on Oct. 7. A private party will hold a birthday party at the park from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3.
- In her report, City Administrator Athanasia Lewis announced a new addition to city staff. Emily Janak was hired as assistant to the city administrator. Janak will bring a versatile skill set focused on clear community engagement and operational efficiency, Lewis said.
- Centerville and Anoka County are collaborating to create a safe crossing for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross Centerville Road, Lewis said. The pedestrian improvements will be installed across Centerville Road where the city trail runs from Dupre Road to the Anoka County Rice Creek Regional Park. Construction will begin Sept. 16 and is expected to be completed by Oct. 30. At its Aug. 27 meeting, council unanimously approved a revised joint powers agreement with Anoka County for a pedestrian crossing flashing system at the junction of the city trail and CSAH 21/ Main Street for an amount not to exceed \$50,000. The city and county will share most expenses on a 50/50 basis and will split maintenance duties.
- Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Election Day voting for Centerville residents is at St. Genevieve's Church Community Parish Center, 6995 Centerville Road. To see what is on the ballot, a sample ballot can be obtained at the Secretary of State's Office at <https://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/what's-on-my-ballot> or call them at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683). Anoka County will assist all voters who choose to vote by absentee voting. Please contact the county at 763-324-1300 with any questions. The city will be providing early direct ballot voting at City Hall. Call City Hall at 651-429-3232 to learn the available hours for voting.

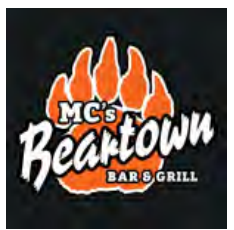
Loretta Harding

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DAILY PULLTABS & ETABS

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#03111

GO BEARS!

MONDAY	9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S 6:00PM BINGO @ SAK'S
TUESDAY	6:00PM BINGO @ JIMMY'S
WEDNESDAY	9:00AM BINGO @ JIMMY'S 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 2:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ COOPER'S 3:00PM BINGO @ COOPER'S 5:00PM MEAT RAFFLE @ JIMMY'S 6:00PM TRI-WHEEL @ WB BAR