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ARTS AND CULTURE: Bald Eagle Art Crawl gears up for year 3 **PAGE 7**



LOGAN GION | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

From left: Freya Sanders, Luisa Maruyama and Holly Flood — the members of the Mothers Band perform their final song, “Home.”

T and Nae Flower Farm in Hugo helps businesses and talent bloom

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

Every Wednesday this month, T and Nae Flower Farm—owned and operated by sisters Taryn Menne and Renee Neeser—hosts makers and bakers as well as a local music act.

“We used to go to different farmers markets selling flowers, and thought, ‘Why don’t we just create this at our space and have people come to us?’” said Menne. “(We) have all different sorts of local, small

businesses. Some people are just getting started. There’s some little kids selling little bracelets all the way up to well-established community businesses.”

Established businesses include 350 Degrees Bakery in Mahtomedi and Egg Roll Queen Food Truck. Menne and Neeser’s uncle also sells beef, from 715 Neeser Family Farms Beef, at the flower shop, which Menne says is perfect for summer grilling.

“They just keep coming back because they enjoy being part

of the community,” Menne said, noting that the featured music acts are much the same.

This past week, the farm hosted local teen trio The Mothers Band for their final show.

“We’ve had them out for the past couple of years, and they bring such a lovely sound and ambiance. It’s a whole experience,” said Menne.

The Mothers Band—White Bear Lake Area High School graduating seniors Freya

SEE **FLOWER FARM**, PAGE 16

Hugo seeks bridge funding for 2027 project

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

The city of Hugo is hopeful it can secure nearly \$1.15 million from state bridge funds for the reconstruction of two bridges next construction season.

City Engineer Mark Erichson explained that the Forest Road bridge and the Fable Hills bridge are both in need of replacement. The Forest Road bridge is over 100 years old. It is located just north of 175th Street, just west of Highway 61 and the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail. The Fable Hills bridge located over Clearwater Creek, constructed in 2004, is not nearly as old but its treated timber deck is starting to fail.

Initially, the projects were slated for construction in 2028 but city staff chose to switch things around in hopes of securing state funding for the projects for 2027.

“We altered our plan a bit and switched to try to take advantage of the opportunity when there is funding available,” Erichson explained. “We moved it up to try to construct the bridge with the neighborhood together with the funding.”

The Minnesota Local Bridge Replacement Program provides state funding to local governments for the replacement, rehabilitation and removal of deficient bridges on local roads. The costs are typically funded at up to 50% for projects on state aid streets and up to 100% for projects on municipal streets. Erichson noted that both the Forest Road bridge and the Fable Hill bridge are located on municipal streets and eligible for up to 100% funding for qualifying costs. The 2026 bonding bill

SEE **BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION**, PAGE 15

White Bear Schools to launch only student-run credit union branch

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

White Bear Lake Area High School will be the only school in the state this school year to offer a student-run Royal Credit Union branch to students.

Royal has operated its School \$ense program for over 30 years in Wisconsin, but is looking to get the program up and running in Minnesota. Royal previously had a school site at Eden Prairie High School, but it is no longer operating. White Bear Lake Area High School marks the 31st school site.

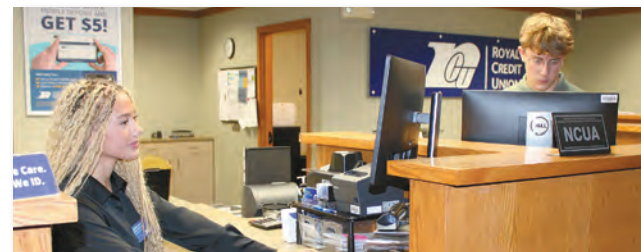
“We have a huge commitment to financial education and working with schools,” said Deb Paulsen,

Royal financial education supervisor. “White Bear Lake has been a really great partner for us ... so it was a natural evolution to partner more with them on some of the things that we have expertise in.”

The partnership between the credit union and school district took off a couple years ago through the launch of the Test Drive Reality Fair, which gives high school students a real-life simulation of money and finances and lets them “test drive” their future to see what it takes to make it on their own.

Four students from the district were selected for a paid internship with Royal for the 2026-27 school

SEE **CREDIT UNION**, PAGE 8



SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

White Bear Lake Area High School students Amiya Scott-Waddington and Louie Blomgren are two of four interns selected to be student tellers for a new partnership between the school district and Royal Credit Union.

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HUGO BITS AND PIECES

• The city has filled several vacancies on the city's commissions. Jordan Fahey, who was appointed an alternate member on the Planning Commission in July, will serve as a regular member through Dec. 31, 2028; Dan Nelson will serve as the alternate member through Dec. 31, 2027. Beth Hargarten will serve as a member of the EDA through Dec. 31, 2028; Tracy Pierre and Carol Labs will serve as members of the Parks Commission through Dec. 31, 2029, and Dec. 31, 2026, respectively.

• Property owners of 12686 Ingersoll Ave. N. have requested a variance to allow an approximately 646-square-foot building addition consisting of an enclosed four-season porch and a deck on the west side of the house that is within the shoreland overlay district setback from Sunset Lake. The addition, which has been approved by council, will be 45 feet from the ordinary high-water level of Sunset Lake, where a structural setback of 100 feet is required by ordinance. There is an existing deck on the west side of the property that faces Sunset Lake. The council approved a variance in 1995 to allow for the construction of the deck to have a setback of 45 feet from the OHWL. The new building addition will have a setback equal to that of the existing deck, and the existing deck will be removed with the construction of the proposed building addition.

• The city will purchase a Ford F-250 from Midway Ford for \$50,427 to replace its 2013 Chevrolet 2500. The Chevrolet has served the city for the past 13 years. The Public Works Department plans to keep the vehicle on the city's fleet for summer seasonal staff, who use it for mowing operations.

• The new Kwik Trip, located at 5950 159th St. N., has applied for and received a 3.2% off-sale tobacco license as well as a license for low-potency hemp edibles.

• Pheasants Forever - Washington County Chapter No. 671 will host bingo and raffles at an event on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Sal's Angus Grill after the council approved a lawful gambling exempt permit. Gambling permits are issued by the state after approval from the local municipality.

• Ducks Unlimited Coon Rapids Chapter 187 also received a lawful gambling exempt permit to conduct bingo and raffles at an event on Saturday, Dec. 5, at Hugo American Legion Post 620.

• The City Council has approved a resolution setting the five-year Capital Streets Improvement Plan for 2027 – 2021 amounting to over \$17 million of upgrades. The city annually evaluates its transportation infrastructure needs and updates its streets CIP to establish priorities for future street maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction projects. As of now, projects are proposed to include:

- 2027: Reconstruction of Fable Hills and Forest Road bridges; paving Elmcrest Avenue (158th Street to 170th Street) and 165th Street (Elmcrest Avenue to Highway 61)
- 2028: Reclamation project on Heritage Parkway, Oneka Parkway, Hyde Avenue and Homestead Avenue
- 2029: Reclamation project on Jardin Avenue, Garden Way, Arbore Lane, Poets Green, Victor Hugo Boulevard, Cosette Lane N., Cosette Way, Valjean Boulevard N. and Victor Path

- 2030: Reclamation project on Goodview Avenue N., 151st Street N., 152nd Street N., Green Avenue, 150th Street N., Glenbrook Avenue N., 150th Street N., 151st Street N., 151st Street Court N. and 151st Street Circle N.

- 2031: Reclamation project on Empress Way N. and Eminence Avenue N.

The 2027 and 2028 projects may shift depending on project funding. (See full story in this week's issue for more details.)

• There are currently two vacancies on the Browns Creek Watershed District. Residents who live within the watershed should contact City Hall if they are interested in applying for the positions.

The Sept. 7 meeting has been canceled due to Labor Day. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21 at City Hall.

Shannon Granholm

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Hammer & NER names next chief executive officer

Hammer & NER has named Matt Buley as its next chief executive officer, effective July 27. Buley succeeds John Estrem, who recently retired after leading the Minnesota disability services nonprofit for 14 years.



Matt Buley

Buley joins Hammer & NER from Hope Haven in Rock Valley, Iowa, where he has served as CEO, overseeing more than 650 employees across disability services, health care and manufacturing operations. He previously held leadership roles in the nonprofit sector and at Best Buy. Buley was selected following a national

search that included input from the organization's board, staff and community partners. "We looked for a leader who could hold both the rigor of our work and the humanity at its heart — and in Matt, we found exactly that," said Hammer & NER Board Chair Mitch Ringe. "His experience, judgment and belief in what's possible for every person we serve make him the right leader to carry our legacy boldly into the future."

Fairview St. John's Hospital climbs in US News rankings

Fairview St. John's Hospital in Maplewood has earned higher marks in the 2026–2027 U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings.

The hospital moved up to No. 6 in the Twin Cities, improving from No. 8 last year, and is now tied for No. 8 in Minnesota, up from No. 11. St. John's also received high performing ratings in 10 procedures and conditions:

- Back surgery (spinal fusion)
- Colon cancer surgery
- Diabetes
- Heart arrhythmia
- Heart failure
- Kidney failure
- Pneumonia
- Prostate cancer surgery
- Stroke
- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)

The annual U.S. News & World Report Best Hospitals rankings evaluate hospitals based on patient outcomes, quality

of care, patient experience, safety measures and other performance indicators, making them one of the nation's most recognized measures of hospital excellence. "This recognition is the result of thousands of moments across our hospitals, from improving patient safety and advancing innovative treatments to reducing health disparities and creating more compassionate care experiences," said Taj Mustapha, chief quality officer at Fairview. "Recognition like this is meaningful but our greatest measure of impact is the care we provide and the outcomes we achieve for every patient." For more information, visit www.fairview.org/blog/best-hospital-rankings-2026.

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www.pinetreeappleorchard.com

COMMUNITY BRIEF

Watershed district seeks award nominations

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) is accepting nominations for the 2026 Watershed Champion Award program. The award, introduced in 2019, acknowledges and honors those whose contributions to water stewardship have helped the CLFLWD achieve its mission of protecting and improving local water resources. If you, or someone you know, deserves to be recognized for contributions to protecting our local water resources, contact adam.hjelm@clflwd.org or call 651-395-5850 for more information and instructions on how to submit a nomination. The deadline for nominations is Aug. 28; awards will be presented Sept. 29 at the district's annual State of the Watershed event.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

ONGOING EVENTS

HUGO SENIOR CITIZENS PLAY ‘500’
When: 12:45 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, Sept. 3, and the 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday of every month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th Street N.
Details: Games begin at 12:45 p.m. Refreshments and coffee served. All senior citizens from the area invited.
Contact: 763-639-4756 or allenj4992@gmail.com

CRIBBAGE
When: 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24, Sept. 8 (rescheduled from Sept. 7), and the 1st and 4th Monday of every month.
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo
Details: Senior citizens from Hugo and surrounding area are invited to an afternoon of cribbage. Coffee and refreshments served.
Contact: 651-429-4413

BURGERS FOR THE TROOPS
When: 5-8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24, and the 4th Monday of each month
Where: Hugo American Legion, 5383 140th St. N., Hugo
Details: Support military families with a meal of burgers/chips for \$7, sponsored by the Hugo Yellow Ribbon Network. Family members of deployed military members eat free. Cash/checks only.

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

MEMORY LOSS CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP
When: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25
Where: Lyngblomsten, 6070 Blanchard Blvd., Lino Lakes
Details: Family and friends who are caring for someone experiencing Alzheimer’s disease or a related type of dementia are welcome to participate in this support group. Registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome.
Contact: 651.632.5320 or caregiving@lyngblomsten.org

CURRENT EVENTS

SUMMER SIGNINGS
When: 10 a.m.-noon Friday, Aug. 21
Where: Lake Country Booksellers, 4766 Washington Square, White Bear Lake
Details: Author Dr. Amelia Reigstad swill sign “Hello Ms. Perfect” during the Farmers Market.
Contact: lakecountrybooksellers.com

TRILOGY TRIBUTE FEST
When: 7:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 21
Where: The Outskirts, 15201 Running Aces Blvd., Columbus
Details: Travel back in time and witness three epic bands. Experience an authentic reproduction of The Doors, Led Zeppelin and Pink Floyd. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Admission will be charged.
Contact: 651-927-2717 or theoutskirtsmn.com

SUFFRAGE STORY TIME
When: 10-11:15 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 22
Where: White Bear Lake Armory, 2228 Fourth St.
Details: Program introduces the concept of voting rights to children 3-8 by listening to two picture books about women’s suffrage and then voting for their favorite by visiting a polling place and casting a ballot. Adults welcome.
Contact: whitebearhistory.org

MAKE AND TAKE WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE HISTORY CRAFTS
When: 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 22
Where: White Bear Lake Armory, 2228 Fourth St.
Details: Children ages 7-13 can make



CONTRIBUTED

LION’S VOLUNTEER PARK CONCERTS
When: 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2
Where: Lions Volunteer Park, 5524 Upper 146th St. N., Hugo
Details: Acoustic trio Folk Revival covers classic folk, country and pop artists from the ‘50s to the ‘70s Bring lawn chairs.
Contact: 651-762-6342 or ci.hugo.mn.us

a variety of “Votes for Women” art projects featuring White Bear Lake’s Suffrage leader, Emily Gilman Noyes. Includes swag bag.
Contact: whitebearhistory.org

MAKE NEW FRIENDS WITH GIRL SCOUTS
When: 3-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 23
Where: Lion’s Volunteer Park, 5524 Upper 146th St. N., Hugo
Details: Girls in grades K-3 can meet new people, play games, and see what Girl Scouts is all about.
Contact: 651-303-1584 or /forms.gle/Yep-MmHospoKzejCT8

ST. PAUL HIKING CLUB
When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 25
Where: White Bear Area Chamber of Commerce, 4751 Highway 61
Details: Hike sidewalks and streets to the south shore of Bald Eagle Lake and around the high school, approximately three miles.
Contact: stpaulhike.com

BIRDING BY BOAT
When: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27
Where: Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Regional Park, 7373 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Anoka County Parks is home to several exceptional areas for bird watching. As birds fly overhead, we’ll be in canoes and kayaks on the water. This leisurely paddle will allow everyone to observe birds, and other wildlife. No birding or paddling experience is required. Admission will be charged.
Contact: anokacountyparks.com/activities-events or 763-324-3300

WHITE BEAR CRAFT FAIR
When: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29
Where: Mariner Middle School, 3551 McKnight Road N., White Bear Lake
Details: Shop over 70 booths of Minnesota crafters, artisans, boutiques and vendors. Food trucks on premises.
Contact: 763-269-2166 or sunri-seeventsandcraftshows@gmail.com

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

Otter Lake Road Extension Project begins

Construction has begun on the Otter Lake Road Extension Project. The project will extend Rosemary Way to connect with Otter Lake Road and will extend Otter Lake Road North, ultimately creating a connection to Heritage Parkway North in Hugo.

The city of Lino Lakes anticipates that work on the south end of the project will be completed in 2026, weather permitting, with the remainder of the project continuing in 2027.

Otter Lake Road, Rosemary Way and driveway access will remain open during construction, although short

delays may occur as equipment moves through the area.

Local businesses in the area will remain open and accessible during construction.

Otter Lake Road and 20th Avenue reopen early, eastbound County Road J closes

Construction on County Road J from Centerville Road to Otter Lake Road, including the I-35 E interchange continues. According to Ramsey County, Otter Lake Road and 20th Avenue have reopened ahead of schedule. Now, eastbound County Road J

and the southbound I-35E entrance ramp will close. During this closure, the entrance to the theater shops and Holiday will be closed though access will remain open from Centerville Road. The county encourages travelers to follow the posted detours.

I-35E to close during last weekend in August

Interstate 35E will be closed in both directions between County Road 96 in White Bear Lake and Main Street in Centerville and Hugo from 10 p.m., Friday, Aug. 28, to 5 a.m., Monday, Aug. 31. This closure allows for the demolition of the old County Road J bridge.

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Another summer wasted?

Of all the media I consumed this summer, no moment cut me to the quick so much as the sirens’ song in “The Odyssey.” Odysseus, played by Matt Damon, describes the song, in part, as follows:

“All the things you want it to be. Then all the things you wish you never wished for. It ... told you what you most want is what you most can't have. And what you most can't have is what you already had. And lost.”

During my first job out of college, I rented out a relative’s basement. One night in late August, as I went to get him for dinner, I notice he had a tired look on his face. I asked if he was OK. After a long draw from his e-cigarette and a desolate sigh, he responded, “Another summer... wasted.”

Little did I know that, while working that job, I would fall ill with multiple health conditions, including a rare sleep disorder that only 100,000 people in the country have. This year, after 15 years of struggle and effort, my health team told me they are confident my conditions are well-managed. Relieved, I felt I could finally resume the race of life.

But I’m 15 years behind. Fifteen summers, not to mention the summer of my youth, wasted.

I feel extra guilty when people tell me they’re proud of me, or worse, that I should be proud of myself. My parents and siblings tell me I’m such a hard worker—but I was always a hard worker, so if this health stuff never happened to me, imagine how well I’d be doing.

I confided this to a close friend recently. He told me that, when he was growing up, his parent had a different health condition, and he wished that parent had spent 15 years of their life understanding and managing it instead of trying to live a “normal life.” Intellectually, I knew my friend was right, but emotionally, all I felt was a bitterness in my heart — grief at what could have been.

A coworker helped me break through this murk. She’s younger than I am, about the age I was when my health started deteriorating. At lunch, she told me about a promising guy she met while she went out after work.

Envious, I said, “I wish I could just have someone relationship-worthy fall into my lap.”

“Why, what are you doing this weekend?” She asked.

“I’m catching up with a dozen or so friends I haven’t seen in a while,” I responded.

“Wow, I wish I had 12 friends,” she said.

How foolish have I been? Had I not moved back home 15 years ago, I would not have such strong relationships with my family. I would not have the joyous time I’ve spent with my friends. I would not be writing a column at a workplace that supports me, for communities that I cherish.

I have not been wasting time; I have been investing it.

Watching “The Odyssey,” I realized that a great many people feel the way that I felt. We beat ourselves up for not using our time wisely, but using time is what makes us wise.

I wish I knew this lesson 15 years ago so that I could tell my relative to cut himself a break. The reason he was so tired was because he was recovering from a heart attack. He used to smoke a pack of cigarettes a day. That summer, he used e-cigarettes to wean himself off the habit—hardly a waste of time.

Don’t worry, I’ll tell him how I feel next time I call, and I’ll be kind to myself for not doing it sooner.

I won’t fall for that siren song again.

Logan Gion is staff writer at Press Publications.



Looking Out with Logan Logan Gion



Listening first, getting results

Whether I’m in our community or at the Capital, my job stays the same: listen to what our community needs and find practical

ways to get it done. That approach is why more than 70% of the bills I’ve authored have carried support from both parties. In a closely divided Legislature, that’s the only way real work gets done.

Here’s what some of that work has looked like.

I am the chief author of the bill

that created Minnesota’s independent Office of Inspector General, a watchdog with the authority to detect and root out fraud and make sure every tax dollar goes where it’s supposed to. It’s the most significant anti-fraud policy to pass the Legislature, and I’m proud of the broad support it received from both sides of the aisle. I also authored legislation to address enrollment fraud in our state colleges and universities, and we also expanded the state’s capacity to prosecute Medicaid fraud. These good governance measures will help ensure we’re providing support for our neighbors who need it most, not fraudsters looking to

take advantage of others.

As the school year approaches, our state’s School Meals program – one of my favorite bills I’ve authored – provides every student in Minnesota schools with a breakfast and lunch at no cost. It continues to save local families real money, close to \$2,000 a year for the average family in our community. This makes life more affordable for families, and it also means less stress for moms and dads as they usher the kids out the door in the morning. As a parent, I know that’s peace of mind that you can’t put a price tag on.

This year, we also delivered more than \$125 million in one-time property tax relief that is already helping many families across our senate district. As cuts at the federal level continue to shift costs onto our state, cities, and counties, it means that local governments are having to fill that void, impacting local property taxes. I’m fighting to minimize those effects here at home.

I’m proud to have authored Minnesota’s first direct Public Safety Aid program, sending \$300 million straight to local governments. For example, it helped White Bear Lake afford a new ambulance, thermal imaging technology for our firefighters, additional staff, and expanded training and mental health services for first responders. Lino Lakes was able to pay off

a loan on firefighter equipment, saving the city money in the long run (around \$20,000 per year). Centennial Lakes Police Department was able to hire a new police officer, a need they had for 20 years. All told, more than \$17 million went directly to our local cities and counties for their specific public safety needs. It’s funding I’ll keep fighting for as Washington pulls back.

There’s more work to do to help our community. I’ll keep working to fund our schools and strengthen literacy programs, like our READ Act, so every student can read proficiently at grade level. I’ll keep pushing back against big-tech corporations that profit off collecting and selling your personal data and tracking where you go. And I’ll keep working toward real solutions that bring down the cost of health care and child care, two of the biggest pressures on family budgets in our community.

As always, please continue to reach out to my office with your ideas, questions, or concerns. Democracy thrives when We the People are fully engaged, and I thank you for your input.

Sen. Heather Gustafson represents Centerville, Circle Pines, Lino Lakes, Gem Lake, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, White Bear Township and Birchwood Village.

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

Bringing accountability to Minnesota Government

I'm running for the Minnesota Senate in District 36 because I believe government should operate with the same discipline and accountability we expect from Minnesota families and businesses. I'm honored to be the Republican-endorsed candidate.

Before beginning my career in health care, I competed professionally in the figure division of natural, drug-tested bodybuilding and earned my pro card in 2011. The sport taught me that success comes from consistently doing the unglamorous work, even when no one is watching. Government accountability requires that same discipline.

Today, I negotiate contracts with health plans and national fitness brands at American Specialty Health.

Over the past decade, I have helped grow a national fitness network serving Medicare Advantage and commercial health plan members to more than 26,000 locations.

My experience serving on the governor-appointed Minnesota Task Force on Priority Admissions to State-Operated Mental Health Treatment Programs showed me that St. Paul needs leaders focused on lasting solutions. Working with agency leaders, providers and patient advocates, I drew on my corporate experience to help build consensus around complex problems instead of simply managing crises.

My signature proposal, the Minnesota Integrity in Government Act, would bring stronger accountability to state agencies and nonprofits receiving taxpayer dollars. It would require fraud-prevention plans before money is spent, personal certification of internal controls by agency heads, public re-

porting of audit failures within 30 days, and stronger whistleblower protections. We should prevent fraud before the check is cut, not investigate after the money is gone.

As a Centerville resident, wife to Mike, and mom in a blended family of seven, I know families are feeling the pressure of rising housing costs, property taxes, energy prices and health care expenses. I support reviewing regulations through an affordability lens and expanding targeted property tax relief for seniors on fixed incomes. No one should be taxed out of a home they have already paid for.

I'm running because I want Minnesota to be a state where families can afford to live, taxpayer dollars are protected and our children can thrive. I would be honored to earn your vote.

Heidi Heino Centerville

Shakespeare would have loved it

I'm a Shakespeare fan, but I haven't been so entertained by a production in a long time. Lakeshore Players' opening night of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Hanifl Performing Arts Center in White Bear Lake was August 14, and we scored two tickets in the second row. The show was fabulously funny, largely due to the amazing talents of the cast. I attended a Shakespeare production in 2024 at the Globe Theater in London, and it didn't come close to the energy in this production. It's only here through August 23! (Pro tip: read a synopsis of the play before you go.)

Deb Barnes Hugo

COUNTY BRIEFS

Law Library adding a Legal Kiosk for public access

The Washington County Law Library is installing a Legal Kiosk to provide access to online legal aid services for community members without internet access or other technology. The Minnesota Legal Services Coalition (MLSC) created the Legal Kiosk Project to address barriers to accessing legal resources across Minnesota. A Legal Kiosk is a computer workstation with internet access and videoconferencing tools. It is intuitive and easy to use to access legal aid services and legal resources. Users can:

- Apply for legal aid services
- Access court forms
- Upload legal documents
- Attend remote court hearings

The County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS), southern Minnesota's MLSC member, to install the Legal Kiosk in one of the library's private study rooms. Visitors to the Law Library will be able to use the kiosk to access many legal aid services on their own, providing greater privacy and allowing Law Librarians time to focus on more complex legal reference assistance.

The Washington County Law Library is inside the Washington County Courthouse, on the west side of the main court entrance.

County Board begins review of 2027 budget

Commissioners began their review of the county's recommended 2027 budget. The board will hear recommended budget presentations from county departments on the following dates:

- Aug. 18: Community Corrections, Community Services, and Public Health and Environment/the University of Minnesota Extension.
- Aug. 25: Property Records and Taxpayer Services, Library, and Law Library.

- Sept. 1: Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Office. After the department budget presentations, the board will follow a budget process from September through early December, and will:
 - Sept. 22: Set a preliminary levy.
 - Dec. 1: Conduct a public meeting on the proposed 2027 budget and levy.
 - Dec. 15: Adopt the budget and property tax levy for 2027 as well as the capital improvement plan.
- All budget presentations will be found on the county website. Archived livestreamed meetings may be found on the county website at WashingtonCountyMN.gov/CountyBoard. Budget documents presented at the workshops may be found at WashingtonCountyMN.gov/Budget.

County receives continued funding for embedded 911 crisis response staff

Washington County received a \$250,000 Crisis Response Grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Minnesota Office of Justice Programs, to continue funding a full-time crisis response social worker in the Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Response Center (ECRC).

In 2025, the ECRC received 3,183 crisis-related calls, ranging from mental health emergencies to suicide attempts and threats. The social worker completes documentation and prepares cases for the Crisis Response Unit. The ECRC's social worker has conversations with callers experiencing a mental health crisis and discusses the different resources and support available. This allows telecommunicators to stay focused on other emergencies.

The grant period runs through June 30, 2028.

Driver exams at Stillwater License Center offered 5 days a week

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Driver and Vehicle Services division will offer driver ex-

ams at Washington County's Stillwater License Center five days a week from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30.

The County Board approved a lease amendment with DVS to increase driver exam station services from two to five days per week from September through November.

DVS's existing agreement is a five-year lease that began Dec. 1, 2021, and continues through Nov. 30, 2026.

County receives 5 national awards

Commissioners recently recognized county staff for receiving five National Association of Counties Awards of Excellence.

The Community Services Department received three NACo Awards of Excellence for:

- Emergency Housing Services Building: Built in partnership with the Washington County CDA and opened in December 2025 as the county's first permanent emergency housing facility.
- GoWashington website: Launched in 2022 to consolidate public, nonprofit and shared-ride services into a clear, multilingual and easy-to-use resource.
- Mental Health in Motion Van: Present at 117 outreach events, reaching more than 8,800 individuals. The program has reduced barriers and increased access to mental health services in the county community.

The Public Works Department received two NACo Awards of Excellence for:

- Equity in Parks and Recreation – Playground Equipment: Sensory-friendly and accessible play features designed into the new playground at St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park based upon community feedback.
- Gold Line Joint Powers Board (JPB) – Financial Management: Washington and Ramsey counties formed the JPB to provide strong financial oversight of the \$505 million project. The JPB delivered Minnesota's first dedicated-lane BRT on time and nearly \$40 million under budget.

POLITICAL BRIEFS

Angela Thompson hosts meet the candidate event

Angela Thompson, the Democratic candidate for House District 33A, will host a meet the candidate event from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, at the Peder Pedersen Pavilion, located at Lions Volunteer Park, 5524 146th St. N., Hugo. Join Thompson and neighbors from across District 33A for an evening of conversation, community and connec-

tion. For more information about Thompson, visit <https://angelathompsonformnhouse.com>.

Submit questions for candidate forums

The League of Women Voters - White Bear Lake Area invites citizens to submit the questions for upcoming candidate forums that will include candidates for Minnesota State Senate Districts 33 and 36 and Minnesota

State House Districts 33A, 33B, 36A,36B, and for Hugo mayor and city council. The candidates for White Bear Area Schools and Mahtomedi Public Schools will also have forums.

This is an opportunity to hear from each of the candidates on the issues that are important to constituents. To submit questions go the LWV-WBLA website at lwv-wbla.org/candidate-forums/#candidate-forums. The deadline for submission is Aug. 21.

LOCAL 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS



JUDGE 10TH DISTRICT COURT 38	WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NONPARTISAN
 Rebecca A. Waxse 45.57% (63,250 votes)	 Brian R. Mueller 68.52% (31,012 votes)
 Ben Lacy 36.28% (50,353 votes)	 Jeremy Bolen 17.64% (7,983 votes)
 Mack Guptil 18.15% (25,183 votes)	 Henry Mathia 13.84% (6,263 votes)

KEY:

Election Victor	Not Elected
-----------------	-------------

Have an event?

Email it to calendar
@presspubs.com



HUGO POLICE REPORTS

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

- Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies conducted a traffic stop on an e-bike at 2:13 p.m. June 28 on 141st Street and Flay Avenue N. and issued a written warning. At 6:07 p.m. that same evening, deputies initiated another traffic stop on a juvenile riding an e-bike on the road in the 7000 block of 137th Street N. The youth and parents were advised of dangers and laws associated with riding an e-bike.
- June 28 continued to be e-bike day as deputies encountered a person on an e-moto at 9:18 p.m. on 150th Street N. and Forest Blvd. N. The youth stated he had been stopped several times earlier and was warned that the next time he was stopped his bike would be towed. Therefore, deputies had the youth call his parents to come pick it up.

Both parents arrived on scene mighty agitated with deputies, but they complied and brought the e-moto and their child home. Before leaving, deputies reviewed the rules with them.

- A vehicle was reported stolen overnight June 28-29 from the 5000 block of Farnham Drive N.
- Deputies conducted three traffic stops from 5:26 to 7:59 p.m. on June 29 and cited at least two of the drivers. One of the drivers was pulled over on 170th Street N. and Henna Avenue N. for passing another vehicle in a no-passing zone. The two cited drivers were pulled over on Frenchman Road and Victor Hugo Blvd., as well as on 147th Street N. and Oneka Parkway N. for undisclosed violations.
- After receiving a noise complaint at 6:23 a.m. June 30 from the 14000 block of Victor Hugo Blvd. N., deputies advised the grounds crew supervisor that they could not start mowing until 7 a.m. The mowers stopped work and resumed mowing at the downbeat of 7 a.m.
- While on patrol, deputies stopped e-bikers without lights at 9:51 p.m. June 30 in the 4000 block of Prairie Trail N. and advised the juveniles about the safety needs of illumination.
- Deputies on overnight patrol came across a pedestrian on 137th Street N. at Forest Blvd. N. at 1:12 a.m. July 1 who was walking in the lanes of traffic. After he declined deputies' assistance in getting him to his destination, deputies then advised him to stay on the trail and not in the traffic lanes.
- A motorist who failed to stop at a red light at the intersection of Frenchman Road and Oneka Parkway

N. at 5:29 p.m. July 1 was cited for that violation.

While the driver was breezing through the red light, cross traffic was kept waiting for the opportunity to safely proceed on their green lights and arrows.

• This time, a motorist who did not wait his turn at a T-junction paid for it with a damaged vehicle and not a citation

after running a stop sign on Goodview Avenue and 130th Street N. at 12:16 p.m. July 2.

The vehicle drove into the intersection and into the path of cross traffic, which didn't have a stop sign, and was struck by another vehicle.

- A motorist on Frenchman Road and Forest Blvd. N. was cited at 4:40 p.m. July 2 for hands-free violation. A second motorist was cited at 6:49 p.m. that evening on Forest Blvd. N. and 152nd Street N. for driving an unregistered vehicle and failure to provide proof of insurance after being pulled over for an obstructed license plate.
- A written warning was issued to a driver on Flay Avenue N. and 140th Street N. at 9:24 p.m. July 2 for driving a vehicle the wrong way in a construction area. Not being impaired at the time saved the driver from being either cited or arrested. There was no reprieve for another driver who drove down a posted one-way through a construction area in the 5000 block of 140th Street N. at 12:01 a.m. July 3, as he was one of multiple motorists to do so.
- A Hopkins woman reported a \$250 automotive battery charger, a \$250 unopened bottle of perfume and other items missing from her former residence in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. at 1:33 p.m. July 3. The complainant stated that she needed a case number for insurance purposes, although she was unable to provide a full list of items due to having last lived there in 2024. Deputies advised the complainant that no charges could be filed until a complete list of items and values was submitted. When the complainant said she would require a civil standby to retrieve the items, deputies advised her that ownership of the items may need to be determined in civil court. The complainant received a case number.
- A Minnesota motorist was cited at 6:24 p.m. July 3 in the 5000 block of Egg Lake Road N. for speeding 45 mph in a 35 mph zone and for no driver's license in possession, after being pulled over for speeding.
- In the Case of the Raccoon Rodeo, an injured baby raccoon was reported lying in the middle of the road at 2:19 a.m. July 4 on Elmcrest Avenue N. and 158th Street N. Deputies assisted the raccoon onto the grass, where it began walking. At 8:37 a.m. July 4, the raccoon community encountered more trouble in the 6000 block of 145th Street N. when a raccoon became stuck in a trap. Deputies assisted the homeowner in releasing the animal back into the wild.
- Washington County Sheriff's Office deputies at 4:29 a.m. July 5 initiated a traffic stop for expired regis-

tration on Foxhill Avenue N. and 148th Street N. and cited the driver.

- While on patrol at 7:19 a.m. July 5, deputies came upon two adults sleeping in the back of a motor vehicle in the 4000 block of Prairie Trail N. They stated that there was not enough room at a house party to sleep over, so they slept in the vehicle. They showed no signs of impairment but were advised to leave anyway.

• A resident in the 4000 block of Elm Drive N. at 8:33 a.m. July 5 reported her next-door neighbor for putting duct tape over her Ring camera before kicking in her front door, causing severe damage.

The suspect admitted to the behavior and was arrested. He was transported to jail without incident, booked and held for court. Charges are pending.

- An unidentified motorist was arrested at 8:59 a.m. July 6 on 158th Street N. and Elmcrest Avenue N. for undisclosed traffic offenses.
- A resident in the 5000 block of 149th Street reported at 12:47 p.m. July 6 that he had been receiving multiple calls for spam, auto services and other telemarketing requests. Deputies advised the complainant that solicitation for business was not the same as spam.
- A resident in the 13000 block of Europa Trail N. at 9:17 p.m. July 6 reported her ex-boyfriend for continuously driving past her house and messaging her.
- Deputies dispatched out on a stolen vehicle report at 10:50 a.m. July 7 found the vehicle in the 13000 block of Fenway Blvd. N. and cited a male for vehicle tampering.
- An adult male was arrested at 1:17 p.m. July 7 following a shooting complaint from the 13000 block of Keystone Avenue N.
- A motorist pulled over for an object suspended from the rearview mirror at 6:05 p.m. July 7 in the 16000 block of Forest Blvd. N. was cited for driving without a valid license on record.
- A resident in the 15000 block of Forest Blvd. N. at 9:38 a.m. July 8 reported his sister for ripping his camera off the wall. When deputies arrived, the sister said the siblings had been arguing, and she took the camera down without damaging it. The complainant had been banned from the property but still owned property in the house. No crime occurred.
- Deputies issued a written warning at 5:52 p.m. July 8 in the 6000 block of 157th Street N. for firing off a BB gun within Hugo's prohibited zone in violation of city ordinance.
- An ongoing neighbor dispute over the property/easement line was reported at 11:23 a.m. July 10 in the 13000 block of Fiona Avenue.

Loretta Harding

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

Lino Lakes correctional officer accused of criminal sexual conduct with inmate

A criminal complainant filed in Hennepin County submits that Department of Corrections Officer Melissa Kay Dill engaged in sexual conduct with an individual on supervised release. According to the complaint, while the victim was incarcerated at Minnesota Correctional Facility Lino Lakes, he met Dill, who was a correctional officer at the facility.

According to Minnesota statute, this is a prohibited occupational relationship. Therefore, the state is bringing a charge of third-degree criminal sexual conduct against Dill.

Investigators with DOC became aware of the possible situation on May 22, 2026. Dill reportedly told investigators that the relationship became romantic after the victim's release from prison, starting in November 2025.

Dill is due in Hennepin County court on Aug. 19.

Lino Lakes Police Department responds to suicide

On Aug. 12 at the Peltier Lake boat launch, Lino Lakes police officers responded to a report of a suicide. Officers found a deceased male and are investigating the case with neighboring agencies.



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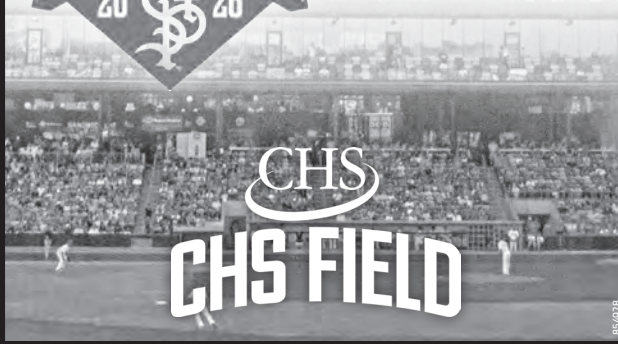


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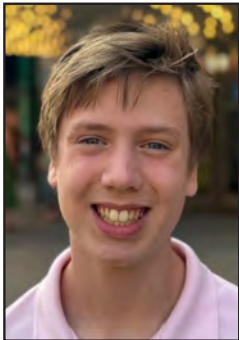
2026

EMERGING ARTIST: RAY LORANG

BY LOGAN GION
STAFF WRITER

Ray Lorang compared himself to an extroverted, midwestern mom as he searched for a photo of his first theatrical role: corn in Lincoln Elementary’s production of “Oklahoma!”

“Ten years — I’ve been doing (theater) my entire life, ever since I started first



Ray Lorang

grade,” Lorang said. An incoming sophomore at White Bear Lake Area High School, Lorang has been a part of multiple middle school musicals as well as White Bear’s productions of “Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella” last fall. This past summer, Lorang played Doody in “Grease,” standing out in a standout cast. When asked why he thought his portrayal of Doody attracted attention, Lorang paused before laughing, “Because of my autism, really.”

Lorang is aware that the public percep-

tion of people with autism is of a person who is withdrawn or socially awkward. Lorang feels that, by acting on stage, he can create a more nuanced picture in people’s minds about those with autism. “When you see an autistic person, you don’t usually see someone that’s so excited to be around (people). I actually hate being alone. I’m an extrovert,” Lorang said. “I’m very much the opposite of what you think.”

Lorang noted that, introvert or extrovert, theater is a great activity for young people with autism. “If you want your kid to be in an



Ray Lorang, pictured right, makes his acting debut as corn. “This one is me looking at the other kids, and as you can see, they’re in love,” Lorang explained. “I’m like, ‘Oh, my gosh, they’re going to kiss now!’”

inclusive environment that’s going to challenge them and get them physical activity while also not being too over-the-top, theater’s great, especially musicals,” Lorang said. He added that people with autism who don’t like bright lights will enjoy working on the crew side of production while those who hate dark spaces will thrive on stage.

Lorang, specifically, thrives in the spotlight. “I love the sound of my own voice,” Lorang said. “I love singing. I love dancing ... the joy to perform and the ability to make others happy.”

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED
Lorang, playing Doody, sings “Those Magic Changes” from “Grease.”

BALD EAGLE LAKE ART CRAWL GEARS UP FOR YEAR 3

BY ERIK SUCHY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It began as an opportunity to showcase local artists’ work. One year later, it became a mission to bring new opportunities to those same artists throughout White Bear Lake and beyond.

Now, in 2026, the Bald Eagle Lake Art Crawl is ready to return with more sights and sounds for not just participating artists, but visitors as well.

Cathlin McKenzie-Larsen, board president and co-founder of the crawl and the Bald Eagle Lake Arts organization, said she is most excited to see who comes back for round three. “I look forward to seeing returning artists. I hope we see a lot of familiar and new faces, because it’s going to be interesting to see what the numbers look like. We’ve got someone helping us with social media this year, and she’s getting the word out.”

The crawl gained success in 2024 as a way for local artists to show their work around Bald Eagle Lake. Toward the end of the year, founders McKenzie-Larsen, Carly Ogata, Sharon Neylon and Alyssa Boldischar reestablished themselves as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization called Bald Eagle Lake Arts to expand efforts in bringing art and connection throughout the community.

New this year is a first-of-its-kind shuttle bus service that will pick up attendees from White Bear Lake Area High School to visit different artist spots. Each bus will be equipped with wheelchair-accessible entry points, which Ogata noted would help improve accessibility around the lake. While there will be fewer stops around because of the addition, Neylon said the sites themselves will be larger than in previous years, giving artists more time to socialize between stops.

“We wanted to have a limited number of stops to help with the flow of the shuttle. It’s really nice to have a crowd of artists who enjoy talking to each other, which



CONTRIBUTED

The Bald Eagle Art Crawl is set to return to the lake on Saturday, Sept. 12, with more sights and sounds for artists and attendees to enjoy. Crawl co-founder Carly Ogata said that there will be a total of 62 artists returning to participate in 2026.

makes for a great setup and shopping experience. It’s going to be a test for us to see how it goes this year.”

Through Bald Eagle Lake Arts’ partnership with the White Bear Lake Center for the Arts, McKenzie-Larsen said more artists from the center will be featured. Ogata added that half the sites will emphasize music, ranging from folk to traditional Irish. This year will also see the return of the kids’ activities corner, this time sponsored by the Bald Eagle Lake Women’s Club. In total, over 100 artists (including 62 returning artists) across 10 host sites will be featured throughout the 2026 crawl.

“This year, we opened things up to a few extra artists,” said Ogata. “Right now, we have a wait list, so I think the word is getting around that the crawl has been successful. This way, when we do these cluster sites, we can show a better array of artists, including pottery, fiber, watercolors and photography.”

Food trucks will be located at the lake’s boat launch for artists and attendees to

buy treats and drinks. Specialized Bald Eagle Lake Art Crawl tote bags will also be available for purchase. Though still in its early planning phase, Ogata said the board is looking to create special calendars featuring past artists’ work to sell next year.

“I’m so excited for the day to be here,” said Boldischar. “We’ve been planning since January, so now that we’re in the last month, we’re all excited to feel the vibe again. We’re looking forward to seeing all sorts of people from the community talking to one another and connecting with their neighbors.”

The 2026 Bald Eagle Lake Art Crawl is scheduled to be held around the lake from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 12. Artists, volunteers and sponsors who are interested in participating, as well as those looking for more information, can visit the crawl’s website at www.belarts.org. All shuttle buses will leave from White Bear Lake Area High School, located at 5045 Division Ave. Visitors can park at the school’s main parking lots prior to pickup.

CALENDAR

‘WAYS OF LIFE-ROOTED IN TRADITION’ EXHIBITION BY SHAKUNTALA MAHESHWARI

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

Dates: Now through Sept. 17

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

‘A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM’

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

Dates: Now through Aug. 23

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

POPS ON THE PORCH

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

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

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

‘COME BACK’

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

Date: Sept. 12-27

Details: In this quirky, heartfelt comedy, Sky sets off on a road trip to honor a dear friend’s final wish. Along the way, unexpected detours, unlikely companions and tender moments create a witty, touching journey about love, loss and finding your way forward.

CREDIT UNION: Partnership offers high school students ‘best of both worlds’

FROM PAGE 1

year. Their training at the branches in White Bear Lake and Hugo began in June; come September, they will apply those skills to help their peers. Beginning Sept. 29, the students will be set up with teller carts in the Student Union during lunch. In addition to helping with deposits, withdrawals and loan payments, the students will lead trivia, play games and help answer questions for their peers.

“We’ll do fun things to engage students to be more comfortable talking about financial things. I think it’s easier to do it in an environment where there’s some fun things going on, but also, they get to talk to their peers,” Paulsen said. “It may be a little less scary or less intimidating to start learning about financial concepts and their financial well-being through people their own age that are learning all those things.”

In addition to a paycheck and school credits, the students will pick up real-life experience and see the possibilities of what a career in banking or finance could entail.

“I hope the students find that they are on the right career pathway and that they feel that there are a lot of opportunities within the credit union world that they could explore that maybe they didn’t know about before,” Paulsen said. “I hope it’s an experience that is that first taste of what it is like to work in a professional environment.”

“Our partnership with Royal Credit Union is taking a major step forward, offering our students a ‘best of both worlds’ approach to financial services training and experience. Through the RCU High School Branch, we’re transitioning from theoretical learning to a fully operational, student-led banking environment,” said Katy

Olson, career pathways coordinator at White Bear Lake Area Schools. “Our student interns will earn work-based learning elective credits toward graduation while simultaneously gaining industry experience. By participating, student interns graduate high school with immediate opportunities for career advancement with a competitive resume edge and a direct pathway to finance-related degrees at a college or university.”

In addition, Olson says the district is excited to see the interns bring financial education to the larger school community throughout the school year.

Eventually, Royal hopes to have its own dedicated student credit union space at the high school and even expand programming to the middle school and elementary levels.

Meet the student tellers

Junior Amiya Scott-Waddington heard about the internship opportunity through her personal finance class. “I found it very interesting,” she said. “I’ve always wanted to be in the business industry, and the banking world is definitely something I’m interested in.”

Although she doesn’t have any prior experience in the banking industry, she does have some business experience. At the age of 12, her parents helped her launch a small business making women safety keychains, and she made over \$5,000.

A couple of months into the internship experience, Scott-Waddington says she has already picked up some skills that she can use in her future wherever her path leads.

“It is such a good opportunity... I’ve learned how to be way more professional,” she said, adding that she has also improved her communication



SHANNON GRANHOLM | PRESS PUBLICATIONS

Pictured (from left) are White Bear Lake Area High School students Louie Blomgren, Addie Larson, Amiya Scott-Waddington and Na Thao. The high school students have been training at the White Bear Lake and Hugo Royal Credit Union branches this summer to prepare for the branch at the high school this fall.

and teamwork skills.

After graduating from high school, Scott-Waddington hopes to attend Fort Atlantic University or the University of Miami for a degree in business.

Junior Na Thao heard about the internship opportunity from a friend and was especially interested in the opportunity after taking a required finance class last year.

“I think it really shocked me with how much I didn’t know, and I was eager to learn more,” she explained. “I’m definitely hoping to get some good experience in a more professional setting.”

Thao says she has already noticed her communication skills improving.

After graduation, she plans to attend college, possibly at Metro State University, and eventually go into a career in finance or accounting.

Senior Addie Larson heard about the program through her business class and says she wanted to pursue the internship opportunity to get a

“head start” on her future.

“I’ve always wanted to work in business and finance and thought this would be the perfect opportunity as a high schooler,” she said. “No one really gets this opportunity, and I’ve learned so much about money, checks, deposits — something a teenager wouldn’t know.”

Although she has prior customer-service experience at Culvers, she said she’s already improved her communication and teamwork skills and learned to be patient.

“Communication is very important. When you are new, you don’t know a lot of stuff and you need to be communicating with your team and having them help with you; communicating with members so you know what they want,” she explained.

Larson isn’t sure exactly what she wants to do in the future but guesses it will be something in business or finance.

Junior Louie Blomgren heard about the program after seeing some posters hung up in the school. He says he was impressed with Royal as it reached out directly to the students.

“I’ve always been interested in finance and banking,” he explained. “I went and did some research on credit unions, and I really loved the reinforcing factors of their community engagement; it’s not just a business. It’s full of people from the community.”

Blomgren says that he hopes that through the internship, he can deepen his relationships in the community and gain a better understanding of what career options at a credit union or bank might entail.

As of now, he says he is leaning toward pursuing a career in corporate finance.

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- **Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion:** An Elementary Spanish Dual Immersion program is available at Matoska International and Otter Lake Elementary. The District will provide transportation from any point in the school district for resident students enrolled in this program. Learn more at the Immersion page of the website.

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

3 metrics that can help people gauge their financial health

Effective money management can help men and women achieve their short- and long-term goals. Wise investment strategies and a commitment to saving for retirement are great ways to manage money over the long haul, but it's important to seek ways to do so in the short-term as well.

Monitoring financial health is a short-term strategy that can keep individuals on a path toward long-term security. While various metrics can be looked to as indicators of financial health, adults can keep these three variables in mind as they look to utilize short-term strategies to ensure their long-term success.

1. Debt-to-income ratio: Debt-to-income ratio can be a good indicator of financial health. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau defines debt-to-income ratio as all your monthly debt payments divided by your monthly gross income. Lenders utilize DTI to determine the creditworthiness of loan applicants, but individuals also can use it as a metric to gauge their financial health. Monthly debt payments include mortgages, auto loans, student loans, and other debt payments, including credit cards. Individuals whose debt payments total \$2,000 per



month and who earn a gross monthly income of \$6,000 have a 33% DTI. The credit experts at Experian suggest a DTI of 35% or less is indicative that debt is being handled well, so that's a figure to keep in mind.

2. Savings balances: Savings accounts don't generate as much interest as they did throughout the 1980s and 1990s. According to Nasdaq, savings interest rates climbed as high as 8% in the 1980s, but have fallen below 0.25% since

the financial crisis of 2008. That's led some to devalue savings, but savings balances can be a good indicator of financial health. A substantial savings account can help individuals avoid taking on debt when costly emergencies and

expenses arise unexpectedly, thus helping them keep their DTI in a financially advantageous range.

3. Credit score: Credit score is another strong, and easily accessible, indicator of personal financial health. Individuals can now access their credit scores for free each month through their banks and credit card providers. Experian notes that credit scores range from 300 to 850, and where a score falls in that range can indicate if a person is managing credit in a healthy or unhealthy way. Experian reports scores 740 and above are very good, while scores between 670 and 739 are considered good. Scores between 300 and 579 are considered poor, while a score between 580 and 669 is considered fair. Scores below 669 indicate there's room to use credit more wisely, which involve reducing reliance on consumer credit, making payments on time and ensuring payments are more than the monthly minimum.

These three metrics and others can be utilized by individuals looking to gauge their financial health in an effort to realize their short- and long-term goals.



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BRIEF

CWD confirmed in a wild deer near Stillwater

A deer near Stillwater has been confirmed positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). CWD is believed to be caused by prions, which are abnormal proteins that self-replicate within an infected animal. Prions are highly resistant to disinfectants, heat or freezing. There is no vaccine or treatment for CWD, and it is always fatal. CWD affects cervids, which include white-tailed deer, moose and elk, and it has no known cure. It has been found in more than two-thirds of the states in the U.S. A landowner observed the female deer near Stillwater for several days and noted it was unafraid of people and appeared emaciated.

The person reported the female deer to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. On July 16, the deer died and DNR staff retrieved it, bringing it to the University of Minnesota’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory for a necropsy and CWD testing. The DNR received confirmation of the disease earlier this week. “This discovery near Stillwater is unfortunate and highlights the importance of the public’s awareness of and ability to report sick deer, as well as our protocol to have these deer tested for CWD,” said DNR Wildlife Health Program Supervisor Michelle Carstensen. “We thank the landowner who reported this animal because public participation is necessary to keep our deer population healthy.” This detection is located in deer permit area

(DPA) 236 and is approximately 30 miles from the closest confirmed CWD cases in both Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Within DPAs where CWD has been detected and confirmed, the Minnesota DNR implements its CWD response plan. Multiple management actions are designed to help mitigate disease spread, including a deer feeding and attractants ban and, where appropriate, increased hunting opportunities with increased bag limits. The Minnesota DNR is working on what the surveillance response will be to the new detection near Stillwater. More information about CWD, hunting season surveillance, and what the DNR is doing to limit disease spread and protect the health of Minnesota’s white-tailed deer is available at mndnr.gov/cwd.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



PAUL DOLS | PRESS PUBLICATIONS
VFW officers present Press Publications Managing Editor Shannon Granholm, pictured center, with an award. From left, Larry Mahoney, public relations; Jayme Lee Frogner, junior vice commander; Gary Carlberg, 4th District VFW Commander; and Joe Winterrowd, Honor Guard leader.

Press Publications managing editor receives VFW recognition

VFW post 1782 is honoring Press Publications Managing Editor Shannon Granholm with an award recognizing her consistent support of

the organization’s mission. In a presentation held Aug. 13, the honor guard highlighted Granholm’s coverage of the post’s events and activities, which has helped the VFW establish a presence in the community and has increased community involvement with the organization.

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Keno is a one-year-old German Shepherd mix, and he weighs about 78 pounds. He is social with other dogs but he won’t do well with cats. He has a high energy level, and he is adventurous. Keno is leash trained, and his favorite activity is going for walks. He does well in the car and he likes to go exploring too. Keno is intelligent and playful, and he is easily content with his toys and chewy bones. He knows his basic commands, and he enjoys learning new things. Keno is a smart, affectionate and entertaining companion who will always keep you smiling.

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

Join the Centennial Team!

Enjoy working with children?

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

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Mia Sutch skates for Team USA against Canada

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Mia Sutch is going into her junior year at Centennial, her sports resume padded with quite the accomplishment: She was a member of the Team USA 18-and-under squad competing against Canada in a three-game series last week in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Team USA lost the first two games to Canada, 5-2 and 5-1, but won the finale 5-2.

Sutch made the na-



CONTRIBUTED

Mia Sutch, in her Team USA red white and blue.

tional team a week prior to the Canada series.

Twenty-five players, 10 of them Minnesotans, were picked from 46 entrants.

"It's such a great honor to represent your country," Sutch said about wearing the red, white and blue, "along with your home state and your community. And have everybody cheering for us."

Sean Molin, Cougar coach, described Sutch as an "incredibly dedicated player with a high hockey IQ." He added, "She is ... one of the most athletic players I have

ever coached. Her vision on the ice and work ethic really set her apart, and she is constantly looking for ways to improve her game."

Sutch, who is 5-foot-10 and plays wing and center, logged 25 goals and 35 assists last season for the state-runner-up Cougars, who had nine players with 25 points or more. In three seasons, she has totaled 74 goals and 65 assists.

Sutch verbally committed to the Gophers in early July. She had other suitors but Minnesota

was an easy pick. "The coaches really wanted me, and the players were so friendly. It felt like home being there."

While many Division I recruits are one-sport specialists, Sutch also plays goalie in soccer and performs both long and triple jump for track-and-field.

"I like being on a team all three season," she said, "to keep my connection to the school and to make more friends. Most of my friendships come from sports."

O'Neil is Chomonix champ again; Lund wins seniors

Nick O'Neil captured the Chomonix Golf Club championship for the sixth time this weekend by a margin of six strokes.

O'Neil shot 74 on Saturday and 73 on Sunday for a 147 total, nabbing his third straight title. Carter Korkowski was second with 76-77-153, Brandon Lee third with 81-79-160 and Carter Anderson fourth with 79-82-161.

John Lund repeated as seniors champion with 78-81-159. Craig Jurchisin was second with 78-82-160.

CATCH OF THE WEEK



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Isaac Hamernick (11), resident of White Bear Lake, caught this 19-inch largemouth bass on July 28 while fishing with his Dad, Papa, and friend Dale on a lake in Hugo.



Owen Otte caught this 35-inch, 14-pound Northern Pike on July 20 on White Bear Lake while fishing with his cousin Luke and gramps.

Send us your photos for possible inclusion in Catch of the Week. Please email your best shot to citizennews@presspubs.com, with Catch of the Week in the subject line. Please include information about when and where it was taken and who is in the photo.

Fall teams begin practice this week

BY BRUCE STRAND
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

Practices for all fall prep sports in Minnesota began Monday, with the White Bear Lake football team as usual getting an early start.

The Bears stormed unto the field at 12:01 a.m. Monday, a tradition dating back to 2011.

"It's really fun for the players,"

coach Ryan Bartlett said. "It's an event to remember, we have fans there, and it's just a cool way to kick things off. The kids come in really pumped up that night and that is really fun to see."

After a couple weeks of preparation, White Bear Lake season openers will be as follows:

Aug. 27 — Soccer, boys and

girls, at home vs. Centennial Aug. 27 — Volleyball vs. Hutchinson at home Aug. 27 — Swimming at SEC Relays in Stillwater Aug. 28 — Tennis at Pine City Sept. 3 — Football at Park-Cottage Grove Sept. 4 — Cross country, boys and girls, at Rosemount

SPORTS BRIEFS

Bears soccer hosts youth night

The White Bear Lake High School boys varsity soccer team is hosting youth night at the Aug. 27 game against Centennial.

Youth players 12 and under can wear their club or rec team jerseys and take the field with the varsity team during introductions, take penalty kicks against one of the Bears goalies during a halftime shootout, and meet the team on the field after the game to get photos and autographs. Other activities include concessions, giveaways, raffles and an opportunity to see who won the lottery to be a ball kid on the sidelines during the game.

The Bears kickoff at 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 27 at the White Bear Lake High School stadium, 5000 Bald Eagle Avenue. Youth player get into the same for free with a paying adult. For questions or to bring a group, contact WBLBoysoccer@gmail.com.

Lino Lakes water skiers win at nationals

At the 84th Goode Water Ski National Championships, held at Trophy Lakes Estates III in Center City, MN, multiple Lino Lakes residents placed highly in their divisions and events.

In slalom, George Lindy of Lino Lakes placed first in the Men 9

division, ages 75-79. He ran one buoy with a boat speed of 30 mph at "35 off," a rope length 35 feet shorter than standard, beginning 75-foot rope.

In tricks at nationals, David Poppe placed second in Men 5, ages 55-59, with 2,380 points. His daughter Mikayla Poppe placed sixth in Women 1, ages 18-24, with 1,080 points. Son Jordan Poppe placed 13th in the Men 1 division, ages 18-24. He ran three buoys at 36 mph, 32 off. In the trick event, Jordan was 8th with 1630 points.

The last time Minnesota held a national water ski tournament was 1965 on Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis.

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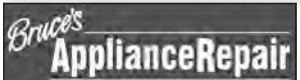
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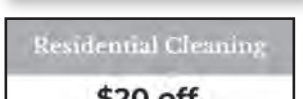
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Richard, the owner of Living Colors Painting, was born in Marshall, MN. His family moved around quite a bit until they settled down in Woodbury, MN. It was there where he graduated high school and started his first painting job. Being passionate about art, painting came natural to him and was a way he could express his love for art with others. As a young adult, he moved around the United States and even spent 5 years in O'ahu, Hawaii painting. Then he moved back to Minnesota where he now lives in White Bear Lake. He has been painting for over 35 years and enjoys painting for local customers. He also loves pets, particularly dogs and cats, and has been known to bring treats along with him to jobs. In his free time, he loves to hike, travel to Hawaii, garden, and collect rocks and crystals.



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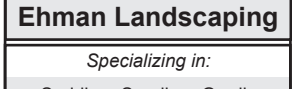
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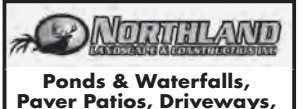
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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF HUGO, MINNESOTA SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning the City of Hugo to interested citizens. The complete financial statements may be examined at City Hall, 14669 Fitzgerald Avenue North and on the city's website. Questions about this report should be directed to Bryan J. Bear, City Administrator at (651) 762-6320.

Met Council Population Estimate	17,753	17,354	
Revenues and Expenditures for General Operations (Governmental Funds)			
	Total 2025	Total 2024	Percent Increase (Decrease)
REVENUES:			
Property Taxes	\$ 12,650,571	\$ 12,167,975	3.97%
Special Assessments	706,267	418,411	68.80%
Licenses and Permits	911,667	874,937	4.20%
Intergovernmental (Grants and Aids)	1,604,221	1,188,313	35.00%
Charges for Services	426,912	662,794	-35.59%
- Developer Infrastructure Charges	328,996	617,670	-46.74%
Fines and Forfeits	54,336	45,905	18.37%
Investment Earnings	1,288,030	1,172,150	9.89%
Net increase (decrease) in the fair value of investments	459,624	516,272	-10.97%
Rents	170,000	161,721	5.12%
Miscellaneous	76,432	29,662	157.68%
Total Revenues	\$ 18,677,056	\$ 17,855,810	4.60%
Per Capita	\$ 1,052	\$ 1,029	2.25%
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
General Government	\$ 1,766,443	\$ 1,737,803	1.65%
Public Safety	3,073,713	2,829,095	8.65%
Streets and Highways	1,766,125	1,755,151	0.63%
Urban and Economic Development	198,897	75,690	162.78%
Culture and Recreation	751,320	662,708	13.37%
Miscellaneous	277,293	238,032	16.49%
Debt Service:			
Bond Principal	615,000	590,000	4.24%
Interest and Fiscal Charges	350,515	376,348	-6.86%
Capital Outlay	3,717,170	3,485,086	6.66%
Total Expenditures	\$ 12,516,476	\$ 11,749,913	6.52%
Per Capita	\$ 705	\$ 677	4.13%
Total Long-Term Indebtedness	\$ 14,563,378	\$ 15,188,653	-4.12%
Per Capita	\$ 820	\$ 875	-6.27%
General Fund and Special Revenue Funds Restricted, Committed, Assigned, and Unassigned Fund Balance - December 31	\$ 8,579,946	\$ 8,098,621	5.94%
Per Capita	\$ 483	\$ 467	3.56%

Published one time in The Citizen on August 20, 2026.

CITY OF HUGO, MINNESOTA PROPRIETARY FUND

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN FUND NET POSITION FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	2025	2024
Operating Revenue		
Water charges	\$ 2,021,085	\$ 1,634,969
Meter sales	71,162	91,042
Sewer charges	2,385,326	2,039,225
Total Operating Revenues	4,477,573	3,765,236
Operating Expenses		
Personal services	678,874	681,312
Engineering	33,825	35,310
Electricity	148,225	130,093
Repairs and maintenance	370,975	284,394
Sewer charges - MCES	974,558	943,318
Depreciation	1,286,953	1,253,633
Miscellaneous	309,304	333,394
Total Operating Expenses	3,802,714	3,661,454
Operating Income (Loss)	674,859	103,782
Nonoperating Revenue (Expense)		
Future infrastructure charges	1,165,951	875,870
Rental income	50,041	44,889
Property taxes (for stormwater purposes)	277,545	278,604
Intergovernmental revenue	3,097	336
Investment earnings	972,832	920,626
Net increase (decrease) in the fair value of investments	347,049	409,008
Miscellaneous	278,708	5,770
Total Nonoperating Revenue	3,095,223	2,535,103
Net Income Before Transfers and Contributions	3,770,082	2,638,885
Capital contributions - special assessments	1,725	1,790
Noncash capital contributions	1,128,616	2,336,596
Capital contributions - other	84,872	84,859
Change in net position	4,985,295	5,062,130
Net Position, Beginning of Year	64,755,530	59,693,400
Net Position, End of Year	\$ 69,740,825	\$ 64,755,530

Published one time in The Citizen on August 20, 2026.

CITY OF HUGO, MINNESOTA PROPRIETARY FUND STATEMENT OF NET POSITION DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 34,157,471	\$ 29,519,978
Receivables:		
Accounts receivable	1,048,068	850,665
Accrued interest	106,489	146,153
Special assessments (net of allowance for uncollectibles)	196,889	189,443
Lease receivable	32,694	-
Due from other governmental units	3,597	3,370
Total Current Assets	35,545,208	30,709,609
Noncurrent Assets		
Lease receivable, noncurrent	462,435	-
Property and Equipment:		
Nondepreciable	336,125	336,125
Depreciable	50,902,949	49,476,187
Less: Accumulated depreciation	16,596,993	15,310,040
Total Noncurrent Assets	35,104,516	34,502,272
Total Assets	70,649,724	65,211,881
DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred outflows from pension activity	50,505	54,495
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Current portion of long-term debt (compensated absences)	46,914	42,570
Accounts payable	34,136	38,203
Contracts payable	-	14,411
Due to other governmental units	25,443	24,250
Salaries payable	8,256	4,718
Total Current Liabilities	114,749	124,152
Long-term Liabilities		
Net pension liability	195,342	213,915
Compensated absences, net of current portion	25,782	15,306
Total Long-Term Liabilities	221,124	229,221
Total Liabilities	335,873	353,373
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred inflows from leasing activity	494,262	-
Deferred inflows from pension activity	129,269	157,473
Total Deferred Inflows of Resources	623,531	157,473
NET POSITION		
Investment in capital assets	34,642,081	34,487,738
Unrestricted	35,098,744	30,267,792
Total Net Position	\$ 69,740,825	\$ 64,755,530

Published one time in The Citizen on August 20, 2026.

CITY OF HUGO, MINNESOTA PROPRIETARY FUND STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND 2024

	2025	2024
Cash Flows From Operating Activities		
Cash received from customers	\$ 5,445,894	\$ 4,575,760
Cash paid to suppliers	(1,839,638)	(1,741,460)
Cash paid to employees	(703,303)	(683,820)
Other income received	330,979	7,752
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	3,233,932	2,158,232
Cash Flows from Capital and Related Financing Activities		
Acquisition of capital assets	(227,808)	(690,795)
Special assessments and property taxes received	271,824	277,908
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Capital and Related Financing Activities	44,016	(412,887)
Cash Flows From Investing Activities		
Investment earnings received	1,012,496	850,962
Net increase (decrease) in the fair value of investments	347,049	409,008
Net Cash Provided By (Used In) Investing Activities	1,359,545	1,259,970
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,637,493	3,005,315
Cash and Cash Equivalents, Beginning of Year	29,519,978	26,514,663
Cash and Cash Equivalents, End of Year	\$ 34,157,471	\$ 29,519,978
RECONCILIATION OF OPERATING INCOME (LOSS) TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Operating income (loss)	\$ 674,859	\$ 103,782
Adjustments to reconcile operating income (loss) to net cash provided by operating activities		
Depreciation	1,286,953	1,253,633
Change in net pension liability	(42,787)	12,270
Future infrastructure charges, included in nonoperating revenues	1,165,951	875,870
Change in lease receivable and deferred inflows of resources	(867)	(43,243)
Other income	331,846	50,995
(Increase) Decrease In:		
Accounts receivable	(197,403)	(62,952)
Due from other governmental units	(227)	(2,394)
Increase (Decrease) In:		
Accounts payable	10,467	(9,764)
Contracts payable	(14,411)	(7,367)
Due to other governmental units	1,193	2,180
Salaries payable	3,538	(19,051)
Estimated liability for compensated absences	14,820	4,273
Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities	\$ 3,233,932	\$ 2,158,232
Noncash Investing, Capital and Financing Activities		
Receipt of contributed property	\$ 1,128,616	\$ 2,336,596
Capital assets in accounts payable at year end	\$ -	\$ 14,534

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BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION: City of Hugo adds two bridges to priority list

FROM PAGE 1

added \$25 million to the LBRP and approximately \$12 million has yet to be spent.

“We are moving forward as quickly as possible,” Erichson said.

To be eligible to receive funding, the bridges must be at least 10 feet in length and have a local bridge planning index (LPI) of less than 60. Erichson said both of those conditions are met for both bridges. The Forest Road bridge has an LPI of 38 and Fable Hill bridge is rated at 56.

Procedurally, cities must approve a bridge replacement priority resolution, apply for the funding and complete construction plans. The city of Hugo has approved the resolution and is in the process of applying for funding and completing the plans. Erichson noted that the Forest Road bridge plans are complete, but the Fable Hills bridge plan is still in progress due to public engagement that take place in anticipation of the 2027 street reconstruction project planned for the area. The Fable Hills bridge plans are expected to be complete by the end of this year.

“We are moving through the process,” Erichson said. “If there is not funding available by the time

we have signed plans, they will be on the shelf, shovel ready, ready for when more funds are placed into that account.”

Council Member Mike Miron inquired about the LBRP and how often money is placed into the fund. Erichson said that it traditionally follows a bonding year but has been a bit more sporadic in recent years.

At the same time the city is seeking funding for the bridges, the city is also planning for its next five years of capital improvements. If the city is not successful in receiving bridge funding for the Fable Hills bridge, the 2027-2031 capital improvement plan will be revised; instead, another project would likely be slated for 2028 (reclamation projects on Heritage Parkway, Oneka Parkway, Hyde Avenue and Homestead Avenue would likely move up).

The City Council ultimately approved the preparation of a feasibility study for the 2027 street project. At this point, it is slated to include the reconstruction of Fable Hills and Forest Road bridges; paving of Elmcrest Avenue (158th Street N. to 170th Street N.); and the paving of 165th Street N. (Elmcrest Avenue to Highway 61).

Erichson noted that the Forest Road bridge is not included in the feasibility study, as there are

no assessments related to that project, and the city is “very confident” it will secure funding for that bridge since the plans are now complete and requirements are met.

Council Member Ben Krull asked whether the feasibility study will be able to be used in the future if funding is not secured for the Fable Hills bridge in 2027.

“The feasibility process will not be a wasted effort. It will be prepared and ready to move forward with next steps if it does get delayed,” Erichson answered.

If the city does have to revert to the original plan and swap the 2027 and 2028 projects, Erichson said there will be plenty of time to go through the process and get everything lined up for the 2027 construction season.

“I think we will know by late fall where that account stands. If we feel it is running low, we will probably come back to the council and have that conversation and determine which way the council would like to go,” he said.

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



The Forest Road bridge, which is over 100 years old, is located just north of 175th Street, just west of Highway 61 and the Hardwood Creek Regional Trail.



The Fable Hills bridge, which was constructed in 2004, is located over Clearwater Creek and its treated timber deck is starting to fail.

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FLOWER FARM: Weekly markets through August

FROM PAGE 1

Sanders, Luisa Maruyama and Holly Flood—began their band five years ago, when the trio sang together for their middle school’s awards ceremony. The following year, their school separately asked Luisa and Holly to perform for the talent show. Neither wanted to perform alone, so they convinced Freya to recreate their trio.

“We hadn’t come up with a band name,” Luisa remembered, “and then we were like, ‘The Mothers Band—because our mothers are always telling us to sing songs together.’”

The Chicks and The Wailin’ Jennys serve as The Mothers Band’s main inspirations, Holly said, because of the three-part female harmonies.

Freya believes that part of the progress achieved in the band’s five-year history has been with those harmonies. “We’re able to bounce a lot of ideas off each other without fear ... give each other healthy criticism and work together on our strengths,” Freya noted.

“With every gig, it gets better,” Holly agreed.



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Visitors to T and Nae Flower Farm’s weekly markets can hear local music acts.

“There’s not a whole lot of time spent now working on those harmonies because, at this point, it’s just second nature,” Luisa added. “We all bounce around. Nobody’s always the alto or the soprano.”

Luisa described performing at T and Nae Flower Farm for their final set as wonderful: “It’s perfect. It’s a perfect night, perfect place, perfect people. (T and Nae is) a really good place for all of our supporters to meet and just celebrate music.”

“It’s been a joy to celebrate music and perform together,” said Freya. “I wouldn’t have wanted to do it with anybody else.”

Watch past Mothers Band performances by following them either at [instagram.com/mothersband](https://www.instagram.com/mothersband) or [youtube.com/@Mothers-Band](https://www.youtube.com/@Mothers-Band).

T and Nae Flower Farm’s weekly market runs from 5-8 p.m. on Wednesdays through the end of August, 15815 Elmcrest Ave. N., Hugo.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Pursuant to Chapter 333, Minnesota Statutes; the undersigned, who is or will be conducting or transacting a commercial business in the State of Minnesota under an assumed name, hereby certifies:

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16325 Forest Blvd N, # 2
Hugo MN 55038

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Dated: July 15, 2026
Signed: Stephen Footh Rios
Published two times in The Citizen on August 6 and 20, 2026.

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Dated: August 6, 2026
Signed: Chris Klein - President
Published two times in The Citizen on August 20 and September 3, 2026.

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