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SBM: Quarter 1 statistics show high levels of service **PAGE 2**



BLUE HERON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Anoka County commuters shift gears this week

ANOKA COUNTY | CONTRIBUTED

This week, commuters in Anoka County will participate in Bike to Work Week through Friday, May 15. Participants are encouraged to ride a bike to work one day — or all week. No special gear is needed, just a bike and helmet. In 2025, nearly 250 bikers participated in Bike to Work Week from more than 20 businesses.

Lettuce celebrate: Joe Faiad retires after 48 years in grocery

BY SHANNON GRANHOLM
MANAGING EDITOR

Joe Faiad's first job was in the grocery store, and he's never looked anywhere else.

"When I was 15 years old, my father told me I needed to find something to do, so he drove me down to the old Knowlan's main office and I put in an application," Faiad explained. A few months later, after he turned 16, Knowlan's hired him on April 26, 1978.

Perhaps a grocery store was in his blood. His grandfather, also named Joe Faiad, owned Faiads Grocery on West Seventh Street in St. Paul for nearly 40 years.

Young Joe worked in the produce department at the Knowlan's store on Randolph Avenue in St. Paul until 1982, when he was promoted to a full-time position at the Roseville location.

"I've worked at pretty much all of our stores," he



CONTRIBUTED

Lino Lakes resident Joe Faiad makes his last punch out at the Festival store in Hugo.

SEE CHECK-OUT TIME, PAGE 6

Council, residents raise concerns over tree removal

BY MADELINE DOLBY
EDITOR

LINO LAKES — The Lino Lakes City Council and residents have raised concerns about the ongoing maintenance and tree removal along the Great River Energy (GRE) transmission line corridor west of Lake Drive.

GRE owns easements and operates power lines through the city. According to the city's Environmental Coordinator Tom Hoffman, the easement agreement for the location alongside Lake Drive was executed on October 3, 1968, and granted to Rural Cooperative Power Association and its successors.

The easement allows GRE the

right to cut down, trim and remove trees, shrubbery or brush within the easement. In this location, according to Hoffman, the easement is 45 feet on either side of the transmission line. The easement also grants GRE the right to cut down from time to time all other dead, weak, leaning or dangerous trees that are tall enough to strike the wire in falling.

"This spring, city staff was contacted by Carr's Tree Service for proposed work within the city parcels," Hoffman said at a special City Council meeting. "The city met with Carr's and GRE to go over the removal of trees and shrubs on the city-owned areas."

On April 13, the city then received a letter from GRE outlining the

work that was proposed within the city-managed parcels. Hoffman said the city had some concerns about erosion and sedimentation along the city stormwater pond and natural areas. Staff reached out to GRE for a restoration plan, which was provided to the city.

Council Member Julia Nelson said the maintenance of this easement has been "extremely destructive" up until this point.

"There has been a lot of conflicting information ... Some residents are told one thing, some are told another. They've (GRE) used alarmist tactics to frighten people. So now people are terrified that these lines are harming them, harming their children," Nelson added.

She said she counted over 100 mature trees that Great River Energy has allowed to grow for the last 25 years, with minor trims, that the company now wants to take down. According to Nelson, the trees between Oak Court and Country Lane have all now been removed.

"It was very, very aggressive," she added. "Not only has that been taken down, but Carr's Tree Service has sprayed some type of product on the stumps so that it will go into the roots, and they (the trees) will not regrow."

Council Member Randy Rennaker thanked staff for putting together the special City Council meeting and thought it was important because

SEE TREE REMOVAL, PAGE 12

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SBM Quarter 1 statistics show high levels of service

BY MADELINE DOLBY
EDITOR

CIRCLE PINES — According to Spring Lake Park-Blaine-Mounds View (SBM) Fire Department Fire Chief Dan Retka, the department has had a busy year so far.

SBM currently serves a population of over 106,000 residents. The department provides fire services to the cities of Circle Pines, Centerville, Spring Lake Park, Blaine and Mounds View. It also provides temporary administrative services to Lexington.

“Through our growth, we continue to deliver a high level of service at one of the lowest costs in the county,” Retka said. “We’re pretty proud of that.”

At the most recent Circle Pines City Council meeting, Retka provided the council with the department’s Quarter 1 statistics for 2026.

Between the months of January and March, SBM responded to 874 calls. So far in 2026, the average total response time is 4:47 minutes.

According to Retka, response times for emergency priority calls in the first quarter of this year decreased by 1:09 minutes to get the first truck on scene.

“Our average response time continues to be very good. Our average response time is 4:47 (minutes). That’s districtwide,” Retka explained.

The average turnout time is 2:10 minutes in 2026. The turnout time for nonemergencies is between 2:11 minutes and 5:58 minutes, while the turnout time without city responders is between



CONTRIBUTED

This map shows where most of the SBM Fire Department’s calls come from.

1:57 minutes and 3:42 minutes.

These response times are a bit lower than they were in 2025. In 2025, the average response time was 5:29 minutes and the average total turnout time was 2:34 minutes.

So far in 2026, there have been 256 overlapping incidents.

“For whatever reason, whenever we get a call anywhere in our district, you can count on one or two calls happening at the same time,” Retka said.

A majority of the department’s calls include public service (34.36%) and medical (28.21%). Public service, according to Retka, sums up everything that is not emergency calls.

“So, a fire alarm with no fire, smoke alarms, things like that,” Retka explained. “We’ve got a significant false alarm problem in the city of Blaine we’re going to be working on this year ... Trying to get ahold of that.”

The bulk of SBM’s calls comes from along Highway 65. Highway 65 runs through Spring

Lake Park and Blaine. The department has also responded to multiple calls on Lexington Avenue.

Retka said the department is working with ICS to create a space needs assessment with plans to build a new station in the northeast quadrant of the department’s coverage area due to an increase in calls. He added the department is hoping to break ground on the site in early 2028.

Fire Corps and rehab team

The SBM Fire Corps consists of volunteer members. Currently, there are 28 members. These members help with cooking, EMS, outreach, photography, special events, rehabilitation and after care.

Retka said the after-care team, all volunteers, is something relatively new. These individuals are specialists within their current, or past, careers.

“If we have a structure fire or a serious event, a traumatic event, in our area, that care team is

dispatched the same time as our firefighters are ... This care team shows up, checks in with command, locates the homeowner and makes that contact. They’re with them (the homeowner or family) until they move back into their home, or until they get back to normal,” Retka explained.

So far in 2026, the rehab team has responded to 30 calls. The team is also volunteer-based. Retka said many volunteers are retired firefighters. Members of the rehab team help fill oxygen tanks and respond to mutual aids.

The rehab team has provided mutual aid to departments in Nowthen, Hugo, East Bethel, Lino Lakes, Oak Grove, Andover and Coon Rapids.

SBM now leads the Anoka County Fire Training Academy. Fourteen crewmembers on SBM are currently instructing. The department leads EMS training for the county and the Centennial Lakes Police Department. The department is also leading the Ramsey County Fire Academy.

“This not only provides opportunities for the SBM crew, but also standardizes training for the entire county,” Retka pointed out. “That’s important because when we all show up on the scene now, we’re all operating similar. We’re all operating under the same standard, under the same training.”

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

City of Circle Pines continues to work on environmental initiatives

BY MADELINE DOLBY
EDITOR

Circle Pines City Administrator Patrick Antonen shared multiple environmental initiatives that city staff is tackling at a recent council meeting. This is the fifth year the presentation has been provided to the council in honor of Earth Day.

An initiative Antonen highlighted was the installment of two electric vehicle charging stations in the City Hall parking lot. There are four parking spaces available for residents to use to charge their vehicles.

In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature set aside funds for local climate action grants to help local governments. Through this program, the city was able to receive \$49,000 for the Local Climate Action Plan. Antonen said the funds are being used to complete the city’s Environmental Stewardship Plan, which is scheduled to be completed by this summer.

The Environmental Stewardship Plan was created to outline various ways the community can work together to help shared natural resources such as soil, land, water,

plants, air and wildlife.

Last year, the city added its first electric vehicle to its fleet. The city’s Public Works superintendent currently uses the vehicle during his workday.

The city is also a member of the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program. The city is currently at Step 2. It also participates in the adopt-a-drain program. Antonen said 53 drains in Circle Pines have been adopted.

In the upcoming weeks, the city hopes to find out if it was successful in securing a water efficiency grant from the Metropolitan Council. The city has requested \$13,200 with a required municipality match of \$3,300 for a total program budget of \$16,500.

The grant will be used to provide rebate funds for residents who replace their washing machines, dishwashers and toilets. Residents who install smart irrigation controllers and undergo irrigation audits would also be available for a rebate.

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

LINO LAKES CITY COUNCIL SNIPPETS

• City Planner Katie Larsen presented to the council the fourth round of proposed amendments to the Lyngblomsten at Lino Lakes planned unit development. Lyngblomsten wants to construct a four-story mixed-use building at the southeast corner of the site (See “Lyngblomsten requests 4th round of amendments to preliminary plat,” Quad Community Press, April 15, 2026.) The first floor of the building would be commercial use, and the other three floors would include 59 market-rate independent living units for residents 55 and older. In addition to five retail bays located on the first floor of the building, there would be a restaurant, a daycare and a resident amenity center. The amenity

center would include a fitness center, indoor pickleball court, community room and additional gathering spaces. One of the concerns raised by residents at the Planning and Zoning meeting, according to Larsen, was pedestrian safety as the commercial use building grows, specifically at the roundabout located on County Road J. Mayor Rob Rafferty asked whether city staff had looked into these concerns since the Planning and Zoning board met. Larsen responded that staff reached out to Ramsey County, which owns County Road J, and are gathering more information from them. Community Development Director Michael Grochala added that staff are trying to

have a conversation with a traffic engineer and traffic planner from Anoka County about looking at additional studies regarding roundabouts and pedestrian safety.

• City Clerk Roberta Colotti provided an update on the businesses and organizations due for business license renewals this year. Colotti said some of the businesses, such as Target and the Lino Lakes American Legion, have a board of directors. After discussion with council, Colotti will move forward with conducting a background check on the designated person for each board, whether that be the president or the bar manager. She added that the owner of Allure Salon and Spa is working with the city’s building inspector to turn the salon into a homebase business. Colotti said there will also no longer be a massage therapist on site. She asked the council to extend Allure’s business licenses to August 2026.

The next City Council work session will be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 26, followed by a regular City Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

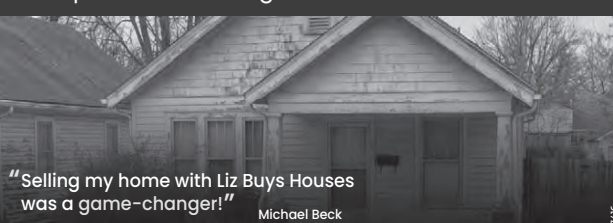
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

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QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS 3

ONGOING EVENTS

LIVE TRIVIA

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

LINO LAKES TOASTMASTERS CLUB

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

HUGO SENIOR CLUB

When: 1 p.m. Monday, May 18 and every 3rd Monday of every other month
Where: Rice Lake Centre, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo
Details: Planning meeting for 2026 followed by games. Coffee and refreshments served.
Contact: 651-592-0369 or barbconnolly1958@yahoo.com



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present and future. You'll become a twin cities climate expert. A light dinner will be served.
Contact: watsonwx@aol.com

LUNCH WITH A NATURALIST

When: 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, May 13
Where: Wargo Nature Center, 7701 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Bring your lunch and learn. Listen to a naturalist present on a local natural or cultural history topic and possibly go on a relaxing stroll on the trails. Register through Anoka County Parks.
Contact: www.anokacountyparks.com

LIVE MUSIC BY SETH DOUD

When: 6-9 p.m. Friday, May 15

AGING WELL SENIOR EXPO

When: 9 a.m.-noon, Thursday, May 14
Where: St. Genevieve Parish Center, 6995 Centerville Road, Centerville
Details: Hosted by the Centennial Area Chamber. Event features vendor booths, health screenings, prescriptions and sharps collection, prizes and more. Registration required. Sign up through the Centennial Area Chamber website.
Contact: centennialareachamber.com/senior-expo

Where: Lino Lakes American Legion Post 566, 7731 Lake Drive
Details: Come on out for the live music of one-man band Seth Doud. Stay and enjoy your favorite drink and some food too with Friday specials.
Contact: 651-783-0055

WARBLERS AND WOODLAND BIRD HIKE

When: 9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 16
Where: Rice Creek Chain of Lakes Campground, 7373 Main St., Lino Lakes
Details: Migration is in full effect and it's a great time to look for songbirds. Tally up birds to add to your life list and year list and discuss birding apps and locations to help. Binoculars provided. Sign up through Anoka County Parks.

Contact: www.anokacountyparks.com

SHOREVIEW COMMUNITY GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE

When: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, May 16
Where: Lake Owasso County Park Shelter, 370 Owasso Blvd. N., Shoreview
Details: Joint sale with the Lake Owasso Garden Club with professionally grown annuals, perennials, natives, vegetables, herbs and houseplants, as well as gently used garden art, books, and tools. Club members on hand to share advice and experiences.
Contact: shoreviewcommunitygardenclub@gmail.com

WHIMSICAL WIG WORKSHOP

When: 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19
Where: Centennial Library, Circle Pines
Details: Attend and create a beautiful yarn wig for a child who is battling cancer or experiencing hair loss. RSVP required.
Contact: Whimsicalwigsmn@gmail.com

CENTENNIAL HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL BOOSTERS ANNUAL MEETING

When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, May 19
Where: Trapper's Bar & Grill, lower level, 6810 Lake Drive, Lino Lakes
Details: All members of the Centennial Baseball Boosters are welcome to attend and vote for the 2026/2027 board members.
Contact: sites.google.com/view/centennial-high-school-baseball/home

CURRENT EVENTS

TWIN CITIES CLIMATE: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

When: 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, May 14
Where: White Bear Lake United Methodist Church, 1851 Birch St., White Bear Lake
Details: Join Press Publications Meteorologist Frank Watson as he recounts the Twin Cities climate past,

PUBLIC SAFETY BRIEFS

County AI-assisted nonemergency call taker in testing stages

Anoka County's Emergency Communication Center (ECC) is preparing to implement a new artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted nonemergency call taker as part of its ongoing effort to improve emergency response service. The AI call taker, Erica or Eric, will assist staff by gathering critical information quickly and consistently, and helping ensure callers receive timely support while giving human call takers more capacity to handle high-priority emergencies.

According to the county, the technology is expected to be fully launched this summer, with gradual testing beginning in this month. Emergency 911 calls will be answered by public safety telecommunicators. Callers are urged to explain to Erica or Eric what is being reported when asked so the software workflow works appropriately and efficiently.

"ECC staff are committed to keeping the public informed, answering questions and helping our community understand how this tool supports our emergency response team," said Anoka County Commissioner Julie Braastad, who serves as the lead commissioner on public safety. "Human call takers remain central to the ECC's mission, and AI is simply an additional resource to help us serve residents more efficiently. The ECC answers all nonemergency and 911 calls and over two-thirds of those calls come in on nonemergency lines. Their goal is to utilize Erica or Eric to keep their staff more available for those 911 calls."

To prepare for summer implementation, the ECC will begin short, live testing periods in the coming weeks. These brief activation windows will help the system learn from real-world interactions and allow staff to fine-tune performance.

Community members curious about how AI-assisted call taking works are invited to try the system using a public demo line: 218-535-7675. The demo allows callers to experience AI's questions and responses without reaching a live call taker. If it states it is transferring the call to an agent, the call will simply disconnect.

County expands access to Naloxone

Anoka County's Opioid Solutions Initiative (ACOSI) has partnered with local organizations to place nasal naloxone with more than 500 AED units across the county. Naloxone is a safe, easy-to-use medication that can rapidly reverse an opioid overdose if administered promptly.

Because opioid overdose is the leading cause of accidental death, having naloxone available alongside AEDs helps ensure quick access to this lifesaving tool. If you know of an AED location that does not yet have naloxone and would

like to request a free supply, contact opioids@anokacountymn.gov.

ACOSI also encourages individuals to have naloxone on hand. More than 30 naloxone access sites are available throughout Anoka County where anyone can walk in and pick up free naloxone and fentanyl test strips, including the Centennial Library located in Circle Pines. A map and list of locations can be found at <https://www.facesofhopeanoka.org/resources#pickup>.

Madeline Dolby



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<p style="text-align: center;">TOGETHER PLACE CHURCH ... <i>"Because we're in this together."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Family Worship Sunday 10:00 AM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Call 763-784-1607 for Together Times</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3860 Flowerfield Rd, Circle Pines togetherplacechurch.org facebook.com/togetherplacechurch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> LINO LAKES COMMUNITY CHURCH</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We welcome you to worship with us virtually and in Person</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sunday 9:30 am Fellowship & refreshments following the service</p> <p style="text-align: center;">7330 Lake Drive 651-784-7667 admin@linolakescommunitychurch.com & directions (1 mile south of Target on Lake Dr)</p>

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

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Bittersweet new beginning

When we bought our home in Hugo back in 2018, I never planned to move again ... but here we are. What makes this move so bittersweet is that I love our house. I love the front porch, layout, kitchen and the backyard view.



BLOOMING PORTRAITS | CONTRIBUTED

It's underneath this roof that we welcomed new dogs, restored a VW bus, brought home our son Royce from the hospital and said goodbye to our beloved German shepherd Frosty.

Since we are car people, we needed more garage space. Because of our lot size, expanding our garage would have been complicated and too expensive.

We casually started looking at homes on the market to see what was out there. If we couldn't find something, then we'd stay. Along the way, some of the homes caught our attention and we went to see them. We were not prepared for the up-and-down roller coaster that searching for a new home would bring.

As the days turned into months and our offers continued to get beat out by other buyers, we began to lose hope that a new home was in the cards for us. They say, "third time's a charm," but in our case, it was four. We made an offer four times before we finally "won." It was devastating to fall in love with a property and envision yourself there just to have it all swept away. Our realtor was so patient and kept assuring us that the right one would come along. If I got too down, he would send me a corny motivational quote to cheer me up like "Choose to be optimistic, it feels better," and "When everything goes against you and you get to a point when it seems you can't hang on a minute longer, never give up - for that's is just the place and the time that the tide will turn."

I'm a firm believer in signs. After my father's passing in 2015, I started to hear the song, "You Should Be Here," by Cole Swindell during moments when I needed it the most, like milestone anniversaries of his death or the birth of our son. While we were looking at the home, my mother sent me a picture of her TV screen. The song randomly started playing while we were there. It is definitely not a coincidence that my sister and I both close on our new homes days apart.

We have moved into our new home, which just so happens to be eight minutes away from our previous home. We are so excited that we get to stay in Hugo, keep our day care and continue to create new memories in a home surrounded by 5 acres of beautiful trees. And it even has an outbuilding!

I have so many mixed emotions. Of course, I'm excited for this new adventure, but I'm also sad to leave all these memories and our amazing neighbors behind. It's hard to think about saying goodbye to my son's first room and not seeing the crabapple tree we planted in the front yard grow bigger. And although we get to keep our day care, it will not be the same driving my son there versus walking across the street. It's also sad to think about the memories I have of Frosty sitting in her favorite spot on the back patio.

But I'm looking forward to our new favorite spots. My husband's favorite spot will be the outbuilding, mine will be the private deck off the master bedroom, Royce's will be his tree house in the backyard and the dogs' will be the woods.

Shannon Granholm is the managing editor at Press Publications.

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The more you know: E-bikes in Lino Lakes

Electric-assisted bicycles, commonly known as e-bikes, are becoming increasingly popular and their growing use in Lino Lakes has led to questions about where they can be operated and what regulations apply.



Cops Corner
Lino Lakes
Police
Department

First, e-bikes are not the same as motorized bicycles, which can travel faster than 30 mph. Motorized bicycles require the operator to have a valid motorcycle endorsement or permit, the machine must be registered, and insurance is required. Motorized bicycles may not be oper-

ated on a sidewalk, or city or county trails that are reserved for nonmotorized traffic.

An e-bike has two or three wheels, functional pedals, a seat, and an electric motor that is no larger than 750 watts. E-bikes are classified into three types based on how the motor assists the rider.

Class 1: The motor provides assistance only while the rider is pedaling and stops assisting when speeds exceed 20 mph.

Class 2: The motor can assist whether or not the rider is pedaling but stops assisting at 20 mph.

Class 3: The motor provides assistance only while the rider is pedaling and stops assisting at 28 mph.

E-bike operators are not required to register their bikes with the state and do not need

insurance. Operators must be at least 15 years old and are expected to follow the same laws that apply to traditional bicycles, including riding with the flow of traffic and staying as close as practical to the right-hand side of the road.

E-bikes may also be operated on road shoulders, bike lanes, bike paths, and paved trails where regular bicycles are allowed. When operated at night, e-bikes must have a front headlamp and a rear red reflector.

We encourage all riders to wear helmets, use lights and reflective gear to maintain visibility. Residents who witness dangerous or illegal operation of e-bikes or electric motorcycles should call 911 to report the activity to law enforcement.

Lino Lakes Police Department



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES BRIEFS

DNR urges people to leave deer fawns alone

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources asks that people avoid disturbing or touching deer fawns, which are born around this time of year.

Most fawns are born from mid-May to mid-June, and do not attempt to evade predators during their first few weeks of life. Instead, they remain still to avoid being seen. During these times, fawns are learning critical survival skills from their mothers but are often left on their own while their mothers watch nearby.

The DNR assures the deer fawns are likely fine, though they might appear to be abandoned or fragile. Even if the fawn is known to be wounded or abandoned due to a car strike or animal attack, do not transport it without talking to a wildlife rehabilitator. According to the DNR, moving a fawn can be detrimental to the animal and increase the risk of spreading diseases.

During fishing opener weekend: Clean, drain dispose

The walleye fishing season comes with a reminder from the DNR to always follow state laws to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Most anglers and boats in Minnesota take the "clean, drain dispose" steps for invasive species prevention every time they leave a lake or river.

DNR Invasive Species Program Supervisor Kelly Pennington said people need to take prevention steps whether an enforcement officer or watercraft inspector is present or not.

"All anglers and boaters in Minnesota are required to take three simple steps: clean, drain, dispose," Pennington said. "It's not only the best way to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, but it's also the law in Minnesota."

Whether or not a lake has any invasive species, Minnesota law requires people to:

- Clean watercraft, trailers and gear to remove aquatic plants and prohibited invasive species.
- Drain all water and leave drain plugs out during transport.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.
- Never release bait, plants or aquarium pets into Minnesota waters.
- Dry all docks, lifts and rafts for 21 days before moving them from one water body to another.

More information is available on the aquatic invasive species webpage at mndnr.gov/ais.

Madeline Dolby

OBITUARY

Roxanne "Spoot" Tueffel (nee Douglas)

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of Roxanne Tueffel of Circle Pines, MN, who passed away on March 26, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids, MN. Born on July 5, 1957, Roxanne bravely faced the challenge of AML Leukemia, diagnosed in Sept. of 2025, and fought with remarkable strength and courage until the end.



She is lovingly remembered by her husband of 45 years, David; her children Melissa (Paul), Tiffany, and Nicholas; and her grandchildren, Summar, Quentin, Seth, Marissa, Paige, Gavin, and LeighAnna. Roxanne's memory will forever be cherished by her family. She is reunited in peace with her beloved children, William and Valerie, who preceded her in death.

A private family Celebration of Life will be held at a later date, where loved ones will gather to honor Roxanne's life and legacy.

COUNTY BRIEFS

May proclaimed as Mental Health Awareness Month

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners has proclaimed the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. For more than 77 years, the United States has recognized May as Mental Health Month to increase awareness about mental illness and highlight the importance for all.

Board accepts donation for K-9 program

Commissioners accepted a \$30,000 donation from Cherie Hanson, which will be used toward the purchase and training of a new law enforcement K-9 for the Anoka County Sheriff's Office.

WEEKLY WAG



If you are looking for a big buddy, then Buddy is waiting for you. Buddy is an 85-pound shepherd/cattle dog/Australian red heeler mix. This 5-year-old lives for belly rubs and lots of affection. He will soak up all the love and attention you are willing to provide. Buddy is quiet and dedicated and has moderate energy level, although he does still get the zoomies on occasion. Buddy has a playful personality and is social with other dogs. He is friendly to everyone he meets. He is incredibly smart, listens well and is always eager to learn more. During his downtime,

Buddy likes his chew bones and, more importantly, likes to cuddle up close to his people. He is loving, silly, smart and ready to be with a forever family who will love and adore his big personality and size. If you are interested in learning more about Buddy 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.

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CHECK-OUT TIME: Lino Lakes resident bags 48-year career in grocery

FROM PAGE 1

said. In his 48 years with Knowlan's (21 years)/Festival (27 years), Faiad has held the titles of produce manager, assistant manager and store manager, but for the past eight years or so, he has worked in the produce department at the Hugo Festival store as a senior retail specialist. Prior to that, he worked at the Festival in White Bear Lake.

He credits his work family, which he calls his "bonus" family, for his choice to stay in the industry for so long. "My work family has always been a vital part of my life. They've been a part of the group of people who've helped me navigate the last 48 years," he said. "I realized at a young age that it made me feel good to be a part of this work group ... I wasn't afraid to work hard, and I've taken lots of pride over the years in doing the best job that I could. I certainly didn't want to let those early mentors of mine down. It meant so much to feel appreciated and valued."

Hugo Festival Produce



Joe Faiad was hired by Knowlan's on April 26, 1978. Here he is pictured at the Roseville store in 1984.

Manager Brian Mishler has known Faiad for over 20 years. They met while working at the Lexington store. "Joe is probably one of the hardest workers you can have. He is a workhorse," Mishler said. "He is very particular in how things are filled and likes things to be a certain way."

Produce Supervisor Paul Leslie has known Faiad for



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Festival celebrated Joe with a lettuce-themed cake to honor his many years of service in the produce department.

20 years but has served as his supervisor for approximately eight of them. "You will not find a harder-working guy," he said. "His dedication to quality ... the community really benefited from his work ethic."

Store Director Robin Mishler (No relation to Brian) added, "Joe is one of the kindest men you will ever meet. He is a strong and dedicated employee, whom I personally will miss very much. He has an infectious smile that lights up a room and makes everyone's day better when they walk into the room. He has been the perfect greeter of customers when they arrive at Festival."

Perhaps the best part of Faiad's career was that it introduced him to his wife, Leah.

"I was at the Roseville store, and one of the senior cashiers (Barb Hoag) knew that I was dating a gal, and she wasn't as serious as I was. So, one day by the time clock, she told me, 'If you ever are looking, and you see a girl here in Roseville, let me know. I know just about every girl in Roseville.' She pulled out her billfold, and she had a slew of pictures that literally went down to the floor," Faiad said. "Then a

couple of years after that ... I was managing, and Barb was my front-end gal. I saw Leah come in with her mom... I kind of winked at Barb, like, 'Do you remember what you told me two years ago?' and I nodded towards Leah. And next thing I know, Barb was talking to both her and her mom, and she came back and she told me, 'Her name's Leah. She's 23, and as far as I know, she's available.'" Barb set them up, and 40 years later, they are still together. They have three sons.

Leah has worked at Northview Dental in Shoreview for 42 years. In addition, this year she will celebrate her 50th anniversary of working at the Minnesota State Fair. "We both have longevity in what we do," Faiad said.

Faiad has been contemplating retirement for a couple of years, but finally decided it was time, so that he could spend more time with his three grandchildren. He said the physical aspect of the job was catching up with him. His arthritis in his feet and hands has worsened. "My doctor said the only thing I can decide is how I want to use what's left of my joints because there's nothing really that can be done

to make it better," he explained.

This summer, Faiad is looking forward to being a part of "Grandma camp," when they watch their grandchildren on Fridays. "When I was working, I didn't get to partake in that as much," he said. He said he's also looking forward to getting to a lot of the things he hasn't had the time to do while he was working. The only travel plans he has as of now are trips to see his uncle in Tennessee.

"I'm a pretty simple person," he said.

He said he will forever be grateful to the Knowlan's/Festival team for providing him with so many opportunities. "I've had the privilege of being associated with wonderful colleagues, vendors and customers, and have made lifelong friends along the way," he said. "I have so many good memories to cherish. It's been a pleasure to be a part of the team, and I'll be forever grateful."

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



Joe pictured with his wife Leah, who he met while working at the Roseville store. They have been together for over 40 years and have three sons together.

CONSTRUCTION BRIEFS

Lovell Road improvement study underway

Anoka County, in coordination with the cities of Circle Pines and Lexington, is conducting a corridor study to identify improvement opportunities along Lovell Road from



CONTRIBUTED

Hamline Avenue to Lexington Avenue. The study also includes the intersection of Lovell Road and Lexington Avenue from Edgewood Road to Village Parkway.

The study will evaluate traffic flow, roadway conditions, pedestrian and nonmotorized safety, access and parking needs.

Residents are being asked to complete a survey to provide more information on how residents travel along the study area and help identify priorities for future improvements. To take the survey, go to tinyurl.com/35hfnj9x.

Parking lots to be repaved across county

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners has approved a contract with Minnesota Roadways for the repaving of parking lots at the Blaine Human Services Center, Crooked Lake Library, the Anoka County Fairgrounds, the Field Operations building, Government Center flat lot, Government Center loading dock, the Highway Department building and several other lots of county-owned buildings.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$990,875.

County enters JPA for road improvement projects

The city of Blaine and the Anoka County Board of Commissioners will enter into a joint powers agreement (JPA) for improvements at the intersections of 109th Avenue NE and Tournament Players Parkway/Mankato Street as well as 109th Avenue NE and Radisson Road; and temporary control of Davenport Street NE and 103rd Avenue NE and 107th Avenue NE in Blaine.

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QUAD COMMUNITY PRESS 7

POLICE REPORTS

The Centennial Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- Police received footage April 29 of a traffic complaint occurring in the 1800 block of Main Street in Centerville.
- Police were dispatched April 29 to a delayed report of harassment in the 0 block of Center Road in Circle Pines.
- Officers made a traffic stop April 29 in the 6900 block of 21st Avenue South in Centerville.
- A Community Service Officer took a lost dog report April 30 in the 3800 block of Patriot Lane in Lexington.
- Officers were dispatched April 30 regarding a delayed report of vehicle theft in the 3500 block of Flowerfield Road in Lexington.
- Officers responded May 1 to a harassment report in the 8900 block of Hamlin Avenue in Lexington.
- Police responded May 1 to a personal injury accident in the 6800 block of 21st Avenue South in Centerville.
- Officers responded May 2 to a report of a DWI in the 9000 block of Briggs Avenue in Lexington.
- Police were dispatched May 3 to a traffic complaint in the area of Lake Drive and Rendova Street in Lexington.
- Police were dispatched May 3 to a report of vandalism in the 4100 block of Lovell Road in Lexington.
- A community service officer was dispatched May 5 to a report of a loose dog in the 7100 block of Robin Lane West in Centerville.

The Lino Lakes Police Department reported the following selected incidents:

- An officer responded April 27 to a two-vehicle crash in the area of Ash Street and Blanchard Boulevard. Officers provided the involved parties with a case number for the police report and both vehicles were driven from the scene.
- While on patrol April 27, an officer observed several fishing violations in the 7400 block of Main Street. The officer spoke with the two

adult males in violation and the information was sent to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which will issue citations.

- An officer responded April 29 to a dumpster fire at a construction site in the 7600 block of Lotus Lane. The fire department extinguished the fire.
- While on patrol April 29, an officer stopped a vehicle for speeding and expired registration in the 6300 block of Centerville Road. The adult male driver was subsequently booked in jail for DWI.
- An officer responded April 29 to a report of identity theft in the 800 block of Kelly Street. There is no suspect information at this time, and the victim was provided with resources to protect them from additional fraudulent activity.
- Officers responded April 30 to a report of a domestic assault at a residence in the 6200 block of Otter Lake Road. Officers investigated and a female was arrested and booked in jail.
- While on patrol April 30, an officer conducted a traffic stop in the 2200 block of Main Street and issued the driver a citation. At the conclusion, the driver was transported to the hospital for mental health-related problems.
- An officer responded April 30 to a report of trailer theft in the 6900 block of Sunrise Drive. There is no evidence or suspect information at this time.
- An officer conducted a traffic stop April 30 on a motorized bicycle in the 2000 block of Main Street and subsequently arrested the driver for driving on a canceled license. The driver was booked in jail.
- An officer was dispatched May 1 to assist with an abandoned vehicle left on private property in the 500 block of Birch Street. The vehicle owner was contacted, and the issue was resolved.
- An officer responded May 1 to a residence in the 7700 block of Carole Drive for an ordinance complaint. The officer issued an adult male a citation for an ordinance violation.
- Officers responded May 1 to a local business in the 700 block of Apollo Drive for a trespassing

complaint. The officers located the female and trespassed her from the property.

- An officer responded May 2 to a neighborhood complaint in the 7800 block of Lois Lane about a door-to-door solicitor. The officer spoke with the solicitor and issued a verbal warning after educating them on city ordinances.
- Officers responded May 2 to a report of suspicious lights at a home under construction in the 7400 block of Lotus Lane. Officers investigated and found it was a heating element.
- An officer responded May 3 to a motor vehicle property damage accident in the area of Main Street and Interstate 35E. The officer documented the incident and provided a case number to both drivers. Both vehicles were driven from the scene.
- An officer responded May 3 to a local church in the 7700 block of 20th Avenue regarding a theft. After investigating, the officer trespassed three adults from the location.
- An officer responded May 3 to a report of a suspicious person walking on private property in the 6300 block of Hodgson Road. The officer spoke with all parties involved and advised them to leave the area.
- Officers responded May 3 to a personal injury accident involving two vehicles in the area of Main Street and Lake Drive. One driver was transported to the hospital via ambulance. Both vehicles were towed from the scene.
- Officers responded May 3 to a local business in the 600 block of Apollo Drive for a report of disorderly juveniles. Officers located the juveniles and charged them with several crimes. The juveniles were released to their parents.
- An officer responded May 3 to a report regarding a dog bite incident in the 2200 block of Lacasse Drive. The investigation is ongoing.
- While officers were investigating a separate matter May 3, a vehicle arrived at the scene in the 300 block of Elm Street and officer noticed the driver appeared to be impaired. The driver was subsequently arrested for third-degree DWI.

SPOTTED AROUND TOWN



1. A male ruby-crowned kinglet is spotted hunting bugs in an ornamental apple tree in Lino Lakes. Ruby-crowned kinglets are only 4 inches in size and do not stop moving. — **LeAnn Michael, contributed**

2-3. Red-winged blackbirds are busy claiming their territory and building their nests in Lino Lakes. — **LeAnn Michael, contributed**

4-5. Neighbors visited booths at the Community Connections Fair held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church on Sunday, April 26. — **Renee Dietz, contributed**

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



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**CITY OF LEXINGTON
ANOKA COUNTY, MINNESOTA
PUBLIC NOTICE**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Notice is hereby given, the Lexington Planning & Zoning Commission will be conducting a Public Hearing on June 9, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Lexington City Council Chambers, 9180 Lexington Avenue, Lexington, MN 55014. The purpose of the Public Hearing will be an annual meeting to receive public opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP).

Anyone wishing to make a comment on the SWPPP is invited to attend the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend, written comments are welcome and will be accepted until 4:30 P.M on June 9, 2026.

In accordance with the Americans With Disability Act, a hearing impaired individual, wishing to attend the Public Hearing, you may request a sign language translator by contacting City Hall (763) 784-2792 within one week prior to the hearing.

Bill Petracek, City Administrator

Published one time in the Quad Community Press on May 12, 2026.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF ANOKA
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
COURT FILE NO. 02-PR-26- 237
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING
ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY**

**Estate of:
Angelo J. Stella,
Decedent.**

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago and that the Decedent died leaving property in Minnesota. The Petition requests the probate of Decedent's last Will and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that a remote hearing will be held on June 23, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. by this Court at Anoka County Government Center, 2100 3rd Ave, Anoka, MN 55303 **VIA ZOOM**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice shall be given to all interested persons (MINN. STAT.§ 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204 AND by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

BY THE COURT

H. Ann Basta, Court Administrator
BY: Travis McGhee, Anoka County Administration
DATE: April 23, 2026
Attorney for Petitioner.

William J. Fleming
Fleming Law Firm, PLLC
4665 White Bear Parkway
White Bear Lake, MN, 55110
Attorney License No: 0343912
Telephone: (651) 429-3323
FAX: (651) 429-3323
Email: bill.flemingoffice.com

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on May 5 and 12, 2026.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF ANOKA
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
COURT FILE NO. 02-PR-26- 238
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR HEARING
ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY**

**Estate of:
Grace J. Stella,
Decedent.**

A Petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago and that the Decedent died leaving property in Minnesota. The Petition requests the probate of Decedent's last Will and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections or claims are filed or raised, the Court may issue a decree distributing or assigning the Estate's assets.

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White Bear Lake, MN, 55110
Attorney License No: 0343912
Telephone: (651) 429-3323
FAX: (651) 429-3323
Email: bill.flemingoffice.com

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on May 5 and 12, 2026.

**STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF ANOKA
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, DISTRICT COURT
COURT FILE NO. 02-PR-26-270
CASE TYPE: INFORMAL PROBATE**

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

In Re The Estate of Harvey Almon Boomer a/k/a Harvey A. Boomer, III a/k/a Harvey A. Boomer, Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will dated February 25, 2026 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:

Ryan D Gordon
5901 Merold Drive
Edina MN 55436
Grady C Boomer
63 Bear Circle
PO Box 2472
Grandby CO 80446

as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

Attorney for Personal Representative

PAUL DAY FUNKE
Attorney License No.: 395366
Funke Law
3820 Cleveland Avenue North
Suite 500
Saint Paul MN 55112
Telephone: 651-332-8700
E-Mail: Paul@funkelawoffice.com
Pamela Kreier, Probate Registrar
H. Ann Basta, Court Administrator
Date: May 4, 2026

Published two times in the Quad Community Press on May 12 and 19, 2026.

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Cougar softball 3-3 in 6-game week

Centennial (9-6) played six games last week and won three of them while losing to two powers by shutout.

Kendall Cochran clubbed two homers for four RBI's in a 9-3 win over Armstrong. Denver Hogberg was 2-for-4 (double, two runs) and Kendal Saffert threw a four-hitter with nine strikeouts.

Rogers (17-2) nipped the Cougars 1-0 as AnnaBelle Waldoch fired a one-hitter with 17 strikeouts, out-dueling Saffert (six hits, no walks, eight strikeouts). Lily Renslow had the lone hit.

The Cougars beat East Ridge 7-2 behind Saffert's five-hitter with nine strikeouts. Renslow went 3-for-3 (two doubles, two RBI's) and Grace Lien 2-for-4 (two runs).

Park (15-4) blanked the Cougars 5-0 as Ava Youngquist held them to four hits and a walk. Saffert took the loss (four innings, two unearned runs).

Saffert and Brooklyn Springman combined for a two-hit shutout



Grace Lien stole second base during a 4-3 loss to Delano.

BRUCE STRAND | CONTRIBUTED

with 13 strikeouts in a 6-0 win over Brainerd. Lien was 3-for-3, scored three runs and stole two bases. Cochran had a two-run single.

In a 4-3 loss to Delano, Tiger pitcher Charlotte Morrisette struck out nine and got the win over Saffert. Gracie Nickle and Brooklyn

Springman each hit an RBI double and Springman had a sac fly. Brynn Krueger hit a solo homer for Delano (9-4) and Tori Keen was 3-for-3.

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Hailey Peterson cleared the bar at 10 feet in pole vault, placing third.

Cougar girls place 3rd, win 5 events at true-team

The Centennial girls track and field team placed third of ten teams in the Section 5AAA true-team meet, winning five events, on Tuesday at Forest Lake. The top four teams were Blaine with 1127, Forest Lake 976.5, Centennial 899.5 and Duluth East 765.

Reginae Tandoh racked up four first place finishes. She won the 100 dash (12.52), the 200 dash (26.03) and long jump (17-1/4) and led off the first place 4x400 relay that included Josie Stenihoff, Natalie Lauinger and Lauren Klein (4:09.33).

Klein won the 800 (2:14.03) and was second in the 400 (59.28). Hailey Peterson took second in high jump (5-0) and third in pole vault (10-0). Charly Hayes was fourth in pole vault (10-0) and Maylin Schneider fifth (9-0).

Amelia Sutch placed third in both long jump (16-6 1/2) and triple jump (36-2 1/2) and 10th in discus. Also in the top ten were Deborah Timothy, sixth, discus, and seventh, shot put; Anna Swanson, eighth, 1600; and Eloise Johnson, eighth, long jump.

Bruce Strand

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASEBALL

Centennial (13-4) had six games in six days last week, winning four of them. The Cougars fell to Eden Prairie 11-1 with Casey Morris taking the loss. They beat Rogers 4-3 as Logan Mielke hit a two-run homer and got the win in relief (one scores inning) of Tommy Meyer. They beat Coon Rapids 9-1 with Jaden Anderson going the distance and singling home run. Calvin Coppersmith was 3-for-4 with two RBI's and two steals. They beat Osseo 11-1 with Jake Williamson pitching. Calvin Coppersmith had a homer and single and scored four runs. Mielke was 3-for-4 (two RBI's, two runs). In a home tournament, they routed Irondale 23-1 Friday and lost to No. 2 ranked Mounds View 7-1, in which four pitchers gave up just four hits but one was a grand slam by Kaleb Henke.

TENNIS

Centennial beat Osseo 6-1 on Wednesday in the regular season finale. The Cougars are 6-7 overall and finished 5-5 in the NWSC. Andrew Abraham lost a close 1-singles match (10-7 tiebreaker) while Victor Moua, Josh Taylor and Will Eckhoff won at 2-3-4 and Zachary Thompson/Caleb Nelson, Justin Driver/Isaac Lutz and Tyler Davis/Jeremiah Sisk swept doubles.

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Centennial placed fifth of ten teams at the Section 5AAA true-team meet at Forest Lake on Tuesday.

Blaine took first place overall. Oswego Wreh placed second in triple jump with 44-10, beating his own team record by four inches. Liban Ahmed was fourth in the 400 (51.40) and fifth in the 800 (2:02.87). He set a team 800 record of 1:56.20 earlier this season. Noah Berg placed fourth in the 800 (2:02.59). Owen Carter was fourth in shot put (51-2) and fifth in discus (147-6). Evan Sikkink was fifth in pole vault (12-0), Inyene Ekah fifth in long jump (20-7 1/2), Tristan Hanson seventh in high jump (6-0), Levi Peterson seventh in 300 hurdles (43.11) and Brayden Boesch ninth in the shot (48-10). The 4x400 team was second (3:29.72).

BOYS GOLF

Centennial placed sixth of 12 teams in a NWSC meet at The Refuge on Thursday. Totino-Grace and Spring Lake Park tied for first at 304. TG's Collin Romos medaled with 69. Centennial totaled 319. Cooper Daikawa placed third with 73. Colton Lange placed 11th with 78. Caleb Lounsbrough was 31st with 81.

VOLLEYBALL

The Centennial Volleyball Club has moved its open house. The open house will now take place from 4-8 p.m. Wednesday, May 27 at the club's new facility located at 455 Park Court, Suite 140, in Lino Lakes.

Bruce Strand

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Reginae Tandoh

Centennial Track and Field

May 12, 2026

Reginae Tandoh, a junior, won four events at the section true-team track meet and has broken a 40-year-old school record and sparked at a big early season meet. At true team, Tandoh won the 100 dash (12.52), the 200 (26.03) and long jump (17-1/4). She led off the first place 4x400 relay. She placed second in the 200 and third in the 100 to help the Cougars win the Coon Rapids Invitational. In April, she long jumped 17-10 1/2 at Irondale to break the event record set in 1986, and at the Hamline Elite Meet, a state-wide showcase, placed seventh in both long jump (17-9) and the 200 (25.5).



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TREE REMOVAL: Lino Lakes residents want more answers

FROM PAGE 1

of the rate GRE is taking down trees and landscaping and some of the miscommunication between residents.

“One of the residents came to us about future plans for a higher transmission, or higher voltage rate, along the line ... So that part was concerning. I’m not sure where that information came from. I believe one of the residents may have spoken with someone from Great River Energy,” he added.

A concern both Nelson and Rennaker raised was the new gazebo at Lino Park. According to Nelson, the gazebo was built within GRE’s easement and if they saw fit, GRE would be able to remove it. Rennaker also expressed concerns about resident safety if a higher transmission line is installed.

“We have sports fields that children are playing at. If there is an eminent danger of voltage within a certain amount of distance from the line to the ground, that’s a concern,” Rennaker said.

City Attorney Heather Monnens explained the work GRE is doing is within its legal rights under these easements. She said these easements are a private property interest and private property issue.

“It is something where the city doesn’t have any sort of authority to step in and stop Great River Energy from doing this work on the vegetation,” Monnens said. “The city doesn’t have regulatory authority over Great River Energy. It certainly is a frustrating piece for community members.”

Lino Lakes resident Bonnie Hermann said she does not think GRE lets residents know what they are doing in the right way.

“We were not in Minnesota when they came by, knocked on doors

and left door hangers. We received no letter. We received nothing until someone told us that all the trees in our yard were marked with yellow tape,” Bonnie said.

She added she does not think this was the proper method (of communication) and it would not be the way anyone else does business.

Her husband, Jon Hermann, said he and others in their neighborhood have had an “exceptional” relationship with GRE over the last 20 years, but to see what’s happening this time is different.

Jon explained that he and employees from Carr’s Tree Service planted dwarf spruce trees, with permission from GRE, 10 feet away from the power line. According to Jon, the trees would grow up to 15 feet tall and not interfere with the power lines. After the trees had been planted, Jon spoke with a forester from GRE, who told him the trees must be removed due to the 90-foot power line easement.

“The city, I think in their role in this, is to reach out to the residents, reach out to Great River (Energy) and try to coordinate some type of meeting so everybody is on the same page on what’s going to be cut and how it’s going to be cut,” Jon said. He added about 10 years ago, Great River sat down with residents and worked out a lot of things.

“Every party, Carr’s Tree Service, Great River Energy and all the residents, we walked away feeling pretty good about this. We had a good relationship with Great River ... But if they don’t honor the stuff that’s

been grandfathered in by them, what is to stop them from coming back in a year, five years, 10 years and saying, ‘No we’re going to do this because we can,’” he added.

Kristi Jokela, who resides in Lino Lakes, said Kyle Palmer, a forester at GRE, told her GRE is looking at raising the voltage through the power lines in question.

“He told me specifically in the next five to 10 years they’re looking at increasing the voltage of those lines and if that’s the case, they will look at buying out our entire neighborhood ... Which is very unsettling,” Jokela said. She added that a few days later, she asked Palmer a follow-up question regarding the increase in the voltage and his story changed.

About a month and a half ago, Jokela said someone from Carr’s Tree Service visited her house and told her there were two trees in the corner of the backyard that would need to be trimmed or cut back to comply with the easement. That night, Jokela’s husband came home from work and trimmed the trees.

Two weeks later, Jokela said Palmer visited her house and told her every tree in their backyard would have to be removed. During the same visit, Palmer told Jokela their fence might need to come down because it could be a hazard and could melt to the ground.

“I feel like every time I talk to somebody about this project, I get a

different answer, and it is extremely frustrating,” Jokela added. “We have been told over and over it is a very dangerous line, that if it arcs everything is going to burn to the ground, it’s going to melt everything ... How is it safe to live there? How is it safe to have my children play in the backyard?”

Nelson said she would like to see GRE honor all previous agreements (with residents) and have the agreements in writing. Secondly, Nelson said she wants all affected homeowners in the easement to be sent annual letters reminding them what can and cannot be planted. Lastly, she wants GRE to address the dangers of the power lines.

“I want to know, are they going to raise the voltage on that? What will happen? What are their plans? Even if it’s 20, 25 years in the future ... That matters to how we can sell our houses, improve our properties and enjoy having our children run around in the backyards,” Nelson said. She added she hopes GRE considers burying the lines if they are dangerous.

Council Member Chris Lyden said the overall issue is communication, and asked how it can be improved. He suggested having one person from GRE as “a point of resource” for residents and the city.

“We want to create win-win situations for everyone,” he said.

City Administrator Karen Anderson noted that she gathered resident and council concerns and questions to discuss with GRE in the future.

“I feel like every time I talk to somebody about this project, I get a different answer, and it is extremely frustrating,”

Kristi Jokela
Lino Lakes resident

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

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Al Vogel
Marines
Sgt
Vietnam




Allen Bauer
Army
Spec 4
Germany




Carisa Anderson
National Guard


Submit a photo of your military hero to be honored and remembered



Abigail White
Navy
CMDR




Daniel Nelson
Army
Private 1st Class




David Conde
Marine
Corporal E-4

ARMY **NAVY** **AIR FORCE** **MARINES** **COAST GUARD**



Respond electronically by e-mailing artmanager@presspubs.com

Attach a .jpg of your hero, also include their name, branch of service, rank and where they were stationed. Honoring Our Heroes to appear in papers the publication before Memorial Day.



PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR HERO BY MAY 15, 2026