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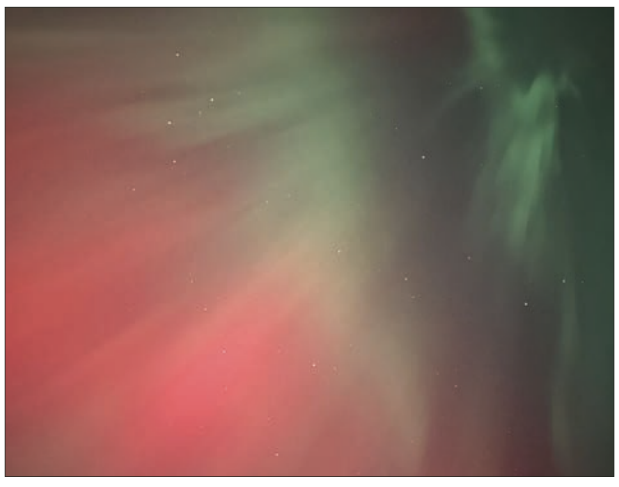
Thursday, November 20, 2025 $2





Lake Minnetonka shines with one of nature's greatest wonders





(SUN PHOTOS BY JAY MORGAN)

The skies above Lake Minnetonka were illuminated in pink, purple and green. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a G2, or moderate, geomagnetic storm watch for Nov. 11 and a rare G4, or severe, watch for Nov. 12. The northern lights were visible over the Twin Cities after strong solar storms sent charged particles from the Sun into Earth's atmosphere, triggering a rare geomagnetic display.

Filmmaker brings Hollywood to the west metro

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Excelsior, Minnetonka and Wayzata have made it on the silver screen as the backdrop for a Minnesota native's new film, "Blue Eyed Girl," which was in select theaters on Nov. 14 and 15.

As a coming-of-age movie for forty-somethings, the story is about a woman living in California that returns home to Minnesota after her father falls ill, reconnecting with her sisters and first love as she re-evaluates what her life could have been.

Actor, writer and producer Marisa Coughlan stars in the movie as Jane Messina, alongside familiar on-screen faces like actors Beau Bridges, Sam Trammell and Eliza Coupe.

"I have been in the business for a long time and have done a lot of projects. It was really fun to do it within our community," Coughlan said. "There was a lot of enthusiasm, a lot of excitement."

Audiences may recognize places like The Lobby Coffee & Leisure in Excelsior and McCormick's Pub and Restaurant in Wayzata when watching the movie. Coughlan's character also drives over Gray's Bay Bridge and on Water Street in Excelsior.

Coughlan cast many of her friends and family members as extras in the film, and allowed some to take on small speaking roles. Her husband assisted with production and her biological children played her on-screen children. She described the project as a "time capsule" for her family to look back on.

"I think it's a relatable look at life and the choices you make along the way, and the people you love along the way, and sort of celebrating those choices," Coughlan

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(SUBMITTED PHOTO)

Marisa Coughlan (left), Eliza Coupe (right) and Beau Bridges in a hospital scene from "Blue Eyed Girl."

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said.

She feels the film is a "love letter to Minnesota," merging her real-life experiences living in Los Angeles in pursuit of her career, with the more recent chapters of her life, moving back to the Twin Cities to raise a family and reintegrate with her roots.

While the movie was only in select Minnesota theaters for a limited time, it will be available on streaming platforms for rent or purchase beginning Friday, Nov. 21, so audiences can watch from the comfort of their homes.

Coughlan's decades-long career in Hollywood has included roles in the "Super Troopers" movie series as Ursula Hanson and in "Teaching Mrs. Tingle" as Jo Lynn Jordan. A third "Super Troopers" film is to be released soon.

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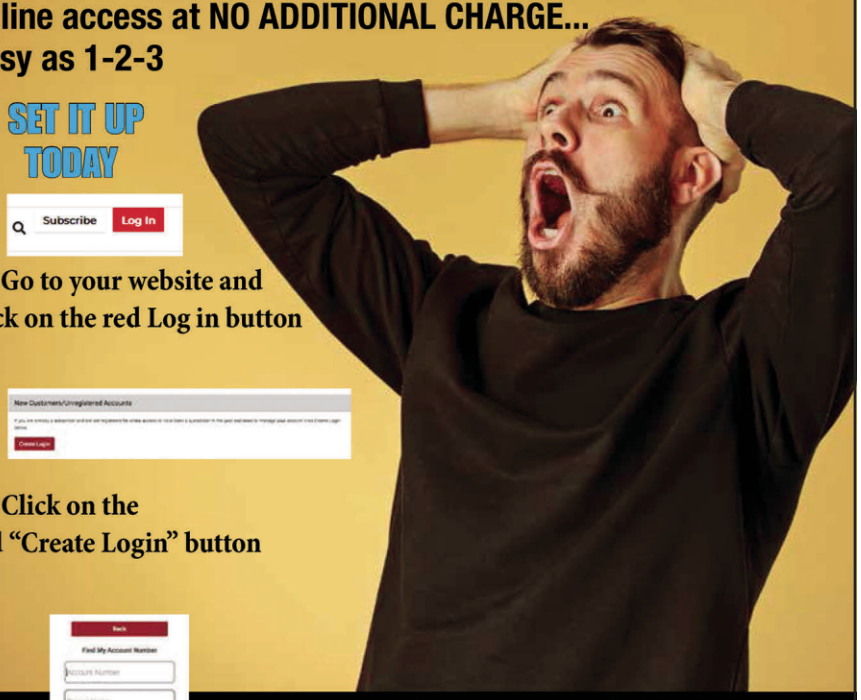
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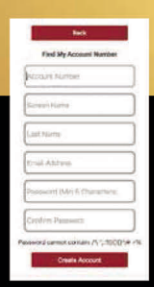
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