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PATRIOT OFFICE

763-275-0275
14054 Bank Street,
Box 458, Becker, MN 55308

The Patriot is the official newspaper for Clear Lake, Clearwater, Orrick, Palmer & Santiago Townships, City of Becker, Becker Township and Becker School District #726, City of Big Lake and Big Lake School District #727. The Patriot is also the legal newspaper for the Sherburne County financials.

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Wednesday 11am Legals & Notices, Wednesday 10am Display & Classified Ads.

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Check out each week's content at our website: www.patriotnewsmn.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Patriot welcomes letters to the editor. Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill at reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com. Addresses and phone numbers are required for verification purposes.

The deadline for all letters is 11am Wednesday. Limit letters to 200 words or less. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor and are subject to editing for grammar, libel and brevity. Two letters per writer per subject each year.

OBITUARIES:

Obituaries are \$75 prepaid. The Editor reserves the right to edit lengthy obituaries.

BUSINESS HOURS:

• Mon. - Wed. 8am to 5pm,
• Thurs. 8am to 3pm
• Friday CLOSED

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

\$100 annually, \$50 for six months, \$25 for three months or \$9 a month.

SUBMITTED MATERIAL:

There will be a \$50 charge for all thank you, engagement, wedding and birth announcement pictures. The Patriot is not responsible for correctness of ads received by telephone.

Fun for Everyone at Annual CW Rodeo

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

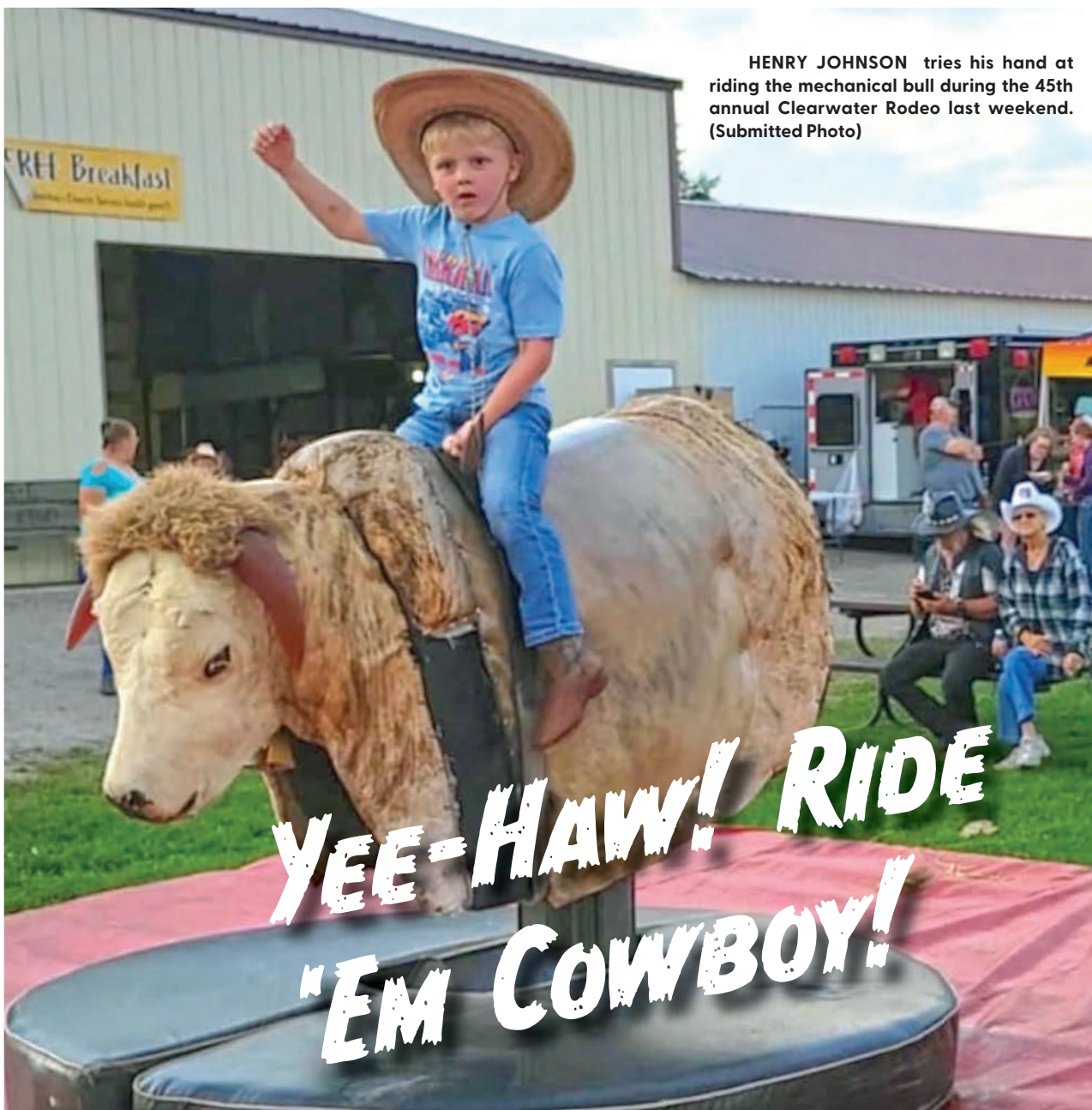
Back for its 45th year, the Silver Bullet Saddle Club once again hosted the Clearwater Rodeo last weekend with three days of fun for all ages.

The show kicked off on Thursday with Family Night; admission was free for kids 12 and under. Young attendees had a host of activities to partake in, including pony rides, petting zoo, games, and prizes. A meet and greet and activities were held on the arena floor after the night's PRCA Rodeo performance.

On Friday the band Mason Dixon Line entertained the crowds with a rodeo dance after the evening performance, and Saturday featured a pork chop dinner and another evening of music by Phil Vaght.

The stands were again packed for each of the three

CW RODEO
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HENRY JOHNSON tries his hand at riding the mechanical bull during the 45th annual Clearwater Rodeo last weekend. (Submitted Photo)

Groundbreaking ceremony for new laundramat

Submitted Article

Options, Inc., celebrated their official groundbreaking of Blackbird Laundry Co., on Tuesday, August 19 at 10:00 a.m.

More than just a place to wash clothes, Blackbird Laundry Co. represents a bold step forward in inclusive employment and community engagement. The two-story building will house a state-of-the-art laundromat on the main floor and two rental apartments above, bringing both employment opportunities and much-needed housing to the area. Their goal is to further their mission in developing employment and skill-building opportunities for the people they serve, and to bring a much needed service to their home town. This project reflects the organization's values of innovation,



BIG LAKE CHAMBER PRESIDENT Julie Brandt (far left) shot off a confetti cannon to kick off the groundbreaking ceremony for Blackbird Laundry and Apartments. (Submitted Photo).

community partnership and belief in the abilities of all people.

Brenda Geldert, Executive Director of Options, Inc., and Matt Carlson, Director of Program and Operations at Options Inc. along with staff, clients, and a great crowd of supporters celebrated the start of construction on the new facility. Geldert spoke to the crowd about Options, Inc. and the work they do along with the continuing services they will now provide for both the community and the people they serve.

The Big Lake Chamber thanked them for their contribution to the community and wished them much success. Blackbird Coffee and water was served as people mingled. The new facility will be located on the corner of Fern Street and Martin Avenue.

Becker's 100 (or more) Women Who Care

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

A unique civic opportunity is coming to Pebble Creek on October 9 at 7 p.m. and one worthy local nonprofit will go home with an amazing donation as a result.

Dubbed "100 Women Who Care of Becker, MN" is a fundraising and social event that is modeled after other similar groups, as Becker is the 17th Minnesota community to host such an event.

The idea is simple: have a gathering of women (100 is not a magic number, but just a goal) and raise funds for a local nonprofit organization. Each woman pays \$100 at the event and they in return receive a ticket to vote on which nonprofit should receive the funds. If 100 women show up to the event, the winning organization would take home \$10,000 that evening. Fewer voting mem-

bers would mean a smaller purse, but additional attendees would lead to a higher donation. One hundred percent of the donations are passed along to the winning organization.

Marisa Kuha is spearheading the event, while a steering committee is helping her to organize the evening. She first learned of the concept from her mother-in-law, Mar Kuha, who has been involved in a similar event in Walker, MN for several years.

"I've been hearing about the Walker event and I thought it would be neat to see the impact here locally in Becker," Kuha said. "We are really hoping for a great turnout."

Kuha says no pre-registration is required, and they are encouraging people to bring friends, neighbors or anyone else who is interested. The event starts at 7 p.m., and donors of \$100 will be given their voting ticket and a chance to nom-



MARISA KUHA OF BECKER is leading the charge to bring a fundraising event to Becker that will lead to a nonprofit receiving a donation of up to \$10,000 or more. Pebble Creek will play host to the October fundraiser, 100 Women Who Care, which is based on a national movement that began nearly 20 years ago. (Patriot Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

inate a recognized 501(c)3 nonprofit.

At 7:30, three of the

100 WOMEN
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County Awards \$44.4 Million Interchange Project Contract

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Sherburne County Board last week awarded one of the county's biggest contracts and starts the bill rolling on one of its largest road projects ever.

After an introduction by Director of Public Works Andrew Witter about the long process to get the project finally started, the board awarded the contract for the Hwy. 169 & Co. Rd. 4 Interchange Project to Ames Construction at \$9,380,000.

"It's with excitement that I'm in front of you this morning with the results of the bidding for the Zimmerman Interchange," he said. "It's come with a lot of effort over the last number of years - a lot of angst recently in regards to plugging

together all of the funding agreements and navigating that as we moved along."

The cost for the project is being covered by federal funding sources (\$34,826,467.94), state funding sources (\$8,706,616.91) and Local Sales Tax \$800.

Witter said the county was able to take advantage of a very competitive bidding market. Four different firms bid on the project, and all four were well below the engineer's estimate of \$55,629,365.79. The three other bidders were C.S. McCrossan Construction Inc. (\$45,651,013.31); Park Construction Company \$46,951,671.76) and Meyer Contracting Inc. (\$50,000,000).

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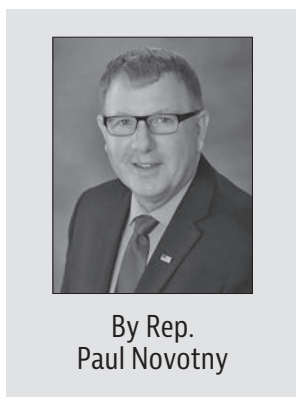
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Omnibus Bill Provision

I, State Rep. Paul Novotny (R-Elk River) issue the following statement after the Ramsey County District Court struck down a provision of the 2024 omnibus bill, ruling that the legislation violated the Minnesota Constitution's "single subject" clause.

The court confirmed today (Monday) what many of us warned about from the start: this was a bad policy, shoved into a bad bill, using a bad process. In the final minutes of session, instead of allowing full debate on individual policies, the majority crammed more than 100 pages covering nearly every corner of government into one 'mega-bill' and rushed it through both chambers late at night. That's not transparency, that's logrolling — and it's exactly what our Constitution was written to prevent.

Minnesotans deserve a legislature that plays by the



By Rep. Paul Novotny

rules, respects the Constitution, and conducts business in the open. Today's ruling is a victory for common sense and for every citizen who expects accountability from their government.

The court permanently enjoined enforcement of the firearm-related provision at issue, recognizing it was not germane to the rest of the bill and was enacted in violation of Article IV, Section 17 of the Minnesota Constitution.

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Witter said the county is fortunate to award the contract to Ames Construction.

The company is currently working on the large interchange projects in Ramsey and Hennepin counties.

He said even with the number of delays with funding issues, he believes the county can still maintain the completion date of substantially completing the project by the end of 2025.

After the vote, Commissioner Brad Schumacher thanked a list of people who were instrumental in getting the project going, including former Commissioner Lisa Fobbe, Public Works and other county staff, former Zimmerman Mayor Nick Stay, Zimmerman Administrator Randy Piasecki and Congressman Emmer's office.

Co. Rd. 29 Agreement

The board approved a joint powers agreement with City of Princeton for the Co. Rd. 29 Reconstruction Project.

Co. Rd. 29 will be reconstructed from Hwy 101 to the north county line. A signal system is proposed to be installed at the intersection of Co. Rd. 29 and Co. Rd. 2/Northland Drive. The installation of the signal requires a joint powers agreement for cost share with Princeton.

MPCA Grant

The board approved and authorized submission of an application to the MPCA for the 2026 Low-Income Fix-up Sub-surface Sewage Treatment System Grant program in the amount of \$300,000.

The program is heavily utilized in the county, and the funds Planning and Zoning has to support the program are going to be significantly reduced in 2026 due to the exhausted \$150,000 grant to assist low-income landowner with replacing failing septic systems that was received in 2023. The \$74,000 will ensure the county has adequate funds to support the program for 2026.

Tuesday's Meeting

The Sherburne County Board Tuesday recognized Geographic Information System (GIS) staff members who received the Special Achievement in GIS Award.

The ESRI Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) Award recognizes organizations worldwide for their outstanding use of GIS technology. Sherburne County received a 2025 award for its innovative GIS Permitting Platform.

Public Works Director Andrew Witter said using GIS technology, the department created a permitting system that allows citizens to apply online and track their permit, streamlines workflows, is mobile-friendly for field work, reminds staff of critical deadlines, supports staff in better decision-making, and is customizable.

Sherburne County now processes about 2,500 permits a year through the use of GIS.

Blue-Footed Booby



By Naturalist Stan Tekiela

The common names for many species of birds can sometimes be confusing, contradictory, misleading, or a complete mystery. For example, the common name Red-winged Blackbird has always gotten under my skin, because the wing of this bird isn't red, it is actually black. It is the shoulder that is red, not the wing, so we should rename this bird as the Red-shoulder, Black-winged Blackbird.

The Common Loon is another bird with a confusing name. What does the word, "loon" mean? Turns out the name is thought to be derived from the Scandinavian word "lom" which refers to someone being clumsy or lame. This describes how this bird clumsily moves on land because its legs and feet are located so far back on its body.

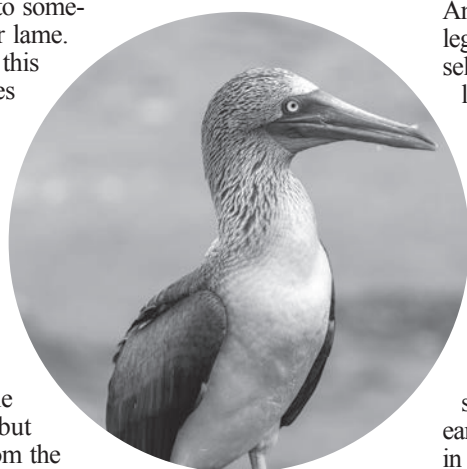
No doubt you have heard of a group of birds called swallows. Where does the word "Swallow" come from? No one knows for sure, but perhaps it comes from the Old English word "swealwe" which means to ingest food and could refer to these birds eating while flying. Or it could be related to the Old English word "swell" referring to an erratic flight, which perfectly describes this bird's flight pattern. I guess its origin of the common name is lost to history.

All of this was running through my head on my recent photo tour of the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. One of the most common birds found on this island archipelago is the Blue-footed Booby. Not only is there a Blue-footed Booby but there is also a Red-footed Booby and a Nazca Booby. Three species of booby live in the Galapagos Islands. So where did the name booby come from? The name comes from the Spanish word "bobo" which translates to foolish or clownish.

The reference to clown-like comes from these birds clumsily walking on land. When they walk, they lift their large blue feet high and slowly and deliberately place their foot, one in front of the other. It looks like the large shoes of a clown walking. These birds also have absolutely no fear of humans and walk around with their over-size clown-like blue feet without hesitation. It seems like these birds have a foolish nature, hence their common name.

Turns out there are six recognized species of boobies. They all belong to the genus Sula and three of them are very common in the Galapagos Islands. So, the name

Blue-footed seems obvious enough. But you have to ask yourself, why would a bird have blue feet? The blue color of the Blue-footed Booby's feet comes from



from a blue pigment that is derived from their diet of fish. The pigments act as antioxidants and build up in the birds' feet, giving them their distinctive blue color. It is believed that the bluer the bird's feet the better the diet and a bird with better diet is healthier than other birds. So, the blue feet actually indicate an individual's fitness and ability to reproduce. The bluer the healthier.

All of this birds' kooky looks and foolish behavior is set aside when the boobies are flying and hunting for fish. Their large strong wings carry them quickly above the ocean's surface. They spot fish in the water below and dive headfirst into the water at a high rate of speed. They hit the water with such force that they often reach three to five feet into the water, snatching up a fish before bobbing back to the surface. They quickly take flight and repeat this over and over until they have caught enough fish.

So, no matter how silly or goofy a bird's common name may be, there seems to always be a reason for or reference to the bird's biology. It's just one more thing I like about the natural world of birds. Until next time...

Stan Tekiela is an author / naturalist and wildlife photographer who travels the world to capture images of wildlife. He can be followed at www.Instagram.com and www.Facebook.com. He can be contacted via his website at www.NatureSmart.com.



100 WOMEN from page 1

organizations will be drawn randomly out of the basket and either the nominator or a representative of that nonprofit will be asked to give a three to five minute presentation. This will include information such as the name, their mission or purpose, their service area, and what they do to make Becker a better place to live, work, learn and play.

The committee has decided not to entertain nominations of churches or school activities, as those groups usually have well established fundraising operations already in place.

After the presentations, donors will then cast their tickets for their preferred group and the steering committee will tabulate the votes. Drinks, appetizers and food will be available at Pebble Creek, as Kuha and the organizers are hoping the attendees can form a social connection that leads to additional, successful events in the future. The entire affair is expected to be done by 8:30 p.m.

Additional information can be obtained by emailing: womenwhocareofbecker@ gmail.com or by contacting a member of the committee, including Kuha, Andria Belisle, Tess Hougo, Jessica Reid, Sara Waytashek, Melissa Aeshliman, Karen Mowers, Stephanie Hillesheim, Shannon Doering Marklowitz and Jane Fox duMonceaux.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

Mr. Thompson's skewering of Representative Shane Meland does nothing to further Thompson's anti-republican agenda. I have known Rep. Meland as a believer in the rule of law for many years. And certainly not someone who skews legal logic to the whims of popular opinion (in the old days they called it mob rule). Grandstanding legislation does nothing to enhance public safety. In fact, it chips away at our liberties little by little. We should all commit to a better shared experience by helping those who truly need it and holding lawbreakers accountable. And certainly not create more legislation that only feeds the self-centered purpose of political opportunists.

Mack Backlund
Big Lake Township

TO THE EDITOR:

Minnesotans struggle to balance budgets. After determining expected income, citizens predict expenditures. For many that means not spending more than they earn. However, government in St. Paul reverses the order. Politicians draw up a budget while eyeing re-election, promising programs of special interest to their voters. Politicians' traditional solution is to raise more revenue through more taxes to cover their inflated budgets. Citizens do not automatically expect to increase spending without looking at income. In the next two years, our state government is projected to spend \$67.9 billion but to take in only \$64.5 in revenue. Whatever happened to the surplus \$18 billion of just two years ago? A rainy-day fund? No, the liberal trifecta eagerly spent it all and added another \$10 billion in taxes. The current budget will increase government spending by 33% by 2027. Families and businesses do not survive with reckless spending. But politicians...it's not their money...it's ours and they control it and us. Paying

taxes is not optional; shelter, food, health care, electricity... apparently are not essential... at least not from the vantage point in St. Paul. While Minnesotans count their pennies, our politicians miss their balanced budget by billions.

Dr. Phyllis E. VanBuren
Clearwater, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

As Chair of the Wright County Republicans, I am proud to announce our full and enthusiastic support for our endorsed candidate, Michael Holmstrom Jr., in the upcoming August 26 Republican Primary for Minnesota Senate District 29. This endorsement was not given lightly. Four highly qualified Republican candidates stepped forward to seek the endorsement following the unexpected passing of Senator Bruce Anderson. Each candidate pledged to honor the process and support the endorsed candidate. That commitment to unity and integrity speaks volumes about the character of those who stepped forward to serve. After a robust and respectful convention, our delegates chose Michael Holmstrom Jr. to carry the Republican banner. Michael is a father of five, a small business owner, and a grassroots leader who has campaigned for Republicans in Wright County for more than a decade. Since the endorsement, our party has come together with renewed energy and purpose. We are united behind Michael Holmstrom Jr., and we are confident that he is the right person to win the primary on August 26 and the general election in November. I encourage every Republican voter in Senate District 29 to join us in supporting Michael Holmstrom Jr. With your support, we will send a strong conservative voice to St. Paul—one that reflects the values and priorities of Wright County.

Dan Schonhardt
Chair, Wright County Republicans

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performances, with attendees alternating between cheering and holding their breath as they watched barrel racing, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling, breakaway roping, tie down roping, team roping, barrel racing, and the most dangerous event of them all, bull riding.

Sponsored by the Clear Lake Lions Club, kids pony rides were free all three days. The Clearwater Lions Club again walked the stands selling beer to thirsty attendees.

Kids could also sign up to try their hand at the mutton busting, calf roping race, and bot scramble.

Although there wasn't a rodeo performance on Sunday, a free breakfast and non-denominational Cowboy Church Service was held in the morning.

The Silver Bullet Saddle Club is a non-profit, community oriented organization whose members of all ages are dedicated to the education of equine activities and encouraging the humane treatment of all animals. The club prides itself on its family-friendly atmosphere and community involvement.

SBSC is always looking for new members and stress that ownership of a horse isn't required. Although their largest event is the three-day annual Clearwater Rodeo, the club participates in various parades and other activities throughout the spring and summer and is also home to the 'Chaos in Clearwater' demolition derby. To learn more visit silverbulletsaddleclub.com.

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BELLA
has a big personality and - true to her breed - she can be a bit stubborn. Bella is an 8-year-old Husky independent and sometimes preferring to do things her own way. She'll thrive with someone who understands Husky behavior and can offer consistent structure (and maybe a few treats for motivation).

CHARLOTTE
can't wait to find her new home! This 2-year-old female guinea pig can be a bit shy, but is easy to handle and enjoys spending time outside her cage to explore her foster described her as sweet as pie. All the critters in our small animal room are "name your own price," and all bonded pairs must go together.

COFFEE
is a sweet senior cat looking for her next home! Coffee, who is 12 years old and spayed, is a loving, people-oriented cat with a big personality. She's affectionate, playful, and loves to chat. Coffee previously lived with another kitty and was not a fan of sharing her space. Due to this, she should go to a home where she can be a solo cat.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE d Series Summary AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 CONSTRUCTION LICENSING, PERMITS, AND REGULATION IN THE CITY OF BECKER CODE

The following official summary of the ordinance referred to has been approved by the City Council of Becker as clearly informing the public of the intent and effect of the amendments.

Chapter 4C onstruction Licensing, Permits, and Regulation

This ordinance amends multiple sections of this chapter to align with current Minnesota building code regulations and permits submittal requirements for building permit applications and administrative permit applications. Additionally, it repeals SSTS regulations. A printed copy of the entire ordinance and official zoning map is available for inspection by any person at City Hall any Monday through Thursday between the current hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. This document hereby is made a part of this ordinance and is attached hereto.

/s/ Mark Kolbinger, Mayor
ATTEST:

/s/ Shannon Mortenson, Clerk
(Published in the Patriot: 08/23/25)

CITY OF BECKER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER VACATING PORTIONS OF MULTIPLE DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS IN ENERGY PARK NINTH ADDITION, SHERBURNE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 412.851, the City of Becker City Council duly called for a public hearing to consider vacating multiple portions of drainage and utility easements in Energy Park Ninth Addition.

Notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held before the City Council of the City of Becker on the 2nd day of September 2025, in the City Hall City Council Chambers located at 200 Sherburne Avenue SE at approximately 5:00 pm to consider the vacation of multiple portions of drainage and utility easements in Energy Park Ninth Addition.

A copy of the draft resolution, and image showing which easements are proposed to be vacated, is available upon request or can be viewed at the City of Becker City Hall Monday through Thursday, 7:00am – 4:30pm, and Friday, 7:00am – 12:00pm. Anyone interested in this issue is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend, please provide written comment to Jacob Sanders at P.O. Box 8, Becker, MN 508 or by e-mail to jsanders@ci.becker.mn.us by 3:00 pm, September 23rd, 2025.

/s/ Jacob Sanders
Community Development Director

(Published in the Patriot: 8/23/2025 3:30pm)

TOWNSHIP OF BECKER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Becker Township Planning Commission will hold its regular meeting at 7:00 pm. on Monday, September 8, 2025, at Becker Town Hall, 12165 Hancock Street, Becker, MN.

The Planning Commission will hold the following public hearings:

7:00 pm and following

Calvin and Linda Heins, owners. Variance application for a setback variance to allow an accessory structure at 04 Sherburne SE, Becker, MN.

Kelly and Aaron Jurek, Boundary Adjustment to adjust the boundary line between 05 6th Avenue SE and 06 6th Avenue SE to allow septic system to be located on single parcel.

Anyone interested in these requests is encouraged to attend in person or via a zoom and comment at the Public Hearing. If you have questions regarding the requests please contact Lucinda at Becker Township Hall, 26 Hancock Street, Becker, MN, 508-301. If you are unable to attend, please provide written comment to Lucinda Messman at P.O. Box 8, Becker, MN 508 or by email to lucinda@beckertownship.org by 4:00 pm, September 8th, 2025.

/s/ Lucinda Messman

Clerk, Becker Township

(Published in the Patriot: 08/23/25)

City of Clear Lake, Minnesota

Ordinance No. 3-2025 An Ordinance Rezoning Parcel From A-1 (Agricultural) to B-2 (Highway Commercial). 8 Main Avenue (PID 0-008 00), which fronts Highway 2 desires to operate a commercial business on the property. The property is currently zoned as A-1 Agricultural District, which does not permit commercial business. Therefore, the property is rezoned to B-2 Highway Commercial. This ordinance becomes effective from and after its passage and publication.

(Published in the Patriot: 08/23/25)

CITY COUNCIL CITY OF CLEARWATER ORDINANCE NO. 80

AMENDING PART I, CHAPTER 3- TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES, ARTICLE III- PARKING OF THE CLEARWATER CITY CODE

THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, MINNESOTA, HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

A new Section 3-70 – No Parking Zones is hereby added to this Chapter.

Section 3-70 No Parking Zones

(a) Ash Street – Parking is hereby prohibited on both sides of Ash Street from County Road 3 to TH 2

(b) Smith Street – Restricted vehicle parking is hereby prohibited on the south side of Smith Street. Restricted vehicles include a tractor, tractor, semitrailer, bus, school bus, or any commercial motor vehicle, as those terms are defined in Minn. Stats. Ch. 169, (collectively, "restricted vehicles"). Authorized emergency vehicles, as defined by Minn. Stats. Ch. 169 are excluded from said definition of restricted vehicles.

Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective August 11, 2025 following its passage and publication, which is hereby authorized by the City Council.

ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF AUGUST 2025

/s/ Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Annita M.S. mythe, City Administrator

(Published in the Patriot: 08/23/25)

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No: 7 PR-3 3

In Re the Estate of Sharon Renee Radeke, Deceased.

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 5th of November, 2025 at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held in the above-named Court at 13880 Business Center Drive, Elk River, MN 55330, Minnesota, for the probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above-named deceased, dated October 19, 2012, and for appointment of Cynthia R. Wilson whose address is 15284 117th Street, Becker, Minnesota 5508 as personal representative of the estate of the above-named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. This is an administrative hearing and your appearance is not required.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS have ninety days against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: August 3, 2025

/s/ Jennifer Jelinski,

Deputy Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner:

Joseph S. M. Avers

KELM & REUTER, PA.

Attorney for Debtor:

2601 Street North, Suite 101

Sauk Rapids, MN 560

(320) 333-3333

kelmreuter@kelmreuter.com

08/23/2025 3:30pm

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

To the Electors of the Wright County

In the County of Wright, State of Minnesota:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:

That a Primary Election will be held in all Wright County Senate District 29 precincts on the 26th day of August 2025, at which the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. for nominating candidates for the following offices, which are to be voted for at the Special Election to be held on Tuesday, the 4th day of November 2025 to wit:

Clearwater Township
State Highway 29
Clearwater, MN 50

STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES

State Senate District 2

Lindsey Meyer

Wright County Finance Director

Dated: August 3, 2025

/s/ Jean Jaeger

Clearwater Township Clerk

(Published in the Patriot: 08/23/25)

CITY OF CLEARWATER PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the City of Clearwater will conduct the special State Primary Election for Senate District 2 on Tuesday, August 26th.

The hours of voting in the City of Clearwater will be from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The polling place for City of Clearwater residents is at the Lions Park Pavilion Building located at 100 County Road 3 NW.

For additional information or questions, contact City Hall during regular business hours at 320-333-3333 /s/ Annita M.S. mythe, City Administrator (Published in the Patriot: 08/23/25)

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USPS announces delivery service relocation for Becker

Submitted Article

The U.S. Postal Service today announced Wednesday that delivery operations currently based at the Becker Post Office will be relocated to the Monticello Post Office effective Tuesday August 26th.

Retail services and Post Office Box operations will remain at the Becker Post Office, ensuring customers can continue to access in-person transactions and retrieve PO Box mail without interruption.

The relocation of delivery services is part of the Postal Service's ongoing efforts to maintain safe, efficient, and high-quality operations. The lease for the current Becker Post Office building is set to expire at the end of October 2025 and USPS is actively exploring alternative locations to continue serving the Becker community.

"The Post Office is

an important part of every community, and we are committed to ensuring customers in Becker continue to receive quality service," said USPS spokesperson Desai Abdul-Razzaq. "While changes in building leases, facility needs, or community growth may sometimes require us to adjust operations, our goal remains to provide convenient and reliable service to all our customers."

Mail delivery to all curbside residential and business addresses will continue without interruption, and PO Box customers will still collect their mail at the Becker location. The Postal Service will provide packages as additional information becomes available regarding long-term facility plans.

"We apologize for any inconvenience to our customers," said Abdul-Razzaq.

Public Input Invited on Stearns County Child Care Plan

Submitted Article

Stearns County has completed a draft of its 2026–2027 Child Care Plan, and community members are invited to review and provide feedback.

The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) supports working families and parents enrolled in 2- or 4-year post-secondary programs by helping cover the cost of childcare. Assistance is determined based on household income, with fees calculated using a sliding scale. On average, the program serves approximately 500 families each month in Stearns County.

While the Minnesota Department of Human Services oversees the program statewide, counties have limited flexibility to set certain local policies and procedures.

The Stearns County Child Care Plan outlines these local procedures and priorities.

Although much of the plan follows state guidelines, Stearns County Human Services welcomes public input on the entire document.

To view the draft plan, visit StearnsCountyMN.gov/1136, email HS.Planning@stearnscountymn.gov, or call 320-656-6017.

Public comments will be accepted through Sunday, September 14. Written feedback can be submitted to: Brittany Spah, Planning Coordinator, Stearns County Human Services, PO Box 1107, St. Cloud, MN 56302. Or via email at HS.Planning@stearnscountymn.gov.

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Xcel invites volunteers to its annual Day of Service

Submitted Article

Xcel Energy invites the public to join employees and their friends and families on Thursday, Sept. 11 through Saturday, Sept. 13 for its 15th annual Day of Service, an opportunity to give back to their communities.

Volunteers can sign up now for one of 46 nonprofit projects in Minnesota. Many are based in the Twin Cities metro area, with other opportunities near Mankato, Red Wing, St. Cloud and Monticello. Indoor and outdoor projects are available, from planting trees to packing meals for those with food insecurities and landscaping activities to packing school supplies for students in need.

Xcel Energy's Day of Service has been an annual tradition since 2010 and is the company's largest volunteer effort. Last year, nearly 2,200 employees, contractors, friends, family, retirees and customers across the eight states Xcel Energy serves contributed 7,900 hours of volunteer work — including packing 130,000 meals. Their efforts benefited over 100 nonprofits and generated an economic impact of more than \$260,000.

Day of Service was created as a tribute to the victims, survivors and first responders of 9/11, as well as all those who work to keep communities and the country safe. The annual volunteer event provides an opportunity for Xcel Energy and members of the community to come together and contribute to projects that benefit local nonprofits.

Learn more about Day of Service and sign up for a volunteer project.

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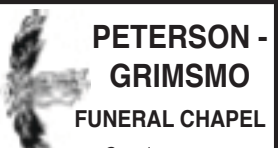
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Clear Lake Mayor receives censure from city council

By Katie Cantin,
Contributing Writer

Mayor Tim Goenner was officially censured by the Clear Lake City Council during their August 4 meeting for inappropriate behavior, including taking the unauthorized role of a supervisor over the public works director (the council overrules the department together and no individual is allowed to take on this role), creating a hostile work environment according to employee statements, ignoring a directive from the council to have no direct communications with city employees, and using city equipment (specifically the city skid steer) without council approval.

One resident did speak to the mayor's character, saying Goenner does a lot for the city. Acting Mayor Chad Nelson responded that the comment was valid, but it does not excuse the bad behavior, and this has been building for a long time.

Mayor Goenner's only statement was that he had a lot to say and would say so at the appropriate time.

Lift Station

To complete much-needed work on the city's main lift station, the city needed to ask for easements from local landowners, in order to access the site. This is the main lift station for the city and in desperate need of work. One of the landowners included Mayor Tim Goenner. The city originally offered Go-

enner \$2,850 for a permanent easement to access the lift station, which was in line with industry standard. This offer was rejected. Mayor Goenner countered with a lump sum of \$10,000 for a temporary easement good for 60 years.

The city's other options, including eminent domain or reconstructing the city infrastructure, would each cost more than \$100,000.

It was noted that Goenner originally suggested he could grant the easement for \$5,000 if the council chose not to pursue his censure. Goenner asked for this option to be withdrawn from consideration before the meeting began but not before it was written into the meeting agenda packet provided to council members.

The council made sure to thoroughly review the issue for the benefit of the public. Several council members let their displeasure be known, but ultimately since each other option would cost twice as much, they decided to accept the offer so the project could still move forward this year.

Later in the meeting, during the censure proceeding (which followed directly after the easement discussions), Council Member Lance Gilliland stated, "With the addition of the easement offer, I think that [the mayor's behavior] nearly rises to criminality. It is corrupt... And charging the public, the taxpayers, \$5,000 to avoid

shame and embarrassment is despicable."

Acting Mayor Nelson asked that the censure be limited to the issues laid out, and that the retracted offer be dealt with appropriately in its own time.

Fire Department

The council looked over the new budget for the fire department. The CLFD requested a minor change in the verbiage of the contracts sent out the townships for next year as well, making the pension line item more clear.

The chief asked about running an open house. Council Member Stefany Janish said, as per the city attorney the city isn't supposed to spend taxpayer money on giveaways at the event (such as prizes for the kids). Chief Ron Koren pushed back on this, as many other departments do so. The council agreed to ask for a second opinion from another lawyer.

In Other Business, the Council:

- Heard from three residents at open forum;
- Heard the public works report;
- Listed a city-owned parcel for sale;
- Became a member of the Clear Valley Business Connection;
- Rezoned a property to allow a resident to open a salon at their home;
- Approved memberships to the MCFOA (Municipal Clerks and Officers Association of Minnesota) for the clerk and the treasurer.

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BIG LAKE MN DIES IN CRASH

By Bill Morgan, Editor

A Big Lake man died in a two-vehicle traffic crash last Sunday morning in Mille Lacs County.

The Minnesota State Patrol reports that a little before 12 noon, a Chevy Trailblazer SUV, driven by 69-year-old Donald Goerisch, and a Honda pickup, driven by 79-year-old Richard Lang of Excelsior, collided head-on while traveling on Hwy. 169 in South Harbor Township.

Officials say Goerisch was southbound on Hwy. 169 when his vehicle crossed the center line, striking Langs pickup which was north-bound.

Goerisch died at the scene and authorities said he was not wearing a seat belt.

Lang sustained non-life threatening injuries and was transported by helicopter to North Memorial Hospital in Robbinsdale. His passenger, 62-year-old Mary Lick, also of Excelsior, had non-life threatening injuries and was airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth.

The Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office, Onamia Fire Department, Onamia Ambulance, and North Air and Lifelink Air assisted the State Patrol



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Becker girls end summer with a win

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Becker girls basketball team finished up a fine summer by winning the varsity tournament in STMA.

Becker went 3-0 to earn the title, downing Wattertown-Mayer, Visitation, and Annandale.

Eilidh Mrnak was a consistent scorer for the team, showing off an impressive 3 point range, while JJ Stach attacked the basket and played great defense.

Coach Dan Baird also credited Alyse Denne with doing a fine job running the point guard position.

"As a team, our defense did a nice job talking and limiting the opposing teams to one shot," Baird said. "This was a nice way to end our summer."



THE BECKER GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM had a great summer, capstoned by winning the STMA tournament. (Submitted Photo.)

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