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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 Orrock 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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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 11 am 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.

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CLEARWATER HERRICAGE FESTIVAL FUN

By Penny Leuthard, **Contributing Write**

Last week's third annual Clearwater Heritage Festival was again a hit, with people attending events all over the city throughout the weekend.

The fun kicked off with the first clue of the Medallion Hunt on Monday. Wednesday featured the Balance Bike BMX Race at Eldorado Park, followed by the Clearwater Lions' senior ice cream social and Music in the Park on Thurs-Friday evening boasted

lots of fun for all ages, with the annual Lions' dinner, Family Fun Fest, live music, and Square Dancing, all at Lions Park. The square dancing was again led by Abe Maier, his 50th year of doing so, including over 40 at Clearwater's annual celebration.

The parade was the highlight of the evening, traveling down old Main Street with spectators lined up on both sides of the road

and kids (and adults) gathering the candy that was thrown from the parade entrants. This year's Grand Marshal was Jim Repke, a 40-year Clearwater fire-

The evening rounded out with a spectacular fireworks show which could be viewed around Clearwater.

The fun continued on Saturday with numerous events for the public to check out, including the vintage snowmobile and car show, craft and vendor show, history booth with author Cynthia Frank-Stupnik, and Clearwater Corners' annual bean bag tournament.

The fire department held their open house and Clearwater Parts City held their annual Customer Appreciation Event. The newly offered shuttle service between Saturday's events was a welcome addition to the festivities.

Saturday's main event

HERITAGE to page 4



Nuclear Power: Facts and Myths Orrock Twp. looks to

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Pta riot on b h f of Darrick Moe, President CEO, Mi**e** sota Rurh ElectricA ssocita ion

When people think about nuclear power, they often picture Homer Simpson dozing off in a control room or Montgomery Burns scheming to cut corners for profit. Pop culture has shaped that image — but it couldn't be further from modern reality.

For decades, nuclear energy has qi etly powered Minnesota's homes and businesses with reliable, carbon-free electricity. Yet despite this proven track record, nuclear remains one of the most misunderstood energy sources. As Minnesota works to meet growing energy demands and bold carbon-free goals, it's time to take a closer look at the

Clean and Reliable — NoM atter the W ather

Nuclear energy generates electricity by splitting atoms to produce heat, which turns water into steam to drive turbines all without releasing carbon



SMALL FOOTPRINT, BIG RESULTS. Nuclear energy is remarkably efficient in its use of land. Producing 1 million megawatt-hours of electricity requires about 17,800 acres of wind installations or 3,200 acres of solar panels. Nuclear can achieve the same output on just 103 acres. (Submitted Photo).

emissions. In Minnesota, nuclear is the state's largest single source of reliable carbon-free electricity, with the Monticello and Prairie Island plants running safely and steadily for decades.

While wind and solar are vital to our clean energy goals, their output depends on the weather. Nuclear fills the gap, providing dependable, always-on power when it's needed most. That's critical in Minnesota, where frigid winters and hot summers place

heavy demands on the grid. This reliability sta-

bilizes costs, prevents outages, and powers key industries like farming, food processing, and manufacturing.

A Small Fo print, BigR esults

Nuclear energy is also remarkably efficient in its use of land. Producing one million megawatt-hours of electricity requires about

NUCLEAR to page 4

solve drainage issue on 233rd Ave. NW

By Katie Cantin, **Contributing Writer**

During their July meeting, the Orrock Township Board once again discussed 233rd Ave NW, where, at the June meeting, residents complained about water

Following up on a conversation from last month, the board asked about allowing on-duty officers access to the town hall building as a safe place to use the bathroom, eat, or for other miscellaneous purposes. Dehn said he spoke with Sherburne County IT,



ROAD ENGINEER KEVIN KRUGER showed the Orrock Town Board where residents were experiencing drianage issues on their road, and discussed potential solutions. (Patriot Photo by

Meet MN Crime Author in Becker

Submitted Article

In 2024, 15 of the top 20 documentaries shown on Netflix were true crime while in the world of books, crime and mystery titles ranked the second most profitable book titles for U.S. Amazon sales in 2022.

Given the interest in this topic, the Great River Regional Library in Becker is pleased to have Minnesota true crime author Frank F. Weber as the guest speaker in September. Weber, also a forensic psychologist, will describe how a case is pro-



FORENSIC PSYCHOL-OGIST AND TRUE CRIME AUTHOR FRANK F. WEBER will be at the Becker Library in September. (Submitted filed as well as conduct a live demonstration of a lie detector test. He uses his keen understanding of how predators think, the trauma of victims and his experience in expert testimony in writing his books.

Weber says he did not plan on being published when he began writing.

"I wrote to vent from my forensic work," he says. "I needed to get it out, and I've always loved a good mystery."

After writing stories **AUTHOR**

to page 4

Supervisor Dalton Keiderling said that the water used to drain into a yard, but the ditch has been filled in. He thought the homeowner might agree to allowing the township to install a catch basin so the water can be properly redirected down the hill again. The board directed their road engineer to look into the matter with the homeowner and come up with quotes to do the work, pending the homeowner's approval. Sheriff's Repo t

Sgt. Alex Dehn gave

the monthly report for the sheriff's department, noting 154 calls for service last month. Notable calls included two thefts at the Sand Dunes Food and Fuel.

lock box on site that officers can access as needed to get a key to the building. Board Chair Anne Felber asked Dehn to get more information on the type of

lock box recommended. Open Fø um

Lisa Miller spoke to say she appreciated the board investigating the greenways (public access to the lake that is not paved). She noted she lived next to one and would like to make some improvements to it, such as removing a dead tree, but didn't want to do so since it was township owned land. She wanted to know if there would be op-

> ORROCK to page 4

lnserts · Bill's Family Foods

(All zips) Menards

(All zips) ·Runnings

(All zips) ·Fleet Farm (55308, 55309)

ATRIOT





Jessica Martineau-Tellegen 763-458-1008 jessica_m@libertybankmn.com

NMLS# 1493691



Summer's Almost Over!

What?! Is it August already? Where did summer go so fast? Just think - in a few short months we will be fighting the cold and wishing we had enjoyed summer a bit more.

It's been hard to enjoy the weather so far this year, due to the frequent rain and the smoke from the forest fires up north. But there's no reason we can't plan to enjoy every last minute of warm weather we have left before winter comes around again.

Here are some fun activities to help you take advantage of the last month of summer: - Farmers Markets.

Delicious fresh produce, baked goods, and homemade crafts? Say no more. Take advantage of the farm market near you while you have the time! Becker's market runs every Friday from 3-7 at the community center. Big Lake runs on Wednesdays from 3-7 (3-6 starting in September). Clearwater has a farm market on Fridays from 3-6 at the Rejoice Lutheran Church through the end of

- Parks and Rec Activities. Big Lake is having live music in the park on some Thursdays (check website for details), and a drive-in style showing of Jumanji September 19.

- Parks. Speaking of parks, don't forget to take advantage of the beautiful parks we have in the community! Personally, I like to walk around and catch Pokemon (yep, some of us are still playing with that



By Katherine Cantin Staff Writer

app!) But there's something for everyone. Have you heard about Becker's newest park where you can practice your archery skills? How about Palmer's brand new pickleball court? Members of the Clear Lake community have recently focused on making the baseball fields look beautiful for a tournament. Go and check out these great local spots!

- Lakes. Minnesota is known as the land of 10,000 lakes for a reason. If you haven't yet this summer, look into getting out on the water, whether it's in your boat, or, if you're broke like me, just swimming on your own! There are also plentiful opportunities to rent equipment such as kayaks and floaties to make your beach day awesome.

However you like to enjoy the outdoors, I hope you get the opportunity to make the most of it this month! I can't promise it will cure your winter blues, but maybe looking forward to next summer will get us through the cold months a little faster...

Darwin "Doc" Gohman, 87 Clearwater, MN November 30, 1937 - August 1, 2025

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 12, 2025 at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Clearwater for Darwin "Doc" Gohman, age

87 of Clearwater. Doc passed away on Friday, August 1, 2025 at Willows Landing in Monticello. Reverend Dennis Backer will officiate. Burial will take place in the parish cemetery with full military hon-

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Monday at the Daniel Funeral Home in Clearwater and one hour prior to services on Tuesday at the Church.

Darwin Theodor Gohman was born on the family farm on November 30, 1937, to Herman and Olga (Hinkemeyer) Gohman. He graduated from St. Cloud Tech. Doc served Honorably in the United States Navy and was stationed in Japan. He married Mary Jane Clement 64 years ago, on November 17, 1960. Doc worked for NSP Electric for many years, working as a chief operator, air quality control specialist and machinist. He was an active member of St. Luke's Catholic Church, Lions Club (won the prestigious Mel Jones award twice), and the Clearwater American Legion Post #323 (where he served as Commander of the Honor Sqa d for many years).

He enjoyed working on the

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farm, woodworking, welding, butchering, playing Cribbage and Fox. Doc was known for playing Santa and Mrs. Klaus with his wife and for the Hootenanny

Clown Band. Doc is survived by his

OBITUARIES

Mary wife, Jane; children, Janet (Barry) Flanders of Paynesville, Mike (Marie) of Clearwater, Kay (Pat) Hickey of Maple Lake; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; siblings, Dave of

Clearwater; Jim of St. Cloud; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Kelly infant brother, Joseph; siblings

Detroit Lakes, Ron (Rose) of

Bill and Kathy; sisters-in-law, Gloria and Diane; and niece



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Jeanne Elizabeth Haehn, 74 Big Lake, MN **December 6, 1950 – July 31, 2025**

Jeanne Elizabeth Haehn, age 74, of Big Lake, was born on December 6, 1950, and passed away peacefully on July 31, 2025.

Raised on a farm near Starkweather, ND, Jeanne graduated from Starkweather High School in 1968. She continued her education at Lake Region Junior College in Devils Lake, ND, where she earned her associate's degree.

On December 26, 1971. Jeanne married John Haehn at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Starkweather, ND. The two were blessed with three daughters: Michelle, Brenda, and Jodi.

Before starting their family, Jeanne worked as a secretary with Morrison-Knudsen. However, her greatest joy was being able to raise her three daughters. Later in life, she worked as a hostess at Russell's on the Lake for many years.

Jeanne was a faithful member of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church, where she sang in the choir. She had a beautiful voice, and singing and dancing always made her so happy. She loved playing cards (especially Whist), was great at cribbage, and was nearly unbeatable at Scrabble. She enjoyed watching many types of sports, taking walks, and creating art through drawing and painting. She was part of a bowling league for several years and had a lifelong love of reading—and an equally strong love of chocolate. Jeanne loved the beauty of cardinals, and every spring she looked forward to the arrival of the first robins. Her greatest happiness came from spending time with her family and friends, and she was always her children and grandchildren's biggest fan.

Jeanne was known for her

feel good about themselves and she made her girls feel like they could do anything. She was a really good listener, with an open heart and mind, and her gentle and loving nature touched

kind and generous spirit. She

had a gift for making others

many. She will be dearly missed. She is preceded in death by her parents, Jason

and Myrtle Gaa, and by John and Margaret Gaa. Jeanne is survived by her loving husband, John Haehn; daughters, Michelle Nelson, Brenda Cox, and Jodi (Jordan) Schlichting; 8 grandchildren; twin brother, Jack (Linda)

Gaa; sisters, Sally (Ray) Rip-

plinger and Janice (Steve) Gleghorn; and many nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends. Visitation was held Thursday, August 7, 2025, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m., with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m., at Peterson-Grimsmo Funeral Chapel, 250 E Broadway St, Monticello, MN. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Friday, August 8, 2025, at 11:00

a.m., with visitation beginning

at 10:00 a.m., at Mary of the

Visitation Catholic Church,

440 Lake St N, Big Lake, MN.

Burial followed at Our Lady

of the Lake Catholic Cemetery in Big Lake, MN, with a luncheon at the church. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Peterson-Grimsmo Funeral Chapel of Monticello, MN. 763-295-2918. www.peterson-grimsmoc**h** l.com.



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protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business. ASSUMED NAME: Off the Hook Heating, Air & Plumbing PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSI-

NESS: 9825 166TH CT SE BECKER MN 55308 USA NAMEHOLDER(S): Name: Off the Hook Holdings, LLC

Address: 9825 166TH CT SE BECKER MN 55308 USA

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scarlson@hac-mnlaw.com Work Item: 1569823600021 Original File Number: 1569823600021 STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OF STATE FILED 07/21/2025 11:59 PM

/s/ Steve Simon Secretary of State (Published in the Patriot: 08/02/25, 08/09/25).

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes,

Chapter 333 The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer

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Off the Hook Plum PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSI-NESS: **9825 166TH CT SE** BECKER MN 55308 USA NAMEHOLDER(S): Name:

Off the Hook Holdings, LLC Address: 9825 166TH CT SE BECKER MN 55308 USA

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Number: 1569441000025 STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED 07/17/2025 11:59 PM /s/ Steve Simon Secretary of State (Published in the Patriot:

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH J DICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

08/02/25, 08/09/25).

Cart File No 7 PR-3 0 In Re the Estate of Robert Francis Shields a/k/a Robert F. Shields a/k/a Robert Shields, Deceased.

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-POINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NO-TICE TO CREDITORS.

TO ALL INTERESTED PER-SONS AND CREDITORS: Notice is hereby given that an application

for informal probate of the abovenamed Decedent's Last Will dated September 4, 2014 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: Mary T. Shields-Good, 13453 43rd Street Clear Lake MN 55319, 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, sub-

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. Dated: July 28, 2025 /s/ Pamela Kreier, Probate Registrar /s/ Katrese Ringham, Court Administrator Attora yf orP etitioa r KATHERINE MARIE HENNING Attorney License No.: 399268 Jeddeloh Snyder Stommes PA 803 W Saint Germain St St Cloud MN 56301 Telephone: 320-240-9423 E-Mail: ktu la rin @jssmrc om

ject to Minn. Stat.§ 524.3-801, all

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH U DICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION Cart File No 7 PR-3 19 In Re the Estate 6 Dawn M.

(Published in the Patriot:

08/02/25, 08/09/25).

Hansen Brisbin,D ecedent. NOTICE AND ORDER FORHEARINGON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROP-ERTY.

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

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted. IT IS ORDERED and No-

tice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on October 22, 2025, at 1:30 P.M., by this Court at 13880 Business Center Drive NW. Elk River, Minnesota. 1. 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.

2. Notice shall be given 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

Dated: July 28, 2025 /s/ Blayne Graves, Deputy Court Administrator Attora vf orP etitioa r: Adam J. Kaufman Henningson & Snoxell, Ltd. 6900 Wedgwood Road, Suite 200 Maple Grove, MN, 55311 Attorney License No: 0328868 Telephone: (763) 560-5700 FAX: (763) 560-0119 Email:

k uf ma k k n ox lw .com (Published in the Patriot: 08/09/25, 08/16/25).

CITY OF CLEARWATER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PARKING VARIANCE FOR PROPERTY THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF CSAH 7 AND TH .2 (PID

Notice is hereby given that the Clearwater Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on August 18, 2025, at City Hall, 605 County Road 75 NW at 7:00 PM or as soon thereafter as possible, to consider a request by Jeff Johnson for a Variance. The Variance is to provide 35 parking stalls and provide proof of parking for five additional parking stalls where 52 parking stalls are required by Article IX, Section 117-1168 of the Clearwater City Code.

Legal description available at City Hall upon request.



All persons wishing to speak on this item will be heard. Comments may be submitted in writing prior to the meeting to city hall at the address below or emailed to asmythe@clearwatercity.com. /s/ Annita M. Smythe City Administrator

(Pub ish d n h P ti riot 0 0 0 Ø 3 .

CW Legion hosts Veterans Dinner

By Penny Leuthard, **Contributing Writer**

The Veterans Appreciation Dinner, an annual event held by metro vets, was this year hosted by the Clearwater American Legion. In true Minnesota style, the main course of the meal was none other than tater tot hotdish.

Traditionally veterans from the St. Cloud VA are guests at the dinner, but due to staffing difficulties they were unable to attend this year. However, the event was still enjoyed by other area veterans, who first gathered to catch up with friends and acquaintances before queuing up for meal.



Legion boasted one of Minnesota's best foods – tater tot hotdish. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)





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NUCLEAR from page 1

17,800 acres of wind installations or 3,200 acres of solar panels. Nuclear can achieve the same output on just 103 acres.

For Minnesotans who care about preserving farmland, forests, and open space, that's a meaningful difference. Nuclear allows us to meet electricity needs without sprawling across productive or scenic land.

Addressing afety and W te

Safety is a reasonable concern with any energy source, and nuclear is no exception. The good news: U.S. nuclear plants are among the most heavily regulated energy facilities in the world. With built-in safety systems and decades of experience, nuclear has one of the strongest safety records in the industry.

Waste is another common concern. Yet all used fuel from U.S. reactors since the 1950s would fit on a single football field, stacked less than 10 yards high. That spent fuel is securely stored and monitored and has caused zero harm to the public.

To put it in perspective: waste from one person's lifetime of electricity use would fit inside a soda can.

Lo kingA head: Ew ryT b **o** the Table

No energy source is perfect. Building new nuclear plants takes time, investment, and careful planning. But if Minnesota hopes to meet future energy needs affordably while reducing emissions, nuclear deserves to be part of the conversation.

State law currently prohibits utilities from even exploring new nuclear projects. Lifting that moratorium wouldn't build a plant tomorrow — but it would allow for thoughtful discussions, research and planning.

At the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, they believe in an "all-tech-ondeck" approach to energy. That means supporting innovation in wind, solar, battery storage, and nuclear — alongside other tools that ensure affordable, reliable power for all Minnesotans.

The state's energy future depends on practical solutions that strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and keep Minnesota powered in every season. With nuclear on the table, Minnesota can lead the way in building an energy system that serves our communities today and creates a brighter tomorrow.

HERITAGE from page 1

was the Clearwater Legion Homeless Veterans Bike Run, followed by food, auction items, and street dance featuring Mason Dixon

This year's sponsors included the Clearwater Lions, Clearwater Parts City Auto Parts, Clearwater Travel Plaza, Lake Central Bank, B & C Clean Up, Tri State Surplus Co., CRM, Franklin Graphics, and nu-

The Clearwater Heritage Festival is organized by a volunteer committee of local residents. Anyone interested in helping plan for next year is encouraged to fill out a volunteer form on the event website clearwaterheritagefestival.com or send an email to: clearwa-

terheritagefestival@gmail.

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ORROCK from page 1

tions to possibly purchase the land.

James Gerard had a similar question for the board. He said a township road served only his property, and was basically his driveway, and he would like to pave it but couldn't.

Board Member Dalton Keiderling said these questions would be addressed later, after the board has a discussion on how they would like to manage easements.

2024 Audit

Molly Thompson of Schlenner Wenner gave the audit report for 2024. Thompson reported an unmodified (clean) opinion of the township's day to day finances. They gave a 'qualified" opinion on the government-wide financial statements, since the township elected to not make certain reports, which is legal and allowed.

The audit went smoothly even though the auditors worked with a clerk and treasurer who were not with the township last

Findings included that the township has not adapted US GAAP (the report they are not legally required to make, mentioned before) and a lack of segregation of duties (very common in small townships).

A resident approached the board to request they vacate a utilities easement on his property. He said he recently purchased the property and didn't realize until close to his closing date there was an easement which covered most of his driveway. The board did not wish to vacate the easement, but said they would grant a variance for the homeowner to use the area for his driveway to make it legal. The homeowner was concerned that someone would come onto his property to install utilities without his consent, but the board assured him that was not likely, as any utility company wishing to build there would need to go through a permitting process first, and they remained firm on their decision not to vacate. The homeowner agreed to move forward with the variance.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Heard that iPads for the supervisors have been purchased and were being set up for use;
- Asked their road engineer to look into some funding pro-
- grams for road projects; • Gratefully accepted a photo of town hall as a gift from
- former clerk, Chris Weber; • Briefly discussed greenways and decided to bring the topic up again at the August meeting.

AUTHOR from page 1

and putting them in binders for over a decade, Weber felt the stories were getting good.

"But I wondered if it was just self-delusion being I hadn't shared the stories with anyone," he continued. "So I sent Murder Book (my first published book) to a publisher, and it took

Weber is not a trained writer, noting that it took some time

When I first started, I'd read a line I'd written to my wife and she'd say, 'That's not a sentence.' I'd think, 'It was a sentence when I wrote it."

By writing, Weber learned a great deal about the craft. He said he became obsessed with details, which brought value to his forensic work. He also does not write in a linear fashion -"I think of a great scene, and I write it," he notes. "From

there I work in both directions. I often rewrite the beginning after I finish the story. I tell people, 'Don't keep hammering away from the beginning. It's mind numbing and a waste of time. The story should determine the beginning, rather than the beginning determining the story." Weber's achievements in both forensic psychology and

writing have been honored. He received the Outstanding Achievement Award from MN Psychological Association in 2024 as well as the President's Award from the MN Correctional Association for his forensic work. His book "Black and Blue" won the Pencraft Award for Best Mystery of Summer Weber's 2025 book, "The Sun" (as well as his earlier

book "Scandal of Vandals") is based on the homicide of Debra Grant and accusations leveled at her husband, attorney Tug Grant. This Minnesota mystery was once described as "the crime of the century". Weber will share information related to the Grant case and

will be available after the event to sign books and answer individual questions. This program is open for teens and adults and was made possible with Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds from

Minnesota's Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment. Mark your calendars for Thurs., Sept.11, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Great River Regional Library in Becker at 1150 Sher-

burne Avenue for what is certain to be a fascinating evening. Remember, the library in Becker is open from 1-7 p.m. on Thursdays. All are encouraged to come prior to the author's event to explore what the library has to offer!

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Board sets speed limit for all county trails

speed limit, the committee

recommended adding a

provision to allow for cer-

emonial use of tobacco by

to distinguish the penalty

for all violations as a mis-

demeanor, except for the

use of cannabis and hemp,

which is a petty misde-

meanor punishable by up to

the PATH (Projects for

Assistance in Transition

from Homelessness) Grant

contract renewal between

CAMHI (CommUNITY

Adult Mental Health Ini-

tiative) and Sherburne

for the grant will also have

serious mental illness or

serious and persistent

mental illness. CAMHI is

subcontracting with Sher-

burne, Benton, Stearns, and

Wright Counties to provide

outreach and case manage-

CAMHI will be con-

The board approved

ment services.

Eligible participants

Hm elessness Grant

The board approved

The other update was

Native Americans.

a \$50 fine.

County.

By Ken Francis, **Contributing Writer**

After a brief public hearing Tuesday without public comment, the Sherburne County Board approved amendments to the Parks Regulations Or-

dinance. Sherburne County Parks Director Gina Hugo opened with an overview of the proposed changes recommended by the Parks and Trails Advisory Com-

"Since the last comprehensive review and update in 2018, we've really seen a major shift toward the use of electric bicycles and electric personal assistive devices, like standing Segways - the one wheel or two wheel devices," she said. "Without language in the ordinance to address potential concerns with these uses, staff worked with the county attorney's office to draft proposed language, which was then reviewed and discussed by the Parks and Trails Advisory Committee over the course of two meetings." Some of the proposed

changes include new definitions for trails and vehicles. As far as regulating

the use of electric vehicles, Hugo said the committee agreed to recommend setting a speed limit for trails at 20 mph. "The committee came to this recommendation

after quite a bit of discus-

sion about regulating the class of e-bikes that are allowed," she said. "But then it's really hard to tell the difference between e-bike classes visually. This would make it almost impossible to enforce, so the decision was made to have

an overall speed limit for

the trails, which is far more

In addition to setting a

enforcible."

merman has approximately 120 septic systems that the county would regulate and

The board approved the Pre-Construction Solicitation Award to Adolfson & Peterson Construction at for the Jail Expansion Project. Professional services sought are for Pre-Construction Planning and Construction Management for certain areas related to the renovation/

County Jail.

Other Business

· Approved the 2026-2027 Radiological Emergency Preparedness (REP) Grant Agreement and accepted the grant award in the amount of \$298,000. REP Grant funds provide critical support for Radiological Emergency Preparedness planning, training, exercises, drills, conferences and Emer-

• Appointed Elisabeth Spilde as Deputy Chief

· Accepted a donation of **6**0 from the Elk River Sportsman Club to the Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit.



tracting with Sherburne County for the amount of \$95,282, which will be used to pay employment costs for one of the county's two housing staff. SSTS Ag eement

of an agreement between Sherburne County and the City of Zimmerman to regulate subsurface sewage within the city.

ment for all septic systems located within the City of Zimmerman's jurisdiction. Residents in Zimmerman will utilize the county's permitting portal to apply for and pay all fees directly to the county. Zimpermit.

di l Ep ansio

expansion of the Sherburne

In other actions the

gency Operations Center staff time;

County Attorney;

treatment systems (SSTS) The county will be responsible for permitting, inspections and enforce-

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More than 200 compete in BL Graniteman



ATHLETES FROM THE OLYMPIC DIVISION take off from the beach at Lakeside Park to start the 2025 Big Lake Graniteman Triathlon. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

By Ken Francis, **Contributing Writer**

The skies were hazy from the residual smoke from Canadian wildfires Saturday morning. But it didn't stop about 200 athletes from competing in the 2025 Graniteman Triathon at Lakeside Park in Big Lake.

The event featured two different categories. The Sprint Division began with a 0.33-mile swim followed by a 14.45-mile bike ride and a 3.1-mile run.

The Olympic Division was a 0.9-mile swim, 24.83mile bike ride and a 6.2-mile

At 8 a.m. the Olympic Division athletes plunged into the lake on the first leg of their two-plus hour journey.

Diego Morles, 16, of Minneapolis was the first competitor to exit the water in 23:40 and head for the his bike, with Steven Voss, 40, of Osseo just 20 seconds behind.

Then the race got even tighter, and Voss had taken the lead by the time the bike race was over.

But in the end, the running portion of the triathlon made the difference as Big Lake distance standout Kade Layton, 20, passed his opponents and won the triathlon in

2:21:29

Layton was in eighth place after the swim, more than three minutes behind Voss. He had the ninth quickest time in the bike race in 1:18:51 and was still more than six minutes behind Voss when the 6.2-mile run began.

But Layton's run time of 32:28 was the fastest of any competitor and enough to overtake Voss, who ran 40:18 and finished about a minute behind in 2:22:27.

Kyle Sweeney, 27, of Maple Grove was the third athlete in the men's division in 2:24:16. Peter Goldberg, 36. from Minneapolis took fourth in 2:34:43 and Corey McCusick also of Minneapolis, 49, finished fifth.

Becky Youngberg, 50, of Shakopee was the top female finisher in 2:31:57. She was fourth overall.

Amy Preusser, 27, from Melrose was second in 2:37:58. Cristin Tandberg, 46, of Minneapolis placed third in 2:41:51. Marilea Osterlund, 50 of Rochester took fourth in 2:43.00 and Dawn Labiosa, 60, from St. Paul finished fifth in 2:59.35.

Anthony Hirschman, 45, from Minneapolis won the Sprint Division in 1:08:25. He was also the top finisher

last year in 1:07:36.

Brenner Hohenstein, 28, of Minneapolis finished second in 1:11:39. Josh Sell, 46, from Waconia took third in 1:12:53. Ben Myers, 38, from Maple Grove was a step behind in fourth in 1:12:58 and Jeron Hall, 19, of Elk River rounded out the top five in 1:13:19.

Andrea Myers, 49, of Minneapolis was the top female finisher in 1:14:47. She finished second in the Olympic Division last year.

Jennifer Martone, 53, of Minneapolis took second in 1:17:42. Raychel Tong, 17, of Minneapolis placed third in 1:19:25. Sarah Thompson, 44, from Rogers was fourth in 1:25:31 and Mary Deeg, 63, of Annandale finished fifth in 1:25:51.

The Big Lake Triathlon is the final segment of a three-part competition. Triathlons at Sturgis Lake in Buffalo and Warner Lake in Clearwater were held earlier in the season.

Complete results for all three triathlons and past year's triathlons can be found at mtecresults.com.

Night to Unite brings neighbors together

(Photo from Facebook).

By Bill Morgan, **Editor**

Several Night to Unite gatherings occurred Tuesday in Becker, Big Lake, Clear Lake and surround ing communities.

Becker had a total of five Night to Unite neighborhood get-togethers that were visited by emergency personnel as well as staff and elected politicians from the city.

"It was great to visit with people and hear about what is important in our community," said Becker Mayor Mark Kolbinger. "Thanks also to the Becker Fire and Police Departments for their participation.'

Night to Unite is a nationwide, annual event that offers residents a unique opportunity to get to know their neighbors, chat with local law enforcement officials, and ultimately build a safer community.

From barbecues to pool parties, each neighborhood decides how they want to celebrate the event. Some neighborhoods have potlucks, pizza parties, or ice cream socials, while others choose to simply sit on the lawn and visit with one another.





BIG LAKE MAYOR PAUL KNIER (FAR RIGHT) watched with great interest as a Big Lake fireman operated the ladder from one of the BLFD trucks as others stood and watched Tuesday.



SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF COMMANDER BEN ZAWACKI visited with lifelong Santiago residents Dick and Jeanette Harshman at Santiago Night To Unite. (Patriot Photo

Grand Champion!





ELLA LARSÉN, a member of St. Pats 4-H Club in Duelm, earned a grand champion purple ribbon and a trip to the Minnesota State Fair for her bee garden project she submitted to the Benton County Fair a few weeks ago. She is pictured with her purple ribbon behind her in the right photo. This is Ella's ninth year in 4-H. (Submitted Photos).

SPORTS/AREA NEWS







HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2025 RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION EVENTS

Events are **FREE** for all Sherburne County Residents (I.D. Required)

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, August 12	2pm - 5pm	Sherburne County Public Works, 12950 7th Ave S, Zimmerman
Wednesday, September 17	2pm - 5pm	Big Lake Township, 21960 County Rd 5 NW, Big Lake
Friday, September 26	2pm - 5pm	Sherburne County Fairgrounds, 13372 Business Center Drive, Elk River (enter across from YMCA)
Saturday, September 27	9am - 12pm	Sherburne County Fairgrounds, 13372 Business Center Drive, Elk River (enter across from YMCA)

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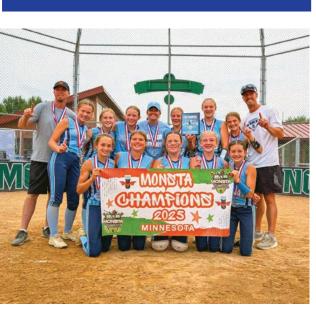
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12U softball team takes Monsta!

Submitted Article

Becker Blast 12U Navy team won the 12U Monsta National Tournament this past weekend

This tournament is a 64 team, 4-day event with teams coming from all over the Midwest (Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota).

Becker's team went 3-0 in Pool Play on Thursday and Friday, putting them in the Platinum Bracket. In the Platinum Bracket on Saturday and Sunday, they notched extra inning wins against Hammand, WI (SCC) and Granstsburg, WI, and secured a come-frombehind victory against a powerhouse team from Centennial Lakes.

Perhaps the most exciting game was a last inning comefrom-behind victory against Eden Prairie in the championship game to capture the title.

The team is coached by Steve Esping, Anna Willhite and Ben Johnson.

BECKER'S BLAST 12U NAVY TEAM. Front row, left to right: Alyse Denne, Finlee Esping, Mirra Koubsky, Aysa Johnson and Lyra Willhite. Back row, left to right: Coach Steve Esping, Talia Boyer, Zoe Sheiber, Emily Thiel, Coach Anna Willhite, Kenzie Basgall, Piper Dickinson, Kinny Johnson and Coach Ben Johnson. Missing – Braelyn Bolton. (Submitted Photo).

3-on-3 Basketball Tourney at BCC

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Several volunteers and members of Becker's Basketball Board gathered at the basketball courts at the BCC to host their fifth annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament for kids in grades 4-6.

On a perfect summer evening Tuesday, dozens of kids and their families descended upon the community center to play some basketball in timed, 3-on-3 games where kids learned the fundamentals of the game and just had fun.

Eighteen teams coming from Becker, St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Zimmerman, and St. Michael attended.

Mike + You = Cure had volunteers running the concession stand to raise funds for their cause.

Parents and friends placed lawn chairs around the courts and cheered on the youngsters as they battled to show off their skills. Ryan Goodman of the Becker Youth Basketball organization emceed the event and kept the players on task for the timed games.

All teams wore jerseys to identify who they were playing with and many youths fine-tuned their skills on the side of the courts as they awaited their turn to play. First place teams received a trophy, while second place teams garnered a medal.



THE BOYS had fun as they commanded the court and showed off their skills during their timed games at the BCC. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).



THE GIRLS demonstrated competitiveness but they also displayed good-natured fun with a lot of smiles and laughs. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).