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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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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.

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BL Firefighters have busy night

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

The Big Lake Fire Department (BLFD) responded to a reported house fire on Meadow Ave. Monday at approximately 10 p.m.

The BLPD was first on the scene, confirming the fire and providing a size-up for incoming fire units. Police officers were on hand and also verified the homeowners were accounted for. They even attempted to extinguish the fire, but it had progressed too far.

Additional resources were requested from the mutual aid communities. Engine 22 and Tower One quickly arrived on the scene to perform the initial knockdown of the fire. Elk River and Monticello crews assisted in verifying there were no additional hidden fires. Chief Hansen and Deputy Chief Novak rescued the homeowners' beloved cat, with a neighbor providing a pet taxi for



THE HOMEOWNER'S CAT (middle) was rescued and cared for by firemen and even a neighbor who provided a pet taxi for the family. (Submitted Photo).

the family.

One firefighter experienced a heat-related issue, which was promptly addressed by the partners at CentraCare.

"We appreciate the teamwork among our first responders and neighboring communities, which resulted in a successful save of most of the family's home and possessions," said BLFD Deputy Chief Mark Hedstrom.

The night wasn't over as a call came in for a person down and needing assistance at 3:30 a.m. That was followed by a request to check the home of the earlier fire at 4:10 a.m. The morning ended with a call for a car that went off the road on Co. Rd. 43 and hit a tree and was starting on fire with the driver still in the

FIRE
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E-Bike safety in and around Becker

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by Becker Schools Superintendent Jeremy Schmidt.)

E-bikes have become increasingly more popular for teens and others in our community. The bikes look like they are fun to ride and very efficient at getting from one location to the other.

"The purpose of my submission is to share that with these benefits, there are risks associated with e-bikes and I believe it is our responsibility to work together to help keep our students safe," says Schmidt.

"Just the other day, I had a close call that I can't stop thinking about. Driving on Bank Street, I slowed down to make a right-hand turn when a teen on an e-bike attempted to pass me on the right."

Schmidt said had he not been paying close attention, there most definitely would have been a devastating crash.

"This isn't the first time I have seen this behavior," he continued. "I have seen students riding in the wrong lane, weaving through traffic, doing wheelies, jumping between sidewalks and roads, and ignoring signs and traffic altogether."

Schmidt noted these are not just reckless behaviors, but they are dangerous and illegal.

"I call for your help," he says. "Parents and guardians, please talk to your children, regularly about how to ride these e-bikes responsibly. It is your re-

sponsibility to ensure they understand and follow the rules of the road. We need to start seeing e-bikes, just like motorcycles, and young drivers need to understand that they are not as visible as they may believe, especially when they are traveling at 20-30 mph."

Schmidt says the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 70,000 hospital visits per year related to micro-



mobility vehicles with 40% of those involving individuals under 18 years old.

"Drivers and pedestrians, please stay alert," he said. "Due to their speed and size, e-bikes can appear very quickly and move faster than expected, especially around driveways, intersections, and school zones. A second of distraction can have serious life or death consequences. I appreciate e-bikes, but they need to be used with care, awareness, and responsibility. We need to all be vigilant and work together to ensure these rides remain safe for everyone."

Addendum Sa rce
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). (2023). Micromobility Products: 2023 Annual Report. <https://www.cpsc.gov>.

Becker Police
"E-bikes have been a focus of mine for the past few weeks, as we have seen an increase in complaints about reckless driving and speed," said Becker Police

Chief Chris Lindbloom. "The PD will be making a social media post today (Tuesday) that highlights e-bike state statutes."

Lindbloom says the primary statute that parents are likely not aware of is that you must be 15 years old in order to operate an electric assisted bicycle.

"With the growth of electric bicycles in our community the police department has seen a steep uptick in the number of complaints about reckless riding," Lindbloom said. "While we like that this new technology has allowed more people to get outside and enjoy our trails and parks, it is important to understand the laws pertaining to the use of these bikes."

Here are a few e-bike laws and safety reminders:

- According to State law, cyclists must be 15 or older to operate an e-bike;
 - According to State law, cyclists must follow the rules of the road including speed limits and traffic signals. E-bikes cannot be modified to bypass the speed limit control;
 - Cyclists must alert pedestrians of their approach and be courteous to others sharing the sidewalks, trails and roads;
 - Cyclists should always wear a bike helmet and other appropriate safety gear;
- Penalties for not following the e-bike laws and regulations can result in fines. For more information, read more about applicable state laws 169.011, 169.222, 169.223, 169.225.

GRRL holds Teen Sticker Design contest

Submitted Article

Love stickers for one's water bottle or laptop?

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) is excited to invite creative teen artists to participate in the first-ever Teen Sticker Design Contest!

This contest offers a unique opportunity for teens to have their artwork printed and available to library users across Central Minnesota, spanning GRRL's 32 library locations! The contest runs from July 14 through August 31, 2025.

Submitted sticker designs will be judged on creativity, design, and how well it fits a library theme. GRRL staff will vote on a winning design. They will notify the winner in early September and plan to have the winning stickers available in libraries in October for TeenTober and Teen Read Week. In addition,

GRRL will post winning and runner-up designs online at griver.org and on social media.

Contest guidelines:

- Teens (age 13 to 19) living in Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, and Wright Counties may participate;

- The contest starts on July 14. The deadline is August 31, 2025 - late submissions will not be accepted;

- Only one submission per teen;
- Pick up a contest

form at one's local GRRL location or download a contest form at <https://griver.org/library-news/teen-sticker-design-contest>.

- Submit one's design in person at one's local GRRL location or send by mail. For mail, please send to Great River Regional Library, Attn: Teen Sticker Contest, 1300 West St. Germain Street, St. Cloud, MN 56301. Designs may also

GRRL
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Emmer visits Ralphie's Minnoco in Clear Lake



REP. TOM EMMER(L) is pictured behind the counter with store manager Kate Goenner and owner Brian Brehmer. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring).

By Mary Nehring,
Contributing Writer

MN Congressman Tom Emmer paid a visit to Ralphie's Minnoco in Clear Lake Thursday, July 10. Emmer visited with store owner Brian Brehmer and local residents.

Emmer talked about ethanol, as well as the impact of credit card fees on small, local businesses. Emmer also fielded questions from people in attendance.

Ralphie's Minnoco owner Brian Brehmer shared these sentiments about Em-

mer's visit to his store:

"It was nice to get a chance to talk to our local representative about the issues we face in the fuel and convenience store business," Brehmer said. "For instance, customers don't realize how much credit card processing fees cost business owners; with the fees being in the thousands of dollars per month."

Brehmer has operated Ralphie's Minnoco in Clear Lake since February of 2021 and purchased the store in April of 2023.

Art in the outdoors



ARTISTS of all ages demonstrated their talents at the GRRL Summer Reading exhibit at the Big Lake Farmer's Market last week. (Patriot Photo by Deven Haas).

INSERTS

- Bill's Family Foods (All zips)
- Menards (All zips)



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Living Waters Church
320-699-0876, 7830 Church St.
Services: Sunday 10am.
• <https://www.livingwaterschurch.info/>
Trinity Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919,
8641 Main Ave.
Services: Sunday 8:45am.
• www.trinityclearlake.org/index.html
SHED Church -
Non-Denomination
Pastor: Dean Cook, 320-733-9485,
7684 First Ave. W.
Services: Sunday 10am.
• www.shedchurch.org
St. Marcus Catholic Church
Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave.
Services: Mon. & Wed. Mass 8am,
Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. 8am.
• www.churchofstmarcus.org

• CLEARWATER
Clearwater United
Methodist Church
Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St.
Services: Sunday 9:30am.
• www.clearwaterumcm.org
Freedom Bible Baptist Church
320-434-347, 605 Lime St. (Old
Clearwater Post Office).
Services: Sunday 10:45am.
• www.freedombiblebaptist.com
Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA
Pastor: Rev. Karleen A. Jung,
320-558-6851, 1155 County Road
75 NW. Services: Worship 9:30am.
Livestream worship at Rejoice's
Youtube Channel.
<https://www.youtube.com/@RejoiceLutheranClearwaterMN>
Church of St. Luke
Father: Dennis Backer, 320-558-2124, 17545 Huber Ave NW.
Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass
8am & 10am, Weekday Mass Tues.-
Fri. 8am/Sat. 9am.
• <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchOfStLukes>
Tri-County Alliance Church
Pastor: David Fogal, 320-558-2750,
8464 160th St NW.
Services: Sunday 10:30am.
• <http://tccchurch.com>

• DUELM
St. Lawrence Church
Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502, 10915 Duellm Road NE.
Services: Sunday Mass 10am,
Tues. Mass 8am
• www.stlawrencechurchofduellm.com

• MONTICELLO
Faith Lutheran Church
Pastor: Scott Block, 763-878-2092,
12449 Clementa Ave. NW, Monticello.
Worship: Sunday 10:00am.
• <https://lutheran-faith.org>

• SAINT CLOUD
Faith Lutheran Church
Pastor: Joshua Reber, 320-252-3315,
3000 County Road 8 SE.
Worship: Sunday 10:15am.
• www.faithstcloud.org

• SANTIAGO
South Santiago
Lutheran Church ELCA
Pastor: Allison Peterson,
763-662-2048, 14675 37th St.
Worship times are 8 am and 10 am.
Sunday School at 9 am.
• www.sslcmn.org
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical
School
Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St.
Services: Sunday 9am.
• <https://oursaviorsprinceton.com>
Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
ELCA
Pastor: Shari Routh, 920-573-0193,
1100 186th Ave NE.
Services: Sunday Good Shepherd
9am, Sunday Glendorado 10:30am.
• www.godsgrateland.org
Gethsemane Church
(ELCA) - Ronneby
Pastor: Barbara Peterson,
320-983-5002, 14478 78th St.
NE. Services: Sunday 10am.
• www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10006901611334
Glendorado Evangelical
Country Church
Pastor Steve Kruse, 763-662-2244,
16999 Glendorado Road NE.
Services: Sunday 10:30am.
• <https://lm.facebook.com/Glendorado-Evangelical-Country-Church-734989370230509>

• SILVER CREEK
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Pastor: Ken Tatkenshorst, 763-878-2820, 11390 Elliot Ave NW.
Services: Sunday 9am
• <https://immanuel-lutheran-church-of-silver-creek.business.site>
Silver Creek Community Church
Pastor: Zach Pryor, 320-963-3957,
4282 114th St NW.
Services: Sunday 9am
• <https://silvercreekcommunitychurch.net>

PLEASE NOTE:
Next week we will feature churches from Becker, Big Lake, etc and will alternate weeks.



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EDITORIALS-OPINIONS-NEWS

Healthy Choices

I've learned over the years that most people don't like to be lectured or told they're doing something wrong. That's one of the main reasons I don't try to tell people what they should do when I write my columns.

My columns may be informative, but for the most part I'm just writing about my own experiences. People can take what I say as useful, or they can disregard what I'm writing about.

I remember a few months after I met my late wife, Julie, she introduced me to some of her artist friends. When we went out for dinner, we found out they were vegetarians. All during dinner they tried to convince us that we should also stop eating meat.

I listened as they lectured us about how eating animal products was bad for our health, not to mention being cruel to other living creatures. I didn't say anything negative or try to start a debate. But later that night when Julie asked me if we should look into changing our diet, I told her I thought she should look for new friends.

It would have been better if they had just told me about their own experiences and how it improved their health. Then I could have made my own decision without feeling like I was being told my lifestyle was all wrong.

So now it's my turn to write about some changes I've made to improve my own health - and I'm not saying everyone should do what I'm doing.

About eight years ago I was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes. At the time, the doctors advised me to change my diet to reduce my blood sugar level. That came as sort of a surprise to me, since I wasn't really eating sweets or drinking



By Ken Francis
Contributing Writer

soda. I was more into salty snacks like chips, pretzels and cheese crackers.

Then they showed me some literature about what foods are bad for diabetics, and that's how I learned that food high in carbohydrates (carbs), like those chips, pretzels and crackers, were just as bad as eating sweets. The body converts carbs to glucose, so my salty snack habit, along with regular food like pasta, rice and bread, can raise glucose levels.

Over the past eight years I've taken a number of different diabetes medications. I've also become very aware of what I'm eating. Unfortunately, I've sometimes strayed from following what I should be doing, and it really showed on my latest two checkups.

So a few weeks ago I made the decision to overhaul my daily routine. No more salty snacks and just an occasional serving of rice or pasta.

It's made a big difference in my blood glucose level. I feel a lot better and I also lost about 10 pounds.

Take my experience for what it's worth. Remember, I'm not lecturing.



A Big Win For Taxpayers

Last week, following months of negotiation and debate, President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill passed through the House of Representatives and was signed into law.

While the Democrats and their allies in the mainstream media launch desperate attacks to downplay the achievements of this legislation, we're here to give you the facts

This legislation delivers historic tax relief for working Americans, and by voting against it - Congressional Democrats voted in favor of the largest tax hike in American history. The truth is, by passing this legislation Republicans saved the average family in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District from a \$2,299 tax increase

Another charge leveled by Democrats, including our failed Governor, is that our One Big Beautiful Bill will increase deficits. This is patently false. According to a recent report from the Council of Economic Advisors, our One Big Beautiful Bill will cut deficits by roughly \$2 trillion while securing historic levels of mandatory savings

Finally, the most insidious and cruel lie being told about this legislation concerns Medicaid. Democrats



By Congressman
Tom Emmer

have repeatedly claimed that our One Big Beautiful Bill will "kick American families off Medicaid." Again, this is a lie. This legislation strengthens Medicaid for those who rely on it most while eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in the system. By removing illegal immigrants and enforcing commonsense work requirements, we are protecting Medicaid for the truly vulnerable.

I was proud to vote in favor of this historic legislation which cuts taxes for working Americans, slashes deficits, and protects Medicaid for those who need it most. It's a win for taxpayers, workers, and Minnesotans. Now that you know the facts about our One Big Beautiful Bill, we want to hear from you!

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New charges for fire that destroyed BAC shed

Submitted Article

On July 4 at 06:49 a.m. Becker Police were dispatched to a fire at the Becker Athletic Complex, 1295 Morning Dove Dr, Becker. Upon arrival, officers located two portable toilets and a shed on fire. Becker Fire Department arrived to extinguish the fire, however the portable toilets, shed and contents were a complete loss.

The Becker Police Department investigated the fire and learned that an adult male and adult female

had lit several fireworks in the portable toilets, which then caught fire and subsequently started the shed on fire. Long form complaint requests have been sent to the Sherburne County Attorney's Office for arson and criminal damage to property for both adults. No names will be released at this time, pending formal complaints by the Sherburne County Attorney.

"The senseless actions by two individuals on the 4th of July resulted in a great loss to our community," said Becker Chief of

Police, Chris Lindbloom. "The portable toilets for use by the community enjoying our great parks and the youth baseball shed, which contained all the equipment needed to provide youth baseball and t-ball enrichment activities for hundreds of Becker youth. I am proud of our community for financially supporting the Becker Youth Baseball Association so they can replace lost equipment and continue to serve our community."



CVBC hosts quarterly meeting at Clearwater RV Park

By Mary Nehring,
Contributing Writer

The quarterly meeting of the CVBC (Clear Valley Business Connections) was held July 10, 2025 at Clearwater RV Park. The RV park is under new ownership by Jody and Jim Streit.

Lunch was provided by Clear Valley Business Connections.

The meeting was called to order by president Leigh Holman. An update on the annual business expo held Sunday, May 4 at Clearwater Legion was given by CVBC Vice President Morgan Nicka.

An update was given from Kimberlie Gramsey, Clearwater Community Development Specialist. An update was also given by Clear Lake City Council Member, Sabrina Miller.

Becky Aanerud of Tri County Alliance Church gave an update on the Welcome-to-the-Community packets. Local businesses donate items and bags are distributed to new residents.

Discussion was held regarding many activities happening in Clearwater



NEW OWNERS OF CLEARWATER RV PARK Jody and Jim Streit, hosted the CVBC quarterly meeting Thursday, July 10. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring).

this summer. Clear Valley Business Connection sponsors a weekly farmers market held every Friday from 3 to 6 p.m. during the months of June, July and August in the parking lot of Rejoice Lutheran Church at 1155 Co. Rd 75 NW in Clearwater.

Discussion was held about upcoming events in Clearwater. Clear Valley Business Connection also hosts several Music in the Park events during the summer. Upcoming live music events take place at Eldorado Park, 800 Kelsey Ave. in Clearwater. The

next music event will be held Thurs., July 31 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and will feature Highway 23. The final live music event will take place Thurs., Aug. 21 with Singleton Street taking the stage from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. All are welcome and people are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. Food and beverages are for sale by local Clearwater Youth groups.

There was discussion about the annual Clearwater Heritage Festival, which is coming up at the end of July. The popular annual event is sponsored by the

Clearwater Lions and local businesses. Events will take place July 28 thru August 2, 2025. The parade will take place Fri., Aug. 1 at 6 p.m. on Main Street in Clearwater. Live music will be provided by Kat Blue at Lions Park from 7 to 10 p.m. and fireworks will follow at dusk at Lions Park. A new feature offered this year will be a shuttle service between Saturday events.

For more information, visit: www.clearwaterheritagefestival.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

This comment responds to the article, "Brott miffed at Boelter for statements" in the July 5, 2025 edition of the Patriot. I experienced a similar experience as Vance Boelter as a patient in a major hospital. My street clothes and shoes were replaced with an uncomfortable and degrading uniform. I was not allowed to leave the hospital grounds. I was kept in a lighted room and awakened in the night by a nurse to take vitals that were unnecessary. I had no access to exercise equipment. I had no access to fresh air or vitamin D-generating sunlight. A recent issue of Scientific American stated that the four items for healthy aging are diet, exercise, sleep and social connections. This is evidence that a good sleep requires a cool, dark and quiet room. There is technology for observing people in dark rooms. I was surprised that Sheriff Brott addressed the character of Mr. Boelter as much as the issues Mr. Boelter brought up.

Donald Vierimaa
Big Lake, MN

Road Work the Main Topic at Santiago Township

By Maria Moore,
Contributing Writer

The Santiago Township board meeting took place on July 9 and the following topics were discussed — Sheriff's Report, road report, and solar panels.

Sheriff's Report

There were a total of 63 calls for service. Two of those were for disturbing the peace and one was for a stolen vehicle.

Road Report

A motion passed during the road report to approve the Aztec Seal and Coat micro seal. Ditch mowing was done as well as the removal of downed trees. There was discussion about the road on 59th Street. The Twp had debates over whether to use Class 5 or to use crushed concrete. The problem with crushed concrete is that it will wash away in the rain. Other roads need to be tended to first before the 59th Street road is worked on. However, the road will have gravel put on it so it goes higher than the culvert.

Solar Panels

The meeting ended with more talk on solar panels. It was brought to the board's attention that the panels can cause fungus to grow on vegetables that are nearby. As of now, the board cannot stop owners from putting in solar panels on their property. There are concerns with how new solar panels are and the negative effects it may have on the earth in the future.



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BBB

BL Officer saves trapped driver in vehicle



BIG LAKE POLICE OFFICER AUTUMN HANSON responded to a personal injury accident on Co. Rd. 43 just North of the City of Big Lake Tuesday. As her bodycam depicts in the above photos, the vehicle was engulfed in smoke and fire and Hanson acted quickly to extricate the driver from the vehicle. Hanson helped the driver out of the vehicle through the rear passenger door within minutes of it going up in flames. The driver sustained very minor injuries from the crash and Hanson was not hurt in the incident. (Submitted Photos).

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

2025 RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION EVENTS

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

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, July 23	2pm - 5pm	Santiago Township Hall, 16943 20 th St SE, Santiago
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 Cauty 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)

ACCEPTED ITEMS

Adhesives, Aerosols, Automotive Chemicals (NO MOTOR OIL), Batteries, Car Batteries, Cleaners, Fuels (Gasoline, Diesel, etc.), Fluorescent bulbs, Fire Extinguishers, Garden Chemicals, Mercury, Mothballs, Paints, Poisons, Pool/Spa Chemicals, 1lb Propane Tanks, Roofing Tar, Sealers, Solvents

** Child Car Seats accepted at Elk River Events ONLY**

NOT ACCEPTED

Appliances, Asbestos Containing Items, Business Waste, Commercial Waste, Demolition Debris, Electronics, Explosives, Furniture, Tires, Household Garbage, Medical Waste, Motor Oil and Antifreeze, Pharmaceutical Waste, Unknown items, NO DRUMS

Agricultural Pesticides

Pre-registered farmers may bring their unwanted agricultural pesticides to these collection events for free disposal. For transportation planning purposes, pre-registration is required by calling Maureen Mossak at 763-765-4457 to inventory the amount of agricultural pesticides being delivered for disposal. Please be aware that we will refuse to accept pesticide rinsate, empty containers, fertilizers, crop oil, spread/stickers, foam makers, seed dye and inoculants. There is a 300 lb. limit and anything over 300 lbs. will be charged a fee for disposal. **Residential Households do not need to pre-register.**

For Used Motor oil and Antifreeze disposal collection site please visit: <https://eastsideoilcompanies.com/self-serve-drop-off.html>

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

Questions:

Contact Maureen Mossak with the Sherburne County Zoning Dept. at 763-765-4457 or Maureen.Mossak@co.sherburne.mn.us

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FIRE

from page 1

car. BLPD was first on the scene with the officer (Hanson) risking her life to free the driver.
Hedstrom arrived with the driver and police officer on the side of the road with the ambulance in route. Engine 22 arrived along with tender two whose crews extinguished the flames in the car and surrounding grass area. The scene was complicated by leaking fuel that kept igniting, but was eventually put out with dry chemical fire extinguishers.
“Our hats off to the Big Lake Police Department for their quick actions and saving this driver as it could’ve been much worse,” said Hedstrom.
“Teamwork and co-

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GARAGE SALE

JULY 24TH: 10 AM – 6 PM,
JULY 25TH: 10 AM – 6 PM,
JULY 26TH: 9 AM – 5 PM
Location: 2213 145th Avenue, Clear Lake, MN 55319. Furniture, household items/ decor, craft materials and so much more!



A HOUSEFIRE ON MEADOW AVE. gave the Big Lake Fire-fighting crews plenty to handle in Monday's busy night and morning. (Submitted Photo).

operation is the backbone to our first responding system,” he continued. “It starts with the person calling dispatch and giving accurate information, dispatch getting the proper

people to the scene and to the first responders, on the scene, doing their job and mitigating the best possible outcome for the situation at hand.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS
I HAVE THE EPSTEIN LIST. Amuse yourself with these before I send you a copy. Please playlist these! My keto diet went to pot YouTube (mcn)
AUTOMOBILES
GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-485-1046. (mcn)

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dence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-716-2411. (mcn)

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fits if you have are between 52-63 years old and under a doctor's care for a health condition that prevents you from working for a year or more. Call now! 1-833-641-6779. (mcn)

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SCHS awarded a Legacy Grant

Submitted Article

The Sherburne County Historical Society is pleased to announce that it has received a \$9,999 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant.

This funding will be used to complete a historic building condition assessment, by a historic architect, for the Herbert M. Fox House, a National Register of Historic Places building located on the oak savanna prairie grounds of the Sherburne History Center in Becker.

The building needs restoration and repair and a historic buildings condition assessment will provide information and a priority list to create a phased building rehabilitation plan in the future - according to National Register guidelines. The condition assessment will be completed by June 2026.

The Fox House has a unique building style of vertical wooden planks as its only means of support, which is unusual in Minnesota and may be the only example of this building method. There are no studs or corner posts to hold the building up. The vertical planks fit into an indentation in the sill and the flooring on the second floor is attached to the vertical planks. Windows and doors were cut and framed after the walls were built.

This farmhouse was in the oak savanna area of Santiago Township, Sherburne County, until the land was incorporated into the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge in the 1960s. Because of impending flooding, the Fox House was slated for demolition until the unusual construction method was discovered. To save the house it needed to be moved elsewhere and an application for the National Register of Historic Places was approved in 1981. The house was moved to where

the Sherburne County Historical Society building was located on the edge of the City of Becker, near U.S. Hwy. 10.

When the new Sherburne History Center building was constructed in 2005-2006, the Fox House was moved to the oak savanna portion of the property and a new application for the National Register of Historic Places was approved.

The Sherburne History Center is located at 10775 27th Avenue SE, Becker, MN 55308 and specializes in the history of Sherburne County through museum exhibitions, a reference library, an archives and a Legacy Trail with historic structures. It is open Tuesday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Sherburne History Center is also currently showing the award-winning exhibition: Life on the Edge. For more information contact the Sherburne History Center at www.sherburnehistorycenter.org or (763) 261-4433.

Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants are administered by the Minnesota Historical Society based on the recommendations of its Historic Resources Advisory Committee, a volunteer citizen panel made up of representatives of local, county and statewide historical and cultural organizations across the state.

The grants program is made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. The Legacy Amendment supports efforts to preserve Minnesota land, water and legacy, including Minnesota history and cultural heritage.

Grants Available For Low-Speed Internet Areas

Submitted Article

Despite the expansion of access to high-speed internet throughout the country, there are still “dead spots” that are either unserved or underserved in the ability to have adequate download and upload speeds to have internet access or being able to stream video channels.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development has a Broadband Line Extension Connection Program designed for individuals to submit applications for grants. The purpose of program is to award grants for the extension of existing broadband infrastructure to unserved locations, such as a handful of homes in low-density population areas.

Residential properties or businesses in locations that lack a wired internet connection to speeds at or above 25 Mbps download and three Mbps upload can submit their address for consideration in the application process.

To learn more about the program and to submit an application for inclusion in the program, go here: mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/extension/.

To test one's upload and download speeds, go here: www.sp.edtest.net.

CORRECTION: Wrong Aquatennial dates

Submitted Article

Last week, the Patriot ran an article on Allie Cross being an Aquatennial candidate in this year's event. This week, the Patriot was informed the dates included in the article were from last year. The following information is the correct info. The Patriot regret this unfortunate error.

Candidate week starts Tuesday, July 22 and goes through Saturday the 26th.

The meet the candidates event and grand day parade are on Wednesday, July 23.

The week wraps up with coronation on Saturday, July 26.

The times and locations of these events are all still the same from the original article.



PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF BIG LAKE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR AN IMPERVIOUS SURFACE INCREASE AT 111 HILL STREET

You are hereby notified that the Big Lake Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a Conditional Use Permit to exceed the allowed 25% Impervious Surface Coverage at 148 Hill Street. The hearing will be held in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North on **Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** or shortly thereafter.

Applicant: Wes Hamacher, H&H Contractors, 15454 Central Ave. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304

Owner: Randy MacLeod, 1481 Hill Street, Big Lake, MN 55309

Location: 148 Hill Street, Big Lake, MN 55309

PID: 65- 00444-0145

Request(s): A conditional use permit to exceed the maximum 25% impervious surface coverage in the R-5 zoning district as allowed by Section 1003.11, Subd. 4(3) of the Zoning Ordinance.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments to City Hall prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Consultant Planner Kendra Lindahl, AICP at klindahl@landform.net or mailed to City Hall at 160 Lake Street North.

/s/ Kendra Lindahl, AICP

Consulting City Planner

City of Big Lake

(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/19/25.)

CITY OF BIG LAKE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR AN IMPERVIOUS SURFACE INCREASE AT 111 HILL STREET

You are hereby notified that the Big Lake Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a Conditional Use Permit to exceed the allowed 25% Impervious Surface Coverage at 109 Hill Street. The hearing will be held in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North on **Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.** or shortly thereafter.

Applicant: Ryan Edick, 109 Hill Street, Big Lake, MN 55309

Owner: Ryan Edick, 3320 SW 3rd Lane, Cape Coral, FL 33991

Location: 109 Hill Street, Big Lake, MN 55309

PID: 65- 00429-0211

Request(s) A conditional use permit to exceed the maximum 25% impervious surface coverage in the R-5 zoning district as allowed by Section 1003.11, Subd. 4(3) of the Zoning Ordinance.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments to City Hall prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Consultant Planner Kendra Lindahl, AICP at klindahl@landform.net or mailed to City Hall at 160 Lake Street North.

/s/ Kendra Lindahl, AICP

Consulting City Planner

City of Big Lake

(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/19/25.)

Big Lake Township considers ordinance changes

By Katie Cantin,
Contributing Writer

During the recent Big Lake Town Hall meeting, the board supervisors considered some changes to township ordinances.

They heard about a proposed amendment to eliminate the “second review” step from the platting process to make it easier and faster for residents. The board was in favor of the change.

The county also asked for feedback regarding updating the zoning and subdivision ordinance. They recently completed a revamp of their comprehensive land use plan, and are now looking to do the same with the zoning ordinances.

Supervisor Larry Alfords voiced his concern that the county was looking for nonspecific feedback on such a massive, complex document. He wanted to hear about the issues the zoning department was having and address them individually.

Board Chair Bruce Aulob concurred that a complete rewrite was not necessary.

The board sent back a comment that they would like more time to consider the document and formulate their opinions as a board. Generally, the board voiced their discontent with how quickly things were moving, and that they wanted feedback directly from the planning and zoning department to inform their comments.

Community newspapers cannot survive without their advertisers. Support them by shopping local.

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

The Minnesota State Patrol reported that two people — both from Clear Lake — were injured in a two-vehicle accident at about 11:30 a.m. on Satur-

Sheriff Report

Sgt. Barrett of the Sherburne County Sheriff’s Department gave his update for the month. The department responded to 224 calls for service in June.

One call of note was an accident on Co. Rd. 79 and 201st Ave. Both drivers involved had minor injuries and were transported to the hospital.

Barrett asked to stay informed if the board perceived any need for increased patrols in construction areas.

Roads Report

Supervisor Dean Brenteson said there was still no set schedule for the overlay projects, and expected they would likely be pushed into August. Brushing projects are underway. The brushing company is keeping track of the growth each year to make sure these projects are efficient and effective.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Heard there would be a food shelf distribution on July 21 at Lions Park;
- Called for a special joint powers meeting with Big Lake City for July 23;
- Planned to have a couple of supervisors and the deputy clerk meet with the Big Lake Ambassadors to help meet their needs with the garage they use at Lions Park;
- Acknowledged the passing of Dwayne Skoog, who was a long time resident of Big Lake.

Obituaries

day on Hwy. 10.

A 1999 Toyota Camry, driven by 21-year-old Abigail Carolyn Kohout of Elk River, was Westbound on Hwy. 10, when a Sling-shot, driven by 55-year-old Joseph Mark Schlangen of Clear Lake, was travel-

CITY OF BIG LAKE, MINNESOTA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING GRANTING OF BUSINESS SUBSIDY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Joint Powers Board of the City of Big Lake, Minnesota, and Big Lake Township, Minnesota will hold a public hearing at a special meeting of the Joint Powers Board beginning at 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, to be held in the City Hall Council Chambers, 160 Lake Street North, in Big Lake, Minnesota, at the request of Jabro Big Lake, LLC (the “Company”) in connection with the proposed construction of an approximately 60,000 square foot manufacturing facility to be leased to M&M Precision Machining, INC, and to grant financial assistance of \$44,500.00 which is provided in the conveyance of property to the Company through a forgivable loan for the purchase price for the property identified as tax parcel number 65-00615-0110 (the “Property”). The Joint Powers Board will consider selling the Property which is jointly owned by the City of Big Lake, Minnesota and Big Lake Township, Minnesota for the sum of One and No/100 Dollars (\$1.00), which is a business subsidy, in response to the proposed sale and development. The business subsidy will result in an increase of the tax base of the City and provide employment opportunities in the City.

Information about the proposed business subsidy will be on file and available for public inspection in the office the City Clerk at City Hall.

A person with residence in or the owner of taxable property in the granting jurisdiction may file a written complaint with the City if the City fails to comply with Sections 116J.993 to 116J.995, and no action may be filed against the City for the failure to comply unless a written complaint is filed.

All interested persons may appear at the public hearing and present their views orally or in writing. Anyone needing reasonable accommodations or an interpreter should contact the City Clerk’s office at City Hall, telephone 763-263-2107. BY ORDER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

/s/ Gina Wolbeck

Big Lake City Clerk

(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/19/25.)

OBITUARIES

H. John Gillham, 82 Monticello, MN May 26, 1943 – July 4, 2025

Harry John Gillham, 82 of Monticello, passed away on July 4, 2025 on the family farm.

John graduated from Monticello High School in 1962. He married Gloria (Hines) from St. Cloud. Together they farmed and raised a son and a daughter. His love for his family was unconditional. John and Gloria were married for 59- 1/2 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents William and Ruby Gillham, brothers and sisters Karen, Tim and Billy.

He will be greatly missed by his wife Gloria; son

Heath (Alicia) and daughter Lacey (Corey); grandchildren Mykenzie, Levi, Ashley and Hunter (Lynlee); one great grandchild Tiago (eight months); siblings Mike (Mary), Cynthia Gillham, Kathy (Alan) Jude, Mary Jo (Danny) Pribyl and sister-in-law Phyllis Gillham.

Visitation will be held at St. Luke’s Catholic Church in Clearwater on July 25, 2025. Visitation will be held from 9 to 11 with Mass to follow. John will be laid to rest at the St. Luke’s Cemetery.

Terry J. Graning, 74 Clear Lake, MN January 17, 1951 – July 11, 2025

Funeral Service will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 18, 2025 at South Santiago Lutheran Church for Terry J. Graning, age 74, of Clear Lake, who died Friday, July 11, 2025 at her home surrounded by her family. Rev. Allison Peterson will officiate and burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker and one hour prior to the services on Friday at the church.

Terry was born January 17, 1951 in Minneapolis to John George and Beverly Mae (Anderson) Gertz. She married Leonard Graning on May 20, 1972 at South Santiago Lutheran Church. Terry grew up in Minneapolis and lived in the Clear Lake area most of her life. She worked at Santiago State Bank and also Security Financial Bank in Monticello. Terry also worked for the Sherburne County Sheriff Department and Lange Board and Care Home. She was a member of South San-

tiago Lutheran Church. Terry enjoyed gardening, flowers, sewing and cooking. She was quick witted, good with numbers and a competitive, sassy person. Terry was a force to be reckoned with, opinionated, unfiltered, and never short on things to say. She definitely lived life loud!

Survivors include her husband of 53 years, Leonard of Clear Lake; children, Kim (Scott) Schmidt of Becker, Kris (Kory) Olson of Clear Lake, Adam (Stephanie) Graning of Fountain, CO, Kelly (Isaac) Johnson of Becker; sisters, Jill (Gary) Cox of Becker, Debbie Gertz of Houston, TX; brother, Darryl Gertz of St. Paul; grandchildren, Mason, Grace, Tyler, Kylie, Annabelle, Owen, Jacob, Liam, Nyanza and Kyran; great grandchildren, Oliver, Waylon, Liam, Luna, Hope and Hayden.

She was preceded in death by her parents, John and Beverly Gertz.

Obituary, Guest Book, and video tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com.



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www.monticellomemorials.com

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT INFORMAL PROBATE Court File No. 25 PR-38 In Re the Estate of Kenneth L Swanson Deceased.

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

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 May 4, 2022, 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: Barb Leeman, 20645 187th Avenue NW Big Lake MN 55309 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 § 524.3-81, 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. Dated: June 27, 2025.

/s/ Pamela Kreier,

Probate Registrar

/s/ Katrese Ringham

Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner:

TYLER JAMES

WESSMAN-CONROY

Attorney License No.: 403791

CONROY LAW OFFICE LTD

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PO BOX 999

MONTICELLO, MN 55362

Telephone: 763-295-6667

E-Mail:

tyler@conroylawoffice.com.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/12/25, 07/19/25.)

Office 6 the Minnesota Secretary of State Assumed Name / Amendment to Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 33

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **Bruening Back & Sons**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **2111 13TH STREET, CLEAR LAKE MN 55309**
United States
NAMEHOLDER(S): **Bruening Back & Sons, LLC**
ADDRESS: **13929 12TH STREET, CLEAR LAKE MN 55309**
United States

This certificate is an amendment of Certificate of Assumed Name File Number: 1486713300021 Originally filed on: 8/12/2024.

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized

me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Jeffrey P. Clancy**
(On behalf of Stacey Bruening & Bryan Bruening) Dated: 07-09-25

MAILING ADDRESS:

Not Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL

NOTICES:

staceybruening@gmail.com

Entities that own, lease, or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed must register with the MN Dept. of Agriculture’s Corporate Farm Program. Does this entity own, lease, or have any financial interest in agricultural land or land capable of being farmed? **Yes.**

Work Item: **0**

Original File Number: **0**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED

09 JUL 2025

/s/ Steve Simon

Secretary of State

(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/19/25, 07/26/25.)

Office 6 the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate 6 Incorporation 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 protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

Note: Information provided when filing a business entity is public data and may be viewable online. This includes but is not limited to all individual names and addresses.

ASSUMED NAME:

Petro Back Keeping

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **18741 93rd Street SE, Becker MN 55005**
SA

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Shelly Petro

ADDRESS: **18741 93rd Street SE, Becker MN 55005**
SA

I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Shelly Petro**

MAILING ADDRESS:

Not Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:

petrobkbackkeeping@gmail.com

Work Item: **0**

Original File Number: **0**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED

09 JUL 2025

/s/ Steve Simon

Secretary of State

(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/19/25, 07/26/25.)

Dennis Zinda, 83 Big Lake, MN October 9, 1941 - July 15, 2025

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 22, 2025 at Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church in Big Lake for Dennis Zinda, 83 of Big Lake who died Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at his home in Big Lake. Fr. Michael Kellogg will officiate and burial will be at Calvary Cemetery in Anoka. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. on Monday at the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Big Lake and one hour prior to services on Tuesday at the church in Big Lake.

Dennis was born on October 9, 1941 in Holloway, MN to Michael & Irene Amalia (Steen) Zinda. He married Jane Dunlavy on February 23, 1963 in Lilly, SD. The couple lived in Minneapolis after their marriage and later lived in Ramsey for 30 some years and in their home in Big Lake for 20 years. Dennis worked as a

salesman for many years. He was a great mechanic and was able to fix almost anything. He was a jack of all trades and a master of none.

He loved to fish and hunt and hang out with his hunting buddies at the hunting Shak. He loved his family and adored his grandchildren. He loved to spoil them as they were his world.

He is survived by his wife Jane of Big Lake; children, Dawn (John) Zinda-Valente of St. Louis Park; Kurt (Jeni) Zinda of Braham; Danielle (David Allen) Litz of Maple Plain; sister and brother, Beverly Risacher of Albertville; Joel (Mary) Zinda of Sun City, AZ; 12 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and special longtime friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers and sister, Gary Zinda, Mark Zinda and Kathie Christians.

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Highway 10 Elk River, MN 55330 or by email to
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Palmer gauges allowing use of township roads for NRP

By Katie Cantin, Contributing Writer

During their recent meeting, the Palmer Town Board discussed the Northland Reliability Project. Northland Reliability would like to use some township roads for their power lines. The supervisors discussed their efforts in working with Northland Reliability so far, including some frustrations. They said they would come up with some fee if the project wished to use township roads so the township would receive compensation, if the project were to continue in this direction.

Sheriff's Repo t

Sgt. Zawacki gave the report for the sheriff's department for the month. He noted an unusually slow month, with only 65 calls for service (there were 92 calls last year). Traffic stops and security checks were way down. There were however five fraud calls, but fortunately no one lost any money.

A resident asked about what age kids have to be to drive ATVs and golf carts around without parental supervision. There was no clear answer as to an age limit, but it was noted that golf carts are not allowed on township roads. Zawacki said anyone with concerns should call the sheriff's department immediately so an officer can investigate and give warnings to the kids and the parents. If needed, Zawacki said he would direct officers to crack down on these calls more.

"If it seems out of sorts, call us," Zawacki urged the audience.

Roads Repo t

Supervisor Stephen Demeules noted they were having a difficult time finding tar for the road projects, as well as working around schedules.

Supervisor Michael Ganz said mowing was completed before the forth.

Road signs finally arrived after a long delay. The supervisors talked about setting up a budget for replacing signs annually, since a lot of them are becoming worn out.

Ganz said the board couldn't tell residents to remove dead trees, but it

has become a problem with them falling on the township roads that the township then has to clean up. Supervisor Demeules said they were considering starting to send out bills for cleanup if the issue didn't improve.

Fire Department

Demeules said the fire board was discussing the budget for next year, and it seems that the township portion of the fire budget will increase by about 16% next year in order to increase firefighter wages.

Fire Chief Ron Koren reported 32 calls for service last month, which was a busy month.

Parks Repo t

There has been high attendance at the park baseball games. Pickleball courts are completely finished and in use, though some people complained that their balls would run under the gate, and the board discussed a couple of solutions.

Two dead trees were taken down and the wood was donated to a local veterinarian.

A bill was sent out to the families of the kids who vandalized the park last month, but nothing had been heard back yet.

Lake Repo t

TLID reported finalizing details for the annual membership/budget meeting. The members who show up to the meeting will be able to vote on their tax assessment for the next year. The alum treatment has been delayed, so it will not have an impact on the budget next year. The carp treatment is moving forward slowly, and should be starting in August.

Open Forum

One resident raised concerns over the food waste dumpster, saying it stinks and attracts pests and is a nuisance to customers of local businesses and pedestrians walking by.

Ganz replied that they were trying to play ball with the county and help them out, and many people have signed up to use it.

The first week it was up, the county did forget to dump it, but since then it has been dumped weekly.

After some discussion, the board noted the comments as heard.







Teddy Bear Clinic held at Clearwater Library

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

Stethoscopes and stuffed animals were in abundance at the Clearwater Library earlier this month during Wright Co. Public Health's 'Teddy Bear Clinic' program. Kids were invited to bring their favorite teddy bear or other stuffed animal to the Clearwater Library and participate in the county's Teddy Bear Clinic. The event kicked off with a story about the Berenstain Bears going to the doctor. The kids were then invited to give their teddy bears a 'checkup' and participate in learning activities. They were even given a check off list to make sure they gave their bears complete checkups. "This walks kids through what an average doctor appointment looks like," said Wright Co. Public Health's Tina Prior. "That way they're more comfortable when they actually go to the doctor." Teddy Bears were provided to everyone, which were then used to try out medical equipment used in a checkup, such as stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, and Band-Aids. The event was through the county's WOW van, promoting health through vaccinations and checkups.



ZIBA J. LISTENS FOR HER BEAR'S HEARTBEAT during the Teddy Bear Clinic at the Clearwater Library. INSET: TARA L. HELPS HER GRANDDAUGHTER Ivory L. check her bear's blood pressure (Patriot Photos by Penny Leuthard)

Join the DNR at the Minnesota State Fair

Submitted Article

The Minnesota State Fair is coming to St. Paul, August 21 - September 1, and the Minnesota DNR is seeking people to be a part of it! Volunteers receive free admission tickets to the fair for each day one volunteers for at least three hours with the DNR.



Parking and meals are one's responsibility. All volunteers must pass a criminal background check and safety quiz. Open volunteer positions with sign up by August 10. Volunteer positions include:

- Wildlife Wing Interpreter;
 - Accessibility Exhibit Attendant;
 - Accessibility Exhibit Hunting Blind;
 - Invasive Species Display;
 - Greeters and Rovers;
 - Wildfire Prevention Volunteer.
- For more information, go to: www.dnr.state.mn.us/volunteering/statefair.html.

Stearns History Museum hosts WWII weekend

Submitted Article

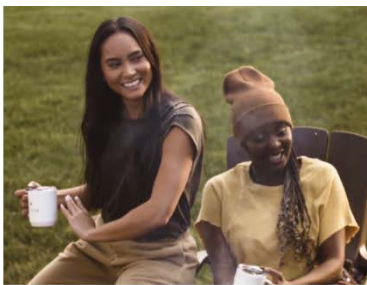
The Stearns History Museum will host the 6th annual At War & At Home: The World War II Experience living history weekend Saturday July 12 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday July 13 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. For the first time, this event is FREE for all!

Step back to the 1940s as the museum grounds come to life with reenactors, historic vehicles, home front displays, weapons demos, fashion, a military recruitment obstacle course for kids, and so much more. Test your WWII knowledge in their annual trivia contest at 1 p.m. Watch historic weapons demonstrations at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. See a working field kitchen and chat with reenactors representing allied forces in all theaters. See military vehicles including Jeeps, weapons carriers, and bulldozers. Chat with local author Gerry Feld about his historical fiction books. See WWII era models in the museum lobby. And stop by the temporary tattoo parlor outside to get some 1940s style ink!

This year, the theme for the event is women in WWII. Lunch will be available for purchase from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. each day with brats and hotdogs from St. Joseph Meat Market, buns from Cold Spring Bakery, pop and water from Bernick's and bags of chips.

This event is sponsored by American Legion Post 560, Central MN Noon Optimists, Chuck Goebel, ColdSpring, DKG, Evenson Decker, PA, Falcon National Bank, Dorrie & Scott Larson, Magnifi Financial, New Munich Lions Club, St. Joseph Knights of Columbus, VFW Granite Post 428, and VFW Post 6992.

Questions should be directed to Caitlin Carlson, Program Director, at ccarlson@stearns-museum.org or by calling 320-253-8424.



Area/Sports News

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BL Legion splits 2 games

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake American Legion Baseball team won a game and lost one over the past week.

Vs. Milaca

Last Monday, Dreeson Millam pitched a three-hitter and Big Lake put together just enough offense to beat Milaca, 3-1 on the road.

Millam had a leadoff walk to start the game, then went to second on an error. One out later, Caleb Martin's infield hit sent Millam to third. He scored on a wild pitch for a 1-0 lead.

Big Lake increased its lead in the fourth. After consecutive walks to Mason Spoden, Connor Lundquist and Dillon Spaeth, William Bilben's grounder to second couldn't be handled, allowing Spoden to score.

In the fifth, Millam walked and advanced to second on a passed ball. He moved to third on a ground-out and scored on a single

by Martin for a 3-0 lead.

Milaca got its only run in the bottom of the fifth on an error, two stolen bases and a single.

Millam pitched a complete game (five innings). He allowed one unearned run, three hits, no walks and struck out seven.

Martin had two hits and had the only RBI for Big Lake. Millam walked twice and scored two runs. Spoden walked twice and scored the other run for Big Lake. Spaeth and Dawson Veldhuizen had Big Lake's other two hits.

Vs. Saints

Last Tuesday, Big Lake played one of its wildest games and came up short against St. Francis, 16-15.

Even with a total of 31 runs, it wasn't really a slugfest. There were 11 errors in the game and a total of 27 walks. Another seven batters were hit by a pitch.

St. Francis jumped out to a quick lead with two runs in the first and four more in the second off

starter Lundquist.

Big Lake got two runs back in the third when Millam and Martin each walked and later scored.

St. Francis added a run in the fourth off reliever Martin, then got three more in the fifth off Kaeden Tidrick in relief for a 10-2 lead.

But Big Lake put together a huge two-out rally in the home fifth, scoring nine runs on a single, two doubles and a triple, two walks, two hit batters and three errors to take an 11-10 lead.

The lead didn't last long. St. Francis scored five more runs in the sixth off two Big Lake pitchers to go on top, 15-11.

Big Lake came back again to make it close in the home sixth. Jackson LaRoche walked and scored on a double by Spaeth. Tyrone Fjone walked one out later and both runners scored on an overthrow to make the score 15-14.

After Brendan Goedker came in to pitch in the

seventh and allowed a run, Big Lake tried to fight back again. Lundquist was hit by a pitch, then stole second and scored on a single by Spaeth. But that was all Big Lake could get and the game ended at 16-15.

Big Lake pitchers (five total) allowed 16 runs (10 earned) on six hits and 17 walks. They hit three batters and struck out four.

At the plate, Goedker had a single, triple, a walk, scored a run and drove in three. LaRoche doubled, walked twice, scored two runs and drove in three. Spaeth had two hits, scored twice and drove in two runs. Lundquist walked twice drove in a run and scored two. Martin had a single, a walk, was hit by a pitch twice, drove in a run and scored twice.

Big Lake was scheduled to play Becker and Annandale this past week, results next week.

Playoffs began Thursday and run through July 23, all games at Big Lake.

How to get students excited about a new school year

Submitted Article

A new school year presents a wealth of opportunities for students. At the dawn of a new school year, students have a chance to further their academic careers, student-athletes may be given a shot at making a team or moving up to varsity, and extracurriculars

through school, they're typically exposed to more engaging subjects or challenged in ways that helps them build on previous years' work. Emphasizing new subjects or opportunities can increase kids' excitement to get back in the school year swing of things. If a youngster likes playing an instrument, em-



provide a chance for personal growth outside the classroom.

Despite all that a new school year represents, students may need a little extra motivation to get excited about going back to campus once summer winds down. A relaxing and largely obligation-free summer vacation can be tough to give up, as can mornings without alarm clocks. Parents recognize that kids might not be enthusiastic about the return of early mornings and sessions in the classroom. In such instances, parents can try the following strategies to get kids excited about a new school year.

• **Make the first day special.** First days can be challenging regardless of a person's age. Professionals with years of experience in their field still feel first-day jitters when they begin a new job, so youngsters can be excused if what seems like a lack of excitement is really just nervousness about a new school year. Parents can calm those nerves by doing something to make the first day special. Skip the standard cereal and prepare a home-cooked breakfast or let kids buy lunch at the school cafeteria instead of packing a PB&J in their lunchbox. A little something special on the first day can go a long way toward getting kids excited about going back to school.

• **Emphasize new subjects.** As children advance

phasize how the new school year is an opportunity to get better, play alongside other students and take a talent to new heights. If students are old enough to take subjects they've long been interested in, such as a foreign language, make a point to emphasize how that opportunity has finally arrived.

• **Create a school calendar.** Schools typically make their yearly schedules available prior to the first day of school. Parents can peruse those schedules alongside their children and make a calendar noting special days. Mark down field trips, special events involving parents and students, school performances where kids get to act or sing on stage, and other notable moments during the school year. Kids are bound to grow more excited about a new year when they see a year's worth of fun events marked down on a calendar.

• **Host a late summer get-together with friends.** A late-summer pool party or play date with various friends can remind youngsters that they're about to see their friends every day. That might be enough to make young students jump out of bed on the first day of school.

Students might be less than excited about the end of summer vacation and the dawn of a new school year. But there's much parents can do to get kids excited about going back to school.

Benefit planned to aid young mother of 5

Submitted Article

On Sat., August 2, 2025, a benefit will be held for Samantha Dietz and her family at The Third Rail Bar & Grill in Big Lake in effort to raise awareness for Breast Cancer and help relieve the stress of the family's financial burdens.

Organizers are asking for generous donations in the form of money, gift cards, or items to be used in prize drawings and a silent auction.

Samantha, a mom and bonus mom to five amazing kids (Kaelyn

(18), Alex (16), Carlie (13), Vanessa (12) and Penelope, "Pippy," (three)), was diagnosed with Stage 3 Breast Cancer earlier this year.

Samantha and her husband, Brian, are hardworking parents that strive to give their five children the best life possible. Kaelyn, Alex, Carlie, Vanessa and Penelope are all involved in recreational activities such as volleyball, basketball, softball and dance. Samantha and Brian are doing their best to keep their kids' lives active while also battling financial hardships that a devastating diagnosis brings.

If one is willing to donate, please contact Danielle Krueger at 763-482-4506 or simply send your prize donation to: Samantha Dietz Benefit, 4330 Sterling Drive, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309.

"Thank you for your time and consideration and would be honored to include you in the list of our generous donors at the August Benefit."

— Samantha Dietz Benefit Committee

Clearwater Estates holds annual ladies tea

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

Clearwater Estates held their annual tea party last month, a fun and relaxing afternoon with 24 ladies and two hostesses dressed in hats, gloves, and afternoon lunching outfits.

Hostesses Susan Paulsen and Gerry Fiereck provided bite-size sandwiches, scones, tarts, and more to enjoy along with the tea.



TWENTY-FOUR ladies attended the annual Clearwater Estates Ladies' Tea Party last month. (Submitted Photo)