

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

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

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The Patriot welcomes letters to the editor. Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill at reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com. Addresses and phone numbers are required for verification purposes. **The deadline for all letters is 11am Wednesday. Limit letters to 200 words or less.** Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor and are subject to editing for grammar, libel and brevity. Two letters per writer per subject each year.

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2025: A Year In Review

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

It's that time of the year again when the *Patriot* re-visits some of the top stories we featured in the 2025 calendar year.

General News

Bodie Moore, a 2021 Becker graduate was promoted to Lance Corporal in the Marines in early January.

G-Will Liquors completed their upgrades and

renovations and reopened their store in December of 2024.

Tayla List of Becker annually celebrates her own birthday in January by performing random acts of kindness or charity and last year she and her family committed to create 24 care packages but instead created 48 grief care packages for families and patients at Mayo Hospital's palliative care unit.

NATCOM Bancshares, Inc., and its wholly-owned



DAWN NYHUS has been appointed SHERburne County Attorney following the retirement of Kathleen Heaney. (Submitted Photo).

subsidiary, National Bank of Commerce (collectively "NBC"), announced the completion of their acquisition of Great River Holding Company and its wholly-owned subsidiary, RiverWood Bank in February.

Thirty-one-year-old Becker Teacher, Amanda Nieman of Milaca died in a crash in Benton County March 5.

The Sherburne County Board of Commissioners in late April appointed Dawn Nyhus as County Attorney to replace Kathleen Heaney, who retired April 30 after more than 30 years with Sherburne County.

Nearly 2,500 sheep flooded the grounds of Xcel

Energy's Sherco Solar 1 site in Clear Lake, MN in early June, to graze on native, pollinator-friendly forage. Vegetation management is a necessity for any



MATTHEW "WALKER" ANDERSON had his case dropped by Sherburne County following a supreme court ruling in another similar case. (Archive Patriot Photo).

solar installation, so that operators on site can access the equipment for inspections and maintenance.

Stethoscopes and stuffed animals were in abundance at the Clearwater Library last July during Wright Co. Public Health's 'Teddy Bear Clinic' program.

In mid-August, the Sherburne County Attorney's Office filed court papers to dismiss their case against Matthew Walker Anderson, a Minnesota gun owner who was facing multiple felony charges for possessing firearms that did not have serial numbers.

Minnesota Alliance With Youth announced in September that Rebecca Anderson of Big Lake was selected to serve on the Minnesota Youth Council.

Nathan Soltau, a

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BECKER POLICE LIEUTENANT CHRIS LINDBLOOM was recently hired by the City of Becker to serve as Police Chief. (Patriot Archive Photo by Bill Morgan).

Productive year for Sherburne County

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

2025 was a busy year for the Sherburne County Commissioners.

The board started the year by electing Commissioner Gary Gray as Board Chair and Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski as Vice-Chair. They also served in the same positions for the Regional Rail Authority and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

Ha singf week

A few weeks into the new year, the county passed an ordinance establishing a Housing Trust Fund in Sherburne County, and in mid-year, the board approved the establishment of a Housing Trust Fund Homeowner Rehabilitation Loan Program. The fund will provide loans and grants to property owners, homeowners, local units of government, for-profit housing developers and non-profit housing developers.

Hwy 169 Interchange

The biggest road project in county history continued to get a big part of the county's attention in 2025. In March, the board approved an Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) agreement for the Hwy. 169 Co. Rd. 4 Interchange in Zimmerman. The county was fortunate to receive an award of \$24,732,000 for the proposed project.

Along the way, the board approved two separate amendments for wetland mitigation totalling \$6300 - all funded by non-levy dollars.

Cannabis

Throughout the year, the board approved joint powers agreements with a number of jurisdictions related for the enforcement and regulation of cannabis retail business registration. Any fees or penalties collected for retail registration and enforcement will remain entirely with the county.

Heaney Retirement

April saw the end of an era for the county when Kathleen Heaney retired after a distinguished career of more than 30 years of serving Sherburne County, including 22 years as county attorney. The board approved a proclamation declaring April 9, 2025 as Kathleen Heaney Day.

Notable Recognition

Other county people were recognized by the board in 2025. In May, the board approved designating a segment of Co. Rd. 43 from Hwy. 10 to the Elk River in honor/memory of 1st Lt. Orville Anderson. A native of Big Lake, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and graduated from Army Air Corp basic and advanced pilot training, as well as night fighter school. He was killed in action in the early morning hours of April 14, 1945 while conducting a combat patrol on his 9th mission.

The board recognized and honored Richard Rauenhorst for his exemplary service during the

Vietnam conflict.

The Army originally presented the Bronze Star Medal to the veteran in 1971. That medal was later lost. Veterans Services was able to obtain a replacement Bronze Star Medal from the National Archives. He was presented with the medal by the county in September.

The board recognized the Golly Family of Clear Lake as the 2025 Farm Family of the Year in December.

Kiel Golly grew up farming alongside his dad, John on land first established by his parents, John and Lynette, in 1979. Kiel now manages about 1,700 acres, raising corn, soybeans and rye seeds.

The farm was recently certified under the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Program, highlighting their commitment to

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NORTHSTAR LINE RECEIVES A FOND FAREWELL

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

There were no brass bands or speeches given by local officials, no pomp or circumstance to mark the passing of the Minnesota Northstar line on Sunday, January 4, 2026. Instead, only devotees and rail enthusiasts were on-hand to document the final stop at the Big Lake Station of the Northstar train.

Rail Enthusiasts

They came from Mahtomedi, Cambridge, East Bethel, Eagan, Crystal, Brooklyn Park, and Elk River to photograph the train as it pulled into the station. All of them were both excited and sad, but fully aware that something was coming to an end.

Big Lake Resident Jordan Domka remembered his first train ride on the Northstar in 2012. He was four years old at the time and recalls how much fun it was. That was the beginning of his love of trains. He has ridden on the Northstar many times since then.

"It's going to be so weird to not be able to ride on it. The crew are such great people. It's going to be sad to see it go," said Domka.

A Time to Remember

First came the lights that could be seen from the train as it began to approach the station, then the whistle. The rail enthusiasts lined up behind their cameras and got ready. Then the bell rang over the intercom system, and at 4:37pm, the Northstar stopped to let out



THE NORTHSTAR TRAIN pulled into the Big Lake station for the last time. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

its final passengers.

Many were dressed in Vikings and Packers gear after attending the game, which ended at 2:45 p.m.

with a Vikings victory. Passengers then loaded the train at Target Field at 3:45 pm and arrived at Big Lake, on time. They

stopped to take selfies and bid farewell to the men and

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ALS

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10,000 Quirks

Minnesota, often celebrated for its lakes and “Minnesota Nice,” has, in recent years, taken a wild detour into the bizarre.

Are we a laughingstock in the eyes of the nation? Do we compare to the disgrace associated with the likes of Chicago’s crime and California’s homelessness?

Maybe, maybe not but for sure our state is associated with some quirky, contradictory, and unusually dramatic circumstances.

Minnesota is a place where biting winters freeze your eyelashes shut, yet it’s easy to find some residents still opting for shorts in subzero temperatures. Politically, the state is a high-speed pendulum—flipping between progressive policies and libertarian experiments faster than fish houses popping up on a frozen, Midwestern lake. Minneapolis, a cultural and economic hub, now juggles ambitious public safety reforms, raging housing battles, and sports teams that break hearts like clockwork.

Meanwhile, local debates rage over gun control, TDS, immigration, DEI and whether daylight saving time should even be a thing. The people? Well that’s a paradox. We are stoic yet passionate. Friendly but stubborn. Weather-obsessed (OMG) yet proud of surviving it. Minnesota is a state where Paul Bunyan, Bud Grant and Jerry Lundegard might still win write-in votes. You’re just as likely to find a corn dog booth in someone’s backyard as you are a live Prince or Bob Dylan tribute show in a bar basement.

Call it eccentric, call it intense, but Minnesota exists in its own weather-beaten, snow-drifted,



By Bill Morgan,
Editor

emotionally charged universe.

So why do I live here? Why not get the hell out and get away from the dysfunctional and embarrassing puffery? Because for all the abnormality or impairment, this state has qualities worth not abandoning, we just need to look at the qualities that make up this state’s character. The lakes, the cabin culture — the cliffs, waterfalls, and scenic drives of the North Shore all make Minnesota a treasure if we look at it objectively. We have cultural hubs for art, music, and theater, a huge mall in Bloomington, Juicy Lucy’s, Tater-Tot Hot-dish, lefse, lutefisk and fishing holes for walleye.

Now, if we could just get a couple of our sports teams to bring the magic of a world championship, we’d be a perfect place to live.

Oh and mountains. If only we had mountains this state would be a jewel.

So my advice is to look past the lunacy associated with outsider’s perception of us and keep the treasures of this state close to heart. I, personally wouldn’t want to be anywhere else. That’s just part of the lunate charm of the Land of 10,000 idiosyncrasies.

A Season of Goal-Setting

As we turn the calendar to 2026, Becker Public Schools is embracing what this time of year represents: a fresh start, renewed focus, and continued momentum. Even as winter settles in, our classrooms and activities are anything but quiet. Students are learning new skills, taking on new challenges, and discovering opportunities that connect to their interests in meaningful, personal ways.

We are now about four weeks into the second trimester and we have used the winter break as a natural checkpoint to reflect on where we’ve been and where we are going. We remain grounded in what has always mattered most: steady routines, high expectations, and strong relationships. These fundamentals help sustain our success, while we also continue to innovate and prepare students to be self-directed learners who thrive in a changing global community.

Our mission is more than a statement, it shows up every day in how students take ownership of their learning, how staff design engaging instruction, and how we build responsibility, curiosity, and resilience. Our vision—Inspiring the Future, Imagining Possibilities, Discovering Potential—is alive across our schools. We see it when students solve problems, engage in creative work, and demonstrate academic growth in classrooms throughout the



By Supt.
Jeremy Schmidt

district.

We are proud of how strongly this school year has begun. Our staff and students set the tone early with hard work and a commitment to excellence inside and outside the classroom. We are ready for the challenges and successes the next five months will bring, and we remain committed to clear, consistent communication with our families, staff, and community stakeholders. That partnership strengthens our schools and the shared values that support student success.

In this season of goal setting, I encourage every student and family to set a goal and take one actionable step toward it each week. Small, repeated steps create big outcomes. To stay connected and learn more about our schools, programs, and upcoming events, please visit our district website at www.becker.k12.mn.us and/or connect with your child’s school.



OBITUARIES

Kathleen A. Ross, 80 Clearwater, MN October 13, 1945 - December 14, 2025

Kathleen Ann Ross was born on October 13, 1945, in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Donald and Rose (Trad) Flaherty.

Kathleen was baptized as an infant on November 28, 1945, and later confirmed in her faith as a youth on May 27 196. She received her education in St. Paul, and was a graduate of the Archbishop Murray High School class of 1963.

Kathleen was united in marriage to Timothy “Tim” Scully on January 15, 1966 at St. Jude of the Lake Catholic Church in Mahtomedi, Minnesota. They were blessed with three children, Shannon Marie, Kevin Patrick, and Erin Kathleen.

On September 28, 1985, Kathleen was united in marriage to James “Jim” Ross, gaining six stepchildren. Kathleen and Jim resided in Maple Grove, Minnesota, Germantown, Tennessee, and later settled in Clearwater, Minnesota. They shared 29 years of marriage until Jim passed away on September 15, 2014.

Kathleen was employed in various customer service roles throughout her working career.

Kathleen enjoyed golfing, fishing, playing cards, bowling, and country music. Later in life, outings to the theater, lunches with friends, and time spent with family brought her

joy.

Kathleen passed away on Sunday, December 14, 2025, in Hutchinson, Minnesota, at the age of 80 years.

Blessed be her memory.

Kathleen is survived by her: Children, Shannon (Jim) Lyons, Kevin Scully; Stepchildren, Matt (Alex) Ross, Stan (Danette) Ross, Terri (Gary) Reece, Andy Ross, Gena Rademacher, Will Ross; Grandchildren, Kaitlyn Lyons, Alexandra Lyons, Daniel (Molly) Lyons, Patrick Lyons, Sharrmane (Jordan) WazWaz, Anthony Scully, Sean Scully, Destiny Ali-Scully;

Many other relatives and friends.

Kathleen is preceded in death by her Parents, Donald and Rose Flaherty; Husband, James Ross; Daughter, Erin Scully; Siblings, Richard Flaherty, Patricia Harrison, Roland Flaherty.

Memorial Service will be Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, 11 a.m., at Clearwater Estates in Clearwater, with interment at a later date in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls, Minnesota.

Gathering of Family and Friends will be one hour prior to the service at Clearwater Estates.

John Richard Jones, 87 Buffalo, MN(formerly of Big Lake) March 19, 1938 - December 31, 2025

John Richard Jones, age 87 of Buffalo, and formerly of Big Lake, passed away Wednesday, December 31, 2025. He was born in Augusta, WI on March 1919

John graduated in 1956 from Augusta High School. He worked at a foundry in Virginia, before spending 30 years working at Ford Motors in St. Paul until his retirement. After retirement, John and Joan enjoyed traveling together, wintering in Texas, and living in Arizona until moving back to Minnesota.

On December 20, 1958, John Jones and Joan Bruesewitz were united in marriage in Fall Creek, WI. They enjoyed 67 years of marriage, making everlasting memories together.

John was a tech savvy individual who enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, and especially loved his grandchildren and spending time with his family and friends. He was extremely caring and enjoyed telling a joke or two, always making others laugh.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Homer and Mar-

garet Jones; siblings, Merton Jones, Barbara Tollefson, Kenneth Jones, Marlene Gulbranson, Mary Skerjance, Sandra Jarvela, Shirley Thiel, Carol Orehak, Michael Jones; and great-grandson, Calvin Steen.

John is survived by his loving wife, Joan Jones; children, Brian (Elizabeth) Jones, Susan (Roger) Steen, Cheryl (Richard) Steen; grandchildren, Brandon Steen, Jennifer Steen, Andrew Steen, John Steen, Nicholas Jones, Ian Jones; great-grandchildren, Lilly Steen, Judy Steen, Joanna Steen, Finley Miller, Henry Miller; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Funeral services were held Wed., Jan. 7 2026 at 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior, at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street S, Big Lake, MN. Burial following at Big Lake Cemetery, Big Lake, MN.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Peterson-Grimsmo Funeral Chapel of Monticello, MN. 763-295-2918. www.peterson-grims-mochaplc.com.

Conrad Terry Fleming, 76 Big Lake, MN May 23, 1949 - December 20, 2025

Terry Fleming, 76, died peacefully on December 20, 2025 at North Memorial Hospital with his family by his side.

Terry was born in Parkersburg, WV on May 23, 1949. He graduated from St Mary’s High School and joined the Air Force in 1968. He resided in Minnesota (Duluth, Elk River and Big Lake) most of his adult life.

Terry was preceded in death by his parents Friend and

Grace Fleming, his brother Ronald and nephew Brian.

Survived by his children, Tia (Kent) Graves of Elk River, MN and Troy Fleming of Duluth, MN; grandchildren, Tyler and Lyndsey Graves, Noah and Cameron Fleming; sister, Diana (Steve) Danielson and family of Belmont, WV and a host of extended family.

A memorial service will be held in Belmont, WV at a later date.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the Christmas Eve dinner at the Becker American Legion such a meaningful and memorable gathering. First, my sincere appreciation goes to Mayor Mark Kolbinger and his wife, Kelly, for their generosity, energy, and willingness to step in wherever help was needed. I am equally grateful to my wife, Helen Swanson, and my brother, Tim Swanson, whose hard work and steady support made the evening run smoothly from start to finish. A special thank-you also goes to Shane at Bill’s Food for his generous donation, as well as to Representative Shane Mekeland for contributing to the event and supporting our community in such a tangible way. Most importantly, thank you to the more than 50 people who joined us. Your presence is what truly made the evening special. Sharing a meal, conversation, and holiday spirit with neighbors and friends is what community is all about, and I am grateful to everyone who came out to be part of it. Events like this remind us how fortunate we are to live in a place where people show up for one another (#BeTheOne). Thank you again to all who helped and all who attended. Sincerely,
Mark Swanson
1st Vice Commander
American Legion
“Oscar Peterson”
Minnesota Post 0193

TO THE EDITOR:

To Representative Mekeland, I’ve been waiting for your response to the despicable “Truth Social” repost by President Trump, of a video alleging that Governor Walz directed Vance Boelter to assassinate the Hortmans last year. This video, which claims the killings were retaliation for Representative Hortman voting with Republicans to repeal the health care eligibility of undocumented immigrants, is a baseless and dangerous lie. As was proved in the investigation, Boelter was a right-wing extremist who had no ties to the Governor beyond being part of a 2019 bipartisan commission routinely appointed by the Governor’s office. It’s disturbing that this piece of information has been twisted in such a way as to stoke the kind of dangerous on-line rhetoric that is then promoted by the President of the United States. Representative Mekeland, surely you knew Melissa Hortman and the significance of the action she took to prevent a government shutdown. A statement from you would go a long way to bring down the temperature and help our state legislature get back to actually working together to help the people of Minnesota.

Debbie Russell
Lawyer Turned Writer
Clear Lake, MN

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stewardship. John and Lynette remain involved as the original founders and partners, while Kiel’s wife, Malorie, and their kids, Brielle, Lincoln and Brooks, support wherever they are needed.

The board was introduced to one of its newest employees in June, Peach, a therapy dog in training.

HHS

In May, the board helped expand the HHS service area further west by approving a one-year lease between the City of St. Cloud and Sherburne County for satellite space at the 1010 Building in Southeast St. Cloud. HHS plans to conduct financial assistance interviews, do WIC appointments and other client-related services at the site.

Fairgrounds

The board also approved a three-year lease with the Sherburne County Agricultural Society for leased space on the Sherburne County Fairgrounds, effective June 1, 2025, through May 31, 2028. The lease includes several performance expectations that will help the county determine how things will work going forward.

Electric Vehicles

In July, the board approved two agreements with MnDOT for electric vehicle charging stations and the purchase of electric vehicles.

The county was successful in securing \$42,222.32 in grant dollars from the Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Funding to install charging stations on the Government Center site. The county was also granted \$200,000 to cover part of the cost for electric vehicles.

Interchange Project Award

In August, after years of planning, grant applications and multiple agreement modifications, the board awarded the contract for the Hwy. 169

& Co. Rd. 4 Interchange Project to Ames Construction at \$44,390,384.85. The project is expected to be substantially completed by the end of 2026.

Parks

The county continued its commitment to improve the county park system. The board approved a professional services contract with Natural Resource Services, Inc. for habitat restoration and enhancement work at Two Inlets at Bdé Heháka - Omashkooz Zaaga’igaans Regional Park and Island View Park at a cost of \$274,238.24, which will be reimbursed to the county from Clean Water Land and Legacy Funding.

The board also accepted an Outdoor Recreation Grant Award of \$191,814 for park improvements at Oak Savanna Park in Becker.

Commuter Bus

The board approved a two-year commuter bus pilot program beginning in 2026. The bus will serve county commuters as the NorthStar Commuter train ends operations Jan. 2. Estimated cost of three round trips from Big Lake to Elk River to Minneapolis is \$487,000 per year.

Budget/Levy

In the final meeting of the year, the board set the 2026 budget at \$139,677,354 and set the levy in the amount of \$66,842,287. This represents a 6.49% increase from the 2025 levy.

Administrator Bruce Messelt said a significant amount of the increase, nearly \$900,00, is due to cost shifts from the state to the county. That amounts to about 1.4% of the increase. The state has also deferred another \$1.6 million in cost shifts into future years.



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BECKER'S BLAST 12U NAVY TEAM won the 12U Monsta National Tournament this past weekend. 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).



ROBOTICS JUNKIE LONDON JUREK celebrated his team's State Title, as well as his All-State robotics award. (Submitted Photo).

former employees of the City of Clear Lake defrauded the city of over \$200,000 from late 2022 through 2023. The former employees were: Kari Koren (former clerk), Chad Koren (retired firefighter) and Dustin Luhning (former public works director).

Sports News

Becker's varsity robotics team, FRC 4607 - The Coalition of Independent Students won the state title back in May. This victory marked Becker's fourth overall state title and an impressive back-to-back championship streak, having previously won in 2013, 2022, 2024, and now 2025.

Jose Acuna, a senior wide receiver and linebacker on the Big Lake football team, was selected by the Minnesota Vikings as their male nominee for the 2024 NFL Latino Youth Honors program in January. Acuna was one of just 64 students in the entire country to have been selected.

The Becker dance team traveled to Target Center last February to compete at their fourth consecutive state dance tournament. The team took 10th in jazz on Friday and eighth in kick on Saturday despite dancing with nearly one third of the team being first-year dancers.

Becker soccer player Asher Olson was informed

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in March he was selected to participate on the US Youth Soccer 2008 (birth year) National Select Team, which competed last summer in Italy.

Troy Robinson, Becker Football assistant coach, was presented with the Butch Nash Award at this year's Minnesota Football Coaches Awards banquet in April.

Baseball, food, fun, and community spirit was front and center on May 13, as Big Lake hosted its 4th Annual Baseball Youth Night at the Field.

The Hornets girls flag football team had their season end in the opening round of the playoffs during their inaugural season in Minnesota in June. The team was plagued by turnovers in a 31-25 loss to Sartell.

The Big Lake Chamber of Commerce held their 7th Annual BLCC Golf tournament on July 10 at Pebble Creek in Becker.

Becker Blast 12U Navy team won the 12U Monsta National Tournament this in August.

The 15th annual Haitian Hustle took place in Becker last September, and while the skies opened up just as the race began, runners and walkers still splashed their way through the streets — and raised a record-breaking \$21,000 for students in Haiti.

The Pebble Creek Women's Club officially ended the 2025 season at their October Fall Banquet where final champions were announced and a newly elected Board of Directors was elected.

Kenna Hennessey hit a milestone on September 25 at Becker's volleyball game by officially reaching 1,000 career digs!

Lupulin Brewing in Big Lake was filled with Vikings fans last December who were present not only to watch the Vikings play the Seattle Seahawks, but also to support Skol for Skolarships, a fund-raising event to help raise money for Minnesota youth athletes. During the event, Lupulin donated \$1 from every pour to Sportsline Photography's "Share Your Favorite Sports Memory" youth scholarship program.

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ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-650-5916. (mcn)

HOME SERVICES Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-833-816-2128. (mcn)

WATER & FIRE DAMAGE RESTORATION. Our trusted professionals will restore your home to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1480. Mold Remediation services are also available! (mcn)

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qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-228-5789 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (mcn)

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REAL ESTATE WE BUY HOUSES for Cash AS-IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-888-715-0513. (mcn)

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NORTHSTAR
from page 1



CONDUCTOR DON SLAUGHTER and Engineer Todd Lippman. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)



RAIL ENTHUSIASTS ready their cameras for the train to pull in. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)



FELLOW CREW AND PASSENGERS say goodbye to Engineer Todd Lippman. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

work with a workgroup like we do, in and out, day after day, rain, sun, sleet, or snow, you get to know people, and they get to be a part of your life, and you become a part of theirs."

On Sunday, Jan. 4, 2026, everyone seemed to take a moment to say goodbye and reflect on the end of the Northstar rail line.

Ganz spears massive Northern on Briggs



LIFELONG PALMER RESIDENT MIKE GANZ speared a monstrous Northern (42-1/8" • 20.2 lbs.) on Briggs Lake this past weekend. It is the biggest fish Ganz has ever caught on Briggs Lake. Ganz started fishing the Palmer chain of lakes as a child over 50 years ago. He even sold angle worms to people on the Palmer lakes as a child. Ganz refers to himself as a Palmer Dandelion (a nuisance with deep roots) (Submitted Photo).

Doering receives public service award

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

Community member Mark Doering was presented a public service award by Clearwater Mayor Andrea Lawrence in December.

Doering received the award for assisting law enforcement in 2025.



CLEARWATER MAYOR ANDREA LAWRENCE presents Mark Doering with a public service award. (Submitted Photo)

Area News

EMPLOYMENT



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QUESTIONS? CONTACT ANGELA OSWALD @ 763-261-4502, OPTION 3



Looking for a Great Place to Work?

Your **Community Development** department is in search of a full-time team member!

Community Development Coordinator Position
The City of Big Lake is seeking a dynamic and outgoing individual that will play a critical role in supporting planning, land use, and economic development activities that shape the City's growth and quality of life. This position plays a key role in development review, public engagement, and coordination with residents, developers, and elected officials. This is an exempt professional-level position for someone who is organized, analytical, and comfortable working with both technical planning issues and the public. Work is performed under the general supervision of the Community Development Director.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, Public Administration, Geography, or a closely related field.
- One (1) year of experience in municipal planning, community development, or public administration preferred
- An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary based on experience
- Insurance, including Health, Dental, Life, disability insurances
- State Retirement plan
- Paid time off (vacation, sick leave, and holidays)
- Ongoing training and professional development opportunities

Pay rate is \$71,441.57 to \$90,500.04 Annually depending on qualifications

Application deadline is Thursday February 05, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Applications are available at Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St N, or on-line at www.biglakemn.org. Please submit completed application form, cover letter, and resume to:
City of Big Lake
Community Development Coordinator
160 Lake St N
Big Lake Mn 55308
dwegeleben@biglakemn.org
Please reach out to Deb, at 763-251-2974 or you can email Deb at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org for more information.
EEOC. Posted January 5, 2026



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Looking for a Great Place to Work?

Your **Engineering** department is in search of a full-time team member!

Engineering Technician position.
The City of Big Lake is seeking a dynamic and outgoing individual that will plays a critical role in maintaining and improving the infrastructure that keeps cities functioning smoothly, contributing to the quality of life for city residents. This position provides skilled technical support to the city engineer, city planners, and public works departments in designing, constructing, and maintaining municipal infrastructure projects. This role involves assisting in project planning, field surveys, drafting, and inspecting construction sites to ensure projects meet standards, specifications and regulations. Work is performed under the direction of the City Engineer with limited supervision.

Qualifications:

- Associates/Technical degree with Civil Engineering Technology or related field.
- Ability to demonstrate excellent communication, interpersonal, and teambuilding skills.

Benefits:

- Competitive salary based on experience
- Insurance, including Health, Dental, Life, disability insurances
- State Retirement plan
- Paid time off (vacation, sick leave, and holidays)
- Ongoing training and professional development opportunities

Pay rate is \$30.57 to \$38.73 per hour depending on qualifications

Application deadline is Thursday February 05, 2026, at 5:00 pm. Applications are available at Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St N, or on-line at www.biglakemn.org. Please submit completed application form, cover letter, and resume to:
City of Big Lake
Engineering Technician position
160 Lake St N
Big Lake Mn 55308
dwegeleben@biglakemn.org
Please reach out to Deb, at 763-251-2974 or you can email Deb at dwegeleben@biglakemn.org for more information.
EEOC. Posted January 5, 2026

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- ELDER LAW
- BUSINESS PLANNING
- COMMERCIAL LAW
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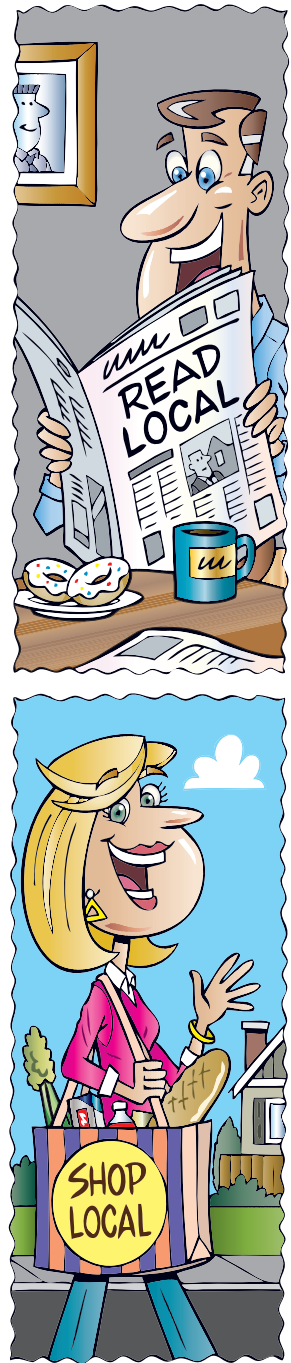


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Snap Fitness, Big Lake holds Grand Reopening!



CHRIS AND HEATHER PRICE hosted a Grand Re-Opening of their Snap Fitness business in Big Lake last month. (Submitted Photo).

Submitted Article

The public was invited last month to join the owners and management of the Big Lake Snap Fitness store on Dec. 16 as they celebrated their Grand Reopening. The event featured a reveal of their refreshed and revamped space designed to help visitors and members feel their best.

The following is a capsule of what members and potential members can look forward to:

- Special referral offers for members – bring one's friends and score exclusive perks;
- Special offers for prospective members – the per-

fect time to join;

- Free fitness assessments to help one set goals and track progress;
- Gym tours and equipment demonstrations so one can see what's new;
- Meet other local businesses and connect with one's community;
- Raffles and drawings throughout the event.

Whether one is a current member, a former member, or checking Snap Fitness out for the first time, management and staff presented a perfect opportunity for the public to see what's new, meet the team, and jump-start one's fitness journey.

Refuge Rangers celebrate New Years

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was written by story written by Asha Kanable (ag 11) on behalf of the Refug Rangers)
Happy New Year from the Refuge Rangers 4-H club!

We wrapped up 2025 raising over \$1,000 bagging groceries at Monticello Cub Foods, learning about homing pigeons and celebrating with a fun Christmas party

for our final meeting of the year. At the party, we had four stations including, a timed cup stack, card making, the Oreo Game — which involved getting the oreo from your forehead into your mouth the fastest — and a string candy cane game.

After the stations, we played left-right for a gift exchange. We made the cards to give to police officers and people in the nursing homes as our service

project.

If these activities sound fun, it is the perfect time to join 4-H with plenty of time before the fair to get projects done and be included in our 2026 festivities!

CLUB MEMBERS Elsie & Emmie play the candy cane crane game. (Submitted Photo).



PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE # 2026-01 Series AN ORDINANCE REVISING SECTION 2 OF CHAPTER 2

IN CITY CODE PROVIDING FOR FEES RELATED TO LICENSING, ADMINISTRATIVE CITATIONS, MISCELLANEOUS, PROPERTY, UTILITY AND CHARGES FOR SERVICES.

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

Chapter 2, Administration and General Government
Section 2 REVENUE AND FINANCE
Subd. 2. Fees Relating to Licensing, Administrative Citations, Miscellaneous, Property, Utilities and Charges for Services.

- A. Licensing Related Fees
- B. Administrative Citations Fees
- C. Miscellaneous Fees
- D. Property Related Fees
- E. Utility Related Fees
- F. Charges for Services

This ordinance revises the City Fee Schedule in the City of Becker Code Book to remove the Cannabinoid License fee and add the Cannabis Registration Fee in accordance with state statute, re-structure the administrative citations fees so all code violations will fall under the same fee schedule rather than list each violation with the exception that flat fee no matter the number of violations has not changed, clarify language for vehicle impound release fee, increase TIF application escrow amount, update parkland dedication fees, remove SSTS permits, increase snowplow rates, update equipment list and rental rates, and increase water and sewer rate charges and monthly meter fees for 2026.

A printed copy of the entire ordinance is available for inspection by any person at City Hall any Monday through Thursday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

This document hereby is made a part of this ordinance and is attached hereto.

/s/ Mark Kolbinger, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Susan Nache, Deputy Clerk

(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/10/26.)

NOTICE OF SHERBURNE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING

The Sherburne County Economic Development Authority will hold its annual meeting on **Thursday January 5th at 8:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter, at the Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, MN 55330 in the County Board Room**. The EDA will conduct regular business, including organizational matters.

/s/ Chrissy Kent
Accounting Specialist
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/10/26.)

Sherburne County Board Commissioners April Meeting Redevelopment Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

The Chair opened the Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting. Approval of the HRA Regular Meeting Proposed Agenda Gary Gray, Board Chair
Schumacher/Felber were unanimous to approve the Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Agenda as presented.

Agenda

County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Meeting Minutes from January 7th, 2025.
Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator
Schumacher/Felber were unanimous to approve the County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Meeting Minutes from January 7th, 2025, as presented.
Termination of the Existing Bond Counsel Agreement and Approval of a New Agreement with Kutak Rock, LLP. Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator, Loraine Rupp, Auditor/Treasurer
Danielowski/Felber were unanimous to approve termination of the existing Bond Counsel agreement and approve a new agreement with Kutak Rock, LLP to act as bond counsel for a three-year period commencing June 1, 2025 through

May 31, 2028, for the County of Sherburne, Sherburne County HRA, Sherburne County EDA, and Sherburne County RRA, and direct the Board Chair and County Administrator to execute the same. (On file.)

Close Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting Schumacher/Felber were unanimous to close meeting

/s/ Raeanne Danielowski, Board Chairperson
/s/ Bruce Messelt, Administrator
(Published in the *Patriot* 01/10/26).

Sherburne County Regional Rail Authority December Meeting Minutes

Call to Order

Consider Approval of December 16, 2025 Regional Rail Authority Meeting Agenda. Administration Brian Fleming, Economic Development Coordinator
Felber/Schumacher were unanimous to approve the December 16, 2025 Regional Rail Authority meeting agenda.
Agenda
Consider Approval of the Official Minutes from the September 2nd, 2025, Meeting of the Regional Rail Authority. Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator

Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved On	Amount	Payment
<u>Vendo Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CallTower Inc	11,720	
Carefree Cleaning LLC	4,00.00	
City of Becker	4,414.12	
Connexus Energy	708.3	
Databank IMX LLC	12,352	
Design Electric Inc	10,008.8	
DLT Solutions, LLC	170.55	
E. Weinberg Supply & Equipment	3101.16	
Elk River Municipal Utilities	56,142.3	
Gerold/Kelly and Samuel	4,00.00	
Ghulam Jaffer	3900	
Group Health Non-Patient A-R	275.22	
H and R Construction Co	6,90.9	
Hutton/Dennis and Debra	5900	
Innovative Office Solutions, LLC	2,058	
Keefe Supply Company	7860	
Kelly and Samuel Gerold and	3061.00	
LHB Inc	11,01805	
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co	94.21	
Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP	7066.66	
Maxima Supply-Vistar	4,08.0	
Medica	1,0127.00	
Minn Assoc County Veteran Serve Officers	2,100.00	
Minnesota Paving and Materials	7150.50	
Motorola Solutions Inc	710.40	
Presbyterian Family Foundation	16,03	
Richards/Brandon L	4,444.00	
SRF Consulting Group Inc	3,664.04	
State Treasurer	26,30.00	
Teamsters Local 30	6,580	
UHL Company Inc	3,566.00	
Wellpath LLC	2863	
Wiley Reber Law, PC	15,540.00	
Payments less than 2000	3,044.26	
Final Total:	0	

(Published in the *Patriot* 01/10/26)

Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved For	Amount	Payment
<u>Vendo Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
City of Becker	4,906.18	
Commissioner Of Revenue	1900.8	
Economic Development Of Becker	110,216	
Ind School Dist 27	65,622.44	
Medsurety LLC	2,30	
State Of Minnesota	3190	
State Of Minnesota	3620.50	
State Of Minnesota	2,59.00	
State Of Minnesota	33.00	
State Of Minnesota	2,34.00	
Treas City Of Elk River	8709.58	
Treas Ind School Dist 26	57807	
Treas Ind School Dist 28	9,597	
Treas Ind School Dist 42	22,033	
Final Total:	0	

(Published in the *Patriot* 01/20/26)

Felber/Schumacher were unanimous to approve the September 2, 2025 Regional Rail Authority meeting minutes.
Consider Approval and Certification of the 2026 Regional Rail Authority Levy. Administration Bruce Messelt, County Administrator, Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator
Felber/Schumacher were unanimous to approve and certify the 2026 Regional Rail Authority budget and levy, as presented.
Adjourn the Regional Rail Authority Meeting
/s/ Raeanne Danielowski, Board Chairperson
/s/ Bruce Messelt, Administrator
(Published in the *Patriot* 01/10/26).

Becker Public Cemetery Assessment

We will be holding our yearly meeting on January 21, 2026 at 7 p.m. at the Becker Community Center
Published in the *Patriot* 01/10/26, 01/17/26.

Sherburne County Board Commissioners December Meeting County Board Workshop Meeting

The Board Chair opened the County Board Workshop Meeting

Update on the Strategic Planning Process. Administration Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator
Updated on the current status of the proposed Strategic Plan for 2026-2028
Adjourn Workshop Meeting
Adjourn Workshop Meeting
/s/ Raeanne Danielowski, Board Chairperson
/s/ Bruce Messelt, Administrator
(Published in the *Patriot* 01/10/26).



Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved On	Amount	Payment
<u>Vendo Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
City Of Princeton	36.7	
City Of St Cloud	1,10934	
City Of Zimmerman	1,646,58.58	
Economic Development of Big Lake	5906.8	
Economic Development Of Elk River	44313	
Housing & Development Auth	205,064.9	
HRA Of St Cloud	1938	
Orono Lake Improvement District	79	
St Cloud EDA	16,5703	
St Cloud Met. Transit Commission	54,1584	
Treas Baldwin	6859	
Treas Becker Township	6,0320	
Treas Big Lake Township	1,1828	
Treas Blue Hill Township	200,67.06	
Treas City Of Big Lake	2,83.47	
Treas City Of Clear Lake	19,114.28	
Treas Clear Lake Township	19,554.67	
Treas Haven Township	292.8	
Treas Ind School Dist 47	14,64.47	
Treas Ind School Dist 8	2,145.59	
Treas Livonia Township	9,228	
Treas Orrock Township	506,3710	
Treas Palmer Township	266,645.7	
Treas Santiago Township	140,85.15	
4 Payments less than 2000	2,443	
Final Total:	0	

(Published in the *Patriot* 01/10/26)

Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved On	Amount	Payment
<u>Vendo Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alison Thorn	2,200.00	
Alliant Engineering, Inc.	431.29	
Amanda Waaranemi-Golly and	9640.50	
Amy J Nelson and Mr. Cooper	10,165.50	
AT & T Mobility	10,093	
Beaudry Oil and Propane	6,242.9	
BNSF Railway Company	52.9	
CenturyLink dba Lumen Tech. Group	2,95.46	
CMP Attachments LLC	2,47.22	
Connexus Energy	2,68.65	
Dacotah Paper Co	2,297	
Derek Sibley & C.W.'s Excavating Inc	17000.00	
DVS	3013	
East Central Regional Juvenile Center	11,40700	
ECM Publishers Inc	315826	
EDI-Dolejs Inc	134360	
Emmons & Olivier Resources Inc	2321.65	
Foley Collision Center Inc	12,454	
Garage Door Store	6,0825	
Guardian Fleet Safety, LLC	2,643	
Haugen/Craig and & Ruth	318.00	
Hettwer/Mark and Susan	4,95	
Hettwer/Matthew and Cindi	4,42800	
Ice Man Properties LLC	822.9	
Information Professionals Inc	12,600.00	
Jeremy's Lawn Service Inc	11,644.00	
Keefe Supply Company	84.3	
Klein McCarthy & Co., Ltd.	4,200.0	
LHB Inc	2,50	
Marie Groff	2,442.00	
Maxima Supply-Vistar	2,151.8	
Meadowvale Homeowners Assoc	2,660.00	
Mies Outland of St Cloud	5,28.0	
Minneapolis Forensic Psych Services LLC	2,72.50	
Minnesota Equipment Inc	2,005.3	
Natural Resources Services Inc	5,415.00	
Newman Signs, Inc.	4,000.00	
OZ Properties LLC	4,212	
Ran Properties LLC	3,037	
Redstone Construction, LLC	840	
Rocky Mountain Construction, Inc.	25,33	
S & B LLC	30480	
Saxon Fleet Services	4326.00	
SBH Properties LLC	76173	
Schmidt Curb Company, Inc.	31080	
Schneider Geospatial LLC	127.20	
Scott Morrell LLC	80.62	
Stearns County Environmental Services	70.00	
Suburban Tire Wholesale Inc	3178	
The Garage Guys LLC	5,66.67	
Total Energy Systems LLC	16,003	
Towmaster	3828	
Treas City Of Elk River	210.9	
US Bank Voyager Fleet Systems	6,610.3	
Ziegler Inc	5,33	
Payments less than 2000	8,154.10	
Final Total:	0	

(Published in the *Patriot* 01/10/26)

Becker Jazz/Kick take 1st and 2nd in conference

By Maria Moore,
Contributing Writer

The Becker Dance team took home the Mississippi 8 Conference Jazz title for the seventh year in a row. Their performance was outstanding, and the team worked really hard for their place.

"I'm extremely proud of our team for focusing on themselves and doing their best," expressed coach Nadia Fischer-Danzeisen.

The Kick team took second place in the conference, and the team is now working on making the performances more difficult and exciting for the section

tournament on January 3s t.

Jazz Honorable Mentions: Jenessa Toulouse, Aynsley Holm, Taylor Weismann, and Lila Zinken.

Jazz All-Conference: Ashlyn Frey, Ali Vieau, Mia Kinzel, Payton Lechner, and Kendall Lamp.

Kick Honorable Mentions: Payton Lechner, Kendall Lamp, and Aynsley Holm.

Kick All-Conference: Ashlyn Frey, Ali Vieau, Mia Kinzel, and Jenessa Toulouse.

Becker gymnastics takes 2nd at Invitational

By Maria Moore,
Contributing Writer

Becker Gymnastics competed in the Big Lake invitational on January 3. Unfortunately, during the floor performance, one of the Bulldog gymnasts went down with an injury. That just pushed the team to

work harder and finish the meet.

"The fact that we went through these struggles and still came away with a second-place finish today was really inspiring," said Head Coach Jen Harmoning.

Vault results included fourth place Maggie Graning (9.05) and fifth place

Alyse Denne (9) .

Bar results included ninth place Alyse Denne (8) .

Beam results included fourth place Alyse Denne (9.35) and seventh place Maggie Graning (9.25) .

Floor results included seventh place Maggie Graning (9.25) and 12th

place Lillian Bonsante (8) .

All-Around results included fourth place Maggie Graning (35.9) and eighth place Alyse Denne (3.45) .

The Bulldogs are currently ranked fourth in the state. As of this week, Becker is 2-0 versus conference schools.

Hornets fall to Tigers, beat Saints

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

The Big Lake boys basketball team hosted the Delano Tigers last Friday, Jan. 2 and lost by nine, 102-9

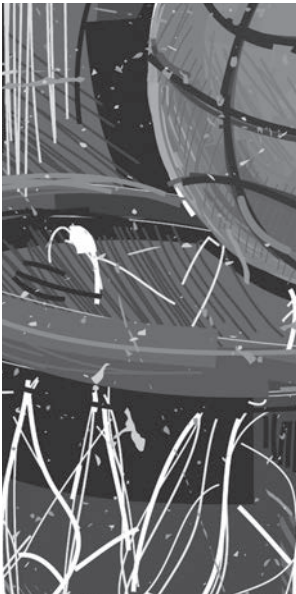
The loss pushed the Hornets to a 4-3 record on the year and a record of 2-1 in the conference.

Leading scorers for the Hornets were: Judd Layton with 21 points, Leroy Hamrin with 25 points and Lane Pettis with 18 points.

Vs. Saints

The Hornets took on the St. Francis Saints Tuesday and came away with a

112-8 win.
Leading scorers for the Hornets were: Judd Layton with 20 points, Leroy Hamrin with 17 points and Trevor Stuckenholtz with 25 points.



Hornets wrestle at Rogers Invitational

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

After a two-week period without competition, the Big Lake Wrestling team competed in the 32-team Rogers Holiday Matness Invitational last weekend.

The Hornets didn't have wrestlers in every weight class. Three individuals had success in the meet.

Austin Frederickson finished third at 215 pounds. He pinned Joseph Natysin of Maple Grove

End of the holidays



FIVE DAYS AFTER THE NEW YEAR COMMENCED, Becker crews were seen out along Bank Street removing the street pole decorations that featured snowflakes, stockings, stars and poinsettias. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).

fore losing his final match to Jacob Lehman of Scott West, 12-8

Liam Mayer did not place in the top five, but won two matches at 189 pounds. He beat Jaeden Hubbard of Maple Grove, 16-1, then pinned Luke Hannig of New London Spicer at 4:07

The Hornets were scheduled to host a triangular meet against Pequot Lakes and Monticello this past Thursday, then competed against seven other schools at Bemidji Saturday, results next week.



NOTICE TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

UNDER MINN. STAT. §216B.16, SUBD. 1

On October 31, 2025, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy or the Company), filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to increase natural gas rates. The request with the MPUC is to increase gross retail natural gas rates by 8.2 percent or \$63.40 million effective January 1, 2026, sixty-two (62) days after filing, without suspension, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16.

The Company requested, pursuant to Minn. Stat § 216B.16, subd. 3, that a temporary (interim) rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million overall bill increase, be effective on January 1, 2026. The MPUC elected to suspend the proposed rate increase under Minn. Stat. 216B.16, subd. 2, as discussed in the Company’s Notice and Petition for Interim Rates (Petition), included in the Application. The Commission authorized an interim rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million, overall bill increase, that will be effective on January 1, 2026. The interim revenue request for 2026 will be uniformly billed as a 16.19 percent increase on the base rate portion of customers’ bills, which includes the customer charge, distribution charge, and distribution demand charge where applicable (exclusive of fuel and purchased energy costs and certain rate riders). An interim rate will remain in effect until a final rate level is determined.

The typical residential gas customer uses 71 therms per month. On average, the proposed \$63.40 million rate change would increase the bill for a typical residential natural gas customer by \$7.11 per month or \$85.32 annually. The interim increase, for that same monthly amount of 71 therms on average, will be \$5.84 per month or \$70.08 per year for 2026.

In addition, the Company proposes to implement certain other tariff revisions in its Gas Rate Book, Volume 2D.

Over the past several years, the Company has proceeded through a cycle of capital investments necessary for the safe and reliable operation of its gas system and has continued to incur costs to serve new and existing customers. Xcel Energy has also experienced significant annual increases in inflation, labor costs, and other expenses necessary to serve our customers. Recovering these costs is critical to Xcel Energy’s ability to continue to successfully provide safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas service to its customers long into the future.

Typically, final rates become effective within 10 months of the date of the Application, unless the review period is extended by the MPUC. The Company anticipates that the review period will be extended in this proceeding. Any over-collection of interim rates during the review period will be refunded with interest to customers in a manner determined by the MPUC.

Xcel Energy is requesting this rate increase to meet its current cost of providing natural gas services, including a reasonable return on equity. The following tables contain the effect of the interim and proposed rates increases on customer classes:

AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
10	\$19	\$21	\$23
30	\$40	\$43	\$44
50	\$60	\$65	\$66
71	\$82	\$88	\$89
100	\$111	\$119	\$120
200	\$214	\$227	\$228
300	\$316	\$336	\$336

SMALL COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SERVICE

Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
50	\$67	\$73	\$80
100	\$114	\$123	\$131
189	\$199	\$211	\$221
200	\$209	\$222	\$232
250	\$256	\$272	\$282
350	\$350	\$371	\$383
500	\$492	\$520	\$534
750	\$728	\$769	\$786
1,000	\$964	\$1,017	\$1,039
3,000	\$2,851	\$3,006	\$3,056
5,000	\$4,738	\$4,994	\$5,073

INTERRUPTIBLE RETAIL SERVICE

Class	Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
Small	6,745	\$4,633	\$4,898	\$5,001
Medium	46,220	\$27,353	\$28,555	\$30,196
Large	617,483	\$350,615	\$364,315	\$379,449

INTERRUPTIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

(Does not include the cost of natural gas)

Class	Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
Small	6,745	\$1,729	\$1,998	\$2,097
Medium	118,174	\$19,722	\$22,724	\$26,990
Large	2,119,680	\$88,455	\$99,345	\$88,455

* The present rate levels identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Docket No. G002/GR-23-413.

Public hearings will be held at various locations in Xcel Energy’s natural gas service area. Counties, municipalities, and customers will be notified once the hearings are scheduled.

The proposed rate schedules and a comparison of present and proposed rates are available at:

https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings/minnesota_natural_gas_rate_proposal (Make sure “Minnesota” is selected in the top left-hand corner) The documents may be examined during normal business hours at either our General Offices located at 414 Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis or at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Those who wish to intervene or testify in this case should contact the Minnesota Court of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Telephone: (651) 361-7900, TTY: (651) 361-7878. Public notice of hearing dates and locations will be published in local newspapers in Xcel Energy’s service area.

Questions on the rate increase may be directed to Amber Hedlund at (612) 337-2268. Comments may also be mailed to Amber Hedlund at 414 Nicollet Mall, 401-7th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.