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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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FORMER CLEAR LAKE EMPLOYEES CHARGED WITH THEFT, EMBEZZLEMENT

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

Charges filed recently in Sherburne County in the 10th Judicial District allege that three former employees of the City of Clear Lake defrauded the city of over \$200,000 from late 2022 through 2023.

The former employees, Kari Koren (former clerk), Chad Koren (retired firefighter) and Dustin Luhnning (former public works director), each face felony counts of theft and embezzlement of public funds.

According to a statement of probable cause in the criminal complaint, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office received a financial fraud complaint from the city in April of 2024, alleging that the three employees had been stealing funds.

A forensic accountant was subsequently hired to investigate the financial activity of the city from November 1, 2022 until



FORMER CITY CLERK
Kari Koren has been charged with theft and embezzlement totaling over \$125k. (Patriot Archive Photo).

December 31, 2023, and the review included credit card statements, vendor billing, payroll records, disbursements and bank statement activity.

Anoka County officials performed the investigation and signed the affidavits in the charging documents.

Those records indicate that Luhnning originally



FORMER CLFD CAPTAIN Chad Koren has been charged with theft and embezzlement totaling nearly \$5k. (Patriot Archive Photo).

claimed that wage overpayments made to him were a mistake. Furthermore, he claimed that purchases from Luner Equipment and Discount Supply and Equipment "saved the city quite a bit of money". He later admitted to creating accounts for those vendors and profiting from the amounts the city paid



FORMER PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR Dustin Luhnning has been charged with theft and embezzlement totaling over \$71k. (Patriot Archive Photo).

for the purchases. In all, Luhnning's financial fraud is alleged to have been in the amount of \$71,077.45.

Chad Koren is accused of using a city credit card for personal purchases and defrauding the city of \$4,987.17. Koren provided a voluntary statement to the Anoka County Sheriff's Office in which he admitted

that "money was tight" and things had snowballed.

Kari Koren's alleged illegal activity included payroll overpayment and fraudulent purchases totaling \$125,217.37. According to the charging documents, "defendant Kari Koren wrote a letter to the City Council (sic) during the investigation. She claimed that her actions were not intentional and that the errors in her accounting were either due to a software issue or because she forgot to reimburse the city for miscellaneous personal items."

Later, on June 25, Koren provided a voluntary statement to Anoka County, indicating "she was going through some personal issues and financial hardship during that time period."

Court records indicate that all three are scheduled for remote hearings on January 14, 2026 in Sherburne County 10th District Court.

Sophisticated phishing scheme targets Becker Twp

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

An organized, sophisticated phishing scheme targeting Becker township residents was discussed at Monday's town board meeting.

Township Clerk Lucinda Messman talked about the ongoing issue, wherein the fraudsters are likely utilizing artificial intelligence to comb through township records and then create very realistic emails soliciting funds online.

Most often, the ma-



licious emails utilize personalized information and official looking logos to impersonate township staff who then request a wire

transfer to pay for recent zoning and permitting services.

Messman explained that the township is doing

what they can on their end, encoding information and utilizing IT staff to help safeguard information.

"As a township, we do not send emails to people asking for money," Messman explained, adding that people of all ages are being targeted. "We are old fashioned and encourage people to come into the Town Hall and write a check . . . we never use or ask for wire transfers."

Board Chair Brian Kolbinger noted the authentic look of the phishing correspondence.

"These requests look

very real," Kolbinger noted. "We're doing what we can, but we want to get the word out to people about what's happening."

Supervisor Brad Wilkening's name has been fraudulently used in some of the phishing attempts, and he offered another tip for the general public.

"They are not only using AI, but also they add a sense of urgency (to demand people to pay immediately)," Wilkening noted.

Lucinda and the board

PHISHING
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World War II stories become alive again

By Gary W. Meyer,
Contributing Writer

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Citizen Editor Gary W. Meyer returned Oct. 6 from a 5 day tour to World War II war sites in Europe, visiting the countries of Germany, Austria, Holland, Belgium and France. The tour was organized by Ed-Ventures, Inc. of Rochester, MN. Following is the first of two stories of his experience)

The Bridge at Remagen

It was March, 1945. The American war effort, coupled with the service of our Allied countries, had gone well. We had broken through the German defenses at Normandy, had liberated Paris and Caen, France, in July, 1944 - and had progressed eastward into Germany.

The Germans occasionally put up stout defenses and waited at the Rhine River. The Remagen Bridge was an arterial piece of the German war effort in each the First and Second World Wars, for it transported troops from that country to the west - and back to the east, as war strategies required. It was doing just that in the spring of 1945. Recoiling German



THE REMAGEN BRIDGE, which the Americans captured in March, 1945. Allied capture of the bridge led to a major breakthrough against the Germans, ultimately resulting in the capture of 300,000 shortly thereafter. Raymond Brandl was on the bridge at the time of its capture. (Submitted Photo).



STACEY AND ANNETTE BRANDL, granddaughter of Raymond Brandl and daughter of John Brandl. They were among our tour group of 20 in Europe in October. (Photo by Gary W. Meyer).

armies were looking for refuge - for protection - from the mounting Allied effort.

The Germans first wanted to protect the bridge so they could escape across it to the east. When their soldiers were across, it was decided to blow the thing up. The date was March 7.

Raymond Brandl, a Nebraska soldier enlisted since 1941, was part of the action. He was a member of the 104th Field Artillery Unit 409. Their effort was to save the bridge so American troops, vehicles and supplies could transport eastward.

And that they did. Over the next several days, the Americans were able to transport 18,000 Allied forces across the bridge before it went down. Among the forces going East? Gen. George Patton's tank division. And British General Montgomery was next in line.

The Remagen bridge, located on the Rhine, 15 miles south of Bonn, was not the only bridge used by the Allies to access eastern locales in Germany. But it was the one most fought-over, and the one most coveted for its strategic location.

Young Brandl was on the bridge when it was captured. The capture of the

Remagen Bridge and the strategic part it played in Americans further east into Germany led to one of Germany's biggest troop losses of the war. The Americans' mission was to corral the Germans on the east side of the river and combine them with German prisoners from the Ruhr industrial area to the north. The Americans were able to take 300,000 out of service to the Fuhrer.

The large number of prisoners put too much of a strain on Allied supplies, and many Germans died of disease and starvation before the Americans could recruit the French to take over those responsibilities.

Dachau Concentration Camp

It was almost a year later before the service of Raymond's older brother, John Brandl, came into focus. Sergeant John Brandl, was serving with Company B, 524th Military Police Battalion when his unit was dispatched to the Munich region of south central Germany. Their focus? The Dachau Concentration Camp, which had the distinction of having served as the only concentration camp in all of

WWII
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PHISHING
from page 1

ended their public education campaign by noting that the best thing to do is to call the Town Hall and talk with a staff member if there is any doubt about the veracity of any email correspondence.

In other business,
the board:

• Heard from Sgt. Dan Frank of the SCSO, who reported on continued school bus stop arm violations - four just in the past month alone. Frank noted that

enforcement action will be taken on this issue, as most buses have video footage evidence to aid in prosecution.

• Listened to an update from Sherburne County Administrator Bruce Messtelt, who covered a variety of topics from a pilot bus transit program to the county's support of local post offices and data center development.

City issues statement
at Clear Lake Meeting

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

Prior to the Monday, November 17 meeting of the Clear Lake City Council, extra chairs were put out in anticipation of residents showing up to inquire about recent charges filed against former city employees.

In the period from Nov. 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2023, former City Clerk Kari Koren has been accused of getting paid for hours not worked and fraudulent purchases totaling \$125,217.37. Former Public Works Director Dustin Luhning has been accused of the same with the total being \$71,077.45. The filed complaint also accuses Fire Fighter Chad Koren with making personal charges totaling \$4,987.17 on city credit cards.

Council Member Chad Nelson read a prepared statement, "The City is aware that former city employees Kari Koren, Chad Koren, and Dustin Luhning were charged with theft and embezzlement of public funds. The City Council became aware of potential financial issues in 2024 and retained a forensic auditor to review city records with the assistance of the mayor and a previous council member."

Nelson continued.

"Throughout the entire process, city staff, the Fire Department, and the council cooperated with the auditors and attorneys to investigate. City officials and staff were under strict instructions to not discuss these issues until the investigation was completed and the information made public. Pursuant to the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, the

city cannot divulge private personnel data and therefore cannot divulge private personnel data and therefore cannot provide further comments at this time. Please refer to the criminal complaints for more information."

No one in attendance spoke during open forum.

New Radios
and Pagers

Fire Chief Ron Koren's request for funds to purchase new radios and pagers for the Clear Lake Fire Department was approved. Koren submitted a bid for seven Motorola APX N30 Portable Radios totaling \$9,929.99 and another for six Motorola pagers totaling \$325.

Cost of Living
Increase

A resolution was passed that increases the COL for city employees in 2026 by 3%. In the future, cost of living will match the same percentage as the COLA determined by the Social Security Administration.

Other News

The maximum amount for fees on cannabis businesses, as directed by the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management, was adopted by the city and will be put into effect immediately.

Chris Goenner of St. Marcus Church, stood before the council requesting that the city allow the church to make improvements to an adjacent property that would move water that accumulates after heavy rains from their parking lot to a holding pond on the empty lot. After much discussion, the request was put on hold so that the city could further discuss possible future uses for the property.

Felton named M8 Male
Athlete for November

Submitted Article

Congratulations to Tanner Felton on being selected by the M8 Athletic Administrators as the "BSN" Mississippi 8 Conference Male Athlete of the Month for November.

Felton was nominated by his home activities director and then selected "most outstanding" by all nine administrators from the member schools at a recent conference meeting.

Tanner had a great season of Cross Country performances helping to lead the Bulldogs to another regular season Mississippi 8 Conference Championship and culminating with an individual Section 5AA Championship as well as helping the Bulldogs win the Section 5AA Team Championship. At the State Tournament, Tanner finished in 22nd place, which was another All State performance, and the Bulldog team finished in fourth place.



BECKER ATHLETE TANNER FELTON was selected by conference athletic administrators as Male Athlete for the month of November. (Submitted Photo).

"Tanner is a great representation of our school and the Mississippi 8 Conference," said Activities Director Dave Niemi. "We are very proud of him for his leadership and his help to guide the team to great accomplishments this past season."

Tanner received a plaque sponsored by BSN Sports.

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

White Bear
Laker wins
Turkey Toss
Tourney

Last Saturday, Tom Prokof won the Class A title of the Turkey Toss Tournament in Becker with a 5-1 record, hitting the stake at a 58% ringer clip. Prokof had a high game of 70% in game #5. Brad Heth of Blaine won the second place money in the four-person Class A with a 3-3 record and

TO THE EDITOR:

Picture a union on strike, workers refusing to fuel a system that doesn't value them. Blackout the System is that strike on a national scale. Think of it as the American Union: millions of us choosing not to cross the picket line. From Nov. 25-Dec. 2, the message is simple: less working, less spending, less traveling, less feeding the beast. Major retailers have already pushed Black Friday deals earlier, hoping to dodge the blackout. That alone shows they're watching. Corporations answer to shareholders, not to our families or our communities. And those same corporations bankroll the politicians who write our laws. Watchdogs like Open-

Secrets and GAO audits confirm it year after year: the system listens to money first. So let's speak in the only language it understands. Not everyone can strike from work for a full week, but everyone can do something, keep dollars out of the machine! This isn't one march in one city. It's millions of steady, stubborn Americans stepping back all at once. Spread the word. HOLD THE LINE! Plan accordingly. And when you can, keep that line in place, make your boycott a long-term shift toward local, ethical, people-first businesses. Our power grows when we use it TOGETHER. Vanessa Davenport Big Lake, MN

WWII
from page 1

Adolph Hitler's 13 years of power.

Dachau was designed to hold some of Hitler's most-hated enemies, the mental and physically-defected - and his political enemies. But not long after its opening, Dachau began to serve a more ominous purpose - elimination of prisoners of war.

In 1941, Germany had been at war with its neighbors to the east for two years. And that included the Russians. So, what happens to Russian prisoners of war? They get transported by train to Dachau, where their days are numbered. They are executed by firing squad shortly after stepping off the train. That is, 4,000 of them.

Dachau was designed as a holding facility for prisoners of The Reich. Not so much as a killing institution. But the guides told our group that of its design for 44,000 inmates, likely 20 percent did not survive it.

Annette Brandl, daughter of the American military policeman, recounts his stories about war against the Germans in Europe.

"People are meaner than animals," he said of the German occupiers at Dachau. "He told of the lampshades being made out of Jews' skin, with tattoos on the shade. Gold being taken out of Jews' mouths by the Germans, as well as cutting off the fingers of the men for jewelry."

When Brandl's MP unit charged Dachau to liberate it in April, 1945, there were just two dozen or so Germans onsite. A quick fire fight dissolved the defense and then was the MP's job to gain order and assure the prisoners their lives were no longer in jeopardy.

Brandl later noted many prisoners had no place to go, or were afraid for their safety outside the walls. He was transferred away from Dachau in December, 1945.

Brandl told of earlier times, during his unit's march across Europe - and of the fighting in fields and pastures. Farmers would give soldiers their bedsheets to the GIS for camouflage cover. They used coffee grounds and egg to make coffee. They would also shoot cows for meat out in the field.

John's wife, Dorothea, recounted her memory of John, crying as he told a story about action in Normandy. He had shot a 16-year-old German out of a tree.

John and Raymond Brandl returned home to Humphrey, Nebraska after the war and lived out their lives at the farm, marrying and raising children in the peace and quiet of the Midwestern prairie. Raymond died in 1999; John in 2010.

The Eagles Nest

There is a most-beautiful area of Germany called Berchtesgaden, where the Alps form above the lakes and communities in the far southeast. Hitler recognized it as his favorite playground in 1932 and dispatched his business people to purchase properties up in the mountains from 700 residents, many of them against their will.

But, the Fuhrer persisted and was soon at work with his architects, designing Eagles Nest, which he visited only 14 times during his 14-year reign. The work on his venture, which included an elevator capable of transporting 50 people, took only a year and a half to complete.

The October day on which our group visited the Eagles Nest started as a slightly rainy day down in the valley. But by the time our tour bus was halfway up its ascent, the rains turned into slushy snow. It was a typical Minnesota wind-driven snow storm with temperatures at or below freezing by the time we reached the top. A picture of oneself in front of Hitler's fireplace and bowl of chili added to the scene.

NOTE: The petroleum-fueled buses were required to stop and turn over their passengers midway up the ascent to electric-powered vehicles because of environmental rules. But the venue was indeed worth seeing, if only to appreciate the wonderful engineering of the time. An average 2,000 to 3,000 people each day visit the site in the summer months.

Spindler, Hunter sign LOIs

Submitted Article

Congratulations to Becker High School's student athletes that recently signed their Letters of Intent to attend college and compete in their respective sports next year.

Bella Hunter signed to compete in Women's Softball at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN.

Parker Spindler signed to compete in Men's Cross Country at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in Green Bay, WI.

"We are very proud of all that they have accomplished so far here as Bulldogs and we wish them all the best as they take the next steps in their lives after they graduate from BHS," said CAA Activities Director Dave Niemi.



PARKER SPINDLER (L) and Bella Hunter (R) signed LOIs to attend their future universities next fall. Spindler will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay while Hunter will be attending Hamline University in St. Paul. (Submitted Photo).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

Big Lake City Council (AKA Big Lake EDA) has passed the following without Big Lake taxpayer voice, vote, input or involvement: \$33 million dollars for new city hall. \$1.2 million purchase of private property for Minnesota Ave extension. \$600,000 purchase of old high school. Decided to demolish old HS. Ok'd Auto Zone development. 175 Unit Apartment complex. Multiple commercial developments. Purchased dilapidated Foley Ave building. And many more. Tax payers are being denied a voice, a vote and transparency. Stop the unelected members of the EDA from skirting the Open Forum statutes. This isn't just arro-

gance of city council and city management, it's cowardice. Fight King Kinear, and the unelected EDA members. NO KINGS IN BIG LAKE George Quinn Big Lake, MN



THE BRANDL BROTHERS, John and Raymond, who were involved in major 1945 actions against the Nazis in Europe. (Submitted Photo).



DACHAU CONCENTRATION CAMP during our visit in October. It was primarily designed to house prisoners, though the Germans assassinated 4,000 captive Russian soldiers inside its walls in 1941. (Photo by Gary W. Meyer).



EAGLES NEST, atop the Alps Mountains in Southeastern Germany. On some days, it was above the clouds. (Submitted Photo).

Veterans honored at SHC



DAN GRUHLKE helped the Sherburne History Center celebrate Veterans Day with his lively historical presentation into the giant flag that served as the inspiration for the Star Spangled Banner (Patriot Photo by Mark Kolbinger).

the pitchers. Tom Strandquist of Mayor won five-of-seven games to capture Class C. He averaged 31.07 ringers. Colleen Szabo of Belle Plaine tied John Hustings of Mahtomedi with a 4-1/2 to 2-1/2 record, but she won second by the tie-breaker. Hustings took third.

In the six-person Class D, Dale Novotny of Plymouth tied Steve Tross of Frazee with 4-1 records. Novotny averaged 20.8% and won

the tie-breaker to take first place while Tross had an 18% ringer average for second place and Steve Barron of Inver-Grove Heights was third at 3-2 and a 15.2% record.

The next horseshoe tournament will be the Reindeer Ringer Classic on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the courts in Becker. The American Legion will be serving a nice lunch for \$.

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Schafer Sentenced for Girlfriend's Death

JONATHAN SCHAFER

was sentenced last week by Judge Walter Kaminsky. (Archive Photo Courtesy of Sherburne County Sheriff's Dept).

By Bill Morgan, Editor

On Thursday, Nov. 6 Judge Walter Kaminsky sentenced Jonathan James Schafer of Becker to two years in prison and 364 days in county jail with credit for 175 days served, but stayed the prison sentence, meaning he won't have to report to prison if he follows conditions of a three-year probation. Conditions include completing chemical dependency treatment and not using alcohol or drugs.

Schafer pled guilty in September to both felony failure to stop after a collision resulting in death and fourth-degree driving while impaired. His passenger was identified as 23-year-old Julia Marie Marthaler of Nisswa.

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AUCTIONS

Bulldog swimmers and divers excel at state

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

It was a best-ever finish for the Becker Swimming and Diving team at last week's MSHSL State Swimming and Diving Championships.

"Overall, it was the best showing we've had at the state meet," Coach Tina Tamm said. "Five medal winners, two relays, and 12th place as a team - all things we haven't done before."

In the preliminary rounds, Maggie Graning performed great on her first eight dives to advance to the final round in fifth place.

In Saturday's finals, Graning was again stellar in her final three dives and secured a spot on the podium with a fifth place finish in state.

In another Thursday prelim performance, the 200 medley relay team of Laila Cook, Izza Mork, Grace Mork, and Mia Suelter finished in 17th place, just missing the chance to swim in the consolation heat on Saturday by .60 seconds.

Grace Mork also had a great prelim round in the 200 free, swimming another personal best time and bettering her Section record to earn a place in the finals.

Grace also swam the prelims in the 500 free, earning a spot next to the top seed where she finished just one second behind to place second and earn a spot in the finals.

On Saturday, Grace faced off against the top swimmers in the state and performed admirably, earning an eighth place finish in

MEDAL WINNERS. Izza Mork, Maggie Graning and Grace Mork each earned podium appearances at the MSHSL state swimming and diving championships. (Submitted Photo)

the 200 free race.

Next, Grace was up for the finals in the 500 free, and Tamm had high praise for her performance.

"Grace left everything she had in the pool for that race," Tamm said. "She held her second place spot but she made the girl in first work for her medal."

Another preliminary round performer was Izza Mork, who swam in the 200 IM and she achieved a notable commendation from her coach.

"One of her goals has been to break the record for this event," Tamm said.

"She has put a lot of effort into this and achieved that goal during the prelims on Friday by eclipsing Kelly Schwantz's record from 1996."

With the effort, Izza advanced to the finals on Saturday where she placed eighth in the 200 IM and received a podium appearance.

Izza also swam the prelims for the 100 breast-stroke and fell just short of the school record by less than one second, earning herself a place in the finals where she went on to finish fifth.

"She got closer to the record but didn't break it this time," Tamm said. "We have no doubt that she will do it next season."

The last event of the weekend was the 400 free relay and Izza Mork, Laila Cook, Kandell Hagen, and Grace Mork finished in 15th place.

Overall, Tamm was elated with her team's performance.

"It was a great end to a great season," Tamm concluded.

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THANKSGIVING SERVICES

A Service of Thanksgiving
Wed., Nov. 26th 7pm
SOUTH SANTIAGO LUTHERAN CHURCH
14675 37TH STREET SE, CLEAR LAKE, MN
PLEASE JOIN US FOR PIE & REFRESHMENTS IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING IN THE NARTHEX

HOLIDAYS FAST APPROACHING

FIR TREES 6-8' STILL \$75.99

B&J EVERGREEN CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

FREE EVENT DAYS

November 22 & 23	November 28, 29 & 30	December 6 & 7
Cutting Hours 9:00am-5:00pm	Cutting Hours 9:00am-5:00pm	Cutting Hours 9:00am-5:00pm
Events 11:30am-3:30pm	Events 10:30am-4:00pm	Events 11:30am-3:30pm

EVENTS
Santa-Petting Zoo-Face Painting-Chainsaw Carving
Horse Drawn Wagon Rides-Pony Rides-Food
Fire Pit-Playground-Cliff the Camel-Character Visits

Regular Hours
Daily
9:00am-5:00pm
Closed Thanksgiving Day

FREE Pitcher of Domestic Beer or Pop
Purchase your Christmas Tree at B&J Evergreen and get your coupon!

B&J Evergreen
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(Events Subject to weather)

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CHRISTMAS TREES

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HOLIDAY HOURS:
WED 9-5, THURS 9-7, FRI 9-5, SAT 9-3

"Jingle at the Junction"
A Gift Shop Holiday Event
Nov. 29th & 30th - Dec. 6th & 7th
9 - 3pm

HOT COCOA, GIVEAWAYS, MUSIC & FUN!
FEATURING LOCAL ARTISANS, HOME DECOR AND MORE!

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Brickyard's Annual CHRISTMAS TREE PROMOTION

FREE Pitcher of pop/beer

November 28 - December 23, 2025

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Hours: M-TH, 11am-12am; F-SA, 10am-2am; SU, 10am-12am
www.brickyardbarandgrill.net

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SERVING: BUILD YOUR OWN OMELETTE, PANCAKES, FRENCH TOAST, SAUSAGE LINKS, SCRAMBLED EGGS, MILK, JUICE, AND COFFEE

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PUBLIC NOTICES - NEWS

**Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes,
Chapter 333**

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Becker American Legion #193**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **12155 Hancock St. SE, Becker, MN 55308 USA**
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name: **Oscar Peterson Post No. 193 American Legion**
Address: **12155 Hancock St. SE, Becker, MN 55308 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, 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: **Thomas E. Lee**
MAILING ADDRESS:
None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **None Provided**
Work Item: **1587353800031**
Original File Number: **1587353800031**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
11/06/2025 11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/15/25, 11/22/25).

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION**
Court File No.: **71-PR-25-186**
In Re the Estate of Mark A. Miller, aka Mark Allan Miller, aka, Mark Allen Miller, deceased.

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND FOR FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF CO-PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS. TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS: IT IS ORDERED AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 4th day of February, 2026 at 1:30 p.m. a hearing will be held in the above named Court at the Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive, Elk River, Minnesota, 55330 for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the above-named Decedent, dated February 12, 2024, and for the appointment of Taira Miller who resides at 4910 West 77th Street, Edina, MN 55435; and for the appointment of Derek Miller who resides at 30 104th Avenue NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55448; as Co-Personal Representatives of the estate of the Decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

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

Dated: November 6, 2025
/s/ Jennifer Jelinski,
Deputy Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner:
Michael M. Murphy, I.D. #7665X
Attorney for Co-Petitioners
30 North Seventh Avenue, P.O. Box 866, St. Cloud, MN 56302-0866
Tel: (320) 252-5922
Email: murphylawmn@gmail.com
Murphy Law Offices File No. 6451-25MM
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/15/25, 11/22/25).

**Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes,
Chapter 333**

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

ASSUMED NAME:
Frontline Electric
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **18234 235th Ave. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309, USA**
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name: **Cor Bellator Corp.**
Address: **18234 235th Ave. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309, USA**
Name: **Scott D. Green**
Address: **18234 235th Ave. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309, USA**
Name: **Carrie D. Green**
Address: **18234 235th Ave. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309, USA**

By typing my name, 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: **Carrie D. Green**
MAILING ADDRESS: **18234 235th Ave. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309, USA**
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES:
frontlineelectricsys@gmail.com
Work Item: **1595912700039**
Original File Number: **1595912700039**
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
11/06/2025 11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25, 11/29/25).

**Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes,
Chapter 333**

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

ASSUMED NAME:
Living Stone Construction LLC
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **3940 150TH AVE CLEAR LAKE MN 55319 USA**
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name: **Living Stone Handyman Service LLC**
Address: **3940 150TH AVE CLEAR LAKE MN 55319 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, 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: **Jesse Hanych**
MAILING ADDRESS:
None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **Jesseh@livingstone-handyman.com**
Work Item: **1599456400020**
Original File Number: **1599456400020**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
11/13/2025 11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25, 11/29/25).



TOW OF BECKER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Becker Township Planning Commission will hold their monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, December 8th, 2025, at Becker Town Hall, 12165 Hancock Street. The Planning Commission will meet to consider the following planning and zoning related topics. Beginning at approximately 7:01 p.m. and following:
Public hearing for Becker Joint Planning Board Zoning Ordinance. Insertion of a table of land uses, with definitions and standard requirements following the table. This amendment requires associated changes to or deletions from multiple sections, including individual zoning districts, definitions, performance standards, special provisions, signs, and administration.
Anyone interested in these requests is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you wish to attend via Zoom, contact the clerk for details. If you have questions regarding the requests please contact the clerk at Becker Township Hall, 12165 Hancock Street, Becker, MN, 763-261-5301. If you are unable to attend, please provide written comment to Lucinda Messman at P.O. Box 28, Becker, MN 55308 or by email to clerk@becker-township.org by 4:00 p.m., December 8, 2025.
/s/ Lucinda Messman
Clerk, Becker Township
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25.)

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This represents a summary of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Big Lake Public Schools #727. A complete set of minutes will be on file at the District Office and on our website at www.biglakeschools.org upon Board approval.
I. CALL TO ORDER
The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools was called to order on November 12, 2025.
II. ROLL CALL
All Board members were present except Ms. Lenette Brown.
III. CANVASS THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION
A motion was passed to approve the following resolution:
RESOLUTION RELATING TO CANVASSING RETURNS OF SPECIAL ELECTION
IV. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Reasoner adjourned the meeting.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25).

CITY OF BIG LAKE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Big Lake City Council on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at approximately 6:00 p.m. in the Big Lake City Council Chambers. The purpose of this public hearing is to consider a Liquor License Application for dWt LLC doing business as Thirsty Bison for an on-sale and Sunday liquor license to be operated at 16722 198th Avenue, Big Lake, MN. Those interested are encouraged to attend and comment.
/s/ Gina Wolbeck, City Clerk
City of Big Lake
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25.)

CITY OF BECKER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER VACATION OF THE A PORTION OF DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS WITHIN THE PROPERTIES CURRENTLY IDENTIFIED AS PID #0-004 005 AND #0-003 005

After receiving a petition signed by the majority of the owners of land abutting easements proposed to be vacated, which easements are legally described below, on the properties currently identified as PID #60-00494-0105 and #60-00447-0105, and pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 42.851, the City of Becker City Council duly called for a public hearing to consider vacation of said easements.
Notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held before the City Council of the City of Becker on the 2nd day of December, 2025, in the City Hall City Council Chambers located at 12060 Sherburne Ave SE at approximately 5:00 pm to consider the vacation of said drainage and utility easements which are legally described as:
The southeasterly 5.00 feet of Lot One (1), Block One (1) LTTM PROPERTIES, Sherburne County, Minnesota, except that part of said southeasterly 5.00 feet lying within the northeasterly 5.00 feet of said Lot One (1), Block One (1) and that part of the southeasterly 5.00 feet lying within the southwesterly 25.00 feet of said Lot One (1), Block One (1)
AND
The northwesterly 6.00 feet of Lot One (1), Block One (1) E AND E ADDITION, Sherburne County, Minnesota, except that part of said northwesterly 6.00 feet lying within the northeasterly 6.00 feet of said Lot One (1), Block One (1) and that part of the northwesterly 6.00 feet lying within the southwesterly 10.00 feet of said Lot One (1), Block One (1)
Anyone interested in this issue is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend, please provide written comment to Austin Petersen at P.O. Box 250, Becker, MN 55308 or by e-mail to apetersen@ci.becker.mn.us by 4:30 p.m. December 2nd, 2025.
/s/ Austin Petersen, Associate Planner
City of Becker
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25, 11/29/25.)

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.27
NOTICE FOR BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the School Board of INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 727, Sherburne County, located at Big Lake, Minnesota that it will receive sealed bids on:

Building Envelope Improvements

UNTIL 12:00 P.M. (Noon) Friday, December 12th, 2025 at the District Office located at 01 Minnesota Ave., Big Lake, MN 55309

All bidding contractors are required to attend a Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting to be held at the ISD #27 (Big Lake Public Schools) District Office which is located at **Door J of Independence Elementary School 701 Minnesota Ave., Big Lake, MN 55309 on Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 at 09:00 AM**. Project Specifications will be distributed at the Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting.
/s/ Terrence Zerwas| Director of Buildings and Grounds
Big Lake Schools | District Office
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25, 11/29/25.)

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This represents a summary of the Work Session of the Board of Education of Big Lake Public Schools #727. A complete set of minutes will be on file at the District Office and on our website at www.biglakeschools.org upon Board approval.
I. CALL TO ORDER
The Work Session of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools was called to order on November 12, 2025.
II. ROLL CALL
All Board members were present except Ms. Lenette Brown.
III. COMMUNITY EDUCATION ANNUAL UPDATE
Director of Community Education and Communications, Stephanie Hillman, presented the annual update.
IV. PRELIMINARY MCA DATA DISCUSSION
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Minda Anderson, presented the data.
V. ANNOUNCE AND APPROVE CLOSED SESSION FOR NEGOTIATION STRATEGY
A motion passed to enter a closed session for negotiation strategy after adjournment of the work session.
VI. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Reasoner adjourned the meeting.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

a Truth in Taxation public hearing will be held on Monday, December 1st at 6:30 P.M. for the purpose of City Resident's commenting on the 2026 tax levy. Any persons wishing to make public comment on this request may do so by attending the meeting that will take place at the Clear Lake City Hall, located at 7684 1st Ave West or in writing to the city clerk. Written comments must be received prior to the hearing date.
/s/ Ryan McCann, City Clerk
City of Clear Lake, MN
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25, 11/29/25.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VACATION OF DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the Clearwater City Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, in the council chambers at Clearwater City Hall, 605 County Rd 75 NW, Clearwater, MN 55320, to consider vacating the platted drainage and utility easement which straddles the shared boundary between Lots 1 and 2, Block 2, Sunrise Crest, which is located entirely within Wright County PID 104 026-002020 in the city of Clearwater. The petitioning property owner has requested that said portion of drainage and utility easement, recorded with the Office of the Wright County Recorder via the plat of Sunrise Crest (Doc. No. A760436), be vacated so that the two aforementioned lots can be combined to accommodate construction of one new single-family dwelling thereon. Persons wishing to comment on this item may do so during the public hearing. Comments may also be submitted in writing prior to the meeting date.
/s/ Annita Smythe, City Administrator
City of Clearwater
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25, 11/29/25.)

Donation to Big Lake Food Shelf



FOOD SHELF DONATION from MetroPlains Management Foundation, in partnership with LWO Properties. Pictured from left are Shannon Alexander, Floating Community Manager; Sandy McClurg, Food Shelf Manager; Justine Lamont, Area Manager; Michelle Guzman, Community Manager; and Lillian Junge, Assistant Manager. (Submitted Photo).

		Division of School Finance		District Revenues and Expenditures				ED-00110-48
		400 NE Stinson Blvd.		Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 and FY 2026				
		Minneapolis, MN 55413						
General Information: Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.								
District Name:		Big Lake					District Number:	727
Fund	FY 2025 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2025 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2025 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2025 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2026 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2026 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2026 Projected Fund Balances	
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 3,077,128	\$ 6,714,911	\$ 6,651,616	\$ 3,140,423	\$ 7,750,285	\$ 9,033,877	\$ 1,856,831	
General Fund/Other	\$ 14,769,820	\$ 43,598,337	\$ 43,737,773	\$ 14,630,384	\$ 42,391,681	\$ 45,778,238	\$ 11,243,827	
Food Service Fund	\$ 906,526	\$ 2,552,502	\$ 2,580,226	\$ 878,802	\$ 2,610,011	\$ 2,718,026	\$ 770,787	
Community Service Fund	\$ 1,342,213	\$ 3,744,124	\$ 3,595,738	\$ 1,490,599	\$ 3,519,517	\$ 3,604,302	\$ 1,405,814	
Building Construction Fund	\$ 8,075,481	\$ 214,451	\$ 5,395,348	\$ 2,894,584	\$ 25,000	\$ 2,350,862	\$ 568,722	
Debt Service Fund	\$ 1,531,860	\$ 6,649,784	\$ 6,157,364	\$ 2,024,280	\$ 4,865,286	\$ 4,482,775	\$ 2,406,791	
Trust Fund	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	
Internal Service Fund	\$ -0			\$ -0			\$ -0	
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	
OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	\$ 1,319,117	\$ 115,745	\$ 51,983	\$ 1,382,879	\$ 100,000	\$ 138,688	\$ 1,344,191	
OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	\$ -0	
Total - All Funds	\$ 31,022,145	\$ 63,589,854	\$ 68,170,048	\$ 26,441,951	\$ 61,261,780	\$ 68,106,768	\$ 19,596,963	
Long-Term Debt				Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81				
Outstanding July 1, 2024	\$ 64,185,000			Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 2.5% of expenditures 06/30/2025			\$ -	
Plus: New Issues	\$ -0							
Less: Redeemed Issues	\$ 4,605,000			Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2025				
Outstanding June 30, 2025	\$ 59,580,000							
Short-Term Debt				Total Operating Expenditures			\$ 54,231,615.16	
Certificates of Indebtedness	\$ -			FY 2025 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM			3,211.60	
Other Short-Term Indebtedness	\$ -			FY 2025 Operating Cost per ADM			\$ 16,886.17	
The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.								
Comments:								
FY 2025 Actual Revenues and Actual Expenses include a transfer of \$119,756 of Q-comp fund balance from the General Fund Other category to General Fund/Restricted due to legislative change in fund balance designations. The 2026 revised budget was approved by the Big Lake School Board on Nov. 19th, 2025.								
* Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)								
(Published in the Patriot: 11/22/25.)								

(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/22/25.)

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Enjoy free entrance to Minnesota state parks on Nov. 28

Submitted Article

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is waiving vehicle fees to all 73 state parks and recreation areas on Friday, Nov. 28.

The DNR offers four “Free Park Days” each year to encourage Minnesotans to explore a new park or visit an old favorite, and reap the benefits of spending time outdoors.

“After Thanksgiving celebrations, we encourage friends and family to get outside and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature,” said Ann Pierce, director of the DNR Parks and Trails Division. “State parks and recreation areas offer opportunities for families to enjoy the outdoors together, and spending time in nature also positively affects our mental and physical wellbeing.”

Late November offers a variety of outdoor recreation options, including hiking, biking, photography, fishing and more. This time of year is particularly great for bird- and animal-watching as bare trees make it easier to spot wildlife.

State park visitors can also enjoy several free events on Nov. 28 (*mndnr.gov/pt-calendar*) including a naturalist-led hike at Wild River State Park, a Free Park Day scavenger hunt at Gooseberry Falls State Park, and a chance to learn about reptiles up close at Lake Maria State Park.

For more information, visit the free park day webpage (*mndnr.gov/freepark-days*).

Minnesotans can also save the date for 2026’s Free Park Days:

Monday, Jan. 19
Saturday, April 25
Saturday, June 13
Friday, Nov. 27.

SPORTS/AREA NEWS

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

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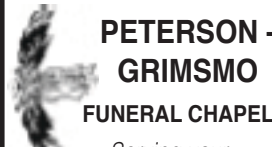
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Great opportunity to be on the lake with minimal investment to start. Seller is including the pontoon, dock, and trailer so you can enjoy the lake life immediately. There is a well on the property that was recently installed as well as an incinerator toilet. The 2009 Park Model camper will stay with the property as well, which is a great start to this amazing little slice of lake shore. Lake Marie and Lake Louisa are joined by a channel which you can navigate easily by boat and are a combined 330 acres. Both lakes have amazing fishing and of course some fun water sports too! Come enjoy the lake with family and friends, enjoy a fire at the fire pit, listen to the loons at night, it's an amazing experience! MLS# 6778126. \$149,950. Call Rick Seagraves for a private showing, 320-282-5656. 16698 109th Street NW, South Haven, MN 55382

Great opportunity to be on the lake with minimal investment to start. Seller is including the pontoon, dock, and trailer so you can enjoy the lake life immediately. There is a well on the property that was recently installed as well as an incinerator toilet. The 2009 Park Model camper will stay with the property as well, which is a great start to this amazing little slice of lake shore. Lake Marie and Lake Louisa are joined by a channel which you can navigate easily by boat and are a combined 330 acres. Both lakes have amazing fishing and of course some fun water sports too! Come enjoy the lake with family and friends, enjoy a fire at the fire pit, listen to the loons at night, it's an amazing experience! MLS# 6778126. \$149,950. Call Rick Seagraves for a private showing, 320-282-5656. 16698 109th Street NW, South Haven, MN 55382



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OBITUARIES

Geraldine "Gerry" M. Rehnke-Olson, 92 Big Lake, MN July 5, 1933 – October 13, 2025

Memorial Services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, November 20, 2025 at Saron Lutheran Church in Big Lake for Geraldine "Gerry" M. Rehnke-Olson, age 92, who passed away Monday, October 13, 2025 at the St. Cloud Hospital. Rev. Kyle Sidlo will officiate and burial will be private at Fort Snelling National Cemetery at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids.

Gerry was born July 5, 1933 in Alfred, ND to David and Marie (Fix) Dufloth and later was adopted by Clarence and Alice (Eastman) Ackerman. She married Duane Rehnke in North Dakota in 1955 and he died in 2004. She then married Carl Olson in 2005 and he died in 2021. Gerry lived most of her life in New Hope and was a Registered Nurse at Glenwood Hills Hospital in Golden Valley. She was also a teacher at Anoka

Community and Technical College. She was a member of Elk River United Methodist Church, she was also a member of the Red Hats Society and her bible group in Texas. Gerry enjoyed playing the piano for Sunday services at Brunswick United Methodist Church in Crystal. She was a very caring and social person with a large circle of friends. Survivors include her sons and daughter, Gary (Linda) of Sartell, Diane (Philip) Larson of Republic, WA, Greg of Cold Spring and Jay of Cold Spring; 12 grandchildren; brother, Stanley Bierle; brother-in-law, Elmo Bergeson and Carl's family. She is preceded in death by her parents; husbands, Duane Rehnke and Carl Olson; sister, Ginny Bergeson; and brother, Curt Ackerman.

Obituary and Guest Book available online: www.williamsdingmann.com.



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Residents Again Ask Council to Replace Playground Equipment

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

All members of the Big Lake City Council were in attendance for the Oct. 22 meeting of the Big Lake City Council.

Residents living near Mitchell Farm Park were again in attendance to express their displeasure with the council's recent decision to remove the playground equipment at their park with no immediate plans to replace it. The council received their comments and then moved on to regular business.

2026 Meeting Change

Council voted on four motions that would allow them to meet monthly beginning in 2026, instead of meeting bi-monthly. Multiple motions had to be approved to amend a city ordinance and city council bylaws concerning council meetings. Upon approval of those motions, the 2026 schedule had to be approved and authorization for publication of the new ordinance had to be passed. All motions passed 4-1, with Council Member Ken Halvorson being the lone dissent. City council meetings, beginning in 2026, will be held the third Wednesday of each month.

Playgrounds and City Hall

During the time reserved for meeting updates from council members, Halvorson called for a consensus vote to get the Mitchell Farms playground back on the agenda to reevaluate it. Council member Kim Noding seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-3, with both Noding and Halvorson voting for the motion.

In his final statements, Halvorson spoke about the proposed Big Lake Public Safety Facility which would house City Hall and the Police Department. He asserted that financing the \$33 million project through the Big Lake Economic Development Authority would cost the city an additional \$2 million. Halvorson argued that by financing through BLEDA, taxpayers will have no input and they deserve to know.

Mayor Paul Knier said that the process has been transparent and that it, "only makes sense to go through EDA."

Council Member Ken Geroux echoed Knier's statement and said it was the best way to maintain costs, keep the project under budget, and avoid delays.

The Big Lake Public Safety Facility was the main topic of the September 24, 2025 city council workshop. During the workshop, City Administrator Hanna Klimmek stated that the overall cost of the project was estimated to be \$31,144,950 with a not-to-exceed budget of \$33 million. She also defended the city's financing decision stating, "A Lease Revenue Bond will allow the city to structure payments, timing, and project-specific funding more flexibility than a traditional CIP (Capital Improvement Project) Bond, and a LRB (Lease Revenue Bond) will distribute repayment through existing revenues

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

On a chilly, windy, and overcast Friday afternoon on Nov. 7, M&M Precision Machining owners Matt and Mike James were joined by representatives from the City of Big Lake and Mendota Heights-based R. J. Ryan Construction Inc. to break ground for their new 60,000 sq. ft. headquarters and manufacturing facility.

Currently located in Elk River, M&M has begun to outgrow their current facility. Their move to Big Lake should accommodate for any current and future growth.

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CL Legion awards Guardian Fleet Safety

Submitted Article

Members of the Clear Lake American Legion presented a much-deserved award to Guardian Fleet Safety of Clear Lake with an award recognizing them for their contribution to the employment of American Veterans.

In November of 2024, Tami Petty with Guardian Fleet Safety, and Bud Stimmler, Clear Lake American Legion Post 354, began to collaborate to submit a nomination for Veteran Employer of the year to the Minnesota Department of the American Legion on behalf of Guardian Fleet Safety.

The nomination was then submitted to the Sixth District of the Minnesota Department of the American Legion. Guardian Fleet Safety was selected by Sixth District as the District Veteran Employer of the year in January of 2025. The nomination was forwarded the Minnesota Department of the American Legion at that time.



BUD STIMMLER AND STEVE SCHRADER of the Clear Lake American Legion (R), presented a plaque to employees of **Guardian Fleet Safety** this past summer for their participation in hiring Veterans at their place of business. Front row, from left to right: Josh Casey, Rick Gehrke, Derek Brittan, Charles Teigen, Steve Schrader and Bud Stimmler. Back row, left to right: Josh Vander hayden, Austin Ward, Mitchell Anderson, John Knoebel and Kyle Pundsack. (Submitted Photo).

Guardian Fleet Safety was then selected as the Minnesota Department of the American Legion as the Veteran Employer of the year for 2025. On July 11, 2025, Bud Stimmler and Steve Schrader of Clear Lake American Legion Post 354 traveled to Willmar to attend the State American Legion convention and received the award on behalf of Guardian Fleet Safety. Bud and Steve then pre-

sented the award to Charles Teigen, CEO Guardian Fleet Safety, and the veteran employees of Guardian Fleet Safety on July 31, 2025.

Currently approximately 18% of the employees at Guardian Fleet Safety are veterans of the armed forces of the United States.

rather than a dedicated new tax levy."

Upcoming Meetings

Finance Director Deb Wegeleben reminded the council of two upcoming meetings to be held during regular city council meetings. The Truth and Taxation Meeting will occur on Tues., Nov. 25, 2025 and the Final Budget and Levy Meeting on Wed., Dec. 10, 2025.

The BLEDA will hold a public hearing on Jan. 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. to consider and approve the resolution establishing the Economic Development District.

A special BLEDA meeting will be held on January 21, 2026 at 6 p.m. for approval of the bond sale and authorization of the lease documents with the city. That same evening, at 6:30 p.m., the City Council will take formal action to approve the BLEDA bonds and authorize execution of the lease documents, finalizing the financing process for the new public facilities project.

M&M Precision Machining breaks ground on new facility

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer



BLPD CAPTAIN SAM OLSON, BL Community Development Director **Marie Popp**, Mayor **Paul Knier**, M&M owners **Mike and Matt James**, BLEDA President **Alan Heidemann**, and City's Planning Commission member **Tony Velishek**. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

Matt James explained that the new building will be 2.8 times bigger than the current building. He hopes the project will wrap up next summer,

in June of 2026. He believes that within the first year of operations, M&M will have brought 20 new skilled jobs to Big Lake paying an aver-

age of \$25 an hour.

Job growth was a part of the agreement to purchase the land from Big Lake and Big Lake Township. Land, valued at \$244,500, would be sold for \$1.00 to Jabro Big Lake LLC in order to develop the M&M facility. M&M agreed to meet the following employment goal: create at least 16 new full-time jobs at an hourly rate of at least \$15 per hour for a period of one year.

The new facility is located at 20174 177th St. NW in Big Lake.

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OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES

MEDIA
VERIFICATION
REPORT

Audit Period: October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025

Patriot News

14054 Bank Street
Becker, MN 55308
(763) 275-0275

EMAIL: legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com
www.patriotnewsmn.com

1. Audited Media Platforms

Print Publication:	Average Net Circulation:	16,919 (Print Edition)
Website:	Average Website Users:	10,892
Social Media:	Average Facebook Followers:	1,337
	Average X (Twitter) Followers:	735

Patriot News – Total Gross Contacts	
CVC Estimated Edition Readership:	27,916
Total Digital Contacts:	12,964
Total Estimated Gross Contacts:	40,880*
*Total gross contacts include CVC estimated edition readership, website unique users, social media followers, and opened e-newsletter contacts. Total gross contact estimates can include significant audience duplication. There was no attempt made to eliminate any duplication that may exist.	

2. Publication Information

Number of Editions:	One
Format / Average Page Count:	Broadsheet / 10 Pages
Circulation Cycle:	Weekly
Ownership:	Patriot News
Year Established:	1994
Publication Type:	Community Newspaper
	100% Controlled / <1% Paid / 0% Sponsor Paid
Content:	50% Advertising / 50% Editorial
Primary Delivery Methods:	100% Mail / <1% Controlled Bulk
Annual Mail Subscription Rate:	\$95.00
Insert Zoning Available:	Yes - Route
CVC Member Number:	11-0202
DMA/MSA/CBSA:	Minneapolis, MN / Minneapolis--St. Paul, MN--WI / Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI
Audit Funded By:	Midwest Free Community Papers

CIRCULATION
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OUR DATA SPEAKS VOLUMES

16,919

3. Rate Card and Mechanical Data

Rate Card Effective Date:	January 1, 2025
Mechanical Data - Print:	Six (6) columns X 21.75" column depth Full page: 10" wide X 21.75" depth.
Print Open Rate:	Color: \$2,705.00 Full Page - \$665.00 1/4 th Page Black & White: \$2,580.00 Full Page - \$630.00 1/4 th Page
Insert Open Rate:	\$55.00 per thousand
Classified Rate:	\$20.00 for up to 15 words; \$0.15 each additional word
Deadline Day & Time:	Wednesday by 12 Noon
Mechanical Data - Web:	300px X 300px
Website Rates:	Header/Footer Banner - \$250.00/month Big Box - \$150.00/month Additional rates may be available from the publisher.

4. Contact Information

Publisher:	William Morgan	EMAIL: reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com
Advertising:	Carol Hanson	EMAIL: sales.carol@patriotnewsmn.com
Circulation:	Chris Meyer	EMAIL: accounting@patriotnewsmn.com

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16,919

5. Audited Circulation, Distribution and Net Press Averages - Print Edition

CVC Account Number: 11-0202	Saturday	Patriot News Becker, MN
Audit Period Summary		
Average Net Circulation	(5-H)	16,919
Average Gross Distribution	(5-F)	16,919
Average Net Press Run	(5-A)	16,929
Audit Period Detail		
A. Average Net Press Run		16,929
B. Office / File		10
C. Controlled Distribution		
1. Carrier Delivery		0
2. Bulk Delivery / Demand Distribution		22
3. Mail		16,854
4. Requestor Mail		0
5. Waiting Rooms		0
6. Hotels		0
7. Events, Fairs, Festivals and Trade Shows		0
8. Education		0
9. Restock & Office Service		13
Total Average Controlled Distribution		16,889
Controlled Returns		(0)
TOTAL AVERAGE CONTROLLED CIRCULATION		16,889
D. Paid Distribution		
1. Carrier Delivery		0
2. Single Copy		0
3. Mail		30
4. Waiting Room		0
5. Hotels		0
6. Education		0
7. Restock & Office Service		0
Total Average Paid Distribution		30
Paid Returns		(0)
TOTAL AVERAGE PAID CIRCULATION		30
E. Sponsored / Voluntary Paid Distribution		
1. Carrier Delivery		0
2. Single Copy		0
3. Mail		0
4. Waiting Rooms		0
5. Education		0
Total Average Sponsored Distribution		0
Sponsored Returns		(0)
TOTAL AVERAGE SPONSORED CIRCULATION		0
F. Average Gross Distribution		16,919
G. Total Unclaimed / Returns		(0)*
H. Average Net Circulation		16,919

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16,919

Explanatory – Print

PARAGRAPH FIVE AUDIT PERIOD SUMMARY

AVERAGE NET CIRCULATION: Average net circulation based on quarterly averages for the audit period indicated. (Total of controlled distribution (C), paid distribution (D), and sponsored distribution (E) minus unclaimed / return (G)). See audit period detail (H).

AVERAGE GROSS DISTRIBUTION: Average gross distribution based on quarterly averages for the audit period indicated. (Total of controlled distribution (A), paid distribution (B), and sponsored distribution (C)). See audit period detail (F).

NET PRESS RUN: Average net press run based on quarterly averages during the audit period indicated. The net press run average does not include press waste, or start-up copies. See audit period detail (A).

AUDIT PERIOD DETAIL

A. 1. NET PRESS RUN: Average net press run based on quarterly averages during the audit period indicated. The net press run average does not include press waste, or start-up copies.

B. 1. OFFICE / FILE: Undistributed editions maintained by the publisher for office purposes. Office / File editions do not qualify as controlled, paid, or sponsored distribution.

C. CONTROLLED DISTRIBUTION (NON-PAID): Editions distributed by the publisher free of charge.

1. CARRIER DELIVERY: Editions delivered by private carrier to single family residences, and/or multi-family residences, and/or businesses.

2. CONTROLLED BULK / DEMAND DISTRIBUTION: Editions distributed to newsracks, newsstands, and/or area retail businesses and available to individual readers. Subject to paragraph 5G returns.

3. MAIL: Editions delivered by United States Postal Service mail to single family residences, and/or multi-family residences, and/or businesses, and/or post office boxes.

4. REQUESTOR MAIL: Editions delivered on a requestor basis by United States Postal Service mail to single family residences, and/or multi-family residences, and/or businesses, and/or post office boxes. Qualified requestor circulation and other mail permit qualifications are audited by the United States Postal Service and not determined by CVC.

5. CONTROLLED WAITING ROOMS: Editions delivered to the waiting areas of local business and office buildings, including, but not limited to salons, medical and professional offices.

6. CONTROLLED HOTELS: Editions distributed to area hotels and available to individual readers. Subject to paragraph 5G returns.

7. EVENTS, FAIRS, FESTIVALS AND TRADE SHOWS: Editions distributed to attendees of conventions, local fairs, festivals, trade shows and available to individual readers. Subject to paragraph 5G returns.

8. CONTROLLED EDUCATION: Editions distributed to area schools or educational institutions and available to individual readers. Subject to paragraph 5G returns.

9. RESTOCK / OFFICE SERVICE: Editions maintained and distributed by the publisher for restock of newsracks, newsstands, area retail businesses, office deliveries, and advertising purposes during the edition cycle. Subject to paragraph 5G returns.

CONTROLLED RETURNS: Edition distributed in the controlled distribution category, returned to the publisher unclaimed during the edition cycle *(See paragraph 10 for CVC return/unclaimed confirmation.) Publications with greater than 25% returnable source distribution must report returns or unclaimed copies to qualify for net circulation reporting.

D. PAID DISTRIBUTION: Editions distributed by the publisher through paid subscription or other monetary exchange with individual readers.

1. CARRIER DELIVERY: See C1 for explanation of carrier home delivery. See paragraph 11 for paid reporting analysis.

2. SINGLE COPY: Editions distributed to newsracks, newsstands, and/or area retail businesses and available to individual readers. Subject to paragraph 5G returns. See paragraph 11 for paid reporting analysis.

3. MAIL: See C3 for explanation of mail distribution. See paragraph 11 for paid reporting analysis.

4. PAID WAITING ROOMS: See C5 for explanation of waiting room distribution.

5. PAID HOTELS: See C6 for explanation of hotel distribution.

6. PAID EDUCATION: See C8 for explanation of educational copy distribution.

7. RESTOCK / OFFICE SERVICE: See C9 for explanation of restock and office distribution.

PAID RETURNS: See section C: controlled returns for explanation of returns reporting. *(See paragraph 10 for CVC return/unclaimed confirmation.)

E. SPONSORED / VOLUNTARY PAID DISTRIBUTION: Editions distributed by the publisher that are sponsored by a third party monetary exchange or voluntary reader payment system.

1. CARRIER DELIVERY: See C1 for explanation of carrier home delivery.

2. SINGLE COPY: Editions distributed to newsracks, newsstands, and/or area retail businesses and available to individual readers on a sponsored or voluntary pay basis. Subject to paragraph 5G returns.

3. MAIL: See C3 for explanation of mail distribution.

4. SPONSORED WAITING ROOMS: See C5 for explanation of waiting room distribution.

5. SPONSORED EDUCATION: See C8 for explanation of educational copy distribution.

SPONSORED RETURNS: See section C: controlled returns for explanation of returns reporting *(See paragraph 10 for CVC return/unclaimed confirmation.)

F. AVERAGE GROSS DISTRIBUTION: Average gross distribution based on quarterly averages for the audit period indicated. Total of controlled distribution (A), paid distribution (B), and sponsored distribution (C).

G. TOTAL UNCLAIMED / RETURNS: Distributed editions returned to the publisher unsold and/or unclaimed during the edition cycle. *(See paragraph 10 for CVC return/unclaimed confirmation.)

H. AVERAGE NET CIRCULATION: Average net circulation for the audit period indicated. Total of controlled distribution (C), paid distribution (D), and sponsored distribution (E) minus unclaimed / return (G).

CIRCULATION
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16,919

6. Average Print Circulation History

YEAR	AUDIT SOURCE	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
01/01/25-12/31/25	CVC	16,574	17,162	17,043	-
01/01/24-12/31/24	CVC	16,520	16,684	16,939	16,897
01/01/23-12/31/23	CVC	16,588	16,822	17,090	16,748
01/01/22-12/31/22	CVC	16,334	16,551	17,001	16,728
01/01/21-12/31/21	CVC	15,997	16,341	16,490	16,315
01/01/01-12/31/20	Prior CVC	-	-	-	-

7. Distribution by Zip Code (9/27/2025 Edition) Saturday

ZIP CODE	CITY / AREA	COUNTY	STATE	CARRIER DELIVERY	CONTROLLED BULK / SINGLE COPY	MAIL	OFFICE / RESTOCK	TOTAL
55308	Becker	Sherburne	MN	0	0	3,708	25	3,733
55309	Big Lake	Sherburne	MN	0	0	8,434	0	8,434
55319	Clear Lake	Sherburne	MN	0	14	2,531	0	2,545
55320	Clearwater	Wright	MN	0	5	2,363	0	2,368
55371	Princeton	Mille Lacs	MN	0	5	1	0	6
MN	Assorted		MN	0	0	26	0	26
TOTAL				0	24	17,063	25	17,112

8. Distribution by County (9/27/2025 Edition) Saturday

COUNTY	CITY / AREA	STATE	CARRIER DELIVERY	CONTROLLED BULK / SINGLE COPY	MAIL	OFFICE / RESTOCK	TOTAL
Mille Lacs	Princeton	MN	0	5	1	0	6
Sherburne	Becker Big Lake Clear Lake	MN	0	14	14,673	25	14,712
Wright	Clearwater	MN	0	5	2,363	0	2,368
Misc.	Assorted	MN	0	0	26	0	26
TOTAL			0	24	17,063	25	17,112

9. Verification of Distribution – Mail and Carrier Delivery Distribution

Patriot News reported an average mail distribution of 16,884 during the audit period. Mail distribution is verified through the review of mail statements and/or additional publisher support documents. Patriot News did not report carrier delivery distribution during the audit period. Carrier delivery is verified through the review of carrier statements and/or additional publisher support documents. The Circulation Verification Council performed a delivery & readership verification in the primary market areas indicated in paragraph nine. Delivery verification is performed using multi-source methodologies considered necessary under the circumstances of the audit. Delivery verification can include, but is not limited to, residential and cell phone interviews, online surveys, email surveys, USPS surveys, in-person interviews and/or social media surveys.

CVC review indicates that a sufficient number of individuals reported that they receive Patriot News on a regular basis to substantiate the publisher's distribution claims.

CVC verification confirms that 226 of 298 or 75.8% report they regularly read or look through Patriot News.

*Households reporting stop delivery requests were excluded from the survey.
*Survey performed during 2024 audit and performed every 24 months.
The Circulation Verification Council estimates that all the information in this text box has a minimum accuracy level of +/-4%.

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16,919

10. Verification of Distribution

Controlled Bulk / Demand Distribution / Single Copy
Patriot News did not report significant controlled bulk / demand distribution, or single copy distribution during the audit cycle. Distribution locations received an average 22 copies per edition during the audit cycle.

11. Paid Reporting Analysis

CARRIER DELIVERY	Basic Rates: N/A
AVERAGE NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Full Basic Rate	0
MAIL	Basic Rates: \$95.00 / 1-Year
AVERAGE NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Full Basic Rate	30
Over 75% of basic rate	0
Over 50% of basic rate	0
Over 25% of basic rate	0
1%-24% of basic rate	0
Less than 1% of basic rate*	0
SPONSORED	Basic Rates: N/A
AVERAGE NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Full Basic Rate	0
DIGITAL	Basic Rates: N/A
AVERAGE NUMBER OF SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Full Basic Rate	0
SINGLE COPY	COVER PRICE: N/A
AVERAGE WHOLESALE RATE: N/A	

12A. Audited Average Website Reporting - www.patriotnewsmn.com

Website Total Users	Monthly Audit Period Average
Website Sessions	10,892
	Not Reported

Explanatory – Website

PARAGRAPH TWELVE (A)

TOTAL USERS: A unique user to a website where the user registers or where the user is identified or marked by a cookie, IP address, or other ID that is attached to the browser within the defined cycle. Limitations apply to the measurement of unique users. Please see CVC Rules & Regulations for further information.

SESSIONS: The total number of sessions, expressed as a monthly average, to a publication's website regardless of unique status, as expressed above.

12B. Audited Online/Digital Edition Reporting - Not Reported

12C. Text Media - Not Reported

12D. Social Media

Social Media Source	Average Media Usage	September 2025
www.facebook.com/patriotnewsmn	1,337 Followers	1,361 Followers
X (Twitter) - @patriotnewsmn	735 Followers	687 Followers

Explanatory – Social Media

PARAGRAPH TWELVE (D)

FACEBOOK LIKES: The average number of followers as expressed by the Facebook page. Information sourced at regular intervals from the publications page on Facebook.com or third party measurement sources.

X (TWITTER) FOLLOWERS: The average number of followers as expressed by members of the X (Twitter) community. Information sourced at regular intervals from the publications page on X (Twitter.com) or third party measurement sources.

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12E. Email Media - Not Reported

12F. Video & Podcast Media - Not Reported

Optional Publisher Reporting - Special Section / Special Edition Reporting

SPECIAL SECTION TITLE	DEADLINE MONTH	EDITION MONTH
Best of Guide	Early January	January
Discover Becker	Early January	January
Health Section	Early February	February
Spring Home Guide	Early March	March
Senior Guide	Early April	April
Police Recognition	Late April	May
Big Lake Graduation Guide	Mid May	May
Bridge Clearwater/Clear Lake	Early May	May
Becker Graduation Guide	Mid May	June
Outdoor Guide	Early June	June
Explore Big Lake	Early July	July
High School Sports Previews	-	April, September, December
Fall Home Guide	Early September	September
Firefighter Recognition	Late September	October
Turkey Giveaways	Late October	November
Veteran Recognition	November	November
Holiday Greetings	December	December

13. Council Audit Statement

Circulation Verification Council (CVC) reviewed the printing, distribution, circulation, technology, and general business records of this publication for the purpose of compiling this information. The review was completed using Council audit procedures considered necessary under the circumstances of the audit in compliance with CVC Rules and Regulations. In our opinion, this report fairly and accurately represents the publication's printing, distribution, circulation, and technology reporting, if applicable, for the period indicated. The publication has sworn that the information presented for this audit reporting is accurate and supplied CVC with general business records substantiating the information under audit review. This report is released subject to the provisions of the CVC Rules & Regulations which are hereby incorporated by reference. CVC Rules & Regulations may be amended from time to time without notice at the sole discretion of CVC. In no event shall CVC be liable for indirect, incidental, consequential, special, or punitive damages, or damages for lost profits, lost income, or lost savings arising by negligence, intended conduct, breach of contract, or otherwise. CVC reports and data are released for the sole use of advertising purchase evaluations and any use for valuations or determination of value is strictly prohibited. CVC reports may not be used for USPS requestor or other permit qualifications. This report is subject to copyright laws and may only be reproduced by the publisher.

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The current status of this report expires December 31, 2026.
If this report is presented after December 31, 2026 please call the toll-free number listed below.

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