



BECKER POLICE CHIEF Brent Baloun was recognized for his fine work in 2020 by city council Tuesday. See the council story by Katie Cantin on page 10.

INSIDE

BECKER NEWS
Becker students will be performing in an outdoor play this weekend entitled, "10 Ways To Survive the Zombie Apocalypse". See the full story on page 12.

BIG LAKE NEWS
Check out our story on political candidates for Big Lake City. See the story on Page 2.

CLEARWATER NEWS
Andra K Salon in Clearwater is hosting an Open House for the grand opening of their brand new facility. See the story on Page 4.

PATRIOT

UPCOMING

MORE CANDIDATE PROFILES
Keep checking back each week leading up to the general election in November to see candidate profiles for Becker and Big Lake cities, state office and county elections. Election Day is right around the corner!

AMERICAN LEGION CENTURY MAGAZINE
What an honor it is for Patriot staff to bring to our readers a very special tribute to America's veterans. Keep an eye out for a guide packed with stories of local heroes, the history of the Legion and much, much more. Our guide, entitled FOR GOD AND COUNTRY, will hit mailboxes in November!

FOOTBALL/VOLLEYBALL
The high school football and volleyball seasons got their seasons underway this week. Check back in next week's Patriot for full coverage on the games and matches from Becker and Big Lake!

PATRIOT

NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINES

NEWS DEADLINES
With the newspaper wrap up occurring Wednesday evening, all news items submitted to run that Saturday must reach our office by Wednesday morning by 11 a.m.

SPORTS DEADLINES
Coaches and assistants are expected to contact our sports writers by Wednesday morning, 11 a.m. at the latest to have their information included in that week's publication.

CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINES
Information for classifieds need to be submitted to our staff by noon Wednesday to be included in that week's publication of the PATRIOT.

CONTACT US

LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS/OBITS
Call 763-275-0275 or email Kathy @ legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com

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Call 763-275-0275 or email Mary, Carol or Heidi @ sales.carol@patriotnewsmn.com

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Call 763-275-0275 or email Kathy @ legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com

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Trump rally in Becker draws 700+



ERIC TRUMP energized the Becker crowd last Thursday as he campaigned for his father at a visit to T.J. Potter Trucking in Becker. (Photo by Bill Morgan).

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer

Eric Trump, the second youngest son of President Donald Trump, hosted a campaign rally for his father last Thursday in Becker that yielded well over 700 excited guests.

The event took place on the grounds of T.J. Potter Trucking in the Becker Business Park. Seating was first allotted for 250-300 people, but as the hordes lined up and waves of red, white and blue hats, shirts and banners cascaded across the parking lot, volunteers quickly scrambled to set up new rows of chairs in the venue.

Eric Trump was embarking on a Make America Great Again campaign through Minnesota and Wisconsin, Oct. 1. His second rally was to take place in Rothschild, WI later that evening.

Before the main speaker arrived, Rep. Paul Novotny gathered the spectators, who bowed their heads and removed their MAGA hats in a solemn prayer to kick things off. Rep. Shane Mekeland followed that gesture by inviting all guests to face the giant American flag on display and recite the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Jennifer Carnahan, chair for the Republican Party of Minnesota and wife of U.S. Representative from Minnesota's 1st congressional district, Jim Hagedorn, spent some 15 minutes or so stirring up the crowd by speaking of

the party's platform and her excitement for the Eric Trump visit.

Becker Mayor Tracy Bertram had the honor of thanking the guests for attending and for introducing Eric Trump to the enthusiastic crowd on a stage flanked by semi trucks and large American flags hanging from cranes.

Eric Trump's speech began by thanking Bertram and Carnahan, then immediately stoked the crowd by saying his father intends to win the election along with winning the State of Minnesota.

"We love this country and we are going to fight

and we are going to win this thing," he said. "And you know what, we lost this state by one percent in 2016 and I am very mad at all of you, we lost this state in 2016 and I can tell you we are going to win it this time, we're going to win it this time."

Minnesota is a key state in the 2020 Presidential election and has been visited numerous times by both President Trump and former Vice-President Joe Biden.

Eric Trump blasted attempts at voter fraud, Ilhan Omar and Mayor Jacob

TRUMP to page 3



Big Lake Chamber to host political candidates forum

Submitted Article

As in the past, the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce and Industry is pleased to announce that the Big Lake Political Candidates Forum will be held Mon., Oct. 19 from 6-9 p.m. at the Big Lake High School Auditorium. Registration and a "meet and greet" the candidates begin at 6 p.m. with the candidates of the first race answering questions at 6:30 p.m. Races and candidates (given in alphabetical order) invited to attend include:

- Big Lake Town-

- ship: Bruce Aubol, Dean Bresteson, Eric Rosa, Mark Hedstrom and Judy Wilts;
- **Big Lake Mayor:** Paul Knier and Mike Wallen;
- **Big Lake Council:** Ketti Green, Sam Hanson, Ken Halverson, Alan Heidemann and Paul Seefeld;
- **Big Lake School Board:** Katelyn Anne Bland, Barbara Chaffee, Lori Kampa, Tony Scales and Amber Sixberry;
- **State Representative District 30A:** Chad Hobot and Paul Novotny;
- **State Senate District 30:** Mary Kiffmeyer and Diane Nguyen;
- **US Representative**

FORUM to page 4

Clear Lake/Clearwater City Candidate profiles

By Katherine Cantin, Contributing writer

This election cycle, there were not many candidates running for the cities of Clear Lake and Clearwater, so they are combined in the profiles below.

City of Clear Lake Candidates
Stefany Janish

Stefany Janish is running for Clear Lake City Council. She is married and has four children. She has an occupation as a photographer, and she has earned an AA degree.

Public Safety: "I hope to create a safe, inclusive community for our families to raise our children."

Community outreach: "I will work to help make decisions that support and further benefit our community."

Karen White
Karen White has lived in Clear Lake for 15 years. She is married with two children, and she works at Heritage Millwork in Ramsey.

Community outreach: "I am running for city council because with two young children I wanted to get more involved."

Growth: "I enjoy the small town feel of Clear Lake, and want to help create improvements in the community."

Tim Goenner
Tim Goenner is running unopposed as mayor of Clear Lake. We were unable to reach Mr. Goenner to fill out our questionnaire.

City of Clearwater Candidates
Lindsey Luhmann

PROFILES to page 3

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Big Lake City Council Candidates

By Katherine Cantin
Contributing Writer

Ketti Green
Ketti Green is running for Big Lake City Council. Green and her husband, Greg, have a large family of three daughters, two sons-in-law, and three grandsons. She is a high school graduate and currently works as an office assistant at Sherburne County Sheriff's Office. She is a US Navy Veteran and has served on the Big Lake Planning Commission for 14 years.

Growth: "Big Lake has much to offer. I will support staff to promote our city to future residential and commercial developers to grow Big Lake, which will benefit us all."

Public Safety: "Big Lake is one of the safest cities in Minnesota. I will support first responders while ensuring continued fiscal accountability in our police and fire departments."

Budgeting: "Big Lake has reduced its outstanding debt significantly. I will work to ensure this continues."

Communication: "I will make decisions based on what's best for Big Lake. I will not put party politics or personal agendas ahead of your best interests. As the only female candidate, I bring a unique perspective to the council."

Ken Halverson
Ken Halverson is running for the Big Lake City Council 2-year seat. He and his wife, Julie, have one son, Tyler. He has worked as a truck driver and served for 30 years as a member of the fire dept. He graduated from Monticello High School, and though he has no degree, he has earned many certifications and has attended several college classes.

Growth: "We should talk to neighboring towns to see how we compare with our codes, ordinances, etc. From talking to members who deal directly with these codes, ours are stringent enough that they push many potential businesses away."

"With my experience of

coaching youth baseball and football, I feel the City of Big Lake would benefit if they had city-owned ball fields. Ball fields are able to draw in revenue through organizations leasing out our fields."

"As a home-owner, living in the City of Big Lake for over 30 years, I have seen a need for "move-up" housing. I believe many families want to be here, but there is a lack of housing after those of starter homes which pushes families to leave our town."

Budgeting: "I plan to maintain funding for our police and fire department as these are critical aspects to our great community. While I was the chief of the fire department I worked directly with our budget and worked towards keeping all our firefighters properly equipped and trained, made improvements on our building and still took priority to stay within our budget."

Government: "One thing I see a need for is a drawback on government overreach. While I feel we need ordinances, permits, etc. right now I believe we have some that infringe on your rights. When elected I will hear your concerns and represent you to the best of my ability."

Sam Hanson
Sam Hanson is running for City Council. He and his wife, Jenny, are expecting their first baby in March. He works as a sales, communication, and marketing manager at North Country Recycling. He majored in accounting and business at St. Cloud State University.

Public Safety: "When most people think of public safety, police, fire and EMS come to mind. However, engineering, building and code enforcement is often overlooked when the subject comes up. Our engineering and building officials are our city's first line of defense. Their job is to ensure all roadways and structures in our city are held to high standards. Without them, our first responders' jobs are much more dangerous. I will promote and maintain integrity among all who serve our city's public safety. With my first child on the way, I want to make this city as safe as possible for you family as well as mine."

Transparency: "Over the last year, I have been witness to many decisions that di-

rectly impact the residents of Big Lake. I promise to be an open book and offer details about every decision I make if elected."



Budgeting: "Due to some unforeseen expenses in our city's past, we have accrued quite a large debt. Over the last few years, city staff and Council have made great strides in paying down our debt. If elected I will ensure we continue on this downward trend and maintain fiscal responsibility within our city by voting against unsubstantiated spending."

Taxes: "Taxes help provide and maintain our quality of life and our great sense of safety in our beautiful city. It will be my goal to bring new industry and business to our community, provide more step-up housing for our growing families, and promote our community."

Alan Heidemann
Alan Heidemann is running for Big Lake City Council. He and his wife, Rachael, have one son, Wyatt. He works as a project manager for Kurita Water in St. Michael. He graduated from Elk River High School and has an AA from Anoka Ramsey Community College. He was the vice-chair of the planning commission in Monticello, he is the current chair of the Big Lake planning commission, and he is the president of the Big Lake Economic Development Authority.

Budgeting: "I think the City and its departments have done a good job in stretching every dollar the city takes in and spending it as wisely as possible while paying down debt very effectively. I feel this needs to be constantly monitored and addressed to ensure our tax dollars are being spent wisely."

Public Safety: "We are blessed in Big Lake to be considered one of the safest

communities in the state of Minnesota. We need to be proactive in maintaining this status by ensuring our police and firefighters have the resources they need to effectively perform their jobs in the community."

Growth: "Let's get out of the way of business to encourage growth and new business in Big Lake. We are currently undertaking some aspect of this with the Code Revision Task force. The task force will streamline our city code and bring it up to date with what the market is driving. This will ultimately make it easier for new businesses to open and for current businesses to expand."

Communication: "I believe anyone who represents the citizens in government should be voted for and not appointed. That being said, if elected I will advocate for putting language into the city code on a special election vs. appointment. This will create a concrete standard in which any current or future city councils will follow and make the process not only transparent but black and white with no grey area."

Paul Knier
Paul Knier is running for mayor of Big Lake. He and his wife, Julie, have been married for 27 years and have five children. He currently works as the president of a financial advisory firm. He has a business degree from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management. He is currently serving as a member of the Big Lake City council.

Public Safety: "Our police and fire departments are two of Big Lake's biggest assets. Whereas other cities across the country have seen conflict between citizens and the police force in recent years, Chief Scharf has built a solid reputation for the force among the citizenry of Big Lake. As your mayor, I will work to ensure both the police and fire departments have the resources they need to keep Big Lake safe."

Budgeting: "As Mayor, I'll look at every spending decision with a critical eye to its necessity, taking into account the needs of City Hall and the taxpayers. I believe economic

CANDIDATES to page 3

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We are excited to welcome Terra Bruns! Terra is originally from the Royalton area and has worked in the dental industry the last 15 years. She values hard work, honesty and prides herself on building trust and friendships with her clients. When not working, you can find Terra spending time with family, in the community or decorating her home. She is dedicated to helping her clients with all their real estate needs. Welcome to the team Terra!

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Election/Big Lake News

CANDIDATES from page 2

prosperity is driven by individuals, not government. Therefore, I support smaller government and maximum freedom for the people. One of the biggest issues facing our city is the heavy debt-load. Currently, Big Lake is in debt over \$33 million. That number is coming down, which is good, but it’s still high. I recognize the debt wasn’t accrued overnight and it won’t be eliminated overnight, either. As a financial advisor managing over \$170 million dollars, I know how to hold the line on spending and pay down debt.”

Transparency: “The right to choose who represents us is a rock-solid core principle of our republic. Should there be an opening that arises on the city council, I support having a special election at the earliest possible opportunity. I oppose the idea of the mayor and council members appointing other council members. The citizens of Big Lake have the right to choose who represents their interests!”

Paul Seefeld
Paul Seefeld is running for Big Lake City Council. He and his wife, Janelle, have one son, Eli. He served for eight years in the Army, and was a part of the comprehensive plan task force.

Public Safety: “Big Lake is ranked between the first and second safest city with a population of around 10 thousand. I would like to keep supporting our police and fire. Community involvement also helps. I am a proponent of neighborhood “Connect Groups” that could perhaps meet on a regular basis to raise neighborhood awareness and help local law enforcement know they are not alone in protecting this city.”

Budgeting: “Our city pays \$1.5 million in debt service a year. Imagine if that money could be put to things we need or want. If we didn’t have such a high debt load, we wouldn’t need to continue the vicious cycle of raising taxes to pay off the principle and interest. If we save money and pay for things in cash, then we save the taxpayers

a lot of money that would otherwise end up going to interest. We need to not just plan for five or 10 years, but 20 to 30 years.”

Transparency: “As a citizen, I asked the city if they could publish the recordings of workshops, and they are now on the city website. I would like to go farther in publishing council and advisory commission agendas, packets, and minutes on my council page and city social media. The council has a duty to let the residents know about projects and plans that are coming down the pike.”

Communication: “I am not in favor of Big Lake’s current position on elected representation. The council appoints people to planning commissions and park boards, but we should let the residents choose who represents them on the council. Appointments allow politicians to hand select councilmembers that agree with them, allowing them to keep their majority intact.”

Mike Wallen
Mike Wallen is running for his incumbent position as mayor. He and his wife Shelly have lived in Big Lake for 25 years and have a daughter, Emily, a son, Andy (Leah), and one granddaughter, Norah. He works as a building official for the cities of St. Joseph, Rockville, Richmond and Kimball. He has spent a total of 10 years on the Big Lake City Council.

Public Safety: “We as a city council must continue to support the exemplary services that make Big Lake the safe city it is. These include: Police, Fire, Building, Streets, and Water/Waste Water. Since we are not sure of the upcoming political or financial climate we will be facing, it’s difficult to truly plan. We will need to be flexible.”

Communication: “With the utilization of social media becoming more predominant, misinformation and opinion based information over facts and truth is much more the norm. We need to continue to find ways to get out up to date and accurate information relating to the city.”

PROFILES from page 1

Lindsey Luhmann is running for Clearwater City Council. She and her husband have three children. She works as a patient care extender at the St. Cloud Emergency Department. She graduated from Fairmont Junior High School in 2005 and is currently attending St. Cloud Technical College part time for nursing. She attended Girls State in June of 2004

Taxes: “I will fight to keep the taxes low for the City of Clearwater.”

Communication: “I want to be the voice for the community and help better the communication between the city and the residents of Clearwater.”

Growth: “I promise to continue to make our parks the community focal point.”

Andrea Lawrence Wheeler

Andrea Lawrence Wheeler is running for her incumbent position as the mayor of Clearwater. She and her husband, Jon, have three daughters. She has a Bachelor’s degree in communications and a Master’s degree in counseling from St. Cloud State University.

“Before becoming mayor, Lawrence served on the Clearwater Parks Commission, and she was a regular board member for two years. Besides being mayor, she also works as a community manager for Great Lakes Management.”

Growth: “We have had quite a few houses built since council passed and continued funding the Economic Growth Incentive. One way I believe we can continue to grow the community is to improve city facilities. We are outgrowing some of our buildings and lack a community center. I also want to open more opportunities for citizens to access the Mississippi River by working with the Mississippi River Mayors Association. I will work with neighboring cities on the massive amount of work that will continue on I-94, as well as work with MNDoT and Parks Commission on replacing the Hwy. 24 bridge in the city to get the best bridge with safe pedestrian crossings and trail connections. The last meeting I had with MNDoT has this bridge scheduled for replacement by 2025.”

Community Outreach: “I would like to fill the Economic Development Association with members of the community. Currently it is made up of members of the council. An issue I’d like to resolve is citizen and business owner participation on city committees, associations and commissions. Often, we have openings and no or only one applicant. Local government affects local people in a more tangible way than state or federal government. There is also no easier level of government to get involved with. It is local, you don’t have to travel for meetings or to see the effects of your work.”

Richard Petty

Richard Petty is running to be a board member for the City of Clearwater. We were unable to reach Mr. Petty to fill out our questionnaire.

Budgeting: “We need to continue down our present course of aggressive debt reduction and making budgetary decisions that are prudent and have positive long term implications for the City.”

Community Engagement: “It’s imperative that we continue to foster an environment that challenges our entire staff while providing incentives to retain and promote. Also, as a city we must continue to promote functions/activities that provide entertainment, learning opportunities and showcase all that Big Lake has to offer. Most of the time this doesn’t cost the city anything other than support.”

TRUMP from page 1

Frey but also touted the area’s energy producers, farmers, local police and veterans.

Mekeland, who for over nine months had been working with others (including Todd and Barb Potter) on bringing a preeminent campaigner to his district, was excited and pleased with last Thursday’s rally.

“I think Eric knocked it out of the park,” Mekeland said of Eric’s speech. “He hit all the talking points that were important. It was a proud moment.”

Mayor Bertram was grateful for being part of a big deal in Becker.

“I owe a huge thank you to Barb and Todd (Potter) for elevating our city to another level,” she said. “The Potter’s new facility in the Business Park was the perfect backdrop for showcasing Becker and our ambitious growth as a city.”

Bertram admitted later, Eric Trump caught her off-guard.



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<p>BEEF HINDS 1/4s \$3⁴⁵ lb</p> <p>Porterhouse Steak T-Bone Steak Sirloin Steak Rump Roast Round or Cube Steak</p>	<p>Sirloin Tip Steak or Roast Ground Beef, avg. 50lbs. Short Ribs *optional Soup Bone *optional Stew Meat *optional</p>	<p>SPLIT SIDES OF BEEF 1/2s \$3⁴⁰ lb</p>

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Area News

Clearwater Twp. reluctantly approves fire contract

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

During their meeting Monday night, the Clearwater Twp. Board of Supervisors reluctantly approved the fire contract with the City of Clearwater after the city refused any further negotiations.

The city approved one of the township's recent requests, providing a quarterly call report, however, weren't willing to approve the additional two requests; (1) to allow two of the three entities involved to call a special meeting or (2) agree to a cap on their 2022 budget.

Although the city has agreed to some of what had been requested over the negotiation process, the township board expressed concern over not being able to protect their constituents, as the last three years they've been hit with large increases to the fire contract.

"We've got a really great fire department and people are happy with them," said Supervisor Scott Miller. "But this has been the problem the whole time, the cost controls. We have no way to limit the cost. The townships don't want to build their own fire department, but we need a plan B."

Chairman Bill Langenbacher expressed that he felt the township was back to where they started from.

Because of the late date the board felt they had no choice but to go with the contract and pass a motion stating 'reluctant approval.'



SHANE POTTER discusses his driveway access issue with Clearwater Twp. Supervisors **Rose Thelen** and **Bill Langenbacher**. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)

DNR Grant

Langenbacher informed the board the DNR was accepting applications on local roads that would improve access to public areas, such as lakes and parks. He suggested applying to improve the road access to Nixon Lake. The board agreed; Langenbacher will submit after learning more about the grant.

Other Business

Shane Potter approached the board to discuss property he purchased that connects to 160th Street and the driveway access issue he's facing. After a long discussion the board agreed to work with him, but recommended he first try to purchase a small piece of land from a neighbor, and if that didn't work to talk to his other neighbor about the possibility of sharing a driveway.

The Sterling Kennel review was tabled until after Supervisor Rose Thelen has a chance to speak with the county. Currently the

board doesn't feel they're knowledgeable enough on the topic to be certain the kennel is up to code.

Miller reported the owner of the Hendrix Ave. property that had received a junk complaint from Wright Co. had made a lot of process in the cleanup. Because he's made an honest effort to work with the township, they agreed to give him more time to continue the process.

During public comment, Ron Schabel asked the board about the status of chip sealing Huber Ave. Miller explained it needs to be looked at and would benefit a lot of people, and hopes to talk about the project seriously over the winter.

Motions carried approving the township's replacement insurance cost coverage, security replacement and upgrade costs, and election judges.

The next Clearwater Twp. meeting will be Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.



Baby girl named after great-grandpa

By Katherine Cantin
Contributing Writer

On Sept. 21, Santiago couple Katelyn and Caleb Nieters gave birth to a baby girl. The new baby happened to be born on the birthday of her great-grandpa, Michael Roy Woolard. In honor of the shared birthday, the parents decided to set aside the names they had been considering and name their girl Aurora (Rory) Mikela, as a play on her great-grandpa's name.

Both parents, Aurora, and one-year old sister, Everleigh Rose, are living with the grandparents Michael and Kathy Woolard while their house in Foley is being finished.

"Grandpa was ecstatic when he heard the name," said Kathy Woolard. "Mike and I think it's so very special."

Aurora Mikela weighed 6lbs, 10oz and was 19 inches long.



Andra K Salon to host Open House Sunday

Submitted Article

Andra K Salon and Spa of Clearwater is hosting a grand opening this Sunday, (Oct. 11) from 2 to 4 p.m.

Owner Krista Stier invites people to stop by and check out the new facility and register for prize drawings.

Andra K is a Lanza concept full-service salon and spa that offers everything from hair, nail and skin care services to specialty hair and makeup for special events.

The salon was previously owned by Krista Stier's mother, Lee Fredrickson and operated as Lee and Friends Salon since 1974. The salon was originally located where the Brickyard Bar & Grill in Clear Lake currently sits.

Andra K Salon and Spa is located at 615 Smith St in Clearwater (near Coborns). The salon can be reached at 320-558-6620.



THE BRAND NEW Andra K Salon building is located across from Coborn's on Smith Street in Clearwater. (Submitted Photo).

YOUR NEWS

Just the Way You Like It

FORUM from page 1

District 6: Tom Emmer, Patrick Munro and Tawnja Zahradka.

Kevin Thompson, owner of DATASuccess, will moderate the forum. Big Lake Chamber Executive Director Gloria Vande Brake encourages all voters of the Big Lake area to attend the non-partisan political candidate forum. Members in the audience can submit questions. Questions from citizens not attending the forum will be considered if submitted by Thurs., Oct 15 at noon to info@biglakechamber.com.

The Chamber, volunteers, candidates and guests will be observing COVID-19 guidelines. Sherburne Wright Cable Commission (SWCC) will be taping the forum for viewing later on the City of Big Lake Cable TV Channel 180 and on the Big Lake Chamber website.

The schedule for the specific races will be posted on the Big Lake Chamber Facebook page and website. All citizens are encouraged to be informed about the candidates through this newspaper and the Big Lake Political Can-

didates Forum and to vote Tues., Nov. 3 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at your local precinct.

Voters can also request an absentee ballot application on <https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/> and clicking on the Voter and Election tab in the upper right corner. You can return your ballot by mail, drop it off at Sherburne County Courthouse during their business hours or at their secure, outside election drop box until 3 p.m. Nov. 3.



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County News

Sherburne County meets several CARES Act milestones

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Sherburne Board of Commissioners met Tuesday morning and learned about the County’s continued efforts in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the diligent work of many county staff, several important milestones were reached this week.

CARES Act

Assistant administrator Dan Weber announced that the county received this week its 100th business application for a CARES Act funding grant. With grants already awarded and a few in the processing stage, the county will surpass the \$2 million level in terms of awarded money to businesses. There is still some time left for businesses to submit their grant applications, but the deadline is fast approaching.

When the CARES Act funding originally became available, the county had set a goal to award at least twenty percent of the funds to businesses/organizations and they will meet this mark very soon.

The board voiced its pleasure with the speed at which it has been able to get the funding to area businesses.

County administrator Bruce Messelt next reported on the status of the nonprofit organization

grants, as well as the approximate \$1.1 million in personnel costs that will be reimbursed to the county from the CARES funding.

To date, the county has appropriated about \$7 million in its allotted CARES funding.

Resilience

The board heard a presentation on the ongoing efforts at building resilience within communities and specifically the *Creating A Ripple* social media campaign.

Melissa Pribyl of CentraCare’s Bounce Back Project discussed the campaign with the board, as it is a joint effort between mental health providers, school districts, faith communities, the SUP coalition and many other agencies in providing resilience to families and individuals. The coalition of groups is dubbed STIR, or Stronger Together Inspiring Resilience. By working together, the group can leverage the talents and efforts of the many organizations in creating a central repository of resilience based information to help strengthen communities.

HHS Upgrades

The board next considered upgrades to the HHS system in being able to be more efficient in remote working situations. Safeguarding documents, managing accountability

and having a more centralized system were listed as some of the reasons for the upgrades to the systems.

Administrator Messelt also mentioned that this would allow for the more efficient processing of Emergency Assistance (EA) applications which are time sensitive.

The board moved approval of the funding package for the upgrades.

Pandemic Update

Amanda Larson provided the board an update on the county’s current COVID statistics.

She noted that Elk River recently surpassed the Sherburne portion of St. Cloud in number of diagnosed cases, which was to be expected considering the population numbers.

Larson also reported on the county’s efforts at working with the school districts, noting that case interviews are completed when confirmed cases are reported by schools. To date, nine cases were reported from the schools as a primary work setting, while ten cases had reported visiting a school in the last 14 days.

As a county, 60% of confirmed cases have been reported as community spread, meaning the person is unaware of the source from which they contracted COVID-19.

The current 14 day rolling average which dictates school opening plans was 14.7 while next week it is projected to be 16.7.

However, the surrounding counties have reported higher averages, with Stearns at 25.8, Benton at 20 and Anoka at nearly 21. Once a school crosses the 20 mark, it is recommended that their elementary schools switch to a hybrid model.

Larson told the board that her department continues to work closely with schools to help with contact tracing and other duties as needed.

A public health nurse is assigned to work with each school district to help with the daily duties and also they offer to do a walk through of the buildings to look at the prevention side of the issue as well.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the contract for services for residential well sampling;

- Agreed to implement the low income septic program with a maximum cap for grants at \$5,000 per property;

- Heard from Administrator Messelt regarding some ongoing construction efforts at the government center;

- Scheduled a webex special meeting for Tuesday, October 13 to consider CARES Act funding requests;

- Approved a CUP with conditions for the Langowski property in Palmer Township;

- Approved a final simple plat with four conditions for Manthei Estates in Livonia Township;

- Discussed the first phase of the Buck Run development in Baldwin Township and approved a negative declaration on the need for an EIS, as well as approval of the preliminary plat;

- Heard from Assistant Administrator Dan Weber, who presented the special housing HVAC unit upgrades and the board approved the qualified low bidders in each area;

- Granted approval for the low bidders in the special housing painting project.

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Becker Baptist Church 763-261-4202. Acting Pastor Nathan Bucher
Youth Pastor Kevin Drechsel
Amy Drechsel, Director of Ministry to Children & Families
11951 Hancock Street, Becker, MN
Sunday Worship Service/Children’s Church at 10:30 am - register to attend in person or find links to watch online by visiting our website
Children’s AWANA & Momentum Youth Group on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
www.beckerbaptist.org | Watch us on YouTube
Becker Evangelical Free Church Located at Becker High School. Patrick Drury, Senior Pastor 763-261-4125. Chris Salvevold, Pastor of Youth Ministries. www.beckerfreechurch.org. Office: 11373 150th Ave SE, Sunday Worship: Becker High School, Worship/ Teaching/Fellowship for all ages 10am Sunday school for ages birth-adult during school year. Wed night kids ministries ages K-5. His Kids for K-3 boys & girls, Gym 45 for 4th & 5th grade boys & G.I.R.L.S. Group for 4th & 5th grade girls. ELEVATE for 6-12th grade students.
Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
Father Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave, Becker, 440 Lake St N, Big Lake. Temporarily, all Masses are being held at the Becker location at 5 pm on Saturday and 9:30 am on Sunday.
Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers, 11755 Sherburne Ave, Becker. Sundays Worship at 9:30 am (Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays) Nursery provided Sunday school at 10:00 am, Refreshments & fellowship at 10:30 am. Wednesday 5:15 5th & 6th Grade “Grapple”, 6:30 7th – 9th grade confirmation, 7:30 Youth Group. Bible Study: Wednesday 9:30 am. 763-261-5751.
Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God Senior Pastor Gerry Bass & Sarah www.oakwoodcbecker.org Services: Sunday Adult Bible Study Class 9:00 am, Children’s Sunday School Class 9:00am, Worship Service 10:00 am, Children’s Church 10:45 am, Wednesday Night: Royal Rangers & Missionettes (Nursery-6th grade) 7-8:30 pm, Youth Group (7th to 12th grade) 7:-8:30 pm, Adult Bible Study 7:30 pm. Location: 13140 1st St., Becker (in SW corner of Becker Furniture World) 763-220-6004.
Snake River Free Mission Church Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am. Hymn Sing Second Sunday every other month 4:30 pm. Pastor Steve Johnston. 5mi N of Hwy 10 on Cty Rd 11, then 1.5 mi E on Cty Rd 4, 3/4 mi. N on 180th St. 612-219-8648.
Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church Ken Hanson, Pastor 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE, Becker, 6 mi N Junction 23 & 16. Praise & Worship 9:30 am Sunday; Wednesday 7 pm all family growth fellowship.
Beacon House of Prayer 12264 Pleasant Ave. Becker. Worship Thursday 6:30 pm. Pastors Brian & Linda Holmes. 763-263-3771.
Maranatha Baptist Church Pastor Glenn McCarver. Sunday School 10 am, Worship 11 am. Wednesday Prayer Service 7 pm. 763-262-1571.
Free Grace United Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001. Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Peb-

ble Creek Golf Course, 14000 Clubhouse Ln, Becker.

• **BIG LAKE**
ACTS Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church 763-263-2287, Pastor Bill Nixon, 20455 187th Ave NW, Big Lake, Sat. 9 am Worship, Saturday, Sabbath School 10:15am.
Bethany Bible Church 511 Eagle Lake Road, Big Lake, 763-263-2167, Sunday school: 9 am, Worship 10 am.
Bridgeview Assembly of God Pastor Steve Royalty, Service Times: 763-263-6274, 10 am Sunday morning, 6:30 pm Wednesday evening, www.bridgeviewchurch.org
SVEA Hill Covenant Church Pastor Don Belach, 763-263-6322, Cty. Rd. 15, 6 miles north of Hwy. 10 Worship, 10:00 am, nurse provided.
Cornerstone Baptist Church Pastor Gordon Langdon, 763-263-7878, 15300 Co. Rd. 35, Hwy. 10E, N. on Co. Rd. 15, N. on Co. Rd. 35, 1/2 mi. on left.
Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrock Pastor Steve Seiffert, www.hopeintherefuge.weebly.com, 612-788-4349 or 763-263-7990 (LM) 8 mi. N. of Big Lake or 7 mi. W. of Zimmerman or 12 mi. NE of Becker Cty. Rd. 4.
IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE
Living Love Church 221 Lake St N, Big Lake, Saturday 6 pm. 763-607-5403, Juan & Patricia Aguayo-Pastores, juan.aguayo@amorviviente.com.
Lord of Glory Lutheran Church 4 miles E of Big Lake, off Hwy 10 & CR 15, 763-263-3090, Pastor Marty Mably, Sundays: 8 & 10:30 am Worship.
Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
Father Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave, Becker, 440 Lake St N, Big Lake. All Masses are temporarily being held at the Becker location at 5 pm on Saturday and 9:30 am on Sunday.
Riverside Church Phone: 763-263-2410; Hwy 25 & Cty Rd 14, Big Lake. Schedule: 8:45 am, 10:30 am & 12:05 pm. Info @ www.MyRiversideChurch.com
Saron Lutheran Church 311 Lake St. S (Hwy 25), Big Lake, 763-263-2209, www.saron.org. Pastor Kyle Sidlo, Worship Sundays, 9:30 am indoors or live stream. Currently, Saron is not offering Sunday School.

• **SANTIAGO**
South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA
Angela LaMoore, Pastor, Hollie Holt-Woehl, Pastor, 14675- 37th St, Clear Lake, MN 55319, 763-662-2048. Sundays 8 am drive-in worship. 9:30 am sanctuary worship. For faith formation schedule and information, please visit our website at: sslcmn.org.
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School Timothy Zenda, Pastor. (3 mi E of Cty 11, Santiago on Cty Rd 3). Sunday: Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 am, Divine Worship 9 am. Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sunday.
Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA). Pastor Shari Routh 920-573-0193. Church office 763-662-2241. Sun day Good Shepherd Worship 9 am, Glendorado Worship 10:30 am.
Gethsemane Church (ELCA) Ronneby, Pastor Barbara Peterson 320-983-5002. Sunday Worship 10 am.
Glendorado Evangelical Country Church Pastor Sam Alfano. Sunday School 9:30 am; Wor-

ship Service 10:30 am, 3rd Sunday of each mo. 6 pm Singspiration Public Invited. Wed. Awana & Bible Study 7-8 pm for all ages.

• **CLEAR LAKE**
Living Waters Church Pastor Mark Stahl 320-292-0250. Sunday morning worship at 10 am (Children’s Church provided). Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 pm (Fellowship Meal at 5:30 pm). 7830 Church St. P.O. Box 26, Clear Lake. lwchurchus@outlook.com web: www.livingwaters.us
Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod George Sagissor III, Pastor 320-743-2919. Sunday Worship 8:45 am; Sunday School 9:45 am, Adult Bible Class.
St. Marcus Catholic Church Fr. Joseph Backowski 320-743-2481. Mass: Saturdays 5 pm. (year-round) Sunday: Jan -Jun 8 am, July -Dec 10 am; Confessions: Saturday 4:15 pm. 8701 Main Avenue, P.O. Box 237, Clear Lake, MN 55319.

• **DUEL M**
St. Lawrence Church Father Joseph Backowski. Mass: Jan - June, Sunday 10 am, July - Dec 8 am. Reconciliation: 7:15 am when Mass begins at 8 am & will follow after Mass at 10 am. 320-968-7502 or 320-743-2481. St_Lawrence@victorcec.net

• **CLEARWATER**
Clearwater United Methodist Church 405 Main St, Clearwater 320-558-2581. Pastor Allison Hendley. Sunday Worship at 9:30 am. www.clearwaterumcmn.org.
Freedom Bible Church Old Clearwater Post Office. 605 Lime St 9:30 am & 6 pm Sundays -Bible Study; 10:45 am Sundays - Worship Service; 7 pm Wednesday - Bible Study.
Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA 1155 Cty Rd 75, Clearwater. Pastor: Jim Bump 320-558-6851. Sunday Worship at 9:30 am. www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org
Church of St. Luke 17545 Huber Ave. NW Clearwater. Fr. Dennis Backer, Pastor 320-558-2124 Weekend Mass 5pm Sat 8 & 10 am Sunday Weekday Mass: Tuesday – Friday 8 am; Sat 9 am. Reconciliation avail 45 min prior to all Masses. Holy Days as announced. churchof-stlukes.com
Tri-County Alliance Church 8464 160th St NW Clearwater (Cty Rd 104 & Hwy 24) 320-558-2750 Pastor David Fogal Sunday School 9 am Worship Service 10:30 am Wednesday Bible Adventure (kids) 6-7:30 pm Wednesday Youth (Gr. 6- 8) 6-7:40 pm Wednesday Youth (Gr. 9-12) 7:20-9 pm. tcchurch.com

• **MAPLE LAKE**
Silver Creek Community Church Pastor Zach Pryor. 4282 114th St. NW, Maple Lake, 55358 (Co. Rds. 8 & 143 in Silver Creek) Ph. 320-963-3957. www.silvercreekcommunitychurch.com. Sunday Worship 9 am, 10 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Sunday School. Tuesday 5 pm Bible study @ In Hot Water. Wednesday 9 am Bible study @ Irish Blessings, 6:15 Youth Group supper/meeting.

Tom Kelly Announces Retirement

Submitted article

Tom Kelly has been with the County Attorney’s Office representing the citizens of Wright County for almost 37 years, the past 22 as the elected county attorney. He started his career as a prosecutor for Wright County in March 1984, was Chief of Criminal Division 1990 to 1998 and elected to County Attorney in 1999. Kelly will be retiring at the end of December.

Kelly will be recommending to the County Board that Chief of Criminal Division, Brian Lutes, be appointed to serve out his term as County Attorney.

Kelly always stressed the “Team Approach” to prosecution which requires a working relationship with law enforcement that instills credibility, confidence, cooperation, teamwork and efficiency. “I am proud of the working relationship between my office and law enforcement for all these years.” he said. “I am grateful for all their support over the years.”

Kelly wished to thank his support staff, legal administrative assistants and assistant county attorneys. “My philosophy was to hire the best people possible and then stay out of their way and let them do their job,” he said.

“Lastly, but most importantly, I would like to thank my family, Holly, Megan and Matt for all their love, support and patience throughout the years.”



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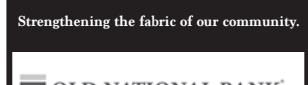
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Editorial/Opinion

----- Close Encounters Of The Best Kind -----

Life can be full of surprises, especially when it comes to encounters with someone unexpectedly.

You didn't plan it, but it just happened. I hadn't given much thought about it until now and notice the encounters a little more. I guess there is something to say about gaining wisdom with age. Is it a coincidence, twist of fate, destiny, a purpose, or a higher power? Either way, my perspective and life is changed — maybe for them too?

I don't go looking for special encounters, they seem to come about all on their own and are not always the same. In my earlier years, I was quiet and shy. I certainly didn't engage in conversations with people I didn't know. I would only talk at home. My introverted nature caused me to be held back from first grade. Needless to say, I overcame my shyness.

Helping Hand

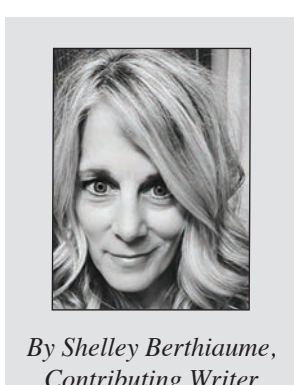
One summer, our family went up north to a resort. I was about six years old at the time. The resort had a big swimming pool. My older sister was with mom on the deep end of the pool and dad was watching my younger brother in a small one. I was on the shallow end of the big pool and decided to go to the deep end, but I didn't tell anybody. I slipped crossing over, not realizing the pool floor slanted. I went under and came back up. A young girl was walking by and saw me. She could tell I was in trouble and reached her hand out to me. I missed it and went under. I came back up and she was still there and tried again to help me. I went back under.

Mom happened to turn around and saw the frantic splashing and a young girl reaching her hand out. She told my sister, "That kid is in trouble," and went swimming across, only to find it was me. I think back to that moment and remember the girl that tried to help. I didn't know her and we didn't get to talk, but that unspoken encounter saved my life.

I hadn't thought about it that way before, but I do now. A lesson, with the help of a higher power.

Great Scott

It was December 21, 1984. I was planning on staying in that night, but I got talked into going out with my friends and brother. We went to the old Monte Club in Monticello to hear this band called, *The Jets*. Unbeknownst to me, I would meet my spouse that night. We danced a few times and he (Scott) took my number and called me the next day.



By Shelley Berthiaume,
Contributing Writer

We ended up going out the following week and have been together ever since. The funny thing is, Scott told me, he wasn't planning on going out that night either but a friend talked him into it. Those friends must have known something we didn't. Destiny working undercover.

Great Home, Great Friends

Twenty-seven years ago this October, we moved into our house in Big Lake. We had looked at another house months before finding this one. It was a nice house right across from Lake Mitchell.

The price was right and the seller was motivated. At the time, I wasn't sure I wanted to live in Big Lake.

By the time we came back, the house was being sold by a realty company and was out of our price range. We started looking around Big Lake more and found the house we are currently in. Little did we know, this neighborhood would hold some of the best people we would ever meet. People who were more like family and

the streets. All of a sudden, I spotted her. I went walking through part of this yard to get her. Outside was a gentlemen that lived there, "John." He started talking to me about Josie, which led him to talk about the dogs he had. From there, he went on to talk about his wife, who he was taking care of, how long they had lived in that house, his time in WWII and his passion to collect western saddles and more. An hour and a half later, I left with an invite to come back and meet his wife and look at the saddles. I had a new friend and hopefully he felt the same way. I guess our dog running off was not such a bad thing after all. A twist of fate that turned into a purpose or did "Josie" know something?

Good Morning

This past August we headed to Great Falls, Montana for a wedding. We decided to stop for breakfast in Jordan, Montana, (population 389). The Summit Coral had the mom and pop's cafe feel.

We were the only ones in there besides two locals. We ordered and Scott went outside. I looked over at the table and saw the one local sitting there having coffee. I said "Good Morning." He looked at me and smiled and said "Good Morning." We started talking about the weather, always a good conversation starter. He (Frank) was telling me about all the grasshoppers that were getting into their crops. I don't know why but I thought about the story of locusts in the Bible. I told Frank that and he replied "Yes," and recited a verse. "I have been studying the Bible for 50 years," he said. I asked him, "So you were only 10 when you started?" He laughed and said, "I'm 88." We talked about the world and people.

His friend Skip (closer to our age) came back in and so did Scott. We learned about their life out there. Both Frank and Skip were ranchers. We came in as strangers and left as friends. You just never know who you are going to meet. What a coincidence I first thought, but I know it was for a purpose.

Every encounter has an impact, whether we realize it or not. It can be subtle or more noticeable.

Sometimes it is meant for you and sometimes it is meant for them. I believe everything happens for a reason and there is a purpose. Ultimately, we determine if the encounter is a lesson, an opportunity, a blessing, a friend or even a soulmate. I'm grateful for what has been and look forward to those yet to come.



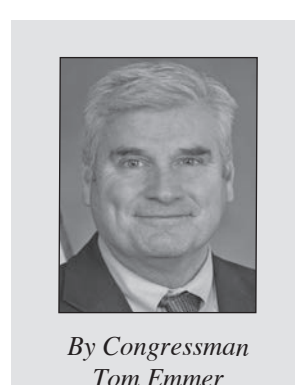
MY NEW FRIEND, Frank, from Jordan, MT.
(Photo by Shelley Berthiaume).

We gained lifelong friends. Some of the original neighbors are no longer here and some have moved away, but the memories of them and the goodness still lingers. A purpose and higher power — a combined effort.

Neighbor John

A few years back, I was out looking for our dog, "Josie" who had run off. I was walking up and down

COVID-19 Recovery Package Fails in House



By Congressman
Tom Emmer

Last week, the House majority again refused to compromise on a package to help us recover from the COVID-19 outbreak. As students continue with their school year and businesses struggle to re-open, it is critical they receive the support they need from the federal government. I voted against this partisan legislation because it put Speaker Pelosi's political priorities ahead of the real needs of the American people during this pandemic.

Instead, I advanced some non-partisan policies that would benefit our entire state. Check out what I was up to last week in Washington below...

Supporting Our Nation's Teachers

Last week, I introduced the Safe Teachers Assistance and Return To School (STARTS) Act to assist educators who have returned to the workplace for in-person teaching. As the father of seven children, I believe in-person learning is vital for students. I am glad to see some of our schools reopening and returning to normal. However, I understand the burden this puts on our educators to keep our students safe.

I am dedicated to supporting our teachers as they ensure a safe learning environment. This legislation will help reduce the financial burden of any out-of-pocket purchases they make.

Fighting For A Cure

This month, we recognize Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is a cruel disease that tears mothers from their children, wives from their husbands, and daughters from their parents. Having lost a sister to this disease, I know

this pain to be all too real. My sister, Bridget, passed away from breast cancer, and my family was devastated watching her fight this terrible disease.

I have consistently recognized the importance of medical research by prioritizing increased funding for the National Institutes of Health. Through their research, I hope we will find a cure.

I also supported the Palliative Care and Hospice Education and Training Act (PCHETA). I was proud to see this pass the House and hope it will receive consideration in the Senate. This legislation would ensure a well-trained palliative care workforce through training, awareness, and enhanced research.

While we have made leaps and bounds in taking measures to prevent breast cancer, I believe that we must remain committed to preventing this unforgiving disease. Let us take this month to rededicate ourselves to eradicating breast cancer once and for all.

National Manufacturing Week

This week, we celebrate National Manufacturing Week, and Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District is rich with outstanding manufacturers.

Our manufacturers create the necessary items we rely on. For example, during this outbreak, they doubled down to create masks, ventilators, and items our health care facilities needed to serve their fellow Minnesotans.

One outstanding manufacturing facility in our community is Metal Craft in Elk River. I have hosted my annual Young Women's Leadership Program there. Metal Craft, owned by Trisha Mowry, her business specializes in medical and surgical instrument manufacturing. This small business provides a vital service to our medical device industry, and the patients who benefit.

Businesses like Metal Craft keep our nation's economy moving and growing. I am grateful to represent a community that is the home to some of Minnesota's best manufacturing companies.

Minnesotans are hard-working people and they deserve a strong state economy to provide jobs and prosperity. I will continue to emphasize the value of manufacturing-friendly policies because they are critical to central Minnesota.

Leading on FinTech

Last week, I hosted a hearing of the Task Force on Financial Technology. As the Ranking Member, I called for the creation of a Subcommittee on the House Financial Services Committee dedicated to examining and supporting new financial technologies.

Fintech stands to create tremendous opportunities for a stronger financial future for millions previously excluded by our system. This virtual hearing

EMMER to page 8

-- Mating Rituals of the Virginia Opossum --

There are so many interesting critters on this planet. Unique and fascinating critters. The Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) springs to mind as a good example. I recently photographed a Virginia Opossum so let's take a closer look at this interesting critter.

Let's first start with the name, Opossum. I know there are a lot of people who drop the "O" from the front of the name and just call them possum. While this might sound quaint or fit in well with a southern drawl, or backwoods lingo, it's in fact an incorrect shortening of the name because there are upwards of 70 different critters in Australia that are officially called "Possum". So, by dropping the "O" off the front only serves to confuse our Opossum with a whole bunch Possums. By the way, the Possum of Australia was named this because they looked like the more familiar Opossum found in the Americas.

The name Opossum was first used by the Captain John Smith of the Jamestown colony in Virginia. He used the name "aposum" which apparently was a word in the Powhatan language spoken by the Algonquian Indian meaning "white beast" or "white animal". Its amazing how many of the names we use today for plants and animals all have their origins in Native American words.

So now we must address the first name "Virginia" in Virginia Opossum. The name Virginia has been attached to the front of many plants and animals. The origins are based in the first English settlers who used the name to honor Queen Elizabeth of England because she was known as the Virgin Queen. It is believed that the English explorer Sir Walter Raleigh suggested the name Virginia around 1584. It was that year that the Queen gave Raleigh permission to colonize "the Virginia region". In the early 1600's all of North America that



By Stan Tekiela,
Columnist

was not occupied by the Spanish or French was called "Virginia" in honor of "The Virgin Queen". So, you guessed it, the state of Virginia and West Virginia were named after the Queen.

To add to the name confusion, there are more than 100 other species of animal called Opossum (with the "O") in North,

bean and has no eyes yet. It crawls, or more like swims, through its mother's fur to find a pouch located on her stomach. Once inside the pouch it is safe and warm and begins to suckle one of the mother's nipples for nourishment. Here they will stay for the next 2 to 3 months. They will grow, their eyes will open, and they will grow fur. By the time it leaves its mother's pouch for the first time, it will look like a miniature adult.

Once the young become too large to ride in their mothers' pouches, they will often climb on her back. Riding on their mother's back looks cute but the young hang on by grabbing handfuls of the mother's fur. Over time the fur on her back starts to pull out leaving the mother with a bald spot.

The young are weaned at three and a half months and by four to five months of age the young are on their own. Mothers can have one to three litters each year. On average they have about five to eight young.

There are many myths and untruths about the Opossum. One example is that males have a forked penis. While this is actually true, it has been said they have this to fit in the female's nostrils. Gee, I hope I don't have to explain the birds and bees to anyone reading this column, but common sense would tell you this is not true. What is true is, the female has a forked reproductive tract and the male's forked penis helps in proper insemination.

Next time I will look take a closer look at the Virginia Opossum and cover some of the many myths about this marvelous creature. Until next time...

Stan Tekiela is an author / naturalist and wildlife photographer who travels the world to study and capture images of wildlife. He can be followed at www.facebook.com and twitter.com. He can be contacted via his web page at www.naturesmart.com.



Central and South America. That's right, the Opossum found in the United States is not that unique. In my travels of Central and South America I have come across and photographed a several of these "other" Opossum.

However, our Virginia Opossum is unique in that it's the only marsupial found in the United States. A marsupial is a type of mammal that reproduces in a very unusual way. After a female, called a Jill, mates with a male, called a Jack, the gestation period is incredibly short, lasting only 12 to 13 days. This is crazy fast compared to other mammals, especially humans. By the way, the young is called a Joey.

So, in less than two weeks the young Opossum is born. At this point it is about the size of a jelly-

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The Patriot, under the continuation of the Citizen-Tribune, is the official legal newspaper for Becker School District #726, Big Lake School District #727, Palmer, Clear Lake, Clearwater, Orrock, Palmer & Santiago Townships, City of Becker.

- **Subscription Rates:** \$75 annually, \$37.50 for six months, \$18.75 for three months or \$1.57 a week.
- **Deadlines:** Wednesday 12 pm Legals & Notices, Wednesday 10 am Display & Classified Ads.
- **Submitted Material:** There will be a \$30 charge for all thank you, engagement, wedding and birth announcement pictures. The PATRIOT is not responsible for correctness of ads received by telephone.
- **Letters to the Editors:** The PATRIOT welcomes letters to the editor. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included for verification purposes. All letters must contain the original signature of the writer. E-mailed letters can be accepted. The deadline for all letters is noon 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. 2 letters per writer per subject each year.
- **Obituaries:** Obituaries are \$50 prepaid. The Editor reserves the right to edit lengthy obituaries.

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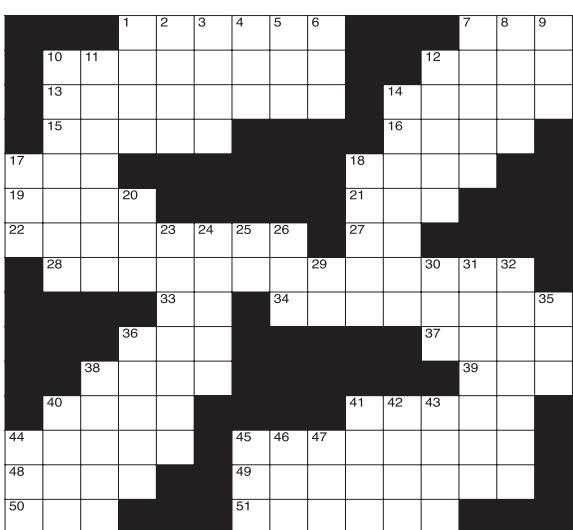
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Game Time



CLUES ACROSS

- Lunar crater
- Upstate NY airport (abbr.)
- Fruit
- Seventh avatar of Vishnu
- Organism that grows without air
- Heals
- A book has one
- Open
- Twitch
- Plant of the mint family
- Soon
- Witch
- Long, mournful complaint
- Killer clown film

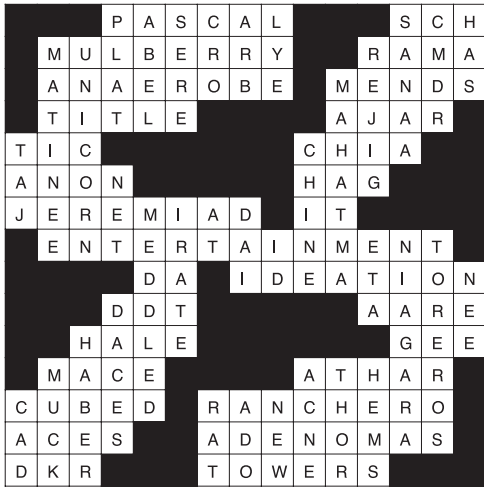
- Keeps us occupied
- Influential lawyer
- Formation of concepts
- Insecticide
- Swiss river
- Actress Lucy
- Unit of g-force
- Can repel attackers
- Essential oil used as perfume
- Cut into small pieces
- Mexican agricultural worker
- Best pitchers
- Benign tumors
- Danish krone
- Looms above

CLUES DOWN

- Make a map of
- Cain and ___
- Dried-up
- Corporate exec (abbr.)
- Trading floor hand gesture
- Strongly alkaline solution
- Yemen capital
- Military leader (abbr.)
- Maintains possession of
- Afternoon show
- Imaginary being
- Rearrange
- Holy person or sage
- ___ Mahal
- Backbone
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Intervened
- Extremely angry

- Indicates position
- Chinese surname
- Potato state
- When you think you'll get there
- ___ Falls
- Bullfighters
- Born of
- Small fishes
- "Father of chemical warfare"
- Waste matter
- Skin disease
- Scandinavian mythological god
- ___ and haws
- Villain
- Tell on
- Difficulty
- Not old

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Becker American Legion Auxiliary
Meetings are held the second Tues. of every month at the old fire hall in Becker, 7 pm. Paula Hinds 763-262-6679.

Becker American Legion
Becker Legion meets the second Tues. of every month at 7 pm at Becker Legion (old fire hall).

Becker AA Meeting
Area 35 Alcoholics Anonymous District 5 meets Thurs. at 8 pm at Church of Mary of the Visitation, 12100 Sherburne Ave., Becker. Steve 612-889-1000.

Becker Boy Scout Pack 92 Cardboard, Paper & Aluminum
Bring your aluminum cans to the trailer located near Becker True Value & paper & cardboard recyclables to the dumpsters near the same location the first Sat. of every month. There will be a Scout there to help unload between 9 am-12 pm.

Becker Evangelical Ministries
Every Wed., 6-7:30 pm at Becker Middle School. GYM 45 - growing young men. HIS KIDZ - K-3rd grade. G.I.R.L.S. GROUP - 4th & 5th grade girls.
Becker Free Church (763) 261-4125 or register online at WWW.BECK-ERFREECHURCH.ORG (under Youth Connection click "Event Registration").

Becker Food Shelf
Open Tues., 9-11 am & Thurs. 4-6 pm. The food shelf is located 12060 Sherburne Ave. in City Hall. 763-261-4612.

Becker Lions Club
Meetings are held the second Mon. each month at 7 pm at Pebble Creek Bar & Grill. Dale Seavert 320-290-5342.

Becker Lions Collecting Items To Recycle
Items are: eye glasses, hearing aids, cell phones & printer ink cartridges. Collection boxes are located at the Becker Community Center (entryway) & Insight Eye care.

Becker Sons of the American Legion Squadron 193
Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7 pm at Becker Legion (old fire hall). Looking for new members. Commander John Fischbach 320-249-0579.

Becker Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting
The monthly meetings are held 6 pm the third Thurs. of the month at Becker City Hall. 320-980-2752 or see the state website at www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org.

Big Lake OPEN AA Meetings
Mon., 7pm at the Church of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church, Big Lake. Big Book Study. Handicap Accessible. Questions? Contact: Rob. 763-218-5328.

Big Lake Al-Anon
Meetings held Mon., 7pm at the Church of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church, 440 Lake Street N, Big Lake. (church basement). Contact Laurie, 763-218-5330.

Big Lake Ambassador Scholarship Program
You will find that our candidate season is an exciting time with our newly reincarnated SPUDSCHOOL, held on the fourth Monday of each month from 5:30-7:30.

If you are interested in being a part of our program, or have a daughter at Independence, the MS, or the HS,

please email biglakeambassadors@gmail.com or contact Director Katrine Nau-Jackson at 763-843-8338.

The Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary
Meets the first Tues. of each month at 6:30 pm. in the Senior Citizen Center at Big Lake City Hall. Please contact Kathy at 763-263-6093 for membership information.

Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
The Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meets at 6:30pm on the third Mon., of each month in the Community Room adjacent to the Big Lake Police Dept. & the Big Lake Library.

Big Lake Community Food Shelf
The Big Lake Community Food Shelf exists to provide food & supplies for families in need residing in the Big Lake community.

Our hours of service are Mon. & Thurs. 5:30-7:30 pm & Wed. 9-11 am. We also serve clients every "Freebie Friday" from 10:30-11:30 am., providing produce, dairy, & bakery goods. To volunteer call 763-263-2432 or www.blcfs.org.

The Big Lake Lions
Looking for community minded people to join our organization. If interested in getting involved with our organization, please contact any Lion member or send a note to P.O. Box 128, Big Lake, MN 55309 or 763-263-2218.

Big Lake Lioness
If you are interested in joining an organization dedicated to service within their community, come visit us the second Mon. of every month at the Lions Park on CR 5 in Big Lake. Social starts at 6:30 pm & the meeting begins at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Big Lake Lioness Fall/Winter Projects
Oct. business meeting will discuss the future of fall/winter projects while using COVID-19 precautions. Nursing home bingo will resume when we get approval from CentraCare facility to restart.

In Sept. we began sending residents birthday cards to wish them "Happy Birthday", and will continue until the end of the year for residents at the care facility.

Big Lake Lioness Upcoming Holiday Projects
Our annual Halloween Dance for Options clients & families is dependent on them being open. Our Thanksgiving Gift Cards for Coborns for area Seniors will be sent to them via USPS rather than delivering in person. Without the support of the Big Lake Legion & Big Lake Auxiliary we could not do this project.

Our largest project, Shopping with Santa which funds many of our other projects, is still in discussion since the project will be based on COVID-19 restrictions at the time & our ability to do so safely.

The Big Lake Woman of Today
Hold a monthly general meeting at Senior Activity Center located in the Big Lake City Office Building on the 3rd Thurs. of the month @ 7pm. Contact Natalie @ 612-518-3504 or find us at FaceBook or www.biglake-womenoftoday.webs.com.

Clear Lake Legion
Meets the second Tues. of the month at Palmer Twp. Hall. The Legion will meet at 7 pm. New members are always welcome. Bud Stimmler at 320-761-5793.

Clearwater AA/Alanon
Meeting is at 7 pm, Sun. night at Clearwater United

Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater, 320-310-1399 AA or 320-558-6613 for Al-Anon.

Clearwater AA Meeting
Mon. nights, 7 pm at Church of St. Luke, 17545 Huber Ave. NW, Clearwater. 320-558-2124.

Clearwater Legion
Clearwater Legion meetings are held the second Thurs. of the month. Auxiliary 6:30 pm, S.A.L. at 7 pm, Legion 7:30 pm. Senior Lunch first Thurs. of the month at noon at Clearwater Legion, Clearwater.

Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf
Open Mon. 5:30-7 pm, Tues. 9-11 am & 6-8 pm, Wed. 3-5 pm & in the brown Lions Community Building beneath the water tower in Clearwater. We service residents of Clearwater & Clear Lake.

Clearwater Narcotics Anonymous
Meetings are at 7 pm, Wed. night at Clearwater United Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater. 612-607-4484.

Dementia Support Group
The fourth Wed. of each month at 10-11 am, Room 19 at Becker Community Center, 11500 Sherburne Ave. No cost to join. Tami Kolbinger at 612-590-2449 or email tjkolbinger@gmail.com.

DivorceCare
13-wk. group designed to help those recovering from separation or divorce & face the challenges to move toward rebuilding their life. Mon. through Dec. 7, 6:30-8pm at Riverside Church (20314 CR 14, Big Lake). Visit www.myriversidechurch.com/divorcecare.

FREE - Advocates for Independence
First & third Wed. of the month 2-4 pm at Independent Lifestyles, 215 North Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids. Make a difference in your community for people w/disabilities. Michele Pelka 320-281-2042. All abilities are welcome to attend.

Free Grace Recovery
Sun. 6-8 pm at Clear Lake Town Hall, 7684 1st Ave. W. Clear Lake. A light meal will be served at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Justin or Renee at 612-384-9069.

FREE - The Saint Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease (PD) Support Group
invites you to "Coffee & Conversation" the last Wed. monthly at 10 am at Edgewood Living 677 Brianna Drive, Sartell. Meetings are open to those diagnosed w/ PD, their families, caregivers, & the general public. Group provides support, education, & awareness about the disease. Bobbi 320-281-3343.

God's Grub Community Meal
Second Sun. of every month, 4:30-6:30 pm. Saron Lutheran, Big Lake, 311 Lake Street South. Served curbside, ready to go.

GriefShare
13-wk. group for those grieving the loss of family member/friend. Mon. through Dec. 7 @ 6:30pm or Thurs., though Dec. 11 @ 1pm at Riverside Church (20314 CR 14, Big Lake). Visit www.myriversidechurch.com/griefshare.

GRRL Offers Grab & Go Service
Great River Regional Library now offers Grab & Go service, so you can continue borrowing from your local library. Browse your local

library for books & items to check out. Look through the bookshelves, ask library staff questions, & pick up your holds, while keeping your visit as brief as possible.

Additional services may vary by location. You can call your local library to find out more. Remember to look on our website at griver.org/ locations to see your library's phone number & service hours.

Living with Parkinson's Under The Age of 60
We meet the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8pm at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street So., Big Lake, MN 55309.

Specific topics will be scheduled along with open forum. Spouse/Care Partner/Family are encouraged to attend! Any questions, please call Camille Johnson at 763-350-7401.

Mental Health Discussion Group
Meets Mon., 6-7 pm at Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids. This is a free group, everyone is welcome. Ricky 320-281-2025.

Parkinson's Disease Support Group
Meets third Mon. of the month, from 1-2:30 pm at IL-ICIL Independent Lifestyles 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids. This free group provides support, education, & awareness about the disease. Independent Lifestyles at 320-529-9000.

Rivers of Hope
Advocates for ending family violence, is a non-profit community based agency offering advocacy, support, education & referral services for victims of family violence. Working in partnerships w/ schools, law enforcement, social service agencies & the court system in Sherburne & Wright Co. 763-295-3433 or 1-800-439-2642 or info@riversofhope.org. Free & confidential. Phones answered 24/7.

Snake River Free Mission Church Upcoming Events
Hymn sings are held every other month on the second Sun. at 4:30 pm. Please join us Sun., Oct. 11, for Hymn sing. Check Snake River Church Facebook page for updates.
5 mi. N of Hwy 10 on CR 11, 1.5 mi. E n CR4 & then L on 180th Ave (8940 180th Ave), Becker. Mary 612-219-8648.

Volunteer as a Foster Grandparent
Local schools & organizations need caring adults like you! Orientation, training & ongoing support are provided. Pat Braun 612-390-0617.

Wright County Community Action
You have been affected & are having or are anticipating having difficulty paying your mortgage, WCCA is here to help you navigate your options & keep your home. To speak with a homeownership advisor, call Wright County Community Action at 320-963-6500 ext. 238 today. Services are unbiased, confidential & free of charge.

Young @ Heart
Group meeting at Rejoice Lutheran Church in Clearwater, will be canceled until further notice. We will wait until the state allows churches & other gatherings to begin & then look at our group & make a decision.

October - Sherburne County Health & Human Services - Classes are as follows:

WIC (Women, Infants & Children) is for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, recently had a baby, infants and children to their 5th birthday. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, healthy foods and referrals to health services/community resources. The service is free, and you or your children may be eligible. For more information, please call 763-765-4116 or 1-800-433-5239, or check out the website <http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/hhs/wic.php>. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs. WIC is an equal opportunity provider. Immunization Tuesdays
Sherburne County's Immunization Clinic offers free or low cost immunizations for children 18 years of age or younger and uninsured or underinsured adults 19 years and older in Minnesota who meet eligibility guidelines on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for an appointment or more information, 763-765-4000 or 1-800-433-5239.

THE VOLUNTEER BRIDGE

RSVP / The Volunteer Bridge Metro North Adult Basic Education – Students of all ages started educational programs this fall! Help teach adults in the Elk River community learn the English language, and potentially earn their high school diploma equivalent. Volunteers needed to assist students on a one-on-one basis under an ABE instructor. Flexible schedules and training provided.
Sherburne County Driver's License and Recording Assistant – Help is needed in the Recording office at the Sherburne Government building! Be the point of contact for individuals coming in to receive service, help direct patrons to the correct paperwork, and assist in answering questions. Background check will be required prior to volunteering. Pre-service training provided! Precautions are in place to ensure volunteers' health and safety.
BBBS Virtual Mentor – With these uncertain times, the youth and families Big Brothers Big Sisters serve are among the hardest hit, and they are doing everything they can to keep them safe and supported. Children are needing mentorship now more than ever! They now offer virtual matching - you can attend an Info Session, be interviewed and meet your Little through Zoom! This is a one-on-one volunteer opportunity to provide friendship and guidance to a child in Central MN. The volunteer will meet with their Little 3 - 4 times a month for 12 months.
If you are interested in volunteering in these or other opportunities, please contact:

RSVP/The Volunteer Bridge
763-635-4505
RSVP@ci.stcloud.mn.us
SherburneUnitedWay.org/Volunteer

This Weeks Calendar Events:

- Sun. - Oct. 11, 2020**
- ** National Food Bank Week (10/11-10/17)
- Mon. - Oct. 12, 2020**
- ** National School Lunch Week (10/12-10/16)
- ** National Gumbo Day
- ** National Savings Day
- ** National Freethought Day
- Tues. - Oct. 13, 2020**
- ** Ada Lovelace Day
- Wed. - Oct. 14, 2020**
- ** Emergency Nurses Day
- ** National Stop Bullying Day
- Thurs. - Oct. 15, 2020**
- ** Get Smart About Credit Day
- Fri. - Oct. 16, 2020**
- ** Dictionary Day
- Sat. - Oct. 17, 2020**
- ** National Playing Card Collection Day

Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 9AM - 2PM
WEDNESDAY - Special Programs
BASC 763-528-0643
Email: basc.becker@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.beckerareaseniorcenter.org
COVID-19 has brought many changes to our world, our country, our cities, our families and to BASC. We have experienced being unable to meet in our room at Becker City Hall, changing to *Get-togethers in the park* on every Tuesday and now meeting in the park on Tuesdays when weather permits.

Becker / Big Lake Meals on Wheels

CATHOLIC CHARITIES/MEALS ON WHEELS

OCTOBER 12-16
During this COVID-19 pandemic Mon-Fri meals are:
"What's on the Menu - Frozen Meals"
Frozen meals are available for weekends.
1% milk is served with every meal.
Menu subject to change.
Call 763-956-4082 for more information.
Suggested contribution for person 60+ & volunteers is \$4.25 - \$8.

Public Notices

NOTICE OF ASSOCIATION LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Marshes of Trout Brook Homeowners Association, CIC No. 40 (henceforth the Declaration) dated May 2, 2003 and recorded in the office of the County Recorder in and for Sherburne County, Minnesota on May 9, 2003 as Document No. 506220 which said Lien covers the following described property situated in the County of Sherburne and State of Minnesota, to-wit:

Lot 17, Block 1, Marshes of Trout Brook Farms, CIC No. 40, according to the plat thereof on file or of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for Sherburne County, Minnesota.
Street Address: 18585 Tyler Drive Northwest, Elk River, MN
PID #757010117

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice by Christopher B. Wamsley and Jennifer M. Wamsley as unit owners to Marshes of Trout Brook Homeowners Association, the principal amount of Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirty-nine Dollars and 00/100 (\$4,439.00) for assessments through September, 2020; and no action being now pending at law or otherwise to recover said debt or any part thereof, and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Marshes of Trout Brook Homeowners Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that by virtue of the power of sale created by statute, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said premises with the hereditaments and appurtenances, which said sale will be made by the Sheriff of Sherburne County, Minnesota at Sheriff's Main Office Lobby in the Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive, in the City of Elk River in said County on November 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due for said assessments, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorney's fees as allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by the unit owners, their personal representatives or assigns, is six (6) months from the date of said sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied single family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the unit owners must vacate the property if the lien is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on May 5, 2021. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate the property is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

Dated: September 2, 2020
MARSHES OF TROUT BROOK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

FULLER, SEAYER & SWANSON, P.A.

By: /s/ Timothy D. Fuller
32694

12400 Portland Avenue South, Suite 132
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 890-0888

Attorneys for Marshes of Trout Brook Homeowners Association.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 09/05/20; 09/12/20; 09/19/20; 09/26/20; 10/03/20; 10/10/20).

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: **Rapid Lawn Care**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **14775 293rd Avenue NW Zimmerman MN 55398 United States**

NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
LKB Property Services, LLC

Address:
14775 293rd Avenue NW Zimmerman MN 55398 United States

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: **Miller Legal**

MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **kathy.seanor@millerlegal.com**

Work Item 1180978200024

Original File Number 1180978200024

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
09/25/2020 11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/03/20; 10/10/20).

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**Notices & Legals
Wednesday At
Noon**

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or Email:
legasls.kathy@
patriotnewsmn.com**

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SHERBURNE COUNTY RECORDER VITAL STATISTICS MARRIAGE APPLICATION REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2020

Lisa Marie Rambo and Martin Scott Healy of Zimmerman; Gage Jeffrey Cramer and Heather Rose Freitag of Zimmerman; Randi Kay Vinje and Tyler Gregory Mandler of Watford City, ND; Tiffany Ann Bayless and John Charles Mingo Jr of Zimmerman; Joseph Frank Kachinske and Cindy Lou Asleson of St. Cloud; Justin John Peterson and Shelby Rae Bach of Elk River; Zachery Paul Thoe and Emily Rose Fenske of Big Lake; Carolyn Ann Peters and Keith Joseph Block of Princeton; John Harold Nagorski and Lori Kay Janowiec of Big Lake; Brittany Noel Zajack and Austin John Niznik, of Elk River; Rachel Melissa Clark of Franklin, WI and Brian Jerome Tiry of Becker; Gardenia Gomez and Franklin Alexis Panora of Big Lake; Zachery Paul Thoe and Emily Rose Fenske of Big Lake; Ethan John Swirtz and Hannah Marie Stephany of Zimmerman; Lori Lee Kluever and Nicholas Lee Ellingson of Big Lake; Samantha Renae Elkins and Justin Tyler Mikel of Princeton; Ashley Marie Ciskovsky of Princeton and Philip Mathew Laplante of Zimmerman; Christine Marie Wilson and John Bennett Waldron of Otsego; Tiffany Marie Martinez and William Alexander Powell II of Big Lake; Cory Jon Strasser and Shelby Rae Edmondson of Zimmerman; Mark John More and Lindsay Nichole Travis of Zimmerman; Danielle Marie Steinke of Otsego and Nicholas Paul Chase of Brooklyn Park; Matthew David Geske of Saint Louis Park and Emily Nicole Brinza of Elk River; Ashley Demarre Keenan and Katelyn Mary Senko of Elk River; Nicole Renee Vermillion and Austin Mark Lindell of Becker; Naomi Isabel Charriez and James Arthur Deziel of Saint Cloud; Senia R Martinez and Kevin Eugene Calvert Jr of Big Lake; Susan Marie Farber and Larry Dean Longmore Jr of Elk River; Trang Thi Thanh Nguyen and Tuan Hoang Le of Big Lake; Zackary Rockwell Lenz and Kayla Kay Koosman of Zimmerman; Destiny Mariah Tong and Jacob Ryan David Engel of Zimmerman; Jed Edward Thompson and Megan Jean Knopik of Big Lake; Sean Michael Hrab and Chelsey Rae Ford of Elk River; Hannah Mackenzie Brown and Gabriel James Madson of Durham, NC; Cary-Gene Gilard and Anna Paige Helein of Big Lake; Alexander James Lorendo and Rachel Lynn Mueller of Zimmerman; Ashley Michelle Hansen and Cory Anthony Bosshart of Elk River; Dana Leaann Thompson and Charles Thomas Longley of Zimmerman; Charles Christopher Johnson of East Bethel and Sabrina Marie Mackner of Elk River; Elizabeth Valerie Rodahl and Lee Michael Hegna of Elk River; Neal Patrick Thielke and Courtney Jo Adamski of Clear Lake; David Joseph Starkey and Paula Kae Winter of Clear Lake; Donald Joseph King Mr of Princeton and Debra Diane McNeill-Palm Mrs of Zimmerman.

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Ordinance No. 228, 2nd Series Summary AN ORDINANCE REVISING CHAPTER 6, SECTION 6.20 RELATING TO TOBACCO

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 6, Other Business Regulations and Licensing Section 6.20 TOBACCO

- Subd. 1 Purpose
- Subd. 2 Definitions
- Subd. 3 License
- Subd. 4 Fees
- Subd. 5 Basis for Denial of License
- Subd. 6 Prohibited Sales
- Subd. 7 Responsibility
- Subd. 8 Compliance Checks and Inspections
- Subd. 9 Other Prohibited Acts
- Subd. 10 Exceptions and Defenses
- Subd. 11 Violations and Penalties
- Subd. 12 Severability

This ordinance reorganizes Section 6.20 and raises the legal purchase age for tobacco from 18 to 21, increases administrative fines for illegal sales to minors and increases the look-back period for subsequent violations to mirror state statutes.

A printed copy of the entire ordinance is available for inspection by any person at City Hall any Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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

/s/ Mike Doering, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST:

/s/ Julie Blesi, City Clerk

(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/10/20).

ATTENTION!!

CARES ACT FUNDING MAY BE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION!

Has your local nonprofit been negatively impacted financially by the COVID-19 Pandemic?

Big Lake Township is developing a Nonprofit Organization Grant Program which may help you!

If your nonprofit organization serves residents of **Big Lake Township** or the **City of Big Lake**

contact Big Lake Township for an application.

On the web: www.biglaketownship.com/CARES

Email: staff@biglaketownship.com

Call: 763-263-8111

(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/10/20).



EMMER from page 6-----

focused on the importance of simplifying regulations and promoting clarity to ensure Americans can utilize new technologies to improve their financial future.

Adoption Honorees

Tuesday morning, I had the honor of talking to a special family in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District, Markus, Sarah and Olivia Yager.

The Yagers are our 2020 Angels in Adoption honorees. Each year, the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI) selects families across the nation who have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of children in need of permanent, loving, forever homes. The Yagers are being honored this year for their enduring fight and endless sacrifices to adopt their daughter, Olivia. They deserve this outstanding recognition.

Markus and Sarah Yager started their adoption process in 2017, a year

and a half later they were matched with their daughter, Olivia. Early in May of 2019, they went to meet and formally adopt their daughter. During their time in Nigeria, they had some paperwork delays, and after two weeks, Markus had to return to the United States for work, leaving Sarah and Olivia behind to finalize the adoption process.

They navigated the Nigerian adoption system for months, paying fees, travel expenses, and making many sacrifices, but through their faith in Christ, they endured. Shortly before Thanksgiving in November of 2019, their family became complete and they all traveled home.

My office is equipped to assist individuals with foreign adoptions. If you are in need of assistance, please contact my casework team or call my district office at 763-241-6848.

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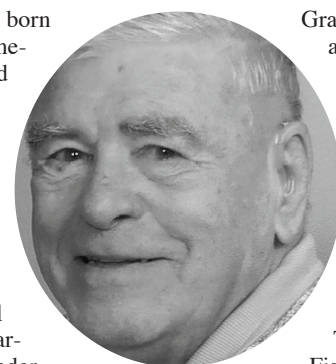
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Obituaries

COLIN F. FISHER, AGE 81 BECKER, MN AUGUST 10, 1939 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

Colin was born in Wells Minnesota to Clifford and Edna Fisher. He graduated from Rockford High School in 1957 and went onto a vocational school. He married Grace Anderson June 24, 1961. He worked at Groves-Kelco, the St. Cloud Reformatory, and finished his employment driving semi-truck with his wife. They settled in Becker/Foley area to raise their family. Colin was a devoted husband and father. He loved football, baseball, and working in his shop, planting trees and flowers. He took great delight in spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife



Grace of 59 years and their dog Nickel; children Kelly (Justine) Fisher, Patrick (Jody) Fisher, Allison (Bob) Brockway, Tim (Melissa) Fisher and Tracy (Mike) Welsh; many beautiful grand- and great-grandchildren; brother Robert (Lois) Fisher; relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Clifford and Edna, brother Butch, and an infant son

Memorials are preferred to St. Jude's. Due to COVID a celebration of life will follow at a later date.

DAVID "PAT" H. ZUPON, 76 BECKER, MN JANUARY 3, 1944 – OCTOBER 2, 2020

Graveside Services was Thursday, October 8, 2020 at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Becker for David "Pat" H. Zupon, age 76, who passed away Friday at The Gardens at Foley in Foley. A Celebration of Life will be at a later date. Arrangements have been entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Becker.

Pat was born January 3, 1944 in Pequot Lakes to Herbert & Frances (Drawbridge) Zupon. He served our country in the U.S. Army for three years. Pat married Jan Wacholtz on April 23, 1966 at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Austin. They lived in Coon Rapids prior to moving to Becker in 1997. Pat worked as a Machinist and Quality Technician for Graco for 36 years, retiring December 31, 2002. He was a member of Mary of the Visitation Catholic and the Knights of Columbus. Pat



enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, traveling with family, and volunteering at RSVP and church. He was a caring person who loved his grandkids and was very proud of his family. Pat was an excellent carpenter and handyman.

Pat is survived by his wife, Jan of Becker; sons and daughter, Michael (Robin) of Houston, TX, Gregory (Tami) of Coon Rapids, and Valerie (Randy) Hanson of Becker; brothers and sisters, Kenneth (Betty) of North Branch, Vicki (Ken) Nodo of Rice, Harold (Jamie) of Ramsey, Kathleen (Steve) Dombek of Elk River, and Phyllis Zupon of Chicago, IL; and grandchildren, Austin, Nick, Jordan, Sydney, Haley, Hope, and Amanda. Pat was preceded in death by his parents; and brother, John.

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

MARLYS JEAN BURNS, AGE 92 ST. MICHAEL, MN (FORMERLY OF BECKER AND ANNANDALE) SEPTEMBER 30, 1927 – SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Marlys Jean Burns passed away peacefully on September 17th, 2020. She was born in Irvington, Wisconsin, on September 30th, 1927 to her parents Adolf and Irene Thompson. Marlys was met on the other side by her husband "Vern," her beloved son Steve, her siblings "Bud" and Ione, and her parents. Missing her dearly are her children: Sue, Linda, Karen and Bruce, as well as their spouses Gary, Bryan, Mike and Shelly. Her



legacy will be carried on by the grandchildren who adored her: Jamie, Kasey, Brandon, Angie and Amy. Marlys was a ray of sunshine on a cloudy day and will be missed by all who knew her. She brought warmth and comfort to her family who love her infinitely. May she Rest In Peace and Love.

DORIS LARAYNE CLITTY (RING), AGE 95 SPRING LAKE PARK, MN JANUARY 21, 1925 – OCTOBER 1, 2020

Passed away peacefully at home on October 1, 2020.

Doris was born January 21, 1925 in Hudson, South Dakota to Gust and Anna Ring. The family moved to Minnesota in 1941. She married Charles Clitty in 1942 where they lived in Becker until 1959. They moved to Spring Lake Park where she currently resided. She was a mother to nine children. Jerry (Holiday, FL), Joey (deceased age 7), Chuck (deceased age 19 in Vietnam), Randy (Becker, MN), Dawn Goldman & Ray (Harris, MN), Steve (Stacy, MN), Renee Sjo-



din & Paul (East Bethel, MN), Joel (SLP), Rhonda Hanson & Bill Haw (Cedar, MN). Preceded in death by husband, brother & sister. She has been a Gold Star mother since 1968. She will be missed by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, & a great-great grandchild.

Services were held on October 6 at Miller Funeral Home in Fridley. Interment Becker Cemetery.

Miller Funeral Home 763-571-1300, millerfuneralfridley.com

Classifieds

CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINE IS 12 NOON WEDNESDAY

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	<p>Financial The COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF! We can help! Get a FREE debt</p>	<p>Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-716-2411. (MCN)</p>	<p>Want To Buy Need some cash! Sell us your unwanted gold, jewelry, watches & diamonds. Call GOLD GEEK 1-866-274-7898 or visit www.GetGoldGeek.com/ midwest BBB A Plus Rated. Request your 100 Percent FREE, no risk, no strings attached appraisal kit. Call today! (MCN)</p>

Editorial/Opinion

Novotny Urges MSHSL To Allow Spectators

A group of House Republicans and I sent a letter to Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Executive Director Erich Martens Tuesday, urging the MSHSL to allow a limited number of spectators, especially parents, to support their kids at high school events.

In the letter, we urge social distancing guidelines, masks and capacity limits to be considered and implemented to at least allow select numbers of players' close friends and family to safely attend events.

Allowing a limited number of spectators, socially distanced and in compliance with local guidelines, to attend high school sporting events is something that should be pursued by MSHSL," said Novotny. "Club teams and traveling teams not affiliated with the MSHSL have been playing for months, often with spectators in



By Rep. 30A
Paul Novotny

attendance, and there have been no confirmed outbreaks associated with those events. This decision should be left to local school boards and would be a tangible step we can take in a safe manner as we look to return to some sense of normalcy.

The letter coincides with the Oct. 8 start to high school volleyball matches taking place in Minnesota. That sport is among those the MSHSL has said spectators are prohibited from attending.

TO THE EDITOR:

With November the 3rd barreling down on us it is clear that we have important decisions to make, on one side we have Tim Dolan who claims to be a conservative, but who doesn't seem to support one of the primary pillars of the Trump campaign, standing for the 2nd amendment. The President has been very outspoken defending the 2nd.

On the other side we have a candidate, Ann Kostrzewski, who has proven that she will work toward adding Sherburne County to the growing list of declared sanctuary counties, making it clear to St. Paul that Sherburne County will always be a safe haven for the inalienable right of the citizens to keep and bear arms.

We need to have someone who is willing and able to resist any attempts by the MET council to expand to our county. They already have started to establish a footprint in our county with the "light rail". The "creeping" is going to continue until they have succeeded in adding Sherburne County to their list of conquests.

Sherburne County is already starting to look like some of the metro counties, from "Wheelage taxes", paying lobbyist, spending massive amounts of taxpayers hard-earned

money on giant new government center, changing county logos and all of the rest of the wasteful spending that is being done.

We need a commissioner who will stand up for Sherburne County. We need Anne Kostrzewski.
Boaz Erickson
Big Lake, MN
.....

TO THE EDITOR: Re-Elect Incumbents Burandt, Dolan and Fobbe

Four years ago, Sherburne County citizens elected three new County Commissioners- Barbara Burandt, Tim Dolan and Lisa Fobbe. They arrived with different educational, work and political backgrounds but were equally committed to making Sherburne County a better place to live.

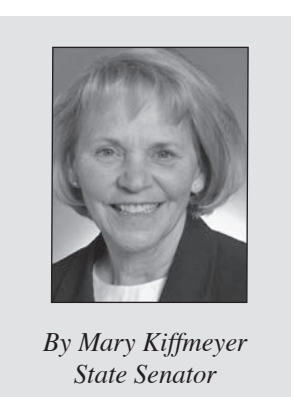
When 3/5 of the board changes, county staff worry about how this will affect their work. New commissioners need to learn about the operations of each department. These commissioners dug into their new role, studied and asked good questions. They worked cooperatively with the other two commissioners on building expansion, improving roads, adding parks, providing support for new businesses, making county gov-

ernment more transparent, and being accessible to their constituents. When the board has dealt with controversial issues, they have listened respectfully to all sides, gotten advice from experts, and debated among themselves. In each case, they have made decisions to protect the citizens of Sherburne County. In the past six months, the board has been actively involved in guiding work during the COVID-19 pandemic and in moving CARES Act funding out to the community as quickly as possible.

Commissioners Burandt, Dolan and Fobbe will bring four years of experience to their new terms. They have proven their effectiveness. They have established respectful working relationships with each other, their constituents, state and local legislators, and staff. The election of a commissioner is not a partisan process. These three have put aside their personal beliefs and are proven leaders for Sherburne County.

I strongly encourage you to re-elect them to their positions.

MaryJo Cobb
Former Director, Sherburne County Health & Human Services (retired)



By Mary Kiffmeyer
State Senator

Committee. I would be remiss not to remind once again that in-person voting remains the most secure way to cast your ballot in the upcoming election.

Mail-in voting is very different from Absentee

Voting. Mail-In ballots are pre-emptively mailed out to a list, usually the voter registration list, which can have faulty information regarding residence. This system has serious issues even in states that have used it for over 20 years, such as Oregon. Oregon reported that 32% of mailed out ballots never reached the voter and approximately 870,000 ballots were listed as unknown in 2018. Those were actual ballots, not applications for an absentee ballot.

Absentee Ballots are requested by a voter and mailed only to the voter's requested address, or the whole process can be done in one visit to a county (and

some city's) office. Up to three absentee ballots envelopes can be delivered in person to these offices, as well.

The Secretary of State's Office has been provided with funding to increase COVID-19 prevention measures at the polls and there were no reports of COVID-19 spread at the primary this year, despite record turnout.

Remember that both physical safety and the safety of ballots are high at the polls. Whichever method you choose, vote!

If you have any questions, please contact me at sen.mary.kiffmeyer@senate.mn or 651-296-5655.

Chief Baloun recognized by city for 2020 work

By Katherine Cantin,
Contributing writer

The Becker City Council meeting of Tuesday evening saw the recognition of a local leader who has really been pulling his weight this year.

Council Recognizes Chief Baloun
Becker Police Chief Brent Baloun was recognized by the council for his outstanding work in 2020.

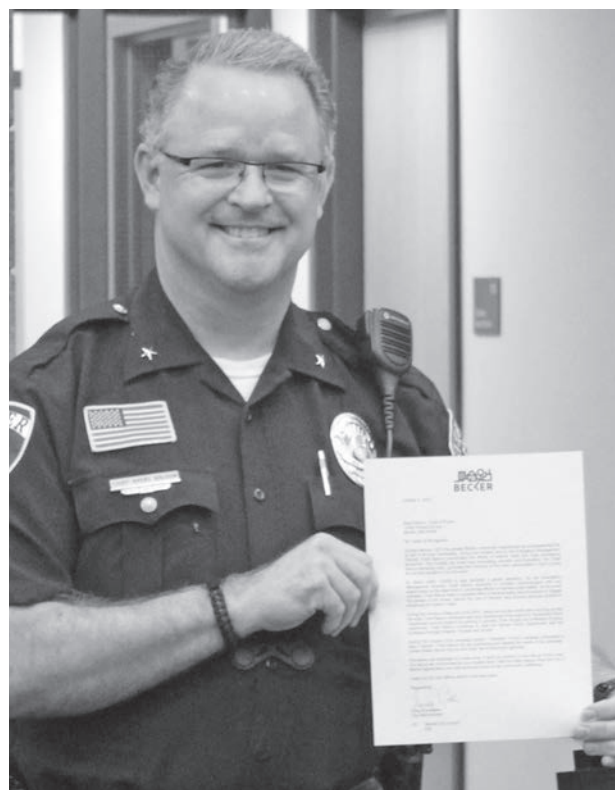
Baloun was an important part of the leadership leading the effort to put out a significant local fire early in the year. He also showed great leadership in the city's response to COVID-19. More recently, Baloun helped to prepare for the Eric Trump visit to Becker. The council said that Baloun has always run his department with utmost professionalism, even among rocky times when a growing distrust for the police sweeps through the nation.

Baloun was awarded a letter of commendation for all the hard work he has done to keep the city functioning and thriving.

Baloun was moved by the gesture, stating that he was not often without words, but the letter took him by surprise. He said some of the challenges this year — and undoubtedly, the challenges to come — are daunting for an individual, but there was no problem that he couldn't tackle with the help of his team.

Engineering

There are some city improvement projects and routine maintenance slated for 2021 that are on uncertain footing given recent events. Phil Knutson of Public Services recommended that the board approve allowing some of the preliminary engineering work be done this fall so that projects are ready to go next year. This would include work on First St. (from Sherburne Ave. to Gardner St.); Bank St. (Sherburne Ave. to Rolling Ridge Rd.); the Industrial Park Pump Station and Forcemain improvement;



BPD CHIEF BALOUN was awarded a letter of commendation at Tuesday's city council meeting. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

and Liberty Ln. (from Sherburne Ave. S. to the spot where the 2019 improvements ended.)

Tobacco Ordinance

The city has updated its tobacco ordinance to match state laws. This changes the age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21, increases the fine for selling to minors, and other minute changes that were already made by the state. Vendors holding a tobacco license were informed of the change by letter.

T-Town Plat

The city is looking to sell some lots that it owns, known as the T-Town Plat. This is an area near Charlie's Bar & Grill, off of Hwy. 10. The city has already started conversations with one potential buyer.

Economic Development

The council moved to remove the Economic Development Business Incentive program. The incentive was introduced in 2006, and it offered a 1% rebate on landscaping costs and a 2% rebate on other property and project costs.

The project has not been funded for several

years, and it has not been advertised to business owners for at least as long. Marie Pflipsen of the Community Development department recommended the council remove the policy altogether, which they did.

It's possible the incentive will be replaced some time down the line with a similar, updated program.

Restroom Remodel

The Becker Community Center (BCC) is getting an update to their public restrooms. The restrooms will receive new automatic hand dryers (which will be funded by CARES), new dividers between stalls, new faucets, vanities and counters. Bartt Gevens of the BCC said the idea is to give a sense of freshness to the facility.

Energy Drive

Becker recently expanded its Energy Drive. Since Xcel Energy is directly benefited by the improvements made, they have agreed to reimburse the city for some of the costs, around \$1.5 million. With this reimbursement, there will be a net zero cost to taxpayers.

District Residents Asked To Provide Feedback On Potential Projects Community Survey On School District Facilities Needs Coming Soon

Submitted Article

The Becker Public Schools Board of Education is reaching out to all parents, students, staff and district residents in the next few weeks to gather input about educational facilities needs with a community-wide survey.

The School Board Facility Committee has developed the survey following a Facilities Study and Enrollment Assessment, which was completed during the spring of 2020.

The survey will ask stakeholders to weigh in on facility projects throughout the Becker School District that address safety and security, aging infrastructure, educational needs, as well as additional classrooms to meet the demands of the district's growing student enrollment. The results will guide the school board's decision on how best to move forward with a bond referendum next spring.

The School Board recognizes that this plan must also reflect the priorities of all stakeholders. Therefore, the district is urging everyone to participate in this important district-wide effort as we prepare to make important decisions that will impact the community for many years.

"Our goal in conduct-

ing the survey is to allow every citizen to have a voice in the planning process," said Supt. Jeremy Schmidt. "We have identified that this is a need to prepare for the future of the Becker School District and an ideal time financially for the district to explore addressing our needs. Now, we want to know if the community agrees as well

All survey data is returned to School Perceptions and all responses remain anonymous.

Each residence in the School District will be receiving one paper survey in the mail the week of Oct. 26. Respondents will have the option to complete the paper survey and mail it back in a postage pre-paid envelope or participate online using a code provided on the survey.

Households with more than one adult interested in providing a response can request an additional survey code or paper survey by calling the district at (763) 261-4502.

Survey results will be presented at the Nov. 23, School Board meeting and will also be available on the district website at www.becker.k12.mn.us.

For additional information, please contact Superintendent Jeremy Schmidt at (763) 261-4502.



as where their priorities lie. This process will allow us to do that."

Schmidt is referencing the low interest rates and competitive construction costs as well as an upcoming reduction in the district's debt payments that will allow the Becker Schools to complete projects with little or no tax impact to district residents. These benefits weigh heavily into addressing the needs of the schools at this time.

To assist with data gathering efforts, the School Board is working with School Perceptions LLC, an independent firm with expertise in conducting community surveys.

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Resources for farmers facing COVID-19

Submitted Article

Midwest farmers and ranchers are facing unprecedented stressors and uncertainty imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, weather related concerns, and the derecho storm that impacted parts of the Midwest. As a result, mental health experts are predicting an increase in deaths by suicide due to social isolation, economic stress, and related factors.

"That is why it is so important for farmers, ranchers and the agribusiness



community have quick access to available programs and materials," said David Brown, behavioral health specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Resources are available through a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. Eight north central states have been collaborating to offer a clearinghouse of resources for the farm and ranch community. The current site can be accessed online at www.Extension.IAState.edu/HumanSciences/Farm-Ranch-WellBeing. This site offers information on programs, hotlines, websites, publications and more that can benefit farmers and ranchers in these challenging times. This site also can be used to access the farm stress related websites for every university extension service in the north central region. States include Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The goal of the clearinghouse is for farmers and ranchers and then families to have easy access to important information that is vital for those struggling during these challenging times.

In Minnesota, the Farm and Rural Helpline is available 24/7 by phone at 833-600-2670, via text by sending FARMSTRESS to 898211, or by email at FarmStress@State.mn.us. Additional resources from both University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture can be found at z.umn.edu/RuralStress.

For more information, contact Emily Krekelberg at krek00333@umn.edu or David Brown at DN-Brown@iastate.edu.

REAL ESTATE TAXES ARE DUE OCT. 15TH

Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer

Diane Arnold would like to remind

taxpayers that the second half of their

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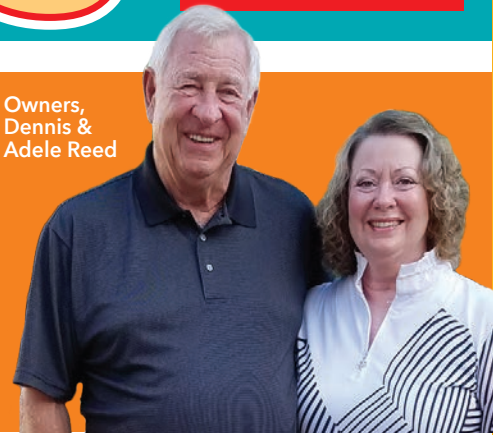
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Celebrate our Grand Opening October 14 - October 18



Becker School Board reports on student activities

By Katherine Cantin,
Contributing writer

The Becker School Board met on Monday to discuss changes to school policy and student activity groups.

Student Activities

The high school drama club premiered their play *10 Ways to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse* Thursday (a story on opening night will appear in next week's paper.) The show is held completely outdoors in an effort to follow COVID-19 guidelines. The final showing will be tonight (Saturday) at 7p.m., unless the weather caused any showing to be cancelled, in which case an extra showing will occur on Sunday, also at 7p.m.

In other news, the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) approved the return of football and volleyball for the fall sports season.

Spectators for all sports are required to wear masks, and there cannot be more than 250 spectators gathered at any event. The school has allotted for 150 home-team spectators

and 100 away-team spectators at events. The school is also working on a way to stream games for spectators at home.

Superintendent Jeremy Schmidt encourages athletes to do their best to follow COVID-19 guidelines and keep themselves healthy. If even one student gets sick, the whole team might not be allowed to play.

Enrollment

Schmidt stated that enrollment was "a little wack" during October's school board meeting. The enrollment numbers as of Oct. 1 were about 140 students under what the board had budgeted for the year.

Although the enrollment is less than ideal, Schmidt was willing to see the upside. Already, some students who started the year at home-school are making their way back into the district after seeing the school's reaction to the COVID situation, and seeing the numbers of cases in the area remain low.

COVID-19 Cases

Though the number of cases remain low, there has

been a slow increase in the county. Schmidt predicted that these could be due to more widespread testing. The board

The board will not be releasing COVID-19 numbers to the public. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) gives the school numbers from two weeks past to use for their considerations, in order to make sure that confirmed cases only are considered, but of course that means the number is not

current. Families interested in the current number of cases in the county can go to the MDH website at [Health.State.mn.us](https://www.health.state.mn.us).

Building Referendum Special Meeting

A special meeting was scheduled for Nov. 23 at 6

p.m. The board will hear a proposal for a potential building project. A survey with more information on the project as well as questions for district residents will be sent out within the next few weeks. Please see the press release from Becker Schools on page 10 for more information.

Policy Change for Fundraising

All fundraising projects typically need to be submitted by student groups by Sept. 15. However, the board introduced a second date to submit fundraising projects — Jan. 15. This is for groups that are active in the spring rather than in the fall, and may not have fundraising plans in place in the fall.

The board considered changing language in the policy to introduce more regulation to club fundraising. They also considered adding a 'punishment' of sorts to student groups that raised money for their club without approval — namely that

those funds would be distributed evenly among all student groups.

Other Policy Changes

The board introduced a few other policy changes during the meeting.

The Minnesota School Boards Association updated their policy — and is requiring schools to do likewise — regarding tobacco. The policy, number 418, introduces new language discussing E-Cigs, and states that the school must put in place an educational program about tobacco use for students in grades 6-8.

Policy 516 updated the storage and disposal of controlled substances on campus, i.e. medication.

Finally, policy 601 introduced dyslexia testing for third grade students. This assessment will not give a medical diagnosis of dyslexia, but it can help educators identify students who are struggling so they can receive whatever help they may need.

MSHSL approves winter season with restrictions

By Bill Morgan,
Staff Writer

The MSHSL has decided to give the green light to winter sports, however, the teams will commence with different season start dates and lengths.

The MSHSL also voted on a season for boys and girls hockey that includes an 18-game regular-season schedule, rather than the typical 25 games.

Additionally, the MSHSL has voted on a sea-

son for boys and girls basketball that includes an 18-game regular-season schedule, instead of the typical 26 games.

Moreover, under current COVID-19 guidelines set by the Minnesota Department of Health and Department of Education, no spectators will be allowed at indoor events in school facilities. However, a limit of 250 fans will be allowed at outdoor facilities.

"This group is working as hard as it can for every student to have a chance to participate in that particular

activity or athletic opportunity that's their passion, and trying to do that in the safest possible way," said MSHSL Executive Director Erich Martens.

"People want answers yesterday, for something that's going to happen three months out and that's really challenging to do."

Start dates for sports practices are:

- Dance: Nov. 9;
- Boy's hockey, adapted floor hockey, boy's basketball: Nov. 23;

- Alpine and nordic skiing, wrestling, boy's swim and dive and girl's hockey: Nov. 30;

- Gymnastics and girl's basketball: Dec. 7.

The MSHSL has not yet discussed state tournaments, specifically, for winter sports.

Meanwhile, the MSHSL has voted against holding fall post-section play, meaning fall sports will conclude with section championships.



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Big Lake/Becker Sports

Hornets seeded #2, Turner's tenure winding down

By Bill Morgan,
Staff Writer

The Big Lake Hornet girls soccer team is hosting their first match in the Section tournament starting Monday (Oct. 12) in Big Lake. They are seeded #2 behind Watertown with a 6-1-3 record so far.

To top it all off, this is the final few games of Mike Turner's tenure as head coach. He has coached the Hornets for 11 of his 30 years at the helm.

Hornets 1, Bluejackets 0

Last Friday night, the Hornet girls won against Cambridge-Isanti and are looking at the possibility of one more game to finish the conference schedule strong. That final game was scheduled to be played late last week.

"This has been a season to remember with wins against Becker, Princeton, Monticello and Delano," said Turner. "And a come back tie with Saint Francis, who was the only team we lost to previously."

"We beat Monticello for the first time in school history with a direct kick from Mya Turner, a midfielder, who has committed to UNW," he continued. "Our midfield is also controlled by two other outstanding players, Ava Vizenor and Sophia Lange,



THE BIG LAKE HORNET GIRLS SOCCER TEAM — with a solid 6-1-3 record in 2020 — will host their first section playoff match Monday. (Photo by Patti Lease Bottema).

who have both committed to D2 soccer at the Univ. of Mary."

Turner also called out his second-to-the-last line of defense.

"Controlling our defense is a speedy bunch of players led by Lilly Berglund, who has committed to the National Guard and Kelsey Meyer, who has committed to Crown College.

Turner says his team's play and control has been so rewarding for him to watch this season.

"I know it will continue to grow even more under Coach Kelly Dilger and Derek Holman," he said. "Despite the upcoming graduation of six varsity players, we have a force of

younger girls who are already impact players for this team. I look forward to becoming a super fan!"

Despite the sadness sometimes surrounding a retirement, Turner was grateful he had the chance to coach such a fine group of athletes as this year's girls soccer team.

"It has been by far the best season we have ever had," he said. "This success has built up over the past 11 years of my time coaching this team. We are now able to compete with anyone."

Turner wishes to thank all the players he has had the opportunity to coach, the staff for always having his back, the parents for their support and the coaches for buying into his

coaching philosophy.

"And my family for dealing with my crazy schedule and moods when games didn't always go as planned," he said.

"Finally, I want to thank God for my health and ability to coach for over 30 years. And to all of Big Lake for being the best place to end my coaching career. Go Hornets!"

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Becker boys soccer looking towards sections

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

It was a rough last three games for the Becker boys soccer team, as it dropped all three contests. But the team was able to get a full weeks' worth practice ahead of its first section game which will come on Monday or Tuesday depending on what seed they receive.

"We knew the last two games were going to be tough," said coach Nick Crowley. "We didn't play well enough, and we didn't have our full squad."

Last Friday, the team dropped a close 2-1 contest to Cambridge-Isanti as it hosted the Bluejackets for Senior night.

The first half was scoreless, as both teams played some good defense. In the second half, the Bulldogs found some tough luck when goalkeeper Kevin Vogl was given what his coach called a "controversial" yellow card as he

went for the ball and a C-I forward tripped in the box. Vogl had to leave the field and was replaced by Max Rositas.

This set up a penalty kick for Cambridge and they converted to take the 1-0 lead. They scored quickly again to take a 2-0 lead.

With 5 minutes left in the game, Becker pushed forward and managed to close the gap 2-1.

"We put in our backup keeper Austin Benson and used Kevin as field player," said Crowley. "Kevin ended up scoring the goal for us and we pushed in the last 5 minutes but couldn't convert on a free kick or a corner to tie it up."

Magic/Tigers

Becker also lost a lopsided affair to the Monticello magic by a score of 8-0. Becker had some key injuries in the first half and this caused the score to get a bit out of hand.

"There is a reason they are conference champs,

they are solid all around," said Crowley.

Becker also ran into a tough opponent in the Princeton Tigers, whose only loss this year came to Monticello. Becker dropped this contest 5-0.

"They're a good program with solid players and they have the top scorer in the conference," said Crowley. "Princeton used to be the team you wanted to face to get a W, but not anymore. It's cool to see where their program is at today."

Despite the tough losses, Crowley is confident in his charges for a rebound performance as the section tournament begins.

"We had a week of practice so hopefully we can perform better in section play," said the coach. Fans are encouraged to check the Mississippi8 website for the game time and opponent of the section game.

"There is a reason they are conference champs,

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Bulldogs close out season with a tie



THE BECKER BULLDOG GIRLS SOCCER SENIORS posed for this photo to kick off the 2020 season. Left to right: Madi Temple, Elle Schendzielos, Izzy Carlson, Gretchen Graftaas, Megan Gamble, Mallory King, Faith Madsen, Kaylin Peterson and Alaynna Suchy. (Photo by Chris Lommel).

By Bill Morgan,
Staff Writer

The Becker girls soccer team went 0-1-1 this past week and celebrated their seniors on senior night last Friday.

Magic 7, Bulldogs 1

Sept. 28, the Bulldogs suffered a measurable loss to Monticello by six goals.

The only highlight for Becker was junior Riley Norberg's goal, assisted from senior Isabelle Carl-

son. Amanda Miner, Becker's goalie had 11 saves in the onslaught.

Bulldogs 3, Tigers 3

Last Friday, the Bulldogs honored their seniors with senior night and hosted the Tigers of Princeton. The Bulldogs started the festivities with a donut eating contest and then heartfelt speeches by the seniors.

The match was even as well as the score of 3-3. It was Becker's first non-loss

match of the year as they finished the season 0-10-1.

The first goal came from senior Megan Gamble, assisted by senior Faith Madsen.

The second goal was scored by senior Alaynna Suchy with an assist from Gamble.

The third goal came from Gamble again as she was assisted by Madsen.

Sophomore Liz Mackedanz had seven saves in goal.

Bulldog swimmers down Wildcats

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing writer

It was a back and forth match last Thursday, but the Becker Bulldog swimming and diving team came out with an exciting victory over Chisago Lakes by a score of 94-92.

"I have been coaching here for a long time and this has to be one of the most exciting dual meets I have ever been at," said coach Tina Tamm. "There were six lead changes throughout the night coming down to the last relay for the win."

With the win, Becker improved to 5-3 on the season and is assured of finishing at least with a .500 record with a pair of matches remaining in the regular season.

Against the Wildcats, the Bulldogs knew from the score that the last event was going to be the determining factor in the final score.

"We knew going into that last event that Chisago Lakes could not get two place scores for us to win," said Tamm.

"They could get first place but nothing else."

It led to an incredibly exciting finish as the swim-

mers and their teammates rose to the occasion.

"The decibel levels in the pool during that last race would have led you to believe that the bleachers were full of spectators watching, but they were not," said



T a m m .

"Both teams knew what had to be done and the excitement was there."

Becker finished with a second and third place score in the 400 meter relay to secure the winning margin.

For the match, Grace Wynia had a first place finish in the 200 Individ-

ual Medley, while Delaney Varney took first in the 100 Butterfly. First place finishes were also recorded by Meghan Swanson (500 freestyle) and Lucy Pink (100 breaststroke).

The Bulldog sprinters were hitting on all cylinders at the meet, as

Tia Schaap, Avary Maunu and Kadence Cox finished in

places two, three, and four in the 50 free. In the 100 free, the same girls placed 2-4, but in reverse

order with Cox taking second place.

Two more swimmer posted times good enough to secure a spot at the section meet, Annika Howe in the 100 backstroke and Joey Cox in the 200 Individual Medley.

The Bulldogs were scheduled to finish the regular season Thursday night against the Princeton Tigers. Look for results in next week's Patriot.

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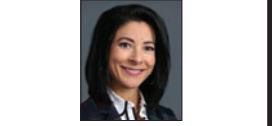
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Pebble Creek Women's Club holds Fall Banquet

Submitted Article

The Pebble Creek Women's Club officially ended the 2020 season at their recent Fall Banquet where final champions were announced and a newly elected Board of Directors was seated.

"Being able to gather as a community of golfers this year was particularly valuable to our members given the impact of COVID in all of our lives," said Karla Johnson, newly-confirmed Pebble Creek Women's Club President. "The Pebble Creek Women's Club is made up of a great group of women – who build friendships, improve their golf game and work together to expand the game of golf and support our local community through our Pebble Creek Cares program."

Joining Johnson on the 2020-2021 Board of Directors is Past President Stacey Vetsch, Vice President Lori Keller, Treasurer Nicole Lane and Secretary Kirsten Voller along with four Directors: Robin Dingmann, Peggy Sogard, Jamie May and Amy Stanger.

Winners of the final competitions of the Peb-

ble Creek Women's Club season were announced including for the 9-Hole Year-End Tournament and the Match Play competitions. The awards for most significant improvement in performance were also presented.

The 2020 9-Hole Year-End Tournament first flight winners are Karla Johnson (1st place), Nicole Lane (2nd place) and Heather Abrahamson (3rd place). Second flight winners are LeAnn Reed (1st place), Pennee Schrupp (2nd place) and Melanie Perry (3rd place). Third flight winners are Mary Jo Stanger (1st place), Lori Berends (2nd place – tie) and Cheryl Ellingson (2nd place – tie) and Vonnice Novak (3rd place). Fourth flight winners are Krisy Cox (1st place), Jamie May (2nd place) and Cindy Brennan (3rd place).

The 2020 Women's Doubles Match Play Champions are Robin Dingmann and Nicole Lane and the runners-up are Kathy Hollenhorst and Kirsten Voller. The 2020 Women's Singles Match Play Champion is Nicole Lane and the runner-up is Sara Schliesing. The player honored

with the most significant improvement in performance for 2020 is Lori Berends. Additionally, Allee Blank came in 1st place in the Ringer Board which tracks the most significant improvement hole by hole throughout the season.

For more information



2020 PCWC MOST IMPROVED PLAYER. Lori Berends. (Submitted Photos)

on the Pebble Creek Women's Club, contact Karla Johnson, Pebble Creek Women's Club President at PebbleCreekWomensClub@gmail.com.



2020/21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRESIDENTS. Left to right: Stacey Vetsch, past president and Karla Johnson (incoming president). (Submitted Photos)



2020 DOUBLES MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONS. Left to right: Nicole Lane and Robin Dingmann. (Submitted Photos)

Becker tennis starts section title chase with win over Hornets

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Becker girls tennis team is hoping for a repeat performance this year as section champs and if Tuesday night was any indication, they are going to be a hard team to beat.

The Bulldogs opened their title defense with a straight set 7-0 win over the Big Lake Hornets on a windy night at Becker High School.

Becker's singles players were on fire, losing a total of just five games en route to the straight set wins in all four matches.

At #1 singles, Courtney Nuest defeated Ari Laun by a pair of 6-0 scores, while Maddie Moe had the same result at #2 singles over the Hornets' Ella Dotzler. Ayla Brown picked up the win at #3 singles, followed by a nice performance at #4 singles by Julia Peterson who won 6-1, 6-3 over Big Lake's Lilly Stolte.

"The girls were really focused and on top of their games," said coach Nate Bucher. "They really

adjusted well to the wind gusts and played at a very high level."

In the doubles competition, the #1 team of Alayna Lindquist and Julie Bengtson won two sets 6-0 over Sophie Wesolowski and Janelle Gerdt. Jackie Y o e r g and



Jazlyn Toedter were 6-1 and 6-3 winners in the #2 doubles match by defeating Emmy Bowne and Kayla Niedzielski. In the #3 doubles match, Hannah Uecker and Janelle Gudim picked up the win with 6-1 and 6-2 victories over Avae Burfeind and Amelia Gardner.

"Our doubles teams continue to play off of each other very well," said Bucher.

With the win, the number one seed Bulldogs advanced to host the Will-

mar Cardinals in the quarterfinals Thursday evening and if they are victorious, the team would host again Tuesday night in the section semifinals. Thursday, October 15th would be the section finals played at Sartell, the neutral site this year for the championship.

"We are hoping to keep advancing and we are focused on taking it one match at a time," added Bucher.

Look for complete details on the Bulldogs' Willmar match and a potential semifinal tilt in next week's *Patriot*.

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– Mark Twain

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Coaches or statisticians are required to call, submit or email the *Patriot* by 11 a.m. Wed. with information from any games or matches played the current week or past weeks.

The *Patriot* relies on information supplied by the coaches and statisticians and if our readers do not see a sport or match covered, please contact your school's coach or AD.

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