

Area News

TOYS from page 1

Hurry fast to fill the boxes, they will only be out until Dec. 17, 2020.

If one is in need of an application for the Community Toys for Tots program, one will be able to find applica-



tions at the city hall and food shelf in Clearwater, Monticello, Becker and Big Lake.

Requirements for the program include: needing assistance in providing toys for one's children for Christmas, live in one of the five communities the organization serves and be the guardian of one's children.

Applications are due by Dec. 7, 2020 and distribution will be held on Sat., Dec. 19, 2020 unless instructed on a different day.

For any questions regarding applications or volunteering to help the Community Toys for Tots program, please contact Stacy Boone-Vikingson at 763-482-4447 or communitytoysfortots@gmail.com.

BIG LAKE from page 1

future. Patrons will be able to order online and have their orders brought to their cars.

Administrator's Report

Clay Wilfahrt, city administrator, reported that some residents have been calling in regards to the changes to the water bills from the city. The bills are in a new format, and the most recent round of bills are the first for winter billing. Bill amounts may be slightly different for these reasons.

Wilfahrt also announced that he will be launching a series of web interviews with city officials on *Facebook*. The first one was released Dec. 1, and featured Police Chief Joel Scharf, who discussed policing during a pandemic. The videos will all be available on the Big Lake City's *Facebook* page.

SHOP LOCAL from page 1

Or, treat yourself to some hair and body products or pick up a gift card for stocking stuffers! Check out their coupon for Myra purses on page 3.

Parts City Auto Parts – 845 MN-24, Clearwater – 320-558-9901

Keep that vehicle of yours running all winter with a stop at Parts City. Pick up some gift cards while you're there, ranging in prices from \$5 to \$100. Or, grab an ice fishing pole and gear for just \$5.99 to \$27.99. Outfit your car with a Nebo flashlight for \$9.99 to \$32.99.

How about your storage area for your car? Parts City has garage and house brooms from \$9.99 to \$20.99 and cleaners and cloths from \$4.19 to \$19.99.

Scheideman Chiropractic & Body Shop – 14030 Bank St. #1, Becker – 763-262-2639

Pamper yourself this Christmas season and enter the New Year with a new, feeling good body and attitude.

How about a half-hour massage for just \$30? It will run from Dec. 14-23 only and you need to call 763-262-2639 to schedule an appointment.

Wouldn't bottles of essential oils be great for your well-being? They'd be great stocking stuffers, don't you think? Also, gift certificates in many denominations are available, too!

Becker Food Pride – 13400 1st St., Becker – 763-262-2500

Great gifts can easily be had at Food Pride! They have fruit baskets starting at \$9.99, meat & cheese trays starting at \$7.99 and cookie trays starting at \$13.99.

Don't forget to get your Christmas candy at Food Pride where you will find a load of assorted sweets. Also give that special someone a gift certificate and let them choose what to spend it on!

Two Cute Boutique – 726 Martin Ave., Suite 102, Big Lake – 763-957-2406

Check out Big Lake's newest storefront! Pick up some bath bombs from \$4.49 to \$5.99. Masks are available for adults and children for \$5!

Flip-A-Zoos are avail-

able for \$14.99 as well as teethingers from \$12.99 to \$18.99 and slime for \$6.99!

Deli Plus – 13996 1st St., Becker – 763-261-4400

Stop in at your favorite convenience store for gift cards in denominations of \$25 to \$100. Or, check out their fishing pole and shotgun-shaped lighters near checkout for just \$11.99!

Deli Plus has sunglasses galore, starting at \$11.99 all the way up to \$19.99! Yummy 1919 rootbeer in a 12-pack is a great pickup at \$17.99 or grab some lottery tickets for stocking stuffers from \$1 to \$50!

Jubilee Liquor – 13400 1st St., Becker – 763-262-2066

What is Christmas without a little holiday cheer! Pick up some can koozies from \$2.99 to \$4.99 to stuff those stockings! Or, grab some gift certificates for any dollar amount or get your hands on a fishing pole or shotgun lighter for \$11.99.

Jubilee Liquors also has Rumchata gift packs for \$21.99 and 1919 rootbeer in a 5-liter mini-keg for just \$21.99.

Lupulin Brewing – 570 Humboldt Drive Suite 107, Big Lake – 763-263-9549

Lupulin is offering 10% off online merchandise purchases starting Sunday (Dec. 6) through Dec. 11, 2020. Buyers are asked to use code: Merch10.

Lupulin also has growler gift packs (two glasses, a growler and a free growler fill card) for \$35. Or, pick up a growler punch card (12 growler fills) for \$125. Another option is a crowler punch card of 12 for \$75.

Lupulin has hoodies and sweatshirts from \$45 to \$50 and men's and women's Lupulin Henleys for \$50!

AWESOME!

Whether it's an always-welcome gift certificate or a unique, one of a kind gift, local businesses have it all. It pays to shop locally.

Check back next week for some more local merchants!

Options struggling to stay open during COVID-19

By Katherine Cantin
Staff writer

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions have made it difficult on *Options Inc.*, a nonprofit organization in Big Lake. The group was doing very well financially at the beginning of the year, but when the shutdowns began in March the group was hit hard. Since the workers were not able to go out and do their jobs, the state stopped sending service revenue reimbursement checks that *Options* relied upon to stay in operation. In June, the group had to furlough half of its employees. Revenue is down 62% over last year.

The workers that *Options* works with have been told they can't return to their jobs until the pandemic is over, and of course no one knows when that will happen. Not only did all these workers lose their jobs, but they lost their social network and daily routines as well, without understanding why they lost it.

Options Inc. has helped to train and find employment for adults with intellectual disabilities since 1979. They currently work with 250 disabled workers in Sherburne County. They work hard to offer opportunities to adults with mental disabilities that they believe everyone should enjoy: a place to form friendships; to feel valued; to engage with the community without feeling judgement; and to work a job that gives them not just a paycheck, but purpose. Currently,

Options is partnered with 80 local businesses.

Elizabeth Roemer raves about *Options*. Her daughter, Tina, has been with *Options* since 2006. Elizabeth said that Tina has learned a lot from the jobs she has worked, and that she always looks forward to going to work. *Options* doesn't only give Tina a job, but also provides her with a network of peers, and a sense of purpose and independence.

"If [Tina] didn't have *Options*," Elizabeth said, "she would just spend her days sitting on the couch watching TV."

Elizabeth is especially grateful that *Options* offers all the training, transportation, and guidance

that Tina needs to be a successful employee. She said there is no way she could have done all of it herself – it would have been difficult to find employment for her daughter, and even more so to provide all the necessary training.

Brenda Geldert, executive director of *Options*, said they are grateful for the CARES funding they have been allocated, but it isn't enough to get them by. She asks anyone who wishes to help to reach out to elected representatives to get them to support legislation that would bring much-needed support back to the group.

"The financial impact of COVID-19 weighs heavy on us," Geldert said. "However, seeing the joy in people as they are able to return encourages us that hope is not lost, and we are dedicated to continuing the mission of *Options*."



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AREA MERCHANTS!
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ECONOMY ROBUST!**

Shop Local!

During this upcoming Holiday Shopping Season lets all help out our local businesses by purchasing your gifts locally. Buying local supports our communities as a whole.

Gift certificates to your local favorite restaurant (they make great stocking stuffers too); gas cards; services and products from your local hair salons and boutiques; the hardware store always has great gift ideas; Becker and Big Lake spiritwear; health and wellness products from your chiropractor and oil changes and car care products.

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SMALL-TOWN COMMUNITIES LOVE THEIR LOCAL PAPERS

A recent study found that 67% of small-town residents read their local paper at least one time per week. Out of the participants, 78% said newspapers were their main source for information about local news, and 71% of participants said newspaper inserts motivated them with their buying decisions.

HEAT

OR

FOOD

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Becker/County News

Operation X-mas Jammies seeking donations

By Katherine Cantin
Staff writer

Nicole Schmidt of Becker is once again looking for donations for her organization, *Operation X-mas Jammies*.

Schmidt is the mother of Andrew, who was diagnosed with Pallister-Killian Syndrome (PKS) at the age of five. PKS is a very rare disease with only 500 known cases in the world. PKS affects the 12th chromosome. According to the *Operation X-mas Jammies* website, “It presents with four short arms on the 12th chromosome instead of the typical two.”

Children who are diagnosed with PKS have developmental disabilities and low muscle tone. Like Down Syndrome, children with PKS look very similar to one another.

Andrew Schmidt suffers from seizures, and has hearing and vision difficulties. He’s had many surgeries, including hip and spine surgeries.

In honor of Christmas, Schmidt created *Operation X-mas Jammies*. The goal of the organization is to raise awareness of PKS, as well as to send pajamas to PKS kids around the world. Pajamas are great gifts for kids with PKS. The kids usually aren’t able to play with toys, so pajamas are a good alternative.

Gov. Tim Walz declared Dec. 4 PKS Awareness Day in Minnesota this year. Those who want to support the cause can wear black and red, the official PKS colors, and they can make a donation to *Operation X-mas Jammies*, either by giving money or by sponsoring one of 100 kids around the world living with PKS. Normally, Schmidt would organize a fundraising dinner as well, but with COVID-19 restrictions, she was unable to do so this year.

Schmidt says she loves to talk about her two daughters, who were val-dictorians, and she loves to talk about her son too, but there’s a perceived awk-



OPERATION X-MAS JAMMIES is seeking donations to help children with special needs get Christmas presents this year. (Submitted Photo).

wardness when talking to people about a child with special needs. She wants to raise awareness of PKS so there is less of that awkwardness. She’s gone into the schools and hosted events for years in order to

educate people about PKS and how to care for kids with disabilities.

To learn more about *Operation X-mas Jammies*, visit *OperationXmasJammies.com* or see the Facebook page.

Heaney presented with Distinguished Service Award

Submitted Article

Sherburne County Attorney Kathleen Heaney has been awarded the Johnson Distinguished Service Award by the Minnesota County Attorneys Association.

The association presented Heaney with the award Wednesday at its board meeting. Heaney was MCAA President in 2015, past chair of the Civil Law Committee, member of the Child Support Task Force



SHERBURNE COUNTY ATTORNEY KATHLEEN HEANEY. (Submitted Photo).

and is an active member of the MCAA Education Committee.

MCAA President Aaron Jordan presented Heaney with the award, praising her ongoing support for her colleagues as a resource and mentor.

“She’s a calm voice in a crisis and an ear when a colleague has a question,” Jordan said.

The award is presented to a County Attorney who has “demonstrated a history of significant leadership,

strived to improve the quality of justice, and whose activity has increased and enhanced public awareness of the office of County Attorney at the state and/or national level while adhering to the highest ethical standards of the legal profession.”

Heaney has been the Sherburne County Attorney for 17 years.

Veterans encouraged to check available benefits

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

The holidays can be a tough time for everyone, and the pandemic has made things even harder. For veterans who may be struggling, both Sherburne Co. and Wright Co. have services to help that veterans are often not even aware of.

“There are several challenges for our veterans and their families,” said Director of Wright Co. Veterans Services Greg Pickard. “Obviously the biggest right now is the current COVID-19 crisis and getting veterans disability examinations. It’s been tough for all the agencies involved with veterans’ benefits because of the in-person restrictions.”

To overcome the challenges, the Sherburne and Wright Co. offices, as well as the Veteran’s Service Organizations (American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars) and the VA have had to significantly alter their “normal” way of doing business. To meet COVID-19 restrictions while still providing assistance to the veteran population, changes have been made to nearly everything, from how they communicate to how they obtain signatures on forms.

“Another issue is getting veterans and their families to come in and educating them on misinformation that may not have been accurate the first time or has changed since they came in,” said Director of Sherburne Co. Veterans Services Bruce Price.

The number of veterans applying for services has continued to rise. In Wright Co., the numbers have steadily increased, from 3,065 in 2017 to 4,752 in 2019, and the numbers in 2020 are expected to meet or exceed those. Veterans that are applying also continue to rise in Sherburne Co.

“We average around 50

when it comes to the G.I. bill benefits made available from the Veterans Administration of MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs, they connect veterans and their families with the people in higher education who will get them to the expert.

A big part of assisting veterans and their families is also correcting misinformation and what people ‘think’ they know.

that families or even the veterans themselves often aren’t sure about everything they were involved in. Sitting down and talking with someone from veterans’ services often yields unexpected results. For example, any veteran who was in Vietnam is automatically in the VA Health Care System.

All veterans and their families are encouraged to find out what benefits are available to them.

“Bottom line, if you’re a veteran or a family member of a veteran and have a question about what benefits may be available to you because of your, your spouse’s, your parent’s, or possibly even your child’s service, then contact us,” said Pickard. “We’ll answer your questions or get you in touch with the person or agency that can.”

To contact Sherburne Co. Veterans Services, call 763-765-3100 or email veterans@co.sherburne.mn.us. More information can be found on their website at <https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/228/Veterans-Services>. To contact Wright Co. Veterans Services, call 763-682-7325 or email vso@co.wright.mn.us. More information can be found on their website at <https://www.co.wright.mn.us/218/Veteran-Services>.

“I come across veterans from around the nation who were either told they weren’t eligible for benefits or didn’t even consider themselves to be a veteran for one reason or another,” said Price. “For example, they didn’t retire out of the service or see active combat.”

He stressed that veterans’ benefits have continued to increase and change over the years and recommends that vets and their families keep checking to see what they may be eligible for until the day they pass away.

“It takes getting them in here and educating them on misinformation that may not have been accurate the first time or has changed since they last checked,” he said.

Another problem is



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NEWSPAPERS ARE PREFERRED BY AFFLUENT AUDIENCES

Did you know that newspapers are the preferred choice for affluent audiences to get information?

Participants of a recent study were asked which media platforms they remembered seeing ads in in the past month and how they reacted to them. Despite all the attention that digital media receives, wealthy participants were far more likely to use printed newspapers than any other media channel. This was followed only by online newspapers.

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Becker/CW News

Becker sets 2021 tax levy

By Katie Cantin,
Staff Writer

Connie Robinson delivered the presentation for the Truth in Taxation part of last Tuesday's Becker City Council meeting.

The board passed a resolution to set the tax levy for the year of 2021. After the money raised by other revenue resources (the golf course, the Becker Community Center, etc.) the levy will consist of \$4,995,188 for operations, \$2,224,345 for the capital improvement plan, \$910,963 for debt service, and \$3,731,798 for water and wastewater.

The property values in Becker have increased, with residential property up six percent, and commercial property up four percent. Property taxes are determined by the Sherburne County Assessor. Residents with questions about property value and how it is calculated can contact the Sherburne County Assessor's office at Assessor@co.Sherburne.mn.us or at 763-765-4900.

Those who have questions about the city's budget can contact Connie Robinson at CRobinson@ci.Becker.mn.us.

Tractor Purchases for Public Works

Becker's public services division will be purchasing a 2020 John Deere X758 tractor and blower for the use of snow removal on city sidewalks. The cost will be \$22,725.

The tractor will save the city money since equipment not well-equipped for sidewalks will no longer be put under strain for that task, and there will be no more need to repair turf that was damaged by said equipment in the spring.

Another tractor, a John Deere 6120M Cab Tractor with a Agrimaxx 12' snow

remotely, or to discontinue them altogether. City council meetings will also be held virtually until at least mid-January.

This declaration will mainly affect city staff. Police Chief Brent Baloun, who presented the declaration to the board, said the regular citizens will likely not see much of the change.

The city has declared a local emergency before, when the COVID-19 pandemic first began causing shut-downs state wide.

Industrial Park Expansion

The city is applying for a grant of up to \$500,000 which is being offered by the state of Minnesota to cities that are experiencing a power plant decommissioning. This funding will be used for expanding the industrial park.

Council also made a motion accepting funding from the bonding bill, from the Minnesota Legislature's fifth special session. A total of \$20.5 million was awarded to Becker to use in expanding the industrial park.

Public Hearing Scheduled

There will be a public hearing during the next city council meeting, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m. to hear input about fee schedule changes. The meeting will be held virtually, so those who wish to weigh in at the hearing will be required to attend virtually.



pusher, will be purchased for removing snow in parking lots and cul-de-sacs. This will replace a smaller tractor that was used for the same purpose. The smaller tractor will be sent to the golf course for their use, and Pebble Creek will also be purchasing a F550 dump truck from the city.

Though this item was not budgeted, staff felt that the sale of the dump truck and the savings that will result from the purchase will compensate.

Though the parks division is seeking approval for the purchase now, the actual purchase will not take place until 2021.

City Declares Local Emergency

Council has declared a local emergency due to the COVID-19 situation, pushing staff to review events, legal proceedings, and other regular city business to find ways to do them safely or

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NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY IS QUICKLY EVOLVING

According to data from the Newspaper Association of America (NAA), trends reflect that the print industry is evolving its business model in significant ways. Some of these ways include connecting with developments in technology, tapping into consumer behavior, understanding advertiser interest, and more in order to grow audiences and diversify its revenue stream.

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NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING DRIVES ACTION

A study by NAA found that 81% of adults acted upon a coupon or call to visit a brand's local store after seeing a newspaper ad in the past month. Over half of these consumers made a purchase because of the call to action. The study also found that newspapers ranked the highest of all other mediums as the source people use to plan for shopping.

Out of all the options, direct mail inserts scored the highest with 81% of adults saying they acted in the past 30 days after seeing an ad. Seven out of 10 respondents also said they regularly perused newspapers and magazines to seek out inserts. Even consumers who considered themselves "non-readers" used newspapers to find and cut out coupons, compare prices, and seek out sales in their local stores.

See more
Editorial / Opinions
on page 9

Editorial/Opinion

A Profile Of Cass Rademacher

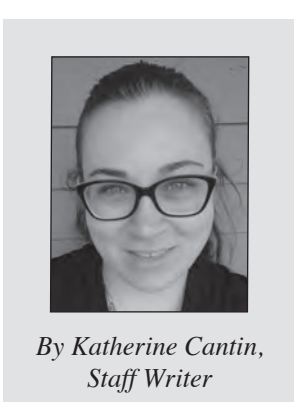
A while ago, we ran an article about conservation officer Trent Seamans. Seamans is a veteran who decided to settle down in the community after his military career and serve as a conservation officer.

After reading this, one of our readers, Stefan Bloom, reached out to me to tell me about his brother-in-law, Cass Rademacher, who has a similar story.

“Cass is a great brother in law and a very loving godfather to my daughter,” Bloom said. “He’s a positive role model in our society. He is also extremely calm and collected under pressure. Lastly, he’s an extremely humble veteran and deputy who would never seek out recognition, yet deserves it nonetheless.”

Rademacher, from Zimmerman, served in the army for three years. He was stationed in Louisiana for most of that time, but was deployed into combat in Afghanistan once in 2016.

After leaving the mili-



By Katherine Cantin,
Staff Writer

tary, Rademacher attended Mankato State University where he earned his Bachelor’s degree in law enforcement. Shortly afterwards, he was offered a position at the Sherburne County Sheriff’s office.

Rademacher has been working as a deputy for about a year now. He said he never imagined that he would end up back in the same county where he grew up, not after all the traveling he did while in the Army. Nevertheless, he loves serving the community. He told me that, when he was given the opportunity, he thought there was no better place to be than

the community where he was raised. He loves being able to help the people of Big Lake when they need it the most.

“When people call, it’s not because it’s their birthday and they’re excited,” Rademacher said. “People are having their worst moments, and I want to do whatever I can to make their situation better.”

I think it’s amazing that some people, like Rademacher, do anything they can to serve others. Not only did he risk his life for his country while in the military, but he continues to do so every day for the people in our community.

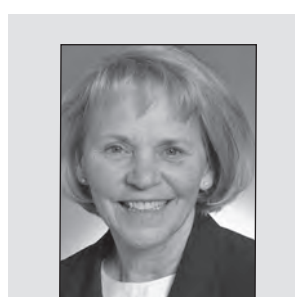
As we approach the Christmas season, I want to thank Cass Rademacher, along with all of our veterans, police officers, and first responders for keeping us safe. Christmas is about celebrating the life of one man who gave his life to protect all the people he loves, and I’m so grateful that spirit lives on in those who serve the community. God bless all of you, and Merry Christmas!

Prioritizing Local Roads And Bridges

Happy Thanksgiving from our home to yours! Thank you all for allowing me the privilege of serving as your voice in the Minnesota Senate. I am so thankful for the opportunity to represent our wonderful district and all the people who make it special. I know our normal celebrations have been upended by the coronavirus, but I hope you are able to make it as normal as possible considering the circumstances. However you plan to celebrate, please stay safe!

Roads and bridges have long been one of my top priorities, and since Republicans have had the majority we have delivered impressive results. With the largest investment in roads and bridges since 2008, Senate Republicans paid for the repair and replacement of thousands of lane miles and bridges across Minnesota. Over the last four years, our comprehensive transportation budget infused our transportation system with \$600 million in new, ongoing funding, and an additional \$300 million in one-time transportation funding from bonding.

This includes significant funding for local roads and bridges as well. In this year’s bonding bill alone, we approved \$5 million for township road improvement grants, as well as \$3 million for safe routes to school infrastructure improvements, and \$84



By Mary Kiffmeyer
State Senator

million for state road construction. We also added additional road and bridge funding for small communities, especially in Greater Minnesota – namely, \$30 million for local bridge replacement and rehabilitation and \$70 million for local road improvements.

The bonding bill also contained funding to expand I-94 through Monticello. Everyone who has had to travel any part of 94 to and from the cities knows how frustrating the congestion is. We’ve made a lot of progress in recent years, having already expanded 94 through Rogers and Albertville. This next stretch will provide even more stress relief for commuters and travelers.

But the biggest project in our area is Highway 169 through Elk River, which will be converted to a free-flowing freeway with construction set to begin in 2022. A few years ago we were able to secure funding for the new highway

via Minnesota’s innovative Corridors of Commerce Program, and I’m pleased to report the project is right on schedule. The plan calls for the redesign and reconstruction of Highway 169 to convert it to a new freeway system through Elk River between Highway 101/ Highway 10 and 197th Avenue just past Menards on the northern end of the city.

Highway 169 is a critical corridor, driven by thousands upon thousands of Minnesotans for work as they head to their cabins to go fishing or hunting. But trying to get through Elk River, especially during rush hour, is enough to drive most drivers mad -- almost everyone who travels that stretch of road has had some version of the following conversation at one time or another: “Let’s head out early so we can get through Elk River before it gets bad,” or “Let’s take back roads so we can avoid 169.”

Once this redesign is completed those conversations will be a relic of the past.

Strong, reliable roads and bridges are one of the core expectations of government. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish over the last few years, and I will continue to make these infrastructure improvements a priority so you can have safe, stress-free commutes.

117th Congress With Lots To Accomplish

I hope you had a safe and happy Thanksgiving. As the holiday season continues, I hope you and your family remain healthy and optimistic for the future. It can be tough to find the silver lining of life during these challenging times, but amid the crisis, there is still a lot to be thankful for.

This week, Congress is back in session and there’s a lot to accomplish. Read on to learn more about the work we’re doing.

New Colleague

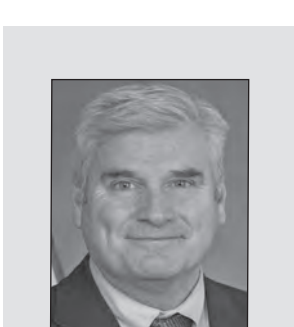
As we look ahead and prepare for the start of a new Congress in January, I look forward to serving alongside a longtime friend and now colleague, Congresswoman-elect Michelle Fischbach.

She joins a diverse and incredibly qualified class of freshman members of Congress. The House Republican Conference, is welcoming more women, veterans, and diverse Americans in background and experience than ever before. I look forward to serving alongside all of them in the 117th Congress!

Sexual Assault

When I first heard Abby Honold’s story, I was inspired by her strength and bravery. Abby Honold was a student at the University of Minnesota when she reported her rape to the police and investigators.

Following her assault, Abby was treated by a nurse who was trained in the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI) method. The technique was what allowed Abby to remember and prevented



By Congressman
Tom Emmer

re-traumatization. Ultimately, it ensured law enforcement could get the accurate information they needed to properly investigate and eventually, secure a prosecution while caring for Abby in the process.

Bearing her name, and inspired by her bravery, Sen. Amy Klobuchar and I worked together to introduce the Abby Honold Act in both chambers of Congress during the 115th Congress. The legislation was reintroduced during the 116th Congress and included as an amendment to the Violence Against Women Act.

The bill will create a grant program to train law enforcement agencies who are willing to participate in evidence-based, trauma-informed interview techniques. This will result in the prevention of re-traumatization of victims, improved communication between victims and law enforcement, and that accurate and complete information is retrieved.

Last week, I wrote to Attorney General William Barr and the Dept. of Jus-

tice urging them to implement this demonstration program and issue grants in order to promote trauma-informed training for law enforcement.

The Abby Honold Act is bipartisan legislation that the Dept. of Justice can take steps to implement right now and provide resources nationwide to expand training to care for victims of sexual assault.

Civil Air Patrol

The Civil Air Patrol has served an important purpose in our nation. Our U.S. Air Force knows that our civilian aviation resources are “always vigilant” and will step up whenever they are needed. The support they lend our military and our nation displays the deeply rooted American values that we cherish and enjoy. Their service to others, their commitment to education and their response to those in a state of emergency are what make America a community, and not just a nation.

This year, the Civil Air Patrol celebrates 78 years of volunteer service to our nation. I am a proud to be a Congressional Member in support of this organization, and I will continue to support their mission and vital volunteer work!

Minnesota Cattlemen

This week, I’ll be appearing at the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association and the Minnesota Beef Council’s 2020 Cattle Industry Convention!

In the early days of the COVID-19 crisis, many Americans worried about whether they would be

“Tis the season of the reindeer. After all, it’s hard to not notice them at this time of year. They make appearances in holiday movies, or on holiday greeting cards, and sometimes they are seen in Christmas tree lots as the featured animal. They appear on stage in plays or re-enactments and the list goes on and on. Not to mention, for an eternity, reindeer have powered Santa’s sleigh. You might even say, without reindeer we might not have Christmas.

But what do you really know about reindeer? For example, did you know that reindeer and caribou are the same animal? Scientifically speaking, they are both Rangifer Tarandus. This is a classic example of one animal having different common names in different parts of the world. They are called reindeer in northern Europe and Asia and they are called caribou in North America and Greenland. But they are still the same animal. Not to confuse things more, but North American moose (Alces alces) are called elk in most of Europe. See what I mean? The use of common names can be very confusing.

For generations, reindeer have been tended by humans in northern Europe and Eurasia. It is estimated that they were domesticated about 2,000 to 5,000 years ago. The domesticated reindeer can look and act very different from their wild brethren. Domestic reindeer have short legs, and they don’t migrate hundreds of miles and their antlers are much smaller. Caribou have long legs, migrate across mountain ranges for hundreds of miles and the males have enormous antlers. So, in short, the difference between reindeer and caribou is reindeer are domesticated and caribou are wild.

Nature Smart



By Stan Tekiela,
Naturalist

Caribou are a member of the deer family. They are considered circumpolar, which means they are found in the northern boreal and arctic regions around the entire world. They have adapted well to cold wintery conditions and to survive the harshest conditions. They have large and wide hooves that are good for walking in snow. They also use their hooves to dig through ice packed snow to find plants



and lichen on the tundra below the snow.

Their fur is very thick, and their long hollow hairs help trap air close to the body to keep them warm. In addition, their fur acts like a life jacket to keep them afloat when swimming. Both male and female caribou have antlers. The male’s antlers can be huge and are considered the largest of any deer species in proportion to their body size. Another amazing fact about caribou, they

can see Ultraviolet (UV) light, which is invisible to humans. It has been well documented that birds and insects can see UV light, but mammals are a very different thing. It turns out that caribou are one of the few mammals on the earth that can perceive UV light. Currently, only a couple species of rodents and a few species of bat are known to see UV light.

It is unknown why caribou can see Ultraviolet light. But some preliminary experiments show that Lichen, a low growing plant-like organism, and the main food source for caribou during winter, absorbs UV light making them look dark against the bright snow. Perhaps this makes it easier to find food. But can it be so simple? Wouldn’t anything that is not snow stand out on the tundra? Do they need help finding food?

Some have suggested that since mammal urine, such as wolves, reflects UV light, the caribou could use this info to help them avoid predators. This would give the caribou some warning of predators in the area, but this is just speculation. There can always predators in the area!

There are still many mysteries surrounding this animal no matter if you call them caribou or reindeer, especially when it comes to reindeer flying and powering Santa’s sleigh around the world. Happy Holidays to you and yours.

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

ATTENTION!

Letters to the editor and editorials are an important part of the *PATRIOT* Newspaper. Our readers share a wide range of perspectives on current issues.

Letters that are well-written, have a clear opinion and responsive to current events are more likely to be chosen for publication. The *PATRIOT* also seeks to publish letters from a range of readers of diverse backgrounds.

The *PATRIOT* does not discriminate due to age, sexual orientation, race or political affiliation. The columns from political parties are unsolicited and do not necessarily reflect the *PATRIOT*’S views.

Columns are typically written by *PATRIOT* staffers and/or seated politicians who have stakes in the communities of the *PATRIOT* readership.



PATRIOT

WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

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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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- Real Estate
- Business Planning
- Business Litigation
- Wills & Trusts
- Estate Planning
- Guardianships

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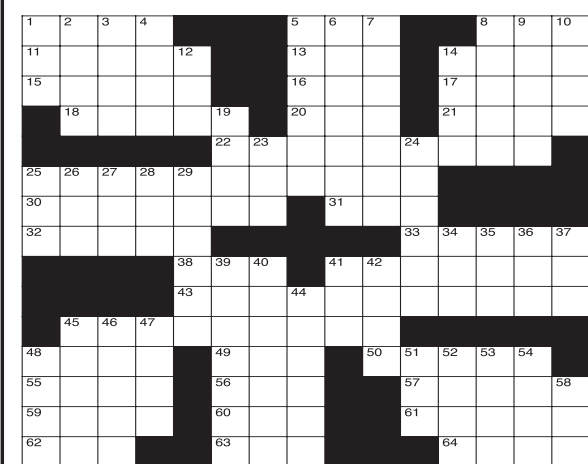


ANNOUNCE YOUR FREE EVENT! DEADLINE IS NOON ON WEDNESDAY

PATRIOT

763-275-0275

Game Time

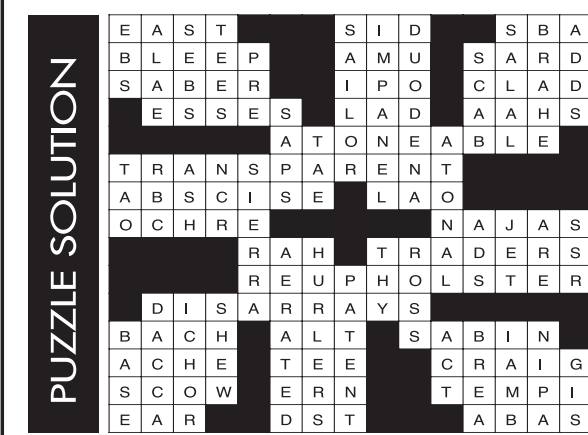


CLUES ACROSS

- Opposite of west
- Caesar, comedian
- Helps little firms
- A way to censor
- Expresses atomic and molecular weights
- Chalcedony
- Type of sword
- A corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
- Attired
- A sequence of winding turns
- Pal
- Expresses pleasure
- Amendable
- Clear
- A way to cut off
- Indigenous Thai person
- Pale brownish yellow color
- Aquatic plants genus
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Merchants
- Fix a chair
- Throws into disorganization
- Famed German composer
- Keyboard key
- Oral polio vaccine developer
- Partner to pain
- Where golfers start
- Jenny ____; weight loss program
- Sailing dinghy
- Suffix that forms adjectives
- Speeds at which music is played
- Body part
- Fall back
- Ancient Greek sophist

CLUES DOWN

- One point south of due east
- Wings
- One point south of southeast
- The shirts on our backs
- One who works on the seas
- Select jury
- Small intestines parts
- Plant of the heath family
- Extrasolar planet
- Creates more of
- Before
- Forms over a cut
- Runs down
- Exercise regimen ____bo
- Unkeyed
- Principle underlying the universe
- Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- Residue
- Company that rings receipts
- Rugged mountain range
- Commercials
- NY footballer
- They
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Poked holes in the ground
- Pitchers
- Your
- Diana __, singer
- Important document for inventors
- Bangladesh capital
- Fluid that flows in the veins of Greek gods
- Famed daguerreotype photographer
- Where military personnel work
- Play a role
- La ____ Tar Pits, Hollywood
- Unstressed-stressed
- Type of palm tree
- Judo garments



This Weeks Calendar Events:

- Sun. - Dec. 6, 2020**
- ** Saint Nicholas Day
- Mon. - Dec. 7, 2020**
- ** Pearl Harbor Day: Anniversary, 1941
- ** National Cotton Candy Day
- ** National Older Driver Awareness Week (12/7-12/11)
- Tues. - Dec. 8, 2020**
- ** United States Enters World War II
- Wed. - Dec. 9, 2020**
- ** United Nations: International Anti-Corruption Day
- Thurs. - Dec. 10, 2020**
- ** Chanukah (12/10-12/18)
- ** Human Rights Week (12/10-12/17)
- Fri. - Dec. 11, 2020**
- ** United Nations: UNICEF Established: 1946
- ** United Nations: International Mountain Day
- Sat. - Dec. 12, 2020**
- ** Poinsettia Day

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.BECKER-FREECHURCH.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 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 MITTEN Tree
Beginning Dec. 1, the Lioness in conjunction with Riverwood Bank in Big Lake will once again host the MITTEN TREE. Mittens, hats, scarf's will be collected throughout the month of Dec. at Riverwood Bank from those wishing to donate either hand-made or purchased items. In Jan., the items will be collected & dispersed to local elementary schools in Big Lake & Becker by Lioness members. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Riverwood Bank in Big Lake.

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.biglakewomenof today.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 Alanon.

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.

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.

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.

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 free group provides support, education, & awareness about the disease. Independent Lifestyles at 320-529-9000.

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 sing Sun., Dec. 13. Hymn sings are held every other month on the second Sun. at 4:30 pm. 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.

Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events

The Becker Area Senior Center will soon be relocating to the Becker Community Center. We will be opening under COVID-19 regulations. **Watch this Patriot column or www.beckercommunitycenter.com for more information and EXACT OPENING DATE.** BASC 763-528-0643 Email: basc.becker@gmail.com

December - 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.



RSVP / The Volunteer Bridge Driver at Tri-CAP
Many community members have no transportation to appointments, primarily due to age or disability. Volunteer to use your personal vehicle to transport Tri-CAP clients to these important destinations. Drivers are notified in advance and are reimbursed for all miles driven. Days and times needed vary and are flexible for any schedule! Background, driver record and medical screenings required.

Visitor with Great River Faith in Action
Loneliness can strike for anyone and is especially difficult among older adults and those with physical limitations. Make a difference in an adult's life by being a friendly visitor! Participate in activities and games when visiting to help create sunshine in an adult's life.

Big Lake Community Food Shelf
Due to the global health pandemic, volunteers are urgently needed at the Big Lake Community Food Shelf. Volunteers are utilized in a variety of roles, from helping participants with intake paperwork, to no-client contact of packaging food items into boxes and bags, there is a role for everyone. 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

Becker / Big Lake Meals on Wheels

CATHOLIC CHARITIES / MEALS ON WHEELS DECEMBER 7-11
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 763-856-4082 for more information. Suggested contribution for person 60+ & volunteers is \$4.25 - \$8.

Wear a mask in public spaces.

Get tested if you have any symptoms.

Answer if your health department calls.

SHERIFF & POLICE REPORTS
are posted on our website:
www.patriotnewsmn.com

Public Notices

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Date: November 5, 2020

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of that certain mortgage that was executed by and among Elizabeth Nelson and Chad Nelson, as mortgagors, and Granite Community Bank, as mortgagee, which mortgage is dated May 15, 2019 and was recorded on May 16, 2019, as document number 871974, with the Office of the County Recorder in and for Sherburne County, Minnesota.

2. The mortgage has been assigned as follows: n/a

3. The original principal amount secured by the mortgage was: \$138,400.00.

4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the mortgage, or any part thereof.

5. The holder of the mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the mortgage and foreclosure of the mortgage and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.

6. As of the date of this notice, the amount due on the mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the mortgage is: \$141,269.46.

7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the mortgage, the mortgage will be foreclosed on the land described as follows:

Lot 7, Block 2, Parkside, Sherburne County, Minnesota
Street Address: 7633 Church Street, Clear Lake, Minnesota 55319

Tax Parcel Identification Number: 70-415-0235

and will be sold by the Sheriff of Sherburne County, Minnesota at public auction on Thursday, December 31, 2020, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Office of the Sherburne County Sheriff, Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, Minnesota 55330.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption of mortgagors or mortgagors' personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months after the date of sale.

9. The date on or before which the mortgagors must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. § 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is July 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

10. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGORS OR THE MORTGAGORS' PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINN. STAT. § 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Granite Community Bank, Mortgagee

LATHROP GPM LLP

By: /s/ Andrew J. Steil

Andrew J. Steil #387048

1010 West St. Germain Street Suite 500

St. Cloud, MN 56301

(320) 252-4414

Attorneys for Granite Community Bank

(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/14/20; 11/21/20; 11/28/20; 12/05/20; 12/12/20; 12/19/20.)

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., (hereinafter the "Declaration") recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Sherburne County, Minnesota on March 23, 2001, as Document No. 432039, which covers the following property:

Legal Description: Lot 36, Block 2, Norway Ridge, CIC No. 20, Sherburne County, Minnesota
Property Address: 12668 3rd Avenue North, Zimmerman, Minnesota 55398
PID: 95-446-0236

THAT pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of October 27, 2020, from Deborah Ann Scully, title holder, to Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation, the amount of \$17,271.26, plus additional assessments and other amounts that may have accrued since the date of this notice, including the costs of collection and foreclosure;

THAT prior to the commencement of this foreclosure proceeding, Lienor complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law

or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said lien, or any part thereof;

THAT the owner has not been released from her financial obligation to pay said amount;

THAT pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 515B.3-116, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., as evidenced by a lien statement dated September 29, 2020, recorded on October 5, 2020, in the office of the Sherburne County Recorder as Document No. 901804;

THAT pursuant to the power of sale granted by the owners in taking title to the premises subject to said Declaration, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said property by the sheriff of said County at the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, in the City of Elk River, County Sherburne, State of Minnesota, on January 6, 2021, at 10 a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due. 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.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the owner must vacate the property if the account is not brought current or the property redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is July 6, 2021. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

REDEMPTION NOTICE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY

LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY

THE OWNER, THE OWNER'S

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE

REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS

IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED

UNDER MINNESOTA

STATUTES, SECTION 582.032,

DETERMINING, AMONG

OTHER THINGS, THAT THE

PREMISES ARE IMPROVED

WITH A RESIDENTIAL

DWELLING OF LESS THAN

FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROP-

ERTY USED IN AGRICUL-

TURAL PRODUCTION, AND

ARE ABANDONED.

NORWAY RIDGE TOWNHOMES ASSOCIATION, INC., Lienor

Dated: October 27, 2020

By /s/ Nigel H. Mendez

Nigel H. Mendez (0347917)

Carlson & Associates, Ltd.

1052 Centerville Circle

Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

(651) 287-8640

ATTORNEY FOR NORWAY

RIDGE TOWNHOMES ASSO-

CIATION, INC.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/21/20; 11/28/20; 12/05/20; 12/12/20; 12/19/20; 12/26/20.)

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., (hereinafter the "Declaration") recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Sherburne County, Minnesota on March 23, 2001, as Document No. 432039, which covers the following property:

Legal Description: Lot 59, Block 2, Norway Ridge, CIC No. 20, Sherburne County, Minnesota
Property Address: 26287 3rd Street West, Zimmerman, Minnesota 55398
PID: 95-446-0259

THAT pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of October 27, 2020, from Sherry J. Johnson, title holder, to Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation, the amount of \$18,335, plus additional assessments and other amounts that may have accrued since the date of this notice, including the costs of collection and foreclosure;

THAT prior to the commencement of this foreclosure proceeding, Lienor complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said lien, or any part thereof;

THAT the owner has not been released from her financial obligation to pay said amount;

THAT pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 515B.3-116, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., as evidenced by a lien statement dated September 29, 2020, recorded on October 5, 2020, in the office of the Sherburne County Recorder as Document No. 901796;

THAT pursuant to the power of sale granted by the owners in taking title to the premises subject to said Declaration, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said property by the sheriff of said County at the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, in the City of Elk River, County Sherburne, State of Minnesota, on January 6, 2021, at 10 a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due. 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.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the owner must vacate the property if the account is not brought current or the property redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is July 6, 2021. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

REDEMPTION NOTICE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY

LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY

THE OWNER, THE OWNER'S

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE

REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS

IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED

UNDER MINNESOTA

STATUTES, SECTION 582.032,

DETERMINING, AMONG

OTHER THINGS, THAT THE

PREMISES ARE IMPROVED

WITH A RESIDENTIAL

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FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROP-

ERTY USED IN AGRICUL-

TURAL PRODUCTION, AND

ARE ABANDONED.

NORWAY RIDGE TOWNHOMES ASSOCIATION, INC., Lienor

Dated: October 27, 2020

By /s/ Nigel H. Mendez

Nigel H. Mendez (0347917)

Carlson & Associates, Ltd.

1052 Centerville Circle

Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

(651) 287-8640

ATTORNEY FOR NORWAY

RIDGE TOWNHOMES ASSO-

CIATION, INC.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/21/20; 11/28/20; 12/05/20; 12/12/20; 12/19/20; 12/26/20.)

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., (hereinafter the "Declaration") recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Sherburne County, Minnesota on March 23, 2001, as Document No. 432039, which covers the following property:

Legal Description: Lot 2, Block 1, Norway Ridge Second Addition, CIC No. 20, Sherburne County, Minnesota
Property Address: 26284 2nd Street West, Zimmerman, Minnesota 55398
PID: 95-456-0104

THAT pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of October 27, 2020, from Tamra L. Jacobson, title holder, to Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation, the amount of \$20,785.89, plus additional assessments and other amounts that may have accrued since the date of this notice, including the costs of collection and foreclosure;

THAT prior to the commencement of this foreclosure proceeding, Lienor complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said lien, or any part thereof;

THAT the owner has not been released from her financial obligation to pay said amount;

THAT pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 515B.3-116, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., as evidenced by a lien statement dated September 29, 2020, recorded on October 5, 2020, in the office of the Sherburne County Recorder as Document No. 901787;

THAT pursuant to the power of sale granted by the owners in taking title to the premises subject to said Declaration, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said property by the sheriff of said County at the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, in the City of Elk River, County Sherburne, State of Minnesota, on January 6, 2021, at 10 a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due. 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.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the owner must vacate the property if the account is not brought current or the property redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is July 6, 2021. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

REDEMPTION NOTICE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY

LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY

THE OWNER, THE OWNER'S

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IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED

UNDER MINNESOTA

STATUTES, SECTION 582.032,

DETERMINING, AMONG

OTHER THINGS, THAT THE

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WITH A RESIDENTIAL

DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

NORWAY RIDGE TOWNHOMES ASSOCIATION, INC., Lienor

Dated: October 27, 2020

By /s/ Nigel H. Mendez

Nigel H. Mendez (0347917)

Carlson & Associates, Ltd.

1052 Centerville Circle

Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

(651) 287-8640

ATTORNEY FOR NORWAY

RIDGE TOWNHOMES ASSO-

CIATION, INC.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/21/20; 11/28/20; 12/05/20; 12/12/20; 12/19/20; 12/26/20.)

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT

LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

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THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., (hereinafter the "Declaration") recorded in the office of the County Recorder of Sherburne County, Minnesota on March 23, 2001, as Document No. 432039, which covers the following property:

Legal Description: Lot 7, Block 2, Norway Ridge, Common Interest Community No. 20, Sherburne County, Minnesota
Property Address: 26268 3rd Street West, Zimmerman, Minnesota 55398
PID: 95-446-0207

THAT pursuant to said Declaration, there is claimed to be due and owing as of October 27, 2020, from David Greenlun and Melissa Greenlun, title holders, to Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., a Minnesota non-profit corporation, the amount of \$17,780.18, plus additional assessments and other amounts that may have accrued since the date of this notice, including the costs of collection and foreclosure;

THAT prior to the commencement of this foreclosure proceeding, Lienor complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said lien, or any part thereof;

THAT the owners have not been released from their financial obligation to pay said amount;

THAT pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 515B.3-116, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Norway Ridge Townhomes Association, Inc., as evidenced by a lien statement dated September 29, 2020, recorded on October 5, 2020, in the office of the Sherburne County Recorder as Document No. 901799;

THAT pursuant to the power of sale granted by the owners in taking title to the premises subject to said Declaration, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said property by the sheriff of said County at the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, in the City of Elk River, County Sherburne, State of Minnesota, on January 6, 2021, at 10 a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due. 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.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the owner must vacate the property if the account is not brought current or the property redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is July 6, 2021. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

REDEMPTION NOTICE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY

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THE OWNER, THE OWNER'S

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IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED

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TURAL PRODUCTION, AND

ARE ABANDONED.

NORWAY RIDGE TOWNHOMES ASSOCIATION, INC., Lienor

Dated: October 27, 2020

By /s/ Nigel H. Mendez

Nigel H. Mendez (0347917)

Carlson & Associates, Ltd.

1052 Centerville Circle

Vadnais Heights, MN 55127

(651) 287-8640

ATTORNEY FOR NORWAY

RIDGE TOWNHOMES ASSO-

CIATION, INC.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/21/20; 11/28/20; 12/05/20; 12/12/20; 12/19/20; 12/26/20.)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE

FORECLOSURE SALE

Date: November 23, 2020

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the

conditions of that certain mortgage that was executed by and between Paul J. McMahon, mortgagor, and Sherburne State Bank, 12500 Sherburne Avenue, P.O. Box 428, Becker, Minnesota 55308, mortgagee, dated July 13, 2016 and filed for record on July 15, 2016, as document number 823367, with the Office of the County Recorder in and for Sherburne County, Minnesota.

2. The mortgage has been assigned as follows: n/a

3. The original principal amount secured by the mortgage was: \$25,000.00.

4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the mortgage, or any part thereof.

5. The holder of the mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the mortgage and foreclosure of the mortgage and all notice and other requirements

Obituaries

BRYAN ELLIOT DOERING, AGE 61
ELK RIVER, MN
JANUARY 15, 1959 – NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Bryan passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home early Sunday morning, November 22nd, 2020.

Bryan was born January 15, 1959 to Kenneth and Leola Doering from Clear Lake, MN.

He went to St John Christian Day School at Twin Lakes where he was confirmed. He graduated from Elk River Senior High. He went to Anoka Technical School graduating from Culinary School. He worked at Ponderosa Restaurant in Zimmerman for three years; then Tescom Manufacturing in Elk River for several years and got laid off. Then he



worked as a temp at Cornelius Manufacturing in Anoka. He was hired back at Tescom in 2005 whose name had been changed to Emerson. He had worked there ever since – 15 years. He retired in March this past year.

Bryan was a wonderful Christian man with a strong faith. He always had a smile on his face and kind words to everyone he met.

He is survived by his dad, Kenneth and brother, David Doering. He was preceded in death by his mother, Leola and brother, Jeff Doering. Burial will be at South Santiago Lutheran Church.

OLIVER KNUTSON, AGE 93
BECKER, MN
JUNE 13, 1927 – NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Oliver passed away peacefully on November 24, 2020.

Oliver was born in Becker, MN on June 13, 1927 to Carl and Mabel Knutson. Oliver graduated from Becker High School in 1945 and took over the family farm. In 1952, he married Betty Kastendick and together they raised 5 children. In addition to farming, Oliver drove school bus for over 15 years and worked as a custodian for the Becker School District. Oliver was also one of the first board members for the Big Lake-Monticello Hospital where he served on the Board for 15 years. Oliver was a man of faith and served in many capacities at Faith Lutheran Church in Becker. In their free time, Oliver and Betty enjoyed traveling in their RV and



spending time with their family and friends. Oliver will be remembered as a kind and generous man that was always willing to lend a hand to those in need.

Oliver will be deeply missed by his wife of 68 years Betty; children Audrey (Rollie), Alan, Karen (Bruce), Cheryl (Nick) and Sandy (Dan); grandchildren Nathan (Kendra), Rachel (Mark), Steven, Adam, Jackie (Kevin), Andrew (Lori), Amy (Dan), and Meagan (Matt); 10 great-grandchildren; sister Evelyn; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. Oliver is preceded in death by parents Carl and Mabel, and sister Gladys.

A service of remembrance will be held in spring 2021.

BERNARD "BERNIE" WINKLEMAN, AGE 78
FOLEY, MN
JUNE 21, 1942 – NOVEMBER 27, 2020

Bernard passed away November 27, 2020 at the farm where he was born surrounded by his family. Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 AM, Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Duell. Rev. Joseph Bachowski will officiate. Visitation will be from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at the Foley Funeral Home and from 9:30 to 10:30 AM at the church on Wednesday. Burial will take place in the Parish Cemetery. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the family understands if you are unable to attend. Service with Dignity provided by the Foley Funeral Home.

Bernard Joseph Winkelman was born June 21, 1942 in Santiago Township, Sherburne County to Frank and Clara (Balder) Winkelman. He married Judy Herbst on July 22, 1967 at St. Lawrence Catholic Church. Bernie milked cows and farmed on the Winkelman century farm where he was born. Bernie drove a milk route for Santiago Creamery for several years. He later delivered propane for Federated Propane for 18 years until he suffered a massive stroke in 2004. Bernie enjoyed playing amateur baseball for Santiago. In his later years he enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren play



various sports. He was a life long member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church where he served on the Parish Council and was an usher. Bernie also was on the 4th of July Bazaar committee and was a member of the Knight's of Columbus.

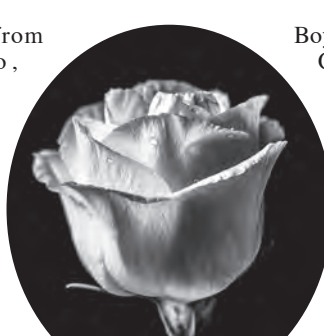
Bernie is survived by his wife of 53 years, Judy and his children: Gail (Brian) Bialke; Brad (Nicole), Pam (Joel) Foss and grandchildren: Dalton & Brock Bialke; Noah, Amelia and Logan Winkelman and Alex, Mitchell and Clara Foss and Josh Urbanski. He is also survived by his sister-in-laws; Teresa Winkelman and Eleanor Winkelman. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings: Myrtle David, Ralph Winkelman, Delbert Winkelman, Mary Ann Neumann and Gerald Winkelman.

The family would like to thank all the home care attendants over the past 16 years from Foley, Moments Hospice and the Adara Home Care staff, especially Jessica for all their care and compassion. Memorials are preferred in lieu of flowers.

Gregory M. Wenner, Funeral Director / Owner
Service with Dignity
Foley Funeral Home
221 2nd Ave, PO Box 307
Foley, Minnesota 56329
foleyfuneralhome.net
(320) 968-7111 phone
(320) 968-7116 fax

JOANN CHARMAINE (SUURMEYER) ANDERSON, AGE 91
MONTICELLO, MN

Joann from Monticello, MN, formerly from Britton, S. Dakota passed from this world on November 24, 2020. The daughter of Wesley Suurmeyer and Ann Suurmeyer (Rahdemacher) of Britton, South Dakota. Joann is now in heaven with her loving husband of 43 years Albin B. Anderson. Joann is survived by their four sons and spouses,



Boyd and Paula of Chewelah, WA, Bruce and Cindy of St. Cloud, MN, Brent and Lynn Anderson of Monticello, MN and Barry and Sharon Anderson of Big Lake, MN. Joann was blessed with 6 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Arr. Dare's Funeral Home 763-441-1212 www.daresfuneralservice.com

WENDY J. GRUENES, 53
BECKER, MN
MARCH 9, 1967 – NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Wendy J. Gruenes, age 53, passed away Sunday at her home, surrounded by loved ones. She was born March 9, 1967, in Winsted, MN to William & Karen (Guggemos) Sawatzke. She married Tim Gruenes on August 24, 1990, in Waverly, MN. Wendy was a very fun, strong, kind, caring and loving person who will be dearly missed.

Wendy grew up on Little Waverly Lake—a childhood filled with water skiing, kittens, and many friends. She graduated from Howard Lake-Waverly High School in 1985 where she was a cheerleader. Wendy went on to attend Regency Beauty Institute in St. Cloud, MN where she received a degree in cosmetology. Wendy was a skilled hair stylist until she retired to take care of her children full-time. Her family was fortunate to continue receiving haircuts from her thereafter.

Wendy was very creative and always had an eye for design. She enjoyed drawing and making jewelry. Her home was beautifully designed and decorated. She loved the holidays. The family was fortunate to get a Christmas tree up and decorated this year just in time for her to enjoy. Wendy loved spending time with her family and friends. She enjoyed traveling and dining out—for seafood in particular. Wendy will be remembered for her great



smile and sense of humor. She was never afraid to exchange jabs with Tim or her brothers.

Wendy is already sorely missed by her family. Tim will miss their travels and Friday date nights. Evan will miss their conversations, hugs, and exchanging cat videos. Zoe will miss shopping, getting their nails done, and watching movies together. Muffins the family cat misses sitting on the lap of her favorite human.

Wendy is survived by her husband, Tim of Becker; children, Evan Gruenes (Eric Somers) of Minneapolis and Zoe Gruenes of Becker; mother, Karen Sawatzke of Waverly; sister and brothers, Mary (Mark) Lynch of Stillwell, KS, Joel (Jennifer) Sawatzke of Waverly, and Neal (Jocelyn) Sawatzke of Geneva, Switzerland; mother-in-law, Grace Gruenes of Eden Valley; sister-in-law and brothers-in-law, Kris (Chip) Tancil of Surprise, AZ and Paul Gruenes (Dana) of Becker; and many nieces and nephews. Wendy was preceded in death by her father, William Sawatzke; and father-in-law, Peter Gruenes.

A small funeral mass was Friday, December 4 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Waverly, MN.

Obituary, Guest Book and Video Tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com

DONALD (DON) JOHN ITEN, AGE 77
CLEAR LAKE, MN
OCTOBER 28, 1943 - NOVEMBER 27, 2020

A Celebration of life will be planned for Don in the spring. A notification will be placed in many multimedia sources.

Don passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loved ones. Don will be greatly missed by all that knew him. He had a fun loving, goofy sense of humor, which endeared him to everyone. He was an unforgettable kind of guy who loved to do or say the unexpected just to get a rise out of you. You were always greeted with a smile and the comment "pull up a chair and let your feet dangle!"

Don was born on October 28th, 1943 to Leon & Florentine (Imholte) Iten in his family home in Clearwater MN. Don lived his earlier life in Clearwater farming with his father. Don served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps. Don met the love of his life, Carole Sutton, while he was stationed in California. The two married on October 19th, 1963. The couple made their home in



Becker MN. The highlight of their union was the birth of their three children, Raymond, Lori, and Liza.

Don always considered himself a farmer first and foremost but had many other trades in his life as a Truck Driver and Mechanic of all machines. Carole always said she considered him one of the most intelligent individuals she knew because no matter what you asked him, he always had an answer.

Don is survived by his wife Carole; Daughters Lori (Scott) Rice & Liza (Lewis) Johnson; Daughter In-Law Malla Iten; 10 grandchildren; almost 14 great grandchildren (one little girl is still baking); Siblings Ray (Arie) Iten, Betty Karl, Joan Klatt, Judy (John) Hamilton, Carol (Ed) Niezgoski, Kathy (Ken) Gohman & many other family and friends. Don is preceded in death by his parents, son Raymond, grandson Maurice, sister Rose, Brothers-in-law Jack, Dave, Bob &, sister-in-law Ruby

DAVID TIMM, AGE 89
BECKER, MN
FEBRUARY 7, 1931 – NOVEMBER 24, 2020

David went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Nov. 24. He was born in Owatonna, MN, Feb. 7, 1931. He served in the US Navy. He provided for his family working as a machinist for Honeywell in Minneapolis. He enjoyed woodworking as a hobby, doing many projects in his home. Dave was a faithful and loving husband to his wife, Elsie. He was a much loved father to his 5 children and a beloved grandfather and great



grandfather. Dave loved his family very much and prayed for them on a daily basis. Dave loved the Lord and dedicated his life to serving Him.

The memorial service was held at Becker Baptist Church on Nov. 28, 2020 where David and Elsie were members.

He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. Arr. Peterson-Grimsmo 763-295-2918 www.petersongrimsmochapel.com

BERNARD "BERNIE" JOSEPH BERMEL
AGE 72
CLEAR LAKE, MN

Bernie passed away on Tuesday, November 24th, 2020, at the age of 72.

He was an Ironworker with Local 512 by trade, working on many large MN projects, including the IDS Tower in Minneapolis and the Power Plant in Becker. During the 1980s-1990s, he also owned and operated the Chapparral Bar in Merrifield and was a member of the Crow Wing Mounted Patrol. Bernie moved to Clear Lake where he started Groundskeeper Lawn Care and began building docks in 1994. He retired from Local 512 to concentrate on dock building and in 2005 moved his company, Walks On Water, Inc., to its present location on Highway 10. Bernie retired from his beloved company in 2017. He was a consummate salesman and over the years turned many of his drop-by customers into lifelong friends. He always had a smile, a joke and a hunting story to tell and never tired of sharing them. Bernie was an avid sportsman and sponsor of many local, state and national organizations promoting the management of wildlife and its habitat.

Bernie was preceded in death by his parents, Shirley

(Fenske) and Bernard Bermel Sr., brothers-in-law Ken Treptau and Duane Poli-woda, niece Michelle Bermel and great-nephew Casey Krogstad.

He is survived by his wife of 25 years, Deborah, children Brett (Stephanie) Bermel, Bridget Northway, Bethany (Nick) Orton, Dan (Cindy) Wandersee and Jim (Megan) Wandersee, grandchildren Caleb and Chloe Bermel, Betty, Antje and Audrey Northway, Ryan and Alex Dunlap, Joselyn, Ty, Carter and Gage Orton, Jack and Alayna Wandersee and Violet, Lillian and Crosby Wandersee, brothers Gary (Chris) Bermel and Robert (Tam) Bermel, sisters Patty Treptau, Regina (Dan) Dykhoff, Mary (Doug) May and Jackie (Mark) Trushenski, brother-in-law Ken (Cindy) Poli-woda, sister-in-law Carol Poli-woda and father-in-law Harry Poli-woda, as well as many other family and friends.

No services will be held at the present time. A Celebration of Life will be planned for 2021.

Bernie was, and will remain, much loved and he will be greatly missed by those of us who have shared his life, his laughter and his love.



Public Notices

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
SUMMONS**

**Case Type: Consumer Credit Contract
Court File No. -----
WELLS FARGO BANK, NA
Plaintiff
vs.
REBECCA A SCHEIBER
5111 RIDGE RD
BIG LAKE MN 55309-8957
Defendant**

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO EACH OF THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT.

1. YOU ARE BEING SUED.

The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiffs Complaint against you is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this Summons.

2. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 21 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.

You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a written response called an Answer within 21 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at: STEWART, ZLIMEN & JUNGERS, LTD.
2860 Patton Road
Roseville MN 55113
Phone 651-366-6380
Fax 651-366-6381

3. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.

The answer is your written response to the Plaintiffs Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in

your Answer.

4. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS. If you do not Answer within 21 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

5. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.

6. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.

Dated: 10/14/2020
STEWART, ZLIMEN & JUNGERS, LTD.
/s/ Kristine M Spiegelberg Nelson
Brad D Welp, #0344497
Michael P Arthur, #0397956
Kristine M Spiegelberg Nelson, #0308845
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Phone: 651-366-6380
Email: szj@szjlaw.com
(Published in the Patriot: 12/05/20; 12/12/20; 12/19/20.)



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Editorials/Opinions

EMMER from page 5

able put food on the table. Thanks to the hard work of our farmers, our food supply has remained stable. Like the rest of us though, our agriculture community has been hit hard by COVID-19, and opportunities like the cattle industry’s 2020 virtual convention give me chance to meet with farmers directly and learn about the issues they face.

One issue I have long advocated for on behalf of our farmers was the delisting of the Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species Act. Last month, we got some great news when the Dept. of the Interior announced it would be delisting the Gray Wolf. This action was long awaited by many farmers who will finally be able to defend their livestock - and their livelihoods - from the Gray Wolf.

I also partnered with my colleague from South Dakota, Congressman Dusty Johnson as an original co-sponsor of the PRICE Act, to provide more opportunities for small processing operations while maintaining vigorous food safety standards. It also updates the Packers and Stockyards Act for greater transparency in the cattle markets. This nonpartisan legislation will help remove onerous regulatory barriers and improve competition in these markets. I will always look for ways to support Minnesota’s cattlemen and our nation’s agriculture community as whole.

Letters To Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

Before we rush to get “back to normal”, I hope we can take a moment to ponder.

Disasters unearth what has been buried and leave us with a choice: tend to the underlying issues or wait for the next wave to strike. At least for America, COVID is much like the infection of a wound left untreated. While revealing many things, COVID has unveiled our isolation.

We’ve been forced into our homes, away from real, person-to-person interaction. In 2018 (so pre-quarantine), the research group Nielsen found that the average American spent 11 hours interacting with media a day (and I don’t think a lot of that was book reading). We already were spending over half the day in our own digital bubbles (not including sleeping - although my roommate talks to me in his sleep sometimes). Our culture and society, unable to accept vulnerability (seeing it as “weakness”), has become wedded to hyper-individualism, rushing through grief and pain to enact quick fixes and put on “happy faces,” furthering rates of depression among adolescents - increasing 5% from 2007-2017 (PEW Research Center).

Our isolation is changing the way real people relate to one another and currently, we have hit the bottom. We can “get up and keep going” as we so often try to do, or we can look around...How did we get here? Are we going to listen to what the Earth is revealing? From the way I see it, depression is not the problem: it’s a memorial. A memorial to the societal pains we have pushed away and ignored. Pain that can only be healed when communities choose to name it, sit with it, and repent instead of just offering some damned cliché about bootstraps. Memorials aren’t problems for fixing, they’re invitations for grief.

Brody Hed,
Becker, MN

Editorials/Opinions are online at

www.patriotnewsmn.com

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Becker News

Wilson, Bengtson named Homecoming King and Queen

By Bill Morgan,
Staff Writer

Last month, Becker High School hosted their annual Homecoming week and activities, culminating with crowning of royalty and the football team beating Big Lake in sections.

Homecoming week began Monday, Nov. 9 which included "Pajamas Day" where students were allowed to dress up(?) in their favorite jammies outfits for the school day. Tuesday was "Wacky Hair Day", Wednesday was "Camo Day", Thursday was "Pink Out" day and Friday was "Decades Day".

That week included a Veteran's Day tribute on Wednesday, Nov. 11 where students and families enjoyed a virtual program in honor of those who served this great country.

Wednesday was also coronation where 12 students (six boys, six girls) learned who would be prince, princess, queen and king of this year's Homecoming. The six boys included Caden DeWall,



ETHAN WILSON (L) and Julia Bengtson (R) were named king and queen at last month's coronation. (Submitted Photo).

Luke Eigen, Teddy Halvorson, Tommy Halvorson, Lukas Paulson and Ethan

Wilson.

The girls were comprised of Julia Bengtson,



KING ETHAN WILSON AND QUEEN JULIA BENGTON sat behind Prince Caden DeWall and Princess Gretchen Graftaas while the rest of the Homecoming royalty looked on. (Standing, left to right) Tommy Halvorson, Lukas Paulson, Luke Eigen and Teddy Halvorson. The girls included Kailey Peterson, Courtney Nuest, Megan Kardell and Kady Lindbom. (Submitted Photo).

Gretchen Graftaas, Megan Kardell, Kady Lindbom, Courtney Nuest and Kailey Peterson.

DeWall and Graftaas were named prince and princess and Bengtson and Wilson were named queen and king.

On Thursday and Friday of that week, several students and athletes stenciled words and images on

people's vehicles in a drive-thru format. The "paint" used was not permanent and easily washed off but the donations to support tackling cancer were appreciated.

Also on Thursday near the concessions stand at the football field, pork chops were sold in a drive-up set-

ting and was very successful.

In an interesting twist to the story, Ethan Wilson's grandpa, Gary Cox, was also a Becker High School Homecoming king back in 1971! See the unique story by Katie Cantin on page 1 of the *Patriot*!

KINGS from page 1

on Dwight Lundeen's first football team. Lundeen is still coaching football today.

Cox said that he thinks the reason that both he and his grandson were named kings is because they both love people. The key to winning, he said, is to be kind and respectful to the other students. Both grandpa and grandson love to have fun with everyone around them, encourage them, and give them energy. Cox also thinks their faith helps them to be kind and friendly to others.

Cox said he is very excited for his grandson's win.

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Keep the local economy robust!*

2020's Best Holiday Gifts for Healthy Living

StatePoint

Personal wellness is top of mind for many people these days, making some of the most thoughtful holiday gifts those that enable friends and families to live healthy, eco-friendly lives.

Let this gift round-up be your guide to 2020's best holiday gifts for healthy living:

Healthy Indoor Air

Between dust, pet dander, mold and other pollutants, indoor air quality can actually be more contaminated than outside air in some cases. However, you can give the gift of cleaner, healthier air at home with a small air purifier such as the Molekule Air that operates quietly to trap indoor allergens and pollutants. Its carrying handle makes it easy to tote it from room to room, letting it perform its magic throughout the house. Give this gift alone or pair it with an air quality monitor that reports on the levels of the most common indoor air pollutants.

Clean Water

Unlike other pitchers

for the home, the LifeStraw Home Water Filter Pitcher protects against over 30 contaminants, including bacteria, parasites, microplastics, lead, mercury, chemicals, dirt, sand and cloudiness to improve taste and provide healthier, safer water. Its sleek and sustainable design makes this a stylish gift option, whether you select the BPA-free or glass model.

This is also a gift that gives back in more than one way. Not only does it help reduce single-use plastic waste, but also, for

every LifeStraw product purchased, a child in need receives access to safe drinking water for an entire year through the brand's Give Back program. To shop and learn more, visit lifestraw.com.

Eco-Friendly Fitness

Encourage healthy movement and sustainability with an eKo Mat from Manuduka. These yoga mats are made from biodegradable natural tree rubber, are manufactured with zero waste and are free of toxic chemicals, dyes and phthalates. The brand also

carries blocks, cushions, bolsters, straps and apparel made from sustainable and post-consumer recycled materials -- basically everything your favorite eco-conscious yogi needs to support their practice.

Fresh Cooking

Fresh herbs add zest and depth to meals and are a chock full of vitamins and nutrients. Unfortunately, store-bought herbs don't stay fresh all that long. By gifting the Indoor Herb Garden Kit from Mountainlily Farm however -- which includes sweet basil,

sage, dill, chives, cilantro and flat leaf parsley -- you can give the home chefs in your life the ability to grow their own constant source of these delicious, healthful ingredients. What's more, herbs are often sold in wasteful packaging, so an herb kit also helps reduce one's plastic waste footprint.

This holiday season, give the gift of wellness and help your loved ones live healthy and sustainable lives.

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Church Directory

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• BECKER

Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Pastor: David M. Johnson, 763-262-7782, 11185 27th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. School 10:30am, Wed. J.U.M.P. 6pm.

Becker Baptist Church

Pastors: Nathan Bucher (Acting), Kevin Drehmel (Youth) & Amy Drehmel (Dir. Of Ministry), 763-261-4202, 11951 Hancock St. Services: Sun. Worship/Children 10:30am, Wed. Youth Group 6:30pm. www.beckerbaptist.org.

Becker Evangelical Free Church

Pastors: Patrick Drury (Senior), Chris Salvevold (Youth), 763-261-4125, Becker High School, Office: 11373 150th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Teaching/Fellowship 10am. **Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church** Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 9:30am.

Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Pastor: Yolanda Denson-Byers, 763-261-5751, 11755 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30 am, Sun. School 10am.

Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God

Pastors: Gerry Bass & Sarah, 763-220-6004, 13140 1st St (SW Corner of Becker Furniture World). Services: Sun. Bible Study/Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Snake River Free Church

Pastor: Steve Johnston, 612-219-8648, 180th St SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Sun. School 10:30am., Hymn Sing is second Sun. of every month.

Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church

Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am, Wed. Family Fellow-

ship 7pm.

Beacon House of Prayer

Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm.

Free Grace United

Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, 14000 Clubhouse Ln. Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm.

• BIG LAKE

Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church

Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am, Sat. Sabbath School 10:15am.

Bethany Bible Church

763-263-2167, 511 Eagle Lake Road. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Bridgeview Assembly of God

Pastor: Steve Royalty, 763-263-6274, 20500 County Road 11. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Wed. Service 6:30pm.

SYEA Hill Covenant Church

Pastor: Don Bellach, 763-263-6322, 16392 235th Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Pastor: Gordon Langdon, 763-263-7878, 15300 County Road 35.

Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrock

763-263-7990. www.hopeintherefuge.weebly.com.

IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE

Living Love Church

Pastores: Juan & Patricia Aguayo, 763-607-5403, 21 Lake St N. Services: Sat. 6pm.

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church

Pastor: Marty Mabry, 763-263-3090, 15550 190th Ave NW. Services: Sun. 8am & 10am. **Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church** Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 440 Lake St N. Services: Mass temporarily at Becker location, Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 9:30am.

Riverside Church

Online: www.myriverside-church.com, 763-263-2410, 2014 County Road 14. Services: Sun 8:45am, 10:30am & 12:05pm.

Saron Lutheran Church

Pastor: Kyle Sidlo, 763-263-2209, 311 Lake St. S. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am, indoors or livestream.

• SANTIAGO

South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA

Pastors: Angela LaMoore, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 8am drive-in Worship, Sanctuary Worship 9:30am.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School

Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St. Services: Sun. School/Bible Class 10:30am, Divine Worship 9am.

Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA) Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Pastor: Shari Routh, 920-573-0193, 1100 186th Ave NE. Services: Sun Good Shepherd 9am, Sun. Glendorado 10:30am.

Gethsemane Church (ELCA) - Ronneby

Pastor: Barbara Peterson, 320-983-5002, 14478 78th St. NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

Glendorado Evangelical Community Church

Pastor: Sam Alfano, 763-662-2244, 16999 Glendorado Road NE. Services: Sun. School 9:30am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• CLEAR LAKE

Living Waters Church

Pastor: Mark Stahl, 320-292-0250, 7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Wed. Bible Study 6:30pm.

Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919, 8641 Main Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am, Sun.

School 9:45am.

St. Marcus Catholic Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave. Services: Sat. Confessions 4:15pm, Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Jan-June 8am, July-Dec. 10am.

• DUELM

St. Lawrence Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502 or 320-743-2481, 10915 Duell Road NE. Services: Sun Mass -- Jan-June 10am, July-Dec. 8am.

• CLEARWATER

Clearwater United Methodist Church

Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

Freedom Bible Church

605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office). Services: Sun. Bible Study 9:30am & 6pm, Sun. Worship 10:45am, Wed. Bible Study 7pm.

Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA

Pastor: Jim Bump, 320-558-6851, 1155 County Road 75. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

Church of St. Luke

Father: Dennis Backer, 320-558-2124, 17545 Huber Ave NW. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8am & 10am, Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8am/Sat. 9am.

Tri-County Alliance Church

Pastor: David Fogal, 320-558-2750, 8464 160th St NW. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• MAPLE LAKE

Silver Creek Community Church

Pastor: Zach Pryor, 320-963-3957, 4282 114th St NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. Fellowship 10am, Sun. School 10:30am.

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CL/County News

Clear Lake Township holds first meeting in new hall

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Tuesday evening, Nov. 17, was a milestone achievement for the Clear Lake Township Board as they held their first meeting in the new town hall.

With more space and more technological capabilities than their old hall, the new building proved to be a success for the audience as they were able to follow along with the agenda. Gone were the projector and screen, replaced with television monitors that allowed the audience to view the happenings in a more engaged manner.

Supervisor Bud Stimmler updated the board on the park and noted that although the weather has turned cold, there is increased activity at the location because of the surrounding housing development and the new hall. He believes this will also allow residents to keep an eye on the building even though it has security cameras and other safety features.

The board approved

a partial pay request for work that has been done on

building and also noted that the timing of the board

present their case for adjustments to their property evaluation.

William Risse of Geronimo Energy then addressed the board, seeking a letter of support for the proposed solar farm to be located within the township. Risse outlined the project and timelines for seeking approval by the MN PUC.

Tax capacity, life expectancy of the panels and other details were shared with the board and discussion was held as to the benefits of the project. In the end, a letter of support was approved for the project moving forward.

As part of the building project, the board approved the switch from Frontier to Arvig for telephone and internet services. Clerk Peggy Berger had arranged for training Friday on the new phone system. This will greatly increase the broadband speed for the hall, including the Sheriff's



the new structure and they noted there are just some minor final items to be accomplished.

The board also discussed a utility permit application for 90th St. and decided to send notice to residents of the Sherwood Shores development regarding the road resurfacing project slated for next spring.

In new business, the board was joined by John Mocol, representing the Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust. Mocol reviewed the coverages for the new

was perfect in terms of construction because prices have increased dramatically since last spring. There is no way the board could currently construct the hall for the price they committed to last spring. As such, Mocol will be adjusting the value for the building upward as needed to ensure proper coverages.

Next, the board reviewed the process for the MN Dept. of Revenue's Board of Equalization meeting that will occur in the spring. Each year, the township holds the appeal meeting where people can

Virtual Christmas concert for Tanner's Team

Submitted Article

Tanner's Team Foundation is excited to announce their first-ever "A Very Merry Christmas Virtual Concert".

Join them Wed., Dec. 16 starting at 7 p.m. for the video stream on the *Tanner's Team Facebook page* as well as on *YouTube*.

Many talented musicians will be singing their favorite Christmas songs for us including: Michael

Shynes, Kat Perkins, Justin Ploof, Walter's Wheelhouse, Harper's Chord and Stretch and Ted from the Fabulous Armadillos.

Donations collected during the concert will go to support Tanner's Team Foundation's mission of helping families with children facing a life-threatening illness. St. Cloud Financial Credit Union will be matching every \$1,000 raised during the concert, up to \$5,000. WJON is the

media sponsor.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Tanner's Team Foundation, like many other non-profits, has had to cancel their biggest fundraisers this year including their annual dinner in March and their 5K in June. While their ability to raise money has slowed, the number of families in need has not.

About Tanner's Team Foundation
Tanner's Team Foun-

ation was created in 2011. Tanner Fuls, who was diagnosed at age 11 with Myelodysplastic Syndrome, a form of pre-leukemia, passed away Nov. 27, 2010. In the past 10 years the foundation has awarded nearly \$400,000 in grants to more than 350 families, in 45 Minnesota counties.

7 Tips for Hosting a Virtual Holiday Cookie Exchange

StatePoint

It may take a little extra time and creativity, but a holiday cookie exchange can be held virtually and it's worth the effort according to experts.

"There's a famous quote, 'If you do what you love, you'll never work a day in your life.' It's so true for me as I find great joy in developing easy, flavorful recipes," says Cindy Gilbert, McCormick Test Kitchen chef. "My friends have come to me for years requesting tips and tricks, and over 20 years ago, they anointed me as the annual holiday cookie exchange leader. This past year has been challenging, but I knew I wanted to keep the tradition alive while following social distancing guidelines."

Here are Gilbert's top seven tips on hosting your own virtual cookie exchange, along with her favorite delicious McCormick cookie picks.

1). Keep the virtual guest list small and local. Your family and friends' safety is the most important thing, and no one wants to bake a ton of cookies. Aim for five to 10 people.

Gingerbread Men Cookies – No winter holiday is complete without gingerbread men. They're cute and can be decorated with raisins, cinnamon red-hot candies or royal icing.

2). Invite cookie enthusiasts. Invite people who enjoy being in the kitchen and welcome sharing their recipe secrets! Tell them they're going to be sharing the story behind their choice.

Red Velvet Crinkle Cookies – This tasty recipe crinkles from the confectioners' sugar, and the deep chocolate red color and taste add up to a cookie

you'll be proud to share.

3). Package cookies in separate portions. Ask participants to package each serving in individual containers or resealable bags of six cookies per serving.

Easy Lemon Cookie Truffles – This is a perfect no-bake option. Lemon extract adds a bright citrus flavor to this easy four-ingredient treat that starts with store-bought sugar cookies.

4). Arrange the exchange. About an hour before the vir-



t u a l

get-together, set up a table outside, in a cul-de-sac or school parking lot. Everyone can take turns grabbing their cookies quickly and safely. Or, arrange no contact porch drop-offs during a set time.

Holiday Meringue Cookies – These deliciously airy, light, and low-fat meringue cookies are the perfect confection for any holiday celebration. Add your favorite food coloring for a festive twist.

5). Request the recipes. Ask guests to provide a recipe card in their individual packages, or as the host, you can compile the recipes and share through email.

Double Ginger Ginger-snaps – A personal favorite of Gilbert's, these are a gin-

ger lover's dream! Ground ginger and crystallized ginger make the flavor pop on these cookies, which are crispy on the outside and chewy inside.

6). Share stories via video conference. Many guests like to tell the stories behind their cookies. By scheduling time to connect, you'll likely hear some heartwarming or hilarious anecdotes and maybe even some helpful tidbits.

Sugar Cookie Thumbprints with Spiced Jam – Inspired by a bakery treat, this holiday twist on a classic uses cinnamon or ginger-spiced jam.

7). Have fun. Take time to ask how everyone has been and give them a chance to share what other traditions they're planning this year. While the party is about cookies, it's also about connecting, having fun and picking up a few new recipes to try.

Pecan Cookie Balls – These buttery melt-in-your-mouth cookies, also known as Mexican Wedding Cakes, make a great addition to any holiday cookie exchange.

Find these recipes and more by visiting McCormick.com/CookieExchange.

With a little creativity and the perfect cookie recipe, you can reinvent your favorite baking traditions for a safe and festive holiday season.



Office satellite station. In final action, the board discussed the current COVID-19 numbers and will consider holding a virtual meeting in December, based on the agenda, the number of expected visitors and current case counts.

December's meeting is scheduled for Dec. 15.

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Big Lake Area News

BLPD receives generous anonymous gift (s)

By Katherine Cantin
Staff writer

Last weekend, an anonymous donor gave the Big Lake Police Dept. \$2,200 in cash. According to Police Chief Joel Scharf, the donor has been donating money for the last four years, each year making a larger contribution.

Chief Scharf expressed his gratitude in a Facebook Post, saying, "Our officers are front row to all that can go wrong in our community, this is such an awesome program allowing those same officers to make an immediate difference."

The money will be given away to Big Lake families that are having a hard time making ends meet. Citizens can recommend that the police donate to a specific family, or the officers themselves can recommend a family to receive a donation if the officer notices they are struggling.

After Chief Scharf published his Facebook post, another donor came in with another \$2,000. One of the area churches also donated \$1,000 in Coborn's gift cards.

Holiday donations can be made directly to the Big Lake Police Dept.



OFFICERS SAM NORLIN (LEFT) AND CHRIS HOARD (RIGHT) posed for a photo with most of the donations the BLPD has received. At the time of the photo, some of the money had already been distributed to families in need. (Submitted photo.)

YOUR NEWS

Just the Way You Like It

BL Schools' Activities Face Uncertain Future

By Katherine Cantin
Staff writer

Mark Hedstrom will be resigning from the school board after serving for eight years in order to begin serving on the Big Lake Twp Board instead.

Superintendent Truebenbach is running to be a board member for the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce. He hopes his position on the board will help him become more integrated in the community.

The December meeting will be held virtually on December 17 at 6:30 p.m. It will be preceded by the truth in taxation meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Students Encouraged to Reach Out

Ella Dotzler, student liaison, will be setting up an email address where students can contact her directly to let her know what is going on in the district. She hopes to raise awareness of her position as a student advocate and be able to streamline communication between the student body and the board.

Winter Sports and Activities Update

Big Lake's fall sports have come to a close for the season. Big Lake was fortunate enough to only have to quarantine one team over the course of the season. The other teams were able to play as much as possible, until the recent shutdown by Governor Walz. Parents drove their students to events in order to prevent the necessity of quarantines from exposure on a bus ride, which helped to keep the activities going.

In-person activities for the winter sports season will be delayed until December 19, although there is speculation that there may be further delays, depending on what the COVID-19 numbers are. More information will be available at the December school board meeting.

The restrictions may change depending on the activity, as well. It's also not known yet if the season's end will be pushed back as well, or if it will remain the same. The MSHSL is working to make more information available to the schools.

The board discussed whether to pay winter coaches their full salary for the season, regardless of the situation that unfolds. In the spring, coaches were paid only 50% of their normal salary, since there were no spring sports. The reason for the difference is that the board saw the efforts that the coaches made last spring to work with the kids however possible. Also, it's not known if there will or will not be a season, whereas the board knew early on last spring there would be no season. The board held off making a decision until more information becomes available.

COVID-19 Cases

One of the Big Lake Schools will be added to a list available on the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) which lists schools that have had five or more cases of COVID-19 in the building. Schools will remain on the list until they have been under five cases for two weeks. MDH is publishing this list in the spirit of transparency.

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Big Lake Sports

Hornets sting Buffalo in final match

By Bill Morgan,
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: In last week's coverage of the Big Lake girls volleyball matches, information for the final match against Buffalo was used from the StarTribune's Hub page, which was incorrect. The page has since been corrected along with the following story.

The Big Lake Hornet volleyball team played their final match before the statewide "pause" last Friday and beat a solid Buffalo Bison team at Buffalo High School.

With the win, the Hornets improved to 4-8, smack in the middle of the Mississippi 8 Conference standings behind Becker (6-4), Cambridge-Isanti (6-3), North Branch (8-4) and Monticello (8-0).

The five set match



JUNIOR OLIVIA STOCKHAM spiked the ball in last week's game against Becker at home. The Hornets lost to the Bulldogs 3-1 Nov. 12. (Submitted Photo).

against Buffalo saw the Bison capture the first two sets, 25-22 and 29-27. Remarkably, Big Lake rebounded to win set three (25-22), then set four (25-13) to send the match

to a deciding fifth game.

In a back-to-back battle, the match came down to the final few points and the Hornets trampled the home team's hopes with a 15-12

victory and a three-games-to-two win.

The Hornets were scheduled to play Monticello last Monday and Chisago Lakes and Sartell-St. Stephen last Tuesday, but the matches and the rest of the season is on "pause" due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Big Lake's Olivia Stockham led the team with 104 kills followed by Miranda Segner with 42 and Mia Huberty with 37.

Segner was the team's best server, as she tallied 14

serving aces in 28 sets played. Stockham was second with 12 aces in 32 sets played and Emma Rezac, Carter Monson and Madie Clausen each had 10 aces.

Huberty led the team in blocks with 13 while Clausen had five and Natalie Johnson four.

Stockham recorded 91 digs, averaging 10.1 per match. Monson had 80 digs, averaging 8.9 digs per match and Huberty had 75 digs, averaging 8.3 per match.

Rezac led the team with 485 ball handling attempts in 32 sets played. She was followed by Stockham with 221 in 32 and Anna Lund with 166 in 17 sets played.

Kendal Kopp led the Hornets with 122 serve receptions in 30 sets played. Following her was Huberty with 102 serve receptions in 32 sets played and Monson with 101 in 32 sets played.

Celebrate the Holidays grill-side with these tips

StatePoint

Health experts recommend taking festivities outdoors this holiday season, which means your grill may take center stage.

"You can master some impressive culinary feats on your grill, especially with hardwood pellets that add rich, wood-fired flavor to winter dishes," says Ben Madden, product manager at Bear Mountain BBQ Woods, crafter of gourmet, hardwood pellets.

To celebrate grill-side, Madden offers these recommendations:

Smooth and Smoky

It's the ideal season to indulge in smooth, smoky flavoring. Achieve this robust flavor profile with the new Bourbon BBQ Craft Blend from Bear Mountain. Straight from barrel to BBQ, these hardwood pellets work well with a variety of meats, rubs and sauces. They're the secret seasoning in this delicious recipe for Bourbon Pineapple Glazed Ham, created by James Brown of GrillNation.

Total Cook Time:

6 hours

Ingredients:

- 20-pound ham;
- 1 cup pineapple juice;
- 2-3 tablespoons mustard;
- 4-5 tablespoons Java House Seasoning.

For Pineapple

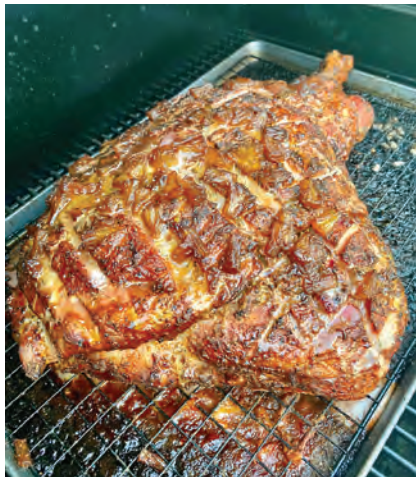
Bourbon Glaze:

- 2 cups brown sugar;

- 1 cup bourbon;
- 1/4 cup pineapple juice;
- 2/3 cup pineapple, chopped;
- 2 tablespoons butter, unsalted;
- 4 tablespoons spicy brown mustard.

Directions:

- 1). Thaw ham in fridge for 2-3 days, then in sink for 24 hours. Once thawed, remove both skin and silver skin. Inject ham with cup of pineapple juice. Place in fridge for 12-24 hours.
- 2). Place at room tem-



perature for 1 hour. Then, cover surface with 2-3 tablespoons mustard. Season generously with Java House seasoning.

3). Set smoker to 250 degrees. Let seasoning rest on meat 20-30 minutes. Place ham in baking pan with wire rack. Place in smoker. Then, pour pineapple juice in pan.

4). Check temperature periodically. Spritz ham every 30 minutes after first 90 minutes.

5). When internal temperature is 140 degrees, make glaze. Place saucepan over medium heat for 10 minutes. Combine pineapple bourbon glaze ingredients. Simmer for 10 minutes. Remove from heat and let thicken. Glaze ham when internal temperature is 150-155 degrees.

6). When internal temperature is 165 degrees, remove from smoker. Let rest for 20-30 minutes.

More recipes can be found at grillnationofficial.com.

Fire and Ice

"If you haven't smoked your ice, you haven't lived," says Madden. He's sure once you try this Old Fashioned recipe, you'll never use regular ice again:

Prep time:

30 min

Freeze time: 4-5 hours

Ingredients:

- Water for ice;
- Bear Mountain Bourbon Craft Blend Pellets;
- 2 ounces bourbon;
- 1 teaspoon water;
- 3 dashes Angostura bitters;
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar;
- Orange peel for garnish.

nish.

Preparation:

1). Start grill. Set to smoke. Add enough water to aluminum baking pan to fill 1-2 ice cube trays.

2). Smoke water for 20 minutes (more or less, depending on smokiness preference). Remove from grill. Pour into trays. Freeze.

3). Combine sugar, water and bitters in rocks glass. Stir until sugar dissolves.

4). Add ice to glass. Add bourbon. Lightly stir.

5). Run orange peel around glass, give quick squeeze and drop in. Enjoy!

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County News

Sherburne County partially approves firearms IUP for Palmer Twp.

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Sherburne County Board met Tuesday and partially approved an Interim Use Permit for applicant Paul Braun to operate his business, Down Range Training Concepts.

The board gave the green light to classroom instruction activities, as well as the manufacture and repair of firearms. However, Braun was denied the ability to test fire firearms and conduct live fire training exercises.

During the open forum portion at the beginning of the meeting, Braun appeared before the board to address some concerns in the paperwork he received back from the county just the day prior. Braun stated that he had less than 24 hours to review the information and his legal counsel had yet to weigh in, but he noted what he believed

were several inaccuracies in the county's findings.

Braun said he is a long time resident of the county and moved to his current property in 2014. He uses his land for recreational shooting purposes, even installing berms to enhance safety and was petitioning to occasionally use the range for business purposes. Braun explained that he manufactures and repairs firearms and the live testing he would like to accomplish would be for active duty law enforcement personnel who on occasion need emergency repair of duty weapons. He added that the testing of these repaired firearms would consist of three live fire rounds and would occur approximately three or four times a year.

He also noted he would stay at the meeting to provide clarification on any other items the commissioners had questions about

regarding his application. Next, the board took up the agenda item of the IUP application for Braun. The Planning Advisory Board had earlier recommended denial of the entire proposal, but last month the commissioners had directed staff to codify findings of fact, as well as conditions that could be imposed to allow certain parts of the IUP to be granted.

Marc Schneider, county planner, presented the board with a resolution detailing 48 findings of facts, as well as approving classroom instruction and repair and manufacture of firearms at the residence. The resolution did not provide for approval of any live fire testing or shooting of firearms as related to the proposed business activities.

In its findings, the board stated several concerns which appear to be the basis of the denial of

parts of the IUP.

The resolution stated in part "the proposed shooting range has been and would continue to be injurious to the use and enjoyment of surrounding properties," as well as "the shooting range mitigation area that would be imposed on surrounding properties under Minn. Stat. § 87A.04 will negatively impact the use and enjoyment of those properties."

However, in approving the other uses, the board stated that they don't believe these same conditions would apply to the classroom training and firearms manufacturing portion of the application.

After a brief discussion, the commissioners unanimously voted to approve the resolution.

Job Reclassifications

The board reviewed several job reclassifications, including moving a maintenance helper to

a maintenance technician (mechanic). Because of some custodial services being contracted out, a previous restructuring had already reduced personnel costs. In moving this position, there will be less than a \$3,000 impact to the budget for the upcoming year.

The other position involved moving an HHS Office Aide (grade five on the pay scale) to a Case Aide (grade eight). In 2021, HHS will be moving towards a model of a centralized social service intake, whereas currently six divisions are all doing their own intakes. The result will be a much more efficient and consumer friendly interface with programming and staff in HHS. With this change and a restructuring and more effective utilization of existing staff, the county will actually see a nearly \$40,000 savings to the budget when all positions are finalized.

The board unanimously approved the reconfiguring of staff in these areas.

Construction Updates

Steve Becker updated the board on recent construction projects, including the remodel of the veterans services area which is now much more spacious and provides for a higher level of confidentiality. In addition, the driver's license service area is nearing completion and will be able to serve more residents in a socially distanced manner.

The security fencing in the back area of the government center is installed and the software is being optimized to provide a more safe and secure zone near the Sheriff's Office and jail location.

COVID-19 Update

HHS Director Amanda Larson provided the board with an update on the current covid pandemic, as well as the early information coming out on the efforts to deploy any vaccines that receive approval from the federal government.

Larson reported that the county has now recorded over 6,000 infections and has a current positivity rate of 8.2%, a touch below the state average. So far, 232 residents of the county have been hospitalized with the disease.

In a startling fact, Larson pointed out that it took 174 days for the first 5,000 county infections and the last 1,000 positive cases took just five days.

She stated that she continues to work with local school districts and the current school tracking number is 238, which represents the average number of infections per 10,000 residents during a two week period. The MDE recommends schools utilize this number as one data source when considering which model of instruction to use with students, with any number over 50 leading to a recommendation of distance learning.

In terms of vaccine distribution, Larson doesn't expect the county to be asked to provide the service in the first wave of immunizations, but public health staff is prepared to help when called upon. Her department recently took delivery of the new public health bus that will be used in vaccination efforts, as well as community outreach for a number of health related endeavors.

Next, Larson gave a brief overview of the COVID-19 aware app that is available for download from the State of MN. This allows users to track if they have been exposed to others who are suffering from an infection by utilizing bluetooth technology. No data is collected, stored or shared regarding the individual person, as no personal information is entered into the app.

In Other Business,

The Board:

- Heard from Administrator Bruce Messelt about the "appointment-only" status of county business being conducted at the government center;

- Agreed to place legislative priorities and representation at the state and federal level on the Dec. 15 agenda;

- Reviewed the Dec. 3 truth in taxation agenda, as Messelt reported fielding a number of calls since the proposed tax statements were mailed last week;

- Approved Assessor Michelle Moen's recommendation to hold the 2021 County Board of Appeals and Equalization meeting on June 15, 2021 at 3 p.m.;

- Listened to Dan Weber update the status of the CARES Act funding, which included a distribution of \$1.39 million to local school districts, using a per pupil unit formula.

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