

MEMBER  NMLS #411232

Church Directory

• BECKER
Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)
 Pastor: David M. Johnson, 763-262-7882, 11185 27th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship 9am
 • www.gracebecker.org
Becker Baptist Church
 Pastor: Nathan Bucher, 763-261-4202, 11951 Hancock St. Services: Sun. Worship/Children 10:30am
 • www.beckerbaptist.org
Becker Evangelical Free Church
 Pastors: Stephen Clayton (Preaching), Chris Salvevold (Youth)
 763-261-4125, Becker High School Office: 11373 150th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Teaching/Fellowship 10am
 • www.beckerfreechurch.org
Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
 Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month. (Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays in Big Lake)
 • www.maryofthevisitation.com
Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)
 763-261-5751, 11755 Sherburne Ave. Interim Pastor: Courtney Young. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am (Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays)
 • www.faihlutheran-becker.org
Oakwood Community Church
 Pastor: Gerry Bass, 763-688-0768, 12900 1st St. Becker, MN 55308. Service: Sun. Worship 9am.
 • www.oakwoodccbecker.org
Snake River Free Church
 Pastor: Steve Johnston, 612-219-8648, 8940 180th St. SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Sun. School 10:30am.
 • sites.google.com/view/snakeriverchurch/home
Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church
 Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St. SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 10:00am
 • beckerchristiancenter.org/becker-christian-center-church
Beacon House of Prayer
 Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm.
 • bmhouseofprayer.org
Free Grace United
 Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, 13150 First Street, Becker (on the west end of Becker Furniture World). Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm.
 • <https://freegrace.tv/locations/becker>

• BIG LAKE
Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church
 Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am
 • <https://actsmn.adventistchurch.org>
Bethany Bible Church
 763-263-2167, 511 Eagle Lake Road. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.
 • www.bethanybiblenn.com
Bridgeview Assembly of God
 Pastor: Steve Royalty, 763-263-6274, 20500 County Road 11. Services: Sun. Worship 9am & 10:45am
 • <https://bridgeviewchurch.org>
SVEA Hill Covenant Church
 Pastor: Billy Sanderson, 763-263-6232, 16392 235th Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.
 • <https://www.sveahill.org>
Cornerstone Baptist Church
 Pastor: Gordon Langdon, 763-263-7878, 15300 County Road 35.
 • www.facebook.com/cornerstonebaptistchurchmn
Hope Lutheran Church (LCMC) in Orrock
 Pastor: Mark Marxhausen, 763-262-0028, 26498 180th St. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309. Worship 10am.
 • www.hopeintheridge.weebly.com
IGLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE Living Love Church
 Pastores: Juan & Patricia Aguayo, 763-607-5403, 221 Lake St N. Services: Sat. 6pm.
 • <https://www.facebook.com/amorvivientenn>
Lord of Glory Lutheran Church
 Pastor: Carl Seim, 763-263-3090, 15550 190th Ave NW. Services: Sun. 8am & 10:30am.
 • www.lordofglorylutheran.org/home
Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
 Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month. (Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays in Big Lake)
 • www.maryofthevisitation.com
Riverside Church
 Pastor: Tom Lundeen, 763-263-2410, 20314 County Road 14. Services: Sun. 8:45am, 10:30am & 12:05pm.
 • www.mycr.church
Saron Lutheran Church
 Pastor: Kyle Sidlo, 763-263-2209, 311 Lake St. S. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am, indoors or livestream.
 • www.saron.org
Spirit Life Church
 763-262-LIFE, 221 Lake St N. Services: Sun. mornings 9:45am.
 • www.spiritlifechurchmn.org
PLEASE NOTE:
 Next week we will feature churches from Clear Lake, Clearwater, Santiago, etc and will alternate weeks.

hubbard ELECTRIC
RYAN HUBBARD
 763-263-8334
 RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURAL

DAHLEN RUUD
 SHEET METAL & HEATING INC.
 320-743-2479
 • DAHLENSHEETMETAL@FRONTIER.COM
 P.O. BOX 646 • BECKER, MN 55308
 WWW.DAHLENSHEETMETAL.COM

WILLIAMS DINGMANN
 FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES
 763-262-1454 • BECKER
 763-452-2500 • BIG LAKE
 320-743-2204 • CLEAR LAKE
 WILLIAMS-DINGMANN.COM

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE!
 CALL THE PATRIOT TO
 BECOME A CHURCH PAGE
 SPONSOR! 763-275-0275

ADVERTISE With us

CAR
 M-F 8AM-4:30PM
763-262-4237
 Owner: Chad Schwintek
 13050 1st Street Becker, MN 55308

THIS SPACE IS AVAILABLE!
 CALL THE PATRIOT TO
 BECOME A CHURCH PAGE
 SPONSOR! 763-275-0275

Working Together

In my totally biased opinion, Becker remains the best community in Minnesota to live, work and raise a family. For generations, the spirit of cooperation has been a cornerstone of our community's character, and it provides a solid foundation from which we can continue to pursue our immense potential.

However, we also know that "good is the enemy of great" and so there is always more work to be done to ensure that our collective leadership is ready to meet the expectations of our citizenry.

To that end, I am proud to announce a pair of upcoming meetings that I believe will play an important role in our community.

On July 29, I am playing host to the Mayor's Local Government Roundtable, which will bring together elected officials and key employees from the City of Becker, Becker Schools, Sherburne County and Becker Township. This endeavor will hopefully be the first installment in what will become regular meetings where we can collectively increase communication and identify areas in which local governmental entities can achieve efficiencies and ensure proper planning and cooperation. A very public thank you to School Board Chair Aaron Jurek and Township Chair Brian Kolbinger for embracing the concept, and the rest of the key partners who will ensure the success of this effort.

Then, a week later on August 7, I will be hosting the Mayor's Nonprofit Roundtable, at 2 p.m. at the Becker Community Center. This will be a chance for local nonprofit groups to get together in the same room and share their goals as we work towards creating a comprehensive list of



By Mark Kolbinger
Contributing Writer

all the important work these organizations do for Becker.

During my first six months in office, I have had the opportunity to meet with many of these organizations and I have been so impressed with their passion and depth of service to our community. Whether it's Rivers of Hope, the Becker Area Senior Center, or our local branch of the Great River Regional Library, these amazing employees and volunteers have been generous with their time in ensuring that this Mayor understands all of the behind the scenes work that happens in order to make our community as strong as possible. It is my hope that the Nonprofit Roundtable can build upon their individual successes and create a synergy that takes us to the next level.

All community nonprofits are invited to send a representative and no RSVP is required, although it would be great to have a heads up so we have enough chairs!

Finally, if you haven't had a chance to head out to Snuffy's Landing and take a look at the new fishing pier on the Mississippi River, you should do so. A huge thanks to the city's public works staff for their efforts, as well as the Becker Lions and MN DNR. It's just another excellent example of people working together for our community.

Proud Public Servant

(Editor's Note: The following column is a submission from the City of Clearwater due to it not being included in last May's Bridge Guide.)

Hello! My name is Andrea Lawrence and I am honored to be the mayor of Clearwater.

My highest goal as your mayor is to work together with the city council and city staff to enhance the quality of life for all Clearwater residents. As an elected official, I am a proud public servant who is excited to work here with an excellent, professional team.

Due to the efforts of many, including the city council members, volunteer board and commission members, volunteer firefighters and first responders, community leaders, and most importantly, our residents, Clearwater is a great place to live.

If you are wondering what is happening in the city, you can go on our website for meeting minutes and announcements, sign up for text alerts, attend a council meeting in person or via zoom or look on our Facebook page. In the past year, the city and Economic Development Authority worked together to install a digital message board in front of City Hall to share announcements, including city meetings, business spotlights, important reminders, and community events.

We are happy to report that Clearwater continues to thrive and offers an excellent quality of life with a positive, friendly environment for residents and businesses. New businesses have opened in Clearwater this past year and the city has expanded via the orderly annexation agreement between the City of Clearwater and Clearwater Township. We work as partners for success to attract new businesses as well as to retain and expand existing ones to provide employment opportunities. Look at our new Economic Development Authority website for updates, improvements, and programs: www.clearwatereda.com. Great things are happening in Clearwater!

Last fall in the Cedar South neighborhood ap-



By Clearwater
Mayor Andrea Lawrence

proximately 8 acres of retention ponds as well as the Kelsey Ave Boulevard plantings were transitioned to native plants instead of grass. This change will result in no need to mow these areas and higher biodiversity. The native plants are also drought tolerant.

I hope while you are here, you take advantage of our many beautiful parks that have continued to see upgrades throughout this year. If disc golf, fishing, canoeing, archery, basketball, baseball, ice skating, tennis, pickle ball, hockey, biking, sitting on the grass, having a picnic, or playing in a playground is not your thing, then stop by an area business for something to eat, a bit of shopping, a haircut, or to complete your errands.

A giant "thank you" to the city's Public Works employees who worked hard this year, as well as making ice for the skating rinks in city parks, as weather warms up and yards get cleaned, they are busy getting yard compost too with the monthly curbside compost pick up! As the seasons change, and we spend more time outside, feel free to give the crew a wave.

The largest upcoming change that everyone will notice is the I-94 bridge replacement and Hwy 24 changes, slated to being in 2026. Stay tuned for further information from MnDOT on this project with goals of the necessary replacement of an outdated bridge as well as more efficient and safer travel through Clearwater.

We want to hear from you! Please contact a city council member, a city employee, or me with questions or concerns. I look forward to seeing you around town! On behalf of city officials, administra-

One BBB Delivered!

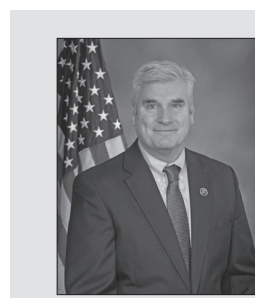
After months of debate and negotiations, our One Big Beautiful Bill has passed the Senate and the House of Representatives and was signed into law by President Trump!

From families and small businesses to manufacturers and waitresses, everyday Americans are the real winners of the One Big Beautiful Bill. By passing this legislation, we saved the average family in our district from a \$2,299 tax increase – equivalent to nearly 12 weeks of groceries. Furthermore, the legislation puts more money back in Minnesotans' pockets by eliminating taxes on overtime and tipped wages while providing crucial tax relief for American seniors.

We are achieving all of this while slashing deficits by roughly \$2 trillion and securing historic levels of savings.

In addition to providing historic economic relief for Minnesota families, this legislation will permanently secure our borders by making the largest investment in border security in American history. It provides funding to hire thousands of additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel, Border Patrol agents, and Customs officers. This significant investment will also provide funding to complete hundreds of miles of President Trump's border wall.

Our One Big Beautiful bill will also drive down energy costs for Minnesota families. The legislation elim-



By Rep.
Tom Emmer

inates burdensome red tape in the energy permitting process, which will drive down the cost of living and restore American energy independence. We've also rescinded billions of taxpayer dollars that Democrats poured into wasteful Green New Deal programs and ended handouts to special interests and climate activists.

From securing tax cuts for working families and seniors to securing the border to unleashing American energy dominance; Minnesotans are excited about our One Big Beautiful Bill. Earlier this week, Minnesotans from across our district announced their support.

In November, the American people gave Republicans a mandate to reduce wasteful spending, secure our borders, and reignite economic growth. Following this historic victory for the American people, rest assured that as we continue our work, we will remain focused on the priorities that the American people elected us to enact.

Ruddy Ducks

When I go out to photograph wildlife, I usually have a specific species of critter in mind. The best images are the ones that I had envisioned ahead of time, carefully planned and executed. There isn't anything left to chance. I make sure that I go to the spots or areas where the species is most abundant and I go at the time of year when I can expect to see the critter in good numbers.

I think it's a common misconception that wildlife photographers just wonder around, hoping to get lucky. Or they stand in the woods for hours and hours waiting for something to transpire right in front of them. Honestly, this might work but the odds are very low. The best photographers are focused, pun not intended, on a specific species and are actively working to obtain an image.

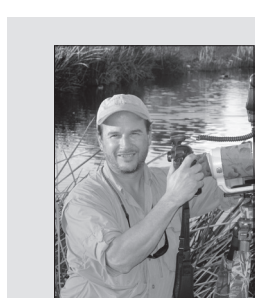
Having said that, every now and then, while trying to photograph a specific species, another, unrelated species presents itself. This is exactly what happened this spring. I was out photographing Western Grebes and I happened to see a duck species that was busy courting a female. The duck was a Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*).

The Ruddy Duck, is one of six species of "stiff-tailed ducks" in the genus *Oxyura*. They are found in North and South America. They breed mostly in the western half of the country extending as far east as the Great Lakes. Their common name comes from the rusty red breeding plumage of the male.

It is a small, round, compact duck. The male is rusty or chestnut brown with a striking black cap and white cheeks. One of the most outstanding features is the male's large bright blue bill. It has a set of dark, nearly black, stiff, tail feathers that it cocks



tion, and staff, I thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide services that will carry us into the future. As always, I am only a phone call or email away and I welcome you to share your ideas and concerns with me.



By Naturalist
Stan Tekiela

straight up while swimming around and displaying. Only a handful of duck species have these specialized tail feathers and the Ruddy is the only one in North America. While I am at it, I mentioned this bird's large sky-blue bill. Hunters commonly call Lesser and Greater Scaup, blue bills. If there was a species that should be called Blue Bill it should be the Ruddy Duck, not the Scaups. Just one look at the male and you will understand what I am saying.

Similar to the feathers of Blue Jays and Bluebirds, there isn't any blue pigment in the bill of the male. In spring, hormones cause the growth of a thin layer of cells over the dark bill. These cells, along with the dark layer below absorb all the wavelengths of sunlight and reflect back to our eyes only the blue color light. As a result, we see a blue bill.

Male Ruddy Ducks preform a very distinct and unusual drumming of their lower bill (mandible) against their chest feathers. He hits his bill on his chest hard enough to produce a "drumming" sound. The physical act of drumming its lower bill against its chest also sends a torrent of bubbles in the water right in front of the displaying male. This display is known as "bubbling".

It is not very common to see Ruddy Ducks flying. They

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

As Chair of the Wright County Republicans, I want to commend Minnesota House and Senate Republicans for their constructive and solution-oriented role during the 2025 legislative session. In a year marked by a historically tied House and a divided government, Republicans demonstrated a commitment to governance that helped steer Minnesota through a challenging budget season that reduced spending and rejected calls for higher taxes. Republicans led efforts to strengthen fiscal oversight. Early in the session, they introduced legislation to improve fraud reporting and enhance transparency in state agencies. These reforms reflect a commitment to responsible governance and protecting taxpayer dollars. They also took an important stand opposing a shift of state financial burdens onto counties. By resisting proposals that would have offloaded costs to local governments, Republicans helped prevent potential increases in property taxes and safeguarded essential county services. Most impressively, they negotiated a \$66 billion budget (\$5 billion less than 2025) and facilitated a one-day special session that finalized the deal in under 18 hours. This outcome demonstrated that even in a politically complex environment, principled leadership and a demand of bipartisan cooperation can deliver real results. Minnesota still has a future structural deficit, and our state must take steps to be more competitive, and ultimately more prosperous for everyone. There is more to do in 2026. But for now, Minnesotans deserve a government that works—and this year, Republican lawmakers made that happen.

Dan Schonhardt
Chair, Wright County GOP

migrate during the night, and they don't fly around much during the day, however I got lucky enough to see this lone male Ruddy Duck take a couple laps around the wetland before coming back and landing. Ruddies don't fly very high, and they fly very fast. Combine that with the fact they are a very small duck, they make for a very challenging subject to capture images while in flight.

This male took flight three times, each time flying far enough away to lose sight of it. After a few minutes it would come flying back in like a rocket. It would cruise just above the cattails and when it reached open water it would drop down and fly directly over the water. This allowed me to capture some fabulous, eye-level images of this most remarkable duck in flight. Sometimes you go out specifically to capture one species and come home with something completely different. This is one of the joys of wildlife photography. Until next time...

Stan Tekiela is an author / naturalist and wildlife photographer who travels the world to capture images of wildlife. He can be followed at www.Instagram.com and www.Facebook.com. He can be contacted via his website at www.NatureSmart.com.

CALL US NOW SAVE WITH DISH'S SENIOR DISCOUNT TODAY!
1-855-562-4309 **dish** Authorized Retailer
SENIORS 55+
 GET EVEN MORE WITH DISH!
55+ OFFER!
 FREE On-Demand Movie Rentals Up To \$300 In Gift Cards FREE Voice Remote & DVR Included
(*) Terms and conditions apply, call for details. Courtesy of named DISH Authorized Retailer. \$300 offers are courtesy of PlanetBt, call for full offer details. Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Requires credit qualification and 2-year commitment. Upfront activation and/or service upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 09/10/25. 2-year commitment. Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year Price Guarantee at \$91.99 advertised price. America's Top 10 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year Price Guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$106.99 for AT10+), \$111.99 for AT250, \$142.99 for AT250+ monthly fees for optional or additional receivers (\$29 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). NOT included in 2-year Price Guarantee or advertised price (not subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels 3 Mo. Free. After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Premium Channels with Streaming, Starz and Dish Movie Pack included. You will not be able to cancel until the 2-year Price Guarantee requires interest-connected Hopper, Joey or Wally device. Customer must press the Voice Remote button to activate the feature. Other AT packages, programming, features and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price guarantee are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$11.99/mo. for DISH Protect unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free hardware professional installation only. Additional restrictions may apply. © 2024 DISH Network LLC. All rights reserved.
 Internet and phone services are provided by partners, require credit qualification, and will be billed separately. Internet prices shown does not include guarantees. Equipment lease charges may apply. Leased equipment must be returned upon cancellation or unreturned equipment fees apply. 1-703-202-4109

AREA NEWS

STOP BY TODAY!

NEW POTATOES, GREEN BEANS

FRESH PICKED OR PICK YOUR OWN

RASPBERRIES

SVIHEL VEGETABLE FARM

6 MI. S OF FOLEY OR 10 MI. N OF BECKER ON HWY 25 & DUELM RD
OPEN 7AM - 7PM

MINNESOTA GROWN

For more information call
(320) 968-7238

Stop in for delicious, fresh meat for summer cookouts!



GRAND MEADOW MEATS LLC
CLEARWATER, MN

FORMERLY T&R MEATS

- Steaks • Pork Chops • Brats
- Hot Dogs • Hamburgers
- Chicken • Roasts • Salads & More!

We slaughter in-house
Call to book an appointment!
105 Pine St., Clearwater • 320-558-6390

Processing & recipes remain the same

WRUCK EXCAVATING INC. — YOUR TRUSTED SEPTIC EXPERTS

- SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGN & INSTALLATION
- SEPTIC TANK & DRAIN FIELD REPAIR
- ROUTINE MAINTENANCE & EMERGENCY SERVICES
- PIPE REPLACEMENT



CALL TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!
24/7 SERVICE • EMERGENCY #: 320.267.1855
VISIT US ONLINE: WRUCKEXCAVATING.COM

15920 HWY. 10, BECKER • 763-262-0871

Clearwater HERITAGE FESTIVAL

July 28-August 2nd 2025
Sponsored by the Clearwater Lions & Local Businesses
www.clearwaterheritagefestival.com

Medallion Hunt Begins July 28th @ 10am
Clues released on Clearwater Heritage Festival Facebook only

July 30th	July 31st	August 1st
Balance Bike BMX Race Eldorado Park 5:30pm	Music In the Park Eldorado Park 6pm	Lions Dinner Lions Park 4pm
August 2nd	Senior Pie Social Lions Pavillion 2-4pm	Square Dancing Lions Park 5pm
Vintage Snowmobile & Car Show Clearwater Rodeo Grounds 9am-2pm	Clearwater Rodeo	Family Fun Fest Sponsored by ATS Lions Park 5-10pm
Craft & Vendor Show Clearwater Rodeo Grounds 9am-2pm	Community Historical Trolley Tours Meet at the Lions Park 10am-2pm	Parade Main Street 6pm
History Booth with Cynthia Frank-Stupnik United Methodist Church 10am-3pm	Clearwater Corners Bean Bag Tournament Clearwater Corners 11am	Live Band featuring Kat Blue Lions Park 7-10pm
Clearwater Fire Dept Open House Clearwater Fire Department 10-2pm	Parts City Customer Appreciation Event Parts City 11-2pm	Fireworks Show Lions Park at Dusk
Legion Riders Homeless Veterans Bike Run Clearwater Legion 9am	Legion Street Dance Featuring Mason Dixon Line	

NEW! Shuttle Service between Saturday events!

Logos: Lions International, ATS, Clearwater Parts City, B&C Clean-Up, Nelson Bros Restaurant • Pub • Bakery, Clearwater travel & plaza, Tri-State Surplus Co., Lake Central.

Computer of St. Cloud DYNAMICS!

SALES • SERVICE • SUPPORT

St. Cloud's Premier Source for NEW & REFURBISHED Computers!

- New & Off-Lease
- PCs & Laptops
- On-site Tech Support (Business or Home)
- Computer & Laptop Repair (PC & Apple/Mac)
- Data Recovery
- Upgrades & Virus Removal
- Computer Tune-ups

Count on **Katie**
"The Computer Technician Who Cares"

SAVE \$10
On a **TUNE-UP** or **VIRUS REMOVAL** for your computer!
With coupon. Coupon must be presented at time of service check-in. Not valid with any other offers. In-store service only.
Computer Dynamics of St. Cloud Expires 8/30/25

SAVE \$10
OFF the **LABOR COSTS** for any **LAPTOP HARDWARE REPAIRS!**
With coupon. Coupon must be presented at time of service check-in. Not valid with any other offers. In-store service only.
Computer Dynamics of St. Cloud Expires 8/30/25

2946 West Division St. (Behind Red Lobster) 320.654.9703
Computerdynamics.stcloudmn@gmail.com
Mon/Fri 10-6; Sat 10-4; Sun closed

KELLER LAKE COMMONS
— ASSISTED LIVING —

Keller Lake Commons in Big Lake, now an Assisted Living Community offering full apartments ranging from 644 to 956 square feet. Cable is included in rents for private pay and housing support (formerly known as GRH) renters. Accepting EW and CADL. For more information please contact Nicole Gilder, Housing Director at 763-263-2363 or check us out online at www.kellerlakecommons.com

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN

GED AND ADULT BASIC EDUCATION CLASSES

TUESDAYS 6:00-8:30PM
BECKER HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 701-ENTER DOOR #11

NO NEED TO PRE REGISTER

CALL COMMUNITY ED FOR MORE INFORMATION 763-261-4506



ASAP PUMPING SERVICE

EMERGENCY SERVICE!

- COMMERCIAL SEPTIC PUMPING
- RESIDENTIAL SEPTIC TANK PUMPING
- HOLDING TANKS • ROUTINE MAINTENANCE
- TANK COMPLIANCE • EMERGENCY SERVICE

CALL 763 415-0319

SERVING BECKER, BIG LAKE, ELK RIVER AND SURROUNDING AREA

Benton County FAIR

112th ANNUAL
Tues., July 29 thru Sun., Aug. 3rd, 2025

FREE FAIR

NEW FOR 2025

- JURASSIC KINGDOM W/MINI GOLF
- MUSIC BINGO IN BEER GARDENS
- BLOODY MARY BAR
- NEW FOOD VENDORS

• KIDS PEDAL PULL
• TALENT SHOW

FREE SHUTTLES FROM SAUK RAPIDS VFW EVERY HALF HOUR

1410 3RD AVE S, SAUK RAPIDS 320-253-5649

view daily fair schedule: www.bentonfairmn.com

Charlie's SPORTS BAR & GRILL

THURSDAY JULY 17TH

2 EVENTS

6-9PM THE ROLLIE SHOW
ON THE PATIO

STARTING AT 5:30 PM
PERMANENT JEWELRY POP UP EVENT
Necklaces • Bracelets • Anklets

12287 Hancock Street, Becker

SEPTIC PUMPING

The Grass Is Always Greener Over The Septic Tank



• Installation of Sewer Systems
• Sewer Inspection & Design • Septic Pumping & Repairs • Bobcat & Backhoe Work

BUSSE'S SEPTIC PUMPING
Call for an Appointment 320-743-2482

SHERBURNE COUNTY

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2025 RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION EVENTS

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

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, July 16	2pm - 5pm	Clear Lake Fire Hall, 8670 1 st Ave W, Clear Lake
Wednesday, July 23	2pm - 5pm	Santiago Township Hall, 16943 20 th St SE, Santiago
Tuesday, August 12	2pm - 5pm	Sherburne County Public Works, 12950 7th Ave S, Zimmerman
Wednesday, September 17	2pm - 5pm	Big Lake Township, 21960 County Rd 5 NW, Big Lake
Friday, September 26	2pm - 5pm	Sherburne County Fairgrounds, 13372 Business Center Drive, Elk River (enter across from YMCA)
Saturday, September 27	9am - 12pm	Sherburne County Fairgrounds, 13372 Business Center Drive, Elk River (enter across from YMCA)

ACCEPTED ITEMS	NOT ACCEPTED
Adhesives, Aerosols, Automotive Chemicals (NO MOTOR OIL), Batteries, Car Batteries, Cleaners, Fuels (Gasoline, Diesel, etc.), Fluorescent bulbs, Fire Extinguishers, Garden Chemicals, Mercury, Mothballs, Paints, Poisons, Pool/Spa Chemicals, 1lb Propane Tanks, Roofing Tar, Sealers, Solvents ** Child Car Seats accepted at Elk River Events ONLY**	Appliances, Asbestos Containing Items, Business Waste, Commercial Waste, Demolition Debris, Electronics, Explosives, Furniture, Tires, Household Garbage, Medical Waste, Motor Oil and Antifreeze, Pharmaceutical Waste, Unknown items, NO DRUMS

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

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

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

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY
Funded by MPCA SCORE Grant Dollars

BUILDING SPECIALS

Quality Building Supplies at Affordable Prices
Since 1975



BOOK YOUR ORDER!
LATHAM-LIND LUMBER & POST FRAME BUILDINGS

Call for a FREE estimate
117th Ave., Milaca
(north end of Milaca off Central Ave)
320-983-6304 • 1-800-818-1846



To place your ad, call 763.275.0275 or stop by our office at
14054 Bank Street, Becker • Website: www.patriotnewsmn.com

LANDSCAPING

HASSAN SAND & GRAVEL has a large selection of decorative rock, pulverized & screened topsoil, all types of driveway aggregates, wood & rubber mulch, landscape supplies, play/volleyball/mason sand, fieldstone boulders, steps & natural quarry stone, synthetic turf products. M-F 7am-4pm & Sat, 7am-noon. 13530 Willamdale Rd., Rogers. 763-428-2393.
www.HassanSand.com
Clip this ad & save \$20 off your purchase of \$100 or more! Exp. 10/20/25

LAWN CARE

TOTAL LAWN CARE, INC. Locally owned & operated since 1985. Fertilization, core aeration, guaranteed control of: weeds, crabgrass, mosquitoes, ants/ticks/spiders, grubs/worms and Emerald Ash Borer. Experience the difference. 320-685-4131.
www.totallawn.us

PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

ASPHALT/BLACKTOP

HANSON PAVING. Residential & commercial. Driveways, parking lots, asphalt, paving & asphalt patchwork. No job too small. Call for a free estimate at 320-259-7874 office. 3636 Quail Rd., Sauk Rapids. We accept Visa & Mastercard.
www.hansonpaving.com

OUTDOOR FURNACES

OUTDOOR FURNACES NOTICE - Outdoor furnace, parts and supplies are in high demand and have limited availability. With approximate lead times of about 8 months, plan and look ahead. Reserve now to have one to install for this summer or fall installation. We feature Central Boiler furnaces and products for complete installation. We have financing available, and up to a \$2,000 tax credit available on select models. Reserve today. Call or go online, 763-972-6255; classactfurnace.com.

OFFICE SPACE
FOR LEASE!

AT PLAZA BONANZA, Where business prospers! 12392 Pleasant Ave., Becker, MN 612-735-7585.

OBITUARIES

**Alta Eleanor (Hansen) Norlund, 97
Becker, MN
January 21, 1928 - July 5, 2025**

Alta Eleanor (Hansen) Norlund, age 97 of Becker MN, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on July 5, 2025.

Alta was born to Maria and William Hansen on January 21, 1928 in Becker, MN, the fourth child of five. She graduated from Becker High School with the class of 1946. She then met and married the love

of her life, Milton Norlund on September 4, 1948. They moved to St. Paul where she worked for MN Mutual Insurance Co. Through the years, they were blessed with nine children, Cheryl, Beverly, Delroy (Butch), Anita, Edna, Linda, Shirley, Daryl and Terri.

Alta enjoyed many activities such as gardening, cake decorating, crocheting, Red Cross blood donations (almost 10 gallons), gopher trapping, skydiving at age 80, 85 and 90

and many more. But her favorite activities were being a homemaker, wife and mother.

Alta is survived by her children, Cheryl (Bill), Beverly (Dave), Delroy-Butch (Marlys), Edna (Jim), Linda, Shirley, Daryl (Linda) and Terri. Also, 14 Grandchildren, 26 Great Grandchildren and two Great-Great Grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by husband Milton, daughter Anita, grandsons Tony and Tim and her brothers and sisters.

Visitation will be held at 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with service at 2 p.m., on Saturday, July 12, 2025 at Peterson-Grimsom Funeral Chapel, 250 E. Broadway Street, Monticello, MN. Interment to follow in Snake River Cemetery, Becker Township. Luncheon and fellowship at Snake River Church after the interment

**Walter E. Gustavson, 93
Becker, MN
September 17, 1931 – June 15, 2025**

UPDATE: Remembrance of life celebration will be held for Walter E. Gustavson on July 25, 2025 at Faith Lutheran Church in Becker, MN. Visitation will begin at 10:00 AM, with the service at 11:00 AM and lunch immediately following the celebration of life service. All are welcome and encouraged to come celebrate Walter with the family.

Faith Lutheran Church
11755 Sherburne Ave.
Becker, MN 55308
763-261-5751
Family will be having private services for Walter E. Gustavson, age 93, who passed away peacefully at his home Sunday, June 15, 2025. Burial will be at Trinity Cemetery in Boyd.

Walter was born September 17, 1931 in Montevideo to Oscar and Valborg (Noren) Gustavson. Walter and his brother, Floyd, started Gustavson Grinding where he worked as a machinist for 30 years. He enjoyed spending time trap shooting, hunting, reading, and flying his own plane. Walter was a generous, giving, kind, caring man, loved by his family and friends.

Walter is survived by his brother, Floyd (Muriel) of Ramsey; nieces and nephews, Grai Lee, Greg, Noreen, Gene and Erica.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Muriel (Norman) Andrews.

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

**Michael Vito, 72
Big Lake, MN
March 17, 1953 - June 30, 2025**

A Celebration of Life event will take place on Thursday, July 17, 2025 from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM at The Buff in Big Lake for Michael Vito, 72 of Big Lake who died on June 30, 2025 at his home in Big Lake. Burial will be at a later date at Morningside Memorial Gardens in Coon Rapids.

Michael was born March 17, 1953 in Minneapolis to William & Lucille (Miller)

Vito. He worked as a photographer and musician for many years.

He is survived by his lifetime partner Nadyne Elder, son Brandon (Jill Larson-Vito) of Elk River; grandchildren, Kaden Meeks-Vito, Jace Larson-Vito, brother, Kevin Vito and brother-in-law Brian Dahl.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sister Toni Dahl.

AUTOMOTIVE

MURPHY CHEVROLET
New & Used Cars & Trucks
(320) 968-6239
www.murphychevrolet.com

1,200 CARS & PICK UPS FOR PARTS
UP TO 2007 MODELS
ALSO BUYING JUNK CARS & PICK UPS
Larry's Auto: 320-558-2245
320-309-7838 • 320-248-6380

USED CARS

220 USED CARS to choose from. We also BUY used cars. Guaranteed Approval! Morrie's Auto Connection, 559 Hwy 10, St. Cloud (next to the red barn Dairy Queen). 320-229-1900. Apply online at: www.MorriesAutoConnection.com



**CORRECTION:
Bailey Ray's
Fire Story**

By Mary Nehring,
Contributing Writer

In the Patriot's July 5th, 2025 issue, a couple of errors were made in the story about Bailey Ray's Roadhouse fire that occurred last week. We listed Pat O'Brien as owner and accidentally omitted Rebecca O'Brien, who is also one of the owners. In addition, the cause of the fire is not not known yet until the full investigation is done. The Patriot regrets these errors.

Deadlines
Notices & Legals
Wednesdays
At 11am
Contact Bill:
763-275-0275 or
Email:
legals@
patriotnewsmn.com

TO PLACE A PUBLIC NOTICE - Call The Patriot 763-275-0275

EXTRA!

PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

**Darleane J. Ferguson, 66
Clearwater, MN
August 14, 1958 - July 1, 2025**

Funeral Services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, July 11, 2025, at the Daniel Funeral Home in Clearwater for Darleane J. Ferguson, age 66, of Clearwater, who passed away suddenly on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, at the St. Cloud Hospital. Reverend Susie Putzke officiated. Burial of the urn will be in Mount Hope Cemetery in Clearwater.

Visitation was held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, 2025 and from 12 noon until the time of the service on Friday all at the Daniel Funeral Home in Clearwater.

Darleane was born on August 14, 1958, to Albert and Janet (Phillips) Allee in Staples, Minnesota. She was united in marriage to Mark

BAIER AUCTION CO Friday, July 18 10 AM 4257 NE 80th St., Altoona, IA Live on-site. Industrial and commercial electrical, plumbing, refrigeration tools and supplies. www.baierauctions.com for sale bill. (mcn)

AUTOMOBILES
GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS. Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-485-1046. (mcn)

Get a break on your taxes! Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-977-7030 today! (mcn)

Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-429-2331 today! (mcn)

CABLE/INTERNET AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET. If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-833-472-7954. (mcn)

DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-866-296-1409. (mcn)

FINANCIAL Inflation is at 40-year highs. Interest rates are way up. Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF and find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! FREE quote: Call 1-866-552-0649. (mcn)

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

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance -NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-973-9175 www.dental50plus.com/midwest#6258 (mcn)

Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free

information kit! Call 844-716-2411. (mcn)

STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE! A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-772-8454. You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider. (mcn)

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

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-833-889-4410. Have zip code of property ready when calling! (mcn)

WATER DAMAGE CLEANUP & RESTORATION: A small amount of water can lead to major damage in your home. Our trusted professionals do complete repairs to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1480. Have zip code of service location ready when you call! (mcn)

MISCELLANEOUS
Reach over 1.5 million homes for just \$249! Advertise your business or item with a classified ad in the Midwest Free Community Papers. Simple, cost-effective, and powerful. One call, and you're done! Boost your visibility now! 888-899-6327. (mcn)

SunSetter. America's Number One Awning! Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-855-462-2330. (mcn)

NEED NEW FLOORING? Call today schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6323. (mcn)

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 1-833-787-0248 (mcn)

INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT? Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$1000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-879-1534. (mcn)

YOU MAY QUALIFY for disability bene-

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

Prepare for power outages today with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-228-5789 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (mcn)

No more cleaning out gutters. Guaranteed! LeafFilter is the most advanced gutter protection for your home, backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferrable warranty. Call today 1-855-577-1268 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 20% off! Seniors and military save an additional 10%. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details. (mcn)

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today. Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-290-5083. (mcn)

The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day. Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-833-618-1178. (mcn)

Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer- up to 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-907-2386. (mcn)

Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-326-1608. (mcn)

WANT TO BUY CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES! Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. Call 1-833-641-6646. (mcn)

WE BUY VINTAGE GUITARS! Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg. And Gibson Mandolins/Banjoes. 1-833-641-7028. (mcn)

MCAN
Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

WANTED TO BUY
WANTED:
ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES
Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

WE BUY HOUSES
for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683

Advertise here statewide in 200+ newspapers for only \$279 per week! Call 612-332-8844

MISCELLANEOUS
DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!
Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506

GET DISH
SATELLITE TV + INTERNET!
Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 in gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309

GET BOOST INFINITE!
Unlimited talk, text and data for just \$25/mo! The power of 3 5G networks, one low price! Call today and get the latest iPhone every year on us! 855/849-6621

MISCELLANEOUS
SAFE STEP
North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

Your ad here!
Only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.3 million readers!!! **612-332-8844**

GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES!
Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!

Becker Freedom Days Car Show rescheduled

Submitted Article

Becker Freedom Days' 3rd Annual Car Show has been rescheduled to July 24 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Becker Schools Intermediate parking lot.

Food trucks, bounce house, 50's & 60's music,

trophies awarded. Portions of the proceeds will go towards Becker Backpack Buddies.

Line up begins at 3 p.m., \$10 per entry. Sponsored by MN Rusco. Fun for the whole family!

AUCTIONS

••••• UPCOMING AUCTIONS •••••

SUNDAY JULY 13TH@ 11:00 AM
SAUK RAPIDS

SUNDAY JULY 20TH@ 11:00 AM
ESTATE OF GARY HART (LARGE AMOUNT OF TOOLS)

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, HOUSEHOLD & DÉCOR', FURNITURE, TOOLS & OUTDOOR, YARD & GARDEN & SHOP

NOW TAKING CONSIGNMENTS

3825 SHADOWOOD DR. NE. SAUK RAPIDS, MN
DIRECTIONS: ST. CLOUD, E. ON HWY 23 LEFT ON 40TH (FOLLOW SIGNS)

THIS IS A PARTIAL LISTING. B.P. & MN tax applies.
See website for more: www.midwestauctions.com/sharer
Keith Sharer Auction Service

320-267-1963

Auction

Beautiful countryside property in

Clear Lake, 8.87 Acres

Live on-site and online

July 26, Personal property at 10 am

Proxibid at 11:30 am

Real Estate to follow, Approx 12 pm

8480 W Beatrice Dr.

Clear Lake MN 55319

Open house July 13

Info @ Auctionsbyrobyn.com

320-291-9566

Because
Seriously Absorbent Underwear
Absorbs up to 6 cups

Try for FREE

Limited Time Offer!
Get a FREE Starter Pack just pay shipping

1-844-651-5839

PUBLIC NOTICES

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This represents a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Big Lake Public Schools #727. A complete set of minutes will be on file at the District Office and on our website at www.biglakeschools.org upon Board approval.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools, was called to order on June 25, 2025.
- II. ROLL CALL
All Board members were present except Ms. Lenette Brown.
- III. APPROVE AGENDA
A motion passed to remove item X. RESOLUTION RELATING TO DETERMINING THE NECESSITY OF APPROVING A NEW REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION AND ISSUING GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION from the agenda and move it to the July 23, 2025 regular board meeting and approve the amended agenda.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. OPEN FORUM
- VI. CONSENT AGENDA
A motion passed to approve the following:
 - A. PREVIOUS MINUTES
 - B. CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS
 - C. CREDIT CARD REPORT
 - D. PERSONNEL
 - E. FUNDRAISERS
 - F. DESIGNATION OF IDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY FOR THE MDE EXTERNAL USER ACCESS RECERTIFICATION SYSTEM
 - G. APPROVE UPDATED 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR WITH SNOW DAY ADDED
 - H. APPROVE ONE READ POLICIES
- VII. DONATIONS
A motion passed to approve the donations.
- VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT
A motion passed to approve the financial report and budget revisions as presented.
- IX. APPROVE THE 2025-2026 BUDGET
A motion passed to approve the budget as presented.
- X. MSHSL MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION
A motion passed to approve the 2025-2026 Resolution for Membership.
- XI. APPROVE RESOLUTION TO RECERTIFY DISTRICT POPULATION ESTIMATE
A motion passed to approve the resolution as presented.
- XII. FIELD TRIP ANNUAL REVIEW
- XIII. FIRST READING OF POLICIES
- XIV. SCHOOL BOARD COMMITTEE/REPRESENTATIVE UPDATES
- XV. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT
Scheduled a work session on July 23, 2025 following the regular board meeting to discuss referendum communication.
- XVI. ADJOURNMENT
A motion passed to adjourn the meeting.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/12/25.)

EAGLE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (ELID) Annual Meeting August 2, 2025 10:00 AM Orrock Township Hall

The Eagle Lake Improvement District (ELID) will hold its 2nd annual meeting at 10:00 AM on Saturday August 2, 2025, at the Orrock Township Hall. The meeting agenda will include the discussion and adoption of 2026 improvement projects, approval of the 2026 budget, election of 2 board members, and any other business that may come before the ELID.
All property owners on Big Eagle Lake are members of the ELID and are invited to attend.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/12/25.)

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 726 (BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS), STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 726 (Becker Public Schools) shall begin on July 29, 2025 and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 12, 2025.

The special election shall be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025. At that election, one member will be elected to the School Board to fill a vacated term beginning immediately after receiving the certificate of election, and taking the oath of office, and ending on the first Monday in January, 2029.

The affidavits of candidacy are available on the District's website (<https://www.becker.k12.mn.us>) or in the office of the District clerk, located at 12000 Hancock St., Becker, Minnesota 55308. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the District from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the special election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the special election or next ensuing general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the District clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 12, 2025.
Dated: July 7, 2025
/s/ Angela Oswald
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/HR Specialist
Becker Public Schools
(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/12/25.)

BOAT LAW from page 1

Is 12 years old or older, and was born after these dates: June 30, 2004 (started July 1, 2025); June 30, 2000 (starts July 1, 2026); June 30, 1996 (starts July 1, 2027); June 30, 1987 (starts July 1, 2028).

This means people born after June 30, 2004, will need a permit to operate a boat starting in 2025. The permit requirement will gradually apply to older age groups over the next few years.

Who is Considered an Accompanying Operator?

A person 21 years of age or older who is in a personal watercraft or other type of motorboat; Is within immediate reach of the controls of the motor; and Possesses a valid operator's permit or is an exempt operator.

Who is Considered an Exempt Operator?

"Exempt operator" means a motorboat operator, including a personal watercraft operator, who is 12 years of age or older and who possesses a valid license to operate a motorboat issued for maritime personnel by the United States Coast Guard under Code of Federal Regulations, title 46, part 10, or a marine certificate issued by the Canadian government; Is not a resident of the state, is temporarily using the waters of the state for a period not to exceed 60 days, and meets any applicable requirements of the state or country of residency; Or possesses a Canadian pleasure craft operator's card; Is operating a motorboat under a dealer's license according to section 86B.405; or; Is operating a motorboat during an emergency.

Key Takeaways

Adult and youth permits: Young operators and some adults need a valid operator's permit to operate certain motorized watercraft. For adults born after June 30, 2004, the requirement started July 1, 2025. The law will extend to older age groups over time.

Youth restrictions: Young operators can't operate boats with more than 75 horsepower. They can operate boats (that are not PWC) with less than 75 horsepower if they're with an accompanying operator.
Gradual rollout: The law will phase in over the next few years. The operator permit requirement started July 1, 2025 and gradually expands through 2028.

This new law aims to improve safety on the water by making sure everyone operating a motorized watercraft is trained and qualified.

Rentals
Eighteen and older: Must have a valid watercraft operator's permit.

Under 18: Cannot rent watercraft.

Low-Powered Motorboats

This new law does not affect individuals who operate motorboats powered by a motor with a factory rating of 25 horsepower or less. People of any age do not need a valid watercraft operator's permit or have an accompanying operator in the motorboat so long as it is not a personal watercraft and is powered by a motor with a factory rating of 25 horsepower or less.

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No.: 71-PR-25-95
In Re the Estate of Dennis Charles Schwinn, a/k/a Dennis C. Schwinn, Decedent.

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 20th day of August, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at 13880 Business Center Drive, Elk River, Minnesota, for the probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above-named deceased, dated May 20, 2014, and for appointment of Michael J. Schwinn, whose address is 8231 East Beatrice Drive, Clear Lake, Minnesota 55319, as personal representative of the estate of the above-named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. This is an administrative hearing and your appearance is not required.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: June 23, 2025
/s/ Katrese Ringham,
Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner:
Joseph S. Mayers
KELM & REUTER, P.A.
Attorney No. 0295747
1287 2nd Street North, Suite 101
Saug Rapids, MN 56379
(320) 251-1423
kelmreuter@kelmreuter.com
(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/05/25, 07/12/25).

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT INFORMAL PROBATE

Court File No.: 71-PR-25-87
In Re the Estate of Ronald Theodore Middelstadt a/k/a Ronald T. Middelstadt, Decedent.

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will dated April 18, 2022 has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following: Jerald R. Middelstadt, 14245 Fairway Ln Becker MN 55308, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment

of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date if this Notice, or the claims will be barred.
Dated: June 30, 2025
/s/ Pamela Kreier,
Probate Registrar
/s/ Katrese Ringham,
Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner:
RACHELL LYNN HENNING
Attorney License No.: 401483
HENNINGSON & SNOXEL LTD
6900 WEDGWOOD ROAD
SUITE 200
MAPLE GROVE MN 55311
Telephone: 763-560-5700
E-Mail:
rhenning@hennsnoxlaw.com
(Published in the *Patriot*: 07/05/25, 07/12/25).

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT INFORMAL PROBATE

Court File No.: 71-PR-25-84
In Re the Estate of Kenneth L. Swanson Decedent.

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal probate of the above-named Decedent's Last Will dated May 4, 2022, has been filed with the Probate Registrar, and the application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following: Barb Leeman, 20645 187th Avenue NW Big Lake MN 55309 as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative, or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Any objections to the probate of the Will, or to the appointment of the personal representative, must be filed with this court, and will be heard by the court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.
Dated: June 27, 2025.
/s/ Pamela Kreier,
Probate Registrar
/s/ Katrese Ringham
Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner:
TYLER JAMES
WESSMAN-CONROY
Attorney License No.: 403791
CONROY LAW OFFICE LTD
261 EAST BROADWAY ST
PO BOX 999
MONTICELLO, MN 55362
Telephone: 763-295-6667
E-Mail:
tyler@conroylawoffice.com.

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

1 person injured in July 4 accident in BL

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

Editor's Note: The details provided in this story are based on law enforcement's latest version of events, and from information compiled from other sources and may be subject to change.

One person was injured at Lakeside Park on July 4 in Big Lake and the local police are investigating the incident which led to the wounded person receiving treatment at a local hospital.

Officers were summoned to the parking lot of the park for a medical emergency around 2:15 p.m. last Friday. Upon arriving, they encountered a person who had suffered an injury from an encounter with the side of a boat trailer. The injured person (not identified in this report) was taken by ambulance to a local hospital for treatment. The extent of their injuries has not been released.

“Through initial investigation, it was learned the party was injured from contact with the side of a boat trailer,” police said. “All involved parties were present and cooperated with the on-scene investigation. No parties involved fled the scene.”

The Big Lake Police report that all parties involved in the incident remained at the scene and cooperated fully with the initial investigation.

The BLPD continues to gather facts surrounding the incident as part of their ongoing investigation and are using surveillance cameras within the park to help determine what led to the accident.

Minions, Eagles are Crowd Favorites in Boat Parade



THE MALIBU MINIONS (L) won the Most Creative and Most Comical of floats while EAGLES NEST (R) won for Most Patriotic at last weekend's BELIA's 4th of July Boat Parade. (Submitted Photo).

Submitted Article

The Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) had a great turnout for voting for their favorite parade ‘floats’ from the annual 4th of July Parade.

“Thank you to the 11 boats that came out for the fun and to the 133 people who voted for their favorites,” said BELIA Secretary Lori Andreen.

Congratulations to the Grimm/Nerisons (Malibu Minions) for winning both the Most Creative and Most Comical categories, and to

the Andersons (Eagle's Nest) for winning Most Patriotic.

The Nerisons have now won two years in a row and will keep the Traveling Trophy for another year.

All contestants will be awarded the ‘Flights’ of Pulled Pork just before BELIA's ‘Smokin’ Pulled Pork Cook-Off’ August 9 at Lupulin Brewing in Big Lake.

“It promises to be another excellent event,” said Andreen. “More information to follow!”

By Katie Cantin,
Contributing Writer

During the June Big Lake School Board meeting, Business Director Angie Manuel gave the final financial report for the school year. The district ended the school year over their expected enrollment amount, which is good for the school since it brings in more funding.

Manuel asked the board to approve a budget revision to reflect some large medical assistance payments the district received as well as prom donations.

Manuel explained the significance of a new K-12 education finance bill and how it would affect budgets for the upcoming school year. She then presented the budget for the upcoming

ing school year with that information in mind.

Food Shelf

Superintendent Tim Truebenbach reported he has been working with the food shelf and the school attorney on an agreement to host food shelf services. An agreement should appear before the board at the July meeting.

In Other Business, the Board:

• Signed an agreement to participate in MSHSL sports for the upcoming year;

• Heard about the field trips students took over the past year, which were funded by the PTO and Spud Fest donations;


• Heard committee updates.

AREA/SPORTS NEWS

PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

Be a Patriot Page Sponsor!
Call
763.275.0275 to
secure your ad

Proudly supporting the Patriot and all events, activities and businesses in Becker and the surrounding communities!



Sherburne
State Bank

12500 Sherburne Ave.,
Becker, MN 55308
763.261.4200

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE NEWSPAPER, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESSES IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES!



T.J. Potter TRUCKING
BECKER, MN
763-262-5850
tjpottetrucking.com

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

ATTORNEYS



100+ YEARS
COMBINED EXPERIENCE

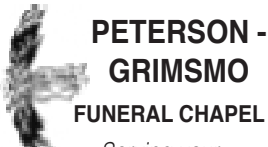
DIVORCE
FAMILY LAW
CHILD CUSTODY
WILLS & TRUSTS
ESTATE PLANNING
ELDER LAW
BUSINESS PLANNING
COMMERCIAL LAW
REAL ESTATE LAW
CRIMINAL LAW

763-262-2889

101 JEFFERSON BLVD
BIG LAKE

JSSMN.COM

FUNERAL



PETERSON - GRIMSOM
FUNERAL CHAPEL
Serving your community since 1933
250 East Broadway
Monticello, MN 55362
763-295-2918
Our family serving yours!

BLACKTOPPING



C&S
BLACKTOPPING INC.
RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL
PAVING CONTRACTORS

Serving the Metro & Surrounding Areas Since 1967
www.c-sblacktopping.com
Major Credit Cards accepted
FREE ESTIMATES
a "green" paving contractor

763.428.2225

MULCH



MULCH • ROCK • BLACK DIRT • SAND
ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE!
WE CAN LOAD OR DELIVERY AVAILABLE!
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
MON. - FRI., 7AM TO 5PM
AND SAT., 8AM TO NOON



WRUCK
EXCAVATING

15920 HWY. 10, BECKER • 763-262-0871

READY-MIX CONCRETE NOW OPEN IN CLEARWATER, MN

**RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
PATIOS
SIDEWALK
DRIVEWAYS
CURB & GUTTER**



CONTACT EMAIL:
INFO@BISONCONTRACTINGUSA.COM
PHONE: (763) 334-1510 - FREE QUOTE!

EMPLOYMENT



**BECKER PUBLIC
SCHOOLS IS HIRING
SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS!!**

\$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS!!

***NOW OFFERING PAID TRAINING**

***MINIMUM OF 3.5 HOURS A DAY WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE**

Up to \$60 per route based on experience.

Benefits include:

- *Health, Dental, & LTD (Coverage year round)
- * Paid personal, sick, and holidays
- * PERA (Public Employee Retirement Assoc.)
- * 403 (B) Matching Retirement Options

CONTACT US TODAY!
763-261-4588



**Developing Self-Directed Learners to
Thrive in a Changing Global Community**

3 new foods selected for State Fair

Submitted Article

Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) is thrilled to announce that three of its new fair foods were selected for the coveted 2025 Minnesota State Fair New Fair Foods List.

The Bison Meatball Sub, created by Chef Dave Buxton, and the **Apple Glaze** and **Banana S'more** created by Chef John Kraus of Patisserie 46, are among the more than 30 items on this year's new fair foods list.

Minnesota Farmers Union showcases local foods at its MFU Coffee Shop at 1635 Dan Patch Ave. on the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. The Coffee Shop is managed by Farmers Kitchen + Bar, an MFU-owned farmer-to-table

restaurant in downtown Minneapolis. MFU partners with other food artisans, including Earl Giles and J & S Bean Factory, to bring high-quality products to the Minnesota State Fair.

"At MFU, we take pride in supporting farmers and rural communities," said MFU President Gary Werfisch. "Each year, we strive to showcase different foods grown in Minnesota at the state fair."

The **Bison Meatball Sub** includes bison and bacon meatballs made with Minnesota wild rice served with bison gravy, quick-pickled cucumbers, crispy fried onions and sour cream on a toasted wild rice hoagie.

The two Patisserie sweets are exclusive creations

by Chef Kraus. The **Apple Glaze** features pull-apart doughnut dough baked with Minnesota-grown Honey-crisp apples and topped with brown sugar pecan streusel and orange blossom maple glaze. The **Banana S'more** is a twist on a traditional s'more with brown-butter crumb cake, bananas, marshmallows and chocolate chunks topped with graham cracker streusel.

Minnesota Farmers Union has had a presence at the Minnesota State Fair since 1953, with a building on the corner of Dan Patch Avenue and Cosgrove Street. It became the Farmers Union Coffee Shop in 2003.

The 2025 Minnesota State Fair is Aug. 21-Sept. 1 at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.



Our service teams are trained to keep your operation up and running, no matter the level of maintenance you need. It's our everyday service promise to troubleshoot and resolve all your irrigation problems quickly and efficiently.

We're experienced and ready to get it done.

**HIGH MAINTENANCE
OR LOW MAINTENANCE?
NO MATTER, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.**

GRAND IRRIGATION 7551 STATE STREET
CLEAR LAKE, MN 55319
320-743-3000

VALLEY valleyirrigation.com



OUR GOAL IS HAPPY HOMES
PLUMBING - HEATING - COOLING - DRAINS

Thelen MECHANICAL
• PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING
763-262-2181

24/7 SERVICE - 365 DAYS A YEAR

\$89 SAFETY INSPECTION
(763) 262-2181 WWW.THELENMECHANICAL.COM

CLEARWATER travel & plaza WE ARE HIRING!

MAINTENANCE TECH

We are looking for a candidate who has experience doing general facility and grounds maintenance work. This is a full-time position. You are responsible for the upkeep of the general facilities and all public areas, inside and outside of the buildings. Starting pay is \$20/Hour.

We offer food, gas and gift shop discounts. We also offer medical, health savings account, dental, vision, AFLAC supplemental insurance and a company-matching 401(k)

950 State Hwy. 24, Clearwater, MN 55320

KASOWSKI GROUP NOW HIRING!

- FT FARM LABOR
- FT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR • FT FARM MECHANIC

Apply in person, 1 mile east of Becker,
137th left, 1/8 mile on left. 612-747-0163

HELP WANTED

The Sherburne/Anoka Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Elk River, MN, is hiring a **FULLTIME, TEMPORARY PROGRAM ANALYST (PA)**

The deadline to apply is July 23, 2025. Duties include administering the Supplemental Disaster Relief Program. Successful applicants must be reliable, have a professional attitude, and enjoy working with the public. Resumes can be submitted to the Sherburne/Anoka FSA at 14855 Highway 10 Elk River, MN 55330 or by email to ryan.brunn@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

CORRECTION: CW Bridge Guide

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

In the Patriot's May, 2025 Clearwater Bridge Guide, a number of errors were produced and we at the Patriot are issuing the following corrections.

On page 2, the City Council Members mentioned were incorrect. Here are the names updated: Mayor Andrea Lawrence, Kris Crandall, James Schwinghammer, Nancy Senn and Corissa Everett.

On page 2, City staff were incorrectly identified and so the following is actual: Accounting Clerk: Maci Hill; Community Development Specialist: Kimberlie Gramsey; Utility Billing Clerk: Alan Strohschein and Public Works Supervisor: John Schmidt.

On page 19, the Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf should say: The Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf serves individuals and families facing food insecurity across Clearwater, Clear Lake and surrounding areas. The mission is centered on providing food and support services with compassion and care.

On page 12 under Parks and Recreation, the following park was omitted inadvertently: Veteran's Memorial Park; Between Co. Rd. 75 and Bluff Street. This project was built in partnership with the local veterans organizations and community members.

The Patriot regrets the errors and omissions and vows to apply the corrections to the next issue next Spring.

Also, the Mayor, Andrea Lawrence issued a new letter that is featured on page 2 of this week's Patriot.

**LOOKING TO ADVERTISE?
CALL THE PATRIOT AT
763.275.0275 TODAY!**

Area News

Clear Lake City hires new city clerk and treasurer

By Katie Cantin,
Contributing Writer

During their recent meeting, the Clear Lake City Council split the role of city clerk and city treasurer (both duties previously being performed by just the clerk). With that change, the council welcomed a new treasurer, Amanda Scheiber, and new city clerk, Ryan McCann, to their team of employees.

Open Forum

During open forum, one gentleman approached the council to ask about possibly purchasing some city-owned property that was adjacent to his property.

Bill and Colleen Kiffmeyer approached the council to express their interest in selling some of their land across from Hunter Lake. They wish to sell the acres that contain the house and other buildings, but keep the farmland.

Building Inspector

Building Inspector Nancy Scott from Allspec Services addressed the city council as a follow-up to the last meeting. At the previous meeting, the council asked a few different companies to provide sample inspections of a home in the city to get an idea of the services of each and the pricing of each company. Scott noted that her company hadn't been asked to participate, and McCann said his team used an inspection from 2023 to represent her company.

Scott asked to be able to submit a current sample, and the council agreed to ask each company for a sample again so they could better compare data and tabled the discussion for next time. Scott reminded the council that her company also provided zoning services for the



NEW CITY EMPLOYEES. Amanda Scheiber (not pictured) and Ryan McCann joined Clear Lake City staff as the new treasurer and city clerk, respectively. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

city at no cost, and they would also need to replace those services if they decided to move to another company.

Christopher Kearney of Jazacc Inspections was also available at the meeting and answered a few questions for the council.

Lift Station

City Engineer Keith Yapp said there has been some difficulty getting an easement to access the lift station to complete the work. They would need to use privately owned land to get the work done, but one landowner had not yet given consent to use his property. Discussions were ongoing but stalled by the landowner being out of town. Without the easement, the work cannot be done.

Council decided to award a bid for work on contingency that they are able to get the easement they need. If they can, they will move forward. If not, they will have to begin legal proceedings to purchase

the land from the homeowner, which could be a drawn-out and costly process.

Public Works

A new flag was put up at the ballpark. Public Works Director Evan Johnson said he'd been speaking with the ball team about the fence, and they agreed a six-foot fence near the dugout would be the safest and best option.

While the city is waiting for their playground equipment to come in, they have to pay for weekly rainfall inspections at the Hunter Lake park in order to keep their permit open. Johnson offered a couple of options to save money, including putting in vegetation or just closing the permit and reopening it when the equipment arrives.

The council decided to pause the park project until next year after talking through all their options, and looking to get the park equipment installed in 2026.

Clerk McCann said he spoke with the city attorney, and said the old park equipment can be declared surplus and then donated or sold as the council saw fit. The council decided to ultimately just dispose of the equipment, as they were concerned about it holding up to play, and didn't want to risk any kids getting hurt on it.

In Other Business, the Council:

- Held a public hearing regarding a subdivision at 8169 State St., then approved the subdivision;
- Heard about the 46 calls for service by the sheriff's department and the 24 calls for service from the fire department;
- Approved an electrical easement for Northern State Power through Goenner Park.

Clear Lake Twp. still waiting on fire budget update

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

During their May and June meetings, the Clear Lake Twp. Board of Supervisors discussed numerous agenda items including their wait for a fire budget update, solar panels located within the township, street congestion caused by Clearview Elementary parents picking up their children, and sirens located within the township.

Fire Board

Chairman Bud Stimmler told the board he was strongly disappointed there has been no updates from the fire department during the township's last two meetings. The fire budget was originally supposed to be presented to the board in February.

The board understood they wouldn't have an update by that time, however, decisions on the budget and the new fire hall affect the township's levy discussions and shouldn't be taking this long. They haven't received any updates since their February meeting.

Solar Panels

The township continually gets asked questions from residents concerning the solar gardens located there. Stimmler told the board he attended a bus tour of solar fields held by NSP, where very knowledgeable representatives from NSP were there to answer questions.

He was informed there is nothing in the solar panels that will harm residents or the environment. NSP has also begun using sheep to graze the solar fields, which keeps weeds down and ensures no harsh chemicals are needed.

To stop misinformation, Stimmler is requesting NSP send out a press release stating all of this information to the public and include a phone number residents can call if they have questions.

For clarification, one mega-watt solar fields are privately owned; larger solar fields are owned by NSP.

Clearview

Residents have requested no parking signs on 90th Street because of

congestion caused by cars waiting to pick up students from Clearview Elementary after school. The township is sending the school a letter asking them to work on a plan to keep the road passable.

The township is asking notices be sent to the affected parents/guardians stating that temporary parking will be limited to only along the school side (south side) of 90th Street SE, with the opposite side (north side) being off limits. This is due to safety concerns for both through-traffic and emergency vehicle access.

Sirens Update

NSP is planning to shut down their warning sirens in 2026; the county will maintain them in 2026 and 2027. After that time the township will need to decide if they want to take over the cost of the upkeep of the six sirens. The cost hasn't been determined yet, but the levy would need to be raised to cover it.

Other Business

The state is mandating that more expenses be taken over by the counties which may affect property taxes in the future.

Clear Lake Twp. will be 170 years old next year; the board discussed having an open house to celebrate.

Rachel Iverson approached the board to request variances for septic on her 107th Ave. SE property. The board had no issues with the request.

A motion to adopt Co. Cannabis Retail Ordinance 2025-05-20 was passed.

The City of Clear Lake is having a nitrate meeting at township hall where residents can bring in their water to have it checked for nitrates. A solar panel will be exhibited at the hall during this time.

The sheriff reported 108 calls for service in April and discussed theft of irrigation equipment.

The next Clear Lake Twp. meeting will be on July 15 at 7 p.m.

BIG LAKE SPUD FEST

Supporting local youth and community since 1972!

Thank you 2025 Sponsors & Volunteers

We couldn't have done it without your support!

FIREWORKS SPONSOR



**Big Lake American
Legion & Auxiliary
Post/Unit 147**

\$5,000



\$1,000

TWICE BAKED POTATO (\$1,000)



CentraCare®



**National Bank
of Commerce**



**RTL
EQUIPMENT**



**Sherburne
State Bank**

TATOR TOT (\$500)



Big Lake



**Park Dental
Big Lake**



Xcel Energy

FRENCH FRY (\$100 to \$499)



DS **DATA Success**
Online PC Sales and Service



BINGO PRIZES (in alphabetical order)

Beautiful You Dermatology - Big Lake
Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon
Big Lake Smoke Shop
Buffalo Wild Wings - Monticello
Cambo Flare - Big Lake
China Buffet -Monticello
Coborn's - Big Lake
Complete Auto - Big Lake
Dahlheimer Beverage - Monticello
Dairy Queen - Big Lake
El Teca Barber Shop - Big Lake
Imagine Movie Theatre - Monticello
Ember Coffee - Big Lake
Floaters Recreational Rentals - Big Lake
Friends of Big Lake Library
Glenbrook Building Supply
Great River Federal Credit Union - Big Lake
Holiday - Big Lake
Lake Cafe - Big Lake
Liberty Bank - Big Lake
Loch Jewelers - Monticello

Lupulin Brewing - Big Lake
Majestic Creations - Becker
McDonalds - Big Lake
McPete's Sports Bar & Lanes - Big Lake
Minnco Credit Union - Big Lake
Monticello Printing - Monticello
Old National Bank - Big Lake
O'Reilly's Auto Parts - Big Lake
Pizza Factory - Big Lake
Pizza Ranch - Monticello
Prairie Home Kitchens - Big Lake
Premier Marine - Big Lake
Primo Pizza - Monticello
Profusion CBD - Big Lake
REAL Broker - Stacy Stanley
Sherburne County Area United Way
Sherburne State Bank - Monticello
Taco John's - Monticello
The Buff - Big Lake
The Third Rail Bar and Grill - Big Lake
Trails Grill and Sports Bar - Big Lake

THANK YOU TO THESE CONTRIBUTORS:

**Big Lake Ambassador Scholarship Program
Big Lake Fire Department
Big Lake Police Department
Big Lake Public Works
Big Lake Schools
Big Lake Women of Today
CentraCare
City of Big Lake
Sherburne County Fair
Gloria Vande Brake
Kevin Smith**

ALL VOLUNTEERS THAT MADE IT POSSIBLE!

AUTO SHOW

3 Sons Hardware, LLC - Big Lake
Auto Zone - Monticello
Fleet Farm - Monticello
O'Reilly Auto Parts - Big Lake
Ride MN

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

PIKKL

**See you
June 25-28
2026**

AREA NEWS

Lindbloom sworn-in as new Becker Chief of Police

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

Though Officer Chris Lindbloom’s official start date as Becker Police Chief was in June, last Tuesday’s City Council meeting featured his official swearing-in and introduction to the community.

Lindbloom survived the hiring process that took months and featured numerous qualified candidates and interviews. Lindbloom was named chief by the council and took over for interim Chief, Mike Meehan on June 7. This after Long-time Chief Brent Baloun retired from the department at the end of 2024.

Lindbloom, 37, grew up in Sartell along with his parents and two sisters. He attended Sartell High School and upon graduation, attended St. Cloud State University (where Baloun was instructor) and attained his Bachelor’s degree. He then attended Law Enforcement School in Alexandria.

“Yeah I took some skills training classes at SCSU when Brent was an instructor there,” said Lindbloom. “Years later, when I applied for a job at Becker, I mentioned that to him and he said he kinda remembered me.”

Lindbloom, while living in St. Cloud began looking for a job in law enforcement that was “closer to home”. He eventually found work in western Minnesota (Clara City in Chippewa County) and served there for two years as a Police Officer. In 2013, a part-time position at Becker opened up and he applied and was hired by the city.

His first days on the job he was an overnight patrol, then dayshift which led him to become a Lieutenant under Baloun. He finally moved his family (wife, Brittany and nine-year-old son, Colton and seven-year-



CHRIS LINDBLOOM was officially sworn-in as new Becker Police Chief at the latest city council meeting. (Submitted Photo by Tony Nahrgang).



CHRIS LINDBLOOM was on site at TJ Potter Trucking as the business hosted an Eric Trump event a few years back in Becker. (Submitted Photo).

old daughter, Brooklyn) to the Becker area and started getting acquainted with the community by being involved as a softball and t-ball coach, a Watch Dog at the school along with many other activities and events.

Lindbloom says he’s not about to “rock the boat” in Becker as the new chief saying, “I’ve inherited a ship that is sailing in the right direction and I’m not about to disrupt it. I’m not coming into a department that has a lot of needs.”

Currently, Lindbloom has seven fulltime staffers and one fulltime administra-

tor along with two part-timers and two reserves. He’s presently looking to hire at least one fulltime officer along with a supervisor and investigator.

Lindbloom says he has taken over a department that is comprised of highly trained and dedicated staff who make it their mission to provide a quality service to the citizens of Becker.

“I will work to maintain strong relationships with our community members, businesses and visitors,” he says. “Understanding our community and providing police services with profes-

sionalism, confidence, empathy and compassion will be a priority. We are always adapting and growing, keeping up with those changes whether it is a new policy, procedure, tool or training is vital to the success of a police department, especially in a community our size.”

The other thing he and his department has had to face is the new department facilities at city hall. For a couple years, the building along Sherburne Ave. in Becker which house city hall and the BPD has been under construction for renovation and expansion. The police department itself is expanding exponentially with larger offices and workspaces, a larger and better built garage, new evidence rooms, locker rooms and showers and an exercise and weight room that mimics just about any area fitness center.

Lindbloom says he is excited to work with city council in his new role, though he is well acquainted with the board after representing the department with committee reports and budgets for Baloun. He plans on expanding on his leadership qualities and is thankful for the mentoring he’s received from both Baloun and Meehan through the years.

One of Lindbloom’s pride and joy is the donut drive-thru he initiated years ago where citizens are invited to pull up to the Becker Baptist Church’s parking lot on their way to work to receive free donuts during Becker Kindness Week every November.

“It’s a small gesture but I like to see the smiles on people’s faces and the joy something simple like this brings to the community,” he said.

Lindbloom also plans to re-ignite the “Coffee with the Chief” event so people can ask questions about himself or the department. He



CHRIS LINDBLOOM with his family which consists of wife, Brittany, son, Colton and daughter Brooklyn. (Submitted Photo).

already has good relations with Big Lake’s department and the sheriff’s department in Sherburne County but he wants people to see the police in a friendly, willing-to-help way rather than being formidable and daunting.

“I strive to be available to the community that I serve, so do not hesitate to reach out if one has any questions or concerns.”

Congratulations Chief Lindbloom. Good luck in your new career track!



CHRIS LINDBLOOM (above) on his first day at Becker PD where he received a cake from the department. (Submitted Photo).



CHRIS LINDBLOOM (L) in his first year serving as a law enforcement officer with Clara City in Chippewa County. (Submitted Photo).

CONGRATULATIONS
CHIEF LINDBLOOM!
Becker True Value

13350 1st St, Becker, MN • 763-261-4464
(Next to Becker Furniture World)

CONGRATULATIONS
CHIEF LINDBLOOM!
TJ Potter Trucking

763-262-5850
tjpottertrucking.com

emr METAL RECYCLING

Your local metal recycler, EMR would like to say...

CONGRATULATIONS
CHIEF LINDBLOOM!

We appreciate everything you do while protecting and serving our local communities.

us.emrlocal.com

WELCOME TO THE
COMMUNITY
CHIEF LINDBLOOM!
WILLIAMS DINGMANN
FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

Congratulations
CHIEF LINDBLOOM!
Present this coupon and get
15% OFF
for all first responders
thru the month of July

13848 1st St., Suite 4, Becker, MN
JC CLIPS

PATRIOT

WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

Congratulations
Chief Lindbloom!
WE PROUDLY STAND BEHIND ALL
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND WE THANK
YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

REP. SHANE MEKELAND

SEN. ANDREW MATHEWS

PREPARED AND PAID FOR BY MEKELAND FOR HOUSE, PO BOX 176, BECKER, MN 55308
& MATHEWS FOR SENATE, PO BOX 193, PRINCETON, MN 55371

CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS LINDBLOOM ON YOUR PROMOTION!
PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

14054 BANK STREET, BECKER, MN 55308 • 763-275-0275
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

Lindbloom, Food Shelf key topics at Becker

By Katie Cantin,
Contributing Writer

During the recent Becker City Council meeting, the council swore in their new city police chief, Chris Lindbloom. Lindbloom has worked for the department for many years and served as the number two leader under Chief Brent Baloun.

“I just appreciate the opportunity and the trust you’ve put in me,” Lindbloom said.

Another new employee also joined the Becker City Staff. Brandy Thomas was hired as the new recreation services manager at the Becker Community Center (BCC). Thomas has experience in community education and worked at the BCC

as a young adult.

Food Shelf

The food shelf has outgrown its location at Becker Furniture World, and has been looking to purchase land to better provide for their needs. They asked the city to sell them land for a dollar so they can start on a building project. The land is located at 13750 Central Ave., which is located near Becker Township Hall and the old fire station (current legion building). The council added a clause that if the food shelf ever wished to sell the land in the future, the city would get the right of first refusal.

Open Forum

Cheyenne Ricks spoke to ask for leniency regarding her pet ducks. When she and her husband moved into their home last year,

they mistook the Becker Township ordinance with Becker City ordinance, and believed they were allowed to keep the animals on their property. They realized their mistake when a neighbor filed a complaint. Ricks said that the ducks were emotional support animals and she wanted to find any way she could to keep them, including erecting a privacy fence and moving the coop further back onto their property.

Committee Reports

Fire board held a special meeting to work on the budget, and was finally ready to present a budget with which they were satisfied.

Police committee discussed the staffing situation regarding the new chief - They decided not to replace

the lieutenant position Lindbloom was vacating to become chief.

League of MN Cities annual conference covered the cannabis update, and Council Member Mike Doring also attended a few utility classes. He said he was disappointed the governor didn’t appear.

Mayor Mark Kolbinger proposed putting together a Mayor’s Round Table to talk about issues between the city, school, and township. The first date of this meeting will be by July 29 at City Hall.

For the City Hall project, the perimeter fence recently came down, and things are generally starting to be wrapped up.

Area/Sports News

STRUCTURAL from page 1

Saturday, July 19.

Winner will be drawn at our Open House on July 19.

See their full page ad on page 10 and scan the QR Code to learn more.

This free, family-friendly event is packed with excitement for all ages, including:

- Lions Club Beer Garden;
- Big Air ATV Shows at 12pm & 2pm;
- Wild Country 99 Live Broadcast & WeFest Ticket Giveaway;
- Bounce Houses & Face Painters for the Kids;

- Foam & Bubble Party by NTE Family Events;
- USA-1 Monster Truck Appearance;
- Local Food Trucks Serving Up Crowd Favorites;
- RTL Equipment’s Sandbox Experience with Real Machinery.

The event is designed to bring together past customers, employees, local families, and community members to celebrate 40 years of building excellence, innovation, and community impact.

As Structural Buildings enters its fifth decade, the

mission remains the same: to provide a positive customer experience at every point of contact.

For more information and a full schedule of 40th Anniversary events, scan the QR Code on page 10.



STRUCTURAL BUILDINGS, INC. has been constructing dreams throughout Minnesota and the surrounding five-state area since 1985. Their growth over the last 40 years can be attributed to our hard working and knowledgeable team, their loyal clients and the Stewart family legacy that started it all. (Submitted Photo).

BL Color Guard honors Flag at all home games

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

Fans have become accustomed to hearing the National Anthem played before the start of sports events.

It’s typically a recording played over the loud speakers as fans and players stand with hats removed and hands on hearts. But in Big Lake, it’s taken to another level.

Over past few years, members of the Big Lake American Legion Color Guard have performed a flag ceremony before every American Legion Baseball game.

“I know Big Lake did it a long time ago and it kind of tapered off a little bit,” says Legion Vice Commander Doug Schultz. “Now for the last two or three years we’ve tried to make it to every home game.”

In order to hold the flag ceremony, they have to have a minimum of three members.

“We have to carry the American Flag and carry



MEMBERS OF THE BIG LAKE AMERICAN LEGION COLOR GUARD during their Flag ceremony at a game last week. From left, Donna Wingard, Richard Wingard, Walter Eads, Doug Schultz and Don Deuel. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

two rifles to protect on either side,” says Schultz. “We go up to five usually because we also carry the Legion Flag and the POW Flag?”

Sometimes if there are six members, there is a cadence caller in the back.

Schultz says the group doesn’t meet at the Legion Club before the game, but send texts to each other to communicate. Then they meet at the ballfield.

“We have a core group of people who do this and

have been doing it for a couple of years,” he says.

Just before every home game, players from both teams line up on the first and third base lines. Then the Color Guard walks from the sidelines to a spot in the infield and turns to present the flag to the crowd and players.

The Flag is held at attention throughout the playing of the National Anthem.

“Then we march back out and are dismissed,” says Schultz.

He says other legions have performed the ceremony at their home games.

“But I don’t know of any that do it as consistently as us,” he says. “And we do get a lot of people coming up and saying thank you. It’s nice to see so many people respecting the flag.”

Cats down Bandits in nail biter

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Sunday night’s amateur baseball matchup between the Clearwater RiverCats and Becker Bandits was a pitcher’s duel until the ninth inning, when all of the scoring occurred in the Cats’ 2-1 win.

Kellan Graning started and went 4.2 innings for the Bandits, as he struck out four batters and yielded just one hit. Ethan Guck came on in relief and was also stellar, as he went 4.1 innings and struck out six while yielding just one single hit.

In the top of the ninth inning, the Cats’ Samson Schlegel was hit by a Guck pitch and eventually scored on a Bandit error and Cody Thiery came across the plate for the second Clearwater run.

Becker mounted a comeback in the bottom of the inning, as Josh Groskreutz doubled and scored on a Weston Schug hit, but the Cats escaped a jam to seal the win. Andy Nefs went seven innings for the Cats, before Thiery threw the final two innings for the Cats to pick up the win.

The win gave the Cats sole possession of first place with a 5-4 league record, while Becker fell to 4-5.

Bulldog GBB has busy summer

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Becker girls basketball team had another busy summer training season in June, as the program headed to Wisconsin Dells for what has become an important summer tradition.

A total of 20 Bulldog players attended the retreat, with an even mix of fun and basketball on the agenda.

“Our girls participated in 12 games total, and got to enjoy three days in the water park,” Head Coach Dan Baird said. “We also took our annual trip to Moosejaw Pizza. The girls had a blast and we’ve had some really good wins, too.”

The Bulldogs defeated a Byron team that went 25-4 last year, as well as a team from Illinois - Pleasant Hills - who finished 26-7 in their last season.

“Our older girls played phenomenal in the Dells going 6-0, while the younger group went 4-2,” Baird said. “Andie Changamire has had some amazing individual matchups



THE ANNUAL TRIP TO WISCONSIN DELLS was a hit again for the Becker girls basketball team. (Submitted Photo).

against top notch talent, and has dominated and taken her game to another level.”

Another area that Baird and his coaching staff has been addressing is the team’s work on the boards.

“Our team has been rebounding so well this summer, with Rowan Hausmann, Tess Brown, and Adele Changamire cleaning up those boards!” Baird noted. “As the girls continue to get taller, the addi-

tion of a 1-3-1 defense has been fun to implement and see these girls excel in it. “

The Bulldog finished up the month of June by hosting its annual youth camp for girls of all ages.

Home Energy Squad can help Becker residents save on energy use

Submitted Article

Energy experts are now available to help Becker residents save energy and money on their electric and natural gas bills.

During a Home Energy Squad assessment, a trained expert will evaluate a home’s energy efficiency and offer suggestions on how to save energy and potentially reduce monthly bills. To qualify, homeowners and renters must be customers of either Xcel Energy or CenterPoint Energy.

“We know our customers want safe, reliable electricity and natural gas while keeping their bills as low as possible,” said Emmett Romine, Xcel Energy vice president of customer



A HOME ENERGY SQUAD EXPERT performs a blower door test to identify potential air leaks in a home. (Submitted Photo).

energy and transportation solutions. “The Home Energy Squad is a great opportunity for customers to gain more control over their energy use through a convenient in-home expert visit.”

Xcel Energy is offering its customers 50% off the cost of an in-home assessment now through Sept. 30.

Customers can choose between two levels of in-home assessments – Saver or Planner – depending

on their individual energy goals.

What to Expect

During a Saver visit, an energy expert will install energy-saving materials where they’re needed for no additional cost. These could include LED light-bulbs, weather stripping for exterior doors, faucet aerators, and programmable thermostats. Customers enrolled in Xcel Energy’s AC Rewards program can receive a smart thermostat.

Based on the assessment, the expert will provide personalized recommendations for additional energy-saving measures, including rebates and financing options. Xcel Energy can support homeowners with the next steps for larger energy-saving

projects, including connecting homeowners with qualified contractors.

During a Planner visit, customers will receive the benefits of a Saver visit, along with additional tests that can identify even greater savings. These include infrared imaging and a blower door test to find insulation gaps and air leaks in a home, which can be significant sources of energy loss. The expert will inspect a home’s attic and wall insulation to identify areas where improvements could be made.

The expert will also conduct safety tests on the home’s heating system and water heater to ensure they’re working at the right temperatures and venting properly to keep customers

safe and comfortable at the lowest energy price.

How to Sign Up

A Home Energy Squad visit typically takes up to three hours to complete and costs \$70 for a Saver visit or \$100 for a Planner visit. The price is reduced in many cities. Free visits are available to income-qualified households.

Customers can schedule a visit on the Home Energy Squad’s website.

At checkout, customers can receive the 50% discount by entering code “SUMMER50” during the month of June, “JULY50” during July, “SAVE50” during August, or “FALL50” during September.

40th
STRUCTURAL BUILDINGS
Year Anniversary
Celebration Week

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

JULY 14-19

Celebrate 40 years of excellence with us at our biggest event of the year!

Open House Event July 19th 11am–3pm



Giving away WE FEST Tickets!



Big Air ATV Show
12pm & 2pm



USA 1 Monster Truck



Bubble & Foam Party



Food Trucks



Face Painting



Bounce Houses



Lions Club Beer Garden

WIN A COMPLETE BUILDING KIT!

In celebration of 40 Years – Structural Buildings is giving YOU the chance to win a 30×40 complete building kit, delivered right to your property!

Register in person between Monday, July 14th to Saturday, July 19th at 2pm.

Winner will be drawn at 3pm at our open house event.

Scan the QR Code to Learn More.



Win a 30x40 Building Package!

Join us July 14th–18th for our Free Daily Events

Monday, July 14th at 4pm–6pm

Ice Cream Truck

Cool off and treat yourself! The Mik Mart Ice Cream Truck will be onsite serving a variety of delicious frozen treats for everyone to enjoy. Don't miss out on this sweet stop during our celebration!



Tuesday, July 15th at 11am–1pm

Grill Out

Join us for a community grill-out! We'll be serving a delicious lunch to the public as part of our celebration week. Stop by, grab a bite, and enjoy the festivities!

Wednesday, July 16th at 8am–10am

Coffee & Donuts

Start your morning with us! Enjoy fresh coffee and donuts served right in our parking lot as part of our celebration week festivities.



Thursday, July 17th at 5pm–8:30pm

Legacy Ride

The Legacy Ride is a special motorcycle run led by Al Stewart and his sons, celebrating family, tradition, and a shared passion for the open road.

Friday, July 18th at 5pm–8pm

Classic Car Show

Join us for a classic night of fun! Our Classic Car Show will feature a stunning lineup of vintage vehicles alongside delicious offerings from local food trucks.

