

PATRIOT



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT the Patriot's special graduation section for Becker graduates starting on Page 1B. We feature all the classmates as well as some informative articles to help students and parents prepare for further education and activities as well as a couple feature articles on two exceptional students. Next week, we will do the same for Big Lake High School!

Inside

BIG LAKE

Three generations of the Bachmann-Prom families are teaching in four area schools. See the story on page 11.

BECKER

Xcel Energy has broken ground on a new solar farm project projected to be the Midwest's largest. See the story on page 3.

COUNTY

Members of the Sherburne County Board approved a proposal to conduct a feasibility study for a permanent household waste facility at a cost of \$79,000. Check out the story on page 8.

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INSERTS

• **Bill's Family Foods**

(All zips)

• **Menard's**

(55320, 55319)

• **Clearwater Bridge Guide**

(55320, 55319)



Contact Us

LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS/OBITUARIES

Call 763-275-0275

or send an email to

legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Call 763-275-0275

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Two choir shows, one fun night



ON MONDAY, MAY 22ND, 250 students in the BHS choir program including these seniors performed two choir shows called "Movie Night" which featured a medley of 52 movie songs from the past several decades. First row, L to R: Bruce Kraemer, Aaron Fingarson, Brady Paumen, Kevin Vogl, Julius Hendricks, Nolan Muellner, Cooper Wright, Harrison Kent, Eli Scheideman, Caden Hartkopf, Ryan Bengtson, Alex Weiss, Ethan Duncombe, Sophie Studer, Katelyn Uecker, Brianna Bichler and Slate Smaby. Second row, L to R: Amanda Rooney, Rowan Berry, Jada Soltau, Madi Makarrall, Dani Nuest, Korona Lucas, Addie Daluge, Bella Duncombe, Kaejen Tatge, Hannah Bartlett, Kennedy Drehmel, Lauren Winter, Zoe Hanson, Tia Schaap, Evelyn Krefit, Ayla Brown, Colette Koscieniak, Avary Maunu, Julia Kyaw, Kate Mehlich, Ryland Beutz, Carolee Stout. Third row, L to R: Emily Meyer, Eleanor Pancoast, Erin Deering, Ella Rick, Bryce Berger, Presthel Appleton, Nick Gruber, Kaden Wilson and Gretchen Bordson (Director). (Submitted Photo).

New stadium will be named after Becker's legendary coach EMR gifts \$300k to Becker Schools

Becker Public Schools announced last Friday that two incredible honorees who have made a significant impact on our school community were celebrated.

EMR (Northern Metals Recycling) awarded Becker Schools with a \$300,000 donation which will bring a state-of-the-art LED screen to the new multipurpose stadium being constructed. The scoreboard will enhance the experiences of Becker's athletes and spectators. The school administrators said they were extremely grateful for EMR's belief in their mission and commitment to excellence.

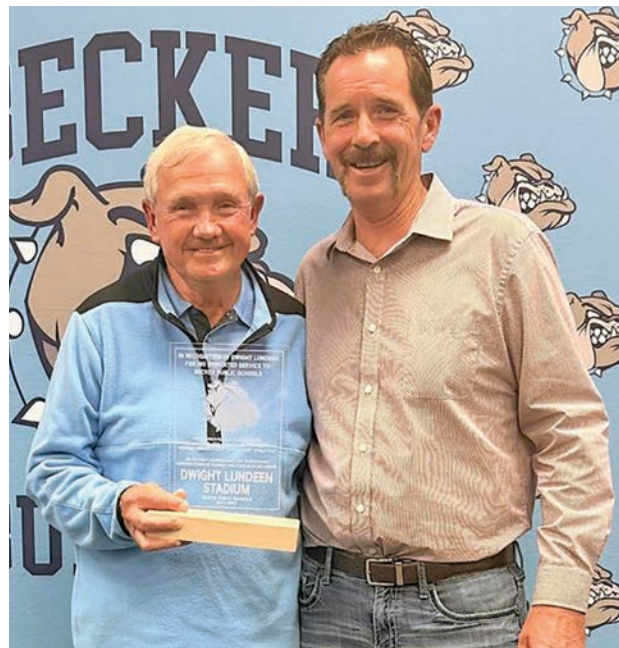
Also announced — in recognition of his 50+ years of dedicated service, Becker football's head coach, Dwight Lundeen, will have the new stadium named after him! Coach Lundeen has shaped the lives of countless students and exemplifies the spirit of mentorship and

excellence. Becker school officials said they are proud to honor him in this special way.

Congratulations to EMR and Coach Lun-

deen. Their contributions have made a lasting impact on Becker schools, and the district is grateful for their support.

Submitted Article



BECKER HEAD FOOTBALL COACH DWIGHT LUNDEEN (L) and Northern Metals Recycling CEO Scott Helberg (R) made headlines last week when it was announced Lundeen will have the new stadium named after him and EMR is donating \$300,000 to go towards the new scoreboard display at the stadium. (Photo from Becker Public School Facebook page).

Orrock opts not to upload meeting recordings

At the previous Orrock Town Board meeting, the board discussed, and tabled, a motion to upload

video recordings of their meetings. Supervisor Felber pushed hard for the motion, but failed to get a second, and so the motion failed, and the township will not be uploading recordings of the town board meetings. Supervisor Paul Ellinger cited a few reasons as to why he didn't offer his support, including seeing the poor video quality of similar uploaded videos for municipalities in the area, and not wanting to bother with it during the town hall

building construction. **Open Forum** During Open Forum, Gregg Felber (former board member and spouse to current board member Anne Felber) spoke in support of better pay for board members. He noted the amount of work the position requires and believes better pay would encourage others in the community to consider running for the board in the future. **Land Use Plan** Marc Schneider of Sherburne County approached the board seeking input on the county land use plan. County staff was not proposing many changes for Orrock, but still wanted

input from the township.

The county staff is considering adding a new district, called a "Shoreline Residential District." Since so many people live along shorelines in the county, a distinct zone with its own set of ordinances makes sense near sensitive lakes and rivers. This would affect development in Orrock in the future. Supervisor Felber expressed her concerns over small lot sizes, less than 2.5 acres, as they provided little space for animals' natural habitat. Schneider noted this.

More information about the land use plan will be presented to the county

ORROCK to page 3



Memorial Day services all around the area

Memorial Day Monday is more than just a day off of work...it's an important day to honor and mourn the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces.

Local Legions and organizations have many

services arranged on routes that visit gravesites, cemeteries and war memorials.

Big Lake The Big Lake will have a 9 a.m. service at the war memorial along Hwys. 10 & 25. Then, there will be a cemetery service at 10 a.m. Organizers have arranged to have a bagpipe player at each service. Lunch will follow at Lions Park in Big Lake Twp. Also, a Beautiful 1960s Patriotic-Themed Fire Truck will be on display all day in front of Third Rail Bar and Grille.

Becker The Becker American Legion will visit the Elk River Bridge on Co. Rd. 24 at 8:30 a.m. then move on to the Snake River Cemetery at 9 a.m. From there, they will visit Santiago Reeds Cemetery at 9:30 a.m. and South Santiago cemetery at 10 a.m. The final two stops are at the Danish Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. and the Becker Cemetery at 11 a.m. The Becker Auxiliary will provide lunch from noon until 2 p.m. at the Becker Legion Hall.

Clear Lake/Clearwater The graveside services for Clear lake/Clearwater start at 9 a.m. at the St. Marcus Cemetery then proceeds to the cemetery on Hwy. 10 near Clear Lake at 9:15 a.m. At 9:45 a.m., they visit the Highland Cemetery in Hasty followed by a visit to Mt. Hope Cemetery at 10 a.m. At 10:15 a.m., the Legion visits St. Luke's Cemetery before heading to Acacia Cemetery at 10:30 a.m.

A brief ceremony will be held at Clearwater Legion with lunch provided.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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Area News

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Memorial Day

Becker American Legion Post 193
Memorial Day Services



- 8:30 Elk River Bridge, Cty Rd 24
- 9:00 Snake River Cemetery
- 9:30 Santiago Cemetery (Reeds)
- 10:00 South Santiago Lutheran Cemetery
- 10:30 Danetown Cemetery
- 11:00 Becker Cemetery

Everyone Welcome

Memorial Day Dinner
Burgers, Brats, Beans, Salad, Coffee, Juice & Dessert
Celebrating our 103rd year!

HELD AT:
OLD FIRE HALL
Monday, May 29 • Noon - 2pm

Thank you Veterans for your service!

Thank you to all our volunteers who make this event happen!

MUSIC in the PARK
BIG LAKE MUSIC IN THE PARK 2023
Summer Concert Series
Lakeside Park
Thursdays | 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
LIVE MUSIC | FOOD TRUCKS | FREE PARKING

- June 1: The Rockin' Hollywoods | 50's - 80's Rock
- June 8: Sawyer's Dream | Vocal Harmony Americana
- June 15: Maiden Dixie | Country, Rock
- June 22-25: Celebrate Spud Fest at BLHS!
- June 29: Mick Sterling | Songs of Huey Lewis & The News
- July 6: Shane Martin Band | Modern Country, Rock
- July 13: Thrillbilities | Country, Southern Rock
- July 20: Uncle Chunk | Modern Alternative Rock
- July 27: Lady Luck | Rock, Pop, Country
- August 3: Gate Fierro | Songs of the Band Heart
- August 10: Humboldt Station | 70's - 90's Rock, Country

Follow the City of Big Lake at biglakemn.org or on Facebook for updates!



Big Lake Farmers Market
Wednesdays | June - August | 3-7 p.m.
Wednesdays | September | 3-6 p.m.
Lakeside Park

Free parking | Local products | Food trucks | Live music

biglakemn.org



Xcel Energy breaks ground on Upper Midwest's largest solar project

Construction is springing to life on the Sherco Solar project near Becker, which will soon become the

Submitted Article

Upper Midwest's largest solar array serving customers across the region, and today Xcel Energy held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site.

The 460-megawatt Sherco Solar project will provide enough clean energy to power 100,000 homes across the Upper Midwest once complete in 2025. Solar energy does not have any fuel costs and contributes to a diversified energy mix, which helps protect against rising fuel prices. The project will serve as a carbon-free replacement for most of the capacity of the first coal unit retiring at the nearby Sherco plant, ensuring reliability for customers across the region.

"Sherco Solar is an important milestone on Xcel Energy's path to nearly triple the amount of solar on our Upper Midwest system by 2028," said Bob Frenzel, chairman, president and CEO of Xcel Energy. "This is one of the biggest solar projects in the country, and it demonstrates how we're leading the clean energy transition reliably and affordably for our customers."



THE PICTURE ABOVE is a rendering of what the solar field will look like when construction is finished in 2025. (Submitted Photo).

Sherco Solar will provide the lowest-cost solar on Xcel Energy's system in Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Michigan. The project represents an investment of about \$690 million in clean energy infrastructure. Sherco Solar will qualify for federal tax credits, making construction more affordable and reducing rate impacts to customers by upwards of 30%. The project will be built on two sites near the Sherco plant, allowing Xcel Energy to reuse the facility's existing grid connections and provide customers with power in the most efficient and cost-effective way.

"I visited Xcel Energy's Sherco plant right

after we passed the Inflation Reduction Act because it's the perfect example of how this historic legislation is paving the way to a clean energy future. It's providing targeted funding to repurpose existing energy infrastructure, like Sherco's old coal plant, with clean energy," said Sen. Tina Smith. "Minnesota is on the way to 100% clean energy by 2040 and projects like this are exactly the type of bold action we need to address the climate emergency. Thanks to this legislation, companies like Xcel Energy have the tools to help lead the clean energy transition."

The project's first phase, located in Clear Lake Township, will be

completed in 2024. The second phase in Becker Township will follow in 2025. Construction started at the first project site in late April, while construction is scheduled to begin at the second site this fall. The project received approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission in September 2022.

300 Construction Jobs, Economic Benefits

The project will create 300 well-paying union construction jobs, with an emphasis on hiring women and people of color through Xcel Energy's Power Up workforce and development program, which the PUC and Minnesota Department of Employment

and Economic Development were key in shaping. The workforce program is designed to offer opportunities to people who are underrepresented in the utility industry and building trades. The project will also contribute an estimated \$240 million in local economic benefits to the Becker community as the Sherco coal plant is retired in stages by 2030.

"We see the positive environmental impacts this facility will have along with a boost to the local economy through production tax credits and temporary and long-term job creation," said Bud Stimmler, chairman of the Clear Lake Township board. "We know the importance of creating clean, renewable energy for future generations while simultaneously benefitting the economy and community."

Xcel Energy is committed to a smooth transition for its employees at the Sherco plant, who have played a vital role in powering the region for decades. The company has transitioned other Minnesota coal plants without layoffs and expects to accomplish this again at the Sherco facility.

Additional Solar Proposed
Meanwhile, Xcel Energy is proposing to build an additional 250 megawatts of solar near the

Sherco site in the coming years. If approved, the combined projects' 710-megawatt capacity will generate enough electricity to power more than 150,000 homes each year on average and fully replace the capacity of the Sherco plant's first coal unit that is scheduled to retire later this year.

"Sherco Solar is a key piece of Xcel Energy's vision to reduce carbon emissions 85% by 2030 and to achieve Minnesota's new standard of 100% carbon-free energy by 2040," said Chris Clark, president, Xcel Energy-Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota. "Renewable energy projects like this one allow us to take advantage of federal tax credits, saving our customers money while leading the clean energy transition."

The Sherco site plays an important role in Xcel Energy's vision for the clean energy transition without compromising on affordability or reliability. The company's proposed Minnesota Energy Connection transmission line will link at least 2,000 megawatts of new renewable energy to the grid at Sherco. The company is also seeking state approval on a long-duration battery storage pilot project at the facility.

ORROCK from page 1

board sometime in July.

Bahr's Haunted Acres

Brent Bahr, Orrock president and owner of "Bahr's Haunted Acres," approached the board along with Derek Nelson, coach for the Minnesota Jets Cheerleading Team. Last year in October, Bahr opened up his property as a haunted house/haunted trail experience, donating the proceeds to local organizations, including the Minnesota Jets.

There were several complaints made against Bahr last year, with neighbors being frustrated by ex-

cessive parking on the road and loud chainsaw noises.

To avoid conflict this year, Bahr and Nelson hoped to get early input from the board on how they can better manage the event this coming fall. They noted that they had plans in place for parking on the property, instead of on the road, and there would be no more chainsaw noises. In addition, the haunted trail will close at 10 p.m. each night, and organizers will make sure there is a direct path for EMS services, in case they are needed.

Supervisor Bob Hasset noted that the board

received several complaints last year, but when he tried to contact Bahr about it he was unable to do so, since Bahr, and all the other adults in charge of the event, were busy putting on the production. He requested that a person in charge always be available to address concerns, this year.

Town Hall Building

The board took some time to discuss some of the details of the new town hall building, including making sure there is enough money in the general fund, using space at Zimmerman City Hall for township business,

and plans for demolition.

More discussions about ongoing town hall business are being handled by the town hall committee, whose meetings are open to the public. Dates are published at town hall and online.

Meeting Compensation

Supervisor Felber noted that she recently attended a community meeting with the DNR on behalf of Orrock Twp. When she asked for compensation for attending the meeting, she was denied.

There is no clear regulation for which meetings

should be compensated and which should not. Felber did not receive a direction from the board to attend the meeting, but she believed that since the DNR specifically coordinated the meeting in order to have a supervisor there that it should count as official township business and should be compensated.

The board approved Felber being compensated, but also decided to hold a policy committee meeting to further consider when supervisors should and should not be compensated.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Heard a report from the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office;

- Renewed a contract with Darryl Waltzko for handyman services;

- Set a road tour date;

- Approved sending out a request for proposals for snow removal services;

- Discussed an increase in garbage issues on township roads;

- Discussed township bank accounts and how much money to keep in each.

Employment

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Requirements:
Clean driving record. Pass and carry a DOT physical. Class B drivers license, endorsements of school bus, passenger and air brake. Experience with CDL vehicles is preferred. We are willing to train the right candidate.

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The City of Becker Public Works Department is seeking a Seasonal Worker within the Streets Department. This position will assist in the repairs and maintenance of City streets, parks and other facilities. This position will also perform routine manual and semi-skilled work in operations of light equipment. The full pay range is \$13.70-\$17.81 and anticipated hiring range is \$15.34-\$16.27 depending on qualifications. Applications can be found on the City of Becker Website at www.ci.becker.mn.us/jobs.aspx. Please submit applications to City of Becker, P.O. Box 250, Attn: Julie Blesi, Becker, MN 55308 or drop off at City Hall at 12060 Sherburne Ave., Becker, MN 55308 or email jblesi@ci.becker.mn.us. If you have questions, call Julie Blesi at 763-200-4247. Application due by 2:30pm on 5/30/23.

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Your City of Big Lake Municipal Liquor Store is in search of team members!

Looking for a great place to work, where the profits are poured back into the Community? In recent years, Lake Liquor has contributed to the County Road 5 Trail, as well as the new playground equipment at Powell Park, and continues to transfer funds to help support City services.

Current full-time position available is:

Lead Liquor Store Clerk, this position performs intermediate semiskilled work promoting good public relations and customer satisfaction, providing leadership and work direction to staff as directed by management. Hourly wages are \$20.90 - \$26.48 depending on experience.

Closing date to apply for this position is Friday June 9, 2023 at 4:00 pm. Please reach out to Greg, the Store Manager. Lake Liquor is located at 615 Rose Drive or Greg can be reached at 763-251-1527.

Applications can also be found on the City of Big Lake Website.
EEOC



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Employment

NEW PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT TOOL & DIE MAKER 2

We are looking for new talent to join our Malco team! Throughout our seven decades in business, Malco has seen tremendous success as we continue to innovate and create industry leading-products that our customers trust and love.

We pride ourselves on fostering a creative and inclusive work environment where associates are encouraged to complete meaningful projects by thinking beyond the norm. As a team, we are passionate about making a difference and delivering exceptional results in our field.

DUTIES PERFORMED:

- Maintain dies, fixtures, & gauges.
- Design dies, fixtures, & gauges using cad software.
- Program various CNC machines through our cam software and know G & M codes to prove out, and make adjustments to programs.
- Operate manual machines.
- Keep good documentation of die maintenance and other important information that comes up.
- Assist less experienced associates with day to day duties such as die sharpening, documentation, machine operations, etc.
- Trouble shoot problems with dies, fixtures, gauges, & machines.
- Plan, schedule, and cost justify projects and equipment.

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITY:

- Intermediate knowledge of die components- know the different types of dies we have such as compound, progressive, and form dies and know the relationships that each of the various dies must have, such as punch to die clearance etc.
- Intermediate knowledge of CAD- understand how to properly draw fixtures, gauges, and dies.
- Intermediate knowledge of CAM- be able to take a CAD model and make a program with tool paths and speeds that are safe to maintain a safe work environment.
- Intermediate knowledge of G and M codes- be able to take a program and read the code to prevent crashes and make necessary adjustments.
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft Word / Excel- understand how to use both of these in order to record history of dies, fixtures, and gauges and also to maintain order of various work request that are being addressed.
- Intermediate knowledge of various measuring techniques- be able to take accurate measurements using various methods such as using a height stand with gauge pins to find hole locations in a die component as well as being able to accurately measure components with micrometers, calipers, optical comparators, gauge block, gauge pins, protractors etc.
- Ability to setup and operate CNC and manual machines- able to safely setup machines and secure components for the machining process in a variety of different machines such as CNC mill, CNC lathe, wire edm, manual bridgeport, drill press, manual surface grinder, and hydraulic controlled surface grinders.
- Has good communication skills
- Safety first mindset- approaches everything with safety in mind and doesn't cut corners to accomplish the job.
- Intermediate problem solving skills- mechanical aptitude.
- Ability to plan and schedule work to effectively move from one task to the next.

FORMAL EDUCATION INCLUDES:

- 2-year Tech College or equivalent experience
- 5 years minimum as Toolmaker in Metal Stamping is preferred.

Our facility is located in the "Heart of the Lakes", which is known for its abundance of lakes, great shopping/dining opportunities, top rated schools, and a strong sense of community amongst area residents! We are only 23 miles west of Buffalo and 23 miles south of St. Cloud.

We offer metro area comparable wages and a flexible benefits program where you can pick and choose many options in our plan. We are a 100% owned ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) company where all employees are shareholders of company stock.

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NEW PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT TOOL & DIE MAKER 1

We are looking for new talent to join our Malco team! Throughout our seven decades in business, Malco has seen tremendous success as we continue to innovate and create industry leading-products that our customers trust and love.

We pride ourselves on fostering a creative and inclusive work environment where associates are encouraged to complete meaningful projects by thinking beyond the norm. As a team, we are passionate about making a difference and delivering exceptional results in our field.

DUTIES PERFORMED:

- Modify equipment, programs, dies, fixtures and gauges.
- Repair equipment, programs, dies, fixtures and gauges
- Maintain equipment, programs, dies, fixtures and gauges.
- Perform general machining operations and learn how to operate all machines in the tool room safely and efficiently.

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITY:

- Basic knowledge of manufacturing processes.
- Basic knowledge of Stamping Dies.
- Basic knowledge of measuring instruments.
- Basic knowledge of working properties of most metals.
- Basic knowledge of heat treat processes.
- Basic knowledge of CNC programming.
- Basic knowledge of CAM & CAD software.
- Basic knowledge of geometric dimensioning and tolerances.
- Basic knowledge of operation of tool room equipment.
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft Office.
- Ability to work in a team environment as a positive member.
- Ability to plan and schedule work to efficiently move from one task to the next.
- Ability to multitask and be proficient at problem solving.
- Ability to learn from Senior ToolMakers and always be open to advice.
- Ability to be Precise, Patient and Safe to develop ToolRoom Skills.
- Ability to Apply problem solving skills.
- Ability to apply Communication skills.

FORMAL EDUCATION INCLUDES:

- 2 year Tech College or equivalent
- 0 to 2 years minimum as Toolmaker in Metal Stamping is preferred.
- Tool and Die certificate or equivalent, or Apprenticeship

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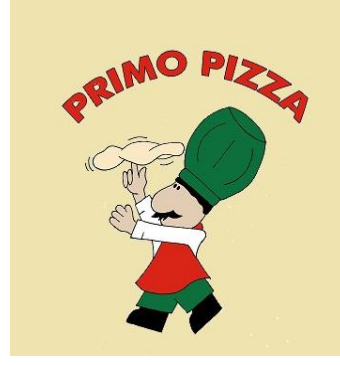
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We offer metro area comparable wages and a flexible benefits program where you can pick and choose many options in our plan. We are a 100% owned ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) company where all employees are shareholders of company stock.

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HOW TO RESPOND: Visit us at 1125 Cedar St STE 103 in person or Contact David at dbgooch25@gmail.com with your job availability and your earliest convenience to come in for an interview. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you! :)

U of M Extension offers Beef Pasture Walk

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by U of M Extension.)

Join the University of Minnesota Extension and industry experts for an afternoon in the pasture. Learn and converse about establishing and restoring pastures, managing grazing, identifying plants, cattle health, body condition scoring, and responding to forage emergencies and drought.

The pasture walk will be from 1 to 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 28. Participants will gather at Sherburne County Government Center in Elk River, MN and take a bus to a private pasture site.

Registration (\$10) is required by Sunday, June 25. Light refreshments and dinner will be catered during the program. In the event of rain, the program will be rescheduled for July 6.

Dana Adams, local Extension livestock educator, says, "Producers rely on pastures to provide the majority of their cattle's nutrition during the grazing season. How do producers promote optimum pasture growth, manage their herds grazing patterns, and control invasive plants in their pastures? Participants of this program will learn directly from U of M Extension educators and industry experts to address these questions in an engaging - boots in the field format."

For more information and to register for the Beef Pasture Walk please visit z.umn.edu/2023beefpasturewalk.

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Area News

Becker City adopts new code enforcement policy

(Reporter's Note: This article covers both May meetings of the Becker City Council.)

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
reporter.katie@patriotnews.com

With all of the new ordinance changes of late, Becker City staff wanted to look into a policy in enforcing ordinance as well, and so they presented a new enforcement policy to the city council at the recent city council meeting. They reached out to the county attorney for advice on what would be enforced by law, and the county attorney informed staff that only cases that posed a safety risk would be prosecuted.

If a property owner is not in compliance with city code, the city attorney may be able to prosecute the landowner, but the city attorney warned that this can be a costly process.

City staff decided the best option would be to simply work with landowners to make sure the property is kept in compliance.

In addition, council approved changes to how the city would take complaints about properties not in compliance. All complaints must reference a specific code violation (so city staff won't take a complaint based solely on opposing aesthetic preferences). The person filing the complaint must also live adjacent to the property in question (so as to stop individuals from driving around the city and making complaints on any property out of compliance). Finally, once a complaint has been made, staff will not accept another complaint about the same issue for 12 months.

Committee Reports
Some highlights from the committee reports included:

- The golf committee noted there would soon be a new menu available at Pebble Creek;

- The Economic Development Authority (EDA) noted an uptick in houses on the market, as is typical for spring;

- Mayor Tracy Bertram noted that the city is currently undertaking about \$17 million worth of construction projects, but around \$15 million is being covered by grants.

Ordinances for Special Events

Chapter 11 of city code continues to be updated, and city staff was looking specifically at special events and interim use permits (IUPs). With Charlie's Bar and Grill looking to host outdoor events in the summer, they wanted to make the whole process easier, both for the sake of city staff and for local businesses.

Well Exploration

The city owns a 212 acre site east of the Elk River which they hope to eventually develop or sell the land. First, however, staff was approved to explore the site for possible new wells. The work will occur in September once crops are off the fields located on the site.

In Other Business, the Council:

- Approved a final plat for a section of T-Town (downtown Becker) for the old fire hall building;
- Heard a report on the first quarter financials;
- Decided to replace the control panel for lift station #7;
- Moved to replace the golf course mower deck;
- Wrote a supplemental letter of agreement for business park pump station improvements.



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Annual Snake River Farm Day is tons of fun!

An estimated 225 people showed up to enjoy a day full of activities at Snake River Farm Satur-

day, May 20th. People were given tours of the Kragero one room school as well

as wagon tours of the farm museum on the second level of the Barthel family's barn. There was a blacksmithing demonstration, wagon rides and more. People also enjoyed seeing the bison, cattle, pigs, lambs, ducklings and baby chicks. There was also a

log milling demonstration. Children enjoyed pony rides and roasting hot dogs and smores over the campfire. The annual Spring Farm Day event is held each year in May at Tom Barthel and his wife Gail Wilkinson's farm in Santiago township. A wonderful time was had by all.

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnews.com

There was a blacksmithing demonstration, wagon rides and more. People also enjoyed seeing the bison, cattle, pigs, lambs, ducklings and baby chicks. There was also a



FUN IN THE SUN! Katrina Weidmann enjoyed a delightfully warm and sunny day with great grandma Gail Wilkinson. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)



JASPER HOLTE relished Snake River Farm Day. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)

MState Mankato awards 2,494 Degrees

(Editor's Note: The number of graduates does not equal the number of degrees because some students earn more than one degree.)

Submitted Article

Minnesota State University, Mankato awarded 2,494 degrees to 2,247 students at the end of the spring 2023 semester.

Commencement ceremonies were held Friday, May 5 at 3 p.m. for the College of Business and at 6 p.m. for the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Commencement ceremonies were held Saturday, May 6 at 9 a.m. for the College of Science, Engineering and Technology, at 12 p.m. for the College of Education and at 2 p.m. for the College of Allied Health and Nursing.

All ceremonies were held in Taylor Center's Bresnan Arena on the Minnesota State Mankato campus.

Advanced degrees

awarded by Minnesota State Mankato at the conclusion of the spring semester included three doctor of education degrees, 19 doctor of nursing practice degrees and five doctor of school psychology degrees.

Graduate degrees awarded included 81 master of arts degrees, 17 master of accounting degrees, two master of arts in teaching degrees, 12 master of business administration degrees, 22 master of fine arts degrees, five master of music degrees, 305 master of science degrees, 24 master of social work degrees, seven professional science master's degrees, 20 specialist in educational leadership degrees and 101 graduate certificates.

Degrees awarded at the undergraduate level included 49 bachelor of arts degrees, 31 bachelor of

business administration degrees, 19 bachelor of fine arts degrees, 1,485 bachelor of science degrees, 31 bachelor of science in civil engineering degrees, 36



bachelor of science in integrated engineering degrees, five bachelor of science in computer engineering degrees, six bachelor of science in electrical engineering degrees, 44 bachelor of science in mechanical engineering

degrees, 25 bachelor of science in social work degrees, 37 associate of arts degrees and 103 undergraduate certificates.

Undergraduate students receiving recognition included 471 students graduating summa cum laude (3.8 grade point average and higher), 298 students graduating magna cum laude (grade point averages of 3.6 to 3.79) and 317 students graduating cum laude (grade point averages of 3.4 to 3.59).

Becker

Grads:
Kevin Andres, BS, Exercise Science;
Madison Doherty, AA, Liberal Studies, Cum Laude;

Joseph Fussy, BS, Finance, Summa Cum Laude;
Katie Wilke, BSSW, Social Work, Cum Laude.

Big Lake Grads
Patrick Doperalski, BS, Marketing;
Bryce McConville, BSCE, Civil Engineering;

Tyler Mossak, BS, Sport Management, Summa Cum Laude;

Roxanne Watkins, BS, Psychology.

Clear Lake Grads
Abby Maruska, BS, Medical Lab Science, Magna Cum Laude;

Samuel Ricker, BS, Exercise Science, Magna Cum Laude

Clearwater Grads
Meghan Larson, BS, Biology

Meghan Larson, BS, Psychology.

More information about the Minnesota State Mankato spring commencement is at <http://www.mnsu.edu/commencement>.

Minnesota State Mankato, a comprehensive university with 14,482 students, is part of the Minnesota State system, which includes 26 colleges and seven universities.

Central MN Nonprofit receives substantial grant

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by The Recovery Community Network.)

Submitted Article

The Recovery Community Network (RCN) received a \$300 thousand

grant from the State of Minnesota, for assisting justice involved individuals with reentry into the Central MN Community.

"We are thrilled to have been chosen as one of seven pilot Recovery Community Organizations for this effort. These funds

will allow us to work with justice involved individuals to reduce readmission rates and to increase recovery resiliency and recovery capital," said Maj. John Donovan, Board Chair of the RCN. The grant will be administered over a three-year period.

The RCN is a non-

profit agency located in St. Cloud, MN which was founded in 2014. They provide services to those living with or seeking help with a substance use disorder. Their services are free; and focus on peer to peer recovery coaching, education, and advocacy. RCN is located within the Midtown

Mall Office Building.

To learn more about the RCN, visit their website at: RecoveryCommunityNetwork.com

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TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT OPEN HOUSES

Join us for an update about the MN Energy Connection project

Xcel Energy is hosting open houses for landowners to learn more about current route options under consideration for the MN Energy Connection project.

Using feedback from landowners, local governments and other stakeholders, route options have been revised from the options shown earlier this year. The options continue to be preliminary and the team will use comments we receive to inform us as we finalize route options that will be submitted in the Route Permit applications, which we expect to submit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission later this year.

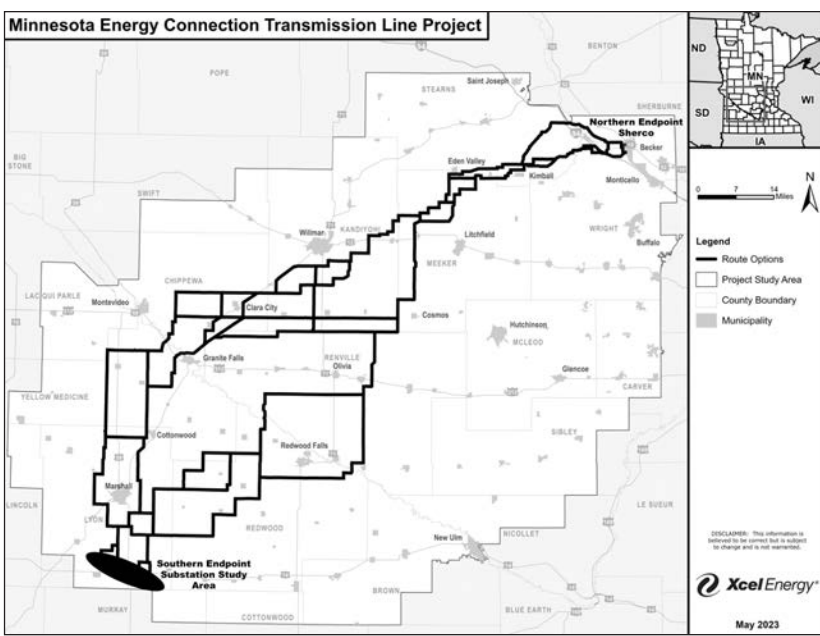
Route options available for review

A detailed view of the revised routes can be viewed at www.MNEnergyConnection.com. Large format maps will be available at the meetings.

Comments can be submitted to the Xcel Energy project team at the website (click on Community Engagement), in person at the upcoming meetings, mailed to Xcel Energy or by email at MNEnergyConnection@xcelenergy.com.

Mailing address:

414 Nicollet Mall—Floor 6
Attn: MN Energy Connection
Minneapolis MN 55401



Open House Schedule		
Tuesday June 6, 4:00–7:00 pm	Powder Ridge Event Center	15015 93rd Ave. Kimball MN 55353
Wednesday June 7, 4:00–7:00 pm	Becker Community Center Gymnasium	11500 Sherburne Ave. Becker MN 55308
Thursday June 8, 4:00–7:00 pm	4H Building, Meeker County Fairgrounds	1230 N. Armstrong Ave. Litchfield MN 55355
Monday June 12, 4:00–7:00 pm	EverSpring Suites Ballroom	1500 E. College Dr. Marshall MN 56258
Tuesday June 13, 4:00–7:00 pm	Redwood Community Center	901 Cook St. Redwood Falls MN 56283
Wednesday June 14, 5:00–8:00 pm	Willmar Community Center	624 US-71 BUS Willmar, Minnesota 56201
Thursday June 15, 4:00–7:00 pm	Kilowatt Community Center	600 Kilowatt Dr. Granite Falls MN 56241
Tuesday June 20, 1:00 and 6:00 pm	Virtual Open House	MNEnergyConnection.com



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Clear Lake Twp. reviews road work estimates

During their May meeting, the Clear Lake Twp. Board of Supervisors reviewed a number

estimated at \$52,440, and also includes shouldering and mobilization.

Bituminous mixture for 70th Ave. was estimated at \$100,640.

Eyk indicated he hadn't heard back yet from Palmer Twp. regarding their joint powers agreement for 67th St., which needs seal coat and fog seal. He also indicated that he is in the process of finalizing estimates for 86th Ave. and 95th Ave, both requiring patching and overlaying.

Eyk also presented estimates for the township hall parking lot, including mobilization, aggregate base, agg. shouldering, and type 12.5B wearing course mix, for a total of \$44,520.

Other Business

Marc Schneider approached the board to follow up on the proposed



CLEAR LAKE TWP. CHAIRMAN BUD STIMMLER discusses road project estimates during their May meeting. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

township comprehensive land use map, asking for feedback. There are a few changes from the current

to proposed map, including identifying public energy areas, and he asked if the township would like to see

private energy areas on the map as well. Chairman Bud Stimmler asked for them to be included.

Another change is the boundaries around lakes. Schneider explained the hope is to allow for altering standards to be more accommodating for already developed land, providing more flexibility and allowing landowners to have improvements made to their property without having to go through all the variances.

Stimmler and Eyk will be meeting to discuss Great River Greening's proposal to enlarge the pollinator habitat garden in the northwest corner of Clear Lake Twp. Park.

Motions carried to send positive comments to the county in regard to the LaGow/Simpson 32nd Ave. septic variance request and the Golly Solar

permit request to build a 1-megawatt solar garden. Supervisor Kiel Golly abstained from the vote.

The board was informed Schendzielos donated and delivered a truckload of black dirt for landscaping.

Sherburne Co. has requested to use township hall for focus group meetings a couple of times of month. A motion carried approving the request.

Cleanup Day on May 6 went well with approximately 78 residents dropping items off.

The sheriff reported 102 calls for service for April, including 54 traffic stops, one cell phone violation, one DWI, and one school bus stop arm violation.

The next Clear Lake Twp. meeting will be June 20 at 7 p.m.

Santiago Twp. hosts cleanup day

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnews.com

Santiago Township Clean-Up Day was held Saturday, April 29th at Centra-Sota Co-op. The weather was on the chilly side, but that did not deter area residents from attending the annual event. Volunteers were busy helping a steady stream of people all morning.



WRAP UP. Volunteer crew members take a short break as the event came to a close. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)



BIG HAUL. Event coordinator Shelley Jehoich and Marion Pappenfus checked a Santiago township resident in. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)



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Area/Sports News



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Chevy, turkey collide in Becker

Sunday, the Sherburne County Sheriff's office reported a vehicle crash that involved a turkey along Hwy. 10 and Gardner Street in Becker around 5:49 p.m.



Submitted Article

According to deputies, 28-year-old Matthew Robert Egeberg of Elk River was traveling along Hwy. 10 when he struck a wild turkey, causing him to crash his 2022 Chevrolet Tahoe. Egeberg was transferred to Monticello Hospital with non life-threatening injuries.

Egeberg was wearing his seat belt and alcohol was not involved.

3 generations of educators make a difference at BL Schools

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Big Lake Schools.)

This school year has

and fell in love with the class immediately. Sara knew when she walked out of that first class that she had found her calling. She started working for Monticello

Schools in 1998, after holding a few jobs prior, and met Ryan on her first day. They eventually married, and in 2003, a speech pathologist position opened up at Big Lake's newly-opened Liberty Elementary. Sara made the switch to align their schedules.

Gary came to Big Lake Schools after retiring, and retiring again, from a 50+ year career teaching music and in school administration.

"Retirement parties are the best," he joked. In the early 2000s, Gary retired from being a long-time principal in Fairmont and moved to Zimmerman with his wife, Jane, to be near family. A few years into retirement, ISD 728 called him, wondering if he wanted to teach high school music in Zimmerman. He ended up working in the district for five years.

After that, Gary couldn't stay out of the classroom, and he started picking up occasional sub jobs at Big Lake Schools. "I ended up just missing kids," he said. This August, Independence Elementary STEM needed a music teacher. Gary agreed to fill in temporarily, and now plans on finishing the year.

Alex is the only one who grew up in Big Lake, and graduated from Big



THE BACHMANN/PROM FAMILY has three generations of educators working at Big Lake Schools. Pictured here are Alex (left), Sara (upper middle), Ryan (right), and Gary (lower middle). (Submitted photo.)

Lake High School in 2018. He earned his undergraduate degree in Human Rights Law in 3 years, and spent a year in Scotland where he earned his masters degree.

After moving home in September 2022, and job openings in his field were limited, Alex took inspiration from his family and began to sub at Big Lake Schools. He thought it would help him prepare for his potential career as a college professor. "I've really enjoyed teaching alongside those that mentored me growing up," he said. "Learning more about the teachers who 'raised me' has been really enjoyable." In January, the Big Lake Middle School recruited him to be a full-time building sub.

The family legacy in education runs deep. Ryan's mom, Jan, was a par-

educator in Monticello for 30+ years. Gary's wife was a phy-ed teacher turned special-ed coordinator. Gary's dad was a bus driver, and Gary's mom taught in a one-room schoolhouse in the 1930s. They grew up hearing stories about education's impact, and now see it firsthand.

"Working together at the same time provides us the opportunity to experience and share situations through different perspectives, which comes with different ages," Sara stated. "At the end of the day, we all want to be positive role models and attempt to be so by collaborating with one another. It's a really special feeling," Sara stated.

While they each followed their own unique path, the Bachmann-Prom family shares similar passions and values.

"[Our family has] really instilled in us service

to others, being good role models, and putting others before ourselves," Sara said. "And those are all values teachers share," Alex added.

"A couple of generations have taught me to enjoy being around kids," Alex said.

Ryan often keeps in touch with past students, and cherishes every interaction: From attending their weddings to receiving random emails of appreciation, they remind him of his "why." He once even accompanied a former student to a Marine Corps leadership conference in Washington DC, who chose Ryan, out of everyone, to be his mentor.

"Those are the kind of things we live for," Ryan said.

Sara has many similar stories. She was once shadowed by a former student's

sister, who was so moved by everything Sara did for her sibling, that she was inspired to take up a career in speech pathology, too.

"That is what makes us come back everyday; feeling like we are making a difference. It keeps us going. It keeps us young," Sara said.

These reminders, and seeing their students flourish, motivate them to be the best for their students, who become like a second family.

"I tell my students they are my family, because I treat them like my own children," Sara said. "I think about them all the time. It's a part of who you become. You want everyone to be happy and successful, and I think it is pretty neat that we have a hand in that."

Both of Sara and Ryan's two boys went through Big Lake Schools, and the family appreciates the many opportunities they have had: from sports to in-school college classes to Poetry Out Loud/Knowledge Bowl/Musicals/etc. Their youngest son, Isaiah, is currently a senior at Big Lake High School.

"I think that we (our family) have something pretty special," Sara said. "I think we all enjoy being role models and helping students and their families in the Big Lake schools." The Bachmann-Proms are thankful to live out a life full of purpose, together, with their real and their school families. Alex summed it up perfectly. "Big Lake is home."

MState announces Spring 2023 academic honors

Minnesota State Community and Technical College has named 498 students to its President's

Submitted Article

Students named to the M State President's List and Dean's List are Big Laker Tyler Dehmer (Dean's List), Veronika Naidon (Dean's List) and Nicole Reilly (President's list).

As a member of the Minnesota State system, M State serves more than 8,000 students in credit courses each year in 80 career and liberal arts programs online and at its campuses in Detroit Lakes,

Fergus Falls, Moorhead and Wadena. By partnering with communities, the college also provides workforce development services and other responsive training programs.

Minnesota State Community and Technical College is a member of the Minnesota State system and an equal opportunity educator/employer. Upon request, this information is available in alternative formats.

U of J honors 2 local students

The following students from this area received awards during University of Jamestown's Honors Convocation in April:

Emily Josephson, Zimmerman, Minnesota, major in Computer Science,

received the Outstanding Graduate In Information Technology award.

The Outstanding Graduate In Information Technology award is given to a graduating senior who shows great promise in graduate school or industry.

Piper Zimmer-Gilman, Big Lake, Minnesota, major in Business Administration, received the Felix Wirz Award For Excel-

lence In Language Study. The Felix Wirz Award For Excellence In Language Study is named in honor of Felix Wirz, 1962 graduate of Jamestown College from Basel, Switzerland, and Foreign

Language Department faculty member from 1970 to 1974. It is awarded to an outstanding student majoring in French, German or Spanish. The student must have a major in one or more languages other than English, have studied abroad, been an officer in Alpha Mu Gamma or the International Student Organization, been an asset to

the Foreign Language Department, and show promise for working to promote language acquisition after graduation.



University of Jamestown was established in 1883 and is ranked as a top tier regional school in US News and World Report and a top Midwestern school in The Princeton Review. The school features development of the whole person through its distinctive Journey to Success experience.

Hornet baseball splits 2 games with Wildcats

The Big Lake Baseball team split a doubleheader with Chisago Lakes last Thursday.

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

The Hornets couldn't put anything together on offense in the opener and lost, 1-0 to the Wildcats.

Big Lake had just five baserunners in the game and didn't get the clutch hit they needed to put runs on the board.

Isaiah Terlinden pitched a great game for Big Lake. He went the distance, allowing just one earned run on five hits and two walks. The Wildcats' only run came in the second when their catcher singled in a run.

Jaxyn Tschritter had a double for Big Lake's only extra-base hit. Keenan Hjermstad and Carson Gellerman had the other two hits for the Hornets.

The second game was a back-and-forth battle with four lead changes in a 7-5 Big Lake win.

Hjermstad was the pitcher for the Hornets, and the team's defense made the game closer than it should have been.

Big Lake committed six errors in the game, and all of the Wildcats' runs were unearned.

After Chisago Lakes scored two in the first, Big Lake got one back in the home first. They went ahead, 3-2 with two more in the second before the Wildcats got two in the third to take the lead.

The Hornets responded with another two in the home third, then added their final two runs in the fifth for a 7-4 lead.

The Wildcats got their final run in the top of the sixth.

Big Lake had 11 hits in the game. Nolan Reiter

had two hits and an RBI. Gellerman had two hits and scored a run. Tschritter had two hits, two RBIs and scored twice.

Trent Josewski had two hits, two RBIs and scored a run. J. LaRoche singled, walked, drove in a run and scored one.

Hjermstad went the distance. He allowed five runs (none earned) on seven hits. He walked none, hit one batter and struck out six.

Last Tuesday, Monticello scored nine unearned runs and beat Big Lake 13-3.

Owen Wilczek started for Big Lake and went 2.2 innings before being relieved by Jeffery Wanhala.

The Magic opened the scoring with a run in the first, then exploded for 11 runs in the third, chasing Wilczek. An error kept that inning alive and the Magic took advantage of that extra out to keep plating baserunners.

The Hornets got on the board with two in the fourth and another in the fifth to keep the gap at nine runs.

But Monticello got its final run in the home sixth to end the game on the 10-run rule.

Wilczek took the loss. He allowed 12 runs (three earned) on 10 hits and three walks. He struck out five. Wanhala gave up an earned run on three hits and four walks in 2.1 innings. He struck out five.

On offense, Terlinden, Tschritter and Connor Stukenholtz each singled and drove in a run.

The Hornets are 8-6 on the season. They had games against St. Francis, Willmar and Princeton this past week, results next week.

The section tournament begins Tuesday at the home field of the higher-seeded team.



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Hornets swept by Magic

The Big Lake Hornet boys tennis team faced a formidable foe in Monticello last week and came away empty, 7-0.

By Bill Morgan, Editor, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnewsnm.com

Singles: No. 1 - Caleb Kalnbach, MM def. Erick Carlson, BL, 6-2, 6-1;

No. 2 - Ethan Kuhn, MM def. Wyatt Martin, BL, 6-1, 6-0;

No. 3 - Matteus Sundine, MM def. Ian Anderson, BL, 6-0, 6-0;

No. 4 - Rylan Fierabend, MM def. Carsyn Grew, BL, 6-0, 6-0;

Doubles: No. 1 - Ryan Schyma, MM - William Kuhn, MM def. Miles Slack, BL - Ethan Carlson, BL, 6-1, 6-0;

No. 2 - Wyatt Hanson, MM - Hayden Miller, MM def. Jude Slack, BL - Zachary Stegora, BL, 6-0, 6-0;

No. 3 - Kian Gustafson, MM - Peyton Goyler, MM def. Reese Busch, BL - Peyton Weller, BL, 6-0, 6-0.

Becker little leaguers heading to state!

Becker 10AAA Baseball Team swept through the Blaine Bengal Bash 10AAA Tournament May 19-21, 2023, by going 5-0, out scoring their opponents 91-19, and bringing home the championship!

Submitted Article

By winning this tournament they also earned a birth into the 2023 Gopher State Tournament of Champions and the 2023 Minnesota Baseball Tournaments! Go Bulldogs!

BECKER 10AAA BASEBALL TEAM ROSTER:

Front row, left to right: Maverick Hemmelgarn, Carmon Richert, Carter Sherwood, Crosby Spear, Cameron Grams and Nolan Goenner. Middle row, left to right: Carson Stupar, Landon Olson, Sawyer Klimmek, Jonathon Goodman, Evan Sytsma and Liam Anderson. Back row (Coaches): Aaron Stupar, Lonnie Spear, Ryan Goodman, Kyle Sytsma and Kevin Grams. (Submitted Photo).



BELIA thankful for volunteers

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by the Big Eagle Lake Improvement

Submitted Article

Association.)

Thanks, are in order! "We have a lot of people to thank who have spent their time and energy helping make Big Eagle Lake a better place," said BELIA Secretary Lori Andreen in a recent email.

Culver's Fundraiser
The BELIA had two fundraising events at the Monticello Culver's this past Monday and last. Thanks to Jeff and Marie Johnson, Lori Neisess, Adria Pettit, Marcie Swanson, Ken and Lori Andreen, George and Raquel Wal-lin, Marsha Horton, Renee Christensen, Amanda

Swan, and Kathy Brake for their help making this fun fundraiser successful.

"We are thankful to Culver's for this opportunity and hope that you came out and enjoyed some good food or treats," said Andreen.

Adopt-a-Highway
This past Saturday, the BELIA had another crew of supporters join up to clean up Co. Rd. 75. Thanks goes to Marie Johnson for heading this up again this year as well as to Connexus Energy for their partnership. Hearty thanks to Hannah Lakin, Scott Brake, Kyle and Leif Nerison, Gordy Westerlind, John Smullen, Ken Andreen, and Jeff and Marie Johnson for braving the perfect weather. It was a gorgeous day to be out!



VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY EVENT this year were: (not in order) Hannah Lakin, Scott Brake, Kyle and Leif Nerison, Gordy Westerlind, John Smullen (not pictured), Ken Andreen, and Jeff and Marie Johnson. (Submitted Photo).

BL City Council hears from resident, departments

It was a short agenda at the recent Big Lake City Council meeting, as the council heard a complaint

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
reporter.katie@patriotnewsnm.com

at open forum about a private business, and heard reports from the engineering and wastewater departments.

Open Forum

Bret Collier of Big Lake Township spoke during open forum. He spoke in opposition to the drag show recently hosted by Lupulin Brewing, claiming that the show would be a poor influence on younger residents of Big Lake. The show was only meant for adults 18 and over, but he noted several individuals whom he believed appeared younger going into the show.

Engineering Report

City Engineer Layne Otteson reported that the city was given a grant towards creating pedestrian walkways.

Otteson and his staff are currently working on putting the project together.

Otteson also had a brief conversation with council about the new roundabout that would be put in at Co. Rd. 43 and Glenwood.

Wastewater Report

The Water/Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) was given an award by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for demonstrating consistent compliance with monitoring, operations, and maintenance requirements. Dan Childs, director of the department, expressed his gratitude for the hard work of all his employees in helping the WWTF earn the award.

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CLIMB Theatre and the WAVE partner up

CLIMB Theatre is partnering with the WAVE Youth Center of Big Lake, working with local youth

Submitted Article

in eight, one-hour long sessions throughout April and May. Using art as a tool for communication and exploration, students are sharing their stories around resiliency, mental health, and well-being.

"It's always amazing to see how much the students grow during and after these sessions," said Wave Center president and founder Molly Schroeder. "Some students get more confident speaking up for themselves and finding creative ways to express themselves, while others get better at handling tricky situations," she said.

CLIMB's interactive programming allows students to practice CLIMB's A.R.E.A.S. (Accountability, Resiliency, Empathy, Advocacy, and Self-Regulation) in real-life scenarios. Sessions involve different games and activities to strengthen these skill A.R.E.A.S.

Students also engage with texts and works of art

to cultivate their thoughts around their experience with these topics. These texts and works of art explore issues that students face in which they need to use their A.R.E.A.S. to solve them. Using these art pieces as a foundation, students are creating their own works and a combination of these works will be turned into a final sharing for their community.

The Wave Center and CLIMB first partnered in 2020, and Schroeder said she always finds CLIMB's programming beneficial.

"They provide a platform for students to express themselves, advocate for difficult conversations. It is no surprise that students eagerly look forward to CLIMB's visits!" Schroeder said.

This residency program is made possible through a donation from CentraCare Foundation.

The Wave Youth Center's mission is to be a safe and welcoming place that meets the needs of the body, mind, and spirit of the youth in our community. They serve mid-

dle and high school-aged youths from across Sherburne and Wright County. Through partnerships with the community, The Wave works towards its vision in the community by offering support and mentoring for academic, vocational, social, and life skills. They believe that a community that is built on strong relationships is a healthy community to live in, and they are committed to building relationships with individuals, organizations, and businesses in the community.

CLIMB Theatre is a youth-centered organization that uses theatre to teach social-emotional learning in a way that is intentionally intersectional. Based out of Inver Grove Heights, MN, the touring company brings programming to schools, libraries, and more across the Midwest. Their mission is to inspire and propel people towards acts that benefit themselves, others, and their community.

To bring CLIMB to your community, call (800) 767-9660 or email mail@climb.org. To learn more, visit www.climb.org.

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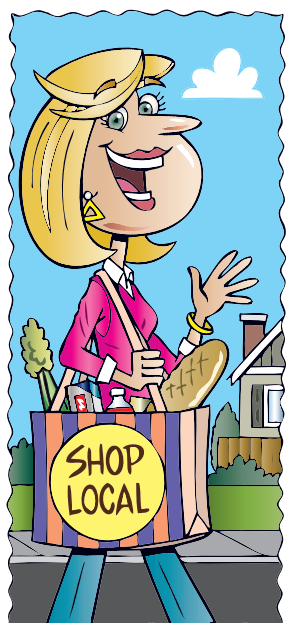
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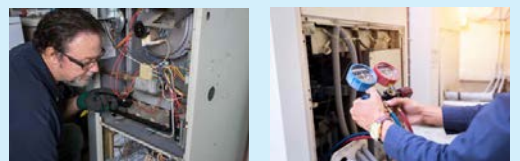
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Hornets drubbed by mighty St. Cloud

The Big Lake Girls Lacrosse team traveled to St. Cloud Friday evening, then returned home for a

Cloud to only four more goals during the remaining two thirds of the half, making it 8-0 at halftime, she said. "At halftime, we divided our offense and defensive

By Bill Morgan, Editor, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnewsnmn.com

JV match Saturday against STMA.

groups to try and regroup to see how we could slow St. Cloud while also getting ourselves on the score sheet."

The second half, Big Lake's defense and goaltender played outstanding holding St. Cloud to less goals compared to their first half.

"We also found the score sheet with a goal from Amelia Gardner making the score 12-1 at the time," said Hartfiel.

St. Cloud would sneak one more goal in before the match was complete making the final score a 13-1 loss.

"I think by changing our systems prior to game time was a tall order to ask our girls to execute on the game field," said Big Lake's Coach. "I am proud



THE GIRLS KEPT THEIR SPIRITS HIGH despite losing a lop-sided contest to St. Cloud Friday afternoon on the road. (Submitted Photo).

of the way they never quit. They continued to pressure the opponent and during halftime and sideline discussions they were engaged in generating ideas of how we could do better. Bottom line we just couldn't capitalize on the few chances we did get against a talented opponent."

Hartfiel believes her players can use this information in the closing games

of the season playing a couple tough opponents to finish out their regular season schedule.

JV vs. St. Cloud

Though the Hornets went down 2-0 early in this match, they battled back, tying it up by halftime with two unassisted goals by Kaelyn Besler.

At halftime the only adjustment Hartfiel discussed was tightening up

the defensive end to decrease the scoring chances for St. Cloud.

In the second half, St. Cloud scored to go up 3-2, but the Hornets generated a scoring opportunity with shot and goal by Belle Nehwah making it 3-3.

"Following that goal our girls dug deep," said Hartfiel. We added another goal with a free position shot from McKenna Sofka making it 4-3."

With a few minutes remaining St. Cloud called a timeout, during which the Hornets discussed the key of holding possession of the ball and they accomplished that goal for the most part until they lost the ball, and St. Cloud tied the game with less than 10 seconds left to make it a 4-4 tie.

JV vs. STMA

Opening the game, Big Lake got a goal by Kaelyn Besler to go up 1-0. Shortly after, the Hornets had another goal made off a free position shot by birthday girl Ava Wellberg making it 2-0. They would score

another goal by Danilyn Wemple assisted by Belle Nehwah making it 3-0.

STMA finally found the scoresheet, getting one goal, but Big Lake answered with a goal from Layla Aasen, assisted by Kathleen Jones making it 4-1.

STMA would get another goal before the half finished up with a lead of 4-2.

The second half started with goals from Wellberg, Ellie Dixon, and Alivia Kiffmeyer goal assisted by Jones making the score 7-2.

STMA would have another push with two unanswered goals before the Hornets put a couple more in the net with another goal by Besler, and another goal from Kiffmeyer assisted by Aasen making the final a 9-4 win.

Leuer leads Hornet track and field team

Jack Leuer set a new Big Lake school record and won the 1600 meters at the 5AA True Team Section

in 9:27.96.

Carson Kunz finished second in the high jump, clearing 5'10".

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

Meet at Cold Spring May 9.

Leuer, a sophomore, finished in 4:20.02, a few steps ahead of Becker's Tyson Ricker to get the title. Big Lake's previous school record of 4:21.69 was set by Nate Souther in 2015.

Leuer was a double winner at the meet. He also edged Ricker to take the title in the 800 meters in 1:57.56.

Owen Layton had Big Lake's other top finish. The junior won the 3200 meters

fifth in the triple jump at 38'11.75".

Kade Layton finished fourth in the 1600 in 4:31.68.

Spencer Vold was fourth in the pole vault at 12'6". He finished fifth in the 400 meters in 53.56.

Tanon Jacobsen was fifth in the 3200 meters in 10:23.25.

Wuuson Nehwah cleared 5'6 in the high jump to take sixth.

CJ Mikely took seventh in the 100 (11.64) and



BIG LAKE SOPHOMORE JACK LEUER set a new school record in the 1600 meters and also won the 800 meters at the True Team Section Meet. (Patriot Archive photo.)

200 (23.2).

Riley Thompson was seventh in the discus with a throw of 119'6".

Big Lake's 4x200 relay team of Nehwah, Ginther, Ben Sellner and Mikely finished second in 1:34.51, less than a second behind Spectrum.

As a team the Hornets finished second behind ROCORI.

For the girls, there weren't lots of higher places, but many of the athletes set personal bests.

Ava Eastman set a personal best and season's best in the 200 meters in 28.42 seconds. In the same race Sydney Roy rana personal best 29.4.

Emilee Doperalski set a personal best of 6:22.22

in the 3200 meters.

Eight-grader Leah Uphoff ran a personal best 18.14 in the 100 meter hurdles and took eighth.

Tayla Gassman won all four wheelchair events and set a personal best of 63.1 in the 200 meters.

Brynn Scheer set a personal best of 75.18 in the 400 meters.

Joelle Lentz set a personal best of 76'6" in the discus.

Big Lake's 4x100 team of Ellyanna Ratliff, Emily Shoop, Addison Holmen and Arrianna Wagner had a personal best time of 57.69.

The 4x200 team of Holmen, Alivia Voss, Grace McCrone and Eastman also set a personal best time of 1:57.24.

The conference championship meet was held Wednesday, results next week.

The Hornets compete in the section meet at Monticello Wednesday at 3 p.m., with finals Friday at 9:30 a.m.



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Twilight fun for Becker track teams

Last week, the Becker Pole vault with a vault of 13' 9". Tyson Ricker won the 800 meter race with a time of 1:59.38.

Becker's 4x400 team of Alex Weiss, Tanner Felton, Ricker, and Angell took 2nd

17.45), while Allen was second in the 100 meters (PR time 13.24) and Morton third (PR time 13.25). Kaylyn Rickard, 2nd (66.61) and Josie Reckelberg, 3rd (66.66) ran strong races in the 400, while Adele Changamire was second in

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

Dave Wik Twilight meet. The meet has a unique format, starting at 5 p.m. with most of the events being run under the lights.

"This is a fun type of meet for the athletes before entering Conference and Section meets the next two weeks," Bulldog boys coach Paul Schmidt said.

Several events are not part of the lineup, including the 4x800 relay, 300 hurdles, and the 3200 run. In addition, the 4x200 relay is moved to the end of the meet and can be run with any combination of 4 athletes from any of the teams.

"It was obvious that this was a fun event," Schmidt said of the combined boys and girls race.

The Becker boys continued to impress with the 4x100 relay team lowering their school-record time by 26 hundredths of a second — Carter Reckelberg, Julius Hendricks, Mitchell Soltau, and Logan Eisele finished 2nd.

"Monticello's team beat them by one one-hundredth of a second in a photo finish race," Schmidt said. Reckelberg, Eisele and Soltau continued to improve in the 100 by running personal bests of 11.26, 11.33, and 11.69, respectively.

"Logan and Carter both ran well in the 200 as well with time of 22.79 and 22.82, respectively," Schmidt said.

Schmidt added that Julius Hendricks had a great night, as he finally hit the 20' mark in the long jump with all 3 of his jumps over 20'. His best of 20'7.25" was good for fourth place and he also had a personal best in the high jump of 5'9".

Owen Angell won the 110 hurdles at 15.35, and the

place with a time of 3:41.57.



THE BECKER GIRLS TRACK TEAM 4X100 RELAY broke the school record recently, bettering the previous mark set in 2019. (Submitted photo.)

place with a time of 3:41.57.

Girls
Coach Trish Reimer-Kealy's team put on another great performance, with a total of 18 personal bests and a school record in the 4x100 relay.

"The most exciting thing was the 4x100 relay team of Raelee Lyon, Kylee Morton, Leon Morris and Salayna Allen breaking the school record with a time of 51.81," the coach said. "The former record was a time of 51.95 and was set in 2019."

Hannah Dierkes was a double winner for the Bulldogs (long jump PR of 15'9 1/4) and the 400 (62.19), while Lauern Woelfel was 1st in pole vault (10') and second in the triple jump (30'11").

Lyon added a 2nd place in the 100 hurdles (PR time

the 1600 (5:22.21).

The 4x400 relay team of Dierkes, Dani Nuest, Alea Briggs and Abby Atwood placed 2nd (4:25.63).

The field events continued to be a strong area for the Bulldogs, as in addition to the Dierkes and Woelfel wins, Morton picked up a second place in the long jump, going 15' 3.5".

Bella Kuschel tied for 3rd in the high jump by clearing 4' 7", while Olivia Maunu was sixth in the shot put with a heave of 27' 11".

Next up, the team will compete at the Mississippi 8 Conference Championships held on May 24th in Big Lake starting at 11 a.m.

Becker tennis team qualifies for state

It's another trip to the MSHSL State Class AA tennis tournament for the Becker Bulldogs, as the tennis squad downed Sartell and St. Cloud en route to the Section 8AA title.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

The team will participate in their second straight big dance on June 6 against an opponent TBA.

"We are 21-1, back to back section 8AA Champions!" Coach Hokan Bengtson said after the championship match. "It was so fun to watch our kids compete and play well. Our top players played their very best when we needed them most — that was so impressive."

In the championship match against St. Cloud, Becker broke open a close match to pick up the 5-2 win.

"We won #1 and #2 doubles pretty quickly, but then St. Cloud won #4 singles and #3 doubles at about the same time," Bengtson said. "Then Ryan (Bengtson) won his match at #2 singles which left two matches still playing — Troy (Nuest)

and Zach (Bengtson)."

A scoring recap of those matches showed that the #1 doubles team of Landon Peterson/Eli Scheideman won 6-0, 6-1, while the #2 team of Nick Gruber/Sawyer Brown won 6-3, 6-2.

Ryan Bengtson then won 6-0, 4-6, 6-1 to give Becker the 3-2 advantage. His win was a decisive one for the Bulldogs and after the match he was elated with the state tournament berth.

"To make it to the state tournament as a team really is a huge honor... it just shows how much work was put in by every guy and how much our practice has paid off," Ryan said. "Our focus has been to get as much out of every practice as we can. My dad (Coach Hokan) has taught us so much this season and he kept us focused and on the path to greatness so he definitely deserves a shout out!"

Ninth-grader Nuest won his match 6-3, 7-5 in a classic battle against a St. Cloud senior in the match that sealed the trip to state.

"Troy's match was back and forth - he really was strategic and chose

smart shots over and over in a great battle with a senior player from St. Cloud, that ended up being the clinching point," Bengtson said. "Zach had just started his third set when Troy won, but his win was the icing on the cake. Zach had never beaten the #1 player from St. Cloud and it was a great 3 set battle as well!"

Bengtson won his #1 singles battle 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, dominating down the stretch to push the Becker set total to five wins.

Semifinals
Becker defeated Sartell earlier the same day in the Section semifinals match, 7-0.

"In the semi-finals we played really well and stayed focused the entire time, sweeping Sartell in straight sets at all seven positions," Bengtson said.

In the win over the Sabres, the Bengtson boys each won their singles matches in straight 6-0 sets, while Nuest picked up a 6-1, 7-5 win. Adler Herdina won 6-4, 6-1 to close out the singles scoring.

In doubles play, Peterson/Scheideman won 6-0, 6-1, followed by a 6-1, 6-2 win from Gruber/Brown.

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Bulldog softball hits stride as playoffs loom

The Becker girls softball team had a great final two weeks of the season, and appears to be peaking at

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

the right time as the playoffs kicked off on Thursday.

Two weeks ago, they hosted Cambridge-Isanti on Senior Day and picked up a pair of wins, 8-3 and 6-0.

In game one, Jackie Neumann led the way with two hits, while Maddie Sherman and Jaimee Cook held the Bluejackets scoreless over the final 6 innings en route to the victory.

In the nightcap of the doubleheader, Hannah Bartlett and Nevaeh Gardner hit first inning doubles to plate two early runs, while Alexia Mostad nailed a single in the second inning as part of three runs scored. Kurstyn Patnode added a solo home run in the seventh inning, and also picked up the shutout on the mound, giving up just one hit and striking out seven.

Last Monday, the team traveled to Monticello and won 4-0. The game was a scoreless pitcher's duel through five innings, but Becker finally broke through with four runs in the top of the sixth to take the lead. Evelyn Kreft had a big double to put Becker on the board, while Cook was great on the mound as she kept the Bulldogs' scoreless streak alive with a shutout of her own. She gave up three hits and struck out

nine and Kreft had two hits in the game.

The next day, Becker hosted Big Lake in a conference and section showdown and came away with a 5-0 win. Nevaeh

Gardner hit a solo home run to lead off the second inning and Becker capitalized on a Hornet error to add three more runs in third. Patnode kept the good work going on the mound with her second straight shutout, giving up three hits and striking out eight Hornet batters.

Last Wednesday, Becker went to St. Francis for a battle at the top of the M8 and the game went 14 innings until Becker won 7-3.

The game was scoreless until the bottom of the fifth inning when a hit by pitch and a couple of Bulldog errors allowed the Saints to plate two runs and take the lead. Becker battled back in the top of the 6th when Hannah Bartlett led off with a walk and Nevaeh Gardner followed with a double. A couple of Saints errors led to two runs and a tied game. The Saints pulled ahead with one run the next inning, but Patnode came up clutch in the seventh when she walked with one out, stole second base and scored on a Bartlett single to send the game to extra innings.

Extra innings would bring a return to a pitchers duel and both teams were scoreless in innings 8-13 and the score stayed knotted at three. After a bloop single

off the bat of Kreft, Norah Fitzpatrick launched a double to right center, putting runners on second and third. Neumann would follow with a ground ball to score pinch runner Keira Berger. Two batters later a dropped fly ball would allow two more runs to score and a Maddie Sherman single would plate a fourth run and give Becker the 7-3 lead. Cook would close things out with a scoreless bottom of the 14th to seal the win.

Patnode went five innings and allowed two unearned runs, while Cook picked up the win in relief as she went nine innings and allowed one unearned run. Bartlett, Kreft, and Fitzpatrick each had two hits on the day.

This week, the team wrapped up the regular season with a loss to Tartan.

Patnode was the hard luck losing pitcher, going all seven innings and allowing four unearned runs on six hits. She struck out 11 Tartan batters and was also the offensive leader at the plate going three-for-four.

Becker finished its regular season with a record of 14-5, 10-4 in the Mississippi 8 Conference and good enough for second place. They received the #1 seed and a first round bye in the Section 5AAA playoffs, taking on Monticello at 4:00 on Thursday (results next week). The section tournament will conclude with games in Elk River this Wednesday and Friday.

Mathews paces Bulldog golfers

Monday was another dominating performance for the Becker girls golf team, as this time Layla Mathews scored meet medalist honors en route to another Bulldog conference match win.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

Mathews, just a sophomore, fired a round of 78 to take the top spot in the match held at Bulrush Golf Course in Rush City. Her impressive score was aided by her first ever Eagle, as she chipped in a tremendous shot on a par 5 hole.

As a team, Becker

scored a 345, breaking their season best score once again.

"It was great having our four golfers score in the top ten," Coach Anna Babler said.

Alexa Voller fired an 82 to finish third, while Emma Benson shot an 89 for seventh place. Avery Johnson rounded out the scoring with a 10th place round of 96.

Wednesday the team traveled to Purple Hawk in Cambridge for the final M8 meet and a conference title on the line.

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Explore these college savings strategies

Enrolling in a trade school or college is widely considered the next step after a student graduates from high

citizen or resident alien age 18 and older. The individual opening the account can be a parent, grandparent, cousin, or even a friend.

tion, school supplies, tutoring, or textbooks. It also can be transferred to a sibling if the money is not needed for a particular student.

Submitted Article

school. College is especially popular, as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 62.7 percent of high school graduates went on to colleges and universities in 2020.

The student is the beneficiary of the account. Four-year schools, community colleges and vocational/trade schools accept 529 accounts as payment sources. The only requirement is that the school must participate in the U.S. Department of Education student financial aid programs.

UTMA/UGMA plan
This plan is different from ESAs and 529s because it is not specifically designed for college savings. The Uniform Transfer/Gift to Minors Act is in the child's name but is controlled by a guardian until the child reaches age 18 or 21.

Education Savings Account, or Education IRA

The financial experts at Ramsey Solutions say an ESA works like a Roth IRA but it is designed specifically for education expenses. Individuals can invest up to \$2,000 (after tax) per year, per child. The account grows tax-free. The rate of growth varies based on investments in the account. Ramsey estimates that at an average return rate of 12 percent on a \$36,000 investment (\$2,000 per year for 18 years) would grow to around \$126,000 by the time the child starts college. An ESA also can be used to pay for K-12 private school tuition,

This mutual fund account can be used to save for college with reduced taxes, or funds can be used for other expenses, such as a car or housing.

Advanced Placement Classes

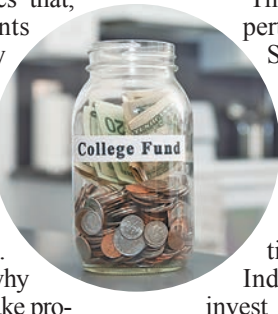
AP classes allow high school students to take college-level courses that can be converted into college credits. Each AP class reduces the need to pay for a class in college. This can add up to some significant savings. In addition, performing well in AP classes may make students more attractive to colleges and universities, helping students to earn academic scholarships.

Saving for college can start early and there are various vehicles for families to explore.

Finding ways to pay for higher education has long been a goal for students and their families. PrepScholar, a college testing preparation resource, calculates that, by 2033, students can expect to pay around \$237,000 at in-state public universities and \$464,000 at private colleges or universities for four-year degrees. That high cost is why so many families take proactive steps to set aside funds for college soon after their children are born. No matter the situation, taking the steps to plan and save helps to make schooling more affordable.

529 College Savings Plan

A 529 is a specialized savings account for college and university costs. Most plans can be opened by a U.S.



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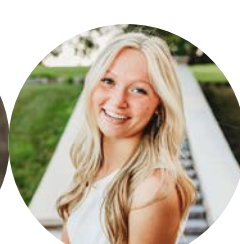
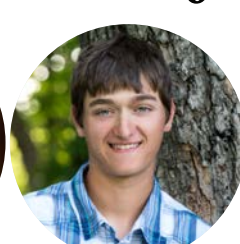
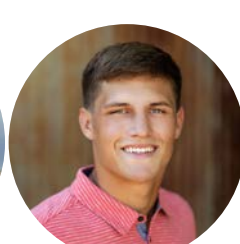
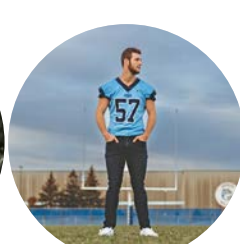
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Dylan Kolby

Dylan Weber

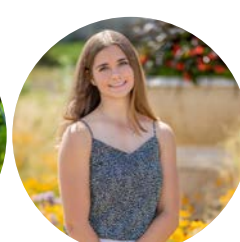
Edward Kronenberg

Eleanor Pancoast

Eli Scheideman

Elizabeth Mackedanz

Ella Rick



Ella Tracy

Ellie Gallus

Elliott Carlson

Emelya Hanson

Emily Meyer

Emma Benson

Emma Hansen

Emma Mathews



Erin Deering

Eslind Schulte

Ethan Duncombe

Evan Massey

Eve Otteson

Evelyn Kreft

Ezekiel Chacon

Giulia Riservato



Grace Hilden

Grant Studer

Gregory Headley

Gunnar Rupar

Haden McKay

Hailey Jacobson

Hailey Szabla

Hannah Bartlett



Hannah Hodges

Harrison Kent

Henry Epperly

Hudson Romfo

Hunter Whaley

Isaac Bauer

Isabella Cabrera

Isabella Duncombe



Jack Atwood

Jackson Nygren

Jackson Olmscheid

Jacob Cook

Jacob Drahot

Jacob Simonson

Jacquelyn Lambert

Jada Soltau



Jadeyn Schafbuch

Jalyn Selley

Jenna Ulbrich

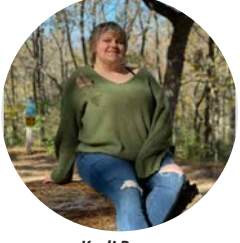
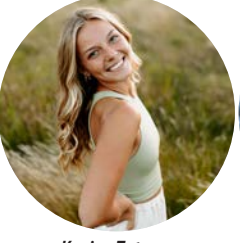
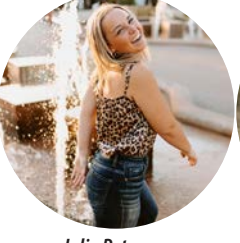
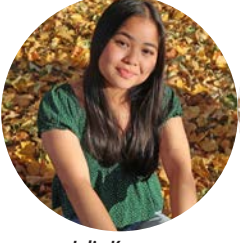
Jessica Rogers

Jocelyn Bratsch

Jonathan Remker

Joseph Gillham

Josie Rosenow



Journey Sieg

Julia Kyaw

Julia Peterson

Julius Hendricks

Kaden Wilson

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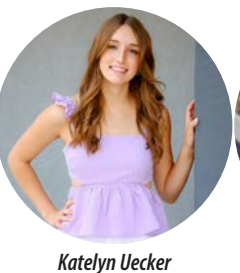
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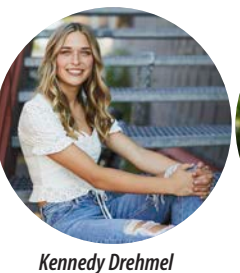
Kate Mehelich



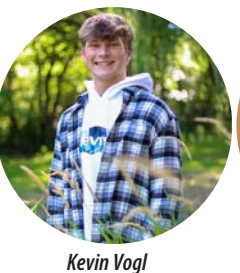
Katelyn Uecker



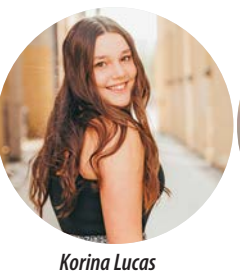
Kayla Gruenes



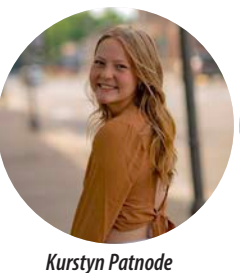
Kennedy Drehmel



Kevin Vogl



Korina Lucas



Kurstyn Patnode



Kyle Vogl



Lauren Sand



Lauren Winter



Lillian Berger



Logan Ahlbrecht



Logan Eisele



Louis Collins



Luke O'Connor



Macy Spear



Madelyn Sherman



Madison Makarrall



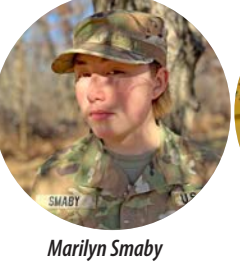
Madison Ringwelski



Makayla Henson



Marcus Suchy



Marilyn Smaby



Matthew Kuhn



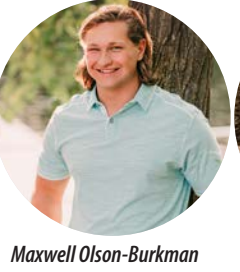
Max Haugen



Maximilian Jordahl



Maxwell Hamacher



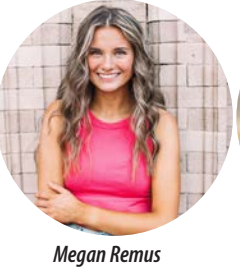
Maxwell Olson-Burkman



McKenna Tierney



Megan Gorecki



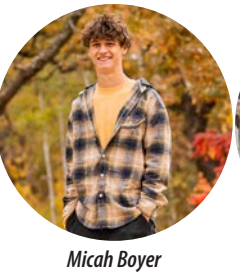
Megan Remus



Meghan Swanson



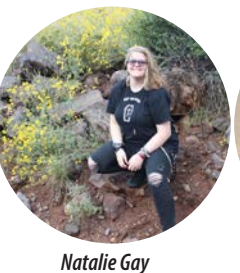
Melina Warner



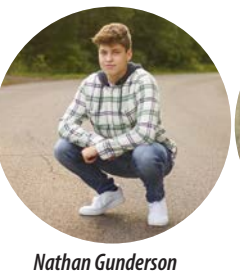
Micah Boyer



Mitchell Miner



Natalie Gay



Nathan Gunderson



Nevaeh Gardner



Nick Gruber



Noah Bloch



Noah McDonald



Noelle Kempin



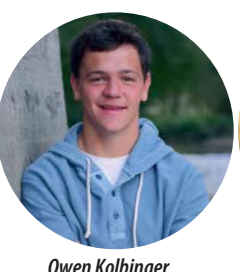
Nolan Muellner



Nolan Murphy



Olivia Bond



Owen Kolbinger



Paige Johnson



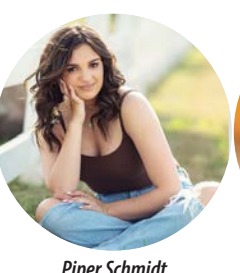
Paige Puzach-Acker



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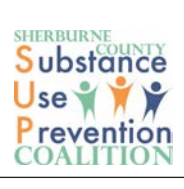
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Elijah Anderson Elijah Tweten Maren Westin Marjorie Giebenhain Mason Becker
Paige Nelson Rainna Friedman Samuel Anderson Tygen Salvevold Vincent Martin

Boyer's skill leads him to Gustavus-Adolphus

After a stellar high school career playing soccer for the Bulldogs, Becker Senior Micah Boyer will

goals. He was a three year All-Mississippi8 Conference selection and he also served as a captain for both the soccer and rugby teams. This past season, Boyer and his teammates made the best soccer playoff run in program history all the way to the Section championship.

This fall, he will take his scoring touch to St. Peter, MN as a member of the Golden Gusties soccer team. "There aren't many soccer players in Becker that challenge themselves at the next level, but I know he's not finished competing yet," Becker soccer coach Nick Crowley said of Boyer. "He's smart, tenacious, and always trying to find the back of the net. He's goal oriented and



MICAH BOYER is pursuing his post-secondary education at Gustavus Adolphus College and will play soccer for the Golden Gusties team in St. Peter. (Submitted Photo).

driven, so I know Micah will do well at Gustavus."

Boyer is confident he found the right "fit" for both his academics — engineering or pre-law are both interests — and his pursuit of playing the sport he loves collegiately.

"After contacting the coach of the Gusties, I found that I had a decent chance of playing soccer for a great team at a school that really interested me," Boyer said. "On my tour, everyone I met was very kind and the campus is amazing — the view of the town at the top of the hill really surprised me. I'm especially looking forward to the next step in my life, making new friends, and experiencing a different life past high school."

As Boyer reflects on his time in high school, he

BOYER to page 6B

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

pursue his post-secondary education at Gustavus Adolphus College.

"I went to visit Gustavus in the winter so the tour was shorter than normal, but the community seemed to be very inclusive," Boyer said of his campus tour. "My interest in Gustavus initially began because I have a few connections to the school, plus it has very good programs for the fields I am interested in."

At Becker, Boyer became the all-time leading scorer in Bulldog soccer program history with 52

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Hall of Fame 2023

Two prominent Becker citizens and graduates of Becker High School were honored last Wednesday as this year's Hall of Fame award winners.

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Mike Garland Class of 1975

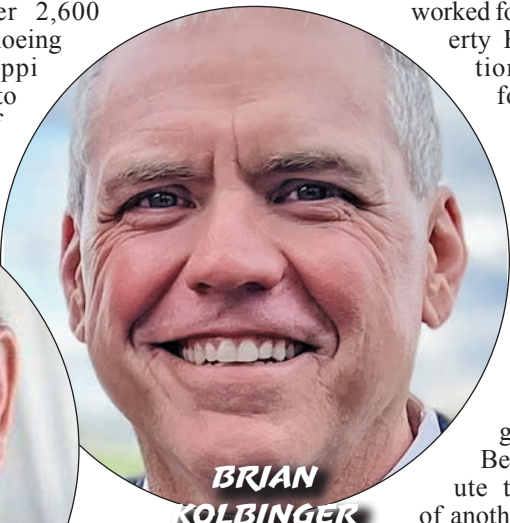
Mike enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduating from Becker in 1975. He served in the 101st Airborne as the Battalion Motor Sergeant in Fort Campbell, Kentucky and received an Army Commendation Medal. Mike was employed by Xcel Energy for over 33 years and ended his career as the yard supervisor.



MIKE GARLAND

Mike gives back to his community, including serving as the Committee Chairman for the construction of the Santiago Twp. Hall and Becker Fire Dept. #2. Mike has participated in numerous Relay for Life Events in the area and his efforts have helped raise

over \$100,000 for cancer research. Mike's fundraising efforts have included a bike trip to the west coast, walking the Pacific Crest Trail for over 2,600 miles, and canoeing the Mississippi River down to the Gulf of Mexico. Mike has



BRIAN KOLBINGER

brought joy to many while serving as Santa for the Becker Lions Lange Home Christmas for the last 26 years. Mike is a proud father of four girls, all of whom attended Becker High School.

Brian Kolbinger Class of 1990

Brian graduated near the top of his class in 1990 and continued his education at St. Cloud State University.

Brian has served in management positions and as a consultant in the information technology (IT) industry.

In over 25 years in IT he has worked for Toro, Daugherty Business Solutions, and now for Medtronic. Brian was pulled back to the Becker area after eleven years because he "wanted his children to have the same opportunity he had growing up in Becker to contribute to the success of another generation."

Brian's contributions to the area have been numerous. He has served as the Becker Twp. Chairman for 11 years. Brian served as the President of the Becker Youth Baseball Association for 11 years and has served eight years as the President of the Becker Youth Association. A lifelong baseball player for Becker teams, Brian has coached and officiated various sports in Becker. Brian and his wife Bonnie have three children who graduated from Becker - Victoria, Andrew, and Owen.

Becker High School 2023 Local Scholarships

We would like to thank all the businesses and organizations for your contributions to our Local

Submitted Article

Scholarship Program. Your generosity has made it possible for the following scholarships to be awarded to our graduating seniors.

- Becker American Legion (3-\$500) Regan Hausmann, Paige Johnson, Slate Smaby.
- Becker Area Chamber of Commerce (1-\$1000) Kayla Gruenes.
- Becker Band Boosters (3-\$500) Brooklyn Karel, Evelyn Kreft, Samuel Warren.
- Becker Bulldogs Archery (3-\$500) Ryland Beutz, Hannah Hodges, Jackson Nygren.
- Becker Choir (3-\$250) Bryce Berger, Emily Meyer, Jada Soltau.
- Becker Drama Boosters (7-\$500) Bryce Berger, Emelya Hanson, Paige Johnson, Madison Makarrall, Emily Meyer, Jada Soltau, Samuel Warren.
- Becker Education Association (2-\$500) Kayla Gruenes, Eli Scheideman.
- Becker Youth Basketball Association (2-\$500) Evelyn Kreft, Alex Weiss.
- Butch Liestman Memorial Scholarship (1-\$500) Arleigh Pudlick.

CentraCare Health Auxiliary - Monticello (2-\$500) Emma Benson, Cassandra Larson.

Clear Lake Lion's (4-\$2500) Bryce Berger, Noah Bloch, Kayla Gruenes, Samuel Warren.

Coborn's/Cash Wise, Inc. - St. Cloud (1-\$500) Kayla Gruenes.

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- Robotics (2-\$750) Greg Headley, Kayla Gruenes.

Liberty Paper, Inc. - 2 Year Program (1-\$1500) Brayden Hard.

Monticello Masonic Lodge (1-\$1000) Kayla Gruenes.

Rox Project S.A.V.E. Foundation (1-\$1000) Samuel Warren.

Santiago Lion's Memorial (2-\$500) Nolan Muellner, Samuel Warren.

Scheideman Chiropractic & Body Shop (1-\$500) Kate Mehelich.

TRAK (Together Reaching Area Kids) (2-\$500) Regan Hausmann, Cassandra Larson.

The following Scholarships are awarded in conjunction with Becker Dollars for Scholars®.

Business Recognition (2-\$500) Brooklyn Karel, Kate Mehelich.

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Amy Chmielewski Agency - American Family Insurance/matched by DFS (1-\$500) Ella Rick

Becker Jaycees (1-\$500) Isabella Duncombe.

Becker Lions Club (5-

\$1000) Addison Daluge, Abigail Diaz, Colette Koscielniak, Nolan Murphy, Madison Ringwelski.

Country Lumber (2-\$500) Evelyn Kreft, Eli Scheideman.

DFS Annual Phone-a-thon (10-\$500) Emma Benson, Zoe Hanson, Hannah Hodges, Paige Johnson, Jacquelyn Lambert, Arleigh Pudlick, Jada Soltau, Macy Spear, Sophie Studer, Katelyn Uecker.

Don Garland Community Service Memorial (1-\$500) Regan Hausmann.

Hubbard Electric (1-\$500) Adam Jurek.

Lathrop GPM Foundation (1-\$500) Julius Hendricks.

Lathrop GPM Foundation/matched by DFS (1-\$500) Nolan Muellner.

Liberty Bank Minnesota (1-\$500) Kyle Vogle.

Lucy Kampa Memorial (1-\$500) Emily Meyer.

McDonald's of Becker (1-\$500) Kayla Gruenes.

M.L. Schendzielos Excavating Inc. (1-\$500) Andrew Krostad.

Phone-a-thon/Business/Civic Scholarships (1-\$500) Ava Ewald.

S&T Machining & Welding, Inc./matched by DFS (1-\$500) Timothy Middleton.

Sherburne State Bank (2-\$500) Megan Remus, Kevin Vogl.

T.J. Potter Trucking, Inc. (1-\$500) Alex Weiss.

Thomas E. Cobb Memorial/matched by DFS (1-\$500) Ethan Duncombe.



Pudlick ready to "Roll Tide"

After amassing a 4.0 GPA and participating in nearly 10 different activities at Becker High School,

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer production@patriotnewsnm.com

Arleigh Pudlick will take her many talents with her as she heads south for college. She plans to major in Biology on a pre-med track after receiving a full-ride scholarship and a few more benefits from the University of Alabama.

"They reached out to me in regards to the Rural and Small Town Recognition Award I received from Collegeboard over the summer," Pudlick said. "Even with the scholarship, I was hesitant to accept and move so far away. However, I did

visit the campus over spring break and that helped me make my decision. There are so many opportunities for different clubs and activities and the entire campus is absolutely beautiful."

At Becker, Pudlick earned fame as a member of the Speech Team, earning the Mississippi 8 Conference Championship for three straight years in Informative Speaking. She was also a six year member and twice captain of the varsity swim team, as well as active in NHS, Yearbook, B-3 Leadership Program, DREAM Team, Prom Committee and Graduation Committee. Outside of school, she danced at STARZ Dance Studio and

operated her own business making cupcakes that were sold for special events and at the Becker Farmer's Market.

At Alabama, she is unsure what activities she will participate in, but there certainly will be many choices.

"I'm not exactly sure what I'm going to be involved in yet, but UA has almost 600 student clubs/activities so I will definitely be joining some of them," Pudlick said. "Alabama's Forensic Council actually just won their 24th national championship, and since I enjoyed being on the speech team in high school that is something I am considering auditioning for."

One thing, how-
PUDLICK to page 6B



ARLEIGH PUDLICK will be attending the University of Alabama to study Biology on a pre-med track. (Submitted Photo).

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Becker High School Class of 2023 - Congrats!



BOYER from page 4B

says he is most thankful for his family, which has close connections to the community. His mom, Chantel, is a long-time school teacher and administrator at Becker Public Schools, while his father Corey is a former Finance Director for the City of Becker who now works in the private sector. As the youngest of four boys, Micah said the family competitiveness helped him to thrive and succeed.

"Since I was young I have always been too competitive with my brothers, and ever since my oldest brother, Logan, could drive, he would take us to

the local soccer field where we would spend an hour or more getting touches on the ball," Micah says. "I had a drive to try my best to be better than my brothers, and now that I am older I can understand that my brothers pushed me to try to be my best. They have taught me so much beyond soccer."

His thankfulness also extends to his parents, as Micah says values and ethics were an important part of his upbringing.

"My parents have always pushed me, whether in school, in soccer, or just through life," Micah says. "They are very honest and

that is something I really appreciate. Since I was a kid they have taught me what is right and what is wrong."



PUDLICK from page 5B

ever, will be a certain for Pudlick: the chance to embark on a whole new venture beyond the borders of her hometown.

"I'm not always a huge sports fan, but I've been told by numerous people that Alabama sports (especially football games) are like nothing you've ever experienced," Pudlick said. "So that is for sure something I am looking forward to. UA also has almost 40,000 students which is a little nerve wracking, but it does mean that there are opportunities to meet people from different backgrounds. From what I saw

on the tour, the grounds are kept very well maintained and the buildings are all beautiful, and I anticipate lots of warm, sunny weather."

While some student leave high school with undecided plans, Pudlick certainly has a clear vision for her life.

"I have always enjoyed science and math classes so I've definitely known since at least middle school that I wanted to go into a STEM related field," Pudlick said. "After finishing my undergraduate studies I hope to attend medical school and become a physician, al-

though I am not currently set on a specific specialty."

While her enrollment at Alabama will take her far from home, one thing she will take with her are the lessons taught by her parents.

"I am thankful for my parents who have supported me through every step of my life," Pudlick said. "They have driven me to and from activities, helped me with homework, and pushed me to reach my full potential. I would not be the person I am today without either of my parents."

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