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Sherburne County's Legal Newspaper

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PATRIOT



CAROL BRUNN was all smiles as she prepared a pan for baking during a recent cookie bake at Ellis Home Bakery. See the story and more photos on page 5. (Submitted Photo).

INSIDE
BIG LAKE
Tim Suchy of Edward Jones was named Member of the Year at last week's Big Lake Chamber Holiday social. See the story on page 2.

CLEARWATER
Lots of Holiday happenings occurred recently in Clearwater. See Penny Leuthard's story on page 5.

BECKER
A new coffee shop is coming to Becker. It's to be called Dueling Brews and will feature coffee in the morning and a brewery for night activities. See the story on page 2.

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PICK UP A COPY OF THE PATRIOT AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

- CLEARWATER:** Coborn's;
- SANTIAGO:** General Store;
- PALMER:** General Store;
- BECKER:** Food Pride;
- BIG LAKE:** Coborn's;
- PATRIOT office**

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News & Advertising Deadlines

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

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

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

Contact Us

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

SPORTS STORIES
Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill @ reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill @ reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com

763-275-0275

Why Shop Local? 5 Benefits to Supporting Small Businesses



By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer

(Editor's Note: Some of the information used for this article was comprised from several sources on the internet).

Money you spend locally goes directly to your community. Every dollar you spend is invested into the business and those who run it. In other words, you're helping locals keep their jobs, create more jobs, and invest in other local community initiatives. To

take your mindful money practices to the next level, consider supporting local shops the next time you need beauty products, groceries, or a new wardrobe. When small businesses work together with other small businesses, there can be opportunities to cut down on packaging, overall waste, and travel emissions. For example, local grocery stores may carry produce from local farms, which cuts down on transportation costs, travel emissions, and packaging used to transport each product. As a result, your money invested locally could help the earth and your wallet. Big box stores have

more employees, customers, and issues to deal with every day — while local shop owners may not. Small business owners usually have fewer customers, making those that shop with them more valuable. **Everyone that comes into the store becomes their top priority.** If you have questions or concerns about products or services, you'll likely be able to get in touch with the owner faster than you would a big box customer service representative. You can find a variety of items at local stores you may not find anywhere else. When it comes to grocery shopping, you'll likely be able to find locally sourced produce at smaller stores. You get to enjoy eating fresher produce while supporting multiple small businesses. For

instance, your weekly groceries may be fresher from your local farmers market than a department store. In most cases, small store owners spend the most time face-to-face with their customers. You're more likely to interact with the owner than the CEO of an established company. This means you'll have a better chance of connecting with your community and you'll know exactly who you're supporting.



Becker True Value - 13350 1st St, Becker - SHOPPING to page 4

Pruszinske leaving for Hibbing

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com



CITY ADMINISTRATOR GREG PRUSZINSKE has accepted a new job at the City of Hibbing and will start working there at the end of this month. (Patriot Archive Photo).

Becker City Administrator Greg Pruszinske will be handling business at City Hall for one final week. Pruszinske has accepted an offer to be the CA in Hibbing and will begin serving the Northern Minnesota city at the end of this month. "Executive recruiters have been reaching out to me," said Pruszinske, who has served Becker for 25 years. "As I have been contacted for various roles across the Midwest, we (wife, Paula) decided to look at relocating to a community north of US Hwy. 2 or West of the Missouri River." Pruszinske has been the CA at Becker for the last 12 years and was Asst. CA for 13 before that. He has also served three communities in Swift County and the Swift County community development office

prior to Becker. His history also includes working for the Minnesota Senate for two legislative sessions and an internship for Community Development of Morrison County.

Hibbing is a city with a population of 16,361 (2010 census), quite higher than Becker's 4,538. Hibbing was built on the rich iron ore of the Mesabi Iron Range and is 72 miles northwest of Duluth, 208 miles north of Minneapolis/ St. Paul and 90 miles south of the Canadian border. "Hibbing is a regional center which is intriguing," said Pruszinske. "New challenges are also appealing. There are some fantastic projects Hibbing is working on including a combined Public Safety (police and fire) building and a remodel/expansion of its health/recreation/wellness facility. Two great projects that will change the community vibe and were part of the decision." Greg and his wife, Paula love the outdoors and have frequented the area over the years — making the decision to go "up north" an easier one. "We're outdoors enthusiasts so Hibbing/St. Louis County will be a

great fit," said Greg. "My hunting camp is in St. Louis County, and we have family and friends in the Arrowhead Region." Pruszinske grew up in rural Chisago County; attended North Branch High School and graduated from St. Cloud State. He did his master's work at Hamline, attended the Carlson School of Management and over the years has a plethora of ongoing professional development educational experiences. He is the youngest of four children from his parents. His father was a Teamster for 45 years and retired from the US Air Force with 26 years of service. Greg's mom worked for Isanti County Health and Human Services and volunteered at the Stearns County History Center for many years. Greg has been involved in dozens of monumental projects in Becker over the years and one of his top accomplishments has been

Steil/Patriot hold Chamber Christmas event

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com

Ron Mumm of Steil stole the show as he donned an absurd Christmas suit in blue, red and white colors featuring reindeer and snowflakes on his pants, jacket and tie. Guests toured the offices of the two companies and many just hung out and enjoyed the gift of gab and talked current events and/or how their businesses are doing. A gift basket was also donated to a random drawing of participants by the Patriot in which Tanya Danielson of Sherburne State Bank was the winner. Candace Hanson won a gift certificate from the Patriot as well. Steil Insurance gave away gift cards and the winners were Matt Lunser of GLM Displays, Matt Marquette of Luke Realty and Eric Hanson of Arvig Media. A grand "thank you" to all who showed up and enjoyed the festivities!



MEMBERS OF THE BECKER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE as well as staffers at Steil Insurance had an official ribbon cutting ceremony during last Thursday's After Hours event. Front row, left to right are Ron Mumm and Scott Steil of Steil Insurance. Back row, let to right: Amity Felton (Chamber Director of Operations), Eric Hanson (Chamber Ambassador), Candace Hanson (Chamber Ambassador), Amy Chmielewski (Chamber Ambassador), Cole Steil (Steil Insurance), Tiffany McDowall (Chamber Ambassador), Eleza Sebesta, (Chamber Ambassador), Jessica Kyylo (Chamber Ambassador) and Brandon Buesgens (Chamber Ambassador). (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).

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Suchy voted as Big Lake Chamber's Member of Year

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce.)

After a month of voting, members of the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce and Industry selected Edward Jones-Tim Suchy as their 2021 Member of the Year.

Tim has served on the Board of Directors for the past six years as both Chair and Vice-Chair. He has served on the Finance Committee and Block Party Committee and served on the Golf Scramble Committee and regularly sponsored a team of golfers.

The last several years Suchy has helped get the Christmas Trees for Browns Park, spending most of



SPONSOR PAUL KNIER OF CABOT LODGE SECURITIES (at left) presented the award to the 2021 Member of the Year winner Tim Suchy of Edward Jones at right. (Submitted Photo).

"Black Friday" trimming them and placed them in the stands. He has sponsored Big Lake's Community Fairs and the Block Party.

Tim Suchy has been a financial advisor for Edward Jones in the Big Lake Office

dren: Luke and Ashley.

A member who nominated Tim said, "Tim Suchy has helped the Board of Directors and many committees over the years and is always helping whenever he can."

In accepting the award, Tim said it was an honor to volunteer on behalf of the Chamber.

The award was sponsored by Cabot Lodge Securities-Paul Knier. Other nominees for the 2021 Member of the Year award were Mincco Credit Union and Old National Bank.

Previous award winners were McPet's Sports Bar & Lanes - Eric Petersen in 2020 and Great River Spine & Sport - Dr. Scott Schulz in 2019.

since 2014 and in financial services since 1985. He volunteers with the Big Lake Lions and has co-chaired their golf event.

Tim and his wife Sandy have lived in Monticello for 26 years. They have two chil-

Drive-through coffee shop coming to Becker

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
Reporter, Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

At Tuesday's Becker City Council Meeting, the City received and approved an application to open a drive-through coffee shop, Dueling Brews, on Bank St. This new business generated some interest last week as it was reported by local radio stations. The applicant would begin by opening a coffee shop, but has plans to possibly operate a bar featuring local breweries in the same location.

Committee Reports
Robin Dingmann reported on behalf of budget and finance. The committee discussed current finances, grant applications, and certification of past due utilities, among other items.

Rick Hendrickson reported on behalf of the police committee that the department is finally fully staffed, a rare feat in law enforcement lately. Calls are up from last year, mainly due to an increase in traffic stops. The BPD, as well as other local agencies, has teamed up with Roy Neumann, a mental health professional co-responder, in a program which has worked out very well for the department. (See an exclusive interview with Neumann in next week's issue of the Patriot.) The department will be undergoing mandated training on working with individuals with Autism.

The planning commission continued to discuss the fence code, but did not come to any conclusions on suggested actions at this time. There is an opening

in the commission. Citizens are welcome to apply for the position by stopping by city hall. The commission also discussed political signage rules in the city (currently, candidate owned signs need to be removed by a cer-



DUELING BREWS is a new coffee shop, and possible bar, coming to Becker. (Submitted photo.)

tain date, while individually-owned signs can stay up indefinitely.)

Public Hearings
A public hearing was held to certify weed removal charges in the city. None of those impacted spoke at the hearing, and the charges were certified to the homeowners' property taxes.

Later, council called for a public hearing regarding driveway and parking ordinances for Dec. 20, and called for another hearing regarding the fee schedule on the 21st.

Hiring New Administrator
Greg Pruszinske will be stepping down from his position as city administrator. In light of this, council authorized Gov HR to begin the search for his replacement.

In Other Business, the Council:

- Made some edits to Chapter 11 of city code,



REMEMBRANCE TREE. This year, a Remembrance Tree was erected at city hall. Residents are encouraged to visit the tree and use provided materials to create a paper ornament with the name of a loved one who has passed away. Pictured here are council member Rick Hendrickson, council member Robin Dingmann, Mayor Tracy Bertram, and council member Becky Olmscheid. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

based on feedback from landowners in the city;

- Approved a final plat application for River Oaks Estates Third Addition;

- Entered into an agreement with Diamond Leaf and Connexus Energy to install a generator at the Community Center;

- Approved a change order for the municipal well project;

- Encouraged residents to stop by city hall to pick up free 2022 calendars, featuring council member and staff member pet photos;

- Held the truth in taxation annual presentation (video of this presentation and the breakdown of the budget available at City of Becker Youtube Page, in the video of the 12/7/2021 meeting.)



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA. Last weekend, the Becker Lions Club hosted their annual breakfast with Santa at the Becker Community Center. The successful event saw around 200 patrons come to enjoy a hot meal and a visit with the jolly old elf. Pictured here are Lions Sue Stang, Kurt Anderson, Jim Stang, Emma Cook, Steve Rosa, Bev Knutson, Richard Wellen, and Tim Adelman. (Submitted photo.)

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South Santiago Lutheran Church - 14675-37th Street Clear Lake

DRIVE-UP LIVE NATIVITY

Sunday, Dec. 19 at 5:30 p.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Fri., Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.

Tri-County Alliance Church

8464 160th St., Clearwater, MN 55320 • 320-558-2750
tcachurch@frontiernet.net • www.tcachurch.com

Corrections

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
Reporter.Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

Mayor Paul Knier of Big Lake noted two errors in recent Patriot articles regarding the recent school board meeting and the city council meeting.

In the school board article, it was stated that Mayor Knier invited new board member Derek Nelson to a prayer group, when in fact this invitation was extended to all the board members, as well as an offer for the group to make prayers on behalf of the school.

Secondly, in the city council article, it was stated that the full time fire chief position was removed from the budget. It is more accurate to say that it was no longer being considered an addition to the budget, as the city has never had a full time fire position.

The Patriot regrets any confusion.

CHRISTMAS MEAT GIFT BOXES - \$10-\$80!



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Snacker's Delight \$58.99

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Church of St. Luke's

Father Dennis Backer

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve: 4pm Mass, 9pm Mass
Christmas Day Mass: 9am Mass
Feast of Mary, Mother of God Holy Day: Dec. 31st, 6pm; Jan. 1st, 9am Mass

The Church of Saint Luke
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Join us for our Christmas Service

Friday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
4pm Service of Carols & Candlelight with Holy Communion
Rejoice is CLOSED December 27 & 28

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Santa visits The Buff

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

The Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147 and the Legion Post sponsored Santa Days at The Buff in Big Lake Sunday.

Many volunteers showed up to set up tables and tables of toys for area youths to select from. The local Girl Scouts troop sang Christmas carols while families enjoyed cookies, juice and coffee.

One hundred and nine-

ty-three children attended Santa Day! Paige won the girl's bike and Joseph won the boy's bike giveaways.

The volunteers included Sue Ronayne, Gloria Vande Brake, Former Legion Commander Wayne Harris as Santa, Jax Ages, Betty Wheeler, Karen Blake, Judy McVeigh, Sande Forster, Kathy Poslusny, Pam Notch, Marjorie Anderson, Linda Paulson, Bobbie Swanson and Tory Blackhurst.




SANTA AND HIS VOLUNTEERS. Left photo, row 1, left to right: Sue Ronayne, Gloria Vande Brake, Former Legion Commander Wayne Harris as Santa and Jax Ages. Row 2, left to right: Betty Wheeler, Karen Blake, Judy McVeigh, Sande Forster, Kathy Poslusny, Pam Notch, Marjorie Anderson, Linda Paulson, Bobbie Swanson and Tory Blackhurst. (Submitted Photo).

SHOPPING from page 1

763-261-4464
Becker True Value has a 10% off deal for Shrink Window Insulation Kit. They also have car air fresheners from \$1.29 to \$4.99. How about some booster cables for that special someone's car? Costs range from \$12.99 to \$69.49.

Bird food is 10% off (unless already on sale) and BTV also has several decorative door mats to make your home more inviting!



along with rain gauges, flowers, balloons and more! Or, stay warm with some winter gear starting at \$3.99 and up!



Oak Park Creamery - 16623 Ironwood Rd NE, Oak Park - 320-968-7864
OPC has winter gloves from \$1.50 to \$13.00!. Or, how about Bongard's Cheese & Schwan's Ice Cream or Hope Butter in prices ranging from \$.75 to \$15.00! They also have wild life blocks and bird seed as well as gift certificates in any amount imaginable!



Farm Friends Barn - Across the street from Sherburne County History Center, Becker - 320-248-2615

Farm Friends Barn has great gift ideas including Christmas pots and wreaths for sale until sold out! Prices range from \$35 to \$100! Get your kids ready and bring them to the Barn to see Santa on Sat. & Sun., Dec. 18-19 from 4-7pm. Check their website at www.farmfriendsbarn.org for more details!



Andra K Salon - 615 Smith St, Clearwater - 320-558-6620

Andra K has tons of great gift ideas including gift certificates in any amount needed or they can be customized for any service such as massage, pedicures or spas. They also offer Bonblissy Spa Treatments from \$9 to \$20 and they have a plethora of Victory Brand Men's Grooming products from \$21 to \$48!

Andra K also has scarves, necklaces, bracelets and earrings from \$12 to \$22 as well as travel-sized hair products from \$10 to \$29!



Coborn's Clearwater - 705 County Rd 75 NW, Clearwater - 320-558-2251 • Coborn's Big Lake - 711 Rose Dr, Big Lake - 763-263-3555

Both local Coborn's stores have great gift ideas and items ready to help you celebrate the Holidays! Pick up a deli tray or a fruit basket for your gathering. Or, how about a poinsettia? Check out their floral department for tons of great ideas for gift-giving or decorating. And don't forget, gift certificates make great stocking stuffers!



Charlie's Sports Bar & Grill - 12287 Hancock St, Becker - 763-262-4000

Charlie's has some great gift ideas including baseball caps, beanies, pom pom hats, sweatshirts and jackets for your friends and loved ones! Or, buy \$50 in gift certificates and get \$10 free!

Scheideman Chiropractic - 14030 Bank St #1, Becker - 763-262-2639

Wow! Scheideman Chiro has 1/2 hour massages for just \$30! Regularly \$40! Come on in and check it out!

Lake Liquors - 615 Rose Dr, Big Lake - 763-263-3673

Check out Lake Liquors' gift sets that would knock the socks off any gift receiver! They also have plenty of gift certificates to stuff those stockings around the fireplace!

Big Lake Hardware - Hank - 621 Rose Dr, Big Lake - 763-263-2019

Stop in at your favorite hardware store and pick up some DeWalt tools starting at \$5.49 and up. Or, check out the Milwaukee tools for \$4.49 and up! BLHH has tons of bait and tackle for those fishing days for just .79¢ and up. Solar gifts would make great presents

Delights for \$58.99!



Oodles of Doodles Pet Spa - 505 North Walnut St, Clearwater - 320-558-1134

Oodles can get your furry family member a nail trim for just \$12, or a good teeth brushing for \$8, or a de-shedding treatment for \$15, or any of their many other grooming services (prices vary). They also have gift certificates in any amount if you can't decide on the spot!



Purple Prairie Botanicals - 800 Nelson Dr #102, Clearwater - 320-558-9010

Purple Prairie has a Sweet Feet gift bag for just \$30. They also offer a rose-colored glasses gift bag for just \$33. How about an Aromatherapy Duo for just \$13.50? They also have Amethyst Crystal point for \$17 and 100% natural artisan soap for just \$4.44!

Clearwater Corners - 720 County Rd 75 NW, Clearwater - 320-558-2212

Clearwater Corners has Sunday Funday sweatshirts from \$25. They also offer on sale/off sale liquor and for the stocking stuffer gift — grab a gift certificate in any amount imaginable and put a big smile on someone's face!

T&R Meats - 105 Pine St, Clearwater - 320-558-6390

T&R Meats has great stocking stuffers for that hard-to-shop-for man. How about some jerky in three yummy flavors or some beef stix in four delicious flavors? For the adult children who are hard to buy for, grab a meat bundle, hamburger or breakfast sausage, bacon or brats! For the parents who "don't need gifts", who would turn down a fresh steak, some bacon or sausage?

For that Christmas dinner, what would be better than a delicious ham or prime rib supper? On your way out, pick up some gift certificates!

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

Parts City has Nebo Omni 2K work lights for \$32.99! Another idea is a WOLO Watchman mini LED light bar for just \$49.99!

Parts City also has a store full of winter fishing gear as well as a huge assortment of toys including Hot wheels, card games, board games and sleds. They also have a great deal on an aluminum adjustable tow hitch with a 6" or 8" drop in prices ranging from \$171.99 to \$208.99.

Don't forget to say "hi" and wish the merchants a Merry Christmas!



Clearwater Travel Plaza - 950 MN-24, Clearwater - 320-558-2261

The Clearwater Travel Plaza/Nelson Bros. Restaurant, Pub & Bakery/Minnesota Reflections Gift Shop has Carhartt clothing and accessories for \$12 on up as well as Minnesota sweatshirts for \$25 and up. They also have great selections of Lazy Ones sleepwear from \$20 on up and Christmas decor and candles from \$5 on up.

Don't forget to pick up some gift cards from Nelson Bros. or Minnesota Reflections Gift Shop!



McDonald's Meats - 8601 Main Ave, Clear Lake - 320-743-2311

McDonald's Meats has a great selection of meat gift boxes from \$10 to \$80. They also have Smokehouse Specialties for \$17.99, Sticks Samplers for \$37.99 and Snacker's

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Auctions

2 UPCOMING AUCTIONS
Estate & Consignment Auction
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Area News

Opportunity!



Opportunity is what joining Lisi's youth apprenticeship program offered me. Like many high school students, I didn't have a clue what I wanted to be when I was older. Quite frankly, I still don't! Yet, there comes a time in life that you need to decide on your path to success. I didn't come from a background of money. Therefore, the cost of college played a huge role in my decision. Lisi's program has paid for just about all my schooling, helped me build a solid foundation in a highly profitable career field, and has opened doorways that I didn't even know existed. If you have the drive to be successful and are willing to put in the effort to learn a new trade while experiencing the college lifestyle. Then take a chance towards a new opportunity! Best of luck to you!
-Wesley Cavegn (2015 Apprentice)
Lisi Medical
Costing/Estimating Engineer



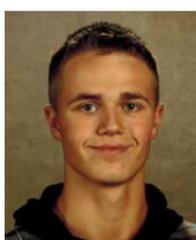
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Big Lake High School is an award-winning college and career readiness school that is home to students in grades 9-12. The hallmark of the school is its REAL program that provides innovative work-based learning through apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, on-the-job training, and work experience for special education students. Students are matched with an employer in their chosen field, and are employed by the organization under the supervision of a skilled mentor.



Lisi Medical Remmele was Big Lake's first Youth Apprenticeship partner. They hosted the first BLHS YA in 2015 and have hosted three previous YAs totaling five.

In 2021, Lisi Medical recruited Westin Offerman and Spencer Vold to learn about careers in manufacturing. Their partnership with BLHS has become somewhat of a pipeline for careers in medical engineering and manufacturing. Below, left is Spencer Vold. Below right, youth apprentice, Westin Offerman and his mentor Jeremy Deadrick are shown training on one of Lisi's Icon-6's producing scissors used in minimally-invasive surgeries.



CW/CL Groups Collect Toys and Food for the Needy

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

Local communities are well known for their generosity, and residents of Clearwater and Clear Lake were out in full force last weekend hosting Toys for Tots toy drives for families with children in need and collecting food for the Clearwater/Clear Lake Area Food Shelf.

drink ticket to use inside the Legion.

A toasty campfire helped warm up members of the Sons of the American Legion and the Legion Riders as they cheerfully greeted everyone who stopped by.

Next door to the Legion, Clearwater Corners also hosted Toys for Tots, with members of the Clearwater River Cats volunteer-



MEMBERS OF THE CLEAR LAKE FIRE DEPT. gave Santa a hand during the Brickyard's Toys for Tots toy drive last Saturday. (Submitted photo.)

The Clearwater Sons of the American Legion kicked off the events on Saturday with their annual Toys for Tots station, set up so area residents had a convenient place to stop by to drop off toys and monetary donations for the area's regional Toys for Tots organization. As an added incentive, those who donated received a buy one get one

ing their time to work the event.

That afternoon The Brickyard Bar & Grill hosted their own Toys for Tots event, with Santa Claus on hand to keep spirits merry. The Grinch also put in an appearance, as his heart, now three times its original size, was full to bursting with Christmas cheer.



GLEN WINKELMAN, PAUL CURTIS, GARY GRANT, Woody Sankey and Dan Watson brave the cold weather during the Clearwater Sons of the American Legion Toys for Tots drive. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

Sunday night the sound of sirens could be heard throughout Clearwater neighborhoods as Santa was paraded through town on a fire truck lit up with brightly colored Christmas lights.

With a hearty ho-ho-ho, Santa waved at spectators who had bundled up to watch him ride past. Members of the Clearwa-

ter Fire Dept. walked along with him, handing out goodie bags to the kids and collecting food for the food shelf that everyone was encouraged to donate.

The Clearwater/Clear Lake Area Food Shelf is always accepting donations. Toys for Tots collection boxes will be available for donations through December 17.



SANTA WAVES AT SPECTATORS in Clearwater's Cedar South neighborhood during the fire department's Santa on a Fire Truck food drive. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

BASC ladies bake for Christmas

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnews.com

Members of the Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) spent a day at Linda Ellis Smith's Home Bakery for the cookie bake, Dec. 6.

The ladies have decided this will be an annual event and they include, Kathy Hanson, Renee Bokelman, Nancy Blomgren, Alfrieda Dornbush, Teresa Olson, Carol Brunn and Barbara Gulbrand-

son. The senior ladies made gingerbread men cookies, Christmas tree-shaped cookies, Christmas stocking-shaped cookies, candy-cane-shaped Cookies, Christmas bell-shaped cookies, stars and snowmen.

THE BASC LADIES who baked included Kathy Hanson (not pictured), Renee Bokelman, Nancy Blomgren, Alfrieda Dornbush, Teresa Olson, Carol Brunn and Barbara Gulbrandson. (Submitted Photo).



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Holiday parties, goodies, and crafts are signs of the season in Clearwater



CLEARWATER CHRISTMAS CENTRAL attendees look over a selection of brightly colored hats and scarves last Saturday. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

Anyone searching for a gift for that someone special didn't have to look any further than Clearwater last weekend; the city was filled with Christmas cheer as a number of organizations held their annual Christmas events.

The festive weekend started early Saturday morning as residents stopped by Rejoice throughout the morning for the church's annual European Christmas Coffee and Bake Sale. Served by Sunday School children dressed in their holiday finest, guests were treated to Scandinavian and Christmas cookies, candies and hors d'oeuvres, as well as flavored coffees, teas and lemonade.

Attendees could also purchase a variety of handmade crafts and homemade holiday goodies, including breads, lefse, rosettes, krumkake, cookies, and candies donated by members of the congregation.

Teen Macie Groth entertained the crowd with holiday flute music throughout the event.

The Church of St. Luke's was also filled with fun and goodies that morning with their annual Cookie Stroll and Craft Sale. Tables were lined with homemade holiday goodies galore, from gingerbread cookies to decadent candies.

There was also krumkake baking demonstrations going on, with experienced cookie makers first baking the cookies on a special krumkake iron and then expertly rolling them before they had a chance to cool.

Along with all the goodies, guests could purchase handmade crafts and gift items and relax with rolls and coffee. All items were donated by members of the congregation.

Later that morning the Clearwater Legion Auxil-



GUESTS AT REJOICE LUTHERAN CHURCH'S annual European Christmas Coffee and Bake Sale chose from a multitude of treats, cookies, and crafts to enjoy and take home. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

ary held their Children's Christmas Party, which was filled with excited youngsters and their parents. Along with all kinds of holiday crafts for the kids to partake in, they had a chance to meet Santa Claus and tell him what they were dreaming of for Christmas. As usual, some were more anxious to sit on his lap than others.

The festivity continued on Sunday, as the Legion Riders held their popular made to order breakfast and hosted Clearwater Christmas Central, one of their annual fundraisers to help support veterans. The craft and vendor sale featured all kinds of gift ideas from local crafters and vendors, including Tupperware, Damsel in Defense, Scentsy, Pure Romance, Color Street, and Little Red Bakery.

'Tis the Season of Complaining

Ever notice how the Holiday season tends to bring out an abundance of complainers?

We've all seen *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* TV show and how the main character spends 90% of the movie complaining about Christmas, the Whos, the food they serve, the decorations, etc. etc.

What a...GRINCH!
We've all seen the movie, *A Christmas Carol*, where Ebenezer Scrooge complains about having to pay Bob Cratchit for a day he doesn't have to work and also about the poor, barking out, "Bah Humbug" every chance he gets.

What a...SCROOGE!
In *A Christmas Story*, Mr. Parker (Ralphie's dad) complains he doesn't get a tie for Christmas. Or, Ralphie complaining because his ring decoder was an advertisement gimmick or that he is asked to put on the bunny suit his aunt made for him.

What a...NINCOMPOOP!
In *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, all his friends heap criticisms and grievances on good old Charlie Brown after he returns to the auditorium with a withered little tree. Even Charlie gets in the act when he complains about Christmas being so "commercialized".

What a...BLOCKHEAD!
Isn't Christmas supposed to be full of cheer, jolliness and glee?

Isn't Christmas supposed to be about giving, about peace, about love, about tranquility?

Instead of us learning the lessons of complainers by watching our favorite



By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer

holiday season TV shows, why can't we learn to practice being satisfied for the sake of ourselves and others everyday? Why is complaining about something so empowering to people? Why is there so much hate in the world?

We at the *Patriot* have received several requests from people asking that we stop delivery of our newspaper to their homes. They complain that they "don't read it" and we are "wasting paper", "wasting their time" and "wasting money" by having the paper sent to their homes.

We explain to them they are receiving the newspaper for FREE at a cost the newspaper and the advertisers pay for. We tell these objectors that all they have to do — if they are so inclined — is throw the newspaper in the recycling bin and that would be that. Sounds simple right?

Apparently, that can be too much to ask for as the same people who complain about getting the newspaper they don't want, are typically the same people who complain about the content.

Why read it if you don't want it, is what I say?

Did you (complainer) ever take into consideration

that the FREE newspaper that you don't want and complain about is providing jobs for the post office delivery drivers, the printers, suppliers, salespeople, designers, writers — and the very people, advertisers and businesses that operate and exist in your community? Do you file complaints to the other companies that send advertising materials in the mail? Your so-called, "junk mail"?

Here's an idea...How about all of us this Christmas season, be a little more like the people at the end of the Christmas movies than at the beginning. For example, the Grinch with his bursting heart riding the sleigh to re-deliver Christmas presents to the Whos... Or Scrooge shouting "Merry Christmas!" at the top of his lungs to anyone and everyone who listens. Or Ralphie lying in bed on Christmas night with a smile on his face and his brand new BB gun by his side. Or, Charlie Brown and his friends singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" next to the glorious little tree once ridiculed.

Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. His story is one of truth, love, and hope.

Is it the gifts under the tree? The lights in the windows? The cards in the mail? The turkey dinners with family and friends? Snow in the yard? Stockings hanging in the living room?

No, it's simply the gift of a Savior and the peace, joy and gratitude it comes with.

A Lasting Memorial

As we finish the last few weeks of work in Congress before the start of the new year, I'm spearheading several efforts to make Minnesota voices heard on the national stage.

Lasting Memorial

On December 5, 2019, a Minnesota Army National Guard helicopter crash took the lives of three Minnesotans: Warrant Officer Candidate Kort Plantenberg, Chief Warrant Officer 2 James A. Rogers Jr. and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Charles P. Nord. Two years later, our community still feels loss from this tragedy.

This Sunday, I announced my effort to create a lasting memorial to these brave Minnesotans. I am proud to be introducing legislation to rename the Avon post office in Kort Plantenberg's honor. I can't think of a more fitting tribute to Kort's sacrifice than a memorial in his own hometown.

Representative Michelle Fischbach (MN-07) will be introducing bills to rename post offices for Rogers and



By Congressman Tom Emmer

Nord, both from the Seventh Congressional District.

All three of these men gave their lives for our freedom. I'm grateful to have the chance to honor their service and sacrifice.

Rising Prices

If you've recently purchased groceries for your family, stopped for gas or paid your home heating bill, you know that rising prices aren't a myth—and they're definitely not a "high class problem."

Last week, I joined my colleagues in the House Financial Services Committee for a hearing with Secretary of

the Treasury Janet Yellen and Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell. Secretary Yellen and Chairman Powell oversee fiscal and monetary policy for the Biden Administration, and both have the power to address this worsening inflation crisis. Americans can't afford for prices to continue to climb. I urged Secretary Yellen and Chairman Powell to take decisive action and address this crisis.

Working with Locals

It's always a privilege to meet with Minnesotans who come out to Washington to advocate for their communities. I often find that these meetings are my most informative, and their advice on how to best serve our state is invaluable.

Last week, I had the chance to speak to local leaders from across Sherburne County. We talked about my work here in Congress, and how I can advocate for our community on the federal level. I'm grateful for the opportunity to sit down with them, and for their work to fight for Minnesotans.

Letters To The Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

If you are questioning voter fraud in Minnesota, then you should become an Election Judge (EJ). To become an EJ, call your township or city election official and apply. You also should go on your state party website and apply. At your local party caucus on Feb. 1, 2022, they will ask you to apply. The Stearns county site is here: <https://www.stearnscountymn.gov/980/Serve-as-an-Election-Judge> has a link to state website. Officially, there is supposed to be an equal number of Republicans and Democrats overseeing elections. Political parties are supposed to sponsor people interested in becoming an EJ. A couple

of frauds are: Persons who gets married and changes their name now have two registrations, or a person moves to a new address and registers under the new address and now has two registrations. The Secretary of State is supposed to watch for this but has not been doing it. The biggest question on fraud is in Mail-in-Ballets (MB) and who is using the mail-ins for voting. EJs get paid \$15 per hour and mileage for being an EJ. The biggest shortages of EJs is in the Twin Cities and before election day receiving MBs. You can volunteer for these even if you do not live in the area.

Barry VanBuren
Clearwater, MN

Minnesotans deserve relief

Friends and neighbors, Pearl Harbor 80th Anniversary

December 7 marked the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. It is an important time to honor and remember the more than 2400 Americans who lost their lives on that tragic day, as well as the countless others -- including my father, who is a World War II veteran -- who rose to the challenge of helping their fellow countrymen and defending freedom in the following days, weeks, and years. We will never forget their selflessness and their sacrifices.

Minnesota Budget Surplus \$7.7 Billion

On December 7 the office of Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) also released the findings of its annual November economic forecast. This is the report that provides a comprehensive overview of the state's budget picture. When the next legislative session begins at the end of January, legislators will use this forecast as a general guide until the final forecast comes out in February.

The forecast found a massive budget surplus of



By Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer

\$7.7 billion for the current budget cycle, and a structural budget surplus of almost \$6 billion for 2024-2025. According to MMB, the surplus was driven by "strong growth in income, consumer spending, and corporate profits."

Any time the state has a surplus instead of a deficit, it's good news. But a surplus of this size also means that the state collected far more than it needs from taxpayers.

Almost every day I get calls, texts, and emails from constituents concerned about a rising percentage of their paychecks going toward daily necessities like gas, groceries, and energy bills. State government may have a big surplus, but that

is not the case for a lot of working families that I talk to.

These are hardworking folks: small business owners, blue-collar workers, teachers, police officers, and everyone in between. They barely made it through the governor's Covid closures and now they are being squeezed by inflation. Our top priority with a surplus of this magnitude must be providing real, meaningful, significant tax relief to those who need it the most, the taxpayers.

If you are interested in reading the complete budget forecast, it is available at this web address: <https://mn.gov/mmb/forecast/forecast/>.

Contact me

As always, if you have questions or concerns about the state budget or any other legislative topic, feel free to contact me any time. You can call me at 651-296-5655 or send me an email at sen.mary.kiffmeyer@senate.mn. It is a privilege to serve as your state senator.

Mekeland Matches High Score

I am proud to have matched the highest score on the Legislative Evaluation Assembly of Minnesota's 2021 scorecard and was one of select few legislators to recently earn "honoree" distinction.

The LEA reports it rated the votes of all 201 legislators on 16 selected bills. Omnibus bills on taxes, agriculture, education, energy, health and human services, and housing were included, the LEA said, along with others addressing the governor's emergency powers, voter ID, energy policy and price gouging.



By Rep. Shane Mekeland

I was one of four legislators atop the LEA ratings with a score of 92.

The people of our area sent me to the Capitol to represent their best wishes

and this recognition is a testament to the work we have done together in District 15B. This is an honor that will only further my inspiration to continue voting for the best interests of my constituents.

The full report can be downloaded from the LEA website at <http://lea-mn.org>. The LEA indicates it is a non-partisan and non-profit organization, established to inform the citizens of Minnesota of both important legislation and the voting performance of each Minnesota state legislator.

Becker School Board reviews district statistics Monday

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
Reporter: katie@patriotnewsMN.com

During Monday's meeting, the Becker School Board reviewed district statistics for the World's Best Workforce plan.

The World's Best Workforce plan outlines long term goals for Minnesota schools. Those goals are as follows:

- All students are ready for kindergarten;
- All third grade students read at a third grade literacy level;
- All students attain career and college readiness before graduating;
- All students graduate high school;
- The achievement gap is closed between students living in poverty, students enrolled in special education, and the rest of the student population.

The school set personal goals, percentage-wise, in an effort to progress to these goals. For example, the district aimed to have 70% of students in third grade reading at a third grade level.

In a presentation given to the board, it was revealed that

- 80% of students had a low risk of being unprepared for kindergarten;
- 51.5% of third graders were at or above third grade literacy proficiency (as opposed to the 48.5% state wide. This is believed to have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.)
- Likewise, the average of students who were career/college ready (as determined by MCA/ACT scores) was

slightly higher than the state average;

• The gap between student groups was not as close as the district would like, but the presenter noted that the district did not want to meet this goal by lowering the expectations of the non low-income or special education students, but rather make sure the students all have access to resources allowing them to succeed.

Superintendent's Report

The public should be on the lookout for information about campus construction updates after the recent passing of the referendum. The referendum website, BulldogsStrong.com, was taken down and so all information will be communicated via the school's website or on social media.

After a push through social media, a couple new substitute teachers have been hired in the district. However, there is still a need for more subs. After increasing the pay rate last month, and with a plan to continue to advertise for the need, the school hopes that more hires will be made soon.

The school is working with Sherburne County Public Health to address the issue of rising COVID-19 cases in the district.

The MSBA (Minnesota School Board Association) will take place in January.

The next school board meeting will take place Jan. 3.

Student Report

The high school drama club musical was a success, with the house being nearly

sold out on Friday, and with many people leaving great reviews online.

Several of the school teams celebrated early wins for the season, including girls basketball, dance, and wrestling. (See stories on these teams in the sports section of the paper.)

The district has just entered its second trimester.

The student council will be decorating the school for the holiday season, and there will be a classroom door-decorating competition. Winter break will take place from Dec. 23-31.

Human Resources Position

The board felt it was in the best interest of the school to hire for an HR position, taking some of the HR duties off of the school superintendent. A 2015 study demonstrated that there was a need in the district for such a position, and the years and the pandemic have amplified the need. This will be a full time position.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Heard the 2021 financial audit;
- Held the truth in taxation meeting, which intends to educate the taxpayers on their taxes for the next year (presentation is available for online viewing in the recording of Monday's school board meeting, found on the district website);
- Heard a first reading on an updated family leave policy, and held second readings for two other policies.



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- Letters to the Editors: The PATRIOT welcomes letters to the editor. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included for verification purposes. All letters must contain the original signature of the writer; E-mailed letters can be accepted. The deadline for all letters is noon Wednesday. Limit letters to 200 words or less. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the editor and are subject to editing for grammar, libel and brevity. 2 letters per writer per subject each year.
- Obituaries: Obituaries are \$50 prepaid. The Editor reserves the right to edit lengthy obituaries.

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PRUSZINSKE from page 1

creating a vision and charting a new direction for the Becker community that will see beyond coal after the shut-downs of parts of Sherco. He has also been instrumental in improving transportation connections like building Energy Drive to better access I-94 and growing local business and driving job growth.

Greg knows the proud accomplishments are unattainable without the cooperation and hard work of the past city councils and the current and past staff members under this service.

"We've brought more than \$30 million in outside CapEx to the community, leveraged technology for efficient/effective delivery of services, recruited top talent, made a wide range of improvements to city assets including CIP to streets, water, sewer, wastewater treatment, Pebble Creek, Community Center, Parks, etc."

Greg has also executed a Capital Improvements Program for the community, led the Coalition of Utility Cities as the President, delivered the keynote address to the Midwestern Governor's Association hosted the Minnesota Governor's office, Minnesota House, and Minnesota Senate Capital Investment Commit-

tees in Becker as well as creating/improving systems that harden city operations and made the organization more effective and efficient.

Not all things have been rosy during Pruszinske's tenure — he's faced numerous serious challenges as he concentrated on the betterment of the community for all citizens. The toughest challenge Pruszinske recalls is one of the most recent. The decommissioning of Sherco I & II (the decision to decommission Sherco III is still pending).

"Extremely difficult because of the pending job loss, loss of tax base, and the financial loss to the area," said Greg. "Including direct, indirect, and induced economic impacts the plant has on Becker/Sherburne County and central Minnesota."

One of Pruszinske's regrets from his 25 years at Becker was the opportunity to install a pedestrian/bike path through the Business Park when the city built Energy Drive.

"If I could do it again, I would push harder for this project," he said. "That would be a great link to the Co. Rd. 53 trail being proposed/engineered. Then once the Co. Rd. 8 realignment happens

our residents would have a fantastic trail to access the Mississippi River that loops the south side of the community."

Greg commends the current council for all they've done and are currently doing for the city and its residents.

"They've been the best council I've been a part of over the years," he said. "They've worked hard, worked together and have always had the city's best interests in mind. It's been a pleasure."

Greg is also grateful for the numerous robust partnerships he and the city have made with so many people, businesses and organizations over the years.

"The Initiative Foundation; GSDC; Greater MSP; Xcel Energy; BNSF; Becker Township; Becker School Board; Becker Area Chamber of Commerce and the Sherburne County Board, to name a few," he says. "Thanks to our representatives and senators in Shane Mekeland, Andrew Mathews and Tom Emmer, too. I'm sure there are some I forgot to mention... we've received fantastic support from those around us!"

The City Council will be using a search firm to recruit

candidates for Greg's replacement. GovHR is the name of the company the city plans to use and Charlene Stevens is the name of the consultant that will be doing the work. Council is currently looking for an interim City Administrator until the new person is onboard.

"It will be difficult leaving the area," said Pruszinske. "We've met so many great people. I work with a stellar City Council and have fantastic coworkers. We also have awesome friends in the area and have had many good times!"

"It has been truly an honor to work with Greg for the past five and a half years and seeing all of the accomplishments within the City," Community Development Director Marie Pflipsen said. "Greg will be missed, but I'm excited for him and his new opportunity!"

"I've appreciated the time that I have worked with Greg in my 15 years here at the PD," said Becker Police Chief Brent Baloun. "He has always been willing to listen, and even when we didn't see eye to eye, there was always a mutual respect for each other and our opinions."

Baloun went on to say he always had the ability to

walk into Pruszinske's office and talk about issues or concerns, and he has been willing to listen.

"It's been nice to have a boss who is my age, has similar life experiences, and sees things in many ways like I do," Baloun continued. "I will miss working with Greg for his sense of humor, his passion and knowledge for the job and in consideration of where we are today since he took over as City Administrator. Despite what may be around us, the city is in a great position due to his leadership over the years."

"I have worked with Greg Pruszinske for the last 8+ years," said Becker City Clerk Julie Blesi. "He hired me as the City Clerk and over that time has given me numerous opportunities to grow in my professional career. I have watched as he made decisions, both easy and difficult, for the benefit of the City of Becker and its residents."

Blesi says Pruszinske has worked tirelessly since word of Sherco's retirement to transition the city away from a coal based economy.

"He has set many pieces in motion to accomplish this transition, including \$30 million of outside capital investment in the city's Industrial

Park to attract new businesses and give existing business reason to expand," she continued. "The City of Hibbing will be getting a very experienced City Administrator and I wish him the best!"

"Greg has been great to work with and has always had the city's best interests in mind," said Rep. Shane Mekeland. "He will be a great asset to the City of Hibbing and will be missed by me and many others."

Public Services Director Phil Knutson has had a unique perspective when it comes to Greg Pruszinske since he previously sat on the council when Pruszinske was the assistant CA and then became the full time city administrator.

"Having both sides of it affords different views and how it works," said Knutson. Phil notes that Greg has been through a lot of changes with the city and is departing with many big changes on the horizon, namely Xcel and the energy transition.

"The one constant in his time has been the participation and the involvement with the CUC (Coalition of Utility Cities) and the fight to try and

Hornet gymnasts take first in Elk River

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnews.com

The Big Lake Hornet girls gymnastics team participated in the Dana Hunt Elk River Invite last Saturday in Elk River with eight other teams.

Elk River High School gymnastics coach and art teacher Dana Hunt died of breast cancer at the age of 37 back on Sept. 9, 1995. Four months after her death, on January 20, 1996, the first ever Dana Hunt Memorial Invitational was held in memory of her. The invitational is celebrating 25 years in 2021.

Big Lake's varsity squad captured first place at the invite, garnering 143.05 points to Wayzata's 142.45. Elk River/Zimmerman captured third with 137.8 points

and Anoka took fourth with 137.4.

Big Lake Varsity finished first on vault and beam, second on bars and floor.

Lola Visci (36.25) won the all-around and Autumn Grunewald (35.4) finished third.

Britney Krumrei (9.55) took first on vault, Grunewald (9.2) finished third and Visci (9.1) finished fourth.

Visci (9.2) won bars and Katie Goracke (8.4) finished sixth.

Grunewald (9.2) finished second on beam, Sister Amber Grunewald (9.050) finished third.

Krumrei (9.4) finished second on floor, Visci (9.35) tied for third, Amber Grunewald (9.2) tied for fifth and Autumn Grunewald (9.1) tied for sixth.

JV Squad

The Hornet JVers capture first place amongst the competing teams with a score of 129.1. Wayzata was second with 127.2, Monticello was third with 126.15 and Anoka fourth with 123.3.

JV finished sixth on vault, second on bars, first on beam and second on floor.

Hannah Horvath (31.1) took third in the All-Around.

Grace McCrone and Horvath tied for sixth on vault with 8.3.

Amber Grunewald (8.0) took third on bars and Kennadie Ell (7.9) took fourth.

On beam, Big Lake took four of the top five spots. Allie Lu (8.7) first, Sam Merten (8.15) second, Grace McCrone and Horvath tied for fourth scoring 8.0.

Katie Goracke (8.5)

placed third on floor, Allie Goracke (8.45) was fourth and McCrone (8.4) was fifth.

"The girls looked great for their first meet of the season," said Head Coach Lanny Goldsmith. "They fought through some nerves and performed incredibly well in front of a big crowd at Elk River High School. This meet showcased some top teams in the state as well. I'm very proud of their effort and the focus they showed today. They never got too high or low and supported each other throughout the entire meet."

Up Next

The Hornets competed Thursday at home vs Princeton (Check back next week for a full report in the Patriot).

Hornet boys BB team plans to play tough

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
reporter.bill@patriotnews.com

Thomas Critchley is heading up the Big Lake Hornet basketball team for the 2021-22 season his coaches are Chuck McConville, Sam Dokkebakken, Sheridan Johnson, Nick Schaub and Tim Peterson.

Tyler Halvorson is no longer with the team.

The Hornets will once again compete in the Mississippi 8 Conference along with the likes of the Becker, Cambridge-Isanti, Chisago Lakes, Monticello, North Branch, St. Francis and Princeton.

Critchley lost Jack Iverson, who led the conference in scoring and rebounding and Wyatt Windhorst, who was a very good slasher and a great rebounder, to graduation but he has several key

players he hopes will step up and fill the needs of the team.

"Johnny O'Brien is the only starter we have back," said the head coach. "He's a strong, physical player who can really attack the basket. A great leader."

Critchley is also excited about Joe Stepp, a senior transfer from STMA.

"He went to school in Big Lake until the sixth grade and recently has moved back," Critchley said. "He's a very skilled player who adds extra length to our team."

Kade Layton is a junior who is an "excellent shooter with unlimited range," said Critchley.

"Mitchell Hill is smooth," he said. "He's a lefty point guard with a beautiful shot and is a tough physical defender."

Critchley's final star

player for the 2021-22 campaign is Carson Kunz.

"He's a junior post, very athletic, one of the top leapers in the conference," Critchley says. "He has the potential to be one of the top players in the section."

Some of Critchley's biggest concerns this season is the lack of experience and lack of size.

"We need to defend and rebound without turning the ball over," he says. "I think we will be an excellent shooting team who will play a tough physical man-to-man while trying to create tempo and wear people out with our depth."

The Hornets began their season at Sauk Rapids Rice Tuesday, then play Hutchinson at home Thursday.



I Love Everything Christmas!

The snow is finally here just in time for the Christmas season to get in to full swing. I won't lie it is my favorite time of year, it's also my birthday month so that could be part of the reason. I love everything to do with Christmas including having a real tree. Instead of talking stats and recaps about Minnesota's sports teams I thought it'd be fun to do more of a personal story.

At this time of year everyone talks about their favorite Christmas movie, mine is a tie between *Home Alone* and the *Santa Clause*. More so the *Santa Clause* because I absolutely love the "seeing isn't believing, believing is seeing" quote. I've always been an optimistic type especially when it comes to sports. My team may be down 8-1 but I'll still believe they have a way to come back and sometimes it has happened.

That brings me to the sports topic and my favorite sports movie. Of course, it's *Miracle*. The whole definition of that movie is hope and optimism. I may not have been alive during the real-life event but that movie does a good job of bringing you into that world. There are two other

reasons I love that movie. The accuracy of the hockey, the fact that they cast real hockey players so the actual hockey would be as authentic as they could make it. The other being how well Kurt Russell portrayed Herb Brooks.

Growing up, once I realized my career as a pro hockey player wasn't going to pan out, I wanted to coach. I even tried to minor in it in college but of course life had other plans and I wasn't able to pursue that part of my college education. Anyway, I had a fascination with the way Brooks coached, he got into the minds of his players and put together a team that worked, despite most of them never playing together before. It's such an interesting concept to me and one I've delved into on and off in my post college life.

Many may think Brooks was rather hard on his players and maybe

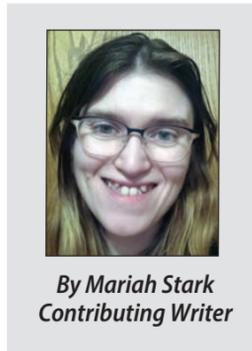
he was, but sometimes that's what players need. He made those kids believe they could win that game and they went out and did what many thought to be impossible, because they believed they could and they trained their hardest. Also, the style of play he chose, to throw their opponents game back in their faces was amazing.

I love how that movie seems to come to life every time I watch it and I always find new details I never noticed before. I do agree with his theory on the NHL sending players to the Olympics as well. Of course, I love seeing my favorite athletes play for their respective countries but building teams out of "superstars" doesn't always work out because they try to compete with each other rather than against the opponents. Things have changed a lot however since that took place and a lot of NHL players now focus more

on "we" than "me" and it's a great change to see. Of course, there are still players that think they're the best thing to come around but they will always exist.

For the end of my monologue on why I love this movie, if you haven't seen it, you should. Whether you're a sports fan or not, it's a very entertaining movie that will make you want to chant, "USA, USA, USA". It's a very well-made movie that brings to life one of the biggest events in sports history. Like my Christmas movies, I do have one other sports movie that is one of my favorites but probably second to *Miracle*. That would be the *Mighty Ducks*, the original. I like them all but the first one is by far the best as with most movies, the originals are typically the best.

What are your favorite Christmas and sports movies? Or the biggest question for the holiday season, do you have all your shopping done? I'm going to end this here and hopefully everyone has a good holiday season as well as a Happy New Year!



By Mariah Stark
Contributing Writer

PRUSZINSKE from page 7

keep Becker at the table with Xcel and what will happen when that tax base goes away," said Knutson. "He has worked with Xcel to lead development and increasing the size of the business park and trying to bring new industries into the park. We are all hopeful that these efforts continue to come to fruition and materialize for the stability and growth of Becker."

"Greg has been great to work with," said current councilman Rick Hendrickson. "As a CA, your bosses change every couple of years and what may have been the given direction with a previous council is now different with a new council. Greg has navigated those changes well."

Hendrickson feels Pruszinske's biggest accomplishment has been to make it so that host cities are considered when utility decisions are made.

"I have been around long enough to remember when we were not even a blip on the radar when it came to utility decisions," said Hendrickson. "We are certainly not the only group that desires to be heard but we are always mentioned just like native tribes, environmentalists and large industrial customers. Although many people have played a part, no one person is more responsible for that change in thinking at the state level than Greg. He was beating that drum long before most folks thought early coal retirements were even being discussed. He has spent literally thousands of hours working on coal transition issues both with the city as well as our Coalition of Utility City partners and we are truly in a better position today due to Greg's hard work."

Mayor Tracy Bertram also wanted to make a statement in regards to Pruszinske.

"I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with Greg over my time serving on city council and as Mayor," said Bertram. "With his guidance we have accomplished a lot of projects such as, long-term capital improvement planning, ad-

ditional water well, business park growth and he's tackled a lot of legislative issues."

Bertram jokingly said Pruszinske turned her into a government/legislative nerd while watching hours of bill hearings or sessions and learning who's who at the Capital.

"I never thought I would have that kind of interest in government but somehow he made it fun to learn," she said. "I will definitely miss his friendly disposition, his passion for the community and having a strategic partner. I wish him the very best in Hibbing."



PRUSZINSKE TOOK A MOMENT a few years ago to promote the Fat Tire Race at Pebble Creek Golf Course during the city's Business Expo weekend. (Patriot Archive Photo).



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(Published in the Patriot: 12/04/21; 12/11/21).

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GREG AND PAULA PRUSZINSKE posed with their daughter, Carly (middle) at Carly's prom from a few years ago. (Patriot Archive Photo).

Sports/Area News

Bulldog girls facing top hoops teams MN, WI

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

It was as difficult an opening week of competition as one could imagine for the Becker girls basketball team, as the Bulldogs faced some of the talent from both Minnesota and Wisconsin and came away with a 1-2 record.

"We are excited because these three games point to what we need to work on," said Head Coach Dan Baird. "As a team, we are learning each other's tendencies, as the group is new at playing together as a unit."

Tigers

Last Tuesday, the Bulldogs opened the season in Princeton and blew away their Mississippi 8 Conference foe, 74-35. Becker raced to a 48-12 halftime lead and never looked back.

"Princeton struggled against us in the opener because of our speed," Baird said. "We didn't play well and still won by 38."

Becker scored 37



DANI "DIESEL" NUEST has been leading the Becker girls basketball team in their early season action. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

points off 38 Princeton turnovers and also held an advantage with 23 steals, compared to the Tigers' 10. Adeline Kent led the offensive effort with 19 points, while teammate Dani Nuest chipped in 17 points and had an incredible 9 steals.

Other scoring for Becker: Maren Westin, 14 (four assists, three steals); Ayla Brown, six (four as-

sists, five steals); Reese Hausmann, one; Alexis Rose, 14; Liz Mackedanz, two.

Trojans

Last Friday, Becker traveled to the metro area and took on Wayzata, a Class AAAA juggernaut, and Becker fell 80-52.

Becker had trouble in the first half, trailing 21-49 heading into the break, be-

fore playing an even second half where each team scored 30 points.

"Wayzata's length gave us problems," Baird said, alluding to the height advantage enjoyed by the Trojans.

It was a clean game, with Becker being whistled for just six fouls in the game, while the Trojans notched just nine.

Becker was outscored 44-24 in the paint, while the Trojans had the advantage in transition points, 27-9.

Nuest was the scoring leader for Becker with 20 points, while Brown scored 15. Westin had nine points for Becker, while Kent added eight.

Patriots

Saturday night, the competition didn't get any easier for the Bulldogs as they played against the Patriots from Appleton (WI) East high school and fell 73-61 to the top team from Wisconsin.

"Appleton East was a handful as well," Baird said. "We battled them

tough leading by four at half, but struggled in the second half with their 1-2-2 trapping half court zone."

The Bulldogs took it to the big school in several areas, including enjoying a 16-7 advantage in transition points and a 15-10 advantage in second chance points, but the Patriots' depth was just too much to overcome.

Nuest again had the hot hand, as the Michigan Tech recruit lit up the scoreboard for 19 points and five steals. Westin, Kent and Brown each added 11 points for the Bulldogs, while Rose chipped in nine.

Despite the losses, Baird felt that the two games against supreme competition were worth it.

"Both teams prepared us well for our future," Baird said. "Dani Nuest is kind of leading the way, especially by rising to the occasion against top notch competition!"

Bulldog matmen open season with a pair of wins

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

It was the type of start the Becker wrestling team was looking for last Thursday, as they hosted their season opening matches with a pair of wins, defeating St. Francis 43-27 before downing Scott West, 47-15.

"I thought our team competed well and was able to get the first match nerves out of their system," said Head Coach Travis

Holt. "We will continue to have an offensive approach to competition and look forward to wrestling this week."

In the win over the Saints, Bennett Kujawa opened up the match with a 6-2 decision in the 106 pound match, while St. Francis won the next two matches to take a 9-3 lead. Landen Kujawa then scored a second period fall for the Bulldogs to tie up the score 9-9 after the 126 pound match. After losses at 132

and 138, Becker bounced back with an Ethan Duncombe major decision at 145 pounds and a first period fall by Ethan Anderson (152) and Becker had its first lead, 19-18. From there, it was a convincing effort by the Bulldogs, as they picked up a fall at 160 from Mason Doucette and a pair of forfeits (Dylan Weber at 195 and Dylan Kolby at 220) to take a commanding 37-27 lead. Bryce Kuschel picked up a first period fall at 285 to

give Becker the conference win.

Scott West

In the second match of the night, Becker ran away with the match by winning 10 of the 14 individual matches. Kujawa again scored the win, a fall, at 106, followed by a Kaden Nicolas first period fall at 120. Drew May picked up a decision at 132, followed by Ryan Boecker's major decision win at 138.

Anderson (152) and Doucette (160) picked up

wins for Becker, followed by Adam Jurek's major decision at 170. Tyson Ricker then picked up his first win of the season at 182, followed by victories from Kolby (220) and Kuschel (285).

Becker was scheduled to wrestle Thursday night in Princeton, where they were to take on the host Tigers and the Milaca Wolves in a triangular.

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THE BIG LAKE CHEERLEADERS will be raising money for their trip to the national competition with a spaghetti dinner and silent auction Wednesday. (Submitted photo.)

By Katherine Cantin,
Staff Writer
Reporter.Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

The Big Lake Cheerleading team will be hosting a spaghetti dinner and silent auction on Wednesday at Big Lake Lions Park. Money raised at this event will fund the rest of the team's season as they once again prepare for nationals.

Bid for Nationals

The varsity team is excited to once again be competing on the national stage, having won their ticket for the competition after qualifying at the regional competition. The competition will take place at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex at the Walt Disney World Resort Feb. 11-13. Teams from across the country will gather to compete in this massive event, including the students

from Big Lake High School. The junior competition team is also excited to take on a large competition. They will be performing at the MCCA State competition in St. Paul at the Roy Wilkins Event Center Jan. 29.

Spaghetti Dinner and Auction

The team will host a spaghetti dinner and silent auction to pay for transportation fees and other costs to help get the students to their performances. Dinner will be served from 5-8 p.m., and Santa Claus has agreed to make a special visit from 5-7 p.m.!

The varsity students will also be bagging groceries at Cub Foods in Monticello Dec. 19.

For more ways to support the team, visit [Facebook.com/BigLakeCheer](https://www.facebook.com/BigLakeCheer).

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Clear Lake City to study speed sign at Hwy. 24

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Clear Lake City Council met Monday evening and discussed its 2022 budget, a solar farm and the Highway 24 speed sign.

As area residents may have noticed, the electronic speed sign on Highway 24 is no longer functioning. City Clerk Kari Koren reported to council that the sign had been there for many years and she tried contacting several agencies about its replacement, but to no avail. In fact, none of the agencies had any records of the sign being installed or who would be responsible for maintenance or replacement.

MnDOT noted that the sign is in the highway right-of-way, but no permit had ever been pulled for the project.

Public Works Director Dustin Luhnig had tried to inspect the sign to figure out a cause for the malfunction and he did note several internal batteries that are connected to the small solar charger that powers the sign. After pulling the model number off the unit, Luhnig was unable to locate any materials or manuals on the unit, as the number does not match any records.

Two options emerged at the meeting, including complete removal of the sign or the city assuming responsibility to either repair the existing sign or replace it with a newer model.

Council members agreed that the sign served a useful purpose and favored an approach to investigate permitting and repair costs. Member Chad Nelson was concerned that parts might be hard to locate or source, since the sign appears very old.

After further discussion, Luhnig and Koren will work together to investigate permitting costs, as well as estimates for repair or replacement. Council will discuss further at the January meeting and possibly make a decision at that time.

SCSO Sgt. Andy Ochs next reported on the 41 calls for service from the last period, which included 13 traffic stops.

Budget

Before the start of the regular meeting, council held a public hearing on the 2022 proposed levy. Staff and council have been working on the budget for several months and no member of the public was at the meeting to address the issue so council moved to

close the public hearing.

Solar

Koren reported that an application has been received for the establishment of a solar farm along the Highway 24 corridor, thus triggering the need to have a joint planning board meeting. According to the city and township orderly annexation agreement, representatives from each entity, as well as a Sherburne County planning employee will meet to review the proposal. Council members Stefany Janish and Chad Nelson agreed to serve on the committee and Mayor Tim Goenner will serve as the alternate in case one is needed. Potential meeting dates include December 21 of January 18.

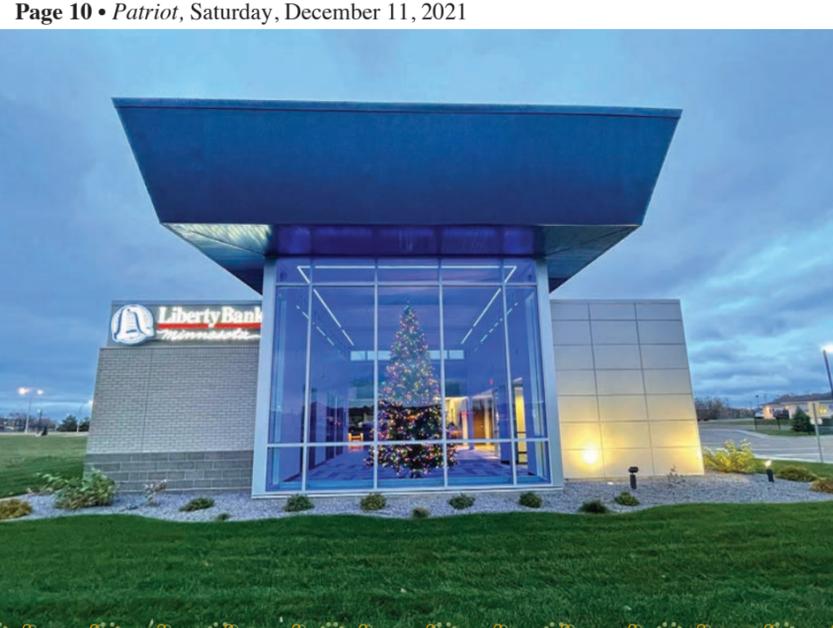
In Other Business, the Council:

- Approved an increase to the firefighter years of service contribution as recommended by the board of trustees;
- Agreed to sell a city owned 2.26 acre parcel of land for \$60,000.

The council will meet next Jan. 3 at 7 p.m.



SANTA ON A FIRE TRUCK! Santa Claus visited Big Lake last weekend to team up with the fire dept. and the food shelf. Santa and the fire trucks ran in a parade through town. As they went by, food shelf items were collected from spectators, as well as some items donated at the fire station. (Submitted photo.)



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

Car Seat Distribution Classes
Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River. If eligible, residents of Sherburne County can receive a car seat for a \$20 suggested donation. Call to find out income guidelines (families who are on WIC or children on medical assistance are automatically eligible). Call for an appointment or more information, 763-765-4112 or 1-800-433-5239.

First Steps Central MN Personal Nurses
Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright County have a team of Personal Nurses who connect with families that are pregnant or recently had a baby. Our Nurses offer support and information to be the best parent you can be, have a safe, loving home for you and your baby, connect to resources in your community to get things needed for your baby, and find ways to continue your education and develop job skills. The program is at no cost to you. Call 763-276-0441 or visit www.firststepscentralmn.org for more information.

HIV testing
Free and confidential testing is available by appointment at: Sherburne County Health and Human Services, 13880 Business Center Drive, Elk River, MN 55330. Contact our HIV tester at 763-765-4000.

Immunization/ Covid-19 Vaccine Tuesdays
Sherburne County Public Health is offering free Covid-19 Vaccine, and offering free or low cost immunizations for children 18 years of age or younger and uninsured or underinsured adults 19 years and older in Minnesota who meet eligibility guidelines on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for an appointment or more information, 763-765-4000 or 1-800-433-5239.

Outreach in St. Cloud
The Sherburne County Wellness bus will be in St. Cloud at CashWise (East) on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 9:30-3pm. HHS staff will answer questions about public assistance programs and assist Sherburne County residents in applying for, or maintaining, benefits. Need Help with Food, Child Care, Medical Assistance, Housing, Utility Disconnects, Evictions? Come see us, no appointment necessary!

WIC (Women, Infants & Children): is for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding, recently had a baby, infants and children to their 5th birthday. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, healthy foods and referrals to health services/community resources. The service is free, and you or your children may be eligible. For more information, please call 763-765-4116 or 1-800-433-5239, or check out the website http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/hhs/wic.php. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

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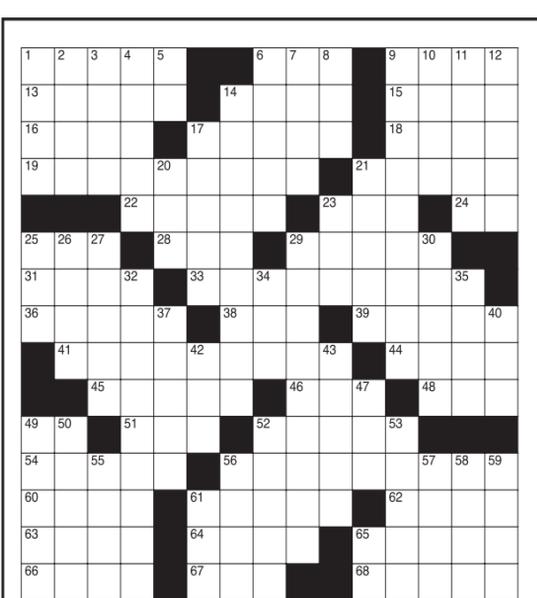
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Game Time



CLUES ACROSS

- German philosopher
- A type of stock trading (abbr.)
- Cincinnati ballplayers
- Deerlike water buffaloes
- Island
- Jewish calendar month
- Round Dutch cheese
- Unstressed syllable of a metrical foot
- A restaurant needs one
- Decent behaviors
- Groans
- Works hard
- Upset
- A sound made in speech
- One point east of due south
- Boxing's GOAT
- Whittles
- Tailless amphibian
- Surrounded
- Doesn't stay still
- Copycat

CLUES DOWN

- Bodily substance
- Internal
- Provoke or annoy
- Type of lounge chair
- Losses
- Makes less severe
- Identifies a thing close at hand
- Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
- Rebuilt
- Ancient Greek City
- American investigative journalist
- Partially melted snow
- Take shape
- Mexican beverage
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Jacobs and Summers are two
- Disfigure
- Scientists' tool (abbr.)
- Ill-mannered person
- Overhang

- Four-door car
- Morally correct behavior
- Something that is owed
- Pasta needs it
- Ant-Man's last name
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Small period of time (abbr.)
- Woman (French)
- On or around
- Fencing swords
- Fonts
- A command in the name of the court
- Sprays with an irritant
- Georgetown athlete
- Dry or withered
- Sign of injury
- Tracts of land (abbr.)
- 365 days
- Physique
- Icelandic poems

- Famed rat catcher
- Passover feast and ceremony
- Equal to 10 meters
- Central processing unit
- Chinese native religion
- Unfermented juices
- "To the __ degree"
- Frozen water
- Medieval circuit courts
- 1,000 cubic feet (abbr.)
- Gossipy
- Shopping is one type
- Palmlike plant
- Partner to "oohed"
- Welsh name meaning "snow"
- Popular Mexican dish
- It helps power devices
- Reddish-brown wildcat
- Impertinence
- Legal financial term (abbr.)
- Atomic #52

PUZZLE SOLUTION to Page 2B

Big Lake Senior Center

The Big Lake Senior Club meets Tues., 1-4pm, Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St. North. We would love to have you join us for card games, refreshments & conversation.

For More Information Call:
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has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call National Debt Relief! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 844/205-5439

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THE VOLUNTEER BRIDGE

RSVP / The Volunteer Bridge Community Mentor with Big Brother Big Sister Program
Provide one on one youth mentoring to children facing adversity by providing a caring environment. Meet with your "Little" three to four times a month. Matches play board games, go bowling, attend the movies, do arts and crafts, play sports, and enjoy fishing, among many other opportunities. Many children are waiting for their Mentor so join today!

Court Watch with Rivers of Hope
Attend court and bail hearings in Sherburne and/or Wright Counties to gain information on specific offenders to then report back to Rivers of Hope staff via email, dropping into the building, or from a phone call. Ability to attend court at 10:30 am in Sherburne and/or Wright counties Monday through Friday, and late afternoons on weekdays. Volunteers can pick which days/sessions of court to attend.

Tutor with Metro North Adult Basic Education
Work either one-on-one or in small groups with adults working. Many adults are working towards obtaining their GED, Adult Diploma, or learning new skills. Offer support in the areas of reading, writing, math, science, or social studies. Some adults are learning English as a second language, so assisting in language learning is common.

If you are interested in volunteering in these or other opportunities, please contact:
AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP 763-635-4505
heather.brooks@ci.stcloud.mn.us
SherburneUnitedWay.org/Volunteer

Announcements

Becker Area Organizations

Becker American Legion Auxiliary

The auxiliary meetings are suspended from Oct. 2021 - Feb. 2022, we will start meeting again in Mar. 2022. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paula Hinds (President) at (763) 262-6679 or see John Riebel or Nellie Simpson at Becker True Value.

Becker American Legion Post 193

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

Becker AA Meeting

Becker Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Thurs., 8pm at Mary of the Visitation, 12100 Sherburne Ave, Becker. For information, call/text (320) 247-4732 or email beckeraagroupmn@gmail.com

Becker Boy Scout Pack 92 Cardboard, Paper & Aluminum

Bring your aluminum cans to the trailer located near Becker True Value. Paper & cardboard recycling location is at the Becker Community Center, please remember to flatten the cardboard & absolutely no garbage on the first Sat. of every month. There will be a Scout there to help unload between 9am-12pm. Thanks for your support!

Becker Evangelical Ministries

Every Wed., 6-7:30pm at Becker Middle School. GYM 45 - growing young men. HIS KIDZ - K-3rd grade. G.I.R.L.S. GROUP - 4th & 5th grade girls.

Becker Free Church (763) 261-4125 or register online at WWW.BECKERFREECHURCH.ORG (under Youth Connection click "Event Registration").

Becker Food Shelf

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

Becker Hearts & Hands Quilt Guild

Meet 2nd Mon. of month at 7pm. Becker Baptist Church. Contact Elizabeth Steckelberg (320) 259-9542.

Becker Lions Club

Meetings are held the second Mon. each month at 7pm at Becker City Park. Dale Seavert (320) 290-5342.

Becker Lions Collecting Items to Recycle

The Becker Lions are collecting used eyeglasses (no cases please) and hearing aids. Collection buckets are located at the Becker Community Center, Insight Eye Care and Becker Food Shelf. We are no longer collecting used cell phones or printer cartridges. If you have any questions please contact Lion Dale Seavert at (320) 290-5342 (phone or text) or by email at djseavert@gmail.com.

Becker Sons of the American Legion Squadron 193

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

Becker Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting

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

Dementia Support Group

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

Great River Faith in Action

If you are a senior, age 60 & above, family caregiver or an individual in need of services, Great River Faith in Action can provide volunteer transportation, chore services & grocery shopping assistance, as well as caregiver groups. Call

(763) 263-0274 or after hours (763) 263-4277.

Snake River Free Mission Church

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

Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

The Refuge is open to visitors year-round during the daylight hours. The Refuge is located at 17076 293rd Ave, Zimmerman. Call (763) 389-3323 or sherburne@fws.gov

Big Lake Area Organizations

Big Lake Ambassador

"Empowering young ladies of Big Lake to be women of tomorrow through Community Service. To promote leadership, professional development & personal growth with an opportunity to earn an educational scholarship. Core Values - Honesty, Respect, Loyalty & commitment." Information about program email: biglakeambassadors@gmail.com or biglakejuniorambassadors@gmail.com.

Big Lake American Legion Post #147

Meets the first Thurs. of the month @ 7 pm. Community Room by the Big Lake Police Station, 790 Minnesota Ave, Big Lake 55309. Please contact Commander Paul Seefeld (612) 801-7731.

Big Lake OPEN AA Meetings

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

Big Lake Al-Anon

Meetings held Mon., 7pm at Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church - Big Lake Annex, "lawn chairs outdoors when weather permits."

Newcomers encouraged - we are a very welcoming group! Laurie (763) 218-5330.

The Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary

Meets the first Tues. Mar.-Dec. at 7pm. in the Senior Citizen Center at Big Lake City Hall. Please contact Kathy at (763) 263-6093 for information.

Big Lake / Becker Mops

Mother's of preschoolers Group meets the second & fourth Wed. of the month (Sept.-May) at Becker Baptist Church, 9-11:30am.

Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

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

Big Lake Bicycle Advisory Committee

Meets second Tues. of each month at 11am. Meetings via Zoom due to COVID. Contact Recreation & Communication Coordinator Corrie Scott at cscott@biglakemn.org or 612-297-6331 for meeting links or questions on the Committee Website: <https://www.biglakemn.org/443/Big-Lake-Bicycle-Advisory-Committee>.

Big Lake Community Food Shelf

The Big Lake Community Food Shelf hours of service are Mon. & Thurs. 5:30-7:30pm & Wed. 9-11am. We also serve clients every "Freebie Friday" from 11:30am-12:30pm., providing produce, dairy, & bakery goods. Our new, "Pop-up Pantry", from 11:30am-12:30pm every Tues. To volunteer call (763) 263-2432 or www.blcfs.org.

Big Lake Day of Prayer

Big Lake meets year round the first Wed. of the month, at 7am for a prayer breakfast at Big Lake High School flagpole.

The Big Lake Lions

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

LC of Big Lake Lioness

If you are interested in learning more about the LC of Big Lake Lioness you can catch us on FB: www.facebook.com/BigLakeMnLionessClub, or attend any meeting held the second Mon. of the month at the Lions Park on CR5. social starts 6:30pm, meeting 7pm. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the club.

Big Lake Narcotics Anonymous Meetings

Big Lake Living Clean NA meeting Sun., 7pm, Bridgeview Assembly of God Church, 20500 Co. Rd. 11, Big Lake, MN, (763) 482-1695.

Big Lake Women of Today

Hold a monthly general meeting at Senior Activity Center located in the Big Lake City Office Building on the 3rd Thurs. of the month @ 7pm. Contact Natalie @ (612) 518-3504 or find us at Facebook or www.biglakewomentoday.webs.com.

God's Grub Community Meal

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

Living with Parkinson's Under The Age of 60

We meet the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8pm at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street So., Big Lake, MN 55309.

Any questions, please call Camille Johnson at (763) 350-7401.

Moms in Prayer

Meets weekly to pray for their children & the school they attend. Information: www.momsinprayer.org or Colene Stenberg (763) 263-6809 or stenbergjc@outlook.com



Upcoming Big Lake Events

THE MITTEN TREE IS UP

Waiting for your generous donations of mittens, hats, and scarves for elementary school children. Thanks to our partners at RIVERWOOD BANK in Big Lake we are accepting donations of these winter necessities to distribute to elementary children in the Big Lake and Becker School District. These items will be collected until Jan. 3, at which time the LC of the Big Lake Lioness will collect, sort and distribute to all the elementary schools in both school districts to be used by the children as needed.

Upcoming Clearwater Events

Young @ Heart

Dec. Young at Heart will meet at Rejoice Lutheran Church, Clearwater MN on Dec. 16, 10:30am for coffee/conversation or card games. Group caroling 11am with lunch with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus 11:30am. Requests for Christmas Carols will resume at 12 noon (suggested donation) with Santa visiting to follow. Please call Rejoice at 320-558-6851 to assure a lunch is available for everyone.

TCA Missions & Outreach

Children's Christmas program is on Wed., Dec. 15, with a meal at 5:30pm followed by the program at 6pm. Drive-up Live Nativity on Sun., Dec. 19 at 5:30 pm. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Fri., Dec. 24th at 5pm.

This Week's Calendar Events:

- Sun. - Dec. 12, 2021:
 - » National Poinsettia Day
 - » Christmas Bird Count (12/12-1/3)
- Mon. - Dec. 13, 2021:
 - » Mary Todd Lincoln: Birth Anniversary
- Tues. - Dec. 14, 2021:
 - » Green Monday
- Wed. - Dec. 15, 2021:
 - » ECFE: Mom's Holiday Night
 - » Bill of Rights Day, Anniversary
- Thurs. - Dec. 16, 2021:
 - » BLS: Truth in Taxation Hearing
 - » BLS: School Board Meeting
 - » Boston Tea Party: Anniversary, 1773
- Fri. - Dec. 17, 2021:
 - » Clean Air Act Passed by Congress: Anniversary, 1967
- Sat. - Dec. 18, 2021:
 - » UN: International Migrants Day
 - » Moon Phase: Full Cold Moon

(Becker Schools=BS
Becker High School=BHS
Becker Middle School=BMS
Becker Intermediate School=BIS
Early Childhood Family Education=ECFE
Big Lake School=BLS
Clearview School=CVS)

Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events

BASC at Becker Community Center (BCC)

- Mon., Dec. 13: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's on; 10am-Play Cribbage
- Tues., Dec. 14: 9am-Coffee, Conversation, Cards; 9:15am-500 Card Club Today \$Prizes
- Wed., Dec. 15: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's on; 1pm-BASC Activity Meeting
- Thurs., Dec. 16: 9am-Coffee, Conversation, Cards; 1130am-Jade (here in person) for Tech help: iPads & tablets-how do they work & what can they do
- Fri., Dec. 17: Open All Day; 5am - Coffee's on; 11:30am-Lunch on the Run-Rebecca's in Becker

Becker Community Center: 763-200-4271
BASC Coordinator: Carol Brunnn
Activity Coordinator: Pat Throlson
Blood Pressure available whenever BASC is open
Send activity/class opportunities to:
basc.becker@gmail.com

PUZZLE SOLUTION from Pg 1B

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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Interested in being a sponsor for Cops Corner?
Contact Carol at the Patriot at 763.275.0275
Team up with your police department for a better, safer community

"ASK A TROOPER" by Sgt. Jesse Grabow of the Minnesota State Patrol
Question: I have a question about headlights, it seems that drivers are using their hi-beams to compensate for their cloudy headlights. Is this an equipment problem?

Answer: Using high beams to compensate for cloudy headlights is a hazard to oncoming traffic. If your headlights are cloudy it is recommended that you clean them. If they are still cloudy after cleaning them, you may have to replace them. When the driver of a vehicle approaches a vehicle in the oncoming lane, you are required to dim your headlights within a 1,000 feet. When following a vehicle, you are required to dim your lights within 200 feet. You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.
If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow — Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at, jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

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• BECKER
Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)
Pastor: David M. Johnson, 763-262-7782, 11185 27th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. School 10:30am, Wed. J.U.M.P. 6pm.

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

Becker Evangelical Free Church
Pastors: Patrick Drury (Senior), Chris Salvevold (Youth), 763-261-4125, Becker High School, Office: 11373 150th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Teaching/Fellowship 10am.

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month. (Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays in Big Lake).

Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Pastor: Yolanda Denson-Byers & Vicar Molly Wills, 763-261-5751, 11755 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30 am, Sun. School 8:30am, Wed. Confirmation 5:30pm, Senior High Youth Group 1st & 3rd Wed. 6pm
www.faihlutheran-becker.org.

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

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

Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church
Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am, Wed. Family Fellowship 7pm.

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

Free Grace United
Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, Becker High School, 12000 Hancock St. Enter door 11. Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm.

• BIG LAKE
Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church
Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am, Sat. Sabbath School 10:15am.

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

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

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

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

Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrock
763-263-7990. www.hopeintheretuge.weebly.com.

IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE Living Love Church
Pastores: Juan & Patricia Aguayo, 763-607-5403, 21 Lake St N. Services: Sat. 6pm.

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church
Pastor: Marty Mably, 763-263-3090, 15550 190th Ave NW. Services: Sun. 8am & 10am.

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 440 Lake St N. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm; Sun. 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month (Masses held on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays in Becker).

Riverside Church
Online: www.myrc.church, 763-263-2410, 20314 County Road 14. Services: Sun 8:45am, 10:30am & 12:05pm.

Saron Lutheran Church
Pastor: Kyle Sidlo, 763-263-2209, 311 Lake St. S. Services: Sun. Worship

9:30am, indoors or livestream.

• SANTIAGO
South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA
Pastor: Daryl Thul, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 8am in Sanctuary Worship, 10am in Sanctuary. Audio broadcast in parking lot for both services.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School
Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St. Services: Sun. School/Bible Class 10:30am, Divine Worship 9am.

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

Gethsemane Church (ELCA) - Ronneby
Pastor: Barbara Peterson, 320-983-5002, 14478 78th St. NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

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

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

Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919, 8641 Main Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am, Sun. School 9:45am.

SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer
Pastor: TBD, 320-241-0123, Palmer Town Hall, 4180 105th Ave. Services: Sun. 5pm.

St. Marcus Catholic Church
Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave. Services: Sat. Confessions 4:15pm, Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. 8am.

• DUELM
St. Lawrence Church
Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502, 10915 Duelm Road NE. Services: Sun. Mass 10am, Tues. Mass 8am.

• CLEARWATER
Clearwater United Methodist Church
Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

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

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

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

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

• SILVER CREEK
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Pastor: Ken Tatkenhorst, 763-878-2820, 11390 Elliot Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am

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

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Obituaries

Emily Patricia "Pat" Bailey, Age 81
Becker, MN
April 21, 1940 – November 24, 2021



children, and her great grandchildren. Her many talents and hobbies included: playing the accordian, cooking, baking, crafts, gardening, travel, and meeting new people. Her sense of humor and compassion for others will be dearly missed. Once you met her, her bubbly personality and generous heart had you hooked for life.
Pat was known for being an incredibly strong person and gave credit to her love for God and personal relationship with her Lord Jesus which carried her through the hardships in life.

Pat is survived by her children: Ruth (Carl) Peterson of Beaufort, SC., Paul (Sveta) Sundstrom of Afton, MN, Nora Lewandowski of Big Lake, David Sundstrom of Big Lake, and Amy Bailey of St. Cloud. Grandchildren; Chase Lemmer, Camaron Lemmer, and Chelsey Hancock, and 7 great grandchildren. Brother and sister, Marvin Bailey, of Nipomo, CA, and Darlene Antinuzzi of Zimmerman, MN.

She was preceded in death by her parents, son-in-law Michael Lewandowski and her sister Evelyn Tenczar.

E w a l d passed away December 6, 2021, at Guardian Angels Care Center, Elk River, MN. He was born on July 1, 1939 in Champlin, Minnesota to Ewald and Priscilla (Blanchette) Petersen.

Ewald attended Anoka High School and graduated with the class of 1957. He then attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota. He served nine years in the Minnesota National Guard. He was joined in marriage to Rita R. Hassing in 1964 at the Church of St. Stephen, in Anoka, Minnesota. Together they farmed in Champlin, MN, raising gladiolus for cut flowers, as well as a variety of vegetable "truck farm" crops. Ewald was active in Champlin politics, serving on the Champlin City Council and planning commission. In 1978, he moved his family and farming operation to Big Lake, MN, where he continued to grow his business. He continued his affinity for local politics, serving for many years as the chairman of the Big Lake Township Board, and later 12 years as a Sherburne County Commissioner.

He was active in civic and fraternal organizations, as a member of the Big Lake Lions Club, and 3rd and 4th degree Knights of Columbus. In his 82 years, Ewald was most thankful and proud of his family. His wife and children were his joy, and when his grandchildren and great-grandchild came along, his heart was full. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandpa and will be

Ewald T. Petersen, Age 82
Big Lake, MN
July 1, 1939 – December 6, 2021



missed by so many in the community.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 57 years, Rita; children, Ewald Joe (Shari) Petersen, Corrine (Scott) Ralph, Eric (Stephanie) Petersen, Paul

Petersen, Amy (Kurt) Brambrink, Rebecca (Chad) Blahosky; 7 grandchildren, Emily (Ralph) Lindenfelsner, Erin Ralph, Charlie Brambrink, Michael Brambrink, Ewald Petersen, Claire Petersen, Cecelia Blahosky; one great-grandson, Max Lindenfelsner; sister Meredith Thompson.

Ewald is preceded in death by his parents, Ewald and Priscilla Petersen, brothers Ludwig, William, Howard, and sister Katrina Nix.

Mass of Christian burial was Fri, Dec 10, 2021 at the Church of St. Andrew, 566-4th St NW, Elk River, with visitation one hour prior. Visitation also was Thurs, Dec 9, 2021 at Dare's Funeral Home, 805 Main St NW, Elk River. Interment followed at Bailey Station Cemetery in Big Lake, MN.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Dare's Funeral Home, Elk River, MN. Online condolences for the family may be directed to www.daresfuneralservice.com Memorials preferred to: Guardian Angels Care Center, 400 Evans Avenue NW, Elk River, MN 55330, Options Inc., 16820 197th Ave NW, Big Lake, MN 55309, or St. Andrews Catholic Church, 566 4th St NW, Elk River, MN 55330.

Michael T. Zemlin, Age 76
Big Lake, MN



Michael died Tuesday at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids.

He is preceded in death by his parents and sister Kathy Homstrom. Survivors include his wife Cathy of Big Lake; children, Yvonne of Buffalo; Robert (Crystal) of Blaine; grandchildren, Jack Zemlin, Tonya (Darren) Neske, great grandchildren, Derek and Trevor.

Mike worked as a quality control inspector for Twin City Di Casting in Monticello and prior to that he worked at St. Jude Hospital and Fleet Farm. He was a big history buff and enjoyed good music. He was very intelligent and was a gentleman all the way.

Service will be 1pm Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Big Lake with visitation 1 hour prior to services. Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home (763) 452-2500

Big Lake Police Department Calls for Service – Jail Bookings Nov. 29, 2021 - Dec. 5, 2021

Call for Service Summary: Total Calls for Service for Week: 174; 2021 Calls for Service: 10,173; Traffic Stops/Enforcement: 30; Citations: 32; Arrests: 3; Medical Emergency Calls: 5; Mental Health/Check Welfare: 11; Civil Mediation (Child Custody-Property): 5
BLPD Arrests: Trevor Campbell-Berry – (Age 25 – Pine City, MN) – Felony Warrant; Katherine Bahmet – (Age 53 – Coon Rapids, MN) – Probation Violation Warrant; Ethan Grimlie-Johnson – (Age 25 – Becker, MN) – Gross Misdemeanor Warrant
Sun., Dec. 5, 2021: 19600 Blk CR 43 - Marijuana in a Vehicle -Contact made with Driver, could smell burning marijuana, driver issued summons for Marijuana Possession; 19100 Blk Eagle Lake Rd. S. - Harassment - Officers investigated a report of harassment via social media.
Sat., Dec. 4, 2021: 300 Blk Monroe St. - Loud Noise - Report of loud vehicle; Hwy 10/CR 81 - Cancelled Driver - Driver stopped by officer for traffic violation, issued summons for Driving While Cancelled.
Fri., Dec. 3, 2021: 300 Blk Pleasant Ave. - Harassment - Officers investigated a report of harassment via social media; Hwy 10/CR 81 - Cancelled Driver - Driver stopped by officer for traffic violation, issued summons for Driving While Cancelled; 20000 Blk Truman Dr. - Domestic Disturbance - Officers mediated a verbal domestic altercation; 5200 Blk Pond View Ln. - Theft - Report of property theft, investigation ongoing; 20100 Blk 204th Ave. - Harassment - Officers investigated harassment via text message/phone calls; 1300 Blk Isanti St. - Vandalism to outside of home, investigation ongoing; Hwy 10/168th St. NW. - Vehicle Crash with Injuries. Party transported to hospital; 100 Blk Eagle Lake Rd. N. - Vehicle

Theft and Recovered Stolen- Report of a stolen, entered as stolen auto. Another vehicle was left on scene and found to be stolen from another city.
Thurs., Dec. 2, 2021: 18900 Blk Helen Way - Warrant Arrest - Suspect located on an outstanding arrest warrant, booked into jail.
Wed., Dec. 1, 2021: 5600 Blk



Loon Dr. - Court Order Violation - Report of the violation of a no contact order, investigation ongoing; 790 Minnesota Ave. - Warrant Arrest - Suspect located on an outstanding arrest warrant, booked into jail; 790 Minnesota Ave. - Fraud - Officers investigating fraud complaint; 5300 Edinburg Way - Court Order Violation - Report of the violation of a no contact order, investigation ongoing; 14700 Blk 165th Ave. SE. - Warrant Arrest - Suspect located on an outstanding arrest warrant, booked into jail.
Tues., Nov. 30, 2021: 200 Blk Maple Lane - Domestic Disturbance - Officers mediated a verbal domestic altercation.
Mon., Nov. 29, 2021: 400 Blk Lake St. S. - Theft - Report of property theft, investigation ongoing; 300 Blk Jefferson Blvd. - Theft - Report of property theft, investigation ongoing; 100 Blk Norwood Dr. - Harassment - Officers investigated verbal harassment between parties.

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Public Notices

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Date: November 18, 2021
YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of that certain mortgage that was executed by and among Elizabeth Nelson and Chad Nelson, as mortgagors, and Granite Community Bank, as mortgagee, which mortgage is dated May 15, 2019 and was recorded on May 16, 2019, as document number 871974, with the Office of the County Recorder in and for Sherburne County, Minnesota.
2. The mortgage has been assigned as follows: n/a
3. The original principal amount secured by the mortgage was: \$138,400.00.
4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the mortgage, or any part thereof.
5. The holder of the mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the mortgage and foreclosure of the mortgage and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.
6. As of the date of this notice, the amount due on the mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the mortgage is: \$132,837.00.
7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the mortgage, the mortgage will be foreclosed on the land described as follows: **Lot 7, Block 2, Parkside, Sherburne County, Minnesota** Street Address: 7633 Church Street, Clear Lake, Minnesota 55319 Tax Parcel Identification Number: 70-415-0235

and will be sold by the Sheriff of Sherburne County, Minnesota at public auction on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Office of the Sherburne County Sheriff, Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, Minnesota 55330.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption of mortgagors or mortgagors' personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months after the date of sale.
9. The date on or before which the mortgagors must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. § 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is July 12, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.
10. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGORS OR THE MORTGAGORS' PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINN. STAT. § 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Granite Community Bank, Mortgagee
LATHROP GPM LLP
By: /s/ Andrew J. Steil
Andrew J. Steil #387048
1010 West St. Germain Street Suite 500
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 252-4414
Attorneys for Granite Community Bank
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/27/21; 12/04/21; 12/11/21; 12/18/21; 12/24/21; 12/31/21).

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Date: December 1, 2021
YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of that certain mortgage that was executed by and between Paul J. McMahon, mortgagor, and Sherburne State Bank, 12500 Sherburne Avenue, P.O. Box 428, Becker, Minnesota 55308, mortgagee, dated July 13, 2016 and filed for record on July 15, 2016, as document number 823367, with the Office of the County Recorder in and for Sherburne County, Minnesota.
2. The mortgage has been assigned as follows: n/a
3. The original principal amount secured by the mortgage was: \$25,000.00.
4. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the mortgage, or any part thereof.
5. The holder of the mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the mortgage and foreclosure of the mortgage and

6. all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes. As of the date of this notice, the amount due on the mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the mortgage is: \$26,531.78.
7. Pursuant to the power of sale in the mortgage, the mortgage will be foreclosed on the land described as follows: **Lots 13 and 14, Cedar Cove, Sherburne County, Minnesota.** Street Address: 7087 - 100th Avenue SE, Clear Lake, Minnesota 55319 Tax Parcel Identification Number: 20-403-0130

and will be sold by the Sheriff of Sherburne County, Minnesota at public auction on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the Office of the Sherburne County Sheriff, Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, Minnesota 55330.

8. The time allowed by law for redemption of mortgagor or mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months after the date of sale.
9. The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. § 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. § 580.23 is July 26, 2022 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.
10. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR OR THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINN. STAT. § 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Sherburne State Bank, Mortgagee
LATHROP GPM LLP
By: /s/ Andrew J. Steil
Andrew J. Steil #387048
1010 West St. Germain Street Suite 500
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 252-4414
Attorneys for Sherburne State Bank
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/04/21; 12/11/21; 12/18/21; 12/24/21; 12/31/21; 01/08/22).

Summons

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT CASE TYPE: Other Civil Quiet Title Action Court File No. 71-CV-21-1307 SUMMONS
Rodrigo T. Barbosa and Dawn R. Peasha, Plaintiffs, vs. Donald R. Nelson, Rose S. Nelson, Thomas R. Nelson, Dana C. Nelson, Steven J. Nelson, Joel M. Nelson, Kristi Nelson, Dennis D. Klein, Christine L. Klein, Thomas J. Hammer, Jr., as Trustee of the Thomas J. Hammer, Jr. Revocable Trust Agreement U/T/D December 10, 2015, Penney L. Hammer, as Trustee of the Penney L. Hammer Revocable Trust Agreement U/T/D December 10, 2015, R.D. Offutt Farms Co., a Minnesota Corporation, Hartkopf Farms, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Company, Larry Czech and Renee M. Czech, and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint herein, Defendants.

This Summons is directed to Defendants above-named.
1. **You are being sued.** The Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Complaint is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that start a lawsuit and affect your legal rights, even if nothing has been filed with the court and even if there is no court file number on this Summons.
2. **You must BOTH reply, in writing, AND get a copy of your reply to the person/business who is suing you within 21 days to protect your rights.** Your reply is called an *Answer*. Getting your reply to the Plaintiff is called *service*. You must serve a copy of your *Answer* or *Answer and Counterclaim* (Answer) within 21 days from the date you received the *Summons and Complaint*.

ANSWER: You can find the Answer form and instructions on the MN Judicial Branch website at www.mncourts.gov/forms under the "Civil" category. The instructions will explain in detail how to fill out the Answer form.
3. **You must respond to each claim.** The *Answer* is your written response to the Plaintiff's *Complaint*. In your *Answer* you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the *Complaint*. If you think the Plaintiff should not be given everything they asked for in the *Complaint*, you must say that in your *Answer*.
4. **SERVICE: You may lose your case if you do not send a written response to the Plaintiff.** If you do not serve a written *Answer* within 21 days, you may lose this case by default. You will not get to tell your side of the story. If you choose not to respond, the Plaintiff may be awarded everything they asked for in their *Complaint*. If you agree with the claims stated in the *Complaint*, you don't need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for what the Plaintiff asked for in the *Complaint*.
To protect your rights, you must serve a copy of your *Answer* on the person who signed this *Summons* in person or by mail at this address:
John T. Peterson
Johnson, Larson & Peterson, P.A.
908 Commercial Drive
Buffalo, MN 55313
5. Carefully read the Instructions (CIV301) for the *Answer* for your next steps.
6. **Legal Assistance.** You may wish to get legal help from an attorney. If you do not have an attorney and would like legal help:
• Visit www.mncourts.gov/selfhelp and click on the "Legal Advice Clinics" tab to get more information about legal clinics in each Minnesota county.
• Court Administration may have information about places where you can get legal assistance.

NOTE: Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still serve a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.
7. **Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an ADR process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota Rules of Practice. You must still serve your written Answer, even if you expect to use ADR.
8. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Sherburne County, State of Minnesota, legally described as follows:
The East 2 rods of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 27, Township 35 North, Range 30 West, Sherburne County, Minnesota.
The object of this action is to procure a judgment that the Plaintiffs are the owners in fee simple absolute, of said real estate, and that the Defendants, and each of them, have no right, title, estate, interest, or lien herein or thereon, or in any part thereof.
JOHNSON, LARSON & PETERSON, P.A.
Dated: November 12, 2021
/s/ John T. Peterson, I.D.# 195108
Attorney for Plaintiffs
908 Commercial Drive
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313
Telephone: (763) 682-4550
John.Peterson@jplawmn.com

557.03 NOTICE OF NO PERSONAL CLAIM - Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 557.03 you are hereby served with notice that no personal claim is made against you and that any defendant upon whom this notice is served who unreasonably defends this action shall pay full costs to the plaintiff.
JOHNSON, LARSON & PETERSON, P.A.
Dated: November 12, 2021
/s/ John T. Peterson, I.D.# 195108
Attorney for Plaintiff(s)
908 Commercial Drive
Buffalo, Minnesota 55313
Telephone: (763) 682-4550
John.Peterson@jplawmn.com
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/04/21; 12/11/21; 12/18/21).

Assumed Name

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

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.
ASSUMED NAME: **Palmer Powder Hounds Snowmobile Club**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **4180 105th Ave Clear Lake MN 55319 USA**
NAMEHOLDER(S): Name: **Palmer Powder Hounds Snowmobile Club Inc.**
Address: **4180 105th Ave Clear Lake MN 55319 USA**
If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.
By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the

penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Chris Cotton**
MAILING ADDRESS: **4180 105th Ave Clear Lake MN 55319**
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: *inspection.chris@gmail.com*
Work Item: **1275987700020**
Original File Number: **1275987700020**
STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
12/06/2021
11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/11/21; 12/18/21).

City Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Becker, Sherburne County, Minnesota will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at approximately 5:00 p.m. to consider changes to the City of Becker, City Code, Chapter 2, Section 2.19 relating to the fee schedule.
/s/ Julie Blesi, City Clerk
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/11/21).

Ordinance No. 247, 2nd Series Summary AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 11.31 SUBDIVISION 3, SECTION 11.40 SUBDIVISIONS 2 AND 5, SECTION 11.41 SUBDIVISION 5, AND SECTION 11.51 SUBDIVISION 3 OF CHAPTER 11 LAND USE REGULATION IN THE CITY OF BECKER ZONING ORDINANCE.

The following official summary of the ordinance referred to has been approved by the City Council of Becker as clearly informing the public of the intent and effect of the amendments.
Chapter 11, Land Use Regulation

Section 11.31 SECTION 11.31. Agricultural District (AG)

Subd. 3. Conditional Uses

Section 11.40 SECTION 11.40. Community Commercial District (C-COM)

Subd. 2. Permitted Uses

Subd. 5. Lot, Yard, Area, and Height Requirements

Section 11.41 SECTION 11.41. Highway Commercial District (C-HWY)

Subd. 5. Lot, Yard, Area, and Height Requirements

Section 11.51 SECTION 11.51. Industrial Park District (I-PRK)

Subd. 3. Conditional Uses

This ordinance revises the conditional uses in the Industrial Park and Agricultural Zoning Districts to include livestock feeding yards, slaughtering of animals, and stock yards. This ordinance also revises the height of primary and accessory structures in the Highway Commercial and Community Commercial Zoning Districts of the City of Becker. This ordinance also revises the allowed uses in the Community Commercial Zoning District to include Food Processing.

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

This document hereby is made a part of this ordinance and is attached hereto.
/s/ Tracy Bertram, Mayor
ATTEST:
/s/ Julie Blesi, City Clerk
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/11/21).

CITY OF BECKER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Becker Planning Commission will hold their monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20th, 2021, at Becker City Hall, 12060 Sherburne Avenue. The Planning Commission will hold the following public hearing at this meeting:

Approximately 6:00 p.m. Chapter 11 Driveway Language Amendments to the City of Becker Land Use Regulation (Zoning) ordinance. Edits proposed include minor adjustments to driveway requirements relating to allowable parking surfaces in Chapter 11 Section 11.20 Subd. 4. Parking Standards.

Anyone interested in this issue is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend, please provide written comment to Jacob Sanders at P.O. Box 250, Becker, MN 55308 or by e-mail to jsanders@ci.becker.mn.us by 4:30 p.m. December 20th, 2021.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/11/21).

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

Sherburne County Public Notices

2022 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS TO PUBLISH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DELINQUENT TAX LIST AND OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF SHERBURNE COUNTY

Sealed bids for the publication of Sherburne County's financial statement, delinquent tax list, and the official proceedings of the Sherburne County Board, are to be submitted to the Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer Office, Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Suite 100, Elk River, Minnesota 55330-1692. Bids will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on December 22, 2021, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. From the said proposal received and accepted, the County Board of Commissioners will award the bids for the year of 2022 at its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 4th at 9:00 a.m. Bids will be received for the following:

1. Publication of financial statement as required by Minn. Stat. § 375.17.
2. Publication of official proceedings of the Sherburne County Board sessions as required by Minn. Stat. § 375.12.
3. Publication of notice and list of real estate taxes remaining delinquent in Sherburne County as required by Minn. Stat. §§ 279.08 and 279.09.
4. Publication of other public notices.

Bids shall be submitted in exact accordance with the Bidding Documents. The Bidding Documents may be obtained at the Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer Office, Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Suite 100, Elk River, Minnesota 55330-1692.

All bids must be sealed and marked "Bid for Publication of the Sherburne County Financial Statement, Delinquent Real Estate Taxes, and the Official Proceedings of the Sherburne County Board."

The Sherburne County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in bidding. By order of the County Board.
Dated at Elk River, Minnesota, this 16th day of November 2021.
Diane Arnold, Auditor/Treasurer
Sherburne County
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/04/21; 12/11/21; 12/18/21).

Township Public Notices

NOTICE OF FILING FOR TOWN OFFICES TO BE ELECTED BECKER TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that a town election will be held in the Township of Becker, Sherburne County, Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 8th day of March 2022.

The first day for filing affidavits of candidacy will be Tuesday, the 28th day of December, 2021 and the last day will be Tuesday, the 11th day of January, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Filings may be made with Clerk Lucinda Messman at the Becker Township Hall, 763-261-5301 during regular hours or call for appointment. Town hall will be open from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022.

The following terms will be expiring:
Supervisor, Seat #3 – for the term of three (3) years

Filing fee is \$2.00.
December 6, 2021
Lucinda Messman, Clerk
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/11/21).

CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF FILING FOR TOWN OFFICES TO BE ELECTED

Notice is hereby given that a town election will be held in the Township of Clear Lake, Sherburne County, Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 8th day of March 2022.

The first day for filing affidavits of candidacy will be Tuesday, the 28th day of December, 2021 and the last day will be Tuesday, the 11th day of January, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Filings may be made with the Clerk, Nancy Betzler or Deputy Clerk, Gary Anderson by making an appointment by calling the Town Hall at 320-743-2472 or by emailing ClearLakeTwp@hotmail.com. You may file without appointment by coming into the Town Hall located at 7938 116th Street SE, Clear Lake, MN 55319, on Tuesday, January 11th 2022 between the hours of 1:00 PM and 5:00 PM.

The last date for a candidate to withdraw from the election is Thursday, January 13, 2022.

The office subject to election is:
Supervisor, Seat C for a 3 (three) year term.
Filing fee is \$2.00
Gary Anderson, Clear Lake Township Deputy Clerk
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/11/21; 12/18/21).

TOWNSHIP OF LYNDEN, STEARNS COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA CANDIDATE FILING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to qualified voters of Lynden Township who wish to be candidates for office in Lynden Township, must file an Affidavit of Candidacy with the Township Clerk.

Filing for town office will be held for a two week period beginning December 28, 2021 and closing on January 11, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Affidavits of Candidacy are located on the web: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/election-administration-campaigns/> or by contacting the clerk.

The Clerk's office located at the Lynden Town Hall 21367 Co Rd 44 will be open from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the last day of filing, January 11, 2022. The Annual Election will be held on March 8, 2022.

One Supervisor / Three year term
One Clerk / Two year term

Jenny Schmidt
Lynden Township Clerk
clerk@lydentownship.net
320-774-8507
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/11/21).

DEADLINES

Notices & Legals Wednesdays At Noon Contact Kathy: 763-275-0275 or Email: legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com

