

31+ Days

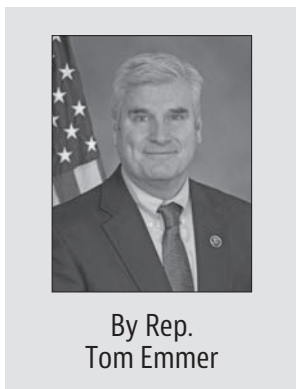
We are now 31+ days into the Democrat government shutdown. Tomorrow (Nov. 1), more than 400,000 Minnesotans who rely on the SNAP program will not receive their benefits. Air traffic controllers and government employees have missed their paychecks. Everyday Americans are going to begin to feel the consequences of the Democrats' shut down.

It doesn't have to be this way. On Sept. 19, nearly every House Republican and only ONE House Democrat voted for a non-partisan, clean continuing resolution (CR) that Senate Democrats approved earlier this year and previously supported 13 times under the Biden administration.

Even the American Federation of Government Employees, a union that represents more than 800,000 federal employees, released a statement this week urging the Senate to pass the clean, short-term continuing resolution.

It is past time that the Senate votes and passes on a clean CR so we can get on with the work of the American people.

Last Friday, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Kristi Noem visited Minneapolis to meet with the men and women of U.S. Immigration



By Rep. Tom Emmer

and Customs Enforcement (ICE). There, she touted the incredible work of the men and women of ICE. Since January 2025, more than 4,300 illegal immigrant criminals have been arrested in Minneapolis alone. These are murderers, human traffickers, and sexual assault perpetrators who are no longer on our streets and in our communities. We are grateful for the work of President Trump, Secretary Noem, and the men and women of law enforcement who are risking their lives to remove these criminals off our streets.

Despite the shutdown, our staff is working and our offices remain open. If you or your family need assistance, please do not hesitate to call one of our offices: (202) 225-2331 or (763) 241-6848. We are here to help and serve you

STEALING

from page 1

then transferred to Garvey's Venmo account.

The complaint also alleges Garvey used a business account owned by Victim 1 to pay for her own mortgage and student loans, driving the account into a negative balance. Investigators determined that Victim 1's home went into foreclosure because her bank account, which was set up for automatic bill payments, had been emptied.

When confronted by police on May 2, 2025, Garvey allegedly admitted she was in a "financial pinch" and used the victim's money to get through. According to the complaint, she acknowledged, "I f---ed up, I f---ed up big," and said she always intended to replenish the money. To date, she has not provided documentation to support that the funds were used for the benefit of Victim 1.

If convicted on the most serious charges, Garvey faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.



TO THE EDITOR:
America First...jk Billionaires First. Argentina's president, Javier Milei, a self-proclaimed "great friend" of Donald Trump, took office in 2023 with what he calls a "chainsaw method," cutting more than half of Argentina's ministries: education, jobs, environment, and social security. Sound familiar? Poverty immediately jumped 11% in 6 months, and the peso has tanked. This should scare you. Now the U.S. Treasury, led by Scott Bessent, has pledged Argentina a \$20 billion (most likely \$40 billion) bailout. High risk for Americans since Argentina trades little with us. But billionaire Rob Citrone, a longtime friend of Bessent, who had bet big on Argentina's economy saw profits soar after the

deal. There's another motive: Argentina holds the world's 2nd-largest lithium reserves vital for electric cars, phones, and defense tech. Seems like resource control for the tech corporations. Meanwhile, Trump says importing more Argentine beef will lower beef prices. But to make any real dent, the U.S. would have to buy 100% of Argentina's beef, an impossible task since China already purchases about 75% of it. Midwest ranchers are already being squeezed. When \$40 billion flows overseas, billionaires profit while local farmers lose. Whether lithium, loans, or livestock, the powerful protect their own, and real taxpayers (not billionaires) foot the bill.

**Vanessa Davenport
Big Lake**

ELECTION

from page 1

rising costs and new state and federal mandates.

Schmidt released this statement following Tuesday's election results. "We are thankful to everyone who took time to learn about the proposal and participate in this important decision. While the result is disappointing, our focus remains on our students and ensuring excellent teaching standards, and well-rounded opportunities as we continue to build on the successes at Becker Public Schools."

Becker also had a special election to replace School Board Member Troy Berning. Renee Regal ran unopposed.

Big Lake Ballot

Big Lake ISD 727 asked two ballot questions. Question 1 asked voters to pass a Revenue Authorization to "increase its general education revenue by \$0.10 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation."

Question 2 was dependent on the approval of ballot question 1 and asked voters to authorize the issuance of general obligation school building bonds for \$20 million for "acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including but not limited to, construction of a multi-purpose addition."

Superintendent Tim Truebenbach also wrote an editorial for the November 1 edition of the Patriot. In it he stated, "If question one doesn't pass, Big Lake Schools will have to face budget reductions that will directly impact the student experience."

After election results were released, Truebenbach released the following statement on Facebook. "We respect the decision of voters," he said, "This will not change our mission to provide every student in our schools with the best education we can."

Polling Locations

Superintendent Administrative Assistant and poll worker Angela Oswald said voting at the Becker Community Center was steady throughout the day. In Big Lake, Head Election Judge Tom Hanson also said lines at Saron Lutheran Church had been steady, but added that they had picked up around the dinner hour, taking five to 10 minutes to navigate. However, once voters received their ballots, voting went quickly.



CITIZENS IN BECKER gathered at the community center to make their voices heard. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)



VOTING AT SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH in Big Lake was quick and easy as several voting stations were available for constituents. (Patriot photo by Don Bellach)

BOMB

from page 1

In the basement, deputies found a bolt-action shotgun loaded with two shells in the magazine and one in the chamber. Its barrel had been sawed off to nine inches and was easily accessible to a minor living in the home. That discovery led to a gross-misdemeanor charge for negligent firearm storage.

Federal prosecutors charged both men with possessing an unregistered destructive device, and Jantje faces an additional federal count for possessing an unregistered short-barreled shotgun.

In Sherburne County District Court, Jantje is charged with possession or manufacture of an explosive or incendiary device (maximum penalty is 10 years imprisonment or a \$20,000 fine), possession of explosives with intent (5 years, \$10,000 fine), fifth-degree drug possession involving psilocybin mushrooms (5 years, \$10,000 fine), possession of a short-barreled shotgun (5 years, \$10,000 fine) and negligent firearm storage (364 days, \$3,000 fine).

Ethan faces three felony counts: possession or manufacture of an explosive or incendiary device (10 years, \$20,000 fine), possession of explosives with intent (5 years, \$10,000 fine) and fifth-degree drug possession involving methamphetamine (5 years, \$10,000 fine).

Both remain in custody as state and federal proceedings move forward.

Arresting Costume!



LENNOX KRUCHTEN, son of Brent and Avril Kruchten, is pictured on Halloween night with Becker police officer, Grant Jansons. (Submitted Photo).



Residents near Mitchell Farms Park want their park back

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

A group of emboldened residents have decided to begin attending Big Lake city meetings to voice their opinion about the removal of all the playground equipment at Mitchell Farms Park because it was deemed unsafe. The city has decided to not immediately replace that equipment, even as it has decided to remove and replace aging equipment at three other area parks.

The city's reasons are well documented. Patriot reporter Andrew Diemand first covered this story in his October 4, 2025 article titled *Big Lake Making Park Improvements* and he clearly explained the city's position. This reporter has been following this story beginning with the October 8, 2025 Big Lake City Council Meeting where residents first began to show up and speak out.

They've since attended two more meetings, the October 22, 2025 meeting of the council and the most recent October 27 meeting of the Parks Advisory Committee. It was near the end

of that meeting, after the PAC had a lengthy discussion about Mitchell Farms Park, that this reporter was able to get resident's reactions about the meetings they have attended.

"It doesn't seem like we're actually moving toward getting a playground," Emy Mammenga said. "It seems as far as the city council goes, they're trying to boil the frog and keep pushing on until people stop complaining and stop complaining."

That sentiment was shared by the others who attended the parks meeting.

"I don't think they listen at all, to be honest, and I think the residents of Big Lake just feel like we're not heard anyway, so showing up is just a waste of time," said Celine Woods.

The Parks Board discussed creating a survey to get citizen's input. Woods reacted, "It's a waste of money."

Mammenga noted that she has already submitted a petition with 121 signatures and has an online petition with over 137, but conceded, if the city decides to

do a survey, she is willing to ask neighbors to take it.

"I think it's a waste of time and money," said Shawn Dunkel about the idea of doing a survey. "I think they've heard from the community, but the fact is, they're not particularly good at listening. This is a park in the middle of a community."

The Park Board discussed the possibility of the park being used for purposes that go beyond the neighborhood, but Mammenga argued against that idea.

"That's what made it so nice. It was a nice, cozy, little tuck-in park for the immediate vicinity," Mammenga said.

Charlie West agreed saying that most of the traffic was local from grandparents taking their grandchildren to the park and even a couple local daycares coming to the park so the kids could play.

"We don't need a survey, we need a similar park like the one that just got ripped out," he said.

The residents from Mitchell Farms were upset that they were not notified

crystal chandelier over the toilet in the Lincoln bathroom. We will pay nearly \$1 billion in renovations to the "free" jet gifted by a foreign government. Kristi Noem is spending \$200 million on two German built private jets. Senators and representatives will not go a day without pay. Tom Emmer, get off your duff and represent your constituents as you were elected to do. Vote for health insurance and food subsidies for loyal tax payers. End the republican shut down and use your Tom Thumb to plug the wasteful tax money flow.

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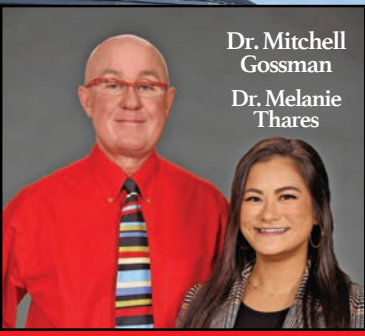
 

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Did you win \$100k at Becker Kwik Trip?

By Bill Morgan, Editor

The Minnesota State Lottery says someone who bought a ticket at the Kwik Trip in Becker has won \$100,000 in Saturday night's drawing.

No one won the Powerball jackpot on Saturday, so

that grows to an estimated \$419 million for the next drawing on Monday.

Minnesota Lottery prizes above \$50,000 must be claimed in person at Minnesota Lottery headquarters in Roseville. In Minnesota, lottery players have one year to claim prizes. It is recommended

that winners call ahead to check hours and to make an appointment.

Information regarding Minnesota Lottery prize winners above \$10,000 is private data. Unless a winner chooses to opt in to publicity, their name and city will not be released.

CW/CL Food Shelf receives generous grant

Submitted Article

The city of Clear Lake presented the Clearwater/Clear Lake Food Shelf with a generous grant on Fri., Oct. 31 to help the food shelf keep up with the food assistance demand.

At the Clear Lake Lions meeting last night, they gave a generous do-

nation to the Clearwater/Clear Lake foodshelf, as well. Clear Lake Lions are ongoing supporters of the foodshelf.

Clearwater/Clear Lake Food Shelf president Mary Abraham said she would like to acknowledge both donations they received this past week and shared these words: "These donations

will secure the uncertainty of individuals in the future who are faced with food insecurity. I thank them all so very much."

"These donations are really appreciated and come at a time when funding is so desperately needed," she said.

GOT A BEEF? CONCERN? IDEA? COME JOIN US!

JOIN BECKER MAYOR MARK KOLBINGER



Becker Post Office update

By Bill Morgan, Editor

For Becker residents of the 55308 zip code who utilize a Post Office box, last week marked the beginning of delivery to the CBUs now located at the Becker Community Center.

Just a few dozen individuals had not picked up their new keys at the old Becker Post Office as of two Tuesdays ago and those individuals will now have to go to the Monticello Post Office to obtain their new CBU key and return the old PO Box key. The Monticello Post Office is open 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and from 8 until 11:30 am on Saturday mornings.

Becker Mayor Mark Kolbinger and his wife, Kelly, are coordinating rides for individuals who cannot make it to Monticello. Individuals needing assistance can reach out to the Mayor, as rides are being given Wednesday afternoons and Saturday mornings.

The blue collection box formerly located near Bill's Superette at the former post office has now been relocated to Becker City Hall, serving as a drop off for those wishing to mail items. (Submitted Photo).



A "KEEP the BECKER post office in 55308" community campaign started last week, with Kolbinger encouraging people to write letters and get involved in the effort. T-shirts bearing the same phrase are being distributed as well, as another way to bring attention to the issue.

BLFD brings contestant winners to school

By Don Bellach, Contributing Writer

Throughout Fire Prevention week, October 5-11, members of the Big Lake Fire Department visited students at Liberty Elementary to speak to them about fire safety and fire prevention, emphasizing the need to have a home escape plan and to practice it.

Firefighters gave children a sheet to complete with their parents to create an escape plan for their home. To incentivize students, a contest was created. If students completed the worksheet and brought it to the BLFD during their annual open house, they would be entered into a drawing to receive a ride to school in a fire truck on Halloween, Oct. 31, 2025.

The sun was not even up when contest winners Maizey, Nash, Amelia, Lillian, Evan, Henry, Madelyn, and Mason arrived at the Big Lake Fire Station at 7 a.m. Sleepy faces dragged backpacks and entered the firehouse with their parents. When Captains Sam Hanson and Nick Christenson, Lt. Eric Rosa, and FF Michael Houts greeted them, they were quiet and shy, but that soon changed. Within moments of seeing the three fire trucks that would bring them to school, they came alive and the garage buzzed with excitement.

The winners walked around investigating everything and parents took pictures before the children were asked to choose which of the three fire trucks, they wanted to ride in. They departed the station at 7:10 a.m. and arrived at Liberty



CHILDREN EXPLORED THE FIRE TRUCKS before they would take the contestant winners to school. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)



CHILDREN POSED WITH FIREFIGHTERS as they arrived at school. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

Elementary at 7:15 a.m. before the regular buses would begin lining up. Liberty Principal Teresa Smock-Potter greeted students and a small crowd lined up at the entrance to see the students who got to begin their school day in a very unique way.

Minutes later, the firefighters returned to the station. When asked how he thought the event went, Hanson said, "That was great! That was a lot of fun!"

Event coordinator Rosa noted that the kids were super excited during the ride and hoped to do it again next year.

"We really appreciated the contest because it sparked some good interactions at home about fire safety," Rosa said.

Judging from everyone's reaction to the contest, it looks like BLFD will be doing it again next year.

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OBITUARY

Cody Daniel Holtan, 34 Rockford, MN Died November 1, 2025

Cody Daniel Holtan, age 34 of Rockford, MN, passed away on November 1, 2025.

Preceded in death by grandmothers LaVonne Holtan, and Stella Fern. Survived by grandfathers Dave Holtan, Sr., and Al Fern; parents Dan (Shellie) Holtan, and Michele Holtan (John); daughter Skye Holtan; siblings Drew James (Tanya) Holtan, Jacob (Autumn) Staub, Andrew Staub, and Colby Staub; significant other Andrea Niesen; aunts and uncles David, Jr. (Karen) Holtan, Lisa (Lon) Hatcher, Lori (Randy) Barker, Al Fern, Jr.; and many loving friends.

Everyone loved Cody. His zest for life, skill at frisbee golf, and affinity for fishing, camping and the outdoors

were all a part of what drew others to him with his magnetic personality.

No amount of love shown towards Cody could equal the love he had for his daughter, Skye. She was THE most important person in his life and meant everything to him.

Memorial services for Cody will be announced in the days to come. Please check back on the funeral home website.

Arrangements entrusted to Peterson-Grimsmo Funeral Chapel ~ Monticello. 763-295-2918. www.peterson-grimsmo.com

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to the family for a trust to be established in Skye's name.



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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, November 24, 2025 at the Becker City Hall, 120 Sherburne Avenue. The Planning Commission will hold the following public hearing at this meeting:

Approximately 6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing for an Interim Use Permit for Food Services. Jon Tennesen & LTTM Properties, LLC submitted an application for an interim use permit for food service on the properties located at 12911 and 12912 1st Street SE, currently identified as PID# 60-094-016 and 60-047-06.

Following the previous public hearing – Public Hearing for a Setback Variance for a Lean-To Structure. Vern Johnson submitted an application for a setback variance for a lean-to on the property located at 14195 Bank Street SE currently identified as PID# 60-023-00.

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 Austin Petersen at P.O. Box 250, Becker, MN 56008 or by e-mail to apetersen@ci.becker.mn.us by 4:00 p.m. November 24, 2025.

/s/ Austin Petersen
Associate Planner
(Published in the Patriot: 11/8/25)

A beautiful buck!



LOGAN NORTON OF CLEAR LAKE shot this 14-point buck while bowhunting in Sherburne County on Oct. 4. (Submitted Photo).

AUCTIONS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No: 7-PR-218
In Re the Estate of
Gerald Raymond LeFaive,
Decedent.

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP, APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS.

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on 2/11/2026, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Michelle M. Martin, whose address is 11751 74th Street NE, Albertville, MN, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: October 21, 2025
/s/ Jennifer Jelinski,
Deputy Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner:
Adam J. Kafi
Henning & Snoxell, Ltd.
60 Wedgwood Road, Suite 20
Maple Grove, MN, 55311
Attorney License No: 0886
Telephone: (763) 261-3030
FAX: (763) 261-3019
Email:
akafi@henningsnoxlaw.com
(Published in the Patriot: 11/0/25)

ORDINANCE and Series Summary
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SUBD. 1.15 OF SECTION 10 OF CHAPTER 60 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION AND LICENSING OF THE CITY OF BECKER CODE, AND AMENDING SEC. 11.05 OF SUBSEC. 11.05 OF ARTICLE 1 OF THE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT 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 60 of the Business Regulation and Licensing
Section 8 CANNABINOID PRODUCTS
Subd. 1.15 Definitions and Interpretations
Subd. 2 Registration & Application Procedures
3 Application Submittal

Article 1 Zoning of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)
Sec. 11.3 - Table of Uses
Definitions of cannabis wholesaler and lower potency hemp edible wholesaler were inserted and lower potency hemp edible wholesaler were added to the Table of Uses in the zoning regulations. In addition, amendments revising existing definitions for lower potency hemp edible manufacturer and retail establishments were completed along with changing the name of business application requirements for retail cannabis businesses.

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 4:00 p.m.

This document hereby is made a part of this ordinance and is attached hereto.
/s/ Mark Kolbing, Mayor
ATTEST:
/s/ Shannon Mortenson, Clerk
City of Becker
(Published in the Patriot: 11/8/25)

CITY OF BIG LAKE NOTICE TO RESIDENTS

VACANCIES ON THE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Big Lake is presently seeking applicants to fill two (2) vacancies on the Big Lake Parks Advisory Committee (PAC). Each vacancy is a 3 year term. The Parks Advisory Committee meets at 6:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month and is an advisory group to the City Council regarding maintaining existing parks and trails, creating new parks and trails, and recommending developers either dedicate parkland or donate cash in lieu. The Committee makes recommendations to the City Council who considers the information when making final approvals.

Any City resident interested in serving on the Parks Advisory Committee should submit a letter of interest that includes a description of the applicant's employment and educational background which may be relevant to the position as well as their reasons for applying and their aspirations for the future of the Big Lake parks and trails system. Contact Streets, Parks, and Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels at 763-253-8010 or nmichels@biglakemn.org with questions. Letters of interest can be submitted by:

Mail or delivery: Big Lake City Hall
Attn: Norm Michels - Streets, Parks, and Fleet Superintendent
Big Lake, MN 55006
Email: nmichels@biglakemn.org
Applications will be accepted until 6:00 a.m. on Monday, November 24
(Published in the Patriot: 11/8/25)

FIRST NOTICE

Jones Lake in Clear Lake Township, T-33, M-34, R-29W, has a aeration device causing open water until ice is out.

Area affected are marked as of DNR requirements.

(Published in the Patriot: 11/08/25).

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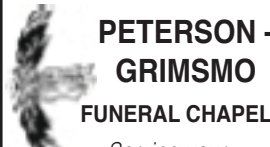
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Mamma Mia! comes to Becker High School

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

Opening night for Becker High School's production of the hit Broadway musical *Mamma Mia!* is fast approaching.

The musical will be performed at the Performing Arts Center in Becker High School beginning Fri., Nov. 14 at 7:00 p.m. Three other performances will follow, two on Saturday, Nov. 15 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and the final performance on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.

Mamma Mia! was written by British playwright Catherine Johnson, featuring the music of the 1970s Swedish pop band, ABBA. It is the story of bride-to-be Sophia and her Greek island wedding. Sophia invites three men from her mother's past to her home to try to discover who her true father is so one of them can walk her down the aisle.

The musical was chosen by the students themselves. A survey was conducted and *Mamma Mia!* was the winner.

"We tried to make the experience student centered because they're the ones who put the time and energy and effort and talent into it," said Director Penny Pingrey. "We get to guide them. We get to help them build on their talents, but they're the ones who are putting in the work. They're the ones who have to perform so we want to make it their program and we want them to leave a legacy for the people coming in."

All but two of the 13 kids who make up the Tech



DIRECTOR PENNY PINGREY, Musical Director Gretchen Bordson, and the cast of *Mamma Mia!* practiced the music for the upcoming musical. (Patriot photo by Don Bellach)



DIRECTOR PENNY PINGREY, Tech Director Curt Hed, Stage Mom Marie Hed, and Light Designer Seth Dutcher (in back) took a moment from their work to pose for a picture with the stage crew. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

Team are first timers. Most of them have been a part of previous high school and middle school performances and have learned what to do from their fellow students. Another 39 students make up the cast. Pingrey said they do it because, "They enjoy performing. They love to be a part of this program."

Auditions were held August 25 before school began and students have

been rehearsing ever since—Monday through Friday from 3:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. They also began staying later after MEA weekend. According to Musical Director Gretchen Bordson, about half that time has been spent on the music.

With all that work, *Mamma Mia!* is sure to be a great experience for everyone. Tickets can be ordered online at <https://gofan.co/ap/schol/MN>.

Big Lake receives visit from State Senators

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

Mayor Paul Knier, Council Member Ken Geroux, and city staff welcomed a delegation from the MN Senate Capital Investment Committee on Thursday, Oct. 9, 2025.

The visit was for Senators and their staff to learn about local bonding requests that include the Big Lake Wastewater Treatment Expansion Project. District 27 State Senator Andrew Matthews (R) and Sherburne County Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski were also present.

Big Lake was one of 17 stops the committee would make on day three of their Metro Area Bonding Tour. Knier gave a brief presentation explaining the need for investment in projects like the wastewater treatment project. He cited continued population growth and



THE DELEGATION INCLUDED: Ken Geroux, John Kaczmarek, Marie Popp, Dan Weber, Raeanne Danielowski, Deb Wegeleben, Susan Pha, Paul Knier, Jordon Rasmusson, Sandra Pappas, Ann Johnson, Andrew Matthews, Hanna Klimmek, Eric Miller, Joe Kautzman and Layne Otteson. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach).

new business development as reasons for expansion of the facility. The current project cost is currently at \$2.2 million and Big Lake is seeking \$25 million in funding from state and federal sources.

After listening intently and asking questions about the project, Senators and staffers once again loaded themselves onto a bus to take them to their next stop. The meeting lasted approximately 20 minutes.

Trunk or Treat is monstrous fun



OVER 25 BUSINESSES WERE represented at the Trunk or Treat event at Structural Buildings in Becker including, EMR, Wruck, 12 cookies co, Charlies, Becker Bass Team and dozens other. (Patriot Photo by Devin Haas).

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Located just a short walk to downtown Foley is this Value priced property. What a great opportunity to get into a home at a low purchase price. Sure it could use a little TLC, but it is certainly livable how it is. With three bedrooms on the main level, a bathroom, and an unfinished basement for future expansion, the possibilities are nearly endless. Come check out this great property! 330 7th Avenue Foley, MN. 56329 • **\$149,950, MLS# 6778126.** Contact **Rick Seagraves**, 320-282-5656.


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PATRIOT

Missed XPs doom Bulldogs in loss to Otters, 27-26

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Fergus Falls broke the hearts of Bulldog players, coaches and fans as they knocked off the Becker Bulldogs 27-26 last Friday night to claim the Section 8AAAA football championship.

The loss ends the Bulldogs' quest to repeat as state champions and gave them a .500 record for the year at 5-5.

The Bulldogs finished with 361 total yards (183 rushing, 178 passing) while the Otters had 387 total yards, 129 on the ground and 28 through the air. It was a back-and-forth clash that came down to a missed XP by Becker to hand the crown to Fergus Falls.

The Otters' Caleb Fronning capped a 64 yard scoring drive with a 2-yard touchdown run to give the Otters a 6-0 lead in the first quarter. Becker responded with a 67 yard drive of their own as QB Tristan Kowalkowski carried the ball into the end zone from the one yard line to tie the game at 6-6.

Both teams missed their extra-point attempts and the game was knotted at 6-6.

The Otters mounted another 64 yard TD drive which gave them a 13-6 lead when Eston Bethel scored from the 10 yard line



BECKER RB ISAIAH BOYER carried the ball nine times for 38 yards in Becker's season-ending loss to Fergus Falls last week. (Submitted Photo by Anne Koste).

and Josh Horgan added the extra-point kick.

Becker got right back in it when Kowalkowski hit Tarver Schendzielos from 57 yards out to cap a 67 yard drive. Another missed XP meant the Otters held a slim, 13-12 lead in the middle of the second quarter.

Fronning's second TD of the night, another 2-yard run, put the score at 19-12, as Fergus Falls missed their extra point kick.

Becker looked good as they mounted an 80 yard drive on their next possession and saw Kowalkowski hit Sawyer Brown with a 17 yard scoring pass. The

Bulldogs went for two and Isaiah Boyer reeled in the catch from Kowalkowski to give Becker the 20-19 lead at halftime.

On a critical play in the third quarter, Fergus Falls' Micah Johnson intercepted a pass that gave the Otters possession of the football at the Becker 43-yard line. Bethel found Parker Thielke from 24 yards out to put the Otters ahead and the successful two-point tray made it 27-20.

The Bulldogs rallied again and when Kowalkowski connected with Schendzielos on a 10 yard touchdown pass — it appeared to be heading for a

tie at 27. However, a bad snap on the PAT attempt thwarted the Bulldogs from adding the game tying point and the season abated.

Kowalkowski was 9-for-19 for 178 yards for the Bulldogs. Brown (six catches, 96 yards) and Schendzielos (two receptions, 67 yards) were the leading receivers. Nathan Weiss ran the ball 17 times for 66 yards and Kowalkowski had 11 carries for 84 yards.

Fergus Falls (8-3) will now play a 4A quarterfinal round game against Orono on Thurs., Nov. 6 at Alexandria HS.

Hornets runners end 2025 season at state

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys cross country team finished 12th at the MN State 2A Championships last Saturday at the Les Bolstad Golf Course in Falcon Heights.

Two seniors led the Hornets, who were making their fifth consecutive trip to the state meet. Trent Erickson set a personal best time and placed 3rd overall in 16:22.2. Gavin Flavin was a few steps back in 37th in 16:25.1. Both runners were more than 30 seconds faster than they ran at last year's state meet.

It was Flavin's fourth state appearance, once as an alternate in 2022 and as a competitor in 2023, 2024, and 2025. For Erickson, it marked his third consecutive state meet as a competitor.

Theo Johnson was next in 84th in 17:03.3, nearly 50 seconds faster than his time last year. Big Lake's final two point scorers finished close together. Sophomore Max Baron was 130th in a personal best 17:58.9, breaking the 18-minute barrier for the first time and Jack Schmidt placed 131st in 18:00.6.

Eli Henning (141st, 18:17.5) improved by more than 30 seconds over last year and Eli Schaller, in his first year in cross-country, placed 141st in 19:12.3.

Ninth-grader Shay France set a personal record and finished 37th in the girls varsity 5000 meters, crossing the finish line in 19:31.3, concluding an impressive first year on the team.



GAVIN FLAVIN led the Hornets to qualify for the state tournament. He finished fifth at sections in 16:22. (Patriot Photo by Ken Francis.)

After competing in soccer the past two years, she joined the cross-country team this fall and quickly became the Hornets' top runner.

"Shay kept learning and improving every race — figuring out her pacing, getting stronger, and becoming more confident," said Coach Trutna. "With the core of the girls' team being seventh to ninth graders, we are hopeful that they too can make it to state as a team in coming years."

Section 5A Meet
 For the fifth straight season, the Hornet boys' cross country team is heading to state. They finished second behind Becker at the Section 5AA meet Thursday at Apollo High School.

The Big Lake boys team and ninth-grader Shay



SHAY FRANCE qualified for the state tournament in her first year on the team, placing 11th in 20:20. (Patriot Photo by Ken Francis.)

France have all qualified to run in the State Meet this weekend at Les Bolstad Golf Course in Falcon Heights.

Senior Gavin Flavin led the Hornets with a fifth-place finish in 16:22.

Senior Trent Erickson followed in 10th in 16:52. "Trent probably had a slower start to the season than he would have wished, but he is coming on now at the perfect time," Coach Trutna said.

Theo Johnson ran a season-best 16:55 to finish 11th and Jack Schmidt was next in 14th in 17:12.

Another season best came from the team's final scorer, Eli Henning, who placed 19th in 17:52. Max Baron (22nd, 18:19) and Eli Schaller (49th, 19:09) rounded out the varsity

Becker boys CC take 4th at State



BOTH THE BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS are posing in front of the state finish line, where the boys placed fourth and the girls placed ninth. (Submitted Photo).

By Maria Moore, Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog boys' cross country team competed in the State meet at the Les Bolstad Golf Course last week. Before they competed, the Bulldogs received a send-off with lots of encouragement, including Becker Section Individual Champs Ben Hubbard and Jesse Babler.

seven.

Girls Squad

The girls' team turned in their best performance of the year, finishing sixth in the 12-team field, just one point out of fifth.

Freshman Shay France once again led the way, placing 11th in 20:20 to qualify as an individual for the Minnesota State Meet.

Hazel Guldseth continued her breakout sea-

The weather was perfect for the meet, and the Bulldogs accomplished feats never done before. The Bulldogs raced hard, and they pulled off an incredible fourth place finish. This will go down in history as the highest ever finish for the Bulldog boys' cross country team.

The all-state runner for the Bulldogs was senior Tanner Felton, and

son, finishing 26th in 21:58. Both Elsie Jagusch and Clara Devine ran season-best times, placing 33rd (22:27) and 34th (22:29) respectively.

Ainsley McGuire also had a personal best, finishing 47th in 23:16 to round out Big Lake's scoring.

Aubri Judge was close behind in 2nd (23:23), just off her season best. Senior Brynn Scheer, running in

the three all-state academic runners for both the boys and the girls team were senior Parker Spindler, senior Katelyn Brower, and sophomore Laney Model.

The girls' cross country team also ran very well and placed ninth overall, which is two places above what they were ranked before going into the meet.

her final high school race, placed 6th (29:00).

"It'll be hard to see Brynn leave," said Coach Trutna. "She's been a great captain. Her thoughtfulness and determination will be missed."

THANK YOU, VETERANS!

Becker native serves in military for 31 years

By Mary Nehring,
Contributing Writer

Gidget Borst graduated from Becker High School in 1989. After high school graduation, Gidget joined the United States Army and spent three years on active duty.

As part of our Veteran's Day tribute section, here is Gidget's story.

Gidget was stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana, working in logistics. During her three years there, she was deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of the Persian Gulf War in 1991. In 1992, she left active duty and joined the Minnesota Army National Guard, stationed out of Minneapolis, MN. During that time, Borst spent short deployments to Panama, Italy, and Germany.

While in the National Guard, she worked as a property manager for Garsten Perennial Management out of St. Paul, MN, specializing in providing housing for low-income families. In 2003, she left her management job and the MN Guard and signed up for active duty with the U.S. Army.

Gidget's first duty station from the Guard was Fort Bragg, NC, which she stayed at for three years. Gidget deployed to Iraq in 2004 for a year in support of the Iraq War. In 2006, she left Fort Bragg and was stationed in Hawaii for three years at the Healemano Military Reservation. In 2007, she deployed back to Iraq for 18 months and returned to Hawaii to finish the rest of that tour.

In 2009, she left Hawaii to be stationed at Fort Dix, New Jersey for three years



GIDGET BORST, a 1989 Becker HS graduate, has served 31 years in the military and is now retired and living in Texas. (Submitted Photo).

with an Army Reserve unit from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In 2011, she deployed to Kuwait for six months and returned to Fort Dix, NJ until August 2012.

The next stop on Gidget's journey was Fort Bliss, Texas, located within the city of El Paso; where she worked as a training liaison for Army Reserve units preparing to deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan and as the military supply sergeant.

In the spring of 2013, while on leave visiting her family in Minnesota, she was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's B-Cell Lymphoma. Gidget took a medical leave from the Army and remained in Minnesota. She began chemotherapy for four months until, on September 13, 2013, Gidget received life-changing news that the cancer was gone and she had been cured! Gidget gives all the glory to God for saving her.

"I could not have done it and fought so hard without the tremendous love and support from my family and friends," she said.

Later that month, she returned to Fort Bliss, TX until February 2016.

In March 2016, Borst received orders for a permanent change of station (PCS) to Fort Riley, Kansas. She was stationed there for three and a half years until receiving orders for Yong'an, South Korea. She spent seven months working in a medical warehouse and was sent back to Fort Bliss, Texas once her assignment was over in Korea.

In October 2020, Gidget received her Commercial Driver License (CDL) and officially retired from the U.S. Army on November 1, 2020 as Master Sergeant with a combined military service of 31 years.

Gidget decided to remain living in El Paso, Texas, where she made many friends and has a wonderful church family. Since retiring from the military, she spends her days reading, crafting, traveling, enjoying time with friends, and traveling back to Becker, as often as she can to visit her mom, family, and friends she grew up with.

She also volunteers with several organizations including the American Legion, El Paso Food Bank, Westside Church of Christ, Faith Lutheran Church of Becker, the Boys and Girls Club of El Paso, as well as the national veterans organization 'The Mission Continues'.

Celebrating Veteran's Day through WWII films

Every list I've seen of the greatest WWII movies ever, begins with Saving Private Ryan (1998). After all, it has a star-studded cast, a big budget, and a 24-minute opening scene that puts viewers in the middle of the D-Day invasion, but after those first 24 minutes, the movie is ordinary. It's Spielberg's homage to war films. It's worth a watch, but if you have 2 hours and 49 minutes, the runtime for SPR, here are three other WWII movies you could watch instead.

Patton

Before The Godfather (1972), Francis Ford Coppola wrote the screenplay for Patton (1970), a movie he was eventually fired from because of creative differences with the studio who hired another writer, Edmund H. North, to make it more conventional. Thankfully, much of what Coppola wrote stayed in the movie, including his iconic opening scene of Gen. Patton standing before a giant American flag, giving a speech to a crowd of soldiers. Coppola did eventually win an Oscar for Best Screenplay and Patton would go on to win six more Oscars including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor.

It's been called the thinking man's war film because it is unlike any war film ever made, due largely to the film's portrayal of the general. At the end of WWII, Patton had two reputations, one of being a war hawk and a despotic commander, the other, a successful and many-faceted leader. Patton, the movie, depicts him as both. George C. Scott's brilliant performance defines Patton as a charismatic, yet flawed man, who is placed in the extraordinary position of commanding the greatest army in the world. Love him or hate him, you won't be able to take your eyes off him.

Judgement at Nuremberg

If you don't like war movies, but love courtroom drama, Judgement at Nuremberg (1961) is the movie for you. The Nuremberg trials weren't just held to hold Nazi leaders accountable for the atrocities they committed,



By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

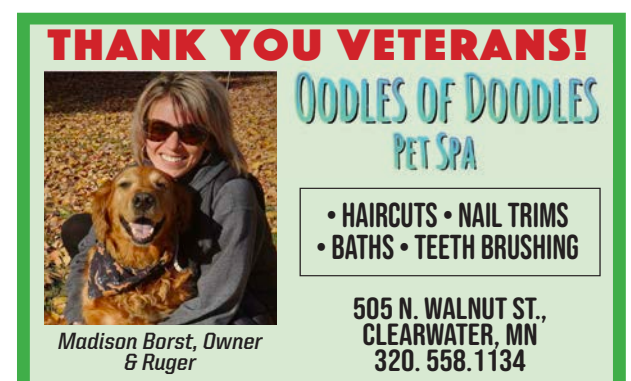
but also to document those atrocities. Members of the US Military were instrumental in making that happen, leaving a record of service for soldiers who contributed to the war effort besides combat.

Legendary Director Stanley Kramer, brought together a cast of Hollywood royalty: Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, Richard Widmark, Maximilian Schell, Marlene Dietrich, Judy Garland, and Montgomery Clift. Each actor delivering career best performances.

Judgement at Nuremberg shows that the holocaust was no accident and attempts to explain how ordinary people could be duped into supporting genocide.

Lee

Kate Winslet plays WWII Photojournalist Lee Miller. Reportedly, Lee (2023) took eight years to make and Winslet, also one of the Producers, chose to pay two weeks' worth of salaries for cast and crew due to unstable funding to get the film made. The movie goes to places one would expect to go, but adds new life to them by seeing the places through the lens of Lee Miller. Lee documented the bombing of London, the Battle of Saint Malo, and the Liberation of Paris, photographing French resistance fighters and ordinary citizens shaming women who consorted with German officers documenting their shaven heads. She went to Buchenwald and Dachau and visited Hitler's Berlin flat shortly after the surrender of Germany, where she was photographed taking a bath in Hitler's tub. Lee is stunning and worth viewing.



THANK YOU, VETERANS!

This Veteran's Day, talk to a Vet

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

Veteran's Day differs from Memorial Day in that it honors all service members, not just those who died in service. It is a day for the general public to recognize and thank those who have served on con - try in both times of peace and conflict. On Tuesday, October 28, 2025, this reporter had the opportunity to sit down with four Big Lake veterans to talk about their service.

Patrick Bevins

Patrick Bevins served in the Army from 2008-2012 as an infantryman who was deployed to Iraq. He admits to not being the brightest kid in High School.

"That's how I ended up in the Army," he said.

He said he got a lot out of his experience.

"It gave me the discipline and skills I needed to square myself away and become a productive member of society and also gave me the skills, motivation, and tools to help others and maintain a positive image of myself."

Green and Schultz

Bevins' experience seemed to echo in the stories of service of Ketti Green and Doug Schultz. Green served in the Navy from 1986-1991. She was stationed in Dam Neck, VA as a data processor. She shared that she enlisted because she needed to find herself. She knew that college was not going to be her next step. Her service taught her to be resilient and to understand that when something needs to be done, you just do it. Green also met her husband of 36 years during her Navy years.

Schultz had two stints in the Army National Guard, 1987-1993 and 2009-2025, serving as an Engineer. He admitted he always thought he would be in the military because he needed to "get whipped into shape."

During his service, he got to see the world, going to Jamaica and Costa Rica to build schools during his first stretch and Kuwait, Iraq and Puerto Rico during his second, when he became a "water dog", an



LOCAL VETERANS Doug Schultz, Ketti Green, Patrick Bevins, and Emmanuel Corona stand in front of the American flag. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

engineer who was focused on potable water issues. In Puerto Rico, he helped desalinate water after Hurricane Maria.

Emmanuel Corona

Emmanuel Corona's motives for enlisting were more practical. He wanted to work in the electrical field and knew the Navy would give him the skills to do that. Corona served from 2016-2022. He spent his service on the USS Nimitz and was onboard during the time of COVID-19 lockdowns. He and his shipmates were deployed for 11 continuous months, rarely leaving their ship. That is where he learned a lesson that he carries with him today, "The people next to you are the ones who will carry you through tough times."

For each individual, service to others did not end with their military service, it was just the beginning. Bevins came home and was treated for PTSD. Since then, he has used that experience to help other Veterans, working as a court appointed Veteran's Mentor in Anoka County's voluntary program called the Veteran's Treatment Court that helps to keep veterans sober and out of jail.

Green works at the

front desk in the Sherburne County Veteran's Office and helps veterans navigate a system meant to assist them, but often frustrates them. They are all aware and a part of the "22 a day" movement which is a collection of unaffiliated organizations that raise awareness for the problem of veteran's suicide. A 2012 VA report estimated that 22 veterans commit suicide each day in our country.

The Veterans in this story all appreciate people who thank them for their service, but there are things that they would like the general public to do more of. Though they respect everyone's right to not do so, they wish everyone would stand for the flag, take their hats off, and pay attention more when the flag is presented.

"Where a lot of people see it as a political symbol, we see it as not that," said Bevins. "A lot of our brothers and sisters were underneath that flag and are no longer with us. That's why we take it a little more seriously in honoring it."

Green mentioned that women veterans are not always recognized for their service, which is disappointing

"Women are out there and they play a vital role in everything that they do in the military," she said.

On Veteran's Day, her husband is often recognized as a veteran and she is not, even when she is right next to him.

Corona, whose wife is also a veteran, agreed saying that people acknowledge him, but don't always acknowledge her.

They all agreed that people could do a better job of talking to veterans. Bevins said there are two things you should never ask a veteran.

"Have you ever killed anyone?" and "have you ever seen anyone die?"

Other than that, ask them about their service, get to know them and what they have done. This Veteran's Day, honor veterans, but also take a moment to talk to some of them.



CW Legion Hosts Membership Dinner



A FULL HOUSE at the Clearwater American Legion was observed last weekend as the organization held their annual membership dinner. (Submitted Photo).

By Mary Nehring,
Contributing Writer

The American Legion Clearwater Post 323 Membership Dinner was held on October 25, 2025 to a full house.

Entertainment was provided by Emily Williams, who sang and played the guitar. Festivities started with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer led by chaplain Wally Westerberg.

Jeweline Fieldseth (Clearwater Legion Bar and Grill Manager) and her team served a delicious meal consisting of Chicken Kiev, scalloped potatoes and green beans. Dessert (cake) was provided by Clearwater Coborns. American Legion Clearwater Post 323 is over 200 members strong!

The post exceeded their goals for the membership drive, which led to being ranked number one in the state percentage increase in members.

Prepping for winter



VOLUNTEERS FROM BIG LAKE AMERICAN LEGION AND BIG LAKE BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON worked Saturday clearing gardens in preparation for winter. (Submitted Photo).

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A headshot of a man with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a suit and tie.A headshot of a man with short brown hair, wearing a suit and tie.

**HONORING ALL WHO SERVED,
THANK YOU VETERANS!**

The logo for 'emr' (Emergency Medical Response) featuring the letters 'emr' in a stylized font with a green swoosh underneath.

THANK YOU, VETERANS!

Gestures anyone can embrace in support of veterans

Submitted Article

Veterans Day (United States) and Remembrance Day (Canada) are commemorated each year on November 11. Both holidays honor the individuals who served in the armed forces for their respective countries.

Community-wide events tend to be held on November 11, but any day of the year is a good time to pay respect to veterans. On a local level, people can do much to thank veterans for their service and sacrifice.

- **Provide a free restaurant meal.** Offer to take out a veteran for breakfast, lunch or dinner. If you see a veteran eating in a restaurant, anonymously pay the bill for that person.

- **Send care packages.** Communities can gather resources and chip in to make care packages for veterans who live in town, and even to send to troops stationed elsewhere. Include foods and comforts from home.

- **Buy from veterans.** Seek out veteran-owned businesses in the area, and then make purchases from their



retail stores or utilize their services.

- **Volunteer at a VA hospital.** Spend time with veterans where they receive care for current health needs or past injuries suffered in combat.

- **Decorate cemeteries.** Honor fallen veterans by placing flowers or flags by their gravesites.

- **Participate in a parade.** If your town hosts a Veterans Day or Remembrance Day parade, find out how you can volunteer or be a part of it. Oftentimes parade officials enable youth groups, such as high school marching bands or scouting troops, to participate in the parade.

- **Write to the news-**

paper. Write an op-ed or highlight piece to submit to the newspaper about veterans in the community. Mention local veterans who have unique stories, or speak about the importance of veterans to the community.

- **Ask a veteran to speak.** If you work in a school or a community center, ask veterans to share their experiences with area youth.

- **Visit local memorials.** Spend time visiting memorials nearby and paying homage to the veterans who devoted their time, or even their lives, to service.

Community members have plenty of opportunities and ways to give back to veterans in the area.



Submitted Article

Military service members provide an invaluable service that protects national ideals and ensures the country and various regions around the world are safe havens for people from all walks of life. That service requires considerable sacrifice, and the cost of service can extend well beyond the time military personnel are on active duty.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, more than 1.7 million veterans utilized mental health services at the VA last year. That need is not exclusive to American veterans, as the Government of Canada reports that one-fifth of Canadian veterans experience a diagnosed mental health disorder at some point during their lives. Mental health services can help veterans successfully navigate difficult periods in their lives, and the following are various types of therapies service members may encounter during their treatment journeys.

- **Individual and group counseling:** American Addiction Centers notes that individual counseling is a one-on-one approach to therapy that can help veterans work through their issues, thoughts, concerns, emotions, and individual situations. Some veterans may prefer individual counseling because of confidentiality and the one-on-one attention each session provides. But group counseling provides an opportunity to receive

and give support from and to others who may be in similar situations and have similar experiences during their time in the military.

- **Couples and family counseling:** Couples and family counseling can help veterans open up with those closest to them, which some veterans struggle with after their time in the military. The VA notes that couples therapy for veterans and their significant others can help them reconnect spiritually and romantically. Therapists leading this type of therapy aim to create a space for listening and mutual understanding.

- **Military sexual trauma (MST) counseling:** The VA notes military sexual trauma refers to sexual assault or harassment experienced during military service. Counseling for MST can help veterans cope with how a traumatic sexual experience while serving is impacting veterans' current lives and can involve in-depth discussions of the experience.

- **Readjustment counseling:** Readjustment counseling aims to help veterans and their families successfully transition from military life to civilian life. That transition can be difficult for both veterans and their families, and it's important to note that family members of individuals who served in combat zones or received a military campaign ribbon are eligible for readjustment counseling.

- **Bereavement (grief) counseling:** Many veterans go through emotional

and psychological stress after the death of a fellow service member who they knew or served alongside at some point during their time in the military. This type of counseling offers support after the death of a loved one. It's important to note that bereavement counseling can be sought even if a loved one who passed away was not in the military.

- **Substance use treatment:** The VA notes many veterans have problems with alcohol, tobacco, street drugs, and prescription medicines. Various services, including medically managed detoxification, are offered to veterans under the umbrella of substance use treatment.

Mental health issues are not uncommon among military veterans. Various therapies are available and effective at helping veterans navigate such issues. More information is available at va.gov and veterans.gc.ca/.



Honor Vietnam veterans in your community

Submitted Article

The Department of Veterans Affairs notes that approximately 2.7 million Americans served in the Vietnam War. There was strong domestic opposition to American involvement in the conflict, and many veterans returning from the war were treated poorly and unfairly. That made it difficult for Vietnam veterans to adjust to life at home, a problem compounded by the trauma of the war.

Although it is impossible to reverse time and remedy the poor treatment of Vietnam veterans, there are ways that the public can honor those veterans who sacrificed their safety and health in service of their country. These ideas can help communities express their gratitude to veterans who served in the Vietnam War.

- **Join the Vietnam War Commemoration as a commemorative partner.** Once approved, member organizations are given a free starter



kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs and events.

- **Adopt a care facility.** Individuals or organizations can support a local VA hospital or gathering organization by organizing events that can include visits, food and entertainment.

- **Single out Vietnam veterans in the community.** Spotlight features on veterans who live in town with write-ups in the newspaper or interviews for a townwide blog or social media group. Share veterans' stories with as many people as possible.

- **Offer special discounts to Vietnam veterans.** On National Vietnam War Veterans Day in March, community officials can encourage local restaurants to offer discounts on meals and small business owners can offer exclusive sales to service personnel who served in Vietnam.

These are some of the ways communities can recognize Vietnam veterans who call their towns and cities home.



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THANK YOU, VETERANS!

Notable monuments to Veterans across the United States

Submitted Article

Veterans Day honors the millions of men and women who have sacrificed much to serve in the United States military. Veterans Day is commemorated each year on November 11 because it was that day in 1918 when an armistice was reached between combatants in World War I, which estimates suggest claimed the lives of as many as 22 million people.

There are many ways for Americans to celebrate veterans on Veterans Day. Visiting war memorials can instill a greater sense of appreciation for the men and women who have served in the United States military. The following are some notable war memorials honoring veterans across the United States.



veterans.

Korean War Veterans Memorial

The Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. honors the roughly 1.5 million American veterans who fought alongside forces from the United Nations in a conflict that lasted from 1950 to 1953. Nineteen sculptures depicting U.S. servicemen on patrol during the conflict are among the many notable components of this moving memorial, which also features a wall and pool of remembrance that display the names of the more than 36,000 Americans killed during the Korean War.

Liberty Memorial

The Liberty Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, was built in 1926 to honor the brave American service members who lost their

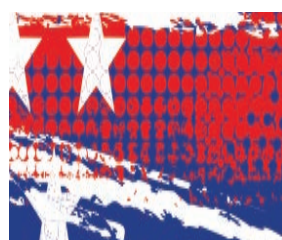
lives in World War I. The Liberty Memorial, which is now known as the National World War I Museum and Memorial, is an iconic landmark in Kansas City that features the Liberty Memorial Tower, which rises 217 feet about Memorial Courtyard and 268 feet above the North Lawn. The top of the tower emits a flame at night to create a stunning visual. Memory Hall on the east side of the Liberty Memorial Tower containing a portion of the Panthéon de la Guerre, an iconic French painting that depicts the Allied nations of World War I.

USS Arizona Memorial

The USS Arizona Memorial in Honolulu, Hawaii, is dedicated to preserving the memories of the sacrifices of servicemen who fought in the Pacific theater

throughout World War II. The memorial marks the resting place of more than 1,100 sailors during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, an event that led to U.S. involvement in World War II. The memorial is accessible exclusively by boat and the sunken remains of the battleship USS Arizona straddle the site.

These are just four of the many notable landmarks that commemorate the sacrifice and service of U.S. military members over the course of the nation's history.



FAQ about Veterans Day

Submitted Article

Each November, millions of people recognize the service and sacrifice of military veterans on Veterans Day. Initially commemorated as Armistice Day but renamed Veterans Day in the United States in 1954, the holiday is a federal holiday throughout the country.

The first Armistice Day was observed in 1919. Despite that lengthy history, the general public may still have questions about Veterans Day.

When is Veterans Day Observed?

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs notes that Veterans Day is always observed officially on November 11, regardless of which day of the week that happens to be. In 2025, Veterans Day is Tuesday, November 11. When Veterans Day falls on a Saturday, the federal observation date is the day before, Friday.

Why is November 11 So Significant?

November 11 is a significant day in world history because it marks the signing of the armistice between the Allies of World War I and Germany at 5:45 a.m. on November 11, 1918. Though the formal peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles, was not signed until 1919 and hostilities between the sides continued for hours after the armistice was signed, the day is still viewed as the end of World War I.

What Distinguishes Veterans Day from Memorial Day?

The VA notes that Veterans Day honors all those individuals who served

honorably in the military during both wartime and peacetime. Memorial Day is a day to honor and remember military personnel who died in the service of their country, particularly those who lost their lives in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle.

What is the Significance of Red Poppies?

Red poppies are ubiquitous on Memorial Day, but they're also visible on Veterans Day. Though it's not taboo to wear red poppies on Veterans Day, it's a tradition that aligns more with Memorial Day. That's because the poppies are typically worn to honor fallen military personnel. A 1915 poem written by a Canadian Lieutenant Colonel named John McCrae referred to the fields of poppies growing around the graves of World War I soldiers in Flanders.

Do Other Countries Honor their Military Veterans?

Many countries across the globe honor their military veterans, and many do so on November 11 as well. For example, Canadians and Australians observe Remembrance Day in honor of their nation's respective veterans on November 11. Great Britain observes Remembrance Day on the Sunday nearest to November 11.

Veterans Day is a day to honor and commemorate the brave men and women who have honorably served in the U.S. military during wartime and peacetime.

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