



• VOL. 2 • NO. 49 SAT., JUNE 4, 2022

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#### **PATRIOT**



BECKER'S WILL THORN threw a no-hitter Tuesday to help the Bulldogs advance in the section playoffs against Big Lake. See page 13 for the complete story. (Submitted Photo).

Inside

**BIG LAKE** The Big Lake School Board honored a district teacher for her 36 years on the job. See the story on page 4.

BECKER Graduates of the Class of 2022 in Becker held their commencement last week. See the story on page 3.

CLEARWATER The Clearwater Library is hosting a Rural Traveling Exhibit for a short time. Check out the story and pictures on page 2.

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**INSERTS** Coborn's

Runnings

 Bill's Family Foods



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## Six firefighters retire from BFD



**CURT HENNEN** 

Reporter.Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

Six members of the Becker

Fire Department recently decided

to retire from the force. Curt Hen-

nen, Wade Johnson, Toni Cox

Knutson, Steve Reid, Kevin Ri-

eland, and Jena Cox Backes all

have recently retired or plan to

retire from the department soon.

The Patriot reached out to these

individuals for comment on their

years of service. Firefighters Curt

Hennen and Wade Johnson were

and Cox Backes are all from the

Knutson, Reid, Rieland,

unavailable for comment.

Years of Service

By Katherine Cantin,

Staff Writer



STEVE REID

Dept.)

side himself.



**WADE JOHNSON** 

Becker area, with Reid coming

a little further away from Zim-

merman. The four have nearly 80

years of combined service as fire-

fighters, with Knutson, Rieland,

and Cox Backes each serving 20,

Reid serving for 17 (two of which

were with the Zimmerman Fire

he was to join the moment he

turned 18. His father had served

as a police officer and firefighter

as well, but Rieland said it wan't

just a desire to follow in his dad's

footsteps, but a calling he felt in-

the department was the experience

of a lifetime, with lots of highs

Knutson said her time with

Rieland shared how excited



JENA COX BACKES

and lows during her 20 years.

Reid related that he abso-

lutely loved his time with the de-

partment and the opportunity to

serve the community. He knew

that answering a call didn't al-

ways mean saving a life, but he

could change lives by being there

for people in their most difficult

moments and putting a hand on

believe that she would be retiring

soon, at times. "Everyone is like

a father, uncle, or brother," she

said of the other firefighters in the

department. "We're family." She

also mentioned the immense sup-

port she felt from the community

and how grateful she was for it.

Cox Backes said she couldn't

their shoulder in comfort.



KEVIN RIELAND



TONI COX KNUTSON

(Photos courtesy of Lommel Photography) Retiring

The four firefighters all

seemed to agree on their reasons for retiring: life happened, and it changed their priorities. 'As a firefighter, our time is

never free," Knutson said on the time commitment required to be a good firefighter. "We pay for it all, emotionally, mentally, and physically. Rieland related that his de-

cision to retire came from the need to focus on his own health. Rieland was diagnosed with cancer, and with his surgery coming up in June to hopefully make him cancer free, he wanted to focus on

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## BL City hears voting integrity concerns

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

Last week Wednesday, during the council workshop meeting before the regular council meeting, Rick Weible, former mayor of St. Bonifacius and current member of Midwest Swamp Watch gave a presentation to the council on election integrity and the issues he and his organization have found with the Dominion voting machines, the machines which Sherburne County uses. County Auditor Diane Arnold was invited to come and offer a rebuttal of Weible's claims, but declined to attend.

Weible explained the council and others in attendance the various ways in which the machines were



RICK WEIBLE gave a presentation during last week's Big Lake Council Workshop on the Dominion Voting Machines. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

unreliable. The machines run on Windows 7, which Microsoft no longer supports and therefore they do not receive regular security updates. He also noted that the wifi network, though private and locked, was visible to any person visiting the government center, making it that much easier for a hacker to locate the correct network.

Besides the machines being outdated and hackable, human error can lead to inaccurate counts as well. Incomplete logs of votes and of people entering and exiting the rooms where ballots are stored are two of the issues he dis-

Weible suggested hand counting the ballots in the upcoming election to eliminate or alleviate these is-

The full recording of Weible's presentation to the Big Lake Council can be found at TinyURL.com/ RickWeiblePresentation.

After Weible's presentation, Mayor Paul Knier responded by saying that he was concerned about the issues raised regarding the machines themselves, but that he had full faith in Gina Wolbeck, the city clerk who ran the elections. He promised to continue to research the issue.

**Open Forum** 

Brad Cross, in light of the recent uncertainty cast on the election process in the county, wanted to share his point of view as an election judge. He spoke of the integrity of Gina Wolbeck, city clerk who is in charge of running elections, and had many positive things to say about the way she has run elections in the city. He confirmed that, during the last general election, one of the Dominion voting machines did go down, but that he and another election judge worked quickly

to secure the unit. Judges from each party handled all ballots and no ballots were compromised. Cross believes that hand counting ballots would be a bad idea, as he believes this will lead to errors over the course of a long day.

Northland Meadows

The Northland Meadows Second Addition will feature single-family homes and single-family villas.

Council members and staff discussed some concern about the housing density of the proposed project. The area is zoned for R1 residential, but the proposed project would represent slightly more density, making it R2 (although, according to staff,

INTEGRITY to page 4



DOWNTON ABBEY. Eileen Harman, Santiago, recently enjoyed a special 75th birthday "Downton Abbey" themed birthday celebration. Eileen's sister Kathy Swanson hosted the 75th birthday party at her home in Dassel, MN. First row, left to right: Barbara Anderson, Eileen Harman, Shirley Matuseski, Kathy Swanson. Second/ third row, let to right: Jane Anderson, Judy Lund, Pam McGill, Lois Kunze, Mary Richter, Susie Nyquist, Marie Putnam, and Luana Ruud. (Submitted photo.)

## **Memorials March on in** Clearwater and Clear Lake



FLAGS DISPLAYED during the ceremony at Haven Cemetery. (Submitted photo.)

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

A little rain and the threat of severe weather didn't stop the Clearwater and Clear Lake Color Guards from honoring veterans who have gone before

The legionnaires followed the same schedule as usual, first stopping at St. Marcus Cemetery in Clear Lake, then Haven Cemetery (along Hwy. 10), Highland Cemetery (Hasty), Mount Hope and St. Luke's Cemeteries (Clearwater) and ending at Acacia Cemetery (along Co. Rd. 75).

Driving vehicles instead of motorcycles this year, Clearwater Legion Riders escorted

**MEMORIALS** to page 2





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## Area News

## Rain doesn't rein in Memorial Day services

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

Despite dreary weather and incessant rain, dozens of residents in all the local communities came out and paid tribute to the veterans of war who gave their lives to gain freedom for its citizens.

#### Big Lake

George Quinn and members of the Big Lake American Legion held a special service at the war memorial at 9 a.m. at the corner of Hwy. 10 and 25 in Big Lake. Taps was played on bugle and Amazing Grace on bagpipes during this solemn event.

A prayer was given to kick off the function and wreaths were placed by the monument by Legion members. Quinn then read the names of veterans whose names recently were engraved on the commemoration headstone.

Another dedication was held an hour later at the Big Lake Cemetery as well as the Bailey Cemetery in Big Lake

The Third Rail Restaurant offered free refreshments until 11 a.m.

#### **Becker**

The Becker Amercian Legion visited several cemeteries Monday morning that capped off at the Becker Cemetery where names of all veterans who served and died from the area were read off. Taps was played by a buglist and a gun salute was conducted while residents hudddled under umbrellas and tree limbs to stay dry.

Commander John Riebel invited all the guests to venture to the old fire hall for a free luncheon following the ceremony.

#### Clear Lake

Despite the rain, the Clear Lake Legion held abbreviated memorial services at area cemeteries Monday

At 3 p.m., a small, but determined group of citizens participated in the National Moment of Remembrance. Each year on Memorial Day at exactly 3 p.m., people are asked to stop what they are doing and spend one minute honoring the men and women who died defending this great

Legion member Bud Stimmler was joined by area residents Barb Hemmer, Kathy Hanson, Pat Throlson and Bill Hemmer right outside McDonald's Meats in Clear Lake. The crew waved their flags and played *Taps* on a speaker in the parking lot in a small, but moving gesture of patriotism and remembrance. The group plans to make it an annual affair and are hoping more people show up next year to participate.

After the event, Stimmler returned to the St. Marcus Cemetery to read the names of the veterans buried there, as a steady rain prevented a full ceremony earlier in the day.



GEORGE QUINN of the Big Lake American Legion welcomed the guests who came out in droves to honor the fallen soldiers on Memroial Day Monday. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).



SEVERAL RESIDENTS of Clear Lake saluted and covered their hearts during a salute to area veterans on Memorial Day. (Patriot Photo by Mark Kolbinger).



A BECKER LEGION MEMBER raised the American flag to staff height during the closing ceremonies of Memorial Day at the Becker Cemetery. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).

#### MEMORIALS from page 1



A 21-GUN SALUTE was performed at all the area cemeteries, including this one at St. Luke. (Submitted photo.)

the Color Guard along the usually are. route. Taps was played, 21-gun salutes were performed, and flags were displayed at each cemetery, however veterans' names weren't read off like they

Back in Clearwater, the Legion nosted their annual Memorial Day program, ceremony, and luncheon.

## CW Library one of first to host traveling exhibits

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

For a short time patrons can now try their hand at catching fish at the Clearwater Library, thanks to the Rural Library Traveling Ex-

The Rural Library Traveling Exhibit is a rotating exhibit created through a partnership between Great River Regional Library (GRRL) and Great River Children's Museum (GRCM). Seven pop-up exhibits will be rotating through all the libraries in the GRRL system, starting with 21 libraries considered to be in rural, low-income areas.

Each exhibit reflects one of the seven different exhibits being developed for the permanent location of the museum in St. Cloud. All of the traveling exhibit pieces include hands-on activities as well, and are meant to prompt learning, exploration, and play, and create connections between Minnesota's communities and cultures.

The purpose of the Rural Library Traveling Exhibit is to introduce and share the potential of future museum exhibits, programming, and experiences with the people GRCM hopes to serve once the museum opens.

The Clearwater Library is one of the first libraries chosen to host the exhibits, which are rotated approximately every two weeks.

"We are really excited to be in the first round of libraries to host the Great River Children's Museum exhibits," said Clearwater Librarian



Clearwater Library. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

Shelly Kuelbs. "This a great way for the community to hear about the museum opening and enjoy an introduction to these interactive exhibits close to home."

Clearwater has already hosted the 'Everyday Engineering' exhibit and is currently displaying 'Headwaters' through June 4. The schedule for the remaining exhibits are 'Great Explorers' June 6-18, 'Cloud Climber' June 20-July 2, 'Great Big River' July 5-16, 'Tinker Workshop' July 18-30, and 'Community Connections'

This first group of seven

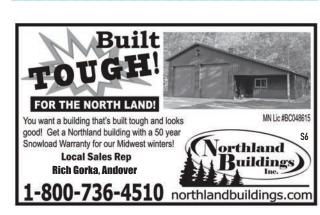
libraries will have exhibit pieces until approximately August 13. The following week the exhibit materials will be prepared for the next seven libraries, of which Big Lake is one. Not yet open to the pub-

lic, the Great River Children's Museum will deliver learning experiences through exhibits and environments, live programs, a co-learning resource center, initiatives, and outreach. The museum is located in the old Liberty Bank building in downtown St. Cloud. For more information, visit GreatRiverCM.org.



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Parade Weds., June 22, 6:30 pm June 20-21-22, 2022 320-761-1003 Juanita for info





#### **Becker Public Schools** 2022 Summer Schedule



**School Schedule:** 

June 6-9, 13-16, 20-22, 28-29, open 8am - 3pm July: Offices closed

August 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 22-25, 29-31, open 8am - 3pm **September** 1, open 8am - 3pm

Normal hours will resume on Tuesday, September 6 The **District Office** and **Community Education** will be open

**June** 6 - **September** 2 with the following hours: Monday-Thursday: 8am - 4pm Fridays: Closed

Normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, September 6







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# June 6 - August 6

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## BHS graduation "moves forward"

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

Becker High School held their 2022 graduation service on the grassy field of Eppard Stadium last Friday under

To kick things off, the fanfare & processional was spotlighted by the Minnesota Orchestra's version of *Pomp* and Circumstance. That was followed by the presentation of Colors by the Becker American Legion under the music umbrella of the *Star* Spangled Banner.

Principal Dave Kreft took the stage and welcomed the visitors and families and then turned the microphone over to two outstanding students and one faculty member to give encouraging speeches to the graduates. The students were Austyn Clemen and Maxwell Hubbard and the faculty speaker was Gretchen Bordson.

Assistant Supt. Minda Anderson next gave recognition to the nearly 70 honor graduates. Student Taylor Storlien acknowledged this year's hall-of-famers which included Fran Seeley (Class of 1969) and Tom Hammer (Class of 1972).

Supt. Jeremy Schmidt and School Board Chairman Mark Swanson then presented the diplomas to the graduates as they stepped aboard the stage. Schmidt had previously made an official presentation and acceptance of the graduates just before the diploma handout. The graduate names were read by Melissa Nicolas

and Dustin Weege.

The Senior Graduation Committee (Cara Condon, Lisa Kronenberg, Emma Lemperes, Imogen Mohler, Katelyn Nielsen, Alyssa Oelmann, Brooke Peterson, Zachary Stanger, Taylor Storlien and Nash Super) inaugurated the tassel ceremony before the grads hurled their mortar boards to the heavenly skies while the school song was played.

The Class of 2022's motto is: If you can't fly then RUN; If you can't run then WALK; If you can't walk then CRAWL. But whatever you do, you have to KEEP MOV-ING FORWARD.

Martin Luther King, Jr.



GRADUATES LINED UP and were congratulated by teacher Dustin Weege (L) and Principal Dave Kreft (R) before accepting their diplomas. (Patriot Photo by Mark Kolbinger).

## County hoping to find more foster parents

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

Sherburne County recently recognized the Month of May as National Foster Care Awareness Month, and also recognized two foster care providers for their roles in helping families through troubled times. The county currently has 33 li-

censed foster care providers that are accepting non-relative placements. Foster care providers are a vital part of a social network that helps hundreds of people a year. And the need for more foster care providers is constant. "We receive seven to 10 placement

requests per week, so we always need more providers," says Chelsea Doherty, Child Foster Care Licensor with Sherburne County. "We're trying to get out mitted photo.) into the community to recruit foster care

Last November, the county set up a pastors' luncheon for all the churches in the county to help spread the word and provide information about foster care.

We invited church leadership with the hope they would bring back the information within their congregations," says Doherty.

They also post flyers, attend farmers markets, and are planning to attend the St. Cloud

Pride parade in September. The goal is to expand the foster care system so there is always a place for a child or

"We really need more homes available that can accept larger sibling groups of three children or more," says Doherty. "We also

struggle with placing children with more complex mental health needs and also older teens, especially adolescent males.

children. Others take groups of siblings. Some provide short term respite care and others pro-

Some foster care providers accept young

vide care for as long as a child needs care. The ultimate goal or success story is when a child or group of siblings can find placement



NAJUMA AND HER TWINS with foster care provider Kari Westby. (Sub-

and then be reunited with their biological fam-

One of those cases involves Kari and Dan Westby of Becker, who have been doing day care for about 25 years. Kari says about eight years ago, one of the children in her daycare was also a foster child.

"It sparked my interest, so I spoke to the biological father and learned about how the foster care system served their family," she

She applied for a foster care license from the county. It took about eight months for the licensing to be complete, but Kari says it was

Since that time, she and Dan have been foster parents to over 50 children, including

four groups of four siblings. "It's been challenging. There's a learning curve. Each child has its own needs," says

There have been plenty of appointments with doctors and early intervention services, occupational therapy and speech therapy to

figure out what kind of help the kids need. Sometimes parents are struggling with chemical dependency or mental illness and someone has to step up and help the children. At other times, a parent might just need some time, like a weekend or even one night to regroup. That's when a foster care provider can help out shortterm with respite care.

In other instances, a single parent might just be overwhelmed with trying to raise kids. That was the case a few years ago when Kari got the call about a single mom, Najuma, an immigrant from Somalia who needed help with her four kids aged four, three and two-year old twins.

"She just wanted help. She didn't know how to mother them, raise them or parent them. She was overwhelmed," says Kari.

Najuma didn't know where to turn until she got a visit from social services. And she still remembers the day her world changed - Sept. 4, 2019.

"I was tired, exhausted and I didn't know how to ask for help," she says. "I had my own fears when it came to social services. My thoughts were they were going to take my kids away.

But she found out that the foster care network wasn't about finding a "new home" for her kids. It not only found a safe and secure temporary place for the kids, but helped her develop the skills she needed to be a success-

'They provided me unlimited resources and help in order to be a better mom," says Najuma. "I was going to parenting classes and therapy. It was great support. They've been very good to me.

And it wasn't just county social services that helped. Kari and Najuma developed a relationship that was an integral part of the "The part I like most is when we can

come along side of the family. We step into

the role of mentoring," says Kari. "Most of

the time parents who are in this situation don't

have a lot of help and support in their life.'

She says she is still in contact with former

foster kids and families after five or six years. "I believe it's because we reached out to the families and tried to develop a full relationship, rather than just find out what the kids need," she says.

Kari had the children for about six months. During that time, she and Najuma met regularly and worked on different parenting skills. They also became close friends.

'I never thought I would have a relationship with my kids' foster parents and the social worker. I never had a friend - someone to talk to," says Najuma. "I would keep everything inside. But inviting people into your life is how you make friendships.

'She learned everything she could and she's got the kids and they're thriving. She loves being a mom," says Kari. "When they went home she was totally equipped."

Najuma says she is in no way a "super

"We're all human. We all make mistakes. I'm still learning," she says. "There's things to learn every day.

Now that she has had some experience with foster care and sees the benefits, she wants to give back by someday being a foster parent herself and helping others who might be in a situation similar to hers.

"I want to be able to help families - educate families. I tell people my kids were in the system, and this is what happened to me." she says. "Now I can be a better mom. I can communicate with my kids and when I need help, I can ask for help.

Doherty says it would great if other people learned about how rewarding being a foster care provider is. She hopes their recruitment drive will change the numbers

"Even if we get one new provider," she

says. "That is a huge asset to us." For more information about becoming a foster parent, contact Doherty at 800-433-5239 or 763-765-4033. Or by email: ChelseaDoherty@co.Sherburne.mn.us

## **BL School Board recognizes** O'Gara's 36 years

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

During the recent school board meeting, a Big Lake teacher of 36 years, Vickie O'Gara, was recognized for her years with the district. Board Member Amber Sixberry took the opportunity to praise the teacher, saying that O'Gara has made an impact on many people's lives through her teaching. Sixberry said O'Gara will be very hard to replace.

#### Open Forum

Ashley Schabillion spoke to request that visitors once again be welcome in the classroom. She understood that it was necessary during COVID-19 to not allow visitors, but that there was a lot of value in allowing parent volunteers to come in, as well as allow parents to come and see their students' concerts, kindergarten graduation, and other events, rather than have to stream them from home.

#### **Finance Report**

Enrollment decreased by eight students last month, which Director of Business Services Angie Manuel attributed to families moving out of the area. However, she was optimistic there would be a large kindergarten class this year, as families who were waiting for pandemic numbers to die down enroll their students in school. Five kindergartners were already

enrolled. Next school year, the federal government will no longer be providing free lunch to all students. Families will once again have to pay for hot lunch service. Manuel encouraged families to look into free and reduced lunch for next year. She also noted meal prices will increase by 10 cents. Kindergarten breakfasts will remain free. Finally, Manuel hoped to soon have a donation option when funding students' lunch accounts online. Donations would go to the "Angel Fund" which helps to pay for meals for families that are struggling to afford them.

#### **Elementary Update**

The phonics program 'Fundations' is proving to be very effective in educating Independence Elementary students, according to Principal



VICKIE O'GARA (left) was presented with a wooden board in honor of her 36 years as a district teacher by school board chair Tonya Reasoner. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

Jona Deavel. The materials for the program arrived late in the year, so students have not had the benefit of using them for the whole school year, but in the short time that Fundations was implemented, staff saw significant results with the students.

Another program which Deavel is encouraging teachers to try is PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.) Deavel said some of the teachers in the school had come to her, feeling they were lacking resources to deal with students' negative behaviors. Originally, Deavel wanted to implement PBIS into the curriculum later, but encouraged the teachers to give it a try since they felt stuck. Since then, Deavel has heard lots of positive feedback and other teachers are implementing it in their classrooms. The program takes the form of "Hornet Tickets." Students exhibiting good behavior are rewarded with the tickets, which they can use on a variety of prizes. Deavel said the most coveted reward was, when students collected enough tickets, they could turn them in for the honor of being pushed in a rolling chair from their classroom to the cafeteria by the principal during their lunch period. This is called "Principal Taxi.'

#### **High School Update**

Principal Bob Dockendorf said that in a recent classroom audit, 69% of teachers were implementing new literacy practices as directed. Each auditor only observed the class for a few minutes,

however, so it is possible that more teachers are implementing literacy practices and were simply not observed doing so.

One teacher in attendance at the meeting with Dockendorf said that the implementation of Swivl cameras has been helpful in making sure students were on task and understanding the material when the teacher walked away.

There has been an adjustment in the graduation requirements for the past four vears, with this year's group of seniors being the first class to graduate with the new requirements. Before, many students were graduating a semester early. Now students are required to take four additional classes during their high school careers. Freshmen now take "High School Success Skills," sophomores take "Financial Literacy," juniors take "career planning," and seniors have the option to take "college success skills" or else opt into on the job training instead.

Sixberry, whose son is in the 2022 graduating class, stated that she felt these requirements were very helpful.

#### Supt.'s Report

Superintendent Tim Truebenbach used monthly report as an opportunity to call out some individuals from around the district who have gone above and beyond their duties.

Truebenbach first recognized Shawn Pockington, a member of the janitorial staff. There was a small fire at one of the schools, which set off the sprinklers. Pockington and his crew were able to clean up all of the water so that classes could resume without interruption the following Monday.

Next, Truebenbach recognized Kim Bowen. Bowen recently celebrated her 400th career win as a high school softball coach.

Finally, Truebenbach welcomed Minda Anderson, who was recently hired as the new Superintendent of Teaching and Learning. Anderson said that she saw a lot of growth potential in the district and that she was so excited to start her position.

## Orrock Board hears concerns over Ann Lake parking

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer

During the Orrock Twp.'s latest meeting, the director of the Ann Lake Improvement Club, Steve (last name not given), visited to raise a couple of concerns, neither of which he was sure the board would be able to help him with.

When the small lot by the Ann Lake landing fills up, some people park on the road with their boat trailers. The road is not very wide, and some residents were concerned that emergency vehicles would not be able to navigate the road if needed. The board discussed whether no parking signs could be put up, but feared the signs would be ignored or that boaters would resort to parking in residents' yards without permission. They discussed expanding the parking lot, but Steve felt the extra parking would get used up and people would still park on the road. The board was not able to come to a conclusion on how to help with the issue, but promised to have the road committee investigate the

Steve also noted there was a dead tree about to fall into the wetland next to the lake, but it was determined that the tree and the land in question were privately owned, and the board didn't see much issue with it, re-

Finally, Steve noted that the landing tends to get washed out quite frequently, and that the improvement club could use some gravel to fill in the landing. He understood that it was not the township's responsibility to do so, but rather hoped that if the township had some



STEVE, DIRECTOR OF THE ANN LAKE IMPROVEMENT CLUB, shared concerns that the club had regarding parking by the Ann Lake Landing. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

leftover gravel from another project they might consider donating it.

#### Sheriff's Report

Sgt. Luke McLean of the sheriff's office gave the report for the month. He said that the sheriff's dept. is continuing to focus on greater enforcement in traffic stops, as people continue to drive at excessive speeds. There was some heavy storm damage around Sherburne County, though Orrock and Zimmerman seemed to get the worst of the hail. Finally, McLean reported that there were a number of 911 hangups which turned out to be abandoned land lines being triggered at random, with nothing but static being audible. The companies responsible for removing the land line wires from the ground were contacted.

#### Tax Forfeited Land

The board discussed the purchase of a parcel of tax forfeited land. At last month's meeting, it was found that one of the township culverts drains onto the property. The board was unsure what to do with the land, as they didn't feel they should allow their culvert to drain onto the property if it was owned by an in-

dividual, but they also had no

use for the property and did not wish to face any liability issues should someone, such as a child, trespass on the property and get hurt. (The property does have standing water which a couple of the board members feared might attract a kid who wanted to play in the water.)

After some discussion, Board Member Gregg Felber was able to convince most of the other board members that it was best to purchase the property, as they could continue to use it for drainage and it could be useful if the township was ever mandated to set aside a certain amount of wetland according to state code. The rest of the board agreed, save Board Member Paul Ellinger, who voted against the purchase.

Mailbox Ordinance In light of the recently adopted mailbox ordinance, the township decided to purchase swing away mailbox posts to put up in the upcoming development and for residents to purchase. The board opted to purchase 51 of these posts, as there was a discount for orders over 50.

#### In Other Business, the Board:

 Heard about a successful, though less busy than previous years, recycle day;

- Planned to open bids for the town hall septic repair June 2;
- Purchased \$1,000 of asphalt millings;
- Discussed some concerns to bring up with the HOA and developers of the Shores of Eagle Lake Devel-• Discussed the town hall
- again, and reminded the audience that the special meeting to collect residents' input on the town hall plans will be June 15 at 7 p.m.

#### Bar Bingo **Tuesday Nights 6:30** \$1,000 in 59 Numbers We have ETABS 11025 Duelm Road NE, Foley, MN Proceeds for St. Lawrence Church 10915 Duelm Rd NE, Foley License #01080

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#### RETIREES from page 1

his own health and having as much fun as he can, building a muscle car and taking on other projects, and finally growing a beard! He's excited to make way for new firefighters to join the department and have their own exciting experiences.

Reid decided to retire when his son became sick and died of brain cancer. He is refocusing his efforts on spending time with his family, and has moved to Florida.

Cox Backes is also focusing on family, as she gave birth to her daughter back in December. She said the fire department was a little more than she could handle with a baby and a full time job, but she could see herself rejoining some day. For now, she'll enjoy her time with her daughter and work to grow professional roots in Becker on top of the personal ones, working as a financial advisor with Edward Jones.

#### **Positions Open for New Firefighters**

With so many firefighters on the way out, the department is in search of new talent. Fire Chief Doug Kolbinger says there are five open positions (the department has already made one hire). Informational meetings will be held June 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and June 11 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Becker residents over the age of 18 are welcome to apply, and can do so by filling out an application at Becker City Hall.

Cox Backes encourages those who are interested to check out the fire department.

"It will change your life in so many ways," she stated. "It's a commitment, so commit to years of doing it," she advised.

Rieland agreed, saying, "Don't go into at 50%." He suggested that potential applicants prepare themselves for some really good times and some very challenging times ahead.

"Make sure you're at a place in your life where you can handle having a second job," Reid said. Training and calls can take up a lot of time and firefighters need to be able to drop things at a moment's notice, and having the support of one's family is crucial.

Knutson said, "Those of you considering being a firefighter, do the research. The first 2 years are filled with education and many hours away from family. Remember 'FAMILY IS FIRST.' If the fire service is for you, I say 'GO FOR IT!' As for me, I am honored to say Becker Fire was the best department and best brotherhood to be involved with."

#### Thank You

Becker Fire Chief Doug Kolbinger thanked the retiring firefighters for their years of service, stating they should be very proud of all the service they provided the community.

The Patriot staff would also like to offer our sincere thanks and appreciation for the many hours and sacrifices these six firefighters have made in order to keep the community safe. Thank you, and congratulations to you all on your retirements!

## Auctions

#### ESTATE & CONSIGNMENT AUCTION **SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 @ 11:00 AM** 3825 Shadowood Dr. NE.Sauk Rapids,MN Directions: St. Cloud, E. on Hwy 23 Left 0n 40th (Follow Signs)

ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: Pedal car & pedal car body, Green canning jars, Vintage bicycles, 5 Gal. oil cans, Jewelry, Glassware, Trunks, Enamel light shades, Ships light, Barn lantern, Wood pully; HOUSEHOLD: Flat screen TV's, Bedding, Planters, Dishes, Cookware, Holiday Décor', Wagon, Coleman grill, Oil heater; FURNITURE: Sofa & loveseat, Recliners, Kitchen table & chairs, Dressers, Sectional sofa, Patio swing, Bedroom sets, Coffe & end tables; OUTDOOR & SHOP: Stacking tool box, Hand tools, Snow blower, Push mower, Shop table, Picnic table, Yard & garden tools, Weed whip, Tire changer, Extension ladder, Outboard motor.



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Directions from Buckman, MN: 2 miles east on 93rd St. (Morrison Co. Rd. 34) to 290th Ave. (Morrison Co. Rd. 237), and then 1/2 mile north. Watch for Talberg Auction signs. **FORAGE & GRAVITY** 

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#### INTEGRITY from page 1.

the true density would land somewhere between R1 and R2). Although all of the units are single family homes, the tightly-packed villas with small yards (which are marketed towards 65 and older individuals who don't need much space and don't like to do a lot of yard maintenance) make the density higher than the city intended for the area.

The developer's representative explained that there hasn't been as much demand for large yards, and in the current market he doubted anyone would be able to develop the area to an R1

However, the developer was unsure whether they wanted to pursue the plan, anyway, as there would be a significant cost to providing sewer services to the area.

The council heard an update on the code revision project. Staff is working to make city code more "user friendly" for developers and residents. Staff approached the council to give the council members a chance to ask questions and provide feedback. The new code should be in use by next spring if everything goes as planned.

#### **Department Reports**

Norm Michels of the streets, parks, and fleet department gave an update on his department's preparations for the summer. Spring crack filling has been going on for several weeks. They have also been dragging over the ball fields in preparation for youth baseball.

A local excavator volunteered their truck to move pieces of the Lakeside Park pier back to the lake, since none of the city's vehicles were capable of doing so. Michels offered his sincere gratitude for the gesture, as did the council members. Improvements were made to the boat landing, which had some significant cracking.

The city is working with Sherburne County to offer a story stroll at Highline Park. Kids who complete all the story strolls in the county and collect stamps from each one can receive a prize from their local library.

Dan Childs of the Water and Wastewater department reported that improvements to the water treatment facility have led to much more water conserved.



TEN-YEAR-OLD ZOE OF BIG LAKE (ABOVE) spent a portion of her memorial weekend selling lemonade in a lemonade stand and raising money for team Bruno of the Big Lake Police Dept. Zoe and her mom dropped of \$88.25 for the department's K9 program! LUPULIN BREWING held their anniversary open house and raised \$1,740 for the BLPD and BLFD. They (below) presented a check to both Fire Chief Seth Hanson and BL Acting Chief Sam Olson for \$870 each! (Submitted



#### Fighting for meaningful tax relief

(Editor's Note: The following column was submitted by Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer.)

We are all aware of the rising inflation rates, spike in crime in our communities, and effect the COVID-19 pandemic has had on students. That is why my Senate Republican colleagues and I focused this session on passing substantial legislation to address these critical issues and help Minnesota be on the Right Track.

To keep our communities safe, we prioritized public safety to address the surge in violent crimes. The Senate Republicans' comprehensive public safety bill included vital support for law enforcement recruitment and retention. It also toughened penalties for criminal activity and increased transparency and accountability in judicial and prosecutorial actions.

We also fought to help Minnesotans afford everyday life by introducing the Biggest Tax Cut Ever! that would have cut the lowest income tax rate and fully repealed the tax on Social Security benefits. With the massive budget surplus, this legislative session served as the opportune time to stop taxing our senior twice.

Additionally, Senate Republicans introduced the Parent's Bill of Rights and funding for literacy that would have brought more transparency and accountability in schools, while reversing the state's declining literacy rates with proven, scientific methods of instruction. With 40% of students unable to read at grade level, I believe it's imperative we get back to the basics and invest in programs to raise reading scores.

The session largely stayed focused on those three topics, but the crisis



By Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer

facing nursing homes and long-term care centers was an issue that couldn't be forgotten. To address this emergency situation, the Senate Republican nursing home rescue package would have provided much needed funding for staff, recruitment, and training.

However, the 2022 legislative session closed without the passage of these major bills – even though they were passed by the Republican Majority in the Senate. Since the DFL Majority in the House did not agree to the language in our bills, conference committees were formed to work out the differences.

Throughout negotiations, Senate Republicans provided offers that were aligned with the terms of the leadership agreement that was released on May 16, 2022. Our proposals were within the budget agreement set and released to the public for review and dropped controversial policy items. Democrats, however, frequently sent offers that were over the agreedupon budget target or introduced new, controversial policy items. Their position on public safety, supporting unproven non-profits instead of support for law enforcement officers, was a stance my Senate Republicans and I were unable to

Further, in the last 48

hours available to pass bills, the governor interfered with the Senate-House agreement on State Government, effectively killing the bill. As chair of this committee, I fought hard this session for a significant state government bill to ensure transparency and increase participation in the election process. However, when an agreed upon deal was struck by me and the conferees of the state government legislation, Governor Tim Walz and his administration

from closing. It's evident that the governor was not interested in passing a deal that would have greatly benefited all Minnesotans. And now, the governor is the only person who can call a special session and bring these bills to the finish line.

stepped into negotiations

and blocked agreements

The session still saw several important bipartisan success stories. The Legislature passed key legislation to repay and refill the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund and provide bonus checks to frontline workers. We also passed a reinsurance extension to keep health care costs low, improve access, and stabilize the insurance market. Further, a budget bill for Veterans was finalized and included funding for three vets' homes and bonuses for veterans in the War on Terror. Finally, a significant Agriculture, Broadband. and Drought relief bill was also passed to assist farmers and greater Minnesotans.

Senate Republicans will continue to fight to improve the lives of Minnesotans and help our state be on the right track. It has been the greatest privilege to serve as your State Senator and represent our community in the Legislature.

#### -Remembering those who sacrificed

(Editor's Note: The following column was submitted by Rep. Tom Emmer.)

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable Memorial Day weekend. While it is an opportunity to enjoy time with friends and family, it should also be spent reflecting on those who answered the call to serve and paid the ultimate price in defense of our great nation. Thank you to all of our Gold Star Families and those with loved ones who continue to put their lives on the line every day. Recognizing

#### **Memorial Day**

Memorial Day marks an important reminder that our freedoms aren't free; they have been hard-won by our servicemembers. We must always remember and honor their sacrifice.

Join me in thanking the men and women who gave their lives in service of our nation, and all of those who have lost a loved one.



By Congressman Tom Emmer

Today and every day, you are not forgotten.

#### **Another Successful** Town Hall

This month, I hosted another town hall in Blaine. As always, we welcomed the chance to come together as a community and address the issues facing Minnesotans. Speaking to constituents in Sixth District is not only an important part of my work in Congress, but also one of my favorite parts of the job. Hearing directly from you has inspired some of our most successful efforts, including the COP House or the Abby Honold Act, which recently became law.

#### Talking with **Esme Murphy**

Last weekend, I had the opportunity to speak with Esme Murphy on WCCO to discuss issues at the forefront of many Minnesotans' minds: inflation, formula shortages, and more.

#### Young Women's Leadership Program

For the last seven years, our office's Young Women's Leadership Program has connected present and future women leaders in the Sixth District. We have begun accepting applications for the 2022 Spring/Summer session, which will include sessions featuring women leaders in law enforcement, trades, and healthcare.

High school age girls in the Sixth District are encouraged to apply.

#### Tax relief, public safety unfinished

(Editor's Note: The following column was submitted by Rep. Shane Mekeland.)

The Legislature adjourned Monday with priorities such as converting a massive state surplus to historic tax relief and improving public safety at a time violent crime is soaring unresolved.

House Democrats' insistence on increasing government spending by billions of dollars derailed down tax relief. Senate Republicans proposed more than \$8 billion in tax relief, while House Democrats were looking to spend \$21 for every \$1 in tax cuts.

Major tax relief should have been a given this session. Unfortunately, House Democrats' insistence on increasing government spending by billions of dollars stopped that from happening. The majority was pushing to increase



By Rep. Shane Mekeland

government spending by 15% or more compared with the last budget, even though this is not a budget year, and our state already is fully funded for the bien-

Permanent, meaningful tax relief will remain a top priority of mine as we prepare for the 2023 session. It starts with eliminating state taxes on Social Security to end Minnesota's status as one of the last states to still tax these dollars.

House Democrats refused to fund law enforcement and blocked increased penalties for criminals - including a bill that would crack down on fentanyl as our country deals with record-setting overdose deaths driven by this deadly

Extremists in the Legislature refused to fund law enforcement and blocked increased penalties for criminals - including denying a bill that would crack down on fentanyl as our country deals with record-setting overdose deaths driven by this deadly drug. It's past time to stand up to the 'defund the police' wing of their party that insists on funding unproven and unaccountable non-profit groups instead of putting more money into our local police depart-

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## letters to the Editor

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Three editorials encouraged this response thus thanking Dr. VanBuren, Ms. Dickinson and Mr. Collier for them. Confirming their perspectives: The baby formula crisis is proof of incompetence by all those involved in the administration, and other points made by the writer. For Dominion voting machines to be allowed signifies "the blind leading the blind", lack of courage and any real leadership... proof of being in power too long. They look after bettering themselves rather than the people they pledged to serve. **Shooting in NY and now TX:** Sanctuary cities, liberal judges releasing criminals, inviting the wrong people to cross our borders, using up strategic oil reserves, worst of all freely killing unborn children and those in schools. (Politician's criminal legislation has led to a degenerate way of living!) Do we really think a society like this can survive? History says NO! P.S. When my parents, I, and my children went to school you could enter the classroom any time, sit quietly in the back and observe. P.P.S. In the Roaring 20's gangsters running booze openly carried machine guns often shooting their competition but not never children in a classroom. We've allowed bad people (including politicians) to poison our culture....they face no just punishment which allows criminal actions to continue. P.P.P.S. On their own, spoons don't make people fat, nor pencils make mistakes or guns kill without a person behind each.

Tom Godlewski, Palmer Twp., MN

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Are you as tired as I am of the rhetoric, sending thoughts and prayers, our hearts are breaking and it's a mental illness problem after each mass shooting? It is time we do something before our children are the victims. I have read the constitution and find nothing that says we can't raise the age to purchase firearms to 21. This one act could have an immediate ef-

fect without any infringement on our sacred constitutional rights. We have done just this with alcohol and cigarettes. Call your representatives and demand positive action, their job is to protect citizens and I am tired of complete inaction by our elected officials.

**Rick Wittwer** Clear Lake, MN

TO THE EDITOR: Solving the Problem. If you have a large pothole in the road that is causing people to drive off the road and injure themselves, posting warning signs and erecting guard rails doesn't fix the problem. Fixing the pothole solves the problem. Mass murders, whether in schools or grocery store, is not solved by more cops or locked doors, it's solved by not creating the people that commit these actions. Thirty years ago people were not committing these types of crimes and we didn't have all of extra laws that we do now, and neither did our educational system or social media teach our children that they could do or become whatever they wanted. Today they are being taught that they can choose their sex. They are being told that if they are white, they are racist and if they are of a different color, they are oppressed, and that there is nothing they can do about it but be mad and that they need to "exact revenge" on whoever they feel is oppressing them through whatever means they believe is justified. I am not provided enough space in this Letter to the Editor, to describe all of the things that need to be changed; all of the problems brought on by the past 30 years of slippery slope, liberal policies and influences. While extra measures do need to be taken to protect us from this current generation of people that the educational/ social media/government has programed, not until we go back to the family/educational system that we had 30-40 plus years ago are we going to fix the problem. Otherwise it's just going to get worse.

Bret R. Collier Big Lake, MN

#### **American Redstart**

The key to "seeing" nature is to stop and look. I know that seems rather obvious but it's true. The simple act of stopping and looking is really all it takes to start to see more nature. This is something I learned a long time ago, but it seems that I need to stop and remember it every now and then.

Yesterday, while filming for a new nature documentary about a 500 acre plus mixed woodland and riparian area, I stopped to check out a very small stream. It turns out the stream was more like a trickle of water but while standing and just enjoying the sight, I noticed some movement just in front of

I could see immediately that the tiny, drab bird was a female American Redstart (Setophaga ruticilla). The American Redstart is a fairly common warbler species. It's unique name "Redstart" refers to the male's red markings on the side of the tail. The word "start" is an Old-World word for tail. So Red-Start literally means red tail.

Although the female has the same color pattern as the male, she is yellow, not red. They nest in open woodland habitats through-



By Naturist Stan Tekiela

out the eastern half of the country. When I say "they" nest, I mean it is the female who builds the nest, lays the eggs and does all the hation

A highly migratory warbler, they spend their winters in Central and South America, returning to the eastern U.S. in late spring. It is important to understand that when these birds are down in the tropics for the winter, they are not nesting there. They spend their winter resting and feeding and getting ready for spring when they migrate thousands of miles back to the forests of Eastern United States to nest. I am hoping that right now you are having a "a-ha" moment and realizing that your backyard woodlot is the key to this bird's survival. Your woodlot is the only place this bird nests.

I had stopped to check out a tiny stream when I spotted this female American Redstart. I could identify it instantly. Not only did I identify it instantly, but I could also see what she was doing right away. She was stripping fine fibers from last year's plant stems. This can only mean that she was gathering nesting materials. It only took watching her for another couple minutes to see where she was going and to locate the nest she was building.

The simple act of a tiny bird using only its beak (mouth) to gather all the materials needed to make a nest, then using the same tiny beak to weave the materials together to construct something that is strong enough to hold the eggs while the female incubates for several weeks, and also hold the young birds after hatching truly remarkable.

As I sat and filmed this remarkable little bird building its nest, I started to count the number of trips bringing in nesting material. In just one hour she came to the nest 28 times. That is about once every other minute. Hundreds if not thousands of trips are needed to complete a nest.

REDSTART to page 8



#### Patriot Office

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- Letters to the Editors: The PATRIOT welcomes letters to the editor. Addresses and telephone numbers are require 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 11 am 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. Two 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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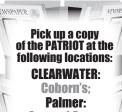
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#### **This Week's Calendar Events:**

Sun. - June 5, 2022: National Cancer Survivor Day •UN: World Environment Day National Garden Week (6/5-6/11)

 National Business Etiquette Week •Bed Bug Awareness Week (6/5-6/11)

Mon. - June 6, 2022: National Eyewear Day D-Day: Anniversary Tues. - June 7, 2022:

 National Cotton Candy Day •National VCR Day •World Food Safety Day Moon Phase: First Quarter Wed. - June 8, 2022:

Becker High School=BHS Becker Middle School=BMS; Becker Intermediate School=BIS Early Childhood Family; **Education=ECFE** Big Lake School=BLS; Clearview School=CVS

•National Making Life Beautiful

(Becker Schools=BS:

National Donald Duck Day

National Earl Day

Fri. - June 10, 2022: •National Ballpoint Pen Day
•National Iced Tea Day

Sat., June 11, 2022: National Roses Day

•Belmont Stakes

National Best Friends Day National Call Your Doctor Day World Oceans Day Thurs. - June 9, 2022: National Strawberry-Rhubarb Pie

**General Store**; **General Store**;

**Bill's Family Foods**, **BIG LAKE:** 

Coborn's

## Announcements

#### Clear Lake/Clearwater - Organizations

Clear Lake Legion

Meets the second Tues. of the month at Palmer Twp. Hall. The Legion will meet at 7pm. New members are always welcome. Bud Stimmler at (320)

#### Clear Lake Lions

Meets the first & third Tues. of the month at 4180 105th Ave., Clear Lake 7:30pm. Please contact anv Lions member or one of the officers listed on our website: www.clearlakelionsmn.org

Clear Valley Business Connections
Meets quarterly on the 2nd Thurs.
of the month from 11:30am-1pm at varilocations. Glenna Soenneker, President,  $(320)\ 267\text{-}4361, clear valley bc @gmail.com.$ Clearwater AA/Al-Anon

Meets at 7pm, Sun. night at Clear-water United Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater. (320) 310-1399 for AA or (320) 558-6613 for Al-Ánon.

#### **Clearwater AA Meeting**

Meets Mon. nights, 7pm at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 1155 CR 75, Clearwater. (612) 801-7317.

#### Clearwater Area Friends of the Library Clearwater Area Friends of the Library are currently

accepting donations of gently used books, DVDs & CDs for their used bookstore located in the Clearwater Library. Donations are tax deductible & can be dropped off at the Clearwater Library.
Textbooks, dictionaries, encyclopedias, outdated

medical books, magazines, & moldy books cannot be accepted. All proceeds from the sale of used books are used to support the programs, services & equipment of the Clearwater Library.

#### Clearwater American Legion Post 323 & Auxiliary

Clearwater Legion meetings are held the sec-

ond Thurs. of the month. Auxiliary 6:30pm, S.A.L. at 7pm, Legion 7:30pm. Clearwater Legion, Clearwater.

#### Clearwater/Clear Lake Food Shelf

Open Mon. 5:30-7pm, Tues. 9-11am & 6-8pm, Wed. 3-5pm & in the brown Lions Community Building beneath the water tower in Clearwater. We service residents of Clearwater & Clear Lake.

#### **Clearwater Narcotics Anonymous**

Meets at 7pm, Wed. night at Clearwater United Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater. (612)

#### Free Grace Recovery

Sun. 6-8pm at Clear Lake Town Hall, 7684 1st Ave. W. Clear Lake. A light meal will be served at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. Justin or Renee at (612) 384-9069.

#### **Lions Club of Clearwater**

Meets second Tues. of the month at 8pm. Clearwater Lions Pavilion. www.clearwaterlionsmn.com

#### Young @ Heart

Community Young@Heart will meet on the third Thurs. of every month at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 1155 Co. Rd. 75, Clearwater, MN. Join us: 10:30 to meet & greet old & new friends, 11:30 lunch (suggested donation), 12pm program.

#### Miscellaneous - Organizations

#### Every Child Deserves a Family! WE NEED

Sherburne County is recruiting Foster Homes! Family Foster Care offers a temporary home until children can be safetly reunited with their families or achieve permanency through kinship care or adoption. Foster Care is the 24-hour care of a child in a home that meets the child's basic need for food, shelter, clothing, medical & dental care, privacy, safety, & adult supervision.

Children enter Foster Care whose families are experiencing difficulties, have special medical, emotional, or developmental needs or who struggle with their own issues such as mental health, behavior, or

truancy. Foster Care is the least restrictive out-ofhome placement option & most likely a family set-

Please contact: Chelsea Doherty 763) 765-4033 or chelsea.doherty@co.sherburne.mn.us.

#### FREE - Advocates for Independence

First & third Wed. of the month 2-4pm at Independent Lifestyles, 215 North Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids, Make a difference in your community for people w/disabilities. Michele Pelka (320) 281-2042. All abilities are welcome to attend

#### FREE - The Saint Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease

(PD) Support Group invites you to "Coffee & Conversation" the last Wed. monthly at 10am at Edgewood Living 677 Brianna Drive, Sartell. Meetings are open to those diagnosed w/ PD, their families, caregivers, & the general public. Group provides support, ucation, & awareness about disease. Bobbi (320) 281-3343.

## Mental Health Discussion Group Meets Mon., 6-7pm at Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids. This is a free group,

everyone is welcome. Ricky (320) 281-2025. Parkinson's Disease Support Group Mon. o Meets third Mon. of the month, from 1-2:30pm at ILICIL Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk

#### Rapids. This free group provides support, education, & awareness about the disease. Independent Lifestyles at (320) 529-9000.

Rivers of Hope Advocates for ending family violence, is a non-profit community based agency offering advocacy, support, education & referral for victims of family violence. Working in partnerships w/schools, law enforcement, social service agencies & the court system in Sherburne & Wright Co. (763) 295-3433 or 1-800-439-2642 or info@riversofhope.org. Free & confidential. Phones

answered 24/7.

#### Volunteer as a Foster Grandparent

Local schools & organizations need caring adults like you! Orientation, training & ongoing support are provided. Pat Braun (612) 390-0617.

#### Wright County Community Action

You have been affected & are having or are anticipating having difficulity paying your mortgage, WCCA is here to help you navigate your options & keep your home. To speak with a homeownership advisor, call Wright County Community Action at (320) 963-6500 ext. 238 today. Services are unbiased, confidential & free of charge.

#### Big Lake Upcoming Events

#### **Svea Hill Church**

The Neighborhood Hymn Sing will meet at Svea Hill Church on June 12, 6:30pm. We invite you to stay for the fellowship time following the service for Birthday Cake and Ice Cream provided by Virginia Bloomdahl's family in celebration of Virginia's 90th birthday.

Church is located approximately 6 miles north of Highway 10 on CR15.

#### **B.L.A.R.E ARRL Field Day**

The Big Lake Amateur Radio Enthusiasts would like to welcome everyone o their ARRL Field Day Event. An exercise in amateur radio communications to test emergency preparedness & response capabilities that might serve in an emergency, as well

Sat., June 25, at 1pm -Sun., June 26, at 1pm. Field south of ball diamond & cell tower in the Big Lake Lions Park, 21960 CR5 NW, Big Lake. Entrance near Dog Park, look for the "Ham Radio Event" signs. Info call Vince (651) 208-1670 or Jack (612) 232-8874.

#### **Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events**

BASC NOW AT BCC! ALL AREA SENIORS WELCOME. SENIOR CENTER OPEN MON. - FRI. 5AM-5PM. COFFEE IS ON AT 5AM. COME DROP IN!

Mon., June 6: 9am-Cribbage, bring a partner.
Tues., June 7: 9am-Cards/Conversion; 10:15am-Nordic Walking, reg-

Wed., June 8: 12pm-Bingo w/Liberty's Kelly Schustek-cash, card

Thurs., June 9: 9am: Cards/Conversion; 11am-Can Do Canines pre-

Becker Community Center: 763-200-4271 Blood Pressure available whenever BASC is open

Send activity/class opportunities to: basc.becker@gmail.com

Planning Mtg. 3rd Wed. @ 1pm - Next Board Mtg. July 20, 3-5pm.



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## Public Notices

#### Assumed Names

#### 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: EMbrace

**Beauty Studios** PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSI-NESS: 25930 2nd Street East Zimmerman MN 55398 USA

EM Nailz LLC

Address:

NAMEHOLDER(S):

#### 25930 2nd Street East Suite A Zimmerman MN 55398 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: Harold J. Slawik, Legal Counsel to Nameholder MAILING ADDRESS: None

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NO-TICES: jkleinjan@newcounsel.

Work Item: 1315524400029 Original File Number: 1315524400029

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

**FILED** 05/26/2022 11:59 PM

/s/ Steve Simon Secretary of State (Published in the Patriot: 06/04/22; 06/11/22).

#### Office of the Minnesota **Secretary of State** Certificate of Assumed Name Amendment to 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: Claymore Wood Co PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSI-

NESS: 4722 45th Ave SE Saint Cloud MN 56304 USA NAMEHOLDER(S): Name:

Monty Ray Gregoire 4722 45th Ave SE Saint Cloud MN 56304 USA

This certificate is an amendment of Certificate of Assumed Name File Number: 1280633400027 Originally filed on: 12/21/2021

Under the name: Minnesota Bats

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 docu-

609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath. SIGNED BY: Monty Gregoire MAILING ADDRESS: None Pro-

ment I am subject to the penalties

of perjury as set forth in Section

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NO-TICES: Excluded Work Item: 1315042500025

Original File 1280633400027 STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED

Secretary of State

**PUBLIC NOTICES, SHERIFF** 

**& POLICE ACTIVITY REPORTS** 

are posted on our website:

www.patriotnewsmn.com

06/04/22; 06/11/22).

05/24/2022 11:59 PM /s/ Steve Simon

(Published in the Patriot:

TENTH DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE JUDICIAL DISTRICT PROBATE DIVISION Court File No.: 71-PR-22-69 In Re: Estate of

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Richard Dlugosch, NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-POINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NO-

TICE TO CREDITORS Notice is given that an application for informal probate of the Decedent's Will, dated March 12, 2007, ("Will"), has been filed with the Probate Registrar and that the application has been granted.

Notice is also given that Probate Registrar has informally appointed Patrick Dlugosch, whose address is 8209 N Links Way, Fox Point, Wisconsin, 53217, as personal representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Unless objections are filed with the Court (pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-607) and the Court otherwise orders, the personal representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease

or distribure real estate Any objections to the probate of the Will or to the appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with this Court and will be heard by the Court after the filing of an appropriate petition and proper notice of hearing.

Notice is also given that (subject to 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 Admininstror within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred. Dated: May 20, 2022

/s/ Pamela Kreier Probate Registrar /s/ Patricia Kuka Court Administrator (Published in the Patriot: 05/28/22; 06/04/22).

#### **Probates**

STATE OF MINNESOTA IN DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE PROBATE COURT DIVISION TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No.: 71-PR-22-55 In Re: Estate of Grace Mae Udelhofen,

#### ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

The petition of Dawn Pozorski, dated April 14, 2022, having been filed in this Court representing that decedent was the owner of property that was under a Contract for Deed that has been satisfied, and requesting the descent of said propelty be determined and assigned by the Court to the persons entitled thereto.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that said Petition be heard on the 16th day of June, 2022, at 8:30 o'clock a.m. by the above-named Court at the Sherburne County Courthouse located at 13880 Business Center Drive, Elk River, Minnesota. Remotely.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Petitioner give notice of said hearing in the manner prescribed by Minnesota Statute to all persons entitled to notice and to all persons who have filed a Demand for Notice pursuant to Minnesota Statute.

Dated: April 15, 2022

/s/ Beverly Hillesheim

05/28/22; 06/04/22).

Court Administrator Joseph S. Mayers KELM & REUTER, P.A. Attorney No. 0295747 Attorney for Petitioner 1287 2nd Street North, Suite 101 Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 (320) 251-1423 kelmreuter@kelmreuter.com (Published in the Patriot:

#### STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No.: 71-PR-22-67 (Ancillary) In Re: Estate of Charles Edward Workman,

Decedent. NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PER-SONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDI-

TORS Notice is given that an Application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed Elizabeth Jane Barbo,

whose address is 13470 Zarthan

Avenue South Savage, MN 55378,

to serve as the personal representa-

tive of the decedent's estate. Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objec-

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters of general administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.

Notice is further given that,

subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-

801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred. Dated: May 20, 2022 /s/ Pamela Kreier Registrar /s/ Patricia Kuka Court Administrator Mark W. Biglow Attorney at Law #139129 331 2nd Avenue South STE 895

Telephone: 612-238-4783 Facsimile: 612-333-3201 e-mail: mark@biglowlaw.com (Published in the Patriot: 05/28/22; 06/04/22).

Minneapolis, MN 55401



#### **Sherburne County Recorder Vital Statistics Marriage Application** Report May 2022

Kathy Ann Langlie of Milaca and Todd Orville Folkerts of Princeton; Julio Armando Jaramillo Sanchez and Ana Maria Barreda Gonzalez of Big Lake: Jay Allen Lefebvre and Jennifer Anne Baldwin of Elk River; Faith Kemunto Omurwa and Samuel Onami Obwayaof Elk River; Joseph Edward Conrad and Catherine Marie Johnson of Becker; Preston Gabriel Beatty Hentges and Lynette Rose Draack of Elk River; Darryl



John Janke and Courtney La

Shon De Bill of Elk River: Tayler Anne Sundberg and Garrett Frederick Hol of Zimmerman; Andrea Lynn Schold and Samuel Keshawn Price of Zimmerman; Alphonse Latrese Herron Jr of Elk River and Mirtha Cepero of Conn Rapids; Amy Elizabeth Hilyar and Erin Daniel Weber of Zimmerman; Matthew Philip Quinlan and Becky Marie Zenzen of Clear Lake; Blandine Manchoung Besong and Ayuk Tambe Ashu of Elk River; Morgan Renae Anderson and Michael John Dorso of Elk River; Jessica Jean Heurung and Scott Henry Heurung of Clear Lake; Steven Douglas Roth and Jessica Amber Greiner of Princeton; Danielle Grace Chmielewski and Joseph Earl Barnett of Becker; Jesse Alan Lasanen and Jillian Catherine Winter of Saint Michael; Craig Michael Koehler and Brittany Lee Wedlund of Becker; Linda Mzezewa of Albertville and Dustin James Hatch of Big Lake; Todd Steven Langenbach and Leisa Marie Knauff of Zimmerman; Gabriel Silveira Chein and Chloe Lee Rand of Plymouth; James Richard Alexander Williams I and Anne Alicia Earle of Big Lake; Esther Joanna Doran of Clearwater and Ethan Luke Wenzel of Nowthen; Trevor Mayo Kendall and Juliet Felicity Rose of Saint Cloud; Isabelle Marie Strom and Zachary Michael Sternquist of Big Lake; Tristan John Pirness of Big Lake and Rose Marlene Jurmu of Monticello; Levi Mathew Zak and Danyell Lee Duncan of Becker; Tarin Beth Jess and

Richard Thomas Johnson of Elk

River; Curtis Allen Blaske and Monica Marie Michaud of Big Lake; Anastasia Davis-Dunbar and Caleb Dalles Oberg of Sauk Centre; Matthew David Tupy of Maple Grove and Leah Sophia Bonin of Elk River; Sandra Marie Erickson of Becker and Daniel Arlen Nelson of Princ-

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

## Public Motices

#### Big Lake Schools #727 Public Motices

#### **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

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

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools, was called to order on May 26, 2022.

ROLL CALL

All Board members were present except Mr. Dan Nygaard. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion passed to approve the agenda.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

RETIREMENT RECOGNITION

Vickie O'Gara was recognized. OPEN FORUM

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion passed to approve the following: A. PREVIOUS MINUTES

B. CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

C. CREDIT CARD REPORT

D. PERSONNEL

E. APPROVE BIG LAKE ONLINE ADMINISTRATIVE AS-SISTANT POSITION

F. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

G. APPROVAL OF ONE READ POLICIES

H. FINAL READING AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES I. APPROVE CHARTWELLS 2022-2023 CONTRACT

A motion passed to approve the donations.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion passed to approve the financial report and budget revisions as presented. APPROVE FOOD SERVICE MEAL PRICES FOR SCHOOL

YEAR 2022-2023 A motion passed to approve the meal prices for 2022-2023.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

XII. GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENT

June 3, 2022 at 7:30 PM at the high school.

XIII. APPROVAL OF SPUD FEST FACILITY RENTAL AGREE-

A motion passed to approve the agreement as presented. XIV. APPROVAL OF PAY AND BENEFIT CHANGES FOR NON-AFFILIATED STAFF

A motion passed to approve the changes as presented.

XV. FIRST READING OF POLICIES

XVI. SECOND READING OF POLICIES

XVII.COMMITTEE UPDATES XVIII.STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

XIX. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

XX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting. (Published in the Patriot: 06/04/22).

#### Township Public Notices

#### TOWN OF ORROCK SHERBURNE COUNTY STATE OF MINNESOTA **ORDINANCE NO. 0-20220525** ORDINANCE REPEALING ORROCK TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 0-20121114-1

The Town Board for the Town of Orrock, Sherburne County, Minnesota, hereby ordains:

Ordinance No. 0-20121114-1 adopted November 14, 2012, an ordinance regulating mailbox post installation is hereby repealed in

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publication. Approved and adopted this 25th day of May, 2022. We, the un-

dersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing Ordinance Number was duly adopted by the Orrock Township Board. ABSTAIN

|                                  | 7 X 1 L                  | 11/11 | 1100111111 |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|------------|
| Chair Bryan Adams:               | $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ |       |            |
| Supervisor Janine Arnold:        | $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ |       |            |
| Supervisor Paull Ellinger:       | $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ |       |            |
| Supervisor Gregg Felber:         | $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ |       |            |
| Supervisor Bob Hassett:          | $\underline{\mathbf{X}}$ |       |            |
| /s/ Bryan Adams, Chairperson     |                          |       |            |
| Attested to by:                  |                          |       |            |
| /s/ Chris Weber, Town Clerk      |                          |       |            |
| (Published in the Patriot: 06/04 | /22).                    |       |            |
|                                  |                          |       |            |

#### **Town of Orrock Notice of Special Town Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that a special town meeting of the Orrock Township Electors will be held on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Orrock Town Hall at 26401 180th Street NW, Big Lake, MN 55309 for the following purpose:

Town Hall Building Expansion Project Discussion /s/ Chris Weber

Clerk, Town of Orrock

(Published in the Patriot: 06/04/22).

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

Car Seat Distribution Classes
Thursday, June 9, 2022 9:30-11am, and Wednesday, June 29, 2022 1:30-3pm at the 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 (Residents of Sherburne enrolled in WIC or medical assistance program are eligible, Non-Resident Children with a Minnesota PMAP (Blue Plus, Healthpartners, UCare) medical assistance program are eligible). Call to receive more information or register, 763-765-4111 or 1-800-433-5239. https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/396/Child-Passenger-

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, con-nect 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.

Outreach in St. Cloud

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 p.m. Call for an appointment or more information, 763-765-4000 or -800-433-5239. Minnesota who meet eligibility guidelines on Tuesdays from 9

The Sherburne County Wellness bus will be at Salem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 9:30-3pm. HHS staff will answer questions about public assistance programs and as sist Sherburne County residents in applying for, or maintaining, benefits Need Help with Food, Child Care, Medical Assistance, Housing, Utility Disconnects, Evictions? Walk ins welcome! WIC (Women, Infants & Children): is for women who are pregnant breastfeeding, recently had a baby, infants and children to their 5thbirth-

day. 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. \*Drop-in Childcare Need someone to watch your children while you renew your driver's

license, attend a court hearing, apply for a passport, or conduct other business at the Sherburne County Government Center? Free childcare is now available for children ages 6 weeks -12 years. 2.5 hour time limit. Hours of operation are Monday – Thursday 9am – 3:30pm and Friday 9am – noon. Parent/caregiver will be provided with a pager and must remain on premises. Guidelines and capacity limits apply.

#### City Public Notices

#### **DOCUMENT 00 11 13** ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS 2022 Street Improvements Becker, Minnesota SEH No. BECKR 165082

Notice is hereby given that Online Bids will be received by the City Administrator until 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 14, 2022, via QuestCDN for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of 2022 Street Improvements.

The bid opening will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud: 2022 Street Improvements Bid Opening Tuesday, June 14, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\_YzE3Yz-VmNDgtYTllMi00YTUxLThlZTAtOTViNzBhY2QyNjll%40thread v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22642f4553-88f1-43dc-9a29-90842cd19d4c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2248472820-a408-4d5cb262-d033b1c6fa20%22%7d Or call in (audio only)

+1 872-242-7640,,878677187# United States, Chicago Phone Conference ID: 878 677 187#

Any person monitoring the meeting remotely may be responsible for any documented costs. Message and data rates may apply. Major quantities for the Work include:

Remove Concrete Walk 1,500 LIN FT Remove Concrete Curb & Gutter LIN FT Sawing Concrete Pavement 800 LIN FT Sawing Bituminous Pavement 4,300 CU YD Common Excavation Aggregate Base Class 5 1,800 TON Full Depth Reclamation 51,500 SY6,125 TON Bituminous Wearing Course 6-Inch Concrete Walk 4,950 SQ FT 500 SQ FT Truncated Domes 1,500 LIN FT Concrete Curb & Gutter Adjust Frame & Ring Casting 55 EΑ 265 SQ FT F&I Sign Panels Type C 300 CU YD Topsoil Borrow 0.25 AC Rigid PVC Loop Detector 6-feet x 6-feet

The Bidding Documents may be seen at the Issuing Office of SEH located at 2351 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 300, Sartell, MN 56377, 320.229.4300.

The Bidding Documents may be viewed for no cost at http://www. sehinc.com by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at http://www.sehinc.com for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the "Project Bid Information" link and by entering eBidDocTM Number 8220377 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.

For this project, bids will ONLY be received electronically. Contractors submitting an electronic bid will be charged an additional \$30 at the time of bid submission via the online electronic bid service QuestCDN.com. To access the electronic Bid Worksheet, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted. Bids shall be completed according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by SEH dated May

In addition to digital plans, paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Docunet Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$80.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders. A Contractor responding to these Bidding Documents must sub-

mit to the City/Owner a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the

City Administrator Becker, Minnesota (Published in the Patriot: 05/28/22; 06/04/22).

## Revised math standards show CRT

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Betsy Armstrong, a former Becker school board member, attorney, and school district resident).

The Minnesota Department of Education ("MDE") is required by Minnesota Statutes 2021, section 120B.021, to review the academic standards of various subjects in the K-12 curriculum every 10 years. As was done for social studies standards last year, MDE is now in the process of reviewing the standards and benchmarks for math.

A committee of 38 members issued its first version on Feb. 7, 2022, and the second version on May 16. Eight percent of the committee members are from Tribal Native/Indian groups, while the Native American population is just 1.1% of the state.

State law requires that "The commissioner must include the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes and communities as they relate to the academic standards during the review and revision of the required academic standards.

This statement was included in the first and second versions of the 11 proposed "anchor standards" (see below) and the accompanying benchmarks for each K-12 grade.

The goals and expectations of the revised standards are set out as follows:

"Access and equity for each and every student in mathematics is accomplished by recognizing, respecting and attending to the diverse strengths of our students with the aim of ensuring that all students are able to learn and thrive... Mathematics education needs to evolve with the constant cultural and technological changes in our

Additionally, the state statutes require our schools

 Collaborate with cultural perspectives and traditions like and unlike one's own, allowing students to make sense of mathematical concepts and value various mathematical identities connected to lived experiences;

 Solve problems connected to place, story, cultural practices, language and perspectives relevant to historical and contemporary Dakota and Anishinaabe communities;

• Equip students to analyze information in a data-rich environment by including data science and computational thinking throughout the K-12 mathematics experience.

As described in Version

"Anchor standards are a summary description of student learning that reflects all learning, spanning from kindergarten to graduation. This differs from the 2007 standards, which had grade-specific standards... The purpose of anchor standards is to provide a cohesive umbrella for learning across the grade levels to highlight learning progressions of the grade level benchmarks. The K–12 benchmarks supplement the anchor standards with the specific knowledge or skill that a student must master to complete part of an academic standard by the end of the grade level or grade band."

The proposed anchor standards are replete with Ethnic Studies requirements as set out in Standards 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 11 with references to "various cultures, especially in historical and contemporary Dakota and Ahishinaabe communities." The eleven Standards can be found here: https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/ *Math*/. Click on "*Review the* version two of the Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards in Mathematics.

Dimensions are also included, encouraging integration of benchmarks with process (Dimension 1) and Dimension 2: Contribution and Context (CC): This dimension focuses on using context to do and learn mathematics. All students should make sense and persevere in mathematical problem-solving experiences using local contexts of the learning community and within the context of Minnesota;

· CC1: Connect mathematical problem solving experiences and contributions to place, story, cultural practices, language and perspectives relevant to historical and contemporary Dakota and Anishinaabe communi-

 CC2: Apply mathematical problem-solving experiences to real-world situations in contexts connected to students' lived experiences, cultural perspectives and traditions.

The use of the words "equity," "various cultures," "lived experiences," and "cultural practices" for example, have been identified as underlying factors in Critical Race Theory. A March 30, 2022, Pioneer Press article by Josh Verges stated that the math standards committee was dedicated to the concepts of equity, diversity and inclusion. Journalist and scholar Katherine Kersten wrote in the Spring 2022 magazine, Thinking Minnesota, that the new field of "Ethnomathematics" teaches that math began in ancient "empires of color," was appropriated by the West to oppress BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color), and should be taught, in part, through racial and ethnic storytelling. The constant emphasis on the contributions of Minnesota American Indian tribes and

communities as related to

the academic standards does

The proposed Stan-

dards and Benchmarks are more complex than those of 2007 in which four strands were defined: (1) Number and Operation; (2) Algebra; (3) Geometry and Measurement; and (4) Data Analysis and Probability. State test results from the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment for grades 3-8 and 11 from 2008 to 2018 show that math scores have dropped 6% from 61% to 55% according to a Star Tribune article of October 12, 2019.

The question is whether the new Standards will lead to improved math scores and readiness for career and college. Factors involved might include the type of assessment test given, student motivation and grade readiness, mental health concerns, and student population statistics (race, income, family dynamics, etc.). The world has changed since 2008 and Version 2 attempts to take into consideration those changes and turn them into a positive outcome for all students. Examining the following benchmarks can give a clue as to that potential. Note that an ethnic studies basis is found in seven of the 11 Standards.

Comparisons of current Standards versus the equivalent new proposed Standards

#### Kindergarten:

Current: "Use basic shapes and spatial reasoning to model objects in the re-

vs. Proposed: "Notice and wonder about data-rich situations to generate ideas and ask questions, with the teacher helping refine, direct and create statistical investigative questions; understand the purpose of data." And "Make predictions using patterns from data visualizations, including data from Dakota and Anishinaabe tribal nations and other communities."

**2nd grade:** Current: "Solve real-world and mathematical addition and subtraction problems involving whole numbers with up to two dig-

vs. Proposed: "Generate measurement data, including historical and present day ways of measuring from Dakota and Anishinaabe Tribal Nations and other communities, with whole unit lengths (using a variety of tools and the body) and display data on a line plot." 6th grade:

#### Current: "Determine

greatest common factors and least common multiples. Use common factors and common multiples to calculate with fractions and find equivalent fractions.' vs. Proposed:

termine greatest common factors and least common multiples. Use common factors and common multiples to calculate with fractions and find equivalent fractions [in various cultures, especially in historical and contemporary Dakota and Anishinaabe communities]." 9th grade:

Current: "Represent and solve problems in various contexts using exponential functions, such as investment growth, depreciation and population growth." vs. Proposed: "Ana-

lyze employment opportunities and their payment methods (e.g. per hour with or without tips, salary, per diem, piecework) to make financially responsible decisions [in various cultures, especially in historical and contemporary Dakota and Anishinaabe communities]." Comments to Version

Two of the math standards are due on or before June 13. Comments can be provided by completing the survey at the link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2ndversionmath. A third and final version will be submitted to the MDE Commissioner for Rulemaking on August 22, 2022.

For additional information, contact Sara VanDer-Werf, a 25-year mathematics teacher for Minneapolis Public Schools, at saravdw@ gmail.com.

#### REDSTART from page 5

She constructs a cup nest, which is an open top nest and is shaped just like a small tea cup.

Redstarts usually build their nests near water and usually only 5-10 feet off the forest floor. They lay anywhere from two to five eggs. Only the female incubates the eggs. The young stay with the adults for about three weeks before they are on their own.

The nest needs to be strong enough to last about two weeks of incubation and another nine to 10 days after the chicks hatch and start to fly. After they young leave the nest, they won't return to the nest and the female won't use it a second time. So, all of this effort is for a relatively short time of use. I had a lot more film-

ing to do so I needed to leave the female American Redstart after just one hour but if I hadn't stopped to get out of the car and take a look at something else, I would have drove right by and never seen this little beautiful bird doing a truly remarkable thing. Until next time.

Stan Tekiela is an author / naturalist and wildlife photographer who travels the U.S. to study and photograph wildlife. He can be followed on Instagram.com, Facebook.com and Twitter.com. He can be contacted via his web page at NatureSmart.com.

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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 (Senior), Kevin Drehmel (Youth) & Amy Drehmel (Dir. of Child/Fam. Ministry), 763-261-4202, 11951 Hancock St. Services: Sun. Worship/Children 10:30am, Sun. School 9:15am, Wed. AWANA/ Youth Group 6:30pm during school year, www.beckerbaptist.org.

Becker Evangelical Free Church
Pastors: Gerald Deppa (Interim 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.faithlutheran-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. 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.

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

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.

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 763-262-0028. www.hopeintherefuge.weebly.com.

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

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).

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.

South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA Pastor: Daryl Thul, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 9am in

Sanctury for the summer months

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.

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:

St. Marcus Catholic Church Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave. Services: Mon.

& Wed. Mass 8am, 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 United Methodist Church Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Wor-

ship 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. School that begins in Worship 9:30am.
Livestream worship at Rejoice's Youtube Channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsJGuBda4orT9TWYii5wmGw
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/ **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. Wor-

ship 9am, Sun. Fellowship 10am, Sun. School 10:30am.







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## CVBC hosts annual business expo at CW Legion

Bv Marv Nehrina Contributing Writer

The annual CVBC Business Expo was held Sunday, May 1st at Clearwater Legion. The crowd was steady at the event. Many businesses gave away items and offered games such as a bean bag toss. A steady stream of people moved about and enjoyed visiting the booths. Clearwater Legion and

a made-to-order breakfast offering eggs, hash browns, bacon, sausage, pancakes, waffles, biscuits and gravy, orange juice, milk, coffee and more. Clear Lake youth baseball players helped clear tables.

Clearwater Legion and Legion Riders offer a made-to-order breakfast the first Sunday of every month from 8:30 am to noon at Clearwater Legion.



JENNY MASSMAN AND MICHAEL LOFTEN, American Heritage Bank. (Photo by Mary Nehrina.)



MARY AND ELDON PETERSON, St. Cloud/Clearwater RV Park. (Photo by Mary



JULIA, CHRIS AND APRIL VASECKA, Irrigation Management.(Photo by Mary

## Community event held at Jack & Jims

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer

CARE recently hosted a fundraiser at Jack and Jim's in Duelm. Funds raised are use to bless older residents in the community.

CARE's Mission is to support area neighbors 60 years and older and help them to continue living independently in the home of their choice through community volunteerism. CARE has been assisting seniors in the local community for 16 years, utilizing an array of volunteers who are passionate about assisting our aging population. CARE started serving residents within a 10

mile radius of Foley and

now serves all of Benton County and parts of Sherburne County.

The organization provides services to help keep seniors in their homes, while preventing premature nursing home placement. Services include transportation, chores, homemaking, yardwork, minor home repair, home deliveries, friendly visiting, respite care, snow removal, grocery shopping, health & safety education, food programs, art classes, social events and exercise classes. The vision of CARE is that seniors in our community live healthier, happier, more meaningful lives.



on the grill and Larry Kroska, far right. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)

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Card Services Specialist -- Clara City Credit Control Supervisor -- Clara City Loan Servicing Specialist -- Multiple Locations Operations Lead -- Watertown



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## **Bulldogs knock off Hornets** in section softball

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

It's been a roller coaster season for the Becker softball team, and last Thursday was definitely a high point, as the Bulldogs traveled to Big Lake to take on the #1 seed Hornets and came away with a 9-7 upset win to advance in the Section tournament.

The two teams had split two games in the regular season and Becker coach Jason Baune knew a fast start would be needed.

Apparently, his team listened as the Bulldogs struck in the top of the first inning.

"We were able to jump on top in the top of the first when Kurstyn Patnode singled, stole second and third base, and scored on a Makenna Zerwas single," Baune

After a scoreless second inning, Becker added a run in the third when Patnode again singled, advanced to second on a wild pitch, and scored on a Cadence Koste single to make it 2-0. The Hornets would then cut the lead in half with an unearned run in the bottom of the third. The Hornets would then tie the game in the bottom of the 4th with

a run on a double, ground out, and passed ball.

'We quickly retook the lead with two runs in the top of the fifth," Baune said. "Hornet errors allowed the first two runners to reach in the inning and Zerwas and Nevaeh Gardner each singled to put us in the lead 4-2.

After a quick bottom of the fifth, Becker would plate two more runs when Jackie Neumann reached on an error and scored on a huge two-run home run off the bat of Patnode to make it 6-2

"We appeared to be putting the game away with three more runs in the top of the seventh," Baune said. "The inning began with four straight hits off the bats of Hannah Bartlett, Evelyn Kreft, Gardner, and Norah Fitzpatrick to score two runs."

A sacrifice fly off the bat of Maddie Sherman would push Becker's lead to 9-2.

"The bottom of the seventh started off innocently with two ground ball outs to put us one out from a victory," Baune said. "However, the Hornets would not go away easily, as the next eight batters in a row reached base on seven hits and a walk to make the score 9-7 and with

the bases still loaded."

Patnode was able to secure the win for the Bulldogs with a big strikeout for the third out and Becker had won the game.

Bulldog leaders at the plate were Patnode (3-for-4, four runs, two RBI), Gardner (3-for-4, two doubles, three RBI) and Zerwas (2-for-4, two RBI).

Patnode got the win on the mound, going all seven innings, striking out nine and walking only one.

"I was really proud of how the team competed for all seven innings," Baune said. "We had great at-bats against a very good pitcher and a few outstanding defensive plays by Fitzpatrick and Koste."

With the win, advanced in the double elimination tournament to face Monticello on Wednesday afternoon in Elk River. The winner of that game advanced to the championship game on Friday, with the losing team having to battle back through the elimination bracket and win two games to qualify for

Look for complete details of those games in next week's Patriot.

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## **Bulldogs sends 3 to state tourney**

Contributing Writer

It was another successful match last Thursday for the Becker Bulldog boys tennis team, as they competed in the Section 8AA Individual Finals and were able to qualify three athletes for the MSHSL Class AA tennis individual state tournament.

Sophomore Zach Bengtson played great tennis all day, finishing in second place and earning himself a spot in the state singles tournament.

Becker's #1 doubles team of Ryan Bengtson and Eli Scheideman also were at the top of their game, claiming the section title and a spot in the state doubles tourna-

Zach Bengtson's state bracket was littered with matches against the top players from several teams and he also battled some illness. making his finish all the more

He started the tournament by playing the #1 singles player from Detroit Lakes, winning convincingly 6-1, 6-0. In the second round, he faced the #1 singles player from Bemidji - a foreign exchange student from France.

"Zach was hitting his spots and played calm and focused throughout the match," Coach Hokan Bengtson said. "This was one of his best matches of the season, winning 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) in the tiebreaker.'

When the finals came around, Bengtson was feeling well but still kept his compo-

"In the championship match, he played a great first set but was struggling with a stomach issue and had diffi-

culty finishing the match," Coach Bengtson said. "I was proud of his desire to play through the discomfort and finish points the best he could." Bengtson fell in the match, 4-6, 3-6.

Because the #1 player from Bemidji won the third place match, Zach didn't need to play a true second match and earned a place in the singles state tournament June 9th," Bengtson said. "Zach is currently 19-9 on the season playing #1 singles his opponent in the state draw is still TBD."

#### **Doubles**

In the doubles bracket, the #1 team of Ryan Bengtson and Eli Scheideman took care of business and earned their second straight trip to

"Ryan and Eli showed why they were the #1 seed and the only returning state entrants from 2021," Bengtson said. "They took care of the first Alex team 6-1, 6-2 in the first round, then fought through some challenging points in round two to win 7-5, 6-4."

In that second round win, Bengtson and Scheideman battled against the team from Alexandria that beat Becker teammates Luke Bordson and Nick Gruber earlier in the tournament.

"In the championship they really hit their stride and played in dominant fashion dispatching of the Monticello pair 6-2, 6-1," Coach Bengtson said. "Ryan is currently 26-3 on the season, and Eli is undefeated at 29-0. They will play in the state doubles tournament on June 9th - opponents TBD.'

**Competitors** 

The state qualifiers were

not the only Bulldogs in action at the Section 8AA finals, as Troy Nuest competed in the singles tournament and Luke Bordson / Nick Gruber teamed up to play in the doubles tournament.

Troy played the #2 Singles player from Bemidji and competed well, just couldn't finish enough shots to close out the match," Bengtson said. "I was proud of how he executed the shots he was trying to hit - he is currently 25-3 on the season and will be ready for the team state tournament on June 7th."

Bordson and Gruber showed a great deal of determination in taking on a very good team from Alexandria, ultimately falling just short of a trip to state themselves.

'Luke and Nick really battled with their first round opponents, dropping the first set 4-6, then storming back in the second set to a 7-5 win leaving a deciding 3rd set to be played," Bengtson said. "The pair from Alexandria proved to be too much in the third as they won 6-4. I really thought both Nick and Luke hit the right shots today, but the Alex team just finished points a little bit better. Luke is currently 24-4 on the season, and Nick is 25-3 overall.'

Becker spent the past week practicing and preparing for the MSHSL Class AA state tournament, which kicks off on June 9.

'We will spend the next week getting ready for the state team and individual tournaments that are held at Baseline Tennis Center at the U of MN," Bengtson said.



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RYAN BENGTSON AND ELI SCHEIDEMAN (above) teamed up to win the Section 8AA Doubles Title, earning the dynamic duo a spot in the MSHSL Class AA Doubles State Tournament. (Submitted photo.)

BECKER'S ZACH BENGTSON (left) earned a spot in the MSHSL Class AA State Tennis Tournament by placing second in the Section 8AA singles tournament last week (Submitted photo.)

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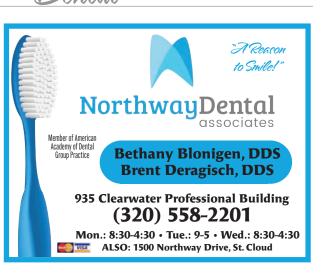
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#### Bulldog girls golfers repeat as M8 Champs

By Mark Kolbinger,

For the second year in a row, the Becker Bulldog girls golf team captured the Mississippi 8 Conference title in decisive fashion.

Last Friday, the girls participated in the final conference match of the season at Purple Hawk Golf Course in Cambridge and the Bulldogs left no doubt as to who was the best team in the conference, firing a round of 362, which was 24 strokes better than the second place Chisago Lakes Wildcats.

"The Lady Bulldogs are Conference Champs for the second year in a row!' exclaimed coach Anna Babler after the meet. "We finally had a perfect day to golf which was well deserved after the season we have had.'

Becker was paced by Layla Mathews, who was the meet medalist with an incredible round of 84 to lead the pack, two strokes ahead of Chisago's Emily



THE BECKER BULLDOG GIRLS GOLF TEAM captured the Mississippi 8 Conference title for the second year in a row. Pictured are team members: Alexa Voller. Layla Mathews, Avery Johnson, Emma Benson, Hannah Hyttsten and Nora Pilarski. (Submitted photo.)

Erickson.

Emma Benson placed fifth overall at the meet, shooting an 89, followed by teammate Alexa VOller's seventh place finish with 92 strokes. Avery Johnson was next for the Bulldogs with a round score of 97, followed by Hannah Hyttsten (105) and Nora Pilarski (107).

Babler was also proud

to announce that the Bulldogs had four golfers named to the All-Mississippi 8 Conference team: Voller, Mathews, Benson and Johnson.

The girls next competed in the Sectional golf meet, held this week at the Rich Springs Golf Course in Cold Spring.

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## **Hornet boys take 2nd** at M8 Conference Meet

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys track and field team broke one school record and tied another in placing second at the Mississippi 8 Conference Meet at St. Francis last Thursday.

The boys had four individual conference champions, 11 all-conference performances and 10 honorable mention performances.

Christian Noble was a double-conference champion. The senior set a new school record in the 1600 meters, winning in 4:20.91. That breaks the old record of 4:21.69 set by Nate Souther in 2015. Noble also won the 800 meters in 1:59.74.

Carson Kunz tied his own school record and won the high jump at 6'4"

Kyle Ginther set a personal best and won the triple jump with a leap of 42'0.5", placing him seventh on the school's Top 10 list. He placed fifth in the long jump at 19'9.75".

Owen Layton took second in the 3200 meters in 9:36.34. Kade Layton was third in 9:54.61.

Kade was also third in the 1600 in 4:22.5, putting him at #3 on the school's

Top 10 list. Jack Leuer was fifth in 4:37.09.

Spencer Vold finished third in the 800 meters in 2:04.71. He and Christian Noble finished in a fifthplace tie in the pole vault at

Hayden Thieke was fourth in the long jump (19'11") and the triple jump (39'11").

Luke Hugo took sixth in the shot put with a throw of Riley Thompson was

seventh in the discus with a personal best 127'8", placing him ninth on the Top 10 list. Joe Murphy took sev-

enth in the 100 meters in 12.01 seconds. Tanon Jacobson fin-

ished seventh in the 3200 in 10.31.52 Wuoson Nehwah was

eighth in the 110 hurdles in Big Lake's 4x800 relay team of Owen Layton, David Guyse, Tanon Jacobson and

Spencer Vold took second in 8:26.07. The 4x400 team of Vold, Thieke, Evan Secord and Noble was third in

The Hornets finished in second with 120 points. Cambridge-Isanti won the title with 174.5 points.

For the girls, Ava Eastman was sixth in the 200 meters in 27.91 seconds.

Jade Flavin took sixth in the long jump with a leap of 15'10.5". Samantha Burton was ninth at 15' 0.75"

Grace Gardner went 32'2.5" in the triple jump to take sixth. Emily Steen jumped 31'0.75"

Erin Kjellberg took seventh in the 400 meters in 1:04.24.

Miranda Segner placed eighth in the high jump at 4'8". Gardner tied for ninth at the same height.

Hailey Anderson fin-

ished ninth in the discus with a throw of 78'5.5". Jaden Anderson placed

ninth in the 800 meters in 2:40.23. Hannah Strom finished

10th in the pole vault at eight feet even. Alayna Boe cleared 7'6". The 4x200 relay team of

Flavin, Gardner, Kennadie Ell and Eastman placed fifth in 1:54.29.

The Hornets competed in the Section 5AA Championships Wednesday and Friday at Monticello High School, results to follow next



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## Big Lake stopped by Becker in section opener

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake baseball team lost its Section 5AAA opener to Becker Tuesday, 4-1 at Becker. The Hornets didn't

have a hit in the game and managed to put just three runners on base. The Bulldogs took the

lead with a run in the third off Big Lake starter Blake Rondo. They added another in the third for a 2-0 lead. The Hornets finally got

on the board in the top of the sixth when Dylan Robeck was hit by a pitch and eventually came around to score on a wild pitch.

But that was all of Big Lake's offense in the game except for walks to Trent Josewski and Nolan Reiter.

The Bulldogs added two more runs in the home sixth off reliever Kaden Haselius with two hits and some help from two Big Lake fielding miscues.

Rondo pitched well but took the loss. He allowed two runs on five hits and two walks in five innings. He struck out two batters.

#### Hornets 3, Bluejackets 1

Last Wednesday at home in their final regular season game, the Hornets picked up their fifth win of the season with a 3-1 win over Cambridge-Isanti.

The Hornets took an early lead in the first inning. Nolan Reiter, Conner Stukenholtz and Jeffrey Wanhala each reached base and scored for a 3-0 lead. Blake Rondo started

on the mound for Big Lake and managed to hold the Bluejackets at bay despite having multiple runners on Cambridge-Isanti fi-

nally pushed a run across in the sixth inning, but that was all they would get in the game.

Isaiah Terlinden came in to pitch with one out in the seventh and got the final two outs for the save.

Rondo picked up the win. He pitched 6.1 innings, allowing seven hits and two walks. He struck

Wanhala had two hits, scored a run and drove in

Keenan Hjermstad singled, walked twice and drove in a run. Terlinden and Collin

Skaug each had a hit. Willmar 6, Big Lake 0 Last Tuesday, the Hornets couldn't do much at

the plate and lost to Will-

mar, 6-0. The Cardinals got started early, scoring four runs in the home first against Big Lake pitcher Collin Skaug.

That was all they needed, since the Hornets had few scoring opportunities with just five baserunners in the game. Trent Josewski, Dylan Robeck and Hjermstad had singles. Stukenholtz and Terlinden reached base via walk.

The Cardinals added single runs in the third and sixth.

Skaug went the distance and took the loss. He allowed five earned runs on 15 hits and a walk. He struck out five.

The Hornets finished the regular season at 5-14.

The Hornets played their second section game Thursday in the double-elimination tournament. One more loss and their season is over. Results will follow next week. If they win, they advance to play at Monticello 10 a.m. Saturday.





KETTI GREEN BECAME THE RECIPIENT of the City of Big Lake's second annual Outstanding Citizen of the Year Award! Ketti has spent countless hours giving back to the Big Lake community. She is an active member of Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, the Big Lake Community Education Committee, and the Minnesota Jaycees. Ketti's commitment to Big Lake is truly an inspiration and call to area residents to get involved and take pride in their community. Green will be presented with the award at the June 21 City Council Meeting located in the Big Lake City Council Chambers at 6 p.m. (Submitted Photo).



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## Area Chamber News

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### Girls take fourth at SFHS

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

The track and field teams of the Mississippi 8 Conference held their championship track meet at St Francis High School May 26. The Becker girls finished fourth.

Team scores were: Monticello 192, Cambridge-Isanti 161.5, North Branch 109.7, Becker 78, Princeton 50, Chisago Lakes 41, St Francis 39, **Big Lake 20**.

The Becker girls had a very good day with nine girls earning 'All Conference' honors. 'All Conference' is awarded to the top four places in individual events and the top two in relays. Honorable Mention is given to places 5-8 and relays 3-4.

All Conference participants were: Seniors Paige Maunu and Sarah Woelfel, Junior Kayla Gruenes, Sophomores Lexi Rose, Alea Briggs, Lauren Woelfel, Ninth graders Ella McDonald, Abby Atwood and Eighth grader Katelyn Brower.

Honorable Mention went to Brooklyn Karel, Regan Hausman, Lexi Rose, Olivia Babler, Kylee Morton, Laruen Woelfel, Kailey Thompson, Reese Hausmann and Ella McDonald. Lexi Rose earned Beck-

er's lone first place finish. Her outstanding performance in the 1600 meters puts her at the second best performance in Becker history, behind the legendary Charlene Hubbard. Lexi ran a PR time of 5:12.62, beating second place

It was a successful Mis-

sissippi 8 Conference meet

last Thursday in St. Francis

for the Becker Bulldog boys

track team, as several athletes

came away with all-confer-

ence performances. The meet

was originally scheduled for

Wednesday, but was delayed

the Bulldogs as we had quite

a few athletes earn either

All-conference status or Hon-

orable Mention," Coach Paul

Owen ended up fifth and re-

ceived honorable mention

"It was a good day for

one day due to weather.

By Mark Kolbinger,

Contributing Writer



LAUREN WOELFEL cleared 10 feet during the pole vault ecvnt and finished in third place. (Submitted

Mahoney (5:16.02) from Monticello. Also running a PR time in the 1600 was Ella McDonald, who placed seventh (5:25.52) and earned honorable mention honors.

went to Lexi Rose, who also achieved a PR in the 800 (2:25..54) and the 4x800 relay team of Katelyn Brower, Abby Atwood, Brooklyn Karel and Alea Briggs. They ran a time of 10:23.82 behind the first place team of Monti-

place in the 100 hurdles with a time of 16.94 and Paige Maunu was third in the long jump with a PR jump of

Also getting third place at this meet were Lauren Woelfel in the pole vault,

Ella McDonald ran a very good 3200 meter race and was third in 11:44.67.

"Our distance girls did a great job at this meet with most of them doubling their races which is a challenge that they handled well," said

Becker's 4x200 relay, and 4x400 relay foursomes each took fourth place. The 4x200 team of Kylee Morton, Regan Hausmann, Reese Hausmann and Kailey Thompson ran a time of 1:54.11. The 4x400 team of Kailey Thompson, Lexi Rose, Brooklyn Karel and Alea Briggs ran a time of 4:20.90.

Becker's 4x100 relay ran a time of 53.86, a season best, for fifth place. Team members were Paige Maunu, Raelee Lyon, Sarah Woelfel and Abby Atwood.

Regan Hausmann placed sixth in the 100 hurdles in a season best time of 17.55 and was seventh in the 300 meter hurdles (50.68). Brooklyn Karel placed seventh in the

Lauren Woelfel notched a PR in the triple jump, her mark was 31' 7 1/2.

"We were pleased with how well our team performed and are looking forward to our next competition this week," said Kealy.

Becker has their Section 5AA meet at Monticello with Wednesday being prelim day and the finals held Friday. Athletes from that meet who place first or second will advance to the state meet.

# Second place honors

Sarah Woelfel took third

clearing an impressive vault

all-conference awards







#### Thorn no-hits Hornets in section opener

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

The Becker Bulldog boys baseball team opened the Section 5AAA playoffs with a no-hit win over #7-seeded Big Lake Tuesday at home.

Will Thorn went all seven innings, allowing one earned run on two walks and seven strikeouts. Big Lake got their only run late in the game, in the sixth, but the #2-seeded Bulldogs were already ahead 2-0 at that time. They tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the inning to seal



BECKER'S WILL THORN threw a no-hitter Tuesday to help the Bulldogs advance in the section playoffs against Big Lake. (Submitted Photo).

the victory.

Owen Kolbinger was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and one RBI. Nick Berglund and Dailen Adu-Gyumfi were the other Bulldogs who scored in the

Nolan Murphy had two RBIs and Jacob Bergsten had the other for Becker.

Big Lake's Blake Rhondo went five innings, giving up all four runs on seven hits and two walks while striking out two.

With the win, Becker was set to face off against #3-seeded Monticello Thursday at home.

## **Bulldog tennis state bound** after winning section title tournament, where they

By Mark Kolbinger, **Contributing Writer** 

After coming close several times in past seasons, the Becker Bulldog boys tennis team finally captured its first section title and a trip to the state tournament with a convincing 5-2 win over the Bemidji Lumberjacks in last Friday's section

8AA championship.

"This was a huge step for our program. Many great kids and excellent athletes have come

through our Becker tennis program in the last 20 years. The work they have done to advance the program was important to us playing so well today," Coach Hokan Bengtson said after the match. "This team was focused and ready for the Bulldog boys track piles up

moment of playing in the section final." Bengtson said the team won the #2 singles and #1 doubles matches quickly, then fell in the #3 matches - both the singles and dou-

bles - with the match tied

"The next match to finish was Troy Nuest, who is 23-1 on the season at #4 singles," Bengtson said. "He played very well and beat a good player from Bemidji."

The two points left playing were #2 doubles and #1 singles with Becker leading 3-2.

At #2 doubles, Bengtson watched a close match 'Sawyer (Brown) and

Nick (Gruber) won the first

were up 5-4 in the second set, but Bemidji took the next three games to win that set 7-5," Bengtson said. "Then they fought back in a really tough third set to win 7-5 with an over-

Becker scores, singles: Zach Bengtson 5-7, 6-2, 6-2; Ryan Bengtson 6-2, 6-3; Troy Nuest 6-4, 6-3. Doubles: Luke Bordson/Eli

will bring their 23-1 record

to the Baseline Tennis Cen-

ter at the U of MN on June

seventh against an oppo-

nent to be determined.

Scheideman 6-4. 6-3; Nick Gruber/Sawyer Brown 6-2, 5-7, 7-5. Cardi-

nal Domi-

Becker opened up the section quarterfinals last Wednesday with a 7-0 victory over the Willmar Cardinals.

"It was a good start to the tournament for our guys, hosting the quarterfinal match today," Bengtson said. "We played a very clean match and worked to

get better." Becker didn't lose a game in the singles matches, as Zach Bengtson, Ryan Bengtson, Landon Peterson and Troy Nuest each won in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0. In the doubles matches, it was near total domination with Bordson/ Scheideman and Gruber/ Brown picking up 6-0, 6-0 wins and baker/Herdina

winning 6-0, 6-1. Last Friday, it was another convincing win, 6-1 over the Alexandria Cardinals. Becker scores: Zach Bengtson 6-2, 3-6, 10-3; Ryan Bengtson 6-1, 6-0; Landon Peterson 6-2, 6-4; Troy Nuest 6-4, 6-1. Doubles: Bordson/Scheideman 6-4, 7-5; Nick Gruber/Sawyer Brown 6-2, 6-0.

THE BECKER BULLDOG TENNIS TEAM secured its first ever trip to the state tournament with a convincing 5-2 win over Bemidji in last week's Section Championship. (Submitted

Nick to seal the fourth team point and the Section Championship.' That left the #1 singles match left to decide, as Bulldog Zach Bengtson had lost the first set in a

back and forth battle, 5-7,

before he won the second

clamation point shot by

set 6-2. "He was up 3-2 in the third set when #2 dubs clinched the match," Bengtson said. "Zach went on to stay focused and play his best match of the year, winning 6-2 in the third set to make the final score

The win secured the Bulldogs a spot at the state

Schmidt said. with his best time of the year In order to be all-conferset pretty easily, 6-2, then but still had his best time of (4:44.34), which earned him ence, an athlete must be one honorable mention and in the the year." of the top four individuals or In the distance races, it 3200, Mason Becker made run on a relay team that finhonorable mention with a was again Tyson Ricker who ishes first or second. For Honset the pace for the Bulldogs. fifth place finish in 10:31.1, orable mention, they need to "Tyson ran well, placing his best time of the year. be in fifth through eighth second in the 1600 and in the 'Overall finished sixth place individually or third or as a team with 66 points," 800 to receive all-conference "Owen Angell led the status in both those events," Schmidt added. Schmidt said. "In the 1600, Cambridge-Isanti ran way, making all-conference Tyson was able to again break away with the conference standards in the high jump his own record by running a title, finishing first with 174.5 where he jumped six feet and time of 4:22.03. points followed by Big Lake placed third, 110 High Hur-The third Becker athlete dles where he placed fourth with 120. and the Pole Vault in which to claim All-conference hon-Next up for the Bulldogs is the section 5AA meet ors was Carter Leither, in the he placed second with a vault of 12'6"," Schmidt said. "In which is held in Monticello the 300 Intermediate Hurdles,

CRAFT GROUP RE-UNION. After more than 20 years since their last meeting, a local group of crafters caught up at The Brickyard Bar & Grill in Clear Lake. Pictured, left to right, Sue Johnson, Donna Radeke, Doris Goenner, Mary Ann Phelps, Sandy Johnson, Marty Heath, Barb Chirhart and Nancy Fiereck. (Submitted photo.)



sonal best time in the 1600 meter run at the M8 Conference Track Meet.

"Carter placed third in his race with a time of 51.83," Schmidt said. "Carter also

was honorable mention for his fifth place finish in the

A number of Bulldogs just missed the cut for the awards, but still put in fine

"Logan Eisele barely missed all-conference honors in the 100 by just a few hundredths of a second and finished fifth which was good for honorable mention," Schmidt said. "Logan also received honorable mention for his eighth place finish in

Parker Spindler finished seventh in the 1600

Wednesday, June 1st with the finals Friday, June 3rd.

## Sports/Area News

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## BL Twp. finishes upgrades to Lions Park

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

During the recent Big Lake Twp. meeting, supervisor Norm Leslie reported that improvements have been implemented at the Lions/Township Park. The playground got new wood chips after the old layer had worn down to almost nothing. The playground

was once again open for the enjoyment of park patrons. The walking trails were also finished. Leslie said he noticed a mom

pulling a toddler wagon down one trail with no issues. The trails were in rough shape only a couple months ago, making it difficult for anything with wheels.

Fire Report

Big Lake Fire Chief Seth Hansen was on hand to give his update for the month. April was slower than usual, with only seven fires. Unfortunately, things are looking busier this month.

Hansen reported that three of the Big Lake firefighters were being honored for going above and beyond with their call responses. Noel Krebs and Eric Rosa both had responded to over 80% of the calls at the department, while Big Lake Township Supervisor Mark Hedstrom had responded to an amazing 100% of calls.

As part of their anniversary celebrations, Lupulin Brewing donated proceeds from sales to the BLFD and BLPD. A total of \$870 was donated to the Fire Dept. to be used towards the purchase

of extrication equipment for the new fire truck.

> O p e n Forum

Bret Collier spoke during open forum let the board know that. about an hour before the meeting,

Big Lake City Council had heard a presentation on election integrity from Rick Wiebel. Collier said the presentation would be made available online, and that Wiebel planned to sync the audio of his presentation with the slides. When the presentation was uploaded, Collier intended to make it available to the board mem-

#### In Other Business, the Board:

· Heard a report on a less-busy-than-usual recycle

 Add a couple of roads to the road maintenance project.

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## **Bulldogs Elementary Archery team excels at Nationals**

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldogs Archery Elementary team traveled to Louisville, Kentucky on May 14 to participate in the NASP National Tournament.

"Our Elementary team captured the state championship this past March to be able to qualify for the national tournament," program director Scott Brake said. "This was the first time a team from Becker has participated in the nationals and we took 21 Becker Elementary and one Middle School student to Kentucky."

Brake reported that over 12,000 participants from across the country came to Kentucky for the competition, and the Becker Elementary team placed 39th out of the 127

teams in their division.

Some of Becker's top finishers included: fourth grader Blake Koubsky, who scored a 266 (placed 100th out of 1,497 archers); fifth grader Mason Lumley, who scored a 264 (placed 116th out of 1,497 archers); fourth grader Bentley Trautner, who scored a 257 (placed 214th out of 1,497 archers); and Ethan Luethmers (fifth grade) who scored a 255 (placed 238th out of 1,497 archers).

Top Becker girls individual performances were put in by Korah Waters (fourth grade), who scored a 264 (placed 83rd out of 1,243 archers); and Dru Johnson (fifth grade), who scored a 250 (placed 261st out of 1,243 archers).



THE BECKER ELEMENTARY ARCHERY TEAM traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to participate in the NASP National Tourna-

ment over the second weekend in May (Submitted photo.)

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# 7 gift ideas for soon-to-be graduates

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was derived from an editorial from Metero Creative Connection).

It would be an understatement to say that it has been an interesting few years for the Class of 2022. Due to the pandemic, many soonto-be grads spent a significant portion of their school years adapting to a changing landscape, both at school and at home. While it is an accomplishment to reach graduation in a "normal" situation, students who have succeeded and thrived in the face of pandemic-related adversity are worthy of extra celebration.

Graduation gifts are a great way to show grads how proud you are that they stayed the course in the face of significant challenges. Here are seven gift ideas for graduates.

1). Journal: Graduates are about to start new chapters

school graduate will be going on to higher education, then visit the college or university's spirit shop to purchase anything from sweatshirts to blankets to coffee mugs featuring a school logo or mascot. On the first day of classes, the new student will already feel part of the team.

3). New wardrobe: Graduating means forging new paths, whether in a career or through additional schooling. Grads can look the part with several items from a favorite retailer. Those who are unsure of the graduate's style can purchase a gift card and let the grad go on a spending spree.

4). Framed school photo or map: A piece of artwork can evoke strong emotions of time spent on campus. Frame a black-andwhite or sepia-tone print of the aerial view of campus, or opt for an official school tour map, which indicates

tablet, book, reading glasses, and remote control close by and organized without taking up a lot of room. Some are designed to rest over a couch cushion or slide between a mattress and bed frame.

6). Automotive essentials: Graduates will be facing all sorts of new expenses, so easing any sort of financial burden can help them in a big way. Vehicles tend to be major financial drains for teens and young adults. Prepaid cash cards, gas station gift cards, vouchers for car washes, and even gift cards to an automotive supply store can help graduates direct their funds elsewhere.

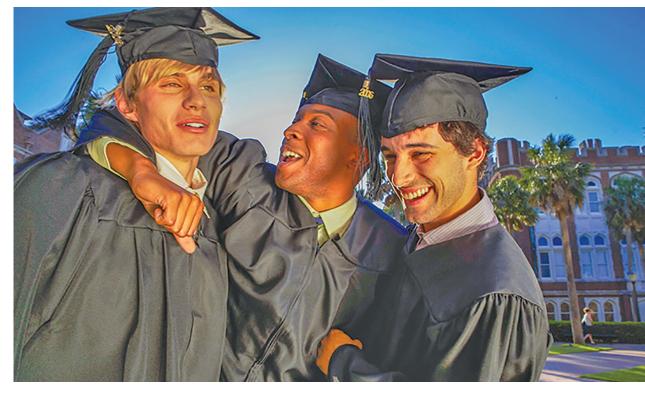
7). Personal coffee-

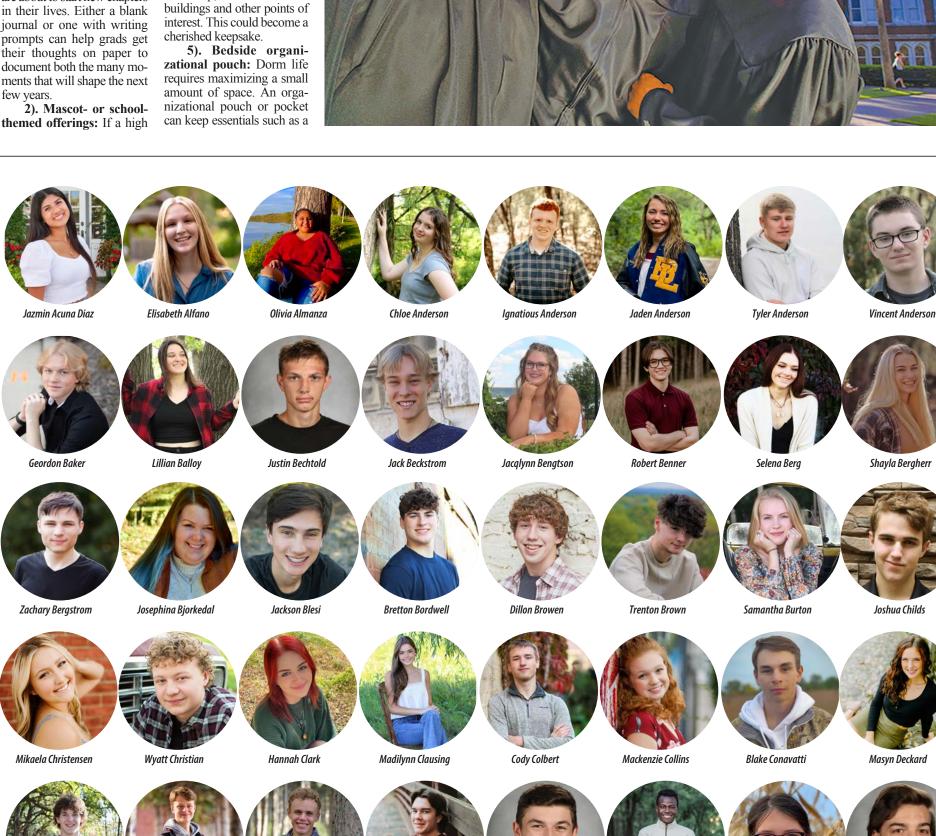
maker: Many people feel coffee is essential to make it through the day. Graduates who will soon be studying for college exams or those waking up early for their first forays into the workforce may appreciate an on-demand 2022 pick-me-up. Coffeemakers are much more streamlined

these days, and there are pots

designed to use loose grounds or special pods to produce cups quickly.

Shoppers can explore many interesting options to commemorate the accomplishments of the class of











Zachary Dembinski



Matthew Denzen



Jacob Dietsch



Caleb Dillon



Franck Djalla



Tala Dobrovolny





Brandon Dombrovski



Mckenna Domka







Ethan Fagen







Austin Eccless

Jade Flavin



Richard Edlund





Haylee Ellingson



Katlyn Emerson

Ethan Franz





Alexis Feit



Taya Fjone



Dalton Fletcher

Elli Rae Ford

























Matthew Heath



















Isaac Howell





Claire Ireland









Benjamin Johnson









Rachel Johnson







Pavton Kaufmann











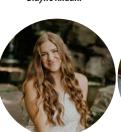


Noah Kuehn





Jonathan Larson









Levi Lillico Klisch

Eh Moo



Suzan Moo



Aubry Moshier



Mallery Mueller



Rieley Mullen



Ashita Nakrak

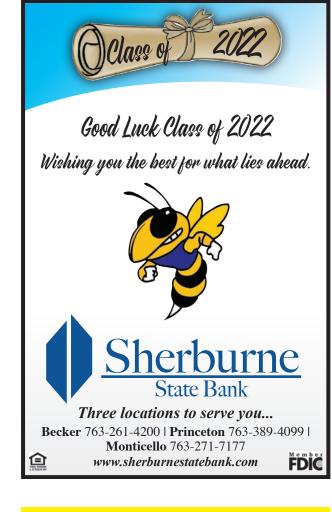




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Jacob Polacec



Olivia Potter





Seth Reed Spande





Joseph Rewald



Dylan Robeck



Heather Robinson



Sophia Rondeau





**Emily Salgren** 



Jessicah Schmidt









Luke Schumacher





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Collin Skaua





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This material was developed, in part, under grant #SP020435 from ONDCP, SAMHSA & HHS



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## Class Motto:

"Our Lives Are Before Us, Our Pasts Are Behind Us, But Our Memories Are Forever With Us."-Unknown

Class Song: "22" By Taylor Swift

Class Flower: Hibiscus













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## How to throw — and enjoy — a graduation party

and small sandwiches are

good options. Crocks and

chafing dishes can be used

Even if the party will

to keep foods warm.

Prevent the

temptation

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was derived from an editorial from Metero Creative Connection).

Graduation is a momentous occasion for students that marks an end to many years of dedication to studies. Most people look back fondly on the day they received their degrees and diplomas. But often what is remembered most when a person graduates is the party that commemorated the event.

For parents planning graduation parties for their children, graduation season may be filled with nostalgia about their own childhoods and experiences. While parents can borrow from what they learned along the way, graduation parties for their kids should definitely focus on the here and now — and what is important to the new grad. In fact, the guest of honor should be tapped to help create the party of his or her desires.

**Book early** 

Most schools host commencement ceremonies in May or June. With so many people planning parties around the same time, venues and vendors will be snatched up quickly. As soon as you learn the graduation date, reserve a party space and contact caterers,

florists, entertainment, or other vendors who will be used for the event.

#### Host an open house party

An open house party enables guests to arrive and depart freely according to their schedules so graduates can hop from one party to the next. This occurs over a long period of time (four to five hours is a good window) and the party does not follow any strict schedule.

food and beverages avail-

able at all times, so it's im-

portant to have an array of

options that can be served

room temperature or kept

safe over ice or heat. Chips

and dips, sliced vegetables

cated. Remember, in some Αn open areas you can be legally prosecuted for permitting underage drinking occur, it's best to do whatever it takes to requires having prevent such a scenario.

Pick a theme

A theme can make a graduation party even more enjoyable. Tie the theme into the grad's personality or future plans or go with a classic, such as a Hawai-

ian luau, which is fitting for outdoor events.

#### Hire a wait staff

One way to enjoy the graduation party is to free up time to mingle. Hiring a wait staff means drink and food service as well as

clean-up can be handled by others.

Graduation parties soon will be in full swing. Parents can make their youngsters' graduation bash more memorable by getting a head start and

incorporating a few useful strategies.



## What to know about taking a year off school

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was derived from an editorial from Metero Creative Connection).

Over the last two years, people from all walks of life have reevaluated their priorities in the face of a global pandemic. That reevaluation has led some students to take a break from school.

While taking a break can be the right choice for some students, certain variables should be considered before pressing pause on education. Here's a deeper look into taking a break from school.

#### A chance to mentally recover

Many students try to

press through courses even when they are unwell or trying to recover from a significant condition. This can put students at a disadvantage that could adversely affect their academic performance, which may have an effect on their graduation prospects and future success. A break gives students a chance to get their health, including their mental wellness, in order and

then return to their course-

WHILE TAKING A BREAK CAN BE THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR SOME STUDENTS, certain variables should be considered before pressing pause on education. (Submitted

work fully focused.

#### Enjoy a renewed vigor for academics

Some students may begin courses without a solid plan for the future. In such instances, students could be paying tuition for courses they're not interested in. A break can offer students an opportunity to reassess the direction they're going in and come back to school with a fresh approach for the future.

#### Student loan

grace period

College students who have federal student loans in the United States are entitled to one six-month grace period during which payments will not be required, according to Forbes Advisor. After a student drops below part-time status, the grace period begins. Someone who takes a semester off from school may trigger that grace period clock. When the student returns to school and then graduates, or if he or she chooses to leave again, repayment of the loan will begin immediately, as a second six-month grace period is not permitted.

#### Internships

Some students take a break from school because an internship opens up outside of the time parameters set by some schools. Internships tend to occur in junior or senior years of college and could earn students col-

lege credit. Scholarship eligibility Leaving school before the year is over may af-



fect scholarship eligibility,

as scholarships often are contingent on students at-

tending school full-time.

A student can speak with his or her school's finance

office or bursar to see if a

prorated repayment may be necessary and/or to defer an

upcoming semester schol-

sons students might want to

take a break from academ-

ics. Before pumping the brakes on school students

should be confirm the long-

term effects such a break

will have on their academic

There are many rea-

arship until they return.













## Volunteer opportunities for recent grads

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was derived from an editorial from Metero Creative Connection).

During the months between graduating high school and beginning college, or between getting a university degree and entering the workforce, graduates may want to explore the personal growth that comes from volunteerism.

Volunteering provides various benefits. Some of these rewards include networking with an entirely different group of people.

Volunteering also can help a person realize greater happiness by doing selfless acts for others, while they also can help one to realize a new passion. In the future, volunteering with an organization also may help

There are many arenas where young people can focus their volunteer efforts. Here are some ideas.

• Animal shelter: Animal shelters rely on volunteers to help with their operations. They can be a good fit for anyone with a passion for animals and animal rights activism.

with a student's job search.

ting hunger are top priorities for these organizations.

• Public service sectors: AmeriCorp and Peace Corps have scores of opportunities for volunteers. AmeriCorp focuses on domestic issues, while the PeaceCorp is a branch of the U.S. government that engages volunteers in international service work. Community involvement, health care, agriculture, homelessness, and combat-

• English as a second language: Volunteers can spend time abroad teaching English to students. Others may want to volunteer

domestically by helping non-English-speaking individuals improve their lan-

guage skills. • Community government: A person may choose to sit on the board of a school, a neighborhood housing association, or even explore volunteerism with a township municipal office. This will provide valuable hands-on experience and may help one lend a voice to issues that affect his or her living situation.

 Religious groups: Churches, synagogues and mosques may have volunteer opportunities focused on community outreach or programs affiliated with local nonprofits.

Conservation groups: Volunteers can work on conservation projects across the country. From wildlife management to trail restoration to invasive species eradication,

there are a wide variety of conservation-based volun-

teering opportunities. Tutoring: Graduates can volunteer to tutor students in local schools or overseas.

Volunteerism can fill gap years or add to résumés for recent graduates.

### Congratulations, Big Lake graduates!

We wish our Old National scholarship recipient Daniel Peredo Garcia and the entire 2022 class the best of luck for the future.

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