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PATRIOT



THE FIRST GATHERING OF YARNWORKS, April 6 at the Senior Center at BCC had people of all ages and skill levels working on their own projects. Mothers and sons learning to knit; some getting help with their projects, sisters sharing some time and all admiring the skill of even-weave embroidery, kids making jewelry, knitting, crochet, animal toy-making, were all part of the fun. (Submitted Photo).

Inside

COUNTY

Benton County 4-Hers are planning an overnight camp in June at Sandstone. See the story on page 8.

BECKER

Becker Middle School students were treated to a fun field trip last Monday. See the story on page 8.

CLEARWATER

The Clearwater Lions hosted their annual Senior Luncheon last Saturday at the Lions building in Clearwater. See the story on page 8.

PATRIOT

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

- CLEARWATER:** Coborn's;
- SANTIAGO:** General Store;
- PALMER:** General Store;
- BECKER:** Bill's Family Foods;
- BIG LAKE:** Coborn's;
- PATRIOT office**

We are now in Palmer!



THE BECKER ROBOTICS TEAM became state champions this past week as they overcame numerous obstacles (literally and figuratively). (Submitted Photo). See their incredible story on page 18.

Becker, Big Lake host proms last weekend

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

Becker and Big Lake Schools held their Spring Proms this past weekend to decent weather.

Becker held their Prom last Saturday with a grand march at the High School gym at 4 p.m. The decorations and style were French themed (Ville des Lumières - City of Lights). The dance was held at Classic Hall in Annandale from 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Big Lake's Boat prom was held in Stillwater aboard the Avalon, which is one of the largest paddlewheel boats in the midwest. It was also held on Saturday, May 7. Big Lake's "unofficial" prom included a cruise on the St. Croix, dinner, DJ music and a dance.



KANEE VUE posed in front of the backdrop she created for the Becker Prom. (Submitted Photo). See more photos of Becker and Big Lake's prom on page 12.

Town Hall meeting scheduled to reign in government

Submitted Article

A Convention of States Town Hall meeting has been set for later this month to continue to generate interest in a grassroots movement to reign in the federal government.

The Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thurs., May 26 at the Great River Regional Library (St. Cloud) at 6:30 p.m. in Room 106. The library is located at 1300 W. St. Germain St. in St. Cloud.

The event is free and open to all patriots interested in learning more about this important move-

ment and how to get involved.

What is a Convention of States?

Article V of the US Constitution gives states the power to apply for a convention to propose amendments. It takes 34 states to call the convention and 38 to ratify any amendments that are proposed. The Convention of States would only allow the states to discuss amendments that; "limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints, and place



COS to page 13

Check out our Police Week recognition section on pages 2-6!

PATRIOT

News & Advertising Deadlines

NEWS DEADLINES

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

SPORTS DEADLINES

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

CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINES

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

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MAY 15-21

Memorial in St. Paul worth the visit

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

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day and the calendar week in which May 15 falls as National Police Week. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others.

This year's Police Week is May 15-21, 2022.

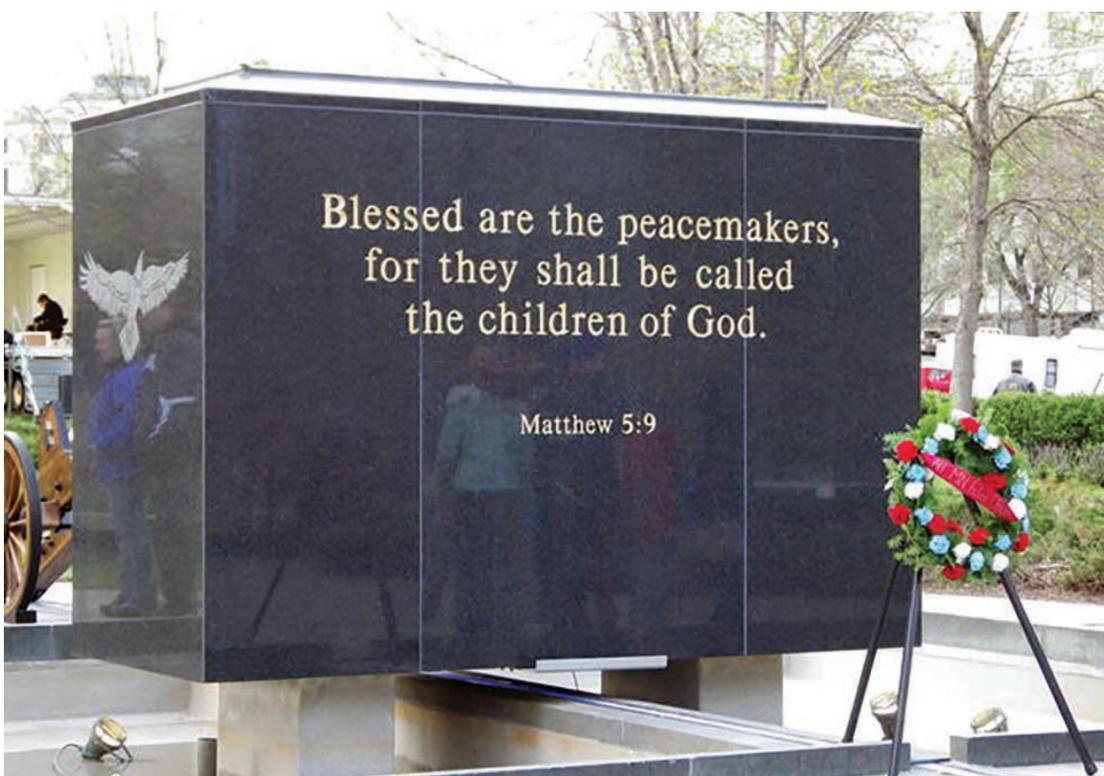
In honor of Law Enforcement Memorial Day, MN LEMA (Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association) is holding a ceremony at the Peace Officer Memorial in St. Paul to honor the state's fallen officers beginning the evening of May 14. The LEMA Honor Guard will walk the Thin Blue Line beginning at 6 p.m. on May 14 for 24 hours leading into a Remembrance Ceremony at 7 p.m. on May 15. Wreath colors will be Red, Blue, White or a Red, White and Blue multi-colored wreath.

In order to honor the service and sacrifice of the

297 Minnesota peace officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty and their survivors, law enforcement officers from across the state are invited to stand in silent vigil at the Peace Officers' Memorial for 20-minute shifts during the 24 hours prior to the Memorial Service. The LEMA Honor Guard will be Walking The Line during this same timeframe.

On Sunday, May 15, peace officers, family members, survivors, and supporters of peace officers are invited to the recently restored Minnesota Peace Officer's Memorial for the annual ceremony to remember and honor all officers who have died in the Line Of Duty in Minnesota, including the addition of five fallen officers from 2021.

For the *Patriot's* general readership area, the following departments have listed their fallen officers as: two fallen officers in the Little Falls area (Morrison County), one fallen officer from the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, two fallen officers from the St. Cloud Police Dept., one fallen officer in the Stearns County Sheriff's Office, five fallen officers from the Wright



THE PEACE OFFICER MEMORIAL in St. Paul will be centered around ceremonies all weekend of May 14-15 to honor the state's fallen officers. (Photo from LEMA website).

County Sheriff's Office and 11 officers from the following agencies: United States Coast Guard, United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, United States Department of Homeland Security - Customs and Border Protection, United States Department of Justice - Bureau of Prohibition, United States Department of Justice - Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Labor - Immigration Service - United States Border Patrol, United States Department of the Treasury - Bureau of Narcotics, United States Department of the Treasury - Internal Revenue Service - Bureau of Prohibition and United States Department of the Treasury - Internal

Revenue Service - Prohibition Unit.

One hundred and thirty nine of the 297 deaths of officers were from gunfire, six were due to aircraft accidents, three were animal related, 10 were assaults, 18 were automobile crashes, five drowned, five were duty-related illnesses, two were electrocuted, three fell, four died by accidental gunfire, 26 had heart attacks, 13 died from motorcycle crashes, 20 were podcast available, two were stabbed, one was struck by a streetcar, six were struck by a train, 15 were struck by a vehicle, one died by a structure collapse, five by vehicle pursuit and 11 by vehicular assault.

Memorial The Minnesota Law

Enforcement Memorial Association was formed in 1974 by Jim Crawford, then Chief of Police in Golden Valley, MN. LEMA was founded with the sole purpose of building a memorial to Minnesota peace officers who had died in the line of duty. This memorial was designed and the fundraising began. In 1977, the beautiful granite memorial was erected in the main concourse of the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. The memorial remained on display there until it was moved to its new home in the centerpiece of the Peace Officer's Memorial on the capitol grounds in St. Paul.

Once the memorial was built, LEMA expanded its service to include granting

college scholarships to the immediate family members of fallen officers. Nearly \$100,000 in scholarships have been awarded. LEMA also sponsors an annual memorial service hosted by departments around the state. This service is held the first Sunday in May of each year. It is at this service that a ribbon bearing the name of each officer lost in the line of duty during the year is installed permanently on the LEMA flag. This service also includes the reading of the Honor Roll, the list of names of fallen Minnesota officers. As of 2022, this list includes the names of 297 officers dating back to 1881.

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MAY 15-21

Acting Chief Sam Olson looking to fill chief role permanently

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

Acting Chief Sam Olson of the BLPD has been working with the police department for more than twenty years, but is still excited to protect his hometown community every day.

Olson graduated from Big Lake high school and still lives in the area with his wife and family.

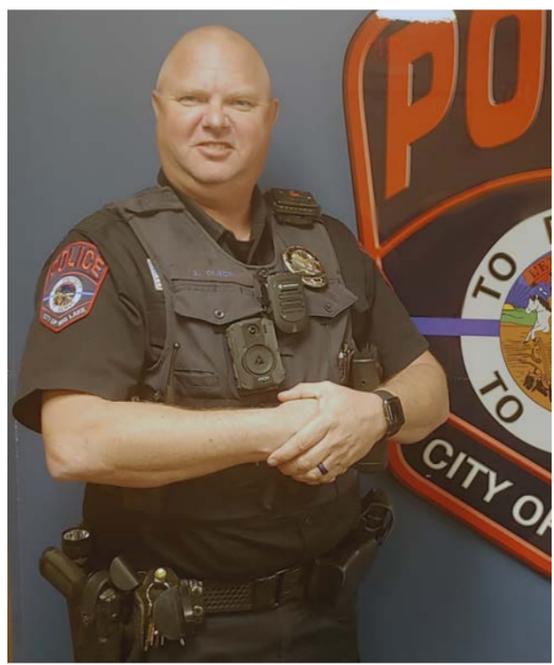
Olson says he's wanted to be a police officer for as long as he can remember. Right after he graduated high school, he attended Willmar Community College to pursue his associate degree in law enforcement. He finished his schooling at North Hennepin Community College in 2003.

In 2001, as he was working on his degree, Olson got a head start on his career by signing on as a firefighter and as a reserve police officer.

In 2003 Olson was hired on as a full time officer, and has never once wanted to leave his hometown department, even when opportunities presented themselves.

"I love Big Lake," Olson said. "This is where I started my career, and this is where I want to end my career."

Olson hopes to become Big Lake's permanent police chief, and has given his application to the city. The application period will close Monday, and the city council will render its decision sometime this summer,



ACTING CHIEF SAM OLSON has been serving with the BLPD for over 20 years. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

possibly at the beginning of July, Olson thought.

If Olson became the new chief, he says he would like to bring back the reserve program that gave him his start in the department. Five of the officers currently serving in the BLPD came from that reserve program, so Olson has seen firsthand how it can turn out quality officers, and can be an excellent tool for recruitment.

Olson said he'd also like to continue offering training opportunities to the officers, in order to make sure the police are best prepared to protect the community. The Big Lake community really shows its

support for the department every day, and so Olson wants to continue to lead his department in learning and training, so they continue to live up to the community's high expectations.

For now, as acting chief, Olson is keeping things status quo and getting ready for a transition when the new chief is found.

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK
MAY 15-21, 2022

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

MAY 15-21

Chief Baloun reflects on 30 years of law enforcement

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

Chief Brent Baloun of the Becker Police Department recently passed a major milestone with his 30th anniversary of working in law enforcement. Baloun has worked as the police chief for Becker for a little over half of that time, for 16 years.

Baloun didn't always have his sights set on a career in law enforcement. After graduating from Brainerd High School, Baloun went for pre-med his first year in college, but, in his own words, chemistry wasn't for him. Luckily, Baloun had some friends studying law enforcement, and he got introduced to the field through them. He switched his major and found a much better match for his interests.

In 1991, Baloun graduated with his degree in



CHIEF BRENT BALOUN of the BPD recently celebrated his 30th year of law enforcement. (Submitted photo.)

Safety Executive Leadership from St. Cloud State University. He has continued to learn after getting his degree, jumping on training opportunities whenever he could, even taking courses from the FBI. Baloun says he is thankful for his wife for always working with him to take care of their kids and their home while he pursued training.

After serving with the St. Cloud Police Dept., Baloun was offered the position of police chief in Becker in 2006, and he moved his family to Becker in 2008, and has been happily situated in the city ever since, and has turned down other opportunities in order to continue serving Becker all these years.

With 30 years under his belt, Baloun said he was eligible for retirement next year, although he wasn't sure yet if he will retire in 2023 or not. Still, he is working closely with lead-

ers in the department, such as Lieutenant Chris Lindbloom, to ensure a smooth transition in leadership.

Baloun also hopes to "get the ball rolling" on finding a new facility to use as a police department.

"We outgrew this facility several years ago," he said.

If he chooses, Baloun would retire June 1, 2023.

"This community is so supportive," Baloun said. "I'm always appreciative of the kind words and treats brought in."

Baloun says the community has always been a great one to work with, and encourages police officers from the metro to come to Becker. The small city may not pay as well, but, in Baloun's opinion, the community support is well worth it.



Officer Wellness: Prevent Struck-By Incidents at Crash Scenes

Submitted Article

(The following article was obtained from the International Association of Chiefs of Police.)

There are more than 800,000 state and local law enforcement officers (LEOs) in the United States. Officers that perform traffic-related duties are exposed to the risk of being struck by passing vehicles while working outside of their patrol cars.

In the last decade, on average, one officer per week was killed on U.S. roads. Traffic-related incidents—vehicle crashes and being struck by moving vehicles while on foot—are a leading cause of death for officers. From 2011 to 2020, there were 1,762 officer line-of-duty deaths. Of that total, 367 officer line-of-duty deaths were due to vehicle crashes (21 percent of total), and 131 officer line-of-duty deaths were due to being struck by a vehicle (seven percent of total).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and

Prevent Struck-by Incidents at Crash Scenes

More than 200 law enforcement officers died due to struck-by incidents from 2005-2019 (24% of motor vehicle-related officer deaths). **You can lower your risk of being struck by a passing vehicle while outside the patrol vehicle.**

1 MAINTAIN situational awareness

- Keep your head on a swivel
- Work within traffic control zone
- Avoid the gap between vehicles
- Don't turn your back to traffic
- Always have an escape plan

2 WEAR your ANSI-approved tearaway high visibility safety vest any time you are exposed to vehicle traffic or working a crash scene.

3 FOLLOW your agency's standard operating procedures (SOPs) on temporary traffic control zones.

4 UNDERSTAND the incident command structure and work collaboratively with other responders.

*Source: National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF.org)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health

Access fatality reports involving officer motor vehicle deaths
www.cdc.gov/niosh/face

Find more law enforcement motor vehicle resources
www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/leo

FACE
National Law Enforcement Officers Association

Health (NIOSH) has been studying vehicle crashes and struck-by incidents among LEOs for nearly a decade. The NIOSH Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Program investigates LEO line-of-duty deaths (LODDs) due to motor vehicle events. The investi-

gators identify risk factors for vehicle crashes and struck-by LEO LODDs and develop prevention recommendations that can be applied in the field. NIOSH shares these recommendations with law enforcement agencies across the United States, with the goal of reducing LEO motor vehicle-

related deaths. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's third quarter report for 2021, 44 officers were killed in traffic-related incidents during the first three quarters of 2021. Of these 44 traffic-related fatalities, 23 were struck-by fatali-

ties, where officers on foot were struck and killed by vehicles. Many of these fatal struck-by crashes occurred while officers were investigating motor vehicle crashes or assisting motorists on the side of the road. Secondary crashes caused by distracted or impaired drivers continue to be the main circumstance for officers being struck and killed by vehicles. For the 70 struck-by events involving LEOs from 2015 to 2019, a third involved a "Slow Down and Move Over" violation, and almost half of the officers struck were engaged in some type of traffic enforcement.

To stop this disturbing trend, NIOSH developed an infographic based on lessons learned from the three NIOSH FACE LEO struck-by fatality investigations. This infographic summarizes the key steps that LEOs should take to lower their risk of being struck by a passing vehicle

while outside their patrol vehicles:

Maintain Situational Awareness

Law enforcement officers should maintain awareness of their surroundings, especially while working in a temporary traffic zone. There are many reasons motorists fail to move over. They can be vision impaired, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, distracted, or have a medical condition that affects their judgment or abilities. Officers should train and work under the premise of "if it's moving, and you're not driving it, it is out to kill you."

High-Visibility Vest

Wear an ANSI-approved tearaway high-visibility vest when working outside a vehicle. The use of high-visibility, retro-reflective vests increases the officers' visibility and permits motorists to see the

WELLNESS to page 5

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NATIONAL POLICE WEEK
MAY 15-21

Sgt. Gubash to be Special Olympics torch runner



SGT. NABIL GUBASH (left of banner) and others from the Sheriff's Office helped to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics. (Submitted photo.)

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

Sgt. Nabil Gubash of the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office will be leaving for Florida later this month to participate as a torch runner for the Special Olympics.

Gubash, originally from Lino Lakes and currently residing in Blaine, has been serving with the Sherburne County Sheriff's office for 16 years. He has previously served with the Lino Lakes Police and with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office.

Gubash graduated from Centennial High School. It was during high school that Gubash realized he wanted to go into law enforcement. He would help break up fights among his peers in school, even when it made him unpopular. He realized that he always wanted to be the one to help out in the community. So, he enrolled in a boy scout program that offered students first hand experience with police work, and Gubash was hooked.

He went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice at Metro State University and a Master's in Police Leadership from St. Thomas.

Gubash became a part of the Sheriff's Office in 2006, and was promoted to sergeant in 2014. Currently, he oversees transportation and court operations, which



SGT. NABIL GUBASH of the Shebrune County Sheriff's Office was selected to be a torch-runner for the upcoming Special Olympics. (Submitted photo.)

keeps him plenty busy, as he transports wanted individuals, helps with government building campus security, and does contract work with the U.S. Marshall's Office.

"There's not enough time in the day," Gubash said with a laugh.

Somehow, Gubash has made time in the past to also

for the Special Olympics for two years in a row.

So, Gubash was asked to participate as a torch runner this year, representing Minnesota. Gubash said he felt honored to have been selected.

Gubash will be running the torch from Miami to Orlando later this month, teaming up with Special Olympic Athlete Brett Harper. Gubash said he's a little anxious about trying to keep up with the athlete, and has been training to make sure he can run the nine minute mile the Special Olympics want him to. In total, Gubash suspects he will be running about 12 miles per day.

Gubash said the Special Olympics are important to him because he has a cousin, Jon, who is his same age, and who has shown him how special individuals with intellectual disabilities can be.

Sgt. Gubash will be taking part in the torch run from May 30 to June 6.

WELLNESS from page 4

law enforcement officers sooner, allowing more time to react.

SOP's
Follow the agency's standard operating procedures (SOPs) on temporary traffic control zones. SOPs allow law enforcement officers to make decisions rapidly and build confidence through knowledge that the procedure will be the same in all incidents. This enhances efficiency, effectiveness, and safety. SOPs should address what resources are needed for various types of incidents and for temporary traffic control for roadways and highways within a jurisdiction.

ICS
Understand the incident command structure (ICS). ICS is a management system designed to integrate resources to effectively attack a problem. ICS has the flexibility to accommodate varying sets of circumstances. ICS uses a systems approach for command and control of incidents involving response from single or multiple jurisdictions or agencies. ICS allows agencies to effectively manage emergency incidents and ensure the safety of all responders. ICS designates the specific duties of all participants and determines who will oversee the scene with responsibility for monitoring the overall response.



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MAY 15-21

Becker and Big Lake Police Depts. welcome female officers

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

Both the Becker and Big Lake Police Departments have hired female officers in the last year. While it is not the first time female officers have served in the community, it has been some time since a female officer was on staff at either department.

In honor of police week, the *Patriot* interviewed both officers to see how they are settling into the job.

Jennifer Franzen

Officer Jennifer Franzen has been working with the Big Lake Police Department since January of this year. She is originally from Brainerd. She attended school at Central Lakes College where she majored in criminal justice. She also attended the police academy at Central Lakes.

Franzen said she has wanted to be a police officer since middle school, as it's always been her dream to be the one who is there for people on their worst days.

So far, Franzen has enjoyed her time in the department.

"They're a bunch of great guys," she said of her fellow officers who have trained her since she joined the force.

This is the first time Franzen has served in a police department, and she said that she was "very green" when she first joined, but she was in good hands with the veteran officers of the department. Franzen said she learned so much during her first few months at the department that she was always exhausted by the end of her shift, but in a good way.

"It was awesome to learn so much every day," she said.

Franzen thinks that female officers are very important to public safety. People tend to interact differently with women than they do with men, and Franzen said this has already helped to de-escalate some situations. She noted one instance in particular when a suspect was speaking aggressively to her male



OFFICER JENNIFER FRANZEN of the BLPD has been serving with the department since January. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

partner, but broke down and confessed when she spoke to him.

She said having a female officer can also be helpful on domestic calls, when there may be individuals, such as children or women, who feel more comfortable with a female officer.

Jenna Voigt

Officer Jenna Voigt was sworn in as an officer of the Becker Police Department in February of this year, but she had served as a reserve officer for some time before that. Voigt graduated from Becker High School in 2019. She attended St. Cloud State University where she earned her Associate of Arts Degree in 2019, graduating summa cum laude. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in 2020 (with a minor in political science and a concentration on 21st century policing), again graduating summa cum laude.

She also graduated from the SKILLS Law Enforcement Training from Anoka Technical College in 2021. She is working towards her Master's of Public Administration degree, and will graduate later this year.

Voigt says she has always wanted to pursue a career in public service.

"There are incredible opportunities to make a difference in a community, and people's lives, when working in law enforcement," Voigt said. "I have been fortunate to have role models in law enforcement that have inspired me for many years."



OFFICER JENNA VOIGT of the BPD has served first as a reserve officer, then an officer for over three years. (Submitted photo.)

Voigt said her biggest takeaway from her nearly three years with the department (as a reserve officer and as an officer) was that all the risks that come with the job are balanced by the opportunities to help the community and make a difference.

"Keeping the commu-

nity safe while engaging and interacting with community members is a privilege," Voigt said.

Voigt said there is a great need for more female officers in law enforcement, as sexual assaults and domestic violence are reported more frequently when victims can talk with a female officer.

"Victims in these situations are often more comfortable talking with a female officer," Voigt said.

She also maintained that women can offer different skill sets from their male colleagues, often possessing natural interpersonal communication and problem solving skills.

"I believe a diverse

police force benefits the community and helps in building community relationships," Voigt stated.

Voigt said the support she has received from the community and the experiences she's had have been amazing so far.



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Area News

Deceased Anoka Inmate ID'd as Andover Man

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following release was sent to the Patriot by the Sherburne County Sheriff's Dept.)

The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office has identified the Anoka County Jail inmate who died Saturday morning as Riley J. Domeier, 20, of Andover.

The medical examiner did not find any signs of trauma to Domeier and is awaiting results of toxicology tests before issuing a cause of death. Results from toxicology tests can take up to 6-8 weeks.

Sherburne County Sheriff's Office will continue to provide updates as they become available. No additional information will be released at this time.

The information below is from the original press release of May 1 from Anoka County Sheriff James Stuart:

"On April 28, 2022, at approximately 1:07 a.m., detention deputies at the Anoka County Jail noticed an unresponsive adult male inmate in his cell. Staff immediately requested assistance from EMS and began actively administering life saving measures. Unfortunately, the extensive measures were unsuccessful, and the inmate was declared deceased at the scene."

"This is a tragic situation in which we anxiously await the results of the investigation and the report from the medical examiner. Our thoughts and prayers remain with the family during this difficult time," said Sheriff James Stuart.

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Becker School Board appoints two new members

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

Eight candidates applied to be appointed to the two vacant seats on the school board. The seats were recently vacated by Connie Robinson and Sarah Schafer.

Troy Berning and Pete Weisman (spelling of names uncertain) were appointed to fill the vacant seats. All seats will be up for re-election in November.

Open Forum
Julia, a student, spoke on behalf of her transgender friends who did not feel comfortable approaching the board, presenting their views and experiences. She urged the board to take action to make the schools a more inclusive environ-

ment.

Special Education Cooperative
Heidi Nistler of the Sherburne and Northern Wright Special Education Cooperative gave a presentation to the board about the services they offer.

The cooperative is recognized as a special school district in and of itself. It works with Becker, Big Lake, and Monticello school districts. St. Michael/Albertville used to also be a part of the cooperative, but it withdrew from the program. Between the three school districts, 1,864 students receive special education services, which is about 17.3% of the total student body. This is higher than the state average of 14.3%, but Nistler attributed this to the program's reputation, which

is attractive to families of students with special education needs. In Becker, 497 students, or 17.5% of students, receive special education services.

The cooperative oversees all the special education programs in the school, as well as advocating in the legislation for the needs of the districts and the students in those districts.

The cooperative offers services to students as young as a few days old. They are trying to make sure area parents know that, if their children have any developmental delays, help is available right away through the special education programs. Some students are able to receive special education for only a short time before successfully transitioning back to regular classes.

Nistler let the board know that being part of the cooperative was beneficial for the schools financially, as well. If the district were to take in a student with special needs without being a part of the co-op, they might have to hire several new positions just to take care of that student, whereas, if they are part of a cooperative, the co-op can take care of the student using existing staff.

Student Council Report
Before the student council report, board chair Mark Swanson let the student representatives know that, for the rest of the school year at least, the student reps would be invited to sit at the table with the rest of the board and would be welcomed to ask questions and provide feedback

like any other board member, although they would not be able to vote, of course.

The student representatives reported that:

- the juniors took their ACTs;
- the drama club put on *Bad Performances by Bad Actors*;
- the robotics team participated in the world championship competition;
- the student council is planning the "Spring Fling" for May 20;
- spring sports have begun;
- prom will take place today (Saturday, May 7);
- the high school band will have a performance May 16, choir will have a performance May 23;
- May 18 is scholarship night;
- seniors' last day will

be May 26, and graduation will be May 27;

- June 3 will be the final day for the rest of the student body.

Communication Plan
The board adopted a new communication plan, which will guide the administration on how and when to communicate with the public, with the media, and with families. A draft of this plan is available in the meeting agenda posted on the school website.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Held second readings of two new policies;
- Adopted a revised budget for the current school year;
- Reviewed the proposed budget for the next school year.

3 Becker students recognized for excellence

Submitted Article

On Wednesday, April 27, Austyn Clemen, Carter Leither and Jazlyn Toedter were recognized for being Becker High School's 2022 Students of Excellence at the ceremony coordinated by the Resource Training and Solutions.

Each recipient had the chance to invite an influential educator from their school career. It was fantastic to recognize these seniors (soon to be graduates!) and have them recognize impactful educators. The senior recipients shared some thoughts with Principal Dave Krefl on the educators they selected.

Austyn Clemen
Q.- Why did you select Ms. Kuseske to join in your recognition night?
A. - "I selected Ms. Kuseske to join me because her classes have

been extremely influential in shaping the way that I view history and our government, and she is also one of the kindest and most understanding teachers that I have ever met."

Q.- What are your fondest memories of Mrs. Kuseske as a teacher?
A. - "My fondest memories with Ms. Kuseske come from our conversations during work time. She has an amazing way of turning any conversation into an interesting one."

Carter Leither
Q. - Why did you select Mrs. Braun to join in your recognition night?
A. - "I selected Mrs. Braun to join tonight because of the large positive influence she has had on me throughout all four years I have been in high school. From the moment I stepped into her classroom with the accelerated ninth grade math students she made it known not just for me but for everyone that they were welcomed and had potential for greatness. She and I made connections after



AUSTYN CLEMEN, CARTER LEITHER, AND JAZLYN TOEDTER were recognized for being Becker High School's 2022 Students of Excellence at a ceremony coordinated by Resource Training and Solutions. (Submitted Photo).

class too, talking about the topics of the day and how my time outside school was going."

"Even after I graduated from her math classes she always sought me out in the hallways and asked how I was doing and what I have been up to. She invited me and my group of friends to hang out in her advisory to get together and talk to her

about how life was going. In those advisory meetups, Mrs. Braun was always full of advice on what we should pick for classes, what types of fun things our friends could do on the weekends, and even how to prepare for our college days ahead."

"She set up a well thought out Christmas party as well as an Easter basket

hunt for this advisory group as well. Mrs. Braun not only is an excellent teacher and shows success with her students, but she also is a great friend and makes it known that she cares deeply for all the students she is able to reach."

Q. - What are your fondest memories of Mrs. Braun as a teacher?
A. - "My fondest memory with Mrs. Braun is when she invited me and a group of friends to ice fish on her lake along with her husband Dave and Mr. Eldridge. We were able to catch some nice fish and they fried them back at their house and hosted an amazing dinner for us. It was fun to be able to have a great conversation outside of a school setting and be able to continue building our great friendship."

Jazlyn Toedter
Q. - Why did you select Mr. Tweeten to join in your recognition night?
A. - "I selected Mr. Tweeten because his class was one of my favorite years at Becker. Also, he

challenged me in school and enabled me to succeed academically. He is fun and energetic, and finds new and creative ways to make learning exciting."

Q. - What are your fondest memories of Mr. Tweeten as a teacher?
A. - "My fondest memories of Mr. Tweeten's class included how he encouraged us to memorize historical speeches/poems, screen free week with the reward of shaving his head, and when he would bring his guitar to class."

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BMS students treated to local field trip

By Mark Kolbinger,
 Contributing Writer

Monday afternoon, Becker Middle School students from Angie Schultz's homeroom were treated to a fantastic field trip to Pebble Creek Grill. The outing is an extension of the students' course of study, which includes learning independent living skills, as well as functional reading and vocabulary practice.

"Because of our unique needs, our programming focuses on helping our students master the skills they will need to be as independent as possible in their everyday lives," Schultz says. "A part of our reading curriculum focuses on reading words students would come across in everyday life, such as restaurant words, grocery words, job and work words, etc. This field trip allows us to practice and demonstrate mastery of the work we have done in our classroom."

The field trip was sponsored by Tom Wenner, local Horace Mann Insurance agent, who has been very supportive of



MONDAY'S FIELD TRIP BROUGHT SMILES to the faces of the middle school students, many of whom used the occasion to dress up for the exciting function. (Submitted photo.)

Schultz's program over the years. In addition to sponsoring the field trip each year, he has also helped secure adaptive trikes for the program that help to meet the unique needs of each individual student.

"I think this is a great opportunity for me to help Becker students practice the skills they have been learning in class and apply them in a community setting," Wenner says. "They look forward to this educational field trip and I am

fortunate to be joining them for this event."

Schultz states that she and her classroom are extremely grateful for the support, as it allows a hands-on element for the students.

"This field trip was possible because of Tom Wenner from Horace Mann, and from the support of our administrators: Chantel Boyer, Ted Aleckson, and Stephanie Loesch," Schultz says. "Their support allows us to put into practice our hard work and also to have

celebrations of meeting our goals!"

While the luncheon is special day for everyone in her classroom, Schultz sees it as an extension of the many skills her students have been practicing over the year.

"Each child has their own unique needs and abilities and their school goals tend to be very individualized, based on what they need," Schultz says. "I think the best way to describe our classroom is 'joyfully unique.' As I often tell people, if you're having a bad day, come to my classroom, it will change your whole day. These are the best kids you'll ever meet, and they truly do bring joy to the world around them."

While there is important curriculum that is being applied through the field trip, Schultz says that the experience allows students to interact with community members in a way that will be helpful in the future.

"We work on the social aspects of being out in public and this gives our students a chance to practice the communication



STUDENTS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS from Ms. Schultz's Middle School classroom were treated to a special dinner field trip Monday afternoon at Pebble Creek. Tom Wenner, local Horace Mann insurance agent, again sponsored the special outing this year. (Submitted photo.)

skills for ordering food and interacting with people in a public setting, as well as advocating for their needs appropriately," Schultz explains. "Community outings, such as this lunch trip, allow us to put into practice the skills we work on in a more natural setting."

In addition to recognizing Wenner and her administrators, Schultz was also quick to point out the wonderful paraprofessionals that assist in her classroom

on a daily basis, including JoDee VanVoorhis, Allie Revier, Breann Opstad, Katey Fluck, Jessica Pischney and Samantha Beck.

"We are grateful for all of the assistance we receive in helping our students to reach their potential," Schultz says. "Our students really enjoy going out into the community together for these special events."

Clearwater Lions host annual Senior Luncheon

By Penny Leuthard,
 Contributing Writer

It was a beautiful day for the Clearwater Lions annual Senior Luncheon last Saturday, with area residents gathering together at the Lions Building in Clearwater to visit, play bingo, and enjoy a meal.

Doors opened at 11:30 a.m. for guests to come in early to chat and catch up with their friends and neighbors before lunch was served at noon. Guests enjoyed ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, rolls, and dessert.

Bingo began after the meal, with participants playing for \$25 gift cards and a \$50 gift card for blackout. Drawings were



JOAN JENDRO AND ELAINE PAUMEN share a laugh before lunch was served. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

also held for the beautiful potted plants that graced the tables.

The Senior Luncheon was paid for by the Clear-

water Lions, who host the event every year to honor area seniors. It is one of the many club activities their volunteers organize and



AREA RESIDENTS came out to enjoy the annual Clearwater Lions Senior Luncheon last Saturday. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

take part in throughout the year. The club extended a thanks to the community for their continued support.

The Lions are always

looking for new members who are interested in serving their community. Anyone interested can check out their upcoming events

on the Clearwater Lions website, e-Clubhouse.org/sites/clearwatermn, and on their Facebook page.

4-H counselors plan for overnight camp

Submitted article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Benton County 4-H.)

The East Central 4-H Camp Counselors spent the day planning this past Saturday for a 4-H overnight camp which will take place June 27-29 at Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center in Sandstone. Counselors from Benton

County, Isanti County, Sherburne County and Kanabec County have been working together to provide three days of hands on experiences, building relationships, investigating our state of Minnesota and exposing campers to the great outdoors. To learn more about the 4-H camp contact the Benton County Extension Office 320.968.5077.



4-H COUNSELORS FROM LOCAL COUNTIES gain valuable experience at camp. Pictured: (L-R front row) Corey Sauve- Isanti County; Chase Dahler- Benton County; Skylar Morris- Benton County; Nicky Schaefer- Benton County and Travis Boyle- Benton County. (L-R Middle) Ryan Nyblom- Isanti County; Christina Moore- Isanti County; Jaime Pouliot- Kanabec County; Sammy Lewandowski- Benton County; Claire Chmielewski- Benton County; Bella Pederson- Benton County and Lilly Ackerman- Benton County. (L-R back) Katelyn Sauve- Isanti County; Benjamin Sauve- Isanti County; Cassidy Beack- Benton County; Alicia Belanger- Benton County; Brady Roberts- Benton County; Nevaeh Beack- Benton County and Claudia Chmielewski- Benton County. NOT PICTURED: Joseph Achen- Benton County; and Lucy Klein- Sherburne County. (Submitted photo.)

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BL School Board hears about SEL success

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

During the April meeting, the Big Lake School Board heard about the success of SEL in the classrooms at Liberty Elementary and the Middle School.

Caryl Gordy, principal of Liberty Elementary, gave her update to the board. She started by describing what academic conversations and response writings look like in the classroom. She proceeded to describe how teachers were implementing "Foundations" into the classroom lessons. As for SEL (social/emotional learning), Principal Gordy reported that all students take a "safe keeper" pledge daily. This pledge states that the students know that the adults in the school are there to keep them safe, and that it is their job to help the adults to keep them safe. Some other programs include: one book, one school; caring schools community, and adult SEL.

Mark Ernst, middle school principal, followed with his presentation. At the middle school, SEL is implemented throughout the day in routine ways, in WIN time, hallway passing, and focus lunch, to name a few. Teachers and staff help the students to increase self and social awareness. Daily writing prompts in classrooms have given introverted students the ability to work on expressing themselves before a group. Some teachers have had success in getting students to act out lessons. An example given in the presentation was an eighth grade history class during which each student acted as a country during the cold war, and worked

to make negotiations with each other.

Financial Report
Enrollment continues to trend upwards, increasing by eight students over the last month. The average daily membership is now up to 3,075.55, which exceeds the school's budgeted enrollment by 12 students.

The board made a few revisions to next year's budget, as it was found that the schools owed less funding to the special education cooperative than previously thought, and also to properly budget for staffing, utilities, and other items.

In March, the board had considered adding English Learner staffing to help those students who spoke a language other than English. It was found that adding such a position would not be necessary for the 2022-23 school year, but if the school were to gain any new students learning English as a second language, it would be necessary for the 2023-24 for school year. A new special education teacher may be needed at Liberty Elementary to work with an increased number of special education students. The board decided to go ahead and post a listing for this position, as it is difficult to find teacher candidates in the current job market, especially those specializing in special education.

Food Service Contract
As required, the school district opened up bidding for food service. Although one company bid lower than the current food service provider (Chartwell), the board decided to continue with their current service, as the other company did not offer the same benefits package, and it was not

certain whether their food director had any experience with Minnesota Schools Food Service. Also, Chartwell offered a financial guarantee that would protect the school district.

The board should have the opportunity to approve a contract with Chartwell later this summer, after it is approved by the MDE.

Conflict of Interest Affidavit
Board Member Derek Nelson is the owner of Guardian Garments, which occasionally does business with the schools to create custom school apparel. The board approved Nelson's affidavit of conflict of interest in the name of transparency, so his company may continue to offer services to the school while he is serving as a board member.

Student Meals
The board reviewed a policy about student meals when the student has a negative lunch balance. Currently, students with a negative balance may not purchase any ala carte items, but can get a regular lunch meal. State statute does allow the school to give students a different meal from their classmates, but several board members expressed strong concerns over this idea, voicing fears of shaming the student or not allowing an impoverished student to have a filling meal.

There is an "Angel Fund" where community members may donate money to help pay off school lunch debt, which does go to collections if not paid for one year. Funds are used to help families who accrued charges before becoming eligible for free or reduced lunch price. It can also go towards helping families experiencing financial hardship who do

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not qualify for free or reduced lunch.

Due to COVID-19, all lunches were provided to students free of charge for the 2021-22 school year. It is uncertain if this will be the case next year, but board members and staff were not counting on that to be the case.

Student Rep. Report
Student Representative Preity Persuad reported that she is helping in the search for the next student liaison to the board. This position changes yearly. Persuad said interested students are welcome to contact her via email, which was provided over a "Hornet Blast."
Superintendent's Report
Superintendent Tim

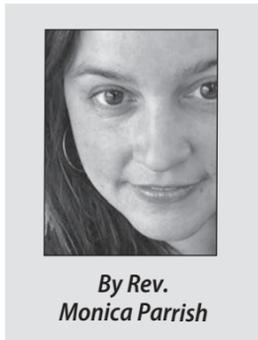
Truebenbach noted that Big Lake Online has really grown since its implementation, and is really becoming a school unto itself. He was planning to sit down with the program directors and discuss the future of the program.

Four students received "students of excellence awards" in April, including Ella Dotzler, Bryn Johnson, Kylie Knettle, and Olivia Stockholm (spelling of names is uncertain.) Two of the students were able to attend a dinner honoring their achievements along with their families and the teacher of their choice.



What Has Your Focus?

I have learned to trust in God, with His help, despite my natural bend to always be in control. Amid a lingering pandemic, inflation, and concerns over world politics – there is plenty of distractions vying for our attention. But what if your breakthrough could come from choosing to bring God into focus instead? For me, victory has come through a process of setting aside my expectations of what I think it's supposed to look like as God's plan unfolds. Now, I am not saying we should stick our heads in the sand and not be aware of our circumstances and the world around us. But being aware and choosing what to focus on are two different things. A couple of years ago, a former colleague approached me with an idea of opening a business together. We had worked together for years in the Property Management industry and obtained awesome results as a team. Entrepreneurism has been an interest of mine for a long time, and I felt God was leading me in that direction. We opened for business and have had great growth. At a business meeting yesterday, we discussed balancing the completion of daily tasks with making time for big-picture focus. I was encouraged, as we took inventory of all the blessings we've experienced in terms of growth from a 30,000 foot view. While I've learned from fellow business owners, books, seminars, speakers, blogger and vloggers, the firm foundation and anchor



By Rev. Monica Parrish

of my entire life is Jesus. My focus must stay fixed on Him, and my big-picture goal which is to serve Him well. I fall short plenty, but when I feel tossed by the waves, I adjust my lens and ensure I am focused on the Lord. This keeps me grounded, and I have inner peace knowing that even though the waves will still come, my anchor will not be moved. I share my testimony because God rescued me from the bondage of fear and worry, and He deserves the glory! I have had a wonderful mentor, Pastor Laurie, who was instrumental in helping me in my journey of learning what it means to trust God, which is essential. She taught me the importance of prayer, bible study, and connecting with mature believers. She shared scriptures for me to cling to on the days when the problems in my life held my focus and the subsequent feeling of defeat stole my inner joy. Instead of allowing the problems of the day to bring me down, I had to choose to focus on the truth that God is in control,

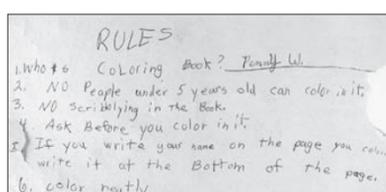
He is good, His promises are true and He loves us. He can be trusted with every worry, problem and need. One of my favorite bible teachers, Lisa Harper, said in a sermon "I have never seen God's back." What a beautiful way to express the faithfulness of God. The hard part for me is still in the waiting, but His timing is always perfect. When problems or concerns arise that seem insurmountable, have peace in knowing that God is more than able to see you through. You don't have to weather the storms alone. Let us pray to the Lord and then trust in Him. Let God be your firm foundation, as we read in Luke 6:46-49 NLT "So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house right on the ground, without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins." My prayer for each of you is that the Lord will help you as you make the conscious choice to take your focus off of life's troubles and bring Him into focus instead. I pray that in doing so, you will be renewed in your inner joy, peace, and hopefulness.

Rules for Coloring



By Penny Leuthard Contributing Writer

one. (That was one of my quirks. I wouldn't start a new coloring book until I had col-



ored every single page in the old one, even the pictures I didn't like. I also kept my coloring books once they were filled up.)

I opened up the coloring book, Indian Red crayon in hand, and to my horror found one of the few remaining pictures in it had already been colored. But the finished page wasn't colored neatly with the right colors. It was scribbled on!

I found out one of the younger neighborhood kids had been allowed to color in the book while I was in school. I was devastated. My book was ruined and there was nothing I could do about it. I half-heartedly colored the remaining pictures, all the joy I usually found in it missing.

Determined to never let anything like that happen again, before starting my new coloring book I wrote up a list of stipulations that had to be followed before coloring in it. The first rule wasn't actually a

rule. It said, "Whose coloring book?" followed by a blank line I wrote my name on.

Rule #2 – No people under 5 years old can color in it.

Rule #3 – No scribbling in the book.

Rule #4 – Ask before you color in it.

Rule #5 If you wrote your name on the picture it had to be at the bottom of the page. I absolutely hated it when people wrote their names at the top, artists are supposed to sign at the bottom. Everybody knew that.

Rule #6 – Color neatly.

When I was done, I thought it looked very professional. I scotch taped it to the back of the cover, so it was the first thing someone would see when it was opened.

I found this coloring book a few weeks ago when I was cleaning out my art room. There weren't any others with it, so I don't why I saved this one. Apparently the rules must have worked, as there was no scribbling or names written at the top of the pages. Strangely enough, only a handful of pages were actually colored. Maybe the rules were so strict even I didn't feel worthy enough to color in it.

Even though we can't imagine it at the time, what's most important to us continues to change throughout our lives. The condition of my coloring books was detrimental to me when I was seven. Today I wouldn't have even remembered that if I hadn't found the proof.

Although it's easier said than done, try to remember that. It may seem like the most important thing in the world, or feel like the worst time in your life, but there's always tomorrow.

Paleontology - Can You Dig It?

Over 800 people learned about the paleontology of Sherburne County's Snake River on May 4th, 2022. The educational event was sponsored by the Mammoth Site of Hot Springs South Dakota and hosted by long time residents Tom Barthel and his wife Gail Wilkinson.

Dr. Jim Mead is the Director of Research at the Mammoth Site and has organized and led four "digs" on the Snake River in recent years.

The Snake River and most of Sherburne County is in a geological formation known as the Anoka Sand Plain. The triangular shaped plain extends from St Cloud to St Paul. It includes Sherburne and Anoka Counties and much of Isanti County.

Although sandy, and droughty, the sand plain has many poorly drained areas of peat and muck. Many of those peaty areas entrapped bison at various times over the past 10,000 years.

The Snake River Farm owned by Tom Barthel and Gail Wilkinson has several sites of abundant bison skeletons. The skeletons are well preserved bone, not fossilized.

Two complete bison skeletons have been reconstructed from bones found on the Snake River Farm. One now resides in the National Bison Museum; the other is in the Sherburne County History Center.



By Mary Nehring Contributing Writer

Most of the 800 visitors on Wednesday were home school students and their parents. Dr. Mead and the other scientists dedicated that day to education.

Guests parked at the Snake River Farmstead and were continuously shuttled in four farm wagons to the dig location, about one mile south. The event started at 9 a.m. and ended after 5 p.m. The word "dig" probably gives the wrong impression. The researchers actually work very meticulously, removing earth carefully and slowly and collect and preserve all artifacts of mammals, reptiles, fishes, turtles, birds, plants etc. for later study.

Many items, even tree roots, will be carbon dated. In the first two years the dig held at Snake River Farms was focused on bison and other large animal bones. The focus has now shifted to gaining an understanding of the entire biome of flora and fauna at different locations and different times.

For example, it was initially assumed that the peat was laid down more or less continuously in one long event. By careful boring and sampling, Dr. Mead is identifying areas that were primarily affected by running water, with nearby small fresh ponds that have entrapped muck. Nature is always more complex than we expect.

The balmy weather was a real treat for the event. It



SCIENTISTS FROM SDSU sieving muck for small creature bones. (Submitted Photo).



A 4,000-YEAR-OLD BISON SKULL that was discovered below four feet of peat and muck. The rest of the bison skeleton is immediately below the skull. This bison apparently became fatally mud bound.

The Mammoth Site has built a full reproduction of a dig on the Snake River. That reproduction is on display in the main exhibit room at the Mammoth Site.

was a great day for a wagon ride and a hike in the woods.

When the paleontologists packed up on Friday to head back to South Dakota, after two days on site at Snake River Farms, they were loaded with hundreds of samples for future cataloging and carbon dating and look forward to next year's dig.

Scientists and helpers from the Mammoth Site, South Dakota State University, the University of Arizona, The Science Museum of Minnesota and the National Bison Museum in James town, ND participated in the week-long dig hosted by Tom Barthel and Gail Wilkinson.

Special thanks to Tom Barthel and Jim Mead of Mammoth Site of Hot Springs, SD for providing information for this article.

Increasing Election Transparency

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

It was an extremely productive week at the Capitol with key legislation being passed by the Minnesota Senate, including significant State Government and Education bills.

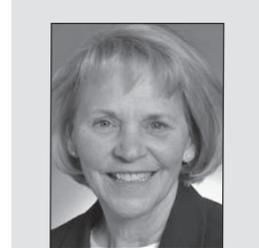
Election Transparency

The Senate State Government Finance and Policy and Elections Committee, a topic I have always dedicated myself to, is working hard to keep our elections safe and secure. And the State Government bill, which recently passed the Senate, achieves just that. It also provides important provisions to protect taxpayer dollars and increase participation opportunities in the election process.

This legislation contains two major bills, SF 2956 and SF 3469, I authored to promote election security and transparency. Highlights include requiring a specific security marking to identify genuine absentee ballot paper, adding security and transparency measures to drop boxes, and assuring that a ballot is only placed in a drop box by the voter themselves. Minnesota law already allows for a voter to turn in up to three ballots at an in-person early absentee voting location.

Additionally, these provisions provide the Secretary of State's Office one-time funding of \$6 million for local election grants to help hire temporary staff to enter voter registration applications into the Statewide Voter Registration System to comply with current federal law. Further, the Minnesota IT Services receives \$4 million in Fiscal Year 2023, and \$1 million each Fiscal Year thereafter, to publicly provide and maintain election livestream recordings and requirements for absentee ballot boards.

Another important feature of the State Gov-



By Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer

ernment bill is a policy provision I introduced to block special interests from buying access to state government. This addresses a current issue where many contracted lawyers in the Attorney General's office have ties to other politically affiliated groups and may be using their influence to push an outside agenda using a public office. This provision, therefore, requires all legal services of the Attorney General's office to be performed only by government funding of employees.

The State Government package also contains several bills I authored relating to absentee voting. First is a bill requiring any absentee voting location to be open for the entire 46 days. It also includes a bill requiring any mailing sent by or on behalf of a committee or any other private organization, such as a sample ballot or absentee ballot application, to make multiple statements of transparency. This will make it clear to the recipient that the mailing is not an official absentee ballot or absentee ballot request. Finally, a technical statute change is made relating to the delivery of absentee ballot envelopes such as language referencing the signature envelope and the secrecy envelopes for ballots.

Transparency has always been a fundamental value of our elections and allows for greater assurance in the process and the outcome. To further maintain confidence in our state's

elections, the State Government package contains critical legislation to keep the conduct of our elections fair, transparent, and free of outside influence.

MN's Declining Reading Scores

The Minnesota Senate also recently approved an Education bill to reverse Minnesota's chronically foundering literacy scores.

The Senate's unyielding focus on improving literacy comes on the heels of historic education bills that have fully funded K-12 schools, including \$18.6 billion in total education funding in 2017, 2% annual student formula increases in 2019, and \$1.1 billion in funding increases in 2021 - including the largest formula growth in 15 years.

Minnesota's third-grade reading proficiency has alarmingly been flat or declined every year since 2013, and currently, only about one-half of students are reading at grade level. To address this, the legislation instructs school boards to develop a public, accountable plan that will achieve 90% reading proficiency by third grade.

The Education bill also delivers funding to provide all Minnesota teachers with indispensable training in the science of reading instruction — Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). Additional highlights include removing the burdensome, unsuccessful 'World's Best Workforce' mandate, and refocusing Regional Centers of Excellence to prioritize literacy.

Literacy is a vital skill all children must learn. If a student cannot read, they cannot fully succeed in future subjects such as English, science or math. However, 40% of Minnesota students cannot read at grade level. The Education bill, therefore, focuses on the most important support we can provide our students — improving literacy.



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- **Subscription Rates:** \$90 annually, \$45 for six months, \$22.50 for three months or \$7.50 a month.
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- **Submitted Material:** There will be a \$30 charge for all thank you, engagement, wedding and birth announcement pictures. The PATRIOT is not responsible for correctness of ads received by telephone.
- **Letters to the Editors:** The PATRIOT welcomes letters to the editor. Addresses and telephone numbers are required 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 11am 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.
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Employment (Continued to page 12)

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Employment (Continued from page 11)

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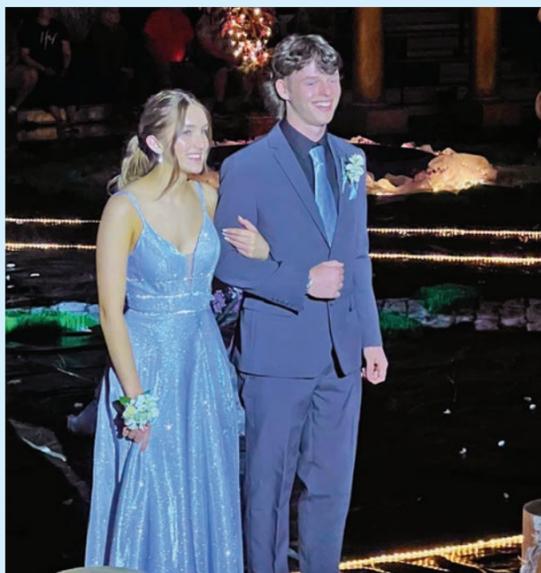


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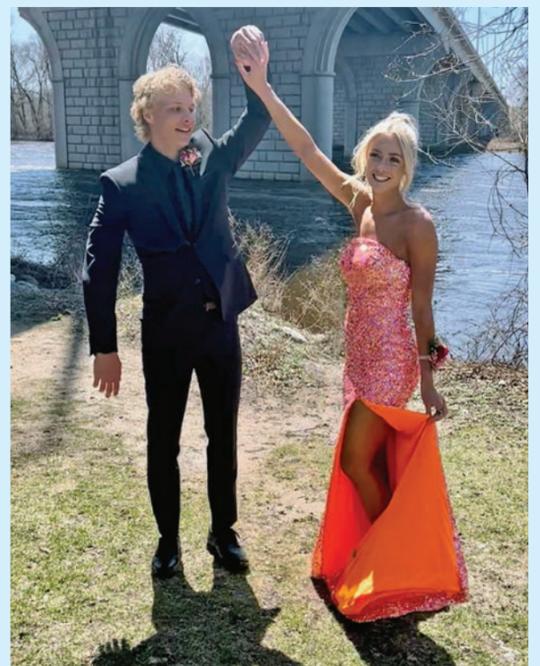
2022 Prom Celebrations!



HARRISON KENT (R) and his date, Sophie Studer (L) of Becker H.S. had their prom pictures taken at Municipal Park in Sauk Rapids along with a few other couples. (Submitted Photo).



GAVIN SWANSON AND KAITLYN UECKER were all smiles as they proceeded through the grand march at Becker High School last Saturday. (Submitted Photo).



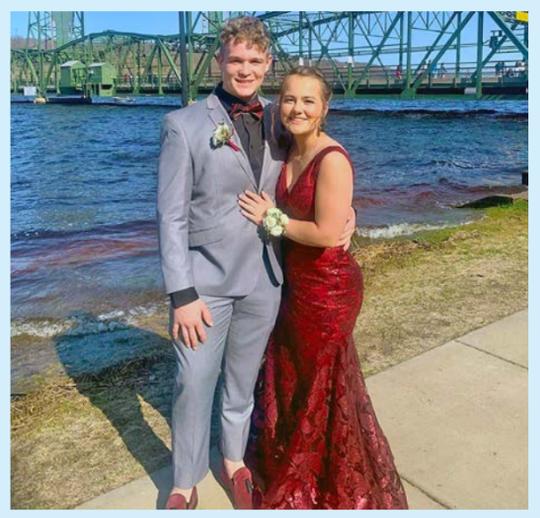
ADELINE KENT (R) posed with her date, Eli Scheideman during an outdoor photo shoot at Municipal Park in Sauk Rapids last weekend before Becker's prom. (Submitted Photo).



JACKSON OLMSCHIED (on ground) posed with a tee and golf ball in his mouth as his date, Stella Chard (L) pretended to tee off at Pebble Creek Golf Course prior to the Grand March at BHS. (Submitted Photo).



THIS GROUP OF BIG LAKERS POSED for photos during their prom session outdoors last weekend. Left to right: Autumn Grunwald, Caleb Krebs, Amelia Gardner, Spencer Lommel, Lauren Huver, Wouson Neawah, Savannah Baker and Jonah Mallberg. (Submitted Photo).



BIG LAKER'S JAKE WESLEY AND CASSIE HOWE enjoyed the boat prom last weekend. (Submitted Photo).



KAITLYN SMITH AND DILLON BROWN, Big Lake high school seniors, attended the boat prom held in Stillwater Saturday, May 7th. (Submitted Photo).



SENIOR ALEX HANRAHAN (L) posed with his date, junior Jessie Moyer (R) during photos at last weekend's prom for Big Lake. (Submitted Photo).

Sports/Area News

Hornet baseball team gets 3rd win

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake baseball team had a win and three losses over the past week. Monday, the Hornets scored all their runs in one inning in a 3-1 win over St. Francis at home.

The Saints got on the board first with a run in the fourth off Big Lake starter Blake Rondo.

The Hornets were scoreless until the fifth when Keenan Hjernstad doubled, Trent Josewski reached base and Collin Skaug doubled and came around to score for a 3-1 lead.

That was all Big Lake needed. Kaden Haselius came in to pitch in the fifth and allowed two hits and no runs the rest of the way. He got the win in relief.

Rondo scattered five hits and three walks and allowed one earned run in four innings. He struck out five.

Monticello 9, Big Lake 2

Last Friday, the Hornets fell to Monticello, 9-2.

The Magic started quickly with four runs in the first inning on a walk and five hits off Big Lake pitcher Isaiah Terlinden.

Big Lake got on the board in the first inning on consecutive singles by Dylan Robeck, Nolan Reiter and Hjernstad.

But Monticello added to its lead with two more runs in the second on a walk, two singles and a double.

The Hornets got their second run in the third on singles by Cooper Cusick, Robeck and two infield groundouts.

But that's as close as they got. The Magic pushed across three more runs in the sixth on two singles, two doubles and a triple.

Big Lake had some chances to score with two hits in the second and two walks in the seventh, but

failed to get a run.

Terlinden took the loss. Robeck had two hits and scored a run.

Skaug had a hit and a walk.

St. Francis 5, Big Lake 1

The Hornets ran into a tough pitcher and lost to St. Francis, 5-1 last Thursday.

Big Lake's only run came in the first. Conner Stukenholtz led off with a walk and came around to score after a single by Robeck and a double by Hjernstad.

The Saints took the lead with three runs in the second on a double and three singles off Big Lake pitcher Hjernstad.

They got another run in the fourth on four singles and two errors. The Saints had two hits and scored their final run in the sixth.

Meanwhile the Hornets couldn't get anything going at the plate after the first inning off Saints pitcher Aaron Smith. They had two walks in the third, a single in the fourth and a walk in the fifth. But Smith ended every threat by striking out 15.

Robeck had a single and two walks.

Sauk Rapids 4, Big Lake 3

The Hornets lost to Sauk Rapids, 4-3 last Monday.

Big Lake scored twice in the first inning on walks to Robeck and Reiter and a two-out double by Trent Josewski.

Sauk Rapids took the lead in the fourth off Big Lake pitcher Blake Rondo on a walk and three singles.

The Hornets tied the game in the fifth. After Terlinden walked, Robeck and Reiter both singled to score the run.

The Storm went ahead again in the sixth on two singles and a sacrifice fly. They threatened again in the seventh but left two runners on base and didn't score.

The Hornets went down in order in the sixth and seventh and took the loss.

Reiter reached base all three at-bats with a walk and two hits.

The Hornets are 3-8 on the season. They played Becker Tuesday and North Branch Thursday, results to follow next week.

COS from page 1

term limits on federal officials.”

Currently, 15 states have passed a resolution to call for a Convention of States including Minnesota's neighbor, North Dakota. Wisconsin is one of four states that has passed the resolution in one chamber. Legislation is active in 26 other states, including Minnesota where an application has been introduced in both the House and the Senate.

Convention of States Action is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization founded for the purpose of stopping the runaway power of the federal government. Mark Meckler is the President of COS.



Stukenholtz aces at Hutchinson

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

“A spring sport like golf, in Minnesota, makes it very hard to get outside and get to the course for practice,” said Big Lake Boys Head Coach Bill Miller. “Golf courses take time for public youth in the early spring. The weather was not cooperating again this year. Very wet, cold, and windy until the end of April.”

Miller said the Hornet girls and boys had to practice inside the schools close to four weeks before they could get to the course.

“This takes a toll on the mindset of a golf team,” he says. “When outside, we dressed for the cold weather. It's been very tough conditions.”



RYKER STUKENHOLTZ — shown here teeing off at a match in Hutchinson — had a hole-in-one in the match — a first for the history of the boys golf program. (Submitted Photo).

For most of the early rounds, temperatures have ranged from 35 to 50 degrees for the first five matches. Scores tended to be higher than usual because of the weather.

“As a team, we are averaging 340 and as the weather warms up, our team goal is to shoot around 320 a match,” said Miller.

On April 29, the boys traveled to Grand National in Hinkley and shot a 319 for the school low team score.

“I did my research on the school history of golf scores and I believe it could be a school record,” Miller said.

While at the golf match in Hutchinson, Ryker Stukenholtz had a hole in one. This was also a first for the boys program.

Big Lake has four seniors — Tyler Anderson, Ryker Stukenholtz, Nick Selbitschke, and Riley Siegrist. They have two juniors in Blake Anderson and Jacob McDonald, two sophomores in Aidan Johnson and Henry Knier and one freshman, Max Worley.

“We also go to the middle school age to fill the squad,” said Miller. “I'm looking at a fun last (part) of the season. Scoring can improve with great weather. Go get em, guys.”



New development plans in Orrock move forward

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

During their recent meeting, the Orrock town board discussed plans for Pine Crest Estates West.

The township is working closely with the developers of the Pine Crest Estates West development, which will be located south of Co. Rd. 4, east of the town hall. At the time of the meeting, the developer's agreement was pending review with the town attorney. A special meeting May 11 will be held to further consider the development agreement after getting the attorney's feedback.

The entrance to the new development will be located off of 180th St., which is currently a gravel road. The developers wanted to have the road

paved, and hoped to have the county's contractors do the work as they are working on Co. Rd. 4. Unfortunately, this is going to cost much more than the town-

ship or the developers thought it would. There was some discussion on whether it would be better to wait and hope the prices would decrease, but road engineer Kevin Krueger said this wasn't likely to happen, as he's seen prices rise significantly, more than 30%,

since January of this year. Ultimately, the township decided to just get the project done.

Sheriff's Report

Sgt. Luke McLean of

township roads. McLean noted that there has been a rise across the county, but without any specific reason for it.

McLean noted that one township resident was the victim of a scam, where a scammer pretended to be an Xcel Energy employee who threatened to shut off the victim's power if the victim did not pay them right away.

Open Forum

Anne Felber spoke during open forum. She requested that the board fully

fund their budget, meaning that they put money aside for purchases like office supplies and other common purchases, which currently are taken out of the general fund. She said she would like to see this happen in the name of transparency, and in order to make sure the township has funds available for future replacements.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Tabled a decision on whether to keep or sell a parcel of tax-forfeited land;
- Renewed a contract with town handyman Darryl Waletzko;
- Heard a brief update on the town hall expansion, with the special meeting still scheduled for June;
- Discussed a new tool on the county website which allows site visitors to type in the type of garbage

they have (for example, an old mattress) and find out where they can recycle it;

• Reported that it looked as if the tree trimming had finally been cleared up;

• Planned to adopt a new mailbox ordinance at the May meeting.



Area Chamber News



Membership Meeting
May 18 - Noon
Location Becker Baptist Church

Business After Hours
May 19 - 5 pm
Location Pending

Storytime
Tues., May 17, 10:30 am
Clearwater Library

Ribbon Cutting
May 19 - 4 pm
Knight Barry Title Co.

Legislative Update
May 31 - 11:30 am
Location Pending

Music in the Park
Thurs., June 2
Eldorado Park, Clearwater

If you would like more information on any of these events or if you would like to become a member of these organizations please reach out to them:

Amity Felton
763-262-2420
Chamber@BeckerChamber.org

Gloria Vande Brake
763-263-7800
Info@BigLakeChamber.com

Glenna Soenneker
320-267-4361
GSoenneker@GMail.com

Hornet Sports Capsules

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

The Big Lake Hornet girls softball team went 2-1 to improve to 7-3 on the season.

Hornets 7, Magic 6
At home May 6, the Hornets got a big win over the Monticello Magic in seven innings by a score of 7-6. Last Thursday, the Hornets knocked off St. Francis by one run in a close game, 2-1. May 3, the Hornets lost to undefeated conference leaders, Chisago Lakes by five runs, 6-1.

Up next, the Hornets traveled to Becker Tuesday then host North Branch in a doubleheader Thursday. They finish up the week with a home game against Sauk Rapids-Rice Friday.

Girls Lacrosse
The Big Lake/Spectrum/Princeton lacrosse team beat Rocori 12-2 last Thursday.

Baseball
The Hornets lost to St. Francis Thursday by a score of 5-1.

Boys Tennis
The Hornets lost in a shutout to the Becker Bulldogs last Thursday, 7-0.

Girls Golf
The Lady Hornets captured seventh place at the Rogers Invite last week.

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Hornet girls lacrosse team splits two games

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

The Big Lake Hornet girls lacrosse team split two games this past week, beating Rocori and losing to Hutchinson.

Hornets 12, Rocori 2

On May 5, the Hornet girls recognized their eight seniors: Eden Dixon, Janelle Gerdt, Bailey Isaacson, Mckenna Leeseberg, Abby Mullen, Hailey Schuller, Kaitlyn Smith, and Kailee Throolin. A celebration was planned for halftime.

To start out the game the eight seniors were announced in the starting line up and took the field during the home match. The contest started off with an unassisted goal by Hornet senior Bailey Isaacson at the 19:56 of play. A few minutes later, Rocori answered making it a 1-1 game.

The next goal came from a nice pass by Grace Dols to Autumn Grunewald to make it 2-1, Big Lake. Rocori (0-8) held the Hor-

nets off the scoreboard for another couple minutes before the home team got into a groove.

Amber Grunewald scored her first goal of the night at the 7:17 mark bringing the score to 3-1. After that goal, her sister, Autumn, netted two goals back-to-back, one assisted by senior Mckenna Leeseberg and the other from her sister Amber, bringing the score to 5-1 at half time.

During halftime, the team recognized each of our the seniors and their parents, having them walk through the team stick tunnel, while announcer, Karen Nelsen, shared their favorite lacrosse memories and future plans.

"Each of these girls have been an important part of our growing program," said Hornet Head Coach Lindsey Hartfiel. "They will be greatly missed next year — but until then we

will continue to use their talents on the field the remainder of the season."

Big Lake's second half started off with a bang with another unassisted goal by Amber Grunewald at 21:13. The following goal came from a passing play from Amber to Mckenna for her first goal of



the night, making it 7-1 in favor of the Hornets.

"This half our girls continued to stay focused, they battled through some rough play, and still consistently found the scoresheet while making some nice passing plays," said Hartfiel.

This solid play continued to show with a great pass from Amelia Gardner to Autumn, completing her second goal of the night. Amelia followed that up with a goal of her own assisted by senior Hailey Schuller.

A superb passing play resulted in a goal

Amelia Gardner on a pass from senior Janelle Gerdt at 8:41 of the half. The final goal of the night came from an end-to-end run for one of Big Lake's top defenders, Abby Polacec, making the score 12-1. Rocori notched one last goal at the 2:15 mark, which held for the

final of a 12-2 win for Big Lake. This was Big Lake's fourth win of the season and gave them a record of 4-3!

Hutchinson 12, Big Lake 1

Going into Tuesday's game against Hutchinson, the Hornets knew the Tigers would be a tough opponent.

"During practice, we continued to stress playing defense first, and we would need to try our best to work as a team in the offensive zone to be successful," said Hartfiel. "Our girls battled and put pressure on Hutchinson.

Unfortunately for Big Lake, the game didn't go as they hoped. By halftime, they saw they were down 9-0 to the mighty Tigers.

"I do not believe this first half score represented the hard work and talent our defensemen and midfielders displayed in the defensive end that half," said Big Lake's Coach.

"During halftime intermission our girls regrouped and discussed our goals for the second half. They decided their goal was to keep Hutchinson to less than 13 goals for the final score, and to try to get at least two goals for our team."

Right away in the second half, Hutchinson (4-2) scored making it 10-0, but shortly after Autumn Grunewald ran the ball down from midfield while being pursued by two Hutchinson players. She battled through and was able to get a quick shot off that found the back of the net making it 10-1. This would be Big Lake's lone goal for the evening — but the girls did hold the Tigers to just two more goals in the final frame.

Up Next

Big Lake's next games are Monday on the road versus Brainerd at 7 p.m., Tuesday at home versus Monticello at 6 p.m. and Thursday at home versus St. Cloud at 6 p.m.

Hornet track athletes making Top 10 list

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake track and field teams competed in a dual/triangular meet last Tuesday in preparation for the True Team meet this week.

The boys faced off against Chisago Lakes, while the girls competed against Chisago Lakes and Cambridge-Isanti.

The boys won easily against the Wildcats, taking the top spot in 14 events.

Joe Murphy won the 100 meters in 11.58 seconds, with CJ Mikely third in 11.98.

Murphy came back to win the 200 in 23.57. Wuoson Nehwah was third in 25.08.

Hayden Thieke won the long jump at 20 feet even and the triple jump at 40'1". The Hornets completed the sweep in the triple jump with Kyle Ginther second at 38'5.5" and Randy Smythe third at 38'1.5". Ginther took



SPENCER VOLD cleared 12'1" in the pole vault to move into fourth place on Big Lake's all-time Top 10 list. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

second in the long jump at 19'8".

Evan Secord was first in the 400 meters in 57.87.

Big Lake went 1-2 in the

800 meters, with Owen Layton first in 2:08.10 and Jack Leuer second in 2:08.79.

The Hornets swept the 1600 with Christian Noble first in 4:33.53, followed by Kade Layton (4:36.03) and Owen Layton (4:42.65). Noble's time puts him fourth on the school's all time Top 10 list. Kade Layton is now #6 on the list.

They also swept the high jump with Wuoson Nehwah first at 5'6", Mitchell Hill second at 5'4" and Kyle Ginther third, also at 5'4". Nehwah also won the 110 hurdles in 18.14.

Spencer Vold went 12'1" to win the pole vault. That height puts him fourth on the Top 10 list. Christian Noble was second at 11'6".

Tanon Jacobsen won the 3200 in 11:02.56.

Christian Noble competed in the 300 meter hurdles for the first time and won the event in 43.65, which places him eighth on the Top 10 list. Vold was third in 45.96.

Luke Hugo took second in the shot put at 41'2". Zack Dembinski was third at 37'7.5".

Riley Thompson threw the discus 123'6", good for third. Hugo was fourth at 112'1".

The boys 4x100 team of Nehwah, Mikely, Ginther and Thieke won in 45.92.

The 4x200 team of Evan Secord, Gauge Hoffman, Amado Espinosa and Jack Berner also won in 1:44.68.

For the girls, Jade Flavin won the long jump with a leap of 15'2". Grace McCrone was fourth at 14'5".

Grace Gardner was second in the triple jump at 32'4.5", with Flavin fourth at 31'5.5".

Ava Eastman took second in the 200 meters in 27.84.

Emilee Doperalski was second in the 3200 meters in 13:51.50.

Jaden Anderson finished third in the 1600 meters in 6:11.04.

Nikki Rempel was third

in the pole vault at eight feet even.

Grace Gardner went 4'8" in the high jump for third place. Miranda Segner was fifth at 4'6".

Erin Kjellberg was fourth in the 800 in 2:51.26

Segner had Big Lake's fastest time in the 100 in 14.33 seconds, with Alayna Boe a step behind in 14.34.

Hailey Anderson was Big Lake's top finisher in the shot put with a throw of 24'3" and in the discus with a throw of 73'9".

Thursday, the boys split the squad between a 9th and 10th grade meet at Cambridge and the Chuck Johnson Invitational in Princeton.

The varsity boys still managed to win the eight-team meet, edging Princeton by seven points.

Carson Kunz set a new school record in the high jump, clearing 6'4". He was also second in the long jump at 18'9.5".

Kade Layton won the 3200 meters in 9:50.66, with

his brother Owen second in 9:53.32. That puts them second and third on the school's all-time Top 10 list.

Christian Noble ran the 300 hurdles for the second time in three days. He finished second in 42.99, moving him into second on the Top 10 list.

Jack Leuer took second in the 1600 in 4:33.14, moving him to fourth on the Top 10 list.

The 4x800 relay team of Spencer Vold, Kade Layton, Owen Layton and Christian Noble won in 8:26.31.

Vold took second in the pole vault at 12 feet, with Noble third at 11 feet.

Kyle Ginther was second in the triple jump at 39'4.5", with Amado Espinosa third at 36'8.5".

Riley Thompson was second in the discus at 119'3".

The Hornets competed in the True Team Meet Tuesday at Rocori, results to follow next week.

Sports News

Bulldog girls tracksters take 3rd at Delano

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

Last Thursday (May 5) Becker competed in the Delano Invitational track meet.

"It was a beautiful day for a meet and we all enjoyed the fine weather," said Head Coach Trish Kealy.

The girls did very well and placed third in the six team meet. Team scores: Rockford 200.83, Mound-Westonka 127, **Becker 110.5**, Dassel-Cokato 101.33, Delano 91 and Holy Family Catholic 44.33.

"It was good to see teams we don't usually compete against and there was some fine competition," said Kealy. "Rockford was last year's Class A State meet champions and they once again have a talented team."

Becker took home three first place finishes, starting with Sarah Woelfel in the 100 meter hurdles in a time of 17.29. Lexi Rose ran an inspired race and earned first place in the 1600 with a nice PR time of 5:28.04, which gives her a spot on the MSHSL honor roll. Ella McDonald won the 3200 meters for the third meet in a row, her time was 12:04.70.

The Bulldogs had two second place finishes. Regan Hausmann ran a fine PR time of 50.02 in the 300 hurdles. Lauren Woelfel took second in the Pole Vault with a nice vault of 9'0.

Brooklyn Karel raced to third in the 1600 with a time of 5:44.70, which equals her PR.



THE BATON EXCHANGE was perfect as Becker's girls track stars competed at the Delano Invitational last Thursday. (Submitted Photo).

Fourth place finishers were Olivia Babler in the 3200 and Regan Hausmann in the 100 hurdles.

In the 300 hurdles, Kailey Thompson ran a PR time of 50.80 to take fifth. Paige Maunu was fifth in the Long Jump 14'6".

Abby Atwood was sixth in the 400 meters in 66.60, Katelyn Brower sixth in the 800 2:35.87, and Meghan Swanson sixth in the 3200 (12:59.8 PR).

Seventh place finishers were: Alea Briggs 400 (66.65), Kayla Gruenes 800 (2:38.55 PR), Lauren Woelfel 100 hurdles (18.47 PR) and Sarah Woelfel high jump (4'8").

Becker's 4x800 relay squad made the MSHSL honor roll. The team of Lexi Rose, Alea Briggs, Brooklyn Karel and Ella McDonald ran a time of 10:14.43 for second place behind Rockford.

The 4x100 team of Sarah Woelfel, Raelee Lyon, Olivia Maunu and Paige Maunu achieved a season best time of 54.34

for fifth place.

The 4x200 team of Abby Atwood, Regan Hausmann, Reese Hausmann and Kailey Thompson ran a season best time of 1:53.78 for fourth place.

The 4x400 team of Kailey Thompson, Lexi Rose, Ella McDonald and Alea Briggs ran a season best time of 4:23.25 for fourth place, just getting edged out of third by .04 seconds.

Up Next

Tuesday, Kealy's athletes traveled to Rocori high school for their True Team section meet, and on Thursday they have a JV meet at Princeton.

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Ricker breaks two school records, Angell ties one for boys track team

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Tuesday's Section 5AA True Team track meet was a huge success for several individuals on the Bulldog boys track team, as two school records were broken and one was tied.

"As a team, we struggled to keep up with the team points competition finishing ninth out of the 12 teams with Big Lake winning the meet and moving on to the state meet in Stillwater on the 21st of May," Coach Paul Schmidt said. "However, the beauty of Track and Field is that you can also compete individually."

Compete they did, with Tyson Ricker and Owen Angell leading the way.

"Tyson Ricker broke both the 1600 and the 3200 school records in the same night," Schmidt said. "Running in a fast pack, Tyson finished third in the 1600 overall, but was able to run the time of 4:22.47 which bettered the old record held by Tim Danielson from 1977 by two seconds."

Setting one school record that had stood since the 1970's is very impressive by itself, but Ricker wasn't done, as he also set the mark in the two mile run.

"Doubling in track and field is extremely difficult and Tyson continues to do it week in and week out," Schmidt said. "On this night the 3200 field was very talented as well and Tyson latched on to the leading pack of runners and finished fourth. After a long



OWEN ANGELL tied the school pole vault record at Tuesday's true team track meet. (Submitted photo.)

wait for results it was officially confirmed that Tyson broke the record held by Luke Lehr by hundredths of a second."

Ricker's time was 9:48.40 and Schmidt believes that he has a great chance at bettering the records in the future.

"Tyson, who is a junior captain, will get many chances to lower his marks," Schmidt added.

The school pole vault record is 14 feet and freshman Owen Angell tied that height at the meet.

"Owen has been flying



TYSON RICKER downed two school records at Tuesday's true team track meet. (Submitted photo.)

up the pole vault ranks and it seems that every week he gets a personal best and this week was no different," Schmidt said. "Owen is on his third pole of the season and this one propelled him to a 14' vault and a first place win. That vault ties Jarrod Guston's record from 1998."

With the rest of this year still ahead, as well as three more years of competition, Schmidt has little doubt that Angell can capture the record.

"Knowing that Owen is only a ninth grader, he has many chances in his career to make the record his own," Schmidt said. "Owen also placed third in the 300 hurdles (42.56), 4th in the 110 High Hurdles (17.33), and fifth in the high jump (5'6")."

Schmidt reported that there were many other great performances at the meet, including Carter Leither with personal best in both the 400 (51.60) and 200 meters (23.46). He was also part of the 4x200 team with Logan Eisele, Mitchel Soltau, and Carter Reckelberg which ran

their best time of the season at 1:37.18

Eisele ran well in the 200 as well, having a personal best time of 23.51 and finishing sixth, and a 11.69 in the 100 meter dash that resulted in ninth place.

Parker Spindler, an eighth grader, ran a personal best time of 4:48.73 in the 1600 and finished 10th in the 3200 with a time of 10:59.

Delano

The Becker boys track team traveled to the Delano Invitational last Thursday and finished fifth out of six teams, while Bulldog Tyson Ricker led the Bulldog attack with a pair of wins in the distance events.

"Tyson led the way for us by winning both the 1600 (4:29.41) and the 800 (2:00.02)," Schmidt said. "He was also part of the 4x400 relay team, along with Logan Eisele, Carter Leither, and Owen Angell, that finished in 3rd place with a time of 3:38.77."

Overall, the Bulldogs scored 93.5 team points,

while Rockford won the meet with 161 points and Dassel-Cokato was runner-up with 133.

The Bulldogs picked up another individual win when Carter Leither won the 400 meters with a time of 52.19. He was also part of the 4x200 relay team that finished third with a time of 1:36.85, being joined by teammates Logan Eisele, Carter Reckelberg, and Mitchel Soltau.

Owen Angell had a pair of personal best times at the event, running the 300 Intermediate Hurdles in a first place time of 42.35, while placing second in the 110 High Hurdles with time of 16.51.

He also finished third in the pole vault, clearing 12'6".

"Mason Becker ran his first 3200 meter of the year, finishing seventh with a time of 10:45, and Parker Spindler added a fourth place finish in the 1600 with a personal best time of 4:52.84," Schmidt added.

Caleb Reckelberg finished seventh in his first 400 meter race of the season with a 57.77 time, and Eisele grabbed a fifth place finish with a time of 11.63. Soltau finished sixth in the long jump with a leap of 18' in another solid performance for the Bulldogs.

Becker will now be gearing up for the Mississippi 8 Conference meet in two weeks with a twilight meet in Monticello on Tuesday.

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Bulldog girls golf second at Monti

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

Monday night, the Becker girls golf team participated in another Mississippi 8 Conference meet, this time traveling to Monticello and finishing in second place.

“The girls battled high winds and rain to take second place at the conference meet,” Coach Anna Babler said.

Avery Johnson led the Bulldogs, firing a round of 90 strokes to finish in third place out of the 44 conference golfers. She was followed by Alexa Voller, who finished in seventh place with a round of 95.

Next for the Bulldogs was Layla Mathews, who finished in ninth place with a round of 96.

Thursday, the girls traveled to St. Cloud to play the Country Club course, while Friday was the Section preview match in Cold Spring at the Rich Spring Golf Club.

This coming week brings a pair of matches for the Bulldogs, as they will take a trip Monday afternoon to Princeton for a 1 p.m. conference meet shotgun start, followed by a Wednesday meet in Rush City.



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Bulldogs sit in 3rd place at 7-4

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

The Becker Bulldog baseball team went 3-3 since last reported including wins against Chisago Lakes, Milaca and Big Lake while losing to North Branch, Monticello and Princeton.

Becker 9, Chisago Lakes 6

On April 28, the Bulldogs beat Chisago Lakes on the road for the second time this year, powered by a late rally that erased an early 5-1 deficit in the first two innings.

Becker 10, Milaca 0

On April 29, the Bulldogs hosted Milaca and came away with an easy shutout win.

“The defense got back on track, making multiple highlight reel plays,” said Becker Head Coach Tyler Niedfeldt.

North Branch 10, Becker 2

North Branch sent the Bulldogs into a three-game slide by beating Becker on their home turf May 3 by eight runs.

Jacob Bergsten and Nick Berglund each had two-baggers in the loss as the Bulldogs struggled against North Branch's Andrew Orf, who went six innings, giving up just five hits and two runs. He struck out nine.

Magic 3, Bulldogs 2

On the road, May 5, the Bulldogs lost a heart-breaker to Monticello.

Becker's Nolan Murphy pitched a great game, going seven innings, giving up six hits and striking out four.

Berglund had a great game as well, going 2-for-3 with two runs scored and one RBI.

“A really fun game to be a part of, but unfortunately came out on the wrong side of it,” said Niedfeldt. “Games like this will help prepare us come playoffs.”

Tigers 5, Bulldogs 1

The slide for the Bulldogs continued on May 6 as the bats went silent in a loss to Princeton on the road.

Princeton's Mason Beltrand pitched a gem, going seven innings, giving

up just four hits and one run while striking out seven.

Bulldogs 5, Hornets 3

The Bulldogs returned to winning ways Tuesday with a win at home against Big Lake.

A big, four-run fourth propelled the Bulldogs to the win behind Murphy's four inning stint on the mound where he allowed just five hits, two runs while striking out three.

Murphy and William Thorn combined for seven K's and only one walk on the mound.

Ben Dumonceaux had a great game at the plate, going 2-3 with a double.

Up Next

The Bulldogs hosted Cambridge-Isanti Thursday and Sauk Rapids-Rice Friday before traveling to St. Francis Monday and Sartell-St. Stephen Tuesday.



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Sports/Area News



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Bulldogs claim M8 tennis title

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

Tuesday evening, the Becker Bulldogs claimed the Mississippi 8 Conference tennis title with a 6-1 win over the Monticello Magic.

“It was a big win tonight versus Monticello for the Conference Championship,” Coach Hokan Bengtson said after the match. “Our guys played loose and confident as they competed well with a good opponent.”

The win kept Becker with a perfect conference record and 17-1 overall on the season heading into Wednesday’s match against Mound-Westonka.

While Monticello did put up a good fight against the Bulldogs, the match was never in doubt as the Bulldogs played with confidence throughout the match.

Becker won three singles matches, #2-#4, with Ryan Bengtson fighting off fellow junior Ryan Schema 6-4, 6-3 to score the win for Becker. Landon Peterson, an eighth grader, handled his senior opponent 6-1, 6-3 for the Bulldogs in the #3 match, followed by fellow 8th grader Troy Nuest,



Becker’s Troy Nuest celebrated a nice shot in the Bulldog win over North Branch. (Submitted photo.)

who won 6-3, 7-5.

In the doubles matches, Luke Bordson and Eli Scheideman teamed up at #1 for a 6-1, 6-2 convincing win over Monticello’s top duo. Nick Gruber and Sawyer Brown then scored a pair of 6-1 sets for the win at #2, followed by the surging pair of Erik Baker and Adler Herdina who won 7-5, 6-4.

Alex

Monday evening, Becker battled the elements and still came out on top of the Alexandria Cardinals, 6-1.

“It was a crazy day of weather Monday in Becker,” Bengtson

said. “We had big winds, rain, tornado warning sirens and despite the crazy weather, the guys played well.”

Zach Bengtson was solid at the #1 singles for Becker, winning 6-2, 6-0, followed by wins from Peterson (#3 singles - 6-2, 6-0) and Nuest (#4 singles - 6-3, 6-1).

In the doubles events, Becker was again superior to the competition, winning all three matches. Ryan Bengtson and Scheideman won 6-3, 6-3, followed by Gruber - Brown with a 6-0, 6-0 dominant performance. Baker and Herdina again showed their chemistry by

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THE BECKER BOYS TENNIS TEAM captured the M8 title this week, ending conference action undefeated. (Submitted photo.)

persevering for a 7-5, 4-6, 6-3 win to round out the Bulldog scoring.

The win moved Becker to 16-1 on the season heading into the Tuesday match with Monticello.

Vikings

Last Thursday the Bulldogs were sharp in a 7-0 win over the North Branch Vikings.

“We played well Thursday at North Branch,”

Bengtson said.

The Bulldogs completely dominated the match, with three singles players - Zach Bengtson, Bordson and Nuest - scoring straight 6-0 wins over their opponent. Peterson won his match 6-2, 6-0.

In the doubles matches, Ryan Bengtson and Eli Scheideman blanked their opponent 6-0 in both matches, while Gruber and

Brown won 6-1, 6-1. In the #3 spot, Baker and Herdina teamed up for a 6-1, 6-1 win.

Becker will start the playoffs on May 19 and until then, Bengtson said the team is looking forward to finishing the season strong.

Bulldog softball goes 3-0 in payback games

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog softball team got off to a slow start this season, dropping its first seven contests. However, many of the games were close affairs against conference opponents, each of whom Becker faces twice during the season. Head Coach Jason Baune and his squad are now in the midst of the second round of conference play and the Bulldogs were able to exact revenge by picking up wins in three games to run its current winning streak to four games.

Monti

Last Thursday, the Bulldogs traveled to Monticello looking to avenge a 2-1 loss earlier in the season. This looked like another low scoring affair, as neither team scored in the first three innings. Finally, in the top of the fourth, Becker got on the board when Makenna Zerwas led off with a double and then pinch runner Jaimee Cook advanced to third on a single off the bat of Hannah Bartlett. A sacrifice fly by Evelyn Kreft would then give Becker the 1-0 lead. After a quick bottom of the fourth, Becker blew the game open with six runs in the top of the fifth. After loading the bases, Zerwas drove in two runs with a double. Three batters later, Evelyn Kreft hit her first career home run, a three-run

shot to deep left field making the score 7-0. Becker would finish the 11-0, ten run rule victory with four more runs in the top of the sixth. Zerwas supplied the big hit with a two-run homer to centerfield and finished the game 3-for-4 with two doubles, a home run and four RBI. Kreft and Bartlett each added two hits, while Kurstyn Patnode picked up the win, going all six innings and allowing two hits while striking out three.

Tigers

Last Friday, Becker hosted a Princeton team that had earlier downed the Bulldogs 12-11 in 10 innings.

“We jumped on top 1-0 in the first when Cadence Koste scored on a Zerwas single,” Baune said. “We battled around in the second inning and plated six runs to make it 7-0.”

Evelyn Kreft and Kurstyn Patnode each doubled in the inning, with Patnode’s hit driving in three runs.

Two more runs in the bottom of the third pushed the lead to 9-0, as Kreft again doubled and after a Norah Fitzpatrick walk, Kennedy Drehmel singled to plate both runners.

The Tigers showed some fight in the top of the 4th when they led off with a solo home run and took advantage of two Bulldog errors to plate three more runs and make the score 9-4.

“We were able to answer back with three runs

in the bottom of the fourth to push the lead to 12-4,” Baune said. After a scoreless fifth, Maddie Sherman drove in Ellie Gallus with a triple and Kurstyn Patnode followed with a single to make the final 14-4 in six innings. Sherman, Patnode, and Kreft each had three hits on the night, while Jaimee Cook picked up the win on the mound going four innings and allowing four runs, one earned, on four hits and four walks. Maddie Sherman closed things out with two innings of shutout pitching.

Hornets

Tuesday, Becker again looked to avenge an early season loss, this time against #7 state-ranked Big Lake. For the third time in a row, Becker exploded for the win, this time by a score of 11-4.

“We jumped to an early lead with two runs in the bottom of the first with some aggressive baserunning by Kurstyn Patnode and rbi hits by Cadence Koste and Makenna Zerwas,” Baune said. “We added a run by Kennedy Drehmel in the bottom of the second to make it 3-0.”

The Hornets took advantage of some Bulldog miscues in the top of the third to plate two runs and make it 3-2 in favor of the Bulldogs.

“We answered with a run in the bottom of the inning to make it 4-2 and

blew the game open in the fifth with six runs to make it 10-2,” Baune said. “Patnode, Zerwas, Bartlett, and Sherman each doubled in that inning and Koste homered to lead off the sixth pushing our lead to 11-2.” The Hornets battled to score two runs in the top of the seventh, but Becker finished off the 11-4 win.

“Koste had three hits and three RBI, while Patnode, Zerwas, and Bartlett each added two hits,” Baune said. “Patnode got the win going six innings and allowing two runs, one earned, on six hits and a walk. She struck out seven before Jaimee Cook pitched the seventh to close out the win.”

With the win streak, Becker will look to continue their recent hot play and the team will get plenty of chances with a very busy schedule.

“We continue a busy stretch of softball with four more games this (past) week and close out the regular season with five games (this coming) week,” Baune said. “We host St. Francis on Monday, travel to Zimmerman on Thursday, and host our 8-team tournament on Saturday, May 21st.”

Becker’s tournament will feature some top teams from around the state, including #2 Maple Lake, #6 Rockford, and always tough Rocori and Northfield.

SHC Poetry Reading Program commences

Submitted article

(Editor’s Note: The following article was submitted by The Sherburne History Center.)

The Sherburne History Center will host an open mic poetry reading as part of the monthly series of programs at the museum. Beginning on 19 May, at 2 pm, the Open Mic (without the mic) Poetry Reading program will offer opportunities for local poets and spoken word artists to present their work.

“This is an opportunity,” Executive Director Mike Brubaker explained, “for local poets and individuals interested in poetry to share their commonality.”

Anyone wanting to share the love of poetry is welcome to attend and participate in the program. Brubaker will serve as moderator to present the open mic to participants and also encourage discussion about the poems.

The program is entitled Open Mic (Without the Mic) because there is no speaker system in the meeting space at SHC. Brubaker explained, “Acoustically, sound carries very well in the room, so no microphones are really neces-

sary. But, traditionally, the program is referred to as open mic.”

This open mic presentation is an experiment in new programming for the Sherburne History Center. According to Brubaker, SHC staff were approached about organizing this program to see if there is an interest in spoken word presentations.

If anyone has any questions or is seeking more information about the program, they can contact Mike Brubaker at 763-275-2210.

Sherburne History Center is located at 10775 27th Ave SE in Becker. Its website is www.SherburneHistoryCenter.org. The Sherburne History Center inspires and fosters a sense of community by providing resources to help people discover the past and gain perspective on the present so they can make informed choices about the future.



Becker robotics claims another MSHSL state title

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Nine years after winning its first state title in Cinderella fashion during its rookie season in 2013, the Becker robotics team struck again last Saturday, capturing its second MSHSL State Robotics title. This time the title pursuit was defined by several gutsy performances in less than ideal match circumstances, as the winning alliance had to overcome several obstacles, including being a robot short during a match in the semifinals.

“Winning the title was really unbelievable, there were a lot of cool story lines that came together,” Head Coach Alex Jurek said. “We knew the elimination matches were going to be a battle and it would come down to us being able to out-cycle the other alliance’s offensive robotics.”

In the end, that is exactly what the Becker team was able to do, as the offensive shooting prowess and elite level climbing abilities of its robot, Midnight Bite, proved to be one of the keys that carried the winning alliance to the title.

This year’s robotics game competition was titled Rapid React, and it featured points scored by throwing balls into a high and low goal, as well as being able to complete the most sophisticated climb in FRC history, a three level tower topped off by an upper bar called the Transversal Climb. Teams needed to design a robot that could climb four separate bar heights, each of which was offset from the rung beneath it.

Becker had a good overall tournament, finishing in tenth place heading into alliance selection, where four teams of three robots



THE BECKER ROBOTICS TEAM, FRC 4607 C.I.S., captured its second state MSHSL title in program history last Saturday on the U of MN campus. Pictured are the team members, coaches and mentors. (Submitted photo.)



BECKER'S ROBOTICS TEAM is one of the largest in the state of Minnesota and pictured here is the drive team, from left: Eli Bring (Human Player), Emilia Hansen (Operator), Isaac Wentland (Driver). The three students, along with Drive Coach Eric McCalla, are charged with executing the team's strategy on the competition field. (Submitted photo.)

each would be selected and

move on to compete for the championship. With its first selection in the alliance draft, team 5172, the #3 alliance captain Gators from Greenbush-Middle River, selected Becker (C.I.S. 4607). For its final pick, the tandem picked up team 1816, The Green Machine (Edina).

Although Edina finished the preliminary rounds ranked near the bottom, Jurek knew it was a great pick, as the Edina robot was an elite defensive robot that also had great climbing abilities.

“Edina had a great defensive robot and it was a fast climber, probably the only robot that could climb faster than ours,”

Jurek said. “We knew the number one alliance was very good, but we figured we had a chance to win it if we could get to the finals.”

That trick nearly proved unattainable, as Becker’s alliance won the first semifinal match 110-98 (best two out of three matches). In the second match, however, Becker’s alliance was thrown a curveball as the Gators were not able to perform.

A substitute team was on site, ready to replace the Gators, but that would mean the alliance captain would be done for the rest of the competition.

“We knew we needed them to win in the finals so a decision was made to compete with our two robots against the other alliance, which of course had three robots,” Jurek said. “The Gators had only 15 minutes to make a 20 minute fix to their swerve drive module so we just planned to get them ready for the third semifinal match.”

Jurek said the strategy was for the two robots on the Blue alliance to work on their game and not do the final climb in that match, since “many things can go wrong when a 150 pound robot is climbing that far into the air.”

Keeping the Gators on the alliance was a decision that was supported by the Becker students as well.

“Going into semifinals match two, due to some mechanical issues only us and one other member from



JOHN NIELSEN cheered on his team at the state robotics championship last Saturday. (Submitted photo.)

our alliance was on the field competing against a full three robot alliance,” Robot Operator Emilia Hansen said. “We just focused on doing our best without the expectation of winning that match.”

But to most everyone’s surprise, Edina’s defense and Becker’s prolific scoring kept the match close and then one of the red alliance robots suffered a malfunction, leaving the door open for the blue alliance to pick up the win, 74-69.

“As the match progressed, we heard our fan section begin to cheer and at that moment we knew we had a chance to win,” Hansen added. “After the final buzzer went off for that match our entire alliance went ecstatic. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and it really just got us pumped for finals.”

Jurek said that none of the coaches or long-time officials at the match ever remembers a two robots against three scenario heading into the elimination matches.

From there, Becker advanced to the finals against the top seeded alliance, comprised of team Stampede (Breck), Knight Crawlers (three time state champ from Irondale) and Rocori.

In the opening match of the finals, Becker’s trio squeaked out a 96-93 win.

The Gator robot seemed sluggish in the match and didn’t perform as well as it had earlier, but Jurek said the issue was traced to an issue with a less than fully charged battery.

“Rocori also fell off the transversal bar at the end of their climb,” Jurek said, sending the robot crashing to the floor. “Once we saw that happen, our drive team had the confidence to do well in the next match.”

Do well, indeed, as the blue alliance won the final match 136-112, posting the highest match score of the competition and bringing home the state title.

“State was a great experience,” Robot Driver Isaac Wentland said. “We were very happy to finally get another state championship win.”

The state title was something the team had its eye on since their competition at the World Championships last month.

“My experience at state was phenomenal - I was able to have the media pass during the finals,” said media lead Kayla Meyer. “I was right next to the field and got to be there in the moment. When the banner showed up on the screen saying Blue Alliance, I was ecstatic. The team was so determined after worlds. We really buckled down and

worked hard. I know that we all wanted a win and I’m so happy we got it.”

Jurek said he was proud of how his entire team performed at the state tournament, including the drive team.

“They drove the robot hard and in the process we did something that had never been done before at a robotics competition,” Jurek said, referring to the semifinal win. “Coming back to Becker and seeing the police escort and the welcome home at the school with over 100 people was a fitting end to a great season.”

Fast Facts from the MSHSL State Robotics Tournament

Here are some facts from the state title run.

- Matches start with a 15 second autonomous period in which the robot is programmed to do different tasks to score points. Becker’s robot performed flawlessly during these periods, including one code which collects and launches five balls.

- Becker’s drive team is made up of Eli Bring (Human player), Isaac Wentland (Driver) and Emilia Hansen (Operator).

- Human players are able to throw balls into the goal during the autonomous period, while Becker’s team had driver Wentland in charge of driving the robot and collecting the balls from the field, while operator Hansen would trigger the shooting mechanism and perform the climb at the end.

- This was Becker’s seventh trip to the state robotics tournament in their ten years as a team - winning the title in 2013, placing second in 2014, and finishing fourth in 2016 and 2019.

- Team members include: Matty Bellefeuille, Haiden Berrios, Noah Bloch, Eli Bring, Anthony Guck, Hayden Hall, Emilia Hansen, Greg Headley, Makayla Hoefs, Helen Jiang, Jakob Johnson, Landon Jurek, Joseph Kampa, Noelle Kempin, Lizzy Kluge, Kayla Gruenes, Saul Kortmansky, Collin Lietha, Lucas Briers, Vincent Martin, Nash Super, Kayla Meyer, Timothy Middleton, John Nielsen, Cameron Northensold, Adam Sura, Aliyah Szabla, Michael Thielen, Preston Thielen, Zach Ward, Isaac Wentland, Trenton Woolhouse, and Abby Stich.

- Coaches: Alex Jurek, John Stich and Joe Kurhaetz.

- Mentors (professionals who lend their experience and guidance to the team during the build and competition seasons): Ryan Swanson, Logan Steffen, Corey Applegate, Jim Cota, Katy Cota, Todd Kruse, Grant Silewski, Eric McCalla, Kris Fischbach, Matt Caden, Jordan Kortmansky, Katie Meyer, Ben Fischbach, Blake Soenneker and Evan Schmidt.

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MOVING SALE. 548 Forest Rd., Big Lake. Fri., May 20 & Sat., May 21, 10am-5pm.

NEIGHBORHOOD SALE. Multi-Families. Thurs., May 19, Fri., May 20 & Sat., May 21, 9am-5pm. 20233 167th St. NW.

MANS SALE. Hunting, fishing & tools. Thurs., May 19, Fri., May 20 & Sat., May 21, 8am-5pm. 576 Karen Lane.

GARAGE SALE. 17756 221st Ave. NW. Thurs., May 19, 12-5pm, Fri., May 20, 9am-6pm, Sat., May 21, 9am-1pm. Reduced prices. KS Sleigh Bed, Woman's Specialized Bicycle, Sony TV, Pellet Grill, Electric Smoker, Quality Men's & Teen girl clothes, Driving Force GT w/5 Playstation Games, HH Items, Wooden Blinds, wildlife Prints, Terry Redlin Plates, Prom Dresses, Woman's Motorcycle Pants/Boots, Fishing Map Books & Coleman Lathern.

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4	6	8			1			
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7	3			1	6			
8			6	9				
5	9						7	
			3			4		
	6	1						

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2	8	6	7	5	1	6	7	3
6	5	4	2	9	8	7	1	8
1	7	8	4	7	6	9	2	5
3	2	5	6	9	7	4	1	8
4	6	1	8	2	3	5	7	9
8	7	1	7	5	3	4	6	9
7	6	1	3	2	5	8	9	4
4	5	8	9	7	1	6	3	2
9	7	3	6	1	4	2	8	5

ANSWER:

This Week's Calendar Events:

Sun. - May 15, 2022:

- National Maritime Day
- Moon Phase: Third Quarter

Mon. - May 16, 2022:

- International World Turtle Day

Tues. - May 17, 2022:

- National Brother's Day
- NAIA Women's Golf National Championships (5/24-5/27)
- Morse Opens First US Telegraph Line: Anniversary, 1844

Wed. - May 18, 2022:

- BHS: Scholarship Night
- National Wine Day
- National Senior Health & Fitness Day
- Emergency Medical Services for Children Day
- National Missing Children's Day
- Star Wars Released: Anniversary, 1977
- NAIA Mens & Women's Outdoor Track & Field National Championships (5/25-5/27)

Thurs. - May 19, 2022:

- Ascension Day
- Eat More Fruits & Vegetable Day

Fri. - May 20, 2022:

- Don't Fry Day
- Kodiak Crab Festival (5/27-5/30)

Sat., May 21, 2022:

- National Hamburger Day
- NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Championship (5/28-5/30)

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

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Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events

BASC at Becker Community Center (BCC)

Mon., May 16: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's on.

Tues., May 17: 9am-Coffee, Conversation; 9am-5pm Cards today (Cribbage player partners available on most days or bring a partner, boards & pegs).

Wed., May 18: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's on; 3pm-BASC Board Meeting at BCC-all are welcome.

Thurs., May 19: 9am-Coffee, Conversation, Cards.

Fri., May 20: Open all Day; 5am-Coffee's On; 11:30am-"Lunch on the Run" meet at Kinistki's in Palmer.

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

Announcements

Becker - Organizations

Becker American Legion Auxiliary
The auxiliary meets the second Tues. of the month at 7pm.. For info please contact Paula Hinds (President) at (763) 262-6679 or see John Riebel or Nellie Simpson at Becker True Value.

Becker American Legion Post 193
Becker Legion meets the second Tues. of every month at 7pm at Becker Legion (old fire hall.)

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

Becker Boy Scout Pack 92 Cardboard, Paper & Aluminum
Bring your aluminum cans to the trailer located near Becker True Value. Paper & cardboard recycling location is at the Becker Community Center, please remember to flatten the cardboard & absolutely no garbage on the first Sat. of every month. There will be a Scout there to help unload between 9am-12pm. Thanks for your support!

Becker Evangelical Ministries
Every Wed., 6-7:30pm at Becker Middle School. GYM 45 - growing young men. HIS KIDZ - K-3rd grade. G.I.R.L.S. GROUP - 4th & 5th grade girls.
Becker Free Church (763) 261-4125 or register online at www.beckerfreechurch.org (under Youth Connection click "Event Registration").

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

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

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

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

Becker Sons of the American Legion Squadron 193
Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7pm at Becker Legion (old fire hall). Looking for new members. Commander John Fischbach (320) 249-0579.

Becker Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting
The monthly meetings are held 6 pm the third Thurs. of the month at Becker City Hall.

(320) 980-2752 or see the state website at www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org.

Compassion Connection
A 501(c)(3) community-based non-profit. We partner with local & private child welfare agencies. We fulfill emergency requests to expedite safe placement of babies & children & assist aged-out youth as they transition.

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

Great River Faith in Action
If you are a senior, age 60 & above, family caregiver or an individual in need of services, Great River Faith in Action can provide volunteer transportation, chore services & grocery shopping assistance, as well as caregiver groups. Call (763) 263-4277.

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

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

Big Lake - Organizations

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

Big Lake American Legion Post #147
Meets the first Thurs. of the month @ 7 pm. Community Room by the Big Lake Police Station, 790 Minnesota Ave., Big Lake 55309. Please contact Commander Paul Seefeld (612) 801-7731.

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

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

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

The Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary
Meets the first Tues. Mar.-Dec. at 6:30pm in the Senior Citizen Center at Big Lake City Hall. Please contact Kathy at (763) 263-6093 for information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big Lake Women of Today
Hold a monthly general meeting at Senior Activity Center located in the Big Lake City Office

Building on the 3rd Thurs. of the month @ 7pm. Contact Natalie @ (612) 518-3504 or find us at FaceBook or www.biglakewomenoftoday.webs.com.

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

Living with Parkinson's Under The Age of 60
We meet the third Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8pm at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street So., Big Lake, MN 55309.

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

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

Upcoming Clear Lake Events

Clear Lake Lions and American Red Cross
Give blood. Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood. So please come to the blood drive at St. Marcus Church, 8701 Main Ave, Clear Lake, Mon., May 16, 2022, 12:30-6:30pm.
Sponsored by the Clear Lake Lions. App/Info: Call Judy 320-743-2108 or RedCrossBlood.org & enter Sponsor Code: Clear Lake.

Upcoming Clearwater Events

May Young at Heart
Thurs., May 19 at Rejoice Lutheran Church in Clearwater, 10:30am with coffee, cards, & conversation with old & new friends. Lunch (suggested donation) will be at 11:30 with a program by Frank Erickson to follow. Frank has quite a story to share; he has written two books, he sings (even on the Grand Ole Opry) & plays many different musical instruments. Please join us to hear "the rest of the story." Please RSVP 320-558-6851 so we can prepare a meal for everyone. We look forward to seeing you.

Upcoming GRRL Events

COS Town Hall
Convention of States is having a Town Hall meeting at Great River Regional Library, Thurs., May 26, 2022, 6:30pm, Room 106, 1300 W. St. Germain St., St. Cloud, MN 56301. This event is free & open to all interested in learning more about this important movement & how to get involved.

Upcoming SNWR Events

Spring Celebration
Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge, Sat., May 21, 10am-1pm, Oak Savanna Learning Center. Food truck, story walk, live bees, kids crafts, nature store, bird booth & silent auction.
If needing special accommodation to Refuge Headquarters: 763-389-3323, sherburne@fws.gov, or TTY 800-833-8339, call ASAP.

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: **Bravacha Brands Company**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1607 S 12th Street Princeton MN 55371 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
United States Distilled Products Co.
Address:
1607 S 12th Street Princeton MN 55371 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: Patricia Pelzer
MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: govtregrs@usdp.com
Work Item: 1312175000026
Original File Number: 1312175000026

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
05/03/2022
11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the Patriot: 05/07/22; 05/14/22).

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: **Big Hot Spirits Company**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 1607 S 12th Street Princeton MN 55371 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
United States Distilled Products Co.
Address:

1607 S 12th Street Princeton MN 55371 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: Patricia Pelzer
MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: govtregrs@usdp.com
Work Item: 1312171000022
Original File Number: 1312171000022

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
05/03/2022
11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the Patriot: 05/07/22; 05/14/22).

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: **Becker Family Dentistry**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 12392 Pleasant Avenue Becker MN 55308 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
PDG, P.A.
Address:
2200 County Road C West Suite 2210 Roseville MN 55113 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: David R. Melloh, as Agent
MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: jdind@parkdental.com
Work Item: 1313213700023
Original File Number: 1313213700023

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
05/10/2022
11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the Patriot: 05/14/22; 05/21/22).

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: **Kitchen Wise of NW Minneapolis**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 8650 122nd Ave SE Becker Minnesota 55308 United States
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Legacy HomServ Inc.
Address:
8650 122nd Ave SE Becker Minnesota 55308 United States

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: Matthew J. Drescher
MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: mdrescher@kitchenwise.com
Work Item: 1272570200029
Original File Number: 1272570200029

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
11/20/2021
11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the Patriot: 05/14/22; 05/21/22).

Probates

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No.: 71-PR-22-34
Case Type: Informal Probate
In Re: Estate of
Thomas William Berry,
Decedent.

Notice of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors (Without a Will)

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:
Notice is hereby given that an application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Probate Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following: Kim Wheeler, 2253 200th St E, Clearwater, MN 55320 and Ginger Skille, 6724 85th Ave, Princeton, MN 55371, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.
Dated: April 25, 2022
/s/ Pamela Kreier
Probate Registrar
/s/ Patricia Kuka
Court Administrator
(Published in the Patriot: 05/07/22; 05/14/22).

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

DEADLINES

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

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Public Notices

Becker Schools District #726 Public Notices

**Independent School District #726
Becker, Minnesota
Regular School Board Meeting
February 7, 2022
SUMMARY**

The complete minutes are on file in the district office and on the district website.

Chair Swanson called the regular meeting of the School Board of District #726 to order on the 7th day of February, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Teaching & Learning Center.

Roll Call.

Members present: Aaron Jurek, Cindy Graham, Ryan Obermoller, Connie Robinson, Sara Schafer, Mark Swanson

Members absent: None

Others present: Jeremy Schmidt, Superintendent & Kevin Januszewski, Director of Business Services

ONE BOOK, ONE SCHOOL, ONE COMMUNITY, presented by Chantel Boyer, Ted Aleckson

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Shelly Clemen

Motion by Ryan Obermoller, seconded by Aaron Jurek, to **Approve the Consent Agenda** as presented:

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 3, 2022 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DISBURSEMENTS – in the amount of \$5,327,327.52

PERSONNEL, as presented

ATPAC ANNUAL COMPLIANCE, as presented

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFORE, as presented

Motion by Ryan Obermoller, seconded by Sarah Schafer, to Accept the Following Gifts:

Name	Gift	Purpose
Becker Lions	\$3,000	Dance Team
Becker Robotics Booster Club	\$2,330	Robotics
Country Lumber	\$250	Robotics
Everest Steel, Inc.	\$500	Softball
Grand Irrigation, Inc.	\$3,000	Robotics
Lutgen Siding	\$250	Robotics
MN Limited	\$500	Robotics
Monticello Social Unit	\$1,000	Robotics
Northern Metals Recycling	\$1,000	Robotics
Quick Results	\$40,000	Softball
TeamVantage Molding	\$500	Robotics
TJ Potter	\$250	Robotics

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Connie Robinson, seconded by Cindy Graham, to **Approve Resolutions Series 2022A, 2022B**. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:24 p.m.

/s/ Mark Swanson, Chair

/s/ Ryan Obermoller, Clerk

Recorder: /s/ Angela Oswald

(Published in the Patriot: 05/14/22).

**Independent School District #726
Becker, Minnesota
Regular School Board Meeting
March 7, 2022
SUMMARY**

The complete minutes are on file in the district office and on the district website.

Chair Swanson called the regular meeting of the School Board of District #726 to order on the 7th day of March, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Teaching & Learning Center.

Roll Call.

Members present: Aaron Jurek, Cindy Graham, Ryan Obermoller, Connie Robinson, Sara Schafer, Mark Swanson

Members absent: None

Others present: Jeremy Schmidt, Superintendent & Kevin Januszewski, Director of Business Services

CITIZEN COMMENTS: Chris Klippen, Joe Rand, Tim Fenske, Austin Clemen, Nick Roehl

PRESENTATION: STANDARDS & CURRICULUM, presented by Minda Anderson, Asst. Superintendent, Curriculum & Instruction

Motion by Aaron Jurek, seconded by Cindy Graham, to **Approve the Consent Agenda** as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 3, 2022 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DISBURSEMENTS – in the amount of \$2,855,915.44

PERSONNEL, as presented

SCHOOL CALENDAR CHANGE: March 31 will be changed to a Staff Development day.

Motion by Ryan Obermoller, seconded by Sarah Schafer, to Accept the Following Gifts:

Name	Gift	Purpose
Becker Band Booster Club	\$7,200	Nashville trip money
Becker Lions Club	\$1,200	Speech Team Expenses
Headley, Montgomery	\$500	Robotics Team
Liberty Paper Inc.	\$3,500	Robotics Team
Majestic Creations	360	T-Shirts Staff Recognition

Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

A First Reading was held on the following policies:

- 206 Public Participation in School Board Meetings
- 208 Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies
- 211 Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee or Student
- 423 Employee/Student Relationships
- 519 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies
- 532 Use of Peace Officers and Crisis Teams to Remove Students with IEP's from School Grounds
- 603 Curriculum Development
- 605 Alternative Programs
- 606 Textbooks & Instructional Materials
- 607 Organization of Grade Levels
- 608 Instructional Services – Special Education
- 609 Religion
- 722 Public Data Request

A second reading will be held at the next regular school board meeting.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:22 p.m.

/s/ Mark Swanson, Chair

/s/ Ryan Obermoller, Clerk

Recorder: /s/ Angela Oswald

(Published in the Patriot: 05/14/22).

**Independent School District #726
Becker, Minnesota
Working Session
March 14, 2022**

Chair Swanson called the working session of the School Board of District #726 to order on the 14th day of March, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Performing Arts Center.

Roll Call.

Members present: Aaron Jurek, Cindy Graham, Ryan Obermoller (attended remotely), Connie Robinson, Sara Schafer, Mark Swanson

Members absent: None

Others present: Jeremy Schmidt, Superintendent

A presentation by **Child Protection League** was given to the school board.

The work session was **adjourned** at 7:26 p.m.

/s/ Mark Swanson, Chair

/s/ Ryan Obermoller, Clerk

Recorder: /s/ Angela Oswald

(Published in the Patriot: 05/14/22).

City Public Notices

**CITY OF BECKER
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Becker Planning Commission will hold their monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 23, 2022, at the Becker City Hall, 12060 Sherburne Avenue. The Planning Commission will hold the following public hearing at this meeting:

Approximately 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing: Conditional Use Permit Application for a retail shopping center. Applicant, Jessica Treptau of JT2 Properties, LLC, has submitted an application for a Conditional Use Permit for the property identified as Lot 1 Block 1, Bank Street Addition, Sherburne County, MN.

Anyone interested in this issue is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend, please provide written comment to Mary Roe at P.O. Box 250, Becker, MN 55308 or by e-mail to mrroe@ci.becker.mn.us or by mail to mpflipsen@ci.becker.mn.us by 4:30 p.m. May 23, 2022. (Published in the Patriot: 05/14/22).



Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney



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Township Public Notices

**ORROCK TOWN HALL ADDITION & REMODEL
SECTION 001113 - ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION:** Orrock Town Hall Addition & Remodel, 26401 180th St. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309

TYPE OF BIDS: Single Prime Lump Sum bids will be received by Orrock Township in accordance with the Bidding Documents prepared by Negen and Associates.

PROJECT SCOPE: 1152 square foot addition and complete remodel of the existing building, including parking lot expansion.

PROCUREMENT OF DOCUMENTS: Digital bidding documents, including Drawings, Specification Manual, and Addenda, may be obtained electronically on May 16, 2022 from the following:

Negen and Associates, Lisa Berezni at (320) 251-3304, or email: lisa@negenarchitects.com
Minnesota Builders Exchange, Minneapolis, MN, (612) 381-2620, www.mbx.org

Printed sets may be purchased from Negen and Associates for \$75.00 (non-refundable).

PRE-BID WALK THROUGH: A non-mandatory walk through is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Town Hall. All interested bidders are welcome to attend to view the site, the existing facility and discuss the project with the Architect.

BID SUBMISSION: Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope using the Bid Form provided in the Specification Manual. Include all Bid Form supplements/attachments indicated. Refer to Section 004393 "Bid Submittal Checklist" for requirements.

BID DATE / TIME: Sealed bids must be received on or before **Thursday, June 2, 2022, at 2:00 p.m. CST.**

DELIVERY AND OPENING OF BID: Sealed bids will be received at the Orrock Township, 26401 180th St. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309 on or before the bid date/time, in accordance with Section 002113 "Instructions to Bidders". Faxed or electronic bids will not be accepted. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud on **June 2, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Town Hall.

TIME OF COMPLETION: The successful bidder shall begin the Work as soon as practical. Contractor is to provide proposed construction start and end dates based upon current supply chain conditions.

BID SECURITY: All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond or Certified Check in the amount of 5.0% of the Base Bid amount, in accordance with Section 002113 "Instructions to Bidders".

BONDING REQUIREMENTS: If awarded, the successful Bidder shall be required to furnish both Performance and Payment Bonds, in accordance with Section 002113 "Instructions to Bidders".

SALES AND USE TAX: The Owner is a tax-exempt entity; such as it is exempt from payment of Minnesota sales and use tax on materials purchased for the Project. Refer to Section 007400 "Purchase Contracts", and Section 002113 "Instructions to Bidders" for bidding and contracting requirements.

WAGE DETERMINATION REQUIREMENTS: Prevailing wage requirements do not apply.

RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTOR REQUIREMENTS: Bidder shall verify compliance with minimum requirements of Minnesota Statute § 16C.285 to be eligible for this Contract. Refer to Section 002400 "Responsible Contractor Requirements".

CONSIDERATION OF BIDS: The Owner shall have the right to reject any and all bids, accept any bid, waive informalities in bids submitted, and waive minor discrepancies in bidding procedures, as it deems to be in its own best interest. No bid may be withdrawn for a period of thirty (30) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids without consent of the Owner.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Direct communications regarding the Drawings, Specifications or bidding procedure to: Negen and Associates, (320) 251-3304, email: lisa@negenarchitects.com.

END OF SECTION 001113
(Published in the Patriot: 05/14/22; 05/21/22).

Brigg's Lake Chain Assoc. Public Notices

NOTICE

**Brigg's Lake Chain Association - Big Elk Lake
7005 100th Ave SE
Clear Lake, MN 55319**

The Brigg's Lake Chain Association – Big Elk Lake has contracted to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil, an Aquatic Invasive Species in Elk Lake in 2022.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted to the Brigg's Lake Chain Association – Big Elk Lake a waiver of the requirement that the association obtain the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, the Brigg's Lake Chain Association – Big Elk Lake will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This notice is one form that the Brigg's Lake Chain Association – Big Elk Lake is using to notify property owners. Other forms include but are not limited to notification on the association's member email list or website.

With regard to the treatment for this year, 2022:

1. The proposed date for treatment: June 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022
2. The target species for the treatment: Eurasian Water Milfoil
3. The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides, such as but not limited to, Floryprauxifen-benzyl, diquat dibormide
4. How landowners my request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property: If you desire that the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the Brigg's Lake Chain Association – Big Elk Lake immediately at the following mailing address and/or email address shown below:

BLCA (Big Elk Lake)
7005 100th Ave SE
Clear Lake, MN 55319
BigElkLakeMN@gmail.com

(Published in the Patriot: 05/14/22).

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**CITY PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
SEEKING FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE**

The City of Kerkhoven, MN, Public Works Department, is seeking a full-time Public Works Supervisor starting immediately. A complete job description and benefits package is available upon request.

Minimum requirements: Possess a MN Class D Water Operator's and Class C Sewer Operator's License and able to obtain a Class B Driver's License within 6 months of employment. Have a valid MN Class D Driver's License and a satisfactory driving record. All applicants will be required to have a physical and are subject to a drug test. **Starting wages \$53,830-\$71,780 per year/DOQ**, plus excellent benefits. This is a non-union position.

TO APPLY: All applicants must complete and submit an application for employment packet. Application forms can be obtained at City Hall Monday-Thursday from 8am-5pm and Fridays 8am-noon or by calling 320-264-2581 or by email: kerkhovenclerk@gmail.com.

Submit completed applications in drop box or by mail to: City of Kerkhoven, 208 N 10th St, PO Box 116, Kerkhoven, MN 56252. The City of Kerkhoven is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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• BECKER
Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)
Pastor: David M. Johnson, 763-262-7782, 11185 27th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. School 10:30am, Wed. J.U.M.P. 6pm.
Becker Baptist Church
Pastors: Nathan Bucher (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.faihlutheran-becker.org.
Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God
Pastors: Gerry Bass & Sarah, 763-220-6004, 13140 1st St (SW Corner of Becker Furniture World). Services: Sun. Bible Study/Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Snake River Free Church
Pastor: Steve Johnston, 612-219-8648, 180th St SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Sun. School 10:30am., Hymn Sing is second Sun. of every month.
Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church
Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am, Wed. Family Fellowship 7pm.
Beacon House of Prayer
Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm.

Free Grace United
Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, Becker High School, 12000 Hancock St, Enter door 11. Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm.
• BIG LAKE
Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church
Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am, Sat. Sabbath School 10:15am.

Bethany Bible Church
763-263-2167, 511 Eagle Lake Road. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.
Bridgeview Assembly of God
Pastor: Steve Royalty, 763-263-6274, 20500 County Road 11. Services: Sun. School 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
Pastors: Juan & Patricia Aguayo, 763-607-5403, 21 Lake St N. Services: Sat. 6pm.

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church
Pastor: Marty Mably, 763-263-3090, 15550 190th Ave NW. Services: Sun. 8am & 10am.
Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church
Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 440 Lake St N. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm; Sun. 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month (Masses held on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays in Becker).
Riverside Church
Online: www.myrc.church, 763-263-2410, 20314 County Road 14. Services: Sun 8:45am, 10:30am & 12:05pm.

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

9:30am, indoors or livestream.
• SANTIAGO
South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA
Pastor: Daryl Thul, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 8am in Sanctuary Worship, 10am in Sanctuary. Audio broadcast in parking lot for both services.
Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School
Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St. Services: Sun. School/Bible Class 10:30am, Divine Worship 9am.

Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA)
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Pastor: Shari Routh, 920-573-0193, 1100 186th Ave NE. Services: Sun Good Shepherd 9am, Sun. Glendorado 10:30am.
Gethsemane Church (ELCA) - Ronneby
Pastor: Barbara Peterson, 320-983-5002, 14478 78th St. NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.
Glendorado Evangelical Country Church
Pastor: Sam Alfano, 763-662-2244, 16999 Glendorado Road NE. Services: Sun. School 9:30am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• CLEAR LAKE
Living Waters Church
Pastor: Shari Routh, 320-292-0250, 7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Wed. Bible Study 6:30pm.
Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919, 8641 Main Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am, Sun. School 9:45am.

SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer
Pastor: TBD, 320-241-0123, Palmer Town Hall, 4180 105th Ave. Services: Sun. 5pm.
St. Marcus Catholic Church
Pastor: 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
Pastor: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502, 10915 Duell Road NE. Services: Sun. Mass 10am, Tues. Mass 8am.
• CLEARWATER
Clearwater United Methodist Church
Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

Freedom Bible Church
605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office). Services: Sun. Bible Study 9:30am & 6pm, Sun. Worship 10:45am, Wed. Bible Study 7pm.
Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA
Pastor: Jim Bump, 320-558-6851, 1155 County Road 75. Services: Sun. School that begins in Worship 9:30am. Livestream worship at Rejoice's Youtube Channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsJGuBda4orT9TWYi5vmGw

Church of St. Luke
Father: Dennis Backer, 320-558-2124, 17545 Huber Ave NW. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8am & 10am, Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8am/Sat. 9am.
Tri-County Alliance Church
Pastor: David Fogal, 320-558-2750, 8464 160th St NW. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• SILVER CREEK
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Pastor: Ken Tatkenhorst, 763-878-2820, 11390 Elliot Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am
Silver Creek Community Church
Pastor: Zach Pryor, 320-963-3957, 4282 114th St NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. Fellowship 10am, Sun. School 10:30am.

Obituaries

Russell E. Ernst, Age 81
Big Lake, MN
January 24, 1941 – May 7, 2022



Keith Ernst of Elk River, MN; Timothy (Karen) Ernst of Becker, MN; Terry (Vikki) Ernst of Brainerd, MN; Stephens Joseph (Angela) Wabs of Bloomington, MN; and Thomas (Samantha) Wabs of St. Michael, MN; along with many grandchildren and great grandchildren; sister Elaine (Ernst) Biegert of Monticello, MN, and brother Earl (Sue) Ernst of Elizabeth, CO.

He is preceded in death by his father Edmirel Ernst and his mother Luella (Winters) Ernst.

Russ was a loving, giving spirit. Even in his passing, Russ continues to help others by participating in the UMN medical school anatomy request program, which supports high quality education for future health professionals, and continued advancements in medical care through research.

A celebration of life is planned at the Monticello American Legion on June 5th, 1:00-5:00 p.m.

A private service is also planned for the family.

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by the St. Cloud Regional Airport).

Allegiant Airlines has announced that Phoenix/Mesa and Punta Gorda/Fort Myers service is returning for the upcoming 2022-2023 winter season.

It marks the return of Florida service after being seasonally discontinued for the summer and fall, and a continuation of service to Phoenix/Mesa since Allegiant will already be running this service in the fall

after taking the summer off.

The schedules to both destinations will be twice weekly non-stop through their winter season, which runs through mid-February 2023. Routes will generally run on Wednesdays and Saturdays to Arizona and Sundays and Thursdays to Florida. This seasonal service does not yet have a seasonal end date, but it is anticipated that this service will continue through April, which is part of the spring schedule that will be announced later this summer. Allegiant typically uses their Airbus A320 aircraft

for the St. Cloud routes.

"We are excited to see the continuation of this Allegiant service, which indicates the success of this past winter season," said Airport Authority Board Chair Brian Myres. "The St. Cloud Regional Airport offers an easy, convenient way to travel to these warm weather destinations in the winter."

Allegiant had a great 2021-2022 winter season, which generally runs from October 1, through May. For the St. Cloud routes this past season, Allegiant recorded the most passen-

gers since the 2018-2019 winter season, and the second most ever.

"We're happy to continue our relationship with Allegiant," said Airport Director Bill Towle. "Allegiant has been a great partner offering a great service."

Allegiant has offered commercial air service at the St. Cloud Regional Airport since 2012. Check www.AllegiantAir.com for specific dates and fares.

Feeders lose close match to Pigs

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

The Saint Cloud Feeders rugby club took on the defending Minnesota Champions St. Paul Pigs April 23 and came away with a loss.

The Feeders were coming into the match with just two practices under their belt due to the prolonged winter.

The Feeders jumped ahead in the match scoring two penalty kicks making it 0-6. The Feeders added on to their lead by scoring a Try and making the conversion kick making it 0-13, Feeders.

Changes were made in the second half to allow new players to get more playing time. The Pigs were able to take advantage of this, scoring three Tries missing all their kicks making the score 15-13. The match was a hard fought game going back and fourth down the pitch. The Pigs were able to score another Try and made their conversion kick making it 22-13, Pigs.

The Feeders never gave up scoring a Try near the end making it 22-18 for the final score.



A FEEDER RUNNER blasts through a Pig defender during the match last month. (Photo by Sharon Johnson).



FUNDRAISER TO BE HELD. St. Cloud/Clearwater RV Park (2454 Co. Rd 143, Clearwater, MN) will be hosting a fundraiser to raise money for Pinky Swear MS Society and Ronald McDonald House. Abracadabra Entertainment Co. will present a hypnotist presentation Saturday, May 21st at 7pm. The event is open to the public and there will be a \$5 donation. Contact St. Cloud/Clearwater RV Park for more information at 320-558-2876. (Submitted photo.)



INCLEMENT WEATHER brought heavy rain and hail to Sherburne County Monday morning. Connexus reported power outages as early as Monday morning. Three waves of whiteout hail took down several trees and knocked power out east of Orrock (Big Lake township) and washed the homeowner's driveway into the nearby pond at the home of Charles and Shamba Schmidt. (Submitted photo.)

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