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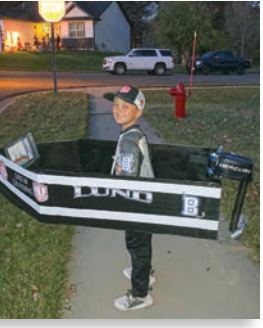
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## PATRIOT HALLOWEEN FUN!



DREW GRANING went "fishing" for some candy Monday evening for Halloween. Great costume! (Submitted Photo).

### Inside

**VETERANS**  
Be sure and check out our special section dedicated to veterans for Veteran's Day. The section starts on page 6.

**COUNTY**  
Sherburne County okayed a SCORE grant to Lupulin Brewery in Big Lake. See the story on page 11.

**BECKER**  
The City of Becker has declared Nov. 7-11 as "Kindness Week". See the story on page 3.

## INDEX

### EDITORIAL/NEWS

- Pages 1-16

### CHURCH DIRECTORY

- Page 4B

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Page 2B

### COLUMNS/OPINIONS

- Page 5

### LEGALS/JUDICIAL

- Pages 2B-3B

### CLASSIFIEDS

- Page 1B

### EMPLOYMENT

- Page 11

### SPORTS/ACTIVITIES

- Pages 12-16

### OBITUARIES

- Page 4B



### INSERTS

• Bill's Family Foods

• Menards

• Aetna

• Stanley Steemer

### Contact Us

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill @

reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com

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# THANK YOU, VETERANS!

## "All gave some, Some gave all."

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

With Veteran's Day approaching next week, the *Patriot* is running a special section in our newspaper this week to honor the services of all

local military veterans. Check out Katie Cantin's compelling story of a Big Lake Veteran who served in the United States Army for 27 years and has since been instrumental in getting a Veteran's resource

center on the campus of SCSU. The story can be found on page 6.

Also, on page 7, four Gold Star mothers were honored recently for the sacrifice their child has made to their service in the military.

They gathered for tea and spoke about their sons at a Gold Star Mother's Day Tea event in Wright County.

The *Patriot* would also like to thank all our advertisers who are sending their thank yous

to veterans by placing an ad in our special section. God bless this country's veterans and their families!

See inside ➔

## Dolan facing stalking, illicit act charges

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

On the days leading up to Election Day next Tuesday, the *Patriot* received court documents identifying six charges of interference with privacy and stalking as well as one charge for an ongoing investigation related to hundreds of thousands of dollars taken from Sherburne County Commissioner Tim Dolan's employer, Decklan Group.

The charges were filed by the owner of the Decklan Group and former fiancé of Dolan.

Dolan originally decided to not file to run for his commissioner seat months ago, but has since had a change of mind and is campaigning to be a quali-



TIM DOLAN, Sherburne County Commissioner for District 3 is facing several charges of stalking, interference with privacy and unauthorized financial transactions as an employee with Decklan Group. (Photo from Sherburne County).

fied write-in candidate.

According to court records, Dolan has been charged with one count of felony stalking and five counts gross misdemeanor interference with privacy. He's scheduled to make his first appearance in court Nov. 16.

The criminal complaint alleges in May 2022, Dolan suffered a medical emergency and turned access to his work phone and computer (from Decklan Group) over to the victim (not identified), with whom he was in a relationship at the time. The complaint states he did this so the victim could help continue his work operations while recovering.

While using the phone, the victim said she came

across several images and videos of herself that were taken without the victim's consent.

All the photos/videos were discovered by the victim on or about May 25, 2022. The victim claimed she observed over 20,000 images and videos of herself in various stages of undress, nude or while engaged in personal hygiene activity. The victim told the courts she panicked and began deleting the files from the devices, however, she said she was able to save roughly 500 images/videos from Dolan's devices.

At the time of the discovery, the victim and defendant were sharing a residence in Elk River.

In another revelation,

the victim told law enforcement she observed a text message between Dolan and a co-worker of his at the Sherburne County Gov't Center. The victim thought the text was inappropriate given the defendant's position with Sherburne County and the other person's position within the county.

Many images and videos the victim observed were taken while she was in the bathroom, either changing clothes or in the bathtub or shower, without her knowledge. Many images appear to have been taken either under the bathroom door or between the door and the door frame. Others were taken in the couple's bedroom during sexual re-

DOLAN to page 11

## BL Council recognizes K-9 officer's service

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

The infamous Bruno, K-9 officer to the Big Lake Police Department, passed away unexpectedly after a medical emergency. A formal procession was held for Bruno, and the Big Lake City Council took the opportunity to recognize Bruno's life of service to the community during the recent city council meeting.

Chief John Kaczmarek said a few words about Bruno, as well as thanking those community members who helped to make the K-9 program possible.

Bruno served from 2016-2022, and, in the words of Kaczmarek, will always "remain within the walls of our police department, and remain in the hearts throughout the community of Big Lake."

### Aeon Big Lake Station

The council discussed and approved a development application for Aeon Big Lake Station (Note: Big Lake staff member Lucinda Spanier, who presented the application to the council, said the developer would be changing the name of the development in the near future, so Aeon will not be the name it is developed under.) The development will be

K-9 to page 3



BRUNO MEMORIAL. Chief John Kaczmarek (right) presented Officer Guy Chaffee a shadow box memorial of K-9 Officer Bruno. Chaffee was Bruno's handler during the six years Bruno served with the department. The memorial box will hang in the police station. (Submitted photo.)

## Becker woman raises concerns over masking

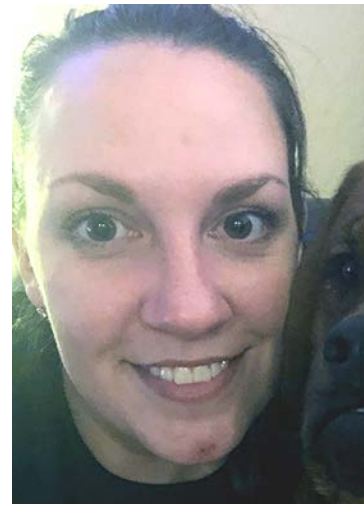
By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer  
Reporter.Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

Recently, Becker resident Ivy Acosta reached out to the *Patriot* after an experience she had with the Stellis Health Urgent Care Clinic in Monticello.

Acosta was suffering from stomach pains which would not go away. She called the urgent care clinic before they were open for appointments for the day on October 15. She scheduled an appointment but noticed on the clinic's website that masks were required for patients.

Over the phone, Acosta asked the receptionist whether it would be possible to not wear a mask. Acosta has, for many years, been unable to wear masks due to having panic attacks. She discovered this about herself as she was working for a veterinarian who required masks during animal surgeries.

Acosta knew she would have panic attacks if made to wear a mask, and asked whether a face shield could work, or if there was other protective equipment she could use. Acosta was told that this would not be possible without a note from her general practitioner. Acosta said she



BECKER RESIDENT IVY ACOSTA recently raised concerns over the Stellis Health mask policy. (Submitted photo.)

had attempted to get such a note but was denied.

The Stellis Health receptionist told Acosta there was nothing to be done, and Acosta attended her appointment with a mask on. She reported suffering two panic attacks while at the clinic.

Acosta posed the question to the *Patriot* whether the masks are still necessary, as reg-

MASKING to page 4

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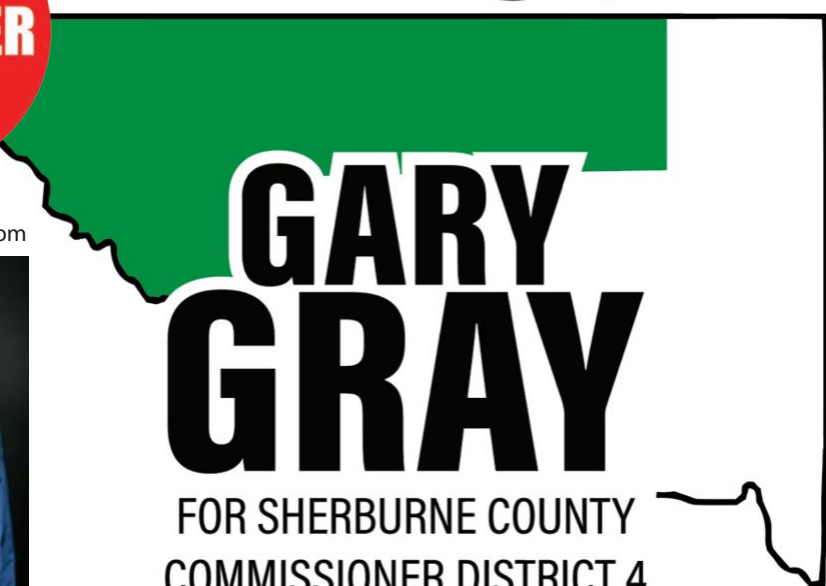
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# ELECT

# GARY GRAY

FOR SHERBURNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4

**VOTE  
NOVEMBER  
8TH**



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Prepared and paid for by the candidate and Committee to Elect Gary Gray, Sherburne County Commissioner. 6020 106th St. SE, Clear Lake, MN 55319-9624, 320-293-4399

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Gregg Felber

for Sherburne County Commissioner



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- Preserving Energy Reliability
- Supporting Homebased Businesses
- Supporting Law Enforcement
- Supporting the 2nd Amendment
- Protecting Property Rights

Paid for by Gregg Felber, P.O. Box 744, Big Lake, MN 55309



# ELECT

# GARY GRAY

SHERBURNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4

**VOTE  
NOVEMBER  
8TH**

www.electgarygray.com

FELIX SCHMIESING ENDORSEMENT LETTER

I'VE BEEN ASKED SEVERAL TIMES WHO I AM SUPPORTING TO REPLACE ME AS COMMISSIONER IN SHERBURNE COUNTY DISTRICT 4. I TOLD CANDIDATES WHEN THEY ASKED FOR MY ENDORSEMENT THAT I PLANNED NOT TO ENDORSE AND IF I DID IT WOULD BE SHORTLY BEFORE THE ELECTION. I HAVE DECIDED TO SUPPORT GARY GRAY BECAUSE OF HIS EXPERIENCE AND SUCCESS AS A TOWN BOARD MEMBER. HE HAS THE EXPERIENCE AND THE SKILLS TO WORK SUCCESSFULLY WITH BOARDS, AS HIS RECORD DEMONSTRATES. I ALSO FEEL THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT BOARD MEMBERS ARE ABLE TO WORK INDEPENDENTLY OF ANY PARTY OR ORGANIZATION THAT MAY BE GUIDING THEM. AN INDEPENDENT NONPARTISAN COUNTY BOARD IS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP US FROM BECOMING A PARTISAN GROUP THAT GETS INVOLVED IN ITEMS THAT WE HAVE NO CONTROL OVER AT THE COUNTY LEVEL. THANK YOU TO THE CITIZENS OF SHERBURNE COUNTY FOR ALLOWING ME TO SERVE THE PAST 20 YEARS. IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE.

— FELIX SCHMIESING


Thank you, Felix for your support, I look forward to continuing on your strong leadership for the residents of District 4 and all of Sherburne County.

— Gary Gray

Prepared and paid for by the candidate and Committee to Elect Gary Gray, Sherburne County Commissioner. 6020 106th St. SE, Clear Lake, MN 55319-9624, 320-293-4399

## Bruce ANDERSON

State Senate SD29



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		County
		Wright Hennepin Meeker

Prepared and paid for by Friends of Bruce D. Anderson, 3222 Aadland Ave. NE, Buffalo, MN 55313

# Re-Elect

## SHANE MEKELAND

for 27A Representative



**I am:**

- Pro Faith • Pro Life
- Pro 2nd Amendment
- Supports Law Enforcement & Prosecuting Criminals
- Continue to Support Our Power Plants
- Less Government

Fully Endorsed by Rep. Paul Novotny



Prepared & Paid for by Shane Mekeland 27A Representative  
P.O. Box 176, Becker, MN 55308

Please Vote for

## PAUL FANBERG

FOR SHERBURNE COUNTY COMMISSIONER SERVING BIG LAKE CITY AND TOWNSHIP



Paul Fanberg is a 60 year resident of Sherburne County where he and his wife, Karen, raised 10 children (blended), spent 45 years in drywall construction, active in his church and was president of the Association for Injured Workers.

Paul's focus for serving his district is to freeze the budget, freeze property taxes and protect the taxpayer's checkbook. Just like the family budget, when times get hard, we focus on the basics and essentials. Roads and bridges, not light rail

"We are in hard times and I respect that our residents have tight budgets with gas prices so high, inflation in everything we buy. While door knocking, folks tell me if property taxes keep going up so high, they may have to move. That needs to stop!"

Paul can be contacted at: fanbergP1@yahoo.com or 763.249.5884

Paid for by Paul Fanberg for Sherburne County Commissioner, 15396 196th Ave. NW, Elk River, MN 55330

Vote Nov. 8

## Kim NODING



Big Lake City Council  
www.facebook.com/Kimfor BLCC  
VoteKimBigLake@gmail.com

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- ✓ Attract new business
- ✓ Support local business
- ✓ Care for our lakes & parks
- ✓ Reduce taxes/fees where possible
- ✓ Communicate city happenings openly
- ✓ Community development - putting Big Lake first!

Paid for by Kim Noding, 3070 Lake Ridge Drive, Big Lake, MN 55309



## Vote Nov. 8th

- Election Integrity
- Budget Responsibility
- Public Accountability

CHAD WESTBERG

For Sherburne Co. Auditor

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# Area News

## Becker proclaims Nov. 7-11 as "Kindness Week"



THE BECKER CITY COUNCIL proclaimed Nov. 7-11 as Kindness Appreciation Week in Becker. Several events will take place during that week, including a donut drive through and a chalk event. Council members modeled packs of chalk available for residents to pick up next to the kindness week sign outside of city hall. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

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

During Tuesday's Becker City Council Meeting, Mayor Tracy Bertram proclaimed the week of November 7-11 as Kindness Appreciation Week. The week will be celebrated by reporting acts of kindness, holding a donut drive through, and writing words of kindness using chalk on city sidewalks (chalk will be available for free at City Hall and other locations.) More information will be available on the city's social media pages.

**Irrigation Pump Maintenance**  
Jason Scharfencamp of the golf course approached the board to approve maintenance on two irrigation pumps. This is an extension

of the maintenance plant that was put in place last year. The pumps will be removed and serviced over the winter so there is no downtime when the season begins again in the spring.

**Public Hearing: Utility Charges**  
A public hearing will be held November 15 at approximately 5 p.m. to allow residents to speak before unpaid utility charges are certified to their respective property taxes. The residents this applies to were sent notifications in the mail. Council Member Rick Hendrickson encouraged people to reach out if they had any issue paying the outstanding charges, as it was the goal of the council to work with people to find a solution.

## BPD Officer injured on welfare check

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by the Becker Police Dept.)

On Saturday, Oct. 29 at approximately 4:37 p.m., Becker Police Officers were dispatched to a series of calls regarding a welfare check. The check ultimately led officers to a residence on the 11000 block of 35th Ave., Becker.

While officers were investigating the request, an intoxicated male at the residence became belligerent and attacked a Becker Police Officer. With the

assistance of other officers, the aggressive male was ultimately subdued and taken into custody. A Becker Police officer was injured during the arrest and sustained a possible broken hand.

The male taken into custody was identified as Marty Melvin Henry Johann (35), of Becker. He was transported to the Sherburne County Sheriff's Jail and booked in on the following charges: 4th Degree Assault of a Police Officer, Threats of Violence.

Deputies from the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office assisted.

## ANDREW MATHEWS VOTE NOV 8



PROUD TO BE ENDORSED BY SENATOR MARY KIFFMEYER



" I am honored to be endorsed by Senator Kiffmeyer. She was a champion for tax-payers and Minnesota values. I pledge to continue to do the same. Thank you Sen. Kiffmeyer for your years of service to our district and our state. "

Prepared and paid for by Andrew For Senate

AndrewMathews.com



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Nov. 8th - Re-elect Mekeland!

Just an ordinary guy working hard for you at the capital!

# Shane Mekeland

FOR MINNESOTA HOUSE DISTRICT 27A  
Prepared & Paid for by Shane Mekeland 27A Representative - P.O. Box 176, Becker, MN 55308

**Raeanne Danielowski for Sherburne County Commissioner**

District 2: Representing Big Lake City & Big Lake Township

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- ★ CONTINUE TO SERVE & SUPPORT OUR VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES;
- ★ CONTINUE TO SUPPORT OUR SENIOR CITIZENS & FAMILIES IN NEED THROUGH THE COUNTY'S HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES;
- ★ CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE & SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH & JOB CREATION;
- ★ IMPROVED TRANSPORTATION NEEDS WHICH INCLUDES WORKING WITH MNDOT, FEDERAL HWY. ASSN. AND LOCAL COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO IDENTIFY A BRIDGE CROSSING FOR OUR AREA.

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Here is information for the city voting locations: https://www.biglakemn.org/documentcenter/view/4092/precinct-boundary-map  
Here is information for Big Lake Township voting locations: https://www.biglaketownship.com/  
Prepared and paid for by Raeanne Danielowski, 981 Nicollet Ave., Big Lake MN, 55309

**Vote!**

**Pete Weismann**  
Becker School Board

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K-9 from page 1

a 55+ apartment complex near the Big Lake Train Station.

**Police Dept. Update**  
Chief John Kaczmarek reported a total of 743 calls for service in August and 734 in September. The chief went on to note that he has reached out

to CentraCare in regards to certifying officers for EMT certification. He wants all officers in the department to stay up to date on emergency medical response certification and announced that this will be a requirement for all incoming officers to have.

The department re-

cently welcomed two new officers, Haiden Spotts and William Saliterman.

No parking is allowed on city streets from midnight to 8 a.m., starting in November and lasting until April 15. Parking is also not allowed after a snowfall of more than two inches. Those anticipating

large gatherings which may include overnight parking (especially during the holiday season) are encouraged to contact the police department in advance. Exceptions to the overnight parking rule may be made on a case-by-case basis (in other words, so long as there is not a snow event

during the time period in question.)

Finally, Kaczmarek noted that Officer Todd Siebert would be retiring, and thanked him for his years of service to the community.

**In Other Business, the Council:**


- Approved a re-zoning request for a lot off of Co.

Rd. 43, which will be the future location of the new Wave Youth Center location;

- Heard reports from the finance department, liquor store, community development, and administration.



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**MASKING from page 1**

ulations in other businesses have been lifted. She cited studies that have shown some of the negative effects of masks, and said this may be the time for people to voice their concerns.

The *Patriot* reached out to Stellis Health CEO Brent Wilde on the subject. Wilde stated that masks are required for all patients at this time. He said that patients who preferred to not wear masks were encouraged to take advantage of alternative treatment options, such as video health visits. Video calls with doctors have been a very popular option for many patients.

"It's very important to us that we do the best we can for the community," Wilde said.

He noted that the policy may change in the future, as Stellis Health officials see is appropriate.



BIG LAKE BEYOND THE YELLOW RIBBON WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE COMPETITORS AND EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE 6TH ANNUAL RIBS FOR THE RIBBON COMPETITION. THIS EVENT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL WITHOUT THE HELP AND SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEND OUT A HUGE THANK YOU:

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
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DAYLIGHT SAVING  
TIME ENDS

## Donovan, Magallanes Honored

*Submitted Article*

*(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by the Recovery Community Network (RCN)).*

Two awards were recently received by members of the Recovery Community Network (RCN). The awards were given for service to people living with a Substance Use Disorder and for service to St. Cloud State University.

Cynthia Magallanes, the executive director for the Recovery Community Network recently received the Marc Johnigan Peer Recovery Specialist Service Award. This award is given yearly to individuals who have made a significant impact in the field of Substance Use Disorder with underserved and marginalized communities. Cynthia has worked extensively with the Hispanic community, and the veteran community in Central MN. Cynthia is a woman in long-term recovery with nearly a decade of recovery experience and was recently promoted to the position of executive director for the RCN.

Maj. John Donovan, U.S. Army, Ret., and chair of the RCN board recently received the Alumni Service Award from St. Cloud State University during SCSU's Homecoming festivities. The award is given to alums of the university who have had a significant impact on the Central Minnesota community and the SCSU campus. In addition to serving in the Armed Forces for 27-years, Maj. Donovan was instrumental in getting a veteran's resource center on campus and he currently serves on the SCSU Recovery Advisory Committee. The RCN offers free, non-clinical, peer-based recovery support services to anyone seeking support or information on recovery in the Central MN area.

Information or help may be obtained by calling: 320-428-1887 or emailing: [recoverycommunitynetwork@gmail.com](mailto:recoverycommunitynetwork@gmail.com).

## Solar Overlay open house draws small crowd

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

Last Thursday, the joint Solar Overlay committee hosted an Open House at the Becker Community Center, where representatives of both the City and Township presented proposed maps that will be used to guide future solar farm development within both jurisdictions.

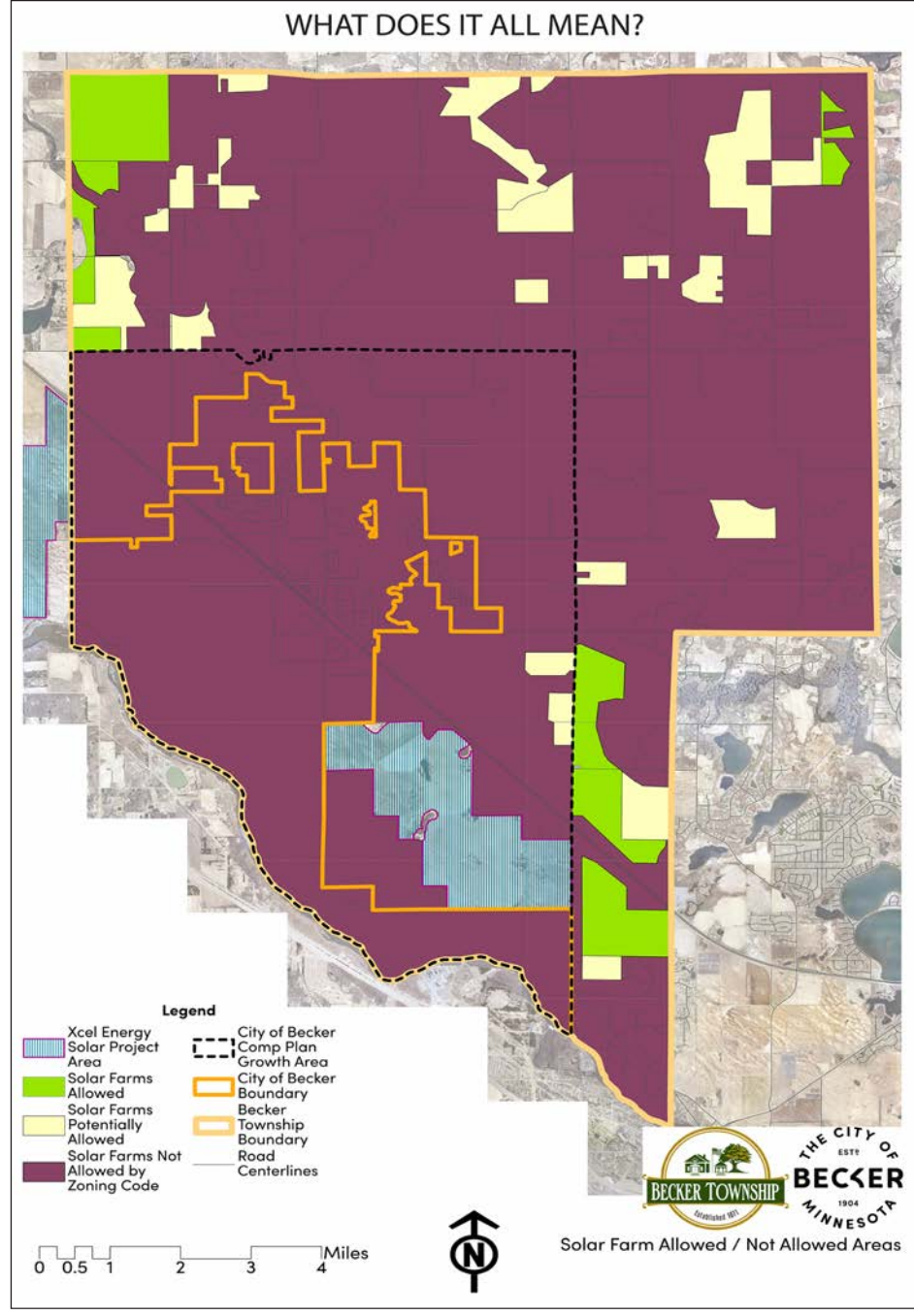
The meeting drew a trickle of residents over two hours, but representatives from both entities expect additional meetings and public hearings over the next several months as they work to adopt the proposed zoning guidelines. Once completed, the documents will serve as a guideline for land owners, utility developers and the two governmental entities as they work in conjunction on land use and planning issues related to solar farm development proposals.

According to the materials available at the meeting, "the purpose of this group is to identify appropriate locations and design standards for solar energy infrastructure that work symbiotically for the City, Township, Xcel, and other solar energy providers without jeopardizing future development potential of the City and Township. An effort like this has no precedent in Minnesota. Just as Xcel is planning and implementing for their future needs for alternative energy sources, the City and Township must take measures to responsibly plan for future growth."

Once the committee's work is completed, a final report will be "produced detailing the findings along with specifications for design parameters and other requirements for solar energy farms."

For smaller solar farms, producing fewer than 50 megawatts, the respective governmental units control the permitting process, while for larger farms in excess of 50 megawatts, the MN Public Utilities Commission has final jurisdiction.

According to City Planner Mary Roe and Community Development Director Jacob Sanders, the map will allow for consistency when entertaining development proposals. In addition, the maps will allow for better



THIS MAP, provided by the City of Becker, shows the proposed land use designations for solar farms in the City of Becker and Becker Township. Representatives from both entities stated at last Thursday's meeting that it would be amended to reflect leases that have been signed between land owners and solar developers before final adoption of the zoning maps, which is expected in early 2023. (Photo courtesy City of Becker.)

input into any potential future PUC permitting applications should they come forward.

"We have pieces in place for solar energy in the current comprehensive plan," Sanders explained at the open house. "But this planning process will help us go further and will give us more teeth as we evaluate new RFPs for solar development."

Roe noted that the current city Comprehensive Plan zoning code allows for solar as an accessory use, such as rooftop panels, but not as the primary use of a parcel.

"This is our first effort to address possible solar farms," Roe added.

Xcel Energy spokesperson Lacey Nygard responded via email to the *Patriot's* request for comment this week and noted that, "The solar overlay work being conducted by City of Becker and Becker Township is meant to be a forward-looking tool to help inform development of solar resources that better align with the City and Township development goals. Our shared goal with the City and Township is that the overlay map will help developers easily find public information when they are identifying potential project sites."

While the results of the plan will include a zoning

regulations map intended to be shared with utility companies such as Xcel, part of the study also produced Natural Resource maps that identified numerous land characteristics within the city and township, such as wetlands, tree coverages and suitability of farmlands.

Next, these maps were combined with a land use map that is outlined in the long-range planning documents for the city. From there, the solar farm Suitability Map (see visual) was created, which identifies places where panels will be allowed or prohibited.

Sanders and Roe both

emphasized that the maps aren't finalized and there will be additional opportunities for residents of both the city and township to weigh in on the proposals.

City Administrator Greg Lerud noted, "there will be a formal comment period and both the City and Township will have public hearings" on the matter before the adoption of the maps.

When asked about current landowners that have already signed developmental leases with energy companies, the officials acknowledged that those parcels will likely be "grandfathered" in, as zoning regulations cannot be applied retroactively.

Township Supervisor and Solar Overlay committee member Luke Babler joined the three city officials at the meeting, while Mayor Tracy Bertram also was present for the beginning part of the meeting.

Residents can visit the City of Becker website to view the maps and submit comment.

**Xcel Update**

According to Nygard, Xcel continues to work with landowners where current leases exist even as the solar overlay group works to finalize its work.

"Xcel Energy has honored all of its leases and has not sought to renegotiate," Nygard said. "The only leases that we are terminating before the end of the development period are parcels that the City of Becker requested to be excluded for economic development during the site permit approval process."

Nygard also explained that the company's 2022 Request for Proposals closed on October 7, and Xcel plans to "file for approval from the Commission in Q1 2023 for projects selected by that acquisition process."

With the expected ratification of the solar overlay in early 2023, Nygard expects that Xcel will continue to develop solar farms in the area.

"Xcel Energy looks forward to continued collaboration with landowners and local government units on project development and resource acquisitions within Sherburne County," Nygard said.



# Editorials/Opinions

## Nature Beats Tech in Deer Hunting

Humility and deer hunting go hand in hand. If a person has chased the whitetail deer long enough, they surely come away with stories about how the four-legged creatures have foiled the perfect hunting plan and used their superior senses to outwit even the most tech savvy human hunter.

Despite the abundance of technological advances at their disposal, from scent eliminating sprays and gadgets to sophisticated game cameras, the humans keep losing the overall hunt. According to aggregate MN DNR data, success rates languish each year somewhere in the 40 percent range.

In other words, in over 6 out of every 10 times a hunter takes the field, the deer wins.

Most people understand how the law of averages works, meaning that for every hunter who exceeds those odds, there's another hunter (usually me or the people I take with me) out there that are a drag on the scoreboard and keep giving the win to the other team.

I have pictures to prove that I am able to secure an occasional harvest (Bill Morgan must have cut those



By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

out from the article), but as most hunters know, it's the tales of the whitetails that got away that make up the majority of the memories from the field.

I remember one year, the Graning boys took me out on opening morning and pointed me down a trail.

"The stand is right there by the trail, you can't miss it," they said.

An hour later, when the sun finally began to rise and I was tired of looking, they were right. I couldn't miss it - lying right there on the ground not 20 feet away and still strapped to the trunk of the oak. Sometime in the previous week, the entire tree had blown down in a wind storm. Or else, the boys had pulled a

fast one on me... I've asked about it for years and they just hunch up their shoulders and smirk.

Then there was the time that I had the shot all lined up with my muzzle-loader, so I slowly squeezed the trigger and "poof"! I heard the primer ignite and I watched the bullet fall out of the end of my barrel. Bad powder? Not enough powder? Wet powder? I have no idea how Davey Crockett or Grizzly Adams ever harvested anything with those black powder guns. Even with the advances in technology, there is a very low harvest rate during the muzzleloader season.

A great memory from last year is when me and a buddy staked out a great spot in a corn field. The deer had been running a convention down a trail that came by and I thought for sure we could score a "double." Apparently, the Cervidae moved the party to a new venue and just as dusk settled, we heard a small grunt behind us. We barely turned around in time to see a doe just as befuddled as we were. Two more feet and she would have walked smack dab into us. I guess the scent blocker worked, but her hearing was certainly superior to ours.

I can't count how many times over the years I have driven my truck to a parking spot, quietly exited the

DEER to page 10

## Improving Literacy

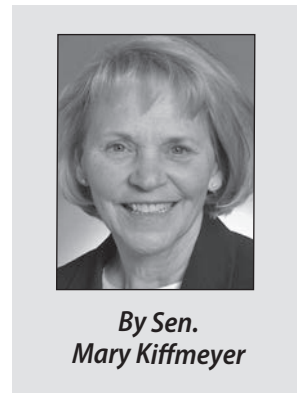
(Editor's Note: The following column was submitted by Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer.)

Literacy is a core, basic function of a public education. However, if a public education system is unable to teach literacy, then public education has missed the mark and for the sake of the children, immediate remedies need to happen.

In my districts of Big Lake, Elk River and St. Michael-Albertville, the public education system is above state averages. I know our educators work hard to meet the reading-by-third-grade benchmark. But we all know improvements are still needed to guarantee all children can do their best. That is why I believe there is no better use of school time than teaching the basics of literacy and mathematics.

As part of this, it's essential for parents to help their kids at home. This includes reading aloud to a child from their earliest days as well as practicing the recognition of letters and numbers. Education and learning are truly all-day, all-hands-on-deck processes that go far beyond school hours. Parents are key to the overall success and parents and teachers hold great responsibility.

Senate Republicans have seen this lack of literacy reflected in Minnesota students' increasingly bad results on statewide and national assessments. We know that if students fall behind in third grade, it becomes increasingly difficult to catch up and other subjects will feel the effect. Therefore, we continue to advocate for a special program, LTRS, which would provide all Minnesota teachers with indispensable training in the science of reading instruction to ensure every kid can read by



By Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer

third grade. This has been included in our budgets for several years, but it has yet to be included in any House budget.

To add urgency to this are the latest National Assessment of Education Progress results, which highlight nationwide and statewide standardized test scores. For Minnesota, the report shows a significant decline in student test scores on national math and reading exams, which were taken last spring by fourth and eighth graders. And this new data serves as an added reminder of just how significantly our Minnesota students are falling behind.

Alarming, the average Minnesota fourth-grade math score was 239 in 2022 - the lowest score in more than two decades. This score also dropped nine points since the assessment was last taken in 2019, while the national average only dropped five points.

For Minnesota eighth graders, the average on this year's math exam was 280 out of 300 points. That's an 11-point drop in average math scores since 2019, compared with the eight-point national decrease.

While eighth graders' reading scores did not decrease significantly this year, Minnesota's average 2022 fourth-grade reading score is the lowest since 1994. And our state's

fourth-grade reading scores also took a big hit since 2019 - down from 222 points to 216.

It's true that Minnesota students on average scored better than their peers nationally. However, the data above showcases how most of our state's assessment scores saw a more significant decline - when comparing our average 2022 scores with those from 2019 - than the national average. This is completely unacceptable and demonstrates that our state's current education leadership is failing our students.


Last year, Minnesota students continued to be locked out of schools and were learning remotely. The learning loss that resulted from the pandemic can be clearly seen in the new test score data. In contrast, Florida schools chose to fully reopen for in-person learning during the 2020-2021 school year. And as a result, they saw no significant drop in their students' reading scores.

We need to get our students back on the right track, and to do that, it is critical we focus on the most basic support we can provide our students - improving literacy. I strongly believe that Minnesota needs new education leadership that will take a new approach to learning. Our students are our future and it's vital that they are set up for success.

### Contact me

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





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- **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 11 am Wednesday. **Limit letters to 200 words or less.** Letters will be printed at the discretion of the editor and are subject to editing for grammar, libel and brevity. Two letters per writer per subject each year.
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## Letters To The Editor

(Editor's note: Due to space constraints, the Patriot will publish up to 5-6 LTEs a week as space allows and carry over unpublished letters to the next week, if able.)

### TO THE EDITOR:

The Chamber's of Becker, Big Lake and Elk River held a candidate forum in Big Lake. Area Sherburne County Commissioner candidates; Sherburne County Auditor-Treasurer candidates; House and Senate Candidates all gave their views on questions from moderators. Thank you chambers, it was a very informative evening. Today I want to focus on incumbent Auditor Treasurer Candidate Diane Arnold. Being a former city clerk in two cities, I had a great working relationship with the auditor-treasurer's office. Ramona guided Diane down all the right paths of being an honest, reputable and a conscientious county office holder. Diane has conducted herself, and her staff in an extemporary manner. She handles the county's funds for the best returns on our money. Under her guidance the department is run smoothly. Let's keep it that way! We need to maintain consistency in this office. About elections, if you never have hand counted ballots, which I have, it could be an eye-opener for you! This office has to follow state statutes. No exceptions. Any changes go through the state legislative bodies, not the county government! Please join me in voting for Diane Arnold, Sherburne County Auditor-Treasurer! Thank you!

**Nancy Fiereck  
Clear Lake, MN**

### TO THE EDITOR:

Gregg Felber is running for Sherburne County Commissioner in District 3 representing Becker, Orrock, and parts of Elk River. Gregg is a good man who will work to limit government, safeguard the integrity of our elections, and protect our God-given rights. Please vote Gregg Felber on November 8th.

**Paul Knier  
Big Lake, MN**

### TO THE EDITOR:

Character and experience count...and Gary Gray is the obvious choice for Sherburne County Commissioner in the 4th District. Serving on the Clear Lake Township board for 18 years...I am as chairman...Gary has the experience to serve us well. As a farmer and involved community member, Gary's integrity, knowledge of the workings of local government and small business makes him the preferred choice as our commissioner. He understands the unique balance between preserving our agricultural economy and accommodating continued growth in the county. We strongly support Gary's candidacy and urge anyone who is looking for responsible leadership for the 4th District to vote for Gary Gray on November 8th.

**Gary and Jane Marsden  
Clear Lake, MN**

### TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to encourage you to join me in supporting Lefty Kleis for Sherburne

County Commissioner in the new District 4. If you want a local, experienced, and dedicated person to represent you at the county, Lefty is your guy. He stands for the things I believe in like public safety, fiscal responsibility, reliable and affordable energy, election integrity, and expanding broadband access. This November we in Sherburne County have an opportunity to elect people that will truly represent us and our values at the county level. County commissioners have a lot of power over our day-to-day lives, and there is a clear difference in this race. One candidate has shown that he values money and himself more than his community, while Lefty has proven he is not afraid to stand up for what he believes in and will always put people ahead of politics. I'm sick of self-serving politicians. Let's elect Lefty Kleis to the county board to fight for us and our way of life. I trust him to represent me and to do what is right, no matter the opposition he will and has already faced.

**Jim Szczech  
Clear Lake, MN**

Are we really saving planet Earth by going green? Did you know there is a tropospheric ozone layer that cleanses the atmosphere? In case you don't remember the science, imagine a world devoid of carbon dioxide due to our destruction of nature's balance. As one by one, farmers replace crops with solar panels far as the eye can see, food shortages will become the norm. When going

### TO THE EDITOR:

green becomes mandatory, causing coal power plants and gas-powered vehicles to become extinct, and carbon dioxide is reduced near to nothing, everything green that depends on carbon dioxide will wither and die creating a brown planet devoid of the oxygen required to sustain life. Now every living thing including humans will no longer exist, and Earth, poisoned by a pile of decaying car batteries, will join other lifeless planets in our solar system. Is it worth it?

**Mary Jo Mosher  
Becker MN**

### TO THE EDITOR:

Becker school board elections this year present a unique opportunity with five out of six positions open. There are two positions open for a two year term, plus three positions open for four-year terms. We are fortunate that three good incumbents would like to continue, so the board can avoid being mostly new faces inundated with ongoing challenging issues. Please consider the following, all of whom have children in school. **Two-year:** Troy Berning ([berning4schoolboard.com](mailto:berning4schoolboard.com)) is in the IT business and as an incumbent has admirably handled the difficult issues thrown at him in his short time on the board. He will continue his excellent and conservative representation. Ryan Hubbard is a pillar of the community. He will bring his business experience and conservative values to serve well, too. **Four-year:** Aaron Jurek, a teacher, has served 12 years on the board and brings in-

stitutional knowledge and mentorship for newer board members. Pete Weismann ([pete4beckerschools.com](mailto:pete4beckerschools.com)) is a businessman and incumbent who joined with Troy as selected by the board. He is a strong advocate for rehabilitating the school's reputation and ensuring the continuation of conservative values. Keri Rickard is a businesswoman who participated in Becker's Strategic Plan and has kids in every building.

**Betsy Armstrong  
Becker, MN**

### TO THE EDITOR:

I just read an article entitled "Your Inflation Cheat Sheet" in AARP Bulletin (Oct 2022). Author Lynn Asinof listed several causes for our current skyrocketing inflation, including Russia, global shut-downs in honor of COVID-19, and even the \$5 trillion government's stimulus program, all of which certainly contributed to our current problems. Blatantly absent from the list was the fact that President Biden shut down oil production (pipelines, fracking, serious exploration) across this country, and opened wide our southern border to warmly invite illegal aliens by offering them huge quid pro quo gifts of healthcare, food, clothing, housing, and money in exchange for fentanyl and future votes. To add insult to injury, he also sold a large quantity of our National Emergency Oil Supply to China, further jeopardizing our energy supply and increasing inflation. I guess AARP can't be trusted to tell us "The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but

the truth."  
**Marlene Schultz  
Big Lake, MN**

### TO THE EDITOR:

I'd like to respond to a few candidate profiles that were in last week's paper. First, Raeanne Danielowski. She says she's for fiscal responsibility and yet votes to spend more taxpayers' money. She's not for election integrity. She votes in favor of giving new businesses years' worth of tax breaks. She supports the solar farm that's currently being shoved on Sherburne residents and closing of the Sherco plant. Next candidate - Dianne Arnold. Experience doesn't make her a good auditor. She's proven time and again she's not for election integrity by refusing to be forthcoming with the voting machines and data requests. She also saw to it that Kari Watkins was removed from the Haven Township ballot for Township Supervisor. Kari is running as a write-in for Supervisor - [kariwatkins.com](mailto:kariwatkins.com) to read the full story. Next candidate - Gary Gray. He states he supports the effort to keep the coal plant in Becker open and yet he's voted to approve the solar farm currently being pushed on us, which he will personally gain financially. Please watch past county commissioner meetings to hear the above issues that have been raised and don't vote for these candidates.

**Tracy Sodon  
Big Lake MN**



# THANK YOU, VETERANS!

## BL veteran John Donovan helps those in recovery

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

John Donovan is an army veteran and is the co-founder and director of Recovery Community Network, a local non-profit which aims to help those struggling to overcome addiction. For these reasons, he is the *Patriot's* Veteran of the Year.

### Family

Donovan was born in St. Cloud. He and his wife purchased a home in Big Lake in 2007, although Donovan was deployed at that time, so they moved into their home in 2010. The couple has two daughters and three grandkids.

### Military Service

Donovan decided to enlist in the army in 1985 in order to pay off his student loans. He had been studying German at St. Cloud State University, and so was excited to be deployed and stationed in Germany.

From there, Donovan said he fell in love with the service. He spent three years in active duty, then got a civilian job in Germany, where he worked for another seven years.

He took a break from the service for a few years, then rejoined with the New York National Guard in



JOHN DONOVAN OF BIG LAKE is a veteran and the co-founder and director of RCN. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

1998, and after that joined with the Minnesota National Guard, returning to his home state.

Donovan said he applied for a commission, and only nine months later, the 9/11 attacks happened, and he was called to active duty again.

In all, Donovan spent 27 years serving the country through his military career, and he retired as a major.



### Struggle with Addiction

Donovan said that he came from a home where alcohol was readily accessible, and he started using when he was only nine years old. When he was 15, he said divine intervention led him to find a recovery community. With counseling and self help programs, Donovan was able to start on his recovery, and he has maintained his sobriety ever since.

Recovery is difficult.

Donovan discovered this when his sister was unexpectedly killed by a drunk driver. This happened when Donovan was only three months sober, and the grief drove him to want to use again. Instead, he turned to the people in his recovery community, who helped him through the grief.

Donovan said that because of his recovery communities, he was able not only to maintain his sobriety, but to engage in the most important relationship of his life, with his wife, Leann Donovan, and his daughters.

Even after being sober for years, Donovan says he still relies on the recovery community during difficult times, such as when his wife had cancer and needed to undergo medical treatment (she is cancer free today.)

### Recovery Community Network (RCN)

Donovan joined a recovery community wherever his military and civilian careers brought him. He found amazing programs dedicated to helping people, but always saw an issue in getting the message out to the people who needed to hear it. The recovery communities would offer workshops or conferences, but would have very

low turnout.

Donovan decided to found the Recovery Community Network (RCN) in 2014.

RCN specializes in helping those in recovery in all aspects of life. Where AA and 12 step programs are great for becoming sober, they don't necessarily help when someone can't get an apartment or a job, or those who don't even have a resume after being off the grid for years. RCN helps to remove some of those obstacles to recovery.

For many years, RCN operated as a virtual organization, holding meetings all over central Minnesota, wherever they found a business that would accommodate them. After many years of "couch surfing," RCN called a meeting of many community members, including local leaders, business owners, and those in recovery. They asked a question of the community members, what did they want RCN to become? Of, in Donovan's words, "What should we be when we grow up?"

They determined that the next step for RCN was to have a physical location where they could offer in-person help to anyone who wanted it. They also determined that they wanted all of the services to be completely free.

They opened their first office after two years of work, but quickly outgrew that location. In 2020, they opened the doors of a new location, and had to close them again almost immediately as COVID-19 came to the United States.

While other organizations survived the pandemic by working online, RCN struggled to reach people as effectively as they did in person. Helping people over the phone or through Zoom was not the same as being able to look someone in the eye.

RCN had to work quickly to establish an online presence, and they went back to holding in-person meetings as soon as they were able, but even so, many of those who were in recovery never came back to the organization.

"The opposite of addiction is not sobriety," Donovan said. "The opposite of addiction is connection."

With connection cut off during COVID-19, many were simply not able to get the help they needed. Donovan said that many felt as if the rug had been pulled out from under them as they tried to recover.

In fall of 2020, RCN was able to reopen services in a limited capacity. Today, helps over 200 people every week.

### A Soldier's Recovery Journey

While COVID-19 shut down much of the organization, Donovan found he needed a project to focus on while at home. He had been writing essays on recovery for many years, and decided to collect them and compile them into a book, entitled "A Soldier's Recovery Journey." This book is available for purchase at Books Revisited in St. Cloud.

### Advice for Others

When asked what his advice would be for those seeking recovery, Donovan said the best thing was to contact RCN. There are so many services for veterans and others in recovery that it's almost like white noise. RCN will help people find the programs that will work for them, whether it's a recovery community for veterans who like to golf or hunt, or pursue other hobbies, there is a group that is right for every person. RCN staff knows how to contact all of these organizations and can help connect people to them. While it's best to call or come into the office, those who are interested in services but too nervous to call can visit RecoveryCommunityNet-

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# THANK YOU, VETERANS!

## Gold Star Mothers gather for tea

*Submitted Article*

Wright County Area Blue Star Mothers chapter hosted a Gold Star Mother's Day Tea on Sun., Sept. 25. Each year on the last Sunday in September the group honors the mothers whose child has made the ultimate sacrifice in service to this country.

Four Gold Star Mothers attended. The afternoon started with coffee, tea or water to drink, muffins, bars and fruit. As the guests enjoyed their treats, each Gold Star Mother was asked to tell everyone about their hero.

Stella Huso told about her son Wayde, who was killed in Vietnam in 1969.

**MOTHERS to page 8**



FOUR GOLD STAR MOTHERS spoke of their sons at a Gold Star Mother's Day Tea event held last month in Wright County. Front (l to r) Jeanne Bearson holding photo of her son Dougie and grandson Aiden, Stella Huso holding photo of her son Wayde Huso. Back row (l to r) Teresa Greniger holding her son Robert and Christina Friedman holding her son Teddy. (Submitted Photo).

## Update on Iraq Afghan Veterans Memorial in Becker

*Submitted Article*

(Editor's Note: The following information was submitted to the Patriot by friends of the Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Veterans Memorial. This is a re-run from our Aug. 27th edition.)

Becker's own local memorial honoring fallen veterans of the Iraq and Afghan wars is nearing completion. Mark and Linda Hoffmann returned this summer to create a book for visitors to look up and locate dog tags on the fence of fallen veterans. They also replaced tags originally hung five years ago as part of the ongoing maintenance process for the memorial.

**History of Memorial**  
Mark served the United

States in the Special Forces for 27 years and had three deployments in Iraq. Mark and Linda's son served seven deployments in the Iraq and Afghan wars. Mark and his son lost soldier-friends and comrades in the wars. Linda said she did what military wives do while their spouses and adult children serve in war — she kept busy and prayed for the safe return of their serving family members and for the other brave men and women serving in the wars.

The Hoffmanns felt there was a need to create a memorial honoring

**MEMORIAL to page 8**



LINDA HOFFMANN hangs another set of dog tags on the fence that honors veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. (Submitted Photo).

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# THANK YOU, VETERANS!

## MOTHERS from page 7

She told of his desire to fly and that she did not know how many flights he had actually flown. He received many medals including the Purple Heart. He had been a quiet boy and a deep thinker who enjoyed camping and family vacations. Wayde had a bunker mate that came to visit his mother and to this day continues to keep in touch with annual Christmas greetings.

**Teresa Greninger** told about her son Robert who was killed in Afghanistan. She smiled and chuckled as she told a story about a time when he was wondering what it was like to stick his head out the car window, like a dog does, and didn't realize that the car window was up!

**Christina Friedman** told about her son Teddy who died in Colorado. She reminisced about a time when he was young and he and his brother were wearing new matching clothes. They came into the house to change and Christina was proud of them for thinking

to change out of their new clothes and put play clothes on. She asked them for the clothes so she could hang them up. When the boys handed their mother their shirts they were ripped. She asked them what happened. Teddy explained that he had hooked the dog up to his pants and they



ripped. Asking Isaiah why his pants were ripped he replied that he tried it too just to see if his pants would rip also. Everyone had a good laugh with her over the story of brothers getting into mischief.

**Jeanne Bearson** told about her son Dougie who died in Okinawa. She told all that Dougie was a civilian pilot and enjoyed flying cessnas over Japan while stationed there. He also enjoyed rebuilding, supercharging and modifying his vehicles, something he shared with his younger brother, Billy. They would phone and video chat together, motorhead buddies. They would work on engines and talk shop for hours! This is a love that Billy passed on to his nephew, Dougie's son, after Dougie died.

While all these stories are different there is one common denominator, these heroes were very loved by their families and were proud to serve their country.

## MEMORIAL from page 7

the soldiers who lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghan wars. While Mark was in Iraq and their son in Afghanistan, Linda considered ways to honor the fallen veterans in these countries. She came up with the concept of making dog tags, one for every fallen soldier who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

After Mark retired from the military, the two searched the country for the perfect spot. That location turned out to be in Linda's hometown of Becker.

Linda was raised in Becker. Her mom, Judy Peterson, taught at Becker High School. Her father, Harry Peterson, was a highway patrolman. In 1956 Harry and Judy started a Christmas tree farm off County Roads 23 and 16. Linda's brother, Lee Peterson, continues to farm the land and added a U-pick apple orchard.

When Mark and Linda saw the beauty and quietness of the apple orchard, they knew the orchard fence was the perfect location for the memorial. The orchard fence represents protection to a peaceful place where trees grow to share their harvest. They realized they could hang on the orchard fence personalized dog tags honoring the lives of the thousands of soldiers who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

The apple orchard is under an acre in size, and its fence now holds more than 6,500 tags. Each stainless-steel tag was stamped by Mark, Linda, and other veteran volunteers having the name of a soldier, branch served, age at death, war in which the soldier died, and date of death.

The tags chime in the wind and their sound reminds us of the ultimate sacrifice made. Because the memorial resides in Minnesota, Mark and Linda chose to hang the



MARK AND LINDA HOFFMANN pose alongside the entrance to the dog tag memorial. (Submitted Photo).

tags for Minnesota veterans on the gate at the entrance to the apple orchard.

The memorial, named the Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Veterans Memorial, was dedicated August 24, 2019. At that time, a lovely cross was placed inside the apple orchard. A beautiful granite bench was made by a local friend and sits outside the fence providing a serene view to ponder the enormous sacrifice.

Mark and Linda currently reside in Vermont. They visit the Becker Iraq Afghan Veterans Memorial twice a year to maintain the tags and flags surrounding the orchard. The majority of the expenses have been consumed by Mark and Linda. (The reflection bench was donated.) They are currently creating a book that will show the exact location of every

dog tag.

The memorial is open for viewing during the U-pick apple harvest and the cut-your-own Christmas tree seasons. Guests should visit the [LeePetersonTreeFarm.com](http://LeePetersonTreeFarm.com) website, Lee Peterson Tree Farm Facebook page, or call 612-423-3441 for dates and times. Alternatively, appointments can be made by calling the Hoffmann's at 802-473-3502 or 802-473-0144. They may also be contacted regarding volunteer opportunities for the memorial.

The Iraq and Afghanistan Fallen Veterans Memorial is a 501(c)3 non-profit. If one wishes to make a contribution or a matching donation, visit [IraqAfghanVeteranMemorialMN.org](http://IraqAfghanVeteranMemorialMN.org).

## DONOVAN from page 6

work.com to view services.

Donovan's advice for everyone, regardless of whether they are in search of recovery, is to find a way to serve the community. Donovan believes that it is through service that people can access their better, higher selves. And it doesn't just benefit the individual, but everyone in the community. Those who step up to serve on their city council, in the armed forces, or even just by coaching a local youth team, everyone benefits when people step up to serve.

Donovan quoted Alexander Pope, saying, "Act well your part, there all the honor lies."

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**BL Grad Gets Stationed at Stennis Space Center**

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

*(Editor's Note: The following article is being re-run from our Oct. 15th issue of the Patriot.)*

Austin Abbott, a Big Lake High School Graduate, is currently serving as an oceanographer with the US Navy at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. Abbott kindly sat down with this reporter to talk about his career and service.

**Education**

Abbott was born and raised in Big Lake. He lived there through high school with his parents, Don and Lisa Abbott, and sister, Shealyn Abbott. He graduated from Big Lake High School in 2013.

After high school, Abbott joined the Army National Guard, where he served for six years. During his service, Abbott also attended school, earning his undergraduate de-

**AUSTIN ABBOTT OF BIG LAKE is currently serving as an oceanographer for the US Navy at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. (Submitted photo.)**

gree in biology from the University of Minnesota. During his time at the U of M, Abbott participated in a program that worked with invasive species. He helped to find solutions to keep Asian Karp out of the great lakes lock and dam systems. He

## Clearwater Legion Riders again donate thousands to veteran's organizations

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

*(Editor's Note: The following article appeared in our Oct. 15 issue of the Patriot.)*

On September 26 the Clearwater Legion Riders held a spaghetti dinner to

First to be awarded a donation was Angel Reins, an organization that provides equestrian therapy to veterans, survivors of human trafficking, and others suffering from PTSD, depression, and anxiety. Most of the horses they use are rescues.

"They [the horses] have

includes physicians, licensed professionals, veteran families, community leaders, and military advocates, understand the profound impact that war and military service has on veterans and their families.

Because of the overabundance of dogs in pounds,

everything a vet might need, including help with rent, a car, legal issues, furniture, mattresses, and boxes of food each month. Representative Bob Berens stated they'd given out 239 boxes of food in 2022 so far, and they were on target to give away 750 boxes by the end of the year. They also work with eight area businesses to provide good jobs.

"Whatever a veteran needs we can help," said Berens.

Veterans on the Lake Resort was next, an organization near the Boundary Waters with the mission of enriching the lives of disabled veterans, current and formerly enrolled veterans, and their families by providing opportunities for inclusion in outdoor recreational activities and mental respite. Their current goal is to have their pier access and all of their cabins and services wheelchair accessible.

Last up was Wounded Warrior Guide Service, whose representative spoke about their mission to provide recreational therapy to around 800 veterans each year by bringing them outdoors to experience activities such as hunting and camping trips and fishing events.

The Clearwater Legion Riders' Homeless Veteran's Run and Fundraiser is held annually on the first weekend of August. Along with the ride, this year's event included silent and live auctions, raffles, dinner, and a street dance. All proceeds from the event are used for veteran causes.



THE CLEARWATER LEGION RIDERS celebrate with the recipients of their 2022 Homeless Vets Run funds.. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

celebrate the success of their annual Homeless Vets Run fundraiser and award the proceeds of their hard work.

The Riders invited their donors and this year's non-profit veterans' organizations to the event so everyone could be present and see where the money they raised is going. This year's recipients were Angel Reins, Magnus Veterans Foundation, Patriot Assistance Dogs, St. Cloud Stand Down, Veterans on the Lake Resort, and Wounded Warrior Guide Service.

The organizations were chosen as they were deemed to have the most impact for the money in veterans' lives; each was awarded \$7,500.

gone through a lot and bond well with the veterans," said one of the representatives for Angel Reins. A veteran helped by their organization also shared how it had saved his life.

Next was Magnus Veterans Foundation, which provides holistic care for veterans and their families. The organization just opened last summer with the mission to heal and honor veterans and their families through community fellowship and a comprehensive approach to restoring the body, heart, mind, and spirit.

The organization's founders have over 100 years of combined military service, and their team, which

Patriot Assistant Dogs, the third recipient, decided to use rescue dogs to provide highly trained, certified psychiatric service dogs to veterans. The cost for each dog trained averages \$19,000, however they provide the animals to veterans at no cost.

"To say he [his dog] saved my life is an understatement," said one of the veterans who attended the event with his dog and explained how the organization and the dog they provided him had impacted his life.

Recipient number four was St. Cloud Stand Down, whose mission is to provide veterans with dignity and respect. They provide ev-

## Veteran's Stories Can Inspire, Change Lives

*(Editor's Note: This is a re-run of a column Mark Kolbinger wrote back in September for the Patriot Newspaper.)*

Last week, I was honored to report on an incredible Patriot's Day event held at The Palmer House. The "half-hour" assignment turned into an entire day, as there was a certain energy and reverence that kept my wife and I and our friends in attendance for quite some time.

Part of the program was an effort to raise funds for preventing Veteran suicides. When a United States Veteran dies by suicide, it is a tragedy for not only the service member's family and loved ones, but also the soldiers with whom they served. It's an issue that deserves attention from everyday citizens, as well as the many politicians who boldly announce that they "support our troops." As a society, we shouldn't need fundraisers to scrape together enough money to prevent these tragedies. Whether it be local, county or state government, much more can be done to "support our troops" - past, present and future.

The day's activities allowed me to reflect upon many things, including my familial experience with Veterans.

I remember one year when a local politician was busy "greeting" residents at the Memorial Day service at the Becker cemetery, an event

never seen this person there before, and since that person left office I have not seen him there again.

It's a quick event, but one that I find important in honoring those men and women - like my dad and grandfather - that served our country and are no longer with us. It's inspiring to hear the names read each year by the Legion members and also to visit with many of the same people I see there each year.

My dad passed away in 1994 and soon after I was looking through some of his possessions when I found his Army uniform that was embossed with an Airborne patch. Up until that point, I was clueless about most of his service, as he didn't like to talk about it. Airborne? I had no idea.

That simple uniform, however, lit a spark inside of me to learn more about his service and the history

of our military and the people who have served valiantly to protect our freedoms.

It also kindled my spirit to read books about our Armed Forces and the myriad of amazing soldiers whose exploits, honor and duty have been immortalized in print.

The amount and quality of literature related to soldiers, our Armed Forces and the history

One of the books I picked up at The Palmer House commemoration was titled Heart of A Ranger and it details the life of Ben Kopp, a decorated hero who died as a result of the injuries he sustained in Afghanistan. The story is powerful, mesmerizing and relentless - a tiny window into the many emotions experienced by not only the soldiers themselves, but their family and loved ones.

I had a hard time putting the book down, even though I knew how it was going to end. I laughed so hard at times that I nearly cried. At other times, I did cry. A lot.

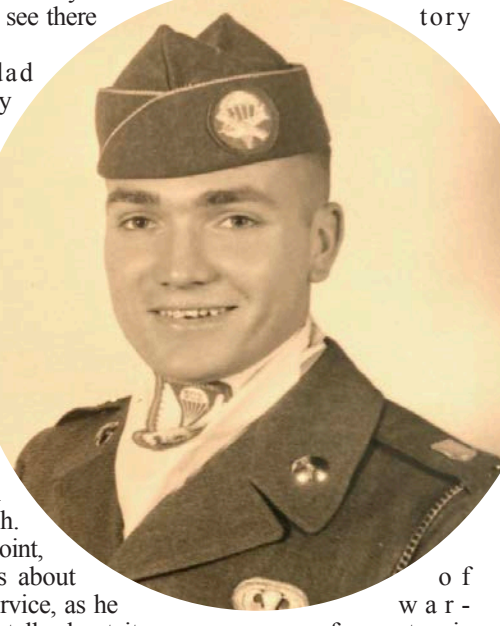
Reading the stories of our Veterans can inspire and change our lives. It might also compel us to take action, donate to a cause or simply say "thank you" to a Veteran... or to read a book.

Heart of a Ranger was a great one. Kris Paronto also has several excellent books... or there's one of my all-time favorites: Operation Broken Reed. It's a look into a secret mission during the Korean War that may have prevented WWII.

Pick up a book. Thank a Veteran. Sponsor a bill that funds services for suicide prevention for our heroes that helped to secure our freedom. Each of us has something we can do to recognize their service to our country.



By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer



really enjoyed the program and working on the water, but wanted to aim for a field that was more technical than the biology he'd been studying previously.

He was turned on to oceanography, and earned his master's degree in the subject from Old Dominion University in Virginia.

Abbott also graduated from officer candidate school in Rhode Island.

**Military Service**

Abbott said it was always his dream to join the military and serve his country. He joined the Army National Guard after high school and served for six years and enjoyed it, but he felt it wasn't enough. He wanted to continue to pursue a career with the military, as well as incorporate his interest in science.

He discovered the oceanography program with the Navy and so he pursued being commissioned as an officer.

Abbott said it was the perfect place for him, as he gets to pursue two of his passions in one job: studying oceanography and serving with the military.

**Oceanography**

Abbott is one of only 300 oceanographers serving with the US Navy. Currently stationed Stennis Space Center, Abbott says it's very cool to be serving on a NASA base, even if he doesn't interact with the NASA operations. While on base, Abbott works on training on the Pearl River which runs nearby.

Navy Oceanographers are commissioned by the Navy and other branches of the military to survey river

and littoral (coastal) areas. They ensure the safety and successful navigation of military ships by mapping the area using sonar technology. Oceanographers may be commissioned to work in the US or overseas.

Abbott said he recently returned from a trip to Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. Abbott said the trip was fascinating, as he got the chance to try out new technology: an unmanned underwater vehicle. Abbott said the machine looked kind of like a torpedo. He directed it where he wanted it to go and it went out to take measurements for the team. Usually, sonar measurements are captured from a boat, so it was a unique experience.

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## High oil costs impact Clear Lake Twp. road projects

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

During the township's October meeting, Twp. Engineer Terrance Vander Eyk informed the Clear Lake Twp. Board of Supervisors that road projects costs have gone up significantly due to the high price of oil, explaining last year's estimate of \$81,000 to reclaim and overlay 74th Street/Long Lake Lane is now \$121,200. The project was originally scheduled for 2022 but was held back.

A number of roads will be candidates for future road work, including White Farms, however, Eyk stated it would be a stretch to get it done as planned in 2024 if costs stay elevated.

Board approval was given to proceed with contacting the contractor for minor road maintenance issues, including shoulder repair on 70th Ave., drainage and culvert issue in Sherwood Shores, and a stretch of 71st.

The board approved the remaining \$3,225 pay-



MARC SCHNEIDER presents updates on what Sherburne Co. Planning and Zoning is doing in Clear Lake Twp. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

ment for the township's 2022 sealcoat projects. Updates from the most recent Hwy 10 taskforce meeting were provided. The plan continues to be

to turn the highway into a controlled access interstate, which will greatly impact local farmers and businesses. A matrix of land is-

suess and costs is being created and will be part of the upcoming November 9 meeting. Everyone is encouraged to attend that day's open house and meeting that will be held at Haven Town Hall.

Glen Goenner approached the board to discuss what used to be 100th Ave., stating he would like to see it abandoned. He's concerned Xcel Energy, which is asking for an easement, may ruin the road with their use.

Chairman Gary Gray informed him the road would be under township authority, and if compromised they would have to rebuild it to township standards. He suggested a meeting with all stakeholders so everyone is on the same page.

**Planning and Zoning Update**  
Zach Guttormson, Marc Schneider, and Dave Lucas of Sherburne Co. Planning and Zoning updated the Clear Lake Board of Supervisors on the work the department is doing in their township.

A presentation was given on the county's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which included discussions on housing, natural resources, agriculture, and farming. Along with other information, the board was informed:

- There has been increased demand in housing, including more apartments, workforce housing in rural areas, entry level homes, and a variety of housing types. Their survey found the majority of respondents want them to continue to support the minimum residential lot size of 2.5 acres.
- Due to its sandy soils, the majority of the county's water table has been identified as high pollution sensitivity, with high concentrations of key pollutants found in water wells. Several lakes and streams are impaired for a variety of pollutants.
- Statistics on the county's agriculture and farming industry were shared, and survey respondents indicated they wanted to see protection for ag lands for future farming activities

and for ag landowners to have flexibility to develop their land.

**Other Business**  
Supervisor Bud Stimmeler informed the board 4,000 wildflower plugs had recently been planted in the park.

The new park playground equipment is scheduled to be installed Nov. 5.

The board reviewed the draft AED (automated external defibrillator) resolution, which states the township will be responsible for maintenance on up to seven units for a five year period.

The sheriff reported 105 calls for service, including 55 traffic stops, two property damage, and two DWIs. He informed the board fraud calls from a person claiming to be from the sheriff's office were being reported.

The next Clear Lake Twp. meeting will be Nov. 15 at 7 p.m.

## BL Twp. hears from BLFD, County, prepares for election

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

During last week's meeting, the Big Lake Township Board of Supervisors heard a report from Chief Hansen of the BLFD, listened to a presentation by county planning and zoning staff, and gave information on the upcoming election.

**BLFD Report**  
Chief Seth Hansen of the Big Lake Fire Department noted there were 33 calls for service last month, five in the township.

Fire prevention week was a success. Hansen noted that the kids loved the free pumpkins given away.

Finally, Hansen noted that he and some of the other department leaders would be taking a trip to Appleton, Wisconsin, to look over the new truck the department ordered. In a few months, the truck will be ready for a final inspection.

**Planning and Zoning Presentation**  
Staff members from the county stopped by the meeting to give an update on the work being done with the county comprehensive plan.

The comprehensive plan is required by state law and is updated every 10 years.

County staff has been attending local government meetings around the county in order to hear opinions from county constituents as they move forward with the project.

Sherburne County is expected to grow 22% in the next 40 years. This is projected to drive many changes in the county, increasing a demand for apartments, and creating more urban areas, especially around the edges of the cities.

Staff also spoke regarding the "missing middle." The lack of step-up housing, for those looking for a nicer home after owning a starter home, is a concern.

To manage some of the housing issues, staff is considering changing the ordinances regarding accessory dwelling units (a mother-in-law house, for example.) They are also considering encouraging smaller lot sizes in the townships.

In Sherburne County, 35% of the land area is zoned for agricultural use. The county is unusual in that it is one of the only counties in Minnesota in which the agricultural use has increased vs. decreased. Of all the farms, 96% are family owned, and many are very small farms, with property owners growing ag products on less than 10 acres of land.

Soil in the county tends to be sandy, and so is more susceptible to pollutants. The staff members spoke on some of their efforts to protect the natural environment as the county continues to grow.

The staff members asked the board to consider the presentation and send their

feedback to the planning and zoning department within the week.

**Election Information**  
Absentee voting is still open in person at the county auditor's office in the county government center Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., and Monday, Nov. 6, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Reporter's Note: At this point in time, it is not wise to mail absentee ballots, as they may not arrive on time.) The general election will be this Tuesday, November 8. Absentee ballots may be turned in at the auditor's office on election day until 3 p.m. Absentee ballots will not be accepted at polling locations.

Big Lake has three precincts. Residents may locate their precincts at BigLake-Township.com.

**Other News**  
There will only be one town board meeting in November, on November 16, 6 p.m.

**DEER from page 5**

vehicle and walked over the hill and through the woods to my stand, only to return hours later and see deer tracks right over the top of the ones I made going in. I think the deer do that one on purpose just for spite.

Hunters love to tell the stories about the times they were successful, but there's usually a far greater number of agonizing anecdotes about the "one that got away."

As many of our readers are picking up their copy of the Patriot on Saturday morning, there's going to be a fair number of readers who are out in their stand in pursuit of the monster "30 point" buck.

The best advice to remember is that any hunt that ends in coming home safely is a chance at another great story to share with those other liars, I mean hunters, that have donned the orange.

For me, I'll be waiting again this year for muzzle-loader season. After all, blaming a bad batch of powder is the perfect excuse for me as to why "another one got away."

Despite all the technology in the world, it remains a challenge to better Mother Nature.

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## Xcel Energy proposes to exit coal by 2030

Submitted Article

*(Editor's Note: The following article is a press release issued by Xcel Energy's Media Relations Dept.)*

Xcel Energy announced Monday a proposal to advance the retirement of coal operations at Tolk Generating Station in Texas to 2028, more than four years earlier than planned. With this earlier retirement, along with accelerated coal plant retirements in other states, the company will exit the use

of coal by the end of 2030 when the Comanche 3 coal unit in Colorado retires. Xcel Energy plans to continue operations of currently installed synchronous condensers at Tolk after 2028 as they continue to help ensure the stability of the regional grid.

Through future regulatory processes, the company expects a diverse mix of replacement generation, including wind and solar, to be developed near Tolk after coal operations are retired. "For more than forty years, the dedicated employees at Tolk Generating Station have provided reliable and safe service to our Texas and New Mexico customers and communities," said Adrian Rodriguez, president, Xcel Energy New Mexico, Texas. "While we maximize replacement generation in the region, we're also committed to transition our employees into new roles as needed, something we've done successfully at other Xcel Energy plants."



of coal by the end of 2030 when the Comanche 3 coal unit in Colorado retires.

The company is leading the nation's clean energy transition as it reduces carbon emissions 80% by 2030 for electric customers, with a vision to achieve 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050. Retiring coal generation while continuing to add reliable and affordable clean energy sources are key to Xcel Energy's strategy in the eight states it serves.

"As the first energy provider in the nation to set ambitious goals for addressing all the ways our customers use energy — electricity, heating and transportation — we are always striving to provide our customers cleaner energy resources, while saving them money," said Bob Frenzel, chairman, president and CEO of Xcel Energy. "Advancing the retirement of coal operations at Tolk Station demonstrates our commitment to our clean energy strategy, while ensuring our customers and communities have reliable, affordable and safe service."

In addition to accelerating the clean energy transition, retiring coal at Tolk Station earlier than planned is estimated to save Xcel Energy's customers in Texas and New Mexico more than \$70 million. With the proposed earlier retirement date, Tolk will continue flexible operations to optimize generation when natural gas prices are high while managing limited remaining water resources. Additionally, changes in federal laws are making the replacement of coal generation with cleaner energy sources more cost-effective.

Through future regulatory processes, the company expects a diverse mix of replacement generation, including wind and solar, to be developed near Tolk after coal operations are retired.

"For more than forty years, the dedicated employees at Tolk Generating Station have provided reliable and safe service to our Texas and New Mexico customers and communities," said Adrian Rodriguez, president, Xcel Energy New Mexico, Texas. "While we maximize replacement generation in the region, we're also committed to transition our employees into new roles as needed, something we've done successfully at other Xcel Energy plants."

Tolk Station, located roughly 70 miles northwest of Lubbock, includes two coal-fueled steam units with a combined capacity of 1,067 megawatts.

### DOLAN from page 1

lations, without the victim's knowledge or consent.

The victim also said the images were taken at various times and multiple locations, including their residence in Elk River.

While discovering the images, the victim also learned of potential unauthorized financial transactions by the defendant totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The victim said she expressed fear and/or embarrassment of the distribution of the images and potential financial loss to her business, so she applied and was granted a Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) in Sherburne County on May 31, 2022. The order was personally served to the defendant June 1st.

Ten days later, it is reported Dolan used social media and "tagged" the victim's business (Decklan Group), from his social media account. Seventeen days later, Dolan again used social media and posted images of the victim and narrative about the victim, on sites including LinkedIn and Facebook. The defendant again "tagged" Decklan Group and a second business owned by the victim, All Day Coach.

On July 23, the victim received a text from Dolan asking about a dog and — in part — the following narrative, "Hey there perfect lady:)"...

Four days later, the defendant sent a text message to the victim's brother detailing his own feelings about the victim and their past relationship. Given the personal context, the text was forwarded to the victim.

Collectively, the court document states, these communications made after the serving of the HRO caused the victim to feel terrorized.

The Patriot reached out to Dolan for comment this week but didn't receive a response by press time.

The Patriot would also like to point out that the information for this article was taken directly from court documents obtained from the Anoka County Government Center where the complaint was initiated. The charges were filed Oct. 28, 2022 and prosecution procedure was authorized by Assistant Anoka County Attorney Paul L. Young.

## County okays Lupulin Brewery SCORE Grant

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Sherburne County Board Tuesday approved a SCORE Grant of \$17,600 to Lupulin Brewery in Big Lake.

The money will be used to purchase a dump trailer to be used by farmers transporting spent grain generated by brewery operations to livestock for feed. The funds will also be used to purchase two dump bins and a heat blanket to be used for keeping the spent grain at the proper temperature during transportation.

The grant request was first brought before the board in August, but was tabled. At that time, Commissioner Felix Schmiesing said he wasn't in favor of the grant because there were other breweries in the county, and it wouldn't be fair to award a grant to just one brewery.

He suggested modifying the terms of the grant to allow for "shopping out" and sharing the equipment with other breweries and expanding the number of farmers who could benefit from the equipment.

The revised language approved by the board Tuesday allows other breweries located within Sherburne County to utilize the trailer for the same proposed waste reuse.

Under the agreement, Lupulin is required to do annual reporting that includes:

amount of spent grain delivered to farmers;

- Locations of the farmers of which spent grain was delivered

- Total amount of spent grain landfilled, if applicable;

- Names and addresses of other breweries utilizing the trailer;

- Denied requests for using the trailer and reasoning for denial.



The project is allowed under SCORE funding rules because it promotes recycling, waste reduction and landfill abatement. Lupulin generates about 550 tons of spent grain a year.

"I'm the one that held this up. It's been a thorn in everyone's side. I appreciate Lupulin's patience as we worked our way through this," said Commissioner Schmiesing. "But I felt it was important... if we were going to invest SCORE money in hard property, that it should be available to others to use and other

farmers to be able to get some of that grain if they want it. I think it's a good effort and the end result is justifiable."

**ARPA Funding**  
The board approved bi-weekly ARPA funding in the amount of \$328,252.

Of that amount, \$45,150 will go towards jail pre-employment evaluations. During the pre-employment process for correctional officers, candidates go through different evaluations such as background check, psychological and physical exams. Those three evaluations cost \$1,505 per candidate. The ARPA grant will cover evaluation costs for 30 candidates.

Another \$80,000 in ARPA funding will go towards court costs. The COVID pandemic has caused a backlog of cases on the court calendar.

Because of that, court costs related to child protection have increased substantially. The \$80,000 will be used to assist with additional costs associated with the backlog.

Public safety will receive \$203,102 in ARPA funding. Staffing shortages at the county jail have been compounded due to COVID illnesses and mandated quarantine requirements. In order to maintain a minimal level of staffing to operate the jail, the department has incurred over 5,108 hours of overtime.

## Santiago Lions host Trunk or Treat

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer

Santiago Lions hosted their annual Trunk or Treat Saturday, Oct. 29th at Santiago Ballpark. The weather was delightful and each child received a small pumpkin and candy at the event. The youngsters were also able to get up close and personal with a miniature horse in full costume and take photos. The Santiago Lions got in on the fun by dressing up in costume, as well!

Thirty-five kids were served.



ZOEY ROBERTS was pleased with her one-on-one time with the miniature horse. (Submitted photo.)



THE STANG FAMILY - Will, Jesse, Alyssa, Jocelyn and Everhett. (Submitted photo.)



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## Hornet boys run to Section 5AA title at Bertram Lakes Regional Park

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys varsity cross-country team won its second straight section title last Thursday and is headed to the state meet this weekend. The Hornets won a close decision in the Section 5AA Meet at Bertram Lakes Regional Park in Monticello in one of the tightest races in a long time. Owen Layton crossed the finish line ahead of the pack, edging Noah Mahoney of Monticello by five seconds in 17:42.2. Kade Layton took third in 15:58.1 and Jack Leuer had his fastest time ever, placing fourth in 16:04. Spencer Vold was Big Lake's fourth runner, taking 11th in 17:14.2. David Guyse rounded out the top five for Big Lake, placing 21st in 17:54.1. "Spencer's improvement this year has been key to our



THE HORNET CROSS COUNTRY TEAM IS HEADED TO THE STATE MEET after taking the Section 5AA Title. (From left) Spencer Vold, Carter Erickson, Jack Leuer, Kade Layton, Owen Layton, David Guyse, Gavin Flavin, Alton Ahamed and Tanon Jacobson. (Submitted photo.)

team's success," said Coach Todd Trutna. "David (Guye) continues to be a rock at our five spot this year. He has been a very steady runner all year, and he is ready to have a big race at the state meet." As it turned out, those fourth and fifth spot runners were instrumental in the win for Big Lake. The Hornets

needed every point they could get, as Big Lake, Monticello and Becker each placed three runners in the top nine spots. The Hornets finished with 40 points. Monticello had 46 and Becker had 50. Alton Ahamed (37th, 18:28.6) and Tanon Jacobson (41st, 18:41.1) were the sixth and seventh finishers for the

Hornets. Big Lake's seven runners will be looking to make their mark again at the State AA meet Saturday at St. Olaf College in Northfield. The Hornets were AA state champs last year. "We went into last year's state meet knowing we could finish anywhere from first to fifth," said Coach Trutna. "As competitive as the state meet will be, I think we're in a similar position this year. It will be a very exciting day." Monticello also qualified for the state meet this year by taking second. The Magic was runner-up to Big Lake last year at the state meet. After the top three teams, other team scores Thursday were Foley 153, St. Cloud Tech 171, Spectrum 183, St. Cloud Apollo 207, Princeton 223, Sauk Rapids-Rice 232, St. Francis 297, Milaca 314. The Big Lake girls also had a great performance at

sections, running their best meet of the year and placing fifth of 12 teams. Junior Emilee Doperalski placed 27th in 21:54 and sophomore Campbell Slattery was 34th in 22:42 to lead the Hornets. "Emilee and Campbell have been pushing each other in practice to break a couple of time barriers," said Trutna. "They both achieved those today with Emilee going under 22 minutes and Campbell under 23 minutes." Erin Kjellberg finished 43rd in 23:53.2. Nicole Rempel was 51st in 24:13.2. Georgia Morris placed 57th in 24:58.5. Elsie Johnson took 62nd in 25:41.2. Jadyn Rust was 64th in 25:49.2. "The girls have had a tough year with a couple injuries to Erin and Jadyn that have really hurt our team's scoring," said Trutna. "It was so great to see them come together to place this high as a

team. They were very excited to hear about that fifth place." The girls have continued to improve - and get healthy, throughout the season. "About halfway through the season, Nicole and Georgia changed into a more attacking mindset during races that carried through their training. Both ran their fastest career times today," said Trutna. "Elsie has been fighting through shin splints for much of this season and has run some tough races through that discomfort. Even with that she ran one of her best times today." Final team scores were Becker 50, Monticello 55, Spectrum 70, Zimmerman 88, Big Lake 178, Princeton 181, St. Cloud Tech 188, Foley 193, Milaca 198, St. Francis, St. Cloud Apollo and Sauk Rapids-Rice did not have complete teams.

## Muskrat Love



I am fascinated by a small fuzzy critter that is found just about anywhere there might be a spot of water in the United States and Canada. Not to mention, it has mastered a wide range of habitats and climates. Although it was introduced, it is also found throughout Europe and in parts of Asia and even South America. It is a common critter, but I am not sure you are seeing this critter very often or perhaps even know what it is. So, what is the small fuzzy critter, it is the Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*). Ya, that's right, the Muskrat. Before you wig out and become hyper critical of this semiaquatic rodent, hear me out. The Muskrat is a small critter allowing it to elude being seen much of the time. It is only 2-4 pounds and around eight to 10 inches in length not counting the long thin tail which is another eight or so inches long. In addition, it comes out at dawn and dusk or in the middle of the day if it is cloudy. I mentioned they are fuzzy because they are covered with thick short brown fur that was often used by people to make hats and gloves. Their fur is waterproof and is made up of two layers. The underlying fur traps air which keeps them warm and dry. The longer outer fur protects the underlying fur and gives them their color. They have a long naked tail that is covered in scales rather than fur. The tail is slightly flattened from top to bottom (laterally) and is used to help with propulsion when swimming, however it is their back legs with oversized webbed feet which act like paddles for their main power to swim. Speaking of water, the Muskrat can stay underwater for up to 15 minutes before needing to surface to

take a breath. What I find cool about these critters is that they live in family units consisting of a male and female which are a mated pair along with their young. They live in a lodge which they construct out of vegetative plant material such as cattails and bullrush. The lodge can be upwards of three to four feet tall and has an underwater entrance. However, many muskrats that live in habitats that lack cattails often burrow a chamber into the lake or riverbank where they take shelter. This is the case where I live. The lake levels are way down due to a drought and the entrance to shoreline den is now high and dry. The muskrats did their best to maintain a channel in the mud so they could swim up to their den but with the ongoing drought it is now a 20-foot walk to get to their den entrance. One more example of their ability to adapt. Muskrats are unique and they don't have any similar relatives. Because of this they have been placed in a Genus all by themselves. Don't let the common name "rat" confuse you, they are not related to rats and contrary to what some people say they are not mini beavers, because they are not closely related to beavers either. Their closest living relatives are the voles and lemmings, which are much

smaller and most are not aquatic. The common name comes from the "musky" odor, which it uses to mark its territory and its long naked tail which looks like a rat's tail. In the springtime Muskrats will actually fight to keep or take a territory from other Muskrats. These fights can lead to death for the loser. Territories are usually in shallow ponds and lakes. They like ponds with lots of cattails and other aquatic vegetation which is their main food source. However, they eat more than plants. In fact, they are omnivores and will also eat meat if an opportunity presents itself. They eat about one-third of their own body weight daily. They usually gather and eat from a small home range or territory of only an acre or two in size. Muskrats are prolific breeders. Females can give birth to three or four litters of young, called kits, each year. Each litter can have anywhere from three to six young. The babies are full grown by six weeks of age and often stay with the family. They will build several more lodges nearby where the young members of the family will move in and start their own family. I see these little critters when I go for a walk in the evening. When they see me approaching, they dive and usually don't come back up where I can see them. But I enjoy catching a glimpse of them and I hope you will also. Until next time... Stan Tekiela is an author/naturalist and wildlife photographer who travels the U.S. to study and capture images of the wildlife. He can be followed on Instagram.com, facebook.com and twitter.com. He can be contacted via his web page at [naturesmart.com](http://naturesmart.com).

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## Hornets fall to Orono

Big Lake's football season ended harmlessly Oct. 25th on the road as they fell to the Orono Spartans, 42-14 in section playoff competition. Despite falling behind 42-0 in the first half, Bob Blanchard's squad continued to fight to the very end as they tallied two scores in the second half to end on a high note. Orono got four TD scores in the first quarter — all on running plays that included a 51-yarder, an 11-yarder, a 15-yarder and a two-yarder. The Spartans continued their dominance in the second quarter as Mason Pankonin scooped up a fumble near the Big Lake goal line and scored Orono's 35th point of the first half. Logan Chappell capped the Spartans' scoring with a 24-yard TD reception and from there, Orono substituted the starters for the second stringers. Jonah Mallberg would get the Hornets on the score-

board late in the third quarter and the extra point was missed, so the score was 42-6. In the fourth, Carson Gellerman vaulted into the end zone from two yards out with just 2:43 to go in the game. Big Lake tried for two again and this time they were successful, but the deficit was far too wide and the clock too far gone to matter anyways. Gellerman finished with 37 yards in three-of-six passing and had the one score on the ground. Big Lake's top ground gainer was Jose Acuna who carried the ball once for no gain. All the other Hornet runners were in the negative as far as yards lost. Mallberg was the top receiver with 21 yards on two catches. Orono moved on to play the #2-seeded Princeton Tigers on the road and pulled off an improbable win, 29-26 over the Tigers. Orono will play Zimmerman for the section title Saturday as the Thunder upset the #1-seeded Mound-Westonka White Hawks, 42-14.



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## Social Media: The Double-Edged Sword and the Ways it Cuts

*(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Patrick Shipway, Becker Public Schools Director of Instructional Technology)*

Social media is all around us and can have many different effects from depression and anxiety to inspiring others to collaborate and change the world. Where we end up depends upon the actions we take today. The average American spends about 2.5 hours of time each day on social media. After spending significant time on social media many people are found to report poor mental health, anxiety and depression. Why is that you might ask? There are a few common reasons:

**Unrealistic expectations.** Many people don't put a full, honest version of themselves on social media and so what you see is a mocked up "perfected" version of them and their lives. This makes you think your life is worse than theirs based on what you see from their less than honest posts.

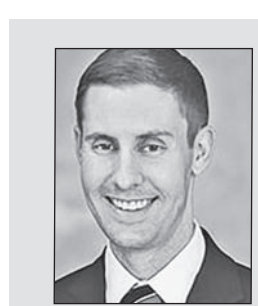
What can you do? Attempt to follow people that actually give full, honest versions of themselves; the good, the bad and the in-between. Things that make you empathize with them and not envy them. If the only feeling you have after seeing their posts is envy or jealousy, remove them.

**Unhealthy sleep patterns and addiction:** Most people tend to be on their phone, and often social media too late into the night, and the blue light coming from your phone will make it harder to fall asleep furthering the issue. Beyond that, each notification makes you want to pick it up again. Did you know that the human brain reacts the same way to a new phone notification as it does when an addict gets a hit of a drug?

What can you do? There are three things here that will help tremendously. First, turn off notifications for all of your social media apps on your phone. Second, limit your time on these apps by setting up screen time on your iPhone (<http://tiny.cc/sleep-ios>) or Digital Wellbeing on your Android phone (<http://tiny.cc/sleep-android>). And last but not least, create a central charging location for all of your household's devices. For those of you with children, I really like the kitchen as it's usually quite visible and centrally located.

**Cyberbullying.** The fact that social media is often done on a phone, behind the scenes, and without seeing other people's faces and emotions can make people feel more disconnected and more likely to be cruel in their interactions with others, especially kids. Those that endure cyberbullying often have increased stress levels and decreased success in other aspects of their lives.

What you can do? Make sure that the privacy settings for all social media accounts are set to private so random people can't insert themselves into your digital life without your permission. Connected to this is to check the location sharing settings of the app; you don't want to let the world know where you are just because you are watching



By Patrick Shipway  
Becker Public Schools

a video. Make sure that the things you are posting don't contain personal information that makes you easily identifiable and what you post is positive or at least don't open yourself up to attack.

Now assuming this dangerous sword hasn't scared you away yet, I'd like to flip it over and talk about how it can also be used to carve us a beautiful future. A future in which people don't feel alone, where we learn, grow and connect with others, and where we can make an impact locally and globally. Let's explore this side of this cutting edge technology.

If our time in the pandemic has shown us anything it is that we as humans are social creatures. And while most things are back to being in person, if the things you are most passionate about are not readily available around you, there are likely countless groups around the world you can find focussed around that topic by searching for groups or searching different social media hashtags. These can also be a great way to explore new topics that you might be interested in and explore what is out there.

Social media can allow us to connect with people who we normally wouldn't, and allow us to make a difference in their lives. An example includes students raising funds for a northern Canadian community that couldn't afford basic supplies. Another is a high schooler who created an Instagram account to compliment the students at his school and made a major shift to the culture. Or we could talk about a seven year old who is promoting her love of reading, STEM, and sharks for kids everywhere from Twitter to Instagram and traveling the world while raising money for breast cancer. While you can learn to use social media well at any age, students continue to impress me with the impact they can make when given the opportunity and the technology to do so.

As we look to the future, Becker Public Schools is motivated by these students to ensure that we continue to focus on using social media and our other technology to improve both our students' lives and others around us. We have science teachers with students posting their new learning online to our own inter district penpals and more. We are striving to incorporate more of our technology into lessons so that they not only apply to but affect the outside world. The takeaway here is that whether you are seven (with parental or teacher help) or 70, if you make the right decisions with social media, you can make the world a better place.



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## Nuest, Brown fall short at state tennis tourney

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

Becker Senior Ayla Brown and Dani Nuest are no strangers to MSHSL State Tournaments, having performed on the big stage as part of the Bulldog basketball and tennis teams on several occasions.

Last week, the duo played in the State Class AA state tennis tournament and came up short in a pair of matches.

The strong doubles team for the Bulldogs couldn't have drawn a more difficult bracket, as they were consistently pitted against some of the top competitors in the largest class in Minnesota tennis.

In the opening round, Brown and Nuest faced a

sister doubles team from Woodbury, Seniors Britney and Ashley Nguyen.

"Their opponents were a patient and precise doubles team waiting for Brown and Nuest to move the match forward either with a winner or an error," Coach Nate Bucher said. "Very few times did the Nguyen sisters take an opportunity to hit winning shots."

Instead, they played a conservative brand of tennis and this caused Brown and Nuest to struggle to find a rhythm since they were generating all of the action.

Ultimately, the Becker tandem fell, 3-6, 3-6.

"Sadly the girls didn't play their best," Bucher said. "The Woodbury team

did a great job of eliminating the energy that Dani and Ayla were trying to initiate."

Brown and Nuest now fell to the consolation round, but Bucher noted that it was "not very consoling," as his duo had to face a strong team from Rochester Mayo, the state team runners-up. The young team from Mayo of Keely Ryder and Malea Diehn proved to be too overpowering for Brown and Nuest defeating them 6-0, 6-1.

"Though the score was much more lopsided, Ayla and Dani played much better than their first match, but the Mayo girls were very strong and took advantage of any opportunity they were given to put the

ball away," Bucher said. "It was a match that had a lot more energy all around and was more fun to watch!"

Bucher noted that the competition were mostly specialized tennis players, whereas his players compete in multiple sports.

"Dani and Ayla were stacked up against girls that make tennis their life, and in these scenarios have just had a lot more practice than we have when it comes to tennis skills," Bucher said. "I'm so proud of the season we've had as a team and the extra fun it was to see Dani and Ayla play against some of the of the best tennis players in the state."

While the tournament didn't end as his team hoped, Bucher still felt a great deal of satisfaction

in his player's accomplishments.

"As the tears fell, not from defeat, but from another chapter closing on a Senior year, Becker Tennis will miss all of its seniors," Bucher said. "Ayla Brown, Dani Nuest, Kennedy Drehmel, and Hannah Bartlett all had contributions to our team that are far more than just the time spent on the court."





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CONGRATS TO BECKER ATHLETES ON A JOB WELL DONE! KEEP UP THE HARD WORK!

## Four Becker boy CC runners headed to state



THE BECKER BOYS AND GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS had good showings at the Section 5AA Championship meet. The boys placed 3rd (missing state by a narrow 4 point margin) but are sending four individuals to the state meet. The girls team was Section Champs and advance as a group.. (Submitted Photo).

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

The Bulldog Harriers traveled to Bertram Park in Monticello for the Section 5AA Championship meet on Thursday, Oct. 27th.

The Bulldogs were seeded third in the event behind the top state ranked team from Big Lake and the returning state runner-ups from Monticello. Although seeded third, they managed to gain some ground with strong performances to finish so very close to advancing to the state meet as a full team.

In the end, the Bulldogs finished 10 points behind the leaders and just four points from being the number two team from the section. The Bulldogs are sending four individuals (of the section's six individual qualifiers) to the state cross country meet. This is the most that the boys team has ever sent and doubles the number from last year.

The Bulldogs accomplished five PRs and two other near PRs in last week's race. Tyson Ricker crossed the finish line in the top spot for the team as he placed fifth. In doing so, Tyson rebroke the school record for the fastest recorded 5k time as he dropped it to 16:07.2.

Tanner Felton emerged from the wooded uphill segment to finish in sixth. Felton crossed at a time of 16:50 to earn his first berth to the state meet.

In the third spot for the Bulldogs was Parker Spindler with an 18 second

PR to finish eighth as he punched his ticket to state as well with his 17:07 5k. Next was Mason Becker in 14th place with a time of 17:32 earning him the #6 individual spot and sends him back to the state meet for his second opportunity.

Twelve seconds later, Evan Hubbard crossed the finish line a 16 second PR and celebrated his first sub-18 race experience with his 17:44.

"He certainly raced hard through the meet and did a great job showing the gains that he'd accomplished during the season" said coach Dustin Weege.

Alex Swanson also had a great PR to join Hubbard in the sub-17 realm, completing the race in 17:58 and was 26th. Junior Jase Tobako finished in 32nd with a time of 18:21.

"Each of the guys ran their hearts out and I am so proud of the work that they have done thus far" said coach Weege. "We have a lot to celebrate with this group, and although we didn't capture the state berth, we are so grateful for the successes experienced and the opportunity to compete at such a high level with one of the best sections in the state."

Senior Caleb Reckelberg and freshman Mason Tschida also were praised by their coach.

"They, along with many other Bulldogs were great at keeping the team competing at high levels as the season went on," said Weege.

Another record that

was smashed by the Bulldogs this year was the team average time in the section meet. The Bulldogs yielded an average time of 17:04 as a team which was 49 seconds faster than the team's previous record from 2021.

That team average puts the Bulldogs with the 10th best team average in the AA class's Section competitions from across the state though it should be noted that every course is a little different, so it's not quite comparing apples to apples.

The four Bulldog boys (Ricker, Felton, Spindler, and Becker) will travel along with the girls team as state qualifiers to St. Olaf College for the MSHSL Championship meet on November 5th. The girls will run at 2:30 and the boys will run at 3:30.

For awareness for anyone that may be traveling there, the parking will be off-site and shuttles will be running consistently from the parking area to the venue. Parking is free of charge at the designated location and there is no spectator fee for the state meet. Additionally, an official video broadcast for the MSHSL meet is set up through <https://nspn.tv/MSHSL>.

Check back next week for coverage of the MSHSL state meet.

## Bulldog lady runners headed to state!



HEAD COACH TRISH KEALY (back row, middle holding trophy) posed for a team photo with her girls who captured first place in the Section 5AA cross country meet in Monticello last week. (Submitted Photo).

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

Last Thursday, the Section 5AA cross country championship meet was held at Monticello's Bertram Chain of Lakes Park. The day started out with drizzle but cleared up right before the girls race began.

Becker's girls team repeated as the Section 5AA Champions and have advanced to the state meet to be held at St Olaf on Fri., Nov. 4 where they will compete at 2:30 p.m.

Team scores at the Section meet were: Becker 50, Monticello 55, Spectrum 70, Zimmerman 88, Big Lake 178, Princeton 181, St. Cloud Tech 188, Foley 193, Milaca 198. Incomplete teams were Sauk Rapids-Rice, St Cloud Apollo, St Francis.

The top two teams and the first six individuals not

those two teams qualify for the state meet.

Adele Changamire continues to impress and ran another PR time as she placed fourth overall. She ran a time of 18:54.2 and becomes the first Becker girl to run a time faster than 19:00. The previous fastest time was held by Alli Hendrickson (19:00.59), who went on to a successful career running at Winona State.

Becker had three girls run faster than 20:00 - along with Adele, Ella McDonald placed ninth with a PR time of 19:34.0 as she crossed the finish line with a big smile! Lexi Rose also ran sub-20 with a time of 19:54.8, though she struggled a bit with her breathing in this race while placing 12th.

Coming in as a tough pack were Alea Briggs in 14th with a strong finish at 20:47.1 and Olivia Babler

in 15th right behind her in 20:47.2.

Brooklyn Karel placed 16th with a time of 20:56.9 and rounding out the Becker squad was Bella Duncombe in 24th with a time of 21:43.3.

There were a total of 70 runners finishing this race.


"We are very excited to be representing our school and section at the state meet again this year and are hoping for a good turnout at St Olaf to watch the race and to watch the four boys from Becker who have also qualified," said Head Coach trish Kealy. "I am so proud of our group!"

Also earning All State Academic on Thursday (top 15 finishers in grades 10-12 with a GPA of 3.75 or higher) were Lexi Rose and Alea Briggs.

"A big thanks goes out to all who have supported us all season," said Kealy.



# Sports News



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## Bulldogs subdue Lakers, move on to face Spartans

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

The Becker Bulldogs got four touchdowns and a 33-yard field goal to topple Detroit Lakes in the Section 8AAAA Semifinal played in Becker last Saturday. The final score was 31-14.

Alex Weiss had two of the four TDs as Becker rolled to their eighth win of the year and now head to the final championship game in section play to take on Rocori — the only team to have beaten the Bulldogs during the 2022 campaign. Rocori is coming off a 65-12 shellacking of Little Falls last Saturday at home.

The Becker/Detroit Lakes game saw a scoreless first quarter erupt into a 17-0 halftime lead as the Bulldogs scored three times. The first came on a 29-yard TD pass from Ryan Bengtson to Weiss at the 11:53 mark.

Less than a minute later, Isaiah Gardner galloped five yards out to put the Bulldogs up 14-0. Zach Bengtson would increase the lead for Becker as he nailed a 33-yard field goal with just under five minutes left in the second quarter to make it 17-0.

The Lakers got back in



**BECKER QB RYAN BENGTON** (left background) eyes his open wide receiver, **Alex Weiss (#2)** during last Saturday's game against Detroit Lakes at Eppard Field. (Photo by Sara Waytashek).

the game when they scored a TD at the 6:39 mark when QB Mason Carrier scored from three-yards out to bring the score to 17-7. However, two minutes later, Ryan Bengtson plunged in from the one to put the home team up 24-7 as the fourth quarter commenced.

Carrier did his best to keep the Lakers in the game when he scored a few minutes into the fourth to bring the score to 24-14, but Bengtson and Weiss

connected yet again with just three minutes left in the game to seal the win.

Ryan Bengtson finished the game with 192 yards through the air on 16-of-26 passing and two scores.

Adam Jurek carried the load for the backs as he gained 73 yards on 19 carries.

Weiss had 72 yards on five catches and the two TDs while Kyan Blomquist had five catches for 85 yards.

On defense, Kaden Nicolas was all over the field as he captured nine tackles to lead the Bulldogs.

Isaac Daluge had an interception to go along with his four tackles.

Detroit Lakes finishes their season at 5-4 while the 8-1 Bulldogs move on to avenge the 7-2 Spartans.

## Bulldog swimmers earn section times in JV meet

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

While the varsity squad tunes up for the Section meet to be held November 10-12 in Sauk Rapids, the Mississippi 8 JV Championship was held last week and allowed all performers one last shot at a qualifying time.

"This was the final meet for our JV crew and a last shot chance for those still needing a Section time," Head Coach Tina Tamm said. "Those that

swam Friday night came away with some new personal best times along with some ribbons for their nice races."

One Section qualifying time was posted by Joey Cox, who dropped the 1.5 seconds needed to get a Section bid in the 100 breaststroke along with a fourth place ribbon.

Josie Reckelberg dropped seven seconds in the 100 butterfly to capture a second place finish along with a Section time. She also placed sixth in the 100

breaststroke with a personal best time

The 200 Medley Relay of Reckelberg, Marissa Hook, Trinity Super and Gabby Barthel-Scott placed seventh, while Elin Cook placed fifth in the 200 IM dropping three seconds. She also earned a seventh in the 100 backstroke dropping four seconds, both personal bests for the season.

Kami Marquardt placed fourth in Diving, while teammate Evi Eeftink placed sixth.

Gabby Barthel-Scott

shaved four seconds off her time in the 100 backstroke, giving her a fifth place finish.

"Overall, there were a lot of improved times to end the JV season," Tamm said.



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## Liberty Paper Player of the Game

By Bill Morgan, Editor/Staff Writer  
Reporter.Bill@PatriotNewsMN.com

Sophomore defensive back, Isaac Daluge, was named Player of the Week for his outstanding game last Saturday.

Becker defeated Detroit Lakes 31-14 to advance to the section final game.

D-back coach Tyler Niedfeldt said, "Isaac has quickly matured into a very solid corner. He is a sure tackler and has a nose for the football. His interception against Detroit Lakes was amazing. The belt looks good on him."



Isaac Daluge was named Liberty Paper Player of the Game for his performance in the Oct. 29 game against Detroit Lakes. (Submitted Photo)

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G L N O Y M S M O T P M Y S V R R Y A E  
D E K I S O O K L O D V V P E D G U K G  
O L I P S D F C A U S E V C A D V Y L E  
U G K T E L L S L K B C B M R H P A D G  
G K R U N W R C R R F K M E I H U I L B  
H E E N E D K R W F S M B N Y N A D B F  
E A S G R L S E U A S M C S N G M E V H  
U T I N A D D E C H E D I A N F H G T C  
E B A I W I B N V N C M O P C H L P M  
T W R T A B R I O O A U S P A A L F B  
H W D S S K I N R L P I S T H E A K D B  
E N N E N O K G U K S V S A H T G U I L  
R S U T F R R V D Y E U G H N W A W A V  
A G F M T R A P T K O V E E E U B I G N  
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Y D V N T N I L G V D I U W H T P S O A  
D O C T O R M S O S N T R N M F D C S Y  
R F U N K T H Y S G V P C A N C E R E L  
H C R A E S E R L A U D F A V W P S B V  
T M V T M U S A M S U D C T T K D G G V

### WORDS

- ANNUAL
- ASSIST
- AWARENES
- CANCER
- CAUSE
- DIAGNOSE
- DOCTOR
- FUNDRAISER
- HEALTH
- MENTAL
- MOUSTACHE
- NOVEMBER
- PHYSICAL
- PROSTATE
- RESEARCH
- RISK
- SCREENING
- SYMPTOMS
- TESTING
- THERAPY

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

G L N O Y M S M O T P M Y S V R R Y A E  
D E K I S O O K L O D V V P E D G U K G  
O L I P S D F C A U S E V C A D V Y L E  
U G K T E L L S L K B C B M R H P A D G  
G K R U N W R C R R F K M E I H U I L B  
H E E N E D K R W F S M B N Y N A D B F  
E A S G R L S E U A S M C S N G M E V H  
U T I N A D D E C H E D I A N F H G T C  
E B A I W I B N V N C M O P C H L P M  
T W R T A B R I O O A U S P A A L F B  
H W D S S K I N R L P I S T H E A K D B  
E N N E N O K G U K S V S A H T G U I L  
R S U T F R R V D Y E U G H N W A W A V  
A G F M T R A P T K O V E E E U B I G N  
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Y D V N T N I L G V D I U W H T P S O A  
D O C T O R M S O S N T R N M F D C S Y  
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H C R A E S E R L A U D F A V W P S B V  
T M V T M U S A M S U D C T T K D G G V



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## This Week's Calendar Events:

- Sun., Nov. 6, 2022:** •Daylights Savings Time Ends •ECFE: Ooey Gooy Day ECFE Class
- Saxophone Day (Adolphe Sax Birth Anniversary), 1814
- Canada: National Senior Safety Week (11/6-11/12)
- National Rad Tech Week (11/6-11/12)
- UN: International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War & Armed Conflict
- National Animal Shelter & Rescue Appreciation Week (11/6-11/12)
- Mon., Nov. 7, 2022:** •BLHS: High School Choirs Concert, 7pm
- Canadian Pacific Railway:

- Transcontinental Completion: Anniversary, 1885
- Tues., Nov. 8, 2022:** •Election Day
- X-Ray Discovery Day: Anniversary, 1895
- Moon Phase: Full Beaver Moon
- Wed., Nov. 9, 2022:** •Berlin Wall Opened: Anniversary, 1989
- Thurs., Nov. 10, 2022:** •Marine Corps Birthday: Anniversary, 1989
- Fri., Nov. 11, 2022:** •Veterans Day
- Sat., Nov. 12, 2022:** •World Pneumonia Day
- National French Dip Day
- Hunger & Homeless Awareness Week (11/12-11/20)

(Becker Schools=BS; Becker High School=BHS; Becker Middle School=BMS; Becker Intermediate School=BIS; Early Childhood Family Education=ECFE; Big Lake School=BL; Big Lake High School=BLHS; Big Lake Middle School=BLMS; Big Lake Independence=BLIS; Big Lake Liberty=BLLS; Big Lake Preschool=BLPS; Clearview School=CVS)

## Big Lake Senior Center

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

For More Information Call: (763) 309-1010 and/or (763) 207-8703

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**Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events**  
**BASC NOW AT BCC! ALL AREA SENIORS WELCOME. SENIOR CENTER OPEN MON. - FRI. 9AM-5PM. COFFEE IS ON AT 5AM. COME DROP IN!**  
**Mon., Nov. 7:** All day coffee, catch up on the news with St. Cloud & Minneapolis daily papers today & everyday.  
**Tues., Nov. 8:** 7am: BBC Gym morning walk; 9:15am: 500 Card Party today with cash prizes-all are welcome. **Remember to Vote Today!**  
**Wed., Nov. 9:** 12pm: Bingo with Liberty Paper.  
**Thurs., Nov. 10:** 8am-Noon: Veterans Coffee; 9am: Cards/Conversation; 5:30-7pm: Alcohol Inks Mugs, class: create one of a kind coffee mug-register at the Library.  
**Fri., Nov. 11: VETERANS DAY:** We remember & thank all our Veterans for their service.  
Becker Community Center: 763-200-4271  
Blood Pressure available whenever BASC is open  
Send activity/class opportunities to: [basc.becker@gmail.com](mailto:basc.becker@gmail.com)  
**Planning Mtg.:** 3rd Wed., 1pm; **Next Board mtg.:** Nov. 16, 3-5pm  
**Nov. 15-Dec. 3:** Holiday Tradition Recipe Swap (at the Library-see BASC Newsletter for more details.)

**Beltone Hearing Aids Starting at \$799**  
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# Announcements

## Becker - Organizations

### Becker American Legion Auxiliary

The Becker American Legion Auxiliary has suspended their monthly meetings through February 2023. For information contact Paula Hinds at (763) 262-6679 or Nellie Simpson at Becker True Value. Thanks for your support.

### 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 beckeragroupmn@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](http://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 (763) 691-3852 or email: [beckerliions@gmail.com](mailto:beckerliions@gmail.com).

### Becker Lions Club

Meetings are held the second Mon. each month at 6pm at Becker City Park. Emma Cook (763) 691-3852 or [beckerliions@gmail.com](mailto:beckerliions@gmail.com).

### Becker Lions Collecting Items to Recycle

The Becker Lions are collecting used eye-glasses (no cases please.) Collection buckets are located at the Becker Community Center, Insight Eye Care and Becker City Hall. We are no longer collecting used cell phones, printer cartridges or hearing aids. If you have any questions please contact Lion Kurt Anderson at (763) 234-6883 (phone or text) or by email at [beckerliions@gmail.com](mailto:beckerliions@gmail.com).

### Becker Sons of the American Legion Squadron 193

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](http://www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org).

### 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](http://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.

At our Resource Closet, we are committed to helping not only the foster community but families in need making the most items in our Resource Closet available to all. We host regular events to encourage awareness & motivate community participation in support of our most vulnerable children. For more info: [www.thecompassionconnectionmn.com](http://www.thecompassionconnectionmn.com).

### 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 [tkolbinger@gmail.com](mailto:tkolbinger@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. We are community supported by individuals,

organizations & businesses. Our two fundraisers each year are in Mar.-Gala at Rockwoods, & Aug.-Golf Scramble in Becker.

We are looking for volunteers to help elderly or disabled people in our community. Especially volunteer drivers. FIA also has a Furniture for Families Program that assists struggling families with basic furniture needs when they have no other place to turn. Call (763) 263-4277 or [www.grfia.org](http://www.grfia.org).

### 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 on CR4 & then L on 180th Ave (8940 180th Ave), Becker. Mary (612) 219-8648.

### Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

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

### Big Lake American Legion Post #147

Meets the first Thurs. of the month @ 7 pm. 29 Lake Street, 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. 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 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 65

If you or anyone you know is 65 or under & have been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, you are welcome to attend our group. We meet the third Tuesday of each month, 6pm at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street So., Big Lake, MN 55309.

Specific topics will be scheduled along with open forum. Family/Friends are welcome! 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](http://www.momsinprayer.org) or Colene Stenberg (763) 263-6809 or [stenbergjc@outlook.com](mailto:stenbergjc@outlook.com)

## Becker Upcoming Events

### Kindness Week

Nov. 7-13, 2022. The vision is for all sidewalks and/or driveways of our residents & businesses to be decorated that week using sidewalk chalk that contains a message of kindness for all those walking by.

### Doughnut Drive Thru

Wed., Nov. 9, 7-9am. City Hall. Bills Foods will be donating the doughnuts and some drink for the event, but it will be held in front parking lot at City Hall. Drive thru, get a doughnut from the cops, maybe some coffee & then head off to work or school.

### Veterans Appreciation Coffee

Thurs., Nov. 10, at Becker Senior Center at BCC. All veterans stop in from 8am-Noon for a coffee & sweet treat & our thanks for your service.

### Fall Bake & Craft Sale

Sat., Nov. 12, 9am-2pm. Faith Lutheran Church 11755 Sherburne Ave., Becker Lunch will be served: Sloppy Joes, soup, etc. Craft Items: Homemade Items, variety of cookies, homemade soups, quick breads & more! 20+ years! 34 vendors. Support local crafters & home based businesses!

## Clearwater Upcoming Events

### Fall Bazaar, Craft, & Bake Sale

Sat., Nov. 19, 10am-2pm. Clearwater United Methodist Church, 405 Main St., Clearwater. Fall Bazaar, Craft, Bake & Misc. Items Sale.

### Young @ Heart

Nov. 17, 2022, 10:30am with coffee, conversation & cards. Lunch (free will offering) will be served 11:30am with Gift Card Bingo at 12pm. Bingo prizes will be gift cards for area businesses & will include cards for groceries, restaurants, & gasoline.

Rejoice Lutheran Church, 1155 Co. Rd. 75. Please notify Church Office (320) 558-6851 or [rejoice@rejoicelutheranchurch.org](mailto:rejoice@rejoicelutheranchurch.org) of your intention to attend so that we can assure a meal for everyone.

## Misc. Area Upcoming Events

### Creative Arts & Crafts Fair

Sat., Nov. 19, 9am-2pm, Activity Center HLWW Middle School, 8700 Co. Rd. 6 SW, Howard Lake. Free admission. There will be 80+ artists & craft persons exhibiting their works for sale. Bring friend & family. Food stand & Cub Scout wreaths available.

## Monticello Upcoming Events

### Annual Fall Bazaar

Sat., Nov. 5, 9am-3pm. Lefse, bake sale, used-a-bit, Rada knives, Mac Spencer pottery & more. Community United Methodist Church, 9225 Jason Ave NE, Monticello.

## Sherburne County Upcoming Events

### Medicare's Annual Open Enrollment

Runs Oct. 15-Dec. 7. Allows you to make changes to your current Medicare plan and your Part D drug plan. Changes take effect Jan. 1, 2023.

Questions about saving money on Medicare, Senior LinkAge Line® is a great resource! Call 800-333-2433 or [mn.gov/senior-linkage-line](http://mn.gov/senior-linkage-line).

# Public Notices

## Foreclosures

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That Default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: 4/15/2015

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$139,900.00

MORTGAGOR(S): Marilee K Lagace-Peterson and Scott K Peterson, wife and husband

MORTGAGEE: Navy Federal Credit Union

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: as Document 801957 in the Office of the County Recorder in Sherburne County, Minnesota.

TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 85-410-0246

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot Twenty-three (23), Block Two (2), Royal Oaks, said plat being a part of the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (W1/2 of SE1/4 of SE1/4) of Section One (1), Township Thirty-five (35) North, Range Thirty-one (31) West, Sherburne County, Minnesota

Abstract Property

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 1627 13th Ave SE, Saint Cloud, MN 56304

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Sherburne

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Navy Federal Credit Union

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Navy Federal Credit Union

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE: \$139,865.37 AS OF 10/27/2022.

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Sherburne County, Minnesota at public auction as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 12/06/2022 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, 13880 Business Center Dr., Elk River, MN 55330 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mort-

gagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgage or(s) or Mortgageor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on 06/06/2022, or the next business day if 06/06/2022 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: NONE

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Publication to begin the week of: 10/15/2022 - 10/22/2022  
Navy Federal Credit Union, Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee  
The Sayer Law Group, P.C., By Brian G. Sayer, Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee  
925 E 4th St., Waterloo, IA 50703

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. (Published in the Patriot: 10/15/22; 10/22/22; 10/29/22; 11/05/22; 11/12/22; 11/19/22.)

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

DATE: October 13, 2022  
YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT:

1. Default has occurred in the conditions of that certain First Mortgage ("Mortgage") dated August 20, 2003, executed by Jeffrey W. Keener and Paula B. Keener, husband and wife, the Mortgageors to Central Minnesota Habitat for Humanity, f/k/a St. Cloud Area Habitat for Humanity, a Minnesota non-profit organization, the Mortgagee, and filed for record on November 5, 2003, as Document No. 529173, in the Office of the Recorder of Sherburne County, Minnesota, and as thereafter amended and modified.

2. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was: \$50,879.00.  
3. No action or proceeding at law is now pending to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage, or any part thereof.  
4. The holder of the Mortgage has complied with all conditions precedent to acceleration of the debt secured by the Mortgage and foreclosure of the Mortgage, and all notice and other requirements of applicable statutes.  
5. At the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage, and taxes, if any, paid by the holder of the Mortgage is: \$6,329.82.

6. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, on the land described as follows: Lot Fourteen (14), Block Three (3) West Hunter Lake Addition and Lot One (1), Block Two (2) West Hunter Lake Second Addition, according to the plat on file in the office of the Sherburne County Recorder, Sherburne County, Minnesota. Tax PID Nos. 30-403-0355, 30-404-0201 Address: 25514 101st Street NW, Zimmerman, Minnesota 55398 and will be sold by the County Sheriff of Sherburne County, Minnesota, at public auction on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, Minnesota 55330.

7. The time allowed by law for redemption of Mortgageors or Mortgageor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months after the date of sale.  
8. If the Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the Mortgageor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on June 7, 2023, or the next business day if June 7, 2023, falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.  
9. THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES

ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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

Mortgagee or Assignee of Mortgage:

By Dorraine A. Larison (#203609)

Attorneys for Mortgagee or Assignee of Mortgagee:

LATHROP GPM LLP  
1010 West St. Germain, Suite 500  
St. Cloud, MN 56301  
(320) 252-4414  
(Published in the Patriot: 10/22/22; 10/29/22; 11/05/22; 11/12/22; 11/19/22; 11/26/22.)

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a default has occurred in the conditions of the following described Mortgage:

1. Date of Mortgage: August 20, 2018

2. Mortgage: Darren E. Skinner and Denise M. Skinner

3. Mortgagee: The Bank of Elk River

4. Recording Information: filed August 28, 2018 as Document No. 861321

5. Assignments of Mortgage: none

6. Legal Description of mortgaged premises:  
Lot 2, Block 1, Rosewood Estates, Sherburne County, Minnesota.

7. Tax parcel identification number of property: 10-470-0110

8. Property Address: 22613 170th Street NW, Big Lake, MN 55309

9. The person holding the Mortgage is not a transaction agent, as defined by Minn. Stat. 58.02, subd. 30. The name of the residential mortgage servicer and the lender or broker, as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02 is The Bank of Elk River

10. The name of the mortgage originator as defined in Minn. Stat. 58.02 is The Bank of Elk River

11. All pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof.

12. The original principal amount secured by the Mortgage was \$60,000.00.

13. As of the date of this notice the amount due on the Mortgage is \$30,957.15.

14. Pursuant to the power of sale in the Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed and the mortgaged property will be sold by the Sheriff of Sherburne County at public auction on **November 30, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Ctr. Dr. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said property, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law.

15. The time allowed for redemption by Mortgageor or Mortgageor's personal representatives or assigns is TWELVE (12) MONTHS after the date of the sale.

16. TIME AND DATE TO VACATE THE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on November 30, 2023.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OR LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. DATED: October 12, 2022.

/s/ Eric J. Sherburne  
Eric J. Sherburne (0279389)  
Eckberg Lammers, P.C.  
Attorneys for Mortgagee

430 Second Street  
Hudson, WI 54016  
Telephone: (715) 386-3733  
(Published in the Patriot: 10/22/22; 10/29/22; 11/05/22; 11/12/22; 11/19/22; 11/26/22.)



# Public Notices

## Probates

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE  
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Case Type: Informal Probate  
Court File No.: 71-PR-22-137  
In re the Estate of  
**LaRaine Janet Baker,**  
Deceased.

**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:

Jayne Serfoss, 17850 Thrush Circle NW, Andover, MN 55304 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: October 19, 2022  
/s/ Pamela Kreier  
Probate Registrar  
/s/ Patricia Kuka  
Court Administrator  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/05/22; 11/12/22).

## Summons

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF ISANTI  
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
Court File Number: 30-JV-22-141  
Case Type: CHIPS - Permanency

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child of: Anna Jean Mockenhaupt and William Roemhild

**Summons and Notice of Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody Matter (CHP-117)**

**NOTICE TO:** Anna Jean Mockenhaupt, Above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).

1. A Petition to Transfer Permanent Legal and Physical Custody has been filed in the Juvenile Court. This petition asks the court to permanently transfer the parent/guardian's legal and physical custodial rights to a relative.
2. **This is your notice** that this Transfer of Permanent Legal and Physical Custody case is scheduled for a remote hearing before the Juvenile Court via Remote Technology (ZOOM) on November 18, 2022 at 1:30 PM or as soon after as the case can be heard. Please contact court administration to get the remote hearing information.
3. **YOU ARE ORDERED** to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.
4. You have a right to be represented by counsel.
5. If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including permanently transferring the legal and physical custodial rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) or permanent out-of-home placement of the child(ren).

Dated November 2, 2022  
BY:  
Isanti County Court Administration

555 18th Avenue SW  
Cambridge Minnesota 55008  
763-290-7020  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/05/22; 11/12/22; 11/19/22.)

## City Public Notices

**CITY OF CLEARWATER  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
NOTICE OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN,** that the City of Clearwater will conduct Municipal Elections in conjunction with the State General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 for the purpose of electing:  
- one (1) Mayor for a term of two (2) years  
- two (2) Council Members for a term of four (4) years each, and  
- one (1) Council Member for a term of two (2) years.  
The hours of voting in the City of Clearwater will be from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The polling place for City of Clearwater residents is at the Lions Park Building located at 1100 County Road 75 NW.  
For additional information or questions, contact City Hall during regular business hours at 320-558-2428.  
Annita M. Smythe  
City Administrator  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/29/22; 11/05/22.)

**CITY OF CLEARWATER  
ORDINANCE NO. 2022-07  
SUMMARY PUBLICATION**  
On September 12, 2022, the Clearwater City Council approved Ordinance No. 2022-07, Approval of Rezoning for Property to be platted as Lot 2, Block 1, Central Minnesota Cold Storage. The ordinance rezones certain property described in the ordinance to the city's I-1 district to accommodate a proposed cold storage development, although such rezoning is conditioned on final approval and recordation of the Central Minnesota Cold Storage plat. Said plat includes Wright County PIDs #204-100-034103 and #204-100-034400. The full text of the ordinance is available for inspection at City Hall during regular business hours.  
Adopted by the City Council this 12th day of September, 2022.  
APPROVED BY:  
/s/ Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
/s/ Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/05/22.)

## Big Lake Public Schools #727 Notices

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**  
This represents a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Big Lake Public Schools #727. A complete set of minutes will be on file at the District Office and on our website at [www.biglakeschools.org](http://www.biglakeschools.org) upon Board approval.

- CALL TO ORDER**  
The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools, was called to order on October 27, 2022.
- ROLL CALL**  
All Board members were present except Mr. Derek Nelson.
- APPROVE AGENDA**  
A motion passed to approve the agenda.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- OPEN FORUM**  
None
- CONSENT AGENDA**  
A motion passed to approve the following:  
**A. PREVIOUS MINUTES**  
**B. CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**  
**C. CREDIT CARD REPORT**  
**D. PERSONNEL**  
**E. ONE READ POLICIES**  
**F. FINAL READING AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES**
- DONATIONS**  
A motion passed to approve the donations.
- FINANCIAL REPORT**  
A motion passed to approve the financial report as presented.
- APPROVE INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATION BID PACKAGE #1**  
A motion passed to approve the base bid of \$235,592.00 from Schwab Vollhaber Lubratt, Inc.
- SCHOOL SHOWCASE**  
Middle School
- APPROVE LOCAL 284 CONTRACT**  
A motion passed to approve the contract for Local 284 for 2022-2024 as presented.
- APPROVE SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT**  
A motion passed to approve the superintendent's contract for 2023-2026 as presented.
- RESOLUTION OF GOVERNING BOARD SUPPORTING FORM A APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION**  
A motion passed to approve the following resolution:  
**RESOLUTION OF GOVERNING BOARD SUPPORTING FORM A APPLICATION TO MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE FOUNDATION**
- FIRST READING OF POLICIES**
- SECOND READING OF POLICIES**
- COMMITTEE UPDATES**
- STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**
- SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**
- ADJOURNMENT**  
A motion passed to adjourn the meeting.  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/05/22.)



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**Steve Fields**  
Minnesota Attorney

**FIELDS LAW FIRM**

## Township Public Notices

**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION**  
Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Palmer Township, County of Sherburne, State of Minnesota, that the General Election of Federal, State and County offices will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.  
The Election Poll hours will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., November 8, 2022, at which time the voters will elect candidates to fill several positions for offices within the Federal, State, and County Governments.  
The General Election will be held at the following location:  
**Palmer Township Hall  
4180 - 105th Avenue  
Clear Lake, MN 55319**  
Amy Bragelman  
Palmer Township Clerk  
October 25, 2022  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/29/22; 11/05/22.)

**TOWN OF BECKER  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Notice is hereby given that the Becker Town Board will hold their monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 21st, 2022 at Becker Town Hall, 12165 Hancock Street. The Town Board will meet to consider the following application(s) and other related topics. Beginning at approximately 7:01 p.m. and following:  
**Public hearing for a Metes and Bounds split application. Owners/Applicants: Sandra Dahl, Deborah Gapen, and Ann Orth.** The owners/applicants have submitted a metes and bounds split application for parcel currently recognized as 17910 87th Street SE, Becker, MN.  
Anyone interested in this request is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you wish to attend via Zoom, contact the clerk for details. If you have questions regarding the requests please contact the clerk at Becker Township Hall, 12165 Hancock Street, Becker, MN, 763-261-5301. If you are unable to attend please provide written comment to Lucinda Messman at P.O. Box 248, Becker, MN 55308 or by email to [clerk@beckertownship.org](mailto:clerk@beckertownship.org) by 4:00 p.m., November 21st, 2022.  
Lucinda Messman  
Clerk, Becker Township  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/05/22.)

**TOWN OF BECKER  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Notice is hereby given that the Becker Township Planning Commission will hold their monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14th, 2022 at Becker Town Hall, 12165 Hancock Street. The Planning Commission will meet to consider the following application(s) and other planning and zoning related topics. Beginning at approximately 7:01 p.m. and following:  
**Public hearing for Preliminary Plat Application and consideration of Final Plat Application. Owners/Applicants: Sandra Dahl, Deborah Gapen, and Ann Orth.** The owners/applicants have submitted a preliminary plat application and final plat application for parcels currently recognized as 17910 87th Street SE, Becker, MN.  
Anyone interested in these requests is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you wish to attend via Zoom, contact the clerk for details. If you have questions regarding the requests please contact the clerk at Becker Township Hall, 12165 Hancock Street, Becker, MN, 763-261-5301. If you are unable to attend please provide written comment to Lucinda Messman at P.O. Box 248, Becker, MN 55308 or by email to [clerk@beckertownship.org](mailto:clerk@beckertownship.org) by 4:00 p.m., November 14th, 2022.  
Lucinda Messman  
Clerk, Becker Township  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/05/22.)

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**MNsure**

## Sherburne County Recorder Vital Statistics Marriage Application Report for October 2022

Samuel Robert Borchers and Shayla Marie Benson of Big Lake; Richard Allen Rudolph and Colleen Marie Hempel of Zimmerman; Emily Marie Heath and Scott Charles Peterson of Big Lake; Marissa Mala Nalin of Prior Lake and Dale Richard Hedtke of Big Lake; Shawnda Christina Anderson and Jason Ronald Ross of Elk River; Brian Joseph Dolecki and Destiny Monique Friedrichs of Foley; Rebecca Louise Johnson and Adam Lacy Hensley of Saint Cloud; Clyde James Christian of Elk River and Kelly Elizabeth Carr of Zimmerman; Brett Edward North of Elk River and Olivia Lauren Peck of Maple Grove; Paul Robert Hilgers and Deanna Marie Peterson of Big Lake; Geraldine Daniela Urizar and Jason James Torrence of Otsego; Phillip William Brown and Claudia Jo Bush of Zimmerman; James Kerkula Pewu Iii and Augusta Carolyn Lahai of Big Lake; Marc Brian Wojcik and Nicole Therese Rasmusen of Big Lake; Maxwell Joseph Johnson and Katherine Marie Freeberg of Princeton; Michael Edward Kirchoff and Alexandria Augustina Miller of Elk River; Troy William Dollansky of Elk River and Heidi Ann Vanderlinde of Young America; Nico Ray Espinoza and Hanna Justine Stuedemann of Zimmerman; Darren Michael Moeller and Ashley Nicole May of Becker; Hugo Guillermo Euribe Jr and Nathalie Abigail Fernandez of Big Lake; Trent Jeffrey Collins and Nicole Lynn Vincent of Elk River; Bradley David Paulsen and Lindsay June Johnston of Zimmerman; Trevor Joseph Berger and Courtney Arlene Rhodes of Elk River; Decota John Derocher and Katherine Grace Stram of Big Lake; Juan Andrés Sánchez Yumbo and Jenny Alexandra Chacaguasay Pineda of Becker; Danelle Louise Poehler and Ryan William Peters of Zimmerman; Cody Robert Dellwo of Corcoran and Virginia May Pearson of Zimmerman; Kristina Mary Kastanek and Tyler Troy Smith of Becker; Anthony Francis Her and Shalean Marie Gregor of Zimmerman; Tyler Jordan Luckett and Airrica Maria Williams of Branson, MO.

**PATRIOT**  
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

**Pick up a copy of the PATRIOT at the following locations:**

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

**DEADLINES**

**Notices & Legals Wednesdays At Noon**

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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. During the school year: AWANA for Kids/Sun. School 9:15am, Midweek Connect for Kids 6:30pm. Please register Kids on our website. Youth Group: Wed. 6:30pm. 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 9:30am (Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays) Nursery available. Sun. school 9:55am, Refreshments & fellowship at 10:30am, Wed. programs: 6:00pm Wed. Worship, 6:30pm 7th - 9th grade confirmation, 7:30pm Youth Group 1st & 3rd Wed. Bible Studies: Tues. 9:00am www.faithlutheran-becker.org.  
**Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God**  
Pastors: Gerry Bass & Sarah, 763-220-6004, 13140 1st St (SW Corner of Becker Furniture World). Services: Sun. Bible Study/Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.  
**Snake River Free Church**  
Pastor: Steve Johnston, 612-219-8648, 180th St SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Sun. School 10:30am., Hymn Sing in second Sun. of every month.  
**Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church**  
Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am, Wed. Family Fellowship 7pm.  
**Beacon House of Prayer**  
Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm.  
**Free Grace United**  
Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, Becker High School, 12000 Hancock St, Enter door 11. Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm.

**• BIG LAKE**  
**Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church**  
Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am, Sat. Sabbath School 10:15am.  
**Bethany Bible Church**  
763-263-2167, 511 Eagle Lake Road. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.  
**Bridgeview Assembly of God**  
Pastor: Steve Royalty, 763-263-6274, 20500 County Road 11. Services: Sun. Worship 9am & 10:45am, Wed. groups (kids/youth/adults) 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 & 10:30am.  
**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.  
**Spirit Life Church**  
763-262-LIFE, 221 Lake St N. Services Sun. mornings 9:45am. Going Deeper Sun. 9am. Prophetic Prayer Wed. 7pm.  
**• SANTIAGO**  
**South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA**  
Pastor: Courtney Young, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 8am and 10 am, Sun. School 9am.  
**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**  
320-699-0876, 7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Starting in Sept. Wed. night Ladies in Recovery study at 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. www.shedchurch.org.  
**St. Marcus Catholic Church**  
Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave. Services: Mon. & Wed. Mass 8am, Sat. Confessions 4:15pm, Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. 8am.  
**• DUELM**  
**St. Lawrence Church**  
Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502, 10915 Duellm 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 Baptist Church**  
320-434-347, 605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office). Services: Sun. Prayer 9am, Sun. School 9:30am, Sun. Worship 10:45am.  
**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/UCsJGuBda4orT9TWii5vmGw  
**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 Tatkendorst, 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.  
**• SAINT CLOUD**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
Pastor: Joshua Reber, 320-252-3315, 3000 County Road SE. Worship: Sun. 10:15am.

## Obituaries

**Ross Bryant Johnson, Age 41**  
Weatherford, TX (Formerly Becker, MN)  
April 4, 1981 – October 15, 2022

Ross, resident of Weatherford, Texas, was promoted to glory on October 15th, 2022, surrounded by his wife and family. Ross was born on April 4, 1981, to Dean and Wendy Johnson of Becker, Minnesota. He graduated from Becker High School and attended DeVry University. He married Amy (Rieke) in 2010, and they had two sons, Samuel and Ezra. Ross had a strong work ethic and put his heart and creativity into so much of what he did. He worked at Anatomy IT as a Senior Service Desk Engineer. He was a talented craftsman and entrepreneur and started Truth Woodworking, making beautiful custom woodwork. He volunteered at Becker Baptist in his younger years, and eventually found his church home at Mudcastle in St. Cloud, MN where he served in audio/video production, building maintenance, administration, and prayer. He also served on the board of Gracemarie's Song; a non-profit formed to combat sexual exploitation. He enjoyed deer hunting with his family, board games, Hawaiian shirts, guns, dad jokes, tacos, green olives, spicy peppers, and whipped cream with a side of pie. In 2021, he moved with his family on to a new adventure in the great state of Texas.

Ross fully enjoyed life and when he was diagnosed with colon cancer in December of 2021, he determined to live his days in faith for healing. He was courageous in his faith and an encouragement to his friends and family. In the end, he knew when he faced death, he would be with Jesus. Knowing that, he had joy and peace. According to God's great mercy, Ross was born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for him. (1 Peter 1:3-4) In the midst of pain, he lived his last days with his sense of humor, love for his family and friends, and praising God for His faithfulness.

He is survived by his wife Amy, sons Samuel (8) and Ezra (6), parents Dean and Wendy Johnson, sister Rachel (Andrew) Nelson, sister Kimberly Baggett, and grandmother Virginia Johnson, in addition to nieces, nephews, uncles, aunts and cousins.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, November 19th - 10am Visitation and 11am Service at Becker Baptist Church: 11951 Hancock St, Becker, MN. Dress will be casual and Hawaiian shirts are encouraged.



## MEDICARE QUESTIONS?

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**763-241-7900**  
We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE to get information on all of your options.

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**AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP**  
**HAPPY PEOPLE LIVE LONGER!**  
Any adult ages 55+ is invited to join Central MN RSVP and CentraCare on Wed., Nov. 9, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Becker Community Center for a free lunch and workshop to learn more about the Bounce Back Program! The Bounce Back Project™ has a single purpose - to impact the lives of individuals, communities, and organizations by promoting health through happiness. Many studies have shown that using simple tools to help us retrain our mind to focus on the positive can increase feelings of well-being and decrease feelings of depression. Register early, there are only 40 spots available, and the deadline is Mon., Nov. 7, at noon, call (320) 650-3116 or email [rsvp.signup@ci.stcloud.mn.us](mailto:rsvp.signup@ci.stcloud.mn.us). Invite a friend who is 55+ to join you!!! (RSVP or Community Center membership not required to attend.) If you are interested and this date doesn't work, please contact RSVP by phone or email and we will notify you about any future sessions.

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