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THE BECKER ROBOTICS TEAM FRC 4607 competed last week at the World Championships in Houston, TX and made it all the way to the Einstein Division, where they finished in fourth place. Einstein is the final playoff division and making it that far is truly an elite experience. See the story on page 14. (Submitted Photo.)

Inside

BECKER

Steil Insurance was named Business of the Year by the Becker Area Chamber of Commerce. See the story on page 10.

BIG LAKE

Big Lake City Council approved Bob's Towing as their service provider for towing purposes. See the story on page 10.

SHERBURNE COUNTY

A report was released by the Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer last week showing most property owners across the county will see lower tax rates in 2023. Check out the story on page 9.

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- EMPLOYMENT - Pages 4 & 11
- SPORTS/ACTIVITIES - Pages 11-14

INSERTS

- **Bill's Family Foods** (All zips)
- **Menard's** (55320, 55319)
- **Runnings** (All zips)
- **3 Son's Hardware** (55309)

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RIBBON IN THE SKY...



MINNESOTA'S NORTHERN LIGHTS made local appearances this week as seen in this amazing photo of the sky above the Sherco Power Plant in Becker. (Submitted Photo by Nicole Curtis.)

Freedom Rock® to get much-needed canopy

Citizens for the Big Lake Freedom Rock® project gathered last Saturday night at The Buff event center for a Freedom Rockin' benefit to construct a canopy over the Freedom Rock to protect it from the elements. Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos was the main attraction.

Submitted Article

This was the one and only fundraiser the organizers needed as the benefit was a huge success and a shelter

will be built this year.

Artist Bubba Sorenson painted the rock located at Lakeside Park in August 2021 as a thank you to veterans. Bubba's goal was and is to paint a Freedom Rock in every state in the union. See his website for all the locations of painted rocks at www.thefreedomrock.com. The Freedom Rocks represent a thank you to veterans for the freedoms everyone experiences today and gratitude to those who gave those rights to Americans.

Two local veterans represented on the Big Lake rock, Sara Seck and Dawn Perry, were among the guests last Saturday. Volunteer organizers of the Freedom Rockin' event Linda Paulson and Karen Blake said: "We are now able to build the shelter needed due to the generosity of the guests who attended."

CANOPY to page 2



Johnson, Kolbinger, Drehmel honored at BEF Gala

Three prominent members of the Becker area were honored last Saturday at Pebble Creek by the Becker Education

Foundation as part of their annual Community Recognition Gala.

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

Jean Johnson, Mark Kolbinger and Amy Drehmel were named the winners of the 2023 Outstanding Community Member Award — an award that recognizes businesses and community members who have distinguished themselves through contributions to the

Becker community through volunteerism, service, philanthropy or social advocacy.

Jean Johnson

Johnson, who has been connected to the Becker area since her junior year in high school, was the first to receive her award. Johnson is well-known in the area for her work in agriculture and her association with Norm's Farm Market and for leading the cause to start up the local Farm Friends organization.



Johnson and her husband, Steve, were married at the old Becker Lutheran Church more than 41 years ago. She and Steve have

BEF to page 7

75 years and still growing

T.O. Plastics, Inc., a leading thermoforming manufacturer, is proud to celebrate its 75th anniversary this year.

Since its founding in 1948, T.O. Plastics has been committed to delivering the highest quality thermoformed trays and design services in the horticulture, life sciences, and industrial markets.

Submitted Article

Over the past seven and a half decades, T.O. Plastics has grown to become a respected industry leader, known for its innovative products, exceptional customer service, and commitment to excellence. Today, the company is ranked among the top 100 thermoformers in North America and serves customers globally, and has earned a reputation for delivering reliable, high-quality products and services.

T.O. Plastics is focused on environmental responsibility through using recycled materials and manufacturing with minimal waste. By reclaiming millions of pounds of plastic each year, the company reduces the amount of waste in landfills and conserves natural resources. Meanwhile, operating with nearly zero waste means T.O.



75 YEARS to page 7

Clear Lake Twp. receives funding for pollinator garden

During their March meeting, Clear Lake Twp. Supervisor Bud Stimmler provided an update on the Great River Greening grant the township

had applied for in 2019. The grant money would be used to construct a pollinator habitat garden at Clear Lake Twp. Park. Stimmler informed the board funding had finally come in that will provide \$9,000 in plantings and assistance. The township will pay an additional \$1,000 toward the project.

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsmn.com

Great River Greening is now suggesting the township expand the habitat area planned, which is currently 1.5 acres. Twp. Engineer Terrance Vander Eyk will write a second proposal for submittal.

Road Report
Eyk updated the board on potential road projects, informing them the stretch of 67th St. that's blacktop needs significant repair beyond just crack filling and sealing. Last year's quote for the project was \$9,150, half of which would be Palmer Twp.'s responsibility. Their board will be contacted to discuss.

Eyk informed the board he had a 'rude awakening' when estimating the cost to double seal coat 80th Ave., which came in at \$76,140, the estimated unit price being \$11.75/square yard. In comparison, a similar project last year came in at \$6.50/square yard.

The cost was so high Eyk decided to look into the price of actually tarring the road just to see the difference. It wasn't a lot, coming in at \$80,650.

During previous meetings the board had discussed potential seal coat projects. Because of the high cost of snow removal this year, 100th Ave. was moved to 2024. Eyk will put together a bid package for the other seal

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CLTWP. to page 8

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Becker Baptist Church
 Pastor: Nathan Bucher, 763-261-4202, 11951 Hancock St. Services: Sun. Worship/Children 10:30am • www.beckerbaptist.org.
Becker Evangelical Free Church
 Pastor: Gerald Deppa, 763-261-4125, Becker High School, Office: 11373 150th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Teaching/Fellowship 10am • www.beckerfreechurch.org.
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) • www.maryofthevisitation.com.
Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)
 763-261-5751, 11755 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am (Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays) • www.faithlutheran-becker.org.
Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God
 Pastor: Gerry Bass, 763-220-6004, 13140 1st St (SW Corner of Becker Furniture World). Services: Sun. Worship 10am • www.oakwoodcchurch.org.
Snake River Free Church
 Pastor: Steve Johnston, 612-219-8648, 8940 180th St SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Sun. School 10:30am. • sites.google.com/view/snakeriverchurch/home
Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church
 Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am • beckerchristiancenter.org/becker-christian-center-church.
Beacon House of Prayer
 Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm. • <http://mnhouseofprayer.org>.
Free Grace United
 Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, 13150 First Street, Becker (enter through Becker Spine door). Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm. <https://freegrace.tv/locations/becker>.
- BIG LAKE**
Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church
 Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am • <https://lactsmn.adventistchurch.org>.
Bethany Bible Church
 763-263-2167, 511 Eagle Lake Road. Services: Sun. Worship 10am. • www.bethanybiblemn.com.
Bridgeview Assembly of God
 Pastor: Steve Royalty, 763-263-6274, 20500 County Road 11. Services: Sun. Worship 9am & 10:45am • <https://lbridgeviewchurch.org>
SVEA Hill Covenant Church
 Pastor: Don Bellach, 763-263-6322, 16922 235th Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 10am. • <https://www.sveahill.org>.
Cornerstone Baptist Church
 Pastor: Gordon Langdon, 763-263-7878, 15300 County Road 35. • www.facebook.com/cornerstonebaptistchurchmn.
Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrock
 763-262-0028. Worship 10am. • www.hopethereference.weebly.com.
IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE Living Love Church
 Pastors: Juan & Patricia Aguayo, 763-607-5403, 21 Lake St N. Services: Sat. 6pm. • <https://www.facebook.com/amor-vivientemn>.
Lord of Glory Lutheran Church
 Pastor: Marty Mably, 763-263-3090, 15550 190th Ave NW. Services: Sun. 8am & 10:30am. • www.lordofglorylutheran.org/home
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) • www.maryofthevisitation.com.
Riverside Church
 763-263-2410, 20314 County Road 14. Services: Sun 8:45am, 10:30am & 12:05pm. • www.myrccchurch.org.
Saron Lutheran Church
 Pastor: Kyle Sidlo, 763-263-2209, 311 Lake St. S. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am, indoors or livestream. • www.saron.org.
Spirit Life Church

763-262-LIFE, 221 Lake St N. Services Sun. mornings 9:45am. • www.spiritlifechurchmn.org.

• SANTIAGO
South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA
 Pastor: Allison Peterson, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 8am. and 10 am. • www.sslcmn.org
Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School
 Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St. Services: Sun. Divine Worship 9am. • <https://oursaviorsprinceton.com>
Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA)
 Pastor: Shari Routh, 920-573-0193, 1100 186th Ave NE. Services: Sun Good Shepherd 9am, Sun. Glendorado 10:30am. • www.godsgreaterglory.org
Gethsemane Church (ELCA) - Ronneby
 Pastor: Barbara Peterson, 320-983-5002, 14478 78th St. NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10am. • www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=10006901611334.
Glendorado Evangelical Country Church
 Interim Pastor, 763-662-2244, 16999 Glendorado Road NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10:30am. • <https://m.facebook.com/Glendorado-Evangelical-Country-Church-734989370230509>.

• CLEAR LAKE
Living Waters Church
 320-699-0876, 7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am. • <https://www.facebook.com/livingwaters.us>.
Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
 Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919, 8641 Main Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am. • www.trinityclearlake.org/index.html.
SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer
 Pastors: Lay Minister Leader, 320-241-0123. Services: Sun. 5pm. • www.shed-church.org.
St. Marcus Catholic Church
 Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave. Services: Mon. & Wed. Mass 8am, Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. 8am. • www.churchofstmarcus.org.

• DUELM
St. Lawrence Church
 Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502, 10915 Duell Road NE. Services: Sun. Mass 10am, Tues. Mass 8am. • www.stlawrencechurchofduell.com.
• CLEARWATER
Clearwater United Methodist Church
 Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am. • www.clearwaterumcmn.org
Freedom Bible Baptist Church
 320-434-347, 605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office). Services: Sun. . Worship 10:45am. • www.freedombiblebaptist.com.
Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA
 Pastor: Jim Bump, 320-558-6851, 1155 County Road 75. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am. Livestream worship at Rejoice's Youtube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsJGuBda0rT9TWYi-5wmGw>
• www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org
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. • <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchOfStLukes>.
Tri-County Alliance Church
 Pastor: David Fogal, 320-558-2750, 8464 160th St NW. Services: Sun. Worship 10:30am. • <http://tccchurch.com>.

• SILVER CREEK
Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Pastor: Ken Tatkenhorst, 763-878-2820, 11390 Elliot Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am • <https://immanuel-lutheran-church-of-silver-creek.business.site>.
Silver Creek Community Church
 Pastor: Zach Pryor, 320-963-3957, 4282 114th St NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am • <https://silvercreekcommunity-church.net>.
• SAINT CLOUD
Faith Lutheran Church
 Pastor: Joshua Reber, 320-252-3315, 3000 County Road SE. Worship: Sun. 10:15am. • www.faithstcloud.org.

The Cranes are Back



By Ken Francis
Contributing Writer



I've noticed an unusually large number of sandhill cranes flying over the farm so far this year.

I don't always see them, but it's easy to recognize their trumpeting call as they fly by.

It could be a few from a larger flock. Or maybe its just the same few going back and forth from the woods to the fields.

Cranes generally return to their breeding areas in the north from late March through mid-April. I've read that sandhill cranes come back to the same general area every year to nest, and they typically build a nest in the same or similar spot.

Over the past five years, I've spotted a pair of sandhill cranes in the open grass field between our old farm house and the dirt road. But that's usually been in the fall. It could be that they had already nested for the season, and were trying to load up on food to have enough energy for their southern migration.

They eat seeds, plant tubers, grains, berries, insects, earthworms, mice, snakes and frogs. We have plenty of all of those on the

farm and in the woods. Our forest has multiple areas of wetlands and thick brush. And once the farmers in the area harvest their crops, there's plenty of residual grains and exposed insects for the taking.

I remember the first time I saw them in our field about five years ago. I had never seen any up close, and I was amazed at the size of the birds. To me,

they resembled some prehistoric flying animal like the pterodactyl.

Luckily, I was able to quietly creep out our porch door and snap a few photos. They glanced up at me but didn't fly away. They slowly walked across the field and disappeared into the trees. I really appreciated the fact that they felt our farm was a comfortable and inviting place to stop.

tering ground in the southern U.S. and Mexico.

Last fall on a single day, refuge staff and volunteers counted a record number of cranes in a single day - more than 29,000.

They typically stick around until the weather turns colder and the wetlands freeze over. Then their southern journey begins. They return when the weather is expected to warm up here up north.

I think the extended winter weather here had them a bit confused when they returned this year. Everything was covered with over a foot of snow in our woods. The wetlands were still frozen. So they had to spend time searching for food and a roosting spot.

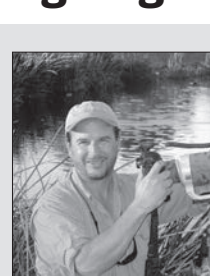
But now things have warmed up. There's exposed grass. Our ponds and wetlands are liquid again. And early Monday morning, as I was walking our dog near the woods, I spotted a pair of sandhill cranes near the tree line at the edge of the field.

They're back.

Spring Migration

that much just to get a picture.

Just as I was mulling over the dilemma of not wanting to scare the birds a couple guys in an ATV (all-terrain vehicle) raced across the ice on



By Sen. Andrew Mathews

extra weight of the blind, tripod and camera caused me to crash through the crusty snow instead of being able to walk on the surface. Each step I sunk into the snow up to my knees. Twenty-five minutes later, huffing and puffing, I reached the edge of the lake.

I picked out a spot where I could set up my chair blind and have a good view of much of the open water and not be too close to scare the birds when they return. Blind placement is very important part of being a successful wildlife photographer.

I was able to flatten down a section of snow and pop up my chair blind. I mounted my 800 mm lens on the tripod and pulled the fabric of the blind over my head completely concealing me within the blind. It was dark inside the blind and bright and sunny outside. I tried to get comfortable and made all the necessary adjustments to my camera settings to ensure that I wasn't fiddling around with the camera when the birds came back. I wanted to be ready when the time was right.

Eventually the two guys packed up and left to

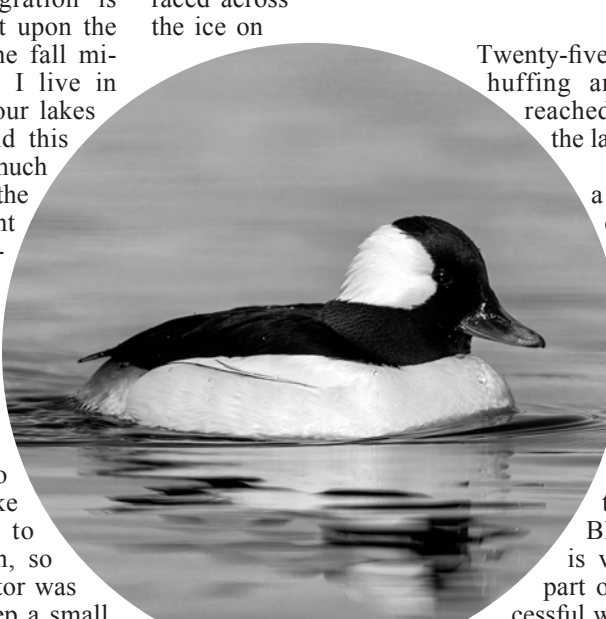
is an exciting time in the natural world. Compared to the fall or autumn migration, the spring migration is faster, more agile, and it definitely seems to have an air of urgency. This is because the birds returning to the northland are in a hurry to claim the best territories and start the process of reproduction.

It also seems like the spring migration is more dependent upon the weather than the fall migration. Where I live in the northland, our lakes freeze over, and this year we had so much snow on top of the ice that sunlight couldn't penetrate the snow and ice on the lake to allow the aquatic plants to survive. As a result, the oxygen levels started to drop in the lake and threaten to kill off the fish, so an electric aerator was deployed to keep a small section of the lake open and to restore the oxygen in the lake water.

A couple weeks ago, while snow still blanketed the ground, I was standing in my yard looking down the hill to the open water on the lake caused by the aerator. Hundreds and hundreds of ducks, geese, swans and mergansers filled the small open section of lake. I was thinking I wanted to make my way down to the edge of the lake to set up my portable blind and try to capture some images. However, I knew if I walked down to the lake all the waterfowl would fly away and I didn't want to disturb the birds

the lake and stopped just 75 yards from the edge of the water. I estimate about 500 plus birds were instantly scared off the open water. I watched as the two guys jumped out of the ATV and started drilling holes in the ice to fish. Neither one of them even noticed the hundreds of ducks that they scared and were now flying right over their heads.

I took advantage of the situation and quickly grabbed my portable chair blind, camera and tripod. However, I definitely underestimated the depth of the snow. Carrying the



CANOPY from page 1

Freedom Rock sponsors who graciously covered the expenses of the event were: Big Lake Lions, Big Lake American Legion & Auxiliary, Homes for Heroes, Spud Fest, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and Knights of Columbus Becker and Big Lake.

Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos' concert motivated the sell-out crowd by honoring guests like Deli Rose Stein, 94 with a saxophone rendition of *Over the Rainbow* that brought the crowd to a standing ovation. Ketti Green will forever now be nicknamed Edith with her entertaining Edith Bunker version of *Those Were the Days* and Norm Leslie was given the famous call out by the crowd as Norm from the show *Cheers*. Nancy "Sally" Theisen was asked to point out six handsome men in the audience, who came on stage and performed the well-known YMCA song captured on many FB pages.

"The crowd was in such an upbeat mood that night," said one organizer. "I think when they saw the Big Lake Fire truck floating the beautiful U.S. Flag as they entered the parking lot they knew they were in for a great night."

Tribute pavers placed around the rock will continue to be installed until the shelter project is complete. For those interested, contact Karen Blake at 763 234-0369 for more information.

A GROUP OF SIX MEN chosen from the audience (right) did their best to imitate the Village People as they sang and dance to the song, YMCA. (Submitted Photo).



BIG LAKE ADVOCATE KETTI GREEN gave a stirring rendition of "Those Were the Days" ala Edith Bunker from the All in the Family TV show. (Submitted Photo).



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Business Expo!



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 Come and meet your local businesses!



Purchase tickets in advance for a chance to win a \$50 gift card!



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SAT., MAY 6, 11:30AM

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Saturday, May 20th

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- Small Corded Appliances/Tools \$10/ea
- Exercise Equipment \$15/ea
- Tube Televisions/Monitors \$25/ea
- Rear Projection/Wood Console TVs \$50/ea
- Computers & Electronics \$15/ea
- Tires **REMOVED FROM RIMS**
 - o Passenger \$5/ea
 - o Commercial Truck \$25/ea
 - o Tractor \$40/ea
- Lawn Mowers/Lawn Tractors \$15/ea
- Snow Throwers/Snowmobiles 2-cycle Engines **FLUIDS DRAINED**
 - DRAINING FEE \$15/ea
- CFL & LED Bulbs (LIMIT 20) \$1/ea
- Ballasts (LIMIT 10) \$1/ea
- Propane Tanks
 - o 20# \$10/ea
 - o 1# \$1/ea

FREE ITEMS

- Scrap Metal
- Vehicle Batteries

Cash OR Check ONLY
Checks Payable to: "TOWN OF BIG LAKE"
 Non-Sufficient Funds checks will be charged a service fee of \$30. An invoice will be mailed.

RESIDENTIAL ONLY

- ONLY ITEMS LISTED WILL BE ACCEPTED
 - DONATE GENTLY USED ITEMS TO LOCAL CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS
 - DISPOSE OF WELL USED ITEMS IN YOUR TRASH
 - CALL YOUR WASTE HAULER TO PICK UP LARGER WELL USED ITEMS
 - **NO AMMONIA/GAS REFRIGERATORS**
- EVENT FORMS HAVE BEEN MAILED**

GATES OPEN
8 AM - 1 PM

METRO APPLIANCE RECYCLING

CALL 763-263-8111 OR 763-241-8787



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Local Government Websites
www.BIGLAKETOWNSHIP.com
www.ORROCKTOWNSHIP.com
www.BIGLAKEMN.org

Construction/Demo Debris
 Elk River Landfill: 763-441-2464
 Vonco II Landfill, Becker: 763-262-8662

HAZARDOUS HOUSEHOLD WASTE
 Stearns County Facility: GOOGLE "HHW FACILITY"

RECYCLING & DISPOSAL GUIDE
<https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/1082/Recycling-Tool>

Ace Heating And Air Conditioning, Inc.

\$30 off of service call
 coupon must be presented at time of service. Expires 5/30/23

763.389.2647

- We service all makes & models
- A/C conditioner or furnace tune-up specials

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
 24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICES • WWW.ACEHEATINGANDAIRINC.COM

Ask up About Financing Options • Emergency Service Available • Family Owned & Operated with over 30+ years of experience.

PALMER BALL PROGRAM

SEASON
 Monday, June 5 - Monday, July 24
 Sponsored by Palmer Park & Rec Dept
 No ball for Monday, July 3.

REGISTRATION
 Palmer Park Pavilion
 Sat. May 6, 10am-Noon or Mon, May 8, 5-7pm
 Cost: \$40 Includes T-shirt & hat
 Coaches receive a free shirt and hat and one child plays for free!
 *no late registrations will be taken (we have been filling to capacity), please call or email ahead of time if unable to make

TEE-BALL
 Mondays, 6-7pm
 Recommended ages 5-7
 Must be 4 yrs. by May 1

PITCH-BALL
 Mondays, 6-7:30pm
 Recommended ages 8-9

SOFTBALL
 Mondays 6-8:30pm
 Softball: Recommended ages 10-14
 Player may not turn 15 after May 1

VOLUNTEER COACHES AND PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.
PLEASE EMAIL PALMERBALLPROGRAM@GMAIL.COM IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

PATRIOT WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP & CITY OF CLEAR LAKE ANNUAL CLEAN UP DAY

Saturday, May 6th, 7:30 a.m. to Noon

Located at 7938 116TH Street SE, Clear Lake Township Hall Parking Lot.
Bring your unwanted materials and PROOF OF RESIDENCY.

VOLUNTEERS willing to work call Bud at 320-761-5793.

ACCEPTED ARTICLES WITH ASSOCIATED DISPOSAL FEE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Mattress or Box Spring (any size) (per piece)	\$25.00	Each Personal Computer or Laptop	\$ 10.00
Each Electrical Household Appliance	12.00	Each Computer Monitor or Printer	15.00
Household Furniture (per piece)	25.00	Television less than 24"	15.00
Household Air Conditioner	12.00	Television 24" to 39"	20.00
Passenger Car Tire or Utility Trailer Tire	4.00	Television greater than 39"	25.00
Passenger Car Tire or Utility Trailer Tire w/Rim	5.00	Bare/Broken Television/Monitor	50.00
Light Truck or Small Tractor Tire	6.00	Each Stereo System or Radio	10.00
Light Truck or Small Tractor Tire w/Rim	7.00	Scrap Metal	0.00
Large Truck Tire	7.00		
Large Truck Tire w/Rim	10.00	ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED:	
Farm Tractor Tire	20.00	-- Gas Operated Refrigerators	
Construction Equipment Tire	30.00	-- Restaurant Equipment	
General Junk (Small misc. items) (per 2 yards)	20.00	-- Business Equipment	
Tree Trimmings, Branches & Leaves (per 2 yards)	5.00	-- General Garbage	
Motor Vehicle & Household Batteries, Oil Filters	0.00	-- Household Hazardous Wastes	

(Contact Tri-County Solid Waste Management Commission for disposal of household hazardous waste at 1-800-450-6140.)

For more information regarding the annual clean up day, contact Paul at 612-695-4714.

Employment

BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING! BE A PART OF OUR TEAM!

2022-23 School Year Substitute Positions:

**TEACHERS
NURSES
FOOD SERVERS/DISHWASHERS
PARAPROFESSIONALS
BUS AND VAN DRIVERS
CUSTODIANS**

FOR INFORMATION ON ALL OUR OPENINGS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.BECKER.K12.MN.US
QUESTIONS? CONTACT ANGELA OSWALD @ 763-261-4502, OPTION 3

Becker Public Schools
Preparing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community



2 FT BUTCHERS/ MEAT PROCESSORS

Immediate opening. Will train, must be punctual & have clean appearance.
**\$16/hr. w/o experience
\$17/hr, with experience**

**Apply in person
or Call John
@763-295-2025
763-350-0656
7124 Jason Ave NE, Monticello**

KASOWSKI GROUP NOW HIRING!

• FT FARM LABOR
• FT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR • FT FARM MECHANIC

Apply in person, 1 mile east of Becker,
137th left, 1/8 mile on left. 612-747-0163

FT, PT & On-call Caregivers - All Shifts

REM

Make a difference for individuals with disabilities as a DSP



Search jobs and apply online at: sevitahealth.com
Call Rachel for more information: 763-377-2357
SevitaHealth.com



THE BECKER TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT NEEDS YOU!

AM / PM BUS DRIVER

Job Duties:
Safely operate school buses while transporting district students to and from school. Conduct daily pre-trips for all type III vehicles for student transportation. Ability to clearly communicate and follow directions with district employees, students, and parents. Be a team player with the transportation department, and the district as a whole. Follow all school district policies as well as federal, state, and local laws. This position will be directed by the transportation office staff and will assist with routes and any other needs for the school district, as assigned.

Requirements:
Clean driving record. Pass and carry a DOT physical. Class B drivers license, endorsements of school bus, passenger and air brake. Experience with CDL vehicles is preferred. We are willing to train the right candidate.

Position Details:
This is a 3 hour and 30 minute position, Monday through Friday. Start and end times will vary based on the needs of Becker Public Schools, and the route. Transportation Employee Agreement is available on our District website.
Salary: \$38.81 per route.

To apply online, go to: www.becker.k12.mn.us/HumanResources/Employment

Becker Public Schools
Preparing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community

Age 55+ workers needed for PT light custodial work at the Fuller Lake & Enfield Rest Areas located on 1-94. Contact Green View at 651-639-1913

CITY OF CLEARWATER PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE

The City of Clearwater, MN is currently accepting applications for a full-time public works maintenance employee. Minimum requirements include high school diploma or equivalent, valid Class A CDL or ability to obtain within 60 days of hire; Class D wastewater license or ability to obtain within 24 months of hire. Previous experience with light welding and fabrication, small motor repair, and heavy equipment operation is desired. Wage range is \$24.50 to \$31.97 per hour DOQ plus benefits. Background check is required. For a complete job description or to obtain an application visit www.clearwatercity.com. To apply, please submit a completed city application to asmythe@clearwatercity.com or mail to PO Box 9, Clearwater, MN 55320. **Applications will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24th, 2023.** Clearwater is an EOE/AA employer.



Give Blood
St. Marcus Church
Blood Drive
Mon., May 15, 2023
11:30am-5:30pm
8701 Main Ave. Clear Lake

CLICK, CALL OR APPLY TODAY!

Express EMPLOYMENT PROFESSIONALS

SPRING INTO A NEW JOB TODAY

- GENERAL LABOR - \$16/HR
- PRODUCTION ASSEMBLY - \$16+/HR
- ACCOUNTING CLERK - \$18/HR
- FORKLIFT OPERATORS - \$17.50+/HR

PROFESSIONAL DIRECT HIRE

- PROJECT COORDINATOR
- HR GENERALIST
- ESTIMATOR/PROJECT MANAGER

320-251-1038
EXPRESSPROS.COM/STCLOUDMN

Becker Public Schools
Preparing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community

**BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING
NIGHT CUSTODIAN**

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO APPLY, GO TO:
[HTTPS://WWW.APPLITRACK.COM/BECKER/ONLINEAPP/](https://www.applitrack.com/becker/onlineapp/)

QUESTIONS? CONTACT RICK KRAUS, DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
AT RKRAUS@ISD726.ORG

BAYER
UNIT INC.

NOW HIRING

ROUTE & OTR DRIVERS

\$10,000 Sign on Bonus | bayerbuilt.com

Big Lake LIVE BIG!

Looking for a great place to work?

Your Streets and Parks Division is in search of seasonal part time team members! Current position available:

Seasonal Park Attendant, enjoy working at Lakeside Park with boat inspections, helping with Farmers Market, Music in the Park and other City sponsored events. Hours vary per week and may include weekends, holidays and evenings. Hourly wage is \$15.00 hour.

Seasonal Lawn Care, this position is responsible for lawn care of City parks and lands. Will also assist full-time staff in various maintenance and repair task. Hours vary per week and may include weekends, holidays and evenings. Hourly wage is \$16.00 hour.

Please reach out to Norm, at 763-251-8011 or nmichels@biglakemn.org for more information. Applications are available at Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St N, or on-line at www.biglakemn.org. EEOC

Help Wanted: Travel Advisor

We are seeking a full time Travel Advisor. Your Travel Agency has been in business for 39 years. Our goal is to provide service & value exceeding our clients expectations. This job requires a great attitude & sense of humor.

- Preferred. 1 year of experience and knowledge of WorldSpan GDS
- Must be able to adapt and change as requirements of the business change
- Positive communication skills
- Ability to manage workload efficiently & accurately
- Work as a team member and support each other

**Starting salary \$19.00
Benefit: Paid Vacation Time
Please email: fly@yourtravelmn.com**

YOUR TRAVEL AGENCY
Service That Makes The Distance

1615 1st St S
St. Cloud, MN 56301
(320) 253-6410

WE HAVE A POSITION OPENING AT THE PATRIOT!

ADVERTISING SALES

We're looking for a results-driven, motivated, outgoing and friendly person to join our sales team.

Position includes selling advertising to established and new accounts in our weekly community newspaper, website and our indoor digital billboards.

Advertising sales includes: display, classifieds, special sections, community guides, website and our 46 indoor digital billboards.

Sales territory consists of a well defined area to include Big Lake and Elk River.

Sales may be done in-person, telephone or by email. General office hours are Monday - Thursday 8 am - 5 pm. An occasional Friday may be required. Base pay plus commission.

COME JOIN OUR EXCEPTIONAL TEAM!

Send resume to sales.carol@patriotnewsmn.com or you can mail it to: Patriot, P.O. Box 458, Becker MN 55308.

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A Division of Patriot News PMS LLC

PATRIOT

WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

LaTour Construction Inc.
Maple Lake MN
Equal Opportunity Employer, Est. 1976

Union Contractor is accepting applications for operators/laborers on sewer & water construction crews. Experience preferred, but not required. Metro scale union wages.

Full benefits. Download application at www.LaTourConstruction.com or pick one up at the office.

Mail/email/deliver completed application to:

LaTour Construction Inc.
2134 County Road 8 NW
Maple Lake MN 55358
320-963-5993
kristi@latourconstruction.com

MORE EMPLOYMENT CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 11

Public Notices

Notices

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS SAP 071-620-005 CSAH 20 from CSAH 16 to CSAH 3 SAP 071-620-007 CSAH 20 from CSAH 3 to N Co Line SHERBURNE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NOTICE is hereby given that electronic bids will be accepted through the Sherburne County online bid portal <https://bidvault.mn.uccs.com/> until 2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. This will be the only means of submittal of a bid.

The Major Quantities of Work are:

1	LS	Clearing & Grubbing
661	LF	Removal of Guard Rail
100,061	SY	Remove Bituminous Pavement
57,485	CY	Excavation
21,071	CY	Common Embankment
26,256	TON	Aggregate
27,180	TON	Bituminous Pavement
364	LF	12"-72" CP/RC Pipe Culvert
14,579	LF	Silt Fence
22	AC	Seeding
71,310	LF	Pavement Markings

The bids will be reviewed by the County Engineer and County Attorney for the approval of the bid bond and the results of the review shall be posted within 3 business days at the following website: <https://mn-co-sherburne.app.rvvision.com/oneoffice>. Review of the bids by the County Engineer and the County Attorney should not be construed as an award of the bid. The final approval of the bid requires action by the County Board.

Plans & specifications may be examined at the office of the Sherburne County Highway Engineer, 13880 Business Center Drive Suite 100, Elk River MN 55330, Monday-Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm, or online at <https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/publicworks/index.php> & follow the Construction Projects & Bids (eGram) link. A user ID & password is required to download the Plans & Specifications. Contact Public Works at 763-765-3300 to obtain the necessary information.

The advertisement for this project may also be viewed at the MnDOT State Aid for Local Transportation eAdvert web site at <https://eadvert.rvvision.com>.

The cost to download the Plans & Specifications is free.

The cost to obtain a hard copy of the Plans & Specifications is \$50.00 with an additional \$10.00 mailing fee.

THE COST TO SUBMIT A BID WILL BE \$25.00 PAYABLE TO RTVISION WHICH ALLOWS ACCESS TO THE ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS VIA BID VAULT AT <https://bidvault.mn.uccs.com>.

All bids shall be accompanied by a bid bond for at least five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid.

No bidder may withdraw their bid (which shall include the bid bond) within 15 days of the scheduled bid submittal date of Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive minor irregularities. The County Board will consider award of the contract at the June 6, 2023 County Board Meeting contingent upon County Engineer & County Attorney review.

It is the County's intent to begin construction **the middle part of July and completed by end of October.**

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids & waive informalities.

Dated at Elk River Minnesota, this 17th day of April 2023.

/s/ Bruce Messelt
County Administrator, Sherburne County, Minnesota
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/22/23, 04/29/23, 05/06/2023.)

CITY OF BIG LAKE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO AMEND THE ZONING MAP

You are hereby notified that the Big Lake Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the following amendments to the zoning map:

- All properties zoned Isolated Industrial (I-3) will be rezoned General Industrial (I-2).
- All properties zoned Innovation Industrial (I-4) will be rezoned Innovation Industrial (I-3).
- All properties zoned Business Campus (B-1) will be rezoned Community Business (B-1).
- All properties zoned Community Business (B-2) will be rezoned Community Business (B-1).
- All properties zoned General Business (B-3) will be rezoned General Business (B-2).
- All properties zoned Residential Estate (R-1E) will be rezoned Single Family Residential (R-1).
- All properties with a CUP for a PUD will be rezoned PUD (Planned Unit Development).

The public hearing will be held in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at or about 6:00 p.m. The intent of the zoning map amendments is to align the zoning map with the zoning code.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments prior to the hearing. Contact City Planner, Lucinda Spanier at spanier@biglakemn.org or 763-251-2977 with questions or comments.

/s/ Lucinda Spanier
City Planner
City of Big Lake
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/22/23, 04/29/23.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Sherburne County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing at their meeting on May 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, in the County Board Room located at the Sherburne County Government Center at 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, MN, 55330. The purpose of the hearing is to take public comments on a request that the County abate the property taxes levied by the County on property located at 8101 State Street in Clear Lake, Minnesota, currently identified as tax parcel number 70-018-1201. A complete legal description of the property is on file with the Sherburne County Administrator's Office.

The County Board will consider the property tax abatement request in connection with a proposal to construct a 10,000 sq. ft. shop expansion on the property. The total estimated amount of the County tax abatement and business subsidy relating to construction of the facility is \$35,220 over a 12-year period.

A copy of the proposed terms of an abatement agreement will be available at the Sherburne County Government Center in the Administrator's Office.

All interested persons are encouraged to attend and comment. Persons who would prefer to provide written comments rather than attend the meeting may submit written comments to dan.weber@co.sherburne.mn.us prior to the meeting.
/s/ Dan Weber, Assistant County Administrator
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/29/23.)

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **Becker Bass Team**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **11215 Frontier Circle Becker MN 55308 USA**
NAMEHOLDER(S): **Becker Outdoor Education and Scholars Program**

ADDRESS: **11215 Frontier Circle Becker MN 55308 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: **Rhonda L Pagel**

MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **beckerbasteam@gmail.com**

Work Item: **1380570300024**

Original File Number: **1380570300024**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED

03/14/2023 11:59 p.m.

/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/22/23, 04/29/23.)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Sealed bids for Double Chip Sealing approximately 3.5 miles of gravel road & Single Chip Sealing approximately 1.5 miles of tar road will be received by Clearwater Township, Minnesota at the office of the Town Clerk until 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, 2023 and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

Principal components of the project include the following:
Bid 1: Double Chip Seal 125th Ave NW from Hart Ave to following through to Illsley Ave, 132nd Street, Ireland Ave, and 140th Street ending at State Hwy 24. approximately 3.2 miles of road surface

Add Alternate 1A: Irvine Ave NW .15 miles (dead end off 140th Street)

Bid 2: Single Chip Seal over tar road of Gowan Ave NW from Grover Ave NW approximately 1/2 mile

Add Alternate 2A: Single Chip Seal Grover Ave on both sides of the I94 bridge approx. 1 mile

Add Alternate 2B: Double Chip Seal of Gowan Ave from current tar until end approximately .3 miles

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

Clearwater Township
15015 State Highway 24 NW
Clearwater, MN 55320

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the Issuing Office of: Clearwater Township, 15015 State Highway 24, Clearwater MN 55320; 320-558-4011. Office Hours are Monday's & Wednesdays from 8am - 1pm email: clearwatertwp@frontier.net

Bids will only be accepted from Contractors that request copies of the Bidding Documents.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, cash deposit, or bid bond, made payable to Clearwater Township, in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid.

The Town Board reserves the right to award or reject any or all parts of the bids and to waive irregularities and informalities therein and further reserves the right to award the contract in the best interests of Clearwater Township.

/s/ Jean Just, Clerk
Clearwater Township
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/29/23.)

BECKER, MN REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Notice is hereby given that Becker ISD 726 Requests proposals for Group Term Life and Long Term Disability Insurance Specifications will be available from National Insurance Services, 250 South Executive Drive, Suite 300, Brookfield, WI 53005, Phone: 800-627-3660

Proposals are due no later than 3 p.m. Monday, May 22, 2023 at National Insurance Services, per the RFP instructions.

/s/ Amy Giangreco, GBDS
Sales Assistant
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/29/23, 05/06/23.)

TOWN OF BECKER SHERBURNE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON VACATION OF THE DRAINAGE AND UTILITY EASEMENTS ALONG THE INTERIOR SECTIONS OF LOTS 1 AND 2 BLOCK 1 OF SANDY FOREST. PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES §412.851 AND §462.358

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing will be held before the Becker Town Board on May 15, 2023 at the Becker Town Hall located at 12165 Hancock Street, Becker MN at 7:00 pm to consider the proposed vacation of drainage and utility easements along the interior sections of Lots 1 and 2, Block 1 of Sandy Forest in conjunction with a re-plat of the area to add an additional lot as petitioned by the property owners.

All parties interested in this issue are invited to attend and comment. If you are unable to attend, please provide written comment to the Town Clerk at PO Box 248, Becker MN 55308 or clerk@beckertownship.org. All written comments are due by 4:00 pm on May 15, 2023.

/s/ Lucinda Messman,
Becker Township Clerk
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/29/23, 05/06/23.)

NOTICE CLEAR LAKE CEMETERY ANNUAL MEETING

May 1, 2023 at 6 p.m. at
Clear Lake Twp. Hall - 7938
116th St. SE, Clear Lake.
(Published in the *Patriot*:
04/22/23, 04/29/23.)

SUMMARY FOR PUBLICATION CLEAR LAKE TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04-18

ORDINANCE REGULATING THE SURFACE USE OF ELK LAKE

The above-referenced Ordinance establishes a slow-no-wake zone over the surface waters of Elk Lake located in Clear Lake and Palmer Townships when the water elevation in Elk Lake exceeds 962.2 feet in elevation or when the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' gauge monitoring Elk Lake is at or above the height as determined by said Department. Anyone violating this ordinance may be found guilty of a misdemeanor. This ordinance was adopted by the Clear Lake Town Board on 18 April, 2023. This summary is adopted pursuant to Minn. Stat. §412.191, Subd. 4. A printed copy of the entire Ordinance is available for inspection and copying at the Clear Lake Town Hall located at 7938 116th Street, Clear Lake Township, Minnesota.

/s/ Nancy Betzler, Town Clerk
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/22/23, 04/29/23.)

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

Car Seat Distribution
Car Seat Distributions at the Sherburne County Government Center. If eligible, residents of Sherburne County can receive a car seat for a \$20 suggested donation. Call to find out income guidelines (Residents of Sherburne enrolled in WIC or medical assistance program are eligible, Non-Resident Children with a Minnesota PMAP (Blue Plus, HealthPartners, UCare medical assistance programs are eligible). Call to receive more information or register, 763-765-4111 or 1-800-433-5239.

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

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

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

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

Community Outreach
HHS staff will be out in the community to answer questions about public assistance programs and assist Sherburne County residents in applying for, or maintaining, benefits. Come see us if you need help with Food, Child Care, Medical Assistance, Housing, Utility Disconnects, Evictions, Mental Health, Disability, Aging, and/or Parenting. Walk ins welcome!

In St. Cloud
Sherburne County Health & Human Services staff will be in St. Cloud at the Salvation Army on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month from 9:30-3pm, look for the Sherburne County Wellness Bus.

Sherburne County Health & Human Services staff will be in St. Cloud at Central Minnesota Empowerment Organization (CMCEO) on the 1st Wednesday of the month from 10am - 5pm.

Cash Wise East the 3rd Thursday of the month starting 5/18/23 from 9:30-3pm, look for the Sherburne County Wellness Bus.

In Big Lake
Sherburne County Health & Human Services staff will be in Big Lake at City Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 9:30-3pm.

In Zimmerman
Sherburne County Health & Human Services staff will be in Zimmerman at the Zimmerman Event Center on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from 9:30-3pm.

Dental Services
Available to persons on medical assistance of all ages

• Children's Dental Services at Promise Neighborhood (1114 9th Ave SE St. Cloud, MN 56304)
First Monday of the Month, 9am-4pm. Call 612-746-1530 for an appointment.

• Children's Dental Services at Zimmerman Event Center (26140 136th St Zimmerman, MN 55398)
Third Tuesday of the Month, 9am-4:30pm. Call 612-746-1530 for an appointment.

• Children's Dental Services at Open Doors for Youth (554 3rd St NW Suite 201 Elk River, MN 55330)
Second Thursday of the Month, 9am-4pm. Call 612-746-1530 for an appointment.

• Community Dental Care Buffalo (3650 Braddock Ave NE Suite 200 Buffalo, MN 55313)
Monday-Thursday 7:30am-4pm, Friday 7:30am-2pm. Call 763-270-6900 for an appointment.

**Deadlines
Notices &
Legals
Wednesdays
At Noon
Contact the
Patriot at:
763-275-0275
or Email:
legals.kathy@
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RATE INCREASE NOTICE

Notice of Public Hearings for Minnesota Energy Resources Northern Natural Gas Pipeline (NNG) Customers

Minnesota Energy Resources has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) for approval to increase rates for natural gas distribution service. The requested increase is for approximately 9.91% or \$40.3 million per year. The requested increase would add about \$8 to a typical residential customer's monthly bill.

The MPUC will likely make its decision on our rate request in the fall of 2023. If final rates are lower than interim (temporary) rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference.

If you move before a refund is issued and we cannot find you, your refund may be treated as abandoned property and sent to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Unclaimed Property Unit. You can check for unclaimed property at www.missingmoney.com. To make sure we can send you any refund owed, please provide a forwarding address when you stop service.

Evidentiary Hearings

Formal evidentiary hearings on Minnesota Energy Resources' proposal will be held on May 10 and 11, 2023, starting at 9:00 a.m. each day. The evidentiary hearing will be held in the Large Hearing Room at the Public Utilities Commission, 350 Metro Square Building, 121 Seventh Place East, St. Paul, Minnesota. Individuals who cannot attend in person may attend via Microsoft Teams (Teams), a video conferencing platform. Members of the public who wish to attend the hearing through Teams may request an electronic invitation by contacting Judge Case's legal assistant at michelle.severson@state.mn.us.

If you wish to formally intervene in this case, as a party to the litigation, you must serve and file a Petition to Intervene, pursuant to Minn. R. 1400.6200.

Public Hearings

Administrative Law Judge Barbara J. Case will hold two in-person public hearings and two virtual public hearings so that customers have an opportunity to comment on the company's request. Any Minnesota Energy Resources customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings.

You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of Minnesota Energy Resources' service, the level of rates, or other related matters. You do not need to be represented by an attorney.

The hearings will begin at their scheduled time and adjourn after everyone present has had an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Date	Time	Location
Monday, May 15, 2023	1:00 p.m.	Virtual WebEx
Monday, May 15, 2023	6:00 p.m.	The Steeple Center, Meeting Room 100, 14375 South Robert Trail, Rosemount, MN
Thursday, May 18, 2023	6:00 p.m.	Northrop Community Education Center, Room 308, 201 8th St., Rochester, MN
Tuesday, May 23, 2023	6:00 p.m.	Virtual WebEx

Bad weather? Find out if a hearing is canceled — call (toll free) 855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Virtual Public Hearings

Public hearings have been scheduled as follows to be held via video conference.

Monday, May 15, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Attend by Internet Connection (Audio and Video)

To join the virtual hearing using a computer, tablet or smart phone, where you will have audio and video capability, go to: <https://minnesota.webex.com>. In the gray box where it says, "Enter Meeting Information," type the Event Number below for the public hearing date you are attending:

Monday, May 15, 2023 1:00 p.m.	Tuesday, May 23, 2023 6:00 p.m.
Event Number: 2482 234 5617 Event Password: MERC23!	Event Number: 2494 927 0907 Event Password: MERC23!

Directions for Appearing via WebEx.

- Log on 5 to 15 minutes before the hearing begins. You will be asked to join the hearing through a Webex application or through a plug-in for your web browser.
- Enter the Event Number shown in the box above.
- Next you will be asked to enter your name, your email address, and an event password (if required). After entering this information, click "Join Now" and you will be granted access to the virtual hearing.
- When you enter the hearing, your microphone will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator, who will place you in the queue to comment. When it is your turn to comment, your name will be called and your line will be unmuted. You will then be able to ask questions or make a comment.

To Attend by Telephone (Audio Only)

If you do not have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or if you would prefer to attend the hearing via audio only, you may join using any type of telephone. You do not need internet access to call into the hearing; however, you will only be able to hear (not see) the speakers. You will still be able to comment and ask questions.

Use the information in the box below to dial into the hearing. You will be asked to enter the access code for the hearing, as set forth below:

Monday, May 15, 2023 1:00 p.m.	Tuesday, May 23, 2023 6:00 p.m.
Event Phone Number: 1-855-282-6330 Event Password: MERC23! (6372230 from phones)	Event Phone Number: 1-855-282-6330 Event Password: MERC23! (6372230 from phones)

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the hearing, **press *3** on your telephone. You will then be placed into the queue to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the last few digits of your telephone number will be announced by the moderator and your line will be unmuted, allowing you to be heard.

Public Hearing and Process Information

Administrative Law Judge Barbara J. Case will preside over the public hearings and will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations after the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing.

The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed rate increase. At the public hearings, customers and members of the public have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of the utility and agency staff; and (2) offer verbal and written comments on the merits of the proposed rate increase. Members of the public may participate without needing to intervene as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Please note that the public hearings will end when all attendees present have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded. You are encouraged to join the meeting at the scheduled start time to be placed on the queue to comment. Commenters will be called in the order they enter the queue. Therefore, it is advantageous to arrive at the beginning of the hearing.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period before and after the public hearings. Follow the instructions below to provide written comment.

Please contact **Jason Bonnett** at **651-201-2235** or jason.bonnett@state.mn.us if have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public hearing using telephone or internet.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission is asking customers to comment on Minnesota Energy Resource's request for a rate increase. Send comments to or contact the MPUC's Consumer Affairs Office for assistance with submitting comments:

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Online: <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments/> See section "How to Submit a Comment" to find a list of ways to comment.

U.S. Mail: 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

Be sure to reference **MPUC Docket No. 22-504**

Important: Public comments may be read by anyone who reviews the case record. Except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, the MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information from submissions.

Proposed Rate Increases

The table below shows the current and proposed customer charge and distribution charge for each customer class.

MERC Customer Class	Present Monthly Customer Charge	Proposed Monthly Customer Charge	Present Distribution Charge *	Proposed Distribution Charge **
NNG SALES				
GS-NNG Residential Sales	\$9.50	\$9.50	\$0.24686	\$0.38878
GS-NNG Residential Farm-Tap Sales	\$9.50	\$9.50	\$0.24686	\$0.38878
GS-NNG C&I FIRM Class 1	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$0.22251	\$0.34491
GS-NNG C&I Farm-Tap Class 1	\$18.00	\$18.00	\$0.22251	\$0.34491
GS-NNG C&I FIRM Class 2	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.16857	\$0.25209
GS-NNG C&I FIRM Class 3	\$165.00	\$165.00	\$0.12453	\$0.16486
GS-NNG C&I Farm-Tap Class 2	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.16857	\$0.25209
GS-NNG C&I Farm-Tap Class 3	\$165.00	\$165.00	\$0.12453	\$0.16486
NNG C&I INT Class 2	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.10453	\$0.14947
NNG C&I INT Class 3	\$165.00	\$165.00	\$0.09453	\$0.11902
NNG Agriculture Grain Dryer - Class 1	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.12953	\$0.19554
NNG Agriculture Grain Dryer - Class 2	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.08150	\$0.11858
NNG Electric Generation - Class 1	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.09953	\$0.14146
NNG C&I Firm/Interruptible Class 2	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.10453	\$0.14947
NNG TRANSPORT				
Transport-NNG C&I FIRM Class 2	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.16857	\$0.25209
Transport-NNG C&I FIRM Class 3	\$165.00	\$165.00	\$0.12453	\$0.16486
Transport-NNG C&I FIRM Class 4	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.05016	\$0.05748
Transport-NNG C&I FIRM Class 5 - CIP Exempt	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.00533	\$0.00810
Transport-NNG Electric Generation FIRM Class 2 - CIP Exempt	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.00533	\$0.00810
Transport-NNG C&I INT Class 2	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.10453	\$0.14947
Transport-NNG C&I INT Class 3	\$165.00	\$165.00	\$0.09453	\$0.11902
Transport-NNG C&I INT Class 4	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.04823	\$0.05577
Transport-NNG C&I INT Class 5	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.03401	\$0.03497
Transport-NNG C&I INT Class 5 - CIP Exempt	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.00448	\$0.00568
Transport-NNG Electric Generation INT Class 2	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.03401	\$0.03497
Transport-NNG Electric Generation INT Class 2 - CIP Exempt	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.00448	\$0.00568
Transport-NNG C&I Firm/Interruptible Class 2	\$45.00	\$45.00	\$0.10453	\$0.14947
Transport-NNG C&I Firm/Interruptible Class 3	\$165.00	\$165.00	\$0.09453	\$0.11902
Transport-NNG C&I Firm/Interruptible Class 4	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.04823	\$0.05577
Transport-NNG C&I Firm/Interruptible Class 5	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.03401	\$0.03497
Transport-NNG C&I Firm/Interruptible Class 5 - CIP Exempt	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.00448	\$0.00568
Transport for Resale	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.07614	\$0.08327
LVJ-NNG Flex Transport (Cust "A")	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.03403	\$0.03500
LVJ-NNG Flex Transport (Cust "F")	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.03590	\$0.03737
LVJ-NNG Flex Transport (Cust "G")	\$185.00	\$185.00	\$0.03319	\$0.03393

* The present rates identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Minnesota Energy Resources' last rate case in Docket No. G011/GR-17-563.

** The table above reflects proposed increases for final rates to the **monthly customer charge** and the **per therm distribution charge**. For Firm/Interruptible customers, the distribution charge reflects the proposed interruptible distribution rate.

How to learn more

Minnesota Energy Resources' current and proposed rate schedules are available at:

Minnesota Energy Resources

2685 145th St. W
Rosemount, MN 55068
Phone: 800-889-9508
Web: www.minnesotaenergyresources.com/company/rate_case.aspx

You may also contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce at:

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place E., Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-539-1534
Web: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp>. Select 22 in the year field, enter 504 in the number field, select Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

If you need information or have questions about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's review process:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place E., Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone: 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782
Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Citizens with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred telecommunications relay service.



Area News

PetNet Works

Working with the community to find homes for needy pets

 <p>BRUNO is a handsome 4-year-old neutered Hound who, true to his breed, loves to follow his nose! He loves attention from people, and the volunteer walkers say he's super well behaved, although he occasionally likes to pull! He would benefit from daily exercise - and he might love to be someone's hunting dog!</p>	 <p>RIVER is a beautiful spayed 6-month-old mixed breed dog looking for a home! She has an incredibly sweet nature, but she still has a little bit to go as far as learning proper manners! She has energy to spare and often gets the zoomies, so lots of chances at exercise will help keep her entertained - and well-behaved.</p>	 <p>JULIET is a 5-year-old spayed cat can act a little timid at first, but then she loves to snuggle. She has been known to give kisses and "chat back" with humans. Juliet will need her new home to help give her a little inspiration when it comes to weight loss; she could stand to shed some pounds under a veterinarian's guidance.</p>
 <p>KITTEN Kitten's name is a bit of a misnomer - she's actually more middle-aged! This 11-year-old spayed cat has been friendly with other felines in the past. Kitten is front declawed, so she should be an indoor cat for her safety. She has long hair that will need grooming to stay gorgeous and supple.</p>	 <p>ROCKY This 8-year-old spayed cat is vocal and loves attention from her people - but don't invade her bubble without her permission, thank you very much. At 15 pounds, Rocky could use a little encouragement to shed some pounds. (Bring out the laser pointer!)</p>	 <p>SHELLY is a 1-year-old red-eared slider who's looking for a home in which she can be the lone turtle! (She definitely has an independent spirit!) Talk to a TCIS staff member about proper diet, enrichment, and set up for turtles.</p>



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If you can provide a loving home for any of these animals, please contact the

TRI-COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
320-252-0896
www.tricountyhumanesociety.org
735 8th St. NE - P.O. Box 701 - St. Cloud, MN 56302-0701

BEF from page 1

supported their two children (Jeff and Stacey) while they participated in football, wrestling, basketball and tennis.

Johnson has been involved with the Oak Savannah Planning Committee, Chair of Palmer Twp.'s Mn Design Team Project/Central MN Initiative Foundation, Sherburne History Center Board, Chair of Relay for Life team, Committee Member of Becker Farmer's Market and she also supports the Second Harvest Heartland organization, Palmer Days, the local Lions Clubs, Clearwater Rodeo/Three of a Kind and the local food shelves.



THREE AMAZING COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS were honored and received awards last Saturday at Pebble Creek during the Becker Education Foundation's Annual Gala. Left to right: Jean Johnson, Mark Kolbinger and Amy Drehmel. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan.)

Mark Kolbinger
Kolbinger is a born and bred Becker-ite and has spent his life working and volunteering in the Becker community. Mark's passion for the place he grew up in knows no bounds.

Kolbinger is a graduate of BHS, Class of 1990. While Mark was a student, he participated in numerous activities including football, baseball, basketball, track, NHS and the 3-Act Play. He has been married to his wife, Kelly, for 28 years and they have two children in Kia and Kaitlin. The Kolbinger parenting team enjoyed watching their daughters participate in dance, speech and theater.

Mark started teaching in Becker after graduating from SCSU in 1995. He has been a High School and Middle School English teacher, an assistant principal and has chaired various school committees while also being the interim and acting athletic director during his tenure. He has enjoyed coaching and advising various activities from varsity baseball to middle school football to Robotics to NHS and was even on the Prom Committee.

Mark has also served as a city council member, a chairperson for the Sherburne County Substance Use Prevention Coalition, and as the Education Representative on the Sherburne County Community Corrections Advisory Board. He has played ball with the Becker Bandits and Buzzards and is a former member of the Becker Jaycees and the founding member of the Boys of Becker.

Amy Drehmel
Drehmel is highly active in her church

(Becker Baptist) and her company called Compassion Connection.

Drehmel is originally from Central Wisconsin but she eventually found a home in Becker in 2014 after graduating from Madison Area Technical College. She is married (Kevin) and they have eight children (Stephanie, Andrew, McKenzie, Allison, Alexis, Kevoun, Kennedy and Ellyana.)

Drehmel formed Compassion Connection to help care for vulnerable children and families in the area and throughout Greater MN. She works closely with local public and private child welfare agencies to fulfill requests for items of need either through the organization's Resource Closet or through financial gifts.

Amy and her family also participate in foster care through their Secret Santa program while also hosting regular events to encourage awareness and to motivate community participation in support of vulnerable children.

Amy has been heavily involved with other organizations including sitting on the board at Head Start, the Crossroads Mental Health Services organization, Joshua House, Children's Justice Initiative, Bethany Christian Services and the Becker Homeless Project. Through Compassion Connection, Amy has helped support Becker Schools, the Salvation Army Emergency Family Shelter, Birthline, Recovery Hope and Minnesota's Adult & Teen Challenge.

Obituaries

Thomas (Tom) Brady, 76
Becker, MN
September 26th, 1963 - April 8th, 2023

Thomas Brady, 59 of Becker died on Saturday, April 8th, 2023 at Quiet Oaks Hospice House. A celebration of life will be held on May 20th, at Oaks on the River in Big Lake. The celebration will be held from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., official service starting at 1:30 p.m. with live music and food to follow.

Thomas (Tom) was born September 26th, 1963 in Minneapolis to Francis and Jeanne (Decamp) Brady. After high school he proudly served his country in the Navy. He went on to work as an electrical supervisor at Xcel Energy in Becker.

He is survived by his children, Mitchell Brady and Isabel Brady. He is also survived by his siblings, Katy Roelofs, Jim Brady, Marie LaPlant, and Bill Brady.

He is preceded in death by his parents Francis and Jeanne. Tom was a brother, son, uncle, cousin, dad, friend, and avid outdoorsman.

His love for nature, humor, and board games will be missed - and many will cherish the memories they had with him.

Finally, a quote from his favorite author;

"We are all broken - that is how the light gets in" - Ernest Hemingway

In lieu of flowers please donate in honor of Tom to a charity he was passionate about:

- Children's Cancer Research Fund;
- Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans;
- Make a Wish Minnesota.

Michael "Mike" Weir, 76
Becker, MN
October 5, 1946 - April 20, 2023

A gathering of family and friends will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 2-5 p.m. with military honors at 4:30 p.m. at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker for Michael "Mike" Weir, age 76, who passed away at his home in Becker on April 20, 2023 after battling cancer for the 5th time.

Mike was born October 5, 1946 to Floyd and Lorine (Dahn) Weir in Saint Peter, Minnesota. Mike was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1965 and subsequently served in Vietnam from 1966-1967. After an honorable discharge, he returned to Becker and married Peggy on June 7, 1969. They first lived in Big Lake, then built their home in Becker, where they raised their family.

Mike was a very hard worker and had to be doing something all the time. Mike was willing to lend a helping hand to anyone anytime. He was most proud of his family and loved spending time with

his grandkids. Mike was loyal, loving, caring, and had a great sense of humor. Mike loved to make people laugh. Mike was a member of Becker American Legion Post #193. He worked at Elk River Crete for over 40 years. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, going to the casino and watching the Vikings, NASCAR, and old westerns on TV.

Mike is survived by his wife, Peggy of Becker; daughter, Jackie Weir of Rogers; son, Jim (Denise) Weir of Becker; grandkids, Ronni and Poppi Weir of Becker; and many relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, John Weir; and in-laws, Earl and Josephine Ouellette.

The family would like to thank CentraCare Hospice for all the wonderful care to Mike.

Obituary, Guest Book and video tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com.

LeRoy Sanford Nyhlen Jr., 59
Big Lake, MN
April 16th, 1964 - April 18th, 2023

LeRoy Sanford Nyhlen Jr passed on April 18, 2023 just 2 days after his 59th birthday. He will be missed by so many.

LeRoy was a fun loving, generous person who never met a stranger. He grew up on the south side of Minneapolis going to school at Howe, Sanford and Roosevelt. He worked at various places in his younger days, settling with a position as a guard for Hennepin County. He absolutely loved his job. He eventually took a medical retirement. His middle years consisted of living in Mpls and Big Lake. He was a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church. Knowing of his strong faith in Jesus, he is at home with the Lord.

He is preceded in death by parents, LeRoy and Ronnel Nyhlen; and brother, Ricki

Nyhlen.

Survived by son, Andrew Nyhlen (Jenna); daughter, Alyssa Nyhlen; grandchildren, Ariannah and Mason; sister, Julie Balcome (Timothy); many nieces and nephews, uncles and aunts and cousins.

Rest in peace Rerun we love you.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 29, 2023 at 11:00 AM, with visitation one hour prior, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 9300 Jason Ave NE, Monticello, MN.

Serving the family is Peterson-Grimsmo Funeral Chapel of Monticello. 763-295-2918. www.peterson-grimsnochapel.com.

Angeline A. Woolhouse, 93
Big Lake, MN
June 4, 1929 - April 20, 2023

Funeral services were 12:00 Noon on Friday April 28, 2023 at the Riverside Church, 20314 County Road 14 Big Lake, MN., for Angeline A. Woolhouse, 93 of Big Lake who died Thursday April 20, 2023 at the CentraCare Monticello Care Center. Pastor Skipp Machmer officiated. Visitation was at 11:00 AM at the Church in Big Lake and continued one half hour after the services with burial to follow at Our Lady of the Lake Cemetery, Big Lake. Arrangements have been entrusted to William Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Big Lake.

Angeline A. Woolhouse was born June 4, 1929 in Granite Ledge Township, Benton County, Minnesota to John and Frances (Smelter) Wolak. She married Robert Woolhouse in 1949 and lived in Big Lake most of that time.

She is survived by her children; Barb (Joe) Holland of Big Lake, Al (Tammy) of Elk River, Char (Marty) Moshier of Pequot Lakes, Chris Edwards of Minneapolis, Chuck (Linda) of Elk River, Angie (Scott) Mertens of Elk River, Elaine (Kent) Mitchell of Aitkin, Debbie Berens, Dan (Tracy) of Cash-ton, WI, Rita (Gordy) Mach of Princeton and Anthony of Big Lake, thirty-three grandchildren, fifty-five great grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Angeline was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Robert in 1967, her son Adrian, sons-in-laws, Frank Edwards, Al Berens and five brothers and three sisters.

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Announcements

THREE LAKES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (TLID) Change in Meeting Location Notice

Until further notice all scheduled TLID meetings will be held at the **PALMER TOWNSHIP HALL, 4180 105TH AVE., PALMER, MN 55319.**

The meetings involve actions and procedures per guidelines.

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



Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events

BASC Now at BCC! All Area Seniors Welcome. Senior Center Open Mon. - Fri. 5am-5pm. Coffee Is On At 5am.

Mon., May 1; 10 am: Carbles. a board game for 2 to 12 players.

Tues., May 2; 7 am: Nordic Walking - meet at BCC - 10 sets of poles available - register at BCC if you need poles. Indoors in the gym on inclement weather days otherwise outside. **9:30 am:** Head-To-Toe Conditioning.

Wed., May 3; 10 am - 12:30 pm: Free Tech Help - Appointment needed - call 763-261-6283 to schedule and bring your device to appointment at Senior Center.

Thurs., May 4; 9 am: Cards & Conversation, 11 am Make and Take Craft: Pom Pom flowers and bouquets - no charge, supplies provided.

Becker Community Center: 763-200-4271
Blood Pressure available whenever BASC is open
Send activity/class to basc.becker@gmail.com. Planning meeting 3rd Wed. @1pm. Next board meeting May 17 from 3:30-5:00 pm

75 YEARS from page 1

Plastics is minimizing its environmental impact by finding ways to reuse or repurpose all materials used in the manufacturing process. This commitment to sustainability is a key objective of designing packaging to be as environmentally friendly as possible.

As part of its 75th anniversary celebration, T.O. Plastics is recognizing their employees, customers, and communities it serves. These initiatives include a limited-edition logo, employee and customer appreciation events, and community giveback and involvement.

"We are incredibly proud to be celebrating our 75th anniversary," said Paul Meschke, President of T.O. Plastics. "Over the years, we have worked hard to build a company that is known for its commitment to excellence, and for delivering innovative products that exceed our customers' expectations. Our team is excited to celebrate this milestone with our employees, customers, partners, and communities. We look forward to continuing to grow for many more years to come."

As T.O. Plastics looks to the future, it remains committed to its core values of Safety First, Environmental Responsibility, Quality, and GRIT (Great People, Results, Integrity, and Tenacity). Under the ownership and financial stability of Otter Tail Corporation, the company is well-positioned to continue to lead the thermoforming industry for many years to come.

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Business Hours:
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Thurs. 8am to 3pm
Friday CLOSED

The Patriot, under the continuation of the Citizen-Tribune, is the official legal newspaper for Sherburne County, Clear Lake, Clearwater, Orrock, Palmer & Santiago Townships, City of Becker, Becker Township and Becker School District #726, City of Big Lake and Big Lake School District #727.

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Patriot Legals/Classified Ads
legals.kathy@patriotnews.com

Subscription Rates:
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Deadlines:
Wednesday 12 pm Legals & Notices, Wednesday 10 am Display & Classified Ads.

Submitted Material:
There will be a \$30 charge for all thank you, engagement, wedding and birth announcement pictures. The Patriot is not responsible for correctness of ads received by telephone.

Letters to the Editors:
The Patriot welcomes letters to the editor. Addresses and telephone numbers are required for verification purposes. All letters must contain the original signature of the writer. E-mailed letters can be accepted. The deadline for all letters is 11am Wednesday. Limit letters to 200 words or less. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the editor and are subject to editing for grammar, libel and brevity. Two letters per writer per subject each year.

Obituaries:
Obituaries are \$50 prepaid. The Editor reserves the right to edit lengthy obituaries.

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CLTWP. from page 1

coat projects, which includes 127th St., 97th St. and 92nd Ave.

The decision on calcium chloride treatment for dust suppression on gravel roads was tabled to the April meeting so Eyk can look into another option.

Other Business
Wesley Bennon approached the board to present his proposed Eagle Scout project for Clear Lake Twp. Park, a GaGa Ball pit. Explaining what would be done, he said the

project will bring in more kids to the park and provide more opportunities for them to play.

The GaGa Ball pit will be installed near the playground. A motion carried approving the project pending financing.

During the township's annual meeting on March 14, the board suggested a levy of \$510,000, up \$20,000 from last year.

Newly elected Supervisor Kiel Golly was sworn in during the meeting.

The board agreed to raise prices on some of the items collected during the township's annual cleanup day on May 6.

The sheriff reported 122 calls for service, including 65 traffic stops, two warrant arrears, one burglary from a farm outbuilding, and one stolen vehicle recovery.

The next Clear Lake Twp. meeting will be April 18 at 7 p.m.



TURKEY SEASON. Jace Woolard (of Becker) is pictured with his dad (Jake Woolard). Jace enjoyed a successful hunt on the outskirts of Becker his first year of turkey hunting. (Submitted photo.)



NEWLY ELECTED SUPERVISOR KIEL GOLLY is sworn in during Clear Lake Twp.'s March meeting. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)



Public Notices

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June 13
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tax rates down across the county

A report released by the Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer last week shows most property

The county hasn't seen that much of an increase since 2006, when there was massive development throughout the county.

under one percent. Becker's will go from 44.322% to 44.926%. East St. Cloud's rate goes from 50.904% to 51.633%.

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

Some cities will see a tax rate decrease close to 10%. The biggest drop will be in Princeton, which has the highest tax rate in the county. That city's rate will fall from 63.980% to 54.783%.

All 10 townships have lower tax rates in 2023.

owners across Sherburne County will see lower tax rates in 2023.

The City of Big Lake is next, with a tax rate falling from 47.505% to 38.545%.

They are: Baldwin (16.590% to 12.936%), Becker (17.987% to 15.670%), Big Lake (21.592% to 20.051%), Blue Hill (18.083% to 12.892%), Clear Lake (15.598% to 13.523%), Haven (17.990% to 14.549%), Livonia (22.113% to 17.344%), Orrock (22.187% to 18.442%), Palmer (16.101% to 13.240%) and Santiago (16.429% to 14.040%).

The county saw approximately \$221.5 million in new construction projects added to the tax rolls for taxes payable in 2023. Because of that significant growth and a huge increase in total taxable market values in the county, every jurisdiction with the exception of the City of Becker and East St. Cloud will see a tax rate lower than a year ago.

Clear Lake City had the third highest percentage decrease, from 61.062% to 53.794%.

The county's tax rate has also fallen, from 44.080% to 36.630%.

Sherburne County's taxable market value jumped from \$11.02 billion to \$13.57 billion from 2022 to 2023. That represents a 23.15% increase.

Zimmerman's rate is falling from 42.697% to 36.812%. the lowest tax rate of any city in the county.

All seven school districts represented in the county are lowering their tax rates, and are now the lowest they have been in

Elk River will see a drop from 43.967% to 39.700%.

Only two cities have an increase, but those are both

National Day of Prayer at Becker flagpole May 4

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer

ated 70 years ago (in 1952) by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman..

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

In Becker, citizens are asked to gather at the Becker City Hall flagpole at noon where members will pray for the government, military, media, busi-

nesses, educators, churches and families of their communities. The event will consist of small group prayer with scripture and prayer prompts.

of a righteous person is powerful and effective. — James 5:16

The theme for this year's National Day of

Prayer is "Pray fervently in righteousness and avail much." The National Day of Prayer will take place on the first Thursday of May (May 4) inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. The event was cre-

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Steil Insurance named Business of the Year



RON MUMM (L) AND COLE STEIL (R) received the 2022 Business of the Year award at the Becker Chamber of Commerce annual meeting April 19. (Submitted Photo).

Becker Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual meeting on April 19 at Faith Lutheran Church and lunch was catered by Style Catering. Approximately 45 chamber members were present.

2022 Business of the Year was awarded to Steil Insurance and Member of the Year was awarded to Carol Hanson from the Patriot.

If you are interested in joining the Becker Area Chamber of Commerce, reach out to Amity Felton at beckerareachamber@gmail.com — they are always looking to grow their membership.

During the annual meeting members voted on two new three year board positions. New board members are Dawn Nepsund from Becker Furniture World and Jenn Shaw, from Starz Dance Studio. Carol Hanson from the Patriot was the outgoing board member.

After a presentation from Lukas Belflower, an attorney with Smith, Paulson, O'Donnell and Erickson (SPOE), other awards were handed out. Audrey Orton from Mark Kay Cosmetics was given the Honorary Member award. The

representative was not sure but promised to investigate the issue.

Halverson again voiced his disapproval of the decision by the rest of the council to select Bob's Towing, as he felt that the company had taken too long to get into compliance. **Massage License Denial Appeal** Leah Koch, city attorney, once again presented an appeal for a massage license denial. At the last regular meeting, Xioyan Wu appeared before the council to ask them to repeal a denial of a massage license by city staff. Unfortunately, Wu's translator was not available that day, and the process did not go far before council decided to table the issue for the next meeting.

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Permitting update on tap for Becker Twp.

The Becker Twp. Board met Monday evening and breezed through a short agenda that included an update on the building permit process.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

Just one week ago, the township began issuing its own permits after having contracted for the service for several years with the City of Becker.

Township Clerk Lucinda Messman noted that 32 permits had been issued so far, with many of them being “over the counter” types of projects.

Messman said that the process was going well and the software is user friendly, allowing for quick review by staff. There are additional integration features that are being built into the system, such as automated letters that staff can utilize to communicate with the permit applicants. Those features should be operational within the next month or so.

Sherburne County District 4 Commissioner Gary Gray stopped by the meeting to address the board, explaining that he is trying his best to communicate with townships across the county to represent their needs in Elk River.

Sgt. Dan Frank of the SCSO reported on the last month's calls for service, which totaled 131— 37 were for traffic stops. He said that starting next month, residents may see patrol vehicles from other jurisdictions working within the Becker area and this is because of the multi-jurisdictional traffic task force that aims to provide in-

tensive traffic enforcement in certain areas in Sherburne, Stearns and Wright counties.

Engineer Wes Davis updated the board on the plans for 97th St., which is the combined project with the City of Becker and Clear Lake Township. He received comment back from MN DOT and is working to incorporate their ideas into the traffic control and detour plan. Bids are still on track to be let sometime in May.

Supervisor Luke Babler reported an interesting fact from the Fire Board that drew some gasps from the board.

Two years ago, the Becker Fire Department ordered a new truck that cost approximately \$600,000. This year, Zimmerman ordered a very similar truck and the cost had increased to \$1.2 million and there is a four year wait to get the truck. Babler noted that this could have implications as the department reviews its Capital Improvement Plan budget.

Supervisor Robin Boros reported that progress is being made on the lease agreement for the Becker American Legion, and he expects to iron out the details very soon.

Supervisor Joe Danielson reminded the board that the snowplowing and general maintenance contracts are expiring at the end of August and will need to be renewed. The board gave Supervisor Brad Wilkening a directive to review the verbiage in both contracts over the next month so they are ready to be advertised early this summer.

Chair Brian Kolbinger asked for everyone to check their calendars for a date for the annual road tour and consensus was reached to schedule it for May 13 at 7 a.m.

Submitted Article

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BL City Council approves Bob's Towing for service provider

During the April 12 meeting, the Big Lake City Council considered a massage license appeal and a

now that they have a lot from which they can operate.

Council Member Ken Halverson brought up some of the issues raised by Bob's

towing agreement.

Open Forum Tracy Sodon spoke in regards to the county's voting machines. She said that the county's contract with Dominion expired one day prior to absentee voting, and the renewal did not occur until after the primaries last year. She said this was concerning to her.

Phil Collins spoke next. He is the owner of Peterson's Towing, which was pitted against Bob's Towing for the city service provider. He said he was disappointed not to win the contract with the city, and asked some questions of his competitor. He asked whether the new location of Bob's Towing had been approved with a conditional use permit by the township.

Towing Agreement

Council held a discussion about the police department towing agreement. As indicated in previous meetings, they decided to go with Bob's Towing

Towing competitor during open forum. He asked the Bob's Towing representative at the meeting whether they were approved by the township with a CUP to operate at the new lot. The

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Wu appeared before the council again at the April 12 meeting, this time with her translator there to help interpret.

The license was denied due to Wu not being fully transparent about her history as a therapeutic masseuse. On her application, she did not disclose that she had previously been denied a license in St. Cloud, and she did not disclose a cou-



PHIL COLLINS, owner of Peterson's Towing, raised concerns over the city's consideration to use Bob's Towing for services. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

ple of locations of employment. Since the previous meeting, another undisclosed place of work was uncovered, as well. All of this information is required on Big Lake's massage license application.

Wu stated that while she did work in St. Michael, the other undisclosed place of work, in Roseville, shouldn't count because she only worked there a month before deciding it wasn't a good fit for her. And as for the license denial in St. Cloud, it was a joint application with another person, who was denied for reasons unrelated to her.

After hearing Wu's explanation, council still decided to uphold the decision by city staff to deny the license.

Fire Dept. Report

Captain Tim Davis gave the monthly report for the Fire Department. He noted 68 calls for service in February and March. Firefighters did some medical training and toured the Car-gill Nutrition Center.

Halverson voiced his dissatisfaction with the recent fire truck purchase. He noted that the cost was \$350,000 over budget, and thought it would have been better to go with a cheaper option, which would not have fit inside the firehouse, and simply make improvements to the fire house to accommodate the truck.

Mayor Paul Knier countered this assumption, saying he had done research by talking to the truck manufacturer and to a commercial builder, and determined that the changes Halverson proposed making to the fire hall would have been difficult and costly. Knier said he stood by council's previous decision.



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By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
reporter.katie@patriotnewsnmn.com



XIAOYAN WU (BEHIND) and translator plead for an appeal to a massage license denial. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

2023 Spring Grass Clippings & Leaf Drop-Off Event

Sherburne County is sponsoring a Grass Clipping and Leaf Drop-Off Event the weekend of **May 6th & 7th and Oct. 7th & 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** (both days) at **Jan's Christmas Trees** located at **12519 37th St SE, Clear Lake, MN** (see map below).

Residents may deliver grass clippings, thatch, leaves, plants and flowers **free of charge**

Please note that wood, brush, logs and garbage will **NOT** be accepted.

In addition to this event, the cities of Big Lake, Becker, Elk River, and Zimmerman have permanent yard waste compost sites available to **ALL** County residents free of charge (*access card key required to enter sites*).

Directions
From Becker: go 7 miles north of Becker on Hwy 25, turn east onto 42nd Street, watch for signs
From Palmer: go east on 42nd Street, cross over Hwy 25, watch for signs

Questions
For additional information, please contact Gabrielle Holman with the Sherburne County Planning & Zoning Department at 763-765-4457 or Gabrielle.Holman@co.sherburne.mn.us

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Area/Sports News

Big Lake lacrosse ladies fall to NP Trojans

The Lady Hornets journeyed to New Prague on Tuesday, April 18, for a lacrosse battle with the Tro-

sick, at the last minute, and when we asked senior Ana Baxter, she did not shy away from the challenge," said Head Coach Lindsey Hartfiel. "She donned the goalie gear for the first time this year, and played with grit."

The first half saw Big Lake down, 4-1, on an unassisted goal from freshman Keren Cortez-Sanchez, who serpentine her way through the middle of the critical scoring area, with a nice shot.

"Though the second half got away from us a little, I am optimistic as the season progresses, our girls will continue to improve in both skills and all contest differentials," Coach Hart-

fiel explained.

Varsity Game

This was the first meeting between the two programs.

"We knew they would have a talented group of players on their top squad, as they have three levels of teams this year for their program," said Coach Hartfiel.

The Hornets were missing a few key players who had helped tremendously in their previous outing in Duluth last Friday, but, as always, the kids stepped-up in their absence.

In the first half, Big Lake's Amelia Gardner drilled three goals, two of which were unassisted. The Hornets finished the first half in good shape, down

just by a 5-2 tally.

The girls came together with good energy to start the second half. Unfortunately, that energy quickly fizzled away, as Big Lake failed to capitalize on some chances and were struggling with their transition game. New Prague capitalized on those mistakes, and they distanced themselves from the close game that existed in the first half.

"The Trojans cashed-in on a few free-position shots, and also some drives down the side into the middle, where we did not apply enough pressure. Our final goal was scored by Gardner, finishing the evening with all four," Coach Hartfiel added.

BL lacrosse boys battle Mpls. And Mother Nature

Big Lake hosted Minneapolis in a snow-fest on Friday, April 21, and the teams played to an 8-8 tie.

By Pat Garry, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

Cade Fagen led the Hornets in scoring with four goals. Declan Weber added two tallies and an assist. Will Schultz and Jack Midas had a goal apiece, with Midas adding four assists. Midas led both teams in ground balls with nine, and Weber controlled the face-offs, winning eight of his 11 tries.

The Hornets started off very well and showed significant improvement in the clearing game early, successfully clearing on seven of their eight attempts in the first half. The defense also looked much improved, despite a lack of practice time over the week.

"We did a nice job of making the adjustments from last week, that we really only had time to talk about this week, instead of actually practicing them. I think that is one of the biggest differences in this team over past teams; in that we have guys

who have now been playing for a while and understand what we're talking about and can make those changes on the fly," said Head Coach Brad Weber.

The Hornets led at halftime, 5-2, and after the third it was a 6-4 game. Big Lake added two more goals in the early stages of the fourth quarter, before Minneapolis started its comeback with about 6:00 to go in the game.

"We seemed to press a little harder for additional goals in the late stages of the game, and we tried to push the ball upfield on the clearing game, instead of taking the check-down passes. We really struggled to clear the ball in the second half, especially that fourth quarter, and Minneapolis capitalized on our mistakes. We need to learn to play a full game with a lead," Coach Weber explained.

The Hornets host Becker (April 25) and Osseo-Park Center (April 28) this week, with games versus Rocori (home on May 1), then at Sartell/Sauk Rapids (May 2) the following week.

Bulldog softball homers past Saints

After having their games postponed or cancelled last Thursday and Saturday, the Becker Bull-

dog girls softball team got back on the field Tuesday night and defeated St. Francis, 8-4.

Nevaeh Gardner then followed with a three-run blast to centerfield to make the score 4-0.

The score would stay there until the bottom of the fourth when freshman Allie Duncombe reached on her first career hit, and Kennedy Drehmel and Patnode singled to load the bases for Sherman. Sherman quickly unloaded the bases as she hit her second home run of the season, a grand slam into the trees in centerfield to make the score 8-0. The

Saints would put together a rally in the top of the 6th and plate 4 runs, but that was all they would muster on the day as the final was 8-4.

Sherman led the hitting attack by going 3-for-4, with two runs scored and four rbi, while Patnode was 2-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored.

Patnode picked up the win on the mound, going 6.1 innings, allowing just two hits and one walk while striking out 10 batters.

Becker was scheduled to play a doubleheader with Chisago Lakes at home on Thursday, while Saturday they host Hermantown at

noon.

Next week is a busy week for the team, as they travel to North Branch for a doubleheader on Tuesday. Thursday is the team's Strikeout Cancer event as the softball and baseball teams host Monticello with varsity games under the lights at 7 p.m.

Friday they travel to Princeton, and Saturday is the 29th annual Becker Softball Invitational with eight teams from across the state, including Hibbing who is coached by former Bulldog, Kadee Vesledahl.

CW/CL Business Expo Planned

Clear Valley Business Connections (CVBC) will be hosting its Business Expo for Clearwater and Clear Lake Sunday, May 7 at Clearwater Legion from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Expo features many

local. There is still time for interested businesses to sign up. Tables are free for CVBC members; non members can purchase a table for \$75, which also covers an annual membership to the organization.

For more information or to be a part of the annual Clearwater/Clear Lake Business Expo, contact Lori Johnson at lori.rootofwellness@yahoo.com or call 320-558-1108.

CVBC began in 1987 and includes businesses from the cities of Clearwater and Clear Lake, and Clearwater, Clear Lake and Lynden Townships. The mission of the organization is to promote area businesses and provide an environment for them to communicate and network.

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

The Expo will feature raffles and prizes, and businesses will be promoting themselves as well as any positions they may be hiring for. Representatives from CVBC will also be in attendance for anyone with questions about the organization. It is a great opportunity to stop and meet many local businesses.

CVBC is always looking at what more can be done for businesses in the area. The event is for the community at large to meet and get to know local business owners and what they have to offer, as well as promote shopping

Big Lake Food Shelf opens again after remodel

Recently, the Big Lake Food Shelf underwent a large renovation. The area was opened up to allow clients

with other local food shelves, are always happy to work together to best serve the community.

McClurg said the upgrades will allow the food shelf to serve more people. They will now be open five days per week. Clients can sign up for an appointment to browse the shelves and pick out whatever goods they need. The Big Lake Food Shelf serves around 50 clients each month this way.

In addition to this, every month the Big Lake Food Shelf offers other programs, such as "Pop up Pantry" and "Freebie Fridays." They also offer online ordering, and delivery for those who don't have access to a car.

In 2022, the food shelf distributed 750,000 lbs of

food. Usage of the food shelf has increased in recent years, likely due to increased food and cost of living prices.

McClurg says that, these days, it's easy to get to a place where families are worried about buying food. Anyone could have an unexpected medical bill or be laid off. While it can sometimes be hard to ask for help, there's nothing wrong with doing so.

At "Pop-Up Pantry" events, no questions are asked about client needs and there is no paperwork. Those needing food can come and pick it up, and those who have friends or family in need of help can pick up food for them.

The food shelf, in addition to the renovations, is also trying to focus on making sure healthy produce is available for their clients. While still offering all the same sup-

plies they've always had, they are trying to keep fresh fruits, vegetables, and meats stocked and sitting at eye level for their clients. They are working with Super Shelf, which is a program that allows the food shelf to organize their shelves so they can best make sure fresh produce is going out with clients.

There were several donors who made the renovations possible, including: \$55,000 from the Initiative Foundation Transformative Grant, ARPA funding, Second Harvest, Hunger Solutions, and the Big Lake and Monticello Lions as well as many churches, schools, and individuals.

Those who think they may need assistance from the food shelf can visit the food shelf website at BLCFS.org for more information.

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
reporter.katie@patriotnewsnmn.com

easier access when picking up goods as well as creating more space for storage, and a new walk-in freezer/refrigerator was installed. On top of this, the area was changed up to look nicer and feel more like a small grocery store.

The renovations began in mid-February, and finished at the end of March. During that time, food shelf clients were able to receive food and other goods at the Monticello Help Center. Big Lake Food Shelf director Sandy McClurg said they have a great working relationship with the Monticello help center. They along

Employment *More Employment can be found on page 4*



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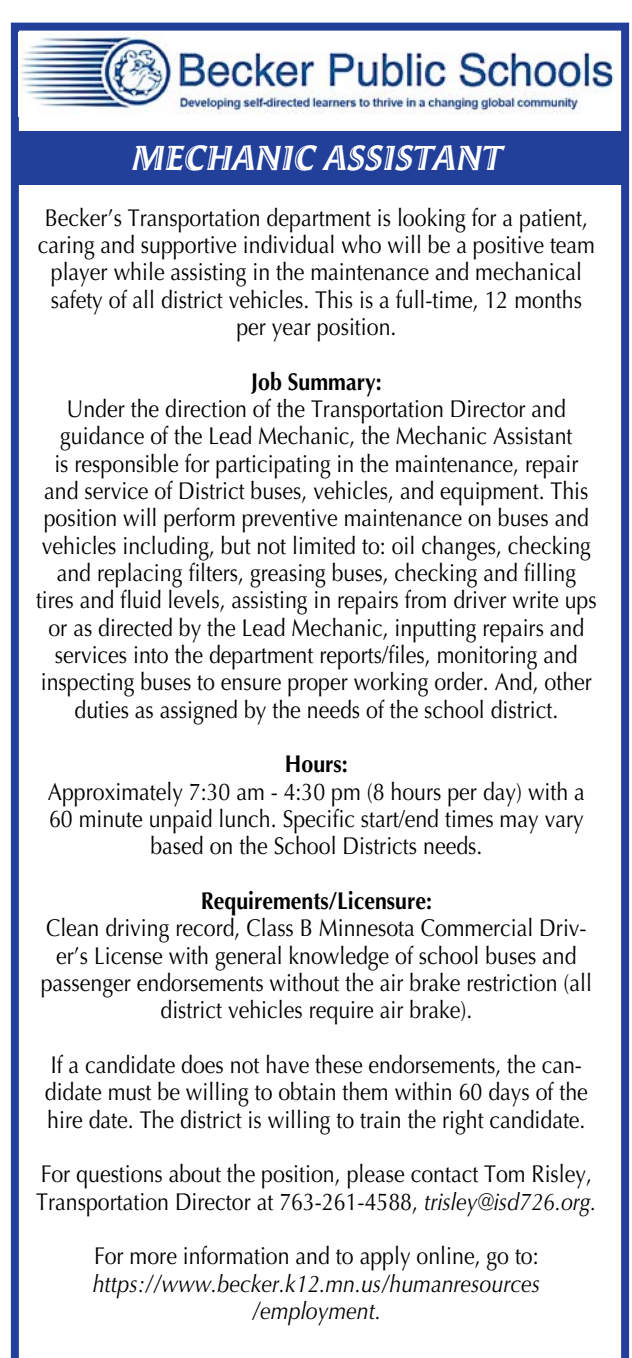
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Job Summary:
Under the direction of the Transportation Director and guidance of the Lead Mechanic, the Mechanic Assistant is responsible for participating in the maintenance, repair and service of District buses, vehicles, and equipment. This position will perform preventive maintenance on buses and vehicles including, but not limited to: oil changes, checking and replacing filters, greasing buses, checking and filling tires and fluid levels, assisting in repairs from driver write ups or as directed by the Lead Mechanic, inputting repairs and services into the department reports/files, monitoring and inspecting buses to ensure proper working order. And, other duties as assigned by the needs of the school district.

Hours:
Approximately 7:30 am - 4:30 pm (8 hours per day) with a 60 minute unpaid lunch. Specific start/end times may vary based on the School Districts needs.

Requirements/Licensure:
Clean driving record, Class B Minnesota Commercial Driver's License with general knowledge of school buses and passenger endorsements without the air brake restriction (all district vehicles require air brake).

If a candidate does not have these endorsements, the candidate must be willing to obtain them within 60 days of the hire date. The district is willing to train the right candidate.

For questions about the position, please contact Tom Risley, Transportation Director at 763-261-4588, trisley@isd726.org.

For more information and to apply online, go to: <https://www.becker.k12.mn.us/humanresources/employment>.

Area/Sports News

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BL boys golf team at Monticello

It was a golf outing appointment at the Monticello Country Club, for the Big Lake boys golf team.

By Pat Garry, Contributing Writer

On Monday, April 24, the boys competed in mid-40 degree temperatures and moderate winds, on a par 71 track.

Aidan Johnson: 43, 44 — 87; Jacob McDonald: 43, 45 — 88; Max Siegrist: 46, 51 — 97; Trevor Stukenholtz: 52, 54 — 106; Tucker Thomas: 56, 60 — 116; Blake Anderson: 48, 50 — 98; Team Results: Monticello, 324; Chisago Lakes, 327; Cambridge-Isanti, 331; North Branch, 338; Becker, 343; Princeton, 347; St. Francis, 367; Big Lake, 370.

Hornet golfers at Oak Grove

The Big Lake girls and boys golf teams competed in a Mississippi 8 Conference Meet on Tuesday, April 18, at the courses in Oak Grove. The boys played at The Ponds, par 72, and the girls played at The Refuge, par 72.

By Pat Garry, Contributing Writer

Girls: Sienna McConville: 54, 59 — 113; Britney Krumrei: 61, 59 — 120; Kylie Thomas: 57, 61 — 118; Kia Hjermsstad: 58, 62 — 120; Torri Ramert: 65, 65 — 130; Abigail Schaufel: 75, 74 — 149; Team Results: Becker, 363; Chisago Lakes, 384; Monticello, 404; Cambridge-Isanti, 409; St. Francis, 456; North Branch, 461; Big Lake, 471;

Boys: Aidan Johnson: 38, 39 — 77; Jacob McDonald: 47, 38 — 85; Max Siegrist: 52, 48 — 100; Trevor Stukenholtz: 50, 56 — 106; Trevor Maruska: 63, 53 — 116; Blake Anderson: 57, 53 — 110; Team Results: Chisago Lakes, 320; Monticello, 326; North Branch, 327; Cambridge-Isanti, 329; Princeton, 342; Becker, 351; St. Francis, 354; Big Lake, 368.

BL boys tennis battles St. Francis

The Hornets lost to St. Francis, 0-7, last Wednesday, April 19. Following are the results of that match.

By Pat Garry, Contributing Writer

Singles: No. 1 - Otto Netteberg, St. Francis High, def. Erick Carlson, Big Lake Senior High, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 10-8; **No. 2** - Baldeemar Diaz, St. Francis High, def. Miles Slack, Big Lake Senior High, 6-1, 6-0; **No. 3** - Joe Zandlo, St. Francis High, def. Zachary Stegora, Big Lake Senior High, 6-3, 6-2; **No. 4** - Oliver Adriaens, St. Francis High, def. Reese Busch, Big Lake Senior High, 6-1, 6-1;

Doubles: No. 1 - Parker McColley, Connor Peterson, St. Francis High, def. Wyatt Martin, Ethan Carlson, Big Lake Senior High, 6-3, 6-3; **No. 2** - Jonah Stoffel, Michael Priener, St. Francis High, def. Jude Slack, Aaron Tigue, Big Lake Senior High, 6-2, 6-0; **No. 3** - Eli Stiles, Ben Crandall, St. Francis High, def. Carsyn Grew, Ian Anderson, Big Lake Senior High, 6-2, 6-1.

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8 Bulldogs sign LOIs for further education

Congratulations to Becker High School's student athletes that signed their Letters of Intent to

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

attend college and play in their respective sports next year.

Rachel Fuller will be signing to play Women's Soccer at Crown College.

Brady Paumen will be signing to play Men's Basketball at St. John's University.

Julias Hendricks will be signing to play Men's Basketball at Bethany Lutheran College.

Kate Mehelich will be signing to play Women's Lacrosse at University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse.

Eli Scheideman will be signing to play Football at Bethel University.

Maxwell Olson-Burkman will be signing to play Men's Lacrosse at Florida Southern College.

Emma Mathews will be signing to play Women's Lacrosse at the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

Ethan Duncombe will be signing to Wrestle at Augustana University.

"We are very proud of all that they have accomplished so far here as Bulldogs and we wish them all the best as they take the next steps in their lives after they graduate from BHS," said Activities Director Dave Niemi



TWO LADY BECKER-ITES signed their LOIs to attend college and play their respective sports. (LtoR): Emma Mathews and Kate Mehelich. (Submitted Photo).



THREE BECKER-ITES signed their LOIs to attend college and play their respective sports. (LtoR): Ethan Duncombe, Eli Scheideman and Maxwell Olson-Burkman. (Submitted Photo).



THREE OTHER BECKER-ITES signed their LOIs to attend college and play their respective sports. (LtoR): Raachel Fuller, Bray Paumen and Julias Hendricks. (Submitted Photo).

Hornet baseball gets first win, 9-5 over Becker

The Big Lake Baseball Team won its first game of the season Monday, 9-5 at Becker in eight innings.

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

The Hornets were coming off a season-opening 4-1 loss to Monticello a week earlier, and needed to get some offense from their lineup.

That happened early when a two-out rally in the top of the first netted two runs. First baseman Isaiah Terlinden and catcher Keenan Hjermsstad each singled and scored on hits by right-fielder Connor Stukenholtz and pitcher Owen Wilczek for a quick 2-0 Big Lake lead.

They added another run in the third when Hjermsstad drove in Terlinden with one out.

The Bulldogs got two runs back in the fourth with three consecutive hits to start the inning. They had the tying run on third base, but Wilczek reached back and struck out the next three batters to end the threat.

Becker tied the score in the home sixth on two hits and an error off relief pitcher Jeffrey Wanhala to start the inning. He retired the final three batters to end the threat.

Big Lake got a baserunner but couldn't take the lead in the seventh.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Bulldogs came close to winning the game as three different batters reached base. But a strikeout ended the inning.

Then the Hornets exploded for six runs in the eighth inning, capped by a three-run homer by Trent Josewski. The rally gave Big Lake a 9-3 lead.

The Bulldogs weren't done yet. In the home eighth. They put together a rally of their own when four batters reached base. But only two runs scored before the

For Becker, Nolan Murphy went 3-4 with a double, a triple and scored twice. Anderson went 2-4.

The Hornets played a doubleheader against Cambridge-Isanti Tuesday and



ISAAH TERLINDEN delivers a pitch during a game against Cambridge-Isanti. He had three hits and scored twice in a 9-5 win over Becker on Monday. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

final out, and Big Lake went home with a 9-5 win.

Wanhala got the win in relief. He allowed three runs and struck out five in four innings.

Terlinden and Hjermsstad went 3-5. Carson Gellerman and Stukenholtz went 2-5.

won both games. Details from those games will follow next week. The were also scheduled to play Princeton Thursday and have games at Holy Family Monday and St. Francis at home 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

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Boys track 1st, girls 2nd at CL

The Becker boys and girls track teams continue to put together promising seasons, with the boys win-

Boecker took 4th with a shot put of 37'10".

"It was great to see these throwers progress as they have been working hard to improve," Coach Paul Schmidt

was also on the first place 4x100 relay team with Leon Morris, Kylee Morton and Salayna Allen.

In the 100 hurdles, Raelee Lyon added a fourth (18.63) and Regan Hausmann was sixth (19.55).

In the 300 hurdles, Hausmann placed 2nd (51.94) and Lyon was 4th (54.42).

It was a great day for the Bulldog relay teams, as the 4x800 relay of Brooklyn Karel, Meghan Swanson, Katelyn Brower and Adele Changamire was first in a time of 10:31.83, closely followed by the other Becker team of Dani Nuest, Olivia Babler, Alea Briggs and Bella Duncombe in second with a time of 10:34.41.

A Bulldog 4x200 team also won the top spot (Hannah Dierkes, Nuest, Abby Atwood, Kailey Thompson), while second place also went to Becker (Lyon, Regan Hausmann, Josie Reckelberg and Morton).

The 4x400 relay team of Duncombe, Briggs,

Bulldog tennis continues to impress

The Becker Bulldog tennis team keeps performing in impressive fashion no matter the competition.

Scheideman/Landon Peterson, Nick Gruber/Sawyer Brown and Garrett Lane/Max Haugen.

and improve." In the third round, Becker bombed Brainerd, 7-0.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer production@patriotnews.com

Last Saturday, Becker picked up two wins in three matches against top competition.

In round two, Becker faced the #8 ranked team in the state, Elk River, and fell just short, 3-4.

"The last time we played Brainerd they were missing their top singles player and this time he was back and our kids still swept all the matches," Bengtson said.

In round one, Becker took on Wayzata's Varsity (A) team, as the Trojans' top varsity team (currently ranked #1 in MN) was playing a tournament in Milwaukee. Becker won 6-1 behind great play from all across the court.

"We had a great chance to steal a win in this match!" Bengtson said. "I was proud of the way we fought against some top end talent in this second match!"

Saints
 Tuesday evening was complete domination for the Bulldogs, as they blanked the St. Francis Saints, 7-0. The singles matches were all perfect 6-0, 6-0 wins for both Bengtsons, Nuest and Herdina.

"Their team was really skilled, we had great matches on every court," Coach Hokan Bengtson said. "Our kids weren't phased by the talent level, and competed really well against a skilled group."

Bengtson credited Herdina with playing a great match at #4 singles to remain undefeated on the season (9-0).

The doubles teams were also excellent, with Scheideman/Peterson winning 6-0, 6-1, Gruber/Brown scoring a pair of 6-0 shutouts and Lane/Haugen winning 6-1, 6-2.

Singles winners included Ryan Bengtson, Troy Nuest and Adler Herdina.

"In doubles, Eli and Landon took care of business in style beating Elk River's top team in a tight match," Bengtson said. "Our #2 doubles team really competed well (Gruber/Brown) in also defeating a solid doubles team from Elk River. Unfortunately we didn't get it done at the other four spots, but we learned a lot about what we need to work on

Becker improved to 9-1 on the season with the wins.

ning the meet and the girls finishing second last Tuesday in Chisago Lakes.

The boys scored 106 team points en route to their win and were led by a host of good individual performances.

Owen Angel got things started by winning the 110 meter high hurdles with a time of 15.9, while Carter Reckelberg won the 100 meters with a time of 11.53 and Logan Eisele a close second at 11.66.

Next, the 4x200 team showed their speed again by capturing the win with a time of 1:37.86 (Carter Reckelberg, Logan Eisele, Alex Weiss, and Mitchel Soltau).

In the 1600, Tyson Ricker ran his best race of the year with a 4:24.77 for first place, while Tanner Felton added a third place finish.

The boys 4x100 relay team of Quintrell Robinson, Asher Olson, Soltau and Julius Hendricks took second place with a time of 48.60. Alex Kinney took third place with a time of 2:16.34 in the 800 Meter run and Caleb Reckelberg grab fifth place. In the 3200 race, Tyson Ricker took third with a 9:52.35 and Evan Hubbard finished fourth at 11:23.23.

For the Field Events, Cade Barringer was second in the discus with a toss of 103' 10" and Johnathan



LAUREN WOELFEL AND REGAN HAUSMANN ran well for the Bulldogs in the 100 hurdles. (Submitted photo.)

said. "For many of our field guys, this is their first year out."

Carter Reckelberg won the long jump with a leap of 20'3", Julius Hendricks was 3rd with a 19' jump and Hunter Youngdahl took fourth with a 18'3" jump.

In the Pole Vault, Owen Angell kept his winning streak alive with a 13' vault, good for 1st place and Brody Stommes and Nolan Muellner tied for fifth with 10' vaults.

Girls
 For the girls team, the second place finish was led by Lauren Woelfel's impressive day, taking first in the Pole Vault (her 10'7 places her second on the all time Becker Honor Roll), the Triple Jump and 2nd in the 100 hurdles. She

Nuest and Changamire took first with a time of 4:29.68, while second place went to the Bulldog quartet of Brower, Abby Atwood, Reckelberg and Kaylyn Rickard.

Another event with multiple place winners was the 400 with Changamire in second (64.30) Hannah Dierkes 3rd (64.50) and Rickard 6th (66.62).

The 800 had four girls earn places in a very competitive race: first was Duncombe (2:34.57) second was Briggs (2:35.51), 4th was Brower (2:38.66,) and fifth went to Atwood (2:39.88).

In the 3200, Olivia Babler took second in 13:05.05 and Natalie Trenz fifth.

Palmer Ball registration to be held May 6

Palmer Ball program will run Mon., June 5 through Mon. July 24. The program is sponsored by Palmer Park & Rec Dept. (Please note: there will be no ball on Monday, July 3rd due to the holiday.)

Registration will be held at Palmer Park Pavilion Sat., May 6, 10 a.m. to noon or Mon., May 8, 5 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$40 and includes t-shirt and hat.

as the program has been filling to capacity.

Tee-Ball will be held Mondays from 6 to 7 p.m. for children ages five to seven years old. (Must be four years old by May 1).

Pitch Ball will be held Mondays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for children ages eight to nine years old.

Softball will be held Mondays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for ages 10 to 14. (Player may not turn 15 after May 1).

Volunteer coaches and program volunteers are needed. Please email: palmerballprogram@gmail.com to volunteer or if you have questions.

PALMER BALL registration and play is just around the corner! Cost is just \$40 and that includes a t-shirt and hat. (Patriot archive photo by Chris Meyer.)

Submitted Article



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Becker robotics finishes 4th in World Championships

The Becker robotics team had a wildly successful trip last week to Houston, TX, as they navigated their way to the final field in the World Championships and placed fourth.

flawlessly until our last qualification match when we had a bevel gear that sheared," Jurek said, noting that the pit crew did

the World competition.

But Jurek and his crew are setting their sights on a third state title after winning the crown in 2013 and 2022. All together,

that started in 2013.

"It's amazing to see our kids interacting with teams from Israel, Turkey, Japan, Australia and all the other countries represented

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com



THE BECKER ROBOTICS TEAM FRC 4607 competed last week at the World Championships in Houston, TX and made it all the way to the Einstein Division, where they finished in fourth place. Einstein is the final playoff division and making it that far is truly an elite experience. (Submitted Photo.)

ton, TX, as they navigated their way to the final field in the World Championships and placed fourth.

"This is the pinnacle, it's the top level of competitive robotics and our kids performed exceptionally," Coach Alex Jurek said. "These were the best robots on Earth and because of our kids, we were right there — we belonged. It was surreal to get to the final round and to hear our team name and our hometown of Becker announced."

Becker had a tough road to get to the final round of competition which is named the Einstein field. At the beginning of the World Championships, there are teams competing in eight divisions to try and make it to Einstein.

Becker was in the Johnson division and drew the 4th strongest strength of schedule to try and make it to the finals. This means that only three other teams in the entire Championships had a more difficult bracket based on the strength of their opponents. Becker not only ended up winning that competition to earn the right to compete for the title on Einstein, but the team also picked up the Quality Award for their division because of design and build of their robot, LockJaw.

the necessary repairs to keep competing. "It was one of the most spectacular robots at the competition and you could tell it belonged with the best of the best."

Einstein
The final division consists of 8 alliances that each contain four robots. Becker teamed up with a pair of Michigan schools, as well as one from California for the final competition.

Becker won the opening round, then lost to hit the bottom of the bracket. Ultimately, the Becker alliance lost in the third place match with LockJaw leading the way in scoring points.

It was Becker's second ever time competing on Einstein and in 30 years of competitive robotics, only one other team from Minnesota has had two appearances on the final field. In fact, only five teams from Minnesota have ever appeared in the finals.

State
Next up for Jurek's team is the MSHSL state tournament, to be held on May 6 at Williams Arena with free admission. In a weird schedule quirk, the state tournament is held after the World Championships because the MSHSL is not part of the FIRST organization that sanctions

the Becker team has made an incredible eight state tournaments out of the nine seasons they have been eligible.

Houston
Jurek and his team reported to Houston a couple days early for last week's championships and were able to tour NASA's Texas facility.

"We really want to thank the school district for allowing us to go early and see NASA before the tournament," Jurek said. "It was an incredible learning experience for our students."

He was also quick to thank the team's sponsors and entire community for helping with the expenses of taking the team (and LockJaw) to Texas.

"Some people think that since we make it to Worlds so often that it must be easy to get there and nothing could be further from the truth," Jurek said. "It's because of the incredible students and the mentor network that we have been fortunate enough to experience this success — it's a once in a lifetime opportunity that we've been able to experience nearly every year."

Becker has appeared at the World Championships seven total times, an unheard number for a team

there," Jurek said. "The kids work very hard while we are there in doing their regular school homework, as well as finding things from other teams that we can bring back to make our team better."



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Becker Robotics team holds spaghetti dinner fundraiser

Two weeks ago, the Becker Robotics Team held a spaghetti dinner to raise money for their trip

on display and members of the team were available to explain how the machine worked and their strategies in competition.

The team has been to Worlds many times in the past and planned to give the competition their all again this year.

More information about the team as well as ways to support them are available at frc4607cis.com.

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
reporter.katie@patriotnewsnm.com

to the World Competition in Houston. The team, with the help of volunteers, served up a delicious dinner in exchange for free will donations. In addition, they held a bake sale with delicious goods.

The team's robot was



KAYLA AND ANNA of the Becker Robotics Team collected free will donations to help their team make it to Houston for the World competition. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

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