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• VOL. 3 • NO. 12 SAT., SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

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PATRIOT



A BECKER ALUMNI LUNCHEON was held Sept. 8 at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Becker. 92 past graduates attended. The annual event has been held in Becker for over 30 years. See the story on page 2. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)

Inside

COLUMN
Mary Nehring has a sweet column on a very special flower girl at the Salvavid wedding! See her story on page 5.

BECKER SCHOOLS
Dylan's Hope once again donated a sizeable check to Becker Schols from a recent fundraiser. See the story on page 2.

SPORTS
Check out page 8 for full coverage of the Becker Bulldog and Big Lake Hornet's most recent football games.

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- Sand Dunes Auto Service

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Real American Heroes

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Palmer House hosted a Patriot's Day tribute last Sunday, featuring book signings, live music and a patriotic spirit shared by the hundreds upon hundreds of Americans who came from across the state to share in a love for our country. The day also included a raffle, with the proceeds benefitting a charity committed to preventing Veteran's suicide.

Palmer House owner Paul Braun was busy all day, tending to a pair of speakers and also orchestrating some incredible live music by GB Leighton.

Amazing food, patriotic camaraderie and even an outdoor viewing of the Vikings-Packers game were all on the menu, but the true "special" of the day was the chance for attendees to speak with a pair of real American heroes. Despite huge lines that greatly exceeded the scheduled four hours of time for the meet and greet and book signings, both featured attendees sacrificed once again and provided time for the *Patriot* to ask some questions.

Tanto

Kris "Tanto" Paronto is a former US Army Ranger who was working as a CIA security contractor on 9-11-12 when terrorists launched their attack in Benghazi, Libya. His heroic actions on that day have been immortalized in a book and



PATRIOT'S DAY. Pictured are Paul Braun, Palmer House owner, and Kris "Tanto" Paronto, an American hero and former US Army Ranger who fought valiantly ten years ago during the terrorist attack in Benghazi, Libya. Hundreds of patriots lined up at the Palmer House last Sunday to meet Paronto and commemorate the 21st anniversary of 9-11, as well as the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attack in Benghazi. Paronto held a meet and greet, along with a book signing. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

feature film that share part of a common title and are known simply as: 13 Hours. The storyline is familiar to many Americans, as the attack resulted in the death of the Ambassador, Christopher Stevens, as well as CIA contractors Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty, two of the men who fought alongside Paronto. Also killed was U.S. Foreign Service Information Management Specialist Sean Smith. While the American government failed to act during the terrorist

onslaught, Paronto and his fellow security comrades did not, instead choosing to respond to the calls for help and saving dozens of lives in the process.

The line of patriots eager to meet Paronto, an accomplished author, was stacked deep all day long and his signed books were obviously treasured by the hundreds of emotionally charged individuals who greeted him and walked away inspired by his courage, humility and honor.

Paronto graciously

shared some of his thoughts with the *Patriot* on the 10th anniversary of the attacks in Benghazi.

"My life is about honor and courage and leadership. I don't get angry like I used to . . . it didn't help. From 2016 to 2018 I was in a bad place after the movie came out, but then I finally stepped back and brought God back into my life. When I finally realized that Benghazi wasn't about all the things that went wrong,

HEROES to page 4

Nelson responds to accusations

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

A few weeks ago, at the August Big Lake School Board meeting, Board Member Derek Nelson was censured for several accusations against him, including inappropriate behavior, mismanagement of funds, and failure to provide adequate food and transportation to the cheerleading team he coached. The Patriot received a few requests to speak with Nelson and some of the parents of the cheerleaders in order to hear the other perspective on these issues. This reporter sat with Nelson as well as two cheer parents to get the other side of the story. The two cheer parents interviewed wished to remain anonymous, as they feared backlash against



DEREK NELSON was recently censured for accusations against him. Photo was taken last November during a routine team update to the school board. (Patriot archive photo.)

them or their students from others if they spoke out.

History of Events

Nelson, prior to being elected as a school board member, had been a coach for the Big Lake Cheer-

leading team. He also owned several businesses, including Guardian Garments. According to Nelson, and corroborated by one of the cheer parents, a former booster club president started collecting complaints against Nelson. The booster club had been having issues with this president, as there were issues in accounting for funds raised by the booster club. It is not clear why the president of the time chose to collect complaints against Nelson. Nelson reported that he believed it was due to a desire to exercise more control over the booster club and the team. Meanwhile one of the booster parents indicated it was due to conflict between Nelson and the president. Regardless, the president openly asked students and parents to submit any complaints they had

against Nelson.

Complaints were compiled and submitted to the school, whereupon an investigation was opened by the school. Those hired to investigate were trained in finance, according to reports this reporter has heard. Nelson has publicly questioned their authority as investigators for the accusations against him.

Both of the cheer parents noted that, although they were willing to give comments as a part of any investigation, neither was asked for their opinion, nor were their students. They reported that they did not know of any parents in support of Nelson who have been interviewed as a part of this investigation.

Response to the Accusations

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Palmer Day a huge success

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

Last weekend's annual Palmer Day celebration was a big success, with huge crowds lining the street for the parade and filling the park for the rest of the day's events.

The weather was perfect as the day kicked off with the 5K Run/Walk with over 100 participants. At noon the street was lined with hundreds of people waiting excitedly for the parade, which was larger than ever and led by the Clearwater and Sauk Rapids



THE GRAND MARSHALLS OF THE PARADE, LARRY AND MARY ELLEN BRAMBRINK, sat on the top of the back seats of a classy convertible while navigating the streets Saturday. (Patriot Photo by Carol Hanson).

Legion Color Guards. Larry and Mary Ellen Brambrink were honored with the title of Grand Marshals.

First place for best float was awarded to Briggs Lake Nursery, BJ Evergreen won second place, and third place went to Briggs Lake General Store.

After the parade Palmer Park quickly filled with people enjoying the food and numerous activities. The car show was back again by popular demand, the first time

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Area News

PALMER from page 1

since the pandemic shut down the festivities. The 'We're All Americans' children's parade was held at 1:30, and there were lots of kids' games open from 1 to 3 p.m. The raffle booth was so busy all afternoon that organizers were afraid they would run out of tickets. Grand prize was a huge cooler filled with merchandise and gift cards from area businesses, Twins' tickets were given out for second place. Bingo in the Park was also busy all afternoon, with each round selling out the available cards. Attendees had a number of options for food and refreshments from area non-profits' booths and the Clear Lake Lions beer garden. The day ended with *Steel Rail* rocking the festival with music from 7 to 11 p.m. Organizers extended thanks to all their sponsors, volunteers, and the community for their support, without which there wouldn't be a Palmer Day. "We're so thankful," said co-organizer Joanie Ernzer. "We had a huge crowd and everyone was so happy to be there."

Proceeds from the event are donated to Palmer Park and local non-profit organizations. The Palmer Day committee is always in need of more volunteers. Those interested in helping plan and orchestrate next year's event are asked to contact Joanie Ernzer at 320-248-2460.



THE SHANE MEKELAND/ANDREW MATHEWS FLOAT was full of patriotism elements as the political figures handed out treats for the parade watchers. (Patriot Photo by Carol Hanson).



JOCELYN STANG (above) was in the Christmas spirit aboard the B & J Evergreen float. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)

THE HAUS FAMILY (LEFT) participated in the Palmer Day 5K. Pictured: Brady Haus, Sheri Haus, Cole Haus, Front row: Ethan Haus. (Submitted Photo.)

Annual Becker Alumni Luncheon held at Pebble Creek

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer

The Becker Alumni Luncheon was held Thursday, September 8th at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Becker. 92 past graduates attended. The annual event has been held in Becker for over 30 years.



CLASS OF 1967. Larry Sakry, Barb (Woolhouse) Holland, Barb (Nelson) Rietman, (Kay Kolbinger) Nelson, Carol (Stodola) Van Hofwegen, Bob Schafer and Ruth (Cox) Schafer, Lois (Dianoski) Woolard. (Submitted Photo.)

ALUMNI LUNCHEON IS A BLAST! Pictured: Jean (Peterson) Howard, Joan (Howard) Bolin, Les Howard. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)

Dylan's Hope donates \$15k to schools

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
Reporter: bill@patriotnewsnm.com

Monday evening the Becker School Board met for their regularly scheduled meeting and the open meeting went until about 8 p.m.

There were no speakers during public comment.

Dylan's Hope representatives presented a check in the amount of \$15,000 to Becker Schools. The organization had another wonderful turnout for their annual golf tournament fundraiser and were recognized by the board for their continued support of the Becker community and its families.

Supt. Schmidt introduced two student school board representatives in Kayla G. and Emilia H. The girls gave a great report and shared all of the activities that are happening around the school. They also shared a new process for gathering input from students in various activities. The duo look to improve this process moving forward.

The Superintendent Report included updates on a successful Fall Staff Development/Back to School Workshop. The board is moving the monthly meeting date for October from the third to the 10th. The Superintendent shared goals, which are based on the submitted Strategic Plan. An update from the All School Reunion was presented which included the Superintendent's participation. Information on bids was presented and a request to meet with the Project Oversight committee was reviewed. Schmidt



mentioned a reminder of the annual Truth in Taxation meeting that will take place Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda
The consent agenda was passed on a unanimous vote with all board members in attendance. The board handled a large personnel report, as they continue to fill jobs to start the year. Fundraisers and last year amounts were approved. Schmidt said fundraiser forms needed to get

to the proper approvers as soon as you are able. He said these can be turned in at any time as they removed the application deadline. However, teams and school organizations not granted approval may lose their right to fundraise.

Other significant consent agenda items included, Truth in Taxation, Coaches and Activities Handbook approval, and approval of the Multi-Unit Contract.

Gifts were also approved and recognized on a unanimous vote.

"Thank you to everyone who has supported our school programs with donations," said Schmidt.

Health Insurance
Rates were proposed and approved on a unanimous vote. Included in the rates was a new HSA Plan.

Policies 416, 418, and 515 all had first readings. These changes were all a result of recent adaptations in statute related to Cannabinoids and Data Privacy. Schmidt says the board is working to align these policies with updated statute and MSBA recommendations.

Policy 524 was ap-

proved with changes including contracts between technology providers and schools, limitations and notice requirements before electronic access and a requirement to notify parents within 30 days of the start of each school year about curriculum, testing, and general student educational data (Schmidt says this information is and will be in the school's Back to School Newsletter).

The Preliminary Levy 2022 Payable 2023 was approved at the maximum level. The actual levy amount will be recommended during the Truth in Taxation meeting scheduled for Dec. 5.

A discussion took place on recent public data requests, MN Statute 13.05 and Policy 722.

Bids were awarded for the Primary and Early Education Center, as well as, the MS/HS Additions and Remodeling.

Closed Meeting
The main meeting was closed to discuss negotiation strategy pursuant to MN Statute 13.05 Closed Meetings for Evaluation of the Superintendent.

Upon recovering, the meeting was adjourned following the Evaluation at 10:46 p.m.

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NELSON from page 1

Nelson did not respond to the accusations against him at the board meeting, but did so in a closed board meeting and with this reporter.

The inappropriate behavior of which Nelson was accused stemmed from his potential conflicts of interest from being a school board member as well as a business owner that worked with the schools. Nelson did employ students from the district in his small businesses, but had also done so prior to being a school board member and did not see issues in continuing the practice. He also noted that, although he has done business with the school in the past, for sports teams, he has not done so since becoming a board member. He has only done business with youth groups and booster clubs that were peripheral to the school, not governed by the school district directly.

As for the mismanagement of funds, those hired to investigate the issue did not find that any funds were stolen. Nelson did admit that best bookkeeping practices were not followed, but he was trying actively to remedy that. Nelson noted asking the former athletic director for guidance on implementing best practices but they were not able to resolve the

situation. Last year, a new athletic director was hired for the district, and Nelson waited a bit longer to address the situation, allowing for a transition period. He did note that he was eventually able to sit down with the athletic director and the district director of business services to implement best practices in accounting for the team's treasury. Again, all money was accounted for by those who were hired by the school district.

Nelson was also accused of not providing adequate transportation and food for the cheerleaders when they attended the national competition in Florida. Nelson said that it was true that the original transportation plan fell through and they had to go with a plan B. The original plan was to have Disney provide transportation (as the competition was sponsored by the company), but after some back and forth they found that this would not be an option as they'd hoped. As a plan B, the team rented out a van and had to make several trips to ferry the student athletes where they needed to go. Students were supervised by adults at all times, and although the solution was less than ideal, it cost the team about a quarter as it would

have cost to rent a bus, and all the students made it to where they needed to be on time for the whole trip, as opposed to other teams in the competition who, relying on the transportation provided, ended up being delayed many times throughout the trip. Nelson noted that last minute hiccups tend to happen when traveling with a team, but they were able to manage it. As for the accusation of Nelson not providing adequate food for the students, he noted that this is not true at all. Food was kept in the coaches' room, and the students were encouraged to take whatever food they needed and bring it back to their rooms. They were encouraged to ask the coaches if they needed more. Nelson noted that there was more than enough food available, as much of it was left behind at the resort when the team departed.

Nelson said he wasn't sure why these allegations have come to effect his school board position in the first place, stating, "At the end of the day, like it has been said many times, no kids were hurt, no money was stolen, everything was accounted for. Were there best practices? No, but... there's been no illegal activity that occurred. I've been baffled by

the whole thing."

Parents' Response

Two parents reached out to the *Patriot* wanting to give their perspective. Both said they were not contacted to give a statement about the situation, despite being willing to do so.

"I never felt there were any issues," said the first parent (hereto referred as Parent One), who noted that their student was very open about any issues with the team or at school.

Parent One went on to note that some of the school board members called Nelson un-empathetic to the situation, but they begged to differ, saying that he was empathetic and that he treated the students, "like his own kids."

Parent One noted that Nelson could come off as somewhat disorganized, which might have led to miscommunications, but they felt he had not done anything wrong.

The other parent (hereto referred to as Parent Two) also noted that they were

not asked to give a statement to Nelson's defense, al-

though they (along with some other parents) went directly to the athletic director to offer to do so. The athletic director, at that time, was under the impression that the investigation would be wrapped up soon and that everything would be ok. But very soon after that, the competition cheer

was dissolved by the school, which now only offers side-

line cheer. Parent Two said they felt as if they had been lied to.

The students being coached by Nelson were also not given the opportunity to voice their opinions.

Minnesota Jets

After the school dissolved competition cheer, Nelson, with some help from other parents including Parent Two, created the Minnesota Jets. This is a youth organization not affiliated with the school district that allows the students to continue with competition cheer. Nelson currently is helping with the administration of the group and is serving as a coach, but he is not on the board. Despite this, concerns were raised at the previous board meeting about whether the school could do anything to dissolve that program.

Continuing Repercussions

While Nelson was being investigated, he lost business clients due to his being under investigation, and had to close the doors for some of his small businesses.

THE MINNESOTA JETS were founded after the Big Lake School District dissolved its competition cheer team. (Patriot archive photo.)

Area Chamber News



Member Meeting
Sept. 21 - 11:30am - 1pm
Becker Furniture World



Business After Hours
Sept. 22 - 5-6:15 pm
McPete's



Quarterly Meeting
Thurs., Oct. 13
11:30 am - 1 pm
Zylla-Rolf Studio

Member Meeting
Sept. 27 - 11:30am
Big Lake High School



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

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PALMER



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HEROES from page 1

but about what went right . . . that I was seeing the tremendous courage of my teammates and seeing the best of what humanity has to offer, which is selfless service and sacrifice and those willing to give of themselves so I could come home. I get to enjoy my wife and son because these men gave themselves up. I think that's a gift that you can't take back. You don't see that anywhere else except on the battlefield or on the streets if you are in law enforcement. It will always keep me from being angry. I saw two angels that day in Benghazi (Tyrone Woods and Glen Doherty). That team knew what the mission was and that meant we were going to protect each other and come back home. I was blessed to be there that night with those guys because I was able to see saints in action."

"Benghazi is a blessing - ten years later and I want to honor them and also the other two patriots as well (Ambassador Stevens and Sean Smith). When you are left behind and nobody's coming for you, you really do see your true colors and all I saw was five other team members of mine come together and get stronger."

"For those that are responsible for leaving us there, I'm not angry anymore. They will be judged when we are all judged . . . I don't need to see what God decides to do with those people. God doesn't need me to see it, but I have faith that they will be judged at that point in time and that allows me to see the silver linings."

"When you go through adversity and obstacles, it's teaching you for something later in life. Benghazi is about overcoming adversity and understanding now that God put me through those trials and tribulations earlier in life because if I didn't go through all that, I don't know if I would have made it out of there."

Heart Of A Ranger

People also had the chance to meet Jill Stephenson, the mother of American hero Cpl. Ben Kopp, who in 2009 died of injuries he received during his third



THE PALMER HOUSE'S PAUL BRAUN looked on as Jill Stephenson, mother of American hero Cpl. Ben Kopp, addressed the huge crowd at the 9-11 Patriot's Day tribute. Stephenson called on all Americans to rekindle the unity of spirit our nation coalesced around on 9-12-01, when the country was united in purpose the day after the attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon (Photo by Mark Kolbinger).

deployment as a U.S. Army Ranger. Kopp was credited with directly saving the lives of six of his fellow soldiers during battle and after his death, he saved many more because of his status as an organ donor.

Stephenson's only son had been inspired by the military service of his grandfather and on September 11, 2001, his sadness over the months-earlier death of that same man turned to anger over the terrorist attacks of that fateful day.

Ben grew up in Rosemount, MN and his story is slated to become a major motion picture. Here is what Jill shared with the Patriot in our interview:

"The Book, Heart of a Ranger, is the biography of my son, Ben, a United States Army Ranger, who was killed in action during his third overseas deployment. When he was removed from life support, he donated all his major organs, as well as his bones, skin and tissue. He directly saved four lives and enhanced over sixty more with his donation. The book is about his life and history and also shares a little bit of my grandfather's history as a MN Red Bull. Ben idolized his grandfather and came home on

9-11 and vowed to join the military and make Osama Bin Laden pay for what he had done. His sadness turned to anger. He made a declaration at that age of 13 and five years later he made good on that promise. He followed in his great-grandfather's footsteps and was assigned to the 3rd Ranger Battalion after training at Fort Benning. The author of the book, Bill Lunn, was a news anchor for KSTP in the Twin Cities and he was from the same hometown as the woman who received Ben's heart. Bill's own son attended basic training at Fort Benning and Bill said while he was there for the graduation, he felt Ben's energy - which we call 'Benenergy' - and he contacted me soon after and asked to write a book about Ben's life. I continue to tell Ben's story because I feel an obligation and I owe Ben the honor of telling him his story."

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Editorials/Opinions

A Very Special Flower Girl

By Mary Nehring,
Contributing Writer

While attending The Becker Evangelical Free Church from 2004 to 2009, I got to know Chris Salvevold and his family.

Chris serves as the Youth Pastor at Becker Free. I always enjoyed the Salvevold family. They are good people.

I now attend The Snake River Free Church, where my great, great uncle was the original pastor and I serve as a pianist.

However, I'm grateful that my path still crosses with the Salvevolds.

I heard that Chris and Kristin's daughter, Maci, had married Chase Klotz earlier this summer (Saturday, July 23rd).

The wedding was held at Land of Promise in Buffalo. It rained much of the day and the outdoor ceremony was almost moved indoors due to the rain.

Miraculously, the skies cleared up at the time of the wedding at 5 p.m.!

The family tells me they had a beautiful evening wedding and celebration.

Another miracle that day was the fact that the bride's youngest sister, Jensyn, was able to attend the wedding.

The bride (Maci's) one wish for her wedding was that her five year old sister, Jensyn, be her flower girl.

Jensyn even got her new wheelchair just in time for the big event and another sister, Jakely, pushed



By Mary Nehring
Contributing Writer



SPECIAL SISTER MOMENT. Maci (Salvevold) Klotz shares a precious moment with her little sister Jensyn - on her wedding day. The two share an amazing bond as this picture clearly reveals. Maci felt incredibly blessed that Jensyn was able to attend her wedding. (Submitted photos.)

Jensyn down the aisle, announcing the coming of the bride.

Kristin shared these sentiments about the special day: "Jensyn making the wedding was a really big deal and a tremendous blessing. She was critically ill in April and May and we kept her close to home all summer because there is always a risk that she will

get sick. History has shown that when Jensyn gets sick, it usually requires hospitalization."

Jensyn has always had a very special relationship with her sister Maci, and it would have devastated Maci to not have her at the wedding.

The family was so thrilled that Jensyn was well enough to be there and stay all day for the festivities.

Jensyn's diagnosis is Trisomy 5p. It is an extremely rare genetic disorder that causes respiratory failure, seizures, and developmental delay. Jensyn is dependent on oxygen and is wheelchair bound.

She has endured many hospital stays and two near-death illnesses. Despite all Jensyn has been through, she maintains an amazingly positive attitude.

Jensyn rarely goes out in public because she is so medically fragile, so it was a big weekend for her being able to participate in Maci's wedding.

We can learn much from seeing how Jensyn and the Salvevold family live with Jensyn's rare genetic disorder with such a positive attitude. It is encouraging to see God's love displayed in the Salvevold family as they trust God day by day and show love to their beautiful daughter.

Jensyn celebrated her sixth birthday last week. Praise God! Life is a precious gift.

Putting MN Students Back on Track

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

Learning is lifelong and began even before we were born. And after birth, our parents served as our first and most important teachers. That is why it is so essential to instill in our children a love of learning, and one of the best ways to do that is by reading with them.

A 2019 study found that young children who were read five books a day start kindergarten having heard around 1.4 million more words than children who were never read to. Even if a child is read only one book a day, they will still have heard around 290,000 more words by age five than a child who did not regularly have books read to them. This gives the kids a basis for their own vocabulary and reading. In addition, parents discussing what they are reading is a further help. Kids can understand way more complex information than they can read.

While early learning is extremely critical to a child's lifelong success, it continues at school — whether that be a home, private or public school. There are certain fundamental skills that all children are expected to learn, such as English, math and science. However, if a student cannot read, they cannot fully succeed in these subjects, which has been seen through the low recent statewide test scores.

Shockingly, just over half of Minnesota students — 51.7% — are proficient in



By Sen.
Mary Kiffmeyer

reading, while less than half of students — 45.5% — are proficient in mathematics. Further, since 2019, reading proficiency dropped by 8% and proficiency in math decreased by 10%. We know how hard our local teachers try and are grateful. But Minnesota cannot accept this statewide educational situation. It will take everyone to succeed at change.

This data also clearly demonstrates the ongoing, negative impacts of distance learning during the pandemic and the great importance of parental involvement. That is why we must get our students back to the basics and focus on core academic skills and welcome parents as an asset for their child's academic success.

For this reason, my Senate Republican colleagues and I prioritized literacy funding this legislative session. We passed a strong education bill out of the Senate, which included significant funding to provide all Minnesota teachers with indispensable training in the science of reading instruction

called LTRS.

The closure of schools due to the pandemic was also an eye-opening experience for parents across the state. And as a result, many parents now have a new perspective on school curriculum due to distance learning and are stepping up even more to their responsibility and rights regarding their child's education. The school system needs to listen. The children are the parents.

To encourage schools to view parents as active partners in education, Senate Republicans proposed a Parents Bill of Rights. As I highlighted earlier, parents have ultimate responsibility and play a central role in their child's education. Therefore, we must affirm this. That is why the foundation of this initiative is to reinforce the rights of parents to direct their child's education and empower them as they guide their child through school.

Students are still greatly dealing with learning loss due to COVID shutdowns, and with students now back in the classroom, we must focus on proven learning methods that put our students first. It is critical to ensure students have the fundamental resources they need to succeed and that parents feel empowered in their child's education. Senate Republicans will continue to push for investments in education that put our students back on the right track.

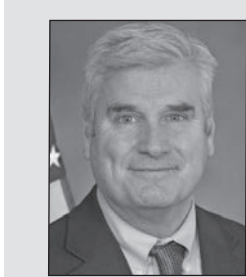
In the meantime, parents, read and talk to your children.

Making Matters Worse

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

This week, we are heading back to Washington after a long August recess. The last time Congress was in session, Democrats unilaterally passed the so-called "Inflation Reduction Act." Despite its name, this bill piled \$740 billion onto the \$9 trillion spent since President Biden took office.

To make matters worse, the few offsets the bill contained were wiped out by the Biden Administration's student debt cancellation scheme. Americans are already bearing the costs of these spending spree—families are now spending \$6,000 more to get the same goods and services they did a year ago, and price hikes have forced



By Congressman
Tom Emmer

36% of Americans to tap into their savings.

There is no question: Congress must act to bring down prices and steer Americans away from financial crisis. Instead, on the calendar for the last eleven working days before the election: a bill to shield career bureaucrats from accountability to the American voter, which will make

it even harder to remove non-performing or insubordinate government employees whose salaries are paid by the taxpayer.

Also on the docket is a bill severely narrowing the parameters by which the Census Director can be removed, further entrenching an agency more focused on activism than serving the American people.

It seems that while Americans are struggling, Democrats are focused on expanding the bureaucracy and enabling dug-in federal employees. Meanwhile, we'll continue our work to rein in spending and bring affordability back to families across the country.

(Editor's note: Due to space constraints, the Patriot will publish up to 5-6 LTEs a week as space allows and carry over unpublished letters to the next week, if able. Also, we no longer have a policy which restricts letter writers from submitting political editorials a week prior to an election.)

TO THE EDITOR:

Parents and teachers know each student is unique. Yet administrators and politicians create policies for students, parents, and teachers to fail. Minnesota, once touted as a leader in education, continues to fall further behind, basically because of "woke" ideologies at all levels of education. Besides, the mandates at the PK-12 schools, add all 54 campuses of the state's largest postsecondary system, formerly known as MnSCU, renamed MNState. The new plan, Equity 2030, promises to "eliminate" all disparity in academic achievements, regardless of race or ethnicity, complete with a toolkit for faculty to utilize for the desired outcomes or face labeling as racists and suffer "job consequences."

Minnesota State Chancellor Devinder Malhotra and his Office of Equity and Inclusion attribute the lack of academic achievement to "institutional racism." The program claims that students have no personal responsibility for their academic success. Their failings are not due to poor academic preparation

and study habits, but rather only to the discrimination by teachers and schools. PK-12 schools have failed learners, particularly minorities, in the name of equity and social promotion. Instead of exacerbating students' failures, Minnesota State should be promoting hard work and high standards. The number of students seeking training and postsecondary education in other states will only grow.

Dr. Phyllis E. VanBuren
Clearwater, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

I wanted to thank you (Patriot) for printing the correction in last week's paper "Corrections: To Teachers Union story" on page 8. It is great to recognize that the Becker School Board did their homework to understand the group's mission before they were allowed to speak before the board. I would add that it should be recognized that the main content was provided by two local residents (and former school board members). Also, a reference to the actual discussion on the communications plan should have been provided to give the context to the communications plan that was the subject of the issue. This can be found on the school board portion of the district website in the recording of the May 2, 2022 meeting (contact the district office or email a board member if you need help finding the link) starting at the 43:08 point of the meeting recording. Thanks again for the correction

and we continue to value the paper as a way to get the information out to community members.

Mark Swanson
Board Chair, Becker ISD 726

TO THE EDITOR:

There are two candidates for the Sherburne County Commissioner District four when deciding who to vote for, please do your homework. One candidate has 18 years' experience in local government with extensive involvement with Sherburne County. One is a small business owner and retired farmer with a vast amount of time dealing with employees and business associates in a professional and dignified manner, also working with multiple boards at the local, state and national level. One has been censured twice by the same council that he has to work with because of his treatment of employees and ignoring the process and the rules of the code of conduct. One candidate has conducted himself in a professional manner at all public meetings. One has asked for forgiveness for his inexcusable behavior at a council meeting. Do your research and it will show to vote for Gary Gray for Sherburne County Commissioner. Gary is the only choice you have for an honest, transparent candidate with great character and high integrity to represent District four and all of Sherburne County. Vote Gary Gray on November 8th.

Dave Stimmler
Haven, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

As a constituent of Sherburne County District 4 I have been looking closely at the Commissioner's race. Jerome "Lefty" Kleis has some disturbing history. In December 2013, Becker Mayor Kleis failed to attend a PUC hearing regarding the closure of Sherco. The absence did not go unnoticed by the PUC commissioner who stated she would love to hear what the Mayor of Becker would have to say on the subject. In an April 2022, public hearing Sherco, Kleis said "Unit 1 and 2 I really don't have a problem with you shutting them down." Mayor Kleis has been censured twice for violating the city's code of conduct concerning harassing behavior. In an October 2014, Lefty apologized for his inexcusable behavior at the previous month's meeting. Gary Gray is the Supervisor for Clear Lake Township, has filled some civic roles and is a retired potato farmer. So my two choices are 1) a guy who doesn't show up to represent his constituency and when he does, he either sells them down the road or acts in such a way that he'll end up getting sued; Or 2) a guy who was a business owner and takes good care of Clear Lake Township. I guess I know which way I'll vote in November.

Bill Affeldt
Clear Lake, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

This November, four of the five Sherburne Co. Commission po-

sitions are up for election. All incumbents need to be voted out of office, and the remaining commission needs to resign. Why? There are many reasons . . . let me start with election integrity. Since prior to February of this year individuals have been providing the commissioners evidence showing how our Dominion voting machines are, (1) designed to be able to change election results; (2) capable of being programed to miss report the actual vote; (3) capable of being "hacked", so as to miss report the actual vote. This evidence has been provided through numerous "open forum" portions of their bimonthly, meetings where residents can speak but the commissioners — instead of answering — sit stone-faced. Numerous requests for the county to hold a "public hearing" have been made, which unlike open forum, will allow for questions to be asked and addressed, but none have been granted. There are only two reasons for the commissioners to not providing a public hearing on this important matter. They are either incompetent or corrupt. Once a fresh slate of commissioners is seated, the Sherburne Co. Administrator needs to be replaced as it is he that appears to have sway over the organization.

Next week, "Consent Agendas".
Bret R. Collier
Big Lake, MN



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Liberty Paper Player of the Game

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

Senior captain Alex Weiss was named “Player of the Week” for his outstanding game against Rocori.

Alex is a three year starter at receiver. He had



seven receptions for 108 yards and one touchdown.

Coach Mike Lundeen said, “Alex is one of the best route runners I have coached. He finds a way to get open.”



ALEX WEISS was named Liberty Paper Player of the Game for his performance in the Aug. 26 game against Rocori. (Submitted Photo)

Bulldog boys soccer opens season 3-3

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog boys soccer team opened the season with a three game win streak before falling in three straight games to even up their record at 3-3.

Thunder

The Bulldogs scored at will in the season opening 6-0 victory over Zimmerman.

“We were firing on all cylinders and extremely excited for the season to start,” Coach Nick Crowley said. “We put in a lot of hard work over the summer and in preseason and it showed in this game.”

Becker scoring, First half: Micah Boyer (Kyle Vogl assist), Rowen Klug (Boyer assist), Chris Stich (Evan Norbert assist), Boyer. Second half: Boyer (Brekken Klug assist), Boyer (Cole Kalinowski assist).

“We worked hard at defending to secure the shutout,” Crowley added. “Our offense was clicking.



MICAH BOYER has had a torrid start to the season for the Becker Bulldog boys soccer team, scoring 11 goals in the first three games. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

All around, we played very, very well.”

Tigers

The second game of the season was a slightly different story, as the Bulldogs won a nine goal thriller, 5-4.

Boyer, once again, opened up the scoring in the first five minutes with an

assist from Brekken Klug, but midway through the first half, a series of defensive errors by Becker allowed Hutchinson to score two goals to put them up, 2-1.

“About 10 minutes later, senior Hudson Romfo won the ball back, senior Kyle Vogle sent a fantastic ball down the line to freshman Asher Olson who sent it through the center and assisted Boyer to make it 2-2,” Crowley said. Hutchinson added another goal before the Klug to Boyer connection lit up the scoreboard again for a 3-3 halftime tie.

Second half scoring for Becker included a Kevin Vogl goal on an assist by Norberg, as well as a free kick goal when sophomore Eric Kyaw found Rowen Klug, who flicked it on to Boyer to secure the deciding goal.

“We made some defensive errors and we lacked communication in this game,” Crowley said. “However, we definitely showed some grit.”

Johnnies

For the third game in a row, Boyer opened the scoring in the seventh minute, again on an assist from Brekken Klug, as Becker would go on to beat the St. John’s Prep Johnnies, 3-0.

At the 12 minute mark, Rowen Klug found Boyer, who slotted it past the keeper to make it 2-0. Three minutes into the second half, Boyer intercepted a pass, dribbled from half past the defender and once again sent it to the back of the net for his third goal of the game.

“We finished the game out pretty well and we secured the shutout,” Crowley said. “Our defending was spot on.”

Tigers

The Bulldogs hosted Princeton to open up conference play in the Mississippi 8 and came away on the short end of a 2-3 score.

Becker took the lead on a Boyer goal, as he was assisted by Norberg and Klug. After the Tigers tied the game, Kevin Vogl then found Boyer, who found the

back of the net and the Bulldogs had a 2-1 lead.

The Tigers again evened up the score and it stayed that way until overtime, Princeton drove the ball down the field and scored with a lucky deflection off of a Bulldog defender.

“We played tough,” Crowley said. “We played very well considering we had to make some changes in our lineup with Owen Kolbinger out of the lineup. We worked hard, but in the end our tired legs couldn’t carry us further. Senior goalkeeper Nick Gruber had some very big and timely saves to keep us in the game, but we couldn’t find another goal to level it out.”

Royals

Becker then fell 0-2 to a good Watertown-Mayer team.

“We looked tired and we were struggling through some injuries,” Crowley said. “With a small squad, one injury can severely impact a team. Gruber, once again, had some great saves

to keep us in it.”

Saints

Becker traveled to Saint Francis to continue conference play and fell again, 2-3. Norberg converted the penalty at the 13 minute mark to open the scoring and make it 1-0 in favor of the Bulldogs. The Saints scored once to tie it at 1-1 heading into halftime, but Becker came out and took the lead on great work from Rowen and Brekken Klug, along with Boyer, as they found Asher Olson for his first varsity goal.

“It was one of the highlights so far this season, such a team goal,” Crowley said. “It started in our half, we made a handful of passes, moved well, and we finished.”

Becker, however couldn’t hold on as the Saints took the lead down the stretch.

“We have a tough stretch of games coming up, tough opponents and long trips,” Crowley said. “We need to bounce back.”

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Hornets Boys Edged by Monticello, 2-1

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys soccer team had an early lead but couldn't hold on to it in a 2-1 loss at Monticello Monday.

Although the Magic had an advantage in possession time, the Hornets played them evenly and neutralized any attacks near the goal.

Big Lake finally broke the ice when Charly Dongmo took a pass on a two-on-one and scored on a low shot to the left corner of the net to give the Hornets a 1-0 lead with 6:05 left in the first half.

It stayed that way through the first 10 minutes of the second half before the Magic intercepted a pass deep inside Big Lake's territory and put one past goalkeeper Tyler Huver to tie the game.

It seemed like an uphill battle from that point forward, even though the Hornets had a few chances in Monticello's half of the field.

The Magic kept up the pressure and scored again with 17:08 left to take the lead.

Huver did well to keep the game close, but the Hornets just didn't have the legs to get up and down the field late in the game.

Coach Mike Baldwin said his team was sort of depleted with injuries and the fact that the JV game began during the second half of the varsity game. A number of JV players are also on the varsity squad, and once that game began, almost all the substitutions had to leave.

"The JV had one sub and

we had two," he said.

Two of his players were also hurt, which made matters even worse. Goalkeeper Huver couldn't make goal kicks because of an injury, so he had to pass the ball off on goal kicks. Even Dongmo, the goal scorer, is nursing an injury. It was his first game of the season.

"We're not making excuses," said Baldwin. "But if we could have had the JV guys for the last 15 minutes, it might have gotten us over the hump."

Baldwin says the team played well, and he's hoping to get everyone back so the team can play the way they believe they can.

"When we get healthy we'll be all right," said Baldwin. "It's a long season."

Last week the Hornets tied Hutchinson, 2-2. Andrew Lange opened the scoring with an early goal for a 1-0 Big Lake lead.

Hutchinson tied the game a few minutes later, the went ahead near the end of the half for a 2-1 lead.

The game stayed that way until the 65th minute when Austin Brethorst knocked in a rebound to tie the game. It stayed that way through the rest of the half and overtime for a 2-2 tie.

The Hornets followed that tie with shutout losses to Watertown-Mayer (2-0), St. Francis (4-0) and Zimmerman (2-0).

They are 1-5-1 on the season. They played North Branch Thursday and play at Chisago Lakes Monday, results to follow next week.



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Hornets fall to Apollo, 27-14

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

The Big Lake Hornet football team fell to 0-2 on the season with a loss to Apollo High School Sept. 9 on the road, 27-14.

The Hornets found themselves down by four scores before they finally dented the scoreboard with two late TDs. The Hornets ran 68 total plays and gained 245 yards — 206 on the ground in the lopsided loss.

Apollo first got on the board in the first quarter when they scored on a 42-yard TD pass and converted a two-point try to go up 8-0. They followed that up on their next possession by scoring from 19 yards out, but failing in their two-point conversion attempt.

They continued their

effective passing game by scoring a third first quarter TD to bring the score to 20-0. Another failed two-point attempt kept that score there until they widened their lead in the second on a 30-yard score. This time, they kicked the XP to head to halftime with the score, 27-0.

Not sure if it was the halftime speech or the Eagles just took their foot off the gas pedal, but it opened the door for the Hornets.

In the third, Nolan Miller punched the ball across the goal line from two yards out and Carson Gellerman did the same for the successful two-point try. Later, the Hornets again drove the field and after Reid Josewski scored from four yards out, the score was suddenly 27-14. The Hornets

tried the two-pointer, but it failed and eventually the time ran out on their comeback and they fell to 0-2.

Gellerman was 5-for-10 for 39 yards through the air with one interception. Miller gained 113 yards on the ground on 17 carries and had the one TD. Jonah Mallberg had three catches for 16 yards.

On defense, Jonah Blackman led all defenders with four tackles, three assists, one sack and two tackles for loss.

Up Next

The Hornets (0-2) will now prepare for their bout against Willmar Friday, Sept. 16. The Cardinals enter the North Central - White bout with a 1-1 record. In their last bout, Willmar was toppled by Hutchinson, 44-0.

Liberty Paper Player of the Game

By Bill Morgan
Editor/Staff Writer

Senior captain and Becker quarterback, Ryan Bengtson, was named "Player of the Week" for his outstanding game last Friday where Becker beat Delano 31-28. Ryan led the offense to a season high 400 yards against a good Delano defense. Ryan had a combined 200 yards of rushing and passing. He threw three TD passes.

Quarterback coach Mike Lundeen said, "Ryan did a great job calling the right plays from the line of scrimmage. He read the defense very well. Often Ryan gets us out of bad plays and checks to better plays. I am blessed to be coaching him."



RYAN BENGTSON was named Liberty Paper Player of the Game for his performance in the Sept. 9 game against Delano. (Submitted Photo)

Bulldogs, Bengtsons beat Tigers, 31-28

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

The Bulldog football team rebounded from a week one defeat to Rocori to eke out a high-scoring affair in Delano last Friday night.

Zach Bengtson provided the heroics as he converted a 27 yard field goal in the waning minutes of the game to give the visitors a 31-28 win over the Tigers.

It was a back-and-forth contest throughout the night as both teams traded TDs until Bengtson sealed the win with his foot. Alex Weiss and Ryan Bengtson connected for three scores as the Bulldogs amassed 382 yards on offense. Ryan also scored once on the ground.

In the first quarter, Ryan B. found Weiss from five yards out early to put the road team on top at 7-0. Delano responded with an



ISAIAH GARDNER (#1) followed his blockers as he raced around right end during last Friday's Becker versus Delano game. (Photo by Sara Waytashek).

83-yard TD score but they missed the extra point to make the score 7-6.

Bengtson found Weiss late in the first from three yards out to put the Bull-

dogs up 14-6 as the first quarter ended.

Delano evened things up when they drove the field and scored from four yards out to bring them

within two. After a successful two-point conversion, the game was tied at 14 midway through the second.

Bengtson and Weiss once again connected — this time from 19 yards out to put Becker up by a TD. Delano responded once again when they completed another long play, this one from 34 yards out to bring the game within one. Another missed XP sent the game into halftime with the Bulldogs up, 21-20.

Becker widened their slim lead in the third when Bengtson steered his offense down the field, then capped it off with a short TD run to go up 28-20.

In the fourth, the Tigers again executed a long pass play — this one for 78 yards — to answer the Bulldogs. This time, their two-point conversion worked and as the clock ticked down, the game was tied at 28.

That's when Ryan's

brother, Zach, provided the epic conclusion.

Ryan finished the game 13-of-23 for 176 yards and three TDs through the air. He also scored one on the ground. Isaiah Gardner did the bulk of the work on the ground as he carried the ball 14 times and gained 141 yards including a 34 yarder.

Kyan Blomquist had six catches for 103 yards including a 43 yarder.

On defense, Landen Kujawa had six tackles and one assist. Kaden Nicolas had five tackles, one assist, one sack and one tackle for loss. Isaac Daluge had one interception.

Up Next

The 1-1 Bulldogs host their first home game of the year Friday when they take on the 1-1 Chisago Lakes Wildcats at 7 p.m.

Announcements

Clear Lake/Clearwater - Organizations

Clear Lake Legion

Meets the second Tues. of the month at 4180 105th Ave., Clear Lake. The Legion will meet at 7:30pm. New members are always welcome. Bud Stimmler at (320) 761-5793.

Clear Lake Lions

Meets the first & third Tues. of the month at Palmer Twp. Hall at 7pm. PNe members ar always welcome. Please contact any Lions member or one of the officers listed on our website: www.clearlakelionsmn.org

Clear Valley Business Connections

Meets quarterly on the 2nd Thurs. of the month from 11:30am-1pm at various locations. Glenna Soenneker, President, (320) 267-4361, clearvalleybc@gmail.com.

Clearwater AA/Al-Anon

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

Clearwater AA Meeting

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

Clearwater Area Friends of the Library

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

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

Clearwater American Legion Post 323 & Auxiliary

Clearwater Legion meetings are held the second Thurs. of the month. Auxiliary 6:30pm, S.A.L. at 7pm, Legion 7:30pm. Clearwater Legion, Clearwater.

Clearwater/Clear Lake Food Shelf

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

Clearwater Narcotics Anonymous

Meets at 7pm, Wed. night at Clearwater United Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater. (612) 607-4484.

Free Grace Recovery

Sun. 6-8pm at Clear Lake Town Hall, 7684 1st Ave. W. Clear Lake. A light meal will be served at 6pm. Everyone is welcome. Justin

or Renee at (612) 384-9069.

Lions Club of Clearwater

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

Miscellaneous - Organizations

Every Child Deserves a Family! WE NEED YOU!

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

Children enter Foster Care whose families are experiencing difficulties, have special medical, emotional, or developmental needs or who struggle with their own issues such as mental health, behavior, or truancy. Foster Care is the least restrictive out-of-home placement option & most likely a family setting.

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

FREE - Advocates for Independence

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

FREE - The Saint Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease

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

Mental Health Discussion Group

Meets Mon., 6-7pm at Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids. This is a free group, everyone is welcome. Ricky (320) 281-2025.

Parkinson's Disease Support Group

Meets third Mon. of the month, from 1-2:30pm at ILICIL Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids. This free group provides support, education, & awareness about the disease. Independent Lifestyles at (320) 529-9000.

Rivers of Hope

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

answered 24/7.

Volunteer as a Foster Grandparent

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

Wright County Community Action

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

Annandale Upcoming Events

Minnesota Pioneer Park 50th Anniversary

Honoring Nobel Shadduck & Early Founders. Sept. 24, 10am-4pm. Civil War display, Demonstration By Rendezvous Tenters. Free Admission, donations appreciated. Special Music by the Wagon Wheelers in the afternoon & so much more!

Minnesota Pioneer Park, 725 Pioneer Park Trl, Annandale. Questions call 320-274-8489 or pioneerp@lakedlelink.net. Visit website: www.pioneerpark.org

Clear Lake Upcoming Events

Clear Lake Fire & Rescue Open House

Oct. 1, 2022, 1-3pm, Clear Lake Fire Hall, 8670 1st Ave West Clear Lake. North Helicopter, free giveaways & free food, fire truck rides, games, bicycle drawings & more.

Clearwater Fire Dept.'s Motorcycle & Car Run Fundraiser

Sat., Oct. 8. The run takes off at 11am. from the Clearwater American Legion & returns at 4pm., after which there will be a spaghetti dinner, silent auction, & live music.

Sherburne County Upcoming Events

Medicare's Annual Open Enrollment

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

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Thurs.:	1-7pm	1-5pm	10am-1pm
Fri.:	1-5pm	10am-5pm	3-6pm
Sat.:	10am-1pm	10am-1pm	10am-1pm

Public Notices

Clearwater Watershed District Notices

NOTICE TO CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT RESIDENTS

The Stearns County Board of Commissioners is seeking applicants for one appointment to the Clearwater River Watershed District Board of Managers. The appointments would be to serve a three-year term ending on August 13, 2025. If you are interested in being appointed to this board and you reside in the Clearwater River Watershed District in Stearns County, send a brief resume giving your place of residence and any other information about yourself which you would like to share with the Board regarding your qualifications or interests in serving on the board. An on-line application form and more information on the board is available on the Stearns County website: <https://mn-stearnscounty-getting-started.app.transform.civicplus.com/forms/1099>

You can also contact us at 320-656-3900, send resumes to the Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer's Office, Administration Center, Room 148, 705 Courthouse Square, St. Cloud, MN 56303, e-mail Randy Schreifels at auditor.email@co.stearns.mn.us or contact your county commissioner no later than Monday September 26, 2022.

Randy R. Schreifels, MBA, CPA
Stearns County Auditor-Treasurer
(Published in the Patriot: 09/17/22.)

Big Lake Public Schools #727 Notices

SECTION 00 11 13 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS INDEPENDENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATION – BID PACKAGE #1 701 MINNESOTA AVENUE BIG LAKE, MINNESOTA 55309

Independent School District #727 will receive single prime sealed bids for Independence Elementary School Renovation – Bid Package #1 until 2:00 p.m. local time on September 27, 2022 at the District Office, 501 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bidding documents, including the Proposal Form, Drawings, and Specifications, will be on file at the Minnesota Builders Exchange; McGraw Hill Construction/Dodge Plan Center; Reed Construction; iSqFt Plan Room (St. Paul, MN); The Blue Book Building and Construction Network; and from Franz Reprographics at www.franzrepro.com, Albert Lea Builders Exchange; Austin Builders Exchange; Mankato Builders Exchange; Builders Exchange of Rochester; St. Cloud Builders Exchange.

A pre-bid meeting is not scheduled for this bid package, though a site visit may be requested by prospective bidders, upon request.

Scope of Bid Package #1 includes: Procurement of mechanical equipment for eventual installation during summer 2023. Installation of mechanical units is NOT included under Bid Package #1.

American Reprographics Company, 4730 Park Glen Road, St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55416 (952) 697-8800, facsimile (952) 697-8803 will provide complete downloadable sets of the Bidding Documents to prospective bidders and subcontractors. The downloads will be available after September 13, 2022. A deposit check in the amount of \$25 made out to ARC for each set downloaded via the internet at <https://www.e-arc.com/location/st-louis-park/> and clicking on the PlanWell icon, then the Public Plan Room icon, select Independence ES – Bid Package #1.

Make proposals on the bid forms supplied in the Project Manual. No oral, telegraphic, or telephonic proposals or modifications will be considered. Submit with each bid, a certified check, or acceptable bidder's bond payable to Independent School District #727 in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish satisfactory Labor and Material Payment Bond, and Performance Bond.

Bids may not be withdrawn within thirty (30) days after the scheduled time of opening bids, without the consent of the Owner. The Owner reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject any or all bids, or parts of such bids, and waive informalities or irregularities in bidding.

The Owner requires mechanical equipment available and on site by June 15, 2023, for installation during summer 2023 season. Board of Education

Independent School District #727

(Published in the Patriot: 09/17/22; 09/24/22.)

City Public Notices

CITY OF BECKER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of Becker Planning Commission will hold their monthly meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 26th, 2022, at the Becker City Hall, 12060 Sherburne Avenue, Becker, Minnesota. The Planning Commission will hold the following public hearing at this meeting:

Approximately 6:00 p.m. – Public hearing for Chapter 11 Zoning Code Amendments and Additions to the City of Becker Land Use Regulation (Zoning) ordinance specifically related to THC Products.

Anyone interested in this issue is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you are unable to attend, please provide written comment to Mary Roe at P.O. Box 250, Becker, MN 55308 or by e-mail to mroe@ci.becker.mn.us by 4:30 p.m. September 26, 2022.

Thank you,
Mary Roe
City Planner
(Published in the Patriot: 09/17/22.)

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Becker Police Department Activity Report Week of Sept. 5th – Sept. 11th

5-Sep: 1 speed Citation #430, 3 speed warning, 2 miscellaneous officer, stop sign Citation #431, 1 fail to display registration warning, 1 speed Citation #432, 1 ATV Complaint, 1 speed / no proof of insurance Citation #433, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 extra patrol.
6-Sep: 1 driving conduct / fail to display registration / no proof of insurance warnings, fail to move over for emergency vehicle / driving conduct warning, 1 extra patrol, 2 open door, 1 speed warning, 1 speed / no proof of insurance warnings, 1 speed Citation #434, 2 security check, 1 speed Citation #435, 1 speed Citation #436, 1 theft, 1 record check, 1 driving after revocation Citation #437, 1 juvenile complaint, 1 recreational vehicle permit, 1 vehicle lockout, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 stop sign Citation #438, 1 civil, 1 driving after revocation Citation #439.
7-Sep: 2 expired registration warning, 1 dog complaint, 1 security check, 1 extra patrol, 2 public assist, 2 medical, 1 traffic complaint, 1 agency assist, 1 public safety, 2 suspicious vehicle, 1 expired registration, 1 5th degree

assault / 2nd degree assault, 1 equipment warning.

8-Sep: 2 extra patrol, 2 speed warning, 1 juvenile concern, 1 medical, 1 expired registration / speed warnings, 1 public safety, 1 public assist, 1 bus stop arm violation / Citation #440.

9-Sep: 1 suspicious vehicle, 3 medical, 1 stop sign violation Citation #441, 1 record check, 1 recreational vehicle permit, 1 lost animal, 1 harassment, 1 speed / no insurance / no valid DL Citation #442, 1 speed warning, 1 fail to yield warning, 1 stop sign warning.

10-Sep: 2 extra patrol, 2 speed warning, 2 stop sign warning, 1 found animal, 1 stop sign violation Citation #443, 1 trespass

Citation #444, 1 speed / expired registration warnings, 1 open bottle Citation #445 / open bottle / 3rd degree DWI.

11-Sep: 1 speed Citation #446, 1 speed Citation #447, 1 speed warning, 1 stop sign warning, 1 public assist, 1 handsfree Citation #448, 1 speed Citation #449, 1 speed Citation #450, 1 suspicious vehicle, 1 expired registration Citation #451, 1 extra patrol.



Interested in being a sponsor for the Cops Corner? Contact Carol at the Patriot at 763.275.0275 - Team up with your police department for a better, safer community

"ASK A TROOPER"

by Sgt. Jesse Grabow of the Minnesota State Patrol

Question: Is it legal for farmers to load hay on a state highway? Our neighbor bales several miles of state highway ditches. To load the round bales he drives down the highway with a pickup and bale wagon. His son is in the ditch with a tractor and loader. The son gets a bale on the loader and driving perpendicular to the road drives up the ditch and puts the bale on the bale wagon. The son with the loader stops with his front wheels on the shoulder of the road and puts the bale on the trailer. The bale wagon is stopped on the state highway in the lane of traffic so the bale can be loaded. Is this legal?

Answer: This would not be safe or legal. The loading would need to take place off the highway. With harvest season upon us, this is a great reminder that we all need to share the road.

What drivers should know about farm vehicles on the road:

- Farm equipment is large and heavy, making it hard for operators to accelerate, slow down and stop.
- The equipment makes wide turns and sometimes crosses over the center line.

- Farm vehicles can create large blind spots, making it difficult for operators to see approaching vehicles.
- Safety guidance for motorists:**
- Pay attention at all times when driving.
- Watch for debris dropped by trucks. It is safer to brake or slowly drive through debris than to veer into oncoming cars or off the road.

- When approaching farm equipment, slow down and use caution. Put additional space between your vehicle and the farm equipment ahead. Don't assume the equipment operator can see you.
- Be patient and wait for a safe place to pass.
- Wear seatbelts.
- Drive with headlights on.

Safety guidance for farm equipment operators:

- Use lights and flashers to make equipment more visible.
- Use slow-moving vehicle emblems on equipment traveling less than 30 mph.
- Drive slow-moving vehicles in the right-hand lane as close to the edge of the roadway as possible.
- Consider using an escort vehicle when moving equipment, especially at night and if the equipment is large enough that it may extend across the center line.

- Avoid encouraging or signaling motorists to pass. Pull over when safe, and let traffic pass.
- Pick up any debris left on the highway by the equipment or contact MnDOT to remove it.
- Plan your routes so wide equipment will not hit or damage signs, guardrails, light poles and other roadway structures.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO_NW or reach him at jesse.grabow@state.mn.us).

Sports/Area News

Boy harriers take 1st in Monticello

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

Last Saturday, the Becker boys cross country team headed down the road to Bertram Regional Park for the Monticello Invitational.

The meet was hosted on what will be the site of the 2022 Section 5AA meet which is scheduled for October 27, so it was good for the Bulldogs to see the course layout. The day was a welcomed change from the previous meet as the temperature was about 20° cooler, and that helped support the Bulldogs with some strong performances.

“It was pretty wild as the team accomplished 11 season bests and 11 career PRs on the day,” said coach Dustin Weege.

The group of seventh and eighth grade harriers started out the day of racing with a full set of PRs in their 2400m race. They accomplished a fifth place team finish. Keaton Colford finished the race in 12:25 while teammate Mavrick Pink crossed ahead in 10:07. A pack of three finished in the top 20 with Brandt Hemmellgarn, Carson Schuster and Weston Denne finishing 15th, 16th, and 17th.

Next for the Bulldogs came a fourth place team finish in the JV division. The 5km course challenged the Bulldogs, yet they rose for the occasion as they operated in packs to help each other improve. Mason Tschida (20:22), Ryan Boecker (20:16), and Jase Tobako (19:47) all had top 10 finishes as they pushed each other to have quality



TWO BECKER RUNNERS, Mason Becker and Parker Spindler kept pace with an opponent during the varsity race last Saturday in Monticello. (Submitted Photo).

races.

Noah Bloch (21:12) and Alex Schermer (21:17) were next as they accomplished top 30 finishes for the team. Another pack of Dogs came with Jacob Kurhajetz (24:33), Denlan Harmoning (24:43), Vincent Martin (24:55), and Aiden Frommelt (25:24) working together. Then Aiden Jacobs (30:13) and Thomas Cota (30:43) rounded out the Bulldog crew.

For the varsity division, the approach worked again with a couple of packs pushing each other to achieve several great times. Crossing the finish line under 18 minutes were Mason Becker (17:42), Parker Spindler (17:44), and Tanner Felton (17:45). The sub-18 performances were firsts for Spindler and Felton. Those three —

along with Tyson Ricker’s 16:50 time in the 5km race — meant that four Bulldogs were in the top 10 with three more runners shortly behind. Alex Swanson (18:35) and Evan Hubbard (18:44) joined the sub-19 club and Caleb Reckelberg (19:38) achieved another

season best as he inched closer to his PR.

With all of those strong performances for the Bulldogs, the team accomplished the team title as they edged out the team from Monticello, which had placed second in the state last season before graduating three seniors.

“Going into the race, we suspected that it could be a very close competition and it proved to be an interesting one” said Weege. “The nice work that the guys are doing with packing and pulling each other along at all levels has been great to see as they are working together to achieve more and more each day. We know that we have a lot of work yet to do in the season, but this progress is encouraging.”

This Week

This week the Bulldogs competed at the Lucky Lindy / Myron Ahle meet in Little Falls, but results weren’t available in time for this publication.

Park items on agenda for Palmer Twp.

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Monday evening, the Palmer Twp. Board met and celebrated another successful Palmer Day, while also taking care of a few agenda items aimed at keeping Palmer Park in tip-top shape for next year.

Board Chair Mike Ganz has been collecting several quotes for a new mower, as the current model is over eight years old and experiences a huge workload keeping the acres and acres at the park mowed each week.

Treasurer Roger Johnson noted that the current machine gets used four times a week, and in many instances it sees 10 to 12 hours of mowing in a single day.

Ganz collected preliminary prices for a variety of makes and models, including a Kubota gas-powered replacement model that came in at a just over \$10,000, all that way up to a diesel powered Kubota that came in at over \$20,000.

Supervisor Richard

Larson felt the township should stick with the gas engine Kubota brand since he felt they had good luck with the current model.

In the end, the board directed Ganz to get trade-in prices on the current mower, as well as the ditch mower, and see what the final price tag would be for the gas engine replacement. The plan is to order the model in October to ensure delivery by the spring mowing season.

In park related news, the board also approved some concrete upgrades to the horseshoe pits at the park in order to make them eligible to host regulation tournaments. The township will pay for the concrete, while all of the labor will be donated.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Approved positive comment for three separate zoning issues, while noting that impervious surfaces should be decreased where possible and runoff mitigation added to re-roofing projects;
- Heard from con-

cerned citizens about the continued issue of Air BnB’s being rented on the shores of the lakes and the associated septic and traffic/parking issues that go along with the sites;

• Welcomed District 4 Commissioner candidate Gary Gray, who fielded questions from the audience and spoke about solar issues, the Sherco plant and his desire to start citizen focus groups to gather input from residents if he is elected;

• Received the SCSO report from Commander Ben Zawacki, who reported on 99 calls for service in August, compared to 106 calls for the same period in 2021;

• Listened to CLFD Chief Ron Koren, as he detailed 27 total calls for his department last month, including 11 medicals and one fire in Palmer;

• Heard from Supv. Steve Demeules on the efforts of the supervisors in brushing the ditches and working on road issues such as wetland mitigation and culverts for upcoming

Girl runners take first in Monticello



LEXI ROSE (L), ALEA BRIGGS (M) AND ADELE CHANGAMIRE (R) all raced well at Monticello last Saturday where the Becker Bulldogs took first place in varsity and JV. (Submitted Photos).

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

The Becker girls cross country teams had a very good day at Saturday’s meet in Monticello with both the varsity and JV teams placing first in their respective races.

Team scores for the varsity race: **Becker 54**, Monticello 59, Rogers 103, Zimmerman 112, Annandale 113, Spectrum 116, Math & Science Academy 131. Hutchinson, St Cloud Apollo, Princeton, Sartell, Sauk Rapids Rice and Trinity River Ridge were incomplete.

There were 67 varsity runners competing in the 5K race. The first place individual was Isabelle Schmitz of Hutchinson. Becker had good performances in the varsity race — Adele Changamire and Lexi Rose were the team’s first two runners and both girls ran PR times.

“We are excited to have them both come in under 20:00,” said Head Coach Trish Kealy.

Changamire was sixth in 19:49.2 and Rose was



close behind her in seventh at 19:54.2.

Ella McDonald placed 13th with a season best time of 20:30.2 and is expected to break the 20:00 mark as well. Becker’s fourth runner was Olivia Babler, who also ran a season best time, placing 15th overall in 21:03.1.

Breaking into the top five for her first time was Alea Briggs at 26th. Her time was 22:15.9. Next were Bella Duncombe in 29th (22:28.2) and Brooklyn Karel in 30th (22:30.1).

“One of the nice things about this team is that any of these girls can put together a breakout performance at any time,” said Kealy. “If one has a bit of an off day the others step up.”

JV Girls

In the JV race, the Lady Bulldogs won a close one — just beating out host Monticello by one point. Katelyn Brower commanded the race and took first in a time of 22:45.2 for a season best time. Also running a season best was Natalie Trenz coming in second in 23:03.4. Kayla



Gruenes placed fifth in 23:29.4 — another season best time. Freshman Sophia Malisheski ran a PR time in the race, placing ninth in 24:14.1 and she seems to be getting stronger each race. Regan Hausmann placed 15th in 25:13.7, Raelee Lyon 17th in 25:22.1 and Raegan Leagers was 27th with a time of 26:45.2. There were 64 total JV runners at this meet.

Junior High Girls

“The junior high girls continue to learn a lot,” Kealy said.

Ava Scheiber placed sixth out of the 80 racers in the 2400 meter race. She was followed by Kendall Olson in 31st, Laney Hodel 36th, Abby Frey 40th, Myka Maksimenko 51st, Lillie Stevens 53rd and Aria Deidrick in 70th.

Up Next

Becker’s next meet was Thursday at the Little Falls Myron Ahle Lucky Lindy meet. Check back next week for full results.

projects;

• Heard from Chairman Ganz regarding the road projects that have been put on hold as the board works with its engineering firm to finalize plans. Ganz noted that the township uses smaller firms to keep the costs lower for residents and added that they could use larger firms to receive quicker service, but the rates would be

much higher. The chairman also explained that many roads around the lake were originally built with tar over sand and as they are replaced, the base material needs to be upgraded;

• Learned that with reimbursement from the County’s SCORE grants, clean up day will cost the township less than \$3,000 for the year. Most in attendance at the meeting

felt this was an economical solution to keeping furniture and other garbage out of the ditches;

• Approved a bid from Busse Septic in the amount of \$10,354 for the new drain field at the Park. MJS Dirtworks was the other bidder at a very close price of \$10,450.

Becker girls soccer team goes 1-3

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

The Becker Bulldog girls soccer team had three home matches this past week but could only muster one win in four games.

Sept. 6

Eleven days ago, the Lady Bulldogs hosted Southwest Christian on a lovely evening and lost a tight matchup, 1-0.

No other information was made available to the *Patriot* by press time.

Sept. 8

The Bulldogs got their only win two days later when they hosted the Tigers of Princeton and captured a 4-2 win.

No other information was made available to the *Patriot* by press time.

Sept. 12

The girls traveled to St. Francis Monday of this week and lost a close one, 2-0.

St. Francis’ Paityn Pendergrass and Brooke McDaniel each had goals in

the win. Goalkeeper Emma Knack had just six saves.

Sept. 13

The Bulldogs returned home Tuesday for a matchup against Little Falls. The Flyers were on top of their game as they handed the Bulldogs a 5-0 defeat.

No other information was made available to the *Patriot* by press time.

Bulldog tennis blanks Hornets

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

It was a clean sweep for the Becker Bulldog girls tennis team last Thursday, as they were able to blank their rivals from Big Lake, 7-0.

“Ayla (Brown) and Dani (Nuest) continue to work into their stride and are growing their confidence,” Coach Nate Bucher said. “Lily Anderson’s move from doubles to singles has also been a spark as she develops more strength in her singles game. Lauren Croal at three was able to settle in an hit the shots she wanted to hit.”

Overall, Bucher said he was proud of his team’s focus and determination in winning the match.

“The doubles landscape saw a strong performance for Madison Bass and Ali Groskreutz - they have been facing some strong opposition at their position as they grow as a partnership. I was really pleased that they were able to execute in the manner that they have been practicing!”

Bucher also had praise



SENIOR CAPTAIN AYLA BROWN led the Becker girls tennis team to a convincing win over the Big Lake Hornets last Thursday by a score of 7-0 (photo by Mark Kolbinger).

for his second and third doubles pairings, noting that they have improved drastically over the past few weeks.

“Our number three dubs got stronger as they made their way through their match and our two dubs had some moments of frustration and were unable to find a rhythm,

but their determination and grit pushed them to win against a strong team from Big Lake,” Bucher added.

Match scores, Singles: No. 1 - Ayla Brown def. Sadie Dillon, Big Lake, 6-0, 6-0; No. 2 Dani Nuest, def. Kira Brown, Big Lake, 6-1, 6-1; No. 3 - Lauren Croal def. Sienna McConville, Big Lake 6-4, 6-0; No. 4 - Lily Anderson, def. Emily Shoop, Big Lake, 6-2, 6-1. Doubles, No. 1 - Madison Bass, Ali Groskreutz def. Audrey Wer-tish, Maddie Farnsworth, Big Lake 6-1, 6-1; No. 2 - Hannah Bartlett, Kennedy Drehmel def. Amelia Gardner, Grace Knodle, Big Lake, 6-7 (9), 6-3, 6-4; No. 3 - Hannah Hyttsten, Payton Enerson def. Allie Fitzgibbons, Amber Grunewald, Big Lake, 6-3, 6-1.

Saints

Last Tuesday, the Bulldogs downed St. Francis by a score of 6-1. Becker swept the doubles, with Brown, Bluest, Croal and Anderson picking up the wins, while the #2 (Drehmel and Bartlett) and #3 doubles (Hyttsten and Enerson) were also victorious.

Hornet girls tennis falls to Sauk Rapids, 5-2

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

The Big Lake girls’ tennis team opened up their season Aug. 27 as they hosted Sauk Rapids-Rice in a home dual.

The girls ended up falling short, losing 5-2 to the Storm, but there were some

close matches at singles and doubles across the board.

The team took on Princeton Sept. 6, then hosted Becker Sept. 8 before traveling to Brainerd Sept. 10 to play in an eight-team tournament. Unfortunately, no information has been provided to the *Patriot* for those matches.

Hornet netters lose two

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

The Big Lake Hornet volleyball team fell to 1-7 on the year with a pair of 3-0 losses to Monticello last Thursday at home and Delano on the road Sept. 6

Delano got 11 kills from Corbyn Menz enroute to a three set win over Big Lake. The first set ended 25-16 with the second set

scoring 25-11. In the third, the Hornets mustered just seven points to Delano’s 25 and fell in three straight matches.

Against Monticello, the sets were extremely competitive as the Magic captured the first set, 29-27 behind junior Shalyn Adams and freshman Brooklyn Sigler. They advanced to the second set and again barely eked out

Monday, the Hornets hit the road for Monticello to play in a triangular, then returned home to play North Branch Tuesday. Staurday, they host a quadrangular with Willmar, St. Cloud Apollo and Roseau.

a win over the Hornets, 25-22. In the third set, Big Lake fought valiantly, but were outscored 25-20 for the sweep.

Up Next

Tuesday, the Hornets hosted the Becker Bulldogs. Thursday they traveled to St. Francis for a 7 p.m. start. Check back next week for full results.

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• BECKER

Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Pastor: David M. Johnson, 763-262-7782, 11185 27th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. School 10:30am, Wed. J.U.M.P. 6pm.

Becker Baptist Church

Pastors: Nathan Bucher (Senior), Kevin Drehmel (Youth) & Amy Drehmel (Dir. of Child/Fam. Ministry), 763-261-4202, 11951 Hancock St. Services: Sun. Worship/Children 10:30am. During the school year: AWANA for Kids/Sun. School 9:15am. Midweek Connect for Kids 6:30pm. Please register Kids on our website. Youth Group: Wed. 6:30pm. www.beckerbaptist.org.

Becker Evangelical Free Church

Pastors: Gerald Deppa (Interim Senior), Chris Salvevold (Youth), 763-261-4125, Becker High School, Office: 11373 150th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Teaching/Fellowship 10am.

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month. (Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays in Big Lake).

Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Pastor: Yolanda Denson-Byers & Vicar Molly Wills, 763-261-5751, 11755 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30 am, Sun. School 8:30am, Wed. Confirmation 5:30pm, Senior High Youth Group 1st & 3rd Wed. 6pm www.faithlutheran-becker.org.

Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God

Pastors: Gerry Bass & Sarah, 763-220-6004, 13140 1st St (SW Corner of Becker Furniture World). Services: Sun. Bible Study/Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Snake River Free Church

Pastor: Steve Johnston, 612-219-8648, 180th St SE. Services: Sun. Worship/ Sun. School 10:30am., Hymn Sing is second Sun. of every month.

Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church

Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am, Wed. Family Fellowship 7pm.

Beacon House of Prayer

Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm.

Free Grace United

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

• BIG LAKE

Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church

Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am, Sat. Sabbath School 10:15am.

Bethany Bible Church

763-263-2167, 511 Eagle Lake Road. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Bridgeview Assembly of God

Pastor: Steve Royalty, 763-263-6274, 20500 County Road 11. Services: Sun. School 10:30am, Wed. Service 6:30pm.

SVEA Hill Covenant Church

Pastor: Don Bellach, 763-263-6322, 16392 235th Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Pastor: Gordon Langdon, 763-263-7878, 15300 County Road 35.

Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrock

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

IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE Living Love Church

Pastors: Juan & Patricia Aguayo, 763-607-5403, 21 Lake St N. Services: Sat. 6pm.

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church

Pastor: Marty Mabry, 763-263-3090, 15550 190th Ave NW. Services: Sun. 8am & 10:30am.

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 440 Lake St N. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm; Sun. 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month (Masses held on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays in Becker).

Riverside Church

Online: www.myrce.church, 763-263-2410, 20314 County Road 14. Services: Sun 8:45am, 10:30am & 12:05pm.

Saron Lutheran Church

Pastor: Kyle Sidlo, 763-263-2209, 311 Lake St. S. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am, indoors or livestream.

Spirit Life Church

763-262-LIFE, 221 Lake St N. Services Sun. mornings 9:45am. Going Deeper Sun. 9am. Prophetic Prayer Wed. 7pm.

• SANTIAGO

South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA

Pastor: Courtney Young, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 8am. and 10 am, Sun. School 9am.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School

Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St. Services: Sun. School/Bible Class 10:30am, Divine Worship 9am.

Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Pastor: Shari Routh, 920-573-0193, 1100 186th Ave NE. Services: Sun Good Shepherd 9am, Sun. Glendorado 10:30am.

Gethsemane Church (ELCA) - Ronneby

Pastor: Barbara Peterson, 320-983-5002, 14478 78th St. NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

Glendorado Evangelical Country Church

Pastor: Sam Alfano, 763-662-2244, 16999 Glendorado Road NE. Services: Sun. School 9:30am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• CLEAR LAKE

Living Waters Church

320-699-0876, 7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Starting in Sept. Wed. night Kids Club at 6:30pm.

Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919, 8641 Main Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am, Sun. School 9:45am.

SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer

Pastor: TBD, 320-241-0123, Palmer Town Hall, 4180 105th Ave. Services: Sun. 5pm. www.shedchurch.org.

St. Marcus Catholic Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave. Services: Mon. & Wed. Mass 8am, Sat. Confessions 4:15pm, Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. 8am.

• DUELM

St. Lawrence Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502, 10915 Duelm Road NE. Services: Sun. Mass 10am, Tues. Mass 8am.

• CLEARWATER

Clearwater United Methodist Church

Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am.

Freedom Bible Church

605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office). Services: Sun. Bible Study 9:30am & 6pm, Sun. Worship 10:45am, Wed. Bible Study 7pm.

Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA

Pastor: Jim Bump, 320-558-6851, 1155 County Road 75. Services: Sun. School that begins in Worship 9:30am.

Livestream worship at Rejoice's Youtube Channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsJGuBda4orT9TWYit5wmGw

Church of St. Luke

Father: Dennis Backer, 320-558-2124, 17545 Huber Ave NW. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8am & 10am, Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8am/ Sat. 9am.

Tri-County Alliance Church

Pastor: David Fogal, 320-558-2750, 8464 160th St NW. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• SILVER CREEK

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor: Ken Tatkendorst, 763-878-2820, 11390 Elliot Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am

Silver Creek Community Church

Pastor: Zach Pryor, 320-963-3957, 4282 114th St NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. Fellowship 10am, Sun. School 10:30am.

• SAINT CLOUD

Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor: Joshua Reber, 320-252-3315, 3000 County Road SE. Worship: Sun. 10:15am.

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Obituaries

Arthur Sylvester Lucking, Age 75
Big Lake, MN
April 19, 1946 - January 20, 2022



Arthur Sylvester Lucking, age 75 of Big Lake, MN, passed away on January 20, 2022, at Mercy Hospital. Services/Interment will take place on September 21, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery at 15550 Hwy 115, Little Falls, MN (Camp Ripley). Military Honors, including firing of the guns and playing of taps will be conducted.

Art was born on April 19, 1946, in Little Falls, MN to the late Aloys and Edna (Maleski) Lucking. He grew up in the Pierz area and graduated from Memorial High School in Pierz in 1964. He was inducted into the U.S. Army on November 24, 1965 and was honorably discharged on November 16, 1967. He was united in marriage to Mary McDaniel and

later divorced. He was united in marriage on September 29, 1978, to Ruth Johnson of Minneapolis, MN until her death on April 14, 1997. Art married Patricia Moore on August 15, 1998 and later divorced.

Art worked for the U.S. Railroad System until his retirement. He was partial to John Deere tractors and could often be found participating in tractor pulls and tractor parades. He enjoyed working out at the YMCA up until his death and had many friends there. He was a man of mystery and loved to keep people guessing.

Art is survived by daughter, Rebecca; son, Steven; special friend, Margaret Haugland of Zimmerman, MN, who sadly also passed away on May 9, 2022; nephews, Mike (Colleen) Lucking of Pierz, MN, and Kurt (Joelle) Lucking of Genola, MN; nieces, Lacy Lucking of Little Falls, MN, and Mary (Guy) Waddell of Royalton, MN; and sister-in-law, Mary Ann Lucking of Pierz, MN.

Art was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; parents, Aloys and Edna Lucking; brothers, Richard, Raymond, and Edward; and sister-in-law, Winnie Lucking.

Celebration of Life and time of sharing will be 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 24, 2022, at the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker for John R. Barr, 71 who passed away on Thursday at his home in Becker. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service and burial will be at Crystal Lake Cemetery at a later date.

John was born November 22, 1950, in St. Paul to Clarence and Ilamae (Jerue) Barr. He graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1989 and was employed by Sherburne County Mental Health Services as a Social Worker from 1992 until his retirement in 2013. John was united in marriage to Judy Benson on April 16, 1993, and they enjoyed 29 years of marriage together. He liked to spend his time golfing, riding motorcycles, going



to hockey games and concerts. John had a group of life-long friends, was a great mentor to the younger generation and had a good sense of humor. He was a kind, intelligent, loving, and caring man who loved his wife, Judy and dog, Mickey very much.

John is survived by step-children, Craig (Sarah) Sherwood of Sauk Rapids and Tammy (Patrick) Leonence of Pompano Beach, FL; step-grandchildren, Henry, Lydia, Ezra, Zachary, Samantha; great-grandchildren, Edward III "Tre", Elijah; sister, Mary (Edward) Chalmers. He is preceded in death by his parents and wife, Judy on December 9, 2021.

Obituary and guest book available online at: www.williamsdingmann.com

Dennis Dean Jergenson, Age 69
Saint Joseph, MN (Formerly of Edina)
July 2, 1953 - September 6, 2022



Dennis Dean Jergenson, age 69 of St. Joseph, MN, formerly of Edina, MN passed away peacefully on September 6, 2022 after a prolonged battle with stage IV liver cancer, while in Hospice care at the V. A. Hospital in St. Cloud, MN surrounded by his family.

He was preceded in death by the Love of his life, wife, Pamela (Busse) Jergenson, his father Stanton Jergenson and infant sister Cynthia Jergenson. Dennis is survived by his son Christopher Lakey (Angel), daughter Melissa Hager (Brian); grandchildren Cody, Jillian, Lucas, Allison and Henry; great grandchild Brielle; mother Myrtle Jergenson, sisters Monica Wakeman (Guy), Vivian Bender (Duane) and brothers Danny Jergenson (Brenda) and Craig Jergenson (Bev); as well as many nieces

and nephews. Dennis will be remembered as a very kind and giving man.

Per Dennis's request, there will be no public services.

The family would like to say a special Thank You to the caring staffs of Centra Care Hospice Home Care and the V. A. Hospice Building 49-1 for their amazing care during his prolonged illness.

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