



Official Newspaper of Sherburne County

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Serving Becker, Big Lake, Clear Lake, Clearwater & surrounding communities • P.O. Box 458 (14054 Bank Street), Becker, MN 55308 • 763-275-0275 • www.patriotnewsmn.com • production@patriotnewsmn.com

The Easter Bunny comes to Clearwater

Clearwater area kids had double the chance to meet the Easter Bunny last Saturday, as he first

11 were invited, and the different age groups ran around excitedly gathering up brightly colored eggs.

Clearwater Sportsman's Park, but Mother Nature had other plans, gifting the area with a fresh layer of snow the night before.

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsmn.com

At 10:30 a basket drawing was held.

After hanging out with the kids at the fire department, the Easter Bunny hopped over to Coborn's at 11 a.m. There he greeted kids and sat with them for photographs. Kids 12 and under also had the opportunity to decorate sugar cookies, complete Easter crafts, and gather up eggs filled with candy.

stopped by the Clearwater Fire Dept. and then hopped on over to Clearwater Coborn's.

The fun also helped to raise money for Clearwater Fire & Rescue, with a 'Fill the Boot' donation spot displayed during the event.

Sponsored by the Clearwater Fire & Rescue Relief Assoc., the hunt for Easter eggs was on at 10 a.m. Kids aged 0 to

The Clearwater Fire Dept.'s Easter egg hunt event had originally been planned to take place at



WHITLEY PETERSON visits with the Easter Bunny during the Clearwater Fire Dept.'s Easter Bunny event. (Submitted photo.)



MEMBERS OF THE CLEARWATER FIRE DEPT. and Auxiliary members gathered with the Easter Bunny last Saturday to host an Easter egg hunt for local kids. (Submitted photo.)

Santiago Lions host annual Eggstravaganza

A lot of good food and fun was served up at Santiago Township Hall on Palm Sunday. The

toast, pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, orange juice, coffee and more. In addition to the scrumptious breakfast, a large bake sale took place, as well

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsmn.com

Santiago Lions treated people to delicious made-to-order omelettes, french

as small animals outside for the children to enjoy.



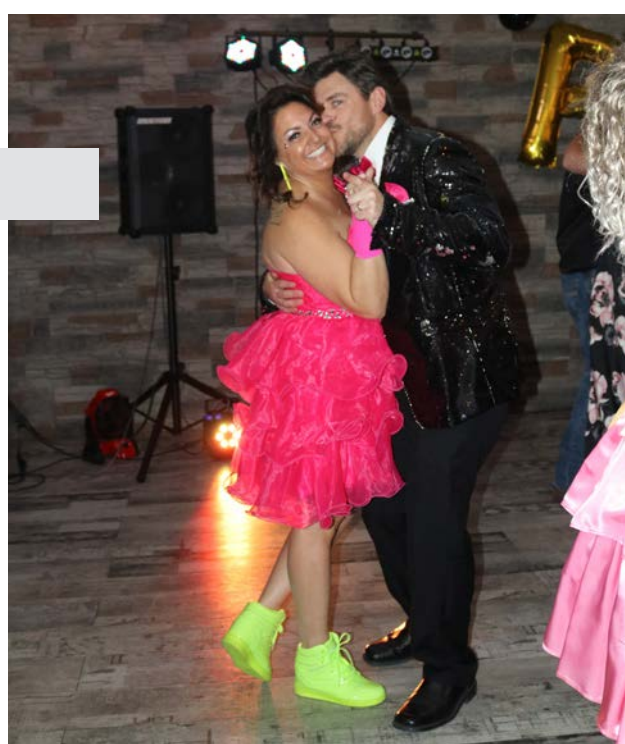
EASTER BUNNY VISIT. Will Stang, Jocelyn Stang, Everhett Stang and Jesse Hansen got up close and personal with the Easter bunny and enjoyed goodie bags that were given to all the children. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)



GOURMET COOKS! Darcee Larsen, Sandy Erickson, Tracy Daudt, Anda Campion, Harland Strube, Kayla Paulson, Keenan Paulson and Izzy Evens (not pictured) served a delicious meal. (Photo by Mary Nehring.)

Becker Adult Prom "Fun"-draiser

The Becker Dance Team Booster Club had great success with their first ever Adult Prom fund-



BECKY AND AARON OLMSCHIED hit the dance floor. (Submitted Photo).

Submitted Article

raiser. This event took place at Pebble Creek on April Fools Day, and they sold out their max of 250 tickets.

The attendees did not fall short when it came to getting dressed up for the occasion! They came decked out in 80s/90s themed-prom apparel. A small committee of about six people had spent the last couple months planning this event from the nostalgic candy, photo booth, a limo giveaway, games and DJ music pro-

PROM to page 3



WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM! Briggs Lake General Store in Palmer decided to have some fun with the late March snowfall event. Because three inches of snow fell over the weekend in the area, ice cream was discounted 30 percent all weekend at the store. It would appear that ice cream makes any day better, despite the weather! Left photo: Glen Nielsen and Nolan Wipper. Right photo: Autumn and Haley Wipper. (Submitted photos.)



LAST WEEK, Dwight Lundeen was awarded the FCA Branch Rickey Service Award, recognizing those who demonstrate the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Values of Integrity, Serving, Teamwork and Excellence. See the story on page 14. (Submitted photo.)

Inside

BECKER

Congressman Tom Emmer visited Becker Tuesday afternoon to tout his HR1 Energy Bill to local leaders in the State of Minnesota. See the story on page 12.

CLEARWATER

The Clearwater Legion is holding a fundraiser for the construction of a new Clearwater Food Shelf building to be built on recently-purchased property. See the story on page 3.

SPORTS

The Becker Archery team had 10 archers qualify for the Eastern Nationals on Louisville, KY on May 12-13. Check out the story on page 14.

Index

EDITORIAL/NEWS

- Pages 1-14

CHURCH

DIRECTORY

- Page 2

LEGALS/JUDICIAL

- Pages 5-9

CLASSIFIEDS

- Page 8

EMPLOYMENT

- Page 4

SPORTS/

ACTIVITIES

- Pages 10-14

INSERTS

• Bill's Family Foods

(All zips)

• Menard's

(55320, 55319)

• Runnings

(All zips)



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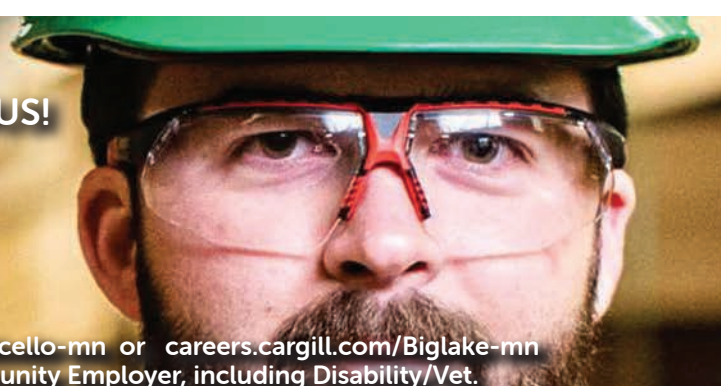


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PROM from page 1

vided by dance dad, Travis Williams.

BDT would like to thank all the sponsors who donated to this event and helped make it a huge success and also give a BIG thank you to all attendees that came out for this fun event! The dance floor was filled all night, smiles, laughter and a great time was had by all. BDT booster club is already thinking of plans for another event next year, stay tuned!



TRAVIS AND BROOKE WILLIAMS pose for photos in their eye-popping outfits. (Submitted Photo).



JESSE AND MATT O'NEIL pose for photos in their shiny garb. (Submitted Photo).

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NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY IS QUICKLY EVOLVING

According to data from the Newspaper Association of America (NAA), trends reflect that the print industry is evolving its business model in significant ways. Some of these ways include connecting with developments in technology, tapping into consumer behavior, understanding advertiser interest, and more in order to grow audiences and diversify its revenue stream.

Fundraiser to be held for new Clearwater Food Shelf building

Everyone is encouraged to stop by the Clearwater American Legion next Saturday, April 15,

has seen an increase of 20% of those in need.

upcoming fundraiser April 15. The event will be from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Clearwater American Legion, with a pulled pork sandwich dinner, silent auction, and bake sale.



VOLUNTEER DOUG BROWN Food Shelf Coordinator Susie Brown, and Volunteer Kathy Langva next to the sign proclaiming the land to be the future home of the Clearwater - Clear Lake Food Shelf. (Submitted photo.)

neighbors who are faced with food insecurity and provide other resources for those in need. The organization serves the Clearwater and Clear Lake areas of Central Minnesota, which fall within Sherburne, Stearns, and Wright Counties.

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

for a fundraiser being held to help raise money for the new Clearwater - Clear Lake Food Shelf building that is planned for their recently purchased property.

Needing a larger facility to continue to extend their services, the Clearwater - Clear Lake Food Shelf has taken the first step by purchasing a 1-acre parcel of land in Clearwater from Rejoice Lutheran Church. The new building will be in a safer environment, be handicap accessible, and have public rest rooms. The building design has been completed and has an estimated cost of \$450,000.

"It's been amazing to see individuals from other organizations bringing their ideas and talents to help make this event a success," said Food Shelf Volunteer Mary Abraham. "We are very excited about this fundraiser."

the trees growing on the property.

The mission of the food shelf is to serve friends and

For anyone in need, the Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf is currently located in the Lions Community Building under the Clearwater water tower at 1100 Co. Road 75. Hours of operation are Mondays 5:30 to 7 p.m., Tuesdays 9 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., and Wednesdays 3 to 5 p.m.

Proposed gambling ordinance draws crowd at Clear Lake City

The Clear Lake City Council met Monday evening and started off with three public hearings, before the agenda turned to

of the donations. He surmised that this could cause the City to have to file the appropriate paperwork with the state's Gambling Control Board as they dispersed the funds.

time to review the proposed ordinance, as the language had not been available prior to Monday's meeting.



FORMER SHERBURNE COMMISSIONER FELIX SCHMIESING asked the Clear Lake City Council to table their action on a proposed charitable gambling ordinance. The council obliged and will review the matter again next month. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger).

deferring action until the insurable limits could be explored at a later date.

After considerable discussion, member Chad Nelson then motioned to adopt the city's Business Subsidy Policy, which will allow Clear Lake to consider helping businesses with programs such as Tax Increment Financing or Tax Abatements.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

the regular city council meeting.

"I'm requesting proper clarification of the ordinance," Gruenes stated.

"It's tough to comment on it if we haven't seen it (the language)," Schmiesing said.

Mayor Goenner then asked for a motion to table the public hearing, and it received unanimous ratification. This will allow the council to reconsider the concept next month with a continuation of the public hearing.

In Other Business, the Council:
• Discussed the parking lot at the post office, noting that the owner of the building is responsible for ice removal;
• Heard from City Engineer Keith Yapp and Public Works Director Dustin Luhnning that the city's generator is compatible to be used on the lift stations should the need arise;
• Approved the annual hiring of the seasonal public works employee;

The first two hearings, about a variance request and a change to the vegetation height allowance in the city, drew no speakers.

Mayor Tim Goenner responded that the city was hoping to also include Clear Lake Township as an area that could receive the charitable funds and the intent was not to have the council being the ones to disperse the funds.

When the regular meeting was called to order, SCSO Sgt. Andy Ochs addressed last month's call load, noting 66 calls for service — about half of which were for traffic stops and security checks.

Council Action
When the regular meeting was called to order, SCSO Sgt. Andy Ochs addressed last month's call load, noting 66 calls for service — about half of which were for traffic stops and security checks.

• Heard from Goenner about his meeting with St. Cloud Superintendent of Schools Laurie Putnam.

Then, council held a hearing that proposed the adoption of language to regulate charitable gambling donations for funds generated within the City.

It was also suggested that the ordinance was modeled closely after what the City of Becker currently has on the books.

Next, council adopted a motion to change the lawn vegetation ordinance, providing for eight inches of maximum growth as compared to the previous 12 inch allowance.

Next, council adopted a motion to change the lawn vegetation ordinance, providing for eight inches of maximum growth as compared to the previous 12 inch allowance.

Council then discussed a security contract for the city's computers and server,

Lion Joe Gruenes requested the council members about the purpose of the new ordinance, as well as the wording that pointed to the City being in control

There was additional discussion about the allowable donation area being tied to what is referred to as the "trade area" of the city and not necessarily defined by the municipality's borders.

suggested to Goenner that the council table the issue

for the evening, allowing the Lions Club members

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CITY OF CLEARWATER Community Development Specialist

The City of Clearwater, Mn is seeking applications for a Community Development Specialist. This position will be responsible for community development functions within the city, including planning and zoning, economic development, park development, and community outreach. Please see the city's website for a full job description. Minimum requirements include a bachelor's degree in urban planning or a related field, or an equivalent combination of education and work experience. The position is 32 hours per week with a full benefits package. Starting wage is \$28.25/hour DOQ. Offers of employment are contingent upon a full background check. Applications can be obtained by visiting www.clearwatercity.com or call (320) 558-2428. Return applications to the City of Clearwater, PO Box 9, Clearwater, MN 55320 or email to asmythe@clearwatercity.com no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 12, 2023. City of Clearwater is an EEO/AA employer.

CITY OF CLEARWATER SEASONAL / TEMPORARY GROUNDS MAINTENANCE POSITIONS

The City of Clearwater is seeking seasonal maintenance workers. This is a temporary position that will perform seasonal grounds maintenance duties. This position is a non-benefit position with variable hours dependent upon need. Minimum requirements include a valid driver's license and must be at least 16 years of age. Wage range is \$14.06 to \$16.97 per hour DOQ. A complete job description and application can be obtained at City Hall, or on the city's website at www.clearwatercity.com. Applications are to be submitted to City Hall, 605 County Road 75, PO Box 9, Clearwater MN, 55320, or emailed to City Administrator Annita Smythe at asmythe@clearwatercity.com. Completed applications will be accepted until 4:30 pm, Friday, April 21, 2023 or until positions are filled.

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Public Notices

**Independent School District #726
Becker, Minnesota
Regular School Board Meeting
March 6, 2023**

SUMMARY

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

Chair Aaron Jurek called the regular meeting of the School Board of District #726 to order on the 6th day of March, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Teaching & Learning Center.

Roll Call.

Members present: Troy Berning (attending remotely), Ryan Hubbard, Aaron Jurek, Connie Robinson, Corey Stanger, Pete Weismann

Members absent: None

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

A Presentation was provided by John Weekley, Sherburne & Northern Wright Special Education Cooperative

CITIZEN COMMENTS: None

Motion by Pete Weismann, seconded by Corey Stanger, to **Approve the Consent Agenda** as amended:

Remove 3E: Achievement & Integration Plan to the Regular Agenda for Discussion

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Corey Stanger, seconded by Ryan Hubbard, to **Approve the Achievement & Integration Plan**, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 6, 2023 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

DISBURSEMENTS – in the amount of \$3,466,475.05

PERSONNEL, as presented

DISTRICT OFFICE 22-23 CONTRACT, on file at District Office

Motion by Corey Stanger, seconded by Connie Robinson, to *Accept the Following Gifts:*

Baseball Booster - \$1,500 - Baseball
Liberty Paper - \$300 - Girls Basketball

Motion carried unanimously.

The School Board **Reviewed** the following policies. There was no action taken.

- 208 Development, Adoption, Implementation of Policies**
- 306 Administrator Code of Ethics**
- 307 Compensation and Benefits**

The School Board tabled Amending the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar until the April School Board Meeting.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 7:34 p.m.

/s/ Aaron Jurek, Chair
/s/ Pete Weismann, Clerk
Recorder: /s/ Angela Oswald
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/08/23.)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

- SAP 71-619-013 - Bituminous Overlay of CSAH 19 from CSAH 4 to CSAH 2
 - CP 71-609-022 - Bituminous Overlay of CSAH 9 from E of CR 45 to HWY 169
 - CP 71-662-021 - Bituminous Overlay of CR 62 from N Co Line to CSAH 20
 - CP 71-685-022 - Bituminous Overlay of CR 85 from CSAH 16 to CSAH 11
- SHERBURNE COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

NOTICE is hereby given that electronic bids will be accepted through the Sherburne County online bid portal <https://bidvault.mn.uccs.com/> until 1:00 PM on Tuesday, May 2, 2023. This will be the only means of submittal of a bid.

The Major Quantities of Work are:

Common Excavation/Embankment	CY	2,900
Granular Borrow	CY	2700
Aggregate Base and Shouldering	TON	6,500
Full Depth Reclamation	SY	249,000
SP 9.5 & 12.5 Wearing Course Mixture	TON	6,100
36" Storm Sewer Pipe / Culverts	LF	80
6" Concrete Walk	LF	230
Seeding	AC	3
Pavement Markings	LF	196,000

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

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

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

The cost to download the Plans & Specifications is free.

The cost to obtain a hard copy of the Plans & Specifications is \$50.00 with an additional \$10.00 mailing fee. **THE COST TO SUBMIT A BID WILL BE \$25.00 PAYABLE TO RTVISION WHICH ALLOWS ACCESS TO THE ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS VIA BID VAULT AT <https://bidvault.mn.uccs.com>**

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

No bidder may withdraw their bid (which shall include the bid bond) within 15 days of the scheduled bid submittal date of Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive minor irregularities. The County Board will consider award of the contract at the May 16, 2023 County Board Meeting contingent upon County Engineer & County Attorney review.

It is the County's intent to begin construction mid July 2023 and completed by mid September 2023.

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

Dated at Elk River Minnesota, this 4th day of April 2023.

DATED: October 26, 2022

BY THE ORDER OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

/s/ Bruce Messelt
County Administrator, Sherburne County, Minnesota
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/08/23, 04/15/23, 04/22/23.)

MATHEWS from page 2

This will provide meaningful tax relief; a bonding bill that invests in infrastructure; support for Minnesotans struggling to find long-term care; and an increase in the agriculture budget. I believe that is a bipartisan compromise that will deliver for the critical needs of our state.

As we move into the final months of the legislative session, I will continue to push back against the Democrats' extreme agenda and advocate for policies that deliver for Minnesotan families.

Happy Easter!

Easter Sunday is a time to celebrate the miracle of Christ's victory over death. The Resurrection is fundamental to our Christian faith, giving each of us the promise of eternal life. I invite you to count all the blessings in your lives as you gather with your loved ones.

From my family to yours, Happy Resurrection Day! May Christ's victory over death bring you joy, hope, and renewal.

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Located on Main Street, 64 Oak Ave., S.

School hoping grants will augment cost hikes

On Monday evening, the school board met for their regularly scheduled meeting. All members were present with Ryan Hubbard participating remotely.
No Public Comment.

the course, baseball has had practices, softball has practiced and scrimmaged at St. John's and SCSU. GSA has received their sweatshirts and look to update the display area. Speech had two All-Conference and one HM winner at the conference meet. NHS hosted the final blood drive for the year. Lacrosse has started practices. Rugby has been training and recruiting with some of the girls team members taking advantage of a chance to tour and play in Scotland!

Supt. Report
The Superintendent Report included an update on MCA testing, staffing, legislative update, update on construction project and graduation. Committee Reports were also shared.

- **Activities**-Looking to add DECA to our activities options, updating grade check process;
- **ECFE**-Lots of events and projects. Starting to fundraise for a playground. They also have lots of family projects and activities taking place;
- **Facility**-Update on the transportation, MS and HS projects. Additionally, IS has been working second shift to put things into place to allow as much activity as possible in the summer;
- **Finance**-Discussed insurance and looking at having an insurance committee meeting soon;
- **Policy**-Have worked

on policy 722 and will continue to meet on the policy to ensure it is well thought out.

Consent Agenda
The consent agenda was passed on a unanimous vote.

Gifts
Gifts were also approved and recognized on a unanimous vote.

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

Of special note was a non-monetary donation of welders and welding rods from American Highway.

Policies
Review of policies 407-Employee Right to Know-Exposure to Hazardous Substances and 412-Expense Reimbursement.

First readings for policies 410 Family and Medical Leave Policy, 416 Drug and Alcohol Testing and 536 Special Dietary Needs.

Calendar
The 2022-2023 school year calendar was amended. At this time, families will see very little changes. Seniors last day of school will be Friday, May 26, 2023. Teaching staff will be required to make up the last snow day on June 5, 2023. Administration will work with building teams to develop a plan for the staff make-up day.

Grants
There was a resolution passed with the school board supporting SF 2615

(Hauschild) and HF 2917 (Howard-2001 Becker Graduate). Schmidt will be working to get letters drafted and send out an email to all staff members to come down and select and sign off on some so he can get those to the legislators.

“These bills, if passed, will provide an opportunity for Becker Public Schools to obtain grants from the MDE to supplement our building projects,” said Schmidt. “We had competitive bids, however, we did have to change or scale back many portions of our projects. This is due to unprecedented inflationary costs. While we did budget for some inflation, we did not anticipate increases of around 25% for some pieces of the project.”

Additionally, Schmidt says he is working with local legislators, Representative Shane Mekeland and Senator Andrew Mathews on another bill that would exempt Becker Public Schools from sales tax on materials, supplies, and equipment purchased after December 31, 2021 and before January 1, 2025 related to the project.

Adjournment
The Meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:55 pm.

Reminder
The May Regular Board Meeting will take place on May 1.

Becker City Council hears annual police report

To kick off Tuesday's Becker City Council meeting, Chief Brent Baloun of the Becker Police Department presented his annual

all the traffic stops made by his officers, there is a 79.2% warning rate, where motorists are not given tickets for infractions. He says it's not all about money and ticketing people for the smallest infractions, but about making sure the streets are safe.

report. He noted this was the 17th such report he has given during his time serving the city.

During the past year, the Becker Police Department Facebook page was removed, and Chief Baloun said he still did not know the reason



POLICE CHIEF BRENT BALOUN gave his annual report. (Photo captured from online video.)

Facebook removed the page from the platform. But, there is a new BPD Facebook page up now for any social media users wanting to follow the department.

Council authorized hiring another police officer, and Officer Tristain Mello joined the department. Chief Baloun said Officer Mello has been an excellent help and has performed remarkably.

The BPD has had several events over the past year, giving the department a chance to interact with the community. Baloun said the “Donut Day” the department held this year will likely become an annual event. They handed out over 250 donuts this year and felt the event was very popular and well received. They also recently held “Coffee with the Cops,” and hope to do so again this summer.

Safewise has named Becker the 18th safest city in Minnesota.

Supporting officers is one of Chief Baloun's goals moving forward. Baloun noted that of

They are looking for reserve officers right now, with the reserve unit being down to about four members, where, in the past, it has been as high as eight or nine. Typically, students interested in pursuing law enforcement are excellent for the reserves.

A full report is available on the city's website.

BAC Addition
Council approved the addition of two youth ball fields to the Becker Athletic Complex (BAC). Youth sports teams are making use of the fields and need more space for all the participants. Currently, there is little space to go around, and practices need to go late into the evening, as late as 8 or 9 p.m., which is not ideal for young families.

To help the city implement the additions, the youth baseball program contributed \$2,500 from concession sales and \$7,000 from a grant from the Minnesota Twins. Their contributions will pay for about 45% of the total cost of adding the two fields.

In Other Business, the Council:

- Approved hiring a contractor to re-write the city zoning code;
- Approved a plan for a Dairy Queen drive thru, which will be located in the same building as Dueling Brews;
- Sold their part of the old fire station (currently being used as the American Legion building) to Becker Township as per their agreement;
- Entered into a contract with Rum River for building official services;
- Entered into a contract with Wold Architects for schematic designs for city hall and the police department.

Peter Pan flies into Becker

Last weekend (March 31 and April 1), 56 Becker students in grades 2-6 took to the stage to perform Prairie Fire Children's Theatre production of Peter Pan!

The actors spent time rehearsing after school Monday-Friday and in five

community Education. Two professional actor/directors from Prairie Fire's staff directed the production and played the roles of Tiger Lil and Captain Hook.

Chelsie Burks
Chelsie is so excited to be working with Prairie Fire. After pursuing her degree in Musical Theatre from Shorter University she has gone on to perform in several regional performances. Some of her

favorite roles have included Steel Magnolias (Shelby), Big Fish (Jenny Hill), and The Marvelous Wonderettes (Cindy Lou). Chelsie is grateful to be given the chance to combine her love for teaching and theater.

Colin Anderson
Colin is grateful to be working with Prairie Fire Children's Theatre. Prior to working with Prairie Fire, Colin was working at Tweetsie Railroad in North Carolina as a Cowboy stunt performer. Theater has al-

ways been his first love, but being able to combined it with the joy of working to help the actors of tomorrow makes it all the more enjoyable.

About Prairie Fire Children's Theatre
Prairie Fire tours throughout the year bringing a professional theatrical experience to communities in just one week.

Submitted Article

short days they were ready to put on the shows. The weeklong experience was sponsored by Becker Com-

PLEASE JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT THE ALEXANDRIA-BIG OAKS TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSAL

Open houses scheduled to provide information and answer questions about transmission line expansion

Xcel Energy, along with other utility partners, is proposing new transmission line infrastructure that will improve electric reliability in the region, reduce congestion on the transmission system, and increase access to new low-cost renewable energy in the coming years.

The Alexandria-Big Oaks transmission line proposal would add a second transmission circuit on the open side of the existing CapX2020 transmission line structures between Alexandria and Monticello, Minnesota, along with new structures to connect to the new Big Oaks substation, which will be built near Xcel Energy's Sherco power plant.

CAPX2020 HISTORY

When originally approved, regulators and utilities believed the transmission grid would eventually need expansion. Rather than build an entirely new transmission line, the MN Public Utilities Commission directed CapX2020 to build the Fargo-St. Cloud/Monticello line capable of adding a 'second circuit,' which would reduce the amount of future infrastructure. The utilities involved in this project include Great River Energy, Minnesota Power, Missouri River Energy Services, Otter Tail Power Company, and Xcel Energy.

BIG STONE SOUTH-ALEXANDRIA

The Big Stone South-Alexandria segment will connect a new 345-kV transmission line between the existing Big Stone South substation in northeast South Dakota and the Alexandria substation near Alexandria, Minnesota. Otter Tail Power Company and Missouri River Energy Services, the companies leading this portion of the project, will work closely with landowners, communities, and local officials to

identify potential routes and develop a Route Permit application that will be overseen by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Second Quarter 2023: Open houses to discuss project and new route options to connect to the Big Oaks substation near the existing Sherco power plant

Third Quarter 2023: Certificate of Need and Route Permit filed with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC)

Fourth Quarter 2023–First Quarter 2024: MN PUC reviews Certificate of Need and Route Permit; decision expected in Third Quarter–Fourth Quarter 2024

2024–2025: Engineering and design; easement negotiations with landowners

2025–2030: Add second circuit to transmission line; build new infrastructure, including Big Oaks substation and expand existing Alexandria substation

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

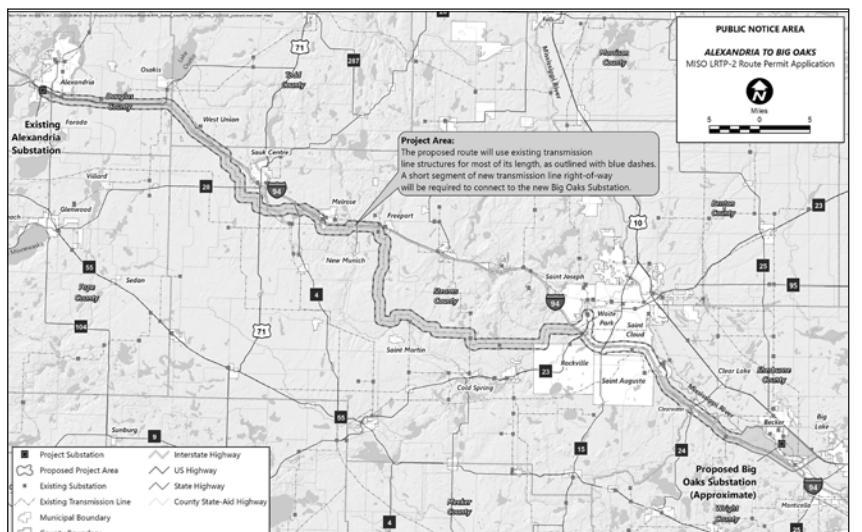
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Phone: **888-231-7068**

Email: **AlexandriatoBigOaks@xcelenergy.com**

Open House Schedule

Tuesday April 11	4:00-7:00 pm	Alexandria Holiday Inn 5637 Highway 29 South Alexandria MN 56308
Wednesday April 12	4:00-7:00 pm	Becker Community Center 11500 Sherburne Ave. Becker MN 56308
Thursday April 13	1:00 and 6:00 pm	Virtual open house Link available at www.AlexandriatoBigOaks.com



5 Becker students win prizes for videos

Three Becker High Schoolers won the 2023 Sherburne County Safe Roads Coalition video

support for the contest and below is a sample of prizes that were available to be distributed to the winning entries:

- \$350 cash; Pizza Depot - Becker - \$20 gift card, shaker cup and sticker; Marvel Nutrition - Becker - \$3 off coupon and free drinks for winners; Minnesota State Patrol -\$100

cash; Buffalo Wild Wings - Elk River - Four Sauce Bottles; Domino's Pizza - Zimmerman - Two Large Pizzas; NCIA - Elk River - \$200 cash, travel mug, chapstick; Heavenly Fresh/Rum River Consultants - Princeton - \$60 in Gift Cards; Becker Community Center - Becker - Four Day Passes; Zimmerman Cafe Bar & Bowl - Zimmerman - \$45 in Gift Cards; Walmart - Elk River - \$200 in Gift Cards; Kwik Trip - Big Lake - \$40 in Gift Cards.

Example videos can be found:

- 2022 winning video: "Dangers of Distracted Driving - Student PSA" (YouTube);
- "Towards Zero Deaths Driving Safety PSA" (YouTube).



THE THREESOME OF Sam Warren, Noah Bloch and Joseph Kampa posed with their goody bag of prizes that included cash, BWW sauces and drink cups. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).



THE DUO OF MADISON RINGWELSKI (L) and Grace Hilden (R) took home the second place prize which included a plethora of prizes donated by dozens of area businesses and organizations. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).

contest and they were presented with prizes Wednesday morning at the school by Sgt. Geoff Dowty of Sherburne County.

Two Becker girls captured the third place prize for their video and also received prizes from Dowty Wednesday morning.

This video contest was the second annual event for the coalition. Last year, one video was submitted (from Princeton High School's SADD Chapter) and, of course, it won the contest. This year, four teams submitted videos with Noah Bloch, Joseph Kampa and Sam Warren bringing home the top prize.

The video — from 30-60 seconds in length — was to highlight the dangers of speeding, no seat belt use and other distracted driving occurrences. These are three of the four leading factors of fatal crashes in Minnesota and Sherburne County is leading the way in getting teens aware of the dangers in a way that captures audiences.

The girls who took the third place prize included Grace Hilden and Madison Ringwelski.

Any student or group from any high school in Sherburne County was eligible and submissions were accepted all the way up until Feb. 28, 2023. Dowty, a sergeant in the Patrol Division of Sherburne County, headed up the contest for the coalition.

Various businesses and organizations showed their

Lynden Twp. donates ARPA funds to Clearwater Food Shelf

The Lynden Twp. Board of Supervisors discussed numerous agenda items during their first three

Konz stated he was requesting the township vacate the drainage and utilities easements located between lots

1 and 2 along the east side of lots 1, 2, and 3 that he owns. This would

meetings of the year.

Food Shelf
Representatives from the Clearwater/Clear Lake Area Food Shelf approached the board to request funding for a new freezer and refrigerator.

They presented a quote of \$5,056 for a three door refrigerator and \$6,754 for a three door freezer, for a total of \$12,410.

It was explained that they're in the process of funding a food shelf building of their own as they need more space. Currently they have had to turn away donated food because there's no room to store it. The new refrigerator and freezer will help with the room problem and in the future they can be moved to the new building.

The land for the new building was purchased from Rejoice Lutheran Church. When asked, the board was informed they plan to start working on their new building in April 2024. The hope is to also install a commercial kitchen in the building sometime in the future to help teach recipients how to prepare the food they're given.

The organization will be attending other area township meetings to ask for donations as well; a kickoff fundraiser is being held at the Clearwater Legion on April 15.

A motion carried donating ARPA funds of \$12,410 to the Clearwater/Clear Lake Area Food Shelf for a new refrigerator and freezer.

JK Landscape
A public hearing was held in February regarding JK Landscape/Jerry Konz to vacate a portion of a drainage and utility easement.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider a petition to vacate a portion of the drainage and utility easements on Lots 1, 2, and 3, Block 4, in the Lynden Valley Industrial Park, Hubble Road. The petition consisted of four drainage and easement sections. The three parcels owned by Konz had been consolidated previously.

In attendance, Jerry

allow him to bring the shed currently on the easement into compliance and allow him to obtain building permits after the fact to resolve the issue.

No comments were received prior to or during the hearing. A motion carried adopting Resolution 2023-02 Vacating the Draining and Utility Easement on JHK property with the exception of the easement parallel to Stearns Co. Road 145, which Twp. Atty. Mike Couri recommended the township retain for future purposes.

Other Business

A request was put forth to the board for a conditional use permit to store commercial vehicles indoors on a Franklin Road property; the applicants were told they needed one by Stearns Co. The board informed them they need to first submit an application; the planning commission will then review it and make a recommendation to the township board.

Anderson Trucking's application for rezoning from A-40 to Industrial was passed through a motion; adjacent properties are already zoned Industrial.

A motion carried making it the policy of the township to require an applicant seeking vacation of any public drainage, utility, or road easement to have such easements marked in accordance with Gopher One State Call (GOSC) at the applicant's expense.

A motion carried approving Resolution 2023-03 Adopting the Stearns Co. Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

A motion carried approving the contract for the township's new engineer, Hakanson Anderson Engineering Firm.

The sheriff reported 60 calls for service in January, including 10 vehicle in ditch, five traffic stops, one building fire, and one domestic between a husband and a wife that Wright Co. was called in to help.

The next Lynden Twp. meeting will be April 3 at 7 p.m.

CLFD celebrates retirements, FFOY

The Clear Lake Fire Department recently held a celebration honoring retiring firefighters and also

spoke in appreciation of how the retired firefighters served their community.

"Kiel and Travis both served the Clear Lake response area for several years, but due to other responsibilities or situations they decided to retire rather than not

of the Year for his efforts and dedication to his community.

Koren spoke glowingly about Doble and his dedication to the department.

"Harvey is one of those people who is always volunteering and willing to help out any way he can — when you ask or tell him what task has to be done, you are guaranteed that task will be done and done very well," Koren said. "Harvey has a great personality and it stands out when he has patient contact. Harvey goes above and beyond what is expected of our firefighters." Doble also recently joined Clearwater Fire and Rescue, meaning he is pulling double duty as a valued member of two departments.

"I only live one mile from Clearwater Fire Department and four miles from Clear Lake Station one," Doble said. "I show up to each of their trainings and maintain a good call percentage, meeting all the requirements for both departments."

He says he first felt the call at a young age and joined the CLFD in an attempt to give back to his community.

"At age 18, I felt the need to give back to my

community and wanted some structure in my life," Doble said. "I was fortunate enough to have gotten hired. Plus, I've been told that I look good in bunker gear, haha!"

When he first found out about the award, Doble said he was quite surprised. "I was shocked, as the Clear Lake Fire Department is filled with a lot of talent," Doble says. "At the end of the day, I always do my best and to have my peers vote and recognize me as the firefighter of the year, I was speechless."

"The fire department has shaped me into who I am today. Without it I don't know where I would have ended up. If anyone is thinking about joining or if anyone wants to join please seek out your local department and apply. It's the best thing I have ever done."

Koren says his department is currently at 28 members strong, while he is allowed to have 35 total firefighters.

"We are always looking for people who are interested and who would be dedicated to what is required to be a valuable addition to the CLFD," the chief concluded.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

recognizing their Firefighter of the Year. Kiel Golly was honored for his



KIEL GOLLY recently celebrated his retirement from the Clear Lake Fire Department and was honored for his dedication and service. Travis Malikowski also retired from the department, but was unable to attend the celebration. (Submitted photo.)



FIREFIGHTER HARVEY DOBLE was recently named the Clear Lake Firefighter of the Year for his dedication to the CLFD. Doble has been on the department for nearly 7 years and also recently joined the Clearwater Fire Department. (Submitted photo.)

years of service to the department and received a plaque, while fellow retiree Travis Malikowski was out of state and couldn't attend the function.

Fire Chief Ron Koren

being able to give the commitment required to be a valued member of the department," Koren said.

Seven year veteran Harvey Doble was named the department's Firefighter

It's Time to Ride!

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by David J. Weeres, Member of Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Task Force.)

Submitted Article

Have you been riding your machine for 10 years — 20 years — or even 30 years... and think you know it all? Do you want to challenge yourself?

Take a one-day course and let's see what you've got. The "Advanced" and "Expert" courses will take you to another level skill-wise.

These courses are sponsored by the Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety in coordination with local col-

leges. The instructors are expert riders and will share their skills to make you a better rider. The classes are limited to 10 students, with two instructors, and 90% of the day on your machine. You will finish exhilarated and exhausted! Really, what is better than spending a day on the bike, and then learning a few things along the way? In essence, you learn to be better connected to your cycle.

These courses are taught in the Twin Cities Metro area along with St. Cloud. Bikers from all over the state have ridden to these courses for one day excursions.

If you're relatively new to riding motorcycles or



have been out of the saddle for a time, an "Intermediate" course is probably better suited to freshen your skills.

And if you want to learn to ride, the "Basic Rider" course is a great way to learn and become a licensed rider. These courses are offered throughout the state of Minnesota through local community/technical

colleges.

For more information, and to sign up, visit the Minnesota Motorcycle Safety Center web page at: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ots/mmsc/Pages/default.aspx>.

Join the fun, challenge yourself, and be the best rider you can be!

Becker Lions hold Easter Bunny Breakfast

Last Sunday, the Becker Lions Club held their annual Easter Bunny Breakfast. Although the

scout and girl scout troops.

This is not a profit generator for the Lions, and the time making breakfast and putting on the event was donated for the enjoyment of

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

snow deterred some, many families still came to see Peter Cottontail and enjoy a delicious breakfast prepared by the club, with assistance from local boy

local families at the Becker Community Center. Kids were also sent home with fun goodie bags and candy.



THE EASTER BUNNY visited with Becker kids at the annual Lions Easter Bunny Breakfast. (Submitted photo.)

Emmer holds energy roundtable in Becker

Congressman Tom Emmer (MN-06) hosted a roundtable at the Becker Community Center Tuesday with over a dozen

“We believe permitting reform is urgently needed to move forward with the ongoing energy transition while keeping the power grid operating reliably,” said Dar-

cerns for home builders and farmers to access reliable electrical power to do their everyday tasks. Another guest expressed contempt at the regulations forcing builders to limit gas ranges in new

expressed their concerns for the fall of the tax base when Sherco begins decommissioning and how that fall will affect the residents of Becker.

Emmer concluded by saying everyone needs to

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

Minnesota leaders and energy producers to discuss H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives late last week.

“The core tenets of H.R. 1 are simple: lower costs for Americans, remove the bureaucratic red tape holding our energy industry back, and restore America’s energy independence,” said Emmer.

The bill will increase domestic energy production, reform the permitting process for new energy projects, repeal the \$6 billion natural gas tax and the \$27 billion ‘green bank’ slush fund. The Lower Energy Costs Act will also boost domestic production of critical minerals like those mined in Minnesota’s Iron Range.

Those in attendance included Becker Mayor Tracy Bertram, Becker Council Member Rick Hendrickson, Becker City Administrator Greg Lerud, Big Lake Mayor Paul Knier and Sen. Andrew Mathews, amongst others. Emmer allowed for each individual to express their concerns, ask questions or offer suggestions on powering the bill forward.

Many of the greatest concerns were attributed to the lengthy permitting problems and regulatory rules that drag down schedules and delay production.



CONGRESSMAN TOM EMMER (L) conducted a roundtable discussion on the new HR1 Energy Bill that made it through the House of Representatives recently. Of those in attendance, Mayors Tracy Bertram of Becker (M) and Paul Knier of Big Lake (R). (Patriot Photos by Bill Morgan).

rick Moe, President & CEO of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association.

Moe had said it typically takes around 10 years to get a transmission line constructed compared to just 3-4 years in other countries. Eight of those 10 years, Moe says, get clogged up in permitting and regulations.

“This bill takes tangible steps that will allow the market and innovations to flourish, driving down costs and moving us meaningfully to the clean energy future we are striving for,” said Kayla Christensen, Executive Director of Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum.

Others spoke of the mining litigation, fossil fuel debates and the con-

struction of homes.

Isaac Orr, a Policy Fellow at Center of the American Experiment, spoke of the diverse nature of energy production saying, “Reliability is our biggest concern. When blackouts start happening, where will we be when we realize this is all a big mistake?”

Hendrickson noted that the expansion of solar farms is forcing the city to seek out and buy land around the city to protect the physical and organizational structures and facilities of the area and keep the city expandable in the future.

“Growth in our city is hindered by solar farms popping up everywhere,” he said.

Bertram and Lerud

use “common sense” and that projects like these shouldn’t take 10-20 years.

“Yes, we are all invested in protecting the environment but we need to use our common sense to advance projects and act in the best interests of all involved. We should respect the laws and manage the resources we have”

“Minnesotans have been shouldering the burden of anti-energy policies in the form of skyrocketing costs on home heating and other essentials. We must allow our producers—at home and across the country—to do what they do best and restore our energy independence.”

Boys baseball team hopes to take next step

Head Coach Tyler Niedfeldt is entering his seventh year at the helm of the Becker baseball team

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

and he has his full staff of coaches for grades 7-11 returning as well.

His Varsity Assistant is Brett Knudsen, who is entering his third year. For JV, Preston Voigt is excited to kick start his second year. For the C-squad team, Jon Crowley takes the helm for his third year. For the eighth graders, Mark Kolbinger manages the squad for his 14th year and for the seventh graders, Nick Crowley returns for his third year.

Niedfeldt has chosen two seniors as captains for the 2023 season. They include Nolan Murphy, SS/P and Owen Kolbinger, U/P.

“We lost some quality players (due to graduation) but the chemistry that those seniors brought to the team has shined through with this group,” says Becker’s head coach. “They laid a strong foundation and we are picking up right where we left off last year. We

are returning some very strong players and adding very talented younger guys. I anticipate a season at least as successful as last and hopeful to be able to make a deep playoff run.”

Niedfeldt says his team is a very well-balanced team this year but he is extremely impressed with his team’s defense.

“We have many athletes able and willing to play multiple positions very well,” he says. “It is a coach’s dream to be able to tweak a lineup and not be limited to specific players in specific positions. We have six-to-seven guys who we feel good about pitching in any situation with a few more ready to contribute as well.”

Becker finished second in the Mississippi 8 Conference last year and Niedfeldt feels that his team from top to bottom is better this year.

“Last year was a giant step for our program led by great senior leadership and I think this year’s team will continue to push the program forward,” he says.

Girls Lacrosse gearing up for warm weather

Annica Lundeen returns for her fifth year as head coach of the Becker girls lacrosse team.

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

“My assistants are Mike Lundeen (the brains behind the operation) and Dwight Lundeen,” says Annica. “Mike’s extensive football knowledge plays well into figuring out LAX offenses and defenses. Dwight is most specifically the goalie coach, but his over 50 years of coaching experience he brings to us every day is truly a gift. Getting to learn from him is a blessing.”

Annica lost just five girls to graduation from last year’s team, so she is excited in the returning players and what they hope to accomplish.

“We have seven incoming freshmen with experience and three players who have never played before,” she says. “It’s exciting to see girls wanting to continue at this level and try something new.”

That “newness” will need to meld with last year’s growth.

“This will be a continuation of last year, continuing to improve but knowing we have some very athletic girls who have

been playing lacrosse for a long time,” Lundeen says. “So we have a lot of experience to work with.”

Year-in and year-out, Lundeen’s teams have battled well against most teams but the one team she just can’t shake is the Monticello Magic.

“There are some very good teams we face, but we are still looking to get our first win against Monticello,” she says. “They are always tough and we never can seem to beat them! If we would be able to do that, we would feel like that goal has been reached.”

Isabella Duncombe, Zoe Hanson, Emma Mathews and Kate Mehelich were named captains for this year’s squad. They are all seniors.

“Duncombe can run for days so she’s at midfield and does the majority of the draws,” says Lundeen. “Hanson, at midfield, is tough as nails, not afraid of anything. Mathews has TONS of lacrosse experience through travel leagues and clubs. She has a shot like a bullet and plays attack. She will be playing lacrosse at UW Stout next year. Mehelich is a major team player. She has the ability to play both attack and defense but plays mostly ‘D’. She leads our team with tremendous positivity. Kate will be playing Lacrosse at UW-Lacrosse next year.”

Lundeen has enjoyed her coaching experiences with the lacrosse team and she takes each year’s challenges and molds her team to the best of her ability.

“We feel like we have a very cohesive team,” she says. “They compete hard all the time. We are blessed to have a team that works well together.”



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Sports News

Toedter being inducted into MWCA HOF

Joel Toedter, a Minnesota wrestling official and father of five Becker athletes and scholars, is being

St. Cloud Officials Association Assignment Secretary, wrote "Joel is one of the best officials in the state. He has an outstanding personality and gets along with all coaches and wrestlers."



Toedter and Coach Dalen Wasmund.

About Joel

Joel is married to Julie, and they have five kids, Joshua, Jenna, Jaydee, Jake and Jazlyn. He has one grandson with another grandchild on the way and hoping for more. Joel works construction and resides with his wife Julie in Becker, MN.

Joel Toedter attended Perham High School, graduating from there in 1980. He was active in football,

JOEL TOEDTER will be inducted into the wrestling hall of fame later this month. (Guilotine Website Photo).

wrestling, class plays and National Honor Society. Joel competed on two Region 6 runner-up wrestling teams but never advanced to the state wrestling tournament.

He attended the University of MN Morris for two years competing on the Cougars wrestling team. He then transferred to St. Cloud State where he wrestled for the Huskies for two years, finishing in 1986. He assisted Neil Jennisen as coach at St. Cloud Apollo High School from 1986-1988.

inducted into the MWCA Hall of Fame at the end of April.

Toedter, who began officiating the sport in 1982, has worked out of the St. Cloud Association, and has been an official for 41 years. He has worked 26 state tournaments and has officiated college for 30 years.

Roger Wilson, former

The 2023 Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame Induction Dinner is being held at McKinney's on Southside in Benson, MN on April 29. Other inductees include: Dravis Family - Greg Dravis, Blaine Dravis and Jeff Dravis; Todd Fuller; Chad Kraft; Bob Ruedy; Steve Ricard; Darren Ripley;

Bulldog tennis opens season in dominating fashion

The weather last Saturday hardly resembled conditions suitable for the high school tennis season opener, but thanks to the

Becker field house, the Bulldogs were able to play their two matches and pick up a pair of wins.

"We opened the season with blizzard conditions!" Coach Hokan Bengtson said.

"That is a first, but I am thankful for our administrators helping with the logistics and the field house."

Becker opened play by knocking off the Buffalo Bison, 6-1.

"We were led by our seniors at #1 doubles, #2

singles and the rest of the guys played well to come out with a key first win of the season," Bengtson said.

In the second match, Becker defeated Section 8AA opponent Brainerd, 7-0.

"We had some good

matches on many of the courts, as we tried out a new line-up it was good to see some guys play new positions and compete well," Bengtson said.

Buffalo

Becker winners: Singles, Z. Bengtson 2-6, 6-4, 10-8; R. Bengtson 6-1, 6-2; Landon Peterson 6-1, 4-6, 10-1; Troy Nuest 6-1, 6-2.

Doubles: Gruber/Scheideman 7-6, 6-1; Herdina/Brown 6-1, 7-5.

Brainerd

Becker winners: Singles, Zach Bengtson 6-4, 6-1; Ryan Bengtson 6-4, 6-2; Troy Nuest 6-4, 6-0; Adler Hårdiga 6-0, 6-2.

Doubles: Nick Gruber and Eli Scheideman 6-0, 6-3; Landon Peterson and Sawyer Brown 7-5, 6-0; Garrett Lane and Max Haugen 6-3, 6-3.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com



THE BUFFALO BISON (LEFT) AND BECKER BULLDOGS (R) ignored the blizzard conditions raging outside and lined up before the first match of the season in the friendly confines of the Becker field house. (Submitted photo.)

Bulldog track teams dominates indoor meet

Both the Becker girls and boys Bulldog track teams were dominating in their season opener last Tuesday, winning a triangular with Princeton and Pierz.

track meet, placing first in a pair of sprints - the 55 and the 200.

Lauren Woelfel was also amazing, placing 1st in the Pole Vault, Triple Jump and as a member of the 4x100 relay (with teammates Bella Kuschel, Leon

combe) and the 4x800 (Katelyn Brower, Alea Briggs, Ella McDonald and Brooklyn Karel).

Even the field events brought high finishes for the Bulldogs, with Atwood winning the Long Jump and Olivia Maunu placing first in the Shot Put.

Boys

Becker won the boys meet with 74 points, as Princeton (46) and Pierz (32) were well behind the host Bulldogs.

Leading the Bulldogs was Owen Angell, who won all four of his events — the 55 Meter Hurdles, 200 Meter dash, High Jump (5'6") and the Pole Vault (13'6"). Senior Captain Tyson Ricker won

the 1600 meters with a time of 4:43.7 and Carter Reckelberg won the Long Jump with a leap of 21'4". Alex Kinney ran a good 800 and won with a time of 2:17.25.

The boys 4x100 relay team of Max Olsen-Burkman, Asher Olson, Mitchell Soltau, and Quintrell Robinson placed first with a time of 48.9 and the 4x200 Relay team made up of Carter Reckelberg, Alex Weiss, Mitchell Soltau, and Brody Stommes also took first place.

"A couple takeaways from today's meet were that we have

a lot of speed on our team this year which will make for some fun with our sprint relays," Coach Paul Schmidt said. "Also, the numbers game was in our favor as we had lots of kids picking up those crucial second, third, and fourth place points."

The teams were to compete Tuesday in Monticello, a meet that was originally supposed to be outdoors in St. Francis but was moved due to weather conditions.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

The girls team won an incredible 13 of the 15 events and finished in second place in the other two.

Seventh grader Adele Changamire also put forward an incredible performance in the 800 run to win the event and earn a spot on the Becker track honor roll with her time of 2:28.95.

Salayna Allen had a banner day in her first varsity

Morris and Kylee Morton).

Hannah Dierkes won the 400 run, while Meghan Swanson captured first in the 1600 with a time of 6:12.22.

The Bulldogs captured titles in a trio of relays — winning the 4x200 (Abby Atwood, Regan Hausmann, Reese Hausmann and Kailey Thompson), the 4x400 (Dani Nuest, Abby Atwood, Regan Hausmann and Bella Dun-

Becker Boys Basketball celebrates excellent season

Head Coach Josh Ihrke and the Becker boys basketball team celebrated a fine season last week at their annual awards banquet.

the section semi-finals."

Senior Alex Weiss carried home a bunch of awards, including being named to the Academic All-State team and the Scholar Athlete for the Bulldogs. He and fellow classmate Julius Hendricks were honored as All-Mississippi8 Conference award winners.

The Bulldogs had a group of players that performed exceptionally well in the classroom this year, as nine total Bulldogs earned Academic All-Conference

awards. In addition, the Bulldogs were the Section academic champions and also won the Conference Gold Academic Award.

An impressive 24 players received the Spotlight on Scholarship Award.

Team Awards:

MVP- Alex Weiss; Defensive MVP- Alex Weiss; Most Dedicated- Sawyer Brown; Best Teammate- Tygen Salvevold.

JV Team Awards:

MVP - Zach Bengtson;

Most Improved - Josh Groskreutz; Most Dedicated - Nathan Weiss; and Best Teammate - Connor Gass.

Varsity Letter Awards went to:

Ryan Bengtson, Julius Hendricks, Brady Paumen, Tygen Salvevold, Kevin Vogl, Kyle Vogl, Alex

Weiss, Zach Bengtson, Kyan Blomquist, Josh Groskreutz, Mitchell Soltau, Sawyer Brown and Nathan Weiss.

The team also honored managers Reagan Leaders & Kenna Tierney.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

Ihrke summarized the season by noting that the Bulldogs were, "a team that demonstrated growth throughout the season... they committed to each other at the end of the season to make a run at the #1 seed Princeton in

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Lundeen presented prestigious FCA award

Dwight Lundeen was once again honored — this time by an organization that is quite near and dear to his heart.

first from Minnesota to capture the award. Other recipients have been: Keith Allen of Penticton, B.C. (2017), Bill Lyle of Sioux City, IA (2018), Tom Allen of Bloomington, IN (Spring 2019),

Joe & Melody Balentine of Ray more, MO (Spring 2021), Don Stewart of Naples, FL (Fall 2021), Dan Turner of Bossier City, LA (Spring 2022), Roch Goch of South Jordan, UT (Fall 2022) and Lundeen of Becker, MN (Spring 2023).

website. “I can model the things I need to—loving my wife and my family, my language, as well as my role as a community member and being active in church.”

Lundeen continues, “FCA gives me the opportunity to share Christ. In our society right now, the word coach carries a lot of weight — ‘Coach said’ seem to be very impactful words. We’ll continue to do that.”

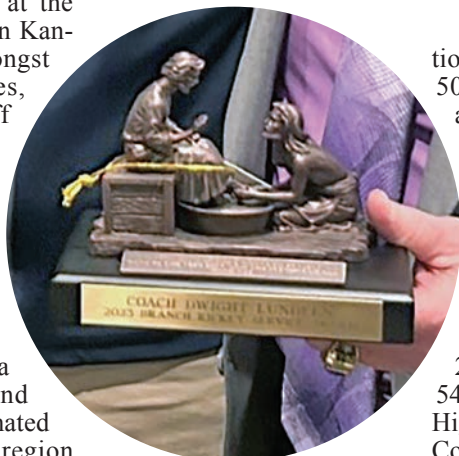
Lundeen has been named “Coach of the Year,” and has been inducted into the Minnesota Football Coaches Association (MFCA) & Minnesota Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association (MNIAAA) Halls of Fame while helping his teams achieve 19 conference titles and 14 section titles.

Randy Jensen, FCA Northland Region Director of Ministry Advancement, attests that Coach Lundeen’s impact on FCA has been incredible.

“It has been my joy and privilege to know and work with Coach Dwight Lundeen for almost 40 years,” he said. “I can honestly say that Dwight’s participation and involvement with FCA has put him in an elite class with only a select few others. Dwight’s involvement has included not only his leadership with the Becker FCA huddle, but also with summer sports and golf camps, area rallies, state FCA coaches events and athletic director’s breakfasts, etc.”



FCA DIRECTORS AND LEADERS gathered with the Lundeen family after awarding Dwight with the Branch Rickey Service Award. Left to right: Randy Jensen (FCA Northland Region Director of Ministry Advancement), Pam Lundeen (Dwight’s wife), Shane Williams (FCA President and CEO), Dwight Lundeen (Becker High School Football Coach, Branch Rickey Award Winner), Tom Ness (FCA Minnesota State Director), Brian Conklin (FCA Northland Region Director). (Submitted Photo).



Bob Macleod of Manchester, NH (Fall of 2019), Janie Mueller of Colorado Springs, CO (Spring 2020),

Lundeen’s association with FCA goes back 50 years when Dwight and Pam started the first FCA Huddle at Becker High School and still lead it today with other coaches and volunteers from the community. Fifty-ish kids coming to huddle on Friday mornings. 2023 marks Lundeen’s 54th season as the Becker High School Head Football Coach and the only one to ever run the program.

“I think FCA and coaching is a great combination,” Lundeen said in a 2022 article on the FCA

Becker archery sends 10 to Nationals

The Becker archery program continues to grow and get better each year, with 10 archers qualifying

team won six tournaments this season, eventually taking second at the state tournament. They have been ranked nationally in the top 15 throughout the season and will also be competing at the National tournament.

Becker sent 170 archers to Duluth on March 25 for the NASP state tournament and they competed well against 1,800 opponents from across MN.

The Becker Elementary team placed second in the Team 3D, as well as the Bullseye competition, with Bentley Trautner (second) and Avery Roles (seventh) qualifying for Nationals.

Other national qualifiers included: Blake Koubsky - 4th Place, Sawyer Smith - 8th Place, and Roman Brake - 10th Place. In the Middle School

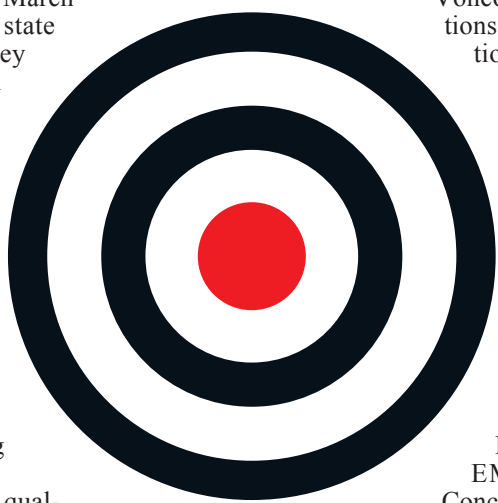
division, the team placed second in the Bullseye division and third in the Team 3D event.

National qualifiers from this group included Dalton Weisz, Isaac Ochs and Mason Lumley.

The High School team scored 10th in state in the Bullseye and will send

Brake extended a “thank you to everyone who has supported the Becker Bulldogs Archery program and especially our sponsors.”

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Elaina Schneider to compete in both the Bullseye and 3D events. Program Director Scott

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