



Saturday's projected high:

16°

Officer Norlin presented with Life Saving Award

By Don Bellach,
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake City Council took a moment during their regular council meeting on Nov. 25, 2025, to honor BLPD Officer Sam Norlin. With his wife and fellow members of the BLPD present, Police Chief John Kaczmarek presented Norlin with the Life Saving Award.

Kaczmarek explained some of the details. This summer Norlin responded to a medical call. An individual reported having trouble breathing and became unconscious. Upon arrival, Norlin determined the patient was unresponsive, not breathing, and did not have a pulse. He immediately began CPR. With the assistance of another responding officer, life-saving efforts were administered that included the use of an AED and bag valve mask to provide rescue breaths for approximately five minutes until the patient began to breathe on their own and regain consciousness. The



BLPD CHIEF KACZMAREK (RIGHT) presents the Life Savings Award to Officer Sam Norlin. (Patriot photo by Don Bellach)

patient was stabilized until EMS personnel arrived to transport them to the hospital.

Budget Levy
Finance Director Deb Wegeleben presented information about the 2026 City Budget and Levy to complete the council's annual budget hearing (Truth in Taxation). Before setting the final levy amount, the city has determined that its expenditures will be \$7,791,754. The total

levy amount to be received in 2026 will be \$6.39 an increase of 7.22% over last year. Wegeleben did share that the average levy increase across the state was 8.7%.

Wegeleben provided a breakdown of Big Lake resident's property taxes. For every dollar of taxes paid, .30 will be paid to Sherburne County, .32 to Big Lake, and .38 to Big Lake Schools. 67% of the funds needed to balance

the 2026 Budget will come from property taxes. Other sources of revenue include the municipal liquor store, State and Federal aid and grants, licenses and fees, charges for services and investments.

A breakdown of expenses shows that 48% goes toward Public Safety, which includes Police, Fire, and Building Dept. Wegeleben highlighted three other areas: Public Works 15%, Culture (Parks and the Library) 11%, and Transfers to Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) 8% or approximately \$635,000 that the council has set aside for future projects.

Consent Agenda
Notable items approved on the Consent Agenda concerned grants for the city. Item 6E approves that the Community and Economic Development Association begin creating a Grant Research and Project Readiness Assessment for Big Lake and its Park Improvement Plan.

Item 7E approves the receipt of \$800 from the

Minnesota Chief's of Police Community Partnerships Grant Program. The grant will help pay for BLPD community events initiatives.

Other News
Streets, Parks, and Fleet Superintendent Norm Michels shared that a survey for Mitchell Farms Park is currently underway until Jan. 6, 2026. Information about the survey will be in residents' upcoming water bills. If one is interested in participating in the survey, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLMTDR>.

Michels also gave a shout-out to Joe Brenteson, who recently retired after 40 years of service.

Registration for the Big Lake Holiday lighting contest must be completed by Dec. 8, and residents can begin to vote on the winners beginning on Dec. 9-14. More information can be found on the city's website.

A liquor license was approved for the Thirsty Bison effective Dec. 1, 2026.

County board recognizes Farm Family of the Year

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Sherburne County Board Tuesday recognized the Golly Family of Clear Lake as the 2025 Farm Family of the Year.

Kiel Golly grew up farming alongside his dad, John on land first established by his parents, John and Lynette, in 1969.

The farm started out as a chicken layer operation before shifting to cattle and crops. Kiel now manages about 100 acres, raising corn, soybeans and rye seeds. They use a mix of no-till, cover crops and some conventional tillage, always working to keep the ground productive and healthy.

The farm was recently certified under the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Program, highlighting their commitment to stewardship. John and Lynette remain involved as the original founders and partners, while Kiel's wife, Malorie, and their kids, Brielle, Lincoln and Brooks, support wherever they are needed.

The family stays active in their community. They serve on the Clear Lake Twp. board, the fire board and the Sherburne/Benton Corn Growers Association board. Kiel is also a member of the local American Legion, having served in

COUNTY
to page 2

SLIP SLIDIN' AWAY...



WINTER WEATHER MISHAPS. A pickup truck rolled over close to the intersection of County Road 16 and Hwy 23 north of Becker last Thursday afternoon. A MN State Trooper was on the scene. Several recent snowfalls have caused icy patches on local roads and led to a number of accidents. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring).

2025 Gift Giving Guide: Shopping Local

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

As the season of giving and gathering continues, we're reminded of the unique spirit that makes our communities feel like home. One of the simplest and most meaningful ways we can strengthen that spirit is by choosing to shop local.

When you support local shops, restaurants, and makers, you're doing much more than making a purchase. You're helping a neighbor keep their doors open. You're contributing to local jobs, local families, and the character that makes our community different from any other place. Every dollar spent here has a ripple effect—circulating through our schools, services, and public spaces.

Shopping local also means discovering quality

and creativity you won't find in big-box stores or online marketplaces. From handcrafted gifts to fresh food to expert services, our local businesses offer products made with care, passion, and pride. And when you walk through their doors, you're greeted by people who genuinely value your presence.

Check back next week in the *Patriot* for more offers from local merchants!

Oodles of Doodles
Pet Spa
505 North Walnut St.,
Clearwater, MN
763-275-1111

Oodles of Doodles is a great place to get that special something for your furry family member. Consider a pet haircut, a nail trim, a bath or a good brushing of their teeth. Of course, if one can't decide, just purchase a gift certi-

ficate and let the redeemer do the choosing! Gift certificates are available in any denomination.

McDonald's Meats
Hwy 2
Clear Lake, MN
763-275-1111

McDonald's Meats in Clear Lake has build-your-own gift boxes as well as meat packs and 3 pre-built gift boxes! They also have gift cards that make great stocking stuffers — available in any denomination!

Studio 8 Hair & Spa
1111 1st St.,
Becker, MN
763-275-1111

Besides treating yourself to a new hairstyle



or spa relief, maybe you should pick up some candles for \$5 or hats for \$10 at your favorite local salon! They also have blankets and throws and shawls and shackets ranging from \$6 to \$50.



Briggs Lake General Store & Grill
85 Center St.
Clear Lake, MN
763-275-1111

When you are out and about shopping or tracking down a Christmas tree for one's abode — why not stop by and get a FREE pitcher of pop or beer with one's Christmas tree receipt

from a local tree farm (with purchase of an entrée). The Brickyard also has gift certificates in any denomination!

Briggs Lake General Store
85 Center St.
Clear Lake, MN
763-275-1111

Briggs Lake General Store is a great one-stop shop for one's Christmas shopping. Pick up one's groceries or purchase some off-sale liquor for one's gathering. They also have live bait and tackle, hardware items, automotive items, propane fills, fuel and so much more! Briggs Lake also has gift certificates in any denomination!

Just a Nod
1111 1st St
Becker, MN

CHRISTMAS
to page 2

emr

VISIT OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY IN BECKER, MINNESOTA

NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Recycle your unwanted materials

We pay competitive prices for all types of scrap metal including:

- Vehicles
- Automotive batteries
- Aluminum cans
- Copper
- Brass
- Stainless steel
- Farm equipment

HERE IS WHERE YOU CAN FIND US

Run on 100% renewable energy. Operating hours: 7am - 4:30pm

INSERTS

- Menards (All Zips)
- Runnings #1 (All Zips)
- Runnings #2 (All Zips)
- Becker True Value (55308, 55319)

PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

VOTED BEST by our Customers
The Only Vote That Counts!

Liberty Bank Minnesota

MEMBER FDIC LENDER NMLS #411232

Goldsmith returns for 6th year as head coach

By Bill Morgan, Editor

The 2025-26 winter season will be Lanny Goldsmith's 10th season with the Big Lake girls gymnastics team and sixth season as the head coach. He's been coaching club and high school gymnastics for 25 years. Goldsmith's assistants will be Theresa Johnson and Kris Kitzman. The 2025-26 roster includes: Cataleya Johnson, seventh grade; Jackie Busch, seventh grade; Harmony Donner, ninth grade; Adriana Wiggins, ninth grade; Abby Deavel, 10th grade; Gabby Gardner, 11th grade; Britta White, 11th grade; Leah Uphoff, 11th grade; Alaina Holum, 11th grade; Ivorie Kloststad, 11th grade; Lilianna Rousu, 11th grade; Naomi Huizenga, 12th grade; Calla Morris (captain), 12th grade and Sigrid Mattison (captain), 12th grade. "Our kids have had an incredible off-season and are coming into this season healthy and determined to improve upon last seasons results," said Goldsmith.

COUNTY from page 1

the Marine Corps, and was previously in the fire department. Meanwhile, Malorie is involved with the PTSA for their local school district. "I appreciate the opportunity to have been thought of for this," Kiel said to the board. "We've been granted a lot of opportunities to work with everybody. The conservation district has been very good to us and pointed us in the correct direction. We enjoy farming in the community and helping out in the community. Thank you." Commissioner Gary Gray said he appreciated how Kiel and family have continued the farming tradition. "His farm is about two miles from our family farm. He's part of the next generation of young farmers that have moved in to Clear Lake Twp. and Palmer Twp.," he said. "The older guys can't keep up with the technology, but these young kids can. I want to commend you on all of that and what you're doing."

Construction Amendment

The board amended the Professional Services Construction Administrative Contract with Bolton & Menk to include additional construction administration tasks for the Hwy. 169/Co. Rd. 4 interchange project.

The amendment covers previously unknown or unforeseen items such as enhanced construction communication with the community, design support for unforeseen field conditions and shop drawing reviews, geotechnical and environmental oversight, billboard relocation services, and additional construction expense due to the drawn-out federal funding approval and now subsequent changes to the construction staging plans and specifications.

The cost of the amendment is \$387,400. No levy dollars are included in the amendment or base contract.

Rebate Payments

The board approved the issuance of checks totalling \$156,331.81 to the following parties in accordance with Tax Rebate Financing Agreements: S&B LLC; GATR of Sauk Rapids, Inc-RAN Properties LLC; Morrell Over-size, Inc- Scott Morrell LLC; Sportech Inc; Apex Embroidery Design, Inc. & SBH Properties, LLC; Ice Man Properties LLC; Zablocki Roofing Inc & OZ Properties; Garage Guys LLC; CMP Attachments LLC; Beauty Oil LLC.

The parties listed above have paid their 2025 property taxes in full and will be receiving a tax rebate on the county portion of their taxes according to their taxes and their individual agreements on file.

Wireless Policy

The board approved an update to the county's "Wireless Communication Device"

"We have a lot of returning varsity and JV routines back this year."

Goldsmith treasures the experience he has gleaned from his girls — youngsters he's known for many, many years.

"The majority of our team I've coached since they were in elementary school competing on our xcel/club team," he said. "So it's rewarding to see them progress and come together as a team."

Big Lake's head coach is confident his team will perform well at all routines but is excited to see his team's improvement on the four-inch-wide plank.

"I think our beam lineup will be very strong but we have solid depth on every event," he said.

What can fans expect to see should they decide to pack the stands for a competitive meet?

"A high energy team that supports each other and will give it their all on every routine," Goldsmith says. "They will be exciting to watch!"



KIEL GOLLY addressed the board. (Website photo.)

Policy to include two amendments: 1. All county-owned wireless communication devices will have the RAVE public safety application and text/email alerts installed and operational prior to utilization by any county employee, 2. Employee-owned wireless communication devices must have the RAVE public safety application and text/email alerts installed and operational prior to receiving a monthly reimbursement as part of the device monthly allowance plan provisions outlined in the Wireless Communication Device policy.

Other Business

In other actions the board:

- Approved the final payment of \$39,558.37 to Knife River for the Co. Rd. 65 Reconstruction and Clear Lake Township's 74th & 106th Surface Improvements. Final contract amount is \$2,919,693.51;
- Set the per diem rate for volunteer/citizen committees appointed by the County Board at \$50 per meeting plus mileage. The rate also applies for other volunteers who serve in an official capacity under the Board's jurisdiction and for whom per diem is declared appropriate;
- Approved a Gambling Premises Permit for Ducks Unlimited - Zimmerman for a planned event on Jan. 10, 2026 at the Getaway Bar on 26211 184th Street in Orrock Twp.;
- Approved the solicitation of requests for quotes (RFQs) for servicing the cities of Becker, Big Lake, and Zimmerman's yard waste drop-off locations;
- Passed a resolution enabling the county to use the eminent domain process to acquire property for the Co. Rd. 23 Improvement Project from Edgewood Street to north of Co. Rd. 127;
- Approved the annual report from the Three Lake Improvement District;
- Set the time for the County Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting at June 16 at 3 p.m.;
- Approved memoranda of understanding regarding paid leave for the Law Enforcement Labor Services), LELS Patrol/Investigator Unit, LELS Licensed Supervisor Unit and LELS Public Safety Telecommunicator Unit.

Hornet wrestlers are young with some experience

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake wrestling season might be a challenge this year.

The team sent three individuals to the state tournament last season. All three have graduated, leaving first-year Head Coach Justin Nelson with a much younger squad.

Nelson, a former state champ and an assistant coach for about 10 years, says the team still has a strong core of experienced wrestlers who can score points this season.

"We've got couple seniors and a good group of juniors who will be leaders this year," he says.

Those wrestlers include Eli Schaller and Grant Volk in the lower weight classes, with Jack Hess, Liam Mayer



BIG LAKE 2025 WRESTLING JUNIORS AND SENIORS. (Front, from left) Grant Volk, Elijah Schaller, Reagan Stenberg, (back) Jack Hess, Hank Kuchera, Austin Frederickson and Liam Mayer. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

and Austin Fredrickson in the middle and higher weight classes.

"They're all varsity starters from last year," says Coach Nelson.

The team has similar numbers to last year. There are 21 boys and three girls so far. But some of the

for varsity. So if it's better for them to be on JV sometimes we might be doing that too."

Nelson says his philosophy is similar to that of former Coach Ryan Prom.

"I've been around this program for a long time. Obviously, I'll have my own little touches I'm going to do a little differently, but we're keeping things very similar."

His strategy will be determined by the progress of each wrestler.

"Were a younger team this year, so its based on the team we have. We're going to be working on a lot of technique," he says. "We're going to build these kids up to be the best wrestlers they can be."

The Hornets had a quad meet Thursday and hosted an invitational Friday, results next week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

Whose Land Is It, Anyway? Last week, Representative Emmer praised three House bills (H.J. Res. 104, 105, and 106) claiming they "cut red tape" and make America more energy independent. What's in these bills? Each one cancels a Resource Management Plan from the Bureau of Land Management. These plans guide how millions of acres of public land are used; not for energy, but for hunting, fishing, grazing, tourism, and the cultural survival of Tribal communities. They came from a decade or more of public meetings, Tribal consultation, scientific review, and local input. Repealing them gives a win to large mining/drilling interests that want access to federal lands. But this will come at a cost. Overturning the Central Yukon plan reopens the

door to an industrial mining road that would cut through wild country, relied on by Native communities for caribou and salmon. In Montana and North Dakota, this shift millions of acres back to outdated rules that favor extraction over habitat, recreation, and long-term community stability. About 92% of more than 200,000 public comments from conservation groups supported stronger conservation measures. Yet congress decided to ignore the public's voice to speed up industry's agenda. Public lands belong to all of us, not those with the biggest check-books/loudest lobbyists.

Emmanuel Corona
Big Lake, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

Walks Like a Duck, Quacks Like a Duck... It's a Duck. Quickly: Epstein was a con-

victed sex offender/trafficker who offered his "services" to powerful, wealthy (greedy) friends. These friends appear in pictures, emails, and flight logs. They come from every political party and sit in the highest tiers of global influence. Prosecute them ALL to the fullest! One federal filing in particular, Case 1:16-cv-07673-RA, describes a 13-year-old girl alleging she was raped by Epstein and another current public figure. The case was later withdrawn out of fear of death, but it remains in the record and reflects a long pattern of young victims seeking justice and being drowned out by power/money. There are also numerous documented settlements involving minors, and more recently, over two dozen women have publicly spoken about abuse tied to Epstein's circle. The pain is

real, consistent, and impossible to dismiss. The fact that we even needed an "Epstein Files Transparency Act" says everything and conveniently, nothing can be released while files are "under investigation." Yet despite the evidence, some people still defend/support the man who stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Epstein. If you're still flying that flag, I have to ask whether you can be trusted anywhere near a child-focused institution. Yes, we are judging.

Vanessa Davenport
Big Lake, MN



CHRISTMAS from page 1



J's Junction in Becker has tons of great and original Christmas gift ideas including Christmas decor,

lotion, soap, jewelry, pajamas, metal wall decor and leather goods! They also have puzzles and games for \$9 to \$99. Also at the Junction are Charcuterie and cutting boards starting at just \$



Bill's Family Foods
301 1st St,
Becker, MN
50508
763.282.8888

Stop on by Bill's Family Foods in the next week or so to grab some fantastic gift-giving items before they sell out. How about a

lighted, frosted snowman for just \$49.99? Or, Hell's Kitchen Bakeware - a four-piece set for just \$14.99. Better yet, get the six-piece Hell's Kitchen utensil set for just \$



Becker to support \$30M Senior Living Project

By Andrew Diemand, Contributing Writer

The Becker City Council convened on Tuesday, Nov. 8, for a meeting that centered on two key topics: a request for the city to issue conduit debt for a senior housing expansion in Albertville and updates to personnel policies to align with Minnesota's new Paid Leave program.

Conduit Financing

The meeting began with an overview of conduit financing provided by an attorney with Dorsey. He explained how cities can legally assist nonprofit organizations by issuing tax-exempt debt on their behalf.

"Cities are allowed to issue tax-exempt debt," he said. "They can offer that tax-exempt debt to 501(c)(3) nonprofits."

It allows qualifying nonprofits to access lower-interest, tax-advantaged borrowing without placing financial risk on the issuing city. Essentially, the organization, not the city, is responsible.

That organization is Guardian Angels, a nonprofit senior care provider operating throughout the region. They're pursuing financing for a \$30 million senior housing expansion in Albertville and requested that Becker serve as the issuer of tax-exempt notes—distinct from bonds—o support the project. These conduit notes would flow through the city of Becker solely to secure



GUARDIAN ANGELS, a nonprofit senior care provider operating throughout the region, is pursuing financing for a \$30 million senior housing expansion in Albertville and requested that Becker serve as the issuer of tax-exempt notes. (Submitted Photo).

favorable financing terms; the city would hold no debt obligation or repayment responsibility.

To help the council better understand the project, Steve Koontz of EDI Development, a consultant for Guardian Angels, outlined the planned expansion. The existing Albertville facility includes 63 senior living units, offering a range of assisted living options. The new development would connect to the current building and add 86 independent-living units, significantly broadening housing availability for local seniors.

"Dirt has started to move," Koontz noted, saying preliminary site work is already underway.

The project is expected to be completed by March 2027.

After brief discussion, the council voted unanimously to approve Resolution 25-59, authorizing Becker to issue the conduit

notes requested for the expansion.

Paid Leave

Council then turned its attention to a major change forthcoming for employers statewide: Minnesota's new Paid Leave program, which takes effect Jan. 1, 2026. Becker Clerk Shannon Mortenson, representing the statewide program, provided an overview of how the system will function and what cities and other employers should expect as the new system rolls out.

The program will offer employees paid medical or family leave funded through a statewide system similar to unemployment insurance. Participation is mandatory for most Minnesota workers, though employers may adopt a private plan if it meets or exceeds state standards. Mortenson emphasized that the cost of participation will be shared between employers and employees.

"Not more than 6% is

paid by the employee," she said, with the remainder covered by employers.

In response, city staff presented updates to Chapters 10 and 11 of Becker's personnel policy manual to ensure compliance with the new law. The revisions formally incorporate Paid Leave program requirements and clarify how leave benefits will be administered beginning in 2026.

Council members expressed support for the updates, and the changes were approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned with both action items receiving full council backing—supporting a major regional senior housing investment while preparing Becker's internal policies for a significant statewide shift in employee leave benefits.



LOOKING TO ADVERTISE? CALL 763.275.0275 TODAY!

SPORTS NEWS

AUCTIONS

North Star Boys' Choir
Service of Lessons and Carols
December 12, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

Svea Hill Church
16392 235th Ave. NW, Big Lake, MN 55309
A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted at the door.

www.NorthStarBoysChoirMN.org

CRAFT FAIR

Anoka Christmas Market

Sat., Dec. 20th, 10am-4pm
Greenhaven Golf Club
2800 Greenhaven Road, Anoka

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

After 54 years of being a staple in this amazing community, it is with solemn hearts we announce the closing of our salon. Our last day open will be December 31, 2025. We have cherished every one of you who have allowed us to be a part of your lives. We thank you and wish you all the best in the future. Regards, Krista Stier

Appreciation Sale the Month of December
All retail products are 25% off!

Ändra & A SALON & SPA
615 Smith St. Clearwater • 320-558-6620

..... UPCOMING AUCTIONS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 7TH @ 11:00 AM
ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD, SPORTS CARDS

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH @ 11:00 AM
ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD, TOOLS, COLLECTIBLES

ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, HOUSEHOLD & DÉCOR, FURNITURE, TOOLS & OUTDOOR, YARD & GARDEN & SHOP
NOW TAKING CONSIGNMENTS FOR JAN. 1ST ANTIQUE AUCTION

3825 SHADOWOOD DR. NE, SAUK RAPIDS, MN
DIRECTIONS: ST. CLOUD, E. ON HWY 23 LEFT ON 40TH (FOLLOW SIGNS)

THIS IS A PARTIAL LISTING. B.P. & MN tax applies.
See website for more:
www.midwestauctions.com/sharer
Keith Sharer Auction Service

320-267-1963

KELLER LAKE COMMONS
— ASSISTED LIVING —

Keller Lake Commons in Big Lake, now an Assisted Living Community offering full apartments ranging from 644 to 956 square feet. Cable is included in rents for private pay and housing support (formerly known as GRH) renters. Accepting EW and CADL. For more information please contact Nicole Gilder, Housing Director at 763-263-2363 or check us out online at www.kellerlakecommons.com

BUILDING SPECIALS
Quality Building Supplies at Affordable Prices
Since 1975

BOOK YOUR ORDER!
LATCHAM-LIND LUMBER & POST FRAME BUILDINGS
Call for a FREE estimate
117th Ave., Milaca
(north end of Milaca off Central Ave)
320-983-6304 • 1-800-818-1846

PATRIOT
WEATHERMAN

ATTENTION LOCAL BUSINESSES!

Clearwater Economic Development Authority
Holiday Business Open House

More information can be found at:
clearwatereda.com

City Of **CLEARWATER**
Economic Development Authority

LIVE MUSIC

Captains Dave and Ben
Cruise Control
For the love of music

THIS SAT. DEC. 6 8PM-MIDNIGHT

Scratch-made breakfast & build-your-own Bloody Mary bar every weekend,
Sat. & Sun, 8am-11am

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!
GoodFella's
Bar & Grill
14351 78th St NE, Ronneby

Give the gift of comfort! Buy a pair of boots that fit your feet properly!

R. WATSON BOOTS

All Mens' & Ladies' Boots
\$50 OFF smooth leathers
\$100 OFF Exotics

Offer Ends Dec. 14th, 2025

We are the only store in the country that measures feet like they did in the old days, carrying Work & Western Boots in every size from 3-18 and widths 4A-4E.

THE BOOT SHACK
WWW.THEBOOTSHACK.COM
2221 ROOSEVELT ROAD • ST. CLOUD • 320-251-6872

OUR GOAL IS HAPPY HOMES
PLUMBING - HEATING - COOLING - DRAINS

THELEN MECHANICAL
PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING
763-262-2181

24/7 SERVICE - 365 DAYS A YEAR

\$89 SAFETY INSPECTION
(763) 262-2181 WWW.THELENMECHANICAL.COM

McDonald's MEATS
Est. 1914
Clear Lake, MN

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH LOCAL FLAVOR!

FRESH PRIME RIB - FRESH HAMS

GIFT BOXES ARE THE PERFECT GIFT
Looking for the perfect gift? Our holiday gift boxes are packed with a delectable assortment of our finest meats and treats. From savory sausages to mouthwatering jerky, each box is a celebration of flavor, ideal for sharing with loved ones or treating yourself.

- Gift Cards
- Gift Boxes
- Build Your Own Meat Packs

13 Pre-Built Gift Boxes to choose from!

4 GENERATIONS STRONG
Same Location for 111 Years!

STORE HOURS
Mon-Fri: 8:30am to 6:30pm
Sat: 8:30am to 4:00pm Sun: 10:00am to 4:00pm
Visit us at www.mcdonaldsmeats.com
Hwy 24, Clear Lake, MN - (320) 743-2311

Big Lake Winter Farmers Market
Third Saturday
Big Lake City Hall
160 Lake St. N, Big Lake, MN
10 AM - 1 PM

November 15 | December 20
January 17 | February 21
*March 14 | April 18
*March Market at BLHS
biglakemn.org

New GBB coach hopes defense spurs offense

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Kendrick Livers is approaching his first year as Big Lake head girls basketball coach at Big Lake High School. He has a total of 28 years coaching between girls and boys basketball programs and was most recently head coach at Somerset High School for five years.

Kendrick's assistant coaches are: Emma Nielsen Varsity Assistant (returning from last years

coaching staff) and Shana Rella JV/Varsity Assistant.

The team's roster includes: Junior Olivia O'Brien; Junior Ashley Fitzgibbons; Ninth-grader Shay France; Junior Nicari Chatman; Ninth-grader Paisleigh White; Junior Shiloh Elliot; Sophomore Kaeyln Besler; Eighth-grader Aubrey Judge; Eighth-grader Gemma Spilde; Freshman Greta Layton; Freshman Emma Greischar; Junior Lexi Parks; Freshman Natalie McCormack; Eighth-grader Macey Lingl and Freshman Chole Howe.

Fitzgibbons, Elliot, Layton and Parks were named captains. Team managers are: Lakeisha Johnson and Brielle Waite.

"I am most excited about the young talent we have and giving ourselves

a chance to compete for conference," said Livers.

Big Lake's head coach says his team is focused on defense first and will be pushing that ideal from the opening tip-off.

"Defense (is the key) which will lead us to more scoring," Livers says. "I believe fans will see a team playing together working hard and competing."

The JV squad consists of: Freshman Jennie Ware; Junior Nicari Chatman; Freshman Paisleigh White; Senior Ella Johnson; Freshman Makenna Warren; Eighth-grader Aubrey Judge; Freshman Ingrid Hanson; Freshman Hazel Guldseth; Sophomore Ar'ee Chatman; Eighth-grader Evelyn Schwirtz; Freshman Natalie McCormack and eighth-grader Macey Lingl.

5W TRAILERS

320-391-6824

To place your ad, call 763.275.0275 or stop by our office at
14054 Bank Street, Becker • Website: www.patriotnewsnmn.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ad Deadline is 11 AM WEDNESDAY
For your convenience we accept:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Becker Area Senior Center (BASC)
Open Mon. - Fri. 5am-5pm.
Becker Community Center:
763-200-4271. Planning meeting 3rd Wed. @ 1pm.

Becker American Legion Auxiliary
Auxiliary meetings from November to February are suspended. We will meet again in March of 2025. Contacts are Paula Hinds 763.691.4405 cell and Nellie Simpson 763.482.0619.

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

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

Becker Lions Club
Meetings are held the second Mon. each month at 7pm at Becker City Park's Shelter.

Becker Sons of the American Legion Squadron 193
Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7 pm at Becker Legion (old fire hall). Looking for new members. Andrew Lee (763) 482-9177.

Becker Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting
The monthly meetings are held 6 pm the third Thurs. of the month at Becker City Hall. (320) 980-2752 or see the state website at www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org.

Big Lake Senior Center
The Big Lake Senior Club meets Tues., 1-4pm, Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St. North. For more information, call: 763-309-1010 or 612-219-1614.

Big Lake American Legion Post #147
Meets the first Thurs. of the month @ 7 pm. Tribune Building, 29 Lake St.

Big Lake OPEN AA Meetings
Mon., 7pm at Saron Lutheran Church, Big Lake. Big Book Study, Handicap Accessible. Questions? Contact: Rob, (763) 218-5328.

The Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary
Meets the first Tues. Mar.-Dec. at 6:30pm. Tribune Building, 29 Lake St. Kathy at (763) 263-6093 for information.

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

Big Lake Community Food Shelf
The Big Lake Community Food Shelf hours of service are Mon. & Thurs. 5:30-7:30pm & Wed. 9-11am. www.blcfs.org.

The Big Lake Lions
Looking for community minded people to join our organization. If interested send a note to P.O. Box 128, Big Lake, MN 55309 or (763) 263-2218.

Big Lake Women of Today
Hold a monthly general meeting at Senior Activity Center located in the Big Lake City Office Building on the 3rd Thurs. of the month @ 7pm. www.biglakewomentoday.webs.com.

Clear Lake Legion
Meets the second Tues. of the month at 4180 105th Ave., Clear Lake. The Legion will meet at 7:30 p.m. 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 7 p.m. New members are always welcome. www.clearlakelionsmn.org.

Clearwater American Legion Post 323 & Auxiliary
Meets the second Thurs. of the month. Auxiliary 6:30 p.m., S.A.L. at 7 p.m., Legion at 7:30 p.m. at Clearwater Legion, Clearwater.

Clearwater/Clear Lake Food Shelf
Open Mon. 5:30-7 p.m., Tues., 9-11 a.m. & 6-8 p.m., Wed., 3-5 p.m. in the brown Lions Community Building beneath the water tower in Clearwater. Serving residents of Clearwater and Clear Lake.

Clearwater Lions Club
Meets second Tues. of the month at 8 p.m. Clearwater Pavilion. www.clearwaterlionsmn.com

Snake River Free Church
Christmas Hymn Sing, Sun., Dec. 14, 4:30 p.m. 5 mi. N of Hwy. 10 on Co. Rd. 11, 1.5 mi. E on Co. Rd. 5, 3/4 mi. N on 180th St. (8940 180th Ave. SE). For more info, email maryrickson41@yahoo.com

Rejoice Lutheran
Rejoice Lutheran Young at Heart, Clearwater for ages 55+ held the 3rd Thursdays each month at 10:30 am. 320-558-6851.

Knights of Columbus
130th Year Festival Sunday, July 13 in Duellm. Open at 11 a.m.

North Star Boys' Choir coming to Big Lake

By Bill Morgan, Editor

The North Star Boys' Choir will be hosting a Service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at Svea Hill Church in Big Lake. A free-will offering will be gratefully accepted at the door.

The address to Svea Hill Church in Big Lake is 16392 235th Ave. NW. For more information, go to www.NorthStarBoysChoirMN.org.

OUTDOOR FURNACES

OUTDOOR FURNACES NOTICE - Outdoor furnace, parts and supplies are in high demand and have limited availability. With approximate lead times of about 8 months, plan and look ahead. Reserve now to have one to install for this summer or fall installation. We feature Central Boiler furnaces and products for complete installation. We have financing available, and up to a \$2,000 tax credit available on select models. Reserve today. Call or go online, 763-972-6255; classactfurnace.com.

ESTATE SALE

"PICKERS" ESTATE SALE. Cleaning out a 100-year-old estate. No personal items included, but we do have antique bed frames, antique furniture, antique tools, antique items of interest such as pie safes, pump handles for wells, antique tool chest, antique garden tools. Saturday, November 8, 9-3:00. 220 Euclid Ave. Big Lake.

PATRIOT

WWW.PATRIOTNEWSNMN.COM

EXPIRES: Dec. 19, 2025

\$10 OFF \$50 OR MORE!

DINE IN ONLY! • MUST PRESENT COUPON • ONE COUPON PER VISIT

Los Oriztes MEXICAN RESTAURANT

14068 BANK ST., BECKER (ACROSS FROM SHERBURNE STATE BANK)

Hours: Sun-Thurs 11am-9pm Fri & Sat 11am-10pm

763-275-0270

AUTOMOTIVE

MURPHY CHEVROLET
New & Used Cars & Trucks
(320) 968-6239
www.murphychevrolet.com

1,200 CARS & PICKUPS FOR PARTS
UP TO 2007 MODELS
ALSO BUYING JUNK CARS & PICKUPS
Larry's Auto: 320-558-2245
320-309-7838 • 320-248-6380

USED CARS

220 USED CARS to choose from. We also BUY used cars. Guaranteed Approval! Morrie's Auto Connection, 559 Hwy 10, St. Cloud (next to the red barn Dairy Queen). 320-229-1900. Apply online at: www.MorriesAutoConnection.com

Pick up your Holiday boxes at Grand Champion Meats!

Grand Champion Merry Munchies Smoked Meat



We have many options of gift packages to choose from. Visit us in store or online at www.grandchampionmeats.com to see our entire selection of giftboxes and gift cards that we offer. Custom orders are welcome.

Shipping is also available. Advance orders are appreciated, but not required. Quantities are limited to those on hand. Prices, items, and boxes subject to change. Ask about our Meat & Cheese Platters!

GRAND CHAMPION MEATS

6634 Hwy. 25, FOLEY, MN 56329 • Hours: M-F, 8AM-6PM • SAT, 8AM-2PM • 320-968-7267

WWW.GRANDCHAMPIONMEATS.COM

BAR & BRICKYARD GRILL

Like us on Facebook

Brickyard's Annual CHRISTMAS TREE PROMOTION

FREE Pitcher of pop/beer

November 28 - December 23, 2025

Thank you for supporting your local businesses!

Bring in your Christmas tree receipt from any local tree farm and receive 1 free pitcher of pop or domestic beer free with the purchase of an entree.

8475 Center St., Clear Lake, MN 55319 • 320-743-5540
Hours: M-TH, 11am-12am; F-SA, 10am-2am; SU, 10am-12am
www.brickyardbarandgrill.net



Let us do your Holiday baking!

Baked Fresh Daily!

30 Custom Flavors of Bread

10 VARIETIES EVERY DAY NO ADDITIVES OR PRESERVATIVES

Pastries, Sandwiches, Coffee Cakes & More!
Large Selection of dinner rolls & specialty breads.

Diamond City Bread

315 Jackson Ave. — Lower Level —
Downtown Elk River
M-F 6:30am-6pm, Sat 6:30am-4pm
763-441-0002

FIR TREES 6-8" STILL \$75.99

B&J EVERGREEN CHRISTMAS TREE FARM

FREE EVENT DAYS

November 22 & 23	November 28, 29 & 30	December 6 & 7
Cutting Hours 9:00am-5:00pm	Cutting Hours 9:00am-5:00pm	Cutting Hours 9:00am-5:00pm
Events 11:30am-3:30pm	Events 10:30am-4:00pm	Events 11:30am-3:30pm

EVENTS
Santa-Petting Zoo-Face Painting-Chainsaw Carving
Horse Drawn Wagon Rides-Pony Rides-Food
Fire Pit-Playground- Cliff the Camel- Character Visits

Regular Hours
Daily
9:00am-5:00pm
Closed Thanksgiving Day

FREE Pitcher of Domestic Beer or Pop
Purchase your Christmas Tree at B&J Evergreen and get your coupon!

B&J Evergreen
12946 47th St
Clear Lake MN 55319
320-743-5540
www.bjevergreen.com
(Events Subject to weather)

Give the Gift of Laughter!

A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol

A Hilarious Minnesota Spoof of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol

Best Musical! -ReviewPlays.com
"Hysterical!" -KCLA
"A laugh a minute!" -Norway Times
"Go see it!" -Tom Barnard KQRS

Playing Dec 26, 27 & 28

Paramount Center for the Arts
St. Cloud, MN

Tickets 320-259-5463
DontHugMe.com

GOLDEN NURSERY & TREE FARM
(320) 393-2155

2 1/2 miles E of Rice on Cty Rd. 12 & 1 mile N on Cty Rd. 56

Since 1958!

Cut your own Balsam Fir or Colorado Spruce 5-14-ft. Only \$28

All Varieties of Pre-Cut Trees & Wreaths

OPEN NOV. 22-DEC. 23

HOURS: MON-THURS NOON-7PM FRI-SAT-SUN 9AM-7PM

CHRISTMAS TREES



12 COOKIES CO. Christmas Toy Drive

AT THE BRIGGS LAKE GENERAL STORE

DECEMBER SATURDAY 12:00-3:00

TOY DRIVE WILL RUN NOV 17TH TO DEC 18TH

BRING A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY, TIE BLANKET (WASHED AND WRAPPED), OR GIFT CARD. MEET SANTA AND THE CREW, DECORATE A SUGAR COOKIE FROM 12 COOKIES CO., ENTER THE COLORING CONTEST TO WIN A FREE BOX OF COOKIES, ENJOY HOMEMADE ICE CREAM FROM ROD'S ICE CREAM, TAKE A RIDE ON THE SLEIGH RIDE, ENJOY THE HAYRIDE FROM TWISTED J RANCH, AND ENJOY A FREE HOT DOG!

Pick up your Christmas hams!

WILD GAME TRIMMING (BONELESS ONLY)

GRAND MEADOW MEATS LLC
CLEARWATER, MN

FORMERLY T&R MEATS

STEAKS • PORK CHOPS • BRATS • HOT DOGS • HAMBURGERS • CHICKEN • ROASTS & MORE!

WE SLAUGHTER IN-HOUSE CALL TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT!

105 PINE ST., CLEARWATER • 320-558-6390

PUBLIC NOTICES - OBITS - SPORTS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS TO PUBLISH FINANCIAL STATEMENTS DELINQUENT TAX LIST AND OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF SHERBURNE COUNTY

Sealed bids for the publication of Sherburne County's financial statement, delinquent tax list, and the official proceedings of the Sherburne County Board, are to be submitted to the Sherburne County Auditor-Treasurer Office, Sherburne County Government Center, 80 Business Center Drive NW, Suite 0 Elk River, Minnesota 5 0 62 Bids will be accepted until 4 0 p.m. on December 8, 2025, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. From the said proposal received and accepted, the County Board of Commissioners will award the bids for the year 2026 at its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 6th at 9:00 a.m. or shortly thereafter. Bids will be received for the following:

1. Publication of financial statement as required by Minn. Stat. § 3 .1
2. Publication of official proceedings of the Sherburne County Board sessions as required by Minn. Stat. § 32
3. Publication of notice and list of real estate taxes remaining delinquent in Sherburne County as required by Minn. Stat. § 9 and 9

4P ublication of other public notices.

Bids shall be submitted in exact accordance with the Bidding Documents. The Bidding Documents may be obtained at the Sherburne County Auditor-Treasurer Office, Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Suite 100, Elk River, Minnesota 5

All bids must be sealed and marked "Bid for Publication of the Sherburne County Financial Statement, Delinquent Real Estate Taxes, and the Official Proceedings of the Sherburne County Board."

The Sherburne County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in bidding.

By order of the County Board.

Dated at Elk River, Minnesota, this 8 th day of November 0

/s/ Loraine Rupp, Auditor-Treasurer

Sherburne County

(Published in the Patriot: 11 0 32 /6/ 32 3 3)

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Ripplea**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **14386 100TH ST SE BECKER MN 55308 USA**

APPLICANT(S): Name: **Tschida Communications, LLC**
Address: **14386 100TH ST SE BECKER MN 55308 USA**

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

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

penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY:

Stefanie Peterson Tschida

MAILING ADDRESS:

None Provided

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL

NOTICES:

stef@tschidacommunications.com

Work Item: 1600130800026

Original File Number: 1600130800026

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED

11/17/2025 11:59 PM

/s/ Steve Simon

Secretary of State

(Published in the Patriot: 11/29/25, 12/6/25).



OBITUARIES

Lawrence Lee Pattee, 90 Big Lake, MN

August 13, 1935 – November 2, 2025

Lawrence Lee Pattee, 90, passed away at home on November 2, 2025, in the presence of his family. He was born on August 13, 1935, on a farm outside of Avoca, Iowa, the youngest and last surviving child of William and Alma (Rock) Pattee's seven children.

Lawrence grew up on a farm, which instilled a love of nature, an appreciation for hard work, and a strong sense of community, faith, and family.

He graduated from Avoca High School in 1953. Lawrence went to Tarkio College, in Tarkio, Missouri, where he met his wife of 68 years, Lavina (McKee) Pattee. Larry played football, basketball and ran track, earning 11 letters in college and was named Man of the Year for his graduating class. Larry and Lavina graduated from college in the morning and were married in the afternoon in the same building on May 21, 1957.

Larry was an educator—a teacher, coach, and school administrator—his whole life. He got a master's degree from the University of Illinois and a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon.

After serving in the Army, Larry lived in Tarkio, Missouri; Dubuque, Iowa; and Alexandria, Egypt, before retiring to Big Lake, Minnesota. He and

Lavina welcomed family visits, fishing in Big Lake and were active in the Buffalo Presbyterian Church.

Larry is survived by Lavina, their children Jeff, Randy (Val Ruttenberg), Linda (Jerry Gilfoyle), and Sharon

(Terry Kibby) and grandchildren Jack (Sophie), Emmett, and Cy Pattee, Emily (Connor) and Erin Kibby, and Catherine and Garrett Gilfoyle. He was preceded in death by siblings Laverne, Edward, Arlene, William, Wallace, Donald, and by his son, Keith.

Larry was a citizen of the world. He was happiest when traveling—whether behind the wheel of the car exploring all 50 United States or while visiting and living in over 30 countries. Dr. Pattee loved his family, the morning newspaper, shoveling snow, and sitting outside by the fire. Services will be held at Buffalo Presbyterian Church.

"It wasn't about the miles; it was about the people."



Juan A. Gutierrez deluque, 64 Becker, MN

November 23, 1961 – November 25, 2025

Memorial Services were at 4 p.m. Friday, December 5, 2025 at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker for Juan A.

Gutierrez deluque, age 64, who passed away Tuesday surrounded by family at his home. Visitation was 2-4 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home.

Juan was born November 23, 1961 in Rochester to Antonio and Joan (Rissinger) Gutierrez deluque. He married Judy Von Wald on June 8, 0 in Becker. Juan earned his Bachelors degree and worked as a programmer in the technology field. He achieved his pilot's license fulfilling a lifelong love of aviation and adventure. He loved to go hunting, downhill skiing, rid-

ing snowmobiles, motorcycles, cars, basically anything with a motor, and sharing those experiences with his children.

Juan is survived by his wife of 34 years, Judy of Becker; daughter, Paige (Liam) Jenkins of Becker; son, Antonio of Becker; granddaughter, Charlotte Jenkins; step-son, Alexander (Jessica) Brown of Grand Meadow; step-granddaughter, Ellie; brother, Victor Gutierrez deluque of Whitburrow, NY; and nephew, Christopher Gutierrez deluque of Galveston, TX.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

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



Henry August Michael Moos "Hammy", 85 Formerly of Big Lake and Elk River, MN October 13, 1940 – November 26, 2025

Henry August Michael Moos "Hammy", age 85 passed away peacefully on November 26, 2025 in Antioch, Tennessee where he resided the last year and a half; formerly of Elk River and Big Lake. Born on the family homestead on October 13, 1940, the eldest of 1 children to Henry and Sarah (Hansen) Moos.

Hammy attended Dunn school and helped out on the family farm. He was very active with Options in Big Lake.

Hammy loved watching airplanes and watching traffic go by, especially on a busy Friday night. He also enjoyed visiting Morrell Trucking and the Fire Stations in Elk River and Big Lake. He enjoyed socializing with everyone, and enjoying a good cup of coffee, often expressing "Mmm, that's good coffee!"

Hammy was a bright light that brought happiness to everyone around him with his uplifting personality and contagious smile. He was always ready to give a big hug.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Henry and Sarah Moos; and sisters, Mary DeMars and Stephanie Olene.

Hammy is survived by his sisters, Jean Balfanz, Jeanette Pettyjohn, Celeste Mohler, Susan Schack, Wilhelmina Moos (Scott), Michelle Boeckers; brothers, James Moos, Daniel (Debbie) Moos; and many nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, great-great-nieces and great-great-nephews; and other family and friends.

Visitation will begin at 11:00 a.m., with a time of sharing at 1:30 p.m. and prayer service at 2 0 p.m., on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Dare's Funeral Home of Elk River, MN. Burial following at Saint Andrew Cemetery in Elk River, MN.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Dare's Funeral Home of Elk River, MN. 763-441-1212. www.daresfuneralservice.com.



Eagles Have Tenacity, Speed and Positive Energy

*By Bill Morgan,
Editor*

Zach Barzee is heading into his seventh season as head coach of Becker-Big Lake Eagles hockey team. He spent one year as assistant coach prior to getting the head coaching position so technically, it's his eighth season coaching in the program.

Tom Kluk returns for his sixth season as an assistant while Tom Zerwas joins the club for his first season.

Thirty-six athletes are in the hockey program for varsity and JV including: Colton Pishney, Van Dugger, Titus Borkoski, Marek Gerads, Brandt Hemmelgarn, Finn Kellogg, Brody Barth, Will Emerson, Jack Schwartz, Brant Rusin, James Chaffee, Brayden Hoff, Gavin Jacobson, Laken Esping, Owen Bearson, Owen Zahler, Raymond Clark, Haven Karls, Carter Tatge, Josh Peterson, Jackson Peterson, Eddie Lane, Tate Spilde, Wyatt Bodle, Ethan Grafnitz, Ashdon Draeger, Lucas Hancock, Elliott Grafintz, Max Klassen, Tucker Tatge, Gabe Kluk, Hayden Kipka, Tanner Felton, Braun Bolton, Jaxon Reiffenberger and Duncan Pennie.

"We have a fast team and good depth," said Coach Barzee. "We have 15 seniors, so a well experienced group of players who are all excited about putting in the work to be the best they can be."

Barzee says working with high school players is enjoyable.

"It's because this time in their lives involves so much change and to be a part of that change is rewarding as a coach," he said.

Captains for this season are: seniors Carter Tatge, Tucker Tatge, Gavin Jacobson and Ethan Grafnitz.

Barzee believes his team has a bit of everything needed in hockey — good offense, solid defense and great goaltending.

"We have the potential to be a great offensive team, but we spend a lot of time and effort playing well defensively," he said. "The best defense is the best offense. Our goaltending is solid as well."

Barzee promises that when fans descend upon the hockey arean wherever they play, the team will be playing their tails off.

"I believe that our identity as a team is our speed, our tenacity and our positive energy," he said.

TROY-BILT SNOWBLOWER	\$1099.00
BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM	\$19.99
CHARBROIL GAS 2 CHARCOAL GRILL	\$549.99
LIGHTED TREE	\$38.99
SLED	\$17.99
TEDDY BEAR	\$19.99
SNOWMAN	\$15.99

PRICES GOOD THROUGH DEC. 13 OR WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve 8am to 2pm; Christmas Day Closed; New Years Eve 8am to 2pm; New Years Day Closed

Becker True Value

M-F 8am - 6pm • Sat 8am - 5pm • Sun 10am - 3pm

13350 1st St, Becker, MN • 763-261-4464
(Next to Becker Furniture World)

#MNNiceandWarm

You don't have to choose.

HEAT OR BASIC NEEDS

Apply for Energy Assistance Online at Mn.gov/home

Tri-CAP Helping People. Changing Lives.

www.tricap.org • 1.888.765.5597

RC RIVERSIDE'S A PRODUCTION OF

CHRISTMAS

Carol

DECEMBER 12, 13 & 14

Free TICKETS 763.263.2410

MYRC.CHURCH

20314 COUNTY RD 14 NW, BIG LAKE

Having eye problems? We can help!

Dr. Gossman has decades of experience & extensive training & expertise!

Dr. Mitchell Gossman
Dr. Melanie Thares

"Dr. Gossman did an amazing job with my cataract surgery. I would highly recommend him!"
— **Mike Nehring, Cataract Surgery patient**

SPECIALIZING IN:

- Cataracts
- Blurred Vision
- Diabetic Eye Disease
- Glaucoma
- All Other Eye Disorders
- Macular Degeneration
- Dry Eyes
- Routine Eye Exams

SCHEDULE YOUR LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE NOW!

Accepting all major insurance including Medicare.

Eye Associates
of Central Minnesota

WWW.EAOFM.COM

628 Roosevelt Rd., Suite 101
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-774-3789

Monticello Memorials LLC.

Monuments • Markers

Monticello Memorials, LLC
217 Sandberg Road
Monticello, MN 55362

763-314-0322
www.monticellomemorials.com

Be a Patriot Page Sponsor! Call 763.275.0275 to secure your ad



RAYZ WINDOW CLEANING

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
320-200-4460

Proudly supporting the Patriot and all events, activities and businesses in Becker and the surrounding communities!



Sherburne State Bank

12500 Sherburne Ave.,
Becker, MN 55308
763.261.4200

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE NEWSPAPER, EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND BUSINESSES IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES!



T.J. Potter TRUCKING
BECKER, MN
763-262-5850
tjpottetrucking.com

J. Austin Construction, LLC



Quality Construction – Built to Handle Our Midwest Weather!

Custom Built to Any Size
Fast & Economical!

24x24x10	\$7,500	36x48x10	\$14,000
30x40x10	\$11,000	40x64x12	\$18,000

Subject to local building codes, snowload requirements, delivery & crew travel in some areas. Prices subject to change without notice.

Ask About Concrete Prices!

Austin Gutwasser
320.492.6364
j.austinconstruction@yahoo.com



Fully Insured
#BC-20574944

Bulldog boys have experience, lofty goals

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog boys basketball team comes into the 2025 season with a solid group of experienced, returning letterwinners, as well as lofty expectations, including goals for a section run and the program's first conference title in over three decades.

"Our strength lies in our unselfishness and how well our guys play together," said Coach Cory Nuest, who returns for his third season at the helm. "The keys for us to have a successful season will be embracing the game with joy, taking a big step forward defensively, celebrating each other's successes, and being disciplined with shot selection."

A year ago, the team tied the school record for wins and established a new program mark for team assists. And over the past two years, fans have witnessed firsthand the octane of Nuest's offensive system, as the Bulldogs can really put up the points. The team's high expectations are matched by the preseason polls, as the Bulldogs are ranked #8 in Class AAA by Prep Hoops.

Nuest believes this group has the right mix of experience, chemistry, and competitiveness to take another step forward. The Bulldogs return five key contributors from last season — Bryce Paumen, Nathan Weiss, Isiah Boyer, Troy

SPORTS/AREA NEWS

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

ATTORNEYS



JEDDELOH SNYDER STOMMES
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

100+ YEARS
COMBINED EXPERIENCE

DIVORCE
FAMILY LAW
CHILD CUSTODY
WILLS & TRUSTS
ESTATE PLANNING
ELDER LAW
BUSINESS PLANNING
COMMERCIAL LAW
REAL ESTATE LAW
CRIMINAL LAW

763-262-2889

101 JEFFERSON BLVD
BIG LAKE

JSSMN.COM

FUNERAL



PETERSON - GRIMSOM FUNERAL CHAPEL

Serving your community since 1933

250 East Broadway
Monticello, MN 55362
763-295-2918
Our family serving yours!

FUNERAL



WILLIAMS DINGMANN
FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

2025 THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY CHOICE AWARDS
Best of Central MN WINNER

williamsdingmann.com

PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

MULCH

WRUCK EXCAVATING INC. – YOUR TRUSTED SEPTIC EXPERTS

- Septic system design & installation
- Septic Tank & Drain Field Repair
- Routine Maintenance & emergency Services
- Water jetting, video drain inspection services


Call today for a free estimate!
24/7 Service • Emergency #: 320.267.1855
Visit us online: wruckyeah.com



15920 HWY. 10, BECKER • 763-262-0871

This community newspaper is proudly brought to you by the advertisers within. Shop local.

ELECTRICAL



hubbard ELECTRIC

RYAN HUBBARD
763-263-8334

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURAL

SHEET METAL



DAHLEN RUUD
SHEET METAL & HEATING INC.

320-743-2479
• DAHLENSHEETMETAL@FRONTIER.COM
CLEAR LAKE, MN
WWW.DAHLENSHEETMETAL.COM

DENTAL



MONTICELLO DENTAL CENTER

Providers of General and Coordinated Specialty Dentistry

Dr. Dean Calpas
Dr. Beth Amundson
Dr. Kira Powell

763-263-7100
FAX: 763-263-7114
20460 County Road 11 NW
Big Lake, MN 55309

www.monticellodentalcenter.com



ASAP PUMPING SERVICE



EMERGENCY SERVICE!

• COMMERCIAL SEPTIC PUMPING
• RESIDENTIAL SEPTIC TANK PUMPING
• HOLDING TANKS • ROUTINE MAINTENANCE
• TANK COMPLIANCE • EMERGENCY SERVICE

CALL 763 415-0319

SERVING BECKER, BIG LAKE, ELK RIVER AND SURROUNDING AREA

EMPLOYMENT

KASOWSKI GROUP

NOW HIRING!

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

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



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

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

2025-26 School Year Substitutes:

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

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



BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS!!

\$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS!!

***NOW OFFERING PAID TRAINING**


*MINIMUM OF 3.5 HOURS A DAY WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE

Up to \$60 per route based on experience.
Benefits include:
*Health, Dental, & LTD (Coverage year round)
* Paid personal, sick, and holidays
* PERA (Public Employee Retirement Assoc.)
* 403 (B) Matching Retirement Options



CONTACT US TODAY! 763-261-4588

Developing Self-Directed Learners to Thrive in a Changing Global Community



The City of Becker is accepting applications for the position of **Full-Time Streets and Parks Supervisor** in the Public Works department. Essential functions of this job include first level supervisory, skilled/technical, and some administrative work to coordinate the day-to-day maintenance and repair of all city infrastructure and assist the Public Works and Parks Assistant Director in the division's administration and construction program. In addition, this position uses personal/organizational knowledge and technical expertise to ensure staff are properly trained, effectively supervised, and that work is completed timely and meets quality standards. Must be able to respond, in person, to urgent and emergency situations.

Minimum requirements include: a high school degree or equivalent, Class A or B commercial driver's license, four or more years of experience in the construction, maintenance and repair of comparable infrastructure. In addition, two or more years of leadership or supervisory experience with comparable duties for a group of full-time employees. Preferred qualifications include a strong mechanical background with demonstrated skills in troubleshooting/problem-solving a variety of operating concerns/issues with equipment, machinery and mechanical systems. Four or more years of experience with snow removal activities including route planning and coordination. Four or more years' experience as a supervisor or lead in a municipal, county or state public works department.

Wage range is \$37.28 - \$48.46/hour dependent on qualifications and experience. Becker has an excellent benefit package including PERA retirement, employer paid health insurance, health savings account, dental insurance, life insurance, long term disability insurance.

For more information go to <https://www.ci.becker.mn.us/Jobs.aspx> for the job description and application materials. Submit cover letter, application, supplemental questions and resume by Monday, December 22 at 4:00 PM to City of Becker, Attn: Shannon Mortenson, 12060 Sherburne Avenue, Becker, MN 55308 or email to smortenson@ci.becker.mn.us. EEO/AEE

Proudly serving the communities of
Becker, Big Lake, Clear Lake and Clearwater!

We appreciate your business and readership!

PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM



THE BECKER BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM is looking for its first conference title since 1994. (Photo courtesy of Lommel Photography).

Nuest, and Sawyer Brown — who bring leadership, scoring balance, and defensive toughness.

Senior Saul Kreft looks to provide key minutes with rebounding and three-point shooting, while fellow classmates Nolan Burau and Owen Reinking are expected to provide depth, maturity, and energy that will be vital to the team's success.

"This group has put in the work and is excited to compete," Nuest said.

While the Bulldogs are keyed in on racking up the wins, Nuest will again focus his team on his core values — the six C's — Compete, Composure, Commitment, Charisma, Coachable, and Connected. Nuest said these traits "define what it means to be a Becker Bulldog."

Team and player goals

will be to build the players into better men and players, positively impact those who cross the program's path, create memorable basketball experiences, compete for section and conference titles and to leave a legacy by leaving the program better than each player found it.

With those goals, and the talent of the team, Nuest and company just may find themselves atop the conference for the first time since 1994.

Bulldogs Win Opener
The Becker boys basketball team opened up the season Tuesday evening with a dominant, 85-60 win over Legacy Christian Academy.

Coach Cory Nuest has promised an increased emphasis on defense this year, and his team delivered in holding the Lions to 60 points after they had scored 100 in their season opener.

The Bulldogs were on fire from the tipoff, delivering one of the best opening performances in recent history and racing to a 37-7 lead. Nuest cited his team's relentless defense, outstanding rebounding and smart decision making for the torrid start.

"I am very proud of our players and the way they came out with joy, energy, and intensity," Nuest said. "We want to be a light to anyone who watches us play, and the boys accomplished this in game one."

The Lions made a game of it in the second half, trimming the lead to 13, yet the Bulldogs answered with excellent composure to put the game away.

Becker won the offensive rebound battle 24-6 and had 22 assists to just five turnovers.

Nate Weiss led the attack with 28 points and five boards, while Bryce Paumen chipped in 18 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists, finishing just three dishes away from a triple double.

Troy Nuest added 14 points and eight rebounds (six assists), while Isiah Boyer (18 rebounds) and Saul Kreft (four points, eight rebounds) were beasts on the board.

The Bulldogs also received strong minutes off the bench from Nolan Burau and Owen Reinking, who provided energy and stability to help secure the win.

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEWS

Big Lake dance continues to grow



THE 2025-26 BIG LAKE DANCE TEAM is on the rise as Head Coach Kayla Olson says she is super excited for the upcoming season. (Submitted Photo).

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Kayla Olson is entering her eighth season as head coach of the Big Lake dance team, and her ninth year overall with the team. “I am also currently serving my first year on the Minnesota Association of Dance Teams (MADT) Board of Directors as I was elected this past spring,” Olson said.

Emily Merkley is entering her fourth year with the team as the Head JV Jazz Coach and is a varsity assistant coach. Madison Wahlberg is entering her third year with the team as Head JV Kick and B-Squad Jazz Coach. Amira Hackensmith joined Olson’s coaching staff this year and will assist JV Kick and B-Squad Jazz.

The 2025-26 roster includes: Senior Alexis Gosewisch - team manager; Senior Amanda Marcks - leadership team; Senior Brooklyn May - leadership team; Senior Audrey Myers - leadership team; Senior Greta Schwirtz - team manager; Senior Alivia Voss - team captain; Senior Maia Wenderski - leadership team; Junior Ruby Blakeney - leadership team; Junior Gillian Harrington; Junior Morgan Panek - team captain; Junior Liliiah Schaller - leadership team; Junior Haylee Tough; Sophomore Olivia Aughenbaugh; Sophomore Keziah Aware; Sophomore Jady Markfort; Sophomore Bobbi Russ; Sophomore Rae Storland; Freshman Charley Davis; Freshman Emma Goplin; Freshman Elsie Jagusch; Freshman Ainsley McGuire; Freshman Jessica Osowski;

Freshman Camryn Spaeth; Freshman Kyla Wenderski; Eighth-grader Maddi Hemauer; Eighth-grader Arlene Kaczor; Eighth-grader Laney Langevin; Eighth-grader Brooke Luoma; Eighth-grader Melany Mitchell; Eighth-grader Sophie Spurgin; Eighth-grader Avery Voss; Eighth-grader Scarlet Wagner; Seventh-grader Lola Bieniek; Seventh-grader Mylah Linn-Christianso; Seventh-grader Tori Quarberg and Seventh-grader Lydia Rydbom.

“We are super excited to have our largest team roster in program history along with our largest Varsity Kick, Varsity Jazz, JV Kick, and B-Squad Jazz teams,” said Olson. “We are looking forward to competing against the majority of AA teams in Minnesota as we will travel to seven different invites across the state this season.”

Olson says her team always enjoys having the opportunity to compete against so many quality teams.

“We are also excited to host our fourth annual invite on Mon., Jan. 19, 8!

Olson says being able to see this program grow year-after-year has been the most incredible experience to be a part of.

“From a team of nine dancers my first year to now a team of 34, I am so proud of how far we have come,” she said.

Olson says there is nothing more rewarding than having the opportunity to be a leader and role model to the amazing individuals who have chosen to be part of this program.

“I am so thankful to be

a part of this team because the culture we have created is full of positivity, inclusion, and fun! We truly are a family,” she said.

Olson’s squad will have two team captains this year. Their senior captain is fifth year team member, Alivia Voss. Their junior captain is fifth year team member, Morgan Panek.

“Both dancers have been on Varsity Kick and Varsity Jazz since their rookie seasons,” said Olson. “We are so excited to have them leading us to another successful season!”

Olson says that with five years of experience at the varsity level, she is confident in their leadership abilities and she is excited for them to have this opportunity as they have been wonderful role models since their very first year on the team.

“In dance, there is strength in numbers which is why we are extra excited to have our largest teams in both Varsity Jazz and Varsity Kick,” said Olson. “We feel equally confident in both.”

Varsity Kick is a team of 20 with 4 Varsity Kick veterans. Varsity Jazz is a team of 2 with six Varsity Jazz veterans.

“We are excited to showcase a ‘true jazz’ team at the Varsity Jazz level and a more ‘hip hop style’ for Varsity Kick,” said Olson. “(Those) are two things we haven’t done since I took over the program in 2018. We are looking forward to bringing something new to the table, and we think fans will be excited to see something completely different than they’re used to!”

Pettis is energized by team growth

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Lance Pettis is rejoining the Big Lake boys basketball team as head coach for his second year and he says he is thrilled for what’s ahead in the program.

“Before coming to Big Lake, I spent three years as the head coach at Blaine and 17 years as a high-school assistant, along with extensive experience in youth and developmental programs,” Pettis said. “I graduated from Owatonna High School and played college basketball at Gustavus Adolphus, experiences that deeply shaped my coaching foundation.”

Pettis says that coaching multiple sports at the varsity level—including basketball, baseball, and football—has given him a broad perspective on player development, skill training, and program coordination.

“All of this has helped me create a comprehensive and student-centered approach to leading this program,” he continued.

Pettis says he is fortunate to be surrounded by an outstanding coaching staff including Andrew Linaman, who coached with Pettis at Blaine.

“(Linaman) brings a strong basketball mind and a tremendous ability to build meaningful relationships with players,” Pettis said.

Another one of Pettis’ assistants is Chuck McConville, who has been part of the Big Lake staff under multiple head coaches and adds invaluable experience and a unique perspective that elevates the program’s game planning and preparation.

“Together, our staff is committed to supporting our athletes both on and off the floor,” Pettis said.

“As we head into the upcoming season, I’m energized by the growth this group has already shown and the competitiveness they display every day in practice,” said Pettis. “We have a strong mix of returning contributors and emerging young talent.”

Seniors Lane Pettis and Trevor Stukenholtz, junior Leroy Hamrin, and senior Will Newland all return with significant varsity experience, as does sophomore Judd Layton, who made a major impact as a ninth-grader last year.

“Lane and Judd were both honorable-mention all-conference selections last season, with Lane averaging 10 points and over 100 assists, while Judd averaged 11 points and led our guards in rebounding,” Big Lake’s head coach said.

“Leroy’s ability to attack the rim and defend at a high level stands out, and

Will and Trevor bring reliable perimeter shooting that stretches defenses.”

Pettis also says he expects junior Eddie Reinert to make a big leap this year.

“His strong culture was established in year one, and the buy-in from players has been outstanding.”

Pettis says the players understand the importance of being true student-athletes—success in the classroom supports success on the court. Their commitment and work ethic gives Pettis tremendous confidence.

“One of my favorite aspects of coaching at this level is the opportunity to help young people grow,” he said. “Not just as basketball players, but as leaders and dependable teammates.”

Pettis says it is incredibly rewarding to watch athletes build confidence, persevere through challenges, and support one another throughout the season. That development, he says, is what makes high school athletics special.

Pettis has named three ballplayers as captains including seniors Lane Pettis and Will Newland, along with sophomore Judd Layton.

“They have already shown strong leadership, maturity, and a steady presence within the program,” he said. “Their example sets the tone for the team.”

Big Lake’s greatest potential this season lies in the team’s combination of speed, defensive intensity, versatility, and scoring depth.

“We have athletes who excel in transition, can guard multiple positions, and create offense in a variety of ways,” Pettis says. “As our communication and consistency continue to strengthen, we have the pieces to become a well-rounded and highly competitive team.”

Fans attending Big

Lake’s games this year can expect a team that plays with high energy, discipline, and togetherness.

“We pride ourselves on competing on every possession, sharing the basketball, and playing a fast, exciting, and team-driven style,” said Pettis. “This group embodies what it means to represent Big Lake, and we look forward to putting a product on the floor that our community can be proud of.”

The varsity roster includes: Alton Ahamed, Carter Gerlach, John McCormack, Lane Pettis, Trevor Stukenholtz, Will Newland, Minhaj Bille, Caelin McConville, Maurice Yekeku, Leroy Hamrin, Eddie Reinert, Max Baron, Danny Rotz, Judd Layton, Walker Bleymeyer, Noah Walker, Bennett Thieke and Joseph Hillyard.



Expect local and knowledgeable mortgage lenders.

Cory Nuest
Mortgage Originator
NMLS 402524
(320) 287-3329

CorTrust Mortgage
Raise your expectations.
CorTrustBank.com/Mortgage

Member FDIC
NMLS 458038

Good Luck Hornet & Bulldog Athletes!

3 Sons Hardware, LLC
Big Lake, Minnesota

263-2019

Lake Shopping Center • Big Lake
M-F, 8am-7pm; Sat., 8am-6pm; Sun., 9am-5pm

Good Luck Bulldogs and Hornets!

emr

PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

GOOD LUCK WINTER SPORTS ATHLETES!

Lommel
photography
763.263.6974
lommelphotography.com

GOOD LUCK BECKER & BIG LAKE TEAMS!

T.J. Potter TRUCKING
Becker • 763-262-5850
tjpottertrucking.com

Dental care for the entire family

Aaawwwsome

That's my

P Park Dental Big Lake

Our dentists offer the utmost care to moms, dads and kids of all ages.

16991 198th Ave NW
Big Lake | 763-263-6350

Good luck this season, Hornets and Bulldogs!

parkdental.com

GOOD LUCK BULLDOGS! WE ARE WISHING YOU A SUCCESSFUL SEASON!

THE CITY OF
BECKER
MINNESOTA

HAVE A GREAT SEASON BULLDOGS!

BECKER True Value

13350 1st St, Becker, MN • 763-261-4464
Open 7 Days M-F 8-7 • Sat 8-5 • Sun 10-3 (Next to Becker Farm World)

WINTER SPORTS PREVIEWWS

There's no stopping Becker wrestling



THE BECKER 2025-26 WRESTLING TEAM consists of (varsity): Brady Anderson, Gus Baldry, Brayden Boots, Logan Carrington, Blaine Cox, Odin Duncombe, Andrew Fischer, Aiden Golley, Tyler Hall, Bennett Kujawa, Rylan Kujawa, Boston Kuschel, Aaron Malikowski, Grady Mueller, Deegan Schmidt, Chase Stupar, and Jacob Williams. (Photo courtesy of Lommel Photography)

By Maria Moore,
Contributing Writer

Becker Wrestling is ready for an exciting season with a well-balanced lineup and very high skill sets from the returning wrestlers.

The head coach this year is Travis Holt (five years of experience), and the assistant coaches this year are Jesse Puncocar (five years of experience), Jaydon Grommersch (seven years of experience), Tee Baker (two years of experience), and Luke Salzer (eight years of experience).

The returning varsity

wrestlers are as follows: Brady Anderson, Gus Baldry, Brayden Boots, Logan Carrington, Blaine Cox, Odin Duncombe, Andrew Fischer, Aiden Golley, Tyler Hall, Bennett Kujawa, Rylan Kujawa, Boston Kuschel, Aaron Malikowski, Grady Mueller, Deegan Schmidt, Chase Stupar, and Jacob Williams.

The captains this year are Brayden Boots, Aiden Golley, Bennett Kujawa, and Grady Mueller.

The two goals for this year's team are to place in the top three at the state tournament and to have

multiple All-Conference/State placewinners. Tough competition during conference season is coming in the form of Cambridge-Isanti, and tough section opponents are going to be Foley and DCL.

Last year, the team took third at state with two individual state champions (Kaden Nicolas and Landen Kujawa) and three other place winners (Boston Kuschel, Bennett Kujawa, and Owen Angell).

Bulldog girls will be entertaining

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Head Coach Dan Baird is looking forward to his 10th season in charge of the Becker girls basketball program, as his team will be young but talented enough to challenge for the section title.

"Our team goals are to continue to grow and then challenge for the section title," said Baird, who will again be assisted by Dom Squires.

Megan Gamble returns to the program as a volunteer assistant coach, while Scott Gudmundson will be doing scouting and film study from Florida.

The Bulldogs have three starters returning from a year ago, with Andie Changamire (freshman, who averaged nearly 19 points per game), Adele Changamire (sophomore, - nearly 14 ppg) and Tess Brown (sophomore, who averaged over 6 ppg) giving the team important experience.

Adele Changamire and Josie Reckelberg will serve as team captains.

In the Mississippi 8 Conference, Monticello is the clear favorite, as Baird believes the Magic are good enough to compete for a state title despite moving up to Class AAAAA this season.

In Section 5AAA, the Bulldogs could very well compete with Totino-Grace and St. Francis for a state berth.

While Baird's philosophy won't change a great deal this year, fans will notice the Bulldogs playing more zone defense than in the past.

One minor rule change for this season will see the ball taken out of bounds on the baseline for any team fouled inside the arc, while any foul outside the arc will see the ball inbounded from near half court. This could lead to a greater emphasis on out of bounds plays for the offense.

A year ago, Becker went 15-12 overall, including a 13-3 mark in the Mississippi 8 Conference. Once again, the Bulldogs will play a grueling schedule with many top MN teams dotting the schedule.

Baird also noted key injuries to players Reckelberg and Aria Deidrick, meaning the Bulldogs will have openings for other players to step up.

"Our schedule is tough, so be patient with this group, as we're going to be really good come March!" Baird said. "We're young, but have a lot of returning experience."

Vs. Elk River

It was a titanic clash of two very good girls basket-

ball teams Tuesday night in Elk River, with Becker falling 57-53 to Elk River, a very good Class AAAAA, undefeated team.

"This was just an incredible high school basketball game," Coach Dan Baird said. "I'm very proud of our girls who gave us a chance to win against a very good 4A team in Elk River who is now 3-0."

The Elks are solid at every position and play great, pressure defense with a veteran lineup, but the Becker youngsters didn't back down.

"Our girls attacked the basket well all night, hit 40% from the 3 point line, and didn't back down for one second," Baird added. "Our young team battled them possession to possession . . . and the difference in the game was they just made a shot down the stretch and we didn't."

Adele Changamire was amazing in this contest, scoring 24 points, grabbing six rebounds and stuffing four blocks for Becker. Andie Changamire added 13 points and five assists for Becker, who is now 1-1 in the young season.



Watch out for Becker gymnastics in 2025-26

By Maria Moore,
Contributing Writer

The Becker Gymnastics team is ready to get out there and show off their skills to their competition.

The returning head coach this year consists of Jen Harmoning, along with returning assistants Brent Wuollet, Sheena Meillier, and Stevee Hansen.

This year, there are six seniors: Lauren Biegler, Lillian Bonsante, Bella Brandt, Sabrina Jensen, Karli Kirk, and Chloe Spear. One junior: Violet Johnson. Three sophomores: Maggie Graning, Harper Miller, and Sophia Otto. Six eighth graders: Alyse Denne, Sabrina Finke, Brielle Kuschel, Abri Lyon, Kenzie Marquardt, and Lyla Waldbillig. Four seventh graders: Lucy Hackler, Jaida Hamacher, Jade Leal,



THE BECKER BULLDOG GYMNASTICS TEAM is once again talented and ready to compete at a high level. (Submitted Photo).

and Bella Villeneuve.

Karli Kirk and Maggie Graning are ready to come back for another strong year after having been multiple-time state qualifiers. There are seven returning letter winners: Karli Kirk, Chloe Spear, Lillian Bonsante, Violet Johnson, Maggie Graning, Alyse Denne, and Brielle Kuschel.

Some of the team goals

this season include working together and supporting each other as they work to become the best versions of themselves, finish top two in the conference, win the section and qualify for state as a team, and perform well at state and in turn earn a medal.

The tough opponents this year are Monticello, Cambridge Isanti, and Big

Lake, with all teams hoping to make it to state.

Last year, the Bulldog team took second place to Monticello while Maggie Graning placed seventh on floor and 15th on bars in the state. Karli Kirk placed sixth on vault at state, and th team lost three seniors to graduation.

"This is a group with a ton of heart," said Head Coach Harmoning. "They are hard workers and good people. As coaches, we couldn't ask for more. It will be a lot of fun to see where their hard work leads the team this season."

The team will be competing Friday, Dec. 5 at home against Wayzata and Chaska-Chanhassen and Thursday the 11th at home against Princeton on Parents' Night.

Bailey Ray's Roadhouse restoration underway



BAILEY RAY'S ROADHOUSE is currently being restored after a fire that halted business occurred in July. The owners hope the restaurant/bar will be open for business by spring-time. (Submitted Photo).

By Mary Nehring,
Contributing Writer

Restoration is underway at Bailey Ray's Roadhouse in Santiago after the business sustained substantial damage due to a fire this past summer (early July, 2025.)

Owners Pat and Rebecca O'Brien shared the

following update.

"The roof of the bar should be opened up and replaced next week and then the interior restoration will start," the message said. "We are anticipating a finish date of mid February. We would like to have the bar opened March 1, but there are a lot of factors to be considered."

A Kind Gesture...



DANIELLE KRUEGER of Third Rail placed a Christmas wreath on the Big Lake Veterans Memorial this week. (Submitted Photo).

RESIDENTIAL | COMMERCIAL | INDUSTRIAL

hubbard
ELECTRIC

BECKER, MN | (763) 263-8334 | HUBBMN.COM

Best of luck
this season,
athletes!

Go Bulldogs!

WE'RE CHEERING FOR YOU HORNETS!

COBORN'S

HAVE A GREAT SEASON, ATHLETES!

OODLES OF DOODLES
PET SPA

- Haircuts
- Nail Trims
- Baths
- Teeth Brushing

Madison Borst,
Owner & Ruger

505 N. Walnut St., Clearwater, MN • 320. 558.1134

HAVE A GREAT SEASON, ATHLETES!

HOLIDAY STATION STORE
LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION
OF HWY. 10 & CO. RD. 11
763-263-7550
HOURS: MON.-SAT., 5 AM TO 10PM; SUN., 6 AM TO 10 PM

Wishing you a successful season Bulldogs!

EDDIE'S
AUTO REPAIR
Our Family Taking Care of Your Family

8495 MAIN AVE, CLEAR LAKE PHONE: 320-743-9993

GOOD LUCK SPORTS TEAMS!

Don't worry, we've got
you covered in 2025-26

PATRIOT

WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

BEST OF LUCK

All Sports Teams!

WILLIAMS DINGMANN
FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

Becker • Big Lake • Clear Lake • Princeton
williamsdingmann.com

GOOD LUCK BUDDOGS

BURAU Homes

ROSS & ANNE BURAU
320-224-2993
BURAUHOMES@GMAIL.COM
WWW.BURAUHOMES.COM

RES
Realty

GOOD LUCK BULLDOGS!

STEIL INSURANCE
SERVICES, INC.

14054 Bank St., Becker
763-261-4201 • www.steilins.com