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PATRIOT OFFICE

763-275-0275
14054 Bank Street,
Box 458, Becker, MN 55308

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

LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS/

OBITUARIES

Call 763-275-0275 or send an email to legal@patriotnewsmn.com

SPORTS STORIES

Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill at reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com

ADVERTISING

Call 763-275-0275 or email Carol at (sales.carol@patriotnewsmn.com) or Mary at (adsales@patriotnewsmn.com).

DEADLINES:

Wednesday 11 am Legals & Notices, Wednesday 10 am Display & Classified Ads.

WEBSITE

Check out each week's content at our website: www.patriotnewsmn.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Patriot welcomes letters to the editor. Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill at reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com. Addresses and phone numbers are required for verification purposes.

The deadline for all letters is 11 am Wednesday. Limit letters to 200 words or less.

Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor and are subject to editing for grammar, libel and brevity. Two letters per writer per subject each year.

OBITUARIES:

Obituaries are \$75 prepaid. The Editor reserves the right to edit lengthy obituaries.

BUSINESS HOURS:

• Mon. - Wed. 8am to 5pm,
• Thurs. 8am to 3pm
• Friday CLOSED

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

\$100 annually,
\$50 for six months,
\$25 for three months or
\$9 a month.

SUBMITTED MATERIAL:

There will be a \$50 charge for all thank you, engagement,

wedding and birth

announcement

pictures. The Patriot is not responsible for correctness of ads

received by telephone.



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EDITORIALS - OPINIONS - NEWS - SPORTS

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: Catalya 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 Holm, 11th grade; Ivorie Klofstad, 11th grade; Lilianna Rousu, 11th grade; Naomi Huizinga, 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 season's results," said Goldsmith.

COUNTY
from page 1

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.

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!"

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

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 them might not be ready yet



BIG LAKE 2025 WRESTLING JUNIORS AND SENIORS. (Front, from left) Grant Volk, Elijah Schaller, Reagan Stenberg, (back) Jack Hess, Hank Kuchera, Austin Fredrickson 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 them might not be ready yet

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 checkbooks/loudest lobbyists.

Emmanuel Corona
Big Lake, MN

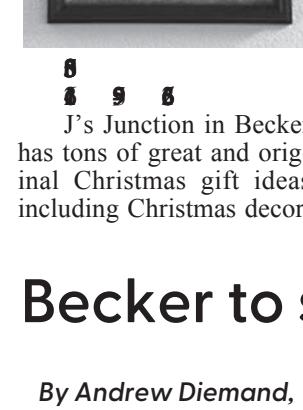
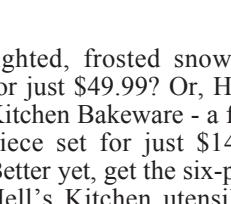
TO THE EDITOR:

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

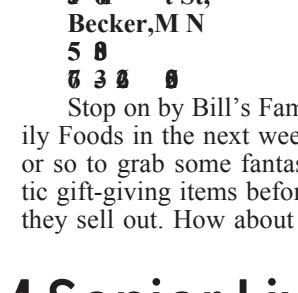
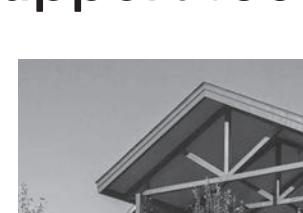
real, consistent, and impossible to dismiss. The fact that we even needed an "Epstein Files Transparency Act" says everything and conveniently, nothing can be released while files are "under investigation." Yet despite the evidence, some people still defend/support the man who stood shoulder-to-shoulder 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



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

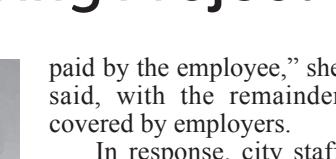
lotion, soap, jewelry, pajamas, metal wall decor and leather goods! They also have puzzles and games for ♀ to ♀. Also at the Junction are Charcuterie and cutting boards starting at just \$



Bill's Family Foods
301 1st St,
Becker, MN
50
638

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 \$

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 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.;

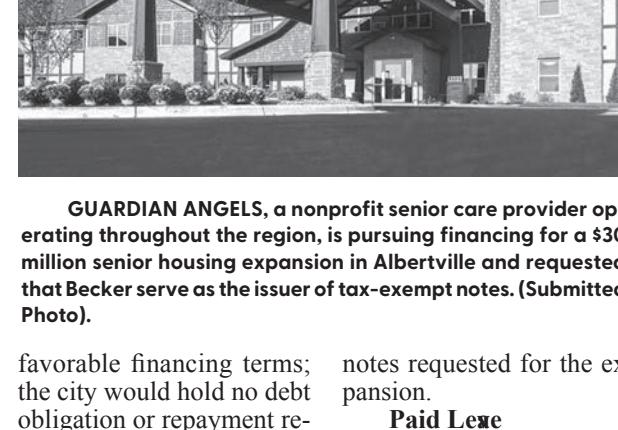
- Approved the solicitation of requests for quotes (RFQs) for servicing the cities of Becker, Big Lake, and Zimmerman's yard waste drop-off locations;

- 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.



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 1.

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 1% 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.



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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.biglakewomenoftoday.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 Stimmer 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. Servicing 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. SIE). For more info, email marierickson41@yahoo.com

Rejoice Lutheran

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

Knights of Columbus

130th Year Festival Sunday, July 13 in Duels. 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 installed 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.

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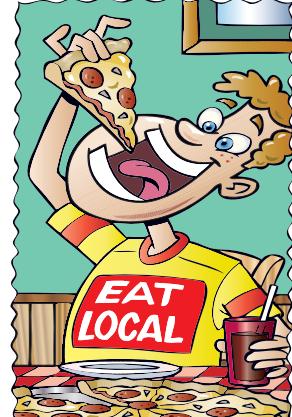
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December 6 & 7
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Events 11:30am-3:30pm

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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 100, Elk River, Minnesota 55321. Bids will be accepted until 4:00 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. § 3.
3. Publication of notice and list of real estate taxes remaining delinquent in Sherburne County as required by Minn. Stat. § 3.
4. Publication 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 55321.

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 8th day of November 2025.

/s/ Loraine Rupp, Auditor-Treasurer

Sherburne County

(Published in the *Patriot*: 11/2/22, 1/6/23, 1/3/23)

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

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Stefanie Peterson Tschida

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Work Item: 1600130800026

Original File Number: 1600130800026

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OF STATE

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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.

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, 1988 in Becker. Juan earned his Bachelor's 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 Whitsburrow, 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 (Hanson) 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 2:00 p.m., on Thursday, December 11, 2025 at Dares' Funeral Home of Elk River, MN. Burial following at Saint Andrew Cemetery in Elk River, MN.

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

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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 Grafritz, Ashton Draeger, Lucas Hancock, Elliott Grafritz, Max Klassen, Tucker Tatge, Gabe Kluk, Hayden Kipka, Tanner Felton, Braun Bolton, Jaxon Reiffenberger and Duncan Penny.

"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 Grafritz.

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 arena 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.

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OBITUARIES

Lawrence Lee Pattee, 90

Big Lake, MN

August 13, 1935 – November 2, 2025

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

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.

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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 Liliyah Schaller - leadership team; Junior Haylee Tough; Sophomore Olivia Aughenbaugh; Sophomore Keziah Aware; Sophomore Jadyn Markfort; Sophomore Bobbi Russ; Sophomore Rae Storland; Freshman Charley Davis; Freshman Emma Goplal; 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-Christianson; Seventh-grader Tori Quarberg and Seventh-grader Lydia Rydomb.

"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, 20!"

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 opportu-

nity to be a leader and role

model to the amazing indi-

viduals who have chosen to

be part of this program.

"I am so thankful to be

part of this team because

the culture we have created

is full of positivity, inclu-

sion, and fun! We truly are

a family," she said.

part

of

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team

is

full

of

positivity

inclusion

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Pettis is energized by team growth

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

Lance Pettis is retrunning to 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, Minhal Bille, Caelin McConville, Maurice Yeketu, Leroy Hamrin, Eddie Reinert, Max Baron, Danny Rotz, Judd Layton, Walker Bleymeyer, Noah Walker, Bennett Thieke and Joseph Hillyard.



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Scarlet Wagner

Lola Bieniek

Mylah Linn-Christianson

Tori Quarberg

Lydia Rydomb

Camryn Spaeth

Kyla Wenderski

Maddi Hemauer

Arlene Kaczor

Laney Langevin

Brooke Luoma

Melany Mitchell

Sophie Spurgin

Avery Voss

Scarlet Wagner

Lola Bieniek

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