

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

The Patriot is the official newspaper for Clear Lake, Clearwater, Orrick, 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 legals@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 11am 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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INSERTS
• 2025 Reader's Choice Awards Guide (All Zips)



Daniel Kampa, Clear Lake Firefighter of the Year

By Don Bellach, Contributing Writer

Every year in February, Clear Lake Firefighters gather for their annual dinner to honor retirees, recognize and honor those who have gone above and beyond, and to name the Firefighter of the Year. This year, the recipient of the award could not be present to receive the award because he would be in the country of Jordan.

Daniel Kampa has served in the Minnesota National Guard for almost 15 years. He has been deployed three times, including a stint in Jordan. He will be heading back to the Middle East sometime at the end of January for an 11-month deployment. The officers of the CLFD had to develop a new plan, so it was decided that the award would be given after a training session held on Monday, January 12.

Kampa, a three-and-a-half-year member of CLFD and 8-year veteran firefighter, did not expect to be

the winner. Nominees are initially selected by fellow firefighters, and then the officers make a final decision. This year, several firefighters were nominated and Kampa was chosen.

Interim Fire Chief Matt Lunser described some of the qualities that Kampa possesses that earned him the award.

"Danny is always willing to help out and help others," Lunser said. "He always has a positive attitude. He's not a grumbler and is respectful of others. He's always working for the common good."

Lunser also pointed out that Kampa participated on several committees in 2025 including the Truck and Building Committees.

It is tradition to have the previous year's recipient give the award to the current winner, so Matt Davis was on hand to present Kampa with the award and echoed Lunser's thoughts, that he is always ready to help out and has a positive attitude. He also pointed out how well

Kampa shares his vast experience with others during training.

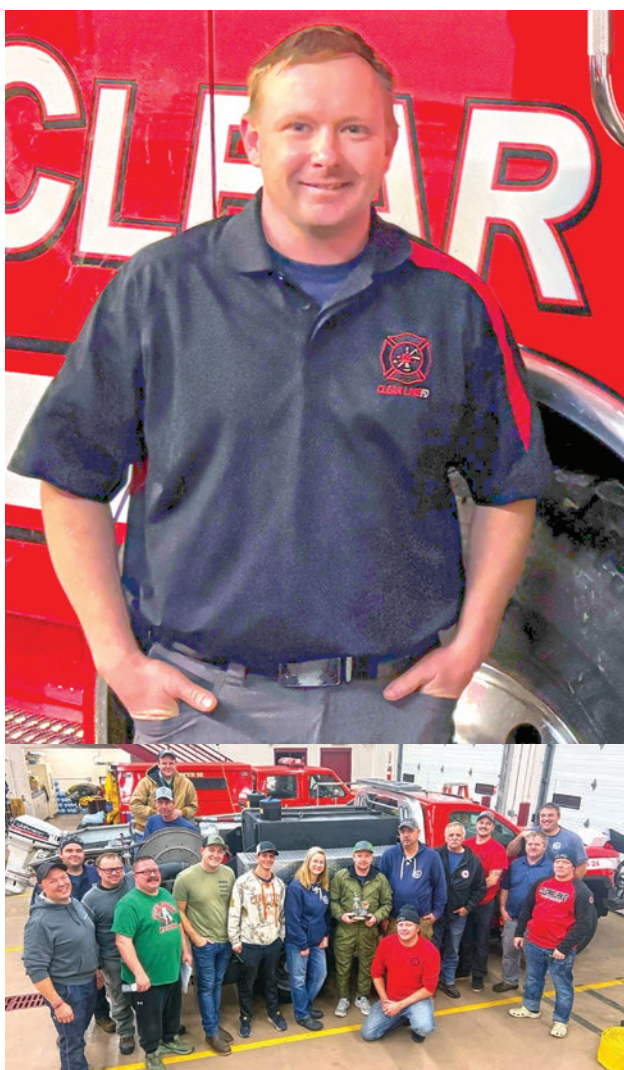
Kampa said it came as a total surprise to him, given the many worthy candidates who were nominated. In his acceptance remarks, he thanked everyone who was present and apologized for having to leave them so soon. He said he looks forward to getting back to help the department further.

When this reporter asked him if he forgot anything in his acceptance speech, Kampa said, "I guess I'd want to thank everybody who, throughout the years, have shared their knowledge and expertise to help me."

He acknowledged firefighters in Becker.

"They were super helpful. They had knowledge that obviously helped me get better with this department (CLFD) and become better."

That knowledge may be why Kampa was named Clear Lake's 2025 Firefighter of the Year.



DANIEL KAMPA, (top photo) Clear Lake's 2025 Firefighter of the Year. Bottom photo shows fellow firefighters after Kampa received the FOTY award. (Patriot Photos by Don Bellach).

Brott to retire

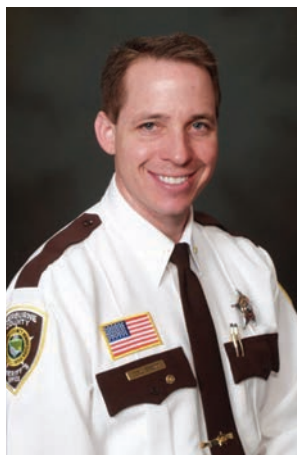
Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by Sherburne County. It is written in first-person context by Sheriff Joel Brott.)

After careful consideration, I have decided that I will not seek a fifth term as Sherburne County Sheriff. At the conclusion of my term, I will have had the unique privilege of proudly serving Sherburne County as your Sheriff for 18 years. Throughout my tenure, the people of Sherburne County have been incredibly supportive, and I greatly appreciate the many friendships that have developed over the years. I am grateful for the opportunity the citizens of Sherburne County have afforded me. It has been a privilege and honor I will never forget.

Today, the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office is in a great place, even with the challenges that all public safety professionals face each day. The office is filled with highly qualified individuals who are focused on a culture of service. It is the collective strength of over 325 employees, whose exceptional performance, teamwork, and dedication have pulled us through many challenging situations and led to our many successes. I could not be prouder to have served alongside each of the current and former employees. They remain committed to service with integrity and pride — an embodiment of our mission statement. "They remain second to none."

The collaborative nature among the five law enforcement agencies within the county is unsurpassed and is also a source of pride. I will miss the relationships with the chiefs of police and all the women and men



SHERBURNE COUNTY SHERIFF JOEL BROTT alerted the public that he does not plan to seek a fifth term as sheriff and will end his service in 2026. (Patriot Archive Photo).

who serve in those departments. Sherburne County remains a safe place for many reasons, among them is the high quality of law enforcement throughout the county.

I am proud of the accomplishments we have made; however, in an ever-changing world, there is always work to do. I am encouraging Commander Ben Zawacki to continue the momentum and to run for election to be the next Sheriff of Sherburne County. He is a 20-year veteran of the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office and has been in law enforcement for over 25 years. He has the experience and knows the responsibilities necessary to continue leading the Sheriff's Office in the right direction. Ben has a tremendous reputation among the law enforcement community and is a forward-thinking leader dedicated to serving the residents of the county. We would be fortunate to have him as our next sheriff.

I look forward to completing my term through 2026. It has been my honor and privilege to serve you. Thank you! — Sheriff Joel Brott.

Becker Chief meets with citizens

By Don Bellach, Contributing Writer

Inside Dueling Brews at 7:30 in the morning, Becker Police Chief Chris Lindbloom was waiting at a table for Becker residents to join him for Coffee with the Chief on Thursday, January 8, 2026. Only three people had initially joined the Chief, but as the morning progressed, four more showed up, bringing the total to seven. Lindbloom knew each of them, and after a short greeting, he would ask about them. That was how Coffee with the Chief felt: intimate, casual, and relaxed.

Coffee with the Chief was scheduled to last for an hour, but on Thursday, it lasted for almost two. During that time, Lindbloom was asked questions on various topics, including ICE, social media, seatbelts, car seats, and technology, as well as how the department utilizes that technology and what technologies they are exploring. AI transcription was something he has been investigating, noting that for some officers, it saves them time



POLICE CHIEF CHRIS LINDBLOOM connects with Becker residents over coffee last week. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

and effort; unfortunately, the technology still has not been vetted in courts.

His answers were always thoughtful and direct. He spoke about what officers do in a day, how they approach their work, and how the new improvements to the Police station help officers be more productive. He also took the opportunity to highlight the amount of time he spends investigating scams and fraud, which has only increased since he was named Police Chief.

Most importantly, Lind-

bloom explained why he values events like Coffee with the Chief and other community engagement events. He believes they help build an atmosphere of mutual respect. It allows the community to see officers as people who are there to do a job, a job spelled out on the department's website — to protect and preserve life, protect property, to understand and serve the needs of citizens, and to improve the quality of life in a manner consistent with the law and reflective of shared community values.

Local resident rings in 100th New Year!

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer

Becker resident Erma Cameron celebrated 100 years a few months ago.

This writer first met Erma last summer at Rebecca's Cafe in Becker. She was with her son, Doyle, and a group of friends who had gathered for lunch to celebrate Erma's 100th birthday.

Upon meeting Erma, this writer immediately found her delightful. As the visit progressed, she shared many details about her interesting life story.

Erma was born in Seiling, Oklahoma in 1925. Her family moved to Texas during the Great Depression. They later moved to Espanola, New Mexico, where she attended a one room school house.

Erma moved to Sherburne County in 1973 when her family bought a small cabin on Lake Julia near Palmer. They built a house, a garage and a gazebo. They moved into the house in 1986.

Erma moved to Becker in 2003, after living near Palmer for three decades.

Erma says she has outlived three husbands. Erma and her first husband got married when he was on a three-



MOTHER AND SON. Pictured are Becker residents Doyle Cameron and his mother, Erma, at her 100th birthday celebration at Becker Baptist Church. (Submitted Photo).

day pass while serving in the military. After he passed away, Erma married again.

Erma's second marriage was held at the Foley courthouse. Following the loss of her second husband, Erma met another wonderful man named Delbert. Erma decided it was time for a church wedding and tied the knot at Becker Baptist Church at the age of 80.

Erma has a strong faith in God. When asked what counsel she would share with

younger folks, Erma shared: "Yesterday is gone. We can't retrieve it. All we can do is repent of those things we know we've done wrong and aim to do better each day. Tomorrow is not ours yet. We have no guarantee of tomorrow; so it behooves us to do the best we can - by the grace of God."

Erma's son, Doyle, lives with her in Becker. She says they get along well as long as he does what she wants.

"It's so fun to be 100 that I'm sorry I didn't do it sooner," she quipped.

Erma is a mother to six children (five still alive - one infant son passed away). Erma is a gifted poet and has had poems published in The International Society Of Poets.

Erma's positive attitude is contagious. As we head into a new year, this writer will try to follow some of Erma's advice. Make an effort each day to be kind and grateful. Thank the Lord for all blessings and when any of us fall short, we will aim to do better going forward.

This world needs more Erma's. What a blessing it has been to meet her! God bless her as she enters her 101st New Year.



Lower the Temperature

The scenes of destruction and damage taking place in Minneapolis are abhorrent. This violence cannot be tolerated. Unfortunately, our state leaders' inaction and support of these violent riots are failing every Minnesotan and putting law enforcement's lives at risk. It's past time for Governor Tim Walz to take accountability for his sanctuary state policies that got us here in the first place and lower the temperature across the state.

I remain a fierce advocate for the rule of law. I am grateful to President Trump, his administration, and our ICE agents for their tireless work to restore safety to Minnesota. Murderers, rapists, kidnappers, and pedophiles—the worst of the worst—are coming off our streets thanks to ICE officers. Since Operation Metro Surge began in Minnesota, the Department of Homeland Security has arrested more than 1,500 illegal aliens.

Mental Health Services

On Tuesday, I reintroduced the Securing Facilities for Mental Health Services Act to expand access to mental health services. Worsening mental health is on the rise, and unfortunately, right now, there is not enough care to meet the demand. Approximately 80% of Minnesota counties have a mental healthcare shortage. When the care is not present, it overwhelms homeless shelters, jails, and hospital emergency departments, putting a strain on our systems that are not designed to be long-term for mental healthcare.

Patients in need should not be denied care due to outdated laws. This legislation allows inpatient psychiatric hospitals to access the mortgage assistance program through Housing and Urban Development's 242 mortgage assistance program. This is a commonsense, nonpartisan bill that will eliminate barriers to mental health resources to those who need it most. Passing this legislation will alleviate the inpatient bed shortage across the country and encourage the expansion of psychiatric inpatient hospitals.

Funding for Projects

Last week, the House passed the Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 for full-year funding to strengthen law enforcement, expand access to critical minerals, and more. House Republicans were able to deliver a budget nearly \$2 billion less than



By Rep. Tom Emmer

the amount projected under the current continuing resolution. This lowered spending for Fiscal Year 2026 delivers real savings for American taxpayers. Most importantly, the legislation contained funding for nine projects within the Sixth Congressional District of Minnesota.

We secured \$2.5 million for the Sherburne County Jail to help with infrastructure updates. Additionally, we passed nearly \$16 million in funding for eight wastewater treatment plants and sewer infrastructure upgrades across Sherburne, Benton, Wright, Carver, Stearns, and Anoka counties. This funding will help ensure Minnesotans in every corner of our district have clean water and up to date sanitation infrastructure. It will always be a priority of mine to ensure hard infrastructure projects in Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District have funding to support the future of our communities.

Defending Women and

Girls' Sports

This week, the Supreme Court held oral arguments on two cases regarding keeping men out of women's sports. For far too long, we have seen the consequences that come when the radical left takes what was once a fair and clear playing field and turns it into a political minefield. Female athletes get exploited, injured, or robbed of opportunities, all because Democrats would rather cave to the radical activists in their party than stand up for the women they claim to champion. On Wednesday, I, along with several other House Republicans, had the privilege of hosting over a dozen female athletes where we reiterated our commitment to protecting women's sports. This issue transcends politics. It's about fairness, safety, and common sense.



Making Good Decisions

In alignment with Becker's District mission "Developing self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community," Becker High School takes pride in offering courses that best prepare students for their futures. As we approach mid-year, we are looking forward to next year and launching into our 2026-27 registration process. It is an important and exciting time for students as they get to map out their future!

Each year staff reviews both required and elective course offerings. Through consistent department collaboration, our course offerings follow the Minnesota State Academic Standards. Our elective courses balance the needs and interests of students with current trends in the education world and work force. Each year we present new options for our students and student class selection guides the courses we are offering.

We encourage students and parents to have conversations at home about their unique pathway and options. Selecting courses is an important task that involves making good decisions that match future plans. The class offerings are designed to balance rigorous academic challenges with practical career readiness, urging students to view the guide as a roadmap to their personal goals.

Student registration numbers shape the building master schedule, influencing the number of course sections and the placement of the course(s) within our school day. An exciting opportunity for students to become informed about



By David Kreft
Becker HS Principal

their options exists in January as staff highlight and preview their course in our "Registration Showcases." Students learn about the prerequisites for the course, the focus of the curriculum, and potential projects if they take a certain course.

Here are some best practices to help guide the registration process:

Thoughtful Collaboration: Students should treat registration as a collaboration between parents, teachers, and counselors.

The "Four-Year" Lens: Rather than looking at the year in isolation, students are urged to chart an overall high school plan to review annually. Do not wait until the day of registration to make your decisions.

The Need for Alternates: Due to the complexity of the schedule, students must choose alternate courses. Alternatives are often used to complete final schedules.

Students will begin officially registering late January, completing it by mid February. While celebrating the successes of this school year, we have an eye on the 2026-27 school year and look forward to our students charting their futures!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR:

As I sit gazing out the window, I harken back to my service days as a physicist for an unnamed three-letter intelligence agency. I wonder how the representation of the 6th District has come to this point. I know I shouldn't, but I researched the internet. Rep. Tom Emmer supported efforts to overturn certified election results in the past and now backs policies that erode civil liberties. These actions undermine USA democratic institutions and materially advance the destabilization goals long pursued by America's adversaries. By supporting efforts to invalidate lawful electors and endorsing coercive enforcement that undermines civil rights, Rep. Emmer has contributed to democratic backsliding in the United States - outcomes that directly benefit America's adversaries, irrespective of motive. Tom Emmer's actions weaken U.S. democracy in ways that benefit America's adversaries long-standing goal of destabilizing democratic governance.

**William E. Gulbrandson
Veteran, Capt. USAF
Clear Lake, MN**

TO THE EDITOR:

Unless Congress acts by January 30, 2026, the U.S. faces a partial government shutdown. Not because the clock ran out, but because the work isn't done. Congress must

pass 12 appropriations bills to fund the government. So far, six have passed, and two more (State-Foreign Operations and Treasury-Financial Services) have passed the House but are still awaiting Senate action. That leaves four major bills unfinished: Homeland Security (funds FEMA, TSA, border operations (I.C.E.), and disaster response), Labor-Health and Human Services-Education (funds NIH, CDC, Head Start, and education grants), Transportation-HUD (funds housing assistance, transit and FAA infrastructure), and one additional national-security funding bill stalled in negotiations. If these aren't passed or extended, the impact is immediate: delayed disaster aid, slowed housing assistance, paused medical research, and strained airport security. Congress has less than two weeks and only a handful of working legislative days left. Senator Lindsey Graham has proposed forcing members of Congress to forfeit their pay during shutdowns. I honestly don't think that's a harsh enough repercussion for not doing the job you were elected to do. ALL incumbents need to be voted out! Shutdowns aren't accidents. They're choices and we pay the price.

**Vanessa Davenport
Big Lake, MN**

What the Cold Teaches Us

For Minnesota, winter is impossible to ignore. It is not simply something we endure; it is something that shapes us. Our calendars, our habits, and even our temperaments bend around it. For those who live farther south, winter may register as a mild inconvenience. Here, it is closer to a worldview. And beyond the weather itself, winter offers a useful metaphor for the leaner seasons of our lives—those stretches marked by uncertainty, loss, scarcity—when survival requires more intention than comfort ever does.

Summer is the season we romanticize. It represents abundance, warmth, and ease. There is more to go around, and generosity comes naturally. Winter, particularly north of the 45th parallel, tells a different story. Cold demands preparation. Darkness demands conservation. When resources feel scarce, both materially and emotionally, people tend to turn inward. History and experience suggest that communal instincts flourish in good times, while hardship often brings caution, fear, and self-protection.

Wolves are uniquely suited to lean seasons. They've long been treated as symbols of danger and cruelty, though their behavior is not driven by malice. It's driven by necessity. They do what survival requires, no more and no less. That clarity has inspired awe and mythology, even as it has led humans to persecute them nearly to extinction.

It is worth asking what scarcity does to us. What choices do we make when we feel threatened, when stability slips away, or when abundance feels out of reach? What happens when our moral ideals are tested not in comfort, but in uncertainty?

We like to believe that our values are fixed, that

kindness and fairness are permanent traits. But much of our ethical behavior is supported by stable conditions—by predictable routines, social trust, and access to resources. When those supports erode, we are forced to confront uncomfortable realities about ourselves. Winter—literal, emotional, or economic—has a way of revealing who we are beneath the layers of comfort we usually rely on.

But winter also teaches resilience. It forces us to prioritize, to rest when needed, and to endure when necessary. Survival is not selfishness; it is a prerequisite for care. We can't meaningfully support others if we have not first learned how to stay upright ourselves through difficult seasons.

Wolves survive because they must. They are not softened by excess, nor distracted by illusion. For all the fear they provoke, they embody a kind of honesty that winter demands. Perhaps that's why they continue to fascinate us. In their clarity and resilience, we see something both unsettling and aspirational.

Winter strips life down to essentials. It asks us to endure, to adapt, and to emerge stronger. And when the thaw finally comes—as it always does—it reminds us why the light matters, and why surviving the dark was worth it.



By Andrew Diemand,
Contributing Writer

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION	
Warrants Approved On 2 2 25 or Paid on 2 2 25	
Vendor Name	Amount
Alliant Engineering, Inc.	12,777.72
American Solutions For Business	7,283.84
Civic Plus LLC	56,010.21
Connexus Energy	6,691.82
Corporate Connection	4,550.00
Dacotah Paper Co	4,876.10
Deano's Collision Specialists Inc	13,797.64
Elk River Municipal Utilities	48,328.63
Fastenal Company	2,892.00
Garage Door Store	3,399.50
Guardian Fleet Safety, LLC	8,658.47
Heart & Soul, LLC	3,835.00
Houston Engineering Inc	6,280.75
Keefe Group Access Catalog	2,124.51
Keefe Supply Company	10,084.08
LHB Inc	4,497.45
Lincoln National Life Insurance Co	99,714.50
Mansfield Oil Co of Gainsville Inc	11,051.87
Maxima Supply-Vistar	3,210.32
NCIC Inmate Communications	68,888.62
Phoenix Supply LLC	7,902.72
Redstone Construction, LLC	4,024.35
SRF Consulting Group Inc	18,020.46
Summit Fire Protection Co.	3,988.35
Teamsters Local 320	6,594.00
Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	3,177.30
Transportation Collaborative and Cons	52,508.50
Union Supply Company	2,667.84
Wellpath LLC	358,381.86
Wiley Reber Law, PC	9,620.00
75 Payments less than 2000	29,798.48
Final Total:	5
Published in the Patriot 2 2	

Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION	
Warrants Approved On 2 2 25 or Paid on 2 2 25	
Vendor Name	Amount
ADP, Inc	12,914.76
All Traffic Solutions Inc	6,906.25
Ames Construction	1,764,513.75
Anoka County Community Corrections	9,020.25
Anoka County Treasury Office	10,720.00
Bolton & Menk, Inc	14,061.00
Bryant/Blake	12,500.00
Carefree Cleaning LLC	5,056.00
CDW Government	2,381.25
Centerpoint Energy	18,277.13
Design Electric Inc	137,938.52
Galls, LLC	4,731.52
Helmin Construction Inc.	2,599.99
Houston Engineering Inc	13,572.49
Hubbard Electric LLC	2,429.18
InStream, LLC	6,000.00
Keefe Supply Company	11,322.12
Kimball Midwest	2,028.10
Lockridge Grindal Nauen PLLP	3,533.33
Magnet Forensics, LLC	8,170.00
Mansfield Oil Co of Gainsville Inc	19,718.56
Marco	6,810.00
Maxima Supply-Vistar	2,110.20
Minneapolis Forensic Psych Services LLC	3,456.25
Minnesota County Attorneys Association	11,543.00
Minnesota Department Of Corrections	9,000.00
MN Dept of Transportation	24,825.27
New Look Contracting Inc	925,834.37
Newman Signs, Inc.	8,337.80
Plaisted Companies Inc	2,113.07
Sanity Solutions Inc	10,947.21
Silversphere, LLC	2,214.40
Sir Lines-A-lot, LLC	18,494.06
State Treasurer	18,318.00
Suburban Tire Wholesale Inc	2,816.00
Thomson Reuters-West Payment Center	3,540.06
Transportation Collaborative and Cons	11,937.50
Triple H Aviation	2,334.00
Wiley Reber Law, PC	6,500.00
Wright County Sheriff	43,065.54
Xcel Energy	4,186.57
103 Payments less than 2000	34,401.66
Final Total:	5
Published in the Patriot 2 2	

Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION	
Warrants Approved On 2 2 25 or Paid on 2 2 25	
Vendor Name	Amount
Anoka County Community Corrections	4,648.64
Auto Value Monticello	2,722.77
Brin Glass Service	14,228.00
Cardinal Investigations	3,400.00
Carson, Clelland & Schreder PLLP	9,576.25
CGW Law Office	5,156.25
Ciresi Conlin LLP	17,754.75
Dacotah Paper Co	6,027.90
Daikin Applied	23,794.00
Damon Farber Associates	4,301.26
DSC Communications	2,126.04
Fidelity Security Life Insurance Company	3,794.42
InTime Services Inc	21,360.00
Keefe Supply Company	17,981.68
Knife River	1,328,928.92
Law Enforcement Labor Service	5,439.58
Lorex, Inc	13,049.23
M & G Trailer Sales, Service and Rental	7,401.14
Mansfield Oil Co of Gainsville Inc	20,846.07
Minnesota Monitoring Inc	5,460.50
Minnesota Public Employees Assoc	7,920.00
MNCCC LOCKBOX	23,740.90
Motorola Solutions Inc	122,980.36
Neil Wilkinson and Chase	15,129.28
New Look Contracting Inc	474,579.11
Phoenix Supply LLC	2,649.00
Primacy Strategy Group LLC	4,100.00
Regents Of The University Of Minnesota	40,001.00
Rutland Law, PLLC	3,960.00
Securitas Technology Corporation	2,875.07
Sherburne Co Public Works	6,154.38
Sherburne Co Sheriff	4,000.00
SkyNorth Software, LLC	9,908.00
Street Smart Rentals, LLC	8,620.02
Teamsters Local 320	8,034.22
Trinity Services Group Inc	125,741.93
Tyler Investigative Services	2,081.96
USPS-POC (NeoPostage-Quadient)	18,171.00
Vistar	2,499.12
Voss Lighting	2,741.10
Waste Management Of Wi-Mn	2,318.21
Wilkinson/Neil	21,671.72
Windstream	4,625.62
Zingtree Inc	8,202.60
89 Payments less than 2000	40,141.89
Final Total:	5
Published in the Patriot 2 2	

**PUBLIC NOTICES,
SHERIFF &
POLICE ACTIVITY
REPORTS
are posted on our
website:
www.patriotnewsmn.
com**

PATRIOT
WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

PUBLIC NOTICES

Sherburne County Board of Commissioners
January 2026 Board Meeting Minutes
Call to Order
Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of Regular Meeting Proposed Agenda
Gray/Schumacher unanimous to approve the regular meeting agenda, as presented.

Election of Board Chairperson
Election of 2026 Board of Commissioners' Chairperson.
Gary/Felber unanimous to elect Raeanne Danielowski as Chair of the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners for the calendar year of 2026.

Election of Vice-Chairperson
Election of 2026 Board of Commissioners' Vice-Chairperson.
Felber/Schumacher unanimous to approve Andrew Hulse as Vice-Chair of the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners for the calendar year of 2026.

Open Forum
No one was present to speak.

Consent Agenda
Gray/Felber unanimous to approve the consent agenda, as presented.
Consider Approval of the Official Minutes from December 16th, 2025, Regular Meeting of the County Board of Commissioners.
Reviewed and approved the Minutes from December 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of the County Board.
Consider Approval of the Official Minutes from the December 16th, 2025, County Board Workshop.
Approved the Minutes from the December 16, 2025 County Board Meeting Workshop.
Consider Acceptance of a Gift Card From Resources Training and Solutions.
Approved acceptance of a \$200.00 gift card to Sherburne County Administration from Resource Training and Solutions.
Consider Approval of the Gambling Premises Permit for Ducks Unlimited Wigeon Chapter #09 (Orrock Township).
Approved the Gambling Premises Permit for Ducks Unlimited Wigeon Chapter #09.
Consider Approval of 2026 Signature Authorizations and Designation of Depositories.
Approved and authorized execution of the following:
1) A Resolution designating Depositories of Public Funds for 2026 for The Bank of Elk River and First Bank Elk River.
2) Resolutions attesting to Chairperson's signature of record at the bank for checking accounts at US Bank/MAGIC and First Bank Elk River and 2026 Board Chair endorsement of appropriate signature forms.
3) 2026 Board Chair signature, as required for a check signature image, for 2026 warrants (as required by M.S. 385.05).
Consider Approval of the Sherburne County Investment Policy for 2026.
Approved the Sherburne County Investment Policy with no changes from 2025, as required annually under this policy.
Consider Approval of Commissioner & Manual Warrants Dated December 12th, 19th, 22nd, and 26th, 2025.
Approved the Commissioner & Manual Warrants Dated December 12th, 19th, 22nd, and 26th, 2025.
Consider Approval of December 12th, 19th, and 26th, 2025, HHS IFS Admin Warrants.
Approved HHS IFS Admin Warrants dated December 12, 2025, as presented.
Consider Approval of the 2026 Community Outreach Program Grant with CAMHI (CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative).
Approved, accepted, and authorized execution of a Contract for the 2026 Community Outreach Program Grant award from CAMHI (CommUNITY Adult Mental Health Initiative).
Consider Approval of Appointing Three (3) Members to the Waste Management Advisory Committee.
Approved the appointment of the following members to the Waste Management Advisory Committee with the following terms, as recommended:

- Louisa Tallman, representing County Commissioner District 2: 2026-2028
- Mark Rask, Alternate Member: 2026-2028
- Jason Belair, Alternate Member: 2026-2028

Consider Approval to Authorize the Assistant Zoning Administrator as the Representative to Accept and Sign the Grant Contract Agreement for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's 2026 County Agricultural Inspector Grant.
Approved to authorize the Assistant Zoning Administrator to sign the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's 2026 County Agricultural Inspector Grant, in the amount of \$10,300.
Consider Approval of a Professional and Technical Services Agreement for Habitat Enhancement Work in County Parks.
Approved a professional and technical services contract with Natural Resource Services, Inc for habitat enhancement work in Two Inlets at Bdé Heháka – Omashkooz Zaaga'igaans and Island View Regional Park and Island View Park.
Consider Approval of Resolution No. 010626-AD-3257 Designating the County's Five-Year Bridge Replacement Plan.
Approved Resolution No. 010626-AD-3257 designating the County's Five-Year Bridge Replacement Plan (2026-2030), or when Local Bridge Bond Funding becomes available from the State of MN.
Consider Approval of Resolution No. 010626-AD-3258 to Petition Palmer Township to Vacate a Portion of 104th Ave.
Approved a Resolution 010626-AD-3258 for petition of Palmer Township Board to vacate a portion of 104th Avenue.
Consider Approval of Resolution No. 010626-AD-3259 to Extinguish an Access Easement across County Lands (former-Inholding Property at Two Inlets Regional Park).
Approved Resolution No. 010626-AD-3259 to extinguish access easement across County Lands.

Consider Approval of Resolution No. 010626-AD-3260 in Support of Sponsoring the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) for County State Aid Highway 23 Improvements in the City of Becker.
Approved Resolution No. 010626-AD-3260 in Support of Sponsoring the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) for County State Aid Highway 23 Improvements in the City of Becker.

Announcements and Correspondence
Bruce Messelt, County Administrator, provided a request for discussion for the change in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's rules for hunting, National Association of Counties' Legislative Conference travel update, scheduling tour of Material Recovery Facility (MRF), inclement weather update, final report of the post-election review from the League of Women Voters of Minnesota received, congressional directed spending for the Sherburne County jail update.

Regular Agenda
Receive an Update on the Sand Dunes State Forest.
Received an update from the DNR regarding the Sand Dunes State Forest.
Receive an Update on the Sherburne County History Center.
Received a Sherburne County History Center Update.
Consider Approval of a Letter to Vonco II in Response to a Certificate of Need Request, Pursuant to Minn. State Statutes 115A.917.
Felber/Hulse were unanimous to approve a Letter Addressed to Vonco II in Response to a Certificate of Need Request, pursuant to Minn. State Statutes, 115A.917, and authorized the County Board Chair to execute the same.
Consider Approval of Resolution No. 010626-AD-3261 to Acquire Property for the County Highway 80 Improvement Project.
Gray/Schumacher to approve Resolution No. 010626-AD-3261 to Acquire Property for the County Highway 80 Improvement Project.
Motion passed 4-1.
Consider Approval of Resolution No. 010626-AD-3262 to Acquire Property for the County Highway 94 Improvement Project.
Hulse/Schumacher to approve Resolution No. 010626-AD-3262 to Acquire Property for the County Highway 94 Improvement Project.
Motion passed 4-1.
Consider Approval of Awarding Bid(s) for 2026 Official County Publications.
Schumacher/Felber were unanimous to approve and award the Bid for the 2026 Publication of the Delinquent Tax Listing to Patriot News MN.
Hulse/Gray were unanimous to approve and award the Bid for the 2026 Publication of the Financial Statements to Elk River Star News.
Gray/Hulse were unanimous to approve and award the Bid for the 2026 Publication of the Alternate Publication Financial Statements to Patriot News MN.
Schumacher/Felber were unanimous to approve and award the Bid for the 2026 Publication of the Commissioner Proceedings to Patriot News MN.
Consider, Discuss, and Approve the 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule for the County Board of Commissioners.
Hulse/Felber were unanimous to approve the 2025 County Board Meeting Schedule, as presented.
Consider Modifications to the Conditional Use Permit for Farm Related Business-Wine Bar - Carol Zimmerman.
Schumacher/Hulse to amend as presented along with friendly amendments added to conditions an existing Conditional Use Permit for Farm Related Business-Wine Bar, which was granted on May 16, 2023. For Property Address: 15913 41st Street SE, Becker. PID# 45-00021-2405 Legal Desc: W ½ of SE ¼ of SE ¼ of NW ¼ (full legal on file). Sec 21, Twp 35, Rge 28, Santiago Township. 5 acres Agricultural District. Motion passed 3-2.

Recess Regular Meeting, Open Regional Rail Adjourn Regional Rail, Reconvene Regular Meeting
Recess Regular Meeting, Open Housing & Redevelopment Authority Meeting
Adjourn Housing & Redevelopment Authority, Reconvene Regular Meeting
Commissioner Correspondance, Committee Reports, Upcoming Meetings, Future Agenda Items
Commissioner Gray- Sherburne County staff holiday luncheon, MDT meeting
Commissioner Hulse- Sherburne County EDA meeting, work with Representative Novontny on Paid Leave program.
Commissioner Felber- Great River Regional Library Executive meeting, Renewable Energy Roundtable meeting, Tri-County Solid Waste meeting, Solid Waste working group meeting, Sherburne County History Center Candlelight Walk event, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency waste permitting training, Leading on Purpose program completed, readings on data centers and generation four and five nuclear powerplant.
Commissioner Schumacher- Rum River Watershed meeting, MDT meeting, 249th Township Road snowmobile issue work, City of Princeton correspondence, Sherburne County staff holiday luncheon, flight out of St. Cloud Sky Central Airport, ride on final NorthStar light rail.
Commissioner Danielowski- National Association of Counties (NACo) Central Region meeting, Sherburne County EDA meeting, Tri-County Solid Waste meeting, completed agenda review.

Adjourn Regular Meeting
Hulse/Schumacher unanimous to adjourn the regular meeting.

Open Workshop
Adjourn Workshop
Commissioner Warrants

12/12/25	397,109.52	General Revenue Fund
	1,879,979.83	Public Works Fund
	49.34	Human Service Fund
	30,925.89	Solid Waste Fund
	48,266.19	Jail Commissary Fund
	266.67	Sherco Regional Rail Authority
	91,609.02	Justice Center Enterprise Fund

	6,878.05	Agency Collections
	25,759.38	Payroll Fiduciary Fund
	2,480,843.89	Total

Manual Warrants

12/12/25	12,858.50	Agency Collections
	12,858.50	Total

Commissioner Warrants

12/19/25	177,961.91	General Revenue Fund
	2,926,358.16	Public Works Fund
	3,627.25	Law Library Fund
	21,072.49	Solid Waste Fund
	17,205.96	Jail Commissary Fund
	48,293.13	Justice Center Enterprise Fund
	18,319.00	Agency Collections
	6,778.43	Taxes & Penalties Fund
	434.31	School Districts Collections
	1,128.52	Towns & Cities Collections
	3,221,179.16	Total

Manual Warrants

12/19/25	1.00	General Revenue Fund
	347,071.01	Agency Collections
	347,072.01	Total

Manual Warrants BMO

12/22/25	45,068.64	General Revenue Fund
	6,230.24	Public Works Fund
	2.83	Human Service Fund
	223.75	Solid Waste Fund
	3,086.24	Jail Commissary Fund
	1,625.99	Justice Center Enterprise Fund

Commissioner Warrants

12/26/25	340,495.19	General Revenue Fund
	105,051.51	Public Works Fund
	49.00	Human Service Fund
	2,456.15	Law Library Fund
	6,803.73	Solid Waste Fund
	87,018.10	Jail Commissary Fund
	224,260.72	Justice Center Enterprise Fund
	669.01	Agency Collections
	507.75	Taxes & Penalties Fund
	108,325.73	Payroll Fiduciary Fund
	875,636.89	Total

Manual Warrants

12/26/25	2,351.84	General Revenue Fund
	8,352.00	Agency Collections
	10,703.84	Total

HHS IFS Admin Warrants

12/12/25	1,382.77	Children's Dental Service
	1,050.00	City of St Cloud
	598.48	Henke/Melissa
	320.00	Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
	7,953.67	Lutheran Social Service of MN
	314.00	Middle English Interpreting
	357.70	Olds/Kirsten
	1,524.75	Quadient Leasing USA, Inc
	328.36	Rountree/Natalie
	335.00	Seven County Process Servers, LLC
	5,624.00	Sherburne Co Sheriff
	338.80	The Bridge World Language Ctr Inc
	6,000.00	USPS-POC
	1,735.93	13 Payments less than 300
	27,863.46	Total

HHS IFS Admin Warrants

12/19/25	7,092.57	AT&T Mobility
	2,230.45	BreezyBilling
	434.00	Burr/Ashley
	454.30	Canfield/Emily
	849.00	Children Youth & families
	1,300.00	Ellison Center
	546.20	GBR Interpreting &
		Translation Services
	476.50	Lexis Nexis
	4,034.85	MN Department of Human Services- SWIFT
	3,325.50	Sherburne County Auditor Treasurer
	387.20	The Bridge World Language Ctr Inc
	5,007.65	YMCA – Elk River
	1,994.30	16 Payments less than 300
	28,132.52	Total

HHS IFS Admin Warrants

12/26/25	2,659.92	AJ's Complete Automotive
	499.00	AQK9
	44,116.32	Avivo
	309.87	Ball/Kelly
	850.00	Central MN Mental Health Center
	1,382.77	Children's Dental Services
	696.50	Graves-Petron/Trisha
	706.44	Hashi/Ikram
	898.10	Hines/Nathaniel
	628.60	Lekatz/Kieran
	10,000.00	MNCCC LOCKBOX
	2,200.31	Office Of MNIT Services
	323.40	Rawley/Miranda
	3,312.00	Sherburne Co HHS
	520.00	Sherburne County Auditor Treasurer
	10,000.00	Townsquare Media of St.Cloud
	594.52	Wright County HHS
	3,141.14	24 Payments less than 300
	82,838.89	Total

/s/ Raeanne Danielowski, Board Chairperson
/s/ Bruce Messelt, County Administrator
(Published in the *Patriot* 01/24/26).

SECTION 0 1B

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

BIG LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

PECIAL EDUCATION RENOVATION

MINNESOTA AVENUE

BIG LAKE, MINNESOTA

Independent School District #727 will receive single prime sealed bids for Big Lake Middle School 2026 Special Education Renovation until 2:00 P.M. local time on February 19, 2026 at the District Office - Entrance J, 701 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bidding documents, including the Proposal Form, Drawings and Specifications, will be on file at the Minnesota Builders Exchange; McGraw Hill Construction/Dodge Plan Center; Reed Construction; iSqFt Plan Room (St. Paul, MN), The Blue Book Building and Construction Network; and from PlanWell at https://order.e-arc.com/arcEOC/x_project.asp?de=BD64E838-3E99-4DC4-93BB-4FCFB BBF#

A pre-bid meeting will be held at Big Lake Middle School, 601 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake Minnesota 55309 at 3:30pm on February 3, 2026. Visitors must check in at the main entrance with a valid State ID. Attendance at the meeting is not required, but highly recommended.

This project includes: Interior demolition of existing walls, ceilings, casework, and flooring. Building of new walls, ceilings, floors and finishes. Rearrangement of mechanical and electrical systems, associated with the architectural work.

American Reprographics Company, 4730 Park Glen Road, St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55416 (952) 697-8800, facsimile (952) 697-8803 will provide complete downloadable sets of the Bidding Documents to prospective bidders and subcontractors. The downloads will be available January 23, 2026. A deposit check in the amount of \$25 made out to ARC for each set downloaded via the internet at <https://www.e-arc.com/location/st-louis-park/> and clicking on the PlanWell icon, then the Public Plan Room icon, select Big Lake Middle School 2026 Special Education Renovation.

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

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


The Owner requires Substantial Completion of the project on or before August 14, 2026.

/s/ Terrence Zerwas| Director of Buildings and Grounds
Big Lake Schools
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26, 01/31/26.)

Chad Vincent VanderVenter, 55

Cambridge, MN

December 26, 1970 – January 12, 2026



Chad Vincent VanderVenter, age 55 of Cambridge, MN, passed away on Monday, January 12, 2026. He was born in Robbinsdale, MN, on December 26, 1970.

Chad graduated from Big Lake High School in 1989 and furthered his education at Anoka Tech. receiving his associate's degree. He proudly served in the US Air Force and then the Air National Guard for 14 years. While in the Air National Guard he served in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm from 1991-1993. He was a member of the Cambridge American Legion Post 0290 and was a volunteer for MACV – Military Assistance Council for Veterans. Through his father, Chad was a proud member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

On July 16, 2004, Chad VanderVenter and Honey Martin were united in marriage in Monticello, MN.

Chad enjoyed owning and operating A10 Shuttle for many years in Monticello, MN. Chad found great joy in

working on and riding ATVs, traveling, visiting family in Bayfield, WI, and in Las Vegas, NV, and spending time with friends. Chad's upbeat personality and sense of humor will be dearly missed.

He is preceded in death by his mom, Yvonne VanderVenter; grandmother, Gayle Haiden; and brother, Chuck VanderVenter.

Chad is survived by his loving wife, Honey VanderVenter; dad, Clement "Butch" VanderVenter; sister, Carrie (John) Creswell; parents-in-law, Wayne and Sugar Martin; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephew, and numerous friends.

A celebration of life will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, with Military Rites at 1:00 PM, at Dare's Funeral Home, 805 Main Street NW, Elk River, MN.

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


FIRST NOTICE

An aeration system creating open water and thin ice will begin operation on Ann Lake in Sherburne County, Orrock Township, T34,R27,S22 after February 1, 2026. Weather conditions may cause the areas of thin ice and open water to fluctuate greatly. Stay clear of the marked area.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26).

Jerome "Jerry" A. Stenzel, 79

Clear Lake, MN

May 4, 1946 – January 6, 2026



Memorial Services will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, February 6, 2026 at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker for Jerome "Jerry" A. Stenzel, age 79, who passed away Tuesday at the St. Cloud Hospital. Pastor Stephen Fendle will officiate. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service.

As a young man Jerry excelled in several sports. He was an entrepreneur but sales was his strength which took him across the globe. People would say "he could sell ice to an Eskimo" or "he could sell the Brooklyn Bridge and convince you he could finance it". He invented several significant agricultural products still being used world wide.

Jerry would want you to know that the most significant and important decision in his life was when he was 45 years of age, he came to know and accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. He and Judy prayed daily for their children and grandchildren. His greatest desire was that they would come to know Jesus intimately through reading His Word and put their faith in Him.

He loved his family and often said how very proud he was of ALL of is children and grandchildren. He said "they were all better people than he could ever be" with each of them having their own strengths and talents. Each one caring, kind and strong.

Jerry loved his extended family and friends. He had many friends but Steve Wesleyly and

wife, Kathy, Todd Knorr and wife, Tonya topped the list. They shared his love for horses and spent many hours on the phone or at horse shows and auctions together. They talked often about everything, horses, kids, wives, God, frustrations and joys. He was very thankful for his good, faithful and trustworthy friends. He loved going to family reunions so he could connect and tell stories with his Uncle Marv and his many cousins.

Jerry was a very charismatic man who touched many lives. He was a man you never forgot after meeting, and will never be forgotten by all of us.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 42 years, Judy; children, Jessica (Ryan) Rieland, Jennifer (Kevin) Griffith, Benjamin (Gwen) Stenzel, Jena (Dino) Tack Hickman, Jonathon (Desiree) Stenzel, Joshua Stenzel (Tom Allen) Joseph (Stephanie) Stenzel and Jacob Stenzel; grandchildren, Tyler (Maddy) Stenzel, Jordan (Emille Scholl) Stenzel. Logan and Christopher Griffith, Alex and Sydney Tack, Grace Rieland, Addison and Gunther Stenzel, Natalie and Sophia Stenzel.

He is preceded in death by his parents; Albin and Mildred (Bartels) Stenzel; brother, Roger Stenzel; and sister, Jeannette Stenzel.

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

PUBLIC NOTICES

**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:
Jubilee Christian School
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **15455 59th, Becker, MN 55308 USA**
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name: **Becker Christian Center**
Address: **15455 59th, 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:
Kenneth L. Hansen
MAILING ADDRESS: **15455 59th, Becker, MN 55308 USA**
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **beckerchristiancenter@gmail.com**
Work Item: **1596935300031**
Original File Number: **1596935300031**

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
11/06/2025 11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/17/26, 01/24/26).

Sherburne County Board of Commissioners
November 8, 2025
Community Health Board Meeting Minutes

Call to Order
The Chair opened the Community Health Board meeting at 11:38am. Proposed Agenda for the Community Health Board Meeting. Hulse/Felber were unanimous to approve the Community Health Board meeting agenda as presented.
Agenda
Special Community Health Board Meeting Minutes from September 2, 2025.
Danielowski/Felber were unanimous to approve the Community Health Board Meeting Minutes from September 2, 2025, as presented. (On file.)
Community Health Services Administrator's Bimonthly Update.
Received the Community Health Board Services Administrator's bi-monthly update as presented by Community Health Services Administrator Nicole Ruhoff.
Adjourn Community Health Board Meeting
/s/ Raeanne Danielowski, Board Chairperson
/s/ Bruce Messelt, County Administrator
(Published in the *Patriot* 01/24/26).

BMS Career Day inspires



BECKER MIDDLE SCHOOL hosted its 6th annual Career Day last Friday, which included nearly 30 speakers who shared vital information about their careers. Pictured are this year's speakers, along with BMS Student Council members, who played a key role in logistics during the day. (Submitted Photo.)

*By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer*

Becker Middle School held its 6th annual Career Day last Friday, with nearly 30 speakers from a variety of careers on hand to share their insights with students.

From military careers to four year degrees, and a little bit of everything in between, the speakers shared what it's like to work in their profession, along with information about the future job outlook in their area.

"We always encourage our students to 'Dream Big'," BMS Principal Chantel Boyer says. "Career Day is just one of the ways we can inspire our students to think about their futures."

Boyer expressed heartfelt gratitude to the many individuals who participated this year, as the 2026 event was the largest in the history of the program.

PATRIOT
PUBLISHED WEEKLY
www.patriotmn.com

SHERBURNE COUNTY NOTICE OF TAX -FORFEITED LAND INITIAL PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN the parcels of land described herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at a public sale in accordance with M.S. Chapter 282 for no less than the estimated market value, as determined by the most recent assessment. Any properties that do not sell will be offered on a subsequent public sale. The minimum bid price for the subsequent sale will be the sum of all delinquent taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs assigned to the parcel. The Subsequent Action Minimum bid is subject to change due to ongoing interest, penalties and costs.

The County Auditor shall conduct the initial sale via online auction through Public Surplus starting on February 11, 2026, and closing on March 12, 2026, at 10:00am. The property listings will be available to preview on the Public Surplus website. The subsequent sale for unsold properties will start March 16th, 2026, and close March 31, 2026, at 10am.

PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	CITY/TOWNSHIP	Estimated MARKET VALUE	SUBSEQUENT ACTION MINIMUM BID
10-00417-0520	BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP	\$64,300.00	\$4,941.64
30-00403-0464	LIVONIA TOWNSHIP	\$7,200.00	\$712.63
35-004070135	ORROCK TOWNSHIP	\$4,200.00	\$456.48
60-00404-1120	CITY OF BECKER	\$1,600.00	\$155.08
75-00869-0030	CITY OF ELK RIVER	\$5,400.00	\$971.47

All property is sold "as is" and may not conform to local building and zoning ordinances. Sherburne County makes no warranty that the land is "buildable".

ALL SALES ARE FINAL. NO REFUNDS OR EXCHANGES ARE PERMITTED.

Contact the Sherburne County Property Tax office located at 13880 Business Center Dr. NW, Elk River, MN 55330 for a complete list of terms and conditions. Information can also be obtained on our website www.co.sherburne.mn.us, on the Public Surplus property listing or by calling 763-765-4361.

January 10, 2026
/s/ Loraine Rupp
Sherburne County, Auditor- Treasurer
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/17/26, 01/24/26, 01/31/26, 02/07/26.)

Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved For Payment 2 2 8

Vendor Name	Amount
OBO Amazon	11,409.99
OBO CDW Government	9,800.00
OBO Dacotah Paper	2,451.34
OBO NACO	2,850.00
OBO Northern Tool Equip	2,346.98
OBO Teramind Inc	3,900.00
72 Payments less than 2000	23,479.38
Final Total:	5
Published in the <i>Patriot</i> 2 8	

Sherburne County WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION

Warrants Approved For Payment 2 8 8

Vendor Name	Amount
State Of Minnesota	3,593.00
State Of Minnesota	2,483.00
State Of Minnesota	2,674.00
State Of Minnesota	2,545.00
1 Payments less than 2000	1,563.50
Final Total:	8
Published in the <i>Patriot</i> 2 8	

Sherburne County Board of Commissioners
January 8
County Board Workshop Minutes

The Board Chair opened the County Board Workshop Meeting.

Review and Discuss 2026 Committee Assignments.
Reviewed and discussed 2026 committee assignments.
Discuss 2026 Legislative Strategies and Regional Partnerships.
Discussed 2026 legislative strategies and regional partnerships.
Review and Discuss County Policy Governing Board of Commissioners' Operating Rules.
Reviewed and discussed county policy governing Board of Commissioners' operating rules.
The Board Chair adjourned the County Board Workshop Meeting
/s/ Raeanne Danielowski, Board Chairperson
/s/ Bruce Messelt, County Administrator
(Published in the *Patriot* 01/24/26).

HERBURN E COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SCHEDULE

2026 BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

DATE	DAY	TIME	LOCATION	Community Health Board (CHB)/Ditch Authority (DA)
January 6	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
January 20	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	CHB
February 3	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
February 17	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	DA
March 3	Thursday	9:00am	Board Room	
March 17	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	CHB
April 7	Tuesday	6:00pm	Board Room	
April 21	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	DA
May 5	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
May 19	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	CHB
June 2	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
June 23	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	DA
July 14	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
July 14 (Budget Workshop)	Tuesday	TBD	Board Room	
July 15 (Budget Workshop)	Wednesday	TBD	Board Room	
August 4	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
August 18	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	DA
September 1	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
September 15	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	CHB
October 6	Tuesday	6:00pm	Board Room	
October 20	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	DA
November 3	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
November 17	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	CHB
December 1	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	
December 3 (Truth in Taxation)	Thursday	6:00pm	Board Room	
December 15	Tuesday	9:00am	Board Room	DA

Approved by the County Board on January 6, 2026.

Notice of Meeting via Remote Attendance is hereby provided pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 13D.04 Subd. 2 so that the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners may hold its Regularly Scheduled Meetings in 2026, as posted, with one or more Commissioner(s) attending via interactive technology, in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 13D.02.

2026 Regular Meetings are hereby posted so that one or more County Commissioners may attend remotely. All other conditions, provisions, and meeting parameters denoted in the Regular Meeting schedule published in January 2025 prevail.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 13D.02 Subd. 1. (a), the following conditions are to be met to allow for remote attendance:

- (1) all members of the body participating in the meeting, wherever their physical location, can hear and see one another and can hear and see all discussion and testimony presented at any location at which at least one member is present;
- (2) members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the body can hear and see all discussion and testimony and all votes of members of the body;
- (3) at least one member of the body is physically present at the regular meeting location;
Members of the Board of Commissioners attending in person for conduct of Regular Meetings, will gather in the Board Room, located within the Sherburne Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, MN 55330.

- (4) all votes are conducted by roll call so each member's vote on each issue can be identified and recorded; and

For additional information, please call Sherburne County Administration at (763) 765-3001.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26.)

CITY OF BECKER

2026 MINNESOTA CITY SUMMARY BUDGET STATEMENT

The purpose of this report is to provide summary 2026 budget information concerning the City of Becker to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. Sec. 471.6965. This budget is not complete: the complete budget may be examined at Becker City Hall, 12060 Sherburne Ave, Becker, MN 55308 or online at <https://ci.becker.mn.us/389/Budgets>. The city council approved this budget on December 2, 2025.

Governmental Funds 2026 Adopted Budget

	2025 Adopted and Final Budget	2026 Adopted Budget
Revenues		
Property Taxes	\$ 5,994,362	\$ 6,231,864
All Other Taxes (franchise)	26,500	26,500
Special Assessments	4,800	4,800
Licenses and Permits	269,850	190,400
Intergovernmental Revenues		
State Electric Generation Transition Aid	250,000	100,000
State General Purpose Aid	21,460	21,960
State Categorical Aid	174,000	204,000
Grants from County and Other Local Governments	2,000	55,000
Charges for Services	780,387	806,587
Fines and Forfeits	18,400	17,500
Interest on Investments	96,000	119,000
Miscellaneous	55,650	19,271
Total Revenues	\$ 7,693,409	\$ 7,796,882
Expenditures		
Current:		
General Government	\$ 1,868,253	\$ 1,839,232
Public Safety	2,283,741	2,262,814
Streets and Highways	1,333,072	1,403,800
Culture and Recreation	1,958,495	2,072,037
Economic Development	249,848	219,000
Total Expenditures	\$ 7,693,409	\$ 7,796,882
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	\$ -0	\$ -0

Enterprise Funds 2026 Adopted Budget

	Adopted 2026 Budget		Total 2026 Adopted Budget	Total 2025 Adopted Budget
	Water	Sewer		
Operating Revenues				
Charges for Services	\$ 888,482	\$ 2,037,720	\$ 2,926,202	\$ 2,942,553
Operating Expenses				
Personal Services	418,100	752,307	1,170,407	1,158,216
Supplies	85,670	128,700	214,370	204,470
Other Charges and Services	159,142	821,916	981,058	960,519
Depreciation	545,000	1,483,000	2,028,000	2,189,858
Capital expenses	293,100	640,350	933,450	1,600,760
Total Operating Expenses	1,501,012	3,826,272	5,327,284	6,113,823
Operating Income (Loss)	(612,530)	(1,788,552)	(2,401,082)	(3,171,270)
Nonoperating Revenues (Expenses)				
Interest earnings	100,000	108,000	208,000	153,000
Income (Loss) before Operating Transfers	(512,530)	(1,680,552)	(2,193,082)	(3,018,270)
Operating Transfers In (Out)	(3,000)	(3,500)	(6,500)	(6,500)
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (515,530)	\$ (1,684,052)	\$ (2,199,582)	\$ (3,024,770)

(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26.)

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Sherburne County
WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION
Warrants Approved For Payment 2 2 8

Vendor Name	Amount
Alerus Retirement and Benefits	2,351.84
State Of Minnesota	2,891.00
State Of Minnesota	2,785.50
State Of Minnesota	2,675.50
Final Total:	8
Published in the <i>Patriot</i> 2 8	

Sherburne County
WARRANTS FOR PUBLICATION
Warrants Approved For Payment 2 5 8

Vendor Name	Amount
Mn Dept Of Revenue	330,666.01
State Of Minnesota	4,275.24
State Of Minnesota	3,789.26
State Of Minnesota	2,985.00
State Of Minnesota	2,510.50
State Of Minnesota	2,845.00
1 Payments less than 2000	1.00
Final Total:	8
Published in the <i>Patriot</i> 2 8	

AREA NEWS

AUCTIONS

••••• UPCOMING AUCTIONS •••••

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JANUARY 25TH @ 11:00 AM**
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NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN PARTY CAUCUS

As required by state law, the Republican Party of House District
27A will hold a Caucus on February 3, 2026 at Becker
Intermediate School, 12100 Hancock Street in Becker, Minnesota.

Please Note: The Big Lake precincts will meet in Becker this year.

The business of the Caucus is to conduct a straw poll for the
office of Governor, elect precinct chairs and other officers, elect
delegates and alternates to the BPOU Convention, and to discuss
issues and resolutions.

You are invited to attend and participate in the Caucus, if you
are a Republican and live in one of the following communities:
Becker City, Becker Township, Big Lake City, Big Lake Township,
Clear Lake City, Clear Lake Township, Haven Township (precinct
2 only), Orrock Township, Palmer Township, Santiago Township.
Enter via the front entrance. Doors open at 6:00 PM. The Caucus
begins at 7:00 PM sharp. Please arrive prior to 7:00 PM to allow
time for registration. There is no cost to attend, however a free
will donation will be accepted.

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joy and happiness.

Becker Lions, Clear Lake
Lions and Lioness, Santiago
Lions, Joan Mazacek with
Duelm Christian Ladies and
Duelm KC's, Sherri Newmann
and all her helpers, South
Santiago Ladies, Jeff & Judy
Syring, Brad Thom, Joe
Becker, Farm Friends. Also,
thank you to anyone not
mentioned who has also
added to our blessed 2025!

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A final chapter for the Nazis

Submitted Article

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Former Citizen Publisher Gary W. Meyer visited 15 World War II sites in European early October, 2025. The following is the last of three installments in coverage of his visit).

It was September, 1944 and the war was going well for the Allies. Their new focus became the Nazi occupation of Holland on the far north end of affected nations. The British and American assault groups were quickly at work, planning their air and ground attacks at Arnhem. Success in their offensives meant they would enter northern Germany and subdue its Ruhr industrial region.

But, not so fast. The



ALLIED PROSECUTOR Robert Jackson led most of the charges against the Nuremberg defendants. He was later appointed to the US Supreme Court. (Submitted Photo).

Germans proved strong resistance, with their Panzer armor divisions and ready combat troops. The Allies also got their paratrooper landing zones mixed up and the result was a colossal defeat. Germans either killed or incapacitated 8,000 British soldiers and the Americans suffered nearly as badly. Their military cemetery in Holland contains the remains of their losses in-country, about 5,500 and most of them were boys shot out of the sky before their boots got on the ground. One error for the American paratroopers was being landed 12 miles from their target.

So, the Allies essentially had to gather up and withdraw from the fight Sept. 22, and move on to their next big battle, which was in Bastogne, Belgium two months later. And our friends in Hol-

Hornet dancers at Foley



THE BIG LAKE DANCE TEAM attended the Foley Invite on Fri., Jan. 9. Teams in attendance were Becker, Big Lake, Foley, Monticello, Pierz, and Rock Ridge. Varsity Kick and Varsity Jazz both took second place behind Monticello. JV Jazz and B-Squad Jazz both took third behind Becker and Monticello, respectively. JV Kick placed fourth. This was the team's second year traveling to the Foley Invite. (Submitted Photo).

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SOME OF THE MEMBERS of the Nuremberg trial docket, seated front and second rows, from left, Goring, Hess, von Ribbentrop and Frick. (Submitted Photo).

land had to wait out another year of German occupation before their war would end. (A movie depicts the mission in Holland and it is well worth seeing. It's entitled, *A Bridge Too Far*.)

Tour director at the Nemjemen, Holland war museum, Renee Schoenmaker, told the story of each country's losses in the war. The numbers are staggering. Russia lost 22.1 million residents and military, Poland lost six million. Italy, 472,000; Netherlands, 210,000; England, 451,000; Belgium, 85,000; United States, 451,000; Germany, 7.1 million.

"The war cost 80 million lives worldwide," he said. "If I had an opportunity to talk to Hitler after all this, I would ask him." "Is it worth it?"

So, the Allies left Holland to fend for themselves and headed south to Bas-

toogne, where they would soon engage the Nazis in the bloodiest battle of the entire war. With grit, they turned the tide against Germany and by mid-January, 1945, began making their way eastward into Germany. Approaching Berlin, the Allied commanders agreed; Britain would enter from the west, the Americans from the south and the Russians from the east. The battles were over in mid-spring and on May 8, 1945, the Allies celebrated Victory in Europe (VE) Day.

Nuremberg Trials
As the region began to regain some of its sanity that summer, Allied leaders proposed there should be a court to try the Nazis for their atrocities. But no court existed. Allied Commander Ike Eisenhower suggested, "Take them out and shoot them."

Russian Commander Stalin wanted a little more blood, saying the top 50,000 Nazis should catch a bullet. That wasn't too practical. The Allies agreed, Germany would need some of its wartime leaders to (with psychological reconditioning) become peacetime leaders. So, that became the plan. With France, Britain, Russia and the United States sharing equally, the court was established. Each country was to contribute two prosecutors for the trial. American prosecutor Robert Jackson was to be lead prosecutor, and he formulated the plan for the court.

Nuremberg was selected by the Allies to be the site for the trial because it held mem-

**WWII
to page 7**

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BL Wrestlers eighth at HL-W-W Invite

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake wrestling team finished eighth at the Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted Invitational Saturday. Only four Hornets wrestled in the varsity competition, and three of them finished in the top five in their weight class.

Eli Schaller finished third at 114 pounds. He opened with a pin of Carter Peters of Buffalo at 0:46. He lost a 14-4 decision to Connor Bischof of St. Thomas Academy, then came back to beat Wyatt Andreotti of Mound-Westonka, 17-0. He beat Linkin Herr of Mounds View, 15-6 in his final match.

Austin Frederickson took third at 215 pounds. He opened with a pin of Logan Carrington of Becker at 3:26. He lost to Lucas Potter of Buffalo, 13-6 before beating Bennett Shelton of Kenyon-Wanamingo, 13-6.

He beat Lawrence Dinehart of Howard Lake, 2-1 in overtime in his final match.

Grant Volk placed fifth at 121 pounds. He lost by pin to Colton Kraft of St. Thomas Academy in his first match. He came back to pin Oliver Pomeroy of Howard Lake at 1:56 before losing a 6-2 decision to Keaton Colford of Becker. He pinned Logan McKee of Howard Lake at 1:39 in his final match.

Jack Lehto wrestled in the 174-192 pound division in JV and was the champion. He beat Grant Dietersberger of Minneapolis-Washburn, 12-1. He pinned Roan Kuznia of Howard Lake at 1:13 then pinned Marek Dykoski of Mound-Westonka at 1:01.

Triangular

Last Thursday, the Hornets lost in a triangular meet to Chisago Lakes, 49-24 and to Mora, 42-32.

Against Chisago Lakes, Big Lake won four

matches.

At 172, Jack Lehto pinned Henry DeCorsey at 4:40. At 215, Austin Frederickson pinned Connor Bresnahan at 2:26. Elijah Schaller had a forfeit win at 4 pounds. Ryker Jackman-Shaw had a forfeit win at 7 pounds.

Against Mora, Big Lake won six matches.

At 4 , Elijah Schaller beat Conner Wentworth by tech fall, 15-0. At 121, Grant Volk beat Carter Hill, 15-14. At 3 , Jaylen Rand pinned Mason Gorecki at 1:22. At 189, Liam Mayer pinned Ethan Hanson at 2:32. At 215, Austin Frederickson pinned Charles Whitbred at 0:50. At 285, Henry Kuchera pinned Oliver Miller at 1:15.

The Hornets wrestled in a triangular meet at Albany Thursday and hosted Cambridge-Isanti Friday, results next week.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BECKER TOWNSHIP-B IG OAK ESTATES & DEER FOREST SHERBURNE COUNTY,M N

Becker Township will be receiving electronic bids for the **Big Oak Estates & Deer Forest Mill & Overlay** project until 7 PM local time on **February 17th, 2026**, on QuestCDN.com. The regular **Town Board meeting at 12165 Hancock St, Becker, MN 55308, will be called to order at 7:00 pm and approximately 7:01 PM**, bids results will be shown and read aloud.

Plans and Specifications may be examined at the office of Bogart, Pederson & Associates, Inc., 13076 First Street, Becker, MN 55308, or obtained by contacting William Tessmer, PE at wtessmer@bogart-pederson.com or 763-262-8822. Plans will also be available for download online at www.QuestCDN.com. **The cost to obtain a hard copy of the Plans & Specifications is \$_____ with a \$_____ mailing fee.**

The projects includes: milling bituminous pavement, mailbox and sign replacement, gravel shouldering, and re-paving of the milled roads.

Make all bids on the bid form supplied in the specifications – no other proposal submissions will be considered. Bids must be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bidder's Bond made payable to the Township as a proposal guarantee for **at least 5% of the amount of the bid**. No Bidder may withdraw their bid (which shall include the Certified Check or Bidder's Bond) within 30 days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids.

The Township will consider award of the contract at the **March 16th** meeting contingent upon Engineer's review. It is the Township's intent to begin and complete construction in the year **2026**. The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or parts of such bids, and to waive informalities.

/s/ William H. Tessmer, P.E.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26, 01/31/26.)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BECKER TOWNSHIP-B OULDER CROSSING WEST SHERBURNE COUNTY,M N

Becker Township will be receiving electronic bids for the **Boulder Crossing West** project until 7 PM local time on **February 17th, 2026**, on QuestCDN.com. The regular **Town Board meeting at 15 Hancock St, Becker, MN 55308 will be called to order at 7:00 pm and approximately 7:01 PM**, bids results will be shown and read aloud.

Plans and Specifications may be examined at the office of Bogart, Pederson & Associates, Inc., 13076 First Street, Becker, MN 55308, or obtained by contacting William Tessmer, PE at wtessmer@bogart-pederson.com or 763-262-8822. Plans will also be available for download online at www.QuestCDN.com. **The cost to obtain a hard copy of the Plans & Specifications is \$_____ with a \$_____ mailing fee.**

The projects includes: milling and overlaying bituminous pavement, mailbox and sign replacement, and gravel shouldering.

Make all bids on the bid form supplied in the specifications – no other proposal submissions will be considered. Bids must be accompanied by a Certified Check or Bidder's Bond made payable to the Township as a proposal guarantee for **at least 5% of the amount of the bid**. No Bidder may withdraw their bid (which shall include the Certified Check or Bidder's Bond) within 30 days after the scheduled closing time for the receipt of bids.

The Township will consider award of the contract at the **March 16th** meeting contingent upon Engineer's review. It is the Township's intent to begin and complete construction in the year **2026**. The Township reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or parts of such bids, and to waive informalities.

/s/ William H. Tessmer, P.E.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26, 01/31/26.)

TOWN OF BECKER NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Becker Township Planning Commission will hold their regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 9, 2026, at the Becker Township Hall, 12165 Hancock Street, Becker, MN. The Planning Commission will hold the following public hearing:

7 p.m. and following

1 Winnetka LLC (Curbside Waste, Inc) applicants/owners, have submitted a conditional use permit application to operate a public drop Collection Site for Curbside Waste at 14813 162nd Ave SE, Big Lake, MN.

Anyone interested in this request is encouraged to attend and comment at the Public Hearing. If you have questions regarding the requests please contact Lucinda Messman at Becker Township Hall, 12165 Hancock Street, Becker, MN, 763-261-5301. If you are unable to attend please provide written comment to Lucinda Messman at P.O. Box 248, Becker, MN 55308 or by email to clerk@becker-township.org by 4:00 p.m., February 9, 2026.

/s/ Lucinda Messman
Clerk, Becker Township
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26.)

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This represents a summary of the Work Session of the Board of Education of Big Lake Public Schools #727. A complete set of minutes will be on file at the District Office and on our website at www.biglakeschools.org upon Board approval.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
The Work Session of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools was called to order on January 7, 2026.
- II. ROLL CALL
All Board members were present.
- III. JOINT POWERS MEETING PRESENTATION
DISCUSSION
Superintendent Truebenbach discussed using the same format as last year with updated information for the presentation at the Joint Powers Meeting.
- IV. CALENDAR DISCUSSION
Superintendent Truebenbach updated the board that he will continue working on the 2026-2027 school calendar with a start date before Labor Day.
- V. BUDGET UPDATE
Discussed potential cuts, timeline, and class sizes due to adjustments that need to be made to the budget.
- VI. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Reasoner adjourned the meeting.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26.)

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PROPOSED ASSESSMENT CITY OF CLEARWATER SPRING STREET STORM SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

Notice is hereby given that the city council will meet at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible on February 9, 2026, at Clearwater City Hall to consider and possibly adopt the proposed assessment for storm sewer improvements on Spring Street from Bittersweet Drive to the northerly dead-end of Spring Street. Adoption by the city council of the proposed assessment against abutting property may occur at the hearing.

Such assessment is proposed to be payable in equal annual installments of principal and interest extending over a period of 5 years, the first of the installments to be payable on or before the first Monday in January 2027 and will bear interest at the rate of 3.7 percent per annum from the date of the adoption of the assessment resolution.

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at the city administrator's office. The total amount of the proposed assessment is \$13,362. Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting. No appeal to district court may be taken as to the amount of an assessment unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the municipal clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The city council may upon such notice consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at an adjourned meeting upon such further notice to the affected property owners as it deems advisable.

An owner may, at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the county auditor, pay the entire assessment on such property, with interest accrued to the date of payment, to the City of Clearwater. No interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid within 30 days from the adoption of this assessment. You may at any time thereafter pay to Wright County the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the succeeding year. If you decide not to prepay the assessment before the date given above, the rate of interest that will apply is 3.7 percent per annum. The right to partially prepay the assessment is available prior to certification of the assessment to the county auditor.

An owner may appeal an assessment to district court pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the mayor or clerk of the city within 30 days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the district court within ten days after service upon the mayor or clerk.

/s/ Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/ Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26.)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This represents a summary of the Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Big Lake Public Schools #727. A complete set of minutes will be on file at the District Office and on our website at www.biglakeschools.org upon Board approval.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
The Organizational Meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Public Schools was called to order on January 7, 2026.
- II. ROLL CALL
All Board members were present.
- III. APPROVE AGENDA
A motion passed to approve the agenda.
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- V. ORGANIZATION FOR 2026
A. Chair
A motion passed to elect Reasoner for Chair.
B. Clerk
A motion passed to elect Schabilion for Clerk.
C. Treasurer
A motion passed to elect Sixberry for Treasurer.
- VI. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE
A motion passed to approve the meeting dates with a new start time of 6:00 PM and moving the May 27, 2026 meeting to May 20, 2026.
- VII. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER
A motion passed to designate the Patriot as the official newspaper.
- VIII. DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORY FOR SCHOOL FUNDS
A motion passed to designate Old National Bank and any other as determined as depository of school funds.
- IX. COMPENSATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
A motion passed for Board members compensation to remain at \$75.00 for regular/special meetings and committees and \$110.00 for meetings exceeding four hours. Yearly stipend for Board Chair will remain at \$700.00 and \$500.00 for Treasurer.
- X. APPROVE USE OF FACSIMILE SIGNATURE STAMP FOR BOARD MEMBERS SIGNING CHECKS
A motion passed to approve the 2026 facsimile signature stamps for Chair, Treasurer, and Clerk.
- XI. ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER
A motion passed to approve the Director of Business Services, Accountant, Human Resources Coordinator, Payroll Specialist, and Superintendent to make electronic fund transfers on behalf of Big Lake Schools.
- XII. COMMITTEE AND REPRESENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS
A motion passed to approve the Board committee and Board representative assignments.
- XIII. LEGAL COUNSEL
A motion passed to approve the legal counsel of Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney on an as needed basis by the Superintendent or Board's discretion.
- XIV. SET MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE
A motion passed to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of 72.5 cents per mile for 2026.
- XV. MEMBERSHIPS IN ORGANIZATIONS
A motion passed to approve the following memberships for 2026:
A. Minnesota School Boards Association
B. Schools Advocating for Fair Funding
C. Resource Training and Solutions
D. Central Minnesota Education Research and Development Council
E. Minnesota State High School League
- XVI. REVIEWED POLICIES 206 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS AND 209 CODE OF ETHICS
The board reviewed both policies.
- XVII. PERSONNEL
A motion passed to accept High School Principal Bob Dockendorf's retirement.
A motion passed to approve the MOU as presented.
- XVIII. ADJOURNMENT
Chair Reasoner adjourned the meeting.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 01/24/26.)

DEADLINES DEADLINES DEADLINES - Wed. by 11am

AREA NEWS

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Board okays amendment of solar ordinance

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

After a brief discussion Tuesday, the Sherburne County Board voted unanimously to approve an amendment to the county's zoning ordinance to change language on prohibition of solar farms in areas of Big Lake Twp.

The request for the amendment came from Big Lake Twp. property owner Jim Sanford.

Marc Schneider of Planning and Zoning said the county established a moratorium on solar farms back in 2019 along Hwy. 10 and Hwy. 169. One of the main reasons it was set along Hwy. 10 was because of a future Mississippi River crossing that might go through areas of Big Lake.

"We were going through a linkage study for a potential river crossing of the Mississippi and Hwy. 25, and we were in the middle of our comprehensive plan," he said.

Schneider said a similar request for an amendment by another applicant was denied in 2023 because of those studies, but now they have been resolved.

"With those two studies done, the planning commission did recommend approval of this proposed amendment," said Schneider.

The amendment adds language that allows solar farms "for those parcels that have an existing Solar Farm constructed prior to Oct. 1, 2025 or share a boundary line with a parcel that has an existing Solar Farm constructed prior to Oct. 1, 2025."

"Specifically, adjacent to existing solar farms where a lot of the utilities and equipment are already established, so it doesn't completely open up solar throughout that area

of Big Lake Twp.," said Schneider.

Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski asked whether the previous solar farm request that was denied could now be brought back for approval.

"This ordinance would affect that property because they have an adjacent solar farm and they have components for a solar farm on their property," said Schneider. "We did inform them."

Commissioner Gregg Felber said he was conflicted about his decision, but voted to approve the amendment.

"The primary concern is if we approve this expansion, it will keep expanding solar in that area and prohibit other types of development in that area. However, this is the best use for this couple of properties," he said.

Felber said he wanted to be sure the amendment doesn't lead to filling all those fields in the area with solar.

"Where Big Lake and Sherburne County might be 30 years from now," he said, "I don't think we want those full of panels."

Property Acquisition

The board approved a resolution to acquire property for the Co. Rd. 33 reconstruction project from west of Auburn Street to Co. Rd. 13 in Elk River.

David Roedel with the Public Works Dept. said the county is at a point in the process at which it can begin purchasing permanent and temporary easements for the future construction of the improvements. All funds have been budgeted and approved through the normal budgeting process.

Solid Waste License

The board issued a Solid Waste License to Vonco II for major modifications and

renewal of a Landfill License for a five-year term ending Dec. 31, 2031. The modifications are to their Source Separated operations and storage.

Other Business

In other actions the board:

- Approved a Gambling Premises Permit for Travelers Country Club on the Mississippi for their planned Summer 2026 Bingo events at Travelers Country Club on 80th Ave. SE in Clear Lake Twp.;

- Amended an agreement with Carefree Cleaning for janitorial services to clean the Becker and Zimmerman sites three days a week. The change is expected to save the county approximately \$80,000 compared to the pre-June 2025 process;

- Approved a micro-grant of \$730 from Health Partners to help offset the costs associated with services not covered by health care plans in the Therapeutic Service Unit;

- Approved a professional service agreement with Bolton & Menk for the preliminary design for the Hwy. 10 and Co. Rd. 11 Interchange at \$1,725,000;

- Approved the Preliminary and Final Simple Plan of "Potato Sack One," consisting of two lots on 46.84 acres off 86th Ave. SE in Clear Lake Twp.;

- Approved an amendment to the Sherburne County Zoning Ordinance to establish a Wrecker and Towing Service Business. The use would become an interim use permit only in the county's Industrial Zoning District;

- Accepted 2025 fourth-quarter donations to Health & Human Services totalling \$6,838.88.

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Koubsky paces Breakaways

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Breakaways High School Alpine Ski Team competed at the Brainerd Warrior Alpine Invitational Race at Mount Ski Gull in Nisswa last Thursday.

There were 46 Girls and 61 Boys (total of 107 racers) from five schools (Annandale, Brainerd, De-

troit Lakes, Lakes Area Alexandria, and the St. Cloud Breakaways) that competed.

Becker's Mirra Koubsky paced the varsity girls team, placing fourth in the race for the Breakaways, which is a coop including athletes from St. Cloud, Rocori, Sauk Rapids-Rice, St. John's Prep, Sartell, and Becker.

Hornets drop 2

By Bill Morgan, Editor

The Big Lake Hornet basketball team had a rough week as they dropped two games in recent contests and fell to record of 8-4.

Last Friday, the Hornets struggled at Becker as they lost by 30, 87-57 in front of a packed Bulldog crowd on Staff Appreciation Night.

Becker entered the game 10-2, ranked No. 9 in the state, and sitting in first place in the Mississippi 8 Conference. Big Lake came in at 8-3 and in third place, just one game back, setting the stage for a highly anticipated rivalry matchup.

Tuesday, the Hornets led the Monticello Magic at halftime, but faltered in the second half to lose by 10, 86-76.

Scoring for the Hornets were: Trevor Stuckenholtz with 26 and Judd Layton with 19.

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WWII
from page 5



THE NUREMBURG courtroom, as we saw it on our October tour. The courtroom remains in use today. (Photo by Gary W. Meyer).

and Julius Streicher, Nazi newspaper editor.

Four very prominent Nazis sat in the front pew of the defendants docket. They included Rudolph Hess, who tried to escape flying to Britain in 1941, only to be captured and returned after the war. William Frick, interior minister; Joachim von Ribbentrop, foreign minister; and their ultimate leader, Hermann Goring, supreme commander and person in waiting to lead the country in Hitler's demise. He took it upon himself to intervene on behalf of fellow defendants during proceedings.

The trial for these defendants took almost a year. Majority were found guilty and a few released after prison terms. Some later committed suicide. Most notably, Goring wouldn't "go alive." Despite strict rules to keep contraband from the prisoners, Goring secured a tablet of cyanide and placed it inside his rectum in

the privacy of his bathroom. He died on his own time, causing lots of stress for the Allies.

Our tour group witnessed a photo taken of the defendants after their deaths, stretched out on gurneys, for the world to see in their local papers. It was a retched scene. But the world had to know.

Our guide, Bieke, in answer to my question, noted the dead were burned up, as they had done so to many millions. Their ashes were taken to a river in nearby Munich and unceremoniously deposited there.

So, there is no trace.

Following World War II, it was determined an international court should be established in The Hague, Netherlands. It has since hosted trials for Serbs accused of atrocities in the Bosnia War of 1991-94.

Bulldog boys roll to 3 W's Bulldog girls go 3-1



THE BECKER BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM celebrated staff appreciation night last week during their win over Big Lake. (Submitted Photo.)

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

(Editor's Note: The following is a condensed version of coverage for the boys basketball team. To see the extended article with further coverage and stats, go our website at www.patriotnewsnmn.com.)

The Becker boys basketball team rolled to three wins in recent action, including an 87-57 win over Big Lake.

The night began with a special moment as Becker celebrated Staff Appreciation Night, where each player invited a teacher or community member who has impacted their growth as a person to attend.

This created an emotional and energized atmosphere from the opening tip.

The ninth-ranked Bulldogs received gigantic performances from Nathan Weiss (36 points, 10 rebounds) and Bryce Paumen (19 points, 15 rebounds), as both notched a double-double.

"This was another game where our players, with a high level of unselfishness, took joy in playing for one another and celebrating one another, which led to a game where we had 27 assists and only seven turnovers," said Head Coach Cory Nuestr.

Westonka

A night earlier, Becker defeated Westonka, 76-44, in a game Coach Nuestr called "one of their most complete performances of the season."

Westonka entered the game with two very good guards, including one who averages 24 points per game and has a 53-point performance this season. Becker's defense rose to the challenge, with Nathan Weiss drawing the primary assignment and holding the high-scoring guard to just 11 points.

"Nathan was outstanding defensively," said Nuestr. "He accepted the challenge, competed every possession, and made things really difficult on a player who can score at a high level."

Coach Nuestr also praised his team's shot selection, with Isiah Boyer scoring 19 points and adding six assists, while Troy Nuestr had 12 points, six assists and provided the steady, vocal leadership to help his team excel.

Bluejackets

Tuesday night, the Bulldogs racked up another M8 Conference win, downing Cambridge-Isanti, 76-59.

"Cambridge is always a tough place to go on the road and win," said Nuestr. "They are a well-coached team, play a unique matchup zone, and shoot a ton of threes. I was really proud of our guys for how they played together and with toughness."

Becker had amazing balance in the game, with five players in double figures: Troy Nuestr 14 points (five rebounds and assists), Paumen 16 points (nine rebounds), Weiss 16 points (seven rebounds, nine assists), Boyer 15 points (seven assists) and Saul Kreft 12 points.

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

(Editor's Note: The following is a condensed version of coverage for the girls basketball team. To see the extended article with further coverage and stats, go our website at www.patriotnewsnmn.com.)

Once again, the Becker girls basketball team is playing top competition, and in their most recent stretch they picked up three wins in four games.

Becker took on behemoth Minnetonka last weekend and fell 75-62 against a Class AAAA team, the Skippers, that moved to 15-1 on the season with the win and showed why they are the top ranked team in the state.

"This game was competitive throughout," Said Coach Dan Baird. "The game was very similar stat wise, as both teams had 30 rebounds and 13 turnovers."

The Skippers were able to hit a few more shots down the stretch to pull off the win.

For Becker, Adele Changamire was stellar throughout, proving that no stage is too big for the talented sophomore.

"She was going downhill and getting to the basket against some of the best guards in the state," Baird said.

She finished with 24 points, five rebounds, and four assists to lead Becker, while sister Andie Changamire had 15 points and six rebounds.

Vikings

The Bulldogs set a school record the week prior in a 107-19 win over North Branch.

Becker shot 68% and scored 79 points in the first half, as the starters garnered fewer minutes in the game than the reserves.

Ten different Bulldogs scored in the game, led by Andie Changamire's 24 points.

"Alyse Denne scored 14 points to go with her great defensive performance, snagging three steals to go with three deflections," Baird added.

B-Jackets

Last Tuesday, Becker knocked off M8 foe Cambridge-Isanti, 91-27.

The win gave Becker a 4-1 M8 Conference record and was highlighted by some amazing shooting from Adele Changamire.

She scored 23 points on a perfect nine-for-nine performance from the field. Andie Changamire added 20 points, while Denne chipped in 13 points, two steals and six deflections.

Baird also sang the

praises of his rebounders, as Becker held a 39-25 advantage on the boards, and also won the turnover battle, 11-20.

Hornets

Last Friday, Baird's charges were again on point en route to a 70-44 win over Big Lake in the Hwy. 10 Border Battle.

"The difference in this contest was the turnover battle and points in the paint," Baird said. "We committed only 6 turnovers compared to 23 for Big Lake, and we outscored them in the paint, 58 to 14."

Adele Changamire had 25 points for Becker, while Andie chipped in 23.

"Andie did a great job attacking, not settling for 3's, and did so without committing any turnovers," Baird noted.

With the win, Becker moved to 7-4 on the season, including 5-1 in the M8 Conference.



THE BECKER DANCE TEAM competed at the Mankato State University Send-Off Showcase. (Submitted Photo.)

Becker archery kicks off the season strong

Submitted Article

The Becker Bulldogs Archery team kicked off the season with strong performances at two recent tournaments. Earlier this month, 56 Bulldogs traveled to Roseville to compete in the Beacon Tournament. The team earned first place in High School 3D, fourth place in High School Bullseye, and third place in Middle School Bullseye.

Individual highlights from the Beacon Tournament included top 10 finishes by Sam Lumley, Quinn Williams, Landon Blum, Ethan Luethmers, Drake O'Brien, Leah Lutgen, Rylee Carter, Luke Carter, Ava Oeding, Maggie Stanley, Leland Mohler and Lorelai Schmidt, reflecting strong performances across all age levels.

The Bulldogs followed that success with another solid showing at the OWL Tournament in St. Paul on Sat., Jan. 17, where 44 archers competed and 12 athletes shot personal best scores. Becker finished fifth in both the High School and Middle School divisions.

Several individual archers earned top 10 finishes in the OWL Bullseye competition, including MaKenna Hanson and Landon Blum at the high school level. Middle school archer Hunter Nelson also placed, along with elementary archers Drake Dowty, Cullen Willhite and Maggie Stanley, highlighting the depth of talent within the Bulldogs program.

The season continues January 24 as over 200 Becker archers head to Foley to compete on Saturday and Sunday. The Bulldogs appreciate the continued support from the Becker community as they aim true, shoot strong, and proudly represent Becker.



MAKENNA HANSON took 3rd Place at the Owl Open for High School Girls. Shot her Personal best Bullseye around with a score of 288. (Submitted Photo.)



DRAKE DOWTY took 5th Place at the Owl Open for Elementary School Boys. (Submitted Photo.)



QUINN WILLIAMS for the High School Girls shot her personal best Bullseye round with a score of 274 at the Owl Open. (Submitted Photo.)



SAM LUMLEY (1st Place High School Girls 3D) and Leah Lutgen (4th Place Middle School Girls 3D) at the Beacon Shootout. (Submitted Photo.)

BFS to kick off capital campaign

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Becker Food Shelf Board met last week and announced its intention to commence with a capital campaign to raise enough funds to build a permanent home to tend to the nutritional needs of area residents.

While the food shelf has been around for nearly 40 years, over time the needs of the community have changed, as has the usage of the integral service. The robust demand has created an urgent need for a stand alone building to facilitate the operation.

The Need

Currently, the food shelf operates out of the Furniture Mart building and the board expressed their gratitude to the owners of that business for their generosity and flexibility. However, a permanent structure will allow the food shelf to operate more efficiently and also expand their offerings.

Director Marilyn Dan-



BOARD MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS from the Becker Food Shelf met this week at the future site of the new building that will provide service to the Becker community. Pictured: Shane Rademacher, Emma Hoard, Marilyn Danielson, Susan Dunbar, Pastor David Johnson, Tanya Danielson and Rev. Gerry Bass (Submitted Photo).

ielson noted that demand grew sharply over the past few months, as hundreds of families were served in the month of December.

"Our current volunteers have been amazing," Danielson says. "They are a very dedicated group of people and we count on their support to be able to provide this service to the community."

One of the constraints of the current space is a lack of storage for dry goods, meaning that volunteers

and businesses such as True Value, Bill's Family Foods, the Sherburne History Center and Grace Lutheran Church are providing space for overflow storage.

In addition, the facility is in dire need of a walk-in cooler space so they could tap into additional donations of meat and produce from the Second Harvest network.

The Plan

Early in 2025, the board reached an agreement with the City of Becker to pur-

chase for one dollar a plot of land behind the current Legion/Becker Township buildings, and "Future Home of the Becker Food Shelf" signs currently adorn that space.

The new facility will have ample storage for both dry goods and perishables, as well as more room to accommodate the ever-increasing residents who utilize the service.

Preliminary drawings for the building indicate a construction price tag approaching \$600,000, although the board is hoping to reduce costs through discounted pricing and donated labor and services.

"We plan to utilize all local contractors for the construction of the building," says Board President the Rev. David Johnson. "Country Lumber was generous in helping us with the drawings for the building and other businesses are already stepping up to help. We are extremely grateful for their commitment."

The Donors

Fundraising efforts

started quietly over the past few months, with the submittal of grants and donation requests. Almost immediately, donations starting pouring in, including from the Becker, Clear Lake and Clearwater Lions Clubs, the Malark Foundation, Eddy Foundation, and Sherburne State Bank. In addition, local Veterans organizations - the Becker American Legion Post 193, Becker Legion Auxiliary and Becker Sons of the American Legion - also made pledged funds to the project.

In total, around \$80,000 has been raised already, and the early success has buoyed the efforts of the board to bring the project forward to the community.

Residents will soon receive a mailer that allows for individual donations, as well as a link to the organization's website (beckerfoodshelf.org), where more information will be available.

Board members and volunteers will also be visiting area businesses to solicit funding for the project.

The Calling

To be able to serve members of the community is a calling for board members Marilyn Danielson, Rev. David Johnson, Pastor Nathan Bucher (Secretary), Rev. Gerry Bass, Father Mike Kellogg, Shane Rademacher, Tanya Danielson and Emma Hoard. As the group shepherds the fundraising process in the coming months, there will be a sign on the site that will allow the community to track progress of the capital campaign. The "funding thermometer" will be updated as goals are met and the ground can be broken on the endeavor. It's a project that is much more than just a building in the mind of Rev. Johnson.

"A big thank you to everyone for talking this up with your neighbors and finding a way to be involved," Rev. Johnson says. "So many people are working hard to bring this ministry to fruition and it will be a blessing to so many people now and in the years to come."