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PATRIOT



COLUMNIST STAN TEKIELA has another informative article for our readers on page 2. His column, entitled, "Winter Survivors" focuses on several midwest critters (including the moose, above) and their readiness to survive the harsh winters of North America. (Submitted photo.)

Inside

CLEAR LAKE

The Clear Lake Twp. Board of Supervisors welcomed Kiel Dolly to the panel and recognized and thanked former Chairman Gary Gray for his years of service. Gray was elected a Sherburne County Commissioner last fall. See the story on page 3.

BECKER

The City of Becker received word from Google that the company plans to pull out of the idea of installing a data center in Becker's Industrial Park. See the story on page 3.

BIG LAKE

Big Lake gymnast Britney Krumrei set a new school record and was the all around champion at the Hornet Classic. See her story on page 5.

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LUNDEEN WINS NATIONAL AWARD

(Editor's Note: The following information was submitted to the Patriot by AFCA Media Relations contact, Vince Thompson. Slight modifications were made by the Patriot's Editor.)

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

Becker High School Head Coach Dwight Lundeen was named the recipient of the 2022 AFCA®/AFCF® Power of Influence Award at the 2023 AFCA Convention in Charlotte, NC Sunday night.

Lundeen was nominated by Minnesota Football Coaches Association.

The Power of Influence award was created as a way for the AFCA® and AFCF® to honor a deserving high school football coach. Lundeen was up for the award along with four other coaches from around the country — Jim Kelliher, Abington (Mass.) H.S.; Rodney Saulsberry Sr., Whitehaven (Tenn.) H.S.; John King, Longview (Tex.) H.S.; and Todd Sloat, Fall River (Calif.) H.S.

Lundeen becomes just the third Minnesotan coach to win the award who include Ron Stolski of Brainerd (2005) and Dave Nelson of Minnetonka (2019.)

Coaches who receive this award are recognized for their impact on their team, as well as the legacy they leave with the school and surrounding community. This award is not based on wins and losses; however, it should be noted that coaches of powerful influence have longevity and success. This is the first AFCA award specifically designed to honor a high school coach.

"My story is that for 53 years, I have chosen to do something I truly love, coach football," Lundeen said. "As a coach, I strive to make a difference by guiding young men to be better students and role models as well as better husbands, fathers, and community members once they leave our program."

Lundeen started the Becker High School football team in 1970 and has never left. In his 53 years as head coach, Lundeen has amassed an overall record of 390-166-3 with three state championships, 19

section titles and 24 conference championships. He has also been the head track coach, head golf coach, assistant varsity basketball coach and assistant girls' lacrosse coach while at Becker.

Lundeen has served as president, and on the executive committee, of the Minnesota Football Coaches Association (MFCA), the Minnesota Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association, and the Minnesota State High School League. He has served as the High School Liaison to the Minnesota Vikings for the MFCA and been a member of the Vikings High School All-Star Team Selection Committee and

LUNDEEN
to page 10



"As a coach, I strive to make a difference by guiding young men to be better students and role models as well as better husbands, fathers, and community members once they leave our program."
—Lundeen

Parenting event coming January 30

Big Lake Schools is teaming up with Central Minnesota Mental Health Center (CMMHC) for a

vised activities. A FREE family dinner will also be provided.

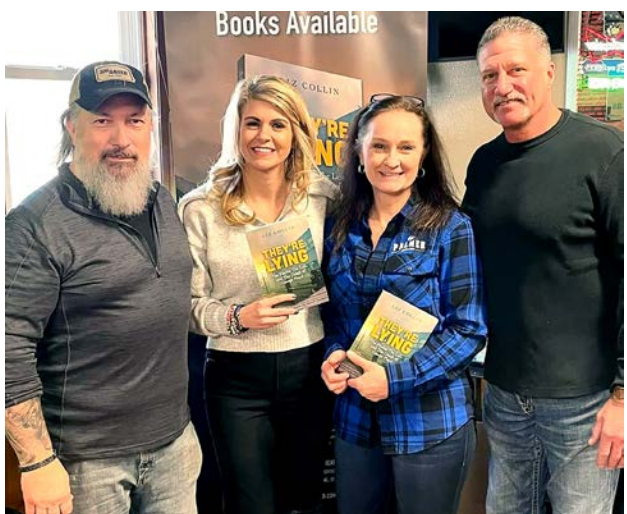
Registration is required. Go to www.biglakeschools.org for the link. Space is

limited, don't wait to register!

family-friendly "Parenting in 2023" event on January 30 at Independence Elementary STEM from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

This event has something for the whole family. Parents will learn new tips and techniques to enhance parenting skills through a presentation by Steven Loos, Psy. D, LP (Chief Clinical Officer at CMMHC). Kids will have fun and take part in super-

Steven Loos works as a Director, Outpatient Mental Health Services at Central Minnesota Mental Health Center, which is a Hospitals & Physicians Clinics company with an estimated 226 employees; and founded in 1959. Loos graduated from University of St. Thomas after receiving a Bachelor's Degree from St. John's University.



DR. STEVEN LOOS, PSY., D, LP AND CHIEF CLINICAL OFFICER AT CMMHC is the guest speaker at the January 30 event in Big Lake. (Submitted Photo).

BOOK SIGNING AT PALMER HOUSE.

Liz Collins, multi-Emmy winning investigative reporter and television anchor, was on hand at Palmer House Saturday, January 7th, for a book signing and meet and greet promoting her #1 book "They're Lying". Liz was formerly a familiar face on the news in the Twin Cities. Liz is married to Bob Kroll, former Minneapolis police union chief. Palmer House owner Paul Braun, award winning author Liz Collins, Palmer House owner Barbara Keenan and Bob Kroll. (Submitted photo.)

Pray for Damar

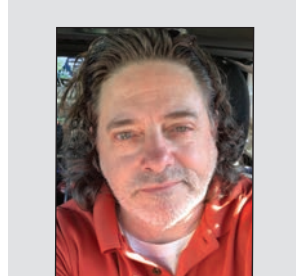
When Damar Hamlin of the Buffalo Bills collapsed on the field a couple Mondays ago and the announcers solemnly stated they were performing CPR on the young man — I honestly can say I thought I had witnessed his death on live TV.

In a way, we all did because technically he was dead after suffering cardiac arrest following what appeared to be a routine tackle early in the game.

I admit I cried as I watched the tears flowing down Stefon Diggs' face as he clutched his shoulder pads in horror. Siran Neal, another teammate, pulled away from the grouping and fell to his knees while another teammate wrapped his arms around him. Huge line-men whose girth and mass create menacing brutes, were maligned to the turf on all fours with their heads buried in their hands.

The cutaways from the stadium to the TV studio were agonizing as well as none of the announcers felt compelled to comment on what they were witnessing. Bouts of silence filled the airways and it felt as if time was standing still.

I began praying to God for the life of that 24-year-



By Bill Morgan, Editor/Writer

old Bills player as soon as that ambulance entered the stadium. I had hoped one of the announcers would have the guts to dismiss protocol and commit to a prayer. I did find out later that an ESPN analyst named Dan Orlovsky did just that on live TV — something I thought I'd never see from that network. Amazing. Chilling.

As the ambulance finally secured Hamlin's compromised body from the scene after several insufferable minutes, the cameras turned towards a large huddle of Buffalo Bills players, coaches, trainers and others as they collectively started praying for their fallen teammate while on their knees. Imagine that scene for a moment.

PRAY to page 10

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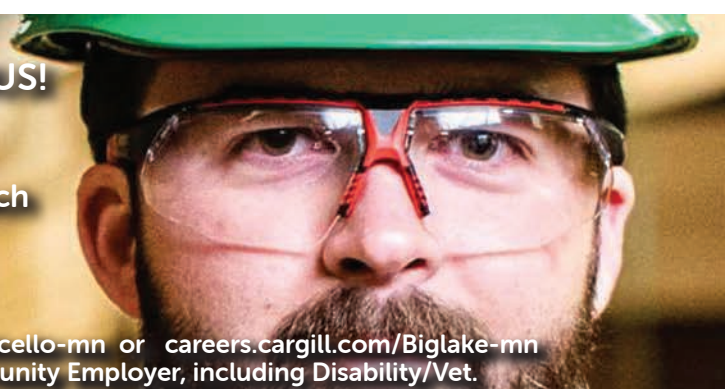


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Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church
 Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am • www.beckerchristiancenter.org/becker-christian-center-church
Beacon House of Prayer
 Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm. • <http://lmnhouseofprayer.org>
Free Grace United
 Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, 13150 First Street, Becker (enter through Becker Spine door). Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm. • <https://freegrace.tv/locations/becker>
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Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church
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Glendorado Evangelical Country Church
 Interim Pastor, 763-662-2244, 16999 Glendorado Road NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10:30am. • <https://m.facebook.com/Glendorado-Evangelical-Country-Church-734989370230509>
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 320-699-0876, 7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am. • <https://www.facebook.com/livingwaters.us>
Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
 Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919, 8641 Main Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am. • www.trinityclearlake.org/index.html
SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer
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- DUELM**
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Clearwater United Methodist Church
 Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30am. • www.clearwaterumcmn.org
Freedom Bible Baptist Church
 320-434-347, 605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office). Services: Sun. . Worship 10:45am. • www.freedombiblebaptist.com
Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA
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Tri-County Alliance Church of St. Luke
 Father: Dennis Backer, 320-558-2124, 17545 Huber Ave NW. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8am & 10am. Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8am/Sat. 9am. • <https://www.facebook.com/ChurchOf-StLukes>
Tri-County Alliance Church
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The Magic is Gone

It's mind-boggling to me how fast technology changes and how far it's advanced. We see it everywhere in our daily lives and have become so immune we just expect it. Take movies. Growing up, the only way I could see a movie was by going to the theater. How exciting that was! Dark theater, buttery popcorn smell, previews, and finally, the big event. Later stumbling out of the theater, blinded by brightness, excitedly talking about your favorite parts. Drive-ins were even more exciting. Finding a good spot to park, speaker in the window, waiting impatiently for it to get dark so the movie could start. Hoping the mosquitos wouldn't be too bad. The first drive-in movie I remember was Bambi. My childless uncle decided to take a bunch of us to the drive-in as a treat. We were so excited - a movie (cartoon!), popcorn, a favorite uncle, and fun cousins, what more could you ask for? Everything was great until Bambi's mom was shot. My cousin Sue started bawling. Loudly. My uncle got frustrated and warned her we were leaving if she didn't stop. Dismayed, the rest of us started yelling at her. She finally stopped and we stayed until the end. TV became 24-hour-7-days-a-week with more channels so you could always find a movie you wanted to watch. Renting home videos became popular, although it was expensive to purchase the VCR players to watch them on. Video sections soon



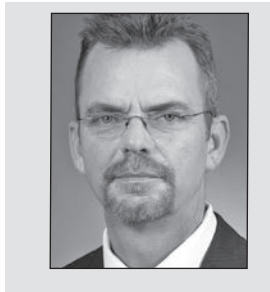
By Penny Leuthard
Contributing Writer

popped up in every grocery store. Scanning the aisles picking out movies with my kids was a highly anticipated weekly event. You could also buy your own VHS tapes so your favorite movies were available whenever you wanted to watch them. Then VHS became outdated and DVDs took their place. They quickly evolved into Blu-rays. Cable TV became the thing to have - more movies, all the time! Then it lost popularity with the introduction of streaming services. Today we can watch anything, any time. In less than 50 years we've gone from movies being seen as a special occasion to aimlessly watching them 24/7. Watching movies is no longer the 'event' it used to be. While my kids can't understand the anticipation I felt for Saturday morning cartoons, their kids will never know the anticipation of having to wait to watch *anything*. Technology has taken the magic out of movies, and honestly, watching television all together.

TV became 24-hour-7-days-a-week with more channels so you could always find a movie you wanted to watch. Renting home videos became popular, although it was expensive to purchase the VCR players to watch them on. Video sections soon

House approves bill matching state tax code with fed

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by Chad Urdahl of Shane Mekeland's team.)



By Rep. Shane Mekeland

The Minnesota House on Monday overwhelmingly passed legislation allowing state taxpayers to take advantage of numerous tax provisions already approved at the federal level. Federal conformity is needed in Minnesota to ease filing compliance burdens and to help industries that were hardest hit from pandemic shutdowns - especially restaurant, hospitality, and entertainment industries. This is one of those common-sense bills we just needed to take care of because it's the right thing to do for Minnesotans. This will make things easier during filing season and I'm happy we acted early in the session. There is a whole lot more we need to be looking at in terms of taxes in light of the state's \$8 billion surplus and I look forward to discussing meaningful relief for Minnesota taxpayers. At least seven federal bills have been passed into law since Minnesota last

enacted legislation to match congressional changes. Tax year 2023 marks five years since our state tax code has been conformed, which is the longest the state has been out of conformity in decades. Under the bill, taxpayers have until Dec. 31 to file an amended return. State officials indicate approving the bill (H.F. 31) by Jan. 13 allows tax software to be updated in time for the 2023 filing season. Language the House passed Monday specifies taxpayers have until Dec. 31 to file an amended return. With 132-0 passage in the House, the bill is now in the hands of the Senate and, pending that body's approval, will be presented to the governor for enactment.

Letters To The Editor

TO THE EDITOR:
Open Forum Moved? At the first Sherburne Co. Commissioners meeting of the year one of their first acts, upon recommendation from Co. Adm. Bruce Messelt, was moving the Open Forum portion of the meetings out of the meeting proper to instead be held a 1/2 hr. prior to calling the meeting to order. The stated reason was because Open Forum results in an, "interruptions of the

business flow", and that the move will allow for 15 mins of Open Forum and then 15 mins for the filling of coffee cups before resuming the meeting. What this change actually does, besides making the meeting longer, is stifle public input/discussion. This I bet will also provide the excuse to not even video tape the Open Forum presentations and post online along with the rest of their meeting, removing the ability of the

public not present, the opportunity to hear citizens' concerns. If Open Forum is to be moved, it should be moved to prior to Consent Agenda (CA), instead of after the CA, so that any citizen concerns over a CA items can be heard before the CA is voted on. It appears that the past years Open Forum contributors have struck a nerve. **Bret R. Collier**
Big Lake, MN

TO THE EDITOR:
I wish to say "Thank you" to the county snow plow that does our snow plowing on Co. Rd. 4 and 97th St. You deserve a great deal of praise. You are out there day and night. Our road is always good! All I can say is we appreciate you! Thanks again, **Arlene Blad**
Becker Twp., MN

Winter Survivors



By Naturalist Stan Tekiela

Winter weather has been in the news a lot lately. In particular, the amount of snow blanketing many parts of the northern states. Where I'm located in the upper Midwest, we have had over four feet of snow along with some bone breaking cold temperatures. So, the natural question to ask is, does the deep snow and cold impact wildlife/nature in a negative or positive way? The deep snow represents an advantage for some animals and a distinct disadvantage for others. Some animals such as raccoons, skunks and opossums will spend upwards of a month or more held up in a protected spot under a building or inside a hollow tree for the coldest and snowiest parts of the winter. This is not a hibernation. This is self-preservation and avoiding the harshness of winter and could be seen as a negative. Some animals such as moose enjoy winter weather. Their long legs help them to navigate through the deep snow and food is plentiful. Moose have issues with winter ticks. These tiny blood suckers can overwhelm a moose in winter and deplete them of their blood thus weakening them in winter. The extremely cold temperatures help to kill off the winter ticks and improve the health of the individual moose and is definitely a positive. In general, owls do very well in cold winters and deep snow. In fact, the hunting is so good that the Great Horned Owls nest at this time of year. Yep, you read that correctly. Great Horned Owls start to nest in January and February. The female chooses a nest

site. They don't build a nest but rather take over an existing nest, such as a red-tailed hawk or crow nest. The female simply moves the snow away and settles in. Winter is a positive for owls. Of course, small animals such as chipmunks and woodchucks are in

falling back into hibernation. So cold and snow really doesn't affect these critters. A lot of species depend upon deep snow. Ruffed grouse will dive into a snowdrift to roost overnight. The snow acts like an insulating blanket. Under the thick snow, near the earth's surface, the temperature is around 32° F., while the outside air temperature can be well below zero. The greater the temperature gradient between a bird's body core temperature and the outside air the more energy it takes for the bird to keep warm. Energy comes from eating food so if they don't eat enough, they will run out of energy and die. The blanket of snow goes a long way to reducing the temperature gradient between the bird and air temperatures. Many animals are well adapted to snow and cold. The snowshoe hare for example has large hind feet that act like snowshoes, hence their name, and during winter they grow more fur on their feet to add more surface area which allows them to stay on the top of the snow. By staying on the top of the deep snow allows the snowshoe hare to reach twigs and other food that would normally be out of reach with no snow. Canada lynx and bobcats also do well in winter weather. They grow thick fur that keeps them warm and dry. The long legs of the Canada lynx help them to get through the deep snow. Their feet are huge and act like snowshoes. Winter is a time of plenty for these cats which hunt birds and small mammals in winter. Small birds such as Black-capped chickadees

and American goldfinch put on extra layer of fat for the winter. Most small birds put on about one-third more feathers during winter months. Like putting on a down-feather jacket this keeps them warm during winter and the extra fat fuels their thermoregulating system. Extreme winter weather is nothing new for wildlife. Nature is always seeking a balance so extreme snow and cold is not just a negative but is also a positive for wildlife. We just need to have a better understanding of the workings of nature. Until next time...

Stan Tekiela is an author / naturalist and wildlife photographer who travels the U.S. to study and capture images of wildlife. He can be followed on www.Instagram.com, www.Facebook.com and www.Twitter.com. He can be contacted via his website at NatureSmart.com



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CL Twp. welcomes Golly, says goodbye to Gray

During Clear Lake Twp's December meeting, Kiel Golly was introduced as the township's new supervisor. At the end of the meeting, outgoing Chairman and Supervisor Gary Gray was recognized for his many years of service and wished luck with his new job as a Sherburne Co. Commissioner.

exceeding the estimate. Twp Engineer Terrance Vander Eyk informed the board the Highway 10 task force had met to look at their cost options. 'Low Cost Option B' has the most favorable cost benefit and the one Eyk believes they'll go with. The plan includes 15 intersections, some of which would be J-hooks.

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

"We appreciate all you've done for the township, and wish you good luck with your new job," said Supervisor Bud Stimmler.

A motion carried for Eyk to write a letter stating the township's position on it (they're opposed to the J-hooks) and send to all participating parties.

Arvig is asking for a grant from the 'Border to Border' program that will take care of the homes the company previously didn't include in their broadband plans, including 31 homes in Clear Lake Twp. They need the township to partner in the grant request with \$5,000; the township will use their ARPA money.

Other Business
Xcel will be building a powerline from Marshall to Becker in anticipation of the powerplant being shut down. Construction on Sherco Solar 1 and 2 is expected to begin spring 2023.



OUTGOING CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBER GARY GRAY was recognized and thanked for his years of service during Clear Lake Twp's December meeting. (Photo by Penny Leuthard).

A motion carried to enter into an assessment service agreement between the township and the county. Cost is four to eight dollars per parcel. The sheriff reported 128 calls for service in November, including 64 traffic stops, 10 accidents, and one

residential burglary. Residents were warned that a lot of fraud was again being reported. The next Clear Lake Twp. meeting will be January 17 at 7 p.m.

Palmer to enhance enforcement of snow plowing statute

The agenda for Monday night's Palmer Township board meeting looked familiar to attendees, as the issue

been affected by the snow and will be working with John Herbst, the township contractor, to remove snowbanks as needed to increase visibility.

In yet another winter related item, the issue of snowmobile trespassing was discussed and the board has been in contact with both the DNR Conservation Officer in the area, as well as the SCSO to address the situation.

Crosswalks
In a hold over item from December, Larson reported on his efforts to work with Sherburne County to install flashing speed lights at both ends of town, as well as a pair of crosswalks to increase the safety for pedestrians. It was noted that three different bus routes stop in town, including from Becker, Foley and St. Cloud districts.

Larson reported that he is working with Sheriff Joel Brott, as well as Sherburne County staff on the necessary road studies and traffic counts to make the project happen. Financing for the lights has yet to be decided, as well as the final placement of the lights.

In Other Business, the Board:
• Heard from SCSO Commander Ben Zawacki about the 92 calls for service for December, up from 72 in 2021 during the same period. Traffic stops and security checks accounted for the increase;

• Heard from Fire Chief Ron Koren about December's 22 calls for service from the CLFD, of which five originated in Palmer, all medicals;
• Discussed Feb. 11's Ice Day and the many details that will go into the annual gathering. Although it is not a township sanctioned or directed celebration, the supervisors expressed their confidence in the organizers

to put on a safe event;

• Approved a contact with the Tri-County Humane Society to provide stray dog boarding;
• Set the date for the annual Board of Equalization as April 18th at 9 a.m.;

• Discussed the ski trails that are open at Palmer Park;
• Discussed the renewal of the lease with the SCSO for usage of the office and storage area at Palmer Town Hall;
• Heard an update on the 2022 gopher bounty season, noting that 2,739 pairs of gopher feet were turned in for bounty by a total of eight trappers. The current rate calls for a \$3 payment per gopher and the trapper with the most luck (or skill) this year turned in 287 gophers. Treasurer Roger Johnson reminded everyone that any citizen earning more than \$600 in payments in a year will be issued a 1099 for tax purposes to ensure that Uncle Sam gets their share of the catch.



By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

of plowing snow on township and county roadways was again addressed.

As has widely been reported at many township meetings across Sherburne County and in this newspaper over the past several years, Minnesota Statute 160.2715 expressly prohibits homeowners from plowing snow or placing snow onto any roadway. This also includes the roadway right-of-ways.

The issue is one of safety, as many times the people plowing their driveways create a road hazard for motorists and any snow/slush that is left behind also often leads to ice, drifting and sometimes snow "speed bumps" for motorists driving down the roadway. One "near miss" was also reported at the meeting where a plower operating a four wheeler came across the road and almost collided with a truck.

Chair Mike Ganz noted that the township has been dealing with the issue for years, but it continues to get worse. Supervisors Steve Demeules and Richard Larson agreed, and as a result, the board approved a motion to send letters to violators. It was noted that the Sherburne County Sheriffs Office can issue a ticket on the first offense, but the township was hoping that with increased warnings maybe there would be better compliance from citizens.

This issue was certainly exacerbated with the copious amounts of snowfall in December.

In a related agenda item, the board also discussed roadway sight lines that have



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Google scraps plans for data center in Becker

The City of Becker recently heard that the Google data center will no longer be joining the Becker Business Park as planned. City staff

with the city or the proposed deal, but rather was an internal decision made by the company.

Lerud said the city was disappointed by Google's decision, as the project had been a long time in the planning. Furthermore, Becker hoped to use Google's plan to attract other businesses to fill out the business park. Becker has been looking to expand its business park in light of Xcel Energy's plan to decommission the Sherco

plants in upcoming years. A large name-brand company like Google may have made the business park seem appealing to other businesses. Becker also secured funding from the state to bring city infrastructure to the park with the understanding that Google was interested in moving in to the location.

While the city is disappointed by Google's decision, plans to expand the infrastructure of the business park will continue, as the state funding dictates certain deadlines and the city is still hoping to attract

new businesses. One potential business would be Elk River Technologies, which is proposing a data center of their own.

Project 2, providing city sewer and water on the south side of Becker, will be commencing later this year. Projects 3 and 4 in the business park will also start this year or in 2024. Lerud that these plans were never meant to be implemented specifically for Google's sake, but were always meant to prepare lots for new businesses.

Although Sherco plants

1 and 2 are scheduled to be decommissioned in the near future, Lerud said that would also be an opportunity in disguise, as land currently held as a buffer between the plants and the surrounding area could be opened up for new businesses to build.

Economic developer Renee Regal said city staff is still very much hopeful that other businesses will see the value in Becker and be attracted to the growing business park.

"Emotion aside, we respect [Google's] decision,"

said Regal. "We are keeping our eyes out for new opportunities." She said she hoped that other businesses would come to see that things are "Better in Becker" as the city motto proclaims. Meanwhile, Regal is also interested in retaining and expanding the businesses already calling Becker home.

Lerud noted that the city is working on a master plan with Xcel Energy for decommissioning. The Patriot intends to publish information on this plan when it becomes available.

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

learned of Google's decision in early December, right before Google's deadline to file with the Public Utilities Council (PUC). City Administrator Greg Lerud said Google told city staff that the decision had nothing to do

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CW City Council approves community development specialist position

During their last meeting of the year, Clearwater City Council members approved and posted for a new community development specialist position which will be shared with the EDA. The position is intended to manage several areas of new responsibility along with other duties absorbed by existing staff.

Ash Street Apts.

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnews.com

During their November meeting, the council approved the site plan and PUD/CUP for the upcoming Ash St. apartment complex, which the developer is currently calling Clearwater Residential Estates.

The Planning Commission had recommended denial, however changes have been made to address their concerns. These include moving the driveway and trash enclosures out of the city easement area and moving the trash enclosure inside the building with a garage attachment. A condition was added to the development agreement requiring trees to be replaced if moved for maintenance, as the landscaping provides required screening under city code.

A parking variance to allow 90 parking stalls was also requested and approved for the complex. City code requires 2.5 per unit/105 stalls for the proposed 42 units.

Lastly, the TIF development agreement was approved after changes were made to the proposed agreement, including changes to the number of units, which resulted in a slight increase to the proposed TIF dollar amount. There was also a provision added to address the city's request for security to cover storm sewer infrastructure costs of the project.

Code Enforcement

Smythe informed the council that Bryan Kelly contacted staff and stated he wanted to avoid litigation and come into compliance. To date, he has removed several vehicles, obtained a new survey, and applied to complete a lot combination. He also stated he would like to discuss a possible access easement with the city.

Members discussed the actions taken to date but want to make sure the issues ultimately get resolved. A motion carried to pause litigation while Kelly works with staff, but to require a monthly update until the violations are resolved.

Motions Carried

The council approved Resolution 2022-76 Approving Variance Request - RHL, Inc., which asked for approval to erect a sign along I-94 that exceeds size limits in City Code.

Resolution 2022-77 Approving Site Plan and Conditional Use Permit - Midco was approved. Wanting to build an essential services structure on a vacant lot next to the laundromat, Midco was requesting a conditional use permit as the property is zoned R1-Residential.

After discussion, Resolution 2023-83 - Approval of 2023 Levy and Budget was approved.

Also approved was Resolution 2023-84 - Approval of 2023 Step Compensation Scale, which adjusts staff wages closer to market rates due to inflation, adds new positions, including a new staff structure to address a pending retirement, and adjusts to comply with pay equity laws. Staff must obtain 'meets' or 'exceeds' expectations on their performance review to be eligible for a step increase; all increases are approved by the city council.

Further motions carried include Ord. 2023-01 - Approval of 2023 Fee Schedule Ordinance, Ord. 2022-10 - Amending Parking After Snowfall Ordinance, and approval

of the Contract Amendment for Waste Hauler. The city's trash and recycling pick-up date is moving to Thursdays beginning in January.

Other Business

Concrete at Veterans Memorial Park has been completed; public works staff has built a portable warming house for the hockey rink at El Dorado Park.

During public forum a resident approached the council to inquire about the new sewer surcharge. City Administrator Annita Smythe explained that it was added by the Sewer Authority due to declining revenues as a result of low flows caused by the drought conditions of the past two years.

Fire Chief Mike Keller recognized Firefighters Josh Neubert and Jason Lang for receiving department commendation awards related to their recent actions going beyond expectations in a life-saving effort.

Outgoing Clearwater City Council members Kris Crandall, Wayne Kruchten, and woerueor Lenz were recognized and thanked for their service to the city.

The council met again on January 9, which will be covered in a future edition of the Patriot. The next Clearwater City Council meeting will be February 13 at 7 p.m.

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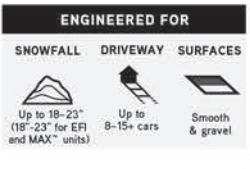
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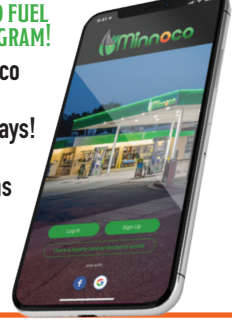
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Krumrei, Hornets dominate Hornet Classic

The Big Lake Hornet gymnastics team hosted their annual Hornet Classic Tournament with eight area teams participating last Saturday.

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

The Hornets captured first place and Britney Krumrei won three of the four events and was all-around champion. Krumrei broke a school record with a combined 38.1 score.

Becker finished third behind Big Lake and Monticello.

Team Scores: 1). Big Lake 144.75; 2). Monticello 140.05; 3). Becker 136.65; 4). Rogers 134.35; 5). New London-Spicer 133.6; 6). Chisago Lakes 132.2; 7). Sartell 131.55; 8). North Branch 129.6; 9). Sauk Rapids-Rice 128.55.

All Around: 1). Britney Krumrei (Big

Lake) 38.1; 2). Autumn Grunewald (Big Lake) 36.25; 3). Emma Hennessey (Becker) 36.05.

Vault: 1). Lainey Stavish (Sartell) 9.6; 2). Britney Krumrei (Big Lake) 9.55; 3). Dakota Esget (North Branch) 9.5.

Bars: 1). Britney Krumrei (Big Lake) 9.45; 2). Lauren Hansen (Monticello) 9.15; 3). Emma Hennessey (Becker) 9.05.

Beam: 1). Britney Krumrei (Big Lake) 9.5; 2). Karli Kirk (Becker) 9.2; 3). Ella Rhein (Chisago Lakes) 9.0.

Floor: 1). Britney Krumrei (Big Lake) 9.6; 2). Sadie Zachman (Rogers) 9.45; 3). Amber Grunewald (Big Lake) 9.35.

Krumrei was also named to the *Star Tribune* Metro Honor Roll for her previous scores in all-around (36.65, sixth), vault

(9.55, fifth), uneven bars (9.35, sixth) and floor (9.35, 14th).

Other Hornets who made the Honor Roll are: **Autumn Grunewald** - vault (9.15, 22nd), beam, (9.225, 15th), floor (9.3, 17th); **Grace McCrone** (beam, 9.1, 25th) and **Allie Lu** - beam (9.05, 28th), floor (9.15, 26th).



HORNET GYMNAST BRITNEY KRUMREI won three of the four events and captured the all-around (setting a team record) at last Saturday's Hornet Classic Gymnastics Tournament. (Photo by Paul Krumrei).



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BL wrestlers go 3-3 in dual meets

The Big Lake Wrestling Team was busy last week, wrestling at the Eden Prairie Invitational

Oliver Ollman of Anoka at 3:13. He beat Noah Miller of Lee's Summit by tech fall, 19-4 and also had a win by forfeit.

of Perham at 0:59. He pinned Ashton Charmoli of St. Francis at 2:40. He pinned Wyatt Cruze of Willmar at 3:23 and he pinned Luke Nally of Lee's Summit at 3:48.

Cash Stortz was 5-1 at 120 and 126 pounds.

Zack Smith was 4-1 at 138 and 145 pounds. He pinned Kaden Feldt of Perham at 1:40. He pinned Zachary Weisman of Eden Prairie at 1:04. He beat Garrett Wittek of Anoka by major decision, 13-4 and he pinned Michael Foley of Lee's Summit at 1:57.

He pinned Isaac Adams of Perham at 2:34. He pinned Joseph Heim of Eden at 2:28. He pinned Kyler Sherk of St. Francis at 5:01. He pinned Brock Bottineau of Anoka at 1:57 and he pinned Aj Wishne of Lee's Summit at 3:21.

Carson Gellerman finished 4-2 at 145 pounds. He pinned Logan Guck of Perham at 1:39. He beat Ian Wittek of Anoka, 6-5. He beat Roan McCarthy of Lee's Summit by major decision, 11-0 and had a win by forfeit.

Kane Lapointe went 5-1 at 285 pounds. He pinned Jaxon Vetsch of Perham at 1:06. He pinned Easton Johnson of St. Francis at 5:57. He pinned James Dickman of Willmar at 0:32. He pinned Tucker Olson of Anoka at 0:45 and he pinned Santino Avitia of Lee's Summit at 0:56.

The Hornets wrestled in a quad meet at Monticello Friday, results to follow next week.

Kale Westgaard finished 4-2 at 106 pounds. He pinned Dresden Wegscheid

Bulldog basketball roundup

Last Thursday, the Becker girls basketball team suffered its first loss of the season, dropping a

ers, Westin and Rose, who were unable to compete.

Monticello with the boys teams playing first.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

75 to 65 game on the road to Providence Academy.

"The injuries stink because you feel bad the girl can't play or compete," Baird noted. "However, they are still a huge part of the locker room! On the court, we have a next person up mentality and these experiences for the younger players will help expedite our depth for the Section and State runs."

The Bulldogs took care of business in the first game, with the Becker boys winning 70-54.

Becker played the game without two of its starts, as both Maren Westin and Lexi Rose were dealing with injuries.

Baird highlighted Ayla Brown for her monster game, scoring 29 points for the Bulldogs.

The win propelled Becker to a record of 5-3 on the season, while the Magic dropped to 1-8.

The Bulldogs turned the ball over 22 times and were uncharacteristically on the short end of the transition points stat, 27 to 9.

Becker scoring: Ayla Brown 29, Dani Nuest 6 (5 steals), Reese Hausmann 2, Madison Bass 6, Claire Leither 3, Alexa Voller 6, Evelyn Kreft 6 (8 rebounds), Liz Mackedanz 7 (11 rebounds).

In the girls game night-cap, the Bulldogs defeated the Magic, 64-42.

"Our girls played incision consistent without Maren and Lexi in the lineup," Coach Dan Baird said. "Just too many turnovers, although our girls did a real nice job competing against the defending AA champs!"

Magic Doubleheader
Tuesday night, Becker again played a varsity doubleheader, this time in

"Our defense was really good and Ayla and Maren shined offensively," Baird said. "It was a good win over a team we most likely need to beat to go to state. It sent a message to the Conference and Section that we're the team to beat."

Brown (five three-pointers) led the Bulldogs with 24 points, while Westin chipped in 18. Other Becker scorers: Nuest 2, Dierkes 3, Hausmann 2, Bass 5, Kreft 6, Mackedanz 4.

Bulldog wrestlers compete well at The Clash

The Becker Bulldog wrestling team traveled to Wisconsin last weekend to participate in The Clash, a national high school wrestling duals tournament with teams from across the country. Becker wrestled in the Division 5 bracket and came away in second place, as Dover-Eyota finished first, followed by third place Staley, Missouri and fourth place Apple Valley.

3-2 dec. Angell picked up the other Becker victory at 182 pounds with a nifty pinball at 3:02.

Von Hanson's Snacks, a snack manufacturer in Becker, is planning an expansion. The company has

tion. The facility is most automated, operating with only 15 employees.



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

called Becker its home since 2017. Recently, the company acquired the building next to their manufacturing plant on First St. and are planning to expand their operation as their popularity, and demand, increases.

By the time the pandemic hit, Lupulin Brewing had been a customer of Von Hanson's Snacks for some time, selling the pretzels in their taproom. Lupulin has a sister taproom in South Dakota, and the individual who runs the taproom there also has an online boutique. Via a forum for boutique owners, this person raved about the pretzels to their peers, and suddenly Von Hanson's Snacks was on the radar for lots of different businesses.

In the last round, Becker beat the Falcons from Staley, Missouri 45-32.

Company Roots

Jon Tennessen and Craig Machholz, the founders of Von Hanson's Snacks, are the owners of Von Hanson's Meats in Monticello. The pair had a couple of employees who were excellent workers who wished to take management roles at the business. Tennessen and Machholz decided to step aside and let the new leadership move in, but were not yet ready for retirement.

New customer requests had Von Hanson's Snacks distributing their product across the midwest, and then across the nation (even selling products in the Virgin Islands). Laurie Tennessen, Jon Tennessen's wife, said that they had to learn a lot about distribution in a short amount of time.

In this one, Becker had to count on the upper weights, as the Bulldogs secured their first match win at 126 as Nicolas won his third match at the Clash with another fall, this one at 1:16 of the first period.

At that time, Von Hanson's corporation produced dill ranch flavor pretzels. The pair decided to look into creating and manufacturing new pretzel flavors, starting in the back of their Monticello shop. The first new flavors introduced were dill parmesan and mustard. The new flavors became a local hit, and the duo, with help from their spouses, looked to expand their operation.

They found a place in Becker, and have been working at their facility there since 2017.

Landen Kujawa followed that up with a fall at 2:48 in the 132 match, while May made quick work of his opponent at :50 of the first period to secure his third win of the tournament.

COVID-19 and Rapid Growth

While many businesses were negatively impacted by COVID-19, Von Hanson's Snacks was set up to boom as the disease shut down manufacturers around the na-

made in the back of the meat shop, and the containers were labeled at home by her own mother.

JON TENNESSEN (L) AND CRAIG MACHHOLZ (R), (above) owners of Von Hanson's Snacks, stand in front of a company van. Employees of Von Hanson's Snacks (inset) posed for a photo. Pictured (left to right): Lori Kraemer (office assistant), Zach (part-time employee and high school student), Laurie Tennessen (Business Manager and wife of owner Jon Tennessen), and Kajsa (part-time employee and high school student.) (Inset Photo by Katherine Cantin. Main Photo Submitted.)

hard working employees are incredibly loyal to the business, according to Laurie. Their back-end manager joined them full time after graduating, having worked for them in high school, and chose to make his career with the manufacturer. Most of the staff consists of part-time workers, mainly high-school students and retirees. Laurie suspected that although they may not need to bring in more employees with the expansion, but anticipated everyone's jobs would become a little more specific, as certain employees would focus more on shipping or customer relations, whereas all the employees currently do a little bit of everything.

Expansion
Von Hanson's Snacks purchased the building next to their facility when the previous owners decided to close their business. Currently, the building is used mainly as storage for non-food items (such as containers and lids for the pretzels). With the increased space, the business will be able to offer their products in bags in addition to the current plastic containers, as some of their retailers have requested. They may even create single-serving bags which could be sold to airlines. A new machine for making the pretzels could increase the manufacturer's capacity, and so the owners are excited about the project.

Through the expansion, the owners did not anticipate needing more staff. Their

In all, Laurie said that Von Hanson's Snacks was happy to call Becker home, and was excited to see what the future would bring for the company.



Public Notices

Assumed Name

OFFICE OF THE MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
MINNESOTA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY/ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 332C

The individual(s) listed below who is (are each) 18 years of age or older, hereby adopt(s) the following Articles of Organization:
ARTICLE 1 - LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY NAME: **Blocks and Borders Quilting, LLC**
ARTICLE 2 - REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT(S): 9138 64th Street SE Clear Lake MN 55319 USA
ARTICLE 3-DURATION: Perpetual
ARTICLE 4 - ORGANIZERS:
Brian Faber
ADDRESS: 9138 64th Street SE Clear Lake MN 55319 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.
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EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **blocksandborders@gmail.com**
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STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED: 1/2/2023
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 1/07/23; 1/14/23.)

Probates

STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File Number: 71-CV-22-1480
Case Type: Other Civil (Declaratory Judgment)
SUMMONS
Kenneth L. Geroux,
Plaintiffs,
v.
The unknown heirs of Lisa M. Geroux and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest or lien in the real estate described in the complaint herein,
Defendants.

THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO: The unknown heirs of Lisa M. Geroux and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest or lien in the real estate described in the complaint herein.
Plaintiff has started a lawsuit against you. The Plaintiff's Complaint against you is attached to the summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and there may be no court file number on this summons.

1. YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 20 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. You must give or mail to the person who signed this summons a written response called an Answer within 20 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this summons located at:
Creig Andraesen
Gurstel Law Firm –
Hourly Dept.
6681 Country Club Drive
Golden Valley, MN 55427

2. YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM. The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.

3. YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS. If you do not Answer within 20 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the complaint.

4. LEGAL ASSISTANCE. You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.

5. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION. The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.

6. THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY LOCATED IN SHERBURNE COUNTY, STATE OF MINNESOTA, LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

Parcel 1 - Lot 3, Block 4, Palamino Acres, Sherburne County, Minnesota.
AND
Parcel 2 - Lot 4, Block 2, Burntwood Third Addition Sherburne County, Minnesota.
The object of this action is to establish a joint tenancy recited in two (2) deeds for the above referenced properties.
Dated: December 8, 2022
GURSTEL LAW FIRM, P.C.
BY: /s/Creig Andraesen
Creig Andraesen, #0334832
6681 Country Club Drive – Hourly Dept.
Golden Valley, MN 55427
763-267-6785
C.Andraesen@gurstel.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff
(Published in the *Patriot*: 12/31/22; 01/07/23; 01/14/23.)

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 9, 2023.

II. OATH OF OFFICE

Newly elected board members read the oath of office.

III. ROLL CALL

All Board members were present.

IV. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion passed to approve the agenda.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

VI. ORGANIZATION FOR 2023

A. Chair - A motion passed to elect Reasoner as Chair.

B. Clerk - A motion passed to elect Scales as Clerk.

C. Treasurer - A motion passed to elect Sixberry as Treasurer.

VII. BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

A motion passed to approve the meeting dates.

VIII. DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

A motion passed to designate the *Patriot* as the official newspaper.

IX. DESIGNATION OF DEPOSITORY FOR SCHOOL FUNDS

A motion passed to designate Old National Bank and any other as determined as depository of school funds.

X. COMPENSATION FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

A motion passed for Board members compensation to remain the same for 2023.

XI. APPROVE USE OF FACSIMILE SIGNATURE STAMP FOR BOARD MEMBERS SIGNING CHECKS

A motion passed to approve the 2023 facsimile signature stamps for Chair, Treasurer, and Clerk.

XII. ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

A motion passed to approve the Director of Business Services, Accountant, Compensation Coordinator, Payroll Specialist, and Superintendent to make electronic fund transfers on behalf of Big Lake Schools.

XIII. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

A motion passed to approve the Board committee and Board representation assignments.

XIV. 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.

XV. SET MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

A motion passed to approve the IRS mileage reimbursement rate of 65.5 cents per mile for 2023.

XVI. MEMBERSHIPS IN ORGANIZATIONS

A motion passed to approve memberships for 2023.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 1/14/23.)

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 9, 2023 at 6:56 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

All Board members were present.

III. DISCUSS REFERENDUM RENEWAL TIMES AND BUDGET FORECAST ASSUMPTIONS

Director of Business Services, Angie Manuel, reviewed debt service levies and revenue sources.

IV. WEATHER RELATED CLOSING PROCESS

Superintendent Truenebach reviewed the process.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 1/14/23.)

Becker Cemetery Association

We will be holding our yearly meeting on January 23, 2023 at the Becker Community Center

Notices

NOTICE OF SHERBURNE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ANNUAL MEETING

The Sherburne County Economic Development Authority will hold its annual meeting on **Thursday January 26, 2023 at 8:30am** or as soon thereafter, at the Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive NW, Elk River, MN 55330 in the County Board Room. The EDA will conduct regular business, including organizational matters.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 1/14/23)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Online Bids will be received by the City Administrator until 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 7, 2023, via **QuestCDN** for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of 2023 Business Park Pump Station Improvements.

The bid opening will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud:

2023 Business Park Pump Station Improvements Bid Opening Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: https://teams.microsoft.com/Meet-up-join/19%3ameeting_ZTEwMzY1YTktN2UwMC00ZjA5LTkwNjgtNjAwZTdkNjRiMWU1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%226242f4553-88f1-43dc-9a29-90842cd19d4c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2248472820-a408-4d5c-b262-d033b1c6fa20%22%7d

Meeting ID: 284 006 001 408 Passcode: hQWRND

Or call in (audio only) +1 872-242-7640,,13022591# United States, Chicago

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Any person monitoring the meeting remotely may be responsible for any documented costs. Message and data rates may apply.

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3,800	LIN FT	B618 Concrete Curb and Gutter
16	ACRE	Turf Establishment
2	EACH	Decommission Lift Station
1	LUMP SUM	Triplex Lift Station

The Bidding Documents may be seen at the Issuing Office of SEH located at 2351 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 300, Sartell, MN 56377, 320.229.4300.

The Bidding Documents may be viewed for no cost at <http://www.sehinc.com> by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the selected project page.

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the "Project Bid Information" link and by entering eBidDocTM Number 8369372 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.

For this project, bids will ONLY be received electronically. Contractors submitting an electronic bid will be charged an additional \$42 at the time of bid submission via the online electronic bid service **QuestCDN.com**. To access the electronic Bid Worksheet, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted. Bids shall be completed according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by SEH dated January 3, 2023.

In addition to digital plans, paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from Docunet Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$100.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

A Contractor responding to these Bidding Documents must submit to the City/Owner a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

This Work shall be subject to minimum wages and labor standards in accordance with the State of Minnesota.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the Owner.

SIGNED:
Greg LeRud, City Administrator, Becker, Minnesota

(Published in the *Patriot*: 1/14/23, 1/21/23)

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

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

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Subscription Rates:
\$90 annually, \$45 for six months, \$22.50 for three months or \$7.50 a month.

Deadlines:
Wednesday 12 pm Legals & Notices, Wednesday 10 am Display & Classified Ads.

Submitted Material:
There will be a \$30 charge for all thank you, engagement, wedding and birth announcement pictures. The Patriot is not responsible for correctness of ads received by telephone.

Letters to the Editors:
The Patriot welcomes letters to the editor. Addresses and telephone numbers are required for verification purposes. All letters must contain the original signature of the writer. E-mailed letters can be accepted. The deadline for all letters is 11am 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 \$50 prepaid. The Editor reserves the right to edit lengthy obituaries.

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Bradley S. Horton, 55 Elk River, MN March 8, 1967 – January 8, 2023

Bradley Scott Horton passed away unexpectedly on January 8, 2023 at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids, Minnesota. Arrangements have been entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker, Minnesota.



Bradley was born March 8, 1967 in St. Cloud, Minnesota to Jack L. Horton and Roselle Horton. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. He attended elementary school, middle school, and Apollo High School in St. Cloud, and graduated from St. Cloud State University in 1990. Bradley's first employment after college graduation was in Minneapolis where he worked downtown and enjoyed his after work life, in the uptown area. After a few years Brad moved to San Diego, California and worked various jobs including several years at The Children's Psychiatric Hospital. Bradley joined and was an active member of The First Lutheran Church, 3rd Avenue in San Diego. He and his gentle Chow, Louie, moved and lived in Playas Mexico for several years, crossing the border to continue working in San Diego. Bradley more recently moved back to San Diego and subsequently returned to Minnesota in 2020.

Bradley is survived by his

father, Jack L. Horton (step mother, Kathy Unger), mother Roselle Carlson (step father Dennis Carlson), brother Jeff (Patty) Horton, twin brother Robert Horton, step brother Dean (Janet) Carlson, step sister Denise (Bob) Bonemeyer, step sister Danette (Randy White) Carlson, step sister Linda Hoolihan (Paul Oberlander), and step brother Paul Hoolihan. Bradley is also survived by his niece Freya Zank, nephews Nick (Sevi) Horton, Alex (Julia) Horton, and Maxwell Horton as well as step nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles and cousins and many friends.

Bradley was preceded in death by his Grandparents, and 2 step brothers, Dale Carlson and Mark Hoolihan.

The family wishes to thank the Doctors and Nurses at Mercy Hospital for the outstanding care they all gave our Brad during his final hours, and we thank the LifeSource team who cared for Brad and comforted us.

Memorials are appreciated and will be forwarded to LifeSource or a Charity of your choosing.

We are planning a Celebration of Life for Brad toward the end of April.

Obituary, Guest Book and Video Tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com.

Robert "Bob" O. Leaders, 89 Clear Lake, MN February 10, 1933 – January 9, 2023

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2023, at Celebration Lutheran Church in Sartell for Robert O. Leaders, 89



of Clear Lake who passed away on Monday, January 9, 2023, at his home. Rev. Jeff Sackett will officiate and burial will be at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Ottertail. Visitation will be 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 13, 2023, at Leaders' Clear Lake Airport; fly-ins welcome. Military honors will be at 4:15 p.m. on Friday evening at the airport, followed by the Missing Man Formation Fly-Over at 4:30 p.m. Visitation will continue after 10:00 a.m. at the church in Sartell on Saturday. Arrangements are entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids.

Robert Otto Leaders was

born on February 10, 1933, in Ottertail to Otto and Edna (Hartman) Leaders. He married Diane Maurer on September 8, 1967, in St. Cloud. Bob served his country in the United States Army as a paratrooper. He obtained his pilot's license and attended Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa, OK. Bob then obtained an aircraft and power plant license.

He worked for and managed the St. Cloud Airport for many years. In 1969 he purchased a farm and built an airfield, which became Leaders Flying Service. He was inducted into the Aviation Hall of Fame in 2018. He had many other hobbies in addition to his love for his work, such as pheasant hunting and deer hunting. Bob loved to collect old cars, tractors, and planes and could never pass up a good deal, especially an

auction. He enjoyed farming and bird watching, and he cherished "shop talk" with his customers. Most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family. Bob will be remembered for being a humble, honest, and generous man. "If Bob Leaders can't fix it or fly it...forget it."

Bob is survived by his wife, Diane of Clear Lake; children, Heidi (Harlon) Hendrick of Spearfish, SD, Dena Leaders of Owatonna, Nicole (Eric) Ofstedahl of Sartell, Kerry (Mike) Pietrini of Maple Grove, Clark Leaders of Plymouth, Ryan (Becky) Leaders of Clear Lake, Kurt Leaders of Clear Lake, Suzette (Noah) Spanier of Park Rapids, and Chase (Nicolette) Leaders of Clear Lake; 15 grandchildren; and sister, Tiffany Menze of Fergus Falls. He was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Tiffany in 2020; and sister, Elaine Lundgren.

Obituary, Guest Book and Video Tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com.

Myrtle Frances Jergenson, Age 88 Monticello, MN March 18, 1934 – January 8, 2023

Myrtle Frances Jergenson, age 88 of Monticello, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 8, 2023 surrounded by her family. She was born March 18, 1934 in Bangor Township, the daughter of James and Olive (Albert) McDougle.

Myrtle grew up in Sedan, MN, and completed the 10th grade from Sedan High School, and proudly obtained her GED at the age of 55! She began cooking for thrashing crews on her family's farm, and that expanded to her career of working in various cooking capacities.

At the age of 16, Myrtle met the love of her life, Stanton Jergenson, while working on her family owned switchboard. They were married on October 7, 1950, celebrating 60 years of blissful marriage before Stanton's pass-

ing on November 8, 2010. Myrtle enjoyed traveling and hiking in the mountains with her husband, crocheting and knitting -making an angel Christmas tree topper for all of her family, word search puzzles, and spending time with her family.

She was a faithful member of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Monticello and loved her church family very much.

She was a spiritual and kind individual, who was always available when you needed her.

Myrtle's caring nature, and everlasting hugs will be missed by all.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Stanton Jergenson; parents, James and Olive McDougle; infant daughter, Cynthia Jergenson; son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Pamela Jergenson; granddaughter, Kari Bender;

great-grandson, Eli Lauerermann; 2 brothers; and 8 sisters.

Myrtle is survived by her children, Monica (Guy) Wakeham, Vivian (Duane) Bender, Danny (Brenda) Jergenson, Craig (Bev) Jergenson; 13 grandchildren; 23 great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; brothers, James McDougle, Johnny (Carol) McDougle; and many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

A special thank you to Good Shepherd Canary Creek Wings and Moments Hospice for the loving care they gave to Myrtle.

A funeral service will be held Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 11:00 AM, with visitation one hour prior, at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 9300 Jason Avenue, Monticello, MN. Burial at Riverside Cemetery in Monticello.

Serving the family is Peterson-Grimsmo Funeral Chapel of Monticello, MN. 763-295-2918 www.peterson-grimsmochapel.com.

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Becker Sports/Area News

'Dogs dominate basketball border battle

Last Friday, the Becker and Big Lake boys and girls varsity basketball teams met for a varsity double

port the girls and celebrate the offseason commitments within both programs," Becker girls coach Dan Baird said. "I loved seeing the gym packed for the boys game after we played."

header at Becker High School to renew this year's version of the border battle. Becker Activities Director Dave Niemi estimated the standing room only crowd at 1,400 fans, as it was also Youth Night for the Becker programs.

Baird's team took the opening game 76 to 33, as the Bulldogs won the girls matchup in decisive fashion despite missing two starters, Lexi Rose and Maren Westin, who are out with injuries.



BECKER'S BRADY PAUMEN follows through on the flush for the Bulldogs with his big dunk in the first half versus Big Lake. Paumen would go on to score 23 points for the Bulldogs. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

The varsity double headers have been a big hit in the past few years, as it allows the players, coaches and fans for both the boys and girls programs the opportunity to see both squads in action. Add in the "Highway 10 border battle" excitement of Becker versus Big Lake and it leads to huge crowds and high enthusiasm in the gym.

Becker's starters scored at will in the opening half, running and gunning to a 50 to 11 halftime lead before the second half was a mostly even affair.

"The atmosphere of the games is awesome as both the boys team and youth players were there to sup-

"We out-rebounded Big Lake by 16 and our goal was plus ten," Baird said after the game. "We got a little sloppy with 14 turnovers, as our goal was less than 10. It was nice to get everyone in the game on our home court with that crowd!"

Becker held a huge ad-



BECKER'S ALEX WEISS attacks the hoop in the first half of Becker's win over Big Lake. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

vantage with 32 points off turnovers, compared to the Hornets' 5.

Eleven Bulldogs saw action in the game, with 9 players getting double digit minutes.

Baird credited Dani Nuest for her fine play, with 24 points, including 5 three pointers.

Big Lake scoring: Ashley Fitzgibbons 13, Rylie Sternquist 10, Abby Polacec 3, Jessie Moyer 2 (3 assists), Emma Jacobs 5 (5 rebounds).

Becker scoring: Dani Nuest 24 (7 steals), Hannah Dierkes 5, Ayla Brown 15 (5 assists), Reese Hausmann 12, Madison Bass 3, Liz Mackedanz 17 (9 rebounds).

Boys Nightcap

The boys teams then faced off in the nightcap and it was a wild affair, with the Bulldogs pulling away down the stretch for a 79-72 win.

"The atmosphere



BECKER'S JULIAS HENDRICKS posts up while being guarded by Big Lake's Mitchell Hill. Hendricks would go on to score 18 points for the Bulldogs. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

felt like a section playoff game," Coach Josh Ihrke said. "We settled down in the first half and I was proud of how the guys executed on both ends of the ball in the second half."

The Hornets held a 37 to 36 halftime lead and the

opening nine minutes of the second half was much the same, with both teams playing extremely even.

The Hornets led 53 to 52 with 9:10 remaining in the second half when Bulldog Kyan Blomquist broke away for a thunderous dunk, igniting the crowd and the Bulldog comeback. Big Lake would only lead briefly one more time, 58 to 57, with about 8 minutes left in the game.

Becker went ahead for good when Alex Weiss drove the lane for a bucket "and-one" - ultimately hitting the free throw - and the three point play gave Becker the lead for good at 60-58 with 7:18 left in the game.

Becker built its biggest lead of the game with 5:11 remaining in the game as they pulled ahead 68 to 60.

However, the Hornets kept it close by pulling to within four points several times, only to be answered by a big Bulldog bucket every time to secure the win. Bulldog Mitchell Soltau twice stemmed the Hornet tide with layups at around the 2:00 mark to help Becker cling to the M8 Conference win.

Big Lake scoring: Trevor Maruska 13 (5 steals), Carson Kunz 21, Mitchell Hill 16, Owen Layton 7 (10 rebounds), Owen Wilczek 10, Isaiah Terlinden 5.

Becker scoring: Ryan Bengtson 1, Alex Weiss 10, Kevin Vogl 2, Kyan Blomquist 13 (9 rebounds, 5 assists), Sawyer Brown 6, Julia Hendricks 18 (5 rebounds), Brady Paumen 23 (9 rebounds), Mitchell Soltau 6.

Bulldog gymnasts 3rd at Hornet Classic

The Becker gymnastics team had a successful Saturday, as they competed and took third in the Big

said. "It was also hard not to be able to rely on Woelfel's usual steady performance on this event, but Kirk and Hennessey really stepped up their games for the third event in a

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

Lake Hornet Classic Invitational. Becker finished with 136.65 points, while the Hornets won the event with a score of 144.75.

This time it was Kirk who took the top spot for the team, scoring a personal record 9.2 which took second place in the meet. Hennessey's stellar 8.9 was good enough for fifth place of all competitors, followed by Larson (7.5), Kuschel (7.35), and Woodard (6.45).

"We were extremely proud to take third place at this invitational," Coach Jen Harmoning said. "It was a little bit like a preview of the Section 7A championships with some other fantastic teams mixed in. We were able to put together a solid score despite dealing with adversity, and placed second among all the section 7A teams."

The final rotation was the floor exercise and Harmoning said she was very happy with the routines.

Becker started with a strong team performance on the vault, despite missing usual stellar performer Lauren Woelfel.

"Bella Kuschel has really been starting to shine on this event," Harmoning said. "It was fun watching her hit a great routine for a score of 8.9."

"Emma Hennessey and Karli Kirk both hit two of their best vaults of the season to score 9.3 and 9.25, respectively, placing them fifth and sixth on the event," Harmoning said. Lillian Bonsante (8.65), Bella Kuschel (8.5), and Hailey Duncombe (8.4) all contributed solid vaults for the Bulldogs.

Hennessey was next with (8.8), followed by Hailey Duncombe (8.75) - both personal records.

The team continued its momentum next on the bars, where Hennessey (9.05) and Kirk (8.6) led the charge to place third and ninth, respectively.

Lillian Bonsante (8.1) and Kirk (8.05) were the final Becker scores.

"The whole team of eight hit every routine and also stuck their dismounts," Harmoning added, explaining that their feet didn't move when they landed their final flip off the bar. "This was a huge highlight for us to hit 8-for-8."

In the all around, Hennessey grabbed third place in the field of some really amazing competitors with a personal record score of 36.05.

Woelfel (7.9), Cassie Larson (7.85) and Woodard (7.6) rounded out the Becker scoring.

"She worked really hard all off-season and has been putting in so much effort every day in the gym," Harmoning said. "Despite being only a freshman and a newcomer to the high school team, Kirk has been contributing really strong scores for us meet after meet as well. She also earned a personal record all-around score of 35.1, which gave her seventh place in the meet."

Next, the balance beam proved to be a bit of a hiccup for the Bulldogs, as some great routines were mixed in with some falls. Harmoning noted that the girls were coming off the Holiday break and also missed several practices due to weather cancellations.

Exhibition scores: vault : 8.45 Hailey Deters, 8.15 Sofia Bonsante, 8.0 Alison Woodard; bars: 7.35 S. Bonsante, 7.1 Kuschel, 7.0 Duncombe; beam: 7.55 Sabrina Jensen, 7.0 Lauren Biegler, 6.6 S. Bonsante; floor: 8.9 Larson, 8.0 Woodard, 8.0 S. Bonsante.

"We are confident that this consistency will come around as we continue into the season," Harmoning

Tigers
Last Thursday, Becker dominated the Princeton Tigers in a M8 meet, winning 136.775 to 120.525.

"We knew that we have some scoring advantages over Princeton, so our goal was to compete well and try to continue to



ALISON WOODARD performs her tumbling series on the beam during the Hornet Classic. (Submitted photo.)



HAILEY DUNCOMBE put together a strong performance on the bars during the Hornet Classic. (Submitted photo.)

give strong consistent performances," Harmoning said. "The girls had been working over break to learn

some new skills to add to their routines, and it was fun to be able to try some of those at this meet."

Becker swept the top five places on the bars: 1- Hennessey 8.825, 2-Kirk 8.425, 3- (Tie) Lauren Woelfel and Cassie Larson 8.1, 5- Alison Woodard (7.8) before the Bulldogs turned to the vault.

"Woelfel has been battling a leg injury and it seemed to take a quick turn for the worse," Harmoning said. "We decided it would be better to sit her out on vault than risk further injury, so Hailey Duncombe stepped in and competed her vault without getting a chance at the touch warm-up. She did great for the team and tied for fifth place."

Vault scores: Hennessey (1 - 9.3), Kirk (2 - 8.95), L. Bonsante (3 - 8.475), Duncombe and Kuschel (tie - 5 - 8.3).

Floor scores: Kuschel (1-8.75), Hennessey (2-8.6), Woelfel (3-8.525), Kirk (5- 8.4) and L. Bonsante (6- 8.2).

Beam scores: Hennessey and Larson (tie 1st) 8.775, Kuschel (3- 8.275), Woodard (4- 8.2) and Kirk (6- 7.725).

Hennessey and Kirk took the top two places in the all-around once again scoring 35.5 and 33.5 respectively.



BIG LAKE LIONS DONATE TO FOOD SHELF. Last month (December 14) the Big Lake Lions stopped by the Big Lake Food Shelf to drop off a donation of \$3,000. The Lions give to the food shelf annually, and the money donated was raised throughout the year at various Lions Club events, such as the fish fry. Pictured (left to right): Chuck Martinson, Deb Johnson, Bob Noble, Norm Leslie, Sandy Mcclurg, and Tim Suchy. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

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the Minnesota Mr. Football Selection Committee. Lundeen has also served as the head coach of the Outstate All-Star Team in 1994 and 2013.

Lundeen has earned many awards and honors over his 53 years in coaching. He has been inducted into the National Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2019), Minnesota Activities Directors Hall of Fame (2014), Minnesota High School League Hall of Fame (2014) and the Minnesota Football Coaches Hall of Fame (2009). He is a four-time Minnesota Football Coach of the Year and was named Minnesota Athletic Administrator of the Year in 2003 and Minnesota Football Coaches Association Man of the Year in 2015.

The AFCA has partnered with the College Football Playoff Foundation's Extra Yard for Teachers initiative to inspire and empower Pre-K-12 teachers and coaches across the country. As part of this partnership, the 2022 AFCA/AFCA Regional Power of Influence Award winners - Kelliher, Saulsberry, Lundeen, King, and Sloat were each awarded with \$1,000 in DonorsChoose grant funds

on behalf of the AFCA and the College Football Playoff Foundation.

Past Power of Influence Award winners include: Larry Dippel, Amarillo (Texas) H.S. (2002); John McKissick, Summerville (S.C.) H.S. (2003); Marcus Borden, East Brunswick (N.J.) H.S. (2004); Ron Stolski, Brainerd (Minn.) H.S. (2005); Sid Otton, Tumwater (Wash.) H.S. (2006); Rob Younger, Sweet Home (Ore.) H.S. (2007); George Smith, St. Thomas Aquinas (Fla.) H.S. (2008); Jim Drewry, Booneville (Miss.) H.S. (2009); Brent Steuerwald, Shenendehowa (N.Y.) H.S. (2010); Noel Dean, Lowell (Mich.) H.S. (2011); Andy Lowry, Columbine (Colo.) H.S. (2012); Bob Burt, Cypress (Calif.) H.S. (2013); Ott Hurrle, Secunia Memorial (Ind.) H.S. (2014); Sam Harrell, Fort Worth Christian (Texas) H.S. (2015); Tony DeMatteo, Somers (N.Y.) H.S. (2016); Allan Trimble, Jenks (Okla.) H.S. (2017); Rick Jones, Greenwood (Ark.) H.S. (2018); Dave Nelson, Minnetonka (Minn.) HS (2019); Don Smolyn, Lenape Valley Regional High School (2020) and Bill Blankenship, Owasso (Okla.) High School (2021).

This is in great contrast to the usual practices of many of these ego-ridden athletes who push the boundaries on ethical behavior in front of millions of fans (remember Randy Moss' "mooning"?). Tim Tebow was mocked and laughed at for kneeling in prayer during his career. Now, on the biggest stage in football, not one player was left standing.

Subsequently, during Hamlin's recovery over the next several days, the entire



DAMAR HAMLIN. (Photo from Buffalo Bills website).

world jumped on board to show their support for the Bills player. That meant millions of people connected to the rallying call of "praying for Damar".

God works in mysterious ways (smile).

One man's infirmity in front of the whole world brought this country back to its knees. And God listened.

In my distress I called upon the Lord; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and

my cry to him reached his ears. — Psalm 18:6.

All 32 NFL teams spotlighted the call to "Pray for Damar" on their social media sites, stadiums and apparel. Dozens linked arms outside Hamlin's Cincinnati hospital and prayed to the One who could heal him. And He did.

Damar is on the road to full recovery and was sent back home earlier this week. May that sudden urgency for God remain with us.

Big Lake hosts MNGWL Tournament

The Becker Bulldogs took fourth and the Big Lake Hornets finished sixth at the 2023 MNGWL (Minnesota Ninth Grade & under Wrestling League) Region 7 TEAM Tournament Monday in Big Lake.

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

Holdingford was the returning champion from 2022

and repeated that feat by capturing first place over Pierz in the final, 38-18.

Becker began the tournament as the #3 seed and beat Sartell-St. Stephen in the opener, 46-30. They then lost to Pierz, 54-22 to drop to the consolation round.

Meanwhile, Big Lake, seeded #5, lost their opener to Foley, 58-22, then received a bye in round two

before facing off against Becker in round three. The Hornets lost to the Bulldogs by a 46-24 score.

In round four, the Hornets lost to Paynesville 54-18 to capture sixth.

Becker, after beating Big Lake, lost to Foley in the third place match by a score of 42-32.

Final standings were: 1st - Holdingford; 2nd - Pierz; 3rd - Foley; 4th - Becker; 5th

- Paynesville; 6th - Big Lake; 7th - Sartell-St. Stephen.

The top three teams from the region advance to the MNGWL State Team Tournament held in Mora on Sat., Jan 21.

More information regarding the MNGWL can be found at <https://mngwl.wordpress.com/state-team-tournament/>.

COLORING CONTEST WINNERS!



Age group 6-10
(left) Maisie Brum of Clear Lake (age 7)



Age group 0-5
(right) Zoe Roberts of Becker (age 5)



Age group 11-15 (above right) Alivia Mlenek of Becker (age 12-1/2)



Nice!

THANK YOU

FOR TRUSTING US WITH THE SALES OF YOUR PROPERTIES IN 2022!



WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU IN 2023!

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