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PATRIOT OFFICE

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

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

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Addresses and phone numbers are required for verification purposes. The deadline for all letters is

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Saying goodbye-with a smile and a hug

By Andrew Diemand, **Contributing Writer**

A self-proclaimed "hugger," Carol Lucius - the longest-tenured employee at Sherburne State Bank in Becker — welcomed this reporter with open arms, literally, when we sat down to reflect on her remarkable 42-year career ahead of her well-

Her warmth, easy laughter, and love of numbers quickly made her a good fit when she joined the bank. Hired for a parttime role, Lucius was offered full-time work after just three days.

earned retirement.

"At first, it was just something different to try," said Lucius.

Certainly a departure from the potato farm and turkey hatchery jobs she worked while growing up in Clear Lake. Now in her 42nd year, Lucius has worn many hats with the bank: teller, loan processor, insurance agent—"It seems like I've always answered phones," she adds with a chuckle.

But as times changed, Lucius had to adapt and evolve, too.

"Everything paper. Everything was by hand. No computer. Nothing like that," she recalled. "Though, we did have a copy machine," she added with a chuckle. "Otherwise, it was typewriters

and calculators."

But rather than resisting the tides of change, Lucius embraced them. As new systems and technologies emerged, she kept pace, often helping others adjust, too.

"It was a good thing," she said. "To be able to go from typewriter to computer."

Now, of the newer systems and processes, Lucius says she enjoys "almost everything."

But it wasn't just the technology that changed. Clients and coworkers have changed over the years, too. "I wasn't sure how it'd

work with my age and the younger people," she admitted. "But it worked out perfect."

Throughout it all, Lucius found joy in the simple routines — like her daily walk to get the mail.

"It was my favorite because of all the people you saw," she said. "And it's 'Good morning,' and you visit, and 'How's soand-so?' and all that," she chuckles. This passion for com-

munity and connection and exercise—continued through the wintertime, too. An icy slip just outside the post office doors one winter left her with a broken wrist.

But, just as with the changing technologies and changing world, Lucius

Andrew Hulse.

adapted, strapping cleats onto her boots and press-It's clear Lucius is all

"Number one, I'm going to miss my coworkers. And our customers — the best. They're the best," she said, her face lighting up a tinge.

about people.

Though not easy to say goodbye to relationships built over four decades, Lucius is looking forward to more time with her family—especially her son and granddaughters in Florida—and to tackling long-postponed home projects.

"I can't imagine what that's going to be like," she said with a laugh.

Lucius' last day at

Sherburne State Bank is Tuesday, September 30, and the bank is hosting an open house from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. to celebrate her many contributions to this community. There will be cookies and cupcakes provided and "just good times," Lucius adds.

The event promises to be a hug-friendly affair, as Lucius reminds me, "A hug can make your day."

greeted Sherburne State Bank customers for 42 years. Carol Lucius is retiring after 42 years with the bank. (Patriot Photo by Andrew Diemand).

THE SMILE that has

County okays commuter bus pilot program

pilot project," said Commissioner bus service, but because it could be

"Because

we're

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Sherburne County Board last week voted, 4-1 to start a two-

year commuter bus pilot program beginning in 2026. The bus will serve county

commuters once the NorthStar commuter train ends operations Jan. 2 of next year.

The board discussed a few options for the program for 40 minutes with Administrator Bruce Messelt and members of the Met Council and Metro Transit before making it's decision.

The options included two or three round trips a day from Big Lake to Minneapolis and the option for a period of either one or

two years. Each of the commissioners had

input on the program. "I like how this is set up as a

isting using ex-

infrastructure, this is truly a project with very minimal investment.' He said there was still a ques-

tion whether riders would use the

monitored, the board could decide its future

"It'll either work or it won't," he said. "If we get six months into this, if we get nine months into this and nobody's rid-

> this ing shut it down.

> > would say

give it a year," said Commissioner Gregg Felber. "Give it

at least a full year to see how people respond."

Commissioner Brad Schumacher, who was the lone dissenting vote, said from the map that was shown, there were very few riders in some areas that it would serve. He said he felt it would be throwing

"good money at a bad problem."

Administrator Messelt explained that the cost would be significantly less than the Northstar Commuter Train, which subsidizes each rider \$4,600 a month. Calculating the number of total riders for 255 days a year put the subsidy for the bus program at about \$13 per rider per day.

The program would also use existing buses from Met Council at least for the pilot program.

"I'd like to see us support this pilot program. We will be able to monitor it. If we don't see it performing like we would hope it would, we can stop the pilot," said Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski. "I just think we need to

provide something." Commissioner Gary Gray agreed.

to page 2

NORTHSTAR

Career Fair Connects Students with Real-World Opportunities



STUDENTS, GRADES 5TH & 8TH AND 9TH-12TH getting very hands-on experience as they climb aboard a Bobcat machine. (Patriot Photo by Andrew Diemand).

By Andrew Diemand, **Contributing Writer**

sky and the celebratory honking

of semi-truck horns, nearly 1,200

Under a warm, cloud-filled

High School to explore something vital to their futures: their

students gathered at Big Lake

CAREER FAIR to page 2

Board Sets 2026 Preliminary Levy with 6.49% Hike

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

After a 20minue discussion Tuesday, the Sherburne County Board adopted the 2026 preliminary levy at **\$**6,842,284.

That represents a 6.49% increase

over the 2025 levy, and none of the commissioners were happy about the increase. Administrator Bruce Mes-

selt gave a brief explanation about what went into the increase.

"We're seeing upward pressure on personnel costs, insurance and inflationary activ-

Sherburne County 2026 Preliminary Levy

\$37,172,482 General Fund Library Fund \$ 1,455,637 Health & Human Services \$13,449,963 H.S. Youth Detention 378,750 **Parks** \$ 1,288,829 \$10,113,348 Public Works \$ 200,000 Land and Building Debt Service \$ 2,783,275 TOTALS \$66,842,284

> ity," he said. "And we have to continue to address mandated services and the growth in population.'

> There have been staff reductions in the budget that cut total staff by 6.41 FTE (fulltime

> > **COUNTY LEVY** to page 2



(All Zips) Runnings (All Zips)

·Fall Home Guide (All Zips)







NMLS# 411232

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Humble Service

Recently, the Becker City Council acknowledged the 50 years of service provided by the Becker Lions Club. This is an outstanding achievement, but the greatest thing about the Lions Club is their humility in service. It's amazing how much good the Lions organizations, not just in Becker, do in their communities without fanfare.

During my time with Patriot, I've mainly covered the Becker and Big Lake communities, so I can't really speak to the Clear Lake/ Clearwater Lions clubs. But, off the top of my head, I can list several projects the Lions have completed to make our community a better place to

They are active in improving our parks. The Becker Lions are currently working with the city to turn Snuffy's Landing into the new Lion's Park, making improvements on this beautiful hidden gem of a park that will allow families and anglers to continue enjoying the riverside area. If you haven't been there, I strongly recommend it - it's beautiful. The Big Lake Lions also have a park they share with Big Lake



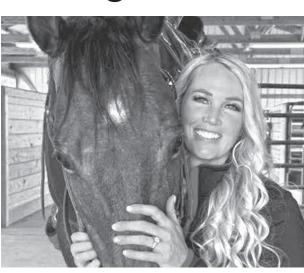
Contributing Writer

Township, which offers some amazing amenities - river access, a dog park, a playground for kids, hiking trails, and baseball fields, to name a few.

The Lions host fun events for local residents, or else contribute financially to the events we love to attend every year. I was disappointed to not make it to either fish fry this year, as they are always so delicious!

Whatever the Lions do, it is geared towards improving our community, and they've been doing so for a long time. If you can, take a moment to appreciate your local Lions Club or the Lions Club member in your life and let them know how much they are ap-

Amberley Snyder coming to Becker



RENOWNED SPEAKER AMBERLEY SNYDER will be at Becker High School at 6 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center to share her message of faith and determination. (Submitted

Submitted Article

Area residents should circle October 1 on their calendars, as nationally acclaimed speaker Amberley Snyder will be at Becker High School at 6 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center to share her message of faith and determination. The event is free and open to the public.

Snyder's journey is an amazing one, as she developed an unvielding passion for horses at the age of three and went on to a successful career as a barrel racer and rodeo star. In 2009, she won the All-Around Cowgirl World Title and soon turned her sights to competing in college rodeo. On January 10, 2010, Snyder was involved in a serious car accident that left her paralyzed from the waist down. Despite a difficult prognosis from her medical team, just four

months later she was back on her horse.

Snyder continues to defy the odds, and her life story was shared in the 2019 Netflix film, Walk Ride Rodeo, a biopic that has been viewed by over 350 million people worldwide. A year later, she appeared on the Paramount Network show, Yellow-

Snyder will be the latest national speaker to be sharing her message with Becker area residents, as part of the yearly community speaker series.

According to a promo of Snyder's message, "Her message of faith and determination will open your heart to the possibilities of happiness regardless of your life situation while motivating you to set the goals to overcome the challenges thrown in your

NORTHSTAR from page 1

"We can't go from having the light rail to nothing," he said. "You have to offer something, or at least make

Messelt said the bus service will use the current Metro Transit fare of \$3.25, and use the Metro Transit passes for easy transition from Northstar. It will be less than the current NorthStar fares of \$6.25 from Big Lake and \$4.75

Estimated cost of three round trips from Big Lake to Elk River to Minneapolis is \$8 7,000 per year. Fare revenues could help offset some of the cost. The rest would be covered by Local Option Sales Tax dollars, not the tax levy. And Messelt said MnDOT has proposed sharing the $\cos t 50/50$ with the county.

Messelt said the county would be doing evaluations at 12, 18, and 24 months, plus additional evaluations as required. "...to make sure this is a viable bus route. Or, like transit services do all over the state, if it's not viable, it goes away.'

The program will start Jan. 5, 2026.



estimate: 1-877-627-0238 Promo: 285

COUNTY LEVY from page 1

employees). But cost shifts for unfunded mandated services put a big burden on the county. Cost shifts alone represent an additional \$884,000, or 1.38% of the budget.

The commissioners said they understood there was a great effort by department heads and staff to trim as much as they could.

"I'm very proud of the effort. but the results do not make me happy," said Commissioner Gregg Felber. "It is what we are being forced to do by the full set of circumstances that are involved in setting the budget and trying to make sure we're still giving appropriate service to county

Commissioner Raeanne Danielowski had a similar sentiment.

"Ultimately we have to be sure that we are always very clear how we got here, and it's because the state decided to balance their budget on the backs of our property tax payers - plain and simple."

The preliminary levy set during the meeting can be reduced, but not increased for the final levy in December. Messelt said next year there will likely be a similar issue because some of the cost shifts to the county have been deferred for 2026.

AI Projects

The board approved the acquisition and utilization of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Tools EVA and Data Depot to improve efficiencies in the HHS Dept. because of an extreme backlog of calls and the large increase of questions coming into the agency related to health care and public assistance.

EVA is an AI tool through TipCo that has been presented at AMC webinars/ meetings. It streamlines and condenses policy and processing information from DHS, automates phone inquiries and takes changes in the circumstances of applications and uploads it to eligibility

Data Depot is a county-driven, standardized data integration model that builds upon existing county access to state data while streamlining, ensuring consistency and reducing duplication of effort.

The cost for EVA from October through the end of 2025 is \$30,000. It will cost \$87,000 for 2026.

Data Depot will cost \$27,000 for 2026. Costs for both projects will be paid for through the Health Care Unwinding allotment that was given to Sherburne County by the State of Minnesota for the next two years.

Recycling Waiver The board passed a resolution granting a waiver from certain sections of the Solid Waste Ordinance for B&E Recycling Station, Inc. in Elk River. B&E operates a processing facility for the purpose of recycling solid waste materials as allowed by the county's Solid Waste Management Ordinance and County License. The company is requesting to modify their license to allow additional storage of junk vehicles. This waiver allows B&E to store up to 20 vehicles and limit them to removal of only tires, rims, batteries, and catalytic converters for purposes of recycling.

The board subsequently approved a modified Solid Waste License for the com-

Other Business

In other actions the

- Set a public hearing for Oct. 7 to consider possible changes to the Sherburne County All Services and Fee Schedule for 2026:
- Set a public hearing for Oct. 21, to consider proposed changes to the Sherburne County Tobacco Ordinance;
- Approved the final contract payment of \$19,054.76 to Redstone Construction, LLC for the 2024 Co. Rd. 4 bridge replacement.
- · Approved the Residential Preliminary Standard Plat of "Wind Dancer Estates";
- Approved an Interim Use Permit (IUP) for a Medium Contractor's Yard on 44.96 acres on 112th Street NW in Livonia Twp.;
- Approved Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a Farm Related Businesson 31.46 acres on 72nd Street SE in Clear Lake Twp.

TO THE EDITOR:

Charlie Kirk was a hus-

band, a father, and a believer in God. He was a man who stood for faith. family, and order. He lived with conviction, believing he was serving something higher than himself. His assassination shook us not simply because of the loss of one man, but because it marked a deeper fracture—a society losing its ability to speak, to reason, to listen. When dialogue dies, division rushes in. And even those who seek purpose can become casualties of rage. Look at the reaction from the Left. Many celebrated his death. That's not disagreement, it's dehumanization. It reveals a disturbing psychosis, where some believe that thinking differently warrants death. That's projection in its rawest form: people hating in others what they cannot face in themselves. On the Right, the dominant energy is clarity and boundaries, faith in God, the nuclear family, a sense of order. Our ideals reflect natural law, not the chaos of identity-hopping and rage that has overtaken the Left. But here is where compassion must enter. The Left's rage doesn't come from nowhere. It's the scream of wounded psyches. People lost in identity politics because they don't know who they are. Trans ideology, perpetual victimhood, labeling anyone they disagree with a "Nazi". These are symptoms of souls terri-

passions, career interests,

and the many different paths

available to them after grad-

eighth year, is the Big Lake

Schools Youth Appren-

ticeship and Career Fair. It

brought together students

not just from Big Lake, but

also from neighboring dis-

tricts including Staples and

in even more next year,"

said Big Lake High School

Principal Robert Docken-

dorf-known affectionately

immersive event that con-

nects students with a wide

range of industries. Booths

lined the school grounds

with representatives from

energy companies like Xcel

and Great River Energy,

law enforcement agencies,

agricultural equipment sup-

pliers, local and regional

trucking firms, universi-

ties, technical colleges, and

many more. These weren't

just simple information ta-

bles—they were interactive

and hands-on, giving stu-

dents the opportunity to en-

gage with tools, equipment,

and real professionals who

were eager to share their

The fair is a large-scale,

to many as "Bob Dock."

'And we plan to bring

The event, now in its

uation.

Kimball.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

fied of their own emptiness. Which is understandable if one believes the world came from nothing and will end in nothing. So where is the truth? The Left today is unmoored, chaotic, and divorced from reality. The Right is more grounded, but not without its own flaws. Too often, we respond with judgment—"you're insane," "you're evil"—and that only feeds the very psychosis Charlie was trying to confront. We must speak truth with clarity and compassion. We must be both the stern father and the healer. Because even those who rage are still human and not beyond redemption. The tragedy of Charlie Kirk's assassination proves his words to be true. "When people stop talking, that's when you get violence." If we want to save our culture, we must hold the line of truth without becoming poisoned by the same rage Charlie, and now we, seek to expose. We must learn to speak again. Not just with those who agree with us, but especially to those who don't.

Dan Schonhardt, Chairma Republica Paty 6 W ig t Ca nty

TO THE EDITOR:

When a person earns a pension, one assumes other retirement benefits align. Not always. Many MN National Guard members who served more than 20 years receive only a check. Only those who were activated for 181consecutive days,

Scan Me!

usually overseas, are the

"true" veterans who qualify

for medical benefits. That

means those that served in

the military to protect Min-

nesotans on our own soil

against foreign and national

enemies, that protected pri-

vate and public property

at the time of riots and/

or strikes, that maintained

order following natural di-

sasters, that were on call

24/7 to defend fellow citi-

zens are not really veterans,

as per the federal and state

governments' qualifications

for recipients of medical

benefits. Do soldiers who

served years/decades with

valor and were honorably

discharged fit the descrip-

tions of federal politicians:

Obama-- "bitter Americans

who cling to their guns and

their religion." Clinton--

"an irredeemable basket of

deplorables," Biden: "the

dregs of society.?" Walz

maligned the MN National

Guard that he reluctantly

activated in the riots of 2020 as "19-year-olds who are cooks!" In 2025, MN

legislators determined that

foreign fighters are entitled

to burial benefits that are

denied to National Guard

soldiers. Will YOU contact

our federal and state politi-

cians to award benefits to

all who have bravely worn

the uniform to defend our

Dr.P hly lis E.V n Buren

land and our citizens?

Clea wa er,M N

tries should be represented.

The fair is not a one-off occasion, either. Students reflect on their experiences back in their homerooms and are encouraged to provide feedback. This input is used to shape future career-readiness activities throughout the school year, including personalized learning plans, online coursework, job shadowing, and apprenticeships.

'We're looking for that long-term impact," Docken-

The inclusive, "open to everybody" nature of the event has earned praise from parents, local businesses, and students alike Organizers are already looking ahead to expanding in 2026, with hopes of bringing in more schools and even more

In an era where the

from page 1 According to Dock-

endorf, the fair is part of a broader vision to shift the conversation around post-secondary readiness. "The data across Min-

CAREER FAIR

nesota is clear — schools are overwhelmingly built for college readiness," he explained. Elaborating on what he

called this "tainted view" that every student has to go to college, when that simply isn't true—or necessary for everyone. For Dockendorf, "it's an effort in trying to rebalance that perspec-That philosophy is what

fuels the effort behind this event Planning began back in April, and it involved coordination at every levelfrom industry outreach to student preparation. Wade Olson, Work-Based Learning Coordinator for Big Lake Schools, has been instrumental in bringing the event to life each year. 'The kids are coached

on how to behave and act and on the right questions to ask," Olson said.

Part of this prep also includes a Career Interest Survey that students are given ahead of time to gain insights, expose them to options, and assess what indus-

industries.

definition of success is broadening beyond traditional four-year degrees, Big Lake's Career Fair is providing a much-needed roadmap for students-one that includes college, yes, but also the trades, apprenticeships, and other high-demand fields that are shaping the future workforce.

Working with the community to find homes for needy pets



to go out. She also is kennel trained. Sassy loves to play catch and will sometimes sit for a treat. She would benefit from



WAFFLES is a sleek, 2-year-old neutered kitten who isn't the biggest fan of shelter life - too much hustle and bustle. He is hoping for a low-traffic, quiet home that will give him plenty of time to come out of his shell. All TCHS cats and kittens are 50





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AREA NEWS



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









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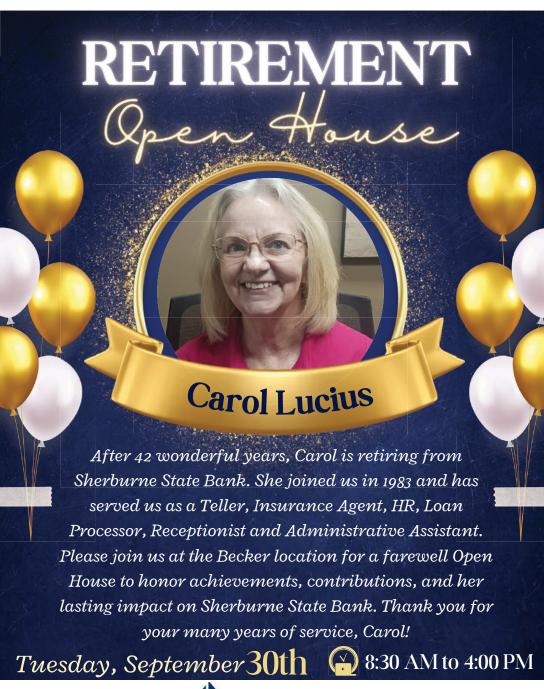
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Mass of Christian Burial was

held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednes-

day, September 24, 2025, at

St. Luke's Catholic Church in

Clearwater, MN. Rev-

erend Dennis Backer

officiated. Burial

will take place

at St. Paul's

Parish ceme-

tery in Sauk

Centre, MN.

Visitation was

held from 4:00

- 7:00 p.m. on

Tuesday, Sep-

neral Home.

tember 23, 2025,

at the Daniel Funeral

Home in Clearwater,

Wednesday at the church.

MN. Parish prayers were held at

4:00 p.m. on Tuesday at the Fu-

hour prior to the Mass on

John P. (Jack) Weber to see his

beloved wife Shirley, in the early

morning of September 19, 2025.

He fulfilled his long time dream

of walking again with her and

started in St. Paul, where he was

born May 2, 1935 to Lee and

Leona (Frederick) Weber. They

were married at St. Stanislaus

Church on July 14, 1956, while

he was a Radar Technician on

a Lockheed Super Constellation

for the US Air Force. They lived

in Cape Cod, St. Paul, South

Haven, and Clearwater before his

final resting place in Sauk Center

unique man, a teller of tales,

a spinner of yarn with a great

memory for things most other

people would just forget. All of

his civilian career he was with

Northern States Power (NSP)

starting out as a ditch digger in

the Under Ground Electric De-

partment working his way up to

Shift Supervisor for Sherco NSP/

Xcel Energy. He retired at 55 in

R.O.M.E.O.S -Retired Old Men

Eating Out. He was always eager

Burial was 11:00 AM on Tues-

day September 23, 2025 at

Mary of The Visitation Catho-

lic Church in Big Lake

for Mark Rahne, 75,

of Big Lake who

died Monday,

September 15,

2025 at Quiet

Oaks Hos-

pice House in

St. Augusta.

Rev. Mike

Kellogg offici-

ated and burial

was in Our Lady

of The Lake Cath-

olic Cemetery in Big

Lake. Visitation was from

9-10:45AM on Tuesday at the

church in Big Lake. Arrange-

ments have been entrusted to

the Williams Dingmann Fam-

ily Funeral Home in Big Lake.

1950 in Crosby to Frank F.

& Madelyne H. (Marincel)

Rahne. He married Linda Jo

Riley on May 18, 1974 at Our

Lady of The Lake Catholic

Church in Big Lake. Mark

worked as a heavy equipment

operator for Local #49 until

his retirement. He enjoyed

spending time golfing, hunt-

ing, bowling. He loved to play

hockey and he coached youth

hockey in Big Lake for several

Mark was born March 8,

The founding member of

Mass of Christian

Mark Rahne, 75

Big Lake, MN

March 8, 1950 - September 15, 2025

1990

Jack was a wonderfully

on September the 24, 2025.

Jack and Shirley's love story

their dog Sadie in Heaven.

Visitation continued one

At long last, God has taken

UBITUARIES

John P. (Jack) Weber, 90

Sauk Center, MN

May 2, 1935 - September 19, 2025

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to get together for tea and good

conversation or an after-church

breakfast. His whip smart in-

telligence powered a quick wit

and a snappy comeback

that made him a ca-

pable conversa-

tionalist with the

all the guys at

NSP lunches,

Train Nerds,

or the Friday Grumpy's at

Jack appre-

the Estates.

ciated so many

aspects of life, es-

pecially collecting

memories by reading,

working outside, traveling, and

working with his hands. Among

them was painting rocks, wood-

working, or his esteemed HO

and eager to drag his family,

"at times kicking and scream-

ing", into any of his visions of

splendor for the best life for him

and his children, Pam Matthews

(Terry), Stephanie Kline (Chris),

Anita McGowan (Wally Thran),

John Weber (Amy), and Gwen

membered and cherished by

all that knew him for decades

to come. Especially his sister

Carol Savino Lindell, and those

that called him Grandpa, "Old

Man", and Pop; Jordan Murphy

(Brian), Jenelle Johnson (Bran-

don), Nikki McGowan, Kelsey

McGowan, Logan Julson, Ol-

ivia Kosel (Spouse), and De-

clan Audrey Kosel. And several

great-grandchildren that as he

got older and with less hearing

were more often "seen and than

his loving wife Shirley Weber,

his son David Weber, and his

extend their gratitude to all that

cared for Jack, including the

staff of the VA Hospice Center,

Centre Care Hospice, and Home

years. He liked fast cars and

watching the Detroit Lions.

Mark loved his job and put

everything he could into his

He is survived

of Big Lake;

daughter, Jes-

sica (Matt)

Fridgen of

Big Lake;

granddaugh-

ters, Abigail,

Madelyne and

also survived by

He is

Piper.

by his wife Linda

work.

grandson Steven Kline.

He is preceded in death by

The family would like to

Jack's spirit will be re-

Kosel (Michael Lange).

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Secretary of State

his siblings, Frank (Sheila) of Menominee, WI; Jim (Jane) of Nashwauk; Mareena (John) Ribich of Willow River; Bill (Rene) of Wenatchee, WA; Gwen (Dean) Brenteson of Big Lake; Stephanie (Chris) DiIorio of Pengilly; sister-in-law, Pat (Bruce) Lindgren of Minneapolis; and many nieces and He is preceded in death by

his parents, and mother and father-in-law, as well as his brother-in-law, Bill Riley. Memorials are preferred in

nephews.

lieu of flowers to Quiet Oaks Hospice House in St. Augusta.

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(Published in the Patriot: 09/27/25, 10/04/25.)

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Deadlines **Notices &** Wednes days CITY COUNCIL t 11am CITY OF CLEARWATER ORDINANCE NO. 63-275-AMENDING PART II,C HAPTER 17Z 0275 or Email: III - ZONING DISTRICTS ESTABLISHED; ZONING MAP OF THE CLEARWATER CITY CODE THE CITY OF CLEARWATER, MINNESOTA, HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOS Property located at 16643 COUNTY ROAD 75 NW (PID# 104-500-121400) and legally described and depicted in the attached

> Urban Reserve to I-1 4 ight Industrial. The Clearwater Zoning Map referenced in City Code Section 117-330 is hereby amended to reflect this change.

> Exhibit A* is hereby re-zoned from its current designation as UR -

Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective September 8, 2025, following its passage and publication, which is hereby autho-

rized by the City Council. ADOPTED THIS 8th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025. Ł egal description of the property may be viewed at city hall.

/s/Andrea Lawrence Wheeler, Mayor /ATTEST/ Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator (Published in the Patriot: 09/27/25.)

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BL girls soccer goes 1-0-3

By Ken Francis, **Contributing Writer**

The Big Lake girls soccer team won a game, lost one and had three ties over the past two weeks.

The Hornets beat Cambridge-Isanti, 3-0 on Sept. 8. In that game, Kynlie Fournier had two goals and Caitlyn Jensen scored the other in a well-played defensive game. Addilynn Hallstrom and Adeline Hitter each had an assist.

Lilliana Reinoso had eight saves in goal.

Big Lake and North Branch played to a 1-1 tie on Sept. 11. The Vikings scored a first-half goal and led, 1-0 until Hadley Priest knotted the game with an assist by Hitter in the second half.

The Hornets suffered a 6-1 defeat to undefeated Watertown-Mayer on Sept. 13. Hitter had the lone goal for Big Lake in the second half. Reinoso had 13 saves in the

Big Lake had a 1-1 tie against Monticello on Sept. 16. Hallstrom scored the goal for the Hornets, assisted by

In a tight defensive game last Friday, Big Lake and St. Cloud Tech played to a 0-0 tie. Keinoso nad five saves in the game.

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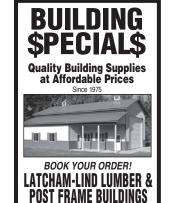
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Liberty Paper Player of the Game



By Bill Morgan, **Editor**

Sawyer Brown, senior captain, was named "Player of the Week" for his outstanding play in Friday's homecoming football game.

In spite of having a large cast on his left hand, Brown played almost every down in Becker's 20-12 win over a tough Princeton team.

Sawyer made an amazing catch for the winning TD late in the game in the pouring



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Bulldogs stave off Tigers, 20-12

By Bill Morgan, **Editor**

The Becker Bulldog football team satisfied the Homecoming crowd last Friday by delivering a 20-12 win over the Princeton Tigers to improve to 2-2.

After falling behind by a TD early in the second quarter (kick failed), the Bulldogs mounted a comeback that carried them to victory in an evenly-fought contest.

QB Tristan Kowalkowski got the home team on the board in the second when he powered his way into the end zone from two yards out to put the Bulldogs up, 7-6 by

In the third, Kowalkowski found Tarver Schendzielos from 51 yards out to go up 14-6.

Princeton rallied and scored a TD of their own in the fourth quarter to make the score 14-12 as the two-point conversion to tie failed. Later in the final quarter

Kowalkowski sealed the deal when he hit Sawyer Brown from 26 yards out to make it 20-12. The defense did their job and held the lead as the clock ticked off in Becker's

Kowalkowski finished seven-of-13 for 156 yards and two TDs through the air as well as his rushing TD earlier in the game. The Bull-



TARVER SCHENDZIELOS celebrated early his TD catch that put the Bulldogs up 14-6 in the thrid quarter. (Submitted Photo by Anne Koste).

dogs garnered 179 total yards with only 23 rushing yards as Princeton's defense stood tall for most of the game.

Schendzielos was the leading receiver for the Bulldogs as he reeled in three catches for 107 yards and his

one score. Bennett Kujawa was all over the field on defense as he recorded seven tackles, five assists, three sacks and two tackles for loss. Nathan Weiss also had a fantastic game on defense as he recorded five tackles, 10 assists and two tackles for loss.

Fergus Falls remains in first place in the district standings at 4-0. Becker is tied with St. Cloud Tech for second with 2-2 records and SCT is Becker's next opponent on Sept. 26.

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Blg Lake drops to 2-2 with loss to Delano

By Bill Morgan, **Editor**

The Big Lake Hornet football team fell to Delano 28-6 last Friday at Delano.

The first half was a backand-forth defensive battle. Delano eventually took a 7-0 lead and held onto it heading into halftime.

The Tigers extended that lead on the first offensive play of the second half with a 75yard TD run.

The Hornets were able to make it a one possession game in the fourth quarter,



QB DILLON SPAETH (#0) had a decent game as he was 12-of-24 for 128 yards and one TD through the sir. (Submitted Photo by Jessica LaRoche).

following a 38-yard touchdown pass from Dillon Spaeth to Carter Stromberg. However, the onside kick attempt was unsuccessful and Delano's running game was able to seal the game, scoring two more times in the final minutes of the game to spell doom for the visitors.

Spaeth finished 12-of-24 for 128 yards and one TD score. He also had two inter-

On the ground, Stromberg gained 69 yards on 16 carries, averaging nearly 4.5 yards a carry.

Through the air, Jack Midas reeled in four catches for 51 yards to lead the Hor-

On defense, Trevor Couch had seven tackles while Parker Spaeth, Jackson LaRoche and Bennett Thieke all recorded interceptions.

The Hornets finished with 222 yards total while Delano recorded 467.

Up Next

This week the Hornets will take on Westonka High School at home for their "Tackle Cancer" game.

Hornets Do Well Against Huskers

By Bill Morgan, **Editor**

The Big Lake swim and dive team had a nail biter of a meet this past week, as it was was tied 86 to 86 going into the very last event — the 400 Freestyle relay.

Unfortunately for the Hornets, Holdingford captured first place in the relay, and thus won the meet. The final score was Big Lake 90 - Holdingford 96.

Emmelia Kortenkamp captured fifth place in the 200 IM and nabbed a new PB (dropping 1.66 sec.). The Hornets placed first and second in the 50 FR — with Emily Edlund attaining first place while Adelyn Fox placed second with a new seasor best time of 28.91.

Greta Schwirtz placed second in the 100 yard Backstroke with a time of 1:18.22, which was also a new personal best.