



## BL man graduates from Naval Academy

By Katherine Cantin,  
Staff Writer  
Reporter.Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

(Reporter's Note: Comments submitted by Adam Nygaard for this article are not intended to be taken as a reflection of the military, the Navy, or the Naval Academy.)

Adam Nygaard is a 2018 Big Lake graduate who has recently graduated from the Naval Academy.

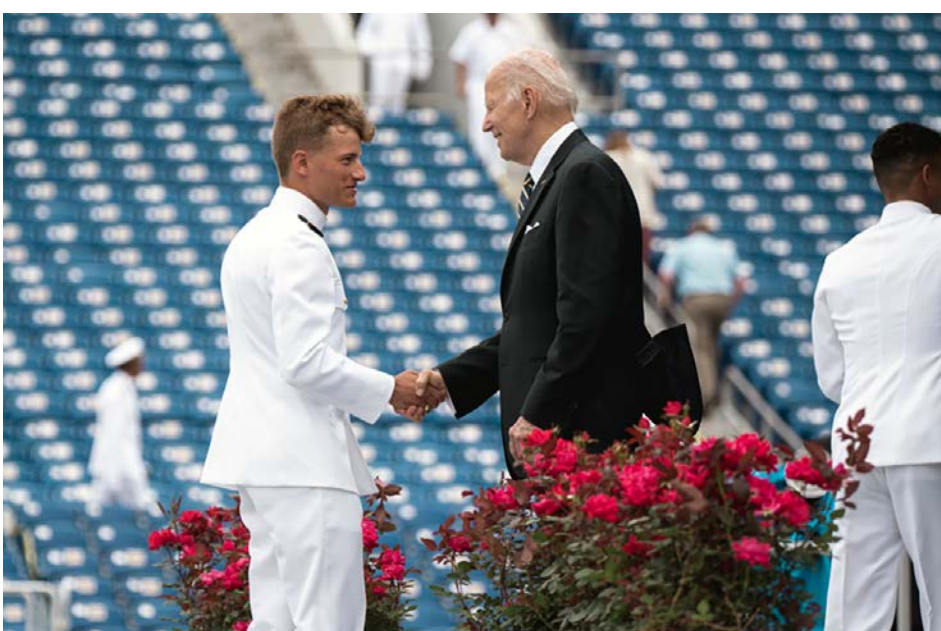
Nygaard first became interested in the military because his father (Dan Nygaard) served in the Navy before him. His interest was stoked further when he participated in a summer program offered to high school seniors.

Nygaard said his time at the academy was great.

"It was challenging, and there were some awesome people there," he said.

Nygaard was able to earn his four year degree to become a military officer. In addition, he participated in summer trainings, including one where he got to experience being in a submarine. He also had the opportunity to lead a boy scout canoeing camp in Eli.

During Nygaard's graduation, President Joe Biden attended to person-



ADAM NYGAARD of Big Lake recently graduated from the Naval Academy. He is pictured here shaking hands with President Joe Biden at his graduation ceremony. (Submitted photo.)

ally shake the hands of each of the 1,100 graduates, which Nygaard recounts as a surreal experience.

"I peaked out of line," he said, reflecting on that day, "And thought, 'Holy cow, that's the president!'"

Nygaard said the president delivered an inspiring speech and even cracked a few jokes.

Nygaard will continue to assist at the academy until October. Then, he is headed down to Pensac-

ola, FL, for two years of flight school. Nygaard says he's very excited for flight school, and he hopes he will someday be assigned to fly military jets, although getting in the air at all will be an honor.

Nygaard said that his time at Big Lake Schools helped to set him up for success, and he was encouraged by coaches, teachers, and guidance counselors as he made his decision to join the Navy. They all

helped him in doing the work needed to get in to the academy, as well as helping him do well in his high school classes, for which he expressed his gratitude.

Nygaard would recommend those interested to look into attending the Naval Academy.

"I absolutely recommend it if you have a desire to serve your country, challenge yourself, and earn your four year degree," Nygaard said.

## BL School Board discusses government funding shortfalls

By Katherine Cantin,  
Staff Writer  
Reporter.Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

During the recent Big Lake School Board meeting, Director of Business Services, Angie Manuel, raised concerns over the government funding the school district is receiving, saying that the money coming in is simply not enough to keep up with the needs of the students, with the needs of staff, and with rising inflation.

There was also a decrease of \$104,000 in title I funding. Manuel said that she and her staff expected a decrease in this funding, as it is based on poverty rates, but did not expect the decrease to be so drastic. She spoke with other business managers with other schools and found that, while their funding was cut, it was typically around a 10-20%, not the 39% cut Big Lake saw. Manuel said she would be investigating the reason for the drastic cut.

The board went on to discuss issues with getting funding from the state and federal governments, as they often receive less than they are promised, especially when it comes to special education funding.

"And I don't know that we'll ever see it," said Board Member Lenette Brown, referring to funding promised by the fed-

eral government. "Doesn't make any difference if it's Democrat or Republican." She lamented the need to impose a tax levy on the local residents, as she believes it wouldn't be needed if the schools received the funding promised by the government.

### Student Lunches

Manuel once again encouraged families to apply for the free and reduced lunch program, even if they are uncertain if they will qualify. School meals will no longer be available for free next fall, and so applying for reduced cost lunch could save families money. Plus, for every family that qualifies, the schools receive state funding that will be very appreciated. Families can fill out this application as often as they like, especially if the family situation has changed (a change in job, new family member, etc.)

Manuel and her staff are working to find a platform where people of the community can donate to the "Angel Fund" to help pay for meals for families who cannot afford them. They are hoping to make this their "summer project" and have it ready by the beginning of the school year.

### Open Forum

One individual spoke to ask questions about open forum and to request that the board allow those speaking at open forum to

allow speech about a topic on the agenda for the evening, which is currently not allowed by school policy. (This reporter was regrettably not able to hear the entire statement given to the board or hear this individual's name.)

One parent, Annette Faulken (spelling uncertain), spoke to support the cheerleading team and Coach Derek Nelson. Based on her comments, it seems that summer cheer camps had been put on hold based on complaints from some of the other parents in the program. She spoke highly of Nelson and the cheer program, and said her daughter was in tears upon hearing the future of the team was uncertain.

"I find it a travesty that the complaints of a couple of cheer parents can derail everything for these kids that they have worked for," she said.

A special meeting regarding the cheer program was held Tuesday.

### Lacrosse Update

The number of players for both the boys and girls lacrosse have increased after combining teams with Princeton, making it possible to play a traditional varsity and junior varsity schedule.

The girls team won their first game as a varsity team this year, and was able to form a JV team so new players had a way to experi-

ence the game before jumping right into varsity.

The boys team gained 19 players, and celebrated two wins this year. As the team is still new, with young players, the team is well set-up to see rapid improvement over the next few years.

### In Other Business, the Board:

- Reviewed their 10 year plan;
- Approved a principals' work agreement, establishing compensation for the school principals;
- Had a first reading of policies 432, 506, and 504, and approved policies 203, 203.2, 203.6, 503, 565, 565A, and 533;
- Set August 2-16 of this year as the window for school board candidates to fill out affidavits;
- Heard an update on campus construction projects and summer community ed programs.

## Application period open for state drought assistance

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by the Minnesota Farmers Union).

Minnesota farmers who raise livestock or specialty crops and who incurred additional expenses due to the drought of 2021 may now apply for up to \$7,500 in reimbursement from the state of Minnesota.

"As farmers in some parts of the state again watch the skies for rain and others continue to clean up from devastating storms earlier this year, we encourage farmers who were impacted by last year's drought to apply for this state reimbursement," said Minnesota Farmers Union

(MFU) President Gary Wertish. "The money won't make anybody whole, but hopefully it will help pay a few bills."

Livestock producers and specialty crop growers in all counties except Goodhue, Rice, Wabasha and Winona are eligible to apply. A total of \$8.1 million is available for the program. Farmers may apply today through 5 p.m. on July 6 for expenses incurred from June 1, 2021, through May 23, 2022. Visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website at <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/droughtrelief> to apply online or submit an application via mail or email.

Eligible expenses for specialty crop producers include water handling

equipment, water hauling, irrigation equipment, replacement plants, seeds, or seedlings and additional hired labor.

Eligible expenses for livestock farmers include water-related expenses, feed-related expenses, fencing, livestock transportation, livestock pond dredging and cover crop, pasture, or forage replanting.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture officials shared more information about the application and the application process on a webinar Tuesday with Minnesota Farmers Union. View a recording of the webinar on the MFU YouTube page.

## Big Lake man sentenced in undercover child sex sting

Submitted Article

(The following article was written by Lee Vos of WJON in St. Cloud).

A Stearns County judge has sentenced a Big Lake man who was caught in an undercover sting involving online chat rooms and the solicitation of a child.

The judge has sentenced 33-year-old Matthew Piram to a stay of imposition. He'll be on probation for five years and must register as a predatory offender.

Court records show Piram messaged a decoy account set up by the Central Minnesota Human Trafficking Task Force last Septem-

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### Area Chamber News

**Membership Meeting**  
July 20 - Noon  
Becker Community Center

**Golf Tournament**  
Aug 11  
Pebble Creek GC

**Block Party**  
Aug 20 - McPete's

**Golf Scramble**  
Sept. 15 - 10 am  
Monticello Country Club

**Music in the Park**  
Thurs., June 30, 6-9 pm  
Eldorado Park, Clearwater

If you would like more information on any of these events or if you would like to become a member of these organizations please reach out to them:

Amity Felton 763-262-2420 Chamber@BeckerChamber.org	Gloria Vande Brake 763-263-7800 Info@BigLakeChamber.com	Glenna Soenneker 320-267-4361 GSoenneker@GMail.com
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MATTHEW PIRAM, 33, of Big Lake was sentenced to a stay of imposition for his involvement in an undercover child sex ring. (Stearns County Jail Photo).

ber. Piram was accused of soliciting, who he believed was a 15-year-old girl, to engage in sexual conduct.

According to the charges, the initial conversation began in late September and transitioned from a social media app to a private email Piram shared with the undercover officer.

After completing the investigation, officers went to Piram's home and arrested him.

Piram pleaded guilty to felony engaging in electronic communication describing sexual conduct with a child back in March.

# Area News

## BCC open house is exciting fun for all ages!



**BUBBLE PARTY!** Kids had a blast running through the splash pad at the BCC. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

By Katherine Cantin,  
Staff Writer  
Reporter.Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

There was a lot of fun to be had at the Becker Community Center (BCC) open house Thursday of last week. The open house was held as a part of the Becker Freedom Days celebrations, and featured the official opening of the new arcade room and a splash pad bubble party. Food, drinks, and prizes were also available.

### Arcade Room

The old rock climbing room, which was difficult to staff and not well uti-

lized, has been converted into a game room. Several arcade machines are available, as well as tables and chairs for those who wish to enjoy snacks from the front desk. Staff hopes to eventually add large TVs to the room as well, possibly to broadcast sports games for parents to watch as their kids play games.

### Bubble Party

Kiddos from the Becker area had a blast running through the splash pad during the bubble party. A DJ played upbeat tunes as a soundtrack to the chaos. A bounce house was also open to the kids.



**WIZARD'S CASTLE.** Kids enjoyed a giant castle bounce house. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)



**PRIZES!** In the BCC gym, staff offered prizes to attendees.(Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

**ARCADE.** The new arcade room at the BCC was officially opened with a ribbon cutting last week. Present to celebrate the opening was (left to right) Council Member Robin Dingmann, Parks and Rec Chairperson Truda Boler, Mayor Tracy Bertram, Council Member Becky Olmscheid, and Rec & Leisure Assistant Director Josh Kuha. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

### FREEDOM from page 1

The Becker Blast held a softball tournament and the community center held a bubble party at the Becker splash pad. Live music was held at the Legion hall featuring Saintrio. The Becker dance team and Starz dancers performed at the main stage Saturday and the Boy Scout Troop 92 held a BBQ last Sunday to kick the festivities off! And it all culminated with a block party at the corner of Hancock Street and Central Avenue, live music from Time Machine and some of the best firworks displays in the area preseneted by the Becker Lions Club.

Thanks to the businesses, the patrons, the volunteers and the workers who made the 2022 Freedom Days fun week the best yet! See ya next year!



**ST. CLOUD FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION** had an eye-catching float. (Photo by Carol Hanson).



**SAINTRIO** was the featured band at the Lgion Hall Fridy night. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger).



**MEMBERS OF the Becker archery team** had a fun and colorful float at the parade Saturday. (Photo by Carol Hanson).



**THIS YOUNGSTER** (left) was part of the "grounds crew" as he drove his tiny tractor with a broom attachment at the parade Saturday. (Photo by Shelley Berthiaume).

**DIANE ARNOLD'S "FLOAT"** (right) was this antique vehicle. (Photo by Carol Hanson).

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**CHEERLEADERS** (ABOVE) from Becker High School followed the T.J. Potter float. (Photo by Carol Hanson).



**RON MUMM OF STEIL INSURANCE** (ABOVE, LEFT) served walking tacos on June 14 to eager crowds in the parking lot along Bank Street. (Photo by Bill Morgan).



## Special Education Cross-Subsidy

(Editor's Note: The following column was submitted by Big Lake Schools.)

You may have heard this past legislative session there was great debate at the State Capitol over the budget surplus and discussion around special education cross-subsidy. Unfortunately, our legislators were unable to reach a compromise on funding and adjourned with no movement on special education cross-subsidy. I wanted to let you know specifically how this lack of funding affects our budget for the 2022-2023 school year.

Special education cross-subsidy is the difference between special education expenditures and revenue we receive from the State of Minnesota. Special education services are mandated by the federal and state governments, however, the costs are not fully funded as a result of political gridlock. To continue to support students, districts across the nation



By Supt.  
Tim Truebenbach

must move money from other budget areas to cover the unfunded expenditures. This is called cross-subsidy.

This upcoming school year, our district will operate with a \$2.1 million budget deficit, partially as a result of special education cross-subsidy. As of the 2019-2020 school year, our total cross-subsidy was just over \$4 million (this is the latest data available). There is no doubt that the mandated services for students are needed and a necessity. However, without a fund-

ing mechanism our district must draw funding from other local sources to cover these expenses.

Thankfully, in the short term, our district is in a position of financial strength to withstand this upcoming budget deficit. With ESSER and other COVID-19 relief funds, we are able to absorb this \$2.1 million deficit for the upcoming school year and utilize a portion of our unassigned fund balance to minimize the impact. However, this is a short term fix. With inflation and increased expenditures, this is an area of concern for future years.

As a stakeholder in our district, I encourage you to reach out to our legislators with support for increased education funding. In particular, encourage them to consider an increase in funding in special education cross-subsidy as it does have a significant impact on all of our students here at Big Lake Schools.

## COMPAS teaching artists perform in Becker PAC

By Penny Leuthard,  
Contributing Writer

The Becker Public Library and the Becker Community Ed. Department joined together to bring COMPAS teaching artists: The Kalpulli KetzalCoatlucue to the Becker Performing Arts Center on June 15.

The group consisted of six dancers and one drummer. All the dancers wore elaborate headdresses and regalia. The 30 minute program included explanations from Susana De Leon about the symbols on the regalia, how the headdresses are put together, and the connection of the dances to animals and forces of the earth.

The Kalpulli KetzalCoatlucue (Precious Mother Earth) is a Kalpulli (learning community) of Indigenous people joined by the desire to learn, share, and live the tradition of Aztec dance. KetzalCoatlucue pursues this spiritual, mental, and physical vocation with music from the sacred drum, conch shells, seeds, and other instruments gifted by the natural environment.

Aztec dance performance creates a connection between contemporary dancers and elders. The Aztec symbols of life are reproduced in the dance steps.

The program was paid for using funds from Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage funds. Like the Becker Public Library on Facebook to stay informed on upcoming programs or go to [www.GRiver.org/events](http://www.GRiver.org/events).



A PERFORMER dances in one of the elaborate KetzalCoatlucue performances. (Submitted photo.)



THE KALPULLI KETZALCOATLUCUE DANCERS all wore elaborate headdress and regalia during the performances. (Submitted photo.)

## Becker Township hears project updates

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

Several project updates were on the agenda Monday evening at the Becker Twp. Board meeting.

First up was a planning update, as Ben Wikstrom explained several projects that are underway, including a driveway variance and easement on 137th, as well as the ordinance amendments, CUP and platting proposals for the Becker Schools' new bus facility.

Planner Mary Roe also informed the board that the City of Becker was planning to go ahead with the annexation of two municipally owned parcels: the new well acreage at the corners of County 11 and 24, and the parcel north of 107th St (just north of the new bus facility). The orderly annexation agreement allows for the reclassification of the parcels, but Roe wanted to give the board a heads-up.

In other planning action, Clerk Lucinda Messman debuted the new online permitting system that aims to save residents time by allowing for the remote application for some common permits. She provided examples of five different permits that will be available for online application and noted that the plans are to go live with the system after the Fourth of July holiday.

### Legion

Supervisor Luke Babler reported on the progress being made in trying to finalize plans between the City and Township regarding the location of the Becker American Legion.

Babler reported that Duffy Engineering

did a structural analysis of the Old Fire Hall building and found it to be in good shape overall except the need for a new roof.

"It's a sound structure and the Legion is interested in buying the property," Babler reported.

Currently, the City owns the building and part of the land parcel where the building sits, while the township owns the land where the office area and part of Bay #1 sits.

Babler solicited the opinions of the other board members, all of whom were in favor of doing whatever it takes to help the Legion acquire the property for a permanent site (currently Post #193 leases the building on a month to month basis).

Babler also noted that as the committee was looking further into the issue of land and building ownership, there had been a few surprises. Prior to 2006, there was a formula for how the Department's assets would be distributed should the City and Township abandon the joint powers agreement, but now there is documentation stating that everything reverts to the City.

In addition, there is a parcel of land that formerly housed a residence to the east of the department and is now a vacant lot. Babler noted that the city had taken legal action in 2008 to become the sole proprietor of the parcel, but apparently the fire board was unaware of the action at the time. Babler pledged to find more information about both items for future discussion.

### Engineer's Update

Engineer Wes Davis updated the board on 97th St., the joint project with the City and

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 <b>Redford</b> is a neutered 4-10 lb mix who is an energetic dog who loves people and playtime but sometimes has disagreements with other dogs and doesn't seem to enjoy their company. He's very treat motivated, and the way to his heart is squeeze cheese.	 <b>White Lightning</b> is a 1-month-old male guinea pig who is at a perfect age to be introduced to a new family and home. Guinea pigs are very social creatures who do best in pairs, and White Lightning would love to go to a home with another male guinea pig so he has a friend!	 <b>Marcus</b> is a 2-10 neutered tan Retriever and Black-Mouth Cur mix did well with other dogs and cats, however he is fearful around small children. Around grown-ups, Marcus is very snuggly and loves attention. Contact us to arrange a meeting with Marcus, he's waiting for you!

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**NEWSPAPER INDUSTRY IS QUICKLY EVOLVING**  
According to data from the Newspaper Association of America (NAA), trends reflect that the print industry is evolving its business model in significant ways. Some of these ways include connecting with developments in technology, tapping into consumer behavior, understanding advertiser interest, and more in order to grow audiences and diversify its revenue stream.

# Editorials/Opinions

## It Could Be Worse

Looks like summer is here.

It wasn't too long ago that we were all talking about the winter that wouldn't end.

I remember writing a column about the trip my wife, Rita, and I were planning to Arizona back in mid-March. It was still below freezing when we left here, with remnants of snow on the ground.

When we landed in Mesa after 10 p.m. it was about 72 degrees there. Perfect. And for the next week we enjoyed the sun, low humidity and temperatures in the low 80s.

While we were away, I was told the temperatures got up to nearly 50 degrees here in Minnesota for a day or two. But that didn't last, and when we flew back and landed in St. Cloud, we were reminded that winter didn't go away while we were gone. It was still here waiting for us.

It was snowing.

But that was almost three months ago, and here we are in full summer. It was 97 degrees Sunday and reached 98 Monday. Then after an overnight thunderstorm, temperatures were supposed to drop to the high 80s and low 90s for the rest of the week.

I don't think anyone really likes temperatures in the 90s. But all we can do is try to stay cool until the weather breaks and we get some more reasonable and tolerable temperatures.

That does happen in Minnesota. It eventually cools off.

But it doesn't happen everywhere. I remember the summers we had growing up in Jersey City. There were lots of days in the 90s. And the humidity was brutal some days.

All the neighborhood kids would cool off by opening up fire hydrants and playing under the



By Ken Francis  
Contributing Writer

stream of water.

That was fine for the little kids, but as I got older, there weren't many places to go to cool off.

One summer that stands out in my mind was 1983. I was playing amateur baseball with the Jersey City Giants. We played games two nights a week and both weekend days throughout the summer.

That summer was one of the hottest and most humid in memory. I checked some historical data on a website just to be sure. There were 31 days above 90 degrees that summer. More than half of those days reached above 95 degrees.

But heat wasn't the only problem that summer. Some time in mid-July, the city experienced a disruption in its water system. An 80-inch water main pipe had collapsed, cutting off water to a big part of the city. In fact, it caused the city to issue a water alert, telling all residents and business owners that any water that was still flowing was unsafe to drink.

Excessive heat. High humidity and no water. Then add to that, our team had to play a doubleheader on a Saturday two days into the water emergency.

The forecast said high humidity and temperatures near 100 degrees.

The park where we played our home games had a water fountain we always

used during our games. But not that day. It was shut off.

The park was also right across the street from a trucker's diner and a McDonald's. So on a typical hot summer day, we could go across the street and get something to drink. Not that day. McDonald's and the diner both used city water for their fountain drinks.

About three blocks away from the park there was a grocery store where anyone could pick up bottled water or cans of soda. Not that day. The store shelves and coolers had all been picked clean of anything to drink by the people in the neighborhood. Every store in the city had the same problem.

I remember someone on the team had a cooler with a few cans of Coke he had stored in his basement. The ice cubes, even when melted, weren't safe to drink. So our entire team of 16 players had to share a few cans of Coke for the whole doubleheader.

I was the team's only catcher at the game. The temperature for most players was bad, but I spent more that half of each game wearing a chest protector, shin guards and a facemask. I figured I probably lost more than 10 pounds that day.

We got through the games. I don't remember if we won or lost either game. And I don't remember how I eventually cooled off or cleaned off all the dirt and grime I was covered with. With no running water, showers weren't working.

But we survived to play another day.

So now, when the temperatures get near 100 here in Minnesota it doesn't seem as bad. At least I know I can stay home, get a cold drink and stay cool with my A/C.

And maybe watch a doubleheader on TV.

carry a handgun outside the home.

Recently, though, the Supreme Court has taken up the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen case, which was argued in November of last year. The Court is currently deciding whether the Second Amendment is violated by New York's law requiring applicants for unrestricted concealed-carry licenses to first demonstrate a special need for self-defense. This issue was brought forward after Robert Nash and Brandon Koch challenged the law after New York rejected their concealed-carry applications based on failure to show "proper cause."

While this decision is still pending and expected sometime in June this year, what is certain is that the Second Amendment remains to this day a cornerstone in our Bill of Rights and the fabric of this nation.

The right to keep and bear arms is an individual right that I have always supported here at the Legislature through my votes and support at all levels. I especially value the "shall not be infringed" part.

The right to keep and bear arms is one of very few protections citizens have against the possibility of tyranny in our government. The best protection is your vote for those who uphold all our rights and freedoms embodied in our Constitution.

Next week, I will write about the Third Amendment, the right to be free from quartering troops in your home. That has an interesting history.

I enjoy hearing from you about our Constitution and the rights it affords us. You can call me at 651-296-5655 or send me an email at Sen. Mary.Kiffmeyer@Senate.mn. Please also take time to talk with others about our timeless and incredibly valuable Constitution.



By Sen.  
Mary Kiffmeyer

lively discussions.

However, when compared to most other areas of the law, the U.S. Supreme Court has few recent cases to guide its ruling on the Second Amendment. So, the debate continues with gun control advocates arguing that the Second Amendment does not apply to personal weapons that are unrelated to militia service. And gun rights supporters arguing that the Second Amendment provides an individual right to keep and bear arms, regardless of its connection to militia service. I agree with the latter position.

After decades of uncertainty throughout the country and numerous legislative or local government actions, the Supreme Court decided a landmark case in 2008 that addressed head-on what the Second Amendment means. In District of Columbia v. Heller, Justice Scalia wrote for the majority of the Court holding that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess a firearm unconnected with militia service.

Additionally, two years after the Heller decision, the court confirmed in McDonald v. City of Chicago that the states — and not just the federal government — must respect an individual's right to keep a gun in the home for self-defense. Yet in the 11 years since McDonald, the Supreme Court justices have said little else about the scope of the Second Amendment, and in particular the right to

## Letters To The Editor

### TO THE EDITOR:

Reader Bret Collier's far right fantasies RE: the US oil companies needs to be subjected to a dose of reality and common sense. According to a recent report by business website Bloomberg.com "exports of US crude and petroleum products surged to a weekly record of 10.6 million barrels a day during the week ending April 15th". So an obvious step toward ensuring that Americans have enough energy for their homes, businesses and cars is to ban the export of American oil to other countries. The conservative Center For American Progress reported that five major oil companies "brought in more than 300% more in profits" in the first quarter of 2022 compared to a year earlier. "A total of more than \$35 billion in profits in just three months". The best response to that would be to impose a Windfall Profits tax on US oil companies. The US oil companies must not be allowed to profiteer during this energy crisis at the expense of the American people. Another important step to alleviating the energy crisis would be to remove tariffs on solar panels imported from China. And nuclear power generation, as Sen. Kiffmeyer has pointed out, also needs to be rejuvenated and expanded. I hope that politicians will ignore the ideological prescriptions of Mr. Collier and others and instead devote themselves to practical solutions to real-world problems.

Anthony Thompson  
Big Lake, MN

### TO THE EDITOR:

MN State Statute 206.58 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE (subd. 1)... The governing body of a municipality... \*may provide for the use of an electronic voting system... The governing body \*shall disseminate information to the public about the use of a new voting system at least 60 days prior to the election and \*shall provide for instruction of voters with a demonstration voting system in a public place for the six weeks immediately prior to the first election at which the new voting system will be used... [Municipality: City, Town, or School District.] Even with a questionable amount of time, the County has plowed ahead and purchased the new Dominion system while denying citizens the right to have a Public Hearing regarding the issues with the system. Each town has the choice to use the Dominion system or NOT to use it, yet I doubt the elected officials realize it. If your town did not follow the statutes, please ask your governing body not to use the Dominion system. Let's return to hand-counting our ballots! Voting begins on June 24th.

Teri Dickinson  
Big Lake, MN

## — Making Mental Health Services Accessible —

(Editor's Note: The following column was submitted by Rep. Tom Emmer.)

We hope you had a restful Father's Day! Jacquie and I were grateful to have some time with the family this weekend, but today I'm back in Washington for another week of votes.

Our office continues to focus on the ongoing scarcity of essential goods caused by the Biden Administration's supply chain failures (we recently took action on life-threatening medical dye and baby formula shortages.) We are also keeping an eye on the Supreme Court as they finalize their long-awaited decision on Dobbs v. Jackson.

### Mental Health

For many of the nearly one in five Americans living with mental illness, getting treatment isn't as simple as asking just asking for help. In fact, nearly half of those in need go without mental health services.

In order to close this treatment gap, we are introducing the Securing Facilities for Mental Health Services Act. This legislation will make mental health care accessible to more patients by allowing inpatient psychiatric facilities to apply for mortgage assistance. Currently, these types of treatment centers are the only type of hospitals excluded from receiving this type of support. This bipartisan bill will ease the creation and expansion of mental health care facilities, bringing critical care to communities and patients.

We have made it a priority to work closely with mental health professionals and advocates to ensure our efforts match the needs of patients and providers. Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with members of the Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs. The organization's



By Congressman  
Tom Emmer

members provide mental health services to more than 200,000 Minnesotans each year.

We are grateful to Minnesota's mental health professionals for providing these important services, and we will continue our work to ensure care is available to anyone in need.

### Border Crisis

Last month marked another worrying milestone in the crisis at our southern border: in May, there were 239,416 illegal border crossings, making it the third straight month with the highest illegal crossings in over two decades. This is over a 900% increase from 2020.

It isn't just people crossing the border. Since President Biden took office, CBP has seized 1,060,100 pounds of illegal drugs, including 7,700 pounds of fentanyl so far in Fiscal Year 2022 alone. Fentanyl is highly addictive and extremely deadly—in 2021, drug overdoses hit an all-time high of over 100,000.

Once these drugs make it into the United States, they spread to communities across the country. Thanks to the Biden Administration's lack of commitment to border security, every state is now a border state. We must secure our borders and support our Customs and Border Protection agents if we are to stop the spread of these deadly drugs into our communities.

### ALERT: Scam

Last week, our office learned of a concerning tactic that scammers are using to gain trust, information, and money. According to the Social Security Administration's Office of the Inspector General, scammers are now emailing and texting pictures of real and doctored law enforcement credentials and badges to "prove" they are legitimate.

If you or someone you know think you may have encountered this scam:

1. Do not panic! If you receive a communication that causes a strong emotional response, take a deep breath. Hang up or ignore the message. Talk to someone you trust.

2. Do not click on links or attachments. Block unwanted calls and text messages.

3. Do not transfer your money! Do not buy that gift card! Never pay someone who insists that you pay with a gift card, prepaid debit card, Internet currency or cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash.

4. Be skeptical. If you think a real law enforcement officer is trying to reach you, call your local law enforcement using a non-emergency number to verify. Do not believe scammers who "transfer" your call to an official or who feed you a number as proof. Scammers can create fake numbers and identities. Do not trust your caller ID.

5. Be cautious of any contact claiming to be from a government agency or law enforcement, telling you about a problem you don't recognize. Do not provide your personal information, even if the caller has some of your information.

Visit [FTC.gov/scam](https://www.ftc.gov/scam) to read about common scams and how you can avoid them.



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- **Subscription Rates:** \$90 annually, \$45 for six months, \$22.50 for three months or \$7.50 a month.
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- **Letters to the Editors:** The PATRIOT welcomes letters to the editor. Addresses and telephone numbers are require 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.

## Patriot Staff

#### PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Bill Morgan - [production@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:production@patriotnewsmn.com)

#### ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER

Carol Hanson - [sales.carol@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:sales.carol@patriotnewsmn.com)

#### ADVERTISING SALES

Mary Nehring - [adsales@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:adsales@patriotnewsmn.com)

#### GRAPHIC DESIGN

Bill Morgan - [production@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:production@patriotnewsmn.com)

#### ACCOUNTING

Chris Meyer - [accounting@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:accounting@patriotnewsmn.com)

#### STAFF WRITERS

Bill Morgan - [reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com)

Katie Cantin - [reporter.katie@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:reporter.katie@patriotnewsmn.com)

#### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Mark Kolbinger

Penny Leuthard

Ken Francis

#### PATRIOT LEGALS/CLASSIFIED ADS

Kathy Nelson - [legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com)

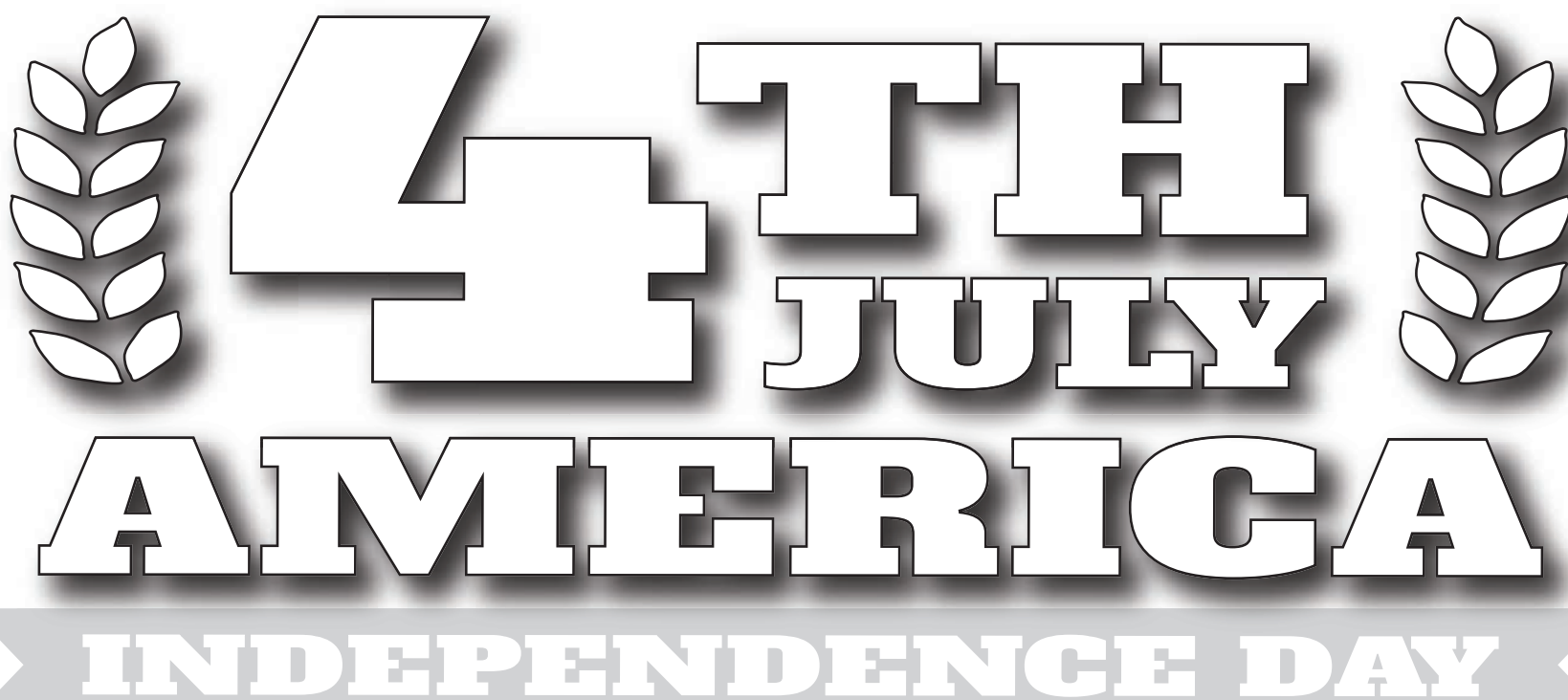
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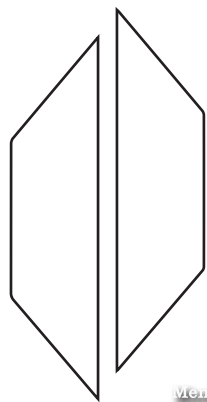
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# Sports/Area News

## BL American Legion pounds St. Augusta, 13-2



**KADEN HASELIUS** had a double and triple in Big Lake's 13-2 win over St. Augusta Tuesday. He homered against Princeton last week. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

By Ken Francis,  
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake American Legion baseball team exploded for 10 runs in the second inning in a 13-2 rout of St. Augusta Tuesday.

It was the team's second win of the season.

Big Lake went down in order in the first inning, but things were a lot different in the second. Fielding problems by St. Augusta were a big part of the scoring. Jaxyn Tschritter reached on a third strike passed ball to start the inning. He moved to second on another passed ball. After Isaiah Terlinden doubled, Blayne Varner walked to load the bases. Jeffrey Wanhala singled in one run. Isaiah Prom reached on a fielder's choice to drive in a run. Travis Anderson reached on an in-field error, scoring another run. Reid Josewski reached on a misplayed outfield fly ball. Conner Stukenholtz singled in a run. He scored on a triple by Kaden Haselius. Tschritter reached on a dropped throw to first, scoring Haselius, and Terlinden reached on a dropped outfield fly. Both runner scored on an error.

The game remained 10-0 until the fifth when Big Lake scored three more. Prom had a leadoff single and went to third on a double by Anderson. Josewski singled in one run before Anderson scored on a passed ball. Josewski went to third on a grounder and scored on a double by Haselius.

St. Augusta avoided the shutout with two runs in the bottom of the fifth on a walk, a double and an error. But the game ended with the third out by the 10-run rule.

Terlinden started on the mound and got the win. He allowed two hits and a walk while striking out three.

Wanhala pitched a scoreless inning before Josewski finished the game, allowing one earned run on two hits and two walks.

Haselius led the offensive attack with a double, triple and two RBIs. Wanhala had two hits and two runs batted in.

**Princeton 11,  
Big Lake 6**

Big Lake lost a doubleheader to Princeton last Thursday.

In the first game, Big Lake had a lead midway through the game, but fielding miscues led to some unearned runs for Princeton late in the game in an 11-6 loss.

Big Lake got on the board in the second when Stukenholtz hit a one-out double and scored on a single by Jonah Blackman.

Princeton took a 2-1 lead in the home second on a double, walk, fielder's choice and a single.

Big Lake evened the score in the third on a solo home run by Haselius.

Princeton went ahead again in the home third with an unearned run on two errors, a stolen base and a single.

Big Lake tied the score in the fourth when Terlinden singled, advanced on a wild pitch and scored on a single by Blackman.

They went ahead, 4-3 in the fifth. Collin Skaug and Carson Gellerman were hit by pitches to start the inning. Cooper Cusick's two-out single drove in Skaug for the lead.

But things came apart in the home fifth when Princeton scored four runs on triple, double, single, a stolen base and an error.

Leading 7-4, Princeton got four more in the sixth on two walks, a hit batter, two stolen bases, a single and two errors.

That was all they needed. Big Lake came back with two in the seventh when Gellerman was hit by a pitch, Josewski reached on an error and Tschritter doubled them home to end the scoring.

Skaug started on the mound and took the loss. He allowed six runs (five earned) on nine hits and a walk in 4.1 innings. He struck out five.

Cusick allowed five runs (two earned) on one hit and two walks in 1.1 innings. Nehemiah Ruoso came in to get the final out in the sixth.

Blackman had two hits and two RBIs. Tschritter drove in two runs with a hit. Stukenholtz had two hits and scored a run.

**Princeton 10,  
Big Lake 5**

Princeton jumped out on top in the first inning on a two-run homer off Big Lake starter Haselius en route to a 10-5 win.

Big Lake came right back in the home first with three runs. Gellerman and Tschritter were hit by pitches. Cusick singled. Varner followed with an RBI single and two more runs scored on an over-throw for a 3-2 lead.

But the lead was short-lived. Princeton batted around in the second, scoring five runs on four walks, two stolen bases, a wild pitch and four hits. They added a run in the third on a two-base error and two groundouts.

Big Lake got a run back in the third when Tschritter singled, moved to third on a single by Terlinden and scored on a grounder by Josewski.

Princeton got a run in the fourth on a walk, stolen base and two singles.

Big Lake got its final run in the fifth. Tschritter was hit by a pitch, went to second on a hit by Cusick, went to third on a hit by Terlinden and scored on a groundout by Jeffrey Wanhala.

Haselius started on the mound and took the loss. He allowed five runs on four hits and two walks in 1.1 innings.

Wanhala pitched 4.2 innings, allowing five runs (four earned) on eight hits and three walks. He struck out three.

Big Lake played a doubleheader against St. Francis Thursday, results to follow next week.

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**RACE WINNER.** Sam Hyttsten, of Becker, recently completed his second year of racing. Sam is pictured above at BIR (Brainerd International Raceway) with his dad, Dan Hyttsten over graduation weekend the end of May. Sam was racing the ice index class with his grandfather David Hyttsten's Buick Grand National. Bottom photo: Three generations share their love of racing. Pictured, left to right: David Hyttsten with his son Dan Hyttsten and grandson Sam Hyttsten. (Submitted photo.)



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## Corr: Spring Home Guide

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

In the *Patriot's* 2022 Spring Home Guide from April, a story on Michelle Agnew's business (Tattered Farm Co.) misidentified Michelle as the mother of a deployed soldier when in fact it was learned she is the step mother.

The *Patriot* regrets this unfortunate misrepresentation in the story.

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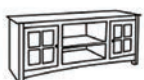
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# Becker grad competes in Boston Marathon

By Mary Nehring, Contributing writer

Brandon Kasper, Becker graduate, had this to say about competing 26.2 miles in the Boston Marathon recently: "I had the absolute time of my life!" It was the culmination of 18 weeks of training and seven years of dreaming. Kasper described the course as 'crushing, but incredibly fun'.

The first 16 miles are mostly downhill and Kasper ran very hard those first 16 miles. Kasper says he got crushed in the Newton Hills around mile 17 during the second half of the race. It is uphill from that point through Heartbreak Hill at mile 21.

The support of all his family and friends carried Kasper through those painful last few miles. Kasper wishes to thank everyone who made the race possible and also thanks the city of Boston for an incredible weekend. Kasper's time was 3:08:54 and he feels wonderful about that accomplishment. He shared that when he first arrived

BRANDON KASPER is pictured with credentials. (Submitted photo.)

FORMER BECKER GRADUATES Evan Gruenes and Brandon Kasper. Both participated in this year's Boston Marathon. (Submitted photo.)

in the city of Boston, the noise of the thousands spectators on hand for the race gave him the endurance to make it to the finish line on Boylston St.

Participants had to run a qualifying time to be able to participate in the marathon. The age group Kasper ran in required a qualifying time of three hours or faster.

The marathon takes place on Patriots Day in Boston on the third Monday of April every year. This is the first time the Boston Marathon has been

held since April of 2019 (pre-COVID).

As a fun way to motivate Kasper during his training, he decided to do a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and individuals could "sponsor" his run by donation. In total, Kasper raised \$4,238.00.

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# Sports News

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## Girls track team holds year-end picnic



SPECIAL AWARDS were handed out at last week's track & field picnic at City Park. (Submitted Photo).

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

The Becker Bulldog girls and boys track teams held their yearly picnic at the Becker City Park and handed out several awards to the team.

### Girls Squad

Academically, the girls earned the Team Gold Standard for their GPA given by the MSHSAC. **All Conference Academic** went to Paige Maunu, Sarah Woelfel, Skylar Schug, Kayla Gruenes, Regan Hausmann, Brooklyn Karel, Alea Briggs, Lexi Rose, Lauren Woelfel, Abby Atwood, Reese Hausmann and Olivia Maunu.

**All State Academic** went to Sarah Woelfel, Lexi Rose, Lauren Woelfel, Paige Maunu, Alea Briggs and Brooklyn Karel.

Special awards given:

**Scholar Athlete** - Kayla Gruenes;

**High Point Scorer** - Lexi Rose;

**Most Dedicated** - Ella McDonald;

**Most Improved** - Brooklyn Karel;

**Rookie** - Karen Soulane and Ella McDonald;

**Bulldog Spirit Award** - Kayla Paulson and Kayla Gruenes.

**All Conference** - Lexi Rose, Ella McDonald, Sarah Woelfel, Paige Maunu, Katelyn Brower, Abby Atwood, Kayla Gruenes, Alea Briggs, Lauren Woelfel.

**Honorable Mention** - Kylee Morton, Regan Hausmann, Reese Hausmann, Kailey Thompson, Lexi Rose, Brooklyn Karel, Alea Briggs, Ella McDonald, Olivia Babler, Lauren Woelfel.

New Additions to **Becker Honor Roll**: Paige Maunu - shot and long jump, Lauren Woelfel - Pole Vault Regan Hausmann - 300 hurdles kailey Thompson - 300 hurdles Sarah Woelfel - 100 hurdles Ella McDonald- 3200 and 1600 Olivia Babler - 3200 Lexi Rose 1600 and 800 Brooklyn Karel - 800 Katelyn

Brower - 800.

**State Meet Entrants and All State Awards**: Lexi Rose, Ella McDonald, Alea Briggs and Brooklyn Karel.

The team says "farewell" to their four seniors - Madalynn Finney, Skylar Schug, Paige Maunu and Sarah Woelfel.

"They have all been with us and each contributed a lot to our team," said Head Coach Trish Kealy. "We will miss them next year and wish them the best!"

Kealy also thanked everyone for the support her team received this season.

"The parents, the coverage by the newspaper and the activities office," she said. "I would also like to give a shout out to the other coaches on our staff who each do a wonderful job with our teams — Paul Schmidt, Dustin Weege and Tony Miller. We look forward to next year!"

## Bengtson honored as top tennis coach in MN

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog boys tennis team had a record-setting spring, qualifying for the state tournament for the first time in program history and setting a program record for wins in a season.

This week, the man in charge of the program, Hokan Bengtson, was hon-



ored by being named the MSHSL Class AA Coach of the Year.

"I am humbled and honored to be selected as the AA Coach of the Year," Bengtson said. "This is truly an honor and a blessing. It really is a tribute to the players and coaches that

**BECKER TENNIS COACH HOKAN BENGTSON** was recently named the State Class AA Coach of the Year. (Submitted photo.)

have worked so hard to get our program to this point."

State tennis coaches vote on the eight Section Coaches of the Year and then those eight winners are up for the state award.

"There are many coaches in AA that are worthy of this award, so I am thankful to my peers that voted for me and again humbled, thankful and blessed to receive this

award," Bengtson added. "This year we had a lot of help behind the scenes by Brent Scheideman, Phil Gudim, Jason Dilly, Steve Borst, Aggie Lewendowski, Caleb Quernemoen, and a host of excellent players and parents."

## BHS Principal Kreft umpires in state tournament

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

Becker High School Principal Dave Kreft recently was honored as one of the top MSHSL baseball umpires in Minnesota, as he was selected to officiate a pair of Class AA State tournament games.

Kreft has been umpiring high school games for the past 10 years, after a successful stint as a high school baseball coach.

"Baseball has been a part of my life forever," said Kreft, who played collegiately at St. John's University. "Umpiring has been a great way for me to stay involved in the game."

To be selected, Kreft had to apply to the MSHSL and then he was selected to be observed by one of the state's baseball clinicians.

"It was a game early in the season," Kreft said, noting that he was in Sartell to officiate the game, the same location where he worked the state tournament. "Being observed is a great thing because it gives me important feedback in the areas of mechanics and positioning."

In addition to the observation, there is also a pre-season meeting/clinic to attend, as well as a rules test that all umpires must pass.



**DAVE KREFT**, Principal at Becker High School, recently umpired a pair of games in the MSHSL Class AA State Baseball Tournament. He is pictured here before his second game, when he was selected to call balls and strikes behind the plate. (Submitted photo.)

Throughout the regular season, baseball umpires are paired with different partners so they can learn from one another. Kreft feels like that is a great way to get better because he can pick up pointers from different people.

In the state tournament, Kreft worked with a three-man crew that included Larry Midas, who just happens to be the husband of Becker High School Sci-

ence teacher Sue Midas.

In his first state tournament game, Kreft worked as the first base umpire for a game that involved Sibley East, his high school alma matter. In a twist of irony, twenty-eight years ago, he was a player for Sibley East on a team that just happened to make it to the state tournament.

The MSHSL and other states have been afflicted by a shortage of umpires that has caused postponement and cancellation of games due to a lack of officials. Kreft would like to see more people get involved in officiating, as it is a great way to give back to a sport that someone may have enjoyed as a player.

"Relationships are key... just finding a connection to someone that is involved and can help you get started," Kreft said. "It's about stepping forward and getting involved because you never know where it will take you or how much you might enjoy it."

As for Kreft, he feels that umpiring is a great way to get his mind off school for a few hours in the evening, although he laughs at the fact both positions might be a bit similar.

"I think it's a great way for the Becker students to see me as a human being," Kreft said. "They find out

that just like someone else, I have hobbies and sometimes they even ask me about the games that I umpired."

Each spring, Kreft umpires about 15 games during the regular season, as he is busy with both his job and running around to his own three children's activities.

"I plan to do it again next year," Kreft said. "I've made a lot of great connections with people through umpiring."



A PITCHER FROM THE SARTELL SWARM softball team delivered this pitch as part of the Becker Blast Softball Tournament held at the high school during Freedom Days. Perfect weather brought out the avid fans who showed their support for the local sports teams. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan.)

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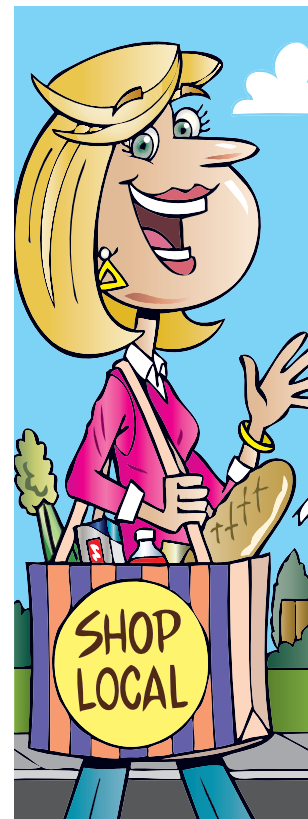
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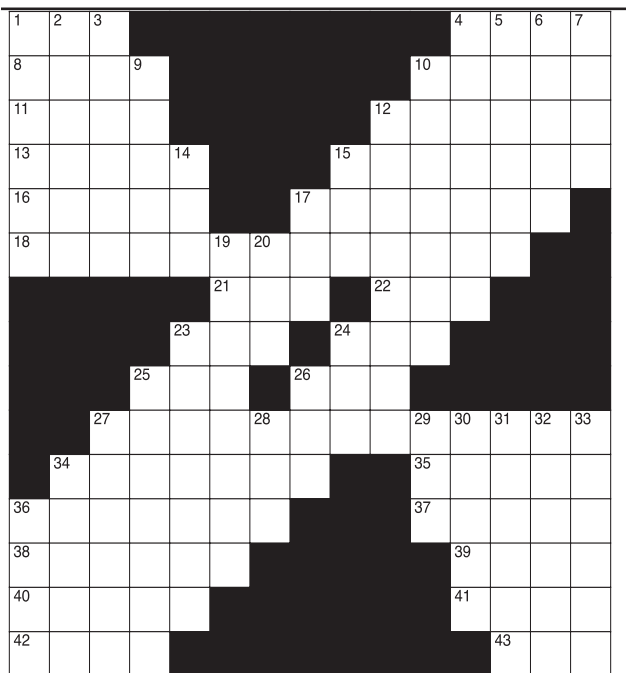
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## Game Time



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4. Slotted hinged metal plate
8. Popular crop
10. Siamese fighting fish
11. Larval crabs
12. South American mammal
13. Occur as a result of
15. Slavic language
16. An electric underground railway
17. Transporting
18. A direction
21. Opposite of start
22. Mock
23. People love and hate it (abbr.)
24. A people of Myanmar
25. A Queens ballplayer
26. Southern Thailand indigenous person
27. Famed actress
34. Thin strips
35. Bluish greens
36. Ridiculed
37. Having the shape of a cube
38. Came down
39. Indian religious god
40. "Bewitched" actress Moorehead
41. Leak through slowly
42. Buzzing insects
43. Midway between south and southeast

### CLUES DOWN

1. Skin condition
2. Earlier
3. Right away
4. Vomiting
5. Go to
6. "The Police" frontman
7. Bullfighting maneuver
9. Pacific island
10. A system of algebraic notation
12. A room used for the activities of a group
14. The longest division of geological time
15. Car mechanics group
17. A barrel of liquid (abbr.)
19. Bound to do
20. Explosive
23. Ridicules
24. Adult male
25. Military personnel
26. French and Belgian river
27. Found in the sea
28. A share lost in default (abbr.)
29. Type of medication (abbr.)
30. City on the Rhine
31. Animal disease
32. They're in martinis
33. Get away
34. Wampum
36. Lacking brightness

**PUZZLE to Page 4B**

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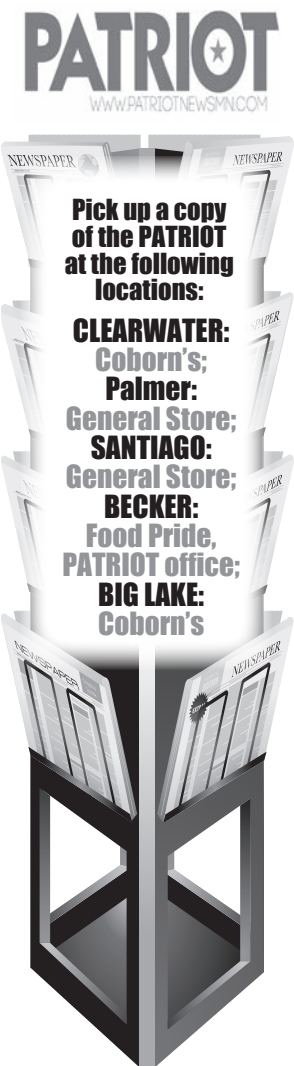
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### This Week's Calendar Events:

**Sun. - June 26, 2022:**  
•National Beautician's Day  
•Bar Code Introduced: Anniversary, 1974  
**Mon. - June 27, 2022:**  
•National Sunglasses Day  
•National HIV Testing Day  
**Tues. - June 28, 2022:**  
•National Insurance Awareness Day  
•Moon Phase: New Moon  
**Wed. - June 29, 2022:**  
•National Camera Day  
•George Washington Goethals: Birth Anniversary, 1858  
**Thurs. - June 30, 2022:**  
•World Social Media Day  
•National Handshake Day  
**Fri. - July 1, 2022:**  
•ID Your Pet Day  
•Resolution Renewal Day  
National Postal Worker Day  
•Halfway Point of 2022  
**Sat. - July 2, 2022:**  
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**Thurs., June 30:** 9am-Cards/Conversation; 11am-Make/Take Craft; 6pm-Beaded Tapestry Class, registration required. See library.

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# Announcements

## Becker - Organizations

### Becker American Legion Auxiliary

The auxiliary meets the second Tues. of the month at 7pm.. For info please contact Paula Hinds (President) at (763) 262-6679 or see John Riebel or Nellie Simpson at Becker True Value.

### Becker American Legion Post 193

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

### Becker AA Meeting

Becker Group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Thurs., 8pm at Mary of the Visitation, 12100 Sherburne Ave, Becker. For information, call/text (320) 247-4732 or email [beckeraagroupmn@gmail.com](mailto:beckeraagroupmn@gmail.com)

### Becker Boy Scout Pack 92 Cardboard, Paper & Aluminum

Bring your aluminum cans to the trailer located near Becker True Value. Paper & cardboard recycling location is at the Becker Community Center, please remember to flatten the cardboard & absolutely no garbage on the first Sat. of every month. There will be a Scout there to help unload between 9am-12pm. Thanks for your support!

### Becker Evangelical Ministries

Every Wed., 6-7:30pm at Becker Middle School. GYM 45 - growing young men. HIS KIDZ - K-3rd grade. G.I.R.L.S. GROUP - 4th & 5th grade girls. Becker Free Church (763) 261-4125 or register online at [www.becvkerfreechurch.org](http://www.becvkerfreechurch.org) (under Youth Connection click "Event Registration").

### Becker Food Shelf

Open Tues., 9-11am & Thurs. 4-6pm. The food shelf is located 12060 Sherburne Ave. in City Hall. (763) 261-4612.

### Becker Hearts & Hands Quilt Guild

Meet 2nd Mon. of month at 7pm. Becker Baptist Church. Contact Elizabeth Steckelberg (320) 259-9542.

### Becker Lions Club

Meetings are held the second Mon. each month at 7pm at Becker City Park. Dale Seavert (320) 290-5342.

### Becker Lions Collecting Items to Recycle

The Becker Lions are collecting used eyeglasses (no cases please) and hearing aids. Collection buckets are located at the Becker Community Center, Insight Eye Care and Becker Bill's Family Foods. We are no longer collecting used cell phones or printer cartridges. If you have any questions please contact Lion Dale Seavert at (320) 290-5342 (phone or text) or by email at [djseavert@gmail.com](mailto:djseavert@gmail.com).

### Becker Sons of the American Legion Squadron 193

Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7pm at Becker Legion (old fire hall). Looking for new members. Commander John Fischbach (320) 249-0579.

### Becker Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Meeting

The monthly meetings are held 6 pm the third Thurs. of the month at Becker City Hall. (320) 980-2752 or see the state website at [www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org](http://www.beyondtheyellowribbon.org).

### Compassion Connection

A 501(c)(3) community-based non-profit. We partner with local & private child welfare agencies. We fulfill emergency requests to expedite safe placement of babies & children & assist aged-out youth as they transition.

At our Resource Closet, we are committed to helping not only the foster community but families in need making the most items in our Resource Closet available to all. We host regular events to encourage awareness & motivate community participation in support of our most vulnerable children. For more info: [www.theccompassionconnectionmn.com](http://www.theccompassionconnectionmn.com).

### Dementia Support Group

The fourth Wed. of each month at 10-11am, Room 19 at Becker Community Center, 11500 Sherburne Ave. No cost to join. Tami Kolbinger at (612) 590-2449 or email [tjkolbinger@gmail.com](mailto:tjkolbinger@gmail.com).

### Great River Faith in Action

If you are a senior, age 60 & above, family caregiver or an individual in need of services, Great River Faith in Action can provide volunteer transportation, chore services & grocery shopping assistance. We are community supported by individuals, organizations & businesses. Our two fundraisers each year are in Mar.-Gala at Rockwoods, & Aug.-Golf Scramble in Becker.

We are looking for volunteers to help elderly or disable people in our community. Especially volunteer drivers. FIA also has a Furniture for Families Program that assists struggling families with basic furniture needs when they have no other place to turn. Call (763) 263-4277 or [www.fjfia.org](http://www.fjfia.org).

### Snake River Free Mission Church

Hymn sings are held every other month on the second Sun. at 4:30pm. Check Snake River Church Facebook page for updates. 5 mi. N of Hwy 10 on CR 11, 1.5 mi. E on CR4 & then L on 180th Ave (8940 180th Ave), Becker. Mary (612) 219-8648.

### Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge

The Refuge is open to visitors year-round during the daylight hours. The Refuge is located at 17076 293rd Ave, Zimmerman. Call (763) 389-3323 or [sherburne@fws.gov](mailto:sherburne@fws.gov)

## Big Lake - Organizations

### Big Lake Ambassador

"Empowering young ladies of Big Lake to be women of tomorrow through Community Service. Topromote leadership, professional development & personal growth with an opportunity to earn an educational scholarship. Core Values - Honesty, Respect, Loyalty & commitment." Information about program email: [biglakeambassadors@gmail.com](mailto:biglakeambassadors@gmail.com) or [biglakejuniorambassadors@gmail.com](mailto:biglakejuniorambassadors@gmail.com).

### Big Lake American Legion Post #147

Meets the first Thurs. of the month @ 7 pm. Community Room by the Big Lake Police Station, 790 Minnesota Ave, Big Lake 55309. Please contact Commander Paul Seefeld (612) 801-7731.

### Big Lake OPEN AA Meetings

Mon., 7pm at the Church of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church, Big Lake. Big Book Study, Handicap Accessible. Questions? Contact: Rob, (763) 218-5328.

### Big Lake Al-Anon

Meetings held Mon., 7pm at Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church - Big Lake Annex, "lawn chairs outdoors when weather permits."

Newcomers encouraged - we are a very welcoming group! Laurie (763) 218-5330.

### The Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary

Meets the first Tues. Mar.-Dec. at 6:30pm. in the Senior Citizen Center at Big Lake City Hall. Please contact Kathy at (763) 263-6093 for information.

### Big Lake / Becker Mops

Mother's of preschoolers Group meets the second & fourth Wed. of the month (Sept.-May) at Becker Baptist Church, 9-11:30am.

### Big Lake Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

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

### Big Lake Community Food Shelf

The Big Lake Community Food Shelf hours of service are Mon. & Thurs. 5:30-7:30pm & Wed. 9-11am. We also serve clients every "Freebie Friday" from 11:30am-12:30pm., providing produce, dairy, & bakery goods. Our new, "Pop-up Pantry", from 11:30am-12:30pm every Tues. To volunteer call (763) 263-2432 or [www.blcfs.org](http://www.blcfs.org).

### Big Lake Day of Prayer

Big Lake meets year round the first Wed. of the month, at 7am for a prayer breakfast at Big Lake High School flagpole.

### The Big Lake Lions

Looking for community minded people to join our organization. If interested in getting involved with our organization, please contact any Lion member or send a note to P.O. Box 128, Big Lake, MN 55309 or (763) 263-2218.

### LC of Big Lake Lioness

If you are interested in learning more about the LC of Big Lake Lioness you can catch us on FB: [www.facebook.com/BigLakeMnLionessClub](http://www.facebook.com/BigLakeMnLionessClub), or attend any meeting held the second Mon. of the month at the Lions Park on CR5. social starts 6:30pm, meeting 7pm. All are welcome to attend to learn more about the club.

### Big Lake Narcotics Anonymous Meetings

Big Lake Living Clean NA meeting Sun., 7pm. Bridgeview Assembly of God Church, 20500 Co. Rd. 11, Big Lake, MN, (763) 482-1695.

### Big Lake Women of Today

Hold a monthly general meeting at Senior Activity Center located in the Big Lake City Office Building on the 3rd Thurs. of the month @ 7pm. Contact Natalie @ (612) 518-3504 or find us at Facebook or [www.biglakewomenoftoday.webs.com](http://www.biglakewomenoftoday.webs.com).

### God's Grub Community Meal

Second Sun. of every month, 4:30-6:30 pm. Saron Lutheran, Big Lake, 311 Lake Street South. Served curbside, ready to go.

### Living with Parkinson's Under The Age of 65

If you or anyone you know is 65 or under & have been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, you are welcome to attend our group. We meet the third Tuesday of each month, 6pm at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street So., Big Lake, MN 55309.

Specific topics will be scheduled along with open forum. Family/Friends are welcome! Any questions, please call Camille Johnson at (763) 350-7401.

### Moms in Prayer

Meets weekly to pray for their children & the school they attend. Information: [www.momsinprayer.org](http://www.momsinprayer.org) or Colene Stenberg (763) 263-6809 or [stenbergjc@outlook.com](mailto:stenbergjc@outlook.com)

## BREAKING NEWS

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## Public Notices

## Assumed Names

### Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State

### Certificate of Assumed Name Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: **MRitten Maintenance**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **723 13th Ave SE Apt 101 Saint Cloud Minnesota 56304 United States**

NAMEHOLDER(S):  
Name:

**Michael Gerard Ritten**

Address:

**723 13th Ave SE Apt 101 Saint Cloud Minnesota 56304 United States**

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

*By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.*

SIGNED BY: **Michael Ritten**  
MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: [rittenmike70@gmail.com](mailto:rittenmike70@gmail.com)  
Work Item: **1317141000028**

Original File Number: **1317141000028**

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
FILED

06/08/2022

11:59 PM

/s/ Steve Simon  
Secretary of State

(Published in the *Patriot*: 06/18/22; 06/25/22.)

## Central MN Council on Aging Notices

### Notice

### Request for Proposal

Central MN Council on Aging will publish a competitive request for proposal (RFP) for the following federal Older Americans Act for services in the calendar year 2023: Title III E Caregiver Support Services. RFP will be posted to our website on or about June 22, 2022. Visit our website: [www.cmcoa.org](http://www.cmcoa.org) for further information and RFP.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 06/25/22.)

## Mechanics Lien

### Notice of Mechanics Lien Sale

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Minnesota Statute §514.18 a Sheriff Sale will be held on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at Tom's Auto Repair Inc. 900 Hwy 24, Clearwater Minnesota 55320, to dispose of the following abandoned vehicle:

One 2009 Nissan Murano Le VIN# JNSAZ18W59W124384 owned by Rexton D. Laquoi of 591 Belland Ave Apt 4, Vadnais Heights, MN 55127-5077. Being auctioned for mechanic's lien / storage fees in the amount owing \$3,507.50 at time of auction. (Published in the *Patriot*: 06/18/22; 06/25/22; 07/02/22.)

## Sale of Items

### SALE OF ITEMS

Stored at JC's ULock Storage. 18055 198th Ave., Big Lake. Unit 13, Tyrone Comeau. Sale 11:30 a.m., July 6, 2022. Terms - Cash Only.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 06/18/22; 06/25/22.)

## DEADLINES

Notices & Legals  
Wednesdays  
At Noon  
Contact Kathy:  
**763-275-0275**  
or Email:

[legals.kathy@](mailto:legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com)

[patriotnewsmn.com](http://patriotnewsmn.com)

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## Big Lake Public Schools #727 Notices

### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This represents a summary of the Regular 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](http://www.biglakeschools.org) upon Board approval.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools, was called to order on June 16, 2022.

#### II. ROLL CALL

All Board members were present except Mr. Dan Nygaard.

#### III. APPROVE AGENDA

A motion passed to add Resignation of Cheer Coach to the Consent Agenda and approve the amended agenda.

#### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### V. OPEN FORUM

#### VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion passed to approve the following:

- A. PREVIOUS MINUTES
- B. CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS
- C. CREDIT CARD REPORT
- D. PERSONNEL
- E. APPROVAL OF ONE READ POLICIES: 401, 402, 404, 405, 406, 408
- F. FINAL READING AND APPROVAL OF POLICIES: 534
- G. EDUCATION IDENTITY AND ACCESS MANAGEMENT BOARD RESOLUTION
- H. RESIGNATION OF CHEER COACH

#### VII. LACROSSE UPDATE

#### VIII. FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion passed to approve the financial report and budget revisions as presented.

#### IX. APPROVE 2022-2023 SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET

A motion was passed to approve the 2022-2023 budget as presented.

#### X. APPROVE 2023-2024 LTFM TEN YEAR PLAN

A motion passed to approve the following resolution:

### RESOLUTION ADOPTING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 727 FY 24 LONG-TERM FACILITIES MAINTENANCE TEN-YEAR PLAN

#### XI. PRINCIPALS WORK AGREEMENT

A motion passed to approve the three-year principals work agreement as presented.

#### XII. FIRST READING OF POLICIES

#### XIII. SECOND READING OF POLICIES

#### XIV. ESTABLISHING DATES OF CANDIDACY RESOLUTION

A motion passed to approve the following resolution:

### RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING DATES FOR FILING AFFIDAVITS OF CANDIDACY

#### XV. COMMITTEE UPDATES

#### XVI. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

#### XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 06/25/22.)



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### BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This represents a summary of the Special 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](http://www.biglakeschools.org) upon Board approval.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools was called to order on June 21, 2022.

#### II. ROLL CALL

All Board members were present.

#### III. DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF BIG LAKE CHEER PROGRAMS AND POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION REGARDING CHEER PROGRAMS

A motion passed to approve the following resolution:  
**RESOLUTION RELATING TO SCHOOL SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AND COMPETITION CHEER**

#### IV. DISCUSSION AND MOTION ON POSTING OF VACANT SIDELINE CHEER AND SPEECH COACHING POSITIONS

A motion passed to post for the position of Sideline Cheer Coach. A motion passed to post for the position of Speech Coach.

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion passed to adjourn the meeting.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 06/25/22.)

## Becker Police Department Activity Report Week of June 13th – June 19th

**13-Jun:** 1 stop sign warning, 1 animal complaint, 4 record check, 1 yard parking / junk vehicle ordinance warnings, 5 speed warning, 1 miscellaneous officer, 1 juvenile concern, 1 extra patrol, 1 no proof of insurance Citation #281, 1 expired registration, 1 speed / suspended object warnings, 1 speed Citation #282, 1 security check

**14-Jun:** 1 warrant attempt, 1 extra patrol, 1 public assist, 1 found animal, 1 domestic, 1 juvenile concern / domestic, 1 permit to purchase, 2 record check, 1 juvenile concern, 1 equipment warning, 1 theft, 1 recreational vehicle permit, 3 speed warning, 1 miscellaneous officer, 1 civil,

1 welfare check, 1 OFP Violation, 1 expired registration / stop sign warnings / no proof of insurance Citation #283, 1 driving conduct warning, 1 fail to move over for emergency vehicle Citation #284

**15-Jun:** 5 speed warning, 5 extra patrol, 2 security check, 1 suspicious activity, 2 public assist, 1 signs down, 1 medical, 1 miscellaneous officer, 1 ATV complaint, 1 speed Citation #285, 1 hazardous materials, 1 equipment warning

**16-Jun:** 3 extra patrol, 2 expired registration warning, 1 driving after revocation / no proof of insurance Citation #286, 2 speed warning, 2 equipment warning,

1 public assist, 1 miscellaneous public, 1 recreational vehicle permit, 1 traffic complaint, 1 civil, 1 record check, 1 fraud complaint, 1 miscellaneous officer, 1 security check, 1 suspicious vehicle

**17-Jun:** 1 possession of small amount of marijuana Citation #287, 6 speed warning, 1 security check, 1 Driving after suspension / false name to police citation #288, 1 expired registration warning, 1 medical, 2 welfare check, 2 extra patrol, 1 suspicious activity, 1 miscellaneous officer, 1 open door, 1 driving after suspension / drive wrong way Citation #289, 1 loud music complaint

**18-Jun:** 2 public assist, 2 equipment warning, 1 security check, 2 extra patrol, 2 medical, 1 cross arm malfunction, 2 agency assist, 1 found animal, 1 civil, 1 fireworks complaint, 1 speed warning, 1 false MN DL / underage consumption Citation #291, 1 speed warning, 1 fire

**19-Jun:** 1 DWI arrest, 1 miscellaneous officer, 2 medical, 2 speed warning, 1 civil, 1 welfare check, 1 found property, 1 extra patrol, 1 Stop sign warning / no proof of insurance Citation #292, 1 alarm, 1 drive in wrong lane of traffic warning / medical, 1 domestic dispute



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CenturyLink participates in a government benefit program (Lifeline) to make residential telephone or qualifying broadband service more affordable to eligible low-income individuals and families. Eligible customers are those that meet eligibility standards as defined by the FCC and state commissions. Residents who live on federally recognized Tribal Lands may qualify for additional Tribal benefits if they participate in certain additional federal eligibility programs. The Lifeline discount is available for only one telephone or qualifying broadband service per household, which can be on either wireline or wireless service. Broadband speeds must be 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload or faster to qualify.

A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

If you live in a CenturyLink service area, please call 1-800-201-4099 or visit [centurylink.com/lifeline](http://centurylink.com/lifeline) with questions or to request an application for the Lifeline program.



### MURAL from page 1

the CUP is ever rescinded, what happens to the mural?”

In Subd. 6 of Chapter 13 of the Big Lake Code Book – it states: Signs that are painted directly on the surface of a building may be permitted in business zoning districts provided that a conditional use permit (City Code Section 1050 Conditional Use Permits) is approved by the city. The area of painted wall signs shall be calculated as part of the maximum total permitted wall sign area for the building.

In Subd. 7, it states: Signs that are on the wall of a commercial building that does not abut a public street or is otherwise not permitted by this ordinance, or was not approved through a sign plan review prior to construction of the building, may be permitted in business zoning districts provided that a conditional use permit (City Code Section 1050 Conditional Use Permits) is approved by the city. The intent of this permit is to allow a sign, with conditions, that is visible from other commercial properties or high-traffic areas and is not primarily viewed from residential parcels. The allowable area of the secondary sign shall be reviewed with the Conditional Use Permit application, but may not exceed the actual area of the primary business sign.

Hanna Klimmek, Interim City Administrator, provided the *Patriot* with the following statement: *The mural that George Quinn and The Third Rail have been working on is something that our City Code doesn’t acknowledge at this time. Current Policy requires that both a Conditional Use Permit and a Variance be approved by the City Council to allow for the mural to be painted on the privately-owned building, which resides in the business zoning district. With that being said, the property owner could get this approved but would have to go through a process in order to do so. The City of Big Lake is working to repeal and replace three chapters within the City Code, which include the Subdivision Ordinance, Zoning Ordinance, and the Sign Ordinance. The Code Revision Project will provide a great opportunity to include murals within City Policy.*

Quinn disputes the “sign” or “mural” conditions set by the city since “they have a mural in the city and it’s called the Freedom Rock,” he said. “City planning commission members and city council members donated to the Freedom Rock Mural Project.”

In the meantime, Quinn and his colleagues vow to continue their planning and scheduling of the mural painted on the building by artist Hunsley, who Quinn said most likely will begin preparing the wall for the artwork later in the summer or in the early fall.

To help fundraise for the mural, Third Rail Grill in Big Lake held a “Heat Wave/Movie Night” Monday, offering free soda pop and water to seniors, veterans and first responders due to the sweltering heat forecasted for that day. They also were offering free billiards and board games to any guest and then that evening showed the movie *Blazing Saddles* on their large TV in the main area, with all proceeds going to the fundraising efforts of the mural.



# Becker council approves improvements around city

By Katherine Cantin,  
Staff Writer  
Reporter.Katie@PatriotNewsMN.com

During Tuesday’s Becker City Council meeting, the council approved several city building and street improvements to be completed this summer.

The Make-Up Air Units (MAUs), and some ducts and safety rails, are in need of replacement at the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), both in the press building and the domestic headworks building.

Three companies bid to do the work, and all three were invited to the WWTF to check out the MAUs.

Council opted to award the work in the press building to low-bidder SCR, which will cost \$48,500. The other two bidders each came in over \$64,000.

For the domestic headworks building, council awarded the bid to McDowall Company. Although they were not the low bidder, their bid was competitive with the other two companies and they were also willing to install safety railings, which the other two companies would not do. This will cost just under \$42,000.

McDowall Company will also be taking on roof repair at the city hall and

police department building. Council approved up to \$23,507 to be spent on the project, which is 10% higher than the bid price. Hopefully, this will keep things moving if there are any complications discovered as the roof is replaced.

The council also awarded bids for 2022 street improvement work. Most of the work will be covered by Streets Bond Proceeds.

### Public Hearing Rescheduled

A public hearing for JT2 Properties was scheduled for July 5, but had to be rescheduled to July 19. The city is required by law

to advertise the public hearing for two weeks prior to the hearing in their legal newspaper (the *Patriot*), but staff was waiting for a survey to come in before doing so and missed the two week mark.

### In Other Business, the Board:

- Heard various committee reports;
- Signed a supplemental letter of agreement (SLA) in support of work on 97th St.;
- Accepted a donation from the Lions Club to pay for Freedom Days Fireworks.

# Benton County 4-H’ers “Get Tangled” in fun day camps

Submitted article

(Editor’s Note: The following article was submitted by Benton County 4-H.)

The first Benton County 4-H Day Camps were held Tuesday in Foley and Thursday in Sauk Rapids with theme “Get Tangled.” The kids solved mysteries, successfully completed a breakout box, made an octopus and pom poms with yarn, investi-

gated clouds formed from soap, created yarn art and even met Canine Correctional Officer Jeff Theil of Sherburne County with his K9 dog, Storm, on Tuesday. On Thursday day’s camp at the fairgrounds, Canine Deputy Derek Sorenson from Sherburne County brought his canine Bronco.

“I am super excited about how my yarn art turned out” said Austynn



FRIENDS (L-R) Emmet Gilyard, first grader from Oak Park and Noah Mauer, first grader from Foley are busy writing messages with invisible ink at Benton County 4-H Day Camp “Get Tangled”. The kids solved mysteries, made yarn art and learned how to get out of a tangled mess. (Submitted photo.)



BENTON COUNTY 4-H’ERS showing off their hard work they put in making a yarn octopus during the Benton County 4-H “Get Tangled” day camp in Sauk Rapids. (L-R) fifth grader Logan Herbst from Sauk Rapids, fourth grader Liam Kritzeck and second grader Bennet Kristzeck both from St. Cloud. (Submitted photo.)



K-9 DOG, STORM, came to visit the campers at the “Get Tangled” Benton County 4-H Day Camp in Foley along with his owner Canine Correctional Officer Jeff Theil of Sherburne County. Storm paused to visit (L-R) fifth grader Hailey Manea of Sauk Rapids and second grader Nora Larson of Foley. (Submitted photo.)

K, fourth grader from Sauk Rapids. “I plan to bring my project to the county fair to get judged.” Several participants are setting their camp artwork aside to bring back to the Benton County Fair Aug 2-8th in Sauk Rapids.

Each year the 4-H day camps fill with kids excited to come and learn. The 4-H ambassadors along with 4-H summer coordinator, Mary Goenner, spend hours planning specific lessons, activities, and crafts centered around a theme.

“I love coming to the 4-H Day Camps.” Said MaKenzie M, fifth grader from Foley. “Every year we do exciting projects and I get to learn new things

while having fun.”

There is still plenty of time to sign up your kids. Benton County 4-H has day camps happening yet this summer on Tuesdays in Foley and Thursday in Sauk Rapids. Call the Benton County Extension Office for more information 320.968.5077.



# Complaints reviewed at Clearwater Twp.

By Penny Leuthard,  
Contributing Writer

A number of miscellaneous issues were discussed during Clearwater Twp.’s May and June meetings, including a road issue, cleanup day, and various complaints.

### Complaints

A CUP complaint was received concerning a property on Co. Rd. 7. Wright Co. indicated that the property was an expansion of a nonconforming use back in 1975 and 1989. They are in the process of doing additional clean up.

Wright Co. Commissioner Darek Vetsch informed the board that the hazard complaint on a Greer Ave. property has

been determined to no longer be a public health threat as that portion has been cleaned up. He encouraged the township to continue to follow up for additional clean up and possibly safety issues regarding the home’s structure.

The township has received complaints of properties that have large amounts of junk in the yards. After discussion, it was decided that as the township doesn’t want to come down hard on owners, letters will be sent out informing them they need to bring their properties into compliance. The township will work with owners who aren’t able to do so on their own.

### Cleanup Day

Clerk Jean Just provided an update on the township’s cleanup day held May 21. She reported 165 residents came through the event, bringing in 65 mattresses and pieces of furniture, 76 electronics, 98 appliances, 283 car and truck batteries, and 20 tons of scrap metal. Seven 30-yard dumpsters were filled with miscellaneous garbage and junk.

Total expenses for the day came to \$7,659 and total income added up to \$3,417, for a net expense of \$4,242.

### Other Business

During public forum at the June meeting, Pat Champlain approached the board to request help on his road, 157 ½ St., as he

wants to move it to where it’s actually supposed to be located. Other property owners along the road have been planting trees in the right-of-way.

The board informed him that it’s a public platted road, but not one the township maintains. The township attorney has informed them it’s a civil matter and there’s nothing the board can do in this case.

Vetsch informed residents of available grants for broadband, indicating at least 1,700 homes have already had them awarded.

The next Clearwater Twp. meeting will be July 13 at 7:30 p.m.

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Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)

Pastor: David M. Johnson, 763-262-7782, 11185 27th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship 9am, Sun. School 10:30am, Wed. J.U.M.P. 6pm.

Becker Baptist Church

Pastors: Nathan Bucher (Senior), Kevin Drehmel (Youth) & Amy Drehmel (Dir. of Child/Fam. Ministry), 763-261-4202, 11951 Hancock St. Services: Sun. Worship/Children 10:30am, Sun. School 9:15am, Wed. AWANA/Youth Group 6:30pm during school year. [www.beckerbaptist.org](http://www.beckerbaptist.org).

Becker Evangelical Free Church

Pastors: Gerald Deppa (Interim Senior), Chris Salvevold (Youth), 763-261-4125, Becker High School, Office: 11373 150th Ave SE. Services: Sun. Worship/Teaching/Fellowship 10am.

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month. (Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays in Big Lake).

Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Pastor: Yolanda Denson-Byers & Vicar Molly Wills, 763-261-5751, 11755 Sherburne Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 9:30 am, Sun. School 8:30am, Wed. Confirmation 5:30pm, Senior High Youth Group 1st & 3rd Wed. 6pm [www.faithlutheran-becker.org](http://www.faithlutheran-becker.org).

Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God

Pastors: Gerry Bass & Sarah, 763-220-6004, 13140 1st St (SW Corner of Becker Furniture World). Services: Sun. Bible Study/Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Snake River Free Church

Pastor: Steve Johnston, 612-219-8648, 180th St SE. Services: Sun. Worship/ Sun. School 10:30am., Hymn Sing is second Sun. of every month.

Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church

Pastor: Ken Hanson, 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE. Services: Sun. Praise & Worship 9:30am, Wed. Family Fellowship 7pm.

Beacon House of Prayer

Pastors: Brian & Linda Holmes, 763-263-3771, 12264 Pleasant Ave. Services: Thurs. Worship 6:30pm.

Free Grace United

Pastor: Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001, Becker High School, 12000 Hancock St, Enter door 11. Services: Wed. Worship 6:30pm.

• BIG LAKE

Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church

Pastor: Bill Nixon, 763-263-2287, 20455 187th Ave NW. Services: Sat. Worship 9am, Sat. Sabbath School 10:15am.

Bethany Bible Church

763-263-2167, 511 Eagle Lake Road. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Bridgeview Assembly of God

Pastor: Steve Royalty, 763-263-6274, 20500 County Road 11. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Wed. Service 6:30pm.

SVEA Hill Covenant Church

Pastor: Don Bellach, 763-263-6322, 16392 235th Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

Cornerstone Baptist Church

Pastor: Gordon Langdon, 763-263-7878, 15300 County Road 35.

Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrlock

763-262-0028. [www.hopeintherefuge.weebly.com](http://www.hopeintherefuge.weebly.com).

IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE Living Love Church

Pastores: Juan & Patricia Aguayo, 763-607-5403, 21 Lake St N. Services: Sat. 6pm.

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church

Pastor: Marty Mabry, 763-263-3090, 15550 190th Ave NW. Services: Sun. 8am & 10am.

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

Father: Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 440 Lake St N. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm; Sun. 8:30am & 10:30am. Masses held on 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month (Masses held on 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays in Becker).

Riverside Church

Online: [www.myrcc.church](http://www.myrcc.church), 763-263-2410, 20314 County Road 14. Services: Sun 8:45am, 10:30am & 12:05pm.

Saron Lutheran Church

Pastor: Kyle Sidlo, 763-263-2209, 311 Lake St. S. Services: Sun. Worship

9:30am, indoors or livestream.

• SANTIAGO

South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA

Pastor: Daryl Thul, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 9am in Sanctuary for the summer months.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School

Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St. Services: Sun. School/Bible Class 10:30am, Divine Worship 9am.

Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Pastor: Shari Routh, 920-573-0193, 1100 186th Ave NE. Services: Sun Good Shepherd 9am, Sun. Glendorado 10:30am.

Gethsemane Church (ELCA) – Ronneby

Pastor: Barbara Peterson, 320-983-5002, 14478 78th St. NE. Services: Sun. Worship 10am.

Glendorado Evangelical Country Church

Pastor: Sam Alfano, 763-662-2244, 16999 Glendorado Road NE. Services: Sun. School 9:30am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• CLEAR LAKE

Living Waters Church

Pastor: Mark Stahl, 320-292-0250, 7830 Church St. Services: Sun. Worship 10am, Wed. Bible Study 6:30pm.

Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor: Josh Reber, 320-743-2919, 8641 Main Ave. Services: Sun. Worship 8:45am, Sun. School 9:45am.

SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer

Pastor: TBD, 320-241-0123, Palmer Town Hall, 4180 105th Ave. Services: Sun. 5pm.

St. Marcus Catholic Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-743-2481, 8701 Main Ave. Services: Mon. & Wed. Mass 8am, Sat. Confessions 4:15pm, Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. 8am.

• DUELM

St. Lawrence Church

Father: Joseph Backowski, 320-968-7502, 10915 Duelm Road NE. Services: Sun. Mass 10am, Tues. Mass 8am.

• CLEARWATER

Clearwater United Methodist Church

Pastor: Alison Hendley, 320-558-2581, 405 Main St. Services: Sun. Wor-ship 9:30am.

Freedom Bible Church

605 Lime St. (Old Clearwater Post Office). Services: Sun. Bible Study 9:30am & 6pm, Sun. Worship 10:45am, Wed. Bible Study 7pm.

Rejoice Lutheran Church – ELCA

Pastor: Jim Bump, 320-558-6851, 1155 County Road 75. Services: Sun. School that begins in Worship 9:30am. Livestream worship at Rejoice's Youtube Channel, <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsJGuBda4orT9TWYi5wmGw>

Church of St. Luke

Father: Dennis Baker, 320-558-2124, 17545 Huber Ave NW. Services: Sat. Mass 5pm, Sun. Mass 8am & 10am, Weekday Mass Tues.-Fri. 8am/ Sat. 9am.

Tri-County Alliance Church

Pastor: David Fogal, 320-558-2750, 8464 160th St NW. Services: Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10:30am.

• SILVER CREEK

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Pastor: Ken Tatenhorst, 763-878-2820, 11390 Elliot Ave NW. Services: Sun. Worship 9am

Silver Creek Community Church

Pastor: Zach Pryor, 320-963-3957, 4282 114th St NW. Services: Sun. Wor-ship 9am, Sun. Fellowship 10am, Sun. School 10:30am.

• SAINT CLOUD

Faith Lutheran Church

Pastor: Joshua Reber, 320-252-3315, 3000 County Road SE. Worship: Sun. 10:15am.

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## Obituaries

**Dana C. Matis, Age 63**  
**Little Falls, MN**  
**August 21, 1958 - June 19, 2022**

A visitation will be from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 23, 2022 at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker for Dana C. Matis, age 63, who passed away Sunday at her home.

Dana was born August 21, 1958 in Buffalo to Richard & Joan (Olson) Hesley. She married Mark Matis on March 17, 1977 in Zimmerman. Dana lived in Becker most of her life, and most recently in Little Falls for the past few years. She worked in construction for PCI for 12 years and also drove special needs transport for Big Lake Schools. Dana was a member of Becker

Christian Center. She enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, gardening, cooking, baking, Fiestaware, celebrating birthdays, hosting and entertaining, and spending time with her grandchildren. Dana was caring, kind, thoughtful, made everyone feel important, and was full of grace and wisdom. She was most proud of her children and grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, Mark of Little Falls; children, Richard Matis (Faith Bigelow) of Becker, Jacie Matis of Seward, AK, and Jennifer (Lance) Strande of Mora; brother and sisters, Steven (Debbie) Hesley of Big Lake, Debra Othoudt of Isabella, and Diane (Paul) Palmer of Princeton; and grandchildren, Britany, Chloe, Vincent, Ryker, Dylan, Sean, Tyler, Gage, Shane, and Aaron. Dana was preceded in death by her parents; and son, Matthew Matis.

Obituary, Guest Book, and Video Tribute available online: [www.williamsdingmann.com](http://www.williamsdingmann.com)

**Donald W. Jacobson, Age 85**  
**Becker, MN**  
**January 26, 1937 – June 17, 2022**

Memorial Services will be at a later date for Donald “Don” W. Jacobson, age 85, who passed away peacefully Friday, June 17, 2022 at Shepherd of Grace Senior Community in Becker. There will be a private family burial at Snake River Cemetery. Arrangements are entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker.

Don was born on January 26, 1937 in Minneapolis to Edward and Ida (Quiel) Jacobson. He was united in marriage to WaltAnne Benedum on September 25, 1959. Don proudly served our country in the United States Army 82nd Airborne. He lived most of his life in Becker and worked as an Iron Worker for Champion Erectors. Don retired in 1990. He enjoyed looking for the Lost Dutchman’s Gold Mine in Superstitious Mt. AZ. Don also enjoyed nature, fishing in Alaska, golfing, bird watching, and wintering in Arizona. He was a direct man who was a great provider and hard worker. One of his accomplishments in life was writing his own book called “The Lost Dutchman Mine In Plain View.”

Don is survived by his wife, WaltAnne of Becker; children, Clayton (Christine Lou) Jacobson of Becker, and Marjorie (Gene) Greniger of Becker; grandchildren, Brianna, Tia, Timothy, Lauren, Joseph, and Grace; great grandchildren, Brynlee, Harley, Scarlett, Talon, Lucian, and Xavier; and siblings, Merrill of St. Paul and Melvin of Owatonna. He was preceded in death by his parents; son, John; daughter, Beth; brothers, Richard, Edward; and sister, Annelie.

Obituary, Guest Book, and Video Tribute available online: [www.williamsdingmann.com](http://www.williamsdingmann.com)

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“ASK A TROOPER” by Sgt. Jesse Grabow of the Minnesota State Patrol

Question: I really liked your recent article about the dangers of putting your feet up on the dash while driving and air bags. With the way vehicles are changing, can you talk about the other air bags, like side curtains and such? Thank you.

Answer: Thank you for the email and I am happy to talk about this. First of all, let me say air bags are designed to work with seat belts to keep vehicle occupants in a safe position during a crash — air bags are not effective when the motorist is not belted.

You are right with all the changes in vehicle technology. Motor Vehicles are federally required to be equipped with “Supplemental Restraint Systems” (SRS.) Not all of the safety features described in this article are standard equipment, some may be optional depending on the vehicle.

Air Bag System Components

• Driver and Front Passenger Air Bag

• Supplemental Side Air Bags

• Supplemental Seat-Mounted Side Air Bags (SABs)

• Supplemental Side Air Bag Inflatable Curtains (SAB-ICs)

• Supplemental Knee Air Bags

• Knee Impact Bolsters

All of these features and advancements in technology are incredible. But again, if people are not belted and seated properly these components could injure occupants. Children are at an even greater risk or injury from a deploying air bag. To keep yourself and others safe make sure you:

• Keep items away from any area where these systems can deploy.

• Always buckle up — and insist passengers are belted, too.

• Wear lap belts low and snug across the hips; shoulder straps should never be tucked under an arm or behind the back — not only is this unsafe, it is illegal.

• Children under age 13 should always ride in the back seat.

• In Minnesota, all children must be in a child restraint until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall, or at least age 8, whichever comes first.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Trp. Jesse Grabow – Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501-2205. (You can follow him on Twitter @MSPPIO\_NW or reach him at, [jesse.grabow@state.mn.us](mailto:jesse.grabow@state.mn.us)).