

COMING SOON...



# PATRIOT

POSTAL PATRON

PRESORTED STD  
EDWSS  
EPM  
PAID  
PRINCETON, MN  
PERMIT NO. 12

WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM

• VOL. 6 • NO. 12 SAT., SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

Serving Becker, Big Lake, Clear Lake, Clearwater & surrounding communities • P.O. Box 458 (14054 Bank Street), Becker, MN 55308 • 763-275-0275 • www.patriotnewsmn.com • production@patriotnewsmn.com

#### PATRIOT OFFICE

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

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

#### LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS/ OBITUARIES

Call 763-275-0275 or send an email to [legals@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:legals@patriotnewsmn.com)

#### SPORTS STORIES

Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill at [reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com)

#### ADVERTISING

Call 763-275-0275 or email Mary ([adsales@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:adsales@patriotnewsmn.com)), Deven ([sales@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:sales@patriotnewsmn.com)) or Carol ([sales.carol@patriotnewsmn.com](mailto:sales.carol@patriotnewsmn.com)).

#### DEADLINES:

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

#### WEBSITE

Check out each week's content at our website: [www.patriotnewsmn.com](http://www.patriotnewsmn.com)

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

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

#### OBITUARIES:

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

#### BUSINESS HOURS:

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

#### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

#### SUBMITTED MATERIAL:

There will be a \$50 charge for all thank you, engagement, wedding and birth announcement pictures. The Patriot is not responsible for correctness of ads received by telephone.

**VISIT OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITY IN BECKER, MINNESOTA**

**Recycle your unwanted materials**

**We pay competitive prices for all types of scrap metal including:**

- Vehicles
- Automotive batteries
- Aluminum cans
- Copper
- Brass
- Stainless steel
- Farm equipment

**HERE IS WHERE YOU CAN FIND US**

**NOW OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Run on 100% renewable energy. Operating hours: 7am - 4:30pm**



**AMAZING AURORA.** Jakki Fidelman captured this amazing photo taken on Lake Julia on a warm summer like night near Palmer Sunday evening while the crickets cheeped and an elusive owl was heard from the nearby woods. (Submitted Photo)

## Block Party is a blast!

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

The 15th Annual Big Lake Block Party was a booming success on a beautiful day last Saturday at McPete's.

The event, hosted by the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce, ran from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and featured unlimited mini-golf, free bowling, entertainment, vendor booths, games, food concessions, prizes, DJ Music, photo booth, free Jonny Pops, World of Wheels, a bouncy house and much, much more!

As part of the entertainment, Big Lake Schools Supt., Tim Truebenbach, Mayor Paul Knier, Principal Teresa Smock-Potter and others were subject to

the ever-popular dunk tank. There was also a "Battle of the Banks" tug-of-war event and a car parade on Humboldt Drive.

Later on, Humboldt Station played music just outside McPete's for the adults and families that hung around for the entire day. There were giveaways including bicycles for the kids.

The Chamber would like to say thanks to all the sponsors who included: McPetes, All Purpose Rentals, El Teca, Big Lake Spud Fest, Big Lake Area Veterinary Hospital, Queen Bees, Driscoll Accounting, Minnco, Jonny Pops, Northwoods DJ, Park Dental, Coborns, Avery's Adventures and Sherburne State Bank.



**LOCAL FAVORITE HUM-BOLDT STATION** provided music in the evening at Saturday's Block Party event in Big Lake. The main group members are Emily Wallen, Todd Wick, Jon Peterson, Joe Boelke, and Mike Wallen. (Submitted Photo).

**BL SCHOOL SUPT.** Tim Truebenbach (left photo) was one of the victims in the Dunk Tank during last week-end's Chamber Block Party at McPete's. The little right-hander shows good form in delivering the ball to the target. Others slated to take the seat in the tank were Principal Teresa Smock-Potter and Mayor Paul Knier. (Submitted Photo).



## Sherburne Fall Fest Fun just around the corner

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

The Becker Chamber of Commerce and Sherburne History Center are hosting their annual Sherburne Fall Fest at the History Center on Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The fun run kicks off the event at 10:30 a.m. (registration is at 10 a.m.) and is then followed by a soup and chili cookoff at 11 a.m.

There will be a scavenger hunt, kid's games,



pumpkin painting, vendor booths, a bake sale, touch-a-truck, live music and lots of food and drink for the

entire family!

Plus, there may be a surprise visitor from the woods making a cameo! Keep your eyes peeled....

Interested parties can register at: [beckerchamber.org/events](http://beckerchamber.org/events). The Becker Chamber of Commerce, Sherburne History Center and Sherburne County all joined together in the planning of the event.

See you there!

## Lucius set to retire 9/30

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

Carol Lucius, a beloved employee of Sherburne State Bank, is retiring after 42 years of service to the community!

Her final day will be Tues., Sept. 30 and the bank is planning an Open House to help usher her into her glory years.

Carol, who lives in Clear Lake, is the smiling face SSB customers see when they enter the bank daily.

Check back next week for more details!



**CAROL LUCIUS.** (Submitted Photo).

## Big Lake motorcyclist hurt in crash in Stearns County

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

A Big Lake man was injured in a motorcycle crash in Stearns County Saturday.

The sheriff's department says at 6:36 p.m. Sat-

urday they were dispatched to a single vehicle accident with injuries near the intersection of Co. Rd. 145 and 180th St. in Lynden Township, four miles southwest of Clearwater.

Upon arrival deputies located a male who had

been thrown from the motorcycle with severe injuries. Further investigation revealed that the motorcycle had been traveling westbound on Co. Rd. 145 and failed to negotiate the southbound curve. This caused the driver, Kyle An-

drew Erickson, 35, of Big Lake, to lay the bike down and enter the ditch where he then hit a road sign. Erickson was transported to the St. Cloud Hospital by Mayo Ambulance.

The Stearns County Sheriff's Office was as-

sisted on scene by the Wright County Sheriff's Office, Clearwater Fire and Rescue, and Minnesota State Patrol. The cause of the crash is under investigation.

## INSERTS

•Menards  
(All Zips)



**FIRST TIME HOMEBUYER SPECIALIST**

NMLS# 411232

Jessica Martineau-Tellegen  
763-458-1008  
[jessica\\_m@libertybankmn.com](mailto:jessica_m@libertybankmn.com)  
NMLS# 1493691



# EDITORIALS-OPINIONS-OBITUARIES

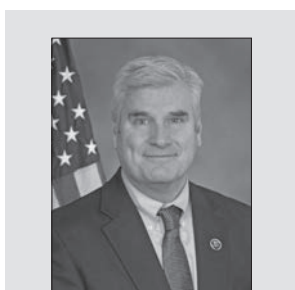
## So Long Charlie

Last week, the House of Representatives considered and passed the Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). We were proud to support this legislation, which authorized \$892.6 billion for national defense programs in line with the President's budget request.

These resources will be used to improve servicemembers' quality of life, including 3.8% pay raises for all servicemembers, and ensure our military forces have the training, equipment, and support they need to deter American adversaries and protect the homeland. Specifically, this year's NDAA provides funding to modernize our military through the acquisition of additional fighter aircraft, submarines, warships, autonomous systems, and to defend American security by supporting President Trump's Golden Dome for America initiative.

While making important investments in our national defense, the FY26 NDAA saves taxpayers more than \$20 billion, including \$15 billion in DOGE-initiated savings. This includes more than \$40.5 million from eliminating DEI activity, \$1.6 billion in cuts to climate change-related spending, \$1.2 billion from retiring obsolete weapons systems, and more than \$17 billion in cuts to unnecessary bureaucracy.

Furthermore, the FY26 NDAA includes the text of our Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act to protect the American people's financial privacy. Our legislation prohibits the Federal



By Rep.  
Tom Emmer

Reserve from developing a central bank digital currency, an insidious technology that could give the federal government unlimited access to view, monitor, and even block citizens' individual purchases. More information on the Anti-CBDC Surveillance State Act and the dangers of central bank digital currencies can be found at [emmer.house.gov](https://emmer.house.gov).

We also saw Charlie Kirk, a leader for millions of young conservatives, assassinated while he was speaking at Utah Valley University. A devoted husband and father, Charlie leaves behind his wife and two young children. Charlie's deep Christian faith shaped his understanding that American values are rooted in our shared principles of civility and open discourse. Even in his final moments, Charlie championed civil debate as the cornerstone of our nation's strength. There is no place in our country for politically motivated violence. We are grateful to the law enforcement officers who apprehended the suspect and look forward to seeing justice carried out.

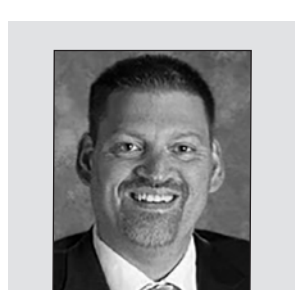
## Off To A Great Start

The 2025-2026 school year is off to a fantastic start at Becker Public Schools. As we finish our third week of school, the excitement and energy in our classrooms, at our facilities, and in the hallways has been incredibly positive. Students and staff have returned with great enthusiasm and we are all excited for a year of promise, growth, and opportunity.

Two weeks ago, we sent a message through our email and alert system to confirm contact information. If you did not receive both the phone call and the email, or if you know of someone who may not have, please reach out to your child's school building or connect with their teacher. Accurate information is essential for ensuring families receive updates, school delay notices, and emergency alerts.

Additionally, this fall Becker residents will consider a \$200 per pupil operating levy referendum. This levy would provide stable funding to support continued high quality education and opportunities for our students. The estimated impact for taxpayers varies by property type and market value, but a house and one acre value would cost about \$2.40 per month per \$100,000 in value. Taxpayers can look up their specific property impact at [https://levyinfo.com/LevyInfo/ISD726\\_2025.php](https://levyinfo.com/LevyInfo/ISD726_2025.php).

September is also designated by the Minnesota School Boards Association as School Board Recognition Month, a time to honor the dedicated leaders who guide our district. Becker Public Schools is proud to have a board that has maintained consistent practices and con-



By Supt.  
Jeremy Schmidt

tinues to stay focused on our mission to develop self-directed learners to thrive in a changing global community. Thank you to our school board members for their tireless service, thoughtful leadership, and commitment to student success.

Strong schools help build strong communities, and our school board members are the north star of our district, they set the direction, keep us focused on students, and work diligently to provide as many opportunities as possible for them.

Board members govern local schools, manage multi-million dollar budgets, approve curriculum, oversee facilities, and ensure compliance with laws. In Becker, they support nearly 3,000 students, lead almost 500 employees, and oversee multiple facilities.

As we celebrate a strong start to the school year, we also want to pause to thank our school board for their leadership and our families for their partnership. Together, we are building a future Becker can continue to be proud of, while we create endless opportunities for all of our students.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TO THE EDITOR:

Very succinct and what a great article (*Ticking Time Bombs*). Isn't it funny how the left can place blame and use devious language and yet, the right never does that to the left? We are ALWAYS the bad guys and yes, take away the guns! The bad guys will still find a way to get them. It's funny but a friend of mine had his gun on the deck along with some ammunition and it never killed anyone! And you are correct, are knives next? I am so tired of hearing Walz and Omar tell everyone to get meaner and to come after us. We can not have Walz for another term and Omar should be kicked out and go back to Somalia. My son was visiting me from WI and he wanted a copy of the article to share with friends. Very impressed. It is a shame we can not share this with some of our own children as they have been indoctrinated in college and if we speak up we will lose them. I commend you Bill.

Mary Lenk  
Clearwater, MN

### TO THE EDITOR:

Words matter. Unfortunately, the media have lost public trust. Readers note contradictory statements in parallel articles. Often news stories reflect personal views more than facts. After the

assassination of Charlie Kirk, the deep division in our country became glaringly obvious. What was the function of his words—to spark conversation and exchange ideas or a tool to demonize opposing views? Those questions, at this point, do not have definitive answers. Words are protected by the First Amendment. Is there a difference between stating an opinion or making a direct threat against another's life? Our Founding Fathers considered another 10 precepts on which to build our nation. The Ten Commandments provide a guide to a kind and respectful way of life among all people. "Thou shalt not kill" is a strong moral imperative in many religious creeds. We are all sinners who can be called saints if we repent and follow Christ. Rather than trying to idolize the victim or the perpetrator, could we better serve ourselves and our Lord with a look into the mirror as God examines our hearts? An observation...words: Devil embodies EVIL. GOD is found the "good" that many try to embrace. "Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly, leave the rest to God."—sage advice from another wounded by a wannabe assassin—President Ronald Reagan.

Dr. Phyllis E. VanBuren  
Clearwater, MN

## Bird Migration

Bird migration is still one of nature's most interesting, and yet mysterious events. On the surface, migration seems rather simple and straight forward, but if you stop and take a detailed look, you will see its every shade of complexity possible.

There are over 11,000 species of birds and about 40 percent partake in some form of migration. Migrations range from simple elevational changes for species that live in the mountains, to short distant movements to avoid unfavorable weather, to long distant trips to warm climates to escape winter, to the granddaddy of them all, migration from one end of the earth to the other. Right away you can see there is more to migration than perhaps you thought.

In the 1800's we didn't understand much about migration. We thought it was impossible for a tiny bird to navigate over great distances and endure huge physical demands, so we said it was impossible and we "made up facts" such as hummingbirds had to migrate on the backs of geese, in order for them to escape winter. We also said that some birds dove down to the bottom of ponds and overwintered in the mud for the winter. The thoughts of these kinds of theories now seem preposterous and outlandish. Yet at the time, it was accepted as fact, because someone didn't understand so they made up something that could explain the unexplainable.

In the 1900's we started to develop new ways to study birds. Some of the earliest attempts to track migration involved catching a bird and tying a brightly colored ribbon on their wing in hopes of being able to find this bird again during winter. This wasn't very efficient, and you had to have an idea where they stayed for the winter already to make this work.

When transistors were invented in the 1940's, it was the breakthrough that made small electronics possible and by the end of the 1900's, small tracking devices were used to track the migration of free flying birds. This was the beginning of our better understanding of bird migration, but just the tip of the migration iceberg.

In just the past few decades, so much new and almost unbelievable information about bird migration has completely turned our understanding of migration upside down. Today there are many ways to track migrating birds. One of these migration tracking tools is a website called Bird Cast from Cornell

By Nativist  
Stan Tekiela



Lab. It can be found at [www.birdcast.org](http://www.birdcast.org). All you need to do is put in your county and state and each day during the migration season, you can see how many birds passed over your county on the previous night.

There is a ton of information available to anyone who is curious about what is going on with migration. In addition to the tally of the birds migrating through your county, there is also information about what time they migrated, the timing of each nightly flight, along with flight direction and altitude. They also have a list of the expected species that are migrating.

For example, as I write this, 97,400 birds passed over my county last night and at one given moment last night, 36,400 birds were in flight,

traveling SSW at 14 mph, at an altitude of 600 feet, all at one time. In order to gather all this data, Bird Cast uses data from the national network of weather surveillance radars (NEXRAD). Sophisticated algorithms and machine learning models are applied to the radar data to separate weather, such as precipitation from biological signals (the birds). It then analyzes the strength of the radar signals to estimate the number of birds that are flying. Just like weather, they are able to give migration forecasts to predict the nocturnal bird migration for the next few nights.

We sure have come a long way in the understanding of bird migration, unlocking some of the most mysterious natural events of nature. However, no doubt there is so much more we don't understand about bird migration, and we will understand more in the years to come. Until next time...

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

# BL Twp. approves 2026 tax levy at reconvened annual meeting

By Katie Cantin,  
Contributing Writer

On September 10, the Big Lake Twp. electorate approved the tax levy for 2026 at their reconvened annual meeting. Minnesota townships are required to hold an annual meeting in March where residents of the township may directly approve (or disapprove) their budget and tax levy for the next calendar year. Big Lake Twp. residents voted to table the decision and reconvene the meeting in September, to give the treasurer more time to work on the budget.

Treasurer Ken Warneke said that he didn't make any changes to the bottom line since his presentation of the draft budget in March, though some funds were reallocated from the fire fund to the general fund.

In total, the township's levy decreased 0.52% from last year, being set at \$2,673,000. The electorate assembled approved the amount for 2026.

After the approval of the levy, the board continued with their regular meeting.

### Sheriff's Report

Sgt. Barrett gave the report for the Sheriff's Dept.



BIG LAKE TOWNSHIP TREASURER KEN WARNEKE (middle) explained the 2026 levy up for approval at the recent reconvened annual meeting. The levy will decrease by 0.52% from 2025. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

for the month of August. He reported an incident where a driver struck several items, including mailboxes, before leaving the scene. The driver was later apprehended. He also noted a minor property damage incident with another vehicle, and a rear-ending. Barrett reported that these all appeared to be due to driver error rather than dangerous intersections.

### Hudson Woods Expansion

The township was presented with a proposal for a second addition to the Hudson Woods development.

The development would be off of 201st Ave. NW. It would include 175 lots. The board looked over the information sent by the developer but made no comment.

### Roads Update

Supervisor Dean Brenteson said they would be looking into scheduling a road tour and completing some seal-coating projects yet this fall.

### Business from the Board

Supervisor Mark Hedstrom reported that the Big Lake Community Education was seeing a significant

decrease in participation in adult programs, so they are teaming up with Becker and Monticello to increase participation in classes.

Community ed is looking to spend down some of their fund balance by helping to make some long-time wishes around campus happen, including fulfilling needs of youth sports.

The school's special election is November 4. Early voting will begin September 19

Supervisor Bruce Aubol noted that he bought some new sign posts for the river access area, which will go up soon. He shared his belief that the old posts were pulled up and sent down the river.

Brenteson reported that he recently attended a meeting with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) regarding a pavement rehabilitation project on Hwy. 10 through Big Lake. The project is currently in the design phase. MNDOT is currently planning to redesign intersections, creating some J-turns, and there may be other changes. They are seeking input from the local municipalities, including the township, city, and county.

## Minnesota author holds book signing in Becker

### Submitted Article

Minnesota's award winning true crime author Frank Weber recently held a book signing at the Becker Public Library.

Weber, a forensic psychologist was promoting his newest book *The Sun* and it is based on a Minnesota mystery. *The Sun* is part two of a series, the first in the series is *Scandal of Vandals* and is based on the murder of an prominent attorneys wife.

Weber guided the 45 or so attendees that evening through the process of profiling a case with limited evidence. A live demonstration of a lie detector test was also performed.

Weber has more book

signing events coming up in the near future. Check out the GRRL website for times and locations at [grill.org](http://grill.org) even s.



MINNESOTA AUTHOR FRANK WEBER visited the Becker Library last week to promote his new book, *The Sun* — part two of a series including a book entitled, *Scandal of Vandals*. (Patriot Photos by Carol Hanson).



# AREA NEWS

**We are now hiring Trimmers - Will Train!**

**GRAND MEADOW MEATS LLC**  
CLEARWATER, MN  
FORMERLY T&R MEATS

• **STEAKS • PORK CHOPS • BRATS**  
• **HOT DOGS • HAMBURGERS**  
• **CHICKEN • ROASTS & MORE!**

**WE SLAUGHTER IN-HOUSE  
CALL TO BOOK AN APPOINTMENT!**

105 PINE ST., CLEARWATER • 320-558-6390

**Ribs for the Ribbon**

**9TH ANNUAL BACKYARD BBQ COOKOFF!**

**Saturday, Sept. 27, 2025 @ Lakeside Park, Big Lake**

**TICKET SALES @ 1 P.M. - RIB TASTING @ 3 P.M.**  
BENEFITTING BIG LAKE VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES  
50/50 RAFFLE AND SILENT AUCTION

Ticket sales are limited to the number of ribs available  
Email at: biglakebtyr@gmail.com

## Congratulations Nick!

DEPUTY NICK RADUNZ (L) was sworn in Tuesday by Sherburne County Sheriff Joel Brott (R). Deputy Radunz grew up in Becker and graduated from Becker Public Schools and has a brother (Dillon) in the NFL. Congratulations Deputy Radunz, and welcome to the team. (Submitted Photo).

## Coborn’s, Inc. announces 3rd Annual Folds of Honor fundraising campaign

### Submitted Article

Coborn’s Inc., the parent company of Coborn’s and Cash Wise Foods grocery and liquor stores, has long been conscious of its responsibility to respect and acknowledge the sacrifices of Veterans and First Responders. For that reason, during September Coborn’s and Cash Wise grocery and liquor stores will once again partner with the Folds of Honor Foundation, an organization that provides life-changing educational scholarships to the spouses and children of fallen or disabled U.S. service members and first responders.

Throughout September, guests can round up their order total to the nearest dollar to be donated to Folds of Honor when they shop in-store at Coborn’s and Cash Wise grocery and liquor stores. Guests can also make \$1, \$5, and \$10 monetary donations at checkout. Donations will then be distributed in the form of scholarships to local family members of fallen or wounded military or first responders through the Folds of Honor Foundation.

Since launching the Folds of Honor partnership in 2023, Coborn’s Inc. has helped raise over \$78,000 through guest donations.

**KELLER LAKE COMMONS**  
— ASSISTED LIVING —

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

**IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO LEARN**

**GED AND ADULT BASIC EDUCATION CLASSES**

**TUESDAYS 6:00-8:30PM**  
BECKER HIGH SCHOOL  
ROOM 701-ENTER DOOR #11

**NO NEED TO PRE REGISTER**

CALL COMMUNITY ED FOR MORE INFORMATION 763-261-4506

## Anderson Selected to Serve on Minnesota Youth Council

### Submitted Article

Minnesota Alliance With Youth is pleased to announce that Rebecca Anderson of Big Lake has been selected to serve on the Minnesota Youth Council.



**REBECCA ANDERSON, OF BIG LAKE was selected to serve on the MYC and is a student at Spectrum High School. (Submitted Photo).**

The Minnesota Youth Council (MYC) serves as liaison between young people, youth-led and youth-serving organizations, and state policymakers and the Governor and Lt. Governor. They are the statutorily-created “voice of youth” in Minnesota and expand opportunities for ALL young people in Minnesota to have their voices heard and input considered.

Anderson, of Big Lake, is a student at Spectrum High School where, alongside gaining her diploma, she participates in concurrent enrollment classes to also graduate with an Associates of Arts Degree. Through her school, she participates in Student Council, tennis, National Honors Society, and is captain of the speech team. Discussion, one of her speech categories, introduced her to public policy and legislation. Through the Minnesota Youth Council, she hopes to learn more about government processes, and continue to empower and advocate for youth.

Rebecca’s core values include leadership, community service and involvement, and making a difference. She brings her values into everything she does, along with a positive, fun attitude.

Anderson will be joining the Minnesota Youth Council alongside currently serving Big Lake High School student Alexis Gosewisch.

## WE ARE CURRENTLY TAKING SEADOO AND OTHER PERSONAL WATERCRAFTS FOR WINTERIZATION!

**SEA-DOO**

**TRUEMAN WELTERS POWERSPORTS**

**1600 HWY. 55 & CO. RD. 134, BUFFALO**  
**763-682-2200**

**WWW.TRUEMAN-WELTERS.COM**

## Big Lake Schools announces November 4 Referendum

### Submitted Article

Big Lake Schools is asking community members to vote on two important ballot questions this fall to support students, strengthen programs, and address aging facilities. The referendum will be held Tue., Nov. 4, 2025.

In 2024, Big Lake Schools asked voters to consider three referendum questions. While the question for funding technology was approved, the other two questions that focused on classroom, program, and facility needs did not pass. However, the needs identified then have not gone away. Since that time, they’ve listened to community feedback and made adjustments—refining the proposal to focus even more directly on Big Lake students, Big Lake student-athletes, and have added value to the Big Lake community.

**Two Questions on the Ballot**  
On November 4, voters will be asked to consider two separate referendum questions:

**Question One** would increase the district’s operating levy by \$640 per student to help maintain small class sizes, academic programs, extracurricular activities, and recruit and retain quality teachers and staff.

**No NET tax increase:**  
This increase is fully offset by other expiring school levies, meaning property owners would see no NET tax increase if approved.

**Question Two** asks voters to approve a \$6.23 million bond to invest in school facilities.

Projects include updating special education

Sons of the American Legion Squadron #193

**September 27th**

**Benefit Dance**

Music by DJ Freedom

**5:30 PM to 9 PM**

**\$10 Admission (14 and under for free)**

Benefits go to:

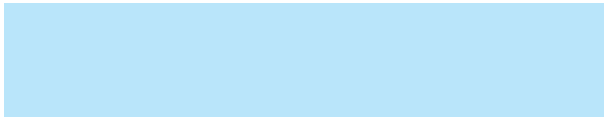
Concessions, Bounce House, Music, Outdoor Games and Silent Auctions

Location: Becker American Legion Hall  
12155 Hancock St., Becker, MN

Becker Food Shelf

Great Northern Church

CIS



and CTE classroom spaces in the Middle and High School, a new multi-purpose activity facility, a safer and improved stadium field and track, and a partnership with the Big Lake Food Shelf to bring food access and student programming opportunities directly to campus.

This question would result in a tax increase. For a typical home valued at \$400,000, it would mean



about \$36 more per month starting in 2026.

**Important note:** Question Two can only pass if Question One is approved.

**Why? Now?**  
Big Lake Schools is facing rising costs to sustain curriculum, staff, and student programs, while also navigating aging facilities and the inability to meet the increasing need for space.

State funding streams that were originally intended to help stabilize district finances have either been reduced or are scheduled to phase out. This includes funding for staff certifications, unemployment benefits, special education transportation and other mandates that districts must now find ways to cover on their own.

**Voting information**  
Election Day is Tues., Nov. 4, with early voting

All residents are encouraged to visit the referendum website ([biglakeschools.org/strongschools](http://biglakeschools.org/strongschools)), ask questions, and make their voice heard this fall.

Your vote impacts the future of our students, schools, and community. Learn more at [www.biglakeschools.org/strongschools](http://www.biglakeschools.org/strongschools).



**CENTRAL MINNESOTA'S 2025 READERS CHOICE Awards**

The Patriot is celebrating the past year with our first-ever “Reader’s Choice” awards for the best of Central Minnesota!

Keep your eyes peeled in the next couple weeks for a QR code that will direct you to a website with a survey of Central Minnesota’s best establishments! Stay tuned!

**PATRIOT**  
[WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM](http://WWW.PATRIOTNEWSMN.COM)



To place your ad, call 763.275.0275 or stop by our office at  
14054 Bank Street, Becker • Website: [www.patriotnewsnmn.com](http://www.patriotnewsnmn.com)

## LANDSCAPING

**HASSAN SAND & GRAVEL** has a large selection of decorative rock, pulverized & screened topsoil, all types of driveway aggregates, wood & rubber mulch, landscape supplies, play/volleyball/mason sand, fieldstone boulders, steps & natural quarry stone, synthetic turf products. M-F 7am-4pm & Sat, 7am-noon. 13530 Williamdale Rd., Rogers. 763-428-2393.  
[www.HassanSand.com](http://www.HassanSand.com)  
**Clip this ad & save \$20 off your purchase of \$100 or more! Exp. 10/20/25**

## OUTDOOR FURNACES

**OUTDOOR FURNACES NOTICE** - Outdoor furnace, parts and supplies are in high demand and have limited availability. With approximate lead times of about 8 months, plan and look ahead. Reserve now to have one to install for this summer or fall installation. We feature Central Boiler furnaces and products for complete installation. We have financing available, and up to a \$2,000 tax credit available on select models. Reserve today. Call or go online, 763-972-6255; [classactfurnace.com](http://classactfurnace.com).

## AUTOMOTIVE

**MURPHY CHEVROLET**  
New & Used Cars & Trucks  
(320) 968-6239  
[www.murphychevrolet.com](http://www.murphychevrolet.com)

**1,200 CARS & PICK UPS FOR PARTS**  
UP TO 2007 MODELS  
**ALSO BUYING JUNK CARS & PICK UPS**  
Larry's Auto: 320-558-2245  
320-309-7838 • 320-248-6380

## LAWN CARE

**TOTAL LAWN CARE, INC.** Locally owned & operated since 1985. Fertilization, core aeration, guaranteed control of: weeds, crabgrass, mosquitoes, ants/ticks/spiders, grubworms and Emerald Ash Borer. Experience the difference. 320-685-4131.  
[www.totallawn.us](http://www.totallawn.us)

## USED CARS

**220 USED CARS** to choose from. We also BUY used cars. Guaranteed Approval! Morrie's Auto Connection, 559 Hwy 10, St. Cloud (next to the red barn Dairy Queen). 320-229-1900. Apply online at: [www.MorriesAutoConnection.com](http://www.MorriesAutoConnection.com)

## ASPHALT/BLACKTOP

**HANSON PAVING.** Residential & commercial. Driveways, parking lots, asphalt, paving & asphalt patchwork. No job too small. Call for a free estimate at 320-259-7874 office. 3636 Quail Rd., Sauk Rapids. We accept Visa & Mastercard.  
[www.hansonpaving.com](http://www.hansonpaving.com)



# PUBLIC NOTICES

**CITY OF BIG LAKE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR AN IMPERVIOUS SURFACE INCREASE AT 109 K LICKITAT STREET**

You are hereby notified that the Big Lake Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a Conditional Use Permit to exceed the allowed 25% Impervious Surface Coverage at 109 Klickitat Street. The hearing will be held in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North on **Monday, October 6, 2025, at 6:00 a.m. or about 6:00 a.m.** or shortly thereafter.

Applicant: David Vinje, Attics to Basements, 18575 Lander Street NW, Elk River, MN 55330

Owner: Hope and Jim Ayers, 1140 86th Ave, Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Location: 109 K Lickitat Street, Big Lake, MN 55309

PID: #65-00421-0250

Request(s): A conditional use permit to exceed the maximum 25% impervious surface coverage in the R-5 zoning district as allowed by Section 1003.11, Subd. 4(3) of the Zoning Ordinance.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments to City Hall prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Consultant Planner Kendra Lindahl, AICP at [klindahl@lakeshoremn.com](mailto:klindahl@lakeshoremn.com) or mailed to City Hall at 160 Lake Street North.

/s/ Kendra Lindahl, AICP  
Consulting City Planner  
City of Big Lake  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 09/20/25.)

**CITY OF BIG LAKE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT FOR AN IMPERVIOUS SURFACE INCREASE AND A SETBACK VARIANCE FOR A DECK AT 91 LAKESHORE DRIVE**

You are hereby notified that the Big Lake Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a Conditional Use Permit to exceed the allowed 25% Impervious Surface Coverage and a setback Variance to allow a new deck at 91 Lakeshore Drive. The hearing will be held in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North on **Monday, October 6, 2025, at or about 6:00 a.m.** or shortly thereafter.

Applicant: Adam and Justine Dietz, 921 Lakeshore Drive, Big Lake, MN 55309

Owner: Adam and Justine Dietz, 921 Lakeshore Drive, Big Lake, MN 55309

Location: 91 Lakeshore Drive, Big Lake, MN 55309

PID: #65-00422-0105

Request(s): A conditional use permit to exceed the maximum 25% impervious surface coverage in the R-5 zoning district as allowed by Section 1003.11, Subd. 4(3) of the Zoning Ordinance and a Variance from Section 1004.03, Subd. 4 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow a deck within the required setback.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments to City Hall prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Consultant Planner Kendra Lindahl, AICP at [klindahl@lakeshoremn.com](mailto:klindahl@lakeshoremn.com) or mailed to City Hall at 160 Lake Street North.

/s/ Kendra Lindahl, AICP  
Consulting City Planner  
City of Big Lake  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 09/20/25.)

**CITY OF BIG LAKE**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A PRELIMINARY PLAT AND SITE PLAN FOR AUTOZONE AT 55 COUNTY ROAD 43 NW**

You are hereby notified that the Big Lake Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider a Preliminary Plat and Site Plan for a two-lot subdivision for AutoZone at 55 County Road 43 NW. The hearing will be held in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North on **Monday, October 6, 2025, at or about 6:00 a.m.** or shortly thereafter.

Applicant: Marda Lugar, AutoZone, 123 South Front Street, Memphis, TN 38103

Owner: Casey's Retail Company, PO Box 3001, One SE Convenience Boulevard, Ankeny, IA 50021

Location: 55 County Road 43 NW, Big Lake, MN 55309

PID: #65-00538-0105

Request(s): A Preliminary Plat for a two-lot subdivision of part of Lot 1, Block 1 of Cobblestone Addition in Big Lake, and a Site Plan for an AutoZone.

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public hearing or submit written comments to City Hall prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Consultant Planner Kendra Lindahl, AICP at [klindahl@lakeshoremn.com](mailto:klindahl@lakeshoremn.com) or mailed to City Hall at 160 Lake Street North.

/s/ Kendra Lindahl, AICP  
Consulting City Planner  
City of Big Lake  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 09/20/25.)

# Bulldog Tennis on a Roll

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

The Becker girls tennis team continues to pile up the wins, picking up three victories by identical 5-2 scores in the last week.

In a win over Moorhead, it was a dominating doubles performance by the Bulldogs that led to the victory.

Chloe Spear teamed up with Tess Brown to win the #1 spot, while Faith Bass and Taylor Lisson were 6-1, 6-1 winners in the #2 spot. Sami Leaders and Bryn Dahlheimer finished off the doubles mastery with a hard-fought, 7-6 (4), 4-6, 10-6 win over their opponents.

Picking up wins in the singles matches were Gracie

**AUTOMOBILES GOT AN UNWANTED CAR??? DONATE IT TO PATRIOTIC HEARTS.** Fast free pick up. Patriotic Hearts' programs help veterans find work or start their own business. Call 24/7: 1-833-485-1046. (mcn)

**Get a break on your taxes!** Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 1-855-977-7030 today! (mcn)

**Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans!** Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-429-2331 today! (mcn)

**CABLE/INTERNET AFFORDABLE TV & INTERNET.** If you are overpaying for your service, call now for a free quote and see how much you can save! 1-833-472-7954. (mcn)

**DIRECTV- All your entertainment. Nothing on your roof!** Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-866-296-1409. (mcn)

**FINANCIAL Inflation is at 40-year highs. Interest rates are way up.** Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Do you have \$10k or more in debt? Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF and find out how to pay off your debt for significantly less than what you owe! FREE quote: Call 1-866-552-0649. (mcn)

**HEALTH & MEDICAL DENTAL INSURANCE** from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-973-9175 [#6258](http://www.dental50plus.com/midwest) (mcn)

**PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR** May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-716-2411. (mcn)

**STOP OVERPAYING FOR HEALTH INSURANCE!** A recent study shows that a majority of people struggle to pay for health coverage. Let us show you how much you can save. Call Now for a no-obligation quote: 1-888-772-8454. You will need to have your zip code to connect to the right provider. (mcn)

**ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS!** Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 1-833-650-5916. (mcn)

**HOME SERVICES Don't Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again!** Our home warranty covers ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. We stand by our service and if we can't fix it, we'll replace it! Pick the plan that fits your budget! Call: 1-833-816-2128. (mcn)

**WATER & FIRE DAMAGE RESTORATION.** Our trusted professionals will restore your home to protect your family and your home's value! Call 24/7: 1-833-879-1480. Mold Remediation services are also available! (mcn)

**MISCELLANEOUS Reach over 1.4 million homes for just \$249!** Advertise your business or item with a classified ad in the Midwest Free Community Papers. Simple, cost-effective, and powerful. One call, and you're done! Boost your visibility now! 888-899-6327. (mcn)

**SunSetter. America's Number One Awning!** Instant shade at the touch of a button. Transform your deck or patio into an outdoor oasis. Up to 10-year limited warranty. Call now and SAVE \$350 today! 1-855-462-2330. (mcn)

**NEED NEW FLOORING?** Call today to schedule a FREE in-home estimate on Carpeting & Flooring. Call Today! 1-833-641-6323. (mcn)

**INJURED IN AN ACCIDENT?** Don't Accept the insurance company's first offer. Many injured parties are entitled to cash settlements in the \$1000's. Get a free evaluation to see what your case is really worth. 100% Free Evaluation. Call Now: 1-833-879-1534. (mcn)

**Prepare for power outages today with a**

**Generac Home Standby Generator.** Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-228-5789 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (mcn)

**NO MORE CLEANING OUT GUTTERS. Guaranteed!** LeafFilter is backed by a no-clog guarantee and lifetime transferable warranty. Call today 1-855-577-1268 to schedule a FREE inspection and no obligation estimate. Plus get 75% off installation and a bonus \$250 discount! Limited time only. Restrictions apply, see representative for warranty and offer details. (mcn)

**The bathroom of your dreams in as little as 1 day.** Limited Time Offer - \$1000 off or No Payments and No Interest for 18 months for customers who qualify. BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Call Today! 1-833-618-1178. (mcn)

**Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs!** Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last lifetime! Limited Time Offer - up to 50% of installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-844-907-2386. (mcn)

**Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019.** Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-326-1608. (mcn)

**REAL ESTATE WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS-IS!** No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy process. Call, get cash offer and get paid. Call today for your fair cash offer: 1-888-715-0513. (mcn)

**WANT TO BUY CASH PAID FOR HIGH-END MEN'S SPORT WATCHES!** Rolex, Breitling, Omega, Patek Philippe, Heuer, Daytona, GMT, Submariner and Speedmaster. Call 1-833-641-6646. (mcn)

**WE BUY VINTAGE GUITARS!** Looking for 1920-1980 Gibson, Martin, Fender, Gretsch, Epiphone, Guild, Mosrite, Rickenbacker, Prairie State, D'Angelico, Stromberg.

**HELP WANTED**  
**AGE 55+ WORKERS**  
needed for part-time custodial work at rest areas and state parks in Minnesota. Apply online at [greenviewmn.com](http://greenviewmn.com) or call 651/639-1913

**WANTED TO BUY**  
**WANTED:**  
**ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES**  
Running or not. Titled or not. Will pick up. Cash in exchange. Sell now before prices fall. Call Dan at 612/720-2142

**WE BUY HOUSES**  
for cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 844/978-0683

**HEALTH**  
**IF YOU HAD KNEE OR HIP REPLACEMENT SURGERY**  
and suffered an infection between 2022 and the present time, you may be entitled to compensation. Call Attorney Charles H. Johnson 800/535-5727

**AGRICULTURE**  
**ATTENTION FARMERS**  
Seeing white mold in your fields? Noticing SDS? Share your location and enter to win FREE soybean seeds for 2026. Call Nolan 218/689-6367

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
**DON'T LET THE STAIRS LIMIT YOUR MOBILITY!**  
Discover the ideal solution for anyone who struggles on the stairs, is concerned about a fall or wants to regain access to their entire home. Call AmeriGlide today! 866/852-5506

**GET BOOST INFINITE!**  
Unlimited talk, text and data for just \$25/mo! The power of 3.5G networks, one low price! Call today and get the latest iPhone every year on us! 855/849-6621

**GET DISH**  
**SATELLITE TV + INTERNET!**  
Free install, free HD-DVR upgrade, 80,000 on-demand movies, plus limited time up to \$600 in gift cards. Call today! 855/562-4309

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
**SAFE STEP**  
North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1,600 off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 833/966-3882

**GET A BREAK ON YOUR TAXES!**  
Donate your car, truck, or SUV to assist the blind and visually impaired. Arrange a swift, no-cost vehicle pickup and secure a generous tax credit for 2025. Call Heritage for the Blind Today at 844/220-9501 today!

**Statewide Advertising ONLY \$279 Call Today! 612/332-8844**

**SECTION 01**  
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
**IG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL POOL HVAC IMPROVEMENTS**  
**MINNESOTA AVENUE EAST BIG LAKE, MINNESOTA**

Independent School District #727 - Big Lake Schools will receive single prime sealed bids for 2025 Big Lake High School Pool HVAC Improvements until 10:00 a.m. local time on October 14, 2025 at the District Office - Entrance J, 701 Minnesota Avenue East, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bidding documents, including the Proposal Form, Drawings and Specifications, will be on file at the Minnesota Builders Exchange; McGraw Hill Construction/Dodge Plan Center; Reed Construction; iSqFt Plan Room (St. Paul, MN), The Blue Book Building and Construction Network; and from PlanWell at [https://ordere-arc.com/arcEOC/x\\_project.asp?de=54BD1E5B-B8CF-42F3-8D80-C00000000000](https://ordere-arc.com/arcEOC/x_project.asp?de=54BD1E5B-B8CF-42F3-8D80-C00000000000)

A pre-bid meeting will be held at Big Lake High School, 501 Minnesota Avenue East, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309 at 9:00 a.m. on September 30, 2025. Visitors must check in at the main entrance with a valid State ID. Attendance to the meeting is not required, but highly recommended.

This project includes: replacement of the existing pool HVAC system, lighting upgrades, and associated architectural work.

American Reprographics Company, 4730 Park Glen Road, St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55416 (92) 69- 8800, facsimile (92) 69- 8803 will provide complete downloadable sets of the Bidding Documents to prospective bidders and subcontractors. The downloads will be available September 18, 2025. A deposit check in the amount of \$25 made out to ARC for each set downloaded via the internet at <http://www-arc.com/location/st-louis-spr-k/> and clicking on the PlanWell icon, then the Public Plan Room icon, select 2025 Big Lake High School Pool HVAC Improvements.

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

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

The Owner requires Substantial Completion of the project on or before March 20, 2026.  
Board of Education  
Independent School District #727 - Big Lake Schools  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 09/13/25, 09/20/25.)

**We Buy Houses For Cash!**  
Liz Buys Houses Connects Home Sellers with Legitimate Cash Buyers Nationwide!  
**No Repairs. No Fuss.**

**Liz Buys Houses**

- Fair Cash Offer
- Quick Closing
- No Realtor Fees
- No House Repairs
- Simple Home Sale
- Convenient Closing Date

**Call (844) 978-0683**



# SPORTS/AREA NEWS

## BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

### ATTORNEYS



100+ YEARS  
COMBINED EXPERIENCE

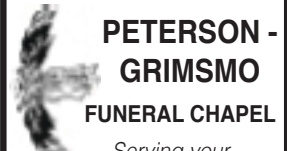
DIVORCE  
FAMILY LAW  
CHILD CUSTODY  
WILLS & TRUSTS  
ESTATE PLANNING  
ELDER LAW  
BUSINESS PLANNING  
COMMERCIAL LAW  
REAL ESTATE LAW  
CRIMINAL LAW

**763-262-2889**

101 JEFFERSON BLVD  
BIG LAKE

JSSMN.COM

### FUNERAL



250 East Broadway  
Monticello, MN 55362

**763-295-2918**

Our family serving yours!

### BLACKTOPPING



Serving the Metro & Surrounding Areas Since 1967  
[www.c-sblacktopping.com](http://www.c-sblacktopping.com)  
Major Credit Cards accepted  
FREE ESTIMATES  
a "green" paving contractor

**763.428.2225**

### ELECTRICAL



RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURAL

**SHEET METAL**



320-743-2479  
• DAHLENSHEETMETAL@FRONTIER.COM  
CLEAR LAKE, MN  
[WWW.DAHLENSHEETMETAL.COM](http://WWW.DAHLENSHEETMETAL.COM)

### FUNERAL



763-262-1454 - BECKER  
763-452-2500 - BIG LAKE  
320-743-2204 - CLEAR LAKE  
[WILLIAMS-DINGMANN.COM](http://WILLIAMS-DINGMANN.COM)



The Patriot is celebrating the past year with our first-ever "Reader's Choice" awards for the best of Central Minnesota!

Keep your eyes peeled in the next couple weeks for a QR code that will direct you to a website with a survey of Central Minnesota's best establishments! Stay tuned!



## SEASONAL

### IT'S CANNING SEASON!



Tomatoes, Peppers, Cabbage, Pickling Cucumbers & Dill, Sweet Corn, Beets, Carrots, Fall Raspberries and Strawberries

### SVIHEL VEGETABLE FARM

6 MI. S OF FOLEY OR 10 MI. N OF BECKER ON HWY 25 & DUEL RD

OPEN 9AM - 7PM  
For more information call  
**(320) 968-7238**

## EMPLOYMENT

KASOWSKI GROUP

### NOW HIRING!

- FT FARM LABOR
- FT EQUIPMENT OPERATOR • FT FARM MECHANIC

Apply in person, 1 mile east of Becker,  
137th left, 1/8 mile on left. 612-747-0163



**BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING!  
BE A PART OF OUR TEAM!**

*2025-26 School Year Substitutes:*

- **TEACHERS**
- **PARAPROFESSIONALS**
- **CUSTODIANS**
- **FOOD SERVERS/ DISHWASHERS**
- **BUS AND VAN DRIVERS**

FOR INFORMATION ON ALL OUR OPENINGS, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.BECKER.K12.MN.US](http://WWW.BECKER.K12.MN.US)  
QUESTIONS? CONTACT ANGELA OSWALD @ 763-261-4502, OPTION 3

**PROUD SPONSOR  
OF THE  
NEWSPAPER,  
EVENTS, ACTIVITIES  
AND BUSINESSES  
IN OUR LOCAL  
COMMUNITIES!**

BECKER, MN  
**763-262-5850**  
[tjpottertucking.com](http://tjpottertucking.com)



**MULCH • ROCK • BLACK DIRT • SAND**  
ADDITIONAL PRODUCTS AVAILABLE!  
WE CAN LOAD OR DELIVERY AVAILABLE!  
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
MON. - FRI., 7AM TO 5PM  
AND SAT., 8AM TO NOON

**15920 HWY. 10, BECKER • 763-262-0871**

### AUCTIONS

..... **UPCOMING AUCTIONS** .....

<b>SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST</b> @ 11:00 AM ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD & TOOLS	<b>WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 24TH</b> @ 4:00 PM ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD & TOOLS
<b>SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH</b> @ 11:00 AM ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD & TOOLS	ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, HOUSEHOLD, DECOR, FURNITURE, TOOLS & OUTDOOR, YARD & GARDEN & SHOP

3825 SHADOWOOD DR. NE. SAUK RAPIDS, MN  
DIRECTIONS: ST. CLOUD, E. ON HWY 23 LEFT ON 40TH (FOLLOW SIGNS)  
NOW TAKING CONSIGNMENTS FOR ANNUAL JAN. 1ST ANTIQUE AUCTION!

THIS IS A PARTIAL LISTING. B.P. & MN tax applies.  
See website for more:  
[www.midwestauctions.com/sharer](http://www.midwestauctions.com/sharer)  
Keith Sharer Auction Service

**320-267-1963**

YOU'RE INVITED 9.25.2025

**50 YEARS**  
BECKER LIONS

**THURSDAY  
25  
SEPTEMBER**  
SNUFFY'S LANDING  
BECKER, MN

**PIG ROAST, PIER DEDICATION, & MORE!**

Join us for a wonderful evening at Snuffy's Landing. There will be a dedication ceremony for the new pier in honor of Jim Hazeltine. The City of Becker in collaboration with Becker Lions have spent a lot of time to upgrade all of the amenities and can't wait for everyone to come see them.

**FREE** 4pm - 7pm  
All are welcome.



**BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS HIRING SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS!!**

**\$2,000 SIGN ON BONUS!!**

**\*NOW OFFERING PAID TRAINING**

\*MINIMUM OF 3.5 HOURS A DAY WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR MORE

Up to \$60 per route based on experience.  
Benefits include:  
\*Health, Dental, & LTD (Coverage year round)  
\* Paid personal, sick, and holidays  
\* PERA (Public Employee Retirement Assoc.)  
\* 403 (B) Matching Retirement Options

**CONTACT US TODAY!  
763-261-4588**

**Developing Self-Directed Learners to Thrive in a Changing Global Community**

## Water fees discussed at CL City

*By Katie Cantin,  
Contributing Writer*

At an earlier meeting this month, the Clear Lake City Council heard that due to an error, they were undercharged for water fees by the sewer authority. They were sent an estimate at their most recent meeting stating that they owed nearly \$140,000, though this is not the final number. It is a little lower than originally assumed, but the council still intended to hold a meeting with the sewer authority to discuss the issue and work on a payment schedule.

### Delinquent Water Bills

In November, the council plans to certify delinquent water bills and shut off water to residences. Those who wish to plead their case may do so before the council, who stated they are willing to work with people on a payment plan if needed. Residents needing water to heat their homes can also inform the council of this, in which case it is not legal for their water to be turned off. City Clerk Ryan McCann said he also has been giving out pamphlets explaining resources

available to anyone needing assistance.

### Fire Report

Fire Chief Ron Koren reported that the department's new engine was finally brought home to Station 2. The department plans to train on the new vehicle before putting it into service. With the new engine's arrival, the department secured permission from the city council to sell their old engine 17.

Koren also asked to be allowed to donate old safety equipment. The equipment is out of date and the department is no longer legally allowed to use it, but it can be used for training services.

Koren asked about the final verdict on whether the department can hold a raffle at their open house event. The council members replied they could not use city funds to do so, but they could raffle off donated items.

### Public Works Report

Public Works Director Evan Johnson reported that the fences by the baseball field dugouts have been installed. His department also put up four new stop signs in the Hunter Lake Bluffs development, which seem

to have been effective.

The city's snow plow was brought in for its annual inspection. Normal wear and tear on the vehicle will cost about \$4,000 to fix up for the upcoming season.

Johnson spoke briefly about the aging HVAC equipment at city hall, and how he was considering proposing an increase in the budget for future years to properly upgrade the equipment, though he wanted to wait until at least spring to see how winter goes.

Finally, Johnson noted that the railway will be closing the Main St. crossing near the farm elevator from the 17th to the 19th for repairs.

### Home Plot Lines

At an earlier meeting, a resident spoke up concerned that LGI Homes was investigating her plotline and those of her neighbors. The city inquired about this and found that nearly all of the homes in that neighborhood were not in compliance with their plot lines. LGI said they would be enforcing the correct land lines, which means some homeowners will have to move structures on those lines.

**In Other Business, the Board:**

- Approved city insurance coverage for the next year;
- Approved the employee health coverage for the next year;
- Approved the workers compensation plan;
- Approved the fire contracts, which will be sent to the townships for approval;
- Approved the preliminary tax levy for 2026 at \$440,000, which is no change from 2025;
- Heard from the mayor about a resident who had historical city records, which the mayor reported he would go through to find old city council meeting minutes and other items of note;
- Heard that the easement for the lift station was signed and the project can move forward;
- Sent out letters in the Hunter Lake Bluffs neighborhood regarding ongoing illegal dumping in the area.



## Rally Day at SRC



SNAKE RIVER CHURCH hosted its annual Rally Day Sunday, September 14th, followed by a meal (Pizza Factory of Big Lake) and horse drawn wagon rides provided by Snake River Farms. The team of Mustang horses (Hombre and Blue) was driven by Casey Beam. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring).



# SPORTS/AREA NEWS

### ASAP PUMPING SERVICE



EMERGENCY SERVICE!

- COMMERCIAL SEPTIC PUMPING
- RESIDENTIAL SEPTIC TANK PUMPING
- HOLDING TANKS • ROUTINE MAINTENANCE
- TANK COMPLIANCE • EMERGENCY SERVICE

**CALL 763 415-0319**

SERVING BECKER, BIG LAKE, ELK RIVER AND SURROUNDING AREA

### ROOFING SIDING

### WINDOWS GUTTERS



**FOUR SEASONS BUILDERS**

SINCE 2014

**320-760-7280 MN BC808177**



**WWW.FOURSEASONSBUILDERSMN.COM**

**PREFERRED CONTRACTOR**

OWENS CORNING, CERTIFIED, LP SmartSide, Google, 5 Star Customer Rating, BBB

### JOIN US FOR CO-ED SOFTBALL

**BIG LAKE LIONS PARK**

SUNDAYS, 3:30  
SEPT 7-OCT. 26.

CALL DEB 763-568-5558

**FREE!**



### BUILDING SPECIALS

Quality Building Supplies at Affordable Prices

Since 1975



**BOOK YOUR ORDER!**

**LATCHAM-LIND LUMBER & POST FRAME BUILDINGS**

Call for a FREE estimate

**117th Ave., Milaca**  
(north end of Milaca off Central Ave)

**320-983-6304 • 1-800-818-1846**



### OUR GOAL IS HAPPY HOMES

**THELEN PLUMBING - HEATING - COOLING - DRAINS**



**24/7 SERVICE - 365 DAYS A YEAR**

**\$89 SAFETY INSPECTION**

(763) 262-2181 WWW.THELENMECHANICAL.COM

We're committed to helping you through each and every season. Valley, service teams are trained to prepare your machine for any weather conditions, and know what your irrigation system needs to stay ready.

Schedule your Valley-certified preventative maintenance check today.

valleyirrigation.com

**WINTER IS COMING. ARE YOU READY FOR IT?**



**GRAND IRRIGATION** 7551 STATE STREET CLEAR LAKE, MN 55319 320-743-3000

**VALLEY**

## New technology to enhance safety near Xcel Energy's nuclear plants

### Submitted Article

Xcel Energy has partnered with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) division to use mobile phone technology for emergency communications related to its two nuclear plants in Minnesota, enhancing safety in nearby communities.

Integrated Public Alert and Warning System Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEAs) leverage mobile phones for emergency messaging to the public and will replace traditional sirens as Xcel Energy's primary alert system. The WEA system allows emergency response organizations to provide an explanation of the situation along with recommended actions. Alerts can be tailored to specific areas, reducing the number of false or test notifications received by the public. The system allows for messages in multiple languages.

Some municipalities intend to keep the sirens for severe weather or other events, and the company plans to donate its sirens in those areas. Communities may also choose to use the sirens as a backup system to warn residents of an emergency at a nuclear plant.

Xcel Energy's two nuclear plants, Monticello and Prairie Island, have excellent safety records over their 50-year operating histories and are closely connected to their host communities. The company has never needed to use the

siren system for an emergency.

HSEM will send out wireless emergency alerts to local communities as appropriate during a radiological emergency at one of the state's nuclear plants.

For years, wireless emergency alerts have been used to deliver severe weather notifications and AMBER Alerts directly to cell phones in a defined area. The technology already serves as Xcel Energy's backup notification system. Several nuclear plants across the U.S. have transitioned to WEA as their primary system for notifications.

The previous system using sirens provided coverage across 630 square miles, but it had limitations. Sirens are not designed to be heard indoors, nor do they provide information or timely actions for residents to take.

Xcel Energy and the state of Minnesota are taking a collaborative approach to educating the public and emergency response organizations on the change. Outreach to emergency responders has been occurring for several months. Xcel Energy will include the new information in its yearly brochure that will be mailed this month to residents within 10 miles of the Monticello and Prairie Island plants.

### Nuclear Energy Delivers for Customers

Xcel Energy recently announced it will extend the operation of its Mon-

ticello nuclear plant well into the future to support its clean energy vision, following the renewal of the plant's operating license by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The company also intends to seek an extension for its Prairie Island plant.

Nuclear energy is the only 24/7 carbon-free energy source available, so it will play a foundational role in achieving Xcel Energy's shared vision with the state of Minnesota to deliver 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040 while meeting unprecedented growth in customers' demand for electricity. Together, the Monticello and Prairie Island plants provide about 25% of the electricity that Xcel Energy's customers use in the Upper Midwest.

Learn more about Xcel Energy's nuclear fleet.

## CW City makes decisions on T.H. 24 Corridor Project

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

During their last few meetings, the Clearwater City Council discussed numerous agenda items, including the T.H. 24 Corridor Project, ordinances and resolutions, and the new Depot Park.

### T.H. 24 Project

During July's public forum, James Thiesen from Flintstones Bar approached the council to request another workshop meeting to continue discussion on the T.H. 24 Corridor Project. Later in the meeting City Engineer Kannas asked the council for feedback on two items related to the project.

He first inquired what type of plantings the council would like to see for the medians in the roundabouts. Members are looking for guidance as to what works well but stated they would like to see low maintenance native plants that won't block traffic lines of site, not turf grass.

Kannas then asked about options for raised pedestrian crossing and crosswalk flashing lights. He stated the lights are very expensive, possibly \$30,000 to \$40,000 each. Members responded that they would like to have the concrete bases installed so that solar lights could be installed later.

During June's meeting, he asked the council to clarify they wanted the acorn-style double lamps matching Cedar South for the bridge lighting with color to match the city logo, and that they wanted the

bridge railings to be black and the same style as the Mississippi River bridge. Members agreed on both.

Kannas verified the lighting style outside of the bridge would be MnDOT standard style lights with places for banner arms, outlets, and hangers for holiday lighting. He noted the city will be responsible for the upgrade costs, and due to the customizations the city will be responsible for repairs or replacements if the poles are damaged or destroyed.

### No Parking Ord.

Mayor Lawrence gave an overview of Ordinance 2025-03 – Amending Traffic Code – No Parking Zones. Deputy Clerk Hill stated the city received a few calls against no parking on Main Street. Council Member Senn said a daycare on Main Street was concerned about having enough parking, and Council Member Crandall stated there are concerns about having sufficient resident parking and about the bicycle trail being blocked.

Heidi Eckerman approached the council with concerns about making Main Street no parking for the bicycle trail, stating resident's mailboxes are on the south side so they park on the north side.

Tom Plaggerman approached the council to express concern about the no-parking ordinance for Smith Street due to semi-trucks. Council members noted the ordinance is only for one side of the street.

A motion carried ap-

proving the ordinance with item a (Main Street) removed.

### J Cubed

A motion carried approving the revised development agreement for J Cubed.

A motion carried approving Resolution 2025-40 – Approving Tax Abatement Agreement – J Cubed LLC after Administrator Smythe explained the terms of the revised agreement and the statutory requirement for the school district to reject tax abatement in order for the applicant to receive 20 years of abatement from the city.

The motion carried with a condition added that it is subject to the school district declining to participate.

### Other Business

Lake Central Bank employees heard about the new Depot Park by way of the city's 'Name a Park' contest and applied for funding to assist with building the park. A motion to approved Resolution 2025-32 – Accepting Donation from Lake Central Bank and Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) was carried after Smythe outlined the donation/grant award of \$60,000, which includes \$15,000 from the local bank and \$45,000 in matching funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank in Des Moines, IA.

The Park Commission is continuing discussion about proposed benches and who should be honored. A spring 2026 completion for the splash pad is planned. Tom Plaggerman was welcomed to the commission.

The Clearwater Fire

Dept. received a letter from a local healthcare facility commending their actions at a call where they saved the life of a person having a heart attack.

The sheriff reported one assault, one fraud, one theft, one overdose, one hit & run, one warrant arrest, two harassment, three motor vehicle accidents, and 132 traffic stops for August.

During the June meeting, the deputy noted a DUI arrest from a vehicle that left the west side Holiday Station, a neighborhood dispute over a parking place that resulted in a DUI arrest, a vehicle was stopped that was carrying over two pounds of marijuana, and warnings issued to people during after-hours park patrols.

The most recent Clearwater City Council meeting was held on September 8. Council members discussed approval of the site plan and variance for J Cubed Properties, property rezoning and conditional use permit for Telcom, approving the 2026 preliminary levy and budget, and other agenda items, which will be covered in a later edition of the Patriot.

The next Clearwater City Council meeting will be on October 13 at 7 p.m.





SPORTS NEWS

Bulldogs drop to 1-2 with loss to Otters

By Bill Morgan, Editor

The Becker Bulldog football team dropped below .500 for the season with a road loss to Fergus Falls last Friday night, 28-7.

The Otters improved their season record to 3-0 while Becker dropped to 1-2.

Becker broke through when Sawyer Brown hauled in an 81 yard touchdown pass from Tristan Kowalkowski to put the Bulldogs on the board, 21-7.

Kowalkowski finished five-of-18 for 119 yards and the one score. Brown was one-for-one for 23 yards when he quarterbacked the team for a play.

Nathan Weiss led the Bulldog ground attack with 43 yards on five carries. Through the air, Brown led the receivers with 127 yards including the 81-yard



BECKER QB TRISTAN KOWALKOWSKI unleashes this throw to WR Tarver Schendzielos during last Friday's game at Fergus Falls. (Submitted Photo by Anne Koste).

TD score.

On defense, Bennett Kujawa garnered nine tackles, four assists and one tackle for a loss. Cody Deters had four tackles, three

assists and one tackle for a loss.

Up next, Becker celebrates Homecoming Friday when they host the 0-3 Princeton Tigers.

Liberty Paper Player of the Game

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Bennett Kujawa, junior linebacker, was named Player of the Week for his outstanding play against Fergus Falls on Friday night.

Bennett was all over the field, excelling on both defense and special teams. Defensively he led the team with

13 tackles.

Coach Dwight Lundeen said, "Bennett is not very big but he plays big. He is following in the footsteps of his all state brother, Landen.

JUNIOR BENNETT KUJAWA was named "Player of the Week" for his outstanding performance in last week's game against Fergus Falls. (Submitted Photo).



Becker boys CC take 2nd in Little Falls

By Maria Moore, Contributing Writer

The Becker boys' cross-country team traveled to Little Falls on Sept 11 for the 60th Annual Lucky Lindy/Myron Ahle Invitational.

The Bulldogs raced well coming in second place, just a tad behind the #1-ranked AA team of Perham.

Varsity ran with most of the runners receiving or almost receiving season and career best times.

Parker Spindler (16:27) took ninth and had a five second season best time. Alex Swanson (sub-17) took 13th. The rest of the team included Tanner Felton (17:04), Evan

Hubbard (17:31), Brandt Hemmelgam (17:51), Holden Hubbard (18:06) and Mason Tschida (19:48).

Overall, the team placed second with a final score of 106 points.

Up Next

Coming up, the Bulldogs have the traditional Homecoming Football Run along with the Roy Griak Invitational. The Becker Invitational also takes place on Sept, 25, which is approaching fast.



SENIOR ALEX SWANSON raced in front of the crowd in the Annual Lucky Lindy/Myron Ahle Invitational. (Submitted Photo).

Bulldog soccer downs CL

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

Coach Nick Crowley and the Becker Bulldog boys soccer team picked up another Mississippi 8 Conference win last Thursday with a 2-0 shutout in a home contest against Chisago Lakes.

A pair of Bulldogs had their first goals of the season in the Bulldog win, as senior captain Cole Kalinowski notched his first, followed by

Mason Sundberg finding the back of the net for the first time.

Crowley was pleased with his team's defense, as the Bulldogs were able to keep the Wildcat offense at bay for the entire game.

Tuesday night, it was again a defensive match with both the Bulldogs and their Zimmerman opponents playing tight defense en route to a 0-0 draw in another Mississippi 8 Conference match.

Becker girls CC ranked 11 in Class AA

By Maria Moore, Contributing Writer

The Becker girls' cross-country team has had three meets this year so far. The girls are continuing to get better as the season progresses.

The girls took first place at both the Apollo Early Bird Invite and the Princeton Invite. They followed that up by taking second place against 11 teams at the Rockford Rocket Run.

Captains for the team this year include Naiya Hanson (12th grade) and

Katelyn Brower (12th grade).

The top runner so far in the season is Alyse Denne (eighth grade). The team was ranked 11 in Class AA in the latest coach's poll.

"We have high aspirations for the season," said Head Coach Erin Henkemeyer.

Up Next

Coming up, the team is running in the prestigious Roy Griak Invitational on September 20.

Bulldogs swim and dive their way to second

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

It was a great meet last Saturday for the Becker swimming and diving team, as the Bulldogs came very close to first place at the Milaca Invitational and missed the top spot by just three points.

The meet started with the diving competition and Becker was dominant, with Karli Kirk taking first, Maggie Graning taking second and Lillian Bonsante taking third. Brielle Kuschel placed eighth in her first year of diving.

In the swimming events, Becker got out of the gate strong, winning the first event, the medley relay, with Laila Cook, Izza Mork, Grace Mork and Mia Suelter taking the top spot.

Other medal winners for the day include Harper Kel-



THE BECKER DIVERS were dominant at the Milaca Invite last Saturday. Karli Kirk taking first, Maggie Graning taking second and Lillian Bonsante taking third. Brielle Kuschel placed eighth in her first year of diving. (Submitted Photo).

logg placing sixth in the 100 butterfly, Clara Pratt placing

seventh and Elin Cook placing eighth in the 100 free.

MN Get Youth Outdoors Day offers an avenue into the outdoors

Submitted Article

The 2025 Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) Roofers Twin Cities Get Youth Outdoors Day drew its largest crowd yet as 190 participants — including 96 kids — gathered at Wild Marsh Sporting Clays on Sunday, Sept. 8.

Youths and their families enjoyed a day of hands-on outdoor activities such as a .22 rifle stand, archery, and a shotgun course

featuring .410, 20-gauge, and 12-gauge shotguns.

Now in its 13th year, the free event is staffed by union volunteers trained in firearms safety and instruction.


Get Youth Outdoors Day was part of a series of free, community-based youth outreach activities organized under Work Boots on the Ground—the USA's flagship conservation program.



A GET YOUTH OUTDOORS DAY VOLUNTEER assists a youth shooter on the range on Sunday, Sept. 8 at Wild Marsh Sporting Clays. Many participants experienced shooting a gun or hitting a clay target for the first time. (Submitted Photo).



USA DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS KEVIN GRUBBS and Event Coordinator David Pollard assist youth archers at a station on Saturday, Sept. 8. Volunteers represented the USA and different trades. (Submitted Photo).



# HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE 2025 RESIDENTIAL COLLECTION EVENTS

Events are **FREE** for all Sherburne County Residents (I.D. Required)

Date	Time	Location
Friday, September 26	2pm - 5pm	Sherburne County Fairgrounds, 13372 Business Center Drive, Elk River (enter across from YMCA)
Saturday, September 27	9am - 12pm	Sherburne County Fairgrounds, 13372 Business Center Drive, Elk River (enter across from YMCA)

ACCEPTED ITEMS


Adhesives, Aerosols, Automotive Chemicals (NO MOTOR OIL), Batteries, Car Batteries, Cleaners, Fuels (Gasoline, Diesel, etc.), Fluorescent bulbs, Fire Extinguishers, Garden Chemicals, Mercury, Mothballs, Paints, Poisons, Pool/Spa Chemicals, 1lb Propane Tanks, Roofing Tar, Sealers, Solvents  
**\*\* Child Car Seats accepted at Elk River Events ONLY\*\***

NOT ACCEPTED


Appliances, Asbestos Containing Items, Business Waste, Commercial Waste, Demolition Debris, Electronics, Explosives, Furniture, Tires, Household Garbage, Medical Waste, Motor Oil and Antifreeze, Pharmaceutical Waste, Unknown items, NO DRUMS

Agricultural Pesticides

Pre-registered farmers may bring their unwanted agricultural pesticides to these collection events for free disposal. For transportation planning purposes, pre-registration is required by calling Maureen Mossak at 763-765-4457 to inventory the amount of agricultural pesticides being delivered for disposal. Please be aware that we will refuse to accept pesticide rinsate, empty containers, fertilizers, crop oil, spread/stickers, foam makers, seed dye and inoculants. There is a 300 lb. limit and anything over 300 lbs. will be charged a fee for disposal. **Residential Households do not need to pre-register.**



For Used Motor oil and Antifreeze disposal collection site please visit:  
<https://eastsideoilcompanies.com/self-serve-drop-off.html>



MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

**Questions:** Contact Maureen Mossak with the Sherburne County Zoning Dept. at 763-765-4457 or [Maureen.Mossak@co.sherburne.mn.us](mailto:Maureen.Mossak@co.sherburne.mn.us)

Funded by MPCA SCORE Grant Dollars

TO  
R  
A



## Minnco wraps up 2025 School Supply Drive



MEMBERS OF MINNCO IN BIG LAKE Melissa Schaefer (L) and Nancy Frerich (R) showed off their bin of supplies with a Big Lake employee (middle). (Submitted Photo).

### Submitted Article

Minnco Credit Union is proud to announce the successful completion of its 2025 School Supply Drive, which brought in thousands of essential items to support area students as they head back to school.

In addition to supplies, financial contributions poured in from Minnco members, Minnco employees, and the Minnco Foundation. Staff, along with a generous match from the Minnco Foundation, donated \$4,250, which brought their total financial contributions to \$8,553.

Minnco made a direct contribution of supplies and

a check for \$2,143 to Cambridge-Isanti Schools. Part of this funding came from the Cambridge branch's fun (and messy) Minncolodeon Slime Fundraiser, which drew enthusiastic community support.

Branches in Andover, Big Lake, Cambridge, Isanti, Minnco Center Branch, North Branch, Princeton, and Vadnais Heights participated by collecting donations that were distributed to local students in their communities. Together, Minnco donated supplies to 26 different schools, helping ensure students across the region are equipped for success this school year.

## BL boys soccer team hits a rough stretch

By Ken Francis,  
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys soccer team played well over the past 10 days but couldn't come up with a win.

The Hornets lost a close 2-1 decision to North Branch on Sept. 11 on the road.

The Vikings scored first to take an early lead in the first half.

Ryder Peterson tied the game for Big Lake later in the first half, but North Branch won the game with a second half goal.

The Hornets lost an away game to Cambridge-Isanti, 4-1 on Sept. 8.

Ryder Peterson got a goal to give the Hornets a first half lead. But things went sour when the Blue-jackets erupted for four second-half goals to get the win.

In a 3-2 loss to Zim-



RYLER PETERSON fights off a defender for possession in a game earlier this season. Peterson had goals against North Branch and Cambridge-Isanti. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

merman on Sept. 4, Big Lake took an early lead on a goal by Lucas Sales at 6:34 in the first half, assisted by Branson Gray.

But it was the last time

the Hornets would have the lead. Zimmerman tied the game at 11:44, then went ahead with goals at 32:44 and 35:12 for a 3-1 lead.

The game stayed that way until late in the second half when Elijah Chaistain scored at 34:27 to close the gap. But that was as close as Big Lake could get as time ran out.

The Hornets lost a 1-0 decision to Chisago Lakes on Sept. 3. The game was scoreless until the Wildcats scored at 11:33 in the second half. Big Lake put in a good effort but couldn't tie the game. Carlos Contreras Cabrera had seven saves in net for the Hornets.

The Hornets played Monticello this past week, results next week. They host Princeton Tuesday at 7 p.m., then visit St. Francis Thursday before returning home to host Wattertown-Mayer Saturday at noon.

## BL boys cross country win Annandale Invite

By Ken Francis,  
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys cross-country team took the top spot of 10 teams at the Annandale Invitational last Tuesday at Southbrook Golf Course.

All the boys varsity had season's best times to outdistance second-place Annandale by 36 points.

Senior Gavin Flavin led the Hornets, finishing fourth overall in 16:13.1.

Trent Erickson took sixth in 16:45.3. Theo Johnson placed 11th in 15:15.1 Jack Schmidt was 13th in 17:24.1 and Eli Henning fin-

ished 18th in 18:08.1 to complete Big Lake's five scorers. Max Baron (28th, 18:25) and Eli Schaller (39th, 19:08) were the team's sixth and seventh runners.

Final team scores were: Big Lake 52; Annandale 88; St. Cloud Tech 92; Dassel-Cokato 97; Litchfield 101; Spectrum 168; Zimmerman 175; Maple Lake 189; Eden Valley-Watkins/Kimball 194 and Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted 231.

The varsity girls also had their fastest times of the season. Ninth-grader Shay France turned in another strong performance, placing fifth overall in 19:45.

Hazel Guldseth (31st, 23:19), Elsie Jagusch (35th, 23:38), Clara Devine (36th, 23:48), and Aubri Judge (47th, 24:43) rounded out the scoring.

Chloe Howe (53rd, 26:21) and Ainsley McGuire (54th, 26:21) were the sixth and seventh runners for the Hornets, who placed seventh as a team.

The Hornets competed at the ROCORI Invitational Thursday in Cold Spring against 18 other teams, results next week. They run at Pebble Creek in Becker, 4 p.m. Thursday.

## Bulldog VB honors staff

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog volleyball team lost a pair of matches this week, but also used one match to honor staff members.

Monday's loss to Annandale featured some very good volleys, and was also dubbed Staff Appreciation Night, with each player hosting a school staff member who had made an impact in the athlete's life.

Game scores for the loss to the Cardinals were 18-25, 14-25 and 25-27. The Bulldogs mounted a furious effort in the third set, but couldn't force another.

Kenna Hennessey had a season re-

cord of 25 digs in the match, while Payton Treptau led the offensive effort with seven kills.

Tuesday evening, Becker fell to North Branch 0-3 with game scores of 15-25, 14-25 and 14-25.

"Our back row was working hard with Kenna Hennessey and Ady Petty totaling 28 digs for the match," Coach Bo said.

The Bulldogs played host to St. Francis on Thursday evening in another Mississippi 8 Conference match that doubled as Youth Night, as well as Homecoming.

## Sherburne County

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER ON BEHALF OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

FRIENDS OF  
**NRA**  
HERITAGE | MISSION | FREEDOM



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2025 • 5:00 PM

STATION 1 EVENT CENTER  
26140 136TH ST NW ZIMMERMAN, MN 55398

New

Location

Tickets: \$50.00 Each—See Table Packages Below

Join other Second Amendment Champions in  
Support of Youth Shooting Clubs and Firearms Safety!!!!

Contact: Eric Linder 763-688-3004 elinder@nrahq.org

### AUCTION & RAFFLE HIGHLIGHTS

#### NRA GUNS & PRIZES

##### 2025 GUN OF THE YEAR



Henry Lever Action Supreme 5.56/.223  
with Friends of NRA Logo



The NRA Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the National Rifle Association. Net proceeds benefit shooting sports programs in our communities. NRA membership is not required to participate. All firearm laws apply. Winners are responsible for any taxes/transfer fees. Firearms transferred through Fletcher Arms.

#### \$5,000 Table

8 Dinner Ticket  
\$300 in Bucket Raffle Tickets,  
And  
Choice of ...

Springfield XD 9  
Rossi Brawler 45/410  
Legacy Citadel 12 Ga. Mariner

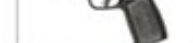


Contact Eric or other  
options

#### \$800 Table

8 Dinners  
\$320 in White Bucket Tickets  
And  
Choice of these guns!!!

Smith & Wesson SD40



Contact Eric for upgrades on  
firearms!!!

PROUDLY FUNDRAISES FOR  
**THE NRA FOUNDATION**  
TEACH FREEDOM

## Hornets suffer filthy loss to Orono

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

With more schools moving to turf fields, the classic "mud bowl" is becoming a rare sight—but that's exactly what Big Lake had last Friday night at home against Orono.

Unfortunately, the Hornets fell to the Spartans, 48-6.

Big Lake's only TD came in the second quarter when QB Dillon Spaeth found receiver Montell Hester on a 70-yard score to make the tally, 34-6. Spaeth would end up with 96 yards through the air on five-of-11 passing and one interception. Hester gained -2 yards on four carries and had the one catch for 70 yards and the touchdown.

Carter Stromberg rushed the ball for 47 yards on 13 carries and also had two catches for 14 yards in the loss.

On defense, Trevor Couch had six tackles while Abe Nebo had seven.

Big Lake is set to take on their familiar foe Delano at 7 p.m. on Friday.



BIG LAKE RB CARTER STROMBERG amassed 61 yards total through the air and on the ground in the Hornet's 48-6 loss to the Orono Spartans last Friday at home. (Submitted Photo by Jessica LaRoche).

## Hornet Swim/Dive team beats C-I

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

Big Lake's varsity girls swim and dive team beat Cambridge-Isanti at home last Thursday at their first home dual meet of the season.

This was Big Lake's second win of the season and their first win at home, and it was a very energetic and fun meet for the girls.

Big Lake's 1,2,3 finish in the 500 freestyle with Piper Fridgen capturing first, Madelyne Fridgen second, and Aimee Lu third; Emily Edlund won the 200 IM and the 100 butterfly individual events.

Piper Fridgen won two individual events in the 200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle;

Abigail Fridgen won two individual events including the 50 freestyle and the 100 freestyle.

Big Lake's 400 freestyle relay of Emily Edlund, Charlotte Overby, Piper Fridgen and Abigail Fridgen placed



THE BIG LAKE SWIM/DIVE TEAM gathered in the pool while the pep band played the National Anthem and then had a moment of silence to commemorate 9/11. (Submitted Photo).

first.

Big Lake's 200 freestyle relay of Emily Edlund, Maia Wenderski, Abigail Fridgen, and Adelyn Fox also placed first.

#### Final Score:

1. Big Lake Girls Swim & Dive - 97 points; 2. Cambridge-Isanti High School - 89 points.

#### At Milaca

The Big Lake girls swim and dive team traveled to

Milaca on Sat., Sept. 13 and delivered a strong overall performance.

The Foley Falcons led the overall team rankings with 364 points, closely followed by Becker High School with 361 points. Milaca High School placed third with 206 points, while Holdingford and Princeton rounded out the top five with 179 and 165 points, respectively. Big Lake finished with 118 points.