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VOL. 1 • NO. 11 SAT., SEPT. 12, 2020

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## PATRIOT



**JAY ROOS** appeared before Clear Lake city council Tuesday hoping to finalize plans for the development of his Cherry Street Townhomes (*Patriot* photo by Mark Kolbinger). See his story on page 5.

### INSIDE

#### BECKER NEWS

The Pebble Creek Men's and Women's Clubs held their championships last week. See the story on Page 18 to see who ended up on top.

#### BIG LAKE NEWS

The **FREEDOM ROCK** is scheduled to be placed at Lakeside Park next weekend. See the full story on the exciting news on Page 2.

#### COUNTY NEWS

Sherburne County is tweaking their COVID-19 response. See the story on Page 7.

## PATRIOT

### UPCOMING

#### MORE CANDIDATE PROFILES

Check back next week and the next several weeks to see candidate profiles for Becker and Big Lake cities, townships and county elections.

#### EXPLORE GUIDE

For our readers in Big Lake, your Explore Your Community guide is at the printer and will hit your mailboxes the weekend of September 26. It's our gift to you and we hope you use it to explore the numerous opportunities found in your great city!

#### FUTURE GUIDES

The Patriot is working on several other exciting projects over the next few months including our annual Fall Home Guide and a special publication to honor veterans in a centennial American Legion Guide. Call our office to find out how you can be a part of these great publications! 763-275-0275.

## PATRIOT

### NEWS & ADVERTISING DEADLINES

#### NEWS DEADLINES

With the newspaper wrap up occurring Wednesday evening, all news items submitted to run that Saturday must reach our office by Wednesday morning by 11 a.m.

#### SPORTS DEADLINES

Coaches and assistants are expected to contact our sports writers by Wednesday morning, 11 a.m. at the latest to have their information included in that week's publication.

#### CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINES

Information for classifieds need to be submitted to our staff by noon Wednesday to be included in that week's publication of the PATRIOT.

### CONTACT US

#### LEGALS/CLASSIFIEDS/OBITS

Call 763-275-0275 or email Kathy @ legals.kathy@patriotnewsnmn.com

#### SPORTS STORIES

Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill @ reporter.bill@patriotnewsnmn.com

#### ADVERTISING

Call 763-275-0275 or email Mary, Carol or Heidi @ sales.carol@patriotnewsnmn.com

#### WEBSITE

Check out each week's content @ our website: www.patriotnewsnmn.com

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Call 763-275-0275 or email Kathy @ legals.kathy@patriotnewsnmn.com

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STUDENTS WEAR MASKS as they run into Becker High School for their first day back from summer vacation. (Photo by Bill Morgan.)

A BIG LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL student waits for school to open on a bench outside (right). (Photo by Bill Morgan.)

SCHOOL BUSES (L) ARE SHIPPING STUDENTS to school despite uncertainty regarding COVID-19 regulations. (Photo by Bill Morgan.)

# Schools reopen for fall

By Katherine Cantin  
Contributing Writer

There was a lot of doubt as to whether schools would be allowed to resume as normal this fall, and even more speculation on what kinds of regulations would be set in place for students to follow. Over the summer, many parents worried that September would resemble the "crisis learning" that occurred as the COVID-19 pandemic hit last spring. Fortunately, school staff was able to set plans in motion to make sure students would get the best education available under the

circumstances.

#### Hybrid Learning Model

As previously reported, Big Lake and Becker schools will be following a hybrid learning model. The hybrid model is a compromise between students learning completely at home and completely at school.

For the middle and high-schoolers, this means students attend school in-person two days per week and are at home three days per week. This helps to ensure that there is only about one half of the students physically at school on

any given day, except for Wednesdays, which all students will spend at home.

The learning model is different for younger students. Elementary school students will attend school physically every day, but will be encouraged to social-distance, sanitize their hands, and perform other COVID-19 practices whenever possible.

There are several reasons for the difference between older and younger students. Firstly, school staff assumed that elementary school children who were not in school full time would need to be

enrolled in a day-care program, which ultimately wouldn't help the students limit their exposure to their peers. Also, studies across the globe show that young students are not very likely to be good transmitters of the disease, being less likely to spread it among themselves and to adults. Finally, elementary school students are, in most cases, not disciplined enough to follow without plenty of regulation. Students in grades 6-12, however, are seen as mature enough to take charge of their own studies when

**SCHOOLS to page 6**

## School Board Candidate Profiles

By Katherine Cantin  
Contributing Writer

November 3 is election day, and while the country is focused on one election in particular, the *Patriot* is excited to highlight some of the candidates running for local office this fall. In honor of school resuming this week, we will be outlining the candidates running for school board.

*Editor's note: Over the next several weeks leading up to the 2020 election, the Patriot will feature candidate profiles of each candidate who participated in our query.*

#### Becker School Board

Four candidates will be running for school board in Becker this year, each with their own goals for the school.

**Lawrence Giebenhain**

Lawrence (Larry) Giebenhain is married and has four children. He currently works as a relay technician with Xcel Energy. He earned his BS in Business Administration from St. Cloud State University.

Students: Giebenhain will make sure to maintain the quality of education Becker students have enjoyed which has been synonymous with the district for years.

Communication: He will foster good relationships and quality communication between school administration, staff, and the community. He will strive to maintain as much local control as possible.

Budgeting: Giebenhain will strive to perpetuate fiscal respon-

**PROFILES to page 6**

## BL School Board Pays Tribute To Schnitzler

By Katherine Cantin  
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake School board met on Aug. 27 and outlined some of the expectations for going back to school this fall. Coming on the heels of the special board meeting, which discussed the district's approach to the COVID-19 challenges, this meeting focused on business as usual, as much as business-as-usual is possible this year.

#### Recognizing Brad Schnitzler

Brad Schnitzler recently retired from Big Lake schools

after teaching in the district for 36 years.

Schnitzler was raised on a farm in west Minnesota and was the oldest of eight kids. His dream was to go to college and to become a biology teacher. He said that no matter what plans you make for your life as a young person, however, life always has something different in mind.

At his first teaching job at a private Catholic school, Schnitzler was told that he could make

**TRIBUTE to page 3**



## Clearview welcomes new principal

By Penny Leuthard,  
Contributing writer

At Clearview Elementary, the start of the school year this week looked very different from its start last year. One of those changes includes welcoming Principal Meredith Boucher, who was hired this summer to take over the reins after Principal Sheri Rutar retired in the spring.

Boucher has over 20 years of experience in education. After graduating from Sartell High School,

she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education and Middle School Certification from Bemidji State University.

She next attended Saint Mary's University, where she earned her principal's license and a master's degree in Teaching and Instruction.



**MEREDITH BOUCHER**, began Clearview's new principal. (Submitted photo.)

when she was hired by St. Cloud District 742, teaching **PRINCIPAL to page 4**

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• Food Pride

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# Big Lake Area News

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## Freedom Rock to roll into Big Lake Sat.

By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer

Lakeside Park in Big Lake will be the place to be next Saturday as a large crane is expected to place a large granite stone just to the north of the parking lot and in the southwest area of Lakeside Park.

A large flatbed truck is expected to transport the large boulder from the St. Cloud region to the park's location in Big Lake. From there, a large crane is expected to lift the boulder from the truck and place it in its resting place. It should be quite a sight!

Coordinators Karen Blake and Linda Paulson have been working with the City of Big Lake to accomplish this project in which a large rock will be painted by a local artist in honor of all veterans of all military groups.

Iowa native Ray Sorensen has been hired to paint a patriotic scene on the massive boulder following its placement Sept. 19. Sorensen has a mission to paint at least one FREEDOM ROCK in every state of the union. Sorensen painted his first FREEDOM ROCK in Menlo, IA as a way to say "thank you" to veterans who have served our country. His goal is to represent each city, county or state in a unique way while telling stories of our country's history.

The cost of the project is estimated between

\$10-20,000 and much has already been donated. However, the coordinators are looking for help from the public by selling pavers which will encircle the rock in the park. Pavers are \$100 each and can feature a name and service time for anyone's loved veteran.

Make checks payable to: City of Big Lake — Freedom Rock Mail or drop off at City of Big Lake offices, 160 Lake Street N., Big Lake, MN 55309.

See you all on Saturday!



LINDA PAULSON AND KAREN BLACK pose with the giant boulder slated to find a new home in Big Lake next Saturday. The boulder will be put in place at Lakeside Park and artist Ray Sorensen will then paint a mural on the rock in patriotic form! (Submitted Photo).

## Suspect charged with fleeing officers

Submitted Article

On Sept. 4, at approximately 1:18 a.m., Big Lake Officer Tyler Sinclair observed a dirt bike without a rear license plate traveling on Eagle Lake Rd. N. Officer Sinclair observed the driver to be a white male, wearing a dark grey or black sweatshirt, jeans and boots. As the dirt bike traveled on Eagle Lake Rd., the driver accelerated to a speed of 66mph in a 30mph zone.

Officer Sinclair activated his emergency lights and siren and attempted to catch up to the dirt bike. The dirt bike turned into the Big Lake High School parking lot and then out of the school lot back onto Eagle Lake Rd. The dirt bike reached speeds of approximately 100mph in the area of Eagle Lake Rd./



ETHAN GRIMLIE-JOHNSON, 24 of Becker was booked into Sherburne County Jail for fleeing officers and riding a dirt bike while intoxicated. (Submitted Photo).

Hiawatha Ave. and the dirt bike was traveling in the southbound lanes heading northbound.

The dirt bike contin-

ued on Co. Rd. 5 at 100mph weaving between the north-bound and southbound lanes. As they entered Orrock Twp., the dirt bike went into a grassy area, through a chain link fence, and back onto Co. Rd. 5. The dirt bike then left the roadway and headed into a group of trees.

Big Lake officers and Sherburne County deputies set up a perimeter. Shortly thereafter, a male was located and came out with his hands raised. Officer Sinclair identified the male as the one he observed fleeing on the dirt bike. The male was uncooperative, telling officers that he was in his bed and wasn't fleeing. While speaking with the male, officers smelled the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from him. He had bloodshot, watery eyes, and slurred speech.

The male refused to identify himself, first saying his name was Bill. Eventually, he was identified as Ethan Grimlie-Johnson, age 24 of Becker. Officer Sinclair obtained a search warrant for Grimlie-Johnson's blood or urine, but he refused to give it.

Grimlie-Johnson submitted to a preliminary breath test at the jail that was .124. Grimlie-Johnson has two prior DWI convictions from 2017 and 2018.

Grimlie-Johnson was booked at the Sherburne County jail. Grimlie-Johnson was charged by criminal complaint with; Felony Fleeing a Peace Officer in a Motor Vehicle, Gross Misdemeanor DWI Refusal, and Gross Misdemeanor DWI.

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Your News

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## Big Lake's Dog Vaccination Clinic

By Katherine Cantin Contributing Writer

Big Lake's annual dog vaccination clinic will take place next Saturday at Lions Park from 9am to noon. This year marks the event's 14th anniversary,

with hopefully many more to come. Healthy, leashed dogs are welcome to come and receive their rabies (\$10), Canine DHPP (\$16), and lymes vaccinations (\$30). The vaccinations will be provided by Barrington Oaks Veterinary Hospital

of Elk River. Dog licences will also be available for purchase for \$20. Only cash payments will be accepted. Anyone who has questions about the event is welcome to contact Big Lake Twp. at 763-263-8111.

CITY AND TOWN OF BIG LAKE

Dog Vaccination Clinic

Saturday, September 19, 2020

9 am - 12 pm

Big Lake Township's Lions Park ~ 21960 County Road 5 NW

All dogs must be on a leash or in a carrier.

Only healthy dogs will be vaccinated. Cash payment required.

Thank you Barrington Oaks Veterinary Hospital, for administering the vaccines.

One year Rabies: \$10

Canine DHPP: \$16

Canine Lymes \$30

Questions? Contact the Town of Big Lake at 763-263-8111.

# Becker News

## Santiago Township CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, Sept. 19 • 8am-Noon

MUST HAVE PROOF OF RESIDENCY (ie: tax statement)

Event will be held at CENTRA-SOTA CO-OP  
2188 165th Ave., SANTIAGO, MN

### ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

<b>Tires</b>	
up to 16" tires	4 FREE, each add'l \$3.00
17" to 25"	\$8.00 each piece
Tractor Tires	\$25.00 each piece
<b>Appliances, Dehumidifiers &amp; Microwaves</b>	
(No Gas Refrigerators)	\$15.00 each piece
<b>Air Conditioners</b>	\$25.00 each piece
<b>Electronics (TVs, Monitors, etc.)</b>	\$15.00 each piece
Console and Projection TV's	\$30.00 pick-up load
<b>General Junk</b>	\$30.00 pick-up load
<b>Large Furniture</b>	\$15.00 each piece
<b>Small Furniture</b>	\$10.00 each piece
<b>Mattress &amp; Box Springs</b>	\$15.00 each piece

**FREE ITEMS -**  
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### NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

Regular Household Garbage, Hazardous Waste, Recyclables, Fluorescent Light Bulbs

**Questions Call Shelley Jehoich 763-662-2012**  
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The Township reserves the right to refuse acceptance of any materials or from anyone unable to show adequate proof of residency. The Santiago town board meets the second Wednesday of each month, 7pm at the Santiago town hall.

### TRIBUTE from page 1

a good amount of extra money if he agreed to coach the boy's basketball team. Schnitzler was not a very athletically-inclined person, and he said he knew nothing about playing basketball. But, he agreed to be the coach. When the basketball season came around, he was given a team of boys to coach- and the girls, too. The two teams practiced together and Schnitzler coached both.

Schnitzler stayed at the Catholic school for two years before moving on to another school. There, he was asked to be the girl's volleyball coach. He took the job, although he knew nothing about volleyball either. He also coached the girls' basketball team. Finally, the school asked him if he would be the head coach for the brand-new girls' softball team, which some students were hoping to start. Schnitzler went along with it like a champ.

Finally, Schnitzler came to Big Lake. He says he was nervous about his future there- many districts in western Minnesota had been in decline for awhile. Teachers were getting laid off, different districts were combining, and Schnitzler was uncertain how long he would get to stay in Big Lake. But it all worked out, and Schnitzler is now retiring after a grand total of 44 years as an educator.

The school board applauded his service, and asked what he did with his first Monday as a retiree. Schnitzler said that he slept until nine.

### Student Enrollment

Student enrollment at Big Lake schools is down- but not significantly. The pandemic situation has caused some families to explore other schooling options, such as homeschool and online school. Enrollment ended up being around 50 students less than what the board had budgeted, but they were hopeful that a few more students might enroll at the last minute.

Big Lake Online, the online school program being offered by Big Lake starting this year, had 534 students enrolled at the time of the board meeting, 21 of which were students who were completely new to the district.

Kindergarten enrollment was down from last year. The board assumed that some families decided to wait one year to enroll young students, to see what would happen with the COVID-19 situation. That being said, kindergarten enrollment was not down significantly. This year, 224 kindergartners enrolled, as opposed to 237 last fall and 224 for the year before that.

### COVID-19 Funding

The Big Lake district is set to receive some government funding to help with COVID-19 related purchases. The district will apply for \$766,686 from the COVID Relief Fund (CRF). This money is to be used on pandemic-related costs that were not accounted for in the school's budget already. The money must be spent by Dec. 30, but the board predicted no problem in spending the funds.

The school is also applying for CARES Act funding, which would need to be spent within the next two years.

The school also applied for a grant from Sherburne County to support emotional learning. This grant would be for \$85,000 and would need to be spent by Dec. 1.

In all, Big Lake schools will be collecting an average of \$340 per student, which is a good deal under the state average of \$464 per student.

### Other Board News



The parking fee for students would be waived this year, but students would still have to apply to receive a parking pass.

Big Lake received their face masks and face shields provided by the government, and they are ready to distribute to staff.

The district also received saliva tests for staff. These tests will not be mandatory, but they are available to staff members who feel they may have been subjected to COVID-19.

## BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

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## School season tips for productive days and restful nights

### StatePoint

Whether your child is learning in a classroom or digitally, establishing a steady family dynamic is essential to a successful school year.

One area where this is particularly important is ensuring that kids and parents alike get plenty of sleep. Good sleep equates to better health and performance, stronger immune systems, and plays a key role in



the ability to learn, solve problems, and maintain a healthy mental outlook. Setting a regular bedtime and wake time, limiting screen time before bed, and turning to



solutions such as Natrol Melatonin Gummies or Fast Dissolve can help get more restful sleep. To learn more, visit natrol.com. Kids crave routine: it lets them know

they are in a secure and loving environment and helps them perform better at school. Maintaining the same meal time, down time and bedtime routines that you would during a typical school year can help establish a sense of normalcy during this period of uncertainty.

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# Area News

**PRINCIPAL from page 1**

ing math at North Junior High School and what was then the St. Cloud Children’s Home. She moved on to become an academic coach at North and Talahi Community School, and then spent three years as the assistant principal at Madison Elementary School before coming to Clearview this fall.

“I’m thrilled to be at Clearview,” said Boucher. “I’m really excited to lead a phenomenal staff. They make me proud to be able to come to come to work each day.”

Her goals this year include welcoming the students back and keeping them in the building for as long as possible, as well as meeting their educational needs along with their social and emotional needs.

“The kids have been away from us for the last six months,” she said. “They need it. Keeping them here, healthy and learning, comes with a whole new set of routines and procedures.”

On Tuesday students started returning to Clearview, where they and their families each spent 45 minutes with their teacher so they could get to know one another and discuss their goals for the new year.

“It’s been amazing,” said Boucher. “You can see the kids’ smiles even under their masks. They’re excited to be back and the teachers are thrilled to have them back.”

She described how one little boy came running up to her and wanted to give her a ‘high five’; instead they gave each other ‘low fives’, using their feet instead of their hands.

“We may have to physically distance ourselves, but we can still socially and emotionally connect,” she said. “There are going to be a lot of low fives this year.”

Another challenge faced was to make school feel as much like school as possible, even with masks and the social distancing requirements.

“Walking around the school the other day I realized our classrooms look joyful,” said Boucher. “Our teachers made it feel fun and warm and welcoming; you don’t actually notice the distance.

For example, one of them put Pac Man ghosts between the squares marked off for students to sit in. All their hard work has paid off.”

Boucher’s educational philosophy revolves around the students, putting them at the center of everything Clearview does all day long.

“Every single decision I make puts students first,” she said.



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# Becker News

**SCHOOLS** *from page 1*

there is no teacher or parent watching closely. Older students were more likely to spread the disease as well.

**COVID-19 Precautions**

Some other precautions Big Lake and Becker will be taking will of course include the requirement of masks for students and frequent sanitization of both hands and surfaces.

Parents, and students who have drivers licenses, are encouraged to drive to school rather than use the bus. To encourage this, Big Lake schools have decided to waive the usual parking fee for students. Students will, however, still be required to apply for a parking pass as usual. Becker will require students to pay the parking fee as per usual.

Becker will be implementing a new strategy for elementary students entering the school. Sarah Kolbinger, mother to two Becker students, said the school sent out a video explaining how kids would be expected to enter the school building. Kids will go to different doors depending on whom their homeroom teacher is, thus making it so students come in close contact only with the students who are in their own class, and limiting the exposure to the rest of the students in the school. She said that it seemed like the school was really trying to make things work in a difficult situation,

Kolbinger also said she was glad that the bus services would be available for students. She and her husband both work odd hours at their jobs, and trying to find time to drive the girls to school would have been

difficult.

**Students' Perspectives**

Several students were kind enough to voice an opinion on what they were excited about and not excited about going back to school. Brothers Wyatt (fifth grade) and Marshall Kaproth (second grade) said they were both very excited to go to school. Wyatt, with the memory of last spring still on his mind, said that he was excited to actually be in school, seeing his friends and meeting his new teacher, rather than learning on a computer at home. Marshall said that he was not excited about having to wear a mask all day.

Kolbinger sisters Ava (fifth grade) and Piper (first grade) were also not looking forward to wearing masks all day, but Ava was willing to be optimistic about it. She said that after having to wear the masks out in public for the past couple of months, she has started to get used to them. She is willing to believe wearing a mask all day will be annoying, but doable. Ava is not excited about having to wake up early in the morning again. Piper said she was excited to meet her new teacher and see her friends again, but she was not excited about the loads of homework she would definitely have as a big first grader.

**WYATT (LEFT) AND MARSHALL KAPROTH (RIGHT) have backpacks on and are ready for school to start. (Submitted photo.)**



**PIPER (LEFT) AND AVA KOLBINGER (RIGHT) of Becker posed to show off new school clothes. Both are excited to be going back to school this fall. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)**



**PROFILES** *from page 1*

sibility without compromising on education,

**Cindy Graham**

Cindy Graham is married and has two children, two step children, and several grandkids. She was an educator for 37 years and is now retired. She is a current employee of Reading and Math Corps. She has a BS in Elementary Education and a reading specialist license.

Students: Graham states that she wants to be a voice for students of all ages.

**Connie Robinson**

Connie Robinson has three children with her husband, Jim, and three grandchildren. She is the finance director for the City of Becker, and she has worked with Becker Schools in several capacities over the years. She has a BS and a Master's degree in accounting.

Students: Robinson is focused on keeping students safe. She will focus on preventative measures such as hold active shooter drills; having a robust security and a school resource officer; and offering mental health services to students. She also hopes to help students prepare and thrive on whatever path they choose in life.

Communication: Robinson says that transparency and accountability in school administration is key to a successful school district.

COVID-19: Robinson hopes to work closely with the Minnesota Dept. of Health to keep students and staff safe and make sure to keep ill students at home.

Budgeting: Robinson believes that Becker schools need to be fiscally responsible. She says the board needs to be proactive in maintaining a healthy balance in the general fund, and must sustain the fund balance in the future.

**Sarah Schafer**

Sarah Schafer and her husband, Joe, have one

son attending Becker Middle School. She has been employed with the City of Becker Public Works Department as their administrative support specialist for two years. She is a Rasmussen College graduate with a degree in Office Systems Specialist with an emphasis in Legal and Criminal Justice. She worked for a sub-contractor as an administrative support specialist within the Fort Bliss Army Installation for the United States Army Corps of Engineers

of her husband's Army unit for many years. She is also the Communications Director for the Becker-Big Lake Ice Association.

Students: Bland's first and foremost priority is the students, and helping them achieve a top-ranked education that will take them beyond their years in school, and achieve their dreams by going beyond the classroom to learn real-life skills.

Communication: If elected, Bland will work directly with schools, and the community, on issues from classroom resources and supplies to safety and discipline standards. She hopes to be present and active in the community, and to provide support and changes needed to make the district incredible.

COVID-19: Bland wants to bring the COVID-19 conversation to the forefront. She hopes to create a plan that allows hard-working, dedicated teachers and staff members to feel prepared, confident and whole in their efforts while considering the health and safety of families and staff members.

**Barbara Chaffee**

Barbara Chaffee is married and has three sons. She is the current CEO of CMJTS, and was a college instructor before that. She has a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota Duluth, and was awarded a micro Masters of Business Administration (MBA) for Nonprofit Organization and the Institute for Executive Director Leadership at the Center of Business Excellence from the University of St. Thomas. She earned an Economic Development Certification from the Minnesota Management Institute at the University of Carlson School of Executive Development and Business.



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# County/Area News

## Sherburne County continues to tweak COVID-19 response

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Sherburne County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday morning and approved a number of amendments to programs to assist businesses and nonprofits who are being negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. They also approved a new program that will aim to help with mortgage and lease payment reimbursements for small businesses.

The board regularly approves expenditures that relate to CARES Act funding, but they have also been focusing on programs to bring outreach to businesses and nonprofits who are experiencing distress during these difficult financial times.

The Business Relief Fund has recently been reopened with a few changes in the eligibility criteria, while the nonprofit program has been expanded to try and make more organizations eligible for the funds.

The original nonprofit fund had restrictions such as the number of employees to be eligible and required 501(c)3 status, whereas the new guidelines should make it easier for groups to qualify.

Commissioner Tim Dolan favored removing the minimum employee provision altogether, as he felt even volunteer organizations should be eligible.

“If that organization goes under, the burden falls to us as taxpayers and also as a county,” said Dolan. “Organizations that are run by volunteers should not be penalized.” Ultimately the board agreed and that provision will be removed.

Overall, the board discussed outreach programs that could be implemented to make sure that residents of the county are aware of the help that is available. The county works with cities, townships and chambers of commerce to get the word out. In addition, staff sends out press releases and makes the information widely available on the website but some commissioners felt that residents

and business owners are sometimes still unaware of what is available.

Discussion was had regarding more advertising in local print media, as well as possibly on the radio. Direct mailing was also discussed as a means to engage more businesses that could benefit from the assistance.

One new program was approved by the board and it is for smaller businesses



such as sole proprietorships who otherwise do not qualify for the business relief. This new mortgage relief program would allow eligible individuals to receive up to 50% reimbursement for their mortgage or commercial leases.

It was noted that the program could not only be beneficial to the business owners but can also help commercial landlords, many of whom are struggling with low rates of occupancy or businesses who are unable to pay their monthly lease payments.

### YMCA Childcare

The board decided to move forward with a contract with the YMCA to provide childcare services to county employees who are required to be at work in person rather than telecommuting.

The program will reserve space for the county to access the childcare for children ages 4-14 and will also provide support for distance learning. There is a provision that would allow county employees to keep using the service once the CARES Act funding expires at the end of the

year. An employee survey recently indicated that 21 children would utilize it immediately while 63 children total could eventually access the program.

### SCSO Drone

The board held a public hearing with no one commenting regarding the Sheriff’s Office purchasing of a drone. Chief Deputy Steve Doran of the sheriff’s office spoke to the board pertaining to some specifics of the drone and its potential uses. Most of the deployments will require a search warrant and possible uses outlined included searching for a missing child, a missing hunter in an area such as the Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge or on a rare occasion the apprehension of a suspect.

A total of ten pilots from within the SCSO will be trained by the FAA and the drone will be made available to other agencies within the county for work such as mapping a drainage ditch.

### Public Forum

Two members of the public addressed the board during the public forum. Paul Braun invited the board to come and see the training facility that is planned for Palmer Township which will include a gun range, while Mike Neuman asked the board to consider what could be done to encourage additional projects to serve smaller neighborhoods within the county that have limited or no access to broadband service.

### In other business, the board of commissioners:

- Approved several compensation policies and insurance programs to align non-union workers with recently negotiated union contracts;
- Held the regional railroad authority meeting and approved the levy at 0%;
- Approved several zoning requests as presented by Nancy Riddle;
- Approved the hiring of the early interventionist social worker as the position will help to provide the parent support outreach service.

## Notice: Parents who are driving their children to school

Submitted Article

Wright County school districts (as well as other school districts) are anticipating a dramatic increase in traffic levels in and around the schools’ properties as many more families are choosing to self-transport their children as schools in the county re-open. Those not traveling to the school property are urged to avoid (if possible) the roadways in front of the schools during the drop-off and pick-up times due to more congestion than is typical.

Districts suggest parents make plans for an alternate route and pay special attention to pedestrians and crosswalks, which will also likely have higher volume than

usual. Parents and residents are asked to review their district’s policies and procedures for their buildings plans.

To help during this time, parents and students are asked to:

- Follow the designated routes entering and exiting the parking lots;
- Be patient. The increase in traffic may cause the lines to be longer than normal;
- Do not pass illegally on the right of stopped traffic if the road is not designed with a bypass lane;
- Make the drop off process as quick as possible. Have one’s child ready to exit prior to reaching the drop off point to avoid holding up the line;

• Pull up as directed and have one’s child exit the vehicle quickly;

• During end-of-day pickup, follow the same rules as the drop off procedures. Follow the directions of staff and pick one’s child up as quickly as possible to keep traffic flowing;

• If there are questions in regards to the particular process of one’s school, please contact one’s school district office for their specific instructions

The safety of the students and staff is the top priority of everyone as schools start the 2020-21 school year with new mandates and directives that have been put in place.

## Scam callers target Wright County

Submitted article

Residents are being warned about scam calls being made regarding problems with Social Security numbers. Several Wright County residents have been receiving robo-calls claiming there is something wrong with their Social Security numbers that needs

to be fixed. The scammers are masking numbers, including some that show up on Caller ID claiming to be a Wright County office.

If you receive such a call, do not respond because it is not legitimate. You are asked to call the national Social Security Administration (SSA) number at (800) 772-1213 to report

that you have received a call concerning your Social Security number.

According to SSA policy, the office will never threaten you with arrest or legal action if you do not immediately pay a debt or fine/fee, tell you your SSN has been suspended, offer you an increase in benefits to resolve identity theft is-

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## Farmers warned about invasive weed species in cattle feed

Submitted Article

Farmers are being asked to keep an eye out for Palmer amaranth hitching a ride into Minnesota via contaminated feed ingredients.

Minnesota has at least one infestation in the state that arrived via contaminated cattle feed. The potential for this to happen again is high, especially when sourcing feed ingredients from areas where Palmer amaranth and other problematic weeds are more common. Pay attention to weeds growing around livestock feeding areas, near manure storage areas, or in fields with a history of manure application. These are likely the areas where Palmer amaranth and other new weeds will show up first.

### Why The Concern?

Palmer amaranth is a highly competitive pigweed that is closely related to waterhemp. Like waterhemp, Palmer amaranth emerges throughout the growing season, and can grow two-to-three inches per day, causing large yield reductions if it goes uncontrolled. Control is often challenging, as Palmer amaranth has resistance to many different herbicides. Palmer amaranth is on Minnesota’s Prohibited Noxious Weed Eradicate list.

For more information and tips on identifying this weed, visit <https://extension.umn.edu/annual-broadleaf-weeds/preventing-palmer-amaranth-minnesota>.

### Where Are The Weed Seeds Coming From?

While weeds can find their way to your farm via wildlife and other uncontrollable factors, many new weed seeds are brought onto the farm from normal farm activities. Most of the new infestations of Palmer amaranth have been brought in via equipment (especially used equipment purchased from an area where Palmer amaranth is more common), contaminated seed, or contaminated feedstuffs. The amount of risk for contamination with weed seeds depends on the type of feed and where it originates. Feed that has been ground, pelletized, or ensiled is less concerning compared to less-processed feed ingredients.

### Feed Ingredients Most Concerning

Feedstuffs from southern states: Palmer amaranth is more common further south. Any feed ingredient that was produced where Palmer amaranth is present in fields is more likely to become contaminated. Cottonseed and sunflower screenings have been the source of several infestations in the Midwest.

Other feed ingredients, including hay and animal bedding, produced where Palmer amaranth is more



common are also concerns.

Additionally, herbicide resistance is more common further south, meaning other weed seeds that may travel in with the feedstuffs, including waterhemp, may be herbicide resistant.

### Forages from weedy fields:

Any forage produced in weedy fields will likely contain weed seeds, whether harvested as dry hay or ensiled. Ensiling forages will help reduce the viability of weed seed. This is especially the case for grass weed seeds. Even hard-coated seeds like pigweed can be degraded during ensiling. Palmer amaranth seed viability can drop by 40-60 percent after one month of ensiling alfalfa or corn silage (Simard and Lambert-Beaudet 2016).

Don’t assume animal digestion will kill all of the seeds.

Though it will reduce weed seed viability, feeding contaminated feed to livestock will not eliminate all Palmer amaranth seed. Grass and soft-coated broadleaf seeds are more easily destroyed in digestion than hard-coated seeds like Palmer amaranth. In ruminants like cattle, nearly 30 percent of amaranth seed survives digestion (Blackshaw and Rode 1991). The gizzard digestive system of poultry is highly effective at destroying weed seeds. For instance, only 3.5 percent of Palmer amaranth seeds fed to ducks were recovered and found viable (Farmer et al. 2017).

### Manure Management

Internal heat generated by properly composted manure will kill most weed seeds – even Palmer amaranth. Aged manure is not composted manure. Weed seeds are killed in composted manure due to warm temperatures (>140F) for several days. In typical on-farm composting sites, weed seed viability is typically reduced by >90 percent. This percentage is even higher in the best-managed compost sites.

More information on Palmer amaranth in manure: <https://blog-crop-news.extension.umn.edu/2019/06/palmer-amaranth-in-manure-what-can-you.html>.

Even with ideal feed and manure management, weed seed from contaminated feed ingredients can survive the process and cause weed management issues. It is much easier to manage Palmer amaranth and other new weeds with prevention. Be on the lookout for Palmer amaranth and other new weeds around feed storage areas, feeding areas, and in fields with recent manure applications.

### Key Palmer Amaranth Reporting Contacts

If you suspect Palmer amaranth on your farm, please contact one of the numbers listed below. Early detection is key in preventing Palmer amaranth and other invasive species from becoming widely established.

**Arrest the Pest – Web:** <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects/arrest-pest> ;

**Email:** [arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us](mailto:arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us) (visit website for information to include);

**Phone:** 1-888-545-6684.

**Denise Theide – Denise.Theide@state.mn.us;** 651-201-6531.

**Anthony Cortilet – Anthony.Cortilet@state.mn.us;** 651-201-6538.

**Shane Blair – Shane.Blair@state.mn.us;** 507-884-2116.

**U of MN Extension IPM Specialist Bruce Potter – bpotter@umn.edu .**

Any questions regarding Palmer amaranth, noxious weeds, crop production, or any other relevant topics can be directed to your local Extension educator. Residents in Wright County can contact Adam Austing at (320) 249-5929 or [aausting@umn.edu](mailto:aausting@umn.edu).

very strict policies about how it interacts with individuals and it is almost always by mail unless someone reaches out to them by phone or email.

# Editorial/Opinion

## Together With Family

*“Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”*

*-Theodore Roosevelt*

As I get older, seasons seem to come and go more quickly. Summer is fleeting and always ends quicker than expected.

This summer has been an unusual one, yet I have tried to keep a positive outlook and be a joy giver.

The end of August is usually synonymous with the Minnesota State Fair. This year, not so much. The lack of county fairs and annual “Minnesota Get Together” has certainly been disappointing.

The appearance of food trucks in the area offering corn dogs, cheese curds, fresh squeezed lemonade and a plethora of other fair food, have helped soften the blow. Yet, somehow it is not the same as enjoying the 4-H exhibits and walking through the countless buildings at the state fair.

There is something magical about eating cheese curds and pronto pups while smelling the aroma of the livestock barns that takes the culinary experience to another level.

The passage of time during the pandemic has been odd. It is soon the middle of September.

I see local farmers out harvesting in their fields. Colder temperatures have arrived.

Despite the absence of the Minnesota State Fair this summer, a Becker family chose to take matters into their own hands and did not let the pandemic wreak havoc with their annual tradition.

The Dosh family decided to put their own spin on things and orchestrated their own “Minnesota Fair” in their backyard. In the place of traditional props for their annual western photo shoot, such as rifles and money bags, the family opted to use more fitting pandemic props that proved to be challenging to find (toilet paper, hand sanitizer, bleach, wipes and masks).

Julie shared: “Our children and grandchildren are thrilled to keep our tradition going any way they can. Every year, our children and grandchildren meet us at the Minnesota State Fair on opening day and we spend the day together and eat lots of food and drink lots of lemonade. We just enjoy spending time together. The highlight of our day at the state fair every year is getting our western picture taken. We were so sad this year when the fair was cancelled. We decided one of the things we enjoy most about our fair day is the fact that we are together”.

The family even made their favorite state fair foods, including cheese curds, Sweet Martha’s cookies, cotton candy and corn on the cob.

The family says they had a lot of fun planning and executing the western photo shoot even though we were



By Mary Nehring,  
Contributing Writer

not actually at the state fair grounds.

Family time has been especially precious in 2020. Summer is a wonderful time for camping, fishing, bonfires and outdoor activities of all sorts.

Businesses that cater to outdoor activities have been extremely busy according to local business owners I have talked to.

On a positive note, many people have been spending more time outside. From hiking to camping, people are spending more quality time with their family and friends and also reaping the benefits of the great outdoors.

Record numbers of people have planted gardens and are enjoying fresh fruits and vegetables in large quantities. I have tried unsuccessfully to purchase canning jars, lids and rings. It appears there is a serious shortage of canning supplies!

People in my circle have also been planting more flowers to brighten up dreary days.

Paul Eid, Briggs Lake Nursery owner, had this to say about this season: “People have been staying home more and they are sprucing up their homes since they are spending so much more time at home. We have had many first time gardeners purchasing items from the nursery this year and I have also been extremely busy with landscaping projects. I’ve been in business in Palmer for 22 years and this is the best year I’ve ever had.”

Personally, I make a point to shop local whenever I can and support our local businesses.

I also love to purchase locally grown produce, canned goods and honey at the local farmers markets in the area.

Becker Farmers Market is held every Friday from 3 to 6pm in Becker Furniture World parking lot every Friday through Oct. 9.

Big Lake Farmers Market is held every Wednesday at Lakeside Park in Big Lake through September from 3-6 p.m.

It is my prayer that local businesses are able to remain profitable despite the negative impacts of the pandemic.

In the meantime, I am making it a goal to spread some joy, despite the challenging times. Please join me!



**THE DOSH FAMILY’S PANDEMIC WESTERN PHOTO SHOOT** at their home near Becker (above). Front row: Oakley Dosh, Kami Ann Dosh (holding Livy Dosh), Abby Pence, Julie Dosh and Lucy Pence. Back row: Mitchell Dosh, Darrin Pence, Megan Pence and Dave Dosh.



**THE DOSH FAMILY’S MN STATE FAIR western photo** from last year.



**FAIR FOODS** at the Dosh home near Becker.



## Letters to Editor

### TO THE EDITOR:

After I first wrote a letter several years ago for Paul Seefeld who was running for the Big Lake City Council, I wholeheartedly believed not only in him, but what he stood for. I did not know Paul Knier at that time. Now here we are in September of 2020. What a year! So much has changed in our country.

The values that I have experienced in our beloved country for six decades are very much in danger of disappearing and that breaks my heart. I grew up with a strong patriotism, love of God and country, respect for law enforcement, conservative spending, and a very real knowledge of right and wrong. If you break the law, you pay the consequences. If you obey the law you have nothing to worry about. In this time in our lives, it is more important than ever to be a voice in our land, and it is critically important to start at the local level to vote for men/women with those values we cherish.

I continue to believe even more that Paul Seefeld, and now, Paul Knier, are those men. They represent all the above qualities and more. I have known Paul Seefeld for several years, and now Paul Knier for a couple of years, and I know they will give everything they have and do all they can do to keep these values in place. A vote for Paul Seefeld for City Council and Paul Knier for Big Lake Mayor will be a vote to hold on to what we hold dear. Remember, the two Pauls will deliver what they promise!

**Mary Snider**  
Big Lake, MN

### TO THE EDITOR:

Why was this paper changed from *Citizen* to *Patriot*? If there was a rename, it would have been appropriate to ask the community you serve for ideas, instead of renaming. There are far better names that encompass the great things within our community and surrounding communities.

**Sarah Colford**  
Becker, MN

### TO THE EDITOR:

Recently a letter was printed advising people that you can maintain your conservative values AND vote for Democrat Candidates. I beg to differ. Please keep in mind, that in the past eight years DFL legislators have worked double-time to change our great state into a big government, socialist-styled haven. What have we seen? A good place to start would be in 2013. The DFL had control over the entire state government. They raised taxes. They attempted to take away your Second Amendment Rights. They began the process of FORCING everyone to comply with Obama Care – if not, then YOU would be fined. Let’s not forget that they led the charge to shut down our power plants, including Sherco – the economic life blood of our area.

This election cycle, the DFL is striving to DEFUND POLICE DEPARTMENTS as they turn a blind eye to the looting, rioting and destruction in our cities. Some of their members have even participated in these events! I challenge anyone to look up the DFL party platform on the internet. Compare it to the Socialist Party USA platform. They are identical. Socialism destroys nations, wrecks infrastructure and has taken the lives of hundreds of millions of people. We cannot create that kind of a future for our children and grandchildren. Don’t let the Democrats “Highjack your vote”.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Jim Newberger, State Representative, Retired.**  
Becker, MN

### TO THE EDITOR:

In last week’s paper, Mr. Larry Sewall stated the battle cry of the DNC was “I HATE TRUMP, I HATE TRUMP.”

In fact, those words were never uttered. There was, however, much criticism of Trump’s behavior and actions, with many of those speaking at the DNC listing specific incidences for their criticism. These incidences have proof, on video and audio, of President Trump speaking them himself.

Watching the DNC, we don’t recall anyone using the word “hate” towards the president. Yet President Trump shows his hate daily, in bullying & name calling anyone who doesn’t go along with him; Very much the same name-calling that Mr. Sewall used multiple times in his letter to this paper last week.

Larry Sewall says he wants the two parties to work together, but his words say something very different.

Labeling people “Snobs, angry ranters, Hollywood groupies, anarchists and street jackals” does not show any intention of working together. These are bullying tactics used to sow division and unrest. They are not the words of a person seeking harmony and common ground to make a working, wonderful political system.

Now more than ever, we need to use our voices to bring this community & country together as one.

**Laura Swanson**  
**Nancy Hassett**  
Big Lake, MN

## Establishing Remote Notorization

It has been another 30 days since Governor Walz extended his emergency powers and once again the legislature is being called back into session this Friday.

Since we do not have the votes in the House to end his emergency powers, I am focused on at least using the time back in session to get some good work done for the people of Minnesota.

This time, I am authoring a bill to allow and guide remote online notarization. A lot of industries still require notarization and therefore still require face-to-face interaction.

The bill I am working on aims to provide safe and secure transactions for consumers and signatories



By Mary Kiffmeyer  
State Senator

Land Title Association, the MN Realtors Association, MN Bankers Association, MN Mortgage Association, Housing First Minnesota, Independent Community Bankers of Minnesota, and the MN State Bar Association Real Property Section.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you. Interim is a great time to get in touch with me and share any of your ideas or concerns about how these commissions work or suggestions for solutions I take all of your emails and calls seriously and want to make sure I am doing the best I can to address our district’s needs. Please contact me at [Sen.Mary.Kiffmeyer@senate.mn](mailto:Sen.Mary.Kiffmeyer@senate.mn) or 651-296-5655.

during COVID-19. We have learned over the last few months that there are a lot of ways we can better streamline our daily processes and reduce bureaucratic interference, while prioritizing social distancing directives.

This legislation is supported by the Minnesota

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### Patriot Office

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Business Hours: Mon. - Thurs. 8:00 am to 5:00 pm • Friday OFF

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

- **Subscription Rates:** \$75 annually, \$37.50 for six months, \$18.75 for three months or \$1.57 a week.
- **Deadlines:** Wednesday 12 pm Legals & Notices, Wednesday 10 am Display & Classified Ads.
- **Submitted Material:** There will be a \$30 charge for all thank you, engagement, wedding and birth announcement pictures. The PATRIOT is not responsible for correctness of ads received by telephone.
- **Letters to the Editors:** The PATRIOT welcomes letters to the editor. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included 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 noon 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. 2 letters per writer per subject each year.
- **Obituaries:** Obituaries are \$50 prepaid. The Editor reserves the right to edit lengthy obituaries.

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# Announcements

## BECKER SCHOOLS LUNCH

**SEPTEMBER 14-18**

### HIGH SCHOOL:

**Mon:** Corn dogs on stick; BBQ pulled pork on WG bun; baked beans; garden veggie bar; fruit choice; milk choices.

**Tues:** General Tso chicken; Mandarin chicken JR; brown rice; chicken egg roll; green beans; garden veggie bar; mixed fruit; milk choices.

**Wed:** Distance Learning.

**Thurs:** Corn dogs on stick; BBQ pulled pork on WG bun; baked beans; garden veggie bar; fruit choices; milk choices.

**Fri:** General Tso chicken; Mandarin chicken JR; brown rice; chicken egg roll; green beans; garden veggie bar; mixed fruit; milk choices.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL:

**Mon:** Corn dogs on stick; garden veggie bar; fruit choices; milk choices; rice krispie treat.

**Tues:** Mandarin chicken JR; brown rice; chicken egg roll; garden veggie bar; fruit choices; milk choices.

**Wed:** Distance Learning.

**Thurs:** Corn dogs on stick; garden veggie bar; fruit choices; milk choices; rice krispie treat.

**Fri:** Mandarin chicken JR; brown rice; chicken egg roll; garden veggie bar; fruit choices; milk choices.

### PRIMARY & INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL:

**Mon:** Corn dogs on stick or brunch lynch (bagel, cream cheese, & yogurt); baked beans; strawberries & blueberries; milk choices.

**Tues:** Mandarin chicken JR; brown rice or Sunbutter & jelly sandwich; broccoli; peaches; milk choices.

**Wed:** Mini cheese bites; marinara sauce or brunch lunch (bagel, cream cheese, & yogurt); caesar salad; pineapple; milk choices.

**Thurs:** Hamburger in bun or Sunbutter & jelly sandwich; tater tots; apples slices; milk choices.

**Fri:** Popcorn chicken; harvest cheddar sun chip or brunch lunch (bagel, cream cheese, & yogurt); corn; orange wedges; milk choices.

## CLEARVIEW SCHOOL LUNCH

**SEPTEMBER 14-18**

**Mon: No School.**

**Tues:** Crispy chicken tender; BBQ sauce; baked beans; diced pear; milk: 1%, skim or chocolate; turkey & cheese sandwich.

**Wed:** Hamburger on WG bun; Ketchup; peas & carrots; warm cinnamon apples; milk: 1%, skim or chocolate; chef salad.

**Thurs:** Chicken patty on WG bun; peas; fruit cocktail; milk: 1%, skim or chocolate; Sunbutter & jelly sandwich.

**Fri: No School.**

## BECKER / BIG LAKE MEALS ON WHEELS

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES / MEALS ON WHEELS

**SEPTEMBER 14-18**

**During this COVID-19 pandemic**

**Mon-Fri meals are:**

**“What’s on the Menu - Frozen Meals”**

**Frozen meals are available for weekends.**

*1% milk is served with every meal. Menu subject to change. Call 763-856-4082 for more information. Suggested contribution for persons 60+ & volunteers is \$4.25 - \$8.*

## Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events

**Weekly Tuesday morning coffee hour 9:30 to 11AM is now back at the Becker City Park patio behind the park building.** Bring a chair & a beverage & come for conversation with BASC Senior friends. Masks are available. Park in the main lot.

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### Becker American Legion Auxiliary

Meenings are held the second Tues. of every month at the old fire hall in Becker, 7 pm. Paula Hinds 763-262-6679.

### Becker American Legion

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

### Becker AA Meeting

Area 35 Alcoholics Anonymous District 5 meets Thurs. at 8 pm at Church of Mary of the Visitation, 12100 Sherburne Ave., Becker. Steve 612-889-1000.

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

Bring your aluminum cans to the trailer located near Becker True Value & paper & cardboard recyclables to the dumpsters near the same location the first Sat. of every month. There will be a Scout there to help unload between 9 am-12 pm.

### Becker Evangelical Ministries

Every Wed., 6-7:30 pm 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.BECK-ERFREECHURCH.ORG (under Youth Connection click “Event Registration”).

### Becker Food Shelf

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

### Becker Lions Club

Meetings are held the second Mon. each month at 7 pm at Pebble Creek Bar & Grill. Dale Seavert 320-290-5342.

### Becker Lions Collecting Items To Recycle

Items are: eye glasses, hearing aids, cell phones & printer ink cartridges. Collection boxes are located at the Becker Community Center (entryway) & In-sight Eye care.

### Becker Sons of the American Legion Squadron 193

Meets the third Tues. of each month at 7 pm 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.

### 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 the Church of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church, 440 Lake Street N, Big Lake. (church basement). Contact Laurie, 763-218-5330.

### Big Lake Ambassadors

Dear Future Sparkle Sister! You are cordially invited to apply to become a Big Lake Ambassador candidate for the 2020-2021 school year. Coronation of our new Royal Family will be held the last full weekend in June of 2021 at Big Lake Spud Fest.

Young ladies who are able to apply are the girls in grades 3-5 for the little miss program (Independence Elementary), grades 6-8 for the junior ambassador program (Middle School), & grades 9-12 for our senior ambassador program (High School).

If you are interested in applying contact Director Katrine Nau-Jackson 763-843-8338 or biglakeambassadors@gmail.com.

### Big Lake Ambassador Scholarship Program

You will find that our candidate season is an exciting time with our newly reincarnated SPUD-SCHOOL, held on the 4th Monday of each month

from 5:30-7:30. The girls will get together monthly for speakers & activities encouraging public speaking, self-care, professionalism, service, and other key topics. The girls will also be participating in a monthly service project benefiting our community or a local resource. Please keep in mind the key week for our whole program will be the last week of June, SPUDFEST week. To qualify to earn a crown you must be present for all SPUDFEST from June 23 through the 26th in the 2021 calendar year. You certainly can join us without seeking a royal title of a Big Lake Ambassador.

If you are interested in being a part of our program, or have a daughter at Independence, the MS, or the HS, please email biglakeambassadors@gmail.com or contact Director Katrine Nau-Jackson at 763-843-8338.

### The Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary

Meets the first Tues. of each month at 6:30 pm. in the Senior Citizen Center at Big Lake City Hall. Please contact Kathy at 763-263-6093 for membership information.

### 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 exists to provide food & supplies for families in need residing in the Big Lake community & to direct them to other services that may be helpful to them in manner that preserves the dignity & respect of our clients.

Our hours of service are Mon. & Thurs. 5:30-7:30 pm & Wed. 9-11 am. We also serve clients every “Freebie Friday” from 10:30-11:30 am., providing produce, dairy, & bakery goods. To volunteer call 763-263-2432 or www.blcfs.org.

### 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.

### Big Lake Lioness

On Sept. 26, 8am-2pm the Lioness will be holding their annual Garage Sale at Lions Park on CR 5. Available will be household items, clothes, ‘manly’ items for men, books, rugs, linens, toys & other miscellaneous ‘finds’. Stop by & see the selection. Proceeds from this & other projects go to the community in the form of donations for school supplies, winter mittens/hats for local school children, high school scholarships, activities for seniors and supporting our local food shelf.

On Mon., Sept. 28 the Red Cross will be setting up their bloodmobile at Mary of the Visitation Church in Big Lake from noon-6pm. The Red Cross provides about 40% of our nation’s blood & blood components, all from generous volunteer donors. But supply can’t always meet demand because only about 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly. Each new donor helps us meet patient needs. Each year, an estimated 6.8 million people in the U.S. donate blood. It’s never too late to schedule an appointment through the Red Cross website at: www.redcross.org. Masks are required & social distancing will be maintained. The Lioness will be there to handle registration & serve snacks & beverages after your donation.

If you are interested in joining an organization dedicated to service within their community, come visit us the second Monday of every month in the Lions Park on CR 5 in Big Lake. Social starts at 6:30 pm & the meeting begins at 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

### The Big Lake Woman of Today

Hold a monthly general meeting at Senior Activity Center located in the Big

**ANNOUNCE YOUR FREE EVENT!**

**Deadline is Wednesday by Noon**

**Email your event listing to**  
**production@patriotnewsnmn.com**

# Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS from page 9

Lake City Office Building on the 3rd Thurs. of the month @ 7pm. Contact Natalie @ 612-518-3504 or find us at Facebook or www.biglake-womenof today.webs.com.

**Clear Lake Legion**  
Meets the second Thurs. of the month at Palmer Twp. Hall. The Legion will meet at 7 pm. New members are always welcome. Bud Stimmeler at 320-761-5793.

**Clear Lake Lioness**  
We are searching for & welcoming new members who are interested in serving our communities.  
Meetings are the 4th Mon. of each month @ Nelson Brothers Restaurant in Clearwater. Dinner 6:30, meeting to follow.  
We are in search of your fresh new ideas & energy. Sue: 320-743-3534 or Linda: 763-260-8858.

**Clearwater AA/Alanon**  
Meeting is at 7 pm, Sun. night at Clearwater United Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater. 320-310-1399 AA or 320-558-6613 for AI-Anon.

**Clearwater AA Meeting**  
Mon. nights, 7 pm at Church of St. Luke, 17545 Huber Ave. NW, Clearwater. 320-558-2124.

**Clearwater Legion**  
Clearwater Legion meetings are held the second Thurs. of the month. Auxiliary 6:30 pm, S.A.L. at 7 pm, Legion 7:30 pm. Senior Lunch first Thurs. of the month at noon at Clearwater Legion, Clearwater.

**Clearwater-Clear Lake Food Shelf**  
Open Mon. 5:30-7 pm, Tues. 9-11 am & 6-8 pm, Wed. 3-5 pm & in the brown Lions Community Building beneath the water tower in Clearwater. We service residents of Clearwater & Clear Lake.

**Clearwater Narcotics Anonymous**  
Meetings are at 7 pm, Wed. night at Clearwater United Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater. 612-607-4484.

**Dementia Support Group**  
The fourth Wed. of each month at 10-11 am, Room 19 at Becker Community Center, 11500 Sherburne Ave. No cost to join. Tami Kolbinger at 612-590-2449 or email tjkolbinger@gmail.com.

**FREE - Advocates for Independence**  
1st & 3rd Wed. of the month 2-4 pm at Independent Lifestyles, 215 North Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids. Make a difference in your community for people w/disabilities. Michele Pelka 320-281-2042. All abilities are welcome to attend.

**Free Grace Recovery**  
Sun. 6-8 pm at Clear Lake Town Hall, 7684 1st Ave. W. Clear Lake. A light meal will be served at 6 pm. Everyone is welcome. Justin or Renee at 612-384-9069.

**FREE - The Saint Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease (PD) Support Group** invites you to "Coffee & Conversation" the last Wed. monthly at 10 am at Edgewood Living 677 Brianna Drive, Sartell. Meetings are open to those diagnosed w/ PD, their families, caregivers, & the general public. Group provides support, education, & awareness about the disease. Bobbi 320-281-3343.

**GRRL Board Reaffirms Core Values**  
Many know the Great Regional Library as a place to check out books, attend storytimes, & come together as a community. But, what is the library's mission & core values? The Board of the library system recently reaffirmed GRRL's core values of exceptional service, forward thinking, & community focus. They acknowledged the library as a place of an inclusive community embracing diversity.  
GRRL is a patron-centered organization & strongly commit to our values: Exceptional service means that we commit to providing free & equal access to information, operate with respect for all, & appreciate our opportunity to serve, speak and act with honesty & integrity. We are empowered & knowledgeable staff. A recent innovation that

displays this value is working with community partners & cities to provide wifi hotspots (GRRL's WiFi2Go service) & expand wifi accessibilities at our libraries.  
Learn more about the Great River Regional Library system at griver.org/about-us

**GRRL Offers Grab & Go Service**  
Great River Regional Library now offers Grab & Go service, so you can continue borrowing from your local library. Browse your local library for books & items to check out. Look through the bookshelves, ask library staff questions, & pick up your holds, while keeping your visit as brief as possible.  
Additional services may vary by location. You can call your local library to find out more. Remember to look on our website at griver.org/locations to see your library's phone number & service hours.

**Homebuyer Education: Are YOU Ready for Homeownership? Take a Zoom class from the comforts of your own sofa.** Wright County Community Action (WCCA) offers the homebuyer's workshop (Home Stretch). A variety of topics in the home buying process will be covered in the workshop. Experienced area mortgage lenders, real estate agents, home inspectors & other housing professionals instruct the workshop. Volunteer instructors for the workshop are professionals who work in the Wright County area.  
Participants receive a certificate after completion of the workshop. The certificate may assist the participants with a requirement of specialized mortgages, down payment assistance or other programs that could make homeownership more affordable.  
Home Stretch will be offered through a Zoom format on September 15 & 16, 4-8 pm. To register, call Wright County Community Action (WCCA) at (320) 963-6500, ext 238. (Class fee of \$30.00 per household). Once registered and full payment, participates will receive confirmation and a Zoom link.

**Living with Parkinson's Under The Age of 60**  
If you or anyone you know is 60 or under & has been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, you are welcome to attend our group. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8pm at Saron Lutheran Church, 311 Lake Street So., Big Lake, MN 55309.  
Specific topics will be scheduled along with open forum. Spouse/Care Partner/Family are encouraged to attend! Any questions, please call Camille Johnson at 763-350-7401.

**Mental Health Discussion Group**  
Meets Mon., 6-7 pm at Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids. This is a free group, everyone is welcome. Ricky 320-281-2025.

**Parkinson's Disease Support Group**  
Meets third Mon. of the month, from 1-2:30 pm at IL-ICIL Independent Lifestyles, 215 N. Benton Dr., Sauk Rapids. This free group provides support, education, & awareness about the disease. Independent Lifestyles at 320-529-9000.

**Rivers of Hope**  
Advocates for ending family violence, is a non-profit community based agency offering advocacy, support, education & referral services for victims of family violence. Working in partnerships w/ schools, law enforcement, social service agencies & the court system in Sherburne & Wright Co. 763-295-3433 or 1-800-439-2642 or info@riversofhope.org. Free & confidential. Phones answered 24/7.

**Snake River Free Mission Church Upcoming Events**  
Hymn sings are held every other month on the 2nd Sun. at 4:30 pm. Check Snake River Church FaceBook page for updates.  
5 mi. N of Hwy 10 on CR 11, 1.5 mi. E n CR4 & then L on 180th Ave (8940 180th Ave), Becker. Mary 612-219-8648.

**The Monticello Rod & Gun Club**  
For the past 60 years been

the longest continuously we have running Firearm Safety Program in the state of MN. Due to restrictions placed on us by the MN Dept of Administration & the DNR, all in-class & online field days are canceled for 2020. We hope to see you again in April 2021. Monticello Firearms Safety Team, Bob Weiman

**Volunteer as a Foster Grandparent**  
Local schools & organizations need caring adults like you! Orientation, training & ongoing support are provided. Pat Braun 612-390-0617.

**Wright County Community Action**  
You have been affected & are having or are anticipating having difficulty paying your mortgage. **WCCA is here to help you navigate your options & keep your home.** Our advisor not only helps people to achieve ownership, helps owners facing financial difficulty to maintain ownership & avoid foreclosure.  
**To speak with a homeownership advisor, call Wright County Community Action at 320-963-6500 ext. 238 today.** Services are unbiased, confidential & free of charge.

**Yahuah's Annual Sacred Festival of Sukkot**  
Torah Keepers are invited to attend Yahuah's Annual Sacred Festival of Sukkot (Tabernacles) Oct. 3-10. For location, time, questions - call 218-766-8176.

**Young @ Heart**  
Group meeting at Rejoice Lutheran Church in Clearwater, will be canceled until further notice. We will wait until the state allows churches & other gatherings to begin & then look at our group & make a decision.

**September Sherburne Co. Health & Human Services - Classes are as follows:**

**WIC** (Women, Infants & Children) is for women who are pregnant, breast-feeding, recently had a baby, infants and children to their 5th birthday. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding support, healthy foods and referrals to health services/ community resources. The service is free, and you or your children may be eligible. For more information, please call 763-765-4116 or 1-800-433-5239, or check out the website <http://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/hhs/wic.php>. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in the administration of its programs. WIC is an equal opportunity provider.

**Immunization Tuesdays**  
Sherburne County's Immunization Clinic offers free or low cost immunizations for children 18 years of age or younger and uninsured or underinsured adults 19 years and older in Minnesota who meet eligibility guidelines on Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for an appointment or more information, 763-765-4000 or 1-800-433-5239.

## Game Time

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21		22			23			
			24		25			26				
27	28	29		30			31			32	33	34
35			36			37			38			
39					40				41			
42				43				44				
45				46			47			48		
			49			50			51			
52	53	54			55			56		57	58	59
60					61			62		63		
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

### CLUES ACROSS

1. Aurochs

5. Central Dravidian language

10. Split pulses in Indian cooking

14. Tropical starchy tuberous root

15. Well known constellation

16. About aviation

17. Bowfin genus

18. Proper

19. Expression of annoyance

20. Cabbies

22. Bro or sis

23. Spiritual leader

24. Where football coaches work

27. Old TV part

30. A way to color

31. Touch lightly

32. Surround

35. Breached

37. Aristocratic young woman

38. Dry ravine

39. Hebrew measurement units

40. Supporter

41. Type of sword

42. Influential Irish playwright

43. Witch

44. Flower cluster

45. Mark Wahlberg's animal friend

46. Psychedelic amphetamine

47. Actors' group

48. Cool!

49. Salts

52. Group of SE China

55. Illuminated

56. Semitic Sun god

60. Water (Spanish)

61. Employed

63. Japanese ankle sock

64. Fishing fly

65. Some pheasants are this

66. Literary name for Ireland

67. Must have

68. A way to write

69. One point east of southeast

### CLUES DOWN

1. American state

2. Hindu model of ideal man

3. Type of acid

4. Drenches

5. "The Raven" writer

6. Emerged

7. Alpha Centauri: \_\_ Centaurus

8. Democratic Presidential candidate

9. Hostelry

10. Fathers

11. Any plant with leaves used for flavoring

12. Member of a Semitic people

13. Lesotho monetary unit

21. Lots

23. Jewish address for "Sir"

25. Male parent

26. A way to get

27. Body part

28. Seam in an organ

29. Landlocked African country

32. Process for producing ammonia

33. Fluid accumulation in tissues

34. Bugged down

36. Native American tribe

37. Unfashionable person

38. Female grunts

40. Well known

41. Gurus

43. Norse mythological site

44. Tell on

46. \_\_ Farrow, actress

47. Cotton fabric

49. Reciter of Scandinavian poems

50. Clouds

51. Satisfies

52. Shuttered Air Force base in Germany

53. Phil \_\_, former CIA

54. Japanese seaport

57. Female horse or zebra

58. 1st month of ancient Hebrew calendar

59. Trigonometric function

61. Fashionable knowledge (Slang)

62. Insecticide

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[WWW.PATRIOTNEWS.NMN.COM](http://WWW.PATRIOTNEWS.NMN.COM)

**GAME ANSWERS to page 17**

### This Weeks Calendar Events:

**Sun. - Sept. 13, 2020**

- \*\* Grandparents Day
- \*\* National Celiac Awareness Day

**Mon. - Sept. 14, 2020**

- \*\* National Boss / Employee Exchange Day
- \*\* National Line Dance Week (9/14-9/19)

**Tues. - Sept. 15, 2020**

- \*\* Greenpeace Founded: Anniversary

**Wed. - Sept. 16, 2020**

- \*\* Mexico: Independence Day

**Thurs. - Sept. 17, 2020**

- \*\* Constitution of the US: Anniversary, 1787

**Fri. - Sept. 18, 2020**

- \*\* Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
- \*\* National POW / MIA Recognition Day
- \*\* National Tradesmen Day
- \*\* US Air Force Established: Anniversary, 1947
- \*\* Grenache Day

**Sat. - Sept. 19, 2020**

- \*\* Oktoberfest (9/19-10-4)
- \*\* World Marrow Donor Day
- \*\* International Talk Like a Pirate Day

**Patriot:**

One who loves and supports his or her country.



## THE VOLUNTEER BRIDGE

**RSVP/ The Volunteer Bridge**

**Metro North Adult Basic Education** – Students of all ages started educational programs this fall! Help teach adults in the Elk River community learn the English language, and potentially earn their high school diploma equivalent. Volunteers needed to assist students on a one-on-one basis under an ABE instructor. Flexible schedules and training provided.

**Sherburne County Driver's License and Recording Assistant** – Help is needed in the Recording office at the Sherburne Government building! Be the point of contact for individuals coming in to receive service, help direct patrons to the correct paperwork, and assist in answering questions. Background check will be required prior to volunteering. Pre-service training provided! Precautions are in place to ensure volunteers' health and safety.

**BBBS Virtual Mentor** – With these uncertain times, the youth and families Big Brothers Big Sisters serve are among the hardest hit, and they are doing everything they can to keep them safe and supported. Children are needing mentorship now more than ever! They now offer virtual matching - you can attend an Info Session, be interviewed and meet your Little through Zoom! This is a one-on-one volunteer opportunity to provide friendship and guidance to a child in Central MN. The volunteer will meet with their Little 3 - 4 times a month for 12 months.

If you are interested in volunteering in these or other opportunities, please contact:

**RSVP/The Volunteer Bridge**  
763-635-4505  
[RSVP@ci.stcloud.mn.us](mailto:RSVP@ci.stcloud.mn.us)  
[SherburneUnitedWay.org/Volunteer](http://SherburneUnitedWay.org/Volunteer)



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Garage Sale

  
**Granny's Garage Sale**  
Rejoice Lutheran Church  
1155 Cty Rd 75, Clearwater  
Sept. 18 & 19, 8am-2pm  
Sept. 20, 10:30am-Noon  
Ole's Burger & Brew  
Sept. 18 & 19, 11am-2pm

Furniture

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WRIGHT CO. SHERIFF'S ACTIVITY REPORT  
PERIOD ENDING SEPT. 7, 2020

**Aug. 31:** Seth Kenneth Wozniak, 20, of St Cloud, was arrested in Douglas Co. - Wright Co. warrant - 1st degree sale of controlled substance violation. David Franklin Bentley, 34, of Albertville, was arrested in Otsego - charge of domestic assault & MN Dept. of Corrections warrant - parole violation. Danny K Mead Jr, 37, of Monticello, was arrested in Monticello - charge of 3rd degree assault. **Sept. 1:** Krystal Anne Hanson, 50, of Howard Lake, was arrested in Winsted - Wright Co. warrant - 5th degree possession of controlled substance. Violation. Ryan Matthew Hill, 38, of Clearwater, was arrested in Clearwater - Wright Co. apprehension & detention order - 3rd degree DWI violations. Douglas Lamont Gatlin Jr, 29, of Minneapolis, was arrested in Ramsey Co. - Wright Co. warrant - 5th degree possession of controlled substance violation & MN Dept. of Corrections warrant - probation violation. Hunter George Jay Wren, 21, of Maple Lake, was arrested in Monticello - Wright Co. apprehension & detention order - 3rd degree criminal sexual conduct violations. Bashir Abdullahi Muhumed, 22, of St Cloud, was arrested in Monticello - charge of false information to law enforcement. Isaac Martin Hipp, 26, of Ramsey, was arrested in Anoka Co. - Wright Co. warrant - violation of an order - protection. **Sept. 2:** Woodrow Ernest Breland, 52, of Annandale, was arrested in Annandale - Wright Co. warrants - 3rd degree burglary, terroristic threats & fleeing law enforcement violations. Colgate Wood Jr, 39, of Buffalo, was arrested in Howard Lake - Wright Co. warrant - terroristic threat violations. **Sept. 3:** Abdinajib Ahmed Ali, 18, of St Cloud, was arrested in Stearns Co. - Wright Co. warrant - driving without valid driver's license & Dakota Co. warrant - theft. Brittain Imperial Hollie, 33, of Apple Valley, was arrested in Hennepin Co. - Wright Co. warrants - violation of no contact order & interference with 911 call violations. Jeffrey Rex Foster, 37, of Delano, was arrested in Hennepin Co. - Wright Co. warrant - 5th degree possession of controlled substance violation. Ethan Paul Coons, 18, of Buffalo, was arrested in Buffalo - charge of 5th degree possession of controlled substance. Joseph Steward Barse, 27, of Buffalo, was arrested in Maple Lake - Wright Co. warrants - 5th degree possession of controlled substance & driving after

revocation violations. Dustin John Palm, 31, of Rockford, was arrested in Monticello - charge of 5th degree possession of controlled substance, Hennepin Co. warrant - 5th degree possession of controlled substance & an Anoka Co. warrant - theft. **Sept. 4:** Daniel Alexander Kisling, 23, of Waite Park, was arrested in Monticello - charge of 2nd degree DWI. Maria Ann Salgren 42, of Big Lake, was arrested in Monticello - charge of 2nd degree DWI. James Irving Dale, 56, of Minneapolis, was arrested in Otsego - charge of check forgery & Wright Co. warrant - 3rd degree burglary & 5th degree possession of controlled substance violation. Chloe Alyse Olson, 30, of Becker, was arrested in Monticello - charge of theft. Miller Jermaine Johnson, 39, of Minneapolis, was arrested in Otsego - charge of check forgery. **Sept. 5:** Robert Leonard Molstad, 35, of Montrose, was arrested in Montrose - Wright Co. apprehension & detention order - disorderly conduct violations. Joshua Travis Hughes, 44, of Annandale, was arrested in Annandale - Hennepin Co. warrant - 5th degree possession of controlled substance violation. Michael Edward Payne, 29, of Evansville, WY, was arrested in Monticello - Polk Co. warrant - 3rd degree DWI. David Allen Miller, 42, of St. Michael, was arrested in St. Michael - charge of violation of harassment restraining order. **Sept. 6:** Aaron Daniel Lynum, 33, of Buffalo, was arrested in Buffalo - charges of terroristic threats & domestic assault by strangulation. Jason Jon Schulz, 36, of St. Michael, was arrested in St. Michael - Wright Co. warrant - 2nd degree DWI violations. **Sept. 7:** Crystal Ann Collier, 39, of Clearwater, was arrested in Silver Creek Twp. - charge of domestic assault. Olek Douglas Galak, 25, of Howard Lake, was arrested in Howard Lake - Wright Co. warrants - possession of burglary tools & counterfeiting of currency violations. **There were** 17 property damage accidents, 6 personal injury accidents, 6 hit & run accidents & 8 car deer accidents. **There were** 6 arrests - DWI, no underage consumption arrests, no school bus stop arm violations & 95 tickets - miscellaneous traffic violations reported this week.

Announcements

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SHERB. CO. SHERIFF'S ACTIVITY REPORT  
WEEK OF AUG. 25 - SEPT. 6, 2020

The following individuals have been booked into the Sherburne Co. Jail for the alleged offense(s):

Joseph Harold Warthen, 34 of Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 - FEL terroristic threats & GM display firearm. Brandon Jay Harrington, 36 of Elk River, MN 55330 - FEL 5th degree possession & drug paraphernalia. Troy William Angerhofer, 38 of Elk River, MN 55330 - GM domestic assault, GM interference with 911 call & MSD fleeing on foot. Lelajeane Patricia Hass, 36 of Zimmerman, MN 55398 - FEL malicious punishment of child, GM malicious punishment of child & MSD domestic assault (2 counts). Ethan Taylor Grimlie-Johnson, 24 of Becker, MN 55308 - FEL fleeing in motor vehicle, GM refuse search warrant, GM false information, MSD DWI & Sherburne Co. warrant. Joshua Ryan Pendegayosh, 28 of Isle, MN 56342 - FEL 5th degree drugs, GM false information & Dept. of Corrections warrant. Chealsie Ann Laree Scott-Pantze, 28 of Onamia, MN 56359 - FEL 5th degree drugs & Wright Co. warrant. Jonathan Paul Chouinard, 38 of Elk River, MN 55330 - MSD 5th degree assault. Garrett Michal Powers, 39 of Elk River, MN 55330 - MSD domestic assault. Sheldon Bryce Brown, 31 of Brooklyn Park, MN 55445 - FEL receiving stolen property & MSD driving after revocation. Josue Velez, 19 of Elk River, MN 55330 - MSD domestic assault. Shavadis Deonta Givens, 18 of Minneapolis, MN 55411 - FEL fleeing an officer & FEL receiving stolen property. Edward Everett Gerry III, 51 of Buffalo, MN 55313 - Anoka Co. & Sherburne Co. warrants. Tiffany Marie Barthel, 25 of Burrtrum, MN 56318 - Sherburne Co. warrant. Chase Curtis Angell, 23 of Elk River, MN 55330 - Sherburne Co. warrant.

**Citations Issued:** 1 drugs - possess over 1.4, 1 drugs - possess drug paraphernalia, 2 traffic - duty to drive with due care, 11 speed, 1 driver approach fails to yield right of way, 1 no motorcycle endorsement, 2 drive without valid license for vehicle class/type, 1 driving after suspension, 1 runaway, 1 hunting small game without license. **Total: 22**

**Calls for Service:** 1 burglary, 6 theft, 1 theft - mv, 1 theft-mv-other, 3 drugs/narcotics, 2 DWI, 6 disturbing the peace, 8 harassment, 5 property damage, 1 driving after revocation/suspension/cancellation, 1 crimes against administration of justice, 1 trespass, 2 fraud complaint, 1 property lost, 2 animal found, 4 property found, 1 abandoned vehicle, 2 accident - mv personal injury, 11 accident - mv property damage, 4 accident - vehicle v. animal, 1 animal complaint, 5 conservation, 12 dog complaint, 2 dog bite, 1 alarm - fire, 2 gas leak/smell, 2 alarm - carbon monoxide, 23 medical, 5 mental case, 3 miscellaneous public, 6 domestic, 6 public assist, 27 agency assist, 11 alarm - security, 16 civil complaint, 62 officer initiated traffic stop, 16 traffic complaint, 5 suspicious person, 11 suspicious vehicle, 6 juvenile complaint, 1 attempt to locate, 15 security check, 26 extra patrol, 2 loud music complaint, 14 check the welfare, 3 burning complaint, 4 boating complaint, 6 ATV complaint, 3 shooting complaint, 2 repossession, 3 fireworks complaint, 1 cross arm malfunction, 2 parking complaint, 2 jail medical, 4 paper service, 10 suspicious activity, 1 hazardous road conditions, 1 hazardous materials, 21 miscellaneous officer, 4 background check, 1 open door, 2 warrant arrest, 23 transport, 1 911 phone alarm, 10 911 hang up, 2 court book & release, 1 follow up, 1 juvenile runaway, 2 UAV complaint, 4 vehicle lockout, 1 vehicle off road, 1 warrant attempt. **Total: 459**

BIG LAKE POLICE DEPT. ACTIVITY REPORT  
WEEK OF AUG. 25 - SEPT. 6, 2020

**Call for Service Summary:** Total Calls for Service for Week: 264; 2020 Calls for Service: 11,319; Traffic Stops/Enforcement: 69; Citations: 10; Arrests: 1; Medical Emergency Calls: 7; Mental Health Holds: 2; Civil Mediation (Child Custody-Property): 6

**BLPD Jail Bookings - Also Reflected in the Sherburne County Sheriff's Officer Booking Report: Ethan Grimlie-Johnson - (Age 24 - Becker, MN) - Felony Flee in Motor Vehicle, Obstruction, GM DWI Refusal Sun., Sept. 6, 2020:** 900 blk Powell St - Juvenile Complaint - Report of disorderly juvenile, mediated by officers; 460 blk Ormsbee St - Harassment - Officers investigated verbal harassment between parties; 5600 blk Highland Trl - Domestic Disturbance - Officers mediated a verbal domestic altercation; 20040 blk Truman Dr - Disturbance - Officers dispatched mediate a verbal disturbance; 450 blk Donna Ct - Theft - Report of property theft, investigation ongoing.

**Sat., Sept. 5, 2020:** 340 blk Monroe St - Disturbance - Officers dispatched mediate a verbal disturbance; 1500 blk Powell St - Domestic Disturbance - Officers mediated a verbal domestic altercation; Hwy 10/Industrial Dr - Revoked Driver - Driver stopped by officer for traffic violation, issued summons for Driving While Revoked.

**Fri., Sept. 4, 2020:** 5020 blk Mitchell Rd - Disturbance - Officers dispatched mediate a verbal disturbance; Lakeside Park - Juvenile Complaint - Report of disorderly juveniles, mediated by officers; 726 Martin Ave - Property Damage - Report of damage done to vehicle in the lot; 5510 blk Aberdeen Way - Property Damage - Report of damage done to a mailbox; Eagle Lake Rd/Hiawatha Ave - Flee in Motor Vehicle - Officer attempted to stop a dirt bike for a traffic violation, driver fled from officers, officers located the male and arrested for fleeing, obstruction, and DWI refusal. See media release.

**Thurs., Sept. 3, 2020:** 700 blk Rose Dr - Marijuana in a Vehicle - Officer stopped vehicle for a traffic violation, could smell burning marijuana, driver issued summons for Marijuana Possession; Eagle Lake Rd/Minnesota Ave - Vehicle Crash - Report of a vehicle crash with no injuries, report completed; 120 blk Monroe St - Harassment - Officers investigated verbal harassment between parties; 800 blk Harrison Dr - Theft - Report of property theft, investigation ongoing.

**Wed., Sept. 2, 2020:** Lakeside Park - Juvenile Complaint - Report of disorderly juveniles, mediated by officers; 340 blk Pleasant Ave - Theft - Report of property theft, investigation ongoing; Hwy 10/CR 14 - Revoked Driver - Driver stopped by officer for traffic violation, issued summons for Driving While Revoked.

**Tues., Sept. 1, 2020:** Hwy 25/CR 17 - Marijuana in a Vehicle - Officer stopped vehicle for a traffic violation, could smell burning marijuana, driver issued summons for Marijuana Possession; 120 blk Turnberry Trl - Theft - Report of property theft, investigation ongoing; 140 blk Turnberry Trl - Theft - Report of property theft, investigation ongoing; Hwy 10/Lakeshore Dr - Marijuana in a Vehicle - Officer stopped vehicle for a traffic violation, could smell burning marijuana, driver issued summons for Marijuana Possession.

**Mon., Aug. 31, 2020:** 570 blk Eagle Lake Rd - Disturbance - Officers dispatched mediate a verbal disturbance.

# Clearwater Area News

## Two firefighters retire from Clearwater Fire Dept.

By Penny Leuthard,  
Contributing Writer

With two of their firefighters, Travis Miller and Jayson Boon, recently retiring, there are big shoes to fill in the Clearwater Fire Dept.

Travis Miller, who became a firefighter in 2007, grew up around firefighters; his dad, grandfathers, and many of his uncles all belonged to the Clearwater Fire Dept.

"There's a family tie and it seemed like a good thing to do," he said. "I like helping people, and it was a way to help people when they need it most."

Becoming a firefighter takes dedication, there's a lot of studying and training needed to get certified. And even though they try to prepare firefighters for the hard parts of the job ahead of time, it can still be rough.

"It's hard when you don't get the outcome you want," said Miller. "And it's always a sad day when one of your own gets injured."

Even so, it's all worth it.

"You go through a lot of the same things, so the group you're in becomes like a family," he said. "There's a brotherhood, you're all there for the same reason. If you need help everyone is willing to give you a hand."



**RETIRING CLEARWATER FIREFIGHTER Jayson Boon.** (Submitted Photo)

Miller advises anyone thinking about becoming a firefighter to do it.

"It's a lot of hard work to become a firefighter but the payoff is huge," he said. "I have no regrets. If your child gets injured or there's an accident you know what to do besides calling 911. And the relationships you build are lifelong."

Miller decided to retire



**RETIRING CLEARWATER FIREFIGHTER Travis Miller** (Submitted Photo)

from the department after moving closer to St. Cloud and out of the radius for going on calls. He hopes to finally finish his to-do list and spend more time with his wife, Sara, and his children, Faith, Grace, Emma, and James

now that he has more free time. "It's kind-of a weird

feeling to start and finish a project without being interrupted by a call," he said.

Jayson Boon became a firefighter in 2008. He'd been asked to join in the past but felt he was playing too much baseball to have the time needed to dedicate to it. He changed his mind after his uncle, who had been a volunteer firefighter in Michigan, passed away.

"There's a lot of time spent away from your family for training," he said. "And spur of the moment calls that happen during family events."

Even so, the comradery with the other firefighters and knowing he helped save someone's life or property made it all worth it.

The department today responds mostly to medical calls. There aren't many fire calls, and when there are it's usually out of Clearwater's area and they're called in to help. Boon recalled that one did occur close to the fire hall, however, and laughed that it was the quickest they ever got to a call.

"It sounds wrong to say, but when we actually get a fire call everyone gets excited because it's what we train for," he said. "Probably 90% of the calls we get are medicals."

He advises anyone thinking about becoming a firefighter to ask for permission from their families, as the first couple of years

they won't have time for much besides studying and training, which the department does on the second and third Wednesdays of the month.

Boon is hoping to spend more time hunting and with his three kids after retiring from the department, which he only did because he was promoted at work and couldn't make most of the calls anymore.

"Travis and Jayson were both great firefighters and are going to be missed," said Clearwater Fire Chief Ryan Pridgeon. "Travis was always rock steady on scenes, which you need. Jayson was one of my lieutenants and great in that role, too."

Anyone interested in joining the Clearwater Fire Dept. is encouraged to stop by city hall and fill out an application.



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• **BECKER Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)**  
David M. Johnson, Pastor 763-262-7782. Sunday Worship 9 am, Sunday School, Education Hour 10:30 am, Wed. J.U.M.P. 6pm. Hwy 10, turn onto Edgewood Street (near Hwy 25 N exit), 1/4 mile on left.

**Becker Baptist Church** 763-261-4202. Acting Pastor Nathan Bucher Youth Pastor Kevin Drehmel Amy Drehmel, Director of Ministry to Children & Families 11951 Hancock Street, Becker, MN Sunday Worship Service/Children's Church at 10:30 am - register to attend in person or find links to watch online by visiting our website Children's AWANA & Momentum Youth Group on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm www.beckerbaptist.org I Watch us on YouTube **Becker Evangelical Free Church** Located at Becker High School, Patrick Drury, Senior Pastor 763-261-4125. Chris Salvendy, Pastor of Youth Ministries. www.beckerfreechurch.org. Office: 11373 150th Ave SE. Sunday Worship: Becker High School, Worship/Teaching/Fellowship for all ages 10am Sunday school for ages birth-adult during school year. Wed night kids ministries ages K-5. His Kids for K-3 boys & girls. Gym 45 for 4th & 5th grade boys & G.I.R.L.S. Group for 4th & 5th grade girls. ELEVATE for 6-12th grade students.

**Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church**  
Father Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave, Becker, 440 Lake St N, Big Lake. Temporarily, all Masses are being held at the Becker location at 5 pm on Saturday and 9:30 am on Sunday.

**Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
Pastor Yolanda Denson-Byers, 11755 Sherburne Ave, Becker. Sundays Worship at 9:30 am (Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays) Nursery provided Sunday school at 10:00 am, Refreshments & fellowship at 10:30 am. Wednesday 5:15 5th & 6th Grade "Grapple", 6:30 7th - 9th grade confirmation, 7:30 Youth Group. Bible Study: Wednesday 9:30 am. 763-261-5751.

**Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God** Senior Pastor Gerry Bass & Sarah www.oakwoodcbecker.org Services: Sunday Adult Bible Study Class 9:00 am, Children's Sunday School Class 9:00am, Worship Service 10:00 am, Children's Church 10:45 am, Wednesday Night: Royal Rangers & Missionettes (Nursery-6th grade) 7-8:30 pm, Youth Group (7th to 12th grade) 7-8:30 pm. Adult Bible Study 7-8:30 pm. Location: 13140 1st St., Becker (in SW corner of Becker Furniture World) 763-220-6004.

**Snake River Free Mission Church** Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10:30 am. Hymn Sing Second Sunday every other month 4:30 pm. Pastor Steve Johnston. 5mi N of Hwy 10 on Cty Rd 11, then 1.5 mi E on Cty Rd 4, 3/4 mi. N on 180th St. 612-219-8648.

**Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church** Ken Hanson, Pastor 763-262-2177, 15455 59th St SE, Becker, 6 mi N Junction 23 & 16. Praise & Worship 9:30 am Sunday; Wednesday 7 pm all family growth fellowship.

**Beacon House of Prayer** 12264 Pleasant Ave. Becker. Worship Thursday 6:30 pm. Pastors Brian & Linda Holmes. 763-263-3771.

**Maranatha Baptist Church** Pastor Glenn McCarver. Sunday School 10 am, Worship 11 am. Wednesday Prayer Service 7 pm. 763-262-1571.

**Free Grace United** Kevin Wilson, 763-245-0001. Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Peb-

ble Creek Golf Course, 14000 Clubhouse Ln, Becker.

• **BIG LAKE ACTS Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church** 763-263-2287, Pastor Bill Nixon, 20455 187th Ave NW, Big Lake, Sat. 9 am Worship, Saturday. Sabbath School 10:15am.

**Bethany Bible Church** 511 Eagle Lake Road, Big Lake, 763-263-2167, Sunday school: 9 am, Worship 10 am.

**Bridgeview Assembly of God** Pastor Steve Royalty, Service Times: 763-263-6274, 10 am Sunday morning, 6:30 pm Wednesday evening, www.bridgeviewchurch.org

**Community Covenant Church (SYEA)** Pastor Dan Mutter, 763-263-6322, Cty. Rd. 15, 6 miles north of Hwy. 10 Worship, 10:30 am, nursery provided.

**Cornerstone Baptist Church** Pastor Gordon Langdon, 763-263-7878, 15300 Co. Rd. 35, Hwy. 10E, N. on Co. Rd. 15, N. on Co. Rd. 35, 1/2 mi. on left.

**Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrock** Pastor Steve Seiffert, www.hopeinthereligion.weebly.com, 612-788-4349 or 763-263-7990 (LM) 8 mi. N. of Big Lake or 7 mi. W. of Zimmerman or 12 mi. NE of Becker City. Rd. 4.

**IELESIA AMOR VIVIENTE. Living Love Church** 221 Lake St N, Big Lake, Saturday 6 pm. 763-607-5403, Juan & Patricia Aguayo-Pastores, juan.aguayo@amorviviente.com.

**Lord of Glory Lutheran Church** 4 miles E of Big Lake, off Hwy 10 & CR 15, 763-263-3090, Pastor Marty Mabry, Sundays: 8 & 10:30 am Worship.

**Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church** Father Mike Kellogg, 763-447-3339, 12100 Sherburne Ave, Becker, 440 Lake St N, Big Lake. All Masses are temporarily being held at the Becker location at 5 pm on Saturday and 9:30 am on Sunday.

**Riverside Church** Phone: 763-263-2410; Hwy 25 & Cty Rd 14, Big Lake. Schedule: 8:45 am, 10:30 am & 12:05 pm. Info @ www.MyRiversideChurch.com

**Saron Lutheran Church** 311 Lake St. S (Hwy 25), Big Lake, 763-263-2209, www.saron.org. Pastor Kyle Sidlo, Worship Sundays, 9:30 am indoors or live stream. Currently, Saron is not offering Sunday School.

• **SANTIAGO South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA** Angela LaMoore, Pastor, Hollie Holt-Woehl, Pastor, 14675- 37th St, Clear Lake, MN 55319, 763-662-2048. Sundays 8 am drive-in worship. 9:30 am sanctuary worship. For faith formation schedule and information, please visit our website at: sslcmn.org.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical Church** Timothy Zenda, Pastor. (3 mi E of Cty 11, Santiago on Cty Rd 3). Sunday: Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30 am, Divine Worship 9 am. Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sunday.

**Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA).** Pastor Shari Routh 920-573-0193. Church office 763-662-2241. Sun day Good Shepherd Worship 9 am, Glendorado Worship 10:30 am.

**Gethsemane Church (ELCA) Ronneby.** Pastor Barbara Peterson 320-983-5002. Sunday Worship 10 am.

**Glendorado Evangelical Country Church** Pas-

tor Sam Alfano. Sunday School 9:30 am; Worship Service 10:30 am, 3rd Sunday of each mo. 6 pm Singspiration Public Invited. Wed. Awana & Bible Study 7-8 pm for all ages.

• **CLEAR LAKE Living Waters Church** Pastor Mark Stahl 320-292-0250, Sunday morning worship at 10 am (Children's Church provided). Wednesday Bible Study at 6:30 pm (Fellowship Meal at 5:30 pm). 7830 Church St. P.O. Box 26, Clear Lake. lwchurchus@outlook.com web: www.livingwaters.us

**Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod** George Sagissor III, Pastor 320-743-2919. Sunday Worship 8:45 am; Sunday School 9:45 am, Adult Bible Class.

**St. Marcus Catholic Church** Fr. Joseph Backowski 320-743-2481. Mass: Saturdays 5 pm. (year-round) Sunday: Jan -Jun 8 am, July -Dec 10 am; Confessions: Saturday 4:15 pm. 8701 Main Avenue, P.O. Box 237, Clear Lake, MN 55319.

• **DUELML St. Lawrence Church** Father Joseph Backowski. Mass: Jan - June, Sunday 10 am, July - Dec 8 am. Reconciliation: 7:15 am when Mass begins at 8 am & will follow after Mass at 10 am. 320-968-7502 or 320-743-2481. St. Lawrence@victorcc.net

• **CLEARWATER Clearwater United Methodist Church** 405 Main St, Clearwater 320-558-2581. Pastor Alison Hendley. Sunday Worship at 9:30 am. www.clearwaterumcmn.org.

**Freedom Bible Church** Old Clearwater Post Office. 605 Lime St 9:30 am & 6 pm Sundays -Bible Study; 10:45 am Sundays - Worship Service; 7 pm Wednesday - Bible Study.

**Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA** 1155 Cty Rd 75, Clearwater. Pastor: Jim Bump 320-558-6851. Sunday Worship at 9:30 am. www.rejoicelutheranchurch.org

**Church of St. Luke** 17545 Huber Ave. NW Clearwater. Fr. Dennis Backer, Pastor 320-558-2124 Weekend Mass 5pm Sat 8 & 10 am Sunday Weekday Mass: Tuesday - Friday 8 am; Sat 9 am. Reconciliation avail 45 min prior to all Masses. Holy Days as announced. churchof-stlukes.com

**Tri-County Alliance Church** 8464 160th St NW Clearwater (Cty Rd 104 & Hwy 24) 320-558-2750 Pastor David Fogal Sunday School 9 am Worship Service 10:30 am Wednesday Bible Adventure (kids) 6-7:30 pm Wednesday Youth (Gr. 6-8) 6-7:40 pm Wednesday Youth (Gr. 9-12) 7:20-9 pm. tcchurch.com

• **MAPLE LAKE Silver Creek Community Church** Pastor Zach Pryor, 4282 114th St. NW, Maple Lake, 55358 (Co. Rds. 8 & 143 in Silver Creek) Ph. 320-963-3957. www.silvercreekcommunitychurch.com. Sunday Worship 9 am, 10 am Fellowship, 10:30 am Sunday School. Tuesday 5 pm Bible study @ In Hot Water. Wednesday 9 am Bible study @ Irish Blessings, 6:15 Youth Group supper/meeting.

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# 2020 Fall Sports Previews

## Girls cross country brings enthusiasm despite challenges

By Bill Morgan,  
Staff Writer

Trisha Kealy returns for her 16th year as coach of the girls cross country team. She says she enjoys sharing the experiences with the kids and every year is different but each year the kids bring so much personality and enthusiasm.

"It is exciting to see the kids challenge themselves and learn how tough they can be," she says. "Relationships formed can last lifetimes."

Kealy has 25 girls on the roster and her assistant coaches are Kayden Westin and Callie Doucette.

"I am really excited to have them on board, they bring a lot of enthusiasm and the kids enjoy having them with us as well," said Kealy.

Kealy also has her two managers back from last year in Chloe Setrum and Abi Berning.

"They are a great help!"

Kealy's captains are seniors Megan Gregory, Abby Nelson and Jaden Kraus.

"They are all veteran team members and are working very hard to help all of their team mates," she says.



**THE 2020 BECKER BULLDOG GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM. Roster: Seniors: Shelby Dawson, Abby Nelson, Krista Paulson, Gretchen Graftaas, Megan Gregory, Jaden Kraus. Sophomores: Bella Duncombe, Kayla Gruenes, Regan Hausmann, Brooklyn Karel, Raegan Leaders. Freshmen: Olivia Babler, Natasha Berthiaume, Anikah Hall, Emilia Hansen, Anna Kuklok, Alexis Rose, MacKenna Smith. Eighth grade: Ella McDonald, Mina Nelson, Natalie Trenz. Seventh grade: Katelynn Brower, Naiya Hanson, Raelee Lyon, Sophia Malisheski. Managers: Chloe Setrum and Abi Berning. (Submitted Photo).**

"We have several girls returning from our varsity team from last year including, Alexis Rose, Natasha Berthiaume, Ella McDonald, Bella Duncombe and Regan Hausmann. We have some new faces that will help us out — new seniors Krista Paulson and Gretchen Graftaas."

Due to COVID-19, Kealy's squad will be competing against only their conference

and few (if any) fans are allowed to attend large invitations.

"So our meets are all two-to-three team meets," she said.

In the Mississippi 8, Monticello is always very competitive and looks to have most of their team returning. This year, it appears Cambridge Isanti will have a very challenging team as well.

"We are trying to be

flexible with these changes," Kealy said. "There is a limit as to how many runners can be on the starting line at a time so some races will be run in waves. The spectators have been limited for the meets and the kids and coaches must be masked when not competing."

"We are doing our best to keep up the social distancing and proper mask wearing. The kids have been doing well with this. We have not yet been informed whether or not we will be allowed to have post season."

Kealy's background in the sport comes from her track and field days in high school and college. Back in her day, there was no cross country at the schools she attended.

"I used to hang out with the men's team in college," she said. "My sister Jane (hall of fame coach) has been coaching CC in Minnetonka since the mid 80's and I have learned so much from her."

Running in cross country sounds simple, but in fact, coaching the sport can have difficulties associated with it. The mind is sometimes the hardest thing to mold.

"The hardest thing to get through to the kids is the need

for off season training," said Kealy. "And the difference between pain and discomfort."

What is the future of cross country in the area, the schools and the state?

"Minnesota has a very healthy cross country community with very strong traditions and talent that has been recognized throughout the nation," Kealy said. "There are always kids who want to try other things now and then and while we miss those girls, it can be a healthy thing for kids to try new things."

"Our girls have been very consistent these past years and we appreciate the veteran girls providing such good leadership for the younger girls. We have a very inclusive and supportive group."

### Princeton Meet

The Lady Bulldogs competed at Princeton for their first meet of the year, Sept. 3. This triangular was with Princeton and Cambridge-Isanti.

The day was beautiful and a bit breezy with the meet being held at the Becker Middle School this year. The Becker girls had a good showing and placed second as a team in the varsity portion of the meet.

Becker's number one runner was Alexis Rose, who ran well placing third over all with a time of 21:55.56. Newcomer Krista Paulson had a very good, first-ever race and placed seventh overall (22:53.26). Natasha Berthiaume was Becker's third-best girl as she placed ninth. Jaden Kraus was 10th and Abby Nelson 11th to round out Becker's top five. Megan Gregory, Raelee Lyon and Regan Hausmann finished out the team's top eight runners for the 5K race.

The JV girls ran a 2925 meter course and Olivia Babler placed first, Anikah Hall second, Anna Kuklok fourth, Emilia Hansen fifth and MacKenna Smith sixth.

In junior high, Becker's Katelynn Brower took home first place, Naiya Hanson fourth and Sophia Malisheski fifth on the 2250 meter course.

"There were a few nerves as this was the first meet and some of the girls had never raced in a CC meet before," said Kealy. "They handled everything like champs and worked hard and we are very proud of all of them!"

## Exciting season expected for boys cross country

By Bill Morgan,  
Staff Writer

Entering his 11th season as a coach at Becker High School, Dustin Weege will again hold the reins to the boys cross country squad for the 2020 school year.

Weege has Patrick Drury as his assistant coach, who is also in his fourth season teaching youngsters.

"I devote time to coaching high school student-athletes in order to pass on the blessings that have been shared with me over the years and in attempts to help young men and women continue their growth as great citizens within our society," said Weege when asked, why he continues to coach.

"I am in the business of building relationships and mentoring young minds in order to guide them into being individuals that will help lead our future generations as servant-leaders that work to make positive impacts in our world

and discover their great purposes in this life."

In order to do this, Weege says students must all recognize that they hold unique responsibilities as part of a team.

"We can accomplish amazing things while supporting each other to maintain our determination and grind through the challenges with grit, strength, and endurance," he says.

His captains this year are seniors Lukas Karel, Cade Stommes and Luke MacDonald, along with sophomore Tyson Ricker. He also credits seniors Wyatt Hiltner and Keegan Murphy — along with sophomore Mason Becker putting in a ton of work during the off-season to prepare the kids.

"Junior Ryan Nelson holds some nice leadership qualities as a strong young man, too," said Weege.

When asked who is the team's biggest rival, Coach Weege had a unique answer.

"The Clock. We recognize that we must control our controllables and we step out on the course each meet to compete against the clock and that little voice that tries to tell us to quit."

"We work to minimize that voice as we strive forward toward many worthwhile ventures in our lives. Racing brings to light the internal battle that we all face in our lives and we work to always run the race with endurance and perseverance."

COVID-19 is bringing immense challenges to schools and sports teams, but Weege and Drury are anxious to face those challenges.

"The reduced season complicates things as it takes time to create the physical adaptations in endurance training," Weege says. "Additionally, we have been adjusting to the mask mandates as we are outdoors and exerting ourselves during our workouts."

Weege says his team is spreading out more and are working to keep all members safe.

"Our events are now significantly smaller than what

we have often had in the past as we are limited to two or three teams at a venue. This makes it a different environment for all, and yet we are embracing it and controlling our controllables to make these great experiences."

Weege's background in athletics includes football, wrestling and track and it wasn't until college days did he give cross country a try.

"I decided to join the fall cross country team in preparation for further preparation for college wrestling," he said. "It was then that I fell in love with the running community and added another passion."

Weege ran for four years in college and was a captain his senior year.

"I have also continued my running and have been working to continue to pass on knowledge and passion to others as well."

One of the hardest things to teach youngsters in cross country is consistency, Weege says.

"Recognizing that physical fitness requires daily investments throughout the year (even if it is not always running), I encourage many to

be multi-sport student-athletes and engage in great workouts throughout the year," he says. "Additionally, it is a little tricky to teach student-athletes about different intensity levels as we work on different energy systems with our workouts. Some days we need to push significantly hard, while other days are intentionally designed to be lighter exertion days in which we focus more on running form/economy."

Weege's team's motto this year is to "run the race with endurance". He says they are working to accomplish that as they continue to take one step at a time over the course of their journey.

"Running is a great lifelong activity that continues to see more and more opportunities. Virtual events have become more popular in recent months due to the pandemic, yet it is still great to be able to get together and compete in person. Our numbers within the team have remained fairly steady over the last several years and I'm looking forward to seeing the great work payoff for our nice group of runners now and in the future."

The roster includes: Dai-

len Adu-gyamfi, Isaac Bauer, Isaac, Mason Becker, Bryce Berger, Kabir Bhakta, Hank Bjerga, Noah Bloch, Ryan Boecker, Thomas Cota, Jonathan Drury, Ethan Duncombe, Logan Eisle, Austin Ekley, Henry Epperly, Oakley Esping, Jacob Gareis, Landen Goebel, Nathan Good, Nathan Gunderson, Ryan Guthmiller, Denlan Harmoning, Braeden Heinen, Wyatt Hiltner, Benjamin Howe, Kellen Hurt, Martin Huwe, Calvin Hyrkas, Lukas Karel, Alex Kinney, Owen Kolbinger, Bruce Kraemer, Bryce Kuschel, Matt Kuschel, Landon Lahr, Carter Leither, Ray Lyon, Luke Macdonald, Bodie Moore, Colt Moore, Keegan Murphy, Ryan Nelson, John Nielsen, Luke Oconnor, Emery Olson, Jacob Peterson, Tristan Pickwall, Brock Ramola, Caleb Reckelberg, Jonathan Remker, Tyson Ricker, Grant Riedel, Devin Riley, Joshua Robertson, Derek Roske, Tucker Schmoll, Christopher Stich, Cade Stommes, Ethan Tobako, Jase Tobako, Sam Warren, Jace Weinmann, Alexander Weiss, Nathan Zimmerman.

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# 2020 Fall Sports Previews

## Bulldogs swimmers and divers have talent, depth

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

When head coach Tina Tamm looks at her team's roster, she likes what she sees. Talent? Check. Depth? A ton. Experience? How about seventeen returning letter winners. Put it all together and it equates with some high expectations this season in the BHS aquatics center.

"We have a great group of girls with a lot of talent. . . many of them can move around in the line up and do great things," says Tamm, who is entering her 21st season. "We gained some very talented 7th and 8th grade girls that are going to contribute a lot to this season as well."

Her team is off to a fast start with a pair of wins in its two meets, and while the victories are nice, she is keeping her athletes focused on continuous improvement.

"The expectations for this season are to continue to always improve, whether that is each individual girl continuing to improve their times or the team improving our win total," says Tamm, who is being assisted this year by Avery Tamm and ten year veteran dive coach Kayla Kalinowski. "We want to continually get better with



**THE 2020 BECKER BULLDOG GIRLS SWIM/DIVE TEAM.** Row one, left to right: Madilyn Cox, Katelyn Uecker, Eleanor Pancoast, Monica Zimmerman, Sophie Studer, Megan Hook, Karli Kirk and Lillian Bonsante. Row two, left to right: Nadine Super, Kadence Cox, Grace Wynia, Kaelyn Drayna, Kennedy Riffe, Lucy Pink, Paige Johnson and Olivia Diercks. Row three, left to right: Taya Borkoski, Morgan Schrader, Annika Howe, Nev Baune, Arleigh Pudlick, Cassie Kupeczyk, Sarah Woelfel, Lauren Woelfel, Bella Kuschel, Chloe McDonald and Natalie Yuker. Row four, left to right: Avery Maunu, Tia Schaap, Laila Cook, Brianna Dahle, Haiden Berrios, Delaney Varney, Meghan Swanson, Brooklyn Broberg, Joey Cox, Paige Maunu and Sophia Bonsante. NOT PICTURED: Sarah Schmidt, Grace Gifford, Grace Withrow, and Natasha Baker (Submitted photo).

each event and race."

On the diving board this year, Kalinowski will have a pair of top performers to work with in Sarah and Lauren Woelfel, both top 20 finishers in state a year ago.

In the swimming events, Tamm has many interchangeable parts that can present a formidable lineup in several configurations.

Some of the top performers figure to be Delaney Varney (100 butterfly), Avery Maunu (50 and 100 freestyle), Grace Wynia (200 IM and 100 breaststroke) and Laila Cook (200 IM, 100 butterfly and 100 breaststroke). Many of the relay events could be top notch as well.

Captains for this year's team will be Annika Howe,

Sarah Woelfel and Nev Baune.

Returning letter winners include the Woelfels, Varney, Maunu, Wynia, Howe, Baune, Kyla Henkemeyer, Sarah Schmidt, Morgan Schrader, Monica Zimmerman, Kadence Cox, Nadine Super, Arleigh Pudlick, Tia Schaap, Meghan Swanson and Lucy Pink.

One big difference for this season will be that the MSHSL is not allowing fans at meets which will lead to a more somber atmosphere.

"If someone has ever been to a swim meet they know that it can get quite loud when the fans are all cheering during a race, but this year it is going to have a whole different feel to it," says Tamm. "The girls will still be cheering for each other, but it's going to be a lot quieter than we are used to."

While the pandemic has put a crimp in the spectator aspect of the meets, there was one positive to the situation, according to Tamm.

"One good thing that came out of the COVID issue was that the summer camp this year was at the end of the summer," she says. "The MSHSL extended that coaches contact date to the beginning

of August so I was able to have the camp up to the week before the season started. This helped the girls get in to shape and not lose the training before the season started."

That seamless transition fit well with Tamm's focus on having every girl focus on their individual improvement.

"I have always been the coach who tells the girls to look at the clock and not the place they finish," says Tamm. "When they each improve their own times, then the team benefits as a whole."

The final question facing the team this year is what the MSHSL plans to do with the postseason.

"At this point, we have no idea what our post season will look like," says Tamm. "We are hopeful that they will have something figured out soon and we are still training the girls as if it is going to happen."

And if it indeed does happen, only time will tell how the team's talent and experience translates into post season success.

### Bulldog Swimmers Move To 2-0

With a hard fought 95-91 win last Thursday over the Cambridge-Isanti Bluejackets, the Becker swimming and diving team pushed its record to 2-0 on

the season.

"It's been a long time since we've started out 2-0 and we hope to keep the streak going," said coach Tina Tamm. "Not only have we won the meets, but the girls continue to improve their times."

First place finishers at the meet included the medley relay team of Arleigh Pudlick, Grace Wynia, Laila Cook and Tia Schaap, with Wynia also winning the 100 breaststroke and Cook winning the 100 butterfly and 200 IM.

Meghan Swanson picked up a pair of first place finishes, winning in the 200 freestyle and the 500 freestyle.

On the diving board, Sarah Woelfel picked up the win for the Bulldogs.

Speaking about her team, Tamm is excited with the way the athletes are performing early in the season.

"They are swimming very well right now and will continue to train and keep improving," said the coach. "We have started strong this season and are hoping to continue the ride."

The next match for the girls was scheduled for last night (Friday) as they traveled to Chisago Lakes for a conference matchup. See details in next week's *Patriot*.

## Bulldogs boys soccer looking for balance

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

As he enters his third year as the head coach of the Becker boys soccer team, Nick Crowley is striving for balance for his team.

"I know that we will have to work on our defensive side of the game more," says Crowley, who will be assisted this year by Damien Klug. "Our offensive side features a lot of our seniors, so I am not as worried about that . . . the goals will come."

Crowley is looking for Carson Makarrall and Max Rositas to step up this season and provide the team's offensive spark, while on the defensive side of the game, he's looking to Riley Boyer to provide the experience and leadership.

Crowley's challenge this year is real, as COVID-19 wiped out his team's chances for captain's practices in the summer just as they were trying to replace eight seniors who graduated

from a year ago. The loss of summertime actions, as well as social distancing guidelines for practice this fall, means that practices have taken on a different look.

"We spent a few more practices focused on conditioning and we haven't practiced as many set pieces - corners, throw-ins, free kicks - because I've tried to keep the players spread out," says Crowley. "But we've done a lot more skills and passing, which is good."

He adds that the team is relying on all of its seniors for leadership, including its three impressive captains in Makarrall, Ray Lyon and Boyer. With smaller freshmen and junior classes represented on this year's team, the coach says he is looking for his sophomores to really step

up this season and have an impact.

While there continue to be unknown factors to the season, such as not knowing when or if the playoffs will happen, the team has set goals based on taking things one day at a time.

"Improving from last year is at the top of our list," says Crowley,

who says last season the team had hoped to do better than their record indicated. "Last year, we entered a new conference with much bigger schools, but we also didn't play our best. This year I think we have plenty of players with varsity experience."

When asked to describe his philosophy as coach, Crowley is quick to point out the team's priorities.

ities.

"I know we'll have fun, we always have fun, so I'm not worried about that," he says. "I hope they continue to learn the things I stress and learn from the sport as well, including working as a team, communicating, respect, understanding success and failure, how to overcome adversity."

In terms of what he asks of the players, he wants them to understand their strengths and weaknesses and to be able to sacrifice for the team and teammates.

"I think we have to take the season in stride and be appreciative of the fact we have a season that feels somewhat normal," adds Crowley. "I am emphasizing heavily that we need to play and practice like it's the last time we'll play. I try to stress that normally, but as unfortunate as it is, covid might help hammer that point home."



## Girls soccer ready to compete in 2020

By Bill Morgan,  
Staff Writer

The Bulldogs girls soccer team will be guided

in 2020 by their long-time Head Coach Arnold Changamire.

Unfortunately, Changamire was unable to be

reached to participate in this fall sports special in the *Patriot*.

Look for updates on matches from throughout

the season in the following weeks.

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# 2020 Fall Sports Previews

## Trunta follows legendary Bruns at Hornet CC

By Bill Morgan,  
Staff Writer

Big Lake Coach Todd Trunta will be managing 58 cross country runners from grades 7-12 for the 2020 season. He also noted that number could increase by five to 10 runners as the early season progresses.

Trunta is replacing long-time running coach John Bruns, who retired following the 2019 season. Trunta was Bruns' assistant for 26 years and he will have help from varsity Assistant Coach Andy Noble and Middle School Coach Jean Hagberg as they try and wrangle a sport schedule filled with tricky pot-holes due to COVID-19.

"It has definitely been a different start to the season," said Trunta. "We received about six pages of guidance and information from the MSHSL on cross-country that cover practices and competitions."

Trunta says some things he has implemented include having athletes congregate in pods of 25.

"That pod serves as their main training partners," he said. "When runners come to practice, they come masked and have socially distanced spots to sit with their pod and set their gear."

Trunta says when the kids are heading out for their workouts, the runners can unmask and the coaches can send the runners out in waves so they are further spread out.

"At competitions this year we can have a maximum of three teams and only 25 runners may be on the start line at a time," he says. "There are many other changes, but the runners have done a pretty good job of adapting and are happy to get the chance to compete."

When asked why he continues to coach youths for so many years, Trunta had no problem answering the question.

"I grew up with coaching. My father was a teacher and high school coach, so I was always at games and watching him work."

Trunta says he was involved in athletics throughout school and loved competition and striving to be better.

"Cross-country is a wonderful sport. It's so objective and measurable. The runners strive to become faster than they were, regardless of their place in the race. In that way, cross-country allows everyone in the race the ability to be successful."

Trunta says to be there in the moment of accomplishment with athletes as

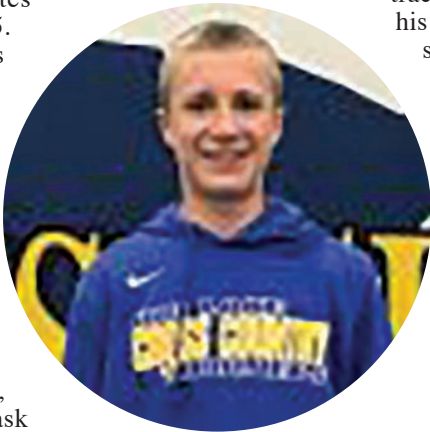


THE 2020 BIG LAKE HORNETS BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS recently competed at home against Monticello and St. Francis. (Photo by Bill Morgan).

they win a race, or record their fastest time, or meet their goals, it is an incredible feeling.

"That's why I coach."

As of this week, the MSHSL hasn't devised a plan for sections and state playoffs. Given the restrictions on meet size, Trunta is not sure those meets will happen this year.



OWEN LAYTON is one of Trunta's big stars on the boys team. (Submitted Photo).

"I feel our boys' varsity team can place in the top three of the conference. We have a very strong top three with ninth grader, Owen Layton, 10th grader Kade Layton, and 11th grader, Christian Noble. We need two others to emerge from the next group of four-to-five runners."

Last year Owen Layton, as an eighth grader, finished second in the conference meet and qualified for the state championship.

"Our girls' team has vastly improved from last year. Josephine Lentz, 12th grader, is our top runner on that side," said Trunta.

"My job as the cross-country coach is to help make my runners as fast as they can be. Not everyone on the team has the ability or drive to be a state competitor, but all have the ability to become faster."

Trunta says the runners and coaches celebrate when a runner completes their new longest run, and they take pride when an athlete finishes a race without walking.

"We know that those

runners pushed themselves, maybe even more than the runner that took first place in the race. We celebrate the triumphs over our previous times and fitness levels. We certainly enjoy and strive for wins and state berths, but it isn't required to have a successful season."

Trunta competed in both cross-country and track & field throughout his junior and senior high school years at Sauk Centre. He also competed in both sports for his four years at St. Cloud State University.

Following graduation at SCSU, he was hired in Big Lake and has coached distance runners ever since.

**The boys cross country team includes:** Devin Amundson, Vincent Anderson, Austin Barzee, Robert Benner, Lita Biers, Reed Bottema, Trenton Brown, Jacob Butkevicius, Isaac Carlson, Zach Carlson, Zachary Carlson, Joshua Childs, Adiel Cisneros, Tyler Dehmer, Zachary Dembinski, Matt Denzen, Austin Eccless, Michael Edlund, Richard Edlund, Kian Eisenschenk, Carter Erickson, Kyle Ginther, Tre Gordy, Blain Grover, David Guyse, Sam Hagberg, Jayden Hegdahl, Tristan Hegdahl, Luke Hugo, Jack Iverson, Tanon Jacobson, Brady Johnson, Gabe Juhl, Brandon Kneeland, Caleb Krebs, Alex Kuntz, Ethan Lamere, Kade Layton, Owen Layton, Jack Leuer, Spencer Lommel, Damien McIntire, Jayden Mclearn, Chandler Nagorski, Niko Nau, Maceo Nelson, Christian Noble, Tyler Olson, Alexander Ombongi, Carter Oney, Jonah Overby, Drew Parks, Hunter Pawelski, Joseph Peters, Jacob Polacec, Isaiah Prom, Ahkeem Robinson, Julian Robles, Jady Rust, Evan Scales, Kyle Segner, Jace Shadden, Riley Siegrist, Collin Skaug, Avery Skyppec, Ryker Stukenholz, Jeff Swanson, Hayden

Thieke, Jaxyn Tschritter, Blake Turberville, Micoda Turner, Freddy Visci, Gavin Vold, Spencer Vold, Thomas Vrudney, Mason Wendlandt, Wyatt Windhorst.

**The girls cross country team includes:** Jazmin Acuna Diaz, Jenna Ages, Aliyah Agyekum, Jaden Anderson, Omnika Asher, Adriannah Aubuchon, Allison Bahe, Ella Beach, Lita Beirs, Josephina Bjorkedal, Alayna Boe, Mariah Bridgeman, Codi Bunting, Samantha Burton, Katelyn Chaffe, Tenley Cremers, Morgan Czech, Sommer Dahl, Chloe Danzl, Amelia Degen, Hailey Dickson, Emilee Doperalski, Taylor Edmonson, Kennadie Ell, Jade Flavin, Karsyn Forgey, Grace Gardner, Anika Garland, Bailey Goracke, Zarah Griner, Teagen Harmon, April Harrison, Grace Heider, Emma Hess, Erin Iaquinto, Grace Isaacson, Anna Jeffrey, Abigail Jensen, Karleigh Johnson, Gwen Keller, Erin Kjellberg, Grace Kluk, Addy Knick, Grace Knodle, Elain Kolova, Magbah Lahai, Payonnoh Lahai, Kayla Larson, Josephine Lentz, Xandra Lindman, Ariana Luan, Rachel Lueing, Josey Luettmmer, Ashley Madison, Lisa McMullen, Mia Mielke, Jacqui Miller, Carter Monson, Georgia Morris, Maia Nelson, Allison Nguyen, Alice Ni, Ashlee Ogren, Stephanie Olson, Victoria Olson, Rylie Ostrom, Josie Parks, Paige Paumen, Morgan Pierce, Kylie Plattner, Olivia Potter, Nicole Rempel, Hannah Renslow, Hannah Roberston, Karina Rodriguez, Karla Rodriguez, Mya Rondo, Erin Rootes, Jessalyn Roussin, Jaydon Rust, Jessica Schmidt, Miranda Segner, Campbell Slatery, Kaitlyn Smith, Taylor Squires, Olivia Stockham, Hannah Strom, Sierra Stromberg, Sophia Tienter, Hattie Trulock, Ashley Vongsaphay, Lydia Wang, Tennessee Wanhala, Elissa Wennblom, Erika Werner.



THE 2020 BIG LAKE HORNET/SPECTRUM CO-OP TENNIS TEAM. (Submitted Photo).

## Tennis team expecting bigger and better things

By Bill Morgan,  
Staff Writer

The Big Lake Girls Tennis Team — under the tutelage of Brett Mattson — hopes to take positive strides in 2020 as they grow the culture of the sport and engage the youth.

Big Lake tennis is a co-op with Spectrum High School (Elk River) and this is Big Lake's fourth year as a co-op and Mattson's eighth year at the helm.

Mattson was once a varsity tennis player for four years while he attended Elk River High School.

Thirty two high schoolers and nine middle schoolers comprise this year's squad. Julie Brown is the JV coach and Tanner Krutzig is the middle school coach.

Captains for this year's team are senior Sophie Wesolowski and juniors Ella Dotzler and Lilly Stolte.

### Annandale 6, Big Lake 1

#### Singles:

Tuesday, the Hornets took on Annandale on the road and lost, 6-1.

No. 1 - Jennah Groth, (AC) defeated Ari Laun, (BL), 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Olivia Honsey, (AC) defeated Ella Dotzler, (BL), 6-0, 6-0, -;

No. 3 - Faith Simon, (AC) defeated Sophie Jones (BL), 6-0, 6-1, -;

No. 4 - Lilly Stolte, (BL) defeated Josie Hillestad, (AC), 7-6 (3), 6-4, -;

#### Doubles:

No. 1 - Jillian Kulm, and Ella Yeager, (AC) defeated Sophie Wesolowski, and Janelle Gerdts, (BL), 6-1, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Rilee Norgren and Kate Jonas, (AC) defeated Emmy Bowne and Brynn Mossak, (BL), 6-3, 6-2, -;

No. 3 - Alicia Langbehn and Amy Eckstrom, (AC) defeated Kayla Niedzielski and Avae Burfeind, (BL), 7-5, 6-2, -;

### Princeton 7, Big Lake 0

Sept. 3, Big Lake trav-

eled to Princeton and lost their match to the Tigers.

#### Singles:

No. 1 - Amelia White, (PT) defeated Ari Laun, (BL), 6-2, 6-2, -;

No. 2 - Avery Romann, (PT) defeated Ella Dotzler, (BL), 6-1, 6-1, -;

No. 3 - Lydia Erickson, (PT) defeated Sophie Jones, (BL), 6-1, 6-3, -;

No. 4 - Emma Benjamn, (PT) defeated Lilly Stolte, (BL), 6-0, 6-0, -;

#### Doubles:

No. 1 - Lily Wy-luda, and Riley Turnquist, (PT) defeated Sophie Wesolowski and Janelle Gerdts, (BL), 6-1, 6-0, -;

No. 2 - Emily Anderson and Violet Wy-luda, (PT) defeated Emmy Bowne and Brynn Mossak, (BL), 6-1, 5-7, 7-5;

No. 3 - Hailey Lupkes and Jeneva Marciano, (PT) defeated Kayla Niedzielski and Avae Burfeind, (BL), 6-1, 6-4, -;

### Monticello 5, Big Lake 2

Sept. 1, the Hornets hosted the Magic of Monticello and lost by three games.

#### Singles

No. 1 - Hannah Mayer, (MM) defeated Ari Laun, (BL), 6-3, 6-4, -;

No. 2 - Emma Cordell, (MM) defeated Ella Dotzler, (BL), 6-2, 7-5, -;

No. 3 - Rebecca Rous-slang, (MM) defeated Sophie Jones, (BL), 6-3, 6-3, -;

No. 4 - Lilly Stolte, (BL) defeated Samantha Pullen, (MM), 6-3, 6-4, ---;

#### Doubles:

No. 1 - Grace Kuta and Rachel Solberg, (MM) defeated Sophie Wesolowski and Janelle Gerdts, (BL), 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (4);

No. 2 - Taylor Gearey and Abigail DeLarco, (MM) defeated Brynn Mossak and Emmy Bowne, (BL), 7-5, 7-6 (3), ---;

No. 3 - Kayla Niedzielski and Amelia Gardner, (BL) defeated Hannah Melvin and Ava Melvin, (MM), 6-3, 6-3, -;

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# 2020 Fall Sports Previews

## Hornet girls soccer has competitive edge

By Bill Morgan,  
Staff Writer

Seventeen girls will make up the Big Lake Hornet girl's soccer squad with their backup goalkeeper also playing JV.

Mike Turner and Kelly Dilger as co-Head Coaches for the varsity team with Derek Holman taking on the role of the JV coach and assistant varsity coach. The team has one student manager, Jaycie Bergherr, who is in 10th grade.

Dilger has coached the Big Lake girls soccer team since the 2015-2016 season, now entering her fifth year.

"I started as the JV coach and this is my third season as the co-head varsity coach," she said.

"I have enjoyed soccer ever since I began playing at six years of age," said Dilger. "I played all four years at an NCAA Division-I college."

Dilger has lived in Big Lake since 2005 and she also coached the Big Lake Boys' JV HS team in the 2006-2007 season before she went back to graduate school to get her MS Degree in Industrial-Organizational Psychology.

"My daughter (who is now the varsity goalkeeper) started playing soccer when she was seven and I started coaching her U8 Big Lake Soccer Association (BLSA) club team at that time," Dilger says. "I also coached an U13 boys' team and a U13 girls' team at BLSA."

It was around that time that the JV coaching position opened up at Big Lake High School and Dilger thought it would be a good opportunity to continue to grow Big Lake soccer players in the community.

"When BLSA merged with Becker's Soccer Club a few years later and became Tri-County United (TCU) Soccer Club, I decided to take the Director of Coaching (DOC) position at the club in order to help the local club team develop soccer skills in kids who were interested in playing soccer."

Dilger says most of the seniors that are playing this year are the same girls who she coached at U13.

"So it's been rewarding to see them grow as soccer players throughout the years. The majority of them have verbally committed to playing soccer in college next year."

Captains for 2020 are seniors Ava Vizenor and



**THE 2020 BIG LAKE HORNET GIRLS SOCCER TEAM.** Back row (left to right): Trinity Zoccoli, Mackenzie Cypull, Abby Polacec, Rylie Sternquist, Kelsey Meyer, Emily Steen, Sophia Lange. Front row (left to right): Halle Holman, Lexi Moen, Lauren Huver, Ava Vizenor (captain), Kady Dilger, Mya Turner (captain), Savannah Baker, Lilly Berglund, Kaycie Jacob (Submitted Photo).

Mya Turner.

Dilger says all of the teams Big Lake plays in their conference are competitive, but since she has been the coach at Big Lake, she says BLHS's biggest rival is Becker.

"We have played them a few times the last few years and it's been back

example, how to keep the girls motivated to play hard when you're losing."

Dilger and Turner try and mix in the best combination of quality player to gain an advantage over the opponenets. Sometimes, the star players get more playing time, but the purpose of athletics is to win the game, match, set and point.

"The season is short for high school soccer, we have 11 games in seven weeks," she says. "So the practice days between games for varsity are focused on tactics and strategy for getting the players on the same page and really play as a team."

Dilger says the philosophy she and Coach Turner use when determining who is ready to step up and start the game and stay in the game is based on attitude, hard work, fitness level and then skill level.

"This team has been one of the most competitive teams since I have been the coach at Big Lake," she says.

The girls soccer team includes: Trinity Zoccoli, Mackenzie Cypull, Abby Polacec, Rylie Sternquist, Kelsey Meyer, Emily Steen, Sophia Lange, Halle Holman, Lexi Moen, Lauren Huver, Ava Vizenor (captain), Kady Dilger, Mya Turner (captain), Savannah Baker, Lilly Berglund and Kaycie Jacob.



and forth," she says. "I also have coached a few of the girls from Becker when they played for TCU."

Due to COVID-19, Turner and Dilger have had to make a few adjustments to keep their fall season on track.

"I am happy we are having a season this year," Dilger says. "I wouldn't say there are any big challenges, just changes that we have to make to ensure the safety of the players and staff. We do health check questionnaires before every practice and games to make sure players are healthy and for contact tracing, which is required by MSHSL. We sanitize equipment, wear face masks, and social distance when required."

And when it comes to coaching the skills of soccer to the young student-athletes, Dilger is certain the mental part of the game is key for success.

"Attitude is probably the hardest to teach about the game," she says. "For

## Boys soccer has new coaches, new outlook

By Bill Morgan,  
Staff Writer

The Big Lake boys soccer team is coached by Mike Baldwin and consists of 20 players. This is Mike's first year steering the ship and he is assisted by Brennen Baldwin.

Mike and Brennen have a love and passion for the sport of soccer and they use those emotions to drive them in their devotion to teaching the youth the world's most popular sport.

Brock Knick, a senior on the team has been named 2020 captain for the Hornets.

"We have a young team," says Mike. "My expectation this year is to have the team learn how to play together as a team by communicating, trusting and learning to play our formation."

Due to COVID-19,

the teams at each school have rules and restrictions they need to abide by and Mike and Brennen are making sure the rules get followed.

"Players and coaches have to wear masks while



playing on the field," Mike said. "Players are also asked to use their own personal items, such as the ball, water, etc."

Mike's background in the sport is he played in high school, college and semi-pro league, so he has the tools and knowledge to elevate the

team — as long as the players do their jobs.

"I want to instill the love and the passion for the game as I have into the kids so in the future they will want to develop and grow as players and ambassadors of the game in the future," Mike said. "Besides playing a sport with both of your feet, I would say movement on and off the ball and working as a team are the toughest challenges in coaching soccer at this level."

Soccer's popularity at all levels of school play has not waned through the years and Mike and Brennen hope to see the sport continue to grow at Big Lake.

"I think the future is bright for high school soccer and Hornet soccer," Mike said. "I see it as still a growing sport in the U. S."

### GAME ANSWERS from page 9

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## Swimming/diving in empty arena to be a challenge

By Bill Morgan,  
Staff Writer

The Big Lake swim/diving team enters the 2020 season with 44 participants — 37 are swimmers and seven are divers.

Head Coach DaNae Mitchell is entering her third season at the helm for the swimmers and Paige Bouma is the diving coach. They have two assistants in Wendi Draack and Nick Mitchell as well as two managers in Lexi Daniels and Maddie Washkuhn.

Due to the coronavirus situation, no fans are allowed in the building for any of the upcoming swim meets.

“I think one of the hardest things to see our athletes go through is not having any spectators,” said Mitchell. “We try our best to live stream the meets but it’s not the same.”

Because of COVID-19, the team now has to have a limited number of athletes on the pool deck, allowing for social distancing.

“So at most pools we aren’t able to bring the full roster and because of the limited capacity, diving has their meet first before swimming starts theirs,” she says. “Usually diving would be in the middle of the meet so the divers would be able to cheer on the swimmers and vice versa.”

Mitchell is an Elk River alum and holds the 400 free relay record with her teammates.

“I swam all through high school, state trips in the free-style events. This would be my third year coaching Big Lake, but I’ve been a USA Swimming coach for a local club for the past 12 years, coaching all ages.”

She was asked why she devotes so much of her free time to teaching youths the sport.

“Sharing the sport I love with them (her current squad), knowing that the hard work, positive mentality and responsibility will have an

effect on them and that will give them life long skills, is the reason,” she says.

Coaching the kids proper swimming skills is a challenge as well as diving. Mitchell believes the breast-stroke is the most difficult to grasp.

“It is a complicated stroke with lots of different moving parts and takes lots of patience to be efficient at it,” she says.

Mitchell takes her role as head coach seriously and she expects her student-athletes to take their roles seriously as well.

“Our overall goal is to win meets and improve individually but if there isn’t ef-

fort in practice or work ethic that I know has been better, I wouldn’t place (athletes) on the varsity lineup or any JV events,” Mitchell said. “I want them to feel that it’s a position that needs to be earned on hard work and not just skills alone.”

What is the future of swimming and diving at Big Lake High School?

“I’ve noticed in the last couple years that even with having seniors graduate and leave, our numbers have stayed about the same,” Mitchell says. “It’s been great seeing the new seventh and eighth graders come through.”

## Bulldog netters are experienced and athletic

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

Opponents beware. When head coach Nate Bucher and his Becker girls tennis team take the court, they bring a combination of experience and athleticism that is proving overwhelming for the opposition. In fact, through three matches this year, they have yet to lose a single set.

“So far we’ve had a strong showing at all of our positions,” says Bucher, who is entering his sixth year at the helm. “We’ve got some veteran players that are stepping up into new roles and a couple of new younger players that have worked hard on their game throughout the summer.”

The lineup reads like a “who’s who” of Mississippi 8 Conference players from a year ago, as the team returns seven letter winners, six of whom earned at least All Conference Honorable Mention during last year’s section championship and state tournament qualifying run.



**THE 2020 BECKER BULLDOG GIRLS TENNIS TEAM.** Front row, left to right: Hannah Uecker, Janelle Gudim, Julia Peterson, Julia Bengtson and Jazlyn Toedter. Back row, left to right: Talia Loken, Dani Nuest, Ayla Brown, Jackie Yoerg, Alayna Lindquist, Courtney Nuest and Maddie Moe (Submitted photo).

The team is led by its quartet of senior captains: Courtney Nuest, Julia Bengtson, Alayna Lindquist and Jackie Yoerg. Maddie Moe, Ayla Brown and Jazlyn Toedter also return after experiencing a great deal of success a year ago. In addition, Dani Nuest is a first year player who is proving to be a solid singles player

for Bucher, while the duo of Hannah Uecker and Janelle Gudim has shown a lot of poise early in the season.

As if the vast amount of experience wasn’t enough to make his team dangerous, Bucher also thinks that in a way the team benefitted from the sports restrictions that were in place throughout the summer.

“One thing that the pandemic has done is given our students more time to practice,” says the coach, who is being assisted this year by Alyssa Stevens and Hakan Bengtson. “The tennis courts were one of the only things open during the summer and often attracted the girls to keep playing.”

When it comes to goals for the season, Bucher cautions his team to take things one day at a time with all the uncertainty that has become part of high school sports. But at the same time, it’s hard for him to not get excited for what the team could accomplish after last year’s success in which the team dropped just one Mississippi8 conference match to Chicago Lakes before qualifying for the state tournament.

“They [Chisago] look to be a really tough team again, but we hope that we can strive to edge them out this year and win out the rest of the conference to clinch that title,” says Bucher. “We obviously would love to make a return trip to the state tournament, but there is a big question

mark looming if that will be something that happens this year.”

While the team’s talents are obvious, Bucher says he is also grateful for the help the program receives from all the coaches, including volunteer Jen Anderson and middle school coaches Gerry and Sarah Bass.

“It’s been a great group of coaches to work with in the midst of this different season,” he says.

Despite the team’s lofty goals, Bucher is quick to point out that there is more to his coaching philosophy than just wins and losses. He also believes that character and perspective are important for the team.

“Every year I really want the girls to come away from tennis with a more rounded character and being able to put their competition in proper perspective,” says Bucher. “Most of all I want the girls to be looked at in a positive light in relationship to their character. Whether we win or lose, I always hope that we do it with grace.”

## Area Sports

### Keller captures Women’s Championship



**LORI KELLER** was the Pebble Creek Women’s Club champion last weekend. (Submitted photo.)

Submitted Article

The Pebble Creek Women’s Club completed its Club Championship tournament Aug. 29 and 30 at Pebble Creek Golf Club under sunny skies and with exceptional course conditions.

“We had a wonderful end of season club championship with many of our women’s club members playing across several flights,” said Stacey Vetsch, Pebble Creek Women’s Club President.

“The Pebble Creek Women’s Club is made up of a great group of women who build friendships, improve their golf game and work together to expand the game of golf and support our local community through our Pebble Creek

Cares program. We send our congratulations to all of club championship participants and winners.”

The overall low gross winner and 2020 Women’s Club Champion was Lori Keller. In the first flight, the top net winners were Dana Olsen (first), Denise Mason (second) and Kathy Hollenhorst (third). In the second flight, the top net finishers were Leann Donovan (first), Tammy Miller-Hess (tie for second) and Stacey Vetsch (tie for second). In the third flight, top net finishers were Brenda Ashmore (first), Cheryl Ellingson (second) and Shannon Mathews (third). Receiving the ‘come-back player’ award for the most improved score on the second day of play was Peggy Sogard.

“We are so fortunate to have such a first-class golf course to enjoy during our weekly Tuesday league play as well as for our weekend tournaments,” said Dana Olsen, who co-managed the Club Championship tournament along with Lynette Brannan.

“The course was in amazing shape and the tournament ran smoothly from start to finish. We’d like to thank Jason Scharfencamp, Pebble Creek Golf Superintendent, and Ian Holmes, Pebble Creek Guest Services Manager for their extra effort in putting on such a great event for us!”

For more information on the Pebble Creek Women’s Club, contact Stacey Vetsch, Pebble Creek Women’s Club President at [PebbleCreekWomensClub@gmail.com](mailto:PebbleCreekWomensClub@gmail.com).

### Hinrichs takes Pebble Creek Men’s Club Championship

Submitted Article

Spencer Hinrichs shot a 33 on the final nine to claim the Pebble Creek Men’s club championship.

Hinrichs finished the 45-hole tournament at two under par. Hinrichs started the last nine two strokes behind Jackson Fluck but turned things in his favor when he rolled in a 45-foot birdie on hole four while Fluck bogeyed. Hinrichs went on to birdie five, seven, and eight to take the lead and win the tournament.

Joe Sauer finished third. Chad Matthews, Zach Johnson and Barry Quernemoen also qualified to play the “Final Nine” which takes the low four gross players plus anyone within three strokes of third place after 36 holes to determine the club champion.

In the net flights, Barry Quernemoen fired a Net 68 on day one and held on to beat Zach Johnson by two strokes with a net 143.

Mark Dunderi opened the tournament with a gross 33 on the opening nine and never looked back, finishing negative six net to win the



**SPENCER HINRICHS** won the Pebble Creek Men’s Club championship at two under par. (Submitted photo.)

second flight. Lonnie Fluck finished second win a pair of net 71’s defeating Tony Wernsing, who shot 33 gross on the front nine Sunday, by one stroke

Pat Utz used a 69-67 net score to win the third flight. Steve Engelby overtook

Wayne Yarle, who was tied with Utz after day one to finish second.

Jim Anderson shot a net 70 in the final round to beat Scott Paulson by one stroke and Mark Friedericks by three to win the fourth flight title.

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