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## PATRIOT OFFICE

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

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

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## Fall harvesting in Sherburne County



ALEX ERICKSON is pictured combining rye on the Sherburne county line near Secords Bridge close to Santiago Township. Erickson works for Lee and Dorothy Gilyard and their son Tom and his wife, Peggy. (Submitted Photo).

## Clear Lake Fire shows off new rig at open house

By Don Bellach,  
Contributing Writer

It was an ideal fall afternoon for the Clear Lake Fire Department's annual Open House to invite the public for a visit. Held at Station 1 on Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. -1 p.m., area residents were invited to show up for free food, free fun, and free rides in a fire truck. There were also games and a free raffle drawing that gave away bikes, scooters, a hoverboard, ear buds, a bluetooth speaker, and more. All the prizes were donated by the Clear Lake Auxiliary Club.

Most importantly, the Open House provided an opportunity for the department to thank the public for their support. That sentiment was repeated throughout the afternoon by members of the CLFD.

Fire Chief Ron Koren, who has served for 47 years explained, "This is about community."

The fire department got to show off their new fire truck. They received Engine 19 two weeks ago and got it set up last Sunday. Clear Lake City Council Member Sabrina Miller and her son Carter were impressed with it.

"It's pretty nice! They really needed it," said Miller.



MEMBERS OF THE CLFD GATHERED AROUND NEW ENGINE 19. From left to right – Fire Chief Ron Koren, FF Barb Rucks, Assistant Chief's Matt Lunser and Chad Nelson, Fire Fighter Anthony Barret, Lt. Brandon Weis, and FF Craig Milani. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)



LT. BRANDON WEIS, grandparents Greg and Brenda Mass, and brother Easton watch Adaline spray the hose. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

Carter said he couldn't wait to ride in a fire truck.

Much of the staff was volunteering. Lt. Brandon Weis worked the grill. The department had purchased 300 hot dogs, mini brats, and cheddar brats for the

200 people they expected to attend. Weis said he chose to cook because he is used to cooking for large groups. He does it all summer long

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## PO closing, PO Boxes being relocated

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

With the Becker Post Office closing its doors at its current location on Oct. 24, residents and curious neighbors have been wondering, what's gonna happen to my PO box?

For the entire time the Becker PO has been put on notice about their lease ending this month, Becker Mayor Mark Kolbinger has been furiously trying

to work things out with the post office to retain a building here in Becker. With the timeline shrinking, Kolbinger began researching area sites where he thought could accommodate just the PO boxes while the rest of the PO services continued out of Monticello for the time being.

As of this week, it appears Kolbinger's persistence has paid off.

"While I continue to work hard every week to come to a permanent resolution to keep our post office in Becker, I'm glad the USPS agreed to our proposal to put temporary post office boxes at the Becker Community Center," Kolbinger said.

Kolbinger said the the USPS told him their staff will be notifying box holders in Becker about the new location and also distributing the keys for the portable CBUs to be located outside at the Becker Community Center. The CBUs will be post office boxes that are secured and similar to what people might see at an apartment complex.

"This will preserve mail service for our residents and businesses while we continue to seek a solution to have retail and operations permanently located in our community," Kolbinger said.

But Kolbinger will not cease doing everything in his power to get the USPS to re-consider and make better efforts to find a permanent home in Becker.

"Now that we have secured temporary mail delivery service for those residents and businesses who



utilize post office boxes, I will be shifting my efforts to my 'Keep the Becker post office in 55308' campaign," said Kolbinger. "I will be engaging with our local citizens to help in this endeavor as we lobby the USPS as well as our Federal elected officials."

Kolbinger said he will be asking for the public's help to ensure that their voices are heard and common sense prevails.

"Quite frankly, it's ridiculous that our 55308 community, with over 10,000 residents, has to fight this hard to keep a local post office," he said. "Please watch for details in the coming weeks as we enter the next phase."

Kolbinger noted that he thinks it's also important for everyone to remember that the Rademacher family (Bill's Family Foods, Bill's Superette) gave the post office several years' notice and more than ample opportunity to prepare for this day.

"I applaud Grant and his family for their continued dedication and commitment to our community," Kolbinger said.

## TERROR TRAIL HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

By Don Bellach,  
Contributing Writer

The Thompson Terror Trail kicked off it's opening weekend at 20201 215th Ave in Big Lake this past Friday, Oct. 10.

The first of three weekends. Upcoming dates are as follows – Friday and Saturday, Oct. 17 and 18, and Oct. 24 and 25 running from dusk until 10 p.m. The trail is free, but food and money donations are encouraged. Donations go to support the Food SHARE Program at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Monticello.

ticello.

The trail provides entertainment for all ages. From dusk to 7:15 p.m., children and adults can travel the trail free of scare actors. After that, anyone entering the trail should prepare themselves to be frightened.

Jamie Paulson, who hosts the event, explained the trail began five years ago because her grandson Weston got too old to trick or treat. Originally, only neighbors and friends were invited, but as they told others, the trail grew



SCARE ACTORS PREPARE FOR THE EVENING. Jason Hedin, Weston (16), Jamie Paulson, Clayton (8), Kayla Schermer, Charlee (10), Tim Whitacre, Lily (16), Liv (13), Chris Pike, and the grim reaper in the back, Todd Lien. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)

TRAIL  
to page 2

## INSERTS

•Menards  
(All Zips)





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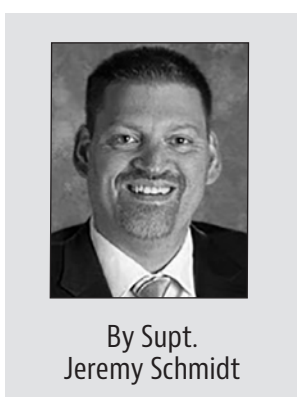


## Understanding the Upcoming Becker Schools Election

On November 4, Becker residents will have the opportunity to vote on a new school board member, with Renee Regel running unopposed for the seat vacated by Troy Berning. In addition, District residents will have the opportunity to vote on an operating levy that directly supports our schools' day to day operations. The request is for \$200 per pupil, which would generate about \$640,000 annually for Becker Public Schools. This \$200 per pupil is the lowest per pupil amount proposed on ballots across all Minnesota School Districts out of about 100 questions statewide.

The Becker School Board has been very deliberate in crafting this proposal. They understand that every tax dollar matters and are committed to keeping taxes as low as possible while maintaining the quality of education our community expects. The average homeowner in Becker would see an increase of about \$8 per month, or roughly \$100 per year based on a \$365,000 home value (Homestead+up to 1 acre).

This operating levy is not driven by local decisions alone. School districts across Minnesota are facing financial pressures created by state and federal policies that have not kept pace with inflation or funding promises. New state mandates, such as paid family leave, unemployment insurance, increased requirements under the READ Act are all worthwhile initiatives, but they come with significant costs.



By Supt.  
Jeremy Schmidt

At the same time, state support in areas such as special education, transportation, student support personnel aid, and school meals has decreased.

Becker has maintained a fiscally conservative approach, building its fund balance for emergency use, avoiding staff reductions, and sustaining strong academic and extracurricular programs. However, these unfunded mandates and rising costs are eroding that stability. Without a modest increase now, future requests could be two, three, or even four times larger as we attempt to recover from structural shortfalls.

Residents can learn more and review tax impacts on their own property by visiting [www.becker.k12.mn.us](http://www.becker.k12.mn.us) and clicking on the levy information link. Voting is open weekdays from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm at the District Office (Door 2) through November 3, and on Election Day, November 4, from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm at the Becker Community Center, 11500 Sherburne Avenue.

## Santiago Lions host Community Breakfast



**SANTIAGO LIONS KIM WEBER AND MATT WEBER work in the kitchen at the Santiago Lions community breakfast. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring).**

By Mary Nehring,  
Contributing Writer

Santiago Township Hall was abuzz Sunday morning, October 5, as Santiago Lions members were busy making omelettes for people attending the community breakfast and bake sale.

In addition to the build-your-own omelettes, there were also pancakes, French toast, sausage links, scrambled eggs, milk, juice and coffee served and baked goods for sale.

Every dollar raised at the breakfast will go back into the community.

The American Bison (Bison bison) is one of those animals that doesn't seem to get the admiration or respect that other large animals command. Brown Bears, Moose and Elk are adored by the masses. White-tailed Deer are prized, and Black Bears are respected and yet it seems the Bison is just tolerated, kind of like you might tolerate your strange uncle that comes to a family gathering.

Bison are the national mammal of America, and it seems rather fitting. The Bison has a significant historical, cultural and ecological importance and does a great job at representing the strength of America. This critter has gone from being one of the most numerous animals in America in pre-settlement times, to being at the brink of extinction and is now rebounding. It has an important conservation success story to tell and a good lesson to learn.

The American Bison is the largest land mammal in North America. This was painfully obvious to me while I was recently filming and taking pictures of some Bison in Teddy Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. The males where rutting and tending very closely to some females. Looking through my camera lens brings the animal up close and personal and really drives

### CLFD from page 1

while camping with friends. "It just feels right," he explained.

Cookies and chips were also available.

Fire fighter Craig Milani manned the Fire and Rescue Grass 24 Truck. Children were given the opportunity to operate the hose and spray down a model home. Milani admitted at times he still feels like a big kid.

"We have a lot of fun, but sometimes things get bad," he said. "You have to have the right mindset to keep it balanced."

The Open House was also about recruitment and finding people who have that mindset and setting some kid on a career path. The CLFD is currently hiring. Assistant Chief Barry Schultz, 45 years of service, admitted it's been difficult finding candidates.

"Everyone's so busy today," he said. "It takes a big commitment and requires 100 hours of training."

However, he did admit he was hopeful the event might spark an interest in someone attending.

Perhaps the most exciting event of the afternoon occurred just as planned. The Life Link III helicopter was scheduled to arrive at 11:30 a.m. and was right on time. Everyone gathered to watch it land and had to hold on to their hats and glasses to keep them from blowing off. The helicopter left Rush City 20 minutes before landing. Attendees had the opportunity to sit and explore the chopper.

## Bison Not Buffalo



By Naturalist  
Stan Tekiela

home the fact that the males are absolutely huge.

An adult male can stand over six feet tall at the shoulder and are 10 to 11 feet in length. Females and young males are much smaller, but an adult male can weigh over 2,000 pounds (one ton). The record heaviest bison



weighed over 3,800 pounds. Despite their massive size, they are super-fast and can even outrun a horse, reaching 35 mph and jump over six

feet high. This is definitely not an animal to trifle with. I was following one particular large bull when I noticed he wanted to cross a road. The sides of the highway had the standard metal guard rail, which is only about three feet tall, but this bull didn't even break stride and cleared the rail in one clean jump and kept going.

Bison are considered ecosystem engineers, similar as the Prairie Dog that I wrote about last time. The bison don't just graze, they shape the environment around the areas where they roam. Moving around the Bison encourages a wide variety of plants to grow by grazing for a short time before moving onto another area.

They are one of the few species where both the males and females have horns. Just a reminder, horns are different from antlers. Horns are permanent structures on the animal's head and are composed of keratin, compared to antlers which are made mostly of calcium and are regrown each year.

I was out filming a herd of Bison which contained several very large males, all who where rutting. During the breeding season, the males go around and check in with females. They smell the female to determine if she is near the optimal time to be bred. As the males wander

around, they sound off with a deep and resounding bellow. These bellows are very loud and sound like a cross between a lion's roar and a Black Bear's growl. The low wave frequency of the bellow travels well across the open ground. I happen to notice the sides of the Bison vibrating with each bellowing call, just where the ribs are located, so much that the dirt and dust in the male's fur vibrated right out into the air. It was truly impressive sight to see and something I would never know about or understand if I wasn't spending so much time observing and filming.

We should celebrate our American Bison because it's truly a unique American animal. By the way, I hope you noticed that I never called them Buffalo. This is because they are not a type of Buffalo. Also, Saturday Nov 1st, is National Bison Day and Awareness Day. This day of celebration is the first Saturday in November each year. Until next time...

Stan Tekiela is an author / naturalist and wildlife photographer who travels extensively to capture video and images of wildlife. He can be followed on [www.instagram.com](http://www.instagram.com) and [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). He can be contacted via his website at [www.naturesmart.com](http://www.naturesmart.com).

### TRAIL from page 1



**KAYLA SCHERMER explains the rules to trail travelers. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)**



**WESTON scares visitors. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)**

Announcing auditions for the beloved Christmas classic

## HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS

### Submitted Article

NorthStar Arts will hold auditions for the fun and poignant tale about how a man with a heart "two sizes too small" learns the true meaning of Christmas.

Join them and be a part of the annual Christmas festivities in Whoville. All

who audition will be cast in the show. Both children and adults are welcome.

Rehearsals will be held in Elk River and Big Lake.

Performances will be at the beautiful 500 seat, state-of-the-art, theater at Monticello Middle School December 5-6-7 and 12-13-14.

Auditions Oct. 23, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at Monticello Middle School OR Oct 25, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. at the Elk River Public Library Community Room.

Complete information and registration available at [NorthStarArts.org](http://NorthStarArts.org) or call 763-245-6627.

# Veterans honored with deserved meal

By Don Bellach,  
Contributing Writer

Road construction on Co Rd 5, Eagle Lake Road, did not deter veterans and their family and friends from attending the Annual Veterans Dinner hosted by Big Lake American Legion Post 147 and Big Lake American Legion Auxiliary Unit 147.

The dinner was held on Sat., Oct. 12 at the Big Lake Township Hall at Lions Park. Veterans and their invited guests were treated to a meal of broasted chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, coleslaw, a dinner roll, and donated treats. The 120 meals were supplied by Lake Café and Auxiliary members and members of Beyond the Yellow Ribbon contributed homemade bars and cookies.

Preparations for the dinner began the night before, lasting for three hours.

Kathy Poslusny, President of the Auxiliary arrived before 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, the other volunteers arrived at nine. All of them would be there throughout the afternoon, wrapping things up around 4 p.m. All of the women do it for the same reason—o honor veterans.

Raeanne Danielowski, County Commissioner for District 2 explained this about volunteering, "That's what a person should do. It's the greatest opportunity to honor our veterans."

Poslusny was grateful: for veterans, for the volunteers who made everything possible, and for the organizations and businesses who donated the prizes that were raffled off. Veterans had the opportunity to win one of 10 - \$75 Gift Certificates from Coborn's given by the Big Lake Legion Auxiliary. In addition to providing the food, Lake Café also donated four - \$5 Gift Certificates to Lake Café.

Winners who were not present were notified by phone by Poslusny. Poslusny also wanted to acknowledge Big Lake Township for allowing them to host the dinner.

"How wonderful it is that Big Lake Township always has the facilities available for us," she said.

Typically, events like this are held on Veteran's Day, but the date was changed to the second Saturday in October. Poslusny explained that there are many events honoring veterans on Veteran's Day and turnout for the dinner was always low before they changed the date. The adjustment also helped snow birds attend and made it easier to find volunteers to help with the event, so they'll stick with the October date.

The next Veterans Dinner will be held Sat., Oct. 10, 2026.



**AUXILIARY VOLUNTEERS Pam Notch, Delrose Stein, Kathy Poslusny, Judy Ranallo, Betty Wheeler, Deb Johnson, Cori Anselment, Raeanne Danielowski, Sue Ronayne. Not pictured Corky Nienaber. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)**

**WWII VETERAN BOB BLAKE and his son Robert Jr. enjoyed their time together. (Patriot Photo by Don Bellach)**



# AREA NEWS

**SANTIAGO LIONS**  
**TRUNK or TREAT**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025**  
**1:00 PM - 3:00 PM**  
**SANTIAGO PARK**  
**BRING CAMERA - PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**  
**PET LITTLE DONKEYS**  
**PUMPKINS CANDY**

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**  
**ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR**  
**SATURDAY, NOV 1ST 9AM - 3PM**  
**LEFSE, BAKE SALE, USED-A-BIT, RADA KNIVES**  
**MAE SPENCER POTTERY** Items handmade with love  
 Handmade Items - Embroidered dish towels, microwave bowls, bowl covers, quilts of all sizes, aprons, knit & crochet items, home goods, items for kids, wool mittens, pet toys, beds & treats, fleece blankets, Christmas ornaments, AND MORE!  
 For all you Cookie Monsters - 3rd Annual **COOKIE WALK** - Sat., Dec. 13, 9am-noon  
**COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
**9225 JASON AVE NE - MONTICELLO**

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

**AUDITIONS!**  
**How THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS!**

All who register will be cast!  
 Oct. 23rd, 6-7:30pm  
 Monticello Middle School Choir Room  
 Oct. 25th, 1-3pm  
 Elk River Public Library

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## Spud Run keeps rolling in 16th year



**THE BIG LAKE SPUD RUN MOTORCYCLE RALLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS** posed along with school principals, trap team coaches and robotics instructors of the Big Lake Schools. Pictured left to right is Teresa Smock-Potter, Jesse Hauan, Roy McMullen, Kyle Reischl, Jen Carter – Broske, Ben Lauderbaugh, Bob Dockendorf, Susan Stender, Mark Ernst, Jona Deavel. Front Row: Debbie Cosgriff and Dana Syverson. (Submitted Photo).

## ATTENTION – HWY 10 AND LIBERTY LANE CLOSURE RR crossing in Becker to close next week

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Be aware next week as some road construction is slated to cause headaches for many commuters who cross the railroad tracks in Becker.

The road crossing from Hwy. 10 to Liberty Lane in Becker will be closed for 3-5 days for repairs to the rail crossing starting Oct. 20, 2025. During the closure, traffic looking to access the Becker Industrial Park should use Hwy. 10 to southbound Co. Rd. 11 (165th Ave.) to westbound Sherburne Ave. So. (157th St.).

For questions related to this closure, please contact the City of Becker Public Works Department at 763-200-4275.



**THE RR CROSSING** at Hwy. 10 and Liberty Lane in Becker will be shut down for the week of Oct. 20-24 for repairs. (Submitted Photo).

## Snyder inspires hundreds in speech at BHS

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Amberley Snyder inspired and uplifted hundreds Oct. 1 at Becker High School as she spoke about her life's work of faith and determination despite her paralyzation.

Snyder spoke to Becker students during the day in front of a good crowd at Dwight Lundeen Stadium. Later, she spoke for more guests in the school's PAC (Performing Arts Center).

Snyder spent time describing her life story which continues to encourage and influence people of all ages. Later, Snyder stuck around and allowed to be photographed and signed autographs as well.

Snyder was involved in a serious car accident 15 years ago that left her paralyzed from the waist down. Prior to the accident she was a world renown barrel racer and rodeo star and has a passion for horses.



**AMBERLEY SNYDER** (left photo) spoke to hundreds of Becker students who gathered at the football field to hear her story. One lucky and grateful youngster, Elena Davis (on the right in right photo above) met and had her riding helmet and sweatshirt autographed by Snyder at her evening talk. (Submitted Photo).

Despite the accident, Snyder returned to her horse and the sport of rodeo just four months later, defying the odds. Her incredible journey was chronicled in the 2019 Netflix film *Walk. Ride.*

*Rodeo.*, which gained widespread viewership.

One inspired youngster, Elena Davis of Becker, was thrilled when she was able to meet Snyder and have her autograph her horse-riding

helmet and sweatshirt during the event.

Snyder's key message to all is to embrace challenges, never give up and always choose to be a good human.

### Submitted Article

Back in 2009, Geoff Randall started the “Spud Run Motorcycle Ride” that was in conjunction with the Big Lake Spud Fest. It started out small and has grown to over 200 riders that go each year.

The money that the group raises stays in the Big Lake community.

Geoff has since passed, but the group has annually dedicated the ride to him. In honor of the founder, the group has started the “Geoff Randall Memorial Scholarship” for a Big Lake High School student. To date, they have donated \$24,000 in scholarships alone in Randall's memory and they are hopeful to continue to donate each year.

This year alone the group has raised \$16,600. Their fundraising has also allowed them to donate to general funds at each of the schools to help students that need school supplies, etc. Again, this year they are excited to offer two \$3,000 scholarships, school supply funds as well as do-

nations to the trap shooting team and the robotics team.

The annual ride takes place on the Saturday of Spud Fest, which falls every year on the last full weekend of June. The riders leave Tootsie's Lake-side Tavern that mornin and enjoy a beautiful ride through surrounding areas that includes 3-4 stops along the way. They return to the Getaway Bar for dinner, which is included in the registration fee. Their day ends with a live auction and raffles.

“We are so thankful for the many businesses and individuals that donate each year,” said Committee Member Debbie Cosgriff. “We look forward to another successful event next year.”

If one wishes to ride with the group or donate to their event, contact the organizers at their website: <http://biglakespudrun.org>.

“We are looking for anyone interested in joining the committee to keep the Spudrun Motorcycle Ride alive,” said Cosgriff. “Come ride with us!”

## Big Lake woman hurt in crash

### Submitted Article

A Big Lake woman was injured in a two-vehicle crash Saturday, Oct. 4, in Bock.

At about 9:55 a.m., the Minnesota State Patrol responded to a collision on Hwy. 23 near Wall Avenue.

According to the State Patrol, 62-year-old Kathie Robideau of Big Lake was driving a 2017 Ford Escape when it struck a 2019 Jeep Grand Cherokee driven by 83-year-old Robert Collison of Milaca.

Investigators said Collison was attempting to cross Hwy. 23 from Ivy Road to Wall Avenue when the vehi-

cles collided.

Robideau sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to M Health Fairview Northland Medical Center in Princeton for treatment. The Milaca man was not injured, according to the report.

Road conditions were dry, and alcohol was not a factor in the crash. Both drivers were wearing seat belts.

The Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office, Milaca Fire Department and North Memorial Ambulance assisted the State Patrol at the scene.

To place your ad, call 763.275.0275 or stop by our office at  
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## OUTDOOR FURNACES

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## LANDSCAPING

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

#### INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 727 (BIG LAKE), MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 727 (Big Lake), Minnesota, on November 4, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following questions:

##### School District Question 1

##### Approval of New School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 727 (Big Lake), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District's general education revenue by \$640 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2025 for taxes payable in 2026 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

**YES** Shall the new referendum revenue authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 727 (Big Lake), Minnesota be approved?

##### BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

##### PASSAGE OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAXES

##### School District Question 2

##### Approval of School Building Bonds

**YES** If School District Question 1 above is approved, shall the board of Independent School District No. 727 (Big Lake), Minnesota be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$36,230,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including, but not limited to, construction of a multi-purpose addition?

##### BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

For School District Question 1, the property tax portion of the revenue authorized will require an estimated referendum tax rate of is 0.08052% for taxes payable in 2026 of the referendum market value of all classes of taxable property in the School District, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.01, Subdivision 3, which excludes certain agricultural property, seasonal property and post-secondary student housing.

The projected annual dollar increases for typical residential homesteads, apartments, commercial-industrial properties, and most other classes of property within the School District are as shown in the table below, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation.

Agricultural property will pay taxes for the proposed referendum based only on the value of the house, garage and one acre of land. Seasonal recreational residential property (*i.e.*, cabins) will pay no taxes for the proposed referendum.

The figures in the table below are based on School District taxes for the new referendum revenue authorization only and do not include tax levies for other purposes:

| Type of Property                                                       | Estimated Market Value | Proposed Referendum Revenue Authorization Taxes Payable in 2026 (Question 1) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Residential Homesteads, Apartments, and Commercial-Industrial Property | \$100,000              | \$81                                                                         |
|                                                                        | 200,000                | 161                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 300,000                | 242                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 350,000                | 282                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 375,000                | 302                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 400,000                | 322                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 450,000                | 362                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 500,000                | 403                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 600,000                | 483                                                                          |
| Commercial/Industrial                                                  | 750,000                | 604                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 1,000,000              | 805                                                                          |
|                                                                        | \$100,000              | \$81                                                                         |
|                                                                        | 250,000                | 201                                                                          |
| Apartments & Residential Non-Homestead (2 or more units)               | 500,000                | 403                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 1,000,000              | 805                                                                          |
|                                                                        | 2,000,000              | 1,610                                                                        |

The polling place and precincts served by the polling place for the special election will be as follows:

##### Combined Polling Place:

Saron Lutheran Church  
311 Lake Street South  
Big Lake, Minnesota 55309

##### Precincts:

All School District precincts.

All qualified electors residing in the School District may cast their ballots at the polling place listed above during the polling hours specified above.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in the special election. Unregistered individuals may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 18, 2025

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Lenette Brown, Clerk

(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/18/25, 10/25/25.)

# CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ad Deadline is 11 AM WEDNESDAY

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## MINNESOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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qualifying purchase. Call 1-877-228-5789 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (mcn)

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

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| <b>AUCTIONS</b><br><b>SPORTSMAN ONLINE AUCTION</b><br>Closing Monday, Oct 27; 6PM. Location: Zumbrota, MN. <a href="http://Houghtonauctions.com">Houghtonauctions.com</a> . 60 Firearms, Winchester items, knives, fishing, mounts, ammo, related Items. Houghton Auctions 651/764-4285                                                                                                                               | <b>GET BOOST INFINITE!</b><br>Unlimited talk, text and data for just \$25/mo! The power of 3.5G networks, one low price! Call today and get the latest iPhone every year on us! 855/849-6621                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

## OBITUARIES

### Bruce J. Parson, 69 Clear Lake, MN December 16, 1955 – October 8, 2025

Memorial Services will be 1:00 PM Saturday, October 18, 2025 at Quarry Community Church in Monticello for Bruce J. Parson, age 69, who passed away at his home Wednesday after a yearlong battle with leukemia. Pastor Michael Grose will officiate and burial will be at a later date. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services at the church in Monticello.

Bruce was born December 16, 1955 in Duluth to Roger and Dorothy (Castonguay) Parson. He grew up in the Duluth area, graduated from the U of M and moved to Monticello in the 1980's. Bruce married Michelle Lardy on December 29, 1996 in Monticello. He was employed by NSP/Xcel Energy as an engineer, retiring in 2020. Bruce was an active member of Quarry Church where he was a worship team member. He was also involved with celebrate recovery ministry. He was spiritual, a self-taught bible scholar and a musician who was gifted with the theory of music. Bruce attended Republican district meetings and coached middle school baseball. He enjoyed traveling, being outdoors, golfing, sailing, flying, camping and growing



vegetables in his garden. Bruce was a Vikings and Twins fan, and enjoyed spring training games in Fort Myers with his wife by his side. He enjoyed supporting his sons through Monticello Dojo karate and became an advanced red belt in 2024. He was curious, open minded, sentimental and tender hearted.

Bruce is survived by his wife of 28 years, Shelly of Clear Lake; children, Brett (Holly) Parson of Eau Claire, WI, Erik Parson of Clear Lake; step son, Michael (Samantha) Lardy of Luxemburg; step grandchildren, Tyler, Edie and Artie; siblings, Diane (Tim) Wirth of Lakeland, Dave (Katherine) Parson of Roswell, GA; nieces and nephews, Simon, Phillip, Owen and Kristen.

He is preceded in death by his parents. The family would like to thank Coborn's Cancer Center, St. Cloud Hospital oncology unit and St. Croix Hospice for the wonderful care provided to Bruce.

Obituary, Guest Book, and video tribute available online: [www.williamsdngann.com](http://www.williamsdngann.com).

### Delphine G. Goenner, 90 Clear Lake, MN December 13, 1934 – October 10, 2025

Mass of Christian Burial was at 11:00 AM Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at St. Marcus Catholic Church in Clear Lake for Delphine G. Goenner, age 90, who died Friday at Shepherd of Grace Senior Community in Becker.

Rev. Michael Kellogg will officiate and burial will be in the parish cemetery. Visitation will be two hours prior to the services on Wednesday at the church in Clear Lake. Arrangements are entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Clear Lake.

Del was born December 13 1934 in St. Cloud to Christopher and Wilhelmine "Minnie" (Kieke) Schmit. She married James Goenner on April 28, 1954 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Minden Township. Del was a member of St. Marcus Catholic Church and Clearwater American Legion Post 323 Auxiliary. She worked as a cashier at McDonalds Meats, and was a cook at various restaurants including, Village Inn, Palmer House, Coffee Cup and Keith's Kettle. Del also worked on her home farm for 16 years, milking cows by hand.



She was a wonderful mother who enjoyed cooking and gardening. Her greatest accomplishment was raising her seven children.

Survivors include her children, James Goenner, Debbie Goenner, Patty (Loren) Simmons, Jeff Goenner all of Clear Lake and Corey Goenner of Princeton; brothers and sisters, Rube (Marge) Schmit of Sauk Rapids, Dennis (Judy) Schmit of Duellm, Teresa Kolb of Kimball, Lilly (Duane) LaVigne of St. Cloud; brother-in-law, Fred Goenner of Becker; grandchildren, Jesse, Kevin, Luke, Shawn, Nicole, Daniel, Andrew, Leann, Dylan and Amoni; great grandchildren, Hailynn, Ryan, Scotlyn and Nolan. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, James on February 19, 1999; daughters, Dolores Deppa and Vicki Bielke; sisters, Henrietta Lichte, Laura (Bert) Moeller, Mary Goenner; brothers, Donny (Judy) and Lenny Schmit and brother-in-law, John Kolb.

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

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CALL 763.275.0275 TODAY!**

CSAH 23 (Sherburne Ave)  
Roadway Reconstruction



Sherburne County plans to reconstruct **County Road 23, from Parkview Dr to CR 127 in Becker Township**. This 3.0-mile project will include new pavement, improved shoulders, a shared-use path, and intersection safety improvements.

Construction is planned for summer of 2026.

JOIN US FOR AN IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

Residents and community members are invited to attend our in-person public open house to learn more about the project and see the design. If you are unable to attend, project information is available on the county's website

|                                                                                                                            |                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| WHEN:                                                                                                                      | Wednesday, October 29, 2025<br>4:00 – 6:00 pm                   |
| WHERE:                                                                                                                     | Becker City Park<br>10362 County Road 23 SE<br>Becker, MN 55308 |
| There will be no formal presentation during the open house. Stop by any time to learn more and talk with our project team! |                                                                 |

Stay Connected

David Roedel  
Assistant Public Works Director / Deputy County Engineer

EMAIL david.roedel@co.sherburne.mn.us  
PHONE 763-765-3352  
WEBSITE https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/522/Projects

(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/11/25, 10/18/25).

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 726  
(BECKER PUBLIC SCHOOLS), MINNESOTA

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 726 (Becker Public Schools), Minnesota (the “School District”), on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., in part, for the purpose of electing one school board member to fill the vacancy in the term of School Board Member expiring the first Monday in January 1, 2029, and, in part, for the purpose of voting on the question of approval of a referendum revenue authorization. The ballot shall provide as follows:

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the oval next to your choice like this: 

Special Election for School Board Member  
To fill vacancy in term expiring January 1, 2029  
Vote for One

☐ Renee Regel

☐ \_\_\_\_\_  
write-in, if any

SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION 1  
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The school board of Independent School District No. 726 (Becker Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$200 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would first be levied in 2025 for taxes payable in 2026 and would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the increase in revenue proposed by the School Board of Independent School District No. 726 (Becker Public Schools) be approved?

BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING  
FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

The polling place and precincts served by the polling place for the special election will be as follows:

This combined polling place serves all territory in the School District.

Any eligible voter residing in the School District may cast their ballots at the polling places designated above. The polls for said election will open at of 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m. on said election day.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on election day.

Dated: August 4, 2025

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

*/s/ Pete Weismann, Clerk*

(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/18/25, 10/25/25.)

Independent School District #726  
Becker, Minnesota  
Special School Board Meeting  
June 9, 2025

Chair Jurek called the special meeting of the School Board of District #726 to order on the 9th day of June, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Teaching & Learning Center.

Roll Call.

**Members present:** Ryan Hubbard, Aaron Jurek, Connie Robinson, Corey Stanger, Pete Weismann

**Members absent:** None

**Others present:** Jeremy Schmidt, Superintendent, Kevin Januszewski, Director of Business Services

Motion by Ryan Hubbard, seconded by Pete Weismann, to **Approve the READ Act Memorandum of Understanding with the Becker Education Association**, as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Connie Robinson, seconded by Ryan Hubbard, to **Approve Superintendent Schmidt to Work Toward a Settlement Agreement from a Level 3 Grievance**, as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 7:56 p.m.  
*/s/ Aaron Jurek, Chair*  
*/s/ Pete Weismann, Clerk*  
Recorder: */s/ Angela Oswald*  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/18/25)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

To Satisfy Owner’s Storage Lien To satisfy the owner’s storage lien, Safeguard Storage Solutions - Big Lake, MN will sell at public lien sale on October 21st, 2025 the personal property in the below-listed units, which may include but are not limited to: household and personal items, office and other equipment. The public sale of these items will begin at 9:00 am October 21st, 2025 and continue until all units are sold. The lien sale is to be held at [www.storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com). Online bidding will begin on October 21st, 2025 at 9:00 am and will continue until a high bidder will be determined.

Safeguard Storage Solutions  
16410 149th St SE Big Lake, MN 5509  
612-405-9595

Sale to be held at: [www.storageauctions.com](http://www.storageauctions.com)  
TENANTS IN DEFAULT:

A5 Kimberly Stringfellow  
A3, A32, and A17 Nathan Larsen  
B6K enneth Montague  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/11/25, 10/18/25.)

NOTICE OF TESTING OF OPTICAL  
SCAN VOTING SYSTEM  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO.7  
(BIG LAKE),MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Independent School District No. 727 (Big Lake), Minnesota shall perform a public accuracy test of the optical scan voting system to be used in the District’s November 4, 2025 special election.

The test shall be conducted at 701 Minnesota Avenue, Big Lake, Minnesota on October 28, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

The test is open to the public.

Please contact Kim Johnson, District Office Administrative Assistant, at 763 262- 528 w ith any qe stions.  
Dated: October 18, 2025

*/s/ Lenette Brown, Clerk - Big Lake School Board*  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/18/25.)

PUBLIC NOTICES

Independent School District #726  
Becker, Minnesota  
Regular School Board Meeting  
June 2, 2025

SUMMARY

**The complete minutes are on file in the district office and on the district website.**

Chair Jurek called the regular meeting of the School Board of District #726 to order on the 2nd day of June, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Teaching & Learning Center.

Roll Call.

**Members present:** Ryan Hubbard, Aaron Jurek, Connie Robinson, Corey Stanger, Pete Weismann

**Members absent:** None

**Others present:** Jeremy Schmidt, Superintendent, Kevin Januszewski, Director of Business Services

**CITIZEN COMMENTS:** None

**PRESENTATION:** Spring 2026 Band & Choir Trip, presented by Gretchen Bordson & Justin Frerich

Motion by Connie Robinson, seconded by Ryan Hubbard, to **Approve the Consent Agenda** as presented:

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FROM THE MAY 5, 2025 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

**DISBURSEMENTS** – in the amount of \$1,903,337.04

**PERSONNEL**, as presented

**MSHSL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**, as presented

**SPRING, 2026 BAND & CHOIR TRIP REQUEST**, as presented

Motion by Corey Stanger, seconded by Pete Weismann, to **Approve a Resolution Accepting the Following Donations:**

|                                                   |            |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Becker Lions for Kindergarten T-shirts            | \$1,760    |
| Becker PTSA for Early Childhood                   | \$7,500    |
| Becker PTSA for Intermediate Read-A-Thon          | \$7,500    |
| Becker Youth Wrestling for wrestling              | \$1,975.30 |
| Kraack, Susan for marching band                   | \$75       |
| LDI for Intermediate & Primary Science Department | \$2,500    |
| Rhyne, Lynne for marching band                    | \$75       |

Motion carried unanimously.

The School Board requested adding the **2024-2025 Goals Recap** to the July board meeting.

Motion by Ryan Hubbard, seconded by Connie Robinson, to **Approve the Long-Term Facility Maintenance Ten-Year Expenditure Application**, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion regarding **School Board Member Pay** was tabled until the July board meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 7:05 p.m.  
*/s/ Aaron Jurek, Chair*  
*/s/ Pete Weismann, Clerk*  
Recorder: */s/ Angela Oswald*  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/18/25.)

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE  
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
INFORMAL PROBATE

Court File No.: 71-PR-25-165  
**In Re the Estate of James M. Hegge a/k/a James Milo Hegge, Decedent.**

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS.**

Notice is given that an Application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar. The Registrar accepted the Application and appointed Eileen E. Hegge, whose address is 310 Ormsbee Street, Big Lake, MN 55309, to serve as the Personal Representative of the decedent’s estate.

Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Any objection to the appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection. Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the Personal Representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of Letters of General Administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent’s estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

*/s/ Pamela Kreier, Probate Registrar*  
*/Attest/ Katrese Ringham, Court Administrator*  
**Attorney for Personal Representative GRIES LENHARDT ALLEN, P.L.L.P.**  
Jill A. Adkins (195182)  
12725 43rd Street NE, Suite 201  
St. Michael, MN 55376  
Telephone: 763-497-3099  
Email: [jill.a@glalawfirm.com](mailto:jill.a@glalawfirm.com)  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/11/25, 10/18/25).

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE  
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
INFORMAL PROBATE

Court File No.: 71-PR-25-157  
**In Re the Estate of Alquin Joseph Roden a/k/a Alquin J. Roden, Decedent.**

**NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (WITHOUT A WILL).**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:**

Notice is hereby given that an application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Probate Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been granted.

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following: Valerie Johnson, 11566 Jay St Westminster CO 80020, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat.§ 524.3-607; and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are requi red to present the claims to the Personal Representative within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.  
*/s/ Pamela Kreier, Probate Registrar*  
*/Attest/ Katrese Ringham, Court Administrator*  
**Attorney for Personal Representative SAMUEL V CALVERT**  
Attorney License No.: 1431X  
1011 2nd ST N STE 107  
St Cloud MN 56203  
Telephone: 320-252-4473  
E-Mail: [calclcloud@gmail.com](mailto:calclcloud@gmail.com)  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/11/25, 10/18/25).

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE  
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
PROBATE COURT DIVISION

Court File No.: 71-PR-24-172  
**In Re the Estate of Bruce Robert Holmboe, a/k/a Bruce R. Holmboe.**

ORDER FOR HEARING.

The Petition to Construe Trust Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 501C.0202 (4) and Instruct

Trustee Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 501C.0202 (24) of Daniel S. Kufus, Trustee of the abovenamed trust, is dated October 10, 2025, and has been filed with this Court. The petition requests an Order setting a time and place for hearing on the petition and directing the manner in which and the persons to whom notice of the hearing shall be given, and that at the hearing the Court make its further Order:

1. Declaring the Purported Codicil dated February 15, 2024 and the Purported Fifth Amendment invalid, and instructing the Trustee to administer the Trust as though the 2016 Codicil was the last valid Codicil and the Fourth Amendment was the last valid amendment.

2. Declaring that the beneficiaries of the Trust and Estate are Mark Holmboe and Paul Holmboe in equal shares.

3. Granting such other and further relief in the premises as to the Court may seem just and proper.

NOW, THEREFORE, upon motion of Steinhagen, Crist, Wehrly & Kufus, P.L.L.P., attorneys for said petitioner, IT IS ORDERED that the petition be heard and all persons interested in the matter appear before a referee of this Court, via Zoom or other remote means, on the 19th day of November, 2025, at 8:30 o’clock a.m., or as soon thereafter as the petition can be heard, and show cause, if any there be, why the relief requested in the petition should not be granted.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that notice of the hearing be given by publishing this Order one time at least twenty (20) days before the date of the hearing in a legal newspaper of Sherburne County, Minnesota, and by mailing a copy of this Order to the persons named in the petition as having or who may claim to have an interest in the trust, at their last known addresses, at least fifteen (15) days before the date of the hearing unless notice is waived.

Dated: October 14, 2025  
*/s/ Katrese Ringham, Court Administrator*  
**ATTORNEYS FOR TRUSTEE AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE**  
John A. Wehrly, ID #393476  
Katherine G. Kemp, ID #505710  
Steinhagen, Crist, Wehrly, & Kufus P.L.L.P.

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(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/18/25, 10/25/25).

CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP  
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CLEARWATER, MINNESOTA

There will be a public accuracy test of the Clearwater Township Omniballot and voting equipment on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Town Hall, 15015 State Highway 24 NW, Clearwater, MN.

*/s/ Jean Just, Clearwater Twp. Clerk*  
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/18/25.)



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## Giant Pumpkin Regatta event honors late Becker man

By Mary Nehring,  
Contributing Writer

Four years have passed since Teddy Friedman of Becker tragically left his earthly home at the young age of 27. Teddy always had a heart for serving others and serving the Lord. He was selfless and loved life and lived it to the fullest.

Recently, Candyland (a candy store in Stillwater, MN) contacted an organization who represents Gold Star Families; and that organization reached out to Teddy Friedman's parents (Steve and Christina) about an annual "pumpkin race" event held in conjunction with Stillwater Harvest Fest (dubbed the Midwest's Premier Giant Pumpkin Festival).

Candyland is a sponsor of the event and reached out to Gold Star families to invite them to be a part of a race held October 12, 2025. The race is called the Giant Pumpkin Regatta with a goal of honoring fallen soldiers (Teddy Friedman served in the U.S. Army, serving in the Infantry).

Four participants were selected and raced on the the St. Croix River in hollowed-out, giant pumpkins during the Giant Pumpkin Regatta race. Noah Friedman (Becker native and brother of Teddy) was chosen to participate in the race in Stillwater in memory of his brother. Ironically, the race was held the weekend of the fourth anniversary of losing Teddy, which made the event even more special to the Friedman family.

Three of the four participants tipped over in their pumpkins during the race. Noah was the only participant who kept his giant pumpkin upright; and

he went on to capture first place in the race.

"Although it was windy and raining, the water was surprisingly warm for this time of year," said Noah.

Noah's mom, Chris Friedman, was there cheering her son on.

"The event was really a blessing to our family," she said. "Many of our family members attended. The fact that the event fell on the anniversary weekend of Teddy's death made it even more meaningful."

Years ago, Becker Baptist Church used to host a triathlon. Teddy was quite an athlete and spent countless hours in the gym. He participated in Becker Baptist Church's triathlon one year and was doing quite well early on in the competition, but ended up losing.

After taking first place in the Regatta, Noah smiled and commented that he had redeemed himself in memory of Teddy by winning the pumpkin race.

Well done, Noah. Teddy would be proud!



**A HUGE CROWD** cheered Noah Friedman on at the Stillwater Harvest Festival after he won the race. (Submitted Photo).

### Submitted Article

The BL Hornet swim and dive team competed at the True Team section tournament in Becker last week and topped everyone's expectations.

Last year, Big Lake placed sixth and notched three top eight finishes and no relays in the top eight. This year, Big lake placed fifth and garnered five top eight finishes and three relays in the top eight!

Congrats go out to Big Lake's top eight finishers including: Emmelia Kortenkamp -- eighth - 200 IM; Emily Edlund - fourth - 50 FR; Abigail Fridgen - fifth - 50 FR; Emily Edlund - fourth - 100 FL; Abigail Fridgen - seventh - 100 FR;

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

This year, Becker Primary School is once again focusing on student literacy. One of the new initiatives this year is a knowledge building curriculum called Arts and Letters. In first grade, this includes four modules that are taught across the school year.

The first selection is titled, "A World of Books" and includes a focus on the essential question: Why are books important?

As part of the learning, students will engage with authentic texts to build on their existing knowledge of how people access books and experience the joy of reading. They will learn about how different people from around the world gain access



**THE BIG LAKE 2025 SWIM/DIVE TEAM** finished in fifth place with numerous athletes finishing in the top eight in several categories. (Submitted Photo).

200 FR Relay - fifth- Charlotte Overby, Abigail Fridgen, Adelyn Fox and Emily Edlund; 400 FR Relay -

seventh- Charlotte Overby, Maia Wenderski, Aimee Lu and Madelyn Fridgen; 400 FR Relay - fifth - Emily Ed-

lund, Piper Fridgen, Adelyn Fox and Abigail Fridgen.

## Becker primary focuses on literacy as initiative



**THESE BECKER PRIMARY STUDENTS** thoroughly enjoyed their time learning about the Rally to Read bookmobile as part of their literacy studies. (Submitted Photo.)

to books such as packhorse librarians, bookmobiles and more.

The first grade team decided to kick off the learning with a visit from the Monticello based Rally to Read vehicle, an ambulance retro-

fitted to serve as a bookmobile.

Becker resident and retired teacher Cindy Graham (along with her husband, Mark, a retired Becker administrator) has spent countless hours using the mobile

library to help spread her passion for literacy awareness.

Congratulations to the Becker Primary students and staff for their continued and renewed focus on student literacy!

## Hornet runners do well at Princeton Invitational

By Ken Francis,  
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys varsity cross country runners were in good form last Tuesday, finishing third of 23 teams at the Princeton Invitational.

The Hornets finished behind Becker and Rockford with 144 points.

"After running in very warm conditions for most of the season, runners were greeted with cooler temperatures and light winds, making for strong racing conditions," said Coach Todd Trutna.

Gavin Flavin led the way with a sixth-place finish in 16:14.

Big Lake's next three finishers all placed in the top 25, and all three broke the 17-minute barrier. Trent Erickson took 16th in 16:43, followed by Jack Schmidt

(22nd, 16:53), and The Johnson (25th, 16:58).

"Coming into the season it wasn't a surprise that Gavin and Trent are leading the way," said Coach Trutna. "But seeing how Theo and Jack have improved is really making the team competitive. It's great to have four in the top 25 in a large meet like this."

Rounding out the scoring were Eli Henning (75th, 18:08), Max Baron (85th, 18:21), and Eli Schaller (102nd, 18:48).

"Our next three runners and the top several swings on JV have been as competitive as I can remember," said Coach Trutna. "Many people are stepping up, which is good news for the end of the season and the future of our team."

### Girls Squad

The girls varsity team placed 15th overall with 367

points. Shay France led the way with an 18th-place finish in 19:54.

She was followed by Hazel Guldseth (66th, 22:08), Elsie Jagusch (86th, 22:52), Clara Devine (92nd, 23:03), Aubri Judge (115th, 23:58), Ainsley McGuire (118th,24:12) and Chloe Howe (131st, 25:25).

"We continue to see growth in the girls' lineup. Shay had a great, strong, even race up front, and the rest of the team is finding ways to move up in bigger races," said Coach Trutna. "Hazel had a big run as well, taking over a minute off her time, and when she moved up everyone behind her moved up as well."

Over 90% of Big Lake runners on varsity and JV came away with personal records, and those who didn't weren't far off.

"As a team we've talked

about being ready for the day when things will click," said Coach Trutna. "The team was definitely ready today."

The Hornets competed Tuesday at the Mississippi 8 Conference Championships at The Ponds Golf Course in St. Francis, results next week.

They run in the Section 5AA Meet at St. Cloud Apollo 3 p.m. next Thursday. That meet determines which team and individual qualify for the state meet.



# SPORTS/AREA NEWS

## Bulldog tennis 2nd in section, Conzemius to state

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

The Becker girls tennis team finished second in the team portion of the recent section tournament, while Gracie Conzemius made a stellar run to qualify for the individual state tournament.

In team play, #3 seed Becker defeated the #2 seeded team from Perham/New York Mills by a score of 4-3.

Conzemius was the lone singles winner for the Bulldogs in that match, winning 6-1, 6-0, before Becker ran the table in the doubles matches to secure the win. Winning teams

for Becker included Chloe Spear/Tess Brown, Faith Bass/ Taylor Lisson and Sami Leaders/Bryn Dahlheimer.

In the final round, Becker fell to Fergus Falls by a score of 5-2.

Conzemius was again the singles winner for Becker, while Dahlheimer/Leaders won the other Bulldog match.

In singles section tournament play last Saturday, Conzemius battled back from a semifinal loss to claim true second and a berth in the MSHSL state tennis tournament.

She opened with a 6-0, 6-1 win over her op-



ponent from Detroit Lakes before claiming a 6-2, 6-0 win over Layla Zosel from Fergus Falls. Next was a loss to the eventual champion from Perham, Kaia Anderson, setting up the True Second match against Ali Bredenberg from Fergus Falls. In that match, Conzemius played excellent tennis to claim the 7-5, 6-0 win and a spot at state.

**GRACIE CONZEMIUS is the latest Becker Bulldog to make it to state, as she qualified for the MSHSL tennis championships. (Submitted Photo)**

## Bulldog swimmers 2nd at TT

By Mark Kolbinger,  
Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog swimming and diving team recently placed second at the Section 5A True Team meet. The runner-up finish was is the highest in program history.

“We had a great day at the true team meet on Saturday, as there were a lot of really good races and a lot of races that came down to the finish,” Coach Tina Tamm said. “The girls made goals at the beginning of the season and one of them was to place second at True Team. They wanted to accomplish that goal and did what they had to do to get it done.”

For the True Team meet, the top eight finishers in each event receive medals.

“We sent a lot of girls to the podium,” Tamm added. “We had at least one athlete on the podium in every event.”

Podium appearances included: 200 Medley Relay, second place (Laila Cook, Izza Mork, Grace Mork, Mia Suelter) and seventh place (Harper Kellogg, Kandell Hagen, Eiley Kaehler, Clara Pratt);

200 Freestyle: first (Grace Mork) and fifth (Mia Suelter); 200 Individual Medley: second (Izza Mork) and sixth (Kandell Hagen); 50 Freestyle: seventh (Alyssa Cowley); Diving: third (Maggie Graning) fifth (Karli Kirk) sixth (Lillian Bonsante) and seventh (Brielle Kuschel); 100 butterfly: seventh (Laila Cook) and eighth (Myka Maksimenko); 100 freestyle: fifth (Kandell Hagen); 500 free: first (Grace Mork) third (Mia Suelter) eighth (Harper Kellogg); 200 free relay: third (Izza Mork, Alysaa Cowley, Laila Cook, Grace Mork); 100 backstroke: fifth (Laila Cook); 100 breaststroke: first (Izza Mork); 400 free relay: fourth (Alyssa Cowley, Myka Maksimenko, Mia Suelter, Kandell Hagen).

In addition to the podium places, Tamm also reported several athletes with qualifying times for Sections, including Kailey McGowan in the 200 free, Cook in the 100 butterfly, Astrid Faul in the 500 free and Elle Aho in the 100 backstroke.

“We now have 21 athletes qualified for the Section meet,” Tamm added.

## BL boys, Girls Fall in Section Soccer Playoffs

By Ken Francis,  
Contributing Writer

The 2025 Big Lake varsity soccer season for the boys and girls ended last week in the first round of the Section 6AA playoffs.

### Boys Squad

The boys lost to #2-ranked Orono, 5-1 on Oct. 7. Orono opened a 2-0 lead in the first half, then added three more goals after the break.

The only score from the Hornets came in the second half on a goal by Elijah Chastain, assisted by Kofi Gyamerah. Goalkeeper Caleb Olson had a busy night with 20 saves.

The Hornets finished the season, 2-12-3.

### Girls Squad

The girls also lost their section game to Delano, 2-0 at home. The Hornets had scoring chances throughout the game but couldn't get one past the Delano goalkeeper.

The Tigers got their first goal on a deflection off a free kick at 12:50 into the game. They added their second goal on a rebound at 23:48, and that 2-0 score held the rest of the way.

The girls finished the season with a record of 9-5-3.

## Hornets fall to Lions, 24-14

By Bill Morgan,  
Editor

The Big Lake boys football team once again gave their all in last Friday's game against Providence Academy. Despite the tremendous effort — especially in the second half — Providence was able to escape with the win, 24-14.

Big Lake's offense was able to move the ball well throughout the game, outgaining the Lions and finishing with 345 yards between a balanced run-pass attack.

Dillon Spaeth went 15-for-22 passing, finishing with 157 yards through the air. Caleb Martin was his top target once again, finishing with eight catches and 52 yards. Jackson LaRoche and Jack Midas also added a few explosive receptions of 30+ yards.

Carter Stromberg was a force to be reckoned with on the ground, finishing the evening with 129 yards and two touchdowns on 23 carries.

The Hornet defense



**THE BIG LAKE HORNET FOOTBALL TEAM honored the country of the United States with a lineup along the sidelines before last Friday's game against Providence. (Submitted Photo).**

also had a strong performance, led by senior linebacker Liam Mettler, who finished the game with a total of 4.5 tackles for loss. Alex John and Josh Dupre both flew around the field, finishing with a team-high eight tackles each. Sophomore linebacker Danny Rotz also had a nice interception, as the defense put up a great fight.

Ultimately, it was the turnover differential that largely led to the outcome,

as the Hornets turned the ball over four times, compared to Providence's one.

The Hornets have a short week this week, as they prepare for the regular season finale at home this Wednesday against a strong Willmar team. The coaches and players hope to see the stands filled as they celebrate their 2026 senior class in their final home game at Hornet Stadium.

## Congrats Paul!



**BECKER BULLDOG HEAD BOYS TRACK COACH PAUL SCHMIDT** was honored last weekend by the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association as the Championship Coach and Class AA Track and Field Coach of the Year for the 2024-2025 school year. Schmidt received his award at the annual coaches association banquet. Schmidt led his team to the state title last spring and his program has consistently produced individual state entrants over the past two decades. (Submitted Photo)

## Congrats Nick!



**CROWLEY NAMED TENNIS SECTION COACH OF THE YEAR.** Becker's Nick Crowley was recently honored as the Section Coach of the Year for boys soccer. Crowley, a Becker graduate, has guided the program to a series of recent successes, earning the honor from his fellow coaches. (Photo from BHS's Facebook page)

## 4-H awards night



**AVA KOLBINGER, OF BECKER** was one of many 4-H'ers who were honored at the annual 4-H awards ceremony Sunday, October 5. Ava is a member of Duelm 4-H club and earned an "Above and Beyond" award for her commitment and achievement to 4-H. Cade Barringer of Becker, (not pictured), also received the "Above and Beyond" award and the "premiere showmanship award" during the Benton County Fair. (Submitted Photo).



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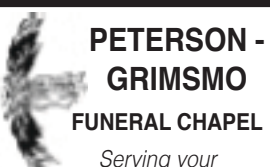
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## Liberty Paper Player of the Game

By Bill Morgan, Editor



**SENIOR LB ZACH HALVORSON** was named "Player of the Week" for his outstanding performance in last week's game against Rocori. (Submitted Photo).

Zach Halvorson, senior linebacker, was named Player of the Week for his outstanding game on Friday night against Rocori. Coach Hokan Bengtson said, "Zach has been an amazing captain and role model for our team all year. He has played every game with a broken hand in a cast."

"His toughness and competitive spirit have been a real inspiration to our team. The "Dogs" are blessed to have him playing so well."

## Bulldogs lose 2nd in a row, 28-21 to Spartans

By Bill Morgan, Editor



The Becker Bulldog football team hosted their Tackle Cancer night at Dwight Lundeen Stadium last Friday but it was the Rocori Spartans who brought agony to the home team as they improved to 6-1 on the year with a 28-21 victory.

The Bulldogs jumped out to a two-touchdown lead in the first half only to see the Spartans pour out four unanswered TDs to capture the win on the road.

Becker would tally a late score to make the game interesting, but it was too little, too late.

QB Tristan Kowalkowski finished with 223 yards

downs. Cayden Goodell had 63 yards on three catches in the loss.

On defense, Zach Halvorson had four tackles and three assists. Bennett Kujawa had four tackles, five assists, one tackle for loss and one sack.

The Bulldogs amassed 381 total yards to Rocori's 292 and had 19 first downs to 12 for the Spartans.

Becker welcomed Detroit Lakes at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday. The Bulldogs will be up against the Lakers' rather soft defense (which has allowed 29.14 points per game), so fans could be in store for a big offensive performance.

Becker RB CHASE STUPAR (#2) got a great block from teammate Clayton Hamacher(#33) enroute to a sizeable gain against Rocori last weekend. (Submitted Photoby Aimee Golley).

On 17-of-36 passing and two TDs.

On the ground, Isiah Boyer had 56 yards on 13 carries while Sawyer Brown had 50 yards on eight carries.

On the receiving end, Brown had 100 yards on six catches and two touch-

## Bulldog volleyball team downs Eagles

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

Last Thursday, the Becker volleyball team put together a great effort against St. Cloud Apollo and came away with a 3-0 win against the Section 8AAA foe. Game scores were 25-12, 25-9 and 25-5, as the Bulldogs dominated the match.

"Kylie Perkins led the offense with eight kills," Katie "Coach Bo" Mavencamp said. "Emma Aaseby was on fire from the serving line with four aces and serving a total of 19 times!"

Monday night, Becker again came out strong en route to a 3-0 win over Watertown-Mayer, as the Bulldogs won 25-19, 25-18 and 25-23.

"Kenna Hennessey dominated the back row with 28 digs," Coach Bo said. "Brynn Koste led our offense with 13 kills."

Becker's next game and first post-season game will be on Thurs., Oct. 23 as the high seed for Section 8AAA Round 1 Games. Seeding will be released on Fri., Oct. 17.

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Congrats to Coach Lundeen on yet another well deserved accomplishment! It's incredible to have you in the Becker community and coaching our team!

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