

City Public Notices

CITY OF CLEARWATER COUNTY OF STEARNS COUNTY OF WRIGHT STATE OF MINNESOTA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Clearwater, Counties of Stearns and Wright, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., at the Clearwater City Hall, in the City of Clearwater, Minnesota, relating to the proposed establishment of Municipal Development District No. 3, the proposed establishment of Tax Increment Financing District No. 3-1 within the Development District, and the proposed adoption a Development Plan related to Municipal Development District No. 3, and the proposed adoption of a Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 3-1, all pursuant to and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.124 through 469.133, as amended, and Sections 469.174 through 469.1794, as amended, and to adopt business subsidy agreements, pursuant to Sections 116J.993 to 116J.995, all inclusive, as amended. The recipient of the proposed business subsidy is Central Minnesota Cold Storage, in connection with the reimbursement of land acquisition and site improvements within the TIF District. A copy of the proposed Tax Increment Financing Plan and a summary of the agreements are on file and available for public inspection at the office of the City Administrator at City Hall.

A person with residence in or the owner of taxable property in the City may file a written complaint with the City if the City fails to comply with Sections 116J.993 to 116J.995, and no action may be filed against the City for the failure to comply unless a written complaint is filed.

The property included in Municipal Development District No. 3 is described in the Development Program on file in the office of the City Administrator. The property proposed to be included in Tax Increment Financing District No. 3-1 is described in the Tax Increment Financing Plan on file in the office of the City Administrator.

A map of Municipal Development District No. 3 and Tax Increment Financing District No. 3-1 are set forth in the adjacent map:



All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their views orally or prior to the meeting in writing to City Hall, P.O. Box 9, 605 County Road 75, Clearwater, MN 55302. (Published in the Patriot: 03/12/22; 03/19/22).

Clear Lake city hears audit report

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Clear Lake City Council met Monday evening and dealt with agenda items ranging from finances to zoning ordinances.

Acting Mayor Karen White gavelled the meeting to order in the absence of Mayor Tim Goenner and the first order of business was the 2021 annual audit review as presented by auditor Janel Bitzan.

Overall, the report showed the city to be in excellent financial shape, with unmodified (clean) opinions. This opinion is the highest rating possible for a city of Clear Lake's size.

In addition to the city's financials, reviews were also presented for the Water and Sewer Funds. These also came with a clean audit opinion, as did the review of the city's regulatory standards as required by the State Auditor.

Another area reviewed by Bitzan and her team was in the area of compliance with current regulations. Because Clear Lake is a small city with limited staff, her team noted that the council should be aware of the lack of segregation of accounting duties - a common occurrence in similar sized municipalities.

Next, Bitzan presented a handful of charts and graphs that showed the general fund revenues and disbursements, as well as an overall increase in the cash balance.

An infusion of Federal dollars, via ARPA, as well as a small cities grant

helped to increase the city's cash reserves. As a result, the percentage of revenue generated from property taxes decreased from 77% of the budget to 64%.

The final part of the presentation covered a five year history of disbursements and an increase in public safety was noted due to new construction of homes and the building inspections that go along with those developments.

In summary, Bitzan reported that the city showed healthy financials and the budgetary figures being used by the council were accurate.

Development

Council next discussed a new plat coming to the city called Arnold's First Addition. Initially, a public hearing had been planned for the meeting to discuss the preliminary plat, but because there were still changes being made to the Developer's Agreement, council canceled that meeting and instead held an open discussion.

The addition will consist of five buildable lots to the southeast of 1st avenue.

One issue discussed was an existing garage on one of the proposed lots and how it might be incorporated into a future single family residence. There could be variances needed in the future based on current planning and zoning regulations, but no further issues were identified. The proposal will come back at a future date for preliminary plat approval.

In Other Business, the Council:

• Reminded the public of the local Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting scheduled for April 4 at 6 p.m.;

• Heard from Sgt. Andy Ochs of the SCSO regarding last month's 44 calls for service. Traffic stops and security checks remain the most common type of incidents, numbering 18 and 13, respectively;

• Approved a motion for the acceptance of the 2021 committed funds;

• Approved a change order for Well #3, which had been approved previously but never finalized;

• Discussed an overview of the council donations received which showed a balance of \$18,000 after the scoreboard for the baseball field was purchased and installed. Council discussed possible future projects needing funding, including a speed sign for Highway 24 and possible upgrades for the lighting on the crosswalks within the city. Clerk Kari Koren had done some intensive research into the lighting issue and found a plethora of state regulations and studies needed to improve the lighting for each crosswalk, with costs approaching \$10,000 for each warning sign;

• Discussed the replacement of the Speed Aware Radar Sign on Highway 24 and directed Public Works Director Dustin Lunning to further research the issue and return next month with a recommendation.

Property valuation notices being sent to county residents

Submitted Article

(Editor's Note: The following release was submitted to the Patriot by Sherburne County).

Sherburne County residents will soon be receiving their Property Valuation Notices for 2022 assessment/taxes payable 2023. These statements will be included in the same envelope as the 2022 Property Tax Statements.

Low interest rates and a lack of inventory coupled with high demand have led to a robust residential housing market statewide. The current market value is determined by market conditions based on sales that transpired between October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021.

Over the course of this period, the median residential sale price in Sherburne County was approximately \$340,000. By contrast, the median estimated market value prior to any market value adjustments was \$283,000. Based on this sales data, the average home value will increase approximately 16-20%, depending on property location and other factors.

The Assessor's Office is responsible for estimating market value and determining proper classification of all properties in Sherburne County. Minnesota law requires assessors to value property at its most likely selling price. This "estimated market value" divided by the actual sale price equals the Sales Ratio. The Minnesota

Department of Revenue uses this ratio to do studies that ensure uniformity and quality of assessments. To be considered compliant with the Department of Revenue, median property assessments are expected to be within 90% - 105% of market value.

If, upon receiving one's individual Valuation Notice and residents have questions for the Assessor's Office, the formal appeal process is included on the valuation statements. The Sherburne County Assessor's office encourages taxpayers to reach out to staff with any questions or concerns they may have regarding the market value once they receive the value notice.

One can reach the Assessor's Office at (763) 765-4900.

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Citizen of the Year



DR. BECKY MUELLER of CentraCare in Becker was presented her certificate for being named the Patriot Newspaper's Citizen of the Year. Mueller is a physician leader for five CentraCare clinics, is a devoted mother and wife and is a prolific community volunteer in the Becker community. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).

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Area News



Big Lake
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Submissions are being accepted for name additions to the Big Lake Veterans Memorial. If you know of a deceased area Veteran in the 55309 area code and would like to submit their name for consideration, the deadline for submittal is **April 8th, 2022**. All submissions are subject to approval by the Veteran's Memorial Committee. Application forms can be found on the **City of Big Lake Website at Veterans Memorial Name Submission | Big Lake, MN** or you can request a form by emailing biglakebtyr@gmail.com

Townships hold annual meetings, elections

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Tuesday night marked an important yearly milestone in the exercise of democracy, as some area townships held their annual meetings and local elections. This reporter had the chance to visit all three townships on his government beat in an attempt to report on the grassroots efforts of citizens in maintaining and supporting local government control. A special thanks to all three township chairs for their extra efforts in sharing information with the *Patriot* for this update.

Santiago

Starting on the north end of the county, the first annual meeting was Santiago Township, where long-time public servants Supervisor Dave Jehoich and Clerk Kathy Woolard were each re-elected with 19 votes.

Among the crowd were some familiar faces, including the Harshmans, who are fixtures at every meeting, along with Don Pappenfus, a former supervisor and the father of current board member Jeff.

Board chair Stuart Nelson moderated the meeting, where the citizens approved a motion to increase the supervisor pay to \$110 a month.

Palmer

From there, it was a mad dash (obeying all speed and traffic laws) west along CSAH 3 to Palmer Township, where Clerk Amy Bragelman was sharing the minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting.

A total of 14 residents were in attendance at the meeting, which was moderated by Keith Bragelman.

Topics for discussion included the amount paid out in 2021 for gopher bounties (\$556), as well as a report via Zoom from Treasurer Roger Johnson.

Chairman Mike Ganz received 34 votes to remain in his seat, while the citizens voted to increase the local levy by four percent.

Becker

The last stop was the historic Becker Town Hall, where moderator Bryan Olson conducted the citizens' business by leading those in attendance through an impressive packet of information.

Road projects for 2022 will include a cost sharing agreement with the City of Becker on 127th and 153rd, while in 2023 there are plans for a joint venture with the same two jurisdictions joining Clear Lake Township to re-construct 97th Ave.

The *Patriot* was approved as the official newspaper of the township, while the 2023 levy recommendations were presented. These included an increase of \$5,000 in the General Fund, \$50,000 additional to the Roads and Bridge Fund and \$20,000 to the Fire Fund.

Brad Wilkening was re-elected to his supervisor seat with 30 votes, while other agenda items covered included roads, a Monticello Hospital Board update from Mark Swanson and the Board of Audit report.

Township residents can circle March 14, 2023 on their calendars, as that is when citizens will gather once again to participate in local government democracy!



DAVE JEHOICH AND KATHY WOOLARD were each re-elected to their positions in Santiago Township. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)



BRAD WILKENING was re-elected to the Becker Township Board at Tuesday's election. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)



CLERK AMY BRAGELMAN read the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes to the crowd as Supervisors Steve Demeules, Mike Ganz and Richard Larson followed along. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)



AN INTERESTED CROWD OF 14 RESIDENTS attended Tuesday night's Palmer Township Annual Meeting. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

Big Lake Lions fish fry is delicious success!

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

Last weekend, the Big Lake Lions club held their annual fish fry at Lions Park. Patrons were once again able to dine in-person this year, as last year the Lions held a drive-through event due to COVID-19 concerns.

On the menu were fried fish filets, cole slaw, baked potatoes, buns, baked beans, and pie for dessert. The park building was full of patrons enjoying their meals, as well as lots of friendly faces volunteering to run the show.

Boy Scout Troop 93 bussed tables, greeted guests, and held the doors. The 2022 Big Lake Ambassadors served food.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 93 helped run last week's fish fry, bussing tables, greeting guests, and holding the doors for patrons. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)



THE BIG LAKE AMBASSADORS served up some delicious food last week at the Big Lake Lions annual fish fry. Left of the ambassadors are Lion member and County Commissioner, Reanne Danielowski (farthest left) and Big Lake Council Member Kim Noding. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)



BIG LAKE MAYOR PAUL KNIER (L) AND LION MEMBER BRIAN LEVANDUSKI (R) collected money at the door of the Lions fish fry last week. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

Rum River Chapter 19
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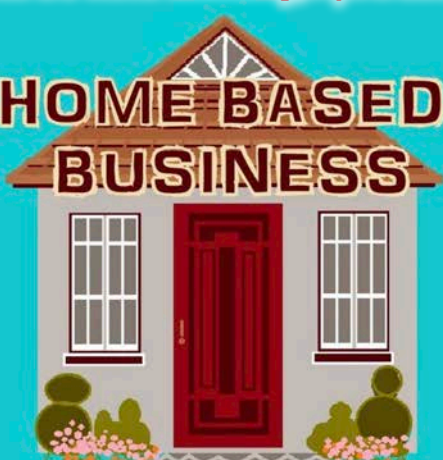
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LGBTQ issues discussed at Becker School Board

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

During Monday's Becker School Board meeting, several concerned citizens spoke during the open forum section of the board meeting. The hot topic of the night was whether the board should hear a presentation presenting the other side of LGBTQ issues, in response to the Out Front Minnesota presentation the board heard last fall.

(Reporter's Note: The following names may not be spelled correctly, as speakers' names were stated but not spelled out. Please excuse any errors.)

Chris Klippen spoke requesting the board allow an alternative presentation to be heard, in the name of fairness and freedom of speech.

Joe Rand spoke next, opposing Klippen's viewpoint, citing LGBTQ students who took their own lives because of feelings of unacceptance in their schools.

Tim Fenske also voiced a desire to hear both sides of the argument and allowing an alternative presentation.

Austyn, a Becker student, spoke next. Austyn is a transgender student, and wanted to voice that this is an important issue which

will affect her life and the lives of other LGBTQ students every day.

Nick, another LGBTQ student, accused the board of not listening to the needs of the students who have reached out to them over the last year.

Standards and Curriculum

Assistant Superintendent Minda Anderson gave

legislature. Public comment is accepted and considered when making revisions.

Curriculum is determined by the teacher to help students learn the academic standards. New curriculum is approved, implemented, and monitored twice in a 10 year period.

There is a curriculum advisory committee which does include parents of the

Cross blood drive at the school March 25.

Spring break is coming up soon, and spring sports have begun practicing.

Superintendent's Report

MCA testing will occur from March 28 to May 12.

Region VI day at the capital will be March 16. Supt. Jeremy Schmidt went on to discuss some of the bills in the legislature of interest to the schools. That list can be found in the meeting agenda, found under the "meeting packets" link on the school board web page.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

has been reviewing the proposed budget. Uncertain enrollment numbers are making this a difficult process.

Activities Committee

is excited there are so many students representing the school at state in many different activities.



a review on the process of adopting standards and curriculum in the school.

Academic standards are set by the state, and school districts are required to implement these standards. Standards define benchmarks for students; students should be able to demonstrate certain skills or knowledge by the end of the grade level.

Academic standards are reviewed and revised in a 10-year cycle, with one area of study being reviewed every year by the

students.

Student Council Report

Two representatives of the student council gave an update on sports and extra-curriculars to the board.

The robotics team just came back from their first regional competition of the season, having placed second.

The student council hosted an ice skating event at Kolbinger Park Feb. 25.

The third trimester began recently.

There will be a Red

Becker Twp. refining rules for home business

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Becker Twp. Board met last Monday evening and heard a variety of updates that could have impacts upon residents in the future.

Home Businesses

Planner Ben Wikstrom explained the continuing work being done by the planning board towards refining the rules for home based businesses, as some restrictions are proposed to be loosened to allow for greater flexibility for residents who are conducting business work at their residences.

Over the past two years, there has been more interest from residents who want to establish home-based businesses and Wikstrom explained that the group is trying to be proactive.

Clerk Lucinda Messman noted that a public hearing will be forthcoming and the township is also soliciting comments on the draft ordinance.

"We really want citizen input on this ordinance," Messman noted.

In planning related business, Wikstrom reported that Xcel is applying for a CUP as they are requesting to move a transmission line outside the current right of way along Co. Rd. 11, which would affect 22 affected property owners. Messman mentioned that several property owners have already called the township requesting further information.

Roads

Recently, the board conducted bid openings for several roadway projects, with Knife River coming in as the lowest bidder on all of the projects. Engineer Wes Davis recommended approving 82nd St. and 164th Ave., and then taking up the other projects, 127th and 153rd, at the special meeting on March 4th. He is still finalizing a few documents with the City of Becker and will be ready to move forward at that meeting with those two joint projects.

The board unanimously approved the recommendations and decided to wait on the project for 157th St., as they rejected the bid and will consider other alterna-

tives in the future.

Davis also reported on a meeting for the 97th St. project and detailed plans for a meeting this summer to work with the City and Clear Lake Township on that project.

Road Supervisor Joe Danielson next detailed some postings that will occur this spring when it comes to gravel roads and weight limit restrictions. One road that will see a posting is 127th, which will be posted at a five ton maximum for the gravel portion for construction reasons. Once the asphalt is applied, it will be a 10 ton road.



City of Becker representative Phil Knutson appeared at the meeting seeking clarification about the posting, as it is a shared roadway. Without a sunset on the five ton maximum, it would be difficult for the city to move forward on the construction of the road and related developments in the area.

Danielson noted that the posting will just last as long as needed to protect the road base, but there are exemptions for certain farm trucks or public service uses such as garbage trucks. Knutson said he shared the concerns to not destroy the road and was satisfied with the sunset clause of the weight restrictions.

The roadway will be posted starting at the Co. Rd. 11 entrance to keep the heavy traffic off the surface during the restricted season.

The board also entertained a proposal from Sherburne County to swap the Co. Rd. 11 and MN Hwy 25 designations. This could have an effect on funding and potential future intersections for Hwy. 25. The board approval a resolution in favor of the concept following the statutory language requirements.

Broadband Denied

For several months, the county and Midco have requested the board approve \$75,000 in ARPA funds to enhance broadband access

in several areas of the township. Last month, the board directed Messman to gather more information on the scope of the work and the number of citizens it would help service.

Messman presented a detailed map which showed relatively little expansion of broadband in the township, with just 22 residences receiving the enhanced service.

Danielson noted this would account for a \$3,400 expenditure for each residence, while Chair Brian Kolbinger explained that residents would still need to purchase the service in the future at the market rate. After a brief discussion, the board denied the expenditure, citing their belief that the cost was exorbitant. "Midco needs to sharpen their pencil if they want to do the project," commented Supervisor Luke Babler.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Learned that Haus Construction has nearly completed the Town Hall bathroom remodel project, while paint quotes and a few miscellaneous electrical items are still being completed. Once finished, the project will meet all ADA requirements for accessibility;

- Heard from Messman that North Metro Animal Control is no longer offering its services outside of Anoka County. This is leaving many townships without coverage. The supervisors will be on the lookout for a dog catcher for the area;

- Heard from Sgt. Dan Frank of the SCSO, who reported on 197 calls for service, including 80 traffic stops. Frank noted that people still drive too fast for the conditions and several ended up in the ditch with the recent snowfall. Overall, theft complaints are down in the township, while mental health calls continue to be a regular occurrence;

- Approved a positive comment for a noise exemption permit for the Sons of the American Legion concert, will be held on August 13, from 5 until 10 p.m.

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DNR EAGLE CAM. For those looking for a break in their day, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has started up its EagleCam, which follows the life of a nesting pair of eagles. Currently, the female has laid two eggs that she is caring for in the nest. Eagle eggs take approximately 35 days to hatch, so the excitement will really begin in mid-March. To see the live feed from EagleCam, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/eaglecam. (Photo taken from video stream.)

Area Chamber News

 Membership Meeting Mar. 16 - Noon Becker High School Easter Egg Hunt Watch for details!	 Membership Meeting Mar. 29 - 11:30 am BLPD Community Room Community Fair April 23 - 10 am - 1 pm Reduced Booth Prices!	 Annual CVBC Expo Sun., May 1, 10 am - 1pm @ Clearwater Legion. If you would like to host a booth, contact Lori Johnson at: lori.rootofwellness@yahoo.com
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If you would like more information on any of these events or if you would like to become a member of these organizations please reach out to them:

Amity Felton 763-262-2420 Chamber@BeckerChamber.org	Gloria Vande Brake 763-263-7800 Info@BigLakeChamber.com	Glenna Soenneker 320-267-4361 GSoenneker@GMail.com
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Becker City Council discusses industrial projects 2 & 3

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

The latest industrial park project, called "Project 2" by city staff, is moving forward. During their recent meeting, Becker City Council approved preliminary plans for the project. The funding comes from the state bonding money given to the city to develop the industrial park.

On a similar note, "Project 3," a new sanitary sewer line, is being planned. Council signed a supplemental letter of agreement stating their intention to pursue the project.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee

reviewed the 2021 fourth quarter financial report and

discussed the compensation study.

Golf Committee noted that the simulators at Pebble Creek have brought in a good increase of off-season sales, not only for the time on the simulators, but also in food and drink sales.

Parks and Rec received an application for a citizen, Kevin Krenz, to join the committee, and the council members agreed the individual would be a good fit. The committee is negotiating with the athletic association to provide food and beverage at the BAC (Becker Athletic Complex.)

Police Management reported the department is considering using "pepper balls" which are non-lethal, but incredibly effective, weapons

that could be used by officers.

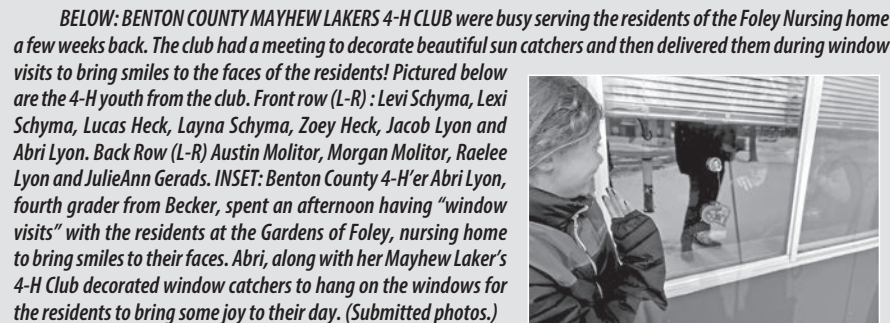
Fossum Fields

A preliminary and final plat was approved for Fossum Fields. It is the largest residential plat the city has seen for several years. The developer plans to use the land to build 44 single family homes on the southwest side of the city.

The city's agreement with the developer also outlines the inclusion of a walking trail.

In Other Business, the Council:

- Heard an update on fourth quarter financials;
- Agreed to purchase a slit seeder for Pebble Creek;
- Agreed to cost-share a road project with Becker Twp.



BELOW: BENTON COUNTY MAYHEW LAKERS 4-H CLUB were busy serving the residents of the Foley Nursing home a few weeks back. The club had a meeting to decorate beautiful sun catchers and then delivered them during window visits to bring smiles to the faces of the residents! Pictured below are the 4-H youth from the club. Front row (L-R): Levi Schyma, Lexi Schyma, Lucas Heck, Layna Schyma, Zoey Heck, Jacob Lyon and Abri Lyon. Back Row (L-R) Austin Molitor, Morgan Molitor, Raelee Lyon and JulieAnn Gerads. **INSET: Benton County 4-H'er Abri Lyon**, fourth grader from Becker, spent an afternoon having "window visits" with the residents at the Gardens of Foley, nursing home to bring smiles to their faces. Abri, along with her Mayhew Laker's 4-H Club decorated window catchers to hang on the windows for the residents to bring some joy to their day. (Submitted photos.)

Editorials/Opinions

Blood Pressure? Tune Out Headlines

If you're reading this column hoping for medical advice, you apparently don't know me very well.

However, it doesn't take a Ph.D. to figure out that if you're ingesting what the media conglomerates are peddling these days, you probably have a greater risk of high blood pressure, acid reflux or a variety of other ailments.

If you disagree, then try this experiment. Take your pulse before you read any further and see what happens once you're done!

Let's take a look at a sampling of headlines from across media platforms (conservative and liberal) this week.

"Report: Mpls. failed to follow emergency protocols during protests, riots". Really? What a shocking revelation! The story goes on to report that a Maryland based risk management firm conducted interviews with 90 individuals, plus reviewed many hours of body-camera footage and analyzed some 2,400 documents in order to come to this conclusion. How many thousands (or millions) of taxpayer dollars were spent on that study? I think every person who watched even two minutes of the carnage on television could have guessed that if there was a plan, it wasn't followed.

Another sample: "Subway slasher freed without bail after similar attack." The story goes on to report that this New York man has been arrested six times... since he was released without bail in October for, you guessed it, slashing a woman in the head in 2020.

How's your pulse rate? Are your eyes ringing from



By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

high blood pressure yet?

Just in case you need one more example, try this on for size: "Top lawmakers reach deal on Ukraine aid, \$1.5T spending." Yes, the "T" stands for Trillion. Does anyone else out there wonder what will happen when all of this spending has to be paid back?

Check that pulse — maybe now you're reaching for the Lisinopril!

It seems that nearly everyone I talk to recently, regardless of their political persuasion or beliefs, is either angry or dumbfounded about the current state of affairs. Worse yet, I'm seeing more and more people who have become apathetic because it seems like too many things are out of control and solutions are scarce.

I believe it was the ancient philosopher Tao who once spoke of the futility of trying to control things that are beyond one's control. That's exactly how I feel sometimes about the affairs in Washington D.C. and the way that big media corporations (on both sides of the political spectrum) control, manipulate and distort the message for their own personal gain.

Over the years, I have

developed an intense distaste for the national media and to be honest, even most state-wide sources.

Instead, I focus on the great local stories that continue to show me a glimmer of hope for our future.

This week was a great lesson in that sphere of influence, as I was able to attend several township annual meetings. At these gatherings, faithful public servants debated and wrangled over "T" spending as well. But in this case, the "T" stood for thousands and not trillions. It's my opinion that there are no greater stewards of public dollars than our local governments.

Heck, it's the only place in America where once a year, citizens can gather and exercise their rights in a direct democracy, where individual votes can determine local tax levies and expenditures.

When one tends to focus on local affairs, I believe it leads to a happier life. Instead of donating to a national charity (where they probably take a huge cut as an "administrative fee"), find a friend or neighbor in need and give them the same amount of money. Don't have a friend in need? Then try showing up at the next Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting and I bet those leaders can point you to a Veteran's family who could use some assistance.

Even if it's just for one day, try tuning out the headlines and focusing on local affairs. Chances are, it will make you feel a little better inside.

tized. When criminals who have committed violent crimes are caught and then quickly released, this sends the message that there are no consequences for their crimes. The bills we heard this week will address this by communicating that there will be strong consequences for violent crimes.

Additionally, in the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee, we heard a bill, S.F. 3617, this week to allocate \$100 million for broadband from federal funds. This funding would be committed to the Office of Broadband Development, and this money would then be deployed to buildout broadband in our state's underserved rural and metropolitan areas.

In today's digital age, providing broadband service to all Minnesotans is critical. From healthcare to education, families and businesses are becoming increasingly more dependent on devices that require access to a quality broadband connection. This new \$100 million in funding will put our state even closer to providing reliable access to all.

Saying Goodbye to a Good Friend

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

Groundhog Day might have been last month, but it still feels like we're in a holding pattern here in Washington. The government is again poised to run out of funding, and Congress is scrambling to pass a spending bill. Americans are again anticipating a record-high inflation report and paying top dollar for gas imported from our rivals.

Laying a Great Minnesotan to Rest

Today, I said goodbye to my good friend, Representative Jim Hagedorn. Jim passed away last month after a long and challenging battle with cancer. Even while he was sick, Jim's focus wasn't on himself, but his constituents in the First Congressional District. Being here in Washington hasn't been the same since his passing, and we will miss him dearly.

Fighting for Energy Independence

Americans trying to fill up their cars are in for more painful trips to the pump. This week, gas prices ticked past \$4 per gallon--the highest gas prices on record.

There is no doubt that Putin's war on Ukraine has driven up prices, but this crisis was going on long before the first Russian missiles were launched. Gas



By Congressman
Tom Emmer

prices have been steadily rising since President Biden's first day in office, when he canceled production of the Keystone Pipeline. Biden also reinstated Obama-era policies like the so-called Clean Power Plan, which have crushed domestic production of oil and gas.

We must also remember that in November, President Biden pulled 50 million barrels of oil from America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) not to address a natural disaster or a shortage, but to lower prices. This week, we are seeing President Biden send administration officials to Venezuela to negotiate a deal for more oil. You read that right: President Biden is trying to replace dependency on one dictator by relying on another.

The answer to this problem isn't putting more money in the pocket of foreign despots, it's investing in energy production

here at home. Last week, I joined my colleague, Representative Rick Allen (GA-12) on a letter urging President Biden to end his crusade against domestic energy production. It's time that we allow America to achieve energy independence.

Supporting our Disabled Veterans

Our veterans have given so much in service to our nation, and we owe it to them to ensure they have access to high-quality care. Last week, I had the opportunity to meet with Disabled American Veterans of Minnesota (DAV), an organization dedicated to fulfilling our promises to those who have served.

I've been proud to support legislation that helps veterans receive the care they deserve, like my Same-Day Accountability Veterans Enhancement (SAVE) Act, which will help ensure veterans are able to receive timely, convenient care for physical and mental ailments. I also serve as a cosponsor of the PAWS for Veterans Therapy Act, which will create a pilot program for veterans to train service dogs for veterans with disabilities.

We owe it to our veterans to provide top-notch care, and I'm grateful to have the chance to meet with the great advocates at DAV here in Washington.

Strong Consequences for Violent Crimes

(Editor's Note: The following column was submitted by Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer.)

Across the state, and particularly in the Twin Cities, we are seeing an upsurge in violent crimes. Minnesota has one of the lowest incarceration rates per capita in the country, and we generally reserve prison for the worst of the worst offenders or those who repeatedly commit new crimes.

Although judges are most often in control of sentencing, prosecutors are also allowed to waive the mandatory minimum prison time. And when prosecutors are not prosecuting, criminals are let back out into our communities and pose a serious threat to public safety. Therefore, it is critical for weak prosecutors and judges to be held responsible for the roles they play in keeping our communities safe.

And this week in the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee, we heard two proposals relating to mandatory minimum sentences for violent crimes.

Despite having a mandatory minimum sentence available, the Minnesota



By Sen.
Mary Kiffmeyer

Sentencing Guidelines Commission reported in 2020 that between 2013-2019, judges and prosecutors chose to not sentence the mandatory minimum in felony firearm cases 40% of the time.

To hold violent criminals accountable, we heard a bill, S.F. 2576, to enforce mandatory minimums for criminals who commit crimes with firearms or other dangerous weapons. Similarly, we also heard a bill, S.F. 2673, to require mandatory minimum sentences for certain designated violent crimes committed with a firearm.

Sometimes criminals are put before the victims, but I strongly believe that the victim and the safety of the public should be priori-



CONGRATULATIONS TO BECKER'S VOLUNTEER POLICE RESERVES on their recent Presidential Service Awards based on the number of hours worked. (L-R) Reserve Officer Carter Erickson - Gold Award, Police Officer and former Reserve Lieutenant Jenna Voigt - Silver award, and Reserve Lieutenant Tristan Mello - Gold Award. Last year, Becker's Reserve Officers donated over 1,700 hours to the Becker Police Department and the Becker Community!! Thank you for your continued help and service to our community!! (Submitted Photo).

Letters To The Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

On Tuesday, an interfaith vigil was held at the Sherburne County Government Center. Hosted by the Sanctuary and Resistance to Injustice (SARI) and the Interfaith Coalition on Immigration Dignity not Detention (ICOM), religious leaders presented a letter to the Commissioners and Sheriff Brott calling for an end to the Sherburne County's unjust detention for profit of immigrants. Speaking on behalf of 17 Christian denominations and nearly one million constituents, Minnesota Council of Churches CEO, Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung, said "The Sherburne County and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) contract violates the values that undergird our faith because the outcome is the unjust treatment of immigrants. The prophet Malachi proclaimed, 'Thus says God Almighty, I will be quick to testify against those who deprive immigrants of justice (Malachi 3:5)'. Faith communities will continue to witness for justice for immigrants until Sherburne County abandons all plans to expand or renew the current contract with ICE; phases out the existing contract and releases all currently detained immigrants; and resolves that Sherburne County law enforcement will pledge they will no longer collaborate with or detain individuals on behalf of ICE. " Please join the effort to end profiteering from injustice. Contact your commissioner and Sheriff Brott.

Rose Thelen
Clearwater, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

Continuing from last week, the welcome to naturalized citizens in our free land. The 1955 brochure addressed the rights and responsibilities of new US citizens, beginning with specific elements of the First Amendment. It continues with the right to vote in elections and the right to pursue an education and a vocation of one's own choosing. The resources of the country are accessible to all. If one is accused of a crime, the person has a right to a prompt trial by jury. The list ended with the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." By contrast, the 2022 brochure begins with an announce-

ment that the brochure is available in 14 languages. It offers help from government services to adjust to the new life. The brochure mentions rights as outlined in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights but does not explain what they entail. It warns new citizens about discrimination and committing a crime. Then it reminds them that they must pay income taxes, register for Selective Service, and provide the DHS with new addresses when they move. It suggests that these citizens get involved within their communities. Which is more welcoming—the 1955 or 2022 version?

Dr. Phyllis VanBuren,
Clearwater, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

The Becker School board has invited an anti-LGBTQ+ hate group to present on Monday, March 14 at 6:00 p.m. The Parents Action League (CPL) was designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center in 2010 in response to their anti-gay rhetoric and involvement in the Anoka Hennepin school district that led to at least four suicides of LGBTQ+ students. This led to an investigation by the U.S. Dept. of Civil Rights which found Title IX violations. Founder Barb Anderson was put on an anti-LGBT watch list by the national human rights agency GLAAD. Anderson has since created the Child Protection League which also has an anti-LGBT agenda in addition to many other causes about which it distributes false and misleading propaganda. CPL has ties to the MN Family Council, another SPLC designated hate group, which served as the statewide sponsor for the PAL. A presentation by the Child Protection League, it's members, and supporters equates to the board condoning hate speech, harassment, bullying, and actions that will result in declining mental health, self-harm, and suicide by students in this district. Becker School District will be the next school that has to answer to parents and families of its victims.

Joe Rand,
Clearwater, MN

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- **Subscription Rates:** \$90 annually, \$45 for six months, \$22.50 for three months or \$7.50 a month.
- **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 are required 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. Two 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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Rivers of Hope brings awareness to teen dating violence

Submitted article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Rivers of Hope.)

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. Every year people join together for a national effort to bring awareness about the issue of teen dating violence. Advocates work with youth experiencing this on a regular basis right in our communities of Wright County.

Teen dating violence is more common than many people think. One in three female identifying students are a victim of sexual, physical, verbal, and/or emotional abuse. One in 10 students of all genders report experiencing physical violence in a dating relationship. Violent behavior in relationships often begins between the ages of 12 and 18. These statistics are staggering and have a significant impact on local communities.

The full survey for Wright County can be found at TinyURL.com/yckpusk3. In 2021 Rivers of Hope served just under 200 individual students in Sherburne and Wright Counties. Based on the number of students who completed the surveys, it was calculated that in Wright County 791 students disclosed having experienced dating violence

of some sort. In Sherburne County the number was 1,090.

This indicates that if these numbers have remained relatively consistent since 2019 that Rivers of Hope has served just 10 percent of the number of students experiencing dating violence. However, the majority of students we serve are referred to us for family violence meaning that most students experiencing Teen Dating Violence do not have access to an advocate.

Apart from earlier prevention, working with students experiencing Teen Dating Violence is key to preventing later relationship violence in their lives. Rivers of Hope hopes to continue to expand our outreach and education services so that more youth in our community know that there is an organization who wants to empower them to find safety in their relationships. In order to expand we rely on the support of community partners to educate the people about the impact teen dating violence has on the community.

"We cannot live out our mission of ending relationship violence alone," said Hannah-Ruth Patterson of Rivers of Hope. "So thank you for standing beside us."

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Area News/Opinions

Florida Seabirds

Last week while leading a photo workshop in warm and sunny Florida, I was walking down a long stretch of beach with my group of photographers in tow. The sun had just come up spreading a warm yellowish glow across the sand and the crashing waves at the shore. A warm breeze blew in from the ocean keeping any bugs away. It was a picture-perfect morning.

The very first bird we spotted were two tiny Snowy Plovers standing in the sand. These beautiful little birds seemed to be enjoying the tranquil moment that the morning sun was offering. The entire group was able to lay down in the warm sand to capture some eye-level images. It is estimated that there are only about 31,000 breeding pairs of Snowy Plovers in the wild. In 1993 it was listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. We were all feeling very appreciative to have spent a few minutes with these uncommon birds and captured some amazing images.

We continued our walk down the beach to a long sandy hook that curled back towards the shore. The wind was picking up as the sun rose higher in the sky. The wind produced perfect conditions for several osprey to hover over the ocean, looking for fish in the water below. When they spotted a fish, they would drop from the sky and plunge into the water feet first, grabbing the fish. One osprey caught such a large fish that it could barely lift it from the water. It flew low across the water to the beach where it landed in the sand and enjoyed the fruits of its labor.

Two hours into the morning walk on the beach



By Naturalist Stan Tekiela

we came to the end of the sandy hook. We couldn't go any further, but we didn't need to either because we found what we were looking for. Standing right at the waters edge was a large and beautiful American



oystercatcher (Haematopus palliatus). This amazing looking bird is one of my favorite shorebirds. It is a large shorebird, the same size as a crow, with striking black and white plumage and a huge orange bill that they use to prob the sand in search of oysters and other crustaceans and a bright orange ring around the yellow eyes.

The current population of the American oystercatcher is only around 43,000 so it is easy to say we were very lucky to see this bird. We must have been doubly lucky because a second American Oystercatcher flew in shortly after we arrived. Unfortunately, this bird hasn't been listed on the federal threatened or endangered species act yet.

The population in the U.S. is believed to be stable but changing sea levels due to climate change can easily impact the population.

The American oystercatcher feeds almost exclusively on shellfish. Of course, oysters make up a big part of their diet, but they also eat mussels and clams. They use their huge orange bill to first prob the sand for the shellfish, then, once extracted from the sand, they use their bill to sever the muscle that holds the shell tightly together allowing them to extract the meat inside.

Unlike other shorebirds, the American Oystercatcher doesn't become sexually mature until they are three to four years old. They nest directly on beaches. They lay only two to three eggs in each nesting cycle. With only a 50 percent survival rate they usually produce one viable chick to replace one adult. This means they need at least three nesting seasons to replace both adults and add to the overall populations. Combine this with loss of beach habitat, rising sea levels and you can see why this bird isn't doing so well.

We captured some amazing images of these two birds along with several other shorebirds that inhabited the sandy point. The sun started to get too high to produce good images, so we packed up our gear and started the long walk back. We talked and reflected on the amazing morning and how lucky we were to see such amazing and rare birds. Everyone was thrilled but none more than me. Until next time...

Stan Tekiela is an author / naturalist who travels the U.S. to study and capture images of wildlife. He can be followed on Instagram.com, Facebook.com, Twitter.com and more. He can be contacted via his web page at www.NatureSmart.com.

Becker student named National Merit Scholarship Finalist



AUSTYN CLEMEN is a Becker High School Student who was recently named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist. (Submitted photo.)

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

Austyn Clemen, a Becker High School student, was recently named as a National Merit Scholarship finalist. The National Merit Scholarship is a program that helps gifted students around the country gain access to various scholarships in order to pursue their academic careers.

Application
Clemen was encouraged by her counselor to apply for the scholarship based on her grades. She took the PSAT and was able to earn the base score to qualify to be a semi-finalist.

From there, Clemen filled out an application similar to a college application, which included writing an essay. Clemen was recently named a finalist in the program.

Being Named a Finalist

"It's a very high honor," Clemen said. "It feels like a lot of pressure, but at the same time it feels good to know that the hard work I put into my academics and the application paid off."

Clemen will find out some time in May which scholarships she has earned, although it's still a great opportunity if she doesn't win any scholarships, as many other, external scholarships will take the distinction into consideration.

Academic Goals

Clemen looks forward to attending the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, to pursue a major in sociology and a minor in theater. Clemen says she hopes to use her degree to implement social change and help communities that are struggling.

RSVP announces mental outreach program

Submitted article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by RSVP.)

The Greater St. Cloud RSVP, sponsored by the City of St. Cloud, has been awarded a grant from AmeriCorps Seniors through the American Rescue Plan Senior Demonstration Program.

With this new funding, RSVP will engage teams of AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers in Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright Counties to promote mental wellness. AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP volunteers will provide monthly outreach and service activity events to advance resiliency and volunteerism to community members of all ages and backgrounds, with a focus on intergenerational engagement and reaching those more socially isolated. This grant starts April 1.

Program goals include:

- Increase mental health knowledge. Numerous studies have shown that using simple tools to help individuals re-train their minds to focus on the positive can increase feelings of well-being and decrease feelings of depression. With the help of CentraCare, AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers will be trained on the Bounce Back Project™ research-based tools and resources to help educate and expand resiliency and increase happiness. The volunteers will host discussions related to these healthy practices during outreach and service activities.

- Promote volunteerism. One of the best ways to boost one's own mental health is to look outward. The AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers will "lead by example" and promote the benefits of doing service by providing a service project during outreach activities. In addition to discussions around mental health,

there will be dialogue around project impact.

- Expand social connections. This grant will offer another avenue for senior volunteers to tap into their desire for improving community health and mental wellness while building a network of friendships through this model of group volunteering. In addition, the program will encourage community members of all ages and backgrounds, with a focus on those socially isolated, to participate in service activities to expand social connections.

AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers with RSVP are age 55+ and stay healthy and active through service, improving their own lives as they improve the lives of others. A growing body of research affirms the numerous mental and physical health benefits of volunteering, including lower mortality rates, decreased rates of depression, and increased strength and energy.

Get involved with RSVP and this new opportunity:

- RSVP is Hiring! Positions are open to work with this grant as a Part-time Special Projects Coordinator and another as a Part-time Office Aide, working primarily from locations in Sherburne and Wright counties. Interested applicants should email their resume to RSVP@ci.StCloud.mn.us.

- Grant match dollars are needed! RSVP is seeking financial support to purchase service project outreach supplies and materials. Contact RSVP to make a donation.

- Help RSVP share this opportunity with local seniors who may be interested in participating!

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THE BECKER TALKING BULLDOGS took home first place in small schools at last weekend's Sauk Rapids tournament. Individuals who placed included: Austyn C., first in poetry; Alyssa O., fifth in creative expression; Austyn C. and Alyssa O., fifth in duo, third in improvised duo; Arleigh P., honorable mention in informative. Also pictured are teammates James S. and Cora B. The team will head to South St. Paul this weekend. (Submitted photo.)

City Public Notices

CITY OF CLEARWATER COUNTY OF STEARNS COUNTY OF WRIGHT STATE OF MINNESOTA NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council (the "Council") of the City of Clearwater, Counties of Stearns and Wright, Minnesota, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Clearwater City Hall, in the City of Clearwater, Minnesota, relating to the proposed establishment of Municipal Development District No. 2, the proposed establishment of Tax Increment Financing District No. 2-1 within the Development District, the proposed adoption of the Development Plan relating to Municipal Development District No. 2, and the proposed adoption of a Tax Increment Financing Plan for Tax Increment Financing District No. 2-1, all pursuant to and in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Sections 469.124 through 469.133, as amended, and Sections 469.174 through 469.1794, as amended, all inclusive, as amended. A copy of the proposed Tax Increment Financing Plan is on file and available for public inspection at the office of the City Administrator at City Hall.

The property included in Municipal Development District No. 2 is described in the Development Program on file in the office of the City Administrator. The property proposed to be included in Tax Increment Financing District No. 2-1 is described in the Tax Increment Financing Plan on file in the office of the City Administrator.

Maps of the Municipal Development District No. 2 and Tax Increment Financing Districts No. 2-1 are set forth in the adjacent map:

**Proposed Boundaries of
Municipal Development
District No. 2 and Tax
Increment Financing District
No. 2-1.**



All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their views orally or in writing prior to the hearing to City Hall, PO Box 9, 605 County Road 75, Clearwater, MN 55302.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 03/12/22; 03/19/22).

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Noble earns his 3rd state wrestling title

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

Christian Noble closed out his high school wrestling career in style, winning his third state title at the Xcel Energy Center Saturday.

The Big Lake senior won all four matches at 126 pounds to take the championship.

Noble (49-1) started quickly in the first round on Friday, pinning Carter Gmahl of Mora in 21 seconds in his first match. He followed that with another pin of Nick Korman of Albert Lea Area at 1:04 in the quarterfinals. Then he faced Jesse Potts of Fairmont Martin County West, who was 50-0 heading into the match. Noble handed Potts his first loss of the season, a 10-0 major decision.

Then it was time for the championship match, and Noble was facing Tyson Charmoli of St. Francis,

who had edged Noble in the section title match, 2-1. This time Noble left no doubt about the outcome, beating Charmoli, 6-2 for the title.

It was Noble's fourth state appearance and third straight state wrestling title - all in different weight classes. In 2018, he finished third at 106 pounds.

In 2019, he went 40-0 and won the 113 title. Last year he went 27-0 and won the 120-pound title. After going 49-1 at 126 pounds this season, he ended his high school record at 181-8.

Noble was joined by four of his teammates at the state meet this season, and all four placed in the top six in their weight class.

Cash Sixberry (43-4) finished fifth at 113 pounds. In the opening round, he pinned Zytavius Williams of Minneapolis Edison at 5:32. He lost a 6-4 decision to Christian Jelle of Hibbing, 6-4 in



CHRISTIAN NOBLE in his championship match against Tyson Charmoli of St. Francis. Noble won, 6-2 for his third state title. (Submitted photo)

the quarterfinals. He came back to pin Easton Miller of Pequot Lakes/Pine River-Backus at 0:50, then

pinned Mason Mcgrane of Albert Lea Area at 2:09. He lost a close 1-0 decision to Daniel Gunlogson

of Dawson-Boyd-Lac Qui Parle-Montevideo before avenging his earlier loss to Jelle, beating him 10-2 to take fifth.

Nolan Reiter (47-8) took fifth at 132 pounds. He opened with a pin of Johnson Bondo of Brooklyn Center-Concordia Academy at 3:29 before losing to Dylan Louwagie of Marshall, 11-4 in the quarterfinals. He pinned Owen Carlson of Pequot Lakes/Pine River-Backus at 2:49, then beat Cael Olson of Delano, 10-2. After an 8-4 loss to Ethan Lebrija of Mahaca, he beat Nathan Nelson of Mora, 13-9 for fifth place.

Dillon Brown (38-14) finished sixth at 145 pounds. He pinned Franklin Wohnoutka of Minneapolis Roosevelt at 1:48 in his first match before losing by pin to Colton Bornholdt of New Prague. He pinned Jose de los Santos of Sauk Centre-Melrose at 3:29,

then beat Caden Rose of Mahaca, 4-0. He lost by pin to Trevor Radunz of Pierz, then lost to Kaiden Schrandt of Simley, 10-0 to finish sixth.

Johnathon Murphy (41-10) took sixth at 170 pounds. He opened with an 11-2 win over William Whartong of Byron before losing, 13-7 to Dusty Wilke of Grand Rapids 13-7 in the quarterfinals. He pinned Alex Fearing of Monticello at 2:48 before losing by pin to Casen O'Malley of Tri-City United. Then he lost again to Wilke, 5-1 to take sixth.

Sixberry, Noble and Brown are all seniors and finished their high school wrestling careers. Reiter is a junior and will be back for another season. Murphy, an eighth-grader, looks to have a bright future with the Hornet wrestling team.

Bulldogs capture 3rd place trophy at State

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Becker community packed the Bulldog fan section last Thursday at Xcel Energy Center for a wild day of wrestling that ended with the Class AA third place trophy being hoisted by the team.

In just the program's second ever state tournament berth, the Bulldogs used some impressive individual wrestling performances to put together a great run that ended with the team finishing right where the state rankings had predicted. It was a total team effort, as 12 different Bulldogs picked up at least one individual victory for the team during its three matches.

TRF

Becker started the day with a 42-24 win over Thief River Falls that was highlighted by three straight pins in the lower weights to provide a cushion that held up and sent the team to the semifinals. If the Bulldogs were fighting any nerves, it didn't show as they picked up 6 wins by fall to dominate the match.

After the Bulldogs briefly trailed 6-0, Kaden Nicolas stepped to the mat and provided the spark by sticking his opponent just 21 seconds into his match at 113 pounds.

From there, Teammates Landen Kujawa (120) and Drew May (126) each followed with a pin of their own and Becker was off to the races.

Next, Ethan Anderson (138) and Owen Angell (145) picked up another pair of 6 point victories for the Bulldogs, who would lose the next three matches to make the score 30-18. Also picking up a pin for the

Bulldogs was Bryce Kuschel, who maneuvered his combination just 29 seconds into the second period of his match.

Tyson Ricker (182) and Dylan Kolby (220) each also picked up decision wins for the Bulldogs in the match.

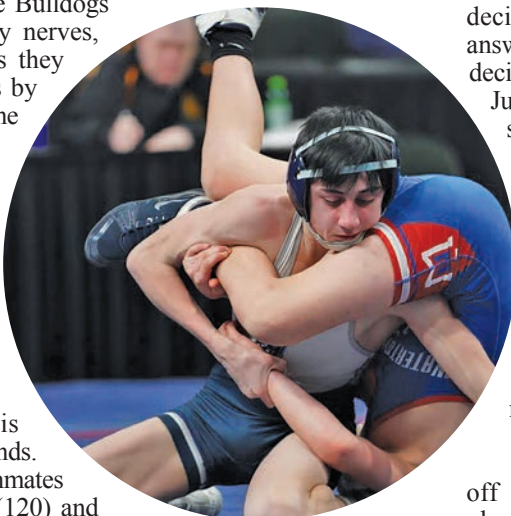
K-M

In the semifinals, Becker found itself battling Kasson-Mantorville, the second ranked team in Class AA. Becker gave it a valiant effort, but came up just short and fell 31-24.

The KoMets managed to pick up 8 wins in the 14 individual matches to edge the Bulldogs and advance to the finals, where they lost to a top ranked Simley team.

The Bulldogs, however, were able to make it interesting and lost several close matches.

Nicolas and Kujawa were again brilliant in their weight classes, as each picked up major decisions to give Becker a brief lead, 8-3, after the 120 pound match.



BECKER'S KADEN NICOLAS was all tied up with his opponent during Becker's incredible run to a third place finish at the State Class AA wrestling tournament. It was the team's first ever place finish at state and just its second overall appearance in program history (Submitted photo).

Becker trailed 8-15 heading into the 145 pound



THE BECKER BULLDOG WRESTLING TEAM capped off a tremendous season and posed for the camera after winning the 3rd place trophy at last week's MSHSL Class AA state wrestling tournament (Submitted photo).

match when Owen Angell pulled off a great move to stick his opponent at the 2:35 mark and just like that Becker trailed by just one point, 14-15.

The KoMets answered in the next match with a decision win, but Becker answered with consecutive decision victories by Adam Jurek (160) and Ryan Nelson (170) to reclaim the lead 20-18.

The KoMets would go on to win 3 of the final four matches to put away the victory, with Dylan Kolby's major decision victory at 285 being the final Bulldog match win.

W-M 3rd place

The Bulldogs capped off the day with a third place matchup against Wattertown-Mayer-Mayer Lutheran and despite some adversity, Becker captured the third place trophy with a 29-28 win over the Royals.

On the mat, both teams won 7 individual matches, but Becker faced a 3 point deduction for Flagrant Misconduct in one match and a 1 point penalty for Unsportsmanlike Conduct after



ALL TOURNEY TEAM. Landen Kujawa (front, third from left) had a great freshman season for the Becker Bulldogs, finishing fourth at state in the 120 pound weight class and being named to the All-Tournament team (Submitted photo).

another to make the final margin razor thin.

Nicolas (tech fall at 113) and Kujawa (major decision at 120) took early wins for the Bulldogs, who benefitted from 4 straight wins in the middle weights.

Drew May took a 4-3 decision win at 132 for what proved to be a very important 3 team points, while Ethan Duncombe followed with a second period fall at 138.

Ethan Anderson (145) and Mason Doucette (152) then pinned their opponent,

also both second period wins and 6 points each for the Bulldogs.

From there, the Royals stormed back with 5 straight wins which set up a final showdown at the 285 pound weight class with the winner taking home the trophy.

Senior Bryce Kuschel was able to score a decisive

10-4 decision win over his opponent to secure the win for Becker.

It was the highest finish for the team in school history, as they failed to place in their only other appearance at state in 2003.

Congratulations Bulldogs & Hornets wrestling teams on your great season!

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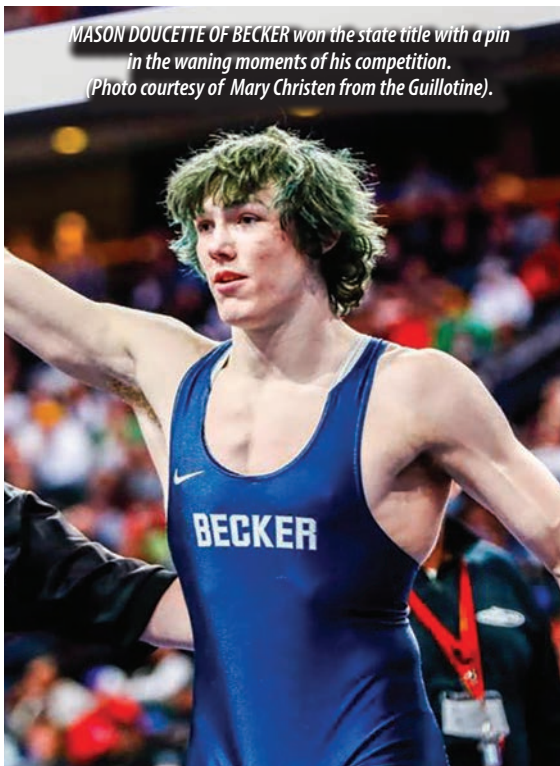
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Doucette crowned state champion, Nicolas runner-up

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

After their team’s impressive third place finish last Thursday at the state Class AA wrestling tournament, four Becker Bulldogs turned their focus to the individual tournament and the results were just as impressive. Mason Doucette came out on top of the 152 pound bracket to claim a state championship, while Kaden Nicolas also wrestled extremely well and finished as the runner-up at 113 pounds.

Landen Kujawa finished in 4th place at 120 pounds, while Bryce Kusichel didn’t place, yet finished off a strong season and career by going 1-2 in his 285 bracket and picking up a state tournament pin in his second round match.

Title

For Senior Mason Doucette, his state title was the culmination of many years of hard work on the wrestling mat. After winning the title, he had time to reflect on the huge accomplishment.

“I’ve always been proud to rep a Becker singlet,” Doucette said. “I love this town and the atmosphere has always been great. It still doesn’t feel real.”

In the final match, Doucette had to once again face Kasson-Mantorville’s Logan Vaughan, the same wrestler who had defeated Mason 7-3 in Thursday’s team tournament just two days prior.

“I was actually very calm and relaxed heading into the match, I knew I had nothing to lose and I was just very happy to be wrestling in the state finals,” Doucette said. “I figured in order to give myself a chance I was gonna have to catch him in a pinning combination.”

That’s exactly what happened, as Doucette’s



MASON DOUCETTE was all smiles as he celebrated his state championship at 152 pounds in the State Class AA Wrestling Tournament. (Submitted Photo).

second period pinfall came via the near side cradle, a move he says he works on all the time.

“It’s been one of my favorite moves since youth wrestling,” Doucette said.

His journey to the final match was impressive, as he scored an opening round 5-0 decision before pinning his second opponent. In the semifinals, Doucette needed to go to the Ultimate Tie Breaker and scored a 3-2 victory to secure his place in the finals.

Overall, he reflected fondly on this season as well as his career as a Bulldog wrestler.

“I am very happy with how my career ended up, I do wish I would’ve tried and cared a little more my 7th-9th grade year, I battled an injury that kept me out of sophomore year but I am sure glad I came back my junior year,” Doucette said. “I ended my career one shy of 100 wins with 99.”

Fab Frosh

For Freshman Kaden Nicolas, the journey to the state title match was filled with quality opponents, each of whom had over 30 wins on the season. But

Nicolas was up to the challenge, opening the tournament with a third period fall, followed by a 12-6 decision to get to the semifinals. Once there, Nicolas won a 7-3 decision over Hibbing’s Christian Jelle, who had advanced to the semifinals by defeating Big Lake’s Cash Sixberry by a score of 6-4.

Nicolas wrestled well in the final match, but ran into Simley’s Brandon Morvari, who had been ranked at the top of the weight class for most of the season. Morvari picked up a 4-0 win for the title, but Nicolas looked back on his season with great respect for what he had accomplished.

Nicolas was reflective after his final match, as he soaked in the incredible atmosphere.

“I’m very grateful for the experience of wrestling at Xcel Energy Center and sending our seniors out right!,” Nicolas said. “Individually I’m very blessed for the opportunity even though it was not the outcome I had hoped for. I will forever cherish the experience.”



KADEN NICOLAS made it all the way to the finals where he dropped a very close match to earn second place at 113 pounds in the MN State Class AA wrestling championships (Submitted photo).

All Tourney

Landen Kujawa put together a nice run in the tournament to finish in 4th place at 120 pounds and he also received a great honor, being named to the Class AA All-tournament team for his efforts in helping the Bulldogs secure the team 3rd place finish.

His journey included a fall in the opening round, followed by a 3-2 decision to reach the semifinals, where he fell 4-1. In the third place match, he lost a very close match, 5-3.

Bryce Kusichel opened the tournament with a 7-0 loss to Gannon Rosenfeld, who would go on to place 3rd in state. In his next match, Kusichel pinned his opponent in the second period before dropping a super close 2-0 decision in his final match in a Bulldog singlet.

Congratulations to all four Becker wrestlers who represented their school admirably at the state tournament.



ADELINE KENT (shown in a photo from last April) is at the top of her game just as the team gets ready to capture another section championship and move on to state! (Patriot Archive Photo.)

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Adeline Kent’s senior leadership was a big key in helping the Becker girls basketball team make a return trip to the Section 5AAA championship game, as she scored 19 points and gave the team a needed spark in last Saturday’s 80-43 semifinal win over the Princeton Tigers.

“Addy Kent scored 19 points on 8-for-15 shooting and she also had five rebounds and four assists,” Coach Dan Baird said. “Addy played excellent for us, especially when we as a team were struggling. She hit some timely shots for us.”

With the win, the Bulldogs earned the right to travel Thursday night to Forest Lake to take on the Monticello Magic, who won in overtime 59-57 over Chisago Lakes in the other semifinal game. Look for complete details of the Bulldogs’ quest for a return trip to state in next week’s Patriot.

In the semifinal win, Baird felt his team wasn’t on the top of their game against the 10-17 Tigers, but the final margin was still comfortable. Becker led 40-28 at halftime and

it was Kent’s scoring (team high 10 first half points) and team rebounding that led to the advantage. In the second half, Kent hit three shots from beyond the three-point line to pace the team.

Overall, the Bulldogs out-rebounded the Tigers 41-26 and Becker also led in the turnover category, giving the ball away just 10 times to the Tigers’ 18.

Becker also maintained a slight edge on points in the paint, 26-20.

The win improved the Bulldogs to 22-4 on the season and the team is just one win away from yet another state tournament appearance.

The state tournament kicks off Wednesday, March 16, with the Class AAA games being played at Maturi Pavilion. Should the Bulldogs down the Magic, complete tournament brackets can be found on the MSHSL website.

Becker scoring: Dani Nuest, 10 (eight rebounds); Maren Westin, 15; Hannah Dierkes, two; Ayla Brown, 12 (five assist); Kent, 19; Alexa Voller, five; Alexis Rose, 12; Liz Mackedanz, five.

Congratulations to Becker Wrestling!

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Kent leads Becker girls back to Section finals

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Freedom Convoy makes its way through MN

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

Flag-draped bridges with hundreds if not thousands of Minnesotans, greeted the Trucking Convoy as it traversed through Minnesota on its route to Washington, D.C. last week.

The convoy of dozens of vehicles with many displaying signs that read "Freedom," sounded their horns and flashed their lights as they encountered the peaceful rallies of patriots all across the great State of Minnesota.

Residents of the Clearwater area were part of the throng of support the truckers convoy received as it traveled across Central Minnesota last Friday.

Around 200 people came out to stand along the Grove Ave. bridge to wave flags and cheer as the truckers passed under them. The convoy received similar shows of support throughout the entire trip that day.

The group behind the caravan, "American Freedom Convoy," has been demanding an end to the national emergency that was first declared by former President Donald Trump in March 2020 and was recently extended by President Biden. The protesters have also called for congressional hearings into the origin of the pandemic and an end to government rules requiring masks and vaccinations.

Coincidentally, those demands have been undercut by the reality that many U.S. states have already started rolling back restrictions as virus cases and deaths have ebbed.

The American Freedom Convoy is one of several groups inspired by the Canadian protests against pandemic measures that disrupted the capital of Ottawa for three weeks.

Friday's convoy left Minot, ND, March 2 and reached Fargo around 5 p.m. Thursday, after which the drivers headed into Minnesota and spent the night in the Sauk Centre area. On Friday morning

the group, taking the "Midwest Route," continued on I-94 to Hudson and were greeted by supporters along the way including in Clearwater and Monticello.

Barb Potter of TJ Potter Trucking in Becker, reported at least one of their truckers is participating in the convoy.

Bruce Ziegler has been with TJ Potter for 30+ years and he and his wife, Tammy have been involved with the caravan of patriots for quite some time now.

"We want our children and grandchildren to live free and not in bondage," the Zieglers said.

They started out Thursday morning in Perham at the Perham Oasis and from there headed to the 59er Cafe in Detroit lakes. "We



THIS BRIDGE IN MONTICELLO was packed with supporters as the trucker's convoy made its way along I-94. (Photo captured from posted video).



AROUND 200 CLEARWATER AREA RESIDENTS gathered along the Grove Ave. bridge to join the throng of support the truckers convoy received as it traveled across Central Minnesota last Friday. (Submitted photo.)

picked up supplies collected from communities for the trailer waiting in Sauk Center," Tammy said. "From there we headed to Fargo where we met up with the truck drivers that were heading to Washington DC."

The Zieglers left Fargo at 6 p.m.

"What we experienced was awesome along with the farmers driving the fields to the freeway and all the roads along the freeway filled with patriots supporting us," said Tammy.

The next morning in Sauk Center, the Zieglers left at 8:30 a.m. sharp to continue on to Wisconsin.

Convoys continued

to join together, said the Zieglers as they were coming across the country and when they all came together, they were over 75 miles long.

"My grandchildren along with many others participated in this history in the making," said Tammy. "Thank you truck drivers and patriots for helping in the fight for our freedoms."

A second convoy (the I-90E Route), started in Tacoma, WA, and planned to hit Sioux Falls, SD, late Thursday, where they spent the night. On Friday, the participants planned to take I-90 across southern Minnesota, through Albert Lea and to Oakdale, Wisconsin.

The plan is for these

convoys to join up with the four other others in Ohio, before they all head to the Washington D.C. area.

The only federal mandates in place require people to wear face masks on public transportation, including on planes and in airports, and a vaccination requirement for staff at any facilities that accept Medicaid or Medicare payments.

A Biden Administration rule that would have required large companies to ensure employees were vaccinated or tested weekly was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

County redistricting hearing set for April 5

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

After a 15-minute review and discussion Tuesday, the Sherburne County Board set a public hearing for April 5 at 9:15 a.m. to consider establishing new commissioner district boundaries.

"After the 2020 census, the county is required to redistrict," said Sherburne County Auditor/Treasurer Diane Arnold. "This is done by either re-establishing the existing commissioner districts if they currently meet all the statutory requirements, or by drawing up new county commissioners districts to conform to the statutes."

Redistricting is necessary to assure the county's population has equal representation. Statutes require that each district has an

equal population number, with a variance of no more than 10%.

The county's current population is 97,183. Divided by the number of commissioner districts (five), each district must have a population of 19,437, with a variance of no more than (10%) or 1,944 between districts. Also, if any individual district has a five percent shift, the commissioners from those districts are required to run for office again. That may happen in Elk River, where precinct numbers could change the population by more 982 in Districts 1 and 3.

Arnold said cities and townships are required to pass a resolution adopting their precincts by March 29. The county's deadline is April 26.

Tuesday, Arnold went

over a few map scenarios the board could consider when making their choice. One option was a single change in the City of Elk River and nothing else in the county.

Other options included changes to the boundary lines in Orrock Twp. and Becker Twp. which could require splitting precincts or adding another. Arnold said townships have been given the information about the possible options.

The county has included a link to the different map options on the first page of its website for the general public to view and offer comments.

Administrator Bruce Messelt said they are also looking at a few other options that were not discussed at Tuesday's meeting.

Park Position

The board approved a 1/2 full-time position for Parks & Recreation to support park initiatives. The approved 2022 parks budget included funding for this need under Professional & Technical services. The budgeted amount for the position is \$28,000.

Land Use Contract

The board approved Hoisington Kogler Group Inc. (HKGI) as Sherburne County's selected consulting firm to rewrite the Sherburne County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, contingent upon negotiation of a final agreement by the Zoning Administrator, and authorize use of \$148,300 of the department's fund balance for the project.

Tax Forfeiture Sale

The board approved a resolution from the county auditor's office for the Tax Forfeited Land Sale, date to

be decided later, and authorized county board signatures on the classification certification of forfeited land. The resolution appointed the county assessor to set minimum sale prices for the subject properties. The parcels include four in Baldwin Twp., two in Big Lake Twp., one in Livonia Twp., one in Orrock Twp. and one in the City of Big Lake.

Lease Space

The board approved a lease addendum for additional general office space in the Government Center with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The county has two office spaces available in a portion of the old Veteran's Service Office area. The larger office space is listed as Suite A and the smaller space is Suite B. RSVP is seeking to utilize

Suite "A" 40 hours a week and Suite "B" 20 hours per week.

Child Care Contract

The board approved a contract with New Creations Child Care and Learning Center to provide child care for children in foster care. This service is needed to maintain the placement and prevent another disruption in their lives. This will be a limited expense until the identified family placement is ready to take the children into their home. The contract period is from Jan. 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2022. Expenses over \$3,000 will come out of HHS reserves.



THE STUDENTS FROM GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL in Elk River spent the afternoon last Wednesday playing games and doing craft projects with the residents of Keller Lake Commons in Big Lake as part of their service project curriculum. (Submitted photos.)



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R O D C E R I E G V U D Z M B C N I S H T G E P
F N D I R C Z I R I N H C O N F I T V N S G E
B I T A I O G E L X A U E X U H L O F Z N E R C H V
V H C S I M G S A U E B X S L E E L E E R U O S
G M A H E D A U M L R G R F M R O S H S D M
P P P H A G U E T R G R F M R O S H S D M
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O I I R A U N D L S T P X T U C I P T X W
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S S I V P G P O B L V N A M F Z L S T T N
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I N A S I T T R A S I O N E X I F X I R P
T I B A T T X S F S Z O A Z D C H X S B
N O L E E R T N E D B E R X Z D O H X P
A A I O L I X C V X A V R D F F C B T D

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

AIOLI
AL DENTE
ANTIPASTO
APERITIZ
APPETIZER
ARTISAN
BECHAMEL
CHARCUTERIE
CONFIT
DECONSTRUCTED
DIGESTIF
DINING
ENTREE
EXPERIENCE
FUSION
PAIRING
PRIX FIXE
RESTAURANT
SERVICE
SIDES
SOMMELIER
TAPAS
UMAMI
WINE

This Week's Calendar Events:

Sun. - Mar. 13, 2022:

- Daylights Savings Begins
- National Patient Safety Awareness Week (3/13-3/19)

Mon. - Mar. 14, 2022:

- BLS: No School
- International Teach Music Week (3/14-3/20)
- Canada: Commonwealth Day

Tues. - Mar. 15, 2022:

- Hmnmnm
- Black Press Day: Anniversary of the First Black Newspaper, 1827

Thurs. - Mar. 17, 2022:

- Saint Patrick's Day
- Doctor-Patient Trust Day
- Absolutely Incredible Kid Day
- NCAA Division I Wrestling Championship (3/17-3/19)

Fri. - Mar. 18, 2022:

- Mid Atlantic Community Papers Association Conference (3/18-3/19)
- National Sloppy Joe Day

Sat., Mar. 19, 2022:

- Kick Butts Day
- National Quilting Day
- National Certified Nurses Day

(Becker Schools=BS
Becker High School=BHS
Becker Middle School=BMS
Becker Intermediate School=BIS
Early Childhood Family
Education=ECFE
Big Lake School=BLS
Clearview School=CVS)

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Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events

**BASC at Becker
Community Center (BCC)**

Mon., Mar. 14: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's on; 10am-Cribbage; 5:30pm-Library: Wire Sculpture: sign up required
Tues., Mar. 15: 9am-Coffee, Conversation, Cards; 11:30am-Potluck Birthday Lunch & Rich & the Resistors Blarney Stones band (Irish & more music styles)

Wed., Mar. 16: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's on; 1pm-Activity Meeting; 3pm-BASC Board Meeting
Thurs., Mar. 17: 9am-Coffee, Conversation, Cards; 11:30am-Tech Help with Jade-In person-FACEBOOK
Fri., Mar. 18: BCC Open all Day; 5am-Coffee's On; 11:30am-Lunch on the Run (Meet at Los Ortizes, Becker)

Becker Community Center: 763-200-4271
BASC Coordinator: Carol Brunn - Activity Coordinator: Pat Throlson
Blood Pressure available whenever BASC is open
Send activity/class opportunities to: basc.becker@gmail.com

Big Lake Senior Center

The Big Lake Senior Club meets Tues., 1-4pm, Big Lake City Hall, 160 Lake St. North.

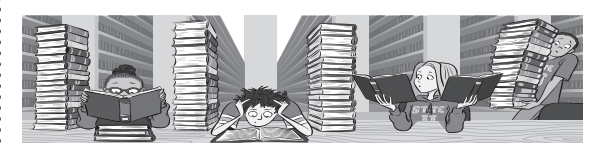
We would love to have you join us for card games, refreshments & conversation.

For More Information Call:
(763) 309-1010 and/or (763) 263-7134



GRRL Public Library Hours:

Day	Becker	Big Lake	Clearwater
Mon.:	1-7pm	1-6pm	1-6pm
Tues.:	10am-5pm	10am-5pm	10am-1pm / 3-6pm
Wed.:	10am-5pm	1-7pm	3-8pm
Thurs.:	1-7pm	1-5pm	10am-1pm
Fri.:	1-5pm	10am-5pm	3-6pm
Sat.:	10am-1pm	10am-1pm	10am-1pm



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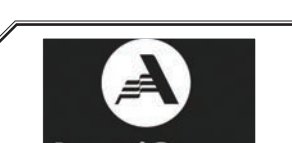
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THE COVID CRISIS
has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call National Debt Relief! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 844/205-5439

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Tri-CAP Tax Site Greeter - Provide customer support for taxpayers, answer basic questions, assist in traffic flow at the tax clinic. No previous tax experience is necessary. Tax season 1/31/2022 - 4/15/2022.

Tri-CAP Individual Tax Preparer - Work with Tri-Cap clients to prepare their income taxes and/or renter's returns, identify important tax credits and help to get the

best refund possible. Meet one of the following criteria: experience filing your own return, taken a college level tax law or tax accounting course or work in the accounting field. Training on tax laws and software provided in January. Tax season 1/31/2022 - 4/15/2022.

Tri-CAP Individual Tax Reviewer - Review of tax returns prepared by Tri-Cap volunteer tax preparers and ensure that tax returns are accurate. Reviewer ensures that customers are receiving all eligible tax credits. Compile completed return packet to be given back to customer. Strong background in individual income tax required, with knowledge of low-income tax preferred. Tax season 1/31/2022 - 4/15/2022.

Teacher Aid, Independence Elementary STEM School, Big Lake: Assist teachers with small group

activities for reading and math, including making copies, organizing and implementing lesson plans, maintaining classroom schedules, and recordkeeping. Your help, once or twice a week, can help build trusting relationships and skills in a safe and organized setting.

Noon Monitor, Independence Elementary STEM School, Big Lake: Help create a positive, safe and fun lunch and/or recess experience for children in grades 3 - 5 while assisting with supervision one to five days a week.

*If you are interested in
volunteering in these
or other opportunities, please
contact Carol:*
**AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP
763-763-3036
rsvp@ci.stcloud.mn.us
www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/rsrvp**

Announcements

Clear Lake/Clearwater – Organizations

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

Clear Lake Lions
Meets the first & third Tues. of the month at 4180 105th Ave., Clear Lake at 7:30pm. Please contact any Lions member or one of the officers listed on our website: www.clearlakelionsmn.org

Clear Valley Business Connections
Meets quarterly on the 2nd Thurs. of the month from 11:30am-1pm at various locations. Glenna Soenneker, President, (320) 267-4361, clearvalleybc@gmail.com.

Clearwater AA/Al-Anon
Meets at 7pm, Sun. night at Clearwater United Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater. (320) 310-1399 for AA or (320) 558-6613 for Al-Anon.

Clearwater AA Meeting
Meets Mon. nights, 7pm at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 1155 CR 75, Clearwater. (612) 801-7317.

Clearwater Area Friends of the Library
Clearwater Area Friends of the Library are currently accepting donations of gently used books, DVDs & CDs for their used bookstore located in the Clearwater Library. Donations are tax deductible & can be dropped off at the Clearwater Library.
Textbooks, dictionary-

ies, encyclopedias, outdated medical books, magazines, & moldy books cannot be accepted. All proceeds from the sale of used books are used to support the programs, services & equipment of the Clearwater Library.

Clearwater American Legion Post 323 & Auxiliary
Clearwater Legion meetings are held the second Thurs. of the month. Auxiliary 6:30pm, S.A.L. at 7pm, Legion 7:30pm. Clearwater Legion, Clearwater.

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

Clearwater Narcotics Anonymous
Meets at 7pm, Wed. night at Clearwater United Methodist Church, 405 Main St. Clearwater. (612) 607-4484.

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

Lions Club of Clearwater
Meets second Tues. of the month at 8pm. Clearwater Lions Pavilion. www.clearwaterlionsmn.com

Young @ Heart
Community Young@Heart will meet on the third Thurs. of every month at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 1155 Co. Rd. 75, Clearwater, MN. Join us: 10:30 to meet

& greet old & new friends, 11:30 lunch (suggested donation), 12pm program.

Miscellaneous – Organizations

Every Child Deserves a Family! WE NEED YOU!
Sherburne County is recruiting Foster Homes! Family Foster Care offers a temporary home until children can be safely reunited with their families or achieve permanency through kinship care or adoption. Foster Care is the 24-hour care of a child in a home that meets the child's basic need for food, shelter, clothing, medical & dental care, privacy, safety, & adult supervision.

Children enter Foster Care whose families are experiencing difficulties, have special medical, emotional, or developmental needs or who struggle with their own issues such as mental health, behavior, or truancy. Foster Care is the least restrictive out-of-home placement option & most likely a family setting.

Please contact: Chelsea Doherty 763) 765-4033 or chelsea.doherty@co.sherburne.mn.us.

FREE - Advocates for I independence
First & third Wed. of the month 2-4pm 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 - The Saint Cloud Area Parkinson's Disease (PD) Support Group

invites you to "Coffee & Conversation" the last Wed. monthly at 10am 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.

Mental Health Discussion Group

Meets Mon., 6-7pm 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 1-2:30pm at ILICIL 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.

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. 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.

Upcoming Becker Events

Faith in Action's Annual Gala

Sat., Mar. 19, Rockwoods in Otsego. It will be a fun evening with a new comedian (Patrick Albanese, Triple Espresso), a delicious dinner, silent & LIVE auction items, a Wine Wall & best of all hearing how God is working in our community!!

Tickets are available on our website www.grfia.org or call (763) 263-4277. Hope to see you there!! Sponsors: Pellico, Beaudry Oil, PEM, Morrell, Becker Furniture World & more.

Call for Artists

Sherburne Area Visual Arts Showcase (SAVAS) committee is issuing a call for artists for our 2022 show. The show is scheduled for Mon., June 13-Sat., June 18, hosted at Sherburne History Center in Becker. SAVAS features fine art & photography by adult artists from the local area (sorry, not quilts or crafts). No cost, just a \$25 refundable deposit.

Sherburne History Center is located at 10775 27th Ave SE in Becker. For more information, or to register as a SAVAS artist, call Mike (763) 275-2210 or email mbrubaker@sherburnehistory-center.org

Upcoming Clearwater Events

March Young @ Heart
Will be held at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 1155 County Road 75, Clearwater MN, Mar. 17, 2022, beginning at 10:30am with cards, coffee, & conversation. Lunch (suggested donation) will be served at 11:30am with a 90th Birthday of one of our volunteers & then a St Patrick's Celebration to follow. Please hit the thrift shop if your closet will not support the "wearin' of the green!" We will have trivia, door prizes & Birthday Cake for Betty who will be 90 yrs. old on Mar. 17th. How better to celebrate two special occasions? Hope to see you all there!

Rejoice Lutheran Church
The Rev. Dr. Karen McK-inney will preach & lead a learning session at Rejoice Lutheran Church in Clearwater on Sun., Mar. 27. All are welcome to worship at 9:30am followed by a meal & conversation. Free will offering will be taken for the meal catered by Chevy's Pit. The learning session will address how equity applies to us at home, at church & in our community from Noon-3pm. Please call 320-558-6851 to reserve a spot for the meal.



Public Notices

Public Notice

Notice of non-bonafide sale on April 5, 2022, Sherburne County Sheriff's Department. 6125 115th Ave, Clear Lake, MN 555319.
(Published in the Patriot: 02/19/22; 02/26/22; 03/05/22; 03/12/22).

Assumed Names

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Honu Beginnings**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **6102 175th Ave Becker MN 55308 USA**

NAME: **Erin M. Pirnat**

Address: **6102 175th Ave Becker MN 55308 USA**

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

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

SIGNED BY: **Erin M. Pirnat**

MAILING ADDRESS: **6102 175th Ave Becker MN 55308 USA**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: leilani0584@gmail.com

Work Item: **1290663400058**

Original File Number: **1290663400058**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED

01/31/2022

11:59 PM

/s/ Steve Simon

Secretary of State

(Published in the Patriot: 03/05/22; 03/12/22).

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Hayley Kay Interiors**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: **140 Powell Circle N F Big Lake MN 55309 United States**

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: **Hayley K Hill**

Address: **140 Powell Circle N F Big Lake MN 55309 United States**

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

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

SIGNED BY: **Hayley Hill**

MAILING ADDRESS: **140 Powell Circle N F Big Lake MN 55309 United States**

EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **Excluded**

Work Item: **1296880100026**

Original File Number: **1296880100026**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

FILED

02/15/2022

11:59 PM

/s/ Steve Simon

Secretary of State

(Published in the Patriot: 03/12/22; 03/19/22).

Probates

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case Type: **Probate**
Court File No.: **71-PR-22-25**
In Re: **Estate of James P. Zinken, Jr., Decedent**

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 28th day of April, 2022 at 3 o'clock p.m., a hearing will be held in the above-named Court at Elk River, Minnesota, on petition of James Zinken III, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirs of the above-named decedent, and for the appointment of James Zinken III, whose address is 115 5th Avenue South, Cold Spring, MN 56320, as personal representative of the estate of the above-named decedent in unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto

must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: February 28, 2022
/s/ Jordan Gregorich,
Deputy Court Administrator

Attorney

Willenbring, Dahl,

Wocken & Zimmermann, PLLC

Laura L. Martin (0330176)

318 Main Street; P.O. Box 417

Cold Spring, MN 56320

Telephone: (320) 685-3678

19270-001

(Published in the Patriot: 03/05/22; 03/12/22).

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No.: **71-PR-22-15**
In Re: **Estate of Kenneth David Palmer, Decedent**

NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRS, FORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 14, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Drive, Elk River, MN 55330, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of Decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Linda M. Palmer, whose address is 1155-10th Avenue NE, Apt. 129, Sauk Rapids, MN 56379, as personal representative of the Decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration. This hearing will be held remotely. Contact Sherburne County Court Administration for appearance instructions.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with the full power to administer the Decedent's estate, including the power to collect all assets; to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes, and expenses; to sell real and personal property; and to do all necessary acts for the Decedent's estate.

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.
Dated: February 16, 2022
/s/ Beverly Hillesheim,
Deputy Court Administrator

JEDDELOH & SNYDER, P.A.

Gwen M. Anderson - 169766

803 W Saint Germain Street

St. Cloud, MN 56301

Telephone: 320-240-9423

Facsimile: 320-240-9454

E-mail: gwen@jeddelohsnnyder.com

(Published in the Patriot: 03/12/22; 03/19/22).

Summons

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Other Civil - **Quiet Title**
Court File No. **71-CV-22-144**
Not Company, Plaintiff,

vs

Princeton Opportunities, Inc. also all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest or lien in the real estate described in the Complaint herein,

Defendants.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney an answer to the Complaint which is herewith served upon you within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

This action involves, affects and brings into question title to real property lying and being in the County of Sherburne, State of Minnesota, legally described as follows:

Lot 2, Block 1,
Princeton Industrial Park,
Sherburne County, Minnesota

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the object of said action is to obtain a judgment declaring that Plaintiff is the owner in fee of the property described above and that the Defendants, and each of them, have no right, title, estate, interest or lien in or upon the said real estate.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that no personal claim is made by Plaintiff against any of the Defendants.

Civil cases are subject to Alternative Dispute Resolution processes as provided in Rule 114 of the General Rules of Practice for the District Court. Alternative Dispute Resolution includes mediation, arbitration, and other processes set forth in the rules. You may contact the Court Administrator for further information about these processes and about resources available in your area.

Dated: 2/16/2022

FENSKELAW OFFICE, PLLC

/s/ Jeffrey J. Fenske, #150502

Attorney for Plaintiff

2096 James Avenue

St. Paul, Minnesota 55105

Telephone: (651) 288-0800

Email: jeff@jfenskelaw.com

(Published in the Patriot: 03/05/22; 03/12/22; 03/19/22).

DEADLINES

Notices & Legals

Wednesdays

At Noon

Contact Kathy:

763-275-0275

or Email:

legals.kathy@patriotnewsmn.com

PATRIOT

Big Lake Public School #727 Notices

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

This represents a summary of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of Big Lake Public Schools #727. A complete set of minutes will be on file at the District Office and on our website at www.biglakeschools.org upon Board approval.

- CALL TO ORDER**
The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 727, Big Lake Schools, was called to order on February 24, 2022.
- ROLL CALL**
All Board members were present.
- APPROVE AGENDA**
A motion passed to approve the agenda.
- PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- OPEN FORUM**
- CONSENT AGENDA**
A motion passed to approve the previous minutes, claims and accounts, credit card report, personnel, fundraisers, one read policies.
- DONATIONS**
A motion passed to approve the donations.
- AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM ANNUAL UPDATE**
- FINANCIAL REPORT**
A motion passed to approve the financial report and budget revisions as presented.
- APPROVE FUNDING FOR BOYS AND GIRLS LACROSSE**
A motion passed to approve funding for boys and girls lacrosse.
- SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS**
Independence Elementary STEM
- ADDITION OF BEHAVIOR SUPPORT SPECIALIST TO THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**
A motion passed to approve the position.
- APPROVE HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH ASSISTANT POSITION**
A motion passed to approve the position.
- APPROVE BIDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND LIBERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CONTROLS REPLACEMENTS AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUND SYSTEM REPLACEMENT**
A motion passed to approve the base bid of \$1,829,800.00 from Northern Air Corporation for the high school and Liberty Elementary controls upgrades. A motion passed to approve the base bid of \$180,720.00 and Alternate #1 of \$33,250.00 for a total of \$213,970.00 from ECSI System Integrators for the middle school sound systems.
- RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL IDEA FULL FUNDING ACT**
A motion passed to approve the following resolution:
Resolution in Support of the Congressional IDEA Full Funding Act
Re-introduced on November 16, 2021
H.R. 5984 and S. 3213
- APPROVE CALENDARS**
A motion passed to approve the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school calendars as presented.
- FIRST READING OF POLICIES**
- COMMITTEE UPDATES**
- SUPERINTENDENT EVALUATION SUMMARY**
- SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION**
- STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**
- SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**
- ADJOURNMENT**
A motion passed to adjourn the meeting
(Published in the Patriot: 03/12/2525).

WE'RE HIRING!

Citizens Alliance Bank seeks applicants for the following positions:

Teller/Personal Banker – Murdock

Loan Administration Supervisor – Clara City

HR Specialist – Clara City

Cash Management Specialist – Clara City

Controller – Howard Lake

RE Loan Processing Lead – Clara City, Howard Lake

Compliance Specialist – Clara City

Loan Officer I – Clara City

Seasonal Banking Asst. – Clara City, Howard Lake

Loan Servicing Specialists – Clara City, Howard Lake

To view our job posting or [Apply Online](#) please visit:

citizensalliancebank.com/careers

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www.patriotnewsmn.com

Public Notices

City Public Notices

**DOCUMENT 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
2022 County Road 53 Street and Utility Improvements
Becker, Minnesota
SEH No. BECKR 161349**

Notice is hereby given that Online Bids will be received by the City Administrator until 11:00 a.m., Thursday, April 7, 2022, via QuestCDN for the furnishing of all labor and material for the construction of 2022 County Road 53 Street and Utility Improvements.

The bid opening will be conducted via Microsoft Teams, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud:

2022 CR 53 Street and Utility Improvements Bid Opening
Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: https://teams.microsoft.com/join/19%3ameeting_YjEwY2ZkM2hNTFkNS00NTkxLWl0NmItYTcxMzFmMWY1MjMz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Id%22%3a%22642f4553-88f1-43dc-9a29-90842cd19d4c%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2248472820-a408-4d5c-b262-d033b1c6fa20%22%7d
Or call in (audio only)

+1 872-242-7640,,818759384# United States, Chicago
Phone Conference ID: 818 759 384#

Any person monitoring the meeting remotely may be responsible for any documented costs. Message and data rates may apply.

Major quantities for the Work include:

10,500	LIN FT	12-Inch PVC C900 Forcemain
1,300	LIN FT	Jack & Bore 30-Inch Casing
1	LUMP SUM	Sanitary Sewer Pump Station
20,000	CU YD	Common Excavation
10,375	CU YD	Aggregate Base Class 5 (CV)
6,800	TON	Bituminous Pavement Mixtures
22	EA	Water Hydrant
35	EA	6 – 18 inch Gate or Butterfly Valve
17,900	LIN FT	8 – 18-Inch HDPE DR 11 Water Main
21	EA	Sanitary Manhole
290	LIN FT	Extra Depth Manhole
7,200	LIN FT	8 – 21-Inch PVC Sanitary Sewer
370	LIN FT	12 – 18-Inch RCP Pipe Culvert
4.5	ACRE	Tree Clearing and Grubbing
29.50	ACRE	Turf Establishment
35	EA	Lighting Unit Type Special
16,000	LIN FT	Pavement Markings 4-Inch Striping

The Bidding Documents may be seen at the Issuing Office of SEH located at 2351 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 300, Sartell, MN 56377, 320.229.4300.

The Bidding Documents may be viewed for no cost at <http://www.sehinc.com> by selecting the Project Bid Information link at the bottom of the page and the View Plans option from the menu at the top of the selected project page.

Digital image copies of the Bidding Documents are available at <http://www.sehinc.com> for a fee of \$30. These documents may be downloaded by selecting this project from the “Project Bid Information” link and by entering eBidDocTM Number 8113478 on the SEARCH PROJECTS page. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.

For this project, bids will **ONLY** be received electronically. Contractors submitting an electronic bid **will** be charged an additional \$30 at the time of bid submission via the online electronic bid service *QuestCDN.com*. To access the electronic Bid Worksheet, download the project document and click the online bidding button at the top of the advertisement. Prospective bidders must be on the plan holders list through QuestCDN for bids to be accepted. Bids shall be completed according to the Bidding Requirements prepared by SEH dated March 1, 2022.

In addition to digital plans, paper copies of the Bidding Documents may be obtained from DocuNet Corp. located at 2435 Xenium Lane North, Plymouth, MN 55441 (763.475.9600) for a fee of \$100.

Bid security in the amount of 5 percent of the Bid must accompany each Bid in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

A Contractor responding to these Bidding Documents must submit to the City/Owner a signed statement under oath by an owner or officer verifying compliance with each of the minimum criteria in Minnesota Statutes, section 16C.285, subdivision 3.

This Work shall be subject to minimum wages and labor standards in accordance with the State of Minnesota.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive irregularities and informalities therein and to award the Contract in the best interests of the Owner.

Jeff O’Neill
Interim City Administrator

Becker, Minnesota
(Published in the *Patriot*: 03/12/22; 03/26/22).

CENTER from page 1

connect officers and investigators with information that previously might take days or weeks to get. It’s modeled after an intelligence center in Hennepin County that started as a way to connect all of the cities within the county and expanded to become a multi-county crime analysis network.

The IC has been 10 years in the making and the response from other departments and organizations is one of complete satisfaction. Sheriff Joel Brott is excited to see the successes of the program already.

“No agency that we’ve talked to join us has turned us down,” said Brott. “It’s very unique and there’s really nothing like it anywhere in the state.”

“We spent a lot of time analyzing the U.S. to get this system up and running,” said Jones. For about a year and a half I visited other agencies and asked them what kind of tools are needed. With that information and these tools, we now have a state-of-the-art center. This will likely be a model for others.”

Brott says he and his analysts continually invite surrounding jurisdictions to join what is called RCTAG. Those jurisdictions include St. Cloud, Stearns, Mille Lacs and Benton counties and cities such as Big Lake, Becker and Princeton. RCTAG means Regional Criminal Tracking and Analysis Group.

The cost of the intelligence center was included in the budget for the expansion of the government center a few years back. The cost of that expansion and renovation was deemed to be around \$61 million. Brott said the Intelligence Center and the technology will be paid for with jail revenue. He doesn’t intend to ask participating agencies to pay to join RCTAG and utilize the space and technology.

“Currently there is no cost to the agencies who utilize the center,” he said. “It is for research and info sharing of cases.”

Jones and Tholl, the two criminal intelligence analysts and investigator for Sherburne County meet once a month with the other RCTAG members and continually update a secure website that sends out crime trend reports, suspect “work-ups” and officer safety alerts.

In the IC, information that used to take days to get from one department to a neighboring department can be shared instantly, opening new lines of communication between departments that might not have spoken with each other on a regular basis.

Other agencies in the program will sometimes send people from their departments to Sherburne County once a week to gather information and use the capabilities of the system to piece their cases together.

Collaboration and information-sharing has always been key to any effective law enforcement effort. But in the past, crimes committed outside jurisdictions could sometimes take days, weeks and months to build cases and usually they were based on that particular departments efforts. Today, with the new IC, investigators can input a case or a particular crime and with the computer’s help, start linking evidence and suspects from other area jurisdictions or even other states.

The Sherburne County IC uses several programs to build cases and retrieve information. One of their tools is the *Accurint Virtual Crime Center (AVCC)* owned by *LexisNexis*. It’s a next generation analytics and data sharing platform with cutting-edge analytics and data linking. Through the program, law enforcement personnel can get a comprehensive view of peoples’ identities and can allow them to better target investigations, generate leads and solve crimes.

Another program within the system is *CellHawk*, owned by *Hawk Analytics, Inc.* This program gives law enforcement cellular phone record mapping and helps to connect and uncover trends. It can upload multi-format call detail records, receive live ping alerts, display device movement, map cell site locations, establish patterns, load & analyze data and share data in a report.

Cell Hawk is used primarily by Jones and Tholl.

LeadsOnline is another program essential to the IC as it provides access to transactions from thousands of reporting businesses, flags suspicious keywords and phrases found in suspect and witness statements and locate potentially stolen merchandise.

Another tool, *IBM Analyst’s Notebook*, turns overwhelming and disparate data from multiple sources into actionable intelligence

LINDBOM from page 1

According to the Godfather’s Pizza website, the franchise fee for Godfather’s Pizza is \$20,000. The total investment to open and operate a Godfather’s Pizza franchise ranges from \$82,500 to \$358,000, with minimum net worth of \$200,000. A 5% royalty fee on gross sales is paid to the company.

At the Becker Godfather’s Pizza shop, the Lindbom’s make sure the customer is the boss. First and foremost, they are allowed to choose from among several crust selections, including the thick, rich, original crust, a buttery, pan-style golden crust, or a light and crispy thin crust. Then they choose what they want on top, what kinds of veggies and meat to pile on. Godfather’s chefs take it from there, smothering the whole thing with cheese for a pizza that is irresistible.

They also feature pizza-by-the-slice on Thursdays and Fridays for a reasonable price — which includes a drink.

Every day they are open, Gabe and his crew open the doors early to get the store ready for regular hours. They spend a good deal of time preparing the dough for the crusts to ensure the highest quality. Gabe is also responsible for running the register at times, answering phone calls, doing payroll and even delivering the pizzas.

A big challenge has been learning the POS system which Bromenschenkel has been offering her assistance with to smooth things over in the transition. However, Gabe is not sure if he wants to continue with the current system or look into an updated system to make the business flow better.

One of Gabe’s initial duties when he took over was to replace the menu board behind the cash register with a modern, TV-screen wall. He and his family repainted the walls (in the Godfather-approved colors) and learned they needed to replace and repair several pieces of equipment that added to the extra expense of opening up.

One of the drawbacks Gabe faces is the limited space his store currently has. He plans on trying to reposition some furniture and equipment to try and open up the front end more to possibly accommodate more tables and chairs (currently, there is only room for one table and chairs). He also mentioned he’d like to see if the building is possibly conducive to an expansion to grow the seating and kitchen areas.

Gabe said the closest Godfather’s Pizza chain used to be in St. Cloud, but that store closed down — most likely due to the COVID-19 constraints attributed to public spaces. According to the Godfather’s Pizza website, there are only six Minnesota locations (including Becker) in the entire state.

“They (St. Cloud) had a buffet, which for a long while was quite popular,” said Gabe. “When they had to reduce hours, limit seating and cut back employees, they couldn’t make it work. It killed them.”

The other locations are in Austin, Faribault, Owatonna, St. Peter and Windom. As of August 2016, the chain had 453 locations in the U.S. Godfather’s Pizza also operates in some Speedway locations.

Gabe is determined to make his investment work and he hopes people from the area give his business some consideration when the hunger pangs hit.

“I’m here everyday to work to make this right,” Gabe says. “I enjoy it, I have fun and I want to make sure it’s all done right.”

Clearwater Council given fire department report, including need for more firefighters

By Penny Leuthard,
Contributing Writer

The possibility of having a fire chief rotation with an 8-year term was again considered during the Clearwater City Council’s February meeting. The issue was tabled after Council Member Richard Petty brought it forward at the January meeting.

The rotation had been discussed at the fire department’s annual meeting, at which there wasn’t an agreement among members as to the best course of action. Fire Relief Chair Jim Repke is in favor of the rotation.

Fire Chief Mike Keller stated he doesn’t agree with the recommendation, noting that the training and courses completing on his own time to meet the requirements for fire chief are extensive. He said it wouldn’t be worthwhile to go through that amount of work and put in that many volunteer hours if the position was only short term.

He added that many of the decisions and practices that a fire chief must implement take time and impact things far into the future, so implementing a term of office would be detrimental to the department’s mission.

The issue was again tabled after Mayor Andrea Lawrence said she would like to hear from Petty as to why the suggestion was made in the first place before any decisions were made.

Fire Dept. Report

Chief Keller provided the council with an overview of the fire department’s annual report and requested approval of the new officers. Because of increased duties, he also requested authorization to increase the secretary’s annual stipend from \$300 to \$600.

Keller explained the increase in calls during

2021 and the start of 2022 and noted the increasing costs of materials due to inflation.

He outlined plans to address the department’s staffing shortage as well. He explained there is a state training program that will assist with the cost of gear for new firefighters which he is going through in an effort to help recruitment efforts.

Motions carried approving the annual report, the officers, and an increase to the secretary’s annual stipend to \$600. Motions also carried approving an increase to the fire relief pension from \$1,750 to \$1,800 per year of service and accepting the retirement of Fire Marshal Brian Kunkel.

AED Installation

Ken Maren from the Clearwater Lions approached the council to request permission to place an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) on the Lions Pavilion, which is located in the Clearwater Lions Park. AEDs are portable devices that deliver an electric shock through the chest to the heart during a cardiac arrest.

Maren explained the AED would cost around \$6,000, and the Lions would pay for the unit, installation, and maintenance. When questioned about vandalism concerns, he said they haven’t had issues with vandalism at other locations, but they would keep watch and address issues if necessary.

The council had no objections to the AED, and suggested Maren reach out to Public Works for assistance with its installation on the building so they can connect to the building’s electrical system.

Other Business

A motion carried approving Resolution 2022-11 and calling a public hearing on March 24 for the

Ash Street Apartment project TIF 2-1 and the Central Minnesota Cold Storage project TIF 3-1.

A motion carried re-implementing the city’s COVID Leave Policy, which had been rescinded when the city’s local COVID emergency had ended. With COVID once more spiking, it had become an issue for staff again. The city follows CDC guidelines. The re-implemented policy will be effective until further notice.

A motion carried approving Ordinance 2022-03 Amending Discharge of Weapons in City Limits. The amended ordinance includes language from the current ordinance but includes changes in order to comply with state law changes.

A motion carried to hire Whitebox Marketing for a logo refresh of the city logo.

The next Clearwater City Council meeting will be March 14 at 7 p.m.



**CITY PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.
SEEKING FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE**

The City of Kerkhoven, MN, Public Works Department, is seeking a full-time Public Works Supervisor starting immediately. A complete job description and benefits package is available upon request.

Minimum requirements: Possess a MN Class D Water Operator's and Class C Sewer Operator's License and able to obtain a Class B Driver's License within 6 months of employment. Have a valid MN Class D Driver's License and a satisfactory driving record. All applicants will be required to have a physical and are subject to a drug test. **Starting wages \$53,830-\$71,780 per year/DOQ**, plus excellent benefits. This is a non-union position.

TO APPLY: All applicants must complete and submit an application for employment packet. Application forms can be obtained at City Hall Monday-Thursday from 8am-5pm and Fridays 8am-noon or by calling 320-264-2581 or by email: kerkhovenclerk@gmail.com.

Submit completed applications in drop box or by mail to: City of Kerkhoven, 208 N 10th St, PO Box 116, Kerkhoven, MN 56252. The City of Kerkhoven is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

CITY OF KERKHOVEN
208 10th Street North • Box 116
Kerkhoven, Minnesota 56252

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16455 122nd St Becker MN 55308
763-263-9471

• BECKER

Grace Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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

Becker Baptist Church

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

Becker Evangelical Free Church

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

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

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

Faith (Becker) Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Oakwood Community Church Assemblies of God

Pastors: Gerry Bass & Sarah, 763-260-6004, 13140 1st St (SW Corner of Becker Furniture World). Services: Sun. Bible Study/Sun. School 9am, Sun. Worship 10am.

Snake River Free Church

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

Becker Christian Center & Abundant Grace Church

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

Beacon House of Prayer

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

Free Grace United

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

• BIG LAKE

Acts Seventh-Day Adventists Community Church

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

Bethany Bible Church

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

Bridgeview Assembly of God

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

SVEA Hill Covenant Church

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

Cornerstone Baptist Church

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

Hope Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Orrick

763-263-7990. www.hopeintherefuge.weebly.com.

IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE Living Love Church

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

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church

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

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

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

Riverside Church

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

Saron Lutheran Church

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

9:30am, indoors or livestream.

• SANTIAGO

South Santiago Lutheran Church ELCA

Pastor: Daryl Thul, 763-662-2048, 14675 37th St. Services: Sun. 8am in Sanctuary Worship, 10am in Sanctuary. Audio broadcast in parking lot for both services.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church E.L.S. & Princeton Evangelical School
Pastor: Timothy Zenda, 763-662-2570, 18977 17th St. Services: Sun. School/Bible Class 10:30am, Divine Worship 9am.

Glendorado Lutheran (ELCA)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

Gethsemane Church (ELCA) - Ronneby

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

Glendoro Evangelical Country Church

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

• CLEAR LAKE

Living Waters Church

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

Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer

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

St. Marcus Catholic Church

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

• DUELM

St. Lawrence Church

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

• CLEARWATER

Clearwater United Methodist Church

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

Freedom Bible Church

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

Rejoice Lutheran Church - ELCA

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

Church of St. Luke

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

Tri-County Alliance Church

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

• SILVER CREEK

Immanuel Lutheran Church

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

Silver Creek Community Church

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

Obituaries

Kaitlyn M. Ristinen, Age 29
St. Cloud, MN
March 31, 1992 – March 2, 2022



A celebration of life will be 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, 2022 at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Sauk Rapids for Kaitlyn M. Ristinen of St. Cloud who passed away on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 at her home. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the funeral home on Sunday.

Kaitlyn Michelle Ristinen was born on March 31, 1992 in Monticello to Ross and Amy (Weiers) Ristinen. She worked as a direct care support staff member for local group

homes. Kaitlyn was very creative, outgoing and friendly. She liked crafts, four-wheeling, tubing and spending time at the lake. Kaitlyn was an avid reader, loved music, animals and was always kind and caring; especially in her care of others. She was very social and generous, even to a stranger.

Survivors include her mother, Amy (Dave Stimmler) Ristinen of Haven Township; father, Ross (Virginia Jacobson) Ristinen of Becker; brother, Andrew (Gina) Ristinen of Duluth; maternal grandparents, Richard and Betty Weiers of Monticello; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Edward and Edna Ristinen; and paternal step-grandmother, Ruth Ristinen.

Obituary, Guest Book, and Video Tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, March 12, 2022 at Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church in Becker for Darla J. Mrazek, age 80, who passed away Sunday at the St. Cloud Hospital. Fr. Michael Kellogg will officiate. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services Saturday at the church. Arrangements have been entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Becker.

Darla was born October 12, 1941 in Junction City, OH to Charles & Elois (Swick) Petruzzi. Darla graduated from Elyria Catholic High School in 1959. She married Joseph Mrazek on July 16, 1960 in Elyria, OH. Darla was a homemaker and beloved wife, mom, grandmother and great grandmother. She was a wonderful soul who was selfless and put everyone else first. She loved to garden and had many house plants and a large garden full of vegetables. Darla lived for family and loved taking photos and capturing memories. She was tough, stubborn, always told you what she thought, and encouraged everyone to be an independent thinker. There was not a harder worker on this planet and she always kept busy. Darla enjoyed cooking and baking for her family and making sure everyone was treated with their favorite "mom/grandma" foods all the time. She made the most amazing pies with whole wheat crust and labeled each

Darla J. Mrazek, Age 80
Becker, MN
October 12, 1941 – March 6, 2022



one with the recipient's name using her famous masking tape labeling for them to take home. She will be forever be missed, cherished and celebrated by everyone who knew and loved her.

Darla is survived by her husband, Joe of Becker; daughters and son, Tina Mrazek of Andover, Cynthia Malak of Palm Springs, CA, Jennifer Mrazek of Lake Havasu City, AZ, Josetta Zetah of Monticello, Joseph (Tanya) Mrazek, Jr. of Motley, and Becky (Eric) Graning of Becker; sisters and brothers, Sue Garcia, Charles Petruzzi, Jr., Debbie Freeman, and John Petruzzi; 16 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. Darla was preceded in death by her parents; son-in-law, Ron Malak; and sisters, Mary Dell and Kathy.

Obituary, Guest Book, and Video Tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com

Betty S. Moore, Age 55
Becker, MN
April 14, 1966 – March 4, 2022

A celebration of life will be at a later date for Betty S. Moore, 55 of Becker, who passed away on Friday, March 4, 2022 at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester. Arrangements have been entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Becker.

Betty Sueanne was born on April 14, 1966 in South Minneapolis to William and Jacqueline (Cecil) Johnson. She married Jerry Moore in South Minneapolis on December 6, 1997 and the couple made their home there until moving to Ramsey in 2005 and later to Becker in 2013. Betty worked as the produce manager at Food Pride in Becker. She enjoyed fishing, horse-shoes, bowling and shooting pool. Betty also loved sports and was very knowledgeable about all kinds of sports teams. She was loving, a people person, was always smiling and helping others came naturally to her.



Survivors include her husband, Jerry of Becker; son, Matthew of Becker; step-daughter, Ann (Dave) Hoff of Lakeville; step-grandchildren, Emily and Zach; her dog, Bear; her sister, Phyllis (James) Johnson of New Ulm; and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Jack; and sister, Linda.

Obituary and Guest Book available online: www.williamsdingmann.com

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