

Area News

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PALMER from page 1

for township road repair material.

Demeules explained that last year, the township signed a purchase agreement for \$200,000 for the property, which had originally been listed for \$235,000. He noted that the township has a full opt-out clause in place for the property, relating to a current phase 1 environmental study that is being conducted by West Central Environmental Consultants.

Several residents questioned the purchase price for the land, feeling that \$5,000 per acre was too much to pay since the county taxable value in 2021 was listed at \$135,600.

Demeules responded that values are rising rapidly and the county is expecting values to increase by approximately 20% for the 2023 valuations.

For comparison's sake, it was noted that the township was offered a seven acre parcel adjacent to the current Palmer Park for expansion, but that purchase would have been in the \$250,000 range.

Next, a sketch of the parcel was presented, with locations for the possible uses, as well as a description of the Interim Use Permit (IUP) that would need to be obtained from Sherburne County to establish the transfer station.

Demeules reviewed that there had been a meeting with county officials in January, followed by a meeting with Vonco, Inc. representatives about the possible collection of the organic yard waste materials for a project the company is developing related to food waste recycling.

SCORE grant funds would be one revenue source used for the transfer station, which likely would be free for residents to use in dropping off brush, lawn clippings and even weeds harvested from area lakes.

Commercial dumping of brush and yard waste materials was discussed, as was the amount of traffic the transfer station might produce.

Another topic that drew questions from the audience related to the amount of concrete and other materials that have been dumped at the site over many years.

Demeules had obtained a quote in the amount of approximately \$37,000 to crush and reclaim some 4,000 tons of concrete, although most people believe there are many additional tons at the location. The crushed concrete could be used for the establishment of roads at the site or used on other

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April 17, 9:30 am

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EASTER SERVICES

Sat., April 9, Easter Egg Hunt 3-4:30pm

Sun., April 10, Palm Sunday, 9:30am

Th., April 14, Maudy Thursday Worship w/ Holy Communion, 6pm

Fri., April 15, Good Friday Worship, 6pm

Sun., April 17, Easter Service, 9:30am

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township projects. Excess concrete could also be sold to generate revenue for the continued development of the site.

Getting back to the environmental study, Demeules noted that the phase 1 report should be complete soon and depending on the consultant's recommendations, there likely could be more testing needed on the land and groundwater to determine if there were additional pollutants that would need to be mitigated.

The consultant did discover that in the 1970's, the State of Minnesota reviewed the property and declared it a dump site. Other residents spoke of the area being used as a community dump and wondering what might be contained in the soils and mounds on the property. One resident even volunteered his time and the use of his skid loader to clear wooded areas on the property to aid in the soil and water sampling efforts.

"We are waiting for the consultant's plan and quote for the next steps of what might need to be done," Demeules said.

Several of the residents lived adjacent or near the site and voiced their support for testing the area to determine what environmental impacts might be located there. This idea seemed to draw a level of consensus, as residents noted it would be good to test the water and soil regardless of if the township goes through with the purchase.

Demeules then outlined some of the supporters of the project, which seem to be concentrated along the lakes, including the TLID, SWCD and BLCA members.

Several other issues were discussed at the meeting, but perhaps the one that drew the most attention was that of continued mining activity at the site. Several years ago, there was a proposal from a large company who had plans to operate the gravel pit, which would have brought an increased amount of traffic and noise to the area. It was reported that at that time, the plan had drawn considerable backlash from residents in the area.

Demeules responded that having township control of the parcel was one way to ensure that mining operations didn't start back up in the future.

"We have no plans to have a mining operation there," he stated, while also noting that the current landowners could have sold to a company who would operate a gravel pit or asphalt plant. He explained that the township doesn't have the legal authority to prohibit a company from doing additional mining at the parcel.

One resident asked if a special election would be held to determine the next steps, but Demeules indicated that was unlikely and that the township board will continue to be transparent with the process moving forward. One resident opined that there were only 25 or so people at the meeting out of perhaps 3,500 township residents, despite the meeting being well-publicized.

"Thank you for coming tonight," Demeules told the crowd, as he wrapped up the meeting and assured residents he will be in touch with the recommendations for the next steps.

Big Lake Community Fair

Proceeds for high school volunteerism scholarships

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Big Lake News

County tables redistricting vote

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

After a brief public hearing with minimal public comment Tuesday, the Sherburne County Board tabled its vote on establishing new commissioner district boundaries.

The board had been considering five possible options for redistricting to bring each commissioner district's population within the required 10% of each other. Some of those options required cities and townships to create precincts. Commissioner districts have to follow city and township precinct lines.

The board had anticipated debating different options after the public had a chance to give input. But Auditor/Treasurer Diane Arnold said none of the townships were interested in adding precincts.

"All of the townships have met, and from the resolutions that have been submitted to us, they're not going to be adding any additional precincts," she said.

The county has until April 26 to complete the redistricting process, and it is unlikely there will be any new information presented by then that will make a difference to the final option.

Administrator Bruce Messelt said Option 1, which includes precinct changes in some Elk River wards, is the only option that still fills the redistricting population requirements.

"As of the today, this is the only option that remains. The change on this particular map is in the Elk River precinct areas," he said. "The result of this redistricting would be that the two commissioner districts that are up for elections this year would remain. In addition, two other commissioner districts would also be required to have an election because of change

in population represented."

If Option 1 is adopted, elections would be required in Dist. 1 (Barbara Burandt), Dist. 2 (Raeanne Danielowski), Dist. 3 (Tim Dolan) and Dist. 4 (Felix Schmiesing).

The vote is scheduled for the April 19 meeting.

SSTS Loan Program

The board approved an amendment to the county's Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Low Interest Loan Program.

The program was established to provide low interest loans to help property owners replace or modify their existing sewage treatment system to bring them into compliance. The cost of many systems is often beyond what property owners can afford.

The amendment provides additional funding for single family residents. Originally, the loan amount was capped at \$20,000. Under the change, residents are now eligible for 100% coverage up to \$20,000 and 95% for any project costs over \$20,000. It also sets a two-percent interest rate for any approved loans.

Farm Friends

The board gave its approval for the Farm Friends to move ahead with a parking lot on its site in Becker Twp. Friends Board Chair Jean Johnson said the site plan includes an entrance and exit access, one onto 27th Ave. and one onto a future road that has not yet been designed or constructed.

There is no county money involved in the project.

Orrock Town Hall

The board approved a conditional use permit (CUP) request by Orrock Twp. to build an addition on the current township hall located on a 1.66-acre lot at 26401 180th St. NW in Orrock Twp. Variances were approved by the planning commission on Feb. 10, 2022, for a 32' x 42' (1,344

**Move Over,
Martha Stewart**

A Story Program by Pati Kachel

You and your home can become vessels for God to touch many people's lives. This program includes great ideas to help you open your heart and home in the ministry of hospitality and fulfill the command of Jesus to love your neighbors.

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Program starts at 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall

All Ages Welcome!

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sq. ft.) addition.

Other Business

In other actions the board:

- Approved a MN Lawful Gambling Application for Exempt Permit for City of Big Lake Firefighters Relief Association to be used for a raffle on Aug. 13, 2022 at the Big Lake Fire Department;

- Approved the transfer of excess budget dollars in the amount of \$150,000 into the Year End Savings (YES) account;

- Approved the County/Club Trail Agreement with the Elk Lake Easy Riders, Big Lake Sno Cruisers and the River City Snow Riders snowmobile clubs for the county to act as sponsor for the Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program for the fiscal year of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023;

- Approved a contract with Greater Minnesota Family Services to provide website updates and maintenance services for the Stronger Together Building Resilience (STIR) network, which is a community network focused on understanding trauma and building resilience. The budgeted project request is \$3,500;

- Approved a contract for Targeted Mental

Health Outreach Services with WAYCAN (Women and Youth Community Action Network) to create a youth group in the St. Cloud area that will engage youth and families from diverse communities. The requested budgeted amount is \$11,000;

- Set a public hearing for May 3 at 9:05 a.m. in order to comply with the Annual Report requirement under the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit for 2022.

- Approved the collective bargaining agreement with AFSCME Assistant County Attorney Unit for the term of Jan. 1, 2022 through Dec. 31, 2024;

- Approved an agreement with SRF Consulting Group to provide engineering services for the reconstruction of Co. Rd. 4, from 10th Street NW to Co. Road 45, in the amount of \$293,917;

- Proclaimed the week of April 10-16 as Public Safety Telecommunications Week;

- Proclaimed April 26, 2022 as County Staff Appreciation Day.

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Feds authorize 2nd leg of free COVID-19 home rapid tests

Submitted article

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

With COVID-19 approaching its second anniversary of impacting the world, the U.S. federal government is allowing households to request a second round of four COVID rapid tests at no charge. Those who have already received

four tests to a mailing address can request four more by going to www.covid-tests.gov and filling out the mailing information. Delivery is done through the U.S. Postal Service and should be delivered in approximately two weeks.

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Hey! What's Going On?

All kinds of things are going on in the community lately, it seems. Some of these are really exciting. So I thought I'd share some of the things I'm looking forward to or keeping an eye on as the weather starts to warm up.

Art Studio

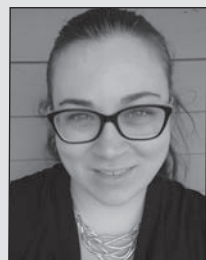
On Tuesday I had the pleasure of meeting Sandra Zylla-Rolf, who is opening a new art studio today in Becker. Sandra has the kind of awesome energy we all remember from our favorite school teachers, and it seems like her classes will definitely be worth checking out! I look forward to signing up and learning some new skills.

New City Administrator

Greg Pruszinske left the city in pursuit of a new job up north, and his position has finally been filled. I met Greg Lerud at the city council meeting on Tuesday, and he seems like he's eager to go! I always appreciate talking with someone who seems passionate about their job. Good luck to him as he steps into his new role!

Warm Weather

Is anyone starting to itch to get outside? It seems



By Katherine Cantin
Staff Writer

like I've been cooped up indoors for the last six months. Mr. Blue Sky, please tell us why you had to hide away for so long! I'm ready for taking long walks and dragging my kayak out of the garage!

BLPD Chief Search

I recently had a chat with one of the talented Big Lake Police Officers (I won't name them, to preserve their privacy) and it seems like the hunt for a new chief is coming along. I'm excited to see who fills the role! It seems to me that Acting Chief Sam Olson is doing an excellent job in the meantime keeping the department running smoothly. After the changes in leadership over the last year, it will be great for the city to once again fill

the chief role.

Becker School Board

Speaking of upheaval, there's a lot going on at Becker Schools lately, and I was surprised to learn that two board members resigned last month. The board is searching for candidates to fill the roles for the remainder of the members' terms. Could be a great opportunity for someone looking to serve the community!

Fire Dept. Dance

The Big Lake Fire Reserves will be holding their annual dance at the fire hall in August. I know it's a ways away, but it sounds like a lot of fun! I missed their recent chili cookoff. So I'm hoping I can attend the ball and support the department this summer. Something to put on the calendar anyway!

Easter

The Easter Bunny is on his way! Be on the lookout for hidden eggs! I'm looking forward to having dinner with my family, and of course giving thanks to the sacrifice Jesus made so we can enjoy springtime and community. Have a great holiday, everyone!

Addressing an Ag Community Crisis

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

This week we're back in Washington for another round of votes. We will also be paying our respects to the Dean of the House, Representative Don Young of Alaska. Representative Young has always been a friend and mentor to me since I came to Congress. He will be sorely missed on many levels.

Legislatively, we have a busy week in the House Financial Services Committee as we continue to fight for financial freedom and innovation.

Paying our Respects

Today, we said goodbye to a good friend and the Dean of the House, Alaska's Representative Don Young. Don was a great mentor to me and he served the people of Alaska with enthusiasm and steadfast commitment for nearly 50 years in office.

Don is lying in honor in the United States Capitol today, a moving tribute to a life spent in service of the American people. Don, you will be missed.

Celebrating National Agriculture Week

Last week, we celebrated National Agriculture Week, recognizing the important contributions of Minnesota's agriculture community. In Washington, we're working on legislative solutions to the many challenges our farmers are facing, like stress and input costs (you can read more on that below.) Our



By Congressman
Tom Emmer

farmers and producers deserve to be celebrated, too.

Last week, my office hosted two roundtables to connect with the Sixth District's ag community. The first was focused on raising youth interest and awareness for careers in farming and ranching. The future of agriculture depends on our youngsters finding a future in growing and ranching, and I was thrilled to have Minnesota Farm Bureau President Dan Glessing help us lead the conversation.

MFB President Dan Glessing with participants in Congressman Emmer's youth ag roundtable

My office also hosted a series of conversations with our Ag Advisory Council. These leaders in the Sixth District's ag community help me stay current with the priorities and challenges that our farmers are facing. As always, we are grateful for their leadership and guidance.

Thank you to our farmers for keeping our shelves stocked and plates full. Your work is not forgotten, this and

every week.

Addressing Crisis in our Ag Community

Our farmers are again facing profound challenges ahead of the spring planting season, with commodity prices not keeping pace with soaring input costs on fertilizer and feed. In fact, fertilizer prices are now their highest on record.

The developing crisis in Ukraine has only made prices rise more sharply. The United States imported an estimated \$10.3 billion worth of fertilizer for crops in 2021. Of that, \$1.3 billion came from Russia—which because of sanctions is no longer on the market.

We have other options for fertilizer imports. Earlier this month, I sent a letter to Chair of the International Trade Commission Jason Kears asking that he lift duties on fertilizer imports from Morocco, Trinidad and Tobago to lower costs and increase the supply of fertilizer available to American farmers.

Upcoming Tax Filing Deadlines

As March comes to an end, the federal tax filing deadline is just around the corner. This year's process might present more confusion than years past. You can find resources to guide your filing process on my website. For larger questions and concerns, my casework team stands ready to help. You can contact them by calling my Otsego office at (763) 241-6848.

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Ensuring Affordable Health Insurance

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

In 2016, due to Obamacare forcing the end of the MN Comprehensive health insurance program (created decades before for Minnesotans with pre-existing health conditions), premiums skyrocketed and led to the near collapse of the private health care insurance market across Minnesota. As a result, insurance premiums for the individual market increased by double digits, as high as 30-49% yearly.

This disaster led the legislature to pass the reinsurance program in 2017 to help stabilize premiums for Minnesota families' and create greater choice. Following reinsurance implementation, costs stabilized and every county in Minnesota has at least two health care plan options to choose from.

During the first three years after the program was implemented, premiums decreased by 25.5% in Minnesota as compared with an increase of 25.9% for the United States overall. Reinsurance has proven so successful that several other states have created programs like it since 2017.

However, the program faced a cut due to opposition from Governor Walz this last year. As a result, the costs picked up by the program were reduced resulting in the largest annual premium



By Sen.
Mary Kiffmeyer

increase since the program's inception.

To address this, Senate Republicans passed legislation this session to extend our state's successful reinsurance program for another five years. The proposal would return the coinsurance level to 80%, which will save the average enrollee \$130 per month.

Without this program, studies suggest premiums could rise as much as 36% in the individual marketplace in 2023. According to the Department of Commerce, it is estimated 15,000 Minnesotans will lose health insurance without the program.

As families face rising inflation rates, it's more critical than ever to stabilize Minnesota families' insurance rates in the individual market. The program extension will help prevent people from going bankrupt and being moved onto public health insurance. This will also help ensure that Minnesotans continue to have

multiple affordable options for health insurance.

Fighting for Firefighters

During last year's session, we passed legislation in response to the health crisis in fire service members. The legislation addressed the alarmingly high incidence of cancer and cardiac issues facing some of the 22,000 firefighters across the state.

And recently in the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I serve on, this bill was again heard to clarify who is eligible for benefits and how its insurance option interacts and conforms to insurance regulations.

Clarification language now defines that the insurance option is to be offered to active-duty firefighters. Additionally, any firefighter that has been diagnosed with cancer or heart disease after Aug. 1, 2021, qualifies for the policy, provided they apply for coverage within the 12-month window beginning after their diagnosis.

Our firefighters put their lives at risk and on the line every day, and some now face long-term health issues due to their selfless service to their communities. It is critical to support the health and well-being of firefighters through quality critical care policies, and the clarifications made to this bill will better support these brave men and women.



By Sen.
Tina Smith

have made it hard to deliver reliable service, especially in the long run. I've been pushing in the Senate to ensure the USPS gets the stable footing it needs, so I'm proud we could deliver on this legislation.

Reforming the Postal Service

The bipartisan Postal Service Reform Act will modernize the USPS and make it more transparent, accountable, and financially stable. It's also supported by Republicans and Democrats, postal workers, unions, and businesses.

Here is what it will do:

- Ensure there are no cuts to delivery by perma-

nently requiring the Postal Service to deliver six days per week;

- Save taxpayers \$27 billion over the next decade by eliminating an unusual requirement for the USPS to pre-fund retiree health benefits 75 years into the future;

- Require all future Postal Service retirees to enroll in Medicare. Approximately a quarter of retirees did not enroll in Medicare despite paying into it and being eligible. This will save taxpayers an additional nearly \$23 billion over the next decade;

- Modernize the USPS by requiring a public-facing, online dashboard, so Minnesotans and Americans can see how it's performing.

This bill is long overdue, but its passage is significant. I am proud to have supported this legislation. And I look forward to seeing its impact on the growth and longevity of this essential service for generations of Minnesotans and Americans to come.

Letters To The Editor

TO THE EDITOR:

What are we doing to ourselves? Oil and natural gas prices are going up because of two factors. The first factor is because of the stringent regulations imposed by Biden on oil drilling and fracking in our country. Instead of being an exporter, energy independent, we now import oil. This means there is less oil available on the world market, raising prices. Oil companies can not be assured the costs of the new regulation will allow for profits if they drilling new wells. The second factor is the Ukraine war and the Russian Oil. Why is Russia in Ukraine and why is China placing offensive weapons on Pacific islands they do not own? Our Strategic Oil Reserve (SOR) is for emergencies/war. We could be in a war where we need the SOR and can't defend ourselves because we do not have the oil. If we want to lower the oil prices, then we need to lower the regulations to realistic regulations, then build pipelines and refineries. This would make us energy independent again. Once again, we are our own worst enemy regulating ourselves out of jobs and allowing other countries to profit without regulation and polluting the planet.

Barry VanBuren
Clearwater, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

I agree with Karen of Annandale (somewhat). There is global warming happening. Seen and unseen, this has been going on for sometime. But she's only looking at the small picture. It's not only happening in Minnesota, but it's happening around the world. The demise of mankind (global warming) started when man and woman discovered fire. The man invented the wheel. When the dinosaurs died and left this planet with fuel for the caveman and woman to keep his

fire going, to keep warm and to cook his family's food. I think to reverse global warming, we should do as the caveman did. Walk softly and carry a big club.

Gary Kisner,
Becker, MN

TO THE EDITOR:

Why is a jury only now taking up whether the Parkland shooter gets life or the death penalty? Nikolas Cruz was captured on February 14, 2018, hours after walking into Stoneman Douglas H.S. in Parkland Florida where he shot 34 people, killing 17. There was no question as to whether or not he did the shooting. What should have happened to this individual is that within a week of his capture he should have been executed, preferably by firing squad on live TV. Instead he has been kept alive in relative comfort, fed three squares a day, given free medical care, been converted into a cash cow for the legal profession and allowed to be revered by a small segment of the country that wishes to follow his example. Our judicial system is broken. I don't care about rehabilitating this monster. Less than a 100 years ago if this would have happened, Cruz would have been put down almost immediately to serve as a lesson/deterrent to anyone, no matter their mental state/ability, to not perform a similar act. Today however psychiatric professions wish to endlessly study every broken individual, and we are told that the death penalty is not something one human would do to another human. How many murders have since been carried out by someone who admired Cruz? Imagine a mass murder like this happening in your neighborhood, what would you want done to the killer?

Bret R. Collier
Big Lake, MN

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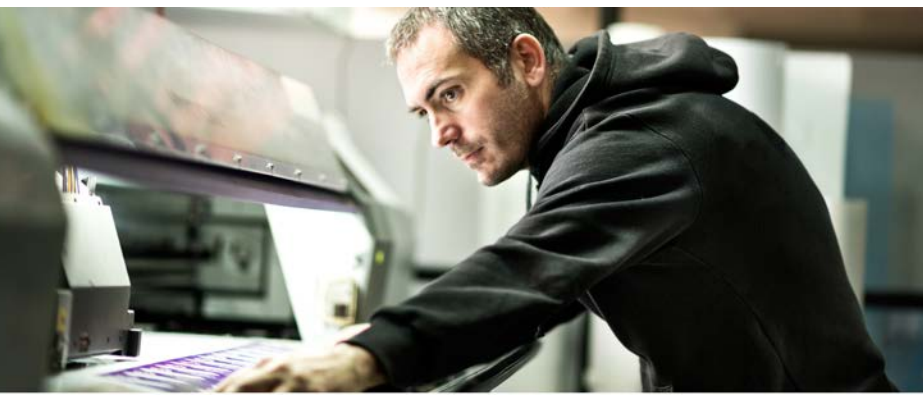
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Two Becker school board members resign

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

During Tuesday's Becker School Board Meeting, it was revealed that both Cindy Graham and Sarah Schafer announced their immediate resignations from the Becker School Board. The reasons behind their abrupt resignations were not stated during the meeting, and the two women were not present at the meeting.

Back in February, at the republican caucus, Board Member Mark Swanson also expressed his decision to not run for reelection this year.

The board plans to appoint members to the board to fill the seats of Schafer and Graham. Individuals interested in the positions may apply at the district office by April 15. Members will be appointed May 2. The appointed members will serve until the normal end of the elected term for the two board members who resigned.



THE BECKER SCHOOL BOARD was looking empty as two of its board members resigned effective immediately. (Photo taken from meeting video.)

ing uncertain) spoke during open forum as a parent of a transgender student. She spoke against the recent presentation to the school board, saying that it was offensive and hateful, and she expressed her and her student's disappointment in the board's decision to invite the presenters.

Superintendent's Report

There was a staff development day March 31, which focused on wellness, science curriculum, paraprofessional training, prep time, and other items.

MCA testing has begun and will continue through mid May.

The school has received some grant funding in order to better focus on staffing for the next school year. Grants will also help fund staff development and summer opportunities.

Referendum-funded projects are continuing with the transportation building, schools, and football field.

The graduation rate for Becker was found to be at 92.9%, down slightly from 95.5% in 2020. The statewide average was 83.3%.

Supt. Jeremy Schmidt wrapped up his presentation by presenting the board with a draft of the Becker Schools' communication plan.

Sherburne Historical Society seeks board members

Submitted article

(Editor's Note: The following article was submitted by Sherburne Historical Society.)

The Sherburne County Historical Society is currently seeking candidates to fill open seats on the Board of Directors of the Sherburne History Center. Positions will begin immediately for three-year terms. Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month.

Now is an exciting time to be involved in the

Sherburne History Center. Board members have an opportunity to shape the culture and community of Sherburne County. Primary duties include oversight of policy and procedures at the Sherburne History Center, assist in fundraising activities, and development and promotion of programs and events.

Founded in 1972, the Sherburne County Historical Society is a vibrant non-profit organization charged with the responsibility to preserve, protect, and present the history of

the county.

Located at 10775 - 27th Avenue SE, Becker, MN 55308, it is open Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. SHC has been creating and presenting exhibits and programs in the current building since 2006.

For more information about the Board of Directors for the Sherburne History Center contact Mike Brubaker, Executive Director at MBrubaker@SherburneHistoryCenter.org or call at 763-275-2210.

Becker hires Lerud as new city administrator

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

During Tuesday's Becker City Council Meeting, council extended an offer to Greg Lerud for the position of city administrator. Lerud was on hand at the meeting and indicated he was excited to join city staff. He will begin in May and said he was concerned that the next month would go by too slowly as he waited to begin.

Committee Reports

The budget and finance committee overviewed financials through February and continued to prepare for the upcoming audit.

The golf committee noted that the fire alarm system at Pebble Creek is due to be replaced. Council member Mike Doering suggested that this item be added to the budget for next year.

The planning commission had a discussion about Prairie Village Homes and is planning to review sign code in the near future.

Public Hearings

Council called for two public hearings at the request of staff. The public hearings will be held at the next regular meeting, April 19, and will be in regards to changes to chapter 10 and chapter 2 of



GREG LERUD was extended an offer to become the new city administrator of Becker. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

city code. The changes will establish fees for burning restriction violations, garbage violations, and other items.

BAC Concessions

The city has entered a contract with the Becker Youth Baseball Association to have the association run the concession stand at the Becker Athletic Complex (BAC). In previous years, the city has had difficulty staffing the stand and serving the many crowds at the BAC, but with the new contract the baseball association will run the daily operations of the stand and free city staff to focus on other matters of the city.

BCC Projects

The rock wall at the

Becker Community Center (BCC) is not being well utilized. The demand for the rock wall has declined in recent years, and the risk taken on by offering the activity is high. Plus, it requires extra staff to manage the area. So staff proposed that the area get revamped. The BCC could benefit from having a dedicated dining area, rather than having patrons order food and eat it in the lobby. Staff would also like to put arcade games in the room. In a deal the BCC has with Midwest Coin, the machines wouldn't cost anything, but rather Midwest Coin would take a portion of the profits made. Staff also hoped to set up a projector in the room, making use of the high walls to display football games and other sporting events.

Birthday parties are on the rise at the BCC, with more than 90 being held so far this calendar year alone, and the room would help to serve party patrons.

BCC staff also wishes to bring in some soft seating in the lobby and in the hallway leading to the library. This will serve parents waiting for their kids, seniors from the senior center, and library patrons looking for a comfortable place to sit.

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New art gallery and studio opens in Becker

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

Today, Saturday April 9, a new art store and learning studio will be opening in Becker.

The store's owner, Sandra Zylla-Rolf, is a long-time painter and teacher of art. She was inspired to her career by her late father, who was also an artist (and whose jigsaw puzzles will be available for purchase at the store.)

About the Shop

The Zylla-Rolf Studio will be located on Hancock St., in the old antiques building across from Charlie's Bar. Zylla-Rolf will be displaying and selling a selection of her own paintings, with five dollars of each purchase being donated back to the community, her goal being to eventually raise \$10,000. She will also be selling puzzles that were designed by her father, a portion of each of those sales being donated as well. Much of the work, by both artists, depicts landscapes and scenes from Minnesota, although some depict other areas visited by Zylla-Rolf's father, Ken Zylla.

In addition to selling art, Zylla-Rolf plans to lead classes, such as classes for stay-at-home moms (with an area for kids to play), after school programs for students, and adult wine-and-paint classes, to name a few. Zylla-Rolf also indicated that her son, who is a talented graphic designer, may offer some classes to show students how to create art on a digital platform.



SANDRA ZYLLA-ROLF stands in front of a wall of her artwork in her new studio/art gallery in Becker. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

All the materials for these classes will be provided in the cost of the class, so patrons won't need to worry about purchasing expensive paints or other materials.

About Sandra Zylla-Rolf

Zylla-Rolf, a graduate of Elk River and longtime resident of Becker, has been painting for 50 years, having started when she was just a little kid under her father's guidance. She went on to run his gallery for 20 years during her adult life. Zylla-Rolf also worked at the Paramount Theater and at Hobby Lobby, teaching art classes, over the years.

When the pandemic hit, Zylla-Rolf was no longer able to continue teaching her art classes. However, with a deep love of teach-

ing, she couldn't stay idle for much longer, hence her decision to open up shop.

Zylla-Rolf said her other motivator was to provide a place where members of the public can visit and find something to do. She hopes to have coffee and a reading nook available to anyone who just needs to get out of the house for a few hours. She believes it's important for people's mental health to be able to venture out into public, and have a place to go and do an activity.

Her other goal is to support art amongst the student population. She hopes to sponsor a \$1,000 scholarship for a Becker senior, as a surprise to the senior. She doesn't have anyone in particular in mind yet, but

she hopes to find a deserving young artist for whom the \$1,000 will be a big help in pursuing their education.

"There will be opportunities for everyone," Zylla-Rolf said.

About Ken Zylla

Zylla-Rolf's father, Ken Zylla, was a painter originally from the Foley area. He gave Zylla-Rolf his teacher's heart, as he also led classes for many years. He was a talented and popular artist who often did shows in California, as many as 42 per year, and would come home sold out of paintings. He passed away in 2017.

Senate passes drought relief bill

Submitted article

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

The Minnesota Senate last week unanimously passed \$8.5 million in drought relief in addition to \$1.5 million to respond to the avian influenza outbreak that has thus far been found in five Minnesota counties.

"This is great news for Minnesota family farmers who suffered through last summer's drought," said Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) President Gary Wertish. "The additional funding for avian influenza response is also appreciated as poultry producers grapple with this emerging threat."

The bill, Senate File (SF) 3479 is sponsored by Sen. Torrey Westrom, R-Elbow Lake, chair of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee. It targets \$5.5 million to support livestock farmers and \$1.5 million for livestock farmers and specialty crop producers. An additional \$1.5 million is appropriated to the Rural Finance Authority (RFA) for disaster recovery loans.

The bill allocates \$1 million to the University of Minnesota to purchase equipment for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to test for avian influenza, chronic wasting disease, African swine fever or other animal diseases. In addition, \$500,000 is transferred to the agricultural emergency account for avian influenza testing supplies.

On March 22, the Senate Finance Committee unanimously approved the

relief package. On March 10, the House passed House File (HF) 3420, sponsored by House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee Chairman Rep. Mike Sundin, DFL-Esko, by a bipartisan 101-33 vote. The bill expands eligibility for the RFA Disaster Recovery Loan Program, appropriates money for rapid response grants to eligible farmers, and provides additional funding for drought-relief loans.

The bills passed in the House and Senate now move to conference committee where legislators from both chambers will iron out differences between their respective bills. Following that, the proposal will need to be again approved by the full House and Senate before going to the governor for his signature.

Minnesota Farmers Union first called for a drought relief package that includes rapid response grants in August. In September, Wertish joined Gov. Walz at an event announcing the drought aid package and in October, Wertish testified at a House hearing on the drought. MFU has continued to advocate for drought relief since the session began Jan. 31.

About Minnesota Farmers Union

Minnesota Farmers Union works to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and ranchers and rural communities. MFU is a nonprofit membership-based organization. Membership is open to everyone. Learn more and join at www.MFU.org and follow MFU on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



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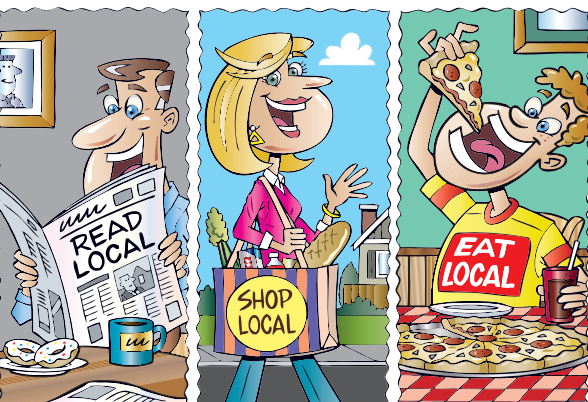


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Clear Lake hears from mental health co-responder



MENTAL HEALTH CO-RESPONDER ROY NEUMANN works along law enforcement throughout Sherburne County in an effort to meet the needs of persons in crisis. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

Licensed mental health co-responder Roy Neumann was present at Monday's Clear Lake City Council meeting to introduce himself and share some data as he approaches one year on the job.

Neumann is just the second co-responder from the Central Minnesota Mental Health Center that has been embedded with local law enforcement agencies across MN in an effort to provide assistance to persons in crisis. The first co-responder works in St. Cloud, while Neumann's service area is all of Sherburne County - including the Sheriff's Office, as well as all three local Police Departments, Big Lake, Becker and Elk River.

"I feel that I am there to supplement what the officers are already doing," Neumann says. "I've seen great de-escalation techniques already being used by the officers."

Neumann explained that his efforts are an extension of the work done by the Four County Crisis Response Team, and he gives another perspective to crisis calls that come in through the 9-1-1 system.

While he started out riding directly with the officers in each jurisdiction, he now has his own car and can respond directly to the scene as appropriate.

After nearly a year on the job, Neumann says he has received a lot of support from the officers and citizens as well.

"I had three years of experience working crisis response in the Brainerd lakes area," Neumann says. "I think it also helps that I had many years of experience as a reserve deputy in Benton county."

That past experience allows him to understand what is happening on the calls and he is able to quickly assess where his skills might be needed.

According to data that Neumann shared with the council, in just 138 days of service on the job, he has



Hunting and gun safety programs in Clearwater

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

People in the Clearwater area who want to learn the basics of hunting and firearm safety don't have to look very far, they can do so right in town. A DNR Youth Hunter Education and Firearm safety course is held in the back of the Clearwater Legion twice a year.

The course is actually a requirement for people born after December 31, 1979, to hunt in Minnesota, but it's also beneficial to those who just want to learn the right way to shoot and handle guns. Although it's considered a youth program, all ages are welcome to attend.

This year students taking the course will have the opportunity to learn about a larger variety of firearms due to a donation from the Clearwater Lions.

"The guns we were able to purchase with the Lions' donation enables us to provide students with a better education," said volunteer instructor Bran-

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MEMBERS OF THE GUN SAFETY COURSE try out the new rifles purchased with money donated by the Clearwater Lions. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

don Hanebuth. "We bought seven guns with the funds. Two are pistols; one a slide action Beretta 22 and the other a revolver style Heritage 22. The other five are a variety of pump action shotguns. Having the different varieties and brands is helpful because they all have slight differences, like with their safety levers."

This is Hanebuth's eighth year teaching the

cool to teach it. Years later, when it came time for his own kids to take the course, he contacted the DNR, then took classes to become a certified Youth Gun Safety Instructor.

"Years ago there were two instructors holding the classes in the back of the Clearwater Legion, but there hadn't been one in town for quite a while," he said. "The Legion generously donated the back of their building so we could start holding classes again."

Each course consists of five to six days of learning in the classroom and one day out in the field, where students get a chance to practice what they've learned. Carrying a firearm while walking, going over a fence, climbing up to a tree stand, and entering and leaving a boat are all part of the education, along with sitting, kneeling, and standing with one so Hanebuth can see their techniques. Two additional instructors are at the field days for safety and so students can split into groups, allowing them to have more time 'doing' rather than just watching.

Hanebuth works to make field day fun by throwing frisbees up in the air for the students to attempt to hit and playing 'shoot don't shoot' types of games. In one, he hides two hunting caps, one orange and one camouflage, near a dummy of a deer and has the students try to spot both from a variety of distances.

Because it's a mandatory course for hunters, Hanebuth stressed they want to keep it free. The only stipulation is that students must be at least 12 years old. Along with the classroom students have the option to take the course online, with the field day as the only face to face class.

"On behalf of myself and the Clearwater program, I'd like to deeply thank the Clearwater Lions for their support and the Legion for their hospitality," said Hanebuth.

Those interested in taking a hunting and gun safety course can go to the DNR's website at dnr.state.mn.us for more information and to sign up. There are two Clearwater courses, one in the spring and the other in the fall.



PEOPLE OF ALL AGES take the gun safety course. The only stipulation is that one must be 12 years old. (Photo by Penny Leuthard.)

don Hanebuth. "We bought seven guns with the funds. Two are pistols; one a slide

program. When he was 11 he took the class himself and thought it would be

made contact with 155 individuals who were in need of mental health services. From there, he has done follow up engagements with 114 of those clients, helping to make referrals to community services as necessary.

Eighteen of the incidents were considered violent situations, while he also de-escalated suicidal individuals on 26 occurrences. Other services that can be referred include substance abuse treatment programs, crisis bed placements and the scheduling of mental health therapist appointments.

Neumann stated that his services are based on a program that originated at the Denver, CO Police Department, and he says on a per capita basis he is already surpassing that jurisdiction's service call load.

In total, nearly 50% of his referrals started with an individual calling 9-1-1.

"I think it's a great program," Mayor Tim Goenner said.

Drainage

Next, resident Chris Goenner appeared before council to discuss drainage issues near his home at the intersection of 1st Ave. E. and Brooks St. He stated that he has lived at his address for 40 years and there have always been issues with water pooling in the area.

While he has tried several mitigation strategies, he voiced that things are barely workable at the current time and he was worried about a land abatement that could be part of a future development in the area.

Mayor Goenner noted that the church had done some work in the area in the past, but that sand continues to fill the drain and it can cause issues.

Goenner stated that he wanted the council to be

aware of the issue and if there was an abatement in the area, he would rather see the land go back to himself to the church, rather than for a new driveway in the area.

Council thanked Goenner for the heads up and will make note the issue before any further development decisions are made in the adjacent vicinity.

In Other Business, the Council:

- Heard from Clear Lake Lakers Amateur Baseball Team Manager Mike Golombiecki, who thanked the council for installing the new scoreboard and also spoke of the team's efforts in hosting more home games in the future. The Manager also received permission to solicit business signage for the outfield fence, with proceeds going to the team;

- Passed a resolution to put in a larger size sewer collector pipe in the area of

the Parkside Development, as this would be a cheaper long-term investment if the surrounding land developed in the next 20 years;

- Approved a quote presented by Clerk Kari Koren for updating of the City's website;

- Approved \$3,880 for the purchase of a speed sign to be placed on Highway 24, near where the old one was located. MNDOT permits and approvals will be needed before installation;

- Heard from Public Works Director Dustin Lunning that the road to the Sewer Authority was washed out with recent water issues. It will be re-built soon;

- Set a council special meeting for May 2 at 6 p.m. to review building plans for a new Fire Hall.

The regularly scheduled May meeting will follow at 7 p.m.

Sports News

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It seems like there are as many different strategies employed for a bird's survival as there are species of bird. Think about all the different ways and things a bird must do just to survive. These include a wide

Snail Kites



By Naturist Stan Tekiela



range of nesting strategies and feeding strategies. This fact was glaringly obvious last week while I was photographing the federally endangered species the Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) in southwest Florida.

I was in Florida to lead a bird photo tour and give a few presentations for Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Each morning I would get up early and head out to get into place to photograph a small colony of Snail Kites right at sunrise. The warm and moist mornings where such a nice change from the cold and windy mornings back in my northern home.

Kites are a group of raptors that are considered aerial specialists, hunting and drinking on the wing. They have a unique buoyant flight that makes them easy to spot from a distance. We have five kite species found in the United States. All these kites are found in the southern states except for the White-tailed Kite which is found along the west coast.

Most of the kites are considered a food specialist, which means they only eat a specific type or kind of food. For the Snail Kite, their main diet are snails. Apple Snails, which are a large mollusk found in fresh water in warm climates, make up the majority of their diet. These snails are huge and can grow upwards of three inches across.

It is estimated that there are only 400 breeding pairs, or about 1,000 individual Snail Kites (some are not breeding age yet) in the United States. All of these birds are located in southern Florida. Since they are tied nearly exclusively to eating snails (food specialists) they really have no way of expanding their range. They can only occur where snails are large and plentiful enough to support a large raptor.

Their Genus name, *Rostrhamus*, is Latin for “hooked beak,” from *rostrum* (the beak) and *hamus* (a hook). This perfectly describes their long, slender, hooked beak. This highly adapted beak allows the kite to reach inside and cut the snail free from the shell, without damaging the

shell. It takes only a minute or two to successfully remove the snail from the shell.

Snail Kites hunt by flying low over shallow water wetlands while looking down and scanning the water. When they spot a

snail, they turn abruptly and swoop down and dip their feet, with long sharp talons, into the water and grab the snail. They often fly to a well-used and familiar perch where they extract the snail and drop the shell. I spent some time investigating several of these perches and found dozens of large empty snail shells piled up at the base.

While being a food specialist is something that has worked for the Snail Kite, it is also a very risky and dangerous strategy for long term survival. For example, what happens if a disease wipes out the snail population or a long-term drought causes the wetlands that are home to the snails to dry up? In addition, as wetlands are drained for farming and housing development the Snail Kite has no alternative habitat in which to relocate. As you can see, being dependent upon just one food source is very risky.

It's easy to tell the difference between the males and females. The males are a uniform blue/gray color with a bright red eye. The females are brown with a speckled chest. At times when the male would grab a snail another kite would try to steal it away which lead to spectacular areal battles. Seeing these mid-air interactions were always a thrill. But capturing images of the kite snatching a large snail from the water was my ultimate goal. I spent many mornings standing at the edge of the marsh waiting for a Snail Kite to fly by and swoop down for a snail. On three occasions I was lucky enough to capture some decent images of this endangered species clinging to survival one snail at a time. Until next time...

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



BECKER SPEECH TEAM WRAPS UP REGULAR SEASON. Congratulations to the Becker Speech Team for an impressive performance at the Mississippi 8 section tournament in Brainerd last Friday! Alyssa O. took second place in creative expression advancing to the State Tournament on April 22. Austyn C. took fourth place in poetry, and Coby C. took fourth in Creative Expression. (Submitted photo.)

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RIVER CATS, 15U CLAYBA (Clear Lake Area Youth Baseball Association) stepped up to the plate in service to the community by helping out at the Clearwater Legion Post #323 monthly breakfast. (Submitted photo.)

Nothern Lights 2023 Expansion Project Notice

Northern Lights 2023 Expansion Project

On March 28,2022, Northern Natural Gas (Northern) filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in Docket No. CP22-138-000 requesting authorization to construct and operate (1) a 2.79-mile extension of its 36-inch-diameter Ventura North E-line in Freeborn County, Minnesota; (2) a 1.07-mile, 30-inch-diameter loop of its 20-inch-diameter Elk River 1st and 2nd branch lines in Washington County, Minnesota; (3) a 1.14-mile extension of its 24-inch-diameter Willmar D branch line in Scott County, Minnesota; (4) a 2.48-mile extension of its 8-inch-diameter Princeton tie-over loop in Sherburne County, Minnesota; (5) a 2.01-mile 4-inch-diameter loop of its 3-inch-diameter Paynesville branch line in Stearns County, Minnesota; (6) a 0.34-mile extension of its 8-inch-diameter Tomah branch line loop in Monroe County, Wisconsin; and (7) aboveground appurtenant facilities consisting of a launcher and tie-over valve settings. The project facilities described in the application will enable Northern to provide incremental winter firm service of 44,222 dekatherms per day (Dth/day) serving residential, commercial and industrial customer market growth in Northern’s Market Area and 6,667 Dth/day of additional firm service that will allow a local distribution company enhanced reliability and flexibility in nominating and scheduling natural gas transportation capacity for electric generation. The facilities will be constructed in 2023 in order to meet contractual obligations effective November 1, 2023.

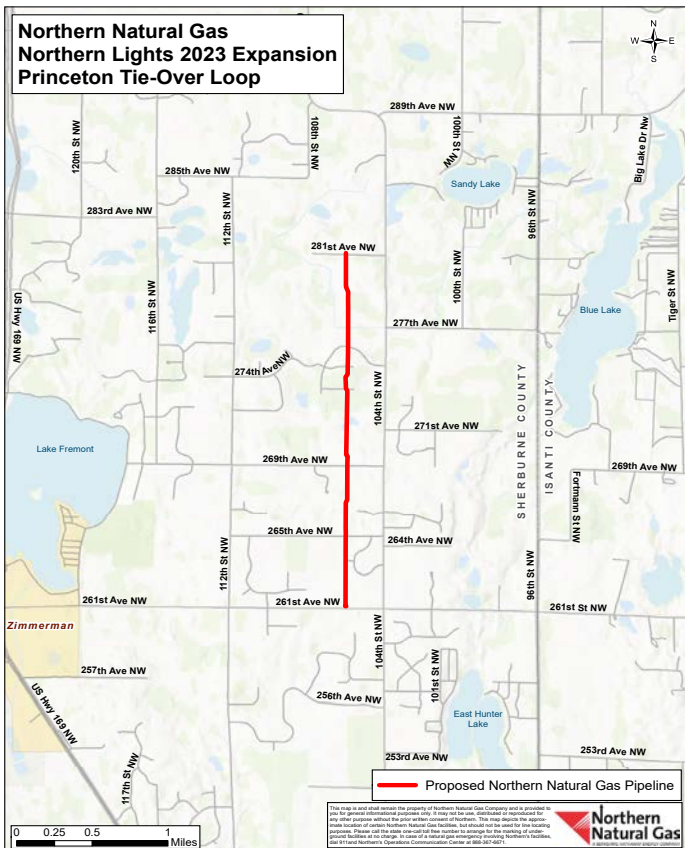
A general location map showing the location of the proposed Princeton tie-over loop extension is included with this notice. Northern has contacted, and will continue to contact, landowners regarding temporary and permanent easement rights.

Northern owns and operates an interstate natural gas pipeline system and is regulated by FERC. Northern must obtain FERC approval to construct and operate the proposed facilities. Northern has requested that FERC issue an order approving the proposed project by February 16, 2023, in order for construction to be completed and the facilities to be ready for an in-service date of November 1, 2023.

A separate notice regarding Northern’s application will be mailed to affected landowners and stakeholders involved with the project. You may contact Northern with questions about the project by email at NorthernLights2023@nngco.com or by calling a toll-free number (888-367-6671).

A copy of Northern’s application has been mailed to the following libraries: (1) Elk River Public Library in Elk River, MN; (2) Wildwood Library in Mahtomedi, MN; (3) Richmond Public Library in Richmond, MN; (4) Paynesville Public Library in Paynesville, MN; (5) Sparta Free Library in Sparta, WI; (6) Albert Lea Public Library in Albert Lea, MN; and (7) Prior Lake Library in Prior Lake, MN. The application also may be obtained through the FERC’s website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the “eLibrary” link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits (CP22-138-000) in the docket number field to access the document. User assistance is available at FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at 866-208-3676 (TTY, call 202-502-8659). A pamphlet, An Interstate Natural Gas Facility on My Land? What Do I Need To Know?, which provides information for landowners is available on the FERC’s website at <https://www.ferc.gov/industries-data/natural-gas/landowner-topics-interest>.

Any interested party may participate in the proceeding by making a filing with FERC’s Secretary, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426. Additional information regarding FERC’s regulations, policies or procedures is available on FERC’s website at <http://www.ferc.gov> or from FERC’s Office of External Affairs at 866-208-3372.



(Published in the Patriot: 04/02/22; 04/09/22).

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BULLDOG SOFTBALL RETURNS EXPERIENCE FOR TITLE DEFENSE

Softball

SCHEDULE

4/7 vs. Chisago Lakes
4/8 @ Eastview
4/12 @ North Branch
4/14 vs. Monticello
4/19 @ Princeton
4/21 @ Big Lake
4/22 vs. Cambridge-Isanti
4/26 @ St. Francis
4/28 @ Chisago Lakes
4/30 vs/ Maple Lake
5/3 vs. North Branch
5/5 @ Monticello
5/6 vs. Princeton
5/10 vs. Big Lake
5/12 @ Cambridge-Isanti
5/13 vs. Elk River
5/17 vs. St. Francis
5/19 @ Zimmerman

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

A year ago, the Becker Bulldog softball team captured its first ever state title. This year, the team returns the same coaching staff and six starters who are hoping their experience can translate into a return trip to the state tournament.

“Our team hasn’t started the goal setting process yet, but I would expect that the team will look to compete for a conference and section title,” said Coach Jason Baune, who returns for his 20th season as the leader of the program. “I expect that our six returning starters will have strong seasons and be leaders on the field.”

Baune will be joined on the coaching staff by long-time assistants Matt and Jesse O’Neill, while volunteer assistant Heather Young will also return. Rounding out Baune’s staff will be Sara Peterson, Miriah Giles, Sheena Meillier and Karissa Holt, giving the Bulldogs a talented and experienced staff to work with the players in grades 7-12.

Serving as captains for this year’s team will be returning players Cadence Koste, Makenna Zerwas and Maddie Sherman, while three other starters return for action this year after serving key roles on last year’s championship team: Kurstyn Patnode, Hannah Bartlett and Ellie Gallus.

In filling out the rest of the roster positions, Baune will have many athletes to choose from, as he feels he has a strong stable of players from last year’s JV who will be vying for playing time.

“Kennedy Drehmel, Allie Deters, and Norah Fitzpatrick are strong middle infielders that also have the ability to contribute in the outfield,” Baune said. “Nevaeh Gardner, Jada Soltau, and Evelyn Kreft have experience at a variety of positions, including catcher, corner infield and outfield and that will prove valuable as we look to find the best role for each. Jaimee Cook did a lot of pitching on JV last year and will have an opportunity to compete for innings on varsity, as well as potentially fill in at other spots.”

When it comes to the competition on the field, the Bulldogs certainly won’t sneak up on any opponents, while a strong M8 and non-conference schedule awaits the team.

“Chisago Lakes won the conference last year and they return one of the state’s top

pitchers, so they will be good,” Baune said. “Big Lake and North Branch each had some losses due to graduation, but I expect that they will be strong as well.”

The non-conference schedule will include the likes of AAAA schools Elk River and Eastview, while Becker will again host a tournament with powerhouse schools such as Maple Lake, Northfield, Rocori and Cloquet attending.

When it comes to the Section tournament, Becker will have some new teams to face in their quest for a return trip to state.

“We enter a new section with a few changes, as gone are Rocori, Willmar, Tech, and Apollo,” Baune said. “In their place we add Princeton and St. Francis, while I would expect that Big Lake, Monticello and St. Francis will all have strong teams. Zimmerman is also a very competitive program.”

Whichever team lines up in the opposing dugout, Baune knows it won’t be an easy path to success.

“Having won a state title will also put a bit of a target on our backs and I’m sure that we’ll get the very best from our opponents each night,” Baune said. “So we will have to be ready to bring our best as well.”

Despite returning six starters from a year ago, Baune knows this season will bring its own unique challenges. As always, he will rely on a team culture that promotes collective excellence over individualism.

“I think our greatest strength in previous years has been the willingness of our players to accept a role that is best for the team and play it to the best of their ability,” Baune said. “I would expect that to continue this year. We should have a strong line-up that puts up a lot of runs and our pitching staff returns some good experience despite losing Emma Eickhoff to graduation and SCSU.”

When asked about this team’s specific identity, Baune says he is looking for leaders to step up and make sure the Bulldogs are a quality defensive squad.

“We will definitely have some work to do as we try to figure out our best defensive line-up,” Baune said. “Defense is about individual talent, but it’s also about communication and it will be important that we figure out where each player fits so they can get experience playing next to each other which leads to solid communication.”

Combined with this team’s offensive prowess, that could be the magical formula that propels the Bulldogs to another state tournament berth.



THE BECKER BULLDOG SOFTBALL TEAM has healthy numbers in the program and a great deal of talent, as they try to defend their state title from a year ago. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

Patriot reached out to other sports teams

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

To our readers: we (*Patriot*) reached out to the coaches for Bulldog baseball, Bulldog Boys Lacrosse, Hornet boys tennis and Hornet girls golf teams to participate in our spring sports preview but received no response.

While we intend to do our best to feature each and every sports team for each season of each school year, we rely heavily on getting information, stats, photos, etc. from coaches, statisticians and parents to complete our

sports sections.

If any of the coaches for the aforementioned teams wishes to still submit info for their squads and have it run in next week’s *Patriot*, please send an email to: reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com.

Thank you for your understanding and your readership!

Baseball

SCHEDULE

4/4 @ Fridley (postponed)
4/11 vs. Chisago Lakes
4/12 @ North Branch
4/14 vs. Monticello
4/19 vs. Princeton
4/21 @ Big Lake
4/22 vs. Cambridge-Isanti
4/26 vs. St. Francis
4/28 @ Chisago Lakes
4/29 vs. Milaca
5/3 vs. North Branch
5/5 @ Monticello
5/6 @ Princeton
5/10 vs. Big Lake
5/12 @ Cambridge-Isanti
5/13 vs. Sauk Rapids-Rice
5/16 @ St. Francis
5/17 @ Sartell-St. Stephen
5/20 vs. Willmar
5/26 @ Zimmerman





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Becker

SPRING SPORTS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

Boys Golf

SCHEDULE

4/12 @ Rush City
4/14 Home-Pebble Creek
4/18 @ Monticello
4/20 @ Refuge
4/25 @ Monticello
4/29 @ Little Crow
4/30 @ Eagle Creek
5/3 Home-Pebble Creek
5/9 @ Chisago Lakes
5/12 @ St. Cloud
5/13 @ Detroit Lakes
5/18 @ Cambridge-Isanti
5/20 @ Detroit Lakes
5/21 @ Detroit Lakes
5/23 @ Princeton
6/2 @ Detroit Lakes

Girls Golf

SCHEDULE

4/11 @ Monticello
4/12 Home- Pebble Creek
4/19 @ The Ponds
4/20 @ Stones Throw-Milaca
4/28 @ Chisago Lakes
5/2 Home- Pebble Creek
5/9 @ Monticello
5/13 @ Rich Springs
5/16 @ Princeton
5/18 @ Rush City
5/25 @ Cambridge-Isanti

BULLDOG GOLF TEAMS LOOKING FOR GREEN GRASS

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The anticipation of green grass has the Becker Bulldogs boys and girls golf teams ready for another season. The girls team returns a wealth of experience and talent as Head Coach Anna Babler begins her fifth season in charge, while the boys team will be young and inexperienced under first year coach Hunter Moen. Both squads are itching to get outside to get the season started.

Girls

A year ago, the Bulldogs claimed the Mississippi 8 Conference title with a balanced lineup that included three seniors. This season, Babler sees some signs that point to continued success as her golfers are playing with more confidence end experience.

“Last year was a fun season, the girls improved a lot,” says Babler. “We lost three seniors but I am excited to see what our returning players show us this season!”

Emma Benson will serve as the team captain, joining fellow returning letter winners Alexa Voller, Layla Mathews and Avery Johnson as the Bulldog’s with the most experience.

This nucleus should form a competitive core for the team, according to Babler.

“I am excited to see how much all of the girls have improved this year,” says the coach. “I believe all four returning letter winners will be fun to watch this season!”

As for team goals, she expects her team to compete for another conference title.

“We are hopeful we can once again claim the conference championship,” says Babler. “Last year four out of the six of our girls made all conference, it would be great to see that again.”

In order to achieve those lofty expectations, Babler knows there will be some tough competition awaiting in the M8 Conference.

“Cambridge-Isanti and Chisago Lake,” Babler responds when asked to identity the toughest competition. “However, things might look a little

different with some great senior golfers graduating last year.

Beyond that, Babler is taking a practical approach to the season and she is focusing on the beginning of the season.

“We are just hoping the for the weather to start cooperating so we do not have to reschedule too many meets,” says Babler, who notes that the season opener April 7 at Pebble Creek was already delayed by five days.

Monday, April 11 is the new opening day for the girls as they will travel to the Monticello Country Club.

Boys

Hunter Moen takes over as the head coach for the boys team, with former coach Dan Olson moving to the assistant position.

In the first few days of practice, Moen says he has been impressed with the enthusiasm of the team but understands that his crew is short on varsity experience.

“We have a young team that really loves the game of golf,” says Moen, who played collegiately at St. Cloud State before the University cut its golf program. “I have a team that knows how to keep things light and are very fun to be around.”

Brayden Graning returns as the only player with experience in last year’s top six positions, meaning Moen will have to sort through a number of contenders as he seeks to solid the lineup.

Luckily, it’s not his first coaching job, as he spent two years in the school program in Barnesville after his graduation from West Fargo High School.

“I hope to bring knowledge that applies to the current golf and tournament environment,” Moen says, in referring to his philosophy. “I see my strength as a coach is I have so much experience playing, and I hope to share that in a variety of ways.”

In analyzing how he likes to coach his players, Moen takes a cerebral approach aimed at trying to work on the mental side of the game.

“The first is to teach our kids how to think around a golf course. Just taking a second to plan how to attack the hole can help so much with giving our kids

comfortable shots that they feel confident with,” says Moen. “Another way is to give our kids confidence. Sometimes showing a kid that you believe he has the ability to hit a certain shot or shoot a certain score can give him what he needs to go out and do it. Confidence is essential to playing good golf and succeeding away from sports as well.”

Moen has not had the team vote yet on captains, but he has already been busy getting to know the players and the golf course. So far, he really likes what he sees at Pebble Creek.

“I love Pebble [Creek]. It is a great course to be able to practice at,” Says Moen. “I have played it a handful of times and it is always in great shape.”

The course itself is an area where Moen sees his team having an advantage.

“Becker is very lucky to not only have a great course like Pebble Creek so close to the school, but also have a

staff that allows them such great access,” Says Moen. “There are a lot of schools across the state that do not have access to a place like this.”

As he looks toward the season, Moen takes solace in knowing that his focus can be on helping each individual golfer improve his game.

“Stepping into a program with so much youth, it is tough to set a goal in relation to other teams,” says Moen. “My main goal is to see growth in every player on our team. I want every player in our program to experience growth as a player and student come the end of the season. When coaching at any level, that is all a coach can ask for.”



THE BECKER BULLDOG BOYS GOLF TEAM has many new faces that are jockeying for a spot to tee-off with the top group once the season starts. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

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BULLDOG GIRLS TRACK TEAM MOVING TO MIDDLE CLASS

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

Trisha Kealy is entering her 18th year as head coach of the Becker girls track and field team. She has 30 student/athletes which include: Seniors: Paige Maunu, Madalynn Finney, Sarah Woelfel and Skylar Schug. Juniors: Kayla Gruenes, Regan Hausmann, Brooklyn Karel, Meghan Swanson and Karen Gonzalaz. Sophomores: Olivia Babler, Avery Boyer, Alea Briggs, Anna Kuklok, Kylee Morton, Lexi Rose, Kiera Spencer, Lauren Woelfel, Kayla Paulson and MaKenna Smith. Freshmen: Abby Atwood, Grace Gifford, Reese Hausmann, Olivia Maunu, Ella McDonald, Leon Morris, Mina Nelson, Kailey Thompson and Natalie Trenz. Eighth grade: Katelyn Brower and Raelee Lyon.

Kealy's managers are Chloe Setrum, Abi Berning and Aylla King.

"These girls have been our managers for several years and do a great job," Kealy said.

Kealy's assistants cross over as coaches from the girls to the boys team and they include, Paul Schmidt, who is the head boys coach and he typically works with Kealy's sprinters. Dustin Weege takes the duties of coaching the throwers and pole vaulters and Tony Miller works with the team's jumpers.

"I take distance and hurdles and Paul and I usually work relays together," said Kealy. "Everyone pitches in where needed and I really enjoy working with these coaches. Each one brings so much to our team."

Kealy exclaims how wonderful it is to see the progress of the kids year to year and through each sea-

son.

"They get so excited to improve and achieve their goals," she says. "They are a great group of kids and we really care about each of them."

Kealy's captains this year are Paige Maunu, Sarah Woelfel, Kayla Gruenes, Regan Hausmann and Brooklyn Karel.

had differences that she could pick up on and use.

"I also loved coaching with Bob Nangle in Pipestone for several years and learned much from him," she says. "There are many dedicated coaches in our state who bring passion and love for the kids to our sport."



THE 2022 BECKER BULLDOG GIRLS TRACK & FIELD TEAM. (In no particular order) Paige Maunu, Madalynn Finney, Sarah Woelfel, Skylar Schug, Kayla Gruenes, Regan Hausmann, Brooklyn Karel, Meghan Swanson, Karen Gonzalaz, Olivia Babler, Avery Boyer, Alea Briggs, Anna Kuklok, Kylee Morton, Lexi Rose, Kiera Spencer, Lauren Woelfel, Kayla Paulson, MaKenna Smith, Abby Atwood, Grace Gifford, Reese Hausmann, Olivia Maunu, Ella McDonald, Leon Morris, Mina Nelson, Kailey Thompson, Natalie Trenz, Katelyn Brower and Raelee Lyon. (Patriot Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

"They were voted on by our team last year and have been doing a very nice job so far this year," she says. "Each of these girls brings something special to our group!"

Eighteen years is a long time to coach and one would not be as successful at her job as Kealy is at Becker High School. She's honed her craft through the years following her father and sisters who were also successful mentoring the youth.

"I have had so many great coaches to look up to through the years," said Kealy. "Of course my dad, John Reimer, would be first on the list. He provided me with a great background and overall experience along with love of the sport and encouragement."

Kealy says she has learned a lot from her sisters as their approach to coaching — while similar — also

Kealy says the hardest part of coaching track and field is probably how hard it is to get to everyone.

"With all the different events, we are sometimes pulled in many different directions and we try to give everyone what they need but it can be difficult," she says.

Kealy says this year will be interesting because the sport has moved to three classes.

"Previously, Minnesota had class A and class AA," Kealy says. "We were in class AA previously with the larger schools. We will be in class AA this year which looks like it will be a good fit for us."

AAA has been added to the sport which will feature higher class schools with higher enrollments.

Kealy says the last time there was a class change in the MSHSL, it was in 1976 when they made a two

Track

SCHEDULE

4/12 @ Cambridge-Isanti
4/19 Home-Becker
4/22 @ Pierz Healy
4/26 @ Monticello
4/28 @ Pillager
5/5 @ Delano
5/10 @ Rocori
5/12 @ Princeton
5/19 Home-Becker
5/25 @ St. Francis
6/1 @ Monticello
6/3 @ Monticello



THE BULLDOG GIRLS AND BOYS TRACK & FIELD TEAMS hosted an indoor meet last week. (Submitted Photo).

class system for girls.

"Being in a new class will be interesting for us this year as we have not run against some of these schools for a while," she says. "We are looking forward to a fun season and are excited to be back with a full season after being cancelled in 2020 and having an abbreviated season last year."

NUMBERS ARE UP FOR BULLDOG BOYS TRACK

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

Several new faces greeted Head Coach Paul Schmidt on the first day of practice this year, as he returns for his 16th year in charge of the Becker boys track program. A year ago, it was a matter of quality over quantity for the team, which was down on numbers but had several top performers.

With the increase in number of athletes, Schmidt thinks this year's squad can compete with the teams in the upper half of the conference.

"Having nearly 30 Varsity athletes this year should allow for us to be more competitive in all events," Schmidt says. "We have some high expectations for some of our athletes that finished last year with really good performances."

The Bulldogs will feature a number of returning letter winners, including Carter Leither (12), Tyson Ricker (11), Mason Becker (11), Caleb Reckelberg (11), Owen Angell (9), and Carter Reckelberg (9). The first four of those returners will serve as Captains for this year's team.

"Tyson Ricker made it to State in the 1600 which was a highlight last year," Schmidt says. "Owen Angell had a great year in the 300 hurdles and Pole Vault. Carter Reckelberg had personal bests in the triple jump and long jump last year."

The Bulldogs will rely on that experience as the rest of the team figures out their best events.

"Our goal is always to see individual improvement and be able to compete as a team as well," Schmidt adds.

New for the MSHSL track season this year is a three class format, meaning Becker will no longer compete in the



THE BECKER BOYS TRACK TEAM returns some top performers from last year's team. Combined with a big increase in numbers, it should prove to be a successful season for the Bulldogs. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)

post-season as part of the largest class in the state, with the likes of Moorhead and other top enrollment schools.

"It should help, as we are competing now with teams that are comparable in size to Becker," Schmidt says. "Also our new section is comprised of teams that are close to us — in the past we had to travel to places like Moorhead, Detroit Lakes and Thief River Falls for our section meets. Now, our section runs from Big Lake to Rocori."

This year's coaching staff will look familiar, as Schmidt and head girls coach Trish Kealy will use the same philosophy as in the past when it comes to providing instruction.

Schmidt will work with high jumpers, sprinters and the sprint relays, while

Kealy takes on the distance runners and hurdlers. Dustin Weege returns to work with pole vaulters, disc and shot throwers, while Tony Miller coaches the triple jumpers, long jumpers and sprints.

"We work together to coach both girls and boys athletes in those events," Schmidt says.

In terms of his predictions for the year, Schmidt does see the potential for some of his performers to set their sights on a few school records over the coming years.

"It's hard to predict records that could possibly

be broken, but the potential is there," Schmidt says. "Tyson Ricker has the possibility of the 1600 and 3200 records and two years to go for them. Owen Angell has the potential for the pole vault record and four years to chase that, Carter Reckelberg someday could challenge the triple and long jump records, but all of these are future possibilities."

In the meantime, Schmidt has his squad focusing on the practice necessary for individual improvement.

"We want to be able to compete as a team and be in the top three each meet," Schmidt says. "We look for individual and team improvement throughout the year."

In addition to the boost in numbers of athletes, Schmidt says the team is also happy to be competing in what feels like a more normal atmosphere after the past two years.

"I'm glad that we are starting our season normal this year," Schmidt says.

"Last year we were uncertain of how everything was going to play out amidst COVID. This season feels like things are more normal."

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Becker

SPRING SPORTS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

TRADITION, TALENT WILL BE KEY FOR BULLDOG TENNIS

By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog boys tennis team has two important ingredients on the roster as Head Coach Hokan Bengtson looks to cook up another successful season: tradition and talent.

Entering his 20th season as the head coach, Bengtson's teams have compiled an impressive 237-122 record and have built a reputation as a tough team to play against.

Added to the mix this year is a team loaded with talent and experience and it just may be enough to push the team to its first section title.

"This year we will rely on our experience gained last season — lots of young guys played for our varsity last year," Bengtson says. "This year we will have a chance to compete for the section title, a task that we have never accomplished despite finishing runner-up six times."

A year ago, the Bulldogs won their fifth Mississippi 8 Conference championship and posted an overall record of 19-5, losing in the section semifinals to state entrant Bemidji. Many of the top guns from that team return this season.

"2022 will be an exciting year for our team. We have a lot of young guys that had good seasons in 2021," Bengtson says. "It will be interesting to see who has improved their game

and what positions they earn for this new season. A lot of our kids have been working hard all winter and developing their skills."

Leading the way for the Bulldogs will be a trio of captains, senior Luke Bordson and juniors Ryan Bengtson and Eli Scheideman. They are part of a total of nine returning letter win-

ners expected to share the load for the Bulldogs, giving the team an extremely experienced lineup.

Other returning letter winners include: Troy Nuest, Landon Peterson, Sawyer Brown, Bruce Kraemer and Nick Gruber.

The talent and experience should translate into wins for the Bulldogs.

"In our program, wins and losses are important. We always strive to win the championship," Bengtson says. "The top team in the Mississippi 8 will be Cambridge. They only graduated one senior from last season."

Joining Bengtson on this year's coaching staff will be Brent Scheide-

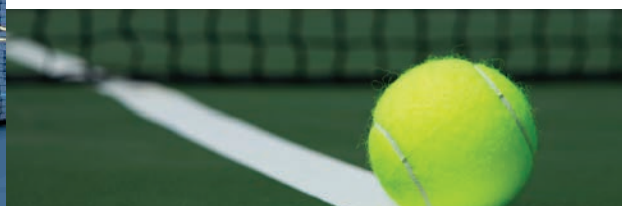
Tennis

SCHEDULE

4/9 Home-Becker
4/11 Home-Becker
4/12 Home-Becker
4/14 Home-Becker
4/19 @ Big Lake
4/22 Home-Becker
4/25 Home-Becker
4/26 Home-Becker
4/29 Home-Becker
5/2 @ Foley
5/3 @ Princeton
5/5 @ North Branch
5/9 Home-Becker
5/10 Home-Becker
5/13 Home-Becker



THE BECKER BULLDOG TENNIS TEAM was able to get outside for some practice before the weather turned cold again. With a great deal of experience and talent on the team, it could be a special season for the Bulldogs. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger.)



man, Jason Dilly, Steve Borst and Auggie Lewandowski. Together, they will try and fulfill the mission of the tennis program.

"The most important thing for me as the head coach is to develop these young men and to challenge them beyond what they thought they could do," Bengtson says. "While we are growing and learning, the challenge is to constantly be seeking a purpose greater than ourselves. 'How can I as a coach or player make those around me better?'"

Add that philosophy to the recipe and maybe the Bulldogs can cook up that state tournament berth in 2022.

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Girls Lacrosse

SCHEDULE

4/19 Home-Becker
4/21 @ Monticello
4/25 @ Chisago Lakes
4/29 @ Big Lake
5/2 @ Rocori
5/5 Home-Becker
5/6 @ STMA
5/9 Home-Becker
5/10 Home-Becker
5/12 Home-Becker
5/17 @ St. Cloud Tech
5/19 Home-Becker
5/20 @ Delano

BULLDOG GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM STILL A GROWING SPORT

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

Anicca Lundeen returns to the helm of the Becker Bulldog girls lacrosse team. She has 35 athletes in the system and her assistants are her husband Mike and father-in-law Dwight (goalie coach).

Lauren Pietrowski and Piper Schmidt are the team's student-managers.

"We are excited to have them as part of our team," said Anicca.

The captains for this year's team are seniors Jaz Toedter, Gabby Thelen, Cami Ramola and Cassie Hinrichs.

"Each of them brings a different dynamic and perspective to not only the group of captains, but to the team," said Anicca. "It is well balanced. They all have their individual strengths that help them all be great leaders when put together."

Lundeen says she thoroughly enjoys being a coach and continues to delve into getting to know the sport better each and every year.

"I have enjoyed getting to know the students outside of the classroom, in a different environment," she says.

Lundeen says the sport has continued to reel from the challenges of COVID-19 with the amount of players that didn't come out because of the cancelled 2020 season.

"Getting youth to start Lacrosse has been tough," she says. "I hope the program can get its numbers up so the future high school program will have girls who have been playing and want to continue to play."

Anicca, a World Language Teacher at the high school, thinks that by her getting to know the girls not as students, but as players has been most rewarding.

"As a teacher you are limited with time and ability to create deeper relationships," she says. "The several hours each day that we are together lets us all know one another on a dif-

ferent level."

In the beginning of the season, Lundeen, her coaches and players focus about 50% of their time on conditioning and the other 50% on skill work.

"Lacrosse is a game that requires a lot of stamina so we work to build that so we don't get tired during games," she says. "Then once we start games, there is very little time to actually practice. Those practices we focus on getting better at game situations and learning from what we need to from game to game."

Lundeen says improvement from the beginning of the season to the end is the emphasis she looks for in her team.

"If we can say that we got better everyday at something, then that is success to us," she says.

Wins and losses matter, but Lundeen doesn't key in on just that.

"Winning a state title is *always* the goal," she says. "But Minnesota Lacrosse has one class, unlike other sports that have at least two classes and usually more. For us to win, we have to beat the biggest and the best schools in the entire state."

With the football tradition at Becker Schools and her unique association with some of the school's best coaches and mentors, Anicca feels very lucky for both her and her athletes to have assistants like her husband and father-in-law.

"I am in constant awe of my husband Mike," she says. "He knows more about sports and strategy than anyone I know. He studies and puts in incredible amounts of time to learn and get better. The team is very lucky to have him."

She also credits the youth coaches with the "teaching" of the fundamentals of the sport of lacrosse.

"The girls that have been in the program have been playing for longer than I have been coaching," she says. "Fortunately, they come into ninth grade with wonderful skills and

a general knowledge of the game."

"Lacrosse is still a growing sport," Anicca says. "Getting players to start at an early age is definitely a key to developing skills. Having players who have time to dedicate more practice time throughout the whole year rather than just the eight weeks of the season would also help get teams to higher levels."

Patriot reached out to other sports teams

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

To our readers: we (*Patriot*) reached out to the coaches for Bulldog baseball, Bulldog Boys Lacrosse, Hornet boys tennis and Hornet girls golf teams to participate in our spring sports preview but received no response.

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Thank you for your understanding and your readership!

Boys Lacrosse

SCHEDULE

4/14 Home-Becker
4/19 @ Big Lake
4/21 Home-Becker
4/25 Home-Becker
4/28 Home-Becker
4/30 Home-Becker
5/2 Home-Becker
5/5 @ Brainerd
5/9 @ Monticello
5/12 @ Chisago Lakes
5/17 Home-Becker
5/19 @ Sartell-St. Stephens
5/20 Home-Becker

Big Lake SPRING SPORTS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

HORNET SOFTBALLERS HAVING FUN WHILE WORKING HARD

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

Hornet Softball Coach Kimberly Bowen has 14 girls on her varsity squad and her assistants this year are Kathy Mason, Tony Loftus, Carlee Stenslie, and Kellie Morehouse.

The team consists of seniors Masyn Deckard, Taya Fjone, Caitlyn Fourdyce, Cassie Howe, Sydney Stortz, Megan Vetter, juniors Emerson Bowne, Tristyn Deckard, Emma Jacobs, Anna Lund, Ruby Stockham, sophomores Grace Knodle, Sydnie Loftus and freshman Ava Prosser.

“These are a great group of girls to coach,” said the Hornet Head Coach. “They work hard and want to learn and get better every day.”

Bowen said that in 2020, of course, the season was canceled due to COVID-19. In 2021, her team had to stop play for 10 days due to COVID-related issues and another five days due to moving to distance learning.

“This really disrupted our season and made us play a lot of games in the last two weeks of the season,” she said.

Bowen enjoys the role of head coach and says the most rewarding part of coaching is watching these

young women grow and become more confident not just in their softball skills but in all aspects of their life.

Bowen named her captains for 2022 in Masyn Deckard, Cassie Howe and Taya Fjone - all seniors.

“They were chosen as captains because they are great leaders, put the team first, and are excellent role models for the rest of the team,” Bowen said.

With Mother Nature not quite cooperating yet this spring, Bowen and her squad spend many days indoors in the batting cages and playing catch. Her team spends about 15-20 minutes on exercising and stretching — key to staying limber and enduring the summer heat.

“I want the girls to have fun while working hard every day to improve,” said Bowen. “If we do that, we will reach our other goals as well.”

“The hardest part about coaching softball is the mental aspect of the game,” Bowen says. “There is a lot of time to think in the game of softball and each

Softball

SCHEDULE

4/7 vs. Princeton
4/12 @ Chisago Lakes
4/14 vs. St. Francis
4/18 @ Zimmerman
4/19 @ Monticello
4/21 vs. Becker
4/26 @ Cambridge-Isanti
4/28 @ Princeton
5/3 vs. Chisago Lakes
5/5 @ St. Francis
5/6 vs. Monticello
5/10 @ Becker
5/12 vs. North Branch (DH)
5/12 vs. North Branch (DH)
5/13 vs. Sauk Rapids-Rice
5/17 vs. Cambridge-Isanti
5/20 @ Buffalo

player is in the spotlight at some time during the game.”

She also points out that softball is also a sport where you fail more than you succeed.

“The best hitters fail six out of every 10 at bats,” she says. “You must be mentally tough enough to handle that failure and keep believing in yourself.”

And in order to have her team playing at a level comparable to the rest of the best, Bowen has a unerring philosophy.

“We need to keep doing our drills to improve our skills and make sure our positive thoughts are louder than the voice of doubt within us all.

Bowen is a Science Teacher at the high school.

YOUNG HORNET BASEBALL TEAM IN TRANSITION YEAR

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake baseball team will look a lot different this year.

The Hornets had 12 seniors on the roster last season and all those players are gone as a new season kicks off. And that will make this season very interesting.

There are four seniors and five juniors on this year’s entire baseball roster. Another 22 are ninth-graders.

“It’s going to be kind of a trial and error while we figure out who belongs where,” says second-year coach Loren Holthaus. “We’ve got some good young kids, but as far as my expectations, I have no idea.”

The Hornets finished 13-12 last year and won their opening round section game. That may be something to shoot for this year, but it’s too early to know how the team will fare.

Pitching is always a big factor, and the staff this season has more questions than answers.

“We’ll see what the pitching is like,” says Holthaus. “We’ve got a lot of guys who can throw, but they still have to prove they can be pitchers.”

A few JV players were pulled up to varsity at the

Baseball

SCHEDULE

4/7 vs. Princeton
4/11 vs. Holy Family
4/12 @ Chisago Lakes
4/14 vs. St. Francis
4/19 @ Monticello
4/21 vs. Becker
4/26 @ Cambridge-Isanti
4/28 @ Princeton
4/29 @ Zimmerman
5/2 vs. Sauk Rapids-Rice
5/5 @ St. Francis
5/6 vs. Monticello
5/10 @ Becker
5/12 @ North Branch
5/16 vs. North Branch
5/17 vs. Chisago Lakes
5/20 @ Providence Academy
5/24 @ Willmar
5/25 vs. Cambridge-Isanti

end of last season. But the reality is, only three players have any varsity experience. Many are JV players from last season.

Holthaus says most of the players are competing for positions on the field. Junior Keenan Hjermstad will be the starting catcher. But he also pitches, and when he’s on the mound it will cause some shifting to make it work. Backup catcher Jaxyn Tschritter plays on JV, so he has to move up when Hjermstad pitches.

It looks like Conner Stern will play center field.



PLAYERS ON THE HORNET BASEBALL TEAM warm up outside for the first time this season on Monday. Bad weather has kept their practices confined to the gym. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

Nolan Reiter plays left field, some infield and does some pitching. Isaiah Terlinden is one of the pitchers, but the rest of the positions will develop as the season progresses.

“The main thing is, we have to throw strikes and we have to be able to hit the ball,” says Holthaus. “That was our problem last year, we were so inconsistent hitting.”

He says the team has talent, but not varsity experience. Many players were on travelling teams, so they have some experience playing at a higher level. But they are unproven so far, and there might be a lot of shifting between varsity and JV as the players work to earn their spot.

“Some guys will need a JV uniform one week and varsity the next week,” says Holthaus. “There’s going to be a lot of guys moving around until we can figure out who can handle varsity before we keep them there.”

The Hornets were scheduled to host Cambridge-Isanti to open the season Tuesday. That game was postponed to May 25 due to weather. Thursday’s game against Princeton was also postponed. Weather permitting, they host Holy Family Catholic 4:30 p.m. Monday, visit Chisago Lakes Tuesday and host St. Francis 4:30 p.m. Thursday.



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By Bill Morgan, Staff Writer
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Thank you for your understanding and your readership!



Tennis

SCHEDULE

4/12 @ Princeton
4/19 vs. Becker
4/26 vs. St. Francis
4/28 vs. North Branch
5/3 @ Cambridge-Isanti
5/5 @ Monticello
5/9 vs. Sauk Rapids-Rice
5/10 vs. Chisago Lakes
5/12 @ Foley
5/19 Team Sections
5/21 Individual Sections



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Big Lake

SPRING SPORTS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

HORNET BOYS GOLFERS SEEKING MENTAL TOUGHNESS

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

Bill Miller returns for his “15-ish” year as the Big Lake Hornet boys golf team head coach. He has 11 boys who have come out for the team and they include: Tyler Anderson, Ryker Stukenholtz, Riley Siegrist, Aidan Johnson, Nick Selbitschka, Henry Knier, Jacob McDonald, Blake Anderson, Max Worley, John McCormack, and Josh Peterson.

Miller’s assistant coach is Jennifer Neaton.

“One of the challenges I’ve faced over the years is always finding enough guys to fill the squad,” said Miller. “(However), starting them out as youngsters and watching them grow as golfers and into young men is very rewarding.”

Miller’s captains this year are Tyler Anderson and Ryker Stukenholz, who are both seniors.

“They have been with the program since at least middle school and both are great leaders for the team,”

Miller says.

Miller says his boys don’t really do any strength training to gear up for the season but they do conduct their own stretching and routines before swinging a club.

“I think the most important thing to me, as a coach is to have fun as a team with our main goal to make it to day two of sections.

“That has never happened before,” he says.

Miller would be amiss if he didn’t acknowledge his love for the game and coaching has come from someone very close to himself.

“My dad taught me a lot about coaching and golf,” he says.

Miller says mental toughness is the biggest chal-

Boys Golf

SCHEDULE

4/12 @ Rush City
4/14 @ Pebble Creek
4/18 @ Monticello
4/20 @ Refuge
4/22 @ Hutchinson
4/25 @ Monticello
4/27 @ Greystone Golf
4/29 @ Grand National GC
5/3 @ Pebble Creek
5/6 @ Little Crow GC
5/9 @ Chisago Lakes
5/12 @ Kimball
5/18 @ Cambridge-Isanti
5/20 @ Grand National GC
5/23 @ Princeton
5/26 @ Grand National GC
5/28 @ Grand National GC

lenge to coach and it is certainly a major struggle for his guys.

“Getting in the right headspace before meets,” he says in regards to focus and mental toughness. “If they can get that figured out I believe we can reach our goal.”

Miller is a custodial supervisor at Independence School. The team is scheduled to play their first match April 12 at Bulrush Golf Course in Rush City. Teams competing will be North Branch, Becker, Cambridge-Isanti, Chisago Lakes, Monticello, Princeton and St. Francis.

Girls Golf

SCHEDULE

4/11 @ Monticello
4/19 @ The Ponds
4/28 @ Chisago Lakes
5/2 @ Pebble Creek
5/5 @ Fox Hollow
5/9 @ Monticello
5/13 @ Grand National GC
5/16 @ Princeton
5/18 @ Rush City
5/25 @ Cambridge-Isanti
5/26 @ Grand National GC
5/28 @ Grand National GC

Patriot reached out to other sports teams

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

To our readers: we (*Patriot*) reached out to the coaches for Bulldog baseball, Bulldog Boys Lacrosse, Hornet boys tennis and Hornet girls golf teams to participate in our spring sports preview but received no response.

While we intend to do our best to feature each and every sports team for each season of each school year, we rely heavily on getting information, stats, photos, etc. from coaches, statisticians and parents to complete our

sports sections.

If any of the coaches for the aforementioned teams wishes to still submit info for their squads and have it run in next week’s *Patriot*, please send an email to: *reporter.bill@patriotnewsnmn.com*.

Thank you for your understanding and your readership!

HORNET BOYS TRACK IS TALENTED, EXPERIENCED

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys track and field team is looking to score lots of points in meets this season. And the distance events will be a big part of that scoring.

“We’re going to pretty heavy in the distance events,” says Coach Bob Blanchard. “They were state champions in cross country, and they’re going to be our go-to bread-and-butter almost every meet.”

The top four distance runners for the cross country team were Kade, Layton, Owen Layton, Christian Noble and Jack Leuer. Add to those another three or four experienced runners, and the Hornets could compete for the win in the 3200, 1600, 800 and 4x800 meter events in most of their meets.

The Layton brothers finished 1-2 in the 1600 last week, with Leuer not far behind in third.

Noble, who went to the state meet in the 800 last season, won the event at Monticello last week with Kade Layton second and Leuer third.

But the team is also well-rounded in other areas. In field events, look for Hayden Thieke to be near the top in the long jump and triple jump. He won both events in the Monticello indoor meet last week, hitting the 40-foot mark in the triple jump.

The Hornets have a contingent of high jumpers who could place in almost every meet, including Carson Kunz, who went 6’2” last season and is looking to break the school record of 6’3”. Kyle Ginther and Wuoson Nehwah placed in the top five in the high jump and can hold their own in the long jump.

Christian Noble has gone 11 feet in the pole vault already this season, with teammate Spencer Vold clearing 10’6”. They finished 1-2 last week.

Luke Hugo almost reached the 40-foot mark in the shot put at Monticello, which will place him near the top in some meets.

Trevor Maruska went over 37 feet in the triple jump and was second in 55 meter hurdles last week.

Some sprinters to watch this season are Thieke, Joe Murphy, CJ Mikely, Amado Espinosa and Evan Secord. They can compete in events from the 100 to 400 meters and sprint relay events.

If everyone stays healthy, it could be a good year for the Hornets.



KADE LAYTON AND OWEN LAYTON ran stride for stride and finished 1-2 in the 1600 meters at Monticello last week. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

Track

SCHEDULE

4/12 @ Cambridge-Isanti
4/14 @ Princeton
4/19 @ Becker
4/21 @ Annandale
4/28 Home-Big Lake
4/29 @ Hamline University
5/3 Home-Big Lake
5/5 @ Cambridge-Isanti
5/10 @ Rocori
5/12 @ Princeton
5/17 @ Monticello
5/19 @ Becker
5/20 @ Stillwater
5/21 @ Stillwater
5/25 @ St. Francis
6/1 @ Monticello
6/3 @ Monticello
6/10 @ STMA
6/11 @ STMA

HORNET GIRLS TRACK EAGER TO START SEASON

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake girls track and field team is looking for some of the younger athletes to step up and have a good season when they finally get outside.

The team has 50 girls on the roster this season, compared to 36 last year when COVID restrictions affected many school activities.

“We had some good performances last year,” says Pelot. “It was a little weird with being a COVID season, but we were able to have some meets, which was important after 2020 when we didn’t have anything.”

Pelot has seen some promising signs already in the Becker Time Trials and Monticello Indoor meet early this season.

“The 4x100 relay should be good this season, with all the girls (Jade Flavin, Grace Gardner, Kennadie Ell and Grace McCrone) being together since their freshman year,” says Pelot.

Gardner was second in the triple jump and took third in the high jump at Monticello. Hannah Strom was second in the pole vault and Raina White took second

in the long jump.

Ava Eastman, a freshman, had a great performance in the 200 meters at the Becker time trials.

Emilee Doperalski is the leader on the distance squad, just as she was on the cross country team. She will be joined by Jaden Anderson, one of the team captains, and a group of girls looking to break into the top three or four spots.

Hailey Anderson and Grace Olson should do well in shot put and discus. And Jax Ages should fit in well in the 400 meters, says Pelot.

It should be an interesting season,” says Pelot. Our freshman group is 15, which is amazing. I’m really excited to see how they do.”

The Hornets were scheduled to compete in a conference quad meet at home Tuesday. But because of weather conditions, the meet was postponed to a date to be determined. A 9th and 10th grade meet was scheduled for Thursday, weather permitting, results to follow next week.

The next two varsity meets are Tuesday at Cambridge and Thursday at Princeton.



EMILEE DOPERALSKI keeps her stride in the 1600 meters. She was Big Lake’s top finisher in the event. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

Big Lake SPRING SPORTS & ACTIVITIES GUIDE

HORNET BOYS LACROSSE LOOKING FOR RIGHT BALANCE

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

The Big Lake Hornet Boys Lacrosse team has 32 students registered for the program in grades 7-12. Brad Weber returns as head coach and his assistant coaches are Jason Snoddy and Kyle Fagen. Student Managers are Emma Kucher, Alexia Easteley and Tayler Choate.

"This is the season I most look forward to each year," says Weber. "I enjoy the challenges of coaching a team that varies from very new to fairly experienced players, and finding ways to get each of them as far along their development curves as possible."

Weber says with the loss of the 2020 season, it was probably the biggest challenge he's had to face in this program.

"We had just finished our first varsity season and were starting to see improving recruiting trends in both the High School and youth programs, but that lost season resulted in a number of players going to other activities that were opened up earlier, and set us back a number of years in terms of numbers growth."

For Weber, watching the day-to-day improvement in his athletes is the most rewarding.

"In newer players, when you step back and review their progress from the season, it's very clear in terms of stick skill improvement," he says. "For the more experienced players, that growth usually occurs in terms of better decision making within the games."

Weber says he has not yet finalized all of the captains for this season as he is now co-opping with Princeton, and they're looking to add a captain from the Tiger's team.

Weber says the team's formal practice template changes throughout the year.

"Early in the season, we plan to spend 75-80% on stick and other individual technical skills," he says.

"With the rest (of the time) in introducing the team tactics we'll use early in the season. As we start getting more into the game season, it will shift to a 50-50% split between individual technical skills and team tactics."

Weber says his team holds practice a little bit later after the end of the school day, and this allows players who can get there right away some time for speed and agility work.

Though season records, playoff pushes and trophy celebrations are ideal, Weber makes sure he instructs the kids properly on the sport while sharpening their skills. After that, it's sending them out and hoping they soak it all in.

"For me, it's finding the right balance between having fun while pushing player development," he says. "Having fun keeps the kids interested, and making them better each practice will help us take care of the on-field game records (wins, playoffs, and state tournament)."

Weber credits the coaches he's had through the years for helping him fine tune his coaching strategies.

"I often go back to the coaches I had throughout high school," he says. "They all put the outcome of the events on us as players, and never blamed officiating for negative outcomes."

But one coach Weber had, seems to stand out in his mind over others.

"Most of all, my high school baseball coach (Jim Senske) always drilled the fundamentals, with the expectation that the other team was going to have to beat

Boys Lacrosse

SCHEDULE

4/18 Home-Big Lake
4/19 Home-Big Lake
4/25 @ Monticello
4/26 vs Rocori
4/28 @ Becker
4/30 @ Park Center
5/2 Home-Big Lake
5/6 @ Rocori
5/12 Home-Big Lake
5/14 Home-Big Lake
5/16 Home-Big Lake
5/17 @ Two Rivers
5/19 @ St. Cloud Apollo

us, because we weren't going to make many mistakes."

Lacrosse has many players playing positions that have certain tasks and duties to ensure great offensive opportunities while limiting the opponents chances. One of the toughest positions is the goaltender, who has to face blistering shots from all angles while navigating the front of the goal and the players weaving through.

Weber sees that position as a priority this year.

"I find the hardest thing to work on is goal tending and making the time to get them the development work they need," Weber says. "That is going to be a focus of ours this year."

And how does Weber hope to get his team to be better competitors?

"If you compare the "elite" programs in boys lacrosse in the state to those that finish lower each year, the biggest difference is the strength and health of the youth programs supporting the high school programs," Weber says. "For a varsity game, we can roster 24 players, and in each game, you can pretty accurately predict the winners based on the ages of the players in those 24. As the sport of lacrosse grows in greater Minnesota, these gaps will continue to close."

Girls Lacrosse

SCHEDULE

4/14 Home-Big Lake
4/19 @ Becker
4/21 @ Mound Westonka
4/26 @ Rocori
4/29 Home-Big Lake
5/3 @ Sauk Rapids-Rice
5/5 Home-Big Lake
5/10 Home-Big Lake
5/14 @ Grand Rapids
5/16 @ Brainerd
5/17 Home-Big Lake
5/19 Home-Big Lake
5/26 @ Chisago Lakes

HORNET GIRLS LACROSSE LOOKING FOR FIRST WIN

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

The Big Lake Hornet Girls Lacrosse team started their 2022 season April 4. Currently they have approximately 15 student athletes registered, and are expecting to have around 25 players total once season progresses.

Lindsey Hartfiel returns to the helm of the team and she is assisted by Zach Barzee (Asst. Coach), Katie Bondhus (Volunteer Coach) and Mackenzie Cypull (Volunteer Coach).

Hartfiel has been the coach of Big Lake girls lacrosse since the spring of 2020.

"We did not have a season in 2020 due to COVID-19 and state guidelines and this past 2021 season was my first official season," she said. "As the girls head coach working with this group of girls — some that had played previously — but the majority were new to the sport."

Hartfiel says her girls showed up day-in and day-out last year, not having "scoreboard" success.

"Did we get a win last season? No," Hartfiel said. "But the amount of growth each player made by the end of the season was tenfold."

Hartfiel says one of the coolest moments was

seeing her girls get the first goal in program history and having the whole sideline of girls go wild!

"I enjoy coaching this lacrosse team as they bring a lot of energy and positivity to the game," she says. "I know they are going to see more and more success as we grow as a program."

Hartfiel spends most of the year coaching youth and high school student athletes. During the fall and winter, she coaches youth hockey and she's been coaching lacrosse in the spring.

"One thing I try to maintain in all sports that I have the privilege of coaching is teaching these players accountability, respect, love for the game, and at the end of the day trying to mold our student athletes to be good people," she says. "By encouraging and raising these players to have those qualities they are able to succeed not only on the field, but in life and their futures in the community."

Hartfiel's 2022 team captains are seniors Janelle Gerds, Hailey Schuller and Kaitlyn Smith.

"Each of these girls demonstrated positive attitudes, strong work ethics, and the leadership qualities that our coaching staff feels would help bring

our young team together and have the most success this season," Hartfiel said. "We also have a large group of senior players that are not captains, but are just as important and a part of our leadership core as well."

Hartfiel points out that the lacrosse season is very short, so hitting the ground running from day one is essential for her team.

"The more conditioned and basic skills players have to start the season the better," she says. "Our focus generally has been on basic skill, but this season as we have many returning players we will spend some more time on team systems as well."

"As we are a young program, the most important thing to me (in reference to success) would be growing the interest and love for lacrosse in our community," said Hartfiel. "As a coach of this program, winning is important, but growing this program is more important than wins on a score sheet. With that said I believe this season has high potential for gaining our programs first win under the guidance of our upperclassman and returning players."

"I am a young coach and am always learning from my fellow coaches

and navigating each team," Hartfiel says. "I don't have a specific coach that I have patterned my coaching style on yet, but know I have learned more and more each season I coach."

Hartfiel says being able to yield both a varsity and junior varsity squad is important for player development. And she knows that with hard work comes great gains.

"The more girls that put in extra work to improve their lacrosse skills are the players that will achieve more success," she says. "Many other programs in Minnesota have developed some collegian level talent, which shows girls can continue their lacrosse career in college."

One of the biggest tasks for Big Lake's Head Coach is realizing you have a group of players that may not have played lacrosse before — so one of the tougher parts is teaching the girls the rules of the game.

"There is some overlap from other sports, but there are certainly lacrosse specific rules that can take some time for players to learn," Hartfiel says. "Once they get it and it clicks the players are able to play multiple positions on the field more easily."

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- National Siblings Day
- National Farm Animals Day
- National Encourage a Young Writer Day
- National Bookmobile Day
- National Library Workers Day
- Salvation Army Founder's Day
- National Dog Bite Prevention Week (4/10-4/17)

Mon. - Apr. 11, 2022:

- World Parkinson's Day
- National Pet Day
- Barbershop Quartet Day

Tues. - Apr. 12, 2022:

- International Be Kind to Lawyers Day
- National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day
- National Licorice Day
- Education & Sharing Day

Wed. - Apr. 13, 2022:

- National Scramble Day
- National Peach Cobbler Day
- International Day of Pink

Thurs. - Apr. 14, 2022:

- BHS-Student Half Day, Distance Learning 8:10-12:15
- Pecan Day
- National Dolphin Day
- Pan-America Day
- National Gardening Day
- Holy Thursday

Fri. - Apr. 15, 2022:

- BLS-No School
- CVS-No School-Spring Break
- Good Friday
- Passover Begins (4/15-4/23)
- Sinking of the Titanic: Anniversary, 1912
- National Tax Day
- Abraham Lincoln: Assassination Anniversary, 1865
- National Eggs Benedict Day
- National Orchid Day
- Major League Soccer Begins
- Moon Phase: Full Pink Moon
- National Healthcare Decisions Day
- Emancipation Day
- Record Store Day
- National Auctioneers Day

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Early Childhood Family Education=ECFE
Big Lake School=BLS
Clearview School=CVS)

Becker Area Senior Center (BASC) Upcoming Events

**BASC at Becker
Community Center (BCC)**
Mon., Apr. 11: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's on
Tues., Apr. 12: 9am-Coffee, Conversation; 9:15am-500 Card Club Today-cash prizes

Wed., Apr. 13: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's on; 12pm-Liberty Bingo at BASC at BCC-gift cards & cash prizes
Thurs., Apr. 14: 9am-Coffee, Conversation, Cards; 11am-Play Upwards & Scrabble

Fri., Apr. 15: Open All Day; 5am-Coffee's On; 11:30am-Lunch on the Run in Becker: Pizza Depot

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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) 207-8703



AUCTIONS

LARGE ESTATE AUCTION

Sat. April 16 9AM. Loc. VFW Zumbrota, MN www.houghtonauctions.com Firearms, duck decoys, vintage fishing, Tonka's, Adv. Collectibles, plus more. Houghton's Auction 651/764-4285

MISCELLANEOUS

THE GENERAC PWRCELL

A solar plus battery storage system. Save money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 down financing option. Request a free, no obligation quote today. Call 888/913-5895

LOOKING FOR ASSISTED LIVING

memory care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of finding senior living at no cost to your family. Call 888/715-1720 today!

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE

P O W O R L A L D E N T E E S A L T N Z
R A D C E S I S I D E S G B C N H T E I
G O I E R I E G V U D Z M B N I S G G P
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FINE DINING WORD SEARCH

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

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PAIRING
PRIX FIXE
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SERVICE
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SOMMELIER
TAPAS
UMAMI
WINE

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, dictionaries, 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 sec-

ond 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 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

Becker Cemetery Association Notice
Spring Cleanup will be Sat., Apr. 16. Anything you wish to keep must be taken off before Apr. 15. On Apr. 16, the cemetery helpers will remove anything left on the grave sites. The following week new decorations may be put out.

Upcoming Clearwater Events

Young @ Heart
Young at Heart will be held on Apr. 21, 2022, beginning at 10:30am at Rejoice Lutheran Church, 1155 County Rd 75, Clearwater MN.
The day begins with cards, coffee, & conversation with friends new & old. Lunch will be served at 11:30am. (suggested donation) with Gift Card Bingo to follow. All prizes will be Gift Cards to local businesses. Please call Rejoice office at 320-558-6851 for a reservation which helps us prepare a meal for everyone. We look forward to seeing you!

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: Green Haven Farm Market
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 18366 County Road 14 NW Big Lake MN 55309 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Green Haven Farm Market LLC
Address:
3000 Metro Drive Suite 260 Bloomington MN 55425 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: Mai Her
MAILING ADDRESS: 18366 County Road 14 NW Big Lake MN 55309 USA
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: Excluded
Work Item: 1294573300035
Original File Number: 1294573300035
STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED
02/12/2022
11:18 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22; 04/09/22).

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: Minnesota Bats
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 4722 45th Ave SE Saint Cloud MN 56304 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):
Name:
Monty R. Gregoire
Address:
4722 45th Ave SE Saint Cloud MN 56304 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: Monty R. Gregoire
MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: montygregoire@gmail.com
Work Item: 1280633400027
Original File Number: 1280633400027
STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FILED
12/21/2021
11:59 PM
/s/ Steve Simon
Secretary of State
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22; 04/16/22).

Foreclosures

NOTICE OF ASSOCIATION LIEN FORECLOSURE SALE

WHEREAS, default has been made in the terms and conditions of the Declaration of Harrison's Cove Homeowners Association (henceforth the Declaration) dated August 11, 2003 and recorded in the office of the County Recorder in and for Sherburne County, Minnesota on August 18, 2003 as Document No. 518022 which said Lien covers the following described property situated in the County of Sherburne and State of Minnesota, to-wit:

Lot 4, Block 10, Harrisons Cove, CIC No. 39, according to the plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Sherburne County Recorder.
Street Address: 677 Independence Drive, Big Lake, MN
PID #65-520-1008

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, the is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice by Nicole Nelson as unit owner to Harrison's Cove Homeowners Association, the principal amount of Three Thousand One Hundred Twenty-seven Dollars and 84/100 (\$3,127.84) for assessments through March, 2022; and no action being now pending at law or otherwise to recover said debt or any part thereof, and;

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Declaration, said debt creates a lien upon said premises in favor of Harrison's Cove Homeowners Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that by virtue of the power of sale created by statute, said lien will be foreclosed by the sale of said premises with the hereditaments and appurtenances, which said sale will be made by the Sheriff of Sherburne County, Minnesota at Sheriff's Main Reception in the Sherburne County Government Center, 13880 Business Center Dr. NW, Suite 100, in the City of Elk River in said County on May 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, to pay the amount then due for said assessments, together with the costs of foreclosure, including attorney's fees as allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by the unit owner, her personal representatives or assigns, is six (6) months from the date of said sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the unit owners must vacate the property if the lien is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on November 18, 2022. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate the property is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

Dated: March 21, 2022
HARRISON'S COVE HOME-

OWNERS ASSOCIATION FULLER, SEAVER & SWANSON, P.A.

By: /s/ Timothy D. Fuller 32694 12400 Portland Avenue South, Suite 132 Burnsville, MN 55337 (952) 890-0888
Attorneys for Harrison's Cove Homeowners Association
(Published in the *Patriot*: 03/26/22; 04/02/22; 04/09/22; 04/16/22; 04/23/22; 04/30/22).

Probates

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

Court File No.: 71-PR-22-48
In Re: Estate of RUSSELL GORDON DICK, aka RUSSELL G. DICK, aka RUSSELL DICK, aka RUSS DICK, 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 May 12, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., a remote hearing will be held in this Court at Elk River, Minnesota, on a petition for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of Decedent's heirs, and for the appointment of Stephanie Ferrian, whose address is 500 E. 4th Street, Morris, MN 56267, as personal representative of the Decedent's estate in an unsupervised administration.

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.

BY THE COURT
Dated: April 4, 2022
/s/ Jordan Gregorich,
Deputy Court Administrator
FLUEGEL, ANDERSON, McLAUGHLIN & BRUTLAG, CHARTERED
Lynnae L. G. Lina, MN #347553
215 Atlantic Avenue, PO Box 527 Morris, MN 56267-0527
Telephone: (320) 589-4151
Facsimile: (320) 589-4154
ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22; 04/16/22).

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No.: 71-PR-22-44

Estate of Jack Kevin Dailey, 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 the 3rd day of May, 2022, , at 11:00 a.m., a remote hearing will be held in this Court at Elk River, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment

of Kimberly Jean Dailey, whose address is 109 Becker Avenue North, Sebeka, MN 56477, as personal representative of the estate of the decedent in an unsupervised administration.

Due to Supreme Court Order ADM20-8001, any objections to the petition must be mailed, e-mailed, or filed on the Court's electronic filing system, together with a filing fee, prior to the above date. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses; sell real and personal property; and do all necessary acts for the decedent's estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. § 523.3-801) all creditors having claims against the estate are required to present claims to a personal representative, to the attorney for the personal representative, or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.
Dated: March 23, 2022
/s/ Beverly Hillesheim,
Deputy Court Administrator
Attorney for Petitioner:
Raymond Walz #114352
Walz Law Office
230 East Third Street
Post Office Box 50
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Phone: (507) 637-8909
Email: raymond@walzlaw.net
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22; 04/16/22).

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Court File No.: 71-PR-22-36

In Re: Estate of Jacob John Alberts, Decedent.

NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS (INTESTATE)

Notice is given that an Application for Informal Appointment of Personal Representative was filed with the Registrar. No Will has been presented for probate. The Registrar accepted the application and appointed John Alberts, whose address is 6555 Grand Lake Road, Saginaw, MN 55779 to serve as the personal representative of the Decedent's estate.

Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as personal representative or may object to the appointment of the personal representative. Any objection to the appointment of the personal representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection.

Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the personal representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of letters of general administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the Decedent.

Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.
Dated: April 1, 2022
/s/ Pamela Kreier,
Registrar
/s/ Patricia Kuka,
Court Administrator
BURNS LAW OFFICE
Harry E. Burns MN# 0139324
111- 9th Avenue North
St. Cloud, MN 56303
Telephone: (320) 252-8767
e-mail: harryb@burnslawoffice.com

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22; 04/16/22).

Summons

STATE OF MINNESOTA DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF SHERBURNE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT Case Type: Other Civil Court File No.: 71-CV-22-235
Dustin Thuftedal and Jennifer Thuftedal,
Plaintiffs,

vs.
Homefield Financial, Inc., its successors or assigns, also all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the complaint herein,
Defendants.

SUMMONS
THIS SUMMONS IS DIRECTED TO: Homefield Financial, Inc., its successors or assigns, and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest, or lien in the real estate described in the complaint hereto attached.

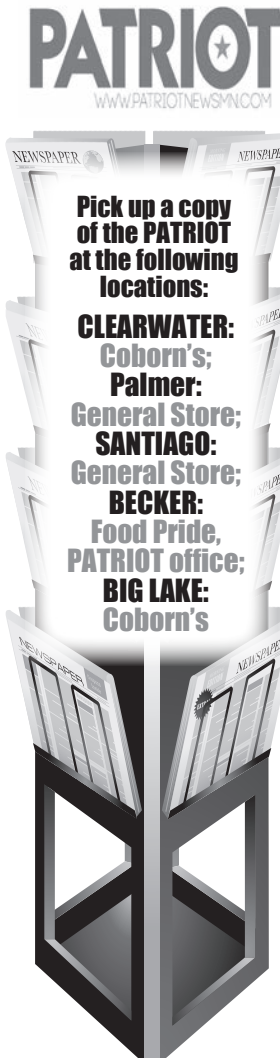
1. **YOU ARE BEING SUED.** The Plaintiffs have started a lawsuit against you. Plaintiffs' Complaint is attached to this Summons. Do not throw these papers away. They are official papers that affect your rights. You must respond to this lawsuit even though it may not yet be filed with the Court and/or there may be no court file number on this Summons.
2. **YOU MUST REPLY WITHIN 21 DAYS TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS.** You must give or mail to the person who signed this Summons a **written response** called an Answer within 21 days of the date on which you received this Summons. You must send a copy of your Answer to the person who signed this Summons located at: Foley & Mansfield, PLLP, 250 Marquette Avenue, Suite 1200, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401.
3. **YOU MUST RESPOND TO EACH CLAIM.** The Answer is your written response to the Plaintiff's Complaint. In your Answer you must state whether you agree or disagree with each paragraph of the Complaint. If you believe the Plaintiff should not be given everything asked for in the Complaint, you must say so in your Answer.
4. **YOU WILL LOSE YOUR CASE IF YOU DO NOT SEND A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT TO THE PERSON WHO SIGNED THIS SUMMONS.** If you do not Answer within 21 days, you will lose this case. You will not get to tell your side of the story, and the Court may decide against you and award the Plaintiff everything asked for in the Complaint. If you do not want to contest the claims stated in the Complaint, you do not need to respond. A default judgment can then be entered against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.
5. **LEGAL ASSISTANCE.** You may wish to get legal help from a lawyer. If you do not have a lawyer, the Court Administrator may have information about places where you can get legal assistance. **Even if you cannot get legal help, you must still provide a written Answer to protect your rights or you may lose the case.**
6. **ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The parties may agree to or be ordered to participate in an alternative dispute resolution process under Rule 114 of the Minnesota General Rules of Practice. You must still send your written response to the Complaint even if you expect to use alternative means of resolving this dispute.
7. **THIS LAWSUIT MAY AFFECT OR BRING INTO QUESTION TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY** located in Sherburne County, State of Minnesota, commonly known as 11406 91st Street Southeast, Clear Lake, Minnesota 55319 and legally described as follows:
Lot 5, Block 1, Prairie Acres, Sherburne County, Minnesota

(the "Property").

a. The object of this action is to determine adverse claims and discharge a mortgage on the Property to Homefield Financial, Inc., dated August 24, 2005, and recorded September 22, 2005, as Document No. 600291
Respectfully,
FOLEY & MANSFIELD, PLLP
Date: March 2, 2022.
/s/ Wyatt S. Partridge
Wyatt S. Partridge (#0391272)
250 Marquette Avenue
Suite 1200
Minneapolis, MN 55401
Telephone: (612) 338-8788
wpartridge@foleymansfield.com
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorney and witness fees may be awarded pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 549.211 to the party against whom the allegations in this pleading are asserted.
By: /s/ Wyatt S. Partridge
Wyatt S. Partridge
(Published in the *Patriot*: 03/26/22; 04/02/22; 04/09/22).



SHERIFF & POLICE REPORTS are posted on our website:

www.patriotnewsnmn.com

PATRIOT
www.PATRIOTNEWSNMN.COM

Public Notices

Three Lake Improvement Public Notices

NOTICE Three Lake Improvement District 5509 108th Ave Clear Lake, MN 55319

The Three Lake Improvement District (TLID hereafter) has contracted to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Water Milfoil, Aquatic Invasive Species in Briggs, Julia and Rush Lakes in 2022.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has granted to the TLID a waiver of the requirement that the improvement district obtain the signatures of approval of owners of lakeshore property. Instead, the TLID will notify property owners of the treatment through alternate forms. This notice is one form that the TLID is using to notify property owners. Other forms include but are not limited to notification on the TLID member email list and TLID website.

With regard to the treatment for this year, 2022:

- The proposed date for treatment: May 1, 2022 through September 1, 2022
- The target species for the treatment: Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil
- The method of control or product being used: EPA and MDA registered aquatic herbicides, such as but not limited to, Endothall, Diquat dibromide, Florypyrauxifen-benzyl
- How landowners may request that control not occur adjacent to the landowner's property: If you desire that the treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed or Eurasian Water Milfoil not occur adjacent to your property, please notify the TLID immediately at the following address and email address below:

Three Lake Improvement District
5509 108th Ave
Clear Lake, MN 55319
scott.ruitter@grede.com

(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22; 04/23/22).

Township Public Notices

Town of Orrock Notice of Spring Road Tour

Supervisors of the Town of Orrock Board will be conducting the Spring Road Tour on Wednesday, April 20th, 2022 – beginning at 9:00AM

Be it advised, there will be a quorum of Supervisors participating this road tour.

Only road conditions will be discussed. No other business and no decisions requiring board action will be made.

The public is welcome to follow the board on their road tour and inspection. Contact the Town Office if you would like to attend.
/s/ Chris Weber

Clerk, Town of Orrock

(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Lynden Township Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Lynden Town Hall, 21367 County Road 44, Clearwater MN 55320 to consider a variance application submitted by Donald Hagmann. The variance seeks to bring in to compliance the garage setback from the road centerline. A Sixty-three (63) foot setback is required by Stearns County Ordinance #439, Section 9.9.9, adopted by reference within Lynden Township Ordinance #7. The subject property(s) is ID #19.10204.0000, further described as: .21 A. FR .21 A. of Gov Lot 1 Known as Tract 4, within Section 06, Township 121, Range 027. The subject property address is 927 Belview Road, South Haven MN 55382.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be sent to Jenny Schmidt, Lynden Township Clerk, 20517 Woodbine Rd., Clearwater MN 55320 or emailed to clerk@lydentownship.net
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22).

City Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Becker, Sherburne County, Minnesota will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at approximately 5:00 p.m. to consider changes to the City of Becker, City Code, Chapter 2, Section 2.19 relating to the fee schedule.

/s/ Julie Blesi, City Clerk

(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22).

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Becker, Sherburne County, Minnesota will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, April 19, 2022 at approximately 5:00 p.m. to consider changes to the City of Becker, City Code, Chapter 10, Section 10.08 relating to administrative fines.

/s/ Julie Blesi, City Clerk

(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22).

Impound Public Notices

Impound Public Notice

On 3/29/2022 a homemade 6x8 utility trailer was impounded by the Becker Police Department at the address of 13995 Industry Ave Se Becker. The trailer is being held at Petersons Towing & Recovery, 19640 200th Ave Big Lake Mn, 55309. The trailer can be reclaimed with proof of ownership at Petersons Towing & Recovery by 5/27/22. (763) 262-4869.

(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22; 04/16/22).

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MN Public Utilities Commission Public Notices

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy for a Site Permit and Two Route Permits for the up to 460 Megawatt Sherco Solar Energy Generating System and Associated 345 Kilovolt Transmission Lines in Sherburne County, Minnesota

PUC Docket Numbers: E-002/GS-21-191 (Site Permit), E-002/TL-21-190 (Route Permit for East 345 kV Transmission Line), E-002/TL-21-189 (Route Permit for West 345 kV Transmission Line)

OA# Docket Number: 21-2500-37959

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold an in-person public hearing and a remote-access public hearing on the application of Xcel Energy for a site permit and two route permits for the construction of an up to 460-megawatt solar energy generating system and two 345-kilovolt transmission lines.

As proposed by Xcel Energy, the solar project area would consist of an East Block and a West Block located on approximately 3,479 acres of land adjacent to the Xcel Energy Sherburne County Generating Plant in Sherburne County, Minnesota. The primary components of the solar facility would include bifacial photovoltaic panels affixed to a linear ground-mounted single-axis tracking system, solar inverters, an electrical collection system (aboveground/belowground hybrid or all belowground), access roads, security fencing, two electric collector step-up substations, an operation and maintenance facility, 11 stormwater drainage basins, and 12 weather stations. The solar facility would connect to the electrical grid at the existing Sherburne County Substation by a new 1.7-mile single circuit 345 kilovolt transmission line for the East Block and a new 3.2-mile single circuit 345 kilovolt transmission line for the West Block.

There will be two public hearings in this matter: an In-Person Hearing and a Remote-Access Hearing. The information presented will be the same at both hearings.

In-Person Hearing

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Becker High School – Performing Arts Center – Entrance Door #3

12000 Hancock Street, Becker, Minnesota 55308

Link to Google Map:

<https://goo.gl/maps/mtmFL27gmhZ5ZhPd8>

To find out if a meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Remote-Access Hearing

Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022

Time: 1:00 p.m.

WebEx Link:

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m756d-e19db4f51101501700426f2477f8>

WebEx Number: 2492 291 0088

WebEx Password: dTawc4Np3V4 (38292467 from phones)

Join by Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Toll Free

Access Code: 249 229 10088

If you are joining the hearing by WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the hearing, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator. If you are joining the hearing by phone, press *3 on your phone. Your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask your question or make a comment.

Additional information and instructions are available at: <https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/>

Public Hearing and Process Information

The Honorable Kimberly Middendorf, Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will preside over the public hearings and will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation.

The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed project. Interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of the applicant and agency staff; (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the proposed project; and (3) suggest possible conditions to be considered for inclusion in the site and route permits. Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

The hearings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment, and all other business has been concluded, or 11:00 p.m., whichever occurs first. Written comments may be submitted during the comment period following the hearing using the methods

described in this notice.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules. This project is being reviewed under Minnesota Statutes chapter 216E and Minnesota Rules chapter 7850. The rules and statutes are available for review at: www.revisor.mn.gov.

Written Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **May 5, 2022, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket number (21-191, 21-190, or 21-189) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- Should the Commission grant a site permit and two route permits for the proposed solar facility?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in the respective permits?

Comments may be submitted:

Online: <https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments/>

eDockets: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>

Email: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Public Advisor – Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Important. Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Environmental Assessment

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) has prepared and issued an environmental assessment (EA) for the project. The EA analyzes the potential impacts of the project and possible mitigation measures. In addition, the EA analyzes the potential impacts of any alternatives contained in the Scoping Decision. The EA is available on the Department's website and on eDockets (see Additional Information, below). Print copies of the EA are available from the Department upon request; please contact Bill Storm at the Department (bill.storm@state.mn.us or 651-539-1844).

Additional Information

Information on the application review process and documents related to the proposed project including materials from the public hearings, the site permit application, and the environmental assessment are available on the Department of Commerce website at: <https://apps.commerce.state.mn.us/eera/web/project/14335> or the Commission's website at: mn.gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (21) and the docket number (191, 190, or 189), and select Search.

Site Permit Application. Print copies of the site and route permit application are available for viewing at the Great River Regional Library – Becker, 11500 Sherburne Avenue, Becker, MN 55308

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select *eDockets* and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at: mn.gov/puc, select *eDockets*, enter the year (21) and the docket number (191, 190, or 189), and select Search.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select *Subscribe to Dockets* and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (21-191, 21-190, or 21-189), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Questions about these dockets or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Scott Ek at scott.ek@state.mn.us or 651-201-2255 or Charley Bruce, Public Advisor, at publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in this hearing, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearings.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 04/09/22).

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

Snake River Free Church

Pastor: Steve Johnson, 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 Orrock

763-262-0028. www.hopeintherefuge.weebly.com.

IFLESIA AMOR VIVIENTE Living Love Church

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

Lord of Glory Lutheran Church

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

Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church

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

Riverside Church

Online: www.myrcc.church, 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.

Glendorado Evangelical Country Church

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

• CLEAR LAKE

Living Waters Church

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

Trinity Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

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

SHED Church - Non-Denomination in Palmer

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

St. Marcus Catholic Church

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

• DUELM

St. Lawrence Church

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

• CLEARWATER

Clearwater United Methodist Church

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

Freedom Bible Church

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

Rejoice Lutheran Church – ELCA

Pastor: Jim Bump, 320-558-6851, 1155 County Road 75. Services: Sun. School that begins in Worship 9:30am. Livestream worship at Rejoice's Youtube Channel, https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsJGuBda4orT9TWYi5vmGw

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

Silver Creek Community Church

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

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Obituaries

Dennis D. Wolbeck, Age 51
Big Lake, MN
July 8, 1970 – March 26, 2022

Dennis Wolbeck, 51 of Big Lake passed away suddenly Saturday March 26, 2022, due to a fatal stroke in Las Vegas, NV. Visitation was held Sunday April 3 at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Big Lake, MN. Memorial Mass was held on Monday April 4 at Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church in Big Lake, MN. Fr. Michael Kellogg officiated.

Dennis was born July 8, 1970, in Little Falls to Edwin A. & Bernadine A. (Braegelmann) Wolbeck. He married Gina Hanson on May 1, 1993, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in St. Cloud. Dennis currently worked as fleet manager at Bernick's in Waite Park and previously as transportation manager at J&B Wholesale in St. Michael. He is a member of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church. Dennis was an active member of the Big Lake Snow Cruisers and a past member of the Big Lake Lions Club. He loved the outdoors, hunting, fishing, camping and especially snowmobiling. Playing with tractors and in the dirt was a passion of his. He was quite the jokester and was mischie-

vous with friends and family, a smile was always on his face. Listening, having lively conversations and being around people brought much enjoyment. He was a great mentor to his family and friends, he was reliable, honest, and just an outstanding life-long partner to Gina. Grandpa Dennis loved spending time with his precious granddaughter.

He is survived by his wife Gina of Big Lake; sons, Daniel (Elizabeth) of St. Cloud, granddaughter Mia; Jacob (Brynn) of Clear Lake; siblings, Donald (Heddie) of Cushing; Doris (John) Tynio of Browerville; Dorothy (Ken) Knapper of Cushing; Karen (Tom) Jennissen of Stanchfield; Julie (Steve) Middendorf of Sauk Centre; sister-in-law, Barb Wolbeck of Cushing; mother-in-law Mary Wilhelm of Saint Cloud; siblings-in-law Robert (Heather) Hanson of Brooklyn Park; Jen (Scott) Rau of Avon; Rob (Maurice) Wilhelm of Saint Cloud; Godchildren, Matthew Tynio, Joseph Tynio, Sarah Middendorf; numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, fathers-in-law George Hanson and Bob Wilhelm, brother-in-law Steve Hanson.

Dennis's "bigger than life" presence will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him. He lived his life to the fullest. Dennis made the important decision to be an organ donor. His heart, lungs, liver and kidneys are now allowing others to live their life to the fullest.

Funeral Services will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, April 9, 2022, at Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home in Becker for Mary Jo Johnson, age 75, who passed away Sunday at the Monticello Care Center from complications from COVID and Multiple Sclerosis. Deacon Jerry Johnson will officiate, and burial will be in the Becker Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services Saturday at the funeral home in Becker.

Mary Jo was born July 7, 1946, in Osseo to Cyril & Veronica (Zahler) Walesch. She was the third child of a family of ten. She married Warren Johnson on September 14, 1963, in St. Cloud. Mary Jo worked numerous jobs throughout the years, but her #1 priority was her family. She was a member of Mary of the Visitation Catholic Church.

Mary Jo is survived by her husband of 58 years, Warren of Becker; son and daughter, Jerry (Kari) Johnson of Lancaster, OH and Beth Landsverk of Golden Valley; siblings, Peggy Belzer, Judy (Brad) Johnson, Annette (Roly) Dickson, Jeanne (Paul) Henderson, Karen (Bill) Bliss, Steve (Liz) Walesch, Jim Walesch, Tom (Jelene) Walesch, and Kay (Guy) Blanchard; grandchildren, Spencer, Dylan, Sophia, Abram, Veronica, and Evelyn Johnson, Lauren and Layla Landsverk; and several nieces and nephews. She was pre-

ceded in death by her parents; several aunts and uncles; and nephew, Jeffrey.

In Loving Memory to Mary Jo

Your gentle face and patient smile with sadness we recall. You had a kindly word for each and died beloved by all. Your voice was sweet and stilled the heart for your love for all was true. Ah, bitter was the trial to part from one so good as you. You are not forgotten loved one. Nor will you ever be. As long as life and memory last, we will remember thee. We miss you now, our hearts are sore. As time goes by, we'll miss you more. Your loving smile, your gentle face, no one can take your vacant place.

In lieu of flowers and gifts, please consider a donation to the MS Society at nationalmssociety.org.

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

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