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

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The Patriot welcomes letters to the editor. Call 763-275-0275 or email Bill at reporter.bill@patriotnewsmn.com

Addresses and phone numbers are required for verification purposes. The deadline for all letters is 11am Wednesday. Limit letters to 200 words or less. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor and are subject to editing for grammar, libel and brevity. Two letters per writer per subject each year.

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Palmer Day a big success!

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer

Another successful Palmer Day is in the books! Sat, Sep. 6 throngs of people gathered in Palmer for the annual parade and festivities. The day started with a 9 am. K walk/run. The 5K event at Palmer Day was started back in 2015 by Jean Wipper and Mary Jo Hoefer. The K has continued to gain popularity each year, with a record breaking 4 runners participating in the K this year.

Despite a few rain showers during the parade and again later at Palmer Park, peoples spirits weren't dampened. The event featured a car show (coordinated by Pat and Jeff Arnold) The car show also broke a record with 162 entries (vs 152 entries last year). The parade featured 8 entries, with float winners being Briggs Lake General Store in first place and B & J Evergreen Tree Farm taking second place. After the parade, people enjoyed a



KELLY WEIS is pictured pulling multi-generations of Palmer township farmers from the Weis, Kozak, and Lietha families on the hay wagon. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring.)

plethora of events happening at Palmer Park. There was a horseshoe tournament, live music, a buny house for the kids and many other events. There were many scrumptious food booths offering pork chops, Philly sandwiches, burgers, mini donuts, fresh popcorn, cotton candy and much more. Many of the food booths were hosted by local civic groups. The beer garden

was staffed by Clear Lake Lions members. Joan and Harry Ernzer were the honorary Grand

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TRACE PHILLIPI, Clear Lake, didn't let a little rain dampen his mood at Palmer Day parade last Saturday, September 6. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring.)



CenterPoint awards Safety Grant to the BLFD

Submitted Article

CenterPoint Energy awarded a Community Safety Grant of \$2,500 to the Big Lake Fire Department to purchase safety equipment for the Big Lake Fire Department's new tower truck. Mustafa Hamdani, Supervisor, Home Service Plus, at CenterPoint, presented the Community Safety Grant to Captain Nick Christenson and Deputy Chief Jeff Novak, Big Lake Fire Department.

In Minnesota this year, CenterPoint awarded 35 grants, totaling more than \$85,000 to support safety equipment and projects. CenterPoint serves more than 900 customers in over 260 Minnesota communities.

"Safety is our core value and drives every effort we take as a company for the customers and communities we're privileged to serve," said Brad Steber, Vice President, Minnesota Gas at CenterPoint Energy. "Through our Community Safety Grant Program, we're proud to support the work our emergency responders, local officials and many others do to help support health and safety across our Minnesota communities."

CenterPoint awards program grants up to \$2,500 to local government agencies working to fill funding gaps for safety materials and projects.

This year, CenterPoint Energy's Commu-



CENTERPOINT ENERGY SUPERVISOR, Home Service Plus, Mustafa Hamdani presents a Community Safety Grant to Captain Nick Christenson and Deputy Chief Jeff Novak, Big Lake Fire Department. (Submitted Photo).

nity Safety Grant program awarded more than 90 grants totaling nearly

\$1 million in Indiana, Minnesota, Ohio and Texas to fund safety-related equip-

ment and projects in local communities.

Since launching the program in 2003, CenterPoint has awarded approximately \$3.5 million in grants to support more than 100 efforts.

Grants have enabled communities to fund various projects including public AEDs, water rescue materials, personal protective equipment for first responders, traffic control signs, utility locate devices and emergency response tools to rescue people after vehicle collisions.

To learn more about CenterPoint's commitment to the communities it serves, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/Community.

Walking with a purpose

By Mary Nehring, Contributing Writer

Gertrude Sakry (Borst) has lived in Becker most of her 87 years. Gertie has always been an active person. She raised 11 children and has been blessed with 23 grandchildren and 43 great grandchildren!

Gertie is a go-getter. In addition to raising a huge family she drove buses for Becker Schools for 23 years and worked in the high school kitchen for just as long.

Gertie has enjoyed quilting for decades, but a long time ago to quilt since her eyesight has declined. Gertie's faith is an important part of her life and she attends Faith Lutheran Church of Becker regularly. Gertie has served on the Becker cemetery board for the past 37 years!

"I don't remember a time when I didn't know Gertie and her family," says Reporter Mary Nehring. "I was blessed to go to school with many of her children



EIGHTY-SEVEN-YEAR-OLD GERTIE BORST has made it a habit to get out of the house and take a walk through Becker in the mornings. She typically brings along a plastic bag to gather trash she finds along the roads and walkways. (Submitted Photo).

and our families have remained friends my entire life. At the age of 87 I often see Gertie out walking in all kinds of

WALKING to page 2

CL City discovers they owe money to sewer authority

By Katie Cantin, Contributing Writer

During their recent meeting, the Clear Lake City Council heard from a representative from the Clearwater Sewer Authority came with some bad news for the council.

In 2014 a new piece of equipment was installed to help with calculating flow rate and billing for the city's water to the sewer authority. Unfortunately, the correct flow rate was never input into the device, and the city has been underpaying for their sewer services, and will now have to work with the sewer authority to pay back the difference, which was estimated to be around \$100,000.

The good news is that residences were billed the correct amount, so the city has the money. The city council will work with the sewer board to figure out the amount owed and a payment plan. To prevent this issue from ever happening again, Rural Water was asked to come and calibrate the machinery for both Clear Lake and Clearwater twice per year.



CITY ENGINEER KEITH YAPP spoke to the council about the lift station easements. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

Open Forum

Lindsay Brown, a resident of Church St., said she had concerns with a developer, LGI, regarding her property line. She noted they

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Ticking Time Bombs

Critics branded him divisive. Critics branded him controversial. Critics branded him conspiratorial and hateful.

On a critic branded him worthy of death.

On Wednesday of this week, activist, author, and media personality Charlie Kirk was assassinated at a rally he assembled on the campus of the Utah Valley University. As the words, “transgender shooters, mass shooters,” leaked his mouth during a Q&A, a shot rang out and Kirk crumpled to the ground with blood gushing from his neck wound.

He was wearing a simple t-shirt that read, “Freedom”.

First a shooting at Annunciation Church in Minneapolis then a stabbing in Charlotte and now the slaughter of a young man, thus a different.

What the hell is going on in his world?

Some are saying it was a professional hit. A 200 yard shot that precise? Some say the shooter was aiming for the head and missed. I say they shot him exactly where they wanted to. In the throat to silence his voice. The enemy is going for our throats.

After the Annunciation murder spree, pundits and politicians started screaming for gun control. So what happens? A man uses a pocket knife to slit the throat of a young woman on a train. Where are the knife control campaigns? When will people get it through their heads its not the weapon that is killing these people it's the person behind it?

Kirk was assassinated in a private theater box or a back room of a hotel. He was murdered on a public stage where everybody in the audience had eyes on him. Very similar to the JFK killing. Very similar to the attempted assassination of Donald Trump last year.

Those who have been screaming for gun control and regulations and who then turn around and cele-



By Bill Morgan, Editor/Writer

branded the death of someone they hate... you are what's wrong with this country. You are what's wrong with this world.

When people heard DJT blame the “radical left” for Kirk's murder, progressives and the media were up in arms about his choice of words. Choice of words? What about when Obama called conservatives “bitter Americans who cling to their guns and their religion.” What about the words from Hillary Clinton who called conservatives, “an irredeemable basket of deplorables”? What about Joe Biden calling conservatives, “the dregs of society”? What about Maxine Waters telling her constituents to “harass (conservatives) in restaurants and grocery stores”?

And what about Gov. Tim Walz just months ago telling his followers to “be a little meaner”?

Well, one of those listeners took to heart those commands and silenced a man just standing up for his beliefs and trying to open the eyes of today's youth.

Leaving this sick, corrupt world may not be the tragedy it appears to be for Charlie Kirk. He fulfilled his duty on earth and is now standing with his Savior whose words are, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Now those are words that cannot be silenced.

“The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it.”

—George Orwell.

haven't said anything to her directly but have told some of her neighbors that most of the neighborhood has in direct proportion to her. She has also seen them pick up around behind her property line. City Engineer Keith Yapp said he would ask around about the issue and possibly have the survey or double check their information.

Fire Department

Chief Ron Koren asked about the fire contracts with the townships. The contracts will be officially presented to the township in early October.

Regarding the fire department open house, the council said they had a public expenditure policy for discussion that might determine how the open house could operate. Unfortunately the council was not able to come to a green meeting on the policy and so it was not adopted. The department responded to calls for service.

Public Works

Public Works Director Evan Johnson reported that the playground equipment for the Hutter Lake Park has been delivered.

Johnson reported his department worked hard to clean up a trail that runs over to the elementary school in time for school to begin.

Johnson and City Engineer Keith Yapp recommended that the council consider a water study to identify the city's future water needs.

Lift Station

Yapp reported that the easements needed to complete the lift station work are still not signed and ready. Mayor Tim Goenner is the last landowner for the city needs an agreement with. Goenner previously approved a temporary easement in exchange for \$10,000 from the city. However, after looking at the area again, Goenner said he would be willing to renegotiate the deal to allow for a smaller easement, possibly for less money in exchange. Yapp said the smaller easements could work for the city's needs. The council agreed to consider it at a closed meeting in the near future.

At the request of the mayor, Yapp reiterated that the mayor had asked for another offer regarding the easement to be withdrawn. This offer would be for the mayor to approve the easement for a smaller amount of money if the council agreed not to publicly ensure him at a recent meeting. Yapp said he did remove the offer from consideration at the mayor's request, but it was outside of his ability to remove it from the agenda packet which was already sent out to the council members, which is why it was brought up at that previous meeting, despite the mayor's wishes.

In Other Business, the Council:

- Briefly discussed the city's insurance coverage, and health insurance options for city employees, but decided to hold the decision on these for the next regular meeting;
- Approved having the city clerk and city treasurer as official signers for financial accounts;
- Increased the price of water meters, as their supplier increased their price (the city will sell these at cost).



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WALKING

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weather?”

Gertie started walking seven years ago. She walks Monday through Friday mornings, as well as Sundays after church.

“The word on the street is that Gertie's bracing point (as far as temperatures) is -10 degrees,” continued Nehring. “She also will not walk if the path is slippery. Even in the brutal Minnesota winter, as long as the path is cleared, Gertie will usually be out there by 7 a.m. (sometimes 8 a.m.)”

Gertie also takes a garbage bag with her each day to pick up trash. Gertie is certainly a bright spot and an inspiration. If you see her on the walking path in the early morning area at the bridge just east of Becker off Co. Rd. 2 (formerly known as Co. Rd. 4), give Gertie a wave and a thumbs up. Gertie!

PALMER DAY

from page 1

Marshals for this year's event. Joan and Harry have been married 31 years and have been instrumental behind the scenes as volunteers for Palmer Day for over 25 years. Joan has served as co-chair for the event for 20 years. Harry emceed the Palmer Day parade for several years.



HARRY AND JOAN ERNZER, Grand Marshals of 2025 Palmer Day. (Submitted photo).



CUPCAKE AND FLAPJACK clowning around at Palmer Day (Teresa Frank and David Peterson). (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring.)

Big Lake School Board hears about activity department changes

By Katie Cantin, Contributing Writer

During the August Big Lake School Board meeting, Activities Director Mark Kuisle gave his fall update.

He started by congratulating two students who went to the state championships last spring, Tayla Gassman for girls track, and Jack Leuer for boys track. Kuisle reported that he was working with Premier Sport Psychology. Money was raised for the partnership through Spud Fest and other avenues, and the company will help with “team culture/chemistry, confidence, and mental readiness,” as per Kuisle's presentation, with specific teams. He also talked about having a head coach who oversees all levels of play for each sport, from seventh grade through

12th.

Kuisle revealed the number of students who qualified for free and reduced lunch, which also entitles them to a 50% reduction in activity fees, as well as those qualifying for activities scholarships (those who didn't make the mark for the free or reduced lunch, but who still needed assistance to participate). In all, 123 students received some assistance to participate in activities. Kuisle also asked for coaches to keep an eye on students who may need help in other ways - those missing equipment, not getting enough food, etc.

Kuisle said he has asked that coaches no longer text with parents or students, as a means of protecting professional boundaries. Instead, he advised coaches to use their school district emails to

communicate. This way, all messages can be accessed by the school if needed. Kuisle said the change has been well received so far, although

Financial Report

Business Director Angie Manuel shared her concerns about enrollment during her budget report. She said



there have been a couple of slip-ups.

Finally, Kuisle went over changes to the student athlete handbooks.

that her team had budgeted for 222 new kindergartners this year, but only 213 were enrolled at the time of the meeting, and through all

grades enrollment was 20-25 students short of budget. She did say the enrollment usually increased through the course of the school year as students joined the online program, and some still had time to join towards the beginning of the year.

Audit work is underway, with the last week of work to take place around the end of September.

Special Election

There will be a special election on November 4th. Voters will be asked two questions. The first will be to increase the district's operating levy by \$640 per student, and the second will be to approve a \$36.23 million bond for improving campus facilities. The board approved the

election judges for the event.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Received a letter of approval for their athletic complex construction projects from the Minnesota Department of Education;
- Approved an agreement with the Big Lake Food Shelf, which still awaits approval by the Food Shelf;
- Reviewed the employee handbook;
- Approved a water management plan;
- Set the time for the September 24 meeting to 7 p.m. to allow members of the board to attend the Big Lake City Council meeting beforehand;
- Heard committee reports and the superintendent's report.

Local organizations approach Orrock for assistance

By Katie Cantin, Contributing Writer

During the recent Orrock Town Board meeting, representatives of two local organizations approached the board for assistance.

Lori Watson of the Orrock Cemetery Board approached the town board to ask for assistance with the cemetery. While the organization didn't need any financial assistance, they wanted some help in finding a new sextant and keeping records. Their current sextant is wanting to train his replacement after holding the position for 13 years, and would be happy to help a new person learn to manage the approximately three burials the cemetery sees each year. The board also requested that the township take over maintaining cemetery records, instead of the current situation, where they are held on a private computer.

The board responded they would be happy to

help locate someone interested in the sextant role, but they would have to ask

approached the board to ask for assistance.

The association has



A MEMBER OF THE ANN LAKE ASSOCIATION asked the Orrock Town Board for possible assistance. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

about maintaining the records at their annual meeting in March, as the electorate would need to approve the position.

A gentleman from the Ann Lake Association also

faced several issues lately, including an increasing number of invasive species found in the lake (which are costly to fight) and oversized boats destroying the landing. The board asked the association

to create a wishlist of how exactly they wanted the township to help and continue the discussion.

Bischoff Variance

The Bischoff family asked for a variance to plat his property. Mr. Bischoff noted that he and his wife hoped to create two plats out of their land and sell them as a part of their retirement plan, but they were told that doing so would go against planning and zoning ordinance because there would be too many residences off a dead end road. The road is unable to be made into a pass through. The town board gave positive comments, but expressed some concern for access by emergency vehicles.

Easements

A resident who lives on 230th Ave. approached the board at the July meeting to request that the board turn over their easement on his property to him, as a currently existing structure sits on it, as well as part of his driveway. The board did not wish to

give up the easement, but would grant the gentleman an official right to be on the easement.

The board had their attorney draw up an agreement, and the resident was very upset about a termination clause in the agreement. He was concerned that a future board would force him to move his structure if they so desired. The board moved to remove the clause and make a couple other changes, pending lawyer approval.

Also as a follow-up from the previous meeting, Road Engineer Kevin Krueger presented quotes to add a drainage system to a property on 233rd Ave. NW to help prevent water collecting on the road. A question was raised about the legality of completing the project, however, as the township does not currently maintain the road, and performing the work may indicate they are taking responsibility for it. The board decided to ask their attorney about it.

A resident who lives next to the Eagle Lake Boat Landing also asked for an easement so he could build another house on his land. He requested to have access to his own property, across the township's easement, to help move the process along. The resident was given a few options to pursue, but no formal action was taken.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Discussed an old safety deposit box;
- Heard an update on township IT, including that board members have now all received their new tablets for township work;
- Received a grant from the county reimbursing them \$9,000 for Recycle Day costs;
- Accepted an increase in legal fees from their attorney;
- Heard an update regarding the prairie area near town hall, which is doing well;

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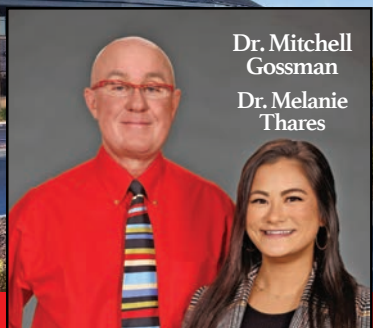
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September 20th, 2025

8AM - 10AM

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Proof of residency, such as a driver's license, is required.

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45th Annual Becker Alumni Luncheon held at Pebble Creek

By Mary Nehring,
Contributing Writer

A wonderful time was had by all at the 45th annual Becker Alumni Luncheon held at Pebble Creek Thursday, Sept. 4. The event had a great turnout. Lunch was served and former Becker students enjoyed visiting.

Serving on the planning committee for the reunion event were Audrey Orton, Peggy Anderson, Kristi Kelly, Barb Knutson, Teresa Kolbinger and Cheryl Latham.



CLASS OF 1965 CELEBRATED THEIR 60TH CLASS RE-UNION THIS YEAR. Longtime music teacher Mrs. Rupp, (101 years young) was in attendance and shared a beautiful poem she composed! Pictured (left to right): Dale Cox, LeRoy Schaffer, Denny Dawson, Tom Woolhouse, Norman Jensen, Dale Hamner, front row: Virginia Brown Pappenfus, Colleen Henry Kiffmeyer, Nancy Shaw Fiereck, LaDonna Bowles Champion and Jerry Olson. (Submitted Photo).

KRISTI (GILYARD) KELLY served on the committee and is pictured helping register guests Marie Radeke Harwarth and Jane (Zindler) Anderson. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring.)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CITY OF BIG LAKE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR A REQUEST TO VACATE EASEMENTS IN BIG LAKE MARKETPLACE SECOND ADDITION

You are hereby notified that the Big Lake City Council will hold a public hearing to consider vacating drainage and utility easements on Lot 3 Block 1 and Lot 2 Block 1 of the Big Lake Marketplace Second Addition. New drainage and utility easements will be dedicated in the Big Lake Car Condos Fourth Addition final plat. The hearing will be held in the Big Lake City Hall Council Chambers located at 160 Lake Street North on **Wednesday September, 24, 9:30 am** or about 6:00 p.m. or shortly thereafter.

Applicant: Dan Sjobom, 3 Marquette Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408

Owner: Jeff Benzinger, Benzinger Properties, Inc., 20401 Countryside Road, Suite 100, Rogers, MN 55369

Location: Southwest of the intersection of 198th Avenue and 68th Street

PID: 600046003

Request(s): A vacation of drainage and utility easements on Lot 3 Block 1 and Lot 2 Block 1 of the Big Lake Marketplace Second Addition

If you desire to be heard in reference to this matter, you are encouraged to attend the scheduled public meeting or submit written comments to City Hall prior to the hearing. Comments can be emailed to Consultant Planner Kendra Lindahl, AICP at klindahl@landform.net or mailed to City Hall at 160 Lake Street North.

/s/ Kendra Lindahl, AICP
Consulting City Planner
City of Big Lake
(Published in the Patriot: 9/13/25)

SECTION 1 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS BIG LAKE HIGH SCHOOL POOL HVAC IMPROVEMENTS MINNESOTA AVENUE EAST BIG LAKE, MINNESOTA

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

Bidding documents, including the Proposal Form, Drawings and Specifications, will be on file at the Minnesota Builders Exchange; McGraw Hill Construction Dodge Plan Center; Reed Construction iSqFt Plan Room (St. Paul, MN), The Blue Book Building and Construction Network; and from PlanWell at https://order.e-arc.com/arcEOC/x_project.asp?de=54BD1E5B-B8CF-42F3-8D80-C4390340EA22.

A pre-bid meeting will be held at Big Lake High School, 501 Minnesota Avenue East, Big Lake, Minnesota 55309 at 9:00 a.m. on September 13, 2025. Visitors must check in at the main entrance with a valid State ID. Attendance to the meeting is not required, but highly recommended.

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

American Reprographics Company, 4730 Park Glen Road, St. Louis Park, Minnesota 55426 (952) 835-0800 facsimile (952) 835-0801 will provide complete downloadable sets of the Bidding Documents to prospective bidders and subcontractors. The downloads will be available September 13, 2025. A deposit check in the amount of \$25 made out to ARC for each set downloaded via the internet at <https://www.e-arc.com/location/st-louis-park/> and clicking on the PlanWell icon, then the Public Plan Room icon, select 2025 Big Lake High School Pool HVAC Improvements.

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

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

The Owner requires Substantial Completion of the project on or before March 31, 2026.
Board of Education
Independent School District #727 - Big Lake Schools
(Published in the Patriot: 9/13/25)

They left the home and called negotiators, who hours later convinced Holmberg to come outside.

One of the officers shot during the incident was hospitalized for his injuries. Other officers were spared significant injuries because they were wearing body armor.

"This incident highlights the potential dangers law enforcement officers face every day," Brott said. "We are extremely fortunate that the injuries sustained by these brave officers were not more serious."

Sherburne County Drug Task Force is comprised of deputies from Sherburne County and officers from the Elk River and Princeton police departments. Benton County deputies assisted with the execution of the initial warrant.

Sheriff Brott wants to thank all of the law enforcement agencies that responded to the shooting as well as all agencies that investigated it and prosecuted the suspect.

Locally-grown ingredients featured at State Fair!



FRESH, HOT FRENCH FRIES. Hayes Farms, of Big Lake, provided a staggering amount of potatoes again this year at the Minnesota State Fair for Fresh French Fries - a vendor at the Minnesota State Fair known for its fresh-cut, gluten free fries. The Big Lake farm provides all the potatoes for the popular food booth. Inset photo: Grace Bugher is pictured near a pallet of Hayes potatoes on the state fairgrounds last week. (Patriot photos by Mary Nehring).

Palmer Twp. squeezes in one last road project for season

By Katie Cantin,
Contributing Writer

During their September meeting, the Palmer Township Board said they were going to tackle an issue on 52nd Ave. during the remainder of the construction season.

There was a blowout earlier in the year on 52nd Ave. They tried filling it, but it was in a similar bad state again a few weeks later. The board sent out bid requests to fix the road properly. They had heard that road work was becoming a bit scarce toward the end of the season. Knife River bid for the work came in at just over \$138,000, under the board's estimate.

The Brigg's Creek cul-

vert replacement is slated for the end of the month. The board acknowledged that the timing wasn't great with school being in session but they did not want to postpone the work for another year.

The board noted that mowing was done for the season, and brushing was already done.

Sheriff's Report

Sgt. Zawacki gave the sheriff's report for the month of August. He reported on 85 calls for service, including one DWI, a mailbox damage, one injury from a house fire, and three traffic complaints - one of which involved a stolen ATV and dirt bike riders being reckless.

Lakes Report

The annual meeting for

members of the lakes improvement committee was held in August. The members voted to set the annual fee at \$74.52. There are a couple of openings on the board for appointment in the near future.

Carp traps will be set out soon.

In Other Business, the Board:

- Heard the park report;
- Reported that the Northern Reliability Project had signed permits with the township allowing the project to use township roads;
- Updated which members were allowed access to the safety devices;
- Heard the fire report, which included 9 calls for service.

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BL soccer girls win 2; off to a 6-1 start

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake girls soccer team continued its season-opening great play with two more wins over the past week.

Saturday, the Hornets blanketed Rockford, 4-0 at home. Addilynn Hallstrom and Hadley Priest put Big Lake ahead with goals in the first half.

It was still a close game until early in the second half, when Emersen Ruhland knocked in a crossing pass with 32:16 left in the game.

Priest added her second goal with a 20-foot blast from in front of the goal with 10:23 left for a 4-0 lead. The Hornets kept the pressure on the rest of the way



HADLEY PRIEST heads towards the goal against Rockford during the second half Saturday. The eighth-grader had two goals in Big Lake's 4-0 win. She also had two goals in Big Lake's 6-4 over Zimmerman Thursday. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

and hit the crossbar late in the game, with the final ending at 4-0.

Priest had two goals and two assists. Ruhland had a goal and an assist.

Hallstrom scored a goal. Lily Reinoso got her third shutout in the first half.

SOCCER
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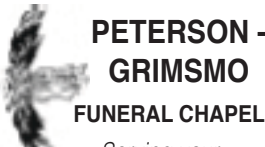
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BL boys 3rd at Monticello CC Invitational

By Ken Francis,
Contributing Writer

The Big Lake boys varsity cross-country team took third of 11 teams plus individual runners from five other schools at the Monticello Invitational at Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park Saturday.

The Hornets were led by senior Gavin Flavin, who placed third in 16:34.7, just 12 seconds back from the individual champion Dawson Eckerman of Osceola. Flavin was almost a minute faster than a year ago, when he ran the same course in 17:28.9.

Trent Erickson also finished in the top 10 spots, crossing the line in eighth in 17:09.4.

Theo Johnson placed 18th in 17:44.9. Jack Schmidt was 26th in 18:28.7 and Eli Henning rounded out the first five scorers in 32nd place in 18:41.5.

Max Baron (18:59.4) and Eli Schaller (19:35.8) were Big Lake's sixth and seventh finishers.

The boys recorded six season best times on the day.

"The boys have been incredibly consistent, and we like where they are at right now," said Coach Todd Trutna. "They're in great shape to keep dropping time as the season moves on."

Final team scores were: St. Michael-Albertville 47;



GAVIN FLAVIN (CENTER) runs in the lead pack at the Monticello Invitational Saturday. The senior placed third and led the Hornet team to a third place finish. (Photo by Ken Francis.)



SHAY FRANCE makes the final turn toward the finish line at the Monticello Invitational Saturday. The ninth-grader took eighth in 20:24.0. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

Osceola 60; Big Lake 87; Sartell 112; Cambridge-Isanti 134; Trinity at River Ridge 165; Annandale 179; Rogers 202; Hutchinson 231; Saur Rapids-Rice 322.

Girls Squad

For the young girls' squad, ninth-grader Shay France had another impressive race, placing eighth in 20:24.0. She was over a minute faster than her time in the Princeton Invitational last week where she ran 21:30.3.

Hazel Guldseth took 44th in 23:31.5. Elsie Jagusch was 45th in 23:34.5. Clara Devine finished 55th in 24:09 and Aubri Judge

took 64th in 26:09 to round out the five scorers. Chole Howe (26:52.7) and Ainsley McGuire (27:38.0) were Big Lake's sixth and seventh runners.

All seven runners are eighth or ninth graders. Each had season-best times.

"No one on this squad was on varsity last year," said Coach Trutna. "They are getting more competitive and more confident every time they toe the line."

The Hornets competed in the Annandale Invitational against 10 other teams Tuesday, results next week.

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County debates drug lab abatement process

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

A home in Big Lake has been declared a public health nuisance.

During a special Community Health Board meeting as part of last week’s Sherburne County Board meeting, Community Health Services Administrator Nicole Ruhoff said law enforcement notified her regarding a home on Helen Way.

“On March 5 I got a call from local law enforcement that they had discovered a clandestine lab and the homeowners were arrested,” she said. “The preliminary assessment was that DMT (Dimethyltryptamine) was being manufactured at that property.”

She consulted with then County Attorney Kathleen Heaney. They agreed the property should be posted.

Some chemicals were removed from the property, and other chemicals were also discovered, including methamphetamine, clonazepam, diazepam, alprazolam, cocaine and various types of pipes and needles.

“Based on that information, we felt confident that a public health nuisance did exist and we issued an abatement letter to the homeowners,” said Ruhoff.

The County Health department consulted with West Central Environmental Consultants to ask about a process for moving forward.

“We talked with the MN Dept. of Health, EPA, MPCA biohazard specialists and what was determined is methamphetamine residue is used as a proxy for any chemicals used in illegal manufacture. So we moved forward with the assessment and testing of that property.”

Several firms were contacted about abating the property and quotes were received. Now the homeowner is responsible for the cost of cleanup. Ruhoff said she is “not confident” that the homeowner is capable of covering cleanup costs. In that case the county may have to move forward with the abatement, then try to recoup the expenses.

“We would get in the business of cleaning up if the property owner fails to comply with the statutory notice...” said Administrator Bruce Messelt. “We should be the last resort. We don’t budget for these types of activities.”

The board passed a resolution to abate the property.

“This is definitely a thing where we don’t want to get into this. But you have to,” said Commissioner Gregg Felber. “Somebody has created a toxic dump in the middle of a neighborhood and if they can’t clean it up, we’re going to have to.”

Record Storage Policy

The board approved a policy for long-term record storage. Prior to the 2018 building project, long-term documents were stored at the Zimmerman Public Works Facility. The documents have recently been moved and are being stored on the third floor of the Courts Wing.

The new policy directs how records will be stored, how storage boxes are labeled and indicates a destruction date when the documents can be shredded at a recycling plant. Building Facility staff will visually watch the materials being destroyed to ensure confidentiality.

Sewage Agreement

The board approved an agreement with the City of Becker to Regulate Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) within the City of Becker. Under the agreement the county will undertake permitting, inspections and enforcement for all septic systems located within the City of Becker’s jurisdiction.

Interchange Agreement

The board passed a resolution and approved a Cooperative Construction Agreement between MnDOT, Sherburne County and the City of Zimmerman pertaining to the Hwy. 169 and Co. Rd. 4 Interchange Project. The agreement establishes responsibilities for the project and is consistent with state, county and city maintenance policies and procedures.

Veterans Grant

The board approved and accepted a \$15,000 Annual Operational Improvement Grant from the MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2026. The funds can be used to: Provide outreach to the county’s veterans; assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; reduce homelessness among veterans; collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; enhance the operations of the county veterans service office.

Other Business

In other actions the board:

- Approved and accepted a Community Living Infrastructure (CLI) grant award in the amount of \$82,000. The grant funds will support the housing social worker positions within HHS for fiscal years 2026 and 2027;
- Approved the utilization of \$77,000 in Year End Savings Account funds for the purchase of RAVE Mobile Safety application software and subscriptions for five years.

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SOCCER from page 5

Last Wednesday, the Hornets suffered their first loss of the season in a tightly-played defensive game, 1-0 to Chisago Lakes. The Wildcats scored the only goal of the game in the first half.

Last Thursday, Big Lake took an early lead and held on to beat Zimmerman, 6-4 at home.

The Hornets led, 4-1 at the half but the Thunder kept pressing and made it a closer game after the break.

Kylie Fournier scored a goal. Priest had two goals and an assist. Addy Hitter had two goals and an assist and Paisleigh White added a goal.

The Hornets are now 6-1 and have outscored their opponents, 30-7. They had road games against Cambridge-Isanti and North Branch over the past week and visit Watertown-Mayer today (Saturday), results next week. They host Monticello Tuesday and play at St. Cloud Tech Friday.

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Boy struck by vehicle in Big Lake

By Bill Morgan, Editor

(WJON News) A boy was hit by a vehicle on Hwy. 10 in Big Lake last Thursday evening.

The Big Lake Police Department says the incident happened at about 5:15 p.m.

Police responded to reports of a vehicle versus a pedestrian crash at the intersection of Hwy. 10 and Lake Street, where the boy

had been struck by a passing vehicle, which had been reportedly traveling west on the highway.

Responding officers immediately helped the boy, who was then transported to Children’s Hospital from the scene of the crash.

The identity of the boy or his condition is not available to be released at this time. The State Patrol says he is 14 years old.

The Minnesota State

Patrol responded and is investigating the crash. Officers and troopers are gathering information from witnesses.

The driver of the vehicle stopped and remained on scene after the crash. The driver is cooperating with authorities.

The Minnesota State Patrol is the lead investigating agency. This remains an active ongoing investigation.

Clear Lake woman hurt in crash

By Bill Morgan, Editor

A two-vehicle accident in Clear Lake Twp. Tuesday at around 7:30 p.m. sent one driver to the hospital with life-threatening injuries.

According to the Sherburne County Sheriff’s Office, a 2011

Ford Escape — driven by 18-year-old Grace Irene Burda of Clear Lake — was crossing eastbound Hwy. 10, turning north onto 95th Ave. A 2012 Chevy Silverado — driven by 28-year-old Coleton Matthew Johnson of Clearwater — was westbound on Hwy. 10 when the two vehicles collided in the intersection.

Burda was injured and trans-

ferred to St. Cloud Hospital with life-threatening injuries. Johnson was uninjured. Both drivers were wearing seatbelts and the road condition was dry. Alcohol was not involved.

Assisting at the scene were Sherburne County CSO and Clear Lake Fire Department.

Leaders Across Sherburne Co. Discuss Housing Need Solutions

By Katie Cantin, Contributing Writer

Recently, Sherburne County hosted a public forum with leaders from around the county to discuss their housing study.



AS PART OF THEIR ANNUAL TRIBUTE to America and the victims of 9-11, the Becker Fire Dept. displayed a huge flag on one of their ladder trucks along Bank Street in Becker Thursday. (Patriot Photo by Mary Nehring).

This forum was led by the county’s economic director, Brian Fleming. The study showed a significant need for increased housing, and the forum served as an

opportunity for community leaders to voice their opinions on how those goals should be accomplished.

Housing Needs

The county’s housing study indicated that general demand for housing would rise to 2,775 units needed, between houses and rental properties. The need for senior housing would grow to 2,133. Fleming said the county would like to see an additional 609 units for general housing and 441 units for seniors by 2026, to keep on track with the goals.

Besides the need for more housing, the housing study also indicated that 15% of Sherburne County homeowners are “cost-burdened,” meaning they pay more than 30% of their income for housing. Fleming cited research from Princeton University which showed that cost-burdened individuals have a lower life expectancy.

For rentals, Fleming noted that a healthy vacancy rate is around 3-5% of the rental stock available. This means that landlords are effectively making money, but also giving options for renters. Currently the county has a 1-2% vacancy rate, which

means there are not enough options available for those who would like to rent.

Solutions

The county has come up with a few solutions to help meet their housing goals.

Around 60% of the county’s housing stock was built prior to 2000, meaning those who wish to sell their homes are likely to need to bring the house up to standards to complete the sale. To aid in this, the county is offering a homeowner rehabilitation loan program to help homeowners pay for updates in order to sell their homes.

During the forum, the audience was encouraged to mingle and exchange contact information to come up with further solutions at a later time. Representatives of townships and cities across the county, as well as leaders of housing organizations put their heads together to come up with possible solutions and exchanged information to connect again at a later date.



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Bulldogs take bite out of Bluejackets in boys soccer



THE BECKER BOYS SOCCER TEAM celebrated a goal in their win over Cambridge-Isanti. (Submitted Photo.)

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Becker boys soccer team continues to adjust to the loss of 10 seniors from last year’s team, but the Bulldogs did celebrate the first day of school last week with a victory over Cambridge-Isanti.

“Two bright spots in the game were captains Brigham Ebert and Troy Nuest scoring the first varsity goals of their career,” said Coach Nick Crowley. “We were tied at half and with about 10 minutes left in the game, Troy Nuest scored a scrappy goal to take the lead and secure the win.”

A week earlier, in the season opener, Becker fell 0-2 to a very good St. Cloud Apollo team.

“We played well, but we just didn’t have the depth,”

Crowley added.

A day later, Becker played a back-to-back and fell to Spectrum on a goal in the last two minutes. Crowley highlighted Paxton Ament’s free kick goal as a highlight.

Becker also faced off against Monticello early in the season and the Bulldogs came out a bit flat, allowing two goals in the first five minutes. But from there, Becker settled down and played the Magic evenly for the second half.

“We battled in the second half but couldn’t produce a goal,” Crowley said of the 0-3 loss.

After the win over the Bluejackets, Becker was again in a back-to-back situation and went to Princeton for another Mississippi 8 battle, one that resulted in a 0-0 draw.

Bulldog VB showing fine improvement

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog volleyball team continues to show improvement, picking up several wins in a very busy week that included six contests.

Last Thursday, Becker faced off against Hutchinson and lost 0-3, with very close scores of 22-25, 24-26, and 20-25.

“We started to get our offense rolling more in this match,” Coach Bo said.

Highlights of the game included Brynn Koste and Payton Treptau with seven kills apiece and Kenna Hennessey with 19 digs.

Last Saturday, the Bulldogs hosted their 43rd Tournament of Roses and started off with another close match, falling to St. Louis Park, 20-25 and 25-27.

Next, Becker faced PACT Charter and claimed a 25-21, 25-20 win before taking on Eden Valley-Watkins and claiming another victory:

25-23, 19-25, and 15-8.

With the win, Becker finished second in their pool and then advanced to take on Cloquet for the third place trophy. In that match, Becker fell 15-25 and 14-25.

For the tournament, Becker tallied 70 kills, 17 ace serves and 155 digs.

Tuesday night, Becker defeated Chisago Lakes in a Mississippi 8 Conference Game in three sets: 25-22, 30-28, and 25-19.

“We had a high performance from our defense, with Kenna Hennessey and Adyson Petty leading us in the back row,” Coach Bo said. “Our aggressive offense came from Courtney Gass, Brynn Koste, Payton Treptau, and Mena Knaack.”

Next week, the Bulldogs will celebrate Homecoming with three mathes: Monday at home versus Annandale (Staff Appreciation Night), Tuesday at North Branch and Thursday as home versus St. Francis for Youth Night.

Hornets improve to 2-0 with whipping of Sting

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Nick Shriver, Big Lake’s third year head coach, has got his team playing in a red football.

After scoring a school record 76 points in their first week of play against DeLaSalle (Shriver’s alma mater), the Hornets traveled to Spectrum HS and clobbered the Sting, 46-20 last Friday night.

Shriver, prior to coming to Big Lake, was the head coach for two years in South Dakota. But he knows its not just all him that is driving the program to success.

“We’ve been fortunate to retain a lot of our assistant coaches over the past couple of seasons, which has allowed us to continue to build upon the foundation that has been built,” he said. “We vertically align our system from the youth association level through varsity, so this is also year three in the system for most of our players as well.”

Shriver added three new varsity coaches for this year’s team including, Roger Velasquez - Varsity Defensive Coordinator; Eriquer Determan - Varsity Linebackers and Zack Pawtraw - Varsity Receivers.

Against Spectrum, Montell Hester got the Hornets on the board first when he sprinted into the end zone from 11 yards out. The two-point conversion was successful and the road



WR JACK MIDAS breaks away from a Sting player during a play in Friday’s game at Spectrum. (Submitted Photo).



THE BIG LAKE 2025 FOOTBALL TEAM. (In no particular order): Dillon Spaeth, Nate Williams, Trevor Couch, Abrahm Koop, Kinden Hamilton, Montell Hester, Jack Midas, Parker Spaeth, Abe Nebo, Tyler Robeck, Caleb Martin, Liam Mettler, Weston Jones, Leroy Hamrin, Noah Calgano, Wyatt Horn, Weston McGowan, Jackson Laroche, Danny Rotz, Bennett Thieke, Dallas Kopp, Cooper Relander, David Sorenson, Henry Chivers, Carter Stromberg, Owen Wellberg, Alex Kretsch, Garrett Biesiada, Liam Mayer and Dreeson Millam. (Submitted Photo).

team held an 8-0 lead early Friday night.

QB Dillon Spaeth would later complete an incredible 42 yard TD and finished the game seven-of-11 for 115 yards and two touchdowns. But it was the Hornet rushing attack that accounted for much of the action at the Spectrum

Athletic Complex.

Big Lake amassed 8 yards on the ground, averaging nearly nine yards a carry. They finished the game with 445 yards total compared to just 239 for Spectrum.

The Hornets put up 24 points in the first quarter and 14 in the second

Hornet volleyball team enjoying challenges

By Bill Morgan, Editor

The Big Lake Hornet volleyball team has been busy this fall season.

Albany Tourney

On Friday., August 22, the Hornets played a tournament in Albany and finished with a 1-3 record.

In pool play, Big Lake lost to Watertown-Mayer, 19-25, 21-25 and Big Lake lost to Sauk Centre, 15-25, 8-25.

In the tournament play-offs Big Lake beat Maple Lake, 26-24, 22-25, 15-13 then lost to Osakis, 20-25, 8-25, 0-25.

Stats for the tournament: Ashley Fitzgibbons - five kills, 43 assists, 22 digs; Madison Reed - six ace serves, two blocks, 17 kills, 13 digs; Brooke Moshier - two ace serves, three assists, 20 digs; Adelle Nomeland - two blocks, 11 kills; Iva Sanchez - nine kills, seven assists, 21 digs; Aiyana Baker - 10 kills, four digs; Taylor Kipka - 10 kills; Kam Tschritter - two kills, 16 digs; Aubrey Trulock - two kills, 18 digs.

“The early bird tournament is a great way to play against some strong volleyball teams that we don’t see during the season,” said Head Coach Alisha Brust.

“The girls stayed competitive all day, and figured out quickly the things they needed to improve on early in the season.”



MADISON REED(#12) attacks the net, covered by Kam Tschritter and Iva Sanchez. (Submitted Photo).

Although they went 1-3, Brust’s team played three really competitive matches that helped test their resiliency and mental toughness in close scoring matches.

“We have multiple girls that can put the ball away, and it was nice to see the kill distribution for the tournament,” she said.

Vs. Annandale

On Tuesday, August 8, Big Lake lost 8-25, 8-25, 7-25, 3-0, and 3-15.

Stats: Aiyana Baker - six kills, two blocks; Iva Sanchez - three kills, 10 digs; Adelle Nomeland - six kills; Lauren Ulven -

two kills; Madison Reed - nine kills, three blocks, five assists, nine digs; Aubrey Trulock - 11 digs; Kam Tschritter - three ace serves, two assists, eight digs; Ashley Fitzgibbons - four kills, one block, 2 assists, 3 digs; Taylor Kipka - five kills; Brooke Moshier - seven digs.

Vs. Mound Westonka

On Thursday., August 28, the Hornets lost to Mound Westonka, 20-25, 17-25, 8-25.

Stats: Brooke Moshier - three ace serves, three digs; Kam Tschritter - two ace serves, two digs; Aubrey Trulock - seven digs; Ashley Fitzgibbons - six

to pound out a 38-12 lead heading into the second half.

They coasted from there.

With the win, the Hornets improved to 2-0 on the young season and played Orono at home Friday night, which will be a supreme test. Orono, who had defeated the defending state champ on Becker Bulldogs in their opening game, fell to 1-1 on the season after the loss to Byron last week.

“Our schedule is great,” said Shriver. “With the move to section-based schedules we will get to play every team in our section during the regular season: Orono, Delano,

Westonka, Zimmerman, and Providence. In addition to those teams, we play(ed) DeLaSalle, Spectrum, and Willmar. Providence, DeLaSalle, and Spectrum are brand new opponents for us.”

digs; Madison Reed - nine digs, seven kills; Iva Sanchez - 17 digs, five kills; Aiyana Baker - five kills, one block; Adelle Nomeland - two kills; Taylor Kipka - six kills; Ashley Fitzgibbons - 4 assists, six digs.

“The girls are playing great volleyball in spurts,” said Brust. “Once they start minimizing unforced errors, they will find more success. We have really pushed playing aggressive. Now it is finding the balance between when to swing aggressively and when they need to reset and play defense.”

Vs. Saints

On Thursday, September 4, Big Lake took home a win over St. Francis, 25-19, 25-19, 8-15.

No stats were available at this time.

“This was not only a good conference win but a good section win for us as well,” said Brust. “The team did a great job of staying focused and getting the win. I am proud of the progress they’ve made.”

The Hornets have a tough schedule ahead with Delano (ranked #2 in state poll) and Princeton this week.

“The team is enjoying the challenging schedule and they know that this will help them prepare for a playoff run,” said Brust.

Bulldogs rebound with 42-6 thrashing of Tigers

By Bill Morgan, Editor

The Becker Bulldog football team held their first home game of the season last Friday and they faced a familiar foe — the Hutchinson Tigers.

Coming off a poor showing last week where they were shutout by Orono, the Bulldogs came into Friday's match-up looking to get some sort of traction on the young season. They just needed a spark, a burst or a break to kick-start the club and they received that from Isiah Boyer late in the first quarter.

The Bulldogs were in the midst of a drive against Hutchinson when Boyer took the handoff from Travis Kowalkowski at the 40 yard line and was met up by Tigers near the line of scrimmage. It appeared Boyer was to be dragged down after numerous defenders piled on his back to drag him down but then he emerged from the stack and scampered down the right sidelines and into the end zone for a hard-fought TD.

The spark was lit. From there, the Bulldogs appeared to have gained swagger, confidence and mettle for the rest of the contest.

Early in the second quarter, the Bulldogs defense thwarted the Tigers in their own end of the field and when — on fourth down — Hutchinson's center snapped the football over the punter's head and after a scramble, Cody Deters picked up the pigskin and rambled into the end zone for a 14-0 Becker lead.

Moments later, after getting the ball back, the Bulldogs marched the field again and Kowalkowski passed the rock to Nathan Weiss from



RB ISIAH BOYER kicked off the scoring for the Bulldogs when he escaped an armful of tacklers and dashed for the end zone from 40 yards out in the first quarter. Boyer would cap the night off with another TD from 12 yards out in the fourth quarter. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).

six yards out and he scored easily to put the home team up, 21-0 at halftime.

In the second half, RJ Houle provided another big spark when he returned the kickoff 60 yards to pay-dirt to put the Bulldogs up 28-0.

Weiss put the game completely out of reach a short while later, scoring on another six yard run to put the 'Dogs up 35-0.

The Becker defense was stalwart only giving up the one long drive and a one yard TD score to give the Tigers a crooked number on the scoreboard.

The Bulldogs finished the game off when Boyer notched his second TD of the game — this time from 12 yards out to cap the night at 42-6.

Kowalkowski finished four-of-six for 53 yards and no TDs and no INTs.

Boyer led all rushers with

78 yards on 10 attempts and two scores. Sawyer Brown had 50 yards on seven rushes and Weiss had 12 yards on two carries for two TDs.

On defense, Dalton Weisz had six tackles and one assist. Bennett Kujawa had five tackles and one assist and Weiss had four tackles including two tackles for loss.

Becker amassed 236 yards on the night while Hutchinson garnered just 145. The Tigers had two turnovers to zero for Becker.

The Bulldogs celebrated their "Mount Rushmore" players before the game which included Dillon Radunz, Shane Potter, Brandon Novak and Jarod Posthumus as the four best players in the history of the program. Only Shane Potter was available prior to Friday's contest and he was congratulated by the fans as well as the team he helps coach.

The win puts the Bulldogs at 1-1 with their next game being on the road at Fergus Falls Friday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. They return home Sept. 19 to face Princeton for Homecoming.

Liberty Paper Player of the Game



JUNIOR CODY DETERS was named "Player of the Week" for his outstanding performance in last week's game against Hutchinson. (Submitted Photo).

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Junior linebacker, Cody Deters, was named Player of the Week for his outstanding play in Becker's 42-6 win over Hutchinson.

Cody excelled in all aspects of the game. Offensively he scored on an important two-point play. On special teams he scored a touchdown on a scoop and score blocked punt, and he led Becker's defense which held a good Hutch team to just one TD.

Coach Dwight Lundeen said, "Cody was a one man highlight show tonight!! I love watching him play football."

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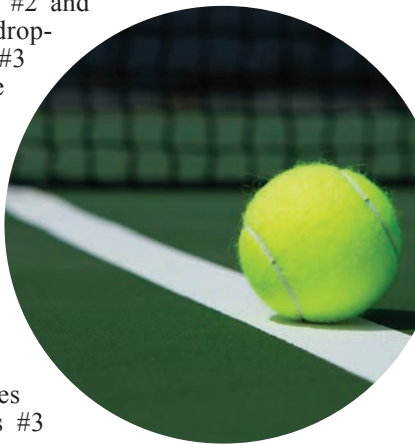
Becker tennis falls to TRF

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

The Becker Bulldog tennis team fell to Thief River Falls last week in close match, 3-4.

The two teams split the singles matches, with Becker taking the #2 and #4 matches, and dropping the #1 and #3 matches. Gracie Conzemius took the win in the second spot, 7-5, 6-1 over her opponent, while Samantha Duncombe was victorious in the number four spot, winning 6-1, 6-2.

In the doubles matches, Becker's #3



team of Sami Leaders and Bryn Dahlheimer picked up the lone Bulldog victory, 6-4, 6-3.

Becker was back in action this week with a Thursday match in Zimmerman against the Thunder.

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Becker boys CC takes 2nd



BECKER BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY lining up at the starting line for the Rocket Run meet. (Submitted Photo).

By Maria Moore, Contributing Writer

The Becker boys' cross country ran in Rockford's annual Rocket Run at Corcoran on Sept. 4. The weather conditions were not ideal with the runners having to battle through the cold and rain.

The Bulldogs are competing with high levels in the 13 team event with the continued motto of "Work to Thrive in '25". During this meet, the Bulldogs had to race against some of the best state-ranked teams and the team did not disappoint. The Bulldogs took second place with only four points separating them from the #3 ranked team from Orono.

With two first place finishes from previous meets in the season and this second place finish, the Bulldogs are off to a great start. They are currently ranked as the #4 team with many of the runners receiving personal records and season bests during this meet.

"I'm excited to see all that the team can accomplish this year," said Head Coach Dustin Weege. "Our whole crew of runners is progressing, and we have some plans to make some big things happen."

The next meet for the Bulldogs takes place at the Little Falls Lucky Lindy where they will be competing against 22 teams.

Bulldog swimmers sink BL

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

It was a great performance for the Becker Bulldog swimming and diving team last week, as they picked up a huge win over their rivals from Big Lake, 102-79.

"We had a lot of great swims and a great start to the season," Coach Tina Tamm said. "A lot of our girls are swimming the times that they finished last season with and that means they will continue to improve and beat their personal bests from last season."

It was the Bulldogs' first home meet of the season, and they looked to be in mid-season form throughout.

"Our Section roster is already looking pretty good with a number of girls (16) already qualifying for the Section meet in November," Tamm added.

The Bulldogs who have already qualified for sections include: Eiley Kaehler - 200 free and 500 free; Grace Mork - 200 free and 100 butterfly; Mia Suelter - 200 free; Kandell Hagen - 200 IM and 100 free; Laila Cook - 200 IM and 500 free; Elin Cook - 200 IM; Izza Mork - 50 free and 100 breaststroke; Alyssa Cowley - 50 free and 100 free; Myka Maksimenko - 50 free; Karli Kirk - diving; Maggie Graning - diving; Lillian Bonsante - diving; Kailey McGowan - 50 free and 100 butterfly; Clara Pratt - 100 free; Harper Kellogg - 500 free; Addison Kasper - 100 backstroke.

"That's just about half of the team already qualified for sections, and there's still more that will be added along the way," Tamm said. "We have a young team and a lot of talent. So many of them can be moved into any event where we need them to be and help us get the win."

Becker was at Princeton for a meet on Thursday and on Saturday, they will travel to Milaca for an invitational.

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

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, September 17	2pm - 5pm	Big Lake Township, 21960 County Rd 5 NW, Big Lake
Friday, September 26	2pm - 5pm	Sherburne County Fairgrounds, 13372 Business Center Drive, Elk River (enter across from YMCA)
Saturday, September 27	9am - 12pm	Sherburne County Fairgrounds, 13372 Business Center Drive, Elk River (enter across from YMCA)

ACCEPTED ITEMS	NOT ACCEPTED
Adhesives, Aerosols, Automotive Chemicals (NO MOTOR OIL), Batteries, Car Batteries, Cleaners, Fuels (Gasoline, Diesel, etc.), Fluorescent bulbs, Fire Extinguishers, Garden Chemicals, Mercury, Mothballs, Paints, Poisons, Pool/Spa Chemicals, 1lb Propane Tanks, Roofing Tar, Sealers, Solvents ** Child Car Seats accepted at Elk River Events ONLY**	Appliances, Asbestos Containing Items, Business Waste, Commercial Waste, Demolition Debris, Electronics, Explosives, Furniture, Tires, Household Garbage, Medical Waste, Motor Oil and Antifreeze, Pharmaceutical Waste, Unknown items, NO DRUMS

Agricultural Pesticides

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

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

Questions: Contact Maureen Mossak with the Sherburne County Zoning Dept. at 763-765-4457 or Maureen.Mossak@co.sherburne.mn.us

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