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Becker man turns personal tragedy into message of hope

By Andrew Diemand, Contributing Writer

Nathan Soltau has a simple but powerful message: You matter.

The 31-year-old Becker resident recently published his first book—something he never imagined doing.

“I never really enjoyed reading,” he admits.

But his story, and the purpose behind it, drove him to write *From Depression & Suicidal Thoughts to Purpose*.

The book chronicles Soltau’s journey through grief, mental health struggles, and ultimately, healing, following the death of his father by suicide on September 25, 2017. His father had battled anxiety and depression for years—challenges Soltau says he’s faced himself since middle school.

That changed in 2019,



BECKER AUTHOR NATHAN SOLTAU (LEFT PHOTO) with his new book, *From Depression & Suicidal Thoughts to Purpose*. In the photo on the right, Soltau signs copies of his new book at the Monticello Community Center where he had a book signing a couple weeks ago. (Patriot Photos by Andrew Diemand).

when, on a particularly difficult day shortly after what would have been his father’s 58th birthday, Soltau experienced what he calls a life-altering moment.



“I was watching a documentary about Junior Seau, the Hall-of-Fame NFL linebacker who also died by suicide,” Soltau recalls. “At the very end of

it, all the sadness just went away in the blink of an eye. As the credits rolled, I had a vision of myself standing on a stage, telling my story. Right then and there,

I knew this was what I was meant to do.”

That moment of clarity led Soltau to an even deeper realization—one he hopes readers take to heart: there is purpose in pain.

“There’s a reason I had to go through all this suffering,” he said. “These events happened in order for me to shed light on not only what my dad went through, but on what’s going on around us. It’s much bigger than my dad; it’s much bigger than myself.”

While the book addresses depression and suicidal thoughts, Soltau says readers are resonating most with the parts about social anxiety—a struggle he knows well.

“I’ve dealt with it most of my life,” he said. “A lot of people isolate themselves because of social

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MnDOT holds public meeting for Hwy. 24 Clearwater Corridor Project

By Penny Leuthard, Contributing Writer

Clearwater area residents and business owners stopped by MnDOT’s Hwy. 24 corridor project public meeting Monday to see the final construction plans laid out.

Although much of the initial project plans remain the same, several things have been changed or removed after residents and business owners expressed concerns and they weren’t approved by the Clearwater City Council.

Project details that have changed include:

- Lime Street won’t be closed;
- The center median will stop at the Clearwater Truck Stop instead of continuing to Co. Road 75;



CLEARWATER AREA RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS stop by MnDOT’s public meeting Monday to see the final plans for the Hwy. 24 corridor project. (Photo by Penny Leuthard)

- The roundabout at Co. Road 75 will not be built;
- The noise barriers along the west side of Hwy. 24 between Co. Road 75

and the Mississippi River bridge will no longer be necessary;

- Vehicles exiting Ash Street will not be able to turn left.

MnDOT Project Manager Terri Odegaard said they have had good feedback on most of the changes and overall project. The only item that has received mixed feedback is the removal of the roundabout at Co. Road 75; some are glad to see it removed and others are wondering why it was removed.

The project, which is being driven by the I-94 bridge replacement and safety concerns, will happen in two phases. The first phase, the bridge replacement, is scheduled to begin in 2026. It includes roundabouts at both interstate accesses.

The new bridge will be constructed 10’ offline the current bridge so traffic flow won’t be affected. The new Mississippi River bridge,

which was completed in 2017, was constructed in the same manner.

Odegaard explained the new interstate access ramps will be widened and the new bridge design is wider to look toward the future in the event a third lane is constructed west of Clearwater to match up to the third lane that was constructed between Clearwater and Monticello.

Construction on Hwy. 24 from Kwik Trip to Co. Rd. 7 will also be done at a future date, but is being headed by Wright Co., not MnDOT.

For continuing information on this project and to sign up for email updates, visit talk.dot.state.mn.us/hwy-24-clearwater.

Sherburne Fall Fest brings warm weather and community spirit

By Andrew Diemand, Contributing Writer

As far as October afternoons go in Minnesota, this year’s Sherburne Fall Fest, held on a sunny Saturday afternoon at the Sherburne History Center in Becker, couldn’t have landed on a more unseasonably warm one.

With temperatures climbing into the mid-80s—more July than October—the festival had all the charm of autumn with the warmth of late summer. A welcome breeze kept things just cool enough, rustling the sunflowers and making the scarecrows seem to dance.

Now in its second year, the Fall Fest is quickly gaining momentum as a signature event for the area. A collaborative effort between the Sherburne History Center, the Becker Chamber of Commerce, and a wide array of local

businesses and organizations (“McDonald’s Meats contributes all the hot dogs. Kwik Trip does all the buns and drinks,” said Emma Hoard, Program Manager at the Sherburne History Center), the festival aims to bring the community together in celebration of the season—and local history.

The day kicked off with a morning Fun Run and kept the activities going throughout the afternoon—where guests of all ages enjoyed a variety of hands-on events, including pumpkin painting, games, a chili cook-off, and — new this year — a festive scavenger hunt, which saw young visitors (and the young at heart) exploring the surrounding nature trails in search of pumpkins—each with a unique hand-drawn face. Completing the hunt earned guests a prize and,

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THOMAS (AGE 6) poses with his festive creation at this year’s Sherburne Fall Fest. (Patriot Photo by Andrew Diemand.)

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Mayor's Update

As the leaves start to change and cooler weather is finally upon us, there is plenty of action happening at City Hall as local government continues to serve the residents of Becker.

Open House

With construction finally completed on the City Hall / Police Department expansion, there will be several opportunities for residents to come and tour the new and remodeled building.

Tours will be available on the hour, starting on October 23, from noon until 4:00 p.m. and again on October 24 from 8:00 a.m. until noon. An evening session will be offered on October 28 from 4:00 p.m. until 6 p.m.

I encourage all residents to come and see the new facilities.

Post Office

I wish I had some news to share about the post office situation, but despite repeated attempts to find a resolution, we have not received approval from USPS officials. We are doing everything we can to keep PO Boxes in the City of Becker



By Mark Kolbinger
Contributing Writer

as we work towards a more permanent solution. It is my strong desire to keep both operations and retail services within our community and we continue to pressure the USPS along those lines. I will share further updates as I learn any new, additional information.

Working together

Our next local government roundtable is scheduled for October 23, and it will again be a chance for elected officials and key personnel from Sherburne County, Becker Township, Becker Public Schools and the City of Becker to come together and find solutions and create efficiencies.

What Do We Our

The House has done its job. We passed a clean, non-partisan continuing resolution to keep the government open and working for the American people.

Unfortunately, 41 Senate Democrats have chosen to oppose this clean continuing resolution five times despite having passed the same legislation 13 times under President Biden. Instead, they've proposed their own bill, which demands an additional \$1.5 trillion in partisan spending in exchange for fulfilling their most basic obligation of funding the federal government.

Their proposal includes FREE health care for illegal immigrants, \$500 million to prop up failing public media outlets, a \$50 billion cut to investments in rural health care, and billions of dollars to foreign countries for climate-related projects.

These aren't Republican talking points; these are the real impacts of these Democrats' continuing resolution. Buried on page 57 of their 68-page proposal, Section 2141, the Democrats' continuing resolution repeals the Working Families Tax Cut bill's new safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse in health care spending and restores nearly \$200 billion in taxpayer-funded health care sub-



By Congressman
Tom Emmer

dies to illegal immigrants. You can read it for yourself here: www.appropriations.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/fy26_democratic_continuing_resolution_text.pdf.

Make no mistake: the reason that the federal government is shut down today is because Chuck Schumer, Tina Smith, Amy Klobuchar, and 38 Senate Democrats have decided they would rather hold our government hostage than join Republicans as we govern.

Despite the shutdown, our office is here to help you. While government agencies may have slower response times during the shutdown, we will continue working on your behalf. If there is anything we can do to help you or your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at (763) 241-6848 or visit emmer.house.gov.

Hornets crushed by Thunder, 56-16

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

Homecoming Friday brought a challenging matchup for the Big Lake Hornet football team, as they hosted a talented Zimmerman Thunder squad last Friday night.

Going into the game, the Hornet coaching staff knew that they needed to execute at a high-level and avoid self-inflicted mistakes if they wanted to walk away with the victory. Unfortunately, it didn't happen, and the boys dug themselves a hole that they simply couldn't climb out of.

The Thunder took the victory, 56-16.

Offensively, Jack Midas had a strong outing with four receptions for 94 yards and a touchdown, and also scored on a successful two-point conversion. Carter Stromberg powered the running game with 101 yards and a touchdown on 15 carries, while Montell Hester contributed 53 rushing yards, helping move the chains and sustain drives. Big Lake's offense finished the night with a total of 250 yards.

Defensively, the Hornets were led by Alex John, who recorded seven total tackles, and David Sorenson and Jackson LaRoche, each with six tackles each.

Liam Mettler and Trevor Couch each made key tackles for loss.

Special teams also saw effort and energy, with Jackson LaRoche averaging 37.7 yards per punt and Montell Hester and Jack Midas providing solid contributions on kick returns.

However, the Thunder struck early and often building up a three-touchdown lead in the first 12 minutes. They compounded Big Lake's misery by tallying two more TDs in the second while the Hornets were able to notch a TD and a successful two-point conversion. Dillon Spaeth found Jack Midas for a 45-yard TD to make the score 35-8.

In the third, Zimmerman poured it on and swatted the Hornets with three more TD scores to put the game way out of reach. By the fourth quarter, the Thunder had their subs in and Big Lake was able to get to double digits with another score and another successful two-pointer. This time, Carter Stromberg rambled in from six yards out and Midas provided the extra two points on a converted pass.

Zimmerman improved to 4-2 overall and 3-1 in their district while Big Lake fell to 2-4 overall and 0-4 in the Skyway Green standings.

Becker girls soccer takes 2nd in conference

By Maria Moore,
Contributing Writer

The Becker girls soccer team scored a total of 53 goals this year and only allowed 25 goals. With their regular season score of 9-3-3 and their second place finish in the conference, the team made their mark this season.

"The team has found much success this season because of their team play," said Head Coach Arnold Changamire. "Every player has embraced their role and work towards our team's goals and it's shown on the

scoreboard."

Goalkeeper Juliana Stach (10th grade) experienced her first year in the net and this season she had four shut outs. Adele Changamire (10th grade) finished the regular season with the second most goals scored in the state (29 goals).

Doing a great job leading the team this year were captains Avery Atwood, Stella Bloch, and Alyssa Kinney.

The first section game for the girls is on Oct. 8 against Zimmerman.

Becker boys CC hosts invite

By Maria Moore,
Contributing Writer

The Becker boys cross country team hosted their annual Becker invitational at Pebble Creek Golf Course Thurs., Sept. 25.

Alex Swanson — with a time of 16:29.8 — became the first Bulldog varsity champion of the invitational since Tyson Ricker in 2022.

Tanner Felton (16:50) came in sixth. Parker Spindler (16:57) came in seventh and Evan Hubbard (17:21) came in eighth. The Bulldogs won the meet with a total of 43 points.

Lions Meet

Next, they traveled to the Arrowwood Resort in Al-

exandria for the 52nd Annual Lion's Meet of Champions.

The boys placed fifth with their highest ever finish at the event.

Tanner Felton (16:40) placed 12th with Alex Swanson (16:41) a second behind. Evan Hubbard (17:24) was next with Parker Spindler (17:37) right behind. Next up was Brandt Hemmelgarn (18:19) and Holden Hubbard (18:31).

"We are continuing to improve in our racing strategies and plans as we progress in the season and as we keep 'Working to Thrive in '25'," said Head Coach Dustin Weege.

the local history," she said.

Ultimately, Hoard hopes events like the Fall Fest will lead more people to explore the Sherburne History Center beyond the festival—visiting exhibits, attending programs, and perhaps even becoming members.

"Which really helps us," she added with a smile. Despite the heat—per-

haps a touch too warm for chili—this year's Fall Fest was a clear success. With smiling faces, music in the air, and pumpkins hiding in the woods, it offered a nice blend of festivity and local pride.



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anxiety, and that's when you get in trouble with your own thoughts."

Though his Christian faith plays an important role in his journey, Soltau believes his message applies universally. At its core, he says, it's about empathy and communication.

"We need to get back to loving each other," he said. "Nowadays, we're all involved in our phones and we don't know how to communicate with each other. It's tough to gauge how somebody is doing over a text message."

Soltau hopes his story can open up conversations about mental health in communities everywhere. He has plans to launch a podcast and YouTube channel where he'll interview people from all walks of life who have faced depression, suicide, or trauma.

"I want to talk with people from all backgrounds," he said. "Because this isn't siloed—it happens everywhere."

Soltau's message is clear: no matter what you're going through, your life has value.

"You matter," he says. "And you're not alone."

From *Depression & Suicidal Thoughts to Purpose* is available on Amazon. For bulk orders, email info@nathansoltauyoumatterllc.com. More information can be found at nathansoltauyoumatterllc.com.

proved to be a stellar foe.

Upcoming

The Bulldogs finished the regular season with a Thursday night game at St. Cloud Apollo and a Monday matchup at Wattertown-Mayer. The Section 8AAA tournament will commence on October 23.

Scan Me!



By Mark Kolbinger,
Contributing Writer

The Becker volleyball team picked up a nice M8 Conference win last week in a five set victory over the Big Lake Hornets.

Scores for the match were: 22-25, 25-18, 25-20, 25-27, and 15-8.

"This game was our Senior Night, honoring our seven incredible seniors that represent Becker Volleyball to the highest level: Adyson Petty, Courtney Gass, Rylee Gunderson, Jaiden Messick, Elyanna Kuklok, Kylie Perkins, and Brynn Koste," Coach Bo said. "We had a record

high of 101 team digs and 52 team kills."

Kenna Hennessey led the way with 40 digs, while Payton Treptau had 18 kills for the Bulldogs.

Mo a Tu rney

Last Saturday, Becker went to Mora for a tournament and came away 2-2 on the day, falling to Rush City and Barnum before defeating Aitkin and Braham.

"We had a lot of fun at this tournament," Coach Bo said. "We had 92 kills, 13 aces, and 139 digs as a team in nine total sets played."

Vs. Monticello

Tuesday night, Becker finished conference play with a 0-3 loss to Monticello, as the veteran Magic

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more importantly, a sense of discovery.

"We added the scavenger hunt this year to get more people out walking the trails," Hoard explained. "Just in the first couple hours, I noticed how many families were out there. It's getting people moving and finding out that we have trails, which a lot of people who live here

don't even know."

While the event catered primarily to families and children, there was something for everyone. Adults could enjoy a drink at the Lion's Club beer tent before browsing a range of vendor booths, where local artisans showcased everything from cozy knitwear and handcrafted candles to baked treats and station-

nery—adding a bit of early holiday shopping to the mix.

Live music also added a joyful layer to the atmosphere, with old-time tunes floating through the air, courtesy of a Fergus Falls-based group, The Tickwood Stringband, whose banjo-driven sound gave the festival an extra dose of down-home charm.

Last year's event was more Becker-centric, but Hoard hopes to see the festival grow into something that represents all of Sherburne County. Her goal? To draw people in with fun and festivities, then spark their curiosity about local history and culture.

"They come here for this really fun event, and then they get intrigued with



OLD-TIME GROUP The Tickwood Stringband provided live entertainment at this year's Sherburne Fall Fest. (Patriot Photo by Andrew Diemand.)



THESE THREE BOYS, (L to R): Wesley (age 4), Maddox (age 6), and Cooper (age 5) decorated pumpkins at this year's Sherburne Fall Fest. (Patriot Photo by Andrew Diemand.)



GUESTS LINED UP to sample and vote on their favorite chili at the Sherburne Fall Fest. (Patriot Photo by Andrew Diemand.)

AREA NEWS

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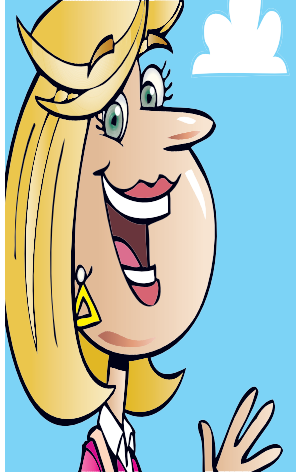
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Hornet runners take 10th, 11th at STMA Invite

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer

The Big Lake girls cross-country team finished 10th at the St. Michael-Albertville Invitational last Thursday.

Ninth-grader Shay France led the varsity girls with a 41st-place finish in 21:26.

Hazel Guldseth was next in 72nd in 23:46. Elsie Jagusch (76th, 24:24) and Clara Devine (77th, 24:39) ran together. Ainsley McGuire ran her fastest time of the year (78th, 25:51) to close out the scoring. Chloe Howe (79th, 26:20) and Aubri Judge (80th, 27:59) were the sixth and seventh Big Lake finishers. The girls placed 10th overall in a deep and talented field.

"This was definitely a step up in competition for the girls," said Coach Trutna.

"This is a very young team and races like this can show the team what is possible with a couple more years of hard work."

The boys varsity placed 11th overall in a loaded field. On another warm and humid afternoon, the Hornets went

up against one of the toughest fields of the season, with several ranked AAA programs and individual standouts in the mix.

Theo Johnson had one of his better times of the season and led the team with a 37th-place finish in 17:38, with Jack Schmidt close behind in 41st in 17:43.

Gavin Flavin (61st, 18:13), Trent Erickson (66th, 18:23), and Eli Henning (79th, 19:07) completed the five scorers.

Max Baron (82nd, 19:17) and Eli Schaller (87th, 19:57) were the sixth and seventh finishers for Big Lake.

"Overall the boys varsity had a rough day in the heat. It's been a tough couple weeks of training and heat," said Coach Todd Trutna. "I think it caught up to us a bit today. As we begin to taper for the end of the season soon, we hope to see all the runners return to form."

The Hornets ran at Princeton this past week, results next week. They compete in the Mississippi 8 Conference meet Tuesday at St. Francis.

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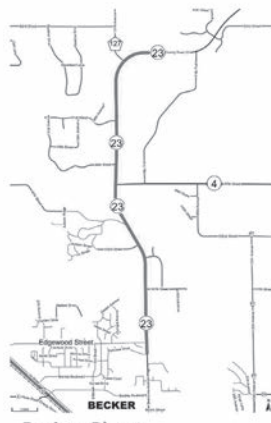
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CSAH 23 (Sherburne Ave) Roadway Reconstruction



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

Construction is planned for summer of 2026.

JOIN US FOR AN IN-PERSON OPEN HOUSE

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

WHEN: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
4:00 – 6:00 pm

WHERE: Becker City Park
10362 County Road 23 SE
Becker, MN 55308

There will be no formal presentation during the open house. Stop by any time to learn more and talk with our project team!

Stay Connected

David Roedel
Assistant Public Works Director / Deputy County Engineer

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

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

ORDINANCE and Series Summary AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN THE CITY OF BECKER CODE

The following official summary of the ordinance referred to has been approved by the City Council of Becker as clearly informing the public of the intent and effect of the amendments.

Chapter 8, Traffic Regulations

This ordinance amends Section 8.06 to provide definition, riding rules and prohibited operation of electric-assisted bicycles in the city of Becker.

A printed copy of the entire ordinance is available for inspection by any person at City Hall any Monday through Thursday between the current hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and Fridays between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

/s/ Mayor Mark Kolbinger
ATTEST Shannon Mortenson, City Clerk
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/11/25.)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

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

Safeguard Storage Solutions
16410 149th St SE Big Lake, MN 55309
612-405-9595
Sale to be held at: www.storag auctions.com

TENANTS IN DEFAULT:
A5 Kimberly Stringfellow
A37, A32, and A17 Nathan Larsen
B63 Kenneth Montague
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/11/25, 10/18/25.)

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
INFORMAL PROBATE**
Court File No. 25 PR-36
In Re the Estate of James M. Hegge a/k/a James Milo Hegge, Decedent.

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

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

Any heir or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Any objection to the appointment of the Personal Representative must be filed with the Court, and any properly filed objection will be heard by the Court after notice is provided to interested persons of the date of hearing on the objection. Unless objections are filed, and unless the Court orders otherwise, the Personal Representative has the full power to administer the estate, including, after thirty (30) days from the issuance of Letters of General Administration, the power to sell, encumber, lease, or distribute any interest in real estate owned by the decedent. Notice is further given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the

decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF SHERBURNE
TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
INFORMAL PROBATE**
Court File No. 25 PR-35
In Re the Estate of Alquin Joseph Roden a/k/a Alquin J. Roden, Decedent.

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

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

Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally

BL Swim/Dive team wins

By Bill Morgan,
Editor

On Caregiver, Parent & Guardian Appreciation Night in Big Lake, the Hornet swim/dive team captured a big win while honoring the incredible people who support the athletes.

In notching their third team win of the season, the Hornets tallied 107 points to Ogilvie's 63.

Varsity Individual Highlights

First place in the 200-yard Freestyle went to Piper Fridgen (2:17.12); First place in the 500-yard Freestyle went to Piper Fridgen (6:17.29); Second place in the 200-yard Freestyle was notched by Madelyne Fridgen (2:23.22); Second place in the 500-yard Freestyle went to Madelyne Fridgen (6:26.34); First place in the 200-yard Individual Medley was achieved by Charlotte Overby (2:46.52).

First place in the 100-yard Butterfly went to Charlotte Overby (1:14.93); Third place in the 200-yard Individual Medley went to Aimee Lu (2:48.41); Second place in the 100-yard Breaststroke went to Aimee Lu (1:25.24); First place in the 50-yard Freestyle was captured by Adelyn Fox (28.92); Third place in the 100-yard Backstroke went to Adelyn Fox (1:17.97).

Second place in the 50-yard Freestyle was given to Emma Wood (29.83); First place in the 100-yard Back-

stroke went to Emma Wood (1:16.94); Third place in the 50-yard Freestyle went to Emmelia Kortenkamp (30.06); First place in 1-Meter Diving went to Kayleigh Pregler (185.50); Second place in 1-Meter Diving went to Jacqueline Busch (137.30).

Third place in the 100-yard Butterfly went to Elise Warnke (1:22.88); First place in the 100-yard Freestyle went to Abigail Fridgen (1:02.25); Second place in the 100-yard Backstroke was captured by Abigail Fridgen (1:17.13); Second place in the 100-yard Freestyle was won by Maia Wenderski (1:07.37); Third place in the 100-yard Freestyle went to Emma Conklin (1:14.53); Third place in the 500-yard Freestyle went to Greta Schwirtz (6:55.41); Second place in the 100-yard Breaststroke went to Kyla Wenderski (1:25.24).

Vs. Princeton

The Big Lake Girls Swim and Dive Team made waves Oct. 2 with a powerful win over Princeton, scoring 107 to 79. This marked the fourth victory of the season.

The swim/dive event gave the team the chance to celebrate their seven senior swimmers and divers, along with their two incredible senior team managers.

Those seniors were: Emma Conklin, Adelyn Fox, Aimee Lu, Brooklyn May, Kayleigh Pregler, Greta Schwirtz, Maia Wenderski, Britta Vagle, and Alexis Gosewich.

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

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the

Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.

/s/ Pamela Kreier,
Probate Registrar
/Attest/ Katrese Ringham,
Court Administrator
Attest:
Personal Representative
SAMUEL V CALVERT
Attorney License No.: 1431X
1011 2nd ST N STE 107
St Cloud MN 56203
Telephone: 320-252-4473
E-Mail: calclou@gsail.com
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/11/25, 10/18/25).

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR SHERBURNE COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

Sherburne County is currently taking applications for volunteers to serve on the Sherburne County Board of Adjustment, beginning January 2026. This Board meets one time a month on a Thursday at the Sherburne County Government Center in Elk River, MN and is paid a per diem plus mileage. This Board reviews variance requests and appeals in the unincorporated areas of the County. If you have an interest in serving, please contact the Sherburne County Zoning Department at (763) 765-4450 or for an application or on-line at <https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/8>

The application deadline is October 31, 2025. Appointments will be made by the Sherburne County Board of Commissioners.
(Published in the *Patriot*: 10/11/25.)

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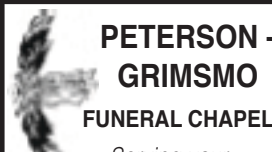
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SUNDAY OCTOBER 19TH @ 11:00 AM
ANTIQUES, HOUSEHOLD & TOOLS

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For questions about the position, please contact Rick Kraus, Director of Building and Grounds, at 763-261-6345 or rkraus@isd726.org

Sports/AREA News

3 FABULOUS PROPERTIES!



Only available due to a job relocation, this well-maintained home has seen approx. \$150,000 in improvements since Aug 2024. 3 BR, 3 baths, plus a den & office that can flex as extra sleeping spaces. Primary suite includes two closets, a jetted tub & a separate walk-in shower. Recent updates include staining the cedar siding, new lakeside stairs, a spacious paver patio, fresh shoreline rip rap, aluminum dock panels, quartz countertops, an Andersen patio door & a new asphalt driveway—all designed for long-term lakeside enjoyment. With 307 feet of frontage wrapping around a point, you will enjoy the natural sand/hard rock bottom shoreline. Lake Francis is one of the area's premier lakes, offering 10-12 ft clarity & over 1,000 acres of full recreation fun. The sellers would like to sell this property "turn-key" ready for the next owners to enjoy. The pontoon & lift can even be included with the right offer. Take in beautiful sunrises over the tranquil waters & don't let the elevation deter you. There is a golf cart/ATV path for easy lake access. Perfect as a year-round residence or weekend retreat. 74308 323rd St., South Haven, MN. **MLS# 6797722, \$989,900.** Call **Patrick Splinter, 612-437-1383.**

Located just a short walk to downtown Foley is this Value priced property. What a great opportunity to get into a home at a low purchase price. Sure it could use a little TLC, but it is certainly livable how it is. With three bedrooms on the main level, a bathroom, and an unfinished basement for future expansion, the possibilities are nearly endless. Come check out this great property! 330 7th Avenue Foley, MN. 56329 • **\$149,950. MLS# 6778126.** Contact **Rick Seagraves, 320-282-5656.**



Great opportunity to be on the lake with minimal investment to start. Seller is including the pontoon, dock, and trailer so you can enjoy the lake life immediately. There is a well on the property that was recently installed as well as an incinerator toilet. The 2009 Park Model camper will stay with the property as well, which is a great start to this amazing little slice of lake shore. Lake Marie and Lake Louisa are joined by a channel which you can navigate easily by boat and are a combined 330 acres. Both lakes have amazing fishing and of course some fun water sports too. Come enjoy the lake with family and friends, enjoy a fire at the fire pit, listen to the loons at night, it's an amazing experience! **MLS# 6778126, \$149,950.** Call **Rick Seagraves** for a private showing. 320-282-5656. 16698 109th Street NW, South Haven, MN 55382



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VALLEY

HEAD FOOTBALL COACH DWIGHT LUNDEEN, is set to receive a Hall of Fame award from the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association this weekend in Minneapolis. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan).



Lundeen to receive another HOF award

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Dwight Lundeen may have to add an outbuilding or construct an addition to his Becker home just to house his ever-growing award and trophy collection.

This weekend, Lundeen will be attending the MSH-SCA (Minnesota State High School Coaches Association) Hall of Fame Banquet at the Sheraton Minneapolis West in Minnetonka to receive his fifth HOF award in his distinguished career.

Lundeen has been Becker's one and only football coach since 1970 when he birthed the football program at the age of 22. Becker was a tiny, rural school with about 30 students in each grade when Lundeen kick started the program and of those students, 17 decided to go out for the inaugural season of 1970.

Class sizes are now around 200-250 students with 230+ playing football in grades 7-12.

As of 2025, Lundeen is

entering his 56th season at the helm of the program and has a record of 415 wins, 165 losses and three ties. He is just 21 wins away from breaking the Minnesota high school record held by Mike Mahlen of Verndale, who is the all-time career wins leader with 435 career wins (as of this date).

Lundeen has four state championships under his belt, 20 section championships, 22 conference championships and nine Prep Bowl appearances.

Lundeen's other honors include being the President of the MFCA in 1992, winning the Minnesota Power of Influence award in 2009, being named Minnesota Vikings Coach of the Year in 2012 and 2024 and being named MNFCA Man of the Year in 2015. He also won the National Power of Influence award in 2023 and his HOF honors came in 2009 (Mn Football Coaches HOF), 2014 (Activities Director HOF), 2015 (MSHSL HOF) and 2019 (National Coaches Association HOF).

LPI Player of the Game

By Bill Morgan, Editor

Tristan Kowalkowski, junior quarterback, was named Player of the Week for his outstanding game at Totino-Grace.

He completed 25 passes for 275 yards and two touchdowns. He also rushed for another TD.

Head coach Dwight Lundeen said, "I enjoy coaching Tristan. He works hard every day to get better... He is very coachable."

"Tristan played his best game on Friday night. Everyone at the game got to see a high school quarterback play the position amazingly well."



JUNIOR QB TRISTAN KOWALKOWSKI was named "Player of the Week" for his outstanding performance in last week's game against Totino Grace. (Submitted Photo).

Field of Faith coming in the spring of 2026

By Bill Morgan, Editor

A recent graduate of Becker High School is hitting the big time with a full feature documentary on one of the most inspirational people in the State of Minnesota.

Matthew Warhol, a 2025 graduate of BHS, has been feverishly collaborating with numerous friends and associates to put together a motion picture depicting the life of Dwight Lundeen and his association with Fellowship of Christian Athletes. It's entitled, *Field of Faith* and is planned to have a release in the spring.

Warhol's company, American Motion Picture, was birthed this past year when Warhol was in a media class at school. He and his classmates and friends were looking for a subject for a film study when Warhol started kicking around the idea of doing a feature on the beloved Dwight Lundeen, who in fact had been Matthew's head coach while he played football for the 2025 State Champions where Becker beat Totino Grace for the state title last fall.

Warhol has always been interested in the movies and in theater as he grew up. In the fourth and fifth grade he took community theater classes and even took acting classes in the city to see where his ambitions might lead. He began getting involved in short films and started looking at professional modeling and acting — leading to auditions for jobs in Los Angeles.

Then he started thinking he needed to be more practical



MATTHEW WARHOL has all the attributes to make his lifelong dream of making movies a reality. It all starts with *Field of Faith*, coming next spring. (Submitted Photo).

cal and started looking into going to college in Montana in the field of mechanical engineering. But the movie bug wouldn't let him and he returned to his first love and began seriously considering making movies.

"I started by making movies on my Iphone and Ipad and worked with Mr. Chagas in media production at Becker," Warhol said. "I then got connected with three friends and started working on *Field of Faith*."

In January of 2025, Warhol and his team began production on *Field of Faith*, a movie about Coach Dwight Lundeen, and how he has shaped the lives of thousands of young men and women on and off the field.

Field of Faith is the story of one of the state's greatest

high school football coaches to ever work the gridiron. Lundeen started the Becker Football program in 1970 at the age of 22 years old with only 17 players. The school was very small with about 30 students in each grade.

Lundeen has grown the football program at Becker into one of Minnesota's powerhouse programs, winning four state championships, as well as 20 section championships, 22 conference championships and nine prep bowl appearances.

Lundeen's impact also extends off the field as his influence has trickled down to his coaching staff who have gone on to have the same success as Dwight in their own coaching careers. In his tenure, Lundeen has helped over thousands of young men go on to become quality fathers, husbands, brothers, friends and members of their communities.

Warhol isn't in the field of movie-making for the "one and done" prospect but has a plan to continue to develop stories for the screen through his dreams and passions.

"We have a decade-long plan to try and revive the media," said Warhol. "We want to do faith-based movies and documentaries through our studio."

Warhol said not all Hollywood productions are bad but there's definitely room for improvement.

"Take Lord of the Rings for instance," he said. "That movie carries a fundamentally religious tone because its themes and symbolism are deeply influenced by Tolkien's Christian faith."

Warhol says LOR has the obvious battle of good and evil as well as the concepts of sacrifice, humility and key Christian-like themes and spiritual impressions, all woven into the narrative's fabric.

Warhol also wants to take on the opportunity of reaching kids in his productions in the future.

"I think Disney and Hollywood are veering away from morally sound movies and I think we need to set that straight," he said.

Warhol also mentioned how Charlie Kirk has been extremely influential and inspiring in his life and credits Kirk with keeping his own vision of doing good in the forefront of his dreams.

Warhol's documentary explores how Lundeen's commitment to ministry and mentorship has guided his successful career and profoundly impacted generations of young people. Instead of focusing solely on his football success, the film highlights how Lundeen's purpose is to help his players become great adults, husbands, fathers, and community members.

His team members include, Scott Doss, Emily Kutzler, Aiden Radeke, Carter Reckelberg, Kaden Ger-vasi, Josh Coen and Logan Massey.

The movie will release for free in the spring of 2026. To check out the trailer, visit: www.youtube.com/shorts/Ud9EjucIxc. OR go to Warhol's American Motion Picture website at: american-motionpicture.studio.

Eagles get revenge from 2024, down Bulldogs 30-20

By Bill Morgan, Editor

The Becker Bulldog football team received pay-back for their state title last year as Totino-Grace won its fourth straight game on Friday at home, beating Becker 30-20.

Friday's game was a rematch of last year's Class 4A Prep Bowl, won by the Bulldogs, 24-8.

The Eagles got two of their scores from long range last week, scoring touchdowns of 80 and 98 yards.

The 98-yard touchdown run by Ben Bergan came just one play after the Eagles' defense stopped Becker on a fourth and goal from the two-yard line in the third quarter.

The Eagles struck first when Henry Cone tossed a short screen pass to Jaden Miller. Miller made a Becker defender miss and rumbled 80 yards to the endzone. After a missed extra-point attempt, the Eagles got out to an early 6-0 lead.

Becker got on the board early in the second with a sustained drive that led to an eight-yard touchdown pass

from Sawyer Brown. Senior Sebastien Cabrera caught the ball for a relatively easy score.

Totino-Grace responded on the ensuing drive when Henry Cone scored his second touchdown of the night, this time on the ground. He broke off a 20-yard run to the endzone for another big yardage play for the Eagles.

At halftime, the score was TG 13, Becker 7.

In the third, Becker had a chance to tie the game up or take the lead. However, the Totino-Grace defense held firm and came up with a goal-

line stand. On the first play of the Eagles' drive, Benjamin Bergan broke a tackle at the line of scrimmage and ran down the field for a 98-yard touchdown run to put Totino-Grace up 20-7.

The Bulldogs responded on the next drive with a sustained march down the field that ended in a one-yard quarterback run up the middle for a Tristan Kowalkowski touchdown.

On the ensuing drive, the Eagles completed another long pass and catch from Cone to senior tight end Luther Bunge. Bunge was

pushed out at the three-yard line, which set up another Cone rushing touchdown to put the Eagles up 27-13 as the third quarter ended.

The Bulldogs refused to quit in the fourth quarter, when Kowalkowski hit Cayden Goodell with a 31-yard strike, bringing the Eagles' lead back to just seven points at 27-20.

Unfortunately for the visitors, Totino-Grace got the ball back and closed out the game with sustained possession punctuated by a 16-yard field goal to give the Eagles their revenge over Becker

with a 30-20 victory.

Kowalkowski finished with 273 yards through the air on 25 of 37 passing and two TDs. Brown had 52 yards rushing on six carries to lead the rushers and Adam Wipper led the receiving corps with 10 catches for 87 yards. Goodell finished with three catches for 42 yards.

The defense was led by Bennett Kujawa with six tackles.

The Bulldogs (3-3) took on Rocori at home Friday night (full report on game in next week's *Patriot*).