



THE BULLDOG BEAT



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FROM THE STANDS TO THE SWAMP: A NIGHT ON THE BAYOU

BHS STUDENTS PREPARE FOR THE 2026 HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

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Senior Reporter

Berwick Area High School is hosting its annual homecoming football game on Friday, October 9th at Crispin Field. The Berwick Bulldogs will be playing the Hazleton Area Cougars. During the game, our homecoming court will be introduced and called to the field. On Saturday, there will be a homecoming ceremony followed immediately by the dance.

The theme for 2026 homecoming is “A Night in the Bayou”, loosely based on the Disney Princess movie, “The Princess and the Frog”. A spirit week has been leading up to homecoming, with a pep rally to cap it off on Friday. Mrs. Melissa Driscole said, “I try to include the themes together, but not always”. She mentioned her favorite spirit week theme in the past was the throwback days. Mrs. Driscole said Spirit Club has been involved in helping “for about 10 years”. While Spirit Club helps with homecoming in general, Student Council will mainly be in charge of setting up the ceremony and dance itself.

Students of BHS rely on both faculty and school officers to ensure their safety with events of this sort. Security Resource Officer Jason Lanning has been involved at Berwick and with homecoming for about 4 years and has an amazing rapport amongst our student body. Lanning said, “I think it’s great we still offer the experience for our students”.

Students on the homecoming court play an important role in the event. This year’s homecoming court princes are: Jake Lisnock, Thomas DiBattista, Aiden Walsh, Nicholas Lonczynski, Hayden Wark, Michael Perry, and Jamie Wark. The princesses this year are: Sara Cruz, Gemma Smolenak, Grace Robbins, Audra Lear, Julia Rauch, Ashley Knorr, and Ashlyn Marshman.

Participating in homecoming court is a significant event. The court members are in competition with each other to win the title of homecoming king or queen. The court will need to dress accordingly and practice in advance for the ceremony. “I’ll have to get myself freshened up and even get a haircut,” said both Jake Lisnock and Aiden Walsh.

Being on homecoming court is significant because it will be the last time attending the school’s HOCO events as a student. These students will be taking a lot of precious time to ensure they look their best. Grace Robbins said, “I will be getting a spray tan a couple of days before to make sure I have a nice tan”, showing that homecoming is an important event that many students devote plenty of time to in making sure everything goes according to plan. The students who are not on homecoming court also have a lot to prepare for. Making sure they look their best, planning dates, arranging dinners beforehand, scheduling sleepovers with friends, and overall, having a good night all require time and energy.

As homecoming approaches, there will be a lot of planning and preparation for both faculty and students. Although there may only be one king and one queen chosen, having a good time with friends and classmates should be everyone’s win of the night, said junior Hayden Keller.

If anyone still needs tickets for the dance, they are \$10 dollars in advance on Friday from the guidance office. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$15.



2026-2027 Homecoming Court

Photo by Kyla Riccobon



Tickets to the bayou.

Photo by Arianna McChesney



Entrances are decorated in preparation for HOCO.

Photo by Arianna McChesney