

WWII VETERAN BILL FRIBERG CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

Carefree Country Club residents had a special reason to celebrate last week, as World War II Veteran

in the Battle of Guadalca-

nal. Not long after, their commanding officer was shot down and Friberg starting working on air-

surprise when his brother, Roland, came on board and had lunch on the ship. Roland was an under-

water demolitions expert who saw action in places such as Iwo Jima.

The meeting proved to be a profound moment, as Roland would go on to have a heart attack the age 32 and died at age 35.

“And here I am, 100 (years old),” Friberg says. Friberg also recalls the time that a B-17 Bomber had landed on a runway that he helped build.

“I thought that was pretty neat that a B-17 could actually land on the airstrip,” Friberg says of the famed aircraft whose crew was doing reconnaissance work in the area.

Island duty also meant tasks such as burying 50 gallon drums of fuel at different places on the island in order to prevent the enemy from bombing or sabotaging a single fuel depot.

“I’m not sure how



WORLD WAR II VETERAN BILL FRIBERG enjoyed a piece of cake as he celebrated his recent 100th birthday with friends and his wife, JoAnn. (Patriot Photo by Carol Hanson).

we lifted those things off the trucks, but we found a way,” Friberg says.

He also remembers eating plenty of coconuts and drinking the juice.

“Once I was back state-

side, I didn’t eat any more coconuts,” Friberg asserts.

“He still won’t eat coconuts!” adds his wife, JoAnn.

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PATRIOT



BE SURE TO CHECK OUT the Patriot’s special graduation section for Big Lake graduates starting on Page 1B. We feature all the classmates as well as some informative articles to help students and parents prepare for further education and activities as well as an article on Students of Excellence.

Inside

NATURE

Stan Tekiela writes about the rigors of nature in his latest column. See the story on page 2.

BECKER

Youngsters from the area were invited to visit the Farm Friends Barn in Becker last Thursday to learn about planting seeds and growing plants. See the story on page 5.

SPORTS

The local high school sports teams’ seasons are winding down and some are seeing extra playing time while others will have to wait until next year. Check out the stories starting on page 7.

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- INSERTS
Bill’s Family Foods (All zips)
Menard’s (55320, 55319)
Runnings (All zips)



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Legions pay tribute to veterans on Memorial Day

The Becker American Legion, the Big Lake American Legion and the Clearwater American Le-

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

gion all held Memorial Day services on Monday to honor those who’ve served the United States in the Armed Forces.

Big Lake had a special early morning ceremony at the war memorial next to the McDonald’s Restaurant. That was followed by a veterans acknowledgement at the cemetery. Lunch was also

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THE BIG LAKE WAR MEMORIAL received a couple fresh wreaths along with the usual flag decorations during the early morning service Monday. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan.)

MEMBERS OF THE BECKER LEGION (L) made a stop at the South Santiago Cemetery at around 10 a.m. Monday on a beautifully, sunny, warm day. Commander John Riebel is at front of the lineup. (Submitted Photo.)

Oakwood Church is on the Move!

(Editor’s Note: The following article was submitted to the Patriot by Oakwood Church.)

Submitted Article

It’s time to move. Oakwood Community Church has met for the final time on the west end of Becker Furniture World.

OCC began to rent the former warehouse space 13 years ago. Over these years, the fellowship has outgrown that location and the church always intended to have a facility to call their own. Forgoing two previous attempts to purchase property, OCC has purchased space off Hwy. 10 on 1st St. between Bradley Blvd. and Edgewood St. The piece of property became available about three-quarters of a mile to the west of the Furniture World location.

This new facility will provide an

OAKWOOD CHURCH to page 12



PASTOR SARAH BASS (FRONT) AND LORI GWASH took the Oakwood Church cross down and were escorting it down the road to their new location last week. (Submitted Photo).

Chamber hosts Legislative Membership Meeting

At their May 30th Legislative Membership Meeting at Style Catering, over 40 members received

Submitted Article

updates from their state legislators and U.S. Chamber staff.

MN State Senator Andrew Mathews shared several items passed by the DFL majority: 20 weeks of paid leave paid by employees and employers through additional .07% payroll taxes starting in 2026, gas tax increase and indexed to inflation, higher energy costs for residents and businesses with green mandates. He added that contrary to what DFL candidates said

during the campaign, Social Security taxes were not fully eliminated.

State Representative Shane Mekeland added that Xcel Energy will have 20,000 farmland

acres in solar energy in Sherburne County in the next few years to provide the green energy mandated by the DFL majority. Rep. Mekeland and Senator Mathews had encouraged consideration of micro-nuclear energy as a less expensive and reasonable alternative.

Both Mathews and Mekeland noted that the \$260 rebate checks/person is estimated to cover about 6

CHAMBER to page 9

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Sponsored by the Becker Lions



GRRL kicks off 2023 summer reading program

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

Submitted Article

Great River Regional Library (GRRL) will kick off the annual Summer Reading Program (SRP) on Mon., June 5, continuing through Sat., August 5.

Registration begins June 5, in the Beanstack app, on GRiver.Beanstack.org, or by visiting a local library branch during open hours. Participants track their reading in the Beanstack app or using a paper slip, which they return to their library. Participants are eligible for prize drawings at the end of the program. In addition, each branch offers a unique assortment of prizes!

This year's theme, "Find Your Voice!" encourages kids to use their voices and realize their voices have power.

The program is open to all kids ages 0 to 18 and divided by age: pre-readers (ages 0 to 3), kids (ages 3 to 12), and teens.

GRRL's mission of the reading program is simple: Encourage children and teens to read throughout the summer!

Summer reading isn't just fun; it's extremely beneficial. Regular reading goes

far in combating the "summer slide," the phenomenon of students losing academic footing during a long academic break. Students who join public library summer reading programs scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than those who did not participate – in some cases, significantly higher.

This program wouldn't be possible without many generous sponsors. GRRL thanks Bernatello's Foods, Central Minnesota Optimist Club, EZBuy Bins, Jim's Auto Service, Kiwanis Club of St. Cloud, Kwik Trip, Infinite Eye Care, St. Cloud Friends of the Library, St. Cloud Industrial Products, St. Cloud Moose Club #1400, and St. Michael-Albertville Women of Today for sponsoring the 2023 Summer Reading Program.

Visit a local branch to learn more about how children can get involved this summer. See library hours at GRiver.org/locations. Visit the library's website for program details at www.GRiver.org/kids/summer-reading-program.

LEGIONS from page 1

served afterwards for any and all guests.

Becker's Legion traveled around to several cemeteries starting at 8 a.m. Monday. They concluded their procession at the Becker Cemetery at 11 a.m. and lunch was provided for guests at noon by the Becker Auxiliary.

The Clearwater Legion started their cemetery visits at St. Marcus Cemetery at 9 a.m.. They finished at Acacia Cemetery at 10:30 a.m. and held a brief ceremony at the Legion at 11 a.m. where lunch was also provided.

LUNCH WAS SERVED AT THE BECKER LEGION by Chip Mandel and Ron Simpson following the services for Memorial Day. (Patriot Photo by Carol Hanson.)



A VINTAGE FIRE TRUCK decked out for Memorial Day was on display outside the Third Rail Bar & Grill in Big Lake (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan.)



BECKER SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT JEREMY SCHMIDT (L) and State Representative Shane Mekeland shared a table at the Becker Legion lunch following the Memorial Day services. (Patriot Photo by Carol Hanson.)

Employment

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• Basic knowledge of heat treat processes.
• Basic knowledge of CNC programming.
• Basic knowledge of CAM & CAD software.
• Basic knowledge of geometric dimensioning and tolerances.
• Basic knowledge of operation of tool room equipment.
• Basic knowledge of Microsoft Office.
• Ability to work in a team environment as a positive member.
• Ability to plan and schedule work to efficiently move from one task to the next.
• Ability to multitask and be proficient at problem solving.
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• Ability to Apply problem solving skills.
• Ability to Apply Communication skills.
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Employment

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DUTIES PERFORMED:

- Maintain dies, fixtures, & gauges.
- Design dies, fixtures, & gauges using cad software.
- Program various CNC machines through our cam software and know G & M codes to prove out, and make adjustments to programs.
- Operate manual machines.
- Keep good documentation of die maintenance and other important information that comes up.
- Assist less experienced associates with day to day duties such as die sharpening, documentation, machine operations, etc.
- Trouble shoot problems with dies, fixtures, gauges, & machines.
- Plan, schedule, and cost justify projects and equipment.

LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITY:

- Intermediate knowledge of die components- know the different types of dies we have such as compound, progressive, and form dies and know the relationships that each of the various dies must have, such as punch to die clearance etc.
- Intermediate knowledge of CAD- understand how to properly draw fixtures, gauges, and dies.
- Intermediate knowledge of CAM- be able to take a CAD model and make a program with tool paths and feeds and speeds that are safe to maintain a safe work environment.
- Intermediate knowledge of G and M codes- be able to take a program and read the code to prevent crashes and make necessary adjustments.
- Basic knowledge of Microsoft Word / Excel- understand how to use both of these in order to record history of dies, fixtures, and gauges and also to maintain order of various work request that are being addressed.
- Intermediate knowledge of various measuring techniques- be able to take accurate measurements using various methods such as using a height stand with gauge pins to find hole locations in a die component as well as being able to accurately measure components with micrometers, calipers, optical comparators, gauge block, gauge pins, protractors etc.
- Ability to setup and operate CNC and manual machines- able to safely setup machines and secure components for the machining process in a variety of different machines such as CNC mill, CNC lathe, wire edm, manual bridgeport, drill press, manual surface grinder, and hydraulic controlled surface grinders.
- Has good communication skills
- Safety first mindset- approaches everything with safety in mind and doesn't cut corners to accomplish the job.
- Intermediate problem solving skills- mechanical aptitude.
- Ability to plan and schedule work to effectively move from one task to the next.

FORMAL EDUCATION INCLUDES:

- 2-year Tech College or equivalent experience
- 5 years minimum as Toolmaker in Metal Stamping is preferred.

Our facility is located in the "Heart of the Lakes", which is known for its abundance of lakes, great shopping/dining opportunities, top rated schools, and a strong sense of community amongst area residents! We are only 23 miles west of Buffalo and 23 miles south of St. Cloud.

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Age 55+ workers needed for PT light custodial work at the Fuller Lake & Enfield Rest Areas located on 1-94. Contact Green View at 651-639-1913



BECKER MIDDLE SCHOOL recently announced the winners in the 8th Grade Reading Masters Challenge. Lilliann Rozko (center) was named the reading champion with 13,847 total pages read in the contest, which runs from October until May. The top 6 readers combined to read over 40,000 total pages. Pictured: Media Assistant Kim Handeland, Noah Nielsen, Alix Schulte, Jaidyn Hemze, Lilliann Rozko, Kali Lombard, Chloe Peterson and Media Specialist Holly Wieber (submitted photo).

Becker holds graduation outside

Becker's 2023 graduation ceremony was held outdoors on the soccer field to a capacity crowd on a de-



KAYLA GRUENES (MIDDLE) and Emily Meyer (far right) gave senior class speeches early in the ceremony last Friday at Becker. (Patriot Photo by Bill Morgan.)

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

lightfully sunny and warm evening last Friday.

School Principal Dave Kreft gave the introduction following a fantastic rendition of the National Anthem by Senior Jada Soltau.

Becker seniors Emily Meyer and Kayla Gruenes were tasked with giving inspirational speeches about their experiences, their hopes and dreams for the Class of 2023.

Mike Garland and Brian Kolbinger were this year's Becker Hall-of-Famers and they dispelled their experience and wisdom on the 200+ senior class and their guests.

Following the ceremony, the seniors climbed into their vehicles and hit the streets for a celebratory parade through town to the delight of their family and friends.



BRIAN KOLBINGER (L) and Mike Garland received plaques to commemorate their being elected into Becker High School's Hall-of-Fame. (Submitted Photo).

Becker students visit Farm Friends Barn

Last week Thursday, the Farm Friends Barn invited kindergartners and first graders from Becker

By Katherine Cantin, Staff Writer
reporter.katie@patriotnewsnmn.com

Schools to come out and plant potatoes, learn about agriculture, and have a fun time at the barn.

Ken Bemboom, aka Farmer Ken, gave a lecture on how plants grow, and what happens after the seeds are put in the ground. Afterwards, the students had a chance to till the land and plant potatoes themselves. They also had a chance to climb on a real tractor, listen to a reading of the book "The Perfect Barn," and interact with an educational light-up board created by local girl scouts.



BECKER STUDENTS prepared to dig up the dirt. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)



FARM FRIENDS BARN VOLUNTEERS worked hard to put together a fun day for the students. Butch Woolhouse, Mary Jo Cobb, Teresa Steiner, Julie Dosh, Bev Knutson, Jody Buesgens, Craig Wensmann, Jean Johnson, Kristi Gilyard Kelly, and Ken Bemboom. Not pictured, afternoon volunteers: Peggy Anderson, Kathy Geary, Gloria Broecker, and Nancy Blomgren. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)



BECKER KINDERGARTNERS had a blast playing at the Farm Friends Barn. (Photo by Katherine Cantin.)

There are some new features at the barn that the Farm Friends are excited to show off. Recently, Gordy Borst donated an old tractor, which has been in his family for generations and still runs great. The barn also received a donation of a grain bin. In the near future, a grainery and a wire corn crib will also find a new home at the barn.

The Farm Friends Barn

has benefitted from many local donors, and also from a grant from the Minnesota Farm Bureau. With the grant money, the Farm Friends were able to host their fun learning day for 80 students in the classes of Mrs. Lyon, Mrs. Madsen, Mrs. Borchardt, and Mrs. Pauly.

Mary Jo Cobb worked as the volunteer coordinator for the field trip. She said that they were able to wel-

come four classes this year, as opposed to the two they had last year. She thanked her volunteers who helped make the day a success. All of the Farm Friends volunteers showed up to help run the event. Cobb said they always need more volunteers, and anyone interested should leave a message on the Farm Friends Barn Facebook page ([Facebook.com/FarmFriendsBarn](https://www.facebook.com/FarmFriendsBarn)).

BEA names Teachers of the Year

Four Becker educators were recently honored as Teachers of the Year from their respective buildings at a ceremony sponsored by the Becker Education Association.



Primary

At the primary school, second grade teacher **Corrie Wiechmann** received the honors.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnmn.com

A 20 year veteran of the classroom, Wiechmann was nominated by two colleagues because of her technology integration and extra efforts at creating the school's yearbook.

"She is always in the know about fresh ideas . . . she focuses on growth mindset with the students which positively impacts their outlook on learning," reads one portion of the nomination form. "My daughter is in her class and she told me 'I have loved Mrs. Wiechmann the best because she is nice and she knows just how to push me without making it too hard.'"

The other nominator noted Wiechmann's leadership and her passion for reading.

"Corrie is always researching and using the newest tech tools, best teaching practices and has an amazing classroom atmosphere," reads one excerpt from that nomination. "She creates engaging lessons, fun ways to learn new concepts, and is willing to help and share with anyone that asks."

Intermediate

After completing her 25th year at the intermediate school, including the past 19 in fourth grade, **Jill Johnson** was recognized by her colleagues.



Fellow teacher Courtney Dawson nominated Johnson because of the high expectations she holds for students.

"Jill is one of the most caring and creative teachers . . . she builds relationships with each of her students, and her students know she cares about each of them," Dawson wrote in her nomination. "She holds her students to high expectations and knows what is best for each kid. She

instills a love of reading in them and makes sure to read to them everyday."

Dawson went on to laud Johnson's calm presence, as well as her ability to organize teams of teachers to ensure everyone is included in the decision making process.



Middle

Jen Panek was honored as the teacher of the year in the middle school after being nominated by Language Arts teacher Abby Strom.

"Jen is wonderful at communicating with teachers about her students, helping students, and contacting families," reads part of Strom's description.

One co-worker described Panek as "calm, patient, funny, good hearted, a hard worker, reliable, and just an all-around wonderful person to work with!"

The middle school nomination also included some words spoken by students,

which included: "She deserves an award because she is really nice and she helps us get our work done"; "I like her because she takes her time with us and doesn't get mad if we don't know the answer"; and "She is a great teacher because she has a lot of patience. Math is my hardest subject but somehow she made it fun."

High



Veteran Technology Education teacher **Matt Eigen** was honored as the high school's winner.

Eigen's nomination highlighted his curriculum work, as well as his expertise in the area of communications technology.

"Matt keeps up with current technology . . . he has designed and maintained a computer lab as part of his teaching space since he was hired at BHS," reads one part of the nomination. "One of the areas he excels in is Communication Technology, and over the years Matt has continually updated the curriculum he teaches by developing new classes that better meet student needs and address current trends. As an example, Matt is currently designing a new engineering lab and engineering classes."

Additional supporting information for Eigen's nomination includes an exhaustive list of the many leadership positions he has held at the school, including: membership in the ITEA, MTEA and CMTEA; PLC leader; Youth Baseball Board, and numerous coaching positions.

Congratulations to all four 2023 Becker teachers of the year.

Public Notices

CITY OF BIG LAKE, MINNESOTA ORDINANCE NO. 2023-05

The Big Lake City Council approved an Ordinance to rezone a 0.8 +/- acres located south and east of Lake Street South, west of Ormsbee Street, north of Monroe Street from Residential Redevelopment (R-5) and Medium Density Residential (R-2) to Community Business (B-1). A printed copy of the Ordinance is available for inspection during regular office hours in the office of the City Clerk. Adopted by the Big Lake City Council on the 24th day of May 2023.
/s/ Gina Wolbeck, Clerk
(Published in the *Patriot*: 06/03/23.)

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NOTICE is hereby given that electronic bids will be accepted through the Sherburne County online bid portal <https://bidvault.mn.uccs.com/> until 1:00 PM on Tuesday, June 27, 2023. This will be the only means of submittal of a bid.

The Major Quantities of Work are:

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Common Embankment	CY	854
Aggregate Base Class 5	TON	1,622
Type SP 12.5 Wearing Mix (2,C)	TON	849
Concrete Curb & Gutter Design D412	LF	674
Solar Light	EACH	4

The bids will be reviewed by the County Engineer and County Attorney for the approval of the bid bond and the results of the review shall be posted within 3 business days at the following website: <https://mn-co-sherburne.app.rtvision.com/oneoffice>. Review of the bids by the County Engineer and the County Attorney should not be construed as an award of the bid. The final approval of the bid requires action by the County Board.

Plans & specifications may be examined at the office of the Sherburne County Highway Engineer, 13880 Business Center Drive Suite 100, Elk River MN 55330, Monday-Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm, or online at <https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/publicworks/index.php> & follow the Construction Projects & Bids (eGram) link. A user ID & password is required to download the Plans & Specifications. Contact Public Works at 763-765-3300 to obtain the necessary information.

The advertisement for this project may also be viewed at the MnDOT State Aid for Local Transportation eAdvert web site at <https://eadvert.rtvision.com>.

The cost to download the Plans & Specifications is free. The cost to obtain a hard copy of the Plans & Specifications is \$50.00 with an additional \$10.00 mailing fee.

THE COST TO SUBMIT A BID WILL BE \$25.00 PAYABLE TO RTVISION WHICH ALLOWS ACCESS TO THE ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS VIA BID VAULT AT <https://bidvault.mn.uccs.com>.

All bids shall be accompanied by a bid bond for at least five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid.

No bidder may withdraw their bid (which shall include the bid bond) within 15 days of the scheduled bid submittal date of Tuesday, June 27, 2023.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive minor irregularities. The County Board will consider award of the contract at the July 18, 2023 County Board Meeting contingent upon County Engineer & County Attorney review.

It is the County's intent to begin construction the middle part of September 2023 and completed by end of October 2023.

The County Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids & waive informalities.

DATED: at Elk River Minnesota, this 31st day of May 2023.

/s/ Bruce Messelt, County Administrator, Sherburne County, Minnesota
(Published in the *Patriot*: 06/03/23, 06/10/23, 06/17/23.)



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Hornets edge Bulldogs, 5-4 in section opener

The Big Lake baseball team erased an early deficit, then held on to beat Becker, 5-4 in the first round of the Section 5AAA playoffs Tuesday at Big Lake.

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsmn.com

Leadoff hitter Josh Groskruetz of the Bulldogs greeted pitcher Owen Wilczek with a line drive single on the first pitch to open the game, and it was the start of a four-run rally.

One out later, Josh Tobako was hit by a pitch. Wilczek then hit Becker starter Nolan Murphy with a pitch, and the bases were loaded with one out. Outfielder Sawyer Anderson followed with a single to right field, driving in Becker's first two runs. With Ethan Guck at bat, Wilczek attempted a pickoff at first base. But the throw went wide and into right field, allowing the third run to score while Anderson reached third on the play. With two outs, Anderson scored on a wild pitch to put the Bulldogs ahead, 4-0.

In the home first, Nolan Murphy hit Jaxyn Tschritter with a pitch to open the inning. But Becker turned a double play on Nolan Reiter's hard grounder to third, ending the threat.

Bruce Kraemer singled with one out in the second for the Bulldogs. Then Groskruetz tried a sacrifice bunt that turned into a single, and Becker was threatening again. But Wilczek struck out the next two batters to end the inning.

Big Lake catcher Keenan Hjermstad led off the second inning with a

single, but was thrown out at second on a steal attempt. Austin Schlieff followed with a walk, then Jackson LaRoche doubled to left field, driving in Schlieff with a run. After Conner Stern walked, Trent Josewski tripled to right field, driving in LaRoche and Stern. When the throw from the outfield got past third base, Josewski raced home with the tying run.

In the third, Anderson reached second on an error, but was left there, and that was one of the few scoring chances the Bulldogs would have over the next four innings.

Before Big Lake could bat in the home third, the skies opened up and it was thunder and rain for the



JOSH GROSKRUETZ scored Becker's first run in a four-run first inning against Big Lake. He had three hits for the Bulldogs in a 5-4 loss in the first round of section play. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

and moved to second on a groundout. After he stole third, Hjermstad ripped a single to right field to drive in the go-ahead run. Big Lake got another runner as far as third, but Murphy got out of the inning without any more scoring.

Becker catcher Ethan Obermoller led off the fourth with a single, but was erased on a double play. Groskruetz followed with his third hit of the game, but was stranded there when Owen Kolbinger grounded out to end the inning.

Murphy retired the side in order for the first time in the fourth inning, and Wilczek did the same in the top of the fifth.

In the home fifth, Big Lake had a good scoring chance when Reiter



OWEN WILCZEK settled down after a rocky first inning to pitch a complete game in Big Lake's 5-4 section win over Becker. (Photo by Ken Francis.)

ball that was caught against the left field fence, and the threat was ended.

Becker had another chance to tie the game in the sixth. With one out, Grant Studer was hit by a pitch and Obermoller reached on an infield error. But Wilczek struck out the next batter and retired Groskruetz for the first time on a fly out to end the inning.

Sawyer Anderson came in to pitch the sixth inning for Becker. He allowed a single by Stern, but struck out two batters and didn't allow a run.

Becker was looking for baserunners to try to tie the game in the seventh. But Wilczek retired the side in order to give the Hornets the win.

Wilczek allowed four runs on five hits. He walked

four, hit three batters and struck out nine.

Murphy took the loss. He allowed five runs on four hits. He walked five, hit three batters and struck out three.

Anderson singled and drove in two runs for Becker. Groskruetz had three hits and scored a run.

Stern had two hits for Big Lake and drove in two runs. Hjermstad had two hits and drove in a run. LaRoche doubled and had an RBI.

The Hornets were scheduled to play Monticello Thursday, results next week.

Becker was scheduled to play on Saturday at Princeton.



Area/Sports News

Hornets do well at M8 Conference track meet

The Big Lake boys placed fifth at the Mississippi 8 Conference Track and Field Meet at Big Lake

Gassman won four wheelchair events and set personal records in the shot put (18'1.5") and discus (35'3").

By Ken Francis, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

last Wednesday.

The boys won three individual titles and had one relay victory.

Owen Layton set a new conference record and won the 3200 meters in 9:25.4.

Jack Leuer won the 800 meters in 2:04.53 and finished second in the 1600 in 4:27.81.

Carson Kunz took first in the high jump, clearing six feet even.

Kade Layton was third in the 3200 meters in 9:53.65. Tanon Jacobson finished fifth in 10:21.03.

Spencer Vold cleared 12'6" to take fifth in the pole vault and finished sixth in the 800 meters in 2:09.55.

Riley Thompson threw the discus 133'6" to finish fifth and moved to #7 on Big Lake's Top 10 list.

The 4x800 relay team of Vold, Jacobson, Kade Layton and Owen Layton won in 8:22.13.

The 4x200 team of Wuoson Nehwah, Kyle Ginther, Ben Sellner and CJ Mikely finished fourth, but their time of 1:33.91 was just a second off the school record.

Overall, the boys had six All Conference and nine Honorable Mention performances, along with 17 personal bests.

For the girls, Tayla

Erin Kjellberg set a personal record and finished fifth in the 400 meters in 64.89 seconds. Carmen Herrera also set a personal best in the event at 68.97.

Alivia Voss cleared 4'8" in the high jump to take eighth and receive Honorable Mention.

Grace McCrone got Honorable Mention and had a season's best of 16'3" in the long jump.

Three Hornets set personal bests in the 200 meters: Ava Eastman (27.81), Sydney Roy (28.67) and Arrianna Wagner (30.20).

Grace Olson set a personal best in the shot put at 27'5.5".

Hailey Anderson had the top throw in the discus for Big Lake at 76'10".

The 4x200 team of Addison Holmen, Voss, McCrone and Eastman ran 1:55.29, a season's best.

The 4x400 team of Raina White, Voss, Sydney Roy and Leah Uphoff had a season's best time of 4:43.82.

The 4x800 team of Emilee Doperalski, Lexi Kapsner, Rylie Ostrom and Campbell Slattery had a season's best time of 11:30.69.

The Hornets competed in the section champions meet Wednesday and Friday, results next week.

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Hornets lose to Becker in Section playoffs

The Big Lake girls lacrosse team saw their season come to an end in the first round of playoffs Monday. Following is a re-cap of their final matches including their section matchup against Becker.

"During the halftime we discussed how we could maintain our defensive end and also generate more offensive chances," said Head Coach Lindsey Hartfiel.

Big Lake would get three more goals in the second made by Ella Beach, Gardner and Greisert.

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

The Hornets finished the season with a 5-9 record. **Mound Westonka 8, Big Lake 6**

May 23, Big Lake hosted Mound Westonka and lost by two goals in a co-op game with Princeton. The beginning of the game was pretty tight with no score until the 19 minute mark of the first half when a Mound player found the back of the net. They would get another goal a few minutes after, but the Hornets battled back with a goal made by Princeton's own Sloane Griesert bringing the score to 2-1.

A beautiful passing play up the field produced a goal from another home grown Princeton player, Jenna Bumgarner, and was assisted by Big Lake's Autumn Grunewald. The Hornets would gain another goal before the halftime at the 24 second mark with a fantastic passing play by senior defender Madison Farnsworth made to Amelia Gardner making it 3-2 for the home team.

Mound pushed back, and eventually surpassed the Hornets on their way to a two-goal win.

"I think this game got away from us early in the second, but we never quit and hung in there," said Hartfiel. "Mound was a very physical opponent, and may have gotten us away from how we like to play our game."

Chisago Lakes 15, Big Lake 1

Chisago Lakes came to town on May 25th and cruised to an easy win over the Hornets. Big Lake held Chisago Lakes to only four goals until the closing few minutes of the first half when Chisago called a timeout due to their frustration. Unfortunately for Big Lake, Chisago Lake's frustration led to another five goals before the half wrapped up with the Hornets down 9-0.

"We tried to adjust some of our tactics to try and slow them down further," said Hartfiel. The tactics didn't work as CL tallied six more goals in the second half to lead to a romp.

Big Lake's lone goal



THE BIG LAKE GIRLS LACROSSE TEAM had an inspiring season under Head Coach Lindsey Hartfiel and the program has a bright future despite losing in the first round of the section playoffs on Monday. (Submitted Photo).

came from Junior Amelia Gardner.

"Though this wasn't exactly what we were hoping for, I was proud of the way our girls played and finished the game," said Hartfiel. "I believe we will continue to improve each season against Chisago Lakes."

Becker 16, Big Lake 3

Big Lake's section opponent Monday at home was a team the Hornets were certainly familiar with. They played the Bulldogs twice this season and in the two team's first meeting it took triple OT to determine the winner (Becker 9, Big Lake 8.). In the second regular season game, Big Lake came out the winner with a one goal differential at 7-6.

"We knew that Becker would be a tough and evenly matched team for our section matchup," said Hartfiel.

In the first few minutes

Becker had taken the lead, but was quickly answered with a goal by Big Lake Junior Amelia Gardner (assisted by Freshman Sloane Griesert) to tie the game at 1-1.

Becker would go up by two goals making it a 3-1 lead, but that was answered again by Gardner and Griesert to make it 3-2. Little did they know, their magic would disappear as they struggled to slow Becker who ran away with the game halfway into the first half and were up 13-2 at the horn.

"We tried our best to decrease Becker's scoring chances by moving a couple players around, which did slow the scoring though it was too little too late," said Hartfiel.

Big Lake's final goal was made by Gardner to complete the hat trick for the evening.

"This was a tough way to end such a positive sea-

son," said Big Lake's head coach. "These girls have improved their skills and have found ways to win this season — just to come up short when we needed it. I can't say enough how proud I am of all our players this season from the returning seniors to the newly added underclassman."

Hartfiel says the coaches and players will certainly miss their senior class, both in their skills and leadership.

"We will graduate six senior players this season including Alyssa Acosta, Ana Baxter, Ella Beach, Autumn Grunewald, Madison Farnsworth, and Jade Sager," she said. "We also graduated two senior managers Jaycie Bergherr and Ryesha Lester. We'd like to wish them all the best in their future plans and future adventures. Thank you all for an outstanding season!"

CHAMBER from page 1

weeks of the increased taxes residents will face in the coming year. License tabs will go up. Deliveries over \$100 will have a road maintenance surcharge of 50 cents. State budget was increased by nearly 40% in the next 2 years, including 400 employees for the paid leave program.

Education received increased funds but also increased mandates. The Republicans were able to negoti-

ate an additional \$300 million for nursing homes.

U.S. Chamber Senior Manager of the Midwest Region Ethan Hellier shared information about their Liberty Coalition to expand the number of legal immigrants and protect the borders. He also reported on the federal debt ceiling legislation with spending caps for the next 2 years going through Congress before the June 5th deadline

for potential default.

Big Lake Chamber Executive Director Gloria Vande Brake encouraged businesses and employers to work with their attorneys and tax accountants to meet the various mandates. With the legalization of marijuana in August, employee policies may need to be reviewed. A mandatory paid earned sick and safe time of up to 48 hours is effective in January

2024 and may conflict with an employer's current paid time-off policies. The Chamber will provide a timeline of these new mandates in their newsletters.

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE Manager of Congressional and Public Affairs Ethan Hellier gave a presentation on federal issues. (Patriot Photo by Carol Hanson).



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Bulldogs send 3 to MSHSL Tennis Tournament

For the first time in program history, three Becker Bulldogs will be representing the program in this year's

by scores of 7-5 to secure the title.

Scheideman and Ryan Bengtson were also seeded #1 and they opened with a 6-1, 6-2 win over the top team from Moor-

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsnm.com

MSHSL State Tennis Tournament after a stellar Section 8AA tournament.

Zach Bengtson fought his way to the Section singles title to qualify, while his brother Ryan teamed up with Eli Scheideman to win the doubles title and the dynamic duo's third trip to state.

Coach Hakan Bengtson was ecstatic with his team's play throughout the Section meet.

"I am so proud of our kids," Bengtson said after the final match. "It was a historic day! Our kids all made the semi-final round and were battling to advance to the state tourney."

With the entire Bulldog team qualifying for state a week earlier, this means there will be plenty of Becker Blue on the courts at this week's team and individual tournaments.

Zach Bengtson came into the tournament as the #1 seed in the Section and he had to beat the best of the best to earn his trip to state.

He opened with a win over his opponent from Bemidji, then defeated the Runner-up from Monticello. In the finals, he downed St. Cloud's #1 player in what his dad and coach called "a three-set thriller".

Bengtson lost the first set 1-6, but came storming back to win the next two sets



WITH A SECTION TITLE UNDER HIS BELT Bulldog Zach Bengtson earned himself a spot at the State Class AA Singles Tennis Tournament. (Submitted Photo).

head before having to take on teammates Nick Gruber and Max Haugen in the semifinals. A win in that match set them up for a finals tilt against the top team from Alexandria where it was a straight set, 6-2, 7-6 (4) victory for the Bulldogs.

"Eli and Ryan played great today," their coach said after the match.

Scheideman took time after securing his third state tournament qualification to reflect on his season.



FOR THE THIRD TIME in their illustrious tennis careers, Eli Scheideman and Ryan Bengtson will be making an appearance at the MSHSL Doubles State Tennis Tournament. (Submitted Photo).

"This is a special team that will have lifelong relationships with each other . . . it has been a goal of ours all year and to make it to state," Scheideman said. "It's also a very big testament to this team and how much the extra work after practice goes a long way. It's a combination of great coaching, strong leadership and buy-in from the top to bottom of the lineup that has made this team special. Hopefully, it makes younger kids in this town excited to be a part of the tennis program."

Coach Bengtson also noted the efforts of his other athletes who made it to the semifinals.

Gruber and Haugen had started the day with an upset

of the #2 team from Bemidji before falling to their Bulldog teammates. In the 3rd place match, they lost to the #1 doubles team from St. Cloud and finished 4th overall.

In the singles bracket, Troy Nuest finished fourth. He started the day with an upset of his own over the #1 seed from Sartell before losing a very close match to the player who finished second to Zach Bengtson.

"Then Troy battled hard for the third set but in the end didn't have enough shots to beat the #1 singles player from Monticello," Bengtson said.

The MSHSL state tennis tournament will be held June 6-9 at the U of MN Baseline Tennis Center.

Bulldog track competes at Mississippi 8 Conference meet

Last Wednesday, the Becker boys and girls track teams competed in the Mississippi 8 Championship meet

finishing 5th through 8th or 3rd and 4th place relay teams.

Carter Reckelberg earned All-Conference honors in all four of his events, including breaking his previous long jump record by leaping 23' 7.5" to win that event. Carter also won the triple jump at 44' 1" and was part of the 4x100 relay team that won with a time of 43.75 (additional relay team members were Julius Hendricks, Mitchell Soltau, and Logan Eisele).

Eisele and Reckelberg then earned All-Conference honors by taking 2nd and 3rd in the 200 meters with times of 22.54 and 22.86, respectively.

Tyson Ricker earned the honors in both the 1600 with a first-place time of 4:26.34

and in the 800 with a second place time of 2:05.69.

Owen Angel won the pole vault with a new school record of 14'8" and won the 110 hurdles with a time of 15.40. He also placed 3rd in the 300 IH with a time of 41.62.

"All three of these events earned Owen All-Conference honors," Schmidt said. Angell added honorable mention status by placing 6th in the high jump with a leap of 5'8".

Becker also had honorable mention all conference athletes in several other events, including Alex Weiss in the 400 meters with a personal best time of 53.73, placing 7th. Soltau placed 5th in the 100 with a personal best time of 11.57, while Parker Spindler earned a 5th place finish in the 1600 with a time of 4:41.64.

Tanner Felton finished in 8th place with a time of 4:48.97 in the same event, while Spindler added a 7th in the 3200 with a time of 10:31.32.

Julius Hendricks added to the list of honorable mention athletes, his being in the long jump with a personal best 21' 6", good for 7th place.

Girls
"We finished a respectable 4th as a team and had 7 PR performances and 5 season best performances," Coach Trish Reimer-Kealy said of the girls team performance.

7th grader Adele Changamire was the conference champion in the 1600 meters with a PR time of 5:18.49.

"She ran a good race with some very good competition and is was an exciting

finish," Reimer-Kealy said. "Adele also earned All-Conference in the 800 meters by placing 2nd in a time of 2:26.83 in a close race. This can be a tough double and she really put forth a couple of good races."

Hannah Dierkes ran well in the 400 where she placed 2nd with her PR time of 61.45, while Kaylyn Rickard ran her best 400 of the season (54.76) to place 4th.

Lauren Woelfel placed 2nd in the pole vault, eclipsing 10'10 and had a PR in the triple jump (33'0) for 5th.

"Our other All-Conference award was for the 4x800 relay team of Dani Nuest, Katelyn Brower, Brooklyn Karel and Alea Briggs with a season best time of 10:10.30 finishing 2nd," Reimer-Kealy said.

Junior Kylee Morton

earned PR marks in all 3 of her individual events along with running the 4x100 relay, as she placed 5th in the 100 (13.14), 7th in the 200 (27.37) and 6th in the long jump (16'6") to earn honorable mention status.

Other honorable mention awards included: Alea Briggs (800 4x400), Olivia Babler (3200), Raellee Lyon (100 hurdles and 4x100), Reese Hausmann (4x100), Salayna Allen (100, 4x100), Dani Nuest (4x200, 4x400), Abby Atwood (4x200), Kailey Thompson (4x200), Dierkes (4x200, 4x400), Changamire (4x400), Woelfel (triple jump) and Olivia Maunu (shot put).

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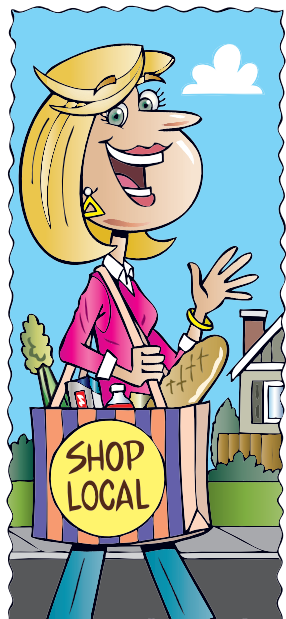
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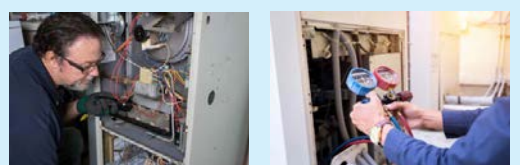
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Bulldog girls drive away with 3rd title

The Becker girls golf team completed their conference season last week

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer
production@patriotnewsmin.com

and came away with the Mississippi8 title for the third straight season.

The Bulldogs finished up last Wednesday at Purple Hawk golf course in Cambridge and Layla Mathews won the meet medalist honors by firing an impressive round of 83. Teammate Alexa Voller was close behind and finished in second place with a round of 86, while Emma Benson chipped in an 8th place finish with a score of 97.

For the round, Becker finished with a first place score of 366, 11 strokes ahead of the Wildcats from Chicago Lakes.

Not only did Becker claim first at the meet, but the season totals showed the Bulldogs easily claiming the conference title once again.

For the seven meet totals, Becker came in with 2,515 total strokes, whereas the Wildcats were second with 2,635. The Bulldogs' average for the 7 conference rounds was 359, a full 17 shots better than their closest foe.

The Bulldogs also dominated in the individual scoring, as Voller was named the Conference Medalist with an average score of 83.6 for her rounds. Mathews

was close behind in second place in the M8 with an average of 84.6 strokes. Benson finished 4th overall at a clip of 87.2 strokes per round, while

Avery Johnson was 12th. All four Bulldogs earned All-Conference honors for the season by finishing in the top 12 golfers in the M8.

"The girls took home some hardware today," Coach Anna Babler said immediately following the match. "We claimed the Conference Champ title for the third consecutive year, Alexa came in the top spot as conference medalist and four of our six Varsity girls were named All Confer-



THE BECKER GIRLS GOLF TEAM won their third consecutive Mississippi8 Conference golf title, and four Bulldogs were named to the All-Conference team. (Submitted Photo).



ALEXA VOLLER had a great season on the links for the Becker girls golf team and was named the Medalist for the Mississippi8 Conference. (Submitted Photo).

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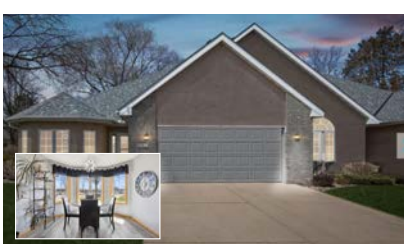
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ence!"

The team was scheduled to start Section play on Thursday at the Headwaters course in Park Rapids.

Complete results will be carried in next week's Patriot.

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Bulldog softball advances in playoffs

The Becker softball team won its opening section contest last week with a 5-3 win over Monticello, while Coach Jason Baune also announced that three of his players earned a berth in the All Star Series.

By Mark Kolbinger, Contributing Writer

In last Thursday's section win over the Magic, the Bulldogs struck first with some great two-out hitting in the bottom of the first.

After the first two Bulldog hitters were retired, Hannah Bartlett singled and Nevaeh Gardner followed with a walk. That brought up Evelyn Kreft, who hit a missile over the fence in left center field for a 3-0 lead. Kurstyn Patnode was dominant on the mound, as she continued to mow down the Magic batters and the score remained 3-0 until the bottom of the fourth.

Jackie Neumann reached on a Magic error, Allie Duncombe followed with a walk and Kennedy Drehmel singled to drive in Neumann, making the score 4-0.

In the bottom of the fifth, Maddie Sherman added what turned out to be an important insurance run with a solo home run to lead off the inning. After a quick sixth inning, the Magic rallied in the top of the seventh. Two walks, three singles and a Bulldog error allowed three runs to score and put runners at second and third with two-outs, but a ground out to Norah Fitzpatrick ended the rally and gave Becker the 5-3 win.

Kreft and Bartlett led Becker at the plate with two hits each, while Patnode picked up the win going all seven innings, allowing three runs, two earned, on five hits. She walked four and struck out nine.

With the win, Becker advanced to the winner's bracket final against St. Francis at noon on Wednesday.

All Stars
Baune also announced this week that three of his players had been selected among 88 seniors from across Minnesota to play in the Minnesota Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Star Series on Sunday, June 11th in Mankato.

"Kurstyn Patnode, Hannah Bartlett and Nevaeh Gardner were each selected by the Coaches Association to play and another senior, Maddie Sherman, would have likely been selected as well, but is unable to attend due to college orientation," Baune said.

Patnode has started for the Bulldogs since eighth grade, and was a part of the 2019 team that finished fourth in state. She played a key role in the 2021 state championship team, including hitting the winning home run in the state quarterfinals and a 3-run homer in the 7th inning of the state championship game.

She plans to attend MSU-Mankato in their dental hygiene program, and play softball.

Bartlett has been a three-year starter for the Bulldogs at first base, including on the 2021 state championship team.

Hannah is a senior captain on this year's team and plans to attend MSU-Mankato to major in elementary education.

Gardner is a two-year starter for the Bulldogs and provides great power in the heart of the lineup as she leads the Bulldogs with five home runs this year after hitting three as a junior.

She is a senior captain this year and plans to attend the University of North Dakota as a part of their aviation program.

All three Bulldog seniors will attend the MFCA Hall of Fame/All-Star Banquet on the morning of June 11th before heading to Caswell Park to play two games in the All-Star Series in the afternoon.

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FRIBERG from page 1

Duty and Honor

After the war was over, he was part of a crew that was sent to the areas around Japan to pick up Americans who had become prisoners of war. It was dangerous duty, but he can still remember how frail the prisoners looked.

"We had to be very careful because of the mines in the water," Friberg recalls. "Those guys we picked up were just skin and bones."

With all of the memories of his service in World War II, Friberg counts himself as one of the lucky ones.

"I don't think I did much compared to some of those guys," Friberg says. "I guess I was one of the lucky ones."

On November 7, 1945, Bill was honorably discharged from military service.

Post-War

Once Bill settled into civilian life, he worked for the VA before settling in for a 35 year career with Northern States Power.

He also became an avid golfer, something he did until he was 95 years old. How good was his swing? Four holes-in-one. What else would one expect from Bill Friberg, a member of the Greatest Generation — 100 years on Earth and going strong.



BILL FRIBERG blew out the candles on his birthday cake as his wife, JoAnn (right) looked on. (Patriot Photo by Carol Hanson).

OAKWOOD from page 1

increased area inside as well as a large green space for outdoor fun and fellowship. Parking issues that were a challenge at the former facility have now been resolved.

Pastor Gerry and Sarah Bass and staff are anticipating getting settled in their new home soon and renovation of the building has not deterred them from moving forward. The former location has been emptied and demolition/reconstruction of the new location has begun.

As the congregation can't meet inside just yet, their first gathering on Sun., June 4 will be in the parking lot.

(A throwback to the distance mandates of the Pandemic days — it'll be a Drive-in Church!)

The members will be pulling out the hay wagons; and the worship team and podium will be placed up on the bed. If the weather allows, parishioners are encouraged to bring their lawn chairs. Private automobile seating will also be allowed (horn blowing may be substituted for clapping).

The OCC community feels a sense of excitement and they are extending an invitation for all to join them in their new season of adventure.



Congratulations,

CLASS OF 2023!



4 Hornet students honored for excellence

Back in April, Resource Training and Solutions honored 129 honorees at the thirty-fifth Students of Excellence awards banquet held Wednesday, April 26th at St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center. 495 people attended the event including area administrators, educators and parents of those being honored.

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

Seniors from 32 area districts were selected based on exemplary academic achievement, leadership skills, or school/community involvement which can include exemplary, positive role models to fellow students or staff as well as making a difference every day in the lives of fellow students, staff and community. Additional criteria may have been established by individual districts.

Savannah Baker, Emma Jacobs, Ryesha Lester, and Rebekka Rotz were the recipients from Big Lake.

The ceremony opened

with a welcome address from Mark Schmitz, Executive Director of Resource Training & Solutions. Ken Anderson, Board of Directors chair for Resource Training & Solutions also extended his congratulations to the honorees. Entertainment for the evening was provided by *Duelly Noted*, an interactive dueling piano act based out of the Twin Cities.

The presentation of the awards was orchestrated by Brad Sellner, Superintendent, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted School District.

Schmitz concluded the evening with closing comments and families gathered for photo opportunities and congratulations.

"Congratulations to our 2023 Students of Excellence Awardees," Schmitz remarked in the program handout. "You have worked hard throughout your educational career and this is an opportunity for us to recognize you for your hard work. We congratulate you today and wish you continued success in your future endeavors and throughout

your adult life."

Schmitz mentioned to the guests that some of them may know that Babe Ruth articulated a particular saying that people should take to heart: "It's hard to beat a person who NEVER gives up."

"As you continue on in life, you will undoubtedly experience some failures along with your successes," he said. "During these challenging moments, please remember that challenges are simply an indication that you have expanded your horizons; you are learning and growing. Remember, too, that if you do not give up, you will be a person who is hard to beat and that another moment of success is right around the corner."

Resource Training & Solutions partners with participating school districts to sponsor the Students of Excellence recognition event. Shari Fruechte, Events and Administrative Coordinator, and the Educational Services team at Resource Training & Solutions coordinate the event.



FOUR BIG LAKE SENIORS received Students of Excellence awards in April at St. Cloud River's Edge Convention Center. Savannah Baker, Emma Jacobs, Ryesha Lester and Rebekka Rotz posed with their awards. (Submitted Photo).

 <i>Aaliyah Suzanne McCabe</i>	 <i>Elisabeth Adrianna Violet Pintok</i>	 <i>Alec Jerome Kapsner</i>	 <i>Alexis Rose Kison</i>	 <i>Allie Marie Thompson</i>	 <i>Allie Paige Earney</i>	 <i>Alyna Tachelle Acosta</i>	 <i>Alyssa Christine Hoss</i>
 <i>Amado Cole Espinosa</i>	 <i>Amaya J Clark</i>	 <i>Andraya Laura Eisenschenk</i>	 <i>Anika Ruth Baker</i>	 <i>Anna Clare Scales</i>	 <i>Anna Sofia Jacobsen</i>	 <i>Annalise Sophia Lund</i>	 <i>Ashley Erica Schommer</i>
 <i>Ashton Donald-William Johnson</i>	 <i>Audrey Ann Wertish</i>	 <i>Autumn Mckenzie Grunewald</i>	 <i>Ava Ann Joseph</i>	 <i>Avery Jamison Bergstrom</i>	 <i>Avery Simone Lundy</i>	 <i>Bailey Lucille Muehlbauer</i>	 <i>Bao Gia Tran</i>
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 <i>Brady David Johnson</i>	 <i>Braeden Richard Badeaux</i>	 <i>Breanna Catilyn Ziembo</i>	 <i>Brielle Elizabeth Eckhardt</i>	 <i>Brit Michael Dawes</i>	 <i>Britney Rose Krumrei</i>	 <i>Broden Andrew Johns</i>	 <i>Brooklyn Rae Chojnacki</i>
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 <i>Charles Daniel Madison</i>	 <i>Charles Gilchrist</i>	 <i>Charles Richard Pishney</i>	 <i>Cherish Mae Washburn</i>	 <i>Chloe Katherine Danzl</i>	 <i>Cody David Helriegel</i>	 <i>Cohen Lee Neilson</i>	 <i>Conner Leroy Rosenthal</i>
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Congratulations,



CLASS OF 2023!

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 Hailey Marie Anderson	 Halle Faith Holman	 Hannah Lee Hildebrandt	 Hayden Scott Dorton	 Henry Jamie Schmidt	 Holly Breanna Eggleton	 Hunter Daniel Lindman	 Nolan Miller
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This material was developed, in part, under grant #NH28CE002902 from ONDCP, CDC & HHS

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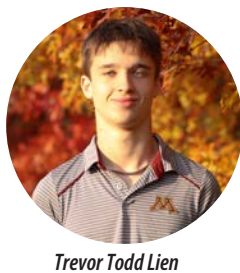
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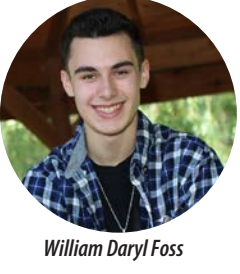
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“Your education is a dress rehearsal for a life that is yours to lead.” —Nora Ephron

Class Motto:
 “Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift. That’s why they call it the present!” - Master Oogway

Class Song: “Good Old Days - Macklemore feat” By Kesha

Class Flower: Babies Breath

Diploma display ideas

Graduation day is one of the proudest moments in students’ academic careers. Diplomas are symbolic of hours spent honing skills and working on assignments and, ultimately, success in the classroom. High school diplomas represent an opportunity to go on to higher learning or a trade, while college degrees indicate young people are ready to begin their professional lives.

can house items that are thicker than photographs or papers. Items such as a graduation tassel, medal or other award, a varsity jacket patch, or a program from a school performance or awards ceremony can be placed in the shadow box.

Create a Photo Wall
 Display the diploma among other framed photos from school activities. This can elicit a trip down memory lane every time the wall is viewed. Some families may want to display their diplomas together, especially if multiple family members attended the same school.

Make a Work of Art
 Various online art vendors can turn the diploma into different works of art. For example, engravers can laser engrave the diploma onto a wooden plaque. Then the diploma can be displayed in one location and the wood plaque in another.

Place it Under Glass
 Display the diploma beneath the glass top of a coffee table. When entertaining guests, the diploma can make for a unique conversation piece.

A school diploma is worthy of recognition. There are various creative ways to display these documents that reflect the hard work and success of their recipients.

Submitted Article

Many graduates are excited about the prospect of receiving their diplomas. Once in hand, the document can be put on display. The following are some unique ways to showcase diplomas at home or at work.



Framing
 One of the classic ways to display a diploma is in a frame. Many businesses offer customized framing where the frame material and the matting can be chosen. Some grads may want to include a photograph of the school or a picture of the graduate above the diploma. Graduates also may want to select a frame and mat that coordinates with school colors.

Create a Shadow BBox
 Consider displaying the diploma with other mementos from school. A shadow box is a large, deep display frame that

The Lions Club of Big Lake Lioness would like to Congratulate the Big Lake Graduating Class of 2023

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The many benefits of vocational training

Earning a four-year degree is one path toward a rewarding career. However, that path is the only

education Services. Here are some benefits to pursuing an education in the trades.

admissions processes at colleges. Course prerequisites and grade point average requirements also may not dictate trade school admissions policies.

Submitted Article

one available to aspiring professionals. Enrolling in a vocational program can provide students with the skills necessary to engage in high-demand and well-paying jobs.

Vocational school, often referred to as "trade school," can be an advantageous route for many people who are looking for an alternative to college. In 2020, the National Center for Education Statistics said a four-year private college cost around \$50,300 for a student living on campus, while a four-year public college was roughly \$24,300 annually. A 2018 poll from The Learning House, a skills training and coursework company, found 35 percent of students said tuition and other fees were their primary concerns when choosing college programs. Trade schools can cost three times less than other schooling, making them more palatable to young people concerned about the high costs of college.

Career and Technical Education programs number around 1,200 in the United States alone. Many students begin vocational career tracks in high school, according to American Ed-

Lower cost: According to NCES, trade schools cost significantly less than four-year institutions. Data from the U.S. Department of Education says programs may run between \$3,600 to \$16,000

Direct, hands-on training: Unlike a traditional college that marries general education courses with those specific to a major, trade school pro-



per year. Most vocational programs last two years, meaning that students graduate with far less debt than they might accrue when pursuing a four-year college program.

Individualized attention: Many trade programs offer instruction in very intimate settings, with experienced practitioners serving as mentors and trainers. While each program is different, vocational training schools tend to have lower faculty-to-student ratios than traditional colleges.

Fewer admission requirements: Trade schools may not have the same stringent application and

grams focus only on skills and training relevant to each student's chosen career path.

Less time to complete schooling: More direct lessons means that students can complete their certifications or degrees in shorter times and enter the workforce much more quickly than their counterparts at traditional colleges and universities.

Vocational training in trade schools is a viable option for students who want to spend less money and gain valuable skills they can utilize to earn a good living.

The U.S. Coast Guard serves a unique role

The United States Coast Guard is one of the nation's oldest and most respected federal agencies. It was established in 1790 and continues to serve a dual role both domestically and internationally.

to serve as part of the U.S. Navy, defending the nation against terrorism and foreign threats at sea. The Coast Guard technically is both a federal law enforcement agency and a branch of the military.

"Semper Paratus (Always Ready)," and members of the USCG are on duty in many different capacities every day of the year.

Submitted Article

The U.S. Coast Guard is comprised of roughly 42,000 men and women. Unlike other branches of the government, the Coast Guard has distinct roles during times of peace and war. In times of peace, the Coast Guard is part of the Department of Homeland Security, which also oversees the U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency. The Coast Guard protects marine environments, enforces laws at sea, helps guard the coastline, and engages in life-saving missions at sea. During conflicts and time of war, the United States President can direct the Coast Guard

The Coast Guard is often the first responder on the ocean or other waterways. The Coast Guard protects the water and coastline through 11 official missions. These include:

1. Search and rescue
 2. Marine environmental protection
 3. Drug interdiction
 4. Aids to navigation
 5. Living marine resources
 6. Defense readiness
 7. Port and waterway security
 8. Migrant interdiction
 9. Marine safety
 10. Ice operations
 11. Law enforcement
- The service motto of the Coast Guard is

The U.S. Coast Guard is always looking for new recruits. A person can enlist in the Coast Guard right out of high school or apply to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Graduates earn a bachelor's degree as well as an officer's commission. That can result in higher pay and greater responsibility over time. Learn more about the United States Coast Guard at www.uscg.mil.



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Congratulations,

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7 gift ideas for soon-to-be graduates

Submitted Article

It would be an understatement to say that it has been an interesting few years for the Class of 2023. Due to the pandemic, many soon-to-be grads spent a significant portion of their school years adapting to a changing landscape, both at school and at home. While it is an accomplishment to reach graduation in a "normal" situation, students who have succeeded and thrived in the face of pandemic-related adversity are worthy of extra celebration.

Graduation gifts are a great way to show grads how proud you are that they stayed the course in the face of significant challenges. Here are seven gift ideas for graduates.

1. Journal: Graduates are about to start new chapters in their lives. Either a blank journal or one with writing prompts can help grads get their thoughts on paper to document both the many moments that will shape the next few years.

2. Mascot- or school-themed offerings: If a high school graduate will be going on to higher education, then visit the college or university's spirit shop to purchase

anything from sweatshirts to blankets to coffee mugs featuring a school logo or mascot. On the first day of classes, the new student will already feel part of the team.

3. New wardrobe: Graduating means forging new paths, whether in a career or through additional schooling. Grads can look the part with several items from a favorite retailer. Those who are unsure of the graduate's style can purchase a gift card and let the grad go on a spending spree.

4. Framed school photo or map: A piece of artwork can evoke strong emotions of time spent on campus. Frame a black-and-white or sepia-tone print of the aerial view of campus, or opt for an official school tour map, which indicates buildings and other points of interest. This could become a cherished keepsake.

5. Bedside organizational pouch: Dorm life requires maximizing a small amount of space. An organizational pouch or pocket can keep essentials such as a tablet, book, reading glasses, and remote control close by

and organized without taking up a lot of room. Some are designed to rest over a couch cushion or slide between a mattress and bed frame.

6. Automotive essentials: Graduates will be facing all sorts of new expenses, so easing any sort of financial burden can help them in a big way. Vehicles tend to be major financial drains for teens and young adults. Pre-paid cash cards, gas station gift cards, vouchers for car washes, and even gift cards to an automotive supply store can help graduates direct their funds elsewhere.

7. Personal coffee-maker: Many people feel coffee is essential to make it through the day. Graduates who will soon be studying for college exams or those waking up early for their first forays into the workforce may appreciate an on-demand pick-me-up. Coffeemakers are much more streamlined these days, and there are pots designed to use loose grounds or special pods to produce cups quickly.

Shoppers can explore many interesting options to commemorate the accomplishments of the class of 2023.

Factors to consider before enrolling in college prep courses

Submitted Article

High school students, particularly juniors and seniors, spend a considerable

amount of time contemplating their academic futures. Students typically feel pressure to set themselves apart from the millions of other teenagers who apply to college each year, and many look to college prep courses as a potential game-changer. College prep courses can improve students' standing in the eyes of college admissions officers, but it's imperative that high schoolers consider a host of factors before enrolling in such courses.

• Time: Today's high school students are busier than ever. The 2019 American Time Use Survey from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics found that the average high school student spends a little less than 90 minutes each day participating in an extracurricular activity like playing sports, working or volunteering. Coupled with their existing academic responsibilities, high schoolers' time may already be stretched

thin. That's a significant factor to consider before enrolling in college prep or advanced placement courses, which tend to require more work outside of the classroom than standard classes. Students whose schedules are already full may need to choose between their extracurriculars and college prep courses to avoid being overextended.

• Ripple effect: Students who have the time to

than their peers who excel in conventional classes. However, students should be sure they can handle AP coursework without adversely affecting their performance in other classes. Students' grade point averages will likely drop if a strong performance in an AP class comes at the expense of strong performances in other classes. That dip in GPA could negate the benefits of performing well in an advanced course.

• Graduation/admission requirements: A strong performance in an AP class will not negate the basic requirements students must meet in order to graduate high school or be accepted into the college of their choice. Students must confirm that including a college prep or AP course in their class schedules won't prevent them from taking another course that will help them fulfill their requirements to graduate or enroll in college.

College prep and advanced placement courses can help students stand out during the college application process. But students must consider various factors prior to enrolling in such courses.



take on the extra work of AP or college prep courses must consider the potential ripple effects of such a decision. It's true that many institutions view students who excel in AP classes more favorably

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Congratulations, Big Lake graduates!

We wish our Old National scholarship recipient Macy Craig and the entire 2023 class the best of luck for the future.

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