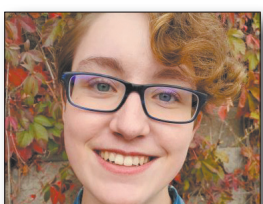




Dedicated citizens
Skoog brothers were dedicated to Big Lake
See Page 7

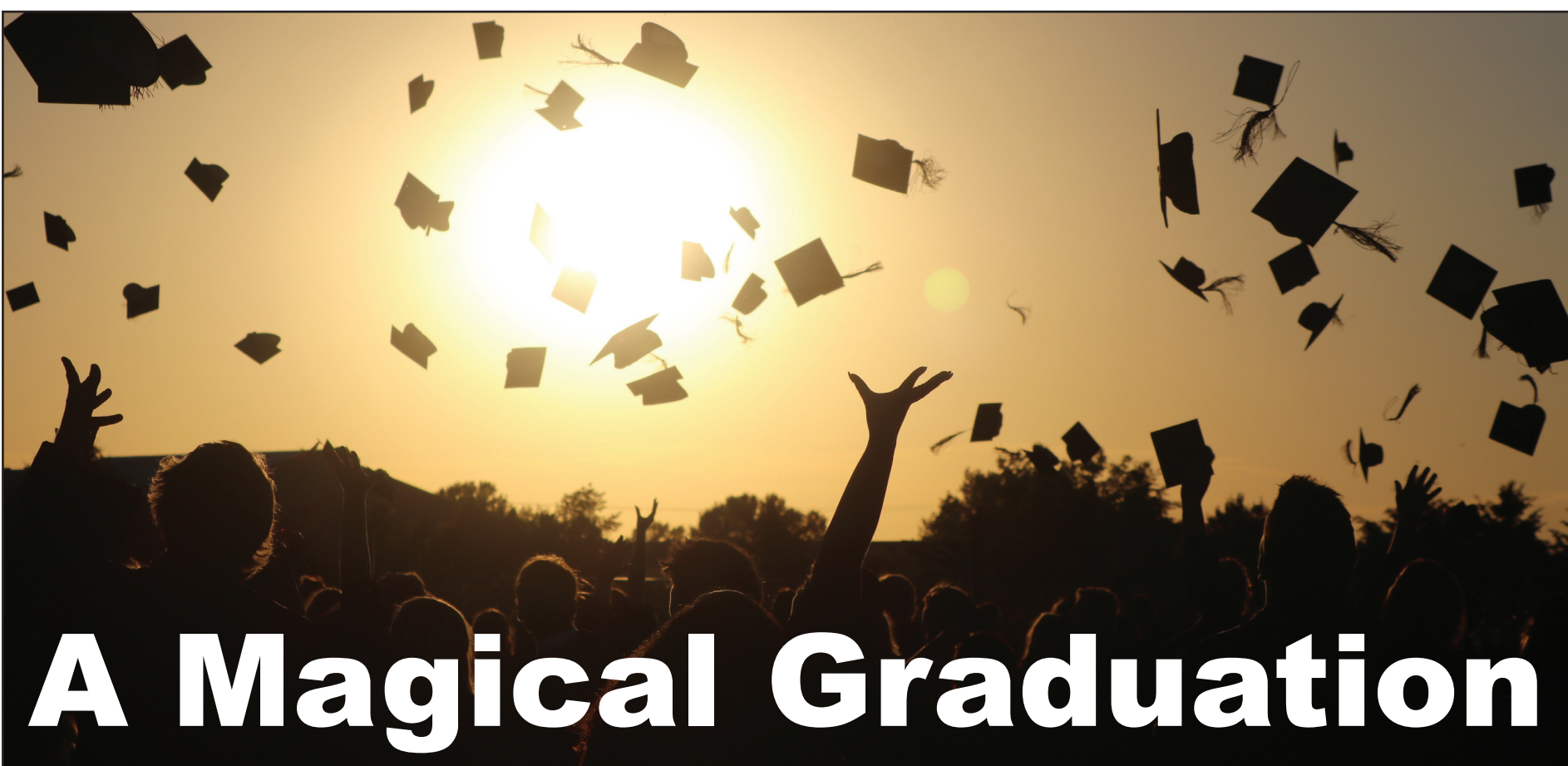


Transition year
A Big Lake senior reflects on 2020-21
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MONTICELLO Times

Thursday, June 10, 2021

Covering the cities of Monticello and Big Lake, and Wright and Sherburne counties \$1



A Magical Graduation

310 Monticello seniors receive their diplomas

BY JEFFREY HAGE
MONTICELLO TIMES

“No doubt, you got this.” Those were the words of Monticello Superintendent Eric Olson Friday, June 4 as he looked over the 310 Monticello High School seniors who were minutes away from being certified as graduates of the Class of 2021.

As Olson addressed the graduates, he reminded them of the challenges they faced as being the only graduating class to spend a full year learning under the limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic. “You’ve endured challenges the past 15 months, but also growth opportunities,” Olson said.

“This will go down as one of the most non-traditional 15 months in the history of education,” he said.

“You endured it. You’ve done something absolutely amazing,” Olson said.

As Olson looked over the students one last time, he left them with one more message.

“You absolutely impress me,” Olson said. “No doubt, you got this.”

Moments earlier, Principal Mike Carr gave the 134th graduating class of Mon-

ticello the last commencement address of his long career in education. Carr is retiring as Monticello High School principal on June 30.

“I’m proud to be their principal,” Carr told the crowd of students, parents, friends and relatives gathered to watch the graduation ceremony on a hot and humid night when temperatures exceeded 90 degrees.

“The Class of 2021 should be proud of its accomplishments, but also be thankful for the opportunities and gifts given them along the way,” Carr said.

“If you have gratitude, then what you have is enough,” he told the soon-to-be graduates.

It’s certainly OK to want to better yourself and aspire to have continuous growth in your life, Carr said.

“But its most important to be grateful for those who have made a difference in your life,” he concluded.

When Olson first took to the podium, he encouraged the high school seniors to look around them.

“This is just part of the community support that is here tonight to see you

Monticello Graduation/See page 12



Photo by Jeffrey Hage / Monticello Times

Monticello High School graduate Kaelyn Nelson shows off her diploma at the 2021 Monticello High School commencement ceremony on Friday, June 4.

Big Lake sends seniors off with plenty of advice

BY JEREMY LAGOS
MONTICELLO TIMES

225 senior Hornets tossed their caps in the air at the conclusion of the 104th annual commencement ceremony on the evening of Friday, June 4. It was a time for celebration for the families of the young men and women ready to join the adult world.

The ceremony took place in the stadium outside of the high school with the graduates taking their place in the bleachers while their families watched from the field. The 2021 graduates took the stage with music in the air while the sun began its descent.

Senior Mia Huberty held the honor of giving the commencement address and spent her time reminiscing about her time spent at Big Lake and the memories she will take with her.

“I always thought that I would look forward to graduation because each year the seniors would talk about how excited they were and how ready they were to move on. But it feels a little different now that I’m standing in front of you today,” said Huberty.

She talked about how all the different moments and experiences make up a mosaic of our lives and that they make us into who we are as a person. She spoke on her favorite memories, like when the entire school sang the song “Country Roads” during sophomore homecoming.

“These are just some small pieces of my much larger mosaic. I hope to expand my mosaic even greater and not limit myself to these experiences... and hopefully it will all pay off some day and I’ll be the CEO of a company,” added Huberty.

JUMP LINE / See page 15



Photo by Jeremy Lagos / Monticello Times

Big Lake seniors fill the bleachers of the football stadium on graduation night, Friday, June 4, 2021 while Isaac Flicker gives a commencement address.

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