



1937

1954

1954

forester

1948-49



1917



1990-91



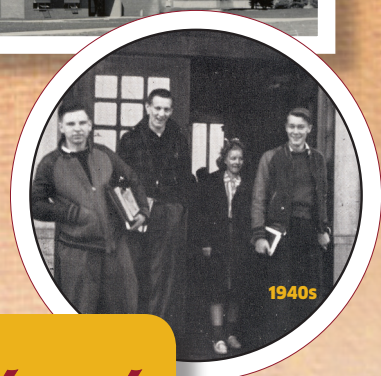
2008



1940s



1957



1940s

# Forest Lake Area Schools





## summary >>

Forest Lake Area Schools has a long and storied history, starting from its rural roots in the early 1900s as a single schoolhouse to the vast, multi-cultural suburban educational center of the present.

Since 1912, the year of Forest Lake's first graduating class, more than 20,000 students have earned their diplomas from the school. Many of these graduates have gone on to great careers in fields such as business, medicine, law, education, agriculture, government service and the military.

But the district's humble beginnings started more than a century ago when in 1909 the school downtown was replaced by a new building – a little schoolhouse on 4th Street that, by itself, served the educational needs of all of the children of Forest Lake.

Old Alm School, District 67



In 2011 — 100 years after the first student graduated from Forest Lake High School — many of the district's 7,000 students poured in from the cities and townships that surround Forest Lake.

It wasn't always that way. Far from it.

When the Forest Lake area was first settled in the mid-1850s, it was Chisago County, and the Wyoming area in particular, where most of "Forest Lake's" first residents were putting down roots. In the 1850s, settlers from Pennsylvania, Illinois and other points east were moving west, building lives in Minnesota.

The Comfort Party led by Dr. John Comfort moved to Forest Lake from Pennsylvania in 1855. The family names included

Badger, Allen, Ashton and Gatzow, to name a few.

Also in 1855, the Illinois or Poston Party began its move from Adams County in west central Illinois. Three Poston families were joined by other families: Cartwright, Stipe, Peoples, Simmons and Banta. It was this group that settled along the St. Paul to Taylors Falls territorial road in Chisago County, just north of Forest Lake.

### First Schools

Schools became a must for these settlers, and they would follow the organization of Wyoming Township on Oct. 15, 1858. Both the Comfort and Poston groups, joined by other families in a third settlement party, including Tepel, Sauer and Sausen, made plans to start schools.

The first two schools that would serve students in what is today Forest

Lake School District 831 were in what is now the city of Wyoming.

In 1859, Mary Poston, wife of Jeremiah Poston, became the area's first teacher at a school located in a log house just northeast of Forest Lake on what is today the Windy Acres property. The Tolzmann farm is directly opposite the site on Highway 8. The land for the school was deeded from Isaac Banta to the Forest Lake School District No. 13, Chisago County, for 50 cents. The deed, now in possession of Banta's great-great-grandson, Ken Banta of Wyoming, was signed and recorded on Nov. 16, 1860.

Banta also has copies of school records signed by Jeremiah Poston as school district clerk, dated September 1859, showing "28 scholars." The report indicated the students had completed a three-month term. It was also 1859 when a second

1855

Forest Lake established on land purchased by a treaty from the Sioux and Chippewa Indians in 1837



Mary Poston "Blab" School

1859

The first two schools that would serve students in what is today Forest Lake School District 831 were in what is now the city of Wyoming

1860

1865

**Sources:** "Reflections of Forest Lake" by Elsie Vogel, published in 1993 by the Forest Lake Centennial Association; "Forest Lake Senior High School Alumni Directory 2001", published in 2001 by Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company; *Forest Lake Times*





### Alm School, 1904

One teacher, Sena Nelson, had 42 pupils of all ages. **BACK:** Aurora Jacobson, Hulda Engquist, Hulda Anderson, Delia Engquist, Rose Swanson, Bill Engquist, Joe Jacobson, Ernest Sweden, Ernest Donahue, Albert Jacobson, Esther Nelson, Beda Bergerson. **REAR:** Aurora Nelson, Selma Johnson, Ida Anderson, Emil Johnson, Walter Hayne, Ralph Ericson, Roy Sawyer, Edwin Anderson, Ludwig McLean, Ed Sweman, and Sena Nelson, teacher. **KNEELING (FRONT):** Arthur Sedin, Carl Sawyer, Otto Bergerson, Ida Bergerson, Alice Larson, Lucille Swanson, Clara Johnson, Josie Engquist, Alvina Alm. **KNEELING (BACK):** Axel Johnson, Arthur Berggren, Ernest Johnson, Fred Nygren, Eleanor Peterson, Emil Johnson, Sigfried Johnson, Ruth Johnson, Bob Alm, Art Hayes, Alfred Anderson.

**November 16, 1860** The land for the Poston school was deeded from Isaac Banta to the Forest Lake School District No. 13, Chisago County, for 50 cents

school opened in Wyoming. Wyoming School District No. 4 was located in a log home on what is today E. Viking Blvd., about a half mile east of Highway 61.

County superintendent of schools records researched by Banta at the Minnesota History Center include a report from the District 4 school board in 1859 that indicates the school was organized in September of 1859 and served 28 students. The records are signed by John Comfort as clerk, F. Lendt as treasurer and Henry Sauer as a director. Jennie Ashton was the teacher.

By 1861, there were four schools in southern Chisago County. Two schools were located in Chisago City with one on the west side of Green Lake. At the same time, a school was also in the process of being organized in Stacy.

### Time for Change

It wasn't long, however, until change took place for the schools in the Forest Lake area. In 1862, as a result of action by the state legislature, county schools in Minnesota were renumbered. Wyoming School District No. 4 was changed to No. 10 while the Wyoming School District No. 13 just north of Forest Lake, often referred to as the Banta School, became No. 9.

The village, which was being developed on the west shore of Forest Lake, saw a substantial growth spurt in the late 1860s with the arrival of the railroad which connected St. Paul with Duluth.

The Banta School on Highway 8 was utilized until 1874 when a one-room school was built within the village of Forest Lake. The Forest Lake school, now numbered District 56 following the incorporation of Forest Lake Township in the same year, was downtown near the old city hall and library.

In 1873, the log home that housed the District 10 school, burned to the ground. It was replaced in 1874 by a new frame school house in Wyoming. The District 9 school closed after the 1873 term. The opening of the new Forest Lake School in 1874 offered a better facility for the children from southern Chisago County.

Eighteen years later in 1896, leaders of Wyoming Township changed course and built a new school at Banta Corner (250th Street at Goodview Avenue east of Highway 61). It was used for 24 years.



## Hometown Banking With Your Classmates & Friends



From Left To Right: Michelle Gillespie 1979, Wayne Houle 1963, JoAnna Jones 1982, Bob Carlisle 1967, Laura Hanson 1997, Mark Zaruba 1982, Linda Woltjer 1987, Tim Zaruba 1986, Natalie Carter 2001



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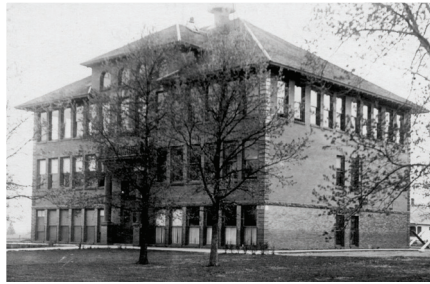


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Forest Lake High School, 1917

**September 1915** Recently added agriculture department enhances Forest Lake school

Wyoming District 10 did not fully consolidate with Forest Lake until 1967. Prior to 1967, students went to Forest Lake or Chicago City for their final four years of high school. School District 9 fully merged with Forest Lake School District 56 in 1920 when the district opened its new high school. The one-room school on Banta Corner closed in 1920 and was razed the same year.

In 1909 the school downtown was replaced by a new building – a little schoolhouse

on 4th Street that, by itself, served the educational needs of all of the children of Forest Lake. Fewer than 50 students, of all ages and grade levels, received a first-class education in this quaint building. The building opened with a basement and a first floor housing students. A second floor was added in 1910.

#### 1912 - 1921

The early 1900s was a time of industrial expansion and massive growth in the United

States. Forestry, mining and milling stood out as some of the major industries in Minnesota at this time. In 1902 the 225,000 acre Minnesota Forest Reserve, which would later be known as the Chippewa National Forest, was established as a way of monitoring and regulating the lumber industry.

Meanwhile, many miles to the south, Forest Lake's own lumbering industry was thriving. Lumber mills and family farms were the major sources of employment for local residents during this era, but the need for a quality education for the children of this community was well acknowledged. In September of 1909, construction of the new Forest Lake School was completed, and the school was open for students and staff. This



1875

1880

1885

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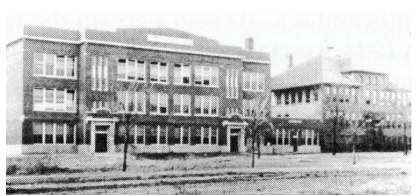
new school, built for \$20,000, would serve all students from early elementary to high school.

Three years later, the first graduate of the still-new Forest Lake school system received his diploma. George Simmons, a grandson of the George Simmons who settled north of the lake in 1857, became at once the first graduate and the first graduating class of



**George Simmons**

Forest Lake High School. The lone member of the Class of 1912, and one of only 41 students to attend the school at the time, Simmons went on to become a successful businessman in the community and paved the way for many graduates yet to come, as the school's growth over the next 100 years mirrored that of the local community.



**Forest Lake Area High School, 1920**

Also attending the school at that time was Helen McGee whose grandfather, Fred Tepel, in 1855 purchased much of the land on which the Wyoming village was built. Tepel donated the land for the United Methodist Church Cemetery and the school.

The Forest Lake Class of 1912 included only one student, but the following year six graduates earned their diplomas.

One member of the 1913 graduating class, Rollin Johnson, had marked his place in the

school's sports history books by becoming the first Forest Lake varsity basketball player to score 20 points in a game. Later in life, Johnson would serve as a state representative in the Minnesota Legislature, a candidate for the Minnesota Supreme Court and as the state's Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner.

There were five graduates in 1914, six in 1915 and four each in 1916-1918. Two graduates from the class of 1915, Ralph Parson and James Vail, would go on to become medical doctors.

Rapid expansion continued throughout the decade, and by 1920 – a mere 11 years

**June 1, 1929** | Area hit by tornado

1890

1895

1900

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Forest Lake High School, 1925



J.A. Hughes

after it had opened its doors – the school's enrollment had more than doubled, from 41 students to 100. Superintendent J.A. Hughes responded by organizing a \$120,000 addition to the building: an addition that would become the first Forest Lake High School. With the construction of a new high school, the previous building was designated for grades one through eight.

More and more area children began enrolling in this progressively modern school, and the school's growth exploded. By 1928, 548 students were enrolled at Forest Lake School. That year saw the first issue of the *Forest Breeze* student newspaper. The school's first band was created in 1929.

The stock market crash in the fall of 1929 marked the beginning of the Great Depression, the longest and most devastating economic tragedy in U.S. history. The repercussions were felt worldwide, as unemployment

#### 1922 - 1931

Academics and agriculture were the hallmarks of the early Forest Lake school district, but as enrollment at the school continued to climb into the 1920s more opportunities became available to students.



School, 1922

By 1925, 125 students were enrolled at the school, and the staff now included eight teachers and a few administrators. New sports teams were soon formed, clubs were organized and other extra-curricular activities allowed students to develop skills and interests.

skyrocketed throughout the 1930s. No American community was left untouched by the effects of international market declines, but the residents of Forest Lake persevered.

Despite the crippling effects of the Great Depression, the Forest Lake School continued to see growth in enrollment and student successes.

**November 11, 1926** Fire in bus garage (lost 1 bus, 4 damaged)



Early busses



1900

1905



In 1930, a student by the name of Earl Lellman wrote the song “We’re Loyal To You Forest Lake”, which remains today as the official school anthem. It replaced the previous school

**February 22, 1929** The Forest Lake Band makes its first appearance

anthem, “On Forest Lake.” That same year, Lellman – a junior and member of the *Forest Breeze* staff – also contributed to the history of the school by serving as publisher of the school’s first yearbook, which was called The FALAHASA. Lellman’s interest in journalism would eventually lead him to become the editor, publisher and co-owner of the *Forest Lake Times* in the 1950s and 1960s.

Extra-curricular activities had become an integral part of the school’s culture during the late 1920s and early 1930s. New sports and activities sprang to life, such as the creation of a girls’ basketball team. The 1930-31 school year saw the first appearance of the Ranger mascot, which remains today as a symbol of pride for the high school sport’s teams, clubs and activities.

Participation in music and the arts also increased. One talented singer from the Class of 1931, Yvonne Poirier, followed her love of classical music into a career as a professional singer. Poirier’s melodic voice landed her a position as a singer with the Minneapolis Symphony, and later with the New York Metropolitan Opera.

**March 1936** Nine school buses to transport 397 students

## 1932 - 1941

Enrollment at the now-separate high school was 184 students by 1935. That year, the high school’s first student council was organized, and the very first homecoming football game was played. The *Forest Breeze* had become so popular and successful by this point that the local weekly newspaper, the *Forest Lake Times*, published the *Breeze* as a regular section of its own paper.

Over the years, the school had evolved from a tiny building that housed every grade level to a full-size high school. In 1935, the decision was made to create the district’s first “junior high” as a section of the high school established just for 7th and 8th graders.

Those at the high school also watched as one of their premier athletes rose to stardom. Bud Nygren had established himself as an outstanding running back for the Forest Lake Rangers football team. Following his graduation from Forest Lake in 1936, Nygren attended San Jose State University in California, where he became one of the top college running backs in the country.

Nygren’s college success eventually resulted in a professional football contract. His 60-yard touchdown run for the Los Angeles Dons of the All-American Football Conference in 1946 cemented his position in sports history for becoming the first man to score points for a major professional sports team from Los Angeles.

Back at home in Forest Lake, the school district continued to grow. The need for transportation also increased, as more and more students were coming to school from greater distances. By 1936, a total of 606 students were enrolled, and many lived several miles from the school. Nine school buses were in operation by this time, transporting 397 students to and from school each day.

In 1938, another young star destined for greatness would emerge from Forest Lake High School. Lysle Peterson’s ambition to become a doctor would lead him to college, medical school, and then in 1949, 11 years after graduation from Forest Lake High, he would publish the world’s first successful method for accurate and continuous recording of arterial blood pressure.



Lysle Peterson

Dr. Peterson would go on to an esteemed career as a doctor, then a professor of physiology at the Bockus Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, where in 1969 he received a \$2 million grant from the National Heart Institute to develop a computer simulation of the human circulatory system. This development would eventually help pave the way for the invention of the artificial heart years later. Dr. Peterson was regarded as a worldwide authority on the subject of blood pressure and the human cardiovascular system until his death on Nov. 11, 1994, in Houston, Tex.

The Great Depression continued for several more years, but initiatives by President Franklin Roosevelt such as the Work Progress Administration (WPA) helped employ thousands, spurring the economy while providing much needed public improvements. One of these projects was the Forest

Lake High School athletic field, which was dedicated on Oct. 7, 1938, immediately



**June 6, 1940** Forest Lake Times is legal paper for district

1909

New Forest Lake School, built for \$20,000, opens

1910

1912

George Simmons is first graduate of Forest Lake High School

1915

Six graduates



1909 School House on Ash Street and Tenth Avenue





**December 1, 1934** First long chassis (bus) purchased



before the Rangers' scheduled football game against Pine City.

In November of 1941 the *Forest Breeze* was named Minnesota's top student newspaper. A month later, the bombing of Pearl Harbor would lead the United States into World War II.

**December 12, 1935** School Board discusses scarlet fever epidemic

**ALICE JEANNE McGEE**

Who's who? Who is the chubby "activities" girl who deserves her many honors? Who has been co-editor of the FORESTER? Who has been a member of the "Breeze" staff for three years? Who has been a cheerleader for two years? Why Alice Jeanne, of course.



**RUTH HOPKINS**

If high schools could have debts, this young lady would head the list. She is an exceptionally good dancer and skater. We're sure she'll go far in the Ice Follies. Ruth has travelled a lot, and she always has something interesting to say.



**1942 - 1951**

As WWII raged on, sports and entertainment became a bigger part of life in America as a much-needed distraction from the bloodshed and fighting in Europe. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, a Minnesota company started by Roy and Eddie Shipstad and Oscar Johnson had come to national prominence with their tours of talented ice skaters called "The Ice Follies."

Two talented skaters from Forest Lake High School followed their dreams to become professional skaters and found themselves among the gifted entertainers in the Ice Follies. Alice McGee, who had just graduated from Forest Lake High School, and Ruth Hopkins, who had graduated the year before, both were hired as performers in 1943. The two young women enjoyed tremendous professional success with the Minnesota-based tour throughout the decade.

**1920**

A \$120,000 addition is constructed onto the school

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**Lt. Ronald Hilken**

It was also in 1943 that Forest Lake mourned its first war casualty. Slightly more than a year after the start of the American involvement in WWII, Army Air Corps Lieutenant Ronald Hilken, a 1937 graduate of Forest Lake High School, was killed in action in the South Pacific on Jan. 5, 1943.

Lt. Hilken was an aviator with the 68th Fighter Squadron, 347th Fighter Group. His job as a P-38 fighter pilot was to safely escort bomber crews on their missions. Hilken was killed when his squadron was intercepted by 25 enemy fighter planes. His efforts, and those of his squadron, forced the enemy into retreat and allowed the bomber crews to complete their mission. For his courage and bravery in battle, Lt.

Hilken was awarded the Silver Star by President Harry S. Truman.

It wasn't only the teachers and the students from Forest Lake High School who were making great contributions to the community and finding professional success. Reynold Erickson, who worked for many years as a custodian at the high school, found a professional niche by inventing the first folding school cafeteria tables.



**'47-'48 Football Team**

Clem Houle	Walter Kuchinski	Lamont Brine	Kenneth Olson	Robert Larson
Jerome Peltier	Kenneth Anderson	Merrill Furman	Larry Patak	Norman Peterson
Lloyd Schleusner	Richard Sternberg	Eugene Davis	William Mackey	Mark Struble

**November 12, 1943** Hot lunch cost is \$.02



**Breeze, 1941**

1925

**1928**

Students launch the Forest Breeze newspaper

**1930**

Earl Lellman is editor of the first Forest Lake yearbook

**1930-1931**

The Rangers become the nickname for the Forest Lake sports teams

1935

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Kayla and her Introduction to Health Care Instructor Bev Warnke.

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One of those students was Kayla Nowicki, now a registered nurse with Fairview Lakes HomeCaring & Hospice.

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**February 9, 1942** Dancing during lunch hour is allowed



### '49 Football Team

1949 champion football squad: **BACK ROW:** Joe Hursh, Gerald Mitchell, Gordon Nelson, Ronald Davis, Charles Holtzbauer (mgr.), John Morley (mgr.) and Coach Dick Furey. **MIDDLE ROW:** Richard Sausen, Carroll Anderson, Howard Ruggles, Larry Paia, Dan Bever, Bud Reed, Bob Rossetti, Ronald Kolbow and Coach Russ Hammond. **FRONT ROW:** Duane Olson, Frank Kinneman, Paul Furrer, Jay Brisson, Mel Winnick, Rodney Wilson, Erwin Hughes, Tom Brisson and Gene Guttson.



### '49-'50 Basketball Team

1950's Ranger cage squad included these stalwarts: Erwin Hughes, Bernie Von Wald, Jay Brisson, Jerry Mitchell, Paul Furrer, Danny Bever, Vernon Johnson, Tom Brisson, Alan Solem, Jim Miles and Coach Dick Furey.



**Reynold Erickson**

Erickson, in 1945, created the first mobile cafeteria table with attached benches, which became known as "Erickson Tables." By 1949 his tables were being manufactured by the company Haldeman-Homme, Inc., and by 1951 the tables were filling cafeterias in thousands of schools across the country. Erickson's company became Hamilton/Erickson Tables in 1953, and today that same company, now known as Palmer Hamilton, still sells cafeteria tables and related products to schools across the United States.

The end of WWII in 1945 allowed the nation to begin its recovery from both the human tolls paid during the war and the economic depression that had preceded it.

Two years later, the citizens of Forest Lake voted overwhelmingly (229-73) to add new additions to the school to accommodate the ever-growing student population, which by September 1947 had reached 814.

In 1950, Floyd Cohoes was hired as the high school principal and would serve in that capacity for 25 years.

**March 12, 1941** If a female teacher marries, she must resign



### '48-'49 School Board

Archie C. Mattson, Norton Y. Taylor, Frank E. Anderson, Raymond J. Holl, Supt. B. C. Kuefler, Rodney L. Wilson, Donald H. Elwell.

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### '50-'51 Baseball Team

Bill Schmidt, Glendon Shodahl, Gerry Mitchell and Tom Brisson check their batting order while Coach Furey fills in the day's roster.

**December 1946** Citizens vote 229-73 for new additions to the school

**November 1946** Minneapolis Mayor Hubert Humphrey speaks at the school open house



1935



**1937 FLHS Band**

**1938**

Forest Lake High School athletic field is dedicated

**1940**

Bernard "Bud" Nygren ('36), running back for San Jose State, is NBC national college player of the week

**1943**

No Christmas vacation—school closes two weeks early

**1944**

Ray Tolzmann, ('38), while serving in WWII, takes a photo that appears on the cover of *Life Magazine*. [Tolzmann is the first Forest Lake basketball player to wear white tennis shoes]



July  
26, 1949 Lunch  
fee is  
\$.20



< '50-'51  
Breeze

May  
12, 1953 On-the-farm  
training application  
for Korean Veterans  
was authorized

### 1952 - 1961

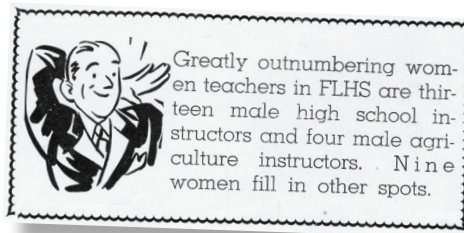
More and more students attended Forest Lake Area Schools each year throughout the 1950s, and that growth required the hiring of more staff. By 1952, the staff at the high school had reached 49, with an additional seven more at the rural elementary schools.

A gymnasium, auditorium and new classrooms were added to Forest Lake High in 1954, and a record 88 seniors graduated from the school that spring.

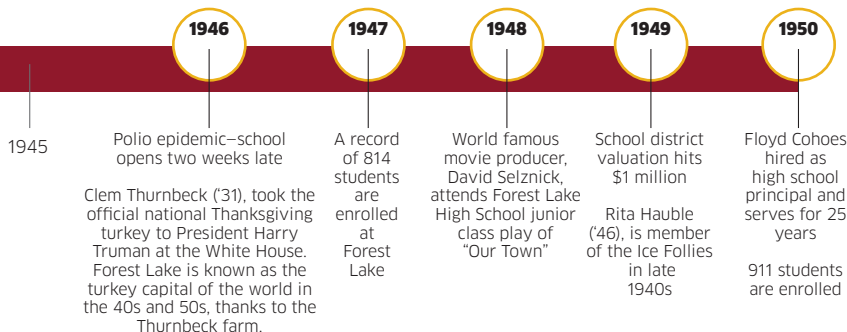
In 1957, the Soviet Union launched the satellite Sputnik, a major milestone in what was developing as the U.S. - Soviet "Space Race." America's attention was starting to turn toward improving its education system in order to help the nation surpass Soviet technology. In response to this challenge, the U.S. would form the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958, and the space race would soon be among the major driving forces in America.



1958 John "Bud" Brine ('48) starts the famed Brine's Market in Stillwater



Excerpt from 1950-51 yearbook



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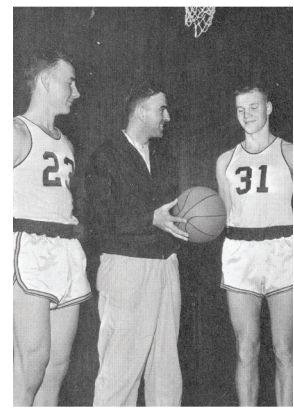
**May 27, 1952** \$875,000 bond passed for purchase of land, remodel/furnish equipment and building addition

**July 1952** Citizens vote 58-2 to purchase land for future elementary school



**'58-'59 Basketball Team**

Coach Engelhart and co-captains, Jerry Kari and Ziggy Kauls.



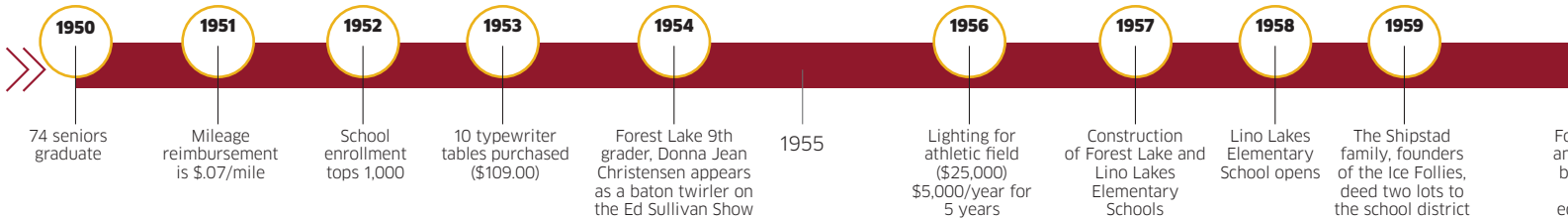
**1959** Zigurds "Ziggy" Kauls ('59), would go on to become one of the winningest coaches in Minnesota high school basketball history



**1958-59** Lunch fee is boosted to \$.30



More construction projects were financed in 1958 as Forest Lake's student population continued to grow, and wrestling was added as a sport to fulfill the needs of the school's many athletes. Years later, wrestling would become one of the premier sports at Forest



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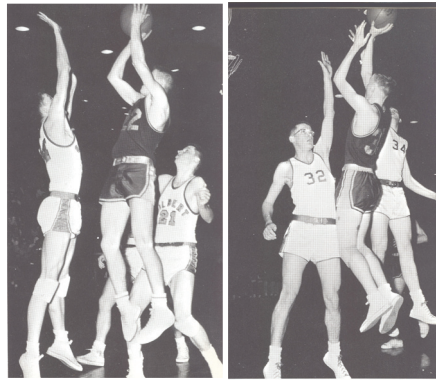
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**KNEELING:** George Vedder, Dennis Booren, Rudy Olson, Mike Trepanier, Dean Gardner, and Student Manager Don Morehead. **STANDING:** Coach Jack Conley, Bernard Preiner, Mylo Shoberg, Juris Kauls, Ken Anderson, Dave Stankiewicz, Bill Morehead, Arlyn Tolzmann and Athletic Director Ken Hanson. Not pictured: Assistant Coach John Schumacher.

< **'59-'60  
Basketball  
Team** >



**September  
1957** Forest Lake  
becomes District  
#831

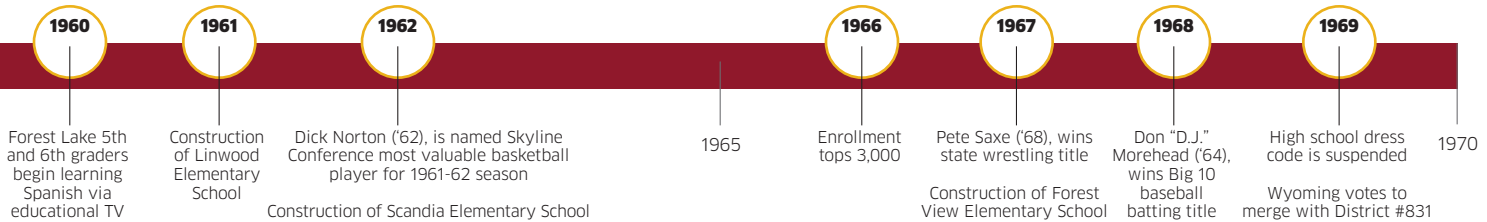
**October  
14, 1957** District #831  
appears in  
board minutes

Lake. But in 1958, 1959 and 1960, it would be the boys' basketball team that would make school history.

With conference championships won in both baseball and football in previous years,

the 1958-59 basketball team undertook an effort to set an even higher standard of performance. In two full regular seasons, 1958-59 and 1959-60, the Forest Lake boys' basketball teams combined for an amazing 41-1 record to clinch back-to-back confer-

ence championships, a feat bested by only one other high school team in the entire country during that period. While no post-season state championships were secured during these years, the nearly perfect performance over those two seasons still marks



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**September 18, 1970** Ground is broken for new high school



**'69 Varsity Debate Squad**  
**FRONT ROW:** Granton Larson, John Waller.  
**BACK ROW:** Tom Hollihan, Kitty Rood, Dennis Alfveby.

one of the true highlights in Forest Lake's impressive history in athletics.

By 1959 the space race had turned America's attention toward the need for smarter and better prepared college-bound students to fill the growing needs that new technology was providing. "College prep" courses were now becoming more in demand across the country, and Forest Lake schools responded by creating many rigorous and challenging classes for its upper-level students.

World languages had become another aspect of the expansion of academic opportunities for Forest Lake students in 1960. Spanish and Latin classes were offered for the first time, as Forest Lake High School was planning for its 50th anniversary. New uniforms were purchased for the school band, and a new-and-improved drama department was now able to put on all-school plays.



**July 1966** Forest Lake Marching Band is #1 high school band from one school at the Lions International Parade in New York City

### 1962 - 1971

On Feb. 22, 1962, John Glenn became the first human being to orbit the earth, a landmark achievement that, at the time, firmly established America as the front-runner in the space race with the Soviet Union. The push for academic achievement for U.S. students was evident across the country.

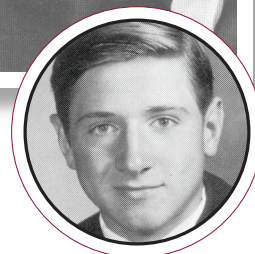
Forest Lake joined the rest of the nation in upping the ante and placing greater emphasis on math and science, allowing students to be fully prepared for the new opportunities that would likely await them upon graduation. The fine arts were also expanded upon, and non-athletic activities like debate were added.

French became a world language offering in 1964, and that year activities such as ski club, chess club, National Honor Society, and Boys' and Girls' State were being offered. As more and more students populated the 7th and 8th grades, the need for a separate junior high school was evident. That school, Forest Lake Junior High, was completed in 1965, the same year that L.T. Lechner took over as the district's superintendent.

Lechner helped usher in a new era in Forest Lake athletics, as girls' sports began to appear on the scene once again. In 1966 girls' tennis debuted, and other club sports such as gymnastics, basketball, badminton, bowling and volleyball were also created through the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) program, which previously had been little more than a girls' club that helped promote boys'



**Pete Saxe**



**1973** Community Education Department is born

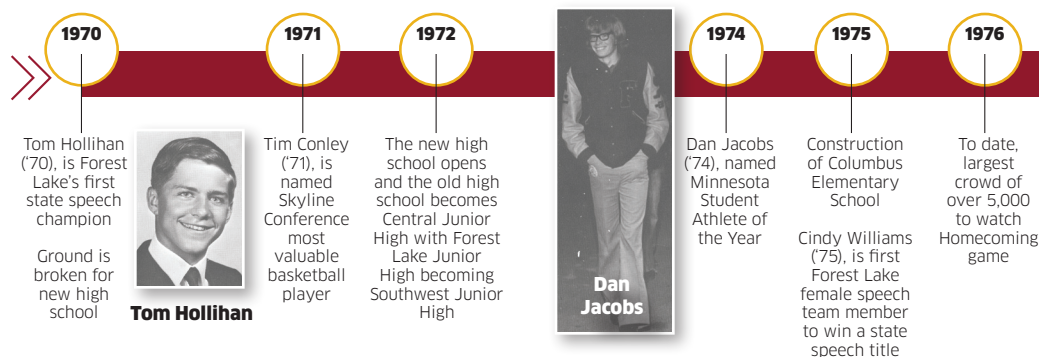
athletics. Though these were not competitive sports on the same scale as boys' athletics, these club teams were thought at the time to be a move toward what would eventually be a fully-integrated girls' athletics program.

Boys' athletics continued to produce new stars in various sports. In 1968, wrestler Pete Saxe became the school's first individual state champion, clinching the title in the 125-pound weight class.

Suburban expansion was seen statewide throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The growth in the student population in Forest Lake, combined with the relative age of the school buildings, created a need that additional construction to existing buildings could not fulfill. A new high school needed to be built.

A construction bond was issued and approved by local voters in November of 1969 to build a new Forest Lake High School. The bond passed by an overwhelming 1,543 - 802 margin, and ground was broken on the new site on September 18, 1970. That year, the Forester yearbook won an All-American rating.

**1970** The Forester yearbook wins its first ever All-American rating



## 1972 - 1981

The 1971-72 school year took on a slightly different form for students and staff as split shifts were introduced at the junior high school during the transition to the new high school. Midway through the 1971-72 school year students and staff helped move to the new facility, and on Jan. 24, 1972, students attended classes at the brand new senior high school. The old high school was renamed Central Junior High, and the original junior high school was renamed Southwest Junior High.

"Seniors thrive in '75" was the graduating class theme for 1975, a year which saw major changes in district administration. Dr. Bernhard Bartel became the district's new superintendent and Bill Rand was hired as the new principal of Forest Lake High School.

The nation celebrated its bicentennial in 1976, making for an especially memorable 4th of July that summer. "Jaws" was the record-breaking hit movie that year, and hand-held hair dryers became



**November 1973** Forest Lake High School hockey program begins

popular in Forest Lake to create the "blown hair" style that was popular at the time. Clothing styles included Levi's, bib overalls, mood rings and shark tooth necklaces, and pet rocks were sold at stores across the country. The graduating class that year was 314 students, the largest in school history to that point but much smaller than the more than 400 students who graduated the very next year.

In 1977, Steve Nelson became the high school's first "computer teacher," working in the math department.

Science teacher Gwen Hansen was named Forest Lake Teacher of the Year in 1978, and the following year Regina LaRoche, a junior at the



**'88 Chamber Chorale**

**BACK ROW:** Lynn Maleck, Andy Zaske, Jason Medvec, Stacy Johnson, Greg Straka, John Lynch, Jim Lichtscheidl, Mike Knott, Nicole Grandstrand, Paula Holter, Chris Sieber  
**FRONT ROW:** Nikki Bass, Shelia McAvoy, Marci Huttner, Brian Hammes, Angie Nusser, Theresa Burros, Amy Czape, Lori Simmons, Colleen Skoglund.

1980

Regina LaRoche ('80), wins Minnesota Junior Miss title

1981

Swimming pool opens

Enrollment reaches 6,518

1985

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### '89 Speech Team



**BACK ROW:** Chas Mastin, Tracey Winge, Kim Shaw, Erik Moratzka, Lee Mattson, Jim Hackbarth, Matt Kijenski, Kiersten Moratzka, Cricket Osterbauer, Joleen Fahey, Joelle Boek, Jeff Placzek, Jason Kilodjski, Mike Knott, Matt Sandager. **ROW 3:** Nathan Ostertag, Christy McEnerney, Lisa Olson, Craig Prosser, Greg Swanson, Scott Bergstrom, Dominic Vecchiolo, Dan Englehorn, Michelle Hughes, Kevin Wolfe, Kim Peuse, Betsy Postma, Tom Edelen. **ROW 2:** Jean Schroeder, Valerie Taylor, Minda Suchan, Kristen Mansmith, Andrena Larson, Maria Falzone, Lynn Mansmith, Katie Overbo, Stacy Johnson, Tonya Peterson, Beth Elmstrom. **FRONT:** Jennifer Madden, Amy Pogreba, Jean Whitney, Jessica Wahlberg, Heidi Zapzalka, Heidi Kijenski, Tess Flowers, Sheryl Hollingsworth.

**1987** Forest Lake High School Marching Band appears in the Pasadena Rose Parade



high school, won the first of two consecutive state speech titles. She would later compete in the 1980 America's Junior Miss pageant.

In 1980, Thomas Reynolds took over as the principal at Forest Lake High School.

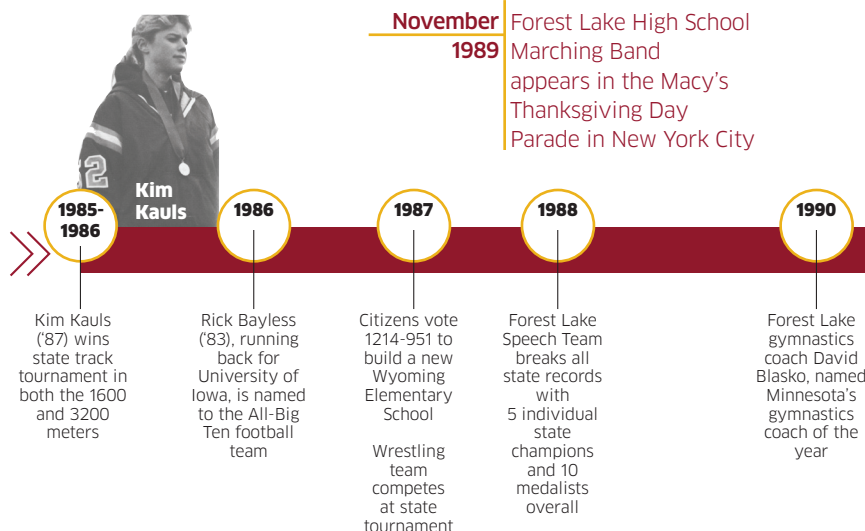
### 1982 - 1991

The year 1983 saw administrative changes and more success for Forest Lake sports teams. Dr. Gerald Brynildson took over as district

superintendent following the retirement of Dr. Bartel. Track and cross country runner Kim Kauls, only a 9th grader, made her first appearance at the state cross country meet and set the stage for what would eventually be a legendary running career. That year also marked the first Forest Lake sports team to win a state championship, when the high school's wrestling team took top honors at the state meet. In the spring of 1983 the Forest Lake baseball team placed second at their state tournament. Finally, 1983 was also the last year at Forest Lake for football star Rick Bayless.

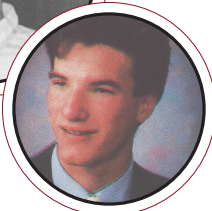
In 1986, Bayless, a running back for the University of Iowa, was named to the All-Big Ten football team.

**November 1989** Forest Lake High School Marching Band appears in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City





Heidi Zapzalka ('91) wins 1990 National Speech Championship



Brent Boyd ('87)



Jim Lichtscheidl ('88)

April 1990 Linda Madsen named Minnesota's Home Economics Teacher of the Year

December 1990 Randolph Peterson ('71), is appointed as a judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals



1991 Tennis Team

Meanwhile, Kim Kauls was creating her own storm in the running world.

Kauls won the state track titles in the 1600 and 3200 meter events in both 1985 and 1986, as well as first place at the 1986 state girls' cross country meet. Later that year she would place second at the national cross country championships. Several years later, Kauls took her shot at the Olympics, placing in the top 20 runners at the 2000 Olympic Marathon trials.

But athletics wasn't the only area where Forest Lake students found success in the 1980s. Dean Maki, a 1983 graduate, went on to become a top Wall Street economist and in 2009 was named by Bloomberg News at the nation's most accurate economic forecaster. Meanwhile, Pat Anderson Awada, a 1984 Forest Lake graduate, would gain prominence in Minnesota politics and in 2002 she was elected Minnesota State Auditor.

Several graduates from this period also went on to prominent careers in music and the arts. Brent Boyd, a 1987 graduate, went on to become a screenplay writer. His scripts for "The Green Room" and "Crazy" became feature films, as did "Aurora Borealis" starring Donald Sutherland, Juliette Lewis and Louis Fletcher.

The Forest Lake class of 1988 featured three graduates who also made their mark in the entertainment world. Just one year out of



Jason Medvec

high school, Jason Medvec's musical talents earned him a spot as lead guitarist with the rock band "The Bay City Rollers."

Meanwhile, two talented actors – Jim Lichtscheidl and Chris Sieber – went on to very successful careers. Lichtscheidl starred in many productions at the Guthrie Theater, and in 2009 he was cast in "A Serious Man," written, produced and directed by Hollywood icons Joel and Ethan Cohen. The film would be nominated for two Oscar awards that year.

Sieber's acting career took him to New York rather than Hollywood. After attending the American Music and Dramatic Academy, Sieber established himself as a top theater actor on Broadway and was



Chris Sieber ('88)

twice nominated for Tony Awards as Best Featured Actor in a Musical – in 2004 for his portrayal of Sir Galahad in "Monty Python's Spamlot" and in 2009 for his role as Lord Farquaad in "Shrek the Musical."

Sieber also appeared in several television shows, including a starring role in the series "Two of a Kind" which co-starred Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen. In 2010 Sieber appeared in the TV series "The Good Wife" and that year also had a role in the movie "Morning

Glory" which starred Rachel McAdams and Harrison Ford.

The 1980s and early 1990s saw the Forest Lake FFA chapter establish itself as one of the most prominent programs in the nation, earning numerous state and national awards. The high school's speech and Science Olympiad teams also gained prominence for repeat appearances at their respective state tournaments. The Science Olympiad team placed second in the state in 1986, and the speech team took first place in the 1988 state tournament. In 1989, the speech team earned the right to compete at nationals.

In 1990, Central Junior High School teacher Linda Madsen was named Minnesota's Home Economics Teacher of the Year. That same year Heidi Zapzalka, a junior at Forest Lake High School, won the 1990 National Speech Championship in the Prose category.

Another active member of the high school's speech team in the early 1990s was Karla Hult, a 1991 Forest Lake graduate who went on to become a popular local television news reporter at WCCO-TV and KARE-11.

### 1992 - 2001

The retirement of Principal Reynolds in 1993 paved the way for Carol Kluznik to become the first female principal of Forest Lake High School. That year, and again in 1994, projects to upgrade and expand the high school building were undertaken. In

1993

Forest Lake High School wrestlers win state team championship

1994

Carol Kluznik becomes first female principal of Forest Lake High School

1995

1997

Andy Elvester ('97), wins state individual Nordic skiing title

1998

Nora Greenwald ('96), begins making a name in the world of professional wrestling

John House ('74), wins state duck stamp competition for wildlife artists

2000

Kate Lowe ('93), wins one game on television game show, "Jeopardy"



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1994, district leadership once again changed hands as Dr. Donald C. Ruble took over as superintendent.

Wrestling continued to be a dominant sport in boys' athletics into the 1990s, and in 1994 a Ranger wrestler made school history. Troy Marr, a senior, became the only wrestler in Forest Lake history to claim back-to-back state championships. Marr took home state titles at the 145-pound weight class in both 1993 and 1994, and was named to the High School All-America Wrestling Team in his senior year.

Mark Robertson became the high school's principal in 1997 and more renovations occurred at the high school, including upgraded technology. The school also hired a full-time police liaison officer.

The following year Dr. Ruble retired as superintendent and was replaced by Lynn Steenblock.

### 2002 - 2011

Forest Lake Area Schools, during its most recent decade, established itself as a Minnesota leader in K-12 education under the leadership of Lynn Steenblock and his successor, Dr. Linda Madsen.

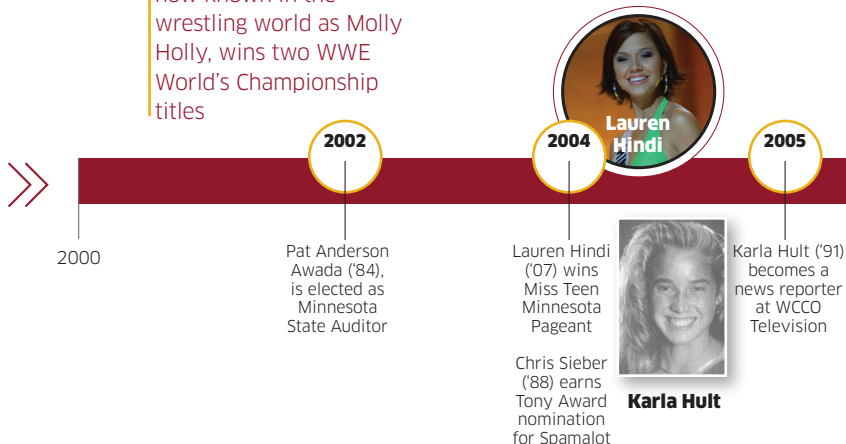
### 2002-2003

Nora Greenwald ('96), now known in the wrestling world as Molly Holly, wins two WWE World's Championship titles

In 2003, Mark Robertson left as the high school's principal to become the Fridley superintendent, and he was replaced by the current principal, Dr. Steve Massey. As a result of their work, Forest Lake Area High School is now considered among the state's best college preparatory schools, offering more Advanced Placement (AP) and College In the Schools (CIS) classes than most Minnesota schools. Since assuming his role as principal, Massey and the other district secondary principals have been committed to programs that help students plan their academic careers based on their interests and personal goals. The result has been an extremely high graduation rate with a very high percentage of graduates moving on to some type of post-secondary education.

The high school has also been an innovative leader in areas such as on-line education, and the district recently began an Elementary Spanish Immersion program at Lino Lakes and Forest View Elementary Schools. Furthermore, the Forest Lake Area Schools has a unique relationship with a local charter school – Lakes International Language Academy – that has earned both the school district and charter school national recognition for collaboration and cooperation in reaching new heights in world language education.

Meanwhile, the school district continued to produce more and more talented graduates. One of these students was 2007 graduate Lauren Hindi, who in November of 2004 won the Miss Teen Minnesota Pageant.





## Forest Lake Area High School

June 30. The school board's selection process resulted in the hiring of Dr. Madsen, who became the first woman superintendent in the district's history.

That title earned her the right to advance to the Miss Teen USA Pageant, where she was a finalist.

Historically, many Forest Lake students have seen success in athletics and activities. But recently Forest Lake Area High School has become one of the state's most dominant athletic programs, particularly in spring sports. In 2009, three Forest Lake spring athletes won individual state championships, including tennis player Dusty Boyer who repeated as champion in 2010. Amazingly, both the boys' and girls' state golf champions in 2009 were Forest Lake students – Paul Moberg and Betsy Kelly.

The school's baseball, softball, golf and track and field teams had been perennial state tournament competitors for the better part of the 2000s, but the most dominant sports team in school history to this point had clearly been the boys' Nordic Ski team. This Rangers team won state championships in 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2009. Individual state champions included Andy Elvester (1997), Billy Lee (1998), Ben Fick (2005 and 2006) and girls' Nordic skier Stephanie Howe (2002).

In the spring of 2009, Superintendent Steenblock announced his upcoming retirement, effective

Madsen – who had grown up in the area, attended school in the district, graduated from Forest Lake High School, taught in the district for more than 20 years and previously served as the district's director of teaching and learning – was selected among three finalists as superintendent by a unanimous vote of the school board.

In 2011, in commemoration of the 100th graduating class from Forest Lake Area High School, the school district would undertake several projects and spring events. These included the development of a new high school Ranger mascot, the creation of the Forest Lake Area Schools Hall of Fame and the First Annual Lake Fest, held at Lakeside Park in Forest Lake, which was a community-wide project sponsored by the school district, the city of Forest Lake and the Forest Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.



On June 9, 2011, the 100th graduating class from Forest Lake Area High School held its commencement and the students received their high school diplomas.

**Special thanks** to those who contributed to the production of this booklet: Keith Banta, Ken Banta, Ross Bennett, Cliff Buchan, Earl Lellman, Maria Kaiser, Dr. Linda Madsen, Steve Massey, Barbara Pederson, Brian Tolzmann, and the staff at ECM Publishing and the *Forest Lake Times*.

2007

Ann Miron ('06) is chosen Princess Kay of the Milky Way, representing the Minnesota dairy industry

2008

Boys Nordic ski team wins state team title

2009

Dean Maki ('83) is named by Bloomberg News as the nation's most accurate economic forecaster

2010

2011

100th graduating class from Forest Lake Area High School

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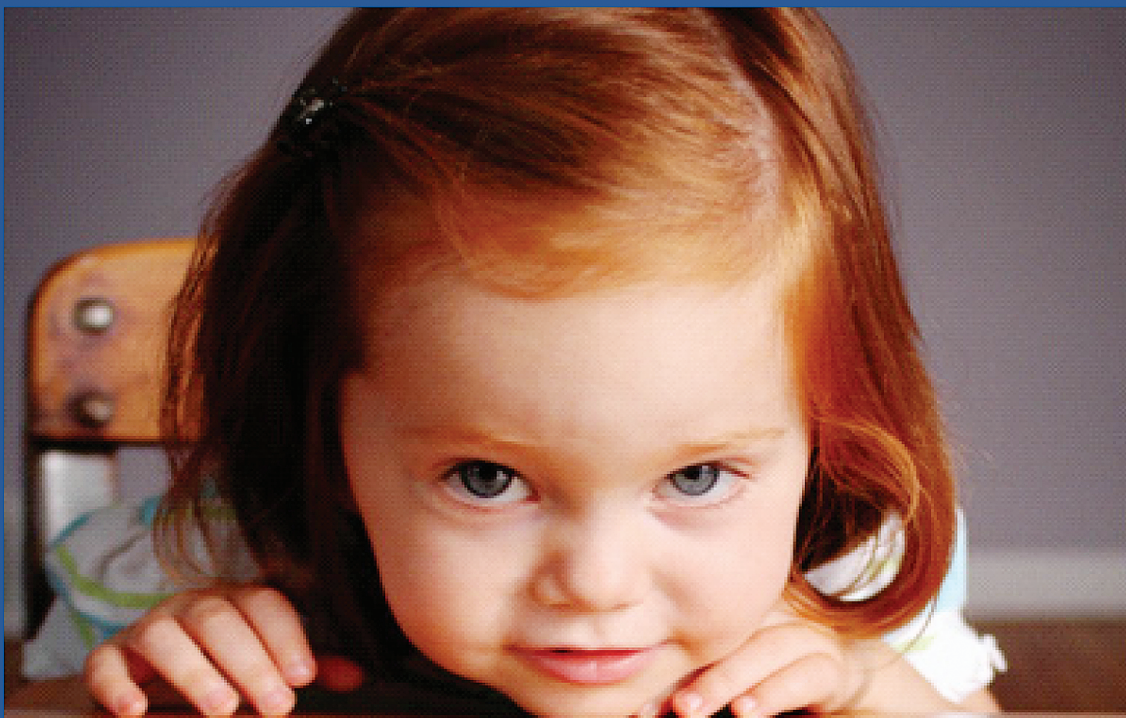
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