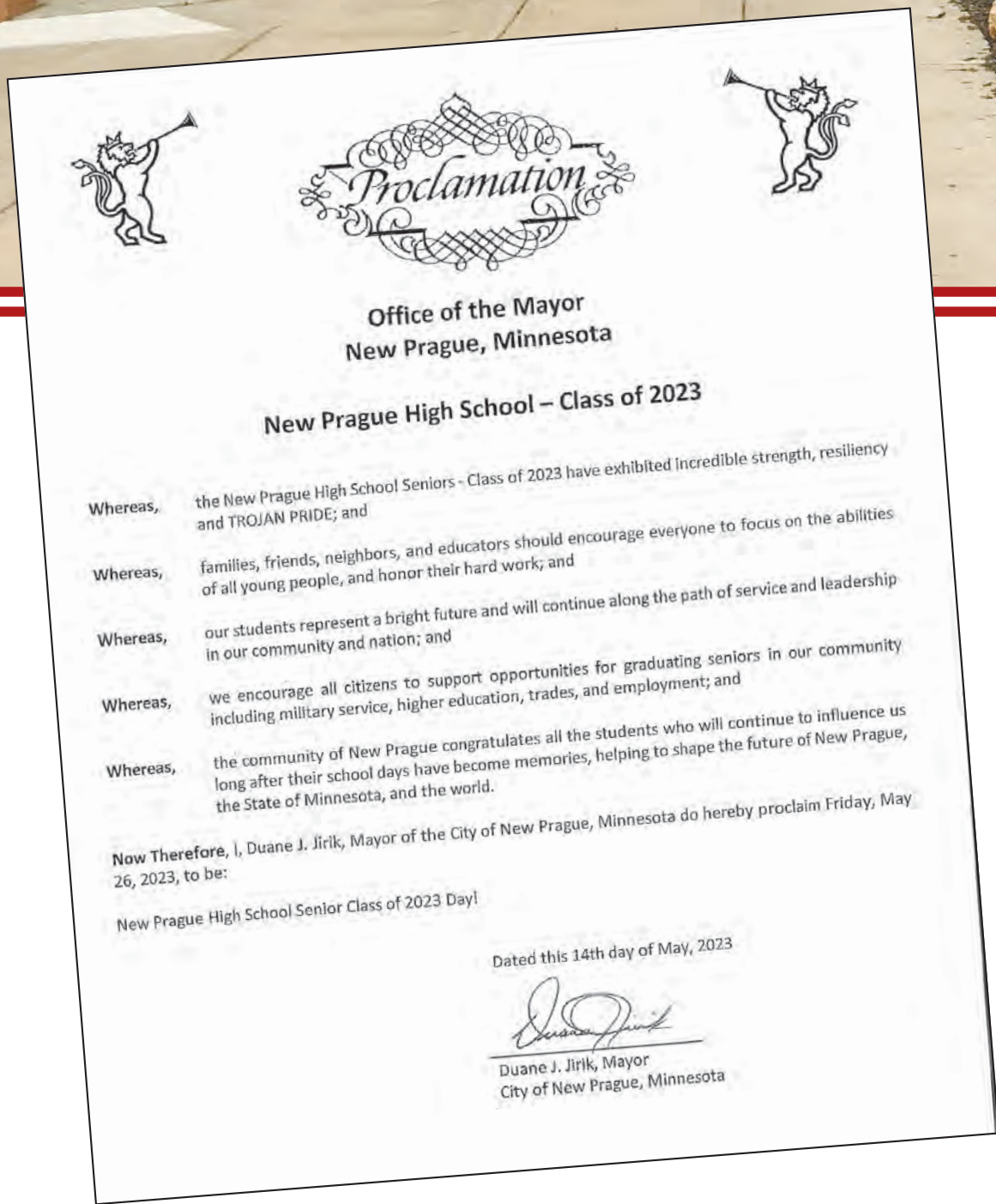


NEW PRAGUE HIGH SCHOOL

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NPBS GRADUATION CEREMONY

Friday, May 26, 2023

7 P.M.

Trojan Stadium

Class Colors
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Class Flower
White Snapdragon

Class Motto

“Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life, as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”

- Booker T. Washington

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 Stephanie & Tim Audette
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 Undecided
Best Wishes from
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 Traci & Richard Bailey
Future Plans
 Undecided
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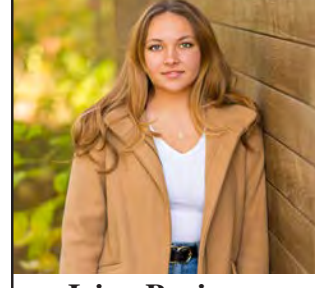
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 Robyn & Dion Erbes
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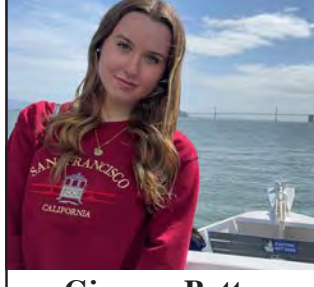
Matthew Joseph Boike
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Parents
 Liubov & Igor Borisov
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 (Italy); Host Parents: Dane &
 Natalie Lune
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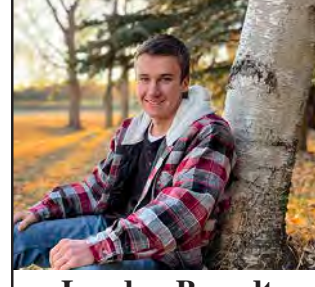
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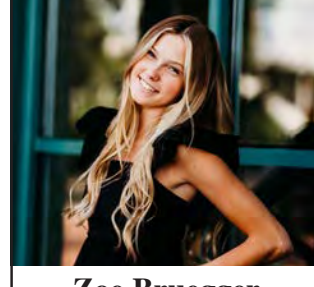
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left to right: Erin Wiener, Lizzie Wieskus, Maddy Boulanger, Natalie Boelter, Anna Schellin, Taylor Lindblom, Emily McCarthy, Alayna Vertnik



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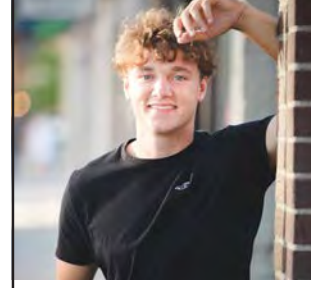
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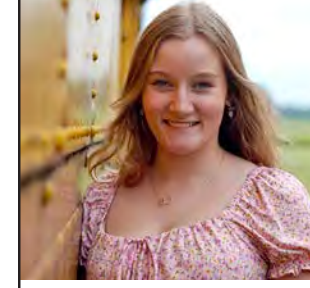
Andrew DeLost
Parents
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 Craig & Amy DeLost
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Best Wishes from
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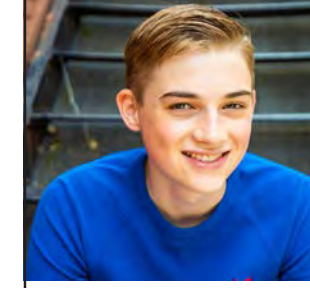
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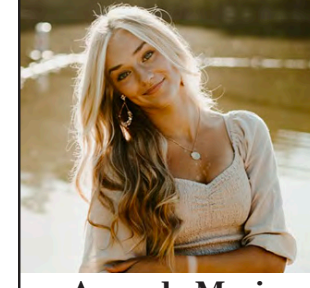
Foster Lee Dresen
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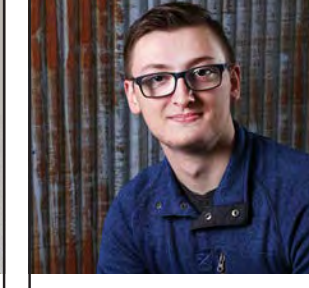
Brandon Dueffert
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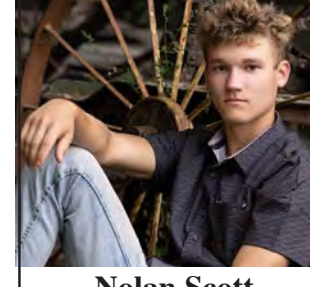
Jack Eckstein
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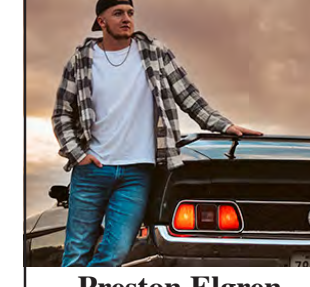
Melissa Rene Egan
Parents
 Angela & Matthew Egan
Future Plans
 ND State University - Fargo
Best Wishes from
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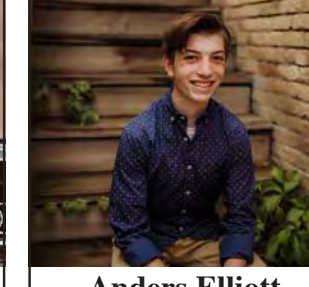
Julia Marie Eischens
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and Peter Greenman
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Tom Grobel
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Parents
 Tanya Weber & Mike Wellnitz
 and Chad Jellum
Future Plans
 Normandale Community College
Best Wishes from
 Edward Jones Financial Advisors
 Josh Miller & Sheilina Sperry
 New Prague

Becher already a business owner

When senior Mandi Becher graduates from New Prague High School, she will already be a business owner, a musician and photographer.

Becher, the daughter of Jed and Sarah Becher of Prior Lake, owns an online thrift store. She was already buying articles before the pandemic.

"During COVID, I liked to thrift on my own," said Becher. She found there were people who didn't want to go out to stores. Becher had time available, found it fun and it was a way to make money. She also knew people who wished they had relatively new clothes in their closet, she said. Becher was vaccinated and she started a contactless shop.

She explained she will get requests for clothes with an overall size and Becher will see what she has and can find and she then mails it straight to the customer. She'll also get requests to sell items.

"One person asked me, 'Could you sell vintage salsa bowls?'" Becher replied, "Sure, I can sell those."

Her business is going "very well, very constant flow of business," Becher said. She's been operating the business for two-and-a-half years.

She will go to consignment stores, some like Goodwill, others are smaller, like mom-and-pop operated businesses.

"At some, I'm able to sell back items," she said. "I know my stuff.



I had someone on eBay pay for a vintage jacket."

Becher ships items all over the U.S. and has repeat customers. She has built a connection with college students. Her official site is on Instagram.

"It's been fun to do," said Becher about the business. "It's fun to see people wear what I found. It could be something random I found and now it's their favorite item."

Photography

Becher became involved in photography through her family.

"My dad and sister (Janae) are into photography and they both got me liking the look of film photography," said Becher. "I love it."

She took a digital photography class in seventh grade and took a breather from photography, Becher became involved in film early in high school.

One camera she works with is a Canon EAO Elan II. "Probably the last film camera before digital," she said.

She's also becoming involved in videography, videos she puts together to make mini movies. She is having fun with that experience.

Becher has a website - mandibecher.com - where she showcases her photos and videography.

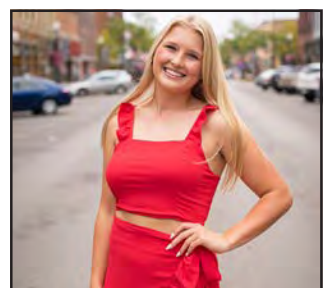
Music

"I don't know how long I've been singing," said Becher.

She detailed she was involved in church choir, started in choir in the sixth grade. Becher credits teacher Nicole Thietje with helping her in singing. New Prague High School's band teacher John Pohland asked for singers with the jazz band and Becher tried out.

"It's a passion of mine," said Becher about singing.

For college, Becher will be attending Fort Lewis College in Colorado. She plans to major in adventure education ecopsychology with a possible minor in photojournalism or music.



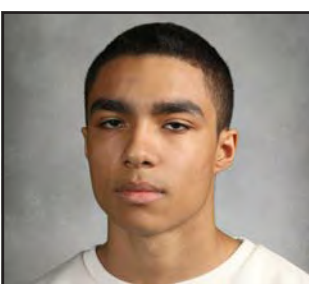
Maggie Jacobson
Parents
 Lindsay & Sara Jacobson and Sara & Brian Smith
Future Plans
 Grand Canyon University, AZ
Best Wishes from
 Tri-County Seeds
 and Services, LLC
 New Prague



Tyler Jahn
Parents
 Jill & Brian Jahn
Future Plans
 Southeast Technical College, SD
Best Wishes from
 The Sullivan Group
 ReMax Advantage Plus
 New Prague



Damian Johnson
Parents
 Barbara Schleeve & Jason Wilkes
 and Dante Johnson
Future Plans
 Employment
Best Wishes from
 Autowash Systems Inc.
 New Prague



Dasante Johnson
Parents
 Barbara Schleeve & Jason Wilkes
 and Dante Johnson
Future Plans
 Employment
Best Wishes from
 Tupy Insurance Agency
 New Prague



Devin Johnson
Parents
 Kerry Johnson and Brett Johnson
Future Plans
 Employment
Best Wishes from
 HealthSource Chiropractic of
 New Prague
 Dr. Samantha Chambers



Madison Jean Johnson
Parents
 Tamara & Thomas Johnson
Future Plans
 MN State University - Mankato
Best Wishes from
 Hertaus Floors
 New Prague



Makenna Reese Johnson
Parents
 Michelle & Brian Johnson
Future Plans
 University of WI - La Crosse
Best Wishes from
 Equipment Coating, Inc.
 New Prague



Alicia Jokhoo
Parents
 Leelawattie Latchman
Future Plans
 Undecided
Best Wishes from
 New Prague
 Mini Storage



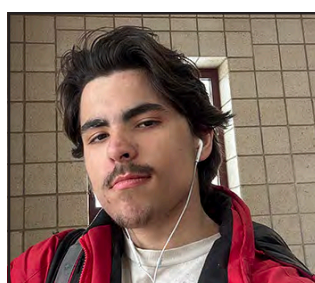
Zach Jones
Parents
 Rachel Glancy and Steve Jones
Future Plans
 Undecided
Best Wishes from
 South Mechanical Contractors
 Prior Lake



Samuel Jorgenson
Parents
 Nicole Jorgenson and Daniel Jorgenson
Future Plans
 Employment
Best Wishes from
 Ace Hardware and Paint
 New Prague



Gabriel Juenemann
Parents
 Heather & Doug Juenemann
Future Plans
 University of MN - Twin Cities
Best Wishes from
 Fishtale Bar & Grill
 New Prague



Owen Kappus
Parents
 Melissa & Jake Kappus
Future Plans
 Undecided
Best Wishes from
 Scott Equipment
 New Prague



Chase Michael Kaufenberg
Parents
 Megan & Rob Kaufenberg
Future Plans
 Employment
Best Wishes from
 Novak Companies, LLC
 Veseli



Evan Kellington
Parents
 Andrea Tupa & Jacobson Kellington
Future Plans
 Undecided
Best Wishes from
 Tim's Small Engine
 Lonsdale



Anna Kay Kemp
Parents
 Bonnie & Dave Kemp
Future Plans
 College of St. Benedict
Best Wishes from
 Marlene Mushitz CRS, GRI, CDPE
 ReMax Advantage Plus,
 New Prague



Class of 2023

GRADUATING *with* HIGH DISTINCTION

Have achieved a cumulative 3.9 or higher GPA

Micah Anderson	Sophia Huebner	Abigail Pint
Elizabeth Arrowood	Maggie Jacobson	Ava Rivard
Ava Barsness	Gabriel Juenemann	Liam Roufs
Ella Barsness	Ryan King	Anna Schellin
Abigail Bartusek	Kate Krammer	Selah Scherman
Mandi Becher	Parker Lohman	Ty Sebesta
Claire Bless	Caitlyn Luckow	Anna Sharkey
Koy Buesgens	Alexis Mattern	Savannah Smith
Nathan Burkhardtsmeier	Luke Meger	Samantha Solheid
Sophie Dushin	Sophia Metzдорff	Ella Sundstrom
Nicholas Giesen	Mia Monroe	Aidan Tattersall
Jack Gilles	Mackenzie O'Brien	Abigail Tostenson
Jonathan Grams	Madison Picka	Lucas White
Ella Horejsi	Kourtney Pietsch	Alexa Wiita
		Annie Zweber

GRADUATING *with* DISTINCTION

Have achieved a cumulative 3.6 -3.899 GPA

Truman Ahrens	Olivia Giesen	Brynn McLaughlin
Jack Anderson	Tyler Giesen	Olivia Miller
Claire Baribeau	Ella Gjerde	Samantha Nelson
Jordyn Berg	Hugh Goggins	Sofia Nelson
Natalie Biren	Paige Haase	Amber Odenthal
Natalie Boelter	Abigail Hartmann	Mieka Pederson
Ginevra Botta	Paige Hawley	Peyton Plaisance
Madeline Boulanger	Aidan Henkel	Derek Schaap
Jackson Braith	Preston Herrman	Ryan Schoen
James Cavanaugh	Cole Herrmann	Magdalena Schulte
Ella Danner	Riley Huseby	Ashlyn Shea
Ryan DeNardo	Aiden Jackson	Robert Smisek
Lilli Dickenson	Madison Johnson	Sophia Smith
Foster Dresen	Makenna Johnson	Noah Stocker
Jack Eckstein	Jadyn Klein	Madison Tupy
Gabriel Ellis	Ian Kluegel	Maximilion Tupy
Ashlyn Erickson	Adria Kocina	Alayna Vertnik
Riley Finley	Chloe Kuhl	Madisyn Volkart
Natalie Fishel	Thomas Kulakevich	Erika Walsh
Allison Foust	Alissa Landwehr	Erin Wiener
Britlynn Franek	Grace Langfield	Tomi Williams
Samuel Friedges	Jacob Lundquist	Lohla Yarolimek
Charley Furlong	Emily McCarthy	

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NPBS *Scholarship* RECIPIENTS



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HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS 2023

- American Red Cross**
Anna Schellin
- Breaking Boundaries**
Aaron Adamson
- Northern Star Scouting Eagle Scouts**
Luke Meger
- Knights of Columbus**
Abigail Bartusek, Luke Meger, Sofia Nelson
- Duck Cup Memorial**
Hugh Goggins, Madison Tupy, Erica Walsh
- Tri Lakes Sportsmen's Club**
Luke Meger
- The Jameson House Memorial**
Liam Roufs
- James Tracy Memorial**
MaryEmma Reeser
- Generation Theatre Company**
Micah Anderson
- John Kottke Memorial**
Madison Picka
- O'Neill Brothers NPBS Scholarship of the Arts**
Sydney Link
- N.E.W. Lions**
Annie Zweber
- Lonsdale Lions**
Megan Langeberg, Madison Picka, Grace Tumasmith
- Lonsdale SnoWizards**
Madison Picka, Cecelea Sirek, Grace Tumasmith
- New Market Elko Fire Legacy**
Annie Zweber
- New Market Elko Fire**
Ella Barsness, Paige Marschall
- New Prague American Legion Auxiliary Post 45**
Sophia Metzдорff, Samantha Solheid, Madison Tupy
- Charles Borak New Prague American Legion Post 45**
Sophia Metzдорff, Amber Odenthal, MaryEmma Reeser, Madison Tupy, Anna Sharkey, Samantha Solheid
- New Prague Post 5145 Veterans of Foreign Wars**
Sophia Metzдорff
- Ridgeview Health Care**
Ava Barsness
- NPCL Mutual Insurance Company**
Nicholas Giesen, Matthew Schoenecker, Samantha Solheid, Madison Tupy

- Jeff Gravon Memorial**
Noah Washa, Truman Ahrens
- Rick Tietz Memorial**
Colton Bornholdt, Koy Buesgens, Evan Farley, Cole Herrmann, Joey Novak
- Steele Waseca Cooperative Electric**
Grace Tumasmith
- Veseli Area Lions Club**
Madison Picka, Abigail Pint, Matthew Schoenecker, Alexa Wiita
- New Prague Band Boosters**
Alex Nelson, Ashlyn Shea
- PFLAG in partnership with The Mayo Clinic Health System in New Prague**
Mandi Becher, Ella Horejsi, Sophia Huebner, Grace Langfield
- Harold & Arlene Von Bank**
Abigail Bartusek
- Seneca Foods Corporation**
Madison Picka, Matt Schoenecker, Samantha Solheid
- Dr. Michael & Mrs. Kay Wilcox**
Abigail Pint, Annie Zweber
- New Prague Area Education Foundation Scholarships**
- New Prague Rotary**
Emily McCarthy, Alexis Mattern
- New Prague Chamber of Commerce**
Natalie Biren, Ella Horejsi, Abigail Pint, Liam Roufs, Alexa Wiita
- Judy C. Dohm Memorial Scholarship**
Brock Koehnen
- Wornson Goggins**
Mackenzie O'Brien
- Matt Shetka Gymnastics Memorial Scholarship**
Ella Barsness
- Scott Equipment - Trades**
Brock Koehnen, Colton Bornholdt
- Scott County Pork Producers**
Grace Tumasmith
- ID Threadz**
James Cavanaugh
- Paul Holasek Memorial Scholarship**
Nicholas Giesen
- Hertaus Floors**
Colton Bornholdt
- Braith Auto**
Nathan Burkhardtsmeier
- New Prague Sportsmans Club**
Matthew Schoenecker

- New Prague Area Education Foundation Scholarship**
Ava Barsness, Maddy Boulanger, Ella Danner, Ashlyn Erickson, Alli Foust, Maggie Jacobson, Luke Meger, Mia Monroe
- Kopp Family Scholarship**
Taylor Lindblom, Elizabeth Wieskus
- Paul Flick Memorial Scholarship**
Abigail Bartusek
- New Prague Firemen Relief Association**
Riley Finley, Brock Koehnen
- Chart, Inc.**
Cooper Hoot
- Valley Accounting**
Ty Sebesta, Luke White
- Ed & Marietta Sharkey Scholarship**
Sophia Metzдорff
- In Memory of Stacy Jirak**
Savannah Smith, Thomas Ott
- Matt Shetka Award Scholarship**
Anna Schellin
- Minnesota Millwork**
Noah Washa
- Frances Schoenbauer Merwin Memorial Scholarship - Healthcare**
Ella Barsness
- Frances Schoenbauer Merwin Memorial Scholarship - Education**
Micah Anderson
- Apple Auto**
Landon Brandt
- Dick Lucas Memorial Scholarship**
Jonny Grams
- Tina Johnson Memorial**
Anna Kemp
- Treven Smith Memorial**
Breck Hagen
- Sirek-Kriha Memorial**
Claire Baribeau
- John Philip Sousa**
Luke White
- Louis Armstrong Jazz**
Ashlyn Shea
- Woody Herman Award**
Luke Meger, Alex Nelson
- Patrick Gilmore**
Sophia Smith
- Director's Award**
Jordyn Berg, Alex Dvorak, Alli Foust, Kaedyn Padelford

- Micah Anderson
- Ava Barsness
- Ella Barsness
- Abigail Bartusek
- Evan Bible
- Natalie Biren
- Madeline Boulanger
- Jackson Braith
- Rachel Brandt
- Ella Danner
- Foster Dresen
- Melissa Egan
- Natalie Fishel
- Allison Foust
- Britlynn Franek
- Ella Gjerde
- Hugh Goggins
- Paige Hawley
- Gabriel Juenemann
- Ryan King
- Thomas Kulakevich
- Caitlyn Luckow
- Paige Marschall
- Alexis Mattern
- Emily McCarthy
- Brynn McLaughlin
- Luke Meger
- Sophia Metzдорff
- Mia Monroe
- Mackenzie O'Brien
- Mieka Pederson
- Peyton Plaisance
- Liam Roufs
- Anna Schellin
- Sophia Smith
- Samantha Solheid
- Kayla Thorsfeldt
- Abigail Tostenson
- Madison Tupy
- Erin Wiener
- Elizabeth Wieskus
- Owen Wilkins
- Alexa Witta
- Annie Zweber

- 
- ### GERMAN HONOR SOCIETY MEMBERS 2023
- Truman Ahrens
 - Abigail Bartusek
 - Mandi Becher
 - Natalie Biren
 - Lily Birkholz
 - Madeline Boulanger
 - Ella Danner
 - Melissa Egan
 - Britlynn Franek
 - Paige Hawley
 - Isabella Huber
 - Maggie Jacobson
 - Madison Larson
 - Caitlyn Luckow
 - Madison Picka
 - Abigail Pint
 - Ava Rivard
 - Ryan Schoen
 - Madison Tupy
 - Elizabeth Wieskus
 - Alexa Wiita

ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

- Tri Artists:**
Micah Anderson, Abigail Bartusek, Natalie Boelter, Sophia Huebner, Amara Prochaska, Noah Stocker
- Tri Athletes:**
Madeline Boulanger, Zoe Bruegger, Nathan Burkhardtsmeier, James Cavanaugh, Tyler Giesen, Jacob Hemann, Cole Herrmann, John LaFaurie, Emily McCarthy, Mia Monroe
- MSHSL Triple "A":**
Jonathan Grams & Samantha Solheid
- Outstanding Male & Female Athlete:**
Koy Buesgens & Ella Barsness

New Prague senior's plans taking off to a career in the air

She knows where she wants to go and knows how to get there. Her plans after graduation will take Sophia Smith up, up and away to college in North Dakota.

Smith, the daughter of Sandy and Jeff Smith, is finalizing plans to be a licensed pilot by the time she picks up her New Prague High School diploma. She plans to attend the University of North Dakota and study aerospace. Her goal is to one day be a commercial airline pilot.

Her interest in flying was born years ago. Family vacations to venues too far away to drive sparked Smith's an interest in flight. She paid close attention to the take-offs and landings and enjoyed the sensation associated with flight. By the time she'd been through junior high school and was a sophomore, her desire to one day be a pilot had taken off and was soaring.

"I like to see everything. I like being up in the air," Smith said. "I like the feeling of being up in the air. It's just cool."

Her interest in flying really took off after participating in a recruitment event Endeavor Regional Airlines hosted to recruit more women into the industry. She used a flight simulator to see what flying an aircraft would be like. She found the process complicated, but was hooked.

"There's a lot more to think about than you might expect," she said.

Her interest in air transportation has led to her installing an airplane tracker on her phone. "I think its pretty cool," she said. "Not many kids do."

And her sunglasses? Aviators, of course.

Smith's friends and classmates are aware she's working to complete the requirements to become a fully licensed pilot. It's not something most can include on a resume, but Smith has the right temperament for the work. She's known as a responsible student, one who turns in quality work on time, said Amy Crespo, Smith's language arts teacher.

"She's such a responsible and mature student," Crespo said.

"She has a nice, calm confidence and intelligence about her."

Smith has completed the classroom portion of the training at AV8 Flight School in Eden Prairie and also has finished some of the flight work, conducting short flights around the airport area. She has completed her lessons with a pilot instructor in the aircraft, lessons lasting between two and three hours. She has also com-



Photo courtesy Sophia Smith

Sophia Smith expects she'll leave New Prague High School as a graduate and licensed private pilot later this month. She plans to attend the University of North Dakota and study aviation with along-term career goal of one day being a commercial pilot.

pleted two successful solo flights between Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie and St. Cloud.

Her final test flight was slated for May 17. It involved her doing all the pre-flight paperwork and aircraft checks. She'll fly to St. Cloud, landing at the airport there before heading back to Flying Cloud Airport in Eden Prairie. The drive to St. Cloud normally takes 90 minutes to two hours. In a single-engine aircraft, Smith will be there in about 45 minutes.

"I fly over a lot of farmland," she said.

Flying into St. Cloud, she'll be directed in and out by an air-traffic controller. Along the way, she'll pass by smaller airports without the benefit of a controller. If she were to land and take off from a smaller airport,

Smith would be at her own discretion on approach and departure.

Her lessons have included stalling the aircraft's engine and recovering from it. Smith is comfortable in the cockpit, perhaps more so at times than on a highway in rush hour traffic. Crespo sees Smith as a student confident enough in her ability and humble enough to accept lessons and learn.

"She's humble and that's a nice attribute to have. You have to be willing to humble yourself to learn and grow," Crespo said.

While some may see it as kind of contradiction, Smith is at time more comfortable piloting a single-engine small aircraft than an automobile in rush-hour traffic.

"I don't like driving all that much because of the other people out there," she said.

Becoming a commercial pilot will take some work. Besides schooling, Smith needs 1,500 hours of flight time after receiving her private pilot's license to apply for a commercial pilot's license.

Smith believes the job market for commercial airline pilots will be receptive by the time she graduates from UND. Overall employment of airline and commercial pilots, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows the profession is projected to grow 6 percent from 2021 to 2031, about as fast as the average for all occupations. About 18,100 openings for airline and commercial pilots are projected each year, on average, over the decade. She also indicated some of the companies hiring commercial airline pilots are offering bonuses to entice applicants to fill openings resulting from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or exit the labor force.

"A lot of the older pilots are retiring," Smith said.

But before Smith can be a full-fledged licensed pilot, she must complete a few more steps in the licensing process.

Smith's confident she can handle the final tests of her ability to safely take off, fly and land an aircraft. In some ways, passing the test to be a pilot might be easier than passing the test to drive a car. She was unsuccessful in her first try two years ago. The test on a closed course in Eagan was progressing well until the very end.

"I don't like to think about it," she said. "I was nervous and I guess I'm not very good at parallel parking."

Smith tried again and passed the driving test. She laughed at the idea she won't have to worry about parallel parking an airplane. "That's a bonus," she said.

NEW PRAGUE HIGH SCHOOL

A proud tradition!

We are pleased to present the members of the Class of 2023, in our 53rd annual New Prague High School Graduation souvenir section. In addition to featuring the graduates' photos, parents' names and future plans, you will find stories about some of these young people, those graduating with honors, and many who have been recognized for their achievements at New Prague High School.

The New Prague Times, and all the sponsors that make this section possible, salute the Class of 2023!

SENIOR STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ava Barsness	Caitlyn Luckow	Anna Schellin
Ella Barsness	Emily McCarthy	Mason Schmidt
Abigail Bartusek	Mia Monroe	Cecelea Sirek
Madeline Boulanger	Mackenzie O'Brien	Abby Tostenson
Gabriel Juenemann	Kaedynd Padelford	Erin Wiener
Grace Langfield	Kourtney Pietsch	Alexa Wiita
Taylor Lindblom		

Class of 2023

The Times tabulated graduates' plans for the future, based on information the students provided.

Top choice: Employment

Top 10 picks of the NPHS Class of 2022

1. Employment (35)
2. Undecided (33)
3. Minnesota State University - Mankato (31)
4. College (26)
5. Dakota County Technical College (18)
6. North Dakota State University - Fargo (11)
7. University of MN - Twin Cities (9)
8. College of St. Benedict (7)
9. Normandale Community College (7)
10. Winona State University (7)

SD State University - Brookings6	Bethel University1	Southeast Technical College, SD.....1
University of WI - La Crosse6	Century College1	Southwest MN State University - Marshall.....1
University of ND - Grand Forks.....5	Coastal Carolina University, SC.....1	St. Catherine University.....1
University of St. Thomas5	College of Charleston, SC1	St. Cloud State University1
Gustavus Adolphus College.....4	Dakota State University, SD.....1	St. John's University1
University of MN - Duluth.....4	Dordt College, IA.....1	St. Olaf College.....1
University of WI - Madison.....4	Dunwoody Technical College.....1	Tacoma Community College, WA.....1
University of WI - River Falls.....4	Florida Gulf Coast University1	Technical College.....1
Alexandria Technical and Community College.....3	Fort Lewis College, CO.....1	The College of St. Scholastica.....1
Aveda Institute3	Grand Canyon University, AZ.....1	The University of IA.....1
University of NE - Lincoln.....3	Grinnell College, IA.....1	University of AL.....1
Hennepin Technical College2	KS State University1	University of CO - Colorado Springs1
Transition Program2	Lake Area Technical College, SD.....1	University of Greenwich, England1
University of South FL, Tampa2	Liberty University, VA.....1	University of Italy1
University of WI - Eau Claire.....2	Loras College, IA.....1	University of Northern IA - Cedar Falls.....1
University of WI - Stevens Point.....2	Luther College, IA1	University of SD - Vermillion.....1
US Air Force2	MN State University - Moorhead1	University of TN - Knoxville1
US Marines2	Mpls Community & Technical College.....1	University of WI - Stout1
Wartburg College, IA.....2	NC State University1	University of WI - Whitewater1
Augsburg University1	Northeast IA Community College1	University of WY.....1
Augustana University.....1	OK State University.....1	US Army1
Belmont University, TN.....1	Penn Foster College1	Washington University in St. Louis, MO1
Bemidji State University.....1	SD School of Mines and Technology - Rapid City1	Webster University, MO1
Bethany Lutheran College1	South Central College - Mankato1	



Ryan King
Parents
Lori King and the late Dan King
Future Plans
University of WI - Madison
Best Wishes from
Giesen Family Chiropractic
Dr. Heather L. Giesen,
New Prague



Nathan Daniel Kittredge
Parents
Danielle & Richard Kittredge
Future Plans
Normandale Community College
Best Wishes from
Fishtale Bar & Grill
New Prague



Jadyn Lea Klein
Parents
Dana & Ryan Klein
Future Plans
MN State University - Mankato
Best Wishes from
St. Wenceslaus Catholic School
New Prague



Ian Kluegel
Parents
Kate & John Kluegel
Future Plans
Dakota County Technical College
Best Wishes from
Kneip & Associates
Dan Kneip,
New Prague



Connor Knutson
Parents
Amy Smith & Neil Knutson
Future Plans
Employment
Best Wishes from
New Market Bank



Abree Kocina
Parents
Sarah & Gregg Kocina
Future Plans
South Central College - Mankato
Best Wishes from
M.S. Excavating Inc.
New Prague



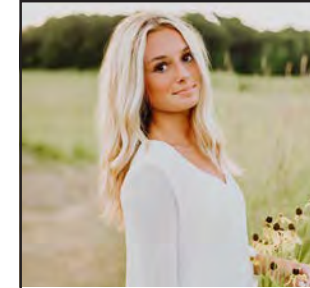
Adria Kocina
Parents
Sarah & Gregg Kocina
Future Plans
University of NE - Lincoln
Best Wishes from
M.S. Excavating Inc.
New Prague



Piper Kocina
Parents
Melissa & Jason Kocina
Future Plans
SD School of Mines and
Technology - Rapid City
Best Wishes from
South Metro
Small Engine Repair
New Prague



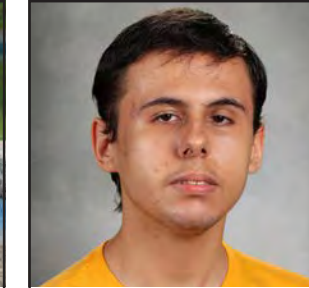
Brock Joseph Koehnen
Parents
Theresa & Ryan Kubes and
Travis & Katie Kohlrusch
Future Plans
Dakota County Technical College
Best Wishes from
AP Topy Mechanical
New Prague



Kate Leona Krammer
Parents
Karla & Joseph Krammer
Future Plans
University of St. Thomas
Best Wishes from
US Bank
New Prague



Chloe Jean Marie Kuhl
Parents
Cindy & Craig Kuhl
Future Plans
Dakota County Technical College
Best Wishes from
Canine Country Club
Elko New Market



Jonathan Kukacka
Parents
Shawna Bandow
Future Plans
Transition Program
Best Wishes from
Kubes Furniture & Flooring
New Prague



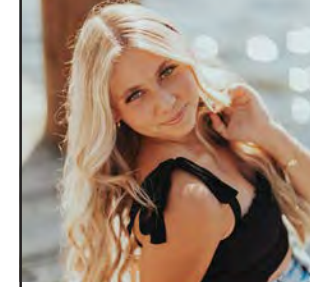
Thomas Kulakevich
Parents
Julie & Roman Kulakevich
Best Wishes from
Farmers Insurance Group
Ron Schoenecker-Agent,
New Prague



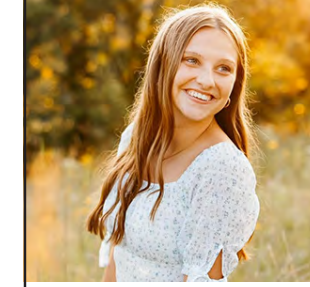
John LaFaurie
Parents
Amanda Wilson &
the late Shaun LaFaurie
Future Plans
Employment
Best Wishes from
Jaeckels Well Drilling, Inc.
New Prague



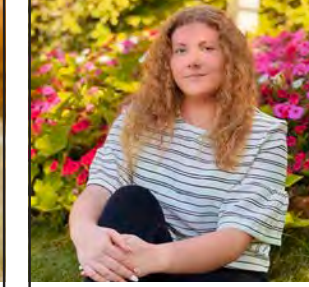
Zach Lambrecht
Parents
Emily Lambrecht and
the late Paul Lambrecht
Future Plans
University of St. Thomas
Best Wishes from
City Club Bar
New Prague



Alissa Marie Landwehr
Parents
Erin & Matthew Landwehr
Future Plans
Aveda Institute
Best Wishes from
Great Clips
New Prague



Megan Lynn Langeberg
Parents
Tracy & Joel Langeberg
Future Plans
University of MN - Duluth
Best Wishes from
New Prague Counseling



Grace Annette Langfield
Parents
Lisa & Scott Langfield
Future Plans
University of WI - River Falls
Best Wishes from
St. Wenceslaus Catholic School
New Prague



Madison Larson
Parents
Cheryl & Bruce Larson
Future Plans
College
Best Wishes from
St. Patrick's Tavern



Spencer LaRue
Parents
Emily & Grant Anderson and Brian-
na & Chris Selchow
Future Plans
College
Best Wishes from
Braith Auto Repair
New Prague



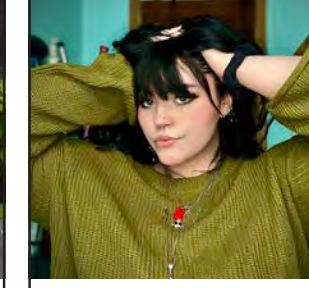
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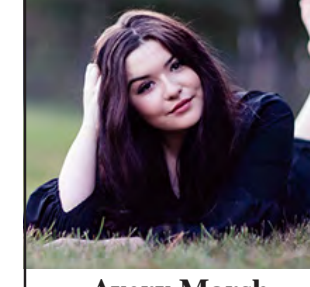
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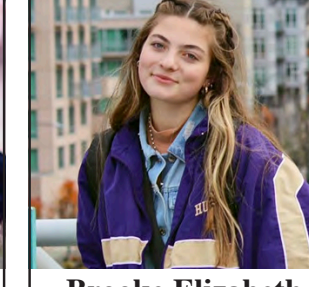
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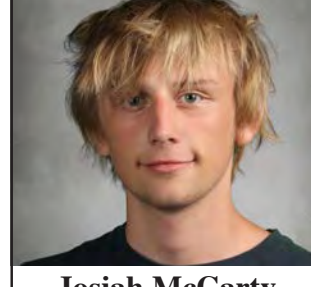
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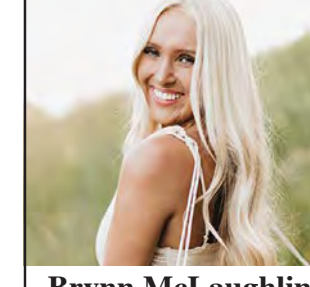
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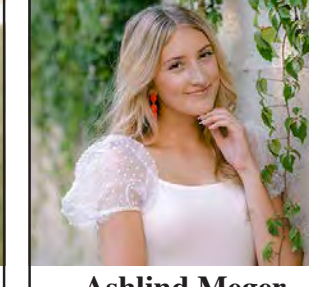
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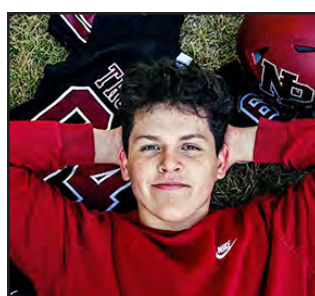
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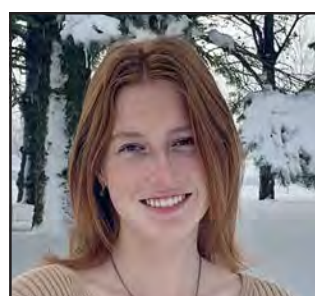
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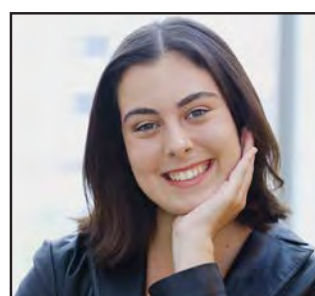
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Griffin John Mohr
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 Stephanie & Dennis Mohr
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 University of NE - Lincoln
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Nino Morris
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 Shanise Morris and James Morris
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 Best Wishes from
 Stefeni Tupy - ReMax
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Semaj Morris
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 Shanise Morris and James Morris
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 Irina & Eugene Moskovkin
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White enjoys creating music

For Luke White music is one of the things he enjoys most. The New Prague High School senior plays trombone with several of the bands. He also was involved in the all-state band.

White, son of Benjamin and Dana White, said high school band director John Pohland suggested he audition for all-state band.

"I got the music and I practiced for a good three to four months," said White.

He then auditioned and qualified.

"I was really excited," said White. "I didn't think I got in," he said and was excited when he found out he had.

For all-state band, he and the other musicians were at a week-long camp in early-August at Concordia College in Moorhead. He qualified as the third trombone with the band.

"I really enjoyed the camp," said White. "It was really amazing. I was playing with people who were better than me."

They performed at the end of the camp. The group of young musicians met again in February to perform at Orchestra Hall as part of



the Minnesota Music Educators Association's Midwinter Convention. White said they stayed overnight at the Hilton in Minneapolis on Feb. 17 and then played on Feb. 18.

"(They were) the best musicians I ever played with and the best concert," said White. "It was incredible, the best expe-

rience I've had in high school and to be able to experience music on that level."

White started playing with the fifth grade band at Eagle View Elementary in Elko New Market.

"It seemed cool," he said, adding his first instrument was the saxophone and then he switched to the trombone. "I'm still learning how to play higher notes and lower notes. It's been interesting seeing how far I've come."

For White, band practices are early. While the practice is at 7 a.m., Monday through Friday, he needs to be up by 5:30 a.m. to get ready and drive 25 minutes to the school.

White will be attending the University of Iowa where he will major in actuarial science, which works with math, statistics and risk factors for insurance. His choice for majors grew out of a visit to the University of St. Thomas on its engineering day when White was a sophomore. He found out about math and building and statistics.

"It stayed in my mind," said White. "I learned more about it and I thought this seems like the career for me."

He's not alone as he's met another trombone player who's also interested in actuarial science. Music won't be far away as White also plans to play for the University of Iowa's marching band for football and the pep band for basketball.



Timothy Neisen
 Parents
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 Best Wishes from
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 Lori & David Nelson
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 University of ND - Grand Forks
 Best Wishes from
 New Prague Counseling



Samantha Nelson
 Parents
 Lisa & Craig Nelson
 Future Plans
 IA State University - Ames
 Best Wishes from
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 New Prague



Sofia Nelson
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 Lindsay & Jake Nelson
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 Stasney Electric
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Joey Michael Novak
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 Best Wishes from
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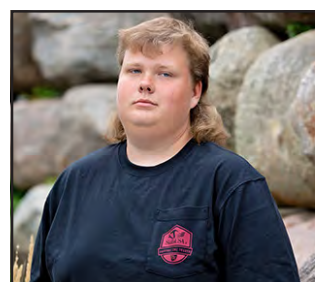
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McGwire Olson
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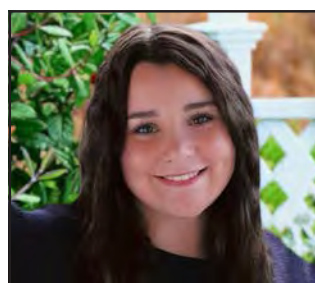
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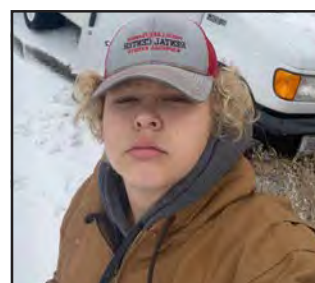
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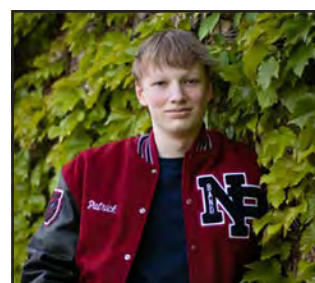
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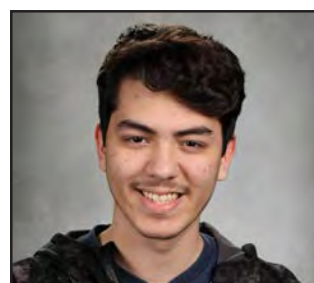
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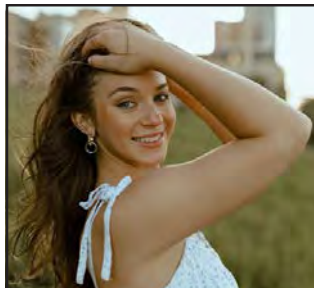
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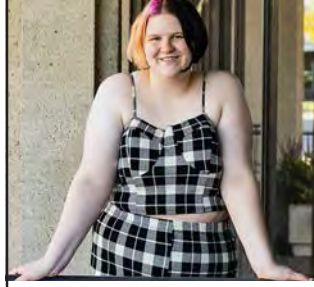
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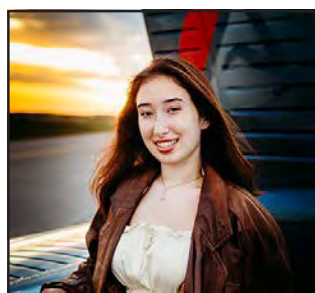
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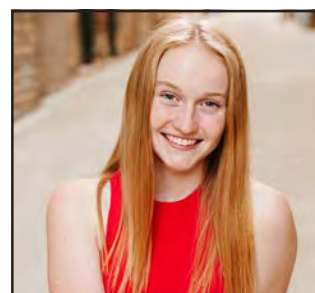
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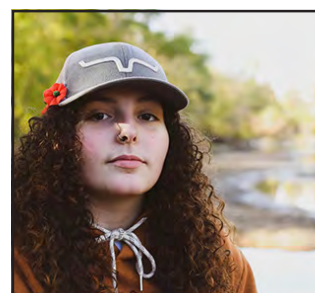
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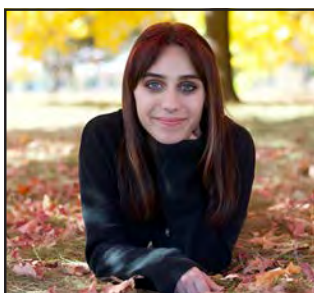
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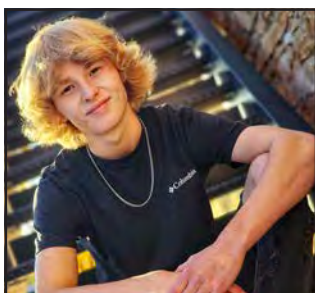
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 and Eugene Speltz
Future Plans
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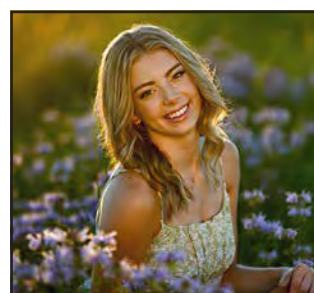
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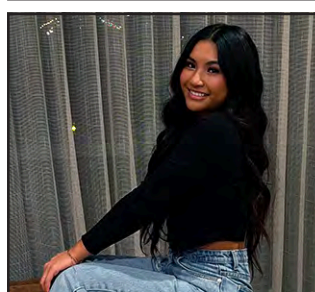
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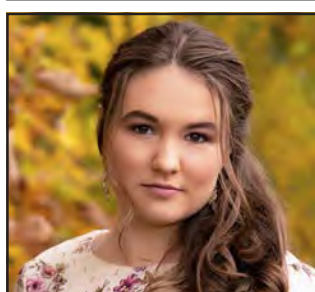
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Parents
 Chirlyn & Jim Thorsfeldt
Future Plans
 College of St. Benedict
Best Wishes from
 Bruzek Funeral Home
 New Prague



Abigail Donna Tostenson
Parents
 Sunday & Nate Tostenson
Future Plans
 University of ND - Grand Forks
Best Wishes from
 Knights of Columbus
 Third Degree, New Prague



Vanessa Tila Touch
Parents
 Sopheap & Bon Touch
Future Plans
 Undecided
Best Wishes from
 Autowash Systems Inc.
 New Prague



Grace Ludmilla Tumasmith
Parents
 Maryann &
 Christopher Tumasmith
Future Plans
 University of WI - Stevens Point
Best Wishes from
 Uncle Earl's Pet Center
 New Prague



Madison Marie Tupy
Parents
 Angela Sticha
 and Marty Tupy
Future Plans
 College of St. Benedict
Best Wishes from
 NPCL Mutual Insurance Company
 New Prague



Maximillion Tupy
Parents
 Collette Tupy
 and Brett Tupy
Future Plans
 MN State University - Mankato
Best Wishes from
 Wencel Kubes Custom Cabinets
 New Prague



Vanessa Valek
Parents
 Becky & Shawn Valek
Future Plans
 Normandale Community College
Best Wishes from
 Fishtale Bar & Grill
 New Prague



Vivian VanderWert
Parents
 Jonathan VanderWert & Blake
 Hootman-VanderWert
Future Plans
 Normandale Community College
Best Wishes from
 Wencel Kubes Custom Cabinets
 New Prague



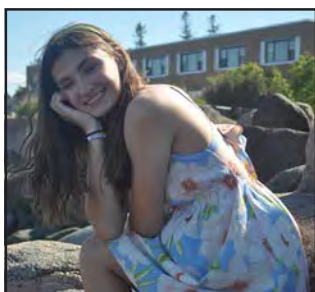
Alayna Vertnik
Parents
 Michael and Miranda Vertnik
Future Plans
 MN State University - Mankato
Best Wishes from
 New Prague
 Floral and Such



Jacey Lynn Viskocil
Parents
 Robin & Terry Viskocil
Future Plans
 Undecided
Best Wishes from
 Gotham Krocak, Realtor
 Kubes Realty
 New Prague



Madisyn Rose Volkart
Parents
 Tiffany & Dave Volkart
Future Plans
 MN State University - Mankato
Best Wishes from
 HealthSource Chiropractic
 of New Prague
 Dr. Samantha Chambers



Erika Walsh
Parents
 Nikki & Dana Walsh
Future Plans
 University of MN - Duluth
Best Wishes from
 Bruzek Funeral Home
 New Prague



Noah James Washa
Parents
 Vicky & Chad Washa
Future Plans
 Bethany Lutheran College
Best Wishes from
 Jackie Lee,
 ReMax Advantage Plus
 New Prague

CONGRATULATIONS
St. Wenceslaus Class of 2023

ST. WENCESLAUS
SWS
 EST. 1878
 CATHOLIC SCHOOL
 NEW PRAGUE, MN

2023
 8TH GRADE CLASS

*Blessings as you continue
 on your journey.*

Faith makes all things possible, not easy.

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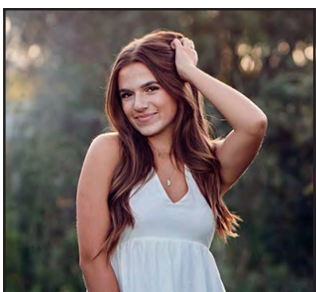
Mary Rose Westphal
Parents
 Laura & Craig Westphal
Future Plans
 Penn Foster College
Best Wishes from
 New Prague Animal Care
 Stephen A. Lavallee, DVM
 and Lisa Johnson, DVM



Lucas White
Parents
 Dana & Benjamin White
Future Plans
 The University of IA
Best Wishes from
 Tupy Insurance Agency
 New Prague



Erin Wiener
Parents
 Lisa & Adam Wiener
Future Plans
 ND State University - Fargo
Best Wishes from
 Steve Rynda Construction
 & Landscape
 New Prague



Lizzie Wieskus
Parents
 Kyle & Chad Wieskus
Future Plans
 IA State University - Ames
Best Wishes from
 Marlene Mushitz CRS, GRI, CDPE
 ReMax Advantage Plus,
 New Prague



Alexa Wiita
Parents
 Carrie & Joe Wiita
Future Plans
 University of MN - Twin Cities
Best Wishes from
 Mala Strana Rehabilitation
 Center & Assisted Living
 New Prague



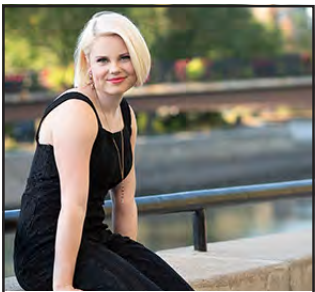
Owen Wilkins
Parents
 Jody & Andy Wilkins
Future Plans
 University of WI - La Crosse
Best Wishes from
 Wornson Goggins P.C.
 New Prague



Tomi Williams
Parents
 Holly & Ron Williams
Future Plans
 University of WI - La Crosse
Best Wishes from
 New Prague Auto



Alexander Woodyard
Parents
 Sonja & John Woodyard
Future Plans
 US Army
Best Wishes from
 Bruzek Funeral Home
 New Prague



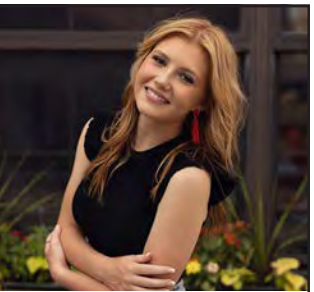
Lohla Yarolimek
Parents
 Chris & Sommer Yarolimek
Future Plans
 Grinnell College, IA
Best Wishes from
 Praha Village
 New Prague



Evie Zack
Parents
 Dave Zack and Marla Zack
Future Plans
 University of St. Thomas
Best Wishes from
 Hertaus Floors
 New Prague



Ruth Zvanovec
Parents
 Leah & Mike Zvanovec
Future Plans
 University of WI - River Falls
Best Wishes from
 Pizza Ranch
 New Prague



Annie Zweber
Parents
 Chris & Wendy Zweber
Future Plans
 MN State University - Mankato
Best Wishes from
 Connelly Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
 New Prague

Cavanaugh graduating to his own tune

James Cavanaugh was among the seniors at New Prague High School recognized as a tri-athlete at New Prague High School's Honors Night. The son of Jim Cavanaugh and Mora (Cervenka) Cavanaugh of New Prague, the young Cavanaugh has played in football, basketball and baseball. Another area he's been involved in is music, especially on the fiddle.

Cavanaugh has been playing the fiddle since he was 7 years old and now plays with the band Donegal. On Friday, May 12, at the Grand Event Center in Northfield, the band had its biggest concert and the first where it was the main attraction.

"It went so great! They sold out the show," said Mora.

Cavanaugh said before the concert, "I'm excited. This is a big event. We've done a lot more in time, preparation and practice than for other events."

Cavanaugh has been playing with the band since 2019 when his fiddle teacher, Hannah Kalisch, asked him to join Donegal. The band is made up of her family and includes Kim Frizzell, his son Andy Frizzell, Dan Chinander, and Hannah, Alex, and Sam Kalisch.

As to how Cavanaugh took up the fiddle, his mom explained, "We had no intention of signing him up for fiddle lessons, but twice when he was little - once at age 3 and again at age 6 - we were at local events (in New Prague and at Murphy's Landing) where there was a fiddle player, and James sat down next to the player and watched for a long time."

At Murphy's Landing, now The Landing, a Three Rivers Park District park, in Shakopee, the fiddle player let Cavanaugh hold and try to play his fiddle.

Mora said the fiddle player told her, "Now mom, you go home and sign him up for fiddle lessons." She replied, "Oh, we live in New Prague, I don't know how I would find a fiddle teacher in a small town." He told me, "Oh, you would be surprised, just call your local music store and you will find a teacher."

The family found Kalisch at Downtown Sound in New Prague. James started with the smallest fiddle Downtown Sound had.

"I learned the basics of



Senior James Cavanaugh, son of Jim Cavanaugh and Mora (Cervenka) Cavanaugh of New Prague, is a three sport athlete and a fiddle player in the band Donegal. Cavanaugh got his start with lessons through Downtown Sound in New Prague.

how to move the bow across the strings, I would match the timing of how the bow works and learned the notes," said Cavanaugh about those early lessons around age 7.

Mora said her son would play along with a CD to learn songs.

"We would go to bluegrass events and the fiddle music would inspire him," said Mora.

One event was at St. Patrick's Tavern, north of New Prague, where the Platte Valley Boys were playing. Band members asked Cavanaugh to play with them.

"They bribed him with a Snickers bar," said Mora. "It's what got him to enjoy being on stage. People were cheering for him and it got him excited."

Mora said it was appropriate as his great-great-grandparents had owned St. Patrick's Tavern.

"It was cool to see it come full circle," Mora said.

Cavanaugh is the grandson of John and Paulette Cervenka and Jerry and Mary Cavanaugh, all of New Prague.

Over the years Cavanaugh would participate in openmic events, bluegrass festivals, county fair contests and twice at the state fair. The first time, he was quite young, and the second state fair contest was in 2021. He won in the young adult category.

"That was fun. I hadn't won or placed before," said Cavanaugh, adding his teacher Kalisch was there.

"It was really cool to have her there," said Mora. "She's super supportive."

"It's the first band I've been in," said Cavanaugh. "It was definitely a new experience. I would learn how to play with others and pick up the background notes by ear. It's made me a better player all around."

Cavanaugh will continue playing with the band after he graduates high school. He plans to come home when he can from Dakota State University in South Dakota where he plans to major in cyber security.

Congratulations SWS Class of 2019

as you become 2023 high school graduates!



Blessings to you on this milestone of high school graduation. May you continue to learn and grow in your academic journey, as well as your faith journey.

Faith can move mountains. Matthew 17:20



Watch for
The New Prague Times
 next week.

The June 1 edition will feature coverage of the Class of 2023 graduation on May 26!