



## Hall of fame

A Richfield native is joining the state American Legion Baseball Hall of Fame.

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Thursday, May 21, 2020

# College nursing students find a way to celebrate

By **MIKE HANKS**  
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It may not have meant as much to her classmates, but Emily Hansen was unwilling to forgo the ceremonial completion of her studies at Normandale Community College on account of COVID-19.

With traditional commencement exercises being canceled this spring and summer due to the coronavirus pandemic, Hansen organized a parking lot ceremony for the Bloomington college's nursing school. Hansen was one of 29 students who completed the nursing program this spring, and most of her classmates gathered in the parking lot outside of the college's Partnership Center May 14 for a replication of the traditional ceremony.

A few elements of the ceremony were

improvised, but two weeks of planning and discussions paved the way for the outdoor program, which "felt like a really sweet way to finish a bizarre semester," Hansen said.

Graduating nursing students participate in a pinning ceremony as part of their commencement exercise. During the ceremony, a family member, faculty member or other important person in a student's life places a pin on the student, marking the student's entry into the nursing profession.

Although the pins were not distributed during the parking lot ceremony, faculty members read the testimonies of each student to the person or persons who would have been doing the pinning. Many of the students looked on from parked cars, and those who could not attend were able to watch

the ceremony through live-streaming.

Faculty members sat along a sidewalk, in chairs spaced at least six feet apart, but the ceremony was otherwise traditional, with both student and staff speakers addressing the audience during the ceremony.

For Hansen, 36, the ceremony marked the end of a long, calculated chapter in her pursuit of a nursing career. The mother of three had earned an education degree and began a teaching career before staying at home after her first child was born. She began working as a doula and enjoyed both helping with births and the teaching aspects of her job.

She had discussed with her husband how she would have handled difficult births if she were a nurse or midwife in those

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(SUN CURRENT STAFF PHOTO BY MIKE HANKS)

Normandale Community College Instructor Judy Wattman used several props in addressing nursing school students during an outdoor commencement ceremony held May 14 in the Bloomington college's parking lot.

# Richfield man elected to National Academy of Sciences

By **RAYMOND T. RIVARD**  
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The National Academy of Sciences includes among its members these individuals: Albert Einstein, Jonas Salk, Stephen Hawking, Noam

Chomsky and Marc Jenkins.

Yes, that's Marc Jenkins, Ph.D., Richfield resident and University of Minnesota immunologist listed among the giants. Jenkins joined the elite group when he was elected to the

renowned academy April 27—an accomplishment that hasn't been realized at the U of M Medical College for 50 years.

"I found out [April 27]," Jenkins said about his election to the prestigious academy. "Suddenly

my phone just lit up with people emailing me—other members of the National Academy who were in on the election. They were congratulating me at about the same time that the press release came out."

Election to the National Academy of Sciences caught him by surprise. Though he had a hunch he had been nominated in the past, he had his reservations whether his election would ever come to fruition.

"I had the sense I had been nominated before and it's been quite a while, so I wasn't so sure anymore if I would be elected," he said.

The entire election process, Jenkins said, churns

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