



The Lincoln High GRADUATE Lake City, Minnesota

Special Section - Thursday, June 4, 2026

Class of 2026 bids farewell



The Lincoln High School Class of 2026 gathered at Hok-Si-La Park on Friday, May 29 for a final get-together prior to their commencement on Sunday, June 7.

Harteneck, Kennedy chosen to speak at Class of 2026 commencement



Lydia Harteneck

Each year Lincoln High School seniors choose two classmates to speak at the commencement ceremony.

This year they've chosen Patrick Kennedy and Lydia Harteneck.

Lydia Harteneck

Lydia Jean Harteneck is the daughter of Mary and Brian Harteneck. She is a member of the Lincoln High School National Honor Society, Key Club, and Choir. Lydia has also been active in her youth group and gymnastics throughout high school.

Lydia has earned A Honor Roll recognition, is a School Board Scholar, and was recognized as a Stand Out Student and Teacher Student of the Month. She has also completed over 50 service hours and was awarded the Presidential Honor Scholarship through Winona State University.

Outside of school, Lydia enjoys spending time with family, beach days, and going on walks.

Lydia plans to attend Winona State University, where she will pursue a degree in Elementary Education.

Patrick Kennedy

Patrick Thomas Kennedy is the son of Kelly and Brian Kennedy. He is a three-year member of the Lincoln High School National Honor Society, a School Board Scholar, and a Lincoln Socratic Challenge Scholar. Patrick currently serves as Student Council President and has participated in Teen Leadership, Key Club, the Tiger Activity Leadership Council, and Business Professionals of America, where he qualified for both state and national competitions.

Patrick is also an AP Scholar, a Patton Award Scholarship recipient, and this year's Lake City AAA Award winner, recognizing excellence in academics, athletics, and the arts. He has participated in football, basketball, tennis, band, and jazz band, all while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Outside of school, Patrick enjoys making and listening to music, hunting pheasants and deer, lifting, sports, and spending time with family and friends.

Patrick plans to attend Iowa State University, where he will pursue a degree in Industrial Engineering.



Patrick Kennedy



Congratulations to the

class of **2026**



Commencement for the Lincoln High School Class of 2026 will take place Sunday, June 7 at 2 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

Class of 2026 senior quote:
"Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."
—Dr. Suess

Look Who's GRADUATING!

2013-2014 Kindergarten Classes



Congrats Graduates
Class of 2026!

Checking | Loans | Digital Banking

**FORWARD**
BANK • INSURE • INVEST

Moving Communities Forward!

LAKE CITY: 651-345-3373

→ www.forward.bank Member FDIC



**Congratulations
Class of 2026!**

FORE THE BILLS

EST. 2020

6TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
AUGUST 1, 2026

Sign up at forethebills1@gmail.com

Be on the lookout for sponsorship opportunities!



RUSTIC COFFEEHOUSE

Congratulations Seniors!

MAY MANY DOORS OPEN FOR YOU
AS YOU START YOUR LIFE'S JOURNEY!

DIANE SCHURHAMMER
BROKER
507-251-1666





SCHURHAMMER
REAL ESTATE
www.homeslakecity.com

JAY STEPHAN
AGENT
507-272-9140



BANKS HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
Serving The Lake City Area Since 1960

Rodney Banks, Owner

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE SUPER COOL
CLASS OF 2026!**

651-345-3380
www.banksheating.com



Advice from Kindergarteners

As the Class of 2026 prepares to take their next big steps, we decided to gather some real-world advice for them from the true experts: Bluff View Elementary kindergarteners. We asked Mr. Dudley, Mrs. Kruse, Mrs. Rawlins, and Mrs. Stimets to interview their students for us. The Class of 2038 has some words of wisdom that prove they are ready to take on the world... or at least take on first grade in the fall. They are happy to share their knowledge with this year's graduates!

To be a grown-up, you have to know how to...

- Read –Hattie, Cece, Jace
- Go to bed on time –Ella
- Drive a car –Madi
- You have to be kind –Evie
- Plan your wedding –Hayley
- Practice to be a good parent –Katelyn
- Cook by yourself –Millie
- Bake –Nixon, Link
- Mop the floor –Cayden
- Clean the dishes –Malorie
- Drive a tractor –Nova
- Be a firefighter –Hazel

What should the seniors do on their first day of college or work?

- Learn how to do it! –Blair
- Listen –Isabel
- Don't get fired –Watson
- Get up early –Adeline
- Train and learn your job and work schedule in case it closes –Katelyn
- Take notes and write down people's names –Hayley
- Meet new friends –Hazel
- Dress fun –Cece
- Dress cool –Nixon
- Dress fancy –Elizabeth
- Take a break –Dax
- Have a soda –Evie
- Have a party –Hattie

How do you make a lot of money?

- Go to a bank –Romeo
- Make a pop-up bookstore –Hayley
- Save your money –Madi
- Pay your taxes –Judd
- Working best on the first day –Sawyer
- Do a good job and get paid –Adeline
- Work hard –Brycen, Braxton, Knox, Thea
- Work two jobs –Brinley
- Work ten jobs –Link
- Work 1,000 days –Hunter
- Work very hard for groceries and kids –Ellie
- Work smart –Nixon
- You buy stuff and they give you change –Luna
- Dirtbiking –Jace
- Be a firefighter –Hazel

The secret to being happy is...

- Be silly –Hattie
- Chill outside –Ellie
- Go to the pool –Madi
- Rest at home –Adeline
- Take a big breath –JJ
- Play games like hide and seek –Katelyn
- Invite friends to play –Ella
- Smile –Blair, Nova
- Have fun –Celeste, Evie
- Have a family –Dax
- Sharing –Isabel
- To ride your bike –Matthew
- Eat the mac and cheese –Hazel
- Eat McDonald's –Cayden
- Eating candy –Brycen
- To eat ice cream –Yeison
- Chocolate –Hunter
- Getting hugs and kisses –Isla
- Snuggles –Knox
- Snuggle puggles –Georgia
- Walk your dogs –Sawyer, Elizabeth, Nixon
- Take all the dogs –Cece

Hope this helps!
-The Class of 2038



Member FDIC

Congratulations

Alliance Bank supports graduates with their current and future financial needs.



ALLIANCE BANK

(651) 345-3311
www.alliancebanks.com

Dream Big. Work Hard. Bee Kind.





507.208.1066
hello@ktbeecreations.com

Congratulations to the Lincoln High School Class of 2026! Your hard work, determination, and accomplishments have made our community proud. As you take the next step toward your future, remember that Lake City will always be cheering you on. Whether your journey leads you to college, the workforce, military service, or new adventures, we wish you success, happiness, and endless opportunity.



LAKE CITY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



**WISHING YOU THE BEST
IN YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE!**



Schleicher Funeral Homes
& Cremation Services



Congratulations
GRADUATES

Wishing you a lifetime of fulfillment!



Heidi's Huggamug Cafe

Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

You will be missed at Heidi's.
Come back to visit and let us know how your next chapter is going!

Way to go, Ava & Olivia!



JOHNSON JEWELERS

Lake City • Woodbury
Since 1976

“The only person you are destined to become is the person **YOU** decide to be”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Congratulations, 2026 Graduates!

Call or Text 651-345-3825 109 E. Center St. Lake City, MN
Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 - 5:00, Saturdays 9:00 - 3:00

Lake City DENTAL

Keep smiling, Class of 2026 - Your future looks bright!



651 345 4677

info@lakecitydentalmn.com

210 N. Lakeshore Drive

CONGRATS CLASS OF 2026

Keep showing up, working hard, and crushing your goals!

3 MONTH SUMMER STUDENT & NON-STUDENT MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE NOW!



ANYTIME FITNESS



Lake City

1205 N 7th Street

651-345-4401
lakecitymn@anytimefitness.com



THE JUICE WAS WORTH THE SQUEEZE!

Your hard work has paid off!
Congrats to the class of 2026!

Stop by the stand and show us a pic of you in your cap and gown for a FREE Classic Lemonade!



@charlies_lemonade
@charlieslemonade
@charlieslemonade

HEARTH & HOME technologies®
The Hearth Experts™

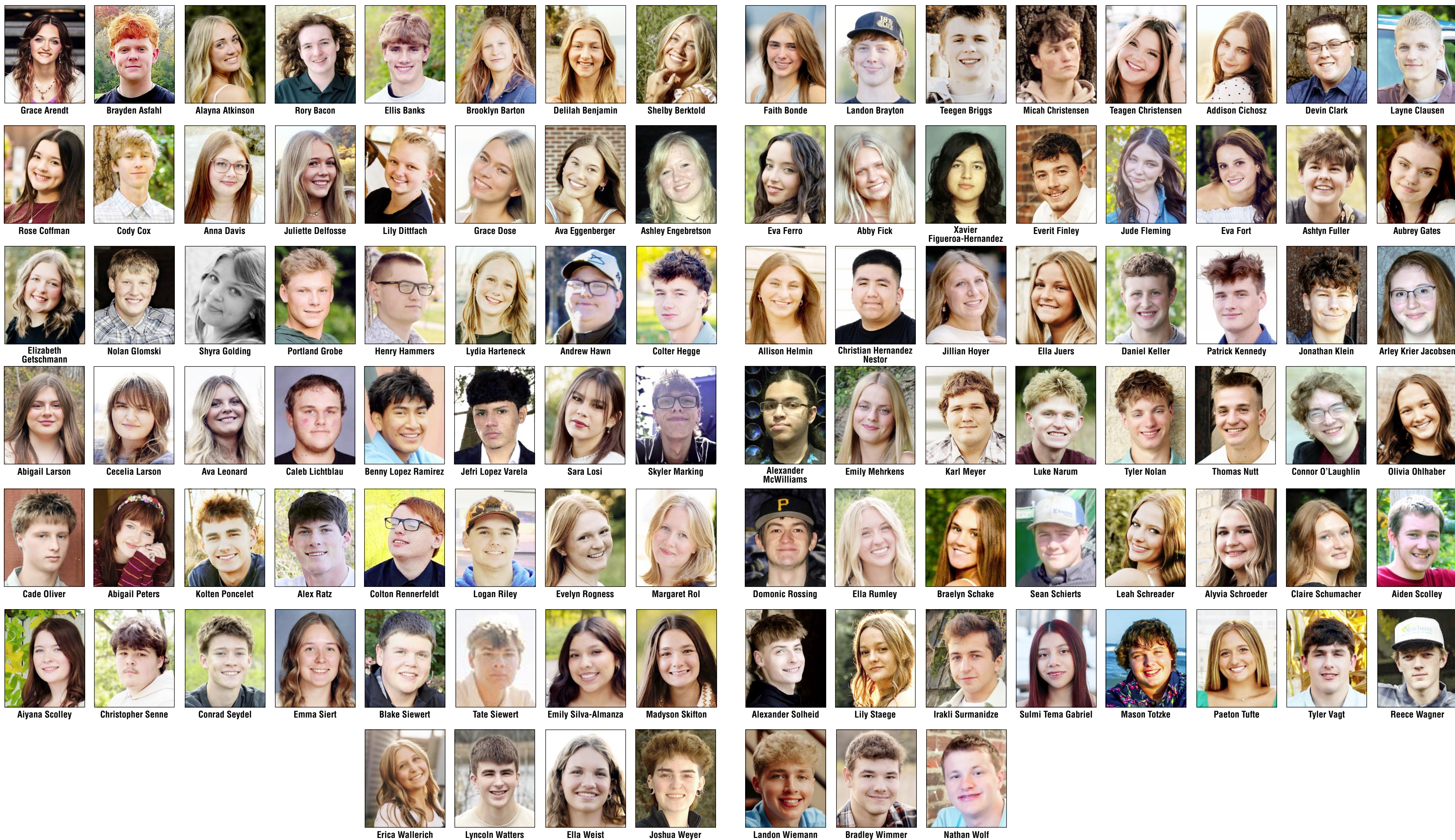
Keep glowing and lighting the way forward!



www.hearthnhome.com
800 W. Jefferson Street, Lake City

Class of 2026

Lincoln High School, Lake City, Minn.



The 2026 Lincoln High School Graduate Sponsors

Premier Sponsors: Anytime Fitness, Banks Heating & Air Conditioning, Charlie's Lemonade, Fore the Bills, Forward Bank, Hearth and Home Technologies, Heidi's Huggamug, Johnson Jewelers, Lake City Dental, Lake City Ford, Lake Pepin Pet Clinic & Hospital, Rebel Fire Que'n Company, Renner Roofing, Rustic Coffeehouse/Schurhammer Real Estate, Tenneco, and Twice Loved LLC.

Community Sponsors: Alliance Bank, Ardent Mills, KT Bee Creations, Lake City Chamber of Commerce, Lakes Sotheby's International Realty, Lakeshore Real Estate, Mahn Family Funeral and Cremation Services, Majerus Electric, Schleicher Funeral Homes & Cremation Services.

Supporting Sponsors: Indigo Bowls, Lake City Fresh Market, Pepin Manufacturing Inc., State Farm Insurance.

Almost like the movies

Exchange students look back on their year in Lake City

By Sarah Ziebarth
Staff Writer

Lincoln High School had more foreign exchange students this year than any before, and all five certainly made lasting memories during their stay!

Introducing Sara Losi from Modena, Italy; Eva Ferro from Viareggio, Italy; Juliette Delfosse from Namur, Belgium; Emma Siert from Osterröfnfeld, Germany; and Irakli Surmanidze from Batumi, Georgia. Losi, Ferro, Delfosse, and Siert have all stuck around for the upcoming graduation ceremony taking place June 7 and had many great thoughts to share about their experience over the school year.

When asked why each of them chose to study abroad in America, there were multiple similarities: it was an opportunity to learn or improve their English, a chance to meet new people and explore new places, and a test of independence. For Losi and Siert, it was also about experiencing the same thing a family member did. But the most common theme had to be, “to discover the American high school,” as seen on TV. According to

these students, “it really is like it is in the movies.”

“It was kind of my childhood dream,” Ferro said. “In Italy, it’s not the same thing at all. You don’t have school sports or school spirit, nothing like that.”

Siert agreed it was “a key point” for her, too, stating, “with all the movies and stuff like that, you hear about it and you want to experience it yourself.”

As for the biggest culture shock, there appear to have been quite a few. Delfosse expressed how kissing people on the cheek is a common greeting in Belgium that’s sure to make situations awkward if you try to do it here. Ferro and Losi both mentioned the major differences between Italian and American food, with Ferro saying, “in Italy the food is culture. It’s also a way of getting together with your family... Here, everyone just does what they want.”

“And especially the time that we eat,” added Losi. “Because in Italy, we used to eat at 8 or 9 in the afternoon, and here at like 6 you just finish eating and you have all the evening.”

“Another thing is the

importance of sports in the daily life of a teenager. Because for me, it’s school, school, school, and then if I have time, it’s sports in Italy. Here, it’s school, sports, and then after you do homework and study.”

“For me it was the size of things,” Siert commented. “Like, I remember going to Walmart for the first time and I was so overwhelmed... everything was just so huge! The cars, the products, everything is just big—American! 10 kilograms of flour and I was like ‘what?!’”

None of this stopped these students from plunging headfirst into American life and the many activities Lincoln High School has to offer. Losi took up soccer in the fall while Ferro, Delfosse, and Siert played tennis. The varsity tennis team for the first time in its history advanced to the state tournament, where Siert won all three of her matches. She also played at State as an individual for the singles bracket.

In the winter, Losi and Delfosse played basketball, Ferro joined the dance team, and Siert gave Nordic skiing a try. To bring the school year to a close, Losi and Delfosse continued to stick together for track, and Ferro and Siert were managers for the softball and tennis teams, respectively.

These extracurriculars were some of the most memorable parts of living in America for all four students as well, because, as Delfosse shared, “you feel very American when you’re watching them, playing them, all that stuff.”

“One of the things I liked were the football games, because it was one of the biggest things I wanted to see. It was really fun—it’s exactly like in the movies, so I loved that,” Ferro concurred.

Losi laughed: “Me and Juliette did basketball together and we were in C squad because we had never played... We were so bad, but it was so fun because between one game and another we were always together doing things.”

In addition to getting to know fellow peers and making new friends, the many sports and events offered at Lincoln additionally helped take their minds off home when needed.

“At the beginning I was really busy with tennis and the musical and all that stuff. I think it was really good... I missed home a lot, so I was busy and didn’t even think about it,” Siert explained.

Ferro similarly described how dance impacted her: “It was a big part of my exchange year. It was really helpful because it was through a moment I was missing home a lot.”

Now that the journey home is finally on the horizon, Losi, Ferro, Delfosse, and Siert are all looking forward to seeing their families, friends, and resuming their regular lives. Although, from the sounds of it, they will certainly miss their American high school experience.

Future plans for Losi include becoming either an architect or interior designer. After finishing up the year of high school she has left, she’s hoping to attend college in Milan.

Ferro would like to be a pediatric surgeon living in New York after completing college at home in Italy. A few years ago, she and her family travelled to the big city, and she “fell in love completely. It felt like home.”

Delfosse is going to study psychology to be a neuropsychologist, “not

Exchange students
Continued on page 7



Sara Losi (right) and Lake City Rotary Club member Annie Freid pose for a photo when Losi was the guest speaker at a Rotary Club meeting.



Eva Ferro (right) and Supt. Ariana Wright at a Lake City Kiwanis Club meeting where Ferro was a guest speaker.



Juliette Delfosse (left) and Laura Fitterer at the Lake City Rotary Club fall fundraiser last year. The Rotary Club has sponsored exchange students for many years.

Cade

We are proud of what you’ve accomplished and excited to see what comes next. You’ll forever be our favorite wildcard!

Lots of Love,
Mom, Dad, Tori & Alex





Al

Good luck! We are very excited to see what the future holds for you.

All Our Love,
Dad and Mom

Claire Schumacher

Congratulations to our beautiful Daughter. We are so proud of you & all that you have accomplished. Your future is so bright!



Shyra

Congratulations on your graduation! Believe in yourself as you step into this new journey of life. You have the talent and drive to do truly great things!

Love Mom, Jimmy and Addie



Aubrey Marie Gates

Happy Graduation! Your strength, independence, and deeply caring heart shine bright. Keep lending your powerful mind with your thoughtful soul. We are endlessly proud of the woman you have become.



Teagen

Peace Out High School! I know you are so ready for the next chapter, go get it! Congratulations! So proud of you!

Love, Dad



Cascade

COLLECTIVE

Lakes
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF

2026

Jodi Gillard • Taylyn Luhmann • Heidi Hartzell • Lisa Zmuda
www.cascadecollectiverealty.com

CLASS OF 2026

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE
WHERE YOUR NEXT
JOURNEY TAKES YOU.



LAKE CITY
Ford

DRIVE SAFE, DREAM BIG,
AND ENJOY THE RIDE!

 651-927-3392  lakecityford.com

Congratulations Class of 2026

*Fired up
for the future!*

REBEL FIRE

QUE 'N COMPANY
- EST. 2008 -

Congrats Class of 2026!

Good luck
on your next
adventures.



Lake Pepin
Pet Clinic & Hospital



Exchange students Continued from page 6

a therapist,” she clarified. She’ll be starting college when she returns to Belgium.

Siert, on the other hand, wants to be a diplomat, which will involve eight years of combined college and training. She still has two years left of high school, however, and is considering taking a gap year to “work and travel,” before finishing.

So overall, how was their foreign exchange experience?

“The exchange year is not how I imagined. Because I imagined like the movies, and it is actually very similar, but not the same,” Losi elaborated. “Living that first person is an experience I can’t explain by word, you have to live it.”

“I think it’s way harder than how they tell it to you,” reflected Ferro. “Because organizations say, ‘it’s... just a whole year of fun.’ Well, it was really fun, I enjoyed it, but at the same time it’s way harder. There were high moments and moments that weren’t the best. I think overall it was a really good experience. I made best friends, and I’ll think of this all my life.”

“I think this experience, it teaches us how to be independent, how to do everything, and to not pay too much attention to

what other people think,” Delfosse included.

Losi and Ferro seconded those thoughts, saying they both feel a lot more confident in themselves.

Siert nodded. “I would say the same for me... with being more confident in myself. I also had that in the beginning—my organization said there would be stages that you’re going to be in, like feeling homesick and stuff like that, and I was like, ‘no, I don’t think that will happen to me,’ but it happened that way. I’m also kind of excited about and also nervous about the reverse culture shock. I feel like it’s a thing,” she pointed out.

Last but not least are some highlights about Irakli Surmanidze provided by Guidance Counselor Nicole Olson. Irakli “Rocky,” as students and staff called him, left a couple weeks before graduation to return home to Georgia and therefore didn’t have the opportunity to directly share his thoughts. However, he also participated in several activities at Lincoln and made many friends during the year.

“While Irakli was at Lincoln, he participated in both soccer and basketball,” Olson explained. “Irakli loves all things ‘football’ (soccer) and has played since he was a child. He

plays soccer with friends in his hometown, plays virtual soccer, and loves to watch matches on TV.

“Back in Georgia, Irakli also plays volleyball and loves to play an intellectual game called ‘What? Where? When?’ to continue learning and testing his knowledge. Irakli especially loved taking forensics science here at Lincoln and found it incredibly interesting.

“In terms of future plans, Irakli wasn’t quite sure what he was wanting to do, but he will continue on with school in Georgia. He talked often of his love for traveling and wanting to continue to travel the world, so I can imagine he will be seeing plenty of new places in the future. He is such a kind individual, and we were incredibly lucky to have him here at Lincoln for this school year.”

Having foreign exchange students at Lake City’s high school this year, and in previous years, has left a positive impact on the student body and school as a whole.

“Having foreign exchange students at Lincoln brings tremendous value to our school community,” Olson expanded. “It gives our students the opportunity

to interact with peers from different cultures, backgrounds, and with different perspectives, which helps broaden their understanding of the world beyond our local community. Those experiences encourage empathy, open-mindedness, and stronger communication skills which are qualities that are important for success in today’s global society.

“Having our five foreign exchange students has had an extremely positive impact among our student body. Every foreign exchange student brought a diverse personality, strong academic discipline, and extracurricular involvement that inspired students and faculty both inside and outside of the classroom. Their dedication and involvement in academics, athletics, and arts allowed them to connect with various students and form connections that will have lasting impacts. They will be greatly missed.”

We at the *Graphic* wish Losi, Ferro, Delfosse, and Siert a safe journey home and hope they, as well as Surmanidze, visit Lake City again sometime in the future!



Emma Siert playing tennis.
-Photo by Steve Brown



Irakli Surmanidze (right) with Lincoln High School Guidance Counselor Nicole Olson.



Colter

Your dedication inspires us. Keep believing big and working hard. We are so proud and will always cheer you on.

Love, Mom, Dad,
Karch & Knox



Teagen

Your colorful spirit and creativity have always turned heads. Your humor makes life vibrant. We’re so proud to watch you follow your passion. Make your mark, uplift others.

Love, Ohana



Alli

You are so special to our family. We are proud of the strong, hardworking young woman you are and always will cheer you on.

Love, Tim, Danielle, Karch,
Colter, Knox & Lexi



Devin

Congratulations Graduate! We are so proud of you! Stay humble, believe in yourself, follow your dreams and never stop working hard! Keep reaching for your goals and remember we love you very much!

Peeps and Meems!



Reece

We are so very proud of you! Congratulations on your graduation! Love you to the moon and back!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Madelyn



Congrats Class of 2026









Olivia Fern Ohlhaber

Keep being you; the world needs more of it! We’re proud of you and can’t wait to watch you leave your mark.

We love you!
Mom and Dad & Kim













College Merit Scholarship recipients

The following Lincoln High School seniors received scholarships from their future colleges and universities: Ashtyn Fuller, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities; Rose Coffman, University of Minnesota - Rochester; Joshua Weyer, Minnesota State University - Mankato; Paeton Tuft, University of North Dakota; Jillian Hoyer, Winona State University; Ella Rumley, Winona State University; Allison Helmin, Hamline University; Colter Hegge, Dakota County Technical College; Erica Wallerich, University of Wisconsin - River Falls; Alayna Atkinson, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities; Patrick Kennedy, Iowa State University; Claire Schumacher, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire; Cade Oliver, University of St. Thomas; Cecelia Larson, St. Mary's University; Faith Bonde, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities; Henry Hammers, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities; Blake Siewert, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities; Margaret Rol, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities; Lydia Harteneck, Winona State University; Thomas Nutt, Winona State University; Emily Mehrkens, Wartburg College; Eva Fort, Winona State University; Alyvia Schroeder, University of Minnesota - Rochester; Shelby Berkold, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN; Olivia Ohlhaber, University of Saint Thomas; Evelyn Rogness, St. Olaf College; Jonathan Klein, Winona State University; Delilah Benjamin, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.



Where are they going?

The Class of 2026 has big plans for next year.

As the Class of 2026 prepares to turn the page, our graduates are charting exciting paths for the future. From higher education to serving our country and entering the workforce, here’s a glimpse at the different paths next year holds for them:

- 4-year college: 42
- 2-year college or trade school: 17
- Work, apprenticeship, career training: 23
- Military: 3

Many graduates are embarking on unique paths, including taking a gap year, starting at a 2-year college with plans to transfer, or taking a little extra time to finalize their next big move. We wish them all the best!



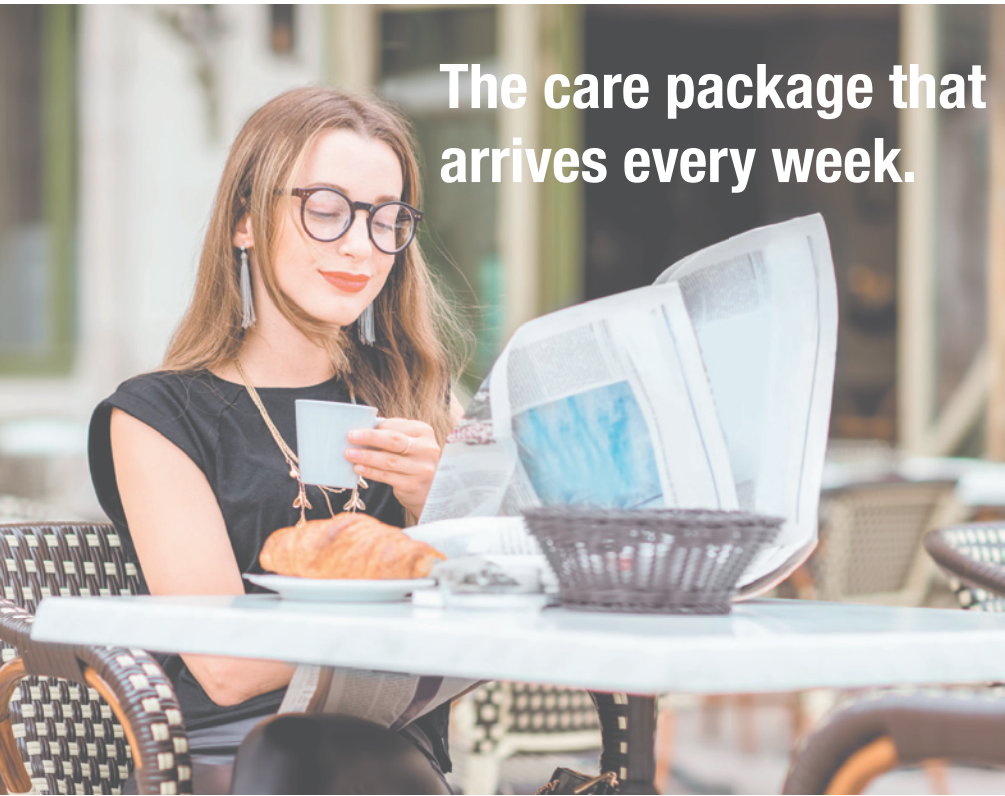
To the Class of 2026—Your story continues!

We’ve had the privilege of capturing a few steps of your journey in the pages of our newspaper. Today, our entire community stands together to celebrate your milestone. This Graduation Special Edition is a tribute to your character, your hard work, and the bright future ahead of you!



Wherever your next steps take you, know that your hometown is incredibly proud of you. We can’t wait to see the history you make next.

Congratulations, Graduates! **The Lake City GRAPHIC**



The care package that arrives every week.

Parents—Your student is off to do big things, but they'll love getting a piece of home in the mail each week! A subscription to *The Graphic* the perfect, practical gift for the upcoming school year.

SPECIAL 9-MONTH STUDENT OFFER: \$60

INCLUDES FREE ONLINE ACCESS!

Student's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

For a subscription to start with the issue of _____ (start date) and discontinuing with the last issue in May 2027.

Return this coupon with payment to
The Lake City Graphic office at 111 S. 8th St., Lake City,
mail it to P.O. Box 469, Lake City, MN 55041
or call 651-345-3316 and mention this offer.