Mount Ayr Record News

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National Honor Society welcomes new members from MACS

by Jeff Snyder

Front L-R, Members of the 2025 NHS Inductee Class: Ivy Bice, Adley Dredge, Izzy Gilbertson, Kelbey Greenland, Trace Knapp, Calvin Main, Jaylee Shaffer, Dannie Stewart, Nick Triggs, Willow Vanderflight, Lacey Weeda
Back L-R, Members of the 2024 NHS Inductee Class: Ashlyn Byer, Kacie Larsen, Mackenzie Knox, Kaley Murphy, Tate Dugan, Tanner Streit, Braylon Greenwell, Aubree Shields, Rowan Sackett, Ella Waske, Abby Larson, Ava England

Mount Ayr, Iowa- On November 26, 2025 11 young people were inducted into the Parnassus Chapter of the National Honor Society. This year was the 66th induction ceremony at Mount Ayr High School. The National Honor Society is advised by Abby Stephens Elliott.

The keynote speaker at this years induction ceremony was Ryce Reynolds, a 2022 inductee and 2024 Mount Ayr high school graduate.

Ryce was featured earlier this years in a two part piece written by Darrell Dodge for his exceptional academic and sports accomplishments.

Reynolds addressed the 11 new inductees and outlined the four pillars of the National Honor Society (NHS)

During his address he spoke of the four specific elements or pillars of the induction process but more importantly expressed to the new inductees the practical aspects of enrollment. The first pillar was **"Scholarship"** Reynolds explained that while academics was undoubtedly a crucial element of induction the committee also considers general intellect and service. The next pillar was **Leadership**. Ryce went on to explain the role leadership plays in the decision to accept a new enrollee. He explained "Gaining the trust of your peers" was a sure sign of effective leadership. **"Service"** was the next pillar and he went on to praise the new members for their service to the communities they serve. He took time to emphasis the importance of service as he explained his outreach program in the Stanford University area where he participates in a "Conversation" program that pairs him with local Spanish speaking families in need. He told of the relationships that he was able to create with these needy families and the appreciation they showed as the weeks went by. Reynolds also studies Spanish language at Stanford.

Lastly, Reynolds discussed **"Character"** as the final pillar. Character is defined by the NHS as "The essence of who we are" Character was amongst the most important of the four pillars as they are the barometer by which people go about living their lives.

Reynolds concluded his remarks by thanking the members of the committee and wished the new inductees the best as they ventured off into their futures.

Over the next few weeks each of the 2025 inductees will be featured, outlining their individual accomplishments.

The first four honorees

Ivy Bice

by Ashlyn Byer

Ivy Bice is the 12th grade daughter of Chris Bice and Andy and Jennifer Kellner. She is positive, dependable, and respectful, all qualities that make her a natural leader. You will always see Ivy putting the most into everything she does in academics and athletics. Ivy is actively involved in drill team, basketball cheerleading, football cheerleading, and competition

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Adley Dredge

By Kacie Larsen

Adley Dredge is the 11th-grade daughter of Allison and Clint Dredge. Adley is a dedicated student maintaining a 3.7 GPA in HS. She has been awarded 2+ years of growth on the ELA ISASP test and 1-2 years of growth on the Math ISASP test for two consecutive years. In addition to being intelligent, Adley is a kind and hard-working student and I know firsthand that

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Izzy Gilbertson

Izzy Gilbertson (Intro by Mackenzie Knox) Izzy Gilbertson is the 11th-grade daughter of Jeff and Nicky Gilbertson. Throughout high school, I have had the opportunity to get to know Izzy and watch her personality grow. Izzy volunteers in many activities in school and in our community. By volunteering at little kids' sports tournaments and helping at the hospital's

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Kelbey Greenland

Kelbey Greenland (Intro by Kaley Murphy)

Kelbey Greenland is the 11th-grade daughter of Kim and Dara Greenland. Kelbey is very active in the school and has been involved in numerous activities such as football and competition cheer, Competitive dance team, Sparks drill team, HELP Youth pod, drama, student council, Leader In Me Action Teams, Dekko

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Fourth Annual Simple Blessings Dinner Honors Nichole Phelps

by Priscilla Alvik

Standing Donetta Phelps & Joy McFarland - Photo by Priscilla Alvik

Simple Blessings

For the past four years Donneta Phelps owner of the Wagon Wheel Café, in Tingley has prepared dinners to share with towns people near and far on Thanksgiving Day. Phelps has named the gift of serving food to others "Simple Blessings". Phelps through her actions on Thanksgiving Day is doing what she has taught her children throughout their lifetime to consider, serve the community with a pure heart. Simple Blessings is a mother's love played forward that was driven by the grief of her daughter Nichole Rose passing on December 18th, 2016. Nichole Rose Phelps had a passion for serving the Lord. For three consecutive years 2014, 2015, 2016 you would find Nichole spending her Thanksgiving Day serving meals to the homeless and less fortunate in the greater Des Moines area. Nichole's passion of serving the Lord through serving others was a gift of heart. Phelps realized one day that she played a big part in her daughter's love of giving. Phelps said, "It was like a slap in the face", realization. "It took five years of thinking, and talking to people before the first Annual Free Will Offering Thanksgiving dinner became a reality in 2022", Phelps explained. Phelps annual dinners have served over 200 people each year for the past three years. This year 289 dinners were served, with the help of 22 volunteers. Phelps explained, "It takes a couple of weeks to prepare the food to be served." My observation of the event is that Phelps leaves no detail unattended to. Volunteers from Missio Church were on hand as greeters, food servers, and to help clean tables. The McFarland family not only hosted the event at the Hoover Family Barn but also, provided all the yummy desserts. One couple came from North Carolina to help serve the meal after learning of the history of the annual dinner through conversations with Phelps over the last few years. Friends directed parking, accessibility into the barn, signing in, food to go for homebound residents, including delivery and the Jarred trolly was used to bring residents from Clearview Home in Mount Ayr. All monies collected through the free will offering are donated each year to various charities in memory of Nichole Rose Phelps. Various people in attendance commented on how Tingley as a community, "Gets together and has the spirit of getting things done." Kevin Kobbe and his dad commented, "That they came 40 miles to attend, and that the dinner was awesome." On behalf of many it is my honor to, "Thank Donetta Phelps", for a dinner well served."

Mount Ayr set to usher in Christmas

by Jeff Snyder

Christmas comes to the square photo by Jeff Snyder

MOUNT AYR- Iowa The city of Mount Ayr is set to usher in the holidays with a Lighted Christmas Parade on December 6.

The parade will begin at the old train depot site and work its way south to the city square scheduled to start at 6:00 p.m..

Among the other activities planned in addition to the lighted parade, there will be "A Very Special Vintage Christmas"

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