

# Congratulations Graduates



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## Four county graduates pursuing nursing careers

*By Anna Jauhola*

You could say Jada Klegstad grew up in the nursing home as she spent so much time there as a child. Her mother, Cristina Wollin, worked at the Karlstad Nursing Home as a certified nursing assistant and Klegstad often accompanied her to work.

So when the Tri-County High School senior neared her career decision, it was natural to enter the nursing field.

"I was in about first grade when my mom started working as a CNA at the nursing home in Karlstad," she said. "She was also going to college for nursing."

Klegstad will graduate on Sunday, May 31 and will enter the nursing program at Northland Community and

Technical College in East Grand Forks this fall.

During her childhood years, Klegstad helped with bingo, played games like catch with the residents and generally visited with them. She really began thinking about becoming a nurse after watching the TV show Grey's Anatomy.

"It got me hooked into the medical field," she said with a laugh.

In 2018, she became a CNA at the nursing home she grew up in, taking classes at Northland in East Grand Forks. She dedicated two days a week, after school, driving to East Grand for classes.

"I absolutely love my job," she said.

She is also on the Tri-County Ambulance crew with her best friend and fellow graduate, Kylie

Shetler, who also will be studying to become a nurse this fall but at Thief River Falls. They studied for the position last year, took the test and have been on the ambulance crew since.

Klegstad said she will study to become a registered nurse and wants to work in an emergency room as a trauma nurse. She'll be living in Grand Forks while attending school and hopes to secure a job as a CNA in an area nursing home. Her love of the elderly's sense of humor and how she can help brighten their days are the best parts of being a CNA.

Lancaster senior Mariah Olson's decision to enter the medical field also started young with the desire to help people.

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**Morgan Olson**



**Mariah Olson**



**Jada Klegstad**



**Kylie Shetler**

## Three Kittson Central graduates entering military

*By Anna Jauhola*

While working on finishing their high school careers amid a national pandemic, three Kittson Central seniors have also been preparing to enter the military.

Most evenings, they can be found pounding the pavement together. Mitchell Docken is entering the U.S. Military and will go on to train as a paratrooper.

Genna Holm is entering the U.S. Air Force and will train as a finance clerk. Shelby Pankratz will enter the Minnesota National Guard, which will pay for her college tuition at Minnesota State University Moorhead.

All three have agreed

their bond as friends, and now fellow members of the military, has strengthened because of their decisions.

"I definitely think we've grown closer, especially now we're all officially enlisted," Pankratz said. "It's like a brotherhood. You make so many new friends, with people you don't know and people you do know."

This is particularly true for Docken and Holm, each of whom have planned to enter the military early in life. Docken said it's been his goal since he was about 7 years old, while Holm comes from a strong military family and knew she'd follow that path.



**Mitchell Docken**

"I told my parents (last year), 'If you guys don't sign for me in June, I'll just sign for myself next month in July,'" Docken said. "I've been enlisted since June 5 of last year."

While he considered all branches of the mili-



**Genna Holm**

tary, ultimately the ability to choose his job led him to the U.S. Army. He chose infantry to feel he's doing his part by being on the front lines and was able to secure the airborne option for his special training after basic. He said his grand-



**Shelby Pankratz**

father, Maynard Docken's service in the military and his cousin Joe's current service in the U.S. Marine Corps have been influences on his final decision to enlist.

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