



Brennan Carlsson and Maura Fellers pick up trash along Empire Street from Aquin to Freeport High School.



Chloe Smith and Ben Hunziker donate blood.



William Gustafson and Addie DeMichele deliver Teacher Appreciation Bags to Aquin teachers.



Emma Holder and Erik Fordham deliver cookies to frontline workers at the Freeport Police Department.

# Bulldogs' blessings

## Freeport Aquin students turn prom day into giving day

By Sharon Boehlefeld | Features Editor

**P**rom was supposed to be May 1 at Aquin Central Catholic Junior/Senior High School in Freeport.

The traditional prom draw, nearly 100 years old, had already survived wars, a Depression, recessions and other adversities in its history.

The draw started in the 1920s, just missing the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-19. It made it through the polio epidemic of the 1950s, so the coronavirus pandemic is not the first society-wide illness it's had to face.

The draw took place on schedule via Zoom on April 7. The usual silliness — costumes, songs and skits — took place this year for two reasons,



Rhett Barkau and Madelyn McIntyre deliver May Day flowers to homes.



Zeita Gastel and Micah Morrison chalk the walk at Presence St. Joseph Nursing Home.

according to a press release from the school.

First, students hoped (and still hope) they'll have a chance to have prom sometime this spring or summer.

Second, each junior and senior partnered with his or her prom date to perform acts of kindness on May 1, the original prom date.

In addition to showing gratitude to their Bulldog community, they had a chance to get together in groups of two for a little while.

Some of the projects for the 25 prom couples were:

- collecting items for the Freeport Area Church Cooperative (FACC) Food Pantry
- sending flowers and 'thank you' bags to teachers
- making and sending cards to patients and residents at Swedish American, Presence Health, and Liberty Village retirement homes
- picking up litter and trash around Walmart, Krape Park, Read Park, Freeport's public high school and middle school and Aquin, and at Walnut Acres Care Center

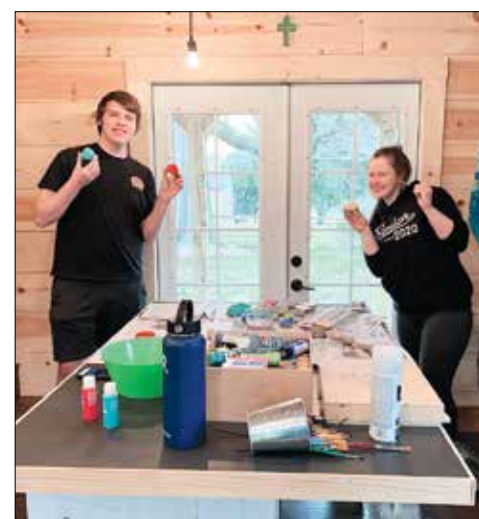


Kathleen Bald and Ty Stykel pick up trash around Walmart in Freeport.

- painting and placing 'kindness rocks' around Freeport
- donating blood
- picking up and delivering groceries to elderly residents
- 'chalking the walks' around Presence Health
- sending cookies to Freeport Police Dept.
- putting 'positive sticky notes' around town
- donating items to Salvation Army's "Hope is Greater than Fear" project
- delivering and sorting food at FACC collected during a Food Drive Sunday. (The plan was for one Prom Date to be there every hour, 8 a.m.-noon and 1-4 p.m.)
- sending a pizza lunch to a local doctor's office with a card thanking

them for all they are doing.

They also took the pictures of each other's activities.



Cameron Hayes and Kamryn Steil paint Kindness Rocks to place around Krape Park (left and below).



# YOUNG OBSERVER



Hope Gastel (left) and Lucas Li (right) make cards for people at Walnut Acres Nursing Home.



Alyssa Hunziker and Hayden Neuendorf deliver pizza and treats to frontline workers at FHN Highlandview Clinic.



(Photos provided)

## Boylan CCHS inducts 38 juniors into NHS

ROCKFORD—Boylan Central Catholic High School inducted 38 junior students into the National Honor Society this spring. The National Honor Society recognizes outstanding high school students who have demonstrated excellent scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Due to school closures and social restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, Boylan is postponing the formal junior induction ceremony until the fall.

Juniors inducted into NHS (in photos left to right from top row) are Allison Anderson, Emma Armato, Lindsay Arreguin, Ayden Barnhardt, Romuald Bezdziecki, Jr., Nopparat Chiangtong, Margaret Cielez, Madison Delarosa, Brady Dolan, Jack Dorsey, Sylvia Felauer, Matthew Heitkamp, Rachel Hilby, Olivia Holen, Zach Hollister, Chloe Holmes, Alexandra Honkamp, Sarah Kalma, Yuri "Crystal" Lee, Emi Manaligod, Lucas Manley, Nadhia Manthuruthil, Ryleigh McGirk, Angel Nasanbuyan, Elizabeth O'Connor, Jessica Pierce, Annelise Provenzano, Adelle Raymond, Elijah Reyes, Caden Royster, Kaylee Runte, Estella Schuster, Samantha Shiels, Camden Stear, Sophia Todora, Danvers Trenhaile, Stephanie Williams, and Andrew Wochner.



(Photos provided)

### New Boylan NHS members

## Rosary High School students sew masks

Maria Saucedo (left) and Anastasia Mucha (right) are two of the Rosary High School students in Aurora who have been sewing face masks when they're not e-learning.

