

# Sawyer County Record

SAWYER COUNTY SPORTS

Canes softball says thanks for cheering us on, **Page 1B**

NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

Hayward graduation photos, **Page 3A**



NEWS

Removing dents one ding at a time, **Page 5A**

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HAYWARD WISCONSIN

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ON THE TOWN



## COVID was a challenge but hospital employees are 'pretty darn good'

BY KATHY HANSON  
Staff Reporter

*(Editor's note: The second and final part of this story continues with more interviews with staff from Hayward Area Memorial Hospital & Water's Edge about their experiences, both professional and personal, between March 2020 and March 2022 as they worked during the COVID pandemic. Between March 2020 and March 2022 the hospital had 200 inpatients with COVID. There were 14 deaths.)*

Linda Waystedt, CNA Inpatient Nursing, spoke about the enormous demand for personal protective equipment (PPE) and the fact that Hayward Area Memorial Hospital saw it right away.

"We never ran out of PPE," she said.

She said they had to recreate their jobs — going into the room, writing down everything they needed, giving the list to someone else to go get it, or giving it to the next shift, depending on the time. She said they were accustomed to

going into patients' rooms at least once an hour, but with the pandemic they only went in when necessary. She said some staff got COVID, including herself.

Hospital morale was a challenge, and some people were short-fused and stressed; some quit. But others pulled together and lifted each other up.

She said it wasn't even COVID that bothered them the most, it was the differing opinions of getting a shot or not getting a shot; to vaccinate or not.

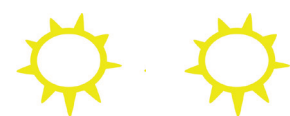
"Our patients were afraid and lonely. Sometimes we had to stop and not only be their caregiver, but their spiritual caregiver, friend and family."

She recalled one lady who told her she needed to talk to someone. She was afraid to be transferred. She wanted a pastor. Waystedt pulled up a devotional on her phone and proceeded to pray with her. The woman told her she could not know how much that meant to her.

SEE HOSPITAL PAGE 10A

LCO celebrates graduation, **page 4B**

UPCOMING WEATHER



We're in for some perfect weather in the coming days. Temperatures in the day time will hover around 70 degrees with sunny skies. Saturday, there is a chance of rain in the region but just a chance. That chance of precipitation continues into Saturday and during the day Sunday. But temperatures will remain in that 70-degree range with lows in the 50s. the same holds for Monday.

WEATHER LAST WEEK

Not available at press time

### REMEMBERING THEIR SACRIFICE



PHOTO BY TERRELL BOETTCHER

Hayward Veteran of the Year Dave Greene places a wreath on the flag pole at the veterans' monument at Greenwood Cemetery during Memorial Day services Monday, May 30. Local veterans organizations led the services, which included rifle salutes at the cemetery and Shue's Pond.

## 'School safety is our top priority,' says school superintendent

BY TERRELL BOETTCHER  
News Editor

"Making sure kids are safe is our top priority," said Hayward Community Schools Supt. Craig Olson.

The Record asked Olson to comment about local school safety in the wake of the May 24 incident at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, where an 18-year-old gunman entered the building and fatally shot 19 students and two teachers.

Olson said the Hayward Community Schools' violence prevention and response protocol has been in place and updated at least since 2018, when the school district had an internal security audit. "We had undercover people come in, and from those recommendations we made our safety plan," he said.

The school district received a \$275,000 safety grant to update school security cameras, to tie in with Sawyer County sheriff's department dispatch, Olson said.

All schools have locked doors, with one-point entrances where visitors are monitored and must be "buzzed in" during the school day to enter the building.

The staff, along with students, do regular drills known as ALICE drills, Olson said. ALICE stands for "Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate."

Students and staff can choose to lock down and barricade the room that they are in if they determine that it is not safe to evacuate.

School administrators have bi-monthly meetings to do table-top exercises with local law enforcement, and "this summer we're going to go through a full walk-through," Olson said.

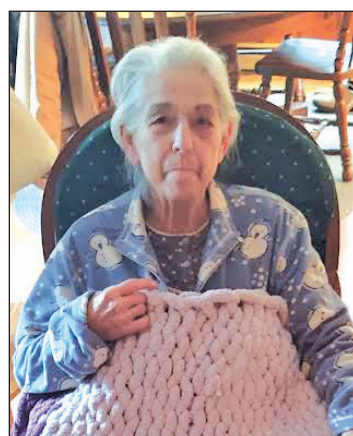
"Our strongest point is making sure our teachers have great relationships with kids, that if students hear or see something, rumors, that they feel comfortable with saying something," Olson said. "We take that very seriously. Within five minutes a complete investigation is going on in cooperation with local law enforcement."

### HAYWARD GRADUATES GET DIPLOMAS



PHOTO BY TERRELL BOETTCHER

Hayward High School Class of 2022 member Andreanna Acosta receives her diploma from school board member Stacy Hessel during the commencement ceremony Friday, May 27, at Rod Lundberg football field. Approximately 147 HHS seniors received diplomas at the ceremony.



Joyce E. Lenz

## Still no sign of missing woman

BY ASHLAND DAILY PRESS

Searchers have found no trace of a missing 81-year-old Drummond woman who went missing May 24, despite land and air searches that have combed a radius of up to two miles from her home on North Owen Lake Road.

SEE MISSING PAGE 9A

INDEX

Northern Highlights	3A
Opinion	4A
Obituaries	6A
Records	8-9A
Sports	1-2B
Outdoors	3B
Public Notices	10-11B
Classifieds	8-9B
On the Town	4B
Puzzles	6B

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