What DON'T They Do?

A good horse rider needs patience, dedication and trust. Horse riding is unlike any other sport. In it, participants are not only responsible for their own behavior and skill, but also that of their partner, their horse. "If I don't work hard enough, it's on me. If I don't set him up right, ride him right, that's on me," Emily **Berthelsen26** said.

Berthelsen is a dedicated member of the softball team during the fall season and, like many others, an active member of the school community. She, however, chooses a different activity than most. Berthelsen rides horses.

Maddison Schwenecker

Sweet Steed The summer before her senior year, Emily**Berthelsen26** takes her senior pictures. They were made all the better with her horse Mango by her side.

"I started riding when I was 6," Berthelsen said. "I rode lesson horses until I was about 12, and then when I was 12, I started riding and training other people's horses for them." When she was 14 she got her own horse named Mango, and during her sophomore year she started rodeoing.

Now, Berthelsen participates in many different rodeos, specializing in barrel racing. "Barrel racing is a cloverleaf pattern with three barrels set up," Berthelsen said. "The fastest time wins."

In November, Berthelsen competed in the Twisted Turn N Burn queen pageant through SBARS Arena in Beatrice, NE. "It's a whole pageant and then there's different categories. One is horsemanship where you do a pattern on your horse to see how good of a rider you are," Berthelsen said. She rode the NFRP pattern. "It's National Finals Rodeo pattern, and it means that the barrels are set up in the same distance as they are at the National Finals Rodeo," Berthelsen said. "I had an interview portion, me, three-on-one with the judges, talking about rodeo knowledge and my personality," Berthelsen said. "I had to give a speech on what it means to be cowgirl tough with presentation outfits," Berthelsen said. "There was a written test, rodeo knowledge and stuff like that," Berthelsen said. Taking the competition by storm, she won the interview, speech and presentation outfits and the written test portions of the pageant. Berthelsen was named Miss NFRP, Rodeo Queen. She will be the Rodeo Queen for SBARS Arena for the rest of the year and represent them at competitions all over the state.

Beth Studenburg

Getting Ready May 26, 2025, Bella**Hobbs27** gets ready to shoot with Beth Studenburg at her apartment. This was a full circle moment for Hobbs. "I got to shoot with the woman who took pictures of my mom during her modeling days," Hobbs said.

Kevin Berthelsen

Miss NFRP Standing in the SRBS Arena in Beatrice, NE, Emily**Berthelsen26** shows off her official NFRP Queen chaps, sash, belt and hat. Berthelsen just competed in one of many thrilling barrel races with her horse Mango, along with several other categories to win Rodeo Queen.

Strutting Confidence Wearing a beautiful dress, gorgeous hair and makeup Maria**Burt28** walks the runway on Aug. 22 at Omaha Fashion Week. Before walking she danced her nerves away backstage. Burt said, "There is loud music playing the entire time, and when all the models are lined up to walk, I love to dance out any nerves that I might have that night."

Bravo Mike

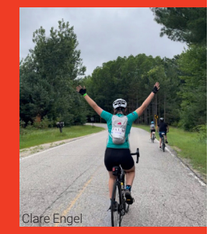
-Maria**BURT28**

Iced Matcha Latte Through sharing a love of matcha lattes and the joy of laughing, Syra**Qureshi27** and Ava**Ellis27** start a podcast. The first episode aired April 8, 2025. "The most rewarding part is people listening to it and telling us they enjoyed it!" they said.

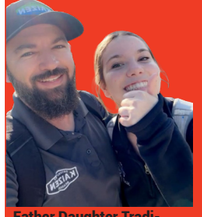
TRADITION Never OUTGROWN

P.A.L.M. Pedal Across Lower Michigan is an annual bike ride that Clare**Engel26** (far right) has done all four years of high school. Engel and her siblings stopped to snap a family photo at a water stop along their way.

Engel Biked:
Miles: 300
Hours: 30


Clare Engel

Finish Line! On June 23, Clare**Engel26** finishes the last few miles of her journey across Michigan. She felt empowered after arriving at their finish line in Luna Pier, successfully riding almost 300 miles.



Father Daughter Tradition One morning every year, Zella**Dowling26** and her dad have made it a tradition to walk from their house to school. They have done this since she was in elementary school and Dowling cherished the time spent with her dad.

Dowling Walked:
Miles: 10
Hours: 5

Friends and Smiles Arriving at school she meets with her friends. Posed for a photo is Zella**Dowling26** and Carly**Cimino26**.