

Students becoming Soldiers

Cambridge-Isanti hosts first military signing.

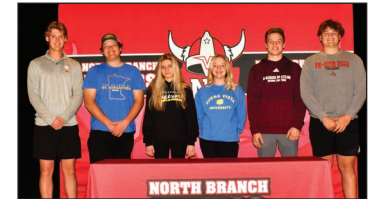
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Making a commitment

Six North Branch athletes will play sports in college.

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Dreams coming true for North Branch leukemia patient



Grace Grams gave a big smile and thumbs-up for her first photo in front of her new playhouse called "Grace's Cottage." She was surprised with a brand-new playhouse on Saturday, May 14, in their backyard of their North Branch home. Magic the Unicorn joined her for the photo.

Photo by Nikki Hallman

by **Nikki Hallman**

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After two long years of chemotherapy, Grace Grams is cancer free. And now her wishes are coming true.

All Grace wished for was a playhouse of her own. She wanted a space to play dress up and host tea parties for her grandparents.

That does not seem to be too much to ask for, especially for a 4-year-old who has spent the majority of her life battling leukemia.

The family kept their faith, wearing bracelets that say "God's got Grace", never losing hope.

Little did Grace know that dream would come true in her backyard on Saturday, May 14.

A rough start to life

At the age of 1, Grace was diagnosed with B-Cell Acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

In 2019, the not-so-spunky toddler was brought to urgent care by her parents, Reggie and Christina Grams of North Branch, after they noticed she hadn't been acting herself and seemed lethargic for several days.

"Before she was diagnosed, I think Halloween was like a month before, I just remember walking along the street, we were dressed up in a costume and she was just pale that night," Grace's grandfather Jeff Grams said.

After performing some tests, her doctors misdiagnosed her with transient ethroblastopenia of childhood, a condition meaning her body didn't respond well to a virus, causing her bone marrow to slow its production of blood cells. After monitoring her blood counts for a couple weeks, she showed little improvement. They performed a few more tests and found that she had leukemia.

Grace then began chemotherapy treatment at Children's Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis. Although Grace lost her hair, she managed to keep great spirits and her family did as well.

"It's tough going through 2 1/2 years of chemo," Reggie said. "It's kind of a blur in a lot of ways, but we have faith in God and trust that he knows what's going on. We have my parents, and my wife's parents. I don't know how we would have gone through it without them."

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