

Regional news digest

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Byron

One graduating senior each year at Byron High School will be the beneficiary of a new \$5,000 scholarship, the Rochester Area Foundation has announced.

The foundation announced creation of the **Walter and Pauline Castner** Scholarship Fund, created with a contribution from the Castners, of Byron. The \$5,000 annual scholarship is for students who demonstrate financial need and pursue a degree in either agriculture or education.

Walter Castner grew up on a farm north of Byron, and Pauline Castner grew up in Mantorville. They were married in 1953, and Walter Castner continued farming his family's land -- held in the family since the 1850s -- until his death in March 2006. Pauline Castner now lives in Rochester.

Inspiration for the fund also came from Walter Castner's mother, **Theodosia Telford Castner**, who taught in several country schools in Kalmar Township about a century ago.

The scholarship fund is intended to carry on the family's farming and teaching legacy. The Rochester Area Foundation will manage the fund. The foundation also manages the Byron School District Fund for Excellence, which was established in 1999 as an endowment for the school district. The Castners' gift will function as a sub-fund of that endowment.