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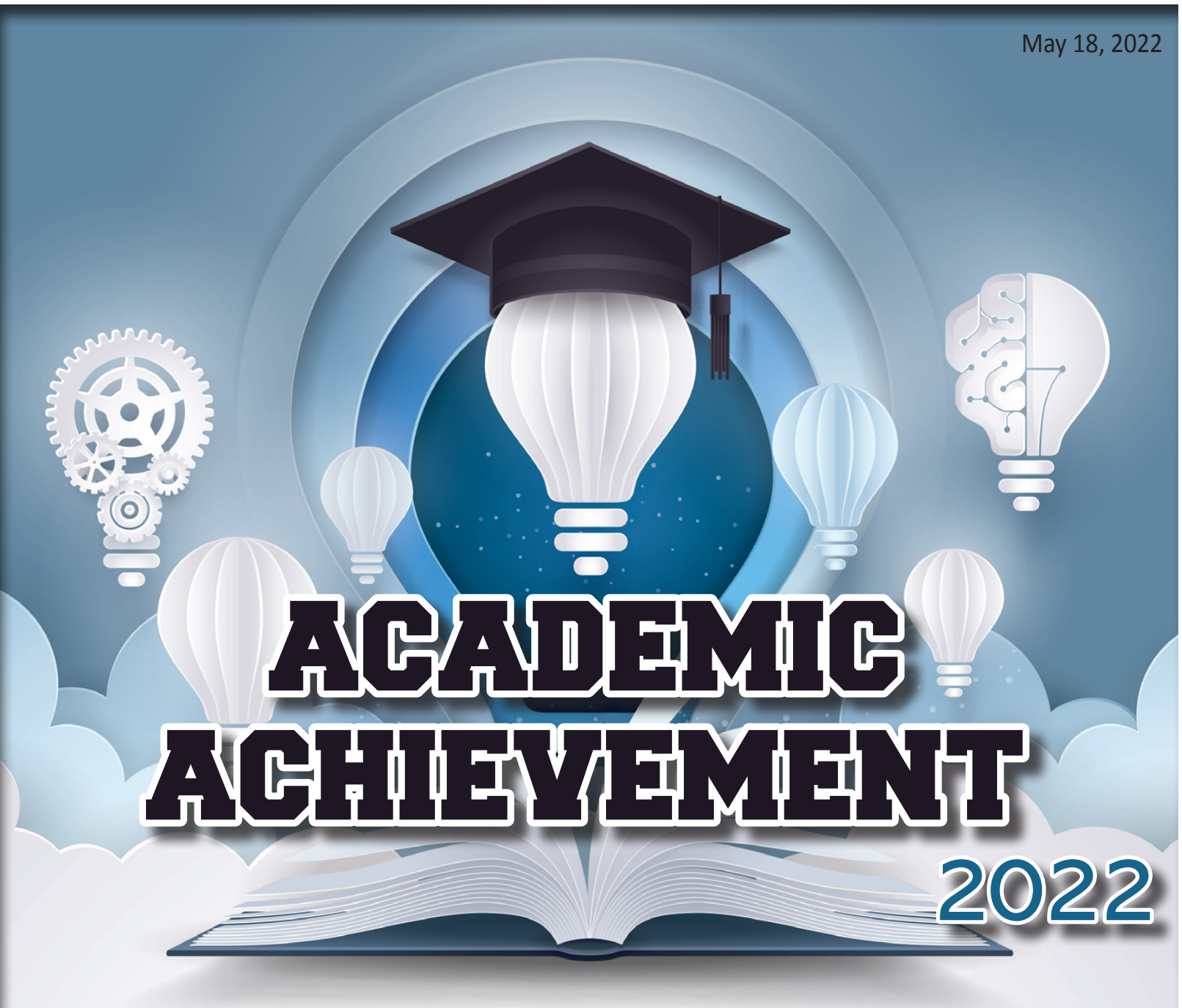
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May 18, 2022

A graphic for 'Academic Achievement 2022'. It features a central illustration of a graduation cap (mortarboard) with a tassel, positioned above an open book. Surrounding the cap and book are several lightbulbs of varying sizes, some of which are glowing. To the left of the cap are interlocking gears. The background consists of concentric circles and clouds. The text 'ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT' is written in a large, bold, black font with a white outline, and '2022' is written in a blue font with a white outline to the right.

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT 2022

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# Cardinal seniors earn scholarships

Crete High seniors earned scholarships to use next year for college. They include:

Niurka Aguilera-Barrientos—Susan T. Buffet Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Noon Sertoma Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship (4 Year College)

Martin Aleman-Chavez—Susan T. Buffett scholarship, MCU Scholarship, Kenney and Ethel Dunn Scholarship (elementary edu)

Ruben Avalos—Dean Scholarship, Fix Agriculture/Music Studies Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship

Bryan Banos-Molina—Susan Buffett and Southeast Community College Foundation Scholarship, Julius Misle Scholarship, Ben Clement Memorial Scholarship/Crete Fire Dept, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, National Honor Society Scholarship

Omar Becerra—Husker Traditions Scholarship

Lisset Beltran—Bryan Health 'Acts of Kindness' Scholarship

Cale Bessler—Presidential scholarship Football Scholarship, Track Scholarship

Sawyer Bulling - Dean and Deanne Memorial Prochaska Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship (4 Year College)

Andrew Burianek—Nebraska Emerging Leaders Scholarship, American Legion Post 147 Scholarship

Jennifer Cardoso-Franco—Board of Trustees Scholarship, Track/ Cross country scholar-

ship, Doane Inclusive Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship (PALS)

Adamaris Carmona Ortiz—Susan Buffett Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship

Giovanni Castaneda—Board of Trustees Scholarship, Men's Soccer Scholarship, Doane Inclusive Scholarship, Michael Krantz - Doane University Scholarship

Liam Clouse—Husker Power Scholarship

Jordyn Coe—Rural Health Opportunities, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Crete Diamonds Softball Scholarship

Brooke Deisley—Eisenhower Scholarship, Presidential Academic Scholarship, Women's Basketball Scholarship, Ben Clement Memorial Scholarship/Crete Fire Dept, Crete Booster Club Scholarship

Alennys Dominguez-Alonso—Fix Agriculture/Music Studies Scholarship

Will Eltze—FFA Alumni Scholarship

David Figueroa-Giron—Fix Agriculture/Music Studies Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship

Jacob Fugett—Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship

Marvin Gonzalez Quino—Clarence Wagner Memorial Scholarship (Construction)

Omar Gonzalez—Susan Buffett Scholarship

Alejandra Guiza-Gonzalez—

Husker Traditions Scholarship, Nebraska Emerging Leaders Scholarship, McHugh Family Scholarship, Albert and Dorothy Boden Scholarship, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship

Allana Heath—Albert and Dorothy Boden Scholarship, Husker Power Scholarship, Russell and Anne Fuller Legend Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Alpha Delta Kappa - Alpha Xi Chapter Scholarship

Karlee Henning—Board of Trustees Scholarship, Women's Track Scholarship, Leanne Manning Memorial Scholarship, Masonic Lodge Scholarship, Ben Clement Memorial Scholarship/Crete Fire Dept, Blue Valley Post 4959 VFW Scholarship, Blue Valley Post 4959 VFW Auxiliary Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Crete Diamonds Softball Scholarship

Grace Heusinkvelt—Founders Scholarship and Cheer Scholarship, Milton and Gerry Stehlik Memorial Scholarship (ag/nursing/edu), TeamMates Scholarship

Mara Hoyer—National Honor Society Scholarship

Brandon Keola—Emil Pomajzl and Lucille Belka Scholarship (acad trans)

Issac Krael—Schuyler American Legion Post 47 Scholarship

Conner Leiting—Crete Lions Scholarship

Lizeth Lopez Garcia—Ne-

braska Emerging Leaders Scholarship, Husker Power Scholarship

Yahir Lopez-Villa—Susan T. Buffet Scholarship

Andres Lucas-Lucas—Susan T. Buffet Scholarship, TeamMates Mentoring Gary Scharf Memorial Scholarship

Aaron Meinke—American Legion Post 294 Hallam, Mike Parks Memorial Scholarship (architecture tech, design, drafting at SCC), FFA Alumni Scholarship

Michael Mejia-Vasquez—Susan T. Buffet Scholarship, Crete Lions Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship

Alejandra Mendez—Next Generation Personal Finance Scholarship "Payback" Challenge, Edward Belka Memorial Scholarship (health), Smithfield Foods Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship

Eleidy Mora—The Jesusita and Santos Courage and Fortitude Scholarship, MCU Scholarship

Sandra Ortiz-Guiza—Husker Power Scholarship

Kevin Paredes—Fix Agriculture/Music Studies Scholarship, Crete Eagles Post 4959 Auxillary Scholarship

Lisset Perez Beltran—Susan T. Buffet Scholarship

Madison Persing—The Rawson Scholarship, Jacob Harders Reach-Out Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship

Taylor Pierce—College Access Mentee Scholarship, Honors Program Scholarship, Henning Family Scholarship, David Distinguished Schol-

arship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, TeamMates - Lenord Krenk Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship, Teammates Mentoring College Access Scholarship for UNL

Dylan Rejcha—Emil Pomajzl Memorial Scholarship (agriculture) - WELDING, Richard Vlasin Memorial Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship

Trevor Rejcha—Nebraska Achievement Scholar, Husker Traditions Scholarship, Al Franta Scholarship (math, science, engineering), Crete Booster Club Scholarship

Ashley Rivas-Martinez—Nebraska Career Scholarship, David Distinguished Scholarship, Helen Vasatka Scholarship, Bernie Ludvik Scholarship

Jacqueline Rodriguez-Martinez—TeamMates Scholarship

Jaiden Rohr—Wayne State College Board of Trustees, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship

Braden Schmeckpeper—Brian Carnes Baseball Memorial Scholarship

Riley Schmidt—Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3909 Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Crete Chamber of Commerce/FBLA Scholarship, Crete Diamonds Softball Scholarship

Clayton Sears—TeamMates Scholarship

Travis Sweeney—Presidential Academic Scholarship, Power Mens Soccer Scholarship, Karen K Duncan Schol-

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# Scholarship funds go to DHS seniors

Scholarships for Dorchester High School's Class of 2022 are:

Dulce Del Toro Ornelas—Southeast Community College-CRAVE

Tierra Duchek—Dorchester Guidance Department Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Doris Kohout Memorial Scholarship

Blake Hansen—Board of Regents Scholarship-UN-L, Farmer's Co-operative Scholarship, Dorchester United Methodist Church Scholarship, Saline County Farm Bureau Scholarship, Crossroads Conference Scholarship, Jim Heeren Memorial Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Boys State Scholarship, Brad Kasl Memo-

rial Scholarship, CASNR Scholarship UN-L

Sawyer Hanson—Lois Williams Memorial Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Boys State Scholarship

Benjamin Nohavec—Farmer's Co-operative Scholarship, Dorchester United Methodist Church Scholarship, Southeast Community College Foundation Scholar Award, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Boys State Scholarship, Saline County Farm Bureau Scholarship

Jason Paz—Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, First State Bank Memorial Scholarship, Farmland Scholarship

Ashton Rasplicka—

Husker Power Scholarship, Galen Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Nebraska Promise Award UN-L

Madison Sherwood—Crete Area Health Care Foundation Scholarship, Husker Power Scholarship, Senior Citizenship Award, Dorchester Area Community Foundation Scholarship, Galen Lee Johnson Memorial

Scholarship, SCC Career Academy Scholars-Ostergard Scholarship, Southeast Community College Foundation Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, American Red Cross Scholarship, Evelyn E. Novak Memorial Scholarship, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership SCC Scholarship

Tyler Sysel—Dorchester Education Association Scholarship, Joseph E.

Wagner Memorial 4-H Council Scholarship, Dorchester United Methodist Church Scholarship, Doane Board of Trustee Scholarship, Doane Legacy Scholarship, Doane Vocal Music Scholarship, Education Quest Foundation Scholarship, Jeralyn Skala Memorial Scholarship-Tabor Hall, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Jose Tellez—Blue Valley VFW Post #4959

Scholarship, Blue Valley VFW Post #4959 Auxiliary Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Insurance Agency Scholarship

Karter Tyser—Ronald and Mary Ann Sehnert Memorial Scholarship, Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, First State Bank Scholarship, Alt. Brad Kasl Memorial Scholarship

## Crete scholarships

(continued from 2) arship, Rose and Joseph Zumpfe Scholarship, CEA Scholarship, Ed Hammond Memorial Baseball Scholarship

Juana Tercero Martin—Smithfield Foods Scholarship

Karen Vasquez-Mendez—Husker Traditions Scholarship

Yordin Velasquez-Sosa—Susan T. Buffet Scholarship

Herman Vicente-Perez—Susan T. Buffet Scholarship

Kaitlyn Wendt—Marina Havranek Rezabek Scholarship - Business in NE 2-4 yrs, Crete Booster Club Scholarship

Kaitlyn Yeager—Crete Trust Fund Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Alpha Delta Kappa - Alpha Xi Chapter Scholarship, CEA Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship

## Hansen: From cubes to debates

BY BLAKE HANSEN

Dorchester High valedictorian

Thank you Mr. Schrunk. I want to start out with a few thank yous. Thank you to my teachers over the years that have challenged me to do my best. Thank you to the administration for being willing to listen to student input and take that into consideration when making decisions, even though you didn't always agree with us. Thank you to all my friends these last 13+ years for always making school unique.

Lastly, to my family. I cannot thank you enough for always being there to support me and assist me when needed, especially this last year. I am who I am today because of you.

To my classmates, what a ride it has been. One of my first memories with all of you was in kindergarten when we would fight over the linking cubes during playtime. It was always a race to claim the most cubes every day to build with, and often caused many arguments. The fighting got so bad one



Blake Hansen

week that I decided to teach myself the alphabet backwards, which was, in hindsight, a

rather useless skill that I later taught Ashton. But, it has proven to be a great icebreaker in conversations.

In fifth grade, Mr. Zoubek set up a large tank for us to hatch rainbow trout to raise for a few weeks and then release. We started with well over 100 trout, and things were going great. That is, until we came in after a weekend and there were three trout left. A few days later those three had died as well. On the day we were supposed to re-

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lease the trout, another school gave us some fish to release so we weren't empty handed. Mr. Nelson, maybe once we are gone your curse will finally be lifted.

We came into seventh grade being labeled one of the worst classes. Every day was a struggle for Mrs. Severance to get most of the class to do their homework. I think the whole class knows where I'm going with this. One day we came into Mrs. Severance's and like usual she went around the class asking who did their homework. One by one, the answer was no, no, no, no, yes when it got to Madison. No, no, no, you get the point. Madison was the only one who had done it.

The lecture that

followed terrified all of us. To this day, it is the most frustrated I have ever seen a teacher. Needless to say, everyone had their homework done the next day, and the next. If I had to define one moment that straightened our class out, that would be it.

Then high school hit. We came into freshman year with 19 in the class. Now we are at 11. On the bright side, at least over 50% are here today. The highlight of freshman year had to be cutting Karter's hair in Basic Computers because it was too long for him to wrestle.

Sophomore year threw us a huge curveball. I still can hear Karter asking us in February if we had heard about some virus spreading in China. None of us had, and we

didn't care because it wasn't here and wasn't affecting us. Fast forward a few weeks and school was let out because of it.

We went through junior year with mask mandates and the constant threat of returning to remote learning. The main memory of junior year was when Ashton caught a baby bird outside and brought it into Mr. Nelson's, naming it "traffic cone" for whatever reason. Though it turns out string cheese is not good for birds. Junior year is also when we learned that Sawyer definitely isn't going to UNK.

Most recently, I think Mr. Ray's class has made lasting impacts on all of us with all the random college advice and the conver-

sations, including the Presidential debates. For those of you who do not know, we had to each pick a president and debate in a tournament format why our president was the best. According to the class of 2022, President Nixon, portrayed by Sawyer, is the best President in history. Although I think he handed out bribes to beat Wilson, who was myself. And Ashton, I hope you use the Chewbacca defense again in the future.

As we are moving on, let's remember how our class is leaving our mark on the school. We started this early in elementary. If you ever notice the bars protecting the windows of the shop, they are there because of us. One stray kick of a soccer

ball at recess was all it took to break one of the windows.

Fast forward to freshman year P.E. when Sawyer forced Mr. Ginapp to put a flag up in the MPR so we could say the pledge every morning. Initially it was just a small flag on a stick on the west wall, but I've now learned there is a full-sized flag instead. I am told Mr. Schrunk saw the small flag and told Mr. Ginapp, "Oh, we can do so much better" and put up a large flag. Mr. Schrunk, if you would like, our class fund will reimburse you for the flag.

I have no idea what the future has in store for each one of us. What I do know is that each of us has our own unique experiences that have shaped who

we are today and that will guide us in the future. I am so thankful for all these years I have shared with you and all the memories that have been made.

Moving forward, remember everything we have been through and do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance. While our ships may sail in separate directions, that does not make any one path more important than another. Today we are lifting our anchors to travel on our own, but we can always cast our "Anchors Aweigh" and come back home.

I want to leave you with this quote from Michael Josephson. "Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you'll go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey."

# Funds to help EMHS seniors at college

Exeter-Milligan High seniors received the following scholarships:  
Benjamin Bartu—Paul Placek Memorial, Kubicek Trust, Exeter American Legion, Harre Seed and Services, George and Barbara Hendricks, Horizontal Boring and Tunneling Co Sponsorship Program, Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, Fillmore County Foundation – Exeter Community, Sons of the American Legion  
Braden Capek—Husker Traditions, Nebraska Career Scholar, Warren and Velda Wilson Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, NE Czechs of York, Heartland Bank, Milligan American Legion alternate, Klima Trust, Rosa Novacek Memorial, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, Crossroads Conference Activity \$, Fillmore County Foundation - History Essay, Jim Zeleny Memorial, Nebraska 2022 Eagle Scout of the Year, Maynard Jensen American Legion Memorial, Trail's End Popcorn Scholarship  
Briana Capek—Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, Fillmore

County Foundation - forgivable loan, Husker Power Scholar, Heartland Bank, Milligan Legion Auxiliary 240, Kristen Engle Memorial, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation  
Cameron Jansky—Husker Power Scholar, Warren and Velda Wilson, Kiwanis Club of Beatrice, Harre Seed and Services, Milligan Legion Auxiliary 240, Kristen Engle Memorial, Klima Trust, Milo and Agnes Stych Memorial, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, EM Network Athlete of the Year  
Rebecca Krupicka—Milligan American Legion, Milligan Legion Auxiliary alternate, Ruth Slezak Memorial, Robert Zeleny Memorial, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, Assessment Advantage (CCC), Art (CCC), Fillmore County Foundation - Milligan community  
Maddie Luzum—Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Education Association, First Bank of Utica - Milligan Branch, Milligan Legion Auxiliary alternate, Betty Jane Plettner Memorial, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, Dixie

Guthrie-Krejci Memorial  
Emma Olsen—Nebraska Strong (NWU), Natural and Health Science Event (NWU), Campus Visit Grant (NWU), Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, Farmers Coop, First Bank of Utica - Milligan Branch, Harre Seed and Services, Wilfrid and Ruth Ekeler Memorial, Clara Manning Fletcher Memorial, Lori Ruhl-Walford Memorial, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, Access NWU, Jim Zeleny Memorial  
Peyton Pribyl—Henry Wagner Memorial Farm, Fillmore County Ag Society, Kubicek Trust, Knights of Columbus, Harre Seed and Services, Hwy 41 Express Stop, Robert Kassik Memorial, Exeter Feeders and Breeders -sponsored by Farm Credit Services, Aurora Coop, Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, George and Barbara Hendricks  
Wesley Ronne—Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, Denise Mahoney Memorial, Exeter American Legion, Joe Sadlo Memorial, Dr. Ray and Jean Steinacher Endowed, Mary Tous Charitable Foundation, Art

and Delores Robertson (NCC), Nebraska Promise UNL  
Kiah Songster—Dwayne and Cheryl Luzum family, Lauritsche Peterson Am Legion Post 359, Robert and Irma Dinneen Memorial, Feeders and Breeders -Todd Ricenbaw Memorial, Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation  
Kole Svec—Husker Power Scholar (UNL), Animal Science: Inspiring Your Future (UNL), Ralph Vauck and Clay Metcalf, Kiwanis Club of Beatrice, Kubicek Trust, Dr Ray and Jean Steinacher Endowed, Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, Richard Michl Memorial, Henry Wagner Memorial Farm, College of Agricultural Sciences and NaturalResources (UNL), Farmers and Merchants - Milligan,  
Casey Underwood—Farmers and Merchants Bank -Beaver Crossing, Kubicek Trust, Harre Seed and Services, Wilfrid and Ruth Ekeler alternate, Janet (Hrmodka) Chrastil Memorial, Generations Bank Post Prom, Northeast CC Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, Exeter-Milligan Foundation, George and Barbara Hendricks



# Capek: Graduation means start of new journey

BY **BRADEN CAPEK**  
Exeter-Milligan High valedictorian

Today is the day. The day we've either been dreading or waiting for in fierce anticipation since we started high school and, in some cases, even before that. Today is the day we graduate.

It seems like every year the seniors always say that this day sneaks up on you and that you need to enjoy the time while it lasts. I, like many others in the past have said, thought that it was just talk and that graduation was an eternity away. It was in my mind that the days would drag and when the time came to leave that we would all be ready and eager to take our stuff and go.

Now my classmates and I are at the point that so many seniors before us have already been at and, as cliché as it may sound, I don't think we are quite ready to leave.

There is this compulsive eagerness to leave this part of our lives behind us, flip the page, and start a new chapter.

This place, these people, have been all we've known for what feels like our entire lives. Though it wasn't great 100% of the time, our time in school has brought some of the best memories we have. Though part of the journey is the end. Another cliché, I know.

Now it's time to start a new journey. It's time to go out and start forging a new path for lack of a better analogy. It's time for college. Even saying that just doesn't feel right, much less thinking that's where we are all going to be in several months. It all just keeps replaying in my head, all the memories, good and bad, that I, and my classmates, have of this place and with these people.

I have to say I'm so grateful that I was put in a class with these people up here with me today. Any other group of individuals would feel dull in comparison to these fine young adults. Each day brought something new; always differing, but always having a sense of familiarity. The boys never

ceased to bring humor to the day, whether from their constant joking around or the questionable ideas they always seemed to have. The girls always brought a cheerful attitude to school and brought the class together in a way that made everyone feel like family. Over the years I think we all grew closer and now, it's hard to imagine going to school without them.

That might be the hardest thing about this, leaving behind a group of friends that have become more like a family rather than just classmates.

In addition to getting the honor to go through high school with each other, we've also had the incredible opportunity to have some of the best coaches and teachers we could ever have hoped for.

At no point was there any doubt that they weren't only making us better at our sport and school, but they were making us better people in the process. The education we received both in the classroom and out on the field and



Braden Capek

court has definitely left a lasting impression on us, and we will carry the lessons learned with us to our next step in life and beyond.

I know I've stated it before, but leaving behind all the people that have shaped your life as you have always known is undoubtedly one of the hardest things about graduation. Of course we'll see each other and our educators in passing or at social events, but the way we have interacted with each other throughout our schooling careers will be something that is left behind once we walk through the doors of this fine


school for the last time.

That fact is incredibly hard to process.

Though this may be a sad time for us students, the parents, and the faculty, it is obviously also a time of great joy. We're growing up, maturing. The fact that we have made it to this point shows how much we have accomplished and all that we've had to overcome to get to this point shows our growth as individuals. After I don't even know how many years with this class, we have been able to see not only the silly side of each other but also the maturity, growth, and development of one another.

Even after four years of high school, I feel like there's so much that I still don't know, but one thing I do know for sure is that this class is ready for the next step in our lives. We've been working for this moment for our entire educational careers and we know we're ready. We would like to thank our parents, the school faculty, coaches, and friends for all they've done to help prepare us for this day, a day we will never forget - our graduation.

Thank you everybody for everything you've done for us, and congratulations to the class of 2022.



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# Bartu: Galveston trip highlight of senior year

BY BEN BARTU

Exeter-Milligan High salutatorian

Welcome to the class of 2022 graduation.

I tell you what, we've had our fair share of good times that we'll all probably forget in 10 years or, if your memory is as good as mine, three years. But there still will be the ones that you won't forget that will stick with you for longer than that. And you will most likely remember them from your senior year.

But not all of them are from then. One that I think most of us

will remember is the old Dodge truck Wes used to have. If you want to hear the story about that one, you'll have to talk to Wes. But let's just say it liked to catch fire. Or another good one is when Wes couldn't find his computer one day. Steve brought it in because Steve found it in the middle of the road. It had fallen off the top of Wes's car.

But moving on from that we could talk about some of the more recent memories, like our senior trip. We had a lot of fun in Galveston.



Ben Bartu

Some of the fun we had was singing *Galveston* by Glen Campbell while we were driving into Galveston. We also had

a lot of fun in the thrift stores and the Galveston Goodwill. And the beach was also a very exciting.

Some of us also took sunrise beach walks which was one of the neatest things you could do while you are down there. I highly recommend it. Some of the other fun things we did while we were there was bury Kole in the sand. The problem with that was the tide started to come up and he couldn't get out. So we had to get him out before he was stuck there for too long.

I could also talk about some of our other class memories, like doing the class Christmas tree, and taking down the class Christmas tree, or even our class service day the other week. All of these things are always a lot of fun.

But now is the part where I give some of the underclassmen, or whoever wants to hear it, some advice. My first piece of advice is don't worry about being the best at everything. As long as you're good enough at some things you'll be just all right.

I do believe there was one time, I don't remember who said it, but we got told there were too many people in here that strived to be mediocre. And I thought about that and I thought that was great advice.

But the last piece of advice I have is be glad you went to a small high school, because I doubt any big high school would have let us screw around in the office at lunch. And, finally, put your phones down for a change and do something productive. So all I have to say now is get out and fix something.

*Congratulations to the Class of 2022 – we wish you success in your future*

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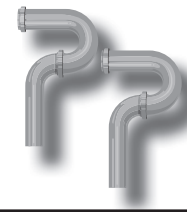
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*Kory, Diane, Kay and Ed*

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# Brandt: Class of 2022 has come long way

BY CAMERYN BRANDT  
Friend High valedictorian



Cameryn Brandt

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the Friend High School Class of 2022 graduation ceremony. It is such an honor to be standing here as the class valedictorian giving this speech to end our high school career.

It has been a great 13 years and I can't thank my classmates enough for that. Before I jump into anything too nostalgic, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to so many people. I have been fortunate enough to have so many amazing people in my life, and I believe they deserve recognition.

I want to thank my parents. You never gave up on me or gave in when times got tough. Because of this, I grew up having to work hard for a lot of things that I have now, and I would never go back and change that. You have raised me and my siblings the right way, and now, you are finally

halfway done. So mom and dad, thank you truly for everything and for allowing me to become the person I am today.

I also want to thank my other family members who are sitting here today to celebrate this accomplishment with me and who have never stopped supporting me over the years.

A big thank you is also due to all of the parents in the crowd. You did an amazing job with everyone sitting behind me.

To the AMAZING staff and faculty at this school. I have been

successful, consistently supported, and forever motivated to do my best, all thanks to you. From early mornings to late nights, many of you spent your time here with a lot of us making sure we achieved what we set out to do. To Mr. Anderson, Mrs. Stutzman, Ms. Hottovy, all the office ladies, and all of you staff, whether you see us every day or hardly, with your support, we are able to sit here today and celebrate a day we will never forget.

To the wonderful custodians, who work tirelessly to keep our school and facility clean and running. They truly are the glue that holds us all together.

I also want to thank Shelby Lawver and Chase Svehla as our escorts and the other attendants, Shelby Steyer, Nick Schafer, Kylie Weber, and Emily Brahmstedt, for helping make this day run smoothly.

And last but certainly not least, I want to thank all of you, my fel-

low classmates. I have built lasting friendships with each and every one of you and I can't wait to see what amazing things you will accomplish.

Now that I've gotten all the thank yous out of the way, I can really tell you about this class. I promised I wouldn't make this a sad speech for the moms in the crowd, so I'll try my best.

As I said earlier, I have been fortunate enough to grow and experience an insane amount of memories with my class. From day one, this class has managed to surprise everyone, including myself. For example, one day in technology, Fred was rolling around on his chair with a pencil in hand. You probably thought pencils were for writing, right? Fred was able to find another use for it by stabbing it into his ear.

Let's just say we didn't always have surprises that ended in going to the hospital and getting fried

chicken afterward, like Fred. We didn't always give our parents panic attacks, but we did manage to make some lasting memories.

In the second grade, Cooper left the school one day with the nickname "motor-mouth." But what's new, right? Elijah almost set the projector on fire while in Spanish class. One of my personal favorites is when Viv and I not only played tug a war with Jesse, but we chased him and Cooper around with naked Barbie dolls. After all, we have been the only two girls in our class for years, so we had to defend ourselves somehow.

In fifth grade, Zakk managed to get Mrs. Vyhnalek to say "underwear" when she was looking for her marker under the desk. Back then, that was a classic. In fourth grade, Jesse's mom threatened him to shape up or she'd hit him with her shoe. JB loves to watch movies, and he has an abnormal obsession with Tommy Boy. But I find it funny

that he can't sit through a scary movie without covering his eyes.

When Christian went through his mullet, mustache, bow-tie, and flannel phase, I'm not yet sure who copied who. And sorry again, Cooper, but gray still doesn't go with gray and the flood still hasn't come.

It's funny as I look at this class and think about our freshman year of high school. We were the worst class in the building and many of the teachers didn't have high hopes for us. As the years went by, we really shaped up and realized it was important to be respectful to those around us because they were the ones helping us get to this day.

This year especially, it has been hard for many of our students, teachers, and administrators to wrap their heads around the fact that we are finally graduating.

It is still clear in my mind the reactions that

(continued on 9)



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Scholarship winners at Friend High are, from left, Jesse Duba, Zakk Smith, Cameryn Brandt, Christian Weber, Cooper Girmus, JB Drake, Fred Hausman, Elijah Black and Vivian Weber.

# Bulldog senior class earns scholarships

Seniors at Friend High received the following scholarships:

Elijah Black ~ UNL Husker Traditions Scholarship, UNL Emerging Leader Scholarship, Friend Community Club Scholarship, Norman Kohout Scholarship, Friend Public School Foundation Scholarship

Cameryn Brandt ~ UNL Regents Scholarship, Saline County 4-H Council Scholarship, Melvin and Phyllis Cornell Scholarship, First Bank of Utica Scholarship, Losh Family Scholarship, Friend Public School Valedictorian Scholarship, Friend Public School Foundation Scholarship, Friend Education Association Scholarship, Grange Scholarship, Shirley Gautreaux Memorial Scholarship, Maynard Jensen Memorial Scholarship, and the Judith Weber Memorial and PEO Chapter DQ Scholarship, EMF FFA Boosters Scholarship, American Red Cross Scholarship

JB Drake ~ Doane College Legacy Award, Doane College Baseball Scholarship, Doane College Board of Trustees Scholarship, UNO Maverick Scholarship, Freckled Door Scholarship, First Bank of Utica Scholarship,

Friend Public School Foundation Scholarship, Friend Public School Staff Jeans Scholarship, Citizens State Bank Scholarship, alternate for the Wake Foundation Scholarship, UNO Entrepreneurial Living Learning Community Scholarship

Jesse Duba ~ Southeast Community College Education Foundation Tuition Scholarship, Southeast Community College Foundation Scholarship

Cooper Girmus ~ Doane College Board of Trustees Scholarship, Doane College Legacy Scholarship, Doane College Basketball Scholarship, Farmers Union Cooperative Scholarship, Friend Public School Foundation Scholarship, UNL Husker Power Scholarship

Frederic Hausman ~ UNL Husker Power Scholarship, First Bank of Utica Scholarship, Friend Public School Foundation Scholarship, Friend Public School Staff Jeans Scholarship, Wake Foundation Scholarship

Grantham Pavel ~ UNL Husker Power Scholarship, Bryan College of Health Sciences School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship

Zakkary Smith ~ Friend Public School Foundation

Scholarship

Christian Weber ~ Freckled Door Scholarship, Farmers Cooperative Scholarship, Saline County 4-H Council Scholarship, Friend Community Club Scholarship, Norman Kohout Scholarship, Friend Public School Foundation Scholarship, Friend Public School Salutatorian Scholarship, Saline County Farm Bureau Scholarship, Grange Scholarship alternate, UNL Husker Traditions Scholarship, Engler Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Scholarship, UNL CASNR Scholarship, Farmers and Merchants Bank Exeter Feeders and Breeders Scholarship, EMF FFA Boosters Scholarship, American Red Cross Scholarship

Vivian Weber ~ Eastern Star Scholarship, Jodi Lawver Memorial Scholarship, Melvin and Phyllis Cornell Scholarship, Norman Kohout Scholarship, Friend Public School Foundation Scholarship, PEO Star Scholarship, Sam Shutts Memorial Scholarship, Citizens State Bank Scholarship, Lauritsche Petersen American Legion Post 359 Scholarship

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# Weber: Class sets bar high

BY CHRISTIAN WEBER  
Friend High salutatorian

Hello, and thank you for attending the Friend High School Class of 2022 graduation ceremony. My name is Christian Weber, and I would just like to take the time to thank the school administration, our senior class parents, and my fellow classmates for some of the best years of my life.

Almost every single graduation speech I hear involves the generic quote of "we did it," or "we worked so hard to get here," which is true, but in reality, it's not.

When I look at our senior class, if the best thing that we have done with our lives is graduate from high school, I would be astonished. We as a class have set the bar so high for each other that falling short on something as simple as a test is a big deal. Viewing this as anything other than a stepping stone is a big mistake when we think of our futures. The fact of the matter is, however, that when I look back on this class, some of my greatest memories come from going to school with



Christian Weber

what I view as my family.

Junior High. Two words that come hand in hand with awkwardness and squeaky voices. When I look back at our class in junior high, there are two things that I remember.

First of all, we boys became professionals at etiquette and chivalry towards the two ladies. Not only did we get them to go to the administration about us, but they even got us our first true yelling session.

Secondly, we as a class learned how to gain fondness from the teachers. Not only did every teacher in the building love us, which they still do, but so

much so that we became the best-behaved class in Friend Junior High History, a record never to be touched again.

When we got past the awkwardness of junior high, we then resumed that same awkwardness when we got to high school. Whether it was dating the wrong person, going through the awkward stages that come with being a freshman, or complaining about doing geometry homework, we as a class went through it during those years.

However, if there was one thing that we gained, it was maturity. We grew up quite a bit from junior high, which was something you wouldn't think was possible for a class that displayed the utmost maturity. For example, Cooper studied even less in high school than he did in Junior High which many thought would be impossible, but thanks to Cooper, he proved the haters wrong and began to recognize the importance of time and dedication to tests and quizzes.

Lastly, our years as upperclassmen have been

nothing short of amazing. We as a class are such a tight group that it will be hard to leave some of my best friends when I go to college, but as I mentioned before, we are more than ready. We have held each other accountable which has prepared us for the real world, made fun of each other, and have fought, but in the end, we had good intentions. We are a class that has not only pushed each other to be involved but to be leaders and excel while we are doing so. It is my hope that the classes behind us look at our class as an example of accountability and leadership.

So, I am more than thankful to be a member of the Class of 2022 at Friend High and would like to thank my classmates, my teachers, and my parents for helping me along the way. We have so much more to achieve and do with our lives, and I am thrilled to see what we have in store. Life is only beginning whether we like it or not, and while we should cherish the past, the future starts tomorrow. Thank you.

## Brandt

(continued from 7) this class has received over the year, but more specifically at the end of the year. We have had many students tell us how much they are going to miss us. I've seen teachers and administrators choking up, trying not to cry, and telling us how much they love us and will miss us. And our parents are trying so hard to keep it together because their little babies are all grown up and will be gone off to college in only a short amount of time.

If that doesn't explain one of the biggest turnarounds in school history, I don't know what does.

Our class chose the Latin motto "he conquers who conquers himself" or "Vincit Qui Se Vincit." This basically means it's you against yourself. If you can conquer yourself, all of your flaws, your weaknesses, and anything like that then you're on the road to becoming a better person.

We as a class have truly conquered

ourselves from being those ornery students freshman year to some of the most outstanding students in this building.

One thing with this class is we will never stop surprising you. But what is for certain is that this class will never do anything that's not extraordinary. We are doers and achievers. We are future pilots, paramedics, computer engineers, feedlot managers, radio broadcasters, engineers, and state patrolmen. None of that seems just ordinary to me. As for me, I will continue to be called Becky Homecky as I pursue Family and Consumer Sciences in college.

I can't wait to see what each of us accomplishes later in life. Let's celebrate today and tomorrow let's become doers and achievers again. Let's make goals and accomplish all the great things that everyone in this building knows that we can and have helped us prepare for. Thank you!



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# Hahn: Class becomes family over time

BY GRACIN HAHN  
Tri County High School

August of 2008. This was the first time that I and many of my classmates took our first brave steps out of the secure bubbles of our mothers' and fathers' arms and into the halls of Tri County as bright eyed little preschoolers.

Over the years, many more friends would trickle into our class, becoming part of the family that we are today. And that's what we are. A family. We have been through good times and bad, shared highs and lows with both smiles shone and tears shed.

It would be an understatement to say that that warm August day felt like a lifetime ago, but as far off as this day seemed then, these past 13 years have gone by in a blur.

Hello, everyone. My name is Gracin Hahn

and I would like to welcome you all on behalf of the Tri County graduating class of 2022 and thank you for sharing this long-awaited day with us. And not only sharing it with us, but for helping us make it a reality.

After all, it is all of you who have helped us come so far and without you, I wouldn't be here giving this speech while smiling out on so many loving faces. You are the ones who have watched us grow. You've watched us laugh and cry and make memories that will last a lifetime. And you are the ones who have been there to support us through it all.

So thank you to the parents, families, teachers, coaches, custodial staff, lunch ladies, the administration, and all of our supporters for constantly helping us be the best that we can be. Thank you for sacrificing countless



Gracin Hahn

hours whether it be in the classroom or on the field of competition and helping us grow into the proud young men and women that we are today, ready to face the

world.

To the impatient underclassmen ever waiting and wondering if the day that you will be up on this stage will come, it will. It will come faster than you know. So I urge you, please don't take the present for granted. Live in the right here and now and cherish every passing moment because these short four years of high school will be gone in the blink of an eye.

Dr. Seuss once wrote, "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory." So make those memories

now, before they are swallowed by the past.

Lastly, to my classmates, as you sit there anxiously in your seats, bursting with nervous anticipation, I want you to close your eyes and think about those first steps you took in the halls of Tri County so long ago and remember them today as we lace up our shoes and take the first steps of the rest of our lives.

And as we take those steps, looking into the next chapter of our lives, don't be afraid of what's to come. Instead, take the foundations and tools that you have been prepared with

these last 13 years, chin held high, and go out into the world with ambition and daring and eagerly seize every opportunity. And those opportunities will come. So take hold of them fearlessly. Don't waste your precious time on ifs and buts. Michael Altschuler put it best. "The bad news is time flies. The good news is you're the pilot."

So have no doubt in your mind and tell yourself that you will do great things.

And finally today, I'd like to leave you with another quote by Dr. Seuss said, "Kid, you'll move mountains."

**Go Cardinals!**

**SACK**

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# TC seniors announce plans, scholarships

Tri County seniors announced their post-graduation plans and learned what scholarships they received.

Kanin Baker will attend SCC-Milford in the Diesel Technician program. Butler Ag is sponsoring his education. Kanin received welding certification from Southeast Community College. He received a scholarship from Farmers Cooperative and the Plymouth Car Show Scholarship.

Natalie Barta will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and major in nursing, with a minor in Spanish. Natalie received a scholarship from Peace Lutheran Church Scholarship and the Nora J. Bubb Scholarship. She received a waiver of tuition from the United States Marine Corps.

Logan Brown plans to attend Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis in the ag welding program and spraying certification. Logan received the D and K Agri Sales Scholarship.

Tyrone Burgess is going to SCC-Lincoln in the computer information technology program. From Southeast Community College, Tyrone received a SCC Foundation Scholars Scholarship.

Mallory Chavez is attending SCC-Lincoln in Human Services. From SCC she received the

Career Academy Scholars - Foundation Scholarship and a SCC Foundation Scholars Scholarship. She is the benefactor of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Program and a recipient of a L.E. and Bethel Heist Memorial Scholarship.

Brevin Damrow will attend Concordia University with a President's Scholarship and a football scholarship. He will major in secondary education planning to be a social studies teacher. Brevin received the TCEA Scholarship, an American Red Cross/National Honor Society Scholarship, the Beatrice Area Retired School Personnel Scholarship, the Ellen M. Runty Scholarship and an FFA Ag Accomplishment Award/First State Bank Scholarship.

Josie Daugherty is going to Shreveport, Louisiana, this summer to attend The World's Only Tattoo School. She will return to the Lincoln area and start her tattooing dream.

Fischer Ensz will be getting a job welding at Kawasaki. He received welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Ella Hafer will start her college education at SCC-Lincoln in early childhood education. She is a SCC Foundation Scholar. Ella also received the Farmers Cooperative

Scholarship, the Swanton Community Club Scholarship and the Dee Riesen Memorial Scholarship.

Gracin Hahn has decided to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and major in acting. From UNL, Gracin received a Husker Traditions Scholarship and an FFA Ag Accomplishment Award/First State Bank Scholarship. Gracin has also earned welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Riley Henson will continue her education at Region V Services. She will also get to still spend some time at Tri County.

Tyler Houser plans to go directly to the workforce. He currently works at Landmark Snacks and Carriage Motors.

Asha Jantzen will start with classes at SCC Beatrice.

Colton Jantzen will attend Nebraska Wesleyan University majoring in athletic training. From Nebraska Wesleyan he received these scholarships: President's Scholarship, a Campus Visit Scholarship, the Huge-NWU Recognition Scholarship, a Natural and Health Science Event Scholarship and a

Multi Student Scholarship. Colton received the Lawrence E. and Alberta E. Hermsmeier Scholarship. Colton has earned welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Braxton Jones will attend the University of Nebraska at Kearney, majoring in computer science.

Maykala King has chosen SCC-Milford, where she will be in the manufacturing engineering program. From Southeast Community College she received an SCC Foundation Scholars Scholarship and a Learn to Dream Scholarship. Maykala received the Swanton Legion and Auxiliary Scholarship, the Shopp-Ewing-Nispel Unit 243 Scholarship and the Marvin and Gladys Yost Family Scholarship.

Grant Lewandowski will be a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in electrical engineering. From UNL Grant received a Regents Scholarship and a Career Scholarship. Grant has also received a Knights of Columbus Council 1723 Scholarship, a Merlyn Anderson Memorial 4-H Scholarship, the Music Boosters Instrumental Music Scholarship, a Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship, the Elmer and Anna Selk Memorial Scholarship, the Seth Lindley Memorial

Scholarship and Teenager of the Month at the Fairbury Elks Club. Grant has also completed the courses for welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Nicholas Loxterkamp will attend SCC-Milford in the Ford-Asset program. From Southeast Community College Nick received the following scholarships: the Career Academy Scholars - Wallace and Kathleen Hare Scholarship, the David I. and Douglas D. Koenig Scholarship, the Raymond and Marjorie Pohlmann Family Scholarship and an SCC Foundation Scholars Scholarship. Nick received the Tri County FFA Scholarship and a Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship. Nick completed the courses for welding certification from Southeast Community

College.

Uriel Martinez will attend Colby Community College in Colby, Kansas, and study Sports Management. Uriel received a Tri County FBLA Scholarship and a Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship. Uriel, too, has welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Zaid Martinez is entering the U.S. Marines. He will report to boot camp in San Diego and leaves tomorrow for MEPS. Zaid has welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Mya Maxwell has chosen to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and study inclusive early childhood education. Mya received a Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship.

(continued on 13)

*Good luck to the Friend Bulldogs,  
Exeter-Milligan Timberwolves  
and Dorchester Longhorns!*



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# Speakers look back over time at TCHS

BY MORGAN STOKEBRAND AND  
VERONICA REYNOLDS  
Tri County High School

Before we say good-bye and give an encouraging message, I think it is important you all get to know the history and dynamics of the Tri County 2022 graduating class a little more.

While we take you through the years, enjoy the embarrassing stories no one has been able to forget.

Like, in third grade, when Kanin Baker ate WAYYYY too much hot sauce at lunch and then ran around like a mad man at recess. It must have upset his stomach because when we lined up to go back inside, hr threw up almost right on my shoes. Fun fact – I hate vomit. The janitors had to spray two puke piles off of the cement that day...

Or in fourth grade when our individual bathroom privileges were almost taken away because Mrs. Reedy thought Brevin was just trying to skip math class. In reality, math was after lunch. Thank goodness Mrs. Reedy's threat never became a reality. I don't know if I would have got through that year.

Fifth grade was the final year of the made-up game – "Boys versus Girls." Don't ask us what the rules were because nobody quite remembers. All we did was run around on the playground becoming sweaty messes. This

game was replaced with four square which was banned from us because of the multiple arguments it caused.

We created a new recess tradition in sixth grade with the help of Mrs. Dike. Nobody could stop us from playing kickball behind the swing set OR if you're like me, you sat on the monkey bars watching everyone else play. That too was almost taken away when we fought every day over who won. I don't know how our teachers never banned recess from us altogether.

That brings us to junior high when we experienced a lot of firsts. Like when half of our class was shocked sports practices were, in fact, every day. This was also the first time that we were not together all day. However, we stayed close to each other as a class by telling our parents practice ended a half-hour after it really did so we could hang out by the lockers after school.

Junior high was an awkward time for all of us; however, we eventually made it through and became even more awkward freshmen. Nothing could have prepared us for the chaos of what high school truly is.

Freshman year was a blur until we finally settled down into sophomore year where Bryson brightened everybody's day when he walked into language



Morgan Stokebrand

and handed out "free mints" he stole from Mrs. Thimm or when he played a not-so-appropriate song every day walking into Spanish class. Eventually, those good times halted when Covid hit and changed the rest of our high school experience.

We eventually made it through the pandemic and entered a hopeful junior year that flew by with lots of accomplishments from our classmates.

We continued to cheer each other on into this year when we experienced all of our high school lasts together.

However, our competitive nature from elementary was reignited when Mrs. Sand taught our Spanish class the card game Mafia. The game that originated in Spanish class eventually spread to the entire senior class during Fun on the Lawn when it turned into a yelling match trying to prove who the mafia was.

Throughout school, our classmates came and went just like memories. Our class has evolved since when we first stepped through the doors of Tri County; however, I think our teachers can agree that the only characteristic of our class that never changed was our competitive personalities. For us, no year was the same, especially when there are 32 kids trying to find who they are.

Even through the challenges, we became a united class full of talented and bright individuals who are unique in their own way. I can confidently say that every one of us has found who we are and have



Veronica Reynolds

connected in unbelievable ways that set us on a path to do great things in the coming years.

My challenge to the underclassmen: do the same while you still have the chance. Chase your dreams without fear of failure. Find who you are and be proud of everything you have accomplished. Never lose your competitive side because that is what allows you to keep growing and doing your best.

Treat every day with your classmates as the last because soon you will miss them more than you think you

could. They are the ones who will help shape you and make your high school years the joyous memories you will eventually look back on.

And to the teachers and community support, thank you for all of your dedication to making us promising individuals. We wouldn't be here without you. You all gave us the resources to thrive in the challenging environment of high school that will transfer into college, work, and every day life.

Lastly, to all of the parents and guardians crying in the bleachers, thank you for giving us the tools to make all of our dreams come true.

You taught us to reach for the stars and never look back. So today, we ARE reaching for the stars and accepting a new role in life; however, we will look back to see all we have accomplished our dreams, matured into young adults, and know to always remember the good times.



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Tri County scholarships

(continued from 11)  
Trenae Meyer will start her education at Central Community College, Hastings Campus studying elementary education. From CCC Trenae received an EducationQuest Foundation Scholarship. From Tri County she received the Music Boosters Vocal Music Scholarship and the Graff Music Scholarship.

Tristen Nickel will be joining the workforce. Caden Reedy will attend SCC-Milford in the non-destructive testing program. He received the Willard Waltke Memorial Scholarship. Caden has also completed the requirements for welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Veronica Reynolds will attend Doane University and major in history to be a social studies teacher and eventually wants to get a master's degree in library sciences. From

Doane, Veronica received a Perry Academic Scholarship and Music Scholarships for both Instrumental and Vocal Music. She received the Jeff and Karen Reynolds Memorial Scholarship, a Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship, a Denim Dollars for TC Scholarship and an American Red Cross/ NHS Scholarship.

Nicholas Scheele will be a student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln majoring in mechanical engineering. From UNL he received a Husker Power Scholarship and the Kevin and Paige Yost Scholarship. He also has a Farmers Cooperative scholarship, a Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship and the Shopp-Ewing-Nispel Post 243 Scholarship.

Emerson Schultis has chosen to attend SCC-Lincoln for radiologic technology. From SCC, she

received the Raymond and Marjorie Pohlmann Family Scholarship and an SCC Foundation Scholars Scholarship. She received a Regents Scholarship from UNL. Emerson received an FFA Ag Accomplishment award/ First State Bank Scholarship, the Tri County Student Council Scholarship, the First Tri County Bank of Swanton Scholarship and the Plymouth Improvement Association Scholarship.

Morgan Stokebrand will be a student at Nebraska Wesleyan University. She plans to get a bachelor's degree in biology and then continue to getting a doctorate in dentistry. From Nebraska Wesleyan Morgan received a Board of Governors Scholarship, The Huge-NWU Recognition Scholarship, a Campus Visit Scholarship, a Community Builders Event Scholarship and a Lead the Way

Scholarship. Morgan also received the Harold and Harriet Fort Scholarship, the Chris R. Badman Memorial Scholarship, the L.E and Bethel Heist Memorial Scholarship, the First State Bank of DeWitt Scholarship, a Denim Dollars for TC Scholarship, the Tri County NHS Scholarship, the Tri County Spanish Club Scholarship, the DeWitt Community Club Scholarship, Teenager of the Month at the Fairbury Elks Club and the Tri County Athletic Booster Scholarship.

Chaeli Taylor will attend UNO and major in counseling/social work. From UNL she received a Husker Power Scholarship. Chaeli received a Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship and the Marvin and Gladys Yost Family Scholarship.

Emily Thavenet will attend Kansas State with the Midwest Student Ex-

change program majoring in architecture. From K-State she received an AP Design Scholarship. Emily received an FFA Ag Accomplishment Award/First State Bank Scholarship, a Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship, the Janice Buhr Scholarship, Homestead Leathernecks Detachment-1430 Scholarship from the Marine Corps League, a Merlyn Anderson Memorial 4-H Scholarship, the Idella Whitmore Scholarship from the Beatrice Presbyterian Church, a Lincoln Community Foundation-Thomas C. Woods Scholarship (Alltel) and the Delta J. and Zella B. Cooper Scholarship.

Ruby Thompson has chosen to attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha majoring in communications. She was offered a UNL Husker Power Scholarship. Ruby

has welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Taryn VanEperen will be going to SCC-Milford in the John Deere Tech program. She has a Full John Deere Technician and a SCC Foundation Scholars scholarship. Taryn has welding certification from Southeast Community College.

Gavin Weichel will attend Concordia University majoring in agricultural science. From Concordia he received a Regents Scholarship, a football scholarship, a Lutheran Heritage Award and a Concordia Grant. He is also receiving the Tri County FFA Alumni Scholarship, the Farmers Cooperative scholarship, the Plymouth Improvement Association Scholarship, a Denim Dollars for TC Scholars scholarship and the George and Clara Plucknett Memorial Scholarship.

*Good luck,  
Cardinals & Wolverines!*



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# Spilker: Thanks to all who impacted class of 2022

BY HALEY SPILKER  
Wilber-Clatonia High School

On behalf of the class of 2022, I would like to welcome all family, friends, and staff. Thank you for being a part of this special day.

We've all worked hard these past 13 years to get where we are now, but we didn't do it by ourselves. We are very grateful for all the help we've received over the years, and we would like to thank the following people.

To our parents, guardians and families, thank you for sticking by us through our ups and downs, supporting us in everything we do.



Haley Spilker

We would not be where we are today without your help, your guidance, love, and your occasional necessary kicks in the butt. You cheered us on at sporting events, made sure

we did our homework, and listened to our complaints. We could not be more grateful for everything you've done for us.

To our teachers, thank you for putting up with us all these years, I'm sure some of you are happy to wish us well on our next stage of life. I know you've had to deal with a lot, but we want to thank you for everything you've done for us. For sharing your time and providing your knowledge. You pushed and challenged us constantly in and out of school so we could do the best of our ability. You stayed after school

for us if we needed extra help, sometimes even sacrificing your lunch or plan period. You put in the additional effort to make our lessons fun and interesting and even took the time to explain lessons and assignments, sometimes repeatedly, because we weren't paying attention. You have impacted us more than you know.

To our coaches, advisors, and helpers, thank you for making school more than just classwork. Through sports and organizations, we have learned how to be responsible, involved, and even try new things. You made sure to push us to our limits

in ways that we didn't think were possible. You volunteered and sacrificed a lot of your time to show us how to enjoy what we were involved in and help us grow into young adults.

To the administration, thank you for making a safe and welcoming environment that we could come to every day. You made sure to challenge us in ways to make us better and worked hard to make things run as smoothly as possible while also making sure we stayed out of trouble ... Well, you tried.

As seniors, we realize that, although this day marks an end, it also

marks a beginning. Today is a bitter-sweet day. We are leaving this place we have loved and hated and everything in between.

We are moving on to the next stage of our lives. Yet we will always have the memories and a connection to another. I'll leave the stories to Jon, but I would like to say that I could not have asked to be a part of a better class so class of 2022, thank you for the memories.

And once again thank you for all being here to celebrate this special day with us. The beginning of the next chapter of our lives.

## WCHS announces scholarships, plans

The Wilber-Clatonia Class of 2022 announced its college plans and scholarships received. They include:

Kayla Bailey: seeking employment as a body piercing specialist

Jacob Blaha: seeking employment at TMCO

Houston Broz: SCC-Milford, majoring in Diesel Mechanics; scholarships earned: Brian Mager Memorial Scholarship, Elmer and Edra J Broz Memorial Scholarship, Lad and Dorothy Kastanek Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship, Keith Homolka Memorial Scholarship (alt), Betty and Alan Steinacher Scholarship (alt)

Mason Combs: SCC-Milford, majoring in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning; scholarships earned: T.J. Sokol Scholarship, ZCBJ/WFLA Lodge Praha/Libuse 54 Scholarship, sponsored by Rutts Heating and Air, Hastings

Yeymi Corado: UNK, majoring in Psychology/Human Services

Abigail Cramer: UNL, majoring in Social Work/Criminal Justice

Alexis Davison: College of Hair Design, majoring in Cosmetology; scholarships earned: Jill Rezabek Ahrendts Scholarship, Walter and Helene Baer I

Memorial Scholarship

Jonathan Garcia-Jimenez: seeking employment

Connor Herndon: SCC-Milford, majoring in John Deere Technology; scholarships earned: SCC Full John Deere Technician Scholarship (Land-Mark Implement), Keith Homolka Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship, Lad and Dorothy Kastanek Memorial Scholarship (alt)

Logan Herndon: United States Military - Army

Colby Homolka: SCC-Milford, majoring in Electrical-Electromechanical Technology; scholarships earned: Nebraska Czechs of Wilber Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Mel Morerer Scholarship, SCC Career Academy Wallace and Kathleen Hare Scholarship, SCC Education Foundation scholarship, Nebraska Opportunity Grant, Iola Brolliar Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship

Anita Honea: UNK, majoring in Business/Criminal Justice

Ambur Hyde: Seeking employment

Braden Jurgens: SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Agricultural Management and Production; scholarships earned:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Husker Power Scholar Scholarship, SCC-Beatrice Student Activity Scholarshi, SCC Educational Foundation Scholars, SCC Foundation Career Academy Scholars, Joe and Helene Steinacher Memorial Scholarship, Agnes Trnik Memorial Scholarship, Louis Trnik Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship, Kathy Massahos Kinney Scholarship, Huneke Family Memorial Scholarship (alt), Farmers and Merchants Bank Scholarship (alt)

Makenna Korbel: UNO, majoring in Teaching English as a Foreign Language; scholarships earned: Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship, Northwest Missouri State University Merit Scholarship Northwest Missouri State University Green and White Advantage

Adam Kotas: UNL, majoring in Agricultural Engineering; scholarships earned: UNL Regents Scholarship, Nebraska Career Scholarship, Nebraska Czechs of Wilber Scholarship, John Chrastil Memorial Scholarship, Viola C. Jelinek Memorial Scholarship, Raymond Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship, Herb and Sylvia Schmale Memorial Scholarship

(alt), Otto and Antoinette Smith Memorial Scholarship (alt), Wilber Garden Club Scholarship (alt)

Trenton Kracke: SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Ag Management and Production; scholarships earned: Saline County Farm Bureau Scholarship, UNL CASNR Kenneth Reed Memorial Scholarship, Merlyn Anderson Scholarship, SCC Recruiter Scholarship, SCC Educational Foundation Scholars, Huneke Family Memorial Scholarship, Clatonia Cardinal Club Scholarship, Steve and Lynn Wiese Scholarship, Joe and Emma Vesely Memorial Scholarship, Friends of Wilber-Clatonia Scholarship(alt), Agnes Trnik Memorial Scholarship (alt), Marian and Eddie Rezabek Memorial Scholarship (alt), John Chrastil Memorial Scholarship (alt)

Sawyer Kunc: SCC-Milford, majoring in Non-Destructive Testing; scholarships earned: Karen K Duncan scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, T.J. Sokol Scholarship, Justin Kunc Memorial Scholarship

Austin Kvasnicka: SCC-Milford, majoring in Electrical-Electromechanical Technology; scholarships earned:

(continued on 15)



# Zoubek: Remembering days at WCHS

**BY JONATHAN ZOUBEK**  
Wilber-Clatonia High salutatorian

Good afternoon everybody. All of you, including myself, are probably wondering how I'm up here, and to answer that, lots of shop and PE classes.

But that's not what I'm here to talk about. I'm here to talk about the Class of 2022. Somehow today we are all graduating, but it feels like yesterday we were all in elementary school waiting for the next recess.

Our time at Wilber-Clatonia went by fast, but it was filled with memories. The

class of 2022 was a lot of things, but the one thing it wasn't, was boring. So while I'm up here, I'm going to share some of the memories, and the perfect place to start is with Mr. Newmyer.

I'll never forget the time at the sixth grade campout, when he caught on fire while sleeping. Or the time he pulled out a 10-year-old petrified cat from his cabinet, and the time he flipped Jonathan Pucket's desk over because it was full of junk. Anytime we didn't want to learn about social studies or science, we would bring up Donald

Trump or North Korea, because then we would get a 45-minute rant.

In Junior High we thought it was a good idea to throw a snake into the girls' locker rooms. I didn't think the girls could run that fast, but boy, was I wrong. If I'm talking about Junior High, I can't leave out how we went undefeated in football, and Albrecht promised to make t-shirts.

By the way, Coach, we still haven't received them.

I'll never forget when, on the day we were interviewing for a new principal, a group of girls thought



**Jonathan Zoubek**

it was a good idea to start a fight. We hadn't had a fight in years, and the one day we do is probably one of the most important days for our school. That didn't

phase Mr. Conway too much, because he still took the job.

I must also mention that this gym was covered in toilet paper four days ago, and Mr. Bates' room was covered in Donald Trump posters, which is his favorite person by the way.

I'm going to miss all the Friday night games and cruise lines where everyone came together and had a good time. One of my favorite memories is when we had our second-round playoff game against St. Cecelia. Seeing our classmates come to support us was something special, that not

all schools get to experience.

Senior Class play was another thing that I feel brought our class together. I didn't know Vosh was such a good actor.

I also want to say thank you to all the teachers. Putting up with us for the past four years probably wasn't easy. I also want to say thank you to my classmates. Thanks for all the memories and good luck in the future. Wilber, it's been fun, but not too fun. Goodbye and good luck to everyone.

## Wilber-Clatonia scholarships

**(continued from 14)**  
Southeast Community College First Generation Scholarship  
Katie Marsh: Bryan College of Health Sciences, majoring in Nursing; scholarships earned: Crete Eagles Club Scholarship, Crete Area Medical Center Scholarship, Janet Van Winkle Lippincott Memorial Scholarship Bryan College, Crete VFW Post 4959 Scholarship, Albert S. Chmelir Memorial Scholarship, Ladislav Rezabek Memorial Scholarship, Abbie and Adolph Trousil Memorial Scholarship (alt), Walter and Helene Baer I Memorial Scholarship (alt), Emma Chaloupka Shramek Memorial Scholarship (alt)  
Elizabeth Martinez: Wayne State College, majoring in Pre-Medical Laboratory Sciences; scholarships earned: Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship, Wayne State College RHOP Scholarship (Laboratory Science),

Smithfield Foods Scholarship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Husker Power Scholar Scholarship, Richard Mares Memorial Scholarship, Western Community Club Scholarship, Albert S. Chmelir Memorial Scholarship (alt)  
Pheonix Maryska: SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Nursing  
CeCe Meister: Wayne State College, majoring in Forensic Science; scholarships earned: Wayne State College Leadership Award, Nebraska State College System Career Scholarship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Husker Power Scholar Scholarship, William and Albina Musil Memorial Scholarship, Betty and Alan Steinacher Scholarship, Sertoma Service to Mankind Scholarship (alt)  
Brett Nickel: SCC-Milford, majoring in Electrical-Electromechanical Technology  
Elise Ober: Bridgewater State University, majoring

in English/Secondary Education  
Aspen Oliver: SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Agricultural Management and Production; scholarships earned: SCC Foundation Scholars, Career Academy Farmers and Merchants Bank Scholarship, Michael M. Hroch Memorial Scholarship, E.A. Kral Family Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship, Agnes Trnik Memorial Scholarship, Louis Trnik Memorial Scholarship, Wilber-Clatonia FFA Chapter Scholarship, Joe and Helene Steinacher Memorial Scholarship (alt)  
Quinn Palmer: Northwest Missouri State University, majoring in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation; scholarships earned: Northwest Missouri State University Merit Scholarship, Northwest Missouri State University Green and White Advantage, Farm-

ers and Merchants Bank Scholarship, Michael Hroch Memorial Scholarship, Herbert and Sylvia Schmale Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship  
Isaac Panning: SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Computer Programming  
Minnie Patrick: Nebraska Wesleyan University, majoring in Social Work/Psychology; scholarships earned: Wilber Lions Club Scholarship, Nebraska Wesleyan President's Scholarship, Nebraska Wesleyan Campus Visit Scholarship, Nebraska Wesleyan Social and Applied Science Event Scholarship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Husker Power Scholar Scholarship, Northwest Missouri State University Tower Scholar and Bearcat Advantage Scholarships, Missouri Western State University Griffon Guarantee Scholarship, MWSU Griffon Guarantee ACT Scholarship, Charles F.

Mundil Memorial Scholarship, Abbie and Adolph Trousil Memorial Scholarship, Richard Mares Memorial Scholarship (alt), Walter and Helene Baer II Memorial Scholarship (alt)  
Garrett Pecka: SCC-Milford, majoring in undecided  
Jonathan Pucket: seeking employment  
Brenna Reichert: CRAVE/Project Search  
Kaylee Rimel: Bryan College of Health Sciences, majoring in Nursing; scholarships earned: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Husker Traditions Scholar, UNL Husker Traditions Scholar, Concordia University Regent's Scholarship, Concordia University Concordia Promises Scholarship, Robert and Eleanora Houser Memorial Scholarship, Arlan Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship, Emma Chaloupka Shramek Memorial Scholarship, Elmer and Edra J. Broz Memorial Scholarship (alt), Raymond Lohmeyer Memorial

Scholarship (alt), Ladislav Rezabek Memorial Scholarship (alt),  
Isaac Smith: Hastings College, majoring in Business (Bowling scholarship); scholarships earned: Wayne Janda Memorial Scholarship, Charles F. Mundil Memorial Scholarship,  
Haley Spilker: UNK, majoring in Elementary Education; scholarships earned: Wilber-Clatonia Education Association Scholarship, Eastern Star Scholarship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Husker Traditions Scholar, Wilber Czech Craft Shop Scholarship, Mary A. Greer Memorial Scholarship, Sertoma Service to Mankind Scholarship, Camille Formanek Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship, Clatonia Cardinal Club Scholarship (alt), Irene Pivonka Sokolik Memorial Scholarship (alt), Valerie J. Rezabek Memorial Scholarship  
**(continued on 16)**

# Kotas: Success hallmark of graduates

BY ADAM KOTAS

Wilber-Clatonia High valedictorian



Adam Kotas

Fellow students, family, friends, faculty, and most importantly, the Class of 2022, it is my pleasure to welcome you all to our graduation day here at Wilber-Clatonia.

When I began writing this speech, I didn't know where to start. I couldn't believe I was actually having to write this dreaded speech I knew I might have to give someday. It seems like just yesterday we were starting high school as scared little freshmen afraid to walk too slowly to class so we wouldn't be late. Now look at us, we are late to our next class more than we are on time, which is not always a good thing.

As I began to write this speech, I tried to find a moral to what our class has done, what we have created over the last four years. After attending the end of the

year banquets and just looking back on how we are seen throughout the school, the one common thing I have found is that we have made an impact, made a positive, memorable impact for years to come. We, as a class, are leaders.

We have set precedents no other class has. In everything we have participated in we have set a high standard and gave our all in every aspect. We gritted down and battled through COVID. Lost a whole semester

of high school that we will never get back. We fought in sports, whether it was girls' softball, volleyball, basketball, or track, where our senior class made a huge impact on our teams and led their teams to success.

Or in boys' track, where we have won every track meet our last two years.

Or on the football field where we battled through injuries all season and still ended up as one of four teams in school history to make the state semifinals. Without injury we as seniors have no doubt we could have gone further, but we continued fighting and persevering.

We also set high standards in the classroom and in other school activities. In FFA we had four seniors place top three in state throughout their high school careers. In FBLA two seniors led the chapter as co-presidents and Kaylee Rimel placed

first at state and will be competing in nationals. We have no doubt made an impact on the future of our school, setting the bar very high for years to come.

Together, we have grown and learned so much, but none of it would be possible without the ones supporting us. Our teachers, parents, siblings, and friends never gave up on us. Thank you for bearing with us all these years, and for never giving up on us no matter how much we complained.

Teachers, without your passion and dedication to educating this group of students, none of us would be here today. Your constant support will allow us to pursue our own passions and continue to better ourselves.

Speaking of our passions, this class has a variety of them. We have students pursuing careers in teaching, agriculture, medical fields,

engineering, wildlife biology and many more. Many students are planning on pursuing the trades in school and some are planning on entering directly into the workforce. We also have a student entering the army.

While we may travel in separate different paths after receiving our diplomas, I have no doubt that our class will be successful in every endeavor we pursue. We have set a high standard for this school, and I know we will continue to set standards in our careers. With the strength and work ethics we carry, anything

is possible.

I encourage each and every one of you to chase your dreams and never stop working for your goals. I want us to all live lives we are proud of, and full of things we are passionate about.

Graduates of the Class of 2022, I urge you all to continue to grow and learn for the rest of your lives. Strive to accomplish your goals and never settle for adequate. We are strong, hardworking, and brave. I think we will do just fine.

Congratulations, Class of 2022!

## Wilber-Clatonia scholarships

(continued from 15)  
arship (alt), Kral Family Memorial Scholarship (alt), Farmers and Merchants Bank Scholarship (alt)

Zane Stahl: University of Nebraska-Kearney, majoring in Social Work Comprehensive; scholarships earned: UNK Nebraska Promise, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Nebraska Achievement Scholarship, Irene Pivonka Sokolik Memorial Scholarship, Wilber Czech Craft Shop Scholarship (alt)

Claire Thompson: UNL, majoring in Animal Science; scholarships earned: John Chrastil Memorial Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Husker Power Scholarship, UNL CASNR Scholar-

ship, Nebraska Opportunity Grant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Emerging Leader Scholarship, Joe and Emma Vesely Memorial Scholarship, Otto and Antoniette Smith Memorial Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship, Steve and Lynn Wiese Scholarship (alt), Agnes Trnik Memorial Scholarship (alt), Brian Mager Memorial Scholarship (alt)

Angelica Varela Garcia: SCC-Beatrice, majoring in Business; scholarships earned: Marian and Eddie Rezabek Memorial Scholarship, Valarie J. Rezabek Memorial Scholarship, ZCBJ/WFLA Lodge Libuse Scholarship (alt)

Fernando Vazquez: SCC-Milford, majoring in Electrical-Electrome-

chanical Technology; scholarships earned: Walter and Helene Baer II Scholarship, Iola Brolliar Memorial Scholarship (alt), William and Albina Musil Memorial Scholarship (alt)

Cody Zalesky: Real Estate  
Jonathan Zoubek: UNL, majoring in Mechanical Engineering; scholarships earned: Wilber Lions Club Scholarship, First State Nebraska Scholarship, Security First Bank Scholarship, Nebraska Czechs of Wilber Scholarship, Wilber Garden Club Scholarship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Husker Traditions Scholar, Wilber-Clatonia P.T.O. Scholarship, Friends of Wilber-Clatonia Scholarship, WC FFA Betterment Scholarship, Arlen Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship (alt)

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