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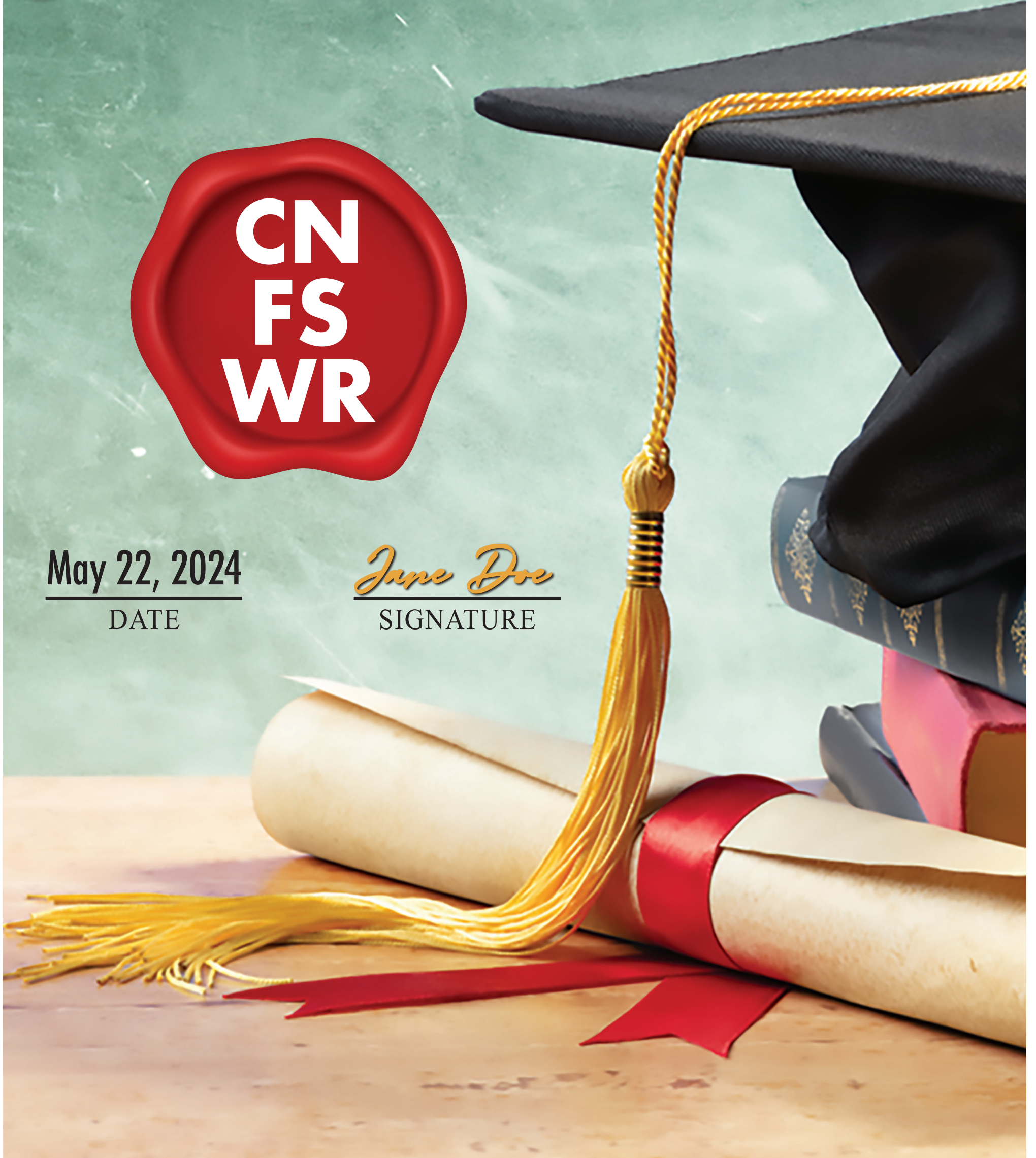


May 22, 2024

DATE

Jane Doe

SIGNATURE



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A photograph of study supplies including an open book, a pencil holder with colored pencils, and a stack of books.

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Scholarships go to Crete seniors

Crete High seniors received the following scholarships:

Leonardo Adame Lopez: Edward Belka Memorial Scholarship (health), Smithfield Foods Scholarship

Luis Alarcón-Chavez: Doane Track and Field Scholarship

Carlos Alvarez Flores: Al Franta Scholarship (math, science, engineering) The Bridge Scholarship

Jordy Alvarez-Morales: USA Freshman Jaguar Achievement Scholarship-Talent and Ability, Emil Pomajzl Memorial Scholarship (agriculture) - WELDING, National Honor Society Scholarship

Hollis Anderson: American Legion Post 147 Scholarship, Crete Public Schools Foundation Scholarship, Miladi Hintz Scholarship, Yellow and Blue Scholarship

Jenna Andindi: Julius Misle Scholarship, Teammates Mentoring Al Papik Memorial Scholarship

Dany Banos Rivas: Norman Kohout Scholarship- Milford SCC Foundation High School Scholars, SCC First Generation Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Carriage House Foundation

Jeffrey Barrientos Acabal: Jackie Cink Memorial Scholarship

Reagan Bessler: Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship, MU Scholar Athlete Scholarship

Theo Bohling: Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Husker Traditions Scholarship, College of Engineering Scholarship

Sierra Bond: Jackie Cink Memorial Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Crete Chamber of Commerce/FBLA Scholarship, Crete Fire Department Ben Clement Memorial Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship, Head, Heart, Hand Scholarship, Fast File Scholarship

Caitlynn Boyle: Crete Lumber and Farm Supply Scholarship-Construction, Husker Power Scholarship, We Are Nebraska Commitment RES, Crete Diamonds Softball Scholarship, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Scholarship

Jayden Boyle: Crete Wrestling Club Scholarship, SCC

Foundation High School Scholars

Juan Cardona Mendoza: SCC Foundation High School Scholars

Valerie Carmona Ortiz: Susan T. Buffett Scholarship

Jacklyn Castillo Velasquez: Marina Havranek Rezakab Scholarship - Business in NE 2-4 yrs

Emanuel Chanchavac Matias: Susan T. Buffett Scholarship, Husker Power Scholarship, Norman Ochsner Scholarship

Emily Chavez: Danny Ak-samit Scholarship

Karson Cowan: Nebraska Career Scholarship

Guadalupe de Leon Adame: Milton & Gerry Stehlik Memorial Scholarship (ag/nursing/edu), TeamMates Scholarship

Garrett Dittmer: Cornhusker State Delegate Scholarship, Husker Traditions Scholarship, College of English Scholarship

Stephanie DonJuan Mendoza: Barbara Kuzma Memorial Scholarship, Crete Education Association Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, TeamMates Scholarship, College Access

TeamMates Scholarship at University of Nebraska at Kearney

Damian Eby: Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Wayne State Career Scholars Scholarship

Trace Egge: Crete Booster Club Scholarship

Barrett Eggerling: Bryan Health 'Acts of Kindness' Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship, Miladi Hintz Scholarship, KU Excellence

Benjamin Ehlers: Presidential Scholarship, ACT Incentive Scholarship, Basketball Athletic Scholarship, Athletic Booster Scholarship

Owen Faltin: Crete Booster Club Scholarship

Kendrys Fuentes Saminon: Alumni Scholarship, VanHoy Scholarship, Band Scholarships

Enzo Giron Padilla: Smithfield Foods Scholarship

Gustavo Gonzalez: Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship

Owen Heath: GCU Direct Dean Scholarship, GCU Select Scholarship

Madison Hestermann: Alpha Delta Kappa - Alpha Xi Chapter Scholarship, Rose & Joseph Zumpfe Scholarship,

Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3909 Scholarship, Susan T. Buffett Scholarship, NE Career Scholarship, Sara Squire Finley Scholarship

Caraline Higgins: Crete Lumber and Farm Supply Scholarship-Agriculture, Richard Vlasin Memorial Scholarship, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship, FFA Alumni Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship, Cloud County Activity Scholarship, Cloud County ACT Scholarship, Pinto Horse Association of America, Lancaster County 4-H Council Scholarship

Amelia Hohlen: Emil Pomajzl & Lucille Belka Scholarship (acad trans)

Anna Hohlen: Emil Pomajzl & Lucille Belka Scholarship (acad trans)

Alberto Jacinto Tercero: Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Michael Krantz - Doane University Scholarship

Easton Kassing: Arthur H Henning Jr Memorial Scholarship

Carson Kowan: FFA Alumni Scholarship

Connor Krumme: Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Blue Valley Post 4959 VFW Auxiliary Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 3909

Scholarship, Husker Traditions Scholarship, Nebraska Achievement Scholarship, We Are Nebraska Commitment RES, UFCW Scholarship, Future of Nebraska Scholarship

Jeffrey Kuncel: Brian Carnes Baseball Memorial Scholarship, Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship, Crete Wrestling Club Scholarship

Ansley Kuntz: Leanne Manning Memorial Scholarship, Alpha Delta Kappa - Alpha Xi Chapter Scholarship, Crete Diamonds Softball Scholarship, Crete Education Association Scholarship

Jahn Lemus: Donald Fix Agriculture/Music Studies Scholarship, Crete Theater Scholarship, The Perry Scholarship, Performing Arts: Choir Scholarship

Abigail Linares: Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Crete Eagles 3909 Auxiliary Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship

Joshua Lopez Garcia: Ne-

braska Promise Scholarship

Marisol Lopez Adame: Crete Noon Sertoma Scholarship, Jacob Harders Reach-Out Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship

Alicia Lopez Alvis: Kenney & Ethel Dunn Scholarship (elementary edu), Smithfield Foods Scholarship

Dany Lopez Loarca: Crete Lumber and Farm Supply Scholarship-Construction, Clarence Wagner Memorial Scholarship (Construction)

Lauren Maly: American Legion Post 147 Scholarship-Doane Scholarship, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship, Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, Crete Diamonds Softball Scholarship, Rotary Club Scholarship (PALS), Legacy Scholarship, The Perry Scholarship, Women's Track and Field Scholarship, Hansen Leadership Scholarship, Doane Athletic Club Scholarship

Ruby Martinez Pena: Crete Theater Scholarship, Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship

Angel Martinez Marquez: SCC Foundation High School Scholars

Jason Mejia-Vasquez: Susan T. Buffett Scholarship

Dina Mejia-Vasquez: We Are Nebraska Commitment RES, South Dakota Miner Scholarship

Jacqueline Melendez Cruz: Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Crete Chamber of Commerce/FBLA Scholarship, National Honor Society Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, Crete Area Health Foundation Scholarship

Juan Miguel Jacinto: Dan Fette Scholarship

Cooper Musil: Nebraska Harvest Center Student Scholarship

Le Nelson: Helen Vasatka Scholarship

Manuel Ordaz: Paul and Julie Maass Scholarship

Ennessa Orlov: SCC Foundation High School Scholars, Career Academy Scholars - SCC Foundation, SCC Academic Excellence Scholarship, SCC First Generation Scholarship

Martin Ortiz: Larry Cerny Kaspar Scholarship, SCC Foundation High School Scholars

Oscar Ortiz Salgado: Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, Crete Fire Department Ben Clement Memorial Scholarship

Mary Patrick: SCC Foundation High School Scholars

Alexa Ramirez: NJCAA Scholarship

Marin Rasgorshek: Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Bernie Ludvik Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Crete Eagles 3909 Auxiliary Scholarship, Regents Scholar, We Are Nebraska Commitment RES

Yaris Reyes Galaviz: Alene Lothrop BSN Scholarship Winner, Lohmeyer Brothers Memorial Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship

Garrett Rockenbach: Crete Booster Club Scholarship

Lizbet Sanchez: Dean and Deanne Prochaska Memorial Scholarship, Nebraska Achievement Scholarship, Henning Family Scholarship

Lindsay Schroeder: Gold Rush Senior Cheer Scholarship

Ashaya Steele: Ruby Stastny Paul Scholarship, Crete Booster Club Scholarship, Crete Diamonds Softball Scholarship, Bethany College Academic Scholarship, Bethany College Athletic Scholarship

Kenner Svitek: Crete Booster Club Scholarship, American Legion Post #294 Hallam, NE, Blue Valley Post 4959 VFW Scholarship, Ed Hammond Memorial Baseball Scholarship, Salt Creek Summer Jam Scholarship

Emmanuel Valdovinos Euyoque: Crete Order of the Eastern Star, SCC Foundation High School Scholars, Walter Scott Jr. Career Pathway Scholarship, Susan T. Buffett Scholarship

Griselda Vargas Montejo: Lucille Belka Memorial Scholarship (FCS), MCU Scholarship, Smithfield Foods Scholarship, SCC Foundation High School Scholars

Reece Vertin: Crete Booster Club Scholarship, The Tuition Exchange Scholarship

Michael Vicente Reyes: Glen Gerner Memorial Scholarship, Band Parent Booster Scholarship, Husker Traditions Scholarship, Nebraska Emerging Leaders Scholarship, Hixson-Lied CFPA Scholarship, School of Music Award

Quinlan Vondra: Crete Lumber and Farm Supply Scholarship-Agriculture

Tyler Ward: Band Parent Booster Scholarship

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Make most of time, it becomes memory

BY ADDISON LEHR
Dorchester High Salutatorian

Thank you (whoever just spoke before me).

Hello everyone and welcome to the class of 2024's graduation! After 13 years, the day is finally here. There's no way to put into words everything that the past 13 years have been, and I'd like to thank those who made them so great. There are too many to list, so my apologies if I left anyone out.

To my teachers, thank you for all your time and willingness to share your knowledge with me. My class definitely wasn't always easy to handle, and we greatly appreciate you putting up with us for so long.

You've been so flexible and understanding with all the times we've had to miss class for our events or leave school early for our games. You pushed me to be the best version of myself, and I feel I can speak for everyone by saying we are so thankful for you all.

To our custodial staff and lunchroom attendants, we greatly appreciate all the time you've put in behind the scenes to keep our school clean and safe and provide us with good meals. You truly are

the best at what you do.

To Mrs. Choyeski, thank you for keeping us all on the right track for graduation. The process of deciding what our next steps will be hasn't been an easy one, but you've made it significantly better! We wouldn't be walking the stage today without you.

To Dr. Cogswell, Mr. Wiese, and the office staff, thank you for making everything run so smoothly. Thank you for the countless hours you devoted to making our school experience better. I greatly appreciate the drives you made to attend all our school events, no matter how far. Your hard work and dedication doesn't go unnoticed.

Thank you to our coaches for all your dedication to your athletes. Thank you for always believing in me even when I didn't fully believe in myself. You've taught me countless life lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

The time you've put into developing me as both an athlete and a person is greatly appreciated. I'll forever be grateful for the connections built with my coaches, and I know that these relationships are something I'll always be able to count on.



Addison Lehr

Last but certainly not least, I'd like to thank my friends and family. To my best friends, I truly wouldn't be here today without you. I will always cherish all the memories we've made and can't wait to see all that you guys accomplish. Your friendship means everything to me and I'm so lucky to have found people like you.

To my family, thank you for loving and supporting me through every chapter of my life. Everything I do is for you. To my parents, I am especially grateful. I'd be nowhere without you. Thank you for supporting me in more ways than it's possible to count. I am proud to say everything that I am as a person today is because of you. You came to every

single event I had and supported all my endeavors. You have taught me so much about life and I owe all of this to you.

Lastly, I want to thank my little sister. You're the first best friend I ever had and our relationship is easily my favorite. You have been my rock throughout the past 15 years you've been in my life, and I'm truly so blessed to have someone like you in my life.

Today is the day we will close this chapter of our lives, as we all move on to the next one and go our separate ways. I have no idea where the time went.

It feels like only yesterday we were still in elementary school, eager to learn everything we could and still excited to go to school. A common memory amongst our class comes from first grade. It was just an average day and our class was at morning recess.

Like always, Jacob had to catch himself up in some kind of mischief. When he found Bryer with a pile of rocks in her hand, the perfect opportunity presented itself. She explained to him why she had the rocks, and which one was her absolute favorite. At that moment, I'm sure he thought to himself, "what can I do to

mess with her."

After some thought, he came to the conclusion that the best way to bug her would be to take her favorite rock and shove it right in his ear. And that's exactly what he did. Upon going inside, the rest of the class began to hear the shameful news about what he had done.

Unfortunately, his actions didn't come without consequences. He discovered that the rock was stuck. For the next hour or so, we got to witness him attempting to get the rock out of his ear. To do so, he not only tried using a pencil to pry it out but also decided banging his head on his desk would be a good method too. He did end up having to go to the doctor to get it removed, but I suppose he turned out alright.

My class is very special to me. For the last 13 years we've walked these halls together. While nine of us have been here since kindergarten, and others just arrived here within the past four years, you have all managed to touch my heart in some way.

Our class has always felt like another family to me as we've continued to grow together. I'll never forget all the memories we made together. Whether it was getting extremely

competitive together for homecoming week, playing capture the football all the time in P.E., earning one of Mrs. Severance's famous cakes for earning good grades as a class, or even just the moments we spent together in our classes making jokes, we always had fun.

All of your futures are so bright and I can't wait to see what you all do in the world. Thank you for making the past 13 years some of the best years of my life. I love all of you and will cherish the memories forever.

Lastly, I'd like to leave you with a little advice. In the wise words of Dr. Seuss, "Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment, until it becomes a memory." Time moves so fast and it's easy to get caught up in everything you're doing. But it's so important to take a step back and live in the moment.

Make the most out of everything you do and try to find joy in even the toughest situations. And make sure to always take lots of pictures! Because before you know it, this too will be just another memory from your past.

Congratulations to the class of 2024! Enjoy this day, you've earned it!

Thank you!

Scholarships go to DHS senior class

Dorchester High seniors received the following scholarships:

Marcos Borrego Gonzalez: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship

Kayli Carey: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Senior Citizenship Award, SCC Foundation High School Scholars, SCC Academic Excellence Scholarship, Track & Field Scholarship – Midland University

Andy Drake: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Husker Power Scholarship – UNL

Jacob Hatfield: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship,

Dorchester Youth Wrestling Scholarship, Brad Kasl Memorial Scholarship, Evelyn E. Novak Memorial Scholarship, Todd Ricenbaw Memorial Rib Cook Off Scholarship, SCC Foundation High School Scholars, Walter Scott Jr. Career Pathway Scholarship – SCC

Ashton Jirsa: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Education Association Scholarship, Blue Valley Post #4959 V.F.W. Auxiliary Scholarship, Galen Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship, Leroy Smith Memorial Scholarship, Music Achievement Scholarship – Wayne State College, Dean's Commitment Scholarship – Wayne State

College

Quinn Kasl: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Community Foundation Scholarship, Dorchester Insurance Agency Scholarship, Dorchester United Methodist Church Endowment Grant, Brad Kasl Memorial Scholarship, Harre Seed & Services Scholarship – Exeter Feeders & Breeders, Joseph Wagner Memorial Scholarship – Saline County 4-H Council, Justin Kunc Memorial Scholarship – Saline County 4-H Council, Tabor Lodge #74 Jeralyn Skala Memorial Scholarship, UNK Distinguished Scholar, UNK Endowed Scholarship, Cornhusker State

Delegate Scholarship – UN-L, Husker Power Scholarship – UN-L, We are Nebraska Commitment RES – UN-L, Academic Excellence Scholarship – Northwest Missouri State University, Bearcat Advantage Scholarship – Northwest Missouri State University

Stephanie Korinek: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship

Amber Kotas: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester United Methodist Church Endowment Grant, American Red Cross Scholarship, Blue Valley Post #4959 V.F.W. Scholarship, Brad Kasl Memorial Scholarship, Doris Kohout Memorial

Scholarship, Judith A. Weber Memorial & PEO-Chapter DQ Scholarship, Saline County 4-H Council Scholarship, 2024 Sons of the American Legion Holmes Post #178, Memorial Scholarship in honor of Dan Geis, Bearcat Advantage – Northwest Missouri State University, Career Scholarship – Peru State College, Joy Elmer Morgan Scholarship – Peru State College, President's Commitment Scholarship – Wayne State College

Victoria Leavitt: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Guidance Department Scholarship, Crete Lions Club Schol-

see DHS, page 4B

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Stop, look around, remember growth

BY HAILEY SCHWEITZER
Dorchester High valedictorian



Hailey Schweitzer

Today marks a pivotal moment in our lives. Our journey through these halls has been nothing short of amazing. I have grown up with this class and over the years it began to feel like my second family. I am grateful for the many memories and experiences that have shaped me into who I am today.

I want to extend a big thank you to my dedicated teachers who have given me the support and guidance I need to take this next step in my life. Thank you, Rosie, Michelle, and Jen for ironing our gowns. Thank you custodians for keeping our classrooms

and hallways clean. You never failed to have our court look brand new before every game.

Thank you to my coaches who have taught me what it means to be a leader and what great team-

work looks like. Thank you to my parents, grandparents, and family who have showered me with love and support, giving me the confidence and ability to chase my dreams.

Thank you to my sister who has never failed to make me laugh and even though you drive me crazy sometimes, my life wouldn't be the same without you. Finally, thank you to my class for all the memories that I will cherish forever.

At first, I was convinced it would be difficult to recall memories from our younger school years until I sat down last weekend and tried to make a list. I quickly realized many of my memories had something to do with recess. Whether it was playing

four-square, tag, or trying to make a little fire under the green slide to stay warm on those cold winter days. Don't worry, it never worked.

We would make up games such as being Animal Rescuers where we would go on missions saving exotic animals or Night at the Museum where some of us would chase around others because the museum was apparently haunted.

Another vivid memory I recall was in fifth grade, a bunch of us had these little erasers that looked like animals. We pretended they were our pets. We even went as far as making them little homes for them to sit on our desks. However, one tragic day Makayla's pet fox died.

The cause? Jacob touched it.

That day we had an entire funeral at recess burying the eraser in the rocks at the playground. I can only wonder what the teachers were thinking when they saw us huddled around an eraser wrapped in a Kleenex, while we pretended to dab our eyes from nonexistent tears.

Looking back on the school years, I realized how much we have grown and learned. We not only learned what was written in our textbooks, but also the value of friendship, hard work, and gratitude. We celebrated victories, learned from our failures, and grew stronger with each challenge.

If I had to share one piece of advice it would

be to remember the importance of enjoying the moment. It's easy to get wrapped up in the everyday busy lifestyle of today's world, but as Ferris Bueller said it best "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."

I believe my classmates would agree with me that Ferris's words ring true because although I have been here from preschool to now it seemed to go by in a flash.

With that, I congratulate the graduating class of 2024. The future is ours. I wish all of you success in this next step in our lives and beyond. Follow your dreams and remember to live for the moment.

EM seniors receive various scholarships

Exeter-Milligan High seniors received the following scholarships:

Trista Adams: Exeter-Milligan Community, Anna Mae Krejci

Dravin Birkes: Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, EM Foundation, Jo Sadlo Memorial, Dr. Ray & Jean Steinacher Endowed

Tyler Due: First Bank of Utica - Milligan Branch, Wilfrid & Ruth Ekeler Memorial - Alternate, Exeter American Legion Post 218, Fillmore County Hospital Auxiliary Exeter-Milligan Community Lauritsche Peterson American Legion Post #359, Harre Seed & Services EM Foundation, Robert Zeleny Memorial,

Jim Zeleny Memorial **Devin Harrison:** Beck's Seed, Travis & Tyler Due, Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, EM Foundation, George & Barbara Hendricks, Fillmore County Foundation Henry Wagner Memorial, Axline Landscaping & Trees

Troy Kallhoff: Regents Scholarship at UNL, Cornhusker State Delegate, Wilfrid & Ruth Ekeler Memorial, Warren & Velda Wilson Foundation, Farmers and Merchants Bank - Beaver Crossing, Sons of the American Legion Holmes Post 178, Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Dan Gies Memorial, Exeter-Milligan Community EM Foundation, Rosa Novacek Memorial, Knights

of Columbus, TeamMates New Generation Scholarship, Dick and Lousia Manning Scholarship

Savana Krupicka: Kubicek Trust, Cloud County Community College Foundation, Farmers Cooperative, EMF Network Scholarship, Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, Harre Seed & Services EM Foundation, Kristin Engle Memorial, Robert & Irma Dinneen Memorial, Jim Zeleny Memorial, Fillmore County Foundation Milligan Community, Kilma Trust Scholarship, Knights of Columbus MUDECAS Scholarship

Joshua Meyer: Kubicek Trust, Ohio Chamber Scholarship, Ohio American Legion Auxiliary Unit 193, Mary

F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, Milligan American Legion Learn to Dream, EM Foundation, Dr. Ray & Jean Steinacher Endowed, Robert Kassik Memorial

Draven Payne: Exeter American Legion Post 218, EMF Network Scholarship, Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, Harre Seed & Services, EM Foundation, Kristin Engle Memorial, Milo & Agnes Stych Memorial, Fillmore County Foundation, Exeter Community, MUDECAS Scholarship, Generation Bank, Hastings College Football

Taylor Pribyl: Kubicek Trust Feeders and Breeders, Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Com-

munity, Harre Seed & Services, Clara Manning Memorial, EM Foundation, George & Barbara Hendricks, Knights of Columbus, Erma Burch Nursing Scholarship Trust

Malorie Staskal: Milligan Legion Auxiliary Unit 240 - Alternate, Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, EM Foundation, Lori Ruhl-Walford Memorial, Marlene Gallup Memorial

Andrew Vavra: EMEA, Denise A Mahoney Memorial, Exeter Legion Post 218 - Alternate, Dwayne & Cheryl Luzum, Exeter-Milligan Community, Betty Jane Taylor Plettner Memorial, EM Foundation, Dixie Guthrie-Krejci, Fillmore County Foundation Neil F. Hassler,

Kilma Trust Scholarship, UNI-Panther Impact Award, Wayne St. College, Northwestern College

Trenton Vossler: Kubicek Trust, First Bank of Utica - Milligan Branch, Milligan Legion Auxiliary Unit 240, NE State Grange, Beck's Seed, Travis & Tyler Due - Alternate, Farmers and Merchants Bank - Milligan, Mary F. Tous Charitable Foundation, Exeter-Milligan Community, Harre Seed & Services, EM Foundation, Larry Cudaback, Richard Michl Memorial, James Leslie Stephenson Memorial, EMF FFA Boosters, Farmers Cooperative, Axline Landscaping & Trees

DHS

Continued from 3B
arship, SCC Foundation High School Scholars, SCC Academic Excellence Scholarship

Addison Lehr: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester United Methodist Church Endowment Grant, Lois Williams Memorial Scholarship, Farmer's Coopera-

tive Scholarship
Mitzu Real Cruz: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship

Owen Real Cisneros: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Ronald & Mary Ann Schnert Memorial Scholarship

Makayla Schlueter:

Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, First State Bank Nebraska Scholarship, Future of Health Care Scholarship - Crete Area Health Care Foundation

Hailey Schweitzer: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Community Foundation Schol-

arship, Dorchester Post Prom Scholarship, Dorchester United Methodist Church Endowment Grant, Farmer's Cooperative Scholarship, Tabor Lodge #74 Scholarship, Board of Governors Scholarship - Nebraska Wesleyan University, Campus Visit Scholarship - Nebraska Wesleyan University, Perry Scholarship

- Doane University
Bryer Shaw: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Dorchester Education Association Scholarship, First State Bank NE Memorial Scholarship, Galen Lee Johnson Memorial Scholarship, Smithfield Scholarship, Music Scholarship - Concordia University, Regent's

Scholarship - Concordia University
Madison Theis: Dorchester American Legion Family Scholarship, Crossroads Conference Activities Scholarship, President's Excellence Scholarship - Wayne State College, Career Scholars Cooperative Education Scholarship - Wayne State College

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Kallhoff offers advice to underclasses

BY TROY KALLHOFF

Exeter-Milligan High valedictorian



Troy Kallhoff

Anyone who knows me knows that words are not hard for me to come by, but when writing this speech, I seemed to struggle to put it all together. Going into it, I wanted to thank the people who were pivotal in helping me get to this point and offer advice to those who are to come after me. But how exactly do I articulate all those thoughts in words in under five minutes?

Well, after many hours of work and several renditions of this speech, here is what I came up with: (You can start the five minutes now)

Thank you all for coming here today to celebrate the Graduating Class of 2024. I am highly aware that us graduating here today would not be possible without the support of our parents, guardians, friends, and families, so a big thank you goes out to all of you in the audience today.

A very well-needed shout-out goes to my parents. I had the best day with you. 6,555 of them, to

you to all those who work in the office: Mr. Sheffield, Mrs. Kroll, Jackie, and Ms. Fousek.

Also, it is only obvi-logical to thank THE Mrs. Kovanda. Mrs. Kovanda, you have helped me and numerous other students who are creating so much good in this world. I do have the words to thank you in a very long, drawn-out sorta way, but I don't have all that much time, and I think I would start crying (more than I am), so I will leave it at that.

Now, on to the next segment: Troy's Words of Motivation.

To the underclassmen, cherish your time in high school. Before you know it, you'll be in your senior year, and your mother will be asking you for the 13th time if you've submitted your housing contract. Also, do NOT procrastinate; you may think it's OK, and you'll get it done eventually, but you will have much less stress if you use your time wisely.

Juniors, next year is your last year of high school (hopefully), so make it count. It feels like just yesterday, I was at the

graduation ceremony for the class of 2023. When Ms. Fousek tells you about scholarships, APPLY. It's the highest-paying job you can have in high school.

To the sophomores, take junior year seriously. Ask the juniors how they felt about this year; if they say it was easy, they're lying. When it comes to John Baylor, listen to him. He may seem like a whackjob, but that whackjob is gonna get you a good score on your ACT.

To the freshmen, you are now starting to inch your way through high school. These next three years, challenge yourself, leave your comfort zone, and let yourself learn who you are. Make friends with the people in your class. You have to deal with them for the next three years.

To junior high kids, wear deodorant, please. The other people in the school, teachers, staff, and students would greatly appreciate it.

To all of you younger than junior high, please, don't you ever grow up.

Parents: We're about to find out who does and

us will find success and a lifetime full of happiness. So, follow your dreams, listen to your heart, and above all, be yourself. The world needs your unique voice and perspective. The greatest thing you can do in your life is to be unapologetically you.

In all seriousness, we look to you for encouragement and support in our future endeavors, so please be a guiding light for us.

To my fellow graduates of the Class of 2024, the future is ours to shape. We are about to begin a new chapter in our lives, filled with endless possibilities that are up to us to write. I have no doubt that each and every one of

us will find success and a lifetime full of happiness. So, follow your dreams, listen to your heart, and above all, be yourself. The world needs your unique voice and perspective. The greatest thing you can do in your life is to be unapologetically you.

I leave you with this song lyric, "Everything you lose is a step you take/ so make the friendship bracelets/ take the moment and taste it/ you've got no reason to be afraid/ you're on your own, kid/ yeah, you can face this/ you're on your own, kid/ you always have been"- Taylor Swift.

Long Live the Exeter-Milligan Graduating Class of 2024!

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Krupicka: Moments will stay in memory forever

BY SAVANA KRUPICKA

Exeter-Milligan salutatorian

A week ago, I had no idea what to write this speech about, but then I thought, how hard could it be? Well, it was harder than I thought, but I got it done anyway.

If there is one thing I have learned throughout the 13 years I have spent in school, it is to make as many memories as you can and remember those special moments. The memories and moments my classmates and I have created together are something that will never leave me. Today is one of those moments, it is a moment I will carry with me forever and I will never forget. It marks the ending of one chapter and the beginning of the next, not just for me, but for all of my classmates as well.

Our class has always been close, other than the times we aren't arguing or annoying each other, but

we get along for the most part. As we have grown up together, we have built strong bonds of friendship with each other.

Throughout each milestone of life, we have all been there for each other, some longer than others, but no matter what, there is nothing we haven't been through. We even spent a whole five days together and two long car rides together on our senior trip. I think we all would have been fine without the 14-hour car rides, but they were worth it in the end.

From the time we were learning our ABCs and playing zoo tag in PE to now, when we walk across the stage to receive our diplomas, and all the little moments in between, have shaped us to be the people we are today.

In these past years, there are the funny moments, like when Andrew decided to go swimming in the ocean for 15 minutes with his phone in his



Savana Krupicka

pocket on the senior trip. You should have seen the look on his face when he pulled it out of his pocket, or even when Josh lost his wallet after rolling down the hill when we were getting our senior Christmas tree in his pasture. At least we found it under the tree in his tailgate after driving 20 minutes back to Exeter.

Or there are sentimental moments like when we all had our last day of

school together... ever. That is when it really started to feel real, or when we each walked up this aisle to graduate together just this afternoon.

Whether they are sad, happy, funny, or sentimental, all of these mark an important milestone in our lives that is now a thing of the past for my classmates and I. When we think of high school, now it will be just a memory.

My only advice to future classes is to always remember and cherish the little moments throughout your childhood because they will be gone before you know it and take lots of pictures.

To my classmates, thank you for the past 13 years of school because I could not have done it without you and my advice to you is to remember these moments because these are memories that will last us a lifetime.

Thank you.

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Challenges faced help define grads

BY JACOB WEBER
Friend High valedictorian

I am honored to be able to speak on behalf of our class twice this afternoon, as class president and now as our valedictorian, so you get to listen to me again.

One question that I have heard a significant amount of times throughout the year is "What do you want to do with the rest of your life?" Whether it be from teachers, parents, colleagues, and many adults I don't even know the names of ...

In all of those times I have been asked, there were many times where I couldn't find the right words to respond. How am I supposed to know



Jacob Weber

that the path I am going to take is the correct one?

According to various sources, about one third of college students change their major at least once. The decisions of whether we go to college or even

what college we choose could prevent us from being provided with certain job opportunities, meeting potential lifelong friends, or possibly bumping into the perfect spouse. The choices we make now are going to directly affect the rest of our lives.

The truth is, we don't know if what we are doing is the right decision or not. Even though we would like to know the outcome of every decision we make, it isn't possible. However, I know for a fact that even if the people in this class make the wrong decision, they will find a way to succeed and persevere. I know this because I have grown up with them for years.

Even though I don't

know everything that each one of us has been through, we have many shared experiences throughout the last seven years. This has included many obstacles that we have had to overcome together, no matter how difficult.

Everyone likes to think that their life would be better if they had never faced any challenges, but would it? Keep in mind that if in every story about superheroes, they saved the hostages without having to fight the villain, no one would want to listen to the story in the first place. There is no risk and no reward. In those stories, when the hero falls and all hope seems lost, the hero perseveres, becoming stronger than ever

to finally beat the villain in the end.

Even though we don't have super powers, we have gone through our own conflicts and have grown because of them. Whether it was Mason getting kicked out of kindergarten for locking himself in the bathroom or week-long junior high relationships or going through online classes because of Covid or surviving Mr. Martin's election project or planning our "skip days" so that we stay under our state allotted 20 absences.

We faced these challenges, knowing that through all of this pain and effort given on the journey, we will receive a sheet of paper. A paper, that even

though it will most likely spend most of its time stored away in a cabinet, represents our dedication, memories, triumphs, and defeats, that came with it. The same triumphs and defeats, that shaped who we are and how we perceive the world.

Even though I came here in fifth grade, I can not describe how much that this class and the people in it mean to me. We used to be a much larger class, I am glad that this group of people are the ones graduating with me today.

As Winston Churchill once said, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."

Thank you.

Lawyer: Life like an engine that can be fixed

BY JORDAN LAWVER
Friend High salutatorian

Good afternoon, everyone. I want to give a special thanks to all the administration, teachers, custodians, and especially our families and friends. It's an honor to be standing here in front of such an amazing class today.

Many of you know me as Jordon ... from the shop. I guess that's a true statement as I have spent around 1,350 hours down there. With that many hours with one teacher, you hear a lot of different types of stories. Whether you actually believe them or not remains to be seen.

I know some of you have spent time in the shop, too, and some of you haven't, but today I want to share with you a few life lessons I have learned while working in the shop, whether it was welding, woodworking, or just all-around fixing and helping.

I've fixed quite a few things over the years, and it has taught me some important life lessons. Life is just like an engine. Sometimes it runs good, and then you hit a rough spot and blow a head gasket. You can either get over it and fix it, move on with your life, or complain about it and get caught up always feeling bad for yourself.

Really, it's all about choices. You can choose to

fix the problems and move on. Or the alternative is to just rust away and never find the solutions even though the solutions may not be a quick and easy fix. You must look for the answers to get anywhere in life. The small details matter in fixing things and making our engines or lives run smoothly.

Looking behind me now, I can honestly say it's been a pleasure to be with all of my classmates over the years and the memories we have shared together, six of us have been together since the beginning!

It's hard to believe that our school career of 2,418 days long with some being well under 2400 days in this school has come to an end. But, with the average life span being 28,000 days, this is just a fraction of what is to come in our lives. What did we do to occupy those 2,418 days, you might ask? Well, there are a few memories that stick out in my mind. But we all have achieved this milestone together, which is the important thing.

We may not be a big class, but our potential is unlimited. Sitting up here before you today are potential engineers, farmers, teachers, agronomists, ranch and livestock hands, graphic designers, business owners, investors, and lawyers. Each person here is capable of doing so much more than they



Jordan Lawver

would've been able to do before finishing this 13- to 14-year-long journey that seemed to fly by.

Speaking of things flying by ... I know none of us want to listen to me talk for a long time so I'll keep it short and to the point. I wish you all the best of luck and hope you use what we've learned in the future—whether it's fixing things in the shop or helping people. Hopefully, fellow classmates, you use the lessons you have learned in those 2,400 days to make a positive impact on the community.

I have one last lesson for you. They've been trying to get me to stop saying "ain't" since third grade. Well, I'm here to say ... "That just ain't gonna happen."

Thank you again and congratulations to the class of 2024.

Scholarships to help FHS seniors

Friend High seniors received the following scholarships:

Spencer Eberspacher: Beck's Seed (alternate), FPS Foundation, Norman Kohout, Southeast Community College Foundation-High School Scholars

LillyAnn Ellison: First Bank of Utica, Friend Education Association, FPS Staff Jeans, FPS Foundation, Freckled Door, Losh Family, Shirley Gautreaux Memorial, Northeast Community College Charles Wehrer Memorial Scholarship

Preston Knollenberg: Citizens State Bank, FPS Foundation, Generations Bank, UNL Husker Power, Wake Foundation & Jones Bank

Jake Leif: Blue Valley Post #4959 Auxiliary, Citizens State Bank (alternate), Eastern Star, Farmers Union Coop, Ford Banka SAL, Friend Community Club, FPS Foundation, Grange, Lauritsche Petersen American Legion Post #359, Lawver Family Memorial, Melvin & Phyllis Cornell, Norman Kohout, Sam Shutts Memorial, Sons of the American Legion Memorial, Tuttle Inc.

Breckan Schluter: Hastings College Ambassadors, Hastings College Football, FPS Foundation, FPS Staff Jeans, Friend Community Club

Mason Semler: Beck's Seed, Carl & Ruth Gade Memorial, Citizens State Bank, FPS Foundation, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture Rawson, Norman Kohout, Seward County 4-H Council, Seward County 4-H Foundation, Seward County 4-H Junior Leaders, Wake Foundation & Jones Bank (alternate), Youth Salute

Jacob Weber: American Red Cross, Blue Valley Post #4959, Cornhusker Boys State Delegate, Exeter Feeders & Breeders, FFA Boosters, FPS Foundation Valedictorian, FPS Staff Jeans, Saline County 4-H Council, UNL Regents, Utica Lodge #96 Masons

Halona Wootton: Cornhusker Girls State Delegate, First Bank of Utica, Hastings College Crimson Spirit Dance Team, Hastings College Pro Rege, Horatio Alger, Melvin & Phyllis Cornell, Susan T. Buffett

Grad is significant day

BY JACOB WEBER
FHS, Class President and Valedictorian

Good afternoon, I would like to welcome all families, friends, and staff members to the Friend High School Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony. It is such an honor to be standing here as class valedictorian and president, giving this speech to end our high school career.

Today marks a signif-

icant milestone in our lives, a moment where we say goodbye to the familiar halls, classrooms, and friendships that have defined our high school experience.

Yet, as we are on the verge of beginnings, we are filled with a mixture of emotions, excitement for the future, nostalgia for the past, and gratitude for everything we've learned along the way.

I am grateful for my

family and their unwavering support throughout my years in school. Their encouragement and support has shaped me into the person I am today, and for that, I am eternally thankful. Thank you as well to the dedicated teachers, faculty, and staff members who have helped lead through this journey. Once again thank you for coming to our graduation this afternoon.

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Ziegler: Celebrate but remember time

BY EMA ZIEGLER
Tri County High School

Hello everyone, I would like to welcome you to and thank you all for coming to celebrate our high school graduation. Today is an important day for us bringing together all the effort, dedication, and countless memories from the past four years. As we turn to the next chapter of our lives, let us take a moment to look back on the journey that has led us to this point.

First, I want to thank all of our families and



EMA ZIEGLER

friends. Without your unwavering support, love,

and encouragement, none of the students before you would be here today. You have guided us through challenges, been there for us, and celebrated our accomplishments. From the pep talks before big presentations and speeches to going on trips for a club, you have been there for it all. I think I speak for all of the class when I say we are extremely grateful for each and every one of you.

To our teachers and administrators, thank you for your dedication to our education. You have not only given us the knowl-

edge we need but have also equipped us with the passion for learning. The guidance you have given us throughout high school has shaped us into the individuals we are today, ready with the skills and knowledge we need to navigate the world beyond high school.

And to my fellow classmates, I want to say congratulations. We've reached the end of one chapter and we're ready for the next. As we look forward, let's embrace the endless possibilities we have ahead of us. No

matter where life takes us to college, the workforce, or other endeavors, let us go into the next chapter of our lives with courage and determination to make our mark on the world.

As we say goodbye to Tri County, let's remember all of the friendships made, lessons learned, and precious memories gained. Each of us has had our own journey through high school, and have our own unique path ahead of us. As we go our separate ways, may we carry with us the perseverance, empathy, and compassion

that have been taught to us through our time here.

In closing, I want to leave you with this: the journey through life isn't about reaching a certain destination, it is about embracing the journey itself. So let us embrace the challenges, opportunities, and memories as they come. This will lead us to discover who we truly are and who we are meant to be.

Congratulations, class of 2024. Today we celebrate not only our accomplishments, but also our journey ahead. Thank you.

Opportunities abound at Tri County

BY PAYTON SMIDT
Tri County High School

Unlike many of my classmates, I cannot say that I have attended Tri County since kindergarten or even preschool or have known the people I am graduating with for my entire life.

When I moved to Tri County from Grand Island in fifth grade, a school where I knew the names of each and every one of my classmates was a whole new idea to me. However, Tri County has given me the opportunity to thoroughly explore every one of my passions and interests in a way that I never believed I would be able to.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be involved, or perhaps over-involved, as one can only do at a small school, and for the deep personal connections I have made with the teachers and community members who have been with me through every high and low. I am most grateful for how Tri County has helped me to learn and grow into who I am

as a person, and I would never have wanted to do so anywhere else.

Class of 2024, I urge you to cherish the knowledge and experience you have gained in our time here more than any other and carry it with you as you begin a new chapter of your lives.

The opportunities provided by Tri County High School have helped us to develop who we are as individuals, discovering our core values, life passions, and career goals, whether in the classroom, onstage, in the shop, or wherever our hearts lead us. As students, we have found interests we will enjoy and dedicate ourselves to for the rest of our lives, and we found them here.

At Tri County, we have been encouraged to succeed beyond our self-set limits, supported in our wildest dreams, and set up for success by guiding us along the path to our future. Our teachers, coaches, and administrators have believed in us when we did not believe in ourselves and pushed



PAYTON SMIDT

us to accomplish more than we believe we are capable of. Our teachers have instilled the values of discipline, responsibility, and hard work. Our coaches have inspired us to be dedicated to our sports and to our teams. Our organization advisers and club sponsors have taught us to keep reaching higher and to lean on each other for support.

These devoted supporters encouraged us to try something new or difficult that we wouldn't have done ourselves that

helped us learn a life lesson or find something new we're good at, or even something we could make a career out of. This was all because they saw our potential and pushed us to be our best selves.

Maybe we discovered we were good at welding and learned we could make a career out of it. Maybe we found our love for music and realized our desire to enjoy it throughout our lifetimes. Maybe we conceded that writing 10-page papers isn't that difficult after all and college won't be quite so scary. We have each had our own positive learning and experiences, but whatever our interests and goals, Tri County has been a vital factor in developing and growing them, making our schooling here a time that we will always remember as having an impact on our lives.

Because of these people and because of this school, we have developed our values, passions, and goals that have prepared us for our future. We will forever look back on our

high school experiences, remembering the teachers who made an impact on us and cultivated those passions and goals, shaping us into the unique individuals we are today and the growth we will see in the years to come. In five, 10, or 20 years, we will look back and be grateful for the personal dedication of the teachers, coaches, administrators, and many more and the insight and encouragement they gave us.

And while some of us

will stay close to home sweet home and some of us will find a new place to call home, we will all remember our time at Tri County as an important place in our lives where we grew into who we would become. Because of this, when someone asks us years down the road, "Where did you go to high school?", we will say with fondness of the place that made us who we are, "I am a graduate of Tri County High School, Class of 2024."

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TC seniors receive scholarship money

Seniors at Tri County High School received the following scholarships:

Evelyn Baker: Wesleyan Presidential Scholarship, Farmers Cooperative Scholarship

Caden Bales: Board of Governors Scholarship, N.W.U Achievement Scholarship, Visit Grant, Jumpstart for Jrs. Scholarship, P-Wolf Priority Scholarship, Access N.W.U Scholarship, TC Denim Dollars Scholarship, Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship

Jamie Bartels: Foundation High School Scholars Scholarship, Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship

Ella Clark: Board of Governors Scholarship, N.W.U Achievement Scholarship, Campus Visit Scholarship, Alumni Legacy Scholarship, HUGE (hugey) Recognition Scholarship, P-Wolf Priority Scholarship, Jumpstart for Juniors Scholarship, Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship, First State Bank of Dewitt Scholarship, P.E.O. Star Scholarship, Nebraska State FBLA scholarship, Tri County FBLA Scholarship, National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors Scholarship

Abbie Drewes: Board of Governors Scholarship, HUGE

Recognition Scholarship, N.W.U Achievement Scholarship, Campus Visit Scholarship, P-Wolf Priority Scholarship, Access N.W.U Scholarship, First Tri County Bank of Plymouth Scholarship, Plymouth Legion Auxiliary Unit #243 Scholarship

Brayden Ebberts: Husker Power Scholarship, Elmer & Anna Selk Memorial Scholarship

Kinsley Fletcher: Foundation High School Scholars Scholarship, Career Academy Scholars Scholarship, Academic Excellence Scholarship., Raymond & Marjorie Pohlmann Family Scholarship, Lawrence E. & Alberta E. Hermsmeier Memorial Scholarship

Tayden Gronemeyer: Foundation High School Scholars Scholarship, Wallace & Kathleen Hare Career Academy Scholars Scholarship, L.E. & Bethel Heist Memorial Scholarship, TC Denim Dollars Scholarship

Dustin Kapke: Concordia University Regent's Scholarship, Lutheran Heritage Award, Concordia Football Scholarship, Farmers CoOp Scholarship, Gage County Ag Society Scholarship, Merlyn Anderson Scholarship

Jackson Kirchoff: Butler Foundation Scholarship, Kansas Promise Scholarship, Harold & Harriet Fort Memorial Scholarship

Lucas Lewandowski: Husker Power Scholarship, Dr. Enright LA Scholarship, Tri County Wrestling Club Scholarship, St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus Council 1723 Scholarship, Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship, Merlyn Anderson Scholarship

Joshua Muehling: Walter Scott Jr. Career Pathway Scholarship, Willard Waltke Memorial Scholarship

Ellie Peters: Health Science Explorers Scholarship, First State Bank of DeWitt Scholarship, DeWitt Community Club, L.E. & Bethel Heist Memorial Scholarship, Chris R. Badman Memorial Scholarship

Colton Placek: David L. and Douglas D. Koenig Scholarship, Career Academy Scholarship, Norman Kohout Scholarship

Evan Quackenbush: Husker Traditions Scholarship, CASNR Scholarship, George & Clara Plucknett Memorial Scholarship, Kevin & Paige Yost Scholarship, Farmers Cooperative Scholarship

Cameron Reynolds: UNL Regents Scholarship, TC Denim Dollars Scholarship, Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship

Matthew Scheele: Plymouth Legion Post #243 Scholarship
Mason Schmidt: Plymouth

Legion Post #243 Scholarship, D & K Agri Sales Inc. Scholarship, Marvin & Gladys Yost Scholarship

Jonah Schwab: Coyote Beginnings Scholarship, Plymouth Improvement Association Scholarship

Aubriana Sluka: Foundation High School Scholars Scholarship, Nora J. Bubb Memorial Scholarship

Payton Schmidt: UNL Regent's Scholarship, Nebraska Career Scholarship, National Honor Society Scholarship, Fairbury ELKS Lodge Student of the Month, Cornhusker Girls State Scholarship, Robert and Barbra Memorial Scholarship, Jeff & Karen Reynolds Scholarship, Toro Scholarship, National Honors Society Scholarship, American Red Cross Scholarship

McKenzie Smith: Cornhusker Girls State, Creighton University, Nebraska Rural Community Schools Association, First Tri County Bank of Swanton Scholarship., TC Denim Dollars Scholarship, Lenine Williams Memorial Scholarship, Cobell/Indigenous Education Initiative Scholarship, Chief Standing Bear Scholarship

Braiden Strouf: Swanton Community Club Scholarship

Emma Sullivan: Dean's Commitment Scholarship, Growing Together Scholarship, Kiwanis

MUDECUS Scholarship

Cassidy Thavenet: Midwest Student Exchange, Janice Buhr Scholarship, Idella Whitmer Scholarship, Thomas C. Woods Scholarship, Merlyn Anderson Scholarship

Kaden VanWinkle: 1st Year Regents Scholar, Engler Scholarship, Elks Club Student of the Month, Tri County FFA Alumni Scholarship, National Honor Society Scholarship, Fairbury Elks Lodge Teenager of the Month Scholarship, Ellen M. Runty Scholarship, Merlyn Anderson Scholarship

Samuel Wagner: Ryan Miller Scholarship

Cael Washburn: Huskers Traditions Scholarship, Tri County Wrestling Club Scholarship, Sam Lindley Memorial Scholarship

Catrina Washburn: Learn to Dream Scholarship, Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship

John Wehrman: UNL Regents Scholarship, Tri County Education Foundation Scholarship

Emma Ziegler: Dee Reisen Memorial Scholarship, Graff Music Scholarship, Tri County Education Association Scholarship, Elks Lodge Most Valuable Student Scholarship

Lessons of selflessness, gratitude fill time

BY MACKENZIE SMITH
Tri County High School

When I was three years old, Carter Siems, who was a year older and much cooler, and I would leave our beloved daycare, The Gingerbread House in Wilber, and ride with either my dad or Jamie to the edge of the school district where Kerri Thornburg would meet us with the pre-school bus and take us to spend the afternoon with Miss Lohmeier. Thus began my life as a Tri County Trojan.

Local lore tells us that our school sits in the middle of what was once a field of milo, or corn, or soybeans, or something that took time to grow, and would not have amounted to too much without the love and care of someone else. Much like the seeds planted in those fields of long ago, the Class of 2024 would also not amount to much without the love and care of so many others.

When I look back on what I learned in my years at Tri County, two words come to mind: selflessness and gratitude.

As a class, I encountered so many acts of



McKenzie Smith

selflessness while going to school here. We experienced elementary teachers who, despite maintaining a class of about 40 hooligans, always made sure learning was fun, like when Mrs. Pittman took us into the star lab to learn the constellations, a tradition that I know will be greatly missed. When Mrs. Reedy took us to the capital and Morrill Hall to learn more about our state in fourth grade. Some teachers even grew up with us, Mrs. Siebrandt and Mrs. Simpson to name a couple. I am grateful for the teachers who saw potential in all of us and made our time here special. Also, imagine

your elementary school principal being a part-time magician, that was Mr. G.

When we entered junior high, we had not only selfless teachers, but selfless coaches as well ... Coach K taught us discipline at junior high girls' basketball practice. I am thankful for the chance to take our trimester classes over our junior high years. Those classes included art, intro to ag, keyboarding, computer apps, shop class with Mr. Sand and another year of art with Mr. Jacobson. I know these 12-week classes revealed the interests of my classmates from the school-to-work kids who have their welding certifications to those in art who have presented their works in the Pioneer Conference art show.

When we entered high school, selflessness was demonstrated for us every day. In the office, Mrs. Weber, and before her, Jane, have always been there with a smile on their faces and a willingness to help out. Mrs. Wollenburg and Mrs. Spilker always made time to talk to each and every student when necessary. Mrs. Sand for letting us play mafia on days where we probably should've been

reading our novel. These simple acts of just being themselves have made my classmates and my high school years so much more memorable.

Because of these demonstrated qualities of selflessness, we have been able to also learn gratitude. As a class, we are so grateful to look up to our teachers for advice, inspiration, and guidance as we go into the real world on our own. And let their selflessness and gratitude be the standard for our future selves. And also a big thank you to our school lunch ladies for feeding us every day. I apologize for taking two desserts on days when it said only one per child.

As for myself, I am grateful for the friendships I have gained, whether they're with my own classmates or the classes below me. I am eternally grateful for the freshmen's sense of humor, the sophomores' creativity, and the juniors' willingness to go with the flow.

I have fortunately gotten to know members of these classes. Being part of the speech team helped me to connect with the underclassmen. Meila, Ethan, Pierce, and, well,

Evan have shown me that it's OK to not take OID practice so seriously. No matter how long of a day it had been, they were always willing to do it "just one more time."

I am grateful for my dad, who watched every single one of my speeches like it was his first time seeing it and helped me dissect it like it was a football playbook. I am grateful to my four brothers for being pretty good role models for me – they really showed me that it's OK to both work hard and not take myself too seriously! I am grateful to my little sister, Oddy, who brought a whole new perspective to our family. And I am grateful to my mom for teaching not only me, but all of us, how to write and how to give a speech.

Regarding the support I have gotten over the years at Tri County, I am so grateful for the staff here. Tri County has always been a place where I have been able to grow in myself and my abilities. Mrs. Smith ignited my passion for the fine arts, Mr. Morrissey my love of bad dad jokes, Mrs. Sand my go to girl to talk all things reality tv, Mr. Hennerberg for always pushing our

physics class to go out of our comfort zones and Mr. Simpson for always keeping it real in personal finance and showing us how to balance a checkbook, even though we may never have actual checkbooks in our futures. There is truly no place quite like Tri County. I know for many of my classmates the experiences here are truly some of the best.

We have been incredibly lucky to have been given these gifts of learning selflessness and gratitude. Because of both, we have the tools to step out into the world and become people who contribute to society. Hopefully, we can live up to the expectations and the modeling that has been given to us. Hopefully, our class can continue with this incredible legacy.

In closing, I would like to offer my classmates some inspiration in a quote frequently used at my future college, Creighton University. In the words of St. Ignatius, "Go forth and set the world on fire." And with that, we the Class of 2024, say goodbye Tri County. We hope to make you proud!

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Growth pulls apart, brings class together

BY CARSON RADCLIFF
Wilber-Clatonia Valedictorian

Another good afternoon to parents, faculty, students, friends, and the Class of 2024.

When I began writing this speech a month ago, I was completely lost. When trying to form a plan for what to write, I thought about, "What does the audience need from me?" Do they need me to reflect on the past? Look out towards the future? However, I decided to do both of these while also including Brady's advice, "short and sweet." So here we go.

As the Class of 2024 looks back on our journey, we realize that we shouldn't have taken elementary for granted. Little did we know we had it set. Easy homework, easy spelling words, nice teachers, recesses, and even snack time. Life was a dream. Once we hit junior high however, we realized that elementary was the peak of our lives.

As soon as we hit junior high, we were introduced to projects that had to be done without someone holding our hand, this thing called time management, and B.O. Although the struggle was real, we as a class persevered.



Carson Radcliff

Once again, we were forced to adapt to high school. This time however, we weren't starting from ground zero. We already had some of the morals and values that we needed in high school ingrained into us. And although high school brought new challenges such as Covid, the need for responsible driving, and some of the most horrible and mentally draining sports conditioning known to man, we were again able to persevere and mostly succeed.

From an outsider's eye such as a parent or teacher, this is the main narrative you would witness. However, all the students could sense something deeper happening. In elementary, it was easy to

be united as a class. We all played together at recess, ate lunch at long tables together, shared the same classes, and mostly did everything together.

As we grew up and developed, we naturally became more individualized and went on to pursue our own passions, develop our own morals and values, and branch off towards our own paths in life. Once we hit high school, it was sometimes easy to recognize that the connection we had in elementary was no longer there. The students could feel it, but others not within the class often overlooked it. I didn't instantly recognize how far we'd grown apart until long into our freshman year. But once I noticed it, it became very obvious to me.

I'm not up here to speak out against our class, because as a large group of people grows and develops into adults, it's guaranteed that they'll grow apart and split off into groups that pursue some similar passions, share interests, or just participate in the same activities. I always recognize this as a problem, and that our division would only bring struggle in the future.

It wasn't until our junior year that I looked at it differently. Although we had grown apart as we became more individualized, our class always seemed able to come together in moments when necessary.

In high school, we were able to join together in classes, and although they were a mix of different groups or cliques within that class, we were still able to unite as one and achieve common goals. This uniting of individuals was also seen in sports and extracurriculars. We were all able to drop our differences and come together to do amazing things.

We were able to create successful sports teams, join together as one and put on a senior class play, communicate efficiently enough to organize a senior skip day and senior breakfast, create bands and choirs that would win awards at the district contest, and unite our efforts in academics by setting high standards for our school.

Although we all had differences, the ability for us to put aside our differences and unite towards a common goal is something that all of society should strive for.

In our society, there are always going to be groups and pods of people that just click and work well together. The Class of 2024 was the same way; however, in the modern world, these groups only work to further divide our society. Different interests usually separate people and only cause conflict.

The Class of 2024 has shown that although we are all different, we were still able to recognize that those with opposing views are still people, and that although we may not get along all of the time or share the same view points on the world, we are still able to unite and rally towards the common goal.

Over the past decade of our lives, you have all become like a family to me. Together, we have endured school days with 5+ assignments due, we have shared laughs that I wouldn't trade for anything in the world, and we have collectively worked long hours that in the end, have changed this school for the better.

No matter however many sleepless nights, early mornings, or stressful days I had during this journey, I would go through it all again in

a heartbeat. I would go back to the early morning weights with Fuerhoff, I would go back to the random classroom discussions in Bates's, I would go back to the dreaded basketball and football conditionings, I would go back to read The West Side Story again in Matulka's, and I would go back to the debates in Martin's room. I wouldn't trade the memories and relationships formed for anything in the world.

In the end, we may not all be best friends, but it's fair to say that we will miss having each other around after spending the last 13 years together.

As we progress in our lives, we will only continue to branch out and create new relationships and even put physical distance between each other. But I trust that 10 years in the future that if things hit the toilet for me I could call any one of you and I know I could depend on you guys to help me, and I hope you feel the same way. The Class of 2024 is your family and will always be your family no matter the length of time or distance that may separate us. Class of 2024, thank you for the memories. Thank you.

Scholarships go to Wilber-Clatonia senior class

Wilber-Clatonia seniors and received the following scholarships:

Kylee Adams: Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship

Garrett Brown: Louis Trnik Memorial Scholarship; Robert and Eleanor Houser Memorial Scholarship; Iola Broliar Memorial Scholarship

Brooklyn Davison: NE Board of Governor's scholarship; NWU Achievement Scholarship; Wesleyan Grant; Access NWU Scholarship; Concordia University Cheer Scholarship

Lena Eschiti: Scholarships: Nebraska Achievement Scholarship; UNK Loper Achievement Scholarship; Comanche Nation Higher Education Scholarship; Youth Salute Scholarship; Peru State First year Scholarship; T.J. Sokol Scholarship; Albert Chmelir Memorial Scholarship; Valarie J. Rezabek Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; Otto and Antoinette Smith Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Kenneth Guerra: UNL Husker Power Scholarship; CEHS Freshmen Scholarship; Smithfield/Farmland Scholarship; WCEA Scholarship; E. A. Kral Family Memorial Scholarship; Mary A. Greer Memorial scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; Mary Ellen Matulka Education Scholarship (alternate); Valarie J. Rezabek Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Riley Haack: Clatonia Cardinal Club Scholarship #1; Clatonia Cardinal Club Scholarship #2 (al-

ternate); W-C Alumni Foundation Scholarship (alternate)

Connor Harms: Southeast Community College Foundation High School Scholars \$1,000 Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship

Gage Heller: SCC Molex Incorporated Scholarship (Milford); SCC Foundation High Scholars Scholarship; SCC Academic Excellence \$750 Scholarship; Agnes Trnik Memorial Scholarship; Huneke Family Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; Iola Broliar Memorial Scholarship (alternate); First State Bank Nebraska Scholarship (alternate); Louis Trnik Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Riqui Mildward: Wilber Czech Craft Shop Scholarship; Charles F. Mundil Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Abbie and Adolph Trousil Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Kira Jonas: UNK Distinguished Scholar scholarship; Crete Eagles Auxiliary #3909 Scholarship; Wilber Lions Club Memorial Scholarship; Pat Wallman Memorial Scholarship; Mary A. Greer Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Trevin Jurgens: SCC Foundation High Scholars Scholarship; Joe and Helene Steinacher Memorial Scholarship; Huneke Family Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Caleb Klabenes: Smithfield/Farmland Scholarship

Lillian Korbel: Donald Fikar/Czech Alumni Band Scholarship;

Ludvik Simecek Memorial Scholarship; Mary Ellen Matulka Education Scholarship

Kelsey Kotas: Farmers' Cooperative Scholarship; First State Bank Nebraska Scholarship; Otto and Antoinette Smith Memorial Scholarship; Agnes Trnik Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; Lad and Dorothy Kastanek Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Kiley Kotas: Nebraska Wesleyan University Scholarships; NWU Huge Recognition Scholarship; NWU Board of Governor's Scholarship; NWU Achievement Scholarship; NWU Visit Grant; NWU P-Wolf Priority Scholarship; Crete Area Medical Center Care Foundation Scholarship; Farmers & Merchants Bank Scholarship; Ladislav Rezabek Memorial Scholarship; Michael Hroch Memorial Scholarship; Albert S. Chmelir Memorial Scholarship (alternate); William and Albina Musil Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Ty Kuhlmann: Dartmouth General Scholarship; Colorado School of Mines Presidents Scholarship; Southern Methodist University Founders and Discovery Scholarships; Lehigh University Academic Grant; Grinnell College Founders Scholarship; UNL Regents Scholarship; NEBRASCOE Scholarship; Youth Salute Scholarship; Gabby Matthes Memorial Scholarship; Friends of W-C Scholarship; Wilber-Clatonia PTO Scholarship; Herbert and Sylvia Schmale Memorial Scholarship;

W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; FBLA Scholarship

Keith Kvasnicka: Clatonia Cardinal Club Scholarship #2; Clatonia Cardinal Club Scholarship #1 (alternate)

Jordan Marsh: SCC Larry Cerny Kaspar Scholarship; SCC Endowed Welding Technology Scholarship

Jessica Martinez: Smithfield/Farmland Scholarship; Susan Thompson Buffett Scholarship; National Honor Society Scholarship; Youth Salute Scholarship; KHOP Alternate

Delaney Mazza: Nebraska Opportunity Grant; Tucson Community/Kathy Massahos Kinney Scholarship; Farmers & Merchants Bank Scholarship (alternate); Marian and Eddie Rezabek Memorial Scholarship; Jill Rezabek Ahrendts Memorial Scholarship; FBLA Scholarship; Walter and Helene Baer I Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Michael M. Hroch Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Tatiana Meza: K-State Wildcat Non-Resident Award 100; Nebraska Wesleyan University Youth Salute Scholarship; Richard Mares and Helen Zach Memorial Scholarship; ZCBJ/WFLA Lodge Libuse Scholarship (alternate)

Jaylin Miller: Saline County 4-H Council Scholarship; K-State Campus Visit Scholarship; Steve and Lynn Wiese Agricultural Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; W-C Alumni Foundation Scholarship; W-C FFA Alumni

Local Scholarship (alternate)

Caleb Panning: Doane Presidential Scholarship; Doane Vocal Music Scholarship; Doane Instrumental Music Scholarship; Walter and Helene Baer I Scholarship; Ludvik Simecek Memorial Scholarship (alternate) Participating in Band and Choir

Hugo Pomajzl: SCC Norman Kohout Scholarship; SCC Foundation High School Scholars Scholarship; Charles F. Mundil Memorial Scholarship; Wilber Czech Craft Shop Scholarship (alternate)

Carson Radcliff: Board of Regents-UNL; Board of Regents-UNK; BCBS Health Sciences Scholarship; Health Science Explorers Room Scholarship; KHOP Alternate; Viola C. Jelinek Memorial Scholarship; Raymond Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; American Red Cross Scholarship; Arlen Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Kaycee Rezabek: Elmer and Edra J. Broz Memorial Scholarship; Joe and Helene Steinacher Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Emma Chaloupka Shramek Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Jera Schuerman: NWU Board of Governors Scholarship; N.W.U. Achievement Scholarship; Youth Salute Scholarship; Huge Recognition Scholarship; Visit Grant; P-Wolf Priority Scholarship; Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division

see WCHS, page 10B



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- Tim Notke

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Good Luck Students!
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Kuhlmann: You choose how to be happy

BY TY KUHLMANN
Wilber-Clatonia Salutatorian

Welcome and thank you friends and family for attending the graduation ceremony for the Class of 2024. It's an honor to speak to you today as we celebrate this achievement.

To begin, thank you to my fellow classmates - you've made this journey truly memorable with your humor, passion, and friendships.

Thank you to the teachers and staff for putting up with us for so long, and thank you to our parents and role models who have shaped us into the people we are today.

As many of you know,



Ty Kuhlmann

I am not a huge fan of giving speeches. So when I was writing this, I struggled with finding a theme to talk about that didn't sound too cheesy. However, I would like

to talk a little bit about the pursuit of happiness in your life. I'm not going to lie, a job with a lot of money sounds like a pretty cool gig that would make you super happy, right? You could buy a new boat, eat prime rib for every meal, or go on an expensive hunting trip, but how much happiness would we truly feel if we experienced these things alone?

I believe what has made each of us happy through the years are the relationships we have with each other. Think of the special moments we've shared - the laughter, inside jokes, and experiences that bond us.

- Like what would sixth grade have been like if

Gage hadn't asked almost every day if people wanted to hear his seat rumble?

- What would Chemistry class have been like without the epic wet paper towel battles?

- Or how entertaining would Ms. Pruitt's class have been without the constant antics we pulled with items like the corn cobs or the strange blue-tooth issues she couldn't solve.

The past 13 years with you have taught me that making memories with friends and family is what brings true happiness.

I am also a huge believer in pursuing an occupation that you have a passion for. Wiser people than me have told me that

if you enjoy what you do for work, then it doesn't really feel like work. Now, I'm not going to stand up here and tell you that every day is going to be all cupcakes and rainbows, because it's not. For example, just ask Coach Rich Zimmerman about how many times his slow reactions led him to being hit by a football or taken out along the sideline. Yet, every time he gets back up even if it takes him a little while. Coach Zimmerman is a GREAT example of how to not let one hard day ruin your outlook on your passion.

Now if you have been zoning out on my speech, I don't blame you. I will quickly summarize it for

you...

Your happiness in life is up to you and only you.

- Surround yourself with positive people who you enjoy being around.

- Spend time with people who make you laugh.

- And have the courage to choose a career path that you enjoy no matter how much money you receive in your paycheck.

Finally, I want to remind everybody that this is a day to celebrate and not to shed tears. Mom, I'm talking to you. Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2024. Enjoy the day and the people you love, and the song Unwritten says, "The rest is still unwritten."

WCHS

Continued from 10B

(BMWED) Scholarship (one of top six out of over 200 applicants); Security First Bank-Clatonia Branch Scholarship; Robert and Eleanora Houser Memorial Scholarship; Arlen Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship; Ladislav Rezabek Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Raymond Lohmeyer Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Carter Skleba: Farmers' Cooperative Scholarship; Concordia University Football Scholarship; Concordia University Deans Scholarship; Joe and Emma Vesely Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; Agnes Trnik Memorial Scholarship (alternate); E.A. Kral Memorial Scholarship (alternate); John Chrastil Memorial Scholarship

Owen Smith: Irene Pivonka Sokolik Memorial Scholarship
Breanna Spilker: UNK Distinguished Scholar Award; Youth Salute Scholarship; Walter and Helene Baer II Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; W-C FFA Alumni Local Scholarship; Walter and Helene Baer I Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Michael M. Hroch Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Robert and

Eleanora Houser Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Joe and Emma Vesely Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Pat Wallman Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Stone Thelen: SCC Foundation High Scholars Scholarship

Diamond Thompson: Doane University Track & Field Scholarship

Jorge Vazquez Moreno: Hastings College Men's Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field and Academic Scholarships; Betty and Alan Steinacher Memorial Scholarship; Walter and Helene Baer II Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Robert and Eleanora Houser Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Lane Vesely: Northeast Community College Jacob Benjamin Jensen Memorial Scholarship; Nebraska Open Scholarship; Richard Cruise Memorial Scholarship; and Charles Wehrer Scholarship

Gavin Vlean: Board of Governor's Scholarship; NWU Achievement Scholarship; Huge Recognition Scholarship; NWU Legacy Scholarship; NWU Campus Visit Scholarship; Michael M. Hroch Memorial Scholarship; Post #4959 VFW Auxiliary Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship;

Farmers & Merchants Bank Scholarship (alternate); Betty and Alan Steinacher Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Michael M. Hroch Memorial Scholarship #2 (alternate)

Madison Vogel: Northwest Missouri State University Northwest Merit Bearcat Advantage; Van Hoy Scholarship; Doane Legacy Award; Volleyball Scholarship; Women's Track Scholarship; Nebraska Opportunity Grant; William and Albina Musil Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; Richard Mares and Helen

Zach Memorial Scholarship (alternate); Sertoma Service to Mankind Scholarship (alternate)

Zachary Vyhnalek: SCC Foundation High Scholars Scholarship; Wilber Lions Club Memorial Scholarship; Farmers & Merchants Bank Scholarship; Sertoma Service to Mankind Scholarship; FBLA Scholarship; Farmers & Merchants Bank \$200 Scholarship (alternate)

Emma Walker: National Association of County Officials scholarship; SCC Foundation High Scholars

Scholarship; Wilber Garden Club Scholarship; Louis Trnik Memorial Scholarship; Abbie and Adolph Trousil Memorial Scholarship; Emma Chaloupka Shramek Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship

Jacob Williams: Northeast Community College 5000 Nebraska Career Scholarship; Lincoln Home Builders Care Foundation HBAL/ Remodelers Council Scholarship; Bicycle Ride Across Nebraska (BRAN) Scholarship; SMC Staab Management Company Pizza

Hut of Crete, NE Scholarship; Nestle United Food & Commercial Workers Memorial Scholarship; Wilber Garden Club Scholarship; Post #4959 VFW Scholarship; Blue Valley Lodge #64 of Wilber Scholarship; Sukovaty, Caudle, Gibson Memorial Scholarship; W-C FFA Betterment Scholarship; Irene Pivonka Sokolik Memorial Scholarship (alternate)

Jack Zimmerman: SCC Foundation High Scholars Scholarship; Brian Mager Memorial Scholarship; Lad & Dorothy Kastanek Scholarship

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