Graduation is May 24
Seniors talk about plans; ISD’s influence

Get ready, ISD Alumni Association. You’ll soon have eight new possibilities for membership, as the Class of 2019 crosses the graduation stage this month.

Classmates are celebrating their achievement by making memories right up until commencement. They are taking a fast overnight trip to Mall of America and expect to be bright-eyed and attentive for graduation practice hours after return.

This group of future scientists, mechanics and dental hygienists is so organized, their class gift is already in place—A bobcat mural on the concession stand (facing Harry Langdon Blvd) now welcomes visitors to campus.

Meet the seniors
CJ Autery has more than a spark of interest in becoming an electrician. He was a student intern at ISD with the staff electrician during third trimester. CJ was up in ceilings, cutting wire and getting real-life hands-on lessons every day. After graduation, he plans to move to Montana, obtain a full-time electrician’s license and get his hi."
Seniors
Continued from front

Congratulations to sophomores Jessie Murphy and Ashley Schroeder who earned honorable mention status earlier this school year in the annual National Literary Competition. This annual contest is sponsored by Gallaudet's Youth Programs and Phi Kappa Zeta. Murphy and Schroeder were students in Megan Shama's English class when they were given an independent assignment "where they could write about whatever they wanted," said Shama. She provided feedback on ideas and writing and submitted the works.

MURPHY

labor job and has a goal of becoming an electrician. He enrolled at ISD his senior year. At ISD, he played basketball, and earned a spot on the GPSD All-Tournament team. CJ enjoys chatting with friends, being outside and riding his four-wheeler. He said the best aspect to attending a school for the deaf is no one feels isolated.

Hats off to Ben Brakke. Or should that be, hats on? Ben has a hat collection which he said he wears on special occasions. Ben began at ISD in 6th grade. While at ISD, he was involved with football, basketball, track, Jr. NAD, student council and the boys dorm fraternity. Next year, Ben plans to enroll into the 4PLUS transition program at ISD where he wants to attend IWCC. He is interested in becoming a mechanic, and also hopes to participate in the college shotgun sports club. Ben credits ISD with his being able to better understand and learn his subjects because of the communication with his teachers and peers.

Josh Catron enrolled into ISD as a sophomore from Winterset, Iowa. He said he likes the pace of learning at ISD, and the teachers take time to really explain the material. “Everyone talks fast in public school,” he said. He describes himself as a visual learner, and said the ISD environment worked well for him. Josh said living in the dorms meant he made friends quickly, “because we’re all together so we all get to know each other.” While at ISD, Josh participated in basketball and football. While attending his school in Winterset, he played baseball and basketball. Josh is enrolling into the ISD 4PLUS transition program to study diesel mechanics.

Shayla Dobias is the Class of 2019 salutatorian. She enrolled into Iowa School for the Deaf when she was 4 years old and currently lives in Creighton, Nebraska. After graduation, Shayla will attend Gallaudet University, studying animal biology. Shayla was active in volleyball, basketball, track manager, cheerleader, Jr. NAD, student council, ASTRA service club, dorm sorority and Optimist Oratorical Contest. Shayla said some of the advantages she experienced while at ISD were the “accessibility to everything,” and having a connection with the staff- she learned from them and also found them to be excellent role models.

Cory Jacobson is the Class of 2019 valedictorian. He is known by his teachers to be gifted in math and science. So it was no surprise that he has been accepted at Rochester Institute of Technology this fall, where he will study environmental science. Cory has earned college credits through his engineering and architect classes he took at Lewis Central High School (located across the street from ISD). There, he won a state award for his house designs. Cory was a member of the academic competition team and is from Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Sadie Kindt will take a flood of memories away from her senior year. Literally. Sadie’s house was one of dozens in the little southwestern Iowa town of Pacific Junction flooded by the Missouri River this spring. “We had to do what we had to do,” she said. Sadie was a cheerleader, and on the basketball and volleyball teams. She went to Close-Up in Washington, DC last year. She will begin working as a certified nurse assistant this summer. This fall, she will attend Peru State College, studying special education with plans to earn an endorsement in deaf education. Sadie said what she has appreciated most about attending a school for the deaf was, “I met many new friends who used my same language.”

Hannah Kohl found a lot to smile about while she was at ISD. Now, she has goals to help others with healthy smiles. Hannah plans to attend Austin Community College in Texas and study dental hygiene. Some activities she was involved with during high school include volleyball and ASTRA service...
Local club honors Banks

Cheryl Banks, Iowa School for the Deaf speech and language pathologist, was awarded the Council Bluffs Rotary Teacher Excellence Award earlier this month. Banks has worked with ISD students since 1983, and will retire at the end of this school year.

Principal Rebecca Gaw said, “Cheryl teaches an area of need where all of our students struggle. Cheryl goes out of her way to pick topics of interest for the students and can support learning in the classroom.”

Banks also organized the Optimist Oratorical Contest, and over the years, more than $100,000 in scholarships have been awarded to ISD students.

Creativity published: x4!

Annually, secondary students from Council Bluffs submit their best written and art work for possible inclusion into the Council Bluffs Optimist Club and the Council Bluffs Community Schools literary magazine, The Write Touch.

Four students from ISD were featured in this year’s issue, and were honored with a breakfast and award. Congratulations to artists Holly Schroeder and Ashley Vera, and to writer Nichole Jergens and poet Hannah Kohl for their selected entries. See and read the works here.
We propose a ROAST!

Students in Iowa School for the Deaf's 4PLUS transition program hosted a roast for the four Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired students who are exiting the program this spring. On the menu? Pot roast, of course. Speeches were made about each student, recapping their experiences on campus. The evening ended with a movie and popcorn in the auditorium. Plans of these four include: James Cheek, enter Orientation Center at Iowa Department for the Blind; Rachel Hurt may do the same; Dani Wilson will pursue employment and plans to study a science field. Nisha Barnhill will work at Hy-Vee in Des Moines this summer, then attend Hawkeye Community College for veterinarian assistant studies.