

North Iowa Commencement Address



Ashlyn Bechler

By Ashlyn Bechler

Hi everyone, it's great to see so many faces here to celebrate the class of 2025. I want to start off by saying a few thank yous. Thank you to the faculty and staff for putting in countless time and effort into our successes. Thank you to our family members for the constant support and time spent with us. And thank you to my classmates for making these past 13 years quite an adventure.

It's astounding to think how fast we grew up without even realizing it. From walking into preschool to go play for a couple of hours to spending countless hours writing essays and doing homework. Some of us have been in the same building all thirteen years, others jumping around and meeting hundreds of new people. At the end of the day, we all grew up with 2025 engraved in our minds. A reminder of our innocence and a countdown of our childhood.

While writing this speech, I began to think about some of the valuable lessons I've learned throughout high school. A phrase that has completely changed my perspective, "I can't wait." I can't wait for practice to be over. I can't wait for summer. I can't wait to graduate. Many of us have said this phrase at some point throughout our journey. But

why? What is so important that you are willing to lose out on this moment right now? This has made me realize the true value of living in the present moment.

Often, we are found not living in the moment and really soaking it in, we are distracted as this phrase was used regularly in our lives. But now, all the memories that we couldn't wait for, all of the memories made in school, in practices, at lunch, are simply just memories. I wish my biggest worry was a spelling test on a Friday. I wish I was still learning how to ride a bike without training wheels. I wish to be care-free and happy.

So, as we flick the page to the next chapter, always remember to live in the moment now before the moment fades to a memory. Enjoy all those early and late practices, driving around with your friends, the classes you were

forced into taking, before it's all just a memory. Just remember to live, and live in the now, not in the future because more often than not, we are always thinking ahead and missing what was always right in front of us.

As we celebrate today, I don't want us to lose sight of reality. The truth is, life is hard, and the world is imperfect. As we step into the next chapter of our lives with eagerness and excitement, we will soon come to realize that not everything goes as originally planned. We will fail, and we will fall. There will be tough moments filled with despair and sometimes even hopelessness. But do not let these moments consume the light within us.

So, as you go into the world to chase your dreams and are met with a tough battle you can't win, a path you cannot cross, or a mountain you can't climb, there is al-

ways light at the end of the tunnel. There is always a way out, and sometimes the plans just need to be altered. You will never be 100% ready, but do it anyway.

And as we embark on our individual journeys, let us not forget the importance of being a positive force on other's lives. True success is not measured solely on personal achievements, but by the impact we have on the world around us. Let all of us strive to be a source of inspiration and hope to those we encounter.

Minor Myers Jr. once said, "Go into the world and do well. But more importantly, go into the world and do good." Be the good in others' lives. So here we go, Class of 2025, it's our turn. Go change the world. Thank you.

Consumer Connection: What is Travel Insurance?

By Sonya Sellmeyer, Consumer Advocacy Officer for the Iowa Insurance Division

Travel insurance safeguards your investment in a costly trip by covering unexpected events that could disrupt your plans. It can reimburse pre-paid, non-refundable expenses for unforeseen circumstances. Consider purchasing a policy if there is a chance the trip could be impacted by severe weather,



Sonya Sellmeyer

a loved one has a pre-existing health condition, or non-refundable expenses

have already been incurred. Before purchasing a policy, understand the different coverage options, exclusions, and limitations, as policies vary significantly. Check current insurance policies and credit card protections for coverage already provided.

Travel interruption or cancellation coverage may reimburse for non-refundable costs like flights, hotels, and tours if you have to cancel or cut a trip short due to cov-

ered reasons such as illness, injury, or unexpected severe weather. Cancel for any reason policies are more expensive and may only reimburse for a portion of the travel loss.

Regular health insurance may not cover medical expenses incurred abroad. Travel insurance may cover doctor visits, hospital stays, emergency medical transportation, and transportation home for treatment. If traveling to a remote area or

participating in adventure activities, ensure the policy offers adequate coverage for medical evacuation and specialized activities. Many policies have exclusions or limitations for pre-existing medical conditions. If needed, consider a policy with a pre-existing condition waiver.

Review coverage for flight delays and missed connections which may result

Read more Travel on page 6



The Buffalo Center Public Library will be having its summer reading program "Level Up at Your Library" beginning at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25. Mary

Walk will be attending with "The Soil in Jackie's Garden."

On Tuesday, July 1, the program will be "Float a Boat, Fly a Rocket." Kids should meet at the BC Swimming Pool at 10 a.m. with swimsuits on. In case of bad weather, go to the library and have some inside fun.

I will be updating with programs from Lakota, Thompson, Forest City and Buffalo Center, so stay tuned.

The Buffalo Center Book Club is reading "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn." There are copies at the library if anyone would like one. The next book is "James." I think

it will be a fun time to join and read the classic written by Mark Twain. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 26 at 6:30 p.m.

I just finished "Point of Origin" by Rebecca Yarros. It is a novella, so it is really a quick read. It has a strong plot and second chance ro-

mance. It keeps a reader involved throughout. I rated this at 4.5 stars, the only thing I found was I wish it would have been longer. If you haven't tried a Rebecca Yarros book, I highly recommend any of them.

Way back when

10 Years Ago  
Tribune Files of  
June 17, 2015

50th Wedding Open House for Lyle and Sharon Hippen will be held on June 27 at the First Reformed Church Fellowship Hall.

Connor Smith delivered a commencement speech at graduation ceremonies at NIHS.

The North Iowa Lady Bison won two out of five softball games played this week.

20 Years Ago  
Tribune Files of  
June 16, 2005

Cancer survivors from Buffalo Center attended the Relay of Life ceremonies in Forest City. A few of them are: Joan Sunde, Shirley Hagenson, Cindy Hagen, Bea Smoley and Marcia Smith.

Carrie Casper and Jonathan Potter plan July 23 wedding.

Rachel Hanson provided her commencement address for this issue of the paper.

30 Years Ago  
Tribune Files of  
June 15, 1995

Lisa Satre has won the talent trophy at the Li'l Miss

Iowa pageant. She performed a vocal solo.

Jeff and Jenny Myers are the parents of a daughter born June 1. She has been named Mariah Jennifer and joins Karissa and Joshua at home.

40 Years Ago  
Tribune Files of  
June 20, 1985

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Olson announce the engagement of their daughter, Laurie, to Todd Corporon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Corporon of Sheffield.

Carole Kettwick was awarded a music department faculty scholarship at Mankato State University Honors Convocation.

Buffalo Center pool staff are: Pam Winter, manager; Fayola Kiewiet, life guard and safety instructor; Paul Miller, life guard and safety instructor; Ann Jensvold, Jody Sunde and Jill Davids, life guards.

50 Years Ago  
Tribune Files of  
June 19, 1975

Confirmed at the United Methodist Church on June 8 were: Kim Johnson, Janet Koppen, Lisa Larson, Kim

Moermon, Kristi Doden and Gary Olthoff.

Pvt. Charles J. Steinfeldt posted a score of 228 out of a possible 250 and graduated as the series sharpshooter of Platoon 1014, 1013 Series, B Company, 1st Recruit Training Regiment, at the Marine Corps Depot in San Diego.

60 Years Ago  
Tribune Files of  
June 17, 1965

New FFA officers were elected: Eddie Ricks, Reporter; Bruce Edwards, Vice-president; Dennis Steffensen, President; Duane Wempen, Secretary; Wayne Risius,

Treasurer; David Steinberg, Sentinel.

Mr. and Mrs. James Meyering are the parents of a daughter, Lorene Karen, born June 5. She joins a sister, Julie Kay, at home.

Iowa's new Disability Access Points connect people with disabilities, families, and caregivers to the right support.

Part of Iowa's Aging and Disability Resource Center Network, they're here to help wherever you are in the state.

Visit [hhs.iowa.gov/ADRC](https://hhs.iowa.gov/ADRC) or call 1-800-779-2001

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The *Buffalo Center Tribune* does not as a general rule print form letters or letters which are also submitted to other newspapers. We are most interested in sincere personal views as opposed to canned publicity releases or talking

points for an individual or a cause, therefore if a writer cannot assure us that their submission is individual and personal, it may be rejected.

Your Letter to the Editor must include:

- Your full name with signature
- Your complete address
- Your telephone number

Your address and telephone number will not be printed in the newspaper, but will be used for verification by newspaper editorial staff.

Unsigned letters and letters containing personal attacks the newspaper deems to be of a libelous nature will not be published. The *Buffalo Center Tribune* reserves the right to end debate on a topic after both sides have had ample chance to express their views. The *Buffalo Center Tribune* reserves the right to edit or refuse all letters. All columns and letters on the opinion page are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Tribune*.

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The *Buffalo Center Tribune* strives for accurate and complete news reporting but occasionally we get it wrong. In cases where an error has been made we will run a correction, clarification, retraction or editor's note in the next edition. Our goal in any event is to inform readers of corrections clearly and quickly, citing the incorrect information and updating with the correct information.

All corrections will be printed on page 2 in the next issue published. The correction will denote the issue, article and incorrect information along with the correction. Digital corrections will also be made and an editor's note will be added to the bottom of the article in question noting what was inaccurate and noting when the article was amended. If the article was posted on Facebook, Twitter or any other online medium controlled by the *Buffalo Center Tribune*, a post will be made linking to the corrected article, noting the correction.

**Buffalo Center Tribune**

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\*This news may not be published in the current issue.

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