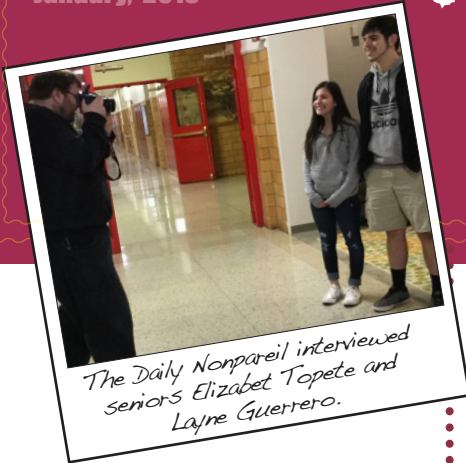


# the bobcat

IOWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



*The Daily Nonpareil interviewed seniors Elizabet Topete and Layne Guerrero.*

## We remember Josh

Joshua Thomas Lewis, 10, died Nov. 2 at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Neb.



Josh had been a student at ISD since he was a preschooler, then attended Logan-Magnolia school in 2016/2017. He returned to ISD the fall of 2017.

*Josh was most recently a student in Megan Rang's class.*

Josh was diagnosed with a rare genetic defect at an early age and later with kidney failure.

He was born Oct. 11, 2007 to Randy and Candice (McDowell) Lewis in Omaha. The family lived in Carroll, Council Bluffs, Pisgah and most recently, Panama. Besides his parents, Josh is survived by siblings Becca Hope and Cody Howard Lewis.

He loved trains, dirt track racing and the movie "Cars." Josh and his family also enjoyed a Make-A-Wish trip to Disneyland in 2016.



*Preschool teacher Sara Planck's memories of Josh are on the next page.*

## Not your traditional hall monitor

They aren't watching every move in the hallways and they certainly aren't doling out penalties or lingering outside of classrooms.

Thanks to a grant from the Diamond V Foundation, today's hall monitors at ISD are digital screens of primarily student-produced content created daily in Beth Chadwick's video journalism class.

What's for lunch? Check a monitor. Who has a birthday? Look to the screen. Located in the high school and LMC lobbies, the screens are the go-to place where high school students learn about class meetings, changes in schedules, reminders about testings and upcoming events.

It's a lot of information, which is the class's main goal. "In an era where information is everywhere, having the relevant facts is a necessity," said Chadwick. The class collects,

*Chadwick and senior Mama Sharal video a clip for daily announcements. Yes, blooper footage is kept!*



analyzes and prioritizes information. Assignments are made to ensure each topic is covered.

Scripts are written, then performed in front of a camera. Chadwick notes presenting clear and concise

*continued inside*

**Don't brush this off!** The ISD dorms are hosting a free paint, social, snack and game night Jan. 24 from 6-9 p.m. for all

ISD and other area students who are deaf or hard of hearing in grades 1st - 12th.

According to Taryn Peterson, ISD student life advisor, the guest artist teaching students is ISD graduate Heather Nurse. The event is titled The Frosted Easel.



# Memories of Joshua

by Sara Planck  
ISD preschool teacher

**J**oshua was enrolled in the ISD preschool program when he was 2. I remember the first day his mother brought him to school. He sat in his stroller quietly taking in this new place. Joshua had many challenges physically and mentally as a result of some difficulties when he was born.

When Joshua started attending school he was not walking, and had not had much experience with language and communication. He was in my preschool class for 3 years and during this time, with the help of his team of doctors, physical therapists, family and the teaching staff, Joshua started to walk and even run.

He would often look back at the teaching staff, show his beautiful sweet, mischievous smile and then start laughing and trying to run away. Even though he would fall, he would get right back up and keep going. Joshua received cochlear implants when he was 4 years old and he did use them consistently to help him become aware of sound and speech. Joshua was able to learn if given time to process the information and time to respond to questions, requests and information.

His sign language skills were steadily improving and he could, with some help, complete classwork correctly. He received assistance in the classroom from some very dedicated teacher associates. After 5 years at ISD he left to attend school at his home district and to attend to his growing medical needs. He came back to ISD this past year for a few months and was in Mrs. Rang's class to help him continue to develop his language, communication and educational needs until his health prevented him from doing so.

Joshua loved to have fun and he had a beautiful smile that would light up his face. Everyone who worked with him enjoyed him very much and we miss him.

**"...he would show his beautiful, sweet, mischievous smile and then start laughing..."**

To honor Josh's memory, the Iowa School for the Deaf Foundation will accept memorials to purchase an outdoor play structure or equivalent that Josh enjoyed. Donations are tax deductible and acknowledged.  
Send to: ISD Foundation  
3501 Harry Langdon Blvd.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

Phone: 712.366.3213



## Hall monitors

information and following scripts "while maintaining the integrity of ASL is goal No. 2." The students also write English captions which scroll alongside the ASL videos.

It's professional and looks effortless. However, there is a lot going on behind those announcements.

"Making sure the video is visually pleasing and relatively professional looking is another goal," said Chadwick. "Students think about their audience (both hearing and deaf), make sure the captioning is clear and grammatically correct while it matches the ASL."

With daily work to appear on the screens, deadlines are always set; and just like real life, not always met. "The actual videography consumes most of their time," said Chadwick. ■



*Junior Hannah Kohl carefully synchronizes English captions with ASL video.*



### Thank you, Diamond V!

Senior Erica Bloomhall helped submit a grant to Diamond V of Cedar Rapids which paid for software and purchase of the two monitors. Bloomhall was a sophomore when the grant was written. Diamond V is owned by the Bloomhall family. We thank Erica for recognizing the value these screens would bring to ISD.

# We are family

Iowa School for the Deaf's sorority for high school girls who live in the dorm took sisterhood to a more committed level this year when they chose sorority colors (teal and blue) and a name: Alpha Iota Kappa, or AIK. AIK is an independent group developed at ISD and is not affiliated with other Greek societies. So far, all high school girls have chosen to join.

Meeting once every two weeks, the group's goal is to help the girls make friends and establish a home away from home. "They also learn leadership skills and how to become strong, independent women," said Jada Hart, residential counselor. Hart, along with Kathi Abenchuchan and Julie Baker, are girls dorm staff who are affiliated with AIK.

Hart said the girls cover topics of conversation from personal relationships to social media and subjects that interest the girls. They have "little sisters" in the elementary teamed with a big sis from AIK.



*Kelsey Lachin, Emily Lachin, and Autumn Winter (with staff Julie Baker) belong to AIK to become independent young*

**"A strong woman is independent, knows who she is, accomplishes her goals, relies on no one and can overcome any obstacle thrown her way." – AIK motto**

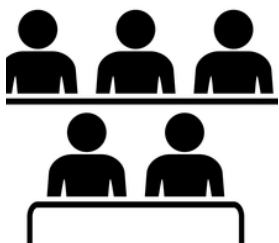
## Is it a snow day?

Iowa School for the Deaf makes the decision to cancel school independently, and does not follow Lewis Central or Council Bluffs Community School districts' weather-related decisions. There are different considerations with our students, such as the fact they do not walk several blocks to wait at bus stops. Parents are encouraged to sign up for School Messenger to receive alerts and updates about potential weather-related closings. Sign up through a school secretary:

**Elementary:** belliff@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org 712.366.3227

**Middle school/high school/4PLUS:** ljenkins@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org 712.366.3237.

View ISD's weather policy [here](#).



Campus  
enrollment  
Jan. 2018

- 89 full-time ISD students
- 4 4PLUS students from Iowa Educational Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- 3 distance American Sign Language students
- 6 ASL students from Lewis Central
- 6 metals technology students from Lewis Central
- 1 area student taking driver's education
- 1 student attends ISD for one campus class

## Today, a city. Tomorrow, the world!



*Those representing ISD at the National Junior Association of the Deaf conference, left to right: Boyce, Weigel, Stage and Miller.*

The Junior National Association for the Deaf held its biennial conference in November, almost within lassoing distance from ISD's campus. Carol Joy Holling Camp in Ashland, Neb., was the meeting site.

With the camp's western-themed buildings, attendees learned leadership and democratic processes by dividing into two separate groups and electing their own mayors, sheriffs and even a city council. ISD Jr. NAD sponsor Kathy Miller said the groups decided to become one district- a town which they named Unicity. Who knows what this dynamic group will unite next!

Miller and Kevin Boyce, both lead workers in the ISD dorms, attended as advisors. Of the 65 students present, two were from ISD: Nathan Weigel, a delegate; and Austin Stage, observer. Twenty-five schools for the deaf and mainstream programs were represented.

A variety of guest speakers presented on topics ranging from parliamentary procedure to keeping schools for the deaf strong.

## Around campus

### Frozen reception

Students in Kristen Newton's high school science classes learned the temperature of liquid nitrogen is between -346 and 320 degrees F. (And we thought it was cold earlier this month!) To prove the point, Newton sunk everyday objects into the icy stuff, pulled them out and let students see and feel changes in the objects, ranging from evergreen needles to a broken cell phone donated by senior Alondra Regalado. After winter break, Newton showed students how liquid nitrogen can make almost instant ice cream. More photos in this issue.



*Has your cell phone ever tempted you to freeze it and whack it with a hammer?*

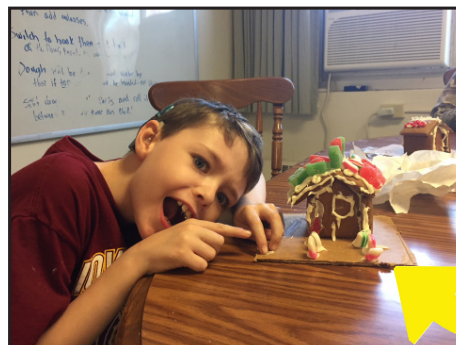


### Don't pull our legs

Stretch them instead! Senior Jose Ureste explains to 4th grader Levi Kruse about the importance of stretching during a student-to-student educational health fair this fall. Some other stations included body composition, workout locations and the physical activity pyramid.

### Goods for good

They may not yet hold learner's permits, but middle school student council members showed a lot of drive at this year's canned and boxed pantry goods collection, held right before the winter holidays. Left to right, Jesse Dalley, Britany Adame and Holly Schroeder organized nearly 300 collected items.



### WEE can build it

Move over, tiny house architects. ISD's We Explore our Environment students are designing houses that are tiny and tasty! Taryn Peterson, ISD student life advisor, said, "The students showed a lot of creativity!" This is 3rd grader and possible future architect, Ethan Vetick.

## Employee news

■ **Sara Moellenberndt** started employment at ISD as a cook in November.



■ **Joy Owens** began working as information technology associate for ISD/IESBVI in December.



■ **Mark Huss** started in his position as director of business operations for ISD/IESBVI in December.



**A roster of all ISD full-time staff is available at the school website, or by clicking here.**

We express our condolences to the following ISD employees whose parents have recently passed away:

■ **Megan Rang** (special needs faculty) whose father died in December;

■ **Leslie Richardson** (cook) whose father died in December;

■ **Fred and Amy Ivins** (dormitories), whose father/father-in-law died in December;

■ **Megan Minatra** (high school faculty) whose father died over holiday break;

■ **Mark Huss** (business office) whose mother died in early January.

## It's your turn

This winter, find an Iowa legislative coffee near you to learn about funding and possible new laws on the horizon that affect K-12 education.

Every district holds these hour-long sessions at least once throughout the session. Asking questions and offering our legislators a glimpse of your child's experience will help them understand the need and value of Iowa

School for the Deaf and its outreach programming. Need help finding the date and location of your local coffee? Email [here](#).

Council Bluffs' coffees, coordinated by the city's chamber of commerce, are known as the best attended in the state. Its coffees are held at Wilson Middle School Auditorium, 715 North 21st St. in Council Bluffs from 8.30-9.30 a.m. Upcoming dates are Saturdays, Jan. 27, Feb. 10 & 24; March 10 & 24; and April 7.

*Iowa legislators and legislative staff toured campus in November and December.*



15 states. 20 schools.

60+ volunteers. 300 **hungry** people.

**G**allaudet University's Midwest Regional Academic Bowl is coming to Iowa School for the Deaf in February! Teams arrive Thursday, Feb. 15. Competitions will follow Friday and Saturday.

The Midwest's brightest from schools for the deaf (including Iowa School for the Deaf) and mainstream programs will compete in a quiz bowl format. The top 20 teams from the four regional events will be invited to national competition, held in Washington, D.C. on Gallaudet's campus in April.

So much mental energy and volunteering mean lots of calories are needed! If you will send some chips, snacks or baked goods, (Including those made as part of an in-class teaching unit? Yes, please!) contact Kathy Miller at [kamiller@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org](mailto:kamiller@iowaschoolforthe deaf.org).

### Volunteers needed!

Dozens of volunteers, from door keepers to hospitality room hosts are needed throughout the weekend. In fact, we need 60 volunteers for two shifts on both Friday and Saturday. Please contact Jerry Siders at [jsiders@aol.com](mailto:jsiders@aol.com) to find out where and when your help is needed.

More about the bowl will be posted (click) [here](#).



# Where there is smoke, there's... ice cream?



*Cory Jacobson, Sadie Kindt, Kody Krauel and teacher Kristen Newton wait for the air to clear on their edible experiment.*

“To liquid nitrogen, milk and cream in this experiment feel like a red hot stove and everything boils,” ISD chemistry teacher Kristen Newton said, referencing the extreme cold temperature of liquid nitrogen.

“Although to us it feels cold, it’s really releasing heat in an exothermic reaction.” Her students saw and seemed to enjoy this reaction in motion, as the class made ice cream after winter break.

See prior pages for other experiments Newton conducted with liquid nitrogen.

See the latest Bobcat News, created by the ISD dormitory [here!](#)



## Come sign with this star!

If you’ve seen, heard and read rumblings about someone famous coming to campus, it’s true! Nyle DiMarco, a deaf model who won the 2016 season of ABC’s *Dancing With The Stars*, will appear and present at this year’s ISD Deaf Cultural Celebration weekend and the ISD Foundation Sound Futures fundraiser.



Deaf Cultural Celebration kicks off Friday night, March 23 with a barbeque dinner and an all-new look and feel to Celebrate ISD, the school carnival. Saturday’s events include activities for children, teens and adults, meals, seminars, break out sessions, comedy show, resources expo and campus tours. Sunday concludes the weekend with brunch. Every meal and event at Deaf Cultural Celebration is FREE.

Priority registration is now being accepted for parents and families of children who are deaf or hard of hearing, aged 0-21 years. Registration for all others opens Feb. 5. Click [here](#) to register. Information in ASL available [here](#).

Sound Futures, the Iowa School for the Deaf Foundation fundraiser to benefit ISD’s college-bound students and the general foundation, is Friday night, March 23. This is the event typically held as a lunch in May. To align with the Iowa School for the Deaf Culture Celebration weekend, we moved up the month, changed the time and bumped up the expectations for a night of elegance, Deaf Cultural understanding, fabulous food and perhaps some old fashioned swooning. (We did mention Nyle is a model, yes?) The social with Nyle DiMarco begins at 6 p.m., with dinner and program following. Tickets to this event only (because everything else at Deaf Cultural Celebration is free) are \$75 each. For more information or to reserve tickets, click [here](#).



# Around campus

## Sew you want a scarf?

4PLUS student Ana Rosa Torres has learned to sew, thanks to her transition teachers. Aside from operating the machine, Rosa is deciphering patterns and expanding her skills. Not only is sewing a handy hobby; Torres is earning a little spending money by taking orders for fleece scarves. Get ready- 4PLUS students are also preparing for their second soup contest, scheduled for Feb. 14.



## ISD's Special Olympiads take firsts at state

Congratulations to students who participated in the November state competition. The following students and their places are: Tommy Naumann, 5th; Draven Peterson, Cha Faatz and Izzy Schon, 1st. Students compete according to age, which is why they all received 1st places. Students who qualified but did not attend were Ashley Vera, Mama Sharal, and Lizbet Vaca. The competition was held at Council Bluffs' Thunderbowl.



## Handy kids

What will preschool teacher Sara Planck and teacher associate Meredith Sulentic think of next? Art projects, food lessons, a trip to the Children's Museum are just a few activities the class has enjoyed this winter.

## WEE got spirit, how about you?

We Explore our Environment (WEE) students are part of this year's local YMCA league.

"Many of the 'veteran' players have shown great improvement since last year," said coach Taryn Peterson. "We are having fun learning and practicing various basketball skills together."

Come cheer on the junior version of the ISD Bobcats at these remaining games held in the Old Gym: Jan. 23 and Feb. 6.



## Our assistant principal

Thanks to elementary teacher Megan Jones for capturing this spontaneous moment in December with Ty Thornock and 4th grader Cristian Lopez. Thornock was walking between buildings and took a moment to make a memory.



The reality is, our Hour of Code event was a virtual hit with all of our students! ISD participates in the international celebration in December. We hope kids around the world enjoyed themselves as much as 5th grader Kynnedi Anderson did with her first virtual reality experience.





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# Good as gold and Bobby Bobcat-approved

Every month, the ISD mascot Bobby Bobcat puts his paw of approval on certificates that recognize perfect attendance in the elementary. Why the two-handed awards in this photo? Some of our students who have been present every day have also earned a spot on the gold or red honor roll. Attendance really does count!



bobcat  
January  
2018

## Contest is a net gain

Special Olympics students don't rest on their accomplishments. What happens after bowling? They tackle basketball, of course!

Iowa Western Community College hosted a basketball skills contest Jan. 9.

ISD students receiving participant ribbons were: Johnathan Crawford, September Eisenauer, Kayla Satterfield and Izzy Schon.

Students earning places were: Ryan Harvey and Draven Peterson, 1st; Nathan Stacey, 2nd; Lizbet Vaca, 3rd; Cha Faatz, 4th; and Roberto Hernandez, 6th.