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Friendship Club celebrates 4 Special Olympians

BY SHAWN DIGITY
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Iowa Falls' Faith in Action Friendship Club has four of its members competing in the State Special Olympics on Friday and Saturday, May 26 and 27. So with the event just around the corner, Samantha Mitchell, Josh Johnson, Devi Brekke and Richard Tiger were gearing up for their trip to Iowa State University for the ultimate Iowa Special Olympics competition.

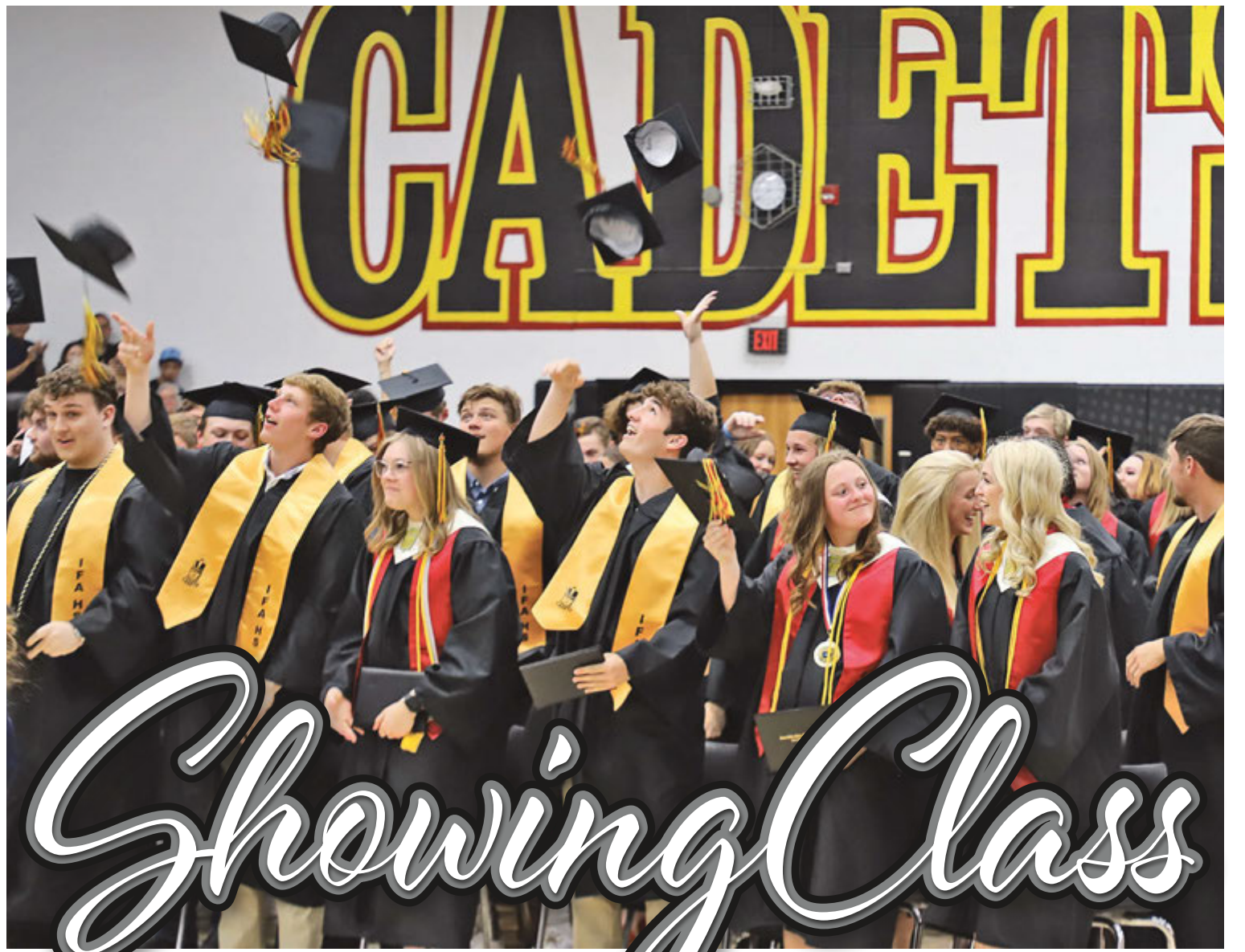
"We are celebrating the four people... who are our Special Olympians," began program assistant Breon Gardner.

The four athletes had earned advancement based on their recent performances at the regional level, which was held at Grinnell this year. So on a Friday afternoon, Mitchell, Tiger, Johnson, Brekke, and Gardner took the time to recap their accomplishments and explain what they're looking forward to with the state contest knocking on the door.

Between those four, they shared several gold medals for their events, which was the biggest reason they moved to the next step. As Johnson explained, if you win a gold medal in the regional round, it's an automatic ticket to the state competition in Ames.

When Mitchell began, she said that her events were the race walk and the softball toss, where she earned the top prize in both events for her class. And Brekke also earned her way to state with her top placements in walking and the softball toss. Both Tiger and Johnson took the gold in their respective classes for shot put.

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Showing Class

PHOTOS BY ELAINE LORING / TIMES CITIZEN



Iowa Falls-Alden High School commencement ceremonies were held Sunday, May 21 at the high school gymnasium, and 92 students received their diplomas. Zeke Ziesman welcomed the class, Martin Beisel gave the class address, and the Scenic City Singers performed "In My Life," arranged by Greg Jasperse. After the diplomas were handed out, and tassels were moved, Teah Miller gave the class farewell.

The 2023 senior class president was Teah Miller, vice-president was Hailey Bridgewater, secretary was Molly Tomash and treasurer was Perry Isaacson. Junior escorts were Abigail Andrews, Andon Barrick, Aubrey VanLangen and Marikate Lancaster. ■

* See more Graduation photos online: timescitizen.com



Visiting presidential candidate has plan to quash national debt



SHAWN DIGITY / TIMES CITIZEN

Businessman Perry Johnson visited Iowa Falls on Wednesday, May 17 as part of his presidential campaign. Also pictured is former mayor Gene Newgard.

BY SHAWN DIGITY | sdigity@iafalls.com

The inner back deck of the Iowa Falls Pizza Ranch was turned into a makeshift political keynote talk as Republican Party presidential hopeful Perry Johnson paid the Scenic City a visit on Wednesday, May 17.

The 75-year-old businessman and author from Michigan has a history in the automotive industry, especially in Detroit, and has written several books on the International Organization for Standardization.

He was in Iowa Falls to meet some of the local community members and give a brief talk about some of his campaign principles. Heavily focused on the national debt, Johnson has built part of his platform on how to reduce the deficit and start offering some nationwide financial relief.

According to Johnson's campaign website, the concept is straightforward: "My plan is very simple. Cut two cents off of every dollar of discretionary spending out of the federal budget."

And that, too, was the first point he hammered on Wednesday. "We're going to freeze our expenses, and every day we're going to cut two cents out of every dollar of discretionary spending... We've never spent more money than we did in the last six years. In fact, we spent so much money that we went from a little over \$20 trillion in debt to \$28 trillion in four years," Johnson reemphasized.

"But now, two years later, we are [at] \$32 trillion. And what that means is that every family in America is spending \$610 a month for that... Now, if you take a look at inflation, the only reason we have inflation is because the government spent all this money. They caused it. They put 40% more money into the economy without supplying any goods and services. When you do that, you have inflation. It's real simple," he continued.

CANDIDATE Cont'd ► A2

