

LOCALNEWS

Indus ceremony comes with surprises

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Indus seniors are likely to remember this year's quirky but meaningful commencement Friday, report organizers.

Held at Indus School, speakers produced surprises, including teacher and speaker Lisa Simon hiding scrolls with "Rules to Live By" under each seniors' chair, and two goats who came into the gym to illustrate human behaviors in valedictorian Sofia Olesen's speech.

Nine graduates took part in the ceremony, which included a welcome to family and friends and a thank you to graduates by Indus Principal Michael Underwood. The Rev. Tim Zook delivered an opening prayer as requested by the senior class.

Each senior presented flowers to family members and a video presentation about the seniors created by Indus sophomore Chanaya Wheelock was shown.

Underwood recognized Skye Fuller, Tiffany Gerthofer, Heather Krall, and Olesen, who received plaques for earning more than 26 credits during their high school careers.

Scholarships were presented to Licia Cress, Sofia Olesen, and Amber Zoupas. Scholarship presenters included Rod Hasbargen for the Winnifred Hasbargen Memorial; Sherri Mannausau for TruStar; Mike Hanson for North Star Electric; Simon for Education Minnesota Teacher's Union Local; and Karen Anderson for the Indus Scholarship Committee, representing donations from several businesses and families.

Olesen was the recipient of the Winnifred Hasbargen Memorial scholarship and the Hasbargen Memorial — Outstanding Senior of 2014 Award.



Sofia Olesen receives a scholarship from North Star Electric representative Mike Hanson.



Students look at the scrolls left beneath their seats with "Rules to Live By."

The school choir, directed by instructor Stacy Ottemann, performed "Wake Me Up" by Avicii, featuring solos by freshmen Holger Olesen and Alyssya Mathis.

Simon recognized each senior for their specific qualities, but also noted what she had learned from

them. The seniors read along with Simon a few of the "Rules to Live By" in the scrolls she had hidden below their chairs.

Mathis performed "To the Sky" by Carl Strommen, while seniors held up flip flops, each with a letter of the phrase, "We Can Do Anything."

Valedictorian Sofia Olesen recognized how each of her classmates had impacted her life. As she compared the qualities of humans and goats,



Seniors use flipflops to spell out "We Can Do Anything."



Salutatorian Skye Fuller smiles during the graduation ceremony.

her brother Holger Olesen illustrated her talk by leading two goats into the gymnasium.

School board member Ralph Lewis presented the diplomas and Zook delivered closing remarks about making good choices and looking at life positively.



Holger Olesen leads goats as his sister, Sofia Olesen, presents her valedictory speech comparing human behavior to that of goats.



Licia Cress receives a diploma from School Board member Ralph Lewis as Principal Michael Underwood announces her name.

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