

Commencement Symbolizes End of 'First Chapter' for Pickford Graduates

**Continued from page 3*

completed albums – rock stars in our own right," she said. "We are about to embark on our world tour, in which we will go and promote ourselves, saying "These are our experiences and this is what I have to offer."

She wished her classmates luck on their own "world tours," congratulated them on what they have accomplished, and challenged them to "last, but definitely not least, rock on!"

Co-salutatorian Kaylynn Portice said delivering a commencement address was a dream come true for her, because both her parents made speeches at their commencement ceremonies.

After years of working to make the grades to qualify as a salutatorian, and studying other graduation speeches, she decided that rather than talk about yesterday or tomorrow, she wanted to talk about "today," and she crafted her speech around the letters of the word and what they mean for today's graduates: T is for time; O is for the obstacles the class has overcome; D is for class determination; A is for the graduates' many accomplishments, and Y is for yelling, she said.

To elaborate on the word "yelling," she said, "Our class has always been an outspoken class."

"If we believed in something, you were going to know about it and we were going to make you believe

our point. Although this may not seem like a gift, it really is: To have the confidence and determination to stand up for what you believe in is a very important talent."

"Today is for the time we've spent together and the time that we'll spend apart," she said. "As we get ready to embark on a new journey, I would like you to remember today. Enjoy every aspect of today and embrace your dreams."

Valedictorian Jordan Ernst compared life to a book, and said his classmates are at the end of the first chapter of their lives.

"This day marks the end of childhood. When we exit this gymnasium with our diplomas, the world will treat us like adults and expect



Pickford High School's Class of 2007 assembles on the gymnasium stage after receiving diplomas Saturday, May 26.



Pickford seniors (from left) Brittany Kucharczyk, Lindsay Bawks, Valerie Traynor, Katie Spence, and Renae Reich line up before they march into the Pickford gymnasium and receive their diplomas.

us to act like adults," he said, continuing to describe the significance of high school graduation.

"A novel doesn't end with the first chapter," he said. "It contains the beginning of the story, the foundation upon which the author weaves his tale. The opening pages are simply the introduction, where characters are introduced, the plot is set in motion. The plot of our lives has begun to unfold."

The most important part of their stories will be what happens after the first chapter, he said.

"The ensuing story is what makes a great book," he said. "Our stories are far from finished."

Pickford High School Principal Neil Harrison awarded scholarships and awards to the students before

they received their diplomas, and imparted advice from one of his favorite quotes by Yogi Berra, "If you come to a fork in the road, take it."

Kaylynn Portice received the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award.

Miss Portice, along with Kristen Schmitgal and Scott Coullard, also received a Michigan High School Athletic Association Award for earning a score of 24 or better on the American College Test (ACT) and maintaining a 3.5 or better grade point average while excelling in athletics.

Scott Coullard was also recognized for receiving a 2007 *Detroit Free Press* Scholar-Athlete Award.

Mr. Coullard shared the 2007

All-Around Student Award with Renae Reich. It is one of the most prestigious awards given by the school, Pickford High Principal Neil

**Please turn to page 10*

Plans Announced for Pickford Grads

Pickford High School Principal Neil Harrison announced some of the future plans of the Class of 2007 during commencement ceremonies Saturday, May 26, at Pickford gymnasium. He also announced and distributed scholarships to students who qualified. The following information was provided by the school and students at the time of graduation:

Lindsay Bawks – plans to major in radiology at Ferris State University in Big Rapids. She received a Hughes Sisters Scholarship, Pickford Lions Club Scholarship, and Pickford Staff Scholarship.

Sarah Bew – plans to attend Lake Superior State University (LSSU) in Sault Ste. Marie.

Alicia Bjunes – plans to attend Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids and major in secondary education. She received a Hughes Sisters Scholarship, Michigan Merit Award, and Michigan Competitive Scholarship.

Scott Coullard – plans to attend Northern Michigan University in Marquette and major in art and design. He received a Michigan Merit Award, Michigan Competitive Scholarship, Hank and Marion Rye Memorial Scholarship, and a Northern Michigan University Outstanding Achievement Award.

Jordan Ernst – plans to

**Please turn to page 10*

Congratulations Pickford Class of 2007

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| | | | | | | | | |
| LaTara Hart | Marie Snider | George Hart | Lindsay Bawks | Katelyn Walker | Jordan Ernst | Janet Thompson | Brianna Nasser | Nic Raden |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Kaylynn Portice | Raymond Hill | Alicia Bjunes | Scott Coullard | Leonie Sparling | Valerie Traynor | Matt Lee | Chelsey O'Connor | Sarah Bew |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Sarah Mastaw | Clayton Peffers | Katie Spence | Veronica Gough | Matt Stewart | Jessie Ledy | Emelia Cottle | Victor Merchand | Caitlin Mortinsen |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Keith Krahnke Superintendent | Nathan Miller | Brittany Kucharczyk | Renae Reich | Keenan Wojnaroski | Kristen Schmitgal | Neil Harrison Principal | | |

- Watson's Shoe Store
- Wilderness Treasures
- Taylor's True Value
- Pickford Building Center
- Pickford Feed Service
- O'Connor's Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep
- Beacom Insurance
- Cedarville Foods
- Central Savings Bank
- Raber Bay Bar & Restaurant
- Cedar Pantry
- Pro Sports
- Pickford BP Market
- National Office Products & Printing
- Gaylor Trucking

- Mid Point Marathon
- King's Radio & TV/Alltel
- Soo Co-op Credit Union
- Kamper Tire and Exhaust
- Cloverland Electric
- The St. Ignace News
- Ang-Gios
- Old Mission Bank
- Waste Management
- Barnes Meemic Insurance Agency
- Green Thumb Lawn & Garden Center
- United Building Center-Rudyard
- Mertaugh Boat Works
- Great Lakes Services
- Skinners Garage

- First National Bank-
Les Cheneaux Branch
- Ledy's Auto Sales
- Nyberg Lettering & Embroidery
- Louie's Well Service
- Islands Insurance
- Main Street Cafe
- Shane Woolever, D.O., P.C.
- Richard Morrison, D.D.S. & Denise
Toner, D.D.S.
- Smith & Company Real Estate/
Robbie Simonsen
- Pickford Co-op Store
- Great Lakes Roofing
- U.P. Tire
- Cellular Connection

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Cheeseman's Insurance Corner

Business conducted in the home could cause problems to your homeowners insurance. If you conduct a business out of your home the amount of coverage on business contents is limited. If you have that situation please contact us regarding increased limits on business property. Also be aware that you are not automatically covered for business liability exposures. An example of some of these exposures would be day care, office in the home, cosmetic sales, beauty salon and golf club repairs. Please contact us for a homeowner review.

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