Collette Beach-Fiser was born April 21, 1992, in Iowa City, the daughter of Merle and Shannon Beach Fiser. She was raised in Grinnell and was a 2010 graduate of Grinnell High School. She later attended Iowa Valley Community College in Grinnell. She was employed as a foreman with Fiser Painting and as a manager at Dairy Queen in Grinnell.

Family, friends and faith were very important to Collette. She loved animals — particularly her three dogs, Daisy, Jack and Smokey, and her cat, Lucy — and volunteering at PALS. She enjoyed the outdoors, hiking, photography, riding on motorcycles, and traveling.

Among her most memorable road trips were traveling through the state of Florida with her dad, riding together on his bike, in the spring of 2010; driving to Tennessee with her mom and her siblings to visit her grandparents when she was only 16; and a trip to Ohio with friends for the purpose of riding the world’s largest rollercoaster. Collette will be remembered for her loyalty and honesty, and for her trusting of others.

Survivors include her parents Merle and Shannon, a sister Marilyn, and a brother Merle, Jr., all of Grinnell; her grandparents, Chuck and Carol Elliott of Athens, Tenn.; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. She was preceded in death by one sister, Nina Fiser, and her grandparents, Marvin and Myrna Beach.

Collette Beach-Fiser, 19, of Grinnell died Aug. 19, 2011, at her home.

A memorial service was held Thursday, Aug. 25, at Arbor Lake in Grinnell with the Rev. Joshua D. Johnson, pastor of the Grant City Wesleyan Church in Shirley, Ind., officiating. Honorary bearers will be Merle Fiser, Jr., Nick Elliott, Andy and Ryan Beach, Trent Large, Marty Howell, Dan Keller and Dwight Laidig. Ushers will be Aaron Hotchkis, Todd Brown, Chad Kinzebach and Shawn Carpenter. There will be no visitation.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the Collette Beach-Fiser Memorial Fund.
Collette Beach-Fiser, 19

Collette Beach-Fiser, 19, of Grinnell died Aug. 19, 2011, at her home.

A memorial service was held at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 25, at Arbor Lake in Grinnell with the Rev. Joshua D. Johnson, pastor of the Grant City Wesleyan Church in Shirley, Ind., officiating. Honorary bearers were Merle Fiser, Jr., Nick Elliott, Andy and Ryan Beach, Trent Large, Marty Howell, Dan Keller and Dwight Laidig. Ushers were Aaron Hotchkiss, Todd Brown, Chad Kinnzbach and Shawn Carpenter.

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Collette was born April 21, 1992, in Iowa City, the daughter of Merle and Shannon Beach Fiser. She was raised in Grinnell and was a 2010 graduate of Grinnell High School. She later attended Iowa Valley Community College in Grinnell. She was employed as a foreman with Fiser Painting and as a manager at Dairy Queen in Grinnell.

Collette was extremely close to her family and enjoyed sharing her time with family and friends. She held a strong relationship with God. She loved animals, particularly her three dogs, Daisy, Jack and Smokey, and her cat, Lucy, and volunteering at PALS. She enjoyed the outdoors, hiking, photography, riding on motorcycles, and traveling. One of her most memorable trips was in the spring of 2010, while with her dad, riding together on his bike throughout the state of Florida. One of her first experiences driving a long distance, (when she was only 16), was to Tennessee to visit her grandparents with her mom and siblings, which made her mom very proud, not only for her driving skills, but for her navigational skills as well. Another fun road trip was traveling to Ohio with some friends just to ride the world's largest roller coaster.

Collette will be remembered for her loyalty and honesty, and for her trust in others.

Survivors include her parents, Merle and Shannon; one sister, Marilyn; and one brother, Merle, Jr., all of Grinnell; her grandparents, Chuck and Carol Elliott of Athens, Tenn.; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Nina Fiser; and her grandparents, Marvin and Myrna Beach.
This small home at 1629 Third Ave. was savaged by fire shortly after 6 a.m. Friday, Aug. 19. Once firefighters (below) had tamed the flames they discovered a body in the rubble. The cause of the fire yet to be determined, though officials indicated it did not appear to be suspicious in nature. The investigation continues.

Tragic early morning fire claims life here Friday

A catastrophic fire claimed the life of a Grinnell resident early Friday morning, Aug. 19. Grinnell police have identified the sole occupant of the residence as Collette Dianne Beach. Law enforcement and state medical examiner officials have declined to provide an identification of the fire victim until additional tests are completed. The Grinnell Police Department, the Grinnell Fire Department and the Iowa State Fire Marshall’s Division are all investigating the fire whose cause has not been determined.

The Grinnell Fire Department received a call at 6:19 a.m. from a caller

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Fatal fire –

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reporting a house fire at the single-family residence at 1629 Third Ave. in eastern Grinnell. The caller described seeing flames engulfing the structure.

When firefighters arrived, they found the house fully engulfed in flames which took approximately an hour to extinguish. When firefighters entered the home, they found what Grinnell police describe as a “badly burned body.”

An autopsy was performed Saturday, Aug. 20, by the State Medical Examiner’s Office which has thus far not identified the victim. Grinnell Police are awaiting the results of additional tests that were performed on the body including toxicology results according to Grinnell Police Sgt. Chris Wray who is handling the investigation. The results from the additional tests could take up to several weeks or months to get back from the State Medical Examiners Office, according to Wray.

The preliminary results of the autopsy do not suggest any signs of foul play pertaining to the cause and manner of the victim’s death, Wray said. The cause of this fire is still undetermined according to Wray who notes that the investigation completed at the scene of the fire indicates that this fire was not suspicious in nature.

Grinnell Police continue to work closely with the State Fire Marshal’s Office, the Grinnell Fire Department and the State Medical Examiners Office on this investigation.

16 Grinnell firefighters battled the early morning blaze, joined a little after 7 a.m. by the Gilman Fire Department which stands by at Grinnell fire scenes in case a rescue of firefighters is necessary. The Gilman firefighters were released at about 7:45 when the blaze itself was out, and several Grinnell fire trucks returned to the Grinnell fire station around 8:30 a.m. Another truck was released from the scene at around 10:40, and the final truck left the scene at 1:30 p.m.