

2008 GRADUATING CLASS - From left to right, Montana Rhymes, Blanca Ponce, Colleen Shrader, Lincoln Pochop, Lamar Adams Taylor Leibbrandt, Josh Garner, Sam Hengen, Christopher Basnett, Kaedra Dixon, Mindy Antholz and Vanessa Antholz. Not pictured, Weston Ribeau.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Graduates living in the moment



By Linda Schneider
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On Saturday, the Cheylin School gymnasium filled up quickly with family and friends of the 2008 high school graduates.

The ceremony started with the 13 graduates-to-be filing in and taking their seats at the front of the stadium. Colleen Shrader welcomed everyone to their graduation ceremony and Mindy Antholz lead in prayer.

Vanessa Antholz presented recognition of citizenship to Blanca Ponce, who came to Kansas with her family as a fifth grader. Miss Ponce led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"My Wish for You" was sung by Kaedra Dixon, followed by the presentation of the Ben Brogan Memorial Athletic Scholarship by Keri Riener. Lincoln Pochop received the basketball scholarship and Sam Hengen received the football scholarship.

Anita Burton, school counselor, announced this year, \$95,750 in local awards and scholarships were given out to the senior class.

A slideshow was shown of the seniors. The pictures spanned the lives of each graduate. Family and

friends watch as photos flashed baby pictures, school pictures, and everything in between. Finally, the last photo was a picture of them now.

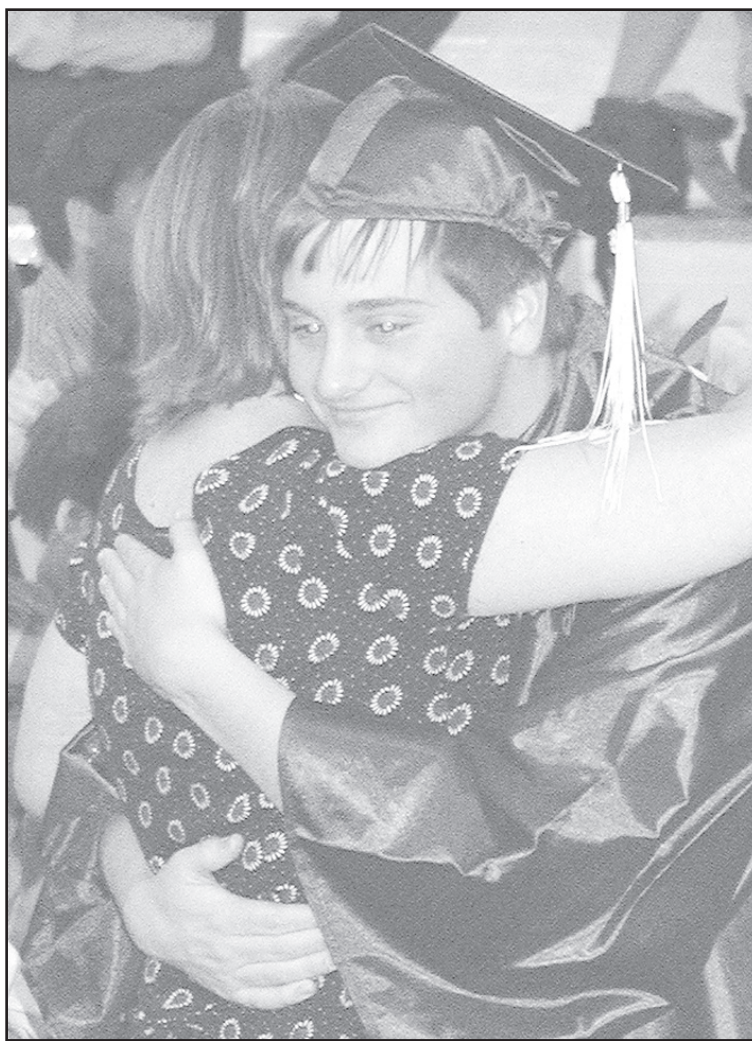
Superintendent David Zumbahlen presented the class and the diplomas were presented were given out by Hal Antholz and Lori Janicke.

The graduating class of 2008 was Lamar Adams, Mindy Antholz, Vanessa Antholz, Christopher Basnett, Kaedra Dixon, Joshua Garner, Samuel Hengen, Taylor Leibbrandt, Lincoln Pochop, Blanca Ponce, Montana Rhymes, Weston Ribeau and Colleen Shrader.

After all the diplomas were presented, the program continued with a vocal performance by the graduates and a message from Kaedra to her classmates.

It was a message of excitement of finally graduating and moving on to their future destinations. It was also a message of sadness of leaving and thanking their parents for all the sacrifices they have made.

Kaedra spoke of the realization of knowing that they have been watched and not just by their parents and teachers, but by younger



students. And the example they have made and the examples future senior classes will make.

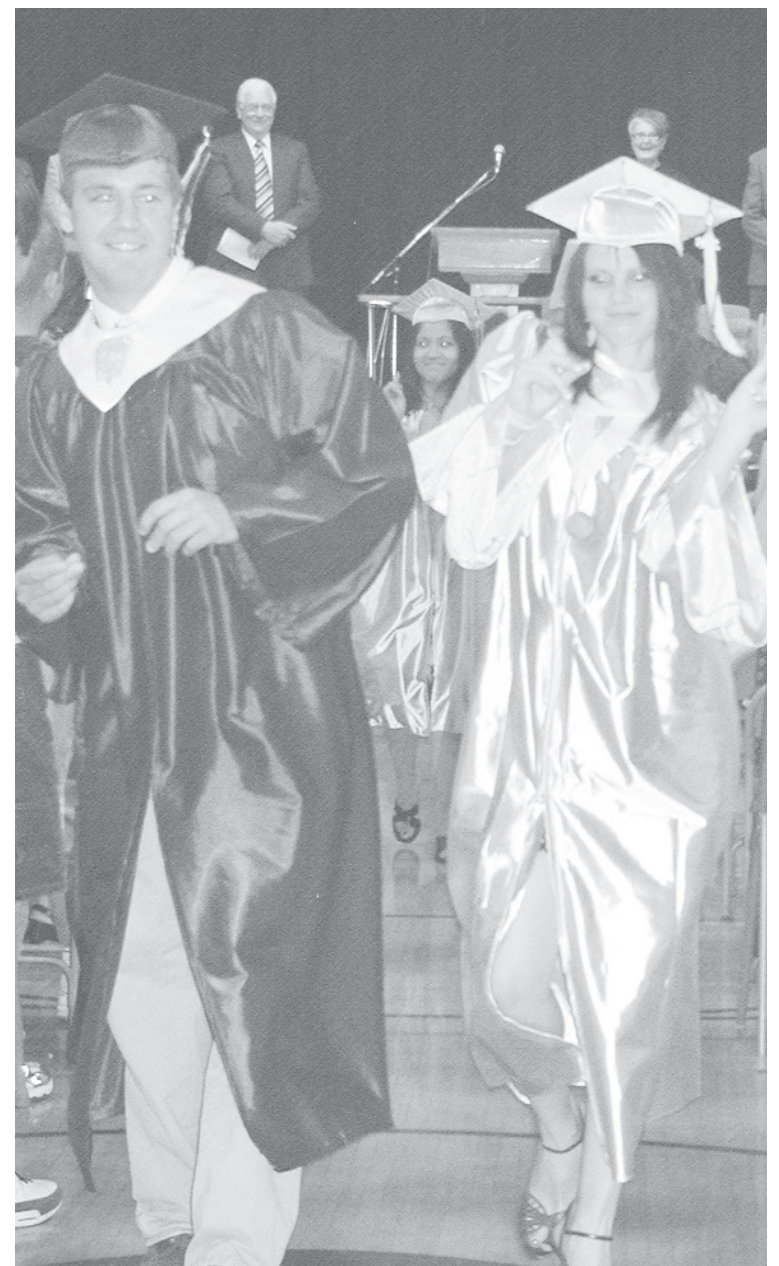
The graduates then made a special presentation to their parents by giving them a flower and receiving their first congratulations from them.

Lincoln closed the program with the farewell speech he wrote in Abby Dixon's junior class. It included a poem that wrapped it all together, "We were there, we are here. As we

have grown together, we shall not grow apart. The day is today that we become adults; the day is now that we forget about our faults."

As the graduates filed out of the gymnasium for the last time as a Cheylin student there were cheers and tears, and the ever-popular victory dancing.

The graduating class of 2008 fulfilled their motto "Each moment is a place you've never been. Live with intention."



DURING THE CEREMONY, left, Taylor Leibbrandt receives first congratulations from his mother, Sarah Clogston Above, Lincoln Pochop and Kaedra Dixon celebrate with a victory dance as they file out to the reception line.
Times staff photos by Linda Schneider

Eighth graders promoted

By Linda Schneider
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The Cheylin eighth grade promotions held Monday evening was an opportunity for the Bird City community to celebrate with the 12 students what they have accomplished thus far.

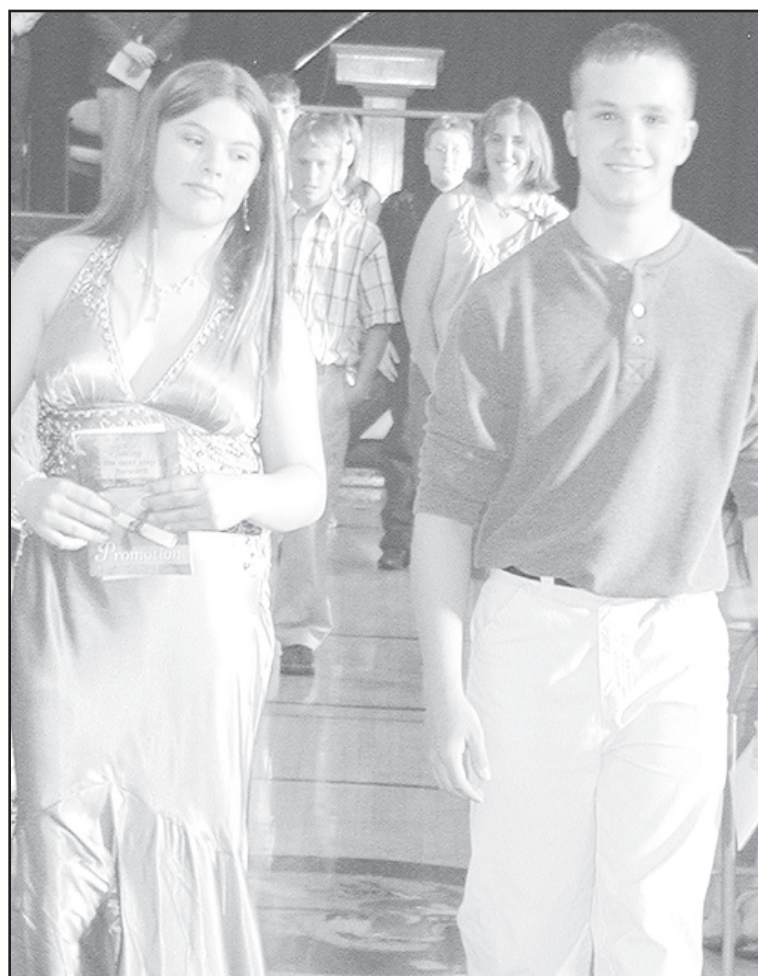


Wil Orten presented the traditional Key of Knowledge to seventh grader Adam Orten. Both students were selected by the eighth grade class and represent the passing of leadership to the incoming eighth graders.

The presentation of the Kansas State High School Athletic Association Citizenship Award was given to the students who demonstrated integrity, leadership qualities and outstanding respect for their peers, teachers, community and country. The awards went to Forrest Burr and Roberto Ponce.

Superintendent David Zumbahlen spoke to the students and their parents to congratulate and to say it is only the beginning of what lies ahead for them.

"This is the first of many life events you should pause and reflect on where you have been and where you are going," said



IT WAS ALL SMILES for Kayla Statley and Dalton Magnani as they joined their classmates for refreshments following the ceremony.
Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Superintendent Zumbahlen.

He continued with the ceremony by introducing the students for accepting their diplomas and Rod Young presented them.

The students who received promotion were Clint Burns, Forrest Burr, Dalton Magnani, Fernando Muniz, Cintia Navarro, Wilhelm Orten, Roberto

Ponce, Iliana Reynoso, Cory Rucker, Kayla Statley, Jeremiah White and Ethan Young.

Their class motto is "Live like you will die tomorrow. Dream like you will live forever."

A reception followed the ceremony with refreshments provided and served by the seventh and eighth grade parents.

Flags raised for fallen vets

Memorial Day is a reminder of what a great country this is and the men and women who made it great by giving their lives to keep it that way.

America, free to live in any manner, free to work, free to worship, freedom of speak is a privilege made possible by great defenders, patriots who will join present veterans, the citizens of this great country who have served so valiantly and made this country "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

"We are there to liberate them, to give them the freedoms that we enjoy here in the United States," said a present Iraq veteran.

"My country needed me. I think it was a calling for a lot of us that were looking for a purpose in our lives. If there's been anything that's given me purpose, it's been that," said another present veteran.

In honor of our local veterans, the flags of Clarence Busse and Louis Gipe will be flown for the first time. The flags of Harold Cress, Wayne Johnson, LeRoy Welch and Fred Schoff are pending on family choice of whether they will grant the American Legion the privilege of taking care of their flags and flying them as their turn comes. So, although all veterans are honored, only a

limited number are flown and this year the following will be Layle Bowers, Frank Gilbraith, Harvey Boyington, Darrell Childers, James Hickert, Eugene Gilliland, Merle Burr, Robert Cousine, Chas. Kenneth Jones, Roy Davis, Francis Kilmer, Lyle Seymour, Robert Sweazy, Rosco Shay, John Howland, George Diekhoff, Willis Tracy, Ervin Hopp, Guy Allen, Clifford Lynn Burr, Shirley Leathers, Curtis Cormack, Jr., William Elliott, Roy Allen, Raymond Sawyer, Elmer Beeson, Saul Runyan, Lyle Burr, Paul Bock. Heartfelt thanks for doing your part to keep America safe and great.

Buddy Poppy supports vets

With Memorial Day quickly approaching, patriotism and remembrance of the fallen take on many forms, whether celebrating by flying the flag, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, singing the National Anthem, placing flowers on graves or saying a simple prayer. But consider the "Buddy Poppy" as a form of patriotism, remembrance or support. And what is the Buddy Poppy and what does it represent?

The history of the poppy began following World War I. Inspired by Colonel John McCrae's Poem, "In Flanders Field" which speaks of poppies growing in an allied graveyard between the crosses, row on row. The small red flower was symbolic of the blood shed in World

War I by millions of allied soldiers in defense of freedom.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars was the first organization to adopt the poppy as a way to help veterans and their families. Beginning in 1924, the organization promoted the idea of encouraging disabled, needy and aged veterans, as a form of rehabilitation, to assemble the Buddy Poppies for distribution and sale.

It was from these early disabled poppy makers that the name, which would be the flower's trademark, came. The name just "grew" out of the poppy makers' remembrances of their buddies who never came back from war.

The organization adheres to its slogan "Honor the Dead by Helping

the Living" by devoting all funds collected from the annual sale of poppies exclusively to veteran rehabilitation and service work.

For more than 75 years, the poppy program has raised millions of dollars in support of veterans' welfare and the well being of their dependents.

Whether people agree, disagree or don't care about the past conflicts of war or the policies of the national government in current conflicts, support for ones country by the remembrance for those who have fallen, is most importantly shown by a love of one's country, a connection to the land and people, including its customs, traditions, pride in its history and devotion to welfare.