



**TYLER MILLER EMBRACES** a family member during the Cheylin graduation ceremony held Saturday. *Times staff photos by Linda Schneider*



**TIA SAGER (LEFT) AND NIKKI JOHNSON** are all smiles as they carry their diplomas and the graduation ceremony comes to an end. Now on to the party!

## Cheylin graduates shine for ceremony

By Linda Schneider  
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Last Saturday, families and friends filled the Cheylin high school gymnasium to celebrate the graduation of the class 2009.

It was their day to shine. Eleven senior classmates walked up to the gymnasium stage for the last time as Cheylin students to receive their diplomas.

Before the diplomas were given out, Anita Burton, school counselor, announced the local awards and scholarships.

"This year, over \$92,350 in scholarships were awarded to these seniors," said Mrs. Burton.

Debra Banister received the Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship and Dane G. Hansen Scholarship.

Sydney Busse received the Cheyenne County Young Miss Scholarship, West Kansas Lib-

erty League All League Academic Team, National Merit Finalist, Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship, Baylor University Presidential Scholarship, Dane G. Hansen Scholarship, Phi Delta Kappa, K-State Foundation Scholarship and St. Johns Lutheran Church Scholarship.

Jayden Cahoj received the Sterling College Scholarship, Dodge City Jayhawk Scholarship, Kansas Board of Regents Scholarship and Dane G. Hansen Scholarship.

Nikki Johnson received the Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship and Cheyenne County Young Miss Scholarship.

Jay Keithline received the Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship, Dane G. Hansen Scholarship, Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Senate, Northwest Kansas Technical College Endowment Scholarship,

Northwest Kansas Technical College Gaylord Wright Scholarship, and Northwest Kansas Technical College Roy Gwin Scholarship.

Tyler Miller received the Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship.

Justin Miller received the James A. Todd Memorial Scholarship, Fort Hays State University Academic Opportunity Award Scholarship, Fort Hays State University Achievement Award, Hays City Silver Award, Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship, and Cheyenne County Knights of Columbus.

Tia Sager received the Dane G. Hansen Scholarship, Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship, Sterling Alumni Scholarship, and Sterling Volleyball Scholarship.

Amanda Walden received the Dane G. Hansen Scholarship, Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship, Cheyenne County

theran Church Scholarship. Following the awards and scholarships, the attendees watched a slide show of the seniors as they were growing up from babyhood to the present. Nikki put the slide show to music and it was enjoyed by everyone.

Jacob White received the People State Bank of McDonald Scholarship, Northwest Kansas Technical College Endowment Scholarship, Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship, and St. Johns Lu-

theran Church Scholarship.

After the presentation of the diplomas, Sydney gave the senior class message. It was full of memories made and memories to be made. This graduation was

just one step in the "next step of our lives."

The graduates continued the ceremony by giving flowers and hugs to their parents. Amanda gave the farewell message.

"We all have different personalities, and yet we have gotten along pretty well," said Amanda. "Each one of us contributed something special."

The graduates continued the celebration at the Bird City American Legion hall.

## 'Lest We Forget' Memorial Day proclamation

"The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country and during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but post, and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit."

This proclamation by Retired Major General Jonathan A. Logan brought together the northern and southern states and some form of ceremony has been held on the last day of May to pay respect to the men and women who have died in wars or in service to their country. But, in 1971, President Richard Nixon declared Memorial Day a federal holiday on the last Monday of May, which this year will be the 25th of May.

From the time the first Memorial Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery till today approximately 5,000 people attend. Then, as now, small American flags were placed at each grave—a tradition followed at most national

and local cemeteries today. This year John and Hollis DaPron will be placing 157 small American flags at the Bird City Cemetery.

Memorial Day is not limited to honor only those Americans from the armed forces. It is also a day for personal remembrance. Families and individuals honor the memories of their loved ones who have died. Church services, visits to the cemetery, flowers on graves or even silent tribute mark the day with dignity and solemnity. It is a day of reflection. It is a time for veterans and their families to teach their children and especially their grandchildren the great sacrifices that have been made for them to live in the "land of the free and the home of the brave."

Flags of the following honored veterans that will be flying this year: Robert Runyan, Toy Troutt, Rhesa R. Walden, Francis E. Hansen, J.C. Gleason, Albert R. Cormack, Emmett H. DeHoff, Charles Irl Elliott, Larry O. Stebbins, Keith L. Bowers, Charles E. "Bud" Jones, Rev. Charles Miller, George Kruse, Erwin Kuhlmann, Deloss Thompson, Leo Wilkens, Maynard Carstens, Mary M. (Patton) Kingan, Francis Garner, Floyd Pyle,



James I. Ward, Amil Stunkel, Gerald "Bud" Versch, Merlin Kuhlman, Clyde Wray, Renner Forbes, Lee Beeson, Clinton Munn, William Burr, Robert Sager, Wayne "Tom" Sawyer, Darrel E. Nelsen, Harold Nelsen, Walde Hempler, Marvin Lee Dowdy, Otto Lillich, Martin Busse, Russell Childers, Clarence Busse, Weaver Johnson, Ralph Weaver and Edward J. Byers.

"Thanks for allowing me to live in the country you helped keep safe from enemies," said Hulda Dorsch, American Legion Auxiliary co-chairman.



**IT IS A DIRTY JOB.** Pamela Stevens (left), worker, and Brad Schneider, city maintenance, are teaming up to give the Bird City public swimming pool a new look. The pool is scheduled to open on Memorial weekend. Above, they are cleaning up the debris at the bottom of the pool and the poolhouse is getting a new water heater and a fresh coat of paint.

*Times staff photo by Linda Schneider*