

Cheylin seniors bid farewell

Eleven Cheylin seniors graduated at the Commencement ceremony, held in the Cheylin gym at 11 a.m. on Saturday. As the band played the processional, students came in double file and separated to the chairs lined up in the front. Bruce Bolen, Superintendent, Anita Burton, Counselor, and School Board members were on the stage.

The chairs and bleachers were filled with parents, relatives and friends, and the weather was perfect.

The Invocation was delivered by Heath Churchwell. Class President Nakita Schneider and Vice-President Ruben Razo gave the Welcome.

Bruce Bolen introduced Adam Orten, Salutatorian, whose words of advice on procrastination were directed to the graduates. He said, "Don't do as I did in putting off writing my speech until Friday evening." Mr. Bolen mentioned that the title of Adam's speech, which was in bold capital letters as well as underlined, was "The Best Graduation Speech Ever."

Stephanie Busse and Kenan Reeh were Valedictorians. The words of advice Ms. Busse had for her fellow classmates were, "Let's go kick some Honey Buns!" Kenan Reeh pointed out that the majority of the 2013 class had gone through 13 years of school together. "Don't let it be the end of the story", he said, "Let it be the beginning".

Counselor Anita Burton handed out the scholarships. She received a standing ovation in recognition of her 36 years with Cheylin Schools, including 13 years in the capacity of Counselor. Many thankful students entered their new life adventures of college and fields of specialty under her direction and mentoring.

This was Mr. Bolen's last graduation to participate in as well. He said in the 23 years of serving in administration, he has enjoyed working with the Cheylin students, faculty, parents, and board members the most. "I was thinking of retiring a year early last year", he said, "but when the word got out, Nakita

Schneider and Jessie Smith cornered me one day, saying "We need to have a talk." They sat down and chatted, and they asked him who would replace him. "I don't know", he said, "but probably some big handsome hunk of a man." "We don't want that", they said, "We want you!" That is one of the reasons I am still here today, he said. I will miss every one of you, but I am looking forward to a new adventure in my life.

Instead of a special speaker, the class put together a touching slide show presentation with pictures of each student from their childhood days to the present.

Cathy Domsch then made the Century II presentation. She approached the stage with a shiny black mail box with a red flag. She asked Mr. Bolen to hold it while she encouraged students to keep in contact with the Cheylin community and hopefully consider moving back to live and work in the Bird City and McDonald communities.

The center of the stage contained two huge bouquets of yellow roses, containing 11 roses each. Each of the graduates took a rose from a bouquet and presented it to their mothers, along with hugs for their parents. The second bouquet was given to their class sponsors, Rose and Dennis Hengen.

Jessie Smith gave the farewell speech. Janice Busse, Eric Churchwell, and Don Orten presented the diplomas to each graduate as their names were called. Mr. Bolen then gave them permission to move their tassels, and presented the class of 2013 to the audience.

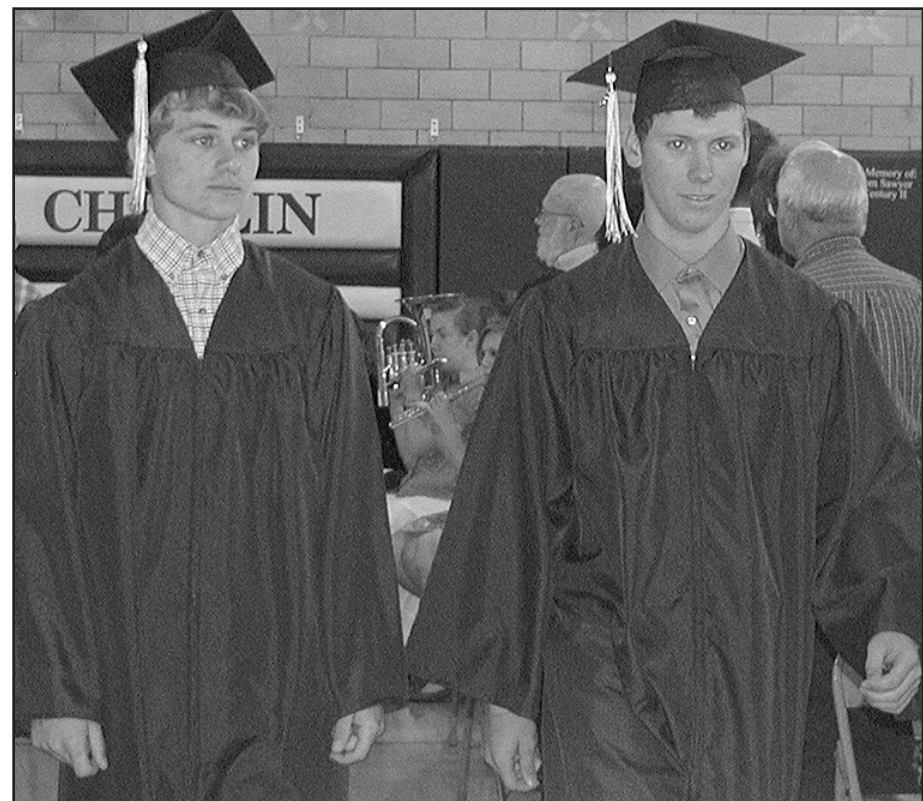
The 2013 class flower was the Lily, and their colors were navy, blue and yellow. The motto was, "You only live once, so live life to the fullest."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, "Circle of Life" was played as the graduates left the gymnasium. The graduates then received greetings and congratulations from family and friends.



JOSH KELTZ gives Mom (Denise) a hug after presenting her with a rose. Dad, Max, looks on. Cheylin graduation was held Saturday in the high school gym.

Times staff photos by Norma Martinez



NAKITA SCHNEIDER and Jessie Smith, left, are making their final band performance before moving on to college band. Above, Austin Cobb and Grant Shrader had a serious look on their faces as they walked down the aisle.

City council hires new clerk

By Norma Martinez

After serving as the Bird City Clerk for four years DeAnza Ambrosier started training Ailysa Blair for her position on April 29, and formally relinquished it to her on May 7.

Mrs. Blair's first appearance during the Monday board meeting showed her to be very organized and proficient in her position of serving her community in the capacity as city clerk. She only made one little mistake which she cheerfully apologized for and said, "Sorry, I am still new at this!"

Ailysa is not new to the community as she is a fifth-generation resident. Her grandmother is Alila Carpenter and her parents are Steve and Lane Carpenter. She has a sister, Andrea, who also graduated from Cheylin and presently lives in Colby. Ailysa recently married Anthony Blair, the physical

education teacher for Cheylin School.

Mrs. Blair graduated from Cheylin in 2005. She left her job at Goodland Regional Medical Center where she worked in coding and billing for five years for the position of city clerk.

Mrs. Blair said she is looking forward to working in her home town and being a part of serving the community that she grew up in. If you don't know her, stop by city hall and meet her.

Mrs. Ambrosier said she has enjoyed her years of serving the community in her capacity as city clerk and having the opportunity to meet the new residents of Bird City. Being one who wanted to get into the "ins and outs" of a problem presented in the mechanics and operation of water works, meter readers and other functions of the city, she said she will miss that ongoing learning process. She doesn't plan to sit

still and already has plans for opening a pre-owned furniture and decor shop.

The last week of May will be a new adventure for DeAnza as she is going with Dan and Dianna Carson, Darci Schields, Nakita Schneider, Casey Vandike, Shayla Hubbard and Austin Cobb on a missionary project to Haiti. This will be her first trip outside of the center of the United States, and she said she is anxious to see the ocean for the first time. I'm not looking forward to the flight out of Denver as we leave at 3 a.m., she said, but adventure has always been in my blood. I am looking forward to seeing a new culture, help with the Jesus Film that is being shown and learning a new language.

Mrs. Ambrosier will also be filling in for Mrs. Blair when she needs time off.



AILYSA BLAIR, new city clerk, takes minutes at the last city council meeting. She is taking the place of DeAnza Ambrosier.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez