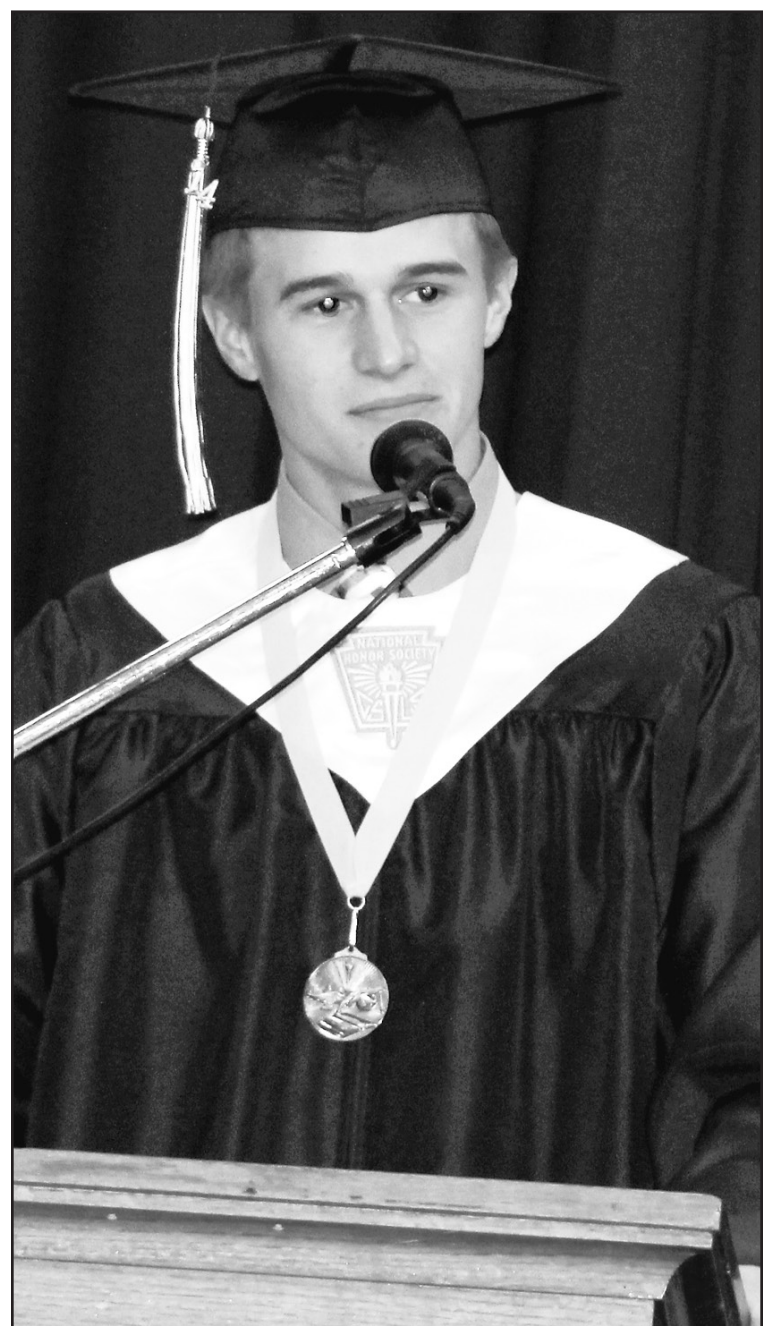




SUSANNAH JONES hugs her father, Greg Jones, during the Cheylin Commencement ceremony held at the gym last Saturday. On the right, Ty Carmichael, the salutatorian, received special recognition for the scholarships he received.



Times staff photos by Norma Martinez

Cheylin seniors celebrate graduation

By Norma Martinez
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Last Saturday's class of 2014 Cheylin seniors went off without a glitch except for the wind and misty rain that put a damper on a lot of planned barbecue parties to celebrate. The Cheylin gym was almost full with parents, siblings, aunts and uncles, other relatives, close friends; faculty and town supporters in attendance to see the class of four females and eight males receive their diplomas.

As the band played the recession everyone stood as the junior escorts Allie Frisbie and Jacob Brubaker entered the gym. The class colors were columbia and navy blue so Rocio Flores, Shayla Hubbard, Susannah Jones and Elizabeth Pochop were wearing columbia blue gowns, hats

and blue and white tassels. Blaine Burns, Ty Carmichael, Matyas Cimbulka, Eddie Frisbie, Connor Hazuka, Walker Janicke, Russell Porubsky and Casey Vandike wore navy blue gowns and hats.

Ty Carmichael and Walker Janicke wore the white stoles as representatives of the National Honor Society, Gold ribbon with a silver medal representing the two students graduating with high honors for having a 3.75 average.

Susannah Jones gave the invocation and Shayla Hubbard welcomed everyone with her welcome speech. Superintendent Shelly Angelos introduced and gave trophies to Ty Carmichael and Walker Janicke as the valedictorian.

Scholarships went to: Blaine Burns who received the Pete Hen-

ry Foundation Scholarship; Mrs. Angelos was able to keep a secret the fact that Burns received special recognition for receiving the largest number of scholarships as he also won several small scholarships towards going to diesel mechanics school in the fall.

Ty Carmichael also received special recognition as he received scholarships towards going to diesel mechanics school in the fall. Ty Carmichael also received special recognition as he received scholarships towards going to diesel mechanics school in the fall. Ty Carmichael also received special recognition as he received scholarships towards going to diesel mechanics school in the fall.

Connor Hazuka received a Fort Hays State University Bronze Scholarship and the Agriculture Scholarship.

Shayla Hubbard received the

Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship, the Kansas West University Residence Hall Award, and the KWU Pioneer/Activity Scholarship.

Walker Janicke received a Ottawa University Taury Jones Scholarship, Ottawa University Biology Departmental Award, Dane G. Hansen Scholarship, and the Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship. His goal is to become a doctor.

Ellie Pochop received a Pete Henry Foundation Scholarship and BranchWO74 FCSLA scholarship.

Matyas Cimbulka came to Cheylin to graduate as a foreign exchange student from The Czech Republic. He exchanged his country flag for an American flag that was presented to him by Ellie Pochop. Michael and Deb Pochop

were his foreign exchange parents.

With the assistance of Susan Jensen, the class prepared a slide presentation that was put together as movie theater strips. Some photos were funny, serious and presented the stages of growth and their family well.

Cathy Domsch from Century II asked Nick Ketzner to hold her black mailbox with the red flag as she presented the students with a challenge 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 class flower was the white gerber daisy and at the center of the stage floor was a vase with 12 daisy flowers which the graduates presented to their parents with

hugs and a few tears in appreciation of their support throughout their years in school.

Connor Hazuka gave the farewell speech that focused around the class motto "Blaze Your Own Trail." Thanks were given to their class sponsors Abbi Dixon and Kevin Dixon.

After Shelly Angelos presented the class of 2014, Wade Carmichael, David Frisbie, Lori Janicke, Dale Hazuka and Anita Pochop presented the graduates with what they had all been waiting for - the diplomas which they spent 13 years of hard work to earn. They are now ready to focus on redirecting their lives toward fulfilling their lifetime dreams and continue their own trails in life.

School district gets tech savvy

Cheylin Schools would like to make the public aware of their updated technology initiative beginning in the fall of 2014. A technology committee of students, teachers, staff and community members has been busy developing plans for the district. After a couple of years of use and testing, the committee wanted to expand smart board use. The plan is to add five additional smart boards. The schools will now be equipped with smart boards in kindergarten through sixth grade as well as two classrooms in the high school.

In addition, the school board has approved to move forward with Google for Education. This program allows kindergarten through grade 12 schools to utilize Google Apps for free. It includes email hosting as well as the use of apps like Docs, Sheets and Presentations. The use of these applications will result in significant savings to the district, while still preparing the students for the business world.

Along with Google Apps, the board has approved a 1 to 1 initiative for seventh through 12th grades using Google Chromebooks. The school technology committee analyzed several platforms to use with the 1 to 1 initiative, and decided on the Google product over Microsoft and Apple. Besides the cost savings the Chromebooks offer, they will allow the students easy use of Google Apps from anywhere, with or without internet connection. The students will now have the ability to work on their homework from anywhere, anytime!

Together, the Google Apps and the Chromebooks will allow the district to move toward going paperless. This movement will result in great savings on paper, ink, toner, and printer repair. To help lead the way, the school board has decided to go paperless beginning in July 2014. No longer will they each have 20 or 30 page packets of information each month. Instead, they will receive and review all of this information electronically.

Top help students and staff move forward with the initiative, there will be many training sessions. A meeting is scheduled with the students in May to discuss the new initiative and address questions and concerns. Teachers and staff also have a two-day training scheduled for the end of May.

At the beginning of next school year, a meeting for parents and students will be held. The Cheylin

Chromebook Policy and expectations will be discussed in detail prior to students receiving their chromebooks. The plan for the 2014-2015 school year is for ninth through 12th grade students to carry their device with them and take it home for use. This will require greater responsibility by the students, but the board trusts our students are up to the task. To help realize their new responsibility, there will be a \$50 technology fee per student each year. The school will offset this fee by adjusting other fees that students have had to pay in the past. Chromebooks for seventh and eighth grade students will be kept at school.

After graduation from Cheylin, each student will have the opportunity to keep their personal chromebook. A depreciation schedule is set up, and the student will just have to pay the remainder of the balance for their device. At the most, it would cost the student an additional \$150 to buy the device that originally cost the district over \$300.

The initial investment in this project will cost the district about \$44,000. The school has held several fundraising events over the last year to help cover these costs. Over \$23,000 of the cost will be covered by these events. The remaining balance will be paid for using Capital Outlay money. The superintendent and board believe that the school has already taxed its community members to receive the capital outlay money and it should be used to move the district forward. The district will still have plenty of reserve capital outlay money to cover any unexpected major expenses in the future.

Going forward, the district plans to expand the Chromebook initiative into the grade school and replace all of the Microsoft laptops with Chromebooks. In the end, the school will have a 1 to 1 device ratio from fourth through 12th grades, as well as a cart to be shared by kindergarten through third. It is expected to take three years to reach the end goal.

Many school districts across our state and country are moving in similar directions with their technology. Cheylin Schools is helping lead that movement as it works to best prepare our students for the future. There have been several much larger school districts looking at Cheylin for help and direction in developing their own plans!



CESAR NAVARRETE turns in his assignment to Janice Churchwell. Cheylin student's last day of school is Thursday, May 22.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez



Bird City Rural High School Alumni Banquet

Saturday, May 24
Legion Hall
6 p.m.
Wear red and white