



Lined up and ready to enter Stull Gymnasium for the last time, the Class of 2007 posed for the camera. (More photos of graduation on page 8) — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# 'The Valley' walks 16 across the stage

By **VERONICA MONIER**  
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Sixteen Northern Valley seniors walked across the stage to receive their diplomas during graduation ceremonies Saturday afternoon.

After Kirk Kasson gave the opening prayer, Almena resident and assistant football coach Abner Williams gave his senior recognition.

Reading the name of each graduate, Mr. Williams told what made them special to their class and to himself and gave them advice on how to be the best people they could be. He also recognized the parents, guardians, grandparents, teachers, school staff, board of education, and clergy for their part in making each graduate what they were.

"You're high-impact educators," he said. "Had it not been for all of the people standing, these students would not be here today."

Commencement addresses were given by seniors Jessica Wenzl, Jessica Holmes and Jena Jessup.

Jessica Wenzl started by talking about the memories the class of 2007 had made together over the years and then spoke of the future.

"Remember the pride you felt for it is a part of you," she said. "...We are the class of 2007... We have left our mark on Northern Valley and now it is time to do it to the world..."

Jessica Holmes said they started their senior year saying they couldn't "wait to get out of here" and now that it's graduation day, they couldn't believe it was over. She said Northern Valley had taught them each a lot, including pride, integrity, sportsmanship and tradition.

At the close of her speech, Miss Holmes recognized the two members of the senior class who couldn't walk across the stage with them — Elise Hadley and Caleb Turman. Both would be receiving diplomas though.

Jena Jessup read a couple of quotes, including one that said you should laugh, think and cry everyday.

"If you do all three, you'll be having a heck of a day," she said.

Miss Jessup said graduation was an opportunity for all of the senior

and they should each make something of it and the challenges it will bring.

Teacher and coach Staci Montgomery read a poem about "the lasts" that graduates face.

A parent recognition was held and the senior slide-show watched.

High school counselor Monica Wilson said with 3.9 grade-point-averages, the co-salutatorians were Jessica Holmes and Ashley Kingham, while both Andrea Lowry and Abigail Ponstein were the co-valedictorians with 4.0 grade-point-averages.

Superintendent Bill Lowry thanked the Board of Education, parents and Northern Valley staff. He also thanked and congratulated the class of 2007 and said his years at the school have been wonderful.

"I'm very proud of you," he said. "I want to thank and congratulate you on your efforts and accomplishments over the past 13 years... I wish you all the best of luck."

Mr. Lowry recognized retiring staff Joyce Schemper and Roger and Karen Shearer.

Before calling the class forward, Principal Lonnie Brungardt told them, "expect the best from yourself and keep your expectations high... If you can do that, you can do anything."

Board member Drake Gebhard and Mr. Lowry presented the diplomas, while Mrs. Wilson announced what scholarships each graduate earned and what their future plans were.

The graduating class of 2007 was Kelli Cole, Maxine Counter, Cameron Duede, Henry Griffiths, Jessica Holmes, Jena Jessup, Jessica King, Ashley Kingham, Andrea Lowry, Change Miller, Chase Miller, Melody Miller, Abigail Ponstein, Jessie Redeker, Thomas Siard, and Jessica Wenzl.

Mr. Kasson gave the closing prayer.

## Fifty-eight seniors graduate from Norton

By **CAROLYN PLOTTS**  
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With the honor guard of Sara Lentz, Courtney Cox, Lacy Ellis and Alex Thomas leading the way, the Norton Community High School graduating class of 2007 entered Stull Gymnasium for the last time on Sunday.

The school band, under the direction of David Will, played the familiar "Pomp and Circumstance" as the candidates for graduation filed in, pacing and spacing themselves in time with the music. With the faculty and administrators lined in front of the stage, the students took their seats in the risers behind them.

Class president Kayleigh Brooks welcomed everyone and gave the invocation.

As a representative of her class, Annette Becker spoke to her classmates about how the stage is set. She said in high school, students sometimes play parts. She said a kid who wears black and keeps to himself may be labeled a "goth", while that may not be who he is at all.

Miss Becker challenged every person to try their hardest to get to know people they have opinions about. She challenged her classmates to be true to themselves. She urged them to not play the part high school drama assigned to them; to give others a chance to do

the same; and to listen to what they say. She said to decide who people are by their words and actions, not by superficial observations.

Following Miss Becker the school choir, led by vocal instructor Valerie Lee, sang "Breakaway" by Avril Lavigne.

Also representing his class was Jared Engelbert. His message was "Memories: The Test of Time". He shared how he felt the first time he heard his class referred to as the Class of 2007. He was a fourth grader and 2007 seemed far away.

Jared recalled his first day of kindergarten and seeing tears on Nic Lewis' face as his mother left him in the classroom. He said memories are an important part of our lives. The best ones are made when we are around the people we care about the most. He said that was why the Class of 2007 has so many great memories together.

He said our memories are unique because everyone remembers things a bit differently. Some memories are shared like school dances, homecoming floats and eating lunch together.

He said he had learned that, individually, each of his classmates had different talents, but that everyone can do something. Collectively, as a class, they made a good team. He said he was proud to be part of this class and grateful for the opportunity to have made

memories with such an amazing group of people.

He told his classmates that graduation day was a huge milestone in their lives; the moment they have been striving toward for many years. It is a special moment. But, tomorrow, this moment will simply be a memory. He urged his classmates not to wait until then to realize the true value of this moment. Take it all in right now.

Following Mr. Engelbert, the school band played "Awakening Hills" by Richard L. Saucoco.

As high school principal Rudy Perez called the names, superintendent of schools Greg Mann handed each graduate their diplomas and shook their hand. After the entire class had received their diplomas, the new graduates, in unison, moved the tassels on their mortar boards from the right side to the left side. It was now official. They had graduated.

After the solemnity of the ceremony, the Silly String came out of hiding and the air above the graduating class was filled with the rubbery web. And, then the class linked arms and sang, for the last time as one, the Alma Mater.

Members of the 2007 graduating class are: Sandra Patricia Almaraz, Lucas Alan Bailey, Morgan Elaine Bailey, Jared Lane Bebb, Annette Marie Becker, Nathan James Broeckelman,

Kayleigh Jo Brooks, Charles Michael Brown, Patrick Lynn Burton, Georgina Ray Cook, Tiresa Ann Counter, Aaron David Daniels, Christopher Nathaniel Davis, Laura Jane Elizabeth Delimont, Jordan Kyle Durham, Jennifer Nicole Eagleburger, Chelsey Diane Eberle, Jessica Lea Ebner, Matthew Joseph Engel, Jared Alan Engelbert, Rachael Elizabeth Engelsman, Brianna Catherine Felton, Alex Drew Hageman, Dana Lynn Hillebrand, Lisa Renae Jones, Brian Lee Juenemann, Christopher Eugene Kaiser, Morgan Anne Kauten, Logan Daniel Keiswetter, Lynnette Aloha Lee, Nicholas Ray Lewis, Kent James Mann, Shane Louis Mapes, Tiffany Marie Marx, Hannah Kay Mills, Ashley Nicole Milner, Gena Lee Myers, Brianna Renee Nelson, Maggie Lynn Nielsen, Nathan Donald Pollock, Jacklyn Rochelle Puent, Brandon Lee Quintana, Amie Leanne Richard, Lacey Marie Roe, Corey William Rutherford, Katelan Denee Ryan, Mark Alan Scheetz, Mathew James Lawrence Shepard, Courtney Michele Smith, Jessica Rae Sprigg, Perrell Shane Stanley II, Brett Michael Thomson, Blake Allen VanEaton, Reese Kay Volgamore, Michael Ross Ward, Blake Aron Wolf, Brett Tyson Wyatt, and Todd Allen Zink.

See photos from Northern Valley's graduation on Page 8

The Norton City/County Economic Development Office, the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Norton County Extension Office will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, May 29 at 7 p.m. in the library community room. The purpose of the meeting will be to brainstorm ideas on a Farmer's Market/Open Air Market within the City of Norton. The goal is to promote our agricultural and hand crafted products in the hopes of bringing increased foot traffic through downtown.

Anyone interested is welcome to attend. For more information contact the Economic Development Office at 874-4816.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Application to change name**

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, April 24, May 1, 22, 2007. (3T) IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS Case No. 2007-CV-12

In the Matter of the Application of **BRETT MICHAEL LANUS**, to Change Name

**NOTICE OF HEARING TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN — GREETING:**

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED** that the above-named Brett Michael Lanus has filed his petition in the above-named Court praying for judgment and decree changing his name to that of "Brett Michael Thomson," and that said

petition will be heard by said Court at the Courthouse on the third floor of the Norton County Courthouse, Norton, Kansas, on the 6th day of June, 2007, at 1:30 o'clock p.m. and you are hereby required to plead to the petition on or before that time. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the petition.

Brett Michael Lanus, Petitioner  
R. Douglas Sebelius #09157  
SEBELIUS & GRIFFITHS, LLP  
105 South Norton Street  
P.O. Box 10  
Norton, Kansas 67654-0010  
(785) 877-5143  
Attorney for Petitioner

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**EMS**

**Come Join the Fun By Helping Us Celebrate EMS Week with an Open House at the Norton County EMS Building**

**MAY 24, 2007**

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

**Come and See the Communities' Emergency Equipment and Personnel**

**ENJOY A FREE MEAL WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY WHILE YOU ARE HERE!**

**ATTENTION NORTON RESIDENTS**

*The City of Norton will flush hydrants on Wednesday, May 23, beginning at 8:00 a.m. (weather permitting)*

*Please refrain from doing laundry on this day*