



Logan senior Valerie Jackson (left) entered the Logan Auditorium Sunday afternoon during the graduation processional. Valerie is the daughter of Bob and Sue Jackson, and she gave the salutatorian address later in the ceremony. A capacity crowd of family, friends and school officials (above) filed out to congratulate the Class of 2004 after graduation.

— Telegram photos by Kristen Brand

# Logan High School sends 19 seniors out into the world

A capacity crowd of family, friends and school personnel witnessed 19 seniors go through commencement exercises in the high school auditorium Sunday afternoon.

Following the processional, played by Vesta Jo Still, students received a welcome from classmate Bailey Sammons.

Senior Megan Clements gave the invocation.

Following a ceremony in which students gave their parents roses, the speaker was introduced by Administrator Bob Jackson.

Social Studies teacher Lonnie Jansonius, Logan High School and 1988 Fort Hays State University graduate, then gave the commencement address entitled "All

you need is a pencil."

Alluding to the line he always uses when surprising his students with a "pop quiz," Mr. Jansonius passed out pencils to each graduate. He used the pencil as a metaphor for the seniors' goals in life.

"Always keep your pencils sharp and do your best in whatever you choose whether it be college, the work force, or the military," he said.

"Don't put those pencils away, even if you don't know what to expect.

"Explorers Lewis and Clark had no idea what to expect, but as they went west they always pro-



Stephanie Ruff

ceeded on, so I tell you Proceed On."

He pointed out that even chewed on pencils are a good sign, because they represent that effort is being made and that an individual is really working on his or her goal.

"So set your goals, and keep pursuing them. Get your work done, and don't put things off. As Willy Wonka said 'Time is your most precious possession, don't waste it.'"

Kansas Citizenship Awards were given to Megan Clements and Kyle McClurg by high school counselor Robin Van Laeys. Mrs. Van Laeys awarded the Charles

and Evah Dougherty Scholarship of \$1,000 to Valerie Jackson.

Receiving their diplomas were Taylor Andrew Archer, Megan Danielle Clements, Robert Dean Cox, Seth Ryan Diggs, Clorisa Marie Fish, Amber Dawn (Houser) Richard, Valerie Christine Jackson, Shawn Lee Kachel, Kyle Wade McClurg, Kelsey Lane Noel, Stephanie Marie Ruff, Bailey Christina Sammons, Carolyn Mary Shank, Samuel Jacob States, Tyler Wayne Thomas, James Royce Tidball, Tyson Eugene Triplett, Eric Scott Van Der Wege and Joell Arlene Yocum.

After honor awards were announced, valedictorian Stephanie Ruff addressed her classmates.

"Remember the first day of kin-

dergarten, when some of us entered the school's doors crying and hanging on to our parents' legs?" she asked.

"Well today as we graduate and leave the school doors, things aren't that different only the roles are reversed.

"I've seen a lot of crying parents unwilling to let go, but at least none have clung to our legs making a scene."

Stephanie reminisced on their classroom days, and reminded her friends to cherish the memories and of their class motto:

"In our future there are no impossibilities."

Salutatorian Valerie Jackson gave a speech entitled "Are you an egg, a carrot, or a coffee bean?"

Valerie told the story of how a mother called her young child into the kitchen after she had boiled an egg, a carrot, and some coffee beans.

"The mother asked her child 'which are you most like?'"

Valerie explained that the mother pointed out to her child that each element faced adversity — boiling water, and each one came out differently.

"I now ask you, how will you face adversity?" she said.

The class viewed a video which chronicled their years in school.

After the benediction, given by senior Kelsey Noel, and recessional, the graduates received congratulations.

## Board hires new band teacher

By KRISTEN BRANDS

The Northern Valley School Board hired a new band teacher during its May 10 meeting.

Norton Community High School and Fort Hays State University graduate Jeremy Wetter has been hired as the instrumental music director for next year.

In other personnel business, George Griffith resigned as the golf coach and gifted mentor.

After a closed session, Mr. Griffith has asked to keep the job of curriculum director at 11 percent of his base salary.

Mr. Griffith showed off the top three student presentations from the high school science fair.

Junior High teacher James Springer reported on the middle school social studies curriculum, suggesting he would like to see more Kansas history taught at lower levels.

He also reported on spelling

bee results and the Greater Northern Educational Conference scholarship contest.

Third-grade teacher Verlaine Schooler showed reports that her students completed in Mrs. Hempler's computer lab. Each student chose two states, finding information on them.

The third graders then learned to transfer, insert and save the information on their computers.

Kindergarten teacher Tammy Vincent presented a power point presentation, which showed pictures from Grandparents' Day.

Members discussed the junior high math curriculum. Algebra I is being taught in eighth grade, in order that students can take more advanced math in high school. Plans for next year are to offer a pre-algebra course along with algebra I.

Recommendations for which class each student will be in will

be made after reviewing Iowa Test of Basic Skills and state assessment test scores.

In other business, the board: • Moved to support students' golf participation, but voted that it will no longer be a school sponsored event.

• Approved classified staff to receive pay rates. The amount will be determined at a later date. This does not include summer help.

• Learned that Administrator Bill Lowry will apply for E-Rate projects including service contracts. The projects will cover paying for an intercom phone system and a wireless system in the grade school to operate laptop computers.

• Heard that board member Kim Jessup has inquired about the Foundation Endowment Fund.

## Extension presents 2005 budget

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County Extension Council would like more money next year and on Monday members took their request to the county commissioners.

Last year the extension asked for \$109,740 for 2004 but the commissioners only authorized \$97,328.

For 2005 the council is requesting \$110,400 but it won't know what the commissioners will OK for several months, not until the budgets are set for the year.

Dan O'Brien, head of the Northwest Kansas Extension Service, and three members of the Norton Extension Council met with the commissioners on Monday and handed in a proposed budget for next year.

The biggest item on the budget is wages and salaries for the extension agent and the multi-county agents, who work for and are paid by several counties.

Mr. O'Brien said that the county is lucky to have Keith VanSki as its agent since he has been here a long time and knows the county and the people.

This year the wages and salaries line of the extension budget is \$69,650. Next year it will be \$68,300.

Last year in order to get down to what the county was willing to pay the council cut budget items such as telephone and travel. One item

that it has never been able to afford, Council Chairman Carol Riemann said is liability insurance for the members.

"We're all putting out personal assets on the line to be on this board," Council member David Davis said.

Commissioner John Miller said that there is some doubt as to whether the council members are covered. He said they might be under the county's general insur-

ance. Mr. O'Brien said that several counties in the area have been looking at consolidating into districts similar to the one that Ottawa and Saline counties are trying to form.

Ms. Riemann, however, said that the members of the Norton Extension Council are not interested in consolidating with any other counties unless it becomes absolutely necessary.

## High prices mean refunds to feds

Kansas producers have welcomed this spring's increase in market prices.

Those with 2003 grain still on hand or in open storage were able to take advantage of the higher prices and if the trend continues, can anticipate good prices for their 2004 crops.

Unfortunately, the increase may have a down side for farmers, who received advance counter-cyclical payments in October and February under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Direct and Counter-cyclical program.

"If effective market prices continue near their current levels, Kansas producers may be required to refund part or all of the \$15.9 million issued for 2003 counter-cyclical payments," said Bill R. Fuller, state executive director for the Kansas Farm Service Agency.

Mr. Fuller said the 2003 advance payments for corn, wheat, sorghum and upland cotton were triggered in October 2003, when projected prices were below target prices set by the 2002 farm bill.

"If the final effective market price for any of these commodities is above the target price," he said, "producers will be required to refund any unearned counter-cyclical payments."

"Counter-cyclical payments serve as a safety net for producers, helping make up the difference between production costs and low market prices."

Whether overpayments exist will not be known until after the end of each crop's 12-month marketing year.

If refunds are required, he said, farmers will have two options. The default option will be to reduce

any program payments received between October and March 2005.

The second option allows producers to write a check to Commodity Credit Corp. for the unearned payments.

Kansas producers received advance payments of 7.7 cents per bushel for corn, 3.15 cents per bushel for wheat and 1.4 cents per bushel for sorghum.

Producers will be receiving letters from the Farm Service Agency this month explaining the two options for refunding any unearned counter-cyclical payments.

Additional information about the 2002 Farm Bill and the Direct and Counter-cyclical program is available at [www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/farmbill/2002CCP\\_100203.htm](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/farmbill/2002CCP_100203.htm).

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