

FAREWELL

Hello everybody. My name is Chase Tolonen, Class of 2017 Valedictorian.

And I am Megan Rice, the Salutatorian.

C: The only reason we are standing in front of you today is because we got good grades. And trust me, if we had known that getting good grades meant speaking in front of hundreds of people, we might've done a few things differently.

M: But here we are, giving a speech we definitely did NOT write last night. And at the grand age of 18, just moments away from receiving our high school diplomas. It seems like the years have just flown by. Parents you're probably wondering where all that time has gone. These past 13 years have been a blur.

C: I think I can speak on behalf of all my fellow graduates when I say that this time couldn't have gone by any faster. But I wouldn't change a thing about my experiences here in Vernonia.

M: Chase and I are among the 21 seniors who have been attending school here in Vernonia since kindergarden. We've grown close together over the past 13 years, and it's hard to think that we all have to go our separate ways.

C: This doesn't have to be a sad thing. When we walk out those doors we will be walking into the next chapter of our lives. Some of us will go to college, some will join the military, others may join the workforce or some may live with their parents forever. I'm not judging! But we all will have one thing in common. We will all have the

honor of being a graduate from Vernonia High School.

M: Not only that, we also have the honor of being the 100th class to graduate. A lot has changed in the past 100 years, the class of 1917 had a total of 2 graduates and high school was only one year instead of four.

C: The world is also a much different place now, back then things were much less expensive. Gasoline was only 15 cents a gallon, a brand new car was \$2,000, and a house was about \$5,000. Things have changed dramatically.

M: This leads us to wonder how things will be in another 100 years. Will there be flying cars? Will someone have found the cure to cancer? Will they still be making Fast and Furious movies? These are things that our future generations have the potential to witness. What will the class of 2017 accomplish? The possibilities are endless. As a whole this class is so diverse, talented, and passionate. If any one of us wants something, there is no doubt in my mind that we have the drive to accomplish whatever we set our sights on.

C: There is a quote from Pat Riley, owner of the Miami Heat that says, "Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better," and this class is the embodiment of that quote. No matter what, we always want more out of ourselves, we always do whatever it takes and then some. This class IS excellent.

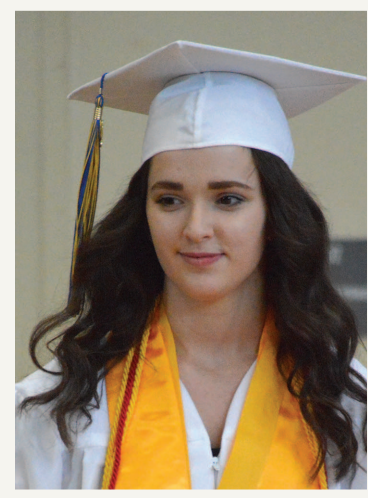
M: We all have the ability to be whatever we want to be. When people tell you not to believe in your dreams, and they say "why?" say "why not?"

C: Class of 2017, I just want to remind you that anything is possible, like the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series again after 108 years, Google developed a self-driving car, and the New England Patriots even overcame a so called impossible deficit, and beat the Atlanta Falcons in overtime to win Super Bowl 51. But I mean, who likes the Falcons anyways?

M: Just remember to follow your dreams, believe in yourself, and never give up because like Chase said, anything is possible.

C: It's a great day to be a Logger! Congratulations to the Class of 2017!

*Chase Tolonen
Megan Rice*



CLASS OFFICERS

Autumn Sorenson, President

Megan Ely, Vice President

McKenzie Willard, Secretary/Treasurer

HONOR GRADUATES

Chase Tolonen

Megan Rice

Payton Wolf

Jackhenry Masog

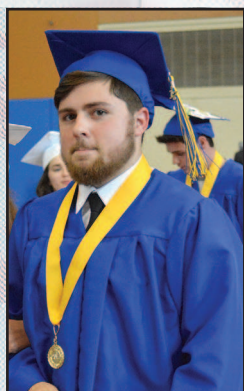
Jessika Goodman



Tristan Adams & Autumn Sorenson



Javier Arenas Oliver & Kathrin Will



Serhiy Bauer



Theresa Bomke



Jacob Butcher



Vivianna Bustamante



Hayden Cieloha



Blake Clark



Grace Coleman



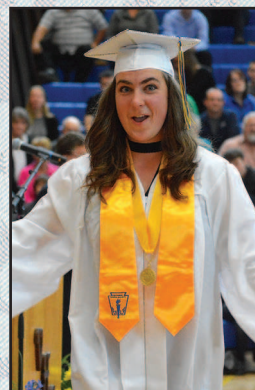
Nathan Colot



Pearl Cook



Brett Elliott



Megan Ely



Cheyenne Farr-Smith & Kaitlyn Eyrrick



Lauren Glass



Justin Fletcher



Lene Jacobsen



August Johnson & Kameron Olsen



Brett Jones



Melissa Kish



Pongwiwat Kookitwattana & Pauline Sandweg