



Steve Tool/Chieftain

Satori Albee is all smile as she receives her diploma from Jeanie Story on Friday.

JOSEPH

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the ceremony in pairs, departing to the cafeteria for gifts and well-wishes from loved ones.

Kilgore said the school staff views the ceremony with mixed emotions.

“We feel like we’ve done our job when the kids are ready to leave and want to leave. Selfishly, we’re sad and say the little eaglets are leaving their nests.”

Senior Sam Beckman, 18, plans to attend Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton before transferring to the University of Oregon for a business degree.

“I’m either going to start my own business or come back to the county and try to get a steady job,” Beckman said.

Van Winkle, who sang “The Star Spangled Banner” at the ceremony, said he fo-

cus-ed his studies on history and math. He plans to attend Digipen Institute of Technology in Redmond, Wash., to study computer programming. He had his challenges and rewards during his high school years.

“The most difficult part of school for me was just getting everything done, and polishing things up in a timely manner was definitely difficult. ... All the participation I did, all the clubs and sports I got to participate in gave me a feeling of accomplishment.”

Seal’s mother, Lisa Seal, said she was proud of her son, who intends to study engineering at Oregon State University.

“I guess it’s bittersweet to see him graduate,” she said. “It’s kind of foolish because my dad and I both graduated from Joseph.”

In less than an hour the cafeteria emptied. The good cheer, congratulations and the class of 2016 departed. Only the memories remained.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

The grads of 2016 symbolically throw their pasts behind them and move forward into adulthood — and for most of them, more schooling with academic scholarships to aid them.

GRADS

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shook their hand while he gave them a few words of congratulation.

He almost didn’t make it through the announcements for one student — his own daughter, Emma Rose Carlsen. Both teared up as the gravity of the moment sunk in.

There were a lot of misty eyes in the audience, as family members experienced a rush of conflicting emotions while watching their beloved take this significant step.

The list of scholarships was impressive, and when Royse took the podium for the last graduation speech of his career, he pointed out that the class of 2016 was exceptional by any standard. The sentiment was echoed by Salutatorian Jane Kissinger.

“You don’t have to look very far to be inspired; you just have to look at the person sitting next to you,” Kissinger said.

Kissinger was talking about personal qualities in addition to academic ones.



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

Some of the decorated hats of the 2016 Enterprise High grads.

Royse, however, had some statistics to prove the exceptional academic nature of the class, one of the greatest being that four students had won the coveted Ford Family Foundation four-year scholarships, which cover 90 percent of their expenses. Those grads were Bette and Eyreus Rooney, MacKenzie Gray and Zoe Blythe Sallada.

He used the story of his own life, filled with deaths of loved ones gone too soon, helicopter flights to the hospital, personal tragedies and difficult times — which gave way to new adventures, new joys and new goals — to show that adult life was filled with storms, but that one could weather them.

“Love the journey, and not just the destination,” he told them. “Graduation is a marker



Kathleen Ellyn/Chieftain

The pride shines from the eyes of the grandparents of an Enterprise graduate.

date many people use to chart their progress. I encourage you to set goals right today

and write them down.”

The ever-popular slide show, which pictured the grads as they grew and then ended with their senior pictures, drew thunderous applause and both murmurs of appreciation and laughter at some of the quotes interspersed among the pictures. Two examples: Paul Bryant’s “Don’t tell me the sky is the limit when there are foot prints on the moon.” And Mr. Baird’s “You girls can laugh all you want in detention.”

Popular retired music teacher Randy Morgan led the graduating class in two songs during the program — “On My Way” and “Alma Mater” — before concluding by playing them out of the gymnasium with a recessional.

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