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HSCHS seniors bid adieu during commencement

by Joe Sovo

Forty-two seniors walked across the stage to receive their diplomas as the Class of 2010 during the 90th Hot Springs County High School Commencement Exercise on Sunday in the HSCHS gym.

Six of the graduates departed as members of the National Honor Society — valedictorian Cody Abbott, salutatorian Colin Herold, class president Kylie Olsen, Baylee Dickinson, Sharena Hesselthaler and Weston Hubele.

Fifteen of the seniors left HSCHS with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The Class of 2010 chose not one, but two guest speakers. The first was teacher Aimee Kay, who went hand-in-hand with students during their four years of high school in Thermopolis.

During her address, Kay brought back a bevy of memories she shared with the graduating seniors.

Her tears of joy and a bitter-sweet goodbye were heartfelt as she spoke of many of the highlights over four years.

Todd and Barb Rice were also chosen by the class as guest speakers, and Barb addressed the graduates with words of encouragement and a fond farewell.

It was an emotional time for Todd and Barb Rice. They lost their son Bud to a fatal illness in the summer of June 2005 when he was a student at Thermopolis Middle School.

This would have been his graduating class, and everyone who know Todd and Barb consider Bud as part of the Class of 2010, yet today.

As the top two students in the class, academically, Abbott and Herold delivered meaningful valedictory and salutatory addresses, respectively, that were absorbed by all the other 40 graduates.

Olsen introduced the speakers and also addressed the other graduates.

The HSCHS/Thermopolis Middle School band played “Pomp & Circumstance” and the recession to open and close Sunday’s ceremony.

The HSCHS choir sang the National Anthem and Omnia Sol, and senior choir members performed “Hallelujah.”

Special music was provided by graduate Riley Sikes, who sang and played “Nice to Know You,” an original composition on his guitar.

While incoming class president Bridger Lewis read the list of graduates, Elizabeth Mahoney, chair of the Hot Springs County Board of Education, presented the diplomas.

The senior class advisors were Bryan Bailey, Kent Hesselthaler, Matt Mason, Brenda Peterman and Kathie Richardson.

The class motto was “Ride the Dream.” The flower was the yellow snap dragon and the class song was “Ramble On” by Led Zeppelin.



Chris Groh gives classmate Kylie Olsen a hug near the end of the Hot Springs County High School Commencement Exercise on Sunday in the high school gym. Other graduates pictured are Travis Cook and Kirsty Tillack.

— Joe Sovo photo

Valedictorian speaks to classmates

Valedictorian,
Cody Abbott

Wow guys... I don't even know what to say. Traditionally, the valedictorian of the graduating

class gives a commencement speech where they talk about how vitally important individuality is. I don't think I could give a speech about individual-

ity to a group of people all wearing identical caps and gowns, so I'm going to talk about a few different things both traditional and unorthodox, but equally important.

We're graduating. This is it. The second we grab that diploma our lives will change forever. I don't know about you guys, but I'm nervous to grab it. I have no idea what the future holds for me and I know it's going to be a new, great adventure, but it all just seems like it's come so fast. I still remember what I wore on the first day of high school like it was yesterday, and for all intensive purposes it was yesterday. I remember being extremely nervous as I buttoned up my red shirt and pulled on my Vans, then I blinked, and now I'm here saying goodbye to all of you and

hello to the future.

I also remember when I was a sophomore and I moved here to Thermopolis. I had no idea what to expect from this little town in the middle of Wyoming that I had never heard of before. But I didn't expect it to be as amazing as it is and has been. The memories I've shared with you all have been some of the best in my life and the friendships I've made with you are irreplaceable. I have the utmost confidence that the HSCHS class of 2010 will be successful wherever they go. I also would like to thank our teachers. They have done an outstanding job in preparing us for the future. Teachers, please stand and be recognized.

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Seven incumbents register for election

Seven incumbents have registered to run for office again in Hot Springs County.

Sheriff Lou Falgoust, County Clerk Hans Odde, Treasurer Mickey Jean Ford, Assessor Shelley Deromedi, Clerk of District Court Terri Cornella, County Attorney Jerry Williams and Coroner Mike Mortimore have all filed the necessary paperwork to be included on the primary ballot Aug. 17.

All of the candidates registered so far come from the Republican Party.

The only office being contested at this time is the office of county attorney. Incumbent Jerry Williams will be challenged by attorney Sandra Baker.

Two positions for county commissioner are also open for election, and incumbent chairman John Lumley and newly appointed commissioner Mike Baker have both registered with the county clerk's office.

The filing deadline is May 28.

The general election will be held on Nov. 2.

Early deadline to recognize holiday

Since the Independent Record office will be closed on Monday, May 31 in recognition of Memorial Day, the deadline for classified, display and legal advertising in the June 3 issue is 4 p.m. Friday, May 28. The office will be open until 5 p.m. on that day.

The deadline for editorial/news content for the June 3 issue is noon Tuesday, June 1.



Mike Baker is sworn in by Judge Robert Skar as the newly selected county commissioner at a ceremony in the courthouse Friday morning. Baker was selected to replace the late Frank Manning.

— Peggy Shaffer photo

Mike Baker sworn in as county commissioner

by Cindy Glasson

Mike Baker, former Representative for House District 28, has entered the political field once more as the newest Hot Springs County Commissioner.

Baker was sworn in Friday as a commissioner, filling the unfinished term of commissioner Frank Manning, who resigned due to health reasons earlier in the month.

“We are very pleased to have someone with Mr. Baker’s experience joining us,” commission chairman John Lumley said.

During his eight years in Cheyenne, from 1993-2005,

Baker served on the Minerals Committee, Appropriations Committee, and Travel, Recreation and Wildlife Committee as well as the Select Committee on School Facilities.