

Chimacum School Matters

News from Your Chimacum School District

Volume Twenty-Five Issue Three

Summer 2020

Chimacum graduates 69 despite the challenges

Honoring the achievements of Chimacum's Class of 2020, while putting safety first, was a bit of a challenge. It truly took a village to pull it off, but we did it. We ALL did it!

A virtual graduation ceremony allowed the speakers to shine. The event is now online.**

"It's hard to not focus intently on the pandemic occurring during these strange times," said valedictorian Haley Morrison. Living in a "semi-single parent household," she chose to focus on grandparents.

"My mom and my brother forming the 'single parent' aspect, with my grandparents being added as the 'semi,'" Haley said. "Cultural barriers and the strange combination of having one mom and two grandparents, acting as a sort of all-encompassing 'parental being' together, acted as a block in my relationship with my grandparents."

She got past it and, ultimately, became inspired by her grandparents' lives of hard work and grit.

"The way they achieved future success was through their resilience," Haley said. "Resilience, to me, is when a person is able to keep going even when things seem to be going wrong around them."

Haley pointed out resilience in teacher Joanne Schmitt's M3 Math Challenge group; the students who successfully set up a haunted house; and her classmates who stayed the course through to graduation.

She added, "We can all continue to

★ Valedictorian ★



Deja View Photography

Haley Morrison
4.0 grade point average
\$33,590* in scholarships
Washington State University
Studying zoology, veterinary medicine
(Lisa Morrison, Chimacum)

learn a thing or two from those older relatives of ours because, often, they exemplify the kind of resilience that we will need heading out into the world."

"Who would have thought that we seniors would be so awesome that not even the school could contain us?" Isabelle Harvey quipped. "I am so proud of this class that I have been privileged to lead. COVID-19 may have taken the capstone of our senior year, but it cannot take away from the hard work that has brought us this far."

Isabelle said, "Our perseverance

through this unexpected time is worthy of note. Together, we worked through our struggles on Zoom and Google Classroom, while relying heavily on each other to understand the class material despite social distancing."

The salutatorian and class president added, "My phone, which exploded on a regular basis with text messages regarding homework, can testify to this phenomenon of Cowboy spirit."

• Continued inside

★ Salutatorian ★



Isabelle Harvey
4.0 grade point average
\$67,928* in scholarships
Western Washington University
Studying engineering and music
(Marcus & Michelle Harvey, Port Ludlow)

**<https://tinyurl.com/y8qkkvj>

*includes renewables and/or subject to change

CHS drive-through ceremony & parade spark cheers

It was a family affair for most, as the graduates and their immediate families drove through their second graduation ceremony. Tassels flipped, the Class of 2020 was then cheered on by friends, family and community members along the parade route.

The Chimacum School District is such a tight-knit community. Eighteen members of the Class of 2020 have been going to school together since kindergarten. They've waved goodbye to a lot of memories, as they head off to embrace the next phase of their lives.

Claire Jorgensen, right, will head to the University of Redlands with \$129,750* in scholarships. She plans to study sociology and business through the Johnston Center for Integrative Studies.

Charles Fornia / Deja View Photography



Charles Fornia / Deja View Photography



Karen Brennan

Mary Yesberger



Mary Yesberger was one proud mama, as she chauffeured Margaret Rodriguez-Yesberger through graduation. In the back seat, just out of view, was sister Laighla. Margaret plans on attending culinary school.

Many thanks...

Just like our multiple graduation events, this newsletter wouldn't have been possible without all of you who participated.

We can't thank you enough for allowing us to use these photos from your private collections. And thanks, too, to Charles Fornia and Deja Webster for the drive-through graduation photos.

Rowan Powell's fan club had plenty to cheer about. The four-year Pi Program student was awarded \$118,500* to study physics at Pacific University, based on his GPA and SAT scores. His parents, Dan and Carla (waving), and sister, Maria, shared in this big moment. The Playter-Brennan Fan Club included Karen Brennan in front. Behind her were Judy Playter (grandma) and Wilma Dean. Back, from left, all Brennans: Forrest, Sage, Tiburcio, Marshall, Consuelo and Mitch.

**includes renewables and subject to change*



Class song

“Dancing in the Moonlight”



King Harvest

Written by Sherman Kelly



Banners honoring the Class of 2020 lined Chimacum Schools' fence. Above, the banners for Madison Boyd and Galia Roman.

Rick Thompson



Kelly Brebberman

The guys have been neighborhood friends since grade school. They were age 7 below. From left: Cody Clark, Cameron Ryan, Henry Brebberman, Brayden Yingling and Jacob Williamson.

Class flower

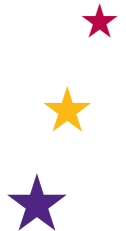
Lily



Kelly Brebberman



Rick Thompson



CHS graduation speeches recall all years, not just 2020

• Continued from page 1

The speakers all recognized that they've not traveled this far in life alone. Each told how others supported them; be it teachers, parents, guardians, grandparents, and/or the community as a whole.

"I wasn't always a Cowboy," admitted Gisela Ramirez-Santos, who was elected by her class to speak. Transferring from the rival Port Townsend made her nervous. Unnecessarily so.

"All of my classmates were so welcoming that I never felt excluded," Gisela said. "I made strong friendships. And I quickly made connections with my new teachers."

Leaving Port Townsend had meant leaving her best friend. The teens began to grow apart. The excitement later

mounted, when Gisela learned her friend was transferring to Chimacum.

"Rebuilding the bond that we had was not difficult. It came very naturally to us, almost like nothing had changed," Gisela said. "Being a Cowboy has taught me that no matter where you come from, or who you are, you're always accepted into this small, yet big, loving family... Maturity comes with the willingness to change and to forgive."

Faculty-elected speaker Lucy Miller said, "Bad endings are the worst... Let's be honest, the ending to the story of our senior year was definitely not a good one. It was all over in the blink of an eye. All of a sudden, there was no more high school. No more seeing our friends every day. No more last season of our spring sport. And probably, most disappointingly, no spectacular

traditional graduation ceremony that we have watched our friends and siblings go through every year."

"Although we can't change the ending to this story, we can choose to not let it ruin all the good that came before," Lucy said. "There are so many moments that I treasure to this day because of growing up going to Chimacum... I cherish my unique and special experience of going to school in a small town, in a beautiful place."

"We are Cowboys and we will not let this bad ending ruin the rest of our story. We deserve a sequel," Lucy said. "Let us move on from this bad ending and create the sequel to the story of our lives. Let the fact that we got through this struggle be a reminder that we are strong and filled with passion—and that we can face anything."

Class of 2020 awarded \$492,468*

- 34.8 percent of the 69 graduates are continuing their education. ★
- 16 are going to a four-year college or university. ★
- 8 head to community college or vocational school. ★
- 3 are going into the military.
- 24 grads were awarded \$492,468 in total scholarships, including renewables; \$206,338 was for their first year of schooling. Our local community gave \$127,700, including renewables. Of that, \$83,700 was for their first year.

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Melody Pennington

Wyatt Pennington, above, Isaiah Kepner and Sean Storey are all heading into the military. Nicole Wider, above, is planning on first attending a community college, then pursue a bachelor's degree in business and culinary arts.

Graduation news inside!



Rebecca Storm

Xander Reeves Farmer plans on attending a trade school in the fall.



Staci Matthes

Rachel Matthes has received \$70,500* in scholarships to attend Oregon State University Honors College. She's entering its forest engineering-civil engineering five-year, dual-degree program.

*includes renewables and subject to change