

CHEROKEE ONE FEATHER

**SPECIAL CHEROKEE H.S.
GRADUATION SECTION**

Text and Photos by Scott McKie B.P./One Feather



SPECIAL CHS GRADUATION SECTION



Shakyra Bottchenbaugh was one of 69 students who graduated from Cherokee High School on Tuesday, May 22.

69 students graduate from Cherokee High School

Cherokee High School held commencement exercises for the Class of 2012 in the Cherokee High School Arena on Tuesday, May 22. A total of 69 students received their diplomas.

"The Class of 2012 has the highest graduation rate ever recorded at Cherokee High School," Principal Jason Ormsby told the crowd. "It is higher than the national average and the state average. The Class of 2012 has much to be proud of."

Ormsby related that the Class of 2012 has 19 BETA Club members, 12 National Honor Society members, 18 students heading to a four-year college, 27 students heading to a community college, two entering the military and one entering a technical school.

Meshay Long and Gabriel David McMillan graduated with highest honors for having a grade point average (GPA) of 3.9 or higher. Karleigh Amanda Reeves, Hester Michelle Justice-Bumbaca and Felicia Danielle Owle graduated with high honors for having a GPA of at least 3.75. Shayna Denise Ledford, Tsalidi Sequoyah, Cheyenne Cay Smith and Alicia Danielle

Whiteside graduated with honors for having a GPA of at least 3.5.

Reeves, Class of 2012 Salutatorian, said during her address, "This year will be impossible to forget. Friday night football games were some of the best of our lives."

She thanked her family, teachers, and friends and commented, "We've been through a lot together."

Long, Class of 2012 Valedictorian, said, "This senior class is like no other. I expect enormous accomplishments from this class."

She also thanked her family and teachers, "You have set me up for enormous success in my upcoming endeavors."

She encouraged the younger students, "Be yourself, make opportunities and most importantly, be fearless."

During the commencement, several awards were given including the following:

- * American Legion Outstanding Student Award – Felicia Owle
- * NAIWA Award – Karleigh Reeves

* Cherokee Kiwanis Club Award – Meshay Long

Ray Kinsland, the "Voice of the Braves", was the keynote speaker for the event. "You are truly a wonderful group of young ladies and gentlemen. Most schools represent a town or a community. Our school represents an entire nation – the Eastern Band of Cherokee Nation."

He told the students to appreciate the past and present and to have faith and serve the community, the Tribe and fellow man.

Kinsland alluded to this Class' motto which comes from 1 Timothy 4:12, "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."

He commented, "Thank you for choosing a motto that gives you everything you need."

The Class of 2012 officers included:

- * President – Charles Jerae "Dre" Jackson
- * Vice President – Amy Linda Lincoln
- * Secretary – Abigail Long
- * Student Council – Forrest Cole Stamper

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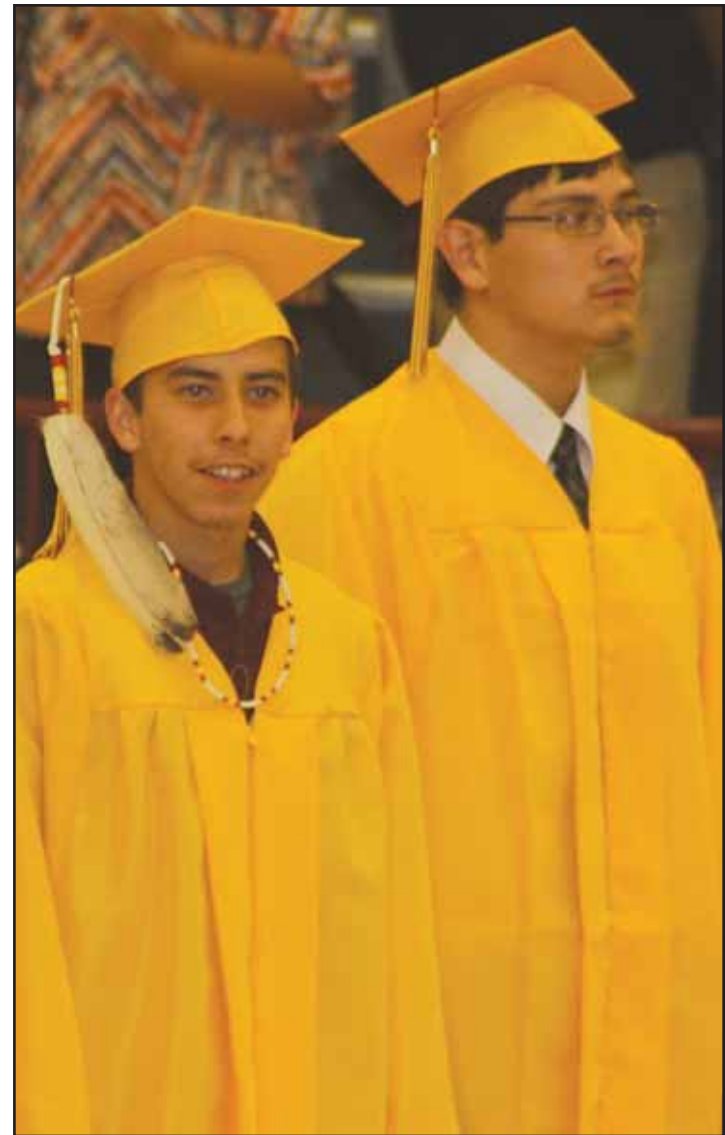
Meshay Long, Class of 2012 Valedictorian, gives her address during Tuesday's commencement. She graduated with highest honors and also received the Cherokee Kiwanis Club Award.



Jada Long waits to enter the arena just prior to Tuesday's graduation.



Karleigh Reeves, Class of 2012 Salutatorian, gives her address. She graduated with high honors and also received the NAIWA Award.



Wesley Bird (left) and Will Bird line up after entering the arena for graduation. Wesley Bird ran track for CHS and Will Bird was a stand-out on the CHS Wrestling team winning a 1A State Championship in 2011.



Cherokee High School

Class of 2012



Meshay Long
 Karleigh Amanda Reeves
 Gabriel David McMillan
 Hester Michelle Justice-Bumbaca
 Felicia Danielle Owle
 Shayna Denise Ledford
 TsaLiDi Sequoyah
 Cheyenne Cay Smith
 Alicia Danielle Whiteside
 Tierra Lynn Allen
 Brittnee Mariah Arch
 Willie Wayne Arch
 Frederick Wesley Bird
 William Douglas Bird
 Shakyra Bottchenbaugh
 Dakota Aaron Bradley
 James Joseph Jackson Bradley
 Tasia Kateri Brady
 Ashley Loren Bryson
 Davis Grae Crowe
 Jacob Connor Crowe
 Chad Thurman Cucumber
 Letitia Lorraine Driver
 Julia Uribe Garcia
 Cynthia Pierce Guilford
 Travis Lee Hicks
 Shelby Danielle Hornbuckle
 Rhiannon Tancy Hull
 Alexandria Jade Jackson
 Charles Jerae Jackson
 Tamera Lynn Kalonaheskie
 Lauren Hope Laws
 Chelsea Shantelle Ledford
 Amy Linda Lincoln
 Abigail Long

Jada Long
 Welsey Paul Long
 Jessica Myrah McCoy
 Kimberly Cree Meuse
 Raymond Steven Montelongo
 Joseph Adolfo Morales
 Dylan Carl Morgan
 Teria Cherise Morgan
 Lewis Taylor Niccum
 Jamison Cain French Oocumma
 Heather Nascha Owle
 Caleb Isaiah Queen Jr.
 Joel Thomas Queen Jr.
 Ruby Marie Queen
 Stephen McKinley Queen Jr.
 Roberto Ramirez Jr.
 Alicia Lashaye Rhinehart
 Killian Ryan Ruth
 Brittany Cheyenne Saunooke
 Forrest Cole Stamper
 Savannah Marie Stiles
 Taylor Lance Toineeta
 Elizabeth Gayle Wahnetah
 Crystal Lynn Waldroup
 Dennis James Walk II
 Dalisa Daniela Watty
 Darius Tyrun West
 Kiah Clark West
 T'keiah Rhianna West
 Megan Dawn Wilnoty
 Jeremy David Wolfe
 Jodi Cain Wolfe
 Colby Lucas Yanez
 Christian Joseph Yates