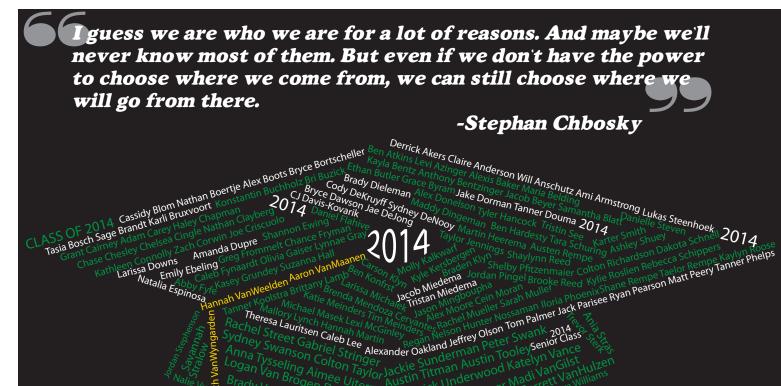
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Into the Futture

The day finally arrived for seniors to walk down the aisle and receive their diplomas. May 23, the community gathered to support and commemorate the graduating class of 2014 at the Central College Fieldhouse.

"Graduation was really eye opening and it was very emotional to see my brother finally graduate," said sophomore Elyse Parisee.

Seniors Sydney Swanson and Nathan Clayberg were student speakers.

"It's a big honor. Being chosen as something by your class is always a

big honor, but it's even bigger when it's for something as important as graduation. It means a lot to me, and I am grateful for the opportunity," said Swanson.

Math teacher Wade Van Vark was the class speaker. His son, Blake, would have been part of this graduat-

"High school graduation is a wonderful accomplishment and an important milestone in a student's life, and being asked to be a part of that celebration for this class was truly an honor. This group of young people have done so much for my

family and me that I was extremely grateful to get the opportunity to do something for them," said Van Vark.

Sending this class off into the real world was a sentimental moment for Principal Eric Nelson.

"They were the most mature, appreciative class I can ever recall. They made a connection with leaving a legacy of paying it forward, a legacy about being appreciative for what you have and not overlooking your high school experience. They were unique in that aspect," said













GRADUATION→86

8

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"I made so many new friends the past few years and getting to see them and talk to them every day is what I will miss the most.'

Senior Larissa Michalek

"I will miss seeing all of my friends like s. It will be sad not to saying 'hi' to her every day in the hallway."

"One of the things I will miss the most will be seeing my friends daily and making crazy fun memories with them." Senior Hal

.As we all walk tonight ..., we are given the opportunity to begin to create our legacy. We are separating from our parents, and with this freedom comes the opportunity of choice. From this moment, we are all on even ground with a fresh start, and no matter where we have come from, we now have the opportunity to choose greatness Greatness does not just come about haphazardly, but rather by pointed intention. Greatness doesn't require exceptional ability or talent; all it

requires is a person to decide to live their life greatly.... Are we leading the lives now that we want to be remembered by? There can be no question that the potential breadth of our influence is huge and is not a decision to be taken lightly. I wish you all the best ..., and I hope that someday the legacy left by the Pella High Class of 2014 is one that is very powerful. Thank you.





da Dupre, CJ Davis-K

GRADUATION→87



"...Change can be a very scary thing but more times than not, it leads to something amazing. Our graduating class has a chance to do something amazing and change the world that we are living in. Don't be afraid to do something big. Take risks; do something crazy, something crazy like believing you can change the world. Even something that you may believe is small and insignificant could have a major impact on someone's life. Classmates, but more importantly friends, I thank God for every single one of you because you have all changed me and

made me the person I am today. I pray that you continue to follow the path set before you and that you all realize your potential to change the world. '... Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.' So here's to you, Class of 2014. Be crazy enough to change the world.









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