

CROCKETT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES 180; SENIORS ACQUIRE \$3.2 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS



Above: Thomas Long, Crockett's Gold Star Student this year, delivered the Valedictorian Address. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Led by Bailey Ann Whitby (at the podium), the Senior Class tosses its mortarboards into the air as the class is officially dismissed. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

A day that began with thunder and lightning ended with a dazzling display of accomplishment Friday as Crockett County High School awarded diplomas to 180 graduating seniors at Cavalier Stadium.

While the early part of the day threatened an on-time start of the planned ceremony, by the time 7 p.m. rolled around, the setting sun was out, the temperature was near-perfect, and the atmosphere in the facility was joyful and expectant.

After the class processional put the seniors in their seats, Becca Butler had sung the national anthem, Principal Jerrod Shelton had welcomed the crowd, and the gathering heard speeches from valedictorian Thomas Long, salutatorian Casey Thornton, and senior class president Mary Reece Wilson. Shelton returned to the podium to honor those with specific academic achievements and to announce that – collectively – this senior class had amassed a staggering \$3.2 million in scholarship assistance for their continuing education.

Dawn Carmack, Grades 6-12 Supervisor of Instruction for Crockett County Schools, then read the name of each individual graduate as Director of Schools Phillip A. Pratt shook each senior's hand and awarded the diplomas.

The class stood as one to sing the Alma Mater, played by the CCHS Band and led by six members of the 2025 senior class: Karlee Castellaw, Ella Cate Haynes, Maddie Moore, Brennan Morris, Carley Lampley, and Emily Morales.

Following a prayer by senior Jack Rawson, senior Bailey Ann Whitby led the class in the changing of tassels and in their final dismissal as a collective class, resulting in an enthusiastic tossing of their mortarboards (academic caps) high into the air.

The class of 2024 dedicated this graduation in memory of their former classmate Lucky Ray King. An empty chair was reserved for King among the seniors, with a large photograph of the late student placed with it. King would have been a senior in this class, but was killed in a car accident when he was 13.

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, the field was filled with families and friends commemorating the evening with smiles, hugs, and phone photos. It was a great evening to be a Cavalier.





Left: Assistant Principal Tres Goldsby lines up the 2024 Senior Class of CCHS for the opening processional into Cavalier Stadium. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Gracelyn Miller -- a senior with the honors of Academic Excellence, Beta Club, Graduate with Distinction, and Ready Graduate -- enters the stadium in the processional. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Senior Class Vice-President Samuel Hatcher takes part in the opening processional. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Receiving their diplomas brought out some of the biggest smiles imaginable from Crockett's seniors, such as Libby McBride ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kyla Phillips, with Academic Excellence, Beta Club, and Ready Graduate status, waves to family while entering the stadium. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Cavalier soccer team captain Edgar Juarez marches in the opening processional. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Casey Thornton -- Senior Class Sgt. at Arms, Star Student, and four-sport letterman -- gave the Salutatorian Address. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: CCHS Principal Jerrod Shelton announced that the Senior Class had been awarded more than \$3.2 million in scholarships and grants by colleges, universities, technical and trade schools, and area businesses. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Becca Butler sang the national anthem to open the graduation ceremony. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Senior Jayden Maddox -- both a Star Student and a star athlete -- awaits her row's turn to approach the podium to receive her diploma. (Photo by Ron Barry)

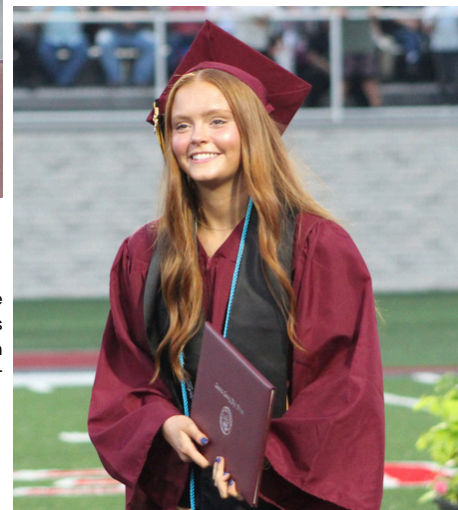


Left: Haley Aldridge



Above: Members of the CCHS Band play the endless rounds of "Pomp and Circumstance" until all 180 seniors had reached their seats. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: The final student address of the evening was delivered by Senior Class President Mary Reece Wilson, shown here happily receiving her diploma later in the ceremony. (Photo by Ron Barry)





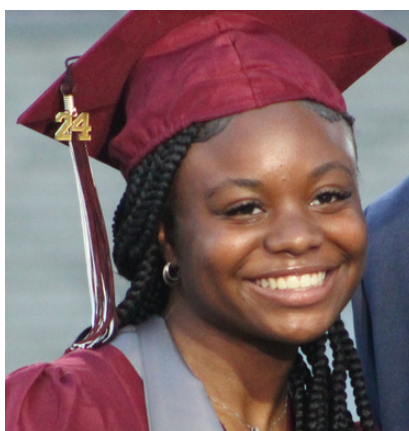
Above: Dwight Yancy Jr.

Below: Carmen Jelks was all smiles to receive her diploma from Director of Schools Phillip A. Pratt. (Photo by Ron Barry)

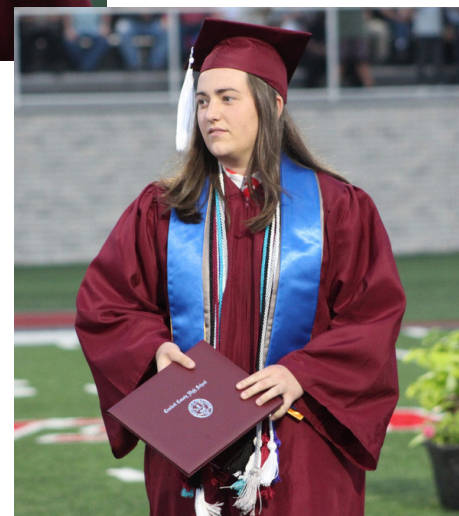


Left: The one that has lit up many a volleyball court, softball field, various classrooms, and agricultural exhibitions -- Brooklyn Haynes.

Below: Star Student Addi Beth Work earned every academic distinction possible on the way to her diploma. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Charity Greenhill. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Crockett County Director of Schools Phillip A. Pratt then began distributing diplomas, including this one to Senior Class Secretary Allie Williams, another Beta Club member and Graduate with Distinction. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: After the ceremony, family and friends flooded the field to take pictures with their graduates. Among them was Beta Club member, Graduate with Distinction, and softball/volleyball star Lynden Cole, who revealed that her lucky "Ducky" blanket was under her robe with her to bring comfort and relaxation. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: The Alma Mater was led by Class of 2025 singers (from left) Emily Morales, Carley Lampley, Brennan Morris, Maddie Moore, Ella Cate Haynes, and Karlee Castellaw. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Senior Class member Jack Rawson led his fellow students in a closing prayer. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Seniors switch over the sides of their tassels on their academic caps, signifying graduation from high school. (Photo by Ron Barry)