

Here We Go Shawn Pfiffner leads the seniors from the auditorium to the gym for their ceremony. Kaitlyn Arnold said, "Going first was hard because we had to set the pace for everyone." [photo] Diane Redmond

Perfect Alignment In need of help with her cap, Baylee Schoenfelder becomes Rachel Maschino's ally. "I was worried it'd fall off during the ceremony, so I stressed about getting it on right," Maschino said. [photo] Diane Redmond



Last Check A final look in the mirror ensures Kailey Bridgewater and Chloe Meeks have their caps on properly. Meeks said, "It was so exciting to finally be graduating." [photo] Diane Redmond



An End of a Journey Looms The line-up for commencement does not begin for another 20 minutes, so Landon Siek, Kael Vogeler and Blake Osborn wait without jitters. "There weren't any nerves at all," Osborn said. "I was just waiting for the ceremony to start." [photo] Diane Redmond

Next Step As Valedictorian Kaitlyn Sievers and Salutatorian Camryn Mosty address their class, Thomas Huber is caught off guard. Huber said, "I was mostly excited. I couldn't wait to complete this milestone and move on in life." [photo] Diane Redmond



Graduation or Not

From pictures with signs to parades to a ceremony

Professional pictures from their front porch with senior 2020 signs and a parade around town took place for seniors due to the uncertainty of a graduation ceremony, like so many other high schools across the country.

"I thought it [front porch portraits] was a cool way for the community to see where the class of 2020 lives. It was thoughtful to show appreciation towards the class that could not finish the last part of their school year," Avery King said.

Commencement, originally planned for May 24th, was postponed, so senior parents decided a parade was a great idea in case the ceremony was cancelled permanently.

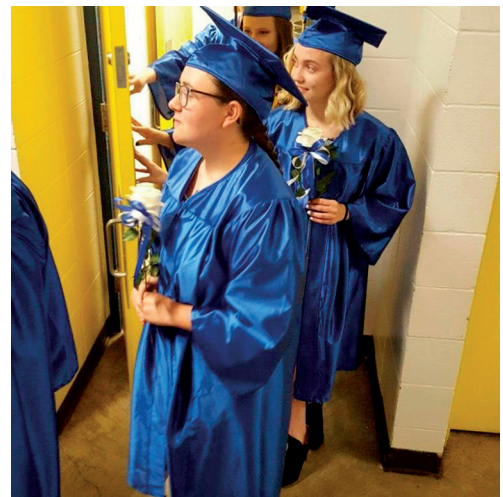
Kaitlyn Sievers said, "I was super

excited for the parade in Van Horne because it allowed us to be celebrated while maintaining our distance. I saw videos of other schools holding parades and wanted to do it too."

Once all was said and done, the governor lifted shutdown sanctions in time, and students were elated they finally had a little bit of normalcy with a formal graduation to end their final year, unlike the previous three months.

"I felt very lucky about the fact that we were still able to have the experience of walking across the stage," Emma Metz said. "I feel like that is something that nobody, no matter what the situation is/was, should have to miss out on."

- Camryn Mosty



New Beginnings Students complete their final part as a senior. "When I was walking out, I was feeling nervous but happy because I couldn't wait to get on to my next adventure," Shayla Taylor said. [photo] Diane Redmond

Student Life Graduation

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Bittersweet Goodbyes After the ceremony, Ashley Brennan, Tonya Kramer, Tiah Howe, Craig Morris, Emilie Horak, Abbi Carper, Zoey Bishop, Tasha Ayers and others gather outside. "I had mixed emotions," Kramer said. "Ashley and I have considered each other sisters, so it was a special moment hugging her at graduation." [photo] Diane Redmond



Farewell Senior parents ensure the students receive recognition. Turner Schroeder said, "It was a nice gift for the senior class because we had a lot taken away. The turnout was great because so many people showed up around town to cheer us on." [photo] Stacie Gorkow
Senior Parade The unusual way to celebrate the class of 2020 left Nicole Duncaif with a memorable moment. "I felt so special seeing all my friends and family there to celebrate me, especially my grandparents who surprised me," Duncaif said. [photo] Stacie Gorkow

Front Porch Portraits



"The front porch photos were a great thing for both my family and I. It gave my family joy to see it and let me feel like I had something since school was cancelled," Tessa Smith said. [photo] Hannah Brecht Photography



"I'll never forget my senior year," Hunter Madison said. "I was so happy I got to wear my cap and gown as people congratulated me. I was so proud and honored, and it's something I'll never forget." [photo] Hannah Brecht Photography



Riley Schmidt said, "I feel sad and kinda happy. I'm sad my senior year ended this way. It took away the experience of the last year of high school. I will miss it for sure. I won't forget this experience." [photo] Hannah Brecht Photography

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