We’re done!

Class of 2015 embarks on journey

By Kethi Keys
www.carolinasbusiness.com

ASHEBORO — Diplomas were awarded Thursday night to 2,109 Randolph County School System students during Class of 2015 commencements celebrated at six high schools.

The weather cooperated — in hot, sunny and humid conditions instead of rain — in all graduations were held outdoors in the schools’ respective football stadiums and students continued the tradition of tossing their caps into the air after turning their tassels.

The largest class was at Southeast Randolph High School, where 263 seniors received their high school diplomas. The Class of 2015 at the five other county high schools ranged from 197 students at Randleman to 152 seniors at Eastern Randolph.

See CLASS, page 3A
Grads

From page 3A

who's completing his first year as PGHS principal, also gave special remarks.

Amber Thompson, Providence Grove's Teacher of the Year who teaches health science, delivered the address to graduates. Senior Class officers also participated in the program: Savannah Clark, vice president; the welcome; Salem Pitts, treasurer; introduced the faculty speaker, Landon Brown, secretary; announced the Senior Class gift; and, St. Marie Faircloth, president, gave the farewell.

At Randolph, the Class of 2015 was the second largest for Randolph's high schools, with 107 receiving their diplomas during the 7 p.m. commencement. It was the first graduation for Dr. Robert Shackelford Jr., president of Randolph Community College. Jesse Sutton Akes was named as Valedictorian and Catherine Natalia Newman as Salutatorian.

The remaining Top 10 Academic Seniors announced at graduation were: Kahna Michele Ward, Jacob Ryan Greggson, Devan Nina Hooven Garrett Todd Hughes, Drake Addison Phillips, Montana Grewes Vaughn, Regan Virginia Kirby and Brandon Lauro Rodrigues.

At Southwestern Randolph, 274 graduating seniors were presented their high school diplomas during a 7 p.m. ceremony. Graduation address was given by Krista Lamond, Senior Class president, and McKinney Hoover, Student Body president. Words of inspiration were provided by Michael Seefeld and guests introduced by Jacob Tedder.

SWRHS Principal Shaw Hildreth recognized two seniors as Class Valedictorian: McKenna Hoover and Anne Whitener. Both had final Grade Point Averages of 5.00 and a year ago were co-chief junior marshals, too. McKenna, in addition to being Student Body president, has been a member of several clubs, received several honors and was recently named the Mid-Piedmont Conference Female Athlete of the Year, having served as captain of the tennis, basketball and softball teams her senior year as well as a member of the cheering squad.

She completed 31 high school courses including 17 honors and seven AP (Advanced Placement) classes and plans to attend N.C. State University. Anne was the recipient of the highest SWRHS award, the Principal's Award, and other honors and had been active in school clubs. She has been a member of the junior varsity volleyball and captain of the varsity volleyball and played Junior Olympic Volleyball. She completed 28 high school courses including 16 honors and eight AP classes and plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

At Trinity, 194 graduating seniors received their high school diplomas during the 6 p.m. commencement.

Sage Earnhardt, Student Body president, presented the "Looking Back" graduation address while Eva James, Senior Class president, addressed "Looking Toward the Future." Sumra Ahmad, Senior Class vice president, also presented the invocation.

Larry Chappell, Trinity's principal since Jan. 1 this year, provided the welcome. The Top 5 Honor Students were announced: Sumra Ahmad, Sydney Marie Boyle, Caleb Austin Cahnotes, Renée Elizabeth Hapeman and Ashley Lynn Boone. The recipients of eight awards were honored before the presentation of diplomas.

At Wheatmore, the Class of 2015 had 186 seniors, including 20 who graduated early and were included in the program for the 8 p.m. commencement. The senior address was given by Jessica Myers and Michelle Washburn who were winners of the traditional school-sponsored speech contest. Mark Hyde, math department teacher, delivered the Commencement Address. WHS Principal Eric Johnson also presented remarks during the ceremony.