Hat's off

The Class of 2018 celebrates at local high schools

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Students accepted their diplomas, turned tassels and tossed mortar boards into the air as many local high schools held graduation ceremonies Friday. There were tears and hugs, promises to keep in touch, and reflections and hopes on a bright future lying ahead.

Trinity and Eastern Randolph high schools kicked off the evening of pomp and circumstance with 6 p.m. ceremonies followed by Asheboro, Randleman and Southwestern high schools at 7 p.m. and Providence Grove and Wheatmore high schools at 8 p.m.

Graduates of Asheboro High School were encouraged Friday evening to make the most of their new lives while being positive influences on others.

Some 322 seniors received their diplomas in ceremonies under a clear blue sky at Lee J. Stone Stadium. Principal Brian Saunders offered words of wisdom, including from Dr. Seuss: "You do you." Saunders said each of them had special talents and skills to discover and use.

He urged them to persevere, especially when obstacles stand in the way of their dreams.

"Don't give up," he said.

Finally, Saunders quoted Gandhi: "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Wesley Jennings Williams gave the senior class address, challenging his classmates to be positive influences for everyone around them. "Our world is truly broken," he said, "but keep the faith. You may be able to change the world for one person."

Alec James Schoenberg, senior and student body president, encouraged graduates to give back to their communities.

UP, UP AND AWAY — The new graduates fling their mortar boards into the air Friday as the Class of 2018 at Asheboro High School celebrates.

GROUP SHOT — From left, Landon Smith, Chase McCallum and Levon McCanless combine for one last photo before receiving their diplomas at Eastern Randolph High School Friday.
PROUD MOMENT — Members of the Class of 2018, numbering 225, stood in front of their floats as the solemn ceremony began Friday night at Randolph High School.

As senior class president,提醒 the class of their “hard work and dedication, making it a joy. It’s the start of a new day. What will you do with it?” With that said, Neathorpe added that it was their year to celebrate, being “in the Lee J. Stone Student Union and last time.”

Dr. Terry Womble, superintendent of Asheville City Schools, awarded the C.C. Crumford Cup to Jonathan Thomas Hyland, a student who earned honor roll with the highest GPA. He also received the Academic Merit Award as well as the highest GPA.

Milestones — Members of the Class of 2018 are now preparing for their high school graduation ceremony, which will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday, May 4, at the school. The ceremony is open to the public and will feature speeches, music, and video presentations from the school.

The event will begin with the national anthem and the presentation of the colors by the school’s color guard. The principal, Dr. Terry Womble, will give the opening address, followed by the keynote speaker, who will talk about the importance of education and the future of our society.

After the keynote speech, the class of 2018 will be recognized for their achievements, including academic excellence, extracurricular activities, and community service. The graduates will also be presented with their diplomas and have the opportunity to speak to their peers and teachers.

The ceremony will conclude with the presentation of the school’s awards and recognition of outstanding students and staff members. The school will also feature a special performance by the school’s band and choir.

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On The Way — Randolph High School Alpine • Pianist Vincenzo Bellini was in town to perform at the Charles R. Gregory School on Monday.

1′TS UNREAL — Summer Lee at Providence Grove High School Senior Lee, at Providence Grove High School, joined the 137-member Class of 2018, as an ambassador over what the future holds.

(Tom Moody also contributed to this article.)

A list of graduates in the school’s alumni directory is available online. Graduates with the highest GPA will be recognized at the graduation ceremony.

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