



Decorating the sky

The 19th commencement ceremony was held last Friday evening at James Monroe High School in Lindside, West Virginia. Additional photographs can be seen on our Facebook page.

James Monroe High School holds 19th commencement ceremony

James Monroe High School’s 19th commencement was held outside last Friday as the sun symbolically set on the graduates wearing purple and black robes. James Monroe High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) members posted the colors and Chord Settle sang the National Anthem. Micaela Ramsey then led the Pledge of Allegiance and Aaron Paynter gave the invocation.

“This is your night and this has been your year,” James Monroe Principal Lisa Mustain said to the graduates.

Mustain stated that the class graduated 19 promise scholars. There are 11 state scholars and six county scholars. Mustain also said that this was the first time since 2001 that more than two students are graduating with a 30 or above on the ACT.

“This class has three,” Mustain said.

The 2013 graduating class is also leaving with a total of \$865,000 in scholarship money.

Mustain listed some of the

other accomplishments of the senior class. This was also a strong class athletically, with graduates participating on the recent state runner-up softball team, at the state track meet, and last fall at the state volleyball tournament in Charleston. Members of the class will also travel to the national FBLA competition in California. Several graduates will also be going into the armed forces.

After Principal Mustain gave a speech to the graduates involving a clever use of their names, next to speak was Monroe County Board of Education President Danny Lively.

Lively told the graduates that as they go out into the world to remember a few simple thoughts.

“This is your world, shape it, or someone else will,” Lively began, quoting Gary Lew.

“Some things aren’t just getting upset over. Focus on the good in your life,” Lively said.

“Accept that you’re going to make mistakes. We all do. None of us are perfect. But learn from

them, and then move on.” Lively said.

Lively concluded by telling the class to always be honest and to be the best person that they can be. He told them to reflect back on all of the people that cared and still care about them. He told them that because of those people they have the ability to understand what it means to care about others.

“You will likely perpetuate that feeling for a lifetime. For it has been given to you along with your education,” Lively said.

After hearing the singing of the school Alma Mater, School Government Association and National Technical Honor Society president John Mustain II spoke.

“I basically lived at this school my entire life,” Mustain said.

Mustain said that every day and every summer was spent working on the baseball field with his father and his childhood was spent going to games and practices.



Sunset

The sun set on the high school careers of James Monroe seniors last Friday evening, with the 19th commencement held outside after being held inside last year.

“I haven’t missed a James Monroe football game since the third or fourth grade and that was only because the game was at Point Pleasant and I was scared of the moth man,” Mustain said.

He continued, “The memories I’ve made here are endless and those I made over the past four years are the ones I will cherish the most.”

While Mustain said that graduation will take away many things from them, such as not seeing each other every day and eating at the lunch table together,

it will not take away the memories that the class has made together over those four years.

“It has a truly been a blessing to spend all of them with you,” Mustain said.

National Honor Society President Kelsie Gillespie recited a poem to those in attendance stating that the honor society qualities of scholarship, leadership, character, and service can be used throughout their life. She then recited from the Dr. Seuss book, “Oh the places you’ll go!”. After the presentation of the

class and the conferring of the diplomas by Principal Mustain, Assistant Principal Susan Weikle, and Monroe County Superintendent Joetta Basile, the class listened to the senior song “I’m not gonna cry” by Corey Smith.

April Highlander gave the benediction and James Monroe JROTC members retired the colors.

Basile concluded the ceremony by declaring them graduates of James Monroe High School.



“Lived at the school”

John Mustain II, National Technical Honor Society President and SGA President told of how he basically lived at James Monroe his entire life, helping his father on the baseball field and how he went to all the games and practices. He said that he hasn’t missed a football game since the third or fourth grade and that was only because the game then was at Point Pleasant and he was scared of the moth man.



Donation given

A donation was given by VFW Post 6000 to combat veterans hiking the Appalachian Trail last week. Pictured (left to right) are members of the VFW along with the hikers: VFW Post 6000 Ladies Auxiliary President Jan Bailey, Steve Clendenning, Cody Umphress, Thomas Gathman, Gary Ewin, Stephanie Cutts, Kevin Reed, Lewis Haldren (VFW Post 6000 quartermaster), Dennis Whitlow VFW Post 6000 Commander, Sharon Smit and Adam Bautz.

Combat veterans participating in Warrior Hike stop in Narrows

Combat veterans hiking the Appalachian Trail stopped in Narrows at Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 6000 last Thursday.

While in Narrows the group received a donation of \$1400, which will go towards helping purchase adapted vehicles for seriously wounded veterans.

According to Dennis Whitlow, VFW Post 6000 Commander, this was the most that has been raised thus far. “It’s amazing how the community here supports the program,” Whitlow said, adding that this is not just a VFW event but a community event. Last year they raised \$800.

Last year was the first year for Warrior Hike, when nonprofit program founders Marine Corps Captains Mark Silvers and Sean Gobin hiked the Appalachian Trail. Warrior Hike has since partnered with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy to create the Walk off the War Program designed to support combat veterans transitioning from military service by thru-hiking the entire Appalachian Trail.

Thomas Gathman of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania is one of those veterans hiking the trail this year who stopped in Narrows.

Gathman, a Marine who did

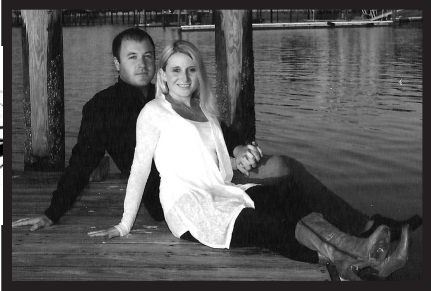
four years in the infantry and two tours in Iraq, heard of Warrior Hike when Gobins and Silvers hiked the Appalachian Trail last year.

“It’s a good program for veterans to utilize as a transitioning tool from active duty and the military combat life to civilian life,” Gathman said.

While they still have a long way to go Gathman said it has been a lot of fun. Gathman has hiked as much as 34 miles in a day and on average they hike 15-25 miles per day, carrying 35-45 pounds.

They have been on the trail for nearly three months now, a journey that began with a snowy March start in Georgia.

Gobin stated, “Our impressions of Narrows was in line with the hospitality and generosity displayed again this year. The Narrows community really impressed us with how well they came together and organized the incredible amount of support for our program. Narrows embodies small town America and all of the wonderful attributes that you would expect from a closely-knit community.”



Danny & Hilda Compton of Newport are honored to announce the engagement of their daughter Ashley Danielle to Theodore John Rennie. Both are residents of Wilmington NC. Theodore is the son of John and Kathy Rennie of Durham NC. Ashley is currently employed in Shallote, NC at West Brunswick High School as an English teacher and Theodore is employed at New Hanover High School in Wilmington as a social studies teacher and head soccer coach. An outdoor wedding will take place on June 15, 2013 on the Cape Fear River in downtown Wilmington.



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