

Graduation: Class of 2020 had plenty of achievers

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ment in wake of the past few months," class Salutatorian Thomas Atwood told his fellow graduates during a pre-recorded speech. "I'm grateful for this little victory. Every single one of us has defeated the big bad monster we thought was high school and, it turns out, he has a big brother and we're supposed to go fight through him next."

The graduates and their families lined up in their cars at Hammond Marina then made their way through the downtowns of Hammond and Warrenton before winding through the bus barn and parking lot en

route to the football stadium. Once at Mattila Field, they got out one-by-one, picked up a sanitized diploma and had their picture taken on the stage.

"What a wild ride it has been for us," Valedictorian

Isabella Morrill said in her speech. "Life is all about choices. As Warriors, we know what that means. Every choice makes you."

Life also is about perseverance and about living, she said. "It's about being 'All

In.' ... We've learned how quickly time we thought we had can be taken from us."

Valedictorian Kaisa Liljenwall recognized ways the Class of 2020 set records in unusual ways.

"In the last four years, especially, we've had so many incredible accomplishments," she said. "We've had students receive international and statewide recognition for being outstanding in debating, the arts, athletics, academics and service."

The class had 37 students who participated in statewide competitions, seven state-placing teams, four first-team all-state athletes, two state champions, 12

philanthropists, and 10 National Honor Society members.

"What the heck is in store for us tomorrow," she wondered. "Always appreciate your small accomplishments ... because you cannot accomplish great things in one fell swoop."

Each student received a recording of the ceremony produced by Justin Grafton Studios. It included class memories, childhood photos and a memorial to Trevor Secord, a class member who died after being struck by a vehicle in 2017.

Smoking: May be banned in parks

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chair.

Board member Bert Little said he'd favor the action only if a designated smoking area is established in all parks.

The City Commission was mixed as well.

"I think we take things too far," Commissioner Mark Baldwin said. "I'm more offended by heavy perfumes. ... I'm not for this whatsoever. Compassion and common sense should come into play. It's about co-existing together."

But commissioners Tom Dyer, Pam Ackley and Rick Newton asked to have the idea brought up again, along with a potential ordinance.

"I just worry about fire hazards," Newton said. "At the dog park, for instance, the bark (mulch) is pretty flammable."

Dyer didn't want to dissuade smokers from attending their children's ball games and advocated developing a smoking area in each park.

Ackley concurred, although she acknowledged many smokers don't adhere to the state's rules about remaining 10 feet from store entrances and public restrooms.

Graduate J.J. Salcedo rolls down Main Avenue headed to drive-through graduation ceremonies at Warrenton High School.

Cindy Yingst
The Columbia
Press



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