

Alleghany High School Graduating Class of 2023



2023 Commencement to be held at Woodruff Stadium

By **BOB BAMBERG**
STAFF

Graduating Alleghany High School seniors will flip their tassels from right to left Friday, May 19, at Woodruff Stadium, signaling their completion of high school careers. Ceremonies begin at 6 p.m. and culminate with the award of diplomas.

Some 99 seniors are slated to receive diplomas, 14 more than in 2022. In case of rain, the outdoor program will be moved to the following day, Saturday, May 20, at 6 p.m. in Woodruff Stadium.

The traditional program be-

gins with the presentation of the colors by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7034, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by senior Karlie Keeper. Despite her young age, Keeper is a noted banjo player and vocalist for her band, Smokey Holler.

She is among eight Summa Cum Laude graduates who will take part in the program. These also include Gracie MaKay Barker, Sophia Grace Hargnett, Cindy Lopez Hernandez, Shelby McKenzie Hudson, Anna Camille Green, Phoebe Johnson Murphy, Jackson Kathleen Thompson and Alexandra

Kate Vestal.

AHS Athletic director Noah Lyon will present three athletic awards. AHS Assistant Principal Alicia Murzin will introduce the class, followed by the presentation of the diplomas by Principal Travis Stugill.

The Class of 2023 received its education during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was March 11, 2020, in the waning months of their freshman year, that the Alleghany News banner headline on page 1 announced "Schools close; dining out nixed," as the Alleghany school system scrambled to continue education in spite

of COVID restrictions.

For the remaining months of the school year, classes would be beamed into their homes remotely. Accommodations were made to ensure that all students had the proper internet connections and computers to participate in those classes.

Graduation was a drive-through event with each senior and their family getting time on Woodruff Field with school officials. Awards ceremonies were streamed.

The 2020-21 school year began with students alternating between in-school education and remote learning at

home four days a week. The alternating weeks permitted students to be more spread out while in school, but it also meant that they saw only half their classmates. Students did not attend school on Friday so that areas of the schools could be cleaned as a precaution against the COVID virus spread.

The 2021-22 school year returned to some normalcy as students were in school five days a week. They began the year required to wear a mask during the school day. In-home instruction was still an option when classes had to be quarantined because of a

case of COVID by a student or teacher. In many cases, in-home instruction kept students in school when in previous years they would have had snow days.

The pandemic made remote work a part of everyday life and because of their experience with in-home instruction, these students go out into the world with a unique background with remote work and education.

Their senior year saw the class of 2023 return to what would be considered a normal educational experience and a more traditional graduation ceremony.

CONGRATS, CLASS OF 2023!



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Success is doing your best.



That's why we're so proud to support the graduates of this community. It takes ambition, dedication and perseverance to earn your place in line. We think that's worth commending. Thank you, Alleghany High School graduates, for always giving your best.

Congratulations Class of 2023 — You did it!

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