

PROGRESS REPORT

Gavin Carver rates his level of frustration with graduation being postponed: **69,000%**



SENIORS SAY FAREWELL

Story by Meriel Salisbury
Design by Sophia Kaufman

Events of the pandemic leaves seniors without closure

ACROSS AMERICA, SENIORS grieved the lost end of the school year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The story was no different at Lawrence High, where state-wide school closures meant that for seniors, their last week at LHS was the first week of March.

"I'm really sad about the fact that we didn't know our last day was our last day," senior Keely English said. "If I knew, I definitely would've cherished walking through the halls one last time and said a proper goodbye to all my teachers."

Senior Peyton Mallory felt similarly. "If I knew beforehand that my last day at LHS was before spring break, I definitely would have thanked my teachers for guiding my way through high school, and make sure I got to say my last good-byes to some of my friends that I may never get to see again," Mallory said.

Mallory planned to go to college to play basketball and said the pandemic slowed down the recruitment process.

"The coaches have really grasped this new recruiting process, so I've been getting texts and phone calls from some," Mallory said.

Senior Emmeline Schneider missed end-of-the-year activities for her class, which she viewed as a rite of passage.

"The end of senior year is the time when us seniors cherish the last few moments we have all together as a class, and sadly, we had our last moments together without even

realizing it," Schneider said.

Schneider was an active part of orchestra and jazz band. "I am going to miss my orchestra family the most because I know it will not be possible to bring us all together in person," said Schneider, who planned to play bass in college.

Another loss especially important to seniors was the choir department's Showtime.

"[Showtime's] such a big part of who I am," English said. "I got close to so many people last year during Showtime, so not being able to do it this year is hard. I was really looking forward to singing the senior song."

Even though the loss of the last celebratory months of school and unprecedented uncertainty due to COVID-19 was challenging, seniors tried to remain optimistic.

"I'm not sure how much of an actual summer we will be able to experience, which is really sad, because this is the last summer I'm together with all my friends," English said. "But I can't wait to make it as good as we can. College is going to bring a lot of new beginnings, and I'm excited to see where it will take me."

► **Smiling wide**, senior Lewis Gone waves out his window while participating in the drive-through parade in the LHS parking lot. The celebration was put on for seniors on the date that should have been their graduation but was rescheduled to July 18 due to social distancing and health guidelines. Photo by Barbara Tholen.

►► "I didn't think my senior year would end like this. What I am most upset about is that I cannot say goodbye to my underclassmen friends." —**Luke Talkington, senior**

ONE LAST TIME

Seniors win prizes for car decorations in drive-through 'Celebrate the Date' event at LHS during night that was originally scheduled for the Class of 2020's graduation



LIZZY LEMMON
Lemmon won the "most creative representation of 2020" category at Celebrate the Date. The win came with a \$100 gift card. Photo by Sophia Kaufman



RYAN LAUTS
He won a \$100 gift card and the "red and black decorations" category during Celebrate the Date. Photo by Ari Wilke



ASHLEY WILDEMAN
With a car resembling a lion in a graduation cap, senior Ashley Wildeman won a \$100 gift card during Celebrate the Date. Photo by Ari Wilke



RUBEN LITTLEHEAD
Ruben Littlehead won a \$250 gift card for best overall representation of the "show us who you are" category. Photo by Kenna McNally

SEASON CUT SHORT

Baseball player Jacob Miller reflects on the loss of his spring sport season as a senior:

JACOB MILLER

"Being a Chesty Lion means everything to me. If I were to be given one wish, it would be to go out there for one more season and represent Lawrence High School and my brothers on the field. Not being able to wear 'Lawrence' across my chest really hurts. This program has really shaped me into the person I am today."

Reporting by Cuyler Dunn

► **Hanging out**,

senior Asjah Harris sits on her car during the drive-through graduation parade. Seniors decorated their cars in an attempt to remake the magic of graduation night. "My favorite part was riding past all my teachers and waving at them," Harris said. "It really put a smile on my face." Photo by Kenna McNally



► **Filled with pride**,

senior Jude Harris smiles from inside a decorated car during the senior class event in order to abide by social distancing guidelines. The celebration was held on May 20, the day that would have been graduation. Photo by Kenna McNally



◀ **Look alike**,

senior Peyton Mallory sits next to a blown up sign of his head. The graduation parade was the first time since before spring break, that students were able to see each other. "[The highlight was] Probably seeing all of the classmates and teachers that I wasn't able to see for awhile," Mallory said. Photo by Ari Wilke



◀ **Posing**,

senior Nick Wallace holds cleaning products as he wears a mask and gloves at the celebration on May 20. The windshield of his car read, "Class of 2020. The quarantine of our lives." Photo by Barbara Tholen

