



## WHS seniors triumph

The Class of 2021 celebrated with a well-deserved graduation ceremony.

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By Natalie Teal, *The Cardinal*

June 11, 2021

Invited family and friends gathered in the WHS gymnasium at 8:00 PM on June 4 to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2021. Last year's seniors unfortunately were unable to hold such a celebration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but COVID numbers in Walla Walla County dwindled enough to receive the O.K. from the County Health Dept. to hold an indoor ceremony.

An invitation list limiting each graduate to ten guests (including the graduate themselves) was created to adhere to the pandemic indoor capacity restrictions enacted by the County Health Department. Before the graduation ceremony, a parade was held and dedicated to those who weren't on the list so they too could see the seniors on their way to life beyond high school.

Kicking off the ceremony was the classic "Pomp and Circumstance" as class marshals Natalie Teal and Amy Bly, sisters of graduates Grant Teal and Zachary Bly, marched in with the American and Washington state flags held high with reverence.

Behind the class marshals, graduates Zachary Bly, Emilie Bundy, Stanley Cagle, Shawn Evans, Jillian Foxe, Koby Harris, Antonio Herrera, Katherine Houchin, Alvin Knowles, Garrett Korslund, Teagen Larsen, Quentin Marcum, Adam Puckett, Grant Teal, Colton VanBlaricom, and Kaylee White, strode single-file to their seats at the helm of the gymnasium.

Before the class seated, the audience joined them and Class President Antonia Herrera led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. The class then sat and Waitsburg High School Superintendent Mr. Mark Pickel was welcomed to speak in honor of the senior graduates. In his conclusion, he prompted Senior Honor Speaker Shawn Evans to the lectern.

Following Mr. Evans, Salutatorian Teagen Larsen and Valedictorian Koby Harris were welcomed individually to the lectern to serve their final speeches to attendees. Many attendees wound up misty-eyed over Miss Larsen's empowering, inspirational sentiment about paving her own path for life despite her seemingly predestined future and facing the unknown with courage and perseverance.

As speeches concluded, WHS principal Stephanie Wooderchak announced the year's honor graduates. Koby Harris and Teagen Larsen stood for their membership with the Waitsburg NHS Chapter; Koby Harris and Zachary Bly stood for their active participation in the Waitsburg FFA Chapter; Koby Harris, Teagen Larsen, Shawn Evans, and Kaylee White stood both in honor of maintaining a 3.25 grade point average over their high school career and in honor of doing so with no Ds or Fs.

Special awards were then presented to select graduates before the class was sent to the back of the room for the senior presentation. One by one, the collection played through the memories of graduates from infancy to adulthood, filling the audience with sweet nostalgia.

After the heartwarming slideshow, Mrs. Wooderchak issued scholarships to those students who earned them, and graduates were welcomed to the center podium by Senior Secretary Kaylee White to finally receive their hard-earned high school diplomas. With bright eyes and jubilant whoops and hollers, the Class of 2021 tossed their caps into the air and elicited applause from the entire gymnasium.

Following the ceremony was a reception held on the front lawn of the high school where families reunited with and congratulated their graduates, snapping photos and enjoying cake provided by the staff.

Unfortunately, seniors Kyler Slack and Gavin Wade were absent from the ceremony.

# LOCAL

## Scholarship Winners at WHS Graduation

By Brandy Davis, *The Cardinal*  
June 10, 2021



KAREN HUWE

A special moment between salutatorian Teagen Larsen and her father, Troy

With the class of 2020-2021 graduating recently, a total of five graduating seniors were scholarship winners. The scholarship winners were Shawn Evans, Jillian Foxe, Koby Harris, Antonio Herrera, and Teagen Larsen. Shawn will attend Pacific University, Jillian will attend Walla Walla Community College, Koby will attend the Construction Industry Training Council, Antonio will attend Shoreline Community College, and Teagen will attend Northern Arizona University.

The total amount of money that Shawn earned in scholarships was \$32,300, Jillian's total amount was \$1,000, Koby's total amount was \$5,200, Antonio's total amount was \$1,250, and Teagen's total amount was \$69,600. WHS Alumni also were awarded scholarships at graduation. WHS graduates from the past were Lexus Brooks, Michelle Brooks, Amy Farley, Mackenzie Forney, and Hannah Grant.

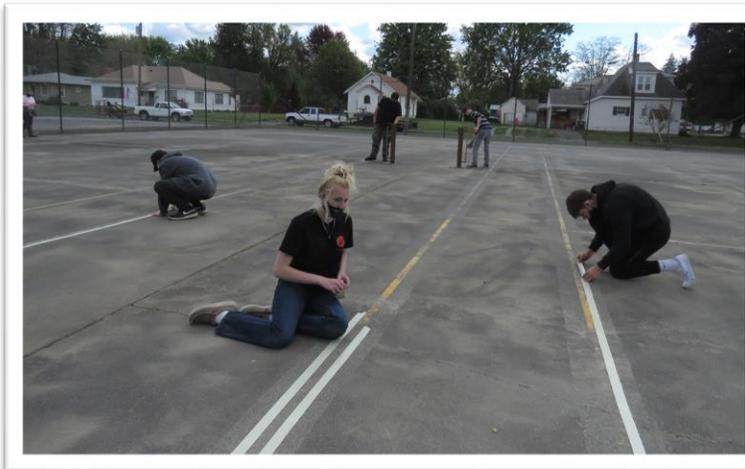
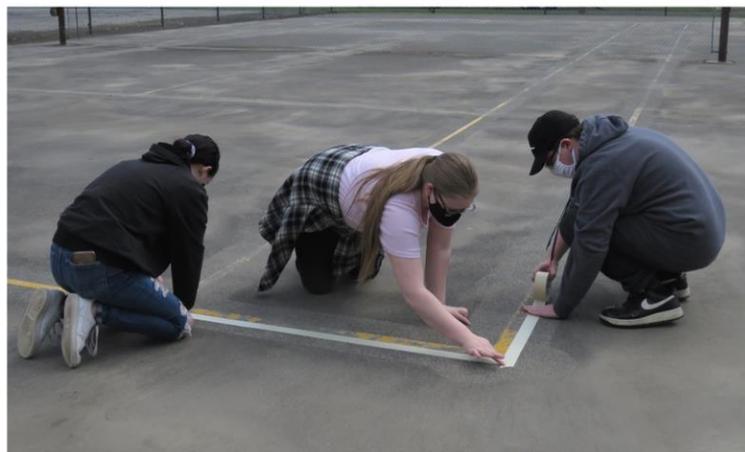
# Seniors Tennis Court Project

By Brandon Leroue, *The Cardinal*  
June 8, 2021

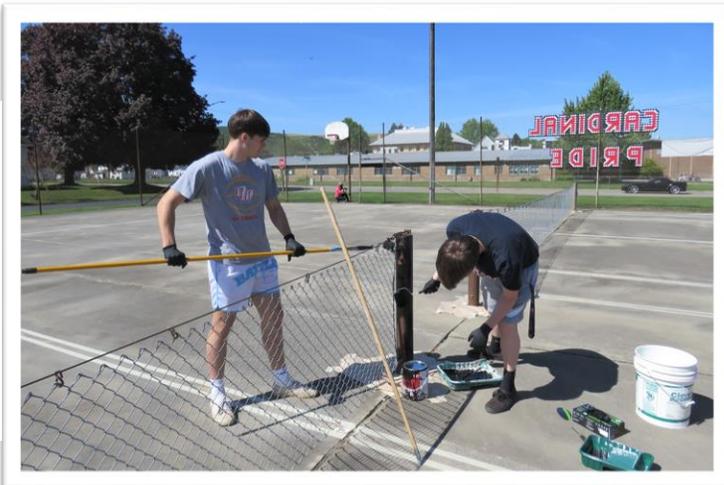
WAITSBURG--The Class of 2021 did a community project to make the tennis courts look better. This project included newly painted lines, basketball poles, and the poles on the tennis net. The school district will add new lights and more.

I interviewed Mrs. Huwe, the leader of the project, and she told me that the seniors did a good job and it was fun to work with them. Although the seniors are gone they still plan to add things to the court, such as new basketball backboards. New lines for the key and three-point shot have also been added.

They started the project was the first week of May and the end is still to be determined.



**Class of 2021**



Photos courtesy of Class of 2021 advisor,  
Karen Huwe

# Waitsburg chapter FFA members honored

WAITSBURG-- Members of the Waitsburg Chapter of the FFA met in the WHS Auditorium for an unusual end of the year banquet. The chapter usually holds a formal banquet in the Waitsburg Elementary Multipurpose Room. However, due to COVID-19, the officer team and advisor decided to hold a mini-banquet during school to honor the chapter members and their accomplishments.

At the mini banquet all of the officers did the opening ceremonies and President Koby Harris did the welcome speech. Officers Brayden Mohny and Caleb Barron thanked parents, community members, and local businesses for their support during the year.

The following chapter awards were presented at the mini-banquet.

Agronomy: Alexis Reeves and Theo Anderson

Extemporaneous Speaking: Makenna Barron

Veterinary Science: Koby Harris, Zac Bly, Lily Bone, McKenzie Lewis-Seal, Alex Struckmeier, and Jasper Morrow

Agricultural Mechanics: Koby Harris, Caleb Barron, Brayden Mohny, Jay Dimak, and Owen Yost

National Chapter Award: Koby Harris, Brayden Mohny, McKenzie Lewis-Seal, and Caleb Barron

Creed: Makenna Barron and Abbi Paolino

Green Hand Awards: Laura Hill, Garrett Palmer, Seazyn Russell, Owen Yost, Makenna Barron, Kylee Henry, Elsie Mann, Jasper Morrow, Abbi Paolino, and Peyton Struckmeier

Star Green Hand: Makenna Barron

Trap Shooting Team: Zac Bly, Koby Harris, Caleb Barron, Garrett Palmer, Makenna Barron, Amy Bly, and Jasper Morrow

FFA Pride Awards: *Most Valuable*-Peyton Struckmeier; *Most Inspirational*-Abbi Paolino; *Most Active Officer*-Koby Harris; *Most Active Member*-Jasper Morrow

Chapter Scholastic Achievement Members with a 4.0 Grade Point Average: Koby Harris, Lily Bone, Megan Forney, and Makenna Barron

DeKalb Agriculture Accomplishment Award: Koby Harris

Senior Recognition: Zac Bly and Koby Harris

The retiring of the jackets of the officers closed the ceremony. The officer team for the 2021-2022 school year will be voted on at a later date.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KAREN HUWE



Koby Harris receiving the DeKalb Award



Makenna Barron: Star Green Hand



FFA Pride Awards: Abbi Paolino, Jasper Morrow, Koby Harris, and Peyton Struckmeier



Chapter President Koby Harris retiring his jacket to FFA Advisor Nicole

# Heap of the week

By Owen Yost, *The Cardinal*

June 9, 2021

WAITSBURG HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT--Now that the seniors are gone, the parking lot of Waitsburg High School is a little emptier. Juniors have moved up to the front row and there are more spaces available for the sophomores who drive to school. In the student parking lot one will find a Buick, a Ford, a Dodge, a Chevy, a Mitsubishi, a Toyota, and a Subaru. However, the one student car that stands out to many is a 1999 Toyota Camry driven by Brayden Mohney. Brayden's car, also known as "Skeet", is a light brown Toyota Camry. Brayden is a junior in high school, but he is about to be a senior. His car Skeet is what Brayden and his friends call "a super sender", because he does crazy things in it.

Skeet has a lot of problems but it can still beat Jay Anthony Dimak's Mitsubishi Lancer. But the things that are wrong with Skeet are just stacking up over time. Skeet has many key features (really problems). One problem he has is that the front two doors only open from the inside, so in order to get in, he has to jump in through the window like Bo Duke. Skeet has many leaks too; his exhaust and oil leak quite frequently. Brayden's car has mud and food condiments all over it. He has also driven from Dixie on a flat tire.

Now that Skeet's bad things have been discussed, here are a few good things about Skeet. One good thing about Skeet is the stereo system. Brayden also said he enjoys his built in security system of his two front doors. I would list off a few more things about Skeet that are good, but there are no more.

The most important thing about Skeet is that Brayden likes his car. Although it is not the prettiest or the fastest, it gets from Point A to Point B and isn't that what it's all about?



OWEN YOST

Brayden Mohney's car, Skeet

# WHS 2020-2021



LEOS PHOTOGRAPHY

## *June Cardinal Staff*

Brandy Davis  
Jay Dimak  
Brandon Leroue  
Natalie Teal  
Owen Yost

Have a safe  
summer—see you  
in September.