

Southern Fulton High School graduation



Photo by Chris Ullery

Graduates of Southern Fulton High School in Warfordsburg, Pa., take the stage Wednesday night in the school's auditorium for commencement.

Small-town education benefits seniors

By CHRIS ULLERY
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WARFORDSBURG, Pa. — Student speakers at Southern Fulton High School on Wednesday encouraged their fellow classmates to be confident, and above all else, appreciate the small-town education they received as they move forward with their lives.

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"High school's been a place for each of us to make progress," Valedictorian Brianne Wawro said.

Part of Wawro's progress through her time at the school was getting over her

shyness, progress she acknowledged her parents were responsible for by getting her involved in sports and other activities.

"Now, people can't get me to shut up," she said.

As for being valedictorian, Wawro said she had to take the credit for that.

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provision in a phased-in approach designed to provide similar services statewide, Tomblin said.

The Justice Reinvestment Treatment Supervision Grant program was established to build new and enhance existing relationships between behavioral-health providers and the criminal-justice system in West Virginia, with the goal of addressing the needs of a target offender population, Tomblin said.

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on full of hay, the spokesman the said.

There were no reported injuries, he said.

to a battery of questions Wednesday from Republican senators who, like the troopers' union, want the Democratic governor to withdraw Col. Marcus Brown as his nominee.

But a Democrat accused Brown's detractors of opposing the integration of the overwhelmingly white force.

The hourlong hearing on Brown's nomination was a prelude to the Senate's determination about whether Brown will lead the 6,000-person agency as its full and permanent commissioner, or whether he must continue to wear the title of acting commissioner.

Afterward, the Law and Justice Committee unanimously sent Brown's nom-

first public airing of a battery of issues that Republicans, gun-rights advocates, and current and former troopers have concerning Brown.

Brown was second in command in the Baltimore Police Department before becoming superintendent of Maryland State Police under former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat who is running for president.

Brown, 50, has liberal notions of law enforcement that have rankled Republicans, gun-rights groups and rank-and-file troopers in a conservative law-enforcement agency that is one of the nation's largest and is an influential force in the Pennsylvania Capitol.



By Colleen McGrath/Staff Photographer
High School senior Sierra Sherman, left, and Whitney Parson look on Wednesday at the school's commencement.

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"It was me. I'm very perfectionist oriented," she said before commencement.

Being from a small school and a small community benefits students in the long run, Wawro said.

"In our small community, we all need to rely on each other for support and guidance," she said.

Wawro will attend Shippensburg (Pa.) University in the fall and major in pre-medical biology.

The tight-knit community does not just affect the students, but staff members as well, graduation adviser Heather Gordon said.

"It's a fun process to actually see the kids come up from seventh grade, and then to finally make it and walk across," Gordon said.

Spencer Lampley, a National Honor Society member and speaker at Wednesday night's ceremony, said graduating was bittersweet.

"I'm glad to be out, but at the same time, it's kind of sad because I'll almost never see them again," he said.

Lampley has received two scholarships from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, Fla., where he will study chemical and biomedical engineering.

A highlight for everyone in the auditorium came from senior Courtney Caro, who presented the history of the Class of 2015.

"We've made a lot of memories together," she said, pulling a thin rod from the podium. "And now, I'd like us to make one more — the time we all took a selfie at graduation."

After the initial presentations, scholarship awards were presented to the students.

Among the scholarship recipients were Wawro, Sara Charnahan, Elizabeth Hendershot, Tyler Smith and Sara Spade, who each received \$2,000 from the Hermand B. Mellott Memorial Scholarship fund.

Mason, Emma are top baby names in Pa.

According to data re- Emma, Olivia, Ava, Sophia