

EDITION FRESH FUTURE
HISTORIC WEATHER ONE
DREAMS OF THE FUTURE
CONCERNING THE FUTURE

Congrats, Grads!
After Years of
Hard Work and a
Pandemic, You've
Finally Made It!
Graduation!

GRADUATION

FEATURING SENIORS FROM MCKENZIE, HUNTINGDON, WEST CARROLL, CENTRAL, CLARKSBURG AND GLEASON HIGH SCHOOLS.

CARROLL COUNTY + GLEASON



KEEPSAKE EDITION | TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020

Congratulations, Graduates!

This special keepsake edition of The Banner is a celebration of the seniors from McKenzie, Huntingdon, West Carroll, Central, Clarksburg and Gleason who recently completed their high school education and received diplomas at their respective graduation events.

Included are photos (as available) of each graduate and in-depth coverage of each commencement ceremony.

The accomplishments of these students

are a reflection of the dedication of so many in the community who have invested their valuable time, tireless effort and loving care into cultivating productive young men and women, from parents, grandparents and guardians to teachers, coaches, administrators, support staff and elected leaders. The achievements are also a projection of the bright, hopeful future of our communities and of society as a whole.

This edition was made possible by the

many local businesses and individuals who have extended their congratulations through advertisements on these pages. The Banner hopes you will take the time to read these messages of pride and well-wishes and will remember to support these businesses as they are the backbone of our community.

The Banner extends a special thanks to each school for providing us the senior photos, names and information vital to making this special edition complete.

Again, congratulations graduates and best of luck as you transition into the next phase of your lives!

congratulations
graduates
class of 2020
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A1478



NIKOLAS HEATH

McKenzie High School
Parents: Mark & Monica Heath
Nikolas will be attending UTM in the fall
Studying: Ag Engineering

Class of
2020

"Wherever you go, go with all your heart."
- Confucius

We Love You,
Mom, Dad, Noah & Courtney

A3818

Micah Austin



Graduate of McKenzie High School 2020

Micah played sports during his 12 years of school. Baseball from T-ball to Babe Ruth, Football from flag to high school and basketball from Upwards basketball to high school. Micah loves sports, and he signed to play football with Bethel College and to study Criminal Law!

We are very proud of you and the young man you have become!
Love, hugs & prayers from
Grandma, Pawpaw, Momma, Elijah, Reba, Roger, River, Granddaddy and Barbara
May God Bless You with health, happiness & success!

R15893

We're Proud of Our
GRADUATES!

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Cameron Kee
Nathan Rorer
Nate Whitsell
Karli Brown
Shelby Davis

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
Evan Wallace
Kylie Hollingsworth
Autumn Baker
Carter Graves

WEST CARROLL HIGH SCHOOL
Aleisha Annis
Denver Brooks
Braden Pounds

HUNTINGDON HIGH SCHOOL
Caedyn Clark
Angel Crocker
Ashlyn Neely
Merriett Willis



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A7106

McKenzie High School

Class of 2020

2020 2020 2020

Cameron Kee
**BEFORE YOU, ALL YOUR DREAMS
 AROUND YOU, ALL WHO LOVE YOU
 TODAY IS YOUR DAY!**
 Love,
 Granddaddy Steve & KK
 Congrats Class of 2020




Congratulations to Graduating Seniors
 Kenady Atkins – Gleason • Cameron Kee – McKenzie
 Kelsey Lee – Huntingdon • Austin Miller – Milan
 Alliyah Thompson – Gateway Christian Academy
 Burton Colvett – TCAT-McKenzie
 Logan Priestley – UTM

We Are Very Proud Of All Our Graduates!
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 Church of Christ**
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Top, MHS graduates toss their mortarboards in celebration. Above Left, MHS commencement speakers (L to R): Salutatorian Jenna Tucker, Class President Lane Horton and Valedictorian Isabella Colotta. Above Right, MHS Top Ten graduates (L to R): Front Row — Jenna Tucker, Camille Travis, Momi DeLoach, Madison Hendrix, Sydney Pate and Isabella Colotta; Back Row — Cameron Kee, Jackey Zheng, Nathan Rorer and Zack Roy. Below Left, Class Treasurer Nathan Rorer sings the National Anthem. Below Right, The McKenzie High School Class of 2020 sits six feet apart in front of a limited audience in the gymnasium. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

**BENJAMIN S.
 HARMON**

would like to congratulate all
 2020 Carroll County Seniors.




McKenzie Graduates 91 With Limited Audience

McKENZIE (May 17) — The McKenzie High School Class of 2020 graduated with 91 seniors on Sunday afternoon amid the COVID-19 pandemic that interrupted their senior year. McKenzie schools dismissed March 19 and never returned because of the worldwide pandemic.

Students wore the traditional red and gray gowns and were seated at floor-level with greater than usual spacing between the students to comply with recommended social (physical) distancing to slow the spread of the virus.

The number of attendees was limited to up to six per graduate. This was the 111th graduating class for the McKenzie community.

Following the traditional processional to "Pomp and Circumstance," Class Secretary Sydney Pate led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Class Treasurer Nathan Rorer sang the National Anthem. Class President Lane Horton welcomed all to the event.

Salutatorian Jenna Tucker then delivered her address, first asking to take a moment. "To my classmates sitting in front of me, I want you to take a second and look at those sitting to your right and to your left. Just one second. We have worked our entire life for this moment, so I just want to take a second and breathe it all in. One thing I've come to learn this year is to appreciate everything life has

to offer, big or small."

She spoke of all of the things that her class has missed out on, but said, "Instead of focusing on all that we lost, I want to remember all the great memories we made as a class." She reminisced about such memories from elementary school through senior year and said, "I know we've missed out on a lot this year, but we can't let that overshadow all of the unforgettable memories we've made together."

Tucker thanked the parents, families, MHS staff and community for their support.

She concluded, "To the Class of 2020, each of you have such bright futures ahead. I encourage you to dream big, and don't let anyone tell you what you can or can't do. Don't let fear or worry hold you back from doing what makes you happy. Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you are doing, you will be successful. I pray that each of you find all of the good that life has to offer. Thank you for making the past 13 years unforgettable. I love you guys."

Valedictorian Isabella Colotta spoke next, beginning with thanks to the teachers, family and friends of the class. She recounted to her fellow graduates their four-year journey at McKenzie High School.

She said, "I know this is not the ending we all wanted or expected. As the class that was born in the

aftermath of 9/11, we have seen a roller coaster of change in our 18 years. That is what bonds us together. Through all this, I have learned how important time is. Time goes, and we cannot get it back, so remember to live in the moment and use your time wisely."

Colotta declared that her class could now start a new chapter in their lives. "We can finally live out our dreams we have set for ourselves when we were little... We have a lot to look forward to in our lives, and we will always remember the memories we made here at McKenzie High."

She concluded, "I think Winnie the Pooh said it best, 'How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.' Farewell Class of 2020, stay safe and sanitize."

Principal Kelly Spivey then recognized the many achievements, scholarships and other honors earned by the Class of 2020, including a total of \$2,161,090 in scholarships. He then officially presented the class and conferred the diplomas, assisted by school board President John Austin, Director of Schools Lynn Watkins and school counselor Sheila Ridley.

Spivey then directed the new alumni to turn their tassels.

Commencement ended with the singing of the Alma Mater, and the graduates tossed their mortarboards in celebration.

2020
Congratulations
 GRADUATES

We are proud of you!



Drew Beeler

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**Congratulations to
 All Area 2020 Seniors!**



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731-352-2454



Class of 2020

Huntingdon High School

Huntingdon Graduates 94 at Paul Ward Stadium

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com
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HUNTINGDON (May 18) — Huntingdon High School awarded diplomas to 94 seniors Monday evening during commencement exercises held at Paul Ward Stadium.

The event included special precautions to ensure proper social distancing. The audience was limited and spaced accordingly in the stands, and the graduates were seated six feet apart on the field. The graduation was streamed live on Facebook for those who could not attend.

Commencement began with the processional onto the field to "Pomp and Circumstance."

Graduate Merriett Willis delivered the invocation, and special guest Brooke Cooper performed the national anthem.

Senior Class President Abby Stokes welcomed all to the ceremony, and HHS Principal Dr. Jonathan Kee announced the top ten awards. Huntingdon's top ten graduates are Valedictorian Adyn Swenson, Salutatorian Katie Simpson, Kensley Crossno, Kaci Fuller, Zach Childress, Jacob Blankenship, Macey Culbreath, Jordan Davis, Ashlyn Neely and Angel Crocker.

Simpson then delivered her salutatory address. She began with thanks to family, friends, faculty, administrators and the community.

To her fellow graduates, she said, "Throughout our high school years, we have gained more than just classroom knowledge. We learned to persevere when a class became difficult. We learned how to be a valuable member of a team. We learned to be patient when things did not go as planned. And, we learned what it takes to be a good friend. The knowledge we gained in the classroom combined with all of these things we have learned is what enables us to succeed in our everyday lives."

Simpson shared many examples of "little things" that the teachers did that made a "huge difference."

She concluded, "Classmates, I hope that in our four years at Huntingdon High School, you have made memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I know I have... I encourage you, the Class of 2020, to pursue a path in life in which you feel that you can make a difference. To me,



that equals success. This may be our last milestone together, but I personally cannot wait to see how much all of you accomplish in your futures. It has been a great four years. Thank you!"

Swenson then presented the valedictory address. She began, "Everything happens for a reason. Little did we know when we started our senior year, we would be faced with the situation we are now. Has the situation caused lots of disappointments? Yes. But has the situation also caused us all to grow? Yes."

She quoted James 1:2-3, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." She said, "This verse reminds us to not only persevere through these difficult times, but to find joy in the middle of them. During my time at Huntingdon High School, my administrators, teachers and fellow students have taught me the way to do just that. All of their compassion and encouragement have shown us that every obstacle and battle can be overcome with determination and unconditional love."

She concluded, "As for the Class of 2020, our senior year did not end the way we would have liked, but as we continue through

life, if we stay focused on finding joy through our trials and tribulations, we will all find success... And finally, as my dad always says, 'tough times make tough people,' so I know our class will come out stronger, tougher and ready to take on the next chapter of our lives."

Beta President Kensley Crossno then recognized the graduating Beta Club members.

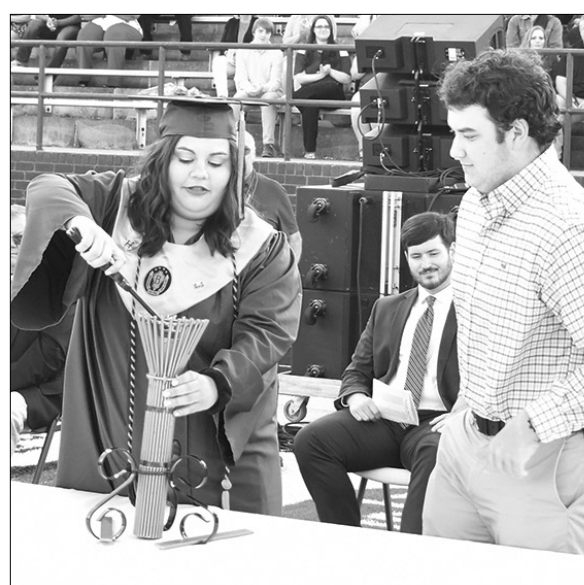
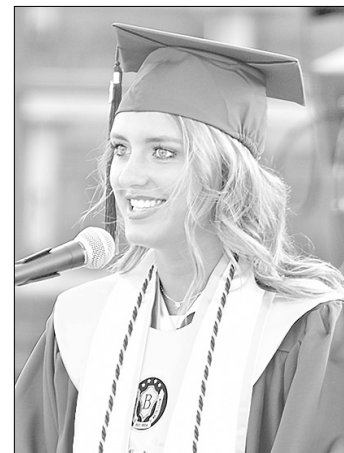
Next, Dr. Kee and special guests presented many awards and scholarships.

Graduates then came forward one by one to receive their diplomas, without the traditional handshakes. Once all diplomas had been presented, the graduates released blue and gold balloons into the sky.

Stokes completed her duties as class president with the traditional passing of the torch to Class of 2021 President Carter Cary. She said, "Once this torch is passed to the Class of 2021, we are no longer seniors, but alumni of this great school, and starting tomorrow, our lives go in many different directions. As we begin this new journey in our lives, our legacy here at Huntingdon High School will never be forgotten, and this glowing torch of knowledge will always be the symbol of what pulls us all together as HHS graduates."



Above Left, Hannah Reeves accepts a balloon after receiving her diploma. Above Center, The graduates release blue and gold balloons after receiving their diplomas. Top Right, Valedictorian Adyn Swenson delivers her address to her fellow graduates. Above Right, Salutatorian Katie Simpson speaks to the Class of 2020. Below Left, (l to r) Senior Class President Abby Stokes lights and passes the torch to junior Class President Carter Cary. Below Right, Stacy Taylor receives her diploma. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Upon accepting the torch, Cary said, "This torch symbolizes Huntingdon High School's traditions set by many before us. It also represents the passing of academic excellence and leadership from one class to another. You have my word that the Class of 2021 will not only maintain that excellence and leadership, but strive to take it to yet an

other level for Huntingdon High School. Seniors, as you enter this new chapter in your lives, I hope you always remember the contributions you made to HHS and the meaning of this torch. I hope you also continue to maintain that level of excellence in every step of your new journey that is before you."

The graduates turned their

tassels to mark their transition from students to alumni, and Barry Mac Murphy of the Alumni Association congratulated and welcomed them.

Brooke Cooper sang the Alma Mater, and graduate Noah Belev delivered the benediction.

The graduation ended with the celebratory tossing of the mortarboards high into the air.

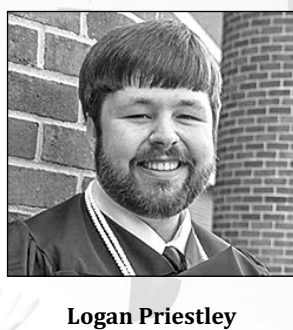
Your future starts today and we wish you all the best!
Congratulations, graduates!



Haley Robbins
Huntingdon High School
May 2020
Daughter of
Chris & Alisha Robbins and
Lance & Christy Dukes



Kelsey A Lee
Huntingdon High School
May 2020
Daughter of Heather Holland
Truman & Hank Lee
Granddaughter of Debbie &
Larry Holland



Logan Priestley
UTM - Bachelor of Science in
Natural Resources Management
Son of Brents & Shalyn Priestley
(McKenzie)
Grandson of Dennie & Judy
Davidson (Dresden) and Keith &
Sherri Priestley (McKenzie)

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**Congratulations
All 2020 Graduates!**

Drake Butler — Huntingdon High School

Hunter Ledsinger — Huntingdon High School

Jakob Winchester — TCAT, Welding

Alli Young — UTMartin, BSN

Heath McAlexander — UTKnoxville, DVM

Laura Ashleigh Cole — UTChatt, BS in Education



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Dear Graduate,

Our newspapers have followed and reported on your achievements throughout your lifetime. We've published your Letters to Santa, honors banquets, high scores, works of art, and now your high school graduation.

This is only the beginning of a beautiful future.

We look forward to publishing weddings, birth announcements, anniversaries, your child's first day of school and more.

It has been an honor to witness your life thus far.

Now go make more wonderful memories.

Congratulations

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Our 'Family' to Yours

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Teresa Washburn Business Manager

Brittany Martin Supervisor/Graphic Designer

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McKenzie High School

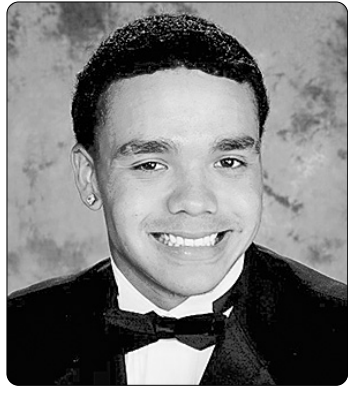
Class of 2020



Hannah Nicole Adkins



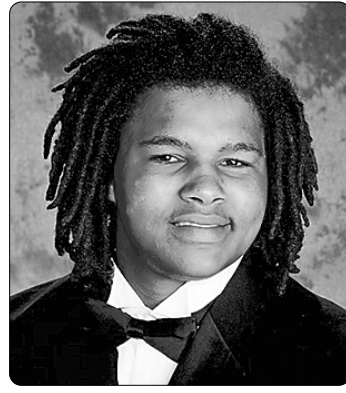
Desteyana Janae Allen



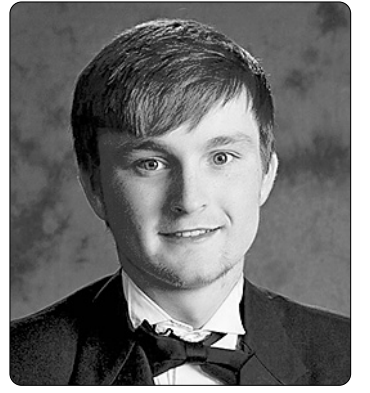
Micah Dion Austin



Tommie Jo Barker



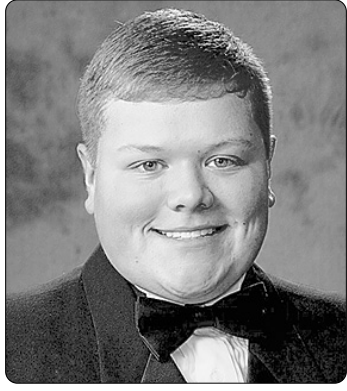
Jordan Deshaun Barnhart



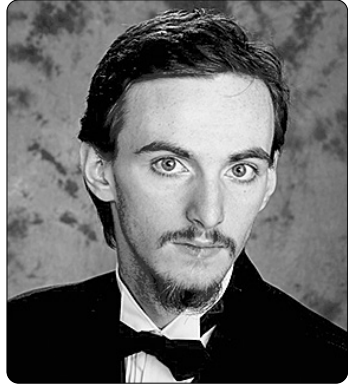
Dylan Lane Bates



Carrie Jascianna Nichole Becker



Drew Bradford Beeler



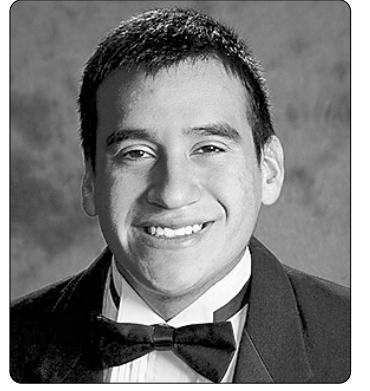
Christopher William Blue



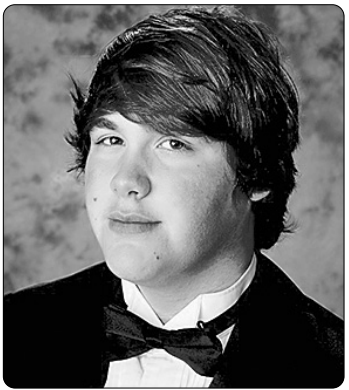
Molly Kate Boucher



Karli Alyse Brown



Diego Anibal Calderon



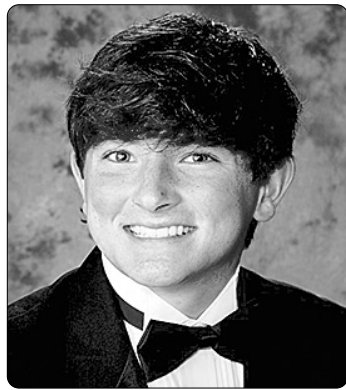
Dylan Paul Cary



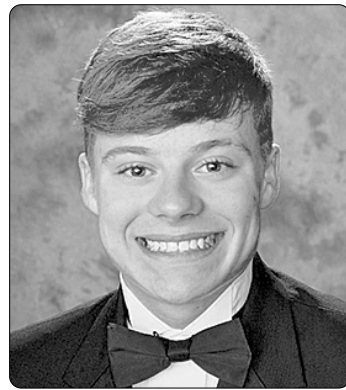
Ebony Lasha Cody



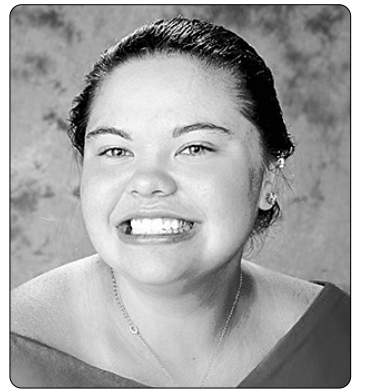
Isabella Florrie Colotta



Brian Weston Cook

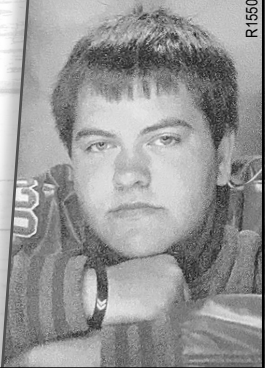


Dylan Hendrix Crawford



Destiny Renea Crews

ANDREW GOODRUM
 SCHOOL: McKenzie High School
 PARENTS: Kristy Goodrum of McKenzie, Kevin Goodrum of Gleason
 CLUBS: He was in Beta Club and a McKenzie Marching Rebels for six years.
 FUTURE PLANS: Plans on attending UT Martin
 COURSE OF STUDY: Pre-Vet to go on to be a Vet
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!
 Love you so much! Mom and Heather




Hallee Brooke Davis



Ryleigh Faith Davis



Shelby Danielle Davis



Moriah Jordan Momilani DeLoach

Congratulations, graduates!



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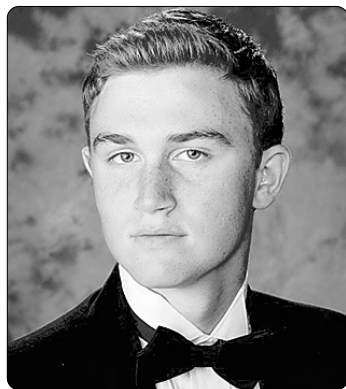
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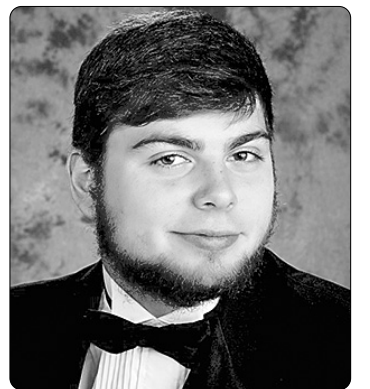
Kimberly Elizabeth Essary



James-Thomas Deven Fields



Jonathan Zachary Flippin



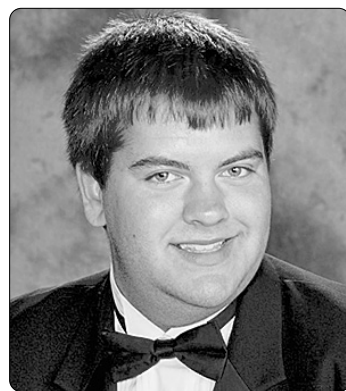
Jack Thomas Fry



Giselle Garza



Daniel Alejandro Gonzalez



Andrew Nathaniel Goodrum



Kaycia Gianna Gordon

Good Luck Class of 2020!

When you were younger, you would pretend to be anyone you wanted to be, from a firefighter to a president and anything else you could imagine. Now that you're older, you can still be whomever you want to be. So on your graduation day, dream big dreams and don't be afraid to go after them.

Mayor Jill Holland
 Councilmen:

Jason Martin, Charles Pruneau,
 Debbie Riley, Jesse Townes,
 Brian Winston and Bobby Young

**The City of
 McKenzie**

A1

Congratulations
 to all area seniors! Wishing you a bright future!
 — Lee Pruett, McKenzie



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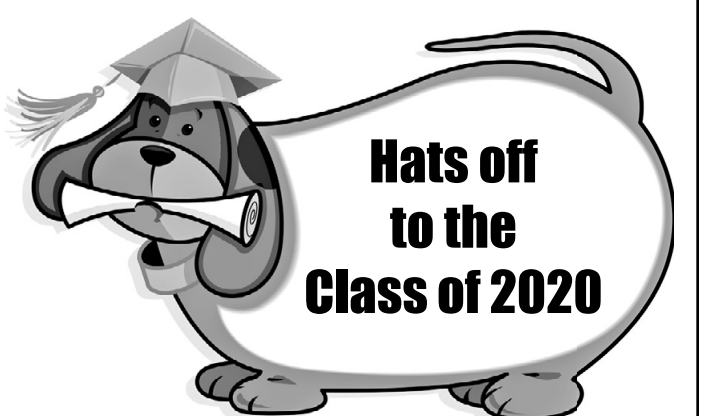
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Nikolas Ashton Heath



Madison Claire Hendrix



**Hats off
 to the
 Class of 2020**

Tri-County Animal Clinic

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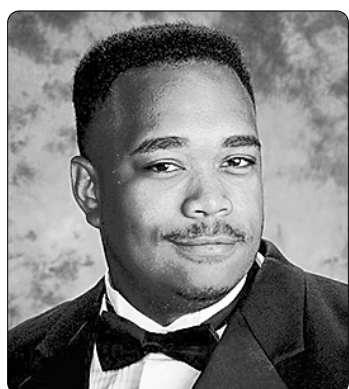
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Class of 2020

McKenzie High School



Lazarick Tyrone Hill



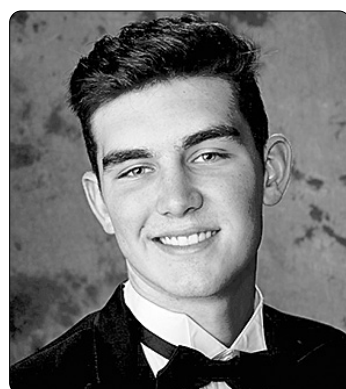
Braxton Donnell Hobson



Brooke Alyse Hobson



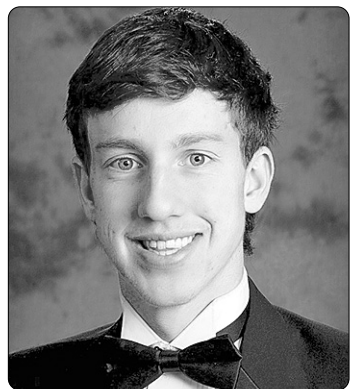
Keira Leann Hones



Lane Thomas Horton



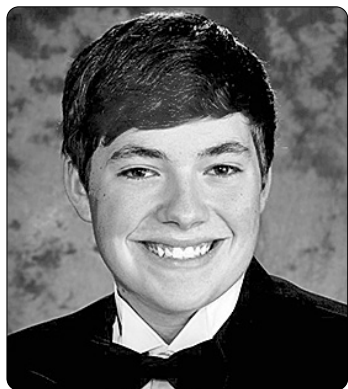
Nathaniel Lewis House



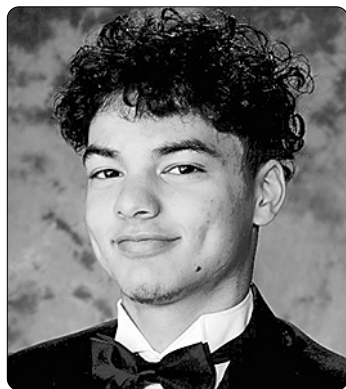
Evan Benjamin Jarrett



Riley Scott Joyner



Cameron Joshua Kee



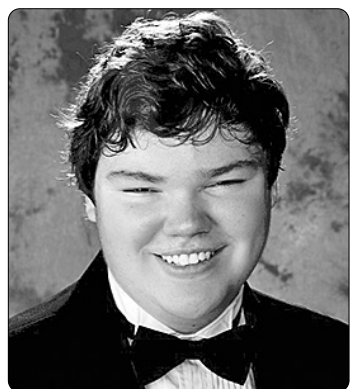
Lucas Avery King



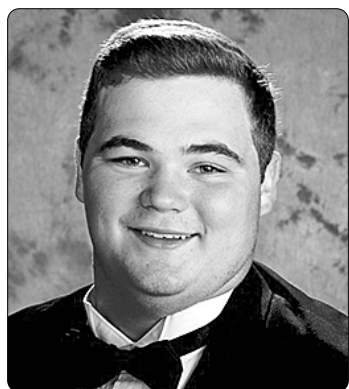
Brayden Weslee Lijsey



Ashton Drake Marr



Trevor Gerald Matheny



Kyle Lee Maxwell



Drake Ashton Michael

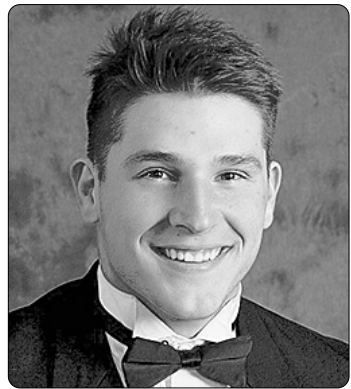


Kinley LaDawn Millsap

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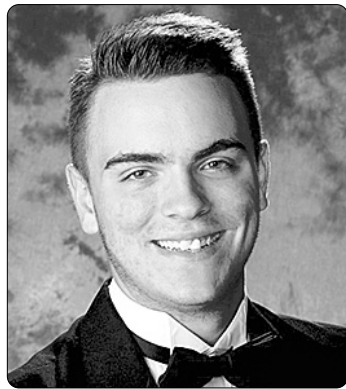
Witt Wallace Mitchum



Jeremiah Tylon Moore



Ellaina Isabella Moreno



Chance Tolbert Norden

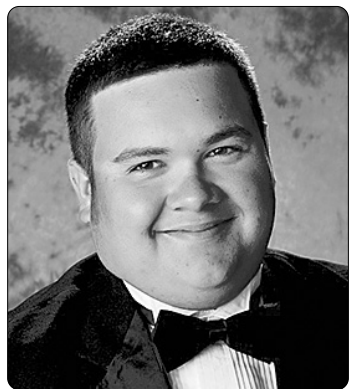
Congrats!
Dylan Cary & Kyle Maxwell

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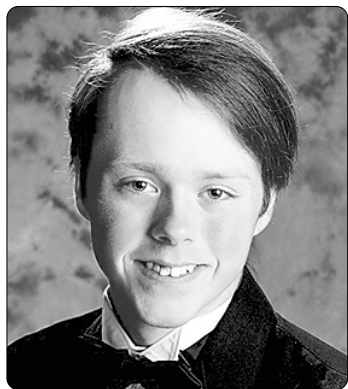
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Farrell Cathoun



Mitchell Chase Norman



Joseph Noah Nutting



Jeremiah Paul Olson



Francisco Yahir Padilla

Congratulations to
All Area 2020 Seniors!

Jasmine McMackins Hatcher
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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1751 Cedar Street, • Office Suite B • McKenzie, TN 38201



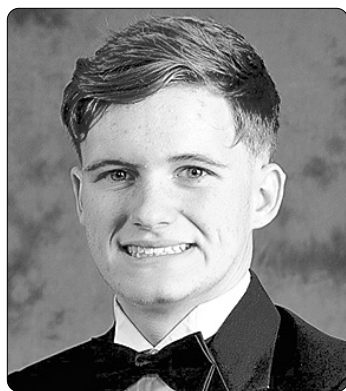
Alex Matthew Parham



Sydney Grace Pate



Claudia Dale Patrick



Jensen Lynn Pewitt



SO VERY PROUD OF OUR RILEY

We love you and wish you all the best.
Good luck to all graduating seniors!

All of us at Merchants Outlet Mall

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McKenzie High School

Class of 2020



Celinas Gabriella Phifer



Morgan Lee Rayburn



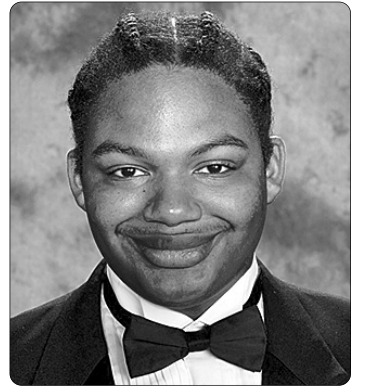
Hannah Noel Reed



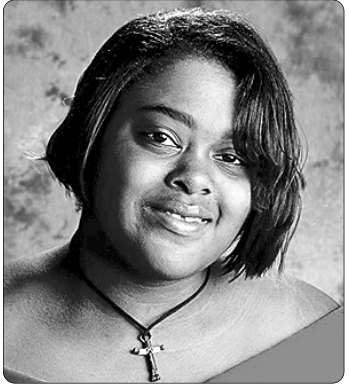
Joseph Paul Roberts



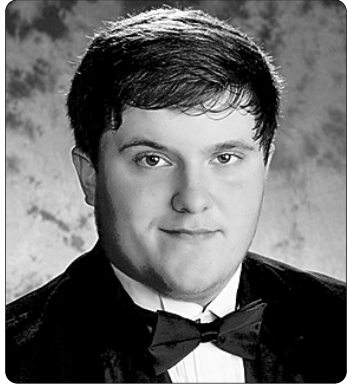
Nathan Thomas Rorer



Terrance Zachery Roy



Melaura Jaraiann renia Russell



Nicholas David Simpson



Shelby Cheyanne Singleton



Whitley Lynn Smith



Kyla Damara Steele



Elizabeth Michelle Stone



Lilli Noelle Taylor



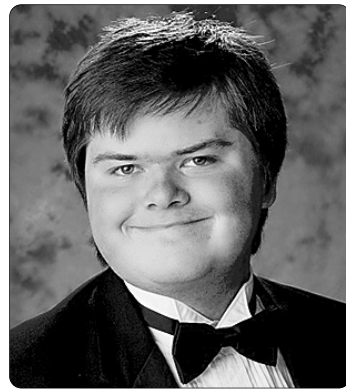
Deyanna Renee Teague



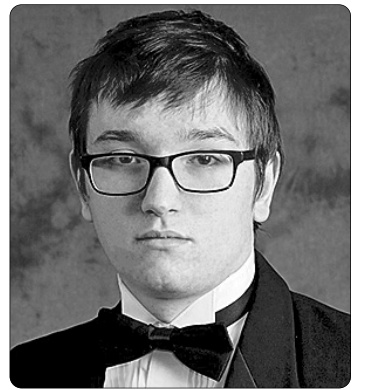
Mary Camille Travis



Jenna Paige Tucker



Matthew Coleman Turner

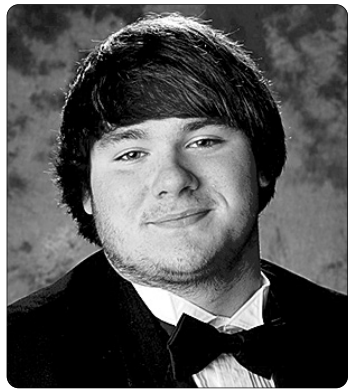


Christian Brennan Umstead

TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY MCKENZIE

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Class of 2020!

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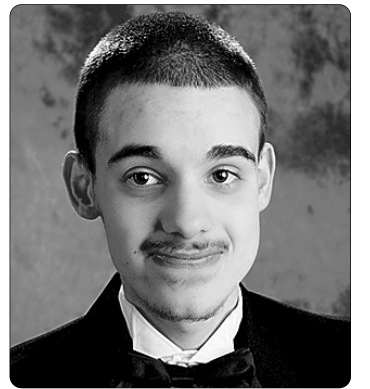
Andrew Keith VanDyke



Mary Grace VanDyke



Sabrina Renteria Vazquez



Colton Michael Watson

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— ERIC HOFFER

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to all area seniors!

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Good Luck Graduates!

CSI

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Congratulations, Graduates!

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District 6760: Area 7

Learn more about how Rotary is making a difference in your community. Join us for a meeting.

Gleason Mondays 6 p.m. — Gleason Senior Citizens Center
McKenzie Tuesdays NOON — Lakeside Senior Living Community
Paris Thursdays NOON — Lee Academy for the Arts
Camden Thursdays NOON — Camden General Hospital Cafeteria

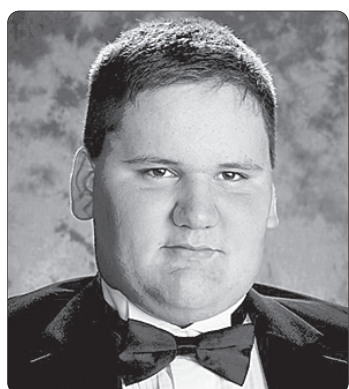
Service Above Self

Class of 2020

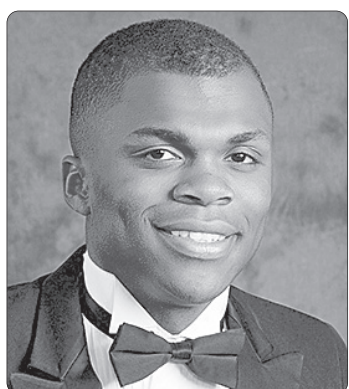
McKenzie • West Carroll



Alayna Paige White



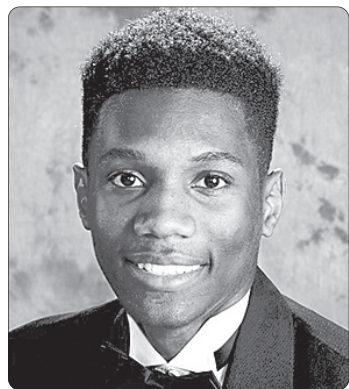
Michael Wayne White



Nathan Lavon Whitsell



Ajayla Simone Williams



Payton Rashawn Williams



Hunter Lee Worsham



Amber Elizabeth Wright



Jackey Qiyang Zheng



Amber Wright

School: McKenzie High School
Parents: Jeff and Kathy Wright
Clubs: Beta club, DECA, FFA, Soccer team and Yearbook
Future Plans: Attend UTM in the fall
Course of Study: Agriculture

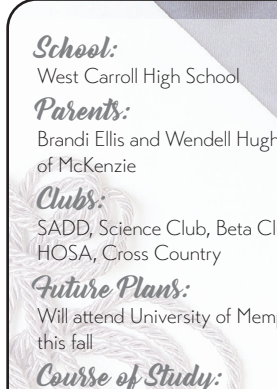
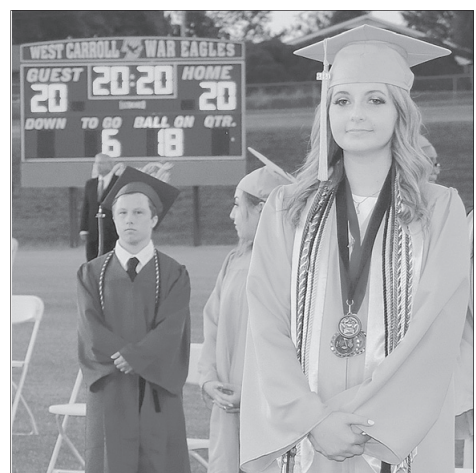


Madison Kay Granger

School: West Carroll High School
Parents: Eddie and Tameka Granger of Trezevant, TN
Future Plans: Attend TCAT McKenzie in the fall
Course of Study: Information Technology Management



Above, West Carroll graduates and their parents assembled on the football field for the outdoor commencement ceremony. Below Left, Haley Stout, class president, presents a rose to her parents, Jeff and Tammy Stout of Atwood. Director Williams said Stout was the liaison between the class members and school administrators. He commended the members of the Class of 2020 for selecting "the right president." Below Center, Shatara Brooks is all smiles with her diploma after Assistant Principal Shane DePriest hands her a rose to give to her family. Below Right, Zoey Adrianna Cook is in the foreground as the football scoreboard lights "2020" with the graduation date of 06-18 (June 18).



School: West Carroll High School
Parents: Brandi Ellis and Wendell Hughes of McKenzie
Clubs: SADD, Science Club, Beta Club, HOSA, Cross Country
Future Plans: Will attend University of Memphis this fall
Course of Study: Social Work

We love you, and we are so proud of you!
 Mom, Dad, Granny Esther, Nana, Ayonna & Da'Leiyah
Makaliyah A. Hughes

West Carroll Graduates 72 in Thursday Commencement

ATWOOD (June 18) — West Carroll High School awarded diplomas to 72 graduates during commencement exercises Thursday night at the football stadium. The June weather was perfect for an evening ceremony. The sun set behind the home stands, where spectators watched as the members of the class of 2020 received their diplomas.

The ceremony began with the traditional processional to "Pomp and Circumstance," followed by the presentation of colors by members of the Tennessee National Guard and the playing of the National Anthem.

Graduate Jeremiah Bryant delivered the invocation, and Principal Kelly Todd gave opening remarks. Class President Haley Stout welcomed all to the event.

Principal Todd gave an emotional address to the members of the Class of 2020. The first-year principal said she could not bring back the time they missed due to the pandemic. She said, "I will miss you. I will remember everything about this class..."

Principal Todd then recognized the salutatorians, Olivia Goostree and Laura Millsaps. Goostree, along with fellow graduate Victoria Reimann, were honored with a special graduation ceremony on June 4 as each have now begun their military service and were unable to attend. Goostree gave her salutatory address that night.

Millsaps delivered her address. She began by thanking the West Carroll administration and teachers, saying, "You all have motivated and inspired us to give 110 percent in everything that we do, and we are so thankful for the impact that you have had in our lives."

She next thanked the parents and families of the class. "Your love, support, and discipline have molded us into the young adults we are today. You have pushed us toward this moment of academic accomplishment our entire lives, so with love, we say thank you."

Finally, she thanked her classmates "for the years full of fun, laughter, and friendships. You all have made these past four years something that I will remember for the rest of my life. There has never been a dull moment... We



Left, Co-salutatorian Laura Millsaps presents her speech. Right, Director of Schools Dexter Williams gives a fist bump to graduate McKayla Vaughn as she crosses the stage to receive her diploma. During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no congratulatory shaking of hands during the event.

have made it through so many challenges together; losing and gaining friends, learning to expect at least five new teachers each year, and having half of our senior year basically canceled because of COVID-19. In spite of all of this, we managed to overcome these hurdles and turn them into some of the best experiences we've had together."

She concluded, "Although tonight marks the end of our time here at West Carroll, it also opens the door to all of the opportunities that are waiting for us in the future. All we have to do is be like Dory in Finding Nemo and say 'Just Keep Swimming.' No matter what happens next, I know that we can do anything that we set our minds to do."

Todd then introduced Valedictorian Kaitlyn Lane, who gave her speech. She began, "I am honored to be standing here as your valedictorian. Our class is full of smart, dedicated students, and we have been waiting for a long, long time for this ceremony. I am grateful to our dedicated staff and administration for making sure we got our chance to come together as a class one last time and receive our diplomas in front of friends and family. None of us would have made it this far without help from all of you, so I'd like to say thank you on behalf of our class. Thank you, teachers, for giving us knowledge and skills and inspiring our passions for the future. Thank you, friends and family, for showing us love and support throughout this chapter of our lives. Thank you,

staff, for all that you have done for us, especially providing food to families these past few months." Lane expressed her personal appreciation to family and teachers, then thanked her classmates. "I believe we have learned a lot from each other and made memories that will be long-remembered."

She concluded, "These past few months have been hard on everybody. The future is full of uncertainty right now, but if we stay optimistic, we will get through this pandemic. I know we have missed out on some opportunities to make new memories and spend time together as a class, but, as C.S. Lewis once said, 'There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.' High school is just one part of our journey, and we have the rest of our lives to look forward to. So, Class of 2020, look fondly on the memories we do have, but stay hopeful and strive to make better ones in the future."

Director of Schools Dexter Williams, then gave remarks. Williams, a 1995 graduate of WCHS, congratulated the 36th class to graduate from WCHS. He said they were the first to have an outdoor ceremony, the first to have a senior parade, and the first to have each and every senior's photo on signage placed on the lawn of the campus. He then read a letter each and every senior received earlier in the year. The school dismissed on March 18 for the last time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the year, Williams promised the seniors would be properly recognized with

a ceremony. He challenged the 2020 graduates to take the difficult times to become stronger adults.

Principal Todd presented diplomas to each graduate, and each graduate then presented a rose to their families.

Graduate Wyatt Baker delivered the Benediction.

Kaci Fowler

SCHOOL: West Carroll Jr/Sr High School
CLUBS: Field Commander for the West Carroll Marching Band, Vice President of the Beta Club, President of the Math Club, Yearbook Staff, News Team, and in the Spirit Club, FCCLA, and Science Club
FUTURE PLANS: Will be attending Bethel University for Nursing and will be in the Bethel Marching Band



Love you so much Kaci & Congratulations!!
 Love, Mom!



CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2020



Nikolas Heath



Drew Beeler

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt

Gleason School

Class of 2020



Left, Two sets of twins graduated from Gleason on Friday. Pictured (L to R) are Krista O'Callaghan and Cody O'Callaghan and Lillian Freeman and Katherine Freeman. Center, Kenady Atkins with her family, the Atkins and Sanders, following the ceremony. Each family had the opportunity to have a group photo after the ceremony. Right, Madison Fuzzell enters the school gymnasium in the processional.

Gleason Graduates 26 During Friday Commencement

GLEASON (June 12) — Challenged, the class of 2020 encountered more than their predecessors as the most reason graduates of Gleason High School suddenly ended their academic year on March 16

because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The traditional rite of passage, commencement, was approximately one month later than normal. The ceremony was also different with a limit of 10 guests per grad-

uate, all seated in a socially distanced manner in compliance with recommended guidelines issued by the State Department of Health.

Principal Lee Lawrence, Assistant Principal Monica Rollins and School Board Member Beau Atkins were the platform officials.

Lawrence encouraged the graduates to make the best of the 'new normal' each of the graduates has experienced during the past few months. He said the seniors now have stories to tell their children and grandchildren about their senior year.

Lawrence challenged the seniors to reflect on their challenges and take those forward in life to benefit others and to make the best of all situations. The principal challenged them to work harder to give others the benefit of the doubt and not quit. To quote a famous coach, Lawrence said 'Quitting is a permanent solution to a temporary problem.'

In conclusion, Lawrence said to take the new normal as a challenge to spread love and joy.

Following Lawrence's address, the overhead lights were turned off and a video slideshow featured each graduate's photographs as small children to their senior year.

Katherine (Katie) Freeman gave the salutatory address.

Freeman said, "Despite how crazy this year has been there is one thing that I would not change and that's the class I am graduating with, I am extremely honored to be sharing this achievement with all of you.

"We have overcome many difficulties to get to this moment. Obviously, we are in the midst of a global pandemic, which has both created new challenges and illuminated old ones. Through it all, we must remember that challenge is a catalyst for change! There's a lot wrong in our world today, and it's our responsibility, Class of 2020, to help create solutions that benefit all of humanity - not just the part that looks like us, speaks like us, thinks like us. We are in this together! It won't be easy but if we've learned anything our senior year, it's that we are now uniquely prepared to persevere. Our ability to do hard things will serve as a springboard for our future success and the world will benefit.

"What should that success look like? Let's be honest. By our society's standards, greatness is defined by a person's wealth, power, and prestige. That's a flawed, incomplete definition - Some of the happiest and healthiest people on the planet have far less material wealth than we enjoy here in the United States. They don't own designer clothes, but they're happy. They don't live in big houses, but they're happy. What's the secret to their success? The answer lies in their priorities. Above all, they value family, faith, and community. They value people over things. For many of us, 2020 has been a reminder of what's most important - each other. As we leave this place, I truly hope that we all have enough stuff - there's nothing inherently wrong with owning things - but

let's be intentional in our efforts to build lives that reflect great values. And most importantly, let's always choose love. Let's choose love over hate. Let's choose love over indifference. Choose love over ignorance. Love over fear. Love over barriers and over borders ... If we choose love over and over, we will know success - and we will leave the world better than we found it. Our former First Lady, Michele Obama, said it well, "Success isn't about how much money you make; it's about the difference you make in people's lives."

"As we consider our own success, let's not forget those who made it possible. Sure, we have all worked really hard to get here but none of us arrived on our own. We have all been carried to this point on the shoulders and in the arms of others. So, thank you, friends and family, for loving, supporting, and encouraging us. Thank you to our teachers, administrators, cafeteria workers, janitors, bus drivers, office personnel, and everyone else at Gleason High School who helped make our time here the best it could be. And to the Class of 2020, thank you for inspiring me. Watching all of you work hard in difficult times to achieve your dreams has encouraged me to do the same.

"In closing, it is my hope that we will remember 2020 not as the year that should have been canceled but as the year that inspired us to create much needed, long overdue, lasting, loving change."

Martha Nichols, valedictorian, delivered her address immediately after Katie Freeman.

"Well, Class of 2020, there were times when we thought this night would never come, and then we really thought this night would never come...but I want to once again say how grateful I am to finally be here tonight, and I could not be more honored to represent Gleason School as valedictorian of the class. Our 12-year journey of education comes to an end tonight, and some of us will continue into further education, whether it be to college or a technical school, some of us will serve in the armed forces and some of us will embark on the journey of the workforce. Regardless of what your plans are from now on, tonight we celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in our lives, turning the page on our time as Gleason Bulldogs. In these halls, we shared laughs, attended many sporting events, rushed to make it to first period because might've been running a little late, and, most importantly, we made memories that will last a lifetime.

"Unfortunately, our time together as a class was cut short on March 16th, the day that we walked these halls for the last time as students, without even knowing it would be the last time. Without realizing it, we rushed to first period for the last time, we had meaningless conversations with our friends at lunch for the last time, we complained about being at school for the last time, and at the end of the day, we said goodbye to our friends and left Gleason School as students for the very last time. I think it's safe to say that the following days were a rollercoaster of emotions for all of us. Many of us said for the probably the first time ever, "I just wish I could go back to school." Realizing we would miss so many 'lasts' like field day, the senior picnic, field trips, and what was supposed to be our final goodbye on the last day was extremely difficult to process.

"It was, and still is, very easy to be angry or bitter about the way our senior year ended because it was unpredictable and honestly, just unfair. We went from wishing our final days of high school would fly by to wishing we could have it all back in a matter of days. Although our situation was less than ideal, the sadness of missing out on the end of our senior year will pass; we will reconnect and catch up with our friends, we will begin a new journey in life, the pain we have felt will fade, and this part of our lives will simply become a story to tell our families and friends in the years to come...

"The message I want to give you all tonight is quite simple, but very important: Life is short and very unpredictable. What's here today can easily be gone tomorrow. So hug your friends and loved ones tightly and let them know you appreciate them, never take a normal for granted, and most importantly, never stop chasing your dreams. Life is too short to say 'I'll do it tomorrow' or 'Maybe some other time.' I encourage each of you to figure out what happiness and success look like for you, and then go out and chase after that dream, and don't look back. Don't wait for tomorrow, or next month, or next year, because, as we have all learned in the past few months, nothing in this life is promised. Class of 2020, the future belongs to us, and the world is ours to share, so go out and chase your dreams and be the best version of yourself that you can be. We have accomplished so much as a class and tonight we celebrate those accomplishments. The night that we have prepared for the past twelve years has finally arrived, and I am proud to have reached this milestone alongside a great group of classmates. While I am saddened that our paths will soon separate, I am certain that we are all onto greater things.

"In closing, I'd like to leave you all with a simple quote from the famous Dr. Seuss: "Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." As we close this chapter of our lives tonight, I won't cry because of what we lost or what we never had, but I can certainly smile because of the friends and memories that Gleason School has given me."

Gleason 2020 graduates include: Alexis Anderson, Dawson Arnold, Kenady Atkins, Connor Blassingame, Katherine Freeman, Lillian Freeman, Madison Fuzzell, Haley Harrison, Antonio Henderson, Maggie Hopkins, Madalyn Hufstedler, Jacob Langley, Anthony Lee, Martha Nichols, Nicholas Oatsvall, Cody O'Callaghan, Krista O'Callaghan, Elizabeth O'Connor, Keicha Parkins, Sheldon Perry, Jr., Veronica Rosa, Christina Sandoval, Lily Shannon, Elizabeth Smith, Alyssa Wade and Olivia Walker.

CONGRATULATIONS!

CLASS OF 2020

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Alyssa Wade
GLEASON HIGH SCHOOL

Jer. 29:11

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Love,
Gran, Aunt Talma, Uncle Michael, Aunt Mandy

Congratulations Class of 2020!

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Onward & Upward

Wishing our Class of 2020 graduates much success and happiness on the road ahead.

Thanks for setting the example with your hard work and dedication. We're very proud of you.

Congratulations!

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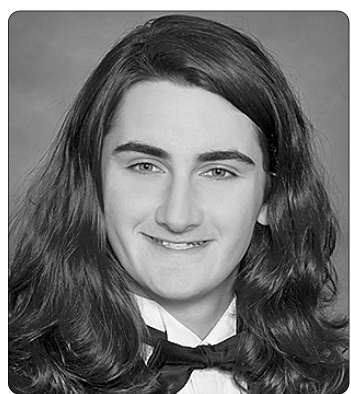
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Class of 2020

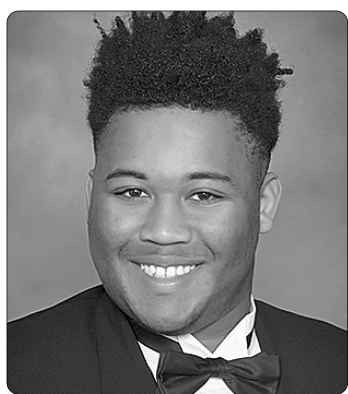
Huntingdon High School



William Isaac Allen



Olivia Kendall Angelos



Dylan Rashaun Armour



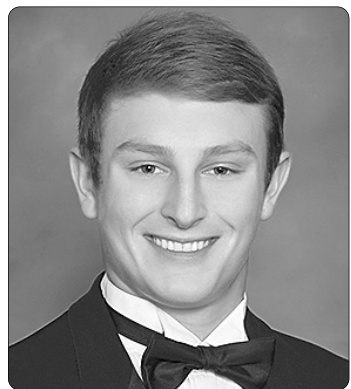
Ashley Rae Baker



Austin Ryan Baker



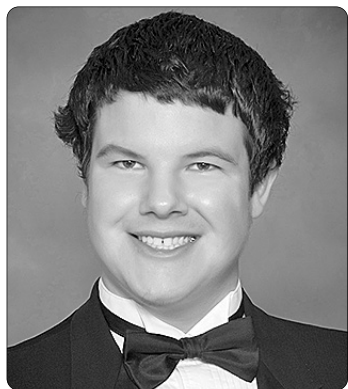
Abigail Elizabeth Ballard



Noah Andrew Belew



Jacob Aaron Blankenship



Hunter Joshua Brock



Ryan Montez Brooks



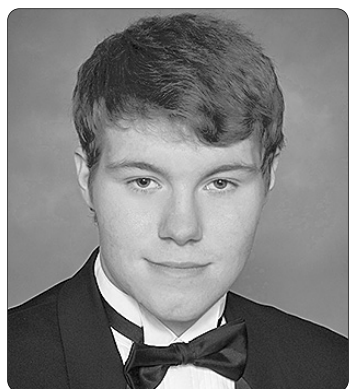
Drake Isaac Butler



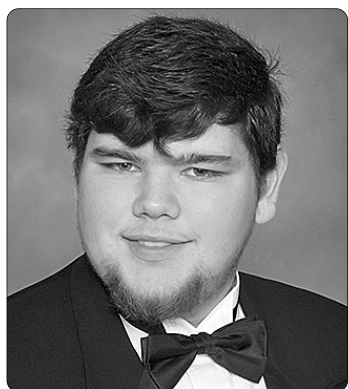
Nikolas Montgomery Bynum



Anna Claire Campbell



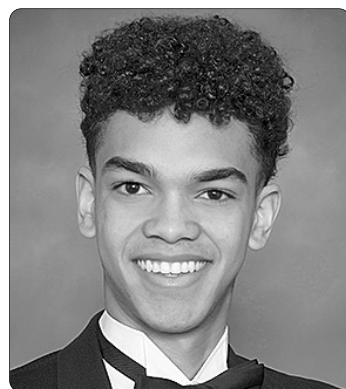
Skyler Blake Chandler



Hunter Cole Chaney



Zachary Taylor Childress



Caedyn Cameron Clark



Brian Santos Clinton II



Jordan Brooke Cole



Katie Alyson Coleman



Nathaniel Royland Cran-Lowe



Angelina Faith Crocker



Kensley McKade Crossno



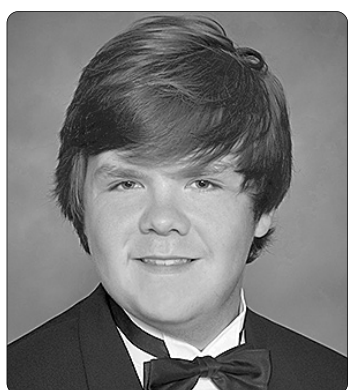
Macey Elizabeth Culbreath



Jordan Michelle Davis



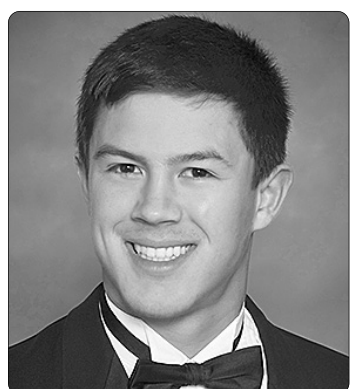
Joshua Blaine Dickerson



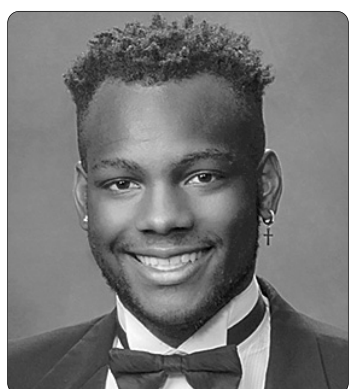
Coleman Anthony Dickson



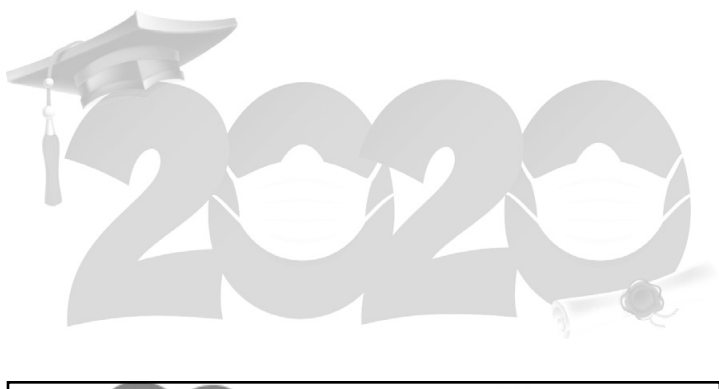
Cole Morgan Edwards



Hunter Allen Ensley



Kylin Lemont Finch




Nathan Spencer Foley



Antonio DeQuan Ford



Kailey Lynn Freeman


QUOTABLE.
 HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT NOBODY NEED WAIT A SINGLE MOMENT BEFORE STARTING TO IMPROVE THE WORLD.
 — ANNE FRANK


 Congratulations!

CONGRATULATIONS!

 **Class of 2020**


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Good luck to all our local graduates.

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Huntingdon High School

Class of 2020



Kaci Lynn Fuller



Mathew Cole Gordon



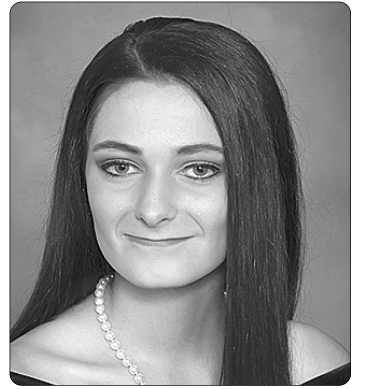
Caley Elaine Harris



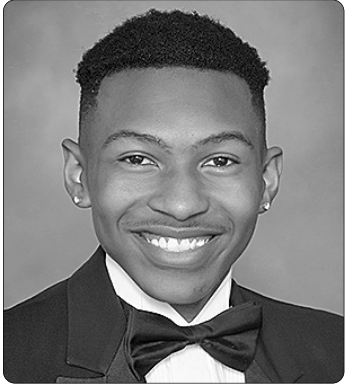
Elaine Morgan Hartley



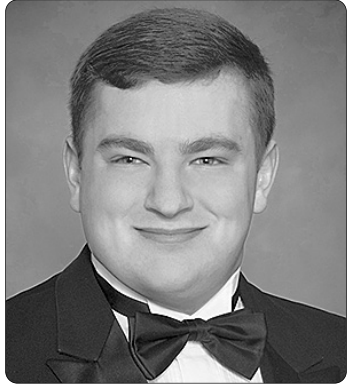
Sarah Elizabeth Heyduck



Jasmine Nicole Dawn Hilliard



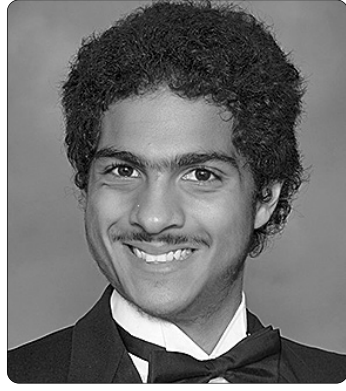
Skylen Laquan Holder



Brett Davis Huss



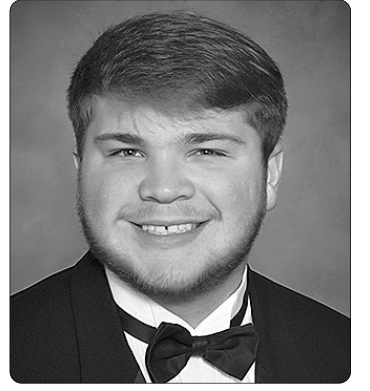
Shamyai Ann Irvine



Marcus Jenkins



Katelyn Elaine Johnson



Reed Evan Jones



Kaylee Nickole Jordan



Kieyren Arzelle Jordan



Sebastian Kyle Kee



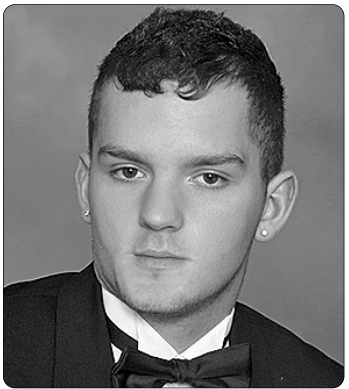
Emilee Claire Kelly



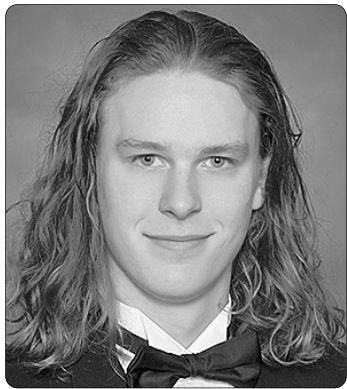
Diamond Unique King



Sarah Elizabeth Kirksey



Brandon Davis Lawton



Hunter Harrison Ledsinger



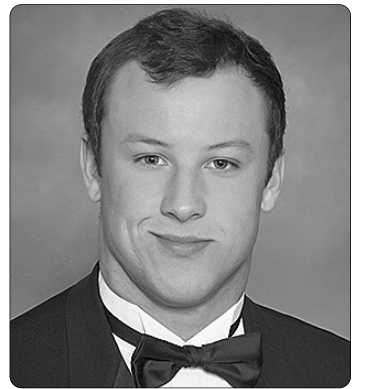
Kelsey Ann Lee



Jace Clayton Lowe



Devin Leshawn McClerkin



Bo Brooks McLemore

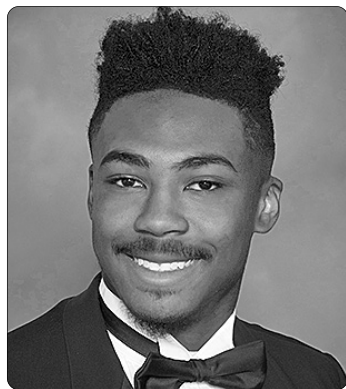
Congrats to all Seniors 2020!

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 731-986-4511

A4492



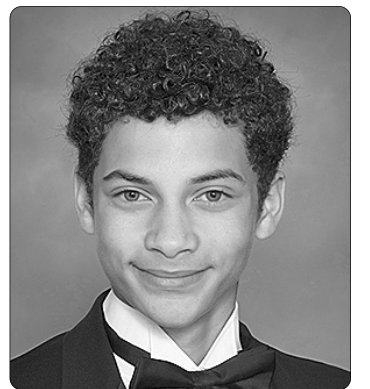
Caroline Grace Moore



Corieon DaShun Nance



Ashlyn Michelle Neely



Otis Jamal Nesbitt

A1597

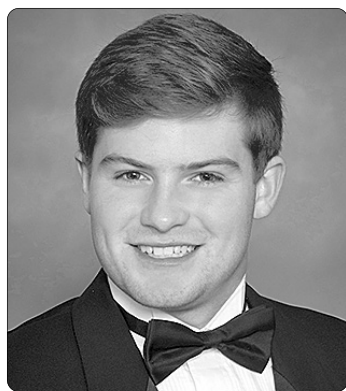
We Wish You All
 The Best On Graduation
 Day And Great Success
 In Your Future
 Endeavors!

from

Huntingdon Carpet Center
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 731-986-8508



Emily Brooke Noles



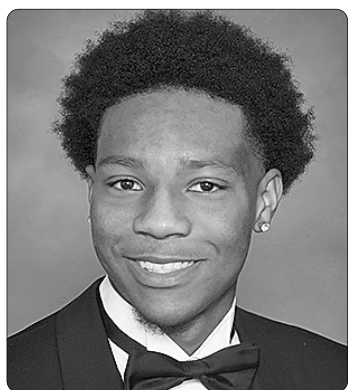
Konnor Bayless Pearson



Tracia Atlantis Pearson



Lacey Dawn Prater



Devontavius Pruitte-Hutch



Rebekka Lynn Reed



Tyasia Cree Reed



Hannah Marie Reeves

CONGRATULATIONS

Class of
2020

No matter the current circumstances that may delay celebrations, graduation is one of the memories you'll never forget. It's a moment to be proud of. Congratulations and good luck with all of your future success!

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A734

Class of 2020

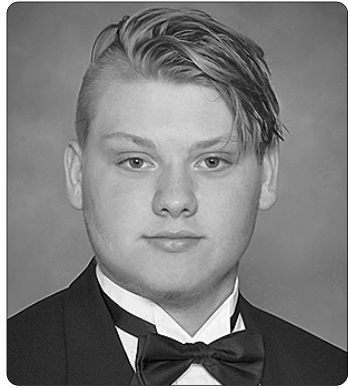
Huntingdon High School



Kaylee Michelle Riggs



Haley Elizabeth Robbins



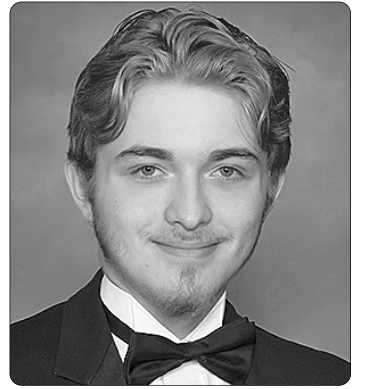
Alexander Michael Scott



Reanna Irene Simmons



Katie Rebecca Simpson



Ethen Daniel Skinner



Elisabeth Dana Smith



Levi Malachi Spivey



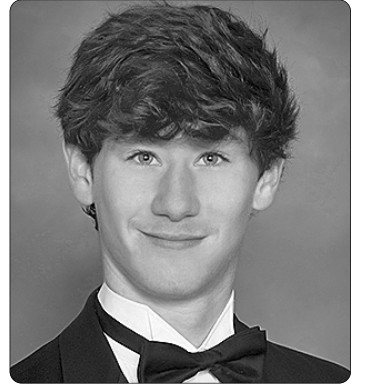
Abby Leigh Stokes



Daniel Kolton Sullenger



Adyn Erickson Swenson



Benjamin Timothy Taylor



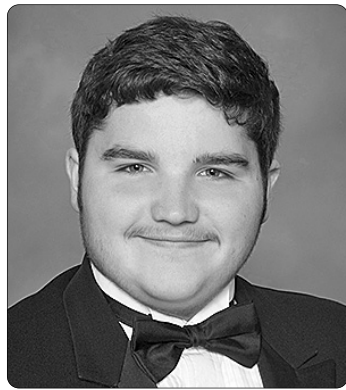
Emily Ruth Taylor



Stacy Armani Taylor



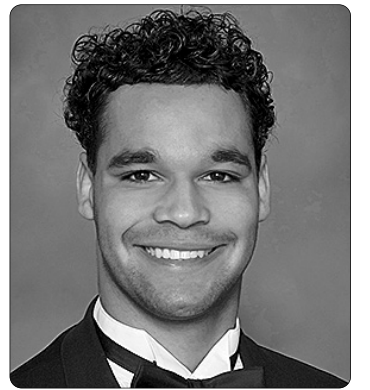
Knoa Walker Thompson



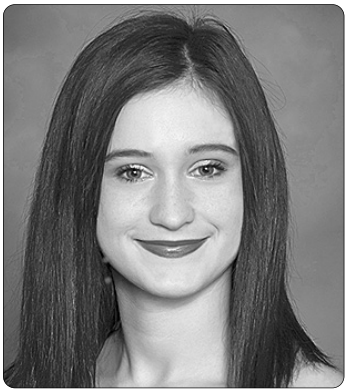
William Adam Townsend



Timothy Michael Walls



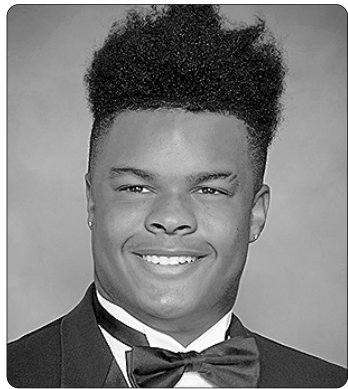
Jaylen Tashawn Goodrich Williams



Lauren Grace Williams



Lexie Grace Williams



Quinton BreShawn Williams



Zean Mckellar Williams



Merriett Paige Willis



Augusta Adelaide Paradis Yeager

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

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Huntingdon High School
Daughter of Christy Dukes

Tinley Winn
Dresden High School
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Gleason High School
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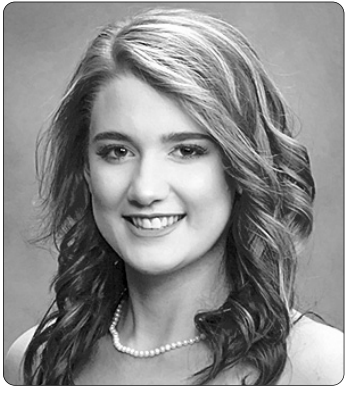
Congratulations to all Carroll County 2020 Seniors!

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West Carroll High School

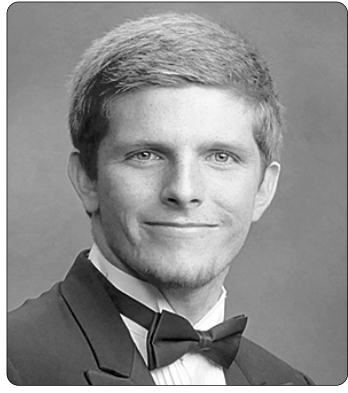
Class of 2020



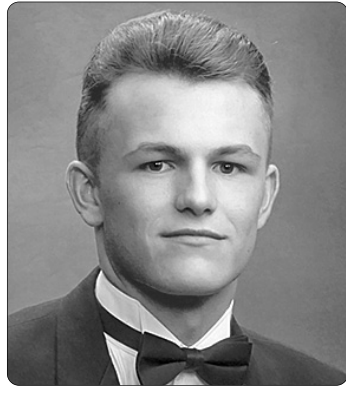
Aleisha Megan Annis



Alexander Braden Arnold



Wyatt Lane Baker



William Bryce Bolton



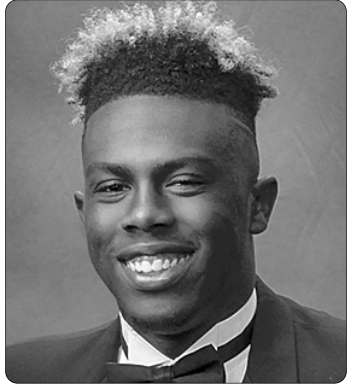
Samaria Iyanla Bosley



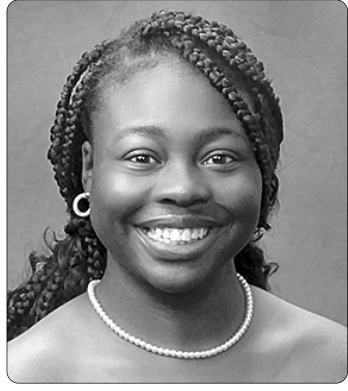
Denver Cheyanne Brooks



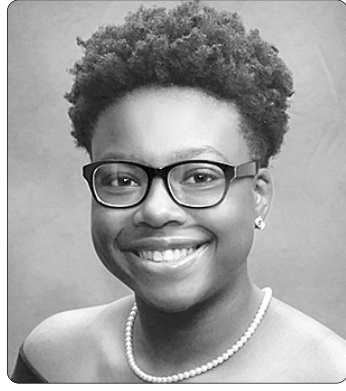
Shatara Janay Brooks



Jeremiah Ezekiel Bryant



Jada A'Mel Clark



Jana Marie Clark



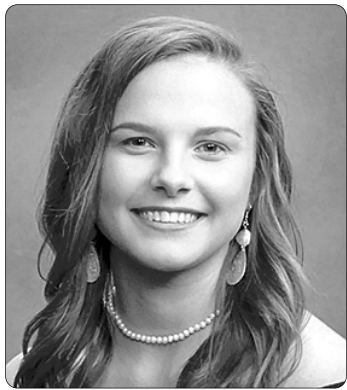
Zoey Adrianna Cook



Monica Ann Cunningham-Cope



Gracie Marie Cunningham



Macey Leigh Cunningham



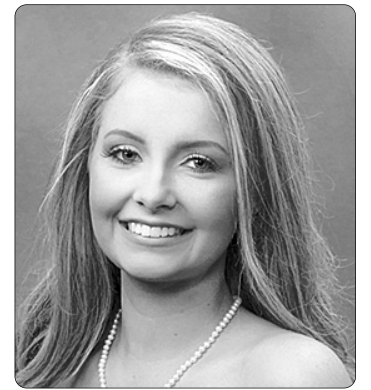
Annalaura Christine Deer



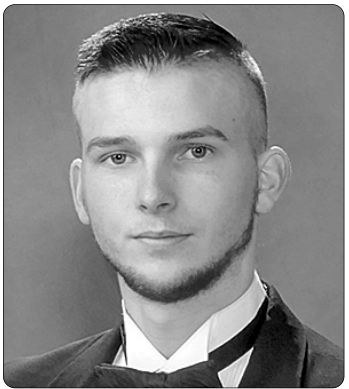
Asia Lanay Emerson



Curt Bennett Foster



Kaci Lynn Fowler



Tylor David Freeman



Maria Margarita Garcia



Makenya Allaya Gaskin



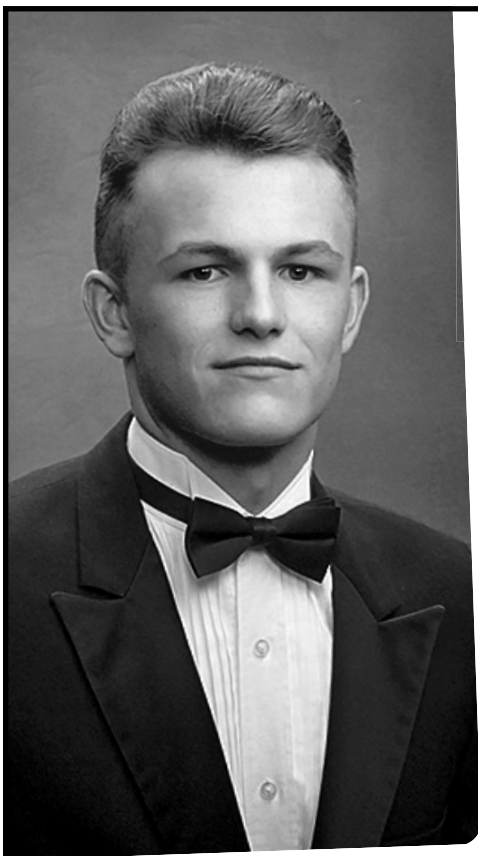
Sathina Acarra Gaskin



Alyssa Michelle Gentry



Brianna Starr Glenn



Bryce Bolton

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We are so proud of you on all that you have accomplished. We can't wait to see what the future has in store for you.

We love you,
Pap and Nana

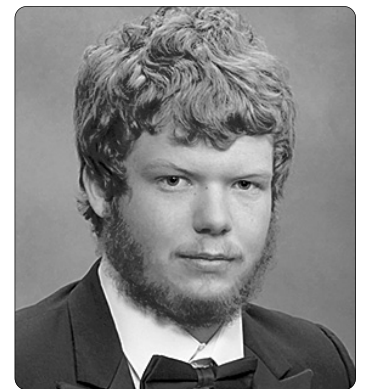
A6225



Olivia Ann Marie Goostree



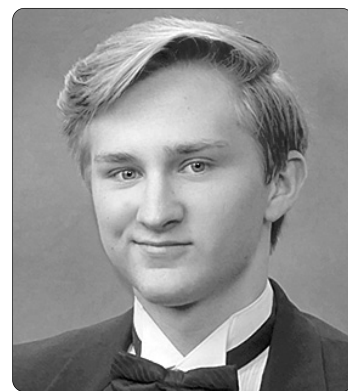
Madison Kay Granger



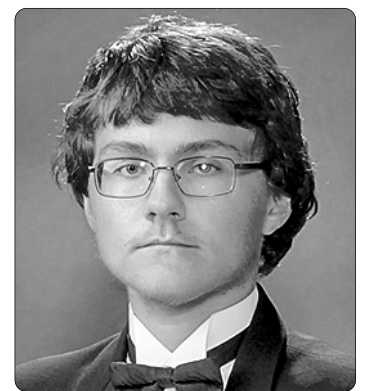
Shawn Edward Greer



Raini Montana Hansel



Zachary O'Neil Hardin



Dalton Randall Herriott



QUOTABLE.

"TRY TO BE A RAINBOW IN SOMEONE'S CLOUD." — MAYA ANGELOU

Graduation Wishes

May all your hopes and dreams come true in years to come. Congratulations on a job well done!

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Kelsey M. Mann

UT Martin Nursing Graduate

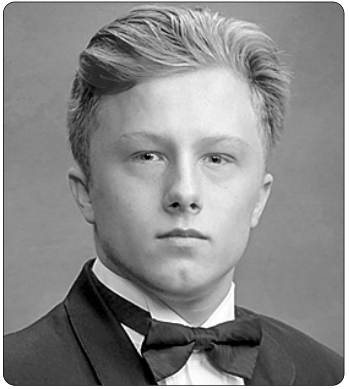


We are so proud of all you have accomplished! We are excited to see what your future holds!

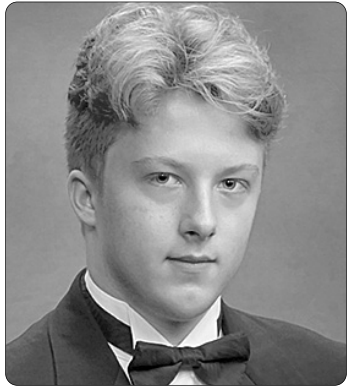
We love you,
Dad, Meg, Jase, Mom & Doug

Class of 2020

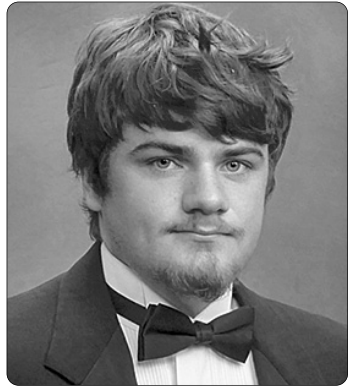
West Carroll High School



Colby Bryant Hickman



Noah Blake Hickman



Matthew Cole Hill



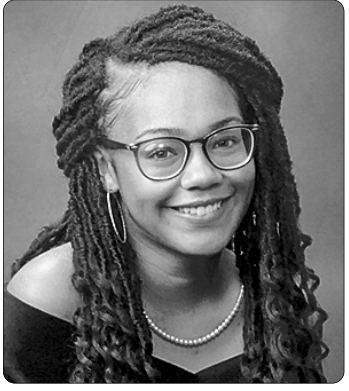
Kamryn Elece Hillsman



Tyanna Rasha Hillsman



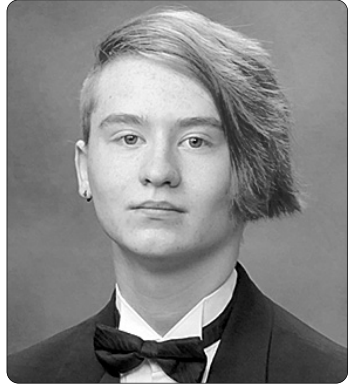
Alexis Paige Houston



Makaliyah Ann Hughes



Abigail Kaitlyn Johnson



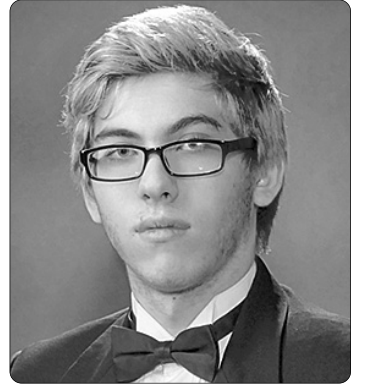
Kenneth Dean Knott



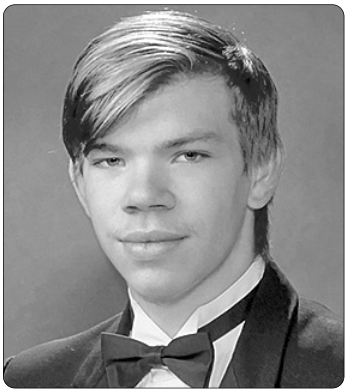
Cailey Lynn Lanciloti



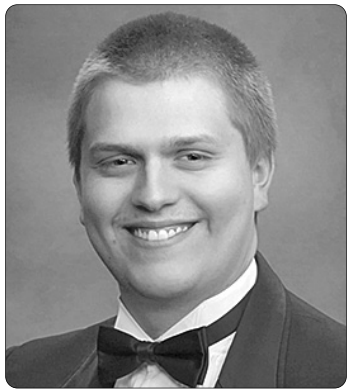
Kaitlyn Talia Lane



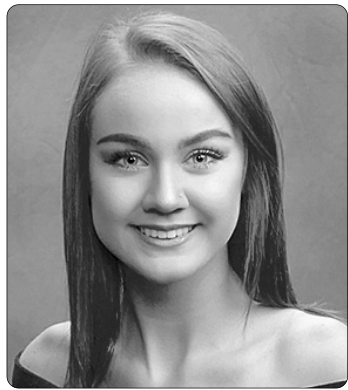
Michael Joseph Martel, Jr.



Anthony Shane McAlexander



Ryan Carter McAlexander



Heather Nicole McGaha



Laura Elizabeth Millsaps



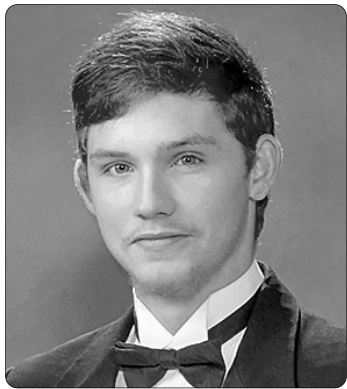
Macey Raevan Minton



Caleb Todd Moling



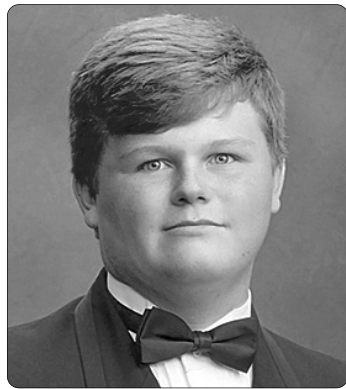
Ashley Nicole Myles



Steven Blake Neal



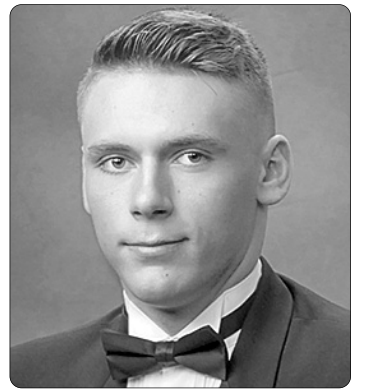
Josephine Teresa Pagan



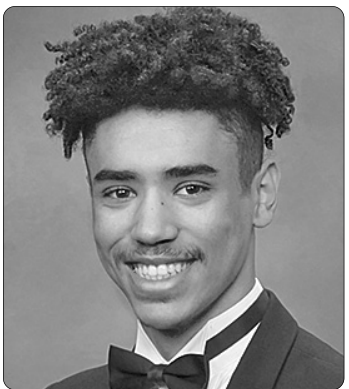
Cody Alan Parish



Olivia Paige Peevhouse



Zachary Scott Perry



Dylan Michael Phelps



Braden Wayne Pounds



Colton Wyman Price



Morgan Paige Pruitt



Hailey Grace Ray



Victoria Ivory Reimann



QUOTABLE.

"DO YOUR LITTLE BIT OF GOOD WHERE YOU ARE; IT'S THOSE LITTLE BITS OF GOOD PUT TOGETHER THAT OVERWHELM THE WORLD."

— DESMOND TUTU

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Rita Jones, Assessor of Property
Darlene Kirk, County Clerk
Natalie Porter, Register of Deeds

Happy Graduation Day!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF

2020

We salute you, graduates, for a job well done. You've really worked hard for your diplomas, and we know you have many more accomplishments ahead of you. We expect great things from you in the future, and we wish you all good luck and much happiness.

We Congratulate West Carroll High School Graduates and all Carroll County Seniors!

Town of Trezevant

West Carroll High School

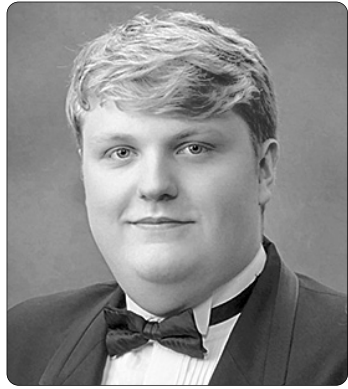
Class of 2020



Destini Macha' Roberson



Paige Elaine Scruggs



Parker Austin Smith



Tyler Aero Smith



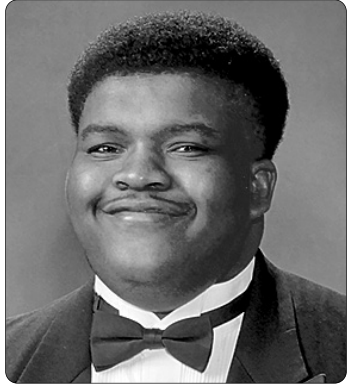
Haley Marie Stout



Savannah Leigh Sutton



Celia Margarita Townsend



Courtney Turner



McKayla Brielle Vaughn



Jake Mitchell Walker



Jarius Marquez Weatherford



Rebecca Shea Wickers

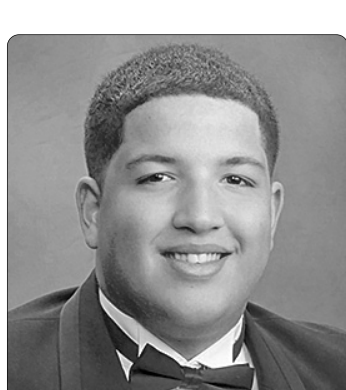
Congratulations
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Casey Drewry, Cheryl Hubbard, Victor Clark, Julia Kirkland, Reggie Lawrence, Logan Drewry



Antonio Adalias Williams



Ashton Paige Worrell



Eva Clarice Young



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QUOTABLE.

"THOUSANDS OF CANDLES CAN BE LIGHTED FROM A SINGLE CANDLE, AND THE LIFE OF THE CANDLE WILL NOT BE SHORTENED. HAPPINESS NEVER DECREASES BY BEING SHARED."

— BUDDHA



Hats Off! Wishing you success in your future endeavors!

CLASS OF 2020

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"Take pride in how far you've come. Have faith in how far you can go. But don't forget to enjoy the journey."

- Michael Josephson

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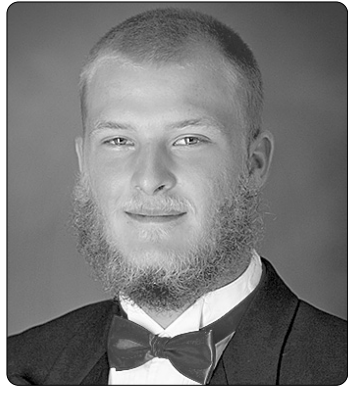
Clarksburg High School



Samantha Starr Autry



Chelsea Elise Boyd



Lakota Dale Ryan Brown



Logan Randall Carter



Peyton Shane Collins



Caselyn Elizabeth Derryberry



Brayden Michael Dillon Dusch



Sierra Courtney Gentry



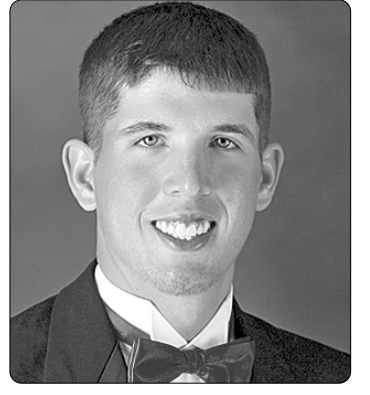
Harley Elizabeth Gossett



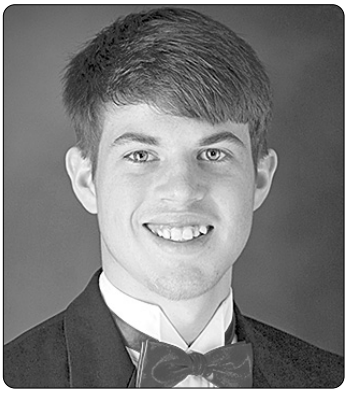
Scott Everett Horn



John Chester Hudson



Justin Taylor Longmire



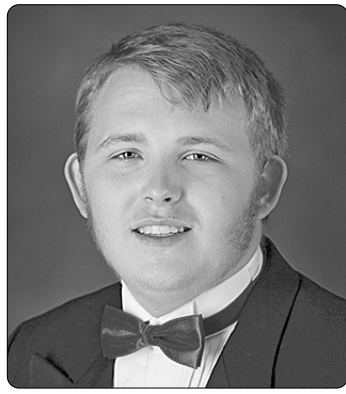
William Tanner Longmire



Dyllan Robert Lee Melson



Krista Danae Noble



Cameron Bryce Perritt



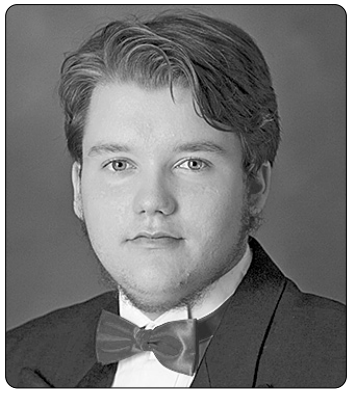
Noah Alton Rich



Chloe Nicole Staggs



Rachel Renee Tucker



Austin Tyler Walls



Hannah Grace Wood



Ashlyn Hope Yarbrough

“THE POWER OF IMAGINATION MAKES US INFINITE.”

— JOHN MUIR

QUOTABLE.



Left, Twin graduates Tanner and Taylor Longmire pose with family following commencement. Pictured are (L to R): sister Ariel Longmire, dad Jason Longmire, Tanner, Taylor, mom Sandy Longmire, sister-in-law Haley Longmire and brother Blake Longmire. Center, Clarksburg graduates toss their mortarboards in celebration. Right, Scott Horn (right), U.S. Army enlistee, was presented a ceremonial check for his continuing education by his recruiter, SFC Matthew Gutowski. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Clarksburg Graduates 22 in Friday Commencement

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com
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CLARKSBURG (May 8) — Clarksburg High School graduated 22 seniors during a commencement ceremony Friday evening in the gymnasium.

Special precautions were in place to ensure proper social distancing during the event, including limited attendance, staggered entrance and seating of families and contactless diploma presentation. The graduation was streamed live on Facebook for those who could not attend.

Following the processional to “Pomp and Circumstance,” Principal Lori Leasure welcomed all and congratulated the soon-to-be graduates.

Next, a video was shown featuring photos of each senior, accompanied by the song “In These Halls (The Graduation Song)” by Madiilyn Bailey.

Class Historian Krista Noble delivered then her speech. She said, “Most people would say that today is the day that we start our journey. I disagree. The journey began long ago. Up until now, we have been traveling as a team along the same path. We have done it all, and we have done it together. Today is just the day that the path splits into 22 very unique, different roads.”

Noble recounted memories with her classmates from over the years, then noted, “Life is nothing but moments... Maybe you remember the moments or maybe you don't, but what you will remember is the people that you spent them with,

and the way they made you feel.” She closed with a quote from Winnie the Pooh: “How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.”

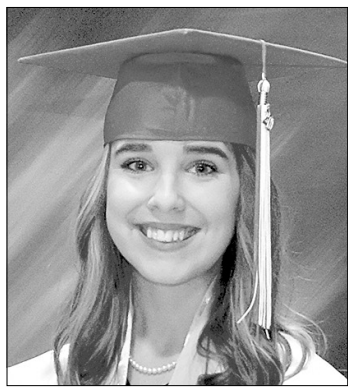
Salutatorian Ashlyn Yarbrough spoke next and addressed the unusual circumstances. “I didn't expect senior year to end this early. I don't think any of us did. I have been waiting on this day for years, but, now that it's here, I wish that it wasn't. Time really does fly by fast.”

Yarbrough recalled her last day of school before the pandemic closure. “Little did we know that was going to be our last day seeing each other. If I had known that'd be my last day, I would've done so many things differently. I wish I had just one more day of school with all my classmates.”

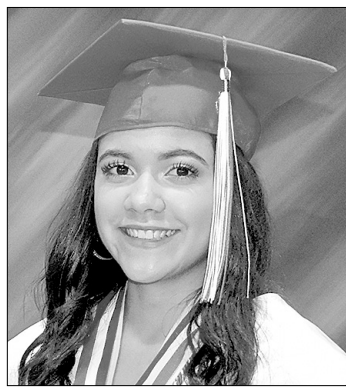
She concluded, “I want all of you to know that I'm proud of every single one of you, and I hope you all go and do big things in life.”

Valedictorian Hannah Wood then gave her address, beginning with thanks to the many people who helped the graduates reach the milestone. She then turned her message to “the most headstrong and stubborn group of people I know - my class, the Class of 2020.”

She took inspiration for her speech from the song “My Wish” by Rascal Flatts. “The song begins, ‘I hope the days come easy and the moments pass slow, and each road leads you where you want to go. We all know our days have not come easy, especially lately, and our moments haven't passed slowly. Our most important moments of high school passed by so quickly



(L to R): Clarksburg Valedictorian Hannah Wood, Clarksburg Salutatorian Ashlyn Yarbrough and Clarksburg Class Historian Krista Noble. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



and came to an end way before many of us wanted to say goodbye... Remember that as we go out into the world: enjoy every moment, because we never know when it will be taken from us... Our choices will

determine our destinations, so we must make our roads lead where we want them to go.”

Wood connected more of the song lyrics to the moment, concluding with the chorus, “My wish, for



you, is that this life becomes all that you want it to, your dreams stay big, your worries stay small, and you never need to carry more than you can hold. And while you're out there getting where you're getting

to, I hope you know somebody loves you. I truly hope life treats you all well and you follow your dreams, no matter how big they are, and make your life exactly how you want it to be. And I hope you know you are love, because I love every one of you.”

Director of Schools Dr. Tony Tucker then announced many awards, scholarships and achievements earned by the students.

The seniors then came forward to retrieve their diplomas, absent the traditional handshakes, then turned their tassels to mark their transition from students to alumni.

The graduates then tossed their mortarboards triumphantly in the air.

Finally, one at a time, each graduate met their family members at the exit to present them with roses.

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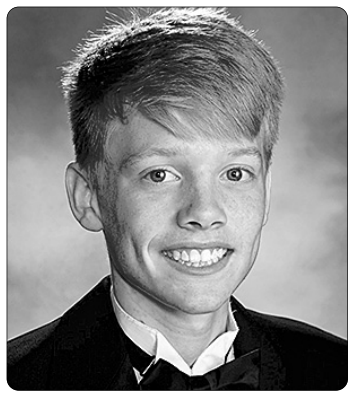
Class of 2020



Marilyn Ruth Allen



Autumn Hope Baker



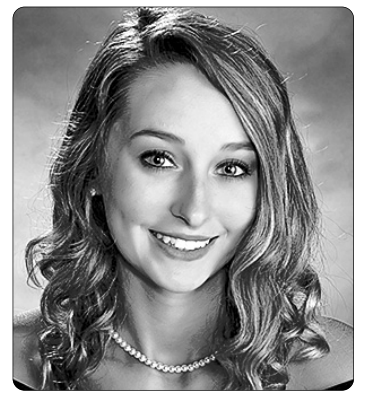
Mason Alexander Binkley



Branden Arizona Braasch



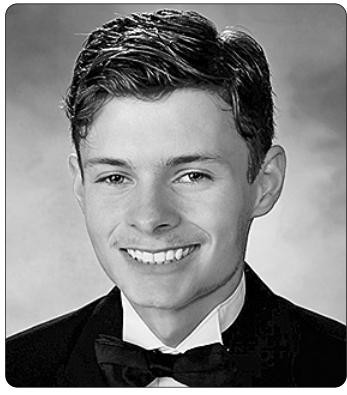
Elijah Garrett Brewer



Makayla Grace Burton



Maycee Layne Cary



Skylar Braeden Castleman



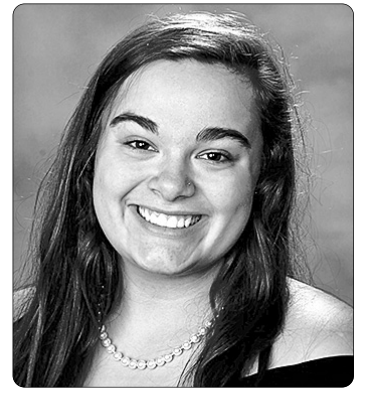
Grace Elizabeth Connell



Amber Gail Crider



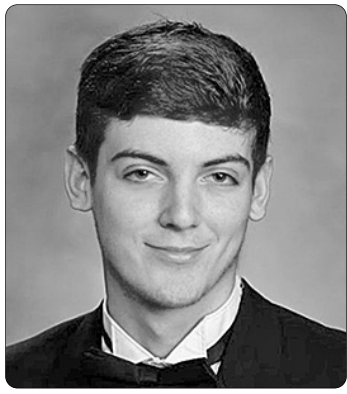
Jackson Christopher Crocker



Aaliyah Michelle Davis



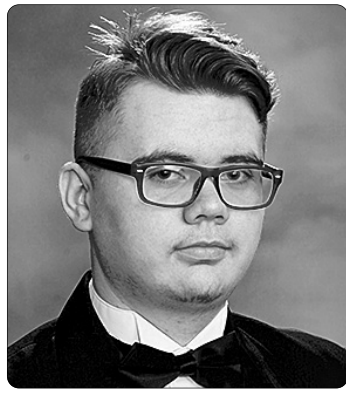
Monica LeAnn Driggers



Ryan Bailey Dunning



Kelsey Nicole Forrest



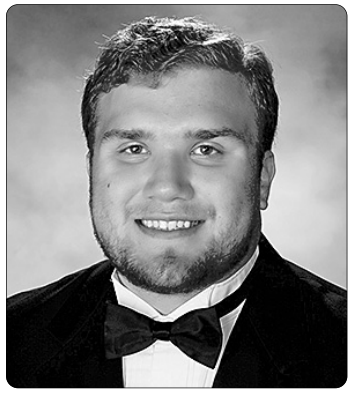
Travis Scott Forrest



Brayden Nicholas Frye



Melissa Nayib Garcia



Carter Michael Graves



Kaitlyn Nicole Griffin



Gavin Maliek Guthrie



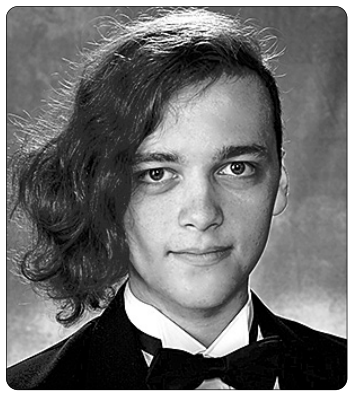
Davion Alexander Harris



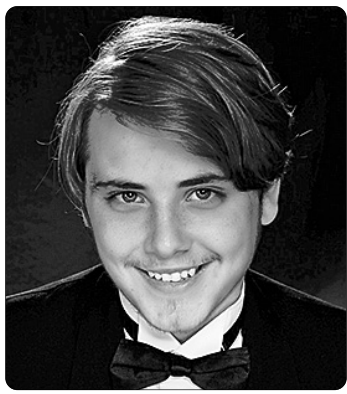
Justin Brian Haskins



Kylie Grace Hollingsworth



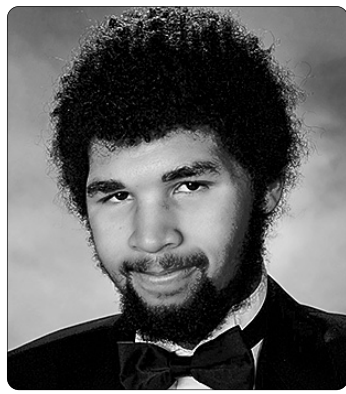
Justin Ryan Holloman



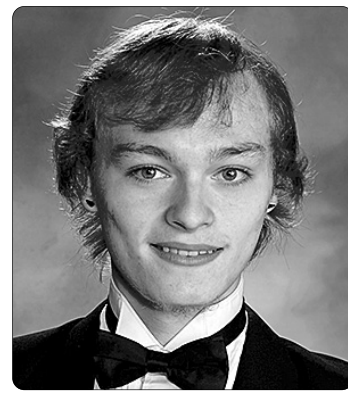
Seth Alexander House



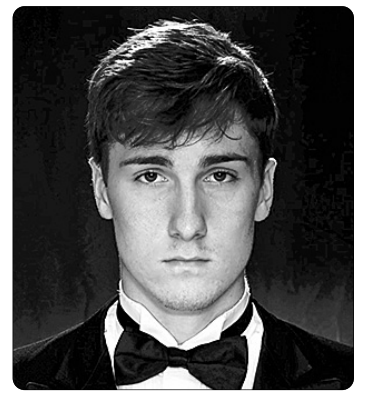
Christiana Marie Humphreys



Cameron Deshun Jamison



Craigan Lee Joyner



Gage Bell Lowry

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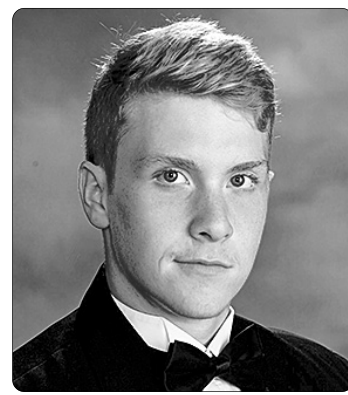
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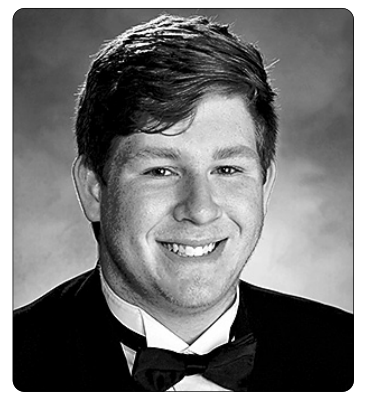
Josie Hannah Moore




Addison Jane Morrow



Steven Wayne Rich



Colby Ryan Taylor


QUOTABLE.

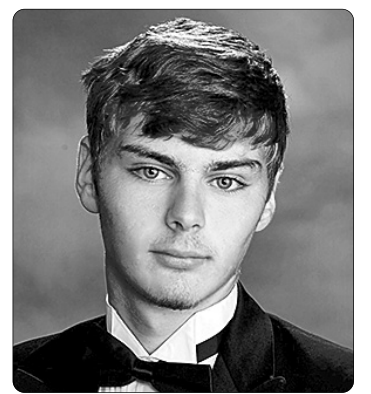
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Class of 2020

Central High School



Above Left, Central graduates release balloons following the conferring of diplomas. Above Right, Graduate Hannah Walker (center) was the recipient of the inaugural Sandra L. Grimes Educational Scholarship. She is pictured with Grimes (left) and her son, James Hartsfield. Right, Valedictorian Carter Graves delivers his address. Far Right, Salutatorian Maycee Cary delivers her address. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Central High School Graduates 39

HOLLOW ROCK/BRUCETON (June 16) — Commencement exercises were held for 39 graduates at Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School's football stadium Tuesday.

The graduates entered the stadium to "Pomp and Circumstance" and were seated on the field. Awaiting them were their parents, already seated on the field, and other family and supporters seated in the bleachers.

Graduate Elijah Brewer delivered the invocation, and 1998 Central graduate Brooke Cooper sang the National Anthem, accompanied on guitar by her husband, Leslie Cooper.

Class of 2020 President Jack Crocker then welcomed all. To his classmates, he said, "Thirteen years ago, we embarked on our journey through the halls of Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School with the goal of reaching this night. We walked up the steps in front of the elementary with the excitement to start Kindergarten spread across our face. On August 5, 2019, we left the parking lot of First Baptist Church with that same excitement on our face as we paraded through the town on our "last-first-day" of school. On March 19th, 2020, our senior year ended abruptly."

He lamented the events that were missed, but expressed his gratitude that the administration ensured that the class would have graduation. "We have been blessed with great administration here at Central that has always put the students first."

He thanked class sponsors Shanna Boyd, Theresa Scott, Tim Williams and Meagan Wimberley and

all of the teachers they had over the years.

He concluded, "The Class of 2020 is one of the smallest classes to graduate from Central, and while many people love to point out the negatives of a 'small school,' they fail to see that the smallest classes make for the closest families... So, when we leave here tonight, I ask you all to remember that we will still leave as a family and that no matter what life throws our way, we will always be there for one another."

Next, Principal Joe Norval recognized the Top Ten: Valedictorian Carter Graves, Salutatorian Maycee Cary, Autumn Baker, Elijah Brewer, Makayla Burton, Brylee Williams, Seth House, Jack Crocker, Monica Driggers and Marilyn Allen.

Principal Norval continued with more recognition, including honors, distinction and other academic or service achievements. Earning enormous applause was Ryan Dunning for his decision to serve in the U.S. Navy.

Salutatorian Maycee Cary then gave her address. As she began her speech, she was overwhelmed with emotion, prompting a round of encouraging applause as she regained her composure. She said, "I would like to start by thanking all the faculty, staff, and administration at Central. Each of you played an important role in our educational path which has led us to this very night. During our time at Central, we had the privilege of learning from some of the best educators, each of which played a crucial role in the development of who we are today. You have invested your time, knowledge, and sometimes tears

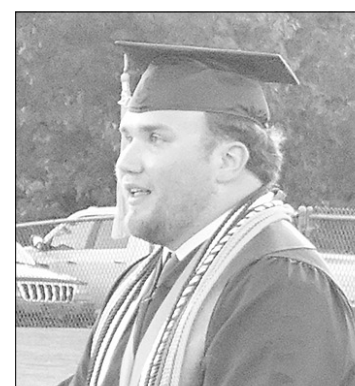
into each of us. You've given both advice and a shoulder to lean on. Some of you have spent more time with us students than your own families. You have helped me become a better person and a better student, and for that I will be forever grateful."

To her classmates, she said, "I want you all to know that I love each one of you like family. A unique thing about attending a small school is that most of us have been together for the past thirteen years of our lives. We have made memories that we will last a lifetime, that will someday be the stories that we tell our children."

She reflected on the good times had over the year, but said, "Tonight, we face a future of unknowns. If this school year has taught us nothing else it's that anything can happen, I say amidst a global pandemic. Instead of being scared and uncertain, I want to leave you with a few thoughts about the future. Remember that you are stepping out into a world where you get to write your own story. For thirteen years, others have helped guide you down a path that was mostly laid out for you. Now is the time to be whoever it is you've always wanted to become and change the world if you so choose! Go boldly into the unknown and remember that you can always call home for advice and encouragement. Looking back, I hope you think of fond memories and the faces of those who have loved you well. You have each come this far in life—a celebratory day. It is my prayer that you always persevere in hard times and find success in all that you do."

Next, Valedictorian Carter Graves

spoke. "Over the past thirteen years, I have learned many lessons in this building. Not only lessons about academic concepts that have gotten me where I am today, but lessons about life. I've learned to make friends and to make good choices, I've learned about making mistakes and correcting them, and I've learned that every choice has a consequence. The hours I have spent with these people, in this building could never have prepared me for the circumstances that we are facing today, but sometimes the most valuable lessons are learned from experience. We learn the most from the experiences that we never could've prepared for and I believe that the circumstances we have faced in the past three months have taught me one of the most important lessons in my life: to savor the moment... We all knew that these days would soon come to an end, but no one expected how abrupt and sudden our lives would be uprooted. I believe that the circumstances that we have faced have prepared us to go out into the world, to be better people, to care more for each other, and to appreciate every moment. I heard someone say a few weeks ago that it's too late to look back at the past, and I've never agreed with something so much. As we move forward into



life and this world moves forward, we must move forward with it. I've searched for a quote to leave you with tonight, but nothing has stuck with me so much as the chorus of our alma mater which simply states, "Onward then shall be our motto, for we cannot fail."

Principal Norval then presented ACT awards normally given during a banquet. Seniors who met all four ACT readiness benchmarks are Autumn Baker, Elijah Brewer, Maycee Cary, Jack Crocker, Ryan Dunning, Brayden Frye, Carter Graves and Seth House. Baker, Brewer, Graves and House were honored for scoring a 26 or higher, and Graves was awarded the Tiger Cup for earning the highest score (33) in the class.

Norval also announced various awards and scholarships earned by each graduate.

He followed with the presentation of a new award, the Sandra L. Grimes Educational Scholarship. It is presented in honor of Sandra Grimes by her son, James Hartsfield. Grimes is a 1968 Central graduate and taught third grade at CES for 22 years of her over 40

years as an educator. Hartsfield is a 1997 Central graduate and was a 1996 Mr. Football winner. The winner of the inaugural scholarship is Hannah Walker.

Hartsfield then officially presented the Class of 2020 to the Board of Education.

School board representative Michael Graves, Director of Schools David Duncan and Principal Norval then conferred diplomas to each graduate. Each was also given a balloon, which the Class released after all diplomas were received.

The Coopers then performed the Alma Mater, and graduates turned their tassels to signify the transition from students to alumni.

Crocker delivered the Benediction, and "Pomp and Circumstance" played as the graduates walked to the sideline.

There, Director Duncan presented each with a gold coin, as described by Norval, "the first dollar they will earn as graduates of Central High School."

Finally, the graduates tossed their mortarboards into the sky in celebration.

Best Wishes for a Bright Future

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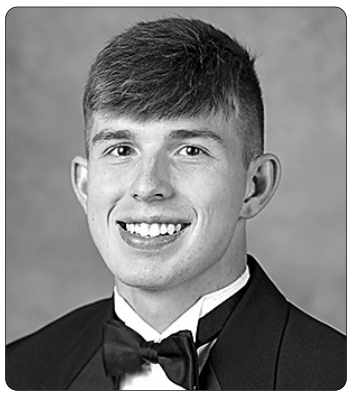
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Alexis Renee Anderson



Dawson Mikel Arnold



Kenady Leigh Atkins



Connor McKinnen Blessingame



Kathernine Eileen Freeman



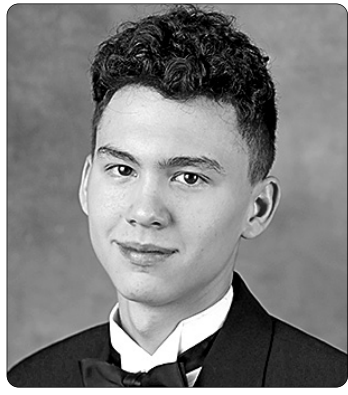
Lillian Summers Freeman



Madison Brooke Fuzzell



Haley Nichole Harrison



Antonio Reyes Henderson



Maggie Paige Hopkins



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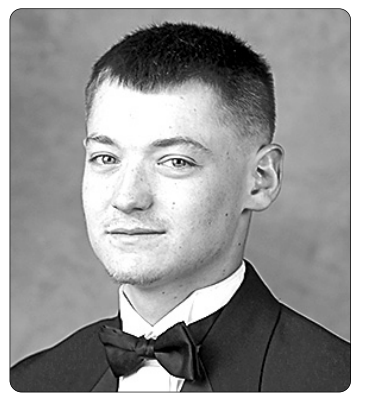
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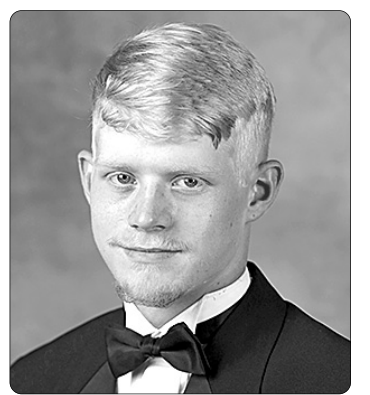
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