



Remax Local holds ribbon cutting and customer appreciation ceremony

A special ribbon cutting and customer appreciation event was held on May 5 for the new Remax Local. The new office is located at 2512 Newton Street in Jasper.

Broker/Owner, Gwen Gosman who hosted the event and was pleased with the turnout.

“First, I want to thank Ryan and Brenda for the trust they have placed in me to carry this brokerage forward. What the two of you have built over the years is incredibly special — not just a successful agency, but a company built on relationships, reputation, and service

to this community. I’m honored to have the opportunity to continue building on that foundation.

“Real estate has always been a part of my life. I grew up around it, and I’ve always admired the impact it can have on families and communities. One of the things that made this opportunity so meaningful to me was the chance to continue my mother’s legacy and carry those values forward,” Gosman said.

When this opportunity came about, I had the full support of my fiancée and my parents, and

that support gave me the confidence to take this next step.

Gosman and her team are excited about the future of this brokerage, the direction they’re headed, and especially the amazing group of agents they have here.

“We have talented people who truly care about our clients and our communities, and I believe the best is still ahead of us,” Gosman announced.

“Thank you again to everyone who has supported us, and we look forward to this next chapter together.”



Deaconess Memorial Medical Center announces Kim Bayer as next DAISY Award recipient

Jasper, IN – Deaconess Memorial Medical Center is excited to announce that the next recipient of the DAISY Award is Kim Bayer, BSN, RN! Bayer practices in Radiology and was nominated by a patient. In the nomination, the patient described Bayer as a nurse who connects with her patients on a personal level and provides the best patient care. We thank Bayer for her dedicated and compassionate care she provides to our patients every day. For more information on how you can nominate a nurse, visit

www.deaconess.com or contact Anna Borden in Human Resources at 812-996-1488.

The DAISY Award is an international program that rewards and celebrates the extraordinary clinical skill and compassionate care given by nurses every day. Deaconess Memorial Medical Center is proud to be a DAISY Award Partner, recognizing one of our nurses with this special honor each quarter. To find out more about the DAISY Foundation, please go to www.DAISYfoundation.org.



Aubree Gogel



Kara Bonifer



Jenna Berg



Johnson Dong

Dubois County Chamber announces 2026 Young Entrepreneur Scholarship recipients

The Dubois County Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 Young Entrepreneur Scholarship. This annual award recognizes one graduating senior from each Dubois County high school who has demonstrated academic excellence, leadership, and a clear commitment to pursuing higher education in a business-related field.

The scholarship program reflects the Chamber’s ongoing investment in the future of Dubois County by supporting students who

aspire to become the next generation of business and community leaders.

The 2026 scholarship recipients are as follows:

Forest Park Jr./Sr. High School – Jenna Berg

Jenna Berg plans to attend Indiana State University, where she will pursue a double major in Accounting and Finance, along with a minor in Insurance Risk Management. She has also been accepted into the Networks Professional Development Program.

Northeast Dubois High School – Kara Bonifer
Kara Bonifer will

attend the University of Evansville and pursue a double major in Marketing and Communications.

Southridge High School – Aubree Gogel

Aubree Gogel plans to enroll at Purdue University, where she will major in Marketing while earning double minors in Communications and Finance.

Jasper High School – Johnson Dong

Johnson Dong will attend Stanford University, where he plans to study Business Economics.

“The Dubois County Chamber is proud to

support these outstanding students as they take the next step in their educational journeys,” said Angie Sanchez-Hostetter, Executive Director of the Dubois County Chamber of Commerce. “These recipients exemplify the talent, work ethic, and entrepreneurial spirit that will shape the future of our local business community. We are confident they will go on to make a meaningful impact both here in Dubois County and beyond.”

The Dubois County Chamber of Commerce

commends these students for their achievements and dedication to their future careers. The Chamber remains committed to supporting educational opportunities that strengthen the local workforce and contribute to long-term economic growth within the community.

For additional information regarding the Young Entrepreneur Scholarship or other Chamber initiatives, please contact the Dubois County Chamber of Commerce.

VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Faith: It's not the size that matters

Teresa LeNeave –
leneave2@comcast.net

Faith: It's not the size that matters
Teresa LeNeave
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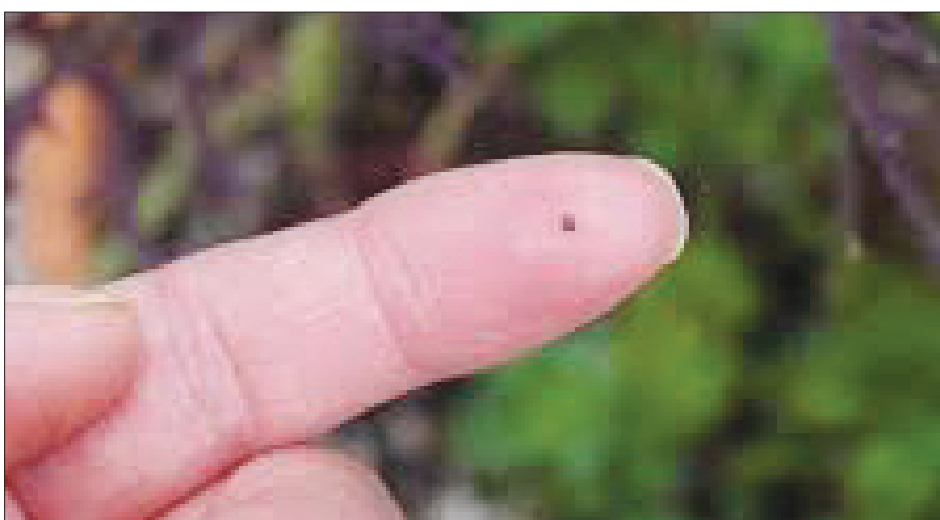
Why is it so hard for people to accept a better life? For sure, this better life still has its troubles, but you don't have to walk it alone and that's a good thing. When the sky feels like it's falling in on you, you have Someone bigger than yourself to go to for help. That Someone is God and that is who we put our faith in.

In scripture, Jesus explained several reasons why some people fail to put faith in Him. One major reason, is

a preference for "darkness instead of light." Jesus taught that his message exposes wrongdoing, causing some individuals to resist accepting it.

"Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil," Jesus said in John 3:19. Following Jesus requires personal change, and that's something many people are unwilling to do.

Another reason some people have trouble trusting in God is fear. Fear is a powerful emotion. In John 5:44, Jesus questioned how people could truly believe while seeking praise from others



yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from God. To often we fear what people think and not what God thinks.

The Bible also describes what Jesus called "spiritual blindness." In several passages, he said some people hear his teachings without truly understanding

them. Quoting the prophet Isaiah, Jesus described people who "hear but do not understand" and "see but do not perceive."

Additionally, Jesus warned that attachment to worldly things can prevent people from accepting spiritual truth. He taught that excessive focus on wealth,

status, and comfort may interfere with faith. One example appears in the story of the rich young ruler, who walked away saddened after being unable to give up his possessions to follow Jesus.

There are times in life when you're coming to the end of your rope, but hold

onto faith, no matter how small you may think it is. The Bible teaches that faith no larger than a grain of mustard seed has the power to move mountains. (Matthew 17:20).

I know it's hard to understand that kind of unseen power. But you can have it with Jesus in your life. The Bible says we can do all things THROUGH Christ which strengthen us. He's the hand we must continue to hold on to. So just hold on. There is a gospel song that says, just hold on, our Lord will show up and He will take you through the fire again.

"Faith is the victory that overcomes the world" (1 John 5:4).

For the love of family and memory

For the love of family and country

Memorial means to "remember" and every year on the last Monday in May, we honor those who sacrificed their life in the line of active military service. The first Amendment was not only signed into existence with ink, but with the blood of over 1.3 million Americans who have died in U.S. wars since 1775, along with multitudes of wounded who have suffered with physical and mental difficulties. Truly, our privilege and freedom to openly live and speak what we believe are liberties that have come at the highest expense.

We live a couple of miles from Camp Nelson National Military Cemetery, and as you drive past, you can see many rows of the over 16,000 perfectly lined white marble tombstones. I admit that I've often driven past without hardly thinking about how each of these individuals, at one time or another, accepted the call of sacrificial

duty. And what is that call? To defend and protect our liberties - whatever the cost! Each one of these brave soldiers was willing to give their life for their country, as all gave some and some gave all. My family has suffered loss from war and has a deep appreciation for the men and women who have served to protect our country. Each of my Mother's brothers and her Father served, and one of her brothers, Kenny Maye, was killed in Korea. I have his tags, casket flag, and a rare military photo of him. He was only 20 years old in 1950, and his body was never found. Sadly, his existence is nearly unknown, and I often wonder about the life he could have had.

Originally called Decoration Day, from the early tradition of decorating graves with flowers, wreaths, and flags, Memorial Day is a day for remembrance of those who have died in service to our country. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate



the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former Union sailors and soldiers. During that first national commemoration, former Union General and sitting Ohio Congressman James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers who were buried there. From 1861-1865, approximately 620 thousand soldiers perished in the Civil War, by far the most devastating conflict in America's history.

In 1971, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act and established that Memorial Day was to be commemorated on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day is commemorated at Arlington National Cemetery each year with a ceremony in which a small American flag is placed on each grave. Traditionally, the President or Vice President lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Each soldier has their own story, but all are highly esteemed for their conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty. This is a quote from the Congressional Medal of

Honor Society. "Private George Watson distinguished himself by extraordinary heroism on 8 March 1943, while serving in the Pacific Command with the 2d Battalion, 29th Quartermaster Regiment, near Porlock Harbor, New Guinea. Private Watson was on board a troop ship, the Dutch Steamer 'Jacob' (United States Army Transport), when it was attacked and hit by enemy bombers. Before it sank, the ship was abandoned. Private Watson, instead of seeking to save himself, remained in deep waters long enough to assist several soldiers who could not swim to reach the safety of a life raft. This heroic action, which subsequently cost him his life, resulted in saving the lives of several of his comrades.

Weakened by continuous physical exertion and overcome by muscular fatigue, Private Watson drowned when the suction of the sinking ship dragged him beneath the surface of the swirling waters. His

demonstrated bravery and unselfish act set in motion a series of compelling events that finally led to American victory in the Pacific. Private Watson's extraordinary valorous actions, his daring and inspiring leadership, and his self-sacrificing devotion to his fellow man exemplify the finest traditions of military service."

"We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of humanity. Because of their love for country, they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and their virtue." – James A. Garfield, May 30, 1868, Arlington National Cemetery.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, teacher, and Christian author. Read more about your purpose at billyhollandministries.com

Strange Christians

Zebras aren't exactly known for blending in, and Tennesseans couldn't help but notice the runaway zebra trotting in their backyard in June of last year. When the Murfreesboro Police Department received calls about a zebra galloping along the interstate, officers thought someone was horsing around. But after several neighborhood sightings, a week-long chase ensued and, "Ed the Zebra was captured safely after being located in a pasture near a subdivision," according to the Associated Press.

The Volunteer State instantly recognized that while there is plenty of wildlife in Tennessee (and no shortage of folklore creatures), this black-and-white cousin of the horse was a foreigner in strange territory. Because he belonged to a land across the Atlantic, he stood out too much to blend in.

Similarly, believers in Christ belong to land lying beyond this life and above the skies, "a land that is fairer than day," called heaven.

Because of this, Christians should stand out in the world

too much to blend in—much more than a zebra in the backwoods of Tennessee. The Scripture teaches that there should be a black-and-white difference between those of this world and those who belong to the "kingdom not of this world" (John 18:36). Disciples of Christ should not camouflage themselves within the culture like chameleons or live under cover like secret agents, which is why Peter exhorted Christians, "Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which

wage war against your soul" (1 Peter 2:11). Sojourners are strangers passing through—exiles living away from their homeland—and both are true of Jesus-followers who are "citizens of heaven" (Phil. 3:21).

The believer's speech should sound like a foreign language to everyone else—upbuilding rather than destructive and seasoned with grace rather than spoiled with obscenity (Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:8). A Christian's conduct should make other people think, "They must not be from

around here." Saints saved by grace ought to forgive in a world that desires revenge, pursue godliness in a society that applauds immorality, and live humbly in a culture inflated by pride (Eph. 4:32; Gen. 6:9; Col. 3:12). Paul the apostle said it best: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (Rom. 12:2a). The children of God are called to be "without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15).

A zebra without stripes would be a bizarre sight—a stranger still is a professing believer indistinguishable from the world.

And the return on living distinctly as a Christian pilgrim is worth it, as John Wesley wrote in his little-known hymn, "How Happy is the Pilgrim's Lot:

"Nothing on earth I call my own; A stranger, to the world unknown, I all their goods despise; I trample on their whole delight, and seek a country out of sight, a country in the skies."

YOUTH FIRST Meaningful Summer activities for your kids

Summer can be stressful and chaotic for some families. When kids are out of school, it can be difficult for parents and guardians to keep them busy all day. Having a plan or a “bucket list” for the summer can be helpful for families. Meaningful summer activities for kids don’t have to be expensive or overly structured. The key is to give them chances to grow, explore, and feel capable.

Here are some strong ideas:

1. Reading challenges or library programs - These programs help prevent the “summer slide,” where kids lose academic skills. Reading also builds imagination, focus, and confidence, especially when kids get to choose what they read. Get involved with your local library’s summer programs, which are usually free and have activities planned for different age groups.

2. Outdoor play and nature exploration - Think about exploring parks, hiking, gardening, or even just enjoying unstructured backyard time. These activities support physical health, reduce stress, and help kids develop creativity and problem-solving skills without constant adult direction. A do-it-yourself (DIY) scavenger hunt can be easy to throw together and completely free.

The more time kids spend outside, the better it is for their mental health and overall mood.

3. Chores and responsibility-building tasks - Giving kids regular responsibilities (laundry, cooking simple meals, helping with younger siblings) builds independence, accountability, and life skills they will use. Create a chart to hang on the refrigerator, with different chores and responsibilities for their specific age each day. It can be as easy as “making your bed” or “taking out the trash.”

4. Creative projects (art, music, building, journaling) - Creative outlets allow kids to express emotions, build patience, and take pride in finishing something. It’s also great for kids who may not thrive in traditional academic settings. Creative outlets may include designing and creating a journal for them to write in every day, painting rocks, or a simple craft in the dollar section at Dollar General. For extra creativity points, use items you already have at home to build or create something unique.

5. Community service or helping others - Volunteering, helping neighbors, or doing small acts of kindness teaches empathy, perspective,

and a sense of purpose beyond themselves. While you’re at your local park, take a break from playing and pick up trash or volunteer at the local library, checking out books or restocking. Help a neighbor with yard work. Nursing homes and assisted living facilities usually welcome guests to interact with their residents or even eat lunch with them.

6. Social time with peers - Playdates, camps, or team activities help kids practice communication, conflict resolution, and teamwork—skills that don’t come from screens. It’s as easy as inviting a friend over or registering for your local summer camp.

7. Learning a new skill - This could include cooking, riding a bike, coding, or even starting a small business (like a lemonade stand). Learning something new builds confidence and shows kids they can learn through effort.

8. Family time and shared experiences - Game nights, day trips, or even cooking together strengthen relationships and give kids a sense of security and belonging. Whatever you are doing, doing it as a family can be beneficial.

What makes these activities important isn’t just that they keep kids busy; they build independence, emotional skills, and real-world confidence in ways school sometimes can’t.

Maggie Robertson, MSW, LSW, is a Youth First Mental Health Professional at North Daviess Jr-Sr High School in Daviess County. Youth First, Inc., is a nonprofit dedicated to strengthening youth and families. Youth First provides over 100 highly trained mental health professionals (primarily master’s level social workers), prevention programs, parent engagement coordinators, and bilingual support personnel to 130 schools across 14 Indiana counties. Over 55,000 youth and families each year are served by Youth First’s school-based social work and community programs that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and maximize student success. To learn more about Youth First, visit youthfirstinc.org or call 812-421-8336.

Area Deaths

Mark A. Lampert

Mark A. Lampert, age 67, of Huntingburg, Indiana, passed away on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at home due to injuries sustained in an accident. A Celebration of Life for Mark A. Lampert will be held at a later date.

Virginia M. Mehringer

Virginia M. Mehringer, age 89, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2026, at St. Charles Health Campus in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Virginia M. Mehringer will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Jasper, Indiana, with burial to follow in Fairview Cemetery in Jasper. A visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the 11:00 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church on Tuesday.

Eugene M. Helming

Eugene M. Helming, age 69, of Celestine, Indiana, passed away surrounded by family at 6:18 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Brookside Village in Jasper, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Eugene M. Helming was held at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at St. Celestine Catholic Church in Celestine, Indiana, with burial followed in the church cemetery.

Janice A. Kreilein

Janice A. Kreilein, age 86 of St. Anthony, Indiana, passed away at 10:25 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville, Indiana. A Mass of Christian Burial for Janice A. Kreilein was held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026 at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in St. Anthony, Indiana, with burial following in the church cemetery.

Ralph E. Shelby

Ralph E. Shelby, age 73, of Otwell, Indiana, passed away with family by his side at 7:13 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper. A Celebration of Life for Ralph E. Shelby will be held at a later date.

Mildred Joanna “Jo” Anderson

Mildred Joanna “Jo” Anderson, age 92, of Jasper, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at St. Charles Health Campus in Jasper. There will be no visitation. Private graveside services will be held at Shiloh Cemetery in Ireland, Indiana.

Marilyn Brock

Marilyn H. Brock, 87, passed away on May 11, 2026, at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center in Jasper. Funeral services were held at 10:00 AM CDT on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Tell City Chapel. Burial followed in Chestnut Grove Cemetery.

Linda Parker

Linda J. Parker, 73, passed away May 11, 2026, at Brentwood Care Center in Evansville. Funeral services were held at 1:30 PM CDT on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Huber Funeral Home, Cannelton Chapel. Pastor Billy Lain will officiate. Burial followed in New Cliff Cemetery.

Our deepest condolences to those who have lost loved ones. Prayers of comfort and peace.

Beta Gamma Chapter holds meeting

Beta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an honorary sorority for women educators, met on Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the Holy Family Fellowship Hall. Members enjoyed refreshments provided by the May Fellowship Committee of Kristy Dilger, Paula Peter, Denise Heeke, and Bonnie Winger. The program for the afternoon was “Share Your Style” in which members shared their favorite hobbies such as sewing, reading books, and sharing cooking ideas and recipes.

Chaplain Pat Seger read “Sisters at Home” for a devotion. Secretary Sue Ann Burns called roll with sixteen members present. Minutes, sent out ahead of the meeting, were approved after Sandy Miller made the motion to approve

with a second from Marie Patton. Paula Peter reminded members to keep track of hours of service. Bonnie Winger sent a thank-you note for remembering her with treats.

The next order of business was the installation of new officers for the next two years. Brenda Hurm, Pat Seger, Marie Patton and Clara Fromme installed the new officers. The new officers are President Ava Widolff; Secretary Kathy Bachman; and Chaplain Beth Meece.

At State Convention Paula Alles, Kathy Bachman, and Brenda Bender were recognized for their thirty-five years of service as Sapphire Sisters. Also our chapter won the Indiana Honor Chapter Award for 2024-2025. The Regional Conference

will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on July 12-15.

Members voted to sent their yearly altruistic donations to Firefly, “Do What You Love” (alheimers), Freedom Reins, and St. Jude.

Donna Koval made the motion to give each of these one-hundred dollars, and Marie Patton seconded the motion. The motion carried. Perfect attendance members Sue Ann Burns, Clara Fromme, Brenda Hurm and Beth Meece were given a potted plant as a gift.

The summer outing is June 11, 2026, at Patokea Lake at the BMF Cafe. Meet at Fazoli’s at 11:15 if you plan to carpool. May Birthday 31- Paula Peter.

The meeting closed with the singing of the “Lamp of Alpha Delta Kappa”.

AUCTION

The Gary Cornwell Estate has commissioned Brahm & Brahm Auction/Realty to sell the following on

Thursday, June 4th @ 4:30 PM ET

Auction located at the Huntingburg Conservation Club. Address is 8728 S 100 W Ferdinand IN 47532. From US 231 South in Huntingburg take Sunset Dr for 2.2 miles then right on Co. Rd. 100 W for 2 miles. Watch for signs.

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Owner: The Gary Cornwell Estate


Auctioneers Note: The majority of these items are in very good condition.

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PO Box 144 Huntingburg
(Dubois County) IN 47542
Dubois County) IN 47542

Huntingburg Press • Jasper News Journal
www.ky-news.com • 812.827.2232
Published weekly by: Indiana Newspaper Group, 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001.
Mailing Address: 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001.

Subscription rates are \$51.00 County (420 zip code); \$81.00 out of county and state; 10% discount senior citizen; \$39.99 on line (subscribe on-line at www.ky-news.com). Mail subscriptions to: Kentucky Publishing, Inc. Attn: Indiana Newspaper Group, 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001. Visa, MasterCard and Discover are accepted. Mail subscriptions are payable in advance. Late payments are retroactive to due date.

Publisher: Greg LeNeave
Sales: Greg LeNeave, Larrah Workman
Editor/Production: Larrah Workman
Bookkeeping: Teresa LeNeave

Advertising standards Merchandise and services advertised in our papers are expected to be accurately described and readily available.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Indiana Newspaper Group, 1540 McCracken Blvd., Paducah, KY 42001. The Huntingburg Press (ISSN 10413421-USPS #0030002). Periodical Class Postage Paid at The Huntingburg Post Office, Huntingburg, IN 47542.

The meaning of Memorial Day

Memorial Day is a national holiday in the United States dedicated to honoring and remembering the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Observed on the last Monday of May each year, the holiday is both a solemn day of remembrance and the unofficial start of summer for many Americans. Families across the country gather for ceremonies, parades, cookouts, and visits to cemeteries to pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation.

The origins of Memorial Day date back to the years following the Civil War, one of the deadliest conflicts in American history. Communities began holding tributes to fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers, flags, and wreaths. Because of this tradition, the holiday was originally known as "Decoration Day." Over time, the observance expanded to honor all American



are encouraged to pause for one minute to remember and honor fallen soldiers. Schools, veterans organizations, and local communities often hold special programs to teach younger generations about the sacrifices made by members of the armed forces.

Although many people celebrate the holiday with picnics, road trips, and outdoor activities, Memorial Day is different from Veterans Day. Veterans Day honors all who have served in the military, while Memorial Day specifically recognizes those who died while serving their country.

Memorial Day remains an important part of American culture because it reminds citizens of the cost of freedom and the bravery of those who defended it. The holiday encourages reflection, gratitude, and unity as Americans come together to remember the heroes who gave their lives in service to the nation.

military personnel who lost their lives in service during wars and conflicts.

In 1971, Memorial Day officially became a federal holiday and was set to be observed on the last Monday in May. This created a three-day weekend for many workers and students,

allowing more people the opportunity to travel, attend events, and spend time with family while also reflecting on the meaning of the holiday.

One of the most important traditions associated with Memorial Day is visiting cemeteries and memorials.

American flags are often placed on the graves of fallen service members, and ceremonies are held at military memorials across the country. At places like Arlington National Cemetery, thousands gather to honor those who served. The President of the United States traditionally places a

wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument dedicated to unidentified military members who died in combat.

Another significant Memorial Day tradition is the National Moment of Remembrance, which takes place at 3 p.m. local time. Americans

Add some additional flavor to your Memorial Day BBQ

Memorial Day weekend is a time for both reflection and relaxation across the United States. Memorial Day mourns and honors military personnel who lost their lives

while serving in the American Armed Forces. Memorial Day parades honor such individuals, and the parades also instill pride in Americans during a much-beloved weekend across the

United States. Though Memorial Day is observed annually on the last Monday in May, the three-day holiday weekend marks the unofficial start of summer for millions of people each year. That kickoff typically includes lots of backyard barbecues.

As millions gather to celebrate Memorial Day this year, those tasked with manning the grill can consider these ways to add some extra flavor to foods cooked over an open flame.

- Monitor temperatures with a meat thermometer. Overcooking foods cooked over an open flame is a common mistake. Overcooked foods tend to taste dried out and fail to offer that signature juiciness associated with well-cooked barbecue staples like

steak and other types of red meat. People manning the grill this Memorial Day are urged to utilize a

meat thermometer, which can ensure foods maintain their juicy flavor profile and do not dry out.

The ideal internal cooking temperature

see **BBQ**, page 6



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5 interesting facts about Memorial Day

Memorial Day is celebrated at the end of May each year to honor those who lost their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. Memorial Day, the origins of which can be traced to the aftermath of the American Civil War, holds deep historical significance, and the following are five interesting facts about the holiday.

1. The holiday began as Decoration Day. Before the official establishment of Memorial Day, communities began holding spring tributes to fallen soldiers, decorating soldiers' graves with flowers to pay respects. In 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for northern Civil War veterans, officially proclaimed May 30 as Decoration Day. War.gov says that graves at Arlington National



Cemetery continued to be adorned in the same fashion they were back in the 1860s.

2. Memorial Day became an official holiday in 1968. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed Memorial Day into law on June 28, 1968, officially marking Memorial Day as a national holiday. However, two years prior, he signed

a proclamation officially declaring Waterloo, New York, as the birthplace of Memorial Day. The town was the first to honor fallen soldiers, and has been featuring a formal, community-wide event since May 5, 1866.

3. Blooming flowers have a place in Memorial Day history. Historians believe that the

original choice of May 30 for Decoration Day was not due to any specific battle. Rather, it was a day when no particular conflict had taken place and was the time of year when flowers would be in full bloom. So on May 30 there would be plenty of flowers across the country to decorate soldiers' graves.

4. All fallen

veterans were eventually honored on Memorial Day. Many early Memorial Day iterations honored those who died during the American Civil War. After World War I, however, the Memorial Day holiday was expanded to honor all American military personnel who died during any war.

5. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act changed when Memorial Day is commemorated. Memorial Day once was commemorated on May 30 regardless of the day of the week. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, moving Memorial Day to the last Monday in May to create a three-day weekend for federal employees. This change went into effect in 1971.

BBQ,
from page 5

varies depending on which foods are being cooked, so be sure to stick to a recipe or look up the appropriate internal cooking temperature for foods that will be cooked over an open flame.

- Utilize wood chips or chunks. Another way to add flavor is to grill foods over wood chips or chunks. Chips or chunks might be flavored (mesquite is a popular flavor) or unflavored. Cooks should know that adding flavored or unflavored chips or chunks will impart a smoky flavor to anything cooked on the grill. When using a gas grill, cooks can put the chips or chunks in a smoker box or wrap them in a foil pouch to impart extra flavor without adversely affecting the grill.

- Dry rub meats. Some people marinate grilled foods prior to cooking, but marinade can drip off when cooking food and lose much of its value in regard to adding flavor. Dry rubs are made from spices, herbs and other seasonings that won't fall or burn off when foods are cooking. Dry rubs can add extra flavor when applied hours before cooking or even shortly before placing foods on the grill.

- Slow down. "Low and slow" is a motto embraced by people who love to smoke foods, and that same approach can be applied to more traditional grilling as well. Even if you don't have all day to cook like you would if you choose to smoke foods, cooking low and slow can ensure foods are juicy and full of that unique taste that's only possible when cooking over an open flame. Keep vents open only on a crack and cook foods at lower temperatures than you otherwise might. While the foods won't be cooked as fast, they will boast more of that signature smoky flavor grilling enthusiasts love.

There's no shortage of ways to impart some extra flavor to grilled foods this Memorial Day.

Memorial Day safety tips

Memorial Day weekend marks the unofficial start of summer for millions of people across the country. Backyard barbecues are a staple of Memorial Day weekend, and such informal gatherings contribute much to the laid back vibe of this beloved three-day weekend.

Backyard barbecues may be all about food and fun, but it's important that hosts take measures to ensure such soirees are safe as well. By employing the following measures, hosts can ensure their Memorial Day barbecues are safe for all in attendance.

- Place the grill in a safe location. The National Fire Protection Association urges hosts to place their grills a safe distance away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves or overhanging branches. The NFPA also notes no grill should be placed within 10 feet of any structure, including a home.



- Check propane tanks for leaks prior to using the grill. Memorial Day may be the first time many people use their grill since the previous summer or fall. The NFPA recommends propane grill users check their tanks for leaks prior to using the grill for the first time. This inspection is simple. Apply a light solution of soap and water to the hose. The NFPA notes a propane leak will release

bubbles. The smell test also can reveal a leak, as a strong odor of gas can indicate a leak. In such instances, close the tank valve and turn off the grill. If the leak stops, have the grill serviced by a professional. If the leak persists, call the fire department. The NFPA urges hosts who detect an odor of gas while cooking to get away from the grill immediately and call the fire department. Do not move the grill

in such instances.

- Man the grill at all times. An unattended grill poses a significant safety hazard. Whether you're using a propane grill, a charcoal grill, a smoker, or a hybrid, make sure an adult is keeping an eye on the grill at all times.

- Purchase long-handled cooking tools. The American Red Cross notes that long-handled cooking tools are designed to keep chefs safe. Such

tools ensure cooks' hands and arms do not have to be directly over flames, which can periodically flare up and pose a safety hazard.

- Ensure children are supervised when swimming. The grill is not the only safety threat that may be present at Memorial Day barbecues. Hosts who will open their pools or provide inflatable pools for children should make sure kids are supervised when in or around the water at all times. Before allowing kids in a pool, hosts should confirm their swimming abilities and insist kids who cannot swim or only recently learned to swim wear inflatables or life jackets to reduce drowning risk.

Memorial Day weekend is a festive time at many households. By emphasizing backyard barbecue safety strategies, hosts can ensure everyone has a great time and gets home safe this Memorial Day weekend.

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Daughters of Isabella Jasper Circle holds Mother's Day dinner

Daughters of Isabella Jasper Circle #140 held their Mother's Day Dinner on Monday, May 11, at Kundeck Hall at St. Joseph Parish Center in Jasper. Regent Marge Beckman welcomed the members. Father John Brosmer, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Jasper, led the meal blessing. A catered meal was prepared by Happy Hour Restaurant and enjoyed.

Following the meal, Regent Beckman proceeded with the planned evening. Due to the absence of Secretary Pam Schneider, Beckman called the Roll of Officers. Present at the meeting were officers Marge Beckman-Regent, Sharon Gramelspacher-Vice regent, Kathy Schneider-Past Regent, Rose Rasche-Treasurer, Betty Mehringer-Financial secretary, Chris Schuetter-Assistant Financial secretary, Pam Howard, and Tracy Merkel-Auditors, Kathy Bachman-Scribe, Bev Himsel-Chancellor and Martha Mathews and Dianne Klein - Guides. Pam Schneider-Secretary

and Lynne Bohnert-Auditor were excused. Correspondence was received from D of I Ave Maria Circle #598 in Washington, IN. They will be celebrating their 90th Anniversary on May 31.

Regent Beckman asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the April minutes and the Treasurer's report until the June meeting. The motion was made by Tracy Merkel and seconded by Virgie Evans.

Regent Beckman gave an update on the recent activity of the Jasper Circle. The Memorial Mass was held on April 23 at St. Joseph Church in Jasper. A total of eleven members have passed away in the past year. Mary Sue Boeglin led the singing and Melaine Baker, Music Director at St. Joseph Parish, accompanied her on piano. A reception was held in the Parish Center lobby for the family members and their guests.

The next Moose Bingo that the D of I will assist with will be May 19. This is a profitable fundraiser for the circle and any D of I member,

that is also a Moose member, can volunteer to help sell pull tabs. Please contact Kathy Schneider for more details.

The Spring Fling State Convention was held April 25 and 26 at Lindenwood Retreat Center in Plymouth, IN and hosted by the DePaul Circle #434, St. Charles Circle #273 and St. Edward Circle #1166. Vice Regent Sharon Gramelspacher and Past Regent Kathy Schneider attended. Gramelspacher spoke on her overview of the weekend. She spoke of enjoying the company of other D of I members from around the state and the beauty of the area.

Regent Beckman pointed out the special D of I brochure placed on the tables. Beckman stated that our Jasper Circle #140 is celebrating 105 years, as it was chartered in 1921. It is the largest Circle in the state of Indiana, as well as, in the International Organization.

Members are asked to share this information with other Catholic ladies and invite them to join our Circle. Back in 1921 there were no other Catholic

parishes in Jasper, so St. Joseph became the leading parish. Today the Jasper Circle #140 serves St. Joseph, Holy Family and Precious Blood in Jasper, St. Mary's in Ireland, St. Isidore in Celestine and Dubois, Divine Mercy in St. Anthony and Schnellville and St. Mary's in Huntingburg. Daughters of Isabella is open to all Catholic women, age 16 and over. Regent Beckman shared that a member suggested a D of I membership be given as a graduation gift. Contact Regent Marge Beckman or Vice-Regent Sharon Gramelspacher for more information on becoming a member.

Also a Wish List paper for the state altruistic project, St. Elizabeth Coleman Center, was on the tables outlining items they need for their Counseling Room, Community Donations and Support Group.

The 2026 Biennial International Convention will be held August 8-12, 2026, at Ontario, Canada. Regent Beckman and Vice regent Gramelspacher will be attending to represent Jasper Circle #140.

For the Good of the

Order Vice Regent Gramelspacher read a Mother's Day Prayer called, "Thank God for a Mother's Love".

Regent Beckman recognized 50 year member Jane Bell who were present. Past Regent Schneider read a list of members who have longevity within the Circle. Members can inquire when they joined the Circle with Schneider or Rose Rasche.

Report of Standing Committees followed.

Vice Regent Gramelspacher reported that there are now twenty members in the Nursing Homes. Visiting for May will be Pam Howard, Lynne Bohnert and Cindy Jones. She thanked the April committee of Amy Ruxer, Laurel Seger, Sara Hopf and Anne Brosmer. The Circle also assists with Mass at the Timbers at 1:30 p.m. on 4th Wednesdays, Mass at Serenity Springs on 2nd Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. (with Kathy Schneider, Dana Hoffman, Brenda Heeke, Mary Tucker and Alene Ploetner assisting), Bingo at Cathedral at 2:30 p.m. on 3rd Thursday (with Diane Verkamp, Kathy Bachman and Martha

Keusch and St. Charles Health Campus at 2:00 p.m. with games on the 2nd Wednesday of the month (with Pam Howard, Barb Schmitt and Ann Rasche). More volunteers are always welcome.

A Free Will Offering was collected for Dove Recovery House.

Those in attendance celebrating birthdays in May were Betty Mehringer and Donna Mehringer. Betty was drawn for the birthday prize. Attendance prizes and game prizes were awarded.

Regent Beckman reminded the Board that they will meet on May 14.

The next monthly meeting of the D of I will be June 8, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., in Room 301 at the St. Joseph Parish Center. The meetings are held the second Monday of the month, except for July. The Circle does not meet in July.

Regent Beckman thanked those who helped serve the drinks, set up the room, and decorated. The assorted flowers decorations/prizes were from the local Produce Patch.

Regent Beckman wished all a Happy Mother's Day and safe travels back home.

State Rep. Bartels to chair Indiana Defense Task Force

STATEHOUSE — State Rep. Stephen Bartels (R-Eckerty) was recently selected by Indiana Governor Mike Braun to serve as chair of the Indiana Defense Task Force. Bartels was appointed to the task force by House Speaker Todd Huston (R-Fishers).

Established through a 2019 law passed by the General Assembly, the Indiana Defense Task Force supports and promotes Indiana's defense ecosystem and streamlines processes related to the retention of military installations and the continued development of installation

communities.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to further advance Indiana's defense ecosystem," said Bartels, a veteran and chair of the House Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Committee. "In Southern Indiana and across the state, our defense industry is growing. By strengthening our military installations and supporting local defense businesses, we are providing economic opportunities for our communities. This means creating high-wage careers and ensuring Indiana remains a leader in national security and

innovation."

Bartels authored legislation this year that strengthens Indiana's defense sector by ensuring tax dollars in fiscal years 2025-2027 appropriated for defense are coordinated and aligned with the Indiana Defense Task Force's priorities. The bill also adds the adjutant general of the Indiana National Guard or their designee as a nonvoting member of the task force.

To learn more about the Indiana Defense Task Force, visit <https://iedc.in.gov/program/defense-task-force/overview>.



Deaconess Memorial Medical Center to offer Stroke Survivor and Caregiver Support Group

Jasper, Indiana – Stroke care doesn't end when you leave the hospital. Many stroke survivors and their caregivers experience changes in lifestyles and emotions while adjusting to new daily routines. Please join us at our FREE support group meetings where you can talk openly with

others who share similar experiences.

The next support group will be held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Mary Potter Meeting Room at Deaconess Memorial Medical Center, 800 W. 9th Street, Jasper. The topic for the meeting will be home safety and preventing falls.

Pre-registration is not required to attend.

For more information about the Stroke Survivor and Caregiver Support Group, please call, 812-996-5912. You can also e-mail questions or comments to Melissa.Schwenk@deaconess.com

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Local students in the News



Southern New Hampshire University

MANCHESTER, NH — It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Spring 2026 President's List. The spring terms run from January to May.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Lillian Jeffries Schnell of St. Anthony (47575)

Collin Bell of Dale (47523)

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with a 93-year history of educating traditional-aged students and working adults. Now serving more than 200,000 learners worldwide, SNHU offers approximately 200 undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs, available online and on its 300-acre campus in Manchester, NH. Recognized as one of the "Most Innovative" regional universities by U.S. News & World Report and one of the fastest-growing universities in the country, SNHU is committed to expanding access to high quality, affordable pathways that meet the needs of each learner.

Corbin Kaiser elected to membership into the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA — Corbin Kaiser of Jasper, Indiana, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at University of Louisville.

Kaiser is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top

10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines.

Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

About Phi Kappa Phi
Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has

chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States and its territories. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

Trine University

ANGOLA, IND. — Jackson Clark of Jasper completed requirements for a degree from Trine University at the end of the Spring 2026 semester.

Clark earned a degree in Computer Science and Information Technology and Master of Science in Business Analytics at Trine.

Trine University, an internationally recognized, private, co-educational, residential institution, offers associate's, bachelor's, master's

and doctoral degrees in the Allen School of Engineering & Computing, Ketner School of Business, College of Graduate and Professional

Rinker-Ross School of Health Sciences. Trine is a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association and offers 37



Studies, Brooks College of Health Professions, Franks School of Education, Jannen School of Arts & Sciences and

intercollegiate sports, 27 of which compete in NCAA Division III. Its golf program includes the university-owned 18-hole championship

Zollner Golf Course. Founded in 1884 and accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org), Trine operates a 450-acre campus in Angola, Indiana, and the College of Health Professions in Fort Wayne, with education centers in Detroit, Michigan, Phoenix, Arizona, and Reston, Virginia, and programs available worldwide through TrineOnline.



Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

We're so proud of each of you! We pray you find every success as you pursue your next adventure in life.

(And if you think that adventure might include a call to life as a Sister, we invite you to come and spend some time with us!)

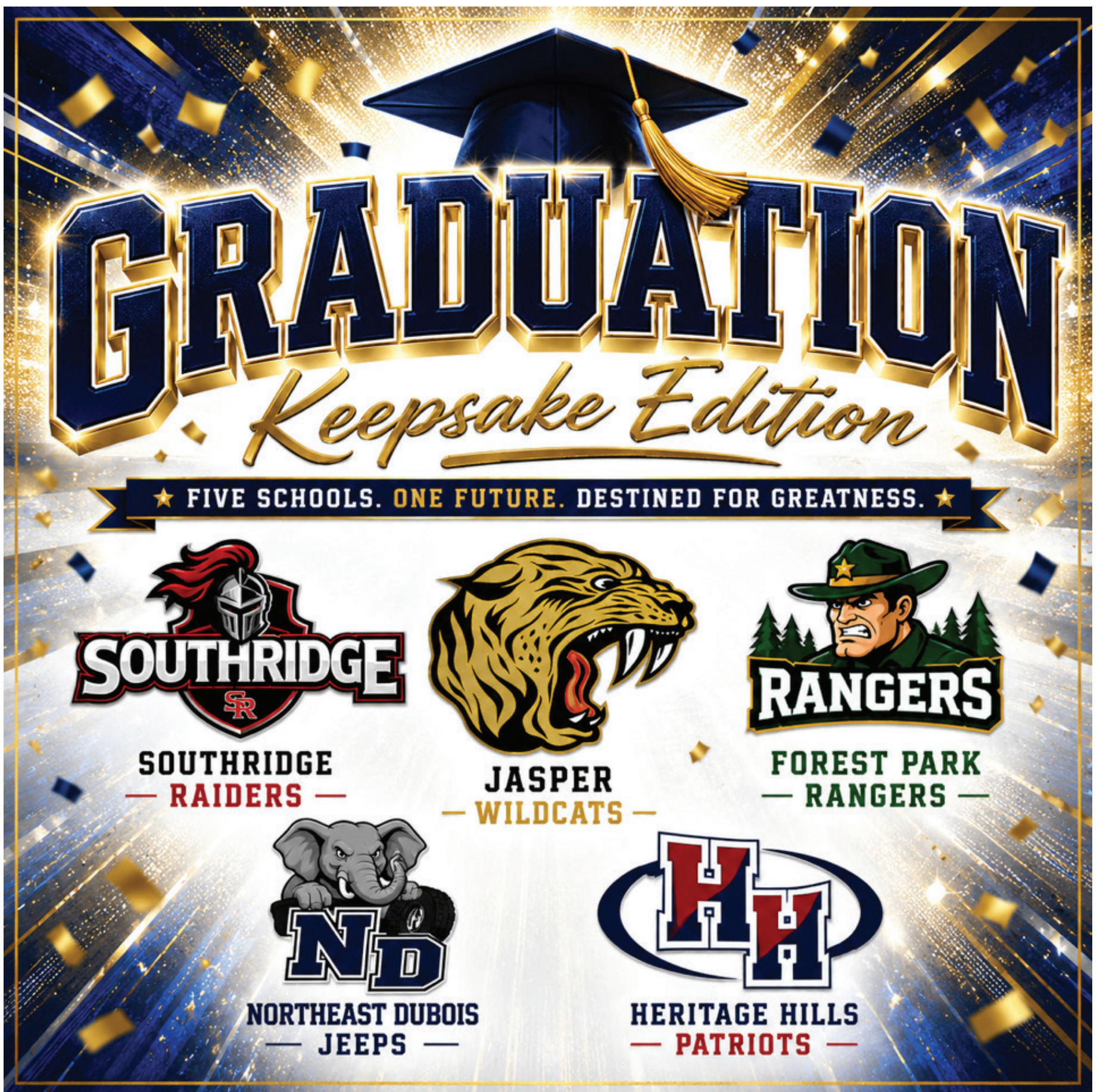
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How to land a job after graduation

The road to graduation can be long and winding. Graduation often is an exciting time in a person's life. However, it also may spark some anxiety as newly minted grads prepare to look for jobs and begin their careers.

An unpredictable economic climate coupled with the rising cost of education can make soon-to-be graduates curious about what awaits them after graduation. According to the market data reporting firm Gitnux, 86 percent of college graduates can expect to find jobs within six months of graduation.



While the economy can affect how quickly new grads begin their careers, it's not the only variable that affects where grads go after tossing their caps in the air. Students on the cusp of graduation

can employ various strategies to increase their chances of finding a job.

- **Start while in school.** It's never too early to think about the hiring process and what can be done to improve

your profile as a candidate. Maintain a grade point average that will impress employers, suggests Indeed. Also, part-time jobs and internships in your field will help you gain valuable experience and

determine if working in a particular field is a good fit.

- **Select an off-peak time to search for a job.** Many people start searching and applying for jobs at the same time, typically after graduation ceremonies in December and May. That floods the market with applicants. Increase the chances your résumé is read by staggering when you apply for jobs and sending out inquiries before you graduate.

- **Streamline your résumé.** Many companies receive thousands of applications per

position, so it is essential to cater your résumé to the specific job to which you are applying. Include key words that match those in the job listing and will attract the attention of hiring managers. If you do not yet have experience, replace that section on the résumé with your accomplishments or special projects you have worked on.

- **Network as much as possible.** Many job openings are learned about through personal relationships. Employers may not advertise widely

see **JOB**, page 4

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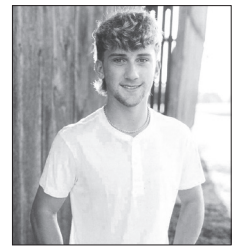
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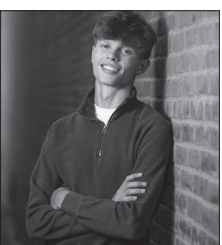
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Happy Celebrating & Best Wishes

We're so impressed by this year's graduates, and we hope you all enjoy a well-deserved day of relaxation and fun. **Congratulations!**

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I wish you success in your endeavors!

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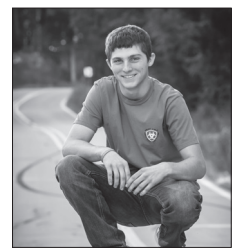
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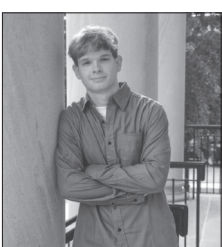
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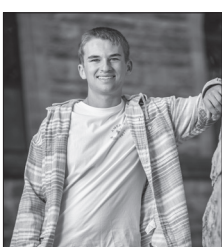
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GEO ZELAYA

JOB,
from page 1

and hope that word of mouth will bring applicants to their doors, or through recommendations from other employees. Reach out to academic advisors, former professors and colleagues in your academic department. Be sure to maintain these networking relationships.

- Consider growth-stage companies.

The University of Missouri Career Center says growth-stage companies tend to hire entry level professionals who do not necessarily have a lot of experience. These are fast-growing companies looking to expand their operations and build company culture.

- Utilize networking social media apps. Indeed and LinkedIn enable people to network and make it easy to apply for jobs

directly through their sites or apps. There's even the option to passively apply for jobs by having a résumé uploaded where companies can search and find you if your skills are a match.

Finding a job after graduation is a priority for graduates anxious to begin their careers. Various strategies can help new grads find work sooner rather than later.



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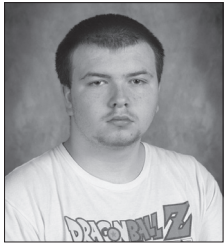
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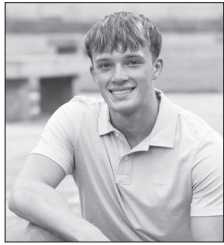
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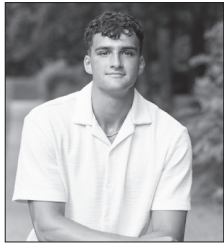
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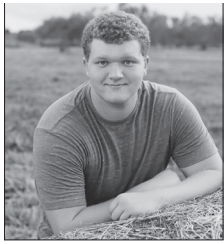
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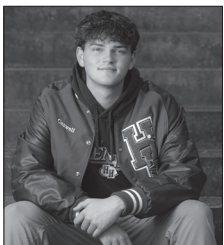
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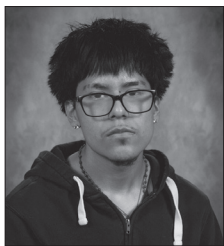
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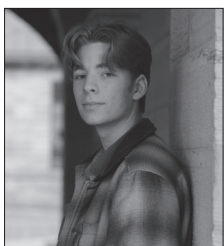
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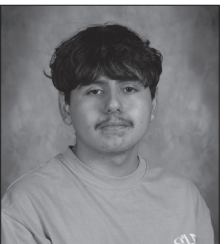
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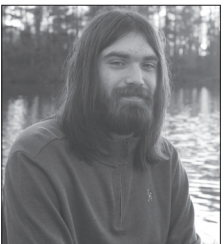
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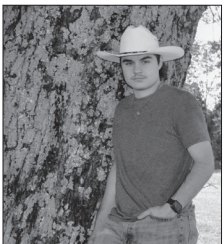
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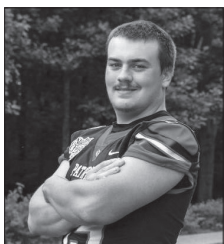
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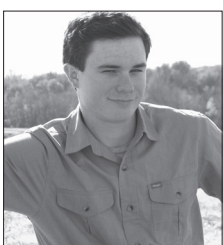
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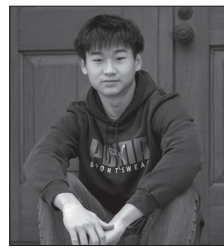
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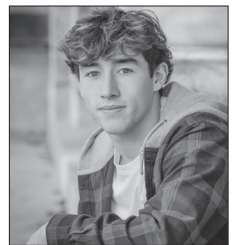
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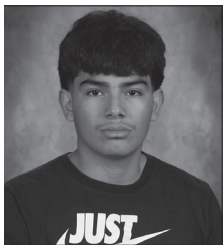
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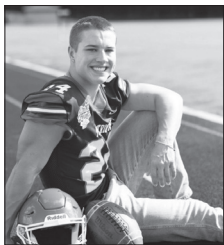
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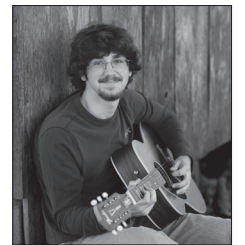
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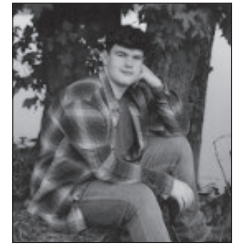
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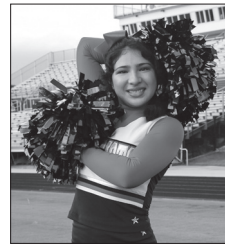
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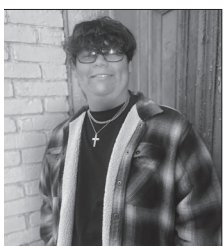
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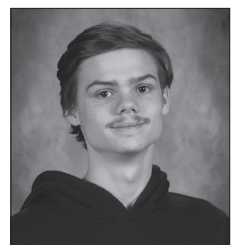
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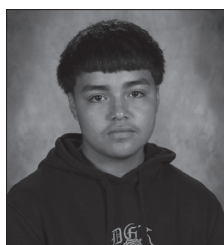
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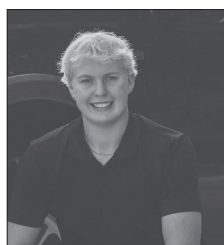
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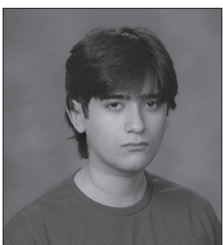
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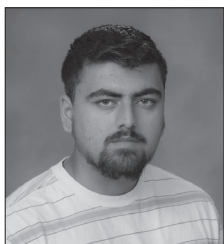
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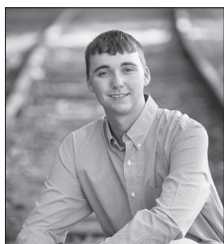
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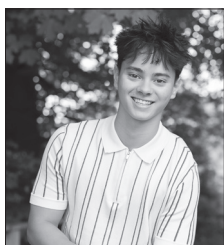
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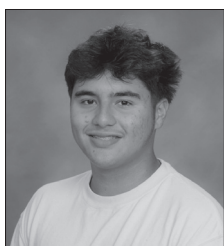
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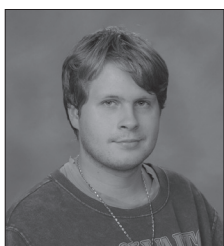
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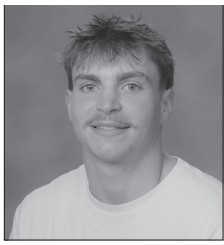


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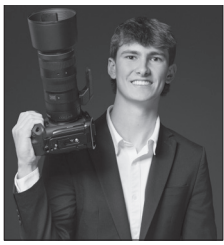


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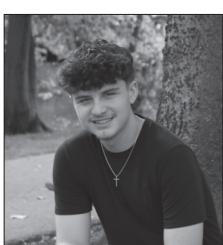
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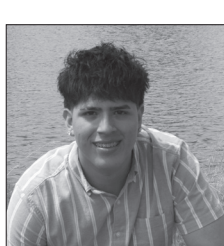
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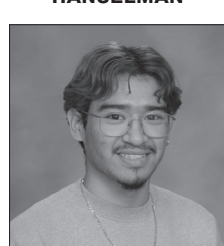
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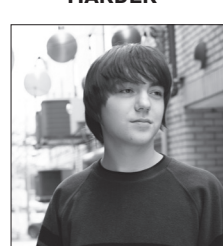
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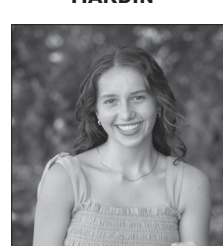
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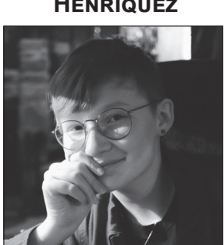
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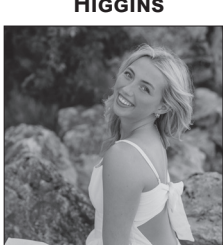
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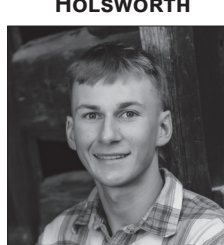
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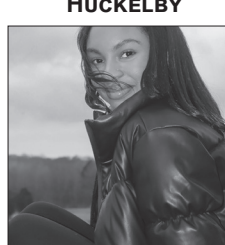
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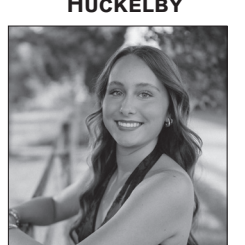
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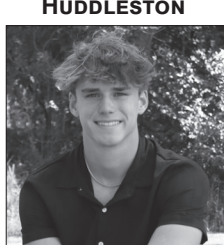
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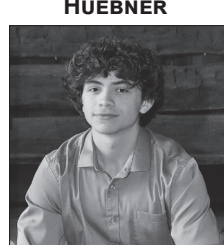
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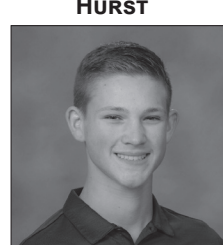
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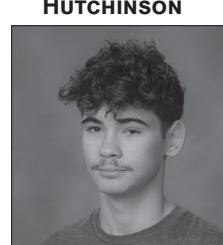
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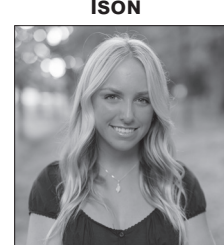
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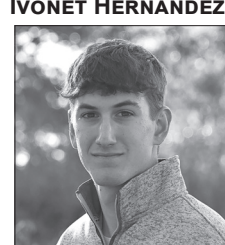
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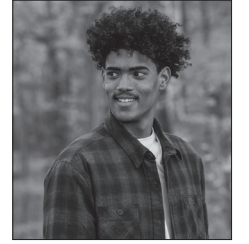
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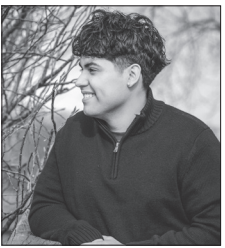
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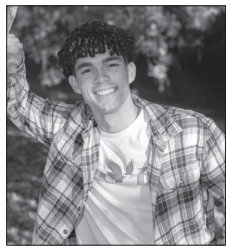
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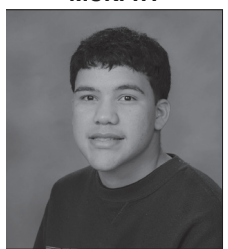
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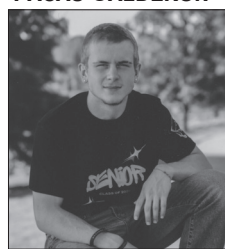
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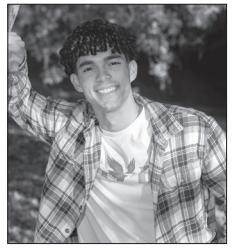
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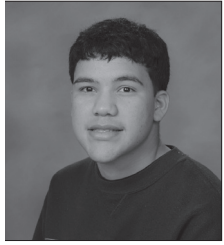
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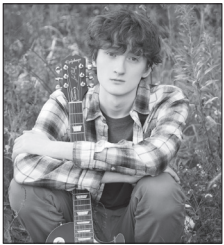
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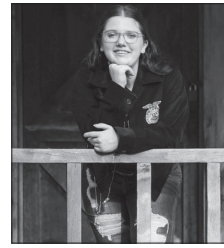
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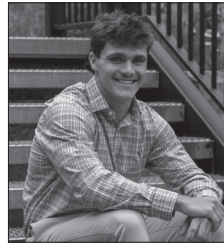
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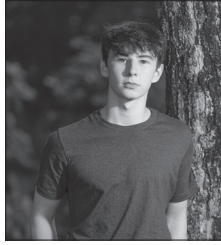
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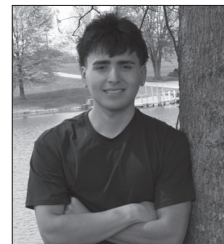
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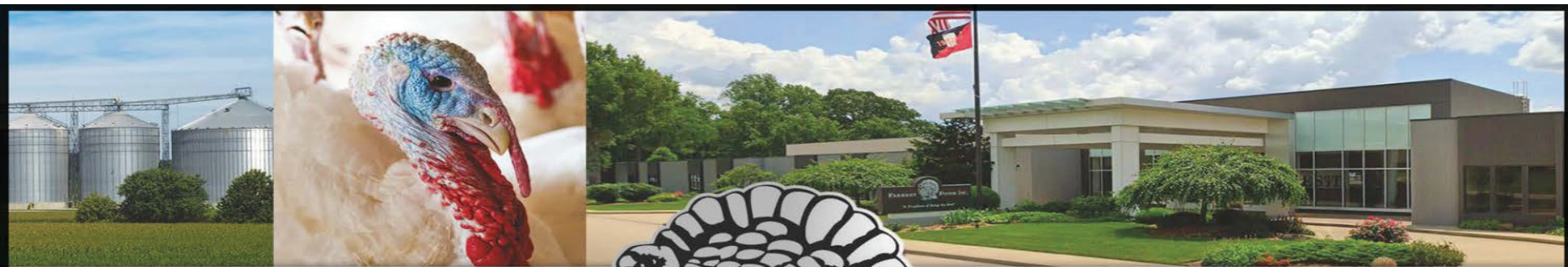
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How to plan a fulfilling gap year

Many high school students tend to enjoy a few months of summer vacation after they graduate, and then embark on new adventures at college or trade school. Graduating college seniors follow a similar path of joining the workforce or beginning post-graduate work after earning their degrees. But such paths are not the only ones available to students. Some students may want to consider a gap year.

A gap year is a break from academia to pursue other interests or even experiential learning, according to Forbes. It's more than just a time to relax, and can prove especially helpful to self-development and discovery. If time and budget allows, taking a gap year can be a worthwhile and productive endeavor. Here are a few ideas and benefits relating

to gap years.

• **Hone skills:** Some see a gap year as a chance to goof off or lounge around. Instead, this break provides an opportunity to sample the workforce and gain experience. Individuals can seek opportunities that will be relevant to the careers they intend to pursue in the future. A future certified public accountant, for example, may want to spend tax season working with an accounting firm to learn the ropes.

• **Learn a language:** Students may think a gap year is the perfect opportunity to become more proficient in a foreign language or two. Bilingualism can be a key advantage in one's job search and future career. Traveling to a country where a studied language is

spoken and learning it while immersed in the culture can be a particularly effective means to acquiring language skills.

• **Engage in a passion project:** There are many projects that may be put on hold because of lack of time or resources while in school. A gap year can be the ideal time to write more or explore an innovative new business idea.

• **Perform service work:** A gap year can be an opportunity to engage in social change or to help a cause. Certain people may want to travel to underprivileged areas on humanitarian missions or teach English to students overseas. These are experiences that will promote personal growth and help boost a résumé when it comes time to find a job.

• **Improve academic performance:** A study by Colorado College's Gap Year Research Consortium reported that those who participate in gap years exceeded their predicted GPAs by roughly 0.15 points. A gap year may help a person become a better student.

• **Land an internship:** Some companies may want to extend internship offerings beyond the standard semester. Many professionals land their jobs through networking, so taking time away from school to participate in a lengthy internship

can make for a smoother entry into that company should one want to work with them in the future. Taking a gap

year may not be the traditional route for students, but the benefits of time away from formal learning can be profound.



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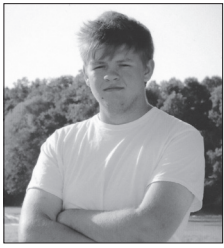
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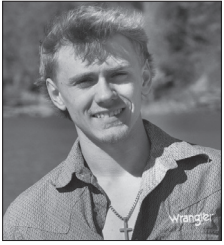
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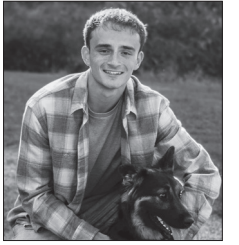
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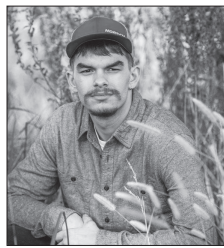
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Unique graduation gifts

Graduation season is on the horizon. This time of year is often a frenetic time for students and their families, with the promise of celebrations to come. Graduation is preceded by prom for high schoolers, and for those bidding farewell to the hallowed halls of higher education, it may mean last-minute interviews and pre-commencement résumé-building. This whirlwind of activity culminates in a degree or diploma to wrap up years spent in the classroom.

Graduates have many things to look forward to this time of year, not the least of which are gifts from close friends and

family. Those tasked with coming up with graduation gifts can take inspiration from these ideas that break the mold.

• **Retirement account funds:** Helping a new graduate get started is a popular sentiment among gift givers, but it's also possible to give grads a leg up on the future. Helping them to fund an individual retirement account can be a thoughtful gift. Keep in mind that parameters for IRAs differ between a traditional and a Roth IRA, and it is best to speak with a financial advisor to determine the best fit. Starting a retirement

account early on can provide solid footing for financial security later in life.

• **Quality luggage:** A good set of luggage can often last a person a lifetime if properly cared for. Whether the grad is taking a much-needed trip after graduation or will be traveling for his or her career, the luggage

will serve well.

• **Student loan interest payment:** Many students must rely on federal or private loans to offset the costs of attending college or even trade schools. Although a loved one may not be able to pay off the loans in their entirety, a good gift can be to make payments

toward the interest on the loans so that the bill is reduced come graduation.

• **Roadside assistance service:** The road may take graduates near and far. A membership to a roadside assistance service can be a practical gift that ensures grads get from point A to point B with fewer hiccups. These services offer towing, tire changing, gas delivery, and more. Plus, they often come with additional perks, such as discounts on travel services and lodging.

• **Professional course or tickets to a conference:** Help support a graduate's

career growth and professional development with a subscription to a course, a book about their industry or tickets to a relevant conference or trade show.

• **Travel:** Grads can be treated to the gift of travel. An overseas adventure or an epic road trip across the country may be the perfect way to unwind after years of schooling.

Graduates are entering an exciting time in their lives when anything is possible. Gift givers can think outside the box when shopping for their favorite cap-and-gown-donning loved ones.



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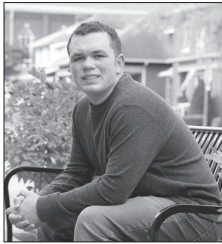
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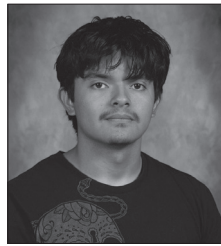
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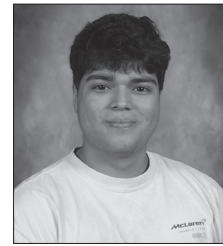
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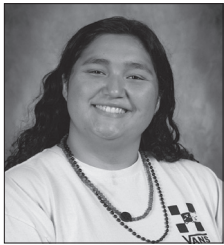
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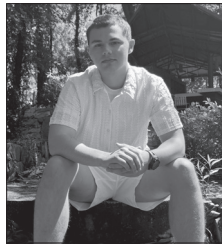
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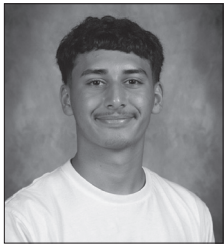
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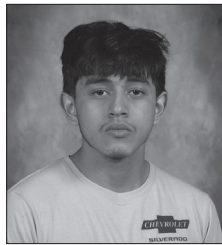
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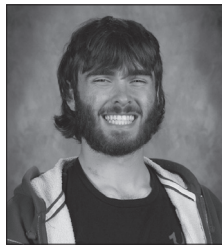
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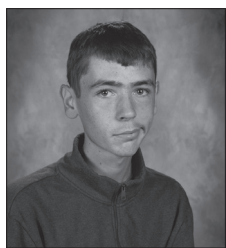


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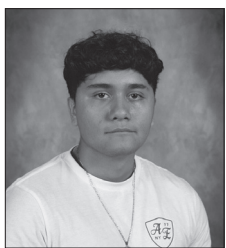
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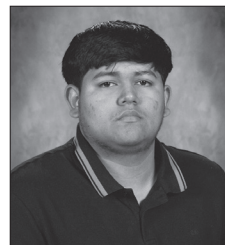
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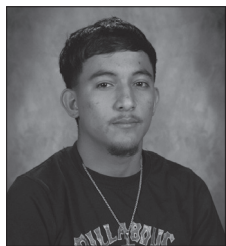
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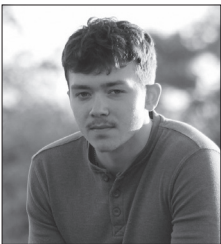
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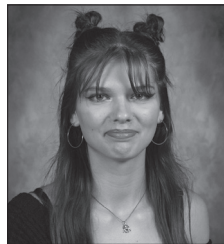
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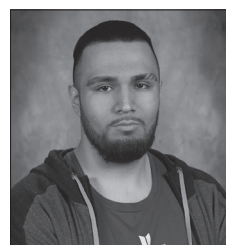


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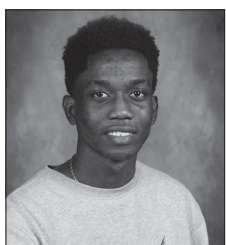


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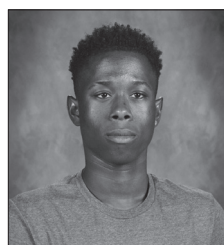
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*Grads, don't ever stop believing.
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Score a good grade on a graduation dinner

Students spend a good portion of their lives studying. By the time graduation arrives, thousands of hours spent on homework and writing term papers have passed by. According to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, the number of U.S. high school graduates was expected to reach nearly 3.9 million students in 2025. The Education Data Initiative says 2.168 million bachelor's degrees were conferred in Spring 2025 in the U.S. Individuals who are on the precipice of that next chapter in their lives are certainly worthy of celebration. A graduation dinner might just be an A-plus idea.

A graduation dinner is all about balancing the magnitude of the occasion with a relaxed environment for the graduate. Here



is a syllabus for a seamless graduation meal.

- **Secure the date.** Graduation season is one of the busiest times of year for restaurants. Between May and June, millions of graduates will don caps and gowns and then be eager to let loose. For those who aren't hosting at home, it's essential to move fast to secure a

reservation. Book a reservation as soon as you know the graduation date.

- **Consider another day.** Graduation ceremonies tend to run late. Rather than feeling beholden to the actual graduation date and then worrying about making it to the venue, consider hosting the graduation dinner the evening before

or after to sidestep a post-commencement rush.

- **Ask about packages.** Speak with the catering manager at the venue to find out if there is a specific party or graduation package. Many places offer limited prefix menus for large groups so the kitchen can deliver. Be sure to confirm a graduate's favorite foods are

on that prefix menu; otherwise, broaden the venue search.

- **Consider an at-home affair.** Although it may involve extra work, hosting at home enables you to customize the menu to reflect the guest of honor's preferred foods. Personalizing the menu with favorite foods, items that feature the school colors, a signature cocktail/mocktail and more can truly make the experience special. Not all of the food has to be homemade. Hiring an outside caterer and then setting up chafing dishes buffet-style can make hosting less labor intensive.

- **Truly take the cake.** Don't forget to have a centerpiece dessert. Beyond the classic "congrats grad" sentiments, consider a cake topper that is customized to the graduate's area of

study. A stethoscope for someone in health care or a stock market ticker for a finance major can set a cake apart.

- **Keep the program short and sweet.** Graduates have already endured through plenty of lectures and speeches, so any words offered should be brief. Highlight a specific honor or achievement, and skip a lengthy slideshow or photo montage. A simple "now and then" framed photo or poster of the graduate on the first day of kindergarten or preschool and now is a great conversation starter.

Graduation season is a happy time of year for families honoring hardworking students. A relaxed and happy dinner is a great way to pay homage to graduates' hard work and achievements.

Graduation by the numbers

Graduation is a momentous occasion in the lives of young adults and their families. Reaching this milestone is a testament to students' hard work, patience and perseverance and worthy of celebration. Here is a look at some notable figures regarding graduation in both the United States and Canada.

- According to Higher Ed Dive, U.S. high school graduates were projected to peak at 3.9 million in 2025 before declining. College graduation rates continue to hover around 61 percent.

- The high school completion rate in Canada is 88 percent, while the national first-time graduation rate is 84.3, according to Statistics Canada.

- According to 2021 census data, Canada leads the G7 group of industrialized democracies with 57.5 percent of its working-age population (ages 25 to 64) holding a college or university credential.

- According to the National Center for Education Statistics, during the 2021-22 school year, the U.S. average adjusted cohort graduation rate for public high school students was 87 percent. That marked 7 percentage point increase over a decade earlier.

- More than 61 percent of all college graduates are women, according to the Education Data Initiative.

- National Collegiate Athletic Association athletes maintain high graduation success rates, with 90 percent or better for all women's sports and 79 percent or better for men's, says the NCAA.

- By 2041, demographic shifts among graduates are likely. Hispanic public high school graduates are expected to grow to 36 percent of the graduating class, while white graduates are projected to decline by 26 percent, according to the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.



The benefits of extracurriculars for college students

Assimilating into campus life at a college or university can take time. After all, much changes between high school and college. Residential students may find college is the first time they spend considerable time

away from home among their peers.

College students have more responsibility than their counterparts in high school. College students must manage their schedules, get to class on time without help from Mom and Dad

and speak with professors on their own behalf.

One way to mitigate some of the stress that comes with the increased responsibility of college is to take full advantage of campus life. This includes participating in

extracurricular activities. High school students may participate in extracurriculars because they know they look good on college applications. But now that college is

BENEFITS,
from page 20

here, the benefits of extracurriculars may be slightly different.

• **Physical activity:** The Freshman 15 is no urban legend. The National Center for Biotechnology Information says that while most college students do not gain 15 pounds freshman year, a lot do gain some weight upon entering college. A 2008 study published in the Journal of American

College Health found the average weight gain upon entering college was 2.7 pounds, with about half of students polled gaining weight. Extracurricular activities, like sports and additional physical pursuits, can help college students maintain a healthy weight even when consuming some not-so-healthy dining hall fare.

• **Avoid poor habits:** A 2023 study by the Afterschool Alliance found that students who

participate in extracurricular activities at least two days a week are less likely to smoke marijuana and drink alcohol. These students also are less likely to miss class without a reason.

• **Networking:** Students interact with their peers during curriculum-related clubs, musical performances or sports practices and games. Finding common ground and making new connections is a cornerstone of success in the

professional world. Extracurriculars can help students develop networking skills that will be useful in the future.

• **Improved mental health:** Getting involved can counter feelings of loneliness or boredom that many students feel, especially in their first year at school, says Psychology Today. Rather than feeling unsure and isolated, participation in extracurricular activities can give students reason to chat with new people beyond the

rigors of class.

• **Future connections:** Some extracurriculars can pay professional dividends. Academic and social Greek organizations have very strong alumni networks, which can help graduates secure interviews and job offers.

• **Better grades:** There is evidence that managing multiple extracurriculars helps students academically. Cambridge International

Education says juggling multiple commitments helps a student value time management, which carries over into school work.

• **Self-esteem:** Participating in activities can boost confidence and self-esteem. Taking on leadership roles in extracurriculars can further a positive self-image as well.

Extracurricular activities can offer a wide-ranging array of benefits for college students.

Best of Luck, Graduates on your future endeavors!



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How families can approach the college application process

Going to college is the next step in many high school graduates' academic journeys. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that around 62 percent of recent high school graduates were enrolled in college as of 2023. College enrollment has remained relatively stable in recent years, with around 60 percent of students enrolling in college after high school.

Many current high school students are planning to attend college, and they may wonder when to begin the application process. U.S. News & World Report advises students to check in with the individual schools they are considering,

as deadlines and requirements for college applications vary by school. Fall of senior year typically is a busy time for college applications. This timeline can help students better prepare for the college application process.

- Begin your college search during junior year of high school. This also is a time to visit schools in person to get a feel for each campus. By spring of junior year, it is advisable to have taken the SAT or ACT test at least once. These tests can be taken again in the fall and then the highest score will be sent to colleges.

- Continue to look at

colleges the summer before senior year and narrow down which colleges seem to be the best fit. Western Colorado University suggests it could be a good idea to begin the application process during the summer before senior year. This gives students plenty of time to finish an application before the deadline.

- Most students wait until the fall of senior year of high school before they do the bulk of their college applications. Schools will have separate deadlines for early decision, early action and regular decision, so it is important to know these cutoff dates and

apply accordingly. Early action tends to close out in November, while general applications need to be in by January or February. A student who applies for early decision and is accepted by a school must withdraw all other applications, as early decision is binding.

- Most students will hear back about their applications by April of senior year.

College Decision Day occurs on May 1 each year. This is the date when most students commit to a particular school. It's a time of great celebration and anticipation regarding what the next several years will bring.

Popular majors among college students

Choosing a college major is one of the biggest decisions students make as they prepare for their future careers. While interests and talents often guide those choices, job opportunities, salary potential, and personal

goals also play major roles. Across the United States, several majors continue to stand out as the most popular among college students because they offer flexibility, strong employment demand, and opportunities for growth.

BUSINESS
Business remains one of the most commonly chosen college majors. Students pursuing degrees in accounting, marketing, finance, management, and entrepreneurship are often drawn to the

wide variety of career options available after graduation. Business graduates may work in banking, sales, human resources, or even start their own companies. Many students appreciate that business skills can be applied in nearly every industry.

COMPUTERS
Computer science and information technology programs are another major area of growth. As technology continues to shape daily life and business operations, companies are seeking skilled workers in software development, cybersecurity, data analysis, and artificial intelligence. Students interested in problem-solving and innovation often choose these majors because of their strong earning potential and expanding job market.

by the opportunity to positively impact future generations.

ENGINEERING
Engineering majors also continue to attract students interested in science, mathematics, and design. Fields such as mechanical, civil, electrical, and biomedical engineering prepare graduates for careers involving construction, manufacturing, transportation, and technology development. Engineering programs are often rigorous, but graduates are frequently rewarded with strong salaries and job stability.

Ultimately, the most popular majors reflect both changing workforce needs and student interests. While trends may shift over time, students today continue to seek degrees that combine personal passion with practical career opportunities.

HEALTH
Health-related majors have also grown rapidly in popularity. Nursing, public health, biology, and healthcare administration continue to attract students interested in helping others while entering stable, high-demand careers. The growing need for healthcare workers across the country has encouraged many students to pursue careers in hospitals, clinics, and medical research facilities. Nursing, in particular, has become one of the fastest-growing majors due to ongoing shortages in the healthcare workforce.

EDUCATION
Education remains a meaningful and popular field for students who want to work with children and make a difference in their communities. Future teachers often specialize in elementary education, special education, or secondary subject areas such as math or English. Although teaching comes with challenges, many students are motivated

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