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Thursday-Friday ★ June 4-5, 2026

Journal Reporter

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In God We Trust

Indiana Independence Day Celebrations – July 4, 2026

Indiana offers a wide range of Independence Day festivities in 2026, from patriotic concerts and fireworks displays to sporting events, festivals, and community gatherings. Whether you're looking for family-friendly entertainment, live music, historic experiences, or outdoor recreation, there are celebrations taking place across the state.

Goodrich Park Summer Concert Series

LOCATION: GOODRICH PARK, WINCHESTER

Celebrate Independence Day with an evening of live music in a scenic lakeside setting.

Highlights: Performance by the band Radio Junkies, known for energetic renditions of classic and modern hits. Family-friendly outdoor atmosphere. Opportunity to enjoy local food vendors and community activities. Beautiful views of the park and surrounding waterfront.

Why Attend? Ideal for families, couples, and music lovers. Relaxed environment with free or low-cost entertainment. A classic small-town Fourth of July experience.

Red, White, and Blueberry Festival

LOCATION: MALLOW RUN WINERY, BARGERSVILLE

This annual festival combines Indiana's summer blueberry season with patriotic celebrations.

Highlights: Wine tastings featuring the winery's award-winning selections. Specialty blueberry wines and hard ciders. Food trucks offering regional cuisine. Live music performances throughout the day. Outdoor seating and vineyard views.

Why Attend? Excellent destination for adults seeking a festive yet relaxed holiday atmosphere. Unique combination of local agriculture, wine culture, and Independence Day festivities.

Independence Day Celebrations at Local Wineries

The Sycamore Winery • Belgian Horse Winery
 Both venues host patriotic celebrations featuring:

Highlights: Live musical entertainment. Family-friendly activities. Outdoor gathering spaces. Fireworks displays after dark. Local food and beverage offerings.

Why Attend? Smaller crowds than major city celebrations. Comfortable setting for families and groups. Combination of entertainment, dining, and fireworks in one location. Stars, Stripes and Strides 5K

Location: Freeman Field Recreation Area, Seymour
 A patriotic road race honoring the 250th anniversary of the United States.

Highlights: 5K run/walk suitable for various fitness levels. Patriotic-themed atmosphere. Community participation and commemorative activities. Family-friendly event encouraging healthy recreation.

Why Attend? Great way to begin Independence Day with an active event.

Canal Days Festival Location: Delphi
 Experience Indiana's transportation and canal heritage during this educational and entertaining festival.

Highlights: Historic boat rides along the restored Wabash & Erie Canal. Living-history demonstrations. Educational exhibits about Indiana's canal era. Family activities and local vendors.

Why Attend? Excellent educational experience for children and adults. Unique opportunity to explore an important chapter of Indiana history. Combines recreation with historical interpretation.

Walton 32nd Annual Car Show

Location: Walton Community Fire Department
 Longstanding Independence Day traditions.

Highlights: Classic cars, muscle cars, trucks, and specialty vehicles. Judged competitions with specialty awards. Door prizes and raffles. Community food stands and social activities.

Why Attend? Ideal for automotive enthusiasts. Opportunity to see rare and restored vehicles. Strong community atmosphere.

Kokomo Creek Chubs vs. Thrillville Thrillbillies

Location: Kokomo Municipal Stadium
 Baseball fans can celebrate the holiday at the ballpark with a fun and affordable sporting event.

Highlights: Family-friendly minor league baseball. Patriotic game-day promotions. Ballpark food and entertainment. Opportunity for post-game celebrations.

Why Attend? Affordable holiday entertainment. Great option for families with children. Classic American pastime on Independence Day.

Figure 8 Racing Location: Anderson Speedway
 High-energy motorsports event for racing enthusiasts.

Highlights: Live Figure 8 racing competition. Fast-paced action and dramatic crossover intersections. Concession stands and fan activities. Independence Day weekend atmosphere.

Why Attend? One of Indiana's most distinctive motorsport traditions. Exciting alternative to conventional holiday events. Appeals to racing fans of all ages.

Fire in the Sky - Evansville area

Location: Harrison Softball/Soccer Fields
 One of the larger community Independence Day gatherings in southern Indiana.

Highlights: Large-scale fireworks presentation. Live entertainment and music. Food vendors and family activities. Community gathering atmosphere.

Why Attend? Major fireworks display visible from multiple viewing areas. Popular regional event attracting visitors from across the Evansville area. Strong patriotic community celebration.

Inside this Issue: 2026 Grad Section

Thursday, June 4, 2026

Class of 2026

Celebrating Our GRADUATES

- Blackford High School
- Eastbrook High School
- Madison Grant High School
- Marion High School
- Mississinewa High School
- Oak Hill High School

A special publication of Indiana Newspaper Group

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS TRAINING CAMP HIGHLIGHTS:

Dates: Camp typically runs from mid-July through mid-August, featuring about 13 open practices.

Location:

19000 Grand Park Blvd, Westfield, IN

Colts City:

This family-friendly interactive area operates during camp with player autograph sessions, giveaways, inflatables, and football drills.

Admission: Practices and general entry to Colts City are free, but

you must reserve digital tickets in advance.

For the exact dates, practice themes, and to reserve your free passes as the summer schedule is finalized, visit the official Colts Training Camp Page.



Note: The Colts have announced that 2026 will be their final summer at Grand Park, as the team will move training camp to their Indianapolis headquarters in 2027.



Seconds Save Lives

Calling 911 is critical for lifesaving help. Driving yourself (or someone else) can be dangerous.

- **Immediate medical care on the way**
 Paramedics can provide CPR, oxygen, medications, bleeding control, and defibrillation right at the scene.
- **The hospital is alerted in advance**
 Emergency rooms prepare before you arrive, saving precious time.
- **You stay focused on survival**
 Driving while injured, panicked, or in pain puts everyone at risk.

Free summer meals available to Indiana kids at 1,000 sites

By Mike Mohundro, WEVV
Special to Indiana Newspaper Group

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (WEVV) -- Indiana students ages 18 and younger will have access to free, nutritious meals and snacks at close to 1,000 locations statewide through the 2026 Summer Food Service Program, according to the Indiana Department of Education. Households can find information about the meal types

served and days of the week when meals are offered by using the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Meals Site Finder or the Indiana Department of Education's Searchable Meal Site Locator. These site maps will continue to be updated throughout the summer.

Families can also call the USDA's National Hunger Hotline at 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) or 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-

6273). They can also text "Summer Meals" or "Verano" to 914-342-7744 to find sites near them.

Site locations and meal service times vary throughout the state based on local area sponsors. Congregate meal locations range from parks and community centers to schools, churches and mobile feeding sites.

In qualified rural locations, meals may be available for pick up. For more than 50 years, the

Summer Food Service Program has provided children ages 18 and under with access to free, nutritious meals and snacks during the summer months.

The Summer Food Service Program is a federal nutrition program funded by the USDA and administered by the Indiana Department of Education. The program is designed to meet the needs of low-income children in areas where access to good nutrition may be limited.

UK scientist trying to solve state's white oak mystery

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— Sybil Gotsch has spent her career climbing trees in some of the world's most remote rainforests — from Costa Rica to Brazil to Mexico. Now, one of the hardest questions in her career is rooted in Eastern Kentucky.

It's been coined "the white oak problem" and has been worrying foresters, ecologists and bourbon distillers for years. White oak seedlings sprout just fine on the forest floor. Mature white oaks tower overhead in the canopy. But the middle-sized trees — the teenagers of the oak world — keep disappearing. Something is preventing young oaks from growing, and nobody is quite sure

what.

"The stakes go well beyond the forest," said Gotsch, an associate professor of forest ecophysiology in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "White oak acorns are a food source for deer and turkey, and the trunks provide roosts for bats. The wood is also essential for furniture, flooring and cabinetry."

And then there's bourbon. By law, bourbon must be aged in new, charred white oak barrels. Kentucky's bourbon industry alone is valued at \$10.6 billion. According to the White Oak Initiative's 2021 assessment, an estimated 60%

of surveyed mature white oak acres had no white oak seedlings present, and about 87% had no white oak saplings.

Gotsch, along with fellow researchers John Lhotka and Lance Vickers, have described the situation as two bottlenecks: one where seedlings fail to develop into saplings, and another where saplings fail to climb into the canopy overhead. If the next generation of white oaks doesn't break through, the ripple effects could last decades.

As an ecophysiologicalist, Gotsch studies how plants function in their environment — how they take in water, handle stress and spend their energy. Most of the researchers tackling



Sybil Gotsch, second from left. Sybil Gotsch, second from left, and her team are trying to tackle an issue in Eastern Kentucky which could have a long-lasting impact. Picture provided by Gotsch.

the white oak problem have been foresters and ecologists, tracking which trees survive and which don't. Gotsch is asking a different kind of question: What is happening inside the tree that causes it to stall out?

"There are several possibilities," Gotsch said. "One is drought

stress. Young oaks stuck beneath the shade of taller trees may not be getting enough water or light to push through to the canopy, especially during dry summers. Another possibility is what scientists call an allocation problem — the tree might be putting its energy into roots or defenses

instead of growing taller. Then there is a third factor, which could be competition."

From rainforests to oaks

Gotsch's hands-on approach is something she has

MYSTERY,
continues on page 9



May 2026 landscape architecture graduate Anna Melchers presents her capstone project to Thomas Woltz at The Architectural Symposium at Shaker Village. Photo by Christina Wilson.

UK students partner with Shaker Village to explore design, landscape and place

By Haley Simpkins

LEXINGTON, Ky.— Students from the University of Kentucky College of Design and the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment recently shared design proposals created in partnership with Shaker Village

of Pleasant Hill, one of Kentucky's most significant historic and cultural landscapes.

The partnership involved students in LA 426: Senior Capstone Studio, led by Jordan Phemister in the Department of Landscape Architecture at Martin-Gatton CAFE, and ARC 356: Design Studio VI, directed by Jordan Hines, senior lecturer and design-build program coordinator in the School of Architecture. The studios explored how architecture and landscape architecture can reveal stories embedded in the land while supporting the future of the 3,000-acre site.

Students presented their work during "The Architectural Symposium at Shaker Village: Exploring Design, Landscape & Place," which brought together students, design professionals and preservation experts to examine the connection between architecture, landscape and cultural history. The symposium also featured expert-led discussions and a keynote lecture by internationally recognized landscape architect Thomas Woltz.

"Shaker Village's unique combination of historic architecture, conservation efforts, agricultural practices and public access makes it one of Kentucky's most remarkable properties," said Billy Rankin, president and CEO of Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. "It also requires constant examination and strategic planning to provide a balanced approach to management. The students and faculty from the University of Kentucky have

provided fresh insights through their thoughtful study of the Village's 3,000-acre property. During their spring studio projects, they have challenged norms, questioned approaches, and provoked the types of discussion that lead to increasingly creative responses to the challenges of a diverse landscape."

In the landscape architecture studio, students worked from a draft Cultural Resource Management Plan created by Liz Sargent Historic Landscape Architects. Using the plan's character area analysis, Phemister identified six project sites outside the Historic Centre and asked students to develop creative, forward-thinking proposals that honored Shaker Village's history while exploring new opportunities for visitation, education, exploration and sustainability.

"I am incredibly proud of the growth and work produced by these students over the semester," Phemister said. "Senior spring is busy, hectic and bittersweet, and I have been impressed and inspired by their commitment to and investment in their projects."

One landscape architecture proposal, developed by May 2026 graduate Tate Harberson, focused on the North Lot and Shaker Landing area. The design, titled "A View for All," proposed a three-tiered trail system connecting the North Lot to the Historic Centre while expanding access to historic and cultural viewsheds. The trail network ranged from

STUDENTS,
continues on page 9

ONLINE AUCTION

ENDS MONDAY June 8TH @ 6PM (CST)

CHRISNEY, INDIANA

To view and bid go to www.Dimmettauctionservice.com and click on **HiBid Online Auctions**"

LOCATION: DAS will be having a Online auction for Vera Burke at 417 S Mian Street Chrisney Indiana. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

PREVIEW: AUCTION PREVIEW will be Sunday June 7th from 1-3 CST. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.




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TERMS: Pick up time is Tuesday June 9th from 10^{AM} to 5^{PM} CST. Cash, check, or credit card (3% charge) when you pick up your items. A 10% buyers premium will be charged for this online auction. Shipping available. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.

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VICTORIOUS *Living* ...in a troubled world

Faith and character marked as conditions for divine protection

By Teresa A. LeNeave
leneave2@comcast.net

Do you ever wonder what the Lord requires of you? From what I understand it's not more works, but a change of heart that changes everything for the better. Drawing from the book of Isaiah 33: 15-16 and of Micah 6:8, their messages emphasize that God provides protection and care for those who walk uprightly before Him during times of rebellion and spiritual decline. I think you'd agree, we live in a time of rebellion and spiritual decline.

There are scriptures that declare, "He shall dwell on high," describing a place of safety and defense prepared for the faithful. These passages promise that "bread shall be given him" and "his water shall be sure," which, to me, describes a picture of God's



provision and security for His people.

All throughout Scripture, attention is given to several areas of godly conduct: one's walk, speech, actions, hearing, and sight. Isaiah's question concerning who will stand "when the devouring fire comes," explains that divine protection is connected to the condition of a person's life. How we walk with

God and interact with people, apparently, is important to God

Psalm 24:4 refers to the kind of heart God expects. The call from God is for people to "speak uprightly" and live with "clean hands and a pure heart." The writer of Psalm clearly states, we need both clean hands and a pure heart, which indicates our intentional interaction with the

world and how we treat others; acting for the right reasons and not harboring hidden resentments, are things God pays attention to.

Micah 6:8 asks what the Lord requires of His people in an age of idolatry and rebellion. The answer was not extravagant sacrifice and working until you have nothing left to give, but simple obedience: "to do

justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God."

Justice can be described as living honestly; fulfilling obligations, being fair, and letting God be the ultimate judge because He sees the big picture. We don't. Mercy is explained as having compassion, refusing revenge, and learning to place oneself in another person's position.

We are reminded not to hold grudges or retaliate against criticism or hatred. Instead, believers are encouraged to love those who oppose them, pray for those who mistreat them, and bless those who curse them. Only God's spirit in us can help us forgive like that, but there is a blessing promised to those who do.

In conclusion, when we ask ourselves, "What does the Lord require", we're reminded that all people stand in need of redemption and that true humility before God produces compassion, mercy, and a willingness to seek the good of others. There is no room for a judgmental spirit, if we want clean hands, a pure heart, and divine protection. As followers of Christ, I believe that is something we all continue to work toward.

Taking a moment to appreciate our soulmate

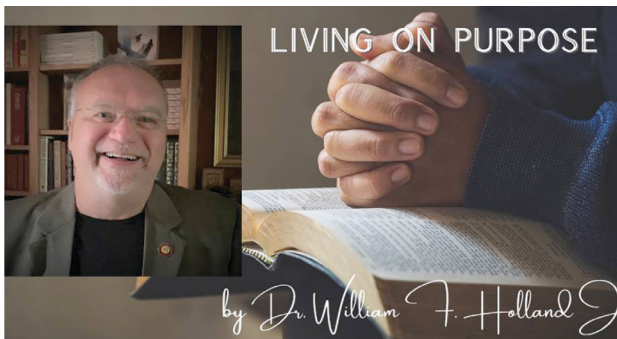
By Billy Holland

Recently, I was sitting in my office on a dreary afternoon, tapping on the keyboard and listening to the rain blowing against the window. The house is quiet during the day as my writing routine includes our dog sprawled out on the cool hardwood floor, snoring contentedly around my desk. Then it suddenly dawned on me, June fourth will be the forty-ninth year of our marriage. I then thought about our upcoming golden wedding anniversary in 2027, and how blessed I am to share this milestone with the one I love. I'm confident she feels the same way and definitely deserves a medal for her patience, support, and for embracing the work and shared vision with me for nearly five decades. It's been an amazing journey so far, and throughout the hard times and the good times, we know we are

truly blessed.

Familiarity is a slow-growing deception that can cause us to take people for granted, and in the realm of marriage, this is one of the many reasons couples become distant. Those of you who have been married for a while can relate when I say that holidays, birthdays, and even vacations can lose a little of their sparkle and excitement after years of repetition. It's not the occasion, it's the awareness of who we are with. Could it be that falling into a predictable routine can cause our love to grow cold as we just go through the motions? When we were dating and then became newlyweds, life was like a romantic, magical fairy tale. Even just taking a walk around the block or going for a drive was exciting simply because we were together.

But as the years pass by, the exhilaration seems to wear off, and when we would come



home from a hard day of work, it became mutually agreeable that a peanut butter sandwich, a candy bar, and watching Wheel of Fortune would be plenty of excitement for the evening. Whatever happened to all the hugging, kissing, and holding hands? Do you remember how the first years of marriage had three-word phrases like "I love you" and "you are amazing," and then after a few years, they evolved into "toilet seat down," "car needs gas", and "need more Advil?" When we were younger, we didn't know the meaning of tired, and now we become giddy

about an afternoon nap. Nonetheless, it's a comfort to know that the person who shares our couch with us every night is there because they love us and wouldn't have it any other way.

Showing appreciation to the one we love doesn't require a special holiday or a fancy restaurant. It's the little things that prove how we feel. Of all the people in the world we could have set our sights on, the person we are with now is the one we selected. They are the ones who stole our hearts, so there is nothing preventing us from expressing how

much we need them. We assume they already know we love them, and they do, but there's nothing wrong with showing it more than just a Valentine's Day card. Another thing that we avoid thinking about is that life will not always be like it is now, which is another reason to cherish the moments we have together. Life is precious, let's appreciate each moment. We can also turn to the Bible as a wonderful source of wisdom, as it reminds us of our responsibility to honor our vows. We made a pledge as we lit the unity candle, promising that having God at the center of our marriage would bind us together with Him.

I heard someone say that marriage is finding that one special person you want to annoy for 50 years- ha!. But seriously, we do not need to be a marriage counselor to understand the dangers of allowing the fires of our passion to grow cold. May we use our own

imagination to come up with fresh ideas that can fan the embers of our love into a bonfire of affection? I would rather have someone give me a candy bar while telling me how much they love me than to receive elaborate, expensive gifts like a new house, car, or jewelry out of obligation. Character traits like respect, forgiveness, sacrifice, and humility are foundational pillars that strengthen the covenant bond with our spouse. Let's remember: God is love, and walking in communication with Him is the key to maintaining a lasting relationship with our soulmate.

Dr. Holland is an ordained minister, chaplain, counselor, and author. To learn more about a life filled with purpose, visit: billyhollandministries.com.

Butterfly believers

By Brandon Bramlett
Pastor - Bandana Baptist Church

Peck. Peck. Peck. The nettlesome noise awakened the woman from a sound sleep. A peckish sparrow perched outside her window trying to eat breakfast—a butterfly frantically fluttering against the inside of the glass. There was a misunderstanding—the butterfly believed it was history, and the hungry bird was frustrated because it couldn't reach its meal due to the invisible barrier between them. The

butterfly had no reason to have the butterflies—it was as safe as if it had been thousands of miles away.

Crippled with panic, yet completely protected. How frequently do we as believers suffer from paralyzing dread regarding our souls when we have no reason to? Lacking assurance, we often live as though our salvation hangs by a thread, as if heaven's door is barely open and poised to slam shut in our faces. We fear losing our salvation, out-sinners the grace of

God, disappointing our Savior one too many times, or being snatched away by the world or the devil. But according to the Scripture, there is something infinitely greater than a glass pane standing between us and falling away from the faith: the nail-scarred hands of Christ Jesus.

Jesus graciously assured that there is no reason for His sheep to live in trepidation: "I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:28).

Believer, your salvation does not depend on your grip of Christ, but upon His grip of you—and He will never let you go (cf. Heb. 13:5). He likewise promised, "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. . . And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day" (John 6:37, 39). And your name is inscribed in the Book of Life with immortal ink—even graven in the palms of His hands

(Rev. 3:5; Isa. 49:16), and it cannot be erased by your transgressions nor made more permanent by your obedience.

Is this not why Paul exclaimed, "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39, KJV)? God's grace-kept, eternally-secure, and

never-lost children have no reason to live like anxious butterflies. Rather, there are a thousand reasons to mount up with wings as eagles and soar in the joy of blessed assurance. For all who are in Christ, the Lord's promise remains unchanged: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isa. 41:10).



David Lee Bockover

David Lee Bockover, 81, of Marion, passed away in his home at 2:39 am on Thursday, May 28, 2026. The family will receive visitors from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm on Friday, June 5, 2026 at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Immediately following the time of visitation, a service to celebrate David's life will begin at 1:00 pm with Pastor Devin Miller officiating. Burial will take place at Estates of Serenity.

Steven Michael Creech

Steven Michael Creech, 74, La Fontaine, passed away at 4:55 pm on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at Parkview Regional Medical Center in Fort Wayne. The family received visitors from 10:30 am to 11:30 am on Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral & Cremation Service, North Chapel 1341 N. Baldwin Ave., Marion, IN. Burial took place at Marion National Cemetery..

Stephen P. Rogers

Stephen P. Rogers, 83, of Denver, IN, passed away at 8:37 AM, Sunday, May 24, 2026, at the Blair Ridge Health Campus in Peru. A service celebrating the life of Stephen P. Rogers was held at 11:00 AM, Friday, May 29, 2026 at the Eikenberry-Eddy Funeral Home, 84 W Main St. Peru, with Pastor Jason See officiating. Burial followed in the Paw Paw Cemetery, Denver, IN, with Military Honors provided by the Miami County Military Rites Unit.

Ann Hornbaker

Ann Hornbaker, 71, passed away on May 25, 2026 at her residence. There are no events scheduled at this time. Keplinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

REGIONAL CHURCHES DIRECTORY

Liberty Baptist Church

517 Church St, Sweetser, IN 46987
<https://www.libertyfamily.org>
 (765) 384-7004
 Sunday School - @ 9:00 AM
 Worship - @ 10:00 AM
 Sunday Evening - @ 6:00 PM
THURSDAYS
 Classes @ 5:30 & 6:30 PM

Sweetser United Methodist Church

413 N. Main Street, Sweetser, IN 46987
www.sweetserumc.org
 (765) 384-7354

Swayzee United Methodist Church

306 S Washington St, Swayzee, IN, United States, 46986
www.umc.org
 (765) 922-7223

Converse Church of Christ

301 E. Wabash Street Converse, IN 46919
 765-395-3361
 First Hour service (traditional) @ 9am
 Second Hour service (contemporary) @ 10:15am

Sweetser Wesleyan Church

(765) 384-7232
 200 West Delphi Pike Sweetser, IN 46987
www.sweetserwesleyan.org
 Sunday Morning 10 am

Back Creek Friends

- 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Back Creek Wesleyan

- 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Fairmount Baptist Church

- 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.

Fairmount Church of God

- 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
 Fairmount Friends - 10:30 a.m.

Fairmount Wesleyan

- 9:30 a.m. Fairmount United Methodist - 9:30 a.m.

Fowlerton United Methodist

- 10:45 a.m. Grant Church (Global Methodist) 11018 S 300 E Fairmount 9:00 a.m.

Jones Chapel

- 10:30 a.m., Sunday School - 9 a.m. MorningStar Ministries, 11:00 a.m. (Jonesboro)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

- 9 a.m. (Hartford City)

One of Ten Ministries and Church

- 10:30 a.m. Pilgrim Holiness - 6 p.m.

Real Community Covenant Church

- 10 a.m. - 1240 S. Adams in Marion

Westview Wesleyan

11 a.m. (Jonesboro) Women of Hope Bible Study - Tuesday - 10 a.m. (Located at One of Ten on SR 26 in Fairmount. Open to all women in Grant County)

Fairmount UMC

- Monday - 7 p.m. - Campus Life

Fairmount UMC

- Wednesday - 10 a.m., Men and Women's Bible Study

The Erwins & Tate Emmons in concert at Epworth Church June 12th



Epworth Church, 105 W 8th St, Matthews, Indiana is pleased to announce The Erwins with special guest Tate Emmons in concert on Friday, June 12 2026! Doors open at 6 PM, Concert starts at 7 PM. Tickets are \$15. Also, a love offering will be received. Limited seating, To guarantee your seats, please purchase tickets in advance at epworthworship.com/erwins or call/text 765-667-0842.

There is something captivating about the blending and swelling of sibling harmony. When that is combined with

pure talent and a servant's heart for people, you have the incomparable ministry of The Erwins. The Erwins started singing as soon as they were each able to talk. Appearing at over 270 dates a year with their father, who has been in full-time evangelism for nearly 50 years, they have been traveling full-time their entire life singing in concerts, revivals, and conferences all across the country. Three of the four siblings, Keith, Kody, and Kris

CHURCH, continues on page 8

Blackford County Arts Center to hold Summer Guitar Lab



Students in grades 4 -12 from any county may participate in group acoustic guitar lessons once a week for 6 weeks. Students are loaned a guitar to take home to provide additional practice time. The loaned guitar must

be returned on the last day of guitar lab, 07/16/26. The guitar lab is intended for beginning students.

Event Date/Time: Thursdays; June 11 - July 16, 2026
 Registration Closes: June 8, 2026 11:59pm

Event Location: Arts Place Blackford County Arts Center 107 West Washington St Hartford City, IN 47348
 Cost: \$30.00 per student
 Participants Must Be Pre-Registered

No Walk-Ins Accepted
 Registration Fee is NON-REFUNDABLE
 Registration is NON-TRANSFERABLE

Arts Place contact person for questions or more information and how to be involved
 Call Lydia Rowles at 765-348-4154 with any questions.

Tori Beal Earns Dean's List Honor at Lee University

CLEVELAND, TN — Lee University congratulates Tori Beal of Marion, IN, on earning Dean's List honors during the Spring 2026 semester.

Dean's List recognition is earned by full-time, undergraduate students with a

semester grade point average between 3.7 and 4.00.

Congratulations on earning this academic achievement, Tori!

Lee University is a private, Christ-centered university located in Cleveland, Tennessee, in the foothills of

the Appalachian Mountains. The university's reputation as a quality institution is seen in the high caliber of faculty, students, and friends who are drawn to campus. Over the past three decades, Lee has experienced remarkable

transformations including significant growth in academic programs, athletics, institutional facilities, student enrollment, and faculty expertise and diversity. For more information, visit www.leeuniversity.edu

To place a full obituary, including a photo, call 270-442-7389 for details and pricing. Obituaries and funeral notices should be received by 9 a.m. Tuesday for inclusion in that week's paper.

Call 765-674-0070 to place your ad today!!

Upcoming Events

Submitted by Catherine Lamb

Community Breakfast - Masonic Lodge #635, Saturday, (biweekly), freewill donation

Hope Center - Every Friday, 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Fairmount Town Council - Biweekly at 6 p.m.

Feeding Fairmount Ministry - 2nd Monday of month - Fairmount UMC, freewill donation, 12 noon

To be included in the Church Directory:

Email your **Church Name - Church Address - Service Times to pamela.kpi2018@gmail.com**

**Deadline is Monday at 5 PM for the Thursday edition. Email any changes to same email address*

Email Us Your Upcoming Events to:
 Catherine Lamb at: lambc899@gmail.com or to pamela.kpi2018@gmail.com


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The Amplify Marion Music & Food Festival 2026 Main Stage is PRESTON COOPER!

Preston Cooper Brings a Powerful New Voice to Country Rock

At just 22 years old, Preston Cooper is emerging as one of the most compelling new voices in country rock, combining soulful storytelling with a vocal style that can shift from intimate emotion to explosive power in an instant.

A native of Fredericktown, Ohio, Cooper has become known for a voice that draws comparisons to acclaimed artists such as Chris Stapleton and Bob Seger. His blues-inspired sound and commanding stage presence have quickly distinguished him as a rising talent in the genre.

Cooper's musical journey began when he picked up a guitar as a high school freshman. After graduation, he joined the U.S. Postal Service, earning local recognition as "The Singing Mailman." While delivering mail and walking as many as 14 miles a day, Cooper often sang throughout his route before spending evenings performing at venues across the region.

After hundreds of live performances, Cooper's talent caught the attention of renowned songwriting and production duo Brad and Brett Warren, known for their work with Tim McGraw, Dierks Bentley and Keith Urban. The brothers discovered Cooper during a songwriter's round in Toledo and immediately recognized his exceptional potential.

That promise comes to life on his debut album, *Toledo Talkin'*, released Aug. 29. The 12-track project showcases Cooper's distinctive blend of raw country music and edgy alternative rock. Unlike many contemporary recordings, the album was created using a traditional full-band recording approach, emphasizing authentic musicianship and the intensity of Cooper's vocals.

The album features standout tracks including "Weak," "One More Place I've Never Been," "Numbers on a Mailbox," "One for the Road," and



"The Takedown." Cooper co-wrote nine of the album's 12 songs, further demonstrating his talents as both a vocalist and songwriter.

His growing reputation has already led to major touring opportunities. Cooper recently completed a run as direct support for Kameron Marlowe's *Keepin' the Lights On Tour* and also joined select dates of Riley Green's

Damn Country Music Tour.

Another milestone came on Oct. 24 when Cooper made his debut at the Grand Ole Opry, where he was introduced by country music

legend Vince Gill.

Looking ahead, Cooper is expected to maintain a busy schedule throughout 2026, performing at fairs, festivals and a series of headlining shows as his fan base continues to

expand.

For more information about Preston Cooper and upcoming tour dates, visit prestoncoopermusic.com.

Emily Scase of Swayzee Named to Spring 2026 Dean's List at Cedarville University

CEDARVILLE, OH — Emily Scase of Swayzee, was named to the Dean's List at Cedarville University for Spring 2026. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.50 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities and is ranked among the nation's top

five evangelical universities in The Wall Street Journal's 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn

more at cedarville.edu.

NOTE: You are receiving this press release because the student or their parents are from your area. This press release above was prepared for: Editor - Journal Reporter.

CHURCH,
continued from page 4

performed as a trio until 2013, when the group announced that their little sister, Katie, would be joining the group full-time on stage officially making them a Mixed Group. It is with prayer, determination, and focus that The Erwins are blazing new trails in Southern Gospel, proving to their industry peers and fans alike, that the future of Southern Gospel music is, in fact, secure with a young group like The Erwins.

Tate Emmons is an up and coming Southern Gospel Artist who grew up surrounded by

a musical family who dedicate their lives to spreading the gospel of Christ. He began singing in church when he was only 3 years of age. He not only sings, but plays the guitar, the saxophone and writes music as well. He wrote 6 of the 10 songs on his upcoming project "Means Something to Me".

In 2020 he was posted on social media for the first time with "Chainbreaker" and received over 1 million views. Since then, Tate has had over 17 million views across social media platforms. At a young age, he has been blessed to

share the stage and be mentored by artist such as Jason Crabb, Mickey Bell, Greater Vision, Southbound, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Ronny Hinson, Tribute Quartet, Scotty Inman, The Browders, Justified Quartet, Todd Tilghman and the Hinson Family. He is committed to delivering high-quality music and works tirelessly to perfect his musical gifts. He strives to create music that is both uplifting and meaningful. At the 2023 National Quartet Convention, Tate won his artist showcase and sang on the main stage for the very first time!

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STUDENTS,

continued from page 2

wide ADA-accessible paved paths to narrower foot trails, with interpretive signage and ecological restoration zones designed to make the site's stewardship visible to visitors.

For Harberson, the project connected professional design training with a place he had known since childhood.

"This project allowed me to connect those early experiences with my skills I have developed the last four years at UK to create a really fulfilling and enriching project to work on," Harberson said.

The architecture studio approached the partnership through a different but complementary lens. Students in ARC 356 designed shared housing for seasonal employees, exploring how architecture could support community, collective responsibility and the daily life of those who help care for Shaker Village. Located adjacent to the historic village rather than within the

preserved core, the site allowed students to engage Shaker ideas through contemporary methods while avoiding disruption to protected land. May 2026 architecture graduate Ethan Smith's "Post-Shakerism: South Dwelling Seasonal Employee Housing" reinterpreted Shaker philosophy for contemporary use. Preserving and grafting onto an existing barn, his proposal used light wells, rainwater collection, a social greenhouse and terraformed program areas to balance private living, shared gathering and connection to the agricultural landscape.

The project also challenged students to think about Shaker history as a living source of design inspiration rather than a fixed aesthetic to preserve or replicate.

"My hope is that the project inspires a more 'Shaker' perspective on the future of Shaker Village," Smith said. "To me, that means understanding Shaker methodology not as something fixed in the

past, but as a radical and innovative way of responding to the needs of a particular time. I hope this approach invites new ways of connecting with Shaker Village through processes that are as forward-thinking today as the Shakers were in their own time."

Working with a real-world client allowed Smith to practice community-based design, developing a space that worked not only as an architectural form, but also as a practical response to the daily needs of the people who would live and work there.

"We were able to have a very dynamic dialogue with the client regarding the programs and operations of the residents' lives," Smith said. "Where does land management equipment go? What about transport vehicles? In communal living, where do the public and private sectors depart one another? These questions became central through our engagement with the client and site."

Harberson said conversations with Shaker Village staff

also helped students understand both the organization's current needs and its long-term vision.

"Working with Billy Rankin, Ben Laffew and the rest of the Shaker Village staff to understand and develop our idea made this one of the most realistic projects I have been able to work on in school," Harberson said. "It really allowed us to understand the perspectives of the people who work and take care of Shaker Village, now and into the future."

The partnership also gave Shaker Village a broad range

of student-generated ideas to consider as it continues to balance preservation, public access, ecological stewardship and future development.

"My hope is that projects like this open more people's eyes to the uniqueness and history of this place and that it pushes the boundaries for what Shaker Village could be in the future," Harberson said.

"Allowing students to explore and share big ideas for the site, from each of our unique perspectives, enriches the design process for the Shaker Village staff and

donors moving into the future."

Together, the studios offered Shaker Village more than speculative design. They created a shared conversation about how architecture and landscape architecture can honor the past, respond to present-day needs and help imagine a more sustainable future for one of Kentucky's most treasured places.

To learn more about the UK College of Design and the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, visit design.uky.edu and mgcafe.uky.edu respectively.



Ethan Smith's model for his architecture studio project "Post-Shakerism: south dwelling seasonal employee housing." Photo provided by Ethan Smith.

MYSTERY,

continued from page 2

been refining for over two decades. She got her start in 1998 in the dry forests of Costa Rica, studying how plants survive months without rain. She was supposed to stay six months. She stayed two years.

"I was doing a good enough job that my adviser kept finding money for me to stay," Gotsch said.

Later, while working in the cloud forests of Mexico, Gotsch learned to climb towering oaks and place instruments

right next to the leaves, measuring how trees absorb water directly from fog. It was painstaking, physically demanding work hauling sensors and data loggers into the canopy by rope. But it also gave her something most forest researchers never get: a direct read on what a tree is doing in real time, high above the ground.

Those same techniques are what she's now bringing to Kentucky's white oak stands. She's collaborating with Lhotka, a UK FNR professor of silviculture, on a

project based in Berea. Because the work involves tracking trees across seasons and years, she expects to return periodically to run new rounds of physiology measurements and build a clearer picture over time.

Gotsch said the canopy is where the real answers tend to hide. Plenty of scientists study forests, she said, but very few actually climb into them. According to her, most of the biologists who do are studying animals such as birds, bats and primates. Tree physiologists like

her are rare up there. "It feels like this secret world that I have the great honor to be able to study," Gotsch said.

The best part, she said, are the surprises — the moments when the data doesn't match what the textbooks predicted.

"You think it works a certain way, and then you get up there and realize you were completely wrong," Gotsch said. "That's what I love about this work — it never stops raising new questions."

That curiosity is now aimed squarely at the white oaks of

Appalachia. If Gotsch and her colleagues can figure out exactly why young oaks are stalling, it could help land managers across the region make smarter decisions about which trees to protect and how to give the next generation of oaks a fighting chance.

Gotsch's broader research on cloud forests and canopy ecology will be featured in an upcoming episode of "Overview," a PBS series of short science documentaries, expected to air this summer. Check local PBS listings for air

dates.

This material is based upon work that is supported by National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, McIntire-Stennis Capacity Grant under award number 7008893. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Agriculture.

Hoosier National Forest June Events



female wood duck perched on a limb

Hoosier National Forest female wood duck perched on a limb

June Events

On-site

- June 3, 5:30 p.m. EDT - Guided Hike at Pate Hollow Trail (Monroe County)
- June 6, 10 a.m. EDT - Guided Bird Hike at Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest (Orange County)
- June 6, 2 p.m. EDT - Guided Bird Hike at Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest (Orange County)
- June 6, 9 - 9:15 p.m. EDT - Twilight Hike at Hemlock Cliffs (Crawford County)
- June 26, 6 - 7 pm CDT - Mushrooms

of Indiana & Craft at the Rickenbaugh House (within the Indian-Celina Lakes Recreation Area - Perry County)

- June 27, 10 to 3 CDT - Open House at Historic Rickenbaugh House (Indian-Celina Lakes Recreation Area - Perry County)
- June 27, 9:30 - 11 p.m. EDT - Moonlit Trek at Hardin Ridge Recreation Area (Monroe County)

Visit our Event Webpage for all the details.

In the Community

Come see us at the following events:

- June 5 - Liberty Tree Planting - Wilson

Park, Bedford, 10:00 a.m. EDT

- June 5 - Woodsy Owl Storytime - Greensburg Public Library, 10:00 a.m. EDT
- June 6 - Hike and Learn- Jasper Farmers Market and Riverwalk, 8 - noon
- June 21 - Science and Nature Cafe - Unearthing Archaeology - Bedford Public Library - 6 to 7 p.m. EDT
- June 17- Smokey Bear Storytime - 10:30 a.m. EDT - Crawford County Public Library
- June 18 - Unearth a Story- Walk at Pioneer Mothers Memorial Forest, Paoli, 2:00 p.m. EDT
- June 26 - Skins and Skulls - 1 p.m. EDT - Brownstown Public Library
- June 27- Conservation Fair - Washington Farmers Market, 8 a.m. - noon EDT

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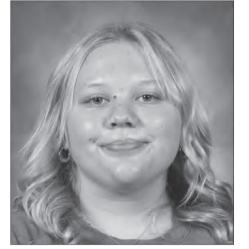
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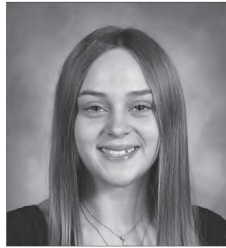
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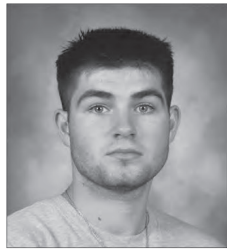
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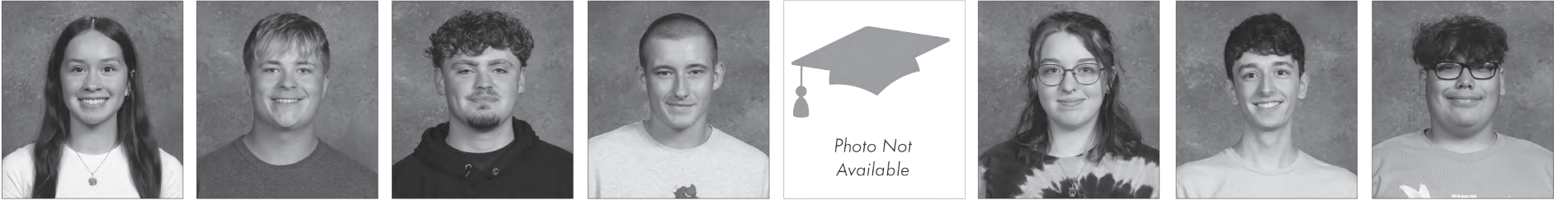
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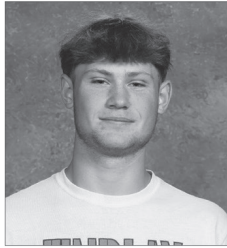
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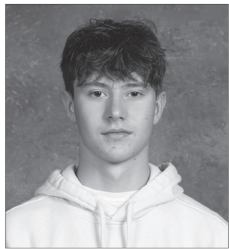
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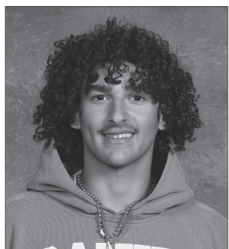
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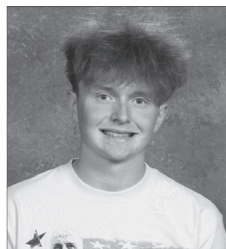
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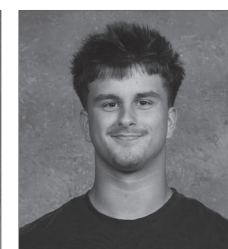
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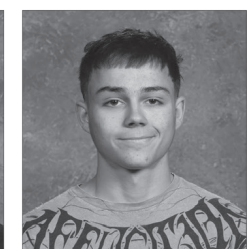
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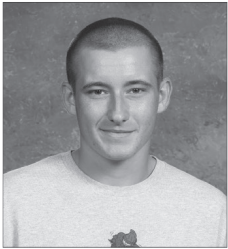
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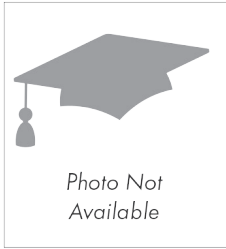
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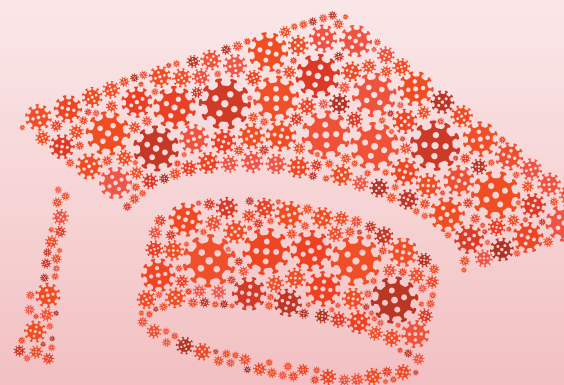
ELIZABETH WINCHESTER



BRYCE WRIGHT

Hats Off to the Graduates

As we celebrate the Class of 2026 and all of their achievements, we'd like to pause and recognize the unique challenges this year's seniors have faced on the road to graduation.



Congratulations and best of luck!

We are so proud, and we wish today's graduates nothing but the best!



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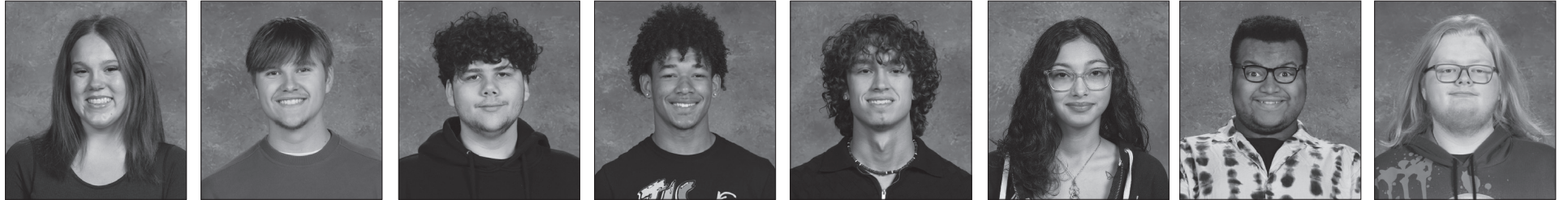
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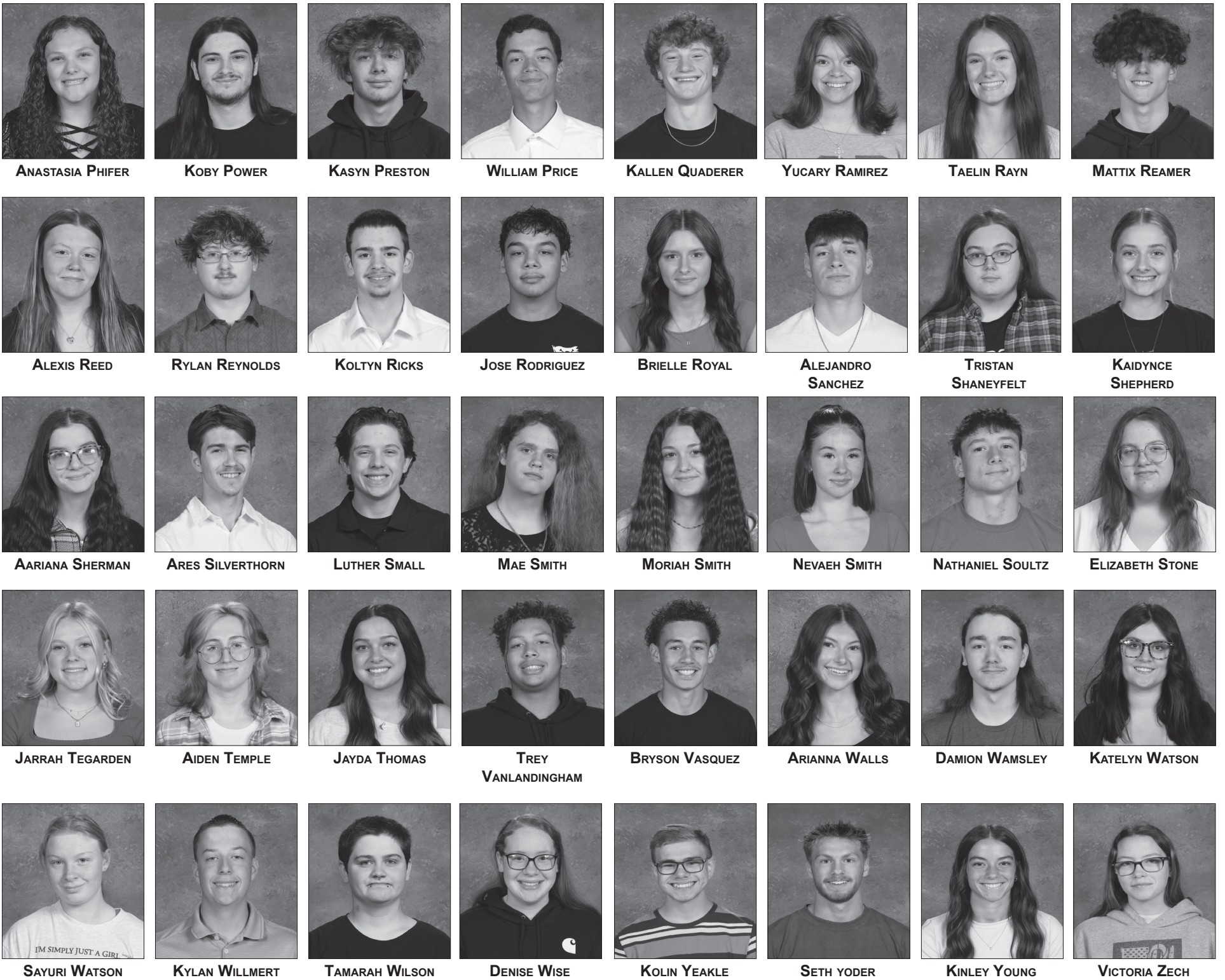


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How to land a job after graduation

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 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.

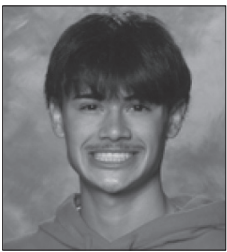
Finding a job after graduation is a priority for graduates anxious to begin their careers. Various strategies can help new grads find work sooner rather than later.



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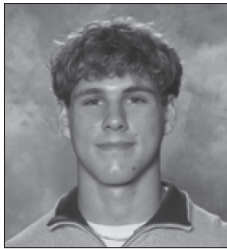
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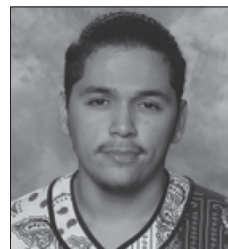
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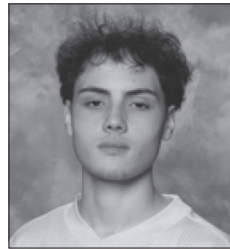
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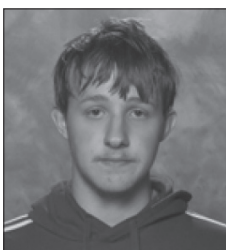
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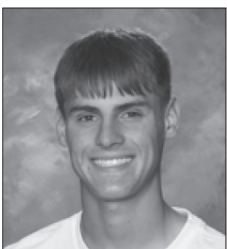
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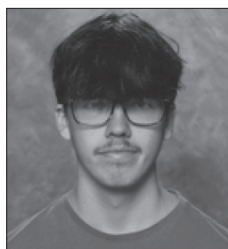
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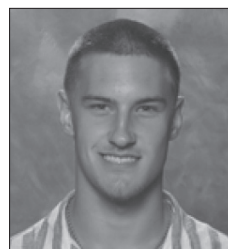
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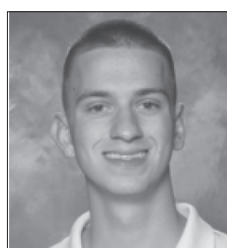
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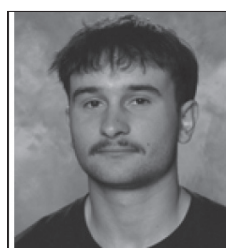
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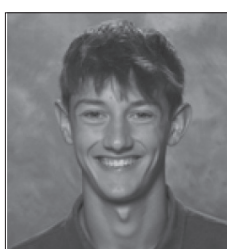
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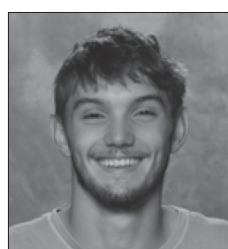
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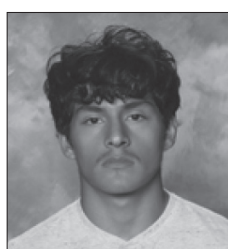
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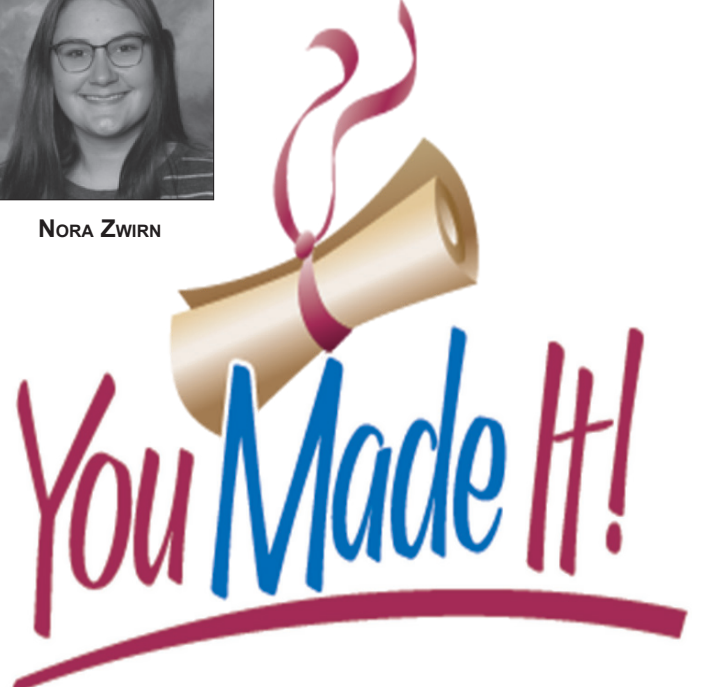
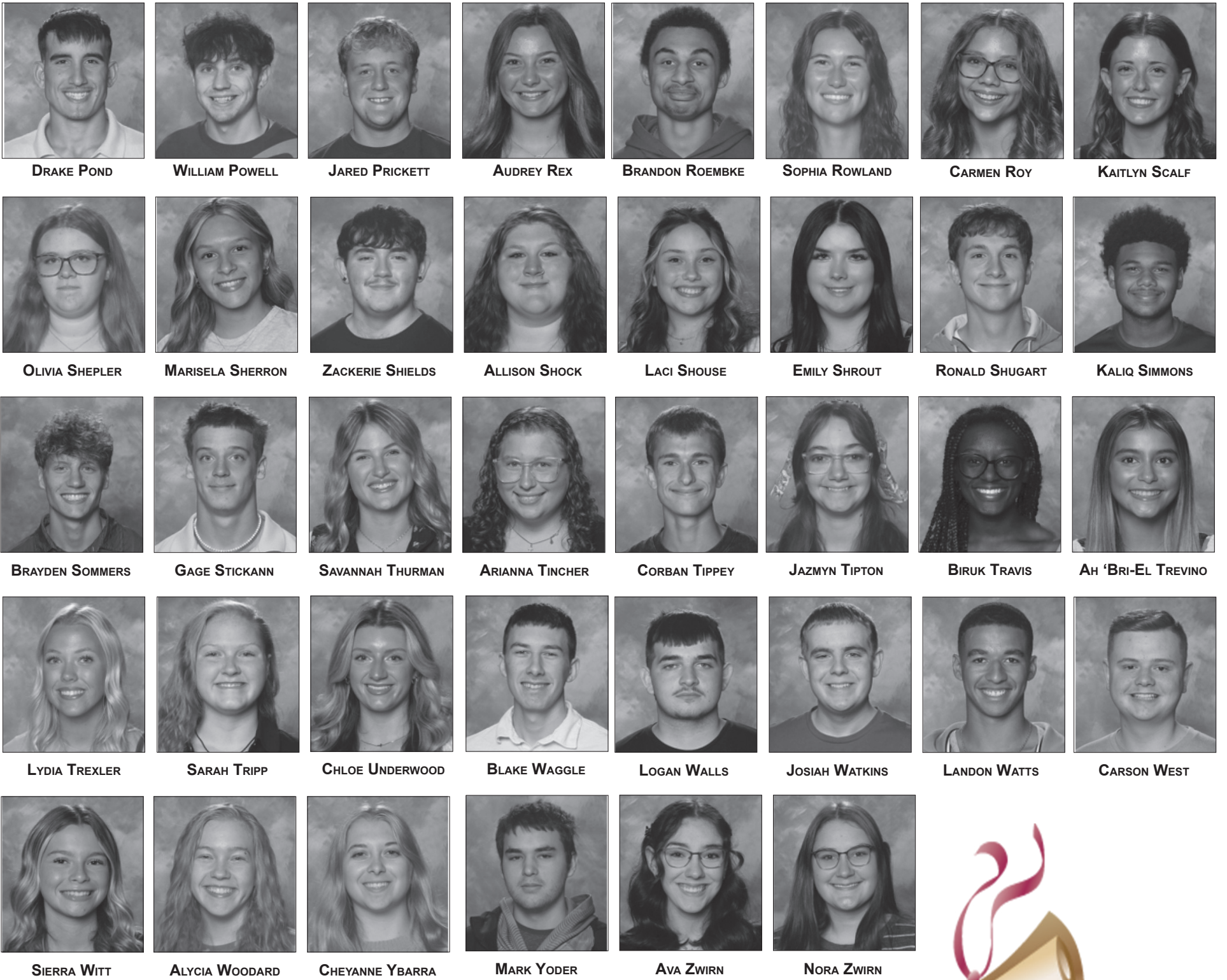


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How to plan a fulfilling gap year

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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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.

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 oth-

er 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.

 **DREAM BIG.**
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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.

Once an Eagle, Always an Eagle!

Congratulations, Grads!

Hats off to the hardworking Class of 2026!

We wish you continued success as you turn the page to an exciting new chapter. Good luck, and best wishes.

Class of 2026

Oak Hill United School Corporation

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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.

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.

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.

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 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.



 **Congrats to the Senior Class of 2026**

Blackford County • Eastbrook • Eastern Madison-Grant • Marion • Mississinewa • Oak Hill

YOU DID IT!
Stop by and treat yourself to some delicious food at Ivanhoe's! You deserve it!

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Congratulations



To the CLASS of 2026!



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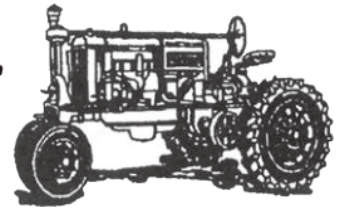
MORGAN COUNTY ANTIQUE MACHINERY ASSOCIATION

Visit Us Online: www.mcama.org

34th ANNUAL SHOW - June 26th, 27th & 28th, 2026

(Set-up all day on Thursday, June 25)

**FEATURING MINNEAPOLIS MOLINE, OLIVER AND ODD BALL TRACTORS
FEATURED ENGINE: INDIANA MADE**



MORGAN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, MARTINSVILLE, IN
I-69 & 252, EXIT 140 WEST

Visit us on FACEBOOK @ Morgan County Antique Machinery Association

OPENING CEREMONIES - FRIDAY, 9:00 A.M.

ANTIQUA TRACTORS • MACHINERY & GARDEN TRACTORS • STEAM & HIT & MISS ENGINES • CARS, TRUCKS & MOTORCYCLES • WORKING EXHIBITS • BLACKSMITH • TOUCH A TRUCK • FARMERS MARKET • QUILT SHOW • TOY SHOW • CRAFT FAIR, FLEA MARKET & SWAP MEET

NOTE: SETUP ALL DAY ON THURSDAY AT MORGAN CO. FAIR.

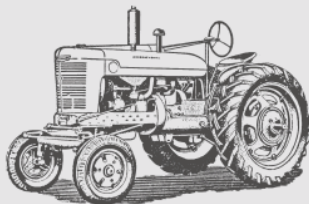
Sillet Toss Contest All Ladies Welcome \$50 Cash to Winner	GOOD FOOD AVAILABLE ON GROUNDS FREE ENTERTAINMENT KIDS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL	FLEA MARKET & CRAFT SPACE AVAILABLE IN AIR CONDITIONED BUILDING. AUCTION ITEMS WANTED FOR DONATION AND CONSIGNMENT	Church Services Sunday at 8:30 AM LARGE FLEA MARKET, SWAP MEET & CRAFT FAIR
Membership required for Exhibitors (\$15)	FREE BARREL TRAIN RIDES & BOUNCE HOUSE FOR KIDS	TRADING POST & SWAP MEET Bring Your Unwanted Items We Will Sell Them For You	AUCTION SUNDAY 1:00 PM
		4-H TRACTOR DRIVING CONTEST AT 10 AM SUNDAY THE 28TH	CAMPER SPACE AVAILABLE FOR \$25/night Free Primitive Camping



In Partnership With

MORGAN COUNTY FAIR & MORGAN COUNTY ANTIQUA MACHINERY ASSOCIATION TRACTOR PULLS

WHEN: JULY 10
Starting at 5pm
Pits Open at 2pm



WHERE:
MORGAN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS
1749 Hospital Drive, Martinsville, IN

\$20 HOOK FEE

NATPA RULES

PAYOUT FOR EACH CLASS

1st - \$100 2nd - \$50 3rd - \$25

CONTACT JEFF BUSTER WITH QUESTIONS
(317) 549-5743

THE GRANDSTAND GATES

\$10 general admission
\$20 to enter pits

Antique Classes
3500 lb. 6500 lb.
4500 lb. 7500 lb.
5500 lb. 9000 lb.

T/C 4000 5mph
T/C 4500 5 mph
T/C 5000 5 mph
T/C 5500 5 mph

F/C 4750 8 mph
F/C 5250 8 mph
F/C 5250 12 mph
F/C/ 5500 12mph

Indiana Farm Stock
Puller Classes
12000 # NA 6mph
12000 # NA 8mph
12000 # Turbo 12 mph

Out of Field Farm Stock
10,000#, 12,000 #
and 14,000 #
Turbo and NA

For more
information,
contact:
Jeremy Bright @
765-346-0490

Vintage Car, Truck, Motorcycle & Tractor Parts & Antiques Swap Meet

Friday, June 26 and
Saturday, June 27th



Tread Trimmers Coffee & Cruise-In

Morgan County Fairgrounds
Sat., June 27th - 8 am to 2 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 18TH

Tractor Drive Leaving the Morgan County Fairgrounds
at 9 AM

All are Welcome - Must be able to Run 10MPH
Fish Fry Lunch Included

GOOD FOOD AVAILABLE ALL DAY • FREE ADMISSION • FREE ENTERTAINMENT • FREE PARKING

SCHEDULE of EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 25th

7:00 AM Setup Begins

FRIDAY, JUNE 26th

Food Opens at 8 AM Served All Day

7:00 AM Registration and Set-up Opens
8:00 AM Vendors Open for Business
9:00 AM Opening Ceremonies
10:00 AM Working Exhibit Demonstration
1:00 PM Tractor Dyno Opens
2:00 PM Working Exhibit Demonstration
3:00 PM Tractor Games
4:00 PM Skillet Toss/Nail Driving Contest
5:00 PM Working Exhibit Demonstration/Cruise-in Opens
6:00 PM Tom Fiddlerly at the Gazebo
9:00 PM Cruise-in Ends

SATURDAY, JUNE 27th

Food Opens at 8 AM Served All Day

7:00 AM Registration and Set-up Opens
8:00 AM Vendors Open for Business
9:00 AM Opening Ceremonies
10:00 AM Working Exhibit Demonstration / Motorcycle Ride
Leaves Fairgrounds / Touch A Truck / Tractor
Begins
11:00 AM Tractor Teeter Totter Competition
12 NOON Straw Search For Kids
12:30 PM Kids Pedal Tractor Pull Registration Opens
1:00 PM Kids Tractor Pedal Pulls/Farmers Market Ends
2:00 PM Working Exhibit Demonstration / Pet Adoption
Ends / Touch A Truck / Tractor Begins
3:00 PM Pedal Tractor Games & Races
4:00 PM Adult Pedal Tractor Pulls

5:00 PM Working Exhibit Demonstration
6:00 PM Tom Fiddlerly at the Gazebo

SUNDAY, JUNE 30th

Food Opens at 8 AM Served All Day

7:00 AM Breakfast
8:30 AM Church Service
10:00 AM Slow Tractor Drive / Working Exhibit
Demonstration
1:00 PM Auction Begins

We will also be at the
Morgan Co. Fair July 10th-18th!

CONTACT INFORMATION

JEREMY BRIGHT, Pres/Sponsors	765.346.0490	PHIL RAWLINS, Auction	765.346.3267
GARRETT WILSON, VP	765.516.3368	RONNIE BAUGH, Swap Meet	317.752.8554
BECKI HAMILTON, Treas	317.797.2367	KERRIE OWENS, Craft Show	317.318.0384
SUE BOSWORTH, Sec/Flea Market	317.445.6800	KAREN SCHOOLCRAFT, Food Court/Concessions	317.358.5307
HANK BOSWORTH, Camping	317.538.4151	CARL "FRITZ" VAUGH, Tractor Games	812.720.0952
JOHNNY SCHOOLCRAFT, Auction	765.346.2551		

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Morgan County Antique Machinery Assoc

