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A CALINATION 2020 CON

A Special Supplement to The *Advance* Monticellonian +

Celebrating Our Local Graduates and All of Their Accomplishments!

Monticello High School Graduating Class



2C | Wednesday, May 15, 2024



Race Adcock

lesha Akins



Christian Alexander



Cooper Arrington



Braden Ashley



Kynslee Baker



Dakota Barbee



Mackenzie Bayless



Evan Bealer





Shakyra Binns



Brett Birch



Madison Bitely



Jevon Blackburn



Khari Block



Jackson Boren



Sophia Borse



Brooks Bowman



Easton Byrd



Joselyn Camarena



Trinity Carter



Jekobe Chambers



Jekwan Chambers















Laken Britton



Sincere Cooper



Christian Corcolis



Jeremiah Daniels

Parson



Becca Davis



Riley Derryberry







SHOUTING A BIG CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024!

> **Kynslee Baker** MHS

Emma Miller DCHS

Carson Simmons Homeschooled

Beau Bryant Monticello Kindergarten



Monticello High School Graduating Class





Caralyne Donaldson



Kaylee Ellenson



Connor Ewell



Siuna Ferrell



Kaileigh Forrest



Baylea Foster



Annalee Gibson



Christopher Goodman



Ka'Niyah Goodman





Saniya Harrell



Hayden Harrison



Mason Hayden



Hannah Haynie



Matilda Henris



Madilynn Hobbs



Nala Holmes



Audrey Howard



Hunter Howard



Amauri Huskey

















Laken, We are so proud of you. Love, Dad & Elizabeth



Monticello High School Graduating Class



Kaylie Jester



Legaci Joiner



Nickolas Jones



Michael King



Uriel Larracilla



Ceania Lee



Camyhia Lewis



Marcia Lindsey



Miranda Lloyd



Gabrielle Mann



Honesty Ray Marie



Mylah McCone



Lawrence McCoy



Brayden McCraney



Za Kyrah Mitchell



AhMarion Moore



Brison Morgan



Samuel Napier



Anaya Neal

Annika Nichols



Evan Nichols



Dana Garcia Nieves



Ansley Norris



Warren Pennington













Dalton Pharr



Ladan Pinkus



Cameron Ray





×



Arianna Reyes

s li a



Quay Rhodes

4 1









Monticello High School Graduating Class



Lane Rice



Kaden Ridgell



Addison Robinson



Jemarius Robinson



Cheryl Rodriguez



Kaleb Romero



Landon Shaver



Dylon Shaw



Christopher Simpson



Jacabrian Smith



Madeline Stanley



Jose Strickland



Neely Taylor



Cameron Teague



Tejon Tensley



Zaniyah Thompson



Ryan Turner





Zachary Warren



Hunter White



Trystan White

Tarren Young



Jacob Woods









Keenan Wright



TJ Young

elebration time

Congratulations, graduates,

on this stellar achievement!

We know you've worked hard to get here, and we wish you all the best in your next steps.

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AN





MHS GRADUATES NOT PICTURED: Jerry Alford Keyara Daniels Xzavier Daniels Tracy Duvall Zackery Finn Colton Mitchell Terri Osburn **Ja'Qayvion Pittman Kasey Stewart Kadedria Wallace**

Atticus White



Congratulations on Your Graduation

You're one giant step closer to your goals and dreams! We admire your hard work and determination, and wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors.

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Gift ideas for high school graduates

The class of 2023 soon will be trunks of cars. Pair the gifts with donning their caps and gowns and receiving their diplomas. After commencement ceremonies, graduation parties will soon follow. For party guests, that means finding the right gifts for grads.

Some high school graduates will continue their studies at colleges and universities. Others may pursue careers in various trades. Still, some graduates may be ready to enter the workforce right away. No matter the direction, these gifts can treat graduates to something special.

Travel accessories

Graduates may want to go on a trip before they take the next step in their lives. Quality travel gear is a worthy investment. Select luggage that won't exceed airport carry-on limits so grads can cut the baggage check lines when they dart away to locales near or far. Carry-on bags also fit easily in bus cargo areas or in the

+

standard or digital luggage tags. Streaming TV device

While it's certainly possible to watch favorite shows or films on mobile devices, viewing is that much clearer on televisions. Rather than graduates having to invest in cable television wherever they go, streaming devices like AppleTV or Roku are portable, which means they can be used at home, in a dorm room or on vacation.

Secured credit card

Individuals typically are eligible to apply for credit cards once they reach age 18, which is the age most students are when they graduate high school. Credit cards are one method of establishing solid credit, so it can be beneficial for a teen to have one. But it can be challenging for individuals with no credit histories to get approval. A secured card, according to CapitalOne, is a

credit card that requires money deposited with the credit card issuer in order to open the account. This security deposit is held by the issuer as long as the account is open. Often the security deposit is the same as the credit limit. Gift-givers can help establish secured cards for grads by providing the funds for the security deposits.

Wireless earbuds or headphones

Upgrade grads' audio with the newest wireless earbuds or headphones. This way they can take them to the gym or use them to listen to shows or music while sharing spaces with others, including college roommates.

Smartphone wallet case Teenagers are seldom without their phones. A smartphone wallet case enables graduates to stash IDs, credit or debit cards and some cash into specially designed pockets built into the phone cases. This keeps all essentials in one spot.

Framed memorabilia

Whether a graduate was a star athlete or a premier member of the marching band, gift-givers can provide special memories of time spent in school. Frame ticket stubs, sports jerseys, show programs, or other memorabilia that commemorates a graduate's glory days at their alma mater.







LIES

Go ahead. Show off

+

that graduation grin. You've earned it.



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

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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 soonto-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 adver-



perience. 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 di-

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You made it through!

rectly 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

Wishing the Class of 2024

all the best at graduation

and always!

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CONCRATS

anxious to begin their careers. Various strategies can help new grads find work sooner rather than later.



Congratulations, Laken Britton and all of the Monticello High School Graduates. Best wishes from South Arkansas Pet Cremations. 870-500-0419 • www.sarpetcremations.com







tise 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 growthstage companies tend to hire entry level professionals who do not necessarily have a lot of ex-

Cameron

Ray

MHS





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Congratulations

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ReKena Block



Drew Burton



Gabriel Butcher



Kierstyn Camden



Nathan Cockrell



Mekhi Collins



Kristina Crouse



Rodney Daniels



Gustavo Delacruz



Jasmine Donley



Camarion Durden



Sayveiona Durden



Allison Durham



Landon Ellis





Luke Foster



Tyrone Franklin



Kassidie Gilbert



AnnaBelle Glenn



Zaylan Gold



Cadyn Haddox



Dameon Harris









Erik Harris



Jeanne Harris



Joshua Hill



Brent Hornaday



Tyler Hornaday



Audrey Jacobs



Jordan Jefferson



Kyla Johnson



Allison King



Caden Kling



Alexandria Lewis



Carlee Lloyd



Dylan Ludwig



Benjamin Lum



Addien Milholland



Emma Miller



Kalyiah Miller



Jacob Owen



Drew Central High School Graduating Class



Joshua Perez



Luke Phillips



Kayser Rhodes



La'Darrious Richardson



Maliah Riley

Tristan Stanley



Jose Tinajero



Jase Watt



Nancy Wilkins



Kevin Williams

Kaden Billings

Brittney Hallman

Jared Wiscaver







Wednesday, May 15, 2024 | 9C

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to the Class of

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It's your Day!

As you continue on your path to success, stay positive, embrace every opportunity, keep up the great work, and always remember that we are proud of you.

We wish you all the best as you celebrate this milestone achievement and embark on the next chapter.

Congratulations!

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Congratulations to the Class of Through the academic challenges of their coursework and the extraordinary challenges of the pandemic, the students we celebrate today have gone the extra mile to reach this goal. We recognize their exceptional hard work and dedication, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors.



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Get schooled on vocational training

dividuals looking to explore continuing education at any age have various options. Among the most popular options is enrolling in a college or university. Studying a trade in a vocational school is another popular option.

What are vocational schools?

Vocational schools are sometimes referred to as career or trade schools. Vocational schools tend to offer certificate programs that are much shorter in duration than traditional college degree programs, and train students for skilled jobs. Vocational programs prepare individuals for careers in electrical work, hairstyling and cos-

High school graduates or in- metology, certified nursing aids, automotive work, and HVAC services, among others.

Cost of attendance

Cost of education is an important factor when choosing a career, and the cost of vocational school is no exception. The College Board says trade school costs between \$5,000 and \$15,000 on average for a threeto 18-month program. By comparison, the national average for a two-year degree program at public and private colleges can range from \$3,621 to \$15,333 per year. The cost to attend a four-year college is considerably higher, though it varies widely by institution.

NerdWallet reports that, as of 2021, total student loan debt in the United States exceeded \$1.61 trillion. Vocational school can be a much more affordable option than attending college, without the specter of large amounts of debt looming once the training is over.

An obvious job path

Many higher education concentrations are confronting low enrollment, while vocational programs are doing quite well, according to The Hechinger Report, which covers innovation and equality in education. The reason may be that vocational training presents a clear career path, and a more secure way to a solid job. Mechanic and repair trade programs had an enrollment increase of 11.5 percent from spring 2021 to 2022,

indicates the National Student Clearinghouse.

"America is lending money it doesn't have to kids who can't pay it back to train them for jobs that no longer exist," says Mike Rowe, television personality and founder of the Mike Rowe Works Foundation, which offers scholarship money to those who are pursuing the trades. Rowe feels that America has convinced people that the best path for most people is an expensive education. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates there are more than seven million jobs available across the U.S. that do not require a four-year-degree. Advantages to vocational schools

Trade school students can



look forward to some benefits.

- hands-on learning • more rigid schedule
- efficient time usage
- faster class pace
- small class sizes
- ability for licensure, where
- needed • lower costs of attendance

compared to other types of schooling

may work best around a pool or at the beach. If you will be hiring entertainment, make sure there is enough space and electrical hookups for equipment as well. Give neighbors a heads-up if you'll be hosting at home.

5. Consider an openhouse event

Various graduation parties may be going on at the same time, particularly on weekends. Consider an open time frame for guests to drop by and then leave when they desire. This makes it easy for the graduate's friends to stop by when they can, rather than having a fixed schedule for the party.

· instructors who are experts in their fields

Vocational schools are an option for students right out of high school or those returning to school later in life. Such schools provide access to millions of rewarding and lucrative jobs that can offer financial security.

6. Personalize decorations

Set the party apart with some personalized decorations that fit the theme. This can include using school colors, photography, the graduate's name, or specific quotes or interests of the graduate on banners and more. Personalized decorations also mean that the grad can save something to serve as a memento of this exciting time in his or her life.

Graduation season is on the horizon, and it's best to start thinking about parties as soon as possible.

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Graduation season is a festive time of year. Each year, graduating students close a notable chapter in their lives. But as one chapter closes, another opens.

Many families commemorate graduation with a celebration. Planning a graduation party requires some work, but the efforts can be well worth it in the end. Here are six tips for planning a graduation party.

1. Start early with plan-

ning

Graduation season is a busy time of year. Many notable events take place in spring. In addition to graduation, Mother's Day, weddings, communions, make up many people's spring social schedule. Each of these special events will be competing in a relatively small window of time for the same vendors and services in various communities. Set a date for the graduation party as soon

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 Graduates!

as possible so that all other components of planning can fall into line. Also, it would be wise to send out invitations well in advance so guests can plan ahead and make it to the festivities.

2. Set a budget

Graduation season can stretch families' budgets. Graduation caps and gowns, travel, gifts, and special occasion attire will need to be to purchased. It is important to budget accordingly if you plan to throw a party. Budget will dictate whether yours is a large affair or something more intimate. Realistically assess what you can afford before you make any promises. 3. Plan easy food op-

tions

Food is not the focal point of a graduation party like it is during a wedding reception. Therefore, hosts have more leeway with the menu when planning a graduacongratulate the graduate. 4. Choose the right

venue

Budget may dictate the type of venue. Having a graduation party at home can work, provided you have the space. If your graduate has requested a theme, then the party location can align with that theme. For example, a luau theme



tion party. Choose finger foods and others that can be grabbed and eaten on the go, as people will want to mingle and have time to



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Hats Off, Celebrate On! EDUCATION

You did it, grads! Your hard work has paid off, and we're so excited to celebrate this special day with all of you. We wish you health, happiness, purpose, prosperity and success today and always.



Way to Go Class of 2024

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May every step of your journey be filled with health, happiness and meaning.



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An exciting new chapter is about to begin for you, and we hope it's a wonderful adventure.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 from





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GRADUATION

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Popular majors among modern college students

majors can set them on a path toward rewarding and lucrative careers. Though a career may not be foremost on the minds of students as they graduate high school and inch closer to the start of college, choice of major merits consideration, even among students who have yet to receive their high school diplomas.

in school as undeclared, while others may pick a major without realizing what it requires and which career path it might set them on. That might explain why it's so common for college students to switch majors. Though data indicating how many students switch majors is somewhat dated, one study from the U.S. Department of Education indicated about one in five students changed their majors at least once while pursuing a bachelor's degree. With that in mind, stu-

College students' choice of dents may want to consider some in 10 students majored in a social popular majors as they try to determine which path to take in college. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, more than half of the 2.1 million bachelor's degrees awarded at United States colleges and universities in the 2020-21 school year were concentrated in six fields of study. In addition, the Many college students enroll NCES reports that the following are the six most popular degrees from that academic year.

> 1. Business: Almost one in five bachelor's degrees awarded in 2020-21 were in the field of business.

> 2. Health professions: This field accounted for 13 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded in 2020-21. Common specializations include health sciences, health care administration, nursing, and sports medicine.

3. Social sciences and history: NCES data indicates nearly one

We're so impressed by this

year's graduates, and we hope you all enjoy a well-deserved

day of relaxation and fun. **Congratulations!**

Happy Celebrating & Best Wishes

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science in 2020-21. This includes specializations such as history, political science and sociology.

4. Engineering: Demand for engineers is expected to rise in the coming decades, and that should bode well for the 126,000 students who earned bachelor's degrees in engineering in 2020-21.

5. Biological and biomedical sciences: Bachelor's degrees awarded in biological and biomedical sciences increased by 46 percent between the 2010-11 and 2020-21 school years.

6. Psychology: NCES data indicates degrees in psychology accounted for 6 percent of all bachelor's degrees awarded in 2020-21.

Choice of major is a significant decision for college students. Students are urged to discuss potential majors with their parents as they seek to lay the foundation for their professional futures.







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Hannah Haynie



Landon Shaver



Caroline Wilson



Nick Jones



Caden Kling



Brayden McCraney



Answers shown below.

Г-2' М-1' И-5' О-6' Ь-4' О-16' К-10' 2-15' **VN2MEK2**: V-6' B-8' C-12' D-2' E-13' E-12' C-16' H-14' I-11']-3' K-18'



Cornerstone Christian Academy announces graduating class



Caitlin Isabella **Benson** is the daughter of Tara and Josh Benson of McGehee, AR. She is a member of Tillar Baptist Church in Tillar, AR. Caitlin is CCA's 2023-2024 Salutatorian and has earned 21 college credit hours. Caitlin served as the 12th grade representative on student council. She was a member of the Honor Society, Spanish Club, and the Lady Warrior's basketball team. Caitlin has received the A&M Tier III Scholarship and the Registration Scholarship from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. She will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree this fall.



Kayleigh **Brooke Burke** is the daughter of James and Cassie Baker of Dermott, AR and the late Brady Burke of Florence, AR. She is a member of the First Baptist Church in Dumas, AR. Kayleigh was selected by her peers as CCA's senior homecoming maid. She served as secretary of the student council. She was a member of the Lady Warrior's basketball team, volleyball team, Beta Club, and yearbook staff. Kayleigh received the A&M Tier II Scholarship, the Weevil Legacy Scholarship, the Green and White Scholarship, and the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship. In the fall, she will be attending UAM to pursue a degree in education with the hope of coming back to teach at CCA.



Savannah Leigh **Finch** is the daughter of

Stephen and Lorna Finch of Watson, AR. She is a member of First Methodist Church of McGehee. She is an Honor Graduate and has earned 18 college credit hours. Savanah served as student council vice president, Beta Club vice president, and captain of the cheer team. She was a member of the Spanish Club, Honor Society, and the Lady Warrior's basketball team. Savannah was selected by her peers as CCA's 2024 homecoming queen. She received the Watson Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, the Arkansas Association of Correctional Employees Trust Scholarship, and the out-of-state scholarship from Mississippi State University. Savannah will attend Mississippi State University and pursue a degree in Veterinary Med-

icine.

Bradley Plummer Hicks is the son of the late Jamie Lynn Hicks and the late Richard Mervin Plummer of McGehee, AR. Bradley attends First Baptist Church of Dumas. He served on the student council as a 12th grade representative. He was a member of the Mighty Warrior's basketball team and yearbook. Bradley has enlisted with the Marine Corps and will attend boot camp in San Diego, CA. He will pursue a career in infantry serving his country.



Bailey Irons is the daughter of Leslie and Bobby Irons of Watson, AR. Bailey is a member of the Watson Assembly of God Church. She is graduating with 6 college credit hours. Bailey served as a 12th grade representative on student council. She was a member of the yearbook staff, Beta Club, and Spanish Club. Bailey has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship, the Ozarks Grant, the Ozarks Annual Fund Scholarship, and the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship. This fall, she will be attending the University of Central Arkansas and will pursue a career in Radiography.



ley is the daughter of Gary and Deanna Mizell of Watson, AR. She is a member of Tillar Baptist Church. Josalyn is CCA's 2023-2024 Valedictorian and has earned 21 college credit hours. She served as president of the Beta Club, president of the student council, and captain of the volleyball team. She was a member of the Lady Warrior's basketball team, softball team, Spanish Club, and the Honor Society. Josalyn received the Watson Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, and the A-State Promise Plus scholarship from Arkansas State. She will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree this fall.



the son of Joe and Amanda Shelton and the older brother to Kip, all of whom reside in Wilmar, AR. Braxton is a member of Rock Springs Community Church in Wilmar. AR. He served on the yearbook staff and was a member of the Mighty Warrior's basketball team. During his seven-year basketball pursuit, Braxton received numerous awards and was selected as an HCAA All State recipient. Braxton has received a scholarship from **Rock Springs Community** Church. This fall, Braxton will pursue an education in plumbing and plans to own a plumbing company.

Diploma display ideas

home or at work.

Framing

Graduation day is one of the ways to showcase diplomas at proudest moments in students' academic careers. Diplomas are symbolic of hours spent honing skills and working on assignments and, ultimately, success in the classroom. High school diplomas represent an opportunity to go on to higher learning or a trade, while college degrees indicate young people are ready to begin their professional lives.

Many graduates are excited

Create a shadow box

Consider displaying the diploma with other mementos from school. A shadow box is a large, deep display frame that can house items that are thicker than photographs or papers. Items such as a graduation tassel, medal or other award, a varsity jacket patch, or a program from a school performance or awards ceremony can be placed in the shadow box.

Create a photo wall

Display the diploma among

want to display their diplomas together, especially if multiple family members attended the same school.

Make a work of art

Various online art vendors can turn the diploma into different works of art. For example, engravers can laser engrave the diploma onto a wooden plaque. Then the diploma can be displayed in one location and the wood plaque in another.

Place it under glass

Display the diploma beneath the glass top of a coffee table. and success of their recipients.



A school diploma is worthy of recognition. There are various creative ways to display these documents that reflect the hard work



about the prospect of receiving their diplomas. Once in hand, the document can be put on display. The following are some unique

ate above the diploma. Graduates also may want to select a frame and mat that coordinates with school colors.

One of the classic ways to dis-

play a diploma is in a frame.

Many businesses offer custom-

ized framing where the frame

material and the matting can be

chosen. Some grads may want

to include a photograph of the

school or a picture of the gradu-

other framed photos from school activities. This can elicit a trip down memory lane every time the wall is viewed. Some families may

PPMAL **This Year's Graduates**













Baylea Foster MHS





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A Big Congratulations ~ To The Class of 20

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