

Class of 2023

Mendota & Ohio



Top students for Mendota High School Class of 2023

Mendota High School Principal Denise Aughenbaugh has announced that eight students from the MHS Class of 2023 have been designated as Illinois State Scholars.

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the state's college access and financial aid agency, presents this recognition of academic achievement to exceptional high school students annually. State Scholars are selected annually based on standardized test scores combined with sixth semester class rank. These exceptional students rank in approximately the top 10 percent of graduates from Illinois high schools.

MHS seniors achieving the honor include:

William Bentley, son of Ben and Sharlene Bentley of Mendota.

His activities and awards include band, Scholastic Bowl, National Honor Society, D&D Club, high honor roll student, Illinois State Scholar, math contest and theatre.



Mendota High School class of 2023 Illinois State Scholars, front row, left to right, are William Bentley, Isabelle Escatel, Abigail Kunz and Carlos Olivas. Back row, Alexis Finley, Avery Pierce, Melaina Bierwirth and Neal Linden.

See MHS, page A11

Congrats Graduating Class of 2023

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a moment to remember.

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Mendota High School Graduates



Karli Althaus



Laura Arenz



Eli Arjes



Edgar Arteaga



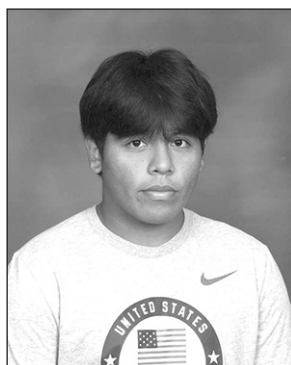
Brooke Bailey



Hope Baratta



Bryan Barragan



Jose Belmonte



William Bentley



Kendall Biers



Melaina Bierwirth



Emily Marie Blanchard



Braydon Boelk



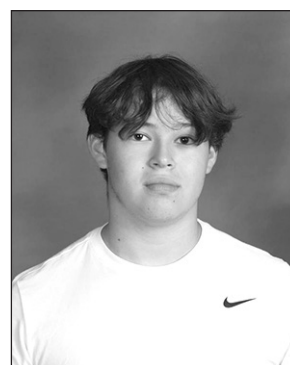
Clay Buffington



Thalia Bustos



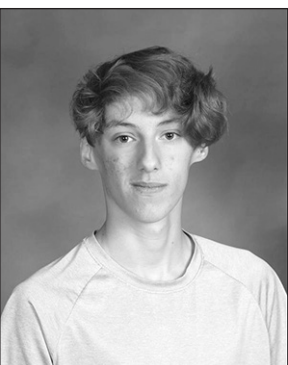
Yasmeen Camarillo



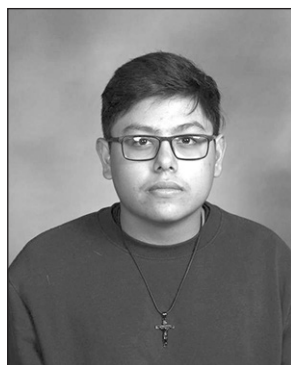
Moises Carlos



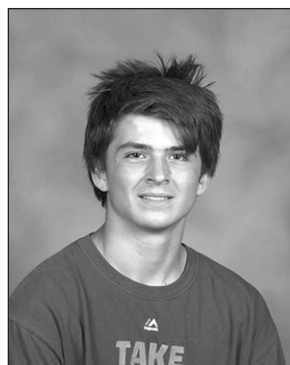
Jackson Carr



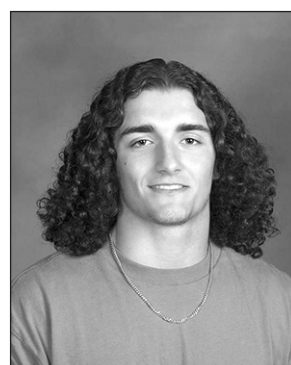
Jacob Carr



Kevin Castaneda



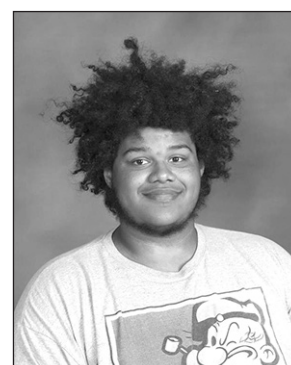
Kody Chase



Anthony Childs



Riley Cocanour



Jordan Coney

*After such fine academic performances,
we know you're destined for great things.*

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City Clerk Emily McConville
City Treasurer Rob Letterly

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Kyle Kim, Jay Miller,
John Hessenberger, Mark Peasley,
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**Thanks for
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and good luck!**

05102023



Best Wishes To All Our Area Graduates!

The Eureka Savings Bank wishes to each of you the fulfillment of your worthiest dreams, success in your most challenging projects, and mastery of all the lessons yet to be learned. We look forward to working with you in your new status as adults. And we stand ready to assist and guide you in the initiation and maintenance of a sound financial program to carry you victoriously through the good, the bad and even the ugly years ahead.

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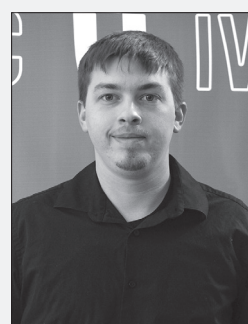
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Oglesby, IL 61348
Ph. 883-3354

2959 Peoria St.
Peru, IL 61354
Ph. 223-9400

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Wenona, IL 61377
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Cara Bonczkowski Elisabeth Farrell Emma Kamin Gage Schmitt Isabella Barrientos

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The 2023 IVCC Thomas J. McCormack Scholars are Isabella Barrientos of Ottawa, Cara Bonczkowski of Seneca, Elisabeth Farrell of Earlville, Emma Kamin of Earlville, and Gage Schmitt of Ottawa.

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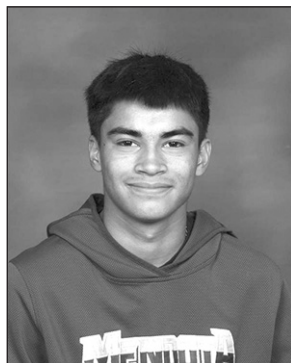
ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

05102023

Mendota High School Graduates



Marco Coronel



Johnathan Cortez



Flor Delao



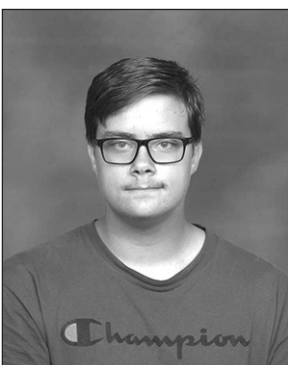
Juan Delao



Drake Dennis



Abril Diaz



David Dye



Emma Elston



Mallary Elston



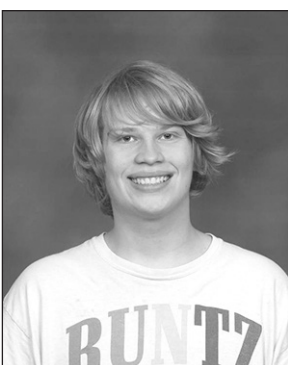
Cayden Escatel



Isabelle Escatel



Alexis Finley



Hayden Fox



Eliza Gambrell



David Garcia



Naitzy Garcia



Lilly Gehant



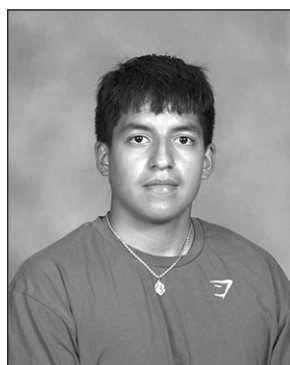
Conner George



Zachary Giberson



Denisha Gomez



Isaac Guzman



Yanely Guzman



Daniel Hanson



Zoe Hanson



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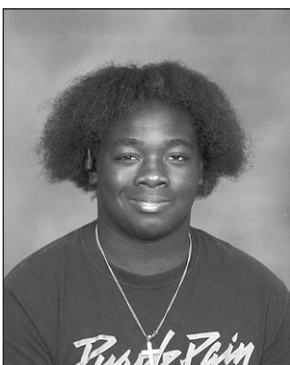
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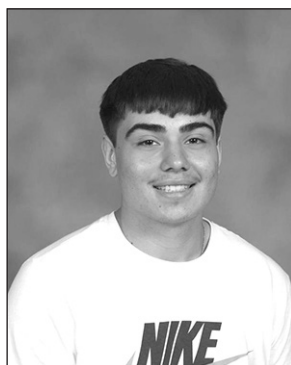
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Mendota High School Graduates



Albert Harris



Charles Heiting



Juana Hernandez



Katlyn Jenner



Julian Jordan



Kevin Kain



Jacob Kelley



Karsyn Klatt



Landon Kreiser



Julia Krueger



Abby Kunz



Iker Landeros



Makayla Lara



Neal Linden



Gregory Mann



Braden McPheeters



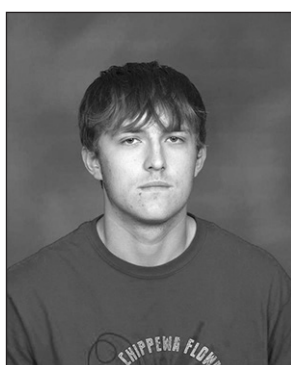
Alex Medina



Anthony Melendez



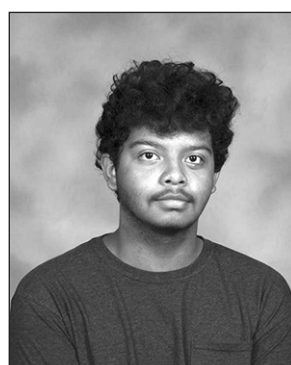
Karli Miars



Jack Mikolasek



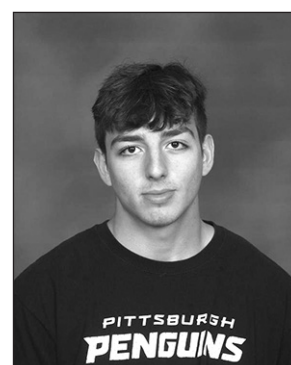
Matthew Miller



Christopher Molina



Carmen Mora



Logan Muller



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CONGRATS

to the Class of
2023

We wish you all the best!

Mendota High School Graduates



Martin Murillo



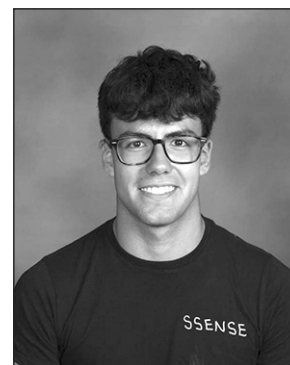
Alayna Nosalik



Carlos Olivas



Jesus Orozco



Ricky Orozco



Owen Ossman



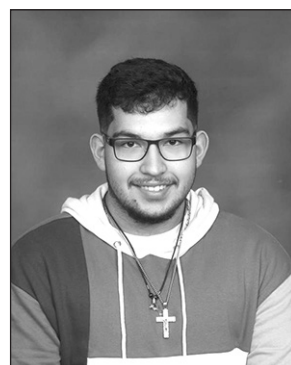
Daniel Otano



Gladys Payan



Avery Pierce



Joseph Quiroga



Jocelyn Radomski



Lilly Ramey



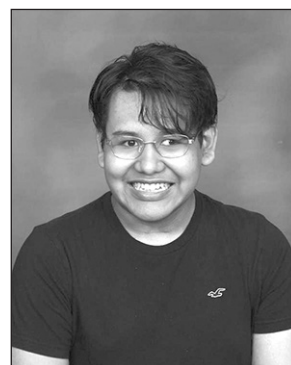
Mia Raya



Jose Rocha



Rafael Romero



Matthew Rubio



Nathan Ruiz



Angela Sandoval



Emma Schultz



Talya Schwaegerman



Isaac Smith



Samuel Sondgeroth



Dominik Stamberger



Theron Stanford

Mendota High School Graduates



Emily Stewart



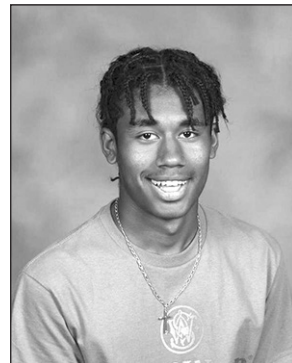
Ryne Strouss



Kevin Swope



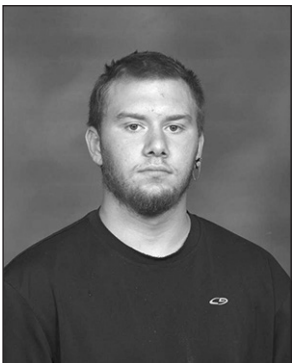
Paislee Tillman



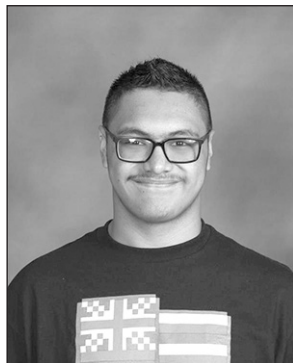
Jasiel Watson



Logan West



Vladimir Wilstead



Kekai Witty



Liliana Wolbrecht



Tony Wright



Madison Younglove



Kailey Zamora

Congratulations to the
Class of 2023 Graduates!



Kathy Zamora



Garret Zinke



Gracie Zinke



McKenzie Zinke

Class of
2023
We applaud your hard work and dedication!
Congratulations!



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05102023

ALL THE BEST
to our
GRADUATES

MHS

Continued from Page A2

His future plans are to attend IVCC and then transfer to a four-year institution to study actuarial science.

Melaina Bierwirth is the daughter of Melissa Bierwirth of Mendota.

Her activities and awards include Atodnem staff, Scholastic Bowl, Student Council, Interact, Math Team, Academic Challenge, Spanish Club, high honor roll and Go Green initiative internship sponsored by Engie.

Her future plans are to attend Milwaukee School of Engineering to major in environmental engineering.

Isabelle Escatel is the daughter of Isidro and Carrie Escatel of Mendota.

Among her activities and awards are volleyball, tennis, bowling, Spanish Club, Student Council, class officer, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Yearbook Club, Prom Committee, Homecoming Committee, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Academic Challenge, Interact Club, Beautification Committee, Girls State delegate, DAR

Award, Lions Club banquet and high honor roll student.

She will attend IVCC and then transfer to Northern Illinois University to major in business management and accounting, one day planning to open her own small business.

Alexis Finley is the daughter of Adam and Carrie Finley of Mendota.

Her activities and awards include track, tennis band, Madrigals, Interact, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Academic Challenge, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Lions Club banquet and lab technician.

She will attend the University of Illinois to study pre-med.

Abigail Kunz is the daughter of Matthew and Stephanie Kunz of Mendota.

Among her activities and awards are cheerleading, track, Academic Challenge, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Interact Club, choir, band, Madrigals, Drama Club, musicals, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

Her future plans are to attend IVCC for two years and then transfer to

the University of Illinois at Champaign to major in engineering or medical.

Neal Linden is the son of Maureen Linden of Mendota.

His activities and awards include football, baseball, track, band, choir, John Becker Memorial Award, Scholastic Bowl, Math Team, National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society.

He plans to attend a university to study aerospace engineering.

Carlos Olivas is the son of Natasha Lemus of Mendota.

Among his activities and awards are cross country, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, band, ILMEA senior band, Questbridge National College Match Scholarship, MHS tech support team, Math Team, Math League and Academic Challenge.

He has a full four-year scholarship to attend the University of Chicago to major in computer science working toward a career in software development.

Avery Pierce is the son of Darrell and Sheila Pierce of

West Brooklyn.

He has been active in baseball, FFA, Scholastic

Bowl, Academic Challenge and National Honor Society.

His future plans are to at-

tend IVCC and then transfer to the University of Illinois to study agriculture.



Honoring Today's Graduates

You've come a long way, and we're very proud of your achievements. Keep up the great work, and we know you'll go far.

Best wishes today and always!

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Congrats to Owen Ossman, Flor Delao and the Class of 2023!

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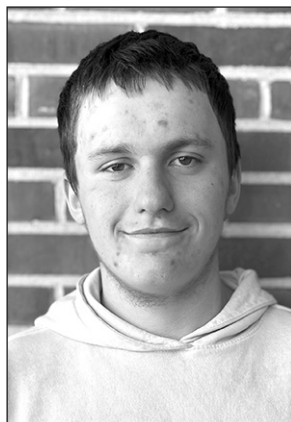
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Ohio High School Graduates



Jay Conner



Kaleb Matthews



Jase O'Brien



Gavin Shoopman



Nicholas Stazak

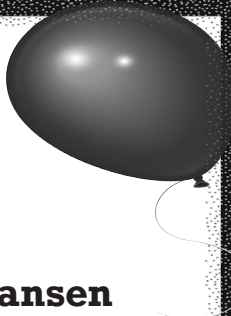


Chandler Weber



Grace Wojcik

Ohio High School graduates not pictured:



**Ashlynn Hansen
Nathan Robinson
Morgan Stazak**




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Class of 2023

Amboy, Earlville and LaMoille



Earlville High School Graduates



Wyatt Ackley



Natalie Barton



Kenzie Bottom



Lexie Campbell



Marissa Congdon



Garrett Cook



Devin Crook



Kael Donahoe



Emma Fasking



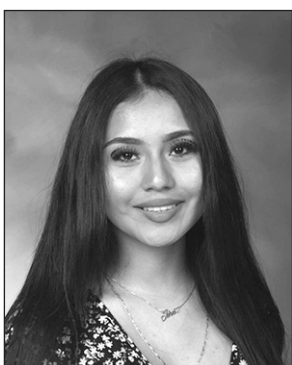
Zachary Hall



Kaydence Harp



Kelsey Hermann



Noreily Hernandez



Mickenzie Hoaglund



Mya Humm



Matthew Kuter



Marissa Nichols



Brianna Roth



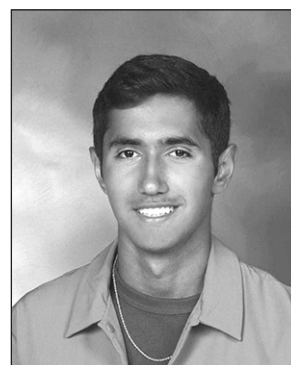
Viviana Salas



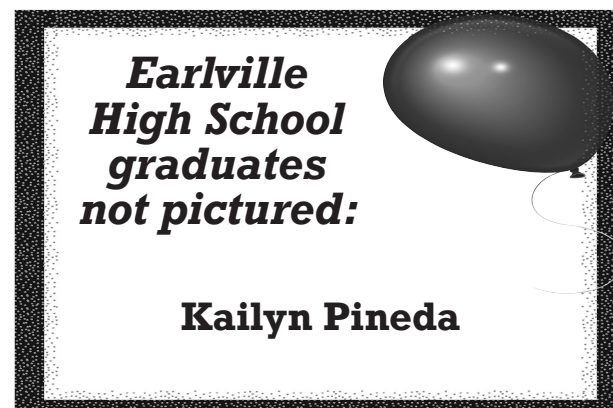
Wyatt Vahl



Anisia Vazquez



Diego Vazquez



Memories made could fill the ocean a thousand times over

Finally, senior year. What every student wished for when they were in elementary school. Only a few short weeks away from never having to write another essay, prepare another speech, or study for another test. But now facing the abyss of adulthood, we realize those younger versions of ourselves would never anticipate the incredible memories we would make in this short time together. Thirteen years in class together really makes you feel like siblings. And now that we are so close to the end we are realizing how easy it is to forget the value of things when you've always had them.

Our time at EHS has been made possible by the incredible staff we are so lucky to have. They've been posed with incredible challenges ranging from a worldwide pandemic, weather, and the ever changing wants and needs of students. In a sense we were the ones testing them every day, a test to which they never studied for but always passed. Our gratitude for their patience and humility cannot be expressed enough.

From the janitors, to math class, to the cafeteria there was always a staff member that I could get along with and hold conversations with. They were always engaged with how we were doing outside of school and consistently went to our games and cheered us on. To them we owe the greatest of thanks. Never would we think that these four years would fly by as fast as they did.

Our high school careers started as any other would, stereotypical naive freshman who didn't quite understand the jump we had just made. But soon we would settle in and accept our individual roles at this school. And regardless of what was thrown at us we always found a way to make things fun.

Sophomore year we were unsure about how sports, homecoming, and our overall school experience would go due to COVID. But we never put our heads down and found a way to still host a homecoming and play

sports. Seasons were shortened but we knew we had to make the best of it. And our hard work the previous summer allowed us to win a conference championship in soccer that spring making for one of the best moments these past four years.

Junior year we realized that we were now role models and we had to set an example. We would now be tested more than ever. We would be tasked with planning prom, preparing for the SAT, and taking higher level classes. All tasks which we excelled in. Our prom was amazing, we were well prepared for the SAT, and we also began to learn what it took to exceed as upperclassmen.

Senior year we had to lock in the most. It was not only time to fully lock in and push ourselves to get the best grades possible, but this would be our last year sharing memories together. We would also have to choose a path for our futures; the hardest part of senior year. But not all has been bitter this year.

Our sports team remained competitive, homecoming was as fun as ever, the band was able to perform at Disney World, and still our class trip and final prom remain. Also being the oldest at the school our bond with our teachers is stronger than ever.

It's been an inexplicable time at this school and the memories we've made could fill the ocean a thousand times over. We will enjoy these final times together as best as we can and make the most of our senior trip as well. Walking these halls the past thirteen years has been an absolute pleasure and I wouldn't trade it for the world. Who knows what else life will throw at us in the coming years but I'm certain we're prepared to take on whatever challenges we may encounter. Congratulations to the Earlville High School class of 2023 and thank you to everyone who helped us along the way.

Diego Vazquez
2023 Senior Class President
Earlville High School



Earlville Class of 2023 officers, sitting, left to right, Natalie Barton, secretary, and Mya Humm, treasurer. Standing, Diego Vazquez, left, president, and Garrett Cook, vice president.

Congratulations to the
Class of 2023 **Graduates!**



Diego Vazquez, left, Earlville Class of 2023 valedictorian, and Marissa Congdon, salutatorian.

Vazquez, Congdon earn top two student honors at Earlville H.S.

Diego Vazquez is the valedictorian and Marissa Congdon the salutatorian of the Earlville High School Class of 2023.

Vazquez is the son of Isela Vazquez. His activities and awards include soccer, basketball, Academic Bowl, FFA (farm manager), band, History Club, student council, HOBY alumni, summer sports camp assistant, John Ourth Student Recognition Award and LaSalle County Board Student Excellence Award.

His future plans are to attend

Augustana College to work toward a bachelor's degree in neuroscience and also be a member of the soccer team. He then plans to attend graduate school and further his education in his field of study. Vazquez's goal is to enter a research-based field and eventually work in a hospital helping patients as a neurologist or some other type of technician.

Congdon is the daughter of Shawn and Kim Congdon.

Her activities and awards include National Honor Society, track &

field, golf, Yearbook Club, FFA Chapter reporter, vice president and president, band and waitress at Cracker Barrel.

She will be attending Aurora University to obtain a bachelor's degree in biology and then transfer to a graduate school to obtain a master's degree in biology. She currently does not have a set career, but will either be a marine biologist or a wildlife biologist. Her main goal is to obtain her degrees and help both the environment and animals in any way possible.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

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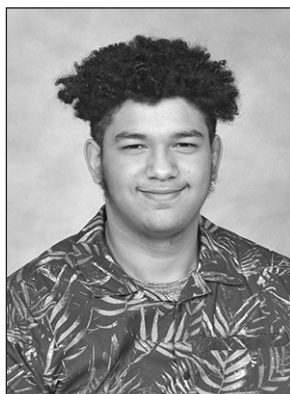
LaMoille High School Graduates



Trinity Betts-Wheeler



Ella Cherry



Jordan Cromwell



Logan Dober



Bella Drummer



Bailey Ellis



Eli Keighin



Kimberly Lemier



Brooke Lovgren



Harley Lurz



Raven McSherry



Lovgren, McSherry are top two for LHS Class of 2023

Brooke Lovgren is the valedictorian and Raven McSherry is the salutatorian of the LaMoille High School Class of 2023.

Lovgren is the daughter of Eric and Robin Lovgren of Princeton.

Her honors and activities include band, class officer, National Honor Society, Illinois State Scholar and John Ourth Student Recognition Award winner.

She plans to attend Illinois Valley Community College and then transfer to a four-year university to major in elementary education.

McSherry is a resident of LaMoille.

Her honors and activities include band, Scholastic Bowl, student council, class vice president for four years, service award, second place in 3D Division of 2022 NCI ARTworks competition, National Honor Society and Illinois State Scholar. She has also taken dual credit classes through IVCC.

Her future plans are to attend Iowa State University to earn a bachelor's degree in design.



Gift ideas for high school graduates

The class of 2023 soon will be 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 trunks of cars. Pair the gifts with 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 march-

ing 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.

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Always remember - Once a Clipper, always a Clipper

Dear Class of 2023,

As we enter our last month of high school, it is important to remember where we came from and everything we went through throughout high school.

When we started our freshman year, we didn't think we would have to lockdown and not get the full high school experience. Our sophomore year wasn't much better, never knowing if you'd be sent home for two weeks to quarantine. Junior year started in masks, but then we got back to normal. Finally, our senior year we got to be truly high schoolers, play all of the sports normally, go to all of the dances, do all of the regular activities without having to worry about a mask or distancing ourselves.

Needless to say, we've been through a lot, and now here we are about to leave it all. Whether we are heading to college, trade school, a job, or serving our country we will all close our lockers at AHS for the last time and be able to look back on our shared memories.

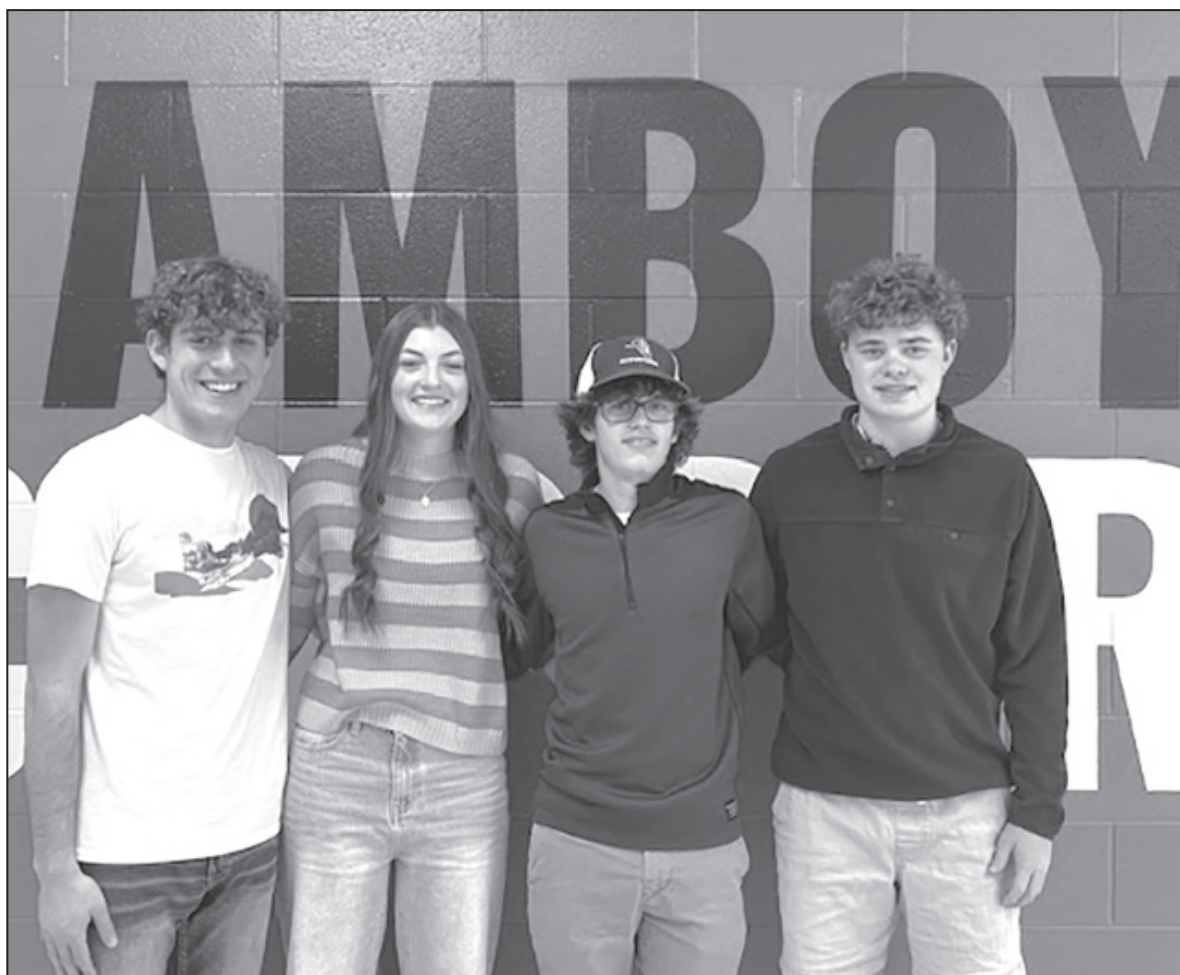
We may not be the closest class in the high school, but we come together when it matters. Nothing beats the excitement we all felt when we finally had a powder buff and powder puff team our senior year. All of us getting together on the first day of school to cheer each other on through our activities. We may not all hang out outside of school, but we come together when it really counts and that's what matters. We have each other's backs when we all need it the most.

We have been together for most of our lives, taking in the same things and learning together. From all of the games we came up with during recess at Central, to memorable field trips of junior high and all of us choosing our own paths in high school. No matter where we go after we graduate, we all have our shared experiences of Amboy High School.

So, here's to us, the Class of 2023. To all of the hardships we faced and challenges we overcame. To all of our paths that will take us away from AHS. To all of the friendships that came from the most random places. Always remember, once a Clipper, always a Clipper.

All the best, wherever life takes you.

Kelton Schwamberger
Class of 2023 President
Amboy High School



Amboy Senior Class officers, left to right, Kelton Schwamberger, president; Courtney Ortgiesen, vice president; Charlie Dickinson, secretary; Wesley Wilson, treasurer.



Congrats Graduating Class of 2023

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Amboy top 11 students

Eleven Amboy High School students earned a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and thus earned Top of the Class honors for the Class of 2023.

Olivia Costner of Amboy is the daughter of Nathan Costner and Alicia Costner.

Her honors and activities include The Academy at Sauk Valley Community College, SVCC Business Club, SVCC Tabletop Gaming Club, National Honor Society, Phi Theta Kappa at SVCC, commencement speaker at SVCC 2023 commencement and President's List (4.0 GPA) at SVCC.

She plans to complete an associate degree at SVCC this semester and then will transfer to Western Illinois University to pursue a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in accountancy. She is currently searching for an internship in her field to gain experience related to her career.

James Curl of Dixon is the son of Kevin Curl and Rebecca Curl.

His honors and activities include National Honor

Society, FFA, band, chorus, November 2022 Student of the Month, Illinois State Scholar, Sauk Scholar and high honor roll.

He is currently enrolled at SVCC pursuing an associate degree in engineering science. He intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at a four-year university. He hopes to one day open his own engineering firm to positively the members of his community.

Charlie Dickinson of Amboy is the son of Dan and Laura Dickinson.

His honors and activities include National Honor Society secretary, class secretary, baseball, cross country, basketball and March Student of the Month.

His future plans are to enroll at Augustana College and pursue a bachelor's degree in as of yet an undecided field of study.

Bradley Dinwiddie of Amboy is the son of Marie Dinwiddie and John Dinwiddie.

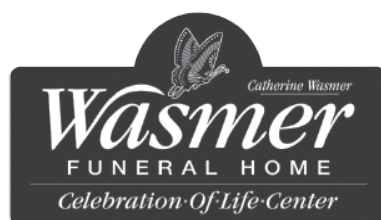
See AHS, page B12



Amboy Top of the Class, front row, left to right, Courtney Ortgiesen, Alexzandra Vaessen, Courtney Lachat, Olivia Costner. Back row, Bradley Dinwiddie, Kelton Schwamberger, Charlie Dickinson, Wesley Wilson, Garrett Pertell, James Curl. Not pictured: Aislinn Zitelman.



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Amboy High School Graduates



Reed Barnes



Christopher Campiran



Olivia Cordero



Jarrett Dempsey



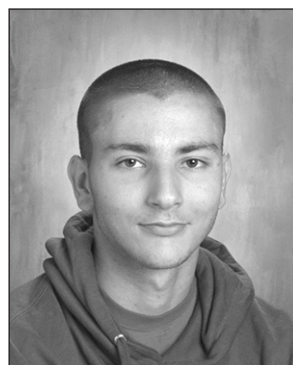
Charlie Dickinson



Ryan Dickinson



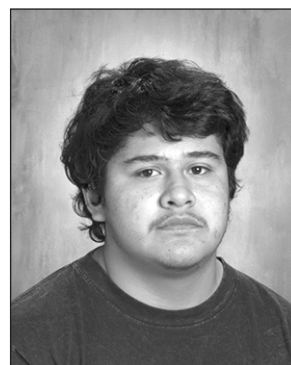
Bradley Dinwiddie



Jacob Doege



Kora Garren



Jose Herrera



Brooklyn Hoffman



Madison Huggins



Kaden Kelly



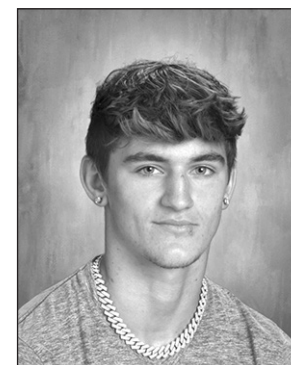
Sabie Koppien



Courtney Lachat



Sidney Lewis



Tucker Lindenmeyer



Adrian Marquez



Kyler McNinch



Olivia Montantes



Brian Moore



Courtney Orgtiesen

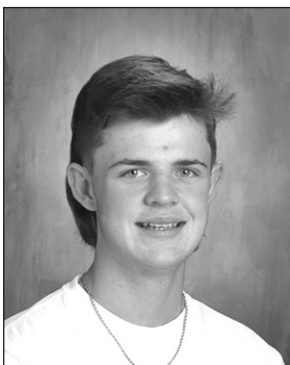


Garrett Pertell



Ethan Pratt

Amboy High School Graduates



Jackson Rogers



Tatum Romero



Valeria Salgado



Kelton Schwamberger



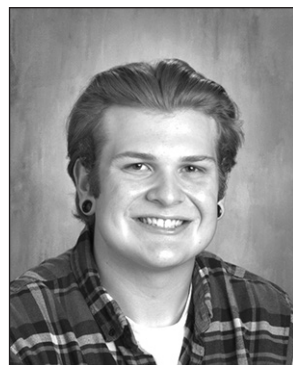
Alison Shaw



Marie Shaw



Aiden Smith



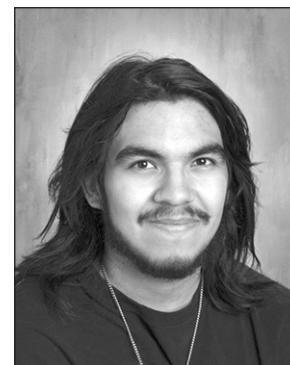
Phillip Stewart



Jersey Thomas



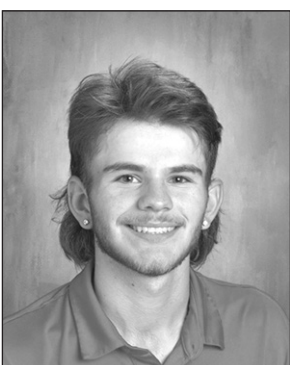
Alexzandra Vaessen



Valentin Vazquez



Wesley Wilson



Hayden Wittenauer



Aislinn Zitelman





CONGRATULATIONS

to the Class of 2023

We wish you all the best!



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AHS

Continued from Page B8

His honors and activities include FFA (reporter, treasurer), National Honor Society and band.

He plans to obtain a degree in environmental health and safety from Waldorf University in Forest City, Iowa, along with a real estate license for residential, commercial and agriculture real estate.

Courtney Lachat of Am-

boy is the daughter of Frank and Keri Lachat.

She has been active in National Honor Society and band.

She plans to attend cosmetology school at Educators of Beauty in Sterling and then work at a salon.

Courtney Ortgiesen of Amboy is the daughter of James and Kathy Ortgiesen.

Her honors and activities include band, student council, National Honor

Society, Leo's Club, basketball, volleyball, class vice president, NUIC academic all-conference, NUIC all-conference honorable mention for volleyball and basketball, Illinois State Scholar, Sauk Scholar and September Student of the Month.

Her future plans are to attend Sauk Valley Community College. She is undecided on a career path, but hopes during this time to shadow

people in the careers she is interested in to help finalize her decision about a career.

Garrett Pertell of Sublette is the son of Rick and Janelle Pertell.

His honors and activities include February Student of the Month, honor roll, cross country, basketball and baseball.

He plans to attend Olivet Nazarene University to study computer science with a focus in cybersecurity. He

hopes to land an internship during college to gain experience.

Kelton Schwamberger of Amboy is the son of George and Amy Schwamberger.

His honors and activities include cross country, track, class president, student council president, National Honor Society president, Leo's Club president, band, FFA Chapter president, Illinois FFA Section 2 president, taps player for American Legion, 4-H and October Student of the Month.

He will attend Carroll University in Waukesha, Wis., to study animal behavior with a focus on pre-veterinary medicine. After graduating in 2027, he plans to apply to Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan., to obtain a master's degree in zoology and attend veterinary school for a doctorate in zoological medicine. He plans to work at an AZA accredited zoo.

Alexzandra Vaessen of Amboy is the daughter of Jeff and Jennifer Vaessen.

Her activities and honors include National Honor Society, football cheerleader

and Art Club.

She will attend Sauk Valley Community College in the medical program.

Wesley Wilson of Amboy is the son of Dan and Amy Wilson.

His honors and activities include golf (team captain), basketball, National Honor Society treasurer, class treasurer and Illinois State Scholar.

His future plans are to attend Sauk Valley Community College for two years and play on the golf team. He will then transfer to a four-year university to study financial management.

Aislinn Zitelman of Amboy is the daughter of Mikael Zitelman and Kelly Zitelman.

Her honors and activities include Teen Turf community worker, lifeguard at Woodhaven, WACC culinary arts-cooking and school work.

Her plans for the future are to become a 9-1-1 dispatcher, work on tattooing and maybe do that on the side, and work on culinary skills and continue to make new/different things each day.

Going off to college?



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