

Crittenden County High School

Class of 2012

The Crittenden Press
May 24, 2012



The class of 2012 celebrates the announcement of its graduation with silly string, throwing their hats and several cheers while school officials look on.



At left, Dustin Hernandez gets a congratulatory hug from Jeremy Wheeler. Above, Charlie Young poses with his niece and nephew for a picture after graduation.



2012 graduate Nikki Conger takes time out from celebrating to take a picture with her entire family attending graduation.

Graduates with honors

Valedictorian

In Crittenden County, students who maintain the highest grade-point average, or GPA, in their graduating class are honored as valedictorians. In the case of this year's five valedictorians, all had a perfect 4.0 GPA by earning nothing but As throughout their entire four years in high school.

Salutatorian

Salutatorians in Crittenden County are honored for having achieved the ranking of second-highest GPA.

Commonwealth Diploma

State qualifications for a Commonwealth Diploma require that a student take Advanced Placement courses (one English, one science or

math, one foreign language and one elective) and sit for the Advanced Placement exam in at least three of the four areas.

College Prep Diploma

A district honor only, College Prep Diplomas are just below the state standard, requiring students to have taken advanced English their junior year, Advance Placement senior English, four sciences, two foreign languages and a computer technology class.

Honor Graduate

Any senior who has earned a 3.5 GPA or higher during their high school career is considered an honor graduate.

Honor Graduates

Michael Adams, Corey Berry, Brody Bruns, Emily Bruns, Rain Carroll, Elliott Day, Ragon Dossett, Wes Evers, Amelia Gilley, Dominique LaPlante, Jenna Lynn, Korey Mayes, Dahlia McDaniel, Matthew O'Dell, Jenna Odom, Tina Reynolds, Emily Shewcraft, Stacia Snow, Jacob Tabor, Matthew Thurby, Jessica Tinsley, Madison Travis.

Commonwealth Diploma

Jenna Lynn

College Prep Diploma

Brody Bruns, Corey Bruns, Emily Bruns, William Hayes, Dominique LaPlante, Jeremiah Markham, Matt O'Dell, Emily Owen, Emily Shewcraft, Stacia Snow, Jessica Tinsley, Madison Travis.

Salutatorian

Dominique LaPlante

Valedictorians

Matt O'Dell, Madison Travis, Emily Shewcraft, Brody Bruns, Jenna Lynn

About Dominique

Name... Dominique LaPlante
Age... 18
Parents... Allan & Debra La-Plante
Favorite Memory... Going on a family vacation to Sea World with mom, dad and little sister.
Post-graduation plans... I'll be attending UK in the fall.
Dream Job... Executive at a music label
Favorite School Subject... English
Favorite Music... Everything
Favorite TV Show... One Tree Hill
Person you would most like to meet (living or dead)... Janice Joplin
What does being salutatorian mean to you... It



means that I worked hard and I saw the finish line and was ready to cross it and did the best I could all four years.
Where would you like to be at 40... Happy.

Salutatorian: Dominique LaPlante

SALUTATORY SPEECH
Good evening everyone. Today is Class Night. I can't believe how fast this year has gone by. Seems like only yesterday Aug. 11 swooped in, announcing the beginning of senior year. Today we are one step closer to being "done," to being only known as the CCHS Class of 2012, to being Crittenden County High School alumni.
When I sat down to write the salutatorian address, a single thought kept running through my head. "I am from...." As the senior class remembers, but some others may not, the first few weeks of sophomore year were spent writing poems about ourselves, more ideally where we're from. Not in the sense of what road you live on or what city you reside, but what makes us, us. What people or places or memories have made you who you are. Prior to senior year, I would have gladly told you that the moment I was handed my fake diploma I would be out of Marion so fast you would be able to smell the burning rubber off my tires for miles. Prior to my senior year I hadn't realized the significance of what graduation really means. Graduation will be the last day the Class of 2012 will be a whole. Graduation will be the last time we will all be together under the same roof as the 2012 senior class.
This got me to thinking about where "I am from." About the knowledge we've all gained, the friendships we've all made, and the connections our class has to each other. As a group we have probably the most sought after characteristics of success: toughness and resilience. And I have no doubts about our class being tough ...and hard-headed...and loud. But that's okay! None of those traits are bad when it comes to the tools you need to make it in the real world. Life is a grindstone. Whether it grinds you down or polishes you up depends on what you're made of. The class of 2012 is a group that has always had the ability to lock onto a problem and pursue it through to the end. That's what's got us all here to Class Night this evening. The toughness and resilience to see the finish line and push ourselves every day to walk across that stage Friday night. This evening is about us, the graduating class of 2012, but I think some credit has to be given to the school board, faculty and staff of Crittenden County High School, and special tribute to the parents of our class whose love and sacrifices have helped to make this moment possible.
When I asked my mom for help in writing this speech she said, "Dominique, don't try to be witty or charming, just be yourself."
When I asked my sister, Elle, for help she simply replied, "Please don't embarrass me."
When I asked my dad for help in writing this speech, he was more than willing to share a story. But, the story wasn't about him or even someone he knew, just someone he knew of and believed his story would inspire our class. He was right. The story was of a man who failed. A man, who at 22, started a business, and the business failed. A man who at 23 ran for legislature and was defeated. A man who at 24 started another business and the business failed. At 26, lost the love of his life, and at 27 had a nervous breakdown. At 34 was defeated for Congress, At 46 was defeated for Senate. At 47 was defeated for vice-president. And at 51 was elected President of the United States. This man was Abraham Lincoln, arguably the greatest President this country has ever had. Throughout his life he suffered many more defeats than victories, but because he never gave up, he won the highest office in the land.
I think there is a lot to say of perseverance in a group this size, from a town this small. "Don't let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." As I look out over our graduating class it's very easy to see the many different talents among you. Graduates from Crittenden County High

School have included artists, business personnel, carpenters, doctors, engineers, electricians, farmers, lawyers, mechanics, military personnel, musicians, nurses, plumbers, politicians, religious leaders, scientists and teachers. This small community produces many young people with a strong work ethic and we expect nothing less from the class of 2012.
So where are we from? What's made us, us? The planning is just beginning and our interest should be in our future, because that is where we will all spend the rest of our lives. Consider the obstacles, problems and adjustments you may encounter and how you will handle them, yet do not be afraid of what tomorrow has to offer. It has been said in salutatorian and valedictorian speeches throughout the world, but it is believed to be a universal truth: YOLO. You only live once. Our time is now and the person is you.
So, Class of 2012 where are we from? We're from Crittenden County High School, where Mrs. Harris is the all knowing "voice from above." We're from blue lunch trays, and roll day every Thursday. We're from football on Friday nights, and the senior class winning the spirit stick at every pep rally. But most importantly, we're from Marion, Kentucky, where one person can truly make an impact in the life of another.
In closing, I'd like to say this: To the class of 2012, I love you all. We have made great memories and I hope that each of you succeed in whatever you decide to do. Today we are one step closer to the end, one step closer to all new beginnings. And I am proud to say that I am from here. Thank you.

Valedictorian: Matt O'Dell

VALEDICTORY SPEECH
Good evening, Class of 2012. Thank you, family members, friends and visitors, for all coming out tonight. It is such an honor to be standing here speaking in front of all of you. After four years, it is still hard to believe that graduation is upon us.
A couple of weeks ago, when I began thinking about what I would say in my speech, I honestly had no clue. After much thought, it came to me! I knew exactly what I wanted in my speech. Although, when Ms. Stefanie Hardin told me that "ditto" wasn't sufficient, it was back to the drawing board. So, I started over. If I didn't retain anything else from the last four years of high school, I would remember that Google can find anything. I came across this quote. "The horizon leans forward, offering you space to place new steps of change."- Maya Angelou.
After tonight, we are no longer seniors, no longer students of CCHS. Tomorrow begins a new stage in our lives. It is almost like a completely clean slate. It is up to us what we do with that clean slate. Some of you all will have the chance to start over if maybe you've made some mistakes. Some of you will have the opportunity to grow and achieve even more. It's not going to be all the same for each and every one of us. As Maya Angelou put it, "the horizon leans forward," so do with it what you will. There is so much more out there waiting for each and every one of us. All we have to do is go out and reach for it, each in our own ways. I am not going to let high school define me, and

neither should you all. Each of us should remember that through this time of transition. Overall, the last four years have been pretty amazing. My amazing friends, amazing family, and some of the amazing staff in this school system have made it just that.: amazing; although, this does not mark the end. It is just an end to the first chapter of our lives. And now, a new chapter begins. As soon as we toss those hats in the air, we will no longer be high school students; we will be graduates. We might not realize it at first and it just might take a little while to set in, but this is it; it's happening right now. Speaking for myself, I didn't think that this time would ever come. I have been on countdown all year. But now that I am standing here doing this, it is becoming real to me. Looking back at the life-long friendships that I have made, the people I have met, the memories that I will never forget, and the accomplishments that I have achieved, I think I might just miss it a little bit. And I know that I am not the only one thinking this.
With that, I am going to cut it short, so we can get on with the rest of the speeches. I know we are all anxious. But I would just quickly like to thank a few important people in my life: my amazing parents for being so supportive of everything I've done, my gorgeous younger sister, who I hope I have been a good role model for, my loving grandparents, who I care for so much, and my best friends, who have been there for me every step of the way. I love you all.
So with that said, let's place those new steps of change, Class of 2012. Thank you.

Pomp and Circumstance

METRO
It's nearly impossible to attend a graduation ceremony and not hear the processional, "Pomp and Circumstance." The march has become a graduation staple, but the tune was actually written for a different purpose. Sir Edward Elgar is the composer behind "Pomp and Circumstance," which was named after a line from William Shakespeare's "Othello." Sir Edward composed the song in 1901, and the march was intended for the coronation of King Edward VII. When Elgar received an honorary doctorate from Yale University in 1905, the march was played in his honor as a recessional. Once Yale used the march, other universities


began to play the march as well. Eventually it became the trendy thing to do and "Pomp and Circumstance" became forever ingrained in graduation custom. Today it is hard to imagine a commencement ceremony without the famed processional and the requisite cap, tassel and gown.

About Matt

Name... Matt O'Dell
Age... 17
Parents... Michael & Gayann O'Dell
Favorite Memory... When Madison and I would skip freshmen P.E. everyday.
Post-graduation plans... Attending WKU in the fall; hope to go to law school after undergrad.
Dream job... Professional photographer
Favorite subject... Math
Favorite music... All music
Favorite TV show... Law & Order: SVU
Person you would most like to meet (living or dead)... Abraham Lincoln
What does being valedictorian mean to you... I am proud to be valedictorian because I have worked hard




throughout high school to accomplish the things that I have.
Where would you like to be at 40... At 40 I would like to be building my career and continuing to climb my way up the ladder.

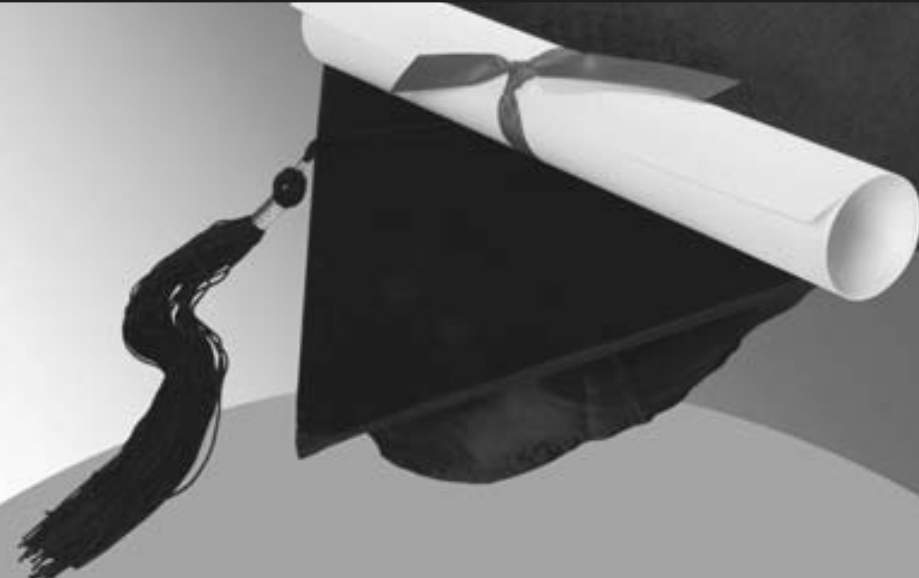






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You've worked hard to make it to graduation, and you should be proud of your accomplishment. So give yourself a round of applause – you deserve it!

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www.jerrittbrownphotography.com

Congratulations To Our 2012 Graduates!

MEGAN HEADY Western Kentucky University
ANN TRAVIS Murray State University
JESSIE WALKER Murray State University
CAITLYN DUNBAR WKCTC
MATTHEW BRASHER Murray State University
RAY BRASHER, JR. Murray State University
BETHANY HEATON Murray State University
KELSEY THOMPSON Western Kentucky University
CASSIDY HODGE Marshall County High School
JESSICA TINSLEY Crittenden County High School
For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it. Proverbs 8:11
MARION BAPTIST CHURCH
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Fredonia Valley Bank
would like to congratulate all area graduates on this wonderful accomplishment.
Great Job, We're Proud of You JAKE MEADOWS
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Valedictorian: Madison Travis

VALEDICTORY SPEECH

Good evening class of 2012. Thank you all for coming out, I know you had a lot of other places to be. First off, I want to congratulate each of you on what you have accomplished by being here tonight. I know for myself, high school is not always rainbows and sunshine. It can be dark thunderstorms and damaging tornados at times.

Tonight is a defining moment for all of us. We end another chapter in our lives, gain more independence from our parents, and move on to the scary unknown. Some would say this is the end of the best years in our lives; life becomes more difficult and a lot less interesting. Others would argue that it only gets better from here, and high school doesn't hold a candle to what life has to offer. It doesn't matter if high school was the highlight of your life, or one of the most dreadful times of your youth. We all experienced it.

"It takes courage to become who you really are." – E.E. Cummings. The main thing I hope to leave you with tonight isn't a bunch of recalled memories, because my best memories may not be your favorite memories. I am not going to tell you everything will be the same after tonight or nothing has to change. Each of us has plenty of life's ups and downs to take in and hopefully learn from. One thing is true about high school; it has to come to an end.

However, how you grow as

an adult does not. What you did the last four years means absolutely nothing tomorrow morning. It doesn't matter if you were a star athlete, class officer, or even valedictorian. Who you are right now is not who you have to be the rest of your lives. Grades and classes do not define character. Being involved in sports or clubs doesn't make you a good or bad person. Tomorrow morning when you wake up exhausted from project grad, you have the opportunity to be a completely different person. You won't be associated with a certain clique or group anymore.

The world will see you for who you are. And who you are, is who you decide to be. I will get off my soap box and just say this: "Watch your thoughts, they become your words. Watch your words, they become your actions. Watch your actions, they become your character. Watch your character, it becomes your destiny."

If you know me at all, heard of me, or crept on my Facebook wall then you know my biggest fan is my brother, Blake. While I am finishing my primary schooling, he will begin his in the fall. I know our mother has impeccable timing. There are just a few things I would like to advise him for and pray that he receives from his school experience.

Blake, trust in your parents and build a strong relationship with them and occasionally spend a Friday night with them; because they truly are your best friends and always

About Madison

Name... Madison Travis
Age... 18
Parents... Lisa French & Chris Travis
Favorite Memory... Countless conversations had while goofing off with my best friends.
Post-graduation plans... I will be attending Western Kentucky University to pursue civil engineering.
Dream job... To work for the city or government as an engineer.
Favorite school subject... Math
Favorite music... Third Eye Blind
Favorite TV show... Castle
Person you would most like to meet (living or dead)... My great-grandparents
What does being valedic-



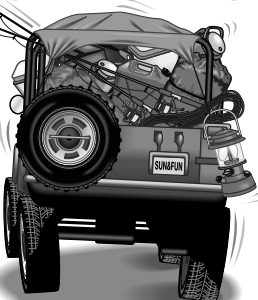
torian mean to you...
Valedictorian was a goal I set in 6th grade. It makes all my efforts worthwhile.
Where would you like to be at 40... At 40 I hope to be established with a family of my own. Most importantly happy though.

have your best interest at heart. I pray that you have role models like Tammy Brantley and Stefanie Hardin, who instill confidence and encourage you to be a leader. May you meet teachers like Nancy Lacy and Carol West that seem more like family than just teachers. God willing, you will have a Scotty Hopkins or Greg Hollamon to inspire your thirst for knowledge. I hope you seek your own Cheryl Burkes or Kathy Harris who can make you laugh on those boring days. I even pray you meet your own Amy Hardin who tells you when your senioritis is acting up. I hope you find three

amazing friends who despite any argument want you to succeed because they know your potential when you don't. But most importantly Blake, call your sister every day and know I will always look to you to make me laugh or see what really matters.

Seven years ago I read a quote at our fifth grade graduation and even after all this time, I still think it has a meaningful message. "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." Class of 2012....Congratulations! We did it!

Congratulations Grads!



We're full of high hopes for you, as you embark on new and exciting endeavors.

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WAY TO GO CLASS OF 2012

Congratulations To Our Grads
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Graduation gifts can keep on giving

METRO

Graduation season is here! For family and friends of the graduate that means finding an appropriate gift. And what could be better than something that would help the new grad navigate the next four years like a 'pro' and save time, frustration and money.

Head to the nearest bookstore and for almost the price of a greeting card – or instead of a greeting card – pick up Been There, Should've Done That – 995 tips for making the most of college. This award winning best-seller is a compilation of advice from college students across the country who have been there and done that – or didn't do it, but are more than willing to share their hard-earned tips and strategies for success.

Eighth Grade Grads. For the 8th graders heading to high school on your gift list, pick up a few copies of Countdown to College: 21 'to Do' Lists For High School. This step-by-step guide begins the very first day of high school, and shows students – and parents – what to do and when to do it.

"Too many people think preparations to apply for college begin in the junior year," says co-author Cheryl Rilly, "and that's a big and a costly mistake not only financially, but in terms of stress and frustration."

Looking for scholarships and scouting out dream colleges in freshman year? Yes. Knowing what a dream college requirements are helps you set up a four year study plan that, if left until junior year would be too late. You may not have time to fit in the classes you need. And scholarships and financial awards can be mined as early as your first year in high school.

There will be no missed deadlines or missed opportunities as the easy to follow timeline provides tips and strategies for such things as mapping out a four-year plan, taking SAT/ACT and AP's, choosing the right college, making summers count, and of course, financial planning for parents soon to be burdened with rising cost of college.

Congratulations Class of 2012!

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Class of 2012

Congratulations on a job well done!

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Robert B. Frazer
Brandi D. Rogers
Roy Massey IV
W.S. Greenwell of Counsel
Richard Peek of Counsel
www.gfplaw.net

Congratulations 2012 Graduates

We wish you much success for tomorrow and always.

The Crittenden Press
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Congratulations on a fine achievement

The Marion United Methodist Church Congratulates all the 2012 Graduates, especially those with family ties to the congregation.

We also congratulate graduating members of Boy Scout Troop #30.

Wes Evers

Ali Fowler

Emily Owen

Caitlin Tucker

Logan Harris

Jacob Urbanowski

Marion United Methodist Church

Corner of College & Carlisle Streets • 965-4580

Education Is Your Key to Success

Matt O'Dell

Madison Travis

Emily Owen

Ragon Dossett

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YOU MADE IT!

You are about to begin a new chapter in life. The story is yours to write.

Best wishes Class of 2012.

Dr. Gary James
Dr. Greg Maddux
Dr. Jonathan Maddux
Alicia Clark, A.R.N.P.
Lee Anna Boone, A.R.N.P.

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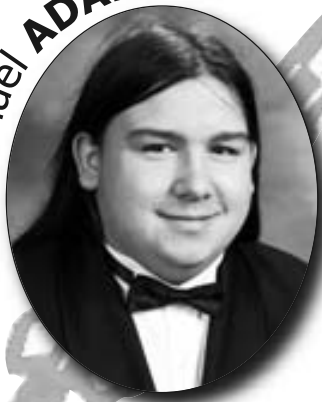
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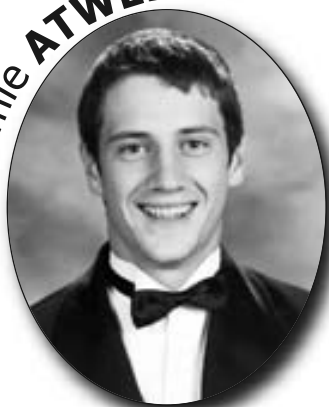
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CRITTENDEN COUNTY

Michael **ADAMS**



Jamie **ATWELL**



Brittany **BEARD**



Corey **BERRY**



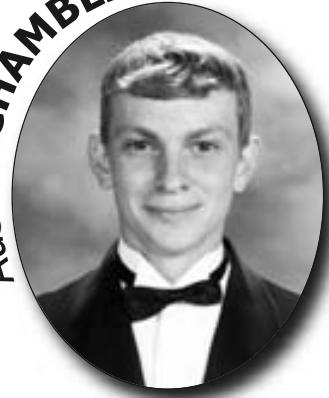
Zoie **BLACK**



Bryan **CARTER**



Austen **CHAMBLISS**



Rebecca **CLARK**



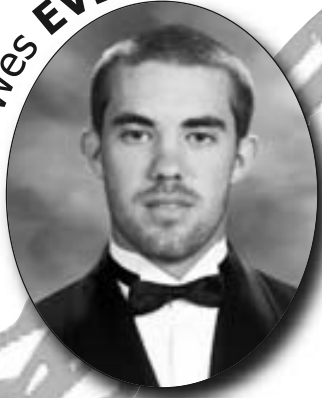
Nikki **CONGER**



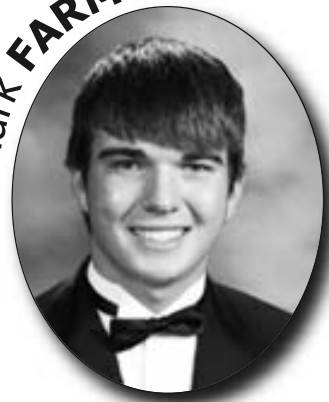
Taylor **COSBY**



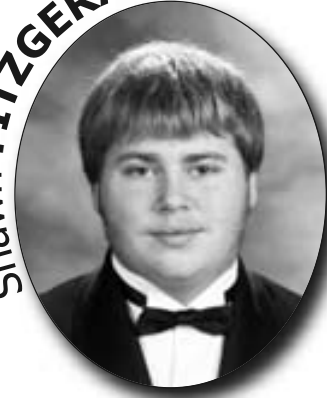
Wes **EVERS**



Mark **FARMER**



Shawn **FITZGERALD**



Ali **FOWLER**



Amelia **GILLEY**



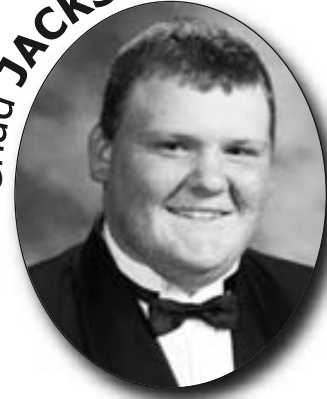
DeDe **HINTON**



Lauren **HUGHES**



Chad **JACKSON**



Taylor **KEISTER**



Dominique **LAPLANTE**



Jordan **MCCONNELL**



Dahlia **MCDANIEL**



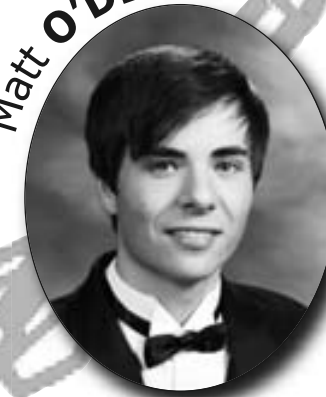
Sean **MCNEELY**



Kaitlyn **MOSS**



Matt **O'DELL**



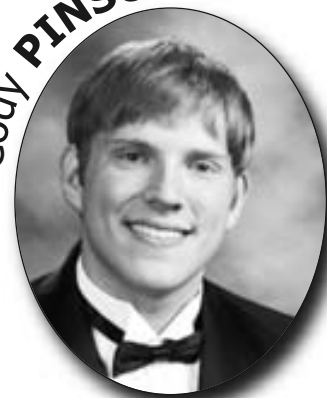
Ericka **PERRY**



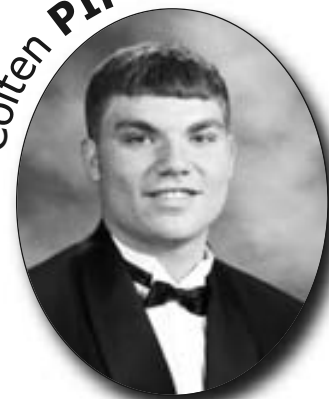
Kelsey **PIERCE**



Cody **PINSON**



Colten **PIPER**



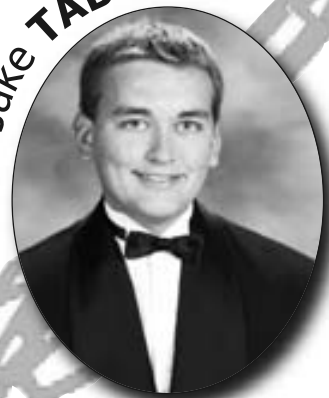
Tina **REYNOLDS**



Stacia **SNOW**



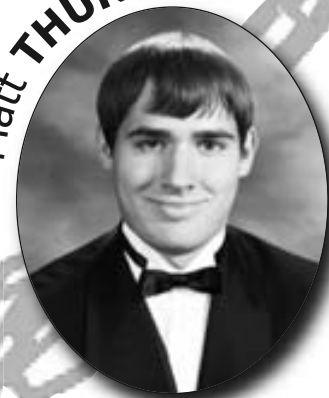
Jake **TABOR**



Joseph **TEDFORD**



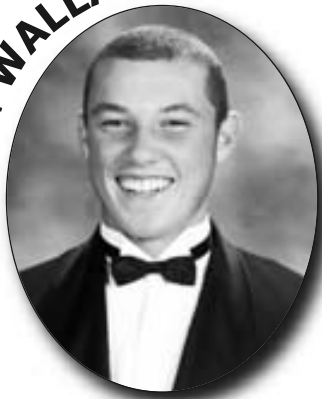
Matt **THURBY**



Jordan **THURMAN**



Devin **WALLACE**



Shannah **WILLIAMS**



Bryce **WILLIS**



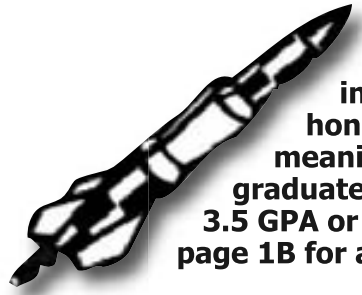
Aimee **WINDERS**



Jake **WOODS**

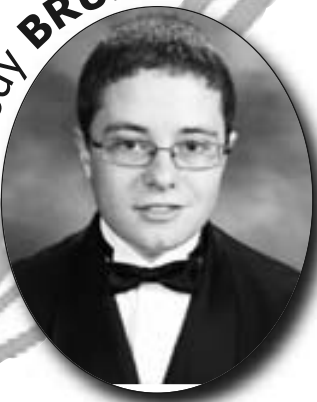


CLASS OF 2012

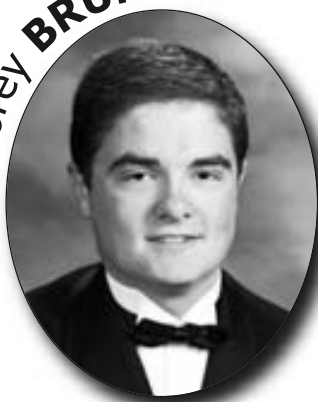


Rocket indicates honor graduates, meaning they graduated with a 3.5 GPA or better. See page 1B for all accolades.

Brody **BRUNS**



Corey **BRUNS**



Emily **BRUNS**



Stuart **BURNETTE**



Rain **CARROLL**



Jolene **COX**



Elliott **DAY**



Adam **DEBOE**



Ragon **DOSSETT**



Destiny **DUTTON**



Jessie **GREENWELL**



Logan **HARRIS**



William **HAYES**



Cortni **HEAD**



Dustin **HERNANDEZ**



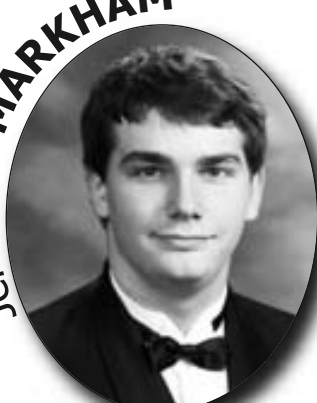
Sawyer **LARUE**



Jenna **LYNN**



Jeremiah **MARKHAM**



Mary **MATTINGLY**



Korey **MAYES**



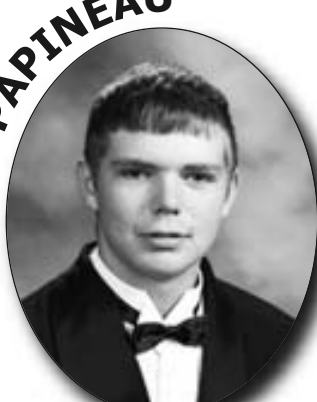
Jenna **ODOM**



Emily **OWEN**



Jacob **PAPINEAU**



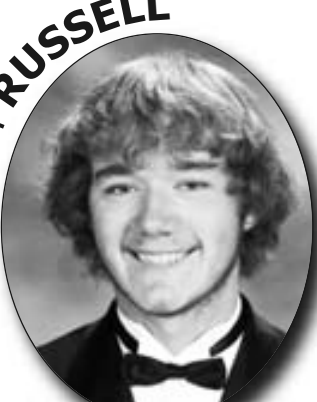
Matt **PENDRICK**



Kevin **PENN**



Austin **RUSSELL**



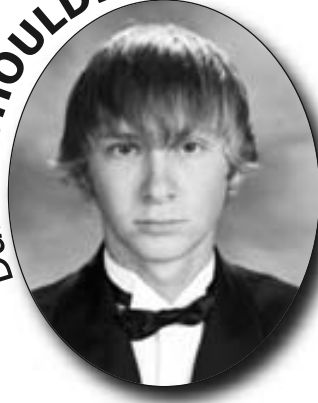
Emily **SHEWCRAFT**



Keaton **SHEWCRAFT**



Dalton **SHOULDERS**



Jameson **SMITH**



Jessica **TINSLEY**



Madison **TRAVIS**



Caitlin **TUCKER**



Jake **URBANOWSKI**



Taylor **VENABLE**



Charlie **YOUNG**



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Valedictorian: Jenna Lynn

VALEDICTORY SPEECH
I had trouble when first trying to write my speech. Until I realized that this isn't about me. It's about all of us together, as one whole class. I realized that all of you don't get the chance to come up here and speak, so I asked some of you, "What would you say if you were given this opportunity?"

Some wanted to reflect on the past years, Lauren Hughes says, "You don't realize how much you accomplish in 12 years until you get to the end and look back at everything." Stacia Snow wants to tell you, "The past 13 years we've all been together, we've built friendships. Just remember

that we won't be back together next August." Bryce Willis says, "I live for the nights I'll always remember with the friends I'll never forget."

Others wanted to give you advice to take with you in your futures. Tina Reynolds says, "Don't take life too serious or you'll never make it out alive." Michael Adams wants you all to be successful, and in the words of Jessica Tinsley, "The world's not ending, we're just taking over."

Emily Bruns quotes 1 Timothy: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

Some of you wanted to

share memories that you hope will never be forgotten. Jamie Atwell and Sawyer LaRue say, "Remember that one time we put pictures of ourselves ALL over the school? Oh wait...that was last week." Elliott Day remembers the mornings that he kept getting pulled over...IN THE SCHOOL PARKING LOT. Colten Piper remembers the time he gave his phone to Mrs. Quertermous and then made Bryce text it while it was on her desk. Devin Wallace remembers the time he sat outside the ISD room in protest for _____ and _____. Corey Berry would talk about the time she got tackled by a 200 pound boy on the sideline at a football game. I think we all learned to pay a bit more

attention after that. Nikki Conger will always remember our Advanced Biology class sophomore year.

I want to thank my family for always supporting me and being my rock. Thank you to teachers like Greg Hollamon, Kim Vince and Melissa Quertermous who encouraged my thirst for knowledge. Thank you to Howard Suggs for being someone that I could talk to about anything. Thank you to Kathy Harris and Stefanie Hardin for always being there to put a smile on my face. All of you have made a lasting impression on my life. And I want to say thank you to all of my classmates that are here with me tonight. Congratulations class of 2012!

About Jenna

Name... Jenna Katherine Lynn
Age... 17
Parents... Steve & Tammy Lynn
Favorite Memory... My niece Taylor being born.
Post-graduation plans... Attend Murray State University to major in athletic training.
Dream job... Athletic trainer for the Pittsburgh Steelers
Favorite school subject... Math
Favorite music... Drake
Favorite TV show... One Tree Hill
Person you would most like to meet (living or dead)... Ben Roethlisberger
What does being valedictorian mean to you... Being Valedictorian is everything I have wanted



to accomplish since middle school. It means being smart, dedicated and hard working.
Where would you like to be at 40... At 40, I would like to be settled down somewhere working as an athletic trainer for a big university and have a family.

Manage student loan debt without stress

METRO
Today's college graduates face numerous challenges. With the global economy still struggling, the job market for recent graduates is less than ideal. Competition for jobs is also heated, as high rates of unemployment have created a job market in which out-of-work yet experienced professionals are routinely competing over entry-level jobs with recent graduates, many of whom

have little or no experience in their chosen fields.

But the difficult job market is only part of the troubles recent graduates must face. Mounting debt is a major issue for many college grads. In Canada, for example, the average debt for a university graduate more than doubled between 1990 and 2000. By 2009, Canadian students' collective debt from the Canada Student Loan Program exceeded

\$13 billion for the first time in history. Those facing loan repayment while struggling to find a job should consider the following tips.

•Don't delay requests for help. Procrastination isn't a good approach to dealing with debt, whether that debt is from student loans, credit cards or personal loans. Recent graduates who cannot find work or who were laid off should contact their lenders right away and in-

quire about lowering or postponing monthly payments. It's never good to miss a payment, which will negatively impact an individual's credit rating and is almost certain to draw a financial penalty. If trouble is on the horizon, consult the lender as early as possible. The lender will likely grant a deferment or forbearance, neither of which will tarnish an individual's credit.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2012!

We salute you and your accomplishments and wish you continued success.



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Best wishes, graduates.

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SALUTING GRADUATES
CLASS OF 2012

 Zoie Black (Zoie)	 Corey Bruns	 Brody Bruns Valedictorian	 Emily Bruns
 Will Hayes	 Cody Pinson	 Matthew Pendrick	 Keaton Showcraft

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Congratulations Grads!

To all of our area graduates, we extend sincere best wishes for a happy and successful future.

 DeDe Hinton	 Kaitlyn Moss	 Jenna Lynn
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Congratulations to Jenna Lynn Recipient of the 2012 Charlotte Fowler Memorial Scholarship Award

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Valedictorian: Brody Bruns

VALEDICTORY SPEECH
Two little mice fell into a bucket of cream. The first mouse quickly gave up and drowned. The second mouse, he wouldn't quit. He struggled so hard that eventually he churned that cream into butter and crawled out."

For all of who didn't take motion picture history this year, that quote is from the opening scene of "Catch Me If You Can." I thought that this particular quote was fitting for tonight because every one of you sitting there is exactly like that second mouse. Four years ago you also fell into a bucket of cream; but you survived. You kept struggling, and now you get to reap the benefits. All of the homework, tests and endless World Civ projects have led

up to this one moment. And now it's all over. No more essays, no more confusing algebra equations and no more late nights spent trying to finish that last reading contract entry. It's finally time for us to graduate, and to me, it was all worth it.

It was worth it to be able to stand here and say that in 2012 we were here and we accomplished all of this. We can say that in 2012, we struggled against failure and somehow managed to reach the other end of the tunnel. We can say that in 2012, we started our lives not as adolescent students, but as the next generation of working Americans who hold our country's future in our hands.

The majority of our high

school career – the scholastic part of it at least – has been dedicated to obtaining a diploma. When we were entering high school as freshmen we were given information describing the different diplomas and how to earn them; allowing us to dream of the day when we would eventually be handed the slip of parchment that could open up so many doors in our future. You are now so very close to achieving the goal that your entire fours of high school were based around. But despite all f hte value that we give it, a diploma is merely a piece of paper with a few signatures and an official-looking seal. It doesn't mean anything. At least it doesn't without you. The only tangible part of that scrap of paper is the blood,

sweat and everything else that you have poured into it during the last four years. What makes that scrap of paper valuable is not the signatures or the seal; it is the labor with which you have attained that scrap of paper.

A week ago everyone here was asked was success was. Here, seated in that chair, wearing that blue robe and awaiting your diploma, you all seem pretty successful to me. You worked hard to be sitting where you are now. Every single one of you could have easily given up and taken an easier road. But no one here did., because that would have made you the first mouse, the one who died because it didn't have the will to fight. Everybody here is a survivor

About Brody

Name... Brody Bruns
Age... 17
Parents... Larry & Sue Bruns
Favorite Memory... First time I lost a tooth.
Post-graduation plans... Attend Western Kentucky University.
Dream job... Anything I can do happily and earn enough money to live contently.
Favorite school subject... History
Favorite music... Alternative rock
Favorite TV show... Psych
Person you would most like to meet (living or dead)... Sean Connery
What does being valedic-



torian mean to you...
That I was lucky enough to keep a 4.0 throughout high school.
Where would you like to be at 40... Married with 14 kids and two dogs.

Top 10 most popular college majors

METRO
Each year, college kids across the country face the difficult decision of choosing a major. Some schools allow students to choose a major at their own pace while others require students to pick a major freshman year.

Though capricious college kids are known to change their majors from time to time, according to the Princeton Review, a resource to help students, parents and educa-

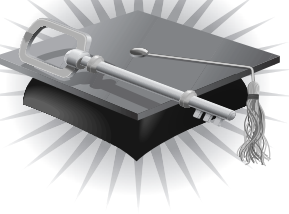
tors achieve the best results at every stage of their educational careers, the following 10 majors are the most popular among the nation's college students.

1. Business Administration and Management/Commerce
2. Psychology
3. Nursing
4. Biology/Biological Sciences
5. Education
6. English Language and Literature

7. Economics
8. Communications Studies/Speech Communication and Rhetoric
9. Political Science and Government
10. Computer and Information Sciences

Though these majors are popular, the Princeton Review notes they are not necessarily the majors that garner the most demand in the job market, particularly in the current economy. When choosing a major,

UNLOCK YOUR FUTURE



Your diploma is your key to a promising future. If you believe in yourself, then you are guaranteed to succeed!

Your hard work and dedication have gotten you where you are today. Be proud of yourself, graduates. We wish you all the best.

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CLASS OF 2012

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Madison Travis

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Congratulating our Graduate and the Class of 2012!

You've worked hard to make the grade, and now that diploma is the key to a bright and successful future.



Jameson Smith

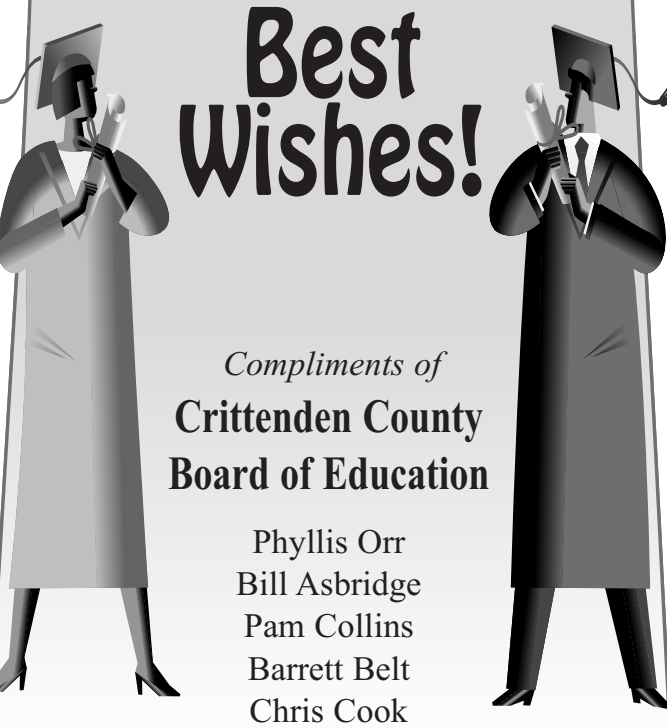
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Class of 2012

We applaud your success and extend our congratulations for your accomplishments.


Best Wishes!



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Barrett Belt
Chris Cook

Dr. Rachel Yarbrough, Superintendent




YOU DID IT!


Congratulations to our Class of 2012 graduates!
May you continue to achieve great success in all of your future endeavors.




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Valedictorian: Emily Shewcraft

VALEDICTORY SPEECH

I'd like to start off by saying how extremely honored I am to be standing up here today, although I'll admit that it feels very strange. You would think that after 13 years of school, I would feel ready to graduate, but standing here in my blue cap and gown now feels completely unnatural. I'm 17 years old, but when I think about leaving high school and stepping out into the "real world," I feel just like a little kid again. So, I don't exactly feel like I possess a vast amount of wisdom to share with you today. However, there are a few simple things I have come to learn in my days here at Crittenden County.

The first is that good friends are one of the most valuable assets you can have. Keep them close and you'll be just fine. Friends are there to make you laugh, to support you, and to keep you level-headed when you stress about writing your valedictorian speech. In our time here we've built several great friendships, so even though we're going out and meeting new people, making new friends, I urge you not to forget the ones you've left behind.


Next, never underestimate the

importance of being silly. High school hasn't always been easy. If you look back at it, there's been a lot going on: homework, tests, sports, clubs, after-school jobs. And now that we're all grown up, we're going to have even more responsibilities thrown at us. It will be easy to get bogged down. If you don't take a break every once in a while, it may all become too much to handle. So sing. Dance. Play. Go outside and blow bubbles or draw with sidewalk chalk. Have fun. Laugh.

Third, always look on the bright side of life. A common feeling among seniors is, "I can't wait to get out of here." I've said it myself. We're all so ready to graduate, so ready to leave this school or this town, so ready for the next part of our lives. But it saddens me to think that some people might look back at high school with only disdain. I'm not going to say that these will have been the best years of our lives, but try to look past the bad things and see the good. Remember the time spent with friends, the dances, the football or basketball or soccer or volleyball games, the sense of accomplishment you got after acing that test you

About Emily

Name... Emily Shewcraft
Age... 17
Parents... Edwin & Vanessa Shewcraft
Favorite Memory... Band competitions
Post-graduation plans... Attend Murray State University and major in biology.
Dream Job... Optometrist
Favorite School Subject... Math
Favorite Music... The Beatles
Favorite TV Show... Doctor Who
Person you would most like to meet (living or dead)... John Green (author)
What does being valedictorian mean to you... It means a lot of hard work




and dedication to reach a goal that I've had since I was young.
Where would you like to be at 40... I'd like to be settled down with a career that I love.

studied so hard for.

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to thank those who have always been there for me, always helped me, and always supported me: my family, my friends, my band, my church, my teachers and faculty, and you, my classmates. Without all of you, I wouldn't be standing

CONGRATULATIONS

MATT!!!



We are so proud of you, son, for your success and accomplishments at this early stage in your life. You have the ability to conquer anything you set your mind to. The Sky is the Limit! We are so thankful and blessed to have you for a son. You are such an excellent example for your younger sister, who loves you so much. Again, we are so proud of you! Best of luck at WKU!

We love you,
Mom, Dad and Madison

Way to go, Class of 2011,
for a job well done!

Planning early can make college affordable

METRO

Setting goals is often the first step to achieving your hopes and dreams for yourself and your family. Making a plan, however, is crucial to making those dreams a reality. This is especially true when it comes to a college education for your children. Starting a college savings plan when your children are young sets you on a path for success and can help you reduce the need for expensive student loans down the road. Establishing a college savings plan early and contributing to it often is the key to reducing, or even eliminating, student loan debt. According to the Project on Student Loan Debt, the average student-loan debt increased 24 percent to \$23,200 in 2008, up from \$18,650 in 2004.

According to FinAid.org, parents who put aside just \$50 per month from the time their child is born can grow a nest egg of more than \$20,000 by the time that child turns 18, assuming a 7 percent return on investment. Increasing those contributions to \$100 per month can yield more than \$43,000.

While there are a number of college savings vehicles to choose from, savers should keep in mind that a 529 plan is a tax-free and, in some cases, state tax-deductible option. Operated by a state or educational institution, a 529 plan is an education savings plan designed to provide families with an easy way to save. Most offer online enrollment with minimal initial investment, as low as \$25. Additionally, contributions can be made by more than just a child's parents. Anyone can contribute to an account or open one on behalf of a child.

Many states offer a 529 plan and each state's plan is different. Morningstar, a leading provider of investment research, provides analysis on the majority of the nation's 529 plans and rates them based on a variety of key factors. Additional sources for information on 529 plans are SavingForCollege.com as well as CollegeSavings.org.

An example of a top-rated Morningstar 529 plan is CollegeAdvantage, Ohio's college savings plan. Account owners can contribute to a CollegeAdvantage account for as little as \$25 and accounts are available to any U.S. resident and funds can be used at any college in the country.

For more information about CollegeAdvantage, or to start saving with Ohio's 529 plan today, visit www.collegeadvantage.com.




With a good education no dream is too big, nor goal too high, so put on your wings and reach for the sky.

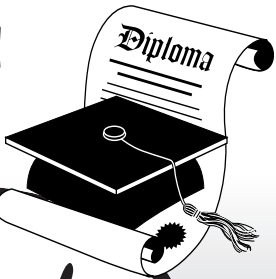
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Congratulations

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Nikki Conger

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