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2025

# Garrett Graduation 2025

The Garrett Clipper



# Garrett names top two grads

Burns is valedictorian, Woods is salutatorian

GARRETT — Adam Burns and Camdyn Woods were named Garrett High School's top two seniors, based on grade point average.

Valedictorian Burns is the son of Diane Brewer and Chad Burns.

Following graduation from Garrett, Burns will be training in flight school

while serving in cyber defense with the National Air Guard, combining aviation skills with national security service.

Salutatorian Woods is the son of Holly Woods-Wengard and Chris Wengard.

He plans to attend Huntington University to double major in Missions and Pastoral Studies, with the goal of doing great things for Him.

Burns and Woods will present speeches during graduation exercises at 8 p.m. on Friday, May 30 in the Paul Bateman Gym.

A student-led baccalaureate service will be held in the Performing Center at 6:30 p.m. that evening.



Adam Burns



Camdyn Woods

## From the Superintendent

Dear Graduating Seniors,

Congratulations!!! Graduation is rapidly approaching and the next chapter in your bright future is about to begin. I am hopeful that your years

at Garrett have been both filled with a commitment to academic excellence and character development. Please cherish your last few days at Garrett and remember the difference that

Garrett High School, Garrett Middle School and JE Ober Elementary had on your life.

Upon receiving your diploma on May 30th, please remember the strong foundation and hard work

that you have developed. Whether you chose to further your education, enter the workforce, or enlist in the military, your strength and willingness to persevere will equip you to make a difference in our world. Embrace all the moments and cherish the exciting memories of graduating from Garrett High School.

As you begin a new journey, I challenge you to first thank the people

who have helped you get to this point in your life. I then challenge to go make a difference in our world. The world has changed immensely in the last 18 years, and I encourage you to go make a lasting positive difference in the lives of people all around you.

Congratulations Class of 2025!

*Dan Durrwachter*  
Superintendent

Garrett-Keyser-Butler CSD



**Garrett High School  
Class of 2025**

**MILLER'S**



Jenny Ernsberger  
jernsberger@kpcmedia.com  
General Manager

Ann Saggars  
asaggars@kpcmedia.com  
Print & Design Manager

Stevie Lockridge  
slockridge@kpcmedia.com  
Special Sections Graphic Designer

Sue Carpenter  
scarpenter@kpcmedia.com  
Special Sections Editor

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES  
Mitch Anderson  
Michele Trowbridge  
Machele Waid

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# From the Principal

To the Class of 2025:

Congratulations for completing local and state requirements to earn a high school diploma and graduate from Garrett High School.

Many of you, in the Class of 2025, are champions and that is something I will always remember about your senior year.

Always remember the

challenge to “Find Your Why” and use that reason to push you through tough times. I wish you happiness and success in the future.

God’s blessings of grace, mercy, and wisdom to continue to “Be the One”.

We are Garrett!

*Educationally yours,  
Matthew A. Smith  
Principal, Garrett High  
School*

# From the Mayor

To The Class of Garrett High School 2025

This is quite an accomplishment!

We are so very proud of you!

As you navigate through the years in life there will be many choices to be made. Do the best that you can do with those choices and

make our world an even better place. Be a part of that change!

To each and every one of the graduates, my heartfelt congratulations!

This is a job well done and well deserved.

*Sincerely,  
Mayor Todd Fandt  
City of Garrett*

# Congratulations Class of 2025

Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

When you receive your diplomas on May 30, your classmates and family members will be right there with you, cheering your many accomplishments.

In recognition of commencement, Garrett High School’s 141st graduating class is being congratulated by several businesses, merchants, family and supporters in this special edition of The Garrett Clipper.

Seniors were asked to share memories, plans and goals for the future, and to list honors he or

she has received while at Garrett High School. They were also asked to identify specific teachers who were impactful on their high school careers, and to offer opinions about the education they received at Garrett.

We hope this edition will serve as a keepsake for the seniors and their families. Wishing happiness and success to all of the Garrett graduates.

May God bless you in all of your endeavors

*Sue Carpenter  
Jeff Jones  
The Garrett Clipper  
KPC Media*



CONTRIBUTED

## GHS Class of 2025 officers

Officers for the Garrett High School Class of 2025, from left are treasurer Caleb Lemen, president Camdyn Woods, vice president Madison Freeze and secretary Myah Haiflich.

# Class of 2025 Graduates!

## Liberty Rose Badger

Lilly Rose Badger is the daughter of John and Louise Badger.

Future goals are to pursue a career in photography with a personal goal to find a career she is happy in.

Badger was a wrestling manager for three years, played softball two years, and was a baseball manager for one year.

She earned a cord for completing her early college path, along with a three-year award for being a wrestling manager.

She rates her education at 7/10.

“Not a lot of teachers are communicating with students on how to do assignments, but other than that, it is a really good place to go to school!

“I believe that the early college classes are strong and helpful because if you go to college, it can help you go

in with not only multiple credits, but it will also help you pay less tuition,” said Badger.

She listed three teachers who made significant contributions to her education — Mark Claxton, Monica Cone and Alexandria Gottfried.

“They were there for me to help me with school-work and to just be there for me when times were rough. They were also super motivating to keep striving and to be the best student I could be,” she said.

Badger’s memorable moment was being on the first inaugural girls wrestling team, along with being the first girls wrestling sectional champions at Garrett High School.

She would like to be married to her future husband and to start a family, along with her dream job of becoming a photographer, she said of her future.

## Cassidy Kristina Barden

Cassidy Kristina Barden is the daughter of Holly Lash and Michael Lash.

Following graduation, she plans to attend Ivy Tech College and pursue child education with a goal to have her own classroom.

Barden also took a culinary class at Impact Institute during her junior year.

She rates her education at Garrett 7/10. She really enjoyed the academy through freshman-junior year.

“I loved the environment and learning style,” she said.

Teacher Victor Hammond made a significant impact on her education.

“Hanging out with friends has been memorable,” said Barden.

Ten years from now, she hopes to be a teacher and be surrounded by the people

**SEE GRADUATES, Page 5**



# GARRETT



Aguire, Jonathan



Anderson, Alexis



Badger, Liberty



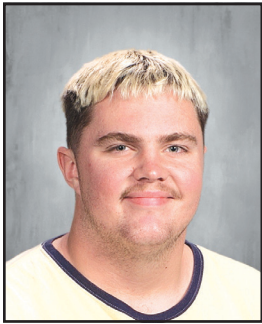
Baker, Ethan



Baker, Kameron



Baker, Tristin



Baldwin, Owen



Balzer, Mason



Barden, Cassidy



Barker, LaTicia



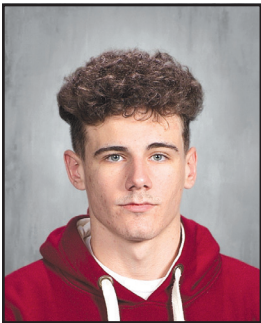
Barrett, Brian



Baughman, Zoey



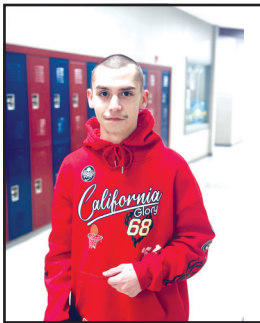
Birt, Ava



Bowser, Holden



Brown, Connor



Brown, Devin



Burgo, Zapphara



Burns, Adam



Byers, Grant



Candebat, Hunter



Carlson, Abigail



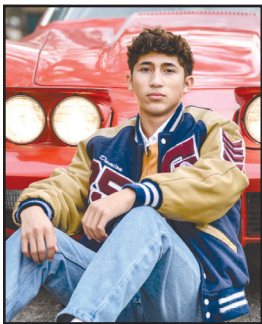
Carteaux, Kaydence



Cason, Eric



Castillo, Marisol



Castro, Damion



Chaney, Levi



Clingan, Riley



Colgan, Dayne



Davis, Jordan



Davis, MaKell



# GRADUATES

## FROM PAGE 3

she loves most.

### LaTicia Sue Barker

LaTicia Sue Barker is the daughter of Rachel Harris and stepfather Jeremy Harris.

She plans to attend the University of Saint Francis and earn a BSN.

"I want to have enough money so my future family will never have to worry about money issues," she said of her future.

Barker has been active on the cheer team.

She earned all A's and a very few B's throughout high school.

"Of all the many schools I have been to, I would say Garrett is the best education-wise and community-wise as well. All the teachers here help you to their best abilities. The counselors always try to put you in a class they believe will fit you best, and if you would like to try something new, they are always helpful," said Barker.

Taking speech class was extremely helpful and so was ENGL 111, both college classes, because now, she is saving money for school and has already taken these courses.

"Mr. (Mark) Claxton has always been there for me. Even when, personally, life got hard, he would give me reasonable extensions and always helped me with my work so I would be able to do the best I can," she said.

"Making all the amazing friends has been memorable," she added.

Ten years from now, she hopes to be living in South Carolina in a beach house with her family.

### Zoey Nevada Baughman

Zoey Nevada Baughman is the daughter of Jovita Millhouse and Tyler Baughman.

Future plans are to attend Ivy Tech for Photography/Graphic Design.

Her future goal is to live, explore, and meet people.

She also plans to create her own business and be inspirational while capturing the beauty of the world.

She rates her education 4/10.

"I learned nothing too important. I am grateful for the photography skills/marketing skills. Other than that, I just learned basic math skills, history lessons, and how to use English properly. Everything to be a good worker for the system was also taught," said Baughman.

The dual credit classes for college are very helpful, she added.

She credits instructor Jonelle Furnish for teaching her how to properly use English; she makes learning fun. Teacher Monica Cone is patient and gives doable work, she adds.

Her most memorable high school moment will probably be graduation, Baughman said.

She hopes to be living in Germany 10 years from now.

### Holden Kristopher Bowser

Holden Kristopher Bowser is the son of Taylor and Todd Bowser.

He plans to go to college and study marketing.

"I hope to be successful in whatever field I end up going into, I hope to excel in college and work. My biggest personal goal is to start a family," said Bowser.

He has been active in track and cross country at Garrett.

"I don't have anything to compare it to, but I feel as though it is okay," Bowser said of his education.

"Art and college classes are helpful. Art to me is one of the most important classes in school that students can learn skills which they can't learn from in other classes (creativity, critical thinking, observation). College classes cover a lot of those same qualities, and they accelerate our future education," he adds.

Mallory Clifford, as a track coach and guidance counselor, always pushed him in the right direction

and was honest with him and very helpful.

"I make poor decisions, but I'd probably make a lot more if she wasn't there.

"Truthfully, every teacher has positively impacted me in one way or another, and I'm very grateful for everyone at Garrett," said Bowser.

He is looking forward to graduating.

Ten years from now, he hopes to be retired, sitting on a beach with a beautiful family, living a stress-free life.

"That will 1,000% not be the case!" he adds.

### Joshua Robert Bozzi

Joshua Robert Bozzi is the son of Shauntel Brooks and Eric Bozzi.

He is looking for appren-

ticeships in trades following graduation.

His career goal is to make six figures and travel.

Bozzi has been active in show choir, plays and musicals at Garrett.

"It's rough. Most of the time, easy times are with friends and trusted teachers.

Impact and CDP are helpful," he said.

Instructors Sandra Tom, Mark Claxton, Jen Fast, and Kelly Gomes were significant contributors to his education.

Writing in the NHS book was memorable, he adds.

Raising kids and having a family are what he hopes to be doing ten years from now.

### Connor Winslow Brown

Connor Winslow Brown

is the son of Lindsay Brown and David Brown

He will be attending DePauw University following graduation.

"I plan to be open minded and to always learn," he said of his future.

Brown has been active in NHS, Key Club, cross country, track, FCA, Environmental Club, science and math teams.

He lists several awards he has received while at GHS.

- Tri-Kappa award freshman year
- Academy student of the year freshman year
- Career Development Program student of the year freshman year
- Mathematics student of

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CONGRATULATIONS

Caleb Lemen,  
Lane Kennedy,  
Brayson Heltsley,  
Chase Nickels,  
David Kueber  
and the Class of 2025!

We are proud of you!

# Garrett Bowl

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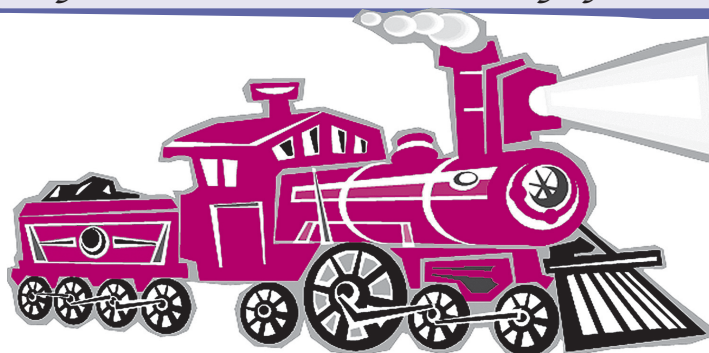
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## Congratulations to the Class of 2025!

We wish you the best as  
you pursue the next chapter in your life.  
Your hometown will always be here for you!  
Mayor Todd Fiandt & the City of Garrett





GARRETT



DeKoninck, Dylan



Delacruz, Aliyah



DeLong, Hannah



Demske, Carter



DePew, Mason



Dirksen, Mahlan



Earl, Nathaniel



Edsall, Rylea



Faylor, John



Ford, Conner



Fortier, Abbey



Freed, Isaac



Freeze, Madison



Fuentes, Royce



Gael, Jaimelee



Getts, Luke



Gilbert, Ayla



Gomez-Diaz, Jovany



Grim, Tyler



Gustin, Hayden



Haaser, Emma



Haiflich, Myah



Haney, Daniel



Harrel, Chloe



Harter, Chloe



Healy, Chloe



Hefty, Calder



Heimert-Claypool, Steven



Helmkamp, Ava



Heltsley, Brayson



# GRADUATES

## FROM PAGE 5

the year freshman year

- Tri-Kappa award sophomore year
- Environmental science Presentation award sophomore year
- Academy sophomore of the year English department
- Tri-Kappa academic award junior year
- Science team academic award junior year
- Math team academic award
- Globe Environmental science award junior year

"Garrett is great; I was able to learn and explore the things I wanted, and I can relate them to life outside of school," Brown said of his education.

"The Career Development Classes have given me lifelong skills between drafting and design, welding and woodworking," he adds.

Bill Thomas, Victor Hammond, Shannon Swonger, Bryan Iddings and Jason Wiley all helped him learn and develop lifelong skills.

Memorial moments include the globe nationals trip.

He hopes to have a successful career and travel looking forward 10 years.

## Zapphora Dy-Ann Burgo

Zapphora Dy-Ann Burgo is the daughter of Nicole Coffey and Justin Burgo.

She plans to attend Ivy Tech and pursue Elementary Education.

Her goal is become a successful individual in life and work.

Burgo was active in winter guard at Garrett.

"Shannon Swonger has been someone I could go to for anything; whether it be school related or home related, she has always been there for me, and I know that I can always rely on her for anything and everything."

"Meeting my current friends and finding my role in life has been memorable," she said of high school.

"I hope ten years from now to be a teacher and

have a family of my own," Burgo said.

## Adam Blake Burns

Adam Blake Burns is the son of Diann Brewer and Chad Burns.

He will be pursuing a degree in Professional Flight through Purdue University.

Burns intends on becoming a pilot and flying for the United State Air Force and then transitioning later in life to a commercial aircraft pilot.

While at Garrett, he was a part of the science team and the Indiana Air National Guard.

He received several awards, but the one that meant the most to him was the Tri-Kappa Excellence in Science award as a junior.

"Mr. (Dustin) Sewelin made the most impact on my education by not only teaching me the science courses he offered but also by going out of his way to teach and lab any extra topics I found interesting," said Burns.

"The most memorable I had at GHS was the day I got to walk and talk with a previous Garrett graduate, Dr. (Hudson) Freeze," he adds.

"I hope 10 years from now to be ripping across the sky in the Air Force's most advanced aircraft," he said.

## Abigail Marie Carlson

Abigail Marie Carlson is the daughter of Jessica and Marcus Carlson.

She will be attending Purdue University in West Lafayette to study political science.

"I have a passion for serving others and would like to do so through public service. I hope to one day work with and in a community and government organizations to advocate for citizens' needs and bring positive changes to people's lives. Ultimately, I hope to serve in Congress one day," she said of her future.

She has been active in pep band, concert band, marching band, Key Club, Salty Surveyors and National Honor. Society.

Carlson received the Respect Team 360 award.

"I feel like Garrett has prepared me for college well," she said of her education. "I was grateful to have the teachers that I did, which allowed me to have a free mind and free thoughts."

"I believe the ICC, known as the Academy, that was dismantled in 2024, gave me exemplary educational experiences. I would like to see expanded interdisciplinary learning," she added.

The first Garrett teacher who made significant contributions to her education is Shannon Swonger.

"Since having her in freshman year every single class, I've always left the block knowing more and

asking more questions. She's been the best English teacher I have had and found a very good balance of fun and work."

"The next Garrett teacher that made a significant contribution to my education was Mr. Hettinger. Since having him eighth grade year, he has helped me learn to be an excellent leader and strive to be the best that I can each day."

"The last teacher that has contributed to my education has been Miss Burgess. Ever since having her this year, I've been able to walk into the library and rant about things going on in the world while being surrounded by books and literature. I always look

forward to telling her about my English classes and what books we are reading and what projects I was doing," Carlson said.

Her most memorable moment at GHS was being the first Railroader Regiment group to qualify for state finals in 2023.

"It was a significant moment for our school, and I felt so special to be conducting on Lucas Oil Stadium and leading with the Garrett name," Carlson said.

"I hope in 10 years that I'm using my experience, knowledge and inspiration to find areas in our society where there needs to be change and work to make

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**Congrats to the  
Graduating Class of 2025!**

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# All The Best!

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**CARTER DEMSKE, ROYCE FUENTES,**  
**and NATE WELLS**  
**and the CLASS OF 2025**

**Garrett**  
COUNTRY CLUB

**garrettcc.com**



GARRETT



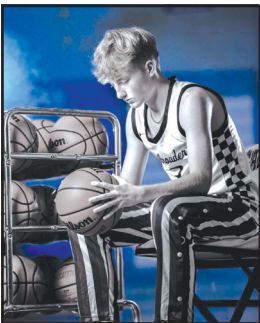
Hill, Kira



Hixson, Delaeni



Hogle, Lois



Hoover, Jakob



Hug, Victoria



Hutton, Kennedy



Isley, Raegan



Johnson, Alivia



Kashmer, Macy



Kelham, Andrew



Kelham, Autumn



Kelham, Kashen



Kennedy, Lane



King, Alex



Kirby, Wyatt



Klinger, Tres



Kretler, Kylie



Kueber, David



Lacey, Grace



Leighty, Rhianna



Leland, Jenifer



Lemen, Caleb



Leon, Sunnie



Lilly, Cyann



Maenle, Elijah



Maloley, Brayden



Mathews, Aliya



Miller, Shyanna



Minnihch, Corbyn



Mitchell, Gavyn



GRADUATES

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the world a better place. I hope to use my power and things in my control to help others.

“Success, for me, is not measured solely by professional achievements, but by relationships; I build on the impact I have on my community. Having traveled both within the US and internationally, I appreciate culture and the importance of fostering understanding among people with different backgrounds. I am committed to promoting peace and prosperity by engaging in meaningful conversations, advocating for justice, and supporting those in need,” said Carlson.

Kaydence Lynn Carteaux

Kaydence Lynn Carteaux is the daughter of Loretta Vie.

After graduation, she

plans to pursue a major in sociology at Purdue Fort Wayne with a goal to graduate from college.

She is currently a part of Key Club, and was in Salty Surveyors, and was on the softball team for four years and volleyball for two.

“The ICC Academy was a unique program that allowed for students to succeed through finding genuine interests in the subjects they are being taught. This was made possible by the teachers and their creativity,” said Carteaux.

“I have had multiple teachers make significant contributions to my education. This includes Mrs. Susan Everetts, Mr. Victor Hammond, Mr. Anthony Thomas, and Mrs. Shannon Swonger. They have genuine care for their students, and they can transform a classroom into a safe space,” she said.

Sophomore year, Last Blast was her most memorable moment at GHS.

“The dunk tank was

really fun, and the food was good as always.”

Eric Eugene Cason

Eric Eugene Cason is the son of Haley Koble.

Following graduation, he plans to start working in the DeKalb County Jail.

“My personal goal is to graduate high school. When I graduate from high school, my plan is to start working in the jail until I am of age to become a police officer. Going into law enforcement has always been my goal growing up,” Cason said.

He has been busy working at Culver’s for a little over four years, and has also kept busy with his internship.

During his junior year, he took criminal justice at Impact Institute and received his jailer’s certificate, which allows him to work at any jail in the State of Indiana.

“I think the overall rate of my education at Garrett is good. I have not really had an issue with any of my education, and I also think

the teachers here do a nice job as far as being willing to help when you ask; that also plays a decent part in a student’s education.

“I have also had really good counselors throughout high school that have been able to help me figure out what classes I need to take and make sure that I have enough credits,” he adds.

“I think all the college classes that can be taken throughout high school are very helpful, and they allow students to earn college credits while in high school, so they do not have as many classes to take when they go to college. I also think the work-based learning program is a great program because I have been in that class all year, and it allows me to leave for a little over half the day to go to my internship, get the experience, and see things firsthand since it is something that I want to do when I graduate.

“Mallory Clifford and Erin Howard (there are

others, too), have made significant contributions to my education, not only throughout high school, but also in middle school because they were my teachers in eighth grade. Now, they are counselors in high school. I feel like I can go to them if I have any questions about anything,” he adds.

“I think the football games are probably the most memorable moment throughout high school, especially my senior year. I used to not really go to the high school football games, but during my senior year, I went to almost all the games,” Cason said.

He hopes to be in law enforcement achieving his career goals and living on his own while being able to buy his own house in the next ten years.

Marisol Susana Castillo

Marisol Susana Castillo is the daughter of Patricia Castillo and Delmer Gard.

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**THE FUTURE BELONGS TO YOU!**

**Congratulations Class of 2025!**

**AUBURN ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

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GARRETT



Monroe, Morgan



Moody, Emmah



Mowery, Aliviah



Muzzillo, Jade



Nichols, Julian



Nickels, Chase



Nodine, London



Novac, Adelina



Nusbaum, Xavier



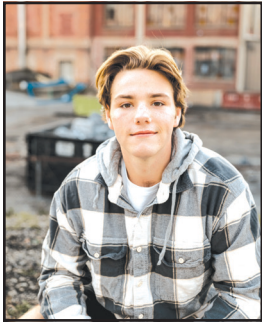
O'Connor, Alli



Plessinger, Alana



Raske, Breannah



Ratcliffe, Easton



Ream, Brayden



Reed, Parker



Reinhold, Johnathan



Reinoehl, Adalynn



Restle, Korbin



Ritchie, Jonathon



Robertson, Brayden



Romanetz, Findley



Routsong, Jaxton



Rowe, Cameran



Rowe, Mackenzie



Ruble, Camren



Sanchez, Daniel



Secrest, Ava



Short, Tristan



Sierra, Alexa



Simmons, Layla



# GRADUATES

## FROM PAGE 9

She plans to continue her employment, live a comfortable life and study cosmetology following graduation.

Castillo has been active in show choir and concert choir.

She received the GRIT award for the Performing Arts Department and Outstanding Alto Award for choir.

"I rate my education at Garrett a 9/10. Every school has its own problems and mishaps, and Garrett is no exception. However, I learned many important things that will help me in my future. Each teacher I had was excellent and had an eagerness to help anyone with questions. Garrett High School is a wonderful place to learn and grow in," she said.

"Jennifer Fast helped me grow my relationships with people and get me out of my shell when I first came to Garrett, not to mention the many ways she helped my vocal progress!

"Emilia Shipe has helped me grow my artistic talent to what it is now. I have sold a few pieces of my artwork because of the help and dedication Mrs. Shipe showed me.

"Mark Claxton has been a wonderful teacher and has helped me to see the world in a different light. I had many wonderful memories in his class and learned a lot about the history of Indiana and Garrett alike.

"Dustin Sewelin — amazing teacher, and equally funny. I also had amazing memories in his class. I learned a lot of cool things about the science behind things and why things happen the way they do. Easily had been one of my favorite teachers I had," she said of her teachers.

"Each teacher listed was always there to help and assist whenever I needed, especially when I had my own problems that I needed a different perspective for."

Her first show choir performance was memorable.

"We had put in a lot of work and effort to get a show together, and it was my first experience with how a show choir worked. I made many fond memories with a lot of friends. Basically, my whole show choir career at Garrett was my most memorable moment I had," Castillo said.

Ten years from now she would like to have her own house with a husband and her three cats.

"I would like to be living comfortably without much struggle. I would also like to take my mom to see the Northern Lights like she always wanted to. Perhaps I may start my own business when I study cosmetology."

## Elliot Thomas Crespo

Elliot Thomas Crespo is the son of Lisa Crespo and Robert Crespo

He plans to go to college for business with a goal to have good grades.

Crespo was a middle school basketball manager.

He rates his education at Garrett at 9/10.

He enjoyed lifting in weights class.

## MaKell Marie Davis

MaKell Marie Davis is the daughter of William Davis.

She will be taking a gap year before going to college to be a veterinarian.

"I hope to make a good life for myself," she said of her future.

"I would rate my education here at Garrett a 10/10. The teachers and staff and everyone here are here to help you graduate. They care more about you and how you're doing than what kind of sport you play," said Davis.

"I love work-based learning; I think it's fun and gives us a lot of opportunities," she added.

"The one teacher that has really made a difference was Mrs. Ice, but she is no longer here. Mrs. Johnson has also been a big part of my life since I had her for a few years when we did the

LLC," she said.

"When my friends and I would sit on the stairs by the bathrooms during lunch was memorable. We would just sit and talk and enjoy having that time to see each other," she recalls.

Ten years from now, she hopes to be veterinarian and that be somewhere in the world doing amazing things with her specialty.

"I hope I have a beautiful house, lots of friends, a beautiful family, and lots of animals," she said of her future.

## Mahlan Halstead Dirksen

Mahlan Halstead Dirksen is the son of Adam and Adrienne Dirksen.

He will attend Purdue University in Fort Wayne for marketing.

Ten percent of projects done for his media business are for charitable causes (and for free).

He has been active in Sources of Strength, NHS, Salty Surveyors, Environmental Club, Cyber Patriots, soccer and track.

Awards he received include Ivy Tech Junior of the Year, CSA Scholarship Recipient, and Doerner Scholarship Recipient.

"Specifically, for my education at Garrett High School, I would rate 6/10. Garrett focuses very highly on CDP classes/education. This means less resources available for college-bound people.

"Working with the CDP and specifically Mr. Schoon led me to many job opportunities and internships. I wouldn't have the success that I have had without the CDP. However, I believe that adding a college pathway would have made a good number of students' education more valuable," he said.

He named several educators for contributing to his education.

"Mr. Schoon connected me with many real-world companies. Mrs. Kennedy supported me and helped me navigate real-world situations. Mr. Sewelin

and Mr. Stevens taught me complex problem solving. Mr. Claxton made me think about life. Everyone contributed to me growing as not only a student, but also as a person," Dirksen said.

"Winning 'capture the flag' and everyone carrying me was quite memorable," he recalls.

Ten years from now, his goal is to continue to build his business, get married, and give back.

## Hannah Rhea DeLong

Hannah Rhea DeLong is the daughter of Erin Reynolds and Ben DeLong.

She plans on starting in a salon with her cosmetology license.

DeLong's goal is to become a successful cosmetologist or work with children who are diagnosed with a brain condition called Hydrocephalus.

While at Garrett, she participated in cheerleading and is a member of the National Honor Society.

DeLong earned a Tri Kappa award and two varsity letters.

She rates Garrett at 10/10 because she was in the academy 3/4 years of her high school career and received a lot of information and loved her experience in that program.

"The program that helped me most in my high school years but is sadly not a program anymore was the ICC Academy. I went into it my freshman year, and it shaped me into who I am today," said DeLong.

She lists Shannon Swonger, Victor Hammond, Bryan Iddings and Tony Thomas for helping her become the person she is today.

Her most memorable moment at GHS was winning Snowcoming and Riley Queen.

She hopes to be a successful cosmetologist or to be working with patients that have Hydrocephalus in the future.

## Nathaniel Earl

Nathaniel Earl is the son of Susan Earl.

He plans to work following graduation and get things done.

He rates Garrett 10/10..

Earl was active in show choir and named teacher Jennifer Fast as significant in his education.

"It is great to be at GHS," he said.

He hopes to have his own family in the coming years.

## John Edward Faylor

John Edward Faylor is the son of Dan Faylor and Caroline Faylor.

He plans to major in Design Engineering Technology at Trine University and to enter a career he can enjoy in a field that he likes.

He has been a member of the Key Club

"I rate the school very high: 9/10. I've greatly enjoyed my time at school, but some subjects could stand to be expanded/improved on," said Faylor.

"I've found the CDP to be very fun and helpful for preparing me for college and career and would love to see it expanded even further, especially with more dual credit classes.

"All my teachers have been great, but especially Mr. Wiley, Mr. Claxton, and Mrs. Furnish for always encouraging me and allowing me to learn in my own way," he adds.

"Any of the projects from my construction and design classes were memorable, but one that stands out in particular is building a scale model of a house framing in Mr. Kozmoski's construction intro class."

## Madison Olivia Freeze

Madison Olivia Freeze is the daughter of Jamie and Matt Freeze.

She plans to major in business at Ball State University with plans to become a lawyer after graduating from BSU.

She participated in volleyball, basketball, softball and track.

Freeze was awarded Academic Award

underclassman of the year;

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GARRETT



Skelly, Parker



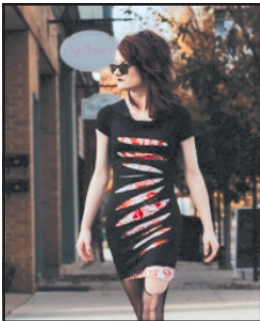
Slaughter, Wynter



Swank, Christina



Terwilliger, Joshua



Thomas, Krystana



VanWagner, Noah



Vogel, Tyler



Warakai, Christopher



Wells, Jonah



Wells, Nate



Werkheiser, Landen



Wieser, Adrian



Wilson, Randianna



Woods, Camdyn



Work, Adelynn



Wright, Owen



Yahne, Sullivan



York, Carlee



York, Evan



Zollman, Madison



Zuehsow, Caden



Congratulations

GRADUATE



# GRADUATES

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The Alpha Chi Chapter of Tri Kappa; Dream Team; 360 Awards finalist; Sportsmanship Award; Technical Certificate in Business Administration; and Certificate in Business Administration.

She found teachers Katie Treesh, Amanda Ferguson, Monica Cone, Sandra Tom, Davis Stevens, and Emilia Shipe extremely influential.

"My most memorable moment at GHS will be when my team wins Senior Assassin," she said.

Ten years from now she hopes to be happily married with kids and pursuing her law dreams.

## Jaimelee Renee Gael

Jaimelee Renee Gael is the daughter of John Gael and Jennifer Gael.

She will be going to PFW for forensic anthropology and working her way through college to support herself.

"My goal is to be a forensic anthropologist; it's been an aspiration of mine since I was a little girl," she said.

Gael has participated in Salty Surveyors, Academic Team and Key Club and also in GLOBE, a geoscience competition run by NASA that won an award of excellence.

"My education at Garrett has been a difficult journey. I have truly appreciated my time at Garrett. I truly wish kids could find the passion to learn; I believe that is what caused me to struggle as well," Gael said.

"I loved when we had the Academy at Garrett; it really suited my learning style. I love learning information, and I have so much pride in how fast I can take in information.

"Teachers that have made a significant contribution to my education and who I am are easily Mr. Claxton, Mr. Hammond, Mrs. Swonger, and Mrs. Furnish," she adds.

Her most memorable moment at GHS was the ride home from the D.C. field

trip in 2024 when she and Tristin were belly-laughing so hard in Ohio; they were crying from how badly their stomachs hurt from laughing at the memories made on the trip.

"My desire in ten years is to be in Nashville and have made a name for myself in my research; I hope I will be traveling across the world to study remains. I wish I will be bringing identities back to erased people," Gael said.

## Luke Allen Getts

Luke Allen Getts is the son of Nathan Getts and Crystal Smith

Getts plans to attend Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne with a goal to one day own his own business.

He has been active on the Railroader track team.

Getts said teachers Dustin Sewelin, Sandra Tom, Jacob Swartz and Melissa Burgess contributed to his education.

## Tyler Austin Grim

Tyler Austin Grim is the son of Samantha Langer and Tyler Langer.

He plans to get a full-time job after graduation and plans to eventually be a therapist and a bladesmith.

Grim has been a member of Encore Show choir.

He credits teacher Jonelle Furnish for contributing to his education.

"Going to state was memorable," he recalls.

## Emma Sue Haaser

Emma Sue Haaser is the daughter of Tracy Haaser and Greg Haaser.

She plans to work in a salon as a nail technician, with a goal to be successful in her career.

Haaser has been active in marching band and cheerleading, for which she won a sportsmanship award.

She rates Garrett at 6/10 for regular classes.

"I loved the academy; it was an amazing environment and way of learning. I also love the marching band program. I hope in the future the marching band program gets the funding, support, and attention that it

deserves.

"All the marchers and Mr. Hettinger work so incredibly hard all summer and year to do what they love. I hope the school board doesn't forget about it," she said.

Teacher Victor Hammond was inspirational teacher and a good person to be around, Haaser said.

Her memorable moment was going to state with the marching band and going to Disney World with the cheer team.

"I hope I am still a nail technician surrounded by my favorite people," she said of the next 10 years.

## Myah Lynnlee Haiflich

Myah Lynnlee Haiflich is the daughter of Brianne Haiflich and Josh Haiflich.

She plans on furthering her education at a community college for International Relations and Public Affairs.

Her career goal is to become a U.S. Ambassador before age 30 and travel the country.

Haiflich has been active in National Honor Society, Student Council, Show Choir, Environmental Club, Class Officer, Prom Committee and Garrett

Claus.

She rates Garrett as a 10/10.

"I believe the teaching program and classes for the student pathway are very strong and helpful because they give students a clear direction for their future goals. The classes provide useful skills and knowledge that can be applied in real-life situations. Also, the program offers support and guidance, which helps students stay motivated and confident in their learning journey.

"Mrs. Swonger has made a big difference in my education by always going the extra mile to help her students. She explains things in a way that's easy to understand and makes learning interesting and fun. She cares about her students and encourages us to keep trying, even when things are hard. Because of her, I've become more confident and motivated to do my best in school and beyond," Haiflich said.

Her most memorable moment at GHS was getting 100 service hours in one year.

Ten years from now, she hopes to be traveling around

the world while being an ambassador to the U.S.

## Chloe Kay Harrel

Chloe Kay Harrel is the daughter of Sean and Carrie Harrel and the late Tangie Harrel.

She will be going into a dental hygiene apprenticeship following graduation, with goals to become a volunteer firefighter after high school while also later going to college for dental hygiene.

She has been involved in track and basketball, earning letters for each.

"I'd rate my education as an 8/10. I think all the teachers at Garrett are very helpful people and want to help as much as they can," she said.

"I think that all the English classes are very strong and helpful. They are super fun to be in and very understandable."

Teachers Jennifer Ponko, Megan Hanes, and Mrs. Ice all contributed to her education.

Her most memorable moment at GHS is making new friends and finding people who make your life better.

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# GRADUATES

## FROM PAGE 13

"I hope that I'm married with kids in ten years and that I have lots of money!" she said of her future.

### Chloe SueAnne Harter

Chloe SueAnne Harter is the daughter of Jessica and Rob Harter.

She plans to attend Ball State University to study radiology and become an ultrasound tech.

She participated in track and field and cheerleading.

Harter was on All-A Honor Roll for four years, National Honor Society, and Athletic Leadership Council.

"Mallory Clifford, Erin Howard, Christa Sullinger, and Ryan Hathaway are amazing Guidance Counselors and got me through the year. Mark Claxton, Monica Cone, and Sandra Tom are positive and amazing teachers. Mr. (Justin) Weber, Mr. (Matt) Smith and Mr. (Chris) Depew are the best leaders in the school and keep me on track!" said Harter.

The last day of junior year was spent celebrating almost finishing high school

with everyone, she recalls as a memorable moment.

### Steven Gabriel Heimert

Steven Gabriel Heimert is the son of Ronald Lee Heimert.

He plans to begin researching jobs within the state of Alaska or Montana.

"My goals are mainly to find something that I enjoy and be able to retire, eventually," he said.

He volunteered to work the food stand at some sports events during his school.

"My education at Garrett was all right; it could have been better, but it could have gone much worse. The teachers there were willing to work with us; at other schools the teachers will simply brush you off but sometimes the staff did not always have the ability to help simply because there were other people who needed them," Heimert said.

"I see the career development program being an effective learning branch that is extremely important; without people working in construction, we would have no homes, businesses, or even simply roads, so it is important to work on career

development."

"Well, I have to say 'thank you' to Diane Gerde; without her I probably wouldn't have graduated early. Also, I need to give thanks to Mark Claxton for being there through some of the worst of my senior year when my great-grandfather died, and I lost one of the most important men in my life."

"Ten years from now, I really hope to be living a life that I enjoy, preferably away from the hustle and stresses of living in a decently-sized town. Maybe I'll finally find somewhere quiet and have a little bit more peace. That is my hope!"

"Sincerely, Steven Heimert signing off."

### Ava Dawn Helmkamp

Ava Dawn Helmkamp is the daughter of Dan and Kristy Helmkamp

She will be going to IU Fort Wayne to get her bachelor's degree in diagnostic sonography (ultrasound tech) and gain clinical experience.

She has been active in cheerleading and track and field.

Helmkamp earned Tri Kappa awards, funniest cheerleader and placed third

in conference in track.

"I rate the school 7/10. The school is very good, but there is a lot of bullying that happens, and no one really deals with it," she said.

"Claxton! He cares so much about his students!" she said of teachers who contributed to her education. "He helps as much as he can. He teaches so well, and it is so easy to learn from him. He's the best!"

Her most memorable high school moment was meeting Easton Ratcliffe!

"I hope to have a house and kids! A husband... Be financially stable. And be happy!!" she said of the next 10 years.

### Kira Grace Hill

Kira Grace Hill is the daughter of Darnell Hill and Melinda Oloughlin.

She plans to enter the job market following graduation, earn enough to get her own place and live on her own.

Hill was in the Garrett Encore Show Choir for two years.

"Mrs. Swonger, Mr. Sewelin, and Mr. Strong helped me make it through high school," said Hill.

"Coming to Garrett for the first time and making new friends my sophomore year were memorable," she added.

### Delaeni Diann Hixson

Delaeni Diann Hixson is the daughter of Caeli Sparkman and Jacob Sparkman.

Her plans following college are to go to Manchester University to study Medical Technology and play collegiate volleyball. Her career goals are to get her bachelor's in medical technology and use that degree to then get into a dental hygiene program.

Hixson played volleyball, basketball and softball during her time at Garrett.

She earned the Tri Kappa award during her high school years.

She rates her education at Garrett a 10/10 "because the teachers I have had have been amazing.

"Mrs. Cone has made a significant contribution to my education because she is so kind and always willing to help," said Hixson.

The most memorable moment she has had at GHS are all the sports memories.

### Jakob Scott Hoover

Jakob Scott Hoover is the son of Jennifer and Scott Hoover.

His plans following graduation include going to Purdue Fort Wayne and getting a degree in business, more specifically, finance.

"I have a few goals. Firstly, personally, I would like to achieve buying my first car that I am super interested in. Secondly, I would like to stay an active person when I get out of high school. Some career goals entail graduating from college and finding a career I am passionate about.

"Since being in high school I have been playing basketball and soccer for all four years. I've also been included in the Athletic Leadership Council and other clubs," said Hoover.

He was awarded three sportsmanship awards, two for soccer and one for basketball, and was also awarded academic all-state for soccer, and six letters all together.

"On a scale of 1-10, I would rate the education at Garrett at 9. Garrett High School has done a great job of teaching me the required knowledge and has allowed me to gain dual credit options to help me save money in college. All the teachers and counselors have been very supportive and will answer all the questions you have.

"I took the traditional route in high school. I believe if you would like to go into business after high school, definitely try and get the long certificate because it can allow you to take a whole year off from college. Since I've been here, I have heard many times how good the Career Development Program is, so if you are hands on, go that route,"

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# GRADUATES

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Hoover said.

“Some teachers that have made an impact in my education include Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Treesh, Mr. Stevens, and Mr. Claxton. Those are just a few examples; there are many more. They have supported me through freshman to senior year and have provided me with the help and knowledge I need to succeed,” he adds.

“Right now, I don’t have a memorable moment; however, the feeling that I have almost completed all four years of school with really good grades is something I am very proud of. Also, the feeling of graduation will be surreal and a great accomplishment.

“Ten years from now I would like to have a career in finance. I would also like to practice my self-care and become better at my personal weaknesses,” he added.

## Kennedy Jeanette Hutton

Kennedy Jeanette Hutton is the daughter of Kelley and Craig Hutton

Her plans to attend PFW to study elementary education. Her personal goal is to get married and become a teacher.

She has been active in varsity volleyball team and Athletic Leadership Council.

Hutton earned All-Conference and captain awards in sports.

Hutton rates her education at 7/10.

Chris Depew, Mallory Clifford, Erin Howard, Christa Sullinger, Matt Smith, and Taylor Smith have been significant, she said.

Being a part of the volleyball team was memorable.

Ten years from now, she hopes to be married, have a family, and be a kindergarten teacher.

## Macy Sue Kashmer

Macy Sue Kashmer is the daughter of Joe and Connie

Kashmer.

Her plans following graduation include attending the University of Saint Francis to study for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Kashmer’s future career and personal goal is to earn a degree in nursing to become a registered nurse. As a registered nurse, she would like to work in a local Fort Wayne Hospital.

She is a member the National Honor Society, English Academic Team, Sources of Strength, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and a weekly class reader through the Reading Railroader Program.

“Throughout my years of high school, I have won the incredible honor of being crowned Miss DeKalb County 2024 and Miss Garrett 2024.”

“During my sophomore year, I and the members of the English Academic Team won the 2023 English Academic Team State Title. During high school I have been a Tri Kappa Academic Honor Award Recipient and an Honor Roll student all four years of high school.”

Outside of school, she has participated in dance since the age of three and competitively danced since the age of seven. During her high school years, she earned various awards and scholarships based on her dance ability to further her dance training. Some of these awards include a tap class scholarship at Nuvo Dance Convention, a tour scholarship with Velocity Dance Convention, and the Evolving Velocity Artist scholarship through Velocity Dance Convention.

“I rate my Garrett High School education a ten-out-of-ten. I chose to attend Garrett High School over a private school in Fort Wayne. Ultimately, I chose Garrett High School simply based upon its academic opportunities.

“From the first day of freshman year to the last weeks of senior year, I have learned that there is more to a school than academic

opportunity. Garrett High School is a place where teachers care about not only your grades, but also our personal well-being. It’s a place where the administrators work to provide limitless opportunities to experience new, hands-on, real-world careers. This school is a family, a family backed by its community,” Kashmer said.

“The opportunity to attend Impact Institute during your junior and senior year is a program Garrett High School offers that has made an impact in mine and other students’ educational journeys. Impact Institute offers career and certification programs for high school students and adults. This school year, I have participated in the Primary Healthcare Program. The course is skilled towards students interested in nursing and direct patient/resident care.

“During this course I will also have the opportunity to take the Certified Nursing Assistant certification process with the Indiana State Department of Health. Prior to testing 30 hours of classroom instruction, a demonstration of 72 skills, and 75 hours of clinical experience at a long-term care facility is required and offered through the Impact Institute Primary Health Care Program. This program has introduced the basic studies of nursing and responsibilities of a health-care professional. At Garrett High School, I would like to see healthcare-based courses for underclassmen to participate in.”

Teachers Mark Claxton and Adam Strong have made a strong impact on her educational journey at Garrett High School.

“Mr. Claxton is an amazing teacher and mentor. His teaching skills are personalized to challenge you as a student and see the world for itself through his history lessons. He cares about each and every one of his students. Mr. Claxton will not let a student fail; the moment your grade drops,

he is right there asking what is going on and how he can help to pick you back up and put forth your very best effort into assignments. No student is just another name on his roster. Mr. Claxton is always available to assist students with classwork, emcee for school and community events, or just be someone who will sit and listen to every word you say.

“Mr. Strong came to Garrett High School when entering my Junior year. Throughout all my academic years, math has always been the subject I struggle the most in. When deciding to transfer from in-person traditional math class to the ALEKS online personal version of math, I was nervous that I still would not understand math even in a slower, more personal way of teaching. When Mr. Strong sat down with me the first day into Algebra II and happily assisted with my math difficulties, I knew it would all be good. Mr. Strong takes time to assist every student with their math struggles, even if it’s in email form during the late evening hours. Today, I can solve difficult trigonometry, calculus, and statistical math problems with confidence,” she adds.

She would also like to recognize Mrs. Jill Marshal, Mrs. Brenda Kline and Mr. Chad Helmkamp for being impactful educators prior to her Garrett High School years.

Her most memorable moment as a Garrett High School student was taking part in the Miss Garrett Pageant the summer entering her senior year. The Miss Garrett Pageant is a precious Garrett High School experience and tradition lasting 63 years. This summer pageant for senior girls to participate in is a positive experience to step outside of your comfort zone, create lasting friendships, gain interview skills, increase self-confidence, and make wonderful memories.

“Ten years from now, I hope to be employed in a hospital as a registered nurse. I would also like

to start a family, to travel around the world, and to share my passion for faith through mission projects and testimonies,” Kashmer said.

## Andrew James Kelham

Andrew James Kelham is the son of Andrew Kelham and Trisha Merz.

He will be attending the University of Purdue Fort Wayne, majoring in computer science and minoring in music.

His personal goals are to own his own sports car and make enough money to beat inflation!

His career goals are to land a job involving computer hardware and start a video game company.

Kelham has been active in marching band, jazz band, pep band and track while at Garrett.

He rates his education as 8/10.

“I have loved all my teachers, and the work they have provided me has been good, overall. There are just time where the classes may not be engaging and just feel like a waste of time,” he said.

Kelham heavily recommends developing the band program — “which is amazing and has changed my life! The band program offers so much but gets held back due to financial constraints. With enough support from the school, the band program would excel even further and become one of the best band programs in the state!”

He credits band instructor Josh Hettinger for make the most significant contribution, not only to his education but also to his personal growth.

“Without Mr. Hettinger, my life would have been completely different! I have learned so much about character from him and I am so grateful to have had him as a teacher. Mr. Hettinger deserves a lot of credit; he goes above and beyond for his students and the band program.”

Kelham said his most memorable high school moment at Garrett was

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# GRADUATES

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playing in the band and playing chess with his friends in class.

"I want and hope to be a college graduate 10 years from now. I want to be working in a stable job and making progress on my career and goals."

### Lane Douglas Kennedy

Lane Douglas Kennedy is the son of Jeni Kennedy and Chad Kennedy.

"I may take a possible gap year before going to college. I am thinking about attending Trine and majoring in accounting," he said of his future.

He plans to get a job that he like to work at.

Kennedy has been a member of the Garrett High School Bowling team.

"I have enjoyed my time at Garrett High School because of my friends and the class opportunities," he said.

He highly recommends that people take accounting and business classes. "These classes are very interesting and are taught extremely well," according to Kennedy.

"All the business teachers have made an impact on my education because they had classes that my brain was able to fixate on," he said.

"I would say that my most memorable moment was in my freshman year in Mrs. Treesh's accounting class when she had us play monopoly to get to know each other."

He would like to be working at a place where he is comfortable and is able to work freely.

### Tres Thomas Klinger

Tres Thomas Klinger is the son of Aileen Klinger and Jason Klinger.

He plans to be enlist in the National Guard and work in the trades following graduation.

Klinger's goal is to be able to support himself and others in the future.

He participated in theatre for three years.

"The entire GHS staff is understanding with each student," Klinger said.

Last blast of 2023-2024 was his memorable moment.

"I hope to be living my dreams with everyone I live and care about," he said about looking forward in the next 10 years," Kretler adds.

### Kylie Ann Kretler

Kylie Ann Kretler is the daughter of Kayla DeLong Brandon DeLong.

Her plan after graduation is to go to college for criminal justice.

"I plan to become a paralegal for my career in the future, and my personal goals are to finish college and get a job in my career field," said DeLong.

She has been involved in the Garrett Key Club and received honor roll recognition.

"I would rate my education at Garrett as amazing. The teachers at Garrett High School really get involved with the kids' learning, and I think that it helps the students grow as humans," she said.

"I think that the academy program was really strong and helpful. I was in that program for three years, and it really helped me know how to organize my work and assignments. I would like to see the academy come back because I really do believe that it helped a lot of students," Kretler adds.

Teachers Shannon Swonger, Victor Hammond, and Bryan Iddings made significant contributions to her education.

"I have had these teachers for most of high school, and their teaching has really helped me grow as a person," she adds.

Her most memorable moment at GHS is when her car broke down in the school parking lot.

"What I want to be doing ten years from now is getting settled in my career and getting a house," she said.

### Irina Krgovic

Irina Krgovic is an exchange student living with host family Erinn and

Darren Carmichael.

She plans to attend college and pursue medicine.

"I want to be happy, employed, and have a family," she said of her future.

She has been active in soccer, managing and volunteering at GHS.

"Garrett has been good," Krgovic said of her educational experience.

"Mr. Thomas and Mr. Claxton have been significant and have taught me US history," she adds.

Homecoming and her first football game were memorable high school moments.

"I hope to be happy," she said of her goal in 10 years.

### Rhianna Danielle Leighty

Rhianna Danielle Leighty is the daughter of Sabra Vanderpool and Ryan Leighty.

She plans to continue to work throughout the next years.

"My personal goal is to be the role model my sibling can look up to for help, and my career goal is at some point to finish a pathway I started," she said.

Leighty participated in marching band, show choir and theater.

"Mr. Claxton and Mrs. Swonger are significant because they have always been there for me when I'm having a rough day or just need something to cheer me up," she said.

Going to state for the marching band and for show choir in the same year were memorable.

### Caleb Evan Lemen

Caleb Evan Lemen is the son of Corey and Shanna Lemen.

He plans to attend Ivy Tech following graduation.

Lemen's personal goal is to "be one of the kindest and friendliest person around."

He took part in high school bowling and National Honor Society while at Garrett.

Lemen said he worked at getting good grades, was a two-time high school

bowling, all-conference winner, and was part of the National Honor Society.

"I rate the school at a 10. I learned so much and got to understand what will come up in the future. All the classes helped me understand what I would need to do after graduation and in the world," he adds.

"All teachers were significant because they gave me opportunities to learn and understand what they were teaching about," he said of his education.

"Being part of everyone's lives and enjoying great moments that happened at Garrett were memorable. I plan on being a sports broadcaster for basketball and football," said Lemen.

### Sunnie Lynne Leon

Sunnie Lynne Leon is the daughter of Courtney Rhodes and Kyle Leon.

After graduation, she will be continuing her education at Ivy Tech.

Leon's personal/career goals are to get her degree and teaching license and to start teaching!

"The teacher that has had a significant part in my education is Mrs. Swonger. She has a vibe that she brings to class that just makes me want to pay attention and learn a couple things," she said.

Her most memorable moment is any time Mr. Weber was pied.

### Cyann Rebecca Lilly

Cyann Rebecca Lilly is the daughter of Christopher Lilly and Patricia Lilly.

She will be attending Trine University to major in elementary education with a minor in special education and Montessori.

Lilly's personal goals are to get married and have children after college. Her career goal is to start teaching after graduating college at J.E. Ober Elementary.

She has been involved with the English Academic Team for four years, Educators Rising member for the past two years and a founding member, Key Club

for two years, and National Honor Society for two years.

"Some of the classes that I believe were strong and helpful were all the dual credit courses I was able to take that included speech and all the education courses.

"I think that a program I would like to see further developed is the Education Pathway because it provides great dual credit classes, but I think that it could be further developed to help even more students that want to become teachers in the future," said Lilly.

"One of the teachers that has made a significant contribution to my education is Mrs. Furnish; this is because she has always been there to help with any assignments that she could, and she was always willing to proofread all my papers in speech class before turning them in.

"Another teacher who has made significant contributions is Mrs. Swonger. She always provides chances to redo your assignments if they are turned in on time, and she always gives plenty of choices in class on all your assignments. She has helped me to realize that I want to become a teacher, and even though I won't be teaching the same grade level, I want to use some of the skills she has taught me in my future classroom."

Her most memorable moment at Garrett High School was winning State for English Academic Team. "This is because at Academic Pride Day we were recognized for winning state and all the students started standing and gave a standing ovation which is my most memorable moment from GHS."

Her hope 10 years from now is to be teaching at J.E. Ober Elementary in a classroom and to have impacted the students that she has already taught.

"I hope that I can leave a truly lasting impact on all the future students that I teach in the years to come," Lilly said.

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# GRADUATES

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### Emmah Lee Moody

Emmah Lee Moody is the daughter of Thomas and Shalona Moody.

She will be going straight into the work force following graduation.

"I want to travel for a couple years of my life and then become the best I can be in my career," she said.

Moody has been on the girl's golf team for four years, a member of Sources of Strength for seven years, and became the president of Sources of Strength her senior year. She has also been in FFA for three years, becoming vice president her senior year.

"I would say 7 1/2 because I was taught a lot, but I feel as though I could be taught more," she said of her education.

"The teachers that helped me the most at Garrett High School were Mr. Claxton, Ms. Evans and Mrs. Moody. They have been there for me all throughout high school, and when I was struggling, they were always there.

"There have been so many memories I have made at Garrett High School. I think the most memorable ones are when I'm with my friends," she said.

Ten years from now, she wants to have a family of her own and a job she enjoys.

### Aliviah Lee Mowery

Aliviah Lee Mowery is the daughter of Ashley Mowery and Theodore Mowery.

She will be taking a gap year and then attend Ivy Tech to study marketing.

One of her personal goals is to grow and prosper in the changing world mentally and career wise.

She has been active in softball at Garrett, having earned MVP, and honorable mention and high academic honors.

"All the teachers at Garrett strive to see their students in the lights of success. They always help however they can and are there for you in the hardest

of times," Mowery said.

"Weights class was helpful for me. I never got to see my true strength until I was in weights class, and my confidence level has been way higher because of it."

"Mr. Claxton was the first to welcome me at Garrett. Moving during my senior year was one of the hardest things I have been through, and thanks to him, I felt welcomed," she recalls.

Claxton wearing his "cheez" hat was her memorable moment.

She hopes to have a family of her own and live a calm life in the next 10 years.

### Allen Nickels

Allen Nickels is the son of Gregory Nickels.

Future plans are to be employed with a goal to become successful and to provide.

He has been active in basketball and bowling and earned the Grit Award.

Nickels rates his education as 6/10.

"Weights and business classes are helpful because they're something one needs in life for one to become a successful person in a job. Mechanics class is good for people to learn how to work on the car when it's necessary.

"Mr. Placencia has been able to help when I need it; he helped me with my stuff when it's supposed to be done," Nickels adds.

Having the 2023 Japanese exchange students come, going to Wisconsin for a school trip, learning how other schools work, and attending the Detroit trip while learning the different art from the Renaissance were all memorable moments, he said.

Ten years from now, he hopes to have a family and a job that he's happy with.

### London Nodine

London Nodine is the daughter of Todd and Misty Nodine.

She plans to join the Air National Guard.

Nodine's personal goal is to graduate, and her career

goal is to start tattooing.

She has been active in winter color guard at Garrett.

"I rate Garrett as 5/10. I love it at Garrett, including the Academy. However, every year is different, and that includes taking the Academy away for this year," Nodine said.

She would love to see the school programs the same as last year but include art programs for a career path.

Nodine credits teacher Shannon Swonger as having contributed to her education

She also enjoyed being in Susan Evertts' classes making ceramics.

Nodine hopes to still be serving our country and pursuing tattooing in the future.

### Adelina Novac

Adelina Novac, exchange student from Moldova, is the son of Victor and Victoria Novac and stays with host parents Leticia and Preston Kennedy.

Future plans are going to college in Moldova and majoring in Translation Studies.

Her career goals are to become a professional diplomatic translator, bring benefits to the world, and try her best to make it a better place.

Novac has been manager for the girls basketball team and participated in track and field throwing.

"I think Garrett High School offers a lot of classes that improved my creative and academic skills. The teachers and staff at GHS are so supportive and definitely have made my stay here very fun while also helping me learn new things.

"Every teacher that I know has been such a huge influence on my development in a new environment. Some of them are Mrs. Ferguson, with her way of teaching business skills and life advice; Mr. Claxton, because of his passion for teaching and supporting his students; Mr. Thomas, with his way of teaching and all the helpful information he has provided to students;

Mrs. Snyder, because of the way she taught us and was able to create a basis for psychology and sociology for us; Ms. Burgess, for all the knowledge that she gave me about being in a library and doing library work, but also being open to teaching me about American culture; Mrs. Johnson, for being able to show me the differences between learning math in the US. compared to Moldova; Mr. Kraus, with his positivity and his love for what he's doing. Mrs. Evertts, with her love for art and all the advice that she gave me. Mrs. Shipe, for all the help and encouragement that she gave me," she said.

Her most memorable moment at GHS was her first day of school.

"I remember being so confused about everything but also being so excited about all my new classes and about meeting new people. Every teacher was so nice and asked me questions about my experience being an exchange student," Novac recalls.

"I hope that 10 years from now, I will be contributing to my community in the best way possible by pursuing my career path, having a happy family, and continuing learning and still creating great connections."

### Alana Mary Maree Plessinger

Alana Mary Maree Plessinger, formerly of Grand Rivers, plans to gain employment following graduation.

Her goal is to enter the welding industry.

"At my old school, I did JROTC Raider and JROTC Color Guard."

She had perfect attendance and was a JROTC Raider, JROTC Color Guard and JROTC Corporal.

She rates her education as a 10-out-of-10 "because I learned stuff."

"The welding and construction are helpful because I have plans for the future and opportunity," Plessinger said. "Mr. Gross is great teacher, nice guy, and teaches well."

"I hope to be welding,"

she said looking forward 10 years from now.

### Easton Matthew Ratcliffe

Easton Matthew Ratcliffe is the son of Brett and Stacy Ratcliffe.

He will be going to Trine University to study Civil Engineering.

His future goals are to become an engineer and have a family.

Ratcliffe has been active in baseball for four years, soccer as a freshman, Tri Kappa Scholastic Award winner four years, and earned Academic all-state for soccer in 2023.

"I have done well at Garrett for my education. I am an A and B student. I am currently 14th in the class," he said.

"I have been in the CDP all four years of high school, and I think it is a great program and helps set up students' careers for the rest of their lives without going to college, said Ratcliffe.

"Mr. Steven's has helped me a tremendous amount in Pre-Calc and really made me learn math. Mr. Scharlach has helped me learn about the trades and all the steps to build a house. Mr. Claxton helped me become a better person and made me want to learn about history because of the way he teaches," he said of his teachers.

His most memorable moment would be beating Mr. Filosa in Catan two times in a row.

"I hope to have a good job that keeps me happy and a wife and kids all living in a nice house," Ratcliffe said of his future.

### Parker Hogan Reed

Parker Hogan Reed is the son of Brittany Treesh and Joseph Reed.

He will be pursuing an Engineering Degree at Purdue Fort Wayne University.

Following graduation from college, his goal is to find a job at Nucor or Steel Dynamics, Inc.

Reed has been active

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# GRADUATES

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in basketball, baseball and cross country.

He received NECC All-Conference for basketball, a dual credit business certificate, as well as entrepreneurship certificate.

Reed rates his education at 10.

"It developed and matured me into a young man," he said.

"The business, marketing, entrepreneurship program is very strong and backed with very good teachers that will do anything to help you succeed," he said of his education.

"Mr. Claxton, Mrs. Tom, and Mrs. Ferguson contributed significantly; all three of these instructors became mentors and helped me succeed, whether it was in the classroom or outside. They are all very kind, compassionate, and supportive of everyone's education," Reed adds.

"Watching all the seniors come together after realizing we are about done with school forever is very euphoric!"

Ten years from now, he hopes to have a stable job and live in his own house.

"Most importantly, I hope to develop my family and become the best dad myself!"

## Cameran Alexia Marie Rowe

Cameran Alexia Marie Rowe is the daughter of Taya Hughes and Clinton Rowe.

She will attend Penn State and major in Political Science.

Rowe's personal goals are to continue trying new things and explore what the world has to offer. Her career goals are to become a lawyer and advocate for the families of defendants.

She has been active on the science academic team, National Honor Society and track and field.

Rowe received several awards including:

- The Alpha Chi Chapter of Tri Kappa; grades 9, 10,

11; Outstanding Scholastic Achievement

- Garrett High School Academic Award; grade 10; Underclassmen of the Year for Science

- 2022 Indiana Academic Super Bowl; grade 9; Participation on the Science Team and English Team

- 2023 Indiana Academic Super Bowl; grade 10; Participation on the Science Team

- Academic Achievement Award; grade 9; Outstanding Academic Achievement in the area of Integrative Chem. Physics

"On a scale of 1-10, I would rate it an 8 because I learned a lot and met some awesome people, but I just wish that Garrett offered more routes for students to explore," said Rowe.

"I believe that American Studies is a strong and helpful class because it teaches history while also having students pick a topic from a piece of history to write about. It helps build understanding and writing.

"Mr. Sewelin has been my 'Number One' supporter since my freshman year, and he has helped me through some tough times, but he has always managed to put a smile on my face. I have some great memories with him and his class.

"Mr. Claxton has shown me that school can be fun, and he helped me openly express myself without feeling shame. I will always think of him every time I see the Green Bay Packers playing or when Van Halen comes on the radio," she adds.

"On the last day of school every year, I help Mr. Sewelin clean his room with the entire science team, and it has always been a blast. I will definitely miss it!"

Ten years from now, she hopes to be working for a law firm as a criminal defense lawyer.

## Alexa Yadhira Sierra

Alexa Yadhira Sierra is the daughter of Marivel and Ryan Humes.

She plans to go to Ivy Tech to become a scrub tech.

Her goals are to graduate, and plans to financially support herself in a career she loves.

Sierra has been active in soccer and track at GHS.

"I would rate it an 8/10 overall; I had a good education through Garrett High School. Many teachers have been helpful and really engaged on helping me and my peers learn. I have learned a lot and done different things.

"Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Everetts, Mrs. Furnish, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Claxton, Mr. Sewelin, Mrs. Gotfried and Mrs. Tom were significant. I name all these teachers because all of them have given me an education and experience that I could have ever asked for. They taught me many things and have helped me out when I needed it. Overall, all these teachers have been the best and gave me the best," Sierra said.

Her most memorable memory at GHS is all her senior nights for sports.

"I hope to have my dream job doing what I love and to have a family," she said of her future.

## Layla Elizabeth Simmons

Layla Elizabeth Simmons is the daughter of Shannon and Jeremy Simmons.

She is going to Manchester University to major in psychology.

"I want to travel more," she said of future goals.

"Mrs. Swonger has always provided a safe place for me to express myself and be completely comfortable. Mr. Hammond manages to keep a more playful atmosphere while still being a really good teacher," she adds.

"My first day of freshman year when I met some of my best friends that have been with me for all four years was memorable," Simmons recalls.

## Apollo L. Slaughter

Apollo L. Slaughter is the son of Sherry Slaughter.

He plans to take a gap year to volunteer around the community and hone

his skills in his arts and electrical engineering. He wants to get degrees for mechanical and electrical engineering so I can work in robotics.

"Personally, I hope I can afford a nice house out in the country. With my career I hope to develop and design innovative robots," Slaughter said.

He has been in NHS since his sophomore year and is now an NHS officer. He also helped to found a short-lived entomology club that competed at state.

He received a handful of awards from varying subjects such as English, math and science.

"I would rate my education an 8/10. For the most part I think the administration is very nice and reasonable and helps kids succeed," he said.

"I like the CDP, and I think the electric and computer aspects should be expanded upon. Welding and general construction gets a lot of attention, but the future is digital, and there are many opportunities in those fields.

"Mr. Wiley has had one of the most significant influences on my high school career. His classes challenged me and helped me realize my passion for mechanical design and engineering. Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Furnish were also very kind and supportive teachers," Slaughter said.

He hopes to be working mostly from home and developing technology that can make the average person's life easier in the future.

"I hope to have a nice house in the countryside with a few cats," he said of his future.

## Krystana Thomas

Krystana Thomas is the daughter of Mandy and Josh Thomas.

She will major in photography and fashion design and minor in psychology and animation/ 3-D art.

Thomas' goals are to start her own business, be financially stable and have a

happy family.

She has been active in volleyball, basketball, show choir, track, and theater at GHS.

"I'd give it a 5/10 because some of the staff show favoritism with students, especially those who seem to be in the 'popular' clicks and groups," Thomas said of her education.

"I feel as though the arts classes are quite strong and helpful because students can produce their thoughts and creativity into something real, whether it's theater, 3D art, 2D art, band, or choir, there's something a bunch of students are able to use to express themselves.

"Mrs. Johnson's is the very first teacher on my personal list. When I first moved to Garrett, she was the teacher who helped me with so much, whether it was math or personal problems, and she was the only teacher who did that for me throughout my entire time at Garrett," she adds.

"Being in my first musical and having a part even if it was being in the ensemble, as well as being a singer/dancer in the ENCORE group, were memorable moments," said Thomas.

She hopes to have a family, be financially stable, have her own business or working a job she loves in the future.

## Tyler Douglas Vogel

Tyler Douglas Vogel is the son of Shannon Anderson and Bryan Vogel.

He intends to graduate basic combat training and pursue a career in teaching and would like to further his education in many fields.

"Claxton, Sewelin, Stevens, Saxer, and Swartz all made significant contributions to my education by being both personable and enlightening," Vogel said of his education.

"I had a good time in Mr. Claxton's class. Every day was a new day of information and passionate discussion," he adds.

He credited Ray Placencia as having contributed to his

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education.

### Landen Reid Werkheiser

Landen Reid Werkheiser is the son of Chad Werkheiser and Stephanie Werkheiser.

Future plans are to go into the fire service after high school, join the Garrett Volunteer Fire Department then to go to look for a full-time firefighting position.

He is a four-year member of the Garrett High School Shotgun Sports Club, serving as captain for the last two years.

"I would rate my education at Garrett a solid 7/10 because there have been many ups and multiple downs, but I would recommend it to anybody.

"A class I really enjoyed at Garrett was Biblical Literature taught by Mark Claxton. I enjoyed this class because it brought different people's perspectives about certain verses in the Bible, and it made people, including myself, think differently about different verses. I also liked that no matter what religion you were or if you were religious at all, it brought a good group of people together, and it's a class I will remember and talk about forever," Werkheiser said.

"The teacher that made a significant contribution to my education is Mrs. Cone who teaches multiple different things at Garrett. I was in her Photoshop class, which wasn't really my thing at the time. Mrs. Cone did all she could to help not just me but everyone in that class. She would give the shirt off her back for anyone that needs it and is there for everyone when they need it the most. In my opinion she is the greatest teacher at Garrett and doesn't get the credit she deserves. Mrs. Cone, you are a teacher I will never forget for the rest of my life. Thank you for everything," he adds.

"I have multiple

memorable moments at Garrett, but I think the most memorable is just the friendships that I have built. I believe I wouldn't be where I am today without the friendships I have made during my 12 years at Garrett. Friends are something that a lot of people take for granted. Not everyone is able to make friends.

"A saying I will always remember is from the book of Proverbs, chapter 18, verse 24: it states, 'One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.' I believe that verse is as true as it gets. I believe that I have multiple friends that stick close like a brother, and I will never take that for granted," Werkheiser said.

In ten years, he hopes to be a full-time, third-generation firefighter in the city he was born and raised in while, helping the community, "as that is what I was called to do."

### Camdyn Woods

Camdyn Sabin Woods is the son of Holly Woods-Wengard and Chris Wengard.

He plans to attend Huntington University to double major in missions and pastoral studies.

"My goals are to live like Jesus and glorify God in all I do," Woods said of his future.

He has been active in football, baseball, English academic team, National Honor Society, DeKalb VOICE, Sources of Strength, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, class officer, Athletic Leadership Council, GKB Education Foundation, science academic team, spell team and entomology team. He served as captain for the English team for three years and two years as captain of the football team. Woods was also president of National Honor Society and of the Class of 2025 and historian of DeKalb's VOICE his senior year.

Woods also earned honors as a member of the Class of 2025 Dream Team and academic excellence, Purdue Indiana Academic Spell Bowl, certificate of recogni-

tion Spanish 1, Notable Performance Award, Minor G Award in football, Most Improved Player in football, Scout Player of the Year, Jacob Clifford: Mr. Hustle Award, Football Sportsmanship Award, Minor G Award in baseball, varsity letter award in football, National Honor Society, Above and Beyond award in science, English state champion, Underclassman of the Year for Language Arts, Above and Beyond Award for Science Department, 2023 Indiana Academic Super Bowl state champion, Northeast Corner Conference All- N.E.C.C Honorable Mention, World Baseball Academy: Beyond The Game Leadership Award, Indiana Association of School Principals: Rising Stars of Indiana, American Studies 2024, Student Leadership Award for Social Studies, Varsity Letter Award in baseball and Ivy Tech Student Leadership Award.

Woods rates his education at 6/10.

"The education isn't great but that's not why you send your kids here. You send your kids here because it's a family. Everybody knows each other and wants the best for them. We all work hard to make each other better," he said.

"The English and business programs are awesome. They have the best classes, and the teachers truly care about your wellbeing. I don't know about new programs, but I would love to see those programs get the recognition they deserve.

"Mrs. (Shalona) Moody has helped me in so many ways. She is always there if I need someone to talk to, and she gives me the best advice. She's helped me gain confidence and solidify what I want to do for the rest of my life.

"Mrs. (Jonelle) Furnish has helped me be the best me I could be. She's always pushed me to be a hard worker and do the right thing. I am a hard worker because of her. She expected the very best from me which has instilled a mindset in me that I only accept the best

from myself and others.

"Claxton has helped me find the humor in life. He's taught me that I do not need to take everything seriously. Life is funny, so you must find the bright side," he added.

Woods said he cannot choose his favorite high school moment between two events.

"Winning state in English in 2023 was a huge moment. No one expected a bunch of underclassmen to win, but we did. The moment was magical, and it brought our team so close together. They are some of my best friends and always will be because of that one moment together.

"The other moment was in football this year. Many would think it was winning regionals against Knox, but it wasn't. It was beating DeKalb in overtime! The energy and the rivalry made that moment spectacular. Celebrating with the team and the community was awesome. Not only did we beat our rivals at their place, but we also got Coach DePew his record-breaking win. We will forever be kings of the county! Those two moments are unforgettable," he added.

"I want to be living my best life for God and bringing more people to Him," he said of his future.

### Adelynn Jane Work

Adelynn Jane Work is the daughter of Rebekah and Matthew Ewald.

She plans to attend college and pursue a nursing career with hopes to become an anesthesiologist and have a family.

She has been active in softball, volleyball and National Honor Society.

She named teachers Mark Claxton and Susan Evertts have been significant to her education.

Playing softball has been memorable, she adds.

### Carlee Ann York

Carlee Ann York is the daughter of Jill Smith and Bobby York.

She will be attending Purdue Fort Wayne in the fall of 2025, majoring in Element-

tary Education.

"My goals are to own a home, move out of Garrett, and have my own family," she said

York has been a cheerleader since seventh grade and is also a member of Student Council and National Honor Society.

"I think all the graduation pathways available are super helpful and can set anybody up for a successful future," said York.

"The guidance counselors Mrs. Clifford and Mrs. Howard have been inspirations and role models for my friends and me since middle school. Not seeing them every day after graduation will be hard to get used to. Their advice will stick with me forever!

"Mr. Smith, Mr. Weber, and Mr. DePew all take pride in their school and community and also prioritize personal connections with their students, which I think is unique and special to our school. I don't hear of anything like this at any other schools around us," she adds.

Senior year when her class started to hang out and get along again for the first time in what felt like forever was memorable.

She hopes to be living in her own house (preferably outside of Garrett), teaching elementary school, be married, and possibly have a kid or two in the future.

### Evan Nicholas York

Evan Nicholas York is the son of Alice York and Nick York.

He plans to attend college and pursue drafting.

"Most of Mr. Claxton's classes are helpful because we were able to talk about current events regularly," said York.

Mr. Claxton and Mr. Wiley both helped further his education.

"It's not one moment, but instead, it was having the option to try multiple career paths," he said looking back at his high school career paths.



# Congratulations Class of 2025!

## Congratulations to:

Carter Demske  
Mason Depew  
Madison Freeze  
Ayla Gilbert  
Chloe Harter  
Jakob Hoover  
Victoria Hug  
Andrew Kelham  
Evan Kelham

Easton Ratcliffe  
Parker Skelly  
Landen Werkheiser  
Carlee York

Kylee Hjelm - Hamilton  
Malachi Malcolm  
- Central Noble



*Kelham Family Farms* *Steve, Kathy,  
Steve J. & Sara Beth*

## Congrats 2025 Graduates!



*We wish you all success in  
your endeavors!*

**Garrett  
StateBank** SINCE  
1893  
MEMBER FDIC

## Garrett State Bank 2025 Graduates

Garrett High School  
Chloe Harter, Jakob Hoover  
& Myah Haiflich

Indiana Tech  
Sam DeWitt