

Class of
2023

Graduation Edition

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2023

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2023

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Commencement of Nevada High School Senior Graduation for the *Class of 2023*

by Jeff Smithpeters

Invoking the lyrics to the Lee Ann Womack-sung and Mark Wright-penned classic "I Hope You Dance," Nevada Public Schools Superintendent Roy McCoy wished the graduating senior class of 2023 to choose to enjoy themselves in whatever decisions they make for their futures last night in Nevada High School Gymnasium.

Twenty-five graduates-to-be made their way around the gym and sat in their seats just after 7:00 p.m. in the south side of the court as a near-capacity crowd of family members, teachers, staff and friends looked on, contributing claps and cheers at speakers as they finished and at graduates as they accepted their diplomas.

The commencement began with an invocation by senior Kemyah Jackson, who prayed, "Please fill our minds with vision as we begin new adventures. May each graduate be blessed with friendships, Father. As we dedicate this celebration to you, we thank you for guiding us all."

Next on stage, Nevada High School Principal Tonda

Pennington, in Opening Remarks, said, "Graduates, we're very proud of you. We look forward to seeing you make the world a better place."

Nakia Prater, Highest Honors recipient, gave the Honors' Address. While she admitted to the difficulties of keeping good grades, she said she found value in what she gained from the process. "We have learned and taught ourselves many lessons in and outside of the classroom, from the essays we typed, all the math problems we solved, books we read and all the wonderful and dreadful experiences that we had."

The trip the honors students took to New York City last December stood out for Prater as "one of the greatest experiences of all our school years, but all because we managed to overcome our struggles and stay above water."

For the Teacher Appreciation speeches, High Honors recipient Kaylie Russo told of joining Nevada High School in her tenth-grade year. "The teachers here helped me to become more confident with my work and myself," she said. Tyneshia Young, Highest Honors

recipient, thanked teachers "who have believed in us and supported us throughout our school years as difficult as it may have been." She resumed, "Thank you to the teachers that have been here for all of us throughout our senior year ... those who always kept us in check and made sure we were in class."

Young had the teachers sitting in the southeast seats stand for a round of applause.

The Parent Appreciation speeches were given by Highest Honors recipient Lily Hampton and Honors recipient LaQualion Christopher. Hampton began by observing, "It's important to know that we would not be here if it weren't for a handful of very special people in our lives. Each of us have teachers, friends, family members to thank but, most of all, we have our parents." Christopher said to the parents of the class of 2023, "We can't thank you enough for being with us on this journey ... thank you for your sacrifices."

> Page 4



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Congratulations 2023 Graduates!

As they resumed their seats, the chorus of the Senior Class of 2023's chosen song, Boys II Men's "End of the Road" was played:

**Although we've come
To the end of the road
Still I can't let go
It's unnatural
You belong to me
I belong to you.**

On the note of lasting friendships, JaNiya Harper, Highest Honors recipient, gave the Class Farewell Speech. "On this special day," she said, "let's all make a promise that we will stay in touch." She commended Nevada's teachers for their work and added, "We are ready to take on the next challenge in life."

Giving the Administrative Address, Nevada Public Schools Superintendent Roy McCoy started by saying, "Just like the famous actress Elizabeth Taylor told her

husbands, 'I won't keep you long.'" He said the occasion prompted him to remember the lyrics of the 2000 song "I Hope You Dance," which was in part written by Fayetteville, Arkansas-native Mark Wright:

**I hope you never lose your sense of wonder
You get your fill to eat, but always keep that hunger
May you never take one single breath for granted
God forbid love ever leave you empty-handed
I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean
Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance
I hope you dance**

"As you're about to enter the world ... some of those choices will be easy. Do you drink Coke or Dr. Pepper? Some will be life-changing decisions, like career choices. I can't promise you these will be easy-to-make decisions,


but I can tell you I believe in you because you believed in yourself enough to make tonight possible," McCoy said.

At that point, Pennington came to the podium again to make the following pronouncement: "I confer on each of you the high school diploma, together with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities. Congratulations, you may now move your tassels."

The graduates did so. The Benediction was then said by High Honors Graduate Kennedy Messer. "Lord, thank you for the staff, the teachers, our family and loved ones who have given their time and energy. As one chapter in our lives closes and a new one begins, we offer our services to you."

McCoy made the presentation. "It is my privilege and honor to introduce to you the Nevada Class of 2023 graduate class."

The mortars were then tossed toward the Nevada High School Gymnasium's rafters.



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Ashley Barnes



Chad Blake



Jeremiah Blakely



Shondrika Blakely



Gracie Burns



LaQualion Christopher



Breanna Dillard



JaBrandon Gulley



Lily Hampton



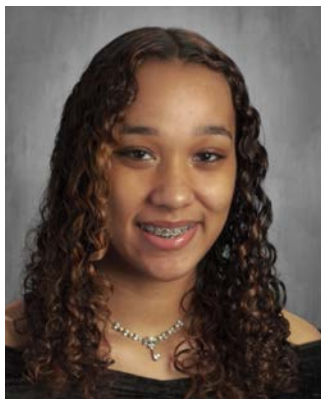
Ja Niya Harper



John Harris



Kylee Hart



Mya Hughey



Kemyah Jackson



Kadi Johnston



Neil Langston



Jalen Lowe



Kennedy Messer



Artaja Mitchell



Nakia Prater



Kaylie Russo



Tyneshia Young

Not Pictured:
Aerilynn Tolar
S Sunni Mouser



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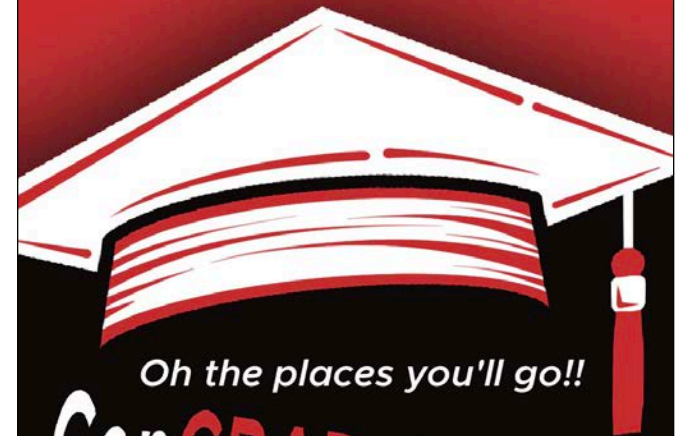
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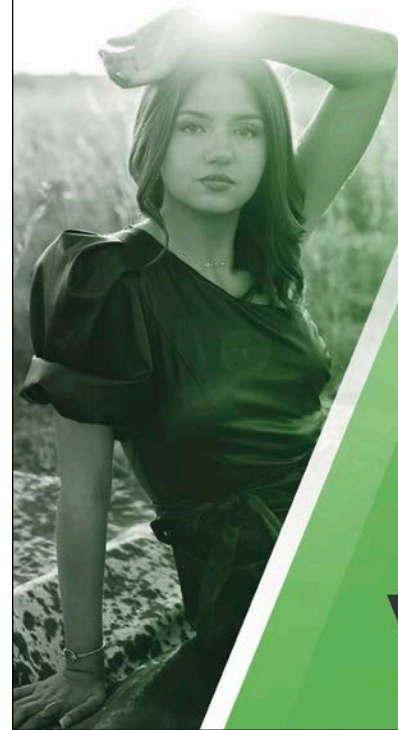
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Brenda Williams

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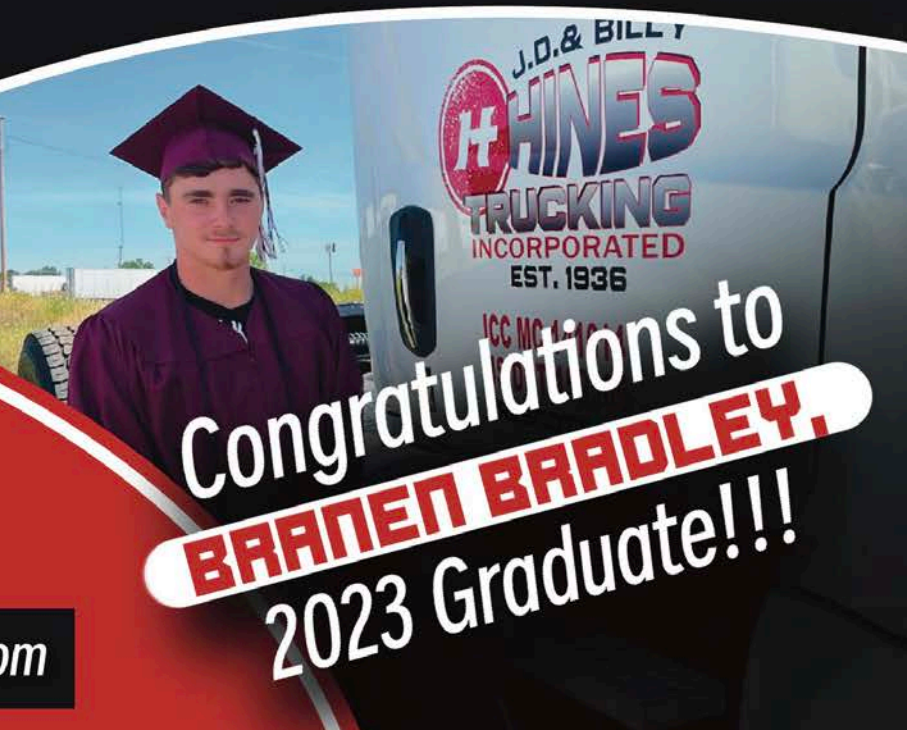
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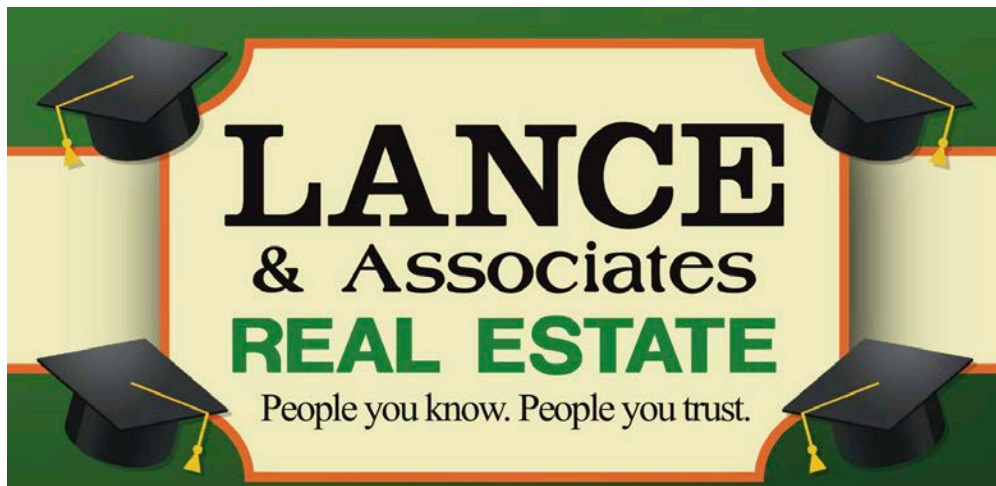
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- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Prescott's Gym filled with hundreds to commence the ceremony for the *Class of 2023*

by Jeff Smithpeters

Promptly at 3:00 p.m. Sunday the processional and the playing of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance began in the Prescott High Gymnasium as first the ushers then the honor graduates then all the others marched a horseshoe around the perimeter and then filed into white seats ranged behind the speakers' table.

Honors Graduate Aydan Bullinger then said a prayer. "Lord, I thank You for the teachers that have supported us and paved the way to get here over the past 13 years. Thank You for these parents that raised us into the young people that we are today. I pray everyone here stays safe after graduation and continues to follow you during the rest of our lives," he said.

Highest Honor Graduate Carston Poole then welcomed everyone and introduced Prescott Schools Superintendent Robert Poole. "Again thank you parents, thank you for sharing your child with us the past 13 years of life, the most important years of their life. Thank you for everything you've done for your

child and for your school. We could not have done without you or your support," Superintendent Poole said.

He then suggested those attending "hoop and holler after your child's name is called," but stop before the next name is called.

"This is a special group for me," the superintendent resumed. "I had one of my own graduate this year. It is very special. I've been to a lot of activities, a lot of ball games, a lot of great memories. ... This is a great group of seniors."

Here Poole introduced members of the school board in attendance, President JoBeth Glass, Vice-president Michael Williams, and Perla Munoz. He also introduced the administrators present: Angela Bryant, District Improvement Specialist/Federal Programs Coordinator; Tommy Poole, High School Principal; Jennifer Robbins, High School Counselor and Kimberly Grimes, Elementary School Principal.

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Congratulations Graduates!

Thank you for supporting Hempstead Hall for 10 years!

Next to be introduced were the senior honor graduates starting with Highest Honor Graduate Carston Poole, the Honor Graduates Ra'Shawn Bill, Aydan Bullinger, Olivia Cornelius, Caden Dice, Chloe Grimes, Tatum Jarvies, Lillian McKinnon, Gabryel Rodgers. These students wore honors sashes.

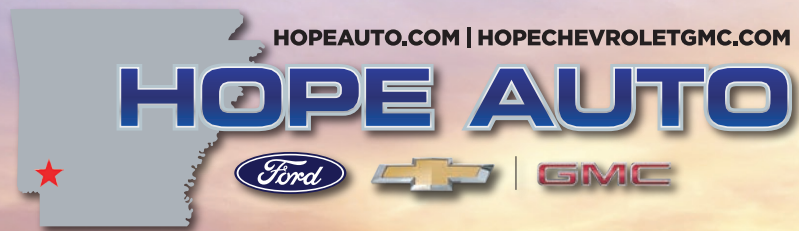
The awarding of diplomas then came after, starting with Poole and the Honor graduates, then proceeding

through the list from Jordan Argo to Jaylen Young. Afterward, after Honors the Alma Mater of Prescott Schools was played by the band, accompanied by wavings of the index fingers for the overwhelming majority of those in the gym.

High school Principal Tommy Poole then made the confirmation: "It is my great honor and privilege that along with the administration, faculty and student

body of Prescott Schools I confirm the Senior Class of 2023 are graduates of Prescott High School. At this time, you may change your tassels." Once they did, Tommy Poole said, "Ladies and gentleman, I present to you the 2023 graduates of Prescott High School!"

Then mortars briefly filled the air and the graduates marched out of the gymnasium.



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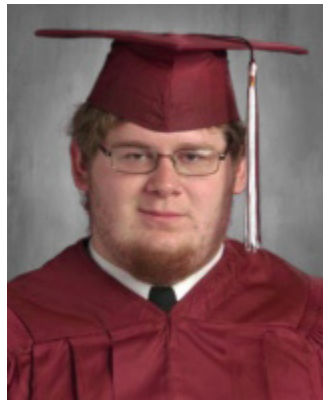
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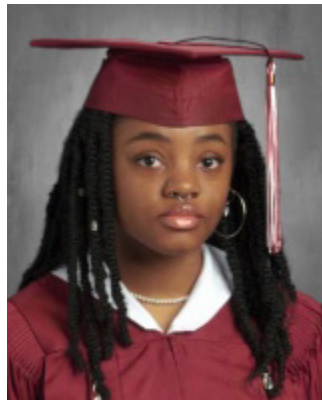
Prescott High School Class of 2023



Jordan Argo



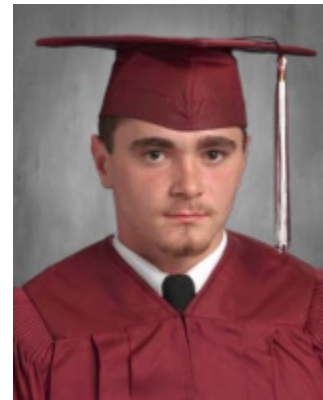
Ra Shawn Bell



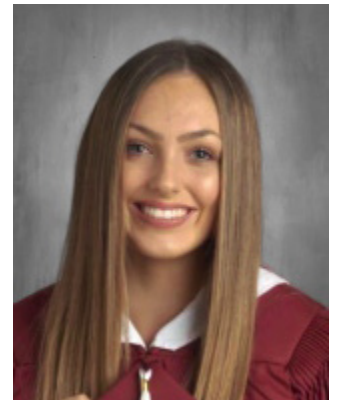
Trinity Bell



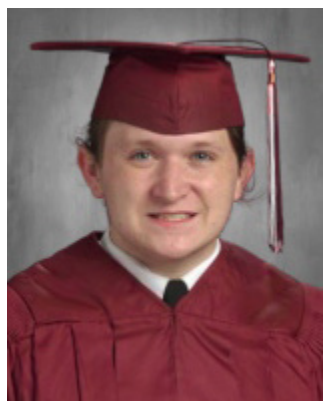
Elijah Box



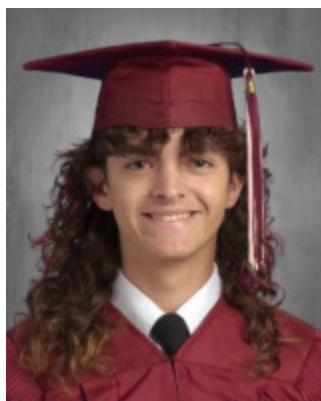
Bradley Branen



Mazie Bright



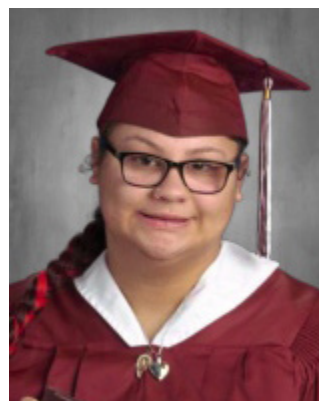
Dwight Brown



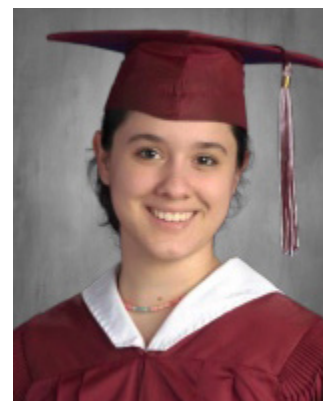
Aydan Bullinger



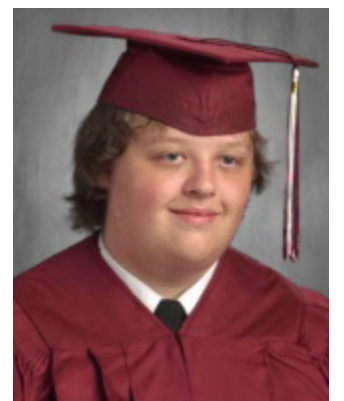
Olivia Cornelius



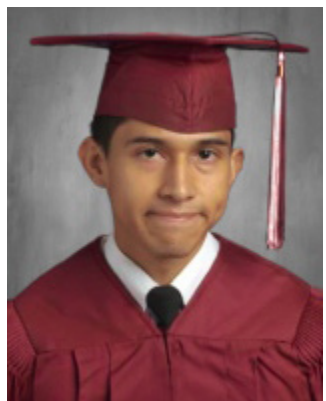
Kelsea Cox



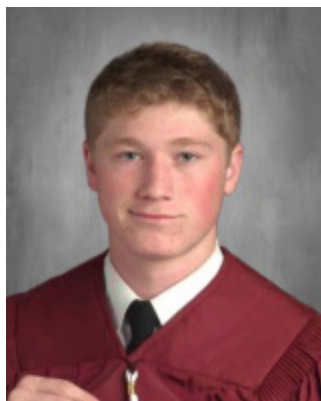
Gabriela Cuervo



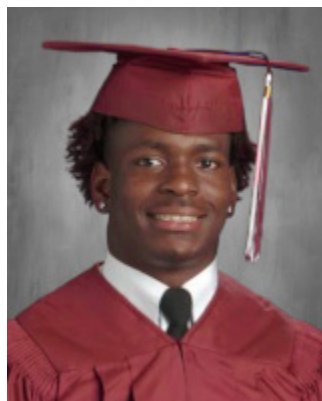
River Dawson



Lisandro Delgado



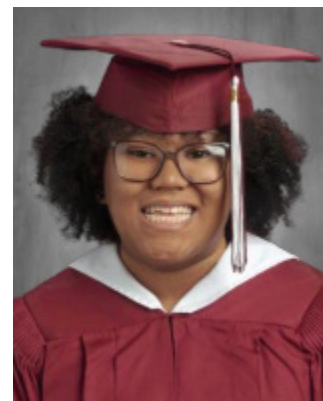
Caden Dice



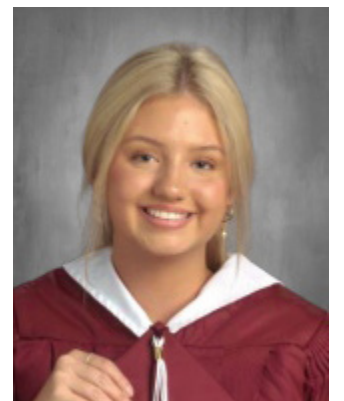
Travion Dickson



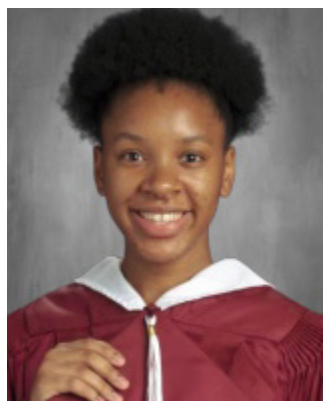
Jon Dorrough



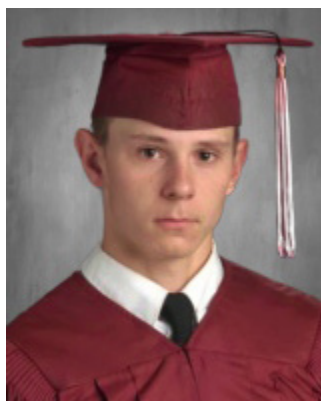
Nyla Featherston



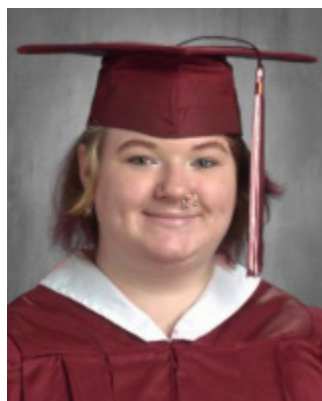
Victoria Franklin



Danielle Fry



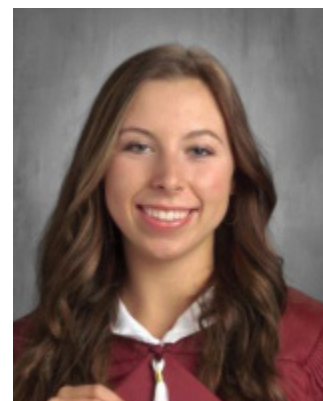
Jerry Glass



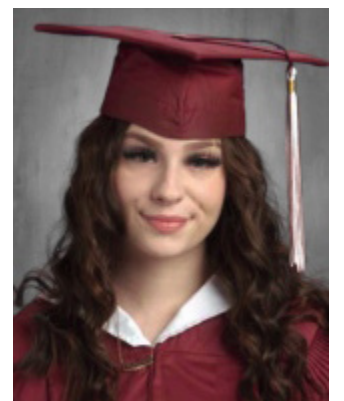
Emily Goldenpenny



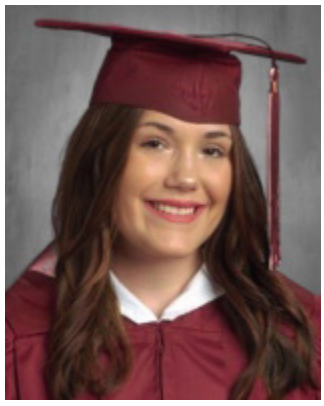
Eric Grigsby



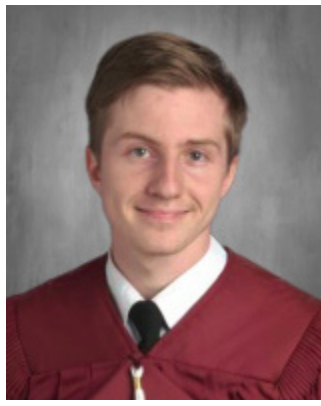
Chloe Grimes



Sadie Hall



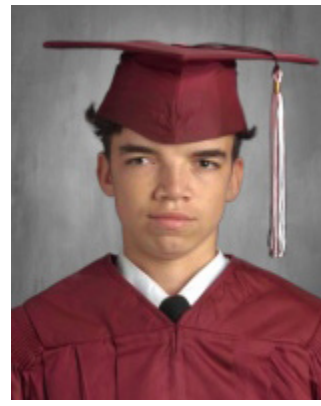
Haylee Haynes



Steven Hicks



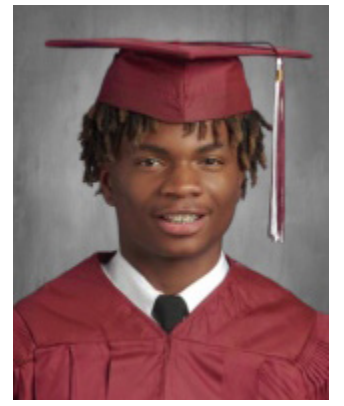
Leightyn Hillery



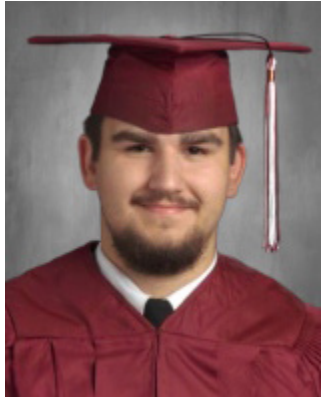
Daquarias Hopper



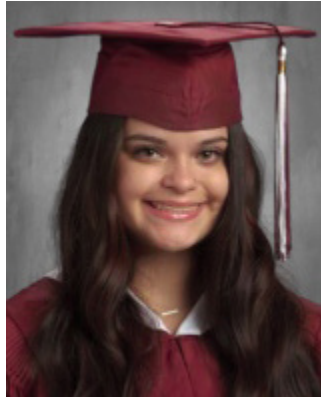
Avery Hubbard



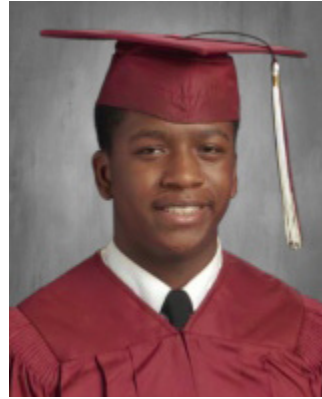
Kalijah Jenkins



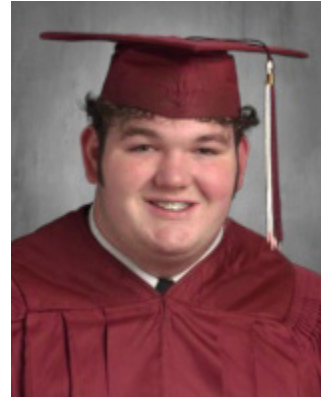
Timothy Jester



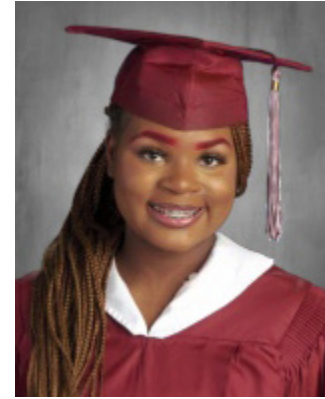
Merideth Jones



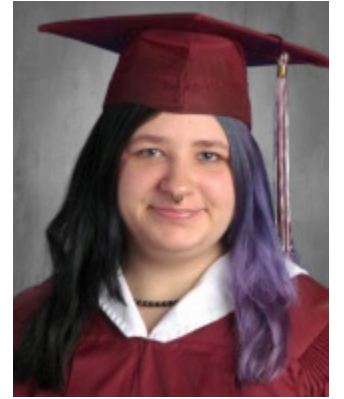
Khalil Lacy



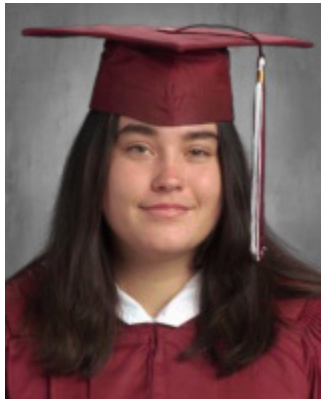
Christopher Ledbetter



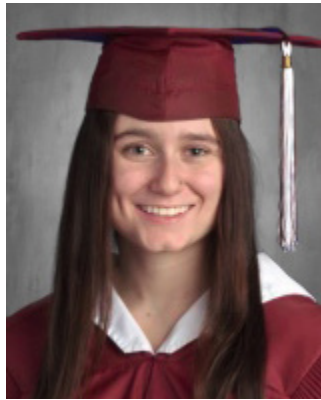
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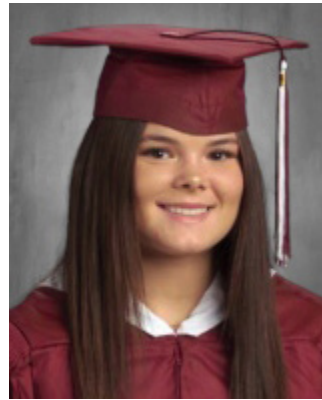
Autumn Malone



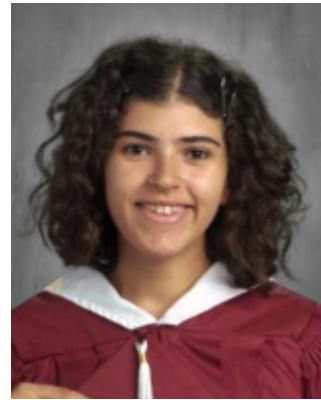
Shelbi Martin



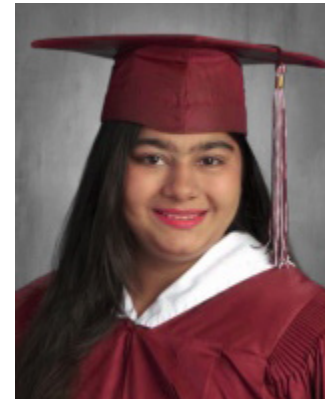
Charity McKinnon



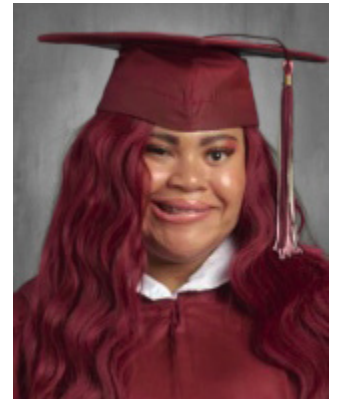
Lillian McKinnon



Feriel Mhedhbi



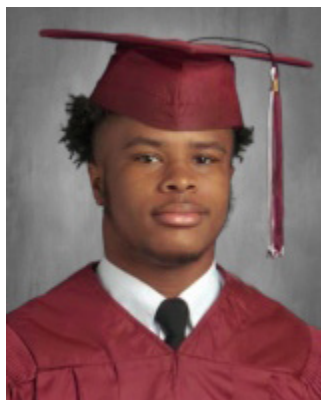
Eshal Moloo



Latavia Nixon



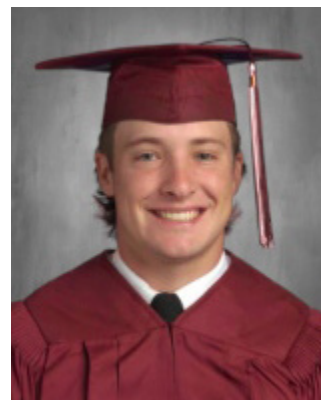
Dejonae Nolen



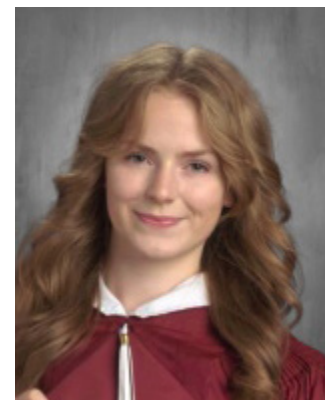
Quentin Nolen



Jesus Ortiz



Carston Poole



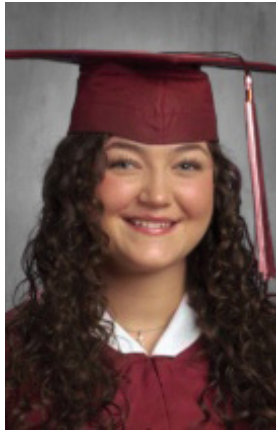
Jacee Purtle



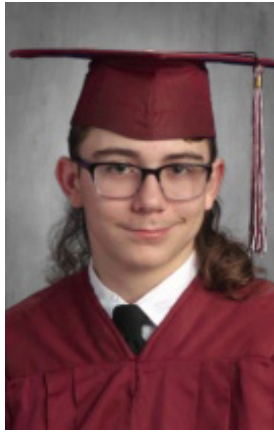
D Lon Rash

Not Pictured:

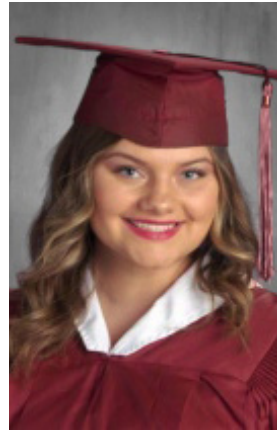
Kamille Bryant, Matthew Chaney, Antwon Christopher, Dalajah Collins, Braylee Dodson, Miranda Goldenpenny, Robert Goodwin, Tatum Jarvis, Tydaysha Love, Jefferey Newton, Ashlee Wall, Jaylen Young



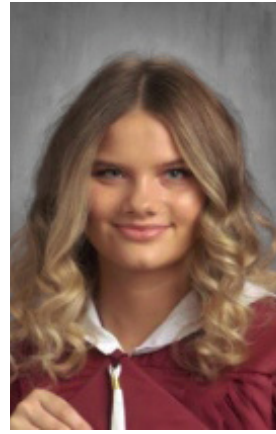
Kailee Reese



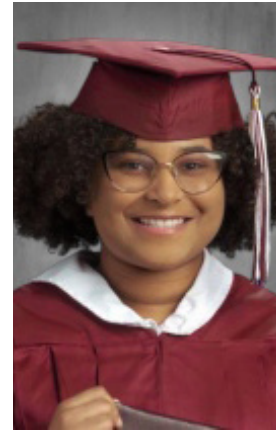
Zakary Robbins



Gabryel Rodgers



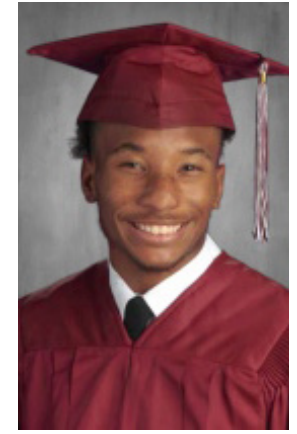
Graycee Rodgers



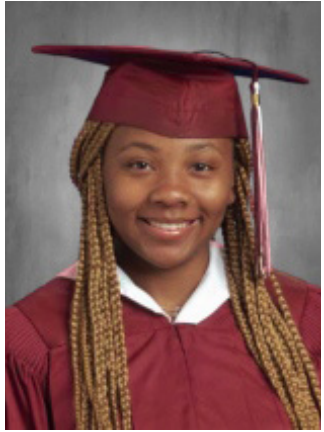
Kiera Simmons



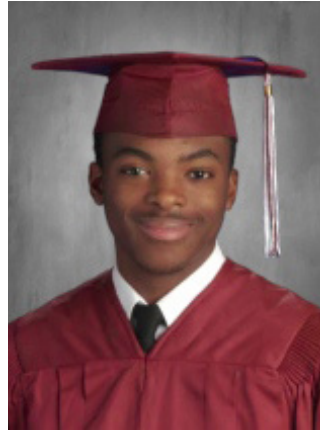
Anitra Smith



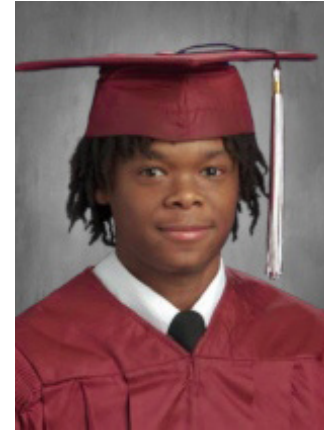
Ar Mani Tidwell



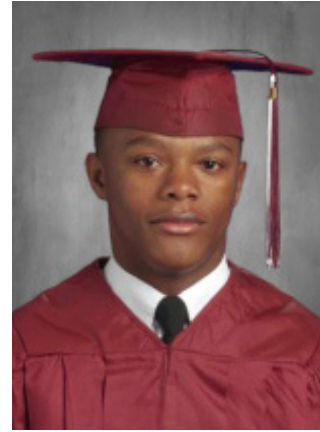
Mahogany Tidwell



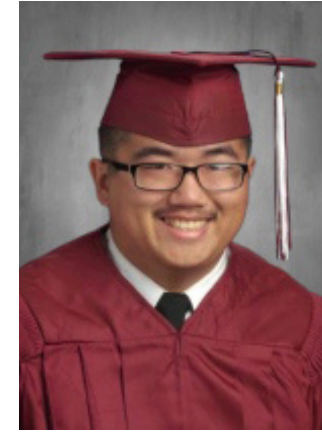
Tyron Toliver



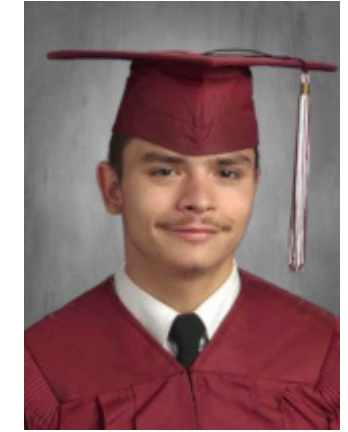
Tyquan Tribbet



Tidorian Turney



Nicholas Yang



Jay Zavala

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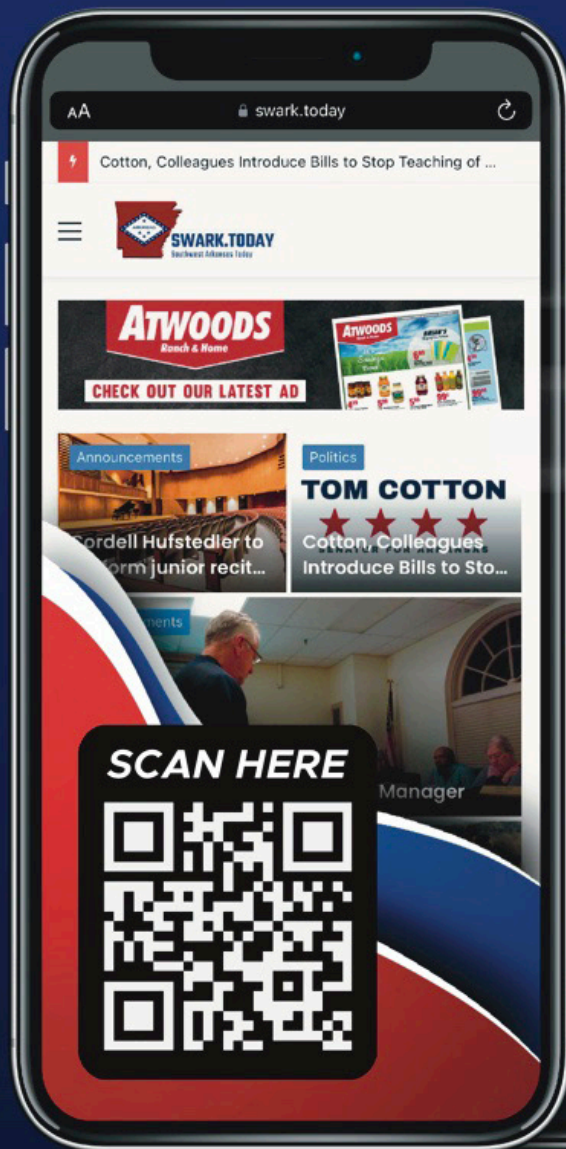
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