

*A graduation no one  
will ever forget!*

# Congratulations Class of 2020



**GRADUATING IN THE TOP 10 FROM THE MARIES COUNTY R-2 HIGH SCHOOL FOR 2020**

From left, back row; Sydney Lange, Grace Busch, Mya Honse, Lydia Cox, and Erin Helmig.  
front row; Sierra Peters, Erin Schalk, Ethan Butler, Skylar Rice and Katie Love

*A Keepsake Edition of the Maries County Advocate • June 22, 2020 • Page 1B-24B*



MARIES  
COUNTY

# Advocate



# BHS Class of 2020 Senior Class Scholarships

## Belle Lions Club Memorial Scholarship In Memory of David R. Sassmann

David Sassmann Memorial -Belle Lions Club Scholarship: The Belle Lions Club, after raising funds through several trivia night fund-raisers, established this endowed scholarship in memory of David Sassmann.  
Eddy Paz - \$500

## Maries Co. R-II PTO Scholarship

When the Maries County R-2 PTO disbanded several years ago, the remaining members established the Maries County R-2 PTO Scholarship fund to honor a graduating senior who demonstrated a history of volunteerism throughout high school.  
Natalie Byrd - \$700

## The Ruth and Gene Ridenhour MD Scholarship (Linn State)

Ruth and Dr. Gene Ridenhour MD established an endowed scholarships for graduating Belle High School seniors who continue their education at State Technical College of Missouri. Dr. Ridenhour was a 1949 graduate of Belle High School.  
Eddy Paz - \$500

## The Ruth and Gene Ridenhour MD Scholarship II

The second scholarship established by Ruth and Dr. Gene Ridenhour MD is available to any student.  
Skyler Rice - \$500

## Kaeding-Winter Scholarship

Kaeding-Winter Scholarship, established by two women from Bland, is one of our oldest scholarship funds that generated \$4000 worth of awards.  
Carter Dunn - \$1500  
Logan Johnson - \$1500  
Destiny Bialczyk - \$1000

## Theodore E. and Edna R. Leffler Scholarship

Ted and Edna Leffler Scholarship was established through the proceeds from the estate of Ted and Edna Leffler to benefit Belle High School seniors. Ted was a graduate of Belle High School. A total of \$8000 was available for scholarships.

Peyton Moran - \$2000  
Lydia Cox - \$2000  
Katelyn Love - \$2000  
Brayden Cooper - \$1000  
Sydney Lange - \$500  
Eddy Paz - \$500

## Schierloh Family Scholarship

The Schierloh Family Maries County R-2 Renewable Scholarship was established by the late Fred Schierloh, who was a 1964 graduate of Belle High School. These are renewable scholarships that have a total value of \$18,000 per student, if renewed.

Sydney Lange - \$3000  
Skyler Rice - \$3000

## Party-Butler Family Scholarship

The Party-Butler Scholarship was established by Mike and Cathie Party. Mike is a 1974 graduate of Belle High School and is in the oil industry in Texas. \$10,000 was available for scholarships this year.

Erin Schalk - \$5000  
Grace Busch - \$3000  
Erin Helmig - \$2000

## The Alan D. and Yvonne L. Skouby Scholarship

The Alan D and Yvonne Skouby Scholarship was established by the Skoubys who were graduates from Belle High School in 1954.  
Hailey Crews - \$500

## Mae, Grace, & George Bacon Scholarship

The Mae, Grace and George Bacon

Scholarship was established in memory of the Bacon family  
Ethan Butler - \$500

## Maries County R-2 Foundation Scholarship

The Maries County R2 Schools Foundation Community Scholarship is our local scholarship fund. We thank our community for their generosity each year at our fundraiser.


Grace Busch - \$2000

## MO-Sci Foundation Scholarship

MO-SCI Charitable Foundation Scholarship, this is the first year that Belle High School students have been offered scholarships. The foundation is funded through income generated by MO-SCI Corp., an advanced, high-tech glass development and manufacturing company in Rolla that was founded by Dr. Delbert Day. Each scholarship has a \$4000 value, if renewed.

Kaylei Robertson - \$2000 renewable two years  
Mya Honse - \$2000 renewable two years

See **Scholarships** on Page 10



*A Note of Congratulations*

*May your hard work and education open the door to a world of new opportunities and success!*


*Congratulations to the Belle Class of 2020.*

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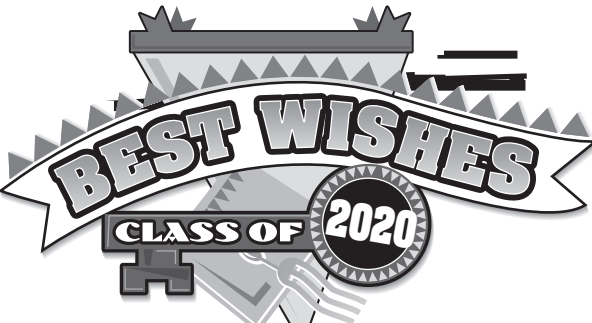
Congratulations on all of your accomplishments, graduate. Your commitment to a quality education has made us proud.

**Speical Congratulations to:**  
Grace Busch - Belle High School  
Teague Robertson - Columbia Hickman  
Shaune Auer - Parkway South



**FEELER TREE SERVICE**

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With hard work and dedication, you can achieve anything. Now that you've graduated, you'll be ready to soar to new heights, reaching your goals and ambitions.

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**FORTY-NINE OF** Belle's 55 graduates for 2020 were able to gather together for a class photo on Friday at the high school gymnasium.

**PHOTO BY CINDY BUTLER**

## Proclamation

**WHEREAS:** The Belle High School will graduate 55 seniors at the school's annual commencement exercises Sunday, July 19, 2020.

**WHEREAS:** These 55 graduating seniors represent the future of this community, the state, and the nation; and

**WHEREAS:** Among these 55 graduating seniors of the Belle High School Class of 2020 will be tomorrow's civic and business leaders, political figures and educators, and will contribute unselfishly to the continued growth and well being of the Belle community, the state and the nation,

**THEREFORE,**

The City of Belle extends sincere congratulations to each and every one of the 55 members of the Class of '20, their parents and their teachers, and honors them for the success they have achieved and recognizes the potential for their future success.

The City of Belle, Missouri  
July 19, 2020

*Steve Vogt* MAYOR

## Congratulations CLASS of 2020




**Mike  
Bernskoetter**


State Senator – District 6







**That's a Wrap!**  
Congratulations on your commencement!  
We know you'll go far in life, and we wish you all the best on your graduation day and always.  
Special Congratulations to  
Destiny Bialczyk & Marrisca Picard



**Double  
Country Store  
Belle Mo.**

500 Highway 28 W • Belle • 573-859-3114



## CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS!

After years of hard work, countless late nights, and collecting a closet full of school colors—you did it! We are proud to support students pursuing and achieving their dreams, on campus and beyond.



**Hollie Dean, Agent**  
Bus: (573) 859-3878  
206 S Alvarado Ave Ste A  
Belle, MO 65013  
holliedeanagency.com



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. and its Operating Companies,  
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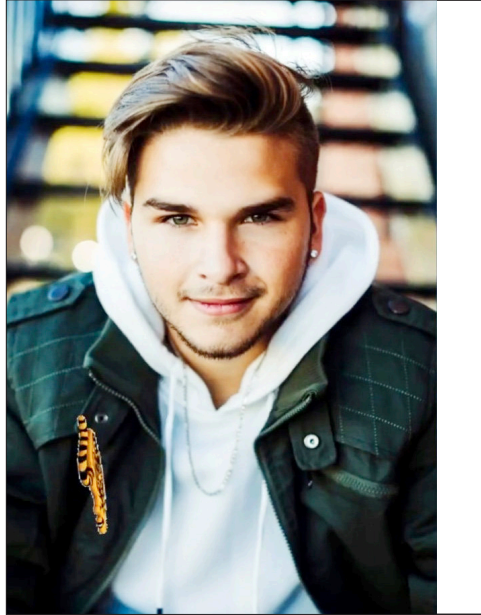




Isaiah M. Bailey



Dru J. M. Baumgartner



Lane M. Baxter



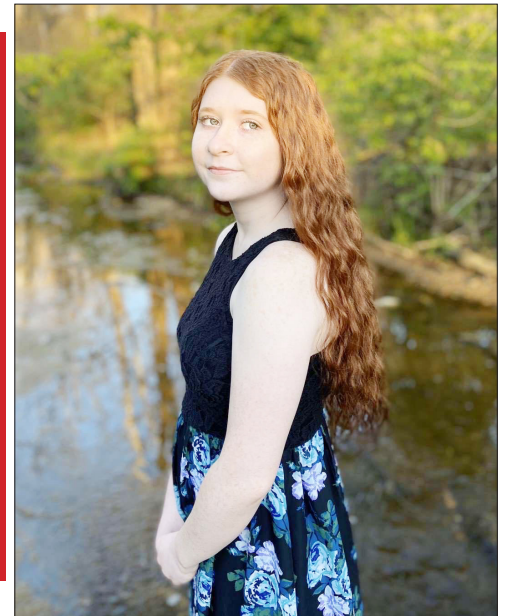
Destiny Cheryne Bialezyk



Zack Bledsoe



Chelsey Dawn Bray



**Congratulations  
Class of 2020!**

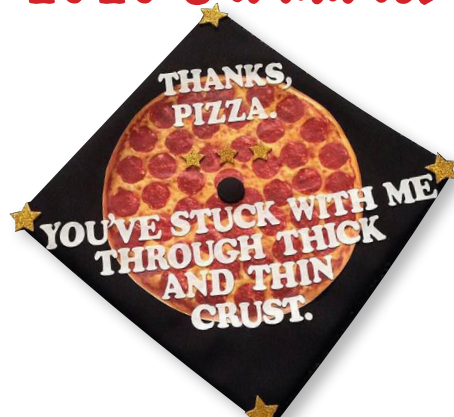
*Wishing you the greatest heights of success, graduates! Congratulations on your achievement.*

**Special Congratulations to  
Ethan Butler & Katie Love**

**MID-STATE**  
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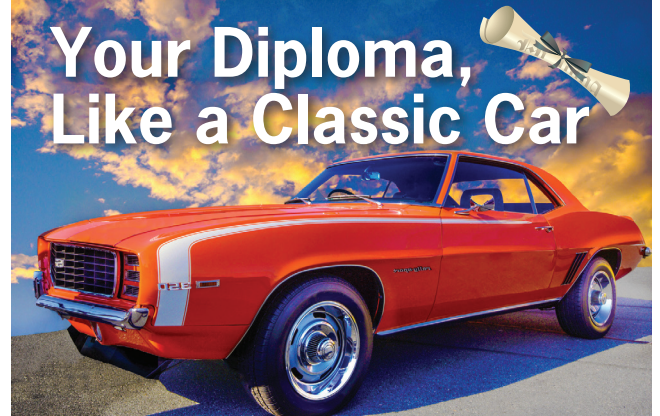
**Congratulations  
2020 Graduates**



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**Your Diploma,  
Like a Classic Car**



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**Congratulations to all our graduates.** As you celebrate this milestone, please be smart about your safety and the safety of others. Drinking and driving can take away all of your future dreams in an instant.

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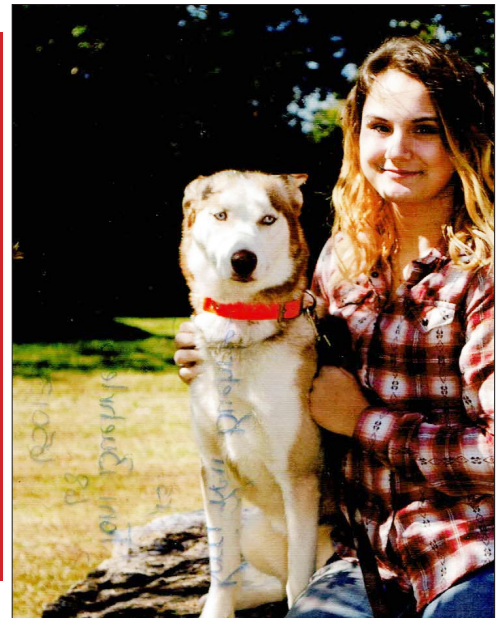
*Ashley Marie Brooks*



*Garret Adonis Brown*



*Korri Kay Buelster*



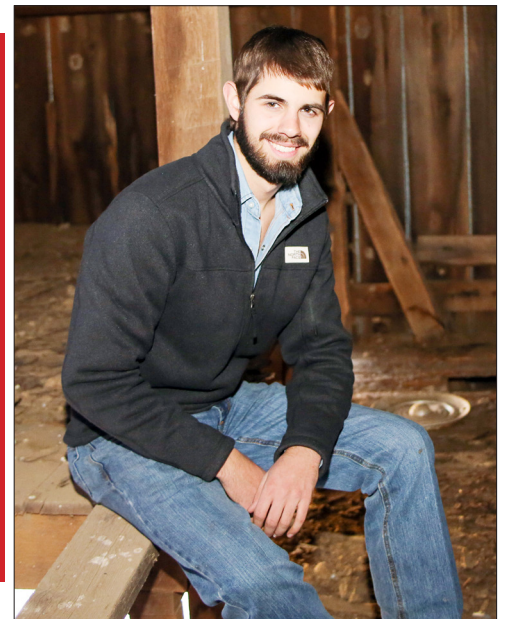
*Jordan Burrus*



*Grace M. Busch*



*Ellen Frank Butler*



## Celebrate!



You've earned this day, and we hope you enjoy every moment. Congratulations!

**COOK'S**  
**WRECKER & SALVAGE**  
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## Way to Go!



It's time to throw up your hats and celebrate. **Congratulations, Class of 2020!**

*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God.*  
~ James 1:5a

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Looking Forward to a **Bright Future**



Congratulations to all our 2020 Graduates!  
Special Congratulations to Eric Shalk

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**(573) 859-6324**



*Natalie R. Byrd*



*Brayden Cole Cooper*



*Lydia Ruth Ann Cox*



*Hailey Nicole Crews*



*Joseph M. Dean*



*Carter Thomas Duun*



*Best of luck in your future endeavors!*



1110 Hwy. 28  
Unit C  
Belle, MO 65013  
573-859-3500

## Honoring Our Graduates

We'd like to extend our sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2020. As you celebrate this milestone achievement, please know you have made your community and your loved ones proud!

Re-Elect Your Sheriff  
**HAROLD "CHRIS" HEITMAN**



MARIES COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**

Paid for by Candidate Chris Heitman

## Congratulations



Graduation will undoubtedly create a life style change for both graduates and parents. Now is the perfect time to review your insurance and make sure your coverages are adequate for these changes. Give me a call so we can help you review your policies.

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AGENT

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Faith Eryn Gieck



Erin Michelle Helwig



Ethan Edward Helwig



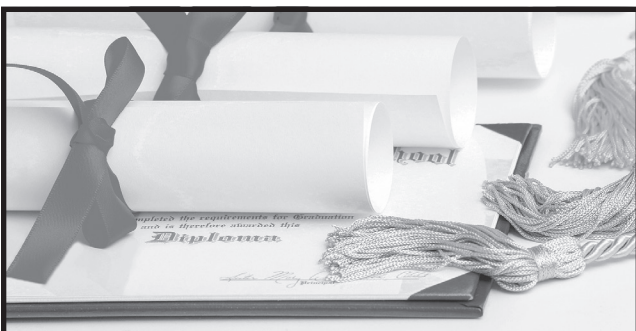
Peter Hilton Jr.



Alexis M. Hollandsworth



Mya Lauren Hense



## An Achievement to Celebrate

We salute the hard work and dedication that got you here today, graduates. As you receive your diplomas, please know you have made us proud, and we wish all of you all the best. Congratulations!



**Bruce**   
**Sassmann**  
for Mo. State Representative  
**EXPERIENCE MATTERS!**

Paid for by Bruce Sassmann Election Committee, Bruce Sassman treasurer

## CONGRATULATIONS

As you turn the page to the next chapter, the future is yours to write. Fill it with new experiences, good people and rewarding choices that help make the world a better place.

*Best wishes to all of the dedicated seniors who are celebrating their graduation today!*

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## HATS OFF, GRADUATES!



*May your graduation be the first of many great achievements to come.  
Congratulations!*

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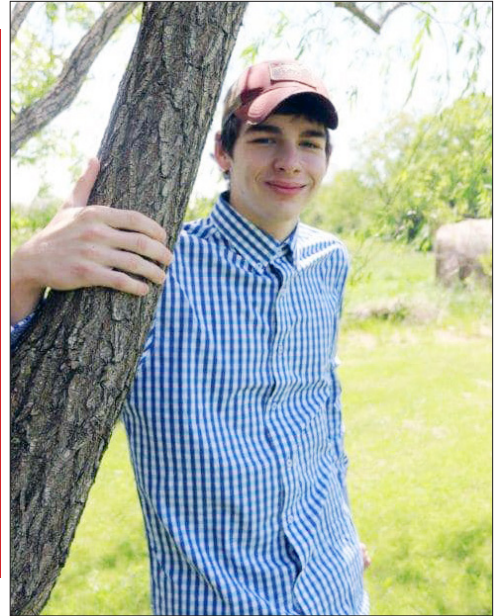
*Logan R. Johnson*



*Dalton Lee Jones*



*Aydin A. Keeney*




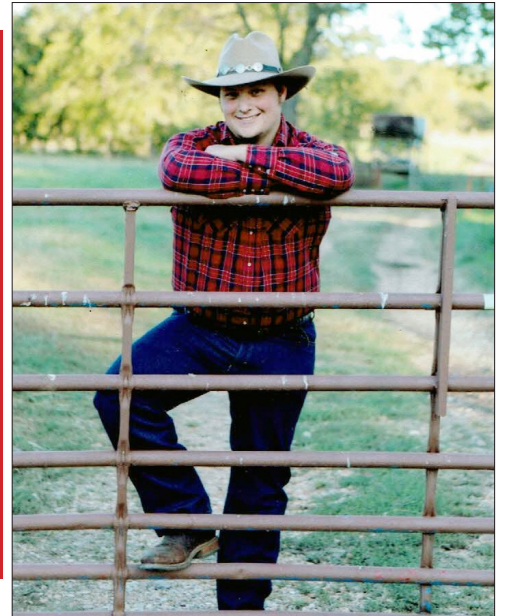
*Haley Nicole Kottwitz*



*Dustin Ray Kutclinski*



*Jesse A. Lange*




**Plan well,  
Work hard,  
Achieve your dreams.**

*Congratulations to the Graduating  
Class of 2020 from:*


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*Felicidades  
Graduates*



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**It's Time...**  
to give a graduation  
shout-out to the  
**Class of 2020:  
CONGRATS!**



**NAPA AUTO PARTS**  
573-859-3651 *Locally Owned*

NAPA Auto Parts of Belle~Guffey Auto  
711 Hwy 28 West Belle, MO



## Scholarships • from page 2

### Carolyn Holt Educational Scholarship

*Carolyn Duke Holt, a graduate of Belle High School who now lives in Rolla, established the Carolyn Holt Educational Fund to benefit a graduating senior. This is the first year for its award.*  
Erin Schalk - \$1000

### Maries County R-II Belle/Bland Booster Club Scholarship

Grace Busch - \$1000  
Peyton Moran - \$1000  
Mya Honse - \$500  
Kaylei Robertson - \$500  
Dru Baumgartner - \$250  
Carter Dunn - \$250  
Faith Gieck - \$250  
Dylan Light - \$250  
Katie Love - \$250  
Eddie Paz - \$250  
Jat Ridenhour - \$250  
Colton Robinson - \$250  
Erin Schalk - \$250  
Gavin Snodgrass - \$250  
Brett Stewart - \$250

### MFA Scholarship

Erin Helmig - \$2000

### Maries Co. Bank Scholarship

Sydney Lange - \$1000 renewable four years

### Belle Livestock Committee Scholarship

Ethan Butler - \$250  
Erin Helmig - \$250  
Grace Busch - \$250

### CTA Scholarship

Eddy Paz - \$750  
Mya Honse - \$500  
Kaylei Robertson - \$250

### Bernetta J. Williams Scholarship for Academics and Citizenship

Lydia Cox - \$500

### Nancy Janes Memorial Scholarship

Erin Helmig - \$500

### Back to Life Taxidermy Scholarship

Erin Schalk - \$500

### Maries Co. R-2 Archery Club Scholarship

Dalton Jones - \$500  
Erin Helmig - \$500

### Shelter Insurance Scholarship

Mya Honse - \$2000

### Mid-America Bank Scholarship

Grace Busch - \$1000

### VFW Post 3410 Scholarship

Sydney Lange - \$500

### Belle Fair Scholarship

Dalton Jones - \$500  
Skyler Rice - \$500

### The Agricultural Experience Scholarship

Kaylei Robertson - \$1000

### Belle High School NHS Scholarship

Sydney Lange - \$500  
Skyler Rice - \$250

### Hawkeye 4-H Scholarship

Dalton Jones - \$250  
Jacob Tibbetts - \$250  
Marissa Picard - \$250

### Donald "Eno" W. Zumwalt Memorial Agricultural Scholarship

Grace Busch - \$1000

### The FBLA Amanda Bradford Thompson Memorial Scholarship

Skyler Rice - \$1000

### Continuing Athletic Scholarship

Erin Schalk - \$250

### The Last Chance Scholarship

Erin Helmig - \$300

## Honor Students

Graduating with a 3.5 Weighted Cumulative GPA or Higher

Chelsey Bray  
Grace Busch  
Ethan Butler  
Natalie Byrd  
Brayden Cooper  
Lydia Cox  
Hailey Crews  
Joseph Dean  
Carter Dunn  
Faith Gieck  
Erin Helmig  
Alexis Hollandsworth  
Mya Honse  
Sydney Lange  
Dylan Light  
Katelyn Love  
Sierra Peters  
Skyler Rice  
Kaylie Robertson  
Erin Schalk  
Jimmy Scowden

## Happy Graduation

We hope this day fills your heart with pride and happiness as you celebrate the culmination of all your hard work.

**Congratulations!**

**Special congratulations to:**

*Kayley Roberson for a job well done!*



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**Frozen Custard**

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## CELEBRATE

Your hard work has paid off. We hope your graduation day is special in every way, and we wish you much luck as you take the next step.

**Congratulations!**

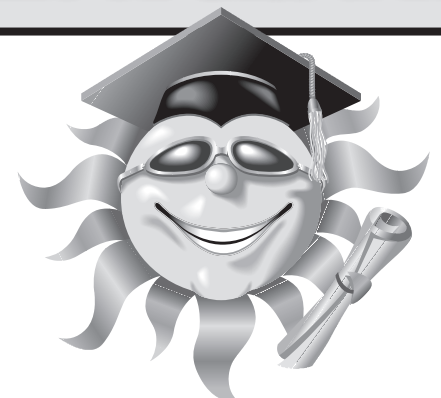
**Belle Dental Clinic**

**Rodger Janes DDS**

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## Shine On Class of 2020



Good wishes to one of the brightest and most promising graduating classes we've ever seen.

Keep us in mind for all of your insurance needs

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**Your local independent agent!**



**VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH**

# The Class of 2020: We Rock

**BY SKYLER RICE  
BELLE 2020 VALEDICTORIAN**



Look at us: donning decorated caps and silky gowns. Around our necks lay medals and ropes signaling our achievements. Look at yourself; feel the cap upon your head, notice the tassel to the left of your face, and observe the fabric wrapped around you. You look stunning. The caps and gowns that we wear today proudly show off who we are, what we've seen, and what we will become. We are the class of 2020, and we are proud of who we are.

We were a class born from the perils of

9/11. In first grade, we watched with open minds as the first African-American president was sworn into office. We lived through the Housing Market Crash of 2008. We have lived through nationwide tragedies. And now, we graduate in a nation struggling from a global pandemic and a split dividing us all. Despite the tragic events we have experienced during these past 12 years, we stayed strong. We stood together in times of need, and we rallied support when members of our class needed it. Despite our differences, every time we needed to stand together, we did. We are a strong, supportive, and unique class. We are unlike any other class to walk through these halls. We are the Belle High School Class of 2020. I have never been

prouder to be a part of something. I have grown up surrounded by the most wonderful people, and I will always remember that.

As a proud graduate of the Belle High School Class of 2020, I have to give thanks to those who put me here. To begin, I must thank the Class of 2020. You all have made this year the best. We have had a blast all year long, despite changes in plans. Especially during project graduation, Dylan Light and Gavin Snodgrass's toe can tell you about that (this is an inside joke among the senior class).

As your class president and valedictorian, I cannot thank you all enough for trusting me with these positions. Additionally, I thank the teachers, staff members, and administrators from the Maries R-II School District who helped me

become the successful woman I am today. Specifically, I want to thank Mrs. Speichinger, Mrs. Mouser, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Hickerson, and Mr. Feeler. These wonderful teachers and administrators truly helped me along my journey, and I will never forget them. I also thank the community members of Belle, Missouri for always being there to support me and the organizations I was a part of. Finally, I thank my family and friends. Without the constant support of my parents, grandfather, and my best friends, I would not be where I am. You all have supported me in every decision, and I am forever grateful.

Finally, as I conclude, I once again ask you, the Class of 2020, to look at yourselves. Look how far you have come. We did it! We survived the worst, pushed through the bad, and lived through the good. We are graduating! As I stand here before you, I can see your potential. We are a unique and strong class, and we all have so much potential. We are the future of this nation, and I know we will not let it down. We can do anything! We are the Belle High School Class of 2020, and we totally rock.

Thank you.



## MARIES COUNTY R-2 SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS

Skyler Rice ..... President    Kaylei Robertson .... Class VP    Kaitlyn Love ..... Secretary    Ethan Willis ..... Treasurer

**Friends, Family, Joy,  
Laughter and Success!**

May your graduation day and your future be filled with many wonderful blessings.

**Congratulations and Best Wishes to the  
Graduating Class of 2020.**



**COUNTRY BELLE CAFE  
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**Three Cheers for  
the Class  
of 2020**

*You did it!  
Years of hard work  
have led you to this day,  
and now is your moment to enjoy the  
accolades. Good luck, graduates.*



**Auctioneer: Eddie Arnold**  
1761 E. Forest Lane  
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573-437-2433 • 573-205-0209

**Looks Like  
You Made It!**

Your hard work has paid off, and now you are really on your way. We wish you all the best as you embark on exciting new challenges and adventures. The best is yet to come!

**Congratulations, graduates.**



**63 Auto  
& Truck  
Parts LLC**

Mike Prigge  
Logan Prigge

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**Chalk it up to hard  
work and dedication:  
you've graduated!**

*Congratulations*  
**on a job well done,  
Class of 2020!**

*From all of us at the  
Maries County Courthouse*

211 4th Street | Vienna, MO 65582 | 573-422-3338





**BELLE GRADUATES** celebrate (above) after a quick 17 minute commencement exercise where all 55 graduates accepted their diplomas. Family member and friends (photo opposite page) stood on the rain soaked grounds between the stage and the fair's livestock barn to observe the ceremony.

You made it  
to the  
**TOP**



We're so glad to see you succeed. Congratulations Class of 2020

MARIES COUNTY **Advocate**

Belle • 573-859-3323  
Vienna • 573-422-6323  
www.MariesCountyAdvocate.com

**HATS OFF**  
TO THE CLASS OF 2020



It's your day in the sun, Class of 2020. We knew you could do it! Congratulations and best of luck to all the graduates.

*Special Congratulations to*  
**BELLE GRADUATES:**  
*Joseph Dean • Logan Johnson*

**Walmart**   
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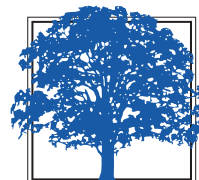
*Congratulations,  
Class of 2020*



*Congratulations and may you succeed  
in your future endeavors.*

204 S. Alvarado Ave,  
Belle • 573-859-3311

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**LEGENDS**  
**BANK**

MEMBER FDIC



## SALUTATORIAN SPEECH

# Senior skip day champions

BY SYDNEY LANGE  
BELLE 2020 SALUTATORIAN

Welcome faculty, friends and family to the Belle High School 2020 graduation ceremony. We are all just a little over two months late, but who was counting?

As most of you know, I am Sydney Lange, and I am this year's salutatorian. I want to personally thank the people that had a part in and the ones that rooted for us to be able to walk this stage today. This year has definitely not gone as planned. I remember back in March when schools were planning to close and there was no plan to return.

I was devastated and so were so many of my classmates. We were losing our last two months of senior year.

All the soon-to-come memories, connections, plans, and hopes were quickly taken away. I remember the feeling of helplessness. The feeling of "What now?"

Looking back, I am sad that it ended so quickly, but joyful of what it brought. It brought random people all over the internet and in our towns telling us how proud they are of us and that we are going to be stronger because of it. It gave us the title of "Senior Skip Day Champions," which we have always been a class to be remembered so that was nothing new!

It got us free donuts that we were crazy enough to wait two hours in line for. Or was that just Skyler and I? It gave us the awesome opportunity to get in the water during project grad and make even more memories with each other. We got to live like queens and kings during senior trip and have an outdoor prom and graduation.

Could you all imagine if we were sitting in that gym right now? I mean I'm not complaining too much, but this outdoor thing might need to become a new tradition!

Most importantly, though, it gave us the chance to still be connected all summer before heading off to the next



**SALUTATORIAN SYDNEY** Lange shakes hand with school board member Tom Kinsey

chapter of our lives. I have loved every minute of getting to grow up with most of you for the last 12+ years and some of you for only a few. We will always be the class of good times, prank wars, funny moments, and even the occasional division, because would we really be the class of 2020 without a few dividing moments here and there?

No matter what has happened in the past years, we have always had each other's backs and always will wherever life takes each of us. I am so proud of the young men and women we have all become. I know that we will go out and leave an imprint anywhere we go just like we did here. Just one last thing in the words of some classmates. It's been real. It's been fun. It's definitely been real fun. Time for me to be done.

I am sure you all have heard plenty. So, I will just say see you later, Congrats and Good Luck class of 2020!

## A+ Scholarship

Attend a designated A+ school for three years, GPA 2.5 or higher, 95% attendance all four years of high school, 50 hours of tutoring, Job shadowing, Maintain Good Citizenship. To access the A+ Scholarship: Student must enroll and attend full-time at a participating public community college or vocational/technical school or private two-year vocational/technical school

- Lane Baxter
- Zach Bledsoe
- Chelsey Bray
- Grace Busch
- Ethan Butler
- Nalalie Byrd
- Brayden Cooper
- Lydia Cox
- Hailey Crews
- Joseph Dean
- Carter Dunn
- Faith Gieck
- Erin Helmig
- Ethan Helmig
- Alexis Hollandsworth
- Mya Honse
- Dalton Jones
- Logan Johnson
- Hayley Kottwitz
- Sydney Lange
- Katelyn Love
- Eduardo Paz
- Skyler Rice
- Jat Ridenshour
- Kaylei Robertson
- Colten Robinson
- Erin Schalk
- Brett Stewart
- Gavin Snodgrass
- Jacob Tibbetts

**Looks Like You Made It!**

Your hard work has paid off, and now you are really on your way. We wish you all the best as you embark on exciting new challenges and adventures. The best is yet to come!

**Congratulations, graduates.**

**BILL KRAUSE FOUNDATIONS INC.**

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**A Proud Moment**

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**Special Congratulations to Haley Kottwitz, Faith Gieck and Sydney Lange.**

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# Hindsight is 2020 — Not the year we expected

**BY ROXIE MURPHY**  
**ADVOCATE STAFF WRITER**  
 rmurphy@wardpub.com

Maries R-2 class of 2020 finally had their graduation on Sunday during a thunderstorm. “No rain for three weeks and now this,” Superintendent Dr. Lenice Basham said pre-vent as they hoped to wait out the storm.

The class morale varied between humor and exasperation as most everyone was soaked by 7 p.m.

Erin Schalk and Grace Bush were sheltering in place under the westside pavilion. “I mean, it’s 2020,” Bush said.

“I think we are at the point where we want to just get it done,” Bush said. “Something is going to happen.”

Schalk said with everything going on this year and then this summer, “all of our plans have been switched around — our senior trip we were supposed to go to Florida. Then last minute, oh no, we’re going to Branson! It’s just kind of how it’s all gone.”

They both said their senior year has been eventful.

“In the beginning it was good, it started off really, really good, and then, um, basketball was a little rough and it all went shot from there,” Bush said.

“I don’t want to say it’s been bad though,” Schalk added. “We’ve definitely been a fun time. Everybody in the community has made this fun, especially with COVID. We had

the parade and all kinds of stuff has been going on.”

Bush said the class has learned how to work around it.

“It’s a lot more memorable,” Shalk said. “When my kids start to complain I am going to say, ‘listen here! It rained. It poured!’”

Schalk said the best memories of 2020 senior year have been when they laughed.

“Like on our senior trip it was after a long day on the river, then we were in the bathroom and just laughed for like 20 minutes at random stuff. The water was too hot and she put her hands in the water and she screamed and we were just on the floor laughing.”

Bush said the senior trip was the highlight of her year.

“All of us getting together after being gone and apart for so long,” Bush said.

Schalk said the class has gotten closer. They used to be very clicky and no one hung out. Bush said they now all appreciate each other more. They fought together to get to this moment.

For Jesse Lange, senior year was abbreviated more than everyone else’s.

“I only went for one hour a day with AOE, I came in at 11 a.m. and left at noon and then went to work, so I don’t know if I am the best candidate,” Lange said. “The best part about senior year was not having to worry about anything. As long as you got your work done, you got to see your friends.”

Lange said a highlight of his high school



**SENIORS KATIE LOVE** (left) and Grace Busch take a quick selfie before graduation on Sunday as the storm ruins plans for the planned graduation.

career was going to building trades and having Andy Jones as a teacher.

“This year has been really bad so give me a minute,” Ashton Brooks said when asked

for a comment during the downpour. “Time with classmates while we had it, not knowing

See **Hindsight** on Page 22

**2020**  
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 Great job, graduates!

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*Dylan J. Light*



*Katelyn E. Love*



*Amber Nicole Miller*



*Peyton Cole Moran*



*Traavis Michale Owens*



**WOOHOO!**

Enjoy your graduation celebrations, and please remember to celebrate responsibly.

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Your years of hard work in the classroom have paid off, graduates. Now it's time to take what you've learned and put it to work in the real world. We know you'll go far and we wish you all the best!

*Thanks for making us proud.*

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

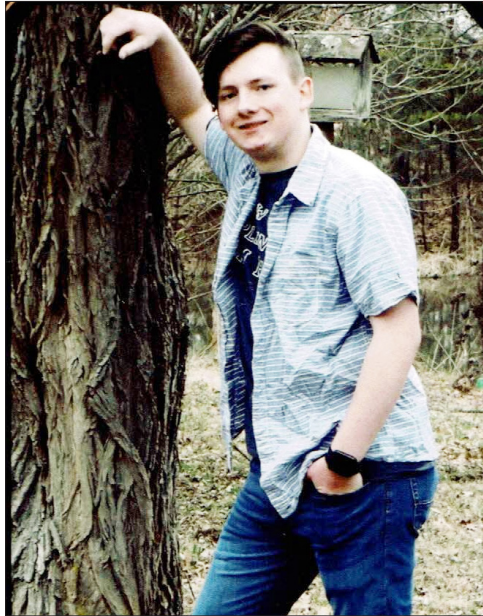
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*Eduardo Alberto Paz*



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**Congratulations**  
**Class of 2020**

The future belongs to you, graduate. Remember the important values and lessons you've learned here at home, and carry them with you on your path to success.

Special Congrats to  
Jat Ridenhour, Amber Miller,  
Katie Love & Carter Dunn

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**Congratulations**

Graduation will undoubtedly create a life style change for both graduates and parents. Now is the perfect time to review your insurance and make sure your coverages are adequate for these changes. Give me a call so we can help you review your policies.

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*Pat Michael Ridenhour*



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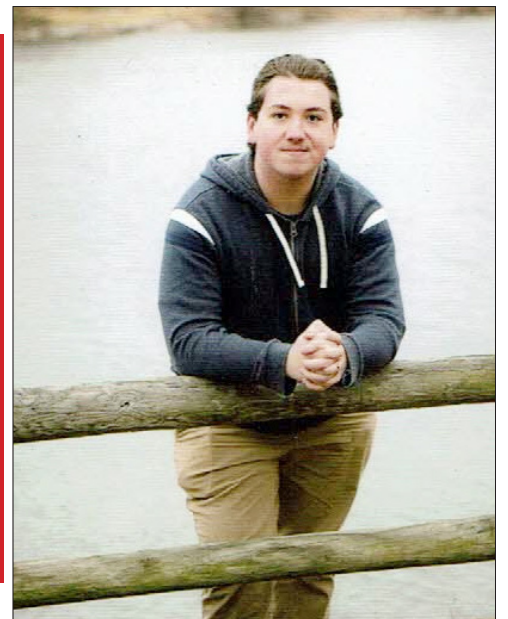
*Colten F. Robinson*



*Erin Jade Schalk*



*Jimmy Dale Scouder*



## Congratulations Grace



"We are so proud of you!"  
Love Mom, Dad, Molly  
and Victoria

## You Did it!



**Brett Lee Stewart,**  
we have watched  
you grow from this  
cute little guy to this  
handsome young man.

We have been  
so blessed by  
having you in  
our lives. You  
give life your  
all and we  
can't wait to  
see what the  
future holds.



**CONGRATULATIONS!**  
Love and Blessings  
~ Grandma Fran & Sam

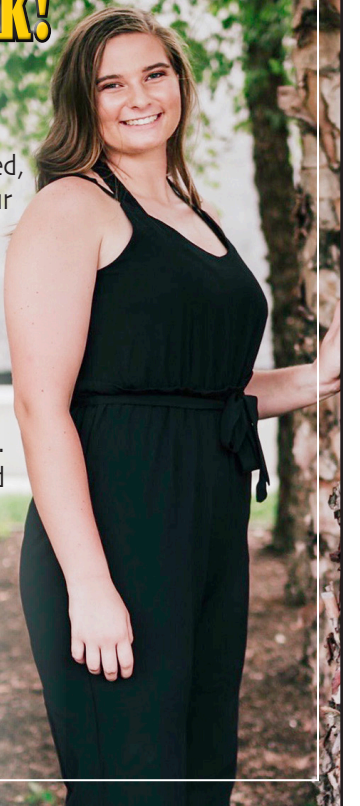
## Congratulations to Faith Gieck!

Belle High School  
Class of 2020

I am so proud of you!  
From your hard work at  
all those sports you played,  
your commitment to your  
academics and perfect  
attendance at school,  
you have shown us your  
drive to be successful.  
I am proud you have  
chosen to serve your  
country in the U.S. Army.  
You have made me proud  
every day.

*Be bold,  
be courageous,  
be your best!*

~ Love,  
Mom





*Gavin Isaac Snodgrass*



*Justus E. Stansberry*



*Brett L. Stewart*



*Alyssa M. Stunk*



*Kyle Thullen*



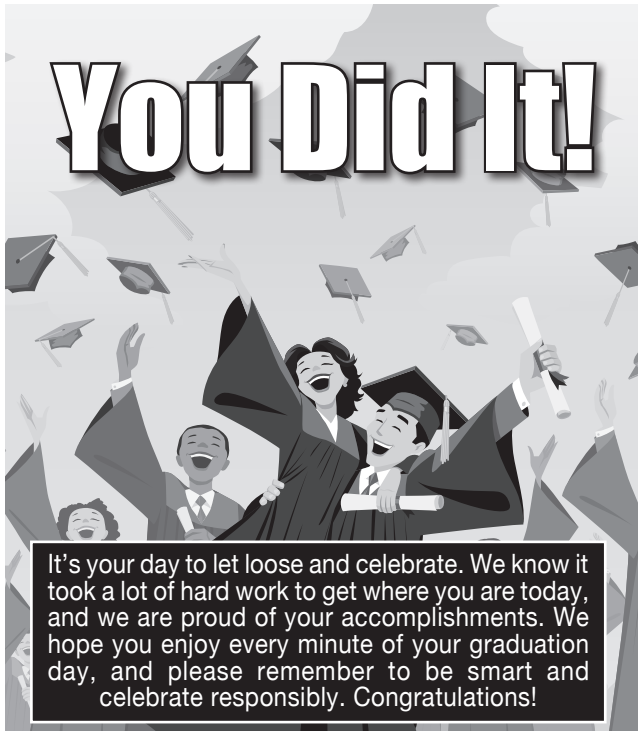
*Jacob Allen Tibbetts*



*Ethan L. Willis*



**You Did It!**



It's your day to let loose and celebrate. We know it took a lot of hard work to get where you are today, and we are proud of your accomplishments. We hope you enjoy every minute of your graduation day, and please remember to be smart and celebrate responsibly. Congratulations!



BELLE, MO

*The Future Looks Bright*

May all of your hopes and dreams come true, graduates!



MARIES COUNTY **Advocate**

[www.MariesCountyAdvocate.com](http://www.MariesCountyAdvocate.com)  
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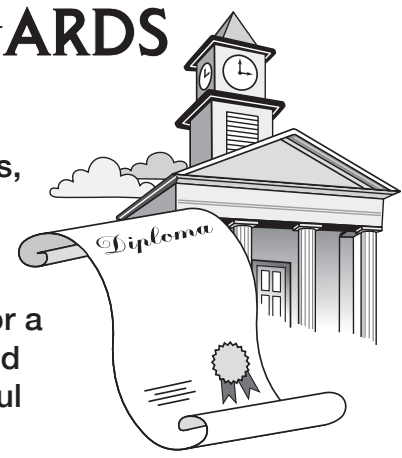
Photos from graduation ceremony in this special section by Dennis Warden and Jacob Warden





## WITH HIGHEST REGARDS

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



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**BELLE CLASS OF 2020**

*Congrats!*

We've watched you come this far, and now the sky is the limit. Hold fast to your dreams, and don't be afraid to reach for the stars. We know you can do it!

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*of Maries County*



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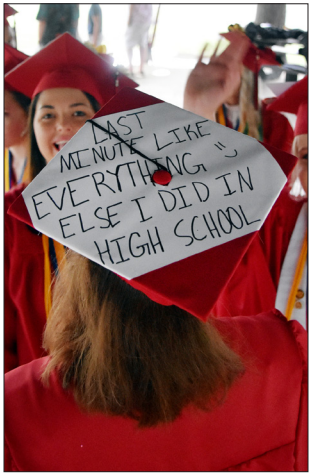
**Ride On!**  
Congratulations Grad...you're going places

Special Congratulations to Ethan Butler

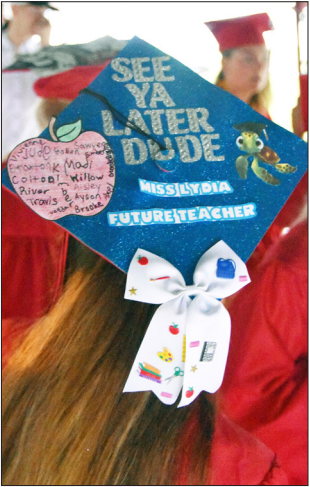
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## Hindsight • from page 15

it was going to be all that we had.”

Natalie Bird said the best part of the year was the people she spent it with.

“Definitely being with classmates and the unpredictable things that happened this year,” Bird said. “It was unpredictable, but it was awesome. The pandemic really made us value our time as a class, we didn’t get our last goodbyes and all that. It was cut short. We really got to value that.”

During a May 2020 interview class officers President Skylar Rice and Ethan Willis, treasurer, the two agreed there were memories they wanted to make and memories they didn’t think would ever have happened.

“I was looking forward to the last few weeks of senior year when all the classes were wrapping up,” Rice said. “Seniors were supposed to go to the park and get-togethers, and we can’t have that anymore.

At the time, Willis was concerned he would never have that memory of walking across the stage with classmates or dancing at prom.

In true 2020 form, they did get those memories, but still not as expected, but 2020 gave a little back to the senior class too. Things other classes may never have.

“My favorite memory — lights at the softball field thing I would say is the biggest one,” Rice said, referencing ways the community gave recognition to the seniors when their milestone events were canceled. “When I started my senior year, I never expected any of this to happen, that the only way to see friends was to park cars six feet away. The parade — I wouldn’t have expected to see something like that. Seeing everyone in cars and the community coming forward to support us was nice.”

Willis said his favorite memory was with his class.

“Doing our senior class dance, we danced to Spongebob Square Pants songs,” Willis said.

For him, the parade was one memory he never expected to make. He said his senior year was short.

Rice says it was different.

“Senior year in general is different for everyone and this year for these seniors is different,” she said. “No one has experienced what we have experienced. It’s hard for people to sympathize with us. We did it differently, but it’s not necessarily a bad thing. Just ‘cause we can’t be in class together doesn’t stop us from talking to each other. It’s different, but that is ok, because we make the most of what we got.”

Rice and Willis had hoped for a day at the park with friends and a walk down the stage to get their diplomas. This is certainly a day they won’t forget.



**HIGH SCHOOL** Principal Lea Hickerson announced the names of each graduate with a bull horn on a wet stage for the 17-minute graduation ceremony. Looney-Tunes removed their sound system earlier because of the heavy rains. Seniors Erin Shalk (left, photo left), Grace Busch and Ethan Bulter smile for the camera during the informal event.




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## *Congratulations* Class of 2020!



Graduation is not the end of a tough journey. It is the beginning of a new and challenging one! Best of luck on your future endeavors!



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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2020!

*Be proud of yourselves and continue to work hard knowing that dedication will lead to success. We wish you all the very best for today and in the future.*



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**MARIES R-2** Superintendent Dr. Lenice Basham (left) and high school history teacher Wendy Berkelman wait out the initial storm under the covered stage on the Belle Fairgrounds 30 minutes before the scheduled graduation ceremony. The stage provided very little coverage from the heavy rain and wind. A break in the weather at 7 p.m. eventually provided a 30 minute window of opportunity for the students to be recognized.

*Extra Copies Of This Special Edition are Available At The Maries County Advocate offices in Belle, Owensville or Vienna.*

**Class Flower: Carnation**

**Class Song:  
"We Laughed Until We Cried"  
by Jason Aldean.**

## Way to Go!

Dream big, graduates, and enjoy your special day. The best is yet to come!

**Congratulations**

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## Hats Off to our Grads

Your day has arrived! Congratulations to each and every member of the Graduating Class of 2020.

**VIC STRATMAN**  
Presiding Commissioner of Maries County

Paid for by Vic Stratman

## Congratulations GRAD!

To the graduates of 2020, go our very best wishes for health, happiness and success both today and in the future.

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## Way to Go Graduates!

Your day has arrived! Congratulations to each and every member of the Graduating Class of 2020.



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## The Sky's the Limit



May you reach all of your dreams and goals, graduates! We're proud of you.

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2020

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GRAD