



JILL BOCK/STANDARD DEMOCRAT

**Bently Rooker signs her Decision Day paper during a ceremony on May 7 at New Madrid County Central High School . Rooker plans to attend Washington University next fall. Graduation for the Class of 2025 is Friday, May 16 in the high school gym.**

# NMCC Class of 2025 looks forward to college, tech schools, careers

BY JILL BOCK  
Standard Democrat

NEW MADRID, Mo. - New Madrid County Central High School senior Jaleecia Walton may have summed up Decision Day best: “Follow your dream and don’t be afraid to pursue it.”

Walton and 70 other NMCC seniors were recognized for taking the next steps toward their careers during the 2025 Decision Day on May 7. NMCC is one of more than 150 Missouri high schools participating in Decision Day this year.

Dallas Allen, junior-senior high school counselor at Central High School, said she begins working with students at the start of their senior year to help them prepare for life after graduation, whether that means college, trade school, the military or entering the workforce. The May ceremony recognizes that preparation and intention. “In high school they have prepared for this for four years. I think Decision Day is important because now they can make a commitment to continue on with their future plans,” Allen said.

According to Allen the program, now in its third year at NMCC, makes a difference.

“What I have noticed from last year and the year before is that if our students who have gone off to colleges or to the military after they sign, they usually stay there,” she said.

Slade Courtois wants to become an electrical distribution systems lineman. Working with Allen, he was accepted into State Technical College of Missouri and signed his Decision Day paperwork surrounded by his family.

“Mrs. Allen has been a really big help to me. She made sure my paperwork, test scores, everything was right,” he said. “My family has been a really big help, too.”

Since her freshman year in high school, Walton knew she wanted to follow the path taken by two of her siblings into the military. She said she chose the Air Force because of the educational support it offers.

In addition to her military service, Walton plans to study either business or nursing.

Along with Walton’s family, U.S. Air Force Technical Sgt. Cynthia True was on hand to show her support for Walton and show what the military’s commitment to her future would be with a ceremonial check for \$234,762. She explained the amount is the average cost of tuition in the United States plus the E-4 pay a participant would receive for the four years of college.

While Walton’s commitment to service will depend on the job path she chooses, True described it an excellent opportunity.

“We take them right out of high school. No experience needed,” she said adding it also



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**Jaleecia Walton, front row second from the right, celebrates her Decision Day signing with the U.S.. Air Force with her family and Air Force Technical Sergeant Cynthia True.**

enables them to see a variety of career opportunities, earn money, see the world and get college paid for.

## Senior decisions:

While NMCC foreign exchange student Jan Clossheim plans to return to Germany to finish high school, the other members of the NMCC Class of 2025 decisions are:

Allan Hancock Community College: Tamiah Word (kinesiology);

Air Force: Nehemiah Evans and Jaleecia Walton;

American Welding Academy: Layton Cox;

Arkansas State University: Alex Nevel (wildlife conservation), Connor Henderson (pre-vet), Drake Burton, (nursing), Ethan Markham (music), Kasiah Wofford (radiology) Landyn Scobey (undeclared major and joining National Guard), Peyton Jarmon, (pre-vet), and Taylor Shaw, (occupational therapy assistant);

Cape Career Technology Center: Makalen McFerren (HVAC), Leland Cox (automotive technology) Tylen Johnson (EMT), Trae Hyde (EMT), Trey Howard (electrical trades), Zack Gamblin (electrical trades), Marvion Cranford (electrical trades), Cash McSpadden (electrical trades) and Tharon Harper (electrical trades);

Dental Assistant School: Olivia Turner;

Milwaukee Area Technical College: Emani Summers (human service associate);

Missouri State University: Kaylee Babb (elementary education);

Missouri Welding Institute: Bradley Felton

Mississippi State University: Laurel Towy (marketing)

National Guard: So’Miya Smith

Online film school: Hunter Strebler (graphic arts)

Southeast Missouri State

University: Adan Campbell (nursing), Andrew Higgerson (major undeclared), Brooklynn Wright (pre-law), Ivyanna Winters (criminal justice), JG Harris (business), Kiya Vaught (marine biology), Mark Miller (marine biology) and Mikera Jackson (early childhood education);

State Technical College of Missouri: Slade Courtois (electrical distribution systems) and Peyton Davis (HVAC);

Three Rivers University: Hailey Riggins (nursing), Hayleigh Woods (healthcare administration), Ayrasum Roberts (Spanish), Daisy Kenedy, (pre-law), Kaidan Johnson, (psychology), Keira Bobo (psychology), Trinity Carter (nursing), Tristian Shaw (criminal justice) and Zequoia Richards (nursing);

University of Missouri – Columbia: Destiny Hughes (clinical and diagnostic science)

Undecided college:

Ra’Mond Brooks;

University of Tennessee – Martin: Allie Kenedy (ag business)

Urshan University: Noah Tilley (undecided major) and Sophia Bobo (general education);

Washington University: Bently Rooker (undecided major)

William Woods University: Jordan Eakens (pre-athletic training)

Workforce: Erik Tillmon (Unilever), Gabby Wolfe (steel mill), Gage Nabert (Kirby and Land Marine, a towboat company), Isiah Burk (electrician), Jamyika Hollins (Trendsetters), Josilynn Collier (internship with Petsense as pet groomer), London White, Alex Dial (Unilever), Mikey Henry, Nathan Hutchings (Orgill), Natyra Gray (Trendsetters), Stephanie Smith (Walmart), Ryleigh Hardin, Tomarion Pettigrew (CDL), and Ben Wilkes.

## PHS

From page 6

tional Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate

Alexandra Nicole Long – National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate, Bruce and Sue Martin Memorial Scholarship, Portageville Bulldog Foundation Scholarship, Kringle’s Kitchen Scholarship

RiAnnah Semone Long – Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate

Zachary Sean Lovins – National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate, New Madrid County Memorial VFW Scholarship

Mason Michael Meador – Beta Club

Lawrence Matthew Montgomery

Kate Olivia Murphy – Missouri A+ graduate, Eric Uhrhan Memorial Scholarship

Kearsten Rhiannon Musgrave – New Madrid County Memorial VFW Scholarship

Huston Connor Partin – Missouri A+ graduate, New Madrid Eagles Scholarship

Rylan Austin Partin – Missouri A+ graduate

Taryn Alyse Partin – National Honor Society, Beta Club, Senior Class president, Kringle’s Kitchen Scholarship

Casen James Patton – National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate, Bank of New Madrid Joseph E. and Harriette H. McCrater Scholarship, American Red Cross Lifeblood Scholarship, Terry Brasher Memorial Scholarship, Portageville Bulldog Foundation Scholarship, New Madrid County Memorial VFW Scholarship

Liza Jane Priggel – 2025 valedictorian, Class Top 10, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate,



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**Members of the Portageville High School Class of 2025 move the tassels on their caps from right to left to symbolize their graduation.**

class treasurer, Portageville Ministerial Alliance Scholarship, First Church of God Scholarship, First State Bank and Trust Horace H. Dunagan Jr. Memorial Scholarship, Beth Cross Music Scholarship, Student Council Scholarship, Ophelia Wade Memorial Scholarship/state winner/Gayoso Chapter DAR, Portageville Bulldog Foundation Scholarship, V.T. and Rita Rogers Scholarship, New Madrid County Memorial VFW Scholarship, MUSIC Dr. Darrell “Jack” Holley Scholarship, National Wild Turkey Federation Scholarship, MFA Foundation Scholarship, Bloomfield Christmas Tournament Athlete Scholarship

Gunner Landon Pugh

Alyssa Nicole Pullam – Class Top 10, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate, Masonic Lodge/Four Mile Lodge 212/ Eddie Williams Memorial Scholarship

Joshua Dalton Quick

Owen Thomas Roberts – National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate

Reece Beth Aline Rone – Class Top 10, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate, class reporter, Portageville Bulldog Foundation Scholarship, V.T. and Rita Rogers Scholarship

Gabriel Christian Ross – Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate

Braiden Chad Ruby

Ja’Niya Bernice Smith – National Honor Society, Missouri A+ graduate

Bradley Leaum Staffey – National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate

Bethany Ann Stafford

John Tanner Sullivan – Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate

Justus Damon Sullivan

Briley Marie Weddington – 2025 salutatorian, Class Top 10, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate, senior class vice president, First State Community Bank Scholarship, Portageville Bulldog Foundation Scholarship, V.T. and Rita Rogers Scholarship, New Madrid County Memorial VFW Scholarship, First United Methodist Church Scholarship

Kaitlyn Alyssa Weller – Class Top 10, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate, Nucor Corporation Educational Scholarship

Aiden Jerome Wilson

Trudy Grace Bi Zhan Wren – Class Top 10, National Honor Society, Beta Club, Missouri A+ graduate, New Madrid County Memorial VFW Scholarship

Donrico Lorenzo Young Jr.

## WHAT’S COOKING AT THE OAKS CENTER?

925 Pinnell Lane,  
New Madrid

108 W. Main St.,  
Portageville

### Wednesday, May 14

Tuna salad, crackers, three-bean salad, sweet and sour beets, mandarin oranges

### Thursday, May 15

Goulash, garden salad, parmesan peas, garlic bread, warm apples

### Friday, May 16

Salmon patties, seasoned wedges, spinach,

mandarin oranges

### Monday, May 19

Chicken tenders, macaroni and cheese, California blend, lima beans and tropical fruit

### Tuesday, May 20

Pork chops, scalloped potatoes, beets, hot roll, blushing pears



**Region 7**  
Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska,  
and Nine Tribal Nations

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Administrative Record Available**  
**PCE North West Street Superfund Site**  
**Sikeston, Scott County, Missouri**  
**May 2025**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 7 has compiled the Administrative Record (AR) for the PCE North West Street Superfund Site in Sikeston, Scott County, Missouri. The AR is the official site file that contains technical documents with respect to response actions at the site. EPA developed this document collection to form a clear understanding of the site.

The site includes a former dry-cleaning facility and a tetrachloroethylene (PCE) groundwater plume that has impacted two of the city’s public drinking water wells. EPA will oversee the Potentially Responsible Party removal action to mitigate impacts to the drinking water and to evaluate potential vapor intrusion into nearby structures.

Site project information is available to the public at web repositories. To view cleanup documents, please visit EPA’s webpage at: [www.epa.gov/superfund/pcenwstreet](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/pcenwstreet).

If you do not have internet access, you can view these documents online at this location: **Sikeston Public Library**, 121 E. North St., Sikeston, MO 63801; 573-471-4140.

If you have questions about the site, please contact EPA Community Involvement Coordinator **Tanya Young** at [young.tanya@epa.gov](mailto:young.tanya@epa.gov), 913-551-7803 or 1-800-223-0425.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7  
11201 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa, Kansas 66219  
Toll-free: 1-800-223-0425

## Past

From page 6

Bond, Alexa Garner, Shelby Karafa, Karlie Frazier, Mercade Campbell and Allyson Garner. Coaches are B.J. Stone and Bobbie Rae Smith.

**10 Years Ago** – U.S. Eighth District Representative Jason Smith presented New Madrid County Central graduating senior Garrett Manley with a special congressional recognition of his appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Manley is the son of Leigh Ann and Webb Manley.

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time for a  
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