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# Three Rivers Celebrates Class of 2016 Commencement Ceremony

MAY 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Three Rivers Celebrates Class of 2016 Commencement Ceremony

**Poplar Bluff, Missouri** - Three Rivers College filled the Black River Coliseum to celebrate the institution's newest graduating class on Friday, May 20. Over 570 students in Three Rivers' degree and certificate programs were eligible to walk across the stage during Friday's ceremony.

Erick Kirkman, a Three Rivers alumnus, Poplar Bluff resident, and successful entrepreneur, gave the commencement speech to the Class of 2016. In his speech, Kirkman encouraged graduates to seek success and follow their dreams, even if those dreams seem difficult to achieve. He also told graduates to hold themselves to a high standard, even if it was hard.

"I would say to worry about your character, and not your reputation," said Kirkman. "Those seem like the same thing, but they're very different. Your reputation is who people think you are; your character is who you are when no one is watching."

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Three Rivers, the college Choir, directed by Cindy White, Professor of Music, performed an arrangement of "The Sound of Silence," which was the music performed at Three Rivers' first commencement.

"It is gratifying to me to see so many graduates heading off into a better life with a degree from Three Rivers," said Williams. "It's my pleasure to greet you all not only as new

graduates, but as fellow alumni of Three Rivers.”

The college honored several outstanding graduates at the ceremony, and recognized its many first-generation, non-traditional, veteran, international, and multi-generation graduates. Among the individual graduates spotlighted were:

- Justas Furmanavicius, an international student from Lithuania, who came to the United States after being recruited to play for the Raiders Basketball team.
- Ann Mati, an international student whose Three Rivers journey started with a full day of classes after a 24-hour trip from her home in Kenya, and who received a Student Excellence Award for her work in the Honors Program.
- Jennifer Beck, a first-generation student who came to Three Rivers after entering the workforce as an LPN. She graduated alongside her daughter, who helped encourage her to start classes at Three Rivers.
- Dorothy Rose, a non-traditional student who began her college career after marrying and raising five boys. She graduated with an Associate of Arts with an emphasis in General Education and plans to substitute teach at Twin Rivers.
- Gabby and Michaela Mays, twin sisters who came to Three Rivers under the A+ program and served as Resident Assistants in housing at the Poplar Bluff Campus.
- James Norman, a student veteran who served in the Navy as an Aviation Electronics Technician. He has served in leadership positions within the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and the student art club. He plans to transfer to Southeast Missouri State University to complete his art degree.

This year marks the 48th anniversary of the college’s first commencement ceremony since Three Rivers was founded in 1966. Since then, Three Rivers has served over 100,000 students from its degree, transfer, and career-technical programs. Registration is currently open for Fall classes at Three Rivers. To learn more about registering for classes at Three Rivers, call the Welcome Center at 573-840-9605 or visit [trcc.edu](http://trcc.edu).

Three Rivers College is committed to contributing to the quality of life in Southeast Missouri with quality, affordable higher education opportunities and community services that support and encourage the economic, civic, and cultural vitality of the region. For more information about college and workforce programs and upcoming events, visit [trcc.edu](http://trcc.edu).

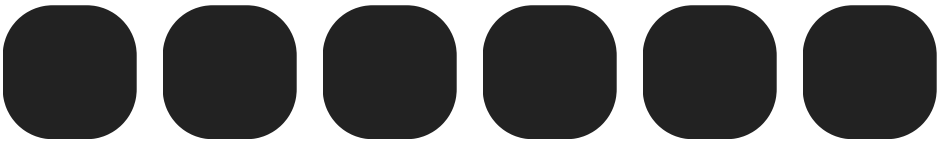
**Shown in the photo is James Norman, a student veteran and member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, stands to be recognized by Three Rivers College President Dr. Wesley Payne during Three Rivers’ 2016 Commencement Ceremony**

at the Black River Coliseum on May 20.

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# Richland School Names 4th Quarter Honor Roll

MAY 29TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Richland School Names 4th Quarter Honor Roll

**Essex, Missouri** - The Richland School District released the names of students who earned 4th quarter Honor Roll.

Below is a list of 1st - 12th Grade.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade - George Anderson, Payton Bell, Gabriel Bolt, Abigail Higgins, Marlei Jones, Ariel Lewis, Baylie Pinkley, Ava Porter, ALissah Pulliam, Jude Rice, Daisy Sherfield, La'Jayvion White

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade - Deborah Anderson, Olyvia Anderson, Shyanne Anderson, Joshua Barnes, Mary Beth Bolin, Gunner Bugg, Hayden Conner, Allie Corlew, Carter Eaton, Bella Elledge, Emma Fortenberry, Tyler Fortenberry, Jake Goodman, Cole Lang, Kolten Lawrence, Addison McCollum, Joshua Merriman, Dayton Owens, Jasmine Qualls, Kamryn Rice, Emma Roberts, Audrie Stoker, Sidney Stoker, Gary Tilley, Veronica Touchette, Marissa VanVacter, Bobbie Vaughn, Kaylee Vaughn

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - Blake Anderson, Bryce Brown, Joshua Chafin, MaKayla Finch, Tucker Hughes, Hunter Snaders, Shyla Swasho, Alyssa Thompson, Amari Tilley, Eric Williams

4<sup>th</sup> Grade - Waylan Barnes, Chase Bolt, Shelby Boyle, Lila Corlew, Austin Cross, Arianna Heitman, Elijah Higgins, Gracie Jones, MaKenna Lykins, Tucker Miller, Zaine Pettigo, Alex Porter, Ben Stoker, Christopher Tyra, Ashland Wheeler, Joe Wyman

5<sup>th</sup> Grade - Katelyn Black, Sharian Blankenship, Dezaray Brown, Alexia Curnett, Constance Deason, Hunter Deason, Logan Head, Damon Ivy, Cody Knox, Rozlynn McCollum, Dalton Miller, Noah Moyers, Lily Parker, Sophie Pearce, Chelsea Swasho, Rylee Taylor, Courtney Walley, Susan Wells

6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Alesia Eaton, Matthew Finch, Bailee Hux, Belle Jones, Alexia Kemp, Alexas Leeper, Dacie Ritch, Makaila Stafford, Blake Tyra, Abbigale Wheeler

7<sup>th</sup> Grade - Jarod Baker, Smantha Booker, Adam CHafin, Olivia CHafin, Sheldon Craft, Devin Duffie, Tanner Freeman, Jessica Harmon, Amanda Heitan, Chloe Holman, Austin Jones, Avvie Jones, Kelsey Kimbrel, Canasia McBride, Shelby Mayabb, Shai Sherfield, Kyle Smith, Meagan Tank, Austin Thompson, Kaycee Wamble, Madison Worley.

8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Austen Buttry, Katie Condict, Samantha Cowell, Dominic DeBord, Nathan Elles, Allison Jones, Kasey Long, Abbygail Massey, Cameron Mullin, Norman Oakley, Anthony Parker, Noah Pearce, J T Pinkley, Halle Swallows.

9<sup>th</sup> Grade - Bradley Billingsley, Emily Blunt, Laura Brown, Samantha Clark, Amber Daniels, Riley Glass, Anthony Heitman, Reyana Heitman, Mattie Howard, Erica Jones, Liza King, Harlie Leeper, Katelynn Lewis, Michael Manes, Claryssa Martin, Draven Pettigo, Daniel Petty, Paige Pinkley, Laura Stickles, Katherine Wyman.

10<sup>th</sup> Grade - Nick Azure, Natalie Clark, Megan Cullum, Gavin Curd, Bailey Glass, Clayton Harriel, Myah Kennedy, Josh Kidd, Shawn Knox, Logan Lewis, Luke Rhodes,

Josh Shidler, Sara Tackett, Raeann Tank, Joshua Thompson, Hunter Walker, Aaron Wells.

11<sup>th</sup> Grade - Alyssa Atchison, Lane Brown, Jerry Craft, Michael Dalton, Gerlynn Grossius, Garet Philips, Katelyn Pinkley, Aleena Robbins, Joshua Thornton, Preston Tilley.

12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Zachary Carmack, Austin Elledge, Dedrick GOver, Travis Grubbs, Jordan Head, Drew Hickson, Moriah McLard, Parker Miller, Tracy Partenberry, Skie Pinkley, Zackary Price, Samantha Pullum, Jamie Smith, Colten Thyssen, Nikki Tomes, Breannna Williamson.

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# Brandon Abner Named Salutatorian at Bell City

MAY 26TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

Brandon Abner Named Salutatorian at Bell City

**Bell City, Missouri** - Brandon Abner was named the Class of 2016 Salutatorian at Bell City High School. He is the son of Ben and Chadette Abner and Jennifer Tietjen.

Abner was a member of Beta Club, Future Business of America, FCCLA, Pep Club, Student Council, Basketball, Boys State, a Math Field Day competitor and the 2015 Class 1 State Baseball Championship.

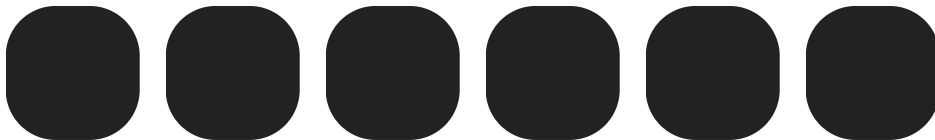
His future plans are to attend the University of Missouri - Columbia and major in Business Accounting.

Congratulations Brandon!

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## Peyton Maddox Named Valedictorian at Bell City

MAY 26TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Peyton Maddox Named Valedictorian at Bell City

**Bell City, Missouri** - Peyton Maddox was named the Class of 2016 Valedictorian at Bell City High School. He is the son of Daniel and Deana Maddox.

Maddox was Student Council President, Beta Club President, and Academic Team President. He was a member of Future Business Leaders of America, FCCLA, Pep Club, Varsity Basketball, Track, Band, Boys State, Student of the Year for Dexter Elks, a Math Field Day competitor, and was the winning pitcher in the 2015 Class 1 State Baseball Tournament.

His future plans are to attend Crowley's Ridge College on a Baseball Athletic Scholarship and major in Business Management.

Congratulations Peyton!

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## Brock Lewis Beacham Named Salutatorian at Bernie

# High School

MAY 25TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

## Brock Lewis Beacham Named Salutatorian at Bernie High School

**Bernie, Missouri** - Brock Lewis Beacham is the Class of 2016 Salutatorian at Bernie High School. He is the son of Michelle and Barry Beacham.

Beacham was a member of FCCLA, Future Business Leaders of America, Senior Beta Club, the varsity Academic Team, and played baseball.

His future plans are to attend the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla, Missouri and he will play baseball there.

Congratulations Brock!

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