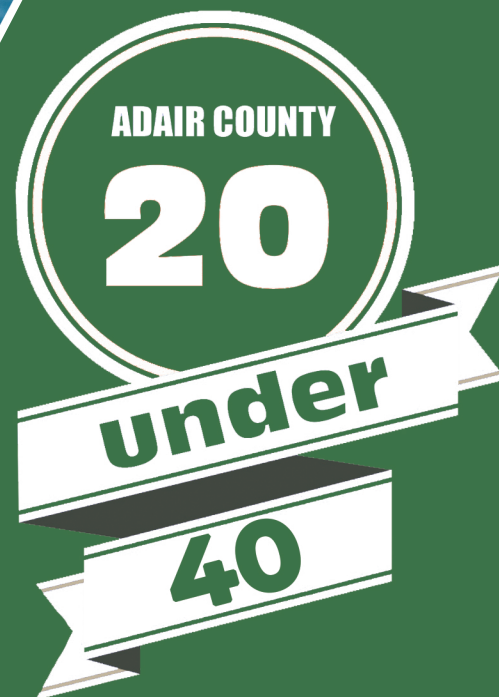




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Class of 2023



Brett Bradford
Danna Burton
Mason Carter
Patricia Doolin, APRN
Adam Doss
Cody Giles
Rebekah Harney
Jacob Hatcher
Jessica Hatcher
Whitney Kemp

Sarah Melton
Dr. Andrea Owens
Will Rich
Morgan Harvey-Sandusky
Trey Spinks
JR Thompson
Jason Thrasher
Jordan Williams
Lauren Willis
Keith Young





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Brett Bradford

*"God has shown me that none of us are here by coincidence but by divine purpose.
My prayer is that everyone would discover their divine purpose
and walk it out with God."*

Wrestling and Lindsey Wilson College brought Brett Bradford to Columbia, and the community has been blessed by his decision to make this his home.

Brett came to Columbia in 2017 from Minnesota to wrestle for Lindsey Wilson College, where he earned an individual national title. More importantly, he met his bride there, and he and Calie Jo were married in 2019.

When Brett graduated from Lindsey he started his career with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, an organization that unites two passions, faith and sport, to impact the world for Jesus. Brett serves as the area director and is also the international director. He started working for FCA in 2020 in the middle of the pandemic. At the time FCA didn't have a presence in the area. Now, three years later, 17 schools have FCA, including Lindsey Wilson College, Adair County High School and Adair County Middle School.

At 28 years old, Brett has also been part of creating the Kentucky FCA International ministry, which started with only three U.S. volunteers serving two Egyptian sports partners. Now, they have almost 20 U.S. volunteers serving

four Egyptian sports partners reaching areas all over the country of Egypt.

Brett is the first person to tell you that he has not always led a life for Christ.

"Growing up, I chose a path that led to selfishness, dishonesty, partying, and even drug dealing. But God! He turned my life around. I am now nine years clean and sober," Brett said. "God then has begun to use my mess as a message."

Brett has now shared his story with thousands of students and coaches in our community and the world. As one person who nominated him wrote, "He is serving our youth at all grade levels, elementary to college, and having a major impact on their lives in a very positive way."

Brett says one of the blessings his job has provided him is the unique opportunity to get to know people from many different backgrounds. He loves to hear what motivates others, what excites them and helps them grow in the most meaningful way.

"I've seen many people who didn't think they could have an impact on this generation, but because of this ministry, and because of God, they've had tremendous impact. All things are truly possible with God."



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Danna Burton

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your path straight."

— Proverbs 3:5-6

Danna Burton had no idea when a family member coaxed her into applying for a dispatching job at 911 several years ago that she would one day become director of the services provided to all of Adair County.

Her great uncle, former magistrate Harold Burton, brought her a job application and told her that 911 was hiring. She had no experience in emergency services and wasn't sure it was a career for her, but it only took a few shifts for her to know she had found her calling.

"I knew 911 was where I was meant to be," she says.

Danna, 34, says she always knew she wanted a job helping others, and she was working toward a degree to become a social worker when she took the 911 job. Instead of completing the degree program, she attended DOCJT Telecommunications Academy in 2015 and became a certified telecommunicator. Since being employed at 911, she has received several certifications for completing training courses over the past 11 years.

Adair County's 911 center has made numerous improvements in

recent years and Danna has been a part of that, in the prior position as assistant director and now as director. She goes beyond looking out for the people who call 911 when they are in need. She has advocated for her staff and all county employees to get higher wages and taken the cause before the county's elected officials.

Danna also takes advantage of being in a key position in Adair County to help others outside of the traditional role of 911. She has been involved in Pack a Purse for LA/TX tornado victims, collected goods for tornado victims in Kentucky and recently took up donations for the Green River Animal Shelter.

As one person who nominated her wrote, "She has a huge heart and will always help someone, no matter their situation. She has a lot on her plate that most people don't know about, but you wouldn't be able know with how she always puts others before herself."

Danna is the mother of 8-year-old Jase. She also helps out her parents, who operate Burton's Auction House on Hwy. 206, on Friday nights.

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Mason Carter

*If there is no struggle there is no progress.
- Fredrick Douglass*

At the age of 23, Mason Carter is already five years into his career as a business owner and diesel mechanic.

Mason graduated Adair County High School in 2018 and was able to purchase a shop and pursue the career he always wanted. He grew up spending most of his time in the shop with his dad, Darrell Carter, and he knew that's where he wanted to make his living. In just five years, he has been able to significantly grow his business, Motor Max Auto and Diesel Service.

Mason works long hours in an effort to build his business, but he makes time for a little fun, too, enjoying truck pulling, RZR riding and boating.

One person who nominated Mason said he is always ready to help someone in need, whether it

is supporting youth or just being a friend to anyone who walks into his shop. He goes beyond to help anyone he can.

While his main line of business is vehicle repair, you might also see him working local wrecks or picking up someone two counties over because their vehicle wasn't working right. Every day of the week and all hours of the night he's on call to help anyone he can. To say he's humble about all his accomplishments is an understatement, but anyone who knows him will agree that he is one of the hardest workers with the kindest heart, and above all, someone for the youth of our community to look up to.

Mason is the son of Darrell and Lou Ann Carter and he has one sister, Carli Ann Carter.



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Patricia Doolin,

APRN

"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

When Patricia Doolin's co-workers learned that she was a 20 Under 40 winner, they couldn't wait to share their thoughts about their beloved peer.

"She's the bomb," one co-worker wrote.

Janet Taylor, an LPN, had this to say about Patricia: "Patricia's practice is a ministry in our community. I see her touch lives daily and taking notice of things that many would miss. Patricia treats all of her patients just like her own family."

Patricia is an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse at T.J. Health Columbia. She has been with T.J. Regional Health as an APRN since 2018. She completed her undergraduate studies at Campbellsville University and graduated from Chamberlain University Chicago, Ill. with a master's in science of nursing degree with a family nurse practitioner focus. She has a diverse background in nursing, including trauma, ICU and emer-

gency room experience.

The people who nominated Patricia wrote about her taking pride in being able to provide care for the people in her hometown. "Her work is her mission," one person wrote.

Patricia knew from growing up locally the challenges of rural medicine, and she knew early in her career this was her passion.

Patricia is the first person in her family to earn a college degree. She comes from hard working people who instilled a great work ethic in her, and she has used that lesson to build a successful career.

"Making a difference in other's lives makes a difference in my own and allows me to instill values in my children that help them become upright and honorable human beings," Patricia says.

Patricia's parents are Donnie Bragg and Jane and Jeff Potts. She and her husband, Christopher, have five children.

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We wish to congratulate
 Patricia Doolin, APRN and all the
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Adam Doss

"You have to trust in God and follow his plan for you by putting your faith into him and believing in your heart that you're following his path."

Jeremiah 17:7 – Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord.

For many people, when bitter cold weather moves in and they lose electrical power, thoughts often turn to the linemen who are facing the frigid temperatures to restore power.

Adam Doss, at the age of 21, is one of those linemen, and he is following the career plan he began putting into place at the age of 16.

Adam's grandfather, JD Biggs, worked at Taylor County RECC for five decades. Adam is following in his footsteps and already building a reputation as a hard worker, the first to volunteer and learn anything new. He graduated high school in 2019 and graduated lineman school in Somerset the following September.

After high school he got a job at A and C Communications, where he worked for around eight months before getting hired at Taylor County RECC as a meter reader. He later became a staking engineer before landing what he calls his dream job, becoming a lineman in January 2022.

In addition to facing the cold or any weather that comes along, Adam was ready to go to work after tornadoes ripped through Kentucky in December 2021 and neighboring

Taylor County suffered great loss. Adam and his co-workers worked days on end repairing poles and electric lines, sorting debris and helping people as they could. Adam worked in the engineering department at the time, so he was busy walking the lines and identifying needed repairs.

Adam is quick to mention his co-workers, Billy Smith, Jeremy Fryman and foreman Amos Tackett, and the opportunity to job shadow David Karnes while he was in high school.

Adam was one of three linemen from Taylor County RECC to participate in the Kentucky Lineman Rodeo, which was held in Paducah last September. They were the first from Taylor County RECC to compete in the event, an event that Adam hopes will become a tradition for Taylor County.

Adam is the son of Shane and Carolyn Garmon and the late Brian Doss. He has one brother, Jacob Doss. He attends Egypt Christian Church, is always lending a helping hand to neighbors and friends, and spends time and helps care for his grandparents, Lillie and Euen Pike.



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Cody Giles

*"You must challenge yourself. It leads to immeasurable personal growth."
Taking the promotion to lead the distillery was the scariest thing I've ever done.
Coming on a year since that promotion, I have learned so much more than I
could've envisioned.*

At the age of 28, Cody Giles is believed to be the youngest person operating a bourbon distillery in the U.S. As a Master Distiller, Cody operates the James E. Pepper Distillery in Lexington.

Cody graduated from Adair County High School in 2013 then the University of Kentucky in 2017, where he majored in chemical engineering.

Cody worked at vineyards and wineries during college and started working for James E. Pepper Distillery in the fall of 2017.

The Pepper family brand of whiskey dates back to the American Revolution, but in the late 1960s the bourbon industry hit hard times and both the brand and the Lexington distillery were abandoned for over half a century.

In 2008 the brand was relaunched and a multi-year construction plan was put into place. Cody started at James E. Pepper Distillery during the completion of the renovation of the property. In 2022, he was promoted to plant manager/head distiller and now leads a team of six full-time operators involved in all

aspects of the whiskey production process, from fermentation to the finished product.

Cody says two Adair County High School teachers played a significant role in leading him to pursue a chemical engineering degree.

"Susan Peck is an amazing chemistry teacher who brought so much enthusiasm to the subject she was teaching. John Shelley did much the same for mathematics. Thanks to both of them," he says.

As he headed into his junior year of college, Cody was still not sure where he wanted his career path to take him, but then he heard about a distilling certificate program starting up at UK.

He took the classes and developed relationships with his professors and was led to James E. Pepper, a new startup distillery. He thanks Amir Peay, the owner, for taking a chance on him, and his mentor, Aaron Schorsch, "who taught me everything I know and is a great distiller."

Cody is the son of Mary Ellen Rogers and Jeff Giles and is brother to Jared Giles.



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Rebekah Harney

*I am a child of God. Created with a purpose.
Hopeful for the future because of Jesus Christ.*

At the age of 26, Rebekah Harney is a multi-talented wife and mother with experience in entertainment, business, finance and caring for family.

She is the worship leader at Berean Community Fellowship and, as one person who nominated her wrote, “sings like a beautiful angel.”

Rebekah is part of the Lindsey family, whose members are well known for using their musical talent to honor God. Rebekah and her brother opened Planet Acoustic in downtown Columbia and she has been involved in several home businesses with her family.

Rebekah considers herself a “full time Mama with a part-time career in real estate.”

“I became a Realtor last year after quite a few years of consideration, a few nudges from my wonderful husband, and some pretty crazy directives from God,” Rebekah says. “I love this line of work because it’s different every day, it allows me to learn new things constantly, work with people, and my children can tag along.”

She became interested in selling

real estate when someone close to her had a bad experience. She realized that innocent people could be taken advantage of, and it became important to her to get involved and help people buy and sell property with someone they could trust.

Emily Lindsey, a friend who married Rebekah’s brother, notes that Rebekah has become highly respected in the real estate business in just a year’s time.

“She is devoted to her clients and puts other’s best interest above her own. She is servant-hearted and serves others with integrity. Rebekah is a joy and a delight to be around! She is loyal, caring, and others-focused. Rebekah is a loving wife and mother and she lives a God-first life. Rebekah is someone whom I admire and I’m honored and blessed to call her one of my dearest friends,” Emily says.

“I believe in working hard, walking in what you’re called to and giving it 110 percent,” Rebekah says.

Rebekah and her husband, Daniel, have two sons, Bryson, 2; and Owen, 5 months.



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We are so proud of Rebekah and we are honored that she works for this company. She is a blessed wife, mother, musician and an outstanding real estate agent.



Tammy Stotts, Broker/Owner
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Jacob Hatcher

Through him who gives me strength: Philippians 4:11–13

I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

At the age of 28, Jacob Hatcher has already established himself as a hardworking, honest and talented business owner. He owns and operates Jacob Hatcher Construction LLC, provides home rentals, and farms.

Jacob was nominated by people who have experienced his work ethic first hand. When nominations were being considered and the opinion of members of the community were sought for recommendations, Jacob again received positive reviews from people who know him personally and know his work. He builds custom homes, other buildings, and does roofing in Adair and surrounding counties.

He also loves to farm. He grew up helping his grandfather on the farm and now owns his own farm in Glensfork, where he tends to 100 acres of farmland and raises cattle.

One person who nominated

Jacob wrote, “Monday through Friday about 4 a.m. you can catch him at Five Star getting a cup of coffee, and he’s on the job by 4:30. He works until dark. On Saturdays, he’s taking care of cattle on his farm and playing with his kids.”

Every Sunday you will find Jacob and his family at Old Concord Church in Glensfork, where he leads and teaches adult Sunday school class.

Jacob says, “My dream of owning my own business would have never come true if it hadn’t been for hard work, dedication and Jesus Christ allowing me to do what I love and have the things that I do,” Jacob said.

Jacob and his wife, Tomi, have three children, Stella, Weston and Oaklyn. He is the son of Tabitha Giles and Shawn Hatcher. He has two siblings, Reece Giles and Shaylen Hatcher.



We proudly salute Jacob Hatcher
and the rest of the excellent winners!

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Jessica Hatcher

*Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.
- Psalms 37:4*

Jessica Hatcher comes from a family of talented people who can make things with their hands, including a father and brother who can fabricate anything out of metal. She remembers her mother building a pool deck by guess work and considers her mom a master at sewing. So, it's really no surprise to the people around her that Jessica was able to take a business she started in her kitchen and basement to a successful level that allows her to use her creative talents.

Jessica began by selling handmade jewelry, which quickly led her into wholesale. She sold wholesale handmade jewelry to over 400 boutiques and stores nationwide. Like many other businesses, changes were made during the pandemic, and she moved more toward online retail and bulk custom work.

Gypsy Jolee, the storefront, opened in 2020. They offer custom tee's and apparel, embroidery, custom hats, and jewelry along with

other boutique items. The emphasis is on agriculture related and western themed items often displayed as the "Yee-haw Boutique."

While boutiques are a popular niche, Jessica's unique custom designs and her emphasis on rural living give her a wide customer base that keeps coming back for more, whether it be in the store located at 821 Campbellsville Rd. or online at gypsyjolee.shop.

Jessica is involved with helping veterans and families facing illness, and believes that what God gives her is intended for her to be able to help others.

Jessica says she hopes her story will help other women go after their dreams.

"I want young women to see that 'YOU CAN,'" she says. "God will put a calling on your heart and he will provide when you answer the call."

Jessica, 35, and her husband, Eric, have three children, Dallas, Waylon and Memphis.



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Whitney Kemp

My Papa Doug always talked about God's Grace. He taught me to always show that grace to others, to stay humbled by His blessings and always place my faith in God. I try to live each day by being the best person that I can be and to show love and grace to those around me.

One of the goals of the 20 Under 40 Class is to recognize people in our community who are a shining example to those around them. People who are part of the community network who make our world a better place with their kindness and the desire to help others.

Leadership is a quality that can be used in different levels of business, volunteering, with family, etc. Leadership is about character, influencing and impacting others.

Whitney Kemp is such a person. She serves members of the community who enter the PVA's office as Deputy PVA and she reaches outside the office through volunteer work. She is a parent member of the Adair County High School School-Based Decision Making board, sits on the 4-H Council, and serves on the family ministry committee at Columbia Baptist Church.

In the PVA's office, Whitney's main duty is to transfer all property that has sold in the county. Other duties include assessing motor vehicles, boats and helping taxpayers with any questions they

may have about their property.

"I enjoy getting to work with the taxpayers in Adair County and meeting new people. I always strive to have a positive attitude and greet each person that comes into our office with a smile. I pride myself on being fair with each person that I come into contact with," she says.

Whitney sees her role in a public job as a way to give back to and serve the community.

"I have always loved being able to help people and to give back when I can. I love nothing more than making someone smile or feel like they are loved."

When asked about her talents, Whitney uses the opportunity to talk about the talents of her children. She and her husband, Nick, have three daughters, Piper Lynn, 16; Gabby, 14; and Roni, 6.

"When I am not working, I am watching my girls play sports, give speeches and compete in competitions," she says.

Whitney is the daughter of Mark and Tammy Humphress and was raised and still lives in the Knifley community.



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Sarah Melton

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."

-Maya Angelou

Sarah Melton has found a way to prioritize her family while serving in a key role for two family businesses. She has modeled her life after her parents, whom she has always admired for their dedication to their family and their business.

Sarah is the daughter of Debbie and the late Andy Withers. Sarah, 36, graduated from Adair County High School and went on to Western Kentucky University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in corporate communication.

Sarah originally had different career plans but found where she belonged when she began working in the family business, Withers Geothermal. In 2010, she married Jay, who had worked alongside her father for more than 15 years.

After their first son was born, Sarah knew she wanted to build a life that made room for a family and a fulfilling career. Her position at Withers Geothermal has allowed her to do just that.

Sarah's family built a custom wedding barn in 2016 and she oversees all the bookings for The City Farm

Venue and Events. Their newest venture, Gatherings at the City Farm, is Columbia's first barn sale event. Their premiere event last December exceeded everyone's expectations and brought hundreds of people from near and far. Last Saturday, they hosted 80 vendors for the first spring event, which was featured on KET.

Sarah says her mother taught them that they were capable of success, and education and work ethic are important. Sarah was a straight A student, was Miss ACHS her senior year, and graduated with honors from WKU. She has held over 150 pageant titles, including 2005 Miss Kentucky Teen USA. She was also featured in a Josh Turner music video.

In 2020, Sarah's father died, and the family was heartbroken. Sarah, Jay, and Sarah's mother, Debbie, fought to keep the company and her dad's legacy going, and they continue to be successful in the commercial geothermal industry.

Sarah and Jay have four sons, Beau, Bleu, Boone and Beacher.



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Dr. Andrea Owens

I believe how you do anything is how you do everything. If you cut corners and skimp on the small things, it's a true window into how you will handle "the big things." I believe character is developed over time and can come crashing down with one bad decision. I also believe in grace and mercy and forgiveness when those bad decisions come. I believe in measuring twice and cutting once. I believe if you do not have time to do it right, you do not have time to do it over.

“Dr. Andrea Owens provides a heartfelt patient experience at her locally owned practice, Owens Family Dentistry and Aesthetics. Dr. Owens practices in such a way that provides comprehensive yet personal treatment to each and every patient.”

These words came from one of the people who nominated Dr. Owens for this award. She has built a reputation for quality care and providing a positive, pleasant atmosphere for her patients.

Dr. Owens, 35, earned a bachelor's of biology from Lindsey Wilson College then went on to earn a doctorate of dental medicine from the University of Louisville School of Dentistry. She was unable to personally attend the 20 Under 40 banquet last week because she was graduating from the Dawson Academy in St. Petersburg, Fla., a prestigious post doctorate residency program whose founder, the late Dr. Peter Dawson, is considered one of the most influ-

ential teachers in dental history.

Dr. Owens opened her private practice at 906 Russell Rd. in 2019. She purchased the practice from Dr. Robert Beshear just 10 months before Covid-19 caused her to shut the doors. She was shut down for eight weeks. She made the needed investments to keep the doors open during the pandemic and has been going strong ever since.

She grew up in eastern Kentucky in an area where she said it's not unusual for a child to be sent to bed with Ale-8 in their bottle. She wants to use her life's experiences to answer people's questions, help them overcome a bad experience or fear of being judged.

“When you're speaking to me, you can rest assured that all I am there to do is help,” she said.

Dr. Owens' husband, Josh, is pastor at Clear Springs Baptist Church. They have two children, Henry Lee, 2, and James Alexander, 1.



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Will Rich

.....
"Do you not know that in a race all runners run, but only one gets the prize?"

Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever." 1 Corinthians 9: 24-25

At the age of 4, Will Rich began singing in churches all across Adair and surrounding counties. At home, he would don a pair of Mr. Potato Head glasses, grab a Nike shoebox for a pulpit, grab his Bible and proclaim to his Pa Irvin, mother and father just how much God loved them.

At the age of 16, he attended Chrysalis and announced his call to ministry. He preached his first sermon at Barnett's Creek Church. When he was 18, Egypt Christian Church contacted him about becoming their youth minister.

Will, now 29, continues to serve as youth pastor along with his wife, Samantha. He also volunteers with Adair County Little League baseball, basketball, and Upward basketball, and has done so since he was 18. He and some friends get together on Monday nights to record Tribe44 Podcast, where they discuss Adair County sports and highlight athletes and coaches, both past and present.

Will pursued an education in history/social science and graduated

from Lindsey Wilson College in 2015. He went on to earn a master's in exceptional education from Campbellsville University in 2016 then finished his Rank 1 in school administration from the University of the Cumberlands last year. He teaches special education at Adair County High School.

Will said 1 Corinthians 9:24-24 has always been his favorite scripture.

"I used to write it inside the bill of my ball caps in high school and it still motivates me to strive to do everything in a way that will achieve my goals," Will says. "Whether it be for spiritual, family, personal, church, or community-based goals, run in a way to get the prize. Everything we do is for the glory of the one who made us, and He didn't make us to just go through the motions of life, he made us to make the most out of what He gave us."

Will and Samantha have two sons, Daxon, 5, and Ace, who will be 2 in July.



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Morgan Sandusky-Harvey

What motivates me the most these days- is that now I'm expecting a child, my drive to succeed is higher than ever. My child will be someone that I want to look up to me, for years to come- & maybe even being someone that one day my business is passed down to- I want to make a legacy worth sharing for them- as both my parents being business owners made such an impact on me.

At the age of 22, Morgan Harvey Sandusky is a well-established and highly successful online boutique owner and has just recently opened a new retail showroom in Columbia. Pretty Please Clothing Company is an online community of more than 15,000 women from across the United States. Together, they shop weekly as Morgan beautifully models new clothing and displays gorgeous jewelry and more. She treats her online community like family, recently sharing with them the excitement of expecting her first child.

Morgan started her business in her bedroom at her parent's home. She says her experience in participating in pageants helped her develop the confidence for public speaking and she now coaches young women in public speaking and interviewing, because, she says, "that is a powerful and essential skill to have obtained in life."

Being a business owner with a large social media presence, it's very important to have qualities that show professionalism in speaking and conveying your business's message."

Morgan has modeled her business to fit the life she wants to live. She has taken risks and is fearless when she comes up with new ideas or ways to build her brand. She is very happy with where her career has taken her, and even says, "If this stays the same as it is today and never changes – it's what I want to be doing even at age 82."

Always the marketer, when asked what other information people need to know, Morgan's response was, "Follow us on Facebook – "Pretty Please Online Boutique."

Morgan and her husband, Kyle, are expecting their first child in October. She is the daughter of James and Jill Harvey.

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Trey Spinks

"Don't wait for opportunity, create it."

- George Bernard Shaw

Trey Spinks worked in the family drywalling business and earned a welding certificate from Tulsa Welding School. He was already hard working and successful, but Trey wanted more.

He was driving home one day and a cornfield caught his eye. That moment led him on a trail and after some research, he found his calling.

Trey started looking at crop spraying drones, drones that use precision technology to map, plan and execute crop treatments. After his research, he took the idea to his father, Ronnie Spinks II, who agreed a drone would make a great business venture. Along with the support of his family, Trey started Spinks Aerial Spraying Solutions and Southern Kentucky Soil Sampling.

Trey was the first person in the state to obtain an agricultural aircraft operator certificate for spray drones. In 2019, he worked with farmers in three counties on a project led by Nick Roy, Adair County Extension Agent, to look at the cost effectiveness and feasibility of drone-applied fungicides to corn. Drones can get into fields where helicopters can't, and they spray just where the product is needed.

"Some local farmers really encouraged him to invest in that business. They were very appreciative of him," Roy said.

Producers were eager to work with Trey, and Roy and the team at the University of Kentucky were able to collect several years of data, Roy said. Their cutting-edge research first proved that using a drone is a feasible way to spray fields. Once that was proven, they were able to use the drone to test different fungicide treatments. The research led to several university publications about their findings.

"I love what I do," Trey said. "Spraying corn has taught me a lot about corn in general and how to properly care for your crops. In addition, I learned about the importance of soil health and the impact it has on the crop. This inspired me to start another business for sampling soil. This endeavor has also allowed me to work in agriculture but also learn a lot about new technologies and how these technologies can help advance the way we farm in the future."

Trey and his wife, Alisha, have one son, Quade. His parents are Ronnie and Julie Spinks.



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JR Thompson

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"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world!"
 —Nelson Mandela

JR Thompson has taken the business and marketing program at Adair County High School to a whole new level. As one of his co-workers wrote, "His energy is contagious and makes me want it."

JR goes above and beyond for his students. You can tell that students know he cares about them, and he encourages them with his enthusiasm and support.

He graduated from the University of the Cumberlands and holds a master's in arts of teaching. He is completing his third year as the business and marketing teacher for ACHS.

As one of the judges in the contest noted, JR has brought students outside the walls of the school and into the business community, and he has brought the business community inside the school walls. He serves as the sponsor for the local Future Business Leaders of America chapter and they have seen incredible growth and success under his leadership.

JR, 38, says he was not afforded a home life growing up that was stable, consistent and safe. His fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Sondra McDonald, committed her life to

encouraging him and making his life better.

"She was a constant that provided love, advice, direction and instilled a belief that I could do anything that I put my mind to, so I believed her and was able to accomplish what she inspired me to do – become an educator, too," JR says. "Since then, I have made it my life mission to give back to students (who may or may not have the same life experiences that I have experienced) over the tenure of my lifetime. I believe that every student possesses the skills and talents deep within to be successful (despite the challenges they may endure in their life) and it is my sincere desire to reach every child and provide a learning environment that inspires, motivates and encourages them to reach the success that they desire for their life."

JR inspires everyone he meets with his attitude, and he does so because he is intentional in inspiring others to reach their dreams, goals and hopes for success.

JR is married to Bethany Lane Thompson and the proud father of three children, Amelia, Connor and Ellie Jane.



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Jason Thrasher

It was my senior quote and it still stands true today "when life gives you lemons, make grape juice and leave everyone wondering how you did it"

People in Adair County are talking about Jason Thrasher. They've watched him build a popular business, Hooligan Burgers, just off the square on Jamestown St., and his efforts have brought a lot of excitement and support for this 26-year-old.

Jason has worked in the food industry his entire working career and been involved in every aspect of the industry, from working in fast food, waiting tables, managing restaurants, owning a food truck, and now owning his own brick and mortar location. He also has plans to move to the new Holladay Plaza building that is under construction in the commercial area known as "New Columbia."

Jason said he believes hard work and drive will get a person anywhere they want to go in life.

While Jason is always working hard to build his own business, two now, with the addition of Black Clover Tattoo Company, he is also

one of the first in Columbia to give a shout out in support of others he sees trying new things. Even in his questionnaire after earning a spot this year in the 20 Under 40 class, Jason wrote that he appreciated the program because it has recognized others who "make this world go 'round," like first responders, home builders, farmers, and good-hearted essential workers. He is such a nice guy that more people nominated him for this award than any other candidate!

Jason has a great attitude and one way you can tell is from his senior quote in high school, where he wrote, "When life gives you lemons, make grape juice and leave everyone wondering how you did it."

Jason is the son of Greg Thrasher, has one son and is engaged to Cheyenne Coffey and looking forward to becoming the step dad to her son.



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From our crew to yours:

Congrats on the award! Everyone sees you all working hard to make dreams come true, and making this area just a bit more unique. I commend you Jason, and your entire staff on your hard work!



Jordan Williams

.....
Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men.
 - Colossians 3:23

Jordan Williams is the vice principal at Adair County Elementary School and business owner of Dryce Studios.

Jordan was nominated for the 20 Under 40 because of his compassion for students and his desire to make every child feel comfortable and make sure they have everything they need while at school.

When it comes to answering questions about himself, however, Jordan is humble and won't say a lot. So, the Community Voice decided to go to the experts for some information. Fourth-graders McKenzie Humphress and Halen Blair are children of Community Voice staffers, and they had some interesting things to say about Jordan.

"He makes the school brighter," Kenzie says. "Every day he says good morning - to almost everybody. He tries to for everybody!"

Kenzie says she does not know how, but Mr. Williams knows that she prefers to be called Kenzie instead of McKenzie. She says he always has a smile on his face, unless a student is in trouble. He doesn't smile then, she noticed. "He's very nice," she added.

Halen says Mr. Williams is a hard worker around the school.

"He's a really big baseball and basketball fan," Halen adds.

Halen says Mr. Williams has impacted him personally.

"He's helped me be a better student and helped me learn more education and knowledge," he says.

Aside from earning praises from students, Jordan has a side business that has grown substantially. Dryce Studios started as a way for Jordan to destress from the workday by cutting Kentucky signs using a scroll saw. It has now grown and Jordan offers custom made items to members of the community.

His company name has an interesting backstory.

"Originally from eastern Kentucky (Beattyville), we talk different," Jordan begins. "When I attended the University of Kentucky some of the upperclassmen asked me about anything strange we did back home. I asked them if they had ever played with dry ice. However, when I said it, there is no separation - it sounds like Dryce. From that point forward that became my nickname in college and the name of my business."

Jordan has an undergraduate degree in music education, a master's in education, and a Rank 1 in school administration/principalship. He and his wife Sarai have one son, Rhett, and two golden doodles, Memphis and Lexi.



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Lauren Willis

.....

If I had to choose one thing that I've tried to live by it would be Colossians 3:23 – "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

A co-worker who nominated Lauren Willis for the 20 Under 40 class wrote that "She is one of the premier, young college educators in Kentucky and she has "saved her department at Campbellsville University."

Those are strong words of praise for the 35-year-old college professor. Lauren has held numerous roles as an educator since she earned her bachelor's degree in 2012 and went on to earn a master's of theology, a master of arts in sports management, and a PhD in educational sciences. She has coached at Adair County High School and Campbellsville University and served in several positions at CU before taking on her current positions as the CU chair of human performance, associate professor of human performance and lead professor of health and physical education.

In case that doesn't keep her busy enough, Lauren also volunteers for the parent's booster organization at the Adair County Primary Center and is currently serving on

the superintendent search committee for the Adair County school district. She serves on numerous committees at CU and is an active member of Mt. Carmel Church.

Lauren says she was blessed with excellent teachers as a student and knew she wanted to be a teacher and mentor for college students and volunteer in local school districts to be involved with students of all ages. She also grew up playing all types of sports, and she wanted to stay connected to sports in her career and considers it a great platform for ministry and mentoring.

"I always want to give my best effort as if every action or decision is to bring honor to the Lord, because it is. If we always strive to do that, I really believe things will fall into place and the Lord will bless whatever it is that you're doing," she says.

Lauren and her husband, Cody, have twin daughters, Ellie and Emma. She is the daughter of Jamie Powell and Eric Goodin and has one sister, Ashley Goodin.



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Keith Young

I have always been a big believer in personal responsibility. It seems like that is very much lacking in today's society. So many want to place blame on someone or something else for all their problems. I think this philosophy stems from my belief in Christianity. We are all responsible for our own actions and will be held to account one day.

Keith Young has held two very important jobs since graduating Lindsey Wilson College in 2011, and he has received honors and recognition at both.

Keith became a police officer in Bowling Green after college. There, he became a SWAT sniper, firearms instructor, and field training officer and armorer.

In 2016, he and another fellow officer were recognized for risking their lives to evacuate people from a burning apartment building. They arrived prior to the fire department and assisted several people out of the building. One published report states that Keith personally carried out five people, and many children and adults were led safely from the burning structure.

At one point, Keith felt like he should check an apartment one more time, and he discovered and was able to rescue a small child. Keith and another officer were hospitalized for smoke inhalation. They were awarded a life-saving medal for going beyond the call of duty.

Keith and his family moved back to Columbia in 2020 so Keith could assist his grandparents on their

farm. He was hired by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. He is assigned to Adair County but patrols areas surrounding Green River, Green River Lake and Green River Lake Wildlife Management Area. He has taken on extra duties, becoming a certified armorer, a boating accident reconstructionist, and instructor for new conservation officer recruits. Just last month, his fellow officers selected him for an officer of the year award. The award recognizes an officer's activity throughout the year.

Keith spends a lot of time in the woods, but he says his best memories come from when he is volunteering for the Little Heroes Youth Hunt, a program sponsored by Fish and Wildlife.

"We take kids with various disabilities hunting during the youth deer weekend, and I can honestly say, it is some of the best times I have ever had in the woods. It is an awesome program and I will continue to help out every year, if possible," he said.

Keith and his wife, Leeor, have three children. His parents are Keith and Annette Young and his grandparents are Paul and Janet Novielli.



Congratulations Keith Young
and the 20 under 40 winners!

Stay focused on your mission, remain steadfast in your pursuit of excellence and always do the right thing. – Mark Esper



Winner Brett Bradford, sponsored by All Natural Health Food Store, with JaCinda Warner, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Danna Burton, sponsored by Adair County Sheriff's Office, with Sheriff Josh Brockman.



Winner Mason Carter, sponsored by Lindsey Wilson College, with Toni Humphress, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Patricia Doolin APRN, sponsored by TJ Regional Health, with Gidgett Warren, TJ Regional Health.



Winner Adam Doss, sponsored by Day and Day Feed Mill, with JaCinda Warner, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Rebekah Harney, sponsored by Southern Nest Realty, with Tammy Stotts, Southern Nest Realty.



Winner Jacob Hatcher, sponsored by Adair Gun and Pawn, with Toni Humphress, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Jessica Hatcher, sponsored by Hilltop Auto Mart, with Tina Thomas, Hilltop Auto Mart.



Winner Whitney Kemp, sponsored by Adair County PVA, with PVA Landon Edwards.



Winner Sarah Melton, sponsored by Virginia Outfitters, with LaGene Sexton (left) and Shannon Sexton (right), Virginia Outfitters.



Winner Will Rich, sponsored by Jeffries Hardware, with Bryan Rich, Jeffries Hardware.



Winner Morgan Harvey-Sandusky, sponsored by Don Franklin Columbia - Tim Hardwick, with JaCinda Warner, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Trey Spinks, sponsored by Adair County Farm Bureau South, with Toni Humphress, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner JR Thompson, sponsored by Lindsey Wilson College, with JaCinda Warner, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Jason Thrasher, sponsored by Mountain Magik Inc., with JaCinda Warner, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Jordan Williams, sponsored by North Century Pharmacy, with JaCinda Warner, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Lauren Willis, sponsored by Duo Broadband, with JaCinda Warner, Adair County Community Voice.



Winner Officer Keith Young, sponsored by the Kentucky Conservations Officers Association, with Toni Humphress, Adair County Community Voice.

NOT PICTURED: Dr. Andrea Owens, sponsored by Stateline Steel; and Cody Giles, sponsored by University of Kentucky James B. Beam Institute.

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