

GILAGRAM

Volume 42 Issue 2

Fall 2025



FIRST SCOOP GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

PAGE 2

EA COSMETOLOGY AND COPPER MOUNTAIN CLINIC THATCHER

Class of '75 Reunion
PAGE 4

New Scholarships
PAGE 6

Alumnotes
PAGE 10



marked a significant milestone with the groundbreaking of a 19,300-square-foot facility that will double the capacity of its Cosmetology Program and expand healthcare access in the Gila Valley.

Slated to open in fall 2026, the \$15 million project is funded through a combination of EA reserve funds and state support — achieved without tax increases or bonding.

"This project represents a significant investment in both education and healthcare for our region," said EA President Todd Haynie at the ceremony. "By doubling our cosmetology program's capacity and expanding healthcare services, we are ensuring that students and community members alike have greater opportunities for growth and access to essential resources."

Located on College Avenue in Thatcher, directly across from the Gherald L. Hoopes Jr. Activities Center, the facility will include two key components:

A 12,000-square-foot Cosmetology Program expansion, featuring three classrooms, dedicated skincare and nail care rooms, full-service salons, and student support areas.

The 7,300-square-foot Copper Mountain Clinic Thatcher, offering expanded primary care and behavioral health services for the community.

Jeff Larson, chair of the Graham County Community College District Governing Board, credited years of planning and fiscal responsibility for bringing the project to life.

"This facility was made possible through generations of leadership and careful financial stewardship," Larson said. "We're grateful to our District 19 legislators—Senator David Gowan, Representative Gail Griffin, and Representative Lupe Diaz—for their ongoing support in securing transformative state funding."

The partnership between EA and local healthcare providers ensures students will receive real-world experience while contributing to the well-being of the community.

Roland Knox, former CEO of Mount Graham Regional Medical Center,

emphasized the integration of real-world training with community healthcare services. "At the start, this facility will focus on primary care and behavioral health," Knox said. "But what makes this partnership truly special is that it also integrates real-world training for EA students. Through programs like phlebotomy, imaging, and other medical services, students will gain hands-on experience at our clinic."

The clinic will also mark Mount Graham Regional Medical Center's first off-campus location.

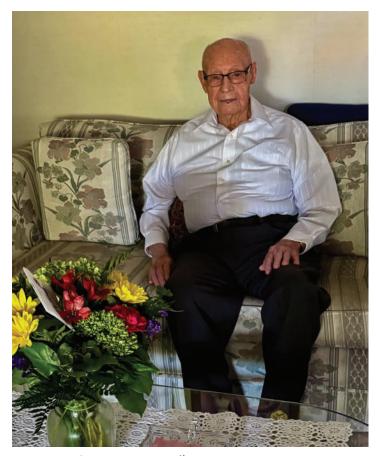
Above: Pictured from left: Clay Emery, Gila Institute for Technology; Jim Palmer, Mount Graham Regional Medical Center (MGRMC) Governing Board of Directors; Roland Knox, MGRMC; Seth Beer, CORE Construction; Mark Davenport, SPS+Architects; Jeff B. Larson, Graham County Community College District Governing Board; Todd Haynie, EA president; Brad Montierth, Lois Ann Moody, Tina C. McMaster, and Vince Kieffer, Graham County Community College District Governing Board; Heston Welker, Susan Wood, and Keith Alexander, EA; and Gila Hank, EA mascot.

EASTERN ARIZONA'S Oldest Alumni





1941 EA yearbook photos of Raymond Colvin and his future wife Bernice Marshall.



Raymond Colvin on his 104th birthday.

astern Arizona College's oldest living alumnus is Raymond Colvin, Class of 1941.

He celebrated his 104th birthday in August.

Colvin grew up in Eden, Arizona, just northwest of Pima. During his second year at Gila Junior College—now Eastern Arizona College—he began dating Bernice Marshall, who was also from Eden. The couple married in 1943 and moved to California, where Colvin worked in the shipyards.

Shortly after, he was drafted into military service and chose to join the U.S. Navy. He served aboard the USS Compel, a minesweeper in the Pacific during World War II.

Following the war, the Colvins returned to California. After a few more years in the shipyards, Colvin began working for Richfield Oil in Los Angeles. He remained with the company for 37 years through various changes in ownership, including Atlantic Richfield, ARCO, and British Petroleum (BP).

The Colvins celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary in 2018. Bernice passed away at the age of 96.

Colvin has remained in good health and continued driving until just a few years ago.

Before Bernice's passing, the Colvins often reflected on their college experience. They recalled how friendly and supportive the students and faculty were during their time at EA. They appreciated the close-knit community and the opportunity to know most of their classmates. When they returned for an EA reunion 62 years after graduating, they were pleased to see that class s—izes remained small and instructors still knew their students by name. They were also impressed by the modern campus facilities and believed future generations should be proud to attend Eastern Arizona College.



EA Alumni Reunite: CLASS OF 1975 CELEBRATES MII

Homecoming 2025 saw the return of the Class of 1975 as theycelebrated their 50th anniversary reunion.

Attendees kicked off the weekend by gathering at the Gherald L. Hoopes Jr. Activities Center, where they reminisced, enjoyed a meal, and received prizes for the longest travel distance and the most grandchildren.

The Class took part in homecoming festivities and watched the parade, with some class members judging the creative floats from various campus organizations, clubs, and athletic teams.

They continued with a campus tour and group pictures. A pre-game tailgate with lawn

games was hosted by the Associated Students of Eastern Arizona College (student council). Reunion attendees also enjoyed an exciting slate of EA athletic events. They cheered as the volleyball team defeated Central Arizona College. In their matches against Yavapai College the women's soccer team won and the men's soccer team tied.

Go Monsters!

Above: Pictured from left to right: Frank Shelton, Cindy Shelton, Cordialee Irwin, Dani Beathard, Dorinda Garrard, Kris Spilsbury, Debra Spilsbury, Kathy Scott, Yvonne Johnson, James Smith, and Randy Clawson.



The Class of '75 pictured left to right: Cordialee Irwin, Kris Spilsbury, Debra Spilsbury, Randy Clawson, Dorinda Garrard, Kathy Scott, James Smith, Yvonne Johnson, and Frank Shelton.

IILESTONE 50TH ANNIVERSARY



The Class of '75 gathered together to watch EA's Homecoming parade.

Scholarships

wo new scholarships were recently established and awarded to students for the 2025-2026 school year – the Lorenzo and Jeanene Flake Scholarship and the Wayne Flake Scholarship.

Lorenzo Flake contributed to EA not only by teaching and mentoring for 30+ years, but also serving in many capacities, including athletic director, faculty advisor, department chair, Delta Psi Omega Drama Club sponsor, and more. In 1960, the EA Alumni Association named him "Man of the Year." He inspired his students to do their best and achieve more than they thought they could. He made math fun! He served in the Air Force in Japan and the Korean conflict as a pilot and later as a pilot instructor. He also contributed to the community, his church, and their relationships with the College.

Jeanene worked in the EA Computer Center and Institute of Religion for several years. She supported Lorenzo through his Air Force service, while he earned multiple college degrees, and throughout his career at EA. She raised a family, served her church and community, opened her home to many relatives and a few Navajo students to further their education and life experiences.

A scholarship endowment was started in their name that assists students studying math, chemistry, sciences, or education. The first student recipient of this scholarship is lan Fish, a math major from Snowflake, Arizona.

Wayne Flake was a son of Lorenzo and Jeanene Flake, who also taught at EA. He contributed to the College not only by teaching and mentoring for 20 years, but also by serving in many capacities, including the Planning and Steering Committee, department chair, and Faculty Association president. Wayne was known for his commitment to academic integrity. Prior to becoming a professor, Mr. Flake served as an officer and chaplain in the Air Force, serving during the Gulf War, in South Korea, counseling and ministering to the needs of individuals and families as well as overseeing base chapel services and activities. He contributed to the community, his church, and their relationships with the College.

The scholarship provides tuition to students studying psychology, sociology, or education. The first recipient of the Wayne Flake Scholarship Endowment is Amirra Rasmussen. She is a psychology major who graduated from Eastmark High School, in Queen Creek, Arizona.



Raymond Flake presents the Lorenzo and Jeanene Flake scholarship to Ian Fish (right).



Joy Flake presents the Wayne Flake Memorial Scholarship to Amirra Rasmussen (left).

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Josie Rivera

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Ernesto Esparza

Charles Raymond Rhodes Memorial Geology

Mckenna Tucker

Charlotte Phillips Memorial

Bella Speed

Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center

Anisa Hanson

D. Myrtice Wyland Memorial

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Nisa Desmond

Debra Mullenaux Memorial

Tillanie Hansen

Dennis Braithwaite

Memorial Music

Sadie Titus

Donald J. Caldwell Educational

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Dr. Pam Rule

Cordon Smith

Dr. Ron Keith Memorial

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Right: Susan Bernstein presents the Bernstein Brothers Memorial Scholarship to Alexis Cassady. **Left:** Eldon Angle presents the Eldon Preston Angle Scholarship to Jael Reyes.



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MONSTER ALUMNOTES



Pictured: W. Adrian Gale.

W. Adrian Gale, '55, was elected student body president from 1954-1955 and played basketball for Eastern Arizona Junior College.

Following EAJC, he continued his education at Utah State University, where he received a bachelor's degree. Later he returned to USU, earning a master's in education.

He taught biological sciences at Box Elder High School in Brigham City, Utah, for four years before accepting the position as director of production control with Thiokol Chemical Corporation, Trackmaster Division.

In 1976 he returned to his education roots as the director of programs with Bridgerland Applied Technology College. He held this position for 21 years until his retirement.

Adrian held membership with the Providence Lions Club for

25 years, served on the City Council for eight years, and was a member with the Sons of the Utah Pioneers. He also volunteered at Logan Regional Hospital for the past seven years.

In April 2007, he was appointed by Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. to the Utah State Board for Aging and Adult Services. This assignment lasted eight years; he served as chairman the final year.

Activity in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been an important part of his life. He served as bishop of a married USU student ward and as first counselor in the Providence South Stake Presidency. He also served as an officiator at the Logan Temple. He has always valued the friendships and experiences that have come with these opportunities.

Adrian married Kathleen Haslam of Wellsville, Utah, in 1956. They made their first home in Brigham City then moved to Providence where they lived for 40 years.

After retirement, they served a mission in Raleigh, North Carolina. They have three daughters, 16 grandchildren, and 27 great-grandchildren. After Kathleen's passing in 2004, Adrian

married Mary Stanford, originally from Alberta, Canada, in 2006. They made their home in Logan and have enjoyed sharing these last 19 years together. Mary has three children, six grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren.

Adrian made a positive impact on the lives of many family members, friends, and coworkers.



Pictured: Randy and Harriet Roberts.

Randy Roberts, '65 met his sweetheart, Harriett Hapgood Roberts, '65, at EA. They were both very active in choir and band. They began dating after Mr. Shroyer had them sing together and they have been singing together ever since. They were also active in drama.

They were married in 1965. They then moved to the Phoenix area and had many visits from their EA classmates.

They lived in

Oklahoma for ten years where Randy worked for American Airlines as a machinist.

Their next step was living in West Virginia where they were in a music ministry for 20 years.

After moving back to Arizona, Randy worked as a machinist and Harriett worked as an optician.

They have two children, five grands, two great grands, and are hoping for more!

Harriett says, "EA was a great time for us and we still have dear friends who are EA alum. It's been fun to reunite at the reunions we've attended. Grateful for those who are still able to attend."

They recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Willard Barney, '67, came to EA from Safford High School. He was blessed to meet Sherilyn Ballard Barney, '65. Willard left to serve as a missionary in the Northwestern States Mission. While he was gone, Sherilyn attended Lambson Business College in Phoenix. Willard attended one more year at EA and then transferred to the University of Arizona, where he completed a bachelor's degree in agriculture education in 1969 and a master's degree in 1972.

Alumni!
Tell us what's new!



Send your information to: Alumnotes - EAC Alumni Association 615 N. Stadium Ave. Thatcher, A 85552 Or by e-mail at: alumni@eac.edu Willard taught agriculture for two years in Avondale and another 20 years in Chandler. His final nine years of teaching were in safety education.

The Barneys raised six children and have 20 grandchildren. They enjoyed serving together at the UCLA Institute of Religion and at Deseret Cattle and Citrus in Central Florida.

Bob Maldonado, '71, graduated from Clifton High School before attending EA. He lived in the dorm for a year and then lived in a rented house along with other Clifton graduates – David Esquivel, Danny Granado, Mark Aguilera, and Ronnie Hernandez.

After EA, Bob joined the Navy and served for six years. He was stationed on shore (Jacksonville NAS and San Diego) on sea (USS Mauna Kea) and with the Fleet Marine Service at Camp Schwab, 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa.

After the Navy, Bob attended the University of Arizona, acquiring bachelor's and master's degrees. He received a commission from the US Air Force as an officer and retired in 2001 as a Lt. Colonel.

After retirement, he served as a JROTC instructor at three high schools and retired again.

Carlos Abeyta, Jr., '71, attended EA after graduating from Miami High School in 1969. He met a Pima High School graduate, Teresa Garcia Abeyta, '71, while they were both attending EA and they were soon married. After graduation, the Abeytas moved to Flagstaff. They both

graduated from Northern Arizona University in 1973. Teresa became a teacher and later a social worker. She also volunteered in the Hispanic community teaching life skills and GED classes. Carlos worked for 45 years as a microbiologist with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Much of his research was with seafood products and method development for safe delivery and preparation. He served as a manager in the latter parts of his career.

Teresa and Carlos celebrated 52 years of marriage before Teresa passed away. They raised two children and have three grandchildren.

Mr. Abeyta recognizes Eldon Angle for helping him prepare for his career. He's grateful for the start he received at EA.



Pictured: Wally and Irene Foote.

"Wally" W. Foote, '75, attended EA after graduating from St. David High School. While at EA Wally met his wife, Irene Ochoa. After graduating, he earned his bachelor's from Western New Mexico University and commenced a teaching career in the Duncan Schools.

Living in Greenlee County, he still feels close to EA and drives

by the campus frequently. He has family members who reside in the Safford Valley and is proud to say he is acquainted with many current and former EA students. Sadly, many of the teachers and administrators he knew during his tenure have passed away.

Wally and Irene have two sons and ten grandkids. They just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Like many, Wally comes from a rich EA heritage. An article that was published in the Duncan Historical Book, "A Century and More," features the Foote family. The article states, "This story started years ago at Duncan High School when Warner Foote met Ada Mae. Warner attended EAC, or Gila College as it was called in those days, graduating in 1949. He continued his studies at ASU, achieving a degree in mathematics, which he used as a teacher in the Payson, Duncan, and St. David school districts.

What makes this family so unique is their on-going commitment to EA as the education facility of choice to launch their careers. Few families can boast that 13 members (so far!) have attended the same school, from mom and dad to all nine children and some of their spouses.

First born Bonnie, who graduated from EA in 1971 before attending the U of A for her degree in elementary education, currently lives in Elida, New Mexico.

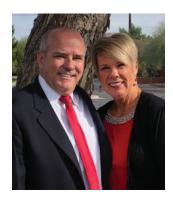
Daughter Deanne took several classes from EA in both Morenci and Duncan. Presently she lives in North Carolina.

Francie attended EA in 1974 and 1975. She later married EA graduate, Nelson Harris, of Safford, and they moved to Chandler.

Both Chloene (1976 and 1977) and Gwen (1977 and 1978) happily remember the EA 1977 summer tour of Mexico.

Daughters Sunny (1982-1984) and Fairlene (1983 – 1985) attended EA and the Safford College of Beauty, and were licensed by the state.

Donna Mae was an EA student in 1986. She married Rick Ramsey of Pima, who received his associate's degree."



Pictured: Von and Juile Payne

Von Payne, '82, attended Eastern Arizona after graduating from Thatcher High School. He served as a missionary in Washington D.C. for two years and then returned to complete his education. While attending, he began dating and then married

Julie Angle Payne, '82, who was a Safford High School graduate. The Paynes are a fourth-generational EA alumni family. Von's parents are Junius Payne, '36, and

Marguerite Taylor Payne, '36. Marguerite's mother Kate Taylor, '36, attended Gila Junior College as a widow at the same time as her daughter. All of Von's brothers and sisters attended EA. Julie's father Howard Angle, '49, also attended.

The Paynes moved to Gilbert where they completed schooling and began raising a family. Julie completed schooling for nursing and Von completed a bachelor's in business administration.

Von started East Valley Floors in Gilbert in 1984. The business grew quickly with the rapid growth of the town. He served five terms on the Gilbert Parks and Recreation Board, including two terms as its chair.

Von was active in the Boy Scouts of America for 35+ years. Both of his sons are Eagle Scouts. He was an adult Boy Scout leader from 1983 to 2018 and earned his Eagle Scout as a teenager. They have served nine years in a young single adults (YSA) ward in the Tempe YSA Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Von and Julie attribute their college years at EA as some of their fondest, making many lifetime friends and growing their education base. Some of their most influential instructors were Glenn Smith, Monte Smith, and Wayne Mack.

Von and Julie are the parents of five children, with seven granddaughters and six grandsons. Two of their

children also attended EA - Alison Payne Jones, '11, and Jason Payne, '07.

Jim Carrasco, '87, came to Eastern after graduating from Safford High School. He enjoyed theatre with Dr. Crae Wilson, choir with Dr. David Lunt, and dance with Mrs. Gayla Curtis. While attending EA, Jim also completed prerequisites for the nursing program.

He continued his education at the University of Arizona and became a registered nurse in 1990. He worked at St. Mary's Hospital, in Tucson ,where he met his wife, Teresita, who is also a nurse. Together they raised two sons who have become successful in computer science and art education.

Jim was able to stay involved in the fine arts by singing in the group Sons of Orpheus and later with the Arizona Opera for two seasons.



Pictured: Jim and Teresita Carrasco.

He worked for UPH Surgery Center for ten years and managed the center for most of those years. During that time, he was also able to participate with the local community theatre.

He currently works at Carondelet Foothills Surgery Center and manages the operating room.

Thinking back on his time at EA, he shares that it was "one of the most fantastic times of my life."



Pictured: Natalie Phillips Waite (left) and Addie Omerza (right).

Natalie Phillips Waite, '98, and Addie Omerza, '25, both performed at the EA spring musical production of *Anastasia*. The entire time they rehearsed and performed together, they didn't know they were cousins.

Natalie and Addie share a common great grandfather (2nd and 3rd great), Frank Newton Tyler - a member of Thatcher's original "Big Six." Natalie's greatgrandmother, Ella Tyler Lee, (1914), and Addie's great-great-grandmother, Lucinda Tyler Carpenter, (1905), are Frank's daughters.

Addie's great grandmothers, Ora Carpenter Omerza, '32, and Dorothy McRae Keller, '40, also attended EA in the school's very early years. Both Ora and Dorothy moved away in their adulthood, but granddaughters, and now a great-grand-daughter (Addie) came back to attend school here.

Natalie is a long-time resident of Thatcher. Her father, **Max Phillips, '65,** was a local coach and teacher. Her mother was the famed former EA Cafeteria "Cookie Maker," Joan Phillips.

Both Natalie and Addie's roots go back to the early years of Thatcher and Pima.

Tallon B. Hawkins, '20, recently graduated from the Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine as a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, DVM. He will begin employment



Pictured: Tallon B. Hawkins

in Tucson serving families and institutional clients like the Reid Park Zoo. He loves helping all animals, but especially likes exotics like snakes, lizards, skinks, and frogs. Tallon met and married **Celeste Udall Hawkins, '22,** who is a graduate of the EA Nursing Program and Arizona State University's BSN program. She has worked for Banner Hospital for the past three years.

Celeste and Tallon have four children and enjoy raising their family together.

In Memoriam

中 Johnie B. Grice, '54 – January 2025 Theola Peterson Crawford, '47 – January 3, 2025 Arnol O. Allen, '58-January 4, 2025 Odie W. Kelly, '64 – January 6, 2025 Anita "Annie" H. Hinojos, '08 – January 13, 2025 Rosemarie Ford Larson, '77 - January 15, 2025 LaVerl "Otis" Connolly, '76 – January 19, 2025 David A. Turner, '92 – January 28, 2025 Ralph J. Cluff, '55 – February 2, 2025 Aleta P. Carpenter, '69- February 08, 2025 Josephine Stevens, '43-February 9, 2025 Katheryn Larson Cohn, '47 – February 11, 2025 Derald A. Ferrin, '77 – February 11, 2025 Deanna Johnson Jerge, '67 – February 15, 2025 Mary L. Moss, '85 – February 19, 2025 Chad T. Hale, '75- February 21, 2025 Gladys Buni Denham, '68 – February 21, 2025 Mary Barrett Rietz, '80 February 23, 2025 Mario T. DeClay, '94 - March 1, 2025 "Jim" Leslie James Alder, '56 – March 9, 2025 Wesley Kinnard, '93- March 11, 2025 Gary L. McCleve, '56 – March 13, 2025 Donald R. Papa, '65 – March 14, 2025 Judith M. Forgach, '92 – March 17, 2025 Lois "Ann" Allen Frost, '63 – March 17, 2025 Pamela A. Boas McLaws, '63 – March 21, 2025 Winton H. Carlton, '50 – March 23, 2025 Joseph K. Reichman, '76 – March 24, 2025 Sharon K. Dodge Taylor, '61 – March 25, 2025 Doyle S. Randall, '48 – April 3, 2025 William H. Payne, '48 – April 9, 2025 Kristy L. Clemishire Phelps, '92 – April 10, 2025 Nanette Long, '90 – April 13, 2025

Col. Robert H. McBride, '72 – April 15, 2025 Eddie Cooper, '85 – April 17, 2025 Bobbie Jean Smith, '86 – April 25, 2025 Ann Thomas Hedghes, '74 – April 25, 2025 Adena Curtis Ray, '59 – May 1, 2025 Ethel Ellsworth Nicoll, '51 – May 3, 2025 Tony Semallie, May 7, 2025 Ashley D. Ritchie, '07 – May 11, 2025 Sally Bronk Gal, '64 – May 12, 2025 Carmello H. Herrera, '77 – May 22, 2025 Terry J. Sanders, '63 – May 23, 2025 B. Wayne Randall, '53 – May 24, 2025 Ruth Ochoa Merrill, '73 – May 27, 2025 Deberrah Allred Bryce, '66 – May 29, 2025 Clay R. Larson, '52 – May 30, 2025 Coty D. Fuller, '11 - June 3, 2025 Jeane Nelson Lunt, '66 – June 5, 2025 Lyman Mitchell, '54 – June 3, 2025 Ken E. Allen, '77 – June 5, 2025 Jeane Nelson Lunt, '66 – June 5, 2025 Naomi Ruthie Smith, '01 – June 5, 2025 Kenneth E. Allen, '77 – June 5, 2025 Landon C. Baldwin, '20 – June 8, 2025 Torrie D. Beus Baldwin, '18 – June 8, 2025 G. Jeremy Bingham, '97 – June 8, 2025 Gavin M. Bingham, '19 – June 8, 2025 Billy Joe Trimble, '71 – June 9, 2025 Patty M. Barr Stull, '12 – June 9, 2025 Richard E. Wetzler, '12 – June 9, 2025 Terri J. Tellez, '12 – June 17, 2025

Guy L. E. Heder, '85 – June 29, 2025

Wedding **B**ells

	Jan. 3, 2025	Hudson Griffin, '27 and Jada Rubalcava, '27
	Jan. 3, 2025	Jace Chlarson '25 and Elise Aylworth
	Feb. 1, 2025	Tia Bryce, '25 and Declan Carlton, '25
	Feb. 1, 2025	Tresha Preston, '19 and Sterling Moore, '22
	Mar. 8, 2025	Tianna Lambson, '23 and Ryan Crockett, '25
1	Mar. 15, 2025	Chaleese Webb '25 and Joby Rojas '26
	Apr. 4, 2025	Katelynn Curtis '24 and Briggs Baldwin '24
2	Apr. 12, 2025	Mary Workman, '25 and Bryce Merrell
3	Apr. 12, 2025	Camille Johnson '24 and Jacob McDonald
	Apr. 18, 2025	Sedona Nelson, '26 and Jackson Palmer, '24
4	May 2, 2025	Brice Evans, '13 and Emillie Manalo
	May 2, 2025	Cherish Reynolds, '20 and Justin Kartchner, '21
	May 10, 2025	Emilia Clark, '24 and Kaden Shiflet
	May 17, 2025	Joy Rodgers, '26 and Oscar Renteria
	May 17, 2025	Shanda Petersen '26 and Justin James '26
5	May 24, 2025	Ximena Cordova, '26 and Ethan Curtis, '20
	May 24, 2025	Maci Layton, '24 and Riley Alder '24
	Jun. 7, 2025	Samantha Palmer, '26 and Thomas Tregaskes, '27
	Jun. 14, 2025	Lindy Hauser, '24 and Spencer Poche', '26
6	Jun. 21, 2025	Tillanie Garcia, '25 and Ethan Hansen, '25
	Jun. 22, 2025	Brenlee N. Bryce, '22 and Bronson Smith
7	Jun. 28, 2025	Ashlyn F. Brown, '21 and Elijah Pemberton















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