

Leroy
High School

Class of 2022

Graduation ceremony was held May 16 at Leroy High Stadium at 8 p.m.



Mattie Danielle Chestang

ISSUE YOU WANT TO BE BEING INVOLVED WITH? “An issue that truly shakes me to my core is poverty. Many people all around the world suffer from it.”

CLASS PRESIDENT

Chestang wants to help improve lives as occupational therapist

- SCHOOL: Leroy High School
- FULL NAME: Mattie Danielle Chestang
- AGE: 18
- PARENTS: Rickey and Darlene Chestang
- GPA AND HONORS: I have a 3.9 GPA and I will be graduating in the top 5 of my senior class, with an advanced diploma. I am a member of Beta Club, Theater Club, and the Interact Rotary Club. I am also one of the editors in my school's Yearbook Staff.
- COLLEGE PLANS: I plan to go to the University of Mobile.
- MAJOR: I will be majoring in Health Biology.
- ULTIMATE GOAL: My ultimate goal is to become an Occupational Therapist.
- WHAT IS THE HARDEST THING YOU DID IN HIGH SCHOOL? The hardest thing I did in high school was having to deal with time management. I had to learn to balance my studies, club activities, and my personal life. I'm glad I finally got the hang of it, because now I know it will benefit me as I start my journey as a college student.
- WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE COURSES? My favorite courses have always been my science classes, from biology to chemistry to anatomy. These classes were definitely difficult at times, but they challenged me in a way that made me want to learn more.
- WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY FROM HIGH SCHOOL? My favorite memories will always be the many laughs and all of the good

times I've had with my fellow classmates.

■ WHO WERE YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCES? My biggest influences would have to be my parents and both of my science teachers, Mrs. Gilliam and Mrs. Brown. They all pushed me to do my best and helped me believe in myself.

■ NAME AN ISSUE LOCALLY, STATE-WIDE, NATIONALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY YOU WANT A REALISTIC CHANCE OF BEING INVOLVED WITH AND WHY? An issue that truly shakes me to my core is poverty. Many people all around the world suffer from it. I would happily and willingly be involved in anything that would help meet the needs of someone that has struggled with poverty.

■ WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF 10 YEARS FROM NOW? I see myself working full time as an Occupational Therapist, trying my best to make a difference in the lives of others. I also hope to be married and to someday start a family.

■ WHAT SORT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS DO YOU HOPE WE WILL SEE 10 YEARS FROM NOW? Technology has already advanced so much over the years, it's hard to imagine what advancements we might see in the future. But, I would love to see anything that would positively benefit humankind. I can't wait to witness what the future holds.

CLASS VICE PRESIDENT

Courington plans to boost kids with music

- SCHOOL: Leroy High School
- FULL NAME: Tatum Joanna-Michelle Courington
- AGE: 18
- PARENTS: Mark and Shannon Courington
- GPA AND HONORS: 3.9; National Honor Society, Beta Club, Jackson Interact Club Vice-President; Senior class Vice President; Highest average in history, highest average in algebraic connections, HOSA President, FCA, Mobile's Singing Children Ambassador, 2022 John Phillip Sousa Award, University of South Alabama Honor Band, William Carey University Honor Band, Auburn University Symphonic Honor Band, Huntingdon College Honor Band, University of South Alabama Honor Band, One Voice Alabama Baptist Honor Choir soloist, 2022 Outstanding Marching Band Veteran; Patrick Gilmore Musicianship Award; Most Dependable Band Member, Most Outstanding Band Member, Most Talented, Washington County Honor Band, Kat Perkins Rising Star Vocalist,
- COLLEGE PLANS: I plan to attend William Carey University.
- MAJOR: Music therapy with a minor in voice
- ULTIMATE GOAL: To work as a music therapist in elementary schools
- WHAT IS THE HARDEST THING YOU DID IN HIGH SCHOOL? The hardest thing I did in high school was to resist the urge to give up on things that are difficult and take the easy way out. Instead, I have stayed and invested my time, talents, and energy into activities
- WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE COURSES? History is my absolute favorite.
- WHAT IS YOUR BEST MEMORY FROM HIGH SCHOOL? My favorite high school memory is being selected to perform the National Anthem before the homecoming football game of my senior year. It is a duty that I did not take lightly and an honor that I am thankful to have had.
- WHO WERE YOUR BIGGEST INFLU-

ENCES? I am blessed to have so many people invest their time and wisdom into my life throughout the years. My parents and grandparents are major influences in my life. Although my great-grandmothers are no longer here with me, their love and wisdom still shapes who I am becoming. I also attend church with leaders who provide positive, godly guidance. I have also had the most supportive teachers since I started school. Kat Perkins, who is known for her performances on The Voice is a major influence in my life. Not only is she incredibly talented musically, but she uses her platform to give youth performers opportunities to grow their talents and perform each summer at her Rising Star Camps. She founded the Rising Star Foundation to provide performing arts opportunities for youth across the nation to come together in the Bandlands of North Dakota and perform. The Foundation encourages creativity, positivity, and teamwork. I think I am a more confident performer and an all-around better person because of the opportunities that Rising Star Foundation provided for me. Lastly, Susan Hoitt, the director of Mobile's Singing Children has been a major influence on my life for 11 years. She has taught me, pushed me, and expected excellence from me at every rehearsal and in every performance.

■ NAME AN ISSUE LOCALLY, STATE-WIDE, NATIONALLY OR INTERNATIONALLY YOU WANT A REALISTIC CHANCE OF BEING INVOLVED WITH AND WHY. Mental health and wellbeing is an issue that I see myself becoming involved with as I want to become a music therapist. I hope to become a school-based therapist so that I can positively influence students and educate them about the importance of mental health.

■ WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF 10 YEARS FROM NOW? In ten years, I hope to be working as school-based music therapist during the school year and performing at the Medora Musical during the summer months.



Tatum Joanna-Michelle Courington