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THE MONROE NEWS

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Serendipity Java opens in Petersburg

Former cop wanted to do something for community

Lisa Vidaurri Bowling

The Monroe News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The coffee is always on at Amy Pelleteri's place in Petersburg.

She owns and operates Serendipity Java at 74 E. Center St.

Pelleteri, a former Toledo police officer for 31 years, opened the business in February.

The shop offers a variety of hot and cold beverages, specialty and energy drinks along with breakfast foods, sandwiches, pastries and hand-scooped ice cream.

Business hours are 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. Customers can order and dine inside or order online. Special events are posted on Facebook.



Amy Pelleteri, a former police officer with the Toledo Police Department, opened Serendipity Java in Petersburg in February. PROVIDED BY AMY PELLETERI

See **COFFEE SHOP**, Page 3A



Bentley



DeCarlo



Johnson



Lietaert



Watters

Monroe County Middle College top students

Suzanne Nolan Wisler

The Monroe News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Monroe County Middle College announced its top 10 Class of 2026 scholars.

Although school graduation ceremonies are still a month away, school districts across Monroe County are already preparing for them. In January and February, most districts determine the ranking of students according to grade point average.

Announcements from other Monroe County schools will follow in the coming weeks.

Monroe County Middle College's top students are listed here in order of class rank. Ashleigh Bentley, Allison DeCarlo, Robert Johnson, Phoebe Lietaert and Benjamin Watters are tied for the top ranking. Matayah Hammill and Vishwas Joshi are tied for the second ranking.

- Name: Ashleigh Bentley
- Parents: Josh and Beth Bentley of Carleton
- Activities and honors: Daughters of the American Revolution Award; Airport varsity cheerleader; Academic All-Star Award; National Honor Society; Student Ambassador Program
- Future plans: Study early childhood education at Eastern Michigan University

- Name: Allison DeCarlo
- Parents: Lee and Maureen DeCarlo of Monroe
- Activities and honors: National Honor Society; Phi Theta Kappa; Monroe County Community College dean's list
- Future plans: Study computer science at Eastern Michigan University

- Name: Robert Johnson
- Parents: William and Mira Johnson of Monroe
- Activities and honors: Writing Fellow at Monroe Community College; Monroe varsity swim team for four years and Coach's Award; National Honor Society
- Future plans: Study engineering

- Name: Phoebe Lietaert
- Parents: Glenn and Adele Lietaert of Monroe
- Activities and honors: President's Academic Achievement Award at Monroe County Community College; Positive Peer Interactions president; National Honor Society; Student Prevention Leadership Team; varsity swimming captain
- Future plans: Study elementary education in the honors college at Michigan State University

- Name: Benjamin Watters
- Parents: Francis and Julie Watters of Monroe
- Activities and honors: President's Academic Achievement Award at Monroe County Community College; National Honor

- Society; secretary for the Turning Point USA group at MCCC; United States Civil Air Patrol; Michigan Wing Cadet Advisory Council
- Future plans: Study mechanical/aerospace engineering at the University of Toledo
- Name: Matayah Grace Hammill
- Parents: Charles and Terri Hammill of Monroe
- Activities and honors: Founding member of Monroe County Community College Christ-Centered Community; Monroe County Middle College Academic All-Star Award; dean's list at MCCC for fall 2024 and winter 2025; National Honor Society

- Future plans: Enter the workforce
- Name: Vishwas Joshi
- Parents: Balaji and Madhu Joshi of Monroe
- Activities and honors: Founder and president of the Monroe County Middle College Chess Club for five years; founder and owner of Golf Gems LLC (eco-friendly golf ball reselling business); varsity and Club Soccer for Monroe High School and Monroe United with several honors; varsity swimming and diving captain for MHS with several honors; vice president of Student Government at Monroe County Community College

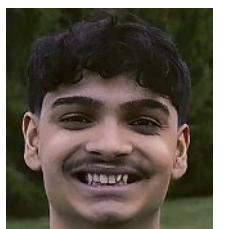
- Future plans: Study business administration at the University of Michigan
- Name: Lindsay Simonelli
- Parents: Thomas and Kooki Simonelli of Monroe
- Activities and honors: Treasurer of Phi Theta Kappa at Monroe County Community College; Writing Fellows at MCCC; dean's list at MCCC
- Future plans: Study communicative sciences and disorders at Eastern Michigan University

- Name: Isaiah Wingate
- Parents: Brad and Michelle Wingate of Temperance
- Activities and honors: National Honor Society; Phi Theta Kappa; Bedford Men's Soccer and three-year letterman; Bedford Soccer Scholar Athlete Award; Soccer Coaches Award
- Future plans: Study mechanical engineering at the University of Toledo
- Name: Marwan Alabdalla
- Parents: George Alabdalla and Mirna Abed of Monroe
- Activities and honors: Monroe County Community College Student Government president, 2025-26 and vice president, 2024-25; MCCC Student Keys to Success Award; MCCC dean's list; National Honor Society treasurer, 2023-24
- Future plans: Study mechanical and aeronautical engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

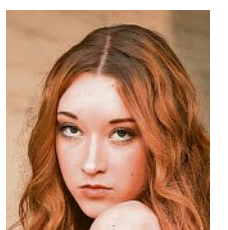
Contact reporter Suzanne Nolan Wisler at swisler@monroenews.com.



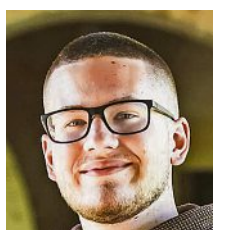
Hammill



Joshi



Simonelli



Wingate



Alabdalla

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