



Freshman Spotlight: Jacob Scheuring

By Maleah Pinnix and Evan Beard

After sitting down with Jacob Scheuring, freshman at EHHS, we have learned the ups and downs of being a freshman.

Jacob is very involved in the school. From multiple clubs such as FCCLA, Skills USA, and FFA, Jacob has successfully placed himself in school culture. Being in these clubs are helping him prepare for the future. Jacob also enjoys playing sports for the school. At the beginning of the school year, Jacob was signed up for golf. He plans on taking this passion all the way through high school and, hopefully, college.

One of the most exciting things that Jacob is looking forward to is the 2022 Soccer season. He plays defense and wing positions. For him and the team this is not just a normal season. Our school experienced the best soccer season ever. Jacob feels as though that this season will be able to match or maybe surpass last season even though some of our best players have graduated. Jacob is going into this season more confident than he has ever been.

The change from middle school to high school is something we all can understand. For Jacob, he loves having more freedom and the ability to make his own schedule. The variety of classes he can take that differ from middle school is something that is fascinating to him. After experiencing some high school classes, Jacob said that culinary has been his

favorite and is why he joined FCCLA. A big difference between classes at the middle school and the high school is that all grades are mixed together. He says "I like having mixed classes. I sometimes start to hate my class, so it is good to have a variety."

What comes with highs comes also with lows. Jacob has had some challenges while starting high school. One being his back brace due to scoliosis. This has affected him in school and out on the



field. Scoliosis is not the only challenge throughout the day. Jacob is a part of Mrs. Guardo's Honors Geometry class. The transition from middle school where all students are held on the same level classes to where in high school he gets the choice to learn a higher level curriculum can be hard, but he thinks it is worth it.

Covid-19 has impacted the last two school years tremendously. Jacob says that things have gotten a lot better since first being shut down his 7th grade year. Pep rallies, after school events, and sports are just some of the things Jacob is excited for to be back.

Jacob's life outside of school is just as interesting as his life inside school. One of his favorite hobbies is to enjoy time outside. Going hiking and camping keeps Jacob entertained. These hobbies of his really help out with his want to become an Eagle Scout. Jacob hopes to be official by 15 or 16. Jacob shows his love for the outdoors and Scouts alongside his brother, Christian.

Jacob wants to use the opportunity of being an Eagle Scout to help him get scholarships for college. Once you begin high school, one has to start thinking about the future. Jacob seems to have it all figured out. He plans to go to MTSU (Middle Tennessee State University) and major in history. Without any hesitation, Jacob says he does not want to use his degree to become a teacher, but rather a historian. He would like to work in museums to express his love and knowledge of history.

Learning about Jacob's love for knowledge and sports is fascinating. He truly loves what he is passionate about and is something he can talk to you about forever.

Sophomore Spotlight: Mathew's Inspirations

By Lynn LaBelle

East Hickman High school student, Matthew Jordan, is hard-working and dedicated when it comes to his passions. Matthew likes to think of himself as a handyman that can fix almost anything.

In his high school career, Matthew has taken welding classes and plans to become a welder. But, that doesn't stop him from pursuing different interests, and is continuing to challenge himself with other areas of interest, also.

If classes were harder than expected, Matthew sought out help from his favorite teacher Coach Billy Sawyer. He has known him for two years, and Mathew has a close relationship with Sawyer. English has been a tough subject for Matthew, but with Sawyer's help, he has a better understanding of the subject.

Coach Sawyer comments, "Matthew always has a positive attitude and is always willing to learn and grow. It's been great getting to work with him the last two years."

Though he found English class difficult, some of his favorite memories from have been from Mrs. Graves' class. The memories made there are what stands

out as his favorite class. Mrs. Graves notes that "Matthew always had a kind word, always asked me how my day has been when he came into class. Even now, he stops by from time to time to check in with me." It seems like Matthew is



enjoying high school, but he is also looking forward to leaving and starting his life outside of school.

After high school, Mathew plans to go to Louisiana State University (LSU). While at LSU, Matthew plans on majoring in welding. Welding takes a lot of math and science. Mathew likes to

work with his hands and create things. It takes creativity and drive to be a welder, and that's exactly what Mathew has.

While it seems like Matthew has his future career planned out there has been something that he has always wanted to do. He has an interest in fishing which leads him to New Orleans. Matthew wants to go to New Orleans where there will be five lakes near the college he wants to go to.

Fishing is only one of the pastimes he enjoys. Matthew also enjoys *Rick and Morty*, the movie *Joe Dirt*, and marching band. He has been in band since middle school, playing tuba. Usually, when students are in band, they are only in there for a year or two. However, the drive that Mathew has to stay in band for that long shows his confidence and work ethic.

Matthew's work ethic stems from his grandfather. His grandfather has pushed him very hard ever since he was little. His grandfather and Coach Sawyer have been his inspiration in life. His grandfather was the one to continually push him to do better "Never give up, keep trying"—the quote his grandfather would say when he was feeling low. This is Matthew's reason for continuing to show his passions for his future career.

Spookin’ Cookin’

By Eric Aldrich

The fast-food business is on the verge of making a massive change in its drive-thru with a new type of restaurant design.

Taco Bell has designed a restaurant that is drive-thru exclusive that caters to cars and 3rd- party delivery apps such as Grubhub and Doordash. Customers want contactless delivery due to Covid-19, which the restaurant is designed to provide.

Covid-19 has changed the fast food industry immensely. Restaurants want to keep dine-in areas closed since they can save money and time on cleaning. Restaurants want to cater to drive-thru customers because they are more valuable than dine-in customers. Fast-food restaurants such as Wendy’s are opening up “ghost kitchens” to help expand their delivery and business according to *INSIDER*.

“Ghost Kitchens are commercial kitchens optimized for food delivery. Each kitchen is located in areas with a high concentration of delivery demand. The kitchens themselves don’t have a storefront and the staff prepares dishes off of their menus that are only available for delivery.” as defined by *Cloud Kitchens*.

Ghost kitchens have been on the rise, working in the background helping large corporations and other businesses make orders.

A famous ghost kitchen is “MrBeast Burger” started by internet sensation Mr. Beast. Mr. Beast uses a virtual app to take orders and then a nearby ghost kitchen can prepare the order and a 3rd party delivery app can deliver the order, and Taco Bell is using this to their advantage.

The new design for Taco Bell elevates a ghost kitchen with drive-thru lanes running underneath eliminating the need for dine-in areas. The ghost kitchen will be able to work efficiently without the worry of dine-in customers.

Ghost kitchens will be able to work for multiple corporations, so they will be able to work through the whole day preparing multiple orders. If the kitchen takes on more than they can chew, then they can add a second story to the building to help with the extra orders.

Consumers are ordering more takeout than ever before. *Restaurant Business* states, “Twenty-two percent of consumers now say that ordering food for carryout or delivery is more a part of their routine than it was two years ago, according to Technomic.” Consumers are getting carryout more now than ever since it is easier for them.

DoorDash, UberEats, and Postmates have seen a 204% increase in revenue since 2015 according to Business of Apps. They are expected to make \$42 billion in revenue by 2025. Not only restaurants are using 3rd party delivery apps, but meal prep and household items

are also being delivered. Amazon Fresh offers delivery on groceries and everyday essentials, and other corporations will soon follow this trend.

Corporations can also follow the same style of distribution as Taco Bell is planning to do because it is cost-effective and easy to do for the companies. Soon, we may see these new types of restaurants, and soon after that groceries stores doing the same thing.

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Reporter /Photographer– Dana Bourgeois

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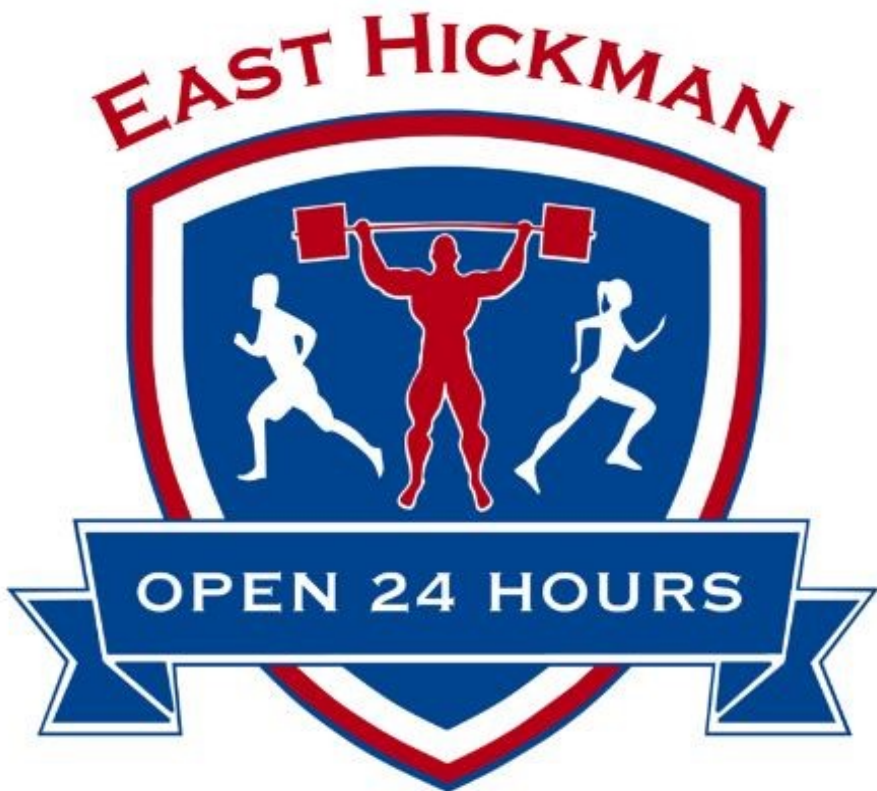
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The Evolution of Everyone’s Favorite Cartoon Characters

By Dana Bourgeois

For many decades, animated characters have touched the hearts of many of all ages. From classic characters like Bugs Bunny, to modern characters like Spongebob Squarepants, animated characters will continue to impact lives for generations to come and create happy memories.

Even though there are modern characters, classic characters are still considered some of the best characters of today in everyday life and are still popular to this day. Such as the case with *Looney Tunes* and *Tom and Jerry*, both franchises have released films in the past year. In July 2021, *Space Jam: A New Legacy* was released as a sequel to the original *Space Jam* released in 1996. Both of the films include *Looney Tunes* characters.

Tom and Jerry, released in February 2021, was a live action version of *Tom and Jerry*. Both franchises have characters that are examples of prominent classic characters still popular in modern society. The website *Retro Planet* named the pair characters of the week in 2008.

Fred Flintstone from the animated series *The Flintstones*, airing from 1960 until 1966, is among one of the most popular characters of all time. The show was adapted into many animated films and two live action films, *The Flintstones* and *The Flintstones Viva Rock Vegas*, released in 1994 and 2000 respectively.

The character is known for his brash, hot headed, and not very bright personality as he raises a family, consisting of the equally iconic Wilma

Flintstone, daughter Pebbles Flintstone, and family pet Dino. Paste Magazine ranked him number nineteen on “The 50 Best Cartoon Characters” ranking list.

Another iconic character is Mickey Mouse. The character was created in 1928 in the animated short film *Steamboat Willie* in 1928. Since then, the character has become the face of Disney with dozens of films and TV shows made around the character. The films and shows included other celebrated characters like Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck, and Goofy.

A more recent iconic character is Spongebob Squarepants. The character is the protagonist of his titular show that has aired since 1999 and has run for thirteen seasons on Nickelodeon.

Spongebob Squarepants is among one of the longest running animated shows of all time. It has even adapted three films, *The Spongebob Squarepants Movie* in 2004, *The Spongebob Squarepants Movie Sponge Out of Water* in 2015, and *The Spongebob Squarepants Movie Sponge on the Run* in 2020. It features some of the most iconic characters such as Squidward, Mr. Krabs, and Patrick Star, who has his own self focused show titled *The Patrick Star Show*.

In 1969, Scooby-Doo made his first appearance in the animated show *Scooby-Doo Where Are You*. The show followed the pair and their three friends, Fred Jones, Daphne Blake, and Velma Dinkley, as they solve mysteries. It has since adapted multiple reboots of the show, multiple animated films, and two

live action films, *Scooby Doo and Scooby Doo 2 Monsters Unleashed*, released in 2002 and 2004 respectively.

In 1987, the world was introduced to the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, consisting of the characters Leonardo, Michelangelo, Donatello, and Raphael. The characters became beloved classics immediately when they were released. The characters have continued to play a part in pop culture and have been adapted into live action shows, more cartoon shows, and multiple live action and animated films.

The website Hollywood Reporter recently wrote an article titled “Why ‘Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles’ is Radical 30 Years Later”. This is true due to the many films and reboots that have been released. The most notable films include *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle 2 Secret of the Ooze*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3*, and two live action remakes, titled *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* and *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Out of the Shadows*.

Cartoons will continue to be popular because of their classic characters and evolving new characters. Despite what some people believe, cartoons are not only for children. Besides the shows aimed at a younger audience, there are also adult oriented cartoons, such as *The Simpsons*, *Family Guy*, and *South Park*, among many others. It does not matter if it is a new character or a classic character, it will be iconic in some way or another to everyone.

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Written in the Stars

By Caitlyn Bowdoin

Astrology has been around for centuries. People in ancient Greece used the stars to tell stories, and some became what are known as the twelve zodiac. People of all ethnicities and nationalities use it to get to know each other; it is a great way to explore someone's personality or vibe with just one question. Even though it is not a sure and scientific way to tell, it helps.

Scientists do not claim the idea of astrology because it is based on the movement of the planets and alignment of the stars. They say it has no scientific correlation to each other and that the planets cannot control who you are as a person. You might be thinking, "What does the planet have to do with my personality?" You are not the only one!

Most people are skeptical of the astrological ideology and how it portrays itself in real life. Most scientists and non-believers find it completely ridiculous. A least 29% of Americans believe in astrology. That is approximately 95,990,769 people nationwide. Globally, it is unknown how many people believe in astrology. However, at least 90% of adults know their zodiac sign.

Among the zodiacs, there are subcultures and groups. There are four groups with three signs in each: Fire, Earth, Air, and Water, each with their own characteristics and unique personality traits.

Beginning with the passionate Fire signs: Aries, Sagittarius, and Leo. They are more bold and passionate than the other signs, but they also tend to be self-centered and hot-headed. They are purported to have a habit of being very clingy and obsessive over their belongings and possessions.

However, each sign has its own qualities. Aries is represented by a ram, stubborn and hot-headed. Aries are known for being temperamental, quick to anger, and compulsive. Still, they are compassionate and protective of others. They tend to be very sweet if someone is good to them. They are very good at talking to people and making conversation, but sometimes it can be awkward.

Leo is a sign known for their vanity and their need to be the best. Therefore, they are represented by the prideful lion. Nevertheless, they are adamant about standing up for people and their beliefs. Although this stereotype of vanity is well-known, it is not true in some cases.

Symbolized by an archer, is Sagittarius. Sagittarius is a sign associated with cunning intelligence and drive. They are the most intelligent of the fire signs and are the most level-headed and disciplined. Their most compatible group is the Air signs. If one is basing his or her relationship on the Zodiac, putting a Fire sign with another Fire sign will only end in chaos!

Next, are the lovely Earth signs: Taurus, Capricorn, and Virgo. These signs tend to be more calm and rational, but they can easily turn into very

stubborn and hard-headed people. Once they make a decision they typically stay with it. They are not very emotional and tend to hold onto their emotions. Just like the Fire signs, they are protective of their loved ones.

Bulls are known to be stubborn and determined and so are Taureans. Taurus is a kind sign, but cross them once and they will get revenge. Taurus tend to be lazy and easy going, but once they have a goal in mind, they are not changing it for anything or anyone.

Capricorns are very persistent and determined, but they can also be overbearing and malicious. Coincidentally, they are represented by the goat, who are literally hard-headed. Just like the rest of the Zodiac, they are stubborn and unsentimental; however, when they are with the right person they are extremely loving and compassionate.

Last is the most zen of the Earth signs, Virgo. Virgos are the more timid and quiet of the Earth signs. Virgos are self-sufficient, they are represented by a maiden who shows that she takes care of herself without the help of her partner. They are typically overlooked because they are not well-known, but when you encounter a Virgo who is not shy—this is a rare find! The most compatible with Earth signs are other Earth and Water signs.

Third, we have the Air signs which entails: Aquarius, Libra, and Gemini. Now, these signs are the most controversial. They are the most hated and the most liked. They are brutally honest and harsh. They are associated with being outspoken and will not spare one's feelings. Air signs tend to hide their emotions and are awful at making friends, but when they do have friends, they are the best at giving advice.

Aquarius are the most emotional of the Air signs. Aquarius are the most humanitarian of the zodiac, represented by the water-bearer sign which symbolizes the kind and fair nature of the Zodiac. They hide their emotions with a false sense of security. Thus, they are typically loners, but on a rare occasion, there are social butterflies in the mix. They are emotional and sweet, but can also be conniving. They can be heartless and rude. Once they do not like you it is hard to gain their favor again.

Libras are the mediator, they are the balance of all the signs which compliments their symbol of scales. They tend to be level-headed and rational. They are known for their easy-going nature and peacemaking. However, they are also indecisive and confusing. They are usually one of the best with relationships because they are peacemakers. Libras love compromise and will bend backwards just to find balance.

Last but not least, Gemini. Unfortunately, Gemini have the bad reputation of being extremely two faced and rude therefore being represented by twins. They can be the most loyal

people one will ever know. Gemini has this reputation because they have a habit of holding grudges very well. They just need one mistake and they will be done with the relationship. They don't get along very well with people who do not stand up for themselves. Thus, Air signs are most compatible with Fire signs.

Finally we have the Water signs: Cancer, Scorpio, and Pisces. Water signs are empathetic and understanding. Therefore, they are easily used for selfish reasons. Water signs are cool-headed, mellow and are extremely empathetic. However, they are also the most toxic to be around. They can be manipulative and cunning. They know exactly what strings to pull to get what they want from you.

Cancers have the most interesting backstory behind their symbol. They are represented by a crab because of the ancient tale of Heracles. A crab pinched Heracles while he was fighting the Lernaean hydra. The Greek tell stories within the stars and the symbol of Cancer is a perfect example of the tales. Cancers are known as the crybabies of the Zodiac. Mostly because they are emotional and moody. They can also be rude and thoughtless when it comes to other people's emotions or feelings. Even though they care deeply for their own they tend to overlook how their actions make others feel. Nonetheless, they are still good friends to have.

Next up, Scorpio. The Casanova of the signs. Scorpions tend to be mischievous. They are definitely the jokesters, but they tend to have a lot of deep-seated issues within themselves. They are flirty but also know boundaries when it comes to friends. They can be kind and endearing. They fall in love fast and hard.

Last, but definitely not least, is the fish sign, Pisces. Pisces is symbolized by the fish because of the balance between fantasy and reality. Pisces is an extremely complicated sign to analyze. On the other hand, they have the ability to read people like a book. One look and they know exactly what is wrong. They are really good at giving advice, but just like the other signs they have a darker side. Pisces are manipulative and sneaky. They remember everything. Pisces are the day-dreamers and artists. Therefore, They are very well matched with the grounded and level-headed Earth signs.

Zodiac signs are an extremely controversial, but world-renown topic. Not everyone has the same opinions or ideas about them. Some people think it is silly, and some will ask for a zodiac sign and judge before they know the person based only on the answer. Nobody knows who is right and who is wrong, opinions differ. I know I have never met an Earth sign I did not like. At the very least, the stars connect us with all the cultures who have looked at them before us.



How Technological Advancements Have Helped Society Deal With Covid-19

By Andrew Tamayo

Technological advancements have helped society deal with the effects of Covid-19 ever since the start of the pandemic. The usage of supercomputers to help get the genetic information of the Sars-COV-2 virus as well as the shift over to grocery and food delivery via third-party apps such as Door Dash and Uber Eats shows us how the pandemic has forced humanity to shift more towards contactless options for a lot of what society does.

As an example, DoorDash, a food delivery company based in San Francisco, has helped provide contactless-delivery services for companies to ensure people can get fast food without having to leave their homes.

Because of the current impacts of the pandemic, DoorDash has seen staggering growth.

The Motley Fool, a website that advises people on stocks they should buy, reported, "...the company's total orders increased by a stunning 219% year over year while its revenue skyrocketed 198% to \$1.08 billion over the same period. Meanwhile, its stock price is up 50% from its IPO last December."

Rivalling DoorDash, Uber Eats has also seen significant revenue growth over the course of the pandemic.

Business of Apps, a site that reports on the successes and failures of certain apps, reported, "Uber Eats generated \$4.8 billion in revenue in 2020, a 152 percent increase year-on-year"

As you can assume, Uber Eats is

competing with DoorDash. However, as of now, DoorDash seems to be winning with a 198 percent increase in revenue versus a 152 percent increase in revenue with Uber Eats.

Another example of technology helping with the pandemic is with supercomputing.

VentureBeat, a site that reports on technology, stated, "In separate efforts, AWS is empowering researchers at the Children's National Hospital to combine hundreds of data sets to identify genes that might be targeted to treat COVID-19."

Supercomputing was imperative to developing the current vaccines for Covid-19 as it has helped find the genetic code of Covid-19.

A particularly innovative e-commerce firm, Mirakl, is helping medical organizations get the supplies they need by allowing them to communicate with organizations to ensure they can get the equipment they need.

Weforum.org, an online forum, reported, "...without clear lines of communication it might not get to the hospitals when, and where, it's most needed."

The efforts to rid the world of Covid-19 do not stop there. Wearable technology company, Oura, is helping out as well.

Techrepublic.com states, "As part of the study, the company has donated more than 2,000 Oura Rings to collect body temperature, heart rate and other health data to identify contraction of the coronavirus early on."

One of the more minor things that Covid-19 has affected is verbal communication.

VoaNews reported, "The mask is made of soft plastic material and contains a built-in microphone. When it is turned on, the mask uses Bluetooth technology to connect to a mobile device." Although addressing a minor problem, it is an innovative solution.

Although drones are usually used for recreational purposes, they can also be used to help with Covid-19.

Globaldata.com showed, "These drones are equipped with cameras to provide updates on the ground condition and also identify individuals who don't comply with the lockdown norms as well." This helps a lot to ensure the people you care about are following Covid-19 recommendations.

Drones are not only being used to see who is social distancing. They are also being used to sanitize large buildings.

Dronelife.com stated, "Using EPA-approved chemicals, the disinfectant drones can spray over large facilities such as stadiums and ballparks, or indoor buildings such as jails and government offices." Another handy gadget that is becoming a norm in the midst of Covid-19 is hands-free door openers.

Weforum.org reports, "Some door-opening devices have already found their way to market – including the "hygiene hook", created by London-

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Fall Short Story Contest Winner!

Maybe I should have listened to Joan when Clark and I dragged her with us saying that this was all a bad idea, and we should just go home. Maybe going to a party halfway across town was also a bad idea. Maybe not knowing the exact address was a bad idea. Maybe choosing to take a shortcut through the infamous Flannigan woods on Halloween was a bad idea. Maybe choosing to go left at the bend instead of right was a bad idea. But I didn't think everything through, and that's how we ended up lost. The overgrown woods were like a never-ending corn maze thick with undergrowth and tall, looming trees. To add to the suspense, woodland creatures that would have been adorable during the day were frightening at night with all their screeching overhead and scurrying below our feet. Needless to say, all of our hearts were pumping. Joan knew we were lost and kept reminding me that we could always go back. I hated to admit that we were lost, but we might not get out of the woods before dawn if I didn't.

As I was about to call it a night, the forest started to thin out and we were in an overgrown parking lot. Unfortunately, it was the abandoned Trading Places mall that was shut down ten Halloweens ago after a mysterious fire started in the basement. The city had deemed the place to be too dangerous, and it's been closed ever since. The other reason most people ignore the place is because of this creepy rumor. The story is that the fire wasn't an accident, but set up by a clown costume that came alive. Now, as if in a zombie-like state, he roams the mall hoping to cause chaos again. After that, no one could shake the reality from the story. Especially when a group of teenagers, who decided to scavenge what was left behind, disappeared on the second Halloween.

In my opinion, it always seemed a little far-fetched, but I hadn't been to the mall since it was open. Now, I was standing in front of it, and my nerves were telling me this was all wrong. Instead what came out of my mouth was:

"With this shortcut, I think we have a few minutes to look around." Clark looked like he was about to say something, but Joan interrupted him.

"Dakota, you can't be serious. We were just lost in the woods, and now you want to take us to the haunted mall. It's off-limits for a reason," she took a breath, knowing what she was saying probably wouldn't make a difference," Maybe we should just go home. It's getting late. We'll just go another time."

"We can't just go another time. This is the only day Halloween happens in the entire year. Besides, we made it through the woods. I think we can make it through some last season fashion mall. Or would you rather walk back through the woods alone?" I said with a smile knowing she'd have to go with me, because she'd never do it alone.

The truth was I didn't want to go alone either, but I would never tell Joan that. I watched her eyes shift to the two story building that looked like it was rotting from the outside in. Her expression was starting to change, and I knew that she was about to break.

"Actually, I think Joan has a point," Clark said, surprising you. He had been all for the party and the shortcut.

Joan took his agreement and started to make a case," See, even Clark wants to leave. There's no reason for us to go in there. Besides, you're just as scared as we are." Even though it was true, I didn't like that she said it out loud, "No, I'm not. In fact, I think you and Clark should go home, but I am not letting this costume go to waste."

With that, I walked to the door, ignoring their attempts to call me back. I hesitated at the entrance, but Joan's words echoed in my head. There was no way I'd let her be right, besides it was just a mall.

"Trading Places"

By Sierra Lampley

Repeating this in my head, I squared my shoulders, took a deep breath, and walked through the door.

I was shocked when I stepped through the door. Inside looked worse than the outside with nature winning an ongoing battle with the mall. The escalator closest to the entrance was deteriorating, the ground had a foot of dirt and leaves covering it, shards of glass, and various clothes were everywhere. Just like I thought, Joan and Clark came rushing in.

"I thought you guys were going home," I said smugly, walking in further so they'd have to follow me.

"We couldn't let you come in all by yourself. What if something happened?" Joan asked.

"Nothing is going to happen."

We were in the old food court where the tables and chairs were either broken or scattered around the mall. Everything looked like a grayer version of what the mall used to be until we walked into the middle of the plaza. From what I could remember, there used to be a fountain there. Instead of a broken fountain, a ten foot tree was growing there. The crisp, autumn leaves surrounded the roots. I looked at Clark and Joan and saw that their jaws dropped, which made me smile.

"Looks like you're not having second thoughts," I said smugly.

Joan glared at me, but she still had a smile on her face," We couldn't let you enjoy this tree by yourself. Maybe this place isn't that-" She stopped mid sentence, eyes wide.

"Isn't that what?" Clark asked.

Clark and I tuned to see what she was looking at and couldn't believe our eyes. From across the food court, stood an actual clown. His face was a ghostly white with mix-matched dark eyebrows. His suit was an array of colors from fading yellow to bright pink with ruffles around the neck and sleeves. The clown's red shoes were gigantic, but that wasn't what had made him off putting. It was his dripping blood red lips. He stood menacingly across from us with an unidentified object in his hands. At first nobody moved, either because we were too scared, we couldn't process what was happening.

Finally, Clark yelled," Run!!"

This seemed to set everything in motion. Joan, Clark, and I scattered in different directions. I ran as fast as I could to the nearest department store catching sight of Clark running into a candle store. Believe it or not, I ended up in an Halloween store with costumes and props strewn all over the floor.

I immediately ran to the back hoping to find an exit out of the mall. Unfortunately, all the doors were locked. I stood panting with my back against the door trying to come up with a new plan. Nothing was coming, and then the loud Thud, Thud of giant shoes were within earshot, coming in my direction. I quickly dove in a clothes rack that had surprisingly survived the battle against nature. Various frills and costumes that were popular ten years ago filled my vision, so I had to rely on my hearing. I tried to calm by breathing, but the adrenaline matched with running in the store made it impossible to catch my breath.

The crunch of plastic tombstones and skulls under someone's feet was loud, but not as loud as the clown's breathing letting me know I was trapped in this store until he left. I could hear him move across more props and near me, but then his footsteps changed direction to the other side of the room. From there, I could hear the creak of

old metal as he moved old aisles prompting screams from some animatronic decorations. Finally, I heard a growl that sounded more animalistic than human and his steps started toward the door.

I breathed a sigh of relief when I couldn't hear the loud breathing or crunching and was tempted to make a break for it then. As I worked up the courage to get up, little confetti streamers started to land on my hair and arms. I looked up to see where the source was coming from and let out a scream. The clown was standing over the rack with an oar in his hand like a scepter. I scampered out of the rack as fast as I could, dragging princess dresses and pirate costumes with me. The clown stayed where he was and looked as though he was taking his time to catch me. My screams brought Joan and Clark out into the open a couple stores down. They made their way toward me until they saw that the clown was following me.

I looked around the mall to see if I could find another place to hide or an exit. It hit me as I was running to a local antique store that the clown was watching me and would inevitably find me there. I stopped in my tracks and then saw the crumbling escalator and I had an idea.

"Clark, Joan follow me!" I shouted at them.

Their eyes widened in terror as the clown was closing in on me and for a moment I thought they would abandon me. Then, they both bolted in my direction trying to avoid the clown who was keeping his ghostly face on me. Then, I started to make my way up the escalator rails so as not to fall through. The escalator was covered in cracks and Joan and Clark hesitated at the bottom while I had made my way up the escalator.

"What are you doing?" Clark asked as if I had lost my mind. The clown was creeping closer, but Joan and Clark stayed put at the bottom of the escalator.

"Trust me," I pleaded with them. They looked at each other then started to carefully climb the escalator behind you.

The clown let out a sickly laugh as he started to climb the crumbling escalator. I smiled as he was doing exactly what I knew he would. The escalator had racks and chairs on it, but it also had parts of the ceiling and walls that had been destroyed over the years. Instead of going around these obstacles, the clown walked right over them making creaking noises and adding his weight to an already rickety structure. Then, as he was half way up the escalator, I looked behind me and saw that there were more chairs. I started to throw them at the clown hoping it would slow him down if my first plan didn't work. Joan and Clark joined me. The clown was furious and started to jump up and down in anger. That was when the crumbling escalator finally gave way, and the clown went down with it with a scream. We looked on the ground to see if the clown was no longer our problem, but we were surprised to see nothing but confetti and the broken escalator below us. In the distance, the tree in the food court shed a single green leaf that had somehow survived the changing of the seasons. I stifled my shudder.

"Is he gone?" Clark asked.

"I don't know, but I think we should leave," Joan said shakily.

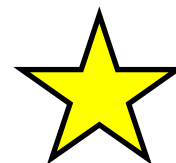
As we made our way down the other escalator and toward the entrance, I couldn't help but laugh. Joan and Clark looked at me as if I was crazy, but then they joined in as well.

I said," I think I've had enough Halloween for a while."

"You know," Joan said," this never would've happened if you didn't get lost on Halloween."



Homecoming Night



Homecoming Day



Olympics!



EHHS Football Team



Senior Homecoming Pep Rally



Sophomore Girls Fighting to Win



Space Jam: A New Legacy

By Caleb Phelan

Space Jam: A New Legacy was a sequel to the critically acclaimed Sci-Fi film *Space Jam*.

After being talked about for decades on who could be Michael Jordan’s predecessor for the franchise, producers decided to go with LeBron James who some consider to be the next Jordan. While some found the film to be amusing, most found it to be either mediocre or just not good to begin with.

After watching the movie, it seemed almost as if Warner Bros. was just trying to show or boast on how many great movies it have made in the past three decades. Not only that, it seemed like they were trying to show off their new CGI improvements in the film,

considering how much it was used.

The film seemed as if it was shying away from basketball as well, with the lack of scenes where basketball could have been played. Instead Warner Bros. just explored their own universe like the audience completely forgot they had other great movies.

Compared to the first movie, it felt like it was not even about basketball at all. On IMDb, there was not even a single review over five, with the IMDb rating itself being just 4.4/10. With the acting barely even being mediocre, it was pretty hard to watch, and it felt almost as if there were parts that could have been left out of the movie.

According to *The Only Critic*, “Flurry nostalgia can not save ‘Space Jam: A New Legacy’”. Granted,

while the movie itself was not that great, the money that it made was a record breaker for Warner Bros. (\$51.37 million) during the “COVID-19” era. It also made more than Marvel’s *Black Widow* on opening day. So, while it did well making money and just revenue overall, the movie itself was not really worth the price.

This movie spurs questions about if remakes or rebirths of movie classics are just unnecessary and not needed. This also accounts for sequels to movies that people see no need for. New Republic says that “It is a film that has no reason to exist.” However, at the end of the day, Warner Bros. made this movie for money, and they got what they wanted to accomplish.

Continued from page 5

based designer Steve Brooks.”

Some of the biggest shortages in the beginning of the pandemic were hospital beds and ventilators. However, there might be a solution for those who have less severe losses of oxygen and therefore, less ventilators being used up.

Weforum.org showed, “...when he devised a “simple and robust” basic ventilator designed to help patients breathe – and which also kills COVID-19.”

At the end of the day, Covid-19 is a huge issue among all of society that we need to deal with collectively. Nearly three quarters of a million American people have died. This is an alarming statistic.

However, there are ways to slow the pandemic. Plan on getting vaccinated, wear your masks, and stay safe and, collectively, we can get out of this horrid pandemic.

Afghanistan: Warring for Decades

By Logan Conner

Afghanistan has been the center of attention over recent months and even years due to the tumultuous history of the region and its lack of a stable government.

In 1921, Afghanistan gained its independence from England after WWI and was formally recognized by the United States in 1934. At this time

Afghanistan was a monarchy under King Zahir Shah; he started the longest period of stable rule in Afghanistan to date (forty years).

In 1973, pro-Soviet military general Mohammed Daoud Khan led a military coup and overthrew the current government. Twenty-Two years later in the midst of an Afghan civil-war a new militant group (The Taliban) rises to power with the promise of peace while also upholding traditional Islamic values.

After 1995 when the Taliban took power, they began to enforce their very strict version of Islamic law across the country and enforce harsh punishments, sparking an outcry from human rights organizations around the world.

In 1999, two years before 9/11, the UN imposed sanctions on Afghanistan due to their unwillingness to help quell terrorism in the region.

On September 11, 2001 the World Trade Center was attacked and the United States asked the Taliban to give them Osama Bin Laden. When they refused, the United States decided to invade, and on October 7, 2001, the United States started their invasion.

By the start of 2002, the Taliban had been completely overthrown and driven out of Afghanistan. In 2006, there was a brief Taliban reemergence where they claimed territory in southern Afghanistan, but they were quickly pushed out.

On May 2, 2011 U.S forces killed

Al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan after chasing him all throughout the region since the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

In May of 2014, then President Barack Obama announced a plan to significantly reduce U.S troops in Afghanistan by 2016. In December of the same year, NATO officially ended its combat operations in Afghanistan and the United States took over training Afghan troops.

In October of 2015, Obama abandoned his plan to withdraw all troops in Afghanistan by the end of his presidency and left 5,500 troops in Afghanistan when he left office.

Until 2018, things were relatively calm in the region. President Donald Trump appointed Zalmay Khalilzad to negotiate with the Taliban and in February 2019 the U.S and Taliban signed a preliminary that said the United States would withdraw all forces by May of 2021.

In September of 2019, the United States pulled out of peace talks with the Taliban after a United States soldier was killed in a Taliban attack which once again caused tensions to rise in the region.

On September 11, 2021 the United States officially withdrew all troops from Afghanistan and the Taliban immediately moved back causing one of the biggest humanitarian crises in modern history, resulting in the United States evacuating more than 120,000 people between the dates of August 14-31 according to White House. gov.



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Balance and Perspective

By Ali Cochran

Mental health is a subject that has received a great deal of attention in recent years. This increase is largely a result of Generation Z— individuals born between 1996 and 2015.

According to CNN, statistics show that Gen Z has reported the most mental health problems of any previous generation. Western Governors University made a report that “only 47% of Generation Z claim that they would consider their mental health good, or very good.”

Because of these alarming statistics, there is a large push for mental health awareness in schools across America. A lot of good has resulted from this new wave of positivity. Recent studies by WGU state that Gen Z is “most likely to report mental health concerns”.

As more and more young adults use resources available to them, self-care is the number one recommendation they receive.

It is a beautiful thing to love and accept yourself in your most authentic form— that is what self-care is about. Finding out what makes you happy, and doing more of that.

However, is there a point where self-care becomes selfish?

While it is important to discover and love the real “you,” many individuals have taken this concept too far by neglecting the needs of others and isolating themselves in the process.

Glorifying self-love has allowed individuals the opportunity to justify

selfishness and rudeness.

Take a look at social media, for example. There are countless posts encouraging users to cut off those who disturb your energy or honestly are not fun to be around. What is the reasoning behind it? They are TOXIC.

Over my last few years spent in high school, I have heard a lot of gossip. Almost every breakup, separation of friends, or even sports that people have abandoned have the same motive— they are toxic.

Almost everyone in this generation has been labeled as “toxic” at least once in their lifetime— I know I have.

Cutting off toxic people is necessary, but deciding to leave friendships every time one has a negative interaction based on the feeling that all your desires need to be met immediately is not.

Upon further evaluation, though, I have come to the realization that the justification of discontinuing something because it is “toxic” suggests that we are all living in a world where only your existence is valid and everyone else is just a sort of simulation sent in to affect your life.

If we are all operating from such a self-serving point of view, how can we expect everyone to serve

us our needs?

There is a fine line between self-care and selfishness, and that line is defined by perspective.

If you look at the idea of self-care from the “me first, me only” perspective, your “care” is often rooted from resentment and spite.

Entrepreneur and life coach Geeta Sidhu-Robb makes a claim that “exercising self-care shouldn’t be a decision made through anger – a ‘you’ll have to cope without me, I’m off’ being one version. It should instead be something you plan with the people around you if they are supportive, if they aren’t, by all means plan it yourself”.

What I believe is this: Self-care is all about having that nice, hot bath, but not staying in there for so long that you’re wrinkled up, the dog is crying for its dinner, your rent hasn’t been paid in months, and your friends think you’ve run off to Peru.

So, the next time you find yourself disconnecting from the world that surrounds you, consider why you are isolating yourself.



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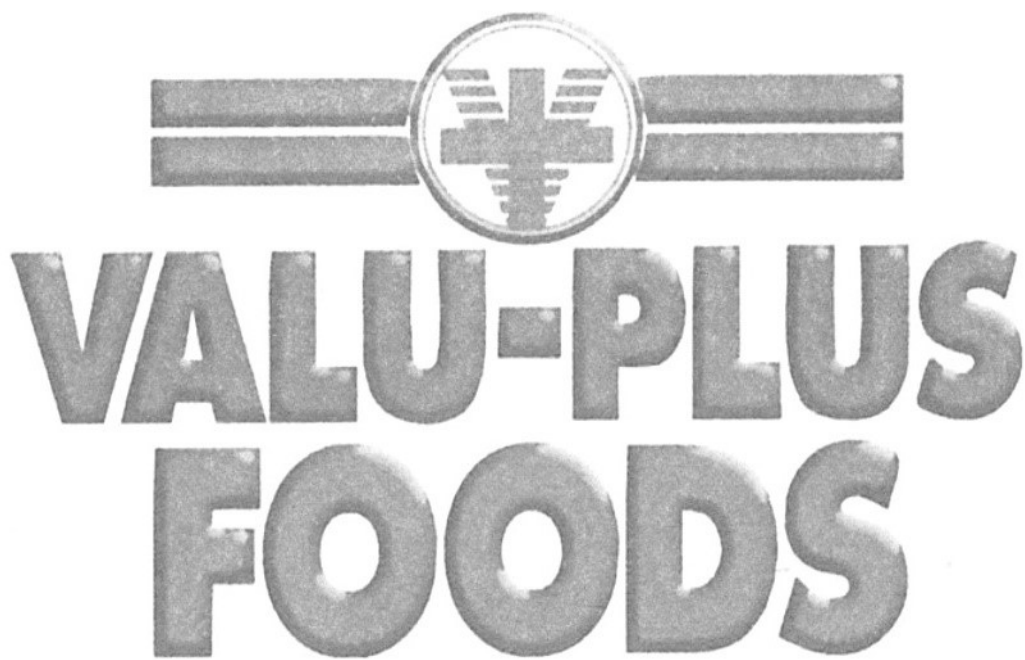
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Local Celebrities: Then and Now

By Anna Breece

Many well-known celebrities were raised in Tennessee. Taylor Swift is one artist who most everyone knows. When Swift was 13, her family sold their Christmas tree farm in Pennsylvania then moved to Nashville, Tennessee. Her family knew that she was most likely to succeed with a country music career in Music City; Swift signed a contract with Sony the very next year. She released four country albums including, *Taylor Swift*, *Fearless*, *Speak Now*, and *Red*.

After the four albums, Swift retired her title as a country music artist. She then began releasing pop music where she has had ten albums since 2012. She has been labeled as one of the most successful female artists in history. Swift has also won eleven Grammys and many other awards for her outstanding talent.

Taylor has been known to hide “Easter eggs” in her music videos about her upcoming music and past music. In 2019 while Swift was in Nashville, she took a picture in the Gulch which fans said had to have been dropping hints about recent music releases. The picture was of Taylor standing in front of the pair of butterfly wings in The Gulch.

Taylor is also known for having many, many boyfriends. Some of her most famous ones are Harry Styles, Tom Hiddleston, and Jake Gyllenhaal. All of her past relationships have inspired her to write all of her songs. Each of her albums has a man that most of the songs are about. For example, the album 1989 is

mainly about her ex-boyfriend and pop star Harry Styles. One of her more sad songs, titled *All Too Well*, is about her ex Jake Gyllenhaal who has recently been threatened by her supporters on multiple social media sites. Her name has been mentioned in many different movies and television shows for having dated many different men. In the show *Ginny and Georgia*, the main character said “You go through men faster than Taylor Swift”. The show got lots of hate after this was said. Taylor slammed the show for the sexist joke that was made against her. Most of the hate that Taylor gets from people she turns into love and uses it for motivation. Putting all of this aside, she does not care what the media thinks of her and continues to do her outstanding work for the music industry.

Recently, Swift has released her re-recorded album *Red (Taylor’s Version)* which is already on the charts. This is her second re-recorded album that has been released, the first being *Fearless (Taylor’s Version)*. Ever since taking back her own music, she has wanted to prove that she has full control by making her music hers. The previous albums were where her record label refused to let her have her own music ; she finally decided to take back what is hers.

One of the biggest things that Swift is known for is being a humanitarian. Throughout the years, Swift has donated copious amounts of money for the Nashville floods back in 2010 and 1 million dollars to the Louisiana floods. She has donated to many GoFundMe pages to pay for fans' hospital bills. The Nashville Symphony Orchestra was struggling so on her 24th birthday she decided to donate money. Swift has also donated 4 million to the Country Music Hall of Fame to establish the Taylor Swift Education Center. She has never failed to help out Nashville when they were in need of help. So you can either call her a humanitarian or a philanthropist, either way, she is a fantastic person who cares more about the people around her rather than herself and her personal needs. She has always put her fan's needs above everything and has made their happiness her top priority. All together Taylor is the embodiment of the power of young women.

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Homecoming: Festivity Overload!

By Alyssa Tanner

High school contains many opportunities for students to make memories, but this year’s homecoming takes the trophy.

The entire student body was ecstatic because the school had finally returned to its original state for homecoming. The students were once again allowed to participate in the competitions, have the parade, and even have a pep rally.

The homecoming parade was a great experience for the Seniors and the offered clubs. The students who signed up spent the entire morning decorating their vehicles and trailers.

The rest of the student body got a brief moment away from their studies. After the decorating and line up was completed, the students rushed outside to the front of the school. Their gazes were filled with festive colors and cheer as their peers participated in the parade.

After the parade, comes the homecoming court. The elected candidates presented themselves on the court. This year’s King and Queen are Trista Furlough and CJ Alvarez.

All the classes were still showing sportsmanship while competing with all their might, just trying to be the best class. This year, the Seniors (Class of 2022) were determined to win. During homecoming week, several competitions took place.

For starters, the homecoming attendees dressed up in a gender-blender beauty pageant. The boys, dressed in their best dresses, were escorted across the gymnasium. Mr. Angell, acting as the host, asked East Hickman High School’s lovely ladies how they would change the world. The entire student body struggled to hold in their laughter as they listened for each and every answer the “girls” would provide.

Another competition is the dress up days and class skit. This year's theme was Board Games. At the end of the week, all of the classes put on skits relating to the theme. The Freshman skit was based on *Sorry*; Sophomore skit was based on *Operation*; Juniors re-imagined *Clue*; and the Senior class did *Family Feud*. This year, the first place winner resulted in a tie between the Juniors and Seniors.

A final example of the competitions is the Spirit Links. Students participate in this by donating money to the class and

purchasing a link. They are given the option of stealing links from another class or just buying some to add to the class's link.

This year’s Senior class won by purchasing everyone else’s tickets as well as adding more separately. This course of action results in all the underclassmen having a negative amount of the Spirit Links.

Another competition is the Olympics. From chugging a drink to tug of war, students from all classes continue the competition. The entire student body could be heard cheering on as they went head to head, determined to show the most school spirit.

The seniors definitely made it a homecoming that will not be forgotten. Not only did the classes compete, but they also had an opportunity to unwind and even dance at East Hickman High School’s first ever Glow Party.

The Glow Party took place after the Homecoming Football game in the cafeteria. This event was created by the Student Council. The proceedings gathered from this went to graduation funds. The students enjoyed themselves as they painted their faces and wore glow sticks as they danced the rest of their night away.



The students are all settled in and ready for the parade to begin.

Mr. Angell entertains the crowd while introducing the Home-ly-coming Court.



The classes still show sportsmanship during the competitions!