



## EHHS SPIRIT WEEK



This is the first year that the EHHS Pep Club has organized the Spirit Week festivities, including a king and queen. See Page 6 for pictures! Festivities included a boys' and girls' lip sync battle, pyramid building, line dancing, and more!

### The NFL's Top Tier Marketing

By: Maleah Pinnix

After Taylor Swift made her first appearance at a Kansas City Chiefs' game back in September, Taylor's presence was immediately captured by the NFL. Of course, this came to be about due to her at the time rumored relationship with the Chiefs tight end, Travis Kelce. People knew that Taylor being there would bring more attention to the NFL, but what they didn't know is that Taylor would make over 331 million for the NFL.

Taylor Swift's economic impact was shown very early on when Travis Kelce jersey sales went up by 400% within a week of Taylor's first appearance. Taylor hasn't just helped with sales, but with viewership as well. The 2023 regular season game averaged 17.9 million in viewership which is 7% higher than last year's numbers.

Taylor, in 2023, had an extreme economic impact with her tour, making over 10 billion dollars. Then in October, she made the AMC stock increase by 10% following the release of her tour documentary. Now, with the Super Bowl, Swift is sure to make even more money for the NFL.

Although the NFL didn't know about Taylor and Travis prior to the first sighting, they sure have made it an important part of their marketing strategy. By showing her on camera, making jokes during the broadcast, and posting about her on social media, the NFL has shown that they know what they are doing.

Viewers saw this strategy during last year's Super Bowl as well. The Chiefs

versus The Eagles' game was one the most watched Super Bowls, and many people attribute this to Travis Kelce and Jason Kelce's mother, better known as Mama Kelce. The game was a brother versus brother competition. Everyone wanted to know how their mother felt about everything.

The NFL ran with the viewer's interest and included Mama Kelce in many Super Bowl traditions. She did a multitude of interviews prior to the game, was a part of Super Bowl commercials, and did the honorary coin toss at the start of the game. People who had no interest in watching the Super Bowl tuned in just to see Mama Kelce's reactions. A year later, the same script is happening, but with Taylor Swift. And oddly enough, it still involves Travis Kelce.

The NFL has seen great success because of how amazing their marketing strategy is. A great example would be their Super Bowl commercials. This makes fans not only excited for the game but also for the breaks, as well. Super Bowl commercials tend to include football players, celebrities, and people's favorite brands. Most of the commercials take a comedic approach, making them even more enjoyable to watch.

Along with the Super Bowl and the commercials, the NFL also includes the famous Halftime show which highlights one of the biggest artists to exist every year. Previous halftime show performers are Rhianna, The Weeknd, and Michael Jackson. Every year after the new performance, people compare and contrast the different performances.

The NFL has also introduced things such as Fantasy Football that gives them even more engagement. Fantasy Football has become incredibly popular and influential for professional football. It

has become more than just a game, but a whole new industry. In Fantasy Football, fans pretend to be team owners and compete against other fans, like friends, family, or even strangers. The game is based on how real NFL players perform in the actual games. One's team can go as far as the Super Bowl. These fans are not only just investing time in the NFL, but also their own play teams.

The way the NFL has continuously marketed itself over the years is the reason they have so much money and power. Whether it's showing some famous celebrities during their games, or creating engaging experiences for their loyal fans, the NFL has it down.

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# A Look Into This Year’s Album of the Year Nominees

By: Maleah Pinnix

The 2024 Grammy Awards took place on February 4 in Los Angeles, California. EHHS students weighed in prior to this with their predictions. Were they on point?

## Olivia Rodrigo - *GUTS*

The sophomore album *GUTS* by Olivia Rodrigo was an album one couldn’t avoid in 2023. For many fans and casual listeners, *GUTS* was surprisingly different from Rodrigo’s debut album, *Sour*. The 2023 album had more of a rock/punk rage sound rather than sad bedroom pop. After her big win for Best New Artist at the 2022 ceremony, Olivia Rodrigo is sure to continue her Grammy success.

## Jon Batiste - *World Music Radio*

With his album, Jon Batiste created the feel of his own radio station. The album included radio-like static between songs as well as charting artists such as Lana Del Rey and NewJeans. Batiste may not have been all over pop radio this year, but that didn’t stop him from winning Album of the Year in 2022. So who’s to say he won’t do it again?

## Lana Del Rey - *Did You Know That There’s A Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd*

Lana Del Rey’s ninth studio album *Did You Know That There’s A*

*Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd*, isn’t her first Album of the Year nomination. She was previously nominated for *NFR!*, but did not win. With her new album, Rey enters a new world that discusses religion, family, and identity. If Lana Del Rey takes this award, it will be her first ever Grammy!

## Janelle Monae - *The Age Of Pleasure*

Janelle Monae is one of the most nominated artists at this year’s Grammy Awards. *The Age Of Pleasure* is a soulful R&B album that takes the listener through a euphoric journey while Monae discusses finding true joy for herself.

## Miley Cyrus - *Endless Summer Vacation*

It was obvious that Miley Cyrus would be getting a Grammy nomination this year after she released her lead single, *Flowers*. The single immediately broke records and became a summer hit! This is Miley’s first Album of the Year nomination for her own work. *Endless Summer Vacation* is arguably her best album to date.

## boygenius - *the record*

It took less than a year for boygenius to hit the highest point of their career thus far. The all girl rock band played Coachella, one of the most famous and largest music festivals in the world, two headline tours, and now have 6 Grammy nominations. *the record* is boygenius’ debut studio album that beautifully represents their friendship and individual identities. The album truly means more to them and their fans than

just being 12 songs.

## SZA - *SOS*

*SOS* was a long awaited album for SZA fans. *SOS* arrived five years after the release of SZA’s debut album, *Ctrl*, and the suspense made the album even bigger. SZA discusses her loneliness over the past few years and presents a vulnerable side that fans haven't seen before from her. *SOS* has a stacked list of features including Phoebe Bridgers, Travis Scott, and Don Toliver.

## Taylor Swift - *Midnights*

Taylor Swift’s, *Midnights*, is not a surprising nomination for this category. Swift has won this category three times before for albums *Fearless*, *1989*, and *Folklore*, and after the year that Swift had with *Midnights*, this nomination and possible win is a shoo-in. A win for Album of the Year would be the cherry on top to Taylor’s other milestones this year, such as her Stadium world tour. Swift describes *Midnights* as, "the stories of 13 sleepless nights scattered throughout my life." If *Midnights* wins this award, Taylor Swift will become the musician with the most Album of the Year wins.

The Recording Academy, made up of 12,000 members, decides Grammy winners with their votes. However, The *Eagle’s Eye* polled EHHS students on who they believed would be winning Album of the Year. 46.7% of voters believed that *Midnights* would win, which was correct. Second place went to *SOS* and third went to *Did You Know That There’s A Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd*.

# American Royalty: Nepotism Babies

By: Maleah Pinnix

Nepotism refers to people who have an advantage over others because of who they know. Although this has been a term used in the workplace for ages, nepotism has developed a new life.

This new life was created because of the term, nepo baby, a term referring to the children of celebrities who have succeeded in careers similar to those of their parents. You may be thinking: “How is this any different from what we know of nepotism?” In America, actors have become “pseudo” royalty with their children scrutinized, adored, and criticized with the same fervency as well known British royalty.

When a famous actor, singer, or model has a child, the world begins to craze over many things that normally only the baby's family would craze over such as the gender, which parent it looks more like, and later, whether or not they are going to pursue the same career as their parents. This overwhelming obsession with celebrity children has made it to where most celebrities choose not to post their children on social media. They will block their faces in pictures or just not post them at all. This includes Gigi Hadid’s and Zayn Malik’s baby, Khai, who hasn’t had her face shown since her birth three years ago.

Although people love to talk about celebrity children when they are born, once they reach adulthood, it's a

different story. Most nepo babies tend to go into the same field as their parents. Some examples include: Zoe Kravitz, daughter of Lenny Kravitz, Maya Hawke, daughter of Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke, and Willow and Jaden Smith, children of Will Smith. These celebrities have received staggering criticism.

Fans, as well as people who work in the industry, feel displeased towards nepo babies because of their unfair advantage.

Nepo babies have a foot in the door for any career they want that goes hand in hand with their parents. Someone with non-famous parents will have to work ten times harder than celebrity children. Nepo babies have money, connections, and security that others don’t have.

While nepotism is not unheard of in any industry, what bothers not famous people the most about nepo babies is that a lot of them will deny having any advantages. It is one thing to have a role due to nepotism, but it is a whole other thing to deny that your nepotism had nothing to do with you getting the role.

Gwyneth Paltrow has repeatedly been a nepo baby who has denied having advantages. She discussed nepotism with a fellow nepo baby, Hailey Bieber (Baldwin), saying, “Once your foot is in the door, which you unfairly got in, then you almost have to work twice as hard and be twice as good”. She also described the term as an “ugly moniker.” This did not go over well with the general public. People felt like her comments were nothing but ignorant, and that she should not deny that she has had the upper hand

her entire life.

Although Paltrow said some questionable things, she also made a good point in her argument. She continues, “Nobody rips on a kid who’s like, ‘I want to be a doctor like my dad and granddad.’ People aren’t obsessed with kids of doctors or kids of engineers, etc. So why do people spend their time obsessing over kids of actors, musicians, and models?

At this point, not famous individuals don’t want to get rid of nepotism or for nepo babies to get their advantages taken away from them. They want nepo babies to be aware of their nepotism, and not be so tone-deaf about their situation. The children of celebrities are people who are treated like royalty until they aren’t.

The poster for the SYEP Tennessee Summer Youth Employment Program features a blue background with a large orange banner at the top. The banner contains the SYEP Tennessee logo and the text "SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM". Below the banner, there is a section titled "Tennessee's Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) connects young people ages 14 through 24 years old with career exploration opportunities and paid work experiences during the summer. By participating in SYEP, young people can earn, learn, and thrive while they are out of school. A summer job teaches valuable life skills that can set a young person down a path to a lifetime of success. Funded entirely by the state of Tennessee, SYEP allows youth the opportunity to explore their interests while earning competitive wages." To the right of this text is a QR code with the text "SCAN HERE" above it. Below the QR code, there is a section titled "FAST FACTS" with a list of bullet points: "All youths between 14 and 24 years old", "Low-income and foster care participants are a priority", "SYEP runs July 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024", "Work up to 25 hours per week for up to 8 weeks", and "SYEP aims to employ 3,750 Tennessee youth in 2023 and 2024". At the bottom of the poster, there is a section titled "FOR MORE INFORMATION, SCAN THE QR CODE OR GO TO" followed by the website "TNWORKREADY.COM". The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development logo is also present at the bottom.

# Super Bowl 58: Kansas City Chiefs vs San Francisco 49ers

By: Jacob Scheuring

On February 11th, 2024, Reigning Super Bowl champions, the Kansas City Chiefs, took on the San Francisco 49ers at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Kansas City Chiefs, led by quarterback Patrick Mahomes and tight end Travis Kelce, saw a record of 11-6 through the regular season, clinching the 3 seed in the AFC. Their path to the Super Bowl consisted of a home game versus the Miami Dolphins and two away games versus the Buffalo Bills and the Baltimore Ravens.

The San Francisco 49ers, led by quarterback Brock Purdy and running back Christian McCaffery, saw a record of 12-4 in the regular season, clinching the 1 seed of the NFC. Their path to the Super Bowl consisted of two home games against the Green Bay Packers and Detroit Lions.

Super Bowl 58 kicked off and

saw a quiet first quarter with no points for either team. The score stayed 0-0 until early in the second quarter, when 49ers kicker Jake Moody would score a Super Bowl-record 55-yard field goal. Ten minutes later, a 49ers trick play led to wide receiver Jauan Jennings throwing a 10-yard touchdown pass to Christian McCaffery, giving the 49ers a 10-0 lead.

The Chiefs would not answer back until 20 seconds remained in the first half when Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker scored a 28-yard field goal and sent the game to halftime with a score of 10-3.

The annual Super Bowl Halftime Show was hosted by Usher, who performed some of his most popular songs, such as “Caught Up,” “Burn,” “Turn Down for What,” and many more.

The game would resume in the 3rd quarter, and both teams traded possessions until Harrison Butker broke the Super Bowl record. With a 57-yard field goal, the score became 10-6, favoring the 49ers.

Just 3 minutes later, Patrick Mahomes would lead the Chiefs into the endzone with a passing touchdown to wide receiver Marquez Valdez-Scantling, giving the Chiefs their first lead of the game at 13-10.

The 4th quarter saw the most scoring action of the entire game, starting with a touchdown pass from Brock Purdy to Jauan Jennings. However, Jake Moody’s PAT (point after touchdown) attempt was blocked, making the score 16-13.

Both teams traded field goals, and as the clock ticked down, the Chiefs turned to Harrison Butker to send the game into overtime with a score of 19-19.

The 49ers received the first possession of overtime and only managed to score a field goal, giving the Chiefs the ball with 7 minutes remaining. The Chiefs would use the rest of the time. marching down the field, and as time expired, Patrick Mahomes found Mecole Hardman in the endzone for the walk-off touchdown, winning Super Bowl 58.

Mahomes was crowned Super Bowl MVP for the 3rd time in his career.

Super Bowl 58 was extra special to Hickman County. This is because Zan Brendel, the wife of San Francisco 49ers center, Jake Brendel, graduated from Hickman County High School with the Class of 2013 and attended the Super Bowl in Las Vegas with her mother who lives in Hickman County.

## The Evolution of Video Games

By: Dana Bourgeois

Video games are one of the most popular hobbies. As of 2023, there are 2.7 billion gamers in the world, which equals 33.5%. Nearly everyone has played a video game at least once in their lives, whether it be an arcade game or a PlayStation game.

Gaming is most popular among the 18-34 age group, accounting for 36% of the gaming population. At the same time, 24% of gamers are under the age of 18, while 13% are aged between 35 and 44.

The first video game was created in October 1958 by William Higinbotham. It was called *Tennis for Two*. The game only lasted for two years and did not

make much of an impact on popular culture but made a huge impact on video games and technology. Throughout the next decade, computer scientists worked to perfect video games.

The first home video game console, the Magnavox Odyssey, was released in 1972. The first game released with the console was called *Pong*. It is a simple virtual table tennis game that quickly became popular.

After the Magnavox, came the Atari 2600 in 1977. Nine games were created with it including *Air Sea Battle* and *Asteroids*.

In the late 1970s, arcades started becoming a part of pop culture. Created in 1978, *Space Invaders* was a huge phenomenon and people could save their scores on the game machine at the arcade. In 1980, the game was given a home video game release.

The 1980s was the biggest jump

in the video game industry. It has shaped gaming as it is today. Some of the most well known video game icons were developed, such as the Super Mario Brothers and Donkey Kong.

The gaming company Nintendo released their first console, Nintendo Entertainment System, in 1983 in Japan. It was later released worldwide in 1985 with the first ever Super Mario Brothers Game becoming the console’s biggest game.

Nintendo continued to become one of the greatest gaming companies of all time, releasing both home consoles, such as the Nintendo Wii, and portable consoles, such as the Nintendo DS.

In the 1990s, a wider variety of gaming consoles became popular. As

computers became popular in everyday life, so did computer games. There had been past computer games, but they hadn’t achieved success like it did

in the 1990s.

The content of games began to change in the early 90s. Video games started including more graphic violence, and it created controversy. The most well known was *Mortal Kombat*, an action adventure game released by the game company Midway in 1992.

Parents were upset about the violent content of the game and a year later the US Senate made the decision to create a game rating board. In 1994, the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) was established. The ratings today range from E for everyone to M for mature.

The PlayStation1 console was released in Japan in 1994 and worldwide in 1995. PlayStation took a while to gain the traction it has today. Some of the most acclaimed games included the *Final Fantasy* series and the *Resident Evil* series.

PlayStation1 was later followed by a series of four game consoles, the last, PlayStation5, being released in 2020.

In November 2001, the first Xbox game system was made public. Before the end of 2001, the console had sold over 1.5 million units. Like other gaming consoles, they released a series of consoles with the latest, the Xbox Series X and Series S, being released both in 2020.

Xbox was the home console to many popular gaming series in the 2000s such as *Grand Theft Auto*, *Halo*, and *Call of Duty*.

Online games first began gaining attention in the 90s. In the 2000s, it became a main way people played video games. The first Xbox console allowed people to start playing online in 2002. Online playing allowed people to play and chat with anyone in the world.

Video game streaming gained notoriety in the early 2010s. Streaming allowed people to watch gameplays of popular games. Some of the most streamed games included *Five Nights at Freddy’s*, *Fortnite*, and *Minecraft*. Viewers could comment on how the players were doing. The most used live streaming platforms include Twitch and YouTube.

The biggest technological advance in games was the introduction of virtual reality, or VR. While VR has existed for years, it was never as advanced as it is now and continues to be. Renowned VR games include the rhythm game *Beat Saber* and simulation game *Job Simulator*.

The difference between the first video game and today’s version is almost unimaginable. From a small table tennis game in the 1950s to the actual feeling of being in the game with VR, gaming will continue to evolve.

**“As of 2023, there are 2.7 billion gamers in the world, which equals 33.5%”**



# Bad Decisions Ruin Reputation and Profitability

By: Jacob Scheuring

Becoming a famous celebrity or household name in society is a feat that is hard to achieve but incredibly easy to throw away. The 21st century has seen its fair share of celebrities or other entities throwing their influence away with a single post or decision, with one sentence that gets leaked or revealed to the public online, an event that causes a fanbase to stop following a celebrity, or any other unfortunate event that the celebrity is not expecting.

In 2021, American rapper Jacques Bermon Webster II, known famously as Travis Scott, went on a concert tour of the United States in celebration of his album *Astroworld*. However, when Travis Scott returned to his hometown of Houston, Texas, for the show, the security would ignore the excess of fans jumping into the mosh pit, which would lead to the death of ten people.

During the concert, Scott acknowledged fans struggling to breathe and refused to stop the show to help them. This led to an outrage of people who believed Scott should retire from making music. However, he would

acknowledge the incident, showing his remorse for the deceased in a song titled *MY EYES*, on his next album, *UTOPIA*.

Another famous musician, Ye, known professionally as Kanye West, is known for his successful albums *Graduation*, *The College Dropout*, and *808s and Heartbreak*. However, West’s fame almost came to an end in 2022 when he began posting Anti-Semitic remarks online. These posts led to West losing his status as a billionaire, and a slew of fans left him due to his prejudice.

Despite these consequences, West has embraced his posts and featured a rendition of the German Iron Eagle, worn by Nazi troops during World War 2, on the cover of his album *Vultures*. Recently, West posted an official apology to Jewish people, writing the post in Hebrew.

American actor, comedian, and musician Will Smith found himself in trouble after an altercation with Chris Rock at the Academy Awards. The altercation began when Rock made a joke about Smith’s wife, Jada Smith. Will Smith then walked onto the stage and slapped Rock. He then worsened the situation for himself by shouting, “Keep my wife’s name out your ... mouth!” Two weeks after the event, it was announced that Smith was banned from any subsequent Academy Awards ceremonies.

While not similar to the previous

celebrity cases, popular coffee company Starbucks has seen a boycott for their support of the terrorist group, Hamas. Starbucks has been sending money to Palestine to support Hamas’ efforts. This has prompted a widespread boycott of Starbucks causing them to lose billions of dollars. As of December 7, 2023, Starbucks as a franchise lost 11 billion dollars. Starbucks employees have also been boycotting their jobs and not working.

In response to the accusations of their support, the Starbucks CEO stated, “While I am grateful for so much, I am concerned about the state of the world we live in,” Narasimhan wrote in an end-of-the-year letter to employees. “There are conflicts in many parts. It has unleashed violence against the innocent, hate and weaponized speech, and lies — all of which we condemn. Cities worldwide — including North America — have seen escalating protests.” As well as stating “Our stance is clear, we stand for humanity.”

Due to these boycotts, the value of shares of Starbucks dropped 8.2%.

Public opinion has always impacted the actions of celebrities and the overwhelming presence of social media and paparazzi have made the wrong doings of celebrities even more apparent and social media can lead to the persuasion of the public against the celebrity or popular entity.

## Senior Band Members Reflect

By: Dana Bourgeois

As the 2024 school year is halfway through, multiple extracurricular activities are coming to an end. This includes the Eagles Marching Band, lead by director Greg Gunther.

The band’s seniors, Emily Jackson, Courtney Wilkins, and Macey Tanner have all said goodbye to marching band and are preparing for their upcoming and final concert band season. Emily, Courtney, and Macey have played since middle school.

Emily Jackson has played saxophone since her 6th grade year and was even field commander during her sophomore year. One thing she will miss is meeting new members, but will not miss not having any freetime. Her favorite memory from this season was getting a chance to play at Austin Peay State University for a competition. Her favorite time throughout her whole band career was when she was field commander. “I got to be a leader and take on challenges I never had a chance to face before,” Emily says.

Emily’s favorite song performances come from the band’s Christmas at the Movies concert, where they performed theme songs to famous Christmas films like *Home Alone* and *Polar Express*. In Emily’s opinion the easiest thing about band is reading music, but the most difficult thing is the long practices.

If Emily can give any advice to underclass band members, it would be to “not give up when things get tough.”

Macey Tanner has also played since 7th grade. She plays a variety of instruments such as flute, clarinet,

saxophone, oboe, trumpet, and French horn. One thing Macey will miss is getting new music to learn. Her best memory from this season is when she got a new practice podium. “Courtney and I were so excited and overjoyed to have a podium out of the field, so we didn't have to drag it to and from rehearsal everytime!”

Macey’s favorite song performance was *The Incredibles* theme. The easiest thing for Macey when she performs is blending in. “It's easy to blend in and play quietly and to yourself.” However she finds learning music theory the most challenging.



Macey’s advice to underclass band members is “It takes time. It is going to be hard. Music theory is complicated, but after a couple years of learning and studying, you can get it easily too.”

Courtney Wilkins has been in band

since 6th grade and plays the saxophone. One thing she will miss most is all the friends she made. She fondly remembers when her friends all decorated the band room for practice and gave her a birthday card signed by everyone she knows. “I still have the card.” However, Courtney says she will not miss not having free time.

Courtney has a variety of favorite song performances, including Peter Gunn, James Bond theme, and most of the Halloween music the band played. Like Macey she feels that sight reading music is the simplest part of a band. She also feels it is easy to fit in and be accepted by other band members. The most difficult part is the time consuming schedule. “However, in a way, the time spent was my favorite.”

Courtney wants to encourage her younger band members. “Band camp is always the hardest part, but after that it gets easier. Your first performance is going to be terrifying, until you realize it feels like any ordinary practice. It's difficult, but so rewarding. Never give up!”

Emily plans on playing band at either the University of Tennessee: Knoxville or Tennessee Tech University. She has previously played with Knoxville’s band her junior year. Macey plans to keep playing at Austin Peay where the band has also played. Courtney, while she enjoys playing music, does not want to continue in college. She wants to attend TCAT for cosmetology.

While the three are leaving their EHHS band days, they look forward to all their future endeavors and have total trust in the underclass band members and upcoming senior members.



# Hamas and Israel: A Vow to the People

By: Andrew Tamayo

Hamas, sometimes known as the Islamic Resistance Movement, is one of the largest militant groups in control of occupied Palestinian territories.

The Council on Foreign Relations classifies it as a "terrorist organization" that Israel is working to destroy. To understand the conflict, one must start by understanding the history and significance of the strip of land known as the Holy Land.

The Holy Land is seated on the easternmost end of the Mediterranean Sea and includes religiously significant cities such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Tiberius, and Hebron.

Some of these cities are especially important to the three largest Abrahamic religions of the day, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. 55.5% of the world believes in these religions according to Pew Research Center in 2015.

Before the days of the modern world, the Holy Land was ruled by the Jewish populace. However, with the rise of the Roman Empire, they started to persecute the Jews and later, the Christians.

To summarize the history, the Jews tried to rebel against Roman rule and as a result were driven from their home land in an event known as the Jewish diaspora.

After the Jewish diaspora, new

religions began to take hold in the region as the first Islamic Caliphate was founded in 623 A.D. Until roughly the 11th century, various Muslim states began to rule the area under different rulers such as the Seljuk Turks.

However, as Christianity became more and more popular in Medieval Europe, the Christians were frustrated: Their holy cities was occupied by Muslims. As a result, the Catholic church sponsored crusades in the region.

These crusades were a series of battles used in order to retake the Holy Land. However, ultimately, none of those crusades resulted in a Christian victory as the Muslims continued to occupy the region for centuries to come.

For centuries afterward, the Holy Land continued to be occupied by Muslims such as the Ottoman Turks.

After the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the Sykes-Picot agreement came about between the British and the French in order to divide up the fallen empire. This designated the Holy Land as the British predominantly Islamic area known as Palestine.

After World War II when an estimated 6 million Jews were killed in the Holocaust, the Jewish populace wanted their home country back to protect themselves from further persecution and genocide, and as of recent events, it only seemed reasonable.

However, with the announcement of a Jewish state, many of the countries surrounding the proposed boundaries refused to acknowledge their statehood, leaving boundaries ambiguous.

However, to try and settle the

quarrel, the United Nations divided up the Holy Land with two states, Arab and Israeli. Palestine included predominantly the West Bank and similar areas and Israel included the rest.

On May 14th, 1948, right after Israel was formed, Arab states invaded the area in order to reclaim it for the Muslims who inhabited it. Israeli forces held on to the territory with better technology.

As a result, the Arab states seemed to lose more territory as the Israeli military got more and more technology and funding from countries such as the United States.

Today, much of the land that was partitioned for Palestine is occupied by the Israeli military due to the conflict with them annexing the Gaza strip.

Overall, the Hamas conflict is a result of Palestinian radicals turning to militancy and ignoring or supporting acts of terrorism against Israelis. Hamas has engaged in quite the array of unorthodox practices such as kidnapping people and targeting of civilians in acts of terrorism.

A witness testimony was given to CNN: "...Her body was brutalized in a way that we could not identify her," he added, the trauma clearly visible on his face."

"She said survivors of the terror attack told investigators they witnessed Hamas terrorists perpetrating sexual violence against the victims. She quoted testimonies of several individuals all of whom either directly witnessed sexual violence or saw clear evidence of it," CNN reported.

Continued on page 8

## Recent Teacher Shortages

By: Izzy Naragon

The U.S is struggling to find qualified educators to teach students. The decrease in teachers is not a post pandemic issue. However, Covid-19 only aggravated the issue even more. According to teachershortages.com, there is an estimation of 55,000 open positions and 270,000 underqualified teachers.

In Tennessee, during the 2021-2022 school year there were 1024 vacant positions, 1672 underqualified teachers, and 64,000 qualified teachers in the state of Tennessee. In that year, the rate of leaving the profession was 7.9%. These will most likely be different in 2023.

In 2019, TASB (Texas Association of School Boards) wanted to figure out why teachers have quit or have thought about quitting. They sent a poll to their teachers. Their top responses were low pay, stress, disrespect, and student behavior.

This also contributes to why college students do not want to go into that profession. College students have realized the cons of being in the education system and know that they would struggle paying back college loans with their pay.

According to Pew Research Center, in the 1970s, education was by far the most popular degree. 21 percent of degrees were education degrees. In the 2019-2020 school year, less than 4 percent of the degrees were education degrees. College students instead have opted to take business or health classes.

Realizing this issue, Tennessee started the Grow Your Own program. This program helps students who are interested in teaching but cannot pay for college. This program allows people to become teachers through apprenticeship. High school students can start an apprenticeship at 16 and earn a dual enrollment credit. The Grow Your Own program is open to anyone.

States are fighting back against the shortage of teachers by giving raises. In 2023, Governor Bill Lee signed a bill that said that teachers must make at least 50,000 annual salary by the 2026-2027 school year.

The teacher crisis is hitting rural areas harder than urban schools. East Hickman High School is missing a Spanish and Geometry teacher. However, to fill in the positions, students use an online program, Elevate K-12. This allows students to learn from teachers in other states and other countries.

Online education in classrooms has pros and cons. Students are able to meet and talk to teachers around the world. This could also mean that students could learn different

learning styles and tactics. Students are also able to possibly take classes online that their school does not have. However, there is a downside to online classes.

In the Elevate K-12 program, there needs to be an in-person adult in the room to supervise. This could take planning time from teachers, and it also could put more pressure on them. Having monitors adds further to the cost of having this program.

With an online teacher, students have a harder time connecting with their virtual teachers. Students are not able to talk to teachers outside of the scheduled class.

Another issue is technical difficulties. If there is a technical issue with the website being used or a WiFi connection issue on either end, students will not be able to learn for that period of time.

The struggle to find teachers to teach students is an issue that seems to only continue to grow. If this issue were to grow more, would online education become the new normal?

"There is an estimation of 55,000 open positions and 270,000 underqualified teachers"

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# Eagles' Basketball



**EHHS Spirit King and Queen Robert Richardson (Left) and Karson Long (Right)**





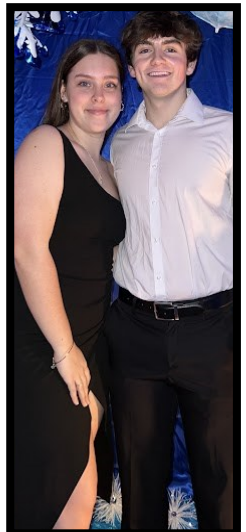
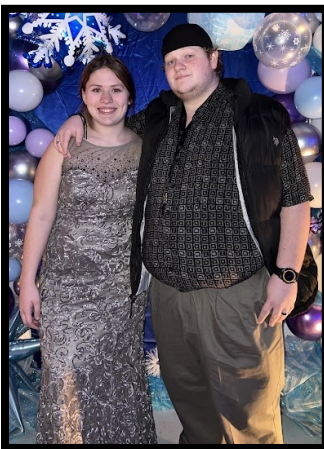
# Basketball



## WINTER FORMAL



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The Old But New Willy Wonka

By: Anna Breece

The new prequel movie to the 1971 film *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* has been a huge hit at the box office since its release on December 15th. *Wonka* is the story of young Willy Wonka on his journey to become a famous chocolatier based on the books by Roald Dahl but not beholden to them.

This film has high hopes of making the viewers think deeper into the story, rather than just being about a man with a passion for chocolate and candy making.

Movie franchises live on forever this day in age; *Wonka* will be the third in the lineup for this franchise. This younger and sweeter version of Willy has his heart set on making chocolate in the one place that his mother had always talked about when he was child.

Dahl's novel and its two film adaptations feature a sensible young boy who is living with a large family in a broken down house. Charlie then pays a life-changing visit to a chocolate factory owned by the wondrous Willy Wonka. Directed by Paul King, *Wonka* turns back to the hard days when Willy was a striver with near-empty pockets and a suitcase filled with magical dreams.

Many had low expectations for this movie seeing as there are already two adaptations of a Willy Wonka story. Once out in theaters, fans were overjoyed to see that this film was fun and playful

and not nearly as dark as the two others.

With multiple music numbers, the film has a soundtrack full of catchy tunes. The song "Pure Imagination," which is seen as a fan favorite, was also included in the film towards the end when Willy finally got what he had always dreamed of—a chocolate factory.

This film features a number of A list actors including Timothée Chalamet, Hugh Grant, and Olivia Coleman. One of the most versatile actors of his generation, Chalamet has landed one big movie after another since he starred in the hit film *Lady Bird*. *Wonka* will be yet another to add to his big hits list.

As for Hugh Grant, who plays the Oompa-Loompa, this is yet another joyous film like his other from director Paul King, *Paddington 2*, which is just as heartfelt as *Wonka*.

*Wonka* is seen as a celebration between the musical theater community and the rest of the Willy Wonka "fan club" as told by fans on the internet. So if you need an effervescent movie to cheer you up and make you cry tears of joy, then this is the film for you.


Continued From Page 5:

CNN also reported that, "We heard girls that were pulled out from the shelters... [The terrorists] Burnt them just after that. All the bodies outside were burnt," Yael Richert, a superintendent with the Israeli police, said, reading from another testimony."

Innocent citizens who wish to live peaceful lives have been dragged out into this conflict and have died as a result.

The most recent attack on Israel by Hamas, beginning on October 7 killed approximately 1,200 with 112 still being held by the terrorists.

It is unfortunate how many people are lost on a day to day basis to this conflict. The world will rejoice when the conflict is over and hope for peace to come soon to the unstable region known as the Holy Land.



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Go Eagles!

The Game Awards 2023

By: Jacob Scheuring

On November 13, 2023, the finalists for Game of the Year were announced to the public. The finalists included *Alan Wake 2* from Remedy Entertainment, *Baldur's Gate 3* from Larian Studios, *Marvel's Spider-Man 2* from Insomniac Games, *Resident Evil 4* from Capcom, *Super Mario Bros. Wonder* and *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*, both from Nintendo.

This year has seen numerous different topics of discussion regarding the chosen finalists. For example, discussion was sparked about Capcom's *Resident Evil 4* due to it being a remake, and fans believe that a remake of a game should not be included in the conversation for Game of the Year.

Alongside the Game of the Year, there are many other awards that games can receive. These awards include the following: Family Game, going to *Super Mario Bros. Wonder*. Art Direction, going to *Alan*

*Wake 2*. Action/Adventure, going to *The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom*. Action Game, going to *ARMORED CORE VI: FIRES OF RUBICON*. The Best Narrative Award went to *Alan Wake 2*. *Baldur's Gate 3* received the award for

At the end of the event, Timothée Chalamet announced the winner of 2023 Game of the Year Award, *Baldurs Gate 3* from Larian Studios.

Alongside presenting awards, many different developers will take this

event as an opportunity to reveal their new projects. During the event, Capcom revealed *Monster Hunter: Wilds*, which will be released in 2025. Arkane Studios revealed *Marvel's Blade*, Hello Games announced *Light No Fire*, and Ubisoft announced a release date for their highly anticipated title *Skull and Bones*, releasing February 24, 2024.

The 2023 Game Awards saw impressive competition between many different titles from different developers, each trying to prove their worth. It can be very entertaining for fans to root for their favorite games and to watch developers reveal their new projects. This competitive appeal is something that will keep

the Game Awards around for many years to come.

2023 GAME AWARD WINNERS		
GAME OF THE YEAR BALDUR'S GATE 3	BEST GAME DIRECTION ALAN WAKE 2	BEST NARRATIVE ALAN WAKE 2
BEST ART DIRECTION ALAN WAKE 2	BEST SCORE AND MUSIC FINAL FANTASY XVI	BEST AUDIO DESIGN HI-FI RUSH
BEST PERFORMANCE NEIL NEWBON	GAMES FOR IMPACT TCHIA	BEST INDEPENDENT GAME SEA OF STARS
BEST DEBUT INDIE GAME COCOON	BEST ONGOING GAME CYBERPUNK 2077	BEST COMMUNITY SUPPORT BALDUR'S GATE 3
BEST MOBILE GAME HONKAI: STAR RAIL	BEST VR/AR GAME RESIDENT EVIL VILLAGE	BEST ACTION GAME ARMORED CORE VI: FIRES OF RUBICON
BEST ACTION/ADVENTURE GAME THE LEGEND OF ZELDA: TEARS OF THE KINGDOM	BEST FIGHTING GAME STREET FIGHTER 6	BEST FAMILY GAME SUPER MARIO BROS. WONDER
BEST SPORTS/RACING GAME FORZA MOTORSPORT	BEST MULTIPLAYER GAME BALDUR'S GATE 3	BEST SIM/STRATEGY PIKMIN 4
BEST ADAPTATION THE LAST OF US	PLAYERS' VOICE BALDUR'S GATE 3	INNOVATION IN ACCESSIBILITY FORZA MOTORSPORT
BEST ESPORTS GAMES VALORANT	BEST ROLE PLAYING GAME BALDUR'S GATE 3	MOST ANTICIPATED GAME FINAL FANTASY VII REBIRTH
BEST ESPORTS EVENT 2023 LEAGUE OF LEGENDS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	BEST ESPORTS TEAM JD GAMING	BEST ESPORTS ATHLETE LEE "FAKER" SANG
	BEST ESPORTS COACH CHRISTINE "potter" Chi	ESPORTS CONTENT IRONMOUSE

Best Role-Playing Game. *Valorant*, from Riot Games, received the award for Best E-Sports game. *Cyberpunk 2077*, from CD Projekt RED, received the award for the best game with ongoing support.



Palworld: The Development and Explosion of Popularity

By: Andrew Tamayo

Palworld is an extremely successful game, initially created with a very small budget by game developers from the Japanese company Pocketpair. This game was initially announced in the year 2021.

To summarize, the premise of the game can be described as Pokemon with firearms and no labor laws. Collect “Pals,” otherwise known as Pokemon, and use them to fight other Pals or make them work to bolster one’s resources. For example, Pals can mine stone, mine ore, cut down trees, gather materials, plant different crops, craft different items, smelt ores, and many other types of actions.

This game was released on January 18th, 2024 on the Steam game store. Only six days later, the game saw its success.

According to statista.com, “Six days after its January 2024 release, role-playing monster-taming game Palworld had sold about eight million copies. Palworld was released in Early Access on PC via Steam and Microsoft Store, as well as Xbox consoles and Xbox Game Pass on January 19.”

This game was created in Unreal Engine, a game engine created by Epic Games that has led to the creation of other games such as Fortnite, Ark: Survival Evolved, Borderlands 3, Rocket League, and many others.

As a result of that choice, it is easier for players to create modifications to the game that result in unique gameplay additions. For example, a YouTube user by the name of ToastedShoes created a modification that retextured the Pals into the actual Pokemon models.

However, this modification caused a major controversy in the Palworld community as Nintendo stepped in. Nintendo used the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, or DMCA, in order to take down the mod. As a result of this mod and Palworld’s recent success, Nintendo has started looking into the similarities between their Pokemon and Pals.

However, as of the current moment, it is unlikely that anything will

come of this situation and as a result, Palworld is most likely safe from a potential DMCA takedown.

In the end, good news came from this takedown as more people became aware that you can modify Palworld and developers have started to work on many different projects to improve the game drastically.

Despite these troubles, Palworld has sold a great amount of games. Palworld has made \$215.92 million in revenue according to dotesports.com’s estimations.

With an average profit margin for game developers being 2.32%, it is safe to say that Palworld has surpassed that margin greatly with their developer revenue, a metric of budget subtracted from their total revenue, at an estimated \$171.3 million.

Overall, despite its limited lifespan on the market, Palworld has been a huge success. But why? Why play Palworld?

Its similarities to Pokemon may potentially play a role. The current generation being targeted, Generation Z and the Millennials, grew up with the Pokemon franchise.

As a result, they may think that a more “adult” parody of the Pokemon game would be a good way to relive some old memories and make some new ones alongside other fans.

However, even without this nostalgia factor, this game is revolutionizing a genre of games losing popularity every day: survival games. After the Minecraft rush of the pandemic, people lost interest in Minecraft again.

No other survival game stepped up to fill the void that Minecraft left behind. As a result, survival games became stale and repetitive.

However, then came Palworld, a survival game with less emphasis on the natural world and more emphasis on the Pokemon-like companions you can collect.

People loved the concept. Popular streamers AverageJonas and DanTDM were some of the biggest names to capitalize off of this trend.

Strangely enough, DanTDM used to be a massive Minecraft YouTuber with millions of subscribers back in the 2014-2018 period of YouTube.

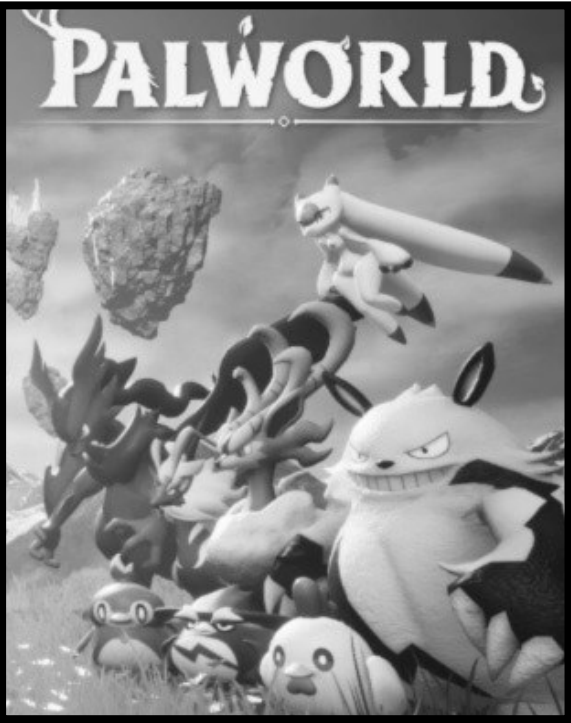
Unfortunately, as Minecraft started to decline, so did his channel. However, he very well may succeed by streaming Palworld due to his extensive

knowledge of how to entertain his viewers.

Social media plays a big part in the promotion of a game, especially controversy. The controversial nature of Palworld and its development process has caused it to gain a lot of momentum on the internet as a result.

Despite the shortsighted threats from Nintendo and other opponents of the game, most people believe that Palworld will succeed on the Steam marketplace for at least a good while.

In short, Palworld has become a success practically overnight, and as a result of Pocket Pairs modeling choices, has faced a lot of controversy regarding a potential DMCA takedown. Try it out for yourself on Steam or Xbox!



A Special Thanks To Our Staff At The Eagle’s Eye

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Sophomore Spotlight:  
Drake Cole

By: Izzy Naragon

The *Eagle's Eye* has written student spotlights for six years. Every edition gives one student from the highlighted class the opportunity to stand out among their classmates.

Questions are asked about their daily lives and what makes them so different from everyone else.

So, what makes Drake Cole stand out? He confided to the *Eagle's Eye* that he turns into an alien on the weekends! Wait...what?!



Drake believes that he is outgoing because of his drive to have a job. Currently, Drake works at Alien

Paintball, which is located in Nunnelly, TN. His job during the weekdays consists of building castles and other structures to enhance customers' experiences.

On the weekends, Drake puts on his paintball mask and plays his part as the “enemy.”

However, for Drake Cole, he is unable to stand out from everyone else—because he has a TWIN.

Instead of thinking about this negatively, he uses this to his advantage. Having a twin is what sets him apart because not everyone has a twin.

He says that the con of being a twin is that “everybody gets us wrong.” However, they keep the similarities at bay by having different hair styles.

The pros of being a twin is the ability to share clothes and the constant companion growing up.

His favorite teacher and class is Mr. Collins’ automotive class because he is very familiar with what he is learning. He was confident enough to compete in the CTE competition at Hickman County High School where his team came in second place.

In the future, Drake used to want to do something with Mechanics, but he decided to change his path and do HVAC at TCAT.

Drake's hobbies include hunting, fishing, riding four wheelers, playing guitar, and playing football.

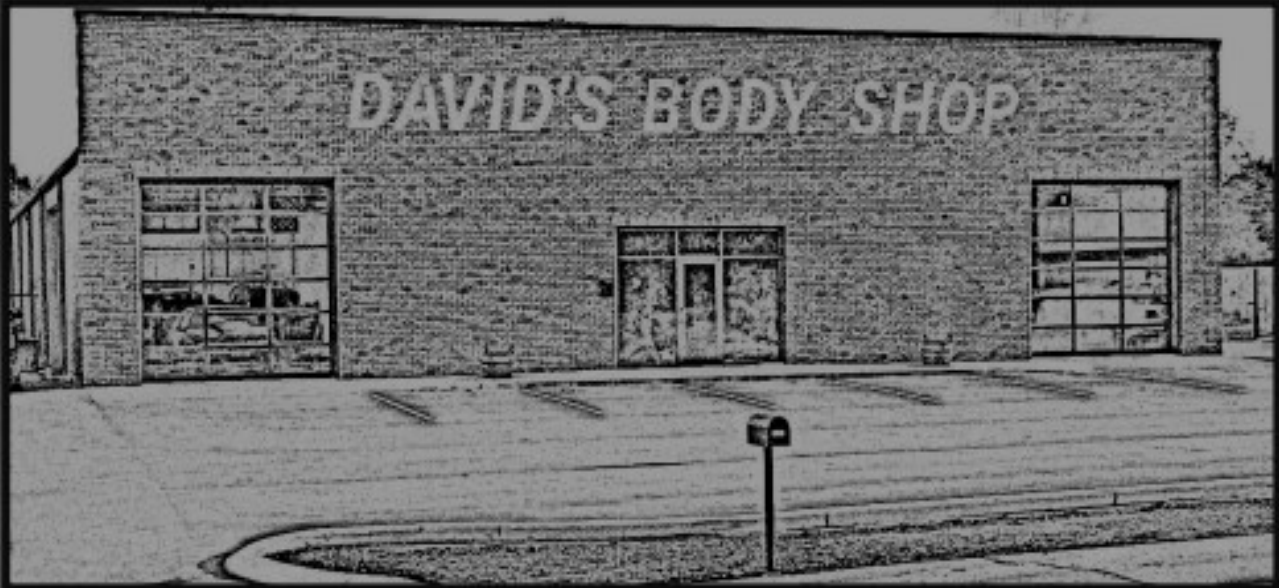
He is on the EHHS football team where he started as a linebacker this year.

Personally, the season was an up and down roller coaster for Drake.

Football is a big part of his life, which leads to Coach Austin being the most influential person in his life.

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