

# Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High”

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## Rhythm and Roots Reunion

Kayla Rupe

In September of 2011, Charlene Baker experienced what she calls one of her favorite Rhythm and Roots experiences. John Oates came to perform at the reunion for the Jimmie Rogers review as a solo set with his band. Baker, a massive fan since her childhood, was beyond excited to see him.

Baker took Oates and his wife to dinner at Eatz on Moore Street the first night he was in town. During dinner she said to him, “Before you leave this weekend, you and I are going to sing ‘Rich Girl.’” Oates looked at her as if she was crazy, but he later realized she was just a music lover.

On the last night, Baker was in her office that was being used as a green room when she said to him, “John, it’s time.” The two of them began singing “Rich Girl” while his wife recorded on Baker’s phone. They soon came to a stop when they noticed people outside of the room were listening to them.

The weekend at Rhythm and Roots not only brought Oates a fun memory of singing with a fan but also the best weekend of music.

“It was awesome to see the festival through his eyes,” Baker said.

What other eyes may not see about Rhythm and Roots is all the behind the scenes work that makes the festival what it is.

The planning for the next year typically begins as soon as the previous one ends. However, the planning for the 2020 reunion has already begun months before this year’s festival.

Many committees are involved with the festival: the Children’s Day Committee, the Artist Hospitality Committee, the Ice Committee, the Atmosphere Committee, the Vending Committee, and the Music Committee.

The vending committee takes care



Bristol, TN/VA bustles with music fans at the annual Rhythm and Roots Reunion.

of the vendors that will attend the festival by putting out applications at the beginning of the year.

Although Rhythm and Roots is focused around music, the vendors also make it what it is. The festival will feature many food and craft vendors this year.

Cement 6, a returning vendor, enjoys coming to the reunion from their home in Nashville. They travel for two months each year to collect materials in Cambodia for their handcrafted bags. Then, they attend events like Rhythm and Roots. Cement 6 catches the eyes of many people at the festival because of the uniqueness and effort put into their bags.

One of the most important committees is the Music Committee. They come together to decide who will be performing at Rhythm and Roots. They try their best to cater to the crowd and work with their budget. The music team tries to look for people who are touring regularly and look for those who have new releases coming out soon.

This year, the music team has created a line-up boasting over one hundred and twenty artists. Some are popular and known by many while others are local and small.

Virginia Ground Band is one of these local bands. Being a Bristol band, they are a “mainstay” for the reunion and “look forward to representing Bristol” when they play. With their Appalachian style, they reach to fans of soul, blues, bluegrass, reggae, country, rock, Americana, funk, and more.

However, Nicholas Jamerson is a Rhythm and Roots artist traveling from Prestonsburg, Kentucky, to Bristol. “My favorite thing about the area is the appreciation the area has for music.” As a folk artist, Jamerson enjoys returning to Bristol to play alongside fellow artists.

Seeing other artists is one of the greatest qualities of Rhythm and Roots. As seen through Baker’s John Oates experience, the festival allows fans to “rub shoulders” with the musicians they love. They may even see Patty Griffin walking down the street with her guitar and be able to take a selfie with her.

Festival Dates	
September 20-22, 2019	
Cost	
3-Day wristband:	\$110
Friday only:	\$50
Saturday only:	\$70
Sunday only:	\$45

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Marty Stuart  
Sam Bush  
CAAMP





## Meet the 2019 Maroon & White Fall Staff

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## THS Surveys Students on Vaping

### Gibson Bartlett

During Viking Time on September 16th, students were prompted to go to Canvas and complete a survey on Vaping at THS. This anonymous survey asked students, "Have you vaped any type of e-cigarette?" Their response would decide the rest of the questions. If one responded yes, they would be asked if they have tried quitting and if their efforts were successful. If no, they would be taken to the last six questions, the most notable being: "Do you know anyone who vapes?" "Has anyone at THS offered you a vape?", and "What do you think will stop the vaping problem?"

## Rachel's Impact Rocks THS

### Annie Hayes

Friends of Rachel, also known as F.O.R., is a club created by students across the country to better their schools and help their classmates. At a meeting about the F.O.R. club, Deedee Cooper explained a few projects she witnessed schools creating. For example, one school created a "Rachel's Closet" when a student's house burned down and she lost nearly everything she had. But soon after the creation, they realized more students didn't have all the necessities. So, they started taking in donations of clothing and created a store that students could shop in for free. Later on, they added a pantry and collected food items.

Another example of an idea is the Compliments Instagram. Two students created an Instagram and posted pictures of their classmates, captioning it with one or more

## Dance: Tennessee High's Newest Sport

### Logan Streetman

This year is the first year of Tennessee High's newest sport, the THS Dance Team. The team is made up of eight talented girls and is coached by Kirsten Barnett and Denice Strong. The team will act as a spirit group and will perform at school events. The group's performances will be featured at volleyball games, basketball games, pep rallies, and soccer games. Their performances feature a multitude of dance styles which include hip hop, pom, and jazz. They offer an experience like no other; this is not just another cheerleading team.

## VT Game

### Jonah Gassiot

The 103rd annual VT game kicked off on Fri 13th. The Tennessee High Vikings built up hype all week for the game. Classroom doors were decorated, prepping the Bearcats for the "boom". The night of the game, the Virginia High stadium was packed. The Vikings took a strong lead 26-3 five minutes before half time, and reigned victorious in the end, beating the bearcats 46 to 23.

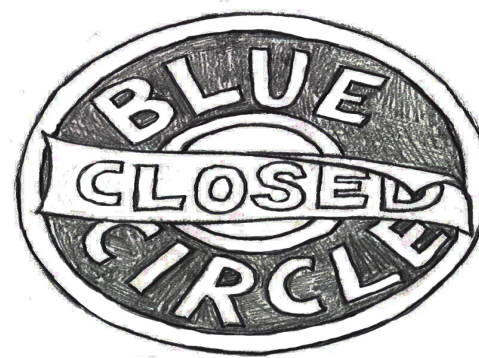


Students signed a pledge to accept Rachel's challenge.

compliments about that student. If you are interested in these ideas and bettering our school, THS has formed its own F.O.R. club and if you've noticed the positive post-it-notes around campus, you've seen they are already putting these ideas to use. If you are interested

and haven't joined, contact the club sponsor Candy Sutherland at sutherlandc@btcs.org. If Rachel alone changed so many people's lives, imagine what we could do as a school.

## Blue Circle Closes, New Owners Take Over



### Gibson Bartlett

On Thursday, July 25th, Blue Circle's regular early crowd went to their local breakfast spot where they were greeted by a note pinned to the door: "Closed until further notice." Customers were very confused until The Circle took to Facebook, claiming the closure had to do with an outrageous utility bill from an unnamed company. The restaurant was quickly purchased by Mark and Debbie Sourbeer, who plan to reopen in late September. The Blue Circle has changed hands many times and Bristol is anxiously awaiting the return of one of our favorite burger spots!

## Radio Bristol is More Than Just Music

### Logan Streetman

Bristol is a city of rich history, small town culture, and music. One of the best ways of staying informed on Bristol's local events and musical roots is Radio Bristol. The station can be tuned into on WBCM 100.1 FM or on the BCM website. The station features performances from local artists, a segment on southern food recipes, book discussions, and even local farm reports. Radio Bristol provides listeners with an opportunity to learn something new about the area and possibly introduce them to new music they wouldn't otherwise listen to.

## Free Books

### Kaitlin Rice

The Tennessee High School National Honor Society raised nearly \$1,000 for the Sullivan County Imagination Library by selling Pura Vida bracelets last year. Members of the club each sold around three bracelets for \$8.00 each in order to fundraise for the Imagination Library. The efforts made by the members of the National Honor Society have allowed for the purchasing of over 850 books for children in our area.



## 4,394 Miles from Home

Kaitlin Rice and Lacey Robinson

Imagine having the opportunity to travel across the world for one school year. Maria Roth, a current Tennessee High student, has traveled from Frankfurt, Germany to Bristol for her foreign exchange program.

As Roth says her goodbyes to her friends in Germany, tears shed from her eyes. "It was really hard to realize that I wouldn't see them again for a year," said Roth. At the airport, however, Roth is less emotional when saying goodbye to her parents because she is in a rush to get on the plane.

As Roth is seated on the plane, she looks out the window and has no regrets. She comes to the realization that she will have to make all new friends, live in a stranger's house,



Maria (left), Laura (middle), and Angelica (right) at the Bristol Train Station.

and experience an entirely different culture.

Picture a school where there are no lunch breaks, no sports teams, different classes each day, and no multiple choice questions on tests. In Germany, this was Roth's reality. "There are many big differences

between America and Germany," such as the old buildings, a more popular vegetarian lifestyle, and less fast food restaurants. In addition to this, Roth says that it is much easier to make friends and "hang out" in Germany.

From Roth's point of view, the

benefits of foreign exchange greatly outweigh the drawbacks. Some of the benefits include becoming more likely to try new things, becoming part of a different culture, and obtaining a new sense of independence. "I look forward to learning more about American culture," Roth says.

Currently, Roth participates in junior varsity soccer at Tennessee High and lives with Laura Lavinder, who convinced her to try soccer. In the future, Roth hopes to become either a teacher for kids with disabilities, or a pharmacist.

When Roth flies home next summer, she will have many happy experiences to share with her German family and friends, but she may say a tearful goodbye to her new American family and friends.

## A Conspiracy's End?

Jonah Gassiot

The well-known, mythical research station has grabbed the world's curiosity and caused a viral storm. Started by a sub-reddit, a scheduled invasion was created all in plan to attempt the raid of a mythical laboratory. Motivation stirred due to the high amount of attendance. Area 51 has grabbed so much attention by making people wonder, what really is inside?

Wonders of the building go on forever, this is why the research station has created a mass conversation. UFO enthusiasts took immediate interest in the event. Over 2 million people have said that they plan to attend. Area 51 was buried in its secrecy for decades, feeding all possible conspiracies.

Danger is obvious and shown at the front gate, the sign titles "Restricted

area. It is unlawful to enter this area without permission". The signs all around warn that the authority in that building is absolutely through the roof.

Festivals and merchandise are now global when it comes to the Area 51 topic. The trend set off a rollercoaster of hype and it does not seem to be slowing down. Popularity continues to grow and the building continues to sit in the deserted land, waiting for September 20th. Conspiracies developed after people questioned the suddenly missing, mysterious air craft that crashed near the building. Everything grew from there and people questioned more and more, leading to a world of curious rebels.

Sheridan McLaughlin, a former student that goes to Bursleson High school, in a small town in Texas, aid

she believes that the government is holding extra-terrestrial secrets in the building. "It may not be necessarily as harsh as everyone thinks, but I believe they are hiding things". She doesn't plan to attend the raid on September 20th. "I am not that dumb." If she could steal one thing from the building, she said she would, "steal a guard because that would be pretty awesome".

The Federal Government sent out a warning, restating the rules. People brushed it aside as most would. A new level of extreme has been reached now that the government is noticing it.

Joerg Arnu, website manager of Area 51 History, states that "There's a group of concerned residents that really do not want this to even happen." Fear strikes citizens who actually take residence in Rachel,

Nevada. The small town is about a 150-mile drive from Las Vegas with a population of 50. People living there are torn on how to respond to the matter.

The raid of Area 51 has no predicted outcome, but definitely strikes the mind as something intriguing. Risk-takers will meet conspiracists, and believers may find their answer on September 20th.



## From Diss to This

Jonah Mai

"I don't think we speak the same language," sings popular Tennessee High artist Chase Williams on his new album, *Waterbed*. Chase's rap and R&B styled beats and vocals bump in the cars of local fans driving down Volunteer Parkway, or while doing homework in bed at 9:00 at night. He has made other singles in the past, but this full-length album has "blown up." Even before the album was released, a huge amount of commotion surrounded the anticipated release. Chase's music career began unexpectedly in the spring of 2013, when he and the Vance Middle School soccer team were in the

championship game. The entire school was excited for the soccer team and Chase was hyped to play, but when it was game day, Vance lost the championship 1-7 to Liberty Bell.

After the loss, Chase and Jorge Estrada went back to Chase's place and thought of a brilliant idea. "We had to do the only thing that was reasonable, write a diss track," Chase says of his response to the loss. And that's how his music career started. On the track, Chase and his duo Jorge, plus Prince, from the famous YKG, jumped in for a feature. After the publication, Chase's burn for music grew.

He started making singles and

music he wanted to make, such as a top hit single called "Sunflower". He tries to make his music relatable for audiences, but talks about past experiences to be sentimental to himself. Chase's musical role models are Tyler the Creator, Travis Scott, and Odd Future, however, Chase strives to maintain his artistic originality: "I never try to copy one, single artist's style."

*Waterbed's* style is influenced by a collection of artists: the cool voice of Tyler the Creator, the beat and bars of Travis Scott, with the subtle tone and mood set of Odd Future. This album conveys the personality of Chase and interests of teenagers. Album topics are about Chase's

current and past significant others, as well as his other experiences. Titles and lyrics often allude to important moments from his life. In the future, Chase is going to college for sound design, but still wants to make music as a hobby. Music-wise, no one knows where Chase's music career will go from here; Chase himself doesn't even know. That is not the fact of the matter; the audience can still reminisce on his music, sitting and waiting in the "Backseat" of their "White Impala" trying to understand that special someone since, "we don't speak the same language."



## Tennessee High's Favorite Canine Companion

**Gibson Bartlett**

When walking through the halls at THS there is one girl you likely wouldn't notice. She stays alongside her best friend all day to offer help or just to be a good companion. She's never too far out of reach when she's needed. She sits in every class, just looking around and scoping out her environment. She's a sweetheart to all who know her, but she stays busy with her best friend.

Kyma is a service dog at THS, a companion to senior Christalynn Johnston. Christalynn has had Kyma, a brown poodle, for 7 years. Originally a show dog, she is now a Medical Alert Service Dog and helps Christalynn by telling her when she may be at risk of a migraine or seizure.

"I'm so lucky," Christalynn says. Kyma is an incredibly smart dog, and with the help of service animal training groups, personal and online trainers, and lots of patience Kyma was trained to be an official service animal. Although Christalynn has had her for seven

years, Kyma has not been at school forever.

Christalynn's first request to bring Kyma created much confusion about the whole dynamic. A great deal of questioning went on about the proper documentation for a service animal at a school, how Kyma would go about navigating from class to class, and the response from other students. Christalynn remained hopeful though, and eventually she and Kyma would grace the halls of THS together.

Christalynn brought Kyma to school one day during the summer. Long before the halls would be bustling with students, teachers, and everything in between, Christalynn showed Kyma around to all the different classes she would go to throughout the day. Kyma picked up the route very quickly until she knew it like the back of her... um, paw.

"There was a bit of an adjustment period."

Imagine your first day at THS navigating through the crowded halls, the infamously packed main



Christalynn (Right) standing next to her service dog, Kyma (Left) stairwell, and maybe even going up that floor that leads to nowhere. This was a bit more difficult for Kyma, as she didn't have a map to turn to or anyone to ask for directions, but with Christalynn leading the way, the two transitioned from class to class seamlessly. Today, Kyma and Christalynn can be seen walking the halls together, just blending in with the blur of students, but if you see Kyma,

remember she is busy doing her job. The response to Kyma has been overwhelmingly positive but please do respect her in her busy workspace. "She's a dog, and a very pretty dog" Christalynn remarked. As an animal lover, Christalynn knows how it feels to see a dog in public and want to immediately run up and pet it, but Kyma is not like other dogs. She has a job to do.

## Hunter Hawthorne Tackles the High Notes

**Jacob Finch**

High school is a jungle where we form packs and cliques, often through extracurricular activities, that sometimes stigmatize or stereotype us. For instance, the football team is seen as a very masculine and "alpha" group of athletic guys, while Madrigals is viewed as "artsy" or even "expressive". However, what happens when you are actively involved in these two juxtaposing groups? Hunter Hawthorne and Mr. Whitson have the answer.

Hunter has played football since first grade, excluding a brief hiatus in middle school. Currently, he is a defensive tackle for the Mighty Viking Football team. However, he is also a tenor, highest male

voice, for Madrigals and choir, which he joined in middle school. Coming into high school, he has put 100% effort into both. "They're both a lot of hard work," he states, "I'd recommend both of them. You make a lot of friends in both." He thought his teammates on the football team would make comments about his other passion, but he was pleasantly surprised that most people either didn't care or were supportive. His story echoes the experience of the choir teacher, Mr. Whitson.

Mr. Whitson started playing music when he was in the seventh grade, and once he began high school, he started playing football and baseball. "I enjoyed the athletics, being physical and outside. I

just liked sports in general. But I was really growing to love the music." Like Hunter, Mr. Whitson put equal effort into sports and music, believing this made him unique. During his senior year, his graduating class was not very large, so many of his peers were in multiple juxtaposing activities as well. He believes people should try out many different things in high school to discover what they enjoy, and believes people that do so, like Hunter, are admirable.

Hunter wants to continue his career in both, but especially choir. His experience of going All-East and being a fourth alternate for All-State, not to mention what he may accomplish in his junior and senior years, has given him hope

that he may be able to further his singing on the collegiate level.

"I love football and choir," Hunter said, "and I'm so blessed that I'm able to do both! I would suggest both of them to anyone because they both are great activities that require lots of hard work, but are both definitely worth it."



## Eat Like a True Bristolian

**Rachel Kent**

When it comes to being a true Bristolian, you have to know how to eat like one. Bristol has several options to satisfy your hunger. If you're short on time and you need breakfast fast, where do you go? The drive-through at Pal's can have you back on the road in minutes with a delicious order of cheddar rounds. And if it's lunch or dinner that you are craving, Pal's is Bristol's choice for hot dogs, Frenchie fries and a Peachie tea.

If it is Tuesday and you are craving sushi for lunch, a visit to 620, located on Bristol's historic State Street, is where you turn for half-price sushi. And if sushi is not what you're craving, 620 has delicious salads, burgers and stir fry dishes to tempt your taste buds.

When dinner time rolls around and you can't decide between BBQ or burgers, the locally owned restaurants have you covered once again. Visit Bristol Garden and Grill, the area's newest local

restaurant, for farm-to-table menu options such as pulled pork, brisket and salads made fresh from the garden located on the premises. There are several choices when it comes to BBQ and one of the most convenient ones is Bristol BBQ located on Volunteer Parkway. You don't even need to get out of your car to get your BBQ fix. With its drive-through window, you can be on your way in minutes with BBQ and all the fixings.

On those days you are craving a

burger and fries there is no better place to go than Burger Bar located on Piedmont Avenue in Downtown Bristol. This retro-style diner has been serving up the best burgers in Bristol since 1942. Not only are there just burgers, you can pick a milkshake from over 30 choices. So, no matter what culinary delights you are craving, Bristol has a restaurant that guarantees you will enjoy a great meal.



# THS Garage Band has us in a “Daze”

**Mackenzie Bibee**

The chatter of patrons and the quiet hum of the espresso machine is quickly flushed out by the roar of Marshall Herndon electric guitar. As Brayden Henard’s drum beat picks up, coffee ripples thump the sides of the audience’s mugs. Out of nowhere, Mchale Bright’s bass comes in, along with his raspy voice, to begin their original song, “It’s Unspoken.”

You would have never expected two athletic popular high school boys to now be playing multiple gigs a week and focusing all their energy on music. Originally named “Worlds Away,” they are now rocking a new brand, “Broken Daze,” after trying to get their first name copywrited and realizing it was already taken.

Mchale Bright started the band in his basement at home, messing around with instruments and invited Brayden Henard over to play around with them too. After a while of adjusting and getting into the rhythm of the drums Brayden had perfected his playing abilities. Mchale and Brayden played almost every night in Mchale’s basement, Mchale as lead singer, and as things kept going well they realized that they were serious about starting a group or in Brayden’s words they said, “Man, let’s start a band!” They eventually added Preston Quillin to play the bass and this started the trio as “Worlds Away.” A few days later the group found Marshall Herndon on Instagram and he went to practice with the trio and it instantly clicked and he joined and made the band a four

piece. After a crazy house party Preston decided to take his talents to his T-shirt business and quit the band. Soon after, Gavin Clouse joined the group and played bass. Eventually he left because he had to attend college, so the boys were a trio again with Marshall, Mchale, and Brayden.

Marshall Herndon (The shredder), took over lead guitarist role and now Mchale is thriving on bass and vocals. The drummer (Brayden Henard) spins his sticks, flips his sticks, and puts on a show. Broken Daze has now remained a trio for about two months now, and they are going strong with multiple gigs every weekend, CD’s being made, time in the studio recording, new music on the way and merch on its way. Their music sounds like a mix of Nirvana, Led Zeppelin, and Motley Crue. After asking them what their favorite thing about the group is they said “We are all good, it’s all together, it’s just us jamming playing music and it’s really fun!” The band has had shows in lots of locations like, Bloom Café,

East Coast Wings, Wonderland in Johnson City, State Street Brewery, House bookings, Roanoke, Virginia, Bland Virginia, and many more to come listed below!

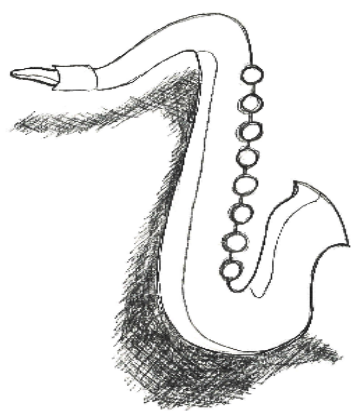
Their music focuses on a lot of different things, “Take Me To The Grave” is an original song about the prescriptions of death. “Take it From Me,” is about a girl, taking time away from the boy and making him feel miserable and confused. The band is very private about their music, but they recently released their debut EP, “Broken Daze Extended Play”, is on all streaming services such as Spotify, Apple Music, and many other platforms.

**Upcoming Performances:**  
**September 21st: Cascade Draft House (Bristol) @6:30pm**  
**September 28th: Bloom Café (Bristol) @8:45pm**  
**October 4th: Gypsy Circus Cider Company (Kingsport) @ 7:00pm**  
**October 17th: Mel’s Riverside Bar & Grill (Rogersville) @6:00pm**



The cover for Broken Daze’s new EP

# Boom! Crash! Letson Makes a Splash



**Kaitlin Rice**

Sweat rolls down the faces of exhausted Tennessee High band members after a long day of working during Music in the Castle. It’s 7:00 p.m. and they’ve been here since 7:00 a.m. this morning; their motivation to perform is running low.

The turrets of the Stone Castle cast shadows on the football field as the band pushes through and makes their way onto the field. Their anticipation builds to “show everyone what they’ve got.”

Naomi Letson recalls this performance as particularly special because “the castle is our turf and our home.”

To add to the stress of the band members, this performance is the first with a brand new movement towards the end.

When it is time for the Mighty Viking Band to finally show what they can do, they march onto the field and perform nearly flawlessly. When the ending of the performance nears, Letson recalls the song having a “huge hit,” which brings her to tears.

A wave of realization comes over Letson as she realizes that these people on the field with her are her family.

On the strength of that emotion, Letson, a senior, applied for and won the prestigious role of drum major. This leadership role required not only a lengthy application, but also most of her time. Letson said that this role has enabled her to develop “discipline, goals, passion, and pride” in herself.

Letson plans to continue her band career in college by either marching in college band if it is a “good school,” or playing in a concert band.

For now, it’s up to her to inspire her fellow musicians to excellence.

## Keeping it Real 24/7 Hallway Etiquette for Dummies Gracie Brooks

If you’re a student at THS, you probably know the basic do’s and don’ts of period changes like avoiding the main stairwell or finding alternative routes to get you to your classes as soon as possible. But, if you’re like me, one of your biggest setbacks of getting to class in time is the lack of hallway etiquette.

To help bring awareness to this ongoing issue, here’s a list of hallway etiquette “musts” that will critically save time and the sanities of people like me:

1. Hallways are like roads: you should always travel on the right side to avoid running into someone.
2. Hallways have speed limits and minimums: you don’t have to run down the hallway, but at the same time don’t meander slower than a grandma after her 4:30 snooze.
3. Don’t text and walk: just like driving, when you text, your main focus is on what you’re sending and not on where you’re going. Don’t be the person causing collisions or hallway blockage. Your streaks are less important than my safety.
4. Allow people to pass: if you can tell someone is trying to pass, step aside. If someone is stepping on the heels of your birks, step aside. If you could be mistaken for a student at the new Vance, step aside.
5. Don’t take up the hallway: it’s enjoyable to walk with friends on the way to classes, but it’s important to recognize when you’re friend group is blocking the flow of traffic. You’re not the cast of mean girls.
6. Don’t stop in the middle of the hall: if you need to stop, find a place where traffic isn’t flowing. If you’re having trouble orienting yourself maybe you need a map.
7. Manners matter: use phrases like “excuse me,” “thank you,” or “go ahead.” Open and hold the door for someone. Studies show that 86% of people who hold doors open for people will get a 35+ on the ACT.





## Where are they now?

### Bella Raye

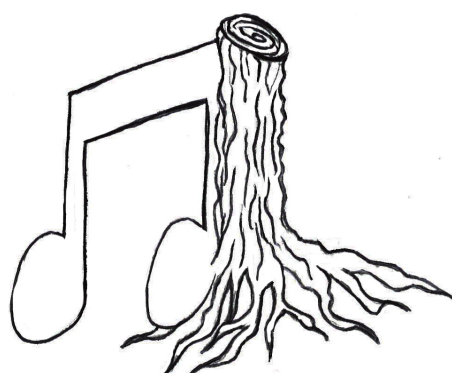
Kayla Rupe and Gracie Brooks

Almost three years ago, Bella Raye walked the stage at Tennessee High School as a young, passionate musician. This would be one of her last moments spent in Bristol before leaving for Nashville to start a career in the music industry. Well prepared, Bella was ready to begin a new and exciting chapter in her life.

Starting off at Belmont University, her passion for music only grew, leading her to put her full effort in as a musician rather than a full-time student. Dropping out of school, after just a year, was a leap of faith Bella was willing to take because of her desire as an artist. Although risky, the rewards and opportunities Bella received made it all worthwhile. Not only has she been given the opportunity to performed at the Paramount, local cafes, etc., she's even been given the chance to perform at Carnegie Hall.

Flash forward to now, Bella is on a mission to help make the world a more positive place with her music. She would also like to eventually be signed to a record label in the near future, but she also realizes that because of her young age she still has room to grow.

Looking back at her high school career, Bella associates her time at Tennessee High as troublesome. However, she now sees it as something that helped her grow as an individual. Bella wants to encourage other people to believe in themselves, using her personal experience as a prime example.



## Walk the Line with the Man in Black

Jacob Finch

The past half-decade has seen the rise of many films based around a musician or band. *Love and Mercy* (2014), *Straight Outta Compton* (2015), *All Eyez on Me* (2017), *Bohemian Rhapsody* (2018), and *Rocketman* (2019) are all films that fit within this phenomenon.

*Walk the Line* (2005), a pioneer of this subgenre, is a biographical film written and directed by James Mangold that tells the story of legendary musician, Johnny Cash. The film stars Joaquin Phoenix as Johnny Cash and Reese Witherspoon as June Carter Cash. The story is adapted from Cash: The Autobiography and *Man in Black: His Own Story in His Own Words*, both by Johnny Cash.

The film spans many important moments of Cash's life, from growing up on a farm in Arkansas during the 1940's to playing sold out venues in the late 1960's, in an eloquently driven way. The pacing

never loses momentum due to expert direction from Mangold and standout performances from Phoenix and Witherspoon. The film uses subtle techniques, such as J-Cuts where the audio from the following scene overlaps to the image currently being shown, to obtain this feeling of fluidity throughout.

Another amazing part of the movie is the music. The soundtrack and sound mixing are phenomenal, and Phoenix's covers of many of the *Man in Black*'s most famous songs are so well done it is almost hard to distinguish which are actually Cash and which are Phoenix's rendition. This is not to say that Witherspoon's stab at June's iconic tracks are not well done either. She is believable as the late singer and that is a feat within itself that deserves recognition.

The story itself is also very well written and described through film. The dramatic highs and

lows of Cash's life are portrayed in a poetic and heart wrenching way. You are rooting for Cash throughout, even though there are many moments when he is not a very likeable person. His redemption is ultimately satisfying as he crawls out of the depths of addiction to grow as a person.

The only gripes I have with the film are the uninspired cinematography and the ending, which feels slightly rushed. However, these gripes do not take away from the amazement of this movie.

Overall, I have to give *Walk the Line* an 8.5/10. It is a well-directed and acted film that gives its viewer a deeper understanding of who the *Man in Black* truly was. As a pioneer of this musician movie subgenre, it sets a standard that has yet to be reached by any of its counterparts, and I am still upset Joaquin was cheated out of his Oscar.

## Vendors "Vent" about R&R

Rachel Kent

Close your eyes, envision yourself on State Street in Bristol but something is different on this certain weekend in September. There are stages for performances and booths selling anything from crafts to incredible food on almost every corner. The downtown streets are crowded with locals or guests enjoying the sights and sounds of the Rhythm and Roots Festival. For three days, downtown Bristol does not look the same as any other weekend, and you cannot find the businesses and stores as easily as before.

At Team Shear Obsession (TSO), a hair salon on the Virginia side of State Street, the owner shared with me some of the challenges and advantages of the Rhythm and Roots Festival on her business. "It keeps me young," said Lora Abate, owner of TSO. Abate says the need to have a plan for next year's reunion keeps her always thinking of new ideas to promote her business. Over the years, she says it has been difficult to pick what to do for the TSO booths, especially if you're not a clothing business. TSO has always done something to keep their booth related to hair by doing festival hair, including hair wraps, braid rings; and coming this year, hair feathers. When it comes to booths for clothing businesses it's easier because they just make an extension of their store. For



Bristol Ballet's booth at Rhythm and Roots

example, Studio 6 and Serendipity, which both sell women's clothes, have sold festival t-shirts for the past few years. Lucky for TSO, the festival issues three-hour arm bands to customers that have appointments with businesses located on State Street. This allows TSO to maintain regular business hours during festival weekend.

TSO is not the only downtown business that faces challenges during Rhythm and Roots. Regular scheduled classes and rehearsals at Bristol Ballet cannot occur during festival weekend, resulting in planning ahead to stay on schedule for future productions like the *Nutcracker*. Michele Plescia, artistic director at Bristol Ballet, said the studio faces a few challenges during festival weekend, "The festival doesn't benefit Bristol Ballet in terms of sales, since we are not a retail store that people

can run into and make a purchase to take with them." For Bristol Ballet, the festival's Children's Day in Cumberland Park on Saturday morning is more beneficial to the dance studio. The company dancers perform some fun pieces; distribute literature about the studio; and talk to people about the productions. "We are proud to be part of downtown Bristol and like supporting the festival in whatever way we can," said Plescia.

Each year the Rhythm and Roots Festival is such a special experience due to all the new and different people you get to meet during a weekend of celebrating music. So make sure to stop by the Team Shear Obsession booth for festival hair styles, and watch a performance by the Bristol Ballet on stage.

# Rhythm and Roots Word Search



BLACKBIRD  
BOOTH  
COUNTRY  
ENO  
FESTIVAL  
FOOD  
FUDGERY

GUITAR  
LEMONADE  
MUSIC  
PICTURES  
REUNION  
RHYTHM  
ROOTS

SHOPS  
STAGE  
STATE  
STREET  
TRUCK  
WEEKEND  
WRISTBAND

## Musical Opinions of THS

“I like all music, 70’s rock, anything.”  
-Madison Blackburn 12th

“I guess like pop and some rap. That’s really it. I like every kind of music though.”  
- Briley Price 9th

“I like rap because it speaks to me.”  
-Jason Kreiss 11th

“R&B, it’s good for the soul.”  
-Sarah Vanvalkenburg 12th

“Uh, diverse I would say. I, I don’t know. Yes I don’t know. I can’t really describe that.”  
-Will Broadfoot 9th

“Trippie Redd is overrated.”  
-Daniel Smith 10th

“Anything is good except country.”  
-Natalie Tillman 12th

“I like country because it’s soothing.”  
-Jack Tickle 11th

“80’s is my favorite decade of music.”  
-Ariana Floyd 10th

“Rap, because it speaks to me.”  
-Jordan Thompson 12th



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		2					1	8
5		6	9				3	
	6	9				3		
	5						2	1
8			1	5	7	6		9
				3		9	6	
9			6		2		5	
						7		2

**Unscramble the Words: R&R Edition**

tra

ec5kra

rstobil

Word Bank:  
Bristol  
5K Race  
Art  
Downtown  
Singing  
Banjo  
Vendor  
Kid’s-Day  
Dance

norevd

dsik-ayd

cenda

nisnigg

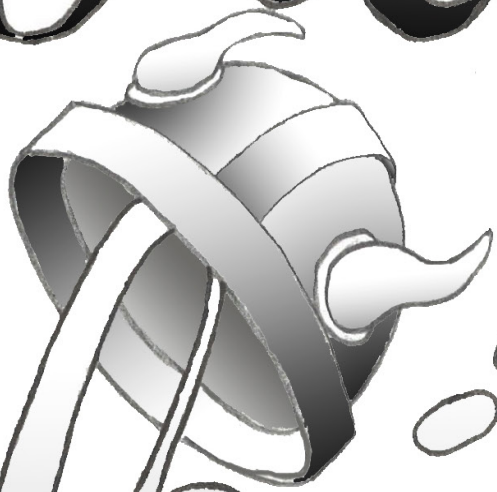
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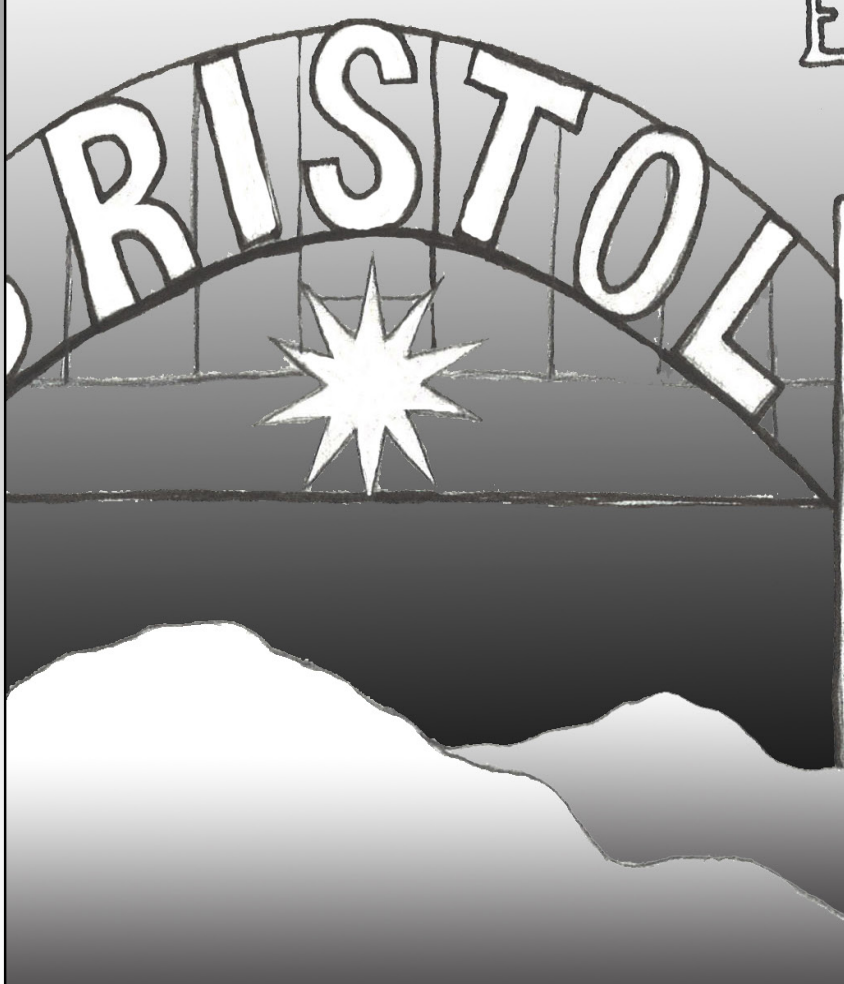


Tennessee High School

# Maroon & White



EST. 1915



TN's Oldest High  
School Newspaper