

Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High”

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Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tennessee

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Honoring the Class of 2023

By Maroon & White Seniors

The Maroon & White Senior Edition is dedicated to the Class of 2023 and all the people who helped make their success here today possible.

Saying goodbye to the life we've known to move on to a new chapter might be more difficult than any assignment or test we have taken in high school. We are now tasked with acknowledging where we've come

from, who we are, and how to move forward. No matter how singular our experiences of high school have been, today, we graduate together.

Our time together has been punctuated by one constant: change. We look back on freshman year, remembering with a laugh how terrified we once were to walk through the crowded hallways. As the year went on however, the halls that

once felt as if they could go on forever became short and familiar, just before everything changed again. We went on Spring Break, and our introduction to high school was interrupted by COVID.

We adjusted—or didn't adjust—to online learning. We adjusted to only seeing the maskless faces of those in our family or bubble. And we adjusted again, when in-person learning resumed, and we awkwardly returned to social life. We faced it all with courage, though. We got involved. We reignited our Viking Pride, filled the student section with exuberance, and looked to the future with a belief that if we can get through this, we can get through anything.

Today, as we close this chapter of our own stories, we look back with appreciation for how the years and people around us have shaped us. We hold tight to our long-awaited diplomas—the tangible proof of our resilience—and we hold fast to the love our class has shared.



Photo by Caitlin Vining

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Parting Wisdom from Principal Kirk

Dear THS Class of 2023 Graduates,

You've looked forward to this moment since you were about 5 years old, when you began your life as a student. It seemed as if the day would never come, but here you are! Your hard work has paid off and it's time to set sail on your next adventure. Your lives will all go in different directions, but no matter the direction you choose, you are prepared.



Ms. Kim Kirk on your next adventure. Your lives will all go in different directions, but no matter the direction you choose, you are prepared.

The past 13 years have thrown many things at you that have prepared you for this moment. You've faced tough challenges, passed hard classes, and shown up when it was hard. You've known loss, sadness, and sometimes defeat, but you persevered. I am very proud of each of you and your unique

accomplishments.

It is my hope that you leave Tennessee High School having learned way more than what was taught in your textbooks. I hope you've learned to be kind in a world that can sometimes be very cruel, to show gratitude to people who have helped you, and to be good to people.

As you walk out the doors of THS, I hope you leave with great memories, lifelong relationships, lots of knowledge, and maybe a ghost story to tell (if you're lucky). You matter. Work hard, never give up, and make a difference.

As Sue Monk Kidd told us, "Go make your big, beautiful dent, and as you do so, come down on the side of boldness. If you err, may it be for too much audacity and not too little. For you really are enough. You have untold strengths and resources inside. You have your glorious self."

WE ARE TENNESSEE HIGH!
LOVE YOU LOTS, Kim Kirk



Artwork by Kat Staton (left image) and Piper Booher (right image).

Bristol Motor Speedway: The Last Great Colosseum

By Ryan Bunning

Deafening roars bellow from the track. A young Gabi Francis eagerly watches as dozens of cars grip the banked turns of Bristol Motor Speedway. This 2008 Bristol Night Race would launch a racing day ritual for Gabi and a love for racing that burns to the present. In the 15 years since, she's taken to one of the Speedway's over 150,000 seats no fewer than 20 times. The passion for motor racing is a tradition in the family; a tradition carried onward by Gabi. "One of my grandfathers was actually a dirt track racer, and my dad has gone since the 70s, so it's been a big thing in my family," she said.

Just as the Speedway is important in Gabi's life, so is it to our small city whose name the track bears. For many Americans outside our immediate region, any awareness of Bristol most likely stems from our

iconic speedway. Resting in the rural hills just south of the city, Bristol Motor Speedway is one of the largest sports venues in the entire world, seating over 150,000 spectators. Since its opening in 1961, the track has served as the main driver of the tourism industry in the region, with excited fans packing the town at race season.

Those numerous fans support our local businesses year and year again. Of course, the "world's fastest half mile" does not exclusively host races and automotive-themed events, but also concerts and football games. One such game, 2016's Battle at Bristol, a college game between University of Tennessee and Virginia Tech, currently holds the record for the largest American football game in attendance. 156,990 fans gathered in the Speedway on September 10, 2016, bringing their money to our city's

restaurants, shops, and hotels. Just like the annual Rhythm and Roots festival, major events at the track spike the demand for local services.

The image of Bristol is inseparable from the Speedway, and its importance

to local business owners and race fans is unmatched. For the local service industry, it is a major revenue boost, and for NASCAR fans like Gabi, Bristol Motor Speedway is a colossal stage for the sport they adore.



BMS during the 1960s.

Made in Sullivan County: Tennessee Ernie Ford's Legacy Lives On

By Joseph Burriss

Most are familiar with the country legend Tennessee Ernie Ford from his 1955 rendition of "Sixteen Tons" alongside other classics such as "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" and "Union Dixie." But many do not know that Ford, born Ernest Jennings

Ford, was born and raised in Bristol, Tennessee. His childhood home can even be found sitting on Anderson Street, refurbished as it would have been during his early years.

As a child, the young baritone showed his musical inclination by singing in choirs and playing trombone

in the school band. But his first job was an announcer for the WOPI-AM radio station here in Bristol, later furthering his radio career through the FM radio station KFXM in San Bernardino and Pasadena. This is where he gained his persona as the eccentric hillbilly "Tennessee Ernie." It was during this time that he began gigging with bands, soon signing off with Capitol Records in 1949. While many of his songs reached the Billboard charts, it was his 1955 cover of "Sixteen Tons" that skyrocketed his already promising career.

Ford was nominated for several Grammy Awards and won one for his album *Great Gospel Songs* in 1964. His first spiritual album, *Hymns*, was certified gold in 1959 and by 1963 became Capitol Records' biggest selling album. As his career slowed down, he left Capitol Records in 1975, and in September of 1991, he died at the age of seventy-two from liver failure shortly after

attending a White House dinner.

Though it has been almost thirty-two years since his passing, Tennessee Ernie Ford's legacy still lives on in the hearts and minds of many, especially here in the birthplace of country music. In Haynesfield Elementary School, choir director Meglyn Deel recounts the story of when she first taught her students *Sixteen Tons* for a performance and being pleasantly surprised to find "[t]hat some students already knew the song and that almost all my students instantly loved it." Having wished to teach her students more about country music, especially from Appalachian artists, it was important to include Tennessee Ernie Ford because of his status as "a timeless classic and a part of what makes Appalachia so rich."

To this day, Tennessee Ernie Ford's music continues to pass the boundaries of generations, always finding new audiences to fall in love with his timeless music and forever leaving an indelible mark on country music.



Singer Tennessee Ernie Ford was born and raised in Bristol, Tennessee.

Staff Shoutouts

TO MY HOMEROOM: "I love each of you and am so proud of you. Continue to look for the good, believe in yourselves, and believe in each other. Also, there's no problem a bag of goldfish and some dum dums won't solve. **MAROON & WHITE SENIORS:** I'm so thankful for each of you. I leave you with one of my favorite quotes by Florida Scott Maxwell: "You need only claim the event of your life to make yourself yours. When you truly possess all you have been and done, which may take some time, you are fierce with reality."

Much love!!"-Mrs. Story

TO THE VIKING ACADEMY SENIORS: I am so proud of you and wish you the best of luck in your next steps in life. I believe in each of you!" -Mrs. Oakley

TO THE SCIENCE BOWL SENIORS: "Jeremiah, Grayson, and Ethan Webb -- Thanks for all your dedication and leadership in Science Bowl this year. We will miss you!" -Mr. Reece and Mrs. Bittinger

TO MY HOMEROOM: "I LOVE YOU with all my heart! You have and always will be near to me. We promised we would walk together and here it is! Now go DREAM, LIVE, GROW. And always be YOU!" -Ms. Bright

TO KENDALL AND BRIDGET: "You both have grown into such amazing young ladies! It has been great to see your leadership, service and smiles. Go do BIG THINGS! Love & miss you already"-Ms. Bright

TO SENIOR AG STUDENTS: "Thank you Senior Ag Students! Your enthusiasm and willingness to follow me into a new Ag pathway when many of you have already taken other classes with me is such a gift! You've made kicking off our THS Ag program and FFA Chapter such a phenomenal experience, not just for me, but for the underclassmen too! Thank you for trusting me and allowing me to be your teacher! I can't wait to have some of you back in a few years as guest speakers for my Ag classes!"-Mrs. Givney

Meet the 2023 Maroon & White Spring Staff

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"The Bearded One"



Shamas with the "Spirit Rock."

Tri-Cities Captured Our High School Highlights

By Callie Eckley and Caitlin Vining

"Eddie! Take a picture of us!" The words echo throughout the Stone Castle. The student section and varsity cheer team pose under the Friday Night Lights as Eddie Gray, creator of Tri-Cities Captured, snaps a photo. From football games to senior pictures, Eddie's photography skills are a staple in the Viking community.

Since middle school, photography has been a passion of Eddie's. He describes photography as "one of the very few things in this world that takes you away from everyday stress and relives special moments in your life."

He got his start at THS when he was given permission to take pictures at a football game his nephew was playing in. The pictures were well-received, so one thing led to another, and in 2008 Tri-Cities Captured was born. THS saw "[his] dedication and the positive impact that [his] work created" as

Eddie puts it, so they eventually had him take not only the action shots, but the team and individual sports pictures as well.

As a way to give back to THS, Eddie's alma mater, he supplies all the photos for the yearbook too. Eddie expressed that Viking Pride "just has a way of pulling you into the school;



Tri-Cities Captured's Eddie Gray in front of the Viking Keep.

there is nowhere else [he'd] rather be."

Eddie's favorite sport to shoot is football. "With 11 guys on the field, each having their own responsibility every play, I have the ability to get pictures fans in the stands won't be able to see otherwise," he said. You will always be able to spot Eddie roaming

around the football field with a camera in hand. Many families and fans buy these photos to frame in their homes or post their action shots to their social media accounts.

Eddie's pictures are still frames of unforgettable high school memories. He acknowledges that, "we all know we will get old and miss the days of growing up. Cherish every moment because life is too short for those who hurry through the years, but [he'll] have memories captured for you to look at in years to come." His time spent at THS has allowed him to form connections with students, athletes, coaches, and fans. He wants them to know, "All the memories [he has] captured are just as precious to [him] as they are to the recipient."

Eddie claims, "God gave me a gift with an eye for pictures that capture moments most people don't see," and we couldn't be luckier to have Eddie use that gift to support Tennessee High and our athletics.

Shamas: Viking for Life

By Caden Cartwright

Every time a football player scores a touchdown, a track star beats their personal record, or a baseball player hits a homerun, a familiar fan watches eagerly from the stands.

The locally famous Shamas Dougherty is undoubtedly THS's number one fan, and he has been for almost 60 years. Ever since his five siblings walked the halls as student athletes, Shamas has championed players.

Any coach, parent, or student athlete in Bristol knows Shamas. According to Shamas's sister, Ronan Dougherty King, "He knows players at all the local schools. I go out, and people come up to me saying 'my children go to Dobyns-Bennett, but we've seen Shamas at all the football games,' or asking 'hey Shamas, how are you?' Shamas even went to Kingsport and three of the women there had children at Dobyns-Bennett and knew him from basketball and football games."

And he knows them. If someone has played sports at THS, especially if they continue playing post-graduation, Shamas

remembers them. One day, someone stopped by Shamas and Ronan's house, and Shamas immediately questioned him,



Shamas Dougherty cheers on THS baseball team.

"What are you doing here? You're a Bearcat, you were number eight on the baseball team." The man hadn't worn his number eight jersey since he was 18 years old, around two decades prior. Another time, David Massengill—a former THS athlete, now singer-songwriter—stopped by Western Little League, where he had played baseball as a child. As he was getting out of his car, Shamas was walking past and hollered "Hey David, what are you doing home?" before realizing and commenting, "Oh, you're probably seeing your dad, I know he's sick."

Massengill hadn't been back to Bristol in 12 years and hadn't seen Shamas in 50 years.

In his youth, Shamas discovered his enthusiasm for watching sports through his siblings. However, due to his disability, he was not allowed to participate in organized sports. Additionally, there were no special education classes at the time, so Shamas was privately tutored. He was sometimes treated differently, but once he found his passion for athletics, he began to feel like a real part of the Viking community. Shamas supported the Vikings.

And the Vikings support Shamas. At basketball games, around his birthday in January, the cheerleaders give him a cake at halftime. At other games, Shamas is called out of the stands again for a group picture. At athletic banquets, teams have honored him with trophies. But one of the highest honors he received was in 2016 when the Stone Castle entrance was named and dedicated to "Tennessee High's Number One Fan: Shamas Dougherty."

Devon Mullins: Future First Generation Military Officer

By Hayden Arnett and Callie Eckley

Leadership, courage, and discipline make up the principles of ROTC. THS senior, Devon Mullins, holds these values true in his everyday life. Through academics and extracurriculars, Devon's high school experience in JROTC has given him the chance to "meet new people" and "grow his leadership skills," along with enhancing his physical fitness.

He credits JROTC for his ability to "get out of [his] comfort zone" and enabling him to run for student government during his sophomore year, when he successfully won Vice President. The program has presented him countless opportunities in a military career and college pathway.

When you enter high school, wellness and other physical education classes are required of you. However, JROTC is recognized as a gym credit, satisfying the graduation requirements. Devon decided this would be a perfect time to "try something new." And boy, was he right! Through this program he has flown planes and given presentations to the entire student body.

College is the next step for Devon, and he plans to further his education at ETSU. Majoring in psychology, he wants to learn how to keep a healthy mind and body. He will continue ROTC in college, eventually enlisting into the army as an officer. Devon will become a first generation military officer, making history for his family, dedicating his life to selflessly serving his country.



Braden Wilhoit: Utility Player On and Off the Field

By Avery Hommel

He is hardworking, he is talented, and he has grit. Braden Wilhoit has simultaneously pursued his talent in baseball and engineering. After playing baseball for 14 years, Braden made his dream come true on December 26, 2022, when he committed to Milligan University. He plans on double majoring in both mechanical engineering and business while also playing baseball in the spring.

Not only is Braden a good player but he is also a good teammate. Even after breaking his back at the beginning of the season, he continues to show up for his team and lead them in prayer before every game. His love for the game remains stronger than ever and he "is so grateful that he has been given the opportunity to play in college." While the change from high school to college is scary, he is glad to have his teammate; Andrew Dings, take this journey with him.

However, baseball is not Braden's only accomplishment. After hearing about Strongwell during work-based learning, he thought it would be a good way to "to gain experience in the engineering field." Braden has now been working at Strongwell for the past six months as a 3D designer and drafter. He currently works there five days a week during fourth period. He also plans to continue working there during and after college.

Through baseball, Braden has earned a college scholarship, but through his internship, Braden has earned the opportunity to build a future career at Strongwell.



THS Female Athletes to Play for the King Tornado

By Avery Hommel

This fall, King University will gain three amazing Tennessee High female athletes. McKinley Swift, Lilly Belcher, and Madison Blair have all committed to King for soccer, tennis, and volleyball, respectively. All three have had amazing accomplishments throughout their high school careers.

Soccer player McKinley Swift was one of Tennessee High's center backs and has been playing the sport for fifteen years. She signed to King on November 9th, 2022, and will be majoring in exercise science. McKinley has worked very hard to get this opportunity including playing travel soccer with Vitesse soccer club for over five years and going through an ankle surgery her sophomore year. She has also had some very cool accomplishments like "scoring a goal from the 35-yard line this past season" as well as traveling to Holland to play in a tournament this spring.

Lilly Belcher has been playing tennis for ten years and signed to King on February 1st, 2023. She is majoring in either psychology or neuroscience. Lilly plays both in doubles and singles and loves the bond she has created with her team. She plays everyday and loves feedback from her "coaches and parents." Lilly cherishes all the friendships tennis has given her and hopes to bring hard-work and energy to the King team.

Madison Blair, the outside

hitter for Tennessee High's volleyball team signed with King on April 12th, 2023, after playing for thirteen years. She will be majoring in nursing. Madison has played travel ball, school ball, and has taken lessons to get this opportunity. She has also had many major achievements during her time at Tennessee High including winning conference player of the year. Volleyball has given Madison memories like "playing with her younger sister, Ashton," this past year. It also gave her perspective on life when she was "able to watch a disabled friend get the opportunity to play giving her so much hope."

All three of these athletes have worked so hard to get to where they are now. Their dedication and fight for their sport does not go unrecognized. We are so proud of them for taking this next step.



Zoe Arrington's Next Step

By Shayla McCurry & Abby Morefield

If you've ever listened to the morning announcements the day after a THS track meet, you've probably heard Mrs. Kirk congratulating a certain senior for breaking yet another



school record: Zoe Arrington.

When Zoe was in elementary school, she hated running. Regardless, her parents put her in the Girls on the Run program. In high school, both of her parents were athletes and her father even played football in college. Despite her initial dislike for the sport, "one day it clicked," she said. From that moment on, she began to develop a passion for the sport. "Running has shaped me into who I am, and I've learned so many lessons from it," she said. You could say athleticism runs in her family!

Her love for running grew with each challenge presented to her: "The ceiling is so high with running and I want to see how I can push myself and what I can accomplish," she said.

She strives to keep improving, looking up to runners such as Deena Kastor, Emma Koburn, and Elle Perrier for inspiration. Zoe has younger runners looking up to her in the same way, including her younger sister.

With her incredible drive, Zoe has won numerous awards in cross country and track. She won State Champion for the 3200-meter race (2021), as well as State Champion in Cross Country (2022). She even holds all the distance records for THS in events such as the 200m, 800m, 1k, 5k, and more. In total, Zoe is one of the best runners THS has ever had!

Zoe plans to continue her career in college by running for Kennesaw State this fall. She would like to study physical or occupational therapy—aiming to work with "like-minded" athletes—and eventually run for a professional team.

For many years to come, Zoe Arrington's legacy on THS and the sport as a whole will continue to be remembered.



Webb Triplets Go Solo

By Anna Grace Hodges

Ask anyone in the student body about a stand-out senior, and they will have not one, not two, but three answers. From their celebrated academic excellence in mathematics and science, to gracing our fields and stages as the strongest members of the brass section in the Mighty Viking Band, triplets Ethan, Grayson, and Jeremiah Webb have each made names for themselves.

Despite the brothers being very close, they have chosen to go their own way for college. In the fall, Ethan and Jeremiah will attend Vanderbilt University, majoring in Music Performance and Computer Science, respectively, while Grayson will major in Biomedical Engineering at Duke University.

The youngest triplet, Ethan, is known for his quiet, yet kind demeanor. When looking for a college, he wanted a “good music program” that wasn’t “ten hours away.” Ethan “want[s] to travel a lot,” and hopes to be a part of musical or orchestral productions in the future.

Jeremiah’s criteria for college was also for it to be “somewhere in a city,” because he wanted to “[have] a great time and experience something new.” He chose to major in computer science, because he has been so engaged in it that he has “lost track of time.” He noted that “coding for me is like music for Ethan.”



Pictured left to right: Ethan Webb, Grayson Webb, and Jeremiah Webb.

When touring colleges, Grayson had an open mind—the only criteria being that it wasn’t too far north—but when he visited Duke’s campus in particular, something stuck out to him. “People weren’t on their phones, they were actually talking to each other,” which is something he believes is “rarely seen today.” Something that also caught his eye was their jazz and marching

band programs and their prestigious engineering program. When making his decision, he decided that “it just seemed perfect for [him].”

Going to college is a scary experience in general, especially when you won’t be with your brothers. Grayson says that it will “be hard knowing they are together without [him] there,” because “they’ll be hanging out and having rallies without

[him].” And even though Ethan and Jeremiah will be at the same location, they will be at different schools within the university.

Perhaps, you’ll see one of the three brothers on stage at the Grammys, running the next big software company in Silicon Valley, or winning a Nobel Prize for finding a cure to cancer. Just remember that they were once Vikings just like you!

It’s a Match! Claire Hankins Pairs with Davidson

By Joan Weddington

Touring colleges—as Claire Hankins’ counselor, Mrs. Slagle, advised—is going to feel “like you’re shopping for a wedding dress. When you’re there, you will just know that it is the one.”

That’s exactly how it felt, as Claire Hankins confessed, “Davidson was that college for me.” It only took

a few minutes before she turned to her parents and said, “this was the one.” One of the main reasons being Davidson’s “close-knit community” that many small liberal art schools possess. Another being very strong programs provided at Davidson like psychology and music. Claire excitedly begins her freshman year this fall, backed by a full-ride scholarship provided by the QuestBridge

organization.

QuestBridge is a non-profit organization that supports high-achieving, low-income students through financially supported admission to one of 45 college partners. Students, after completing a lengthy application process featuring two essays and multiple short-answer questions, go through two stages of QuestBridge’s acceptance process.

Of over 17,900 applicants, 5,613 finalists are selected to have their applications sent to the colleges featured on a list of 15, organized highest to lowest in preference. The partner colleges review the application and send their results back to QuestBridge. If accepted, the student is then matched with the college that is highest on their list and binded by contract to attend the school. Claire was one of 1,755 finalists matched with a college, Davidson being her first-choice selection.

“When my mom first heard about it, she said that we should try it, but that it was definitely too good to be true,” recollected Claire.

“I remember not looking at the match results until I got home. When I logged in, I saw a big golden trophy, and under that were the words ‘Congratulations!’ All I can remember is that [my family and I] were screaming.”

Even through all the excitement over her scholarship and starting college away from home, the nerves are not getting to Claire. “I’m 100% ready for college,” affirms Claire.

Claire has been a dedicated member of the choir and theatre programs during her four years at THS and can’t wait to continue them at Davidson. She states that her passion comes from music being a “powerful thing,” adding that “it’s life changing.” Her favorite moments are when she’s standing on stage with all of her favorite people after working for months on one thing, and “it finally comes together perfectly.”

Claire dedicates a special thanks to choir teacher Mr. Whitson for offering great advice, helping her come out of her shell through self-expression, and opening her up to a multitude of different and unique opinions and points of view. On and off the stage, Claire will continue to shine through her extraordinary talents.



Claire Hankins earned a full scholarship to Davidson through QuestBridge.

Voyage to Culinary Mastery

By Kaylee Staton

Food and Elden Ring enthusiast Bastian Meehan-Presnell's plans to pursue a career in culinary arts.

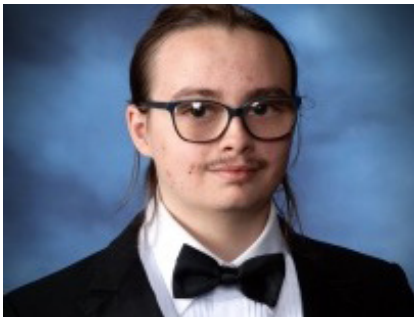
His interest in becoming a chef began for simple reasons: "I like food," he said. "That is the most serious answer I can give anyone. I love food and if I can make good food for myself, then I am happy."

Bastian credits his father, who raised him to not be a picky eater and try new things, as an inspiration. Additionally, he credits chef heroes such as Gordon Ramsay, as well as several YouTubers, as being his primary resources when learning new recipes.

This fall, he will begin the journey towards getting his culinary arts degree at Walter State Community College. Bastian expressed interest in joining tabletop and video gaming clubs. He also has plans to become certified in butchering later in his education.

Bastian reflects on high school saying, "School is about learning of course, but I think what they are mainly trying to tell or teach people is patience and work ethic."

As he leaves behind Tennessee High and joins the workforce, this fresh perspective will hopefully assist him in meeting his goals of preparing great food.



Sophia Rehim: Our Viking in Europe

By Ryan Bunning

Prague: The City of a Hundred Spires, TimeOut's "most beautiful city," and the future home of Tennessee High's own Sophia Rehim. Connecticut-born, Tennessee-raised, and Czechia-bound, Sophia will be attending the Anglo-American University of Prague where she will major in humanities, society, and culture.

From a young age Sophia has traveled the world, whether it be for leisure or to visit family in Morocco or Egypt. With this in mind, it's only natural that she would divert from the typical college path and instead study abroad in Europe.

As early as the 7th grade Sophia dreamed of attending university in Europe, and now those dreams have been realized. After applying to schools in Ireland, Italy, the Czech Republic, and Germany, it

was the Czech option she settled on. Anglo-American University of Prague is an American institution offering both American and Czech accredited degrees; Sophia hopes to get both, opening a pathway for remaining in the European Union.

Depending on her plans after the three-year college program is over, Sophia may even apply for citizenship. As for her humanities, society, and culture major, it is the university's option that includes English literature, her preferred field of study. Following her graduation, Sophia plans on pursuing a master's degree, but does not yet know if that will be in Europe or North America.

Bristol may be a world away from Prague, but we are sure that Sophia has the experience and ambition to enjoy the realization of her long-anticipated dream to study in Europe.

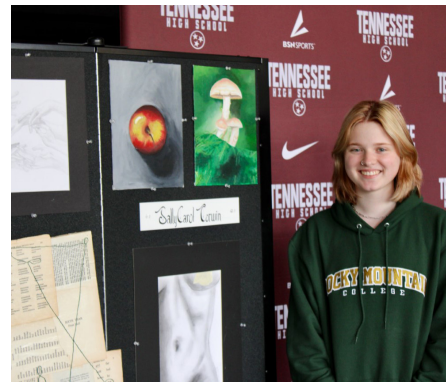


SallyCarol Sketches Her Future

By Shayla Mccury

Growing up, SallyCarol Corwin was surrounded by art. Her mom was an art teacher and hung her own paintings around the house. Her mother's passion for art encouraged SallyCarol to follow in her footsteps.

This inspiration grew SallyCarol's love for art through elementary school. In high school, she was able to dedicate more time to art and she "started really enjoying [it]." From there, she was able to try out different methods while also "[forming] [her own] art style." Now, as a senior, SallyCarol's main medium is pencil and charcoal, creating figure



drawings and painting still-life pieces.

Being able to express herself through a single piece of paper has motivated her through "tough times." She credits the Tennessee High

community for helping her form many friendships. "Art has helped me through difficult times in my life and has given me a community where it's normal to share and discuss emotional topics."

Although she doesn't plan on continuing art as a career—instead pursuing environmental science as her college major at Rocky Mountain College in Montana—she is still considering minoring in art. Throughout the rest of SallyCarol's life, she will always value how art has helped her "feel free and accomplished."

Saying Goodbye to Patty Feathers and Leslie Skeens

By Caitlin Vining

For three decades, Patty Feathers has held many titles within the BTCS system. For twenty-seven of those years, she held the title of Administrative Assistant for the athletic department and the Arby's Classic. A fitting title for someone who loves sports.

During her time here, Mrs. Feathers has been caught up in plenty of busy days, but it's all worth it to experience "the fun times, pranks, jokes, with her Viking family."

Even though Mrs. Feathers is retiring, she won't miss a game because she "still plans on being at everything [she] can."

She looks back on some of her favorite memories, many being when she was keeping the boys basketball team statistics. Mrs. Feathers had the opportunity to travel to Canada and the Bahamas, but her favorite trip was when the team traveled to Italy for a summer tournament in 2003.

Mrs. Feathers would like to

thank all of the coaches and secretaries she has worked with over the years. She loves "getting to know [students], watching the athletes excel in their sports, and following their academic and athletic careers after leaving THS."

Patty Feathers leaves us with a final message saying, "Be kind and love everybody and don't be so quick to judge someone," signing out with a final "Go Vikings!"



Patty Feathers in 1994

Leslie Skeens has been a familiar friendly face throughout the halls of Tennessee High School for twenty-two years now. As a caring guidance counselor, Mrs. Skeens has impacted the Viking family by putting students first. Mrs. Skeens took this position because she "likes working with young people [because] they are so much fun!" She "[hopes] each and every one of them finds their passion and has a life filled with joy."

Mrs. Skeens' heart continues to go out to "students who struggle with life and school" and she expresses concern by lending a listening ear.

"Working with the students" has been the most gratifying part of working at Tennessee High "and the staff at THS has always been the most kind and caring bunch of people [she] could [have] ever [hoped] to work with." She is going to miss helping others but many know that her want to help others will never diminish.

Mrs. Skeens is also retiring the

same year her granddaughter, Piper Booher, is graduating. Mrs. Skeens says that Piper "is definitely the highlight of [her] life! [She] is so proud of her!" Piper can not wait to "hang out with her after she retires, and to play guitar and paint things with her." She is so glad to have.



Leslie Skeens in 2002

Mrs. Skeens not only as a counselor but a grandmother, and is "so happy to have her in [her] life." Mrs. Skeens wishes to part with Tennessee High's principal, Mrs. Kirk, words to "be kind to each other, we all need kindness."

“We’re outta here!”

Ainsley Burke: “peepee poopoo”

Alfredo Quintero: “Sometimes life is too uncertain to have regrets.”

Alli Jones: “Don’t shine so others can see you. Shine so that through you, others can see Jesus.” - C.S. Lewis

Alyssa Almaroud: “I want to thank Google, Wikipedia, and whoever invented copy and paste. Thank you.”

Amaya Fallen: “Finally going Black Friday shopping.”

Andrea Cella: “Don’t just enjoy the destination, enjoy the journey.”

Alex Prim: “You’re on your own kid, you always have been” -T.S

Aubrianna Peters: “Always be yourself no matter what.”

Brady Stringer: “Of course I dress well, I didn’t spend all that time in the closet for nothing.”

Brandon Wise: “Enjoy it while you can, because it won’t last forever.”

Cheyenne Trujillo: “This was nothing like High School Musical!”

Chris Wilson: “I am thankful for my struggles. For without them I never would have discovered my strength.”

Claire Hankins: “Love wins”

Cooper Conely: “WHAT CAN I SAY EXCEPT YOU’RE WELCOME.”

Desiree Siggy: “A person hates most in others, that which they hate most in themselves.”

Destiny Roberts: “Cheers to all my haters! Be patient. So much more is coming.” — Paris Hilton

Eli Ware: “Never memorize something that you can look up. -Albert Einstein”

Emily Vain: “If You Want the Rainbow, You Gotta Put Up With the Rain.” -Dolly Parton

Emmy Phillips: “I know you think you won’t miss it, trust me, you will.”

Esi Quinones: “If every pork chop were perfect, we wouldn’t have hotdogs.” - Steven Universe

Faith Vance: “Find someone who grows flowers in the darkest parts of you” - Zach Bryan

Gracie Peters: “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!”

Gio LaClair: “The sun will always

shine through.”

Henry Davis: “Your compassion is a weakness your enemies will not share.” -Batman

Jadie Phillips: “And this section of the THS yearbook is sponsored by BetterHelp.”

Jamie Gross: “It’s official, too cool for school.”

Jaylin Teague: “Since the heart feels pain so easily, some believe that life is pain.”

Jeremiah Webb: “I’m smart enough to know that I’m dumb.” -Richard Feynman

Jordan Surber: “Weeds are flowers too once you get to know them.”

Josh Barr: “The LORD bless you, and keep you; The LORD makes his face shine on you, and be gracious to you; The LORD turn his face toward you, and give you peace.” -Numbers 6:24-26

Josh Wilcox: “All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us”(j.r.r. Tolkien)

Justin Regules-Lopez: “Why fall in love when you can fall asleep.”

Kasey Hagerman: “No matter where life takes me, you’ll find me with a smile”

Kat Staton: “I reject your reality, and substitute my own!”

Katelyn Hutchinson: “Just keep swimming” -Dory

Katelyn Vestal: “I’ve been so zoned out, tryna figure out what’s next.”

Kayla Penny: “I’m going to Taco Bell after this.”

Kira McNutt: “Where there is love we must live on, and where there is not love we must provide it.” - Josh Kiszka

Layne Richardson: “Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a great battle.”

Luke Childress: “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” -Mark 16:15

Liah Williams: “I choose aggression today.”

Maddie Ramey: “I came. I cheered. I decided to cut hair.”

Mallory Kimerer: “They say good things take time... that’s why I’m

always late.”

Marae Herrmann: “Mistakes are a part of the journey, just don’t let them sit in the front seat.” -NF

MK Leonard: “Dedicate your heart.”

Natili Jackson: “It does not do well to dwell on dreams and forget to live.” Albus Dumbledore

Nick Osborne: “No matter where life takes me, find me with a smile.” – Mac Miller

Noah Dotson: “If common sense was gasoline, y’all wouldn’t have enough to run an ants go cart around a cheerio.”

Octavius Hall: “ Yeah, but if you’re not doing what everyone is doing then you’re going to be misunderstood. People are going to wonder why you’re trying to be different; it’s just a natural instinct” - Kid Cudi

Peter Paulson: “I’m not a kid in band, I’m THE band kid.”

Ralph Baldwin: “To the ones above me, I have the power now.”

Shania Marshall: “If you always put limits on everything you do, physical or anything else, it will spread into your work and into your life. There are no limits. There are only plateaus, and you must not stay there, you must go beyond them.”

Shaylee Pullon: “Sorry for being late, I was enjoying my last few minutes of not being here.”

Sophia Rehim: “If you’re not laughing, you’re not living.”

Stephen Hicks: “Sometimes I look around, and think to myself: “Sigmund Freud would’ve loved this place”

Steven Leonard: “Made mistakes, but that’s what life is about. My mistakes lead me to a better route.”- Juice Wrld

Sydney Cunningham: “It was the end of a decade, but the start of an age.” - Taylor Swift

Theo Lawhorn: “Forever trust in who you are and nothing else matters”- Metallica

Trey Trivett: “Life goes on.”

Tyler Lingerfelt: “Rebel Born Rebel Bred When I Die I’ll Be Rebel Dead” Will Broadfoot: “It’s easier to stay out of trouble than get out of trouble” - Mark Twain

Will Parker: “Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt” -Herbert Hoover

Zack Burke: “Vescere braxis meis!”

Grayson Webb: “Better is chicken with a happy heart than lobster with vexation”

Brianna Lasher-Osorto: “Life is soup. I am a fork.”

Maddie Bowen: “I was here for 1 year and I made the best memories imaginable. Do not take your high school years for granted.”

Raina Moody: “Today is the day your life begins!” -Tangled

Ava White: “High School was hard, but not as hard as holding the flashlight for my dad...”

Caitlin Sackett: “Iced matcha and chai teas are the reason I didn’t fail”

Anna Shelley: “There is nothing more truly artistic than to love people” - Van Gogh

Skye Myers: “When you focus on the good, the good gets better.”

Dyson Holcomb: “Not all people you know are worth knowing.”

Kade Wilcox: “I spent 16,380 hours of my life in order to get a piece of paper and a handshake.”

Wyatt Rush: “Seizing the moment”

Hadassah McDonald: “Debbie cakes got me through it”

Adamaris Rodriguez: “Life hits hard pero la chancla golpea más fuerte amigos.”

Braden Waldorf: “Be still and know that I am God” -Psalms 46:10

Roque Ochoa: “Sometimes, it not be like it do, but it is.”

Grace Mickelson: “Did anyone see that? Because I will NOT be doing that again!” -Captain Jack Sparrow

Piper Booher: “And a cha! Cha! Cha!” -Aunt Grace Dishner

Hannah Plumber: “welp... that was one heck of a roller coaster ride for a piece of paper”

Maddie Smith: “Why do trees poop? How else would we get Number 2 pencils.”

Creed Musick: “I don’t know what the future holds but I know who holds the future.”

Ella Tilley: “Worry about nothing, pray about everything.”

Kira Adams opens a bakery selling gourmet blueberry muffins that rival Blackbird's.

Gianna Aiello-Williams is recruited by the Marine Marching Band for her impeccable marching technique.

Shelby Alexander pioneers avant-garde "Alexander approach" for teaching children.

Brian Alley elopes with Nathaniel Morefield.

Alyssa Almaroud takes up pottery.

Caleb Amos hosts car meets at the local Bristol Racetrack.

Steven Anderson founds Jack Elk Lawn and Garden Equipment.

William Anderson becomes the next James Bond.

Quentin Arnold finds his knack for trimming Bonzai trees.

Zoe Arrington becomes the fastest person to run through every country.

Dominic Baker joins the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Ralph Baldwin funds the opening of multiple Big Lots in the Tri-State Area.

Lori Barb pioneers a new roadhouse-type dining experience.

Gerardo Barba-Smith wins the award for most concussions in NFL history.

Joshua Barr becomes the next cup stacking world champion.

Aiden Beard studies U.S. History and moves to Gettysburg to give historic lectures.

Evan Bedwell coaches football at the University of Pikeville.

Natalie Beheler travels to New York to join a Broadway production.

Lillian Belcher partners with LuluLemon to create a tennis line.

Robert Belcher plays Aang in the live action Avatar series.

Matthew Beres disappears into the Alaskan wilderness.

Hayden Beverly becomes a music producer for Justin Bieber.

Blake Biggs breaks the world record for singing the lowest note heard by human ears.

Madison Blair becomes an ambassador for Lululemon.

Elijah Blake gets an MDPH and opens the first hospital on the moon.

Jordan Bobbitt becomes a successful welder and artist whose metal sculptures are featured worldwide.

Piper Booher trademarks "Yippee" immediately after graduation.

Robert Booher becomes a heavyweight champion.

Anna Boyles works at a children's hospital doing dance therapy.

William Broadfoot becomes the tallest Team USA mens' volleyball player.

Justin Brown hosts truck community meetups at the racetrack.

Owen Brown becomes a running back for the Tennessee Vols.

Trevor Buchanan creates the first football league for fish.

Ainsley Burke becomes the world's largest "Live, Laugh, Love" merchandise provider.

Zachary Burke travels the country to hike nature trails and take beautiful photos.

Emma Byrd gets to watch the premiere of Jujutstu Kaisen's second movie live.

Madison Callahan becomes the CEO of YoungLife.

Honey Chapman becomes an ambassador for required nap times during school days.

Nicholas Chapman starts a rock band and goes on a world tour.

Luke Childress becomes the first person in modern history to run across the land bridge.

Tanner Clark drives racecars for Nascar.

Diana Cobian Murillo becomes a professional moderator.

Abigail Cochran becomes a real estate agent who specializes in revitalizing roller skating rinks.

Sydney Collier wins the Womens' Masters.

Carter Collins wins the world's best mullet annual competition.

Ethan Compton starts a tech company.

Cooper Conley bowls a perfect 300 at the World Championships.

McKayla Cordle goes on America's Got Talent.

SallyCarol Corwin starts a goat farm and names the goats Popcorn, Hozier, and Montana.

Shelby Cosner creates a new Dr. Pepper flavor.

Chloe Cox joins the US olympic women's rugby team.

Kendall Cross becomes the next star of the WNBA.

Kylee Cross becomes an Instagram influencer.

Xanaryia Crouse joins Sting's band The Police as a kazoo player.

Sydney Cunningham begins an operatic oratory contest.

Miles Davis composes the best jazz of 21st century.

Neal Davis runs the pit crew for a Nascar driver who drives a Chevrolet.

Austin DeGeare plays in the NFL and the Mens' US soccer team at the same time.

Ethan Devonish goes on America's Got Talent as a ukulelist.

Andrew Dingus wins in the MLB and then later comes back to manage a team.

Ayden Dotson wins a 2023 Porsche 911, which he drives with pride for the rest of his life.

Noah Doston becomes an army general at the age of 20.

Peter Dotterweich starts his own successful miniature train company.

Brandon Dufore runs for president and appoints the basketball team as members of the cabinet.

Brenndan Duty becomes a highly regarded vinyl record producer.

Easton Eads testifies on Capitol Hill against Saul Goodman.

Jackson Elliott becomes a financial advisor for the Tennessee Vols.

Katherine Ellis becomes a band director for a rival school, facing off each year against David Semones.

Seth Emerine becomes the notorious white hat hacker "the Zoof."

Yancy Fair opens a Java Juice House location.

Alex Falin becomes a world-renowned surfer.

Amaya Fallen joins a band and travels the country.

Andrew Feltner reenacts the entire Spanish-American War.

Aiden Fennell finds success in the WWE and returns to THS as the first celebrity host of Brawl in the Hall.

Rylee Fields creates and runs a softball program.

Shaylee Fields invents 4D cinema.

Bridget Flaherty leads the Team USA soccer team to an actual victory in the World Cup.

Maddox Fritts joins the Harlem Globetrotters.

Elizabeth Fritts gets officially recognized by the United Nations for having the world's cutest cat.

Dani Glass plays the principal flute in the New York Philharmonic.

Makinzi Goforth becomes the princess of Genovia.

Kaelyn Goins becomes a co-owner of Lululemon and everyone's favorite eye doctor.

Marisol Gonzales draws a fantastical comic series about "Stargirl."

Breanna Goodman becomes a chess and musical savant.

Aaron Gragg disappears into the woods, becoming an Appalachian Pied Piper-esque legend.

Joseph Green becomes Governor of Nebraska, pushing for agrarian land reform in the state.

Marcelo Green founds his own mechanical parts empire, becoming the wealthiest mechanic ever.

Christian Greene becomes top ranking member of Coast Guard.

James Gross Jr becomes a world champion fencer.

Kasey Hagerman plays volleyball in the 2032 Winter Olympics.

Octavius Hall trademarks the red bowtie. **Claire Hankins** wins the National Oratory Contest in 2042, using the prize money to fund her doctorate program.

Drayden Harlan goes on a true crime podcast.

Gavin Hatley goes pro in pool while using Taco Bell as his secret weapon.

Paige Helms becomes a dietitian for kids with gluten allergies.

Brantley Henard uses jiu jitsu moves on the creator of gluten foods.

Rylan Henard wins a world record for walking on his hand.

Marae Hermann subdues a criminal by hitting them in the head with a volleyball.

Stephen Hicks successfully climbs Mount Everest and lives to tell the tale.

Lindsey Hill debates an AI impersonator of Andrew Jackson.

Dyson Holcomb becomes a travel vacuum salesman.

Allyson Hollen continues taking care of Grayson Swaggerty and Paul Letson.

Shawn Holt drives a heavily modified **Suzuki Hayabusa Turbo** at a drag race, completing the 1/4 mile in less than 9 seconds.

Ty Hopson gets two knee replacements by the age of twenty.

Jazmin Huff decorates cakes at Food City bakery.

Belle Humphrey runs off and joins the circus a tightrope walker.

Emily Hunt wins the title of #1 Harry Styles Superfan and is given free tickets for life.

Katelyn Hutchinson opens a pet styling agency alongside her cat, Brittany.

Natili Jackson plays in a loud 70's style rock band.

Brandon Jenkins becomes a train conductor.

Marley Johns starts a volleyball academy that inspires young girls for years to come.

Landon Johnson wins an olympic gold medal in curling.

Tyler Johnson develops a clothing line.

Alexander Jones gets multiple tickets for parking at a 45 degree angle in a highschool lot.

Allison Jones retires early and moves to a beach house in Florida.

Brenton Justice forever carries around

the Brent repellent spray Mrs. Davis used on him.

Logan Kent starts a gourmet popcorn business.

Carter Kinch begins a pharmaceutical company.

Refugio LaClair becomes a computer scientist working for the space force.

Payne Ladd becomes a hitting coach for the New York Yankees.

Brianna Lasher-Osorto travels to Reykjavik.

Theo Lawhorn starts an anime commentary channel on YouTube, which garners a successful following.

Brayden Leonard starts a Youtube series recreating anime foods.

Makayla Leonard starts a nation-wide protest organization called "Anti-Service Dogs", advocating for pet kindness.

Stevenson Leonard joins the FBI.

Madison Lethco becomes a photocard collector influencer.

Tyler Lingerfelt wins one billion dollars in the Powerball and is never seen again.

Alex Mallette is declared nocturnal by top scientists.

Ernest Mann becomes a nurse practitioner.

Payton Marion realizes identity as true heir of Marion, VA.

Leonel Marquez Jr starts a successful podcast.

Shania Marshall starts an online platform for motivational speech, and travels the world spreading her message.

Hadassah McDonald grows a humongous garden and fills her house with cute antiques.

Kira McNutt discovers the biggest lavender quartz geode ever recorded.

Bastian Meehan-Presnel creates a monopoly on his new sandwich called "The Sushi Burger".

Melanie Mendoza-Vilatoro becomes a professional makeup artist.

Bradley Mendrzycki opens his own auto-body shop.

Gunnar Meyer opens his own five star restaurant.

Grace Mickelson opens a veterinary hospital.

Edward Montgomery opens a five star hotel in Nashville rivalling the Gaylord.

Raina Moody becomes TikTok famous.

Nathaniel Morefield elopes with Brian Alley.

Jonathan Morgan develops vexillological technology for mass production of American flags.

Devon Mullins guards the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C.

Creed Musick scores 1000 points in the NBA.

Evan Mutter becomes a famous baseball player while playing for the Carson-Newmann Eagles.

Marquis Phelps starts a successful business in Bristol.

Skye Myers stars on the Disney Channel and begins a career as a pop star, reaching the Top 100 Billboard.

Braden Nab becomes a dolphin.

Roque Ochoa opens a Koolickle factory.

Nickolas Osborne is scouted during a Viking football game.

Camden Ownby inherits Tanger Outlets. **Kiley Palumbo** becomes a kindergarten teacher.

William Parker becomes a composer for music used in popular films, rising to fame after composing the main theme for the 64th ever Star Wars prequel.

Peter Paulson opens a secret cult of Tennessee High Band Percussion Alumni in which he resides in his signature trash can and is called "The Wise One".

Adam Peel founds a T-shirt company that exclusively prints corny.

Kayla Penny sings the National Anthem at the inauguration of President Will Smith.

Wesley Perkins becomes the first person to read through the Library of Congress in its entirety.

Aubrianna Peters wins an award for nursing Ryan Renyolds back to health.

Breauna Peters becomes a well known gospel singer.

Gracie Peters becomes a big game hunter in Alaska.

Olivia Peters takes up a side gig at Disneyland.

Marquis Phelps finally gets his Bojangles sponsorship.

Connor Phillips opens a business selling tinfoil hats.

Emilie Phillips goes on MasterChef and wins.

Jadyn Phillips gets to shake hands with the front man of Arctic Monkeys.

Keith Phipps becomes the Grand Master in chess.

Teresa Pickle comes back to THS to help coach the THS Firecracker Squad.

Peyton Pierce opens a tattoo shop.

Hannah Plumber dominates the National Women's Soccer League and models for Nike.

Bralyn Price becomes the pitcher for the Chicago Cubs.

Briley Price becomes a rockette in New York City.

Isabella Prim opens an art booth in Asheville.

Chelsea Proffitt takes pictures all over the world to open her own photography business.

Shaylee Pullon learns the value of time-management.

Denise Quinones creates a morbid comic featuring cryptids.

Alfredo Quintero finds all 7

Dragonballs.

Roger Rakes has a stand up special with Iggy Iglesias.

Madalen Ramey judges the Worlds cheerleading competition.

Conner Reed starts a successful cologne company.

Justin Regules-Lopez becomes a leading computer scientist.

Sophia Rehim becomes the best English teacher in Czechia.

Ryan Reno becomes national guard sergeant first class.

Jenna Rice opens a surf shop in Long Beach, California.

Layne Richardson introduces Taylor Swift to Trailblazer's Coffee.

Destiny Roberts goes on to coach high school cheerleading.

Cody Robinson starts and referees his very own international disc golf championship.

Adamaris Rodriguez-Portilla leads climate change reversion, repairing the ozone layer.

Darian Roller becomes a stock broker on Wall Street.

Nyruan Romans reaches colonel in the United States Army.

Chandler Romans is recruited to the University of Alabama to become a sports influencer.

Nathan Rosenbalm opens a business selling Supreme merchandise.

Ryan Ross finds success in casual streaming Valorant gameplay with friends, and is offered a job by Riot Games to draw concept art.

Caroline Roy becomes the librarian in Library of Congress.

Wyatt Rush becomes the first male Real Housewife of Beverly Hills.

Taylor Ryan opens her own auto body shop repairing old Ford trucks.

Caitlin Sackett becomes a self help celebrity with a cult fanbase.

Alexis Sandefur wins her season of So You Think You Can Dance.

Kingston Sanders is recruited by X-Factor to join the next big boy band.

Lydia Sharrow models luxury cheer uniforms.

Anna Shelley goes on to star in Mean Girls on Broadway.

Alice Shi becomes head of the Green Party.

Desiree Sigvaldsen runs an instagram

meme account with five million followers.

Ford Sikorski becomes commissioner of the National Lacrosse League.

Maddy Smith becomes the president of the USA, making her the first viking in the white house.

Kat Staton becomes a journalist writing for the New York Times.

Matthew Stone resurrects Mark Twain to co-write one more novel.

Brady Stringer opens a travel agency that enables him to spend at least a month a year at the beach.

Isabelle Stubblefield starts a volleyball club with friends, but soon becomes a successful business owner after earning local support.

Jordan Surber becomes the first person to bat a softball into orbit.

Cherish Swift becomes a special ed travel teacher to help kids all over the world.

Caleb Tallent battles his twin for ownership of their shared embryo.

Matthew Tallent is absorbed by his twin post-womb.

Dominic Teague compiles fantastical retro gaming collector's items.

William Theall starts a popular tutorial channel on Youtube.

Katelyn Thomas becomes a hair stylist.

Dalton Thorpe becomes the undefeated chess boxing champion only to lose to an AI in Reykjavik.

Ella Tilley becomes the next Colleen Hoover and lives her best life.

Jonathan Trivett grows his hair out and becomes a successful singer-songwriter.

William Trivett becomes the next host of Wheel of Fortune.

Cheyenne Trujillo succeeds Mrs. Sutherland teaching ACT prep, and plays the fiddle in the hallways between class periods.

Logan Tudor teaches high school Algebra and coaches a winning baseball season.

Emily Vain creates a hamster-themed therapy office/enrichment center.

Faith Vance becomes Miss Tennessee and works a 30-year career as the weatherwoman on WCYB.

Katelyn Vestal settles down and opens a successful accounting firm after a

short burst of TikTok fame.

Rachel Wade follows in her grandfather's footsteps and becomes an excellent college professor.

Skylar Walden becomes an auto mechanic and gets to work on and drive McLarens for the rest of his life.

Braden Waldorf designs a bridge to rival the Golden Gate Bridge before happily settling into family life.

Haley Wampler becomes a well-loved pediatric nurse who collects the coolest stickers to give kids after their office visit.

Eli Ware coaches youth soccer and opens an online business selling LED lights.

Tyleah Waters moves to Virginia, rehabilitates stray animals, and writes a book of poetry that defines a generation.

Ethan Webb becomes a well-loved college band director who also happens to dominate in competitive cornhole.

Grasyon Webb wins a Nobel Prize for diagnostic medicine. He also wins a Grammy.

Jeremiah Webb becomes a software developer who donates a significant endowment to the THS Science Bowl.

Ava White directs sold-out performances at Theater Bristol; at 71, she runs the Boston Marathon.

Kade Wilcox becomes a real-estate mogul and part-time private investigator.

Joshua Wilcox acquires the coveted Magic the Gathering card Black Lotus.

James Wilhoit plays in the MLB while also creating his own mechanical engineering business.

Allison Williams becomes a full time model for American Eagle.

Liah Williams becomes Secretary of Defense.

Christian Wilson joins the Secret Service and becomes the personal bodyguard for the first woman president.

Leah Wilson works at Six Flags.

Brandon Wise changes his middle name to "the" and becomes a fortune teller, setting up at state fairs nationwide.

Ashley Worley moves away to work at Seaworld.

Staff Shoutouts Continued

TO MY THEATRE ARTS SENIORS: "Go out and spread kindness wherever you may go. Never give up on your dreams, and always remember that you have people on your team even when it feels like you don't. Remember this quote by Salvador Dali when you're feeling a little lost: 'a true artist is not one who is inspired, but one who inspires others.' Love always." **-Mrs. Davis**

TO MY HOMEROOM: "You made it! I am forever thankful to have been part of the journey. Each of you is so special, and I know you will do great things. I hope you always remember that I love you!" **TO MY**

YEARBOOKERS: "Thank you for giving me your best every day and for the incredible memories. Each of you has been such a wonderful addition to my life. I know the future is bright, and I can't wait to see what you do. All my love goes with you!" **-Mrs. Vickers**

TO MY HOMEROOM: "To: Marquis, Nick O., Bralyn, Nick C., Alex, Joseph, Jackson, Marley, Anna, Abby, and Eli - thanks for making 4th period one to remember! Where's Bralyn? Has anyone seen Bralyn???? To: Adamaris, Ralph, Natalie, Emily, Chloe, and McKayla - y'all are rock stars!!!! To the rest of the seniors I've taught or interacted with through the

years - I am so proud of all of you! Now, go out into the world and do BIG things!!!" **-Mrs. English**

TO SENIORS: "Find your joy and have a wonderful life!!!" **-Mrs. Skeens**

TO MY HOMEROOM: "Thank you for being the best and most diverse homeroom. I will always remember you. Best of luck, and I hope you don't need a swear jar at your future location." **-Mrs. Bittering**

TO MR. MORELOCK'S EDUCATION CLASS: "I want to thank you for letting me come and

visit you from time to time. Your laughs, your smiles and your attitudes (even with dealing with Mr. Cross) always made my day and cheered me up. Little things matter, and just talking with you mattered a lot." **-Mr. John Greer**

TO SENIORS: "A good life is when you smile often, dream big, laugh a lot, and realize how blessed you are. Please live your best life!" **-Ms. Penley**

TO THE CLASS OF 2023: "Congratulations Class of '23!!! Go Get 'em!!!" **-Coach Chandler**

When Homeroom Becomes Family

By Hayden Arnett and Anna Grace Hodges

Homeroom is more than just four years of strongly encouraging students to finish personal finance, four years of building relationships during Covid-19, or four years of toeing the line between teacher and parent. Our homeroom teachers help us navigate high school, eventually sending us off into the world, and they pour their heart into doing it. Not only have our homeroom teachers impacted our lives, we've impacted theirs.

Senior homeroom teacher Mrs. Bittinger has formed fond memories that she'll "always remember." One that she laughs while remembering is from their freshman year. "I brought my daughter to school because she had Kindergarten orientation. She had Lucky Charms, and one student asked if he could have some. He ate all the marshmallows out of the cereal, but she was unbothered," she said.

Mrs. Hartsoe's favorite homeroom memory was prior to her maternity leave their freshman year. She recalls that "[her] homeroom kids tried to name [her] baby by making a list on the board."

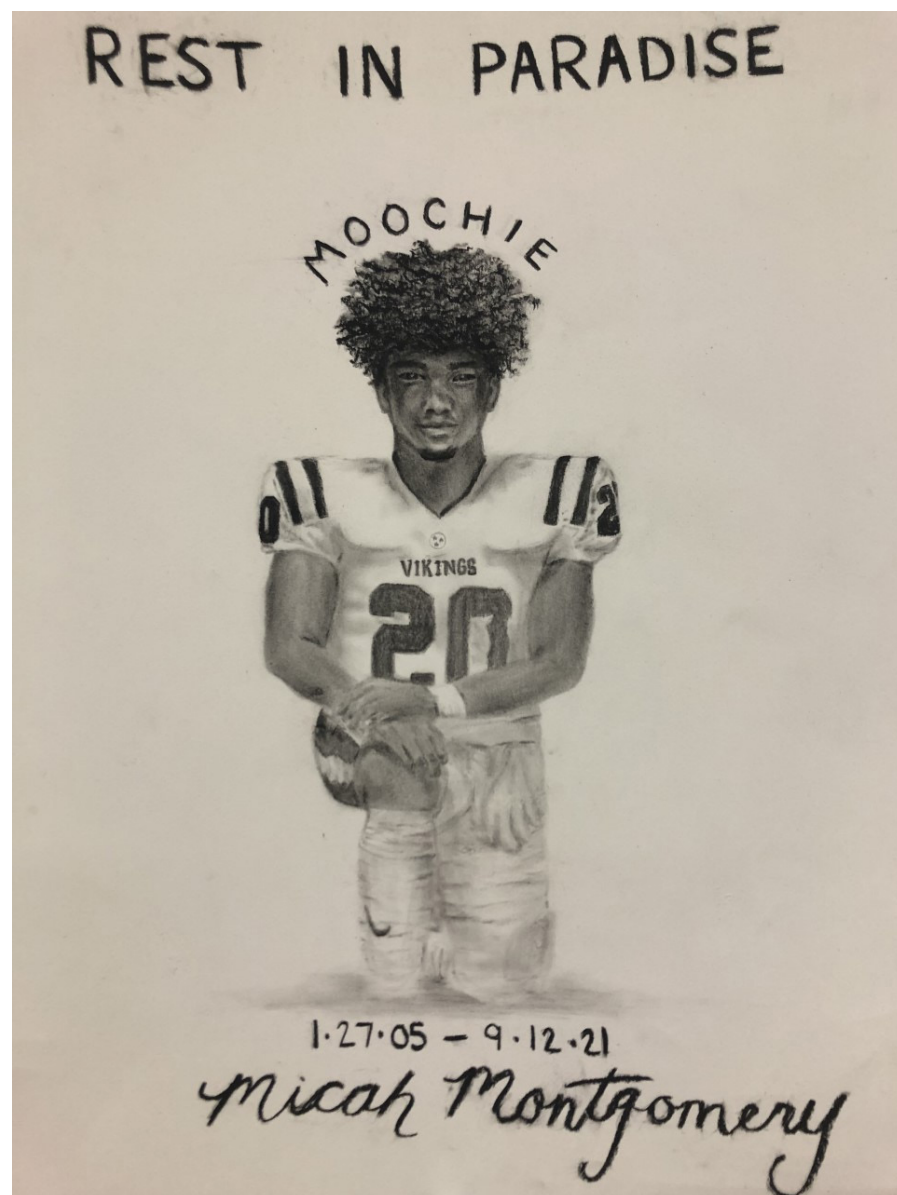
Mr. Gentry has only known his homeroom for two of the four years they've been here. Regardless, he's still found the time to grow close with them. "It's given me stability," he said. "It's nice knowing the same people every semester, especially since being new can be daunting."

Mrs. Vickers describes her homeroom "family" as "bonded by tragedy." With the loss of her own mother and especially the loss of Micah Montgomery, they've "picked each other up from everything [they've] been through." Mrs. Vickers recalls being really vulnerable at that time, explaining that they "saw a different side of [her] that nobody ever really sees." Looking back on it now, Mrs. Vickers feels that it "solidified the relationships among them."

Currently, she "can't even think about [them graduating]." She pictures it "as a wedding," a scenario she's described to them, where she "walks them up [to the stage], hands them off to the world, and cries while doing it all."

Through the laughs, hugs, tears, and love, we owe our time at Tennessee High to our homeroom teachers.

In Loving Memory



MASTERS ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

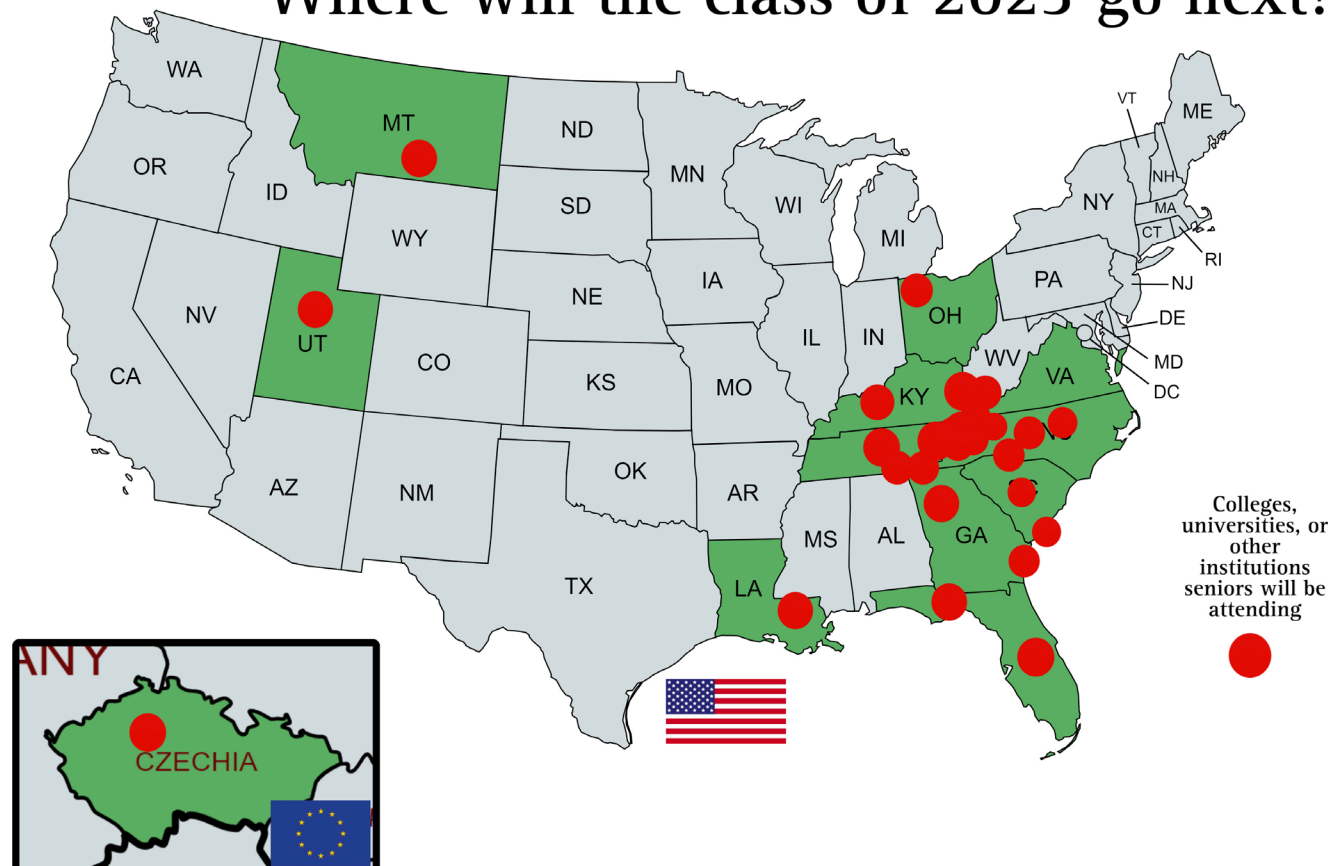
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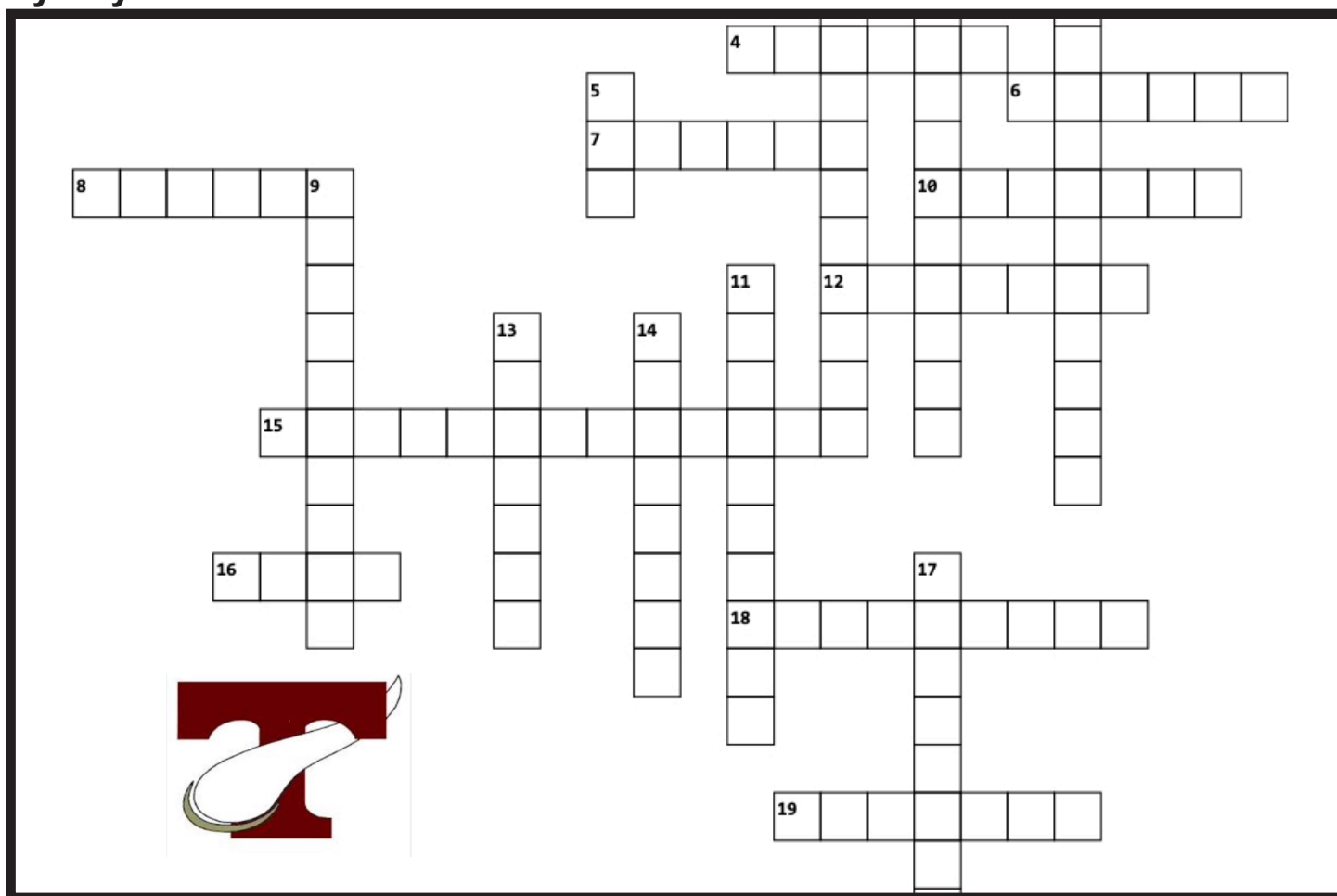
Where will the class of 2023 go next?



Graphic by Ryan Bunning

Senior Viking Crossword

By Kaylee Hamrick



ACROSS

- 4. Turn in your exemption form to avoid taking these
- 6. Work hard to graduate with these
- 7. A former student or graduate
- 8. Our mascot's occupation
- 10. Please pause for a moment of this
- 12. School logo
- 15. Top of their class
- 16. Dress up and dance for this school-sponsored event
- 18. The better of two Bristol high schools
- 19. One hopes to receive one as they walk across the stage at graduation

DOWN

- 1. Give this to your friends and family
- 2. Night in which the seniors pass the torch to the juniors
- 3. Built as a part of the New Deal, place to watch football
- 5. Throw this up into the air at the end of the ceremony
- 9. Ceremony marking the end of one senior year
- 11. Ailment commonly affecting high school seniors
- 13. Home to our alma mater
- 14. Seniors receive these on page 9
- 17. Club including second letter of the Greek alphabet.

Vikings Vocalize

“Seniors, what is a memory from high school that you will never forget?”

By Nathaniel Morefield

Carter Kinch:
“Road tripping to Morristown for the THS vs. Morristown football game.”

Ali Jones:
“Homecoming football game our senior year.”

Ella Tilley:
“The Friday before COVID, I told everyone, ‘You all are so stupid, we’re coming back to school...’ and I was so wrong.”

Stephen Hicks:
“Spring Break, Freshman Year, because we never came back.”

Miles Davis:
“Probably being at home during COVID. I remember seeing a bunch of articles about mental health of high school students during that period.”

Brady Nab:
“I went to State for Swim my Senior Year.”

Bridget Flaherty:
“Our Soccer team beat D.B. this year for the first time since I was a freshman.”

Roque Ochoa:
“My favorite memory of High School was my freshman year whenever Chase Williams and I went from homeroom to homeroom just saying that we needed kids, and by the end of homeroom we had an entire mob walking in the hallway.”

Caitlin Sackett:
“You think I have memories? You think I remember things? I don’t know.”

Sophia Rehim:
“Dr. Sisk.”

Noah Dotson:
“I put Coach Tiller’s stapler in Jell-O. I also put Coach Taylor’s stapler in Jell-O.”



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