

# Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High School”

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## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

PHOTO BY CAITLIN VINING, SENIOR JOURNALIST

Teacher of the year, Amber Davis, directs students moments before first dress rehearsal.

## Ten Ways to Survive the Holidays

*Theatre Arts students showcase their comedy skills through play*

**By Caitlin Vining**

Lights up. It's like all of the holidays had a baby, Christmas trees, menorahs, inflatable turkeys, madness. It's all on stage in Mrs. Amber Davis's production of "10 Ways to Survive the Holidays."

The holidays hold a special place in the hearts of many. The sounds of joyous laughter, jingling bells, and countless car commercials spark warmth in communities across nations, well, at least for most people.

On the one hand, the holidays are "an avalanche of egg nog, family fun, and weight gain" like they are for senior Valentine Ruggieri "I never want it to end. Ever," she said.

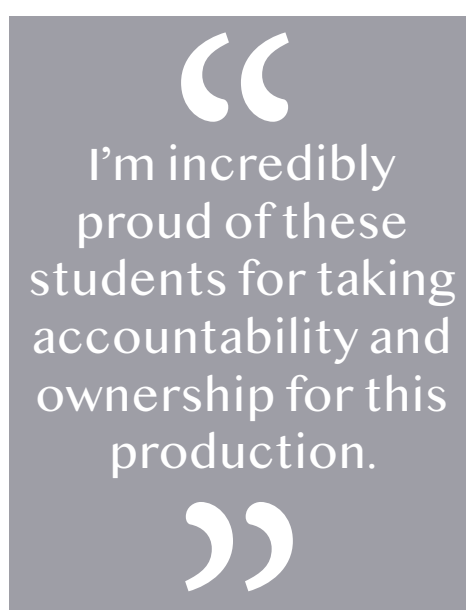
On the other hand, some dread the season. "Is it over yet?" Senior, Bella Smith interjected after Ruggieri's rant about the charms of the holiday season.

"Stop, stop, stop!" Mrs. Davis called from the back of the auditorium. Those simple words snapped all of her theater students back to reality, drawing their attention to the booth that controls the stage lights. "Run it again, and please, try this time to not look down at your script," Mrs. Davis pleaded.

During the first semester of each school year, the Theater Arts classes hold a play. Mrs. Davis,

who was recently named Tennessee High's Teacher of the Year, pours hard work, talent, experience, and love into not only the play, but her students. On the stage, she is in her element.

"[The play] was directed by



students with costuming and props being created by them as well," Mrs. Davis said.

"[A] mix of sophomores, juniors, and seniors, all with different skill levels when it comes to theater, rehearsed daily during class," Mrs. Davis said.

The true test came only a few days before opening night, as Mrs.

Davis was away at a conference the week before the show. Overcoming this adversity proved to be a simple challenge for the students, who continued to rehearse in her absence.

November 21st—the date of the performance—rolled around the corner, and walking through the theater doors, friends and family saw a play that was free to view for all. "You want all of the parents to be able to come, see the play, and see what the kids have been working on all semester long," Mrs. Davis explained.

"Every year, I love the plays and musicals that they do, but I'm incredibly proud of these students for taking accountability and ownership for this production."

Though we face the challenge of family time, food, stress at work, holiday music, travel, decorations, and loneliness during the holiday season, the theater reminds us with humor how to survive.

And how do we survive? By ordering a pizza, avoiding polar bears, and dishing about our ex with our friends over ice cream. If that doesn't do the trick, we can always escape to our Christmas bunker.

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ART BY JOAN WEDDINGTON, ART DIRECTOR

## Player Interview



**Colby Lamb**  
Junior

*"We all trusted each other and that's what led to our comeback."*

**Lucy Millwood**  
Sophomore

*"Homecoming brought the energy, and the game was close to the very end. We were on the edge of our seats."*



## Student Interview

# HALFTIME DEFICIT TO VICTORY: Vikings Hunt Down Wolves

By Callie Eckley and Halle Mullins

In the midst of a neck-and-neck game — against our biggest rival, West Ridge — excitement buzzes around Viking Hall.

Spectators anticipate the announcement about Winter Homecoming royalty as members of the boy's basketball team pace anxiously around the locker room, planning how to solidify this win.

With the Vikings down by six after the first half, they knew a comeback was within reach. "The locker room at halftime was really intense," Coach McMeans explains, "They got their butts chewed, and it made them mad, so they responded really well."

That changed the momentum of the game. "We were encouraged during halftime to get our mind right, guard rebounds, and lock down on defense," junior player Colby Lamb said.

"[Coach McMeans] emphasized that shots will fall and just to trust the offense."

Starting the third quarter, their defense was on point. A couple steals led to layups which only seemed to

secure the Viking win in the end. This renewed sense of confidence allowed them to gain a lead that they "never gave up."

With Colin Brown scoring 24



PHOTO BY EDDIE GRAY, VIA TRI-CITIES CAPTURED

Tensions run high as Reed Miller attempts a game-changing layup shot.

points, Reed Miller 14 points, and Zander Phillips 10 points, paired with a collective defensive effort, the Vikings tied up the score as the fourth quarter was dwindling with less than 3 minutes remaining.

Another starting sophomore, Braden Howard, swiped a pass and raced down the court for a layup that started their end of game lead.

Countless foul shots contributed

to the Viking win, with Brown and Miller each hitting their free throws within the last 2 minutes of the game. "We played hard and took care of the ball," Miller adds.

McMeans describes the use of "good set plays" which resulted in "some easy buckets." He elaborates on this, saying, "Our press turned them over several times," generating momentum for the rest of the game.

The Vikings pulled off a 61-59 point win over The Wolves, and Coach McMeans credits this to a strong defensive front, adding, "Jack [Singleton] and Zander [Phillips] shut down their best player

in the second half."

Not even a week later, another fast-paced and close first half was in store for the Vikings. During this high energy matchup against our historic rival, Virginia High, it is apparent that a second half comeback may be our signature for the 2023-2024 basketball season.

## Wrestling Takes Down This Winter

By Joan Weddington

"I shoot, I score. He shoots, I score."

Within the Bristol Wrestling Club, tapestries of quotes line the walls. Here, THS students of all ages gather after school every day with the same goal: to bring their best fight to each match as a collective team.

Though wrestling isn't a team-based sport, the athletes practice, engage in warm-ups, condition, and drill together to promote sportsmanship. "Wrestling is an individual sport," explains wrestler Mason 'Big Diesel' Campbell, "but we still represent Tennessee High, not just ourselves. We're building each other's character."

One of the biggest events on the horizon for the wrestling team is our home tournament. Brawl in the Hall, held in January, is one of largest wrestling tournaments in the region, taking place throughout the day and hosting multiple school wrestling teams and wrestlers from independent clubs.

As the season moves on, the wrestling club has put their "best food forward" with a "strong start preceding the tournament" according to Coach Shuler. With sweeping wins against Chillhowie and Sullivan East this week, it seems as if a bright future is slated for the Viking wrestling team at Brawl in the Hall.

## THE 12 SETS OF CHRISTMAS

By Ada Ritchie



Feeling fatigued, swimmers leap off the block. The cold shock of the water splashes onto their fingertips as they descend into the water.

Every year, as the holiday season approaches, swim coaches Katie Sword and Chris Estep begin planning their holiday practices.

One of the most popular workouts each year is the twelve sets of Christmas; the famous holiday song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" loosely inspires the workout.

The exercise starts with 12 sets all the way down to 1 set of a workout (12 sets of 50s, 11 sets of 100 IMs, etc.). Coach Sword said she creates these workouts "to find a new way to challenge her swimmers where they

can have fun as well."

Swimmers really enjoy this style of practice, even though they don't enjoy every workout. Sophomore swimmer, Gwen Scalon, says her least favorite is swimming "all the way across the pool without taking a breath." This exercise increases a swimmers' stamina, allowing them to go faster in competitions.

Simon Hutchinson, a sophomore on the swim team, says his favorite set is "dolphin dives or kicking with fins." Dolphin dives are a fun drill to help improve swimmers' butterfly stroke and kicking with fins help improve swimmers' kick in freestyle events.

On top of themed practices, the swimmers have individual ways they celebrate Christmas. Freshman

Mikaela Guillermo loves wearing her penguin swimsuit to "help spread holiday cheer." Last year, swimmers drew holiday symbols on their swim caps, such as Christmas trees and presents.

Another way Coach Sword loves to elevate spirits is playing Christmas music during practices. The swim team also has annual Christmas parties. Senior Kaylie Cunningham said her favorite memory from the Christmas party was playing the card games and "learning more about her teammates."

In the midst of attempted PRs, semester finals, and busy schedules, themed practices serve as a reminder that amongst the chaos of swim season it is important to have fun.

# CLUBS AT THIS

## STEM CLUB STEMS OUT

**By Bree Eaton and Halle Mullins**

Starting this year, STEM club has started an outreach program to the local elementary school LEAPS programs.

“Our goal,” said Co-President Pavitra Surma, “is to produce engaging outreach science lessons to students in our community in a fun way.”

The club meets every other Thursday in the auditorium where they discuss and plan their lessons, ranging between chemistry, biology, engineering, and math.

The club believes that science should be hands-on, appealing to the youth. “I have a daughter at Haynesfield Elementary,” says club sponsor Julie Bittinger, “I want her and younger students to experience the joy and discovery that science can offer.”

Students that are interested are encouraged to come to their meetings in the auditorium and share their ideas.

## SkillsUSA: A LOOK INSIDE

**By Caitlin Vining**

SkillsUSA is a CTE competition-based program designed for students.

Criminal Justice teacher, Mr. Richardson, sponsors and guides his own criminal justice students through several different procedures and tests.

Richardson expressed his “excite[ment] to showcase [his students] skills in all fields of criminal justice.”

This excitement proved to prevail recently through senior Allyson Keylon; she led Tennessee High’s SkillsUSA team to their first victory in the autopsy test on November 17th.

## A.S.L CLUB SIGNING ON

**By Callie Eckley**

Struggling to learn sign language without time built into her schedule, then junior Kaylie Cunningham created A.S.L club as a solution; the club meets every Tuesday during Viking Time in sponsor Mr. Davis’ room.

“Signing is a skill I’ve always wanted to learn,” Mr. Davis said, “but I didn’t expect it to be so fun. While most learning means sitting still, signing means moving with others.”

Every meeting consists of review, new signs, and a correlating game. Kaylie prelearns most of the signs before they meet, though some signs are learned through videos and pictures; Kaylie stresses the importance of learning all together.

“A.S.L creates a free and accepting atmosphere where people are willing and wanting to learn a new skill,” said Kaylie.

## ART CLUB PAINTS A PICTURE

**By Kacey Hamrick**

Art club is back, providing students a space to create outside of class time, as well as working to renovate the long-forgotten art room basement.

“The club and basement serve as a meeting place for us art students to discuss plans and future projects.” senior Joan Weddington said.

Students meet every Wednesday and Friday in room 2446 during homeroom.

“I want this to be a place for creative minds to gather.” club sponsor and art teacher Mr. Graham said. “You don’t have to be an artist to join.”

## BOOK CLUB: TENNESSEE HIGH’S NEXT CHAPTER

**By Hayden Arnett and Bree Eaton**

As pages get turned, the next chapter of book club begins. After a four-month hiatus, the club is back to discussing their chosen books over coffee at their meetings.

Each month the club leader, Arabella Taylor, sends out a Google Form where members vote for their book of the month.

Once chosen and read, the club meets at Blackbird where they “have educated discussions based on opinions, facts, and ideas relating to the novel,” said Taylor.

Club sponsor Mr. Davis shares his excitement, as he has observed a thrilling “revival of reading” in his classroom. This has allowed him and others to become “a part of [an] exciting movement.”

## FBLA: BUSINESS AS USUAL

**By Nancy Smith**

Multitudes of students are taking Mrs. English’s business class, yet many aren’t aware of the club she sponsors—Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)—which meets in her room during Viking Time the first and third Wednesday of every month.

FBLA encourages students interested in business and leadership opportunities to join. Freshman member, Madison Hill, joined FBLA in hopes of furthering her knowledge in business.

“I joined to better myself in public speaking and to learn to present myself in a respectable formal light,” Madison said.

President Karrie English says the club has a great exposure to business and goes on to say “members have the opportunity to compete on a state and national level.”

## FIRST PRIORITY PUTS FAITH FIRST

**By Callie Eckley**

Every brisk Tuesday morning, a group of First Priority students meet in Mrs. Sutherland’s classroom at 7:00 a.m. sharing faithful testimonies.

“It’s less of a Bible study and more of students teaching other students about their faith.” Mrs. Sutherland says.

By having students present on their own, the goal is to create a more welcoming environment for other students.

“It was fun to see teenagers sharing their faith and actively trying to grow their faith,” says Josie Russel, an EA in the CDC Department and the youth leader of Central Presbyterian Church.

## THIS ROBOTICS ENGINEERS THE WAY TO GREENER OCEANS

**By Ryan Bunning and Caden Cartwright**

Every Monday and Wednesday at 2:40 p.m., the Marooned Mariners meet in room 2106 to design and construct their own underwater ROV for the MATE competition.

Sponsored by Dr. Lewis and lead by “CEO” Caden Cartwright, the Marooned Mariners offers students the opportunity to “play pretend” as a mock company to tackle environmental challenges in our oceans and waterways.

Many members find that the club appeals to their specific STEM or business interests, including marketing, coding, or mechanical and electrical engineering.

“It’s always fun finding out the logistics of things, especially when they work,” said member Zach Johnson, who specializes in coding and electronics.

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# Dad and Daughter Relive Holiday Magic: Nostalgic Return to Beloved Blackbird

By Kayden Adams and Nancy Smith

It's Christmas break and you're finally out of school after having seemingly endless pajama days and "The Polar Express" watch throughs. You finally have time to really enjoy the season of joy with your family.

You hear carolers out in the streets and you go to the Speedway to ice skate with your friends. You're already growing excited at the anticipation of unwrapping all your gifts on Christmas morning.

More importantly, you actually now have time to spend with your hardworking father who doesn't get off work on other holidays or important outings. You can't remember the last time the two of you spent time together.

Growing up in Bristol, Sadie Krelle's Christmases were exactly as described: she only had Christmas break together with her dad. Sadie even claimed, "That week off [her dad] took was better than the actual presents she got."

The two of them would walk on state street every Christmas eve

despite the freezing temperatures just to go to small town bakery, Blackbird.

The cozy bakery, nestled on

Flocking inside the bakery, Sadie and her father met a familiar long line of people in the queue to get their treats. When in line,

of them two hot chocolates and two coconut donuts.

Blackbird's coconut donuts and the memories spent with her father "haunt [Sadie] more than a ghost of Christmas past, present, or future ever could" like an old friend.

Sadie's childhood story is not the only one of joy Blackbird has fostered during the Christmas season.

While Blackbird is just a cafe at the end of the day, being there surrounded by the Christmas spirit has shown to bring families and even strangers together in community—whether through coffee or coconut donuts.



PHOTO BY KAYDEN ADAMS, JOURNALIST

Junior Sadie Krelle recalls fond holiday memories with her dad at Blackbird.

the familiar corner downtown, is generally thought of as a relaxing space, locally famous for their baked goods and hot chocolate.

though, she "didn't mind the wait because [she] got to spend time talking to [her] dad."

Sadie's dad ordered for the both



ART BY JOAN WEDDINGTON, ART DIRECTOR



By Joan Weddington

## THE CHAINMAIL FEATURE: You Were Eliminated By ThiccNacho

Though he may not be known first as the gamer ThiccNacho, Mr. Davis has come a long way from his origin as a 'normal' dad. Davis hadn't even considered playing video games until as late as 2016, where an abnormal MRI scan revealed a detriment to his coordination and hearing.

Mr. Davis's first contact with gaming was out of necessity and convenience. Davis's neurologist suggested he play video games to strengthen his hand-eye coordination. His son, being the

age when he became interested in gaming, was a motive to pick up his first ever game alongside him, Plants Vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare. However, Davis was shocked by what he discovered: an enjoyment and unexpected challenge.

"My first reaction was 'this is hard'. It was a good way to spend time with my son and it was immediate fun."

It wasn't long until Davis evolved in gaming, picking up games such as Overwatch.

"I found a lot of reward and joy out of helping out my team

and sharing the experience with others."

Davis also found new friends to game with: gaming dads on Discord and other teachers at Tennessee High. Davis's "gaming bud" Mr. Slone was a huge help in defeating Elden Ring bosses last year.

However, with this new interest came necessary boundaries that Davis was quick to set. To balance his adult and parenting life with his hobby, Davis had originally limited himself to no more than one hour of gaming a day, eventually dropping the hobby altogether this

past summer.

"There were times in my life when gaming was too big," he confessed.

Despite being a retired gamer, Mr. Davis seems to have taken a lot from his gaming experience.

"[Video games] are a lot less passive than other forms of entertainment," Davis explains.

"You learn to stick together and to let trusted friends into your battles."

For the next issue, Mr. Davis nominates Mr. Quales for the chain mail feature!

# Student ACT Spotlight:

## *Bryson Phillips Earns "36" Superscore*

By Caden Cartwright

Pencils are scrambling as the ticking clock looms menacingly at the front of the classroom. As most people in the room anxiously bubble in the remaining answers on the scantron, Bryson Phillips feels confident.

"I tend to be pretty good under pressure on tests; I see academics as a personal pride thing, so pressure helps me to focus more because of my desire to do well," Phillips said.

Clearly, Phillips isn't the average student. Many of us wrestle with testing anxiety or lack of motivation. Perhaps his focus and inspiration to do well are what set him apart. That and the fact that the first time he took the ACT, he scored a 33.

Much to his surprise, Phillips, who checked his score shortly before subbing in a volleyball game, was expecting disappointment.

"It felt really good. It was really rewarding. I got an ace and a kill that game because I was relieved that I scored so well," he said.

Phillips has benefited from tutoring: "I attended ACT boot camps before my first ACT," he said, "I would say they can help with some content, and they are good for helping you warm up to testing."

Additionally, he has taken numerous AP and honors classes to help him build his content knowledge and testing skills.

"Pre-calculus is by far the best course to prepare for the ACT.

Calculus is for sure not needed," Phillips said.

"I'd say trig is pretty common on the tests I've taken, but I haven't had many extremely hard questions in my experience," he said.

By continuing to study and prepare, Phillips eventually not only increased his composite score to 35, but earned a highly distinguished "superscore" of a 36, the combined average of an October 2023 score of 35 in English, his March 2023 score of 35 in Math, his March 2023 score of 36 in Reading, and his October 2023 score of a 36 in Science.

With scores this outstanding, Phillips hopes to get into either Duke, Clemson, or UT Knoxville.

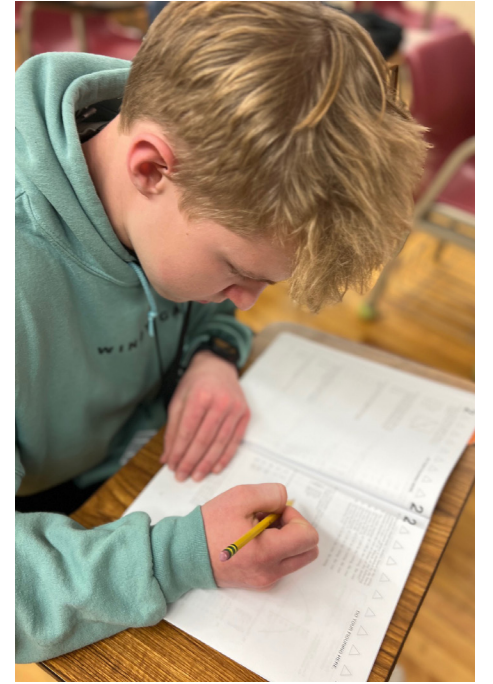


PHOTO BY CADEN CARTWRIGHT, SENIOR JOURNALIST  
Senior Bryson Phillips earns 36 superscore through hard work and motivation.

# DECK THE HALLS: NEW TEACHER TRADITIONS

**Mrs. Singleton, Mr. Helvey, and Mrs. Dye Share Holiday Favorites**

By Ada Ritchie, Nancy Smith, and Caitlin Vining

Every holiday season, as she puts up treasured decorations in her home, guidance counselor Mrs. Whitney Singleton gets excited to spend time with her family and friends.

She loves "being with her family the rest of the year," but she tends to find this season with her family most enjoyable.

Mrs. Singleton has a daughter in college and Christmas time "is the one time she can count on everyone being home."

Her favorite way to spend time with them, she says, is "watching [their] favorite movies." One of her favorites, "Elf," has already been played multiple times this year.

Every year, she helps make cookies for Santa and reindeer food with the little kids in the family.

She revels in this time spent with them, stating that "Christmas is a time that really brings people together."

A new English teacher, Mr. Helvey embraces the holiday spirit as he celebrates and creates new memorable

moments with his family.

Helvey enjoys this season because "people show kindness more around this time of year."

A tradition his family enjoys every Christmas is "driving through the [Speedway] lights while eating [their] favorite pizza".

down and stuff it in so that I could get it home. Once I got it home, I had to put the box back together and then put all the pieces back inside, and then wrap it."

When it comes to the holidays, Mrs. Ashton Dye—a new Algebra 1 teacher—is a huge fan. "It was

November 1st when I started decorating for Christmas. As soon as the Halloween decorations came down, the Christmas decorations went up," she beamed.

During the time leading up to Christmas, while school's still in session, Mrs. Dye enjoys going to her sons' basketball games, taking part in church activities such as sing-a-longs and dinners, and cheering on the Virginia Tech football team.

These aren't her only pastimes during the holiday season. She thoroughly enjoys "spending time with family by decorating, driving through the Speedway in Lights, and visiting Dollywood to see their holiday lights and decor are traditions that make me happy," Mrs. Dye reminisces.



PHOTOS BY NANCY SMITH

Counselor Whitney Singleton, English teacher Josh Helvey, and Algebra teacher Ashton Dye

He recalls that his favorite childhood memory was going to his great-grandparents house. His great-grandmother was a geologist and "had hand-carved a Nativity scene from crystals she had dug up."

Now, as a parent, his favorite Christmas memory is when he drove to a Walmart hours away for a present for his daughter. This was no easy task, though, as he discovered the present didn't fit in his car.

"I had to unbox it and put the pieces in my car, then break the box

## Live Nativity in the Commons

By Joseph Burriss

Few traditions run as deep in American holiday culture as nativity reenactments, and St. Anne's Catholic Church and School has certainly honored this legacy.

Every year, the school hosts its own reenactment of the Biblical story of the nativity, accompanied by songs and performances from all grades.

This year, "Living Nativity in the Commons" was more special than ever, with several original songs from Mrs. Rayburn, the school's music director, centering around the shepherds, wisemen, and Joseph of Nazareth respectively.

"We came to the point where the same songs kept coming around, so I worked in some original songs for the Living Nativity," said Rayburn. "Mary, Did You Know?" was also replaced by "Christmas Hallelujah,"

The performance starts with an original production developed, written, and performed by the 7th and 8th grade classes.

"We start around mid-October," Rayburn said. Students are allowed the opportunity to sign up and try out for solos, with duets and trios being a common compromise.

"Living Nativity in the Commons" is proof of the immortal traditions rediscovered each year by new generations with novel approaches and creative takes.



# CHRISTMAS ... IN THIS ECONOMY????

## **Inflation and Rising Prices Tighten Grip on America's Christmas**

*Among the countless iconic Christmas traditions, none can be as expected (or dreaded) as extensive holiday spending. Whether it be airfare or toys, American families year after year spend heavily around December. It is unfortunate then, that just as inflation has been a burden on nearly all other purchases, it too will impact seasonal holiday spending.*

**By Ryan Bunning and Joseph Burriss**

In previous years, consumers were plagued by supply chain shortages, but with airfare travel increasing by 42.9%, alongside a nearly 20% rise in the cost of gasoline and transportation, it is becoming increasingly difficult for consumers to travel to their loved ones.

A recent survey from Givex indicates that 76% of Americans, wealthy and poor alike, expect inflation to impact their holiday purchases. The amount spent on gifts per person in the U.S. has risen for years, growing more dramatically with each passing year.

Waiting is not necessary to see changes in consumer behavior, as 49% of shoppers are attempting to counteract inflation's bite by shopping earlier than they usually might have, according to Givex's data.

In addition to shopping earlier, a growing number of purchases are made online as Americans grow ever more fond of internet retailers and their convenience.



PHOTO BY RYAN BUNNNING

Tennesseans may be less likely to travel due to gas prices, or may opt to drive instead of fly when visiting relatives for the holidays.



PHOTO BY RYAN BUNNNING

Junior Landon Trent shows his wallet: it is empty.

Friday, so I try to start in October," advises Monroe. "Amazon always raises prices around November to make Black Friday deals sound better, so it's best to get ahead of that."

Students have seen the struggle on their end too, with an interviewed freshman explaining

they would like to without stretching themselves or making sacrifices elsewhere in their budget. The total annual amount spent by Americans at Christmas has risen since 2018, and that trend looks unlikely to change anytime soon.

The issue will likely have

and material donations to our communities' impoverished and homeless communities, and a downturn in donations could leave charities and organizations without the resources they have had years past.

Additionally, rising costs in food and other necessities will disproportionately affect those of lower economic status who will find it harder to adapt to new costs of living, including housing.

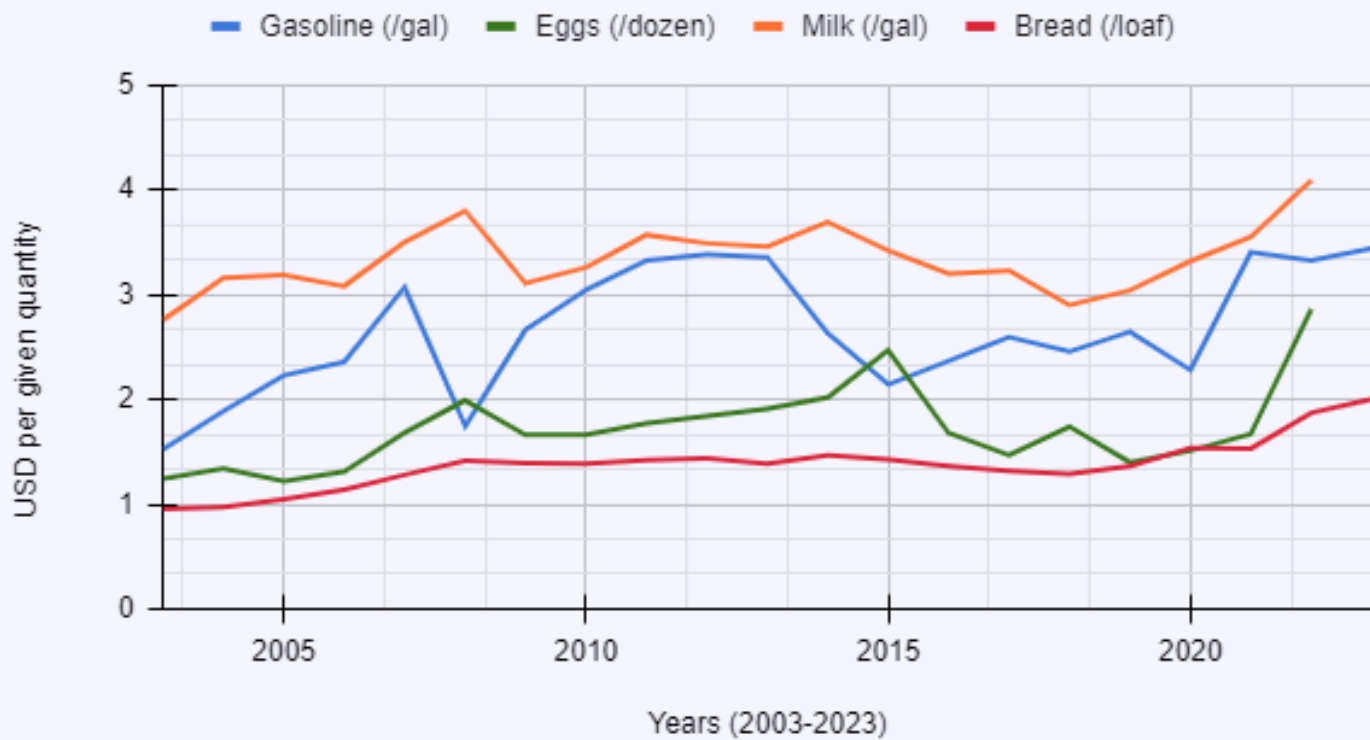
Housing prices have been a struggle for most cities across North America, including the Tri-Cities, leaving, at best, bigger holes in Americans' pockets and, at worst, forcing families to relocate or go unhoused.

The average home price in the United States is now over \$500,000 USD, up an entire \$100,000 from the beginning of 2021. Even in the relatively small Tri-Cities region, average home prices have passed the \$300,000 mark.

Northeast Tennessee even gained recognition as home to some of the fastest rising housing prices in the country. These higher prices are yet another factor eating away at the community's ability to provide for the holidays, or even afford basic food and household goods.

From Berkley to Blountville, higher costs in travel, necessities, and housing are straining the means of families. These economic and societal factors, in addition to countless others, will detract from families' abilities to provide for their own Christmas season, and donate to benefit that of others.

### Average Price of Vital Products in the US



Graph credit Joseph Burriss

Our community is of course not immune to these pressures on consumers, with students, faculty, and their families in our school system feeling the pressures of rising prices. Ms. Monroe, a substitute teacher, says "[she is] definitely more restricted" and has made changes in her holiday shopping habits accordingly.

"I've worked retail so much in my life that I don't go out on Black

that their family "has stopped traveling entirely" and another who recalls their parents' complaints about the cost of holiday meals.

"They've said it gets more expensive every year for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We've had to start ordering food instead," said the anonymous freshman.

It has become harder for families to provide the quality of holiday

ripples beyond the cul-de-sac or condo block down to most vulnerable groups of the American population. With less to give, those more fortunate are going to be less likely to donate as extensively as they might have in the past. It is estimated that as much as 30% of annual giving happens in the month of December.

The Christmas season is of course vital for monetary

# Or *Timely* Timeless?

Editorial By  
Callie Eckley

## GOING RETRO?

Fads of the past finding their way into today's society

By Jacob Hutton

Most students would never want to be into the same things their parents were, yet those same trends from their parents' generations are coming back into style. Jelly bracelets, Converse shoes, and classic rock are all making repeat appearances in today's society.

Sophomore Cody Spears is a supporter of 80's rock music. He likes bands like Pink Floyd, the Eagles, Blue Oyster Colt, and Guns and Roses. He said that the reason he likes that specific type of music is "Because I grew up listening to it my entire life." So with inspiration from his father, he grew to love classic rock.

Converse shoes have made a huge comeback. They have won the sneaker in the stock market for nearly four years in a row. At Tennessee High School it is not uncommon to see one out of ten people wearing some sort of Converse shoe.

A not-so-recent example of the 80's

is the jelly bracelet fad. These bracelets made a comeback nearly two years ago. Most people wore an armful at a time, but when the schools ruled them out, they became less popular.

Television shows from the 80's have made a comeback. These include Charlie's Angels, Duke of Hazard, and Starsky and Hutch. All of these were recently made into big movies which became very popular with teenagers. Some teenagers have yet to find out that their parents watched these shows, in their original form, on Saturdays.

A cyclical pattern can be seen through this. Things from past generations will become popular in this generation. Things from this generation will be popular in the future.

Article pulled from October 2005

The idea of cycling trends explored in "Going Retro?" is timeless; however, the means in which these trends are passed on are now timely, due to the introduction of the internet.

The ever-changing cyberspace and use of social media at large has created trend cycles like we have never seen them before.

The time period in between the introduction and passing of each trend seems to shrink with every new addition, almost skipping the "out of style" step and directly into irony and post-ironic popularity.

Though the internet hasn't always been this fast paced.

We enter the year of 2005, when the Maroon and White article "Going Retro?" was published: MySpace is thriving, Facebook posts are evolving, and soon the addition of Youtube will completely change what posting online entails.

Trend cycles, more often than not, were secondhand and passed down from one generation to the next. As "Going Retro?" explains, many of the trends referenced (classic rock, Converse shoes, and Jelly bracelets) are a direct

result of "inspiration" from their parents.

These trends are observed large-scale; almost all teenagers are exposed to the same media. There isn't yet the evolution of hundreds of thousands of subcultures online, and therefore many people are viewing the same trends at the same time.

However, that isn't the case anymore. In the current state of the internet, it is very prevalent that what is currently trendy can be confusing.

Simultaneously, one section of the internet is being introduced to a style, while another section has already moved on.

Before you know it, another section of the internet is wearing the style ironically, usually acknowledging that although it isn't trendy anymore, this is an attempt to bring it back.

The cycle "Going Retro?" explains is not as complex. The straight-forward and inherited passage of trends is seen through one generation to the next, rather than between different members of the same generation.

With this stems an individuality complex, and everyone is trying to get a head start on what's "in." Instead of being united by these trends as a generation, we have split off into coteries that have a

constant tension between one another.

Everyone and everything has a label; you're forced into one "aesthetic" or another. Are you a "basic" girl? What about a coquette style? Or maybe, just like "Going Retro?", you've fallen into that 80's classic rock, Converse and Jelly bracelet wearing aesthetic.

There is an inclination within our youth to have the next best thing, regardless of where it lands in the trendy, popularity cycle—all because we can view what everyone has via the internet.

The conclusion of "Going Retro?" states, "Things from past generations will become popular in this generation. Things from this generation will be popular in the future." Which I do agree with, but as the internet advances more depth needs to be added to this statement.

Things from this generation—and all past generations—are popular somewhere, and although it seems niche, thousands of people partake in thousands of trends/styles all around the internet.



# Ethics of Charitable Giving :

## *From Donuts to Scholarships, Students are Rewarded for Volunteering, but is it Ethical?*

By Caden Cartwright

Every November, THS Student Council raises money to purchase Thanksgiving baskets for local families. In fact, this year, they "raised \$722 for 90 families from donations among four first periods," said Student Council advisor, Elizabeth Arnold.

This considerable donation by students is an act of charity—or voluntary help. Ideally, no reward would be necessary to motivate charity. However, small incentives, like the promise of donuts, are often used to inspire students to donate money or volunteer their time.

Even scholarship programs like

the TN Promise reward students for doing volunteer work in their communities. If students knew they were not going to get scholarship money, however, would they still volunteer? Some might, but many would not.

This raises the question: should students be rewarded for doing charitable acts? Shouldn't charitable acts be done out of the goodness of one's heart rather than for a prize?

"At this point, it's just trading a service for a good," says ETSU junior Delaney Price; by participating in incentivized charity, people fulfill a requirement for treats, admission, or scholarship.

These kinds of exchanges are a natural part of the economy.

However, shouldn't we live in a society where people help each other simply because it is the right thing to do? Unfortunately, offering incentives for charity trains us to expect rewards which dulls charity's moral value.

If we always expect to be rewarded, then we become entitled, and even upset with authority figures for not praising us when we do what we should be doing anyways - looking out for our fellow human beings.

Sometimes, though, we do what is right for the right reasons. Mr. Mooney's Pre-Calculus class was the top donor in the Thanksgiving Basket drive.

"[We were] unaware of the donuts being given," said Nell Stigers and Makenzie Smith. They believe

that "because of [their] good intentions, [their] class raised the most money."

"Regardless of incentives, people will be willing to give to a good cause," Stigers and Smith said.

Ideally, like Mooney's generous students, no such reward would be necessary to motivate charity. We can learn from their example and move beyond the "quid-pro-quo" mentality. Instead of a mindset of "I will volunteer IF I can get a scholarship, IF become a National Honor Society member, or IF I get to eat donuts," we can mature into mindset of "I will volunteer BECAUSE I sympathize with others and BECAUSE I want to live in a world where people take care of each other."



# Benefits of Curbside Recycling: One Bin at a Time

By Ada Ritchie

In Bristol, approximately 800 tons of recyclables are collected each year. This number might seem large, but it is relatively small compared to the 10,000 to 11,000 tons of garbage picked up in Bristol yearly.

An amenity that could potentially improve the amount of recyclables collected, curbside recycling would allow citizens to have recycling picked up from their houses, ultimately providing an accessible way to support our environment.

Johnson City has offered curbside recycling since 1989. The rate of citizens using this service in Johnson City is pretty successful, being sixty percent. The total cost last year to provide this service was \$1,006,900. The city charges \$11 monthly in public services to combat this price.

Kingsport, Tennessee, another neighboring city, offered a curbside recycling program until 2021. The cost for their program was \$853,859, and they made \$6501 in revenue. Unfortunately, due to the rising costs to sustain this program the city of

Kingsport terminated the program. However, Bristol, Tennessee, has never offered a curbside recycling program. Currently, the city of Bristol relies on four drop-off recycling convenience

might deter potential supporters. This program would raise the cost of taxes to \$2-3 every month, which might spark a debate about the extent of its need. However, it has many



PHOTO BY ADA RITCHIE, SENIOR JOURNALIST  
Pictured above is one of the few recycling locations in Bristol

centers—which is hardly enough to support the influx of people needing to recycle.

Cities, like Bristol, are often hesitant to pick up curbside recycling programs due to the extensive cost of having these services. Bristol would need to build a warehouse to store these materials, a machine that bales the product, a minimum of two trucks, and five employees. The cost to start this program would be \$920,000, which

benefits outside of its environmental impact. Curbside recycling would provide jobs and a service that benefits the community and future generations. It would also make Bristol more desirable for people considering moving to our area.

“Teens Supporting the Environment” club recycling

leader Kaylie Cunningham agrees, stating that “adopting this program can help aid environmental issues.”

This is something our local leaders are gunning for as well. Director of Public Services Wes Ritchie states “offering curbside recycling would help divert materials out of the landfill.”

In all, the city would benefit environmentally, and in the long run, economically from developing a curbside recycling program.

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Spotify Wrapped 2023  
(THS' Version)

# THS' top artists

- 1 Taylor Swift
- 2 Zach Bryan
- 3 SZA
- 4 Luke Combs
- 5 Drake



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# How to Make: Cranberry Garland

By Kacey Hamrick

### Utensils:

- embroidery needle
- yarn or twine
- cranberries
- popped popcorn
- acrylic sealant (optional)



### Step 1:

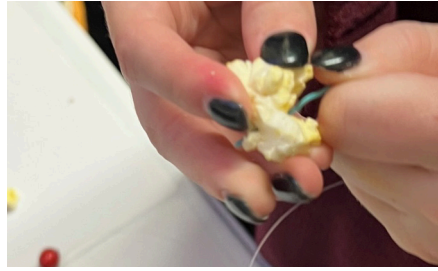
Make popcorn in the microwave according to the package instructions. Allow the popcorn time to cool off.

### Step 2:

Thread your yarn through the embroidery needle, using a threader or by hand.

### Step 3:

Begin threading cranberries and popcorn onto the yarn as desired. Make patterns.



### Step 4:

Spray with acrylic sealant, if desired.

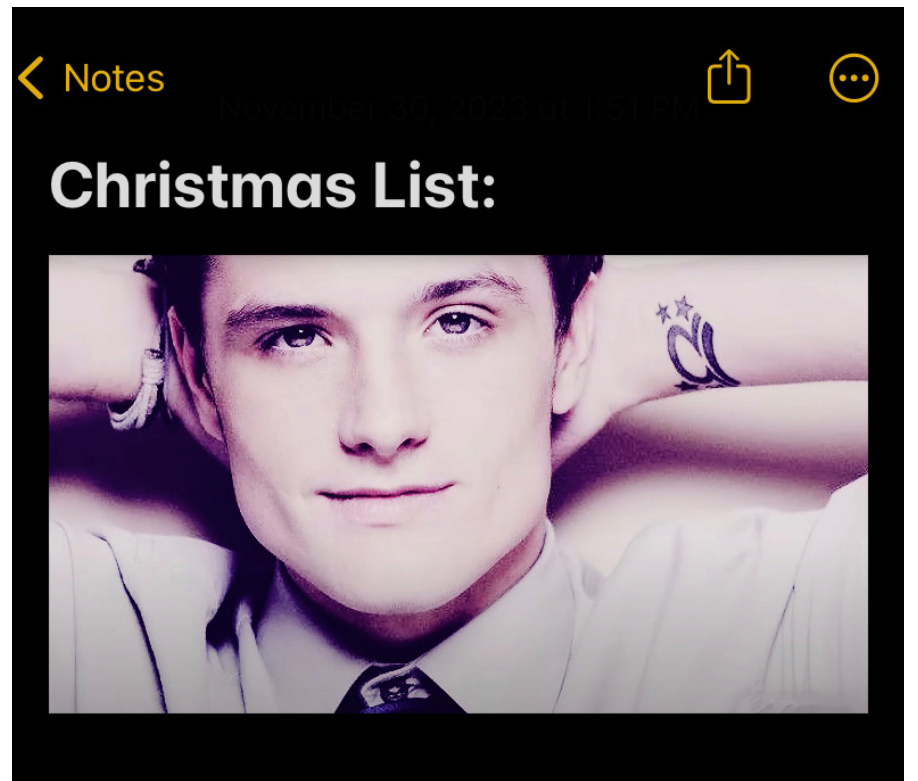
### Step 5:

All done!



# MEME OF THE MONTH

By Caitlin Vining



# How to Wrap a Gift:

By Caden Cartwright



# Joan's Comic Corner

Drawn and written by Joan Weddington, Art Director



“

How do I get into the holiday spirit?

”

**Y**ou can get into the holiday spirit by setting up decorations, baking, or making the most unrealistic Christmas PowerPoint. Getting older can dim the Christmas magic of the holidays, but even if you're not big on setting out a plate of cookies and a glass of milk, keep in mind at least we'll be on break!

“

What do I get my significant other for Christmas?

”

**Y**ou should try and get something personal. I always think inside jokes correlated into gifts are way more meaningful than any other gift. A cute way to wrap your gift would be getting a stocking and putting all the gifts in there. A good starter would be their favorite candy, a pair of AE socks (they're all adorable), and a gift card to a place they shop at regularly.

“

How do I ignore the fact I'm single on the holidays?

”

**F**orget dating on the holidays! You don't need to worry about kissing someone under the mistletoe or at the stroke of midnight to be festive. Just know that means you can save your money because you don't have to buy a gift for someone, you can eat as much as you want, AND you can spend time with your family and friends without someone texting you "wyd" every two hours!

## ASK MISS KNOW IT ALL

*"Ask Miss Know It All" is an anonymous advice column, sourced from questions asked by you — the reader. To have your question featured in the next issue, scan the QR below!*

xoxo, Miss Know It All

