

Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High”

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Black Lives Matter: From Local to Global

Sheany Regules



Local BLM protesters

The social movement known as Black Lives Matter was created out of a desire for greater justice, love, freedom, and equality for people of color in the United States. BLM advocates non-violent civil disobedience to speak out against police brutality and all racially motivated violence. Although this movement existed prior to 2020, it has grown in response to the untimely and brutal deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and other black Americans.

Anika Price, a junior at Tennessee High says, “the United States is based on everyone being equal and everyone having the same rights, but that’s not the case at all.” In her view, “the Black Lives Matter movement is long overdue and much needed.”

Mckenzie Orfield, also a junior at THS, says, “I support BLM because you can see all of the struggles [people of color]

face in life... The color of [one’s] skin does not define you as a person. This has gone on for too long. We need a change.”

Protests across the country, some peaceful and some violent, have raised awareness and controversy about racial issues. In addition to protests of police use of force, some of these issues are responses to unreasonably high rates of incarceration of African Americans—they are ten times more likely to be imprisoned—and some of these issues are about the lack of equity in U.S. laws and institutions. Locally, groups in the Tri-Cities have come together for peaceful demonstrations, raising signs and organizing for change.

Trevor Lee, a 2020 THS graduate who has organized and led peaceful Black Lives Matter protests, said, “We must fight to end racism, and Black Lives Matter is how we will get it done.” He believes that our generation is tomorrow’s voice, and advocates that interested teens sign petitions, donate, or even march in protests around our community.

Prominent Tennesseans have spoken out about this movement. Dolly Parton said in an interview with Billboard, “Even though I haven’t attended any marches this summer, I support the BLM movement. I believe it’s a push for racial injustice.”

Tennessee Republican Governor Bill Lee has announced a partnership with law enforcement to improve officer training. “Horrible, preventable events across the nation have challenged us all to confront the difference between law enforcement and police brutality and also challenged us to examine troubling, inconsistent citizen experiences with law enforcement,” Lee said.

Even the Tennessee Vols plan to wear black jerseys to support BLM on November 7 at their game in Kentucky to help raise money and stress the importance of this movement.

Dr. Annette Tudor, Director of Bristol Tennessee City Schools, has announced that they plan to do their part to address institutional racism by creating a diversity team. “The diversity team was established to take a proactive stance against racism through initiatives planned to educate stakeholders,” Tudor said. “It was also established in response to student and staff inquiries about the national Black Lives Matter movement.”

The diversity team, now named Educating for Equity, may also be established in schools and expand learning opportunities for students. As of now, the team includes only staff members, however, the team may expand to include students in the future.

Taking the Next Step: Luke Jenkins

Mary Huffard



Senior Luke Jenkins

Luke Jenkins is a Senior at Tennessee High School. In his free time, he enjoys fishing and flying planes. On February 9th, 2020, Jenkins was driving to see his older

brother play baseball; he fell asleep at the wheel and went off the road. He flew 70 feet in the air and crashed into a tree. He remembers not being able to feel or move anything from the waist down.

Jenkins suffered from a complete bust of the T12 vertebra, causing shards to go into his spinal column and chord. He also had a severe concussion due to the impact. He was hospitalized in Bristol for a week. Jenkins underwent an emergency spinal fusion surgery to extract the shattered vertebrae debris in his spinal cord. He had a four-

hour operation to get two nine-inch rods and ten screws to hold his back together. He was then moved to the Shepherd center in Atlanta which specializes in spine rehabilitation, for two months.

For a time, Jenkins was completely paralyzed from the waist down. His physical therapy began with just being able to move his foot. He spent two months in a wheelchair and then progressed to being able to use crutches. After four months, he was able to walk again without assistance. “There were things I couldn’t control because everything

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internally from my chest down stopped working. In addition to that, I had to learn how to walk again.” He continues to go to physical therapy weekly.

During his recovery Jenkins described his biggest inspirations to be “Everybody that sent me hopes and prayers from people at school, church, my coaches, teammates, friends, and family.” He has a message for those are going through challenging circumstances and feeling hopeless: “Don’t give up. Even in times it seems hopeless and there is nothing you can do, you can always pray about it and put one foot in front of the other and take that next step.”

**Meet the 2020
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Class in the Time of Covid

Sarah Clever, Fabian Maqueira, and Maddy Wilson

Usually, the first day of school begins with the excitement of reuniting with friends and teachers. The hallways bustle with elbow-to-elbow traffic between class changes. But instead of putting on our best back-to-school clothes, this year, some of us wore pajamas, because the first day of school was completely online.

Even now, months into the school year, some of us attend class completely online, and others only come to school two days a week. We must wear a face mask at all times, and have our temperatures checked twice a day—once when we arrive and once around lunchtime. Our hands are sprayed with hand sanitizer at the beginning of every class, and our desks are sprayed down with cleaner at the end of every class. These precautions, taken for our safety and wellbeing, are aimed to help minimize the spread of Covid-19.

Alisa Harris, a senior at Tennessee High, expresses appreciation for being in school even two days a week. “We have never started a year like this before, but I was glad to be back in school,” she said. However, she misses seeing her online friends—those who will not attend school in person at all this semester.

Ethan Ball, a junior, said that he has struggled with the hybrid schedule on days when he is home. “I learn better in person, and I also hate being at home all the time and being overwhelmed with boredom,” he said.

Maddie Ramey, a sophomore, said, “I mainly just hate wearing a mask for a really long time, and not getting to see all of my friends every day.”

Thatcher Hutton, a freshman, notes the difficulty of science classes with labs in an online setting. “It’s kind of hard to understand everything my teacher says and does when we’re not in person,” he noted.

Even students at Bristol elementary schools, many of whom attend school every day of the week, are struggling to adjust. Palmer Akard, a 6th grader at Holston View Elementary, describes hand sanitizer as the “worst part” because “it’s so many times a day.” Palmer misses traditional playground recess, which he says is now just homeroom, but ultimately gives a positive review that he believes his classmates follow the rules well,

and don’t try to “sneak” their mask’s off or participate in any other hijinks. One can only hope that high school students can follow the rules just as well as 6th graders.

Each of these students represent ideas that many of us have felt ourselves. But even teachers are struggling to adjust to the many modifications.

Mrs. Michelle Phillips, a CTE teacher, explains the additional time required to offer feedback in online learning. “Giving feedback to students is much easier in class because I can just walk up and tell the student something,” Phillips said. Instead, Phillips said that immediate feedback is replaced with communication like sending an email, a Canvas message, or a Canvas comment. Then, she waits for the student to see it and make the update/change reflected in the feedback.

Mr. Brad Morelock, who teaches in the history department, believes that the most important strategy for dealing with the current learning situation is a willingness to be flexible. “Do not get so hyper-focused on one thing because more than likely that one thing is going to mess up or be changed,” he said. “I’ve told all my classes this semester that if what I have planned doesn’t work, we will find something the next day that might.”

Despite these challenges to teaching and learning, we still have the opportunity to get an education. Mrs. Phillips offers this advice for those struggling with online school: “Take one day at a time. Be open to trying new ways of doing things.”



Mrs. Bittenger’s biology class

Online School: Embrace the Face!

Julia Slagle

While getting used to the digital high school experience is hard enough, one requirement for students online might make your typical Teams meeting even more difficult: keeping your camera on. Many students have gotten in the habit of waking up and immediately joining class – but what if you had to show your “bedhead” to everyone watching?

According to Kaitlyn Willis, a junior at Tennessee High School, keeping your camera on should NOT be required. “It can cause some people a lot of extra unneeded anxiety,” Willis said. “Some may worry too much about who can see them more than focusing on class.”

While many can agree, a few staff and students may have a different outlook. “With cameras, I can more easily determine the students that are engaged and those that are lost,” says Dr. Benji Lewis, who teaches in the science department at Tennessee High. “If you’re not allowed to walk around school with a cardboard box over your head with your initials printed on the front, you can turn your camera on.”

We can only hope that students will not even have to worry about this much longer, but it all depends on when this virus ends.

Freshmen jitters in a global pandemic

Sheany Regules

Starting high school can be exhilarating but also frightening. Starting high school during a global pandemic is a whole other story. As a freshman, one is excited to be in a new school and start a new chapter in life. Freshman this year feel different. Alexa Garcia-Mancera, a freshman at THS, said, “It is difficult to always stay 6 feet away from people because you’re so used to always being beside your friends. It’s less stressful because you do all your work from home and take your time.”

Other students feel slightly differently. Ella-Marie, an honors student in freshman year says, “I think that school’s just stressful because of Covid, and the online stuff and honors classes normally have to do live classes on

Wednesdays.”

Mrs. Vickers, a who teaches freshman Honors English, said, “My advice would be to do your best, to work hard, to not procrastinate, and to reach out to the teacher when you are having trouble” Although upperclassmen tend to give the new kids a hard time, the unique circumstances of this school year calls for upperclassmen to do what they maybe should have always done—to help ease the transition for freshman into high school, and to help make their experience as normal as can be.

Continuing a Tradition; Setting an Example

Gibson Bartlett



Chloe-Grace Ginter

The Mighty Viking Band, one of the most valuable institutions of our school, provides entertainment, school spirit, and pride at our pep rallies, football games, and concerts. For senior trumpet player and band historian Chloe-Grace Ginter, despite the struggle to wrap up her ultimate year of high school in such a commitment-driven activity, "this is the new normal." Last year, Ginter's busiest days involved starting with an early morning pep rally, organizing props, practicing

show routines, performing a second pep rally, arriving early to games, and performing in pregame and halftime shows under the Friday Night Lights. These busy days, unmarked by the presence of a pandemic, didn't faze the 8-year band member; they were simply routine.

This year, though, Ginter says she had to adjust very quickly to the

new rules and regulations: wearing masks when not playing and spreading out the distance between each member. Almost every performance is affected by a lingering air of uneasiness and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. Additionally, the band will not attend away games this year. Ginter's outlook is positive, however. She accepts reality and is willing to change plans "within a heartbeat," considering the fragility of scheduling.

One of the most important aspects of the new school year within the band is setting an example for newer members. "This group is different. They have been so flexible and understanding of the situation." Ginter doesn't just see following preventative measures as an opportunity to show new members how it's done; she hopes the band's behavior will set an example for the school and community.

For the THS Mighty Viking Band, safety is not a nuisance. While some might see these new health policies as tedious, the commitment our band has made to safety has proven to be a testament to our community. "Even during this pandemic, we still hold the tradition of being the Mighty Viking Band, which means always striving upwards and getting better even when times are tough."

A Whole New Game

Sarah Clever



THS First Football Game

A whole new game is what we got under the Friday night lights August 21 when we played the Dobyns-Bennett football team at the Stone Castle. The student section was not as big as usual, nor did we have as many fans either, due to limited ticket sales. Even though there was a small number, our school spirit was higher than ever.

As the game was getting ready to start, Coach Tiller announced guidelines, and the dance team did a pregame Rocky Top performance. This time, however, when the players ran out, they ran through a tunnel made of cheerleaders and dancers, not a big tunnel. Our football game went on as usual, besides having to wear a mask and social distancing. At the end of the first game of this new Covid era of sports, no one was allowed to come on the field like usual, even though we took a loss.

The question that everyone is asking is what precautions are we taking with Covid-19 to keep the football players safe? Head Coach Mike Mays explains, "We have to take temperatures daily, keep a re-

cord of questions we have to ask, wear masks all the time, [and] keep distancing when not in an activity." In addition to coaching, coaches are working hard to make sure that players follow the guidelines.

The fans are following guidelines as well. They have to have a mask on and be four to six feet apart. Our student section was still very energetic when it came cheering on the boys. They still had a theme which was Hawaiian Friday night under the lights. In all, I think that it was a good feeling for the student section to be back under the Friday Night Lights, especially when they threw glitter and flour in the air for kick off. Cheerleader Kenze Canter, a junior at THS, explained how Covid-19 is impacting the cheer season: "Covid-19 is affecting our season by not being able to cheer at away football games this year, wearing a mask when stunting and having to social distance."

Everyone is hoping this is all going to be over soon so we can get back to our Viking traditions. As Mrs. Kirk said, "I am very happy to see sports and all other extracurricular activities be able to resume. It is great to see students doing the activities they love. It is awesome to see the community come together to watch our athletes who are back in action." As long as fans and athletes alike follow the guidelines, the season can continue, so we can be a safe and positive Viking family and resume our Viking Nation normal!

A Painting Pair

Meghan Bryant



Seniors Finley Large and Sidney Hanson work on mural

Two Tennessee High School seniors, Finley Large and Sidney Hanson, recently traveled to Nashville, Tennessee, to paint a mural for a dental office. Designing and creating a mural is a very time-consuming process. Finley Large said, "The process was long! Before we even started paint-

ing, we had months of work to do. We first had to come up with a design that was appropriate to the buyer's request and had the correct proportions to the wall. Then we had to color-match the whole sketch so we could get the right color paints." A lot of time and effort goes into creating a mural, more than any non-artist would assume. The design for the mural is a very unique one that they had quite a bit of creative control on. "We went through a lot of trial and error while bringing the design together," said Hanson.

"He really loved one of Fin's concepts, a tree with three faces, and from there we added some more personal details: him as a boy on the right, looking through a telescope at specific constellations; him as an adult on the left with his two dogs, and background details from a personal trip he recently went on; and on each side of the tree in the limbs, a snake with specific coloring and pattern requested by the client," Hanson said, describing the mural's design. Unfortunately, the current pandemic did im-

pact their painting process. Hanson mentioned that "Nashville is a little bit of a dangerous place to be in during times like these. We have to take a lot of precautions: masks in public, frequent use of hand sanitizer, extreme limiting of any time in public, social distancing, and we'll all probably quarantine for about two weeks after the mural is completed."

The duo is not new to creating murals, and certainly hope to continue working on murals together, as Finley Large said, "I have done a few murals, and I know Sidney has done quite a few also. I personally would love to make more murals, especially if I can work on them with Sidney." Art is definitely in their future. Hanson plans to continue with art "without question. I plan to go to college for art and double major in fine arts and business. I would love to make a career in art and I'm very excited to see what future I will have in the art world." Large stated that "after high school, I hope to study interior design."

Cool Cat Carole Baskin Competes in Dancing with the Stars

Meghan Bryant



Baskin and Pashkov dance on the stage

The early days of the pandemic feels like a lifetime away now. One of the most memorable moments of this time was the phenomenon that was the Netflix documentary *Tiger King*. The world eagerly watched the interesting spectacle that various exotic cat owners made. One of the most debated topics was whether Carole Baskin, CEO of Big Cat Rescue, murdered her husband. While we may never know if she killed her husband, we will be able to see if she kills the dance stage. It came as a shock when the television show *Dancing with the Stars* announced the tiger lover as a contestant on the show. Other contestants include actress Skai Jackson, Nev Schulman from *Catfish*, musician Nelly, and Backstreet Boy AJ McLean. Baskin is most certainly the biggest surprise of the cast, an intelligent choice to draw in viewers. The first sight of Carole Baskin shows her in the colorful attire that she often exhibited on the show. In particular, she is wearing a bedazzled fuchsia long sleeve shirt under a pink, red, and orange tiger print dress. And of course, a Carole Baskin look would not be complete without her signature flower crown. Her fashion choice, while not the most stylish, represents her bubbly personality. She mimes a cat, holding her hands out like claws and meowing at the viewers. Immediately the audience knows that she is going to be continuing the image *Tiger King* created for her.

One of the most anticipated moments of the premier is seeing which of the professional dancers the stars are paired with. Viewers are left on the edge of their seats throughout the entire show. At last, after two hours, Carole Baskin is the final dancer. She walks into the practice room, covered from top to bottom in animal prints. Her partner, Pasha Pashkov, simply says, "Oh my God" when he sees her. She offers him a homemade flower crown, to match the one that she has donned on her own head. She is a very positive force to see, making cat puns left and right.

As the dance begins, it is obvious that they are taking the tiger theme and running with it. Her partner is wearing tiger print pants that match her own dress and is standing inside of a cage with a fake tiger. Both the floor and the screen in the background are plastered with neon, psychedelic looking tigers. To wrap all of it up, what better song is there to be playing than "Eye of the Tiger". Personally, I believe that all of it is a little tacky. If it continues past the first episode, it will be even worse. Baskin dances with enthusiasm. As new judge Derek Hough says "Carole Baskin. You danced that Paso, you smashed it!" referencing the dance, the paso doble. However, her lack of dance skills are apparent. There were critiques about her movements, specifically with her shoulders. *Dancing with the Stars* works on a scoring system, the highest being 10 points, with one score from each of the three judges. Receiving two fours and a three, Carole Baskin and her partner received the lowest score of the night. Unfortunately, at the moment, Baskin and Pashkov are the weakest links. However, there was no elimination on the first night. All in all, it was exciting to see Baskin on *Dancing with the Stars*. She was very entertaining and a smart choice to include in the cast, and I am eager to see how far she makes it.

I'm Still Here

Gibson Bartlett



Do you know that feeling when you're walking behind a group of people in the hall who are apparently all trying to fulfill their 2000's boy band music video dreams by walking in a single horizontal line that stretches the length of the entire hallway? I used to know that all too well, but a new learning environment has made it such that those captivating little moments have all but disappeared. I've been reminiscing on the little things we've lost due to Rona. My name's Gibson, and I'm still here.

We've all been new to this school at some point. I've gotten lost many times, but if there's one thing I've learned it's that if you want to look like you aren't lost you have to commit. My freshman year, I took a wrong turn trying to get to Mrs. Bittinger's Biology class. What would be the most reasonable thing to do in that situation? Turn back around to go the right direction? Stop and look at the map on my phone to get reoriented? Those seem like great options, but I was surrounded by upperclassmen and I didn't want to look lost, so my 9th grade self just kept walking in the wrong direction, completing a full circle of the top floor to get to class. Nowadays, if you take a wrong turn trying to get somewhere, there's probably no one to even see you. You can finally turn around with ease!

Has anyone else noticed that now we're finally safe from the kids fully making out in the middle of school? Say what you will about romance and relationships but can anyone walk by a couple kissing in the hallways and honestly say "You know what, I support this. We need more of this, and I am glad it is happening." Imagine it's 7:27 and you're walking into school right before a big quiz. You've been studying all night and you've memorized all the info you need to get a good grade. Do you really need a public reminder that true love still exists or that a certain couple is still going strong? Social distancing rules have held pretty strong thus far, and as unfortunate as that might be for some relationships, students are keeping it civil for the time being. Some of our favorite hallway blunders have all but vanished on the hybrid schedule, but who knows? Will the return to five day school weeks bring back these memorable moments? Regardless of how our hallways look in the future, one thing is true for now: I'm still here.

Homeschool vs. Online

Lucy Paulson

Homeschool and online learning sound similar because, well, both are done at home. However, there are many differences between the two. Nathaniel Morefield, sophomore, grew up homeschooled, "Homeschool has a definite chance for inadequate standards of education for the student, while public school presents clearer rules and guidelines by which learning can be tracked," he told me, "Because there isn't always a teacher, so you don't have someone to keep you on task and answer your questions immediately, but it's nice to work at your own pace and learn about stuff that you are interested in more."

On the topic of friendships during homeschooling, he answered, "There's a big difference in friendships and stuff as well, obvious-

ly, you don't have any sort of interaction." The grading system is also vastly different compared to the normal grading system, parents can change the grade to let you pass if you failed, "They just have to sign that they taught them the classes," He responded.

For public/online schools, teachers will hold you accountable for your work. He went on, "Like at my co-op, if you didn't pass a class, then your parents were allowed to change the grade to whatever they wanted. I know a guy that literally had his parents do all of his co-op work for him," He recalled. To wrap up, even though you might learn in homeschool, it's much more laid back than online school.

Humans of Bristol

Introduction

Humans of Bristol is a journalism project by Tennessee's oldest high school newspaper, Maroon & White, based at Tennessee High School in Bristol, Tennessee. It is inspired by the photo series Humans of New York and is featured on our school website's "Article of the Week." We also post our stories to Instagram @thsmaroonandwhite.

Humans of Bristol: Ben Talley

Sophia Detrick



"It was about 1984, I was 26. You're familiar with Big Brother, Big Sister, right? They're not big in the Bristol area, but I was Bristol's first. I was the first one and my little brother is 52 now; I still stay in touch with him. But after a couple years he said 'Ben,' he called me Ben, 'You're happiest when you're around children. You're happy you've changed, you're just crazy happy.' I'm pretty happy all the time, I was coaching Little League and doing things like that. He said,

The initial goal is to photograph 100 Bristolians on the street and create a catalogue of our city's inhabitants. Maroon & White staffers interview subjects in addition to photographing them. Alongside the portraits, we will include quotes and short stories from the subjects' lives.

Taken together, these portraits and captions will provide our readers with a glimpse into the lives of our neighbors.

"Why don't you teach? Why don't you teach little children?" And I thought about it. It was probably about a year later that it hit me that he was right. But I went back and got my Masters in teaching at ETSU. So the foundation I'm in the process- we're in the process of defining it right now... I think we're gonna call it Leadership Academy, or Bristol Leaders. We're gonna get the kids and turn them into leaders. Part of the- the number one requirement for being in it is we're gonna get them a Big Brother, Big Sister. I'm really excited about that. I just talked to Big Brother, Big Sister, they've got an office in Kingsport and they're all for it. I'm excited."

A Human helping Humans: Roy Hull, Human of Bristol

Jacob Finch



"In October I'll be 70 years old. I was born in Bristol, I grew up in Bristol, I graduated from Tennessee High in 1968, and went to Emory and Henry College. I graduated from Emory in '72. I went into business with my father in Bristol, Virginia, so I've lived here all my life and I've loved it."

[My father and I] were in the farm machinery business. I was a third generation. My grandfather was Leroy Hull Sr., and he started the business at about the time of the Depression. My wife and I, she went to John Battle High School and we met at Emory and Henry, live in a house that has housed, as of my granddaughter, seven generations. It goes all the way back to the Civil War when a freed slave built the house over two years. His name was J.K. Sinegar, interesting man. But I guess I've lived the same place my whole life never moved.

In the year 2000, my business went bankrupt, it was tough times for farmers. Lots of bad droughts. I went on a mission trip with the Senior Pastor here at State Street at the time, and we had been doing that and I became involved in a jail ministry. With, believe it or not, a fantastic guy by the name of Fred Keller, who at one time was a football coach at Tennessee High. So I was in a Jail Ministry with Coach Keller, and one night I went to that jail, Bristol Virginia Jail, and we had a great time in singing and praising God and worshipping and reading the scripture. When I came back, I came to this very office we're in, and I said 'Fred, I'm dying' and he started laughing at me. He said, 'You've been fighting this ministry your whole life, you just need to go ahead and give in', so out of the jail ministry with Fred Keller and the Gideons, I joined the Methodist Church as what is known as a local pastor. I attended Duke for my training, then came here to State Street, fully

three years ago after working at two different churches for a time.

I love it, but when I took this job I made sure I could keep my other job: working construction for the Holston Habitat for Humanity. It's a fantastic organization that provides opportunities to a lot of folks who may be having a rough time. God has also taken me to Africa several times, he's taken me to Costa Rica on mission trips, and around the world. My favorite place to go is South Sudan. The Methodist Church is very strong there, but they have been engrossed in a civil war no for about three years, but they are continuing to grow. But it does change your life when you see someone starving to death. And God took my agricultural background to use me to teach and help both in gospel and other things.

Then, about four or five years ago, the associate pastor at the time started a program her [at State Street Methodist] called Recovery. I was serving at a church in Big Stone Gap, but I was working here part of the time. So when he went into the mission field and went to Prague in the Czech Republic, he called me and asked if I wanted to run Recovery. I told him I'd love to. You know, I love to see people's lives change, and man Recovery is just hands on. The problem with addiction is just horrible now with drugs and alcohol and so many lives and families are being wrecked. But God's all about forgiveness, and that's the whole thing in Recovery. It's about forgiveness and going forward rather than looking back. The pandemic has been a struggle since we can't get together as a group, but we're still streaming on Facebook every Thursday night at seven 'o'clock, and we're honestly probably reaching some folks that we may not have before. It's been a great program, and it's going to get even better since we get to start meeting again Thursday night through the Grace of God."

Humans of Bristol :Kaylie Mosher

Gibson Bartlett



"I moved to Bristol in 2016 from the other side of Tennessee... from a little town called Newbern. I've lived in about 6 states, and I've moved 7 times... my dad's job has taken us to places like York, Nebraska and Baraboo, Wisconsin... I've gravitated toward the south, though. People are just more friendly and not so cutthroat competitive with each other... (Bristol) real-

ly feels like a community. It just has the right type of feeling... There are deep roots and strong ties that have a small-town nature, but there's always something to see and do... I've always had to acclimate to new places, but here just feels like home. This is my 5th year living in (Bristol). I came here in the 8th grade. Of course, nobody is the same as their 8th grade self forever, so I'm glad Bristol got to sort of shape e into the person i wanted to be."

Where do you go when nowhere is Safe?

Jacob Finch



Safe is a 1995 environmental horror film from great American Auteur Todd Haynes. It stars a then unknown Julianne Moore, and tells the story of meek housewife, Carol White, and the impending doom of an unknown disease. As an allegory for the AIDs crisis, an exploration of the fear of what is unseen, a commentary on climate change, a prophetic vision of self-help society, and a subtle metaphor for queer representa-

tion, this film is chock-full of interpretations, and it is especially prevalent considering the worldwide pandemic we find ourselves infused in. As stated prior, Julianne Moore plays Carol White, a rich housewife and self-diagnosed milkaholic, in the late 80's as she goes from an ideal image of modern health to a shriveled being that can barely step outside without having some sort of violent attack from within her body. Her character comes to learn she is environmentally sensitive, but it progresses to become so much worse than that. She has captured some unknown and unseen fictional disease that gives her reactions to everyday materials and chemicals. The reactions start mild, such as a general uneasy and nauseating feeling, and grow in intensity exponentially to the point of almost death, despite doctors not finding a thing wrong with her.

This is where the film becomes scarily similar to our real world, as thousands of environmentally sensitive people start popping up all over, they become almost manic in their obsession of staying clean, healthy, and isolated. Carol is against going out into public as one whiff of the wrong air could cause her to go into a complete catatonic state where she may not return. She isolates herself from her friends and family, and cannot even stay in her own home considering most of the materials and furniture are toxic to her. This instills the viewer with a constant, lingering fear that Haynes pulls off beautifully with her use of wide angle long shots and droning sound design.

However, around the point the disease gets this bad was when my main problem with the film came into play: the entire last act of the movie takes place on an isolated facility to accommodate those with this disease. Despite its powerful usage in the story as a journey for Carol to become more loving of herself as the cure to this disease, it slows the pace of the movie tremendously. Great moments still happen throughout, but they seem to be longer apart, and the moments between them involve a lot of self-reflection and realization that she is still a person and not some freak even if her life will never be normal again (as stated before, a major allegory for the society and people afflicted during the AIDs crisis, as the leader of the compound is environmentally sensitive and has AIDs himself). Despite these moments being necessary, it still feels as though Haynes dwells on them past their required screen time to get the point across.

Curbside Pickup: A Win for Chick-Fil-A

Maddy Wilson



Senior Lauren Eckley enjoying her Chick Fil-A

Curbside pickup for restaurants and fast food chains have become a norm for many. With some not wanting to dine-in, or the dining room being closed, curbside pickup is a viable, convenient option.

Some restaurants still haven't opened up their dining rooms, and Chick-fil-A is no exception, so I decided to review its curbside pickup quality. Not to brag, but I consider myself to be somewhat of a Chick-fil-A Connoisseur. I've eaten at many different locations throughout my life,

beginning at the Chick-Fil-A located in the Bristol Mall (RIP), and then the location at Exit 7, and of course, the latest addition, at the Pinnacle.

I elected to go to the Chick-fil-A at the Pinnacle for this review, not only because it's closest to my house, but because I know people that work there who will sometimes "accidentally" slip extra sauce into my bag.

The ride there was long because I hit almost every red light. That's not Chick-fil-A's fault but I felt like I had to include it.

I ordered on the app, which allowed for my food to come out quickly. For my order, I chose the classic chicken sandwich meal as an easy comparison to dine-in or drive-thru. The food itself was excellent because it's Chick-fil-A, and I found no negative discernible differences between what I would have had dining in.

Overall, I'd say the best experience was the efficiency of the curbside pickup. There was no long drive-thru line, I barely had to interact with anyone there because I paid on the app, I left as soon as I arrived, and I left with Chick-fil-A in my car which is way better than leaving with no Chick-fil-A.

All in all, I'd rate my curbside pickup experience a 10/10. If you're in a rush, or feel safer doing curbside rather than drive-thru, I'd 100% recommend curbside pickup.

Should Bristol Get a Casino?

Julia Slagle

The introduction of a casino to Bristol in 2018 caused quite the local controversy. Many of our neighbors have signs in their yards that read, "We're Betting On Bristol!" or "Don't Gamble With Bristol's Future!" As easy as it is to just pick a side, it's important to look at the pros and cons first of what a casino would do for/to our city.

One of the biggest concerns related to the casino is an increase in crime. This is definitely an issue for those who are concerned about their own safety, as well as the safety of their loved ones. In fact, cities where gambling is prevalent are statistically proven to have higher rates of organized crime, addiction, and suicide. However, these cities also have a drastically higher population than cities that prohibit gambling, which begs the question, do the casinos themselves cause this increased crime rate?

One benefit that the casino could bring is a huge boost for our economy. It is projected that Bristol would collect anywhere from \$15 million to \$20 million in local tax revenue, and local businesses would be making almost double the money they are making now from tourists and visitors alone.

In my personal opinion, our city would thrive with new job op-

portunities and increased tourism. However, gambling can become a serious addiction; families could find themselves in deep financial trouble due to excessive spending of money they simply don't have. Some who are in debt due to gambling could possibly consider suicide, further threatening the well-being of our families. The only responsible way to bring a casino into Bristol would be to also bolster other areas of our community by providing resources for families struggling financially, increasing access to quality addiction counseling, and ensuring strict local security.



Signs seen around town

What side of TikTok are you on? Quiz

Sheany Regules

1. Do you see people such as: Charlie D'Amelio, Addison Rae and Noah Beck on your "fyp" often?
2. Do you see people dancing and lip syncing to cringy music?
3. Do you see "povs" often?
4. Have you ever watched content from "The Hype House," "The Sway House," or "The Clubhouse?"
5. Have you done/seen dances like: "Savage," "Say so," or "the Renegade?"
6. Have you seen/done the "heathers" of your school?
7. Have you ordered "The Charlie" at Dunkin'?
8. Do you do "put a finger down if...?"
9. Do you see artists on your fyp?
10. Do you know who Spencer Wuah, Trinity Spurlock, or Christian Long are?



If you replied yes to:

- 0 - 3: Great news, you're on elite/alt tik tok. Keep being unique and do your best to stay away from the straight side of tik tok... they're scary
- 4 - 7: Eh.. you're in that weird middle ground. Neither side of tik tok completely wants you but hey at least you're not a basic Betty!
- 8 - 10: Uhhh you're 100% on straight tik tok. You also probably think you're going to blow up and become the next Charlie....No saving you now. Sorry!

What Your (Chick-Fil-A) Sauce Says About You

Sarah Clever

Chick-Fil-A

- You're the OG
- You always have plans
- You always get 100 likes or more on Instagram
- Your snap is always being blown up

Garden Herb Ranch

- You're very adventurous
- You're outgoing
- You do not always have plans; sometimes you just like to be by yourself
- You are an outside person

Zesty Buffalo

- You're the man
- You like it hot
- And live on the edge
- Make the big bucks

Polynesian

- You wear the pants in a relationship
- You know what's up
- You get all the digits
- You stay with the trends

Dog-Friendly Recipes to Share with Your Pup!

Julia Slagle

Homemade Dog Treats

- What You'll Need:
 - ¾ cup of pumpkin puree
 - ¼ cup of peanut butter
 - 2 large eggs
 - 2 ½ cups to 3 cups of whole wheat flour
- Directions
 - Preheat your oven to 350 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a silicone baking mat; set aside.
 - In the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat pumpkin puree, peanut butter, and eggs on medium-high until well combined, about 1-2 minutes. Gradually add 2 1/2 cups flour at low speed, beating just until incorporated. Add an additional 1/4 cup flour at a time just until the dough is no longer sticky.

Working on a lightly floured surface, knead the dough 3-4 times until it comes together. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough to 1/4-inch thickness. Using cookie cutters, cut out desired shapes and place onto the prepared baking sheet.

- Place into the oven and bake until the edges are golden brown, about 20-25 minutes.
 - Let cool completely.
- ## Homemade Ice Cream Sundae
- What You'll Need:
 - ½ tsp coconut oil
 - ¼ rolled oats
 - 1 tbsp shredded coconut
 - 1 tbsp chopped peanuts
 - ¼ cup blueberries and strawberries
 - 2 frozen bananas
 - 1 tbsp coconut milk (or water)
 - 1 tbsp peanut butter
 - Directions

For the granola: In a wide pan over medium heat, add in the coconut oil until melted. Add in the oats, shredded coconut, and chopped peanuts, and toast for 4-6 minutes, or until lightly browned.

- Remove from heat and cool for a few minutes. Store in an airtight container for about 2 weeks.
- For the "ice cream" remove the bananas from the freezer and allow them to thaw for 10 minutes. Add them to a food processor along with the remaining ingredients and process until smooth.

Transfer to a bowl and add granola and other toppings of your choice. Serve immediately.

Vikings Vocalize: Pinnapple on Pizza?

Jacob Finch

Katlin Bingham (9th Grade)

"No, who would choose a sweet topping to go on a savory food? Not me."

Yssac Laclair (12th Grade)

"Yes, it does and I'll tell you why. When you eat pizza and you have the meats and the cheese, the pineapple gives a really good balance, giving the saltiness a little bit of sweetness. It's so good."

Payne Ladd (10th Grade)

"No, because it's a fruit. It's sweet and a sweet ingredient does not belong on a pizza."

James Bowling (9th Grade)

"Yes, I like pineapple on pizza; I think it's good for us."

Gage Canady (11th Grade)

"No, it's too sweet. Pizza should be savory."

Emma West (11th Grade)

"Yes, the sweetness of the pineapple goes good with the tanginess of the pizza sauce."

Gabby Kennedy (12th Grade)

"No, it doesn't taste good."

Marisol Gonzales (10th Grade)

"Yes, it adds a bit of sweetness to it. [People who don't like it] are a little weird but I understand it could be kinda gross."



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