



Winners

GSPA'S
GENERAL EXCELLENCE
COMPETITIONS

2022-23

Circle

2022 GSPA Summer Individual Contest Winners

Categories (in order of appearance)

Literary Magazine:

Poem
Short Story
Artwork
Photograph
Cover Design
Spread Design

Yearbook:

Social Justice Reporting
COVID-19 Reporting
Yearbook Story
Special Interest Story
News Photography

Yearbook (continued):

Feature Photography
Sports Photography
Portrait Photography
Photo Essay
Information Graphic
Illustration
Photo Illustration
Spread Design
Cover Design
Theme Development
Social Media Storytelling
Social Media Promotion
Social Media Breaking News

2022-23 GSPA Spring Individual Contest Winners

Categories (in order of appearance)

Broadcast:

News Package
In-Depth News/Documentary
Feature Package
Production
Sports Package
Podcast

Newspaper/News magazine/News Website:

Social Justice Reporting
COVID-19 Reporting
News Story
In-Depth News Story
Feature Story
Feature Profile
Column Writing
Opposing Viewpoints
House Editorials
Commentary
Critical Review

Sports News Story
Sports Game Coverage
Sports Feature Story
Sports Column
Headline Writing
Caption Writing
Editorial Cartoon
Sports Photograph
News Photograph
Feature/Entertainment Photograph
Photo Essay
Information Graphic
Illustration
Photo Illustration
Double-truck layout/design
Advertising Design
Social Media Storytelling
Social Media Breaking News
Social Media Promotion
Emerging Media

POEM

"SHARDS"

Emily Hoff

Echo, North Springs High School

Shards by Emily Hoff

I am nothing but kind to her.

I work her so hard,

Sweaty, strenuous work.

I'm only helping her, right?

But she can not seem to reach perfection;

No matter how hard she tries

She's still unfit and unattractive.

With large hips that protrude from her side,

With a chunky stomach sticking out;

Obstructing her view to her toes

With a sad smile that rests on her face,

Afraid to expose the raw

Sadness and exhaustion underneath.

Not who I want her to be.

She is still incapable of success, I make her study

Until the extent of her exhaustion shows,

Through that melancholy shape

her lips have permanently settled into

Until her head spins

Faster than the carousel she used to ride

Back when life was enjoyable

Back when life was fun,

And it gave her reason to keep living,

Playing, loving, laughing, learning

But this girl feels that her

Life has no purpose, void.

So as I stare at her,

The tired, sad, miserable, girl

Who still finds the will in this sad, dreary world to push herself

Her limits, her ability to love, and her intelligence,

I am angered.

I punch her. Hard, in the face

Blood coats my knuckles, the red of my anger

Spills onto my pants

As I dig my hands into their pockets;

And my mirror breaks.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "The mirror ties together the two sides of 'she' and 'I': her former happy carefree self and her current unattractive and less-than-perfect self. Vivid description and third person creates tension till the last stanza, when the point of view switches to first person and readers realize 'I' is talking about herself."

SHORT STORY

"BLUE CARDIGAN"

Ivy Breinig

Musings, Starr's Mill High School

Autumn snows its leaves under a harvest moon and birds sing to the dreamers. Their souls float in the wind and the sun awakens humans from the rest the moon placed upon them. Though up since the early hours, I only focus on the melody dancing through the room as it entices me to join. However, I stay seated in a daze, my body still flushed with happiness from the previous night when I was happily lost from reality with my poets as my comfort. The dark-toned wooden walls of the living room give a soft contrast against the morning sun shining in. The bleak modern decor provides a mundane atmosphere while *Clare de lune* sings through a nearby record player. My stark green eyes are a window to my nostalgic soul while I sit here remembering someone playing the same song the previous night as she twirled barefoot in a flush with pink cheeks; kissed by angels. I watched my poet dance among smiles adorned on exquisite faces and I felt alive in that intimate apartment. Most importantly, I remember the laughter.

I sit in my chair surrounded by people who decorate my living room, their souls providing comfort with treasured smiles, or sorrowful tears bound to the confines of paint on a canvas. I apologize to them sincerely. When I first moved here, I laid eyes upon the space each room provided and I knew this would never truly be home without those I love. I would become a man occupying an empty abyss. These rooms, merely a place to come home to though no home at all. After a few years, my apartment now paints me a man in love with my poets. For if one were to look upon the walls and floors they would see faces of people I love dearly. Peace within art.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Blue Cardigan is rich in details that keep the plot moving. The first paragraph sets the scene, and those that follow lead the reader through unexpected twists and turns. We discover the environment the protagonist 'Amber' lives in and how she reacts to mental and external stimuli. The final twist is surprising and gives us a sense of relief."

ARTWORK

"HAIR"

Mya Wesley

Echo, North Springs High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Details were the deciding factor in this contest. Hair consists of varied yarn colors combined with the painted face and shoulders that create a 3-dimensional appearance. The yarn colors and skin tones effectively compliment each other, giving a unified look to the piece."

PHOTOGRAPH

"CANYONEERING"

Caroline Orbock

iliad, Clarke Central High School

evolution

Clara McCarthy // sophomore
free-verse poem

I will be a soft-swept comb,
That lingers at my nose,
Wiggling,
Purring me to scratch,
At an itch that won't abate

I will be a shirt worn under,
Only seen when I let it be,
It begs,
It begs,
To be free

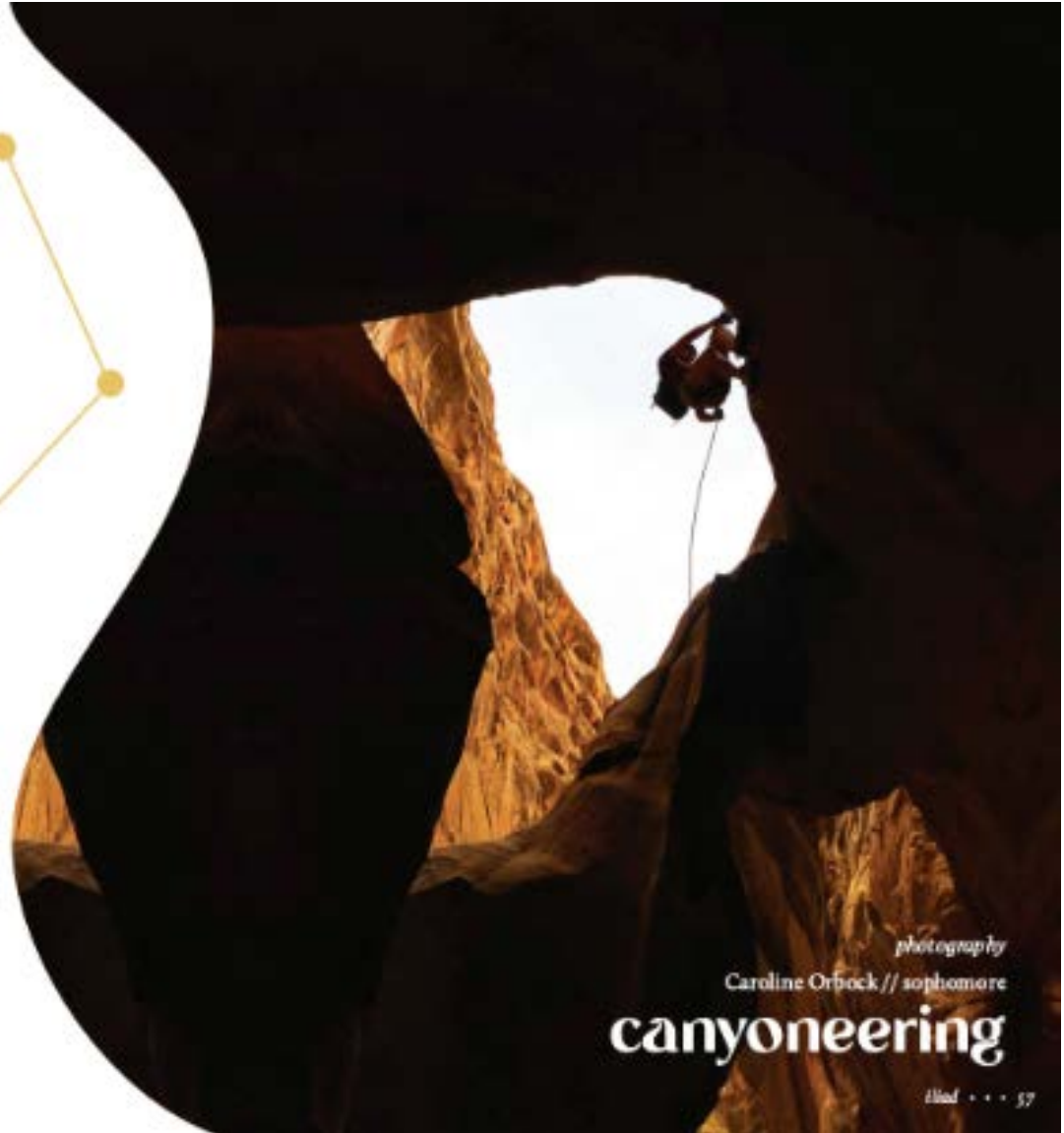
I have not yet peeled fabric,
off my skin like an old rind,
But I have picked at cotton,
leaving peepholes behind

It is asking,
always asking,
To be declared,
as mine

I am asking,
always asking,
To let myself oblige

But that will take some time.

i ardria



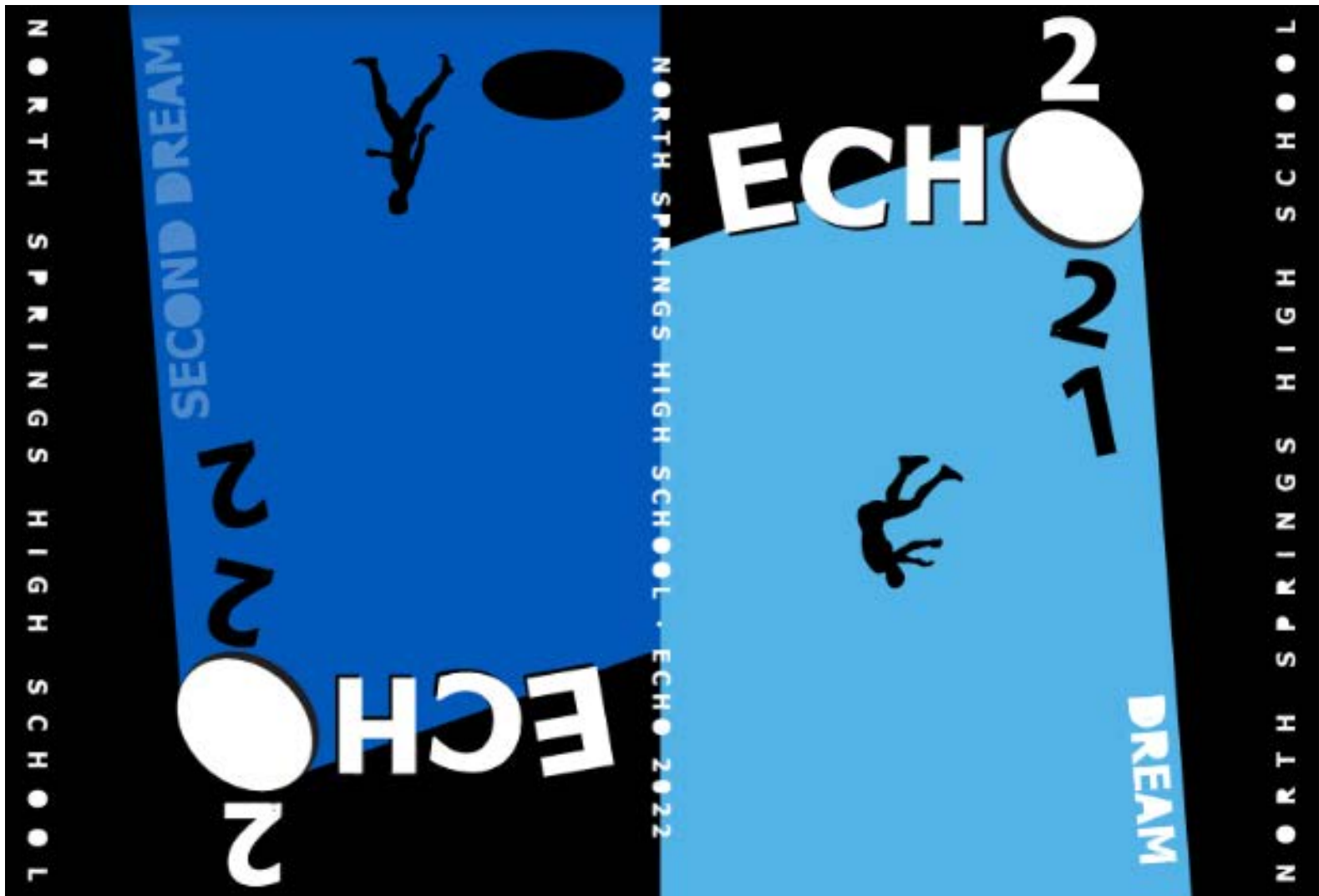
JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "The viewer's eye is immediately drawn to the climber, who is framed by the opening in the stone walls and silhouetted by light entering the opening. The contrast between the darker and lighter stone walls adds much visual interest."

COVER DESIGN

"DREAM/SECOND DREAM"

James Satterfield

Echo, North Springs High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "When faced with what is basically two separate literary magazines, the solution was to have two similar covers. Unity was achieved through a basic design with enough differentiation through color and human figure to establish two publications are behind the covers."

SPREAD DESIGN

"A WARM SPRING RAIN/TAU"

Eva Orbock, Bird Smith, and Niles Flath

iliad, Clarke Central High School

a warm spring rain

Niles Flath // Clarke Middle School rising freshman

prose

I remember one time last April, I was laying on my back on the concrete pathway in front of my house. A warm spring rain fell on my face, covering my skin with water. The raindrops, despite being warm, cooled my body. They soaked through my clothes. The damp scent of rain surrounded me and I shut my eyes to protect them from the steady streams of the water.

My body felt heavy, exhausted from simple existence. With my back pressed against the cold rocks, it was easy to focus on my thoughts. Thoughts that are always there, just usually subconscious because of the business of life. Thoughts filled with stress for my future and my current grades. Thoughts of fear that no one's going to accept me for who I love. Thoughts of worry that no one will ever miss me if I leave. Thoughts of the stars. The whispers that follow me like looming shadows. Constantly hanging over me, always making their presence known. Thoughts that lead me to wonder if things could be easier if I just wasn't here, if I just moved on to the next stage of existence, not existing.

I continued letting the rain wash over my body, dampening every strand of my hair and turning its usual golden color a dark yellow. Suddenly my thoughts began to change. I remembered standing in front of my mirror getting ready to go out. I remembered noticing how pretty my eyes are, how cute my freckles look. I remembered holding hands with them for the first time, how powerful it made me just to be standing next to them. I remembered an average day in math class when I finished my work early and looked around and realized how much I loved every single person in the room. I could feel how much I would hurt if any of them weren't there.

Suddenly, I opened my eyes. I stood up. The water droplets ran off my body in tear-stained streaks. I pushed myself to my feet, my shirt sticking to my skin. I breathed the water out of my eyes and began walking forward.

gouache

Bird Smith // junior

tau

46 • • • astoria

iliad • • • 47



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "The viewer's eye is drawn to the sun and one of its rays reaching down to a human-like figure near what appears to be a lake. What appears to be hills, full of greenery, spans the spread and provides a strong frame for the prose on the left-hand page. The hills also serve to unify the spread."

COVID-19 REPORTING

"MASK US AGAIN"

Anna Fairrel, Caroline Franklin, and Audrey Zimmerman

The Legend, McIntosh High School



"I think that it should be left up to the students and their family to decide whether or not they should wear a mask."

Charlotte Gangler (12)

mask us. again?

Only two weeks into the school year, Board of Education decides to make masks mandatory

Original art by Corinne Niekirk



"I don't like it because I feel like we've already come so far. There's a lot of people with vaccines and people still hang out on weekends without wearing them anyway."

Katie Stucko (12)



"I don't think that it's fair to those who have already been vaccinated. But I do understand why they want to wear a mask if they aren't already vaccinated."

Baylie Okland (9)

mask timeline

FCBOE reverses decision on optional fall facemasking



no masks

"I know that the whole 'no mask' thing was just a joke. I thought it was stupid for them to say it."

Alan Benke-Lobos (11)



first day

"I felt nervous. It gave you an opportunity to see how you were doing. I was nervous because I was nervous about school. It's like you don't know how you're doing."

Alan Benke-Lobos (11)



two weeks in

"There's been more than the mandatory mask policy. But I think the game has to be played well."

Samuel W. Karpman (10)



new mandate

"It wasn't affected by what the state decided before the mandate."

Baylie Okland (9)

Photos by Caroline Franklin, Audrey Zimmerman and Anna Fairrel

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Good job getting a variety of viewpoints about the continuing impact of COVID."

YEARBOOK STORY

"ROLLIN' ON HOME"

Oluwadolapo Thomas and Mikayla Santiago
The Legend, McIntosh High School

FALL into fashion

as the weather changes from the hot summer to cool fall, we know how to stay warm

Coverage and photos by Sarah Najjar and Dolly Thomas



winter weather
Describing what she likes about Fall, Elizabeth Stanton (10) talks about her favorite activities: "I like to go shopping at Lillard Thicket and Fabric, and I like to wear some neutral colors and brown and orange," Stanton said.



cozy and cozy
Showing off his outfit of the day, Hassan Akmal (10) has a specific shopping technique. "I look online and on Instagram to see if anyone cool is wearing something and I just search it up and buy it," Akmal said.



falling in love with jackets Revealing how it was made, Marina Walsh (10) shows off her jacket. "My mom made this jacket so I wore it for her. [Fall is much cooler than summer and spring so I like to wear jackets and layers," Walsh said.

Rollin' on home

while our golf carts are famous, the downside is remembering to charge them

Living in Peachtree City, also known as the golf-cart city, means riding golf-carts as a primary means of transportation. Though riding them around the cart paths can be fun, everyone has dealt with a dead golf-cart while being miles away from their final destination. During these events it becomes a team effort to get the golf-cart to where it needs to go.

"We were driving home during a blizzard and the golf cart broke down on the hill. So we had to push it all the way up the hill and then take it down the hill to our house," Robert Passarella (11) said.

The commonality of a broken-down problem with a golf-cart is not always limited to helping friends. Alexander Burke-Colon (11) extends help to people stranded in the community.

"There was an elderly couple driving

and their battery died. My friend Connor and I were in the back pushing, and the elderly couple sat in the front steering the golf-cart," Burke-Colon said.

Driving to school does not create an exception for the dreaded event of a dead golf-cart battery. Bailey Moffett (10) describes the day when she experienced this.

"Our battery was really dead, and it wasn't telling the charge left on the golf cart. So I didn't know how much charge it had. The golf cart was slowing down, and in my mind I said I'm not going to be able to make it to school, so I pulled over, called my parents, and then started walking to school with all my stuff. Then one of my friends passed me on the golf cart paths, and they were able to give me a ride to school," Moffett said. Coverage by Dolly Thomas and Mikayla Santiago



birthday equations Watching a video about shared birthday theory, the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society attempts to find out who their birthday twins. MAT holds several math-based competitions throughout the year, while learning more about math and college-level equations. "This math, I thought it would be fun and have a leadership opportunity," Student Council member (11) said. The secretary of the society. Photo by Sarah Gilley

Mu Alpha Theta

math honor society counts fun opportunities as time well spent with members



Coverage by Sarah Gilley
Photo by Sarah Gilley



3,141,592 Learning about the national organization of Mu Alpha Theta, Anthony Qiu and Sophie Holloway talk with their sponsor, math teacher Christopher Downey, about meeting once a month. "They announce what competitions will be held and introduce a new math topic. I like math a lot, so when I saw the concept that our sponsor introduced, they interest me to say the least," Qiu said. Photo by Sarah Gilley

Q&A

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great work telling a unique and interesting story with good interviewing while maintaining AP style."

SPECIAL INTEREST

"FAR FROM HOME"

Oluwadolapo Thomas

The Legend, McIntosh High School



Art direction by Estera Bellantoni Photo by Dolly Thomas

what do you know?

On Thurs. Feb. 24 Russian forces attacked Ukraine, a member of the ex-Soviet republic, on three fronts

a little

"I know that Russia attacked Ukraine first. I think that the biggest reason for this is that it is a war to get more land and resources." Andrew James (10)

a lot

"Historically, Ukraine and Russia have been connected. Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union and when it collapsed, Russia lost it. A big reason for Russia's attack is because of natural resources and the Black Sea that would be beneficial for trade." Mason Kober (11)

not much

"All I know is that the situation in Ukraine is really difficult and I hope that things will get better for those people because they don't deserve it." Joseph Sefarish (10)

it's terrible

"A lot of families and people are losing their lives and houses it is just a terrible situation because it must be so traumatic to go through this specifically for the children." Harial Wilson (11)

it's worrying

"Russia attacked Ukraine first and they are threatening their borders at the moment. Though the US is helping Ukraine with aid I am not fully glad that the aid is not military. My dad is in the military and it worries me that he could get involved at anytime." Kraggan Navigator (10)

confusion

"I really don't understand why Putin isn't recognizing the Ukrainian sovereignty. He is trying to start the WWII back together because he believes in war and I don't believe in it." Andrew Lawrence (11)

somewhat

"I know about the laws of war, he is in the Ukrainian Air Force and took down a bunch of Russian fighter jets by himself. I thought that was pretty cool." Sam Landford, Avidal (10)

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great first-person account. Timeline is a solid explanation for those that may not know the story. Nice Job."

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

"INTO THE WOODS"

Tracy Guo

The Legend, McIntosh High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great balance and use of angle in this photo composition."

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPH

"COURTYARD COURT"

Rebekah Bushmire

The Legend, McIntosh High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great composition. Nice curved leading lines to the center of interest, clear focus and good lighting. Fun energy to the photo as well—it makes you feel like you're there."

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

"SAVING OUR SKINS"

Ava Flores

The Legend, McIntosh High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Unique angle captures the moment. Great emotion! Right shot at the right time."

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

"YELYZAVETA"

Oluwadolapo Thomas
The Legend, McIntosh High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great use of light and color and the contrast of the Ukrainian flag. Awesome shot"

PHOTO ESSAY

"MOMENTS THAT DEFINE YOU"

Kayla Peacock

The Indian, Towns County High School



Mai Lim (12)

From the time she was only 5 years old, **Mai Lim** has been a driven and talented **dancer**. Having starred in a variety of performances, danced before hundreds of audiences, won high-honored titles and scholarships, and, not to mention, dedicated countless hours to practice, Mai has built an empire of her passion. Her ability, her sharpness, combined with her grace, will inevitably astonish. Mai humbly admits, "Dance is something I will not hesitate to give my time to. It's what I love to do most." After high school, she plans to continue her pursuit of dance during college. She aspires to meet new people, broaden her perspective on dance, all while sharing her love of dance with others.



Ivan Chavero (11)

A cross country runner, a friendly face and a loyal student. Yet, beyond the halls of TCHS, Ivan Chavero spends his days playing his electric bass guitar with his dad and brother in their family church band. For the last 6 years, Ivan has practiced and played regularly each week. Between strumming alongside his family or with his friends in Blairsville, to practicing solo after school or before church, Ivan has nurtured his passion for music well, having grown into a phenomenally fluent and talented young guitarist. "It's fun, even just playing for myself makes me happy", Ivan says, "...especially being able to do it for the people and with people; it's really what I enjoy most."



Emma Dale (10)

Emma Dale is a competitive **barrel-racer**, who at 7 years old started to ride horses, but started her racing career at 12. She discovered her love for horses through her aunt, saying "My aunt was into horses and introduced them to me; she passed away about 2 years ago, but she left me with something so valuable that I really enjoy doing. I've loved them since." When barrel-racing with her horse, Gracie, not only does Emma continue to keep the fond memories she has of her aunt, but she also earns the opportunity to pursue her adventurous and competitive spirit.



Skylar Franklin (9)

Since she was much younger, **Skylar Franklin** has owned an aptitude to create art, more specifically, her self-inspired **sketch book drawings**. Skylar shares, "I just draw in the moment. It's a means of self-communication. It slowly grew into hobby with time and work, and now it's become a career I want to pursue after high school." Her drawings consist of flowers, faces, and one of her favorite pieces is her classic "Mushroom Person" sketch. And with every drawing, she places her finishing touch by writing "Stay Trippy Little Hippie". Her personalized and impressive knack for self-expression is a talent that she considers a core part of her identity, as she says, "Without art, I wouldn't be myself at all."



128 Moments That Define You

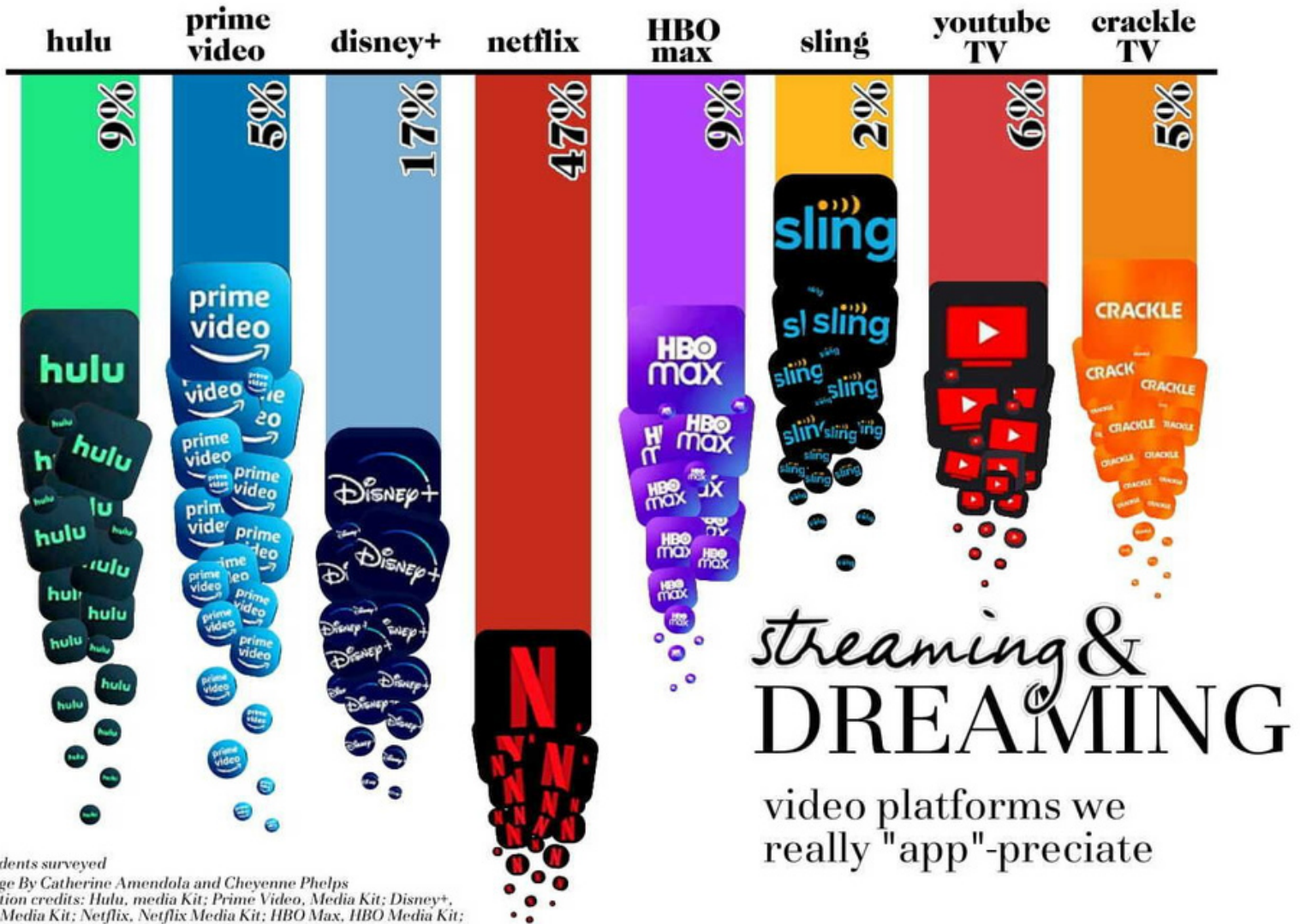
JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great storytelling photographs to complement the accompanying mini feature stories."

INFORMATION GRAPHIC

"STREAMING & DREAMING"

Catherine Amendola & Cheyenne Phelps

The Legend, McIntosh High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Creative way to depict your stats from the poll you took. Great job!"

ILLUSTRATION

"SCHOOL VIOLENCE MUST BE SILENCED"

London Whilby

The Legend, McIntosh High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Moving tribute. Tastefully done. Nice job."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

"CALE COLLUM PROFILE"

Ethan Duncan and Ethan Fossan

Tiger, Dawson County High School



CALE COLLUM

Mixing four-on-the-floor with a sick drop

Our school has numerous students that excel in the area of music. One of them is Senior Cale Collum. His area of profession is DJing. It has been a passion of his for many years now.

"When I was 9," Cale said, "I met this guy named Rob. My mom basically got me into doing DJ lessons with him and I fell in love with it really quick. I've always loved music. I fell in love with DJing really quick. I've been DJing for 9 years now."

Collum lit up the Homecoming dance (bottom left) and has worked various raves. Regardless of the event, Cale puts his love and passion into each and every session.

When asked about his process in creating music, Cale had this to say.

"I listen to a lot of music. That's where I draw inspiration from. I like to start by designing my own sounds. Once I find a good sound, I start to layer it with some other sounds to kind of create melodies, and throw some drums over it. There's a song."

It's obvious he enjoys what he does so much. His heart is filled with a true appreciation for music, and he wishes to share that appreciation with other people.

"When it comes to the field of music, there's just something for everyone. There's a type of music for everybody. You've got your heavy metal heads, people who just want something to dance to. You've got your house music when you just wanna sing your heart out, punk... there's just something for everyone."

by Ethan Duncan

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Well composed, good-quality photos to help tell the story of the homecoming dance."

SPREAD DESIGN

"STICKING AROUND"

True Youngblood

The Indian, Towns County High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "What a great alternative mode of storytelling. Love that you got actual laptops. Nice Job!"

COVER DESIGN

"WE ARE..."

Caroline Blair

Tiger, Dawson County High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great job of tying the visual theme together with the verbal with the artist's depiction of different types of students at your school with the silhouettes."

THEME DEVELOPMENT

"IN THE MOMENT"

Yearbook Staff

The Indian, Towns County High School

Capturing Their Moment

The teachers of Towns County High School voted on the top ten students in the senior class who demonstrated dedication in the areas of academics, service, honor, and responsibility. These teachers often see something in these students that they may not see in themselves. Congratulations to the ten seniors who were selected for their commendable efforts!



Macy Brinson

"Macy has endured adversity since such a young age; however, she has not let that adversity define her. She has used her past to help shape her future and is absolutely one of the most focus driven students I have taught and gotten to know. I can't wait to see what the future holds for her."
-Mrs. Sarah Vardo



Book Specifications

Program: 800 All Color
Trim Size: 8 1/2 X 11
Binding: Smyth Sewn
Copies: 250
Copy Pages: 288
Cover Additions: Anti-Scruff Matte Lamination, Vista Custom Embossed with Custom Embossing Die
HJ Cover Grain: French Straight
HJ Base Material: Permacote
Cover Board Weight: 120 pt.
Cover Spine Size: 1 5/8"

Printing

Herff Jones
2525 Midpoint Dr.
Edwardsville, KS 66111-8800
800.255.6287
Doug McWilliams, Plant Manager
Natalie Jones, Service Manager
Josh Dodge, Customer Service Manager
Natalie White, Yearbook Representative

Staff Stats

Total Staff: 13
Adviser: 1 (Rachel Surles)
Editors: 2 (Kayla Peacock & Rylie Livingston)
Seniors: 7
Juniors: 2
Sophomores: 2
Freshmen: 2
Veterans: 9
Newbies: 4



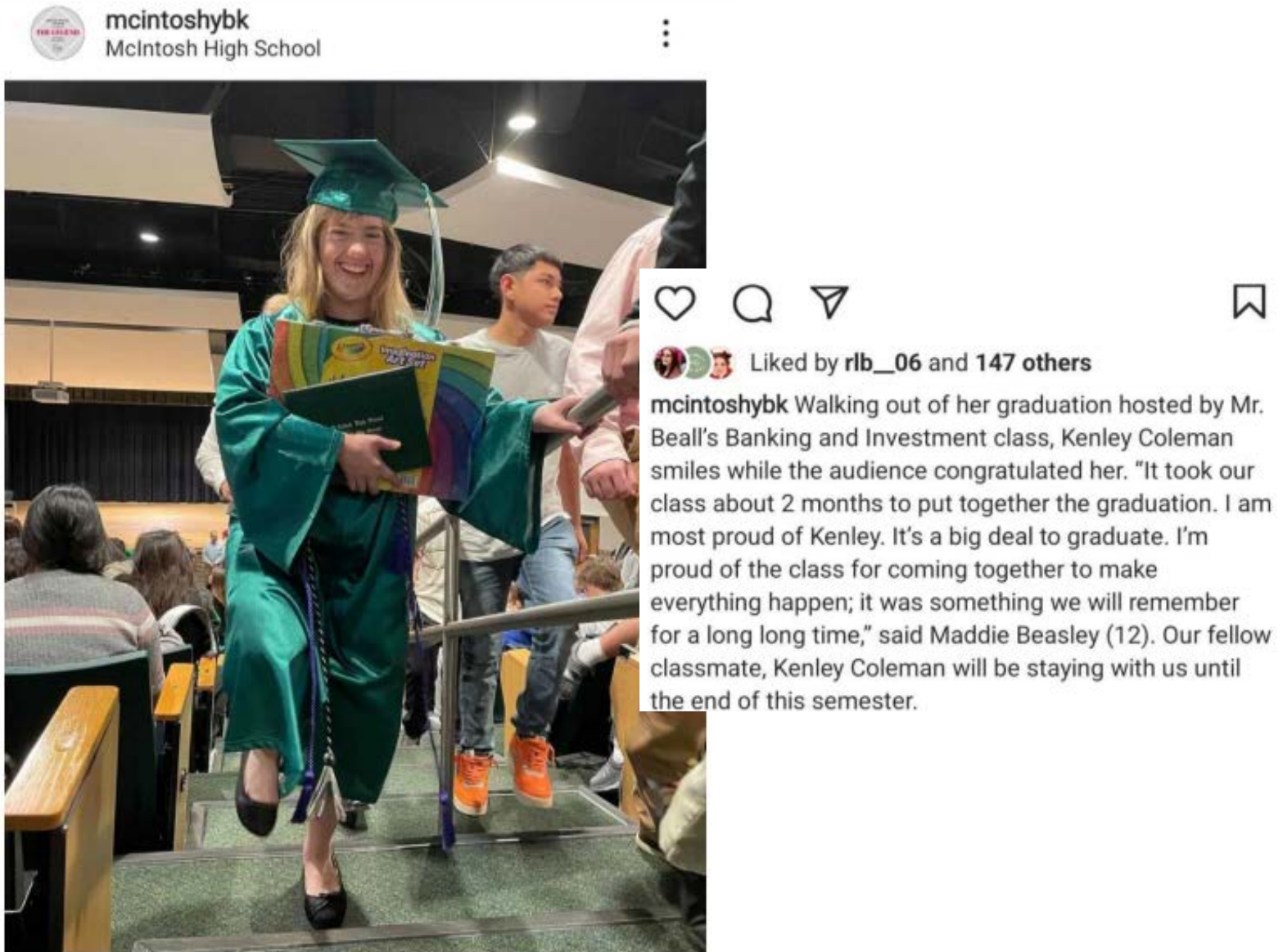
JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Consistent development is evident in all areas of production. Really like what you did here."

SOCIAL MEDIA STORYTELLING

"GRADUATION DAY"

Tracy Guo

The Legend, McIntosh High School



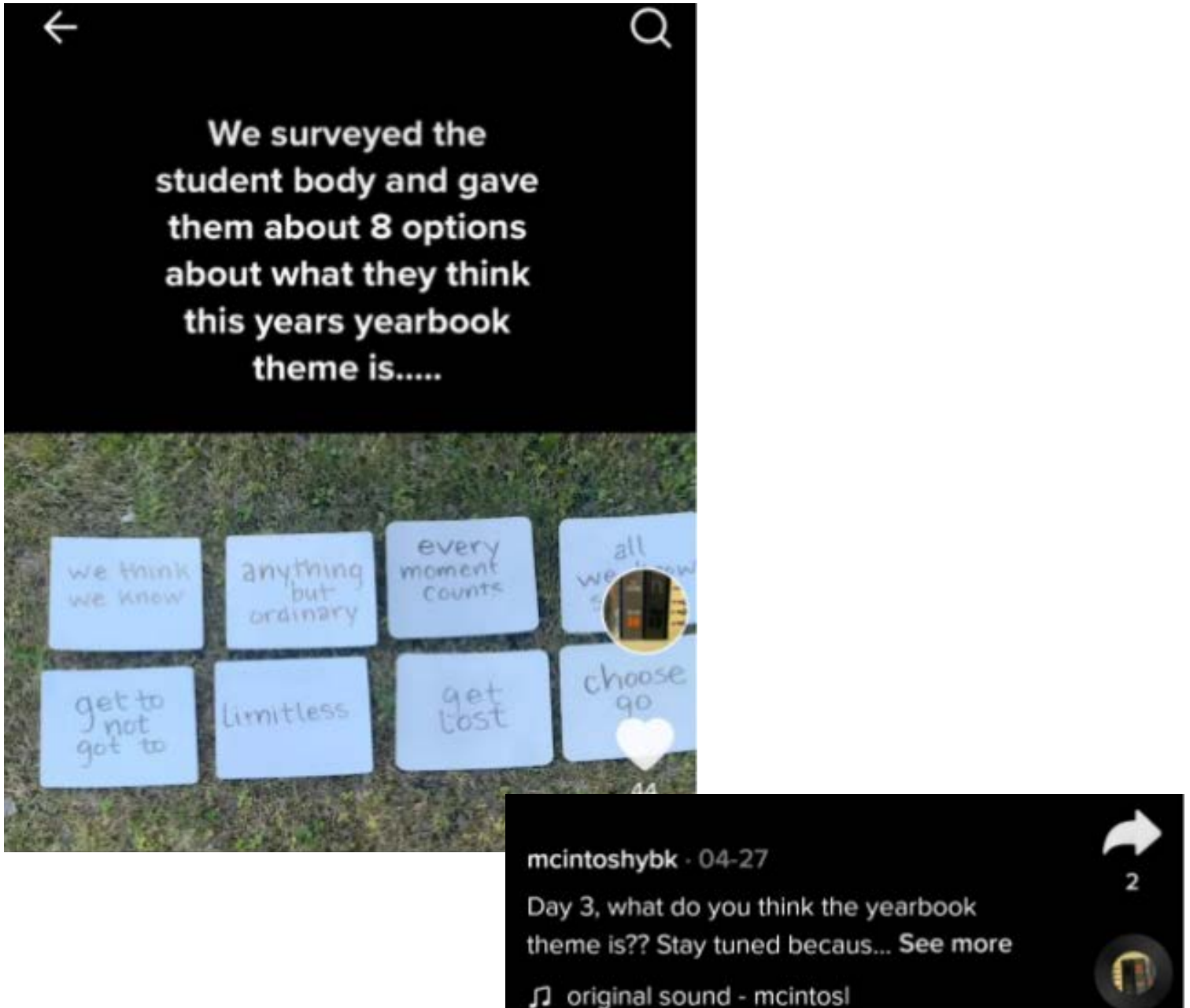
JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Fun alternative storytelling for someone who had an alternative graduation."

SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTION

"GUESS THE THEME"

Oluwadolapo Thomas and London Wilby

The Legend, McIntosh High School




JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great way to promote your yearbook to the student body and gain buy-in from them for your theme for the year. Love this!"

SOCIAL MEDIA BREAKING NEWS

"SPRING GALA ANNOUNCEMENT"

Savannah O'Connor
The Legend, McIntosh High School



mcintoshybk

472 views • Liked by rlb__06

mcintoshybk Ms. Lee's pregnancy announcement + the Spring Gala's theme revealed! • Finding out the theme of Spring Gala for this year, chorus students also receive the news of Ms. Lee's pregnancy.

"We were all super excited to find out the gala theme and some of us were guessing the themes," senior Gabbie Szatkowski says. "But everyone was shocked when we started hearing the word 'baby' in the sample songs she picked out, and then everyone started putting the pieces together. We were all so excited for her because she's going to be a great mom, and we're excited about the theme!"

Coverage by: Savannah O'Connor

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great job including all the breaking news pertinent facts along with an insightful quotation to add student voice to the post. Nice work including photo from the event."

BROADCAST NEWS PACKAGE

"YOUTH DAY AT THE WEST BROAD FARMER'S MARKET"

Melanie Frick

WJAG, Cedar Shoals High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "While this production had minor technical flaws, it is all forgiven because this is a great story with layers that is well reported. I felt like I had been to this market and knew the history of it. That is the desired storytelling result."

IN-DEPTH NEWS/DOCUMENTARY

"THE UNHEARD VOICES"

Ivan Mendoza

The Chant, North Cobb High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "This story featured a variety of voices that are combined together to display a shared experience. That not only binds the community of these voices, but creates understanding from other people who don't have those shared experiences."

FEATURE PACKAGE

"MAKING MUSIC WITH JAYLEN STRIGNER"

Aliyah Adams

WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "This feature made me want to learn more about the subject and his music. I'm glad the reporter went into the struggle in working with a music label and how he is navigating that."

PRODUCTION

"THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL PROMO"

Henry Lott

Oracle, North Springs High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "This was a comprehensive promo that stood out because it told a story. I loved the featured interviews with the talent and the details of using SpongeBob font for the titles. The musical track and natural sound pops made me want to see the show!"

SPORTS PACKAGE

"VOLLEYBALL STATE RECAP"

William Lowman and Isaiah Shareef

Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "This piece captured the energy that live sports creates and allowed the key figures in the game to provide voice to how they achieved success. It was a good mix of interviews and highlights."

PODCAST/AUDIO-ONLY STORY

"INSIDE INFO ON THE COLLEGE DECISION PROCESS"

Freddrell Green and Alyssa Weiszer

BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "This podcast has great information and the featured speakers feel present in the conversation. Technically, the audio is mixed well and the listener is provided with a very clean experience in consuming the context."

SOCIAL JUSTICE REPORTING

"RISES IN RENT LEAVE TENANTS DISTRAUGHT"

Tumelo Johnson and London Moore
BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

EVICTIION NOTICE

RISES IN RENT LEAVE TENANTS DISTRAUGHT

By Tumelo Johnson and London Moore
Design by Elise Crane
Art by Tera Rodriguez

When a letter arrived in the mail informing Lexington Gardens resident Barbara Daniel that she had to vacate her property within the next 30 days, she was initially shocked and confused. What she didn't know was that her house, along with hundreds more in Athens that generally housed low income residents, had been purchased by Florida based investment group Prosperity Capital Partners. After the acquisitions Prosperity Capital, who did not respond to a request for an interview, raised rent almost 93%, from \$825 to \$1,595 a month.

Daniel knew that Prosperity Capital had violated Georgia law by not giving 60 days notice on evictions, so after she wrote a letter to Prosperity Capital and received no response she sought outside help.

"They gave me 30 days' notice and I wrote them a letter saying I wasn't going anywhere. So the Department of Community Affairs got in touch with them and said they had to give me 60 days," Daniel said.

The problems for tenants affected by Prosperity Capital are not new or unique to them, and they are part of a larger trend in Athens and the country as a whole.

RIISING HOME PRICES

Over a three year period from October 2019 to 2022, the median price of a home in Athens-Clarke County rose from \$199,000 to \$306,280, an increase of about 50%. Home prices had been rising steadily since the 2008 financial crisis, but the COVID-19 pandemic caused a large spike. A main cause of this trend was the record low mortgage rates during the pandemic. If a person bought

a home in 2019, they paid significantly higher interest rates towards their mortgage than if they bought in 2020 after rates plummeted in the spring.

Local realtor Joe Polanczky, owner of Nabo Realty, says that another factor driving the housing boom was low supply and extremely high demand.

"We didn't have an inventory of homes built up, and the demand for housing to buy was really high on anything that went on the market for sale typically sold very quickly," Polanczky said.

This drought caused homeowners to spend more and more on any homes that they could find.

One factor unique to Athens is the University of Georgia, which some see as a main contributor to high housing prices. A common local complaint is that more parents of UGA students are paying for their children to rent houses higher rates and driving up prices. Soon are buying the houses themselves to sell later to offset the costs of sending their children to UGA.

"For a wealthy family, the difference between paying \$650 a month for their kid to live in a property or \$900 a month is no big deal to them," Polanczky said.

Most rent and mortgage rates in the Athens and Atlanta areas do not meet standards of affordable housing. To be considered affordable, monthly rent or mortgage rates on a home or apartment cannot exceed 30% of a tenant's income. This shift is turning many low income tenants away from affordable housing

and making it difficult for citizens, especially younger homeowners, to find and keep their homes. As tenants are evicted from their homes, homelessness rates in Athens continue to rise, according to Athens Homeless Coalition.

LOCAL PUSHBACK

After receiving eviction notices, tenants sought out community help to push back against Prosperity Capital's

Hulin said.

CHANGING FACE OF ATHENS

Before the 2008 financial crisis, housing in Athens had a reputation for being affordable, which attracted many of the artists who make Athens famous.

"You could actually focus on your art or your music and only have to work a part-time job or something downtown or at a bar to get by so you can really put some time towards your art," Tim Denison, the ACC District 6 Commissioner, said. "But as companies like Prosperity Capital aggressively buy units and raise rent, Athens' music scene and overall quality of living become imperiled."

Rises in rent have also further exacerbated the disparity between income and housing availability. The median household income in Athens is \$38,823, while the median housing price is around \$300,000. This means that rents and mortgages far exceed the 30% affordable housing line in most cases.

"Athens-Clarke County already has a homeless crisis. And if me and my three girls don't come up with the \$1,700, we will be homeless. I have no family that I can live with in Clarke County, nor does Prosperity Capital partners even talk to me to discuss if I will have anywhere to go," Hulin said.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, there was an initial boom in existing houses as the market froze. But as the pandemic continued, the amount of available houses rapidly dropped and available houses became harder to find. Athens is no exception, with a vacancy rate as low as 2.1%, a number well below the national average of 16.6%.

"That's one of the things that's allowing Prosperity Capital Partners and others to do this. They know people don't really have much of an option to go somewhere else," Denison said.

LIMITED LOCAL POWER

Rising rental prices are causing housing insecurity among many Athens

"We believe that housing should be a human right. We also think that capitalism is the problem. Obviously we can see the profit motive pushing people out of their homes and there being no solution for these people because of profit motive."

- Erin Stacer, Young Democratic Socialists of America in Athens co-chair

citizens, but the local government can do almost nothing to help. Georgia, like 37 other states, prohibits rent control. Landlords can raise rents as much as they want in as little time as they want, and the government cannot interfere by setting rent caps.

"The state of Georgia bans any kind of rent control on a local level. It really leaves us only able to try to assist more on the edges of things," Denison said. "Right now, the way the law is structured, almost everything kind of prioritizes the property owners and then leaves the tenants without a lot of protection."

"Though the state government is limited, there are still achievable solutions set in place to provide affordable housing in Athens."

"We just passed a housing ordinance that encourages new developers to set aside a percentage of the housing building strictly for affordable housing for lower income individuals," Denison said. "They get inspired to do that by being able to build more densely. They'll build more housing than they would be able to do normally. That kind of helps them cover the cost of creating affordable housing."

Federal dollars acquired through Community Development Block Grants are being set aside to help tenants who have been evicted from their homes.

"We use those dollars that were going to be allocated for other things to now switch them over to help folks who are being displaced to cover those moving costs they might have whether it's rent-



PROTESTING PROSPERITY: Juana Hulin reads a list of demands presented by tenants to Prosperity Capital. In the background, protesters were signs reading, "We're tired! Family Lawrence you are stealing people's homes!" and "Housing is a human right!" "You want me to pay my bills, be a law abiding citizen and pay my rent, and then you want to come in and jack it up. It's not right," Hulin said. Photo by London Moore.

meeting between representatives of Prosperity Capital and tenants from Lex-

ington Gardens on families, as I already tried to pay the rent that they have been locked in for so long," Hulin said.

5 Weeks later, many of the same tenants and protesters marched from City Hall to Athens Mayor Kelly Gutz's house and demonstrated in his yard. He responded by speaking to them and listening to their concerns.

On Oct. 4, residents of affected housing units and student activists spoke at a scheduled Mayor & Commission meeting about the evictions and the toll that it is taking on them.

"I shouldn't have to not be able to sleep at night when I know I used to sleep," Daniel said during public comment.

At this session, the commission voted on several items relating to housing issues, including a report from Opticos Housing, Inc. that recommended "missing middle housing," a pre-World War II style of city planning where smaller and medium sized houses are built closer together to create more options for housing affordability.

PERSONAL STRUGGLES

As Prosperity Capital bought properties and sent eviction notices, tenants scrambled to find new homes. The lack of

affordable housing has made house hunting laborious and difficult. Many tenants, especially those living with family and children, have been struggling with this sudden change.

"I don't get no sleep. It's affected my appetite. My kids are all stressed out wondering what they're gonna do. So yeah, it's definitely been a lot of extra stress that we don't need right now," Hulin said.

Stacer is not the only burden placed on tenants. Some have faced physical challenges and illness in their search for a home.

"I done got sick. I am sick. I had surgery. I caught Covid because of going back and forth trying to find somewhere to stay and they didn't warn us. It's not right," Lisa Walker, another Lexington Gardens tenant, said.

Many families are struggling to find affordable housing after their rent increases, and they are worried about becoming homeless.

"It's hard, especially when you don't have nowhere to go. And if you don't have nowhere to live, you're stressed out figuring out if you are going to be homeless. That's the biggest fear: being homeless and put out on the street."



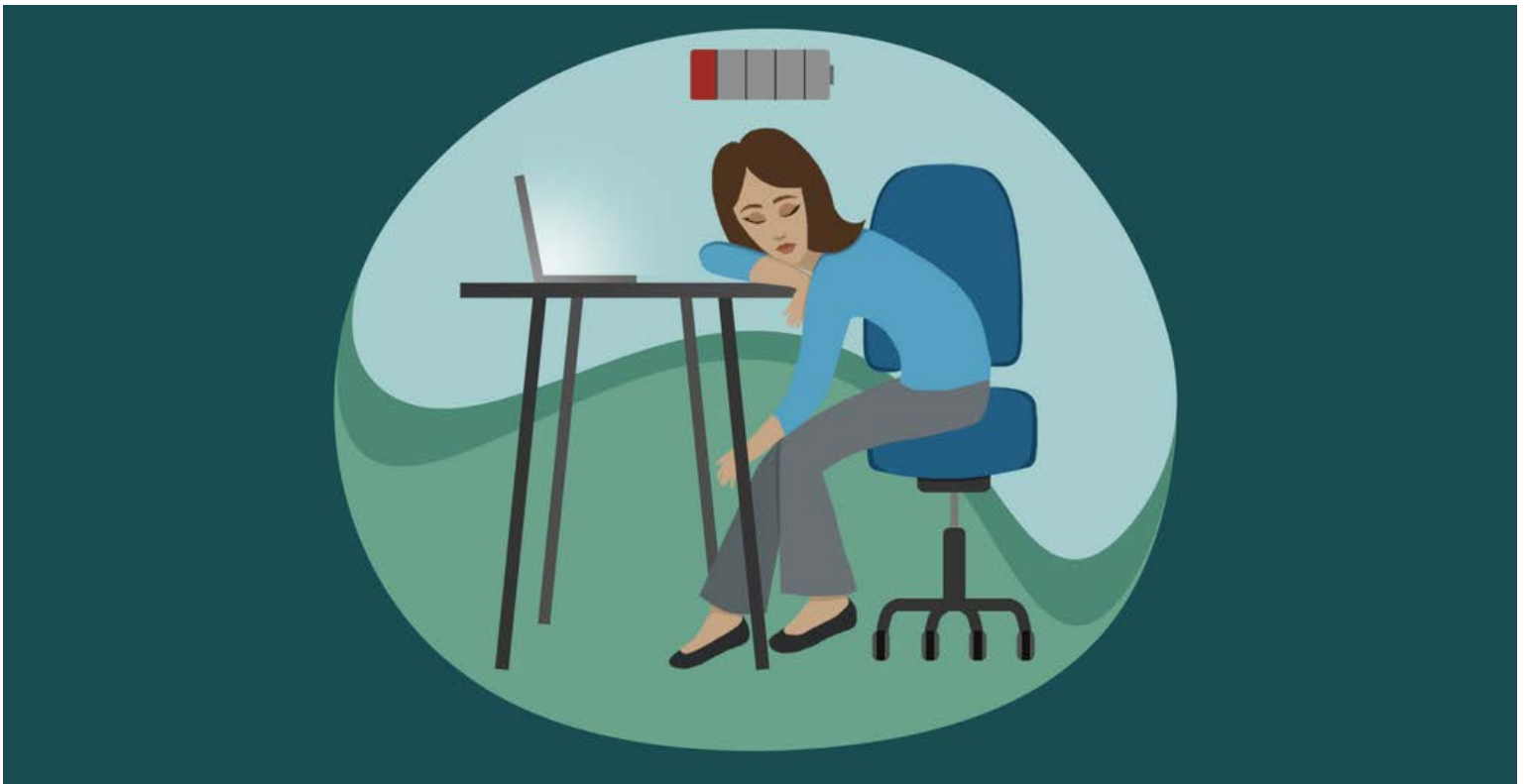
GIVE US A SIGN: Protest signs reading tenants' demands for Prosperity Capital, which were read at a protest at Lexington Gardens on Aug. 13. Graphics by Elise Crane and Marissa Welch.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Identifies and closely examines institutional and systemic barriers that directly influence a community problem. Centralizes the voice of those impacted and seeks answers from those addressing it."

COVID-19 REPORTING

"TEACHERS' MENTAL HEALTH DETERIORATES, WORSENERD BY PANDEMIC"

Aran Sonnad-Joshi,
The Southerner, Midtown High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "This entry humanizes the impacts of the pandemic and includes many voices affected by the topic. The coverage also includes visual components (photos, cover illustration, pulled quotes) also rooted in human interest and building empathy/connection."

NEWS STORY

"DRUID HILLS DENIED MODERNIZATION"

Riot Jolly and Ishita Samnani

The Spotlight, Druid Hills High School

The SPOTLIGHT

MAY 13, 2022

DRUID HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

1798 HAYGOOD DRIVE, ATLANTA, GA, 30307 VOLUME 84 ISSUE IV

Druid Hills denied modernization

Community rallies in response to board's renovation rejection

Dekalb County parts ways with superintendent

Sera Syed

The DeKalb Board of Education voted 4-1 to fire superintendent Cheryl Watson-Harris. As Watson-Harris was fired, interim superintendent Vasanne Tinsley was put in place.

The decision has been widely criticized due to the short notice of the meeting. Watson-Harris stated she felt "blindsided" by the decision.

"I was unaware that my contract for employment would be discussed," Watson-Harris said in her statement to the AJC. "I was not notified and it was not identified on the meeting notice."

Board member **Marshall Orson**, one of the two members not present for the vote, released a statement regarding the meeting the following day.

"Without any notice and having started the meeting almost two hours past the time we originally announced, I missed the formal public vote but want to make clear I would have voted against this action," Orson said. "This



Photo by Santiago Canavey-Gonzalez

Druid Hills students and parents hold hand-painted signs in protest outside the Dekalb County School Board meeting on April 18.

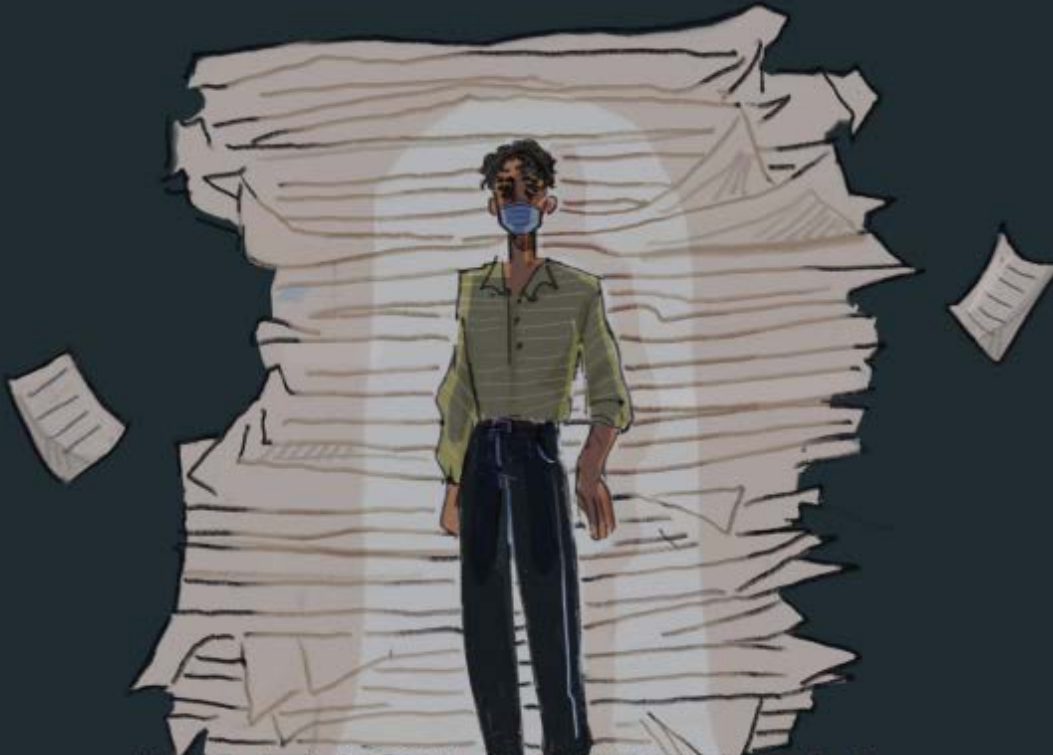
JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "The diligence and tenacity of the students of Druid Hills HS to improve their school is admirable and inspiring, as is this article. It contains several of the important qualities of news writing: timeliness, human interest, proximity and importance/currency."

IN-DEPTH NEWS STORY

"NO EASY SOLUTION"

Violet Calkin

BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



**NO EASY SOLUTION:
educators face unparalleled challenges**

By Violet Calkin

Art by Eva Lucero
Design by Ellie Crane

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Excellent job researching this timely and crucial topic from all angles. Well written and thorough."

FEATURE STORY

"SLAYED"

Ikeoluwa Ojo,
BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

SLAYED: CEDAR STUDENTS LAUNCH HAIR BUSINESSES

By Ikeoluwa Ojo
Design by Megan Wise

feels like a new me, Smith

LAEBAES: Senior Inya Waller (left) and sophomore Skylar Brightwell (right) are featured posing with hair from Xavier Wymb's business HairLae. Waller is wearing a lace frontal wig, and Brightwell is wearing a frontal wave wig. "As one of Zae's brand ambassadors I have to make sure that my hair is always up to par," Waller said. Photo by Zaya Robertson.



This reality was one of the driving factors behind junior Xavier (Zae) Wymb's hair vendor business "HairLae." He sells closures, bundles, wigs and frontals.

"My support system is full of girls and women, so I thought why not create

signed up to be LaeBaes, which is what I call the customers on the mailing list," Wymb said.

He credits the attention HairLae has received to his large social media presence, having business accounts on Instagram, Pinterest, Tiktok and Twitter.

HAIR STYLES

BOX BRAIDS

- Hair is sectioned off into squares or other shapes and then braided (usually using hair extensions)
- Can be "knotless" (a technique where the transition from natural hair to hair extension seems invisible)



CORNROWS

- Can also be referred to as "plaits"
- A style of braiding hair close to the scalp in different lines or designs
- Can be done with natural hair or hair extensions



TWISTS

- Style that can be done on natural hair or with extensions
- Can be two strand or three strand



RETWISTS

- Method of combining new growth into already existing locs

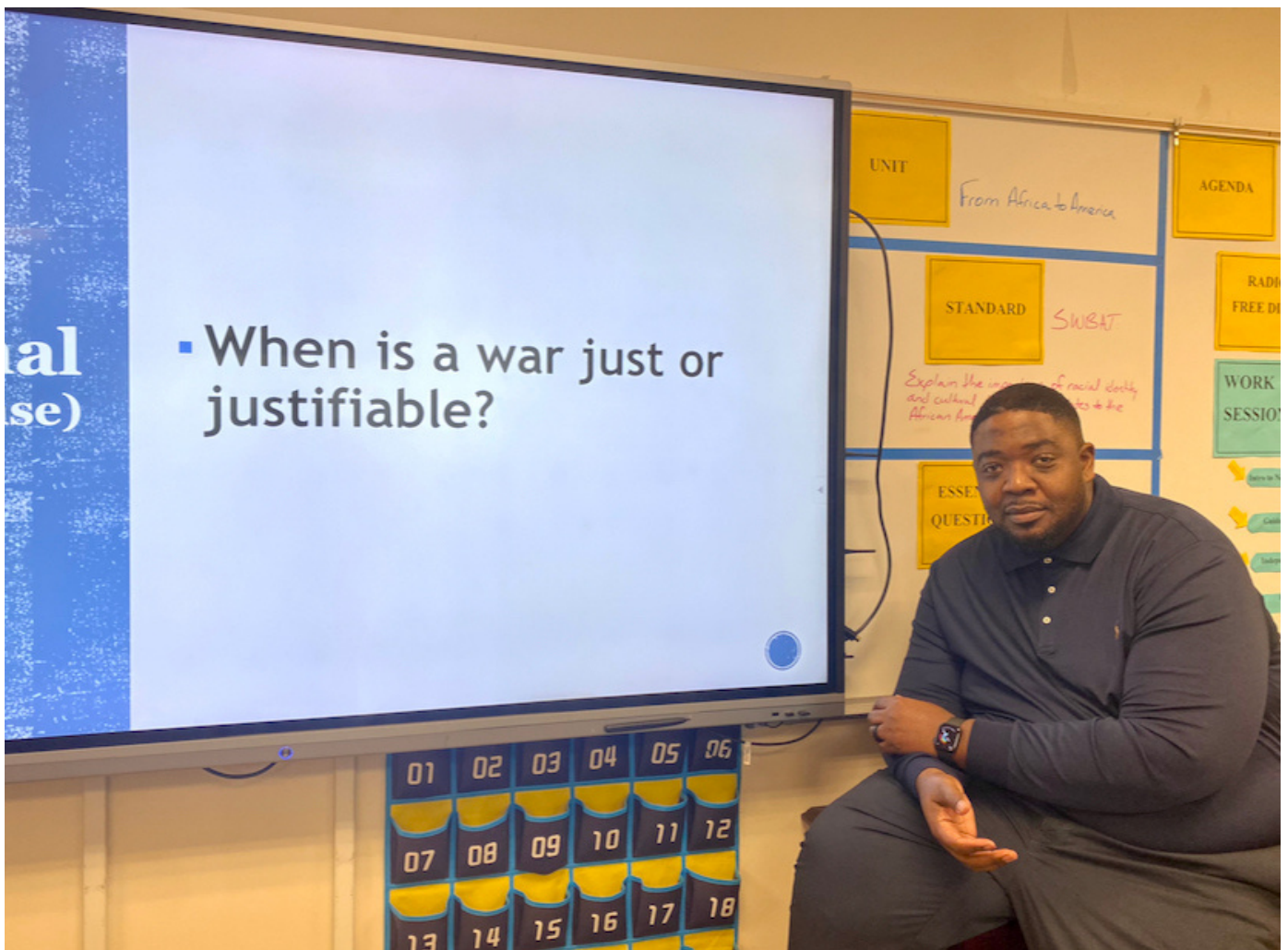


JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Thorough reporting that includes the voices of a variety of sources. Multiple layers of to uncover with visual packages that engage the reader."

FEATURE PROFILE

"MR. ELLIOT REID: REDEFINING HISTORY ONE IB CLASS AT A TIME"

Jill Yoder,
The Warrior Wire, North Atlanta High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "This feature story was engaging and had a solid lead that kept my attention throughout the story. The writing was strong and had limited technical flaws. It's a well-written piece of journalism."

COLUMN WRITING

"CRYPTO CRISIS/REPRESENTING IN THE RIGHT WAY"

Marcus Welch

Cedar BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

CRYPTO CRISIS: MAKING SENSE OF THE DIGITAL DISASTER



Marcus Welch
Staff writer

Cryptocurrency, NFTs, mining, Bitcoin, Blockchain and "buy the dip" are just a few of many terms that have become common in the last two years.

As the once quiet chatter surrounding cryptocurrencies becomes a painfully loud and constant wail further fueling an environmentally damaging and financially unpredictable form of currency, many questions pervade. What does any of that mean? What does it all amount to? What benefits and consequences come with the use of these currencies?

Let's start with the basics. What is a cryptocurrency? Investopedia defines a cryptocurrency as a digital currency that is secured by cryptography (the art of

(population 45.3 million).

I fear what the future holds for a world where popular cryptocurrencies are responsible for power consumption rivaling that of multiple countries, but staggering consumption is not the only real-life consequence of these digital currencies.

Alongside the massive amounts of electricity used to fuel crypto mining and transactions, physical waste also comes as a result in the form of exhausted computer components used to mine and acquire cryptocurrency. Digiconomist, a widely cited database used to track the energy consumption and electronic waste of various cryptocurrencies, estimates that Bitcoin mining alone is responsible for 30+ kilotons of electronic waste. While that number is relatively small in comparison to the electronic waste of other industries, the rate at which the amount of electronic waste produced by Bitcoin mining is increasing rapidly with Bitcoin

being responsible for just 2.6 kilotons of electronic waste in 2017.

While the global environmental damage caused by cryptocurrency consumption and waste are most concerning, the societal impacts of crypto-culture are arguably more frustrating.

Whether its impacts on the supply chain for computer technology, social media promotional campaigns, pressure from other investors to pour in more money or the obnoxious and cult-like supporters, cryptocurrency has invaded every walk of life.

When it comes to mining cryptocurrency, the stronger the computer you use the faster the process goes. Consequently, everyone scrambling to mine as much crypto as possible is also scrambling to build the strongest computer possible by whatever means necessary.

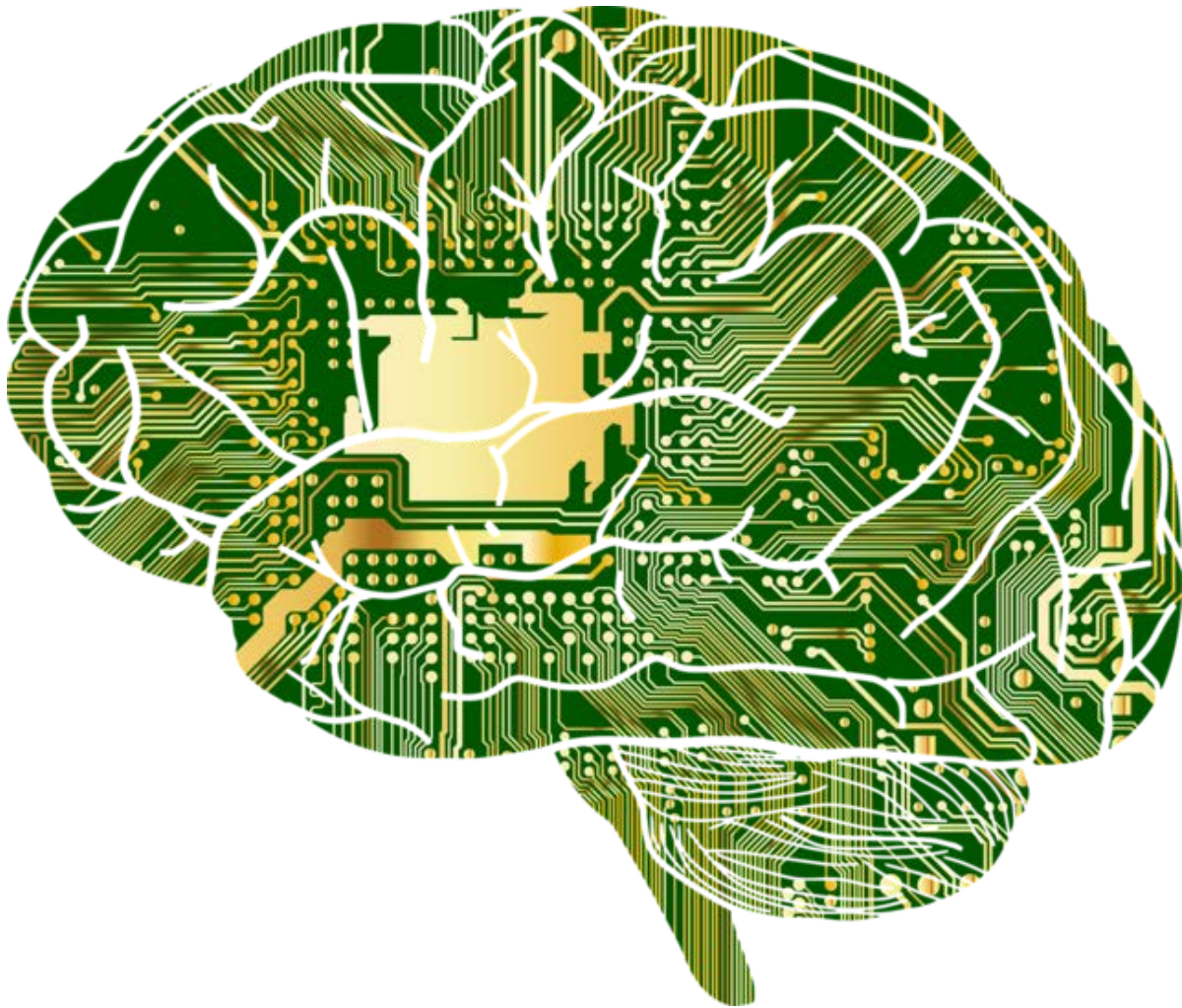
In the world of computers, it's not uncommon for anyone who keeps up with

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great columns inform, entertain, and/or persuade. Marcus has a great writer's voice and manages to do all three! (Thank you for explaining cryptocurrency) Consider adding an ongoing title to your column and keep readers coming back for more."

OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS COLUMN

"HEAD TO HEAD: IS CHATGPT A LEARNING RESOURCE OR A RISKY TOOL?"

Aran Sonnad-Joshi and Stella Maximuk,
The Southerner, Midtown High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Excellent writing and research on a very timely, interesting, and controversial topic. Where are we truly headed with students using AI for writing? Nice job balancing both sides without being preachy or uninformed."

HOUSE EDITORIALS

"OUR TAKE"

Staff

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

OUR TAKE

Family engagement is necessary for families to be involved in their children's education, but the level of engagement shown at CCHS has a long way to go.

Roughly 40 hours a week, parents send their children to school to be under the guidance of people other than themselves. These hours are spent molding children's educational and social development, but the involvement of parents and guardians in this important aspect of the children's lives is not always where it needs to be.

As children switch from elementary school to middle school to high school, the participation from families tends to decrease, according to Christian Barner, Clarke Central High School Family Engagement Specialist and Academic Support Specialist.

By the time children reach high school, they are allowed more independence, often prompting families to step back in their involvement. However, families should maintain the interaction with their children's school, while also permitting their freedom.

"Sometimes when a student hits high school,

there's a little bit of a thought that they're kind of doing it themselves," Barner said. "So family engagement is a little bit different than it is in high school than it is in elementary school."

Despite Barner's effort to connect with families in the happenings at CCHS, there is not always as

When your children know that you support them and you encourage them, they take ownership of their education.

much engagement on the household's side.

Fortunately, according to Barner, family engagement has increased this year in comparison to previous years. This had been shown through attendance at PTISO meetings, school events and interaction from parents with emails and the CCHS website. While this is a stride in the right direction, there is still a long way to go.

It's understandable for families to have lin-

ezations on their time such as child care, work schedules and facilitating transportation to the school. Yet, CCHS sporting events, commonly football games, are filled with parents, while academically-oriented school events have far less families present.

There are many great opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's school community without overstepping boundaries into their children's lives.

Every week, Barner sends emails to the CCHS community to summarize the events of the week and announce upcoming events, such as Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTISO) meetings, College Night and Open House.

"The ultimate goal is that the school and families have established that kind of two-way communication, that kind of relationship where both parties are being heard, respected and working together to benefit the students," Barner said.

Families need to make sure that they are showing interest in all aspects of their child's education. When effort comes from all sides, communication can be effectively established between parents, students and the school.

"If you care about your children's education, you can't rely on just the school, you can't rely on just the teacher," second-year PTISO board member Tiffany Linton-Smith said. "I think when your children know that you support them and you encourage them, they take ownership of their education."

Not every form of family engagement is going to work for everyone, but parents and guardians should make an attempt to be involved with their children's education and events happening at their school in order to make the best possible high school experience for everyone.



OUR TAKE

Confidence is a necessary trait for high school students to have, especially considering the obstacles they face on their journey to adulthood.

From a student raising their hand in class to bubbling in an answer on a multiple choice test, every task needs a little bit of confidence.

The way someone presents themselves to the world is the impression they leave, and whether they fake it until they make it or it comes naturally, confidence is key.

But when the student asks a bad question and their hand comes down from the air or the answer they picked on the test is wrong, saving faith in oneself becomes harder.

Teenagers today are faced with the challenge to find confidence in a society filled with negativity and judgment.

Whether it is unrealistic beauty standards stated on social media platforms or added academic pressures from parents and teachers, this generation's youth face hurdles in the journey to finding assurance.

According to a 2019 survey of 6,500 teens which was published in a Feb. 26, 2022 article by the Mayo

Clinic, "those who spent more than three hours a day using social media might be at heightened risk for mental health problems."

On top of this, school is one of the many sources of stress for teenagers.

"When it comes to the pressures teens face, academics tops the list: 61% of teens say they feel a

From fashion to studying abroad to student entrepreneurship, students at CCHS are finding ways to feel comfortable in their own skin and assert themselves.

lot of pressure to get good grades." Pew Research reported in a 2018 study published in February of 2019. "About three-in-ten (teenagers) say they feel a lot of pressure to look good and to fit in socially."

Growing up around these negative influences, it's tougher now more than ever for youth to ex-

press themselves confidently in the ways they want. However, this job isn't impossible.

From fashion to studying abroad to student entrepreneurship, students at Clarke Central High School are finding ways to feel comfortable in their own skin and assert themselves.

For CCHS counselor Heidi Nibbelink, having confidence is something that high schools should be working to instill in teenagers from a young age. After graduation, seeing a sense of assurance in oneself is preparation for entering the real world.

"From a counseling perspective when you're working with a student who is able to present themselves (and) engage in a conversation at an abstract level, as well as more of the soft skills like making good eye contact or just introducing themselves, you feel like they're ready for the next step," Nibbelink said. "I think it's definitely something that we need to be working on developing in students."

At CCHS, organizations such as the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and JROTC can help grow students' leadership skills and encourage them to step out of their comfort zones through real world experience. Music and art electives also offer outlets of self-expression.

No matter what areas students choose to use to express themselves, building up confidence from a young age is vital to a successful future. Even though some factors are meant to tear teenagers down, confidence can help build students back up.

And at CCHS, and in the adult world, confidence will always be key.



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Timely, interesting topics relevant to your particular school/readers, supported with student-created art/visuals. Exactly what a house editorial is supposed to do. Excellent work!"

COMMENTARY (OP-ED COLUMNS)

"TRUE CRIME'S POPULARITY AND ITS DAMAGE TO SOCIETY"

McKenna Ryan

The Messenger, Northview High School

The modern obsession with true crime

True crime's popularity and its damage to society

MCKENNA RYAN, STAFF WRITER
DESIGN: MCKENNA RYAN, STAFF WRITER & MANASA PREMANAND, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

American cultural fixation on true crime has flourished over the past few years of the worldwide craze of podcast. The self-proclaimed "giddy pleasure" has intruded the public psyche, provoking worrisome factors in the minds of society. The consumption of true crime is psychologically unhealthy as it tends to romanticize serial killers, devalue the victims, and desensitize audiences.

While true crime series and films are essentially intended to inform, they often result in glorifying cold-blooded killers. A 2018 study found that 73% of true crime audiences are women, and platforms like Netflix have passed their marketing around this statistic. The casting choices made by directors are intended to stimulate a disturbing type of celebrity crush in their audiences. Stars that fans swoon over, such as Matt Damon, Rose Lynch, and Leonardo DiCaprio, have been cast to fulfill the alarmingly popular "hot serial killer" trope. In the 2019 film *Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile*, Zac Efron is cast as Ted Bundy. Although there is an attempt to portray Bundy's "charming" manipulation tactics, the film and audience's attitudes entirely juxtapose the horrific nature of his crimes and erroneously depict his character. The opinions about Efron's casting, either focused on how "sexy" his role is, or solely his likeness. A headline from Hello

Giggles, a site aimed at teen girls and young women, the same group that Bundy targeted, reads, "The latest pictures from Zac Efron's serial killer movie has him smoldering and scheming." "Smoldering and scheming" is a questionable way to describe the kidnappings, rapes, and murders of more than 50 women. By casting murderers with attractive actors that fans adore for their appearance, audiences begin to fantasize about being victims of their crimes. There is a widespread fan base, not only for the actors playing the criminals but for the criminals themselves. Ted Bundy fan pages are across all social media platforms and thousands of fanfiction accounts that regularly publish stories fantasizing about being one of his victims. The amount of media attention on these crimes has resulted in the glamorization of the murderers and ultimately cast them in a flattering light.

As there is widespread use of media attention on true crime cases, the media tend to focus extensively on sensationalizing and exploring the perpetrators, withdrawing emotional aspects of victims. In most true crime stories, victims consist of marginalized groups, such as people of color, members of LGBTQ+ communities, poor people, and women who struggled to be seen as "normal" before they treated the wrong smile, got in the wrong car,

or drank the wrong drink. The dehumanization of the victims generates a collective theme that certain marginalized groups are "disposable." The media has separated these groups from the stories of their own deaths, turning them into "controversial debates" in our society of systemic racism and toxic masculinity. Ultimately, the "murdered girl" became some sort of pop culture fantasy, but even then, only a specific type of murdered girl was of any importance: a girl who is white, skinny, and pretty by societal standards. The picking and choosing of details in movies with this emotional currency disregard the actuality of the trauma experienced by victims, further dehumanizing them.

The modern pop cultural fixation on true crime and killers has caused audiences to casually forget the humanity of the victims. The media's neglect of the victims in true crime cases has resulted in the audience's dehumanization of not only the victims but the gruesome crimes. The obsession has produced a "true crime industrial complex" which has amplified the demand for more interesting and shocking cases for public consumption, regardless of what the families of the victims want. The recent release of the Netflix show "Mindhunter: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story" has caused disputes from the families of Dahmer's victims. The

family of Eriel Lindsey, a victim of Dahmer's crimes, has voiced their dissent with the show. They claim that they were never asked for consent in producing the show and did not receive monetary compensation. Rita Libell, Lindsey's sister, expressed that she felt as if she was "reliving it all over again." The heinous disrespect towards Lindsey's family proves that true crime productions have given no consideration to those who suffered from Dahmer's crimes. The focus of this production was monetary financial and never considered those it negatively impacts. The stories of victims should not be exploited for entertainment while their families suffer.

Although the display of horrific acts of violence is used as an understanding as to why violence occurs, it is still psychologically detrimental and lacks empathy for the victims. Women fans groups around true crime stories because, thanks to rape culture, women have felt the vulnerability that comes with being a woman in society and collectively experience the paranoia that accompanies being vulnerable. The continual release of women feeling that they are not alone in feeling unsafe is not only repeating in terms of society but detrimental that women get "used to" or "comfortable" with such horrific violence.

OPINIONS
The popularity of true crime, with its relentless passion and discussion of sensational violence, has also had the absolute opposite effect on women. Watching other women be violated and have the utmost awful things happen to them, is sickening. The gut in your stomach and the heaviness of your heart as you look back at yourself, seeing a woman, just like the victims, wearing everyday clothes that were not thought upon until they were covered in blood. These acts should never be glorified, fictionalized, dramatized, or turned into a Roman Tomatoes review. /



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "A mature look at a less examined topic. Stellar word choice. Ideas were laid out clearly. Nice work!"

CRITICAL REVIEW

“RESTAURANT REVIEW: MAPLE STREET BISCUIT COMPANY”

Elsa Moore

Green and Gold, Wesleyan School

Restaurant Review: Maple Street Biscuit Company

—Elsa Moore

Many Wesleyan students have familiarized themselves with places like The Forum and The Avalon. These places offer types of well-known restaurants and places to shop, a reason many people choose to go. However, not many people are familiar with downtown Duluth, a place similar to these areas that adds various restaurants and stores to the surrounding area.



The chicken and waffles is one of Maple Street Biscuit Company's best breakfast dishes.

Moore

One of these restaurants is a breakfast place, Maple Street Biscuit Company, originally founded in 2012 and opened in 2017 in Downtown Duluth. It should be regarded as a staple for some of the best biscuits and breakfast foods available in Gwinnett County as it has the ability to cater to all types of people. As seen on each and every menu in the restaurant: Freshness matters, real maple syrup is a necessity, and everything you eat is made from scratch. They offer different varieties of breakfast foods ranging from savory and sweet biscuits to homemade waffles topped with maple syrup.

If you're a fan of biscuits, and are willing to branch out a bit, then "The Chicken Club" or "The Squawk-

ing Goat" might just be what you're looking for. The "Chicken Club" is a homemade biscuit topped with fried chicken, bacon, spinach, tomato, and ranch or honey mustard. The "Squawking Goat" is yet another biscuit topped with fried chicken, crispy goat cheese, and pepper jelly.

Not only does Maple Street Biscuit Company have some of the best biscuits around, but they also have frittaffles, biscuits and gravy, and chocolate and caramel toasted bread pudding. During my experience at Maple Street Biscuit Company, I ordered the Frittaffle and the "Sticky Maple" biscuit. In my opinion, the "Sticky Maple" biscuit was one of the best biscuits I had ever had, it was topped with fried chicken, bacon, and traditional maple syrup.

However, if that doesn't sound like your first choice, then the frittaffle just might be. It's described on the menu as a frittata baked in a waffle maker with bacon or sausage and cheddar and seasoned with potatoes. The interesting part, but also the best, was that it had been cooked in a waffle maker something I'd never seen before in any kind of breakfast restaurant. Although it was unusual, it was something I'd be sure to try again because of the combination of the bacon, sausage, and cheddar, making it a perfect breakfast dish.

If you're not interested in the breakfast aspect behind the restaurant, then their exclusively crafted coffee might be your first choice. Some of their coffee options include a maple vanilla latte, a maple mocha latte, and even cinnamon hot chocolate for non-coffee drinkers. Admittedly, I had thought the maple mocha latte sounded like a weird combination, but once I tried it, I immediately changed my mind. The mix of maple and mocha combined together was one that I'd thought I wouldn't enjoy, but I did, and I'm sure everyone else whose tried it would agree.

Not only does the restaurant offer some of best bis-

cuits and coffee but also tons of shareables and sides for those who may not want larger portions. A few of these shareables include the maple sausage meatballs, sweet potato fries, and the Potatoes O'Ryan. The Potatoes O'Ryan are listed as home fries with smoked ham, peppers, onions, and cheddar which is one of the best sharable items on their menu.



The squawking goat is an example of one of Maple Street Biscuit Company's unique biscuits.

Moore

Maple Street Biscuit Company is designed for those who may be in a rush as it has an ordering counter and take out available, or for those who want to sit down, a waitressing staff is also available. Not only is it in downtown Duluth, surrounded by stores and other great restaurants, but is also in close proximity to Wesleyan. Maple Street Biscuit Company has the potential to become a well-loved and well-known breakfast spot for many Wesleyan students potentially even on late arrival days or after morning sports events. Whether your choice may be the many different kinds of biscuits, the homemade waffles, or the amazing coffee creations, there is always something for everyone at Maple Street Biscuit Company

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Showcases the variety that is available and writing shows awareness of multiple audiences. Opinions are thoroughly supported with detailed observations."

SPORTS NEWS STORY

"STRENGTHENING CENTRAL"

Gretchen Hinger

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School



STRENGTHENING CENTRAL

CCHS weightlifting classes are becoming increasingly popular as they engage students in off-season conditioning and help them build confidence on and off the field.

With 207 students enrolled in weight training classes across eight blocks at Clarke Central High School, athletes in various sports have enrolled in weightlifting classes to enhance their physical strength.

CCHS strength and conditioning coach Joshua Dawson teaches weightlifting in the Weight Training and Body Sculpting classes while fostering peer relationships and teaching lifting exercise techniques.

"It's 18 weeks of training. You will lift (your) max (weight) two to three times, depending on holiday and virtual days. You'll see where your relative is," Dawson said. "In those 18 weeks, you're going to learn (a) and body workout that you can do at home, or if you join a gym."

According to a study from the Centers for Disease Control, 51.2% of US high school students participate in muscle strengthening exercises, such as weightlifting at least three times per week. As weightlifting becomes increasingly popular among teens, University of Georgia Department of Knowledge Associate Clinical Professor Chris Mojek sees an importance in coach knowledge on the individual aspects of strength training.

"When you have a weight training class at a high school and you've got 40 people in it or something, and you have one instructor or maybe two, sometimes, it's going to be very difficult (to cover individuals)," Mojek said. "An important thing is going to assign a workout for someone who I don't know their current level. The whole idea of meeting someone where they are, that doesn't just apply to teachers in classrooms — that should apply to coaches in the weight room."

Weightlifting student and varsity basketball player Luke Neeble, a senior, believes that the CCHS weightlifting coaches have created space for the individual training in classes due to the large number of students participating.

"I got here last fall it to train a class for that many people because weightlifting is such an individual thing," Neeble said. "In all of (the coaches) understand that someone might have different goals that they have, and I know where I was weightlifting in the class, my coaches kind of let me do my own thing."

For weightlifting student and varsity soccer player Clarissa Hays, a junior, her participation in the class started as a means to level up his athletic ability.

"(During) COVID time, I was bigger than a normal person and playing soccer,

"It's nice to be able to connect with people like you and not just be kind of like shut down when you say you want to do something."

— MARY ROBINSON,

CCHS tennis and volleyball player, a freshman

you can't really do that. So it wasn't fun for me because I get hurt at gym almost every time. So I started doing lifting and stuff, which gave me a better competitive edge," Hays said.

Mojek believes that weightlifting allows for specializations in training certain movements, which is necessary in order to gain an athletic advantage.

"The idea of optimizing the body for the task, when it comes to team sports, you have to ensure that when you're participating in the sport, whatever it is, that the way your body moves is of high-quality," Mojek said.

Dawson feels that participating in weightlifting coach was an athlete's strength for competition, both physically and mentally.

"So athletes that are in season competing, it helps them maintain everything that they've done in off-season, helps with injuries, keeping their body strong from the wear and tear from competition," Dawson said. "It builds up that confidence to get to the game day. That's one thing that's always preached here (at the weight room) we're here to get you to the game day, and that's your performance time, that's your stage."

Like Hays, Neeble also began weightlifting regularly during the pandemic and continued training at CCHS upon students' return to in-person learning.

"I love going heavy, love just pushing my body to limits that most people wouldn't," Neeble said. "I honestly just love seeing progress because that's also one of the most encouraging things is whenever you see progress."

Outside of the physical health benefits of weightlifting, Dawson sees a multitude of emotional and psychological benefits as well.

"It helps you discover yourself and who you are, you're gonna go through some challenges, you're gonna have some good days, you're gonna have some tough days, you're gonna have to push through it," Dawson said.

In addition to the weightlifting classes available at CCHS, head tennis coach William Lane facilitates an opportunity for female students-athletes to get involved with weightlifting every morning starting at 8 a.m.

"It teaches empowerment, it teaches discipline. Not only is it healthy for the body and for your personal, your physical side, but the mental side is huge. It builds confidence and the weight room is hard," Lane said. "It's just building confidence, building stronger women, mentally and physically giving them empowerment to say, 'hey, we can do whatever we want.' That's going to translate (into) sports, and that's going to translate (into) bigger picture life."

CCHS tennis and volleyball player Mary Robinson, a freshman, attends these women's weightlifting sessions and believes that it allows female athletes to feel empowered and gain an appreciation for their abilities.

"It's nice to be able to connect with people like you and see just be kind of like that cheer when you see you want to do something. You have people that support you and will help you to accomplish these things," Robinson said.

Looking forward, Dawson hopes to continue to foster a productive and welcoming atmosphere in the program.

"We have music going every day. It's a good, positive environment. That's one thing that we really try to cultivate here — just positive support," Dawson said. ◻



Image: COACHING CORNER: Coach Dawson left to help through and conditioning coordinator Joshua Dawson coaches a student. The weight room at Clarke Central High School is a hub of activity. **Image:** COACHING CORNER: Coach Dawson left to help through and conditioning coordinator Joshua Dawson coaches a student. The weight room at Clarke Central High School is a hub of activity.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Good incorporation of multiple sources and stats. Quality interviews evident in the well-organized article."

SPORTS GAME COVERAGE

"GAME COVERAGE: CCHS VS CSHS"

Wyatt Meyer

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Excellent game coverage with a human interest touch."

SPORTS FEATURE STORY

"FOOTBALL'S IN THE FAMILY"

Wyatt Meyer

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School



Featured: BE THE BEST: Clarke Central High School quarterback Lucian Anderson III, a senior, stands with his father, assistant varsity football coach Lucian Anderson Jr., during the Gladiators' football practice on Sept. 26. Anderson III has been the CCHS starting quarterback for almost two years, but with college on the horizon, Anderson Jr. has not changed his expectations of his son. "The goal is the same that we've had for him since the first day of school. I'm talking about kindergarten, preschool, whatever it was, we only want him to do his very best in whatever he chooses to do," Anderson Jr. said. "If he does that, then he's gonna be fine (and) we're gonna be proud of him." Photo by Lucas Donnelly

FOOTBALL'S IN THE FAMILY

CCHS quarterback Lucian Anderson III's football journey has always been intertwined with his father, assistant varsity football coach Lucian Anderson Jr.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "What an interesting, unique, student- and faculty-focused story! Great human interest connection. You obviously did some very thorough interviewing, which resulted in acquiring effective, storytelling quotes. Nice job!"

SPORTS COLUMN

"TELL ME, WY"

Wyatt Meyer,
ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

TELL ME, WY

With a seemingly endless parade of controversies, it feels as though the world can't enjoy the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 without endorsing its proponents.



BY WYATT MEYER
Sports Editor

powerful medium.

But the 2022 World Cup feels different. Rather than bringing people together, the Qatar World Cup kicked off with division, scandals and controversy aplenty.

Much of the commotion boils down to the World Cup's location, which has been a hot-button issue for protestors and players alike.

Qatar was selected as the host country all the way back in 2010, beating out bids from the United States and South Korea, among other countries.

However, there were several obstacles presented by the decision. Qatar is known for its blazing heat in the summer, which led to FIFA organizers moving

it to the winter months, right in the middle of European club soccer seasons.

More worryingly, in order to prepare itself for the crush of people who attend the World Cup, Qatar turned to its large migrant worker population to build the requisite infrastructure. According to a 2021 investigation by The Guardian, more than 6,500 migrant workers died in Qatar since the country was announced as a World Cup host, a drastic number that has led many activists to accuse Qatar of human rights violations.

Can fans watch the World Cup knowing the behind-the-scenes violations?

Nov. 8, 2022 article that "Qatar is a mistake."

These issues haven't gone unnoticed to players.

Portuguese star midfielder Bruno Fernandes slammed Qatar as a host, saying, "We want football to be for everyone. Everyone has to be included and involved in a World Cup because a World Cup is (for) the world," a pointed reference to Qatar's anti-LGBTQ+ policies.

All these issues present a problem for fans: can they watch the World Cup

knowing the behind-the-scenes violations and, frankly, hate that has attached itself to the event? At some point, do off-the-field conflicts overshadow what happens on the pitch?

On the field, this World Cup has an unquestionably special feel to it, with dozens of storylines and breathtaking matches having already taken place. The tournament comes only once in four years, and one can hardly blame people for getting lost in the game.

But, if viewers are going to watch the competition, they shouldn't do so without reservations. The World Cup is meant to unite, but by ignoring the event's undeniable baggage, fans are already dividing themselves into two categories: fans of the game and fans of integrity.



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Engages the audience with an ethical dilemma in a recent popular event. Provides context and information that helps the audience think for themselves. Presents a clear, distinctive voice for the column writer."

HEADLINE WRITING

Sam Fickle,
The Verve, The King's Academy

'The Book of Boba Fett' cameos flesh out Star Wars universe

by Sam Fickle, Entertainment Editor

"The Book of Boba Fett" features a multitude of surprises, yet not a single book. Despite Star Wars' newest show being centered around the fan-favorite bounty hunter, Boba Fett, viewers have shown most interest in its side characters and cameos.

While the show is called "The Book of Boba Fett," at times it almost feels like another season of "The Mandalorian." With the return of Din Djarin, Boba Fett almost fades into the shadows of his own show. Even though the show only has seven episodes, two of them are almost dedicated entirely to the Mandalorian, with Boba Fett appearing on-screen for roughly two minutes between the pair of episodes.

"My favorite part of the show was seeing the Mandalorian make an appearance," said junior Nolan Grizzard. "It's nice to see a character we know and love make an appearance after a long absence."

The show also takes a detour to focus on gaps between the original trilogy and the sequels. With small cameos from both Ahsoka and Luke Skywalker, the series seeks to redeem aspects of the sequels. "The Book of Boba Fett" showcases the beginning of Luke Skywalker's school and gives background on his introverted later movies. The demise of Skywalker's also foreshadowed in his doubtfulness as a



bobafett, series

"I like the flashbacks that connect the show to 'The Clone Wars,'" said junior Caleb O'Connell. "It's cool to see how 'The Book of Boba Fett' helps to fill in some of the gaps between the movies."

What was potentially the most unexpected turn in the show was the arrival of Cad Bane. Previously featured on "The Bad Batch" and "The Clone Wars," Cad Bane made his first appearance in the live action world during the show. While presumed dead at the series' end, his presence only leads fans wondering if the character will make another appearance in upcoming shows such as "Obi-Wan Kenobi."

"I'd say my favorite part of the show was the reveal of Cad Bane, just because when I was seven I used to see him on 'The Clone Wars,' and it was cool getting to see an estimated character transformed into live

'Rings of Power' furthers Middle Earth worldbuilding

by Sam Fickle, News Editor

Big names, big ambitions and an even bigger budget: "The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power" strives to revitalize its namesake while giving viewers a deeper understanding of Tolkien's imaginative world. Focusing on an entirely different era, the show

'The Batman' ignites debate over best character portrayal

by Sam Fickle, Entertainment Editor

Former vampire Robert Pattinson continues his transformation into a bat with the release of "The Batman." As "Battinson" takes up the mantle of the caped-crusader, the community has already taken to comparing the actor's rendition of the character to those in the past.

"Personally, I think it's a tie between Robert Pattinson and Christian Bale," junior Eddie Camden said. "I like the overall design of both characters. However, I feel like Bale's character is more rounded and complete. The Pattinson Batman is a very different take on the character as he is more like a brooding teen than the billionaire playboy that was Bale's character."

Over the past 10 years, Batman has been played by three different actors: Christian Bale, Ben Affleck and Robert Pattinson. Despite all actors playing the same character, there is an intense amount of variation between all three takes.

"I think Christian Bale is the best Batman because he committed to the role by getting into shape," junior Ethan Conry. "His acting was also really good and he used better dialogue than the others. The plot of his movies was also better compared to the other actors' movies."

One of the flashier and more noticeable differences between the caped-crusaders is their uses of technology. Compared to his predecessors, the newest version of the character takes a more grounded approach with limited technology and resources at Batman's disposal. Affleck's character



photo by @jmwowaceposters

The release of "The Batman" has sparked new debates among avid Batman fans. The film was originally intended to be released June of 2021. However, the production was delayed due to COVID-19 complications. falls on the opposite end of the spectrum with far more advanced technology such as metal suits and

futuristic vehicles.

"I feel like the Affleck version of Batman is a little too similar to Iron Man in the fact that he has a metal suit and is more technologically reliant," Camden said.

Debatable the most recognizable and important change within the characters is the iconic bat-suit. Each actor sports a vastly different form of suit, balancing function and practicality. Bale's version wears an armored-looking tactical suit in addition to custom features and gadgets. Affleck's Batman is dressed in a simpler yet more futuristic carbon fiber material. Pattinson's character wears a practical armored suit littered with different tools and materials.

"I like Christian Bale's suit the best because of how clean it looked," junior Ben Anderson said. "Ben Affleck's suit is too bulky and makes him seem slow and old. For Pattinson, I disliked the leather portions of his suit."

Each actor's movies are produced in vastly different ways, with each rendition focusing on different aspects for the character. Bale's movies are action-focused and character driven, while Affleck's focus was on the darker, more violent aspects of Batman. Robert Pattinson's movie plays out like a slow detective film, all while presenting viewers with more of the psychology behind the characters.

"I'm not as much of a fan of the Affleck Batman because he's more violent which contrasts with Batman's character," Conry said. 🦇

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Excellent use of strong verbs that paint a picture for the reader and entices them into the article."

CAPTION WRITING

Sam Fickle,
The Verve, The King's Academy



photo by @thebookofbobafett_series

Corey Burton, voice actor for Cad Bane in 'The Clone Wars,' returns to voice his famed character in the live action portrayal.



photo by @supermariomovie

While the cast was announced during May 2022, Nintendo first announced plans to start producing the "Super Mario Bros" movie in collaboration with Universal and Illumination back in Jan. 2018.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Great use of precise action verbs in captions."

EDITORIAL CARTOON

"MY JOURNEY TO ACCEPTING MY CULTURE"

Ava Maddox,
BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Editorial cartoons are tough. However, if you can do it right and get your message across, it's magical. In this instance, Ava's illustration depicting an Alice in Wonderland-type editorial cartoon was beautifully drawn and masterfully executed."

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPH

"ZOOM"

Lucas Donnelly

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "The first place finisher was an excellent demonstration of the panning technique. While it shouldn't be used often, this gave a wonderful sense of movement to the race."

NEWS PHOTOGRAPH

"CROWNING OF HOMECOMING QUEEN"

Zaria Byers

Pitchfork, Marietta High School



Rashanti Clark, 2021 homecoming queen, gives the traditional regalia to newly crowned queen, Icy McFall.
Photo by Zaria Byers

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "The All-Georgia entry had a wonderful moment—the frame was filled, there was emotion and interaction and the background was not problematic."

FEATURE/ENTERTAINMENT

PHOTOGRAPH

"LIKE HIS BIG BROTHER"

Temprince Battle

ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "The All-Georgia entry was a delightful moment that demonstrates the need to pay attention at all times—gifts like this don't come around often, we must be prepared for them."

PHOTO ESSAY

"BSU FASHION SHOW"

Caroline Disque and Dalton Ward

The Spotlight, Druid Hills High School

BSU FASHION SHOW

The Black Student Union annual fashion show made its return to the Uhry Theater with this year's theme, After Dark. BSU club members showed off their style by designing outfits, modeling clothing and performing poetry and music. The show featured a variety of styles ranging from sportswear to Y2K and luxury.



(Top row to bottom, left to right) Sophomores Lorre Laster and Hiedi Bell strut their way into the 2000s during the show's Y2K portion where students reminisced on their favorite styles from the turn of the century. 2) BSU vice president and junior Blake Younger showcases his own original clothing designs in the show. Younger is one of the numerous members who created original pieces for the fashion show. 3) After the modeling was done, students brought out their dance moves as they took the runway one last time. 4) Math teacher and BSU speaker Taci Roberson celebrates the success of the show with some of her own dance moves. 5) Senior Nitisa Ransom hits her mark modeling for the all-black dressy portion of the show. 6) Analey and Addison Washington, daughters of math teacher Aprilie Washington, joined in with the high school crowd for the show where they sported various matching outfits and garnered many adorable "awws" from the audience. 7) Freshman Elanor Williams performing his flute rendition of "Megakavaza" by Underworld. 8) Freshmen Jada Jones and Sasha Henery pose for a selfie on stage with their 2000s style flu and retro cellphones. 9) Freshman Sasha Henery reads a tribute poem for women's rights as she is surrounded by her fellow BSU club members holding photos of historic female figures. 10) Senior Isabella Benjamin-Askew has to get her shades on for the bright lights of the stage.

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "The All-Georgia entry had a lot of characters, causing a pause to study and assess."

INFORMATION GRAPHIC

"GOING GREEN"

Disha Kumar

The Messenger, Northview High School

Going Green

A deep dive into Northview's sustainable future and factors to attain environmental progress in classrooms

NATALIE GAMER-SALAS, STAFF WRITER
DESIGN: DISHA KUMAR, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The increase in climate strikes, governmental promises to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and rising water levels and temperatures have led schools across the globe to take a stance and push toward a transition to more environmentally-minded classrooms.

In Northview, students have previously led such initiative as well. Before schools shut down due to the pandemic, Northview had a student-led classroom recycling pick-up. However, without a computer to come to the school and pick up the recycling, the service stopped.

"I was absolutely shocked and shaking in my boots when I learned that Northview didn't recycle," Nordin and president of Northview's environmental club, Vishi Tiwary said.

Despite the lack of recycling at school in recent years, based on a survey that 58 students filled out, Northview's student body is in support of the implementation of a recycling system. Although students commonly undertake projects like the establishment of recycling systems at composting sites to make their schools more sustainable, Principal Martin Nordin believes that there are steps students must take before making such take. While Nordin is in support of the re-establishment of these systems, he emphasizes the need for students to have a personal responsibility to continue to those matters.

"We need people to be responsible. The school has more teachers than any school I've

ever worked at that's a lot of opportunities to take care of your staff, but students' trash seems to be anywhere but in the trash cans," Nordin said.

Tiwary also believes that having successful environmental initiatives at the school, specifically in the cafeteria, involves more than just implementing the project. Though Tiwary and other environmental club members are actively working towards finding ways to make meals in the cafeteria more sustainable, Tiwary explains the need to strategize before attempting to undertake such initiatives. In particular, the environmental club has been tackling the issue of composting uneaten food in the cafeteria and discussing the various steps to take before attempting to solve such a matter.

"Number one, of course, is waste reduction. Before thinking about the big solutions like composting, you need to think of how to reduce it," Tiwary said. "So prevention over solution. The number one thing for prevention is to educate students about what their waste is through student leaders."

Beyond education, the process of waste reduction involves not only students but staff as well. Northview's cafeteria staff works hard to notify students' needs as well as Fulton County Schools' (FCS) policies for food. Northview's Nutrition and Cafeteria Manager Pamela Peterson often might see the menu she uses to attempt to reduce the cafeteria's food waste.

"Normally, I estimated needing to prepare 26 (chicken biscuits) so we made 30," Peterson said.

"At the end of breakfast, we only sold 15. So, the next time I prepare chicken biscuits, I'll only make 20 because I don't want to have

that waste."

But, it is not always possible to predict the success of what students will want such day. Peterson also explains how the cafeteria area has an abundance of food such day because FCS policy states that students should always have a variety of choices for their meals, rather than allowing a meal to run out—a line student only getting what is left over. This often results in a surplus of food that gets thrown out.

Peterson is entering her second year at Northview but has worked in school nutrition for over 30 years. Though she has noticed that school cafeteria guidelines are very similar in every school district she has worked in, Peterson

has seen unique programs that she would love to see implemented in Northview.

"In Tennessee, we partnered with MICA, a Food Action initiative, and, whatever was left over, we put it into a container, sealed it down properly, and the organization would come and pick it up," Peterson said.

Nordin shares a similar experience when he worked at Burnsville Elementary. The school began a Helping Hands initiative which donated to unopened food to North Fulton Charities. Nordin and Peterson look upon that implementation of a food donation system at Northview would be beneficial. Sustainable planning also requires the separation of certain hurdles that require proper outside of Northview's walls. Last year, many neighborhood recycling companies stopped their weekly recycling, and homes were forced to mix recycling with trash to rid themselves of their waste.

"It's hard to get people to do something, for work, my neighborhood's company had to focus on garbage," Nordin said. "Garbage pile up and it really stinks problem, but recycling piles up and it's not as bad."

Although FCS has seen a decrease of mail in those positions, the Sustainability and Resilience Department of FCS' newly formed (as of March 2022) Sustainability Plan promises to increase the number of employees who work in sustainable modes and will establish a green workforce development training and job placement program in the education staff force by 2030. By implementing these changes, Northview can hope for enough employees to support a new recycling system.

Financials present another hurdle in a fa-

95% of students believe that the addition of a recycling system would be a positive contribution to Northview

ture recycling system to other planned projects requiring any type of funding. Tiwary is all too aware of the setbacks this has caused for the implementation of sustainable alternatives at Northview, but her club is determined.

"It's not cheap to install a pick-up and delivery system," Tiwary said. "We're planning a foundation, we are talking to city leaders, and we have a new principal. Hopefully, we'll be able to make a change and a change that last."

A change in supplies is another change that requires a flexible budget. Many schools around the country and in Georgia have attempted to eliminate a switch from styrofoam to biodegradable cafeteria trays. Even though biodegradable trays are only a few cents more expensive than the popular styrofoam trays, the cents add up when needing to provide enough trays to feed about 2,000 hungry students. FCS had biodegradable cafeteria trays for a month last year, but they were not feasible to use with the country's current budget.

"Last year, it was a major struggle to even get the styrofoam trays," Peterson said. "The district had to push and push the budget just to feed our students."

Peterson illustrates the interconnectedness of a school's support system beyond the classroom. Northview's staff and administration endeavor

to help the school thrive in all aspects but more proactive upholding the government's requirements and the well-being of the students. One creating sustainable programs at school, Peterson would love to see biodegradable rather than styrofoam trays but knows that it is simply not possible given the school and country's current situation.

Although that is one conviction of the setbacks and obstacles on the path to a safer school, Northview students still share their ideas with the school's administration and are passionate about introducing sustainable reforms to the school. Since Tiwary established the Environmental Club in their freshman year, Tiwary's favorite aspect of the Environmental Club has not been the initiative or in applied environmental ideals but the individuality of the people who are a part of it.

"It's really beautiful how they come together and just using how unique they all are and their different interests in the environment," Tiwary said.

Northview students' ideas and initiatives have had immense impacts on the school and its community—ranging from growing school gardens to collecting recyclable materials from classes. With the continued efforts of its students, staff, and FCS, Northview can work towards ensuring a greener future. ♻️



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Obviously, it doesn't hurt when the design matches the content. What appeals to this judge is how all of the elements work in harmony with the overall design. From top to bottom side to side, the graphic elements all lead to a well-executed package."

FEATURES



ILLUSTRATION

"MANAGING A MIXED MINDSET"

Eva Lucero

BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Effectively illustrating an opinion article isn't as easy as you think. Not only does the artwork have to be of high caliber, but the message has to be clear. In this instance, Eva Lucero's message in her illustration is both effective and of high quality."

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

"STUDENT TAKE TO THE SCREEN"

Wesley Harrison
Pitchfork, Marietta High School

@mhspitchfork

Feature

page 12

Students take to the screen

Wesley Harrison
Website Manager

Students and alumni have sought out work in the entertainment industry. Many have found jobs through local casting agencies, word of mouth and specialized agents.

Grant Martin (9) was an extra on the set of "Cobra Kai" and "Star Girl." He decided to be in these shows because it would be good work experience and fun. Martin has been in multiple productions with City Springs Theatre and recently began expanding to on-screen works.

"The experience was really cool, being able to see the actors and all of the behind the scenes equipment," Martin said.

Martin is currently unsure of his future plans in the film industry; however he wants to continue exploring the entertainment industry.

Madi McKinley (10) began production on her short film "Faceless" with classmates Beauman Ivester (11) and Sofia Eraydin (11) in May 2021.

This short film followed McKinley's character, Olivia Harper's, investigation into rival operatives of her spy agency. McKinley served as the short film's director, writer and lead actress. The film premiered on YouTube on June 21, 2021, on her channel "MaDiFlix."

"I think it's really helped me as a student because I know that I'm only a sophomore and I could see my future in this career," McKinley said.

Jamiyah Smith (12) was on the Disney+ exclusive series "Just Beyond," where he played a background actor. Smith has been involved in the theatre department for all four years of his high school career. He sought out this job to gain more experience in the different types of acting.

He was able to find this job through Central Casting, a company that specializes in casting background actors. Smith recommends anyone with an interest in the film industry should put themselves out there.

"The worst thing they can say is no," Smith said.

Jessica Napier, Marietta High alumna portrayed a teenager in the movie "Halloween Kills." This was filmed when she was a senior at MHS. She found the job through her casting agent, who has helped her to get multiple auditions and jobs.

She was inspired to join the film industry through viewing movies and wondering how she could be a part of the industry.

"Take each step as an achievement. It's a hard business and not everything works out the way you want it to," Napier said. "No matter what field you want to be a part of in the film industry as long as you have the drive and passion, you got it."



Photo illustration by Wesley Harrison

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "This was a simple idea that was elegantly executed. Maintaining a sense of visual variety across the four included photographs gave this great deal of visual interest."

DOUBLE-TRUCK LAYOUT/DESIGN

"FAST FASHION, ACCELERATING UNETHICAL CLOTHING PRODUCTION"

Aiden Dowling
BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



Art by Megan Wise
Design by Aiden Dowling

ACCELERATING UNETHICAL CLOTHING PRODUCTION

By London Moore

When you walk in the hallway and see the diverse outfits of the students around you, have you ever thought about where these clothes come from? Are they from H&M, Shein, Zara or Forever 21? These fast fashion stores and websites make up a subculture of fashion that produces clothing very quickly, often leaving their workers in hostile conditions throughout the fast production and shipping process. The clothes are cheap and marketed through trends to increase customer sales with one goal in mind: speed. With these trendy designs and low prices, fast fashion is a dream for young consumers with limited time and money. (Fast fashion) has become normal in our society, especially for teenagers. We have this pressure to constantly dress with everything new and dress like the best, so we can impress everybody else. We have to go out and buy where it's most afford-

able for us," senior Jorge Sanchez said. Fast fashion companies and businesses have depreciated quality and ethics in the interest of profit. The manufacturing for these companies often takes place in countries such as China, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam where workers are paid far less than American minimum wage, at two to six cents per garment produced. Some workers are paid as little as \$300 for 60-70 hour work weeks. Fast fashion also has environmental drawbacks. Every year, the fast fashion industry consumes 93 billion cubic meters of water, enough to meet the consumption needs of five million people. Furthermore, textiles and dyeing treatment contribute around 20% of industrial water pollution. The quality is cheap and the clothing depletes resources which makes for an unstable environment. The fast fashion industry has a significant carbon footprint and is accountable for around 10% of all

global carbon emissions. Freshman Armin Hembree agrees that the quality of these clothes directly affects the environment. "I think it (fast fashion) is definitely not good for the environment because people throw out a lot of clothes due to the quality," Hembree said. The quality of the clothes from these businesses tends to be very low and cheap. Many of these clothes are discarded after a few washes. Sanchez says he has become more aware of the poor quality of fast fashion through his past experiences with brands such as H&M, Urban Outfitters and Old Navy. "After I saw the impact of more brands, I would see that fast fashion quality was pretty bad. They (are) only worth it for like five or seven washes and (get) pretty worn down," Sanchez said. Michelle Patrick, marketing teacher at

Cedar Shoals, says that people's materialistic habits contribute to overconsumption. "I think that teenagers and adults alike are used to having the newest, latest and greatest fast fashion. That makes it really easy for people to get addicted to shopping. I think that our consumerist behaviors will just continue to get worse over time, which is really concerning because that is simultaneously negatively impacting the environment," Patrick said. Fast fashion companies have many charming aspects in the eyes of teens looking for trendy and affordable clothing. "You (as teens) basically only have access to what your parents give you, (and) with fashion, cheap clothes make it possible for you to change up your styles really easily, quickly and for not a lot of money," Patrick said. Hembree does not have a part-time job yet, so she says she gets her parents help to buy clothes. "I normally only buy one item at a time if I'm paying just because I don't have a job, so I don't have many ways to get more money. It's normally around \$30 when I buy clothes. My parents will give me about \$40 to \$50 depending on the store and how long ago they bought me clothes last time," Hembree said. Microtrends contribute to fast fashion cycles as trends come and go quickly, leading to the discarding of garments as a new microtrend begins. Examples of microtrends from this past year are cow print clothing, patchwork tops, baggy jeans and crochet dresses. Sanchez says that he has steered away from buying these trends as he expands his personal style. "Buying (trending clothes) was something common I used to do. But I was able to get away from that after I defined my own sense of style," Sanchez said. Still, he admits to following trends such as athleisure and buying new shoes. Hembree's inspiration to buy new trends comes from people who look like her, though she has suggested her decision to buy some of these clothes. "When I buy things that are trending it's normally because the person I saw wearing it had a similar body type, so I knew it would look good on me. I have bought things that were trending but never wore them because they didn't fit or they didn't look right. Sometimes I will buy stuff and it comes broken because it was made out of cheap material," Hembree said.

One way to counteract the harsh environmental and humanitarian effects of fast fashion while saving money is thrifting. Thrifting lets consumers reuse and flip old clothes into something new to decrease the discarding of clothes. "My reason for thrifting was that it was just cheaper to get the clothes that I wanted and more sustainable since I was buying secondhand and not letting the clothes go to waste," Sanchez said. Hembree often thrifts but sometimes struggles to find the right fit. "(I thrift) sometimes when I'm with my grandma, she likes to go thrifting a lot. If I'm buying shirts I love to go thrifting, but pants are just hard to find in my size," Hembree said. Patrick sees the advantage in thrifting in many aspects. "I just prefer it (thrifting) because I feel like it costs way less money. It's less harmful for the environment. I think it gives people an opportunity to be a little more unique. Like when you just go to a fast fashion store, you look just like the next guy or girl," Patrick said.

Photo by London Moore
Graphic by Aiden Dowling

BOUGHT SECONDHAND THROUGH DEPOP APP



BOUGHT SECONDHAND THROUGH DEPOP APP

PURCHASED SECONDHAND FROM A LOCAL THRIFT STORE



BOUGHT FROM VEJA



Photo by London Moore
Graphic by Aiden Dowling

FAST FASHION ALTERNATIVES

<p>PATAGONIA</p> <p>Patagonia is a leader in the outdoor apparel industry. They are committed to environmental and social responsibility. They use high-quality materials and ethical manufacturing practices. They also have a strong commitment to environmental activism and social justice.</p>	<p>LEVI'S</p> <p>Levi's is a leader in the denim industry. They are committed to quality and durability. They use high-quality materials and ethical manufacturing practices. They also have a strong commitment to environmental activism and social justice.</p>	<p>H&M</p> <p>H&M is a leader in the fast fashion industry. They are committed to affordability and style. They use high-quality materials and ethical manufacturing practices. They also have a strong commitment to environmental activism and social justice.</p>
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JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Excellent design, artfully planned with attention to detail. Also, a great topic for your readers. Looks professional. Well done!"

ADVERTISING DESIGN

"BLACK AND WHITE"

Emma Vogli

The Verve, The King's Academy

THE VERVE PRESENTS:
BLACK AND WHITE
Red Carpet Premiere

JANUARY 21, 2023 ✦ IN THE TKA GYM ✦ STARTS 7:00PM

Live Performances
MATTHEW GAMAGE ✦ CORRIE JOHNSON ✦ AND A STUDENT-MADE PLAYLIST!

Snacks
MINI RED VELVET BUNDT CAKES ✦ CAKE POPS ✦ OREOS ✦ AND MORE!

Beverages
COCA COLA ✦ CHARCOAL LEMONADE ✦ SHIRLEY TEMPLES ✦ AND MORE!

Giveaways
CHICK-FIL-A GIFT CARDS ✦ AND MORE!

Tickets
\$35 PER TICKET ✦ ONLINE ONLY!



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Advertisements should, of course, look nice (font, colors), but this one also has all the necessary info. Most important in this one is the QR code letting readers know how to buy tickets. A little self-promotion for The Verve! Hope your event was successful."

SOCIAL MEDIA STORYTELLING

"JAGS IN THE JUNGLE (PART 1)"

Christian Posadas Palma

BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



cedarblueprints

cedarblueprints JAGS IN THE JUNGLE: BEYOND THE BADGE: Sophomore Luna Patterson is an avid member of the Cedar Shoals FFA program. Along with doing FFA in middle school, Patterson's high school FFA journey began in an atypical manner.

"In my freshman year I was put into first period basic agriculture. I live in a neighborhood that doesn't have many other kids in it, so my bus would almost never show up or it'd always be super late. I would always get to first period late because of that, and I would miss a bunch of instruction, so I was failing the class. One day, my teacher asked if I wanted to go to the Georgia State Fair because she had one spot left open, and from then it's exploded into where I am now," Patterson said.

Within Cedar Shoals FFA, Patterson holds the officer role of Sentinel. As a Sentinel, Patterson greets people, takes pictures, and makes sure the meeting room is organized.

"To me, the Sentinel role is just making sure people feel comfortable in the meeting space, that everyone feels welcomed and that the environment itself is friendly and open. I want everyone to feel like they have a place here," Patterson said.

In addition to her duties as Sentinel, Patterson helps hang up posters around the school to advertise FFA events like fundraising sales and meetings. Patterson does this to ensure

Liked by jfrick and 182 others

cedarblueprints

cedarblueprints JAGS IN THE JUNGLE (PART 1): After struggling to find somewhere to fit in at the beginning of high school, senior Christian Posadas Palma decided to take matters into his own hands. Using spare time he had during his third period piano class last semester, Posadas Palma began going to the library, working alongside Cedar Shoals librarian Kerry Hogan to create a resource that will direct students to information about various clubs and sports to get involved with.

"I'm trying to make a Linktree and it would link the two presentations for sports and clubs and Ms. Partridge's senior site. It would be an updated list of what new events are upcoming, what clubs are doing, what club is meeting this day," Posadas Palma said.

Posadas Palma participates in a variety of Cedar clubs and sports teams including Tennis, Chess Club, Minority Excellence (M.E.) Club, Beta Club, HoHo, Math Club and Local School Governance Team.

"When I first came to Cedar, I thought there were only a limited number of clubs and sports I could join. I remember going on to the Cedar page and the club descriptions weren't so interesting," Posadas Palma said. "I wasn't motivated to join and then when I started joining more clubs and sports, I realized that it was pretty fun. I was like 'All of my classmates are missing out.'"

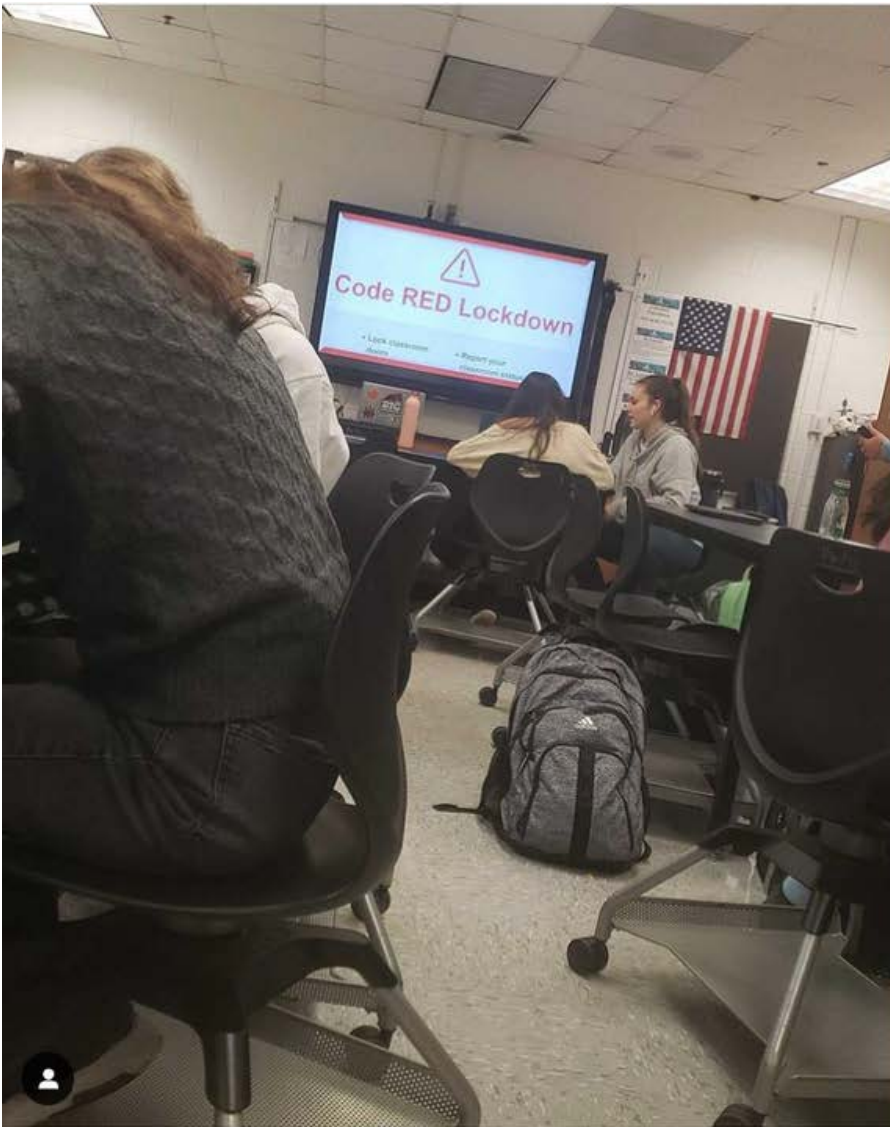
Liked by jfrick and 221 others

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Christian's content was innovative and involved all the students and staff instead of just himself. It was an organized way of making sure the students were aware of all of the extracurricular activities."

CATEGORY

"CODE RED LOCKDOWN"

Luke Soule,
McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School



mcintosh.trail • Follow



mcintosh.trail Today, Friday Dec. 2, a code red lockdown was initiated in the middle of first period. "The students and teachers responded very quickly in following our lockdown protocols," Principal Maggie Walls said in an email to the school. Soon after, teachers and students were notified that the lockdown was a false alarm. "One of our staff members accidentally sent an alert through their security badge," Walls said. No students were physically harmed during the lockdown. "At no time were faculty or students in danger," Walls said. Coverage by Luke Soule
Photo by Ryan Levan

10w



73 likes

DECEMBER 2, 2022

Log in to like or comment.

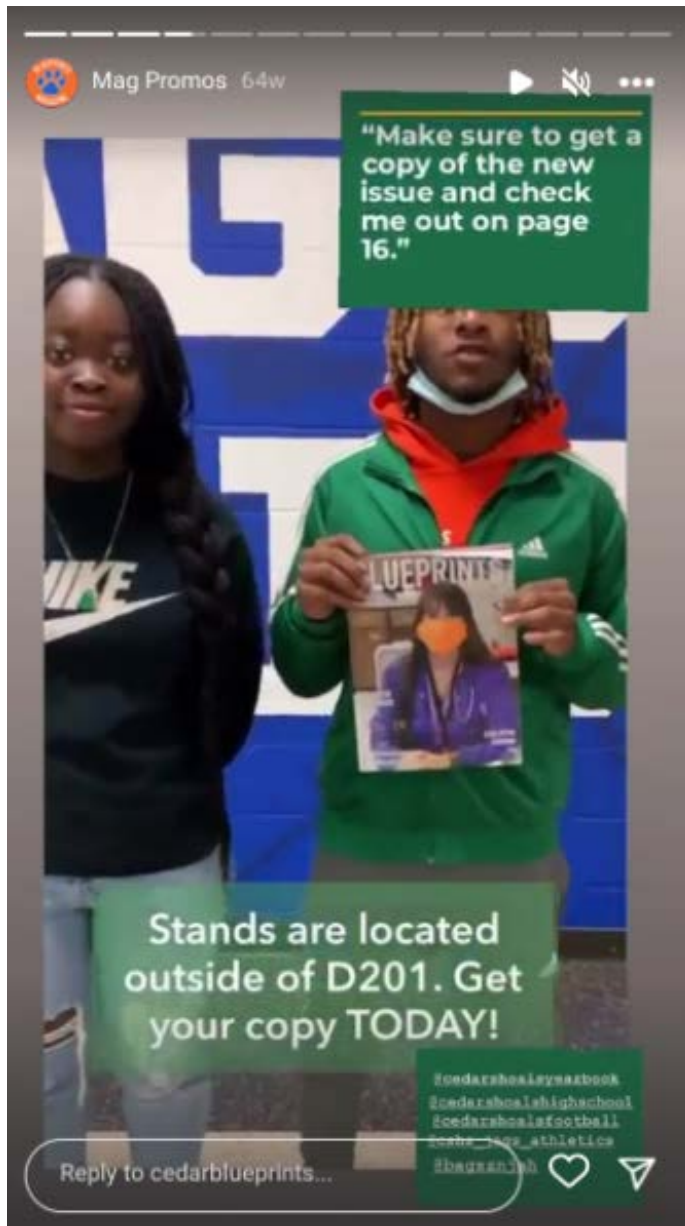
JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "What makes breaking news work beyond the obvious is when you can post breaking news with visuals. The picture with the code red sign on the screen in the classroom made this breaking news the top of this competition."

SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTION

"MAG PROMOS"

Alyssa Weiszer, Melanie Frick, and Ikeoluwa Ojo

BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School



JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "First and foremost, I enjoyed the simple subtlety of these Instagram posts. In fact, I think it was the first one with the young man telling the reader to turn to page 16 of the copy that won me over. Finding unique ways to engage the reader is a winner."

EMERGING MEDIA

"LGBTQIA+ FOR DUMMIES"

Zioni Moore

The Chant, North Cobb High School

LGBTQIA+ FOR DUMMIES



*Now with
tips on
healthy
allied-ship!*

The unknown mystifies countless people across the globe. A major fear, entrapment and community that people align with remain the LGBTQIA community. The relationships people gain from the freedom to express it overpower the controversies and confusion around it in recent years. However, misinterpretations on how to properly respect those still linger within the community. Luckily, modern resources can help. (Zioni Moore)

JUDGE'S COMMENTS: "Although the emerging media part might not seem as imaginative as some of the others, the overall appearance of this piece followed by the links and the charts makes this piece well worth the All-Georgia winner."

2022 Summer Award Winners

LITERARY MAGAZINE

Poem

All-Georgia: Emily Hoff, "Shards," Echo, North Springs High School
Superiors: Isabella Matey, "My Constellation," Musings, Starr's Mill High School; Gabby Gruszynsky, "This Side of my Skin," Archetype, Lake Oconee Academy

Short Story

All-Georgia: Ivy Breinig, "Blue Cardigan" Musings, Starr's Mill High School
Superiors: Natalie Schliekelman, "Fracture Future," Iliad, Clarke Central High School; Ayanna Lonon, "American Christmas," Iliad, Clarke Central High School

Artwork

All-Georgia: Mya Wesley, "Hair," Echo, North Springs High School
Superiors: Lindsey Herring, "Hand," The Archetype, Lake Oconee Academy; Bird Smith, "Gatsby's Dream," Iliad, Clarke Central High School

Photograph

All-Georgia: Caroline Orbock, "canyoneering," Iliad, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: Nadine Mitchell, "Hallway" Echo, North Springs High School; Allissa Chiu, "Black Sunset", Musings, Starr's Mill High School

Cover Design

All-Georgia: James Satterfield, "Dream/Second Dream," Echo, North Springs High School
Superiors: Skylar Maroschak, "Elements and Principles," The Archetype, Lake Oconee Academy; Eva Orbock, "Astraeus," Iliad, Clarke Central High School

Spread Design

All-Georgia: Eva Orbock, Bird Smith, and Niles Flath, "A warm spring rain/Tau," Iliad, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: Turner Taggart, "Interlude," Echo, North Springs High School; Staff, Spread pages 3-4, Musings, Starr's Mill High School

Summer 2022 General Excellence

LITERARY MAGAZINE

Excellent

VOX, Roswell High School
The Globe, Milton High School
Silent Voices, Woodward Academy
Musings, Starr's Mill High School

Superior

Echo, North Springs School
Iliad, Clarke Central High School

All-Georgia

Iliad, Clarke Central High School

YEARBOOK

Achievement

The Indian, Towns County High School
SAGA, Druid Hills High School
The Bulldog, Forsyth Central High School
Panorama, North Cobb High School
Panorama, Winder-Barrow High School

YEARBOOK (continued)

Excellent

The Crest, The King's Academy
High Tide, Glynn Academy
Tiger, Dawson County High School
Argus, Lumpkin County High School
Golden Memories, Fayette County High School
Orator, Midtown High School
The Legend, McIntosh High School
Saga, Woodstock High School
The Guidon, Marist School
The Olympian, Greater Atlanta Christian School

Superior

Wildcat Den, Rabun County Middle School
Legend, Tallulah Falls School
Cutlass, Habersham Central High School
Ortu Solis, East Forsyth High School
The Phoenix, Woodward Academy
Olympian, Marietta High School
The Legend, Walton High School
Accipitier, Mill Creek High School

YEARBOOK OVERALL

Small School Winner

Legend,
Tallulah Falls School

Medium School

Ortu Solis,
East Forsyth High School

Large School

The Phoenix,
Woodward Academy

All-Georgia

The Phoenix
Woodward Academy

2022 Summer Award Winners

YEARBOOK

Social Justice Reporting

All-Georgia: London Whilby, Andrea Perez, Brittney Alexander, Tracy Guo, "School Violence Must Be Silenced", The Legend, McIntosh High School

COVID-19 Reporting

All-Georgia: Anna Fairrel, Caroline Franklin, and Audrey Zimmerman "Mask Us Again" The Legend, McIntosh High School

Yearbook Story

All-Georgia: Oluwadolapo Thomas and Mikayla Santiago, "Rollin on home" The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superiors: True Youngblood, "HS Football," The Indian, Towns County High School; Julia Skaggs, "Where Words Fail Music Speaks," Panorama, North Cobb High School; Audrey Zimmerman and Anna Fairrel, "Code Enforcement," The Legend, McIntosh High School

Special Interest Story

All-Georgia: Oluwadolapo Thomas, "Far From Home," The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superiors: Jordyn Mobley, "No Escape," The Legend, McIntosh High School; Brady Dunn, "Stopping the Presses," The Legend, McIntosh High School

News Photography

All-Georgia: Tracy Guo, "Into the Woods," The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: Emma Bellantoni, "Chalk Something Up," The Legend, McIntosh High School

Feature Photography

All-Georgia: Rebekah Bushmire, "Courtyard Concert," The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: Bazya Smith, "Senior Leadership Day," The Indian, Towns County High School

Sports Photography

All-Georgia: Ava Flores, "Saving Our Skins," The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: Maisey Wasulko, "Varisty Fastpitch," Panorama, North Cobb High School

Portrait Photography

All-Georgia: Oluwadolapo Thomas, "Yelyzaveta" The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: London Wilby, "Tens Across the Board," The Legend, McIntosh High School

Photo Essay

All-Georgia: Kayla Peacock, "Moments That Define You," The Indian, Towns County High School
Superior: Maya Yim, "Building Black & White" The Crest, The King's Academy

Information Graphic

All-Georgia: Catherine Amendola and Cheyenne Phelps, "Streaming & Dreaming," The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: True Youngblood, "Sticking Around," The Indian, Towns County High School

Illustration

All-Georgia: London Whilby, "School Violence Must Be Silenced," The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: Carmella Niedzwiecki, "Masked Again," The Legend, McIntosh High School

Photo Illustration

All-Georgia: Ethan Duncan and Ethan Fossan, "Cale Collum Profile," Tiger, Dawson County High School
Superior: Caroline Blair, "Fashioner or Fashionista," Tiger, Dawson County High School

Spread Design

All-Georgia: True Youngblood, "Sticking Around," The Indian, Towns County High School
Superiors: Tiffany Robertson and Charley Roness, "Around Town", The Crest, The King's Academy; Mabry Looper and Sara Catherine Iredale, "Silent Disco", The Crest, The King's Academy; Jordyn Mobley, "No Escape" The Legend, McIntosh High School

Cover Design

All-Georgia: Caroline Blair, "WE Are...", Tiger, Dawson County High School
Superior: Staff, "A New Horizon," Saga, Druid Hills High School

Theme Development

All-Georgia: Yearbook Staff, "In The Moment," The Indian, Towns County High School
Superior: Caroline Blair and Ethan Duncan, "WE Are...", Tiger, Dawson County High School

Social Media Storytelling

All-Georgia: Tracy Guo, "Graduation Day" The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: Staff, "Meet the Staff," The Crest, The King's Academy

Social Media Promotion

All-Georgia: Oluwadolapo Thomas and London Wilby, "Guess the Theme", The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: Sara Catherine Iredale and Maya Yim, "Silent Disco," The Crest, The King's Academy

Social Media Breaking News

All-Georgia: Savannah O'Connor, "Spring Gala Announcement" The Legend, McIntosh High School
Superior: Staff, "GSPA Awards," The Crest, The King's Academy

2022-23 Spring Award Winners

BROADCAST

News Package

All-Georgia: "Youth day at the West Broad Farmer's Market," Melanie Frick, WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "C.W. Matthews at MHS," Sofia Eraydin, Cora Ocampo, Nicholas Wolfson, and Beauman Ivester, Blue Devil News, Marietta High School; "Nhan Phan," Emily Edwards, Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School

In-depth News Story

All-Georgia: "The Unheard Voices," Ivan Mendoza, The Chant, North Cobb High School
Superior: "The MHS IB Program," Beauman Ivester, Gregory Papp, Cora Ocampo and Madison McKinley, Blue Devil News, Marietta High School

Feature Package

All-Georgia: "Making Music with Jaylen Strigner," Aliyah Adams, WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "COR Christmas Tree Farm Feature," Abbey Duke and Janie Stinchcomb, Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School; "BDN Special Report: Marietta Adapted Games," Gregory Papp and Cora Ocampo, Blue Devil News, Marietta High School

Production

All-Georgia: "The Spongebob Musical Promo," Henry Lott, Oracle, North Springs High School
Superiors: "Black History Month: I Have A Dream," Micah Robinson and Javon Brown, Oracle, North Springs High School; "Snowman Stop Motion," William Duke, Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School; "Spring Live@1575 Show Opener," Andrew Hathaway, Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School

Sports Package

All-Georgia: "Volleyball State Recap," William Lowman and Isaiah Shareef, Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian School
Superiors: "The new and improved Lady Jags," Sabriyu Adams, WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School; "Revisiting the gabs between Glads," Gretchen Hinger, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Podcast

All-Georgia: "Inside info on the college decision process," Freddrell Green and Alyssa Weiszer, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "Taking it day by day," Janie Rippes, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "The Voice of Verve: Ty Faulk," Samuel Rice, The Verve, The King's Academy

NEWSMAGAZINE, NEWSPAPER, NEWS WEBSITE

News Story

All-Georgia: "Druid Hills denied modernization," Riot Jolly and Ishita Samnani, The Spotlight, Druid Hills High School
Superiors: "Two months, two new principals," Etinosa Ogbomo, The Pitchfork, Marietta High School; "Double Dawg Championship," Molly Harwell, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Head to Head: Is ChatGPT a learning resource or a risky tool?" Aran Sonnad-Joshi, The Southerner, Midtown High School; "School violence spikes," Anya Biswas and Milly Miao, The Messenger, Northview High School; "Warnock wins Georgia Senate runoff," Edric Bussie, Bryant Monohan and Abraham Rufus, The Spotlight, Druid Hills High School

In-Depth News Story

All-Georgia: "No easy solution," Violet Calkin, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "Can it be done?" Savannah Hayes, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School; "The Saga of Taylor Swift Tickets," Grace Lovejoy, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School; "SADD Nation Selects Chattahoochee Student," Diego Carvajal Nunez, The Speculator, Chattahoochee High School; "Desensitized to Danger," Emily Couch and Audrey Enghauser, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Feature Story

All-Georgia: "Slayed," Ikeoluwa Ojo, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "The impact of ChatGPT in schools," Anya Biswas and Nethra Pai, The Messenger, Northview High School; "The case for balance," Anshi Vajpayee, Kevin Xiang, The Messenger, Northview High School; "As Halloween approaches, teal pumpkins raise awareness of food allergies," Savannah Hayes, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School

"Rooted in Community," Isabella Westrich, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Shelving a Safe Space," Ellie Crane, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Feature Profile

All-Georgia: "Mr. Elliot Reid: Redefining History One IB Class at a Time," Jill Yoder, The Warrior Wire, North Atlanta High School
Superiors: "Student Advocacy Specialist Sharlene Patterson," Luke Soule, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School; "The Journey Behind Tumi's Crown," Lily Gibson, The Liberty Bell, Mount Pisgah Christian School; "A Labor of No Love," Ikeoluwa Ojo, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Cultivating A Dream," Isabella Westrich, Odyssey Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Column Writing

All-Georgia: "Crypto Crisis/Representing in the Right Way," Marcus Welch, Cedar BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "Boiling Point," Chloe Sears, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Mo Knows," Molly Harwell, Odyssey Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Opposing Viewpoints Column

All-Georgia: "Head to Head: Is ChatGPT a learning resource or a risky tool?" Aran Sonnad-Joshi and Stella Maximuk, The Southerner, Midtown High School
Superiors: "Should students stand for the Pledge?" Emerson Keith and Jennifer Lee, The Sting, Roswell High School; "Do clubs ignite or douse your passions?" Remzi Abaci and Agreya Menon, The Speculator, Chattahoochee High School

House Editorials

All-Georgia: "Our Take," Staff, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Aren't We Supposed to Be Cheering On the Team?" The McIntosh Trail Staff, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School; "When Your Country Crumbles/Deconstructing Deconstruction," The Verve Staff, The Verve, The King's Academy

Commentary

All-Georgia: "True crime's popularity and its damage to society," McKenna Ryan, The Messenger, Northview High School



Critical Review

All-Georgia: "Restaurant Review: Maple Street Biscuit Company," Elsa Moore, Green and Gold, Wesleyan School

Superiors: "Pressures, Parenting and Pandas: Let's Talk about Pixar's 'Turning Red'," Maggie Craig, The Bird Feed, South Forsyth High School; "Mochinut comes to Athens," Mia La, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "'The Menu': A Meal of a Movie," Sarah Meiselman, The Oracle, North Springs High School; "'Top Gun: Maverick'," Sarah Gordon, The Verve, The King's Academy

Sports News Story

All-Georgia: "Strengthening Central," Gretchen Hinger, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Central takes the flag," Cadence Schapker, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Lady Jags soccer ends losing streak," Marcus Welch, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Region realignment," Megan Wise, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Tropical Storm Ian," Ava Flores, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School

Sports Game Coverage

All-Georgia: "Game Coverage: CCHS vs CSHS," Wyatt Meyer, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Close game against the Hoyas," Giovanna Talone, The Chant, North Cobb High School; "CCHS boys varsity soccer," Lukas Cornish, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Jaguars shutout in Classic City Championship," Gabe Holcomb, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Sports Feature Story

All-Georgia: "Football's In the Family," Wyatt Meyer, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Superiors: "Senior Bowman twins lead school soccer programs," Greta Gustafson, The Southerner, Midtown High School; "Freshman Virginia Woodcock takes dressage by the reins," Carolyn Harty, The Southerner, Midtown High School; "Both Sides of the Ball," Kylie Toney, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Revisiting Perno's Playbook," Gretchen Hinger, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Sports Column

All-Georgia: "Tell Me, Wy," Wyatt Meyer, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Mbow's Musings," Andrew Mbow, Oracle, North Springs High School; "Reclaiming Power," Gretchen Hinger, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Headline Writing

All-Georgia: Sam Fickle, The Verve, The King's Academy
Superiors: Ema Vogli, The Verve, The King's Academy; Disha Kumar, The Messenger, Northview High School

Caption Writing

All-Georgia: Sam Fickle, The Verve, The King's Academy
Superiors: Emma Scrivner, The Verve, The King's Academy; Matthew Iredale, The Verve, The King's Academy

Editorial Cartoon

All-Georgia: "My journey to accepting my culture," Ava Maddox, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "In The Deep," Sophia Rios, Oracle, North Springs High School; "When your country crumbles," Samuel Rice, The Verve, The King's Academy

Sports Photograph

All-Georgia: "ZOOM," Lucas Donnelly, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Pep," Isabelle Duncan, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Jaguar soccer," Kylie Toney, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

News Photograph

All-Georgia: "Crowning of Homecoming Queen," Zaria Byers, Pitchfork, Marietta High School
Superiors: "Dr. Hooker," Isabella Morgan, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Adapted games," Sydney Martinez, Pitchfork, Marietta High School

Feature/Entertainment Photograph

All-Georgia: "Like His Big Brother," Temprince Battle, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School
Superiors: "Lights Out," Dalton Ward, The Spotlight, Druid Hills High School; "Outside the Program," Lucas Donnelly, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Three Multi-sport Girl Athletes" Alyssa Hamilton, Pitchfork, Marietta High School

Photo Essay

All-Georgia: "BSU Fashion Show," Caroline Disque and Dalton Ward, The Spotlight, Druid Hills High School
Superiors: "The Heart of Johns Creek," Anika Balamurugan, The Speculator, Chattahoochee High School

Information Graphic

All-Georgia: "Going Green," Disha Kumar, The Messenger, Northview High School
Superiors: "Morning Traffic," Wesley Harrison, Pitchfork, Marietta High School; "Fast Fashion," Aiden Dowling, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Chromebooks," Dani McClure, The Verve, The King's Academy

Illustration

All-Georgia: "Managing a Mixed Mindset," Eva Lucero, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School
Superiors: "Varying New Math Classes," Milly Miao, The Messenger, Northview High School; "Feelings of Helplessness," Mia La, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Photo Illustration

All-Georgia: "Student Take to the Screen," Wesley Harrison, Pitchfork, Marietta High School
Superior: "The Monster Within Monster," Eladia Scott, The Chant, North Cobb High School



Double-Truck Layout/Design

All-Georgia: "Fast Fashion, Accelerating Unethical Clothing Production," Aiden Dowling, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Superiors: "Raiders Reign...JROTC Raider Team Continues to Perform," Megan Wise, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; "Going Green, A Deep Dive..." Disha Kumar, The Messenger, Northview High School

Advertising Design

All-Georgia: "Black and White," Emma Vogli, The Verve, The King's Academy

Superior: "Follow Us On Social Media," Danielle McClure, The Verve, The King's Academy

Social Media Storytelling

All-Georgia: "Jags In The Jungle (Part 1)," Alyssa Weiszer, Melanie Frick, and Ikeoluwa Ojo, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Superiors: "Clinic Women's Pro Twilight," Lucas Donnelly, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Artists drawing Martin Luther King," Savannah Hayes, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School

"The Voice of Verve," Multimedia Podcast, The Verve, The King's Academy

Social Media Breaking News

All-Georgia: "Code Red Lockdown," Luke Soule, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School

Superiors: "Bus Collison," LuLu Vitulo, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School; "Potential threat made against MHS," Rebekah Bushmire, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School

Social Media Promotion

All-Georgia: "Mag Promos," Ikeoluwa Ojo, Ellie Crane and Melanie Frick, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; *Superiors:* Behind the Scenes of Black and White," Caroline Walker, The Verve, The King's Academy; "Back to Mac," Rebekah Bushmire, McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School

Emerging Media

All-Georgia: "LGBTQIA+ for Dummies," Zioni Moore, The Chant, North Cobb High School

Superiors: "Dress Code," Phoenix Rivers, Oracle, North Springs High School; "Runoff Rundown," Disha Kumar, The Messenger, Northview High School

Social Justice Reporting

All-Georgia: "Rises in rent leave tenants distraught," Tumelo Johnson and London Moore, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

Superiors: "Revisiting gaps between Glads," Gretchen Hinger, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School; "Georgia voting bill limits voter accessibility," Alannah Edwards, The Southerner, Midtown High School; "A circle of justice: CCSD students honor the civil rights movement," Ikeoluwa Ojo, BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School

COVID-19 Reporting

All-Georgia: "Teachers' mental health deteriorates, worsened by pandemic," Aran Sonnad-Joshi, The Southerner, Midtown High School

Superiors: "Unmasked, but not unfazed: children face the brunt of COVID-19's aftermath," Amber Roldan, The Chant, North Cobb High School; "CDC Guidelines: The "Back-to-Normal" Virus," Arya Devkota, The Speculator, Chattahoochee High School

Spring 2023 General Excellence

BROADCAST

Superior: Vervecast!, The King's Academy**; WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School; Central Scene, Forsyth Central High School; Live@1575, Greater Atlanta Christian; Eagle News Network, Riverside Military Academy; Blue Devil News, Marietta High School

NEWSPAPER

Achievement: The Warrior Wire, North Atlanta High School

Excellent: The Forum, The Paideia School; Green and Gold, Wesleyan School; The Liberty Bell, Mount Pisgah Christian School; *Superior:* The Verve, The King's Academy*; The Knightly News, Pace Academy; The Spotlight, Druid Hills High School; The Southerner, Midtown High School***; The Pitchfork*, Marietta High School

NEWSMAGAZINE

Superior: BluePrints Magazine, Cedar Shoals High School; ODYSSEY Media Group**, Clarke Central High School; The Speculator, Chattahoochee High School

NEWS WEBSITE

Achievement: The Verve News, The King's Academy; The Sting, Roswell High School; The Oracle, North Springs High School; The Speculator, Chattahoochee High School; The Warrior Wire, North Atlanta High School

Excellent: McIntosh Trail, McIntosh High School; The Messenger, Northview High School; The BirdFeed, South Forsyth High School

Superior: BluePrints, Cedar Shoals High School; The Prowler, Starr's Mill High School; The Southerner, Midtown High School; ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School***; The Chant, North Cobb High School*

*General Excellence Recognition (*i.e.* Small, Medium, or Large School)

** General Excellence & All-Georgia Recognition



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Adviser of the Year recognizes a journalism adviser who goes beyond the “call of duty” in supporting his or her staff.

Winner: Marc Ginsberg (*left*), BluePrints and WJAG-TV, Cedar Shoals High School

The Enterprising Award recognizes a student who achieves success in publishing significant, quality journalistic work outside of school in local, regional or national outlets.

Winner: Freddrell Green of Cedar Shoals High School

The First-Year Adviser Award recognizes a new adviser who has demonstrated success and a desire in strengthening the program.

Winner: Pierce Bauer (*right*), Druid Hills High School, The Spotlight



The Turnaround Award recognizes a staff that has significantly changed the quality of its product from the previous year.

Winner: The Spotlight newspaper at Druid Hills High School



JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Winner: Disha Kumar (*left*), The Messenger, Northview High School, co-editor-in-chief

Kumar is a current member of GSPA Student Ambassadors. Kumar received a plaque and a \$1,000 monetary award, supported by the Carolyn McKenzie and Don E. Carter Chair for Excellence in Journalism at the University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Runner-Up: Melanie Frick, co-editor-in-chief for Cedar Shoals High School’s BluePrints Magazine

FIRST AMENDMENT ESSAY CONTEST

Winner: Ruby Calkin, Cedar Shoals High School

Second Place: Eva Lucero, Cedar Shoals High School

Third Place: Tumelo Johnson, Cedar Shoals High School

JUNIOR JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Winner: Maya Clement, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

Runner-Up: Anna Shaikun, ODYSSEY Media Group, Clarke Central High School

THANK YOU

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