

TRIBAL TRIBUNE

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LIVING THROUGH THE SCREEN

see pages 16-17



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This issue



Junior **Amelia Hathaway** ponches with one hand on the barre in her warm-up before ballet rehearsal. Hathaway performed in *The Nutcracker* on Dec. 7 as a dewdrop and a snowflake in the annual performance. For more on her story, see page 19 and tribaltribune.org. *photo // Caitlyn Greenway*



Junior **Liam Marguglio** plays his white Fender electric guitar in his room with his setup of lights and an amplifier to enhance the song that is being played. For more on Marguglio's story, see tribaltribune.org. *photo // Hannah Flint*

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Battle against disease

Senior Maria Brown shares her and her family's story of her journey fighting against leukemia. She is still battling cancer, juggling treatments and a full schedule at the same time.

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Clay in motion

Graduate Trent Shy produces claymation videos for a living. He has grown a following of 103,000 Instagram followers. What started as a hobby has turned into a career.

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Who will take home the trophy?

With college football playoffs around the corner, four *Tribal Tribune* staffers share their opinions on the final outcome of the NCAA season.



THE SPEAR

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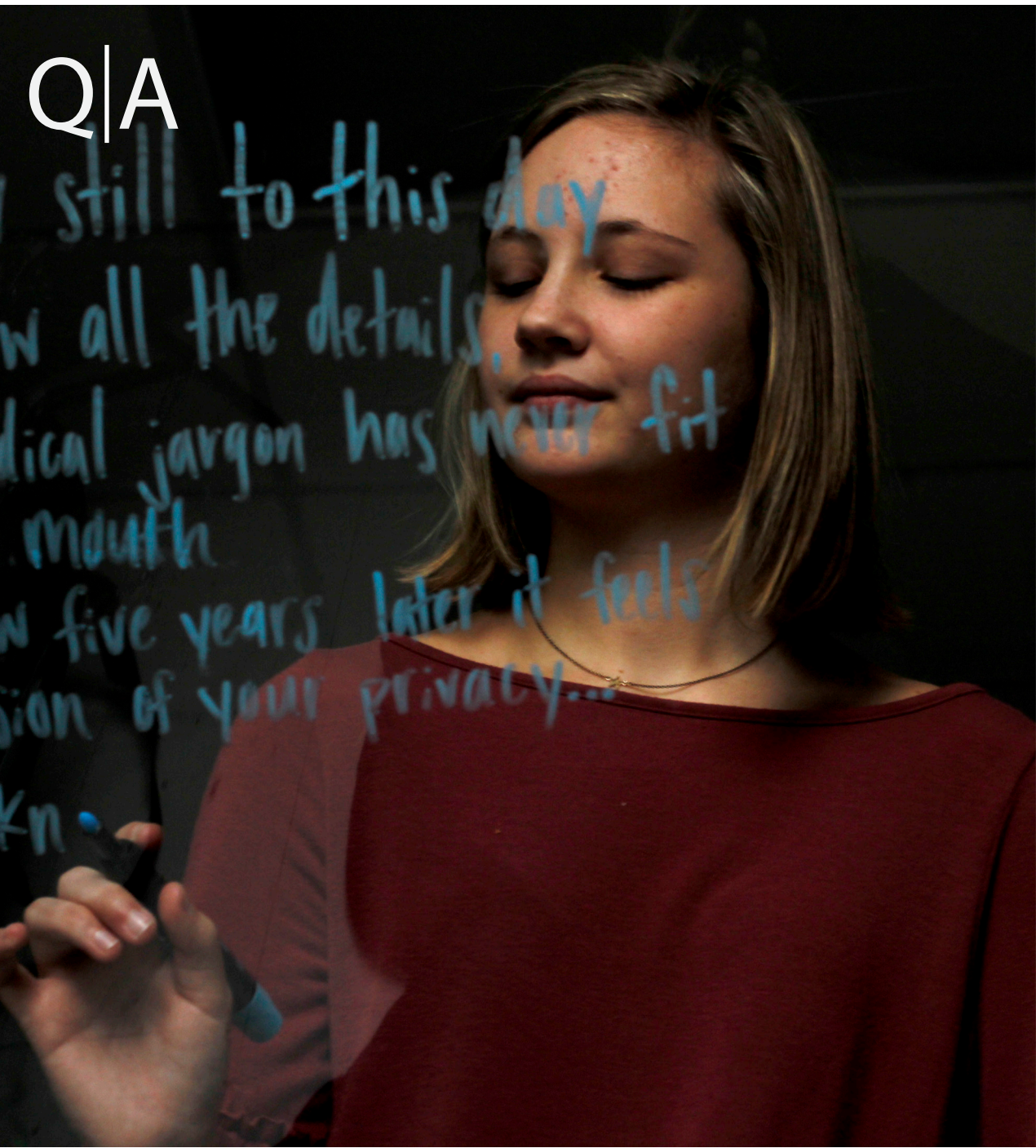
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Q|A

Emalee Goode

Junior

What made you perform poetry in the talent show?

“I started to get a really good connection with it recently, I don’t know why. I used to never read poetry, I never did anything with it, I just never found anything I really liked and stuff. But I found this poem, [“Almosts”]. [It] just had such an important message that I really felt needed to be shared.

What was the message of the poem?

“It’s basically about, sometimes you lose things and you’re not quite ready to lose them and you have to come to terms with those things and being okay with moving on from those. It’s a very difficult process, especially when it’s unexpected.

How did you personally connect with the poem?

“My grandmother passed away from cancer... it’s not the same as like the same kind of story dynamic as the poem has. I mean, cancer is something that affects everyone and it’s something that really just gets with everyone. Although it doesn’t state it’s cancer in the poem -- it says it’s a brain tumor -- it can kinda be referred to as cancer... something that is deadly... Everyone goes through things where they lose things and they lose people and they didn’t want to or they weren’t ready to. That was something I really connected to ‘cause I remember the times where I lost things or I lost people and I wasn’t ready for them to leave my life, but it’s just how it is.”

What was it like when you were performing?

“I was very much into the moment. Before, backstage I was pacing back and forth in the two square feet that I had before I went on, making sure I had all my lines memorized... dodging everyone here and there... Somehow doing that just got me into the mindset of it. I went out there, and there were so many parts where I was getting choked up even though I read over this poem a million times. I was saying some of it and it was very heartbreaking.”

| ASH COMIRE |

Junior **Emalee Goode** writes out her favorite stanza from “Almosts” by Bianca Phipps, the poem she recited at the Wando Talent Show Nov. 13. *photo // Nancy Remoll*



“My favorite thing I got for Christmas was my bike because I was able to ride around with my brother all around the neighborhood.”

FRESHMAN
LAUREN JOHNSON



“My mom kind of made like just a collage of like old family photos and stuff like that. I really just love that kind of stuff because it took a lot of thought and effort... I like that a lot more than someone just buying a straight present.”

JUNIOR
JAMES PAGANO

TRIBE

Each person has an adventure to share. A passion to express. A dream to chase. A story to tell. Here, we take the people of our tribe and show them off to the world.

What is your favorite gift you’ve ever received?



“So I got this guinea pig, this miniature guinea pig, and then the next day my dog ate it. So, it was not exciting then, but I loved it. He was super cute for the 24 hours I had it.”

JUNIOR
CARISSA LIBRIZZI



A heirloom necklace from my aunt. It’s with diamonds and sapphires on it, and it goes back generations, and it just makes me really happy, and makes me feel connected to my family.”

SOPHOMORE
MARKAYLA HARRISON

The trouble with vandalism

Trailer bathroom shuts down for over a month because of destructive behavior

LUKE WALLACE

Staff Writer

What could have been a life-threatening stunt has turned into a major inconvenience for students who use the trailer bathrooms.

During November, a student -- who has been caught, according to Assistant Principal Dan Conner -- vandalized the bathroom trailer, shutting it down for the 600 students who use it during the day.

"We have had a large problem in this school, historically, in the last five years where we are having trouble with vandalism in our trailer restrooms specifically," Conner said.

In this instance, a student broke off a piece of the ceiling tile, then pulled one of the loose wires. This caused all the wires to hang from the ceiling.

"Somebody went out there and knocked the partitions up above in the boys' restroom and some wires came down," Conner said. "I don't know if this all happened at once, but somebody grabbed and hung from the wires."

The act knocked out the electricity in the boys' and girls' bathrooms and also incapacitated the fire alarms. The bathroom trailer had to be shut down, Conner said, and it still remains closed as Charleston County School officials wait for carpenters to repair the floor damage that happened because of a water-heater leak.

But who exactly is doing the vandalism?

"I've always been of the opinion that there is just a small, a couple of kids, not even a handful, doing this," Conner said. "For one thing, it could have killed that person. It could have even electrocuted them or the people there."

And Wando is having difficulty keeping up with the damage, Conner said.

"We just keep getting them fixed all the time," he said. "We really do... It's just a sad commentary that one person could ruin it for 600 people."

So with specific people doing this, what exactly are the consequences? What happens when you commit vandalism?

"We go by the progressive discipline plan by the district.

It goes by steps- how many times you've committed vandalism," Conner said.

There are different levels of consequences with each instance that a student vandalizes.

The first instance is one to two days In-School Suspension, a parent conference and reteaching of expectations. The second instance is three days of Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) and a referral to the dropout program, along with a law-enforcement notification. The third instance is OSS for 3 days and a referral to the law-enforcement. The fourth instance is five to 10 days OSS and a referral for expulsion.

It's another matter to talk about how to stop vandalism at Wando. Teachers use sign-out sheets to check when students leave class, Conner said, and if there is an incident, School Resource Officers (SROs) can also use the cameras stationed outside of the bathrooms in order to check when students leave.

"The sad thing is," Conner said, "that when students vandalize, they are ruining the restrooms for themselves and for their fellow students."

photo // Hunter Musi

CAUTION
CAUTION

CAUTION
CAUTION

Fighting against fights

Administration's plans focus on stopping recurring student altercations

LIV DENNIS

Staff Writer

To Assistant Principal Charles Coker, one of the causes of school fights is easy to pinpoint.

"A lot of it is social media. Something that was misinterpreted or something that was said about someone else," he said. "That's usually what they're about."

And while Coker said there aren't necessarily more fights this year, it is something the administration is working on.

"We don't like it," he said. "We don't want it to happen."

Fighting is considered a Level Two offense in the Charleston County School of Conduct, meaning it endangers the health or safety of students.

Coker said there is a plan in place to help administrators.

"We have a school duty plan... So we have stations for each of our assistant principals and student concern specialists," he said. "We also have teachers expected to be in the hallways between classes."

Coker said administrators also take steps to head off confrontations that may be about to happen.

"Whenever we hear that there may be a fight coming up or maybe that two students may be in an incident," he said. "We always automatically investigate it and warn the two students and kind of go from there."

Learning how to appropriately use social media may help curb fights, Coker said, adding that the faculty will be presenting a positive social media plan.

"I think we definitely need to do a better job of digital literacy and what social media is like and how to properly use and communicate through social media," he said. "That would curb a lot of it."

But what about students running towards fights or even videoing what they see?

"We do have a policy for that in the Code of Conduct. It's called 'aiding others'. So if you're standing there and you're taking a video of the fight and we are able to identify you, you will be called into an office, you will be asked to delete the video and you will get a disciplinary consequence," Coker said. "Whenever a fight does occur, it causes a scene in the hallway and adults can't get to it. You've obviously got personal safety of the people in the fight and you want to break it up as much as possible so they don't get injured. It also clogs up traffic in the hallway. If there's an emergency you can't get through. It creates a general disturbance in the school day."

According to Coker, one problem is "hype up" fights -- they don't usually occur if there isn't a crowd to watch it happen.

"A lot of times peoples' friends are the ones that will hype up the fight," he said, "because they want to see the fight."

Changing the system

Board approves plan that impacts Academic Magnet and Buist admissions

MARISSA COLL | Staff Writer

One hundred miles of land. Eighty-five schools. Fifty-five thousand students. All combined to make the Charleston County School District. For the nine members of the CCSD School Board, it's not easy to make difficult decisions that could close schools and change admission standards. But that's what they've been faced with in recent months.

Final decisions on many proposals that were up for debate were made at the board's Dec. 16 meeting. Two of the changes approved were changes in admissions standards for Academic Magnet High School. Kate Darby, vice chair of the CCSD School Board, said changes to the Academic Magnet High School will allow more students the opportunity to attend.

"We want to identify 30% of the seats [at Academic Magnet High School] to be offered to students who could meet the entrance criteria and attend a CCSD middle school with a poverty index that's 80% or more," Darby said. "We want to recruit more and have more kids attend from more of our middle schools. But they have to meet the entrance criteria."

This proposal has received scrutiny from a number of people, including Larry Kobrovsky, attorney and S.C. Board of Education member.

"Everybody that gets in [to Academic Magnet] knows they deserve to be there based on ability, and that will irrevocably change if those changes, in my opinion, take place," Kobrovsky said, who believes that schools should seek to improve their own honors and AP courses and not adjust the way students are admitted to Academic Magnet.

In addition, admissions of grades 3-6 at Buist Academy will be expanded while phasing out their kindergarten through second grade

sections.

"What we're looking to do is expand the number of seats at Buist so more kids can take advantage of that program, and we want to increase the diversity at both Buist and Academic Magnet," Darby said.

The Buist decision has faced backlash because of how it seems to contradict the proposals to reduce the amount of students going to other schools by eliminating the schools' partial magnet status.

"They wanted to strip the partial magnet status away from certain schools [to stop taking away from neighborhood schools], but... completely inconsistent with that philosophy, they want to expand Buist," said Nina Fields Britt, a parent of a kindergartener currently attending Buist.

A major concern of some parents, teachers and other members of the community is that the CCSD School Board considered the changes, ranging from school consolidations to admissions changes at Buist, without consulting members of the community and understanding the implications of their decisions on the students.

"I became extremely frustrated that the district did not seem to be 'doing its homework' so to speak," Britt said. "It wasn't doing the research. It wasn't going in and looking at the programs that it was going to potentially dismantle and it wasn't looking at how students that are benefiting from those programs, how they were going to be impacted by these changes."

Britt said although the district held what

were called "listening sessions" to help people get their questions answered, there was no back-and-forth communication at the meetings and they often didn't ease concerns as parents had hoped.

"We got frustrated on the issue because... people had been coming to meeting after meeting's listening session with the school board and saying 'We don't think these are good proposals and here's why' and the school district and school board just didn't appear to be hearing that," Britt said.

One of the ideas that counters the idea of expanding Buist admissions for grades 3-6 is that neighborhood schools should be improved before letting more students into an already-successful school. Darby agrees that all schools should be improved, but sees no harm in allowing more to attend Buist.

"There's only two classes per each grade... why should we limit it? We definitely should improve our schools, but we have gifted kids that aren't able to go to Buist because there's not enough space," Darby said.

Allowing more students into Buist Academy is part of a central goal of the school board to increase diversity within schools and make them more equitable, Darby added.

Many of the current changes stem from meetings last summer through a program called "mission critical," which includes community groups that recommended making specific changes within schools.

"In Charleston County, we have some of the best schools in the country and then we have some of the lowest achieving schools in the state," Darby said. "And so when I was elected in 2014, I wanted to see us improve our student achievement across the country and give opportunities so all of our students and all of our parents felt like they had a great school to send their kids to."

"Some of those suggestions were things like combining some schools so that so we didn't have as many really small schools and looking at the partial magnets," Darby said.

Darby added that the board began taking measures on how to best improve student achievement after looking at studies produced by both Clemson and Harvard University. One of these suggestions was to increase school size.

"The reason that we made these recommendations about combining schools is...we really should not have schools that are less than 500 students," Darby said. "It just isn't efficient and we can't provide what we should to them."

Since proposing these changes, the school board has approved combining several schools, such as Lambs, Hunley Park and Goodwin in North Charleston. Minnie Hughes Elementary was one school that was going to be closed down and combined with E. B. Ellington, but due to complaints from the community, the board decided against the idea.

The CCSD Board was also considering eliminating the partial magnet status of four schools within that constituent district, including Laing Middle School. But after the district advocated against it, the board maintained Laing and Sullivan's Island as partial magnets, District 2 Constituent Board member Sarah Shad Johnson said.

"Even though it was a big surprise to hear that these changes were coming without much notice or community engagement, we [were] glad that once our board got involved and the community started speaking out, that they changed course and they kept Laing and Sullivan's Island as partial magnets," Johnson said.

Darby hopes parents and other community members will understand how these new changes will be a good thing.

"I want people to know that we are listening to them and we have to make decisions about what we think is best for the students and for the district as a whole," Darby said. "It's a hard thing to do but even if... somebody doesn't agree with exactly what we are doing, we're doing it to make things better."

“
We really should not
have schools that
are less than 500
students. It just isn't
efficient.”

KATE DARBY

”

Minnie Hughes Elementary 8548 Willtown Rd.

- An initial 5-4 vote to combine Minnie Hughes Elementary with E.B. Ellington Elementary was approved last week.
- Hundreds of parents showed up to protest the decision.
- Chairman Eric Mack motioned to scrap the plan, which was passed unanimously.
- Cheers broke out in the audience after the plan to combine was scrapped.



Academic Magnet High School 5109 W Enterprise St.

- A decision was made by the Charleston School Board on Dec. 16 to offer 30 percent of open ninth-grade seats to middle school students zoned for Charleston County with a poverty index of 80 percent or higher.
- Students coming from an accredited middle school in the county, including private or home-schooled programs, will receive an additional point on the scoring rubric.

THE LATEST

Quigley receives teaching award for giving it her all

ROSEMARY DELAMATER | Co-Writing Editor

On the way to school, math teacher Margo Quigley has a million thoughts running through her head.

"I feel like I live two different lives... I teach for the first half of the day, and then I'm also the [Mathematics] Department Head, so I do a lot of administrative type things for the second half of the day," Quigley said. "But my favorite part of the day is when I'm in the room teaching, with the kids."

And recently, her hard work has been rewarded in a big way -- she has been declared Wando's 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year.

"I was in total disbelief. I saw a couple administrators from down the hallway, and I thought they were just looking for a kid, but then they walked in with a big plant, and flowers, and the actual award and a couple other gifts... It was just very surreal," Quigley said.

Even after getting past her surprise, she felt honored to receive the award.

"Especially working at a place like Wando, with so many people here that are amazing teachers, I feel like it's the highest compliment that anybody could be given," Quigley said.

As shocked as she may have been, it's no surprise that she came to succeed in teaching. For one, it runs in her blood.

"It's funny," Quigley said. "My dad has been a principal for almost 40 years, and my mom was a teacher. I feel like it was one of those things that I kind of just grew up in a house where education [and] the whole school environment played a really big role, so it was something that I always knew that I was going to do."

That doesn't make it a simple task, though: "Teaching is hard," Quigley said. "Anyone who tells you differently is lying. I feel like there are just so many things that we are responsible for, as teachers... It's tough, it's a lot of long days. I feel like it's a job that doesn't necessarily end.

There are people that work in offices that leave for the day and that's it, they don't have to think about it anymore. But teaching isn't really one of those jobs."

Between teaching and coaching volleyball, Quigley's commitment to her students goes beyond school hours.

But the really impressive thing is that it goes both ways -- she has students who keep in touch with her even after leaving high school behind. She is an inspiration.

"There was this class," Quigley said when asked for an example of why she loves to teach. "It was a CP Algebra 2 class that I had probably at this point eight or nine years ago and, just like your typical goofy kids, who wanted nothing to do with math. But I had this group of boys, and they were definitely characters... My maiden name used to be Shisler, so they called me Shizz and they made a lot of jokes about that. But there was this one kid in particular who... I wouldn't say he hated math, but it was close. And we had a really good relationship. So he stuck it out, and then later, after he graduated and was going to college, he reached out to me and said that he wanted to become a teacher because of what I did for him. I just didn't let him quit, and showed him that I cared. So now he teaches elementary school kids in Tennessee and I think he just got awarded with having the highest [Tennessee standardized test scores]."

Aside from teaching, Quigley loves to travel.

"I really enjoy seeing places that aren't in our little bubble of Charleston," Quigley said. "I mean it's cool to go places and experience the people and the culture and the food and... I feel like the more you travel, the more that you realize that even though places are so different from where you live, people are the same."

This points to the biggest reason Quigley earned Teacher of the Year: she loves people. She invests heavily in her students, taking the time to know them on a personal level.

"I love the relationships you build with these kids," Quigley said. "Yes, I teach math and I love math in the nerdiest way, but for me, teaching is about the impact you have on people's lives."

News Briefs

Midwest band clinic

Wando's Symphonic Band headed to Chicago Dec. 17 for the 73rd annual Midwest Band Clinic.

"We've been rehearsing since the summer and... practicing 12 different pieces," junior Josh Eckert said, "and we'll be performing these pieces for directors to hear."

While 18,000 people will attend the convention, only a few will be high school bands. This will be Wando's second appearance at the event-- the band also was selected in 2007.

Two of Wando's pieces were commissioned just for the show, said senior Andrew Peters: "Life Painting" by Aaron Perrine and "From Whence They Came" by Leslie Gilreath.

The band will play Dec. 19 and return to Mt. Pleasant Dec. 20.

Campbell teacher of the month

Spanish teacher Caroline Campbell has been selected as October's Teacher of the Month.



By winning, she was awarded with a plaque, a message from administrators and a premium parking space.

"Anytime, this job, you can go a really long time without being recognized because we all work so hard," Campbell said.

2019 talent show

Junior Emmalee Goode shocked the crowd with an intense monologue leading her to take home the win for first place at the annual Talent Show Nov. 13.

Coming in second was reigning previous first place winner junior Lauren Funkhouser, who sang "Je Veux Vivre" by Charles Gounod.

Freshman Mack Miller won third place as he played the guitar and sang hit song "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi.

COMPILED BY
ZADA IVEY
SHAINA SLOTCHIVER



Math teacher Margo Quigley with the teacher of the year trophy. photo// Gabe Jones

Holiday events



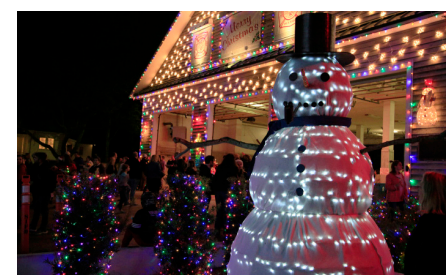
Chorus performed its annual Christmas concert on Dec. 10 in the PAC. photo // Hana Donnelly



Band held its winter concert on Dec. 11. photo // Hannah Flint



Orchestra presented its holiday concert on Dec. 12. photo // Grace Denny



Wando chorus performed at the Sullivan's Island tree lighting on Dec. 6. photo // Hunter Musi

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Discovering her inner strength

Despite diagnosis of leukemia, Brown sets high goals for academic future with family's support

DOMINIK ZELEK

Staff Writer

It was the end of October when the symptoms first started. Fatigue, fever, the works. Maybe it was mono. Maybe something else. Either way it wouldn't last long. It shouldn't, anyway. Maria Brown had things to do. Schoolwork and tryouts and anything else a junior in high school has. It was just mono. Just a virus.

That's what she thought at first.

Then the bruising started.

Volleyball tryouts. Downtown. Even though she felt out of it, Maria still went after a little push by her mother. After all, she was serious about it. One virus wasn't going to stop her. Neither would the bruising that it brought with it.

But it was a little odd. Volleyball was a pretty active sport. It was normal, right? Even if they were all over her body, it was still common.

But what about the bloody nose?

The next day she was at a lab, getting a blood test. Three times she went to the doctor. The first was fine. Wait a few days.

So she did. The second visit came and went, with the same answer.

But the third time she was sent to the lab. Just a blood test.

The bruising. Red flags went up in Maria's mom's mind. Lisa Brown's brother had had leukemia -- a long time ago. And weird bruising. It was probably just the flu, the doctor assured them, but Mrs. Brown specifically asked them to test for leukemia. Just precautionary.

One more day. Phone call. Maria was needed at the hospital.

"I can remember the day," Maria said. "It was Nov. 7th. And so I stayed over the night, and the next day they came in and they were like 'Oh, you don't have mono. You need to call your dad because we have some news to tell you.'"

A big group of doctors. It's intimidating. At that point, Maria and her family all knew something bad was found in that little blood sample.

Cancer.

The dreaded word. Two syllables. Often a disease reserved

for the old, but it isn't hard to find someone who's been touched by it before they've reached 40. Even rarer below that. You might see one person in every 285 develop it before they reach 20, according to the American Childhood Cancer Organization.

And a lot of that cancer is leukemia.

That's what Maria had. A clump of cells in her spine. More specifically, acute lymphoblastic leukemia. But Maria didn't know that then. No one did. All they knew was that life needed to be put on hold. All efforts put on destroying the infected cells.

"My mom started bawling, like, she was -- she was a wreck. And she came over to me and she started hugging me, and I was -- I lost it, and I started crying too," Maria said.

Disbelief. No one thinks this will happen to them, or even someone close to them. People never assume the worst because the worst never happens. Usually.

"It was more disbelief that it actually happened, because we just thought it was mono," said Patricia George, Maria's best friend. "Or that she was anemic, or she had a migraine. So we all thought it was so simple. We never recognized that it was leukemia."

Maria's brothers -- triplets attending Clemson -- didn't take the news any better. Maybe they were joking. Leukemia? Impossible. But it wasn't a joke.

"My third brother, we called him, he was like 'Y'all are pranking me, right? This isn't real?'" Maria said.

Leukemia. Such a weird thing. No one expects the worst. So many emotions. What are you supposed to do? Cancer isn't like anything else you can go through. Your own body turns against you, like a tiny war. And you get caught in the crossfire.

So people rely on technology. More of it every year. Better equipment, new chemicals, different approaches. Just so that you can keep going. And yet there still isn't a cure.

But it's not in vain. Survival rates have skyrocketed, especially for certain cancers like leukemia. Things weren't looking too bad. But that's not to say they looked good, either. There were still a lot of unknowns about Maria's condition.

"I remember the night that I got diagnosed, I woke up, and I was like, so freaked out. I was like 'this is gonna be the worst, the worst thing that's ever happened to me,' and I texted my brother and I texted my friends, like 'this is so bad, like help me out I don't know what I'm supposed to do,'" Maria said. "Part of the reason why I was able to cope with it and not freak out super bad was because I had my friends around me."

“I remember the night that I got diagnosed, I woke up, and I was like, so freaked out. I was like ‘this is gonna be the worst, the worst thing that’s ever happened to me.’”

MARIA BROWN

The first few months was intense chemotherapy. Every week something was put into her body. Shots and weird yellow liquid and a surgeries. No school, either. Schools are breeding grounds for viruses, which, if you know anything about leukemia, is the last place you'd want to go.

Leukemia is a cancer of the blood. For that period of time, Maria had virtually no immune system. Anything slight could send her hospital bound for a long time. But school is important, even if it might not seem like it sometimes. Missing junior year is about the worst thing you could do to yourself.

"Maria said, 'Mom, please don't make me take my junior year again, please don't let me fall behind,'" Mrs. Brown said. "There would be times where she'd be throwing up and throwing up and throwing up and go 'Mom, I can't do this. I can't do math and I can't throw up and I can't do this,' and I would just get mad at her. And then I'd feel bad, like, 'I'm so sorry I got mad at you but you're the one who doesn't want to repeat her junior year.'"

In the end, Maria had to drop most of her AP classes at Wando and take homebound just so that she could keep up with her chemotherapy. Even then it was hard. In fact, a lot of people thought it would be best for Maria to drop school completely, including some staff at the school itself. From an objective standpoint, that seemed like a good idea.

"Usually I would just sit in the infusion room and do homework," Maria said.

But who wants to be doing homework at the hospital?

On top of the work and lack of free time, a lot of these procedures were really painful, too. Needles and tubes and surgeries. Chemotherapy which made her hair fall out. So called "helpful" drugs that made Maria throw up her insides and felt like liquid fire coursing through her.

"There was this one chemo, we call it the red devil, in the cancer world we call it the red devil," she said.

A red-tinted drug that was too potent to put into her directly so it was spread out over the course of 24 hours. Other times symptoms from chemo would show up randomly.

"I was like, sitting at home and my grandparents were there, and I couldn't move these two fingers, and I was like 'this is weird,'" she said. "They called it a 'fake stroke' because I had all the symptoms of a stroke, 'cause I had slurred my speech and my muscles weren't contracting without me controlling it and stuff like that, and it was crazy. And my arms went numb. It was really not fun. That was the worst part."

Treatment went on until the doctors were sure she wasn't making any more defective cells. Then the treatments continued into Maria's remission. Last Christmas Maria could barely get out of bed. But things started to look better -- especially because of her attitude.



(above) Senior **Maria Brown** is embraced by her mother, **Lisa Brown**, on the front porch of their house. **Mrs. Brown** has been supportive of **Maria's** choice to pursue a rigorous academic schedule while continuing to battle her disease. *photo // Peyton Raybon*



(Bbove) Senior **Maria Brown** stands in MUSC Children's Hospital wearing a mask to prevent illness and an orange shirt, the color of awariness for her disease, while being treated for leukemia. (Below) **Brown** rests in a hospital bed with gifts brought by friends and family, including a stuffed bear given to her by math teacher, **Beth Darby**. *photos provided by // Maria Brown*



“It’s been a tough year,” Mrs. Brown said, “But she stayed positive the whole time.”

Positivity isn’t easy to hold on to during something like this. Through all the long nights and weak days holding onto something that’s all too easily lost. But according to Maria, part of the reason why she was able to look on the bright side was because of the people she met during treatment at the hospital.

“You would think there’d be a lot more pessimistic people, but because I think because it’s a childhood cancer, the kids just sometimes don’t know what’s going on,” she said. “Everybody’s just so happy.”

Kids play a big role in the cancer world -- not just on those St. Jude commercials you see, but with collecting money for research as well. Organizations like the Sunshine Kids likes to spread awareness on childhood cancer so that they can make sure kids are taken care of when they need it. Maria was selected by the Sunshine Kids and Make-a-Wish to go to New York and to visit her favorite baseball player Whit Merrifield in Kansas City.

“For a year,” Mrs. Brown said, “it was: ‘Poor Maria, what can we do for Maria, I feel sorry for Maria,’ but at the Make-a-Wish, Maria was the star. Maria was the focus of attention. It was more like: ‘Maria, God I wish I was Maria.’”

She even got to ride around in a limo and meet the Sunshine Kid’s national spokesperson -- award-winning actor J.K. Simmons. All that special treatment can make you forget why you’re getting it in the first place.

And with a disease like leukemia, you’ll be getting it for a long time.

Maria still has to see her doctor for chemotherapy once a

month. She has what’s called a “port” in her chest that won’t be taken out until 2021. She won’t even be completely off the hook by then, either. Regular checkups until she’s 30. But that didn’t stop her. After all, it’s just another obstacle in life, isn’t it?

“What I was in for those first 10 months was called intense chemo, or something like that,” Maria said. “And now I’m in the maintenance period, which is the long period where I go once a month. They told me I wasn’t gonna finish maintenance until, like, mid-September or something like that.

“And usually people don’t go to school until they’re in maintenance, because their immune system is compromised or whatever,” Maria continued. “And so my Mom was like, ‘Oh, but she really wants to have a full schedule and if she goes and she misses the whole first quarter she’s not gonna be able to take all these classes,’ which was not really gonna be fun, so we figured out a way to get me to go to class before I finished maintenance, which the doctors had never done before. They’ve had people try to do it, but it didn’t work out, and so I had to wear a mask, and I had to, like, stay away from people, and I had to have GermX all the time, and I couldn’t go to the cafeteria, and if people were sick I wasn’t allowed to go. The cafeteria was a big no. And I could only go half days because I had not been doing anything for 10 months so my stamina was down, so I couldn’t focus.”

This year Maria picked up six AP classes. Six. Most people don’t even attempt that many AP classes to begin with, much less do them when you have the obvious weight of cancer looming over you. But she did them. And she’s passing.

Thankfully, she doesn’t have chemotherapy as often now as she used to, but Maria still had a collection of pills that she needs

to take every week -- with more side effects than you could count on your fingers.

All so that she can go to school. Not many people care enough to do that. But Maria is an exception. She lost her classes last year when she had to do homebound. This year things are different. She has the upper hand on the leukemia this time.

How does she do it? Maria has little free time underneath her load of work, feels sick on some days and can’t even focus for chunks at a time. But on her AP tests she gets extra time, and all her teachers understand when she can’t turn in some things, or is gone for days at a time.

“Usually I just go over and she’s doing homework, and I just sit there while she does her homework,” George said.

Maria hopes she can get into Clemson University, where her brothers are right now. The focus of her life has switched from beating cancer to getting into college -- just like any other teenage girl her age.

You wouldn’t even be able to pick her out from a crowd and immediately tell that leukemia was, and still is, a very real thing in her life. Just a normal girl.

But if you knew her before, you can see the difference. She lost a lot of hair from that chemotherapy, and she still has that little port in her chest.

So what’s the lesson here? What did Maria get out of all of this?

“We still spoil her,” Mrs. Brown said. “My relationship with Maria has changed a lot because of the way she handled her cancer. We’re a lot closer.”

More than a practice

Faith impacts people in many different ways. The *Tribal Tribune* spoke to followers of various religions and what it means to them

How religion influences us

Professor says faith shows reverence for higher being

ISABELLA SPULER

Staff Writer

A Buddhist family spends time together throughout the week meditating. A Christian family takes part in Holy Communion at church on Sunday. A Latter-Day Saints family participates in the sacrament in a Mormon temple. A Hindu family welcomes a guest and performs puja. A Jewish family prepares to attend synagogue. A Muslim family bows down to conduct salat.

Even though each religion has its own set of beliefs and rituals, they are all founded on a very similar principle -- connecting with a higher supernatural figure.

"Religion is a whole bunch of different actions that we do and stories we tell and relationships with supernatural beings that we have. You can't... pinpoint its origin to one event," said Dr. Elijah Siegler, the College of Charleston Department Chair of Religious Studies.

"All religions have myths... All religions have rituals... All religions have some kind of morality... something guiding human behavior," Dr. Siegler said in a telephone interview on Nov. 27. "But what those things are, definitely aren't all the same."

Religion is a practice as old as human civilization. For centuries, people have worshipped, prayed and followed godly forces. Across different societies and cultures, people have been able to discover and mold their own ideas about the divine. Religion is not only a way for people to worship, but also a way to express themselves.

"We definitely know that religion is as old as human society... so people have been doing rituals... and have had some kind of idea of the divine... since before history, so there's no one sort of origin of religion," Dr. Siegler said, "...I think humans are naturally creative... there are

new religions that are being created all the time. That's kind of a testament to... the innate creativity of humanity."

Despite being thought of as peaceful and sacred, many religions have been put to the test. From wars to the influences of a modern society, religious practices have had to survive through the worst of times.

"There's an argument whether religion is sort of the cause for violence or whether religion is just an excuse for people... behaving violently. Certainly religion has been used in the past... as a way to make peace, but it's also used as a way to wage war," Dr. Siegler said, "One thing, is religions can divide people into groups of... 'Us' versus 'Them.'"

From the Crusades to the Thirty Years War, an endless number of bloody battles have been fought for the sake of religion. Violence and rage had fueled most of the ancient religious wars. Today, however, many religions have decided to take a more peaceful route.

"Any religion has the potential to be violent, and any religion has the potential to be peaceful," Dr. Siegler said. "I think, in general, there isn't that... level of violence... based on religious grounds today."

Specifically in the United States, many citizens have become more peaceful and accepting towards different religions.

"I think just speaking of the U.S. ... younger people are much more tolerant," Dr. Siegler said, "I think that's one of the reasons that a lot of young people have rejected traditional religion... because they see... traditional religion as kind of being intolerant of people of different religions."

Along with facing the new ideas of the younger generations, most religions have had to adapt themselves to today's society. With technology and science, it has been difficult for

some to withstand the pressures of a modern world.

"Most religions... have had two choices when confronting... the modern world and that's to... embrace the modern world and try... to make their religion to be compatible with modern science or to kind of retreat... and sort of claim validity for their own religious beliefs," Dr. Siegler said.

Because of its strong involvement in the world, religion tends to be a divisive and emotional topic. Over centuries, religion has seeped into the way governments, schools and households are run.

"I think religion is part of everything... People tend to separate religion and say, 'Oh religion shouldn't have anything to do with politics. Those two things are completely separate,' or 'Religion shouldn't have anything to do with money and the economy. Those two things are separate,'" Dr. Siegler said.

Despite what people might think, in the past, religion has had a strong influence on politics all across the

world. Even today, many policies are shaped by the beliefs and morals of religions.

"Religion has a big impact on U.S. politics. Religion has a big impact on... international politics," Dr. Siegler said.

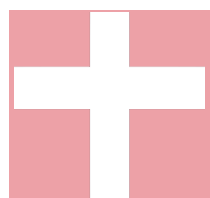
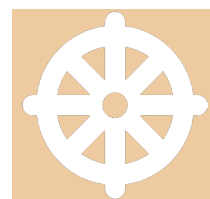
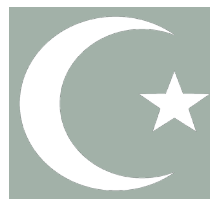
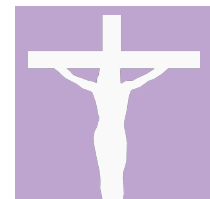
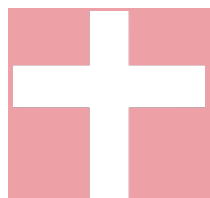
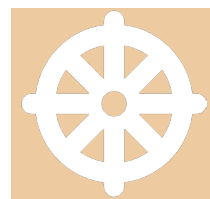
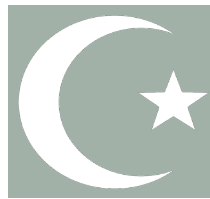
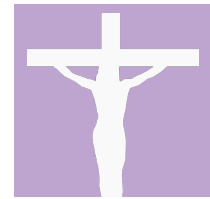
No matter what religion people associate themselves with, these rituals and sacred texts often end up becoming a strong influence in many people's lives. A religion isn't just a set of beliefs people follow. It's a constant force guiding morality and virtue.

"Religion has always been... a motive or a force that moves society," Dr. Siegler said, "it deals with people's basic orientations... the basic way that they see themselves in the universe."

"We definitely know that religion is as old as human society... so people have been doing rituals... and have had some kind of idea of the divine..."

ELIJAH SIEGLER

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Senior **Clarence Lor** meditates with his Buddha statue and his incense sticks. The Buddha statue represents wisdom, intellectuality and ethical perfection. Lor works to channel those attributes and be more loving to others. *photo // Aidan Furlong*

Staying centered, giving kindness

AKSHAY PATWARDHAN | Staff Writer

Clarence Lor sits propped-up on his matress, breath steady and eyes shut, completely serene. He concentrates on himself, the universe in which all conscious beings live and blissfulness. He inhales deeply, then exhales, letting the air currents flow through his diaphragm.

He does this every night before he sleeps. Clarence Lor is a practicing Buddhist.

For Lor, meditation is an immense part of what it means to be Buddhist. It is a time for him to reflect on the greater meaning of life and his place in the universe.

“You don’t have to be super knowledgeable about meditation. You just sit down and think,” he said. “It’s just a time for myself, and it’s good to have a prayer in mind and focus on something while you meditate.”

Lor’s daily life, whether it be in school or with family, is heavily influenced by his religious codes.

“Everyone is together in my religion, and it is a religion based on compassion. That is what is great about it. Being kind to others is the main rule,” he said. “Even the Dalai Lama says that every time you wake up you should try and be the best person you possibly can, and that,

in itself, is more important than being religious, which is the main takeaway from Buddhism.”

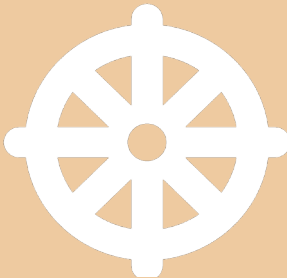
Lor believes self-realization is an important aspect of Buddhist beliefs.

“The emphasis on ‘the self’ is more important than proving your worth to Buddha. You should focus on yourself, and through that, you’re going to create a better form of yourself,” he said. “You’re going to be more compassionate, more kind, more forgiving towards others. Through that there will be a domino effect where if you’re kind to someone else, it creates a ripple, which eventually creates a better world.”

Although Lor was born in America, his parents are Cambodian, and practitioners of Buddhism were persecuted for a time there. Lor is influenced by his Buddhist heritage and by the hardships his ancestors had to endure.

“All the Buddhist monks were rounded up, killed. The fact that they still stuck with that belief and their religion was really impactful for me, and it showed me the main emphasis of having hope and believing in something,” he said.

Lor’s goal is to spread energy and kindness into the community, transforming the hearts of everyone around him, and he credits his beliefs to Buddhism.



Senior **Kole Elliott** prays in his usual spot for Mass at St. Benedicts Church. Catholicism has made Elliot more outgoing to people and encourages him during the hard times in life. *photo // Allison Hipes*

Reunion through Catholicism

SHEA CARROLL | Staff Writer

“A few months after I was born I was baptised, and boom, its official, I was now a Roman Catholic.”

For senior Kole Elliott, it was more than just a family tradition. It’s part of his life.

Elliott was raised in the Catholic Church teachings.

“There were a lot of situations that I didn’t understand fully. When I was young, we had some family troubles, and I didn’t know why,” he said. “Every good Christian knows that ‘God has a plan,’ so I had really just put my faith in that for the time being.”

Elliott said most of his moral beliefs are largely derived from the Catholic doctrine.

“When you’re brought up Roman Catholic, something that is kinda beaten into you is the social-gospel type things like help the needy, do everything you can to help those with less, whether that’s with money, things, time and just be good to everybody,” he said. “Looking back, I know that made me so willing to talk to everybody, and it’s also why I wanted to become and then stayed a Boy Scout. Because I really connected with that value of doing a good turn daily... the belief that lying is wrong, cheating is bad. A lot of religious belief is putting it behind things we already believe, like we want to trust

people, so we apply the teachings there.”

When Elliott was two, his parents separated, and he lived exclusively with his mother, rarely talking to his father. Being a Roman Catholic gave Elliott a sense of meaning and understanding through trying times.

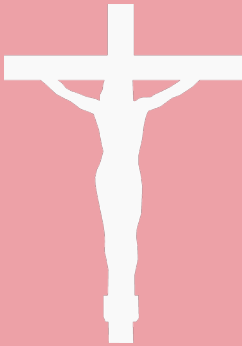
“Just the idea of God and the father, that kinda talk, and the idea that God has a plan ...,” he said.

Elliott’s faith in God has been reinforced by circumstances so improbable that they can only can be attributed to divine intervention, he said.

“This was one of the moments that made me think, Yes, there is a God ... I was nine, we were in Baltimore visiting family. My mother’s car broke down, and my grandmother’s house was close, so we went in and [my father] was there. They started talking, and for some reason, that night got them to be nice to each other, and start actually building a relationship back up again.”

Elliott’s parents remarried for several years, and he believes the event was brought about by his faith.

“This is a huge city, we could have stopped anywhere, but it was right outside my grandmother’s house, and we just so happened to recognise it, and they just happened to both be home,” he said.





Senior **Jock Botos**, the president of his youth group at Saint Peter's Church, reads his Bible while he sits in his hammock on his porch on Dec. 7. Botos is an Anglican and has gone on multiple mission trips to further grow his faith and help others learn more about Christianity. *photo // Caitlyn Greenway*

Faithful in the face of temptation

MAXWELL MARKWALD | Staff Writer

When senior Jock Botos' father, who was raised Catholic, married Jock's mother, who was raised Baptist, the two agreed to try each others' churches.

But it wasn't until 2010 -- when Jock and his twin brother were 9 -- that the couple settled on the Anglican Church as a compromise. Since then, he's been actively involved in the community life at Saint Peter's Church, where he is president of the youth group and takes a leading role in planning meetings and community events.

But mission work, Botos said, is where he found his true calling to God.

"I used to just go through the motions, go to church every Sunday and that's kind of it. But then as I got older, I sort of got more involved... I go to Haiti and Honduras all the time, and it really showed me what I can do to help others," he said. "My first trip to Honduras was very eye-opening. The kids there don't have much compared to us, but they're just so happy and joyful. That was kind of what set me off with building a personal relationship with God. And building a fellowship too, because you're working with your brothers and sisters all the time there."

Botos' experiences have made him more personally involved with his religion too --

reading the Bible and immersing himself in the Word of God, which he said is "...present in the book of John, one of the very first things it says is the word is God. So, to us, the word is the Bible, but it's also God."

To follow the Word, Botos said, is to live in accordance with Biblical principles, which promote "love, kindness and acceptance," he said, "I try to put that forth in all the decisions I make and do what Jesus would have done."

Being a good Christian isn't always easy in today's world, Botos said.

"It was kind of hard to stick with [my faith] and not be somebody who participates in 'normal' high school stuff: going to parties, juuling, doing drugs, drinking alcohol," he said. "Last year was a really hard year for me, it's probably

when I doubted my faith the most cause I had a couple friends that passed away. It kind of hit me in a hard spot... But then through that I kind of got back on my path, I dove deeper into the Word to look for answers and found them."

The Bible doesn't have every answer to Botos' questions, he said. For some, he relies on prayer, for others he seeks fellowship with other members of his church.

"I think that's the thing I most enjoy about Anglican church," Botos said, "how strong the fellowship is."



Freshman **Perri Dessner** shows her faith by wearing a Star of David necklace across her chest. Her family enjoys spending major Jewish holidays with family and friends while eating a traditional Jewish foods. *photo // Gabe Jones*

Family, tradition impacts faith

MAXWELL MARKWALD | Staff Writer

Freshman Perri Dessner is Jewish, a faith followed by a mere 2% of the global population.

She attends Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim Synagogue's service in downtown Charleston every Saturday, on the Jewish Shabbat. The Shabbat is their equivalent of the Sunday that Christians take off for a day of rest.

Just as in Christianity, Jewish people are divided up based on denominations. Most of these can be placed on a scale of traditional vs. progressive. At one end, there are Orthodox Jews, those who believe in a literal interpretation of the law of the Talmud, a holy text for Jews. Reform Jews -- the denomination to which Dessner's family belongs -- are more progressive and believe in adapting Judaism's customs to the modern, secular world.

Faith, to Dessner, means "believing everything happens for a reason and that there's someone or something up there helping."

Morally, Christians and Jews hold many of the same values. The greatest difference between the two religions is their views on Jesus of Nazareth. Christians hold him to be the son of God and their savior, the Messiah who comes to bring deliverance to the Israelites. To Jews, he is not the Messiah.

"It's our belief that we're still looking for

our savior," Dessner said. The Jewish Messiah is yet to come, but when he does, he shall be "anointed... and [re]build the Temple in Jerusalem."

Dietary limitations are a misconception some have about Judaism. "A lot of people ask 'can you not have pork with that?' because of kosher," Dessner said. "Many Jewish people keep kosher, but it depends on what branch

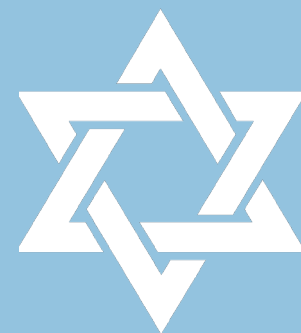
you're under... you can't mix meat and dairy and can't have pork and shellfish."

Kosher is part of the Jewish dietary law -- or kashrut -- which forbids the consumption of certain land animals that do not both chew cud and have cloven hooves. One difficulty that comes with being Jewish and attending school in the United States for Dessner, is the occurrence

of Jewish holidays, which the public education system does not grant time off for. "Whenever I have to take time off for a Jewish holiday, I come back and have a bunch of paperwork - sometimes quizzes and tests," she said.

Hanukkah, despite popular beliefs, takes a backseat to Jews for the holidays of Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year) and Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement).

"For those days we normally have friends and family come over and have a traditional meal," she said.





Senior **Haris Noor** practices Islam through reading the Quran. Despite prejudice from some, Noor stays strong to his religion and the lessons it has taught him. *photo // Grace Denny*

Praying despite prejudice

MIA RANKIN

Staff Writer

Being a Sunni Muslim has always been a huge part of Haris Noor’s life. Whether it be not ordering certain meat options in a restaurant or celebrating Eids, being a part of the Islamic religion has impacted Noor’s life on a daily basis.

“On a positive spectrum, I’d definitely say there’s more family cohesion than I’d see than normal,” Noor said. “In Islam there’s a large amount of emphasis placed on the family and living up to your family’s standards as well as being a good child overall. Overall, my family has been connected a lot more.”

With any religion there are both positive and negative aspects that come along with it. Noor has been able to positively create a closer connection within in his family, but on a negative spectrum, he faces religious prejudices.

“Right now it’s harder to be Muslim because of many recent events,” Noor said. “And as a result I have to live with that. Being associated with really extremist radical Muslims and conservative Muslims. I’m not like that and a lot of Muslims in Western countries are not like that, but because of these contemporary situations, we’re starting to suffer. Racism, prejudice, stuff like that.”

Noor’s parents were born and raised in a very religious atmosphere in Pakistan. Noor himself was born in Seattle and has only been around North America. This unique situation has allowed Noor to experience his religion from many different angles. And it’s from this unique perspective that Noor is able to take away his own view of what being a Sunni Muslim means to him.

“Most Muslims nowadays, at least in North America and Europe, even outside of Afghanistan and Pakistan areas like that...they were very progressive in that they...focused solely on the spirituality. And I think that’s the best thing Muslims can do heading into the future,” Noor said. “Focusing solely on God and that faith because that’s the point of religion. Just focusing on the spirituality...that’s really what it’s all about.”

Noor plans to take what he has learned and experienced with his religion and carry it with him throughout his entire life.

“The spirituality, that connection with God, I think that’s what I’m gonna maintain for the rest of my life,” he said. “And that’s the best thing I can maintain.”

Being a Sunni Muslim has always been a huge part of Haris Noor’s life and that religious aspect of his connection with God will most likely not soon end.



Sophomore **Akanksha Patwardhan** sits and reads the traditional Hindu book, Ramayana. Behind her is the family shrine in her house. As Akanksha’s dad explained “Every traditional Hindu home they have a shrine to the deities.” *photo // Aidan Furlong*

Shaped by dedication and culture

SHEA CARROLL

Staff Writer

Sophomore Akanksha Patwardhan has always felt a close connection to Hinduism.

“It shapes how I view everything,” she said. “It teaches me to be kind to others, and to treat people with respect... and it shapes my personality and who I am.”

The teachings of Hinduism have heavily impacted her moral beliefs, she said.

“Being Hindu is nice because it’s a cultural thing too. It’s not just like religion,” she said. “You dress up and have fun and at the same time you have a deeper connection with God.”

One of the most important teachings of the Hindu belief is a cycle of rebirth that acts as a purification ritual of the soul. For every life lived, depending on how virtuous you acted, there is purification until you reach Moksha -- a transcendent state where your soul is completely purified.

Patwardhan’s commitment to the teachings have heavily impacted her choices, she said.

“I became a vegetarian this year,” she said. “I believe in Karma, like what goes around comes around. If you’re nice to everyone, including animals, then that will reflect back onto you.”

“What you do in this life, that will be your outcome in the next life. If you go to Moksha which is like heaven, or if you get rebirthed, what you do in this life matters in the next,” she added. “If you are kind to people and animals and nature in this life, then you’ll get that much good karma back to you. But at the same time if you do bad in this life, you’ll get bad karma, it will also be reflected.”

Patwardhan believes that while Hinduism is a system of strong beliefs, it’s not as inflexible as others.

“Not everyone is vegetarian. I just became one for ethical and health reasons,” she said.

“It’s not structured it’s just more free flowing. It’s not like church on Sunday, you can go to the temple wherever and whenever,” she added. “There’s a temple in North Charleston we go to for functions and holidays every once in a while, but we usually just practice at home.”

Patwardhan believes that a common misconception about Hinduism is its intensity. “It’s a very welcoming religion,” she said. “It’s not like you have to do this or you have to do that, it’s more of like a guide, and helps you go with the flow.”



In his studio, claymation artist **Trent Shy** describes his method of creating his characters. He covers his windows with tin foil in order to block out any changes in lighting that could disrupt his work. For more photos of **Shy's** claymation, see tribal-tribune.org.
photo// Nancy Remoll



Claymaking his own reality

Graduate finds his passion in claymation

GABRIELLE VILLACRES | Staff writer

A dog yapping. Video games clicking. Little boys screaming. If someone passes by the Shy home, he may not notice any differences, other than a small area of the house where all of the windows have been sheathed in tinfoil.

The Shy family's home seems just the same as any other: the dog runs about, and the kids follow suit. The kitchen is stocked with Pillsbury brownies and Spindrift.

But take a closer look and you'll find a table outside of the living room littered with clay, plastic eyeballs and a menagerie of other miscellaneous art tools. Walk a couple more feet, and you're immersed in a sophisticated studio, equipped with lights, cameras, a Macbook and a sea of clay heads, limbs and creatures.

Trent Shy, 2005 Wando graduate, said he first fell in love with claymation when he "saw people animating and thought, 'That would be the coolest freaking job in the world.'"

And so he decided to try to make that job his.

He began creating in 2013, and following brief hiatus from claymation after the birth of his son from 2015-2018, he "started again and everything just blew up from there. The past year and a half has just been crazy," Shy said.

The majority of his videos play with horror, riffing off of classic movies like *The Exorcist* or creatures like werewolves. A four-minute video can take weeks to create, built upon the foundation of meticulous work and minuscule changes each frame.

While Shy is the primary creator — putting an idea that just pops into his head into clay — his wife, Liz, also helps create, predominantly the faces of his characters. Most videos are short, and built to be viewed on Instagram.

Twenty-five million views for one video in one week, another 38 million. Viral. His channel currently has 198 thousand subscribers consuming his half-a-minute content.

Once a full-time chef, Shy's now able to profit off of his videos. In two months, he'd made about \$15,000 off Youtube, he said. This was a big step from his earlier works, where he'd get comments predominantly from friends, family and enthusiasts like him.

Now, he does commissions on mostly what he's passionate about. He said Barstool Sports had approached him about a commission, and while he'd normally reject more mainstream offers, he accepted because he was able to turn soccer star Lionel Messi into a goat.

This transition "was a big difference from doing these things for free... some of the commission just weren't super well paying for the amount of work that goes into stop motion," Shy

said. "The Youtube stuff has been crazy, and so that's what we're doing."

The work that goes into claymation is painstaking.

As he looked around his studio, "every single thing you see is just something that we created. The whole world from the ground up is what you're creating," Shy said.

And the world he and his wife are enveloped in is meticulous.

"I'm working on a hot set so what that means is for 15 hours straight nothing can move," he said. "The wind can't blow something, something can't tilt over, the lighting can't change... I work in basically a cave because you would see the lighting change in the film."

He's even created a short film, *The Animator*, expressing his own challenges with his work.

"My puppets are falling over all the time... something is always going wrong and there are a lot of things that are out of control," he said.

The *Animator* is three different clips in which an animator takes his anger out on the source of his frustration.

Shy said "It's fun because it's about [his] job... but things are always falling over, puppets are getting squished... and they're just always annoying. So *The Animator* is about me getting my revenge on them."

His film has won awards at 13 festivals so far, including multiple "best animation" and

"best short film" awards. It's played at over forty festivals over the past four months and is lined up to play in over forty more in 2020. The key to his success is "[his] actual hands and the puppet are interacting," Shy said.

He's "seen some interactions where the hand goes in. But never animations where they're actually interacting with each other, not just my hand in the film, but he's pushing my hand off of him," he said. "I'm getting my frustration out on these stupid puppets."

Squashed limbs and fallen puppets aside, claymation holds a special value for Shy. Not only fueling his passion to bring his stories to life, claymation, "for someone with ADD, [is] a dream come true," he said.

"You have a hundred different things going on in your mind at once: don't touch this, don't touch the camera, this person's arm needs to keep moving to the left, this person's leg needs to keep doing this," Shy said. "Just a million things going through your mind at once, and so it's almost like therapeutic for my ADD because I'm just so into it... all day too."

Claymation is a way to expand the boundaries of Shy's imagination and feed his artistic hunger. He'd always wanted to be a filmmaker, but his ideas "weren't anything [he] could do with... 500 bucks and a couple people," he said.

"I wanted spaceships... and plants and monsters... you'd need a Hollywood budget to do that. I can do crazy stuff... literally anything is possible," he said.

Each day in his studio, Shy said he is "leaving the world behind and just being absorbed into this world [he's] created."

“
I’m working on a
hot set, so what that
means is for 15 hours
straight nothing can
move.
TRENT SHY
”

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2.50

hours/week

Standard deviation 4.7



3.24

hours/week

Standard deviation 5.39

Average social media usage of students

309 Wando students were polled from randomly selected classes and asked to self-report their weekly screen time use from their phone settings.

COMPILED BY
EVACHILLURA
EMMA MARTIN

Social media habits can have lasting impact, doctor says

TED FAIRCHILD

Co-Editor in Chief

He puts the phone down. Breathes. Waits.

Two minutes later he picks up the phone and scrolls.

Notifications. Comments. Likes.

Junior Kaeden Taylor has 96,500 followers on Tik Tok. Two million likes. Taylor posts Tik Toks because he enjoys the fun of the app. It all happened fast for him, he said.

"I think it took me like a week or two [to blow up]. I posted about two or three times every day... and then it went to three to four, so I just kept posting everything I could think of, and I had one video in... three weeks got four million views, so that really put me out there," Taylor said. "And then it just grew from there."

According to the Pew Research Center, 72 percent of all American adults and 90 percent of American adults ages 18-29 used at least one form of social media at least one time as of February 2019. That number is predicted to continue rising.

The appeal of social media

Alvin L. Lewis, the director of the Medical University of South Carolina's child adolescent psychiatry, has worked at MUSC for eight years and recognizes the impacts of social media on his clients.

"I think some people are drawn to social media because they're able to connect with people that they don't see a lot. That would be a positive reason," Lewis said. "I do think, however, that there are a lot of people that use social media as a way to get easy or what they perceived to be easy validation for themselves."

This stems from the difficulty people find in complimenting one another, he said. Pushing a "like" button is a lot easier than in-person praise and that praise is easier to receive online.

"Society is not built around people complimenting one another very much. All of us, as human beings, we look for moments of validation from the people that we care about whether it is a nice thing being said or a smile," Lewis said. "Social media can provide people validation. They look at that as personal validation now. If someone likes a photo or comment on a photo then it makes us feel good about ourselves."

From the instant gratification of a like to the connectivity social media can provide, there are all sorts of reasons people use social media, Lewis said.

"When we do something it feels good. Dopamine is released and then [the probability] increases that you will do it again. It is expected that people who are social media users get dopamine

responses and get rewards from their likes," he said. "I think that's fairly obvious. In the moment it makes them feel good about themselves and compare themselves to other people."

Taylor posted on Tik Tok for about a week or two before he started to gain the following he now enjoys.

"I had one video in two to three, maybe it was three weeks got four million views, so that really put me out there. And then it just grew from there," Taylor said.

Tik Tok's "For You" page is where popular videos appear on a user's feed on the app -- even when they are not following the producer of the content. "For You" is the place where a lot of user's videos go viral and gain popularity.

"You see the feedback that you get on the actual app itself, like you look at the comments, obviously, and the amount of views and likes you're getting its kind of like... I'm doing what I want to do," Taylor said. "But at the same time it almost puts you at a point where it was like 'where do I go from here?'"

There are downsides to social media, Taylor acknowledged.

"Obviously social media is just prone to that, a lot of hate, and especially for big creators, bigger than me. It's harder for them to post because they are always going to get hate," he said, "so its hard, I wouldn't even say for me, I would say for creators in general."

The responses to his Tik Tok presence are a mixed bag, Taylor said.

"[Your friends], they'll throw in a jab once or twice, but other than that, they've been super fun about it," he said. "Yeah, people come up to me all the time and say 'man, I saw you on my Tik Tok.' You get an equal amount of love and hate for it."

The impact of social media

Social media's influence -- positive or negative -- is the reality of today and tomorrow. A vast amount of the world uses it to connect, relate, create.

"Nowadays with social media, it's easy for people to connect with people who are interested in what you're interested in. Even miniscule things," Lewis said. "You can find a group of people to get that support or exchange knowledge or understanding on different topics which is great."

Lewis said the connectivity and networking of social media allowed some high schoolers to find their people, even if they were interested in something hyperspecific.

"It also helps people get support. There are a lot of different services for mental health or other things better online or have social media websites that help people," Lewis said. "In some ways it makes getting help easier."

Administrator Charles Coker attributes a lot



An illustration of the dependence of millennials and younger that grow up with social media and constant access to phones. Juniors **Andy Bumgarner** and **Emma Chadwick** model by scrolling through their phones. *photo // Graham McAlister*

of the issues at school to social media, and he believes the high usage among teens amplifies the problems at Wando.

"If I could take away one thing from the school, I feel like it would be social media access to teenagers... a lot of the arguments, a lot of the stuff that goes on between teenagers these days happens on social media," he said. "I think that's where a lot of our problems stem from...we need to come up with a solution on how to teach that."

Schools should do a better job of teaching digital literacy in order to mitigate these issues. In that same respect, social media has the power to connect people and be used for good, Coker said.

"You connect to people that you wouldn't have the possibility of connecting to anywhere in the world," Coker said. "I think that social media gives you that ability to stay in contact with people, but any kind of good thing if you do it too much, it's not a good thing anymore. It becomes sort of an addiction... but I can definitely see the positives coming out of social media."

Social media has both positive and negative psychological effects on users. But those impacts depend on how people are using social media, Lewis said. Teens are already a very impressionable group, and the things they see on the internet can really impact them.

"It becomes hard for a brain to determine where the story ends and where the manipulation begins. Especially for young kids it can be very tough to differentiate what's real and what's not," Lewis said. "There are groups and products that specifically target boys and girls in this age range of 11 to 15 because they're so impressionable."

Although there has not been a direct link drawn to social media and mental illnesses like anxiety and depression, there seems to be a correlation between the two, Lewis said.



Q|A Jason Brisini

public, so people know [that] it's not just negative things that show up in the news on social media. It's funny, we have a Facebook page, we have a Twitter page, but we know Instagram is definitely a place where we can reach a lot of students. The last Instagram post was made in 2014 so we had to try to find the password."

Do you think that social media allows students to breed negativity?

"As great as social media could be, I think it's used negatively more than positively at least just everyday student use. Because I think it gives people a platform, not only to talk about good things, but also to be mean to other people behind a screen. So it allows people to just kinda say whatever they want really without any consequences, even though a lot of our altercations and fights at school, we have learned, have stemmed from social media. So we think maybe using social media in a positive light can help derail some of that... I

"We're getting to understand that teenagers that spend more time on social media tend to have more issues with their own self image, depression, anxiety," Lewis said. "They're more likely to have bad experiences on social media whether it's people posting bad comments or being cyber-bullied."

"There is definitely a relationship between social media likes and happiness," Lewis said.

And there are some defining factors that make people more prone to have a bad experience online. Lewis believes that the "compare culture" teens often find themselves falling into is a commonality with adults.

"For [adults] to feel like because they are more mature it doesn't affect them the same way is totally erroneous," he said. "What we see in the data is that adults are affected exactly the same way as far as how much they are using social media. It affects how they look at themselves too... it can cause a decrease in self-esteem."

Responsible social media use

Despite the problems social media may cause or influence, what are the ways users can have a successful experience?

"For the most part people are looking for validation through social media as a way to make themselves feel good about themselves. That's always going to be a recipe for somebody to struggle," Lewis.

Lewis implored teenagers to represent themselves honestly and well on their platforms, not only for themselves but for their futures.

"I tell teenagers all the time is... don't ever post anything that you wouldn't want your future employer to see. This day and age when you're applying for a job or school, people are going to see what you post," Lewis said, "so who they see on that page should be an adequate and honest representation of who you are."

resentation of who you are."

Lewis said users of social media were more prone to a bad experience if they were posting content that was not honest. If users maintained their identity and accountability, they would have a more positive experience.

"If you remain yourself on social media and your account is not anonymous or you're not posting other people's pages with anonymous posts, you're fine," Lewis said. "If you maintain accountability for who you are on your online life, then you're okay. If you do this then it's easier to have a positive relationship with social media."

Lewis was adamant that accountability can be everything. When people can hide behind the screen or an alias, it allows them to think less about the impacts of what they post. Parents and their children who communicate on social media build that accountability.

"If a parent demands to follow a kid's page, they can't then say that the kid can't follow them back. That's not fair. It holds everybody to the same social standard," Lewis said. "I tend to say that a good warning in your brain is that you shouldn't ever post anything on social media that you wouldn't say at a dinner table. You know? Because then you know that you're maintaining an appropriate level."

Lewis said about 75 percent of communication skills are non-verbal. When people post on social media, they lose a huge amount of that communication that they get in person.

"I've seen adults and kids who are sitting in the same room texting each other back and forth rather than talking," Lewis said. "Social media has increased the availability to access information, which is always good. There's no doubt about that... But that being said, I do say and it is supported by research, do I think of the world would be better without it, probably so."

Why did you start the Wando High School Instagram?

"So myself and the second instructional coach, Mrs. [Jenna] Seifert, we wanted a way to get all the good things at Wando High School out in the public, so people know [that] it's not just negative things that show up in the news on social media. It's funny, we have a Facebook page, we have a Twitter page, but we know Instagram is definitely a place where we can reach a lot of students. The last Instagram post was made in 2014 so we had to try to find the password."

What are some things you're putting out in the next week or two?

"We already have a list of posts ready to go. We've been down to the arts areas for some stuff, we've been to a couple science rooms already. We plan -- I hope this happens, otherwise I'm going to look like a liar -- every Wednesday to do a profile on somebody. We'd like to ask students why they think a certain teacher is a good teacher."

What reactions have you seen from students and teachers?

"The first day when we looked, there were already like 600 or 700 followers, and as of right now we're up to 859. So it's good! I just sent out an email to AP Academy students and all staff so we have some staff as well. Right when we did those, we saw an instant uptake in our followers."



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Dedication, discipline and dance

From dancing in productions to practicing every day, Hathaway devotes time to craft

MIA RANKIN | Staff Writer

Amelia Hathaway lives her life through dance. She started ballet when she was three years old. Fourteen years later and a junior in high school, she continues to dance almost every day. “To me, dance is a place where I have to work really hard but also have fun,” Hathaway said. “My best friends are at dance, and I’ve learned some of my most valuable life lessons there.”

Now dancing at the Dance Conservatory of Charleston, Hathaway practices every Monday through Thursday and has rehearsals every Saturday and Sunday. Her practices are anywhere from two to three hours long and rehearsals are two to seven hours long.

“We put in so much time and effort and tears and sweat and blood like they say,” Hathaway said, “so much goes into it and then when it pays off, it’s just really nice.”

Her commitment extends beyond the school year. While some use the summer as a three-month “night off,” Hathaway uses it as an opportunity to improve and learn more about what she loves. She takes a three week-long intensive (camp) throughout the summer -- some have been in Charleston, others out of state in places like Cincinnati and Alabama.

“It’s just hard choices, I mean she’s at dance so much that she does... miss other things that she would like to do, but it’s not a negative necessarily because she loves it so much,” Lesley Hathaway, Amelia’s mom said.

As with any sport or activity, Hathaway has had to make a lot of sacrifices along the way.

“I’ve had to miss a lot, making sacrifices like friends’ parties or vacations with family... really I’ve had to miss a lot, but it’s all worth it,” she said. “I love it.”



Junior Amelia Hathaway extends her right leg in a second position develope on point during a production of *The Nutcracker*, produced by Charleston Dance Conservatory at the Charleston Music Hall on Dec. 6. Hathaway has taken dance for 14 years. **photos // Peyton Raybon**

And it is that mindset and determination that has led Hathaway to love and live through ballet.

“Sometimes I’ll get frustrated with it... cause I couldn’t do something, but I’m not gonna quit, that just makes me want to work harder,” she said.

Despite the sacrifices she has had to make, Hathaway still dances.

Despite the tiring hours, Hathaway still dances.

Despite everything that may have made her want to quit, Hathaway still dances.

Every time she steps onto that stage, every sacrifice, hour and obstacle melts away, and Hathaway expresses herself through her love of dance.

“I feel very nervous, but also very calm, in a weird way,” she said. “I also feel very happy because I know that all of my hard work is paying off.”

Hathaway has performed in a number of pieces, including a few of her favorites -- Balanchine’s *Serenade* and Balanchine’s *Snow Flakes*. Others include *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Wizard of Oz* and many more.

Her latest show though, is Balanchine’s *The Nutcracker*. Put on by her current dance company -- Dance Conservatory of Charleston -- Hathaway was one of Maria’s gifted harlequin dolls, a snowflake in a dream winter wonderland, a dewdrop in the land of sweets on some nights and a flower on the others.

“The feeling you get when you perform is probably my favorite part,” Hathaway said. “When you keep pushing yourself more and more for each performance, it shows what you can really do and it’s exciting.”

Although Hathaway plans to possibly pursue event planning and marketing, dance will never stray far from her no matter where she ends up, and teaching is one of the ways she plans to do that.

“I want more people to get to do what I got to do and to experience that, so I think that teaching them would really help spread dance,” Hathaway said.

But no matter where life takes her, the lessons she learned throughout her dance career will not soon be forgotten. Dance has impacted Hathaway’s life in so many positive ways that she plans to take it with her no matter what she does or where life takes her.

“I have definitely learned discipline, commitment and what it means to be dedicated...” she said. “I plan to keep doing it for a long time.”

On our plate: Impossible Burger

EVA CHILLURA

Editor in Chief

\$



Burger King

No one ever has a craving for a Whopper. A Big mac, absolutely. A Baconator, sure. But a Whopper? With Burger King fries? I've never heard of that. But the saving grace of the Whopper's reputation in a brave new world of the vegan and vegetarian masses might just be the infamous Impossible Burger.

Made of "mostly soy protein, potato protein, coconut oil, sunflower oil, and heme," according to the Impossible Foods website, the bleeding soy patty tastes as close to meat as we have seen in a vegan burger.

Now, the Impossible Whopper is born.

At \$6, it's as underwhelming as the original \$2 Whopper.

The thin patty tastes the same as a normal beef burger tastes, at least one made at Burger King. All impossible beef is the same, but as people are shaped by their environments, so is the Impossible Whopper.

The burger is flat and has the familiar fast food paper-like bun. And surprise, surprise, they messed up my order. Not that I should have been expecting a burger fit for royals from Burger King now that the burgers are made of the best non-meat meat supplement I've ever known, but I did.

So, yes, the Impossible Whopper fits the need for vegans on a budget who want something that tastes like the real Whopper. Is it fantastic? Well, phrase that around your opinion about the original Whopper, and there's your answer.

The retro diner and ice cream parlor local to the Charleston area stocked with vintage video games and old-style decor has modernized its menu with two types of vegan burgers -- the Impossible and Beyond -- both of those designed to mimic the taste and texture of meat without animal products.

I was not expecting to drive on Highway 17 and pass Ye Ole Fashioned's road sign saying "VEGAN BURGERS" one day. Their Impossible Burger, the vegan meat I prefer, cost a little over \$8 including tax.

First of all, it took less than 10 minutes to cook, already a plus. Not quite fast food but at least I'm not expecting a gourmet burger. The burger served in a red gingham paper basket was tall and the vegetables appeared colorful, fresh. The patty wasn't paper thin and the bun was toasted. Fluffy and toasted.

They remembered to leave out the pickles -- thank God -- and the fresh red onions and tomatoes added so much flavor. The meat itself was juicy and pink, just like a real beef burger would be. The flavor was there -- it was a classic hamburger served in a classic diner, except without the whole killing the cow part.

If you're in the mood for just a normal hamburger that is satisfying on both fronts -- flavor and texture -- sans the meat, Ye Ole Fashioned is the place to go.

The thick, juicy patty steamed when I bit into the large burger enclosed by a warm ciabatta bun and revealed the pink, meat-like interior of the CB Impossible burger served at Chuck and Patty's in the Workshop.

The one-inch Impossible patty was grilled to meat-lover satisfaction for this \$16 burger. Yes, definitely more expensive, but high in demand. Chuck and Patty's pulled all the stops with this burger -- thin, red onions, upscale bun, unique sauce and the showstopper: melted vegan cheese.

I've never been a fan of vegan cheese because well, it's never really tasted like cheese. But the small amount of cheese complimented the Impossible Burger very well.

The burger was delicious and hit all the spots you are looking for in a burger without the cow, but the price was not worth the small size of the overall burger. I would not go for this particular burger over the traditional one from Ye Ole.

\$\$



Ye Ole Fashioned

\$\$\$



Chuck and Patty's

PICKS & PEEVES

Peyton Raybon

Sports Editor

Pick: Stress baking

Everyone can admit that they sometimes partake in unhealthy coping mechanisms, but I can confidently state that mine is unhealthy in the best way. Baking to avoid the ever-growing pile of Algebra 3 homework is one of the best ideas I've ever had. I may not come to school the next day with my work, but I come with a container of fresh pound cake to share, so who's the real winner? Stressed spelled backwards is desserts, right? Everybody wins.

Peeve: College applications

I decided to do college applications as a peeve, but I'm not going to lie, my mommy did half of them for me. I think I can speak for every senior when I say that college applications are absolutely exhausting. Yes, Common App does make the job a thousand times easier, but the process gets tedious.

Pick: Euphoria

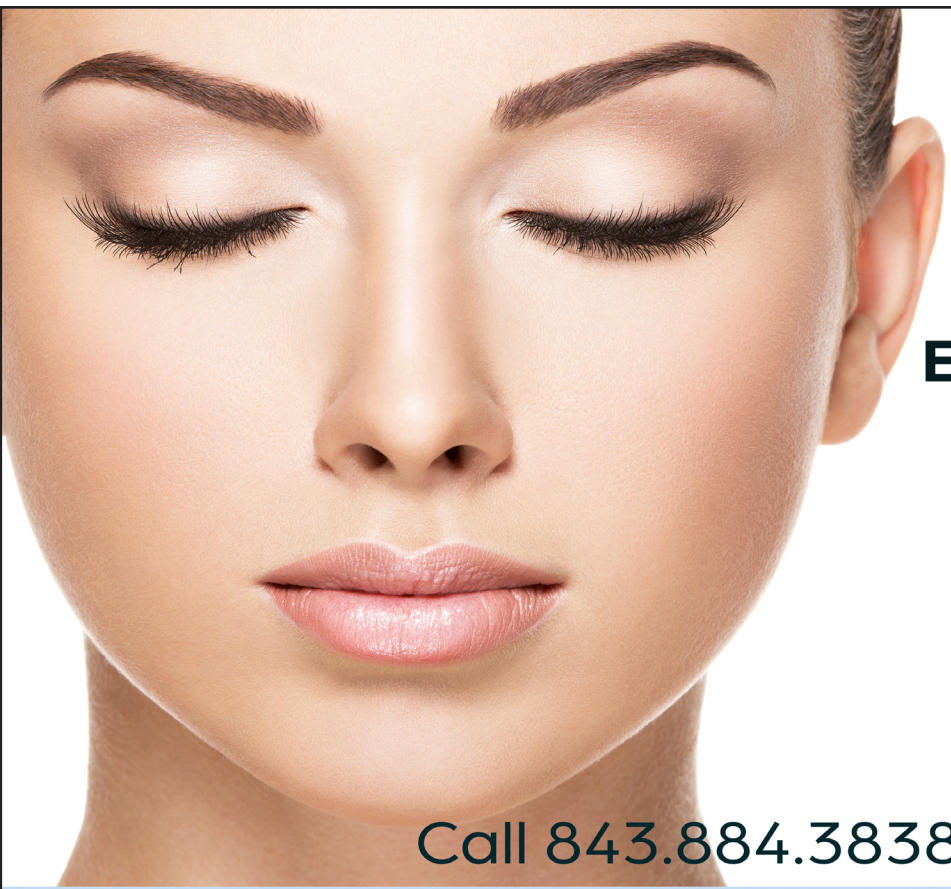
HBO absolutely outdid themselves with this TV series. Zendaya embodies the role of a drug addict without actually being one so well, and the producers did a phenomenal job of making sure every character had a role in the plot. Not to mention the impeccable makeup designs on the show and the untouchable soundtrack. *Euphoria* definitely isn't a show for everyone, but it accomplishes bringing the awareness to every problem the show highlights.

Peeve: LED headlights

I could totally understand if you had LED headlights because you live in the middle of nowhere and you have to drive through a heavily wooded area every night. However, if all you do is drive through the streets of Park West on the daily, please do everyone a favor and just use regular ones. Your pickup truck is loud enough, the lights are just too much.

Movie: 10 Things I Hate About You

While it pains me to watch this movie knowing that Heath Ledger is no longer with us, *10 Things* sits at my number-one favorite movie of all time. I thought the plot was absolutely genius, and Julia Stiles plays the heck out of a rebellious teen who doesn't want to do what people expect of her.



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R E V I E W S

Filling the air with holiday songs

Looking for the perfect holiday song? Co-design editor picks some tunes to brighten your day

1. "White Christmas": Irving Berlin, Bing Crosby

What can I say, I'm a sucker for the Christmas classics and "White Christmas" is just that. To me it represents what being in the south during the winter is all about; Hoping for the snow but living in 70 degree weather in mid-December. One can dream through this song while still wearing short sleeves through the holidays.

2. "Silent Night": The Carpenters

What kind of Christian would I be if I didn't put a sacred song on this list? Silent Night is the most peaceful carol, and the Carpenters make it feel like a lullaby. This is hands down the coziest song that makes me want to fall asleep in my bed every time I listen to it (and makes me grateful I have never slept in a wooden manger).

3. "Mele Kalikimaka": Bing Crosby, The Andrew Sisters

After watching *Christmas Vacation* every year for a decade, it is no surprise that this song is on my list. While this song plays in a rather scandalous scene, "Mele Kalikimaka" itself is a unique Christmas song that always puts me in the best mood, despite a ukelele being the main instrument.

4. "Run Rudolph Run": Chuck Berry

This '60s song is often ignored in the festivities. The not very Christmassy song with its electric guitar and fast beat is still a bop nonetheless. I am a fool for a jiggy song like Run Rudolph Run where I can dance around like an idiot and that is a necessity for the Holidays.

5. "Blue Christmas": Elvis Presley

There were a few artists I felt required to put on here, and Elvis Presley was definitely one of them. The song itself was never meant for success and still manages to be a huge hit. Although the background singers can get annoying real fast (as they were intended), "Blue Christmas" is a good reminder that sadness is still lingering in all the cheer.

6. "Christmas Time Is Here": Vince Guaraldi Trio

If this song doesn't scream childhood, I don't know what does. I still can't decide if this song makes me sad for all the time that has passed or happy thinking of all the times I watched "Charlie Brown" over and over again as a munchkin.

7. "Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!": Frank Sinatra

Maybe they could've made the title shorter, but this is such a cheery song and the jazzy effects only make it better. Frank's voice along with the harmonies make for a killer carol.

8. "Santa Baby": Eartha Kitt

Even though Santa Bay puts a childhood figure in a disturbing view, I love it for some reason. Eartha Kitts is so powerful for this song with her casual askings for a duplex and a yacht. I strive to be on that same level of confidence every Christmas season and will be expecting a new car on Christmas day.

9. "The Christmas Song" (Merry Christmas To You): Nat King Cole

Not gonna lie, my mom made me add this song as it is her favorite, but I'm not mad. "The Christmas Song" perfectly encapsulates the Christmas spirit and makes me want to know what it means to roast chestnuts on a fire. It holds a childish look at the season that is a sweet reminder as we grow out of that phase of our life.

10. "All I Want For Christmas Is You": Mariah Carey

No part of me wanted to put Mariah Carey on this list. "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and other Christmas songs of hers are severely overrated. But I fear the lashback I would receive by not putting her on here. So there ya go. Are you happy? She is still making bank so I guess my opinion doesn't really matter. It can be a fun song every once and a while, I guess.

| JILL HETHCOX |



Christmas films to warm your heart

Creative director picks his top 10 most watched Christmas classics

1. Elf

Picking *Elf* for the top spot was a no brainer. With a plethora of quotable lines and hearty moments, *Elf* is just untouched.

2. Die Hard

Now I'm not here to argue about whether *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie or not. But I can say without question, this film kicks butt. And to those who say it's not a Christmas film -- you're wrong and dumb.

3. It's a Wonderful Life

There was little to no doubt that this film was going to make the list. It was only a matter of how high up. This film is more classic than classic. What are you doing if you haven't watched it?

4. The Grinch

By far the best animated Christmas movie, *The Grinch* surpasses any of the weird films that are more terrifying than fun.

5. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

A Chevy Chase film through and through, *Christmas Vacation* doesn't try to be what it isn't. It's a goofy and often hilarious comedy.

6. Home Alone 2

I fully believe this sequel surpasses the original. The creators gave the audience what they wanted. As a result, Marv getting pounded in the face with a brick holds a dear place in my heart.

7. Love Actually

Romance films and Christmas movies have never really blended well with me. But if you insist on cringing in and out, *Love Actually* makes for a great rom-com.

8. The Santa Clause

This one is a bit of cheating, the movie is kind of garbage, but much like *Are We There Yet*, there is beauty in this heap of garbage. Just don't watch the sequels -- that's just garbage without substance.

9. A Christmas Story

While I never really understood the big deal made over this movie, there is no denying that this movie has some of the most memorable and nostalgic Christmas moments. You just can't help feeling bad for poor Ralphie sometimes.

10. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Rudolph reigns (hehe) supreme in the stop motion category. It remains cute and good-hearted without accidentally turning into extreme horror. Never been a fan of stop motion.

| AARON ROTHKOPF |

'Nothing short of a masterpiece'

I have never, ever been so satisfied with a story about divorce that actually ends in divorce. With two powerhouse performances, Noah Baumbach has turned many overused movie tropes and blended them into a genius masterwork of his own.

Marriage Story, now appearing on Netflix, starts at the very end of a once happy marriage. Charlie [Adam Driver], a tidy theatrical director, and Nicole [Scarlett Johansson], a free-willed actress, are doing their best to keep their divorce calm for the sake of their young son, Henry. But as their attorneys, families and jobs become all become embroiled in the mess, Nicole and Charlie struggle to end things on good terms.

No specific character is painted as the villain throughout the film. Instead, the unending process and countless custody and court battles show how good intentions can turn sour in a time of desperation. The audience gets to see both sides of the battle, through all the good and bad, Charlie and Nicole are human. They both make mistakes. They both want to win custody.

I can't remember the last time I became so invested in two characters and felt so frustrated with decisions they make. This isn't a story about winning. There is no major climax, there is no resolution. The movie just goes deeper down the gutter -- which served the story perfectly. This is a divorce folks. Believe it or not, no mazel tov is in order.

Two Oscar noms are in order. Both Driver and Johansson give two truly groundbreaking performances. The pair are invested in these characters. And they never, not even for a moment, break. When they fight, oh boy do they fight. Let me tell you, that makes for very tense awkward viewing.

But if I must be honest, this movie truly belongs to Driver. Severus Snape Jr. truly kills it as Charlie, playing our flawed protagonist to perfection. To me, this role is truly deserving of an Oscar. I have yet to see anyone come close. Sorry Joaquin. He truly shines when interacting with his son, Henry, played impressively by Azhy Robertson, Charlie and Nicole's brutally honest son. And the performances are made in no small part by the director, Baumbach.

Every decision Baumbach makes feels well-thought out and clean. Watch the movie and you will understand that awkwardly worded sentence. The relationships are in-depth and layered. The cinematography, is masterfully crafted. The dialogue is raw, and much too real. The movie is nothing short of a masterpiece.

| AARON ROTHKOPF |



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Up & Coming



Boys' Varsity Basketball vs. Cape Fear Academy (NC), Roundball Tournament
Dec. 27 at 11:30 a.m.
North Charleston Athletic Center



Oklahoma vs. LSU
Dec. 28
4 p.m., Peach Bowl
Game Notes: First college playoff game



Clemson football vs. Ohio State
Dec. 28
8 p.m., Fiesta Bowl
Game Notes - Winner will play in the National Championship



Girls' Varsity Basketball Vs. West Ashley
Jan. 8
6 p.m., Gymnasium



South Carolina Vs. Mississippi State
Jan. 20
7 p.m., Colonial Life Arena
Game Notes - Dawn Staley and star freshman Aliyah Boston play Mississippi State in a rematch of the 2017 championship.

GEORGE BAGWELL

The line between competition and aggression

Channeling the energy of sports into enthusiasm, not violence

WILS BROWNING

Staff Writer

We all saw it. It was all over ESPN. The Cleveland Browns and the Pittsburgh Steelers, fierce rivals, were in the final minutes of a game when it happened.

Browns' defensive linemen Myles Garret and Pittsburgh quarterback Mason Rudolph got in a fight Nov. 14. Garret pulled Rudolph's helmet off -- and then did the indefensible. He struck Rudolph in the head with the helmet.

Sports are aggressive and athletes' aggression is celebrated. The great hit, the jarring block, the thunderous hit. But when does that aggression go too far?

For the National Football League, Garret's actions crossed that line. Garret has been suspended through the 2020 football season for his actions. Others, including many Browns' fans, believe Rudolph played a role in the altercation as well. So, how do coaches encourage athletes to be aggressive but teach that violence isn't acceptable?

Wando's football Coach Jimmy Noonan believes football is one of the most physically involved sports and with that comes with greater aggression.

"You hate to see violations of the rules and structure of the game and all coaches work hard to prevent those types of things..., but all coaches want to channel the aggression and obviously within the structure and rules of the game," Nhe said.

Nationally-recognized volleyball coach, Alexis Glover, said the fight highlights how people need to be able to control their emotions.

"It's almost like not being able to control your emotions and let the emotions and the game get the best of you... because when you let the [emotions], you have no control over [the situation]... that person had no control," she said.

Glover said violent actions -- including the NFL fight -- should not receive as much publicity, which she believes can promote more violence.

"I can't believe they did that... we sensationalize that, that's news, everybody looks, this is what happened," she said. "It becomes very newsworthy."

Other sports besides football can have aggressive players -- especially lacrosse. Lacrosse coach Lance Renes believes that sports with high levels of physicality often lead to more aggression.

"You can hit people with your body, you can them with a stick so... the rules are different compared to other sports and in a pretty competitive game, it can get pretty aggressive, it can get pretty violent. Usually when the checks come and the bodies start flying, both teams get excited. It just makes the game more intense, more fun," Renes said. "One thing that I do like about the game of lacrosse is that you have the ability to hit somebody with your body and stick, [but] there is a line of respect for your opponent and a line of respect for the game."

Renes said lacrosse teams that master the physical side of the game -- "a more blue-collar team" -- can then become a more finesse-based team.

"There are two types of lacrosse: there's finesse lacrosse and there's blue collar lacrosse," he said. "In terms of my vision for our players is to be a physical team, to be a scrappy team obviously within the rules. We've always had that philosophy here at Wando, so we've always been known for being a physical team."

Lacrosse's physically aggressive component is different than volleyball, where physical contact is not involved. Glover said a volleyball net helps control emotions



Senior Sullivan Beckham is a rugby player, but she said aggression can be channeled. "When I'm on the field, there are times when things get tense," she said, "but I know better than to act out. Instead I change my anger into energy towards the game." **photo // Hannah Flint**

“
Sometimes a good thing is nature over nurture. Are you born competitive or do you become competitive?
ALEXIS GLOVER

”

and a too-aggressive atmosphere.

"We have a net in volleyball that you can't touch... there's things in place for reasons," Glover said. Glover believes that with all sports there are different levels of aggressiveness -- all athletes don't have to be aggressive to be successful.

"I have Haley Genis on my team, she's a very smart volleyball player, she's very competitive, she's just really not a very aggressive kid," Glover said. "She scores her points by being smart."

Glover believes the aggressive and competitive side of a player is formed through the environment they live in and also the family and friends that shape them. "Sometimes a good thing is nature over nurture. Are you born competitive or do you become competitive?" Glover said.

At practices, Glover wants to create game-like atmospheres to develop her players to be used to more competitive and aggressive atmosphere.

"We play competitive games at practice," she said. "It helps those kids who maybe aren't as competitive [to] become competitive."

But wrestling coach Adam Schneider believes as a coach that the competitive nature is harder to find in a majority of athletes today.

"In the 23 years of coaching... the amount of competitiveness has gone down," Schneider said. "Not necessarily the numbers of people doing these sports, but the type of attitude of competitive nature has gone down."

Schneider believes that wrestlers must have increased competitiveness by working harder in different ways than other sports. "Mentally, being able to go through four months of beating your head against the wall, sweating and even if you had a good day you're probably hurting," he said.

Glover believes that depending on the sport, emotions affect people in different ways.

"It's almost like not being able to control your emotions and let the emotions and the game get the best of you," she said, "...the ones that come out on top are the ones that can keep their cool, play their game, and leave it on the court."

Senior Marquis Whitten watched the action in the Summerville game Dec. 10. Wando won, 57-52. Whitten said he was thinking, “you’re not playing hard enough now... you gotta play harder.” The boys, who have a 3-2 record, played Fort Dorchester at home.
photo // Nancy Remoll



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

STATS

WRESTLING :

6th place at May River Tournament in Bluffton on Dec. 7.

DANCE :

Smoky Mountain Championship Dec. 7
1st Place- Varsity Game Day
2nd Place- Medium Varsity Pom
3rd Place- Medium Varsity Jazz

GIRLS' BASKETBALL (4-1)

69-27 (W) Wando vs. West Ashley
16 pts: Senior Deveney Curry
74-18 (W) Wando vs. Charleston Math & Science-
17 pts: Sophomore Dylan Silber
54-52 (L) Wando vs. Bishop England
21 pts- Senior Elizabeth Eads
61-51 (W) Wando vs. Summerville-
29 pts: Sophomore Dylan Silber

BOYS' BASKETBALL (3-2)

44-40 (W) Wando vs. West Ashley
22 pts: Senior Sam Laydon
46-41 (L) Wando vs. Charleston Math & Science
12 pts: Jackson Lewandowski
48-40 (L) Wando vs. Bishop England
12 pts: Senior Sam Laydon
57-52 (W)- Wando vs. Summerville
13 pts: Senior Sam Laydon

CHEERLEADING :

First in Region 7-AAAAA Nov. 16

CROSS COUNTRY :

Boys finished sixth at AAAAA championships, and the girls finished 20th in the state championships Nov. 19.

Charging the ice

Dedication to the uncommon sport brings hockey a strong season

GEORGE BAGWELL | Staff Writer

Football, baseball, basketball, all are southern traditions when it comes to sports. But hockey? Although not common in the state of South Carolina, hockey is alive and well.

The Wando hockey club is in the midst of a strong season.

“We’re doing pretty good this season,” sophomore Ian Peck said. “We’ve only had one loss so far.”

The team competes and practices at the Ice Palace in North Charleston, about 40 minutes away from Wando, and plays teams from around the state.

“We play teams from Greenville, Fort Mill, and Columbia,” junior Case Cook said.

The season lasts from September to February, and the club team plays one game a week. With the team practices in North Charleston, Cook said there’s little hassle involved.

“The Wednesday practices aren’t tough since they’re later at night when the traffic’s died down,” he said. “The 7:00 Friday games aren’t bad either.”

Coach Chris Matson is optimistic about the team’s chances this year.

“The team’s off to a fast start, with our only



loss being to Greenville our first game,” he said.

Matson has played his whole life and has been coaching the team for seven years, having moved to South Carolina from New Jersey in 1997.

Peck grew up around hockey as well.

“I play hockey because my dad introduced it to me when I was three, and I used to live in North Carolina, so I grew up around it,” Peck said. “When I moved down here, I was looking for opportunities to play, and this was the best opportunity.”

While hockey isn’t as popular as other sports in the south, the hockey club is one of many teams around the Lowcountry. As well as local travel teams, the ECHL squad South Carolina Stingrays plays at the North Charleston Coliseum.

Junior Tommy Glennon passes the puck down the rink in the game against Bishop England Dec. 7.
photo // Hunter Musi

Senior Bennett Schilpp works for a turn on top of his Socastee High School opponent. Schilpp won his match in the Dec. 11 dual match against Socastee and Summer-ville. Wando took second place in the meet. *photo // Peyton Raybon*



FACES ON THE FIELD



Senior Gabi Reed

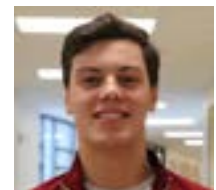
Varsity swimmer won Region 7-AAAAA player of the year.

"It kind of just shows like all of the work I've put in throughout the four years and then it kind of just caps it off of being team captain," she said.



Sophomore Dylan Silber

Varsity basketball player who scored a career high of 29 points in one game. "... At practice I'm going a hundred percent to push everyone else so everyone else can get better," she said.



Senior CJ Hills

Varsity Co-Captain won Region 7-AAAAA swimmer of the year. "I think it makes me work harder," he said. "Most people don't work hard, but my coach and my friends -- they kinda push me to work harder so I feel like Wando Swim made me work harder."

A passion for the mat

DiCarlo trains around the clock to strengthen his wrestling skills

HENRY HOWELL

Staff Writer

A constant since fifth grade. Now: two hours, after school, every day. A grueling diet mixed with rough training. Junior Micah DiCarlo joined the wrestling team. Taking after his brother, he pursued this pastime.

"My brother started wrestling, about six years ago, and I usually follow whatever he did in sports, so I did wrestling," DiCarlo said.

For three years, DiCarlo has had his schedule filled. Monday through Friday, his practices last from 4 to 6 p.m. DiCarlo has worked through grueling workouts and strict diets, and he has educated himself in the sport. As a result, he's grown as a wrestler.

"Oh yeah, I've learned stuff all of the time. Coach [Adam] Schneider teaches a lot of stuff," DiCarlo said, "and then, for workouts, I hit a lot of back, a lot of legs, 'cause that's mainly what you use in wrestling."

How DiCarlo stands out, though, is how he's formed this hobby into a lifestyle. Even as Wando's

season ends, Micah's is just beginning.

"When summer comes, I wrestle and lift every day," he said.

DiCarlo attends national tournaments. Whether they take place in North Carolina or in Florida, he's there.

"In the off season I go out of state a good bit. It's individual," he said.

Although it's hard -- the scheduling and the traveling and the constant training -- DiCarlo is doing what he loves.



In order to keep up with national tournaments, school games or even basic practices, DiCarlo has to hold a strict schedule. Constant training is required for him to keep this up.

"I usually wrestle and lift every day," he said. "I gotta take a two week break after the season is over."

Not only does he endure workouts, but DiCarlo also puts himself under strict diet. "It's like low sodium, 'cause I don't wanna endure any water weight obviously," he said, "and like a good bit of carbs and like protein."

Though in pursuing his passion, DiCarlo also has had to make sacrifices. Mixing wrestling and school has limited his schedule. DiCarlo currently is not a part of any other after school activity at Wando. Not because he doesn't want to, but more so that he can't afford it.

"It's just like all of the wrestling and training, and then like when I cut weight like I'm just tired, I don't wanna do anything," DiCarlo said.

Now, it is also true that DiCarlo can't keep up wrestling forever. After high school, he is pursuing a different study.

"I wanna trade," he said. "I'd probably come back to Wando to help out with the students who would be wrestling currently then."

Wrestling is his passion. So important that his friends, such as Jake Holland, have long supported him as well.

"He's the pound-for-pound strongest kid I know," Holland said. "And he's the hardest worker."

Schneider is very passionate about Micah's success as well. After coaching his older brother, Devin, Schneider met Micah in the summer of 2013.

"He was really interested in wrestling, after summer camp," he said.

Now, Schneider is able to see through Micah's success in his high school career. Under Schneider, DiCarlo has gotten so far as to become a state qualifier.

"Sometimes there's things where you can take the easy choice. And there's points where he might do it the hard way... because he's got more skill than other people," Schneider said, "he's almost too skilled sometimes."

Who will win it all?



Our take

Texas. Florida. Auburn. Alabama. Georgia. Five AP Top 10 teams knocked off, and the top College Football Playoff spot secured. After a dominating season where they averaged 47.8 ppg, LSU is set to take the championship.

But first, they have to get through Oklahoma, which will be an easy game for Heisman Trophy-winning Joe Burrow and the rest of his team.

Passing the football is just one of the highlights of this LSU offense.

While wide-receiver Ja'Marr Chase has led the nation in both receiving yards (1,498) and receiving touchdowns (18), the LSU run game is dominant. With a top 20-rushing yard leader in Clyde Edwards-Helaire, LSU's offense seems nearly impossible to stop.

Undefeated. SEC Champions. Five AP Top 10 teams beaten. The Heisman winner. LSU is a combination of explosiveness and consistency. The most lethal of combinations in college football. These factors will propel LSU into a national championship victory in 2020 -- no matter who they play.

LSU | JAKE BUTTS |

Oklahoma has one strength: Jalen Hurts. He has played in three playoffs in three years, so hopefully he can break Oklahoma's losing streak in the playoff. But then again, LSU has the best quarterback in the country and a very good crew of wide receivers which Oklahoma's defense is not going to be able to stop.

Clemson has another very good QB, but also has one of the best running backs in the country [Travis Etienne], and their entire team is well rested. Keep in mind, this is a Clemson team that beat Alabama by almost 30 points last year and is returning most of their talent on the offensive side. The only problem is, they play Ohio State in the first round. Ohio State has the best defense in the country and they have one of the most consistent quarterbacks as well. Their team consists of two Heisman Award finalists, and they have played six top 25 teams this year and made every game look easy.

That's exactly what Ohio State is going to do in the playoffs too, they will make every game look easy and take home the trophy.

OHIO STATE | BEN ALLEN |

Out of Clemson, Oklahoma, Ohio State and LSU, I think LSU is going to win the 2020 College Football Playoff National Championship.

LSU is going to win is because it has Joe Burrow as a quarterback, who is a 2019 Heisman Trophy winner. Burrow has 219 completed passes for 4,715 yards.

Another reason LSU is going to win: it possesses the top wide receiver in the NCAA -- sophomore Ja'Marr Chase with 73 receptions for a total of 1473 yards.

Despite the fact that Ed Orgeron is a little (okay, maybe a lot) on the crazy side, the guy knows how to coach. He has taken the talent that he's been given and created the best offensive line of the season.

Louisiana State has had the hardest schedule of anyone in their conference and has proved its dominance by going undefeated in 2019-2020 season.

LSU | PEYTON RAYBON |

The match-up between Oklahoma and LSU will be determined by which defense can shut down the other team. LSU and Oklahoma have high caliber offenses led by two experienced quarterbacks, Jalen Hurts leading the Sooners and the likely Heisman winner, Joe Burrow, leads the LSU Tigers. Burrow's offense will pull away late and win the game in the second half.

In the second game, Dabo Swinney's Clemson Tigers have a strong team led by Trevor Lawrence. The Ohio State Buckeyes are led by two Heisman candidates, Justin Fields, the quarterback, and Chase Young, who is the nation's top defensive player. Ohio State will win due to the fact that they have both a strong defense and offense, unlike Clemson.

The national championship will be decided by one fact. LSU's seemingly home field advantage by playing the championship game in New Orleans will be key in defeating Ohio State. Burrow will step up to the challenge, like he did against Georgia and Alabama. The Tigers defense is not as strong as Ohio State, but Burrow will have a huge passing game and carry LSU to victory.

LSU | WILS BROWNING |

Your take

Who do you think is going to win the NCAA playoffs?



"Ohio State because they have a better defense than LSU, and I think it's going to be an LSU and Ohio State final."

JUNIOR
LUCAS MULLIS



"Oklahoma is going to win because of Jalen Hurts, he is a god."

SOPHOMORE
SUNY NIHALANI



"LSU is going to win because they are in the SEC, and they are an amazing team."

SOPHOMORE
GRACIE TROUBLEFIELD



"Clemson is going to win because they have the best quarterback in college football, and they have the best defense plus they are the hottest team in the country right now."

SOPHOMORE
MICHEL HANCE

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A long journey home

Tribal Tribune staff writer Lia Khachatryan details her difficult journey from Armenia to America in a series of columns.

Change is inevitable. People struggle. Life rarely turns out the way you expect. These are all lessons some people take a lifetime to learn.

I learned it all in a year.

One unexpected year that started off with one fight that, unfortunately, was a long time coming.

After my parents' fight, we packed our bags and said our goodbyes. The next morning, my dad drove my mom, brother and I to a hotel about an hour away from Lake O'Connell, towards South Carolina. My mom didn't put much consideration into it, except that she was looking for a cheap hotel, as close to the border of South Carolina and Georgia as she could.

We were only supposed to stay at the hotel for two days or so, but my dad canceled our phones so the only way we could get in touch with anyone was Skype. One of my mom's friends from Armenia that she knew had moved to the US and was in Florida at the time. My mom somehow managed to get ahold of him — the friend — for help deciding where to go and how to get there.

We ended up staying at the hotel for four days because it took him longer than we initially expected to get down to Georgia and rent a van to carry all of our luggage.

I come from a relatively small country — Armenia is much smaller than South Carolina. Yerevan is the capital of Armenia. It takes up about 1/3 of the country holding a whopping million people. Growing up in a city like that, where everything is at walking distance, I never heard of a "food desert" before. Not until we reached that hotel.

Mom didn't have a license, a car or any idea how to drive one, so we were limited in obtaining food. For four days we only ate McDonald's — which, by the way, was not nearly as spectacular as I had hoped — since it was the only accessible place for us to get food.

Funny enough, for someone who had no idea what was coming next, I was quite unbothered.

Some people use therapy to cope. Some revert to denial. Me, my coping mechanism was games — emphasis on was. As silly as it sounds, Minecraft was a saving grace for my mental health. Those few days and the next two months of my life were spent playing Minecraft almost religiously.

Eventually, mom's friend arrived. He drove us to North Charleston and introduced us to a man named "D." D let immigrants — often ones here with school visas — rent space in his house. He was an odd guy. His house, odder than him.

He was probably in his late 20s, clearly of Arabic descent. His house, well, it was big and absolutely horrifying to look at. The outside was covered in mold and dirt — clearly not well taken care of. The inside -- it was all right to the eye, but secretly, it held my mom's worst nightmare. Bedbugs.

We stayed there for two more months -- from the end of



LIA
KHACHATRYAN
Column

April 'til halfway through July. It was strange having to share a house with four Russian college kids and a strange 20-something year old that just would not stop hitting on my mom.

The biggest challenge was getting a job for my mom. Her employment history wasn't transferred, we weren't sure why, but it simply wasn't. So, to the eyes of any employer she was a 37-year-old woman with the employment history of a 15-year-old, not very desirable.

My mom is now a banker. She started off as a teller at Wells Fargo about three years ago, which is when our lives changed entirely. She had had the opportunity to get that job much earlier. During our stay with D, she had an interview for the same position, but despite leaving early to be there on time, she ended up getting lost and missing the interview.

Before I get too ahead of myself, I should probably mention that my mom had no experience in the banking system. She was a language major in college. She taught English for 10 years and then worked for the newspaper as a translator. Her job experience had little to do with the teller's job.

Being a teller was merely a good place to start. As you'll later find out, my mom spends a lot of time working two part-time jobs, so having a standard 9-5 job was something she really wanted. A job at a bank gave her that. Also, it was a good investment of her time since it taught her a lot about the American economic system, banking, investments, saving and etc.

Shortly before we had to leave D's house, something happened. For the first time in my life I saw the smartest, bravest and most put-together woman I had ever seen — my mom — cry. It was not a pretty sight. She missed the interview, she was getting eaten alive by the bedbugs, her marriage failed and she felt like she just didn't know what to do next, which was especially bad since she had two kids to take care of. She cried and wished that we had gone back to Armenia, so I told her what every 11 year old would.

"It's not that bad, you'll figure it out."

I mentioned D's descent. We found out about two and a half months into living with D that he actually lived in his father's house. What I haven't mentioned is that my older brother was a 15-year-old boy at the time. Once D's father came back to stay at his house, he brought back a young woman with him, also of Arabic descent, Muslim.

Her religion required her to wear a hijab — a scarf that covered her hair — around men outside of her family. A few days after D's father returned, he told us that we must find a new place to stay because he didn't feel comfortable having the woman being forced to live with another man in the house, having to conceal her hair in her own home. Sounds a bit silly to me, but that's what happened.

So, the search for our own home — apartment — began.



Photos // provided
Graphic // Joey Watts

A clear perspective

I sat in my car in the comfort of blasting heat and seat warmers as I watched a group of kids make a Tik Tok. They were in D lot, phone propped up against the trash can in the 40°F weather. I thought to myself, that is dedication. But for me, there is no amount of views or likes worth enduring the cold or the humiliation of others watching me dance.

Social media usage and mental illness continue to rise at a considerable rate. Medical professionals are debating whether these two factors directly correlate. It's argued that when teens communicate predominantly over social media, the connections are not emotionally satisfying, eventually leading to a feeling of isolation.

As someone who has been diagnosed with anxiety and depression for almost four years, I know that every case is different for each person. How could a scholarly source predict how my mind would react to social media?

I wasn't sure what to believe.

Despite my online research, I decided the only way I could know if there really was a correlation was to test it myself.

The first day was weird. I found myself opening my phone only to remember I had no social media. It was like my brain was trained to mindlessly scroll whenever I had the time. It was weird, but also refreshing. Because I couldn't go on social media, I was way more productive. I worked on college applications, practiced piano, even got ahead on my homework.

Yes, this newfound free time was a nice change of pace, but honestly, it wasn't an easy transition. In three days, I had already submitted all of my applications and reorganized my entire closet. But what was worse than the boredom was that I started to feel distant from my friends. I know this is going to sound like first-world-problems, but having only face-to-face interactions is a strange feeling.

At the same time, not using social media to communicate forced me to initiate face-to-face conversations and grow to appreciate alone time. I learned that time away from others can be even more fulfilling than opening a phone full of notifications.

I began to take advantage of the isolation, and then it stopped feeling like isolation altogether.

At the beginning, I was wrapped up in the curiosity of what all my friends were up to, since I couldn't watch their stories or see their posts. Now, I've come to realize it's refreshing to simply not care. It helped a lot with my FOMO and made me enjoy the present. I had way more fun in everything I did that week because I wasn't comparing my experiences to what others were posting on social media.

Now that my social media hiatus is over, I'm much more aware of my social media usage. I notice right away when I begin to unknowingly scroll and immediately stop. I don't have the desire to see what others are doing like I used to.

Another important lesson I learned is that social media is not inherently bad. The issue arises when people allow their mental health to be influenced from the communication and approval on social media.

I know I am an easy target. I know I can be easily shaped by social media, so I've decided to allow myself to go back to using the various platforms with boundaries. I've set time limits for all social media apps on my phone and am going to actually force myself to follow them, rather than clicking the "Remind Me in 15 Minutes" button.

Even though I'm going to start using social media again, I can promise you that I will never be one of those Tik Tok girls dancing in D lot. You're welcome.

EMMA
MARTIN
Column



WARRIOR
POV

What is your favorite Christmas tradition?



"We watch Christmas movies and then we always get to open one present on Christmas Eve that's already under the tree, and then we eat sundaes."

SENIOR
SOPHIE CARBON



"Me and my family eat perogies every year. We're Polish and we've been doing it every year. I wanted to do it, so they said we could and that it connected us to that heritage. I love being connected to my family."

SOPHOMORE
NATHAN SAROKA



"My favorite Christmas tradition is when my family and friends get together and have a Christmas party. We do it every year. We make gingerbread houses and see who can build the best one."

SENIOR
ZAYD SLOAN

The magic of red nosed reindeer

AUDREY
KELLY
Column



There is no way to explain the following event besides this -- magic is real. I was about three or four years old, still being lied to by my parents about Santa's existence and ignorant to the real meaning of the song, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus."

I tossed and turned in my Hannah Montana-themed bedroom for hours -- I simply could not sleep -- which was odd to me considering I fully believed that if I was awake when Santa came, I wouldn't get any presents and usually forced myself to pass out when the clock struck 8 p.m.

But something was different tonight. I could feel it in the air. What it was, my non-developed adolescent brain couldn't pinpoint, but I had a feeling.

Hours passed, more tossing occurred and I tried to count sheep, even though I couldn't count pass 15, so I just kept restarting after I got to it. Nothing worked.

Panic ensued then -- what if Santa knew I was awake and just skipped my house? My brother, who regularly threw spoons at me, would never forgive me if I ruined his chance at getting new beyblades.

"Close your eyes and sleep," I told myself over and over.

But then it happened.

I felt some sort of calling to go to my window and look out at my roof, so I did. It was like that scene in *Sleeping Beauty* where Aurora is drawn to the spinning wheel. Creepy, possibly, but not to me in this moment. It was less of a 'hey, come prick yourself so you sort of die' and more of a 'you don't want to miss this.' So yes, I looked out my window.



The Sulivans Island Tree Lighting on Dec 6 celebrates the beginning of the Christmas season with pizza, hot cocoa and Santa Claus.
photo // Hunter Musi

I looked up out of the corner of it to see the sliver of the roof available to my eyes reach and there it was. A glowing red light on top of my house.

Now, you don't need to be an expert on Christmas to know what a red glowing light represents -- Rudolf, arguably the most overrated reindeer.

The point is, I saw it. I felt this overwhelming sensation of magic take over me, like I was witnessing something beautiful and secretive, only meant for me to see. But I have Christmas superstitions, so I scrambled to throw my 80-pound body back onto my bed so that Santa wouldn't know I, Audrey Kelly, outsmarted him and saw Rudolf himself. I wouldn't get my Hannah Montana wig under the tree if he knew that.

So, as any child would, I hid under the covers and made all my problems go away. Funny thing is, after seeing what I did, I was finally able to sleep.

Years later, I swear by the events of this night. I was not dreaming, my father was not on the roof

with a red flashlight waiting for me to look out my window and I did not imagine this. I just know that what I saw was meant for me to see.

I have a theory, or as my mother calls it, a delusion. We all know the story of Santa -- his real name was Khris Kringle and he gave presents to the kids in his town a long time ago, making people come up with this tradition, right? My theory is that the spirit of the real Santa visits kids on Christmas Eve to keep the tradition and magical feeling alive.

My brother swears he saw the Easter Bunny and my grandma a UFO, but I fully believe my theory. There is just something different about Christmas and all that surrounds it. So I wholeheartedly believe that years ago, I saw the Christmas spirit so that I'd have a story to pass along to my kids.

Or maybe I'm crazy. But I believe in what I saw, and I'll never forget the bliss I felt when it happened.

And in case you were wondering, I did in fact get my Hannah Montana wig.

We wish you a merry birthday

WILS
BROWNING
Column



I will be forever linked with Christmas. You see, I was born at 12:35 p.m. on Dec. 25. My mother went into labor at Christmas mass. It's my fate. Christmas, birthday -- all the same thing for me.

My parents say I was their best Christmas present ever.

And at least I didn't end up with a "Christmas" name -- Noel or Kris or Buddy.

Instead, I have a half day of Christmas and a half day of birthday.

When I wake up, my parents call it Christmas, and I open up all of my presents with my parents. Then at noon, it switches to my birthday.

This is not as great as it may seem. My friends are never home and can never hang out. I can never get whatever food I want because everything is

closed. My birthday is seen as second to Christmas.

The best feeling is waking up and running down stairs with my brother to see all of the presents. My brother and I are excitedly greeted to the smell of donuts (my favorite breakfast) and the sight of our living room being filled with many presents around the tree.

My brother and I sort out whose presents are whose and hand them out to each family member while putting the presents that clearly are for my birthday, on the side. Sometimes, I realize that relatives and friends have given me a present for Christmas while forgetting about my birthday. That's the worst part about your birthday on Christmas.

I am always grateful for what I get, but when noon comes around, I don't look forward to lunch. Each year we switch off which grandparent comes and every year, we have to be formal while having a hickory ham style lunch with fancy silverware and fancy clothes. I dread this lunch, yet even with it being my birthday, it's a tradition, so I cannot change it.

My parents do like to change up Christmas ev-

ery year by doing things like heating up frozen pizza that they buy from my favorite pizza place. Even though I can't usually have the food I want for my birthday, by buying things in advance and going out of their way, my parents make every year as memorable as possible.

My dad especially specifies the idea of a birthday week: My parents spiced up the week around my birthday by creating a surprise party two years ago and made the week feel more like my actual birthday. They started implementing un-birthday presents where on my brother's birthday, I would get one present because they felt bad. My half birthday is also something they have talked about celebrating. With it being six months away, it is hard to implement and also it's very unusual to change your birthday.

My birthday feels unusual because of the weirdness of people only thinking it's Christmas. Even though present opening fits right into the Christmas spirit, my birthday is different because my parents love to buy big things and make it feel like a special day just for me -- not just Christmas.

That’s debatable

The internet has always been a political battleground, but recently the unwanted discourse has led Twitter to enact a ban of political ads.

Twitter censorship will only create a host of new problems

Ultimately Twitter’s new ad ban is a slippery slope that will only lead to eventual censorship and regulation. While no one actually wants to have false political ads distorting voters’ views before an election, the amount of ads that are simply exercises of free speech is far higher.

Banning all political ads only sets a precedent that the censoring of media content in the political field is acceptable or even suggested.

It also gives an unreasonable amount of power to the team at Twitter in charge of deciding what ads are banned and what are allowed. A corporation gets to judge what its massive user base should be allowed to see and read; opening the door for manipulation of information and exploitation.

Aside from the censorship message it sends, the system would unfairly disadvantage challengers in political races and give unfair coverage to specific candidates. Many candidates hoping to challenge incumbents primarily use social media to gain a following. Banning political ads only gives name recognition candidates an even greater advantage than they already have.

| HUNTER MUSI |

Twitter’s ban will allow the app to return to its roots

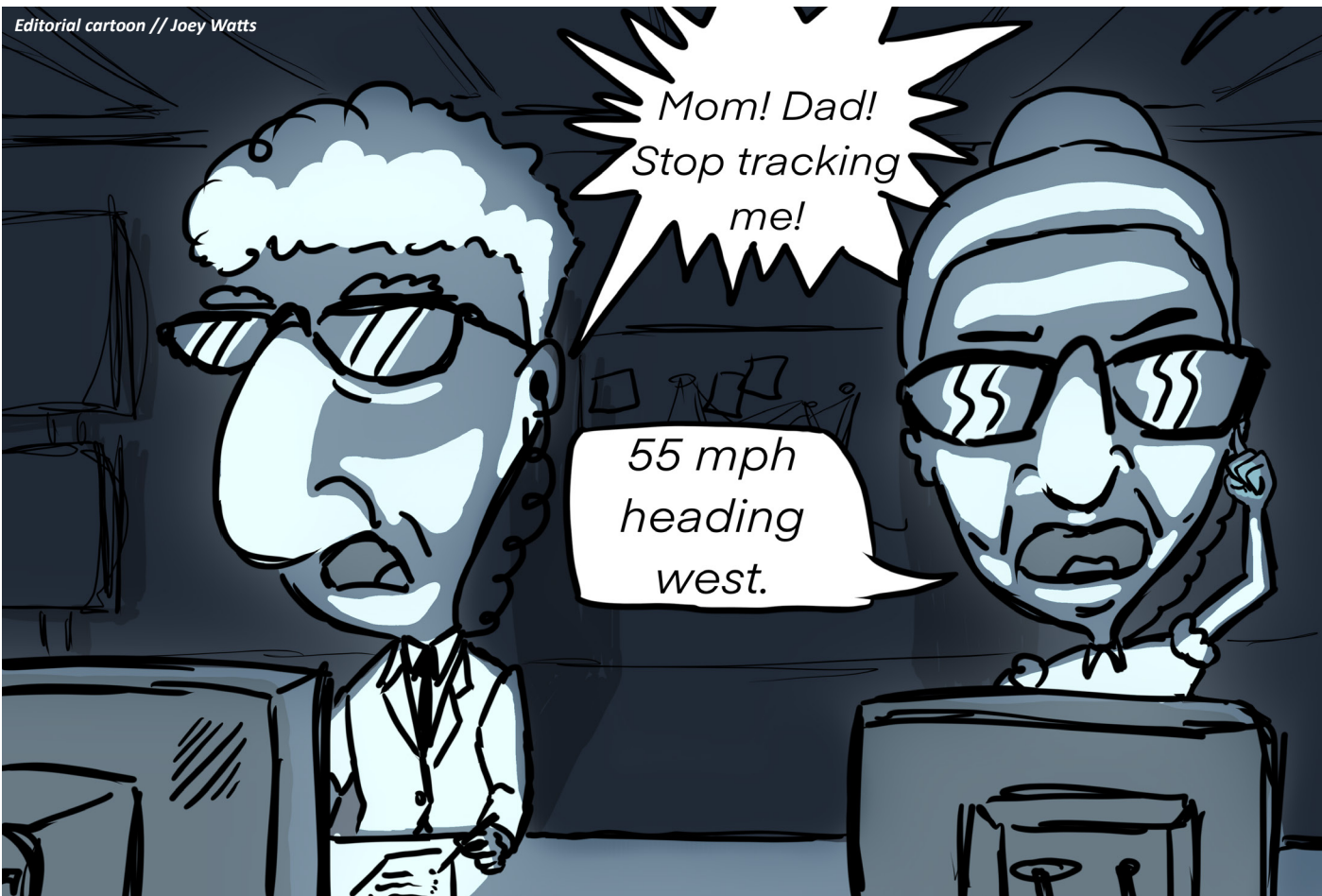
Twitter should be a place for celebrities to throw shade and to post Michael Scott memes.

That’s why Twitter decided to ban political ads that are specific to a candidate or political party. They are also preventing “microtargeting,” which allows advertisers to reach the people they think will be most likely to respond to their advertisement.

Politicians and political action committees will no longer be allowed to use keywords or interest targeting to get their message heard. Instead, individuals will have to research actual politicians and political issues. They’ll be making a conclusion based on their own research and ideas rather than what some political advertisement tells them to believe.

Politicians do not deserve to be able to pay to promote potentially inaccurate information to the public. Political messages should be earned -- not bought by those with the most money.

| EMMA MARTIN |



Communication is key

No period in a child’s life can be as terrifying to parents as the one coinciding with high school. Teenagers -- the dreaded T word -- are terrifying.

And there’s a good reason for that.

In a few years, their children will be going to college, paying taxes -- even moving far away. Ultimately parents just want to make sure their children are safe, and in the modern age, digital apps like Find My iPhone allow parents to keep a healthy watch on their kids.

But no service has caused the controversy that Life 360 has.

Offering accurate location tracking, battery monitoring and even roadside assistance with the full package, Life 360 sounds like a simple upgrade to a commonplace location app. But also offers a driver history of where users have traveled, check-ins at specific locations, driver reports that include speed, braking and regular updates on a user’s whereabouts.

It’s perfectly reasonable to ask a child where they are going and to make sure they got there safe, especially given Charleston’s drivers. The problems with the app start with its misuse.

The best analogy for this is that the app is essentially training wheels: the teenager goes the speed limit because he knows his parents see if he goes too fast or brakes too hard, and so for the time being they will drive how they are told.

The issue arises when it becomes time for these training wheels to come off, when a teen is thrust into life unprepared and finally free to drive at the speed he recklessly chooses to go. All the app does is simply delay the inevitable: it cannot stop students from speeding for the rest of their lives, it just gives them a few more years until they see those blue lights behind them.

Speeding tickets are a fact of life; a simple mistake everyone makes at some point and is really the only way people ever learn to slow down. But to be honest, this is not to do with one location tracking app. As terrifying as some students find Life 360, many users use it in a healthy manner to make sure their loved ones are safe, the issues we have stated show a far larger issue.

Life 360 is not the problem, it’s a symptom.

The real issue is quite simple, parents and teenagers don’t always communicate in a healthy way. Teenagers need some form of independence to actually learn for themselves and develop the maturity they will need in life. But in the same vein, they also have to be more honest with their parents. Most parents simply want to make sure their kids are safe, and especially when teens are driving a car often paid for by parents, they have the right to know that.

And when a service comes around that gives incredible surveillance powers to its user, it’s not the app’s fault parents might abuse it.

It’s not the first and won’t be the last way parents over-involve themselves in their children’s lives, but ultimately it won’t solve the issues they are hoping to prevent. Say a child decides to simply leave his phone at home for fear of the consequences of going to a friend’s house. While he brings up no red flags on the app, he is now deprived of a potentially life-saving device. In the end, parents would always rather the child have his phone than go without it. The point is, teenagers find a way, the app will not solve anything, and ultimately it just is not healthy on the child or parents’ end.

There really is only one real solution: they just need to have a conversation. Parents would not be watching their children’s every move if they trusted them, and teenagers would not be trying to trick a GPS if they were able to just tell their parents the truth. An invisible eye watching every move is not the way to have that conversation, and neither is lying to your parents.

The real problem comes not from an overbearing parent, or a rebellious teen and especially not from an app designed to help families stay safe; it’s just a lack of connection. Parents and teenagers have to find a healthy way to decide boundaries, teenagers have to be able to make mistakes to learn from them, and parents should be able to know if their child is safe.

We can’t tell you how to do this, but sometimes all it takes is a simple conversation.



Trouble on the field

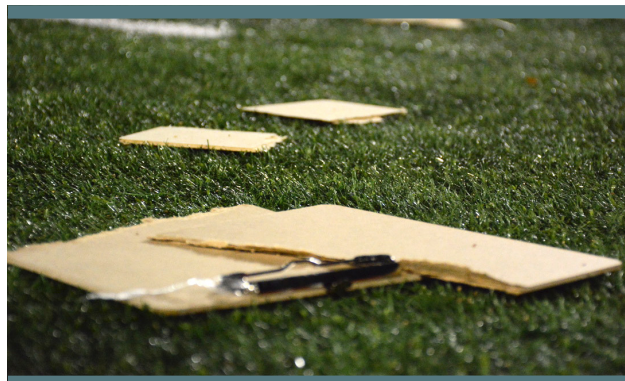
The sound of screaming coaches filled the stadium-- "Come on defense! Push through! Push through!" Twenty teams fought for bragging rights and a prideful trophy in the annual powderpuff tournament on Dec. 5.

The Troublemakers, a junior team, came out on top after winning three consecutive games, with a final showdown against the women's faculty staff to end the night.

Junior coach of the Troublemakers, **Jackson Clarke**, and defensive and offensive lineman **Julia Raffety** celebrate their win after the championship game. **Raffety** reflects on her experience with her coaches, saying, "I didn't know anything about football before, so I guess they taught me well." *photo // Graham McAlister*



(Above) Junior coach of the Blitz Babes **Marshall Whitmer** lifts up junior **Grayson Lutz** as she holds up the flag taken from a successful tackle. (Right) Clipboards from various games lie along the sideline after bursts of anger and adrenaline from the coaches. *photos // Graham McAlister*



(above) Junior **Hannah Flint** pulls freshman **Anne Edens's** flag to tie up their game, which eventually ended in a double overtime loss for the juniors. (Above right) Senior **Dexter Blanchard** paces the sideline as he encourages his team during the quarterfinals. (Right) Sophomore **Caroline Brinson** embraces her teammates after a touchdown play. *photos // Graham McAlister and Peyton Raybon*

