

# Maroon & White

“For a better Tennessee High”

Volume CVII, Issue 2

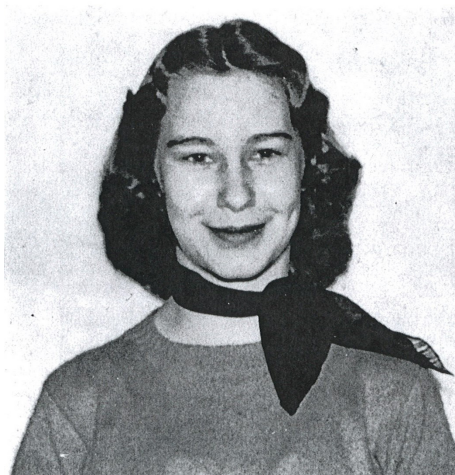
Tennessee High School, Bristol, Tennessee

October 29th, 2021

## The Many Faces of Agnes: Who was she?

By Rachel Kent  
and Ruth Rose

Since Tennessee High School's relocation in 1939, the once new building has gained a chilling reputation. Spiritual existences are said to haunt the campus. The most acknowledged of these hauntings is “Agnes,” the ghost of a young girl whose cause of death is uncertain. There are several rumors surrounding the life and death of Agnes.



Wilma Jean Meade

Some believe she was found dead in the school's swimming pool the morning after class night (a night where rowdy parties are inevitably thrown). Others say she was struck by a train and killed instantly. These very different theories raised curiosity. What really happened? We set out to find the truth behind her unfortunate death.

Our first quest was figuring out Agnes' real name. Mr. Tim Davis has done his own research on her in the past. He told us her name was Norma Jean and that she died her junior year by drowning. It was said to be during her lunch break at Bristol Calculations Center, the place where she did her work-based learning. This was a seemingly promising start. We immediately began searching through old yearbooks dating to the early 1950s in search of her. There she was: Norma Jean Bunn. We were so ecstatic to have found her so quickly we didn't even notice the second Norma Jean nine names down. Not until reading Norma Jean Bunn's senior quote did

we question if she was the face behind Agnes. Sadly, we discovered Norma Bunn's passing on September 10, 2021, at the age of 85. Now we were left with Norma Jean Cash, the ninth name down. Could she be the real Agnes?

Confused by the lack of information found in the yearbooks, we took another trip to the library and double, triple, quadruple checked them. That is when, in the 1954 yearbook, we found the memoriam for Wilma Jean Meade. The date of her death lined up with Davis's story: she died in the summer of 1953. But this was the only information the yearbook gave us about her death. Luckily, we had Ms. Silver's constant aid. She was able to recover the 1953 news article covering Wilma Jean Meade's unfortunate death. The story began rapidly unfolding. We talked to Davis as soon as we found her and he confirmed her name to be Wilma, not Norma.

*Continued on page 5...*

## What's Inside

### Gabby's Legacy Lives On

Page 2

### Which Haunted House is Superior?

Page 4

### The Mullet and You

Page 6

### THS Meme of the Month

Page 7

## Would you Survive a Wendigo?

By Lilly Chafin

*The following is an escape adventure with several different endings based on the choice that you make at the end of each story.*

*Will you survive an encounter with a wendigo? Choose your path and turn to the page number listed to find out.*

You and your friends Alex and Rylee have just left for a weekend camping trip near South Holston Lake. You find a small clearing with large maples, oaks, and pine trees scattered around reaching high up in the gloomy grey sky. You set up camp as the shadows of the trees grow long and the sun disappears over the mountains. You gather around the fire, joking and talking, when the forest grows unnaturally quiet. After a while, Rylee too stops talking.

“What's wrong?” you ask.

“Do you hear anything?” Rylee looks behind her suspiciously.

The three of you stop talking and

listen.

“There's nothing!” Alex laughs loudly, before Rylee interrupts him.

“Exactly! No owls, no wind rustling the trees, no squirrels running through the bushes...nothing!”

The color drains from Alex's face as he listens again.

“Have you not heard of the wendigo?” Rylee says, her eyes growing wide.

“That THING that eats humans? I mean, yes, but I've heard of Bigfoot too, and I'm not scared of him,” you say.

“No really, these legends are legit. Wendigos can hear a human's heartbeat from miles away!” Rylee carries on excitedly. “Animals sense their presence and grow still, not daring to draw the wendigo's attention. They can mimic voices too.”

Rylee's voice trails off, getting softer with every word.

“That's it. That's all I can take. Let's just go to bed,” Alex says.

You tentatively unroll your sleeping bag and close your eyes.

A loud cry breaks through the night, waking you from your recent slumber to the sight of shadows looming over the moonlit tent.

**You:**

**A: Go back to sleep - turn to page 2**

**B: Check it out - turn to page 3**

**C: Wake up your friends - turn to page 4**



Artwork by Joan Weddington



Meet the  
2021 Maroon  
& White Fall  
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Gabby’s Legacy Lives On

By Maroon and White Editors

It has been a little over a year since the Viking community lost Gabrielle Kennedy, a senior at the time. Gabby was known for her positive attitude and creative spirit. Despite any hardships she faced in life, she was a constant encourager and inspirer. Gabby was an active member of the softball team, NHS, and Beta Club, all while pursuing her love for art. She spent any time she could painting or listening to music. This passion and creativity was mirrored in her widely adored sense of style. Gabby was one of a kind. Her character has made a lasting impact on anyone fortunate enough to know her. Her tragic death has led to the founding of “The Gabby Foundation”. The Gabby Foundation’s mission is to “raise awareness for child abuse” and “put an end to domestic violence”.

The foundation has taken great strides to honor Gabby’s memory like collecting toys for foster children as well as connecting victims of domestic violence to resources such as The Branch House. If you or anyone you know are facing domestic abuse, please talk to a counselor or call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

Freshmen Advice Corner

By Nyla Surber

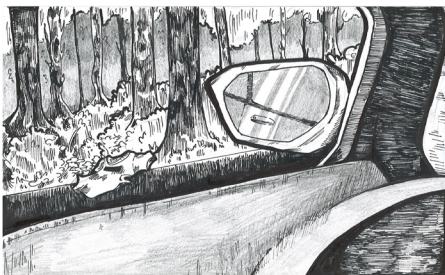
As a freshman coming to THS, everything may seem overwhelming at first. From the vast number of programs of study, scholarships, clubs, and advanced classes, you may think there is no way you will get through it all. Everyone has been taught that high school is this scary beast we must battle for years, but hopefully I can help ease the burden by giving you my best advice on how to find some joy and get through the day. Everyone uses the main stairwell, but there are so many other ways to get around. Some even include going outside! My best advice is to try different routes and see where they go. Don’t worry, most directions will get you where you need. Many places have multiple paths, like the cafeteria

having four entryways. While walking around the school, keep an eye out for any exits in case there was an emergency. Exploring the different areas not only lets you discover the school and its charm, but also gives you an easy way to exercise your legs. People have been proven to find happiness in exercise, let it be of the body or the brain.

GO BACK TO SLEEP:  
Would you survive a  
Wendigo? Continued...  
By Lilly Chafin

Looking around the tent walls one more time, you decide the shadows are probably just an animal. You lay down and go back to sleep, ignoring the distant wails. You wake up several hours later. The morning sun illuminates the tent. While your friends snooze, you get up and leave the tent to get a snack. As soon as you step onto the dirt, you notice all your things scattered around the campsite. The ground is imprinted with large jagged hoof-shaped ruts leading into the woods. You wake up your friends and make the group decision that it’s safer to just pack up and leave. You gather your things and put them back in the car. Alex looks sad as he gets into the car, but Rylee looks relieved. On the drive home, you notice one of your favorite shirts on the side of the road near the tree line.

You:  
A: Check it out - turn to page 6  
B: Keep Driving - turn to page 5



Artwork by Joan Weddington

A Look into the Mysterious Homicide of Gabby Petito

By Sheany Regules

Youtube couple Brian Laundrie and Gabby Petito were just another internet-famous couple, known for being travel influencers, on a mission to complete a cross country road trip. As the couple explored Salt Lake City, Utah on the morning of August 24, 2021, police got an alarming call stating that a witness had seen Brian Laundrie physically abusing Gabby Petito. In this phone call you can hear the witness say, “they ran up and down the sidewalk. He proceeded to hit her, hopped in the car and they drove off.” As police officers arrive at the scene, Gabby Petito immediately begins saying she was the one hitting Brian Laundrie and that he was just trying to calm her down. When discussing the body cam footage during this incident, Mr. Richardson’s Criminal Justice 3 class agrees that, “her body language is similar to that of people in

manipulative, abusive relationships.” Nevertheless, the police officer decided not to take anyone to the police station and just made the couple split up for the night. Brian Laundrie stayed the night at a motel in Moab, Utah while Gabby Petito stayed in her van outside the motel. This was the last place Gabby Petito was seen alive. On September 1, 2021, Brian Laundrie returned to his parents’ house in Gabby Petito’s van, but she was nowhere to be seen. A couple days later on September 11, 2021, Gabby Petito’s parents reported her missing. Later as Brian was being questioned by the police, he mysteriously went missing. Laundrie’s parents state that the last time they saw their son was on September 13th and he had simply said he was, “going for a walk” and would be back later. He, too, never returned home. On September 19, 2021, Gabby Petito’s

body was found near Grand Teton National park where she and Laundrie had visited before. The autopsy showed she had passed away 2-3 weeks prior to her body being found and that her cause of death was strangulation. On October 13, 2021 a body was found in the Carlton Reserve adjoining Myakkahatchee Creek by Brian Laundrie’s parents and on October 21, 2021 around 6pm the FBI confirmed the body found was Brian Laundrie. Near his remains, the FBI found a backpack containing clothes, a dry bag, and a notebook. The FBI informed the public that this notebook could contain insight on what happened to Gabby Petito; however, an FBI source said, “they are going to use any potential means to dry it out before opening it... they’ll be very careful with it.” With all this chaos, there is still

speculation as to what occurred to Gabby Petito and whether Brian Laundrie was involved. To this day it is still an ongoing investigation and police urge anyone who has any information regarding this case to call 1-800-FBI or 225-5324.



Artwork by Lilly Chafin



# The Chain Mail

## Feature: Graham's Car Heist Prank

By Lilly Chafin

*The chain mail feature is a regular column where we interview a teacher on a specific topic (such as pranks, in the case of Mr. Graham). After being interviewed, that teacher picks another teacher and a topic for the next feature. Cycle and repeat.*

Although Shawn Graham has been working as an art teacher for 19 years, he says, "I don't have a job." While this is initially confusing, Graham's statement makes sense when one considers both his sense of humor and how much he loves what he does. "If you can find something that you truly enjoy, you don't go to work. I come here to do something I really love. It's the best thing ever," Graham said. Graham stands by the statement that, "anybody can draw, they just need to be taught how." He is willing to help anyone learn and shows them how to see things differently. Anyone who has had Graham as a teacher knows how much he loves to joke and mess around. Throughout the time he's worked at THS, he's had several funny stories and pranks that he has pulled on his colleagues. One of his proudest moments as a prankster is when he "stole Mr. Witcher's car." Mr. Witcher, for those who don't know, is a former THS administrator and boys' basketball coach. According to Graham, this "theft"-and don't worry, he didn't actually steal the car--took place a couple years ago at a baseball game at Haynesfield Elementary School. Mr. Witcher had left his car running in the parking lot.

Mr. Graham, being Mr. Graham, saw the car, got into the driver's seat and took it for a joy ride. He drove around for a little bit, until he came back and parked it in a different spot. Then, he walked into the game and acted like nothing happened. To this day, unless a copy of this paper gets into his hands, Mr. Witcher doesn't know what happened or who moved his car. Mr. Graham never fessed up to the prank.



When asked if he thought Mr. Witcher would ever find out, Graham says he doesn't think so. Which is why he shared this story. Will he ever find out? Who knows. He continues to joke around and pull pranks, creating a fun, personality-filled classroom for all his students. For the next chainmail Mr. Graham nominated Mrs. Martinez, with the topic of how covid has affected her day to day life.

### CHECK IT OUT: Would you survive a Wendigo?

#### Continued...

By Lilly Chafin

You quietly leave the tent to investigate the haunting sound, trying not to disturb your friends. Upon unzipping the tent door, you're hit with a cold breeze. You cautiously step into the woods and push through the trees and the branches as the sound grows louder and louder, until it doesn't. You look around, noticing that the forest is deadly silent. All the trees start to look the same, so before panicking, you search for your own footprints or at least a path back to the tent, but it is no use. You're lost. You hear Rylee's voice in the distance, and you take a step forward. Again, you hear her call your name, and you take another step towards what sounds like a distorted recording of Rylee's voice, muffled and slowed like the scratching of a needle on an old record player.

**You:**  
**A: Go back to the campsite - turn to page 5**  
**B: Go towards the voice - turn to page 7**



# Food Service

## Worker Appreciation

By Nathaniel Morefield

Like many in our school, I get lunch daily from the cafeteria. I have often harshly criticized the cafeteria. It is always obnoxiously rowdy and students are packed in like sardines. In all my time here, however, our food service workers have never been to blame for my unpleasant experience. There are a great many aspects of the cafeteria that I dread, but I cherish the short, daily interactions I have with our food staff. They put up with so much of our daily nonsense, but as I go through the line, I observe their kindness. It resonates through every interaction they have. Kaylie Cunningham, a sophomore at THS, told me about an instance in which a worker generously paid out of her own pocket so that she could have

water that day. I'm sure that surprises no one at this school. However, I have personally witnessed a similar occurrence and find it to be completely in-character. Kaylie described them further as "just so special. They always make us little desserts for free, just to make us happy. It makes me feel so good! They definitely always make my day!" I am confident that all of us at THS echo her sentiment. The food service workers at our school provide constant kindness for our school environment, and they deserve so much love and appreciation. Today, be sure to let them know how important they are when you see them!



## History of the Haunted Hallways

By Lucy Paulson

Tennessee High is notoriously famous for being one of the most haunted schools in America and with our claims of having haunted hallways, it's a perfect way for more creativity from our theatre department! Run by the fabulous Ms. Davis, the idea was brought to her by Mrs. Kirk who was looking for a fun way to allow alumni to come back as well as something creative for current students, along with extra money for the spring musical. With many opportunities at hand to use, students suggested creepy ideas for the pool area. "It's probably not ever going to happen because it's not the safest idea to have a lot of people around our pool in the dark and at night!" Ms. Davis reasoned. Rather than a haunted house concept, they've aimed for themes, more

of telling a story throughout. She explains, "Our theatre students will act as 'tour guides' and they have a basic script to follow as they are guiding groups throughout the designated areas. We always have creepy music/noises playing over the loudspeakers, and for me, that's the scariest part! We also have actors stationed throughout the school in 'scare areas' that are dressed to frighten our tour groups." Will the Haunted Hallways ever come back? Ms. Davis responded, "We absolutely plan on having the Haunted Tours again! We aim to do it every other year, but unfortunately, it did not work out this year due to many different factors. Our creative team is actually working on some ideas for a "scary tour" during the springtime. If not, we plan on being back for sure next 'Spooky Season.'"



# Mai Closet: Halloween Edition

By Danica Mai

Hey, THS! It's the spookiest season of the year: Halloween. For anyone who does not know what this is about, this is my fashion advice column where I help people elevate their outfits to the next level. From cute cable knit sweaters to frightening costumes, Halloween is the perfect time to try different fashion ideas and to perfect your winter wardrobe. Since the temperature is dropping quickly, in this edition of Mai Closet, we will be talking about layering.

When most people think of layering, thick winter jackets and scarves are what come first to mind. But, layering can be as simple as putting a turtleneck under a t-shirt, and that is where we will start. One may think that adding a long sleeve or a turtleneck under would not make a difference, however, I would beg to differ. Donning a long sleeve can transform a basic t-shirt into an insta worthy outfit. An extra set of covering makes an outfit look a thousand times more put together and it makes the fit seem more thought out. A plain flannel or a pair of black tights can turn a possibly risky article of clothing to something that follows the school dress code.

For anyone who is hesitant to try layering or doesn't know where to start, try putting a flannel over some graphic t-shirts. It can really spice up an outfit without going too outside of the box. The next step is to put a white or black long sleeve under your t-shirt to make your ensemble look more thought out. You can even layer with more uncommon clothing items, such as using a button up as a jacket to add an additional layer. A little layering does not have to be exclusively for t-shirts. You can throw on a turtleneck under a dress or a sweatshirt or even add a pair of fishnets or tights under a skirt to be more adventurous. With layering, you have just added a new element to your next outfits. For more tips and tricks for upgrading your closet, make sure you read the Christmas issue of the Maroon and White!



# WAKE UP YOUR FRIENDS: Would you survive a Wendigo? Continued...

By Lilly Chafin

You look at the shadows on the tent walls, hoping that their bulky shapes and movement only represent the trees or the dying campfire. The wail echoes through the forest again. You look down at Alex and Rylee and shake them awake. Alex groggily sits up and looks at you. "Whaaat," Alex groans. "Shush," you whisper a little too aggressively. You both sit quietly for a few minutes until the sound reverberates--more loudly this time--through the forest. Rylee, clearly a hard sleeper, shoots up at the noise. "What was that?" Alex asks. The sound gets louder and closer. Rylee grabs her flashlight compulsively, flashing it on, then flashing it off, then

holding it like a weapon. Alex unzips the tent door and steps out. "What are you doing?" Rylee asks in a concerned whisper. "I'm going to check it out. It's probably just an injured deer or something," Alex answers. "I'm going with you," Rylee answers. This gives you a split second to join their party or stay in the tent alone. Needless to say, you also follow Alex into the forest. Suddenly, Alex turns and shines a flashlight towards a tree branch which has just snapped behind you. You turn towards the sound. "I don't see anything," you say to your friends, but your friends don't answer. When you turn back around, you are alone. "Rylee! Alex!" you call out, but you get no response. You hold your breath, daring yourself to move ahead. "They must be just a step or two ahead of me," you tell yourself.

After wandering ahead for what seems like ten very slow minutes, you think you hear Rylee calling your name. You step closer to the voice, hoping that it is Rylee. Which direction did the call come from? You can't seem to tell. Rylee's voice calls out again, but this time you hear it more clearly. It sounds distorted, like a voice on a record player



Artwork by Joan Weddington

**You:**  
**A: Go back to the campsite- turn to page 5**  
**B: Go towards the voice - turn to page 7**

# Which Haunted House is Superior?

By Joseph Burriss

I visited 3 haunted attractions located at Stickley Farm, the Haunted Forest Elizabethton, and Beck Mountain Corn Maze to see which I preferred. Having never been to any haunted houses, I do not have any predisposed biases. I instead used a list of criteria to make my decisions. I chose my visits based on their accessibility and reputation. First, I went to Stickley's haunted attraction, which was called the Fun House. The wait times were the worst I experienced, with a long wait for my number to be called and an extra long line once we got to the attraction since we were the final group. However, I understand that the house is busy, especially on a Friday night, and for a good reason. It is by far the most professional, the closest of all the houses I visited, and I admire the length of the tour and the time and money put into it. You first go through a short path before entering two large doors leading into a carnival scene with lots of clowns. Then, you wind down lots of paths through a twisty maze, misty graveyard, down through the basement of a very foggy house, and you exit through more mist as you end the tour. Overall, I enjoyed the time and effort put into the costumes and house itself, and especially considering its proximity to this area it is a very nice place to go with family or friends for a fun night out. Trying to go through the house is a challenge, especially once you get to the maze, and having some companions to go through the experience alongside you is exciting and ultimately rewarding in the end. Even if you choose to not go for the haunted house, there still remains the many other attractions

available such as hayrides, corn mazes, and various animal enclosures. I would recommend avoiding this haunted house if you would be scared of actors singling you out even during the line, such as slashing chainsaws near your feet or breathing down your neck. The very next day, I visited the final 2 attractions, my first visit being to the Haunted Forest Elizabethton. Being the more crowded of the two, yet not as crowded as Stickley's, the Haunted Forest had an average wait time: it took us around fifteen minutes to enter the attraction. After riding a tractor trailer led by Beetlejuice himself, you come upon an area featuring a cozy campfire with accompanying sticks and marshmallows at the concession stand. You can also buy tickets for the haunted forest, zombie tag, or the escape game, alongside the food and drinks offered. Upon buying tickets (which were never checked) my group walked to the line after enjoying the fire for a minute, and were led to the nearby line for the forest. Some staff were present to try to scare you during the line, whereas Stickley's had masked actors with chainsaws and clown suits that only broke role to calm the many petrified teenagers, the Haunted Forest's actors had less professional costumes and actors, and their presence even felt intrusive at times. The actual attraction was decent. You walk through a windy forest led by an actor, made to look gruesome with makeup and costume, and move between different themed areas including Michael Myers, Jason Voorheez, The Nightmare Before Christmas, and more nonspecific themes such as an asylum and

children's bedroom. I did find the rave music in certain parts to be an odd choice, and some parts felt a little scary while others felt more like exhibits of preexisting characters. Overall, I found the attraction to be enjoyable, but definitely not my first choice. Finally, I went to the Beck Mountain Corn Maze. The line to the haunted house was extremely short, and upon entering we traversed through many rooms in a long house full of costumed actors. The makeup and costumes were well done, and so was the acting. The whole house felt narrow, as if there was no other way but forward, even including a small crawl space that you had to climb through, which made the house feel more engaging than the rest. After exiting, you come upon a corn maze a quarter of a mile long, with twists and turns that lengthen the experience. Although it was more of a labyrinth as it followed a sole path. There were a handful of actors hiding in the cornfield who would move around and sneak up on us, and could rev their chainsaws to scare us, but all jumpscares, like haunted houses, become boring after a time. All things considered, Stickley's is best for its effort, length, and proximity. Although if the long waits bother you, then Beck Mountain Corn Maze would be my number two choice. The Haunted Forest was still enjoyable, and I would encourage you to visit any one you please as I had a phenomenal time at all of them. With a group of friends to keep things less tense and more lighthearted, and good humor to laugh off any embarrassing frights, any haunted house can become a memorable experience.



# The Many Faces of Agnes: Who was she?

Continued from front page...

By Rachel Kent and Ruth Rose

As the article states, she “drowned in eight feet of water at the Monroe Calculating Machine Company pool.” She was last seen by a plant maintenance man at about 1:45pm sitting along-side the pool. It wasn’t until 2:35pm that she was found by Mrs. Marshall Hoskins and her three sons. Because she was swimming alone, no one knows what time the

tragedy occurred. She was taken by fireman and member of the Life Saving Crew, Bill Bolling. When he arrived at the scene, he immediately retrieved her body and began efforts to revive her. Despite using a resuscitator, administering artificial respiration, and giving heart injections, medics were unable to save her. Strangely enough, Bolling had been her next door neighbor, but did not recognize her body. It wasn’t until later he was told her identity.

Shortly after her death are when reports of the paranormal at Tennessee High began. The name “Agnes” was given to this apparent ghost to respect Wilma while separating her life from the legend. So, in learning all this, the real question revealed itself: Who was Wilma Jean Meade? Wilma Jean Meade was regarded as one of Tennessee High’s best students. She even won an award for best work in history as well as second place honors in home economics.

Although she was still a student, she was beginning her course as a part of the Diversified Occupations Program and was employed part-time with the Federal Credit Union at Monroe. The 1954 yearbook memorial expresses, “she was popular with everyone for her friendly smile and her friendly disposition.” Though we don’t know much about her, one thing’s for sure - Wilma Jean was a lovely girl taken from this world far too soon. May she rest in peace.

**GO TO THE CAMPSITE: Would you survive a Wendigo? Continued...**  
By Lilly Chafin

You take a step back listening to the voice again. “Something doesn’t feel right,” you mumble. As you stand in the forest, you remember what Rylee said about the wendigo mimicking voices. You turn back and sprint for the camp site. The voice follows close behind with booming footsteps, still calling but sounding less and less like Rylee. You pick up the pace as the footsteps slow down behind. Regardless, you keep running, until you bump into something. “Alex?” You ask, looking at your friend. “Oh there you are!” Rylee says, relieved. Alex sighs, “We were looking for you!” “Guys...I think I ran into a wendigo!” You say, still shocked. Rylee stares at you for a second in shock, until a noise comes from

behind you. Booming footsteps get closer until... nothing. The forest grows quiet again. You look around frantically to find nothing but forest. You turn back to see your friends gone, replaced with a 15-foot-tall creature with the body of a deer and giant fangs that fill its mouth. Its fur is matted and covered in dirt and leaves. Its claws are attached to long lanky arms. Its rib cage and bodily organs seep through its skin. Its eyes glow at you as it creeps closer.

GAME OVER. YOU LOSE.



Artwork by Joan Weddington

**KEEP DRIVING: Would you survive a Wendigo? Continued...**  
By Lilly Chafin

You look at the forest again. Something in your stomach tells you to keep driving. You look in the rearview mirror as you see your shirt get farther away. From behind tree, out steps a creature standing about 15-feet-tall, slightly hunched over. Its body is similar to a deer, with long fangs filling its mouth, and glowing eyes. Its fur is matted and dirty. Its long claws are attached to its long and skinny arms, and its torso is so thin its rib cage can be seen through its skin. It quickly sprints after you, following close behind. You pick up speed slightly as it reaches closer.

Alex shouts “What the heck is that?!” Rylee stares wide eyed and whispers, “a wendigo”. The creature reaches closer and closer to the car until it lunges to try to grab on. The creature nearly grazes the car, but misses and leaves a claw mark down the back. You sigh in relief and keep driving, as the beast disappears in the distance.

YOU WIN!

Over the years, things began to grow tremendously, from a graveyard to a haunted forest, to a tent full of circus clowns, singing pumpkins, and skeletons with banjos, I can safely say we get plenty of trick-or-treaters now. People even come by to see the display weeks before Halloween as part of their own family’s tradition. My sister, Lauren Eckley, states, “The Halloween display has been a way my family and I have gotten to know the community. We’ve met some of the kindest and most interesting people that we probably would have never crossed paths with [otherwise].” It is a lot of work to put out, but seeing kids running around or even adults getting startled or jump scared makes it all worth it. Since most of the props aren’t meant to be used outside, given they are indoor products, we take them inside every night. The only things that stay are the ones that are

practically nailed into the ground like lights and fencing, or that are too heavy to carry, like columns or support beams. I was even curious myself how long it took to bring everything inside, so I timed the past few full nights and it averaged at 47 minutes from start to finish. I wouldn’t trade these memories for the world. As a young kid my friends and I would run around the yard during the day and at night, making games and having fun. After my sister left for college this school year, I thought Halloween decorating might have been coming to its end with Lauren having such a vital role in it all, but that wasn’t the case. I don’t know how many more years I have left following this tradition, but I do know that so far, each year has been better than the last, and I can’t wait to see what is in store for the future.

## The Eckley’s Halloween Display

By Callie Eckley

With 96 batteries, over 60 extension cords, 50 animatronics/props, 46 lights, 41 corn shocks, 13 tombstones, 11 projectors, 5 straw bales, 4 fog machines, 3 people, and 1 holiday, it sounds like the Eckley’s Halloween yard display is finishing up, but as a member of the family, I know this is just the beginning. My family decorates a lot for Halloween, and it is a tradition that has been going on for as long as I can remember. There is one question that a lot of people ask, and sometimes I find myself asking the same thing: “How does something like this even happen?” About 11 years ago my older sister, who was only 7 at the time, had an issue. She didn’t like how we only had a few trick-or-treaters every Halloween. Our neighborhood was quiet and uneventful even on what seemed like the biggest night of the year for kids. She thought that maybe

some decorations would attract more people, so we bought a single witch animatronic. It sat on the front porch, but, in all reality, it didn’t do much. We needed something more.





# Pumpkin Spice is NOT Everything Nice

By Sheany Regules

As fall emerges, so do the infamous pumpkin spice products. As I explored Bristol, Tennessee, to find anything pumpkin spice, I discovered there is pumpkin spice everything. There's pumpkin spice coffee creamer, pie, jello, cinnamon rolls, muffins, tea, and of course lattes. The list could go on forever. However, is pumpkin spice worth the hype it obtains every year?

I began by trying the coffee creamer which I expected to be the best. To be

completely honest, it just made my delicious coffee bitter and it ended up ruining my morning. On a scale of 1-10 I would rate it a solid 1. Second, I tried a pumpkin spice latte from starbucks. This was my very first time trying it and I can say without a doubt that it was the most horrendous drink I've ever had in my life. Not only was it bitter but I couldn't tell what all was in my drink, which made it even worse. Not knowing the ingredients in this

horrendous drink reminded me of the jokes about school meatloaf and the "unknown meat."

As I began feeling more adventurous, I tried the cinnamon rolls and muffins. These tasted like everything you wouldn't want your food to taste like. I believed the worst was behind me until I ate pumpkin spice jello. The texture made the taste 1000% worse. It tasted as if I was eating a spoonful of pumpkin seeds with some cinnamon

on top of it as garnish.

After tasting almost everything pumpkin spice, I can say pumpkin spice is overrated. The only way I would purchase pumpkin spice anything is either for the "aesthetic" or to get back at my siblings in an evil way. Pumpkin spice does not deserve the hype it gets every year and to this day I wonder who came up with pumpkin spice jello. Here and now starts my petition to get rid of pumpkin spice products forever.

# The Mullet and You

By Nyla Surber

Mullets. They've been around for decades, being fashioned by rockers, skaters, athletes, K-pop members, and the LGBTQ+ community alike. The most well-known demographic has been the country type, but recently, it seems to have shifted to high school boys. Have you ever wondered why that is? What spell has been cast not only over the school, but seemingly the world that has entranced so many people to specifically style their hair this way?

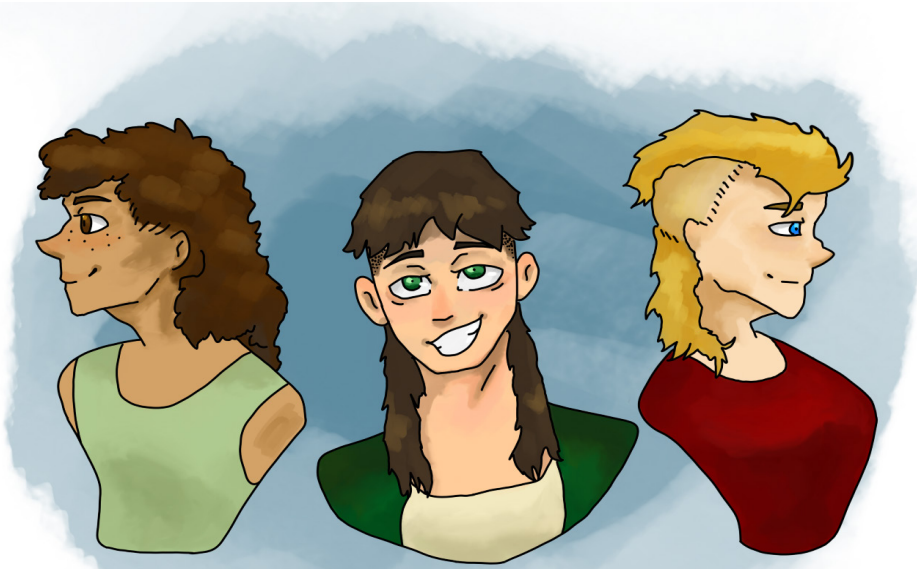
Now, this could be said about most every hairstyle, so what makes the mullet any more special than, say, an undercut? Undercuts, along with many other styles, are typically agreed to look good no matter the wearer and are much more modern. Mullets, however, have been dated as a retro style more popular in the 70's and 80's. When you ask someone their thoughts, it is just as likely for them to laugh as it is for them to genuinely love the style.

Initially, I believed that people wearing mullets, along with most people following any sort of trend or doing something "their dad liked to do when he was a kid," are morphing into a stereotype in order to be associated with it. To explain, I have often overdone the fact I listen

to songs by Metallica or Nirvana, not because I want to share my music taste, but because I want people to associate me with the disturbed and disruptive group they imagine when I

drawn to fit in with that group. Most THS boys wearing mullets, aside from a few, had similar tastes and ideas on where the mullet came from. They preferred the country over

boys with mullets] the most." Although other demographics—such as K-pop and the LGBTQ+ community—rock mullets, that did not seem to faze most country boys. Freshman Mason Campbell said, "I didn't expect [that group of people to wear mullets], but it doesn't change how I look at [mine]." THS mullet-wearers do not seem to be trying to prove themselves to anybody. They know who they are. However, this does not mean that they are not trend-followers. "When there's something new, everyone rushes to it [and] wears it out... People want to be different," Campbell said. Blevins added, "People want to do what's in the now. What's popular." Wanting to try something new or do what is popular is not a bad thing, especially when it comes to these students. Ultimately, knowing who one is—such as a country boy—and wearing a hairstyle that most people in our region associate with country boys—is a sign of personal pride. These guys own their mullets and are true to themselves. They are business in the front and party in the back all the way. They're using the trend to further identify themselves as who they've always been, not simply going with the flow.



Artwork by Nyla Surber

## CHECK OUT THE ITEM: Would you survive a Wendigo? Continued...

By Lilly Chafin

You tell your friends that you see your shirt and you pull over on the side of the road. You get out of the car, your friends following behind.

You reach the tree line and pick up your shirt. You see a hairbrush further into the forest. You take a few steps to get a better look and call to your friend.

"Hey Alex, I think that's your

hairbrush."

You get no response.

"Alex?" You call again.

You turn around to look for your friends, but no one is there.

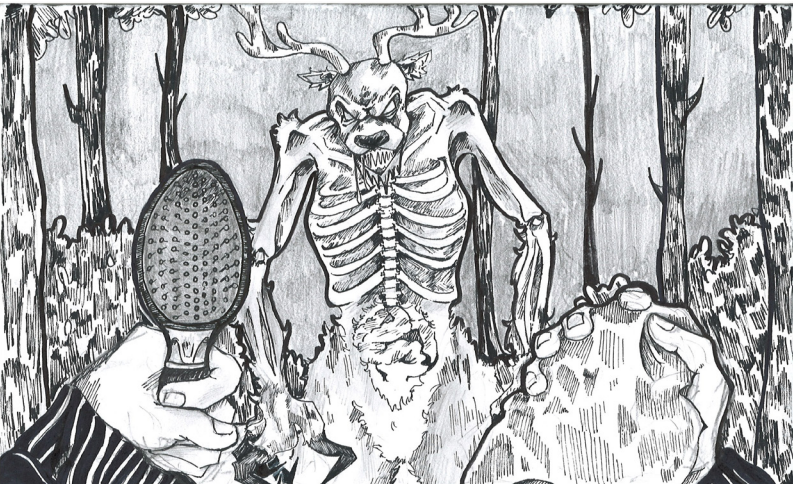
"Rylee? Alex?" you shout.

A gust of wind hits you. You shield your eyes from the wind as it pushes you back. You stumble until you fall to the ground.

You open your eyes to find a 15-foot-tall creature, with the body of a deer, and giant fangs that fill its mouth. It's fur is matted and covered in dirt and leaves. Its claws are attached to its long lanky arms. Its rib cage and bodily

organs show through its skin. Its eyes glow at you as it gets closer.

**GAME OVER. YOU LOSE.**



Artwork by Joan Weddington



# THS Meme of the Month

By Ruth Rose



# Feta Pasta Recipe!

By Lilly Chafin

- For this recipe you will need:
- 4 cups cherry tomatoes
  - 8 oz. feta cheese (preferably block form but crumbled is fine)
  - Drizzle of olive oil (or vegetable oil)
  - Chopped garlic (or garlic powder)
  - Salt
  - Pepper
  - Noodles (of your choice)

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees
- Pour cherry tomatoes into baking dish
- Add olive oil, garlic, salt, and pepper into the dish
- Stir all together until tomatoes are coated
- Push the tomatoes to the side to create an opening, put feta in the opening
- Cook the tomatoes and feta in the dish for 35-40 minutes
- While tomatoes are cooking, boil pasta
- Once tomatoes and feta are done mush and stir until combined
- Drain noodles and add them to the dish
- Enjoy!

# October Playlist

By Callie Eckley

- “Harsh Augmented Reality” – Strawberry Mountain  
“Mourning Sound” – Grizzly Bear  
“In The Heat Of The Morning” – The Last Shadow Puppets, Alex Turner  
“Put a Light On” – Generationals  
“Vacancy” – FlooringCo.  
“Fairhaven Station” – tanner.  
“Kilby Girl” – The Backseat Lovers  
“Out of Tune” – The Backseat Lovers  
“Agnes” – Glass Animals  
“It Takes Time to Be a Man” – The Rapture  
“Under the Sun” – DIIV  
“Take A Slice” – Glass Animals

## GO TOWARDS THE VOICE: Would you survive a Wendigo? Continued...

By Lilly Chafin

You follow Rylee’s voice. You reach a small clearing in the forest. The forest gets quiet again, until the only thing you can hear is the wind howling and Rylee’s voice coming from all directions.

“Come here!” The distorted sound echoes.

The wind pushes you back and you shield your eyes. When you open your eyes and look up, you see IT: a creature standing about 15-feet-tall, with the body of what looks similar to a deer, with long fangs filling its mouth, and glowing eyes. Its fur is matted and dirty, it has long claws attached to its long and skinny arms. Its torso is so thin its rib cage pokes through its skin. It towers over you.

GAME OVER. YOU LOSE.



Artwork by Joan Weddington

# Word of the Month

By Nathaniel Morefield

- Sepulchral** *adj.*
- relating to a tomb or internment
  - gloomy; dismal



(Definitions from Oxford Languages)

Artwork by Lilly Chafin

# Are you basic?

By Rachel Kent

1. Do you find yourself only ordering pumpkin cream cold brews or pumpkin spice lattes during this time of year?
2. Are you planning on being a devil or an angel for Halloween? Even more basic is if you were planning to be Harley Quinn.
3. If you go to the pumpkin patch and take pictures with specifically just the tiny pumpkins, or if you take one in the middle of the patch in general.
4. Do you still own a pair of UGGS?
5. Have you or are you planning on binge watching all eight of the Harry Potter films or The Twilight Saga?

**Scoring:**  
5/5= The Most Basic As One Could Be    4/5 = Getting up there...    3/5= Honestly same    2/5= Wow you’re not like everyone else    1/5= I actually don’t know how you did that



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