

THE BLOTTER

Serving the community

Students, staff put in thousands of hours volunteering

By Laiken Swinney

Teens get the reputation that they lay in their beds or scroll on social media for hours on end each day.

Forty-seven percent of teenagers say they are “constantly” checking their phones, and 66 percent even said that they feel anxious when they don’t have their smartphones, according to Cross River Therapy.

However, hundreds of teens at NAHS stay after school, and even come by on weekends, to volunteer around our local community and make strangers’ days better.

Community service isn’t just feeding the homeless or walking dogs at the local shelter, it’s an act of kindness and maturity. High school teens are the main group that are targeted as prime examples of providing volunteer work to their community. NAHS groups such as Anchor Club, JROTC, Be a Better Bulldog Leaders, and more have been built and developed to make community service hands-on, fun, and educational.

Sponsors of these groups work day and night to make sure that the events run along smoothly, and even have years of volunteer experience themselves.

NJROTC Lieutenant Commander Michael Cluver has volunteered thousands of hours himself, and devotes much of his time

to leading the cadets and providing them with opportunities to do good for the community.

“I perform between 400-500 hours of community service each year, approximately 300 hours leading the JROTC cadets, and 200 on my own personal time,” Commander Cluver said.

He also details how his own time in the Navy influenced him to want to always keep helping people, especially veterans, that struggle with depression or PTSD.

“I will never forget the thanks, and sometimes tears, when we completed a project; and the results we got to see for how it can greatly impact people. Not all service is life-changing, but most of it is necessary,” Commander said.

Cadets say Commander Cluver always encourages them to keep doing volunteer work.

“We have a number that we have to reach, which is normally 4,000, but we decided to push that a little further and do 5,000,” junior Chance Phillipy said. “He always wants us to do as much as we can, and be the best version of ourselves that we can be.”



Junior Anchor Club members Anna Sekula, Lily Wray, Karisma Woodlock and sponsor Mrs. Stephanie Lone serve ice cream floats to teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Some students take community service more seriously than others; some do it only for a good look for college and scholarships, but many also actually care about bringing back a little joy in the community.

“I know a lot of people just [volunteer] or get hours for their applications to jobs or colleges, but they don’t actually really care about the people they’re helping,” freshman Isabela Sanchez said.

These top hour-earners believe that helping others is a hidden passion of theirs, and they genuinely enjoy lending a helping hand to someone that is in need.

A lot of stigma surrounds helping the less fortunate, and people view it as a way to only gain praise and exploit real-life problems that people face.

“A lot of people think that someone

Dates to Know

Final Exams

2nd & 5th - 5/26

3rd & 6th - 5/30

1st, 4th, 7th* - 5/31

(*Seniors 7th period final 5/25)

Senior Baccalaureate: 5/16

NAHS Auditorium 6:30 p.m.

Class Night: 5/24

NAHS Main Gym 6 p.m.

Senior Recognition Assembly: 5/25

Senior Graduation Practice

5/26 & 5/31

3rd Period

Last Student Day: 5/31

Senior Graduation: 6/4

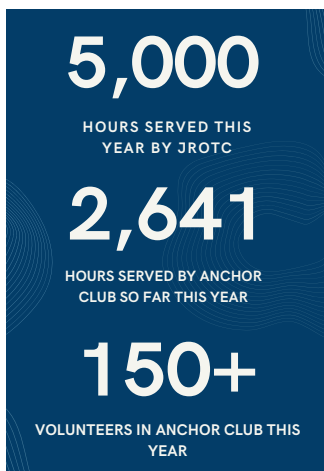
NAHS Main Gym 1 p.m.

who does community service all the time has to be nice, like the ‘good kid, or the goodie-two shoes,’ freshman Emma Lesnet said.

The main culprits of these harmful stereotypes are the homeless population across the US. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH), about 580,466 people in the US alone were experiencing homelessness or poverty. That data is just from 2020, right about the time when Covid-19 started gaining traction.

“I think since Covid [the homeless population] was kind of on a high, it’s been kind of hard to bring it back down considering that, if someone’s homeless, it’s harder for them to find a job without access to hygiene and stuff like that,” Phillipy said.

See **VOLUNTEERING** p. 11



Sense of safety threatened

Recent mass shootings leave students feeling unsafe

By Charlie Bott

School shootings are becoming more common today and hitting close to home after the bank shooting in Louisville in April.

"I feel safe [at school] mostly," freshman Elaina Kays said. "It doesn't really cross my mind when I'm in the normal flow of the school day, focusing on work and assignments, the safety of school is the last thing on my mind."

Only 20.8% of the 96 NAHS students polled said they feel safe while at school.

"Throughout the school day most of the time I feel fairly safe," junior Logan Papp said. "But I do notice myself at times wondering when someone's knocking at the door of a classroom if I'm gonna hear a gunshot when it opens."

NAHS administrators say they are doing all that they can to keep students safe.

"Teachers and administrators are assigned morning supervision starting at 7:20," Assistant Principal Kelly Payne said.

51.6% of students polled said they don't feel like the drills help prepare them for if an event were to occur at school.

"I wish teachers went more into detail with drills," Kays said, "Instead of treating it as something they have to do that wastes time."

These drills, while not giving some students a feeling of safety, also don't make sense to some students.

"The only safety precautions I know that the school has in place for guests is that they have to wear a sticker saying that they're a guest," Papp said.

Guests are required to check in with school personnel at door 1.

Although drills are in place for what to do during an emergency, they are only practiced once a month and some stu-

dents say they don't retain the routes since they aren't practiced often.

"Drills are really the only primary practiced safety precaution, but I wouldn't really consider them foolproof," Papp said.

"We do [drills] by state code," Mrs. Payne said, "We do exactly what the state asks us to do."

During an active shooter drill for example, students gather away from the windows, but this doesn't help the students if an active shooter were to actually enter the building and approach from the classroom door.

"I feel a lot of students are vocal to the school about their concerns," Kays said. "I've had a few conversations among friends and I feel they've always had a concern but they never share it, and I'm sure there's an extent to where schools can improve safety which no one wants to cross the line asking."

But students can help ensure their safety on school grounds.

"I would ask all students to ask themselves those 'what if?' questions," Mrs. Payne said.

If there were to be an intruder when a student is not in their classroom with an

adult the student would have to think on their feet

"I ask that you think of what you would do beforehand," Mrs. Payne said. "I can never tell you to run out the door or to

put your feet up [in the stall] because it depends on the situation."

Administrators always recommend: "If you see something, say something," Mrs. Payne said. "And never ever, ever open an exterior door for someone."

This year there have been 19 school shootings resulting in injuries or death, according to EdWeek.

"Honestly I don't really believe that the administration would listen to any suggestions about safety procedures," Papp said. Students aren't the only ones thinking about safety.

"Because of the world we live in now, I absolutely do fear something happening to me or my students at school," science teacher Amanda McCoy said.

Teachers oftentimes have to protect their students in an active shooter situation, not only putting their life at risk but also having the responsibility of keeping their students safe.

"I always come to school on our 'threat days' if you want to call them that," Spanish teacher Ben Brown said. "Because I think to myself, I am the person most prepared to keep my students safe."

Some teachers take to social media to express their concern for their safety while at work, talking about how they signed up to teach not to put their lives at stake daily.

"I think it's every teacher's job to put students' safety as priority number one," Mr. Brown said.

Teachers with children, or a significant other who also works at the school, have to worry about their safety while they are at work.

"My children are school aged and my husband and I are both teachers," Mrs. McCoy said. "In a few years with my children in our building, one event could wipe out my entire family. It is very scary to consider."

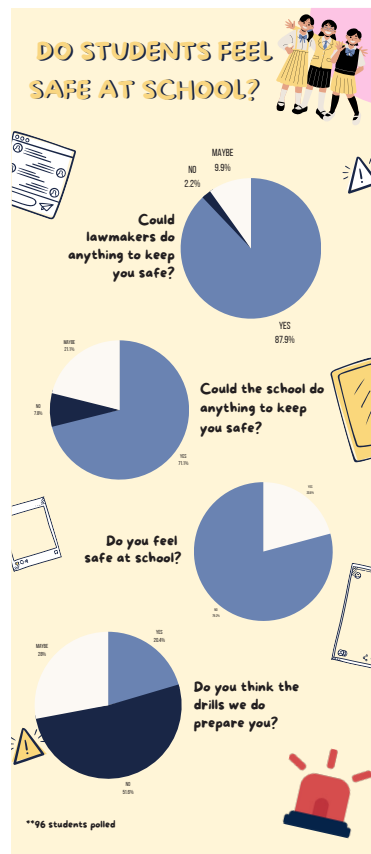
This is the same situation for students if they have siblings in the building or that attend another school.

"I don't think that anyone is truly prepared," Mr. Brown said. "You just do the best that you can."

All this worry and stress can catch up to both students and teachers during their day to day lives, and potentially cause mental health issues such as depressive and anxiety symptoms, according to the National Institutes of Health.

"I would love to have some real conversations with folks that have gone through the worst of situations and have practical discussions about things that made a difference," Mrs. McCoy said.

"I think it's always helpful to prepare for the unexpected," Mr. Brown said.



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A new generation of smokers

Teen vaping increases, local non-profit Our Place offers help

By Kaytlin Cahill

In last year alone, 2.55 million US middle and high school students were recorded caught with a vape, according to the CDC. The CDC says that e-cigarettes and vapes are one of their top priorities to stop, and aren't planning on giving up just yet.

Casey Nesmith, the Prevention Services Coordinator from local prevention center Our Place, says vaping is targeted towards students and now they are suffering because of it. Our Place is a nonprofit organization that offers classes to help students who are struggling with addictions.

Nesmith has worked with both NAHS and Our Place for nine years. Nesmith says that even though students have a very unlimited access to vapes and other substances, there is always a reason behind it.

"No one uses drugs for no reason," Nesmith said.

From last year alone 10.3 percent of seniors were reported vaping in school and about 6 percent of sophomores reported they had vapes, according to a student poll taken by Our Place from NAHS and FCHS. Nesmith gives some helpful tips on how to slow your addiction.

"Ask for help," Nesmith said. "Nicotine is very addictive and a difficult thing to just stop. Find a replacement habit. Chew gum, distract yourself with something."

The Our Place classes are a great way to cope with your addiction, according to Nesmith.

He says that the best way to help with an addiction is to be open to the information provided about the specific issue, if they are unwilling to learn, their recovery will be more difficult.

"[A message I'd like to give to vaping students is] we're here to help. Nothing we offer is punitive or meant to be a

punishment, even though it might feel that way sometimes," Nesmith said. "Whether you've never used, it's your first time trying it, or you have an addiction, we want everyone to have the opportunity to become the best version of themselves and that never includes abusing drugs."

E-cigarettes are the most commonly used tobacco products among kids, with nearly 12 percent of high school students nationwide using e-cigarettes and about 20% using at least one tobacco product, according to the American Lung Association.

Like other schools across the nation, vaping is occurring in restrooms; some teachers have restricted bathroom passes to deter this.

Assistant Principal Joshua Nall says administrators walk the halls trying to make sure students are in class.

"[Vaping] can become a habit because of its accessibility," Nall said. "Everyone has unlimited access to these products."

The American Lung Association reports that 31% of youth is drawn to vaping because of the many flavors of

vapor, which invite them in. Another 17% believe that 'they are less harmful than other forms of tobacco such as cigarettes'.

"I really feel like with [Our Place] classes that the number of students has decreased from the start of the year to now," Nall said.

He says how the offenses work, how tickets are used as well as in-school suspensions and out-of-school suspensions for later offenses.

Nall has advice for students: don't let other students' actions control what you do. Don't follow someone else's action if it's wrong.

One sophomore who has never vaped says his peers need to educate themselves before vaping.

"I've been offered stuff but never accepted it," sophomore Dwayne Waingeh said. "If there was one thing I'd like to say is peer pressure is the worst drug."

Students also say that they are suffering while vaping. A sophomore and a junior tell us their stories.

"I think quitting is all in the mindset of if you really want to quit [vaping], like genuinely you can, it's just going to take motivation," the junior said. "If you don't have the willingness to quit then

you're not going to be able to."

The junior says it's constantly in the back of their mind and never leaves, just tamed when you give it what it needs. They have been vaping for about a year now.

"I started vaping because I went against the authority of someone who tried to tell me I couldn't, who I didn't think had the authority to tell me I couldn't," the junior said. "Don't do it because someone else says you can't. Don't do it because a friend is doing it."

A sophomore said they are struggling with vaping as well and have been doing it for a little over a year. They say that it has negatively affected their day-to-day life.

"I started vaping because I had an eating disorder and I wish I went and talked to somebody about it rather than just going for the thing that takes my appetite away," the sophomore said. "And now that I don't have an eating disorder, I'm just stuck with an addiction that affects me worse than an eating disorder did."

The sophomore says how it has affected their physical health and changed their eating habits for the worst. They say that if you are considering vaping, just don't, it's not worth it.

"If you do vape, don't let someone else try it who hasn't before," the sophomore said. "Don't be the cause of someone else's addiction."

"If you ever consider vaping, think about the guilt you'll feel from not telling your parents, the real punishment is the punishment you put on yourself, not the one the adults do," the junior said.

Education about these addictive substances can help students at all stages. If you are already struggling with an addiction, reach out to your counselors for help.

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College credit confusion

Some students face difficulties transferring credits

By Lila Endres

Dual credit classes are available to students starting sophomore year, but many aren't aware of the pros and cons of taking them.

Students have the opportunity to earn high school and college credits at the same time by taking Ivy Tech dual credit classes.

Taking these classes that students are interested in can help them get ahead for college or begin to figure out what they are interested in pursuing after graduation.

Earning college credit in high school has also saved students thousands of dollars on their post-secondary education. With this being said, there is also more to consider when signing up for these classes.

Ivy Tech's Assistant Director of Dual Credit Carly Lynch says there are many positives to taking dual credit classes.

"[Students should take dual credit classes for] a lot of reasons, but most importantly to challenge yourself academically and realize what you are capable of accomplishing," Lynch said. "Earning high school graduation credit, while also earning college credit is also very important. Successfully completing dual credit coursework in high school can save you tens of thousands

of dollars in tuition if you choose to pursue a degree after high school graduation."

While planning junior year schedules, many students are introduced to the opportunity of earning a general associate's degree (60 college credit hours) or the Indiana College Core (30 college credit hours). This is often advertised to students that are "close to the mark already". Many of these students then take summer classes or switch up their schedule to fit another dual credit class in.

"There is an Indiana state law requiring all public colleges and universities to accept all the credits earned by students earning the Indiana College Core while in high school," Lynch said. "The Indiana College Core is a package of 30 college credit hours. We have students call us every summer with questions about colleges accepting credits, we always help them navigate those conversations to make sure they are getting accurate information about their college choice."

Although the Indiana College Core Degree often transfers most of the credits, the associate's degree does not trans-

fer all 60 credits seamlessly. Students have found that some of the credits will end up as electives if they are not on path for your post-high school degree.

For example, if a student is a math major and their degree does not require a science credit, all of the science dual credits this student earned during high school would perhaps transfer as elective credit and would not necessarily get the student closer to his/her degree.

Senior Natalie Saydera plans to attend the University of Louisville and major in biology. Saydera is graduating with 60 college credit hours and has taken dual credit classes in all of the subject areas.

"I think most of them are worth taking because they are already on my diploma track and courses that interest me," Saydera said. "But, I also took one over the summer and one on top of my high school work last nine weeks which was difficult and only went towards my Ivy Tech diploma, which was not worth it."

Senior Jordan Meurer plans to attend Indiana State University and major in education. Meurer has taken a wide-spread of dual credit classes including radio, AP US History, AP English, and

pre-calculus.

"I personally don't believe the dual credit information was relayed correctly because we were told that all colleges in Indiana would take them but I've found out over time that that is indeed not true," Meurer said. "I feel if you are interested in a certain college and want the credits you should research and see if they do or not before you put in all the work."

According to IU Bloomington credit transfer service, "Most course credits from approved schools will transfer to IU as long as we offer an equivalent or comparable course."

Some AP and dual credit courses can be challenging and taught at a higher level than other high school classes. This can be too much for some students to take on all at once. Picking a couple college level classes they are interested in instead of trying to take them all can be better for many students.

College level classes have benefits, but also can be a challenge. Checking the transfer portal and possible future major requirements before signing up can help prevent students from wasting their time and get the most out of their dual credits from high school.





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AI BOT IS TYPING...



Free Snapchat feature “lands” on students’ phones

By Abigail Lewis

A new trend sweeping the popular instant messaging app, the Snapchat AI bot has become both a fun activity to play around with as well as a critical safety concern in the minds of many.

The Snapchat AI is not necessarily a new thing, as the feature was introduced the week of June 22, 2022 when Snapchat + was rolled out to paid members. Now, starting in April 2023, the My AI ChatBot started to be released to “free users” on an individual basis, according to *The Verge*.

“[The AI bot] is convenient,” sophomore Bryan Ramirez said. “Those who use Snapchat are usually on there and you could just ask it for help as it sort of mimics the known ChatGPT. Snapchat says its use is to be your friend, but I think that would be an artificial feeling pulled from pre chosen messages.”

Sophomore Ayssa Berryman agrees that messages do not feel organic as they come from a system of responses. The OpenAI, powered by ChatGPT, was designed to “offer advice on the perfect gift for your BFF’s birthday, help plan a hiking trip for a long weekend, or suggest what to make for dinner,” not necessarily be the user’s best friend, according to Snapchat Support.

“I use My AI when I am bored and just want to see what it does. It’s not as interesting as I thought since all the responses seem more automated,” Berryman said. “I don’t think AI is a good idea since people will use it to talk instead of creating bonds and talking to actual people.”

Some have taken an instant liking to the AI and even named it and customized their appearance, which is just a simple Bitmoji that functions like any other Bitmoji on the site. Others, like Berryman, have only customized their appearance to soothe their minds.

“I didn’t choose a name for my AI because the whole thing in general freaks me out, I don’t wanna associate with it as a ‘friend,’” Berryman said. “I did customize my AI, I gave it a more neutral look, however keeping a blue skin tone to make it seem like the AI so I don’t confuse it as a person and accidentally snap it.”

Ramirez says he has not become attached to his AI and only casually messages it for fun.

“I have no physical attachment [to my AI Bot]. I don’t really care about it necessarily,” Ramirez said. “Sure I’ll text it occasionally but no I haven’t named it yet and I don’t think I will.”

Berryman agrees and furthers by saying the whole idea of AI becoming more accessible freaks her out. Ramirez claims the topic used to fascinate him but now has become annoying.

“I first was curious and explored what it could do but I got kind of tired of the whole overexaggerated idea of an AI taking over everything,” Ramirez said. “Maybe this publicity stunt will cause worry and then scare away those that were using Snapchat.”

“I do see Snapchat benefitting from the AI having more users install the app out of pure interest, and playing around with the AI,” Berryman said. “Along with using the AI for homework answers and cheating.”

For all users, the paper writing function of the ChatGPT frame has been disabled on the Snapchat AI Bot. Ramirez said that the AI Bot can still be used to help with school work and further explained that if people are stuck picking a topic or finding an idea, AI could speed up the process.

“I think it helps speed up unnecessarily long things and gives me ideas as well such as story ideas like ChatGTP or such as other sites used,” Ramirez said.

Berryman said she strongly believes AI is a bad thing because it either takes up unnecessary space, or is used for negative reasons.

“I believe that the negatives outweigh the positives, because in reality the majority of the users don’t and won’t really use it, and if they did it would more than likely be used for cheating in school,” Berryman said. “Along with that it’s too automated and doesn’t feel like you’re even talking to a real person so it gets boring relatively quickly.”

Ramirez herself, is less sure of how he feels in all about AIs in general.

“I think [AIs] won’t cause much of a change for me at least but I think it might cause a stir,” Ramirez said. “But, I guess it’s for the better for progress.”

As of right now, everybody who is willing to pay \$3.99 for Snapchat Premium has access to the AI Bot. If a user does not want to pay the charge, Snapchat’s goal is to provide each of the 750 million users with an AI Bot, but there is not a public date this is to be accomplished by, according to Snapchat CEO Evan Spiegel.

Regardless of their individual opinions, Ramirez, Berryman, and Coffey all agree that AI makes it much easier for people to cheat on homework and school work in general, which could contribute to more people utilizing the feature and app.

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“I think it helps speed up unnecessarily long things and gives me ideas as well such as story ideas like ChatGTP or such as other sites used,” Ramirez said.



MUSIC MADNESS

The music taste of NAHS

-By Stella Klaus

ISABELLA FRANTZ//11

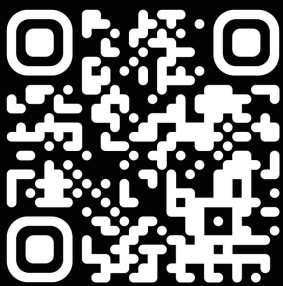


CALLIE WALKER//19



MELEA MASON//12

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Music music music. All day. All night.

Junior Isabella Frantz says she even listens to music while she sleeps. "I'm a very big musical person. I'm in band, jazz band, I collect vinyl, and I'm a part of my own band," Frantz said. Music, especially her favorite - indie pop, has helped her through many tough times. She loves music so much that she started a band just about three weeks ago. "It's an all-female band that is going to blow the minds of New Albany," Frantz said.

Drowning in her music, freshman Callie Walker walks through the hallways of school blocking out the sounds. "I like how you can kind of disappear into your own world," Walker said. Walker got interested in older music like The Smiths this year when she met some friends that enjoyed that type of music. Some of her top artists right now are The Smiths, My Bloody Valentine, and Lana Del Ray.

When it comes to her music taste, senior Melea Mason likes everything. "I like some 90s rap, I like a lot of popular stuff that was popular in 2010 like Ke\$ha and I listen to some Katy Perry, then I have a metal playlist too, so I like that sometimes," Mason said. Mason is also part of a band called Abstract Agenda that does covers and has one original song; her favorite thing is writing her own lyrics. "I'm pretty proud because, I mean, for a while I was only able to write really sad songs and now I've at least written one song that's not sad," Mason said. You can listen to her song "Ice Cream" on Spotify and Apple Music.

Influenced by his dad, sophomore Ronald Webster's favorite genre has been R&B and rap since he was five. "It is just kind of what I was around most," Webster said. Webster, who listens to music "all the time, every day," said his top artists right now are Daniel Caesar, Tyler the Creator, Childish Gambino, Frank Ocean, and JAY-Z. "I just like a lot of stuff, I listen to a lot," Webster said.

"I'm a metalhead," senior Amanda Richeson said. Although her music taste is varied and she is also a hardcore Taylor Swift fan, Richeson grew up listening to metal with her parents. "It just kind of scratches my brain like it clicks and I feel like it can be really technical sometimes and I like the way that it's very complex," Richeson said. One of her favorite things to do is go to concerts. "I've spent like hundreds of dollars on concert tickets, hundreds... no I'm up to thousands now," Richeson said.

Although the rap name Lil Elf might be a joke now, junior Finn Railey says enjoys being able to rap and be creative. "If I make something, I'm like, 'yeah, that came from my head' and I completely understand all of it," Railey said. When it comes to listening to music Railey mainly listens to hip hop. "The base and the lyrical ability that people use I just love listening to," Railey said. His dad introduced him to hip hop and classic rock as a kid and he still enjoys it though his taste has evolved to some more modern stuff. You can listen to his album *Outta Town* on Spotify.

RONALD
WEBSTER//10



FINN
RAILEY//11



AMANDA
RICHESON//12



RICHIE
WEIGLEB//19

From Cannibal Corpse to The Smiths, freshman Richie Weigleb has a diverse music taste. “Anything ranging from rock to alternative or metal,” Weigleb said. Both his dad and uncle got him into music and he started listening to rock and metal when he was in third grade and hasn’t stopped since. “I love the emotional lyrics, the way the instruments are arranged and I love their overall performances on stage, concerts are great,” Weigleb said. Siva is the name of his band that plays covers and has fun, however recently Weigleb and his cousins have started a serious band writing originals called Delirium. They haven’t put anything out yet, but are excited too.

Seventh grade geography class was where senior Kayleigh Shireman first heard her now favorite genre of music, K-pop. “We were learning about South Korea and my teacher played a couple songs. That was the first day I started listening to it,” Shireman said. She listens to music 24 hours a day and enjoys being able to read the English words of K-pop songs. “People should give K-pop a try before judging it,” Shireman said.

“A lot of it is aggressive, it’s made by people who just decided to start a band so it’s not super polished it’s not corporate it’s just made by people who want to make music and it seems more genuine,” senior Pierson Scott said about his favorite music genres, punk and black metal. Scott likes to play music too and will play along to songs he is listening to. In addition to that he is also in his own band called BlveTongve. “Everything we record is stuff that we write, but in our shows we do have some covers,” Scott said. His band plays music very similar to what he listens to and it even gets compared to a band he listens to called Mayhem. You can listen to BlveTongve on Spotify and Apple Music.

KAYLEIGH SHIREMAN//12



PIERSON SCOTT//12

A one-way ticket to disaster

Ticketmaster crash makes Swifties scramble

By Nick Prince

“It took forever to get tickets. I didn’t even get tickets initially. I got an email about being invited to request tickets because I got the presale code but I never got tickets,” sophomore Sophia Sharp said.

This is an experience that is all-too-familiar for millions of people across the country. With Taylor Swift’s *Eras* Tour concert selling in total over 2 million tickets, according to Billboard, there was plenty of opportunity for disaster to strike.

Tickets to Swift’s concert were primarily sold through Ticketmaster. With such high demand for tickets, Ticketmaster’s website received an overwhelming amount of traffic they weren’t prepared for.

“I eventually got pretty far in line and then [Ticketmaster] crashed. I think my dad was on his computer, like had it open, for six hours straight,” senior Nolle Quillo said.

For many Swifties, seeing Taylor in concert is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and to be robbed of that has many people feeling strong emotions.

“Even just getting one ticket felt impossible because everytime you clicked on one, it would be sold by the time the site loaded,” junior Maria Faust said.

For most concerts, getting tickets is as simple as pulling up a website and entering payment information. For the *Eras* Tour, the process was much longer.

“You had to get in line, it was like a virtual queue for the virtual queue. You had to wait in line to even get in line. If you had a CapitalOne card you could get a code to put you further down the line,” Quillo said.

Even without all the technical troubles that Ticketmaster brought, the price of the tickets also caused issues for many Swift fans.

“The tickets were reasonably priced when they originally went up for sale, but after they were bought

and put on resale, they were 100% overpriced and just a way for people to make a profit off of her fans,” Faust said.

Aside from monetary costs, time was another valuable resource that many people sacrificed in order to secure tickets.

“Trying to get tickets was really stressful and really time consuming,” Sharp said. “I sat in the queue for all of 5th, 6th, and 7th period, and one of the days when the presale was first supposed to happen, I signed out of school but it didn’t end up happening. It ended up being rescheduled.”

For other students who were in school when tickets to Swift’s concert went on sale, the burden of acquiring tickets fell on the

parents.

“When we found out [Taylor Swift] was going on tour, my mom and all of my friends’ moms got together to try and secure tickets for my friends and I,” Faust said. “My mom took off two days of work so she could basically sit at her computer and wait for them to go on.”

Even still, Faust and so many others were unable to purchase tickets before they were sold out. With all the time, money, and stress spent on being able to go to the *Eras* Tour, the experience of millions of people can be boiled down to this:

“I didn’t know if we were going to get [tickets] or not,” Quillo said.



UPCOMING CONCERTS

STEVIE NICKS
June 27
KFC Yum! Center

TORI AMOS
July 12
Louisville Palace

BEYONCÉ
July 17
Cardinal Stadium

ALICIA KEYS
July 20
KFC Yum! Center

DEATH GRIPS
July 28
Old Foresters
Paristown Hall

PINK
November 11
KFC Yum! Center

By Shanda Bailey

Created to Create

Gathering around a room, filled with artwork, wall-to-wall, the judges of the 50th annual Secondary Art Show determine this year's winners. Every year the Carnegie Art and History Center in downtown New Albany hosts an art competition for Floyd County high school and middle school students. The jury of judges consists of both retired art teachers and professional artists who come out just to judge our students. Each high school art teacher gets to enter 25 of their students' work in hopes that some will become winners. This year three of Bulldogs won Best in Show.

"We do want to thank The Education Foundation for sponsoring all of the Best in Show awards this year. The Carnegie Center did four merit awards this year so they double what they normally do," art teacher Monica Schotter said.

Best In Show winners



Avery Decker // 12



Losing herself in the art and letting the art do its thing, senior Avery Decker adds color to a boot painting she did her junior year. For her second year in a row, Decker won Best in Show at the Carnegie Art and History Center. "I've never not liked art, it's the only thing I'm into for real," Decker said. "The one that was the Best in Show was a still life from last year but I wanted to add a lot of color to it. So all the color that was in that piece, there wasn't color to begin with."

Hailey Hartman // 11

Walking around the Center and observing other students art work, junior Hailey Hartman thought she had no chance at winning. Hartman was very ecstatic to learn she won Best in Show for ceramics! "Since I did it last year, I wanted to put in another piece for this year and I knew it would be one of the best ones I had," Hartman said. "It's so moving to know that I can make something and other people will enjoy it."



Joyce Nguyen // 9

Since the ripe age of six, freshman Joyce Nguyen has been creating art. It started when she would watch her uncle draw and ask for his pieces to try and recreate. Nguyen's piece was entered into the competition by her art teacher Mrs. Schotter. She won Best in Show for still life paintings. "In my school years in Vietnam I sold my art," Nguyen said. "It's been a side hobby for me to get money and it followed me up until today. I just draw for fun really and improve on my own time."

Five podcasts worth a listen

By Jack Moutardier

In the last three years, podcasts have grown in listeners 29.5%, according to BuzzSprout. This, along with cable TV in households having dropped 5% in the last few years according to BridTV, goes to show the trend of electronic entertainment.

As podcasts have grown, the world's most entertaining people have come with it. No matter one's interest, there is a podcast for everyone.

Podcasts also don't require the need to focus on the screen to enjoy. Thirty-two percent of men listen to podcasts while running and 55% of women listen to them while doing things around the house or working, according to YouGov. Some attribute the popularity to podcasts being so accessible and enjoyable alongside other activities physical and mental, people can't get enough of them and the numbers show.

With podcasts taking over so swiftly, let's look at who is responsible.

The Best In the World // The Dave Ramsey Show For many who think of podcasts, *The Dave Ramsey Show* isn't the first one that comes to mind, however, it is one some love to listen to and even take advice from. Ramsey is a finance personality and bases his show around helping people be smart with their money and how to do so. The show started in 1992 and over time developed into a podcast with the increase in technology. While most podcasts are nothing more than entertainment, this podcast is one some credit with saving

them thousands.

Personal Finance teacher Mrs. Shelby Gliebe is a big believer in the potential benefits of the Ramsey podcast after listening to it every day for years.

"I think the podcast is beneficial," Gliebe said. "He gives it to people straight if they fall into the target audience. I feel like sometimes he is a little too blunt, but he is very informational on finance decisions."

NELK (FULL SEND) NELK is the quintessential podcast of an abundance of people and it's no shock why. The podcast, which has

been going for two years now has hosted some of the biggest celebrities in the world. Most notably former 45th president Donald Trump twice! The first time was a year ago and after just one day, the podcast had seven million and a half views, however, shockingly YouTube took the podcast down. Following this as well, last month, Trump returned to the podcast, this time surpassing previous numbers and rallying up eight million views in one

week. NELK podcast is unique and all about fun and entertainment, while at the same time incorporating huge stars, and giving us a scoop of what they think.

Theo Von No podcast is quite like the *This Past Weekend* with Theo Von. Von has been doing the podcast since 2016, however, the growth recently

has been extreme as he is tallying 5 million listeners a month. The podcast has displayed the likes of John Mulaney, Joe Rogan, George Kittle, Laine Wilson, and many more. The podcast has

a unique guest every episode which Von interacts with in a satire manner leading to some very funny moments, as well as interesting thoughts from Von and the guest.

The Pat McAfee Show After former Colts punter Pat McAfee retired, not many would have assumed his greatest success was still ahead of him. On September 9, 2019 the first episode of *The Pat McAfee Show* aired. Since then the podcast has dominated sports enter-

tainment and became not only a source of entertainment, but also informative sports news and breakdown. McAfee has always been considered a great entertainer which leads to no shock the podcast has become what it is today.

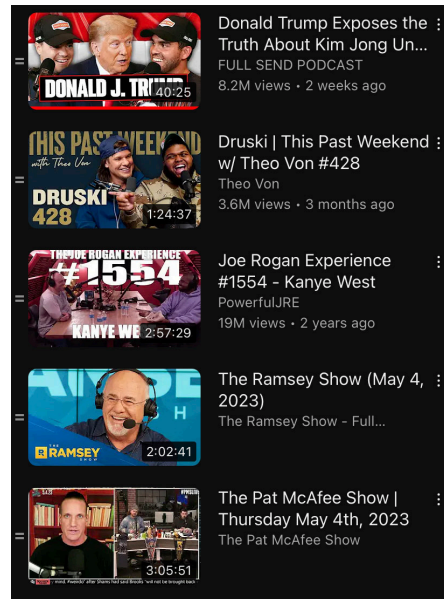
The Joe Rogan Experience Overall, no podcast has the success of *The Joe Rogan Experience*. The podcast, which first aired in 2009, has steadily grown over the years and holds as a favorite to multiple generations with a widespread audience. Through the first six years of the podcast, it would steadily grow, by 2015 it was huge and everyone was listening, and still are to this day. In both 2020 and 2021 it would be the number one podcast on Spotify leading to upwards of 190 million downloads per month as of now. The podcast is the perfect blend of informative, interesting, and entertaining, and with an abundance of different guests, there are episodes for everyone.

Sophomore Cole Grinar enjoys the Joe Rogan podcast and has for a long time.

"The Joe Rogan podcast is really good to watch whenever you are really bored," Grinar said. "And it's good to listen to if you are doing homework or can't look at your phone."

Sophomore Cole Montgomery also enjoys the podcast.

"Joe Rogan has the podcast game down," Montgomery said. "His podcast never fails to be awesome whenever you are really bored and need entertainment."



Waterfront Wednesdays

By Jeremiah Renner

The 21st season of WFPK Waterfront Wednesday is here! If there's any city hosting a jam session free of charge, it's got to be the Derby City.

Who?

May 31: Charley Crockett, Sunny War & Bibelhauser Brothers

June 28: The Hold Steady, TBD & Turbo Nut

July 26: Steven Page of Bare-naked Ladies, Supreme Beings of Leisure & Jameron

Aug. 30: TBD, Darlingside & Anemic Royalty

Sept. 27: Back 2 Mac, Sheryl Rouse Band & Sweet G & The Shine

When? The lawn opens at 5 pm, and music begins at 6 pm.

Where? The Big Four Lawn at Waterfront Park

Why? To spread the love of music of course?! Each performer is local. By performing in front of hundreds, it helps grow their brand locally and nationally. It is also a great way to spend time with your family and friends, and there's no such thing as too much of that.

P.E. Assistant Christian Spinks says his favorite thing about WFW was being outside in the summer in beautiful weather. His favorite band to see is Roon Brothers. "The best place to watch live music is downtown Louisville, aka the greatest city in America."

The path less taken

College isn't the only option after high school

By **Crimson Baker**

For teenagers, an exciting but scary question is “What are you going to do after graduation?”

“The career I want to go into requires me to go to college so I kind of have to,” junior Cassidy Murphy said.

Murphy wants to go into the medical field as a nurse or a medical examiner.

“Start thinking of high school as preparing you for the real world as an emerging adult,” special education teacher Molly Brown said.

A few careers that need a high school diploma are: security guard, receptionist, sales rep, tradesperson, equipment operator, mail carrier and driver.

“I’m not planning on going to college because I am currently at Prosser getting my cosmetology license and already have a job set up out of high school,” senior Maddie Kahl said.

Eighty-six percent of high school students feel pressured to pursue a post-secondary degree, and more than 65 percent said the cost of college and student loans

they would need were important factors in what they’ll do after high school, according to *Best Colleges*.

“Figure out what will work best for you and make you happy,” Brown said. “Life is short. Enjoy every minute but be responsible and take responsibility for your actions.”

Financial worry is a big part of the decision for a lot of American students. College debt is the second greatest debt in America, according to *Indeed*.

“I don’t think [college] is necessary for everyone, trade school is less expensive than university and careers like plumbers make a lot,” Murphy said.

Around 51 percent of adults in the US think that a college education is vital, according to *Gallup*.

“Whenever I meet new adults they ask me where I am going to college, not if,” junior Tobias Kleehamer said.

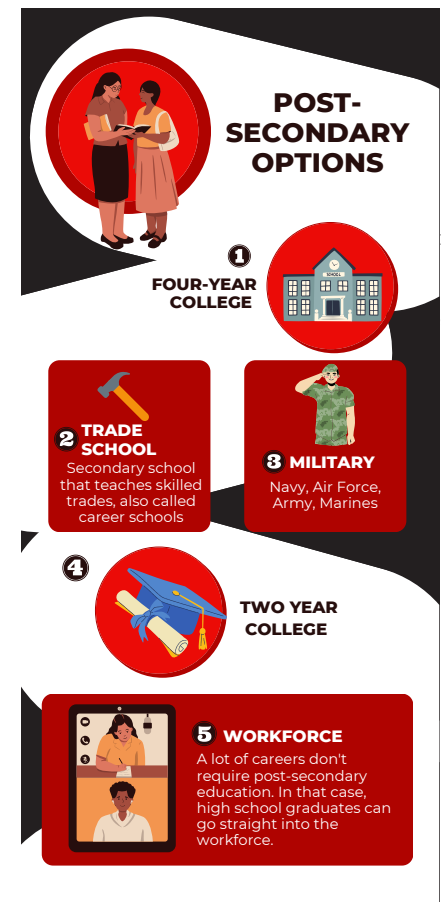
Kleehamer works for Star Electric as an electrician’s apprentice and plans to go into the electrical industry.

“It’s a double-edged sword because you do need to push kids to strive for what they are capable of, however it is not the only option to achieve success, nor is it the cheapest,” Kleehamer said. “I think that the high school counselors are not open enough about the options other than college, I have looked around and found opportunities I didn’t even know existed.”

Life after high school is scary for a lot of teenagers because they don’t know what to do. A lot of kids feel like college is their only option, even though it may not be what they really want.

“Now that we’re almost seniors I think it’s kind of ingrained in our minds that we have to go to college because that’s what adults and society wants us to do,” Murphy said.

Two-year college is also an option for those who want to go to college but don’t want to go four years. There are also online colleges to go to school but don’t want to leave home or don’t have time for traditional college.



The highs and lows of teen driving

By **Nicole Richert**

High school has its perks, one being the responsibility of driving, the freedom and the mistakes that come along with it.

Nationwide, 76.3% of high school students start driving at the age of 16.

In Indiana, a learners permit can be obtained at 15 and enroll in training courses.

By the age of 16, most teens are starting to think in abstract ways. They can deal with several concepts at the same time and imagine the future consequences of their actions.

Junior Murphy Singleton has been driving since mid September 2022 and started in her sister’s silver 2005 Ford Focus.

“The day I got my license I was super excited, I had so much freedom and I was ready to get out of the house,” Singleton said.

Junior Abigail Holder has been driving since late June of 2022, she got a 2020 Ford FUSion for her birthday in March 2022.

“I took drivers ed because I wanted to get my license asap,” Holder said. “My parents really pushed for me to get it done early so I finished all 30 hours in 10 days.”

A key to learning to drive is figuring out how to be less distracted by things like texting or phone calls while driving; distracted driving can increase the chance of a crash.

Junior Katelyn Higgins started driving July 2022 and has a 2011 Grand Cherokee.

“I get distracted every so often by surroundings, things like nature,” Higgins said.

Drivers between the ages of 16 and 17 are more likely to be involved in car accidents than drivers from any other age group, according to Morris Bart LLC.

“My first ever wreck was right after school, right down the street from school,” Singleton said. “I slammed on my brakes but they locked up and I went flying right into

the back, totalling my car.”

Car collisions can be extremely traumatic, leading to feelings of panic, anxiety and stress that can cause the victim to suffer long after the initial crash.

“[My wreck] affected me big time, I remember shaking and crying after it happened, I was scared to drive again,” Higgins said. “I still pass it every day it brings back the memories.”

In 2020, teens account for 7% of motor vehicle crash deaths which is made up of 2,800 teens alone and 227,000 teens injured in crashes, according to the CDC.

“For example, my wreck, I am not in control of others actions so no matter how safe I drive, there is no guarantee others around me will also drive safely,” Holder said.

Driving not only comes with the scary reality of wrecking, but also a huge financial barren. American families spend approximately \$5,000 on gas annually, not including the annual average Indiana insurance rate of \$1,290 and the average \$900 spent for maintenance every 10,000 miles or so.

“My car is 100% paid for, so luckily I do not have to pay for it, I am also fortunate enough that my parents pay for car insurance but of course I still work and save money, I just don’t have to make car payments,” Holder said.

41% of parents buy their child’s first car for them, meaning that 59% of students are in the working class simply to pay for their cars, according to Dayton Daily News.

“I work four days a week and three of those days are on a weekday,” Singleton said.

Some of these students manage a job, athletics along with coming to school everyday. 57% of driving students are athletes so you can only assume, most do have a functioning job, according to Education Week.

“I manage school and work by making sure I have enough time for both and not overworking myself,” Higgins said.

Driving as a teen has its plentiful advantages that we shouldn’t be taking for granted but remember to stay patient, keep your eyes on the road and always watch where you’re going.

Volunteering (from pg 1)

Anchor Club, one of the more recent club additions to NAHS, focuses on service for the homeless in the community. Anchor Club itself is an international non-profit youth organization, and was founded in 1952 in Macon, Georgia. There are now 200+ Anchor Clubs with over 6,000 members in the United States, the Bahamas, and Japan.

Our very own Anchor Club was established on February 9, 2020, and is sponsored by science teacher Stephanie Lone.

"A student came to me in 2019 and was interested in starting an Anchor Club," Lone said. "She needed a sponsor, and I didn't really know what I was getting into, but I said yes."

Since then Anchor Club has not only accumulated thousands of volunteer hours over the past few years, but it

has also been mentioned in local newspapers and recognized by citizens and administrators praising them for their commitment to help around the area. This year alone, club members have volunteered more than 2,600 hours and it continues to grow.

Many freshmen this year have taken interest in Anchor Club, and love participating in all of the events and activities. Many of them even go further to say that they make a lot of new friends and it's always more fun when you have someone to do it with.

Other members express that even seeing their service work in real time makes them want to participate and help the community even more. It's a very rewarding experience to see the people you're helping actually enjoy what you've done for them, and always

be grateful for it.

"[Whenever I'm] feeding the homeless, I can see how happy they get whenever we serve them food. People also post on Facebook about the kindness rocks that we made and what they've found," Sanchez said.

Anchor Club and ROTC are more geared towards helping the community, while the program Be a Better Bulldog is focused on helping the school and the staff and students within it.

Its most notable event is chaperoning future ninth graders at the beginning of the year orientation, and giving them a tour of the school. As well as letting them know what to expect, and giving them the opportunity to join different clubs and extracurricular activities. Assistant Principal Joshua Nall and counselor Eddie Bobbit are the

sponsors for this program and always encourage the BBB Leaders to help out when they can.

One of Bobbit's most well-know volunteer projects that he coordinates is the annual Beautification Day downtown. This year's event is May 20. The event consists of picking up trash and plastic along the river and in local neighborhoods, repainting a local mural, and planting flowers and mulching in flower beds. Hundreds of volunteers show up, including other students from different schools and adults and staff that want to do something good for the community.

Community service can be a huge part of building character and making someone more environmentally conscious, as well as getting insight on how different groups of people live.

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TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

By Haley Shock

Teachers: the backbone of every school. They are responsible for educating most of the people in the world yet are hardly appreciated as they should be for their hard work. May 8 through May 12 is nationally recognized as Teacher Appreciation Week. Most students have a favorite teacher, the one that they look forward to seeing every day and know will have a good class experience with, yet they often go unnoticed. Here are some NAHS students' favorite teachers.



MR. JOE DABLOW
SCIENCE

"He's a phenomenal teacher that's focused on satisfying our curiosity, showing students the essence and fun in Physics, respecting students while also taking control of the classroom, and is passionate about the subject he's teaching. I honestly believe he's the best replacement to Mr. Ferree we could have ever gotten, and I feel lucky that we can get someone as great as him teaching us."



MRS. ASHLEY MANGER
SOCIAL STUDIES

"She truly cares about her students and wants us to succeed, she also is able to teach in a more exciting way that keeps us engaged."



MR. JOHN KAISER
MATH

"He makes math genuinely entertaining and fun for me to learn, it helps me enjoy the learning process and retain more information from each lesson."

and
"He likes to take advice from his students and goes at a steady pace that is easy to listen to, he also incorporates some fun into his lessons."



MR. MATTHEW JACOBI
FRENCH

"He is hilariously himself and real. He genuinely cares about his students. He never fails to make a student's day. He creates a safe place in his classroom for students to learn but relax during the middle of the chaos of school."



MR. NICK ELLIS
SOCIAL STUDIES

"He is very informative and easy to understand, also his sense of humor is unmatched to anyone I have ever met."



MRS. REBECCA MINTON
MATH

"She has a very organized method of teaching, is strict enough to make sure we're doing what we need to get done, yet has fun with us when the opportunities present. She also doesn't mind showing some of her own beliefs, which ultimately adds to her character and like-ability in the classroom because you learn to respect her more. I never once have seen her angry or show prejudice towards a certain student, and she is very credible and understanding when she teaches."



MRS. DEBBIE SMITH
ENGLISH

"She greets us every morning with positivity, asking how our morning is going, and even when we don't respond we all are appreciative that someone is asking. This positive attitude is conveyed in her teaching. She encourages growth by providing a safe space to speak what you think while educating us on how our ideas can be implemented into a constructive well written paper. She creates this feeling of preparedness and confidence within her students."



MS. LAUREN FALK
ENGLISH

"She always made the class entertaining. We always had fun stories to share. We all would laugh and enjoy our time together. She even made the assignments we had in class enjoyable. I would not have asked for a better teacher."



MRS. STEPHANIE LONE
SCIENCE

"I love her teaching style, her class materials, and I love her attitude towards teaching. She is truly such a kind person who cares for students and wishes them the best. She helps me with my IEP as well and accommodates to me. I believe she truly deserves the world"



MS. BRITTANY WRIGHT
MATH

"Ms. Wright is so sweet and relatable. I never had her as a teacher, but she was my student teacher in geometry freshman year. I was struggling with the class and the way she taught the subject just made sense to me."