



## How does it really feel being a 9th grader?

By Gracie Pearson



Freshmen section at the Crosstown Classic pep rally. Photo by Asia Flemons

**Continued on page 7**

## Roundabouts of Oxford

Interview with city engineer Reanna G. Mayoral

By Meia Vaughn

**13 total roundabouts- 3 on Sisk at 7, 4 on George G Patterson, 1 on Gertrude Ford. 1 on FD Buddy East Parkway, 2 on South Lamar, and 2 on Old Taylor**

Why so many?

Roundabouts are a more efficient way to move traffic versus the delay associated with a signal. Traffic in a roundabout is always moving compared to sitting at a stop for 20 seconds or 2 minutes at a signal - even if there is no opposing traffic. Roundabouts are also much less expensive to maintain and repair. Traffic signal maintenance requires a highly skilled technician with specialized equipment. Roundabouts also remain operational without a power supply. Traffic signals can be easily damaged and taken out of operation by storms, vehicular impact, or contractors hitting the underground power supply.

Safety?

You should always yield to traffic within the circle and use your turn signal of the roundabout. Cars enter the roundabout on an angle which means that any collision is a front bumper- rear corner or near- and impact. These types of accidents are less likely to result in severe injury. There is always the possibility of a motorists not driving around the circle and going through the center, but those instances are relatively rare, particularly if sign-age and landscaping are in place.

Money spent on roundabouts?

The cost varies depending on the land available for construction, utility conflicts, the topography, the need to maintain traffic during construction, etc. The average cost per roundabout is \$800,000.

Are roundabouts safer?

Roundabouts are safer for a number of reasons. Primarily, traffic moves more slowly through a roundabout (10-20 mph) compared to traffic through a signal (10-40 mph). Roundabouts also eliminate the possibility of a severe side impact crash due to the geometry.

Extra

Plans for the Gertrude Ford- Old Taylor Road roundabout were developed in 2004. That was Oxford's first roundabout. South Lamar roundabouts were built in 2007. The inner circle of the square would also be considered a roundabout as well. There are still intersections where a traffic signal is the most appropriate solution, especially with higher volumes of traffic. Oxford now has more roundabouts than any other city in the state of Mississippi.

## Dress code or not?

By Jaida Southern

The dress code seems to be a big deal amongst students this year. Most students agree that they should get to wear what they want because school is about getting your education not how you dress.

"Do you think we should have a dress code?" I asked freshmen as they become familiar with the dress code.

"No, I don't think we need a dress code. No one likes them," said a freshmen source.

I also asked a senior the same question.

"I think we shouldn't because high school is supposed to prepare us for college or how to get a job but not to focus on what you wear. I suggest they be more lenient," said the source.

However, principals would like for students to be presentable and well kept to minimize disruptions. I agree with both sides in that students should be able to dress comfortably and free but also not be inappropriate. Here are ten of the main dress code issues this year so far.

### 10 of the main dress code issues

1. Students' shorts/skirts/dresses at the minimum must be fingertip in length when the arm is extended.

2. No tank tops, halters, tops with spaghetti straps or tops that expose the midriff. Appropriate underclothing shall be worn at all times and should be worn underneath an outside garment.

3. No hats, caps, toboggans, hoodies, head scarves, bandanas, wristbands, sweatbands, hairnets, shower caps, or do-rags are allowed in the building. This rule applies to both male and female students.

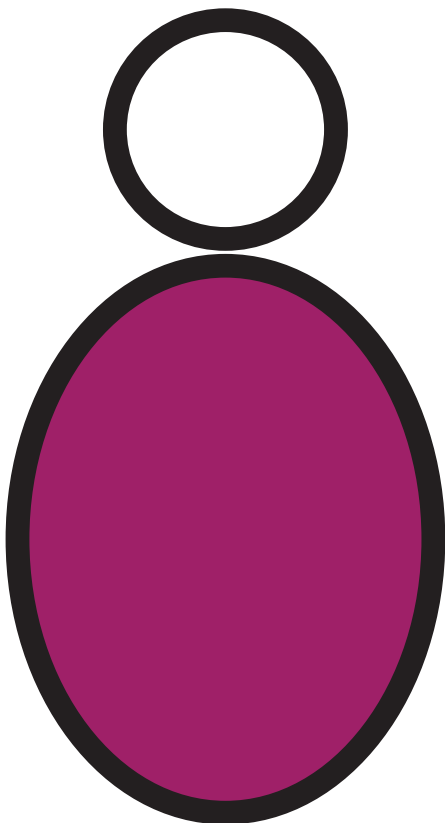
**Continued on page 7**



# Sizeism

“Ugh, why is she on the team?”

By Zya Kelly



Normally, people are expected to fit in with a certain social standard. In a world where kids, teenagers and adults are ridiculed about their bodies and forced to conform to a certain body type, there is bound to be judgment upon those who don’t “fit in” with the social standards. When you include the deeply-ingrained societal demand of being a certain body types into sports, the judgment is even more extreme.

People in the world of athletics tend to be extremely ignorant when it comes to people’s appearances: their size, weight, and what they look like. People do not seem to understand that a person’s size and weight has nothing to do with their athletic ability, and should not be a factor in whether or not they are good enough for an athletic team. For example, in a large amount of collegiate

cheer-leading teams, there is a body fat percentage limit, and sometimes even weight limit, that can affect someone’s chances for making the team.

From a personal experience of being a plus sized cheerleader, who has been a cheerleader going on 11 years, my size and weight has yet to put a damper on my talent and success in cheer-leading. Of course, people question my talent and ability due to my size, but that does not change the fact that I have a natural and growing talent in the area.

Here’s a scenario for you to think about: imagine being sixteen-years-old. It’s around your tenth or eleventh year of continuing a sport or hobby that you are passionate about. You walk into the gym, or field or wherever it may be that your sport or activity is held. You are here, as a part of this team, to happily and

enthusiastically teach younger kids how to get better at whatever it is. You’ve been in the gym, or field, or wherever it may be for only about thirty seconds before you hear a young girl question why you are here. That, more than likely, makes you feel like absolute trash. Imagine not only loving what you do, but being generally good at it, and having a natural talent for it, but your talent is overlooked, because God forbid you weigh more than 145 lbs.

“Ugh, why is she on the team?”

Easy question, easy answer. My size is not a factor of who I am as an athlete, or as a person. Being a size that is not to society’s standards should not affect whether or not I’m on a team, or make one question why I’m on a team. If the skill factor and athleticism is there, who cares?



## Should school lunches be free?

By Cymria Williams

How would you like it if everyone was eligible to get free lunch? Students have been paying for their lunch for a long time now and maybe it’s time for a change. Some people might think different, but I believe that students shouldn’t have to pay for their own lunch. I went and asked others how they felt about it and some said that they agreed with me and some disagreed. Angela Reaves the head lunch lady quotes, “I agreed that everyone should get free lunch, but sometimes I have to reconsider that knowing that some of the money comes out of our pockets.” If they were to make everybody pay for their lunch, I believe the maximum amount should only be \$1. There are tons of students starving everyday because they don’t have any food at home, depending on a meal at school and they still can’t get fed at

school because they don’t have any money in their accounts. Many have come to the conclusion that the government pays for the lunch and buys most of our food and makes the program for everyone. This program is in the school system only, lunch is \$2.50 and breakfast is \$1.75 everyday. The reduced lunch are 40cents and the breakfast is 30cents everyday. The lunches provide nutritional balanced low cost or no cost lunches to many children each day. The main children that qualify for free or reduced lunch are foster children, runaway, homeless, and migrant. Nearly 100,000 schools/institutions serve lunches to 29.8 million students each day which are, 20.2 million free lunches, 1.8 million reduced prices, 7.7 million full price and around the whole world 4.9 billion lunches are served annually.

## Dr. Kitchens hypes up the school

By Sean Boney

We may not have won the Crosstown Classic, but we definitely have the better principal. Dr. Kitchens is renowned the school over for always speaking to every student he encounters in the hallway, attending almost every school function, and even joining in on some of the student section chants at football games. In fact, some mornings he even gets on top of a latter, microphone in hand, and leads chants in the commons to pump everyone up for game day. No matter what the occasion, if it involves Lafayette you can almost guarantee to catch a glimpse of Dr. Kitchens among the crowds of students and parents cheering on his Lafayette Commodores.

Among Dr. Kitchens recent escapades, he has created a group, or a club you may say, of which membership is coveted by all who have pep and spirit. This is called the Kitchens Crew. This highly exclusive club is only attended by those who have shown exceptional school spirit and extreme dedication to making sure Lafayette is always excited. Currently only two students have gained inclusion into Kitchens Crew, sophomores Caden Crowson and Golden Sharp.

School spirit at Lafayette is at an all-time high, and it’s quite clear to see we have Dr. Kitchens to thank.



Dr Kitchens Photo by Joy



Ice Cream Social for New Students

By: Emily Smith

On August 16th, Lafayette Student Council hosted its annual ice cream social.

Over the past several years, the council has held an ice cream social to help the new transfer students feel more welcome in our district.

The event was created by Gail Caldwell, the sponsor at that time. Since she retired last year, this year it was hosted by Molly Langford, Cole Loper, and the current council members.

Loper said, “Lafayette is such a large school, we wanted to find a way to welcome new students and introduce them to our student council members, that way our student council could help them navigate the school, and meet a friend, and just feel welcome at Lafayette.”

One of our new students who attended the ice cream social, Cadence Trost said, “It [the ice cream social] was really fun and welcoming, and I thank y’all for doing that, and the ice cream was really good.”

Student council will stay active with their next service project, which will be homecoming.

Remembering Isaiah Middleton

By: Asia Flemons

The Lafayette student body has lost a loving soul. Isaiah Middleton was a beloved 11th grader whose life was cut short in a tragic car accident on August 15, 2019.

Katie Jenkins said that Isaiah was a kindhearted person. She saw that he didn’t want to be in school so she asked where would he want to be. He responded, “ I would rather be at home playing with my little sister.”

A friend of his said, “ He was the most amazing person, even though he was not perfect, he made a big impact in my life.” A lot of people said that Isaiah would be happier at home with his family than being at school.

Stacey Raspo had Isaiah in her class for his 9th and 10th-grade year. Raspo said, that his presence in her class in his freshman year was that he was quiet, sat in the back, and hoped not to be called on. In his 10th grade year, she said that he came in full of life, always with a smile, caring about his grades, and wanting to do good. Raspo said, that “ Isaiah was a student that was really hard-working to make positive changes in his life. I loved the smile he brought to my classroom every day.”

Some people personally didn’t know him but the way his friends and teachers have talked about him we should have. We as a school have lost a lot of young souls and even though it hurts right now let’s remember them as who they were as kind people who made an impact no matter how small or big.



Middleton (left) making pancakes in Mrs. Raspo’s class in his 10th grade year.



Middleton (right) helping and getting to know some kids in his 9th-grade year.

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## Football Record

By Gracie Pearson

Lafayette football team has a 3-1 record to start the season. They’ve won against Cleveland Central, Southaven, and Horn Lake. Their one loss was to the Oxford Chargers at Crosstown Classic.

Lafayette 2019 varsity football team has played four games out of eleven games. So far they’ve played Cleveland Central, Southaven, Horn Lake, and Oxford. They’ve

defeated three out of four of the teams. They’ve won to Cleveland, Southaven, and Horn Lake. Lafayette football had a devastating defeat by Oxford on 9/13/2019, which was the event Crosstown Classic.

The first game Lafayette played was Cleveland central, at Cleveland. Lafayette won 34-14. In that game Xavious Stokes, Tyrus Williams, and Mathew Berry

all scored a touchdown, Issac Vaughn scored two touchdowns, and Andrew Pugh scored 5 kickoff points.

The second game was Southaven, at Southaven high-school. That game Tyrus Williams, Xavious Stokes, and Randy Anderson all scored a touchdown. Andrew Pugh kicked a total of 2 points that game. That made us defeat Southaven 20-16.

The third game we

played, was against Horn Lake. We scored 28 points, while Horn Lake only scored 14. Tyrus Williams scored a touchdown, Randy Anderson scored two touchdowns, and Andrew Pugh kicked off 4 points.

The fourth game was the Crosstown Classic. Lafayette lost tremendously to Oxford varsity high-school football team. The score was 7-46. That game only one

person scored, and that was Taylor Tarver. That was one of his first time getting on the field to play for a varsity game. In that game, there was a lot of personal fouls, players got off focused, and gave up slightly.

Commodore football has had a hilly start to the season, but as they practice more they get better every time they play.



Varsity football at Southaven driving through the middle. Photo by Aubree Norris



Xavious Stokes outside waiting for the ball. Photo by Aubree Norris

## West Point Review

By Kyle Traylor

West Point came to Lafayette on September, 27th in football and came away with a 28-24 win. West Point improves to 5-1 on the season and Lafayette falls to 3-2.

Lafayette went into halftime with a 17-7 lead. They would then allow ten points in the 3rd quarter. Still with a safe lead the Commodores thought they had it wrapped up. Then, the Green Wave would strike when it counted and take a 28-24 lead with

about three minutes left to play in the game. Lafayette had one last chance to win the game but, a dropped pass by Brendan Toles, no timeouts, and being forced to run the ball in the final seconds of the game ended the game for the Commodores.

Both teams fought hard and like always was one a fun game to watch. Lafayette will be going to Grenada to take on the 4-1 Chargers.



Player gets stopped by West Point defense. Photo by Presleigh Loper

## Volleyball hopes to improve after a rocky start

By Sean Boney



Lyla Vanlandingham gets set on the outside against Caledonia. Photo by Collyn Lewis

The lady Does volleyball team had a rocky start to division play after losing to Center Hill in three sets on Thursday September 19th. Currently, they have a less than stellar record of 4/14 at the time of writing, however many of those matches were hard fought against strong opponents, and the team is currently rebuilding with a new contingency of starters after

losing five seniors from the previous season.

Of the departing seniors four starting spots had to be filled, and the lady Does found their replacements in sophomores Kailey Gooch, Deundria Shaw, and Hudson Lindsay and junior Brennice Kennedy, while juniors Gracie Dunn and Caitlyn Rhea get substitution time. Freshman London-Grace Daniels also

makes frequent appearances. Only two seniors consistently start, Jordan Varner and Julianna Ingram. While they may be struggling now, the commodores can find some semblance of comfort from the fact that the majority of their team still has a lot of room for improvement.



Cross Country team does great in French Camp Invitational

By Mia Dawson



Lafayette girls varsity at the starting line Hickory Flat Invitational on September 7, 2019. Photo by Sean Boney

The cross country team continues to improve after three meets. On Saturday, September 14 the Commodores Cross Country team participated in the French Camp Invitational. Bralen Williams, Mia Dawson, Watson Williamson, and Maine Lund all won their races. Each of the races was won by a member of the Commodores Cross Country team. In the varsity girls’ race, Mia Dawson, Caroline Wilson, Ella Shelton, and Gracie Guest all finished under the top runner category, or top 8. For the middle school girls’ race, Maine Lund, Della Shackelford, and Olivia Ball also earned the top runner award. For their race, the top four were recognized as top runners. For the varsity boys, Bralen Williams was the only one to earn top runner on the team. For the middle school boys’ race, Watson Williamson was also the only boy to earn top runner. The top varsity girls’ finisher, Mia Dawson, ran a season-best of 21:05 in the 5k. She says, “I think I could have gotten a faster time had there been some competition. I think that I executed my race plan correctly the first half of the race, but then I drastically slowed down the last half.” Dawson is hoping to get a time faster than 20 minutes in the

5k by the end of the season, so she hopes to continuously improve her time. Throughout the race, she says that she was thinking about how she could not slow down because this race was a good test for her current ability. Her strategy was to try to run even splits of 6:26 per mile, but she ended up going much faster for the first mile and slowed down from then on. Bralen Williams was the first place finisher for the boys’ varsity 5k with a time of 19:27. He says, “I think I did pretty good being that I got a new personal record and won a cross country race. My strategy was to make my way up to the front and make it my goal to not slow down from the pace I was already running. “As far as improving before the state meet, Williams says he is going to push himself harder every race and continue training hard in practice. The top finisher for the boys’ middle school race was Watson Williamson. He easily won the 2-mile event with a time of 12:58. He says, “I definitely think that I could have done better, but there will be plenty of time for me to improve before the state meet.” During the race, he says he thought about drinking water and his strategy was to challenge the person in the lead and eventually pass him.

Will Lafayette swimmers be State ready?

By Gage Martin



North Half Qualifier Murphy Smith in the water starting the race. Photo by Reagan Whitehead

As of late the swim team as well as the rest of the swim teams in The State of Mississippi underwent an MHSAA reclassification, and are now a class I team. What does that mean for the team? Many more students who previously could not qualify for the North Half swim meet with their PR times now exceed the standard to qualify. As quoted by the head swim coach Josh Daniel “I am confident that we will have quite a few more athletes compete at North Half Championship than we did last season. As well as competing at the State Championship Swim Meet for the first time since the early 2000s...” The first meet this season will be the OHS Invitational on September 12 at the OPC City Pool Expect to see more action from the swimmers this year and so on from there. Debrief from the 9/12/19 swim meet @oxford; list of North Half qualifiers in High school and Middle school: Murphy Smith - 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle Bea Rico - 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle Collyn Lewis - 50 Freestyle and 100 Breaststroke Layla Hill - 50 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke

Anthony Skutnik - 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle Georgia Lund- 50 Freestyle Gage Martin - 50 Freestyle MaryEllon Warren - 50 Freestyle Trey Skutnik - 50 Freestyle Debrief from the 9/17/19 swim meet @oxford; list of North Half qualifiers in High school and Middle school: Girls 200 Medley Relay Girls 200 Freestyle Relay Girls 400 Freestyle Relay Boys 200 Freestyle Relay Boys 400 Freestyle Relay Georgia Lund - 100 Freestyle Layla Hill - 100 Freestyle Collyn Lewis - 100 Freestyle Anthony Skutnik - 200 Freestyle Gage Martin - 100 Freestyle Trey Skutnik - 100 Freestyle Bea Rico - 100 Backstroke Mary-Ellon Warren - 100 Freestyle

Meet The Coaches

By Gracie Pearson



Interview with Kevin Lee

Lafayette School District has a variety of sports students could play. There are four sports during the fall that are active. Football, swimming, cross country, and volleyball. Along with the sport, they have great coaches to train and guide them along the path. This Meet The Coaches article goes to coach Kevin Lee. Coach Lee is one of the offense football coaches at Lafayette high school. Coach Lee coaches football for the varsity and helps out with the lower teams. Gracie: Where are you from? Lee: I’m from Batesville Mississippi. Gracie: How long have you been coaching? Lee: For 9 years. Gracie: What do you enjoy most about your job? Lee: Being around the sport itself I played football in high school, so I mean I loved it so much I just wanted to be around it. Gracie: Where did you study at and what did you study? Lee: Jackson State University and I studied physical education. Gracie: What’s your favorite thing about Lafayette? Lee: The atmosphere, good people, good teachers, students, all around it’s just a good school. Gracie: How many children do you have? Lee: I have three. Gracie: Do you have a wife? Lee: Yes, I do.





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# 18th annual Military Standard Retreat

By Gage Martin

In Remembrance of the attacks on the twin towers on September 11, Lafayette High School’s own AFJROTC MS-932 will be hosting a retreat and folding of the colors ceremony on September 12th, this type of ceremony as little known by the school is likely to be the only JROTC run retreat ceremony in remembrance of said attacks. The entire unit, including our newly entered freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors in large formation paraded out in front of the commons. This ceremony will be hosted entirely by students. Including a newly appointed command

chief as well as Ella Scott our Corp Commander, and will be narrated by Steven Hale. The entire school is invited to see this event.

As said by Maj. Harvey Rice “Retreat is when we show respect to our flag and marks the end of the official day” “ I don’t know of any (schools) that do a retreat, but a lot of ROTC programs around the nation do something to remember September the eleventh whether they do announcements, or a school-wide function, but almost every ROTC does something to mark September the eleventh”



JT Foshee (left) and Radley Hill at the retreat. Photo by Mia Dawson

## How does it really feel being a 9th grader?

By Gracie Pearson

Coming into high-school I had so many friends and I would’ve dreaded not having those friends in my classes. I thought I matured and that I had my future ready. Little did I know that 9th grade was only the beginning. I’ve only been in high-school for 2 months and I can already tell I’ve changed. Walking into high-school not knowing my classes, who’s in my classes, my teachers,etc. It changed me, let me just say I didn’t have those friends that I had in middle school. It made me have to adapt to the people around me and to know that whatever happened in middle school, needed to be dropped. It taught me that people you may hate in

middle school will be your true friends in high school. Not only have high-school taught me that, but it has taught me that you shouldn’t depend on anyone to make you happy. You have to get up everyday and say to yourself that “Today’s going to be a great day no matter what.” You have to realize that every failure, every loss, every human who has made you feel like nothing, can’t stop you from being happy and reaching your goal. You have to realize that 1 F on your test, that 1 heartbreak, that 1 boring class, that 1 friendship you lost, can’t make you give up on your dreams. High-school makes you put on your big girl and big boy

clothes. High-school molds you into a better person day by day. High-school makes you learn more about yourself than you’ve ever known for the past 14 to 15 years. High-school is probably so much easier for boys and that’s okay, but high-school helps you not only academically, but emotionally and mentally. The most important is that high-school is fun. High-school lets you be in school spirit, cheer on your football teams, get in the games for a dollar, chose your own classes, and many more. Yet i stress, why? This is mostly to girls, I had to learn that sometimes things and people aren’t meant for us. Sometimes letting go is the best option. Sometimes you

just focusing on yourself and loving yourself will bring you further than ever. Sometimes just leaving that boy or girl isn’t that bad. Sometimes we have to stop worrying about other people feelings and worry about ourselves because we want to make it to. Life ain’t easy and that’s what high-school teaches me and others. We as students, we as future adults have to realize that high-school isn’t meant to be easy. It’s meant to challenge us, it’s meant to grow and expand us. It’s meant to teach us that sometimes you fall and you have to get back up, it’s life. It teaches us that “life ain’t fair” in the real world because high-school wants us to walk

out there and strive and be the greatest we’ve ever been our whole lives. They say “money don’t make happiness”, but no money makes nothing. We as LHS students needs to know that our teachers at Lafayette high-school wants everyone of us to walk out this school and be more successful than them and I usually would say “that teacher gets on my nerves, she or he assign us so much work”, but that’s the teacher that wanna send us further than we wanna send ourselves. That’s the teacher who sees more in us than we see in ourselves, so thank those teachers. We have to strive for greatness in order to be greater.

## Dress Code Lafayette hosts See You at the Pole

By Jaida Southern

- 4. Biking shorts and Nike-style shorts are not allowed.
- 5. Pants with holes above the knee are not permitted with skin showing.
- 6. If leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, or other skin-tight pants are worn, a shirt must extend past the waist and cover the buttocks.
- 7. Pants should be worn at the waist. Sagging pants are not allowed.
- 8. Students shall not wear clothing or appear in any manner that would identify them with a gang or any illegal activity.
- 9. Males must wear shirts with sleeves.
- 10. Pajama pants and house shoes shall not be worn.

By Mia Dawson and Bella Trott

This past Wednesday, on the 25th, Lafayette Commodores for Christ held See You at the Pole. This event was open for any student at Lafayette High School to attend. This is an event that takes place around the country every third Wednesday of September. John Jeffrey Nelson, a teacher at Lafayette High, is the sponsor for this event as well as Commodores for Christ. “See You at the Pole is a national event for students that are Christians to go out in front of their school and pray for their country, for their schools, or their leaders. It’s a time for

anyone to join and come out, pray, and come together.” Nelson has been sponsoring this for five years and was even involved as a student. He was inspired to sponsor this club because he looks forward to See You at the Pole and puts it together every year. He wanted to bring the nationwide event to our school because he thinks it is a time to let students come together and see that they aren’t alone. “We know, as Christians, that prayer is effective, so we want to be able to pray to our God and know that he intervenes.”



Students gather and read prayer lists. Photo by Erica Lehman



the  
**ANCHOR**



**Townes Hogue**  
*Freshman*



**Lukas Stupal**  
*Sophomore*



**Anthony Jones**  
*Junior*



**Libby Austin**  
*Senior*

What is one show you binge watched over the summer?

Stranger Things.

Breaking Bad.

Jane the Virgin

Breaking Bad.

What is one of your best summer vacation memories ever?

When I went to Jackson with my cousins and had steak for the first time, and I'm 15 so that's crazy.

Going to Florida and partying.

I went to Disney World a couple years ago.

When I went to Mexico.

What is one of your worts summer vacation memories?

Getting sick at the beach. My family had pink eye, and it spread to, like, everyone.

Staying home all summer.

I went to St. Louis with my whole family, my mom's side of the family, and it was terrible.

I went with my grandparents to Jamaica and it was just me and them.

What is the most exotic place you've gone during a summer vacation?

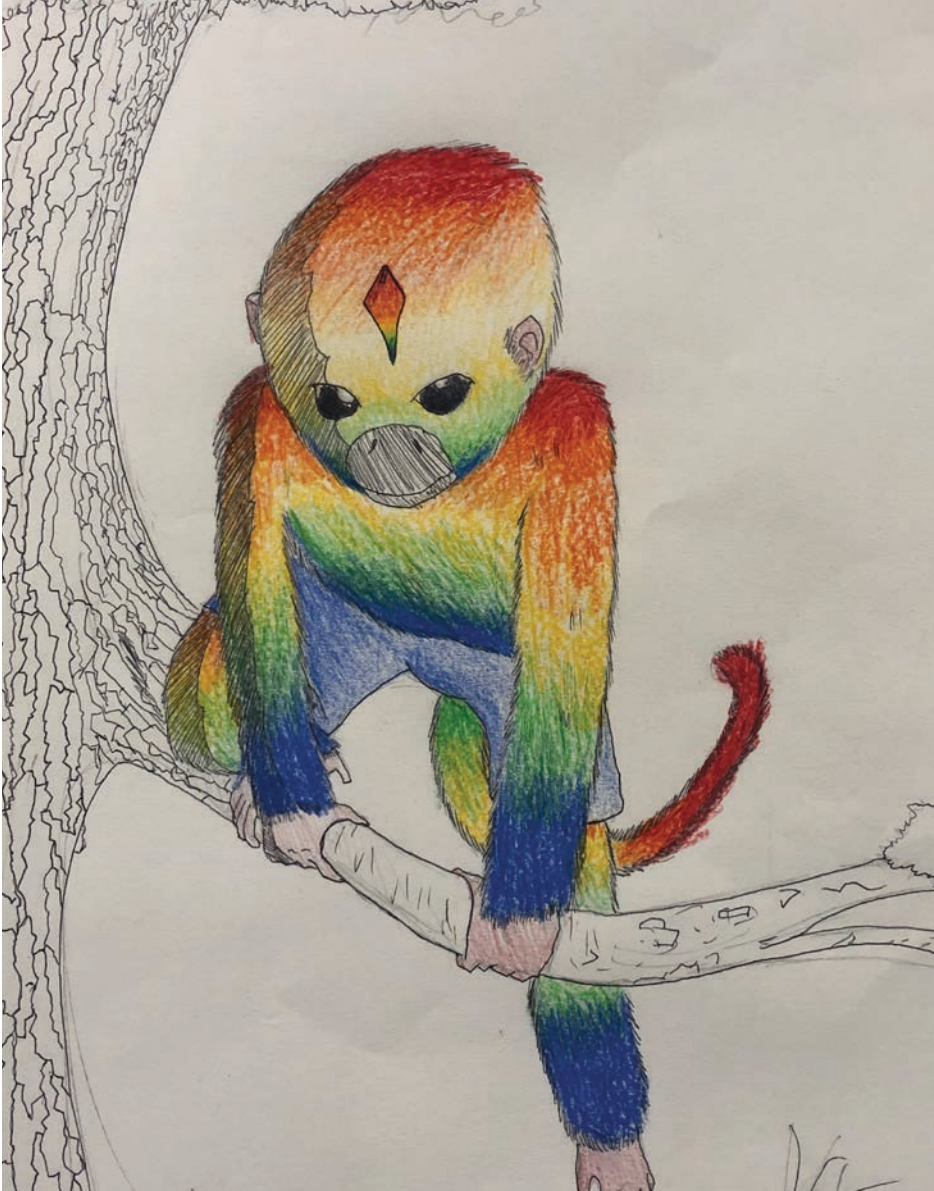
Mississippi Fest. There were hippies everywhere.

My bed.

Andrew Pugh's house.

Jamaica.

**FEATURED ART**



By Kidrick Armstrong



By Gabbie Hunter and Marisol Moreno

**SUDOKU**

5	3			7			
6			1	9	5		
	9	8					6
8				6			3
4			8		3		1
7				2			6
	6					2	8
			4	1	9		5
				8			7
						7	9

The Rules of Sudoku  
The classic Sudoku game involves a grid of 81 squares. The grid is divided into nine blocks, each containing nine squares.

The rules of the game are simple: each of the nine blocks has to contain all the numbers 1-9 within its squares. Each number can only appear once in a row, column or box.

The difficulty lies in that each vertical nine-square column, or horizontal nine-square line across, within the larger square, must also contain the numbers 1-9, without repetition or omission.