

# THE MESSENGER

April 2017

## Kendel Ponchock, Finding Her Way

**By Laney Yancey**  
Junior Editor

*"The sun, of course, doesn't care if we watch it or not. It will keep on being beautiful, even if no one bothers to look at it." -Gene Amole*

This very quote, one of Kendel's favorites, in fact fits her aura to a tee. Kendel Ponchock is one of those rare people in the world who offer a sense of grace and poise, yet have a warm and comforting presence about them. She plays many roles (and not just in theatre) in her life from daughter, to proud dog owner, to student, to Elle Woods in McCracken's musical "Legally Blonde". She does a lot, but balances it all with giggles, a positive attitude, and a face mask or two.

Kendel is a busy bee with many things on her to do list. Aside from being Drama Club Vice President, she is an avid member of the MCHS Theatre Department, and is currently Elle Woods in Legally Blonde the Musical. She has been in a total of 7 shows at McCracken some past roles including Hermia in "A Midsummer Night's Dream", Hodel in "Fiddler on the Roof", Abigail Williams in "The Crucible", Sour Kangaroo in

"Seussical the Musical", Alice Sycamore in "You Can't Take in With You", and ensemble member in "Footloose the Musical". She is a writer on our very own Mustang Messenger and sings in Varsity Singers for our MCHS choir. She also had the honor of attending Kentucky Center Governor's School for the Arts for the dramatic arts. Before theatre became her life, Kendel was a varsity cheerleader and was part of the National Championship winning team of 2013-2014. "Cheerleading taught me the value of teamwork and this concept directly applies to theatre. You work as an ensemble, you have to lift others first to lift yourself up." She gives back at the local humane society and by serving the community at Swirl's Frozen Yogurt.

Ambition and hard work has led to a future Kendel is very excited for her. In the fall, she will be attending Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Georgia to pursue a major in the Performing Arts, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts. When asked where she hopes



## Upcoming Events

### SPORTS

- 4/15: Varsity baseball vs Clarksville/Daviess
- 4/17: Varsity tennis vs Paducah Tilghman
- 4/27: Varsity baseball vs Hopkinsville
- 5/7-12: Tennis regional tournament
- 5/12-13: Bass fishing state tournament
- 5/22-24: Softball district tournament

### ARTS

- 4/20-22: Legally Blonde the Musical

## Leadership

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OPINION

# History or Hoax

## Topic 14: Sweet Flood

By Caroline Dew  
Social Media Manager

If you were watching the weather one morning, and the familiar face of the local weather lady came onto the screen and warned you about taking a certain way to work, because there was a flood of molasses in the way, would you believe her? I probably wouldn't. The funny thing is, if that were to happen, it wouldn't be the first time. On January 15, 1919 a section of Boston, Massachusetts was flooded. Not by water, like you would think, but molasses. This huge tidal wave occurred when a tank holding the sweet stuff exploded, sending 2.3 million gallons of molasses into the streets.

If someone didn't know what molasses was they may think that a flood of it isn't so weird. But I'll explain what molasses is. Molasses is a sweet black substance that often substitutes for sugar, and is super sticky. It's often used in place of sugar, so imagine a sticky liquid form of sugar that's black. Alright, now we can move on.

On Commercial Street in Boston, there was a 50 foot tall steel tank that held, you guessed it, molasses. The owners of the 2.3 million gallons of molasses was the United States Industrial Alcohol. They took regular shipments of molasses from the Caribbean and used them to produce liquor. The structure was built in 1915. Allegedly, at least one USIA employee warned that the structure was unsound and dangerous, but outside of recalculating, the company took little action

regarding the warning.

Imagine, you're walking one morning in Boston, and a wave of molasses comes surging towards you at upwards of 25 miles per hour. Naturally, you wouldn't be able to stop it - and it's not water, it's much thicker. Swimming probably wouldn't have been a viable option - so anyone unfortunate enough to be close to the waves of the sticky stuff drowned in it. There were 21 people who were unfortunate enough to lose their lives, and the molasses was strong enough to sweep buildings off of their foundation.



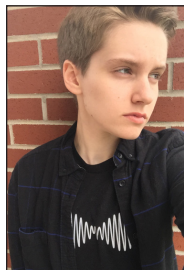
There was upside of 100\$ million modern dollars in damage to only property alone. There was another additional 150 people who were injured in the flood.

As the cleanup crews were pulling survivors and victims from the goo, they realized that cleaning up would not be an easy task at all. Over 80,000 hours were spent on cleanup alone! After the event, naturally, people started wanting to blame someone on the event. The favorite target of most early 20th century blame games were anarchists. The company claimed that since the molasses was used in a way of government, anarchists detonated the tank with a bomb. Modern studies have found that the tank walls were both too thin and that the steel was too brittle to withstand the amount of molasses.

This was definitely history - 21 people died. If you hadn't heard of this event before, and someone told you about it, you may think they're crazy. But some hot summer days on the boston streets, it's said you can still smell molasses.



# A Letter from the Editor



**Archer**

Dear Readers:

The count-down to summer break is on. The warmer it gets outside, the more excited the student body becomes to get out and be in the sun. Whether

your excitement for school to let out is because of a summer job you can't wait to start or a vacation you can't wait to go on, everyone has their own push to make it through finals.

Summer becomes synonymous with freedom, the older you get. For me, this summer will be working at the park, driving to the lake, and road trips with friends to anywhere we can go to get out of town. This summer I want to enjoy every moment I can, and I hope everyone else can do the same. We've all worked hard this year, and we all deserve a good break.

Sincerely,

**Raegan Archer**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

## College Spotlight: Transylvania University

**By Lauren Wildoner**

Artwork & Photography Coordinator

-Transylvania University is a private liberal arts college in Lexington, Kentucky.

-Has an acceptance rate of 82%.  
92% of first-year students live on campus; 76% of all students live on campus.

-TU has 40 majors, with the opportunity to design your own.

-Has an average of \$32,010 tuition per year

-The school mascot is a pioneer

***Fun fact: It was founded in 1780, making it the first university in Kentucky and among the oldest in the United States.***



# April Playlist

**By Laney Yancey**  
Junior Editor

"We cannot stop the winter or the summer from coming. We cannot stop the spring or the fall or make them other than they are. They are gifts from the universe that we cannot refuse. But we can choose what we will contribute to life when each arrives."

**Gary Zukav**



**Sweet Talk:** Saint Motel  
**Our Deal:** Best Coast  
**Real Life Love:** Father John Misty  
**Perfectly Aligned:** Milo Greene  
**Come Rain, Come Shine:** Ivon & Alyosha  
**Giraffe:** Miniature Tigers  
**Breaking Down:** Florence & The Machine  
**Andy:** Last Dinosaurs  
**Humble:** Kendrick Lamar  
**Australia:** The Shins  
**Just Me Before We Met:** Noah and The Whale  
**Vacation:** Florist  
**I Wanna Prove To You:** The Lemon Twigs  
**To A Poet:** First Aid Kit

Follow @loserlaney on Spotify for more tunes.

# Teacher Spotlight: Mrs. Bowden

**By Laney Yancey**

Junior Editor

## How long have you been teaching?

MB: This is my fifth year.

## Did you have any jobs before teaching?

MB: I worked at a daycare/pre-school in college and for a year after college as a teaching assistant. I worked in the costume shop at my university making costumes for the productions, and I also worked as an actor/producer for our summer drama camps.

## What lead you to teaching?

MB: I love the world of theatre and wanted to share that love and give teenagers the same experiences that I did when I was in high school. I knew that if I was going to teach it would need to be a subject that I am crazy passionate about, otherwise I couldn't pass on that same love of the arts to my students.

## Favorite movie?

MB: Grease. West Side Story is a close second, though!

## Some song lyrics that mean a lot to you?

MB: "I may be small, but I've got giant plans to shine as brightly as the sun." - "Astonishing" from *Little Women: The Musical*

## Favorite fictional character?

MB: Winifred Sanderson from the movie "Hocus Pocus"

## Favorite comfort food?

MB: Cookie butter. Straight from the jar.

## Where did you go to high school and what year did you graduate?

MB: Williamstown High School in Williamstown, New Jersey - Class of 2006

## What were you like in high school?

MB: I was involved with just about everything and friends with every type of friend group. I was very sporty - I ran track and played soccer. Haha! I would go up to the city to see Broadway shows, but also go to Warped Tour in the summer. I was heavily involved in the theatre department - it was there that I found my home.

## What is one thing that you wish your students knew about you?

MB: That it devastates me when they can't see their own worth. When they talk negatively about themselves, or doubt their talents or their potential, it breaks my heart. I wish they could see themselves as I see them sometimes!

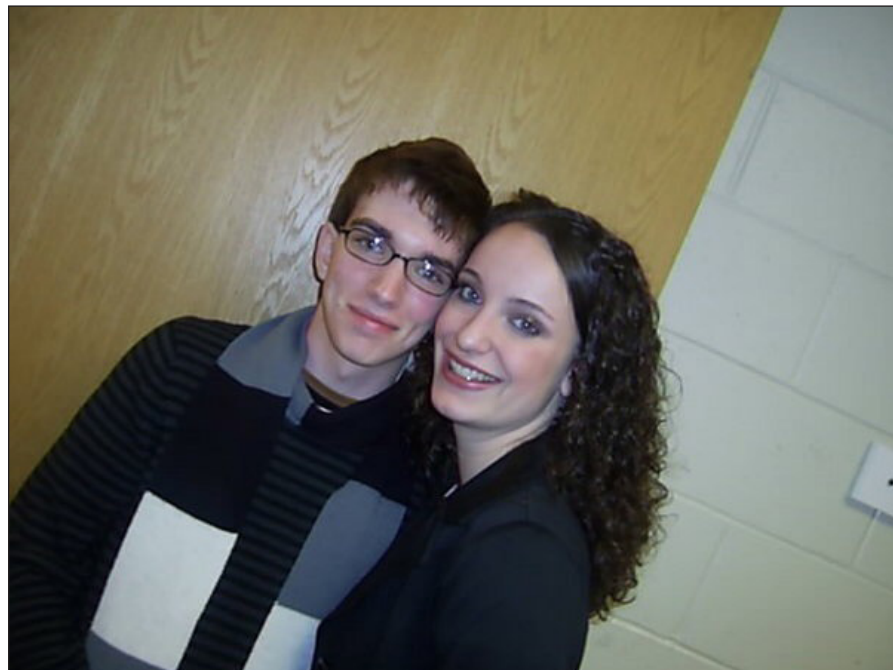
## What was the first concert you ever went to?

MB: American Idol Tour (Season 2) - I was obsessed with Clay Aiken. What?!

## What was the best concert you ever went to?

MB: Sara Bareilles. She sounds the same live as on her cd. She is remarkable.

*Mrs. Bowden is the Drama teacher at MCHS and directs our school's theatre productions.*



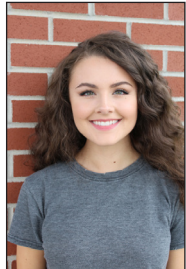
Then: Mrs. Bowden and a friend in high school as Maureen and Mark for a concert of songs from the musical *Rent*.



Now: Mrs. Bowden's headshot.



# Monthly Horoscopes



**Ponchock**

*We're almost there, people! The last month of school is slowly creeping up, but this isn't time to get lazy. We have to fight to the finish. Let's end this school year the right way. Keep your horoscope in mind as you tackle April's hurdles.*

All horoscopes written by **Kendel Ponchock**.

Graphics of zodiac symbols drawn by **Raegan Archer**.

## **Aries (3/21-4/19)**

Happy birthday, Aries!!!! April is a very hectic month for you, but you've got this. Take it at a slow pace and soak up the sunshine! Celebrate you! Major transformations are happening. Overall, this is a prosperous month for you.

## **Taurus (4/20-5/20)**

You are the only one making decisions for yourself. If you don't like something, change it! Go after things! You have the power to choose whatever you want. Intuition will guide you through the month of April. Always consider what your head and heart have to tell you.

## **Gemini (5/21-6/20)**

Love and relationships are going to go through a bit of a struggle this month, but don't worry, it's nothing severe. Keep your head up and do you; things will work themselves out. Health is going to excel this April, though. Soak up the spring weather and focus on enjoying your good health!

## **Cancer (6/21-7/22)**

Work and school are going to be the main focus for cancer born zodiacs this month. These two things are what most of your energy is going to be applied to. It's finally time to hunker down and study for those AP tests and finals. No slackers, cancer! You may have to find a way

to use your social skills to get ahead of the game.

## **Leo (7/23-8/22)**

Your social life may be causing trouble in your love life and relationships, so take it easy this month. Relax. Maybe you've had a busy schedule and need to take some time to focus on yourself and your relationships with others.

## **Virgo (8/23-9/22)**

Have you had confusion in your life lately? Take it easy this month and try to relax until the later half of April. You need to focus on yourself in order to rid the air of confusion and mixed feelings. Virgos are known for being perfectionists, and this can take a toll on your stress level. Seriously take it easy this month and ease your mind of all worries.

## **Libra (9/23-10/22)**

The path to your personal success this month will be found by helping others succeed. You will have to be flexible with your plans and routine. You may even have to go out of your way to help another, but the payoff will be worth the struggle.

## **Scorpio (10/23-11/21)**

Health will potentially cause problems at the end of the month, so keep this in mind while working hard to finish the school year. You don't want to work yourself too

hard. Take necessary time off to heal mentally and physically if you are feeling weary.

## **Sagittarius (11/22-12/21)**

April is a good month for you, Sagittarius. Social life, finances, love, relationships, and health are all heading in the right direction. Good for you! However, this isn't a time to slack off. Stay focused but overall enjoy this period of good fortune.

## **Capricorn (12/22-1/19)**

Independence is the key word this month, Capricorn. The school year is almost up and it's come time for you to take charge and finish strong. You still have time to correct your mistakes if you've been slacking off, but it's up to you and only you!

## **Aquarius (1/20-2/18)**

Collaboration will get you far this April. Work with others to find new interests and hobbies! Independence is a great thing, but sometimes it's nice to share an experience with another person. Friendships are going to thrive this month.

## **Pisces (2/19-3/20)**

Change is on it's way! Maybe this means it's time for you to get a new job, or new haircut, or change your eating habits. You need an April refresher! Something to put your head back in the game with a new energy.

# Prom Night For Underclassmen

By Lauren Wildoner

Artwork & Photography Coordinator

If you're an underclassmen or aren't going to prom, you probably need plans for April 29th that doesn't involve getting in the way of the crowd. Here are some Saturday night alternatives not only for prom night, but for when you are looking for something to do.

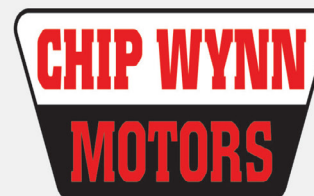
**-Night in with friends:** grab some friends and just simply have a night in. Redbox movies are a little more than \$1 and if you have every-one pitch in you can have a night full of snacks and having relaxing fun with your friends.

**-Finishing that series that you keep putting off:** Or start a new one if you're killing time until new episodes are released.

**-Do your homework:** You know you have it. Do it. Make yummy food and just get it done.

**-Take a Saturday day trip:** Plan a trip! Whether is be somewhere close like Marion, IL to Target or to somewhere like Nashville for a shopping trip, find out what's doable for you and your friends (or family!) and make a day out of it!

**-Spend some real time alone:** Whether you want to go to a quaint coffee shop and put in your earbuds alone or throw a blanket in the dryer and write or draw- do what makes you happy and do it all by your-self. Being alone sometimes is very healthy, especially when your every day is busy down to the minute.



## ELIMINATE PARENTAL GUILT

Ah, the plague of parental guilt. What moms and dads have not experienced a twinge of it when they cannot provide their children with every desire of their hearts, especially when it comes to buying their first car?

Well, here's something to think about when choosing a car for your teenager or college graduate. The depreciation on a brand new car happens much faster than you might think.

1. A new car loses 11% or more of its value the minute it leaves the lot.
2. In the first 5 years a new car depreciates by 15-25% every year. During a time when you're saving for college tuition, retirement and simply trying to keep the bills paid you can't afford to waste money. Yet you want your kid to be safe and to drive a reliable vehicle.

Well, you can have all of that when you buy a used car at Chip Wynn Motors. We inspect and test every inch of the vehicles that we sell and fortunately for you, we have a wide range of vehicles under \$15,000 on the lot. You deserve to have peace of mind when it comes to the car or truck your child drives and you can rest assured that at Chip Wynn, we don't sell bad cars.

Chip Wynn

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# An Open Letter to New Drivers

**By Lauren Wildoner**

Artwork & Photography Coordinator

## New Drivers:

Coming back from spring break, the time of the new driver is upon upperclassmen. Each year we must face the fact that a new wave of you underclassmen are getting your licenses, and, annoyingly, parking in places you don't belong in. There are rules when it comes to pulling into the high school in your car for the first time, and it's to your benefit and the rest of the student body to know these before moving forward. Get excited about getting your license, but be prepared!

When picking a parking spot, try to park farther away from the school- this may suck, but it's part of it. Every upperclassman who parks close to the school had to do it too, when they got their license. By doing this, you will most likely avoid making older drivers angry by pulling into a spot they've claimed for almost 2 years.

Also, when leaving (and en-

tering) school, follow the rules of the road- don't cut people off, let people out- overall, just be smart and nice. Traffic is crazy, and wrecks happen all the time, so to avoid the embarrassment of being in an on-campus wreck, stay a few extra feet away from someone when pulling out of the school.

A last piece of advice: figure out the most practical place to park. If your 1st period is in House 2 and you are notoriously late, don't park outside House 4. It saves you a lot of time in the end to park in a place that makes it easy for you to get in (or out of) school.

Being able to drive yourself to school is exciting and way better than riding the bus, but if you don't do it right, it can be the worst. Try to follow the rules of the school parking lot and the road. This means paying attention and staying off your phone. It will keep you safe and might even save you some embarrassment along the way.

Sincerely,

Upperclassmen drivers

## Games You Can Play On School WiFi

**By Mackenzie Adams**

Messenger Reporter

### 1. Word Cookies

If you like words, this one is great for you! It's free, but it contains ads when you're connected to Internet.

### 2. Best Fiends

I saw several ads about this game on YouTube, so I finally broke and downloaded it. It's surprisingly fun, and I personally love playing it.

### 3. Panda Pop

If you like bubble popping games, this one is super cute. It features a panda trying to save her babies from an evil monkey.

### 4. Smash Hit

A very pleasing game where you throw balls at walls and obstacles so you don't die. Very calming. The creators of Smash Hit also made a game called Does not Commute that is very frustrating.

**5. Two Dots-** If you're a fan of casual games, this one is perfect for you.

### 6. Subway Surfers

Everyone who had a phone played this game. Why did we stop? It's actually one of the better endless runners on the app store.

### 7. Stack

Extremely frustrating. My Spanish class was obsessed over this one for a while.

### 8. Fallout Shelter

One of the two games I actually leave on my phone. Why? Because I'm trash. It's just one of those games where you're in control of a community and you have to take care of everyone. Pretty fun if you like Fallout but don't bring your gaming system to school.

### 9. The Sims FreePlay

Sims? Yes, please. Sims was my favorite game when I was younger, and now I can play it for free! Alternatively: SimCity Buildit. Build a whole city!

### 10. Crossy Road

Small animals getting hit by cars (only if you let them). Super cute, but boring after a while.

## Kendel

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to be in five years, she says “In five years I hope to be graduated from SCAD and on my way to a successful career in the performing arts. My only hope is that I am happy and doing something that I love. I would love to someday star in a movie or be on Broadway? Maybe own a theater. I’ll always be performing. Anything is possible if you can dream it.” To reach this point in her life, she has had many people guide her but one person who has assisted in getting her to this place is Mrs. Bowden, the drama teacher and director of the MCHS theatre program. “Mary Bowden has made such a huge impact on my life. She has always believed in me, no matter what I’m doing. She welcomed me into the theatre department with open arms my freshman year and has continued to love and inspire me every day since then. She’s taught me that there is a solution to everything and anything you put your mind to can be done. She’s someone who I know I will be friends with for the rest of my life!”

When she finds free time, Kendel spends her weekends in Historic Downtown Paducah. “I go to Etc. Coffee House with my friends a lot; it’s one of my favorite places to be. I love downtown Paducah. I’m definitely a homebody though, so I like to stay home with my family when I can.” Family is an important factor for many people, but for Kendel, she finds comfort in where and who she comes from and takes many lessons from these beginnings. “Actions speak louder than words. This is something that my mom has been telling me since before I can even remember. You can talk the talk all you want, but if you don’t walk the walk, nothing matters.” As high school wraps up, Kendel can certainly look back on her years and see many fond memories. To sum up her high school experience in a song, Kendel chose one from *Funny Girl* with these lyrics: Don’t tell me not to live, just sit and putter. Life’s candy and the sun’s a ball of butter. Don’t bring around a cloud to rain on my parade.



# Legally Blonde at MCHS

**By Lauren Wildoner**

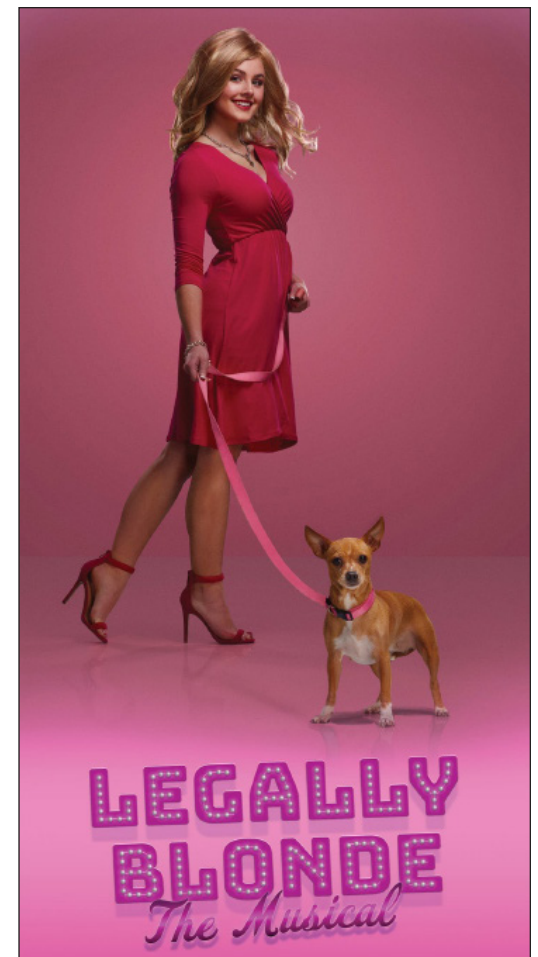
Artwork and Photography Coordinator

When *Legally Blonde* was announced as the spring musical, the department jumped into a show that is bigger, better, and blonder than anything before! After many weeks of building and painting sets, dance and music rehearsals, and encouragement of all kinds, *Legally Blonde* is almost ready to hit the MCHS stage! “*Legally Blonde* holds a very important lesson that never gets old: staying true to yourself never goes out of style. The cast and crew have put in all they got and a whole lot of time to make this show the absolute best that it can be. It will completely blow you away with the sound and show stopping choreography. You’re really going to regret not seeing this show.” says cast member Jasmine Humphrey.

*Legally Blonde: the Musical* is the story of the peppy, fashion savvy, UCLA sorority girl Elle Woods (Kendel Ponchock) who tackles stereotypes and scandal to pursue her dreams with her chihuahua Bruiser by her side. Elle appears to have it all, until her life is turned upside down. Her boyfriend, Warner (Barton Christmas) dumps her so he can start getting serious about his life and attend Harvard Law. Determined to get him back, Elle works hard to get into Harvard Law as well where she is met with the surprise of Warner already dating a serious, Harvard law student Vivienne (Laney Yancey). At school, she struggles with her peers and her professor, Callahan (Cameron Durbin) doubt-

ing who she is and what she can do. With the guidance of her best friend Paulette, a spunky hairdresser with a passion for the Irish and her bulldog (Jessie Elliott), and Emmett, a law student with a heart of gold and a chip on his shoulder (Samuel Powless), Elle realizes her potential and sets out to prove herself to the world when she is chosen to help a fitness queen, Brooke Wyndham (Amanda Handegan), prove herself innocent when accused of her husband’s murder. How will Elle find her way?

**Come experience *Legally Blonde* April 20-22 at 7:30 PM! Tickets are available at [gomeccracken.com](http://gomeccracken.com) and you won’t want to miss it!**





## *Book Discussions For All Ages*

Sunday, February 26, 2017

**Read Like a Girl: Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2017 | 3:00 PM**

Book Clubs (All Ages)

Sunday, March 26, 2017

**Read Like a Girl: Paperboy by Vince Vawter**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017 | 3:00 PM**

Book Clubs (All Ages)

Sunday, April 23, 2017

**Read Like a Girl: Out of My Mind by Sharon M. Draper**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017 | 3:00 PM**

Book Clubs (All Ages)



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**270-442-2510 | [WWW.MCLIB.NET](http://WWW.MCLIB.NET)**

## *Not-So-Popular Holidays*

**By Whitney Herring**

Messenger Reporter

During the year there are many days that are observed as holidays, such as Christmas, Halloween, Thanksgiving, and New Years. Those are main holidays that most people celebrate but there are other small observances that many people don't even know about. These small observances are just made for fun. April and May are full of these days that no one will really know about, so do something different and celebrate these days.

Pick some of these days and celebrate them, be different and do something exciting. April 2nd is National Peanut Butter and Jelly

day is "celebrated." On this day, get friends together, make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and celebrate a "holiday" that many people don't know about.

After National Peanut Butter and Jelly day, you have Name Yourself Day on April 9th. For this day, pretend to be someone else, change your name to something crazy, and go out and have fun. This day can be the day you change your identity for a little while to have some fun.

These dates are quirky little "holidays" that were made up just to have some fun. So be different, celebrate a day that you would otherwise never celebrate. These holidays are made for fun.

**April 2:** *National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day*

**April 3:** *World Party Day*

**April 7:** *Caramel Popcorn Day*

**April 9:** *Name Yourself Day*

**April 17:** *National Cheeseball Day*

**April 20:** *National High Five Day*

**May 1:** *Save the Rhino Day*

**May 6:** *No Diet Day*

**May 9:** *Lost Sock Memorial Day*

**May 14:** *Dance Like A Chicken Day*

**May 15:** *National Chocolate Chip Day*

**May 30:** *Water a Flower Day*

# One for the Books

By Kaitlyn Craig

Human Interest Coordinator

“Never judge a book by its’ cover!” This is a term we hear all the time in the context of the people around us. But in the context of actual books, it can be a great way to choose your next literary adventure. Whether you are in the library searching for a book to read for a project, or in a bookstore walking around looking for a novel to read in your free time, cover art is always one of the first things you notice. You might not realize that cover art makes that much of a difference, but you aren’t going to pick a book off the shelf that has a boring cover.

I picked up the book “Love Sick” by Jake Coburn at a book-store several months ago. I was looking for something to spend the last few dollars of a gift card I got for Christmas. I wandered the

aisles in search for a story that looked interesting. I saw this book and the cover art was very interesting, so I read the summary on the back and was intrigued by the story. I bought the book and put it on my shelf to read after I completed my current read. And when I read it I was definitely not disappointed.

This story follows two college students facing their own intense personal battles. Erica, a rich girl from Manhattan struggles with bulimia. Ted is a former alcoholic who ruined his life in a single drunk driving incident. He was a talented athlete, but when he smacked into a tree while under the influence, he messed up his knee and had to get a total replacement, erasing his chances of ever playing again. This in turn made his college evoke his full athletic scholar-

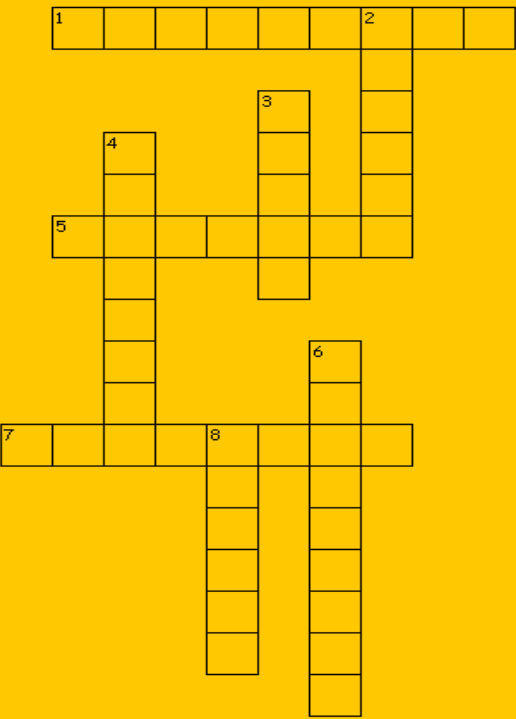
ship. But when Ted gets contacted by a man named Michael saying that he works for a man who would be willing to pay for Ted’s college in exchange for him monitoring his daughter Erica. After a lot of thought, Ted decides to accept the deal and take on the struggles of watching over Erica without her knowing and giving updates to her father Charles, who happens to be very rich. The situation then gets much more complicated when Erica and Ted fall in love. To find out what happens you will have to read the book!

I would definitely recommend this book. It isn’t your normal young adult book, the two main characters having deep character flaws. It also deals with some deep concepts, which most authors would decide to avoid. “Love Sick” is also



Our Rating: 4 / 5

a quick read and great for a busy high school student who wants to get into a book, but doesn’t have time to read a very thick book. Overall, I would give this book a 4/5.



# Messenger Crossword

- Across
1. The last name of the Messenger staff advisor

5. Our school color

7. McCracken's mascot
- Down
2. The last name of the teacher in this month's "Teacher Spotlight"

3. Our school is divided into five of these

4. The mascot of our rival school

6. The newspaper's rating system

8. The last name of the person that writes "A Letter from the Editor"



# How To Chose a Good Photographer for Senior Photos

**By Kendel Ponchock**

Messenger Reporter

The time is nigh. Your junior year is coming to an end and you have to soon start thinking about your senior year and making necessary plans. One thing every senior has to do is submit senior pictures! No, this cannot be a selfie you took on your iPhone (no matter how bomb it is). These pictures must be semi formal and taken by a real photographer with a real camera.

These precious pictures are going to be in the yearbook, online, in the newspaper, instagram, and let's face it, framed and placed above the mantel by your grandma. The vibe of the photos are up to you though; do you want a darker theme to match your maybe shy personality Or do you want bright, sunny, and light to match your happy side. A bad photographer can completely ruin pictures, so maybe don't trust

your great aunt (who yes, maybe does own a camera and won't charge you) to take these photos. This doesn't seem like a big deal, but trust me, you want these photos to be perfect. You should love them and be proud of them! So look around town and choose a photographer than you connect with.

There are plenty to choose from. Most photographers have websites their customers can go to to see the photographs work. Study the photographs; how do they make you feel? Do you want your pictures to look similar? Has the photographer done a variety of work? Ask yourself these questions. You want to be able to place yourself in the photographer's hands and trust them to get the job done. Notable photographers in the community that do senior pictures are Brad Rankin, Matt Hernandez, and Picture This Photography.



**Scott Jordan**  
Paducah Allstate Agent

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# Little Princes Author Comes to WKCTC

**By Rachel Bell**

Messenger Reporter

On March 28, a long-awaited event took place at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Conor Grennan, author of the New York Times bestseller *Little Princes*, came to the college to talk about his book. *Little Princes* is WKCTC's ninth One Book Read. On March 29, he gave the same presentation during the school day to local high school students.

*Little Princes* is the true story of Grennan's journey to Nepal, a war-torn, mountainous country in Southeast Asia. He becomes a volunteer at an orphanage to justify his trip to Asia. Not knowing the first thing about children, he struggles to find common ground with the orphans. He gradually becomes more and more attached,

and vows to return to his young friends after his first stint in Nepal. When he does return, he discovers the war to have gotten much worse, and is shocked to learn that the orphans he cares for are not orphans at all; rather, they are young victims of human trafficking. Conor is compelled to do something to help, and takes steps to somehow reunite the children with their families. It is a story of bravery, morality, and faith in the midst of a dangerous and sometimes deadly conflict.

During his presentation, Grennan was candid about his motivation for doing what he did. "It's not like I always dreamed about going to Nepal and opening up my own orphanage. I was there, I saw what was happening, and I had to do something. I promise you, if you had been in my situation, you

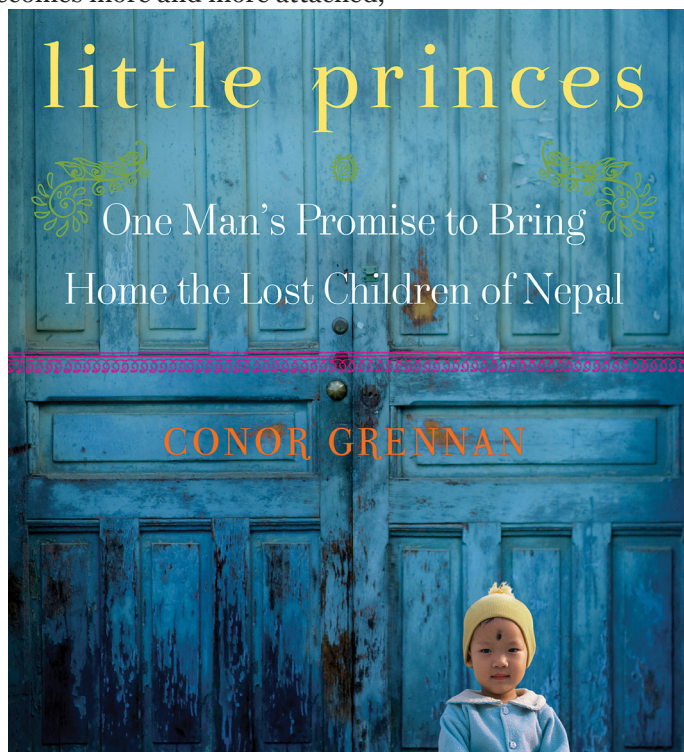
would have done the same," he told his audience. However, he trekked on foot through the mountains of Nepal to several remote villages to find children's families with nothing but some pictures, information, and hope.

Grennan's story isn't all danger and sacrifice, though. In both the book and in his presentation, he includes several anecdotes about the children he took care of. Their hilarity and fascination with the western world makes the story much more happy than one would expect of a book about Nepali orphans. He gives a human face (or several faces) to a problem that is so far-off to his audience that awareness is nearly non-existent here in the United States. Awareness, he says, is the biggest help anyone can offer his organization, Next Generation Nepal. Monetary donations are

appreciated, but according to Grennan, the number one way to help is through spreading awareness.

Meeting Conor Grennan was a true privilege for me, as I want to be an author one day. He is a talented writer and a selfless person, even if he may deny that his actions were heroic. I was nervous to meet a writer whom I respected so much, but in speaking with him face-to-face, I was immediately put at ease by his friendly and easy-going nature. His tone in the book is the same as in real life. It was an honor to meet him and to hear his story firsthand.

***To find out more information on how to help NGN, visit <http://www.nextgenerationnepal.org>.***



The Cover of *Little Princes* by Conor Grennan



MCHS Librarians Ms. Grief and Mrs. Wright with Author Conor Grennan after his presentation at WKCTC (Photo from Leslie Wright)



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# Making Your Senior Trip Your Own

**By Brianna Pritchett**

Business Manager



**Pritchett**

Not everyone can afford or is willing to fork out thousands of dollars for a trip to New York with the chance you might be stuck with someone you don't even like. Don't get me wrong, I'm sure New York is amazing and beautiful and just as smelly as everyone makes it out to be but if I'm going to be spending my own money I want to be able to do what I wish to. For example, I absolutely love Universal Studios so a nice small and inexpen-

sive trip I'd enjoy would be traveling down to Orlando and spending two or three days in an exciting adventure park. *Taking a trip down to the not-so-popular beach spot in Florida is definitely do-able.* The hardest thing would probably be the long drive but the amazing time on the beach would totally be worth it. Taking a trip to less popular vacation spots saves you tons of money, and means a more relaxing trip for you and your friends.

Now understanding that you may really want to go to the beach with some of your closest friends but you may not be able to afford the trip, that doesn't mean the fun stops there. *Take a trip to our local larger cities like Louisville, St. Louis, Nashville and Indianapolis.* These cities are large and small all in one and keep

you in a comfortable environment, and there are plenty of things to do. You could make an eventful time at one of these beautiful cities and come back home all in the same day. Take a leave early in the morning and stop by one of your favorite breakfast spots, coming into a new city means there is plenty to offer. *Take a nice shopping spree at their local malls and then make a relaxing evening walking around one of the lovely Zoos.* Throughout the day take a lunch break at one of the cute underground restaurants and make an exciting evening at a laser tag and arcade. Then in the evening wrap it up with a nice dinner before heading home.

Even if none of these still sound achievable with your budget or

friends and family understand that here in town there is still plenty to do. *Taking a trip downtown and relaxing by the riverfront after a quick stop by the ice cream shop sounds absolutely beautiful and fun all in itself.* Take a walk down Broadway and glance at all the beautiful shops Paducah withholds. While you at it go glance around downtowns neighbor, lowertown, Paducah very own art district. *On top of all of this Paducah has plenty of lovely restaurants and secret adventurous places to explore, take a group of your friends and go mini golfing and take a night out to the drive in.* Enjoy your time with your friends while you can, because pretty soon time will catch up to you and everyone will be heading in your own directions. Have a safe and eventful Summer.

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# Unique Summer Jobs

**By Caroline Dew**

Social Media Manager

Whether you're a Freshman in high school, or a Senior, you've probably encountered the dilemma of having to ask your parents for money. It can be embarrassing and annoy your parents, especially if you're asking every other day for petty cash. Having a job is an important part of growing up, and landing a job, even a small one, in high school can really help you out in the long run. Most students find that having a summer job is a good place to start - it doesn't interfere with school, and you can work lots of hours, earning you more money.

## 1. Lifeguarding

Lifeguarding is the first summer job to pop into my head - it's a job that is done almost exclusively in the summer, and starts up again every summer. Lifeguarding can be rewarding and fun - to become a lifeguard you must pass a test administered by the Red Cross, and you must get CPR certified. Being CPR

certified not only helps you land a job as a lifeguard, but it can be useful in everyday life too. Being educated in first aid and CPR can help if you find yourself the first available person in an emergency situation. And, I mean come on, have you ever seen the movie Baywatch?

## 2. Camp Counselor-ing

Being a camp counselor is an amazing opportunity as well. If being a teacher is in your future, or really any job that works closely with children, then being a camp counselor can look great on a resume. Being a camp counselor is no short of 'fun' either. You get to make up fun games for children to play, play them with them, and have a fun time with your coworkers. Being a camp counselor sometimes requires you to be CPR and first aid certified as well. It's important to have some people on the team who know what to do in an emergency, so sometimes the company that runs the camp will send in a Red Cross CPR specialist to help their counselors become certified.

## 3. Whatever pops into your head

That may seem like a silly title, but it's true! How many times have you heard about people having their own summer businesses - mowing lawns, walking dogs, babysitting? All of these things and more can be great opportunities for you to make money. With these self-made jobs, not only do you make your own hours, but you get to choose what you do. With jobs like mowing lawns, you usually need to have the equipment of course, and with jobs like babysitting it's good to know some first aid, but other than that, you set the requirements for employment on your own. It can even

be fun to have some friends hop on the little business and to make it a group project! People have been known to make over a thousand dollars a summer just mowing lawns. That's not petty cash.

If you are unaware of the many opportunities for summer employment in your area, I recommend checking out your local government's website. Often times, lifeguards and camp counselors are employed by the government. If you're unsure how to start up your own little business, I recommend talking to a parent or guardian - they've probably got some experience in something like that!

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# Entertainment

## The Warped Tour Lineup is Here, and It's Lit

**By Leigh Duncan**  
Messenger Reporter

Whether you're a warped veteran, like yours truly is, or this is your first time, you're going to want to catch this. As a lot of us know, the 2017 Warped Lineup was leaked on Monday, March 20th. Well, yesterday, it was confirmed. And the leak was pretty accurate, according to the live broadcast Kevin Lyman, Warped Founder ran last night (Wednesday,

March 22nd) at 5pm central time. This also happened last year- the lineup surfaced online only days before the announcement.

Without further adieu, here is the lineup in full, by stage. It is important to note that only bands playing the Nashville date on 6/27 are listed; if you intend to attend a different, further away date, visit [vanswarpedtour.com](http://vanswarpedtour.com) for a full list of dates and their lineup.



6.16 SEATTLE, WA	7.6 CHARLOTTE, NC	7.20 INDIANAPOLIS, IN
6.17 PORTLAND, OR	7.7 PHILADELPHIA, PA	7.21 DETROIT, MI
6.21 ALBUQUERQUE, NM	7.8 LONG ISLAND, NY	7.22 CHICAGO, IL
6.22 PHOENIX, AZ	7.9 HARTFORD, CT	7.23 MINNEAPOLIS, MN
6.23 LAS VEGAS, NV	7.10 SCRANTON, PA	7.24 MILWAUKEE, WI
6.24 SALT LAKE CITY, UT	7.11 VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	7.26 ST. LOUIS, MO
6.25 DENVER, CO	7.12 BOSTON, MA	7.27 KANSAS CITY, KS
6.27 NASHVILLE, TN	7.13 BUFFALO, NY	7.28 DALLAS, TX
6.28 NEW ORLEANS, LA	7.14 PITTSBURGH, PA	7.29 SAN ANTONIO, TX
6.29 ATLANTA, GA	7.15 HOLMDEL, NJ	7.30 HOUSTON, TX
6.30 ORLANDO, FL	7.16 WASHINGTON, DC	8.4 SAN FRANCISCO, CA
7.1 TAMPA, FL	7.18 CLEVELAND, OH	8.5 SAN DIEGO, CA
7.2 WEST PALM BEACH, FL	7.19 CINCINNATI, OH	8.6 LOS ANGELES, CA

### Journey's Right Foot Stage

American Authors  
Andy Black  
Dance, Gavin, Dance  
Hands Like Houses  
Memphis May Fire  
Neck Deep  
Our Last Night  
Save Ferris

### Journey's Left Foot Stage

Atilla  
Bowling for Soup  
CKY  
Futuristic  
Hawthorne Heights  
I Prevail  
Jule Vera  
New Years Day  
Sammy Adams  
(George) Watsky

### Mutant North Stage (Previously "Monster North")

The Acacia Strain  
Being as an Ocean  
Candiria  
Counterparts  
Fit for a King  
Hatebreed  
Silent Planet  
Stick to Your Guns  
Skylar

### Mutant South Stage (Previously Monster South)

After the Burial  
Blessthefall  
Carnifex  
Emmure  
Gwar  
Hundredth

Silverstein  
Sworn in  
Too Close to Touch

### Skullcandy Stage

Alestorm  
Bad Seed Rising  
Barb Wire Dolls  
Microwave  
Never Shout Never (Christopher Drew will also be between sets at the Mutant Stages performing poetry)  
Sonic Boom Six  
War On Women  
The White Noise  
William Control

### Hard Rock Stage

The Adolescents  
Anti-Flag  
The Ataris  
Bad Cop/Bad Cop  
Fire from the Gods  
Municipal Waste  
Sick of It All  
Strung Out  
Valient Thorr

### Full Sail University Stage

Boston Manor  
Carousel Kings  
Courage, My Love  
Creeper  
The Dukes  
The Fantastic Plastics  
Farewell Winters  
Feeki  
The Gospel Youth  
Knocked Loose  
Movements  
Trophy Eyes



# Bones Series Finale Review

**By Kaelin Rowell**

Messenger Reporter

The season finale of *Bones*, a show about forensic anthropology and crime, aired in late March as we all said farewell to characters we have come to love for the past twelve years. I went into the finale feeling apprehensive and came out feeling extremely angry, but also content with what was brought to the screen in some aspects.

If I were the one who got to decide how to end a 12-season run of this TV show, I would certainly do things differently. I like the idea of going out with a bang but with a compressed final season, there wasn't enough time to bring all of the characters to a sound end. What makes me mad about this is the fact that this season had twelve episodes, which is already a rushed time frame, and they decided to wrap everything up in the finale.

When the screen faded to black, I couldn't help but feel disappointed. Some characters were brought to an end, but they were insignificant characters and were only part of the supporting cast. Lance Sweets, played by John Francis Daley, was a main character that died two seasons ago and he was only mentioned one time, which I thought was absurd.

Brennan's "I remember..." about every intern was kind of cool because it shows that past her head

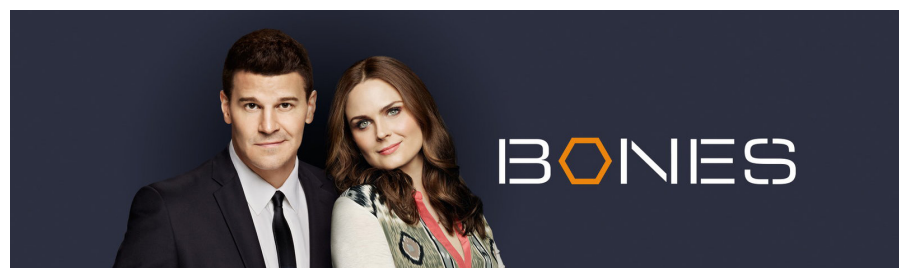
injury, she remembered the things that mattered. Then when Hodgins and Angela show off the kids' book that they began writing about all of the members of the team, Brennan remarks that they're all in it, that it's "all about us," which also struck me as a bit of an homage to *Wizard of Oz*.

The audience is left with way too much of an uneasy feeling. It is unknown if Brennan actually gets better, if Hodgins walks again, if Angela and Hodgins' baby is born without sight, or what is next for the team after the lab burns down. I had hoped it would have been a complete wrap up or farewell. But it just ended abruptly. I did like how they hinted at colleagues past as they sifted through the Jeffersonian rubble. It was beautifully written with the characters pulling out important objects we have seen all throughout the show. I just wish there was more.

As I always say, for all its faults, *Bones* is one of my all-time favorite TV shows that I have watched since the fifth grade. It has consistently shown a strong, intelligent, female scientist balance work and family for more than a decade. *Bones* will have a lasting impact on me for sure, but the finale was overall disappointing.



Our Rating: 3.5 / 5



# Netflix Recommendations

**By Luke Resser**

Messenger Reporter

## Mystery Science Theater 3000

*Mystery Science Theater 3000* was a Canadian show in which a man and his robot friends gave funny commentary on bad B-movies. The original series is being brought to Netflix as well as brand new episodes. I just hope that Netflix keeps the show just as good as it used to be. But if the new episodes aren't great, we'll still have the original series. Fans of quirky comedy should be excited for this and check out the old episodes as well.



Our Rating: 4 / 5

## Schindler's List

Steven Spielberg's Holocaust film is a classic all around. Liam Neeson stars as Oskar Schindler, a man who saves lives by protecting Jewish workers through his factory. It's a three hour long epic full of emotion and amazing acting. If you enjoy emotional dramas or films that take place during World War II, you'll love this 1993 classic.



Our Rating: 4.5 / 5

## Tropic Thunder

This comedy from Ben Stiller tells the story of a group of actors who are thrust into real combat while filming an action movie in Southeast Asia. With a cast including Robert Downey Jr., Tom Cruise, Jack Black, and more, this film is definitely a highlight of Ben Stiller's directing career. Anyone who enjoys satire or Ben Stiller comedies will definitely enjoy this film.



Our Rating: 4 / 5

## The Prestige

Christopher Nolan's 2006 film about rival magicians has always been a personal favorite of mine. The film tells the story of two rival magicians who compete against each other to make the perfect magic trick. The story seems plain at first, but Nolan's expert directing helps to make the entire film compelling from beginning to end. Fans of Christopher Nolan films will love *The Prestige*.



Our Rating: 4 / 5

*Do you have any recommendations for next month's Netflix recommendations? Send us a DM on Twitter @MCHSMessenger!*

# Rachel Reviews:

# Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

**By Rachel Bell**  
Messenger Reporter

**WARNING: While the author has taken painstaking efforts to leave this review spoiler-free, the definition of a “spoiler” is subjective, and everyone has different thoughts and opinions on this. Please read at your own risk.**

There are some films that have such a bearing on our culture, such an impact on our childhood, that it's owed recognition as one of the greatest of all time. The 1971 classic *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* is one of those films. Directed by Mel Stuart, it was based on Roald Dahl's 1964 children's book *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. While it wasn't a huge success at the time of its release, *Willy Wonka* has since taken its place as one of the greatest films in history.

Charlie Bucket (Peter Ostrum) comes from an extremely poor family. He lives with his mother and four bedridden grandparents, and he finds a confidant in his Grandpa Joe (Jack Albertson). They live in the same town as the famous candy maker Willy Wonka, but his factory has been closed for several years due to competitors sending in spies to learn Wonka's secrets. No one has gone in or out of the factory since the gates closed. Suddenly, Wonka makes an announcement that shocks the world: he has put Golden Tickets in five random Wonka Bars across the world, and the lucky winners will be invited to tour his factory and receive a lifetime supply of chocolate. Charlie knows he won't

win, but he continues hoping for the best. He ends up winning the fifth ticket. He decides to bring Grandpa Joe. Willy Wonka (Gene Wilder) himself brings the five children and their parents around the factory, showing them around and eliminating them one by one, until a sole winner is left.

The best part about this film is the visuals and effects. Granted, this is the 1970's, so the effects are a little dated, but the visuals add to the timelessness of the film, especially in the Fudge Room of the factory. The outside world is dull and gritty, but inside the factory, the environment is fun and magical. That is, except for the infamous Tunnel Scene, where all sorts of scary imagery is shown that might scare children and even unnerve adults. There are all kinds of twists and turns in the factory, and you never know whether is something is really how it seems, or just an illusion.

The songs are classics that everyone knows and loves. “Pure Imagination” has a legacy of its own outside of the film, and “I’ve Got a Golden Ticket” can be stuck in your head for days after you watch it. The Oompa-Loompas’ songs are all pretty similar and yet unique to the present situation.

When author Roald Dahl saw this film, he was dissatisfied with the fact that the film's focus was more on Willy Wonka than it was on Charlie. That's easy to see why. Gene Wilder truly steals the show in this. He portrays Wonka as a kindly but sarcastic mystery that is very sure of himself but causes others to doubt

his actions. Wonka makes candy because “that's what he was born to do”, without an in-depth backstory or reason. That's what makes Willy Wonka a great character. He's a dreamer, but not air-headed; sarcastic, but not mean-spirited; intelligent; but not pompous. There's a perfect balance. Gene Wilder's performance isn't to say Peter Ostrum was bad in his role of Charlie. In fact, he was very good. He was only twelve years old at the time, and he portrays Charlie as a real kid.

He's a good person at heart, but that doesn't stop him from feeling jealousy or bitterness or hopelessness at times. That's something everybody can relate to, no matter what age. This was Ostrum's only film role ever; he later became a veterinarian.

Most everyone has seen this movie, but may not remember it very well because it's been so long. It's worth a rewatch. *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* is one of those rare timeless, 100% feel-



good movies. Share it with younger generations. This one is going to be on movie shelves for years to come. *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* is rated G.



Our Rating: 4.5 / 5



# Softball Seniors: Where are They Going?

**By Whitney Herring**  
Messenger Reporter

This softball season will be bittersweet for the 4 seniors of the McCracken County Lady Mustangs. This season, will be the last time that these 4 girls take the field together. For some of them, they will choose to continue their athletic career, but for others, this is where it ends. This year, their cleats will hit the field for the last time.

With this year quickly coming to an end, the 4 seniors had a tough choice to make. They had to decide if they wanted to pursue their athletic career in college, or if this is where they wanted it to end. 2 of the 4 have decided to continue their athletic and academic career, and the other 2 have decided to continue just their academic careers.

The 2 seniors that will be

continuing to play softball are Kalli Harris and Taylor Poindexter. The 2 seniors that have decided to just continue their academic career are Karlie Hatton and Hannah Jones. These 4 players have been involved in great things while on this team. They have been state runner ups twice, and even brought home a state championship in 2015, which was only the McCracken County Lady Mustangs second visit to the state tournament.

Kalli Harris has chosen to continue her academic and athletic career at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia, Kentucky. Harris will be majoring in neonatal nursing while playing college level softball. Taylor Poindexter has also chosen to continue her academic and athletic career Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. Poindexter will be majoring in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology on the pre-med

track and monotony in Spanish while playing softball at a college level. Karlie Hatton has chosen to continue her academic career at West Kentucky Community and Technical College. Hatton wants to become a registered nurse and has made her decision to not play college level softball. Hannah Jones has also chosen to continue her academic career at Murray State University. Jones is planning to major in Health and Safety Engineering (OSH), she has also made her decision to not play college level softball.

These 4 seniors have had a great career here at McCracken County High School. They have the ability to go out and be the best that they can

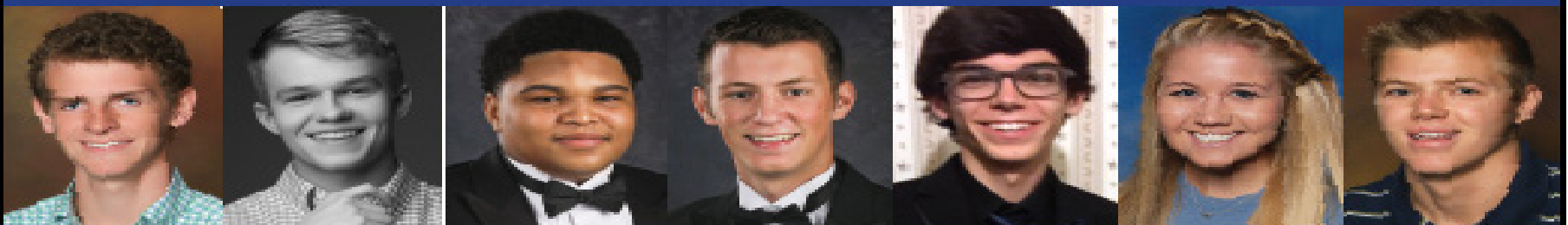
be whether that be through their academics or through their athletic careers. This season will be the last time they play with the Mustangs logo across their chest.



*Taylor Poindexter, Kalli Harris, Karlie Hatton, and Hannah Jones MCHS Softball seniors (Photo by Matt Hernandez Creative)*

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## Brianna Pritchett

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