



# The Arrow

## The Faces in the Hallway

# Katie Beasley

By Savanna Harvey

“Good morning Atlanta!” A quote often said by former Sequoyah student Katie Beasley. Beasley is now currently working on the Fox 5 Atlanta news. Beasley was originally from Woodstock and attended Mountain Road Elementary School, but in first grade she and her family moved to Hickory Flat. She then started going to Hickory Flat Elementary School.

“I have such fond memories of playing on the playground and learning in the hallways [at Hickory Flat],” Beasley said.

Although she does not still live in the Hickory Flat area, she visits very often because her parents live in the area. In Elementary school she was a big rule follower- she was on the safety patrol, and her interest in news started in elementary school.

“I helped deliver the news of the morning for the very first school broadcast when I was in fifth grade,” Beasley said.

This had sparked an interest in broadcast journalism, which was still one of her interests in high school. While at Sequoyah, she was the yearbook editor her junior and senior year.

“My time as a broadcaster for the morning news at Hickory Flat Elementary, and my time as the yearbook editor at Sequoyah really helped to push me into the career path when I arrived at

UGA,” Beasley said.

It was not until high school when teachers like Leslie Bentley, Milka Mosley, and Matt Bartula really encouraged her to write and pursue her dreams. Matt Bartula still works at Sequoyah and he said, “Katie was a very quiet student, I gave her her first journal to write in and I feel like that helped her pursue her passion.”

While Katie was growing up, her family always had the news on the television. In the mornings, she would watch the Today Show with Katie Couric. She always admired her, and in college she got to work with Monica Pearson.

“I interned with Monica Pearson in college, and I run into her occasionally at local events still today. I will always appreciate the encouragement she showed me,” Beasley said.

She also did other internships in college. She interned in the news department at WSB, Channel 2 and interned in the sports department at WAGA FOX 5. These experiences helped her with her work. She got to shadow reporters on big stories and work at the assignment desk answering phones and even putting stories together that aired on TV.

“Both were very hands on, and I took away so much personally and professionally,” Beasley said.

She and her husband both went to Dean Rusk, but unfortunately, they

did not have any classes together. They did not really start to get to know each other until high school. It started all started their junior year. They both went to the homecoming dance that year with other dates, but when their dates were taking photos for homecoming court, they happened to meet and dance with one another.

“Cell phones were not really a big thing yet, so we would chat for hours on AOL Instant Messenger on our computer, then walk each other to class in the hallways,” Beasley said.

When they graduated high school in 2004, they both went to different colleges. They spent a lot of weekends back and forth visiting one another. She went to UGA to study Journalism, while he went to Georgia Tech to study engineering.

“We spent another four years long distance before I was able to land a job at FOX5 and move back to Atlanta,” Beasley said.

When Katie was a student in college, she looked up to the workers at FOX 5 because they gave her advice that she carries with her until this day.

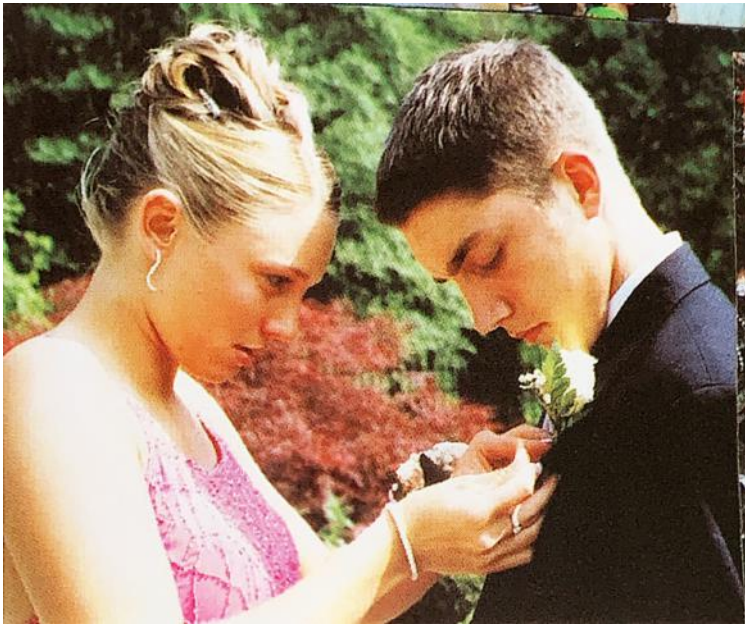
“If it is something you truly have a passion for, go after it and learn how to do all the aspects of the job,” Beasley said.

## Katie's Favorite Teachers:

Milka Mosley

Matt Bartula

Leslie Bentley



# Katie's Favorite Subjects:





**Iceland**  
HANDMADE SOAP  
Santa Monica Soap Co.  
100% Natural  
Handmade in the USA

**Candy**  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

**Orange Crush**  
HANDMADE SOAP  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

**Orange Crush**  
HANDMADE SOAP  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

**Iceland**  
HANDMADE SOAP  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

**Iceland**  
HANDMADE SOAP  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

**Candy**  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

**Lavender**  
HANDMADE SOAP  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

**Orange Crush**  
HANDMADE SOAP  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

**Iceland**  
HANDMADE SOAP  
Santa Monica Soap Co.

# Jonathan Pucylowski

By Lily Feyerabend

Sports blaring in the background, a YouTube video playing on the side, or a plate full of food ready to be eaten. For some high school students this may be a time for relaxing, but for senior Jonathan Pucylowski it is a time for work. It is during these lulls in his day where he finds time to package soap or process new orders for his business, Santa Monica Soap Company.

Jonathan Pucylowski started his own company while he was still in the fifth grade. Starting a business can be a challenging task that takes many hours of hard work. Most entrepreneurs are adults when they start their own business or have a respectable amount of experience and understanding of the business world; however, Pucylowski took the opportunity to change this precedent. He initially got the idea of starting his soap company from personal experience with his dad and brother. This encounter opened his eyes to the possibilities of making money independently.

“My brother walked into my dad’s office one day and said that he wanted this nice Lego set. It had been 3 months since Christmas and 5 months until his birthday, so my dad was not going to get it for him. He instead asked him, ‘How are you going to get it?’ He said money, and my brother asked

him how to do that, and he answered, with a company. Then my dad did some research and found someone who was selling their company, he then bought Santa Monica Soap Company,” Pucylowski said.

Pucylowski has owned Santa Monica Soap Company since 2014 and has plans to expand it even more in the future. However, for the time being, he is focused on his education and enjoys running his business on the side.

“Through the years there has always been a hope to expand, but as I’ve gotten further into high school, time has become less available. There is a chance to do this as a full-time job in the future, but for now I plan to continue the business as it is,” Pucylowski said.

Despite the challenges of his packed schedule, Pucylowski finds ways to complete his many responsibilities.

“Time management is the most difficult thing about running a business. Managing my schoolwork, sports, friends, family, my other job, and a company all at the same time is never easy. So, you must be able to multitask and manage your time efficiently. You must make sacrifices in your time,” Pucylowski said.

There is a definite frontrunner when regarding Pucylowski’s favorite product. In the soap industry there are generally the same few smells, but in contrast Pucylowski aims to sell new and unusual scents for his customers.

“Orange Crush is by far our most popular product because of its unique smell. It smells exactly like if you just opened an orange soda,” Pucylowski said.

Pucylowski takes an abundance of pride in his products, and he continuously attempts to better his company in any way that he can. For example, he found it rewarding after creating a product that is inclusive to customers that suffer from allergies.

“About 3 years in we created a completely new scent to reach a new group of customers. Our main scents are made from all-natural ingredients which include coconut oil. So, anyone with a nut allergy cannot use our main scents. So, the new scent called Lemongrass does not contain coconut oil and therefore can be used by anyone with a nut allergy,” Pucylowski said.

Almost a decade in to owning his own business, Pucylowski hopes this is only the beginning for Santa Monica Soap Company.

## Santa Monica Soap Co. best sellers:



# Bailey Hodgins

By Grant Davis

“Everything litty, I love when it’s hot. Turned up the city, I broke off the notch.” Senior Bailey Hodgins takes her earbuds out and puts her helmet on to run onto the field and start her last high school flag football game, but certainly not her last game ever.

Hodgins has been on the Flag football team since its founding two years ago; however, football is not the only sport she has played throughout her life. Even though she has played different sports she has always had a soft spot for football.

“I have played softball for a short time, basketball, managed for the track team, and now flag football,” Hodgins said. “I watched my brother play football my whole life, I’ve always enjoyed practicing with him and watching him play. I never knew I would get a chance to play myself and when it came up, I took it and ran with it.”

Even though Hodgins has only been playing football for two years, they have been two pretty impressive years. Last year, the inaugural season, they made it all the way to the state championship game and this year, they only lost one game which was the elite eight game in the playoffs.

Although Hodgins was not the main reason for the start of the flag football team, she does feel like her time here has left a lasting impact.

“I can’t say I helped start up the football team because I did not. But I can say that I helped make a foundation for those who get to play after me,” Hodgins said.

Over the past two years Hodgins has gained many mentors while being a part of the team.

“My biggest inspiration was definitely my coaches,” Hodgins said as she nodded her head in agreement with herself and admiration for her coaches.

“Coach Little was the most uplifting, Coach Ryan helped me stay out of my head, and Coach Williams was quiet but was someone who I looked up to.”

But for Hodgins one of her coaches stuck out the most and made the biggest impact on her as a player and a person.

“My QB coach and offensive coordinator Dakota Hughes worked and trained with me outside of practice before, during, and now after the season still to help me continue my football journey,” Hodgins said. “Out of many of the mentors I have come across in my life so far, Dakota has had the biggest impact on me. She inspired me to be the best on my team, on the field, and outside of the sport. She is one of the most determined people I know.”

While her coaches may have been her biggest influences on the field, one person was Hodgins’ true inspiration for all of her game.

“My biggest motivation for playing is my mom,” Hodgins said with a soft smile on her face. “She battles stage 3 ovarian cancer every day and throughout the sports I’ve played she has enjoyed seeing me be quarterback and play football the most. She is definitely my biggest supporter.”

Now with her time on the Sequoyah Flag Football team in the past, Hodgins looks onto bigger things.

“I tried out for the X league along with my two teammates Calli Stanley and Kylee Santana. The X league is the highest level of football for women and is owned by (member of the college and pro football halls of fame) Mike Ditka,” Hodgins said.

The Extreme Football League, previously the Lingerie Football League, is made up of eight teams from across the nation and has women players of differing ages. Hodgins made the Atlanta

Empire team and has started practicing with the team.

“We practice on the weekends since the girls ages who I play with range from seventeen to almost forty.



Everyone has jobs or school during the week so on Friday everyone flies or drives in from places like Washington and Nashville. The practices are very structured and the intensity is way higher. It is definitely different than any way I’ve ever practiced before.”

Now Hodgins prepares to put her headphones back on, push play, and start a whole new era of her football career.

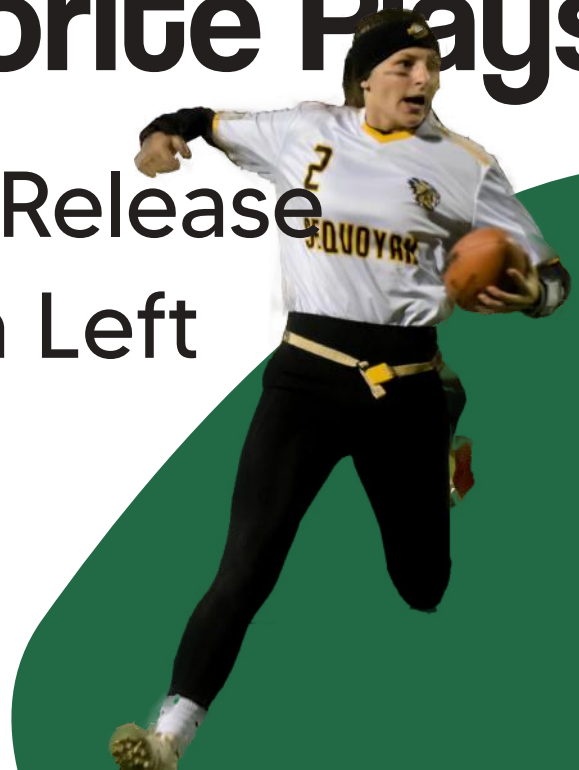




Photos by Grayson Belanger

# Bailey's 5 Favorite Plays:

- X Base Right G&Y Release
- O Base Left Option Left
- X I Had a Dream
- O Trips Right 999
- X Wildcat



# From setbacks...

Student athletes share how they overcame

## Tristan Barber:

*Basketball and Track*

By: Jack Piskorz



Photo by Grayson Belanger

“I was diagnosed with Pierre Robin Sequence and a horseshoe cleft palate at birth and eosinophilic esophagitis around age six. Most of my treatments are surgical, I’ve had a total of 16 surgeries. I love basketball and I want to show people that you are only at a disadvantage if you allow yourself to be. In addition to physical drawbacks, there are many mental challenges. Having these conditions has taught me to fight for everything, and when the odds are stacked against me, I just fight harder.”

## Izzy Castillo:

*Track and Field*

By: Lily Feyerabend



Photo by Grayson Belanger

“I broke my collar bone while playing in the Powderpuff football game two days before sectionals for Track. I had to get surgery to repair the bone. While I was out, I faced a lot of struggles. I could not really do anything on my own. My injury taught me that I need to be more careful and cautious but also to be grateful because you never know when a wrong move or action could set you back. However, I let the injury make me stronger and work harder when I recovered.”

## Mackenzie Beaver:

*Swim*

By: TJ Murphy



Photo by Darby Rose Photography

“I have been diagnosed with a herniated disc. I missed two weeks of school before we went digital, and I wasn’t swimming during this time. Throughout my injury I have been doing physical therapy to strengthen my back. This was very hard considering I’m a very active person and I now must limit myself from some activities. This injury has benefited me as a person by teaching me to never give up.”

## Bradley Gordon:

*Baseball*

By: Jack Piskorz



Photo by Grayson Belanger

“I have Type One Diabetes. So, I can practice and play games, I have to check my blood sugar levels to make sure that they are in the right range. Based on my blood sugar levels I need to take either insulin or sugar in order to stay ready to play. I sometimes need to sit for short periods of time in sports if my blood sugar drops or rises super quickly during sports. Diabetes has allowed me, as a person, to become more responsible and perceptive.”



# ...to comebacks

obstacles and challenges in their athletic career.

## **Amelia Griffiths:**

*Lacrosse and Flag Football*

By: Grant Davis



Photo provided by Ameila Griffiths

“I have had many medical setbacks in sports, I injure myself a lot. I have Vasovagal Syncope episodes and I have Cardiac Palpitations. All of these medical issues have pushed me back both mentally and physically in my sport, but I try my best to keep going. Sports are the most important thing in my life, they always have been, and I’m not going to let the pain that I can’t control take away opportunities I’ve worked so hard to get to.”

## **Madison Rajeki:**

*Soccer*

By: Jack Blackman



Photo by Grayson Belanger

““I was diagnosed with a patellar dislocation. In October, I partially tore the ligament after I collided with another player at full speed, and she hit my knee. After this, I went almost three months without playing soccer or any real physical activity. I just started back in mid-January 2021. Some days I would get upset that I couldn’t be out with my team and play the sport that I love. This injury really helped me learn how to be a leader off the field though since I couldn’t be one on it.”

## **Baylor Borden:**

*Football*

By: EJ Freeman



Photo by Grayson Belanger

“I played wide receiver, but I did not get much playing time until senior year. Not playing a lot up until my senior year definitely pushed me because I knew that I needed to prove myself. Becoming a main target made me feel good because I felt like my teammates trusted me to do my job. This season, I felt like I did my job and helped the team in a positive way and I could always improve on everything.”

## **Jaden Mitchell:**

*Football*

By: EJ Freeman



Photo by Grayson Belanger

“I partially tore my ACL. 4th quarter, I was running for a touchdown to end the game and got tackled from behind. My adrenaline was pumping, and the trainers and I thought it was just a stinger and I went back in to play. My recovery was about 3-5 months. I had to do a lot of physical therapy, but I think the injury did make me stronger. It helped me with my mental strength to be able to get injured and fight through it to recovery.”



Photo by Grayson Belanger

“ Every year we made the thanksgiving turkey together. He would make this grand mix of seasonings and just eyeball it all and we both knew it was correct by the smell at the end. After a few years he passed it off to me and would just watch. The big joke was I had three brothers and being the only girl people were always surprised to find out I was the one that made the turkey. He would always brag that he taught me and I would be the only Valone to carry it on. I was only 11 at the time. ”

“ He worked in construction and in doing so he would bring back big bobcats and machinery to our house. One day we passed the neighbor’s house and they just pulled up a tree out of their front yard and the grass was destroyed and all lumpy. He offered to drive the bobcat over and flatten everything out for free and they were ecstatic about it. He let me sit on his lap the whole time and even let me use the machinery for a little bit of it. What ended up happening was the little spot they needed to be fixed ended up being the entire front yard and all the grass was destroyed. He got a little carried away, but they were still thankful nonetheless. ”  
But we were laughing the whole way home.

# Isabella Valone

By Sydney Pate

When tragedy strikes unexpectedly, what do you do? Senior Isabella Valone faced a tragedy of her own the summer going into her eighth-grade year. With no warning, her father passed away from a sudden heart attack. Losing a parent is an unimaginable pain in any context, but especially so when it is unexpected.

“I didn’t know how to cope with such a big loss at such a young age, so I tried to ignore what happened, and I kind of just shut down and didn’t talk to anyone about it,” Valone said.

Although this loss was unbearable, Valone was not alone in her grieving. She has three brothers: Kalin (21), Kobe (15), and Kolton (11), and they each began coping in their own ways.

“When everything happened, Kalin kind of drifted away into his friends, and I kind of started taking care of Kobe and Kolton as a full-time job,” Valone said.

Because of how hectic everything became, there was not much time for a full grieving process; all emotions seemed to be pushed to the back burner as each sibling tried to help manage getting by. Valone especially stepped up during this time and tried her best as a young middle school girl to “parent” two young boys, but the stress quickly became overwhelming. Although this is clearly a high stress level situation, Valone attributes this characteristic about herself to her father.

“Although I only got to see a middle school perspective of my dad, we are very

similar in how we handle situations. I get stressed very easily and don’t do well with it and my mom loves to remind me that that’s from my dad,” Valone said.

Aside from the change in dynamics between Valone and her brothers, things around the house began to drastically change as well. Her father had always largely provided for their family, so her mother had to quickly take over that responsibility. This left her slammed with a new schedule and little time to do much of anything else.

“She had to pick up a new job with a lot more hours, so not only did my dad pass, but my mom wasn’t really present at home either,” Valone said.

Housework and bills began to pile up by the day, so the Valone children had to grow up much faster than normal in order to adjust to the new challenges in front of them.

After much time and healing, Valone’s mother started dating again and began to fall for a new man. He lost his first wife in a battle with cancer many years prior, and also has children in the Sequoyah district, one of which is in Valone’s grade. Although the idea of a parent getting into a new relationship with a whole other family would be upsetting to some, Valone approved of it quickly.

“I knew it was going to end up in marriage and it honestly wasn’t that crazy to me because he was such a good guy who I really liked, and they were already spending a lot of time with each other,” Valone said.

As predicted, the two got engaged

and swiftly planned their wedding. Once they were married, Valone gained two step-sisters (ages 14 and 25) and two stepbrothers (ages 18 and 22), and the family moved into a brand-new house to accommodate everyone.

“Moving houses was probably the easiest part, but having to move in with four new siblings was a huge adjustment because our families ran very differently,” Valone said.

Things were a bit rocky in the beginning because each family’s lifestyle had originally been very different, so it took some time to work out the kinks. Despite lifestyle changes, having a new stepbrother in her grade was one of the biggest adjustments for Valone.

“It was kind of awkward at first since we had only ever been around each other at school and had some of the same friends, but after some time, we really ended up really bonding over us having similar circumstances with our parents passing,” Valone said.

Although her story has had many challenges, lots of good has come out of it. Now, Isabella and her family all work well together and have a great bond, and she will always carry around pieces of her dad with her.

“Honestly a lot of good has come out of all of this. Meeting my stepdad and their family has been very eye opening, and it’s made me grow a lot closer with my own brothers in the process,” Valone said.



# Ana Gonzalez

By Brett Lowry

Stepping up to the dance floor, she readies herself for a performance. Lights flashing, judges waiting patiently – the pressure is on. She takes one deep breath, and then the routine begins. The stress of dance is nothing new to senior Ana Gonzalez whose dancing career spans over thirteen years. For such a precise and concentration-focused art, Gonzalez's dance origins stemmed from exactly the opposite.

"I was a really hyper kid, so my mom put me into dance when I was three, just so that I [could] get my energy out," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez's early beginnings let her pick up the fundamentals of dance early, which meant she could dedicate more of her time to improving her technique and learning specific dances.

It was through the advent of Gonzalez's early start, as well as dedication and hard work, that brought her to the point where she is now. One important, and frequently overlooked, factor in dance is passion.

"I actually really liked it [when starting out]," Gonzalez said, "I've always been... drawn to dance."

However, the road to mastery did not come without its fair share of hardships. Complications like moving states and motivation issues only hampered her progress.

"[I've] lived in three states, so I've been to eight dance studios in my whole life," Gonzalez said. "I didn't like it in middle school just because I got burned out, so I started doing soccer for [several] years, but then I went back to

dance."

A member of Duet Dance Academy's Prima Company for two years, Gonzalez has a dance studio that she can stick with, at least for the time she remains in the area.

Gonzalez stresses that mental wellbeing in dance is just as important as physical fitness and ability. Mental fortitude and resilience are necessary, as the dance season entails a long and arduous schedule that spans nearly the entire year.

"It's a year-round thing, and we don't really get an off-season, because even in the summer we have intensives," Gonzalez said. "This competition season I have a solo, a duet, an ensemble, three small groups, and one large group [performance]."

## Ana's 5 favorite dances

1. Just Like My Father
2. Sugarplum Fairy
3. Blue World
4. Heart Cry
5. Forward



Photo by Urban Rump Photography



Photo by Grayson Belanger

Gonzalez admits that dance's intensive schedule can interfere with school work, leaving barely enough time to finish her homework before the next day starts.

"It's rough because we end at nine. We have dance almost every day, if not every day, so I usually just end up doing my work in the morning, during class, or sometimes at night, but I usually just fall asleep before [I can finish]," Gonzalez said. "So, I'm never behind, but it is hard to keep up with everything."

Despite the difficult work presented by dance, she would not continue with the activity if the pay-off was not worth it. Part of this reward comes from the exhilaration of competition, which Gonzalez enjoys. Whether her individual routines are judged, or her routines as a group, the thrill and stress of competition go hand-in-hand to create a great experience.

"The best moments are when we finally get our dance down and we

all feel confident in our performance," Gonzalez said.

When competing, Gonzalez enters into multiple events. Solos, duets, and ensembles are all separate art forms within themselves, and one must understand the separate techniques involved with each in order to succeed. She competes in all three types of events, but her preference varies based on what she is looking for from the competition.

"[I like] my ensemble [because] it's my three best friends and we get along [outside of dance] already," Gonzalez said. "The only thing with a solo is that it can get really intimidating, [as] you can't mess up because you're the only one on stage. Ensembles are more enjoyable."

Gonzalez's ability and mastery of dance gives her plenty of options in that path for the future, but right now it is up in the air.

"I'd like to keep taking [dance] class, but I most likely won't pursue any-

thing serious," Gonzalez said.

Not really striving for a career in dance, Gonzalez continues to pursue her hobby for fun. Always looking for new opportunities to improve, her passion for dance is unmatched. Whatever lies ahead for her, expect plenty of flips and turns!

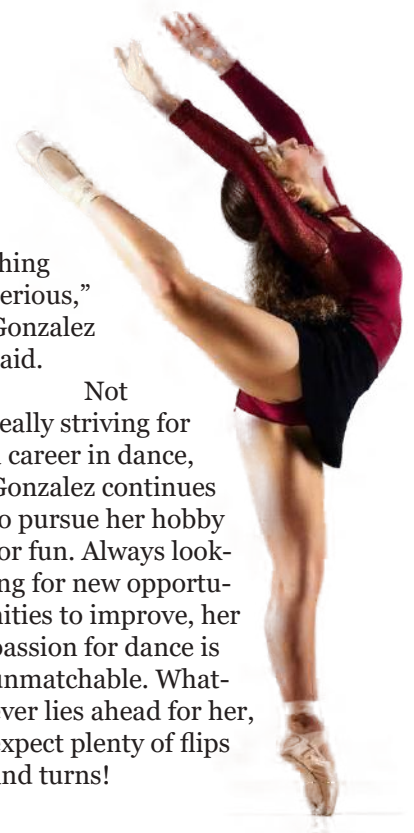


Photo by Urban Rump Photography

# Skyler Garman

By Emily Hill

Pretty faces and pretty clothes. Lights and cameras. Runways and shows. It's what makes a model... or so one could assume. Junior Skyler Garman has been a model since she was fourteen years old and knows there is much more to modeling than what is shown. Modeling is made up of hard work, long nights, and so much talent.

Garman began modeling at fourteen and is currently signed with two modeling agencies, Salt Model in Atlanta and Next Miami.

Before she began modeling herself, Garman was able to go to both of her older sisters' shows and get behind the scenes looks at a modeling experience.

"I got interested in modeling after watching my sisters go to photo shoots and shows. I kind of got a preview of what it looked like before I actually got into it," Garman said.

Since she has modeled during her entire high school career, Garman is still unsure of her plans after graduating. Modeling has quickly become an important part of her life, but continuing her education seems to be equally important to Garman.

"Right now, I am trying to focus on graduation and finishing high school because I think that is super important, but after graduation I definitely want to see where I can go with it. However, college is a thought in the back of my mind so I'm not 100% sure what I want to do yet," Garman said.

However, Garman knows her talent could take her far in life as long as she plays her cards right. While already on a successful path in her modeling career, Garman hopes to take it one step further in the future.

"Modeling has already opened a lot of doors for me that I never really thought would be an option for my future. I do hope that eventually after I graduate, I can go to Los Angeles or New York and sign with agencies there because those are the kind of places you need to be in order for your modeling career to go anywhere," Garman said.

Spending a week in Miami for her first Swim Week, a fashion week for swim, was one of Garman's most memorable experiences throughout her career. Garman compared her work life to a vacation. Another one of Garman's

favorite shows is Prom Week, which Garman described as a "typical modeling experience."

"[The day] usually starts at nine and ends at four. You have to be there early or on time or it can become a mess. You sit in hair and makeup, which is when they also usually provide lunch for you.

Then every one to two hours you walk in shows until the day is over," Garman said.

Garman is a fan of the time spent backstage. As fun as all the glitz and glam of the actual show can be, Garman said one of her favorite things about modeling is the time spent backstage getting a show of her own.

"One of my favorite things about modeling is seeing the backstage things that go on. Some things completely shock me that happen backstage of shows," Garman said. "I have seen several crazy things happen backstage before, but the most insane thing was probably watching someone get sewn into their look while being pushed out onto the runway."

On the other hand, Garman has also seen some down sides to modeling. Garman's least favorite thing is the stereotypes modeling is surrounded by.

"My least favorite part about modeling is the negative connotation that goes along with saying 'I am a model.'" I think that a lot of the time people think I am stupid and think highly of myself because I model, but it is so much more than taking pictures and walking in front of people," Garman said.

People who have

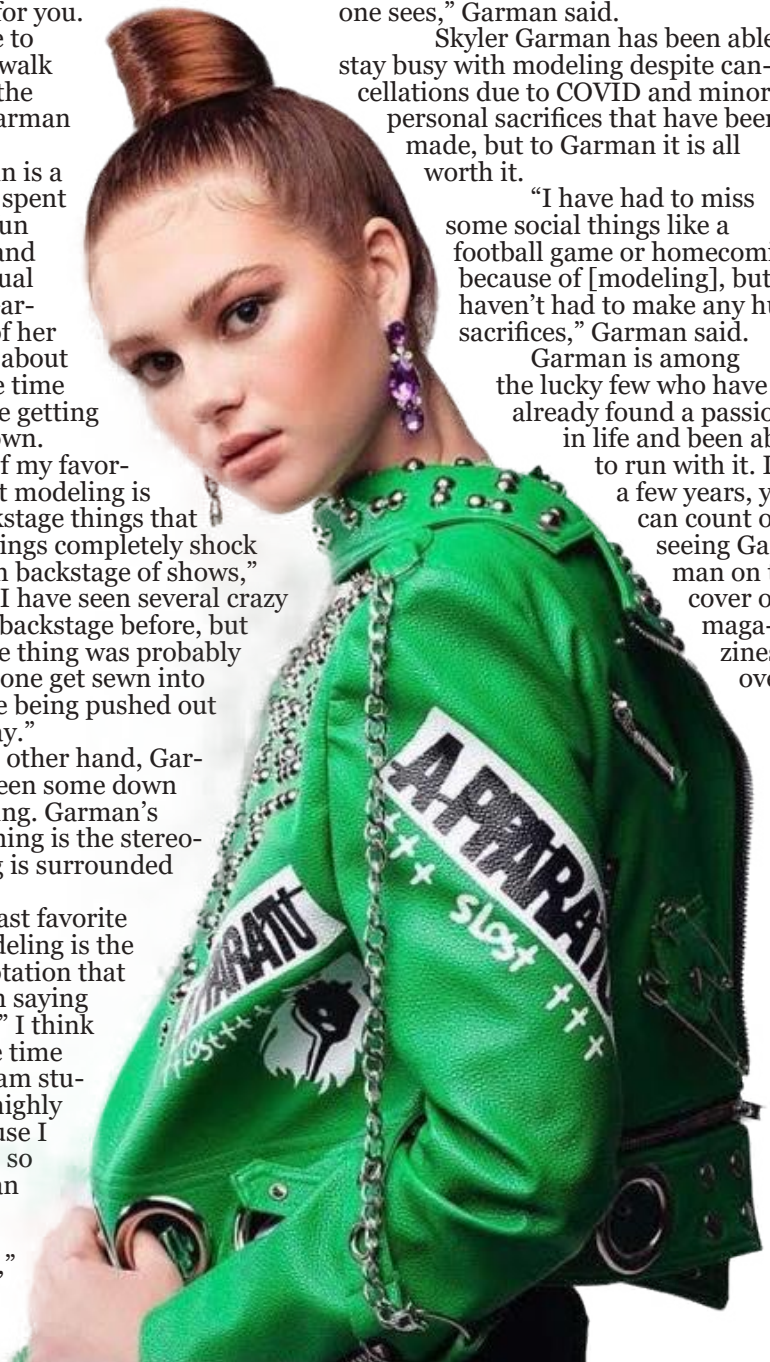
never been a model or apart of the modeling world can easily underestimate the hard work put into modeling. Garman believes it is one aspect of her job that gets the least recognition.

"The most difficult thing about modeling is training like an athlete, even though that is the part of modeling no one sees," Garman said.

Skyler Garman has been able to stay busy with modeling despite cancellations due to COVID and minor personal sacrifices that have been made, but to Garman it is all worth it.

"I have had to miss some social things like a football game or homecoming because of [modeling], but I haven't had to make any huge sacrifices," Garman said.

Garman is among the lucky few who have already found a passion in life and been able to run with it. In a few years, you can count on seeing Garman on the cover of magazines all over.

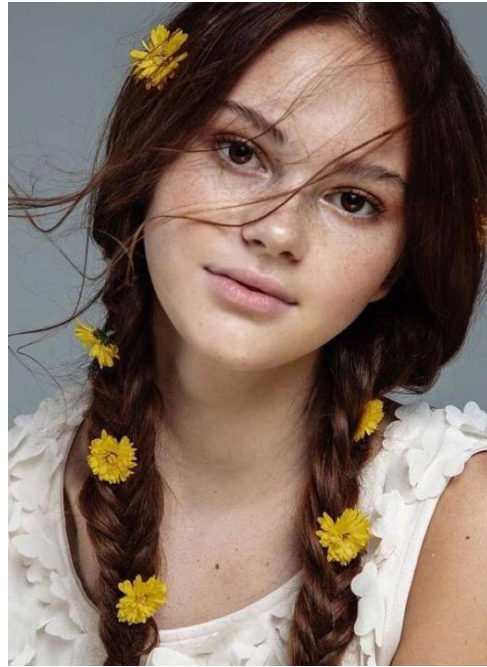


# Skyler's top 4 favorite looks



Personal Book photoshoot

Shot by Leslie Andrews



2019 photoshoot

Shot by Laretta Houston

June 2019 photoshoot for Forever 21



Shot by Laurence Givens

November 2020 photoshoot for Quintin Lamarr



Shot by Leslie Andrews

# Outside

## Students engage in their

### *Jonah Ford*

By Andy Volk and Grant Davis



Photo by Arianna Martinez

“I came out of the womb with a pawn in my hand, speaking fluent chess notation. I’ve been playing for eleven years now, and at the beginning of my junior year, I started playing against Mr. Oberlies during my lunch period. We typically play one of two ways: rapid or classic. If we play a rapid game, then I almost always win, but Mr. Oberlies excels at classic games. I take these games as an educational experience, and I’m eager to learn from my mistakes. Overall, I just love the game and would love to play with anyone who was willing.”

- Jonah Ford

### *Caleb Adams*   *Nylah Hall*

By Julia Rucker



Photo by Arianna Martinez

“I began my own car detailing business when I was 13. My neighbor asked me if I could clean his car, and the next day he posted on Facebook about how great I did. Because of this post, I woke up with tons of messages about doing other people’s cars. I love seeing them react to their cars as if it were new. It has to be my favorite part of all of it.”

- Caleb Adams

By Savanna Harvey



Photo by Grayson Belanger

“I’ve always been interested in fashion, so I [was naturally attracted to clothes]. Starting the business part was because I was bored during quarantine and needed something to do. I opened my online store (Dior Avenue) at the beginning of August 2020, and although it is still small, I could say it’s grown in some aspects for sure.”

- Nylah Hall



# the halls: interests and hobbies

## *Emily Duke*

By Sydney Pate

## *Brandon Buckley*

By Brett Lowry

## *Addison Richardson*

By Reagan Lockwood



Photo by provided by Emily Duke



Photo by Arianna Martinez



Photo by Arianna Martinez

“DECA is a club for people who are interested in pursuing a career in marketing or business. This is my third year in DECA and my second year being an officer. I am also currently serving as the chapter president for this school year. I hope to pursue a career in marketing or business one day, and I believe that DECA has helped me to discover that.”

- Emily Duke

“I’ve been programming since 2016, so about 5 years now. What appeals to me about programming is that with this skill I can tell computers and other devices what to do. Given the right tools, I can make almost any system do almost anything I want. [Programming appeals to me because] it is an ever-growing career given the increase of computing devices throughout the world, and it’s a fun challenge that requires refined skills with problem solving and understanding algorithms and logic.”

- Brandon Buckley

“I joined speech and debate my freshman year because a couple of my friends were joining too, so I figured I would give it a try. It’s a lot of fun, but at the same time, it’s a lot of work. Despite the workload, the best thing about being a member of speech and debate is getting to connect with a wide variety of people with different world views. There is just so much going on in the world that you’re bound to find something you’ll enjoy. I’d definitely recommend speech and debate to anyone that is interested!”

- Addison Richardson

# Olivia Tomeny



Photo by Grayson Belanger



Lyrics to one of Olivia's new songs titled:

# Hiraeth

By Phoebe Offenberg

Paparazzi cameras flash in the background as famous singer-songwriter Olivia Tomeny receives her first Grammy award. She stands before a room full of her idols and thinks to herself, *my hard work has finally paid off*. This is Freshman Olivia Tomeny's ultimate dream.

Tomeny's music interest began at an early age.

"I remember playing piano with my grandmother when I was really young," Tomeny said. "And, whenever I'd go to my grandparents' house I'd play [the piano] all the time."

Tomeny not only enjoyed the piano when she was younger, she also taught herself guitar at a young age. Since her childhood, she has learned to play the piano, the guitar, the trumpet, the ukulele, and the electric guitar. Despite her early interest in music, Tomeny did not start songwriting until she was in 5th grade.

"I've been writing for about 4 years," Tomeny said.

"I've written 80 songs since 5th grade, but in the past year I've written 60."

Occasionally, she will post videos on her Instagram account, @oliviatomenymusic, that feature her singing some of the songs that she has written such as Our Story, metanoia, force, Hiraeth, Your Riddle, and Lying Eyes.

Writing one song can take Tomeny anywhere between an entire day to as little as five minutes. She has a unique creative process when it comes to writing her own music.

"I usually write the lyrics first. I get inspiration at the weirdest times, so sometimes I'll start to be falling asleep and then I have inspiration. I had to grab a piece of paper one time and not even know what I was writing in the middle of the night," Tomeny said. "I've written songs in the middle of class, in the car, on vacations, and in my room. But I do have a place outside that I go to and write a lot of songs where it's private and quiet."

While the pandemic has limited her resources to get inspiration, she has been able to find creativity through reading books.

"I started to read more and then

I got inspiration from different stories," Tomeny said. "I read some Nicholas Sparks novels [and] some dystopian novels."

Tomeny appreciates the storytelling aspect of songwriting and often writes songs that are not about her personally. One of her favorite songs that she has written is called Hiraeth and it is based off storytelling.

"It was about a relationship where you would want to return back to it, but you couldn't because it wasn't yours to return back to. It just was really meaningful."

Since Tomeny prefers to base her music on storytelling, she often writes sad songs even though she is not a generally sad person.

“ [My goal is] to enjoy [making music] in a way that I don't feel like I need to impress anybody with it. I just do it for my own good. ”

-Olivia Tomeny

"I like to write a lot of sad songs sometimes when I'm not even sad. I'm concerned that my parents are going to think I'm really sad when I'm really not," Tomeny said. "[I write sad songs because] they are really pretty. I just like the sound- you can put a lot of emotion in sad songs and make it really beautiful."

Famous singers and songwriters have influenced Tomeny's music style such as Ed Sheeran, Sarah Bareilles, Kelly Clarkson, and most recently, Olivia Rodrigo.

"I don't have a favorite [music genre]," Tomeny said. "That's the weird thing. I can really listen to anything."

While some of Tomeny's interest in music came from a variety of famous musicians and memories with her grandparents, Taylor Swift has been her biggest inspiration throughout her songwriting journey.

"I listened to her music when I

was younger a lot," Tomeny said. "I saw her journey and I thought it would be cool to try out what she was [doing]."

Tomeny has received some mixed feedback from family members about her music aspirations.

"Many [family members] have been incredibly supportive which I'm incredibly grateful for," Tomeny said. "A few [family members] believe my dream is very hard for me to achieve and don't know how much my songwriting means to me. I think they don't want me to get my hopes up. Though this makes it harder for me to believe in myself, it also pushes me to work harder."

Tomeny's plans for the future are ambitious. Tomeny works hard on her music and spends around 75% of her week writing songs and creating music in order to achieve her goals.

"I have the resources to record and put [my music] out, but I get really picky when I'm recording so I usually stop in the middle of it but I think that I can really get to the point where I can record the whole song and put it out," Tomeny said. "When I imagine my perfect future, I see myself winning awards, going on tour, traveling the world, having interviews on talk shows, and my music becoming something that everyone knows. That is what I dream of."

Although most of her family and friends have been incredibly supportive, Tomeny is the first person in her family to write music, so she gets most of her advice from popular musicians.

"I've been kind of alone in that sense, because nobody in my family has done it before, but [advice that I have received] from celebrities is to work hard," Tomeny said. "People will doubt you, but you can really accomplish anything that you put your mind to."

And, while she hopes to become successful in the music industry, she also remembers why she creates music in the first place.

"[My goal is] to enjoy it in a way that I don't feel like I need to impress anybody with it." Tomeny said. "I just do it for my own good."

# Roman Begley

By Cristen Johnson

If you've ever noticed the blond kid with the beads walking around campus, being greeted by a random assortment of people asking how 'alt' they look that day, that was him. If you find yourself in the same hallway as him, don't be surprised if he greets you with the same enthusiasm and familiarity as a lifelong friend- to Begley, a best friend could be just about anyone. Senior Roman Begley is a lot of things, but inconspicuous is definitely not one of them.

It is something he's become somewhat known for at school. "Now I have random people that I've never spoken to waving to me in the halls," Begley said. "I don't know why, I don't know if I've ever met them, but I'm like 'hey!'"

He also stands out for another reason. The elaborately beaded crafts that adorn his backpack and even himself as jewelry, called "Kandi". Begley thinks he is probably the only serious kandi-maker at school, but it doesn't seem to discourage him much. "I wear them almost every day," Begley said.

Kandi is very important to Begley, and he does it often. "By the end of the week," he says, "My room is completely destroyed. And it's all beads."

But the beaded crafts are actually a relatively new hobby- something he views as a much better alternative to the other activity that used to dominate his free-time - swimming. Begley was a member of the Sequoyah swim team until his sophomore year and had been swimming somewhat seriously for over a decade.

"I hadn't taken a break since I was five," said Begley. "I was exhausted."

So, in the February of 2019, he quit. And, since he now had nothing to do, his parents begged him to pick up a hobby. He chose jewelry making. Kandi evolved from

that somewhat accidentally.

"One day I saw a video of a Kandi trade on [Tumblr] and said 'Hey, I have the materials to do this. Why don't I do it?'" said Begley. He holds up a simple, beaded bracelet- one of his first Kandi creations. "From there I just started looking up more complicated tutorials on YouTube and just sort of fell down the rabbit hole."

"I have a lot of early attempts which are also in The Bucket," Begley said.

For context, the Bucket is a big black bin chock full of various beaded crafts. Throughout the interview, Begley dips his hand in it periodically and produces some kind of funny little creation- something called a "rotator cuff" that spins with a flick of your fingers, a wide-banded "ufo-cuff" decorated with smiling green aliens, or a necklace that hangs down at least 20 inches, a vibrant patterns of teals, purples, oranges, and blacks that's littered with jagged metal can tabs and features a little stuffed black dog at its bottom that is big enough to fill your entire palm. His name is Boston.

These are the beads that people take the most notice of. And it was those beads that were the main focus of my interview with Begley on the winter afternoon that I video-called him. But what struck me first was not the wide-banded beaded bracelets on his wrist or the bins upon bins of Kandi supplies that filled the background of his room- it was how nice he is.

Begley is friendly- one of the friendliest people you'll probably ever meet, in fact. He's enthusiastic and quick to give detailed, elaborate answers to any Kandi-related questions you might have. Begley has this air of optimism that's sort of infectious- as fascinating as these little crafts are, the attitude of the person behind them is somehow even

more tantalizing. Half of the fun of learning about Kandi comes solely from Begley's unabashed enthusiasm about it; a positivity that radiates even outside of bead making, even into places like the halls of our school.

This optimistic attitude is something Begley attributes to Kandi itself. He was not always as cheery as he seems in the present day. For years, in fact, he struggled with undiagnosed schizophrenia that caused him near-constant delusions.

"Sixth and seventh grade were pretty much a fever dream," Begley said. "I didn't get medicated until the eighth grade."

Kandi, he explains, is not just about beads. "I came for the beads and stayed for the culture," he says. It's a culture that, according to him, is defined by its tolerant and kind community of followers- something that he especially values as a neurodivergent person. There's an acronym within the Kandi community-- P-L-U-R-- which stands for purity, love, unity and respect. This acronym embodies the spirit of Kandi-enthusiasts- especially Begley, who took its message to heart.

"I actively took PLUR into my day to day life," Begley says. "Everyone's terrible in their freshman year, but I was bad, and then sophomore year was just one big mental breakdown. Junior year was when I started [Kandi] and that's when my mental health really started going on the uphill."

With his newfound optimism, sociability, and ostentatious accessories, Begley is comfortable describing himself as happy. As for the obstacles he continues to face? He seems indifferent to them.

"I have literally everything going for me," Begley says. "I don't know how it happened, but I'm gonna take advantage of it."

## Roman's favorite bead colors:





Photo by Grayson Belanger

# Matt Bartula

By Katie Brown

“Cletus.” Any AP World History student at our school has heard the word more than they could’ve ever imagined. Whether it was their given name for the day, or they were listening to a cat story, it is a guarantee that the word came out at least once during the class period.

“You know Cletus is not just a person. Cletus is an experience. When you have the Cletus experience, you will know.”

Matt Bartula, social studies teacher and Speech and Debate coach, is infamous for the word Cletus. He has been teaching at Sequoyah since 1999 and is known amongst the community for the strong bonds he creates with his students due to his passion for both teaching and life.

“[My favorite thing about teaching] is the energy I get from students. We have fun [in class, and I think] it’s good to learn while having fun,” Bartula said.

Anyone who has had Bartula as a teacher knows that he is intentional with his students, not just curriculum-wise, but also with life. He wants all of his students to come out of his class as a better person than they were when they entered.

“[I want each of my students to learn] the importance of relationships. There are a lot of smart people and rich people, but they don’t have any real relationships. My biggest thing is to just try to have relationships with students,” Bartula said. “Cultivate relationships.”

His passion for school has stuck with him since his junior year in high school when he realized this was the career path for him.

“My 11th grade US History teacher kept me from dropping out of school and she made me read a history book to pass her class,” Bartula said. “I fell in love with reading and history, and that love still is with me today.”

Despite the numerous hours spent in the classroom or grading DBQs at home, Bartula is also largely devoted to another passion: traveling. He started traveling regularly in 2007, but his love for traveling came

while he was a junior attending college in London.

“I won this essay contest and got to study at Kensington University in London. I loved it, and [my experiences there] lit my fire for traveling,” Bartula said. “[I loved] being able to go anywhere; [you could] ride a subway or get on a train, and go anywhere [you want to] go.”

Ever since he finished school in London, he has been inspired to see as many places as possible. Traveling is not a simple task for Bartula due to the medical conditions he faces daily. He has both Glaucoma and Macular Degeneration, which cause his eye sight to gradually get worse. Despite the day-to-day difficulties this brings, it inspires Bartula to keep pushing himself against people’s expectations for him.

“People said, ‘oh, you can’t do that. You can’t travel by yourself; you can’t see.’ That really inspired me because I was like, ‘you know what? I’m going to prove to these people that I can go anywhere and do anything, and nothing is going to stop me.’”

There are numerous aspects of traveling that Bartula is enthusiastic about. 13 years into frequent traveling, and he still looks forward to every trip he goes on.

“The unknown excites me. I think maybe it’s hard [for people] to understand this, but you have to be awake. You have to be alert [as you take on a new adventure.] You’re going to go into the unknown and seeing a different culture, and in lots of cases, you won’t speak the language,” Bartula said. “I love going into the mystery, and I love getting back from a trip and saying ‘I’ve been all over the place; I’ve been here and here and there.’ To see the world is amazing.”

Bartula will always hold his travel memories, both the good and the bad, dear to his heart. From some of the best food he’s ever had in Hanoi, Vietnam, to the time he barely made it out of Istanbul, Turkey alive, he will never forget the memories made in each of these places.

“Three to four years ago, I got detained at Istanbul’s airport for a medication

I have that’s prescribed by my doctor, which they didn’t know what it was,” Bartula said. “They took my passport and my luggage, and they stuck me in a little room. I thought, ‘oh my god, am I going to end up in some Turkish jail for medicine prescribed by my doctor?’ I was sitting there, completely stuck [by myself.]”

There is no end to the experiences Bartula has had over his course of travels. On top of the good times and the bad times, there have been unexpected life-threatening times as well.

“I was in Cambodia and wanted to see the oldest Buddhist Monastery in South-east Asia, [which] was on top of this huge, tall mountain. Nobody told me that there was only one bus a day, so I was stuck up there. These Australian dudes said, ‘well you know you can take an elephant down the mountain? You should come with us.’ You had to sign a waiver, so I got on the elephant thinking ‘[I won’t] wait until the next day for the bus. I’ll just take the elephant down, about 6 hours to the bottom.’ The thing is ripping out bamboo trees with its trunk and swinging them around. As you get to these streams, the elephants would just lay down in the water to cool off. The problem is, when they go in the water, you go in the water. So I ended up contracting Malaria after swallowing some of the water and had to stay in the hospital.”

Bartula values each of the moments he has experienced on these trips. He takes even the bad experiences and turns them into something positive. None of the scary moments will be able to stop his future travels.

“Don’t let fear stop you from doing whatever you want to do. You can be careful, you can be smart, but I think a lot of people don’t do stuff or avoid a potential passion because of fear. Walk through fear is my big motto,” Bartula said. “It’s not that we don’t get afraid; we all get afraid, we all have fear, but walk through the fear and chase your passion. Mine is history and traveling, so I just walk through it and do it. Don’t let fear stop you from anything.”

1 word to describe Bartula

“Exuberant”

- Kelsie Rohland (9)

“Legendary”

- Madison Rajewski (9)

“Energetic”

- Emma Argo (12)

“Chaotic”

- Lauren Turnage (10)

“Authentic”

- Cadence Harvey (11)

“Eccentric”

- Rayna Rivera-Steinkritz (12)



Photo by Grayson Belanger

# Home is where....

## Nolan Pollard

By Sydney Harvey

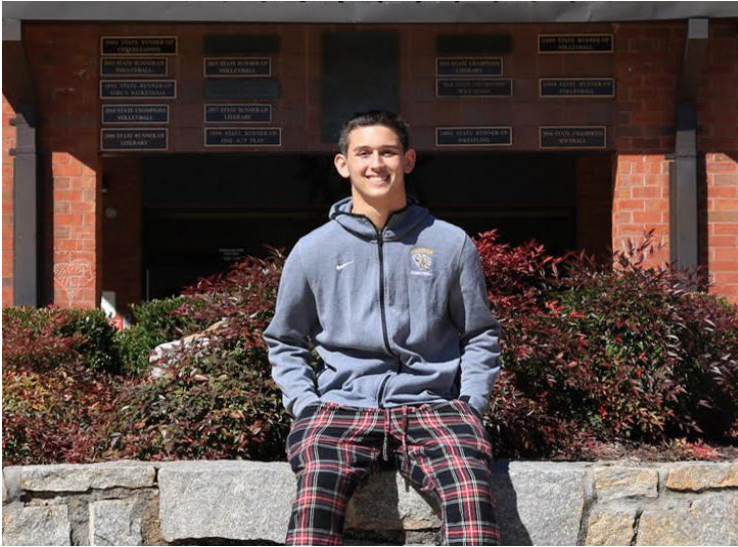


Photo by Arianna Martinez

Moving can be hard, but with the right mindset – positives can always come out of it. Senior Nolan Pollard has experienced what living here in Hickory Flat was like, then moving to another state, and eventually coming back.

2016 was a big move for Pollard. He was only in the 8th grade when he was told he was moving to Arizona. A few weeks before moving, Pollard and his family went to visit. While visiting, his mom completely fell in love with Arizona. Pollard had no negative thoughts about moving; he was eager for a new adventure.

"I was excited because I love change and doing something different; I was excited to see family and the new school and people," Pollard said.

His family moved so they could see their family almost every day, instead of seeing them every other year. Pollard looked at moving with an optimistic state of mind.

He had many thoughts before the big move.

"[My first three thoughts that came to mind before moving were] new opportunity, different lifestyles, and a bigger house," Pollard said.

While Pollard was in Arizona, he made sure to stay in close contact with his friends back home for the three years that he was there.

In 2019, the Pollard family moved back due to family reasons. After coming back, Pollard realized that people were looking at him differently because he had grown and his face changed. Most people did not know how to act or speak around him.

One of Pollard's goals in life was to finish high school with his friends from the beginning.

"I was excited because I've always wanted to graduate with my childhood friends," Pollard said.

## Ava Gasser

By Emily Hill



Photo by Arianna Martinez

In June of 2016, senior Ava Gasser packed her things and left Hickory Flat for good... or so she thought. Gasser moved to Clovis, California in the summer of 2016 before moving back to Georgia just three months later.

More of Gasser's family lives on the West coast, which is what led her family to move back to the Golden State. Gasser had previously lived in California when she was younger, so there was not a lot of shock when she found out she would be moving.

"My family moved in order to be closer to our extended family. When I first found out that I would be moving back to California, I was super excited but also really nervous," Gasser said.

Gasser lived in California for around three months before moving back

to accommodate her dad's job back home. When Gasser found out she was moving back to Georgia, she felt a wave of relief.

"We moved back because it was easier to be on the East coast for my Dad's job. I was sad but also relieved because I did not really like the schools out there & I missed my friends," Gasser said.

Gasser sees herself one day moving back to California to live out the rest of her life. Though she left, her love for the state has never been left behind.

"I absolutely love California. It is truly where I feel most at home. I think when I am older, I will probably move back out there & settle down," Gasser said.

Home is where the heart is, and for Gasser, her heart seems set on California.



# ...the heart is

## Taylor Tragesser

By Stephanie Rios



Photo by Arianna Martinez

Having lived in Georgia for nine years, Junior Taylor Tragesser was saddened when she found out that she was moving to Aledo, Texas. At the time, she had spent nine years dedicating herself to improving her skills in competitive gymnastics, constantly going to the gym and building life-long relationships all around her.

"I was really sad because I realized I would be swapping gyms and I was half-way across the country, so I wouldn't have any of my friends" Tragesser said.

Taylor moved because of her parents' work. Moving was something that she didn't really envision herself doing, but it turned out that her life in Aledo wouldn't be as bad as she had assumed.

"It was a very small town-the population was just over 1000 people, everyone knew each other. They were great at football. They had beat a lot of state records and held them, so it was definitely something that I'm glad I got to experience," Tragesser said.

Tragesser and her

family only spent about a year in Texas because all their family and life-long friendships were in Georgia, but by that time she had adjusted to the Texan lifestyle. Moving back was something she longed for, but she realized that she might have to re-adjust.

"I felt like I was going through the same thing all over again. Switching gyms and losing all the friends I had made that year again. But we missed our old homelife, our friends and family were back in Georgia, so we decided to move back," Tragesser said.

Although moving away in itself can be a scary thing for some, Tragesser says it taught her a lot about what to do in uncomfortable situations and she wouldn't have changed her experience for anything.

"I didn't think this at the time, but I still talk to the friends I made there and that was eight years ago. So, I learned that you just have to make the best out of any situation you are put in and hope for the best," Tragesser said.

## Kristy Lingerfelt

By Delaney Harrison



Photo by Arianna Martinez

Ms. Kristy Lingerfelt, who teaches English and language arts, has plenty of experience with moving to various areas. Hailing from the Sequoyah district and graduating from Sequoyah High School, Lingerfelt has been a long-time member of the Hickory Flat community.

"My great-grandparents settled here over 100 years ago, and all my family is here," Lingerfelt said.

Due to her ex-husband's career in the Marine Corps, Lingerfelt spent 2 years living in New Orleans, Louisiana and a year living in Okinawa, which is a small island in the southwest region of Japan.

"I loved the food in New Orleans, the amazing diversity of the people and being close to the ocean. I did not like the fact that the city was sometimes dangerous and very different than our small town of Hickory Flat," Lingerfelt said.

In each new place, Lingerfelt was always able to find something she loved

about it. Finding the good in where she was helped with some of the larger scale issues she had.

"I loved being near the ocean in Okinawa so I could scuba dive every day" Lingerfelt said. "The people there were also very nice, and it was a slow-paced way of life. I did not like being so far from my family as it was a 24-hour flight away from home."

After spending three years away from her family and community, Lingerfelt ultimately decided to move back and return to the Sequoyah district.

"My oldest daughter was born, and I wanted her to grow up around her extended family" Lingerfelt said. "Her father left the military to pursue a civilian career. Cherokee County is a wonderful place to live and raise a family."

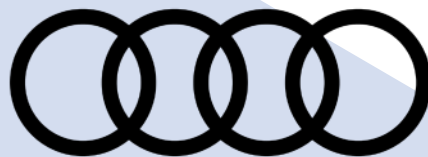
Whether she travelled a few states away or all the way across the globe, Lingerfelt ended up back home: right in Hickory Flat.

# Lukas Baardson



Photo by Grayson Belanger

## Favorite Car Dealers



# Top Three Favorite Car Shows



By Sydney Harvey

Someone with an interest in cars isn't something you see or hear about every day. Junior Lukas Baardson has had an intriguing interest in cars since as early as he can remember.

"Ever since I was born I've always just liked cars and things with wheels and engines. I have always liked cars but not until recently [did I find] my true passion for cars," Baardson said.

Baardson's reason for enjoyment of cars comes from his uncles. His uncles have positively influenced his passion and love for cars.

"My Uncle John is someone who is a mentor to me. He has fully restored many cars. His most recent truck is a 1956 Ford 1 ton. He lets me come down to the garage with him and watch him work and talk or by letting me tighten a bolt to feel like I've done something to help him. I ask him all of my mechanical car related questions, and he has always been there for me. My Uncle Aaron works for General Motors and is into cars along with my Uncle Jay, who is a mechanic and works on Jeeps with his son. My Uncle John as restored two Ford trucks on his own and does minor work on his cars like oil changes and normal maintenance," Baardson said.

Baardson has learned so much about cars from his uncles/family which ended up giving him the curiosity, research, and experience to do new things. He really began getting his experience in 2013. When his family decided they wanted to buy a new car, Baardson was called to help negotiate for the car.

"My mom wanted to buy a Chevy Suburban. I negotiated the entire deal up to the paperwork where my dad approved of the price and signed papers," Baardson said.

Again, in 2020, Baardson negotiated for a Subaru Outback and his family ended up getting that car, because of his negotiation skills.

His willingness to gain experience and learn new things has created an opportunity for him.

"I ended up getting a job at Jaguar/Land Rover driving and washing cars. I wash or detail cars. We have two departments and one is a detail section and one is a simple car wash. In the first area, we just run the loaner cars through a car wash or give customers cars a quick shine. While in the detail pay, customers pay for their car to be cleaned and buffed to absolute perfection," Baardson said.

Baardson does side work on his own as well. After working for awhile and gaining more knowledge about cars he has been able to do maintenance on his own car, as well as oil changes, brake pad replacements, exterior lights replacement, and any suspension work. Baardson has also done more difficult work such as installing an exhaust or lift kit.

"I always like to try things because the worst thing I can do is take it to a shop and have them fix or figure out what it is I could be doing wrong," Baardson said.

When Baardson is bored, his mind goes straight to cars. He does things that involve growing his knowledge on cars to pass time.

"I love building cars and pricing cars online. Most manufacturers have websites where you can do that. Even companies like Lamborghini and other high-end brands let you do that. I like to think of cars I would personally buy. For example, I would go to LandRoverUSA.com and build a Land Rover Discovery in Portofino Blue with the options I'd want and see how much it would end up costing," Baardson said.

Along with building cars, Baardson

also watches YouTube to observe other cars or learn from enthusiasts.

"I watch multiple people on YouTube about cars. I watch Streetspeed717, Redline Reviews, and the Tropher," Baardson said.

Baardson enjoys these shows because they each discuss his interests in the Toyota 4runners, as well as the Land Rover Discovery's. These shows give reviews on these cars, which gives him more knowledge of these cars and to give him an idea of what it's like behind the wheel of each of these cars. Baardson definitely has his favorite of these shows.

"I like to watch StreetSpeed717 because he does a vlog style video where he modifies the cars and wraps/changes the color and does what he likes to cars," Baardson said.

Watching these shows and gaining more knowledge towards this interest has allowed him to use what he has learned, in real life scenarios.

"If someone is stopped on the side of the road and they are having car issues of some sort, I am not afraid to stop and see if there is anyway I can help. I'm always looking to improve my driving skills and mechanical knowledge," Baardson said.

This interest of cars could take Baardson a far way in life. Throughout all of these years, he has learned more than what cars are actually about. Baardson has learned to have patience as well as knowing how or when you need to ask for help.

"I want to become a cars salesman to be able to experience that and what that job entails. I ultimately would like to own my own major brand car dealer. Something like Baardson Chevrolet or Lucas Rover of Atlanta," Baardson said.

# Skylar Martin

By Jack Blackman

Shades on, music basting over the loudspeakers, crowd roaring, sun beating down on her shoulders, and the feeling of sand between her toes. Skylar Martin is ready to face off in the USA Beach Volleyball National Championship once again.

Sophomore Skylar Martin plays indoor and beach volleyball. Martin is in her sixth year of indoor volleyball and fourth year of beach volleyball. She hasn't always been in this sport. Before starting volleyball, which she would soon fall in love with, Martin played soccer, basketball, and tennis. With just a short time playing, she has quickly gained a lot of respect. Martin has accomplished things in just two years that some never do in all four years in high school.

Martin has been a starter on the volleyball team since her freshman year. She has helped the team reach the playoffs the previous two seasons including an appearance in the final four both seasons and the state championship last. In those two seasons the Sequoyah volleyball team racked up a total of 75 wins and a combined record of 75-5. Martin made first team all-state in both her freshman and sophomore seasons.

Martin also plays beach volleyball where she continues her collection of accolades.

"I love the vibe and energy beach [volleyball] brings," Martin said.

She has experienced plenty of success on the beach and the indoor court with the Sequoyah High School team, but she tends to lean towards beach volleyball as her favorite.

"I like beach better because there's only two people on your team and there's never a point where you don't touch the ball whereas in indoor you primarily do whatever



Photo by Grayson Belanger

your position is assigned to do," Martin said.

In beach volleyball Martin has done something that most people have never accomplished, and she has done it three times. She won the USA Beach Volleyball National Championship in 2017, 2018, and 2019. She looks forward to adding another championship to her trophy collection in 2021.

Sequoyah is home to a top ten ranked indoor volleyball team and home to one of the best beach volleyball players in the

country in the 16 and under-age division.

"Currently I am ranked second in the nation in the 16 and under division in beach volleyball," Martin said.

Martin does not have any college offers because of the NCAA rules regarding recruitment starting at the end of sophomore year, but she hopes to play in college. Starting June 15th, she will be able to receive scholarships and roster spot offers. Martin doesn't want to just stop at the collegiate level.

"I certainly want to compete at the highest level that I can for beach volleyball, whether that be in college, professionally, or in the Olympics. If the opportunity arises to play at that level, I will definitely take advantage of it," Martin said.

If she makes it to the Olympics, she will become the first student from Sequoyah High School to become an Olympian.

Out of all her achievements, accolades, and successes, Skylar has a particular accomplishment she values the most.

"My biggest accomplishment is probably winning nationals three times in beach volleyball because I got to see the result of all the hard work and training I put in to become a better player," Martin said.

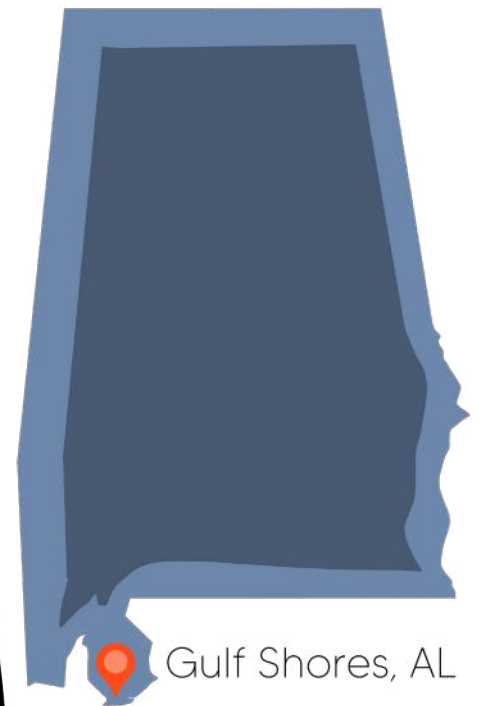
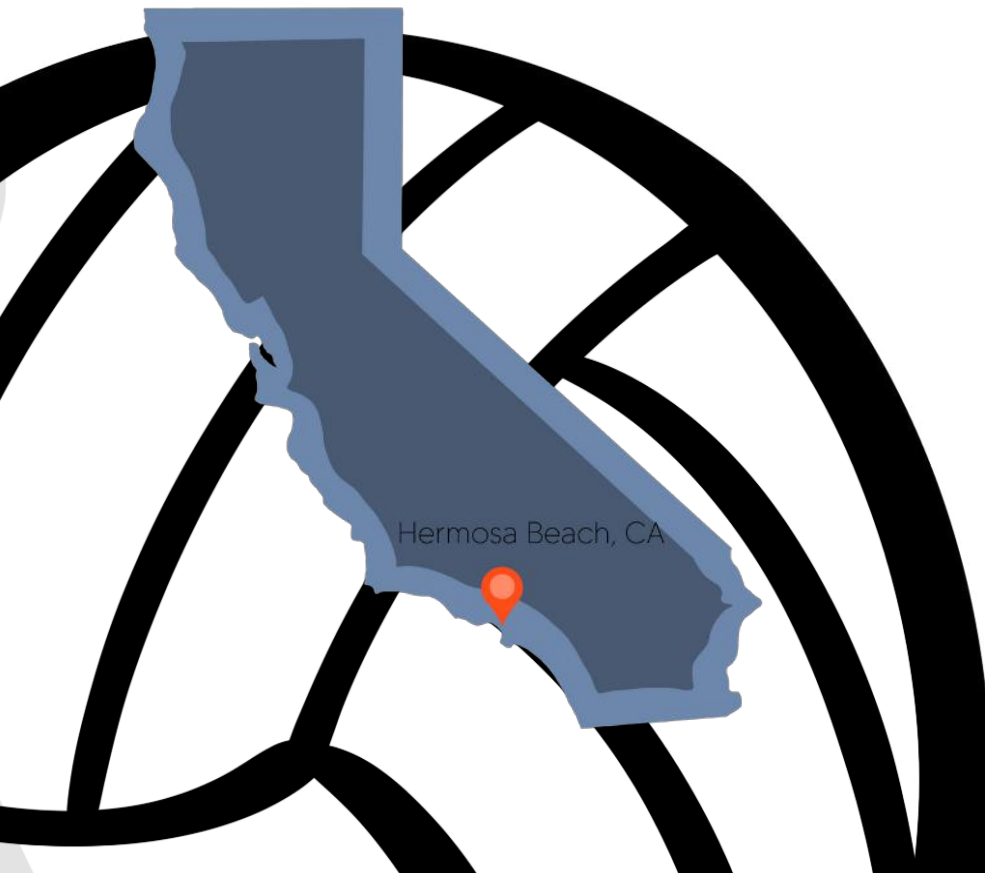
Martin is a three-time beach volleyball national champion, lead the school indoor volleyball team to 75 wins, received runner up in the state championship her freshman year, made it to the final four her sophomore year, and received first team all-state honors in her freshman and sophomore year.

With all these achievements that sports players' dream of, she is very humble. Martin doesn't boast or brag about her accomplishments, she just proves her skill on the courts.

# Skylar's Awards:



## Favorite places to play:



# Want to read more about the students of Sequoyah?

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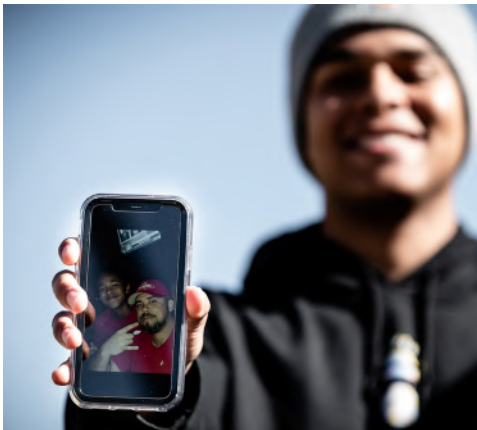
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# The Arrow

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Although the students who produce The Arrow always strive to be completely accurate, we make errors sometimes. We encourage readers to contact us or our adviser, Marla Hooper, if they notice an error.

### Letters to the Editor

If our readers have an opinion about something they read in our publication, we encourage them to write to us. Each letter must include a valid name and email address. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, grammar, and length. We will not print any letter containing obscenity or threatening language. The Editor-in-Chief may decide which letters to print based on available space and the desire to provide a balance of different viewpoints. To submit a Letter to the Editor, email us at [shs.arrow@cherokee.k12.ga.us](mailto:shs.arrow@cherokee.k12.ga.us).

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