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## The Bison, April 9, 2021

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# ART CLASS SHOWCASES WORK AT MIDNIGHT OIL

*written by Stoth April 8, 2021*



*Cutline: Students sit in Midnight Oil underneath new artwork created by Harding University students. | Photo by Caroline Palmer*

Visual Aesthetics, an art class typically taken by juniors and seniors, is currently showcasing its work in Midnight Oil Coffeehouse. Originally meant to occupy the coffee house last spring, the artwork is now on display for any Midnight Oil customer to see.

Midnight Oil manager Eric Mount said he appreciates the variety that is displayed through the art work.

“We tried to do it last spring, but then COVID happened,” Mount said. “Tessa Davidson reached out again, and the whole class came over and kinda scoped out where to put things and hang them up. It really created a dynamic look in here because there’s so many different artists featured at one time, which is fun. There’s something unique . . . having so many different artists featured gives you a lot to look at.”

The students participating in the class said they had lots of fun adding to their resumes and presenting their art pieces at such a popular location in Searcy.

Senior Collin Smith is a graphic design student who designed an art piece to place in Midnight Oil.

“Something that we’re trying to tackle is that in the modern day and thought, not many people think very highly of art because many things can be seen as art,” Smith said. “One of our main drives in that class is to help bring to other people the realization that there is a definitive form to art and a reason that we find things beautiful.”

Another artist who is also a graphic design major is senior Celeste Parker. For Parker’s piece in the exhibition, she took a new perspective on the biblical figure Mary.

“Art is something that lets me do whatever I want, whenever I want,” Parker said. “Choosing to portray Mary in a modern way was important to me. She’s a huge female figure in the Bible, and we see the same images of her over and over, but no new renditions. I thought it would be a challenge and help people reflect on their own opinions of icons . . . It’s such an honor. I love seeing and hearing reactions to my work. Seeing my art have such an impact encourages me that I’m on the right path.”

The artwork will be on display in Midnight Oil until April 30 for anyone who wishes to view.

# BISON BOUND SESSIONS TO TAKE PLACE THROUGHOUT SPRING, SUMMER FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

*written by Guest April 8, 2021*





*Cutline: Graphic by Avery Tillett*

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Written by *Ben Lane*

Bison Bound will now take place throughout five different sessions for incoming students, the first of which is this weekend, April 9-10.

Bison Bound, previously overseen by First Year Experience, is now overseen by the admissions office. The admissions office will emphasize academic advising, social life and parent networking during Bison Bound events, and Harding is now offering two new Bison Bounds for a total of five, two of which will take place during the school year, as opposed to previously being hosted only during the summer. At Bison Bound, incoming students prepare for the fall semester by creating a schedule, previewing campus life and attending activities designed to help them make decisions about their college career.

Typically, three Bison Bounds are held throughout June, July and August and can host up to 300 students each session. The additional April Bison Bounds will be capped at 200 incoming students.

“It’s our hope that by doing these two sessions a little bit earlier, it will give those students a chance to meet some other students, develop some friendships that they can start building throughout the summer,” Scott Hannigan, senior director of admissions, said.

Hannigan said smaller groups may make it easier for incoming students to socialize among their peers with “get-to-know-you” activities.

Harding has always wanted to expand the number of Bison Bounds, Hannigan said, so incoming students could have a better academic advising experience. Hannigan said five sessions will allow for smaller groups, which will create a “more personal touch” to advising.

“It will be the integration of faculty and [incoming-students] and those key people that are on campus that students need to know,” Hannigan said. “We’re really going to put a big emphasis on that.”

Heather Kemper, director of alumni and parent relations, has overseen and made changes to the Bison Bound parent program.

“The purpose of the Bison Bound parent program is to inform parents and give them critical information, but ultimately, we want them to feel confident and comfortable that their student is coming to a place with people that care about them and are going to be partners with them academically, socially and spiritually,” Kemper said.

The past parent programs have been in the forms of seminars and lectures, but this year parents will have the opportunity to listen to two panels, each with eight people from various key positions across campus. The first panel’s members will discuss frequently asked questions and then answer questions parents may have in addition to those already discussed. At the second panel, parents will be able to privately ask questions that may be more relevant to their child.

Incoming freshman Elizabeth Brooks will be attending the April 9-10 Bison Bound, and she said she chose the session because it fits with her scheduled plans to go on the Scholars Abroad trip. Now, she will be able to attend Honors Symposium, which was canceled last year.

“I’m looking forward to meeting new students and [getting] a taste of the atmosphere,” Brooks said.

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION REMOVES PRAXIS CORE TESTS REQUIREMENT

*written by Britty Gist April 8, 2021*



*Cutline: Graphic by Isabelle Cutts*

The College of Education announced their decision to remove the Praxis Core Tests as a requirement for education majors to be admitted into the Teacher Preparation Program via an email to education students March 25.

The Praxis Core Tests were previously required for education majors to take prior to admittance to the Teacher Preparation Programs, unless students earned above a certain score on the corresponding section of the ACT or SAT. The Praxis Core Test can be taken as three separate tests for math, science and reading, or combined into one test depending on the needs of the student. This test aims to gauge the academic knowledge by subject as part of the teacher certification process.

“I have never really been on board with standardized testing,” senior Britain Bossier said. “I believe our grades in school and our accomplishments should speak for themselves.”

The Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) is the governing body that monitors, evaluates and improves education programs around the country. Chair of teacher preparation Cheri Smith said that in the last year, the CAEP has made a lot of changes to their guidelines, and one of those changes includes the requirement of the Praxis Core test scores to be admitted into teacher education preparation programs. Each individual university has the option to choose whether or not to require their students to take it to be able to begin their upper level courses.

Harding officially made the decision to remove that requirement and are now requiring students to take a survey based on research conducted by Angela Duckworth's GRIT Scale. The GRIT scale is a survey that is designed to measure an individual's ability to obtain their long-term goals.

Smith said the decision to move forward without the exam should help the prolonged time of getting into the program and relieve some stress about the exam itself. It will also eliminate an added expense, since students have to pay every time they take or retake parts of the exam. Smith said standardized testing may not let you see the entire picture: An exam can tell you how well a student knows the material, but it cannot always tell you how good of a teacher they will be.

"Just because someone's test score is not as high as it should be, it should not and does not determine what sort of teacher they will be," Smith said.

Removing the Praxis has stirred up some chatter among the students in the College of Education. Some current students in the teacher preparation program are not as excited about this change as those looking to get in. Those who have already taken and passed the Praxis are not affected by this change, but those that have recently signed up and paid to take it in the coming months should be able to receive a refund.

"Looking back, I think now that they are no longer requiring the exam and constantly making changes, there should be some sort of refund system for those that had to spend so much money to even take these exams in the first place," senior Lindsey Reece said.

The CAEP is always searching for new ways to improve education programs, and Smith said Harding's program is excited to implement this change.

"If our mission at Harding is to educate and prepare people to go out and serve and teach, we should not let that score be a barrier keeping some students moving forward," Smith said.

# COLLEGE OF PHARMACY INTRODUCES SHORTENED PROGRAM

*written by Mbonham April 8, 2021*



*Cutline: Austin Word, a first year student in Harding University's Physician Assistant Program, digitizes notes in a study room in the Farrar Center for Health Sciences on April 7. | Photo by Audrey Jackson*

The College of Pharmacy announced in March that it developed a new curriculum that would allow students to graduate in three-and-a-half years rather than four.

“We were looking for a way to make ourselves more unique,” Dr. Jeanie Smith, College of Pharmacy assistant dean, said. “As far as benefiting the student, first of all, it’s going to save them time, so they will graduate a semester early, and [it will be cost efficient]. There is going to be a semester where they will have already graduated, and what we really think will be the most unique part is every other college of pharmacy in the country graduates in May or June, and we will literally be potentially one of the only [colleges] of pharmacy graduating at any other time.”

Smith also said this earlier option for graduating will put pharmacy students in the field at a time when they will be needed more.

“We always see a demand every year in cold and flu season ... and we think we will have some of our graduates ready to enter the job market ... when there is a little bit of an increased need for the pharmacist, so it will be filling a need of a job market as well,” Smith said.

The new program has rearranged the classes in a way that students are able to learn the material at a faster pace.

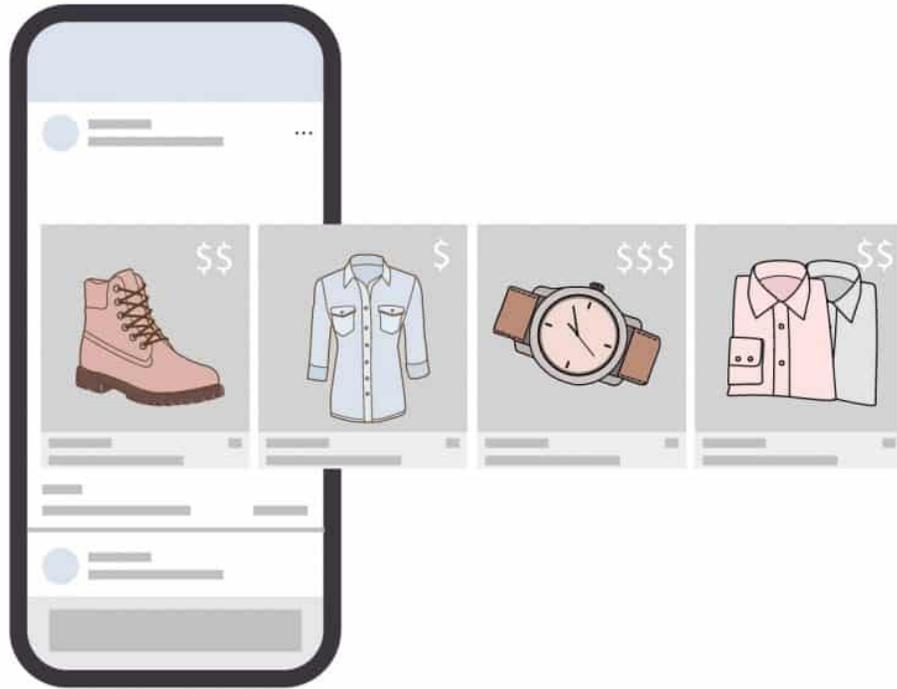
“We looked at a hybrid model of instruction where we pull some of the coursework that was required and put that into the summer terms,” dean of the College of Pharmacy Dr. Jeff Mercer said. “What that effectively does is it allows us to distribute the workload over additional time frames, and by doing that, the students are able to complete more work, and we feel like the online courses are going to be really good for our students because it will offer the flexibility to take them from home.”

The College of Pharmacy students believe this change will be beneficial to all upcoming students.

“It is going to make Harding more competitive compared to other colleges,” senior Rachel Coursey said. “I don’t feel they are going to be shorted at all when it comes to having the education. I think it is a really great opportunity.”

# SOMETHING BORROWED: STUDENTS GET CREATIVE WITH BUYING, SELLING CLOTHES

written by Ellie Shelton April 8, 2021



*Cutline: Graphic by Isabelle Cutts*

Many students around campus take advantage of opportunities to buy or sell used clothing through various avenues, and “closet cleanout” accounts on Instagram have become one popular platform for doing so.

Junior Jewel Gilbert began a closet cleanout account on Instagram and said she has made some money from doing so.

“I wanted to clear out some clothes that I don’t wear anymore and make some extra money to save or use to buy more clothes,” Gilbert said. “I made at least \$100 in a few days, and I didn’t use high prices, so it was kind of surprising. It was super easy to set up and helps to keep everything organized and all in one place.”

Sophomore Jordan Huffman is another student who took advantage of the closet cleanout trend.

“I wanted to get some old clothes out of my closet so that I could start purchasing clothes that fit the style I have now,” Huffman said. “I’ve made more money off of selling my clothes on apps that are designated for that, but I’ve still made some. It’s a very good way to get clothes out to good homes for a little extra cash.”

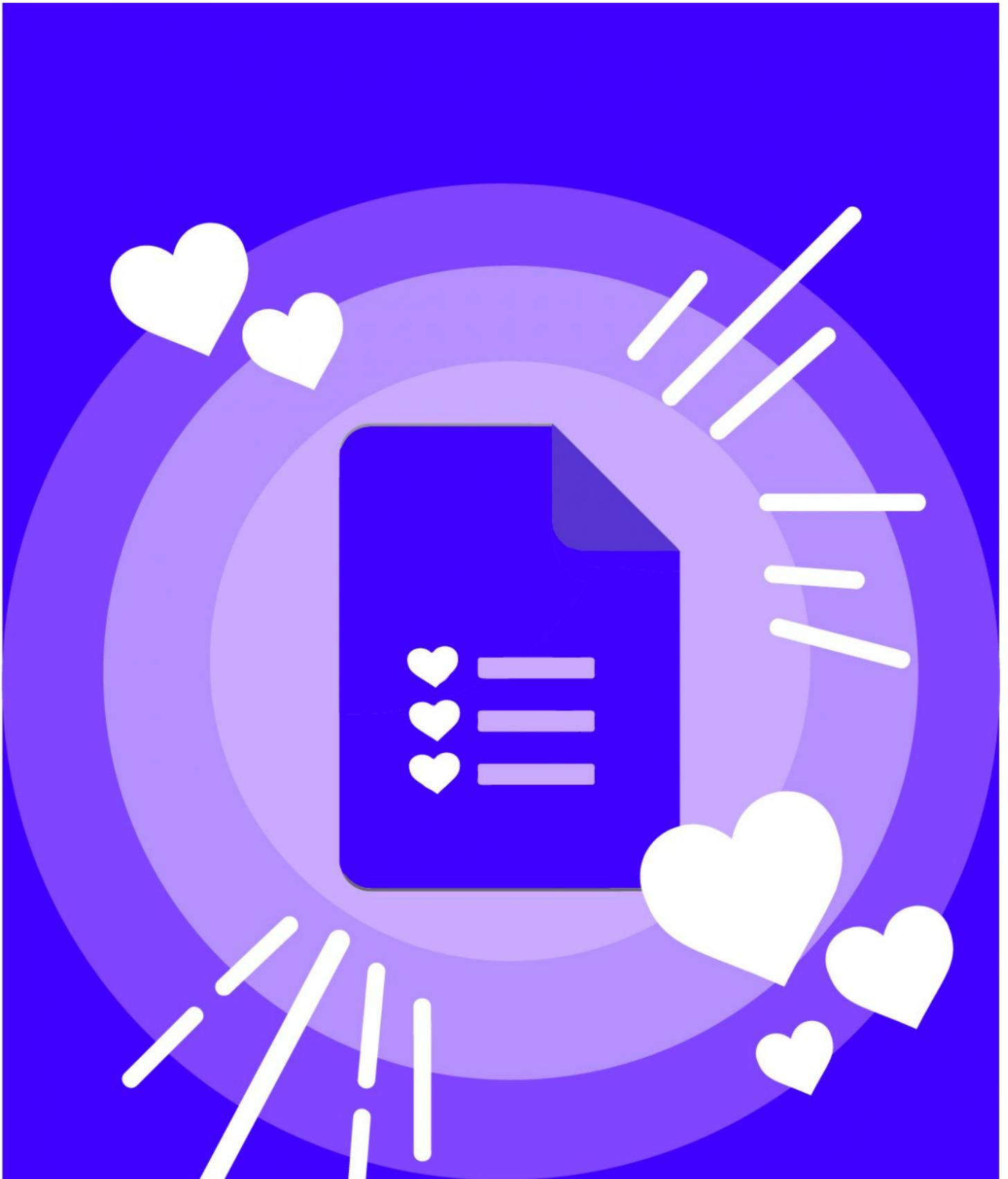
Along with closet cleanout accounts on Instagram, the Harding Formal Dress Exchange Facebook page is another platform for buying and selling that is particularly popular among students around formal and banquet season.

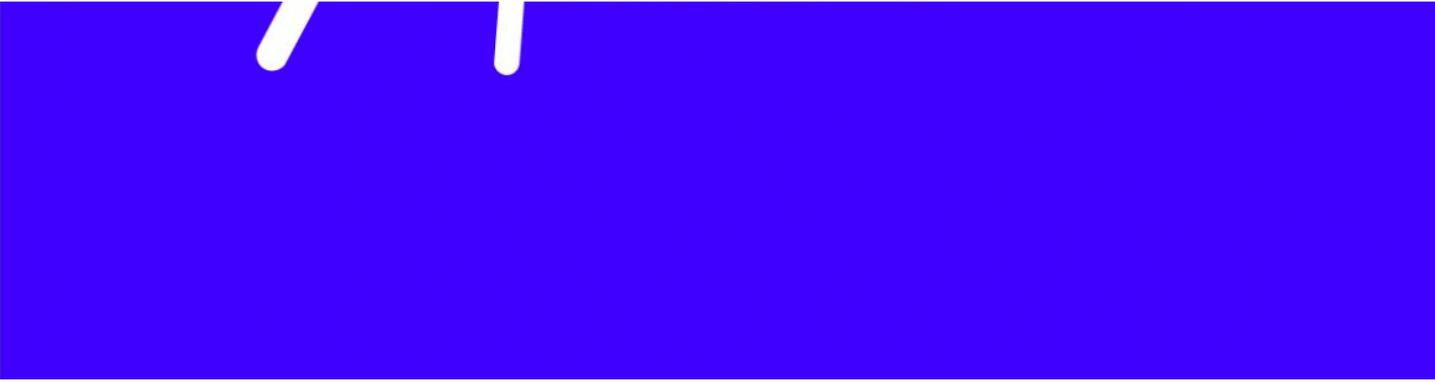
Senior Candace Crawford said she wouldn’t consider posting dresses on the Facebook page a hassle and that it is a great way for women to get to wear a dress they have never had the chance to wear before.

“I chose to post some of my dresses on the dress exchange [page] because I have a few different dresses, and I love to see my dresses make people feel as beautiful as they have made me feel,” Crawford said. “It’s so exciting having a girl try on my dresses and to see her get so giddy to wear it to her formal. The dress exchange page is so amazing because girls can rent a dress that makes them feel gorgeous for about \$15 to \$30, instead of buying a dress for triple that.”

# STUDENTS GET CREATIVE ASKING OTHERS TO FUNCTIONS

*written by Elizabeth Dillard April 8, 2021*





*Cutline: Graphic by Avery Tillett*

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The process of asking someone to a function can oftentimes be scary or even embarrassing. In an effort to circumvent the traditions, sophomores Bailey King and Sam Stebbins both created a Google form for their friends and acquaintances to fill out in order to “apply” to be their date to their respective formals this May.

The forms were left available for about a week before being closed for review. King's was more complicated than Stebbins'. King's form had five questions, which included one question asking if the response is a “serious inquiry,” one asking if the participant would be available the night of the formal, two silly questions and a final statement asking the respondent to agree that they are taking the form seriously.

“I was second guessing myself on whether or not I should do it,” King said. “But I decided to do it because YOLO.”

King was the first to make the form, and her friend, Stebbins, “ripped it off” as a joke. While most of King's responses were serious — with the exceptions of a few females, graduates and her mom — Stebbins received mostly comedic responses from guy friends.

“I probably won't do it again, but it's been a fun thing to do,” Stebbins said.

Junior Nora Waller, on the other hand, had a different idea for finding a formal date. She and some friends attended Sketa, a concert put on by men's social club Theta, featuring Nashville musician Nordista Freeze. In the days leading up to the concert, Waller developed a running joke with her friends that she was going to ask him to the Zeta Rho formal and ask him to bring some friends along.

“There was always something in the back of my head going, ‘Like, what if you actually did it,’” Waller said.

As it turns out, she would not need to. At Sketa, when Nordista Freeze was on stage and there was a lull in the crowd, one of her friends, junior Shane Ryan, found out about the scheme and decided to help. He called out to the artist to ask the question, ultimately leading to Nordista Freeze accepting the offer.

# TENNESSEE RESIDENTS RECOUNT WEATHER, 2020 TORNADOES

*written by Rachel Bible April 8, 2021*



*Cutline: A road in a suburb of Nashville, TN experiences flooding after severe storms hit the area on March 28. | Photo Courtesy of WTVF*

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*Photo Courtesy of WTVF.*

Middle Tennessee residents have recently experienced floods due to inclement weather — well over 100 people were rescued from their homes with six dead. The flooding is marked to be the worst in Nashville's history, along with the tornadoes from last year.

A series of tornadoes moved through Middle Tennessee in March 2020, devastating Nashville and Cookeville along its path. The storm traveled through 100 miles of the state, leaving a trail of destruction in its path. The sometimes 175 mph tornadoes killed 25 people, five of whom were children. Now, almost a year later, students and Nashville residents reflect on the inclement weather and devastation their communities have faced in the past year.

Senior Mallory Mackie is from Cookeville, Tennessee, and knows many families in the community who were affected.

Mackie recalls seeing a missed call from her mom after a class, calling back and hearing news that her youth minister's daughter was missing after the tornado destroyed their home last year.

“Within an hour we had found out that [my youth minister’s daughter] was dead,” Mackie said. “It was just very shocking, like, ‘Woah, okay.’ Exactly what I thought would never happen, did.”

Mackie said the devastation after the storms had passed was a complete shock for a city that is not used to that type of storm. With the immediate shift to lockdown, she said the city felt like there was no stop.

In the year since the tornadoes, many communities have been working to put together pieces of their lives amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Sophomore Ellie Fox is from Old Hickory, a Nashville suburb, where the storms hit hard.

“I went home the weekend after the tornado, and that Sunday we still didn’t have electricity at the church, so the only light was from the windows,” Fox said. “That was an eye-opening experience for me because I realized how small of a change that was for me, considering the families affected by the tornado had everything changed and taken from them in a moment.”

Fox described the months after the storms, when the pandemic forced people into lockdown and the way the community continued to work on their city. She said there were drives for food and clothing all around the Nashville area for those affected by the storms.

“I saw a moral change to the town in the continuous selflessness of the people,” Fox said. “COVID caused businesses to shut down and many people to lose their jobs in the Nashville area, but even [then] people still gave what they could and more.”

While the surrounding communities joined together for support, people from other places in the country were flocking to help. Sophomore Peyton Shannon went with a group from Searcy’s College Church of Christ to help those in Cookeville.

“Everywhere you looked, there was trash, tree branches, scraps of metal, anything you could think of,” Shannon said. “Not only was it hard to look at, but we didn’t feel helpful because it seemed never ending.”

The group that Shannon was a part of stayed for seven days worked through different parks, homes and school grounds in the area. She described the week as incredibly emotional for all those involved.

The greater Nashville area has seen devastation in the past year, from natural disasters to domestic terrorism. Fox, Mackie and many of those from the area entrust the resilience of the community to continue to heal with each other.