2024-2025 **SY** 

# Thorntonian

Issue #14

The Official Newspaper of T.F. North High School

Aidan Jordan, Editor-in-Chief

# The value of embarrassing moments

**EDITORIAL** 

In this issue we're trying something new, or old, because we are doing a throwback issue! For the Class of 2025, we now have 12 school days left before we say sayonara and move on to the next step in life, whether that be attending college or trade school, joining the military or workforce, or anything else. Even though this is a more hectic time of the year for some of you with prom coming up and senior finals and AP exams around the corner, I think it is a good time to reflect. Just pause and take the time to think about how you have grown from being a freshman in 2021 and what you were able to accomplish in your short four years of high school. Think about the people you have met and how they helped make your high school experience as wonderful as it could be. Hopefully, your high school experience was something that you can always look back on and have happy memories of. Although high school is not over yet, there is still time to make new memories. As for the underclassmen, you can also reflect on how far you have come since becoming a T.F. North Meteor. I'm sure you all have made a lot of new memories during your time here, even now as a freshman. I remember during my freshman year, I joined the bowling team and received a bowling ball, unaware that you are not supposed to put a bowling ball near a vent. Not knowing that the heat from the vent would cause the outer shell to expand, when I brought it outside the cold air made it shrink, and the ball ended up cracking. I tried to use it to bowl, but it had a huge crack in it. At the time I was disappointed because I couldn't use my new ball, but thinking about it now it was pretty funny. Moments like these are what I will miss when I graduate. But I will always have those types of memories to look back on in the future.





T.F North's groups interpretation team wins IHSA state champions for a second year in a row. Photo credit: T.F. North Theatre Department's Facebook account

Story by Liliana Krueger, Staff Reporter

## T.F. North Theatre Department ends season victorious at state

The T.F. North Theatre Department completed a historic season at the IHSA state finals. This year's victory marks the second state championship in the group interpretation category their performance of "X." The all-state actors and musicians included John Mcbeth III, Ikeoluwani Grace Apata, Jamareon Mann, Tianna Bowen, Keniyah Stephenson, Joseph Merritt, Daniel Jackson, Tamilore Ogundeyi, and Shekinah Ogedegbe. Musician Tamilore Ogunfeyi said, "Being part of the two-time state championship team is just amazing, where there are many new things to learn from and teach, but the hard part was coming back as good as we did last year. I'm grateful and thanking God for the people I've been able to learn from and work with this year.." The department's second championship came from the musical theatre review category with their performance of "The Prince of Egypt." Double state champions included John Mcbeth III, Ikeoluwani Grace Apata, Jamareon Mann, Tianna Bowen, Keniyah Stephenson, and Zaria Jacobs. For the first the T.F. Department's history, the contest play cast

was the state runner-up. The cast performed"East Texas Hot Links." The allstate contest play performers included John Mcbeth III, Ikeoluwani Grace Apata, Jamareon Mann, Amonis Overstreet, AKyha Wells, My'lana Qualls, Victoria Jolie Spencer, Quentin Hall, Zaria Jacobs, Anaeva Kelly, Jessica King, Daniel Jackson, Tamilore Ogundeyi, and all-state lighting director Shekinah Ogedegbe. Ikeoluwani Grace Apata is proud of the theatre department's success. "Winning state for the second time in a row, with this only being my second year in the department, was such an amazing feeling. I'm grateful I got to share the stage with such a wonderful team, especially the seniors whom I cherish most.' Senior Jamareon Mann added, "I feel this year we really honed in on the story and technical parts of our performance and didn't hold back on incorporating things that would make our performance different from all the others. We were unapologetically us." John Mcbeth III was confident department would succeed "Winning state again was bound to happen because my team really locked in and did their all, I'm so proud of them.'

#### **Senior Week**

Rogelio Romero Check out the Class of 2025's week of activities

#### **Blast from the Past**

Ximena Gutierrez
Check out TFN Staff who
was a part of the Thortnonian

### **Legend of Chicken Balls**

Anahi Martinez
Learn about the best menu
item from TFN's past

page 3 page 5 page 6

### **Letters to the Editor**

Letters to the Editor can be sent to our social media handles or thorntonian@tfd215.org.

Responses to Issue 13:

Dear Thorntonian Staff, I loved your April Fool's edition of the Thorntonian. What a fun way to celebrate. You might be on to something with those uniforms! Thanks for the smiles. Ms. Biegel

I think this was a great issue! The best part about the issue is the fact that it was unexpected for the school newspaper to plan an elaborate April Fools prank. I liked the easter eggs such as the QR code rickrolling students, the typo, and the jokes about staff. This was a great issue with no complaints at all. I know of many students who believed the prank, and there are still a couple who believe that we will be having school uniforms. I also believe that Mr. Rucinski sending out the issue to our emails was also clever as many would not expect him to be a part of the prank. This was an amazing read, and I hope the Thornfonian keeps it up. Favor Babatunde, senior

I really enjoyed reading this edition of the newspaper for April Fool's Day. I loved seeing the underclassmen's reactions to the "new uniform." Many of the students believed that it was real. I was not worried because I am a senior, but I also knew that it was an April Fool's joke. In addition to that, I laughed a lot about the keychain with Mr. Rucinski's face on it. It would be hilarious if that were to actually be sold. The photoshopped pictures were also a good addition and were believable. The newspaper staff did an amazing job because individuals actually fell for some of the jokes. It was also nice to see many of my peers laughing together about the same thing. It was a simple but effective way to bring unity to the school, whether people realized it or not. Natalie Gonzalez, senior

I loved the whole idea of the prank. It was funny and had everyone talking about it. So many people thought that it was real even though it had hints that it wasn't. Another thing I liked about it was that it had said "the pranksters" inferring that this was a prank...Overall, I loved this newspaper. It was funny and entertaining. Kiana Jones, junior

I really enjoyed reading the April Fool's Day newspaper. It was well thought out with humor and various factors that made it seem real. The work put into it was great, the pictures and small details really made it special. My favorite story was about what the T.F. North teachers before they were teachers. The pictures made me laugh, and I can totally see Mr. Anaclerio working at White Castle. Everyone who played a part in writing this newspaper should feel proud as lot of students fell for the prank. I had a good laugh while reading it. This newspaper is truly one of a kind. Yesenia Reyes, senior

Responses to Issue 12:

I loved Ximena's story. I think it's uplifting, comforting, and relatable as I'm a senior and have felt these emotions as Ximena. I think it's so important to be able to talk to one another during this time as it could be a lonely feeling but knowing someone else is feeling the same way is so helpful. Liliana Kruger, senior

Estoy de acuerdo con Ximena porque hay muchos estudiantes que estan pasando por las mismas cosas. Algunos tienen mucha presion de ser adultos pero esta bien, hay que apoyarnos uno a los otros. Hay que esuchar lo que otros dicen porque a lo mejor necesitan ayuda con algo. Estoy de acuerdo tambien con Lili porque mi mama me tuvo a los 18 anos y para eso se necesita mucho trabajo. Ser joven y seguir en la escuela y cuidar a un hijo/hija es dificil. Yo tambien aprecio mucho a mi mama por ser fuerte. Jose Ruiz, senior

I agree with Ximena because there are many students who are going through the same things. Some have a lot of pressure to be adults but that's okay, we have to support each other. You have to listen to what others say because maybe they need help with something. I also agree with Lili because my mother had me when she was 18, and that takes a lot of work. Being young and still in school and taking care of a son/daughter is difficult. I also really appreciate my mom for being strong.

Jose Ruiz, senior

Yo me relaciono a las dos historias de Lili y Ximena porque mi mamá también me tubo cuando tenía 18 y ha hecho todo lo posible para que yo y mis hermanos estemos bien. Y con el artículo de Ximena me relaciono porque hace poco yo cumplí 18 y tenía miedo porque significaba tomar decisiones que cambiaran mi vida y sentía que no estaba lista para hacerlo. Es un cambio muy grande a pesar de ser solo un año de diferencia en el cual te consideras un niño todavía. Crea que los dos artículos son muy buenos y me alegra que alguien hable sobre estas cosas. Genesis Robles, senior

I relate to the two stories of Lili and Ximena because my mother also had me when I was 18 and has done everything possible so that my siblings and I are well. And I relate to Ximena's article because I recently turned 18, and I was afraid because it meant making decisions that would change my life, and I felt like I wasn't ready to do it. It is a very big change despite being only a year apart in which you still consider yourself a child. I think both articles are very good, and I'm glad someone is talking about these things. Genesis Robles, senior

### **Upcoming**

### **Events**

April 17 Parent Board Advisory Meeting April 29 PuzzlePalooza, LRC May 2, Monogram game May 2 Cinco De Mayo Dance May 8, Choir Spring Concert May 9 Soph Blood Drive May 9 Spring Play May 10 Spring play



2024-25

### **Thorntonian Staff**

Staff Reporters:
Ivy Finley
Marisol Nicasio
Jasmine Pastrana
Gaby Barraza
Liliana Krueger
Luis Pelayo
Anahi Martinez
Lizbeth Solorio
Jakayla O'Quinn

Editorial Board:

Emily Sanchez, Art Director Rogelio Romero, Social Media Director Ximena Gutierrez, Asst. Editor-in-Chief Aidan Jordan, Editor-in-Chief

<u>Faculty Advisor:</u> Mr. Joseph Stephan

Established in 1925, the Thorntonian is produced by the Advanced Journalism students of T.F. North High School. It seeks to provide an open forum for all members of the D. 215 community. Opinions expressed do not necessarily represent the official position of D. 215 unless otherwise noted.



The Thornfonian Staff would like to thank everyone who helped make our April Fool's Day prank a success! April 1, 2026 falls on a Wednesday. You have been warned.



Story by Marisol Nicasio, Staff Reporter

### 2025 Chronoscope is now on sale

If you didn't know already, I am the Editorin-Chief of the Chronoscope. As the end of the school year is approaching, our staff has been hard at work finishing the 2025 yearbook. We have covered and attended many events. You may have seen senior Sammie King all over your Instagram feed, marketing the 2024-25 Chronoscope in silly, entertaining videos with juniors Jaylani Sanchez and Florah Dismuke. "I love being able to bring ideas to life. Working with Florah and Sammie, we always bounce off each other's creativity," said Sanchez. The 2025 Chronoscope is on sale for \$30; to purchase one, you can either see Mr. Stephan in room 142, see a Chronoscope Staff member, or scan the QR code to the right. This year's Chronoscope explores the nostalgia of our childhood, and is one of the most unique books the school has ever made. The theme is an ode to Toy Story and how each student similarly comes alive when no one is looking. Each page dives into the student life of the Meteors, with the clubs, activities, and sports all featured.

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### Mobile Museum of Tolerance visits TFN

Anahi Martinez Staff Reporter

The Mobile Museums of Tolerance came to TFN on March 24-28 with all US History, World History, and Foundations to Teaching classes attending. It offered a world-class learning experience using innovative technology and interactive lessons, bringing the message of tolerance to the school. According to their website, MMOT aims to promote human dignity and empower students to raise their voices to fight against antisemitism, bullying, racism, hate, and overall intolerance. The MMOT consisted of a 30-seat, wheelchair-accessible vehicle delivering a field trip and independent classroom experience. The MMOT uses immersive technology as well as workshops that cover heavy topics, all while visiting the unpleasant past, and reinforcing and focusing on empathy. The museum also prioritizes challenging the students to understand the Holocaust in historic and contemporary contexts, allowing confrontation in all forms of discrimination in our society even today. Senior Melany Torres said, "The museum was really interesting. It made me realize how as a team we can change anything if we put our minds to it." The MMOT is based on the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, which is the only museum of its kind in the world. Ms. Schuldes originally learned about the museum at an ISU conference. Ms. Schuldes said, "I thought it would be a good opportunity for students to learn about the content teachers cover in class and gets them to do something more interactive with it."

### Senior Week plans set for the week of May 10

Rogelio Romero, Staff Reporter

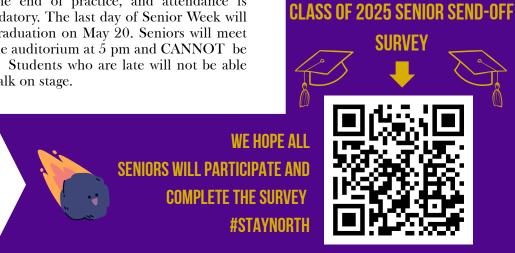
The Senior Board has planned three fun activities for Senior Week. On May 10, Seniors will go to the Six Flags Grade Nite. Seniors will leave T.F. North at 7:15 pm and will not return until 5:30 am. A DJ and dinner will be included. Seniors must also know that payment is non-refundable if weather conditions are poor. On May 13, the Senior Sunset will be held on the T.F. North football field from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. Food, a 360° picture booth, a DJ, and a movie will be included. The Senior Bests will be announced. A ticket is needed for admission. On May 13, the Senior Day at the Roller Rink will be held at the Lynwood Roller Rink. Skate rentals are included; however, food will have to be purchased by the students. The last thing seniors have to do before graduation is on May 19. Graduation practice and the Senior Class panoramic picture will be from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm. Seniors will meet in the auditorium at 8:30 am, and should dress casually. No hats are allowed. Graduation tickets will be given out at the end of practice, and attendance is mandatory. The last day of Senior Week will be graduation on May 20. Seniors will meet in the auditorium at 5 pm and CANNOT be late. Students who are late will not be able to walk on stage.

# Thorntonian editoral staff changes for 2025-26

**Issue** #14

Luis Pelayo, Staff Reporter

Next year's Editorial Board for the Thorntonian has been announced. Junior Anahi Martinez will be the new Editor-in-Chief, and junior Lizbeth Solorio will be filling a new position, Jefa de redacción. She will be the Editor-in-Chief for the stories in Spanish. "The Editor-in-Chief's job is to oversee all the work of the writers," said senior Aidan Jordan, current Editor-in-Chief. "I'm looking forward to building a new, talented team and bringing new ideas. My goals are to make the classroom engage and come together as a family," said Martinez. "I'm looking forward to having more say in what is in Spanish and to expand the Spanish section of the newspaper," added Solario. Currently, both work as staff reporters for the Thorntonian. Along with writing stories, Solario works with the current Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Ximena Gutierrez, and the other Spanishspeaking reporters to translate stories and to reply to the Letters to the Editor that are written in Spanish.



### Filling in a gap in T.F. North history

Story and Photos by Ivy Finley, Staff Reporter

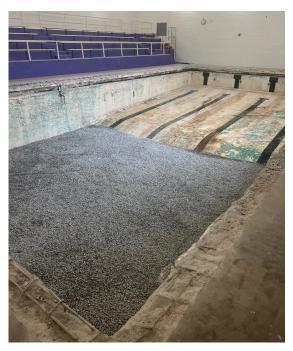
Thornton Fractional North High School will be saying goodbye to the last remaining piece of the original Thornton Fractional High School building that stood from 1926 to 1933. In December of 1933, a fire destroyed the interior of the original school, leaving only the foundation and the pool. This fire marked the beginning of a long and difficult reconstruction journey. A new school building was constructed on top of the old foundation and opened in the spring of 1936. The reconstructed portion of the building is what is now known as T.F. North's old "Freshman House." Now, almost 90 years after the school was reopened, the pool is being filled in to make space for a mutlipurpose room. According to Principal Rucinski, the pool hidden beneath T.F. North has not been used for years. Despite having a pool available on the North campus, all swim practices have been held at T.F. South since the teams became T.F. United. As recently as seven years ago, P.E. classes had swimming units that were held in the pool. However, due to the pool's age, it is outdated and not the correct size for the swim team to utilize it. When COVID-19 restricted regular school routines, the pool was drained and left neglected for years. Repairing the issues underneath the ancient pool would have been a time-consuming and expensive investment. As the community got back to functioning post-COVID, funds were budgeted to complete more important improvements at T.F. North. With many renovations out of the way, it is time for the pool to serve as the starting point for a new generation of improvements. According to the Director of Facilities, Mr. Tim Stephan, the project is set to be finished before the 2025-26 school year. Once completed, the versatile space will be available as a multi-purpose room. Many uses are being considered for the new space, so nothing is definite. No matter how the space is used, it will be a valuable addition to the other fantastic spaces where TFN performers and athletes hone their skills.

VFW recognizes Chris Lopez, Emella Sedicol, and Diego Torrez for their outstanding volunteer work



The pictures below show equipment used to fill the pool and the current state of the pool.





The swimming pool is the same as the one used in the former school but it has been completely remodeled and has added enough permanent bleachers to accomodate two hundred spectators. The present room is almost twice as high as the old one. Locker and shower facilities are located near the pool room.



The picture of the pool above is from the 1936 Chronoscope.

Story by Gabriella Barraza, Staff Reporter

### Where are they now?

If there is an alumnus or former teacher you want us to find, please send an email to Thorntonian@tfd125.org.

Chanel Bell went to T.F. North all four years of high school. She was a part of the class of 2024. You might remember her from drama, NHS, student council, and track as their manager senior year. She is now a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham and is majoring in nursing in hopes to become a NICU nurse. "My favorite memories at TFN were my entire senior year, specifically my art class 5th and 6th with Mrs. Matlock, with everything going on surrounding senior year. Her class was very calming and relaxing," said Bell.

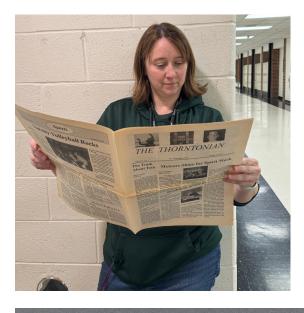
Jimena Esparza went to T.F. North for 3 years which was from her sophomore year to her senior year. You might remember Jimena and her sister being known as the "smart twins" as they challenged each other to be successful students. She is currently at UIC and will be graduating this spring semester. "My favorite memory at TFN was attending my Spanish course as I made so many strong friendships and the atmosphere was always so relaxed and fun. I never fail to remember all the laughs in that class," said Esparza.





## Before they were on the T.F. North Staff, they were on the Thorntonian Staff Story and Photos by Ximena Gutierrez, Assistant Editor-in-Chief

Did you know that Officer Zivkovich and Ms. Hadler were part of the Thorntonian Staff? Officer Zivkovich was a reporter during 1995-1996 school year. Zivkovich decided to join journalism because he liked writing. The newspaper gave him the creative freedom to write the types of stories he wanted to write. During his high school years, there were a lot of restaurants in Calumet City. This gave him the chance to try different foods from the area and write food reviews which he enjoyed doing. Zivkovich's favorite part of journalism was the fact that he could include his own opinion on things. "If a kid is looking for something to do or join, the newspaper could be fun for them. You get to form your own opinions and let other people read them," said Zivkovich. Ms. Hadler was part of the Thorntonian Staff during the same time. She was the sports editor during her junior year, and Editor-in-Chief her senior year. She decided to join the class because she enjoyed writing, and she had friends who were interested in joining around the same time as well. "I liked being able to go out and talk to people I normally wouldn't have spoken to. When I was a sports editor, I liked going to different events to talk to people," shared Hadler. When she was Editor-in-Chief, she had to edit the newspaper on actual paper. "We had to literally cut out things and glue them down. I liked doing all that, it was a fun thing to work on and seeing the finished product was even better," said Hadler.





Are You Interested In Being A Reporter Or Photographer For The Thorntonian? See Mr.Stephan In Room 142.



# ATTENTION SENIORS



Want to enter the Class of 2025 guess the Baby Picture Contest? Send in your favorite childhood pictures to the class Instagram @co25north!





# TFN'S LEGENDARY CHICKEN BALLS

### Story & photos by Anahi Martinez, Staff Reporter

My mother attended TFN during her freshman through junior year of high school, and it was always expected that I would do the same. I grew up hearing many stories about TFN from my mother and many other family members who attended around the same time. One story I became familiar with was the one about TFN's "infamous chicken balls." Chicken balls were similar to popcorn chicken in shape and size and were meant to be a topping at the salad bar. My mom went to school here during the 2000s, when the cafeteria had a self-serve salad bar. Many students skipped the salad entirely and filled their bowls with chicken balls instead, eventually weighing them at the end of the line to determine the cost. "I always made sure I got there on time because they were sold out quick, especially if you had the last lunch period. I sometimes couldn't get there on time, so I would have a friend or my older brother stand in line for me. I would get a bowl full of them." my mom described. My cousin also describes a similar experience: "It was supposed to be a salad bar, but nobody bought salad, just chicken balls!" Other former students and staff members

remember TFN's delicacy, even detailing unique combinations. Ms. Danielle Collier (TFN Class of 2010) said, "One part was deciding what sauce you wanted to have today..sometimes I did ranch, sometimes I did French, sometimes I mixed it with some hot sauce just depending on how I felt. Also, this was the only acceptable reason to run to the lunchroom like Naruto! You had to be on time before they ran out because they only gave certain portions for each lunch period." Ms. Lencioni (then known as Ms. Koppitz) added, "Kids ran to lunch...being tardy to lunch wasn't an option. The combo of ranch and French dressing 'strategically' layered made the perfect salad." Former teacher Mr. William Yadron said, "I remember kids with [a] soup of ranch and chicken balls floating in them." The delicacy even brought students together and serves as a nostalgic topic for many former students Ms. Brittany Mitchell (TFN Class of 2010) recalls, "So much could be said about those chicken balls. We used to combine all our money together and get as many chicken balls as possible. We would have a feast as family. Good times."





"It was the hottest item on the lunch menu and I can remember students running to get to the salad bar first. It was always the benefit to have the early lunch because if you had 5b you ran into a situation where they were sold out," said Mr. Pignatiello.



"Nobody was late for lunch because everyone would run to the front of the line for chicken balls. They would run out fast and I remember kids would have a plate full of chicken balls and they would drizzle French or ranch dressing," said Ms.

Johnson.



"Chicken balls were phenomenal fried happiness that we got every lunch period with our salads," said Ms. Murawski.



"Chicken balls were delicious and a lunch staple for many years. We bought them in big bowls!" said Mr. Schuldes



### Looking back a decade: Throwback to 2014

Story by Lizbeth Solorio, Staff Reporter

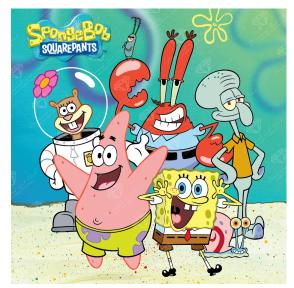
Looking back to ten years ago, it is incredible to see how much has changed. The year 2014 was a much simpler time for most students at Thornton Fraction North. The stress and hardship now seen in students' day-to-day lives as they get closer to adulthood had not manifested itself yet. Students were in their childhood, and still enjoyed the simple things in life such as what music and TV shows that were trending, what apps and games were entertaining, and what snacks were tasty. Although things change over time, especially over a decade, the core idea often stays the same. This is seen as a person's music taste evolves, yet the comfort and the connection they find in it stays constant. In 2014, pop music dominated charts, featuring artists such as One Direction, Justin Bieber, and Selena Gomez. During this year, One Direction released their album "Four," giving them their status as one of the biggest boy bands of the time. Solo artists Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez kept their names popular by releasing new songs such as "Confident" by Justin Bieber and "The Heart Wants What it Wants" by Selena Gomez. While the artists and trends may change, the role music plays in shaping memories, identity, and connection remains timeless—just as it did for us back in 2014. TV series are another example this. In 2014, several TV shows captured the attention of students. Nickelodeon's "SpongeBob SquarePants" continued to be a beloved favorite with its timeless humor. Meanwhile, Disney Channel's "Liv and Maddie" gained a dedicated audience, thanks to its story line about two twin sisters with opposite personalities. Together, these shows and many more were part of a lineup that defined the TV landscape for our generation. In 2014, apps and games played a big role in shaping students. Musically was a huge hit, by letting users create and share short lipsync and dance videos, Musical.ly became one of the leading social media apps of the time. At the same time, Minecraft continued to grow in popularity, giving players the freedom to build, explore, and create their own worlds. These platforms not only entertained but also gave people new ways to express themselves and the connection with others during the mid-2010s. Together, these apps helped shape a new generation. Finally, food is a major factor that maintained its comfort. A decade ago, certain foods and snacks were especially popular, especially among students who looked for quick and tasty options. Pizza Rolls were a go-to snack for many, accompanied by a Capri Sun, convenient juice pouches. These snacks weren't just about taste, they are tied to fun memories, making them iconic for anyone who grew up during that time. Remembering these staples in the current T.F. North students' childhoods communicates a nostalgic feeling and sort of morning that they will never get to re-experience again. It is truly amazing to see how much one has changed over a decade and what has stayed the same. They were all experiences that helped shape the people who lived in that era, and it is exciting too see where society will be in the next decade.



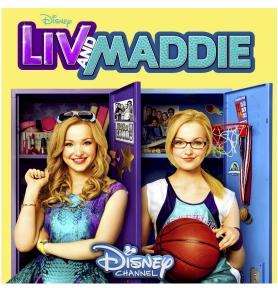
One Direction



Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez



Sponge Bob Square Pants



Liv and Maddie



Musical.ly



Minecraft



Caprisun



Pizza Rolls

## **GUEST PLAYLISTS**

### Curated by Marisol Nicasio

Want to know what it felt like to be in high school when your teachers were? Travel back in time with some of their favorite songs from when they were students!

Mr Stephans's Picks

"Mellon Collie and the Infinite
 Sadness -Album"
 by The Smashing Pumpkins

"Dirt - Album"
 by Alice in Chains

"MTV Unplugged - Album"
 by Nirvana

Thank you all for reading my column! Being a part of this staff and getting the opportunity to interview everyone this past year was truly amazing. If you're not a senior, email us at thorntonian@tfd215.org to submit your summer time favorites. Make sure to use your school email address and include your first and last names and your grade. Only school-appropriate suggestions will be accepted. Please limit your suggestions to 5 songs per playlist. The deadline for submissions is 3:30 pm on May 27, 2025.

Mr. Moore's Picks:

"Dani California"
by Red Hot Chili Pepper

"Graduation - Album"
by Kanye West

"The Cool - Album"
by Lupe Fiasco

Ms. Pittman's Picks:

"Diamond Girl"
by Stevie B.

"Love Shack"
by B-52s

"You Got It"
by New Kids on the Block

Mr. Fortier's Picks:

"Forever"
by Chris Brown

"Loose Yourself"
by Emminem

"Dani California"
by Red Hot Chili Peppers

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Mr. Russo's Picks:

"The 7 Day Theory" - Album by Mac Demarco

"Life After Death" - Album by Notorious B. I. G

"All Eyes On Me" - Album by Tupac

Jakayla O'Quinn, Staff Reporter

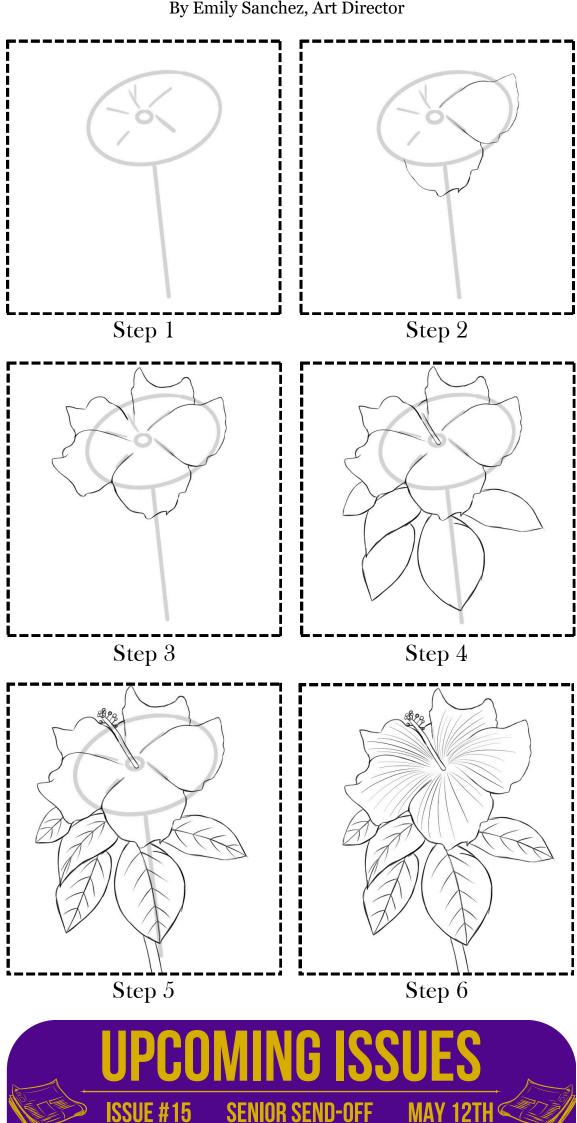
#### **Importance** of The **Being the Big Sister**

Opinion

I am a very quiet kid. I'm always giving people more than one chance. I forgive people too easily. Everyone is always treating me differently and is always asking me why I act the way I do. That question gets old, and I never really felt comfortable telling certain people my real story. I am now 16 years old, and I am the oldest out of 5 siblings. I grew up without my biological parents. I always felt like a mother to my younger siblings because it's like I raised them, and they've been through everything right along with me. It was rough being the oldest because I would always be put in the middle of things and be the one who always had to help out. I had to grow up with my "stepdad" and my mother until I was 6 years old. I was moved back and forth from my grandmother to my parents. My parents were not the parents they should have been to their 5 children, so we were placed in foster care. I was born in Arizona and grew up in Chicago with my second family. I've lived in Chicago for about 6 years now. My siblings and I have been in the system for 10 years. These 10 years of my life have been the hardest, and I've been trying to stay the happiest person everyone sees me as. I have changed a lot throughout these years. I've lost friendships and relationships, and my temper has changed. When I started high school everything was new to me: new school, new friends, new everything. I was happy to be at my first high school with all my friends and all the teachers I made an amazing bond with. I always tried to keep up my grades until December of 2023 when I was separated from my siblings. I knew that was going to be the hardest part of my life. I've always been the type of person to question myself and everything else. I've questioned what I would do without my siblings. To keep myself from breaking down, I would think positively and say: "My siblings are okay, and I know they're safe." That was when I started lacking in school because the only thing I could think about is why is this happening to me. When it came to my siblings, I was very strict and made sure they were always okay because I never had someone who was really there for me growing up. My siblings count on me. They look up to me. Last November, I was moved to the same house with my two younger sisters and was transferred to a different school. When I was moved again, I was terrified because I didn't know why I was being moved and where I was going. When I found out I was being placed with my sisters, I was a little happier. I just wasn't happy to be leaving all my friends, but at least I was with my sisters. Being an older sister to my younger siblings is the best and the worst feeling because you have so much responsibility. At the end of the day, I love my siblings and no matter what I went through, I wouldn't trade them for anything. If you're an older sister, always love your siblings equally because you never know what might happen next.

### How to draw: Hibiscus

By Emily Sanchez, Art Director



**GRADUATION** 

**MAY 21ST** 

**ISSUE #16** 



### WEEKEND GUIDE

### Restaurants to visit

- Texas Roadhouse, 9960 Joilet Rd, Countryside, IL 60525
- Wingstop, 31 Sibley St, Hammond, IN 46320
- Chili's Grill & Bar, 17928 Halsted St, Homewood, IL 60430
- Cocoula Restaurant, 645 Torrence Ave, Calumet City, IL 60409
- Buffalo Wild Wings, 1250 Torrence Ave, Calument City, IL 60409
- Purple Steer, 1402 Indianapolis Blvd, Whiting, IN 46394
- Round the Clock, 9010 Indianapolis Blvd, Highland, IN 46322

### SPRING BREAK

EDITION Jasmine Pastrana & Emily Sanchez

### Places to go:

**Marcus Theater Orland Park** (30-minute drive) 16350 S La Grange Rd Orland Park, IL 60467 Monday - Sunday 6:00 am - 4:00 am

**Garfield Park Conservatory's** (36-minute drive) 300 N Central Park, Chicago, IL 60624 Wednesdays 10:00 am - 8:00 am Thursday-Sunday 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

The Escape Game Chicago (36-minute drive) 42 E Ontario St, Chicago, IL 60611 Monday - Sunday 8:00 am -12:00 am

**Color Factory Chicago** (31-minute drive)

233 S Wacker Dr Lower Level 2, Chicago, IL 60606 **Tuesday - Wednesday Closed** Monday - Sunday 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Friday - Saturday 10:00 am - 7:00 pm

If you have any ideas for the weekend guide and you would like it to be in the newspaper, please email us!

Jasmine: 1000800@students.tfd215.org Emily: 1000821@students.tfd215.org



### Now Playing in Theaters:

- A Minecraft Movie PG
- Snow White PG
- The Woman in the Yard PG-13
- Death of a Unicorn R
- Hell of a Summer R
- Screamboat R
- Drop PG-13

### **Spring Sports Photo Dump**









# SPOHIEHT



Layla Hall Senior Track

Who is your favorite teammate and why? "Josiah Jackson because we have a lot of stuff in common and a lot of our teammates look up to us"

Who is your favorite school to compete against and why?

"My favorite school to go against is hill crest because there is a lot of heat between us and its really fun to go against them"

What are your favorite moments on track and why?

"My favorite moment is the conferences because that is our last time running and its when everyone realizes that is the last time and being together and it brings them closer"

### **Upcoming Home Games:**

April 17 Boys V Baseball T.F. North v. Eisenhower 4:30 pm

April 17 Boys JV Volleyball T.F. North v. Oak Forest 4:30 pm

April 17 Girls JV Badminton T.F. North v. Oak Lawn 4:30 pm

April 17 Girls V Badminton T.F. North v. Oak Lawn 4:30 pm

April 17 Boys V Volleyball T.F. North v. Oak Lawn 5:30 pm

April 21 Boys V Baseball T.F. North v. Thornwood 4:30 pm

April 22 Boys V Baseball T.F. North v. Evergreen Park 4:30 pm

April 22 Boys JV Volleyball T.F. North v. Reavis 4:30 pm

April 22 Girls V Track And Feild T.F. North v. SSC 4:30 pm

April 22 Girls Jv Track And Field T.F. North v. SSC 4:30 pm

April 22 Boys V Volleyball T.F. North v. Reavis 6:00 pm

April 23 Boys JV Volleyball T.F. North v. Homewood-flossmoor 4:30 pm

April 23 Boys V Volleyball T.F. North v. Homewood-flossmoor 6:00 pm