

December | 14 | 2020

Always a Panther: DJ Shifts from Mixing Music to Baking to Earn a Living During Pandemic

Before the pandemic, Duncanville High School alumna Rachel Harvey worked full-time as an in-demand Dallas DJ with regular gigs at local clubs, private parties and corporate events.

But when the first wave of COVID-19 hit the country in March, her job as DJ Ursa Minor became obsolete.

"Every single DJ gig I had was canceled because everywhere I played was not essential," Rachel said.

Fortunately for Rachel, she already had a side hustle baking and selling cookies. In March, it became her lifeline.

"I've been baking for a long time and always dreamed about owning a bakery, but with my back against the wall due to COVID, I had nothing to lose," Rachel said.

During the last nine months, Rachel ramped up her baking business – naming herself 'The Butter Fairy,' and posting her products on social media. In the kitchen, she has expanded her offerings. Once focused on selling chocolate chip cookies from a backpack at her gigs, Rachel now offers several varieties including honey lavender, the frosted flake and a recipe that uses Oreos for its cookies and crème flavor.

"My favorite will always be the frosted flake due to its uniqueness, but I've been in love with the vegan cookies I've been making," Rachel said.

Though baking is helping her pay her bills, Rachel plans to restart her DJ career when the pandemic is under control. She credits her years in Duncanville ISD for helping her grow her love of music. Rachel fondly remembers playing the flute in the Duncanville High School band.

Read [more](#).



Hard Work, Determination Drive Cross Country Runner to Success at State



Martin Chavez knew this had to be his year. He got sidelined by injuries his sophomore and junior cross country seasons, and just as he got back into his stride last year to run spring track, the pandemic shut down everything.

"It was terrible but there's not a lot you can do," Martin said.

Martin quickly began looking ahead to his senior year.

"I thought, let's just move onto the next chapter. Hopefully there'll be a cross country season, and thank God there was," Martin said.

Although the Duncanville High School cross country team placed fourth overall in district, Martin won the 5k race to advance to regionals. There, he finished first out of about 200 runners.

"He is an extremely hard worker," said Duncanville High School cross country head coach Moses Peña. "He is

gifted naturally but he does not take that for granted. He is driven, self-motivated and he pushes himself."

Martin's efforts paid off. He qualified for state, which got him noticed by sports writers at the Dallas Morning News. They called him 'one to watch.'

Read [more](#).

Collegiate Academy Hosts Parent Information Meetings

Prospective Scholar Parent Information Meetings

Thursday, December 17, 2020 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Zoom	Tuesday, January 12, 2021 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Zoom
Thursday, January 7, 2021 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Zoom	Saturday, January 16, 2021 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Zoom

Application Window
January 4, 2021 - January 27, 2021

The Collegiate Academy at Duncanville High School offers students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma and simultaneously take dual credit courses earning up to 60 college credit hours or an Associate Degree within four years. The application window for next school year opens Jan. 4 and runs through Jan. 27, 2021.

Parents of prospective students are invited to attend an informational meeting on the dates above. The first meeting is being offered via Zoom on Dec. 17 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Click [here](#) for more information about upcoming meetings.

Students Experience Potential Careers in Middle School Choice Programs



Duncanville ISD offers choice programs at the district's three middle schools. Students who are in the sixth grade are eligible to apply for enrollment in the programs which include the Business & Technology Program at Reed Middle School, the The Health Science Program at Byrd Middle School and The STEAM Academy at Kennemer Middle School.

Those programs allow students to begin earning high school credits and to explore different career paths.

The application window for all middle school choice programs is Jan. 4 through Jan. 31, 2021.

Click [here](#) for more in-depth information.

High School Teacher Honored by Former Student During College Football Game on SEC Network



The College Football Playoff Foundation and the Southeastern Conference recognized Duncanville High School English teacher LaTrece Blair as part of their "Extra Yard for Teachers" initiative.

Ciera Johnson, a Duncanville High School alumna and former Duncanville Pantherette, is a senior at Texas A&M University where she plays for the women's basketball team. In the video above, aired across the country, Ciera thanked Mrs. Blair for making English class interesting when she was in high school.

Tech Tok: District Technology Department Talks Tech



In Episode 3 of the Duncanville ISD Technology Department's Tech Tok, we reveal Brandenburg Intermediate School has claimed its second Tech Tok challenge victory. Check out the rest of the video to get up to speed on upcoming updates including a ClassLink facelift and the shift to Incident IQ for helpdesk tickets.

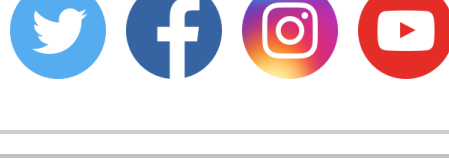
The Tech Team also recognizes the warehouse for completing KnowB4 before everyone else and bids farewell to a longtime colleague. Check out Tech Tok Episode 3 (above).

Upcoming Events:

Duncanville ISD Board of Trustees Meeting, begins at 6:30 p.m. and goes into executive session, on Monday, Dec. 14 at the Duncanville ISD Education Plaza, 710 S. Cedar Ridge Rd., Duncanville. The public portion of the meeting resumes around 7:00 p.m.

Winter Break, from Monday, Dec. 21 through Friday, Jan. 1 (staff); from Monday, Dec. 21 through Monday, Jan. 4 (students). See calendar [here](#).

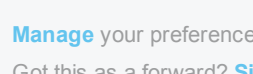
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, on Monday, Jan. 18 - no classes



The *Informer* is distributed by the Communications Department at Duncanville ISD. The weekly newsletter, published each Monday, is intended to keep the community informed about important news and events happening within the district. Story ideas or questions can be directed to: [Lari Barager](#) - Director of External Communications

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