



# The Eagle's Eye

February 2024

Volume 37 No. 3



## ECS Takes On Italy

By Evie Johns

During this year's Expo Week, the snow and ice back at home didn't stop ECS from an exciting week of exploring Italy. From the Duomo to the Colosseum, we made our way around Italy to experience the surreal culture, history, and, of course, food!

The first stop was the Floating City. We spent a lovely day in Venice and were able to see the beautiful architecture from a boat tour around the city. After getting out of the water, we walked around and toured

Doge's Palace, even finding time for a traditional gondola ride through the city's canals and under the famous Bridge of Sighs. After Venice, there was still much more to see, so we headed to the equally breathtaking city of Florence. The first morning in Florence, our group hiked up 463 stairs to see the city from the top of the Duomo, and the view was certainly worth the long climb! The rest of our time in Florence was filled with the Uffizi, the Accademia, and lots of street shopping. Before

leaving the city, we were given a way to take part of Florence back home with us through an authentic Italian cooking class, where we prepared pasta and tiramisu with a professional chef.

The last city on our Italy adventure was Rome. We walked around the Eternal City to see the Spanish Steps and to throw our coins in the Trevi Fountain. It also wouldn't be a trip to Rome if we didn't stop and explore the Colosseum, which was amazing. We then

went through the Sistine Chapel and Saint Peter's Basilica while visiting the Vatican.

Altogether, this year's trip to Italy was an astounding experience that surely won't be forgotten. It was such a blessing that this experience was possible for me and other ECS students.



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# Letter from the Editor

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## *The Eagle's Eye* Staff

Editor: Libby Bourland  
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Campbell Paller  
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Fun & Games Page:

Cooper Acuff  
Drew Shelton  
Bo Thompson

Special thanks also to Tracey  
Simpson and teachers for the  
use of photographs in this issue.



Dear Readers,

Here is the third issue  
of *The Eagle's Eye* this year!  
This is the Expo Week/  
Third Quarter Issue.

For Expo Week, Evie  
wrote about her time in  
Italy. Dakota Breeden  
interviewed Mrs. Shute  
about the Guatemala trip.  
Ingram Dismukes was  
interviewed by Campbell  
about his time interning

at a local hospital. Brokke  
wrote about the snow week  
that kept most of us in  
during Expo Week.

For sports, Annie wrote  
about the amazing season  
the swim team had. Knox  
interviewed the runner-  
up in the Freshman City  
Championship, Bryant  
Gengenbach.

In Fine Arts, Drew  
wrote about ECS Fine  
Arts' amazing production  
of *Mary Poppins*. Field  
interviewed Patrick Loftis,  
the male lead, for Star of  
the Issue.

We have two review articles  
in this issue. Cooper wrote  
a great review of Elwood's  
Shack, and Drew reviewed  
Oscar nominee *Past Lives*.

On the Fun & Games page,  
Bo made the Winter Word  
Search. Drew and Cooper

made some great memes.

Thank you all for reading!  
I'd like to thank the whole  
*Eagle's Eye* staff! This issue  
was mainly going to be  
about Expo Week, but, with  
almost everything canceled,  
we had to pivot a bit. A  
special thank you to all the  
writers who had to change  
what they were writing  
about after Expo Week.  
As always, thank you Mrs.  
Nearn and Mrs. Winchell  
for everything y'all do!

Happy reading,  
Libby Bourland

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## Star of the Issue: Patrick Loftis

### Interview by Field Richardson

**What is your favorite ECS  
memory?**

By far my favorite memory  
was during my junior year  
when everyone skipped  
class to watch the US  
compete in the World Cup.

**What is your favorite show  
you were in?**

*Clue* onstage was my  
favorite show to act in. It  
was a small cast, but we all  
got along really well.

**What is the best  
restaurant in Memphis?**  
The Arcade, hands down.

**What is the best thing  
about ECS?**  
Perhaps I'm biased, but  
I'd say the best thing  
about ECS is our theater  
program.

**What is your favorite  
sports team?**  
Mississippi State  
University. Hail State!

**What college are you  
going to?**  
I haven't decided where  
I'm going to college, but I  
think I'll always be a dawg  
at heart regardless.

**Hidden talent?**  
I can solve a Rubik's cube. I  
can't do it particularly fast  
but, I can do it.

**Anything you want the  
people to know about you?**  
I'm working on bettering  
myself every day.





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# News

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## Students & Teachers Serve in Guatemala

by Dakota Breeden

On Saturday, January 13, 17 students and leaders traveled to Guatemala City. They went to a foster care facility called Casa Aleluya. The leaders of the team that traveled to Guatemala over Expo Week included Dawn Shute, Seth Holler, and an ECS alumna and mom, Kim Benson. Mike and Dottie Clark founded

the organization in 1989. It was established more than 30 years ago by US missionaries to provide a safe place for children in impoverished or abusive circumstances, and all of their needs are generously provided by donations of supplies, volunteers like our ECS team, and other resources.

There is also an establishment called Casa Antony for children who receive dialysis due to

Guatemala's high rates of kidney failure. The purpose of the team's visit was to demonstrate what healthy, loving relationships look like between young people and adults through the love of Christ! The team had the opportunity to assist in classes and to provide activities such as games, bracelet-making, water balloon fights, soccer, basketball, volleyball, and more. All of the children live in different dorms according to gender and age. On Sunday, the leaders and students worshipped together in their church.

Additionally, the team visited the city of Antigua for shopping and sightseeing (Antigua is the former capital of Guatemala, but was destroyed by an earthquake in 1717.)

The team also worked with Hilmar Avila and his ministry

called Ministerio Senderos de Luz Guatemala, which ministers to people in very marginalized communities. This ministry provides vocational training in sewing, cooking, painting, and carpentry, along with English classes and classes for preschoolers. They bought school supplies, packed 40 backpacks, and drove to a small community on the outskirts of Milpa. They then went house to house visiting and praying with families. Then, they distributed backpacks to 40 preschool and elementary-age children.

This trip was such a fun and eye-opening experience for our ECS team, and they are excited to have left sharing the love of Christ and carrying the love of our ECS family across the globe!





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# School News

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## Freshman Ingram Dismuke Interns in Medicine

by Campbell Palleria



One of the options for Expo Week in high school is an internship. Students get the experience of setting up the internship, such as contacting the

person they want to intern with for the week, organizing the dates, and other administrative tasks. During this week, students get to see and shadow professionals in a field or occupation of their choosing. Some popular internships are with teachers, medical professionals, financial advisors, and insurance companies. Internships aid students in deciding or narrowing down what they could envision themselves doing in the future.

This year, with all the snow and ice, many students could not go on their internships. However, one freshman, Ingram Dismuke,

was able to experience his internship. Due to his interest in medicine, he chose an internship at a local hospital with Dr. Andy Pierce, internal medicine doctor with The University of Tennessee and Regional One Hospital. During the interview, Ingram spoke on how one of the more difficult parts of the internship was doing the initial setup because of his age. Setting up the internship is vital for the students to do themselves as it helps them build connections and communication skills that aid in the future, such as in job searching and interviews. After setting up his internship, Ingram

began his internship, learning about EKGs and the repeating rhythm of heartbeats. When asked what the most fun part of his internship was, Ingram responded, "Getting to walk around the hospital and see the different areas." Students get exposure to all sorts of jobs while experiencing what working could potentially look like for them.

Internships are truly a great way to experience more of the "real world" and to help high school students decide what they want to study in college and pursue in the future.

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## Snow in Memphis Canceled Most Expo Week Plans

by Brokke Scott

Recently, Memphis was hit by a large snowstorm due to El Niño: a phenomenon that occurs when unusually warm ocean water piles up along the equatorial west coast of South America. This weather phenomenon can cause lots of rain and, for many Americans, snow!

While this was sadly the cause for Expo Week being canceled, that doesn't mean that there wasn't any fun to be had! Memphis

was bombarded with snow Sunday night and Monday morning, and then, to add to the winter mix, freezing rain Thursday morning. Most of the Memphis area got 4-7 inches of snow.

Videos showed people skiing down roads in downtown Memphis and ice skating on frozen ponds around town. Photos of animals like polar bears and seals at the Memphis Zoo showed they enjoyed their snow days too! Many of our own ECS eagles also enjoyed the snow. On the ECS Instagram page, you

can see posts of many ECS students enjoying their week off of school.

While the weather made for some fun on hills and in backyards, the roads were a different story. Driving in Memphis, especially after the freezing rain on Thursday, was very dangerous. To add to the unexpected crisis, a boil water advisory was put into effect for MLGW customers due to extremely low water pressure. This made it difficult for restaurants and schools to open back up due to the unsafe water.

While the snow was fun

to play in, the impact it had on the Memphis community was immense.





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# Fine Arts

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## *Mary Poppins* was Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

by Drew Shelton

One of the most widely attended events throughout the school year is the spring musical, put on by the ECS Theatre Department. This year, the entire cast and crew brought to life the story of Mary Poppins, with Ms. Jones and Mrs.

Rowland, Donovan Smith, Maddox Breeden, and Adelyn Fisher) who employ the magical Mary Poppins (played by Campbell Williams) as their nanny. We follow Mary and the kids as they go on different adventures throughout the



Rooks directing and Emily Hale music directing and conducting. In case you missed it, Mary Poppins is a story about the Banks family (played by Meredith

city of London alongside the friendly, neighborhood chimney sweep, Bert (played by Patrick Loftis), learning many life lessons along the way.

While the ECS Theatre Department is always trying to reach new heights, this show in particular truly crossed a boundary into excellence with the new LED wall, the professional choreography and sets, as well as the live orchestra featuring 11th grader Sam Scull. I had the opportunity to sit down with Mary herself, senior Campbell Williams, and when asked how this play was different from any others she's done at ECS, she stated, "*Mary Poppins* was different because it was intense both in technical and performance aspect. We also had a huge cast that allowed for a super fun and upbeat environment throughout the rehearsal process." Also, when asked where she ranked *Mary Poppins* among every play

she has seen or been in at ECS, Campbell said, "I would definitely have to say this show is in the top two, tied with *Les Miserables* (2020). I'm just so grateful that I was able to be a part of



something unlike anything we've done before."

*Mary Poppins* was a smashing success for the ECS stage, and we cannot wait to see what the fine arts department does next!



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# Sports

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## ECS Swim Team Continues to Grow & Improve

by Annie Brundick



ECS students made a big splash into the water for the 2023-2024 swim season. With more than 60 swimmers on the team, and half being new to the sport, we were in store for a very exciting season. Our team was coached by the wonderful Coach Carla Mabie, who used encouragement and fun tactics to keep the swimmers

excited while also working hard. For example, our Christmas Cardio Contest, where swimmers tracked their exercises and whoever had the most by a certain date won a Sips gift card, was great for team building and camaraderie.

The season began in October and concluded in the middle

of February, making it a long season where the swimmers had to navigate the waters of dedication and perseverance. With meets being typically held on Saturdays and practices every day of the week, our team had a lot of time to build our skills. In the beginning, we started off with learning the basics so that everyone had a firm foundation to begin building off of. After those were mastered, we began learning the more technical details of how to swim and compete in a meet. Watching everyone learn and grow and try something new was very remarkable.

For the first time in ECS swim



history, there were enough girls on the team to have multiple relays and be able to switch up the people to make the best possible time, which was a very exciting new adventure. The team had multiple swimmers compete and place in the county meet, and they were able to compete at state!

## Two Wrestlers Compete at State, First Time Since 1983

by Knox Bourland



*Two ECS wrestlers, Bryant Gengenbach and Max Orman, qualified to compete at the state meet, the first time ECS made an appearance at the state tournament since 1983, since the program was resurrected last year. To qualify for state, wrestlers must finish in the top six at regionals.*

First-year wrestler, Bryant Gengenbach, had a great season. In his first year on the team, he was runner-

up in the Freshman City Championship! He tells us he started wrestling because he didn't have any other sports going on at the time. However, once Bryant started getting into the season and learning, it started to get really fun. He found that wrestling is different from other sports because "it's really just you versus another person. Coaches can't be blamed for winning or losing." Coach Brandon Artiles really had an impact on Bryant getting into wrestling. "He showed me a lot of moves one-on-one and helped get me more

confidence in matches."

Bryant surpassed his expectations this season and said, "Getting runner-up was cool, especially with it being my first season and getting to see my progression."

He encourages anyone who

would like to join, know that it isn't too late to try a new sport. Bryant would love to get more people on the wrestling team for next year.

We are all excited for Bryant and the future of the ECS wrestling team. Go Eagles!



ECS had 10 varsity competitors this year in it's second year since resurrecting the program.

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# Reviews

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## MOVIES

### Drew Reviews: *Past Lives*

by Drew Shelton



In case you missed it, last year was a triumphant win for all things movies. What felt like the first

true return to life since COVID, 2023 saw the release of box office hits, cinematic masterpieces, and movies accessible for all ages. One particular movie, which was released back in June, will be the focus of today's review: *Past Lives*. Directed by Celine Song (her directorial debut) and starring Greta Lee, Teo Yoo, and John Magaro, *Past Lives* is a story all about what happens when you

reconnect with someone who meant the world to you years ago. We watch as the two characters, Nora and Hae Sung, first fall in love when they are only 10 years old, but after Nora immigrates to America with her family, their relationship breaks. They spend some time keeping in touch, but they do not truly reconnect till they're both in their thirties, and Hae Sung comes to visit Nora for one week in New York. The only problem is Nora is already married. *Past Lives* is truly a quiet but beautiful picture of the power of human connection. Through the film's directing, writing, and acting, it garnered Best Feature at the Gotham Awards and

two Oscar nominations including Best Picture.

Speaking of the Oscars, the annual ceremony takes place on March 10 this year. If you're curious what movies to look for, *Oppenheimer* (Christopher Nolan received 13 nominations, *Killers of the Flower Moon* (Martin Scorsese) received 10 nominations, and *Barbie* (Greta Gerwig) received 8 nominations. 2023 was truly a great year for movies, but the roster for 2024 is looking even brighter.

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## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### Elwood's Shack

by Cooper Acuff

Most of my review ideas have sprouted from restaurants I have already tried. However, when I am flooded with suggestions to visit a certain place, I cannot turn it down. The number of requests I have received to eat and review Elwood's Shack can only speak for the respect Memphians have for it. As a foodie, it is difficult to not eat mindlessly and just enjoy the food, but as soon as I step foot in the parking lot, I must turn on Cooper Critic Mode.

Once one walks in, he or she is immediately met with

that fifteen-dollar burger feeling. The environment and ambiance are great, comfortable and inviting.

Now, the menu proved me wrong. This was not

solely a fifteen-dollar burger joint, but I was instead impressed with the variety provided. From breakfast to brunch to sandwiches, tacos, and burgers and hot dogs, Elwood's has it all.

I personally chose the "K.C. Candy Melt" which is a sandwich consisting of

brisket burnt ends and too many onions. The sandwich was delectable and the brisket was phenomenal, but I don't want to make this all about one sandwich. I can confidently suggest that this restaurant has good food, and it would be harder to find a bad meal than anything else. I had bites of a burger and their parmesan fries, which were exceptional as well.

Additionally, I would like to add that I did not go to the original location but instead went to the newest location on Park. I included this because I understand there can be quality and experience drop-offs from original locations.

Writer's Comment:  
(Great date spot)





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# Fun & Games

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Z W E W S Z M S W I U K Y C J S  
P I I N H R R F J S M L H Q A X  
I C O N N P J I Z C O I U V M X  
N W O A T M H E W V Z T A V Z S  
Q R L L D E H H D O H A U U R J  
A Y E W D V R C K Q X L W E K I  
L Q W P O P K B V F U Y N G P I  
E X P O U B Q C R E D I I L W Q  
K A C J J H R S B E N H Q O M J  
G C J S L X N E L L A B W O N S  
V I V S D A N S P L A K L T S W  
P G U S W V S X E U P F D S O R  
J Q H S B B P G G Y S S L K F H  
H R M C V U R R S Z H L K T K X  
M A R Y P O P P I N S O A L O J  
J X B Z S I B I U V J J B D E N

CHIEFS  
ITALY  
SNOW  
WINTER BREAK  
COLD  
MARY POPPINS  
SNOWBALL  
EXPO  
NINERS  
SUPER BOWL

