

BEST OF THE BEST

TOBE HATCH WINS THE CHAMPION OF THE YEAR AWARD

Best Buddies is a welcoming group that provides special-needs kids with fun and creative ways to learn and make friends. Castle View has been involved with Best Buddies for more than 15 years and continues to make sure everyone has a place and feels included.

Senior Tobe Hatch has been part of the program for all four of his high school years and has had a great experience.

“You can have fun and make new friends,” Hatch said.

Hatch was awarded with the, “Champion of the Year” title. It’s an honor for him as a Castle View senior.

“It’s amazing,” Hatch said. “I liked the campaign and raising money for Best Buddies.”

Hatch shares that he had a positive experience that was very rewarding to him.

“Everyone is nice, and I can be nice too,” Hatch said. “You can sit by them, talk with them and hang out with them.”

Hatch loves the program so much and has a lot of fun. He thinks others should join and be part of the good times as well.

“You can have fun by meeting new people and having parties and it inspires kids to learn and try new things,” Hatch said.

Not only does Hatch enjoy being in Best Buddies, but the teachers and helpers find him to be a pleasure in class like Mrs. Erin Newton.

“Tobe has participated in all our best buddies programs. He has helped raise money for Castle View High School. He has helped raise money for Best Buddies Colorado. He just generally has a positive attitude and is a great leader in our school,” Newton said.

Newton thinks Hatch is a great role model for others and is a good fit for the champion of the year.

“Tobe was a great fit for the champion of the year as it gets to his senior year. This is his last year of best buddies at the high school level. He represents his school and has participated in all our Best Buddies programs. He has helped raise money and generally has a positive attitude and is a great leader in our school,” Newton said.

“In addition, Tobe is employed and that is one of the pillars of Best Buddies Colorado, the jobs program, and since Tobe is able to represent a portion of the population that is desperately needed to increase having jobs, we chose Tobe to be the champion,” Newton said.

Overall, Hatch claims to have had a great year, but is also excited to graduate.

“I had a great time and made good memories,” Hatch said. “I look forward to graduation, and inviting my friends to it.”

Hatch has accomplished a lot this year and has done whatever he can to help others feel welcome and treat others the way he would want to be treated. He has brought joy and laughter to anyone he crosses paths with.

“BEING THE CHAMPION OF THE YEAR IS A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN BEST BUDDIES COLORADO WHERE YOU ARE REPRESENTING YOUR CHAPTER.”

Written by Wade Stewart



HEART BEATS: “I was just doing a test. Then the next thing I know, I’m on the ground, and the police are coming in and asking ‘do you know your name? Do you know where you are?’ I threw up like 8 times in a span of 10 minutes,” Holland said. Only this year did he release a new album, a reflection of him.

“The whole *Childhood* album was inspired by that, reliving my life. One of my songs is called ‘Little Bear’, which is what my mom used to call me when I was little. Another is called Eating Ants because I was eating ants with my dog, and I don’t really know why but it tasted like chicken. Jumpstreet was a trampoline park I used to go to as a kid. STV is why I had two heart surgeries. It’s a valve that doesn’t move, so I made a song about that,” Holland said.

SEIZING HIS SOUND

JUNIOR JAMES HOLLAND MAKES HIS OWN MUSIC

It takes dedication and time to create music, especially as a high school student. Junior James Holland has been on a musical journey of growth and creativity since childhood. Starting off in elementary school with the drums, he was presented to an app called SoundCloud. Nowadays, he uses Spotify to upload his music.

“I got introduced to it when I was in music class in elementary school. The first songs I made were on there, and they were horrible, but super funny,” Holland said.

But then, he stopped there. Only in high school did he resume finding his music, and his music. He’s only added so much more to his portfolio since then, with a variety of signs and albums each with its own feel, its own sound. Namely, he applies things such as times and dates to show the listener something from another time revised into something distinctively different, into the N64 Album. It has that nostalgic feel, a liminal grey area of something that happened and something that didn’t. Holland applies his knowledge of said feeling and focuses it in his album to give it depth, something yearned.

“N64 sounds very childlike, very 90s even though I wasn’t born back then. It gives you the feeling of experiencing something again that you’ve never experienced,” Holland said. “It still gives that nostalgia, or I guess, fake nostalgia,”

While most musicians try for a specific sound, Holland has been

exploring his and doesn’t intend to stop anytime soon. Coming up with his actual music, Holland uses a sort of sound-library to keep background noises and sounds to use in his songs on hand.

“For sound clips, I just go on YouTube and download videos. I think something would sound good throughout the song or intro,” Holland said. “In the sophomore album, there’s some weird voice talking about Quantam matter or something like that, and I thought, ‘why not put that in the background?’”

He did exactly that, making multiple albums with this type of aspect in them.

“Cool music playing with serious talking in the background. It sounds so good. It adds a lot of atmosphere to the song. A lot of songs have a sort of radio-static noise to them to give it a nostalgic feel. I add a lot of mall ambiance, so background chatter and stuff. Then it cuts out to play the actual music,” Holland said.

In ‘The Cafe Looks Very Empty Today’, on the sophomore album, is Holland’s most popular song currently on Spotify, with him using that technique talked about previously. Holland’s music is a sort of therapeutic release from the world.

“It’s just kind of a fun way to relieve stress and express emotions. There’s some emotions that only stay for a few minutes, but some stay longer. Those shorter emotions are kind of what I want to put into my songs,” Holland said. “Like, ‘oh

you made somebody happy so that makes you happy,’ I want to put those feelings, those moments in my music. Those small little emotions that you want to capture but are gone too quickly,”

Holland, while going mostly by himself when it came to his music, ended up writing a song dedicated to his best friend.

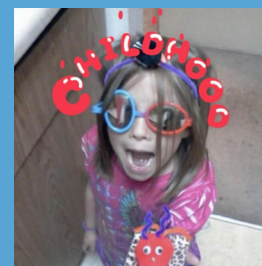
“Shout out Shaun, he’s been my best friend for 8 years. I made a song for him since we didn’t talk to him the entire summer. He wrote the message that I used as the cover for the song,” Holland said.

Last year, Holland experienced something that would forever change his music.

“My biology class, the one I had my seizure in last year, was the class I was telling everyone about how I uploaded my Spotify song to it,” Holland said. “Then a week later, I had the seizure. Having that seizure messed with my psychological. It gave me more of a reason to live. It was terrifying,”

Despite the scary experience, Holland took it as an opportunity and made his ‘Childhood’ album. It was an album meant to reminisce on his life and recall events that had led him to where he is now, a high school musician just waiting for his break. With more to come, Holland keeps his music abuzz with it’s different elements and sounds.

Written and photos by Max Balcom



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