

Person of Interest

Junior Colby Singleton said she is most passionate about her music and she values her independence.



What's something interesting about you?
"I'm a musician. I play the guitar, I sing and I write some music on paper."

When did you get started with music?
"I've been playing the guitar for about a year, and that's when I also picked up singing, and I taught myself, and it just clicked."

What are your plans for the future?
"I want to get a degree in marketing and business so I can manage myself in music. I won't have to hire someone to do it for me. I'd feel accomplished getting a degree."

Who are your musical inspirations?
"Dallas Green, I love Band of Horses, and I also like harder rock like Chevelle."

What is your ultimate goal?
"I want to make music for other people instead of just myself. I want to be someone people can look up to and [say,] 'Wow, she had a lot of drive to do that.' I want to manage myself, so I want [them] to [say,] 'Wow she went to school and got her degree and can take care of herself and she wasn't afraid to take on the challenge of doing everything herself.'"

Describe your best musical experience.
I was playing at a random coffee shop in Madeira, ... and I went there, it started raining, and I was just starting to pack up when this guy... walks by, and he's like, "Will you play me a song?" And so I was like, "Yeah." I played him my song, and he gave me my first tip in my guitar case. I still have that tip in my wallet behind my license. It was my first ever tip dollar."

compiled by Corynne Hogan

Striking it rich

Students support themselves financially by starting their own businesses

Mitchell Matacia | Staff Writer

It's common to see a high school student working at a fast-food chain or in a department store; few students, however, turn towards the alternate route of entrepreneurship to make their money. Senior Bryan Weis and junior Adilnur Sultankazy of Mason High School are two students who do just that.

Bryan Weis, a self-proclaimed resale veteran, has been making his own money for years by discovering his interests in entrepreneurship. Weis buys items and sells them for more--particularly during the holiday season.

"It started a couple of years back; It was the tenth anniversary of the Tickle Me Elmo," Weis said. "My mom was talking about how they were so hard to find. So we went to Walmart, and I picked a couple up, and I sold them on eBay the following day, and I made \$20 off of each of them."

This year, Weis sought the potential pay-day of a popular Elmo toy. Despite his projections of the toy's success, he failed to gain from his purchase. But according to Weis, there isn't a big risk in resale because of return policies.

"I started off buying about 20 Let's Rock Elmos," Weis said. "They were supposed to be one of the hot toys. They weren't, so I returned all of those, no loss or anything."

Without financial loss to worry about, Weis said he tried to resell again during Black Friday, this time choosing the Xbox 360 as means for profit.

"On Black Friday I went out to Walmart [because] they had the Xbox Kinect bundle," Weis said. "For some reason it was limit six per person, so I was like, 'Why wouldn't I get six?' So I got six of them for \$150 each and then resold them for \$250 on Craigslist."

Weis said he sold all six Xbox's with a return of 700 to 800 dollars. After he put an ad on Craigslist people began contacting him to buy the Xbox's and even offered to trade him for the video game system.

"One guy actually offered me a gun for an Xbox," Weis said. "It was like a 9mm or something. I just didn't answer him. Some of the offers [I get] are crazy."

Sultankazy also makes money by reselling, but instead of seasonal toys, he makes money from his occasional selling of cars.

"The first car [I sold] was a Hyundai Sonata; It was a 2004 [with] 114,000 miles on it," Sultankazy said. "I tinted the windows on it to make it look better, and after that I just posted it on Craigslist [for more]. If you don't count fees that

you pay, like registration, [I made] \$1,100 or something like that."

Sultankazy is now in the process of selling his second car for more than he bought it for. He said that he is trying to resell it after getting it repaired.

"My second car I got on Craigslist because there was a good deal," Sultankazy said. "The price was \$5,000 but [I] found some flaws and lowered the price. I took it to a shop and fixed it, and now I'm trying to sell it for a lot more money than I got it for."

According to Sultankazy, his idea of selling cars for more money stemmed from his parents who ship and sell cars overseas.

"[My parents] buy cars here for \$20,000 or something and then they ship it to Kyrgyzstan and [the cars there] are more valued so [my parent's] will sell it for double," Sultankazy said.

Despite his parents' influence, Sultankazy said that he doesn't see himself turning car resale into a career but he said that he will most likely continue to resell cars for extra cash on occasion. He plans to purchase a better car each time with money earned, and sell it for a higher profit.

"I'm not like some crazy used car salesman, but I did get excited when I sold the first car," Sultankazy said. "The idea was that I work up the ladder and see myself improve. So my dad pretty much said, 'We'll start off by getting you a first car, so if you make profit off of that car, you can use the profit money to buy a better car, resell that for more money and resell that for more money.'"

Unlike Sultankazy, Weis said that he wants to turn his entrepreneur ways into a career. He said that he will major in finance and minor in entrepreneurship when he gets to college - future practices that he enjoyed even as a kid.

"Back in 5th grade I made an eBook on how to play [Runescape] better," Weis said. "I sold [more than 300 copies] on eBay for \$5 each. I was making money back then even. So I mean for a 5th grader, that's pretty profitable."

