



# The Prowl

## Chapman High School

Principal: Matt Davis

April 4, 2025

## Prom to be held on May 3, tickets on sale soon

By KAITLIN SALBAUM  
SENIOR WRITER

Prom is fast approaching, so here are all the details you should know about the upcoming event.

The dance will be held on Saturday, May 3, from 8-11 p.m. at Indigo Hall in Spartanburg.

Tickets will be available on April 21 for students purchasing tickets online. Cash or check purchases will be open the following

week.

Students planning to purchase tickets the week of prom can obtain them in the cafeteria during lunch.

The price of tickets will be \$45 each.

If students plan to bring someone who's not a Chapman student, they must fill out an outside guest form.

Outside guests can not be over the age of 21,

These forms will be located outside Tina Gragg's, the

head of the prom committee, door, room 307.

After completing the guest form, students must turn in a printed-out picture ID of their guest and the completed form to Assistant Principal Joe Anderson so he can approve them.

After Anderson's approval, students must turn in the approved guest form to the prom committee so they can sell them a ticket for the student and their guest.

Gragg has been involved

with the prom committee for roughly eight years and has served as head of the committee for six of those years.

"I was helping this other teacher, and I just told her if one day she ever needed help to let me know, and she did," said Gragg. "The two of us did it together for a couple of years, and then when she left, it naturally landed on my lap."

Seniors and prom committee volunteers

Kadin Horton and Delaynee Dunagin are eager to rise to the challenge of arranging the prom.

"I wanted to have more control over what the theme and setup of the prom was going to be," said Dunagin.

"Being a part of the prom committee has been fun," said Horton. "It's a great group of girls, and I love Ms. Gragg."

The organization for the prom has run smoothly thus far, with a productive and

proactive set of volunteers.

"It's stressful because there's so much going on in my head that I need to do and make sure I have squared away," said Gragg. "But the prom committee has not been stressful. They are a nice bunch of girls, and we have been proactive in doing the things that need to get done early, so they make it easier."

## Chapman hires new media specialist



photo by Ashley Lee

By ELIZABETH STEWART  
STAFF WRITER

Starting next year, a new media specialist will be joining Chapman's team: Shaina Ray.

Ray -- whose husband, Jarrod, is a guidance counselor at Chapman -- currently works at Byrnes High School as the media specialist.

Before that, she was the media specialist at Chesnee High School for 12 years and worked at Spartanburg High School as a teacher for five years.

Ray has a major goal in mind as she takes this position.

"I would like to start a culture of reading," said Ray. She is very excited to be back in a small school and to be able to know students on a more personal level.

"I like being involved and having a family-like atmosphere in the school," she said. "I want the library to be a welcoming space where everyone feels like they can come just to hang

out or if they need help."

Ray also wants to work on adding book clubs and involving teachers.

Media Center Assistant Diana Brown is very excited to be able to work with someone like Ray.

"The classes are coming back because I will finally have a teacher here," Brown said. "I have someone who can foster that love and include teachers."

To Brown, having a new media specialist to join her in the media center is very beneficial.

"I think everyone will be very happy to come into this place, and everyone will notice a difference," she said.

Students who spend their time in the library are also very excited about the new addition to the media center.

"It will make the school a better environment and make students feel more welcome in the library," said freshman Alvina Reznichenko.

## A Panther becomes a Tiger



photo courtesy of Jada Tessnier

By SAVANNAH FIFE &  
LILLY SEAWRIGHT-PAGE  
EDITORS

One of Chapman's favorite Panthers is becoming a Tiger. On March 6, senior Gaines Tessnier was accepted into the ClemsonLIFE program.

According to its website, this prestigious and selective program "offers a collegiate experience that prepares young men and women with intellectual disabilities for competitive employment and independent living through a combination of academic coursework and career exploration."

Senior Jami Moss has been best friends with Gaines Tessnier for many years and is proud of his acceptance.

"It's very bittersweet to know Gaines got into this program because it is very hard to get into knowing

they take 200 applicants and only get 11," she said. "It makes my heart happy knowing Gaines has another place to go leave an impact on."

Gaines Tessnier has not only made an impact at Chapman but also on the people around him. Special education teacher Molly Blackwell is one of the many who have been alongside his journey.

"I'm just so proud that all of his hard work, consistent hard work, through the years is paying off," Blackwell said. "I think that Clemson is really, really lucky to have him."

Gaines Tessnier is excited about the new opportunities that Clemson presents.

"At Clemson, they have great teachers, and they have the great student section," he said.

It's exciting for Gaines Tessnier, but it may be a tiny bit difficult for those who love him.

His mom, Jada Tessnier, Spartanburg School District One chief communications officer, said she feels a mix of excitement and concern.

"Like any parent, I worry about the transition and all the little things that come with living away from home -- managing responsibilities, making new friends and adjusting to a new routine," she said. "But I also know that ClemsonLIFE has an amazing support system, and this is exactly the next step he needs to continue learning independence to be a self-sufficient young adult."

According to his mother, one reason Gaines Tessnier has been successful at Chapman is because of the

people around him, and she said she is grateful for them.

"Thank you for loving, supporting and caring for him over the past four years," she said. "Chapman has always seen Gaines for his abilities, not his disability! I am so incredibly grateful for his village at CHS. We love you!"

As Gaines Tessnier prepares for his next chapter, his mother has some words of advice for him

"Embrace every moment, trust yourself and never be afraid to ask for help. Continue to work hard, and have fun! Cheer loudly and proudly for the Tigers, just as you have for the Panthers. Your dad and I are here for you always. I love you, G!"