

# Paw Prints

An ongoing series of profiles written about the staff, students and community

## JEVION'S JUSTICE

Senior Jevion Crawford opens up on the person that he is beneath the class clown



DELGADO-RUIZ PHOTO

By Ariadna Delgado-Ruiz  
Photo Editor

Arguably one of the biggest class clowns in the school, senior Jevion Kedar Crawford is very well known. He is involved in football, Movement 515 and still manages to make time for music oriented things outside of school. However, as a senior, plans after graduation are very important.

"After graduation I plan to go to DMACC for two years to get my associates and I plan to get my bachelors in Audio Engineering and also get a degree in Business,"

Crawford said.

According to Crawford, his friends view him as "goofy, outgoing, real funny, fat, hungry and a flirt" but there is much more depth to him that a lot of people fail to recognize.

Many may wonder what makes Crawford similar to others and his response is "I'm human."

Crawford grew up in one of the most violent cities in the world, Chicago, Illinois. Due to this, he became street smart, aware of violence, and aware of unnecessary tension which isn't as publically displayed in other places, such as Iowa. However,

Crawford didn't only worry about what was going on in the streets, but especially what was happening in his own home.

"Growing up, I saw my mom sick a lot, she had kidney issues.

You know, she had a couple of kidney failures so I had to step up and take care of home. You know, be a leader within the walls of my home, for my sisters and my mother," Crawford said.

Crawford's life struggles didn't stop when he moved out of Chicago. Recently, he lost one of his closest friends, Terry Harris.

"That just opened my eyes a little bit too, you know? It lets me know that life is short, you gotta grab it by the horns and ride it and go crazy," said Crawford. "If I could change anything, I just wish I could switch places with Terry. He had so much ambition. I'm not saying I don't have ambition, it's

just that anything he wanted to happen, he would've gotten done for himself. I feel like losing your life before you enter your junior year, right when life is about to get started, is just a sad thing to see. If anything I would bring him back."

With great experience, comes great knowledge, thus great advice. What advice does Crawford have for those who are in similar situations as he is?

"Always think outside of the box. Don't try to be different, but if you are different, embrace it," Crawford said.

Although Crawford is currently still facing struggles, he tries to stay positive towards what is ahead in his life.

"My life is terrible, but I always look on the bright side. It can always be worse, and I know where I'm headed is going to be a lot better so I know I have nothing to trip about," Crawford said.

A couple of goals Crawford has set for his future includes spreading the message and raising awareness of social oppression, racism, violence and drugs.

Crawford is a lot more than just a class clown, but a potential instrument for change in the world.

## SEND IN THE SUN

Junior Ashton Johnson connects a Watsky song to a major turning point in his life

By Colby Williams  
Sports Editor

"If I had an autobiography it would be called *Send in the Sun*," junior Ashton Johnson hypothesized. "[The lyrics] of *Send in the Sun*, by Watsky, reflect a major turning point in my life."

"Everyone has a significant event in their life that shapes them. It's going to be really hard at times, and it's going to be really to give up," Johnson explains. Everyone has pain, sometimes facing that pain, though it takes time, brings light to the darkness and helps to ease it away.

"I want to do whatever I can to help others. But when it comes to me, I keep to myself and don't ask for help, keeping it all inside builds up after awhile," Johnson said. Keeping problems inside snowballs into a tangled pile of anger, and sadness. The only way to get rid of bad, is to talk to someone, and tell them what it wrong.

By dictionary definition

a family is a social unit consisting of parents and their children, but by Johnson's definition, "Family is the people who have your back no matter what. They don't have to be your blood."

The sad truth is, by the end of every person's life, they end up having few true "family" members. Because at some point one of them betrayed them, one of them moved on or one of them left because of your mistake.

Those people you believed to be your "family" gone, and those you have left, you must hold dear to your heart. They are the ones who care.

Many teenagers are bothered by their parents or their grades or their peers, but Johnson said, "I'm most bothered by myself." Every mistake, every misspoken word, every inconvenience blamed on yourself. Not blaming other people, and the one time you do, feeling the guilt for days and ending up



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blaming yourself again. "Each person is their own biggest critic, and it's easy to place blame on yourself," Johnson said.

The world is going to spin you around, it's going to throw you on the ground, and then laugh when you can't get up. Johnson is ready for this challenge.

"I want to go wherever the world takes me. I am

not a picky person, so doing whatever works for me. I like to just kind of go with the flow, and do me so to say."

To be brave enough to accept the adventure the world offers is a level of bravery hard to reach. Because being brave forces you to accept that you will fail at some point. But when you have the mindset to "hustle until you no longer have to introduce yourself," being brave becomes an easier task.