

# growing

# UP

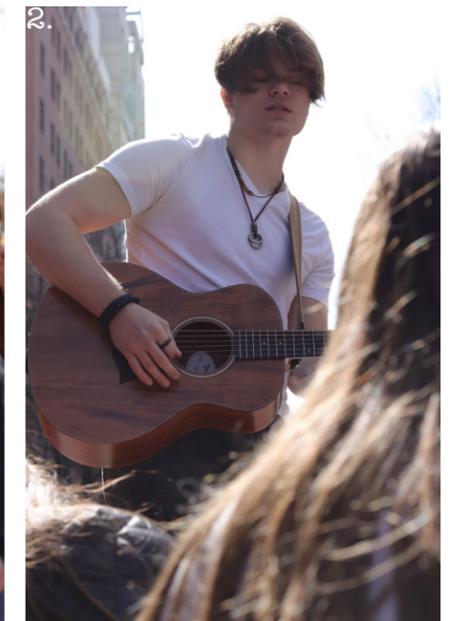
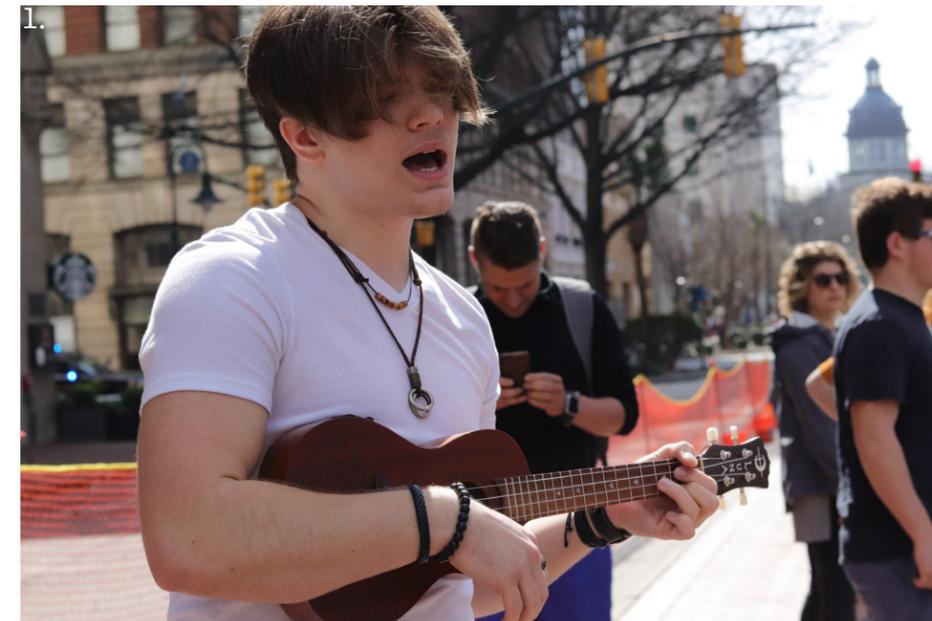


Ten and nine year old Girl Scouts Claire Smith and Catherine Smith are involved with their community and plan on being active members until they graduate high school. They are looking forward to their future with the Girl Scouts and the activities that are to come, "I do Girl Scouts to go on crazy vacations. In two years we are going to Europe and I can't wait," said Catherine.

Claire is hoping her communication skills will benefit her, especially in college, "In the future we hope to get good scholarships from Girl Scouts because we help the community," said Claire. Externally, the Smith's are selling cookies, but beneath the surface they are using their passion of participating in girl scouts to help them grow up.

60 year old musician Felix Lucky loves to play guitar on the streets. Lucky became interested in playing guitar at a young age even though the rest of his family played piano. He thought the guitar was better. "Most of my family played piano. But I wanted to play guitar because it was cooler, plus my brother got beaten for skipping his piano lessons," said Lucky. He loves playing on the streets because there is so much diversity. "There's a certain atmosphere to the streets. Everyone enjoys walking around with their puppies. There's so much diversity; everyone's a different color, but we all mix together." said Lucky.

Looking back his advice to anyone wanting to get into the musical career take it serious. "I would tell younger kids doing this to be serious. Look at the different technologies and study business. Because that's what this is. Try going to bigger states like New York or California. That's where people can make it- I love South Carolina, but bigger states have bigger opportunities. No matter what keep your head up," said Lucky.



**Growing** through what we go through.

Experiences faced at a young age build passions and enhance opportunities to become more successful growing up.

Singer/Songwriter Jeremy Wheeler from Columbia, South Carolina is one of the many examples of this statement. After being involved in a tragic parkour accident, Wheeler started his music journey with a guitar. "I was like, hey I'm laying in bed why not learn how to play guitar," said Wheeler.

Determined to grow up and start a future in this profession, Wheeler started playing on the streets to get his voice heard. "I wanted to play on the streets because I just wanted to be around a lot of people. You can't really book shows with thousands of people very easily, so I decided to come here and expand my voice to other people," said Wheeler.

Playing professionally at 17 has its pros and cons. Wheeler states, "The best part about this is being different and it beats the

mundane of working a 9-5 job, but it is very hard to do. I auditioned for American Idol and was rejected."

Doors opened and closed but Wheeler knew there were more possibilities in the future. "I can definitely see myself go back for an audition in years to come after I have had even more experience," says Wheeler.

To advise children who he can see himself in he states that he would tell them, "Get out and play as much as you can and don't take it too seriously because in the end you're in music for it to be fun; if you don't enjoy it then you might as well do something not as enjoyable with more financial support. Being

motivated is key to never giving up."

1. Showing off his variations in instruments, Wheeler strums a ukulele before inspired bystanders. "Through all my accomplishments my main supporter and friend has been my brother who also has taken on music," stated Wheeler.

2. Performing in front of an audience on the street, Wheeler sings "Perfect" by Ed Sheeran. Wheeler has auditioned for "America's Got Talent" twice. "It is one of those things where you build the nerves up to do it, but then once you actually do it, all of that goes away," said Wheeler.