

Smoothie King still reigns supreme



By Sam Thompson
sports editor

With blends of different flavors, the smoothie is the perfect, healthy treat. The question is: where to go?

With the recent closing of a popular drink and smoothie shop, Energy Spot, there are only a few smoothie places left in Greenwood, and it is time to find out which one is the best between Smoothie King, Tropical Smoothie Cafe, and Hawaiian Smoothie.

The first place that I will be reviewing is Smoothie King. If I am

wanting a smoothie, Smoothie King is the first place that comes

to my mind. If I am wanting a quick pick up, then Smoothie King is the best. The smoothie can be ordered on the app, and it is the closest place to where I live.

This is the most popular smoothie place in Greenwood. I see people all the time with Smoothie King cups because it is so popular. The reason it has become so popular is because of the quality of the smoothies. I ordered the strawberry and banana smoothie. It was 20 ounces, and this was a perfect amount. The drink was the perfect consistency, which is one of the most important parts of a smoothie to me. It was cold, and the cup kept the drink cold even when I had it outside on a hot evening. The strawberry flavor complimented the banana well, which created a great combination. The drink is sweet from the fruit but is not too sweet.

One thing that makes Smoothie King so great is their options. They have every flavor imaginable with energy smoothies, healthy smoothies, and smoothie bowls. I could go there and get something new every time. They also have put out their seasonal smoothies for fall lovers. I downloaded the app which allows me to collect points to save money. It also gave me \$3 off my first order. The only thing that I do not like about Smoothie King is the prices. For their smaller size which is 20 ounces, the price is more than \$7. Without the \$3 off, the smoothies can be expensive.



As part of the taste test, junior Ayden Houseman and sophomore Davion Jones sample Smoothie King. The review also included Tropical Smoothie Cafe and Hawaiian Smoothie. Max Flowers photo

The second smoothie place is Tropical Smoothie Cafe. I have visited the shop a few times before and tried different smoothies, and I have liked every one. There are many different options for smoothies, and the cafe packs different fruits and flavors into each. I got the sunrise sunset, which had strawberries, pineapple, mango, and orange juice, and it was a great blend of flavors. I also ordered the chocolate and banana smoothie. Both smoothies were great, and I would order again. The consistency is similar to Smoothie King. It is smooth enough to go through the straw but still thicker than water. The sunrise sunset had great flavor while not being too sweet, and the chocolate banana had a rich chocolate flavor that went well with the banana. They have healthy smoothies and smoothie bowls.

Although they do not have all the smoothie options that the Smoothie King has, the cafe sets itself apart with the regular food menu. They have many flatbreads, wraps, sandwiches, quesadillas, and breakfast items. This makes the cafe the perfect stop for a great snack matched with a smoothie to create the perfect meal. The prices

are also a little better than the Smoothie King. The food runs between \$5 - \$8 and the smoothie is around \$6. The app is my favorite out of all the apps and offers a free smoothie after a purchase and the ability to collect points. The cafe is also connected to the Greenwood football team and their football cards. They offer a free kids smoothie and a buy one get one 50 percent off deal, which is reusable. The one bad part is they are a farther drive. It is about 10 minutes away from the school, and I am not always wanting to make a 20 minute round trip for a smoothie.

The final place is Hawaiian Smoothie located in the mall. It is a small smoothie shop, but it is perfect for where it is. The flavors are great, and the price is very reasonable. Sitting right beside the exit, it is hard to leave without getting the fruity smell and wanting to stop and try it. I would suggest the stop and enjoy a to-go treat when heading out of the mall. Although it is not as popular as the other two shops, the Hawaiian Smoothie serves a great purpose as the best snack to have while walking the mall.

After all the variables have been put into play, I have found my favorite place to

be the Tropical Smoothie Cafe. Although there is a decent drive and limited options, the cafe provides the most packed and flavorful drinks while staying in the price range. It also is a one time stop to eat and get a delicious smoothie that are both healthier than other restaurants.

Live from Fenway Park review



By Makena Cruse
editor-in-chief

Live From Fenway Park, Noah Kahan's new concert album, gives fans a unique opportunity to experience Kahan's concerts from the comfort of their own homes.

Noah Kahan's album *Stick Season*, released in 2022, was the album that started Kahan's rise to fame. However, since *Stick Season* has been released, Kahan has yet to release another original album. Last month, Kahan released *Live From Fenway Park*, a live rendition of his album *Stick Season* from his concert in Fenway Park.

Live From Fenway Park, presents a unique experience for fans who have not been able to attend in-person concerts. The concert edition features guest star Gracie Abrams who sings Kahan's song "Everywhere, Everything" alongside him on stage. The album also features a brand new song titled "Pain is Cold Water." Before the release of the album Kahan posted a clip of the song on TikTok which quickly became viral with fans begging Kahan to release the full song. Kahan introduces the song as being special because he wrote it in Massachusetts, the site of the concert it was first sung at. The song articulates the difficulties of longing for love but feeling as if he was immune to it. The song is fitting for Kahan and goes along well with the rest of *Stick Season*, as the album has themes of finding the joy within pain and how difficulties in life have subtle beauty to them.

Another aspect of the album that I was not expecting was the difference in acoustics from his original album; the live version included a more folk-like band and instrumental. Kahan's on-stage band was a lot different than the one he used in the recording studio, and the on-stage band felt more authentic. For me, this was a fun way to listen to songs I already know with a little bit of a twist.

The significance of the venue that Kahan played at was something I also took note about. Kahan often references growing up in the north and New England in his songs, so I thought it was a nice touch that the concert he decided to record also took place there. Overall, the release of Kahan's new album *Live From Fenway Park*, is a beautiful rendition of his album *stick season* but leaves fans wondering when Kahan will release a fully brand new album.

Since Kahan's original release of *Stick Season*, he has released four different variations of the album adding new songs and features with other artists on every album. Many of Kahan's most popular songs are featured on the extended versions of *Stick Season*, and Kahan is known for releasing clips of songs on social media only to release them on an extended version of *Stick Season*. While *Stick Season* is the album that gave Kahan his claim to fame, fans feel as though it is time for a new album rather than more extended versions.

For me, this album was a great way to experience Kahan singing live; however, I was expecting more new songs and was relatively disappointed.

New Beetlejuice impresses reviewer



By Ashton Jones-Shell
reporter

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice is a heavily hyped movie. The sequel got some good reviews because it is much more suspenseful with a lot more eye opening scenes than the first one.

In this movie, Delia, Lydia and her daughter Astrid return to White River and believe they are safe and have nothing to worry about.

Astrid is on her bike when she crashes into a tree and meets a boy she catches feelings for. Little does she know he is playing her to get exactly what he wants. Jeremy turns out to be a ghost and tricks Astrid into giving up her life so he can return to earth as a human when *Beetlejuice* stops his plan and saves Astrid's life.

In both movies, *Beetlejuice* is played by Micheal Keaton, and Lydia is played by Winona Rider. Astrid is played by Jenna Ortega in this one. I think Keaton's performance as *Beetlejuice* is even bigger in the sequel. Winona Ryder does just as fantastic of a job as she did in the original.

The second movie has scenes that reference the first movie. In the second movie, Lydia, the daughter from the first movie, now owns the house that she lived in before and knows about *Beetlejuice*. She is able to see ghosts. There is conflict between Lydia and Astrid because she is mad that her mother can see all dead people except for her father. This conflict creates more tension in the movie with more suspense which leads to a more interesting plot. I like how a conflict arose between Lydia and her daughter because later in the movie, Astrid learns how much her mother loves her and how much she is willing to give up for her.

The production cost for the second movie was approximately \$100 million. The movie was rather short for a \$100 million movie. Even though it is a fantastic movie and one fans definitely need to see, for the movie to cost this much, it should have a lot more screen time. In the sequel, there are a lot more transitions and more scene changes than the original with the movie being 12 minutes longer. The production cost is still worth this heavily waited-on movie, considering how great of a movie it is and how much better these amazing actors have made it.

The movie ends with a cliffhanger that leads us to believe there will be another sequel to the second. So after this movie that we have been waiting for so long, sit back and relax because an even better movie is on its way.