

THE COMET

Volume 115, Issue 5

Bluffton High School

February 3, 2023

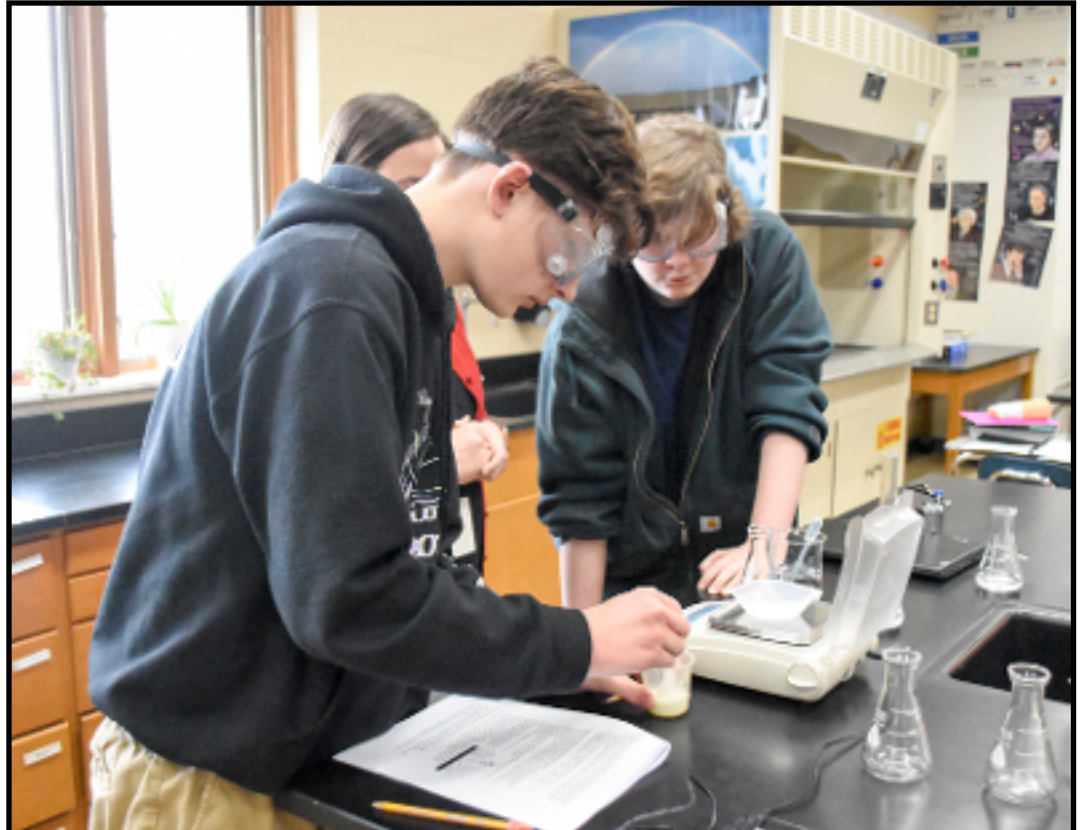
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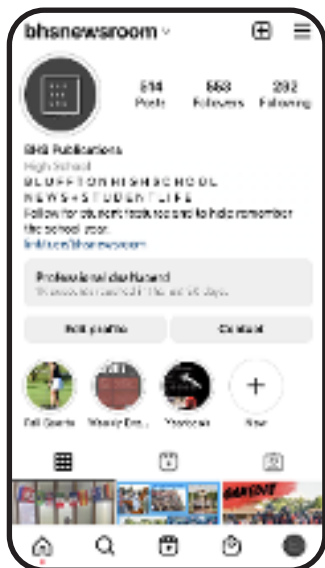
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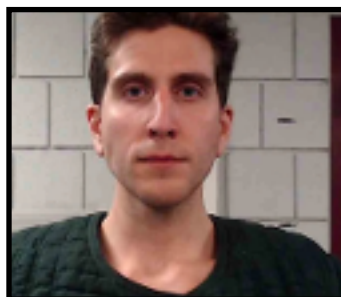
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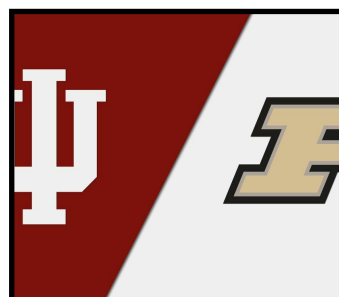
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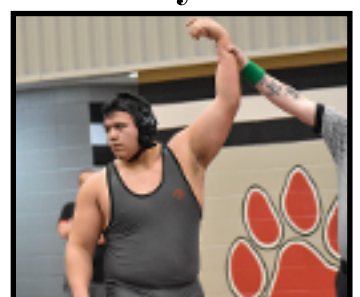
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DNA Cookie Test

by Amarah Robles

People all around the country are laughing at a DNA test request made by a little girl from Rhode Island. The young child sent a handwritten letter to her local police department asking them to perform a DNA test on a partially eaten Christmas cookie and carrots. These items were supposedly eaten by Santa Claus and his nine reindeer.

The local Rhode Island police did not disappoint the girl. The Chief saw that the girl had a "keen sense for truth," and decided to send officers to properly investigate the sweet treat. The officers packaged the girl's evidence and had the food remains sent off to the Department of Health-Forensic Sciences Unit for analysis, police said. They told the girl that they would do their best at getting answers for her.

Now it's a waiting game to find out the results of the DNA test from the small town. The police told locals to stay tuned while they wait to receive the test results.

Stolen Hot Dog Statue

By Karli Anderson

The owner of a restaurant in Campbells Creek West Virginia has gotten his stolen hot dog statue back. The "Wienerman" statue was stolen from the Dairy Winkle Diner during a break-in sometime after the fire on January 11th.

The Sheriff's Office said a hint led deputies to a location where the statue was found undamaged. It was returned to restaurant owner Kerry Ellison. Investigators have not identified a suspect and are seeking information about the theft. The short statue depicts a hot dog licking its lips and holding a bottle of mustard while pouring a bottle of ketchup on its head. Kerry Ellison hopes to reopen the restaurant later this year.

Guinness World Records: Oldest living dog on earth is in California

By Karli Anderson

In November of 2022 Gino Wolf, a 22-year-old Chihuahua was verified to be the longest-living dog on Earth. Gino was adopted by his now father, Alex Wolf, in Boulder, Colorado, in 2002.

"I've taken great care of him over the years, and he is still in relatively very good shape...and really cute still, which is surprising considering his age," Alex Wolf says.

Barnyard Pursuit

by Tyler Beer

On January 10, police were forced into a long chase with quite the elusive target. At around 9 AM the Taylorsville Police Department received a strange report, likely of the strangest possible assailant. They had responded quickly due to its repeated attempts to break into a home. That is when the police had a truly shocking revelation about the offender.

The culprit had been an escaped goat. And this barnyard animal had been attempting to bust the door to a home down on 4302 S. Brunswick Court. This beast then proceed to lead the police on a chase for well over two hours. The animal had caused a large commotion around the city during the chase.

About halfway through many citizens joined the officers in this chase around the city. Even with this many people they still managed to loose sight on the goat repeatedly. They finally wrangled him in the back yard of a citizen's home.

"Jug-head" Freed

By Levi Kahn

A deer who locals nicknamed "Jug-Head" was rescued this January in southern Indiana. The woodland critter got his name from the empty water jug which he somehow got stuck on his head. Nobody knows how he got into this situation, but it became clear that a rescue mission was in order.

The deer had been the talk of the town, being spotted with his rather out of place headwear for over a week. While this was certainly a sight to see, the jug prevented eating and drinking for a potentially dangerous period of time.

A party of Perry County Deputy Marsh Neal Brewington, Indiana Conservation Commissioners Zac Howerton, and a local citizen, Jimmy Maffia finally tracked down the unlucky creature. The team used tranquilizers to sedate and safely remove the jug, fed him, and released him back into the wild unharmed.

Tragedy Strikes California

By Izzi Curlless

California has had three mass shootings in the last 44 hours. Nineteen people have tragically lost their lives. These are not the first shootings of the new year, this year alone there have already been 40 mass shootings in America.

The first shooting happened in a dance studio in Monterey park. The shooter killed a total of 11 people with the victims ages ranging between 57 and 76. The shooter was later found dead in a

van 30 miles away from Torrence.

Monday January 23 tragedy struck again this time on a mushroom farm in Half Moon Bay. This time seven people unfortunately lost their lives.

Only hours after the shooting in Half Moon Bay tragedy struck again this time in Oakland. Reports say there were about 50 people gathered for a music video shoot when suddenly gunshots rang out from multiple directions. This time only one person was killed but seven others were injured.

Scooters Coffee in the Works

By Levi Kahn

A new coffee shop is coming to Bluffton. With talk around town of a new joint, one can't help but wonder exactly what is in store.

Scooter's Coffee will be opening a new location currently under construction on the corner of Main Street and Dustman Road. Scooter's will not have dine-in options but instead will focus on drive thru and delivery orders.

The company prides itself on having "Amazing People, Amazing Drinks... Amazingly Fast" as their slogan suggests, so Scooters could be a great choice for a lunch break or early morning pick-me-up.

No opening date is set; however, building and drive-thru construction will be finishing up shortly. Scooters will be located just past McDonald's on 996 North Main Street.

Sadness Strikes Sesame Street

By Izzi Curlless

Lloyd Morrisett, the co-founder of *Sesame Street*, passed away earlier this week. He passed away at 95.

Morrisett was born in Oklahoma City, and studied philosophy and later got a PHD from Yale. But on a Saturday in December 1929 he was fascinated with how his daughter was so interested in test patterns on the TV waiting for a cartoon to start. This sparked an idea in Morrisett's mind, what if we used TV to teach young children how to count or read.

Later he met with Coony at a dinner party and proposed his idea. Coony was totally on board with Morrisett's idea.

They then went and talked to child psychologists and learning specialists to create *Sesame Street*. The show was a hit.

It later became one of the first TV shows to be nominated for The Kennedy Center Honor. But all of that couldn't have happened without Morrisett. Needless to say, his passing has had a big effect on *Sesame Street*.

Idaho Quadruple Homicides Update

by Lauren Mann

On Dec. 30, 2022, almost two months after the four University of Idaho murders, a suspect was finally arrested. Brian Kohberger, a 28-year-old resident of Pennsylvania, was arrested on a fugitive from justice warrant.

Kohberger was initially held without bond in the Monroe County Correction Facility. He then was extradited to Idaho on Jan. 4 after a brief hearing. Kohberger appeared in court in Idaho on the 12.

At the time of Kohberger's arrest, he was a Ph.D. Criminology student and teacher's assistant at Washington State University Pullman's campus. This university is a quick 15-minute drive from where the victims lived.

"The Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at Washington State University is aggrieved by the alleged horrendous acts of one of its graduate students," read the Dec. 31 statement, which was posted to the department's homepage on the university's website. "We are relieved that justice will be carried out. Our hearts are with the victims' families."

Currently, Kohberger is still being held in Idaho and is facing four homicide charges.

Realistic Dog Toy?

by Lily Sheets

Kirsten Lynch was in her home in Hobart Australia, when she was picking up her golden retriever's toys. Shocked by what she will see next, bends down to pick up her dog's faux Tasmanian devil. This plush toy scurried under her couch. It was real.

"I went to reach for it, the devil shot underneath the couch," she told *The Guardian*.

Screaming in fear, she woke up her family. Everyone rushed to see what the uproar was about. Her husband cautiously escorted the devil outside, while Kirsten and her kids scurried atop the kitchen table.

"We were concerned that if she or he was cornered and scared, they would bite someone," Lynch told the outlet. "I got the fright of my life. But to be honest, I think the poor thing was more terrified of us."

As for the devil getting in the house in the first place, they believed it followed their new puppy, Gecko, into the house.

"The devil [likely] got through the fence behind Gecko and walked in through the door that we leave open for her as she's still potty training," Lynch said.

With all the said, the Tasmanian devil did not seem injured, and all is well in

the Lynch family.

Monterey Park Dance Studio

By Sophie Schwartz

On January 21, 2023, 72-year-old Huu Can Tran entered the "Star Dance Studio" in Monterey Park, California and opened fire. Leaving 11 people dead, and 10 injured.

The shooter fled the scene and entered the "Lai Lai Ballroom and Studio" in Alhambra, Calif. While the shooter was prepping his weapon, a worker at the studio, Brandon Tsay decided he needed to take the weapon from him.

Brandon said, "When I got the courage, I lunged at him with both hands, grabbed the weapon, and we had a struggle." St. Stephen Martyr Catholic Church is now scheduled to honor the 11 lost lives and to celebrate the 10 survivors.

Kids Reunited with Family After Kidnapped in Stolen Car

by Lydia Athan

In Oceanside, Calif. on Jan. 9, OPD received a call that a vehicle had been stolen from a residence with two children inside. The driver reportedly abandoned the children in front of a different residence before speeding away. The kids were later reunited with their family.

"The incident was scary, obviously for a parent, and we are very thankful that we had the best possible outcome with both children coming out safe and unharmed," OPD spokesperson Jennifer Atenza told Fox News Digital.

The suspect, identified as Juan Mendieta, 30, was later apprehended and charged with two counts of kidnapping, two counts of child endangerment, vehicle theft, resisting arrest and a parole violation hold.

Flags Flown at Half-Staff

by Ali Mygrant

Indiana flags were flown at half-staff from Jan. 22 until sunrise January 26. President Biden ordered the nation to lower the flags in honor of the mass shooting victims in Monterey Park, Calif.

Eleven people were killed and 10 more were left injured. All buildings in the United States are flying the flags at half-staff in remembrance of those lost.

Mammoth Bone Rush

by Ali Mygrant

Due to recent suspicions that a boxcar of valuable mammoth bones was dumped in the East River in the 1940's, adventurers and treasure hunters hurry to make a discovery.

Mammoth bones are extremely valuable, and can be sold for lots of money. Multiple divers claim that the chances of uncovering the bones or tusks can be equated to the chances of winning the lottery.

Despite actual evidence to back the theory, the East River is crowded with divers and adventurer.

Beyond Backpacks

by Erica Hartman

February is about to become a lot more fun! Due to some unforeseen events,

Beyond Backpacks, originally scheduled for January, has been moved to February. From Feb. 6 to March. 3, Beyond Club is putting on a necessities drive for kids in foster homes. Each week, a different item theme; for example: backpacks, hygiene products, comfort items such as stuffed animals and blankets, and clothing.

Cannot donate? Good news, you can donate money, too! You may be thinking, "how is this fun?" Well, for each item or dollar you donate, you get one ticket to be entered into a raffle for a gift from local businesses.

So get out there and do some good while you have a little fun!

Paris Fashion Week 2023

by Ameen Lababneh

Fashion Week is a series of events, typically lasting for a week, at which new collections of designer clothing are modeled for an audience. And it is held twice a year, usually in February and September, to showcase the spring/summer and fall/winter collections. We saw that this year's fashion week had a lot of beautiful but odd outfits; therefore, we decided to ask BHS students about their opinion on the new designs and outfits that were seen during the week.

Like Doja Cat, who was seen more than one time during the weeks in different outfits, the students thought that the brown outfit that she had on was better than the red one.

And for the Victor and Rolf show that showed their new collection that had upside-down and sideways gowns, most students said that they did not like it.

So what do you think of the outfits that were displayed during the week, would you wear them?



Kylie Jenner at Paris Fashion Week, photo courtesy of Jacopo Raule



Dove Cameron for Paris FW, photo courtesy by CelebMafia



Doja Cat at Paris Fashion Week, photo courtesy of Jacopo Raule



Victor and Rolf gowns for Paris Fashion Week, photo courtesy of Euronews.

Bluffton Grad Commissions Artwork for Atlanta Hawks

There may be times where it is hard to imagine anyone from Bluffton High School being the center of attention with professional sports, national media, or in film, but it is not impossible. For the obvious choice, 2016 BHS graduate, D'Wayne Eskridge, just wrapped up his second NFL season with the Seattle Seahawks, but he's not the only Tiger turned pro. A 1998 graduate, Adam Ballinger enjoyed a successful basketball career in Australia after winning a NCAA Championship with Michigan State in 2000.

What has Adam done since his retirement in 2015? He's turned to art. As the son of former Norwell art teacher, Donna Ballinger, Adam's abilities had to have been developed at a young age.

You can see his artwork on display on some t-shirts worn by Griffin Morgan or Mr. Robert Vanderkolk, or you can visit an Atlanta Hawks game. The NBA franchise recently revealed on Twitter a recent selection of caricatures drawn by Adam with reactions from their players, including All-Star Trae Young.

You can check out the players' reactions and more of the images by looking at the @ATLHawks Twitter page.

Stay tuned to the next issue of *The Comet* to see if any other BHS graduates dance with fame.



More of Adam Ballinger's work can be found at <https://adamballingerart.threadless.com>. (photos courtesy of Adam Ballinger and the Atlanta Hawks Twitter)



Where's Coco?

Follow Mrs. Cocanower's travels as she represents Bluffton and Indiana as the Teacher of the Year on Instagram @cocotheexplorer23.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MRS. COCANOWER.

Funniest 911 calls

by Amarah Robles

"911, what's your emergency?" People all over the nation make accidental 911 calls regularly. However, some of the funniest 911 calls come from people who actually think emergencies are occurring.

A Canadian woman contacted police immediately after hearing her neighbor screaming through their shared duplex wall. Upon arrival, the authorities pounded on the door to interrogate the occupant. The police left with a chuckle as the resident explained that he was not in any danger, but rather just having some toilet troubles.

Next, one of the dumbest burglars rattled himself out not once, but twice during a robbery. While breaking into a home, the thief butt-dialed 911. After realizing the cops had arrived, the burglar quickly decided to hide in a closet. The police investigated and were on their way out when the burglar's phone revealed his stellar hiding spot yet again. A loud low battery alert buzzed from his phone alerted the police.

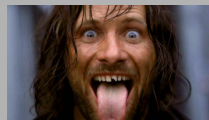
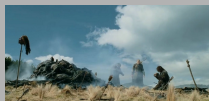
Lastly, a British man called the police to notify them of a strange object flying around and lighting up the night sky. As the police gathered things up to go investigate, they received a call back from the man who informed them that the mystery had been solved! The man was able to properly identify the strange object as the moon.

Fun Movie Facts

by Ayden Teeple

Here are some fun fact about a famous movie you may or may not know: Actor Viggo Mortensen, who play Aargorn in Peter Jackson's adaptation of *The Lord of the Rings*, accidentally broke two of his toes on the set of *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*.

Viggo was supposed to act sad and angry after believing two of his friends to be dead. So he decided to kick a helmet and fall to his knees. Little did he know that the Uruk-hai helmet he was about to kick was solid metal and broke his two toes and when he fell and yelled he wasn't acting. Viggo was in loads of pain as you might expect, and so he used that pain in his acting and carried on with the scene. That scene was used in the movie because of how real the sorrow and acting looked and felt. Viggo also broke a tooth and actor Orlando Bloom, who played Legolas, fell off a horse and broke a rib. Both of which happened on the set of *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*.



Star Wars Anniversaries Galore

by Ayden Teeple

2023 marks a huge mile stone for *Star Wars*. This year, 40 years ago, the legendary conclusion of the original *Star Wars* trilogy ended with the much anticipated *Return of the Jedi*. This year also is the 20th anniversary of the 2003 2D animated micro-series titled *Clone Wars* which was a major hit and even lead to a 3D animated *The Clone Wars* series. These series allowed fans to see the war Obi Wan Kenobi mentioned that he and Anakin Skywalker fought in in the 1977 movie *Star Wars*. These two pieces of art inspired and brought so much joy to generations of *Star Wars* fans, so to celebrate these masterpieces I asked several *Star Wars* fans about their favorite moments from either the movie or show.

Some favorite moments from *Return of the Jedi* included: when Han says, "Boba Fett? Boba Fett? Where?" and hits Boba in his jet pack (Hudson Werich) all of the nature of Endor (Mrs. Cocanower) when Vader tells Luke "Obi Wan has taught you well" (Wyatt Meadows) when Luke cuts off Vader's arm, looks at his hand, throws his lightsaber, and tells the Emperor that he is a Jedi like his father before him, defying the dark side and leaving himself completely vulnerable to whatever comes next (Noah Thompson), and of course when Anakin, Obi Wan, and Yoda show up at the celebration at the end as force ghosts (Griffin Linderwell and Manning Nash). Some favorite moments from *Clone Wars/The Clone Wars* were: when the clones take back the Rishi Moon Outpost and blow it up (Noah Zoll), when the clones defend Kamino from a Separatist invasion and the clone janitor 99 sacrifices his life to help his brothers win (Kabyon Peterson), and order 66 in the final season (Landon Crist).

2023 Predictions

By Zxyia Driscoll

This year for 2023 some predictions are that they will start making shoes without laces according to *New York Times*.

As seen on Twitter, Paul Fairie posted pictures that someone wrote in 1923 and it says that "By 2023 women will be shaving their heads and they will blacken their teeth."

According to CNBC they think that Snapchat and TikTok will go away because China is spying on us. CNBC also believes that Tom Brady will return to the NFL because he said that he was going to retire last year and came back.

According to Quantumrun they believe that "10% of reading glasses will be connected to the internet."

They also believe that most cars will be electric and that gas cars will slowly

stop being made.

These are some of the predictions for 2023.

A Mole-varous New Show

by Amarah Robles

Are you looking for a new great Netflix series to binge? The Mole is the perfect show for you. What is The Mole? Let's find out!

The Mole is a Netflix original that just released at the end of 2022. 12 people are selected to be on the show to complete missions to win money to put in a prize pot. However, one of them is a "mole." The mole is responsible for throwing off the missions to nonchalantly make the other players lose money. Whoever wins gets to keep the prize pot, and the mole cannot win. The first season is 10 episodes. Each episode lasts for about 30-60 minutes. The Mole is an addicting show to watch, so make sure if you start to watch it that you have enough time to finish it.

Next time you scroll through Netflix with nothing to watch, go to the search bar and type in "The Mole."

All You Need to Know before OBX Season 3

By Karli Anderson and Sophie Schwartz

Fans of *Outer Banks* thought the show could not get any crazier after a wild series of twists in season one leaving everyone wanting more.

Season two then saw John B. facing off against Ward yet again as the Pogues, including Sarah, Kiara, JJ, and Pope, tried to reclaim the \$400 million in gold from the Royal Merchant that the Kook Ward (Sarah and Rafe's father) stole from them during season one.

The teens also set out on a new treasure hunt for a cross worth its fair share in historical and financial value.

The Camerons take Sarah, of course, as she is firmly rooted on Team John B. after her father tried to kill her once again bested the Pogues in the season two finale, keeping all the treasure for themselves.

Season two of OBX left all viewers completely shocked after seeing that Big John was still alive.

Season three will drop on Feb. 23, 2023. Fans have waited over two years for season three release, so there are a lot of big expectations for season three of *Outer Banks*.

Do you think this season will follow be just as great as the others, or maybe better?



What is Valentine's Day?

By Erica Hartman

When you think of Valentine's Day, what do you think? Do you think of flowers and hearts and chocolate boxes for the one you love? Do you think of cards and teddy bears holding sweet messages? Or do you think of it as a lie and a day of feeling lonely and bitter? Well, I asked some Bluffton kids what they thought of when they heard Valentine's Day:

"It's a scam, but it's also to show you care," said Cherry Williamson.

"It's for people who think they're in love, but really aren't," said Libby Arnett.

"A day to recognize the people you care about and appreciate, boyfriend or not," said Addison Goodwin.

"Being with the person you're romantically interested in," said Anakin Eguia.

Ultimately, Valentine's Day is well-known for being the day of love, right? However, it is commercialized as a day of romantic love. Tell the person you like that you like them and give a gift to your significant other. However, if you are single, have fun being lonely! Does it not seem a bit unfair? Not everyone has a crush and not everyone has a significant other, so why do we exclude those people from Valentine's Day in media? According to studyfinds.org, a poll conducted by OnePoll asked people their thoughts on Valentine's Day. 67 percent said that they believed Valentine's Day should not be a strictly romantic holiday. Love comes in many forms such as parental love, sibling love, and friendly love. I believe that all of these forms deserve to be included in Valentine's Day.

I recall feeling lonely on Valentine's Day in past years. I felt that if I had no boyfriend, I could not celebrate the holiday. With all of the cards, candy, and other gifts lining the aisles in the stores that promote a pro-romance ideology for the holiday, it left me feeling left out. I am sure I am not the only one. They did not make the day after Valentine's day Single Awareness Day for nothing, after all. The commercialization of Valentine's Day has greatly contributed to this. It even affects non-singles! According to an article titled "Exploring the origins of Valentine's Day's commercialization" by Kelly Haggerty, the average person spent 60 dollars more than they did on Valentine's Day in 2022 than in 2012. In the same article, a student in Advanced Placement Macroeconomics, Rachel Lehrsion, states, "The commercialization of Valentine's Day is so effective that consumers will go out of their way to purchase expensive goods because companies have convinced them it is necessary." So, all of those gifts you felt pressured to buy your loved ones? You can thank the Valentine's Day industry for that!

The question of what Valentine's Day is may be kind of complicated because of how stereotyped and disingenuous it has become. However, I think that if we all drop the pressure of extravagant gifts and dates, we can learn to truly appreciate all the people around us in ways such as hugs, handmade cards, or even just a simple "I love you."

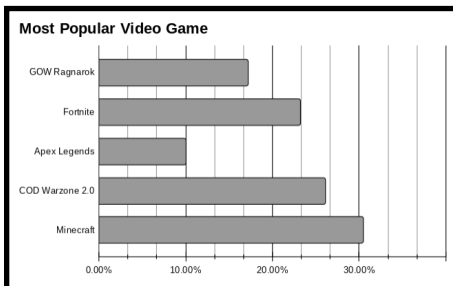


The Best Video Game?

by Tyler Beer

This week after interviewing Bluffton High School students over their favorite video games the results were quite interesting the options were based on the 2022 rankings for video game ratings in the United States. This in part due to the fact that not all games could fit on the chart.

In this vote for the best video game, our school voted it would be *Minecraft*. It won the votes from many students in a landslide making it the most popular game currently at Bluffton High School.



Is Our Mental Health Getting Worse?

By Izzi Curless

More and more people are starting to come forward stating they have symptoms of mental illness, and this has sparked an interesting question. Is our mental health getting worse or is it being normalized to ask for help?

Many think that social media is only making things worse. Others believe it's the 24/7 news cycle or the fact we have access to news almost as the event is happening.

There are many factors to the downward spiral of the public's mental health. Social media algorithms designed to keep people scrolling and active while keeping with the person's beliefs. For example, if someone liked one post about a topic, the algorithm would then give more posts on that topic. This makes it much harder for someone who has certain beliefs to see the other side.

Another factor is the pandemic. It made professionals realize how many people were suffering in silence. According to The National Alliance on Mental Illness, the average time between the onset of a disorder and treatment is 11 years. But as some started to open up and talk about their feelings they inspired more people to do the same.

Bop Or Flop? "Beauty and a Beat"

By Karli Anderson



This week we asked students if they thought the song "Beauty and a Beat" by Justin Bieber featuring Niki Minaj was a certified bop or flop. On Instagram, 65% said it was a bop and 35% thought it was a flop. In the Publications class, 10 out of 17 students thought it was a bop while seven thought it was a flop. We then headed to B-lunch and asked students what they thought. The results showed 27 students think the song was a bop and 15 thought it was a flop. During C-lunch, students also thought the song was a bop with 51 votes, and 36 thought it was a flop. If you have any Bop or Flop song suggestions please email Karli Anderson at 002513002@bhmsd.org

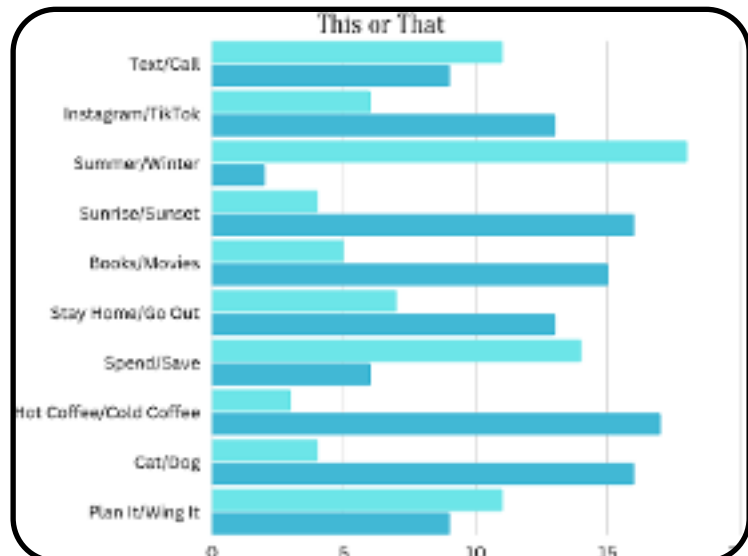
This or That

by Lydia Athan

After interviewing a series of Bluffton High School students, a conclusion has been made for each following comparison: Text/Call, Instagram/TikTok, Summer/Winter, Sunrise/Sunset, Books/Movies, Stay Home/Go Out, Spend/Save, Hot Coffee/Cold Coffee, Cat/Dog, and Plan It/Wing It.

Olivia Priester, one of the students interviewed says, "I chose sunset over sunrise because it is more enjoyable to look at."

The following poll shows the results from the votes.



February 3, 2023

SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP!

Date: Wednesday, February 8

Time: 3:00 - 7:00 P.M

Location: BHS Library



Wells County Prom Dress Exchange



All Dresses \$10

FRIDAY, March 10th 4pm - 7pm

SATURDAY, March 11th 10am - 12pm

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

325 W. WASHINGTON ST. BLUFFTON

Proceeds to
Wells Co. Foundation LIGHT

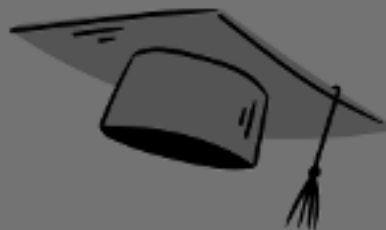


For more information please contact
Janella Stronezek

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ATTENTION CLASS OF 2023!



SUBMIT YOUR PORTRAITS TODAY!

Visit BlufftonYearbook.com to submit pictures to a Google Form.

Information for Baby Ads are also available.

Jenkins leads Tigers in Victory over North Miami

by Nolan Lambert

Following the loss against Adam Central on Friday by a score of 87-55, where the basketball team shot sixty-seven percent, the Bluffton boys basketball team added their second win of the year against North Miami on Saturday by a score of 69-45.

The Tigers were all over the boards against the Warriors, raking in thirty-nine rebounds over the course of the game. Leading the Tigers in rebounds was Tucker Jenkins, and he also posted a season-high of 30 points. Behind him was Fletcher Wenger with 12 points. The Tigers had a quality first half with three pointers from Eli Garrett and Sam Baumgartner, and they also held their own on the defensive end with blocks from Kaden Grau and Andrew Hunt going into the end of the half. The Tigers really pulled away in the second half scoring 18 points in the third quarter and 21 in the fourth quarter hitting back-to-back three pointers to seal the game.

On Wednesday, February 1st, the Bluffton Tigers fell to the Eastbrook Panthers by a score of 60-55. The Tigers were down early as the Panthers had a 8-0 run to start off the game. They fought there way back to make it 19-25 to end the first quarter. It was a close game all throughout the second half. Bluffton scored 36 in the second half but unfortunately Eastbrook scored 35 winning by four points. The basketball team will play Heritage this Saturday.



Junior Eli Garrett puts in effort on the defensive side as he forces a tough shot against AC. (photo by Ayden Teeple)

Tom Brady Announces Retirement

by Drayvin Shoemaker

On Feb. 1, Tom Brady announced his retirement at age 45, and 23 seasons in the NFL.

Tom Brady was in the NFL for over half of his life and won seven Super Bowls. This means he has more championships than any team in the league.

One year ago on the same date, he said he was retiring, but he came out and played another season.

Even though he says he is done for sure, will he stay retired this time? His former teammate Rob Gronkowski posted a tweet saying, "Tommy, since I already wrote you a long retirement message last year, this time I shall say, 'welcome to the 2x retired club.'"

BHS Predicts the Super Bowl

by Lauren Mann

I went around lunch and polled the students of Bluffton High School to determine who they believe will win this year's Super Bowl.

As the results show, Patrick Mahomes is favored to win his second Super Bowl with the Kansas City Chiefs while the Jalen Hurts-led Philadelphia Eagles look for its second title in history.



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Indiana vs. Purdue Match-up

by Lauren Mann

Coming up tomorrow is one of the biggest rivalry games in college basketball: Purdue vs. Indiana. Purdue and Indiana have been playing each other in basketball since 1901. They always play two games a season, one at Assembly Hall and the other at Mackey Arena. Purdue has won 125 out of the 215 games they have played in total.

The Boilers were doing pretty good with a 9 game winning streak over the Hoosiers until they had a devastating loss in Bloomington last January 68-65. They were able to redeem themselves last March with a win in West Lafayette, 69-67. That wasn't the big win Purdue fans around the nation were hoping for, but hey, a win is a win.

The players that the Hoosiers need to look out for during this matchup are Zach Edey and Fletcher Loyer. Edey is the Boilermaker's big man in the middle who stands 7'4" and averages 21.5 points a game. And right behind him is freshman, Fletcher Loyer. Loyer averages 12.8 points a game and was even named BIG Freshman of the Week last month. I also think that freshman, Braden Smith, is really going to show out against the Hoosiers.

Some of the Hoosiers key players include Trayce Jackson Davis, Jalen Hood-Schifino, and Xavier Johnson. When I think Hoosier Basketball, I think Trayce Jackson Davis. Jackson Davis, junior, averages IU's team high 19.7 points per game. He also has the most minutes on the team. Jalen Hood-Schifino is Indiana's stellar freshman. He averaged 12.1 points per game. I think him and Loyer will be a good matchup.

Tune in tomorrow at 4:00 pm on ESPN to see a very exciting game that will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat and maybe make you yell at your TV.

Cruz Leads Five to Regional

By Levi Kahn

The wrestling team's regular season wrapped up with a respectable 4th team placing at ACAC. As the Tigers head into the postseason, they must perform their best to move on each week. With Sectionals, Regionals, Semi-State, and State in subsequent weekends, our wrestlers will fight to finish the year strong.

The postseason is now in full swing with five wrestlers advancing past Sectional. Regional qualifiers included Aiden King taking fourth place, Lukas Gehrett taking third place, Levi Kahn and Levi Johns taking second place, and Johnny Cruz taking first place at Sectionals.

These wrestlers will advance to Regional this Saturday at Jay County. Come support the Tigers as they fight to move on to Semi-State. Information and brackets can be found online at trackwrestling.com.



Sophomore Levi Johns wrestles to win over Manchester. He finished runner-up at Sectional to qualify for Regional as he looks for his second-straight trip to the State Finals. (photo by Drayvin Shoemaker)

Boys Swim Wins ACAC Championship for the 9th Year in a Row

by Drayvin Shoemaker

The boys Tiger Sharks have had a successful year. For the ninth year in a row, the Tigers have won the Allen County Athletic Conference (ACAC) championship.

This year at the ACAC championship, Bluffton had a lot of boys on top of the podium. Dalton Rodgers in the 200 freestyle, Isaac Wheeler in the 200 individual medley, Ashton Arnett in the 500 freestyle, Noah Brooks in the 100 backstroke, and the 400 free relay team consisting of Max Worth, Gavin Yergler, Brooks, and Rodgers all got first.

However, the boys' had a perfect dual meet record, winning all matches until the meet against Norwell where the boys lost in a close match, losing 99-84.

Following the loss, the Tiger Sharks picked up a dominant win over Belmont, 131-52.

The next meet is Wednesday, February 8 against Huntington North.

Lady Tigersharks' Season Comes to an End

by Lydia Athan

The Lady Tiger Sharks fiercely competed throughout their season. Although the amount of swimmers this season has been slightly lower than years prior, the ladies still strived to reach many of their goals. The majority of the group reached their personal bests and dropped additional time.

Some arriving freshmen that amazed the team by their talents were Libby Arnett and Emma Frauhiger. Libby competed remarkably well in the 100 meter breaststroke. Emma competed in the freestyle sprints and the 100 meter backstroke. Both girls proved that they could participate in the relays with upperclassmen.

Seniors Lydia Athan, Olivia Priester, and Annika Linderwell all made sure to set examples for the joining swimmers this year. Both Olivia and Lydia dropped a great deal of time in their individual events: Olivia in the 100 meter butterfly and Lydia in the 100 meter backstroke. Annika also was a powerful competitor in the 500 meter freestyle, as she took first place in this event almost every meet. The seniors are proud to pass down their skills to the upcoming seniors next year: Zoey Schmidt, Lucia Corkwell, Kiara Simmons, Mary Beth Zurcher, and Claire Craighead.

The team will wrap up their season at Sectionals this Saturday at Jay County. View the Bluffton Lady Tigersharks' twitter page to follow their results.

Girls Basketball Rolls into Sectional

by Andrew Onuegbu

The girl's basketball team is on a roll with three straight wins after winning the last two games of the regular season and advancing to the second round of the Sectional.

The Tigers' most recent game was against the Manchester Squires. The final score to the game was 49-35 as BHS advanced to the semi-final round of Sectional. Haley Gibson was the leading scorer with 18 points, followed up by Maryn Schreiber who had 12 points, and Isabella Stout rounded it off with nine points.

The Lady Tigers are back in action tonight facing Adams Central for a chance to at the Sectional championship on Saturday. Bluffton defeated the Flying Jets 50-43 earlier this season. Tip-off is scheduled for 6 pm in the Tiger Den.

If Bluffton defeats Adams Central, it will play in the Sectional championship on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 7:30 PM. The game will also be at BHS against the winner of South Adams and Bishop Luers.

February 3, 2023

AROUND THE CLASSROOMS

Jasmine Rupel and Lily Rupel



Katelynn Bedwell and Olivia Schreiber



Lauren Reiff



Levi Johns and Tavin Frees



Mr. Cook's Geometry Class



BHS Winter Choir Concert



Maksym Laishvkin, Yaroslav Serdiuk, and Misha Laishvkin



Caroline Buskirk, Kiara Coleman, Caleb Dailey, and Zara Eisenhut



Owen Bonn