

Volume II

Issue III

Tornado Winds

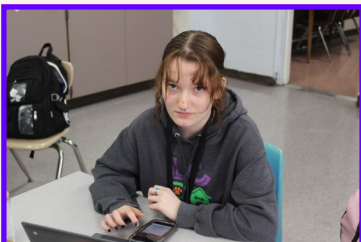


Where the news takes flight!

Reporters & Photographers



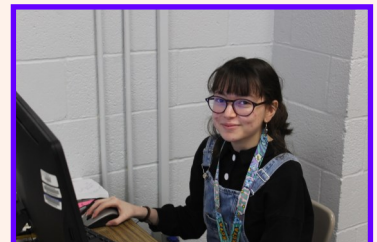
(Left to right) Nazaret Aguilar, Talia Perez, Lorie Machado, Rilee Whinery, Merin Higgins, Janeth Huerta, Cooper Berry, Taylor Albert, Ernesto Hernandez



Features Editor
Taylor Albert



(Left to right) Tru Starlett, Christian Thorton, Caleb Partipilo, Nick Galvez, Eber Bailon



Layout Editor
Rilee Whinery

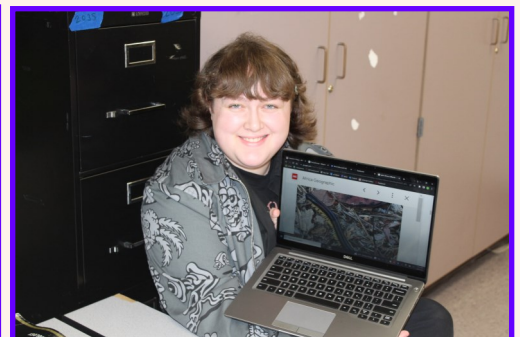


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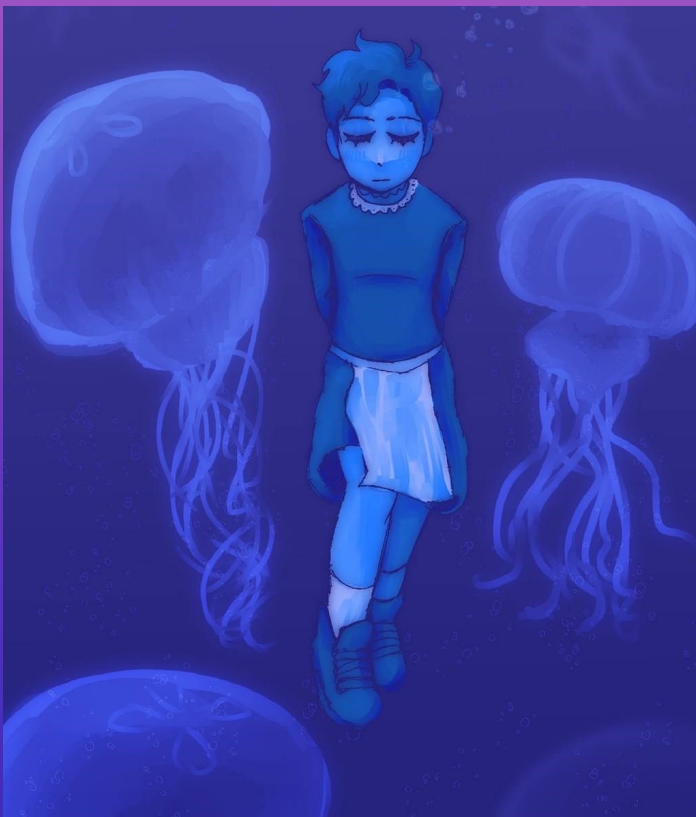


Artist Spotlight

By Rilee Whinery

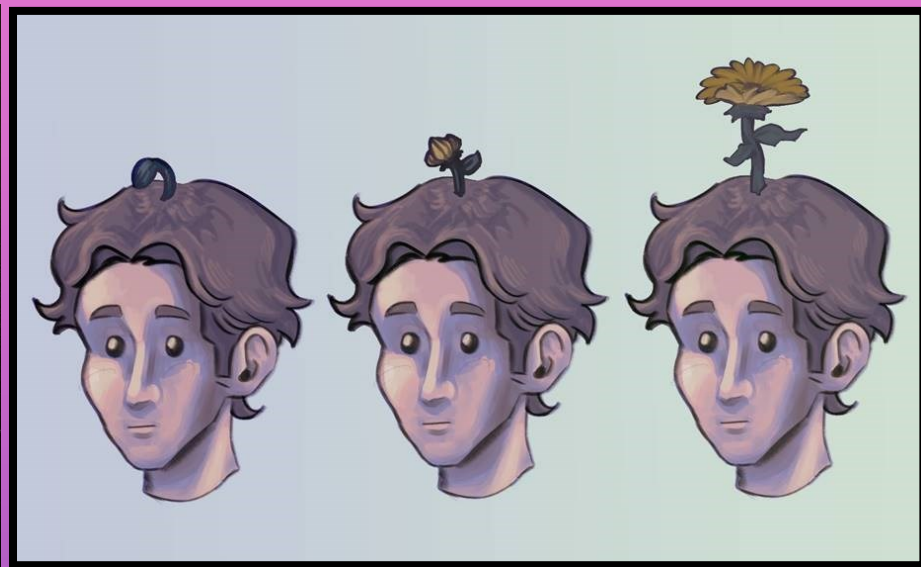
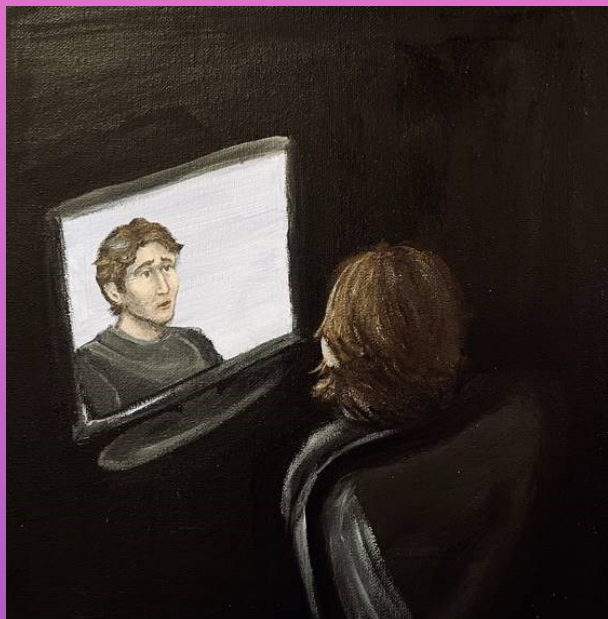


“Emelia enjoys ‘consuming media’ in her time away from school. Her favorite hobby is video editing, creating new content from video clips,” Lepo said.



Emelia Cunningham

This distinguished artist is a junior in Ms. Lepo's AP Drawing and Painting class and also in Ceramics with Mrs. Moore.



"Emelia is a focused student and a realistic designer who pays special attention to detail. Her work in painting and ceramics is carefully wrought and full of amazing clarity and color," Lepo added.

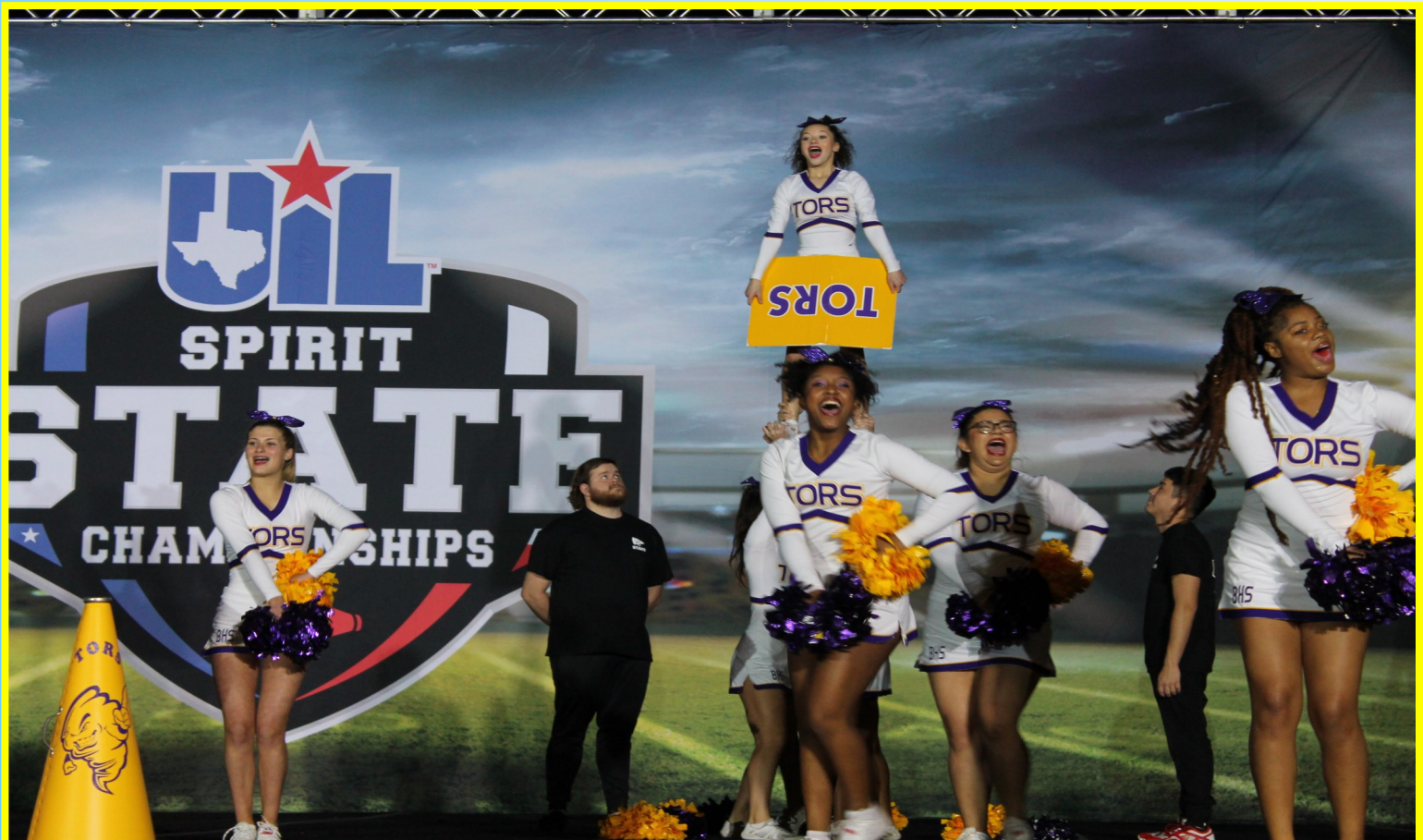


Emelia plans to work for a degree in Graphic Design, although she wishes she could sell her artwork and graphic designs to support herself instead of having a job!

Cheerleaders Compete in UIL Spirit Competition

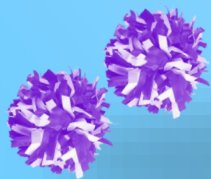
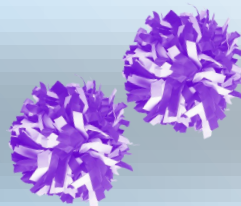
By Rilee Whinery

The varsity cheerleaders traveled to Ft. Worth on Jan. 21 to participate in the prestigious UIL Spirit Contest. The team, under the leadership of Aja Cormier, enjoyed competing and collaborating with their peers from other schools in the Cowtown setting.





“During our trip we had a great time,” Coach Aja Cormier said. “We competed on Friday, and we got to see a bunch of other teams perform for the UIL Spirit Competition. We were the second to last team to perform, so we got to see a lot of great teams ahead of us.”



Many parents attended the contest to watch their children compete. “The parents support their children and are a terrific asset to the team,” Cormier said. “We all stayed at the Ft. Worth State Hotel, and we had a lot of interaction with the parents when we weren’t competing.”

The parents, members of the Cheerleading Booster Club, paid for the entire trip to the spirit competition. “The parents are super supportive of the team. They paid all our expenses and provided emotional support for the team. I’m very proud of our team and what they’ve accomplished this year.”



Chinese Year of the Rabbit

By Rilee Whinery

Chinese New Year marks the beginning of a new year in the Chinese calendar. It is also termed the “Lunar New Year”, “Chinese New Year Festival”, and “Spring Festival”. Generally, the Chinese New Year falls on different dates every year in the Gregorian calendar. It is calculated based on the first new moon day that falls between the 21st of January and the 20th of February.

Chinese New Year celebrations start from the New Year eve and ends with the Lantern Festival that is held on the 15th day of the year. Chinese New Year is observed as a public holiday in China. It is the longest holiday in China. The holiday marks the end of the winter’s coldest days and people welcome the spring, praying to their gods for the upcoming planting and harvest season.



Different regional customs and traditions accompany the festival. Eating dumplings, Yu tang yuan or ‘soup balls’, and red envelopes with ‘lucky’ money are part of customary celebrations according to some myths. The Chinese New Year festival celebrates the death of a monster called Nian, which was killed by a brave boy with fire crackers on New Year’s Eve, and that’s why firecrackers are considered a crucial part of the Spring Festival as it is believed they scare off monsters and bad luck.

This year, 2023, Chinese New Year on Jan. 22 is called the year of the Rabbit.

Ball High students hung Chinese New Year decorations in the hallway, made dumplings, and performed a dragon dance parade around Ball High and gave the red envelope and passing “good lucky candies” to teachers and students.

National Honor Society Serves Community

By Merin Higgins

The Ball High Chapter of the National Honor Society was granted on April 20, 1945. As a service organization, NHS promotes the four pillars of service, character, scholarship and citizenship. Membership is based on a select group of students with GPAs of 3.5 or higher, 30 hours of community service, and two teacher recommendations. Once students apply, they will be analyzed by the faculty council, and then pinned, and inducted in a formal ceremony where they are celebrated.

Currently, NHS has over 100 members with 2500 service hours for fall semester alone. Members of NHS have partnered with community organizations such as Galveston ISD, UTMB, the Sunshine Center Inc., Walk to End Alzheimer's, STEAM Bus, the Bryan Museum, the Grand 1894 Opera House, Moody Methodist Church, First Lutheran Church of Galveston, Trinity Episcopal School, and Galveston's Own Farmers Market.



*NHS has a
plastics
recycling
program on
campus and
holds
semi-regular
beach
clean-ups.*



Bailey Gonzalez: Being a member of NHS has had huge effects on my life. I have gotten to participate in volunteer activities I never thought that I would be able to be a part of. Helping others has become a priority in my life because of NHS.

Chloe Howrey: Being a member of the NHS has taught me valuable lessons on time management and self-sufficiency. Having a leadership role has taught me how to be responsible and given me valuable leadership skills. Dr. Hart and Mrs. Seiler have proven invaluable in their leadership of the organization.

Visions of the Future, and the Path to Make it So

By Lori Machado

Teyo Gutierrez has a dream: he wants to compose a piano concerto and have it performed by the Galveston Symphony or the Ball High band.

Gutierrez began composing music after listening to classical music on his own. He dreamed of creating music of his own that represented him. “I’ve been writing music for two years, and already I’ve written two concertos, two waltzes, a ballad and one suite with six movements and I am starting to write a symphony. I have the first movement completed and am working on the second.”





“I was in fifth grade when I played saxophone for the Central Middle School band, then only a year later in sixth grade, I started taking piano lessons while my brother played his baseball games in Pearland. I was practicing at Pearland Music Academy. I would love to thank Janelle Hector, she is my piano instructor and has been teaching me for three years. I would also like to thank my middle school band director Ms. Swan for allowing me the use of her piano.

“One of my favorite pieces is Beethoven’s 7th Symphony on the second movement.”

Today, Gutierrez works on composing his first piano concerto and he hopes the Galveston Symphony or by the Ball High band will perform his piece when he completes his composition. Meanwhile, Teyo is practicing for the UIL Texas Solo and Ensemble competition where he will be performing Chopin Ballad No.1.

Gutierrez dreams of the day when someone will notice his ability as a classical pianist and composer and offer him a job that he can turn into a career. “My accomplishments will only grow as I chase my dream.”

National Fun At Work Day

By Taylor Albert



The last Friday of January marks National Fun At Work Day. The Interact Club, Tor-Store, and BHS Library sponsored a Fun at Work event for the teachers, faculty, and staff of Ball High on January 27th. The all-day event hosted in the Ball High Library consisted of a couple fun activities for teachers to take a break and relax for a while. Putt-Putt golfing, corn hole, coloring, Lego building, a variety of art puzzles, drinks, sweet treats, and a photo booth were available to all staff to enjoy the day.

The Interact Club is open to any student who wants to help the community and surrounding people. Contact Michael Whitman by email (michaelwhitman@gisd.org) or directly in room 2016. Special Thanks to Mrs. Dabney for baking cookies, and Mr. Whitman for help putting this all together!



Fun Day in the Library!

Tors Donate Blood to Area Hospitals

By Rilee Whinery



Instructor Kat Dispensa takes her turn donating blood to the M.D. Anderson Bloodmobile.



JROTC Goes for the **Juglar!**

By Rilee Whinery

The Ball High JROTC sponsored the annual Galveston Blood Drive Monday, January 30th, with the assistance of the MD Anderson Bloodmobile conveniently parked in the school parking lot. An appreciation gift and refreshments were provided by the JROTC for all donors. The drive began at 9 a.m. and lasted until 2 p.m.



The blood drive netted more than 30 units of blood for M.D. Anderson. The annual blood drive averages between 30 and 40 units of blood each visit to Ball High School.

Senior to be Accepted into Military Academy

By Taylor Albert

Senior Abigail Howrey aspires to be accepted into either the U.S Air Force Academy or the U.S Naval Academy following her graduation. The academies are two of the best schools for someone to attend who is interested in a future in the military. Since Abigail was in middle school, she has been interested in nuclear engineering but has not pursued it until a few years ago. “I have always wanted to do something more meaningful to me than going to college and having a career. I have always wanted to give back to people.”

Howrey emphasizes that going to college and having a career is not noble or meaningless, she wants to go to college and have a job in which she feels is right for her and means a lot to what she wants to do. “Lots of things in the world you cannot prevent, but you can prevent threats to national security.”

Howrey said this is the main reason she wants to serve in the military. The Air Force has nuclear-powered aircraft carriers, which is a field that interests Howrey. “Nuclear engineering has many opportunities to apply knowledge if someone in this field does not stay in the military. I want to work on something that will have a lasting impact on the world, being it is a cleaner, better source of energy for the environment.”

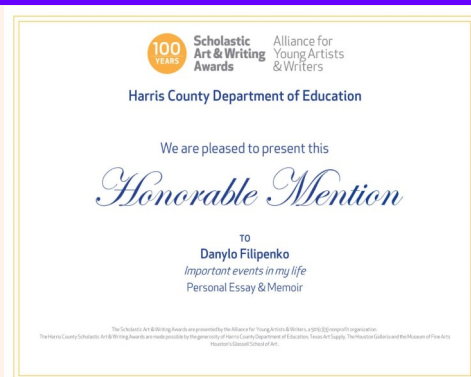


Mota's Writers Hammer Out A Win in Writing Contest



Maria Flores won a *Gold Key* award and Danylo Filipenko an *Honorable Mention* in the Harris Country Department of Education Scholastic Art & Writing Awards and Alliance for Young Artists & Writers.

Left: Maria Flores poses with her teacher, Flor Mota, and her certificate. **Right:** Danylo Filipenko poses with his certificate.



ROTC Awards

By Rilee Whinery

Sweetly (Lee) Musick, a Cadet Junior at Ball High School, was runner up in the prestigious Veterans of Foreign War – Voice of Democracy (Audio Essay) Contest. On Saturday, Feb. 4th, Sweetly read and then received a \$375 check and plaque acknowledging her second place in the VFW district essay contests the Voice of Democracy. Congratulations Cadet Musick!





What a Racket!

By Rilee Whinery

The Tors were busy on the courts last week with tournaments Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, according to coach Kyle Fisher.

On Tuesday the team traveled to Barbers Hill where freshman newcomers Chloe Chase and Sophie Kirschner earned second place in the top division of girls doubles. Beau King and Serenity Dawson also won second in the top mixed doubles bracket. Mia Hawkes and Archi Patel won third place in B girls doubles as well as Henry Boullion and James Venzant in boys doubles.

The top of the JV team had a dominate first place finish in a doubles team tennis tournament on Thursday. The competition included a couple of 6A schools, but the Tors never lost a single match the entire day. “It was a really impressive showing led by the top team of Luke Leimer and Nam Ngo,” Fisher said.

Varsity also went to Barbers Hill Friday. “We saw some tough competition, but seniors Isaac Alegria and Cornel Jordan won first place in boys doubles.”

Girls' Soccer Kicks Off

By Lorie Machado



Our soccer season began January 12 and in the opening tournament game, the Lady Tors went up against Clear Brook. After giving up a goal, sophomore Scarlett Paz Vallecillo assisted junior Miliani Arriaga to tie it up at one apiece. The game ended tied 1-1, so both teams left the field unsatisfied and eager for the next game. The Lady Tors fell 0-4 against Fort Bend Bush. The following day our Lady Tors lost 0-6 against Pasadena and in the final game against Alvin we came back from down 0-2 at halftime to tie the game 2-2. Goals came from sophomore Sophia Diaz and senior Maryellen Perez Escobar, with an assist from junior Suany Lainez.

Forward Sophia Diaz leads our team in scoring (13 points) and assists, (.3) followed by Elena Foulks and Zoe McClure. Maria Flores leads the team in goals against average at 2.815 per game while Suany Lainez leads in goals saved with 6.2 per match.

It's been a rough season, our record stands at 1-9-4 overall, 0-7-2 in district, but we did tie Texas City 1-1 on Feb. 24th, so we are improving and we hope to finish the season strong and win our next three games to complete a fun and exciting season!



Boys' Hoopsters Make the Playoffs



Boys Eliminated From Playoffs!

By Nazaret Aguilar

Destiny kissed the Ball High Tors (17-11, 8-4) basketball team on Valentine's Day when the Tors defeated Angleton 58-47. With their victory, the Tors faced Barbers Hill in the playoffs on February 21 and lost 51-44 to bring a successful season to a close.

Will Cianfrini led the Tors in scoring this season, while Malcom Simpson led the team in rebounds. When crunch time came, the coaches looked to Vernon Webb as the floor leader in their hopes to drive deep into the playoffs.

“It has been good at times and tough at times.” said Head Coach Jerald Temple. “I will remember this team as a group who has made great strides throughout the season. We’ve really become better than I thought we would be at this point, and all the credit goes to the guys for their hard work commitment.”

Tor Swimmers Dominate at District

By Rilee Whinery

The 18-5A District Swimming and Dive meet took place last month and the Ball High team had a spectacular meet. All ten athletes that competed in the District Meet advanced to the Regionals either individually, in a relay, or both.

Freshman Sianna Acosta placed 2nd overall in the district Dive meet and became the highest scoring diver in Ball High School history with a total score of 322 points. She's going to state!



Junior Kai Jankowiak Placed 3rd overall in both the 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle breaking both of his previously set Ball High School records and advancing to regionals.

Junior Noah Legrand-Mixon Placed 3rd overall in the 100 meter Butterfly and advanced to regionals.



Senior Kolton Bolte advanced to regionals in both the 100 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke. Sophomore Kyanna Jankowiak placed 3rd overall in the 100 Freestyle and 4th overall in the 50 freestyle and advanced to regionals in both events.

The Boys 200 Freestyle relay re-broke the school's record, Relay members include Samuel Davison, Kolton Bolte, Noah Legrand-Mixon and Kai Jankowiak.

Ball High Student Wins Graphic Design Contest

By Taylor Albert

CTE (Career & Technical Education) Practicum Graphic Design student Kaya Zamora (Senior) used her graphic design skills to win a design competition with her logo for The Botanical.

The Botanical is a new Boutique Hotel in Galveston. Kaya was honored at The Botanical Ribbon Cutting and presented with her logo on Thursday 1/5/2023. Kaya is pictured along with her Graphic Design teacher Mykel Hayden. Congratulations Kaya! Amazing work!



Interact Club: Something for Everyone

By Taylor Albert

Ball High has an assortment of different clubs to join throughout the year. One of them is Interact, a volunteer/ service-based community at Ball High School. Their motto emphasizes their purpose, "Service Over Self". For more information about Interact, contact Michael Whitman, room 2016, or by email, michaelwhitman@gisd.org



“Mama Don’t Take My Kodachrome Away”

By Rilee Whinery

Back by popular demand, Ball High’s photography class has risen from the grave and is back to stay – for good. Taught by Michael Dudas, the class once enjoyed a large and vastly popular following at Ball High, but the class was shoved to the back of the closet years ago for reasons unknown. “We decided to bring it back. I had 30 students last year – this year I have about 105.” Dudas said.

“Photography has always been a popular class, and now more students than ever before are eligible to participate,” Dudas added. “Though the class is not required for Media Arts members, many students enjoy taking this class as a favorite elective, and it has now become one of the most popular classes among the Media Arts Community.”

Alongside photography lessons, Dudas’ class also offers an array of newfound opportunities for students. On one occasion, six students from Dudas’ photography class were selected to take yearbook photos for the students at Central Middle School. This opportunity allowed the photography students to gain first-hand and real-world experience with business and photography.

The yearbook photos taken acted as a “mini fundraiser” claimed Dudas. “Central keeps a portion of the income and the photography program keeps a portion to buy more equipment, etc. It’s a creative and useful way to raise more money.” Dudas continued with, “It’s a low-cost, quality product and gives our kids experience,”

Caleb Partipilo, a junior at Ball, said “It’s really cool to be here and to be able to learn how to start running things like a business,” and “As someone who wants to go into the entertainment industry, this is how things run and we’re starting to learn how to do things by ourselves. The most engaging part is the fact that we do this ourselves.”



Don’t forget to buy your Ball High Yearbook, available in room 2063, to keep your memories of this fantastic school year. Use the QR code on back cover to purchase your book.

BESTT Students Receive CPR Training

By Lori Antunez Machado

As part of their BESTT curriculum, on Wednesday, 1/11/22, BESTT students traveled down the street to Galveston College where the students got a hands-on experience with CPR training.



The students were Cassandra Aguirre, Amy Castillo, Luis Eduardo Castillo Jr., Bryan Han, Kolby Hanson, Destiny Hernandez, Marcus Martinez, Wendy Miyares Murcia, Elise Morgan, Andrea Munguia, Maryellen Perez Escobar, Mynor Reyes Santos, Rainna Smith, Lizzette Tapia and John Viggiano.

Baseball Hosts the Fourth Annual Sandbar Showdown

By Talia Perez

Grand Oak Grizzlies



Five area baseball teams traveled to Galveston to compete in the three-day Fourth Annual Sandbar Tournament held Thursday-Saturday at Tor Field. The teams playing for the Sandbar trophy besides the host Tors were the Grand Oak Grizzlies, the Brazoswood Exporters, the Clear Creek Wildcats, the Summer Creek Bulldogs and Barbers Hill Eagles.

The Ball High squad sandwiched a pair of wins around a three game losing streak in the pre-district action. The guys with sand between their toes battled to a 2-3 record in a valiant effort to defend the home surf, but fell short when the Grizzlies ran amok.

The Tors opened play with a 3-0 shutout of Summer Creek, and then the tide changed. Grand Oak spanked the Tors 9-0 (5-0 in tournament play) and then ebb tide arrived with a 7-0 drubbing at the hands of Clear Creek and a 5-2 defeat against Barbers Hill before the Tors were buoyed by a 6-1 win over Brazoswood.

While the Boys of Summer surrendered their trophy to Grand Oak, the trophy stays in the family. Grizzly Coach Lou Ferrell is the brother of Tor Coach Russell Ferrell. Both coaches happily plied their craft in front of their mother who attended the game and sat on the Tor sidelines.



Grand Oak Grizzly's Head Coach Lou Ferrell, left, and assistant coaches Jeremy Willis, right front, and Zed Anigwe, right rear, pose with their treasured trophy.

Robotics Dominate, Qualify for Nationals

By Zander Oramous



Coming back from Christmas break we were prepared to do anything it takes to qualify to the robotics national championship in Iowa. We spent hours upon hours working with our robots in order to compete in the upcoming tournaments in January where we would face off against some of the best teams in the state. After all of our hard work that we put into these robots, the day came for our first tournament of the year, and we wanted to get off to a magnificent start!

Three teams competed that day: 400F (My team), 400C (Dylan Hester's team), and 400B (Christian Leitzell's team). We were determined to win trophies that day, and that's exactly what we did. All of our teams won most of the matches and placed high overall and were rewarded for it. That day we took home two trophies for team 400, 400B won the excellence award, an award that goes to the highest overall ranked team at the tournament who shows great all-around skills.

My team 400F won the design award, which goes to the team that shows great engineering skills in their design process of the team's Engineering notebook. This tournament gave us the determination to win even more awards at the next tournament, so we spent over 45 hours in the classroom during the past two weeks working on our robots. The day of the new tournament rolled around, and we were extremely confident.

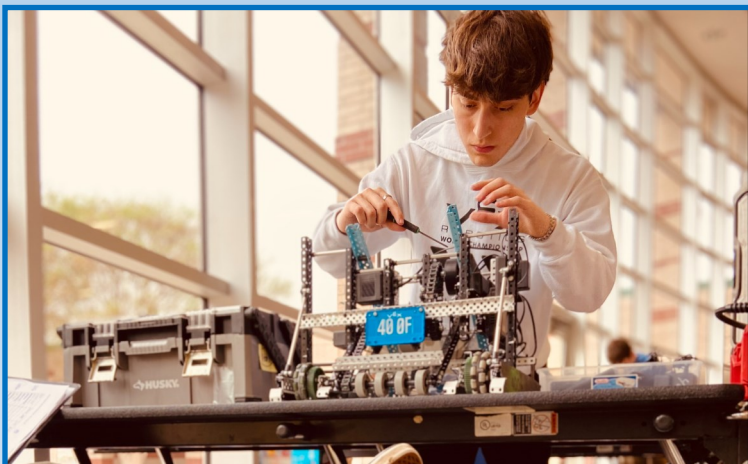
All 400 teams kicked it off with a bang by winning their first matches, but it didn't stop there. It kept going and going and before we knew it each of our teams went undefeated, winning 21 matches total and sitting at the top of the rankings. We continued winning each of our matches and finally we got to the finals where all three of our teams made it. This gave us our first two awards at the tournament by making the tournament finalist.

We played the finals match against each other and 400B (Christian Leitzell) ended up winning and taking home a tournament championship prize (3rd award). But it didn't stop there; after that battle royal my team, 400F, earned the judges award, which is given by the judges who picks a single team that they think deserves recognition of their skill (4th Award). The next award went to 400C (Dylan Hester's team) which won the skills award, an award given to the team who scores the most points solo in driving and programming (5th award).

Last but not least, 400B (Christian Leitzell) won the design award which is given to the team who has the best engineering notebook (6th award). Overall, we took six of the eight trophies that we could win at the tournament, which easily qualified our three teams to nationals in Iowa where we look to dominate and take home even more trophies.

Right: Oramous and Christian Leitzell celebrate their triumphs!

Below: Zander Oramous fine tunes his robot in preparation for competition.



Golfers Hit the Greens

By Talia Perez

The Ball High girls' varsity golf team competed at the Clear Creek Lady Wildcat Invitational at South Shore Harbor CC and Shaifer Goalen led the Lady Tors by shooting a 102, which tied for 8th place out of a total of 75 players. Liberty Cox shot a 113, which tied for 28th place.

The girls and boys golf team competed in the Texas City 9-Hole Scramble this past Tuesday at Bayou Golf Club. The Lady Tors/Tors came in tied for 6th place out of 11 schools with a score of 36. The Tors were represented by Dylan Rowe, Juan Santos and Travis Maclauchlan. The Lady Tors were represented by Mackenzie Mielsch, Ivy Culling and Josie Lorenzo.

The Tor girls and boys golf team competed in the Texas City 9-Hole Scramble this past Tuesday, Feb. 7, at Bayou Golf Club. The Lady Tors/Tors came in tied for 6th place out of 11 schools with a score of 36. The Tors were represented by Dylan Rowe, Juan Santos and Travis Maclauchlan. The Lady Tors were represented by Mackenzie Mielsch, Ivy Culling and Josie Lorenzo.

The Ball High boys' golf team competed in the Texas City Stings Invitational at Bayou Golf Club Feb.10th. The Tors came in 4th place out of 11 schools by shooting a team score of 372. This brings the Tors season record to 50-28.

Grayson Root led the Tors by shooting an 83 (personal best for the year), which came in 4th place out of 51 players. The rest of the Tors: Sully Mixon (88-10th), Preston Jinks (97-T18th), Parker Koza (104-T30th), Dylan Rowe (106-35th) and Zach Spence (108-36th).

The Ball High boys and girls golf team competed in their own Galveston Ball Valentine's Day Scramble at Moody Gardens GC.

Brooklyn Parker/Sully Mixon led the Lady Tors/Tors by shooting a 76, which came in 9th place out of a total of 50 teams(100 players). The rest of the Lady Tors/Tors were Kayleigh Loreface/Parker Koza (82-T17th), Liberty Cox/Preston Jinks (83-T19th), Shaifer Goalen/Grayson Root (85-T22nd), Jolee Kershaw/Dylan Rowe (85-T22nd), Addison Rozier/Zach Spence (90-32nd), Anna Hoffman/Price Burnette (91-T33rd) and Annie Boeh/Ryder Addison (99-38th).



The Ball High girls JV team competed in the Channelview Girls Spring Invitational in Houston at River Terrace Golf Course today. It was an individual competition only. Anna Hoffman led



the Lady Tors by shooting a 49, which tied for 4th place out of a total of 71 players. The rest of the Lady Tors were Addison Rozier (53-T12th), Annie Boeh (55-T20th), Jolee Kershaw (58-T39th) and Brooklyn Parker (62-T56th).



Baseball Returns!

By Talia Perez

The Boys of Summer returned to the field Feb. 21st against Galena Park in a practice game. Head Coach Russell Ferrell has a veteran squad returning for the '23 season.

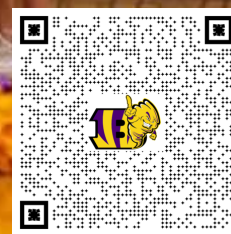
“This year we have five starters back from our playoff team from 2022. So far in our scrimmages we have shown improvement each time out, so hopefully we can build on what we’ve been doing so that we can play good through the season, and reach our goals. We are pretty thin in terms of depth, so staying healthy might be the most important thing for Tor baseball.”



Clockwise Top: Corbin Jones avoids high heat. Jones looks for a sign. Jonah Williams fires from the mound. Tors warm up on deck. Adam Ochoa takes a cut. Seth Williams grabs a grounder. Gavin Warren ready to hit.

Photos by Nicholas Galvez





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