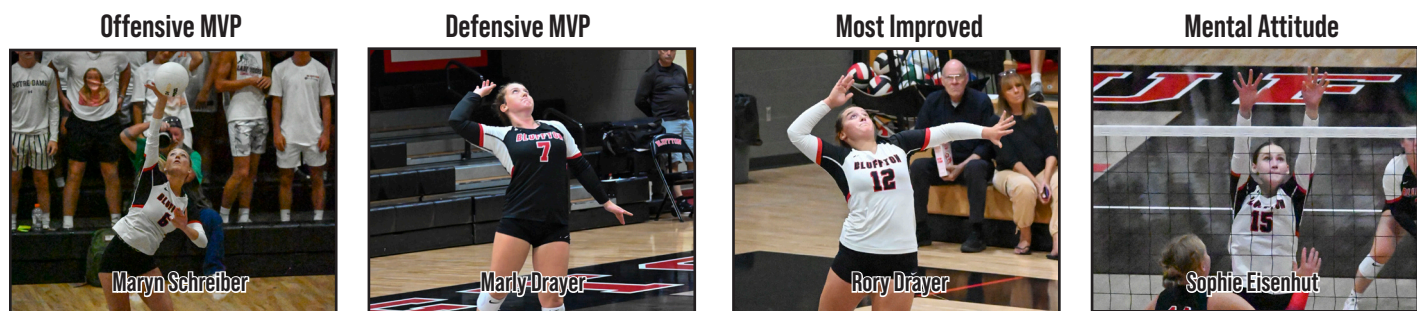
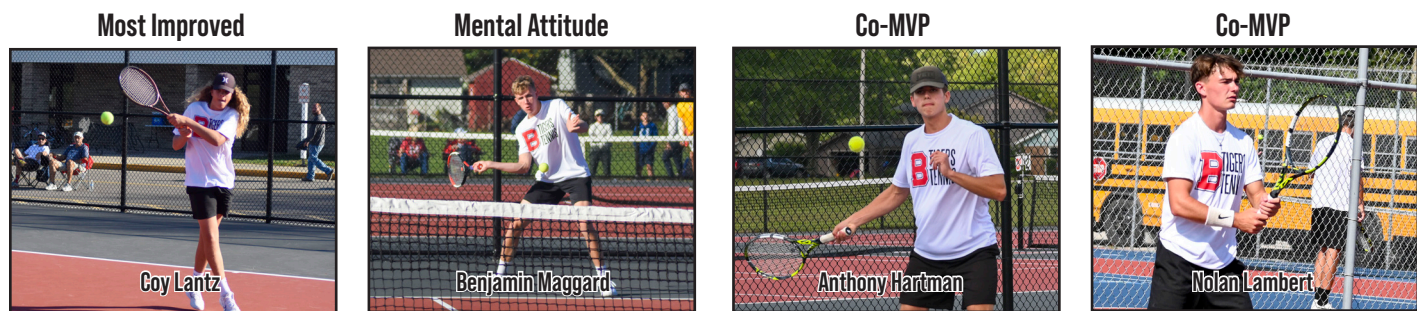


2024 Fall Sports Awards

by Nolan Lambert



THE COMET

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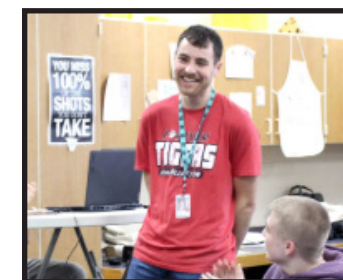
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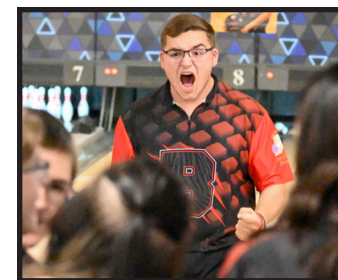
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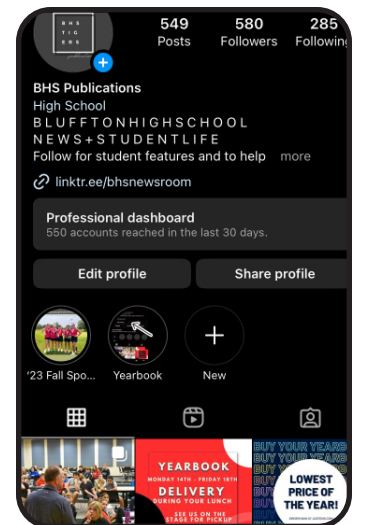
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Walmart Tragedy

By Bailey Yates

Gursimran Kaur, a 19-year-old Walmart worker in Halifax, Nova Scotia, was found dead inside a walk-in oven at Walmart on October 19, 2024. Kaur had immigrated to Canada from India with her mother. She was discovered after her mother, who also worked at the store, became concerned when she couldn't find her daughter and couldn't reach her by phone. Eventually, she found Kaur's remains inside the bakery oven. Initial reports and emergency call audio indicate that Kaur may have been accidentally locked in the oven, though the full circumstances are still under investigation. The authorities have not confirmed a cause of death, but the oven and other bakery equipment are now being removed from the store. Her family and community have expressed deep sorrow, and a vigil was held to honor her memory. The incident has drawn significant media attention and public sympathy, leading to a fundraiser by the Maritime Sikh Society to support Kaur's family, which has raised substantial donations.

Gaza's Humanitarian Crisis: A Struggle for Survival Amid Siege and Conflict

By Azimjon Bahronov

As the war between Israel and Hamas continues, northern Gaza faces a dire humanitarian crisis. For over 40 days, vital aid has been blocked from reaching areas like Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahia, and Jabalia, leaving thousands of Palestinians without food, clean water, or medical care.

The United Nations has warned that famine is imminent in parts of northern Gaza, with hospitals overwhelmed by malnutrition and dehydration cases. Bakeries have closed, nutrition programs have been suspended, and vital medical supplies are running low. Despite claims from Israel that it is allowing some aid to enter, reports from the ground show that access remains severely restricted.

In Gaza City, displaced families are filling overcrowded shelters, where resources like water and healthcare are in short supply. The situation is becoming increasingly desperate, with civilians facing worsening conditions each day.

The international community remains divided. While the UN has called for an immediate ceasefire, the US vetoed a resolution calling for one, arguing that it did not address the release of hostages held by Hamas. As the crisis deepens, the need for urgent action to deliver humanitarian aid is more critical than ever.

Missing cheese

By Evan Klopfenstein

\$390,000. According to an article posted by the AP News, that is the amount of money that was stolen in the priceless artifact known as cheese.

You may be wondering how one steals so much cheese, well I don't really know. The cheese was stolen by a mystery man who was posing as a wholesaler distributor for a major French retailer, which is why the man was able to stock up 22 metric tons of this award-winning cheese and drive away. But by the time they noticed it was a scam the culprit was long gone, so they called the police on Oct. 21.

The cheese was from three makers: Hafod Welsh organic cheddar, Westcombe cheddar, and Pitchfork cheddar. They are desperately looking for the missing cheese and have been urging cheesemongers to be on the lookout for the missing cheese.

Sanctuary or Airport?

By Alyssa Hartman

Imagine you are trying to relax while waiting in line to get through security, but then all of that changes when the man before you is asked to lift up his shirt, and they discover 2 packages with hundreds of insects inside. Creepy, right? In Peru, a 28 year-old Korean man was caught in security when they noticed his belly had looked swollen. After asking him to lift up his shirt, they found two packages, strapped to his stomach with belts, filled with hundreds of centipedes and tarantulas. More specifically, 285 young tarantulas, 35 adult tarantulas, 110 centipedes, and nine bullet ants. A wildlife specialist named Walter Silva stated, "All were extracted illegally and are part of the illegal wildlife trafficking that moves millions of dollars in the world."

What would have officials done if the insects were able to be freed in the airport?

Orkin states that the venom of bullet ants are not fatal, but can make a person wish they could die. Not to mention that the panic of hundreds of insects being released that would pan across people. These situations are dangerous because you never know what unfamiliar animal could be dangerous or not.

Instagram-Famous Squirrel Seized by New York State Authorities

By Isabela Curlless

An unlikely New York resident has made headlines, Peanut the squirrel. Peanut or P'nut rose to fame after being saved by Mark Longo. Longo rescued Peanut after watching his mom tragically get hit by a car. Longo cared for the small squirrel for about 8 months before attempting to release him into the wild. However, after he released him P'nut came right back missing almost half of his tail. In that moment Longo decided P'nut would be a permanent resident in his home. For 5 years Longo and P'nut lived happily together, just one year ago Longo started an animal sanctuary on his property. Longo says he was using Peanut's social media revenue to support the animal sanctuary.

Following multiple complaints about a wild animal within a home and the risk of rabies exposure to the public, authorities raided the home. During the raid, Peanut supposedly bit one of the investigators. The pet was recently seized and euthanized along with a raccoon, named Fred, who lived in the same residence. They were euthanized to be tested for rabies. The results of these tests have not been released.

Monkeys on the Loose

By Lance Moser

Forty three monkeys escaped from a medical research lab in South Carolina. The monkeys are no threat to the public and have no diseases and are too young and small to harm anybody. The monkeys were able to escape due to a new employee not fully locking up an enclosure. Police intend on catching the monkeys by enticing them with food.

Boys' swimming focuses on more success

By Evan Klopfenstein

The boys' swim team is coming off of a hot season. This previous year these boys won their 10th ACAC team championship to top off their undefeated season. On top of these two great accomplishments, they proceeded to win their first ever sectional championship sending many of their swimmers to state.

Many of the swimmers shared their thoughts on last season and how they would follow up with that this upcoming season.

"I think we did pretty sigma last season, and I believe we can get more sigma," Jacob Ribich said. I couldn't have said it better myself.

"I think we did good last season, but I don't want to linger on last season too much because I need to stay focused on working hard now so that we can continue last year's success," added Braden Lemler.

"I believe last year everybody had high hopes and goals, and if everybody sets good goals again this year success will follow," said Griffin Linderwell.

"I'm proud of my team for all of our success last year. We have a lot of returning members, and I think we'll have another great season," David Wes Frettinger said.

Along with the many returning swimmers, I also asked a newcomer to the swim team, Manning Nash. "I think we can attack sectionals and get another championship," he stated.

All of these were great responses showing the confidence our male swimmers have for this upcoming swim season. Hopefully, they will be able to continue the success of last season and work to add to the list of accomplishments this decorated team has.

Novak Going For Gold

By Lance Moser

Novak Djokovic is considered one of the best players to ever play the sport of tennis. He has won a total of 99 men singles titles such as 24 masters men singles titles and ten Australian open titles. In the 2011 season he hit a record high at #1 in the world. He turned pro in 2003 and has been completely dominating the sport ever since. His most recent victory was at the 2024 olympics.

Novak Djokovic played his First round Sat, July 27 against Matthew Ebden from Australia. Matthew was ranked #3 in doubles at the time but had no ranking in singles. Novak Djokovic came out explosive in the

first set and left it at 6-0. Matthew Ebden won one game in the second set but still Novak carried that explosive energy into the second set and defeated Matthew Ebden in two straight sets.

In the second round Novak Djokovic Had to play the infamous Rafael Nadal. Ranked #158 has also been mentioned as one of the greatest players to play and nicknamed the king of clay. Novak definitely had his work cut out for him but Novak didn't let that slow his tempo. Novak won the first set 6-1 leaving Rafa in the dust. Second set Rafael Nadal won a total of four games making Novak work for the second set but once again Novak came out victorious and stronger than ever.

In the third round Novak faced Dominic Keopfer from Germany. Novak had no idea that this match was going to be as close as it was. Novak in the first set one 7-5 after a long competitive first set, Novak went into the second set feeling exhausted and tired but he didn't let that slow him down. He ended the second set 6-3 and had remained dominant in singles.

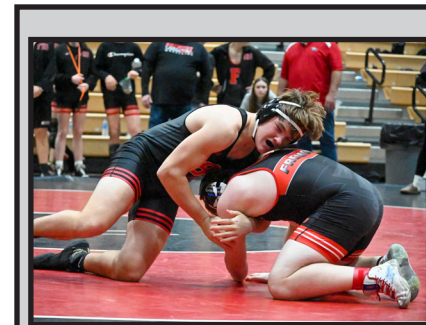
In the quarter final Novak Djokovic faced Stefanos Tsitsipas and his infamous one handed backhand. Stefanos from greece was ranked world #11 and Novak Djokovic was not slowing down for nobody. He won the first set 6-3 and went into the second set confident and strong. Stefanos Tsitsipas also went in just as strong and gave Novak a run for his money. Novak ended up winning the second set after 12 games and a tiebreaker winning 7-3 in the tie break and 7-6 in the overall set.

Novak, still going strong and defeating everybody in two straight sets, was moving on to the semi finals. His next opponent was Lorenzo Musetti from Italy. He was ranked world #18 and came out hot but couldn't withstand the heat from Novak Djokovic. Novak fought hard the first set and was victorious winning 6-4 in the first. He then showed the much younger Musetti how to really play the sport and won 6-2 in the second set.

Now was the moment Novak had been working so hard to get to. Novak's opponent was world #2 Carlos Alcaraz from Spain. Carlos Alcaraz is known for his insane sprints and sheer strength and speed on the court. This was going to be the match every tennis fan around the world would want to see and it was something to watch. Novak and Carlos in the first set both fought for victory and ended up going to the tie breaker after 12 games. Novak was victorious in the first set 7-3 in the tie breaker and 7-6 in the overall set. The second set was no different, Novak and Carlos both fighting for gold they both won six games and it ended up going to a tie breaker once again. Novak turned on the afterburners and defeated Carlos Alcaraz in two straight sets again 7-2 in the tie break and 7-6 in the overall set. After three straight hours of a back and forth battle. Novak Djokovic remained World #1 and claimed his title and 2024 Olympic men's singles gold medalist.



The boys want to replicate the success that they had last season, such as wanting to win the program's 11th-straight ACAC championship and a back-to-back Sectional title. (photo from BHS Publications archive)



Jake Boots wrestles to a victory over his opponent from Fremont. The Tiger wrestling team opened its season with a 4-1 record during the Bluffton Super Duals, defeating Heritage, Leo, Wes-Del, and Fremont.

Bluffton Boys Basketball Almost Back in Action

by Gabriel Ball

Bluffton Tiger boys basketball is just about back in action! After coming off a rebound season last year with a record of 11-12, the Tigers are looking to win a lot more games this year. The Tigers, with Coach Teagle in his second year, have five seniors this season, two of whom were starters last year.

Those two starters are Cameron Williams and Kaleb Green. Williams started as one of the two primary guards, but he must carry more responsibilities as the floor general. "I plan to try to get everyone involved and really become a team that has multiple weapons," said Williams.

Green provides several threats for Bluffton such as rebounding, scoring, and blocking shots with his long arms. "I hope to start a new culture with Coach Teagle that will carry on for the future of the program," added Green.

The other three seniors include Nolan Lambert, Benjamin Maggard, and Austin Geimer. Nolan, a three-point threat, will also be a primary defender. Maggard can help stretch the floor from deep but can also help Green with his size. Geimer returns after a year off with athleticism and grit.

Other key pieces for the Tigers will be juniors Marshall Gerber as a perimeter defender, Declan Grieser as an offensive weapon, and Griffin Morgan as a physical post presence on both ends of the court. The Tigers tip off the season on Saturday, Nov. 30 at home against Blackford.



Kaleb Green attempts a put-back dunk last year, and he will look to lead the Tigers this season.

Lady Tigers Season Opening

by Karli Anderson

Starting off the winter season right, the Bluffton girls' basketball team is currently 3-1.

The Tigers picked up a dominant win against Fort Wayne Canterbury with an ending score being 99-16. Isabella Stout scored 25. Additional scorers for Bluffton Lady Tigers included Ault (16 points), Khloe Dick (15 points), Maryn Schreiber (14 points), Kamryn Ault (11 points), Tressa Renner (6 points), Madyson Sonnigsen (4 points), Isla Gibson (4 points), and Sophie Eisenhut (4 points).

Their second win was another convincing win over Northfield with the final score being 76-42. The Bluffton Lady Tigers controlled the Norse on defense, blocking five shots and grabbing 14 steals. Bluffton Lady Tigers were led in scoring by Stout's 23 points and Dick's 21 points. Schreiber cleaned up the glass with 10 rebounds.

However, the first road trip for the Tigers was a 57-47 loss at East Noble. Stout was once again the leading scorer with 20 points, and Schreiber added a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

Bluffton recovered from that defeat with another one-sided victory at Mississinewa, 60-24. Defense was the big story in this game as the team totaled seven blocked shots and 13 steals. Schreiber scored 18 points to lead Bluffton.

The junior varsity team is currently 2-1 with wins over Northfield and Mississinewa.

Esports Season So Far

by Jayden Suman

Coming up on the end of the fall split in the Esports season, the Bluffton Cyber Tigers have been looking impressive in the three competitive esports that they offer: Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, Overwatch 2, and Tetr.io.

After week six of competition in each esports league that the Cybertigers participate in, they are 6-0 in SSBU, 6-0 in Overwatch 2, and three of the top five spots in the Tetr.io league are occupied by Cybertigers. Captains leading both teams are juniors Jayden Suman (SSBU) and Elijah McCollum (Overwatch 2) are both very pleased with the progress their teams have made throughout the season. Hunter Zoll, Bartolo Zuniga, and Jordan Jellison all occupying spots in the top five league standings for Tetr.io which shows that the Cyber Tigers have standout talents for every sport that they are participating in this year!

After the success of the recent SSBU tournament at the school, the Cybertigers hope to keep their momentum going for the remainder of the season. The league has finished its first of two "splits." For esports, a season has four phases: a preseason phase with two matches per team, the fall and spring splits, which compose the regular season, and the postseason tournament to determine the winner of the state championship in each division, single A (A), double A (AA), and triple A (AAA). The Cybertigers are in the AA division this season after spending the program's early years in the A division. Looking impressive early on in the season, but still with many matches and the rest of the school year to go, the Cybertigers hope to keep up their momentum when the spring split begins in January as they seek more state championship success.

NHS Inducts New Members

The National Honor Society hosted its annual induction ceremony on October 29. Inductees met the academic and service requirements to achieve the recognition. To share in the honor, they invited parents and their most impactful teacher. Current officers Anthony Hartman, Marly Drayer, and Griffin Linderwell conducted the ceremonies.

Army of Racoons

by Lance Moser

In Kitsap County, Washington state, The Kitsap County sheriff's department got a strange call concerning 50-100 racoons. A woman called the cops because she had to flee her property due to 50-100 racoons coming to her property and acting aggressively. She stated in her report that she started feeding a family of racoons about a decade ago, and until about six weeks ago, almost 100 of them started showing up and demanding food.

The sheriff's department told her that due to the fact that she was the one who brought this upon herself that she would have to deal with it. Thankfully, The racoons have started to leave because she stopped feeding them.

Cook Named Teacher of the Year

By Amarah Robles

Every year, a BHMSD teacher is selected to win the title of Teacher of the Year. Annually, one teacher is selected in a rotation between Bluffton Harrison Elementary School, Bluffton Harrison Middle School, and our very own, Bluffton High School. The recipient for last year was Mr. Bueter, who entered his retirement in May. The year previous to Mr. Bueter was awarded to Elementary technology teacher, Mr. Amstutz, most commonly known as DJ Pawz. Before him was Bluffton High School's Mrs. Cocanower. Cocanower went on to win Indiana Teacher of the Year for the year 2023 in the state-wide competition.

The results for this year are in! The winner is BHS's computer science and math teacher, Mr. Cook. Cook was paraded around the school on Friday, November 15th. He was joined by his

family in this celebration. Congratulations to Mr. Cook on all of the heart, passion and hard-work that he pours into his teaching.

Creative Arts Council's Exerpts From The Nutcracker

by Isabela Curless

The Creative Arts Council has been hard at work lately preparing for their upcoming production of Excerpts from The Nutcracker. This yearly holiday favorite features students from the CAC's Dance Academy. These students are performing several scenes including the Party Scene, Waltz of the Snowflakes, variations, and Waltz of the Flowers. Some of the variations they will perform include the Sugar Plum Fairy, Russian, Spanish, and more. The CAC's Dance Academy students will perform on Friday, December 6th at 7 pm and Saturday, December 7th at 3 pm in the Life Church Auditorium located at 428 S Oak St in Bluffton, IN. Tickets cost \$5 at the door.

Mini Moon

by Lance Moser

Astronomers from Complutense University of Madrid located in Sutherland, South Africa, have discovered an asteroid that is going to zip past Earth and get caught in its gravitational pull. They believe the asteroid will orbit Earth for about two months. Sadly, it will not be visible to the naked eye or with an amateur telescope. It will circle Earth for about 57 days but will not make a complete orbit and will end its orbit on Nov. 25.

Timothee Chalamet Crashes His Own Party

by Karli Anderson

Actor Timothée Chalamet made a surprise appearance at his own look-alike contest in Lower Manhattan. This event had hundreds of Timothée look-alikes. There was a dispersal order from police and at least one arrest. With bodyguards Timothée Chalamet saw all the look-alikes dressed as some of Timothée's big roles "Wonka" and "Dune". Just as the look-alikes began using the red carpet at Washington Square Park, police ordered the large group to leave and gave them a \$500

fine for an "unpermitted costume contest". At least one of the look-alikes was taken away in handcuffs. NYPD said charges were pending.

Trump Wins Presidential Election


by Connor Klopfenstein

The President of the United States is decided by whichever of the two candidates reaches 270 electoral votes. This year's winner is Donald J. Trump (Republican) with 277 electoral votes while Kamala Harris (Democrat) had 224. This is his second time being the President with his prior presidency in 2016.

Trump's victory is based off him winning the key swing states, including Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. This victory also makes history as it is just the second time a President has been reelected to serve non-consecutive terms after losing the 2020 election to Joe Biden.

While the senator elected for Indiana is Jim Banks with 58% of Indiana voting for him.

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JUST KIDDING! BUT ALL SENIORS ARE REQUIRED TO TURN IN THEIR SENIOR PORTRAIT, BABY PHOTO, SENIOR QUOTE, AND SENIOR SUPERLATIVES BY DEC 6TH.

Cover Photos

NHS: Griffin Linderwell & Emmitt Flechter (by Mr. Vanderkolk)
Mr. Cook: Mr. Cook (by Mrs. Bricker)
Classrooms: Colt Ternet in German (by Aubree Williamson)
Spotlight: Miken Habegger (by Mr. Vanderkolk)
Voyages: Bengal Brigade (courtesy Alyssa Hartman)
Spotlight: Miken Habegger (by Mr. Vanderkolk)
XC Postseason: Jude Baumgartner (by Mr. Vanderkolk)
Basketball: Tressa Renner & Konley Ault (by Lance Moser)

The Eras Tour Historical Journey

By Chloe Engle

The Eras Tour, an ongoing tour by the singer-songwriter Taylor Swift, will conclude in Vancouver, Canada, on December 8, 2024. The Eras Tour began in Glendale, Arizona, on March 17, 2023. This tour will mark a monumental milestone for Swift with 152 dates in stadiums and arenas stretching along multiple continents. Beyond the artistic success of the Eras Tour, this tour has also broken numerous records.

Swift's 3.5 hour long show spanned through each era of her musical career which will mark her tour as one of the most successful tours in music history, and it later became the highest-grossing tour by a female music artist. Not only did she gross over 1 billion dollars from the Eras Tour, but she has broken attendance records at various stops on her tour. Fans without tickets would gather outside to sing and dance along with Swift and other fans. In Philadelphia, it was determined that around 57,000 fans gathered outside throughout all 3 nights. Swift has also boosted the economy in the cities she has made a stop at with hotels, food, and merchandise. The Eras Tour solidified Swift's cultural and economic influence her music has on her fans and communities worldwide.



Seniors Karli Anderson, Amarah Robles, and Chloe Engle attend the Eras Tour in Indianapolis. They were among the reported 207,000 fans in attendance over the three-night concert. (photo provided)

Super Smash Bros Tournament

By Kayla Morgan

The third annual Super Smash Bros tournament was hosted this year by Adams/Wells Internet Telecom. The tournament had 60 people from all around Bluffton, including competitors from Southern Wells and South Adams who came in their esports jerseys, come compete.

Congratulations to the award winners. Cohen Miller from Southern Wells capped an awesome third place finish. Second place went to Jordan Troyer, a recent Bluffton graduate. This year's champion is Deacon Yates, a student at Bluffton-Harrison Middle School.

With the money raised, the esports middle school team will be able to fully outfit the middle school program with two additional Nintendo Switches and TVs that will allow them to have their entire roster of students competing on teams the remainder of the year.

Teentober in the Library



The Bluffton High School library awarded gift baskets to their winning entries in the Teentober library activities. They had over 70 students participate in the ghost hunting and pumpkin picking, and there were several submissions to the bookmark design contest. Phoenix Cook and Layna Murray (pictured) were among the winners. Others included Karli Anderson, Amarah Robles, Avery Hunt, and Zada Ford.

Around the Classroom

By Kayla Morgan



Top Left: Jordan Fear works on cutting out images using Photoshop for the yearbook with the help of Mr. Vanderkalk.



Top Middle: Hannah Sexton and Corbin Trigg show off their Halloween attire while assisting Mrs. Fritz and Mrs. Turner in the library work room.



Top Right: Luke Jennings (right) and Tristan Ault work diligently on the Algebra assignments in Mrs. Jeffers's class.



Bottom Left: Ashley Morphew (right) and Kylie Hiser create their color wheels in Ms. VanMatre's Intro to 2D/3D Art class.



Bottom Middle: Freshmen Briana Ortiz, Chloe Lesh, and Maci Williams miss the memo during Mix it Up Day.



Bottom Right: RyLynn Penick rolls out her dough before baking her pie in Mrs. Reed's Culinary Arts class.

Tyson versus Paul in controversial boxing match

By Jordan Fear

On March 7, 2024, the word was spread throughout the world that Mike Tyson and Jake Paul were going to fight on July 20. However, the fight then got moved back to November 15 because of some of Tyson's health issues. The announcement of the fight caused the internet to go crazy. Paul and Tyson even released some satire of their own to get the world more anxious about the fight. The day before the fight, they did weigh-ins. As they were doing the face-offs for the press, Paul crawled up to Tyson and accidentally stepped on his toe, causing Tyson to viciously smack Jake across the face. Paul then said, "He hits like a girl" and that "It did not hurt."

The day of the fight, Paul had his outfit for the fight, and it was said to be over one million dollars. It had 380 carats of diamonds and jewels, including sparkling shorts, chains, and shoes. Tyson, on the other hand, seemed to be wearing close to nothing in his pre-fight interview.

This was one of Netflix's first sports live streams, and people were not pleased with the way it was broadcast. They mostly said that it would often buffer and freeze, which is not ideal for watching boxing. After the fight, people voiced their frustrations with Netflix's struggles and were very upset about Netflix's delay.

There was a big debate online before the fight that people were trying to argue or persuade people about who they thought was going to win. By far the biggest debate in this whole fight was if it was going to be faked or not. Most people seemed to think it was going to be faked just to bring in money, but a small percentage of people thought that it was real and that it was going to be the fight of the decade. As we came to see, the fight proved to be fake, as Paul and Tyson danced around the ring for eight rounds. Paul was crowned in the end with a unanimous decision, and the big event came to an end.

Girls swimming team starts its season

By Timothy Lanning

The Bluffton High School Tigersharks girls swimming team started the season against Huntington North. The girls put up a good fight, with many new swimmers joining the team.

Although the girls did not win, they still showed great competitiveness, with Adalynn Fiechter taking first place in the diving competition. In the 200 freestyle relay with Gabriella Coyne, Kierstynn Reed, Tess Frauhiger, and Fiechter coming in first. In the 100-meter breaststroke, Coyne won by breaking the school record with a time of 1:20.67.

The Bluffton Tigersharks will have the next meet at home against Jay County on Dec. 3. The boys will start their season against Jay County on the same date.



Tess Frauhiger, Adalynn Fiechter, and Addison Smith pose at the opening meet. (photo by Gabrielle VanCamp)

Both Cross Country Teams Run to Historic Post-season Success

by Connor Klopfenstein

The boys' and girls' cross country teams both had great seasons.

The boys won Sectional with Levi Johns placing second (16:24.2), Jude Baumgartner placed third (16:28.5), Aidan Graves placed ninth (16:58.9 - PR), Jackson Rockwell placed 23rd (17:44.3 - PR), and Griffin Linderwell placed 29th (17:57.5) to round out the scoring. Ryan Schlagenhaut placed 37th (18:11 - PR), and Owen Lesh placed 46th (18:40.2) to help secure the victory.

At the Regional, Jude ran a 16:35.0 and placed 25th, qualifying him for State. At State, he ran a 16:36.3 and placed 144th. Counting the 1969 State-qualifying team, Jude is the 13th Bluffton boy to run at State and just the seventh to do so as an individual.

The girls placed third in Sectionals, qualifying the team for Regional for the first time since 2001. Abigail Ramseyer placed fourth and ran a 19:45.5, which was just the second 5k under 20:00 in program history, and Cora Kunkel placed eighth and ran a 20:12.3. Reagan Harris placed 26th and ran a 21:52.8 (PR), Briana Ortiz placed 47th and ran a 23:34.4, and Amarah Robles placed 49th and ran a 23:39.1 (PR) to wrap up the scoring. Addison Sonnigsen's 59th place (24:35.4) earned Bluffton the tiebreaker over Adams Central. Kierstynn Reed placed 72nd and ran a 26:36.4.

At Regional, Abigail broke the school record for the 5k with 19:29.0 and finished 29th, qualifying her for State. The freshman placed 126th and ran a time of 19:44.9. She is just the third Bluffton girl to run at State, the first since Susan Barth in 1998.



The boys' cross country team holds their Sectional trophy and the girls' team poses together after a pair of historic races at the Delta Sectional at Taylor University. Both teams qualified for Regional for the first time since 1999. (photos provided)

Voyage to State

By Alyssa Hartman

Did you know within the past four years, the Bluffton Bengal Brigade has been seen at the ISSMA Scholastic Finals 3 times? The Brigade earned titles as Class C Champions in 1979 and 1980, and has appeared at ISSMA Scholastic Finals in Class D eight times.

The Bluffton Bengal Brigade starts their season in July with two weeks of camp to get the gist of their drill, choreography, music, and overall, show. They then continue with 3 days of rehearsal every week, until their season ends. Their first competition was the 'On The Banks of the Wabash', which Bluffton hosts. They performed for the first time as an exhibition, under the lights, with bands and families surrounding them. Then, the Brigade continued with their performances at the football game vs Woodlan. The day after, the band traveled to Dekalb High School for a competition, which they brought home the 2nd place trophy. Carroll High School hosted the next competition the band competed in, and they earned the 2nd place trophy and the caption for Best General Effect.

For the next two Saturdays, the band competed at Homestead High School. The first competition was for the Fall Festival of Bands, which they unfortunately didn't place. The week after, the Bluffton Bengal Brigade scored a gold rating and went onto ISSMA Scholastic Finals at Franklin Central High school in Indianapolis. The Brigade competed with 15 other bands in the same scholastic class, and placed eighth. Throughout the season, the band has had many laughs and triumphs, and are glad to see that their hard work proved worthy.

The release of Call of Duty Black Ops 6

By Aubree Williamson

Recently, the Call of Duty Black Ops 6 was released on all platforms. Since the release, there have been a number of mixed reactions and opinions, especially considering the disappointment from the last release of Modern Warfare III.

I think COD players always have at least three things to complain about. Many players usually have at least reasonable things to complain about, as for most of them, they seem to be stuck on nostalgia. They get mad when they keep the formula, and they get mad when they change it. "Multiplayer is [garbage] and Black Ops II is the best," said Daniel Bodenheimer. But that statement excludes you, Daniel. You're pretty cool.

A positive look at that nostalgia comes from another adaptation of the popular map Nuketown. "Nuketown is goated, and the Easter eggs are good," said sophomore Gavin Quillen.

I myself was so excited for Nuketown to be back considering BO2 is my favorite. Although I may be a hypocrite, as it felt very refreshing to see something nostalgic but not overdone, I also liked how classic the scorestreak system felt.

As another positive note, I was quite impressed with zombies. The Easter eggs, such as the teddy bear in Mr. Peeks' car that gives bonus points, aren't required, but they're entertaining to add a layer to the survival rounds. One thing I think is really dope is when some of the zombies turn into the new varmint creatures.

Moving to the campaign, I personally have not gotten the chance to play the campaign yet, but some are claiming that this is the best campaign we've had in a few years. Some are claiming it's completely worth playing, has interesting characters, and amazing level design.

Overall, Black Ops 6 offers nostalgia without being overdone since it feels familiar while introducing a lot of new features and maps. There's also a good storyline, so everyone has an option for their style of play.

How to Deal with Stress Around the Holidays

By Isabela Curless

With the holidays coming up, families coming together, and presents to buy, stress levels are increasing. Here are a few tips to manage the holiday stress.

- 1. Take a step back and do some square breathing**
 Taking a step away from the chaos and just doing some breathing exercises can reduce some of the stress caused by the holidays. One breathing exercise I recommend is called square breathing, so you breathe in for five, hold for five, then exhale for five, wait for five, and repeat.
- 2. Set boundaries and say no**
 Don't be afraid to tell people "no" and state what you are comfortable with. It doesn't make you selfish or inconsiderate. In fact, setting boundaries is a healthy way to protect your well-being. Whether it's declining an invitation, saying no to extra responsibilities, or limiting your time, it's important to communicate your limits respectfully.
- 3. Get plenty of sleep**
 While it may be tempting to stay up playing games and talking to your family, be sure to get enough sleep. Lack of sleep can increase stress and affect your mood and energy levels. Aim for 7-9 hours of sleep a night to help recharge and stay balanced.
- 4. Stay hydrated**
 Make sure you are drinking enough water during the holiday season. Staying hydrated is crucial for maintaining energy levels, supporting digestion, and managing stress. Aim for at least eight cups of water a day, carrying a reusable water bottle with you can help remind you to drink throughout the day. Proper hydration can also improve your mood and help you feel more refreshed and focused.
- 5. Don't overschedule yourself**
 It's easy to get caught up in attending every event, completing every task, and pleasing everyone during the holidays. However, over-scheduling yourself can lead to burnout and increase stress. Be realistic about what you can accomplish and make sure to leave gaps in your schedule for relaxation and downtime. Prioritize the activities that are most meaningful to you and don't be afraid to turn down invitations or delegate tasks if needed.

Bluffton High School hosts multiple convocations

By Bailey Yates



During this quarter, we have had multiple convocations. From celebrating sports and academics to finding a future plan, these convocations have supported the students of Bluffton High School.

The fall celebration recognized students from athletics to extracurricular activities. Mr. Baker and Mr. Thompson utilized puns and dad jokes to tell the story of this fall season. Bluffton High School is proud of the accomplishments of the individuals recognized.

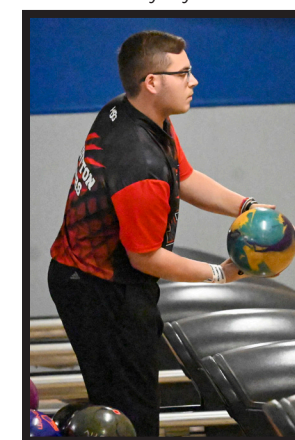
Triple E Day, now mandatory for all students, spread the message of how to find a path for after graduation. The three E's stand for employment, enlistment, and enrollment. Each of the E's represent a pathway for students to pursue. For the employment, managers from local businesses shared their insight on how to apply for a job and what they are looking for in an employee. In the enlistment section, recruiters shared the benefits offered when joining the military and attending college. For enrollment, seniors learned where to look for and how to apply to scholarships. The underclassmen set up their future schedule for their next years at the high school. In conclusion, Triple E Day is a great learning experience for the students at Bluffton High School.

Veterans' Day, led by the student council, was a great success. It recognized veterans and active duty members in our community. The slideshow with pictures and descriptions submitted by students and faculty was a heartfelt moment for the presentation. The speech by Tom Baker, Mr. Baker's brother, touched the heart of the students and Mr. Baker alike. Emotions filled the room. Respect radiated as students formed a line to shake the hands of the veterans in attendance.

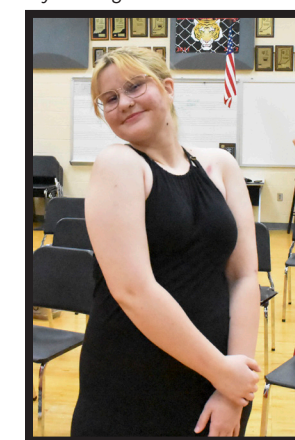
BHS Student Spotlights: Miken Habegger and Sierra Clark

By Elycia Herrada and Kayla Morgan

Miken Habegger, a junior at Bluffton High School, has made waves in the bowling alleys around the state. Miken has not only led the Bluffton bowling team to a runner-up finish in the Hoosier Conference, but he has tallied up serious success independently. He has competed in professional tournaments, and he has tallied up multiple perfect games of 300. On senior night last week, Miken nailed 12-straight strikes during the team's Baker format match. He credits his love of the game to his "Paw Paw," and he dreams of being a college and professional bowler.



Miken Habegger



Sierra Clark

Sierra Clark, a sophomore and one of many Bluffton High School choir students, has put herself in position as one of the highest soprano singers in the state. At this year's fall celebration, Sierra received recognition for her award in choir for her accomplishments. Sierra didn't know about this, so she was very excited and happy to hear the news as she received the opportunity. The thing she loves most about choir is the different music choice and how free their songs are. She even has plans to continue music after high school by doing musical education.

What Dishes Should I Be Excited to Try on Thanksgiving?

By Azimjon Bahronov.

As an exchange student from Uzbekistan, Thanksgiving is a completely new experience for me. Back home, we have our own holidays, but nothing quite like the big Thanksgiving celebration here in the United States. I've heard so much about the food and the tradition, and now I'm wondering—what dishes should I be most excited to try on Thanksgiving?

I've been talking to my host family and friends, and they've all told me about some classic Thanksgiving dishes I should definitely look forward to. The first one they mention is **turkey**. This is the star of the meal, and I'm really curious to try it! In Uzbekistan, we don't often eat turkey, so it'll be a whole new flavor experience for me. I've heard that turkey is usually roasted to perfection, and it's often served with a savory gravy. I'm excited to see how it compares to other meats like chicken or lamb that we eat back home.

Another dish I'm excited to try is **stuffing**. It's made with bread, herbs, vegetables, and sometimes even sausage. It sounds a little like the pilaf we make in Uzbekistan, but with a totally different flavor profile. I'm especially intrigued by how it pairs with the turkey, as everyone tells me it's a perfect combination. I've never tasted anything quite like it, so I can't wait to give it a try!

Then there's **mashed potatoes**—something I've heard so much about! In Uzbekistan, we have potatoes in various forms, but mashed potatoes are not a common dish for us. I've been told they're creamy, buttery, and always served with rich **gravy**. This sounds like the perfect comfort food, and I'm eager to see what makes them so special on Thanksgiving.

And of course, I can't forget about **pumpkin pie**. In Uzbekistan, we don't use pumpkin in desserts, so I'm really curious to taste this famous Thanksgiving treat. The combination of sweet pumpkin and spices like cinnamon and nutmeg, all in a flaky crust, sounds absolutely delicious. I'm excited to see why it's such an important part of the holiday.

In addition to these dishes, I've heard that there are other sides like **green bean casserole**, **cranberry sauce**, and even **sweet potatoes** that I should try. I'm not sure what they'll taste like, but I'm open to trying everything! Each dish seems so different from the foods I'm used to, and I'm excited to discover which ones will become my new favorites.

Thanksgiving is a time to try new things, and I'm looking forward to experiencing the flavors and traditions of this holiday. I might even find some dishes I can bring back home to share with my family in Uzbekistan. For now, I'm just excited to sit down at the table and try all the amazing dishes that make Thanksgiving so special!

Top Five Christmas Movies to Watch

By Lance Moser

- Starting at number five we have *The Polar Express*. The Polar Express is a fun exciting movie where a kid gets on a magical train to go see Santa Claus. The kid is given a bell that does not ring but once he believes in Santa, the bell starts to ring.
- At number four we have *Home Alone 1*. *Home Alone* being one of the most popular Christmas movies is a suspenseful and hilarious movie about a kid being left at home (by accident) and left to defend the house from potential robbers. Using creative thinking the kid saves his home by setting traps around the house.
- At number three we have *The Grinch*. A movie all about spreading love and kindness during Christmas teaching that family and friends is the most important thing during the holidays. The story about a man who hates Christmas and wants to take it all away so nobody can have it takes a huge turn and heads for the better. A little girl who loves Christmas is able to show him what Christmas is all about.
- And at number two we have *Elf*. *Elf* features a human man raised by elves at the North Pole. He embarks on a quest to find his birth father in New York City. Along the way, he meets his brother, falls in love, saves his dad from the naughty list, and saves Christmas.
- Our top movie is *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*. No family is perfect, and this top movie proves that. It shows a dysfunctional family around the holidays. Lots of things go wrong in the days leading up to Christmas, but the family finds a way to enjoy each other and their Christmas celebration.

Best Black Friday Shopping Tips and Ideas

By Kyan Crowe

General tips for the best deals

- Start early
- Skip in-store sales and shop online
- Compare prices using websites and apps
- Use loyalty programs
- Get social
- Create budgets and stick to it
- Check all store policies in advance

Tips For TV Shoppers

- Wait until Black Friday to buy
- Beware of the cheapest set
- Use caution for misleading "deals"

Best items to watch

- Cell phones
- Personal computers and laptops
- Top-brand clothing
- Jewelry and accessories
- Shoes and footwear
- Video games and consoles
- Trending water bottles
- Room decor
- Subscription services