

Through The Eagle Eye



SPECIAL
EDITION

BEAUFORT HIGH SCHOOL

THE NEWSPAPER CLUB

DECEMBER ISSUE

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CROSS-WORD ON THE BACK!

Students on the clock: how Beaufort High teens keep local restaurants running

By Piper Kennedy

In Beaufort, it's not unusual to walk into a local restaurant and spot a familiar face, because chances are, your server, hostess, or food packager might also be in your fourth period class. For years, restaurants like Ocha Indeed, Upper Crust, Dockside, and Hearth have been quietly powered by high school students, many of whom have been working since before they could drive.

These restaurants have earned a reputation for being high-schooler-friendly, offering flexible hours, and positive work environments that feel more like a community than a workplace. For many students, the afterschool shift isn't just a job, it's a rite of passage. Senior Claire McDaniel, past chef, now waiter at Ocha Indeed, describes her coworkers as a "family." She says, "At Ocha, we call our boss mom, the vegetable cutter in the back, Grandma, and our coworkers up front, little brothers. Even those in the back who could only speak Thai became a part of the Ocha family."

As a server at Ocha Indeed, I started working my freshman year, and there's always been a large group of high schoolers employed. Currently, there are 6 other BHS students who work there, and many Beaufort High alumni who have been working since high school. It can actually be funny when you realize almost the entire restaurant is being run by high school students some nights. In my opinion, they run more smooth than when it's all adults.



[The Upper Crust Grilled Chicken Salad--a classic for a reason. This one was made by recent BHS graduate Damien Veliz]

Then, at The Upper Crust, students quickly swap their school uniforms for khakis and their UC T-shirt. By dinner rush, the students are greeting regulars, running food, putting in pizzas, and multitasking like seasoned adults. Working together, the students have bonded over problem-solving experiences, which have carried over to the classes that they share. Paige Fosberry, senior and server at The Upper Crust, says, "It's not just the money that keeps me working; genuinely, I have a good time every shift." From delivery drivers to cooks to servers, Upper Crust wouldn't be the same without the students.

These students don't just run some of Beaufort's most popular spots; they also balance homework, extracurriculars, and weekend doubles. Maggie Brown, senior and server at The Upper Crust, participates in an array of activities at school, from soccer to Interact club. She explains that "they accommodate my soccer schedule, and

so it's really easy to balance my sport and work." The payoff is clear: independence, people skills, and a work ethic that will continue forward into their futures.

Whether they're serving Pad Thai, tossing pizza dough, or lighting up the wood-fired oven, Beaufort High School students are proving they can handle more than just grades-- they're handling the workforce as well.



[Ocha workers (of them 7 BHS students) enjoying their 2024 Christmas party]

Go Green: benefits and tips to going vegetarian

By Piper Kennedy

Have you ever wondered if you could fully eliminate meat in your life and only eat plants? My name's Piper Kennedy and last April I decided to take on the challenge of going vegetarian. Without meat on my plate I've seen benefits for my personal health, and learned the impact of meat-diets on the environment. Though it may seem daunting to give up Chick-Fil-A sandwiches or McDonalds chicken nuggets, the benefits of going vegetarian are substantial, and making the switch is easier than it may sound.

shrink our environmental footprint. Moreover, pollution from livestock production largely comes from animal waste, which can runoff into our waterways and harm aquatic ecosystems, destroy important topsoil, and even contaminate the air- which doesn't just harm animals but also humans. Additionally, 30% of earth's land surface is now used for livestock and most of that land is used for grazing. As a result, vital habitats and ecosystems are destroyed. In Beaufort High's AP Environmental Science class, we were

tasked with completing a short quiz that would determine the number of earths needed to sustain our lifestyle (QR code to quiz below). I, being the only vegetarian of the class, received the smallest number of earths (3), less than even the world average of 5 earths. It goes to show the significance of cutting out meat in your life, and I suggest you take the quiz to see your very own environmental footprint to become cognizant of not just your lifestyle choices, but diet choices that may impact our planet.



Why consider going vegetarian?

One of the biggest motivations is health. Well-planned vegetarian diets tend to be rich in vitamins, minerals, and fiber while being low in saturated fats. Those who swap meat for plant based proteins often report having more consistent energy and fewer afternoon slumps. Foods like beans, lentils, tofu, eggs, nuts, whole grains, and vegetables can provide all the nutrients we need. Eliminating meat consumption can lead to significant health and environmental benefits, encouraging more home-cooked, nutritious meals and reducing processed fast



Tips for becoming vegetarian!

Making the switch doesn't have to be all-or-nothing. Here are some beginner friendly ways to ease into a vegetarian diet.

1. Start Small
Many friends of mine have participated in "No-Meat November", "Meatless Mondays", or cut out meat for Lent. Make sure you're able and willing to do the vegetarian lifestyle for shorter periods of time before fully committing to it.

2. Introduce yourself to protein alternatives and new foods
Tofu, tempeh, beans, lentils, nuts, quinoa, and eggs make it easy to ensure you get your daily protein in. It's much easier to find vegetarian options on store shelves and restaurant menus than you would think, though I do have to warn, sometimes this could be hard if you are a picky eater and not open to trying new foods. (I highly recommend tofu though - once you start eating it you'll begin to fall in love!)

3. Build balanced meals
A good vegetarian plate includes a protein source, whole grain (like rice or pasta), and plenty of vegetables. Oftentimes, I eat like a rabbit: fruit for breakfast, celery and carrots for lunch, then roasted vegetables for dinner, but I've found my body adjusting to the veggies and feeling full off of just a few bites.

4. Try vegetarian versions of your favorites
Just because you aren't eating meat doesn't mean you have to cut out chicken wings, burgers, or other favorite foods. There's usually alternatives for everything, whether that be cauliflower wings or veggie burgers - all much better than you'd expect!

5. Be patient with yourself- accidents happen!
Sometimes you'll make a mistake and have an accidental bite of meat, or not realize there's a secret meat ingredient in the meal, don't just quit, this is actually bound to

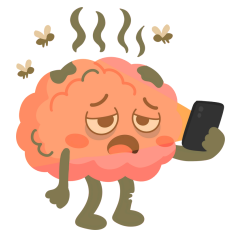
happen. If mistakes ever occur, just brush it off and think about how far you've come and why you're doing it.

Remember going green often feels like you're all alone, sometimes people will judge and be confused; sometimes there may not be options for you to eat. But you'd be surprised by how many people will support you and help you out. Don't be scared to tell your family, boss, and friends about your diet shift, because they most likely will be willing to accept the changes and also go green.



[QR above leads to the Ecological Footprint Calculator, take the quiz to find out how many Earths it takes to sustain your life!]

Is the future brain rot?



By Paige Fosberry

Have you ever heard others quoting weird names or strange phrases? To many teachers dismay, “6-7” and “Skibidi-rizz” have been proliferating throughout classrooms. These strange terms all fall under one specific category: ‘brain rot.’ The term ‘brain rot’ has been around for a while, but only recently has it become a widespread phenomenon. Senior Noah Cayanan says the first time he heard the term ‘brain rot’ used was in “mid-late 2024.” According to Cayanan, “brainrot has become a real issue meant to target younger audiences.” He notes how his six younger siblings are all affected by these videos spending countless hours watching memes. He says that this without a doubt “decreases their attention span and motivation to do other tasks.” Freshman Reid Bryson observes that almost every day, “kids in my classes yell out brainrot,” and he often catches himself “cracking jokes about Al Jamaican.”

As forms of short media like TikTok and Instagram reels have surged in popularity, brain-rotting-type videos have sequentially become larger, as well. Video games have also been integrated with various forms of brainrot, further increasing viewership.

What is considered brain rot, is a seemingly never ending list, some examples being: the John Pork, Tim Cheese timeline, Italian brainrot (ex. Tralalero Tralala), “Gyattttt”, skibidi toilet, sigma/alpha, and many more. In a brief poll of whether students preferred John Pork or Tim Cheese, 100% of respondents chose John Pork. This preference was due to the reason John Pork was “killed by Tim Cheese.” The fact that all students were aware of who John Pork and Tim Cheese were reflects the prevalence of these memes.

A strange feature of these recent memes is their randomness. Cayanan hypothesizes that the reason for this is because, “as brain rot has evolved, people are more used to what’s normal and won’t be entertained unless it’s really out of this world.” Are people just bored, or is there a deeper, more serious problem going on behind the scenes?



[Noah Cayanan holding a picture of Tim Cheese]

South Carolina bans phones in school



By Destiny Willis

In South Carolina, schools require phones to be stored away throughout the entire school day, which became effective January 2025. The state’s Board of Education voted unanimously on this back in September 2024, waiting for the next school year to come around to enforce it. Some believe that this could be a good change for our education, like freshman Sofia Betancourt, who says, “Because of the phone ban, kids can socialize with their free time instead of being on their phones and not learning.” Some believe that removing phones from the classroom can limit distractions and improve grades. Others strongly disagree. “It’s dangerous with the outbreaks of violence that’s been happening lately, and unnecessary since a lot of us aren’t as focused on our phones but passing,” says Raymind Simmons, another student here at Beaufort High. Yet some students don’t think that this changes much at all

since, even before the phone ban, students weren’t allowed to use their phones during class anyway.

South Carolina’s Department of Education says it strives to create “a phone-free school environment that fosters a positive learning experience free from distractions.” They also claim 50% of students get 237 notifications every day, stating that they at least look at a hundred of them while in class.

Cell phones, headphones, and AirPods should not be visible during the school day. Students may carry them in a backpack or pocket, but they should not be used or seen. Of course, we have to think about the consequences if we break this rule. Teachers will document any violations in accordance with school policy, which is a write-up and confiscation the first time. You can get it back at the end of the

day, but if it’s taken twice, your parent or guardian must come to get it for you.

Overall, it’d be safe to assume that this phone ban isn’t going to change soon unless the school sees negative results. I’d suggest that if you have a medical plan with the school, you make sure your teachers know this and have them work with you to ensure safety, with these insights in mind. How far can we go to embrace these changes as students?

A week of the menu of Beaufort High lunches: review as a picky eater

By Camille Giblin

Monday- Pizza- Rating 6/10

- The pizza is very cheesy which is good, the crust is a little dry, but pizza isn't my favorite so it wasn't rated very high.

Tuesday- Thanksgiving meal- Rating 9/10

- This meal was very good. We had turkey, stuffing, bread, corn, mashed potatoes, and other sides we could choose from. The turkey was juicy, the mashed potatoes had gravy on them and were flavorful.

Wednesday- Lasagna- Rating 7/10

- The lasagna is good. It is layered well and filled with flavor. It can sometimes be too dry or hard to eat a lot of in my opinion.

Thursday- Broccoli pasta- Rating 9.4/10

- This meal is one of my favorite school lunch meals. It is penne pasta with creamy alfredo sauce, and broccoli pieces that is healthy and balanced.

Friday- Nachos- Rating 7.9/10

- The nachos are tortilla chips with beef and orange cheese. It is pretty good, but it would be better if it was queso rather than orange cheese dip, and more beef on the nachos.



[the organization that feeds students of Beaufort High!]

Teachers add the title 'snack-givers' to their resume

By Sophie Brown

As if being part of children's education wasn't enough, some teachers have taken on the responsibility of giving out snacks to their students. These monumental figures are generous in their issuing of midday energizers ranging from hard candy to cups of Ramen noodles.

Though having scaled back, Ms. Bechdel still offers treats to her students, mostly after school. "When I was younger, I went through a time period when I didn't have food, so it really resonates with me and I really appreciate that free food is offered to everyone; there's no sign that that kid is a free and reduced lunch kid, no one will know. At least one thing is edible. I think that food is free: school lunches and breakfasts [are there] so when you're hungry you'll eat it. I was a free and reduced lunch kid, so I ate whatever they gave me. If a kid really wants food and they really really want it, I'll give them whatever I give. Sometimes Ramen noodles, sometimes Un-

crustables." However, she typically goes for granola bars, fruit snacks, and pop tarts—which are students' favorites. But for Bechdel, it's not just about satisfying students' cravings. Being an open pantry to her class and hallway wanderers "makes [her] feel good when [she] see[s] people enjoy them and rely on [her]. Part of why [she] scaled back is because [she] had a kid who took a lot and tried to pass it out as if he was giving it himself." As a teacher, she "can't keep funding that." Regardless, Bechdel recognizes that offering some sustenance shows she cares "when a lot of students don't feel like you do." Mr. Vaughn gives out water, as well, she notes.

Mrs. Baker-Kahahelis is also known to provide some crackers or granola bars (especially for her 4th block) for her hungry kids "because lunch is so long in between." Why does Mrs. Baker-K pass out these snacks? "One reason is, well, candy is just one of those things that makes you



happy and... sugar!" So, if she's had them before, "they know." Some of her students, "[will] go to ACE but will come in after [on] half days to see [her]. [It] gives them [an] excuse to say 'hi.'" The other day she had two kids who were freshmen—kids she's never seen in her life—who came in and asked if she had food. Though for the most part she gives out lollipops or hard candy, "it's also really good for concentration" (sucking on peppermint or chewing on gum).

One other teacher, Mrs. Rhatigan, gives out granola bars, chips, and trail mix. And Ms. Gamble gives out a variety of fruity and chocolatey candies, plus different potato chips because "sometimes students are hungry, and having a snack in between could help regulate the brain and refocus." From this routine of having to-go bites, she claims that the best remark she's

received is "Ms. Gamble you're the goat." Alongside compliments, though, "giving the snacks away makes [her] feel great, because the students know that [she] genuinely [has] that nourishing, loving spirit towards them." And so yes, it does create a stronger relationship with the students, even though some are "greedy... and only come to [her] for snacks...It still opens a venting space for them." In that way she wants the students and staff to be comfortable when they come into her office, so that is a part of her hospitality.

An academic interventionist, Ms. Mitchell, has been known to pass out Oreos, chocolates, and salty snacks on special days. She continues to be a light for many students, and is getting a future article—so stay tuned!



[Baker-K passing out lollipops to her AP Literature & Composition third period class]

On and off the court: Coach Huff prepares the Eagles for the hardwood

By Hasan Lawrence

Coach Huff brings a wealth of experience to the gymnasium. Now in his seventh year as the head coach for the Eagles, his career in basketball spans an impressive twenty-seven years in total. His journey behind the bench has taken him from coaching stints in Ohio while attending college, to a period at Beaufort Middle School before finally settling into his long-held position at Beaufort High.

Looking ahead to the current season, Coach Huff is optimistic. "I feel good [about the upcoming season]," he shared. "The guys are working really hard and making me proud." While acknowledging that the Eagles face a challenging and competitive schedule this year, he sees tangible improvements across the board compared to the previous season, down to the smallest fundamental details.

A typical practice under Coach Huff is a structured but varied affair, usually lasting around two and a half hours. The first thirty minutes are dedicated to a consistent routine every day, building foundational skills and discipline. The remainder of the practice time is strategically divided, focusing on refining offense, defense, or integrating both, depending on the day's game plan. When it comes to the coaching philosophy itself, Huff describes a versatile approach. He adapts his strategy based on the specific group of players he has each year. While he maintains high expectations for effort and execution, he identifies strongly as a "players' coach." This means building relationships that extend beyond the baseline; his players know they can approach him for support regarding any aspect of their lives, not just basketball strategy.

This supportive, holistic approach also defines how he measures success. While wins and losses are tracked on the scoreboard, Huff measures true success by the team's work ethic and "constant improvement." "That's the point of coaching to me," he explained, emphasizing that development and effort are his primary metrics, regardless of the final record.

Ultimately, the best advice Coach Huff imparts to his players is centered on mental resilience and self-awareness: "Stay within themselves, don't try to overdo things, and don't let things get you too high or too low." He stresses that this vital piece of advice isn't just for navigating a high-pressure game but serves as a crucial life lesson—a guiding principle for the real world.

As our Eagles lace up their sneakers

and prepare for tip-off, they do so under the steady guidance of a seasoned coach who prioritizes character and growth over statistics. Coach Huff's blend of high expectations and personal mentorship sets the stage for a compelling season, one where improvement is the ultimate win and the lessons learned extend far beyond the final buzzer.



[Jeremy Huff paying close attention to the game against Battery Creek on December 9, 2025]

Last second shot gives Lady Eagles their first official win



By Jayda Torres and Carson Crosby

A few weeks ago the girls varsity basketball team won their preseason scrimmages against Ridgeland High school and 5A Lucy Beckham, greatly dominating the floor. But this shouldn't be surprising. They have been working hard preparing for their season.

While most students spent Thanksgiving break relaxing with their families, the Beaufort High boys and girls JV and Varsity basketball teams were hard at work in the gym, preparing for their first big game of the season on Monday, December 1. Their dedication showed through a week of early morning drills, conditioning sessions, and team strategy practices, all aimed at giving them a strong start against their upcoming opponent, Ashley Ridge High School. With the season opener

arriving immediately after the holiday, the break was a crucial window for improvement and encouraged players to stay disciplined and focused. For many of the athletes, the Thanksgiving practices helped the teams continue to build momentum without the risk of losing it during the long break. Players practiced defensive rotations, offensive drills, and game speed conditioning, preparing them for their game. All teams also reviewed plays and worked to improve their communication, a main factor for success in winning games this season. On Monday night, players came out with high energy and strong teamwork as they put their holiday efforts to the test. Students, staff, and families filled the stands showing school spirit and supported the teams.

In a nail biting fight against the Swamp Foxes, the Eagles came out victorious with a narrow one point lead, 57-56. With seconds left in the game and the Lady Eagles down by two with a score of 54-56, Zaria Coaxum, senior and team captain, drove the ball down the court, determined, and scored the final three-pointer at the buzzer, locking in the win. The crowd went absolutely wild.

The energy at the end of the game was unmatched. Some of the players on the team said that it was a feeling that most athletes live for.

Dejah Singleton, sophomore, says that she is feeling great—they are working well together. The team is communicating, passing the ball with chemistry,

setting screens for each other, and she is looking forward to a great season...go Eagles!



[Zaria Coaxum aiming a 2-pointer in the recent game at Whale Branch]

Sunset serenity gave the Eagles what they needed to beat 5A Lucy Beckham

By Carson Crosby and Maggie Brown

Beaufort High girls basketball took on 5A Lucy Beckham High School for the first time. Excitement and nerves rippled through the team in anticipation of the preseason scrimmage. Za'nyiah Reynolds Morgan, senior Eagle, said that going in as underdogs was thrilling—it empowered the fight. Similarly, sophomore Ja'Nia Heyward said that she felt great, knowing that the team is going to do amazing this season.

However, when the JV girls were warming up to face the Bengals, an unexpected fire alarm happened.

All teams had to evacuate the building before it was cleared. But, against all the worries of what was going to happen, a beautiful sunset eased the Eagles' minds. It reminded people to appreciate the little things in life—sometimes we need to stop and take a moment to take in Mother Earth's beauty.

The serenity of the scene might've given the Eagles what they needed to secure a win against Lucy Beckham. Although JV failed to gain victory, the varsity team came out on top.



[Photo taken by Faith Owens during the evacuation]

Eagle to Panther

By Maggie Brown

Just last month, senior Aly Dennison signed to play division II volleyball with Florida Tech. At the celebration, where she sealed the deal with ink, Aly thanked those who helped her accomplish such an amazing feat.

"My parents did a really good job of encouraging me to play the next level, [I'm] really thankful for both of them. I'm thankful for all of my friends...—you have all been so amazing and so supportive and really encouraging in everything that I try to accomplish."

Dennison has been a part of the Beaufort High girl's volleyball program since eighth grade, playing on JV for one year, but immediately advancing to Varsity for all four years of high school. Her last school season was apparently one of her best ones in terms of stats and overall record: "having our best season this year was amazing. We beat Hilton Head for the first time in thirteen years and we beat May River and Bluffton for the first time in eight years."

The success of the season was a joint effort. When the new Beaufort High head coach Bill Crumrine stood to speak, he made sure to thank Coach Adams, Athletic Director, for "helping put this [ceremony] together and [for] all the support he has given our team. Everything we needed he basically got for us."

Acknowledging Aly, Coach Bill said, "congratulations, congratulations, and Aly congratulations on a job well done; a great career. I was happy to be here at least for a year to watch you play and grow. Congratulations and thank you so much for everything you've done for the program."

Her development and commitment were not limited to the Kirkland Court, though. Aly would trek from Lady's Island to Savannah every Sunday, Monday, and Wednesday to practice positions, ball control, and defense for two and a half hours with ClubSav.

"Matt took me from probably

the most uncoordinated setters he's ever seen to someone who can play at the collegiate level," said Dennison.

She spent "countless hours in the gym trusting me in her development, says her club coach Matt Linebarger.

"This is probably one of my proudest moments—I was not a setter, at all. But, I knew—just like in football or whatever—if the setter is the quarterback, then we made an investment several years ago that if we were going to continue to grow and get better as a club, we needed to invest time and resources into our setters." He went on to say that her success doesn't surprise him; "her personality is infectious, her connection with her teammates and her coaching staff is strong."

Aly's talents aren't only unique to volleyball, though. Now that her volleyball career is locked in with the Panthers, she can enjoy the rest of her senior year stress free from college applications and resume the sports she took a break from to focus on volleyball: basketball and soccer.



[Aly Dennison signing with her parents on either side. November 12, 2025]



STUDENTS AND STAFF

Ms. Southard's lasting legacy

By Hasan Lawrence



Ms. Southard, a beloved figure at Beaufort High, is planning on making the academic year of 2025–2026 one of her last. Her favorite subject to teach is unequivocally U.S. History, with her specialized expertise focusing on the pivotal period from 1820 to 1870. This deep historical affinity was kindled early in life, influenced significantly by her upbringing in the historically rich city of Charleston, enriching family trips, and the mentorship of her own excellent teachers.

When asked to identify the most rewarding aspect of her profession, Ms. Southard did not hesitate, immediately citing the students themselves. Despite their occasional ability to "drive her crazy," the student interactions and growth remain the core of her professional satisfaction.

The halls and classrooms of Beaufort High will soon be a memory, as Ms. Southard prepares to bid farewell to the teachers and students who have been her community for years. However, retirement will not be a period of idleness. She plans to wholeheartedly pursue photography, a serious passion she has nurtured since high school in the 1980s. (She is, by all accounts, an amazing photographer whose work is worth looking out for in local galleries.)

Ultimately, Ms. Southard's legacy is defined by her profound wishes for the next generation. She hopes for every student to achieve their maximum potential success, irrespective of their chosen path. A true educator at heart, she particularly hopes her students develop a critical eye to see the intricate connections within history, and she strongly encourages her AP Government

students to transition from classroom theory to real-world action, becoming active participants in politics through campaigns and protests.

As Ms. Southard's influence extends far beyond dates and footnotes. She leaves a legacy etched not in textbooks, but in the minds of the countless students she has inspired to look deeper, think critically, and participate actively in their world. Her final charge to the Beaufort High community is clear: success is personal, history is connected, and civic engagement is vital. It is this philosophy—encouraging students to find their path and then walk it with conviction—that defines her career. Ms. Southard may be retiring from teaching, but Her enduring message to be active, engaged citizens remains a powerful, final lesson for us all.

Beaufort High Royalty?

By Lily Sargent



[The Newton Surmaville Estate]



[Clara and her family at the residence]

Clara Harbin, a sophomore who recently transferred to Beaufort High this year, has a rich family history—including the ownership of a family castle. Known as the Newton Surmaville Estate located in Yeovil, a small town in Somerset, England, the castle was built more than four hundred years ago in 1608–1612 by Clara's 12th great-grandfather, Robert Harbin.

When I asked Clara about the castle she said her family was not of royal descent. Interestingly, they worked in the textile industry and were part of the landed gentry social class. For those who aren't very knowledgeable about English history—like myself—the gentry class

were landowners born into wealthy families of high social status. Think of it like a step below royalty.

The castle was passed down generations of the Harbin family for hundreds of years until about twenty years ago. The last Harbin descendant to have the castle passed down died in 2006. The castle was then bought in 2007, and served as a gin distillery until a couple of years ago, circa 2019, when the castle was bought back into the family by some of Clara's relatives from Georgia. Clara and her family only found out about the castle recently—her dad stumbled upon it while researching the genealogy of their family.

The castle contains many rooms, not limited to nine bedrooms and servant quarters upstairs. The walls of the castle are dressed in old Flemish tapestries. The original bed that Clara's 12th great grandfather slept in is still occupying the estate.

Today the castle has been renovated and expanded to a sixty-two-acre property featuring a separate home for the housekeeper, a yoga studio, gym, and various animals that roam the grounds.

If you would like to learn more about the castle you can visit the instagram page: @newtonsurmavillehouse.

'Death Valley' turns from football games to concerts

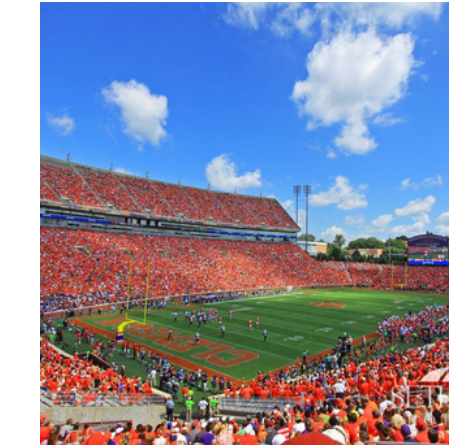
By Virginia O'Kelley

Memorial Stadium, or Death Valley, in Clemson, South Carolina, will be hosting country stars Morgan Wallen and George Strait this upcoming year. Fans on social media were overjoyed to hear the news of Clemson University opening its stadium to concerts—the first in 27 years—on May 2, with the popular George Strait being first to bring music back to the 'Valley'. Then, Morgan Wallen will follow, holding his concert on June 26 and 27.

As a result of the excitement, the process of buying tickets has not been an easy task. Ticketmaster, as the usual site to sell tickets, was actively avoided because of its history of site crashes due to the tours of artists Taylor Swift and Beyonce, Bad Bunny, and more. To steer clear of Ticketmaster, fans were directed to a website called AXS. When fans entered the queue on November fifth at noon, awaiting

tickets for the acclaimed "best night of their lives," they were confronted with a crash on the website. Addy Norris, a senior at Beaufort High, claims she "waited in the queue for 45 minutes before the presale started, just for the queue to crash." She "tried everything" to find a way to buy the tickets but was met with a dead end. Norris decided to wait for general admission to open two days later in hopes of a better chance of snagging tickets. Ultimately, her flustered second attempt ended with her succumbing to the resale site StubHub. However, the prices had skyrocketed, and even the very last row in Memorial Stadium was going for \$163, with pit tickets being thousands of dollars each.

This sent fans into a frenzy, demanding why tickets were so expensive. The only answer is that resell bots are beating actual fans to ticket sites in the



[Article by Clemson and Country music Fanatic, Virginia O'Kelley]



mad dash to earn tickets. Though the original tickets are reasonably priced, fans just can't beat the bots that suck them up in seconds, and immediately put them onto resell sites such as StubHub and VividSeats. It poses the question: how will artists avoid these bots and save their fans from journeys like the one Norris had to endure? And, what will the future of concerts be in terms of getting tickets?

Those with enough grit to endure the arduous ticket battle are now able to take a deep breath and feel relieved that "the ticket war is over!"

Hunting season

By Liza Grace Murdaugh

So far, South Carolina's duck season has been marked by good participation and solid opportunity, especially through the SCDNR lottery-hunt system. The 2025–2026 migratory bird season outlines a bag limit of six ducks daily, with specific limits for scaup and other species. Hunters are navigating a well-structured framework of public hunts on wildlife management areas, with lottery hunts for key marsh and coastal zones that require walking in or paddling in with gear. According to the 2024–2025 WMA waterfowl harvest reports, SCDNR maintains detailed weekly breakdowns; though, as of now, the 2025–2026 full season harvest data has not yet been released. Because water, food, and weather conditions appear favorable, many waterfowl biologists suggest the state is well-positioned for a productive

season. The season started on Saturday, November 22 and went through to the 29. It resumes on December 12 to continue through January 31. Similarly, the dove season has been going well this year. Dove populations appear healthy going into the fall, giving hunters and wildlife managers plenty of optimism. White-winged dove estimates are also strong, making 2025 one of the better seasons in recent memory. Across several states, including in the South and Central U.S., hunting seasons are opening as scheduled. According to the Wildlife Resources Commission, 2025 dove-season openers are reported to coincide with "excellent flock health and migration," signaling favorable conditions for hunters. That said, there are regional differences in timing, regulations, and habitat

conditions. That said, there are regional differences in timing, regulations, and habitat conditions. Healthy bird numbers, supportive habitat conditions in many regions, and updated regulations in some states have combined to set the stage for what many expect to be a favorable season. Healthy bird numbers, supportive habitat conditions in many regions, and updated regulations in some states have combined to set the stage for what many expect to be a favorable season. Deer season in South Carolina so far has been busy and competitive, the early-season (archery and general weapons) opened August 15 for bucks. The doe season started on October 1 and will go through January 1. On the field, many hunters are reporting stable deer populations: the 2024 deer-hunter survey indicated that 61% of hunters believe deer numbers in their



usual hunting areas are "about the same" as past years. Meanwhile, some big bucks are making headlines. Over 200 new antler records were submitted in 2025, suggesting that the long season is giving mature deer a fair shot. Excitingly, youth day is on January 4 of the new year and on this day, anyone under the age of 18 is allowed to hunt.

ACADEMIC

Journal, Journal, Journal!

By Connor Sawejko



Did you know that keeping track of your thoughts and experiences in a journal is actually highly beneficial for your mental health? According to a study done at the University of Rochester, journaling improves your anxiety management, reduces stress, and allows you to reflect on your day and look back on it years from now. Although the hobby isn't largely popular, it's shown to be very beneficial for personal wellbeing. If you're not sure how to start journaling, it's actually relatively easy. All you need is a notebook, a pencil, and time set aside. Everyday, try to write about how you feel, what happened, or whatever's on your mind. If you don't update your journal daily, that's okay. The great thing about journaling is that it's entirely self-maintained and determined, meaning you decide everything about how you do it. Consider giving it a try!

Study spots around town

By Maggie Brown

Does your new year's resolution include becoming a better student? Sometimes you need to get out of your house to avoid the distractions of your family in order to focus. AP exams and the spring semester are just around the corner, so here I have compiled a list of some of the underrated study spots for some peace and quiet around Beaufort.

1. Our very own media center. Many people don't know this, but the media center is open to students during their lunch break to eat their packed lunch and have a quiet space to do some work. It now features the repurposed blue beanbag. Do not bring school lunches, though. I wish I would've known about this deal when I was a junior—juggling AP Calc, Chem, US History, and Lang all year meant I needed all the time the school day warranted to do homework. Trying to do derivative problems in the noisy lunchroom wasn't very successful.

2. City Java. Now open until 8 most days, this cute cafe is the perfect place to lock in and get some work done with a coffee or muffin. Free Wi-Fi, and pretty views downtown. This has the best playlist for some lowkey indie tunes. Piper Kennedy recommends overnight oats!



[Carson Crosby and Virginia O'Kelley studying for the SAT at City Java]

3. The Beaufort Library. The Beaufort library is underutilized. Most people overlook it or don't ever think about it, but this is one of the best environments for studying. Libraries are notoriously quiet and not only are there tons of books to flip through and check out, but there are free computers and Wi-Fi.

4. The Kitchen. Newly renovated with a beautiful interior, the Kitchen now has tables that are perfect for getting some work done. It is right down the street from BHS. It offers free Wi-Fi, a plethora of grab and go food, and a cool atmosphere.



[Urban Brew]

5. Urban Brew. As MC says "you put your Air Pods in and lock in." Urban brew has some of the best coffee in South Carolina with unique flavors and excellent espresso from Brazil. The workers and music are really good as well as the outdoor seating and you can't forget the free Wi-Fi. MC Musselman and Charley McClam, both BHS seniors, utilize this study spot nearly daily to get some caffeine and cram for AP exams. They are opening two new locations, one where Athenian Gardens was across from the hospital used to be and one on the way to Charleston.

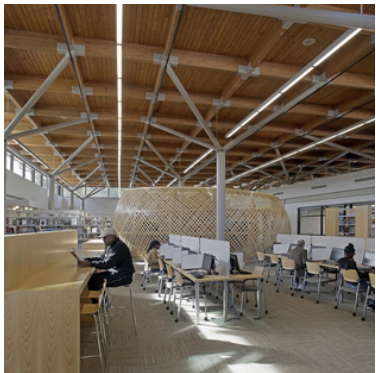
6. The St. Helena Branch Library. Although I've never been to this spot, I've heard that it beats the Beaufort Library in crowdedness, vibes, and has a calming feel of seclusion. This space is fairly new, being built in 2012.



[Beaufort Public Library]

7. Starbucks. Starbucks is well known for grabbing a coffee and studying for a reason, but being so widely popular is also a con in terms of the noise. But, it still is a reliable space to study with charging outlets and free Wi-Fi.

8. Port Royal Library. Newly established as the first library in the town of Port Royal, this library is small but can do the trick if you need a quiet space.



[St. Helena Library]

Affordable summer programs

By Laurel Hinderliter

This summer, I embarked on a journey far from the comfort of my home, familiar faces, and the lowcountry culture of Beaufort—it was the first time I truly was alone.

Upon immediately jumping off the ‘people mover’ at Chicago O’Hare Airport, I found myself in conversation with a brunette curly-haired girl, Isa, from Puerto Rico. A grey T-shirt with red, gothic letters scrambled together reading “UChicago” connected us.

Within ten minutes of meeting each other, we navigated the unknown airport and made decisions on which direction to turn, looking for a group of students with the same grey T-shirts. On the hour-and-a-half bus ride, swerving through the busy city traffic, we continued to get to know one another on our way to the UChicago campus. Unfortunately, we had to separate ways after check-in to go to our rooms.

Several hours later, we were

instructed to go to an orientation inside a chemical laboratory auditorium. At first, I was nervous because I really had no one to sit with; I had lost the girl I met earlier, and I was put in a single room with no roommate or ‘built-in friend’ I could follow around. But as students filled in, I got to know the people who were sitting beside me: Sage from Carthage, Missouri, and Ellie from Huntington, Indiana. We talked, and walked, and ate together, basically spending the rest of the day arm-in-arm and knee-by-knee. From these two gals, I was introduced to Nathan from Fulton, Missouri (who knew Sage from state band competitions), Aileen from Lewisburg, Tennessee, Laila from Sequim, Washington, and Nick from Basalt, Colorado.

Through dining hall visits, mock classes, campus tours, and group activities, I met so many more people: Sebastian from Orlando, Mar from NYC, Jack from Easton, Maryland, Piers from Nashville, Brandon from Agoura Hills, California, Kyhron from Fulton (goes to the same

school as Nathan), Claire from Starkville, Mississippi, Emily from Rancho Cucamongo, California, and Sam, Julie, and Avril from who knows where.

After our classes and dinner, we would meet to play Uno in the Rustandy House Commons. One night we played twenty-two-person Uno, another night we had a game that lasted for an hour and a half—most of that time dissipating from long conversations about random things. But something struck me, talking with my new friends about their hometowns and the opportunities their schools had in store for them, I realized how little information gets around at Beaufort High—how much we are missing out on just because of a lack of communication. Countless summer programs that provide significant financial aid or are even free are available to students that many just don’t know about. While I can only truly vouch

for my program at UChicago, I have provided a list of some competitive and seemingly beneficial summer programs available to students, along with groups who might be interested.

- **UChicago Summer Session: (Rural & Small Town, Black, and Hispanic Youth)**
- **MITES (@ MIT, Underrepresented Youth)**
- **TASS (@ Cornell & Maryland, Underrepresented Youth)**
- **SAMS (@ Carnegie Mellon, Underrepresented Youth)**
- **WASHU (Rural students program)– APPLICATION IS OPEN FOR RISING JUNIORS**

Honestly, I had so much fun at my summer program, and it even allowed me to apply to the school early with an advantage. If you are a current junior or rising junior, please consider applying to summer programs, as you never know what experiences you might get out of them!

New crisis: substitute shortage

By Piper Kennedy

In the state of South Carolina, there are about 1000 vacant teacher positions that were reported at the start of this school year. Not only are there fewer teachers, but there has also been a shortage of substitute teachers. At Beaufort High School, there are some days when 20+ teachers will be out, but there are not nearly enough substitutes to fill these vacancies.

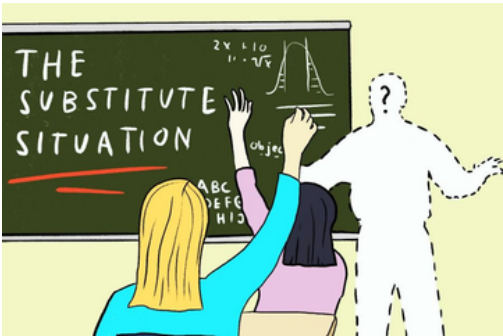
In Mrs. Doray’s AP Environmental Science class, she was absent for 3 weeks due to back surgery. As the AP students arrived at class, it was very obvious they

were not going to have a sub for the day. In the wake of no sub, the students continued on with their day, doing their notes and assignments that were posted online, so quietly that administrators didn’t even know the class had no teacher.

However, what happens when a class filled with freshman or other rambunctious students is missing a teacher? The administrators have to make sure those classes are filled quickly. On certain occasions, the class will be escorted to the gym or another teacher’s classroom.

But, in many cases, other teachers who are on their break period will be called in to fill the class.

As a result, teachers are sacrificing their time and efforts to look after classes in their free periods, and are not getting paid for it. It leaves the question: as the population of teachers dwindles and class sizes become larger and larger—classes left empty with no adult supervision -- does Beaufort High have a crisis on hand?



Water bottles: necessity or consumerism

By Maggie Brown

From S'Wells to Yetis, to Hydro Flasks to Stanleys, the water bottle industry is the perfect example of how America finds a product, obsesses over it, sells it out everywhere, then moves on, looking for the next best thing.

The use of a reusable water bottle in itself is a trend, though hidden by the health dangers of BPA in plastics and environmental concerns, but more prominently, the type of water bottle you own is almost a status symbol.

The first "it" water bottle I recall was the S'well. While I was too young to understand the significance of the name brand, I appreciated the Christmas present, using it everyday. But, I do remember very well the rage of Hydro Flasks—the necessity and indicator of a VSCO girl.

VSCO girls with their scrunchies and reusable straws flooded people's FYPs and galleries. All the memes about these girls who pulled their hair into obnoxious messy buns and covered their wrists in 4Ocean bracelets and Pura Vida bracelets almost took the meaning of their words away. The trend of VSCO girls, in wanting to be one, contradicted the nature of what they stood for. Girls didn't want to be known as one for their passion for the planet, but for the title, for having trendy brands. The indicative phrases of "and-I-Oop" status ("save the turtles" and "skip the straw") were overlooked. While yes, this trend brought more awareness of saving the planet and being eco-conscious, it was shallow, the masses supporting these brands didn't really understand the true definition of a 'VSCO girl.'

However, business is business. Companies make profit off of sales, not just promoting eco-consciousness. Even though they might advertise on the principles of "plastic water bottles are destroying our planet" and draw in their audience for those who want to make sustainable choices, they have an ultimate goal: to make money.

To no surprise, the reign of Hydro Flask soon was overtaken by Stanleys. The notes of consumer culture and needing the new product were not as hidden in this case. Influencers showed off their cabinets filled with dozens of Stanley Tumblers, an amount that no person should ever need. But young girls thought they needed one to fit in. They weren't buying it for the "insulation" or the nifty handle, they were buying it for popularity.

"Save the turtles" slowly faded as our consumer culture bought, bought, and bought.



I am not immune to trends—I fell victim to the rise of the Owala water bottle. But I do use it everyday. After loving my Hydro Flask tumbler, advertised as having less leakage than a Stanley, the amount of water spills that happened in my life was too much. The Owala offered a built-in straw, a handle, pretty colors, and it was leak proof.

This article isn't saying that buying a product because it is definitively better and would improve your quality of life isn't okay—sometimes a product truly is better. It is more so to bring awareness. Ask yourself the question: did you buy your Owala because you truly needed a leakproof waterbottle, or were you just hopping on the trend. As we are in the midst of the Christmas season, try to be more aware of your purchases. The planet will thank you.

sell the cup when the value increases. Though, many speculate that she's grown unnaturally attached to the cup, and won't be letting it go anytime soon.

What's the takeaway from all this? It's okay to indulge in cute things you don't need, however it's important we keep our planet's health, and our budgets, in mind. Most importantly, if you catch Piper Kennedy sipping matcha from her bear cup...don't ask where it came from!

The paw-fect panic of the Starbucks bear cup

By Kendall Rivers

'Twas the night before November 6th, and all was swell. Not a person was stirring—well except for a few absurd ones. Across the nation, hundreds of desperate consumers shivered in the cold of their camps that lined their local Starbucks. Each consumer is hoping, wishing, and praying for *that* yes, *that* twenty ounce, 30 dollar hard plastic cup shaped as a forest critter wearing a green beanie. The renowned Starbucks Bear Cup.

In a matter of seconds, the cups were sold out nationwide. Many consumers walked away gleeful, while others grieved in silence.



This bear-crazed frenzy didn't go unnoticed here at Beaufort High. In fact, it sparked debates much hotter than any caramel macchiato: Are we a little too obsessed with our excessive consumption? From fast fashion, to collectible cups, the cycle of buy, use, and scrap can have serious, negative consequences on our environment—our wallets too.

Here's the twist about this situation everyone's been cracking up about: Piper Kennedy, our very own Student Body Treasurer and self proclaimed environmentalist has reportedly secured the limited edition bear cup from a dealer. According to witnesses, the exchange occurred in the early hours of the morning—deliberately timed to avoid drawing suspicion. The identity of the dealer who sold Kennedy the cup has remained unidentified and may still be actively at large.

Kennedy insists it was a "strategic business investment" as she intends to



[infamous bear cup with and without coffee inside it]

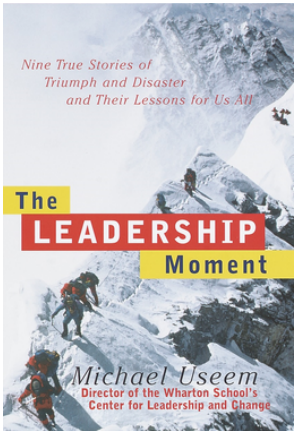
CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

The ‘I’ in ‘Athletic’ stands for leadership

By Maggie Brown

During advisory time of Friday mornings, a group of individuals who display strong and adept qualities meet to discuss leadership. These students are athletes who are leaders of their teams and are appointed by their coaches. The BHS Athletic Leadership Council engages in conversations about character, teamwork, and personal growth, exploring real-life lessons. They read several chapters of The Leadership Moment by

Michael Useem, which discusses various real-life examples of how important figures in history bolstered leadership. The book is an interesting and impactful read to learn about guiding others and taking action.



Beaufort High's Bookish Book Club

By Lauren Rosencrantz

Google Classroom: 2glglpe

Did you know that Beaufort High School has a book club? Our small but mighty book club is run by Ms. McKinney and Ms. Marshall inside of the Media Center.

Earlier this school year, members were able to choose the books to read for the months over the school year in order to participate in the district's epilogue contest: BCSD Finish the Story Contest.

Last school year, member Ellen Rosencrantz won first place by writing an extraordinarily poetic conclusion to Rex Ogle's, Abuela, Don't Forget Me and won a one

hundred dollar gift card! Lauren also won second place for writing a satisfyingly romantic ending to Lynn Painter's romance book, The Do-Over and won a fifteen dollar gift card to Starbucks. The rules were to write a conclusion to one of the qualifying books which held true to its original tone and story.



[Lauren and Ellen Rosencrantz receiving their awards]

Members in the book club competed with a variety of high schoolers across the district. The book club will be participating in this competition again this year! Join to read a different entertaining book each month. The Book clubs book options vary across multiple genres, which is perfect for everyone.

The book club is very small, and they would love for some dedicated readers to join! Any new members who are interested should reach out to Ms. McKinney for more information.

Holiday creations from CREATE Club

By Julia Denton

The air is cooling, the mornings are frosty, and as we all get ready for Christmas, CREATE club would like to spread a warm "Happy Holidays!" to all of BHS's teachers this season by gifting recycled re-DONE glass jars! These decorated jars are stylish and multi-functional, being able to be used as pencil holders, paper clip cups, flower vases, and more! Not only are these jars artfully decorated by our very own CREATE club members, but they also provide a great example on how to reuse recyclable materials to reduce waste this holiday season.

CREATE club would like to remind everyone to keep in mind the wasteful tendencies that come with gift giving. This includes the atrocious amounts of wrapping paper, tissue paper,

and gift bags that get thrown away each year after only one use! According to the Ecology Center, during the holiday's the average American will produce 25% more waste than any time of the year!

With these facts in mind, some ways you can reduce the amount of waste this year would be by using old news papers to replace wrapping paper and tissue paper, as well as reusing gift bags. To reduce spending waste, you can take after our CREATE club members and gift homemade creations built out of recycled materials!

Once again, happy holidays to all and have a wonderful (ecofriendly) holiday season!

JROTC: what are the rules?

By Jayda Torres

At Beaufort High, Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) is more than a class but a program that runs on discipline, respect, and responsibility. Cadets are expected to follow Air Force style rules, including wearing their uniforms correctly, maintaining proper grooming, and showing customs and courtesies, such as standing at attention and addressing instructors and leaders with "sir" or "ma'am." Inside the classroom, students must arrive on time, participate respectfully, and follow instructions quickly. While at school, drill is a major part of the program that teaches teamwork, precision, and confidence through marching, commands, and formations. Outside of the

classroom, cadets will also take part in community services, school events, and volunteering to build leadership and citizenship, which are the core values of the Air Force. Whether in or out of uniform, they are expected to demonstrate integrity, set a positive example, and uphold the values that make AFJROTC a respected program for students to be a part of.



[JROTC holding their annual veterans day assembly at BHS]



What is Interact?

By Caroline O’Kelley



Students walk the halls of Beaufort High everyday. As they do so, they pass the many posters advertising different clubs the school has to offer. These posters may contain different colors, fonts, or bold lettering to capture the eye and make each club’s advertisement stand out from the rest. You’ll come to find that they are all the same, all except for one: Interact. This club is a student-led group dedicated to community service, leadership, and making a positive impact. Through fun projects and events, members work together

to support local and global causes, while developing teamwork and communication skills. The club is sponsored by our local Rotary Club of the Lowcountry, which funds events and activities for the students. Interact offers the opportunity to participate in at least two service events each year in addition to Adopt-a-Highway taking place the first Saturday of every month. From 8:00-9:00, you’re able to serve your community and clean up our beautiful environment, picking up trash. During these events, you’re accompanied by

one of the older Rotary members, which gives you more than enough time to learn more about the initiative and our sponsors. Interact is known for its positive involvement in the community and is an exceptional opportunity to make a difference and make connections. Not only that, but the extracurricular is beneficial for college applications, too. Impact and involvement is something that admissions officers want when they are looking

at applicants, and it’s never too early to start. Don’t be last minute in junior year or even senior year and realize you aren’t involved in anything before you join and serve the community—join Interact today! Right now, the club is very senior heavy and girl heavy, so we need people like you to join and be involved. Next time you see an Interact poster in the hallways, take a longer look at it and consider coming to the next meeting.



[Interactors cheering with signs at the Port Royal Walk for Water]



[Interactors picking up trash at their monthly Adopt-a-Highway]



[Interactors helping out at Rotary International's annual Oyster Roast]

Penn Center’s history and me

By Caleb Singleton

Many may not know the historical and cultural significance of Penn Center, formally known as Penn School from 1862 until 1948. Situated squarely in the heart of St. Helena, South Carolina, Penn Center began after the liberation of Beaufort County from the Confederacy with two women, Laura Towne, a Unitarian from Philadelphia, and Ellen Murray, a Quaker from Canada. What was then known as the ‘Port Royal experiment’(an initiative by the union to transition the formerly enslaved into educated members of society) resulted in two women establishing the first school of its kind for newly freed slaves in the Reconstruction Era South. These two women, with a generous donation of 50 acres by a formerly enslaved man himself, Hastings Gantt, dedicated the entirety of their lives to the education of African Americans in Beaufort County.

Throughout Penn’s long and influential history in Beaufort, many famous alumni have walked through its doors. One such alumnus was Elizabeth Lydia Smalls, the daughter of famed Beaufortonian Robert Smalls, who attended Penn from the ages of 6 until 12 years of age before attending boarding school in Massachusetts. After graduating from Test New England and Classical school, she began working as her father’s clerk during his first term in Congress

before moving back to Beaufort to marry Samuel Bampffield. After the death of Bampffield in 1899, President Theodore Roosevelt appointed Smalls as postmaster of Beaufort. Elizabeth Lydia Small’s story and legacy gained national attention, especially after her 100th birthday in 1958, even getting a personal congratulations from then-President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Another prominent alumnus from Penn School was York W. Bailey. Born in 1881 in St. Helena, South Carolina, York W. Bailey would attend the Penn School before studying medicine at Howard and returning to St. Helena in 1906. York W. Bailey would be the first and only doctor on St. Helena for fifty years, serving the community until his retirement in 1956. Bailey passed away in 1971, but his contributions to St. Helena were never forgotten, with a museum on Penn Center’s campus being dedicated to him in 1999.

During the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, Penn served as a place where Whites and Blacks could come together to develop strategies to combat injustices throughout the South. Penn worked closely with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King, who stayed in Gantt Cottage(a cottage dedicated to the formerly enslaved Hastings Gantt, who donated the 50-acre



[Caleb Singleton at the Winchester Castle in England]

So next time you’re on your way to the beach, stop by the historic Penn Center and partake in even just a little bit of the wealth of history, culture, and knowledge that are behind its doors.

Since being hired in 2024, I have been able to experience the enriching environment of the Penn Center. I typically go in on Saturdays from 10-4, but Penn is open every day except for Sundays and Mondays from 10-4. Recently, Penn has allowed me to give mini lectures on the history of Penn and its significance as it pertains to the larger American story. These discussions have truly been the highlight of my time there and inspire me to learn more about Penn and become more versed in the history of the Reconstruction era. Because of my work, I’ve acquired many connections throughout my time there, meeting professors, students, fraternity and sorority alumni, and more that have wanted to reach out to me and help me with my college journey. Out of all the places to work, having the opportunity to work at a place that is the nexus of education and service means the most to me, and I couldn’t imagine doing anything else.

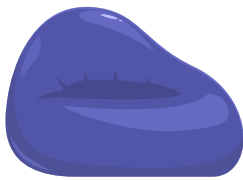
plot of land Penn is situated on) during these retreats.

Today, Penn focuses on uplifting and educating the community of St. Helena and telling the story of Penn within the larger context of American history. When asked about his journey to Penn, the Executive Director of Penn Center, Dr. Adams said, “I’ve been training my whole life to come to Penn; everything I’ve done in my life seems to have been just a preparation for here.” When asked about the legacy of Penn as it pertains to the 21st century, Dr. Adams noted that “it’s a blessing to be able to walk in the footsteps of Laura Towne, Charlotte Fortnen, Benjamin Mayes, Septima Clark, Dorothy Cotton, Dr King . . . I’m not tryna put myself in the history books, but I am trying to live into the historical sacrifices that they made to make our country better.”



The jumping bean (bag)

By Piper Kennedy



On Sunday, November 30, the last day of Thanksgiving break, members of the Student Council attempted to rejuvenate the school by spreading Christmas spirit through festive decorations. Looking through the storage closet in the B-pod teacher work rooms,—amidst boxes of files and old transcripts— students found an enormous blue bean bag. As soon as they saw it, the student council knew it would be a perfect addition to the media center, where students often lounge on comfortable couches.

The next day, Laurel Hinderliter, Virginia O’Kelley, Paige Fosberry, Lukas Copeland, and I went on a mission to retrieve the lost treasure. Rolling it out of the small closet where it was stuffed and abandoned, down the hallway, up the stairs—trampling Fosberry in the process—and towards the media center.

At the sight of the bean bag, Ms. Marshall and Mrs. McKinney in the Media Center were overjoyed. Hopping up from her seat behind the desk, Ms. Marshall quickly came over to try out the new addition. However, she quickly found that after sitting down, she would not be able to get up, the beanbag had swallowed her whole! Luckily, Copeland and I were there, aiding her on her way up and to successfully recoil. She wondered if it was too comfy or if it was just because she was getting older.

From then the bean bag became a staple in the BHS media center, students racing to be the first one to be able to sit in the bag. It is located now tucked away near the testing room, a perfect getaway spot for a relaxing brainbreak. Luckily because of its large mass, up to 7 students have been able to sit on it (tested and approved). This



[The students who made the journey of acquiring the bean bag are seen huddling on it to test how many people can fit]

bag is fun to cannonball onto—as Hinderliter has indulged in—or to cuddle up in with a book,—as O’Kelley has been spotted doing on numerous occasions—although it should be warned that you can easily become encapsulated in the fluffy stuffing of the bag (as experienced by Ms. Marshall), so use it with caution. The journey of the bean bag goes to show that, no matter where you come from, you can always jump out of a cramped closet and into the hearts of students at Beaufort High.

Senior Jaylen Delaney recognized as Student of the Month

By Joleka Williams

Senior Jaylen Delaney has been named November’s Student of the Month for exemplifying the qualities of respect and gratitude, two values that teachers say she displays in and out of the classroom. Jaylen says the honor came to her as a surprise. Stating that she “was very shocked and happy. Kind of confused, but mainly happy.” She believes her recognition comes from consistently showing kindness and responsibility in class by “being respectful to students and staff, always participating in groups & assignments, and turning in work on time.”

When it comes to motivation, Jaylen credits her mother as her biggest inspiration and supporter as she “always motivated me throughout

school” and “inspires me to keep pushing and do my best,” she says. Looking ahead, she is working to improve her logistics skills and plans to join the Army after graduation to pursue a career in that field. Jaylen also shared some advice for other students striving for success: “Work hard, try your best. Even when you think no one’s watching, they’re always watching, so give it your all.”



2025 NFL Fantasy Football: Injury Champions

By David Shervin



Our two Beaufort High Sports Medicine 2 classes conducted an NFL Fantasy Football injury league consisting of 1 QB, 2 RB, 2 WR, and 1 TE. Unlike the real NFL Fantasy Football leagues, our league tracked injuries to our drafted players throughout the first 11 weeks of the season. A snake draft was done by the class, we carefully selected the top players from each position and tried to predict who would be injury-free during the season.

A variety of points were given if your player was injured during the 11 weeks, starting with 10 pts for a surgery, 7 pts for missing a game, 5 pts for being injured in a game, 4 pts for missing practice, 3 pts for being listed as questionable or doubtful for the game, and 2 pts for being limited in practice. After weeks 3, 6, and 9, students were able to make player moves to replace injured players, but only one player could be changed at a time.

In the end, the champion was the student with the

least number of points throughout the season; this year, the champions were Shamiya Gardner in the first period class and Elias Stephan in the fourth period class. Shamiya made two key moves to her Running Backs after weeks 3 and 9 to seal the victory. Elias, on the other hand, did not have to make a change during the season. His original choices were healthy throughout the entirety of the 11 weeks, which is very hard to do in the NFL!

Congratulations Shamiya and Elias!

The penny is in the past

By Nia Polkey

After more than 200 years of production, the penny is officially dead. On February 9, 2025, President Donald Trump ordered the production of pennies to halt. He stated that the reason for his decision to stop minting the penny is financial: the penny costs more to mint than it is worth. This reasoning is correct—the penny does cost more to make than what it's worth. It costs approximately 3.69 cents to mint a single penny. This is a stark contrast to 2020, when it only cost 1.76 cents to mint a single penny. Thus, this recent increase is a major factor in the discontinuation of the penny. But was this withdrawal of the penny really that surprising? From AP Language Composition practice FRQs in Mrs. Rhatigan's class last year, even the College Board recognized the evident pros and cons of this couch cushion coin. This debate was first proposed as legislation in 1989, called the Price Rounding Act, which proposed rounding all cash transactions to the nearest nickel. Although that legislation did not pass in the states, the removal of pennies was happening overseas in our military. In 1980, the Department of Defense stopped using pennies in overseas bases because it was too expensive to ship them. So, transactions in those bases are rounded to the nearest nickel. This shows that we can live in a world without the penny. With the rise of "tap to pay" and credit cards on our phones, the physical age of money is fading. We are seeing fewer people pinching pennies and more people squinting at screens.



Night on the Town: rain downfall (literally and figuratively)

By Paige Fosberry

Beaufort's Night on the Town is one of the most important events of the year for our small town. Every month, the town of Beaufort hosts a "First Friday", but in December it is a little more special. Night on the Town is the celebration that kicks off the holiday season for the community. Businesses, clubs, local organizations, and more get together to put on this exciting night! The sense of community and welcoming really make the night magical.



There are so many reasons to come and celebrate downtown Beaufort. Besides all the stores, Night on the Town features Christmas tree lighting, visits from Santa, great

food, and even an extravagant puppet show! Yet with all these displays, there are a few booths that always catch the community's attention. One in particular is the St. Peter's Catholic Church hot dog booth. The smell of brats and grilled onions wafts down the street, attracting a mile-long line (ok, maybe that's an exaggeration) of people waiting for a delicious meal. It is a sight to see! The St. Peter's volunteers work extremely hard (but with a lot of love) to serve all customers.

Another eye-catching booth is Beaufort High's very own Key Club, who work to put on a raffle of various baskets decorated with items from local businesses and handcrafted gifts from students. You can enter to win items such as scented candles, decorative ornaments, or gift cards to some of Beaufort's favorite spots! All donations from the raffle go to support our local CAPA's Closet. In addition to these lovely baskets, the Key Club booth also gives out free hot chocolate!

This year, Night on the Town was on December 5th from 6 to 9 pm, and some adjustments had to be made. With the recent shutdown of the Bay-Charles intersection, business setups had to be more compact along Bay and even spread out along (Scott or West) street! However, that didn't stop the town from putting on the most exciting night of the year, the rain did. The rainfall caused most of the street vendors to cancel. Both St. Peters and Key Club were not there this year. It was a very unfortunate occurrence!

FEATURED RECIPE

Lynn's Chili

An easy one-pot non-spicy chili perfect for this cold weather!

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. hamburger meat; browned & drained
- 1 medium onion
- 1 14½ oz. can stewed tomatoes
- 1 16oz can kidney beans (light)
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 2 tablespoons of chili powder
- 1 tablespoon of sugar

Mix all ingredients into pot and cook slowly for 1 hour

Don't forget to garnish with your favorite toppings such as cheese, fritos, or sour cream!



Cozy book for this winter: Caravel

By Piper Kennedy

Looking for the perfect book to snuggle up with by the fire this winter? *Caravel*, by Stephanie Garber is exactly the kind of mystical escape into a fantasy world that transports you to a world of magic, games, and danger. Twin sisters, Scarlett and Tella, are swept away to an enchanting island after Scarlett receives a long-dreamt-of invitation to the mysterious game: Caravel.

Instead of the enchanting

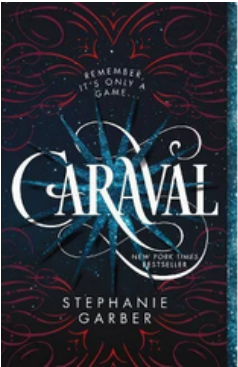
time they imagined, as soon as they get to the island Tella is kidnapped by the mastermind organizer, Legend, as the games revolve around finding her this year. In five nights Scarlett must find her sister, but what happens when the game starts blurring into reality. Scarlett must decipher what's real and what's performance as she figures out love, heartbreak, and deception.

Perfect for all ages and anyone who loves enchanting worlds and twist-filled plots, *Caravel* is a cozy yet thrilling escape

--an ideal companion for a chilly winter afternoon curled beneath a blanket. It's a quick read that will leave you desperate for more-- which is good, because the adventure continues in the rest of the *Caravel* series, sequels *Legendary* and *Finale*. And for those who fall in love with Garber's world (you will), her companion series *Once Upon a Broken Heart* (Consisting of *The Ballad of Never After* and *A Curse for True Love*) offers even more enchantment, charm, and the unforgettable Prince of Hearts, Jacks.



Whether you're a teen or an elder, if you crave magic, mystery, and stories that sweep you off your fight and delve you right into a fictional world, the *Caravel* series deserves a place on your winter reading list.



Sustainability tips for the season

By Sophie Brown

Are you preparing for the holidays? I must recommend watching the movie, "A Merry Little Ex-Mas," starring environmentalist Alicia Silverstone.

Here's how to not only be eco-friendly in December celebrations, but frugal. Below is a list of how to save money while caring for the Earth when gifting during the seasons.

- **Reuse wrapping paper.** Especially if you use the thick kind, be gentle when unwrapping and save those pieces for more gifts down the line!



- **Reuse gift bags.** Simple as that, they're bags for a reason--to continue to hold things. If there is a "To" and "From" tag, simply rip/cut it off or place a sticker over the previous sticker.
- **Use brown bags/paper--Food Lion, Publix, Amazon box filling--to wrap up gifts.** If you are using paper grocery bags, simply place the lettering on the inside and add ribbon, bow, and/or sticker tag to ameliorate it.

- **Fold up tissue paper.** Though delicate, most of these pieces can be reused if not normally, for stuffing something for volume or when packing clothes in boxes.
- **Reuse bows and ribbons.** Gingerly take off the bows or ribbons, (save the paper or bag respectively), and place in a small bin for the next gift needing wrapping, or next year if Christmas themed.
- **Don't buy too many gifts in the first place.** Don't be materialistic, and instead give a gift from the heart like a homemade card, or give a trial to the gym, a planned trip, or experience.
- **Bring a reusable coffee cup to Starbucks.** Don't waste single-use plastic cups on a holiday drink.
- **Carpool.** When driving to holiday festivities that your friends and family attend, like church mass or white elephants, ride with a friend.



- **Save your emissions for individual trips.**
- **Reuse your holiday decorations.** Try not to go crazy on the new decorations TJ Maxx sells each year (though TJ Maxx is better than on-brand shops, because it sells them as a second retailer). Or, if you're in need of some spice to your living room, stop by a local thrift store to really reuse decor.
- **When throwing a holiday party, try to use your own glasses, plates, and silverware.** Don't use single-use--it is trashier (literally) and wasteful.
- **Read.** Use the cozy cold weather to read novels or movies to educate yourself further about ways to be sustainable!

Holiday Fights Diversion

By Laurel Hinderliter

While plenty of families looked forward to gathering around the turkey, others braced themselves for the relatives who never fail to stir the pot right alongside the green bean casserole and dinner rolls. Most of us may never understand why certain family members think it's a good idea to discuss the current state of the economy or the lifestyle changes of Aunt Doris (who hasn't been seen since last Thanksgiving!!), but it's certainly something you have to be aware of and prepared for during the holidays. In fact, "How to Avoid Arguments at Thanksgiving" was the number one Google search between November 23 and the 27.

People on Facebook, Instagram, and Tiktok alike were calling for others to "go live" if their "family starts fighting at Thanksgiving." Commenters relayed that their parents avoided confrontation by simply not inviting problematic relatives, while others decided not to attend their families feast at all after facing "major drama" at a pre-Thanksgiving meal.

For families at Beaufort High, the combination of relatives attempting to give "life-changing" advice and family members actively trying to steer clear of the drama all together doesn't differ much from the national average.

Liliana Loomis, a hard working junior, conversed with friends about her Thanksgiving experience stating that "We had a

peaceful dinner because that one family member wasn't present." Although the Loomis family took the smart way out of avoiding conflict, many others are unfortunately faced with the harsh reality of hearing the doorbell ring... only to find an estranged family member standing there like it's the season finale of a reality show. Here are some things you should NOT do during holiday dinners, so you don't end up pulling off more limbs than just a turkey leg!

1. **Bring up politics or the "state of the world."** Even if someone thinks their take is harmless, family dinner is not the time to debate election results or government decisions.
2. **Commenting on someone's appearance, weight, relationship status, or life choices.** Asking "So when are you getting married?" or "Have you thought about losing weight?" is sure to end with mashed potatoes getting thrown at you.
3. **Reopening old family grievances.** Bringing up "who never helps with the dishes," the argument from last year, or anything that starts with "You always" is an express ticket to conflict.
4. **Trying to "fix" someone else's life in one sitting.** No one wants surprise career coaching over mac n cheese.
5. **Bringing up past relationships – ESPECIALLY at**

the dinner table. This will turn the conversation into complete chaos or to an awkward situation. "So whatever happened to that one boy/girl you dated in 9th grade?" serves tension.

6. **Overly loud criticizing the food.** This seems like something that doesn't need to be said but we see videos every year of the aftermath. If something doesn't taste right... don't make a face either.
7. **Hovering in the kitchen while the food is being prepared.** The quickest way to stress out the chef is by standing three inches behind them asking when the turkey will be done.
8. **Monopolizing the TV remote.** Turning on a 3-hour documentary or soap opera when people want to watch football is just asking for war to be declared.
9. **"Cleaning" in a way that causes more chaos.** No reorganizing cabinets, shifting pots, or "deep-cleaning" mid-meal prep. You are NOT helping.
10. **Following people around to continue an argument.** If someone walks away, LET IT DIE – don't trail them into the pantry.

Now what happens if someone else brings up a banned topic or Gammy accidentally turns off the oven (with the turkey inside) instead of the ceiling fan – and the meal ends up getting started two hours late!? Here are some steps to deescalate the situation.

Suggest taking the pie out of the fridge, checking on the rolls, or asking the group a neutral question like "What's everyone's favorite dish," (although this could cause more arguments).

2. **Break a light joke or a quick toast to being together.** This can break tension and remind everyone of why they are there.
3. **Try to find common ground.** Sometimes when you're mid argument, it might be a good idea to find one thing you and your feisty relative can relate to which may lead to a conversation change and less pressure off on yourself.
4. **Declare a family emergency.** "Everyone stop! The casserole might be burning!"
5. **WORSE CASE SCENARIO:** State that you have to use the restroom, sneak off (maybe actually stop by the bathroom if you have to go), and then carefully slip off. This works best if you're at a large thanksgiving feast and not a main character. If you're someone else's ride, consider taking a walk around the neighborhood to get some fresh air and if you do end up hiding out, just use, "My contact lens flipped inside out and I had to deal with it"-if you don't have vision problems, now you do-as your excuse.

1. **Shift the topic quickly but casually.**



The Kitchen's recent expansion brings consistent customers

By Virginia O'Kelley

The Kitchen, a small business started in 2013 out of Leigh Ann Pingree's home, has now become a go-to spot for coffee, breakfast, lunch, and more—generally, grab & go meals. The Kitchen expanded into the old Rancho Grande space on August 7, 2025, and since then it has been consistently busy. The Kitchen is home to many of our own Beaufort High students: Addy Norris, MC Musselman, Sophie Brown, Anna Claire Stansell, Kyra Raines, Sophia Davis, and me.

All of these girls help make the world go round in The Kitchen. The coffee has been the number one hit for high schoolers—some

even go up to four times a week before school to grab some caffeination. One of the student employees, Virginia O' Kelley, says, "I don't think anyone expected the coffee to be this good when we expanded." All of the coffee syrups are made in house. The coffee holiday specials include sugar cookie lattes, cookie butter lattes, peppermint mochas and even pecan lattes. The Kitchen is open seven days a week serving food five

days a week Tuesday to Saturday. Breakfast is served from 7:30–10:30 and lunch is served 11–2. Coffee is served all day, every day. The 'grab & go' side of The Kitchen's hours are 7:30am–7pm Monday through Friday, 7:30am–5pm on Saturday and 10am–3pm on Sunday.

Whether grabbing a coffee or stocking up your fridge for weekly dinners, come and visit The Kitchen on Lady's Island (it's right by Grayco)!



Jubilee is coming to BHS

By Piper Kennedy

Jubilee, a popular YouTube channel harboring 10.5 million subscribers, with an average of over 6M+ views per video, is not afraid to "go there." Their channel consists of different series of an array of discussions, all presented in varied formats, some including Odd Man Out, Surrounded, Middle Ground, and Spectrum. These formats push boundaries, tackle taboos, and break the rules. They're not afraid to cast people who are willing to share their outright opinions and break the status quo, as they "believe discomfort and conflict are pivotal forces in creating human connection," as the Jubilee Media website states.

In pursuit of these human connections through pivotal conversations, Beaufort High School's Newspaper and Student Demand Action clubs want to have our very own Middle Ground Jubilee experience. Middle Ground explores whether two different groups of people, opposed in their beliefs, can



come together empathetically and find middle ground. Each group is given a chance to defend their stance on a belief, and then after a prolonged time, the entire group will get together to discuss the belief from their differing standpoints. Beaufort High students of differing backgrounds, grades, and opinions will join together to debate topics that surround our school. If you are interested, please scan the QR code to the side and sign up! Info will be sent on a later date.

Veterans Day

By Jayda Torres

Beaufort High held a ceremony the day prior to Veterans Day held by its very own AFJROTC program. Weeks of practice, planning, and coordination came together as cadets honored America's veterans with precision, respect, and pride. This year's ceremony included the National Anthem sung by our very own Beaufort High choir, an introduction and prayer, an honoring of veteran staff, and presentation of colors. The main event was the POW/MIA table that honored the veterans who died risking their lives for our safety. While the event only lasted about an hour and a half, the preparation behind it stretched far longer. Cadets balanced schoolwork, color guard and table practices as well as leadership responsibilities to make sure everything ran smoothly. According to Corps Commander Jourdaine Brown, the ceremony serves not only as a tribute to veterans but also as an opportunity for cadets to build discipline, leadership skills, and an understanding of service.

Palmetto delegates at the veterans parade

By Sophie Brown



[Brown holding up a patriotic poster handmade by Virginia O'Kelley. The photo is even included in the Island News]

"You're a grand old flag, you're a high flying flag, and forever in peace may you wave. You're the emblem of the land I love, the home of the free and the brave. Every heart beats true for the red, white, and blue, where there's never a boast or brag. But should auld acquaintance be forgot, keep your eye on the grand old flag!" Palmetto Girls and Boys State delegates from this past summer sang "A Grand Old Flag" from the American Auxiliary Float on Tuesday, November 11, in celebration of Veterans Day. This previous summer, the delegates learned an array of songs that encompass what it means to be patriotic as a South Carolinian, songs that include: "South Carolina On My Mind", "Carolina in the Morning", and, of course, the Girls and Boys State Anthems. Virginia O' Kelley even handmade a poster with reds and blues, a message to thank our local veterans. This was just one of four preceding events the group did with other students from Beaufort Academy and Battery Creek to represent the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) that sponsored their summer program.

May they continue to love their "grand old flag" as they represent the Auxiliary!

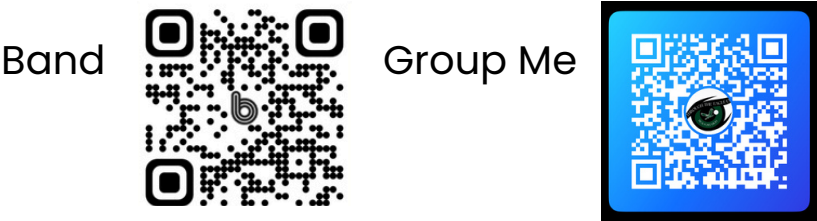
OUR TEAM & PARTNERS

If you are interested in being a part of this production, join today :)

Google classroom code **tlgxn bq7**

follow us on Instagram: @throughtheeagleeye

We meet every other Thursday morning in Mrs. Rhatigan’s room



Thank you to our members who helped with this print!

- **Betsy Rhatigan- Club Advisor**
- **Maggie Brown (12)- Chief Editor**
- **Sophie Brown (12)- Vice President**
- Piper Kennedy (12)
- Virginia O’Kelley (12)
- Camille Giblin (12)
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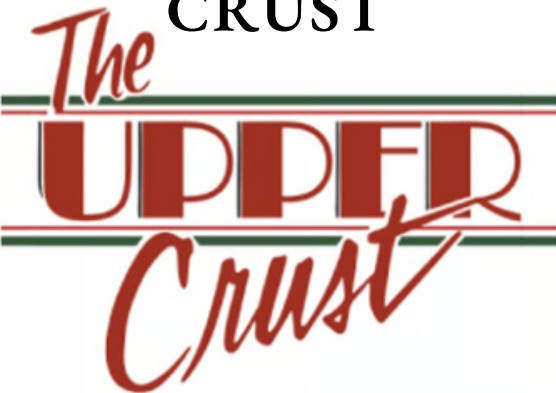
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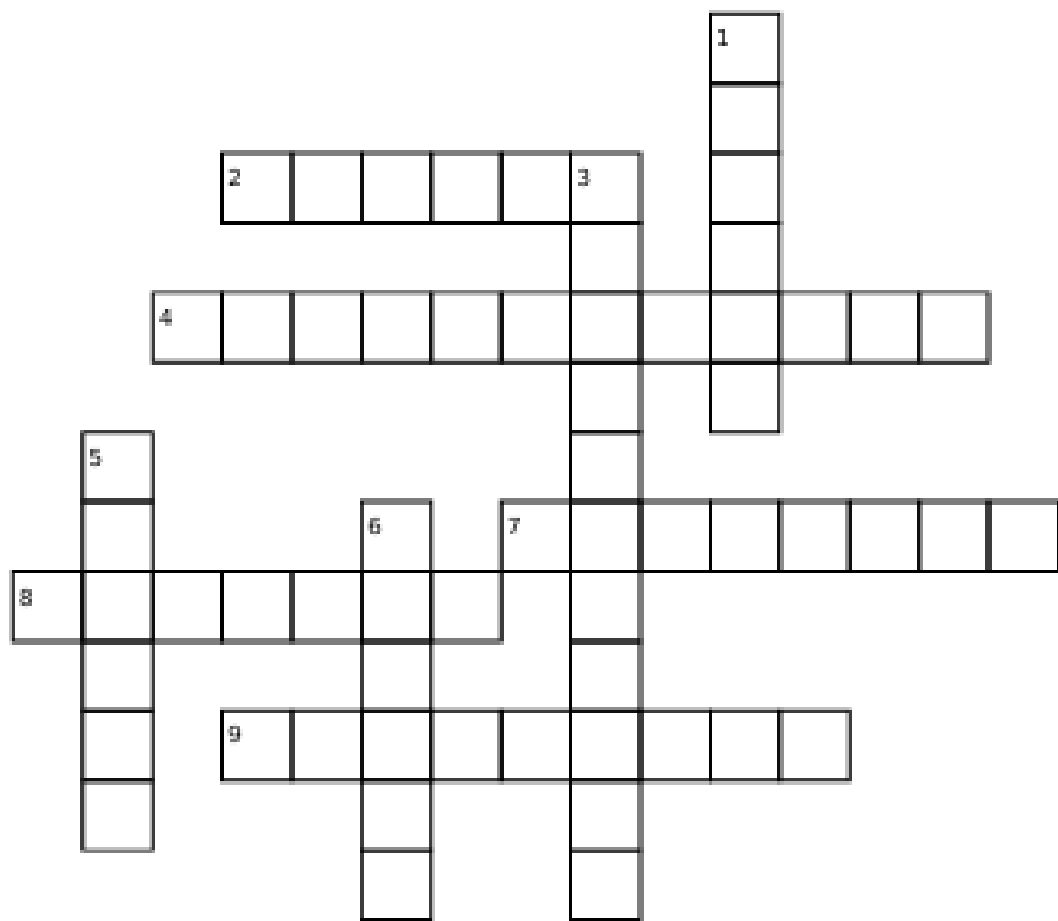
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Crossword Puzzle

By Aly Dennison

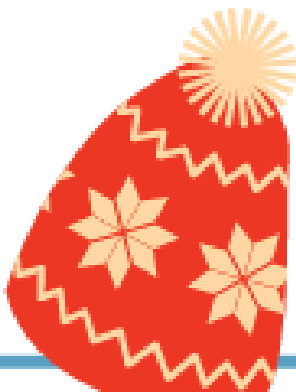
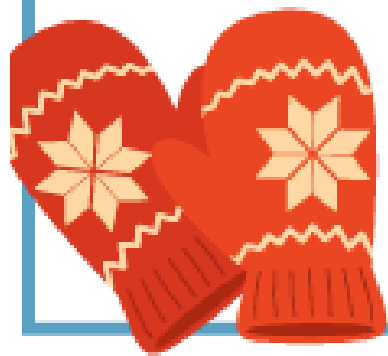


Down:

- 1. the first reindeer
- 3. cookie or house
- 5. without Christmas spirit
- 6. famous snowman

Across:

- 2. traditional Christmas drink
- 4. one wise men gift
- 7. last name of the family in Christmas Vacation
- 8. Christmas movie?
- 9. kiss under



IF YOU WOULD LIKE SOMETHING FEATURED OR INCLUDED, PLEASE CONTACT 843-473-5919 OR EMAIL THROUGHTHEEAGLEEYE@GMAIL.COM