

THE COMET

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BLUFFTON HIGH SCHOOL

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Trump Requires Voter ID

By Manning Nash

On Friday, Feb. 13, President Donald Trump declared that he would seek a requirement of voter identification, whether or not Congress approves it. Trump announced that there will be a need for proof of citizenship and a ban on mail-in ballots, with some exceptions.

According to NBC News, President Trump claimed that democrats have had help winning elections from voter fraud. He stated that this is an issue that needs to be fought now. He continued saying that if this can't get through Congress, he will present it in the form of an executive order.

However, a federal Judge stated that the president doesn't have the legal authority to execute his demands. They announced that a federal judge rejected his demands to require proof of citizenship last year.

If this passes, legislation will require voters to show proof of U.S. citizenship in person, such as a passport or birth certificate, to register to vote. They will also require a photo ID., And it must also require proof of citizenship. However, the legislation lacks the 60 votes needed for passage in the Senate.

Currently 36 states require photo identification to vote, but the other 14 only require other forms of identification.

Doomsday Clock

By Jordan Jellison

The Doomsday Clock is a symbol created by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists to show how close the world is to a global disaster. Midnight on the clock represents the end of the world caused by dangers like nuclear war, climate change, or other ma-

jor threats. The closer the clock is to midnight, the more serious the risks are.

Right now, the clock is set to 85 seconds to midnight, which is the closest it has ever been. Scientists moved it because of risking nuclear tensions, climate change, and fast growing technologies that could be dangerous if not controlled.

In 1991, the clock was 17 minutes from midnight, the furthest it had ever been. This occurred after the Cold War ended and countries such as the United States and the Soviet Union decided to reduce their nuclear weapons. At the time, global tensions were low, and many people were optimistic that the world was growing safer. Experts also hope that the clock's warning would inspire world leaders to collaborate and make the globe a safer place today.

Lovers Arch

By Mason Engle

The famous arch of the sea stacks at Sant'Andrea in Melendugno, Puglia, Italy, or more commonly known as Lovers' Arch, unfortunately collapsed on Valentine's Day after a strong coastal storm swept through.

Lovers' Arch was well known for being used in wedding photo backgrounds, giving it the name it had up until recently. Being one of the most well-known natural landmarks on the Adriatic coast, the arch was also used in postcards and selfies by many people. According to CNN Travel, it was Italy's most visited tourist area and attraction.

According to local authorities, strong winds, rough seas, and rough rain fall in recent days eventually weakened the rock structure enough until it collapsed. Its most significant cause for collapse is erosion on the

landscape of Salento.

"It is a devastating blow to the heart," said Melendugno's mayor, Maurizio Cisternino. "One of the most famous tourist features of our coastline and the whole of Italy has disappeared."

Recently, more and more of these natural landmarks have been collapsing. Some of these being the double arch in Utah and Darwin's arch in the Galapagos. These arches both collapsed due to erosion and decay. Unfortunately, in the future many more will be gone forever, so visit them while you can.

Spider-Man Married his MJ

By Amelia Fritz

The stars met on the set of "Spider-man: Homecoming" in 2016, and the couple got engaged at some point between Christmas and New Year's 2024. Zendaya was first seen wearing her engagement ring at the Golden Globes, which happened in January 2025. Following the engagement ring's appearance, Holland, while speaking in an interview, corrected a reporter who had referred to Zendaya as his girlfriend, simply stating that she was actually his fiancée. Rumors of a potential marriage began circulating online after Zendaya was spotted sporting a simple golden band, rather than the previous jewel, in mid-February.

Zendaya's long-term stylist, Law Roach, spoke about the couple with reporters while at the Actor Awards on March 1st. Despite having not been at the event themselves, talk of Holland and Zendaya's relationship seems to have been the largest discussion topic of the event. Law Roach made a variety of statements, saying, "The wedding's already happened. You missed it." As well as commenting on the beauty

of Zendaya's dress. The couple hasn't come out and spoken on the matter of a wedding, but with the combination of Roach's statements and their radio silence, the world can't help but theorize that this Spider-Man married his MJ.

Dancing With the Stars: The Next Pro

By Amelia Fritz

Fans of "Dancing With the Stars" are expecting a new show this summer: "Dancing With the Stars: the Next Pro". The show is predicted to air this summer and will feature up-and-coming dancers competing for a chance to become the next professional on the main show.

The dancers will likely perform different styles, including ballroom and Latin, and will be judged on skill, performance, and connection with the audience.

The spin-off is expected to be hosted by Robert Irwin, the past season's Mirrorball Trophy winner. His experience as a competitor could help guide the dancers through the competitions.

While details about the judges, contestants, and specific premiere date are not yet known, fans are already excited to see new talent take the stage.

Cover Photos

Regional Qualifier: Adalynn Fiechter (10) (photo by Gabrielle VanCamp)

Alumni Night: Lilly King (12) (photo by Alyssa Hartman)

Around the Classrooms: Aiden Robbins (11), Mr. Price, and Nadege Sharin Abrego (11) (photo by BHS Publications Staff)

Riley Week: Hayden Alfeld (12) and Izabelle Irean (12) (photo by BHS Publications Staff)

Winter Sports: Jake Boots (12) (Photo by Alyssa Hartman)

The Artemis Missions

By Elliott Brown

The Artemis II mission has a complicated past. As a recap, Artemis II is NASA's mission to send 4 astronauts on a flyby of the moon. The mission now called Artemis II has been being discussed for a long time. In 2011 the launch date was proposed to take place between 2019 and 2021, however the mission was not confirmed until 2013 when NASA announced the now canceled Asteroid Redirection Mission (ARM). Part of ARM was Exploration Mission-2 which was renamed Artemis II in 2017 when ARM was defunded and canceled in favor of the Artemis Mission. In April of 2023

the crew of Artemis II was announced and a launch date was set for 2024. That date was pushed back to late 2024 and then to 2025 and then to April of 2026. Earlier in the year NASA announced that, in a rare move, they were moving the launch date forward to early February. After being delayed by a winter storm the Artemis II rocket was moved from Vehicle Assembly Building and onto launch pad 39B. A simulated countdown found several issues with the rocket; A hydrogen leak and a valve needing repair. These issues were addressed and a wet dress rehearsal was successfully

completed in mid February of 2026. Just a few days later a major helium leak was observed. This issue was serious enough that it resulted in indefinite rescheduling of the launch and eventually returned Artemis II back to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB) for repairs. This shows the severity of the issues as moving Artemis II back to the VAB takes an entire day simply to move it. As the mission currently stands, NASA has not confirmed a specific launch date, but has stated that there is a potential for a launch still in April.

Parental Permission Please

By Alyssa Hartman

Social media today can seem like the bane of our existence; it's where we get our new trends, discover music, find funny videos and pictures, and use it to cure boredom. Although, everything has its downsides right?

In December of 2025, Australia became the first country to ban anyone under the age of 16 from accessing social media. The country's government started a study to gain details about the effects of social media, and their findings were not good. From the study, they found that 96% of children aged 10-15 used social media and 70% had been exposed to harmful content. If a social media company is found to not be complying with the ban, or has had some serious breakouts, they can be

fined up to \$32 million dollars USD.

Many other countries have taken a look at Australia and refined their own laws. Malaysia did the same as Australia and barred those under 16 from creating social media, and Spain started doing the same recently. Many other countries have seen the effects and have started to work on new laws, such as Denmark, Greece, and France. The U.S. has seemed to follow along as well with most states putting out an effort to minimize the effects of social media. For example, Florida has banned those younger than 14 from creating a social media account, and those 14-15 years old can create an account with parental permission.

The U.S. is made up of states which hold their own power, explaining why the government hasn't passed a country-wide age restriction. Most states have their own restrictions on social media and who can access it, such as Florida stated earlier. Although, looking at our own state, we don't have an established age minimum within our law. The way the Hoosier government has reduced social media is by banning phones during education hours in school. Additionally to the phone ban, lawmakers have been pushing for Senate Bill 199, which will require those aged 16 and under to have parental permission to join social media.

The Parks Dept Hosts Family Events

By Eliana Mygrant

On Sunday, February 15, the Bluffton Parks Department hosted a Father-Daughter Dance. The dads and daughters from around Wells County gathered at the Wells County 4-H Fair Community Building for a night filled with fun and memories. There was dancing, refreshments, and many photo opportunities. The theme of the Daddy-daughter dance was "You're My Super Hero." Dads and daughters dressed up in superhero costumes, danced the night away, and built memories that they will cherish together.

During the same day, mothers and sons came dressed in their superhero-themed attire and had an epic Nerf gun battle. It was held at the Wells County 4-H building during the afternoon, where there were refreshments and a photo area. Mothers and sons had tons of fun and built bonds with their sons.

Wells Community Pool Updates

By Harper Wood

Construction has come very far on the Wells Community Pool since taking down the old pool. Here is where everything is at so far: Siding on the pool building is approximately 80% complete, interior drywall mudding, taping, and painting are nearly complete at roughly 95%, outside plumbing is approximately 80% complete, interior pool house piping is ongoing, currently around 40% complete, and electrical crews have pulled wire and conduit in the south building and are about 80% complete. Steady progress has been made throughout the last few months, and hopefully will be completed very soon. They are also moving the pool location closer to Spring Street, so it is more visible for visitors.

I am thrilled to be having a new pool design as of 2026, but the old pool will be missed by many. Thank you to the Bluffton Parks Department for the new pool. If you want to look more into the pool updates, they are posted on the Bluffton Parks Department's Facebook page.

Conspiracies

By John-Henry Ryan

During Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July, when I see my family, whatever we are talking about often devolves into a conspiracy theory of some sort. My mom's favorite is that the universal blood type, O-, indicates inhuman origins. She loves to say how some people who have that blood type are part martian as a joke.

That is a conspiracy theory. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, a conspiracy theory is defined as "an attempt to explain harmful or tragic events as the result of the actions of a small powerful group. Such explanations reject the accepted narrative surrounding those events; indeed, the official version may be seen as further proof of the conspiracy."

There are three key factors that make a conspiracy a theory and not a fact. First, it lacks evidence. Second, it resists falsification. Third, it rejects the standard explanation. This means that, when talking to a conspiracy theorist, they will often not cite proven evidence, or they will say things along the lines of "Oh well you can't prove me wrong so I must be right!" They will also try to reason with your emotions rather than logic.

The best way to avoid conspiracies at family or social gatherings is to stay informed. Conspiracy theories prey on a person who isn't knowledgeable about world affairs.

Another way is to respond with something equally or even crazier. My uncles or my grandpa would say something extremely outlandish, like "Zombies are real," and I respond with something even more outlandish, "Yeah, dinosaurs were brought back to life and Jurassic Park was a documentary."

This is something I do, and it works, diverting the conversation back to being normal. When speaking to someone about a conspiracy theory, a key to understanding is to listen to them. Conspiracies are a natural part of society, but the danger lies in false information and narratives. The best thing to do is to avoid them completely, but unfortunately, that is not always possible. The media is riddled with them.

For instance, there was a big scare regarding the Heritage Foundation online on how the government was going to "force" people who were not married or engaged to join their "Marriage Camps" to combat declining birth rates, and at the end, they would get married at a communal ceremony. Upon my own investigation, that is not true. The truth is that these camps are completely voluntary, and in the end, participants would get monetary compensation for their time.

My words to you are do your research before you follow something. These things are made to elicit an emotional reaction, don't let them control you or the narrative.

Kanye's Albums

By Mason Engle

Recently, Kanye has issued an apology about his recent actions and statements of anti-semitism and hateful remarks. In the apology, he said that he was suffering from a mental illness and that he wasn't in the right mindset at the time. In the apology, he also stated that he would drop a new album on March 20th, after being delayed several times. That got me thinking about his discography as a whole.

Kanye has released many albums throughout his discography, including "The Life of Pablo," "Vultures," "Ye," "Donda," and "The College Dropout." His greatest album, which he's ever released, is "Graduation," being full of amazing songs that everyone knows and listens to.

Some of his biggest hits are on that album, two of those being "All of the Lights" and "Stronger." Some sleeper songs are also on that album, including "I Wonder," "Champion," and "Can't Tell Me Nothing."

This album would also mark the final one of the Dropout Trilogy, containing two other amazing hits, those being "Late Registration" and "The College Dropout." These also contained good hits, those being "Gold Digger" and "Through the Wire" (being sung while he had his jaw wired shut). Having an album as good as "Graduation," topping off the already amazing duo that was already in the trilogy, made it the greatest trilogy that Kanye has ever made.

You Will Be Mine

By Adelyn Atkins

You will be mine is a book written by Natasha Preston a well known author who also writes books like: The Cellar, The Cabin and The Lost. You will be mine by Natasha Preston follows a college student Lylah, whose friend group is targeted by a serial killer around Valentine's Day. After receiving threatening, anonymous notes, the friends are hunted, leading to a suspenseful, fast-paced story with a shocking twist.

At first the friends think the notes are a lighthearted joke since valentines day is coming up, but when they go to the club "Your heart will be mine" is written in blood on the wall. They realize there is no way this is a coincidence. Slowly friends from the group start disappearing. People start to get worried that they are next. Police get involved and can't find this serial killer. Until the serial killer asks to meet up...

THE LOST GENERATION

By Ava Trexler

*Innocent boys drafted in the war
They could live for so much more
There is no way of getting out
All they could do was cry and shout
Marching long day and night
Just to sacrifice their lives to fight*

*Leaving their loved ones behind
To the paper they just signed
They don't wanna shoot people
All of them just wanna be equal
They sit in fear
Just to hear the booms in their ear*

*One man has fallen down in the water
The air around me is getting hotter
I couldn't get him to safety in time
All I could hear was the bell chime
The war has ended in disgrace
I can still feel my heart race*

Avenger's Doomsday

By John-Henry Ryan

Avengers: Doomsday is supposedly going to be the biggest multi-movie combination of the century. The alleged concept of the movie is that in an alternate universe, Victor Von Doom, who is played by Robert Downey Jr., felt the death of Iron Man after the events of Endgame, as well as the events of Multiverse of Madness and Spider-Man: No Way Home. That is all that leaks have been able to definitively confirm.

What I also know, and what is confirmed, is that the acting roster is quite large. Buckle up, because there are a total of 28 big-name actors spanning all across the Marvel Cinematic Universe. For the groups, we have the Fantastic Four, Avengers & allies, the Thunderbolts, as well as a mix of others like Namor, M'Baku, and the original X-Men actors.

One of the biggest concerns among fans is that there are too many of their favorite heroes. The concerns come from the understanding that movies are not typically longer than two to two and a half hours long. The question floating around is "How are they going to fit everyone in?"

The theory proposed by fans is that they will make the movie longer to allow the story to come together, the hoped for "golden" time range for the movie is around three and a half hours to four. Fans don't want a rushed production, and the actors certainly don't want to be on screen for just one scene.

Below is a list of actors and their roles. Separated by group they will be filmed as

Avengers and Allies

- Chris Hemsworth [Thor]
- Anthony Mackie [Captain America]
- Letitia Wright [Shuri/Black Panther]
- Paul Rudd [Ant-Man]
- Chris Evans [Steve Rodgers]
- Danny Ramirez [Falcon]
- Winston Duke [M'Baku]
- Tom Hiddleston [Loki]

Fantastic Four

- Pedro Pascal [Mister Fantastic]
- Joseph Quinn [Johnny Storm]
- Ebon Moss-Bachrach [Ben Grimm/Thing]
- Vanessa Kirby [Sue Storm]

Thunderbolts

- Sebastian Stan [Bucky Barnes]
- Florence Pugh [Yelena Belova]
- Lewis Pullman [Sentry]
- David Harbour [Red Guardian]
- Wyatt Russell [John

Walker/U.S. Agent]

X-Men

- Patrick Stewart [Charles Xavier / Professor X]
- Ian McKellen [Magnetio]
- Alan Cumming [Night-crawler]
- Rebecca Romijn [Mystique]
- James Marsden [Cyclops]
- Channing Tatum [Gambit]

Other

- Tenoch Huerta Mejia [Namor]
- Simu Liu [Shang-Chi]
- Hannah John-Kamen [Ghost]
- Robert Downey Jr. [Dr. Doom / Victor Von Doom]

The "Fall Off"

By Bridget Steffen

American rapper J. Cole, also known as Jermaine Lamarr Cole, released his seventh studio album called "The Fall-Off". It is meant to be his last album, retiring his career, however J. Cole says in a post on Instagram that it was "made with intentions to be last".

With "The Fall Off" being his longest album, recorded at over an hour and a half long, it is carried by many top hit songs. The entire album is split into 2 discs, starting with Disc 29 that tells a story about J. Cole returning to his hometown at age 29. "A decade after moving to New York, accomplishing what would have seemed impossible to most, I was at a crossroad with the 3 loves of my life; my woman, my craft, and my city" J. Cole reveals. Disc 39 moves onto when he is older and "gives insight into my mindset during a similar trip home, this time as a 39 year old man. Older and a little closer to peace."

For the week of February 21st, 21 out of 24 of J. Cole's songs on "The Fall-Off" have debuted on the Billboard Hot 100. Then, the album as a whole is placed number 1 in the Billboard 200, which focuses on albums as a whole rather than individual songs. With this influx, he becomes the 22nd person to have at least 100 entries on the Hot 100. With having 7 no. 1 albums in his whole career, he joins other rappers such as Drake, Jay-Z, Future, Eminem, and Ye for most no. 1 albums.

"The Fall-Off" will be known as one of the most remarkable albums J. Cole has written and produced, with all the love and work he put into it.

SENIORS!

PLEASE LOOK ON STUDENTSQUARE FOR A LINK TO
SUBMIT SENIOR PICTURES!

THESE PICTURES ARE DUE TODAY!

FAILURE TO SUBMIT A PHOTO WILL RESULT IN
THE SCHOOL PHOTO BEING USED.

IF UNABLE TO SUBMIT A PHOTO AT THIS TIME,
PLEASE MAKE IT KNOWN IN THE COMMENTS OF
THE STUDENTSQUARE SENT OUT BY MR.
VANDERKOLK ON MARCH 12TH.

PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR DECEMBER
GRADUATE FRIENDS AS WELL!

The Super-Bowl

By Ava Trexler

There are always 2 things most people look forward to in February. One of them being Valentine's Day, and the other is Super Bowl Sunday. There is always a lot of hype about the super bowl, no matter what teams are playing; however, the thing non-football fans are most interested in is the halftime show.

Super Bowl tickets cost around \$6,000 to \$15,000 depending on where you sit. According to the New York Times page, most people that buy tickets usually watch the game, and the people who stay at home mainly watch the super bowl halftime show performance.

I thought I would ask our high school students who they would like to perform at the super bowl next year, and here are the results. I gave our students 3 options. Bruno Mars, Cardi B, and Sabrina Carpenter.

73.8% of students would want to see Bruno Mars perform again. 18.7% of students would like to see Sabrina Carpenter perform; and the other 7.5% of students would like to see Cardi B perform.

This is not based on the whole student population, only a part of it. But, would you agree on this survey or would you like someone else to perform instead?

Around the Classrooms



Top Left: Chaysen Brown & Cora Kunkel work their "Mi Futuro" Project in Spanish III.



Top right: Lance Moser & Amelia Fritz laugh as Clay Brubaker investigates some very old Skittles while on a walk in Publications class.

Bottom Left: Eve Corkwell sculpts a masterpiece in 3D Art



Bottom Right: Audrey Gerber and Isla Gibson enjoy themselves in Mr. Vanderkolk's English 11 class.



Probably the Greatest Movie Ever

By Elliott Brown

Phil Lord, Christopher Miller, Drew Goddard, Andy Weir, Ryan Gosling, and Greg Fraiser. I know, it seems like a random list of names, but it's not. This list of names could very well be responsible for one of the greatest pieces of cinema ever. In the Comet's previous edition you read about Andy Weir's novel *Hail Mary*. Now, we're talking about the soon to be announced movie version of the novel by Andy Weir, aptly named *Project Hail Mary*.

The movie stars the one and the only; Ryan Gosling. He plays astronaut Rylan Grace who wakes up on a spacecraft far from Earth with no memory and an impossible mission. The movie's cinematographer, charged with creating a movie's visual look and style, is the same cinematographer as *Rogue One*, *The Mandalorian*, *Dune*, *Dune Part Two*, and *The Batman*.

Phil Lord and Christopher Miller have previously directed *The Lego Movie*, *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, and the *Spider-verse* Franchise. The movie's writer, Drew Goddard, has already written *The Martian*, another movie adapted from an Andy Weir novel, and was recently chosen to write and direct a new *Matrix* movie. So *Project Hail Mary* is probably going to be the greatest movie of all time. It hits the theaters on March 20th, this Friday.

Movies Coming Out

By Ava Sexton

If you like going to the theaters then March is for you! There's so many upcoming movies starring great actors but there's five that are the most anticipated. According to Rotten Tomatoes, they are:

Project Hail Mary (March 20th), already covered in this issue in the article "Probably the Greatest Movie Ever" by Elliott Brown.

The second movie is *Hoppers* (March 6th), which is starring Piper Curda, Bobby Moynihan, and Jon Hamm and it is about When scientists discover a way to transform human consciousness into robotic animals, Mabel uses the new technology to uncover mysteries of the animal world that are beyond anything she could have ever imagined.

The third movie is *Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man* (March 6th), starring Rebecca Ferguson, Tim Roth, Barry Keoghan, and Stephen Graham. It is a sequel to the show "*Peaky Blinders*" and is about the chaos of World War II, when Tommy Shelby returns from a self-imposed exile to face his most destructive reckoning yet. With the future of his family and country at stake, Shelby must face his demons and choose whether to confront his legacy or burn it to the ground.

The fourth movie is *The Bride!* (March 6th), starring Jessie Buckley, Christian Bale, Penélope Cruz, Annette Bening, Jake Gyllenhaal, and Peter Skarsgård. It is based in the 1930s Chicago and when a groundbreaking scientist Dr. Euphronious brings a murdered young woman back to life to be a companion for Frankenstein's monster. What happens next is beyond what either of them could ever have imagined.

The last movie is *Ready or Not Here I Come 2* (March 20th), starring Samara Weaving, Kathryn Newton, and Sarah Michelle Gellar. It is a sequel to *Ready or Not Here I Come* and it is about them surviving an all-out attack from the Le Domas family, when Grace discovers she's reached the next level of the nightmarish game, and this time with her estranged sister, Faith, by her side. To survive, Grace must keep Faith alive and claim

Read-A-Thon

By Eliana Mygrant

The BHS Book Review Club had its Read-A-Thon of the year. Students stayed the night in the school, where kids could read to raise money for new books in the library. There was pizza for dinner and ice cream for dessert. Members brought snacks that students could munch on and drinks. The games that students participated in included hide-and-seek, *Murder in the Dark*, *Super Smash Bros.*, *Uno*, and other card games.

Murder in the Dark was the favorite game of the night. The members played the game for hours. After the games, students began to settle down and get ice cream, then students went to their spots and either slept or continued to read. Members had loads of fun and made memories that they will remember and cherish with them.



A great group of students competes against each other in a high stakes game of *Cards Against Humanity* during downtime at the Read-A-Thon. Winner unknown. (Photo by Amelia Fritz)

Cavill vs. Corenswet: Battle of Superiority

By Manning Nash

Since the release of "Superman" last summer, people have been debating which is the better Superman: Henry Cavill or David Corenswet. Simply put, I feel like Corenswet is easily the better Superman out of the two. Corenswet signifies hope, light, and an alien being a regular human just like the rest of us. Cavill is more of a dark, angsty tone, which makes us feel he's more of a god than a man.

In "Man of Steel," Henry Cavill's Superman is portrayed as dark and cut off from humanity. There are times in the movie when he could easily save people, but doesn't, and instead stays there, looking hurt or sad. In the movie, his father tells him not to save him from the

tornado. Although Superman, even as a kid, could easily save him from it. In both "Man of Steel" and "Batman Vs. Superman Dawn of Justice," there is excessive damage without him trying to control or help the people. Superman killed Zod despite his no-killing rule. Instead, his father's desire to keep his true identity prevents him from truly being super.

In Superman, David Corenswet's Superman absolutely refuses to kill anyone. He tries his best that he can to stop the other superheroes from killing Kaiju. He moves people out of the way, even animals as small as a squirrel. We get shown his humanity as he gets upset about the real reason he was brought here,

then his earthly parents tell him why he is human. Over the course of the movie, we are shown that Superman is just a regular human, just like the rest of us, not an outsider trying to play a god.

Regardless of opinion, both of these characters might bring joy and happiness to anyone who is a fan of superhero movies. I recommend that you not listen to me, but find out for yourself who you think is the better Superman. It could be any of the several interpretations that have taken the big or small screen. Because to me, the best Superman is actually Tyler Hoechlin's from the CW universe of shows, especially "Superman & Lois."

NASA: Nearly Always Something Ablaze

By Elliott Brown

NASA, the National Aeronautical and Space Administration, has had, in a few words, an epic past. But it hasn't always been giant leaps and new discoveries. NASA has had a rough go with it. I'll focus on three large disasters, though there are several other test flight fatalities in NASA's history. First is the Apollo I fire. What is truly tragic about this disaster is that it took place during a routine test on the launchpad. Nothing ever went to space and nothing ever took off. Apollo I (named after the accident) was supposed to take astronauts into orbit of the Earth, but during a crewed dry rehearsal the command module caught fire and killed all three astronauts inside. Gus Grissom, Ed White, and Roger B. Chaffee. This disaster was incredibly embarrassing for NASA, as during the investigation, it was discovered that engineers had reported that poor wiring and nylon straps were a major fire hazard. Incidentally, poor wiring and nylon straps were the source of the fire. Additionally, concerns had been raised previously that the arduous long process of opening the modules door could lead to problems if there was an emergency. Shortly after the disaster the door was redesigned to be opened much quicker.

The next disaster is the famous one. The Space Shuttle Challenger. Part of the horror of Challenger was that it was publicly televised. On January 28, 1986 the Space Shuttle Challenger took off and "experienced a catastrophic structural failure" resulting in the shuttle to explode, killing every person on board. Francis R. Scobee, Micheal J. Smith, Ellison S. Onizuka, Judith A. Resnik, Ronald E. McNair, S. Christa McAuliffe, & Gregory B. Jarvis. This again was terribly embarrassing for NASA as it was discovered that yet again engineers had expressed concerns over the temperature of the solid rocket fuel in the boosters. It had been cold in the weeks before the launch and while the actual temperature outside was above the threshold for launch the temperature of the rocket fuel was colder than the threshold. That frozen rocket fuel cooled the sealing rings inside the boosters, which caused them to

fail and the shuttle to explode.

Rounding out the disasters in another Space Shuttle, the Columbia. The mission seemed to have gone great at first. It took off and reached orbit without any problems. However during the shuttle's time in space it was discovered that pieces of the heat shield had fallen off. Upon re-entry, the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated, killing its crew. Rick Husband, William C. McCool, David M. Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Michael P. Anderson, Laurel B. Clark, & Ilan Ramon.

To be fair, there is nothing easy about NASA's mission, they are doing literal rocket science. I love NASA and the goal but it's still important we remember the failures and learn from them. That's all. Elliott out.

**LAST CHANCE
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Does Finland exist? Or is it just a hoax?

By Madieson Surbaugh

Sounds like a state forward question. Yes, Finland exists- but what if that's what they want you to think? The theory originated during 2015 on Reddit, as all good conspiracies do. Posted under the username "Raregans", the unknown user shared a story they were told by their parents. The story was about how Japan and Russia controlled Finland and used the land for illegal fishing. The post was forwarded to 4Chain and Tumbler. When more people find out about this conspiracy, they begin to look deeper, and what they discover is anything but dismissible.

In the "Finland Conspiracy" sub-Reddit, it's full of people singing praise for Finland. Seems like a typical discovery people would typically find on Reddit. Let's really think about this, though. Isn't that weird? A sub-Reddit dedicated to this theory is full of unrelated posts; it sounds suspicious, like a cover-up. They don't want you questioning what you

shouldn't. "Finland" sounds a lot like "Fishland", proving that this part of the world was made for fishing. Japan has ports for fishing all over its country; they both have a long and interwoven history with each other. Japan and fishing are comparable to Tom and Jerry. Fish is a staple in their diet; this dish is known as sushi. Japan would be drastically affected if it ran out of fish; it's comparable to England running out of tea, and England is nothing without tea. If Japan wanted to undertake fishing in the Baltic Sea, international backlash would hold the country back. So, Japan gets Russia involved.

Russia's involvement is absolute. They wanted to keep their fishing territory, so they invaded the land that was beginning to form a country. They slapped a new title on the newly concealed part of their country, calling it "Finland". Although Russia and Japan don't have a good relationship currently, that's in the public

eye, there is no saying their relationship in private.

If you still don't believe me, there are a few reliable accounts from our student body:

"Finland is a type of tree," stated Emily Weaver.

"I don't know who that is," Shyria

Schambers was a bit confused about what I was saying.

"After hearing all this evidence, I'm sure Finland is not real," Bailey Surbaugh said with confidence she doesn't have often.

"Finland is not real, ask Madie," Chloe Schlotter said to her big brother on 2/18/26

But that's just a theory, a geographical theory.

I do not believe that this theory is real, nor do those who are mentioned. This is for entertainment purposes only, and should be treated as such.

The Summer I Turned Pretty

By Harper Wood

If you've ever watched The Summer I Turned Pretty by Jenny Han, you know it's really good. I am going to tell you about the show, and my opinions on it. This is your warning to not read this article if you don't want any spoilers.

There are so many ups and downs to the show, which is my favorite kind of entertainment. I can't even begin to explain the emotions I felt as I was watching the show. I'm always trying to tell my mom about the show, but I can't because she hasn't ever watched it yet, which I'm shocked by.

First I want to talk about how Belly (the main female character) chose to be with Jeremiah. She knows she has loved Conrad (one of the main male characters) since she was a little girl. Now I know what you're thinking; how do you know you're in love if you're just a kid? Well this is different. Belly and Conrad have grown up together - done everything together. Well, except the fishing trip he and his brother go on with his dad, which she hates. Belly hates being left out, hates feeling different. But ever since Her and Conrad broke up, she'd been looking for love. Never had she thought it would be found in Jeremiah, Con-

rad's little brother.

Jeremiah was always the pretty brother, which is why Belly never imagined being with him. Conrad on the other hand, was the one all the girls wanted. There's just something about him- that smile. His charm just took you over. Conrad had always been the mature one, the one who got things done. Jeremiah, the lover boy, had always been a little immature and goofy. I think the only reason Belly got with Jeremiah in the first place was to kind of "get back" at Conrad. Conrad really hurt her when they split apart, which she claimed she had moved on. I'm not gonna get into that detail because I don't really wanna spoil the show but you get my point. In the end, she wasn't okay.

Eventually after team Jellyfish (Jeremiah and Belly) had been together for a while, they had taken a break and Jeremiah cheated on Belly. At that point, Belly wanted nothing to do with either of the brothers. Then out of nowhere Jeremiah proposes. She says yes and they "think" they want to be together for the rest of their lives, that they wanna grow old together, experience it all together, but they're wrong. When the big day comes, they call it

off, because Belly is still in love with Conrad. Oh and I forgot to mention- Conrad confesses his love to Belly the day before the wedding. He tells her how he'd still been in love with her all these years after they broke up, but knew she wouldn't take him back. Not since her and Jeremiah got back together. Not since Conrad had hurt her.

Well after the wedding gets called off, she runs off to Paris by herself, and lives there for a few years. I think this was pretty dumb of her, considering she didn't even get into the school she flew out there for, but oh well. Of course, Conrad is still in love with her, especially since he heard that the wedding got called off. He decided to go down there and surprise her with a visit, and they end up falling back in love and Belly realizes that Conrad is the only boy she has ever truly loved. At least she ended up with the one she wanted in the first place.

But in the end, The Summer I turned Pretty is a great show and you honestly should watch it. It was a great experience for me, and I think it will be for you too.

Top 10 nearby places to go during spring break

By Aiden Robbin

One of the best times to have fun or relax is during spring break, but not everyone travels far from home. For those people who don't like to travel far this list has all sorts of things to do nearby. From zoos to amusement parks, there are plenty of options for families, friends, or anyone looking for something interesting to do during the break. All of these locations could be a wonderful one day trip to enjoy the wonderful break.

The Fort Wayne Zoo

The Fort Wayne Zoo is one of the most popular attractions in northeast Indiana. It has tons of animals from around the world, such as lions, giraffes, and penguins. Visitors can walk through different themed areas and learn about wildlife while seeing animals up close.

Indianapolis Children's Museum

The Indianapolis Children's Museum is the largest children's museum in the world. It has many hands-on exhibits about science, history, sports, and space. Teens can enjoy exploring the hands-on displays and large dinosaur exhibits.

Madison's Clifty Fall

Clifty Falls State Park is known for its beautiful waterfalls and hiking trails. During spring, the waterfalls are more beautiful than any other time because of melting snow and rain. It is a amazing place for people who enjoy nature, hiking, and scenic views.

Brown County State Park

Brown County State Park is the largest state park in Indiana and is often called the "Little Smokies" because of its rolling hills. Visitors can hike, bike, camp, and enjoy nature.

Poster's Indiana Dunes

The Indiana Dunes are located along Lake Michigan and have large sand dunes and beaches. Visitors can hike the dunes, walk along the beach, or enjoy views of the lake. It is a unique place in Indiana because it feels almost like being at the ocean.

Indianapolis Zoo

The Indianapolis Zoo is another great place to visit during spring break. It has many animals, and even an aquarium. Visitors can see dolphins, elephants, and many other animals while also learning about the animals.

Cedar Point

Cedar Point, located in Sandusky, Ohio, is known as the "Roller Coaster Capital of the World." It has some of the tallest and fastest roller coasters anywhere. It's a perfect place for people who love thrill rides and amusement parks.

Fort Wayne Crazy Pinz

Crazy Pinz is a fun indoor entertainment center. It has bowling, laser tag, arcade games, mini golf, food and more. It's a great place to hang out with friends if you are looking for somewhere indoors.

Fort Wayne Roller Dome

The Roller Dome is a classic roller-skating rink where people can skate, listen to music, and hang out with friends. It's a fun and active way to spend time with friends or family.

Fort Wayne Glenbrook Mall

Glenbrook Mall is one of the largest shopping malls in the area. It has many clothing stores, restaurants, and places to relax or hang out. It's a good option for people who want to shop or spend time indoors.

Why Anakin is the best Skywalker

By Mason Engle

In Star Wars, there are five Skywalkers (blood-related only). Those Skywalkers are Shmi Skywalker, Anakin Skywalker, Leia Organa, Luke Skywalker, and Ben Solo. Out of those five, Anakin is the best, coolest, and greatest Skywalker of all time.

One of the things that makes him so great is the fact that he does all this while struggling with fear, pride, and hatred. From the start, he was believed to be the "chosen one" because his mother, Shmi, conceived him through the Force.

His feats and actions in the series also add to the fact that he's goated. He (at nine-years-old) destroyed the Trade Federation

ship while piloting an N1 Starfighter, one-v-one'd Dooku multiple times, beating him at the start of Episode 3, and survived being burned alive while missing three limbs. During his downfall, his wife Padme gave birth to Leia and Luke, who went on to be two pivotal figures in the original series.

Even after falling to the dark side throughout the original trilogy, he came back at the end and proved why he was labeled the chosen one, returning to the light side to help his son Luke defeat Emperor Palpatine.

After his death at the end of Episode 6, he still had an impact through the sequel trilogy. During his time as Vader, he committed

many atrocities across the galaxy. His grandson, Ben Solo (son of Leia and Han Solo), idolized him throughout the sequel trilogy, taking on the persona of Kylo Ren. Kylo views him as his grandfather and a personal hero whose dark legacy he intended to complete. His light saber also had an impact on the story, being a rift between Kylo and Rey, representing their conflicting claims to the Skywalker legacy.

Overall, as a character, Anakin displays immense power, combat prowess, and courage. His presence is felt through all Star Wars films. Without him, would the Force be with us?

The Effects of Quantity or Quality in Video Games

How Certain Quality Games Last

By Jordan Jellison

At first glance, Rocket League seems like a pretty simple game. There are cars, a ball, and five-minute matches. The core gameplay hasn't changed in years, yet millions of people still play. The secret isn't a constant reinvention. Every match feels different because opponents are different. Players return not for the new maps, but to improve their skills and chase more wins.

Cosmetics also play a major role. Custom cars, goal explosions, and other seasonal rewards let players stand out without changing the gameplay. Similar systems in Fortnite and Minecraft keep communities engaged through multiple limited-time items and battle passes. Short matches and competitive rankings create a "just one more game" effect, while esports and streaming create a long-term interest.

In today's gaming industry, repetition isn't a weakness. Familiar gameplay, combined with competition and customization, keeps the players always coming back for more.

Benefits of Quantity

By Bartolo Zuniga

Many games have such different play styles and different mechanics, but compared to games that prioritize quality, those that emphasize quantity offer a broader range of gameplay features and experiences. However, this emphasis on quantity can lead to more issues and inconsistencies within the community of the games.

For example, the Call of Duty franchise includes several titles, such as Cold War and Black Ops, World War 2. Along with this also comes a bunch of other famous titles in the sports side of things such as FIFA, Madden, NBA2K, MLB, and NHL. With so many options to choose from, problems begin to arise.

Even though many players prefer the game to remain the same, the creators and developers often make changes anyway to promote new releases and increase their profits from yearly sales. They have done these releases for years from when their own games have first been released ranging from 1999 to current day gaming.

The community may like this at the time, but with yearly releases every single year, it gets hard to stick to different games with something always being new, whether it is graphics or gameplay mechanics.

Olympic Level Drama

By Amelia Fritz

Throughout the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, the various events produced a wide array of drama, controversy, and heart-warming moments alike.

Curling

In both the women's and men's events, Team Canada was accused of breaking the same rule: double-touching the stone. Double-touching the stone means that the person releasing the stone makes contact with it after the initial release. Team Canada has been accused of this violation in the past. Until the Milano Cortina Olympics, there had not been sufficient evidence to confirm a violation.

However, during their match against Sweden, Marc Kennedy of Team Canada appeared on camera touching the granite of the stone as it passed over the hog line. This potential infraction was called out by Sweden's Oskar Eriksson immediately after being spotted. In response to these accusations, Kennedy yelled that he had not touched the granite once, adding additional and seemingly unnecessary expletives to his vocalization.

In the aftermath, World Curling released a statement on the matter: "During this period of observation in the Friday evening game, there were no violations recorded."

Hockey

Many hockey fans consider fighting one of the most exciting parts of the game. Physical altercations can hype up crowds and shift the momentum, making the sport more intense and unpredictable. However, for fans hoping to see fights on the Olympic ice, there are strict rules against fighting in Olympic hockey. This rule exists with the intent of maintaining player safety and upholding the Olympic spirit, emphasizing sportsmanship and fair play. While professional hockey leagues, such as the NHL, allow fighting under certain circumstances, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) enforces strict penalties for on-ice fights at the Olympics, including game suspensions and ejections.

During the Canada versus France men's hockey game, Canada's Tom Wilson dropped his gloves and fought France's Pierre Crinon. Wilson's reasoning was that Cri-

non hit Wilson's teammate, Nathan MacKinnon, in the head with his forearm minutes prior. After Crinon's initial contact with MacKinnon, he apologized and was given a two-minute penalty. This, however, was not just punishment in the eyes of Canada's players. After the fight, Wilson and Crinon were both ejected with seven minutes remaining in the game. Wilson turned down interviews after the game. His teammates, in conversation with reporters, shared that they always know that Wilson has their backs.

Lindsey Vonn

Olympic skiing champion Lindsey Vonn suffered a crash during training that forced her to withdraw from upcoming events. The fall occurred while she was navigating a downhill course at high speeds, an event known for its extreme risk and technical difficulty.

The crash resulted in injuries that required immediate medical attention and an airlift off the slopes from rescue personnel. Despite the severity of the incident, Vonn quickly directed her focus to her recovery. Vonn has been known throughout her career for her resilience in the face of injuries. She has been working with medical professionals and trainers as a means of recovering, with the intent of returning safely to the sport.

Men's Freestyle Figure Skating

During the men's freestyle figure skating event, expectations were high for defending champions and rising stars. Ilia Malinin, the favorite for the gold medal going into the event, having gone undefeated in all competitions the previous two years, finished in eighth place after completing a difficult program that included multiple slips and mistakes. Many skaters appeared to struggle with the same section of the rink, leading some observers to suggest that the ice conditions may have been unusually soft or even watery. Multiple competitors fell in the same area during their routines, making the results of the event come across as unpredictable and dramatically impacting the final standings.

Ski Jumping Scandal

Olympic ski jumping has very strict regulations regarding competition suit sizing. Rules state that an athlete's suit can only exceed their body measurements by a margin of, at most, three millimeters, to prevent competitors from gaining excess drag while in the air. Due to the fact

Olympic Level Drama cont.

reported that before measurements and fittings, athletes injected themselves with hyaluronic acid. These injections temporarily increased body volume in specific areas, which allowed athletes to meet measurement requirements in the moment and gain looser suits during competition. The tactic sparked debate about fairness and whether stricter enforcement of equipment rules may be needed in the future.

Proposal on the Slopes

American skier Breezy Johnson experienced an unforgettable surprise following her race down the hills. Shortly after she finished her event, Johnson's partner proposed to her near the finish area. The emotional moment quickly spread across social media as fans celebrated the joyful scene amongst the intense Olympic competition. Teammates and spectators gathered nearby, applauded and cheered, and Johnson accepted the proposal.

Ice Dance Scoring Debate

The ice dance competition also ignited controversy after final scores were announced. A French duo earned the gold medal, but some fans and analysts noticed that the margin of victory was strongly swayed by the score

from the French judge on the panel. Without that score, calculations suggested that the American team of Madison Chock and Evan Bates might have finished in first place instead. Despite the debate, Chock and Bates stated publicly that they would not be appealing the results, choosing instead to respect the judging process and focus on their performance.

Biathlon Interview

After finishing his course, Norwegian biathlon athlete Sturla Holm Lægreid unexpectedly captured everyone's attention during a television interview. Lægreid, who won the bronze medal in the event, spoke with a Norwegian broadcaster after the race. During the interview, he admitted that he had previously cheated on his girlfriend earlier in their six-month relationship, emphasizing that he deeply regretted the action and emphasized that he now remained committed to her. Lægreid had told his girlfriend about his cheating months prior to his announcement on global television. His girlfriend, choosing to remain anonymous, spoke with a Norwegian television company and stated that she is aware of what Lægreid said and his opinions.

Formula 1 on Top

By Clayton Brubaker

Formula 1 pulls in eyes worldwide like nothing else on wheels these days. About one point five billion tuned into its 2023 season, according to the organization behind it. Meanwhile, each NASCAR race in America drew near three million watchers on average. Such a wide lead tells you where most fans are really looking. Clearly, F1 connects far beyond borders while stock car racing stays mostly local. What sets them apart lives right under the hood. While F1 crews craft hybrid engines, they fine-tune air flow through relentless trials and tweaks. Wings shift angle, intake paths change, engine parts adapt - all chasing fractions of speed. Oddly enough, bits of that race-driven thinking sometimes land in regular vehicles people drive daily. Still, NASCAR goes with identical cars. This way the races stay tight and intense, yet innovation slows down because changes are few. Faster than most sports grow, Formula 1 pulls ahead thanks to massive crowds and never-ending tech upgrades. While others chase trends, this one sets them - sparking new ideas while filling seats everywhere. Since it started spreading across continents, machines here keep redefining what's possible on track.

Girls Tennis Preview

By Lance Moser

This year, the girls tennis team is getting ready for the season, hoping for it to be historic. With four seniors - Hazel Pfister, Eve Corkwell, Emily Drayer, and Emma Schwartz - leading the way this season, the Tigers hope to win their first ever sectional title in girls tennis history.

After losing in the finals last year to Bellmont, 4-1, the Tigers are coming back full steam ahead to prove they are the best in the sectional. This season also will hopefully be the best season the girls have had in a while, after graduating only one player, the entire girls varsity team is returning to make this season one to remember.

Even though, the Tigers did not win the sectional, the team won the ACAC championship, and the players look to repeating as champs.

The first match is scheduled for April 9 against county and sectional rival Norwell. The match will be played at Bluffton.

Collin Morikawa is back!

By Lance Moser

This year's AT&T Pebble beach Pro am was an absolute thriller all the way to the 18th. Collin Morikawa, Min Woo Lee, and Sepp Straka were all tied at an astonishing -21 going to the 18th hole. With the pressure on and no PGA win since 2023, Collin Morikawa stepped up to the challenge and showed out. Following a 62 on Saturday, he was able to maintain his lead under immense pressure on the following Sunday.

Despite the pressure to hold his lead and a 19 minute delay on the 18th fairway, he was still able to secure the birdie on the final hole to win the title and defeat his leaderboard opponents by one stroke finishing at -22. This was a very significant win for Morikawa, not only was it his first win in 3 years, it also secured him a spot as the No. 5 in the world. After the win in an interview he credited a change in his mindset and practice on the TGL in hopes of more wins to come in the season ahead.

The Players 2026

By Lance Moser

The 2026 Players tournament is coming soon and golf fans around the world are getting pumped for it. Known as the "Fifth Major," The Players championship is one of the most premier tournaments on the PGA Tour. The tournament is held in March at the renowned golf course of TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida and is considered to be the strongest field in golf. The tournament attracts fans and the world's best players from around the world to compete for the massive \$25 million purse. Not only is the huge prize pool what pulls in the best golfers, but the infamous island-green

The 17th hole attracts hundreds of thousands of fans from all over.

However, Rori McIlroy will be attending this year in hopes of winning yet another Players tournament. After winning last year finishing at -12 in a playoff, it will not be easy for him or his top opponents. Collin Morikawa just won at the Pebble Beach Pro-am tournament and has started to heat up and make it hard for McIlroy. However, Morikawa is not the only player McIlroy needs to watch out for. Scotty Scheff-

ler, one of the best to ever play, is seeking his first win of the season and there is no better place to do it. With all the amazing things this tournament has to offer, we can only wait in excitement for the start of the tournament

BNP Paribas Open 2026

By Lance Moser

Each year fans travel from around the world to Palm Springs, California, the home of the BNP Paribas Open. Hosted in the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, it can host a whopping 16,000 fans in center court which is the second largest outdoor tennis stadium in the world after the Arthur Ashe Stadium (US Open). The \$77 million facility was built in March of 2000 and has hosted well over 200 matches a year. The Indian Wells Open is the most attended non grand slam hard court tournament and is often called the "fifth Grand Slam" with a record of 504,268 fans in 2025. Last year's BNP Paribas finals was an absolute thriller of a match between two great tennis players Jack

Draper and Holger Rune.

Jack Draper kicked off his great career by securing his first Masters title by defeating Rune 6-2, 6-2 in the final. Holger Rune after getting beat pretty badly will most definitely come back for blood after his loss in the finals against Draper. Draper also made history by becoming the second British man to the title after Cameron Norrie in 2021. After winning, Draper made his debut in the top 10 of the ATP rankings. It was also the first time ever that a Masters 1000 final was played by two players born in the 2000s.

Draper didn't just have a cake walk to the finals, he had to defeat two time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in the semi finals. Alcaraz is known for his insane combo of power and precision and his insane speed on the court. The Semi final match against Alcaraz and Draper was an even more thriller than the final, Draper was able to pull it off in three sets and defeated Alcaraz 6-1, 0-6, 6-4 which secured him in the top ten. The 2026 BNP Paribas Open is underway with its elegant demeanor and exhilarating matches.

Rookie of the Year?

By Bridget Stephen

Averaging 20.4 points per game, rookie Cooper Flagg is putting up boards like no other. At just 17 years old, Flagg was a starting player at Duke University, who would impact winning and carry the Blue Devils all the way to the Final Four. Only playing one season of collegiate basketball, he received numerous awards such as Consensus All-American, multiple National Player of the Year honors, the Wooden Award, and the Naismith Award. The Blue Devils would finish their season with a record of 35-4.

Cooper Flagg was the number one pick in the NBA Draft, taken by the Dallas Mavericks. His game would quickly be compared to players like Kawhi Leonard, Jayson Tatum, Kevin Garnett, and even LeBron James. These comparisons were not lightly made. Like Kawhi Leonard, Flagg possesses elite defensive abilities and has the ability to guard multiple positions. On the court, Flagg has shining confidence and smooth scoring that resembles Jayson Tatum, while his energy and shot-blocking show off Kevin Garnett. Some reporters even say that his high basketball IQ, versatility, or play-making skills to dominate games make him similar to the "threat" LeBron James is.

Cooper Flagg is currently the leading candidate for the league's rookie of the year award. However, his former teammate and roommate from Duke, Kon Knueppel of the Charlotte Hornets, is sneaking up right behind him. They both have shown maturity and confidence on the court as they fall right in line with NBA veterans such as Anthony Davis, Lamelo Ball, and Kyrie Irving. Flagg says in an interview, "I'm just gonna go out there every night and try to be consistent and try to be the best version of myself. Whatever that looks like, whoever is out there with me, I hope we compete at a very high level." Unfortunately, Flagg suffered a left mid-foot sprain during the Phoenix Suns vs Dallas Mavericks game on February 10th, which could set him back from receiving Rookie of the Year, but only time will tell.

The Dallas Mavericks drafted an electric pick that will make a cornerstone for Dallas history. Flagg is only a rookie making big stats so lots of fans look forward to his success in years to come.

A legacy Doesn't Flinch

By Clayton Brubaker

The 2025-2026 Bluffton boys swim team has had another phenomenal season as they just rounded off the undefeated season with a third sectional title in Bluffton history.

The boys sent a total of nine boys down to the state meet on February the 27th to compete in two relays and 4 individual events. James Issac Wheeler competed in the 200-yard IM(25th) and the 100-yard breaststroke(29th). Rhett Matthew Gerber competed in the 200-yard freestyle and placed 29th. Noah Ty Brooks placed 31st in the 100-yard backstroke. The two relays that also qualified for the state meet were the 200-yard freestyle and the 400 yard-freestyle. The 200 consisted of Athan Lewis King, Wheeler, Brooks, and Gerber. The 400 swimmers were Graham Steven Linderwell, Wheeler, Gerber, Brooks.

BLUFFTON SOFTBALL

By Bridget Steffen

The 2026 softball season is right around the corner.

The Lady Tigers begin their season with a new opponent, the Delta Eagles, facing them at home. With this exciting start, I reached out to head coach, Tyler Sonnigsen, with a couple of questions.

Last year, the team graduated 5 starting seniors, which leaves a large spot for the 10 returning players to fill while maintaining the foundation established last season. Coach Sonnigsen says, "I think losing 5 senior starters makes it non-comparable (to last season). We're young, and we're gonna rely heavily on our 2 seniors and 2 juniors this year for leadership. Not to mention we have a very young pitching staff." Senior players, Jillian Philippe and Konley Ault, are followed by both juniors Addison Kauffman and Kierstynn Reed.

Despite the roster changes, Coach Son-

nigsen says that he believes that this year's squad should be able to pick up where last year's team left off. In addition this year, the Lady Tigers have the talent to post an above .500 record and to compete in every game.

Instead of just one or two people filling in the gaps that the seniors left, Coach Sonnigsen emphasizes that the responsibility will fall on a collective group of players stepping. He states, "From pitching, to offense and defense, everyone needs to step up and fill roles when called upon."

The team has set realistic goals for the upcoming season. A .500+ winning record in conference and over the season is a very achievable benchmark for the Lady Tigers. While Coach Sonnigsen believes that the team is capable of more, reaching that mark is just one of the first signs of the players developing.

When it comes to competition, there isn't one team that seems to stick out as an obstacle. Instead, their success depends on how well or how poorly they perform in games. By considering consistency and improvement each game, the team hopes to stay competitive throughout the entire season.

Beyond the performance on the field, the team's relationship goes further. The team is seen as what coaches look for when it comes to being "one unit" and they all seem to get along. As they have fun, they also make sure to work hard and get better everyday, just like what Coach Sonnigsen wants to see.

With a young roster and team chemistry, the Bluffton Softball team is ready to take on the 2026 season and prove that they can still compete this year.

Boys and Girls Track

By Elliott Brown

Looking at the upcoming track season, the girls have an amazing team. Last year, the girls track team took second in both the South Adams meet, conference, and sectionals and that momentum and skill is definitely expected to continue on into this year. The only member of the last year's team that graduated was Maryn Schreiber who holds the school 4x8 record. The rest of the young team remains led by only two seniors; Dakota Lee and Rylynn Penick. Dakota is the returning sectional champion, regional qualifier, and the school record holder in the 100 Hurdles. In 2025 the 4x8 team of Cora Kunkel, Maryn Schreiber, Addison Sonnigsen, and Abigail Ramseyer set a new school record, and with three of them still running the 4x8 prospects look good. Looking at the field, this will be Addison Raber's second year pole vaulting and seeing as she was a regional qualifier and set the school record last year things look good. In the pits, Rori Drayer is a strong leader in both

shot put and discus and Alexandria Koby in shot put, have a great opportunity to lead the girls team to success.

The boys track team isn't in the same great situation. The team graduated a lot of powerful competitors that led the team to victory at last year's sectional. Jude Baumgartner and Levi Johns have Jackson Rockwell with very fast shoes to fill in the distance races. And in throws, Tavin Frees and Drayvin Shoemaker have turned discus and shot put dominance over to junior Connor Landis. Other than those, the leaders this year lie in the seniors. Eli Bertsch in the high jump and hurdles, Alex Mechling in sprints along with several of the other seniors. The overarching feel of the boys track team is that this year will be a year for new runners to step up and fill in lost roles. This season looks good for the boys as they shoot for a 6th straight ACAC title.

Intro To Baseball

By Mason Engle

This year, the Bluffton Baseball team is looking forward to many great things. The team plans to win back to back conference titles during the season, and they're hoping to bring a sectional to the Bluffton Baseball program.

The players this year are hoping for the same thing. Crowder, Grayson comments "I'm ready to go to war with my team and winning ball games.", Lee, Dawson adds on "Really looking forward to playing with all my teammates and building an even bigger chemistry than we already have, also looking forward to making more memories with the team. This upcoming season we are gonna go all the way and win state to get a nice big ring on our finger." And finally Shaw, Chanley states "I'm looking forward to the bus rides with the team and winning games"

Last year, the team had a big win at ACAC. After that, they were sectional runner ups, unfortunately being defeated by Adams Central. This year holds promising things, so wish them luck on their upcoming season.

Boys Basketball Sectionals

By Croy Stout

The Tigers drew the South Adams Starfires in round one of the sectionals at home. They blew them out of the water, beating them for the third time this year with a score of 60-35.

They were led in points by Declan Grieser with 16, Gavin Grieser with 15, Max White with 11, Maddox White with seven, Griffin Morgan with six, and Marshall Gerber with five.

The Tigers had a rough start with three consecutive turnovers in their first three possessions and going down 2-0. The Tigers then found their momentum and finished off the first quarter ahead 20-6. They kept the fuse burning throughout the second quarter as well with a halftime score of 37-11.

The Tigers team as a whole finished with 60% from the field and out-rebounded the Starfires 33-15. Max went 3-5 from the three point line and Maddox went 1-2. The team went 4-8 from threes throughout the game.

In the semi-finals of sectionals the Tigers played the Woodlan Warriors. They defeated them for the second time this season with a score of 49-39 to advance to the sectional championship game.

In the third quarter, Woodlan took a 22-17 lead before Bluffton came back and ended the quarter ahead 23-22 to hold the lead for the rest of the game to secure the win.

They were led in points by Gavin who had 16, Declan with ten, Gerber with eight, Maddox with six, Gibson with five, and Max and Morgan both scored two.

The sectional championship game was an emotional one for the fans and players due to a loss with a score of 75-66. This loss ended the season.

For the three seniors, Griffin Morgan, Marshall Gerber, and Declan Grieser, it was their last game of their high school career.

The Tigers were led by Declan Grieser with 23, Gavin Grieser with 19, Maddox white with 18, and Gerber, Morgan, and Max all added two.

The Tigers finished with a 17-8 record going 6-1 in the conference.

Wrestling Semi-State + State

By Croy Stout

Three Bluffton wrestlers qualified for semi-state. They consisted of seniors Steven Will Frettinger (106) and Jake Boots (215), as well as sophomore Parker Barnes (144).

Frettinger had a hard-fought loss in the first round of semi-state, losing 6-0. Boots fell in the first round as well to a pin.

These seniors had a great career of wrestling for the Tigers. Boots and Frettinger finished their senior year off with records of 29-10 and 18-8, respectively. They both won ACAC individual titles in their senior year.

Sophomore Parker Barnes won his first match of semi-state while getting revenge on a loss from earlier in the season, with a third-period tech pin. In round two, he won his match with a decision of 10-2. This win secured a spot at the state finals.

In round three, he wrestled the eventual semi-state champion and fell with a score of 20-7. This loss put him in the third- and fourth-place match. In the consolation match, he fell again, 11-2, getting fourth place at semi-state.

At the state tournament, he wrestled the number one seed on Friday at 6:00 pm at the Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana (Home to the Pacers NBA team). He made it three great rounds before getting tech-falled, 19-4. His opponent went on to place fifth.

Boys Golf

By Adelyn Atkins

This upcoming Spring is the start of the Bluffton boys golf season. Their season will start with a home opener at Timber Ridge Golf Course. They are looking for revenge from last year's season opening loss to Adams Central. With the graduation of 3 year varsity player, Conner Klopfenstein, they will be returning four of their five conference winning lineup. Throughout the season they will compete in multiple invites, including South Adams invite at Wabash Valley Golf Course which they won last year.

Coach Atkins is looking forward to his young squad competing amongst themselves to continuously get better. With one returning Senior, Declan Grieser, and three returning Juniors, Will Ault, Lance Moser, and Kameron Klinski - Coach Atkins will be relying on his underclassmen to step up. This Sophomore class has routinely stepped up and performed well. As a middle school team they won 21 times and lost 3 times, this includes winning the Well County invite back to back years. This kind of experience helped lead the Tigers to an ACAC title last year, three of the freshmen finished as first team all conference golfers (Reid Abbett, Rafe Gerber, and Gibson Grieser).

Coach Atkins is very confident in his team as they approach the start of the season. They have adopted the GMOB (Get My Opportunity

Back) mentality, which enables his golfer to fight through adversity. He is on record saying, "The Tigers will win the ACAC conference tournament this year." One thing I know for sure, you don't want to be in the way of a Tiger when they are pursuing their prey.