

THE BOBCAT PRESS

The Official Newsletter of Blue Hill High School

HOMECOMING WEEK

BY ELLIE JANDA

During the week of September 7th-10th, the halls of Blue Hill were filled with excitement and school spirit. The festivities began on Friday the 3rd with the traditional tapping ceremony, when the senior candidates were “tapped” by the spirit squad members. The senior candidates were: Ellie Janda, Jackson Balfour, India Mackin, MJ Coffey, Abigail Meyer, Caleb Karr, Madison Mlady, and TJ Ockinga. On that Friday afternoon, each class decorated their hallway area with their selected themes, which included: “Sweet and Sour” 7th Graders, “Entertaining” 8th graders, “Freedom” Freshmen, “Super Mario” Sophomores, “Just Here So We Don’t Get Fined” Juniors, and “Scooby-Doo” Seniors. This was a fun afternoon of decorating, listening to music, and preparing for the following week.

Throughout homecoming week, there were a variety of daily dress-up themes, which the student body enjoyed. These included Zoom Day, Color Wars, Country vs. Country Club, and School Spirit Friday. Friday was a day with much celebration, ending with the pep rally for both elementary and high school students. The band led all students out of the school and performed on the field, the candidates participated in games that were planned by the spirit squad, the seniors from each sport said a few words, and fun was had by the entire school.

Friday night football is an exciting time for small-town America, and Blue Hill is no exception. Pep band, spirit squad, the football team, and Bobcat fans made for an incredible atmosphere. Although the Bobcats fell to Arapahoe, it was still an exciting night. The evening concluded with the presentation of candidates and the crowning of homecoming king and queen: MJ Coffey and India Mackin. The high schoolers were able to enjoy a dance in the school. Overall, the week was a great display of Bobcat pride.



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Katy Rouse (Chaplain), Madison Mlady (Parliamentarian), Kasey Meyer (Reporter), Libby Macklin (Secretary), Abigail Meyer (President), Michelle Henkel (Vice President), Jaelyn Himmelberg (Treasurer), Claire Scheideler (Sentinel), Marcus Utecht (Historian), and Keiera Schmidt (Junior Advisor).

FFA: FUTURE FARMER'S OF AMERICA

BY HAILEY EKSTEIN AND ARICA HARTMAN

How was the officer retreat this summer and what did you do?

Abigail Meyer: "The Columbus Trip that we took this summer went really well. This is where we all got together and planned the events that we wanted to hold this year. For example, this is where we discussed National Farm Safety week, we talked about questions we wanted to ask, and got prizes figured out for the people that win. It's honestly just a lot of planning for us to be less stressed and for us to be one step ahead."

Claire Scheideler: "We figured out dates for the FFA week and all the other activities they have planned for the year. Some of those activities talked about include mini peak for junior high and the hayrack ride."

Do you believe FFA will change over the next couple of years?

Claire Scheideler: "I hope it will have more people involved and fun activities as well."

Do you expect membership to grow in the upcoming years?

Mrs. Bonifas: "Our membership continues to grow each year as students learn about agriculture classes and opportunities at a younger age instead of waiting until they get into high school. We expect our membership to grow as many conferences and activities have opened up and students are able to attend."

How has the FFA chapter changed?

Mrs. Bonifas: "The FFA chapter has moved from a focus on production agriculture only to a more semesterized approach where students can take a variety of classes that they are interested in that will lead to a variety of careers. Students can take Plant Science and work in the greenhouse and learn about both production and Horticulture. They can take Animal Science and learn about production as well as companion animals, and further their knowledge of animals in Veterinary Science where the focus is the anatomy and physiology. We also added Food Science and Natural Resources. Another big change is adding junior high classes. I now have a quarter of each 7th and 8th graders so they get an introduction to Ag classes before 9th grade."

What are your expectations for FFA this year?

Mrs. Bonifas: "Our expectations for this year are to help our members become the best version of themselves through personal growth, contests and challenges, and help them to find a successful path that will lead to a career." Next, we asked about some of the events that will be going on this year. "We will be hosting the annual hayrack ride, taking a trip to Indianapolis to The National FFA Convention, travel to Lincoln in April for the State FFA Convention, and attend various leadership activities and contests."

How does FFA help kids that want to go into agriculture for a job?

Abigail Meyer: "Being in FFA helps a lot with things such as starting us with college credit classes, this helps people get information at a cheaper cost and helps you be more prepared at planning what you want to do as a career."



THE BEAT WITH MRS. DART

THE BAND GROUP IS OFF AND MARCHING!

Last year the focus was on foundational skills since many returning band members had been out for a year (or two). The students gelled well - they just had to reestablish their skills. The group has progressed from grade 2 music to grade 3 (for reference grade 4 is college level). This has been a fun year as the students can dig deeper into the music by adding expression and musicality.

On top of building skills, the band finally was able to march. Since starting, Mrs. Dart hasn't been able to take the kids to parades. "The kids were so excited to get their uniforms and march in real parades!" says Mrs. Dart.

While marching is enjoyed by all, the uniforms are dreaded. This time the excitement level was unmatched. Keaton Mackin was excited for marching band this year - it's one of many things she loves about being in band. One of Mrs. Dart's exciting moments from marching band was placing second in Class D at York Fest.

Pep band has been a highlight this year at football games! Each night around 10-12 songs are played. Some favorites are "Another One Bites the Dust", "Jump Start", and "Barbara Ann". Alumni Night was a great night for all! Ellie Janda's entire family played. Her dad, in particular, showed off his drumming skills.

Since fall sports are nearly over, you can listen to the pep band at upcoming basketball games. And, please attend the Christmas Concert on December 16th at 7:00 pm. The band is working on a fun jazz piece called "Big Band Christmas"!

Bits and Bytes

by Chris Uridil

Blue Hill Community School has added Instagram to its social network list. You can find the school by typing in their handle: @bluehillschools

Be sure to download the school app, available on both Apple and Android App Stores. Here you will find school information, calendars, photos, and current school news.

WELCOME, MRS. AUTEN!

BY RACHEL HAVER AND
TAYLOR ALBER

What is your teaching philosophy?

My teaching philosophy is that every student has the ability to succeed, we just have to create situations where the student can succeed. So doing our best to help meet every student where they are and get them prepared for life outside of high school.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I am the daughter of two educators. My late father taught for over 40 years and my mom just retired after teaching Spanish for 44 years. I definitely wanted to carry on their legacy, and I also love helping students become great citizens. I wanted to be a teacher to help people, but also to make a positive impact in my community.

What is your favorite part about being a teacher?

My favorite part about being a teacher is the relationships I get to build with the awesome students at Blue Hill.



Why did you want to be a teacher at this school?

I love the community of Blue Hill. I have been here for three years now, and I've never seen a town that is as tight-knit and just really nice as Blue Hill. I was very excited when this job came open. I applied right away. I love the community that this school itself has. The other teachers here are absolutely phenomenal, the students and parents are great. It just seemed like a perfect fit for me as a teacher to be able to do my best as a teacher in a community that I love.





Ellie Janda

Cross Country, grade 12

What is the biggest thing you will take away from this season?

"The biggest things I will take away from this season are just the memories, all of the fun I've had with the team, and the community that we have. Cross country is one of those sports where you have the boys, girls, the junior high altogether, so essentially everyone become really close with one another."



Libby Macklin

Cross Country, grade 10

How have you enjoyed the season so far?

"I've really enjoyed it. It's definitely a bonding experience with everybody, it's not just the athletics."

Have there been any challenges throughout the season?

"The first week is the hardest with conditioning, but after you get through that it is just little challenges afterward."

Player Spotlight



Michelle Henkel

Volleyball, grade 12

What has been your favorite memory of the season thus far?

"My favorite memory was beating Red Cloud because Red Cloud's student section was really into it. It just proved that under pressure we can still win."

What's the biggest thing you will take away from this season?

"Even though the season may not go the way you want it to, you still have to find positives and bright spots throughout the season."



Reece Mlady

Volleyball, grade 9

How have you enjoyed the season so far?

"It's been really fun learning to work as a team because at the beginning of the season at the team the chemistry wasn't really there. It feels better now. I'm excited about what's to come."



Caleb Karr

Football, grade 12

Have there been any challenges throughout the season?

"There have been a few challenges with people not being at practice but we just have to fight through it with small numbers. We've also played a couple of pretty good teams and we've just had to fight through it."



Marcus Utecht

Football, grade 11

How have you enjoyed the season so far?

"It's been fun, we've won some games. We won more games this year than any of my past two years. It's just been fun winning and playing together."

What's the biggest thing you will take away from this season?

"Just the memories with the guys. It's always fun, there is never a dull moment. Somebody's always being dumb."

Player Spotlight



Madison Mlady

Spirit Squad, grade 12

What's the biggest thing you will take away from this season?

"You can never have too much fun. Every game is more and more fun even though they aren't always perfect. I still make mistakes, I mess up a cheer here and there but overall I have more fun each game."



Aidyn Bonifas

Spirit Squad, grade 9

Have there been any challenges throughout the season?

"Sometimes it's hard to get at the same pace as everyone else for the cheers, especially when you've just learned them the day before. Dances are intimidating because I feel like I won't get them in the beginning, but the more we do it I feel more comfortable about it."