

# THE BLACKSONIAN

REPORTING THE NEWS AT BHS SINCE 1927.



Fall color arrives in the SC mountains.

## Autumn Arrives

### Paul Whelchel

Many people consider fall their favorite season of the year. Upstate Carolina's local fall traditions are similar to those you hear about around America. There are many traditions, festivities, and holidays such as Halloween and Thanksgiving that people love about fall.

Fall days are often spent having quality time with family and friends. Locals enjoy things such as warm apple cider and bonfires. Bonfires are often used for roasting marshmallows and hot dogs over the warm fire. Football games are popular in the fall, whether it be playing in the backyard, watching the games on tv, or watching high school football. County fairs are also a fall favorite. Here in the Upstate, one of the most popular fairs is the Cleveland County Fair. Adults and children enjoy the rides and good food.

In addition to the fair, people sometimes take trips or hikes in the mountains so they can see the beautiful colored leaves. Many people often visit various apple festivals in the North Carolina mountains.

Often fall is spent doing activities that people can't do during the heat of the summer or the cold of the winter. Traditions and activities like these are what make fall special.



United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

## Anchors Aweigh!

### Jessica Martin and Paul Whelchel

Grayson Hurley, one of Blacksburg High School's seniors, recently went and visited the Naval Academy in Maryland. The Naval Academy is an undergraduate college that prepares young men and women morally, mentally, and physically to pursue their dreams. The Naval Academy is where Navy cadets get specialized training before joining the Navy.

Since as far back as anyone can remember, Grayson, who will graduate in May 2023, has always wanted to go into the Navy. When asked what made him want to join the Navy, his response was, "My step-dad made it seem cool." When nominated to attend the Naval Academy by US House of Representatives Ralph Norman, Grayson jumped at the chance.

At the Naval Academy, Grayson learned what life was like for all young cadets. At the Naval Academy, there is a timeline for cadets that contains all they have to do and the deadlines for them to be finished. Junior year in high school is when the actual application process begins. Step one is taking the SAT or ACT. Once winter of junior year rolls around, potential cadets must contact their regional Blue and Gold Officer. The Blue and Gold Officer is a local volunteer who has been trained by the US Naval Academy (USNA) Admissions and Candidate Guidance Office. Once a potential cadet has done these two things, then he or she must begin the preliminary application with the USNA Admissions Office. At the end of junior year, potential cadets must apply for a Congressional Nomination from their US House of Representatives Representative and both US Senators for their state. Once senior year begins, potential cadets must complete all USNA forms, obtain an official transcript and have it sent to the USNA, complete a medical exam, and complete their Blue and Gold Officer interview.

Upon return from the Naval Academy, Grayson stated, "the culture is very different but he likes it." Although Grayson is certainly still interested in attending the Naval Academy, he acknowledges how difficult it is to obtain acceptance into the academy. He hopes to hear from them in the near future regarding his application; however, he is keeping his options open by applying to other colleges such as Lenoir Rhyne.



Grayson stands in front of Bancroft Hall on the Naval Academy campus during his recent visit.

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## News and Events

### Home Never Changes

Jessica Martin

On October 14, 2022, Blacksburg High had their first in-person Homecoming assembly since Covid started in 2020. Oh, how time does fly! Homecoming is traditionally for the welcoming back of the alumni. Homecoming at BHS usually consists of an assembly, a pep rally, and a football game.

In the first half of the Homecoming assembly, the school introduced its senior football players and homecoming court. Then, the school had a special treat with a moving speech from Coach Josh Batchler who celebrated his 20 year high school reunion at Homecoming. In the second half, Grayson Hurley and Mayson Taylor were the MCs for the skits. BHS skits always revolve around a theme. This year's theme, "Looking Back; Moving Forward" contained skits concerning musical trends and pop culture throughout time.

At the pep rally for Homecoming 2022, cheerleaders wore old uniforms to stick with the theme of "Looking Back; Moving Forward." One of the most fun moments of the pep rally was watching teachers dance with cheerleaders. At every Homecoming pep rally at BHS, the school crowns a staff Homecoming King and Queen, as well as the senior football player that is the Homecoming Hunk. This year's staff King was Mr. William Coggins, BHS' assistant principal, and the Queen was Mrs. Wendy Woods, BHS' lunchroom manager. Homecoming Hunk was Brandon Oglesby. The Homecoming Hunk runner-up was Parker Alexander. The final contest decided at the pep rally was on school spirit. This year, the junior class won the name of Most School Spirit.

At the Homecoming football game, BHS played its arch-nemesis Chesnee. During half-time, the school crowned its Homecoming Queen and Princess. This year's Homecoming Queen is Ms. Jemiah Davidson. Homecoming Princess is Ms. Mayson Taylor.



Presentation of Homecoming Queen Jemiah Davidson and Princess Mayson Taylor with Principal Michael Mullinax, former 1958 Homecoming Queen Mrs. Barbara Tharpe Cobb, Flower Girl Charlee Bridges, and Ring Bearer Weston Moss.



Mr. Michael Mullinax is the principal of Blacksburg High School.

### Our Principal

J.D Bonner

The Blacksonian staff would like to thank our Principal Mr. Michael Mullinax for striving to make Blacksburg High school a better place. Blacksonian staff interviewed Mr. Mullinax about his daily life as a principal. Mr. Mullinax stated, "The most interesting thing about my job is just getting to interact with the students and be around them." When asked how students could improve, Mr. Mullinax stated, "Behavior at this point in time is better than last year, but what students can improve on with behavior is taking ownership in whatever they do."

Before becoming the principal here at BHS, Mr. Mullinax was the principal at Ewing Middle School in Gaffney. Mr. Mullinax originally came back to Cherokee County Schools as an assistant principal here at BHS. He also has experience working in the district office for Cherokee County Schools.

Mr. Mullinax is a hard worker who has always put the students in Cherokee County first. Blacksonian staff is incredibly thankful for Mr. Mullinax and his hard work, kindness, and brilliance.

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### Those Who Wish to Sing Will Always Find a Song

Journey Davidson

Blacksburg High school chorus is run by Mrs. Monica Martin. Mrs. Martin has been directing choirs for twenty years; she has been with BHS since the 2015-2016 school year. Mrs. Martin said that if she wasn't teaching music, that she would take her time to write church songs and work in a music production.

When asked why she wanted to be a chorus teacher, Martin replied, "I've always had the passion for singing since I was old enough to talk. I was drawn to harmony, and in my middle school years, my chorus teacher inspired me to become a chorus teacher." Mrs. Martin was only three years old when she sang her first solo.

In regards to BHS Chorus, Mrs. Martin says her most memorable moment was when her choir sang "From Now On" from the movie *The Greatest Showman*. She said she had lots of students that year, and they sang with so much passion. Mrs. Martin believes that singing in a choir is important. She states, "singing in choir is beneficial in a number of different ways." Research shows that group singing can help shape social bonds and creates a strong sense of happiness and well-being. Music is powerful therapy and when we sing together we feel a sense of community and belonging.

What makes a choir good is lots of discipline, rehearsal, and becoming one family. Learning to be a good listener is also a great way to become a good singer. Like most choirs, BHS Choir sings in four different groups: sopranos, altos, tenors, and baritones. Before COVID, the BHS Choir won superior awards at Carowinds. The choir will be attending a choral festival this year, and Mrs. Martin hopes to take home an award of superior.

Blacksburg High School Choir's next concert will be at First Baptist Church for the Community Thanksgiving service on November 22, 2022. In addition to the Thanksgiving concert, there will be a Christmas concert, and the choir will sing at the lighting of the Christmas tree on November 29, 2022. Next semester Mrs. Martin will be having a spring showcase, and the genre of music covered will be Motown. We here at BHS look forward to seeing and hearing our amazing choir in the upcoming months!



# SPORTS

## Softball And So, It Begins...

Kayla Butler

Softball in Blacksburg first became popular when the first rec ball teams became a thing. The teams included 36 girls. Softball in Blacksburg has grown tremendously over the years with now 183 girls. Blacksburg High School softball is also becoming very popular with many girls trying out this year. A huge goal for Blacksburg High School Softball would be to win the conference. Another big goal is to beat our archrival Chesnee. This year there will be a few changes. Blacksburg High School Softball is getting a few new things like new jerseys and new dugouts. The batting cages will also be changed. This season for Blacksburg High School Softball is going to be a great season. Right now, Blacksburg Softball is having workouts for anyone who can come. They are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3:51-5:01. Tryouts are February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. They hope to see new and returning faces out there.



Senior Mahala Rice pictured with sophomore Kayla Butler, both looking forward to a final season together.

**“PARTICIPATING IN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS HAS LONG-LASTING, DEFINITIVE BENEFITS, ESPECIALLY WHEN ATHLETIC LEADERS CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT CHALLENGES AND REWARDS THE GROWTH MINDSET. WHEN PARTICIPANTS ARE SUPPORTED IN THIS WAY, THEY DEVELOP LIFELONG HABITS THAT TRANSCEND HIGH SCHOOL.”**

**- NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



## BASKETBALL Boys’ Basketball Begins

J.D. Bonner

Wildcats basketball players and coaches have been working out now for a month. During the month of October, the Wildcats will strictly be in conditioning during the dead period. The dead period is a time when the Wildcat basketball coaches cannot allow players to use basketballs; they can only condition. Head coach William Sims is primarily focused on conditioning. Sims wants to have a style similar to the run-and-gun strategy. This style will be very high-tempo. The Wildcats want to play fast and force turnovers. Due to an undersized roster, the team is going to rely on fastbreaks. Unfortunately, a tryout date has yet to be set by the Wildcat coaching staff. Although there is not firm try-out date, the Wildcats are looking better and better, and they are certainly ready for the 2022-2023 basketball season to begin.



## FOOTBALL A Quick Recap

Josie Brown

On October 7, 2022, the Wildcats faced off against Liberty High School. Liberty High had two wins going into the game against Blacksburg. Kick-off was at 7:30. Liberty received on the kickoff and scored on a rushing. Then, they kicked a field goal. Even with all of this, Blacksburg was looking good at the beginning. Wildcats ran all the way down and got a touchdown off of the kickoff. Then, they tried for a two-point conversion but did not get it. The score going into half time was 30 - 9, favor Liberty. The Wildcats went into the locker room, got it together, and came back out in the second half changing the score to 37 - 15. Although the Wildcats fought hard, they came up a little short. The final score was 44 - 29, favor of Liberty.

The next week on October 14, 2022, BHS played its Homecoming game against Chesnee. The game was a very close game. The Wildcats played a good game, scoring several touchdowns; however, they ended up being shy by just two points with the final score being 25 - 23, favor of Chesnee.



Blacksburg Wildcats Varsity players prepare to fight their Homecoming battle against Chesnee Eagles.

# LIFE STYLES

## Today's Artists

J.D. Bonner

In 2022, the music industry introduced us to several new artists. These artists have created new flows, rhyme schemes, and melodies, which have taken over the music industry. There are many new faces and new names who have taken off to a successful career start. Artists have created new ways to express their emotions and feelings by using unique beats, rhyme schemes, and choice of lyrics.

GloRilla is one of the hottest artists currently in 2022. GloRilla is from Memphis, TN, United States. GloRilla's government name is Gloria Woods, and she is currently twenty-three years of age. GloRilla's birthday is on July 28, 1999. GloRilla's top songs are "Tomorrow," "Tomorrow 2," and "F.N.F.(Let's go)." GloRilla has already accomplished winning

Best Breakthrough Artist at the 2022 BET Hip Hop Awards.

One popular music group is BTS, known as one of the hottest band groups currently across the world. There are seven members of the BTS band. The artists' names are Rap Monster, Jin, J-Hope, Jimin, V, and Jungkook. BTS has won multiple awards together. They have broken eighteen Guinness World Records, won Teen Choice Awards, and won numerous American Music Awards.

Lastly, on the list is an artist named The Weeknd. The Weeknd is a Canadian singer who is currently 32 years of age. The Weeknd has also had his fair share of accomplishments. The Weeknd has had multiple top songs that have caught the attention of millions of viewers. The Weeknd's most notable songs are "Binding Lights," "I Feel It Coming," and "Save Your Tears." The Weeknd has won numerous awards in the past years. The Weeknd has

six American Music Awards, twenty Billboard Music Awards, four Grammy Awards, and even seventeen Juno Awards.

Artists of this generation and time have come up with creative ways of expressing themselves and unique brilliant genres that have never been seen before. Female artists are rising even more in the past years along with male artists. Their new names, faces, and melodies are taking over the music industry.



GloRilla performs at the 2022 BET Awards where she won the award for Best Breakthrough Artist.

# Halloween Approacheth

## Top 5 Haunted Attractions in South Carolina

J.D. Bonner

Spooky season is approaching, the season for a scare. Many attractions are planning to begin opening or have already set into motion the opening process. In this article, we will discuss the top five most haunted attractions in South Carolina.

Starting off the list is Fear Farm, which is located in Blacksburg. This attraction attracts many seekers who want to be scared and scream. One ticket permits you to attend all five attractions. Fear Farm has an asylum corn maze and an 8,000 square-foot haunted house that is brimming with more than your average Halloween monsters.

Second on the list is an attraction located in Blacksburg known as Booger Jim's Hollow. If you thought the stories about the boogeyman were spooky, visiting Booger Jim's Hollow will change your mind. Many visitors who have attended Booger Jim's Hollow share the same experience and horrifying nightmares. Many visitors share the same idea that the trail was the most frightening part of the haunted attraction.

Next on the list is an attraction that is named Nightmare Haunted House in Myrtle Beach. Many attendees of the Nightmare Haunted

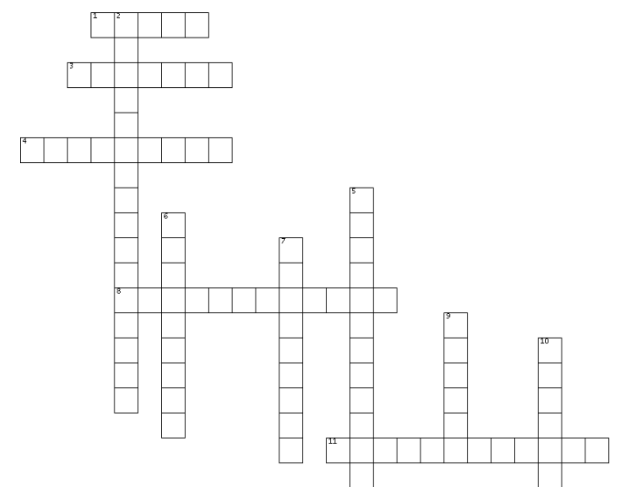
House call it, "The House of Screams." Most people are terrified for weeks after visiting this attraction. The attraction is filled with the undead, and the attraction leaves your imagination running wild creating an eerie atmosphere as you try to find your way out of the attraction.

Fourth on the list is an attraction that is named Scream Acres in Bishopville. This attraction is the perfect way to get your blood rushing. Scream Acres is a fun and equally scary experience for most attendees. Guests who attend the attraction should expect the unexpected on a suspense-filled hayride and a trip through a house full of bloodthirsty absolute monsters!

Lastly on the list is an attraction named Nightmare Dungeon located in Greenville. This massive, haunted attraction offers multiple spooky adventures, including an all-new haunted cabin set in a historic farmhouse that may actually be haunted by century-old spirits! Each attraction is at your own risk, as there are no tour guides to lead the way to sweet safety.

## Halloween Crossword Puzzle

A prize will be given to the first person to bring the puzzle completed correctly to Mr. Blackburn in room 215.



### ACROSS

1. Feed on dead bodies
3. Thirsty count
4. Living bones
8. Ichabod's haunt
11. Victor's creation

### DOWN

2. Has no head
5. Fancy pumpkin
6. Quoth the raven
7. He's on a bridge
9. Fair and radiant maiden
10. They make webs

## Local Ghost Stories

*Dalton Whelchel*

### Booger Jim

Blacksburg, South Carolina is the birthplace of Booger Jim. There are many ghost stories that originated in South Carolina. Like the story of Booger Jim, all these stories have grown to be a part of South Carolina's legends. Even though they might just be stories they will still give you a spook.



*The supposedly haunted bridge where Booger Jim hung himself.*

Booger Jim is the story of a man who killed his wife, son, and then himself. This story is about a man who is arguing with his wife; he eventually snaps and starts abusing his wife until strangling her with his bare hands. Then the son starts screaming and crying after seeing his mother murdered in front of him. Booger Jim then tries to silence the poor child and kills him too.

He proceeds to hang himself because he realizes what he has done. They say if you go to Booger Jim Bridge, he can appear drowning in grief and anger. Some say they can hear his footsteps under the bridge or red glowing eyes near the death site.

In another version of this story, he was murdered by his wife, hung from the bridge by jumper cables. The legend is to get out of your car on the bridge and call his name three times. He might just answer, but it will be hard to understand him because of the way he was hanged. The hanging crushed his neck in such a way that he could barely speak. According to one website, some people have even reported seeing him with a large burn on his throat from the cables.

### Rock House Road

According to legend, there once was a rock house on the road that runs alongside Kings Mountain Battleground. The house, constructed in the early 1800s, was said to be occupied by a family who had a mentally impaired child. They were a happy family; however, the family saw the child as an embarrassment, so they made her live in the cellar of the old house, at least by day. During the night, her father allowed her to go out and explore the area.

At night, she would go out with her candle and explore the area around the house. One night, she decided to venture farther than usual. Unfortunately, there came a gust of wind this night that blew out her candle. Without her candle, she became lost in the woods. She perished in the night. Legend has it that the house can be seen only one day a year, and if you venture to it and hold a candle up to the window, the face of the deceased girl will appear. Does it? No one really knows...



*Stock image courtesy of Shutterstock of a young girl's face in a window.*



# Editorial & Staff

## *As time goes by...*

Time goes by as quickly as the leaves change colors in the cool October air. A daytime television show once opened with the line, "Like sands through the hourglass so are the days of our lives." This month has had many ups and downs, from the heights of Homecoming to the lows of being scared at haunted houses. This season is bittersweet with firsts and lasts and many days that are marked like the sands in our figurative hourglass. Regardless of the ups or downs, many will look back at these memories—both highs and lows—and fondly yearn to return to a simpler time.

As test season approaches ever quicker, students prepare their minds for the end of the semester. To ace their exams, win that big game, start a final season, or simply make it through a grueling semester as the days grow short the pace increases. October quickly becomes November and December lurks just around the corner.

For some students, this will be their last semester as they move on to achieve even greater feats in their life, whether it be through education or a trade. One thing is for sure: we all at some time will wish that we could turn back the clock and fall into these cool October days once more.

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*The Blacksonian is the student written, edited, and published newspaper of Blacksburg High School in Blacksburg, SC. For information concerning the publication please contact Mr. Blackburn or one of the editors.*



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