

THE BLACKSONIAN

REPORTING THE NEWS AT BHS SINCE 1927.



Mayson Taylor- Blacksburg's 2022 Distinguished Young Women

Distinguished Young Women

Jacob Ham

The Distinguished Young Women program, otherwise known as DYW, is a pageant for the young women of SC. This is a scholarship program and last year made more than one billion dollars in cash tuition nationally.

Blacksburg DYW practices for six weeks to prepare for the pageant. On the night of the pageant, the young women share one of their talents, and they have a self-expression section where the young women can express how they feel on certain topics. The DYW program first competes at the school level, and the winner of that pageant moves up to the state competition. During the state competition, the winner gets to compete against others and represent their school.

Girls are allowed to participate when they are in the eleventh grade. Each eleventh grade girl has a little sister who is a tenth grade girl at the school. Little sisters are chosen by the DYW contestants. One cannot join as of right now since the pageant preparation is already under way; however, if this interests you, be looking for an email during your eleventh-grade year.

This year's DYW Program is on February 25th and the theme is the 70s. It will be located in the BHS auditorium, and tickets will be available for purchase.

Triple Header Domination!!!

Cortlyn Phenicie



Junior Varsity- Logan Slatic performing a free throw

On January 10, 2023, our very own Blacksburg High School Wildcats Basketball teams had a triple header against Greenville Tech Charter. The Wildcats started it off hot as the Junior Varsity Boys took a 40 point lead going into halftime. They finished off the game with a major win of 71-27.

As soon as the JV team finished with their big victory, the Lady Cats tipped the ball off and went back and forth with Greenville Tech in the first half. They ultimately finished strong with a big lead in the second half. The Lady Cats finished the game and got the win with a final score of 61-37.

It seemed like a good evening for the Wildcats, but that's not it. The Varsity Boys' team started their game with the gym packed and stakes high. They had a good lead until the 4th quarter when Greenville Tech began to answer back. The intensity got higher as the time kept ticking, and the two teams went back and forth until the very end. Blacksburg finished off the night with three wins when the Varsity Boys' final score ended with 50-44.

The triple header was a great success for our Wildcats, as it gave us wins that we all needed.



Varsity Girls tip off against Greenville tech



Samuel McSwain

OnLineOnLimestone

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News and Events

I-85 Backed Up for Miles

Christopher Davis

On January 4th, at approximately 7:21 am, a Trans 7 Transport company truck traveling south on I-85 went over a guardrail and hit the wall of a low bridge between mile markers 95 and 96. This caused the truck to fall off the bridge onto its side. Once the first responders arrived, the driver was able to climb out of the cab with only minor injuries. It was raining extremely hard, with heavily reduced visibility at the time of the accident. The motor of the semi was lying in the right lane, causing it to be shut down well into the day. The right lane being closed caused traffic to slow down a significant amount; therefore, this caused many drivers to find alternate routes. Highway 29, being the main detour to get around the site of the accident, was bumper-to-bumper which caused traffic in town to be backed up for miles. The blocked route was also the main route I2 buses and car drivers take to get there and back to school. As a result, many students had to take alternative routes which caused them to be late for classes.



Photo of 18-Wheeler which resulted in the driver obtaining minor injuries in the I-85 crash near Blacksburg, South Carolina.

Mr. Grigg Spotlight

Kayleigh Triplett



Teacher Spotlight- Mr. Grigg

Have you ever wondered where a teacher attended school or if they are married? Well, we



Mr. Roark: we are sad to see him go.

A Great Teacher Retires

Chloe Sweat

After thirty years, Mr. Roark is going into retirement. He states, "It's time for a change." After being an assistant principal at Alma Elementary, Mr. Roark went on to teach for thirty years before retiring at the age of fifty-two, saying, "It has been good teaching, but I'm moving onto bigger things," referring to his business, Iron City Enterprises, a company that rents out residential properties in Blacksburg. He says he never plans to retire from it. Within his thirty years of teaching, Roark states, "the hardest lesson I've learned throughout my teaching career is knowing some students don't want to learn," but his favorite part of teaching is bonding with his students and trying to help them as much as possible. Roark was supposed to have retired six years ago but says he is happy to have had the opportunity to teach beyond his original retirement.

spoke with Mr. Grigg and asked about his life. Here are the results...

How long have you been teaching? 5 years

What year did you start teaching? 2014

Where did you go to college? Southern Wesleyan University

Why did you become a teacher? "I have always wanted to be in a career where I was involved in people's lives and make a difference. I had teachers in school who I looked up to and thought it would be a good idea."

Are you married? Yes.

Do you have kids? Yes, Jace is 1 year old.

What was your job before this? Inventory Specialist.

Where did you grow up? York, South Carolina.

What were your favorite subjects in school? Math and history.

Academics

EMS Course

Maynard Phillips

Emergency Medical Services is a course designed to teach students how to recognize and respond to various emergencies. EMS is a very hands-on light physical activity course. Students who take EMS courses are graded on professionalism and different assessments. Students learn basic anatomy and physiology as it relates to injury management and treatment. For students to advance to EMS 2, they must average 80 or above.

HOSA

Cortlyn Phenicie

Have you ever wondered what HOSA is? I am sure we've all overheard on the intercom, "HOSA meet at lunch today," or some variation of that. Well, Blacksburg High School has been implementing a program called HOSA, which stands for Health Occupational Students of America. HOSA's goal is to encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle. This program benefits the students at Blacksburg High School as it provides them with networking and professional opportunities, scholarships, growth in careers, medical career exposure, and competition. Blacksburg's HOSA group competes in Healthcare Competitive Events with other students from schools around South Carolina. In 2022, the HOSA group was recognized on the international level where they competed against other top three finalists from every state. They also competed against other countries and territories. The group has now grown this year and so have the expectations set for the competitors.

PLTW

Lacey Shelton

Project Lead the Way is a science, technology, engineering, and math project-based learning curriculum. PLTW encourages students to learn and use valuable skills by examining the real world in fun and engaging ways. Along with learning technical abilities, students also develop their problem-solving critical and creative thinking, communication, and teamwork skills. They use the skills they gain from completing activities and projects to apply them to real-world problems and situations.



SPORTS

Softball Renovations

Isabelle Cole

Although Blacksburg has losses along with their many wins, one thing about Blacksburg athletics is that they maintain a positive attitude whether they win or lose. Their coaches also try to keep them in check, no matter if the other team is talking dirty or trying to tempt them. BHS coaches make an effort to ensure that players' morals are always correct. This attitude extends onto the softball field as well.

Coach Thayer and Coach Lewis are Blacksburg's head coaches for softball this year. Before them, Coach Elliott served as the head coach. During his tenure, Coach Elliott had a prosperous softball career. Students and parents alike were heartbroken to see him go. In talking to Coach Thayer about this upcoming season, I learned that the coaches and team are very excited about what is to come this year.

In an effort to help BHS Softball teams excel, they will be receiving many new pieces of equipment. One way they will receive new equipment is through fundraising. One thing about softball is that they work hard on and off the field. One fundraiser they do is sell their brand. Like the rest of the sports teams at BHS, BHS Softball sells their brand through a website called bsnteamssports.com. If you would like to support the softball team, then get some cute clothes from their website.

Some have questioned what type of new equipment will be purchased for the softball teams. For one, they will get a new dugout. They will redo the field on the current dugout, which is described as having it leveled and painted, among other things. In addition, they will also get a locker room to keep all the new equipment they will be receiving.

The softball girls have put a lot of effort and time into their careers, and some of them have big plans for the future. Additionally, the coaches devote their time to assisting these girls in succeeding. In speaking with some of the softball girls, they expressed their thanks to the coaches who have helped them become great athletes and to all the donors who have helped make the new equipment, the new field, and the revamped dugout possible. We can conclude that the teams will be more comfortable and may have better gameplay due to the increased funding they receive.



Lia Farr during the 2022 season



Kolby Capps on the mound during the 2022 season

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jacob Ham

This year our baseball team's phrase is "unfinished business." The team chose this because they felt that they did not finish the season last year as they should have and could have. So, this year they are going to finish and hopefully win region and possibly state. If you would like to participate or play baseball this year, just know that baseball practice has been canceled for this week; however, it will resume next week at our own baseball field right after school.

This year we will have a C-Team which will be available for all seventh and eighth graders. This year the C-Team will be coached by Mr. King from the Middle School. While junior varsity will be coached by Coach Norman, and varsity will be coached by Coach Batchler, who will have his last year and season as a baseball coach. The team looks forward to bringing home a trophy for our school and please come out and support the baseball team this February.

WINTER GUARD

Konstantin Foster

Winter guard is an indoor color guard competition and performance art that was inspired by military traditions. Modern winter guard is a performance-based, competitive sport that involves flag manipulation, dance, planned staging, and the use of prop rifles and sabres.

There are eight members on the Blacksburg team currently but there can be more. If you are interested, look out for tryouts. The next time they compete is at Catawba Ridge HS (Fort Mill, SC). They compete at 3:15 PM on January 28. Members of the BHS Winter Guard include Sierra Margarita, Nicole Wolford, Ivonne Razo, Isabella Chapman Miller, Anna LaFrancis, Hayden Joy Wright, Cindy Earley, and Maddy Satterwhite.



Theme for this year's Winter Guard Season

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LIFE STYLES

2022 Year Recap

Baylee Walker

This past year has been packed with countless different occurrences that have caused us to experience a wide range of emotions. Here are just a few...

January- The U.S. reached a record number of COVID-19 cases, with the Omnicron variant making up 95% of the cases.

February- The 2022 Winter Olympics began in Beijing, China.

March- Will Smith slapped Chris Rock at the Academy Awards after Rock made a joke about Smith's wife.

April- Twitter announced that it would sell to Elon Musk for \$44 billion.

May- A gunman shot 10 people at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.

June- John Hinckley Jr., the person who tried to assassinate former President Ronald Reagan, was released from prison.

July- A gunman killed seven people at a 4th of July parade in Highland Park, Illinois

August- Rapper Kanye West made anti-semitic remarks, resulting in major companies withdrawing from deals with the rapper.

September- Queen Elizabeth died at age 96. Trump announced plans to run for a second presidency in 2024.

October- Brittney Griner was released from a Russian prison in a prisoner exchange.

November- Russia amped up airstrike campaigns on Ukraine, with widespread power blackouts across the country and Moldova, Kyiv having 80% without power or water.

December- The 2022 World Cup came to an end, with Argentina as the victor.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Jansen Ham

On Monday, January 16th, we celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This day isn't just a day out of school, but rather, it is a day to honor the life of a man who fought for racial justice and equality. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist Minister and a prominent leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. He rose in the movement in 1955 with the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which stemmed from the arrest of Rosa

Parks. Dr. King promoted non-violent ways to end racial segregation. In 1954, Martin Luther King, Jr. was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. Only two years after that, Dr. King was unfortunately assassinated. After the assassination, efforts to make a national holiday honoring him began, but it was not celebrated until 1986. As we get this special day off of school, we should use it to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social changes caused by Martin Luther King, Jr.



Photo of Martin Luther King Jr.

2023 Resolutions

Trevor Moore

Casey Smith: To be nicer and more positive

Khina Camp: Learn to stop having an attitude

Katelyn Barnett: To grow as a person

Jaycee Owens: To be nice to others

Mrs. Thompson: Deal with one problem at a time and learn how to task manage better

Gabe Davis: To get better in the gym

Will Barnhill: To learn how to play the guitar better

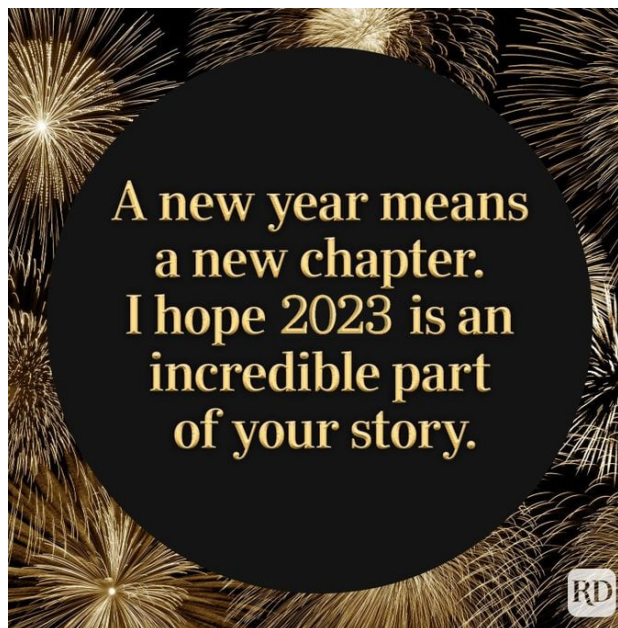
Tegan Beattie: To get better at singing

Jemiah Davidson: To start putting myself first and love myself more

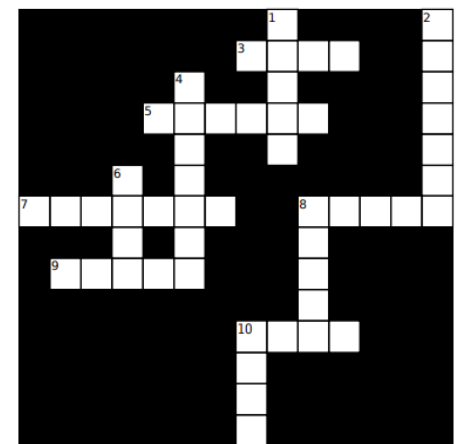
Tracy Smith: To get a football offer

Carmine Brown: To graduate

Mr. Grigg: To be more organized and to be more positive minded.



2022 Crossword



ACROSS

3. Acronym for Greatest of All Time

5. Following the above-mentioned order 2023 is

7. Being annoying

8. When someone gets upset their _____

9. Someone being over the top or doing too much

10. Being aware

DOWN

1. Coronavirus disease

2. To some extent

4. Pantone's 2023 color of the year

6. Another way of saying alright

8. When someone gets scared

10. Ok or letting them know you heard them

Editorial & Staff

As time goes by...

Welcome Back! As we come into this new year, it gives us so many opportunities for new beginnings. A chance for growth, new programs, activities, and like every school year, new friendships and relationships.

As we continue the Blacksonian, our motto this semester is “New.” We have been given a whole new staff with new challenges and strengths. However, we look forward to working together and creating even better issues of our school newspaper.

Our class as a whole decided that we as a school and as a community need something solid and traditional. Even though everything is new, we decided that we needed something grounded, and to a point, old fashioned in the midst of a world of flux and change. The Blacksonian is something that fits the bill.

As everything around us is changing, we need traditions now more than ever. The name Blacksonian harkens back to a time when this community was thriving. We indeed have a tradition of excellence and need to remember it as we go into this new time and continue to strive for more excellence.

We need good, reliable news. In the age of social media influencers and information overload, we need to be able to understand fact from fiction, opinion from reality, and what is important versus superfluous. This class forces us to analyze what is essential and report facts only.

We will have struggles, and we will fail. We will also learn, and we will grow. But through struggles, failures, lessons, and growth, we will be better than we were before with this new and improved Blacksonian.

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.



Co-editors

Cortlyn Phenicie

Kayleigh Triplett

Staff Writers

Jacob Ham

Trevor Moore

Jansen Ham

Lacey Shelton

Isabelle Cole

Chloe Sweat

Maynard Phillips

Christopher Davis

Jordan Evans

Konstantin Foster

Advisor

Mr. Doug B. Blackburn, Jr.

Ms. McAfee

