

THE BLACKSONIAN

REPORTING THE NEWS AT BHS SINCE 1927.



Olivia Martin, this issues student spotlight

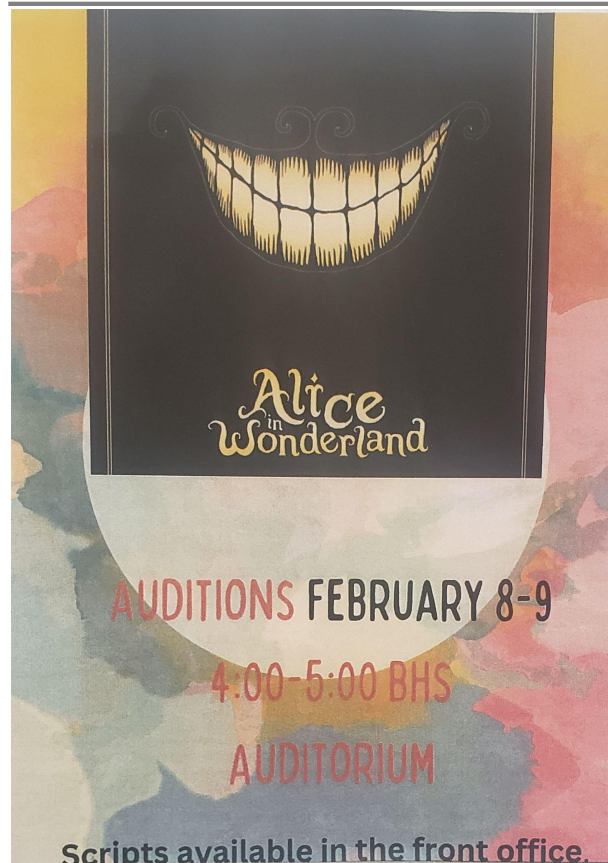
Student Career Spotlight Olivia Martin

Mason Lydia

Olivia Martin says she is taking classes in order to prepare for her career path in the medical field. Olivia told us “I’ve grown up in a household filled with healthcare and biology backgrounds. I have the support that I need to further my education from my teachers and family members who help me with it. I understand the medical side of things more than the much easier things in life. I am continuing to further my education because of that reason, and I am deciding on exactly what I want to do in the medical field in the future.”

According to one of Olivia’s teachers Mr. Higginbotham, he says, “Olivia is a delight to have in a classroom. She works diligently on everything she does and works well with her peers.” Mrs. Miller also had wonderful things to say about Olivia stating, “Olivia is a good student because she is responsible and a well-rounded student because she excels academically and is mature, which for a teacher is great because she is teachable. She responds well to criticism, and if she does not meet her own expectations, she will do a self-reflection of how she can be better in the future.” One of Olivia’s classmates Paige Beam says, “Liv is a great student and friend. She will always try to help her classmates when she has a chance, and any teacher or person will be honored to get to know Olivia Martin.”

ALICE IN WONDERLAND PLAY



Flier for the play taking place at Blacksburg High



ALICE IN WONDERLAND

Original flier for Alice and Wonderland

Mason Lydia

Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (often known as *Alice in Wonderland*) is an 1865 English novel. It tells the story of Alice, a little girl who falls down a rabbit hole into a magical world full of anthropomorphic creatures. It is regarded as an example of literary nonsense. Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) and its sequel *Through the Looking-Glass, and What Alice Found There* (1871) have inspired a number of films and television shows.

Blacksburg High School will perform its very own *Alice in Wonderland* production, the first play since covid. The play will be produced by the drama teacher, Mrs. Knuckles. The *Alice in Wonderland* play will have open auditions from February 8th through the 9th, so if you're interested in showcasing your acting skills, please audition. We asked Mrs. Knuckles why she wanted to put on the play, and she told us, “It seemed like a wonderful choice due to the plot and how the set might look with all the colors and lighting with it.” We also asked if she would continue to put on plays and she also told us, “I plan on putting on more shows and teaching drama in the future.”

Alice in Wonderland auditions were in the auditorium from 4 to 5 pm on February 8th and 9th.



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Mr. Scruggs

News and Events

FISH FRY

Chloe Sweat

The fish fry was held Saturday, February 11th, from 11am-7pm. Food was fourteen dollars, whether you decided to dine in or take it out. The money will be going to a good cause, funding for the Blacksburg High School Band. The fish fry gives the band students a chance to interact with their community and have a sense of responsibility. The band students have the opportunity to use the profits from the fish fry to pay for trips, purchase new instruments, and do much more.

When interviewing Gage Thomas, he stated, "I really like working at the fish fry because I get to be around my friends and it's really fun. I have a good time every time I volunteer. The food is really good too. I love serving the community through the fish fry." Asking another member of the community, Mr. Higginbotham stated, "I love the food the band serves. It's fresh and always hot when you get it. Like, you seriously have to try it out. It's seriously worth the price."



Flier for the fish fry

SCHOOL METAL DETECTORS

Christopher Davis

One of the newest additions to our school is the metal detectors. They're the first thing you're met with when you walk through the doors. Not everybody likes them, but in today's society, sadly, they are needed. I asked a few teachers and staff questions about them. The first question I asked about them was, "Why do we have them?" This question was met with a few different responses. Mrs. Law stated that we have the metal detectors because by July of this year, all schools will be required to have them. Mr. Mullinax said that they were for peace of mind because it provides the opportunity to catch potentially dangerous items from making their way into the school. Finally, Mr. Coggins said that they are to keep faculty, staff, students, and any visitors safe.

I then asked if the detectors were doing their job. Every time I asked, I was told that

they were doing their jobs. They have caught knives and other things that aren't allowed in the school. I then asked people how they personally felt about them. Not everybody I asked was allowed to give their opinion, but the ones that did stated that they liked them. Mr. Mullinax said that he likes working the metal detectors because it gives him the opportunity to catch stuff and talk to us in the morning. Mr. Coggins said that he loves them, and that in today's society, the student's safety has to be the number one priority. I also asked how they thought we, the students, feel about them.

The responses to this question were all similar but mixed at the same time. Mrs. Law feels that some of us are fine with it and some are aggravated about them because of the hassle of taking our stuff out every time we enter the building; however, everyone I asked also said that the goal is to make students feel safer in the long run.

I finally asked if they have solved or created any problems. Ms. McAfee said that she feels that they pick up some things that they don't need to, wasting time, but that ultimately they are good to have. Mrs. Law said that they keep adults from walking in with knives and concealed carry weapons, and they have caught people with vapes. She feels that it acts as a deterrent for bringing in drugs. Mr. Mullinax said the same thing but added that it created the problem of time because there's nobody being paid to work the metal detectors all the time.

THE NEW ROOF

Mia Ferguson

The roof of the original building has reached its lifespan of roofs, which is usually 25 to 50 years depending on the quality of materials and labor. Considering the roof has not been updated since 1976, it is time for a new and improved roof. The new roof should be finished mid-February 2023 depending on the weather.

It is costing a total of \$1,053,000 to get the new roof put on the BHS building. There is nothing special about the roof; it is just a regular roof, but with the cost of it, many would think we will be getting a whole new building. The new roof is estimated to last twenty to thirty years. Now you might ask, what company is doing the rebuild? Well, the company is called Instate Roofing, they are a company in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Academics

ASVAB TESTING

Mason Lydia

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is a multiple-choice test conducted by the US Military Entrance Processing Command to establish eligibility for enlisting in the United States Armed Forces. However, it can also identify areas of strength and skill in science, math, and language.

We asked Mrs. Whitney Black about the ASVAB test, and she told us "ASVAB is a great test because it can help students be college and career ready, and it is a good career assessment to help determine your skills and abilities, along with your interests." A score of 31 or higher on the ASVAB indicates to universities that you are career and college ready. The results were significantly varied due to different interests, and the highest someone might achieve is a 99.

On February 13th, members of the military will visit the junior and senior classes to discuss career prospects and occupations available in the military.

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Cortlyn Phenicie

Have you ever wondered where a teacher attended school or about their life outside of teaching? Well, we spoke to Mrs. Ham and asked about her life. Here are the results...

How long have you been teaching? 20 years
Where did you go to college? Limestone College.

Why did you become a teacher? "Well, I was undecided for a while but my college math teacher, Sister Mary, made me believe that teaching was my calling in life."

Are you married? Yes.

Do you have any kids? Yes, Aydan (18), Jansen (15), and Scarlett (10)

What job did you have before this? Work Study at Limestone College Financial Office.

Where did you grow up? Blacksburg, SC.

What were your favorite subjects in school? Biology and Geometry



SPORTS

PEP RALLY

Isabelle Cole

On January 31st, BHS students got to prepare for “Rave The Cage” at a pep rally! The theme was “Rave” which was anything glow, neon, and glitter. The cheerleaders and Coach Whitney Black worked for weeks before to prepare for this. It was in honor of the Senior Winter Sports players, Kaylynn Littlejohn, Ratavious Degree, DeAndre Buckson, Kayne Tate, and Samuel McSwain. The senior cheerleaders were recognized as well, Emma Patterson and Maggie Nix.

As students entered the gym, they were given glow sticks. When the lights went out, Josh Henderson called out all the members of both basketball teams. The cheerleaders gave a wonderful performance of the song “Space Jam.” Then we got to watch varsity do their warm-ups while a “Cardinal” fought with our mascot. Some of the senior athletes played a game of “Head, Shoulders, Knees, Cup.” In the last round, Maggie Nix and Dre Buckson went against each other, and Dre came up victorious. Josh Henderson then held a “3-point shootout” with Sam McSwain against Mr. Coggins and Kaylynn Littlejohn against Mrs. Greene.

The pep rally ended with a “Class Battle” which is where freshmen screamed “B,” sophomores “H,” juniors “S,” and seniors scream “Wildcats”. This time seniors won to conclude the pep rally. All of this got the students ready to “Rave the Cage” for a Wildcat Victory!



Picture of the cheerleading team at the pep rally.



The athlete student spotlight Konstantin Foster

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Lacey Shelton

A junior at Blacksburg High School, Konstantin Foster, is Blacksburg’s only wrestler. Since Blacksburg does not have its own wrestling team, he is a part of Gaffney’s wrestling team. He’s a four-month wrestler who has won seven matches and his favorite partner to practice with is Gaffney High student, Jaxx Wullimann.

Konstantin explained that wrestling at Gaffney is “the best place to train in SC.” He explained how nice the guys from Gaffney are and that it is a good environment. He also talked about how wrestling affects him mentally and that conditioning and weight-cutting, physically cutting weight for specific weight classes, are difficult. Although those things do affect him, he also said that wrestling has made him feel like a better person, think like a winner, and be, overall, a tougher person both physically and mentally.

His advice to anyone that is thinking about wrestling is to be determined and strong-minded. While Blacksburg High does not currently have its own wrestling team, we may be able to form one in the future if enough support can be garnered.

TRACK AND FIELD

Konstantin Foster

Track and field are sports that include athletic contests based on running, jumping, and throwing skills. Track events consist of sprints, middle-distance, long-distance, hurdles, and relays; while field events consist of jumps and throws; combined events consist of the pentathlon, heptathlon, and decathlon. Track and field are usually played outdoors in stadiums.

Track and field sports were invented centuries ago in Ancient Greece as a way for men to honor their Greek gods by displaying athletic abilities. According to Diario AS, an online sports newspaper, The first ancient Olympic games were held in 776 B.C. in the valley of Olympia on the southern coast of the Greek peninsula and consisted of only one event: the “stadion,” a 200-meter race, the length of the old Olympic stadium. Presently at Blacksburg High School, the season for track has already started and there are nine meets, one invitational regional, one upper state, and one state. Coach Sparks is very confident in this year’s team, and he says he will find a spot for anyone who can join.



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LIFE STYLES

2023 Prom Fashion

Jansen Ham

With prom only a couple of months away, you might be wondering what some of the trends from this year's attire are. Here are the top five trends for the 2023 prom.

Sparkle sequins and shimmery fabrics are becoming popular. Due to Taylor Swift's "Bejeweled" aesthetic, you can expect some light-reflecting looks to hit the prom world.

The second one is ruffles and airy styles. This light and flowy style is always the move if you want to dance all night. In addition, there are predictions that this 2023 will be filled with lace, tulle, ruffles, and shimmer this year.

The third trend of the year is feathers. Whether your clothing is adorned with feathers or you just add some accents through jewelry or footwear, feathers are a great way to have some fun with a prom trend.

The next one is bright and bold colors. Bold colors have taken over the internet in the past year. The color hot pink has been very popular on and off the runway. People like Zendaya and Jenna Ortega rocked these bold color pallets on the runway.

The last trend is the 2000s girl style. There's no denying that Y2K has made a

major comeback. It's inspiring looks that are larger than life, and these are sticking around for the 2023 Prom season. These are just some of the trends that we may or may not see at the 2023 prom, and we cannot wait to see which ones you will choose to rock.



Photo of some 2023 Prom Trends.

Dr. Maynard

Dr. Maynard O'Mazing's advice, philosophy, and words of wisdom.

Dear Dr. O,

I have two girls I am interested in dating. They are both interested in me. How do I pick which one to go out with?

-Confused in the sophomore class

Dear Confused,

If you haven't committed to either, then take them both out, see who you like best, and then make a choice. If you have committed, then stick to the one you have chosen. If you want to try to date them both...then be prepared for the fallout.

Dear Dr. O,

What is the definition of cheating?

-Asking for a friend

Dear Asking,

Cheating is flirting and or inappropriate interaction with someone outside of the boundaries of your relationship. Now, how YOU personally define inappropriate is a personal preference and can vary from situation to situation. Be careful and if your gut says don't do it—listen!

If you have any suggestions or questions you want to ask, email: mayphi3315@stu.cherokee1.org

Top Music Genres and Singers

Jansen Ham

We decided to survey students and teachers of Blacksburg High School about their favorite music genres and singers. Here's what they said:

Ayson Secrest- Rap, Yeet

Bailey Paris- Country, Jason Aldean

Andie Ammons- Country, Blake Shelton

Saad Lavender- Rap, Lil Durk

Anthony "Wookie" Tate- Rap, Youngboy

Jacob Gilfillan- R&B, Miley Cyrus

Direkio Mcneil- Pop, Billie Elish

Addison Oglesby- Country, Morgan Wallen

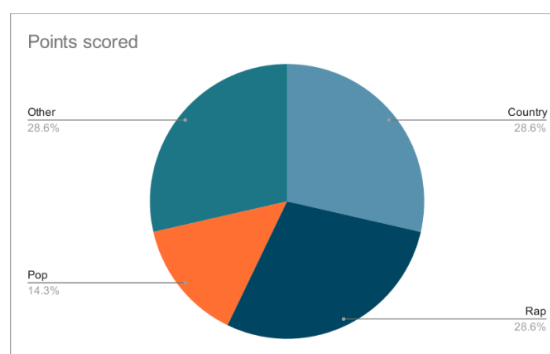
Mr. Grigg- Pop, Taylor Swift

Annabella Foster- Rock, Slipknot

Jemiah Davis-R&B, Sade

Mrs. Thompson- New Wave/Indie, AJR

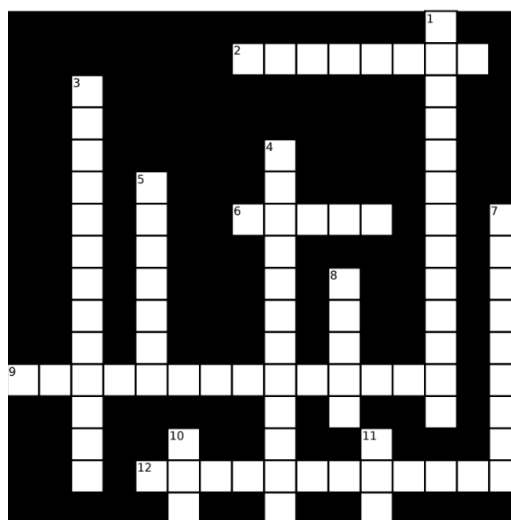
Makayla Smith- Country, Cody Johnson



Pie Chart depicting popular music genres in Blacksburg High School

The findings of a survey asking 14 students from Blacksburg High School about their preferred musical genres are presented here.

All About Music



Word Bank for Crossword:

Avril Lavigne, Bad Habit, Billie Eilish, Country, Dolly Parton, Drake, Flute, Kelly Clarkson, New Wave, Rap, Taylor Swift, USA

ACROSS

- Most popular genre in the 1980's
- Lizzo plays what instrument
- First American Idol winner
- Has won 11 grammy awards and known for their hit song "shake it off"

DOWN

- sang the Spongebob Squarepants theme song for the movie
- Won the most Grammys in 2020
- Only country artist to have a Top 20 hit on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart for six straight decades
- music derived from or imitating the folk style of the Southern U.S. or of the Western cowboy
- "I bite my tongue it's a ____"
- ____ is ranked as the highest digital singles artist in the US by the RIAA
- musical style where rhyming speech is chanted
- "Party in the ____"

Editorial & Staff

On Thursday morning, February 2nd, Pennsylvania's groundhog climbed out of his tree stump, glanced about, saw his shadow, and forecasted six more weeks of winter. Even though this seems upsetting, spring is still upon us.

The weather is getting warmer; the flowers are beginning to bloom, and everyone is ready for a break. As the flowers start to bud and bloom, we can look inward. We are either starting our high school careers, growing as students, or getting ready to embark on the next chapter of life. Regardless of our position in life, we can grow and change.

We should never be content with dwelling in the shadows of six more weeks of winter. Unlike the groundhog, we should not fear our shadow or the shadows of others. We, like the mighty daffodil that pushes through the frozen earth to bloom and give humanity hope in its yellow blossom, should persevere. Growth, change, and the endless fight for betterment should pull us from our winter of discontent.

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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