

THE BLACKSONIAN

REPORTING THE NEWS AT BHS SINCE 1927.



Hannah Nenonen, this issue's Student Spotlight

Student Career Spotlight Hannah Nenonen

Baylee Walker

Hannah Nenonen says she's taking classes in order to prepare her for a career in the cosmetology field. When asked why she is enrolled in these courses, Hannah responded, "I'm taking cosmetology classes because it's the career I want to pursue after high school."

When we asked about the subjects covered in the cosmetology class, she replied, "We learn how to do hair, nails, etc. Also, our instructor, Mrs. Gordon, always makes sure to help us learn." David Roark, one of Hannah's teachers, said, "Hannah has a smile that lights up the room. She is always attentive and does what I ask when I ask." Hannah's classmates agree with her teachers; she is a great student. Hannah's classmate Jordan Evans stated, "Hannah is a really good classmate. She always does her work and helps others if they need it. She's always happy and has a good attitude."

WHITNEY BLACK RETIRES

Isabelle Cole

Blacksburg High School's head cheerleading coach for the past five years has been Whitney Black. Not only has Mrs. Black spent a lot of time and effort on our cheerleaders, but also on pep rally preparation and creating signs for our student section. Mrs. Black has decided to retire as cheer coach because she felt it was time to focus her energy on the newest member of her family, Jettson Jack Black.

Mrs. Black enjoyed both football and basketball season but liked basketball more because she feels the cheerleaders enjoy the games more. Our very own editor and cheerleader Cortyln Phenicie stated, "My favorite thing about having Whitney as a coach is that she truly cares about our program, plus us. She's always helping us strive to be the best. Not only is she an amazing coach, but she's an all-around great mentor. She supports us in every aspect of our lives and loves us like her own. Not having her with us next year is really sad, and I will miss her so much, but she has set our program up for amazing things." The school hasn't yet received any offers for the position of new head cheer coach, but if you're interested, the position is open!



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DAFFODILS

Chloe Sweat

Most people think the Boys Club does nothing but sit around and talk, but in all actuality, they are a club that shapes young men into young adults. Boys Club mainly consists of doing community service, as well as encouraging the young men of Blacksburg High School to have a betterment of themselves and each other and help the community.

The daffodils that the Boys Club planted in the fall of 2021 have now blossomed! When we asked the club sponsor, Mr. Blackburn, he stated, "They are a symbol of hope, as well as a symbol of the National Cancer Association. They represent those who have had cancer and those who have unfortunately lost their battle with cancer."

When talking to Konstantin Foster, the president of Boys Club, he stated, "I absolutely loved the cause it stood for, and Boys Club had a great time planting them." The planting of the flowers was a fundraiser and the boys' club planted about nine hundred in total. People paid twenty-five cents for one daffodil bulb, and the profits went to an incredible cause.



The flowers the boys club planted are located in the front of the school building.

WIN TESTING

Mia Ferguson

WIN testing assesses the "real world" abilities that companies consider essential for employment success. The system's goals include preparing students for the workforce and matching potential employees to jobs and careers.

The skills assessed in the WIN learning credentials include active listening, reading with understanding, using mathematics to solve problems, making good decisions, cooperating with others, resolving conflict and negotiating, observing critically, and taking responsibility for learning. There are four ready-to-work skill levels: bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. Silver or higher demonstrates that you are career ready. This is a test offered to juniors and seniors. One key change to previous years testing is that WIN testing will be linked to early dismissal in the 2023 - 2024 school year. In order for a student to be able to have early dismissal, they must pass WIN testing with a silver ranking or higher.

NEW CLASS AT I2

Mason Lydia

The new class coming to I2 is Intro to Teaching 1 and 2, and it will be available to students next school year. Students can register for the class with the guidance counselors now. Introduction to Teaching 1 prepares students for employment and job opportunities in the education field. The program provides instruction on the foundations of education, human growth, and development. It also provides students with the skills of planning and instruction, collaborative relationships, and gives pathways to training careers.

Introduction to Teaching 2 offers the same opportunities as level 1, but it will offer numerous opportunities for authentic and simulated experiences. Both courses are primarily recommended for 10 and 11th graders. The course is beneficial to any student interested in teaching as a career. Some of the job opportunities it will prepare students for are a TA (Teacher's Assistant), a teacher, and a college professor; however, most teaching careers require college degrees as well. Students with an interest in working with others, lifelong learning, and working in a school will love this course.



ASVAB TESTING

Christopher Davis

As stated in an earlier issue, 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. The ASVAB is a career assessment that tests aptitude and ability. To pass the ASVAB, you have to have a score of 31 or higher. It is not an academic test, nor is it only for if you are planning on having a military career. The ASVAB can teach you valuable things about your own knowledge regarding work life. Blacksburg High School offers the test to help students determine their academic strengths and limitations for future professions.

For juniors and seniors, Blacksburg High School will offer the ASVAB on campus on March 13 and 14. On February 27th, United States Army recruiters were in the building during homeroom to talk about the assessment. If you are interested in taking the ASVAB, see Mrs. Whitney Black to be put on the list.

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. McAfee and asked about her life. Here are the results...

How long have you been teaching? 13 years

Where did you go to college? "First, I went and got an associate's degree in Computer Science. Then I went back to school a few years later and obtained a Bachelor's degree in Secondary English Education from Winthrop. I also have two Master's degrees, one in Curriculum from Arkansas State University and another in Administration from Gardner Webb University."

Why did you become a teacher? "I believe that I was truly called into teaching and that I was also placed in Blacksburg High School for a reason."

Are you married? No.

Do you have any kids? Yes, Inabelle (9) and twin girls Evansleigh and Clarklynne (8)

What job did you have before this? Mortgage Closer

Where did you grow up? York, SC.

What were your favorite subjects in school? French, English, and History

SPORTS

SUPERBOWL

Jansen Ham

Super Bowl 57 took place on February 12th, 2023. Coming into the game, most fans didn't know which team was favored, and everyone knew this would be a tough match-up. This year's matchup was between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles, both having a record of 14-3. Many fans were super excited about attending the game but were also excited about the halftime show where Rihanna performed, as it was her first live appearance in five years.

The intensity of the two teams was extreme as the game began and the Eagles started off hot with Jalen Hurts rushing in for the touchdown early in the game, leaving ten minutes in the first quarter. The Chiefs struck right back with Patrick Mahomes throwing a deep pass to Chiefs' tight end, Travis Kelce. Coming into the very beginning of the second quarter, Hurts passed it deep to A.J Brown for the 45-yard touchdown. The Eagles were able to get the ball back but quickly fumbled it. It was recovered by Nick Bolton for the touchdown. Hurts doesn't let the fumble beat him down and responds minutes later by rushing in for another touchdown towards the end of the second quarter. The Eagles managed to get the ball back, and right before the half, Jake Elliot kicked a 35-yard field goal with only four seconds left until halftime. The teams went into half-time with a 24-14 score in favor of the Eagles.

The second half began with Isiah Pacheco rushing in a touchdown for the Chiefs, making it 24-21. Going into the fourth quarter, the intensity is at its highest, and players get more nervous as the time runs down. Minutes tick down in the fourth, and Mahomes throws a pass to Kadarius Toney for the touchdown, giving the Chiefs their first lead of the game. Two touchdowns in the fourth gave the Chiefs a decent lead and made the score 35-27. Fans thought the game was over, but Jalen Hurts shocked them all and managed to rush in for his third touchdown and then again to complete the 2-point conversion. Everyone was sure that the game would be battled in overtime, but the Chiefs got the ball in field goal range with 11 seconds left on the clock and kicked it in for the Super Bowl 57 victory.



The athlete student spotlight Dylan Wullimann

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Konstantin Foster

A senior at Blacksburg High School, Dylan Wullimann, is this issue's Athlete Spotlight. She is part of the Blacksburg High School Varsity Softball team. She plays outfield, one of the three defensive positions in softball, farthest from the batter. She has been playing softball for six years now and played for Blacksburg High School for four years. Dylan says that "softball changed my life for the better."

Dylan says that Blacksburg High School has a lot of strong players on its teams. She is well-liked by both her classmates and teammates; for instance, Baylee Walker, a teammate, praised her for being "kind, a leader, making an effort to help younger girls, is funny, and a fantastic outfielder."

Not only do her peers and teammates love her, but her coaches do as well. Her coach Olivia Lewis said, "Dylan is a hard worker. She is always willing to try new things and is receptive to any coaching. She tries her best at anything she is asked to do. We are so glad to have her sweet soul back at BHS."

TRACK

Jordan Evans

The track team is eager to start competitions as the track season approaches. Boy's high jump, long jump, triple jump, and 4x4 are the team's top and most favorable events. Caleb Martin, Dre Buckson, and Dustin Henry are the team's top three runners in terms of speed.

Starting in his freshman year, Coach Sparks played for his high school and went on to coach for a while. He also played for USC Upstate. At Blacksburg High School, he serves as the head coach. The team appears strong, but Coach Sparks worries about the lack of distance runners this year. There are two eighth graders, three freshmen, four sophomores, five to six juniors, and eight seniors on the team this year.

Playing sports builds friendships, keeps you physically fit, teaches you how to manage your time, and helps you connect with adults and your peers. You develop abilities through athletics that are best learned on a court, track, or field.



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LIFE STYLES

SNEAK ATTACK

Jansen Ham

Throughout the years, what is known as “sneakers” in today's time has evolved tremendously. Sneakers were first invented in 1892 when the U.S Rubber Company made the first rubber-soled shoes, which sparked better factory production. Then, as years went on, sneakers started to progress as Spalding, an American sports equipment manufacturing company, made the first basketball sneaker in 1907. When basketball sneakers are imagined, they are seen as stylish, secure, and made precisely for the game, but when these basketball sneakers were established over a century ago, they looked near to being boots one would go to work in.

Years after the basketball sneaker was created, the market didn't really take off, and the production of sneakers advanced very little. In 1950, sneakers started to become the school dress code. The sneakers truly started to take place in everyone's daily life and even made a difference in exercise. When walking, running, and doing footwork exercise, technology made it more comfortable to do these exercises. Sneaker technology continued to grow, and in the 1990s, companies began making shoes called “walking shoes,” which are still

popular today. Now in today's world, sneakers are one of the most common purchases in the world, Over 1.2 billion are sold each year.



Dr. Maynard

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

Dear Dr. O,

My best friend and I want the same girl. However, she is dating someone. What shall I do?

-In love

Dear In Love,

She is off limits if she has a partner. Avoid placing yourself in such a situation that could cause drama.

Dear Dr. O,

My mom and dad hate my boyfriend. Should I break up with him?

-Asking for a friend

Dear Asking,

Your opinion is more important than other people's opinion if you sincerely love someone. Yet, they might be witnessing something that you aren't, so examine what they have to say.

Dear Dr. O,

I think my boyfriend is cheating on me. He swears he didn't though. What should I do?

-Scared

Someone who actually cares for you won't allow you to think that there is someone else in his life. Break up with him if he is making you feel this way.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND PLAY CAST LIST

Congratulations to the students below on getting cast to play in Alice in Wonderland!

Alice: Olivia Sanders

White Rabbit: Mason Lydia

Caterpillar: Mackenzie Ware

Pigeon: Serenity Smarr

Duchess: Miranda King

Cheshire Cat: Zitlaly Garcia-Torres, Kaylee Millen, and Natalie Norman

Mad Hatter: Julian Horton

March Hare: Deven Vance

Dormouse: Leah Lanier

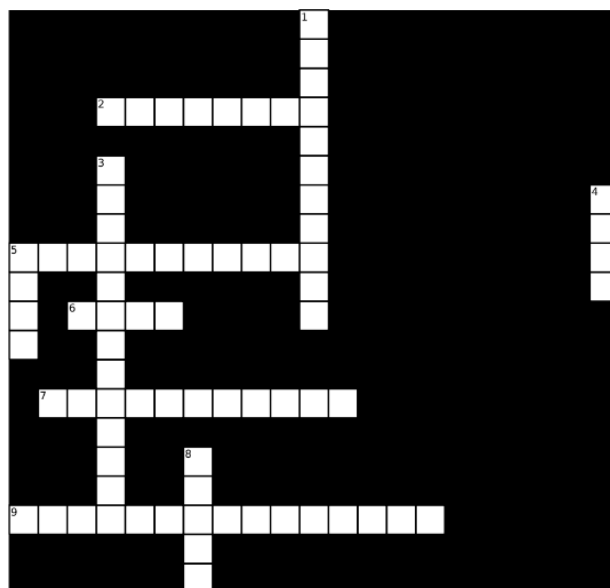
King of Hearts: Nathan Cochran

Queen of Hearts: Victoria Byers

Chorus: Nathan Cochran, Ke'Asia Degree, Zitlaly Garcia-Torres, Jaxson Kansburg, Kaylee Millen, Natalie Norman, Hannah Reynolds, and Deven Vance

Design Team: Ivy Chen, Mackenzie Ware, Samantha Sampson, Cheyenne Mauney, Angelina Foster, Ella Bullard

ALL ABOUT SNEAKERS



ACROSS

- They were originally made for basketball but also became an everyday sneaker.
- Founded in 1906 and still sells over 4 million pairs a year.
- Established in 2009 and popular running shoes known for their thick midsoles.
- Most popular shoe in 2015 and was owned by Kanye West.
- One of the most sold sneakers in the world.

DOWN

- Most popular NBA shoe in the year 2022
- Clean all-white looks and sell over 10 million pairs of these a year.
- The year that sneakers were invented.
- One of the most popular sneaker brands established in 1964.
- Well known for their comfort in running shoes.

Editorial & Staff

The whole month of February, we celebrate the achievements of African Americans. Celebrating Black History Month allows us to pause and remember the stories that led to monumental times in history.

People like Vanessa Wyche and Tony Hansberry are examples of positive changes and innovations that have changed American History. Vanessa Wyche is responsible for a wide range of tasks related to human spaceflight, such as the creation and management of human spacecraft and the commercialization of low-Earth orbit. Tony Hansberry created a revolutionary suture technique for hysterectomy patients while she was just 14 years old. Patients now have shorter hospital stays and more successful procedures as a result of Hansberry.

Black History Month is a moment for everyone to pause and reflect on the numerous accomplishments, victories, and successes that can be found in the African American community. These accomplishments, victories, and successes have furthered and enhanced society and are to be celebrated.

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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