

THE BLACKSONIAN

REPORTING THE NEWS AT BHS SINCE 1927.



ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Konstantin Foster

This issue's student-athlete spotlight is on Gabe Davis. He is currently a junior at Blacksburg High School. He trains in mixed martial arts, including judo, Brazilian jiu-jitsu, and kickboxing. He began studying martial arts at the age of five, and he has practiced and competed for nine years, the most recent being two months ago. He has competed in over 11 competitions and matches throughout his life.

When asked who his favorite fighter was he responded "Islam Makhachev," a Russian professional mixed martial artist and former sambo competitor. In response to the question of who has influenced him, he named retired Navy SEAL, motivational speaker, and athlete David Goggins. "When I fall, I always get back up, because the ground is no place for a champ," he said in response to our question about his quote.

WORLD CANCER DAY

Bailey Parris

World Cancer Day is held every February 4. This day was established to prohibit millions of deaths each year by raising awareness about cancer, and encouraging governments and individuals across the world to take action towards the disease. Many different components play a role in getting cancer such as: lifestyle factors, family history, genetics, exposure to certain viruses, and many others. Some cases of cancer cannot be altered but can be prevented by diminishing behavioral and dietary habits.

Different colors represent different cancers. For instance, the orange color represents kidney cancer and leukemia. The color blue represents colon cancer. For World Cancer Day, most people will wear a lavender ribbon to honor the cancer survivors or a rainbow ribbon to support those living with different types of cancer. This year, World Cancer Day's slogan is "Close the care gap," which stands as a call for us to join our voices together and take action. The founder and president of Cancer Warriors of Mexico, Kenji Lopez Cuevas, stated "World Cancer Day reminds us that cancer affects millions around the world and that if we work together, we can defeat it."



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

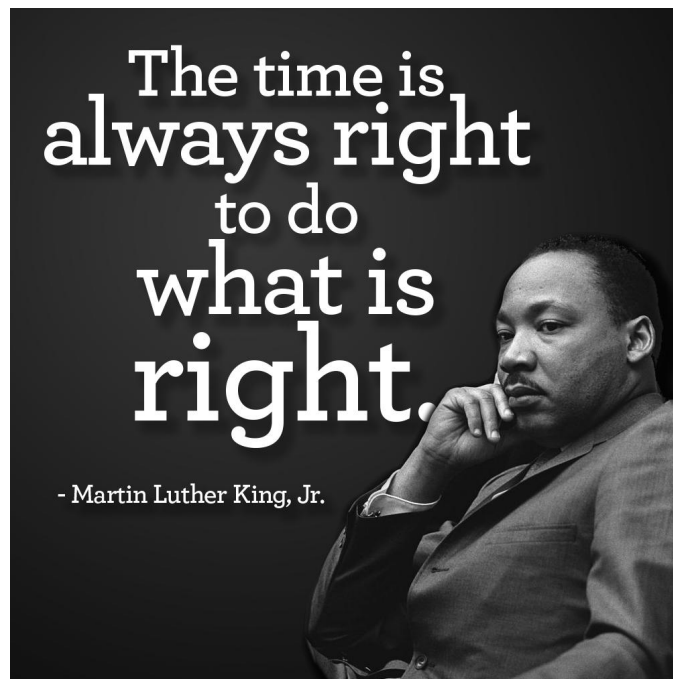
Konstantin Foster

The third Monday of January is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, which celebrates the life and contributions of the civil rights activist. King was a Baptist minister who supported using nonviolent approaches to end racial segregation and to promote equality for all.

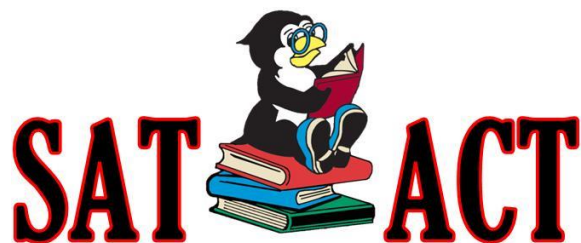
Possibly the greatest significant achievement of Dr. King's life came in 1963 when he led more than 200,000 people to the Lincoln Memorial. Dr. King, together with representatives from labor unions, civil rights organizations, and religious organizations, planned the march to demand economic and civil rights for African Americans. There Dr. King delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, demanding an end to racism. The Civil Rights Act, which prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, was passed with the march's assistance.

In 1964 following years of remarkable achievements and triumphs, Dr. King received a Nobel Prize. Getting the medal proved that the best way to achieve equality and peace was via nonviolence. Dr. King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in history at the age of 35. He contributed his award money to support the Civil Rights Movement.

Dr. King was in Tennessee supporting a strike by sanitation workers when he was assassinated. Dr. King was shot at the Lorraine Motel at 6:05 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 1968. After being taken to a hospital, he passed away in an hour. On April 7, President Lyndon Johnson declared a national day of mourning. Over 100,000 people attended King's funeral in Atlanta two days later.



ACADEMICS



ACT/SAT

Mackenzie Childers

The ACT/SAT are exams that most colleges and universities use for admission into their institution. The purpose of these entrance exams is to test for college readiness and provide colleges with a common data point that will help decide on admission when the scores are being compared with other applicants. High schools will provide students with the test for free the first time, but after that, it does cost money. The SAT costs \$64.50 with the writing section, and without the writing section, the SAT costs \$47.50. The ACT costs \$67.50 with the writing section and \$50.50 without the writing section.

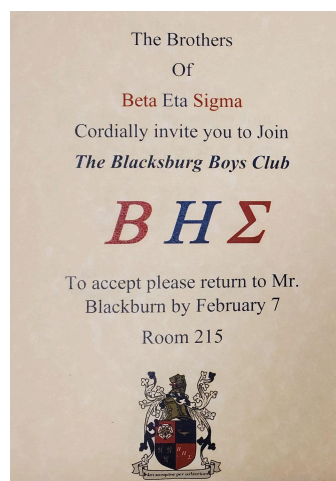
Both tests are meant for 11th and 12th graders and are only offered on certain dates throughout the school year. Many colleges don't require these entrance exams anymore, but it helps applicants stand out if they can provide the college admissions team with a good score. The SAT/ACT scores are also big factor in awarding merit scholarships and awards, so it is important to try your best. This year's ACT test will be given on Tuesday, February 27th for all juniors, and the SAT will be given on March 5th. The two tests are very different and knowing these differences will allow you to select the test that best matches your academic and career goals.

AP LANG

Bailey Parris

Ms. McAfee is the teacher of AP English Language and Composition at Blacksburg High School this year. This course drives the expansion and revision of evidence-based critical and argumentative writing, the rhetorical analysis of nonfiction texts, and the selections writers make as they write. Students learn to support arguments by analyzing and compiling evidence from various sources. An AP English Language and Composition course develops reading and writing skills that students need for future courses. Curiosity, responsiveness, and critical thinking are what students need to be guided through this course.

The framework this course includes is big ideas, enduring understandings, and course skills. Since this course is an AP course, there are high expectations; however, it is a class that can earn you college credit if you pass the AP exam, and it will prepare you for the next step into college. If this sounds interesting to you, make sure to sign up for it next year.



This is the invitation The Boys Club gave out.

BOYS CLUB NEW MEMBERS

James Reed

Beta Eta Sigma, otherwise known as Boys Club, is an amazing club to join if you are given the chance. Invites are sent to any boy that meets the club's criteria, some of which includes: good grades, good attendance, good discipline, and more. If an invite is issued, current Boys Club members will give invitees their invitation. When given an invitation, you will need to go see Mr. Blackburn for more information about the club and to get your forms to be filled out and turned back to him by a certain time. When you turn in your forms, you will also have to turn in your dues. These dues go towards your Boys Club shirt, the Boys Club dance, and activities that are done.

MATH 110

Kayleigh Triplett

This semester, one of our own will be teaching a new college course at Blacksburg High School. Math teacher Mrs. Haynes has been granted permission to teach Math 110 to students after putting in a lot of hard work and determination. Blacksburg High School offers other college classes like ENG 101 and 102, COL 103, and PSY 201, but a math course has never been offered. Mrs. Haynes believed that Blacksburg High students should be able to take the subject at their own school.

Thanks to the additional college and high school credit as well as the new knowledge, this course is a fantastic way to advance in future math courses. This 15-week course began on January 8 and ends on April 25. As a result, it ends about a month earlier than other high school courses. Tuesdays and Thursdays are when the class meets, but you are welcome to come any other day of the week to make up missed work and receive additional assistance.

There isn't as much work as in a typical high school course because there are days in between lessons to finish assignments and there are only two lessons a week. Complex numbers, quadratic equations, graphs and functions, rational and polynomial functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, matrices, and determinants are among the topics covered in the course. The class is open to students who have completed their math course requirements or who need to take one more math course. For more information, please see one of our guidance counselors or Mrs. Haynes herself.

SCC TRIO Talent Search



APPLY NOW
Questions?
864-592-4780
triotalentsearch@sccsc.edu

Educational Talent Search is a federally funded program sponsored by Spartanburg Community College that promotes college access to students from working-class families from the middle and high schools in Cherokee County.

Prepare for your college education, take advantage of these program services:

- College Tours
- Tutoring Services
- Etiquette Education
- Goal Setting & Study Skills Workshops
- Financial Aid Workshops
- College Search Guidance
- SAT/ACT Fee Waivers
- College Application Fee Waivers
- Summer Enrichment Programs



TRIO TALENT SEARCH

Kayleigh Triplett

The TRIO Talent Search Program is a federally funded program that promotes college access to working-class families who would otherwise not have access to certain services. Services offered are those that prepare a student for a college education, such as college tours, tutoring services, SAT/ACT fee waivers, college application fee waivers, financial aid workshops, and many more helpful resources.

The only schools that are eligible to join are Blacksburg Middle and High School, Gaffney Middle and High School, Ewing Middle School, and Copeland Academy. To be eligible for the TRIO Talent Search, a student must be enrolled at a participating middle or high school, be a first-generation college student, or currently live in an economically disadvantaged household, which will be determined by TRIO. Applications are available online, through the guidance office, or at the TRIO Talent Search office, located in room 203 of the CAMIT Building on the Cherokee County campus. Once finished, send your application to the Talent Search Program at Spartanburg Community College at the Cherokee Campus, return it to the guidance office, or submit it online. Staff from TRIO will get in touch with you to go over the next steps in the application process and to discuss your eligibility after your application has been submitted. Students can reach out to the TRIO Talent Search Program via email at triotalentsearch@sccsc.edu or by phone at (864)-592-4780.

NEWS & EVENTS

NEW TARDY POLICY

Andrew Moorhead

Starting this semester, Blacksburg High School is implementing a new tardy policy for the new semester. This policy came from the Superintendent, Dr. Dana Fall. This policy is similar in ways to the previous policy. However, there have been a few changes. On tardy numbers three and six, students will be given a warning, but on the seventh tardy and so on, students will be given a day of OSS. Every nine weeks, the policy will start over, and a student's tardies will reset and have six chances until they get OSS. The next time the policy resets is March 13th. No parent notes will be accepted for being tardy to school, but doctor notes are still accepted. When asked what the purpose of this change was, Mr. Coggins stated, "We are hoping this will allow it to be easier to understand and also help students not get as many tardies."

WAR AROUND THE WORLD

Cohen Moss

There are still conflicts going on throughout the world in 2024. Russia launched war on Ukraine back in February 2022, and the two countries are still at war today. At first, people thought it would be a short conflict, or they suspected Russia would easily invade and defeat Ukraine, but that never happened. Ukraine is still holding up its defense against Russia.

Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. About 1200 people were killed in the attack, and Israel declared war on Palestine and Hamas vowing to destroy them. The United States and the United Kingdom just attacked and bombed Houthi sites in Yemen on January 22, 2024.

There are more wars and acts of violence in the world, but these are the more well-known ones that make the headlines. For instance, there are more than 45 armed conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa, more than 35 armed conflicts in Africa, 21 armed conflicts in Asia, seven armed conflicts in Europe, and six armed conflicts in Latin America. Most of these have been going on for years, but some have started just this year. War is raging everywhere, leading to confusion, death, and tragedy. What will happen tomorrow? Will this change for the better or the worse? As time goes on, we'll find out.

NEW DOLLAR GENERAL

Ayson Secrest

The new Dollar General has now been built and is ready to be used as a convenient shopping option. They have a wide range of household goods, groceries, beauty products, and more. Since it's new, it has everything in stock for a good price. If you're looking for a job, it is a good place to look since they're hiring as of right now and are close to town. It was rumored that it was going to be a Dollar General Market instead of a normal Dollar General, but that rumor has turned out to be false. There is another rumor, since the new Dollar General is only a normal Dollar General and not a market, they are going to be turning the other Dollar General in town into a market. Hopefully, this new Dollar General stays in a better condition than the other Dollar General in town. Hopefully, they change the one in town to a market and renovate the interior to have a better shopping experience, while providing another grocery store in town that will be convenient.



GROUNDHOG DAY

Andrew Moorhead

Groundhog Day is a tradition in the United States and Canada on February 2nd of every year dating back to the 16th century. It falls halfway between the spring equinox and the winter solstice. It originates from the Pennsylvania Dutch superstition that if a groundhog leaves its burrow and sees its shadow, winter will go on for six more weeks; if it does not, spring will arrive early. The groundhog is observed in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, and Punxsutawney Phil has grown to be a beloved animal.

People will gather in the city to see if Phil's shadow is revealed. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club members travel to Gobbler's Knob, which is Punxsutawney Phil's official residence, located just outside of town. Its members conduct official business in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect while wearing top hats. Tens of thousands of people watch Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, an area with only 6,000 residents. Now, how accurate is Punxsutawney Phil? According to research conducted by the National Climatic Data Center and the Canadian Weather Service, Punxsutawney Phil has a low success rate of only about 50%.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lacey Shelton

Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent, a 40-day period in the Christian calendar that comes before Easter. For a lot of believers, it is a day of reflecting and the start of a way towards spiritual healing. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the tradition of putting ashes on believers' foreheads. The burned palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday are usually used to make the ashes used on this day. The act is used as a strong, physical reminder of our own death and the importance of asking for forgiveness and making a fresh start. This year's date for Ash Wednesday 2024 is February 14.



MARDI GRAS

Lacey Shelton

In the Christian calendar, Mardi Gras, often called Fat Tuesday, is a colorful and exciting feast that comes before the serious season of Lent. Lent takes place during the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. Historians claim that Mardi Gras originated in Rome thousands of years ago as a pagan festival honoring fertility and spring. Following the arrival of Christianity in the Medieval Ages, local pagan rituals gained popularity and were adopted by religious leaders as a prelude to Lent. Later, the French gave the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday the nickname "Mardi Gras."

The joy and thrill of the holiday floods the air as we look forward to Mardi Gras 2024. The city of New Orleans is already buzzing with activities as Mardi Gras 2024 approaches. The theme this year, "Unity in Diversity," pays recognition to the diverse range of cultures that contribute to the vibrant ambiance of the city. The classic Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold, which stand for justice, faith, and power, will be used to decorate the streets. We can expect these parades to provide a vibrant day for the Mardi Gras of 2024.

LIFESTYLES

ORGANIZATION

James Reed

Many people like to start a new year by organizing and getting set up for the brand new year. From physical fitness to cleaning out closets, January is a popular time to get yourself in a better space—literally and figuratively. *The Blacksonian* staff asked a few people around Blacksburg High School about their organizational plans and ideas. Mr. Coggins said his way of staying organized is by keeping the things he needs to keep on his laptop in a folder, and the papers he has to keep up with, he leaves on his desk. He said it's best for him to just keep his papers on his desk where they are visible. Anna LaFrancis said she likes to keep her upcoming events in her planner, and she likes to keep a binder for each class. Mrs. Satterwhite said she likes to color code and keep lists. Mrs. Crater said she likes to make shopping lists and make menus for the week to help her not buy too many extra things at the grocery store. Let us all start the new year with good organization in all parts of our lives, professional and personal.



A DAY OF LOVE

Lacey Shelton

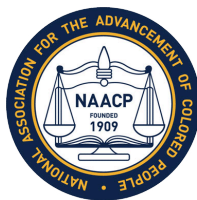
Valentine's Day has been observed as a time for couples to celebrate their love and appreciation of one another for many years, although the precise reason it became one is unclear given the variety of theories. Even though we do not know why it became a holiday, we do know when it became a holiday. Pope Gelasius declared February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day towards the end of the 5th century, and ever since, people have celebrated the day. However, it was typically more religious than romantic. It was not until the 14th century that it became a romantic holiday.

People typically celebrate this holiday by exchanging gifts, candy, chocolate, food, flowers, jewelry, and many other things. Until technology was invented to be able to print cards, expressing feelings and affection on handmade notes was also a way to celebrate this day. Some people don't enjoy Valentine's Day and think it's unnecessary pressure on a relationship. The day has always been mostly for couples, but recently it has expanded to people outside a romantic relationship. Today, people all around the world use this day to not only express love and affection to a significant other but also to friends and family as well.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Cohen Moss

New Year's Day has come and gone, and apparently so has the trend of New Year resolutions. We surveyed many people and while we got some answers, such as spreading the gospel more, or even attending a new life group, reading a new book, and becoming more dedicated, some people have decided that the best way to better themselves for the new year would be to mind their business more. This year we have surveyed many people, but most did not have answers. Many people answered with “We did not have one” or “I didn't have enough time” and even “I just didn't feel like doing it.” Are people getting lazy or is it just not as popular as it used to be? This may be the first year where the trend is over. Eventually, something new will start, but we have come to the conclusion that this once-popular trend has come and gone.



NAACP

NAACP

Mackenzie Childers

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) stood for and continues to stand for, a cornerstone in the fight for civil rights and equality. It was established in 1909, and the NAACP has been a tireless advocate for African Americans and other marginalized communities. It was founded by W. E. B. Du Bois, Mary White Ovington, Moorfield Storey, Ida B. Wells, and many more to improve justice for African Americans.

Throughout its history, the organization has played a pivotal and crucial role in the challenging and facing of racial segregation, discriminatory practices, and systemic injustices. From their landmark and legal victories, such as *Brown v. Board of Education*, to the grassroots activism during the Civil Rights Movement, the NAACP has been at the forefront of transformative change. In today's time, the organization continues its mission to address all of the contemporary issues, advocating for social and economic equality, education, and criminal justice reform. The NAACP's legacy underscores the enduring importance of collective action in fostering a more inclusive and just society.



FITNESS

Cohen Moss

Within the new year, fitness goals are usually the number one trend that people say they will start to do more of. Most people want to look their best for the new year, and getting into fitness can boost confidence, improve brain health, help manage weight, and reduce the risk of disease. Soon enough, winter will end, spring will come, and then there will be summer. During the summer, people want to look as good as possible while they are in their bathing suits or bikinis. So, fitness is usually most people's number one priority in the winter and early spring because they want other people to see how they have improved.

How will they do it you might ask? Walking, running, jumping, or even adding sports to their everyday routine. More physically demanding activities such as endurance training or taking about 12,000 steps a day are also some things people may choose to incorporate into their daily routine. Some people use cardio or adding weights to their training, which also helps most people mentally and boosts their confidence. We asked health science teacher Mrs. Miller what her new year fitness goal is. She responded, “I already workout every day, but this year I want to include weights in my everyday routine.” These are the ways people plan to look better and get in shape for the beach this year.

NEW FOOD

Ayson Secrest

There are actual new restaurants coming to Gaffney, as well as some rumors. There's a new Zaxby's that was just built, and they are up and taking customers. They are located at 1526 W Floyd Baker Blvd, Gaffney, SC 29341. Additionally, they are building a Chipotle in Gaffney as well. The address for it will be 1602 W Floyd Baker Blvd, Gaffney, SC 29341. A very far-fetched rumor includes Texas Roadhouse coming to Gaffney, but we should take this with a grain of salt because this is very unlikely to happen. There is talk that the Texas Roadhouse could also be in Blacksburg, where the old Waffle House was located. Nothing has been verified about the Texas Roadhouse rumors. We can only hope for these new food options and be thankful for the two new places that have opened.

SPORTS

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

Mackenzie Childers



Name- Taylor Tessner

Grade- Sophomore

Hometown- Blacksburg, SC

Sport- Basketball/ softball

Position- Shooting guard/ Shortstop

Inspiration- Jennie Finch

Quote- "It's supposed to be hard. If it wasn't hard, everybody would do it. The hard is what makes it great"

Life Goals- To play sports at the highest level possible

PARIS MAYES AND SCHSL

Bailey Parris

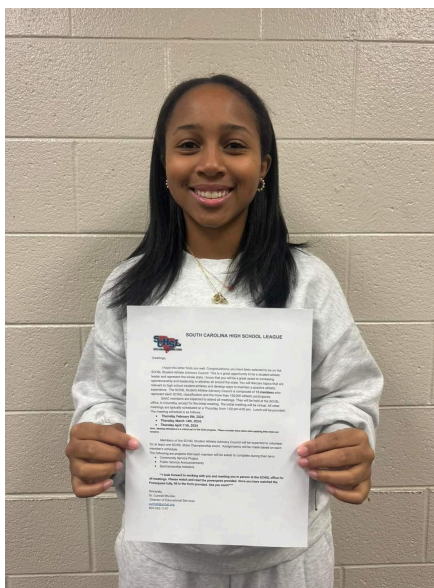
Blacksburg High School has many outstanding athletes. One of these is none other than Paris Mayes. She is a three-sport varsity athlete and also top of her Junior class of 2025, with a GPA over 5.0. In addition to upholding her academic and athletic responsibilities, Paris is also the South Carolina State Reporter for HOSA.

While receiving awards and honors is no new feat for Paris, one of her current undertakings is new. Mayes was chosen to participate in the South Carolina High School League Student-Athlete Advisory Council. She was one of fifteen students from South Carolina selected for this honor. To participate in the council, school athletic directors nominate students to be chosen by the league for the council. In Cherokee County, one rising junior or senior was selected from each school for this opportunity. Of all the students nominated, fifteen are selected by the league to make up the council.

The South Carolina High School League Student-Athlete Advisory Council was formed to serve as a voice for student-athletes participating in SCHSL programs. There will be relevant topics that will be talked about by high school student-athletes. They will discuss ways to advance and sustain a productive and constructive

athletic experience. Each student selected is expected to embody leadership skills and sportsmanlike conduct while carrying out the general missions of the SCHSL and the Student Services Division.

The council is not just about being a part of sports and about having high academic standards. The members of the SCHSL are expected to do many things. They will be expected to participate in at least one SCHSL State Championship event. Each student will have different assignments based on each member's schedule. Community Service projects, Public Service Announcements, and Sportsmanship initiatives will all be asked of the athletes to complete while on their terms. She continues to work hard for what she earns. As a school as a whole, we are so proud of her and all of her many accomplishments!



Paris Mayes with her invitation letter from SCHSL.

GIRLS TOURNAMENT

Isabelle Cole

Over winter break, our Blacksburg Lady Wildcats traveled to Orlando, Florida to play in a tournament to better their skills and do some team bonding. After leaving on December 26th, the team spent five days there. While there, they played one game a day for three days. Even though they did not win any games, they believe they strengthened their bond as a team and are grateful for the additional game time. They also feel that they were able to take that bond home with them. They were able to fly down there and back and stay in a very nice hotel for their visit. Thankfully, none of the games ended with a blowout, and they all joined together to pull the score up no matter how far they were behind. They were accompanied by Bobby Rodgers, Anita Cory, and Donald Logan. The girls stated that Chad Tessner, Taylor Tessner's father, was also a big help during the trip. We are proud of the team for never giving up and always giving it their all.



BHS Varsity Girls on their way to the tournament in Florida.

SOFTBALL AND BASEBALL

Bailey Parris

Softball tryouts were held on January 28 and January 29. To be eligible to practice and or tryout for the 2024 season, girls had to have completed a physical either with the school or a doctor outside of the school. After getting their physicals turned in, girls were allowed to take the field and try out for the BHS JV and Varsity Softball teams. In true Coach Elliott fashion, tryouts began at 3:51 pm and lasted until a little after 5:30. As a school, we look forward to seeing what these ladies and their coaches have up their sleeves this year as they take on our rivals from all over the state. Good luck girls! We are always proud of you!

Like softball, baseball also held its tryouts this week. Their tryouts took place on the baseball field January 29 - 31st from approximately 3:40 to 5:30. This year BHS has a new head baseball coach. One of BHS's very own alumni Coach Chase Norman took over the role of head baseball coach after Coach Batchler stepped down last year to pursue his dreams as head football coach. Although Coach Norman is new to the role of head coach, he is no stranger to baseball. Coach Norman has been an assistant coach for quite a few years, and he played baseball both in college at Erskine and here at BHS when he was in high school. We are so thankful to have Coach Norman coaching our BHS Baseball boys, and we wish him and all of the teams great luck this year! If you have any questions about baseball see Coach Norman or email him at chase.norman@cherokee1.org

TRACK

Konstantin Foster

Track conditioning has already begun at Blacksburg High School, although the actual season doesn't start until January 31. Anyone interested in joining is encouraged to speak with Coach Sparks. When asked about track, Coach Sparks responds, "Track is one of those sports where you don't have to know what you're doing. Just come and give it a try." He says that it is a great learning experience and the best individual team sport. There is room for everyone who wants to be on the squad, so it's a terrific sport for everyone. There are many various kinds of events in track, so everyone can find something to like and be good at. For more information or to sign up if any of these catch your interest, stop and visit Coach Sparks, or email him at samuel.sparks@cherokee1.org.

Editorial and Staff

THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK

Everyone has made regrettable comments in the past that he or she wishes could be taken back. Even when it's not our intention, we sometimes forget the impact our words can have on other people. To those around us, our words determine who we are as individuals and reflect who we are as a person.

No amount of regret or remorse will make words that have left our mouths disappear from the other person's ears. When we talk without thinking beforehand, we run the risk of offending someone or coming across as less educated. We have more time to properly evaluate the effects of the words we choose when we think before we speak.

One of the most dangerous tools in the world is words, yet most of us use them somewhat carelessly. They can directly affect a situation's outcome, for better or worse, and they can be both positive and negative. We would not take a weapon and wave it around carelessly in front of those we care about, but we are often quick to toss hurtful words around. As we progress into 2024, I challenge you to think before speaking, and speak with as much kindness as possible - you may never know the effect you and your words possess.



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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.
