

The Student Times

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April 2026

School musical brings wave of praise

Drama club takes school performance "under the sea"

THOMAS DIBATTISTA
Junior Reporter

Berwick High School journeyed under the sea last weekend performing Disney's "The Little Mermaid." It premiered here, at BHS, on the weekend of March 20, 2026 to March 22, 2026. Over the course of three days (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) the cast performed three showings of the musical.

The main leads included Zoey Force as Flounder, Carol Nagel

as Ursula, Emma Berkes as Ariel, Draven Geiger as Prince Eric, and Sara Cruz as Sebastian. The main production staff included Melissa Driscoll, Mark Thatcher, Alison Keeny, and Anthony McDonnell. The stage managers this year were Abigail Burdsall and Alex LeVan.

The musical follows the storyline of the 1989 Disney

movie, "The Little Mermaid," which is based on the 1837 fairytale of the same name by Danish author Hans Christian Andersen.

The plot begins with a mermaid named Ariel, who admires the human world.



photo by **Callie Shultz**
Prince Eric (**Draven Geiger**) steers his ship through a dangerous storm with his crew.

However, her father Triton, King of the Sea forbids and despises this admiration. He assigns his most loyal subject, Sebastian, a crab to watch over Ariel. She eventually rescues a human (named Prince Eric) from drowning in the ocean, which only fuels her fascination with humankind and makes Triton hate humans more. Finally,

Ariel seeks counsel with a sea witch, known as Ursula. Ursula offers to transform Ariel into a human with her magic, with the cost being Ariel's voice. Ursula also tells her that she must receive true love's kiss if she is to keep her human form.

The cast was able to perfectly showcase the under the sea elements for the entirety



photo by **Callie Shultz**
Main villain, Ursula (**Carol Nagel**), and eel Jetsam (**Gemma Smolenak**) perform.

of the show. The singing throughout the performance was phenomenal, but by no means sound like an easy feat for the cast. Upon hear-

ing the music, hard things presented themselves in the music such as belts, dynamics, harmonies, and rhythms. Upon watching the ensemble numbers, they looked incredibly hard to choreograph and to put together. From ensemble numbers like "Fathoms Below" to the harsh notes and belting of "Poor Unfortunate Souls" the singing was stunning.

The cast and crew of the production spent many long hours and nights rehearsing at the school. Rehearsals most days spanned from four in the afternoon to usually eight at night. With some nights

going until nine or ten. Not to mention the weekend rehearsals that occurred on the afternoons of Saturday and Sunday. On top of musical responsibilities students were also challenged to keep up with their academic classes. On the day of the last performance the cast came to the

school to have breakfast with children in the high school cafeteria, wrapping up with the Sunday performance. All of this hard work speaks to the resilience of the cast and their hard work the past four months.

The acting this year was



photo by **Callie Shultz**
Ariel (**Emma Berkes**) and Flounder (**Zoey Force**) talk about Ariel's dream of being with humans.

amazing. The cast did a great job of making people feel like they were part of the performance and making them feel welcome "under the sea." The special effects this year were also top notch.

Any students that are interested in performing next year should see Mrs. Driscoll.

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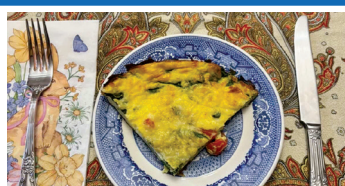
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To squish, or not to squish

Great classroom debate invades BHS classrooms

LANDON ZAPATA
Freshman Reporter

Over the past 2 months, fidget toys and squishies have been a big trend in high school and in the world. People love fidgeting with them during school to keep themselves focused during class and not zone out in class.

One such fidget toy is a Needoh. Needohs, similar to stress balls, being squishy and coming in different shapes and sizes. They have been the most popular fidgets in 2026 and in 2025.

Freshman Ayla Holloway said, "The downside of the Needohs is that they can get dirty very quickly, they pop, and are always sold out in stores." These fidgets have been a big issue in schools for many students. Hollo-

way doesn't see it that way, saying, "Honestly, I think it's better for me because for me it relieves stress".

Freshman Myles Dipippa says, "Needohs are a very fun fidget that I can use whenever to pay attention and focus in the classroom". For many schools across the country, they are a problem, but for students at BHS, they seem like a tool to use to pay attention.

Fidgets have been a very hot item in the world today, making it into schools all around the country. Being a popular hit on TikTok and all social media platforms, these toys are rare to find, and many stores sell out of them almost instantly. This product can be a useful tool to help students focus in the classroom.

Another trend at BHS is phone games. Phone games include Geometry Dash, Block Blast, Clash Royale, and many other popular games. They have been a very popular topic of trends in BHS. Many students tend to enjoy them and play them during school, causing distractions for classes and student learning. This trend has been going on for over three years, but it's now becoming a huge hit in the BHS. Students can be seen during the school day looking down at their phones and playing the game instead of paying attention to their studies in the classroom. Teachers have not liked this at all, having to say stuff to students about the issue of paying attention to them while the teachers are trying to teach.

Giving gift of life at drive

NHS, StuCo team up for annual blood drive

JAXON HITTLE
Sophomore Reporter

On March 24th, Berwick hosted their annual blood drive in the varsity gym. Conducted by the Berwick National Honors Society, students were encouraged to give blood to help the current shortage in the United States, with the supply being the lowest it has been in over 20 years. The Red Cross recently declared a "severe" level shortage as the current blood supply fell roughly 35% in January, unfortunately making some hospitals issue triage orders, or waitlists based on severity.

Starting at 8 AM and ending at 1 PM, 35 students signed up to give blood, and 27 people volunteered to staff the blood drive. The turnout this year was very good, with higher-than-normal numbers of volunteers and donors. Volunteers said that the

blood drive was "a success" with "a lot of volunteers [donors]... many of them were able to give blood." There were also "multiple kids trying to go and donate" and some were turned away due to technical issues.

The students said that the people who took their blood were very professional and caused little pain during the procedure, with those who donated being given small rewards for their volunteering.

Berwick strongly encouraged students to plan for the next blood drive next year and sign up to give blood; the more people who sign up, the more lives are saved, with only one pint of blood, the average donation, being able to help three people in need anywhere at any time, with the summer months that follow the blood drive being particularly harsh on the Red Cross.

"Miracle on Ice" repeated

Team USA brings home gold from Milan Games

JOSEPHINE MORGAN
Editor in Chief

From February 6-22, the United States competed in the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics. The games showcased not only the US' talented athletes and their abilities, but also the deep camaraderie and friendship these athletes share, on and off the ice.

Many American athletes took home gold medals, including figure skating stars Alyssa Liu and Ilia Malinin. Alyssa Liu took home a gold in the "Women's Individual Figure Skating Event," and was a crucial part of the USA team's victory in the Team Figure

Skating Event. Her, along with Ilia Malinin, Amber Glenn, Madison Chock, Evan Bates, Ellie Kam, and Danny O'Shea led the USA



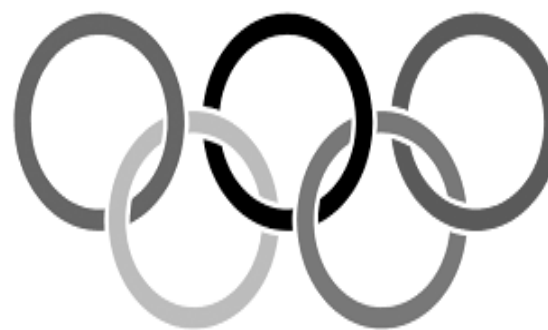
to the gold in Milan.

There were several other impressive wins for Team USA, including Mikaela Shiffrin's first place win in women's slalom, a technical, short-circuit, downhill

skiing event. This was a particularly big win for Shiffrin, as she had been fighting to end an eight-year medal drought. This Olympics, however, proved to be successful for her.

Back on the rink, Jordan Stolz took home two gold medals, one in the 500m speedskate and one in the 1000m. Stolz also set an Olympic record in the 1000m, finishing in only 33.77 seconds. This narrowly beat the previous event record of 34.32 seconds, which was set by Gao Tingyu at the 2022 Beijing Games.

However, the most memorable moments from the games were the women's and men's hockey final,



both against Canada. Both games went into overtime, and tensions were high for viewers watching in person and here at home. For the women's team, the game

ended in a dramatic 2-1 victory for Team USA. Led by brother-duo Jack and Quinn Hughes, the team

won in a similarly close margin, 2-1 over Canada. This is the first time the USA has won gold in Olympic hockey since the "Miracle on Ice" against the then-Soviet Union, over 46 years ago.

Overall, the United States is very proud of their athletes and their performances, medal or no medal. The next Olympic Summer Games will be held on home soil, in Los Angeles, California, in 2028.

New NHS members inducted

Night honored hard work, achievement



photo Courtesy to Student Times

From left to right:

1st Row: Cecelia Esquivel Troiani, Brett Eisenhauer, Alexandra Domanski, Kieran Dixson, Lily Rupp, Ian Davis, Caleb Czajkowski, Tyler Costanzo, Madelyn Chapin, Lucas Broyan, Zoey Brown, and Tressa Berlin

2nd Row: Quinn Kishbaugh, Casimira Kendron, Luke Keifer, Ava Honse, Sophia Holmes, Jaxon Hittle, Christopher Hinkle, Kaitlyn Hinchliffe, Tori Hacker, Luca Grozier, and Carly Force

3rd Row: Hailey Peters, Michael Perry, Saily Perez, Joscelyn Mickalowski, Jacob Lisnock, Nyah Lindemuth, Ava Liebl, Cindy Lee, Ivy Lear, Rochelle Ladrigas, and Ashlyn Klahold

4th: Ashlyn Zakrewsky, Caleb Yost, Shaun Wiggins, Payton Toth, Brennan Spaide, Callie Shultz, Gabrielle Decker, Faith Rinehimer, and Mason Reynolds

Not pictured: Neveah Lomax, Lily Nespoli, Angelina Rivera, and Esha Stetz

FID Day vs. Snow day debate remains

Students, staff divided on preferred method

GIAVANNA DADDIO

Freshman Reporter

FID days versus regular snow days have been debated since FID days were introduced, but not all students think the same way. Currently, the majority prefer traditional snow days. Although that is not a surprise, since with traditional snow days, students and teachers do not have to do anything that day. However, there are a few reasons that might make some people change their minds about preferring snow days over FID days, which most people do not realize.

FID days were created as a way for students to still “attend” school without actually physically being in school. The idea goes back to when COVID was still a large problem. This means that students do not have to make up these days at the end of the school year because they count as “normal” school days. Students

also do not realize that the workload is much lighter than if they were physically in school that day, because many teachers post slightly easier assignments due to students primarily working on their own. Many students overlook this because of the amount of work posted by all of their teachers.

Snow days are favored over FID days by students for many obvious reasons. Students can sleep in and not have to worry about doing work by a specific time or at all. This also has downsides, as it will count against the school year, and students will have to make up for these days by adding days to the end of the year, making the school year longer.

Even though students prefer snow days, there are many reasons that FID days could become more popular amongst students than snow days. Only the future can make that decision certain

End of year roadmap

Every deadline between now and end of school year

OWEN DIBLASI

Freshman Reporter

April and May can be challenging months for students at Berwick High School due to exams and deadlines. This can lead to academic stress for students, which can have a toll on students’ grades and mental health. It doesn’t have to lead to that, because students can be prepared for these important dates. Getting ahead of keystones, AP Exams, and scholarship deadlines can help alleviate stress. By being aware of these dates, students should be able to prepare accordingly.

Most of these due dates are

extremely critical for students as a whole, as they can make or break whether or not they can graduate from a certain class, such as the Keystone, which, if a student does not pass the first two times, they will be forced to repeat the course and follow a program set up if students don’t get proficient or higher on the Keystone exams.

Algebra Keystone is on May 14th and 15th, the Literature Keystone is on May 11th and 12th, and the Biology Keystone is on May 18th and 19th. The AP exams dates are from Monday, May 4th, to Friday, May 15th. The remaining SAT dates are Sat-

urday, May 2, and Saturday, June 6th.

Student Counselor Heather Melito said, “Scholarship deadlines are not able to be extended, so it is important that seniors turn their applications in by the due date. The scholarships awarded by the Community Giving Foundation can be found on their website and are due by April 1 at 11:59 pm” All other local scholarships have varying due dates beginning April 1 through April 29.”

Students can best prepare for the exams by reviewing the course topics they will cover and asking questions as frequently as possible to

get the best understanding of the subject. For the Keystone Exams, Heather Melito said, “Preparing for it is best done by learning what things are taught in the courses. They test (Algebra I, Biology, World Literature). Take time before the exams to review the topics. Students should be well-rested and approach the test with confidence and a positive attitude!”

Math teacher Mrs. Kerbacher said, “Practice, practice, practice! Just like we use muscle memory in sports, you want to create brain muscle memory. The more you practice the different types of problems, the more

comfortable you’ll be in the moment. These can be book problems, practice problems your teacher gave you, Firefly, Study Island, Khan Academy, etc. If you can find practice that is from Pennsylvania Keystone material, that is likely closest to the type of problems you’ll see on test day.”

All of the listed ways will help better prepare for these dates. Preparation is crucial because failing these exams is something that isn’t taken lightly. Students will have to retake the exam and can be held back from graduating, passing a class, or passing a grade.

Protein-packed breakfast gives massive brain boost

Quick, healthy meal for strong start to day

AMELIA ZLOBIK
Senior Reporter

As spring and most importantly, Mother's Day approaches, it's important to celebrate those we love or the new season with a savory breakfast.

anyone looking to add a homemade touch to their spring celebrations. You will need 6 eggs, heavy whipping cream, cheese, and any veggies or greens that you want to add in. I used bell

it, being cautious of shells. Then pour $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of heavy whipping cream and whisk them together until combined fully. Put the bowl aside and prepare the veggies/greens.

Grab a medium frying pan, turn your stove to low, and gently melt the butter around it. Once the butter is fully melted, take your veggies/greens and add them to the pan.

Then add your egg mix. Once the egg mix is added in, DO NOT stir. A crust will form on the outside. I also like to add cheese to the top of it. I used mozzarella. After the crust is formed, transfer the soon to be frittata to the oven,

keeping it in the pan you cooked it in. Let it cook for about 15 minutes. Take it out of the oven and check to see if the middle is fully cooked.

You can do this by poking the center with a tooth

and if it moves as a unit, it is fully cooked. Once fully cooked, cut like a pie.

Arrange the slice or slices on a plate or a platter as a Mother's Day breakfast, or just a refreshing break-



photo by Amelia Zlobik

A frittata is an egg dish, similar to an omelet or a quiche, but can resemble a breakfast pie. This recipe is simple, customizable, and easy to follow, making it a great option for

peppers and spinach but you can use others like tomatoes or onions.

First, preheat your oven to 375 degrees F. Next, grab a mixing bowl and carefully crack the eggs into



photo by Amelia Zlobik

pick. If it comes out clean, you are good to go! But, if egg residue is left, pop it back into the oven. You can also do a "jiggle check," which is lightly shaking the pan left and right,

fast for spring.

Whether you give this dish as a healthy breakfast to the ones you love most, or simply enjoy it yourself, it is sure to spring you into summer!

Disney's "Wilde" new sequel

Nick, Judy are back on case

CAIDEN HETKOWSKI
Freshman

In the new film Zootopia 2, main characters Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) and Nick Wilde (Jason Bateman) are partners in the Zootopia Police Department after they solved their first, and most famous, case: finding the predators that Dawn Bellwether (Jenny Slate) captured and made crazy. As they tried to solve cases together their different personalities started to conflict. Chief Bogo (Idris Elba) ultimately threatened to separate the two if they caused more trouble.

Snakes had been banished from Zootopia for years, but while on a case, Judy found a piece of shedded snake skin in the back of a truck. She researched why snakes are banished and found the journal that gave the background on the weather walls in Zootopia, which are what allow all the animals to live in the same area at the same time, held the reason why snakes were banished and would be presented at the Zootennial Gala. The gala was hosted by Milton Lynxley (David Strathairn), the grandson of the great founder of Zootopia, Ebenezer Lynxley. Judy told Nick

about her plan and they attended the Gala to try to find this snake.

As Judy walked around, she bumped into Pawbert Lynxley (Andy Samberg) and struck up a conversation with him. While Nick was walking around, he found more snake skin on the ground. He saw a mysterious figure on the chandelier and pointed a light at it. It fell down onto the stage where everyone could see that it was a snake. The snake took Milton and the book and slithered off. Judy chased after it and finally found it in a room. The snake said reptiles aren't the enemies, rather the Lynxley family was and the journal would prove it. Nick came in and knocked out the snake, freeing Milton. Milton grabbed the book and told his younger son to kill the snake and frame Judy and Nick. The snake jumped out of the window onto a bike with an unknown man. Judy and Nick escaped with the book.

Judy started listening to a podcaster who was doing research on the snakes. They met up with the podcaster, Nibbles (Fortune Feimster), and she took them to the marsh market where the reptiles hide. They went

to an abandoned ship to talk to one of Nibbles' friends, but the cops followed them. They went into the ship and everyone scattered. As Nibbles, Nick, and Judy tried to escape down a river with a boat, the snake took the book and went into the water pipe transportation. Judy and Nick dove in after him even though they can't breathe in water. They eventually had to get out of the pipes, letting the snake escape.

They started climbing up a mountain to investigate what was in an old house they saw. The officers were right behind them this time as well. While in the house, Judy found that there used to be an entire snake population until the Lynxleys wiped them out. The officers found them and captured Nick while the other cop tried to capture Judy. She escaped with the snake and Pawbert. Pawbert said that he wanted to save the city as well and gained Judy's trust. As they got a fire going, Pawbert said that the secret in the book was in the cover. They learned that Zootopia and the weather walls were actually founded by snakes, but when Ebenezer saw the potential he credited himself and framed the

Should fans get A\$AP Rocky's album ASAP?

ISIS KOVALCHEK
Freshman

The new album from A\$AP Rocky called "Don't Be Dumb" features 17 new singles. This album came out on January 16th, 2026, and is the first album he has released in almost 8 years. My favorite tracks were PLAYA, ROBBERY, THE END. What I liked the most about them was the beat in the songs. The lyrics were my second favorite. Some songs were calmer, some loud, and none too overwhelming.

My least favorite songs were PUNK ROCKY, STFU, NO TRESSPASSING. These songs just didn't sound the best with their lyrics, instrumentation, and beat choices. They seemed

overwhelming, almost as if they were put together too quickly. The rhymes were not as solid as the others

His last album release was in 2018. I prefer his older music more than his new music. The old music has better lyrics and beats than the new album.

This album seems a little confusing with the names and the meanings behind them. I think he could have done better with this album, mostly with the songs' beats and lyrics.

Overall, I'm mostly on the fence with this album. I would listen to it again and can recommend it if you're into rap and A\$AP ROCKY. I do hope he comes out with a better album soon, though.

MOVIE REVIEW CON. the first Zootopia. There were fun twists and surprises throughout the movie and Jared Bush and Byron Howard did a good job directing it. I do, however, think that the first Zootopia was better than the second one. The first one had a better plot than the second, but the second movie was cooler with the action. Overall, Zootopia 2 is a fun watch and I would give it a 3.7 out of five. Again, nothing crazy, but a good sequel to the first movie.

I enjoyed this movie. It was a good sequel to

Berwick bocce builds more than wins

Athletics, inclusivity meet on court

IAN DAVIS

Sophomore Reporter

The Berwick bocce team proved this season that success isn't just measured by wins and losses—it's built through teamwork, inclusion, and community support.

Bocce is a sport that mainly focuses on accuracy, strategy, and teamwork, rather than speed or strength, making it great for unified play. Teammates work together to roll their ball as close as possible to the pallina. The pallina is the small target ball in bocce that players aim to roll their bocce balls closest to. Teammates experience constant support and teamwork throughout each match.

As a Unified Sport supported by Special Olympics, bocce at Berwick brings together students with intellectual

between the athletes and partners. It was exciting seeing our teams win, but it was just as fun watching everyone play and have a good time."

The team had an especially memorable run at Districts. Players were celebrated as they were led through the school by the drumline, creating an unforgettable moment for athletes and fans alike. "Going to Districts was fun, and I loved watching my teams' faces as they

were led by the drumline through the high school," Coach Zarrett shared. "It was awesome watching Team 1 compete and come in second."

Beyond competition, the Berwick community played a huge role in the team's suc-

cess. Crowds showed up both at home and away matches, bringing energy and encouragement. "The school and

I absolutely loved it—it was like adopting 16 kids, who are now part of my family," Coach Zarrett explained.

Bocce itself is a sport played worldwide, known for being easy to learn but still highly strategic and competitive. At Berwick, it has become something even



photo by Callie Shultz

community support my team received was inspiring and meant so much to all of us," Coach Zarrett said.

For many involved, the impact of bocce goes far beyond the court. "I have never coached before, so this was a new experience for me.

more meaningful—a way to bring students together, build lasting relationships, and create a sense of belonging.

As the season wraps up, one thing is clear: Berwick bocce isn't just a team—it's a community.

New coach serves up inspiration

Potter leads dawgs to improvement

CALLIE SHULTZ

Photo Editor

A new season means new coaches for the boys' volleyball team. This year the new head coach is Ethan Potter, who used to be one of their assistant coaches. He's not the only one moving up, Gavin Jones is now an assistant coach. He went from player to coaching the team and the kids are seeing what he can do.

Although, he does not have to do everything on his own. Like the previous coach, Potter has a full staff. With assistant coaches, Gavin Jones, Kim Glass, David Hernandez,

and Carlos Guzman, there is a lot of help on the court. Potter said, "We're implementing the same system with just a different kind of approach. We're trying to explain things a lot more and simplify it all." They keep it all on the same path, just slight adjustments

Potter is bringing in new techniques and trying to focus on the basics to bring the game to life for the players. Senior Bailey Pursel said, "The new techniques focus a lot on the basics, helping to make sure that the team has a strong understanding of the most basic

aspects of the game, helping us stay simple and play easily despite facing pretty large



photo by Callie Shultz

challenges." Giving the players a better chance at recovery over the harder teams.

The team is fairly young,

with many players graduating last year, so they are learning as their coaches are. Senior Angel Parada-Viera said, "It's a lot more enjoyable than previous years, building and growing not only as players but with the coach has been really inspiring.

Both coaches are learning making an impact in their new positions. Parada-Viera said, "I think out of any player to come back and coach, I think he is the best one that graduated. I like his energy, his grit, all those things and his personality, he's just a fun guy."

Jones is stepping into his new role from player to coach well under Potter's example. Pursel said, "I mean, Gavin as a coach is pretty cool. It's definitely odd seeing him on the court but not on the team, but he does a great job as a coach" Jones is taking this new job seriously.

The team is taking on the new season with the new coaches and new minds. They are ready to take on those challenging teams with everything that has been given to them by the new insights with their new coaches.

Dawgs rebuilding after loss of senior players

Young, hopeful team preapares for future seasons

CALLIE SHULTZ
Photo Editor

Berwick’s baseball season did not start off in the way expected, but the boys are not backing down. With head coach Brandon Micheal leading them through the season, and making each player even more prepared for the next game than the last. Being led by their coaches, and their three captain-juniors Francis Yosh, Marcus Temple, and Jacob Lisnock.

They are training hard between all of the games, especially after not starting where they had wanted to. Yosh said, “After a couple games, we didn’t get the turn around we worked for but

there’s still some highlights and strengths to build on.” The team is very young with no seniors to lead them, making every practice even more important.

Every season needs a goal to work towards and keep the players motivated. Micheal said, “Our goal is simple. Improve a little bit

each day as the season progresses. Be playing our best baseball in the last quarter of the season.” Making sure they know that if they do their best every practice, it will be a great season end.

With the team being new to the game and working together, they had to adjust. Freshman Emmett Scheiner said, “ Our team is very young, and it is very hard to win with teams like that in our competitive conference. We have won many games in the beginning of the year, so we will focus on building off that.” Making practices more important to teach them all how to play the game.

The progress from this season is not only staying in the year. Sophomore Gabreil

Decker said, “We have no seniors this season, so we will have the same exact team next season. A lot of people on our team are firstyear starters, so we will be more comfortable playing and be able to play more loose and free.” This season is preparing them for what their next season will be, so the boys

are taking this and trying anything they can.

When understanding that motivation is what is going to keep the team united and pushing, it’s important to understand that it mostly has to be within someone. Micheal said, “Motivation comes from within. As a coaching staff, we’re here to push you and get our highest potential. The motivation to want to get better comes from within.” Helping keep the field alive and fun.

Boys’ baseball is looking for the season to end better than it has started. The coaches, captains, and players are all working hard together to get the progress that needs to happen.



photo by Callie Shultz



photo by Callie Shultz

TOP DAWG



CALLIE SHULTZ
Photo Editor

Berwick wrestler Carmen Malt finished his senior year wrestling season placing fourth in regions and participated in states. He was first in the district this year as well. Malt said, “I’m very proud of myself for having a good record and reaching 100 career wins.” With all four years left behind him, he made his goal and accomplished getting into regions for our school all four years.

This was not the first year he placed in regions. Malt took fifth place his sophomore year with second in the district. He had 113 wins for his complete varsity time, with his first nine this year setting him up for reaching his goal of 100 wins. This season he only lost eight matches leaving him with only 45 losses for his career. With his four years ending with a 40% loss rate, it was not the worst thing for our regional attender.

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Bases loaded with talent

Lady Dawgs prepare next generation of players

CALLIE SHULTZ

Photo Editor

Berwick's softball team has taken the senior approach to the season. Their entire lineup is seniors, who are taking on the season with their best feet forward each game. The team has 4 coaches running their season. Emily Johnson is head coach assisted by: Jason Lanning, Michelle Matash, and Todd Brown.

The team has strong people leading it, whether it's their captains or just the seniors in general. Senior Captain Makayla Brown said, "I think leadership is about supporting your teammates and setting the tone for the team. I've been part of this program for several years, and I've learned a lot from the captains before me. I try to bring that experience and encouragement to the team and help create a positive environment where everyone can succeed." They are preparing the games for the future as the majority of the team leaves after this season.

Johnson said, "This year I chose to keep all of the freshmen on the JV/varsity roster so they could learn from the senior class and be better prepared to take over those starting roles next season. Quite a few of the freshmen have contributed to our games already this season as hitters and base runners." This ensures all the positions

to have somebody shadowing them.

Every position is a necessary position, and as the seniors fill the field the underclassman can see what must be



Senior **Makayla Brown** readies to pitch.
photo by **Callie Shultz**

done. Senior Alex LeVan said, "I'm a left fielder (outfield) and I think being there to back up the infield and catch what they can't is helpful."



Ashlyn Klahold readies her swing at the bat.
photo by **Callie Shultz**

This demonstrates some of what needs to be done to make this season a success in handing things over.

The upperclassmen are showing up and helping to support the newer members. Lanning said, "I think it will provide leadership and will teach our younger players the dynamics of the sport and the game." The team is looking strong for this season and helping to prepare them for next.

The lineup will be changed next year with the majority of the players being gone. Senior Brylee Weaver said, "The goal as a team is to make it as far as we can and to just have fun and work hard no matter what." These girls are celebrating their last season with preparing the next team and making every memory they can.

They are not just only helping them by leading but also in how they bond with the girls and show the family the team can be. Brown said, "One moment that really stands out to me is seeing the team come

together in a big situation. Whether it was a key hit, a big defensive play, or getting out of a tough inning, it reminded me how much we rely on each other. Those moments really show the energy and trust we have as a team." With most of the team being seniors, they share many fond memories of each other, and now are all joining together to have a wonderful final season.

Freshman Lily Krepich said, "My team has a lot of kindness and energy, which always makes me feel like I have a place to belong." The team is a strong bond between the newest members and those returning for the final time.

Senior Captain Emma Welsh said, "My advice to the girls is to not get down on themselves... Hold that head high and make up for the mistake. They can't be perfect all the time but that's okay as long as they give it their all."

Overall, the team of off to a great start in this season.

The sprint towards greatness *Be fast, or be last*

CALLIE SHULTZ

Photo Editor

A new track season is already in play with the team competing in multiple meets and an invitational. The team is led by both peers and coaches, with head coach Robby Harter and assistant coaches: Jon Pruitt, Barney Bowman, Wendy Daily, and Ashley Robbins.

The six captains are Christopher Bowman, Alexander Estrella, Caleb May, Grace Robbins, Liya Morris, and Audra Lear. Each of the captains has their own specific event they truly shine in, but they also help the team go above what they think they can do.

Senior Christopher Bowman said, "I see myself fitting into the team as a senior leader in the throws group—helping underclassmen with technique, setting the tone at practice, and bringing intensity when it's time to compete." Helping out teammates is how this season is going to be one of the best ones to come. Especially when there are so many different events that might need a person in.

Senior Caleb May said, "Our team is very small in numbers, so it's very hard to win meets with the empty

spots, but we always put up a fight even when we're at a disadvantage." Showing that this team is here to make all the points they can, even with a disadvantage towards winning.

The team is searching for new events to attempt, so they can gain points. Captain Junior Audra Lear said, "Some things from the first meet that stuck out to me was how willing some of my teammates were to try new things.

I saw many brave underclassmen do new events that they've never done before, and show up where they were needed." These kids are trying to get as many points as they can wherever they fit into the meets.

The closeness of the team leads to confidence in new events as members step up to attempt them.

Freshman Alexandra Bowman said, "It is very easy to see myself fitting into the team because the environment is very welcoming maybe contrasting to other sports teams where people aren't as included in the team because [they're] freshmen." This is a true team, with great support from the coaches, captains, and all the athletes participating.



Victoria Lubnicki runs in relay race
photo by **Callie Shultz**



Chris Bowman prepares to throw.
photo by **Callie Shultz**