

BGHS hosts State Cheer

By Jaylen French

On February 6-7, Battle Ground High School got the honor of hosting the 2026 Washington State Cheer Competition. 107 high schools across the state came together to compete, and there were a total of 132 performances. Across the competition there were four different participating categories: tumbling, non-tumbling, game day, and stomp. Schools were able to compete in a maximum of three categories, limited to one performance per category.

Battle Ground competed in non-tumbling on the first day and game day on the second day. According to the WIAA website, non-tumbling is, “Tumbling, except for inversions into load-in positions, stunts, and pyramids, are not allowed.

Tumbling is defined as any skill with feet over head rotation.” And game day is



Danika Torneby

a “three minute routine consisting of the following four elements, in this order: Band Dance, A Situational Sideline, Time Out Cheer, Fight Song.” Battle Ground placed seventh in both categories.

In addition to performances, many cheerleaders noted the “glow party” as one of their favorite experiences during the competition. According to senior Adrionna McClellan, “At state every year they have a glow party at the end of each day, and so that was just all of us coming together, putting some glow stuff on, doing something fun just to get the nerves out of the way and just know we are having fun, and we are just here to do what we do.”

Many cheerleaders felt well prepared for the competition but noted that nervousness and adrenaline had a big impact. “You can't really train yourself to make those things not affect you, but honestly I think us maybe communicating more and

reminding ourselves that us going onto that mat means nothing different than what we have always done,” McClellan said. Freshman Channing Massie added onto that statement. “We were also really comfortable I felt

like, and that isn't usually how we are, and that affected us. We kind of just assumed some things might have hit when they didn't hit, and sort of jumped the gun because of that adrenaline and excitement.”

The competition seemed to be quite a success overall, with a very large turnout from the community. Congratulations to all those who participated!

Prop 10 levy failure implications loom

By Riley Powers and Owen Clark

On Feb. 11, the community voted against Proposition 10, which would have replaced the levy that expired. If passed, the levy would have maintained many of the student programs and services that are currently in place. Almost 25,000 people voted; 48.9% voted yes for the levy, and 51.1% voted no for the levy. The levy failing will result in removing 20 million dollars from the BGSD budget from the next school year. The board will approve the reduction of funds on April 27, 2026.

In Washington State, local levy dollars fund local priorities for our schools. Other districts in Clark County such as

Washougal and Hockinson School Districts voted yes, and Battle Ground School District was the only local district to vote no. Some of the programs and services that levy dollars fund include the following: security staff, traffic guards, counselors, nurses, and even sports and extracurricular activities. Without this funding, it becomes impossible to sustain current levels of staffing in the district. Staff makes up 76% of school costs. In a staff breakdown by percent, 43% is dedicated to teachers, which means smaller class sizes. 22.3% is for safety staff such as security guards and crossing guards. Assistant

principals, counselors, and nurses are also funded by the levy. 10.3% is dedicated to our special education program, which funds our special education program and our special education staff. Another 9.3% is dedicated to student transportation, and maintenance/operations. Utilities, insurance, and technology is 8.3%, and 6.5% is dedicated to our sports and extracurricular activities.

With funds going down by 20 million dollars, from 70 million to 50 million dollars, this means that spending money in our district and school will be severely limited, so upgrades and additions will have to be put on hold.

According to Superintendent Shelly Whitten “We are working on that and will be gathering information to make these decisions over the next month and a half. Our plan is to communicate about impacted programs around spring break.” With no information on what will be cut, district employees

can only assume what the future cuts might entail. Programs such as sports and extracurricular activities may be cut, bus routes might change, classes will definitely be larger with fewer teachers. Also, it’s very likely that some security positions will be cut. Assistant Principal Juliene Main stated, “It will be some

time before we have solid ideas about cuts.”

According to a recent student survey conducted by “The Tiger Times” there are some common concerns about the future cuts. 98 students took the survey, and below is a summary of their responses.

- **Academic Programs and Classes:** Concerns were raised about the removal or limitation of honors, AP courses, electives (especially choir, band, jazz band, JROTC, shop classes, child health/science), and general reduction in class choices and availability.
- **Staff and Resources:** Many anticipate the loss of favorite or valuable teachers/staff, increased class sizes, and a reduction in materials and resources for both students and teachers, impacting the quality of education and support staff like SPED.
- **Extracurricular Activities:** The failure may cut or shorten sports programs (including budget and transportation), clubs (like speech and debate), and unified sports.
- **Senior Events:** The cancellation of senior events, specifically the "grad walk," was a direct impact mentioned by several graduating students.
- **Minimal or No Impact:** A significant number of respondents, particularly those graduating, stated that the levy failure would either not affect them at all or only minimally.

Feed me, Seymour: spring musical underway

By Brianna Hoeflein

“Little Shop of Horrors” is soon to be making its way into the belly of Battle Ground High

School, seeking to please the consumers of Clark County, Washington. On February 10-12, students came together to display

their talents in not only acting, but in singing and dancing as well. Following auditions, on February 16, callbacks were announced. The selected students

reconvened on Wednesday, with the final cast list set to be released on Feb. 20. The musical will be performed on May 1-2 (two shows) and on May 6-8. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., with the play itself beginning at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 dollars with ASB, and \$12 without.

“Little Shop of Horrors” is a musical comedy with strong elements of comedic horror, sci-fi, and camp. It follows Seymour Krelborn as he endures the hardships of living on Skid Row and loving a woman, Audrey, who is already taken by a psychotic

dentist, Orin Scrivello, D.D.S.

The musical features a flower shop, owned by Mr. Mushnik, who is also the boss of both Seymour and Audrey. Being low on customers and funds, Seymour presents a new, “strange and interesting plant” in hopes of

boosting their profits. What happens next is far beyond what they could have expected. The musical has also been made into a movie starring Rick Moranis as Seymour, Ellen Greene as Audrey, Steve Martin as

Orin, and Vincent Gardenia as Mr. Mushnik.

“It’s a fantastic musical. Funny lines, memorable characters, beautifully written songs and a great moral about greed,” wicked_pinko stated in a Reddit post. “One of my all time

favorites,” said another.

According to broadway.com, Little Shop of Horrors scored 4.9 out of 5, with 86% of

customers giving the production 5 stars. The New York Times wrote, “a triumphant, delicious revival!”



CAST

Seymour Krelborn
 • **Lead:** Josh Postupak
Audrey
 • **Lead:** Savannah Dashnaw
 • **Understudy:** Betsy Emmerson
Mr. Mushnik
 • **Lead:** Maeve Hard
Orin Scrivello, D.D.S.
 • **Titan Kala**
Audrey II (Voice)

• **Lead:** Anara Fowler
 • **Understudy:** Brianna Hoeflein
Audrey II Pupperteers
 • **Charlotte Hunsaker**
 • **Levi Aleksa**
Greek Chorus (Group Urchins)
 • **Suzanna Coker**
 • **Caleena Coker**
 • **Makayla Dowdy**
 • **Layla Westland**

• **Adrianna Adams**
 • **Elley Pasco**
 • **Betsy Emmerson**
Crystal
 • **Lead:** Suzanna Coker
 • **Understudy:** Layla Westland
Ronnette
 • **Lead:** Caleena Coker
 • **Understudy:** Kalie Meade
Chiffon

- **Lead: Makayla Dowdy**
- **Understudy: Chloe Walker**
- Supporting / Featured Roles**
 - **Mrs. Luce**
 - **Lead: Viola Zuko**
 - **Understudy: Zoe Feigner**
 - Mr. Bernstein**
 - **Lead: Zander Crawford**
 - **Understudy: Violet Myers**
 - Customer**
 - **Lead: Tobi Carlin**
 - **Understudy: Kaiden Boehme**
 - Radio Announcer**
 - **Lead: Carson Coker**
 - Skip Snip**

- **Lead: Harry Lindner**
- **Understudy: Ethan Brooks**
- Wino #1 (Speaking Lines)**
 - **Peyton Yankus**
- Wino #2 (Comedic Echo / Visual Comedy)**
 - **Moss Ingersol**
 - Ensemble**
 - **Charlotte Grail**
- **Morgan Morris-Crooks**
 - **Chloe Waller**
 - **Kalie Meade**
 - **Viola Zuko**
 - **Zoe Feigner**
 - **Azriel Werner**
 - **Emam Miller**
 - **Faith Peterson**
 - **Kamila Nikolaeva**
 - **Eleanor Graham-Otte**

- **Asher Leavitt**
- **Ethan Brooks**
- **Violet Myers**
- **Kaiden Boehme**
- **Carson Coker**
- **Harry Lindner**
- Crew:**
 - **Madison Huber**
- **Delilah Schermerhorn**
 - **Mischa Yankus**
 - **Harlow Green**
 - **Henryk Kaiser**
- **Layla Khudaygerdier**
- **Jonathan Beaupre'**
 - **Gavin Sanders**
 - **Sequoia Little**
 - **Gavin Sanders**
 - **Rayne Lacey**
 - **Gracen Chase**

FFA week: a time-honored tradition of fun at BGHS

By Jackota Salmi

Battle Ground High School celebrated FFA Week from Feb. 16–20, aimed at showing agricultural education and student involvement on campus. FFA Week is a tradition of the National FFA Organization, which has promoted leadership and agricultural education for decades. According to FFA Vice President

Quentin Jordan, senior, “FFA Week is to recruit and show people what FFA is about, supporting the community, leadership, and interacting with each other.”

Battle Ground High School has maintained its own FFA chapter for many years. The current director, Tamara Wittcom, is a former Battle Ground

student, showing the program’s enduring presence in the school's community. Agriculture teacher Ms. Palica said, “This year’s celebration will include fun little activities throughout the week.” One featured event during FFA Week was a campus-wide game called “Who Let the Cows Out.” “For FFA Week this year,

we officers hid rubber cows, pigs, and horses through the week for people to find and return to Ms. Palica for a prize. I liked hiding the animals,” FFA President Reina Hubbard, senior, said. Students were also encouraged to participate in themed spirit days by wearing FFA’s official colors, blue and golden corn yellow. In addition to the in-school festivities, the chapter hosted a barbecue fundraiser on

Saturday, Feb. 28, in partnership with Wilco. Sponsored in part by Carhartt, the event offered hot dogs, chips and a soda for \$1. The fundraiser was open to the public, and proceeds will support future FFA activities through the school’s Associated Student Body account. The BBQ was a major success, raising \$716.

Students enrolled in agriculture-related classes including Horticulture,

Natural Resources, Animal



Timberlyn Hawkins, Reina Hubbard, Kira Hubbard

Care and Floral Design are automatically FFA members at no cost.

Overall, FFA Week was a success and helped bring awareness to the BGHS FFA program.

ASB movie night

By Nova Keeland

On Feb. 13, BGHS had a movie night in The Lair. The movie, “10 Things I Hate About You” started at 6:30 p.m. and ended at 8:15 p.m. Around 30-35 people came, and some kids started playing “Clash Royale” mid-movie.

Most of the students at the movie were freshmen and sophomores. If there were

any juniors or seniors, there might've been around eight. Chance McCarty, Surya Nguyen, Brody Pointer, Mateo Maya, Layton Chiccino, and Macaela Heerlein were among some of the freshmen who attended. “10 Things I Hate About You” is one of Surya Nguyen’s favorite movies!

“It was cute,” Associate Principal Ms. Wilson said about the movie. She was there to supervise the students while they watched the movie. There were snacks that people could buy in the front of the school such as popcorn, skittles, Mountain Dew, Dr. Pepper, Sprite, Pepsi and more.



LIFE

Did You Know? Hidden rooms of BGHS

By Avery Hill

There are five days in a full school week, and many students follow the same path every day. Most students are not usually able to see some of the school's most interesting

rooms, rooms that only staff will see.

Around campus there are many nooks and crannies most students have never seen, places that blend into Battle Ground's background.

One such place is the large wrestling room above the main stage in the lunchroom. To almost anyone who has not taken wrestling personally, this area is basically non-existent. The wrestling room gets used quite

frequently by the Battle Ground Wrestling Team when they practice. The room is covered in padded mats, so when they wrestle they won't get hurt.

Another place less traveled is the kitchen; the kitchen is tucked away in the cafeteria and looks small from the outside. However when taking a look

inside the kitchen it's a whole other world with a huge line

up of stoves, mixers, freezers, and a full room dedicated to dishwashing.

The kitchen staff clean up to 1500 dishes daily on average. They also take care of food for most other schools in the district.

The last area uncovered has been seen by few such

as some teachers, custodians, construction workers, and the librarians.

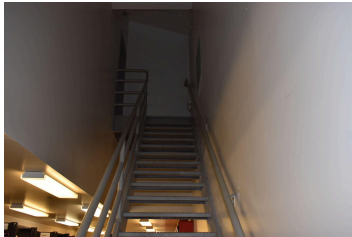
In the library there is a secret staircase leading to the roof. The staircase is hidden in a room on the left after entering the library. In this room there are shelves full of textbooks, with some more cabinets behind those shelves. On the other side of the room there is a metal staircase next to the wall going up to a little

platform where a door is sitting.

Its main use is for when workers or custodians need to get up on the roof to fix or

clean something.

These are just a few of the lesser known locations that most students will likely not see at Battle Ground High School.



Stairs leading to the roof



Wrestling room above stage



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By Koen Holm



February's freshman student spotlight is Bria Billingsley.

Bria was selected for this month's student spotlight because she's diligent, kind, and an excellent communicator, which represents BGHS core beliefs and values. Bria said that she felt "pretty good" about being selected for the student spotlight. Bria describes what makes a good student: "Anybody

who just gets things in on time and gets their work done," she said. When it comes to school, Bria said she was big into academics. Her favorite subject is English even though she dislikes reading. "I hate reading actually, but I really like being creative in my writing," she said.

Here's some fun facts about Bria: Bria's favorite food of all time is spaghetti, specifically spaghetti with meatballs. On top of that, she enjoys participating in different

sports like basketball and soccer at our very own BGHS. She's also very serious about soccer and has been playing for many years. In addition to playing soccer at school, Bria also participates in a year-round soccer team.

Bria is an amazing student and a role model for all of the students of BGHS because she exemplifies the core ideals and beliefs of BGHS. That's all Tigers for this month's ninth grade spotlight!

By Chris Leu



The February student of the month for the tenth grade is Zoe Lealos.

Outside of school in her own free time,

she enjoys reading books. She likes many different books with no particular favorite. Her plans for high school are to stay on track and graduate. After finishing high school, she is currently looking at a college in Salem. One of her biggest dreams in

life is to travel to her dream vacation in Italy due to it being "pretty" in her eyes. A bit of wisdom she would like to give is "Carpe Diem," which is an old Latin saying. Translated into English, it means "Seize the day."

By James Adams



Harley Schuette is a 17 year old junior here at Battle Ground

High School. Harley has had pretty good grades in the first semester saying she was “holding A’s.” She’s a good student, has a very good work ethic, and always gets her work done on time or early. With this in mind, it makes more sense why she doesn’t like “students talking over teachers.” She gave an

example and said, “There was a group of girls talking about a teacher, and I said, ‘Hey, you’re being rude. Can you please be quiet.’” This shows just how serious she is about her schooling. Harley’s favorite class is science because it’s “hands on.” Out of her science classes, she says she mainly likes “horticulture and natural resources.”

Besides being a student, Harley has a very active life outside of school. She was on the bowling team, making districts for the school. She’s really good at

bowling, having a high score of 185. In addition to bowling, Harley loves outdoor activities like volunteering for the FFA. Her favorite part about FFA is “taking care of animals, learning about them, and showing them at shows and fairs.” All of these activities and classes she takes points to hands-on activities and the outdoors. These interests and skills will come in handy for being a welder when she grows up. Harley is a great student and volunteer and represents BGHS proudly.

By Howard Finley

Congratulations to this senior student of the month, Stephen Howe. He is an avid welder; he spends a great deal of time



practicing. Welding is everything from his future career and higher education plan to his hobby and extracurriculars.

Recently Stephen competed in the SkillsUSA welding competition. “We got third place; it was difficult, but I highly recommend doing it,” he said. Stephen is planning on going to a trade school and working for the local 290 or JR Merit Industrial Contractors.

His favorite hobbies are welding and improving his

dirtbike. As everyone has a favorite class, his, unsurprisingly, is welding with Mr. Garred. When he has free time in class and in after school shop time, he sometimes works on gifts for his girlfriend. His most recent work of art is a hand welded, polished steel rose he made for her for Valentine’s Day. He spent countless hours

making this intricate gift with precision welding and tight amperage and temperature control, so he

didn't punch through the previous thin steel flower petals demonstrating a high level of skill and a

bright and promising future in the welding industry.

SPORTS

By Brock Hieb

Hello Tigers, spring sports are now underway, and there is still time to sign up. The sports that are available are baseball, softball, girls golf, girls and boys track, boys soccer, girls tennis and unified soccer.

The first day of tryouts for all the spring sports was on March 2, 2026. If it's a non-cut sport, it's the first day of practice. According to the school website, students must do the following to participate: "Outstanding fines/fees paid, academic eligibility, checked current sports physical (expires

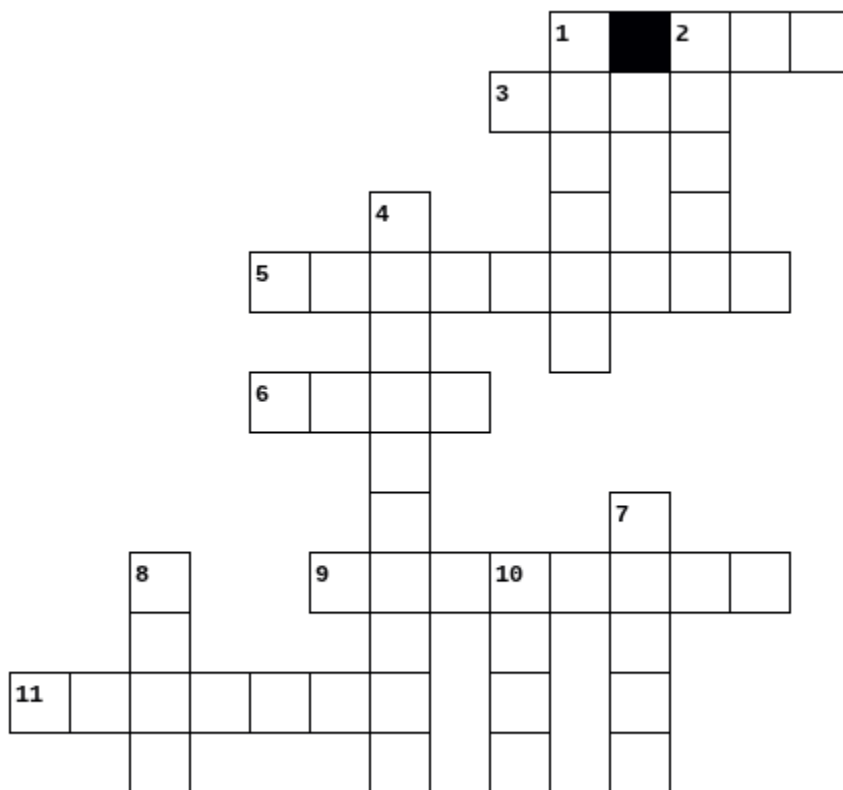
two years from date of issue)." Students who want to participate need to make sure that they have their physical cleared by the first day of try-outs. Students must have a physical form before stepping on the turf, court or field. In order to participate in spring sports tryouts, students have to purchase an ASB card, which is a one time a year fee. The card is \$50.

For students who are participating in their first sport, it will cost \$150. The second sport of the school year will cost students \$135, and the

third sport will cost students \$100. Before competing, students have to complete 10 practices. "Two practices on the same day will only count as one practice in accordance with WIAA rules. Tryout days count toward your 10 practices. Some additional practices may be required for specific sports," per Battle Ground High School website. There will be C-teams, but it depends on the number of students who want to participate in the tryouts for those sports.

ENTERTAINMENT

By Evan Ottman



Across

- 2. a way to embrace someone
- 3. how you feel about a person
- 5. a yummy treat
- 6. what you write on
- 9. the month
- 11. what you gift someone with

Down

- 1. a pair of people
- 2. a symbol associated with the holiday
- 4. the day of the month
- 7. its a sweet treat
- 8. what you write for someone
- 10. what you put on a finger

C Y P W K H C T P H T P Y W L
H H W Y U O T R S O E G S N C
O L N Y U F E N K T E A S A H
C E Z P P S V A E I F E R L X
O T L P E A R I F E N W F T X
L E I N H B B A M I T L Z I A
A I T U Y N K P T E O R D D B
T Y N V H B S N W H T D U E B
E R G F X Z E T K X Y G Z O J
Y A I G R L H U G D R A C R F
J U F D A G S E L E C A N D Y
Q R T V G N I R M O O V V S M
H B K E O A S E J C V U P Y V
N E O E N B O B E T F E S W M
Z F Z O T P D Y S T T P K D B

candy
couple
gift
love
ring

card
February
heart
poem
valentines

chocolate
fourteenth
hug
present

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