

Pride of Parrish stellar season sees big wins











has earned is long and impressive, including several first place wins, and best music, guard, visuals, and percussion.

See the full list of awards on Page 7.

PCHS students, staff work through hurricane season

By Grace Crestani

The Bulletin Reporter

Hurricane Ian made landfall in Florida on September 28, 2022, as a Category 4 storm. During its two-day

journey across the state, Ian left devastating effects with more than 100 deaths in Florida alone.

However, Manatee County and Parrish Community High School were extremely fortunate and went relatively unscathed.

The Manatee County School Board closed schools on Monday the 27th to prepare the 17 designated shelters. Of these 17, PCHS

Principal Craig Little and Assistant Principals Melissa Gagnon and Paul Champagne had the opportunity to serve in three.

Little was stationed at Myakka City Elementary

See Hurricane, Page 2









Broadway Melodies

Hurricane Continued

School. Little said they were fortunate in that no severe damage was done aside from a few fallen trees and a relatively brief power outage.

Champagne had a similar experience at Barbara Harvey elementary, experiencing only some minor leaks, broken windows, and fallen traffic signs.

Gagnon was the most vocal about her experience at Braden River High. She referred to her assignment as "an understood expectation" to aid and help other schools in her county.

Braden River was the biggest shelter in the county and housed mostly older individuals, who were surprisingly fascinated by the Uncrustables they served. The school suffered only minor physical damage, but the magnitude of the storm left many individuals scared and emotional.

As for PCHS, it did not meet the Hurricane requirements to become a shelter. Nevertheless, the school was very fortunate in that the only damage was a few fallen trees and road signs.

Friday after the storm, workers from the county conducted a post storm assessment. The school then reopened the following Tuesday, Oct. 5, when all Manatee County Schools were ready and safe to return to.

> Even now that the storm is over, its magnitude has left many

individuals with severe damage and a long road to recovery.

For Junior Abbie Lutsch, this was her second hurricane. She lost power for almost a week and her roof and ceiling were severely damaged, causing a continuous leak.

"My dad asked me to help put a tarp on the roof, so that if it rains in the upcoming days, our ceiling won't collapse and leak anymore." Lutsch said. "So he made me go up on the roof, which even though I am all in on trying new things, definitely was not a 10 out of 10 experience."

Relief efforts are still being made to assist those affected by Hurricane Ian in hopes that Florida can one day return to a state of normalcy.



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Academic Team preps for big, second competition season

By Abbie Lutsch

The Bulletin Reporter

Coming off their first competitive season, the Parrish Community High School Academic Team is ready to dominate the competition.

To help with getting the members ready for this season James Walker, the team's head superior, took notes on not only how the actual competition works but also how teams engage not only with their team members but also the other schools. Since this is their second competitive season, Walker is making sure to take these observations and apply them into making the team more successful.

"One of the Myths of Academic Team is you have to be really smart to be in it. You don't, you just have to know something," Walker said.

Members like Senior Lily Hayes and Junior Grace Crestani are ready to take their academics from the classroom to the playing field. Hayes is taking part in her first competitive season this year and is getting prepared by doing a lot of trivia and test packets with her fellow teammates.

Though it may look intimidating, Hayes wants to remind incoming members to just "be easy on yourself if you don't know a lot of the questions. My first meeting, I only knew maybe two questions."

While Crestani is not only partaking in the A-Team, she is also a softball player at PCHS. When having too much on one's plate, it can become stressful but not for Crestani.

"My strategy is to think of the bigger picture. With Clubs, sports, and academics, my schedule can become hectic and oftentimes I want to slack off or quit in general. However, knowing that it will not only benefit me when applying for colleges, but also in juggling life skills in general, keeps me going," Crestani said.

See Academic, Page 3

Academic Continued

With new members joining, some current members will be leaving. With last year being the first graduating class at PCHS, the senior club members, or the "original bulls," as Walker likes to say, have been in the club since it was created and are looking forward to graduation this Spring.

Walker wants his students after graduation to "go out and see the world, try new experiences and see what the world has to offer."





TSA offers more than tech experiences, competition

By Aliana Ontaneda

The Bulletin Reporter

TSA stands for Technology Student Association, but it means much more to everyone involved.

TSA is an organization that engages students in science, technology, math and gives them a place to express themselves through competitions. It gives them a safe space where they are with people who have similar interests.

There are many competitions to engage students in different fields they may be interested in. They have a wide variety ranging from creating your own children's stories, coding, to fashion design.

TSA student Sarah Decker said, "It is a really great way for me to explore my interests." She will be competing in VEX, fashion design, and children's stories.

Students may choose different competitions to compete in the same year depending on what they are interested in. This provides a wide range of options for those competing and gives them a chance to express themselves in multiple different ways.

These competitions help shape individuals and prepare them for the real world. Decker spoke about how competitions are often

linked to real-world scenarios.



Most of the competitions are linked to an interview about the projects. There are also competitions that have to do with skills needed everyday.

An example of competitions that include some real-work skills are prepared presentation, extemporaneous speech, and

biotechnology design. These all possess the ability to hone presentation skills.

They are also involved in the community. Roxanne Hendren, co-advisor of TSA, spoke about a project in December.

See TSA, Page 4

Senior earns writing awards, is published

By Gabrielle RedingerThe Bulletin Reporter

Seventeen-year-old Brice Carlton, a senior at PCHS, has already paved a road for himself for the future. Each year he expands his repertoire by excelling and succeeding in things others wouldn't dream of.

Carlton has been

writing and telling stories his whole life; he finds different outlets to express himself; in his case, playwriting, acting,

books, and film.

"I am planning to go to college to pursue my acting career, which has just begun to pick up, and I hope I can be in some films and professionally publish more books in the future. I would like to start a career in the film industry as an actor, screenwriter, and hopefully director, but would also be willing to continue to be a playwright and release original novels as a writer," Carlton said.

He has spent his life wanting his stories to be told, and he didn't want to wait anymore.

He brought what were small stories and made them into something that everyone could read. He recently wrote an essay for the Rotary Club's scholarships and won 1st place; he also wrote a play called, "The Death of Brennan Doyle," which was a finalist and scholarship award winner at Theatre Odyssey's Student Ten-Minute Playwriting Contest. Now to expand to his long list of

accomplishments, his new book "Horrendous Happenings: Short Stories" a bundle of horror short stories, became available on Amazon.

He has overcome any obstacles coming his way and continues to succeed.

"When I really began to read novels and short stories that interested me, I found that inspiration and progress in my writing came easier and quicker that way," Carlton said. "I want to thank Ms. Olga Pena and my family for their constant and unending support, help and inspiration for my projects."

Carlton wrote another one act this fall, winning a superior rating at thespian competition.

He will cast and direct one of his plays performed by the Bullpen Players on March 30.

Teaching outside the box

By Divya Uralil

The Bulletin Reporter

There are some classes in which students doodle random art on their paper just to stay awake. However, students around PCHS praise many teachers for their exciting lessons. Among them are marketing teacher Brandon Mefford and Micheal Blalock, a forensic science teacher.

Bright, obnoxious, and engaged is how Mefford describes his personal teaching method. Mefford is originally from New Jersey and was a business major; he worked for the NBA and a golf marketing company.

His philosophy of teaching is based on bringing in that exciting and loud energy for his students. He hopes that with this energy, students will reciprocate that. He knows slow and dull classes never really get the students' attention.

Mefford's philosophy even extends to the very clothes he has on. "I'll wear



Brandon Mefford teaches marketing.

these bright, obnoxious shirts," he explained. "It's just something to keep them engaged because 100 minutes in classes; that's a long time."

Mefford is also very vocal on the importance of showing up and being there for students. On his way to work one morning, Mefford's car was in a wreck. What's surprising about this though, is that he still insisted on walking the rest of the way to school. "I'm a big believer in 'I never take days," when I get a substitute, that substitute isn't going to do a Mr. Mefford job," he said.

Students clearly enjoy his upbeat teaching styles and high-energy attitude, but what might be most important is that they can count on him to be at school almost everyday.

Josslynn Lasch, a junior in Mefford's class, also explains how it's because of his upbeat personality that she and many other of his students are more motivated to get the assignments done. "His energy and his attitude keep us interested and you can tell he's actually interested in what he teaches," Lasch said. However, as Lasch continues, she does acknowledge that he has high expectations for his students and that he promotes students to do their best.

Blalock's teaching style that keeps students so engaged can be considered borderline stand-up comedy. He uti-



Michael Blalock teaches forensic science.

lizes humor, whether cringey or not, to help keep students wanting to listen to him and pay attention.

This is his third year teaching and he uses his own experiences as a student to help students find a balance between lecturing and fun activities, like his infamous grudge ball. "I was one of those students that was hard to reach. I got bored easily and so I started doing things because that's what I thought I would want, and then I surveyed my classes on how my methods were doing and changed them accordingly," Blalock elaborated. He puts himself in his students shoes, which many of his students find make him a relatable teacher.

Both of these teachers might as well be revolutionaries for students because of the example they set as educators.

They help students learn in ways that may not be the most conventional, which happens to be the exact reason why their students speak so highly of them, calling them both the most entertaining teachers.

TSA Continued

This project includes TSA wrapping a teacher's class-room door with a type of holiday wrapping paper. This allows students to engage in teamwork. This provides a bonding experience for the club and lets them get to know one another better. This is necessary because many of these individuals are in competitions where they are working together to accomplish a common goal. During some of the events they host, they often invite the community to them. On October 5, they invited the community to come see a children's author, Joseph Pfeiffer, after school. This also was able to correlate with one of their events, children' stories, and was able to help those in that competition.

Being involved in the community, working with others, being able to explore one's interest, and being able to create friends with similar interests is what TSA is about.

NHS focuses on both exemplarary academics, service

By Madyson Greeman

The Bulletin Reporter

Besides being a point of academic distinction for some of the top students at every high school in America, National Honor Society gives young men and women in the junior and senior class the opportunity to get more involved in their school and community.

These students are given numerous opportunities for service hours and to show their excellence in the four pillars.

The four pillars of NHS are scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

To be a member, it is important to show characteristics of the four pillars and demonstrate academic achievement (3.65 or higher GPA).

See NHS, Page 5

JROTC REPRESENTS WELL

The PCHS JROTC program has been representing the school at various events while also working hard for competitions. The Drill Team has been perfecting their routine, as they prepare to compete in a series of invitationals. Meanwhile, the Bulls Battalion Rifle team already

has qualified for the State Rifle Championship in Cape Coral, Florida.

Most recently, more than 70 Bulls Battalion Cadets represented the Parrish community by marching in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Palmetto on January 14.





Parrish Community High School's Director of Bands, Mr. Kendall Carrier has been named one of four Educator of the Year Finalists for the School District of Manatee County.

A celebration and announcment of the Educator of the Year and Support Employee of the Year took place at the 11th Annual Excellence in Education Awards on Feb. 9, where Carrier's Jazz Band also performed.



International Thespian Troupe 10185 earned a slew of awards during their district festival season.

The 20 person troupe attended the ITS District 9 district Individual Events for the first time on Oct. 8, taking 24 entries in plays and musical theatre, scoring 10 superiors (16 gold buttons), 14 excellents, and a Best in Room solo by Mars Woelfel.

On Nov. 5, the troupe took 25 entries to the Southwest Florida Theatrical Society's IEs, earning 18 superiors (41 gold ribbons), 5 excellents and the musical theatre scholarship winner, Emily Mentzer.



Overall, all 20 thespians qualified for states, even with hurricane

school closures causing canceled rehearsals.







NHS Continued

There are 45 students in Parrish Community High School's NHS. There is a President, Vice President, Secretary, Historian, and Treasurer. The board helps make sure everyone is on track for receiving their service hours, service opportunities, and making sure that everyone has a voice in the club.

President Kaylani Pusateri makes such a great board member because she gets to exhibit her leadership skills and be a role model for all of the students in NHS. She enjoys being apart of the school and community.

"My goal for this year is to arrange more service projects and have a greater impact in the community and get more member participation," Pusateri said.

Last year, NHS members wrote cards to hospitalized children, at Christmas time adopted a family, and participated in a beach clean-up.

This year they have already done a donation drive for Hurricane Ian relief. They also plan to adopt a family again at Christmas time. For spring, they are unsure of what they want to focus on yet.

PCHS Math teacher Elizabeth James is the NHS sponsor. "I am looking forward to continuing to build the NHS program, which promotes scholarship, character, leadership, and service," James said. "Our NHS members at PCHS promote these qualities on our school campus and beyond. As our program grows, its impact will also grow."

Students wow with Musical Hits

By Kaylani Pusetari

The Bulletin Reporter

≺he Bulls Theatre Company's musical revue at Parrish Community High School had people from all over the community coming to watch. The PCHS students sang, danced, and acted through the night, capturing the attention of everyone present.

The production brought together students, staff, parents, and even people from outside of Parrish for a memorable night. The show came to a close with a standing ovation from the crowd and lots of applause and cheering for the students.

One of many audience members that night was senior Kelley Anderson. She had a few friends in the show and was happy to cheer them on and show her support.

"I really liked the musical revue because I was able to see my friends perform and they were really good and I was proud of them," Anderson said. She has been at Parrish for all four years of high school, so she has been able to see how the program has grown through the years.

PCHS Senior Erin Osborne, has been doing theater since middle school and really delved into performing last year. She has played numerous roles including the Wicked Witch of the West in The Wizard of Oz and Lady Macbeth in Macbeth.

At this year's musical revue, she was in the opening and closing numbers with the whole cast and had a duet singing "Poor Unfortunate Souls" from The Little Mermaid.

"My favorite part was sitting backstage and cheering on my friends during the performance," Osborne said.

By Kaitlyn Hoyer

The Bulletin Reporter

The PCHS Theater department kicked off its season with their third Musical Revue, and it may be the best one yet. The musical revue was reflective of all the talent that there is within the school, whether it was students who helped found the theater program, or new faces that haven't appeared on stage before.

Emily Mentzer, a senior and member of Thespians, Drama Club, and Bullpen Players, which is the advanced theatre class. She had multiple different performances to juggle, including a lead in the open number, a feature, a solo, and a lead in the closing number.

Mentzer said there were group practices every Monday and Friday, but she practiced 2-3 days each week for her solo, "Good Morning Baltimore" from Hairspray. The Broadway hopeful said it was her favorite out of her performances because she loved the energy of the performance.

"It was fun to kinda like be goofy and stuff on stage," Mentzer said. Backstage during the show was chaos, Mentzer said that she ran around stage changing and preparing for her next song as the show went along. Mentzer said that the bow at the end of the show was very sentimental because she gets to see her peers. "Its more rewarding for me to watch other people that I'm close with" Mentzer said.

Peyton Seyler is a junior who also performed in the musical revue. He sang a few different songs including, "Only Us" from Dear Evan Hansen, "Bikini Bottom Boogie" from Spongebob The Musical, "We don't Talk About Bruno" from_ Encanto, and "From Now on" from The Greatest Showman. Seyler said the song "Only Us" was really difficult because the notes were high. Despite this, Seyler and his duet partner Hannah Bolton received a superior award for the song for their Thespians competition, and ended up performing it for the musical revue.

Seyler is a part of Thespians, Drama Club, and the advanced theater class. He said his favorite performance was "From Now on" because "every single person that was in the show was a part of it".

It is clear that Seyler has close bonds with his peers in theater. He couldn't pick See Broadway, Page 7









CANDLELIGHT HONOR

More than 30 PCHS choral students auditioned and were chosen to perfrom at Disney's Epcot Candlelight Processional with a live orchestra, Voices of Liberty and superstar, Gloria Estafan, on Dec. 14.



Marching Band Awards, Honors

Lakewood Ranch Music in Motion

□ 1st Place in Class AA
Best Music, Best Guard, Best Visual
Best Percussion, Best General Effect
□ 3rd Place Overall in Finals

Braden River Invitational

FMBC State Championships

State Finalist

□ 4th Place in Finals (*Standstill indoors due to weather)



a favorite performance. "You're asking me to pick my favorite child," Seyler said.

Kendall Vondran is a sophomore who danced during the musical revue. She performed and choreographed, "The Music and the Mirror" from <u>A Chorus Line.</u>

Vondran said that she practiced twice a week for her dance performance, but her favorite part of the show was about her peers.

"I love being able to see people getting to do what they love," Vondran said. She also described how she felt when she went on stage to bow.

"It's just a surreal experience because you stand out and then you see everyone who just watched you perform and you see the people you performed with." Vondran said. "It's really heartwarming".





Sports

Friday Night Lights



Football games involve numerous student groups, unite campus

By Hannah Mayhew

The Bulletin Reporter

t is easy to become disconnected when Parrish Community High School holds more than 2,000 staff and students. Between all the sports, arts, and other extracurriculars, it is not easy to enjoy all the school's aspects at once. You either need to clone yourself ... or attend a Friday night football game!

The Friday Night Lights experience is an exciting way to enjoy many distinct parts of PCHS. Although it is a football game, it is surrounded by so many programs and people, that it becomes more than just a game. FNL incorporates football players, cheerleaders, band members, baton twirlers, JROTC color guard, dance team, parents, students, and staff all into one crazy exciting night in the Bulls stadium.

SGA Vice President, Sullivan Morris, has attended every single football game this season. Morris describes SGAs work with great enthusiasm. "We work really hard to encourage a fun game day atmosphere by doing tailgates, music,



and creating signs," Morris said, adding, "FNL is a really fun environment that gets everyone excited and unites the school."

SGA is at every game and brings the energy with their themes, Bulls Mascot Bruiser, playlists, and signs. SGA often works with the cheerleaders to coordinate cheers and chants. Cheer captain, Kayla Sthreshley said, "Everyone involved in the game contributes so much; without them football games would not be the same. I love the music and energy that they contribute. When the band plays, the cheerleaders and dancers have high energy which lifts up everyone there."

Sthreshley also explained that Friday nights on the field not only brings Parrish closer together, but they also bring the cheer team together. "FNL out on the mat is something that really brings a team together," Sthreshley said. "We always have smiles on our faces spreading school spirit and making memories."

Pride of Parrish Drum Major James Carlson describes his experience at FNL as unmatched. "It's so fun to hype up the crowd and support the football team," Carlson said. "It really does bring us all together." A major part of FNL is the community. Families and neighborhood friends

come out to support the school and have a fun time. Member of the community and Parrish parent, Kristen Panico shared her love for FNI.

"I look forward to FNL each week for so many reasons. Obviously, as a parent, I enjoy watching my children and their friends do what they love and show their hard work," Panico said. "However, my favorite part is to see how much PCHS has grown over the last few years. The number of kids participating in football, cheer, dance,

and the band has grown and still have individual





programs. I also appreciate how invested the community is in our programs. Seeing so many faces from the community in the stands on Friday nights fosters a sense of pride... It brings a smile to my face to hear the fans cheering for all the students."

Unity is such an important aspect of community success. Friday night football games at the Parrish Bulls Stadium are the core of Parrish pride.







Sports

Team Mom' earns title

By Trevor Carrell

The Bulletin Reporter

It is common for a team to have the "Team Mom," but Jennifer Cintron truly earns the title, with her exemplary commitment.

Affectionately called Ms. Jenn, she is a mother of three and has been assisting the PCHS football team and many other athletics since the opening of the school.

Cintron came from a family of seven siblings. Sports were a big part of their lives, with her father being a coach for football and her brothers playing high school football and later in college.

"The foundation of our football team is built on: family, trust, respect, accountability, and integrity," Cintron said. "Because I'm so far away from family... we've made this community our home. Our football team is our family, and the

Cintron added that a program just doesn't start successfully, it takes time. It takes patience. It takes more than

family takes care of each other."



just a coach to coach a team. Cintron's son, Christian, led her into helping the football team. As his mother, she wanted to teach and show her son she will support him in anything he does that is positive. When Cintron was younger, she was an athlete all year long.

Her parents kept her in check, keeping her and her siblings busy with sports and most importantly their studies.

Cintron was taught she oversees her present and future and applied that drive to supporting PCHS students. When she first started helping, it consisted of making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for every player. That was about 60 sandwiches a day.

After she realized the sports program was very new and needed parent help, she stepped up into more of the team mom role. She also realized how much the coaches, and teachers by day, became so involved and how dedicated they were to the athletes.

"You have no idea how much time they put into this program until you're actually involved and helping," Cintron said. "It changed my way of thinking. This school, these clubs, this sports program is only as successful as we invest into it as a whole, as a community, as a family!"

Cintron doesn't just spend a lot of time assisting football but other sports too. She has helped with Soccer, Track & Field, Wrestling, and Weightlifting. If any coach on campus knows her,

they will know who to ask if they need help. She even

jumped into the arts, providing a meal on opening night for PCHS Theatre's cast of Wizard of Oz in May.

Cintron loves these students. Thanks to Coach Christopher Culton and his wife Amanda, the team became her extended family. Some of the boys even call her Aunty Jenn.

They aren't just a team on a football field, but they give back to the community, whether it's giving candy to kids who aren't able to get candy for Halloween, or going out on weekends and supporting local family restaurants. They look out for each other.

Coach Sean Shippey, the defensive end coach for the football team, had nothing but great things to say about Cintron earning the title Team Mom.

"Absolutely... absolutely, I wouldn't think of anybody else," Cintron said. "I know there's many people that could do it, and I know that there's a lot of moms that do help out, but you know, she takes it above and beyond and I don't know where we'd be without her."

Swim team makes big waves, increasing wins

By Emma Harlow

The Bulletin Reporter

Parrish Community High School's swim team has recently created huge waves in the swimming community.

The PCHS girls swim team recently became Class 3A

District Champions and had their best personal swims this year.

"We are the underdogs, but we are slowly growing our numbers and wins," said Courtney Lancaster, PCHS's head swim coach. Lancaster has been coaching swimming for a good part of a decade and it is her 2nd year coaching at PCHS.

Lancaster enjoys watching her swimmers improve and accomplish their own personal goals.

Her main goal as a coach is to ensure her swimmers

are having a great time while swimming for the Bulls. When asked what precedents she wants to set for future teams, Lancaster said, "I want future teams to carry on commitment to the team and commitment to the school that they're

See Swim, Page 10

Sports

New coach brings experience from Team China

By Grace Crestani

The Bulletin Reporter

The 2022-2023 school year welcomed numerous new staff members, including strength and conditioning coach Taron Smith.

Coach Smith was born and raised in Atlanta Georgia. He played multiple sports throughout his childhood, but it wasn't until his junior year of high school that he took an interest in the weightroom.

He attended Kennesaw State University with hopes of becoming an engineer. However, after two years he decided to "switch things up" and go to exercise science.

Even after the switch, Smith was not convinced he wanted to be a strength coach until he met Kennesaw State Coach Jim Kiritsy. Smith interned under Kiritsy and has now been a strength and conditioning coach for nine years.

One of the more memorable experiences of his career was his opportunity

to work with team China. Smith was mainly stationed in Beijing but had the opportunity to work in other various regions as well as internationally. He was a director of the Cross Country Ski Winter sports program and had the chance to put candidates for the team through an extensive selection process.

This was the first time Team China had a cross country ski program. Prior to that, he was with the rowing team,

working with the sevens boat, as well as the women's scull team. Smith's rowing teams competed at the Asian games and took home the gold. They also placed second, earning silver, in two World Cup circuits in Europe, marking the first

time team China had ever accomplished such a feat.

Now, Smith spends his time at PCHS working with athletes during and after the school day. P.E and softball coach

Erin Spivey had great things to say about her coworker. "Coach Smith is awesome," Spivey said. "He's energetic every day, like super positive, super happy; it's nice to have him around." His impact not only resonates with his coworkers but also with his students.

Eleventh grader Rylee Little has Smith both during the day and for after school

softball instruction. Little says her favorite part about him is his energy. "He balances it out (busy schedule)," Little said. "He's aware of how fatigued we are and has us do different stuff."

Smith said he's excited to have a part in creating the foundation of PCHS athletics. "I like the excitement, the future is kind of uncharted," Smith said. "We are still building towards it; it's a very exciting opportunity to set the foundation and build on that and create a legacy."











representing at these meets." Peytan Winkelmann, a swimmer on the team, shares the same sentiment. "I plan on working hard to truly represent what the PCHS swim team has to offer," she said.

Winkelmann has been swimming for six years and feels as if she has made lifelong friendships with her teammates. "I hope an accomplishment that my team makes this year is growing as a team and as friends."

The swim team continues to do just that, having performed exceptionally at Regionals.



Two PCHS students perform in Macy's Day Parade

By Abbie Lutch

The Bulletin Reporter

Every year on Thanksgiving Day, about 800 girls from across the world come together to dance at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York to millions of people.

Two Parrish Community High School students were among those selected, Ava Heflin and Hannah Britten-Campbell.

At the end of the 2021-2022 school year, both Heflin and Britten-Campbell sent an audition to the organization, Spirit of America.

Shortly after they were selected, they were sent a video of the choreography that they would teach themselves.

With this once in a lifetime opportunity comes with a lot of dedication.

"The rehearsals are definitely long, tiring, and exhausting," Britten-Campbell said. You have to stay strong because the end result will give you a once in a lifetime memory that will always be with you."

After a long day of practicing, they would go back to their hotel room, they shared with two other girls.

"Me and Hannah shared a room with a girl from California and then she had a foreign exchange student from Spain, so that was a cool experience to meet new people," Heflin said.

Outside of all the hard work for the big stage, Heflin and Britten-Campbell were able to do some fun activities around New York City, including ice skating at Rockefeller, walking the Brooklyn Bridge, as well as going to see a Broadway show, and the Rockettes.

Then it was time for Heflin and Britten-Campbell to show off all their hard work. During the parade they walked 30 blocks and then they got to the Macy's stage and were able to perform. They even got to see some celebrities; Mariah Carrey was behind them in a float.

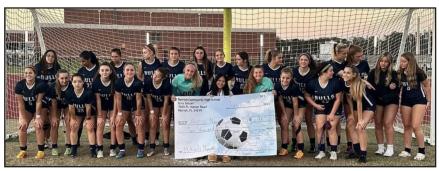
Heflin said, "I was definitely nervous, but I was definitely more excited because there were so many of us."

Britten-Campbell said, "Performing in the 96th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade will forever be one of the best experiences of my life. From seeing the behind the scenes to doing the thing I love, dancing."









The Girls Soccer and Girls Basketball teams both became district champions this season. This is the soccer team's second championship, as they were district champs last school year as well. (left and above) This is the basketball team's first district win. (below left)





FBLA members qualify for state competition in business and leadership categories

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Nine athletes sign national letters of intent





- Kelsey Lee, Gymnastics, University of Georgia
- Ayden Hinkel, Baseball, Delaware Valley University
- Isabella Vega, Softball, University of Central Florida
- Ella Torres, Softball, Florida Southern University
- Karsyn France, Softball, Cumberland University
- Brooke Strickland, Softball, St. Johns River State College
- Allie Messina, Softball, Florida Gateway College
- Lindsey Watson, Softball, Ave Maria University









Track & Field Bulls show off out doors and in new indoor facilties









