

# H-I-LITE

Bellefontaine High School Student News

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## School staff next in line for vaccines

Winter sports wrap-up

DECA preps for first competition in a year

Cheerleaders compete virtually

Juniors prepping for the ACT

TP Lanes hosts Scotch Doubles

# BCS Staff next in line for COVID-19 vaccine

by Linsdsey Heminger

This week Bellefontaine City Schools is teaming up with Mary Rutan Hospital to offer all teachers and staff the COVID-19 vaccine. Nurse Katie Buffkin said that 52% of the staff would be getting the vaccine, which is over 200 BCS employees. This includes coaches across the district as well.

Mary Rutan is offering both the Moderna and Pfizer shots which are both 2 series. With the vaccine being a newly researched and discovered product, the staff is being given two days of online learning to hopefully help cope if any side effects become apparent. Buffkin said, "in order to get everyone their shots effectively we had to split scheduling into two days. Middle school and High school staff members are being done on Thursday and Elementary and Intermediate staff members on Friday."

Although the vaccine is being offered throughout the district this does not mean that masks are going to be limited. "Masks are still to be worn because a vaccine limits the chance of getting the virus" Buffkin said. History teacher and football coach Jason Brown said that "if getting the vaccine will help our society to back to the way it was then so be it. I'm willing to help if that means some sort of change."

Doug Walters, the resource

officer and a softball coach at BHS has some concerns about the vaccine. He said "I have had friends and family get the vaccine and it has caused some health problems such as a stroke. Plus, I have already had COVID and there has not been much research done for me to want to get it."

## Cheerleaders compete digitally

by Brooke Miranda

The BHS competition cheer team competed this past Sunday, Feb. 21 in the Central Buckeye Conference. The team placed 2nd in the Mad River CBC Division. Senior Lauren Easton says, "This has been a rough year for us. Having to make adjustments for COVID, and not being able to attend competitions in person has taken a toll on us."

Although this season has looked a lot different than past years, the team gained a new competition coach. Lauren says, "It's different having a new coach, but in a good way. She has a completely different style than our past coaches."

The cheer team competed at Northwestern High School. Spectators could watch their teams perform, but only during their performance. After a school performed their routine, spectators were asked to leave so the next school could prepare.

Easton says, "We're so grateful for all the support we've received this year. It means a lot to know people are still willing to come out and support us even with the crazy circumstances. It shows just how incredible our community really is." The competition team has been putting in a lot of hard work to prepare for this season. Practices multiple

times a week and cheering on the boys' basketball team at their games throughout the week.

The team also recorded their routine for the virtual state competition, but those results haven't been announced yet. State was the last competition for the team this year. Lauren says, "Although I am a senior and won't be returning next year, I hope everything starts to go back to normal so they can return to competitions in person next year."

## Juniors getting ready for ACT March 9

by Camren Hinkle

ACT week is approaching. Prep week is happening March 1-5 with the actual exam taking place March 9.

The test will occur during the school day calling for an alternate schedule. All students will have assigned areas for ACT and pre-ACT. Freshman and Sophomores will be taking the pre-ACT and a Torch Prep Practice ACT, Juniors are taking the actual exam and Seniors will be given alternate assignments.

Dr. Pamela Noeth said the ACT is important because it provides college and career readiness and allows students to qualify for college, earn scholarships, and qualify for some careers and even stating, "It is probably the most important test a high schooler can take, as it offers so many opportunities from students."

Though Juniors received a "Preparing for the ACT" workbook, there are still plenty of resources on the ACT website [act.org](http://act.org). Plus, the practice they will get during prep week.

# DECA makes their return to competition

by Mya Godsey

The DECA team is preparing for state. They use competition university an online platform to prepare for their tests. They do practice role plays in class to prepare for their individual and team events that are under 1 of 4 categories: marketing, finance, hospitality, and management.

In a typical year DECA would have gone to the Columbus Convention Center and competed over a weekend in March. This year competition spans many days over a two-week period to accommodate the virtual platform. Mrs. Rychener says, "We will compete from our classroom and record or presentations." State will be done virtually and at the high school. They will have a Zoom meeting with minimal time to prepare for their presentation. The students place in their individual events the top three in your district advance on to State.

DECA Competed on Jan. 26 in Lima in the Ohio DECA District 3 Competition. Bringing home DECA diamonds for the Chiefs were:

Chloe Lloyd - First place in Hospitality and Tourism Professional Selling.

Brooke Miranda & Leeah Kuhn - First place in Marketing Management Team Decision Making.

Avery Plikerd - Second Place in Retail Merchandising.

Kirsten Hand - Second Place in Financial Literacy Series.

Paige Cox and Stevie Angel - Third Place in Hospitality and Tourism Team.

Riley Myers and Ashley

Ehmer - Third Place in Travel and Tourism Team

Daniela Hernandez - Third Place in Hotel and Lodging Management

Zach Horvath - Third Place in Entrepreneurship Series.

All 11 of our Chieftain competitors have earned their spot to compete at the OHIO DECA State Conference in March. Maddie Williams, Ellise St. Clair and Aaron Roy will also be competing in Role Play events.

DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in Marketing, Finance, Hospitality and Management. Remember, if you are interested in joining DECA please see Ms. Rychener in room 154 to sign up for next year.

## Girls basketball finish 5-16

by Rylie Fullerton

The Lady Chiefs wrapped up their season last Friday losing their tournament game to fourth seed Eaton 61-42. The Chiefs had a record of 5-16. In the CBC they ended with 3-7.

The girls' basketball team will be losing two seniors this season: Rylie Fullerton and Kailynn Kenner.

Kenner said, "Having a

losing season was hard but I loved my team and enjoyed every moment with them."

Playing your last season of a sport you have played your whole life can be hard. Kenner says that "I'm going miss coach Ashcraft the most because she has always been there and is always willing to push me the extra mile."

Despite the losing record, Kenner said that beating Ben Logan on their last home game was the best part of their season. Kenner said, "even though we always talked about how we hated basketball and couldn't wait for it to be over, we wouldn't trade those years for anything."

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# Opinion

## The Last Game

by Rylie Fullerton

From the time we start school in elementary all we can think about is when we become a senior and get to graduate. The year everyone looks forward to, you're finally the top dogs of the whole school. You're a senior the whole year is about you. It sounds great and it's exciting that your almost done with high-school but no one talks about how heart-breaking it truly is.

Being a senior in the class of 2021 it has been interesting with the pandemic. With watching the three classes above us have normal senior year it's hard to except the reality of what ours has turned into. Everyone knows the difficulties with what COVID has done to our normal school experience, but no one has really talked about the major changes it has done for sports. For many seniors last year, the whole spring season was canceled. This year we have our season back but hardly. Being a senior and playing basketball I never would have thought that I would be so sad to see Basketball to be over. I've played basketball for eight years a developed a "love hate" relationship with it.

Our season started off rocky with a lot of COVID restrictions and being quarantined during open gyms in august. When we finally got back into the swing of this we started adjusting. We had a new coach this year with big plans on changing the culture of Lady Chiefs Basketball. So not only dealing with COVID changes we were also adjusting to changes within the program. For me personally I was going into the

season with high hopes. I was a senior and my two best friends were seniors sharing the court with me too. I didn't think anything could go wrong. Then things took kind of a turn. One of them tore her ACL and her season was over. So it was just down to two of us. The covid hit right in the busiest part of the season. The whole team was quarantined for two weeks missing a bunch of games and losing all the stamina we worked all season for.

Coming back off quarantine we played five games in six days with two practices. The hardest part of it all was playing our last home game. My last game on my home court with my fellow senior Kailynn Kenner who I had played all eight years with. I couldn't have asked for better game either. We played Ben Longan who have been longtime rivals and we won 36-34. We haven't had the best winning season so winning on our last home game was an unexplainable feeling. The game itself on the other hand was extremely intense. We were down by ten going into the fourth quarter but we didn't give up. We worked our butts off to be down by two with four minutes left. The ball was out of bounds under our basketball. We were running a play to get a post

open at the bottom, the other team knew that so they crammed into the paint. I was open in the corner for a three, even tho I hadn't scored all game I managed to knock down a three pointer putting us up by one. It was a surreal feeling making a shot in my last home game that put us ahead. But that wasn't the best part. We ended up fouling BL giving them a chance to shoot foul shots. They made one of two tying the game back up. It was our ball again and with 0.6 seconds left they foul Kailynn when they were in the double bounce. Kenner shoots both foul shots and sinks them both winning the game. Both seniors making the game changing and winning shots brought tears to everyone's eyes when the buzzer finally went off. Everyone rushed the court hugging each other and screaming. All the work we did all season despite all the obstacles we pulled through when it really mattered.

Although that will be a game I will always remember I will really miss the small stuff. Pregame in the locker room, The long warm-ups before the game. Coach's Half time scream sesh and my teams never letting me down. Being a senior is great and all but it shouldn't be taken for granted.

