

# The Stinger

The Summer Recap Mini-Edition



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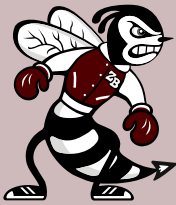
Z B T H S  
a d j u s t s  
b r a n d i n g

By Stinger Staff

On August 17th, the school unveiled its newly designed logo, colors, and district seal. *Look for more information about these changes in the next issue of the Stinger in October!*



The new Zee-Bee logo



The alternate new Zee-Bee logo



The previous Zee-Bee logo



The new district seal

## Fires devastate Hawaii

By Trinity Camara  
Editor-in-Chief

On August 14th, 2023, sirens began going off in Maui, Hawaii, warning citizens about destructive wildfires that first sparked on August 8th. At the time of this newspaper's publication, the cause of the wildfires has not been determined but is actively under investigation.

The area of Lahaina currently has the highest rates of injuries at 115, but many remain missing. Citizens who live in the vicinity have been interviewed regarding their experiences with the fires. One citizen said, "The winds were just getting out of control. Power lines were down everywhere." Maui resident J.D. Hessemer, who owned a business in Lahaina, later told CBS Mornings. "We just decided it was not safe to stay around for the day." (www.cbsnews.com)

According to CBS news, emergency responders were "called to respond to wildfires on Maui as the blazes spread rapidly over the island..." Additionally, CBS News reported, "National Guard helicopters activated as part of the state's emergency response to the wildfires..." Different groups of first responders have been called to assist during this national disaster in an attempt to prevent the spread of the fires.

Additionally, there have been other related issues taking place as the fires continued to spread.

Photo credit: www.prideofmaui.com



The island of Maui is renown for its natural tropical beauty.

For example, AP News reports that "across the United States, the number of acres burned by wildfires about tripled from the 1980s to now, with a drier climate from global warming a factor, according to the federal government's National Climate Assessment and the National Inter-agency Fire Center. In Hawaii, the burned area increased more than five times from the 1980s to now, according to figures from the University of Hawaii Manoa." Due to the dry climate, these fires are thriving and spreading faster as time goes on. (apnews.com)

As more information is provided, it has been confirmed that these wildfires are becoming more fre-

quent within the last fifty years. AP News explains, "From 1953 to 2003, Hawaii averaged one federally declared disaster of any type every two years, according to the analysis of FEMA records. But now it averages more than two a year, about a four-fold increase, the data analysis shows." (apnews.com)

The "fire was 100% contained as of Aug. 12," according to Maui authorities (www.cbsnews.com). "On Aug. 15 officials estimated 3,200 [acres] had burned. Together, those estimates represent more than 10 square miles of Maui's total area of 735 square miles. The 2023-2024 Stinger Staff sends it support to all those affected by this tragedy.

Photo credit: Getty Images



This is the same street corner in Lahaina before and after the fire.

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# ZBTHS welcomes new staff

By Megan Galeana & Esmeralda Vara  
Staff Editors

Ms. Howard

*English Teacher*



My name is Kyle Howard or Ms. Howard, and I am an English teacher here at ZBTHS! I recently graduated from Illinois State University and I am super excited to be teaching here. Some things you should know about me is that I LOVE dogs, skiing, and doing anything that gets me outside. I am happy to be a part of the community here at ZB and can't wait to see you around school this year!

Mr. Baumann

*Dean of Students*



My name is Eric Baumann and I come to Zion-Benton with over 23 years of experience in education. I am so excited to be at Zion Benton and look forward to supporting everyone to the best of my ability.

Ms. Barnes

*Dean of Students*



This is Ms. Barnes. She was a Spanish teacher at New Tech as a Learning Support Specialist in the Dean's office and the MTSS coordinator before she became a dean at ZBTHS this year.

Fun Facts: She was born and raised in Zion, she has a 7-year-old son. She enjoys traveling and hanging out with her friends and family.

Ms. Nikki Poulsen

*Asst. Principal's Office*



Miss Nikki is excited to be back home. She is a Class of 1999 Graduate from ZBTHS. She is very excited to meet new people and see her old students from Oak Crest Elementary. Fun Fact: Miss Nikki is a Chef. She attended the Technology Campus while in high school and then went on to Kendall College for Culinary Arts. She loves FOOD and loves to EAT!!!

## Captain Annexstad

### *NJROTC*



This is Captain Annexstad. He served over 25 years in the United States Navy as a commanding Officer and Naval Aviator. Fun Fact: He has lived in 10 different states in his lifetime and he has visited 6 different countries while serving the navy.

## Ms. Tetlak

### *Social Science Teacher*



Ms. Tetlak's fun facts: she was on the varsity Bowling team in high school. She was in the beekeeping club undergrad. She worked at a bike shop during summers throughout her college years. And she loved playing colony simulator or city building games.

## Ms. Miller

### *MTSS Coordinator*



This is Ms. Miller's 18th year in education, she was a high school science teacher of 15 years. She then was a 4-5th grade assistant principal in North Chicago. She is happy to be working with high school students again in her new role. Fun fact: Both of her daughter's are high school graduates from ZBTHS. She also loves camping and boating, and her favorite vacation spot is the Cayman Islands.

## Ms. Pierce

### *VPA Teacher*



This is Ms. Pierce. She is an assistant band director and a music teacher in the VPA department. Fun facts: She went to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and was in the Marching Illini for 4 years. She started playing piano at 5 years old. Her favorite Starbucks order is a strawberry acai lemonade. She loves musical theater.

## Dr. Brown

### *Assistant Principal*



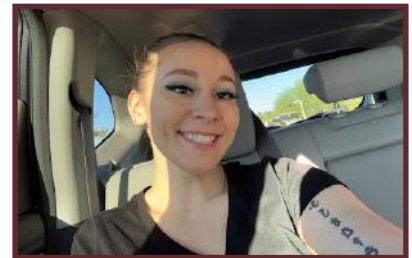
Hello all:

My name is Dr. Brown--your Assistant Principal.

I look forward to helping create a safe and dynamic space for learning, maturing, and enjoying the High School experience.

## Ms. Middleton

### *Academics Secretary*



My name is Breana Middleton, but some of the students already know me as Ms. Bre. I worked for Shiloh Park Middle School for 3 years before becoming a Zee-Bee. I just had a little boy and his name is Zyaire.

*Look for more new staff in next month's issue!*

# Twirlers win world competition again

By Mia Mitchell  
Editor-in-Chief

Just before the school year started, the Razzle Dazzles, representing the USA, won the IBTF World Championships for the second year in a row. 10 of the 22 baton twirlers are students here at Zion-Benton, and our ZBTHS community is extremely proud of every single one of them.

The World Championships took place at the MNS Bank Arena in Liverpool, England. The Razzle Dazzles competed in two categories: parade corps and exhibition corps. They won gold for both events. The twirlers representing the USA competed against other countries such as England, Croatia, Czech Republic, and Norway. Even when competing against people from across the world, the twirlers proved that they

truly are the best in the world, and represented the USA and Zion very well.

Obviously, going to England brought new experiences to the twirlers beyond just the world competition. "We did some tours, and visited the Lake District, which was really pretty," stated Maggie Mae McCarthy, a member of the Razzle Dazzle team and a student here at ZBTHS. McCarthy continued, "We were right in the city center of Liverpool, so there were a bunch of shops. Since Liverpool is the home of The Beatles, I took a tour; it was all really cool to see."

Since the USA twirlers have been back home, they've been celebrated a lot. "When we got home, there was a whole welcome home thing. There were a bunch of people there, and they just kind of announced us," McCar-



The Razzle Dazzles pose as a team in a park in Liverpool, England.

thy shares. Along with the welcome home celebration, Mr. Niemi, the athletic director at ZBTHS, announced the twirlers at the recent Fall Sports meeting on August 14th, and the twirlers will be the Grand Marshalls in the upcoming Labor Day Parade.

Overall, the Razzle Dazzles made the Zion community, as well as

the whole USA, extremely proud at the IBTF World Championships by winning gold in two categories of competition.

ZBTHS hopes to see the Razzle Dazzles continue to be successful and to continue to celebrate their current successes! ZBTHS is proud of our resident twirlers.

# Elite Striders win championship

By Mia Mitchell  
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, August 8th, the Elite Striders Drill Team and Drum Corps won the Elks World Championship in Baltimore, Maryland at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel.

The Elite Striders are two teams made up of both boys and girls, with a total of 35 members. At the championship, both teams took first place at this highest level of com-

petition possible. They additionally won best overall.

Among the competitors is Charity Davidson, a sophomore here at ZBTHS. When asked about how she felt after winning, Davidson stated, "I was excited to win first place." Davidson went on to exclaim, "We're the best. Period."

We congratulate Charity, and all of the other Elite Strider members here at ZBTHS.



Photo credit: Elite Striders



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