

The Stinger



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"The goal for the Bee logo was to re-brand the district to be more appealing, not change it" (page 3).



"...about 25% of ZB students roll their eyes at the mention of pumpkin spice" (page 6).



"It's a wonderful group of athletes that forms a wonderful team culture of excellence and character" (page 12).

Parking concerns students

By Mia Mitchell
Editor-in-Chief

With a new school year comes new policies, one of which is a major change to parking for students, staff, and parents. These significant updates mean that there is a lot of new information everyone needs to know.

The first big change was the lot location being moved for both staff and students. There has been a lot of confusion over why the lots were switched this year, but Mr. Henry, the Assistant Director of Safety and Attendance, explains, "The thought of changing the lots wasn't even around student parking, it was around parent pick-up and drop off." He continues, "It was our way to control that parent drop off traffic, and

still allow people to get in, like in a good enough time where nobody is caught in the traffic line. So, it worked best in that manner. But in order to fix that, it made us a little tighter on our parking spaces."

In previous years, student drop off and pick up were at the front of the school, and it was fairly chaotic. The line would be all the way out in the road, and with teachers, parents, and students trying to leave or enter through the same way it became very messy. However, this year, "Our parent drop off is going good," according to Mr. Henry, and it seems to be running smoother in general.

However, a lot of students are frustrated about the lot change because it

limits the number of parking passes the school is able to give out, which wasn't really an issue in the past years. "Now we can't just allow everybody to drive, because now we have more drivers than parking spots," Mr. Henry says.

Another big change was the enforcement of rules and requirements for student drivers this year. Mr. Henry explained, "The enforcement of all rules and policies such as maintaining a required GPA, having satisfactory attendance, which is a must, being a legal driver, having all of the proper insurance information, and having the school sticker. There are a lot of legal concerns that come with letting students drive, ...

Continued to page 11

Security changes speed entry

By Esmeralda Vara
Staff Editor

The system of student's entry into the building became more efficient this year. As a safety precaution last school year, students had to place all belongings inside their book bags and walk through metal detectors while their bags were searched. This year, the system has changed. The students have to take their computers out of their backpacks and walk through the detector without bags being searched.

The new safety director, Dr. King, described why the structure of security

checks have changed. "The metal detector instruments were not advanced enough before, and we are looking for weapons of destruction that can harm students and staff. Now we have a setting that we can [use. If you] have a metal weapon type of item, and you walk through, then if anything [activates it], we go through with a secondary check. That's why we have this operation, and how you can walk through with a phone now."

From a student's perspective on the new school entry system, Iliana Leal, a senior, said, "The new

way of entering school is way easier than before. The metal detectors were taking up too much time. Having to open your bag and put[ting] all your belongings inside took more time than just taking out your Chromebook and passing through." Paula Majewski, a freshman, said that "I understand that [...] shootings have happened, but I didn't really expect the fact that we had to wear IDs that much."

School safety continues to be a major concern for our school, and our safety staff will continue to make changes when necessary.

In This Issue

NEWS

- Parking (1)
- Metal Detectors (1)
- Hispanic Heritage (2)
- Indigenous Peoples' (2)
- New Bee (3)
- Bathrooms (3)

FEATURES

- COVID Variant (4)
- World Veg. Day (4)
- Homecoming (5)
- Your Two Cents (5)

OPINION

- Pumpkin Spice (6)
- Fall Movies (6)

ARTS

- Comics (7)
- T. Swift Documentary (8)
- Mortal Kombat (8)
- Artist Showcase (9)

INFORMATION

- ZBs of the Month (10)
- FOCUS on Freshmen (10)
- TV Club (11)

SPORTS

- Girls Tennis (12)
- Girls Cross Country (12)



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ZBs celebrate Hispanic heritage

By Jairo Rojas-Magallon
Reporter

From September 15th through October 15th we mark Hispanic Heritage Month, and individuals celebrate in a variety of ways. Whether being with family and friends, attending community events, or enjoying the variety of cultural foods, students and staff at Zion-Benton believe that Hispanic Heritage month is important. Senior Ivan Galaviz stated, "It's important to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month because it dedicates a whole month to our Hispanic roots and helps promote understanding and appreciation for traditions and achievements."

When it comes to showing the passion for Hispanic culture, especially on the

days preceding Mexican independence day, Zee-Bee students go all out with flags strapped to the side of their vehicles and wearing clothing that expresses their culture. Hispanic Heritage month has always held significant importance, and it's beautiful to see it being expressed.

Students from all over the school celebrate in their own unique way according to their family's country of origin. For instance, Ivan Galaviz, whose family comes from Mexico, celebrates by spending time with family and friends. He says, "As a Mexican, I plan on celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with other Hispanics like friends or family and throwing a party or something because it's a way of remember-

ing our Hispanic culture and a time to remember our Hispanic history,"

Bryan Ochoa, from Honduras, adds, "As a Honduran we spend it with our family and we cook a lot of food, eat nacatamales, reunite with our cousins, and we hang out." Juan Veloz, whose family comes from Columbia, says, "As a Columbian I honestly don't think I do much, but I will celebrate with my Mexican and Honduran homies because Colombians really don't do anything. So I'll be going to parades and like eating traditional foods. Mexicans and Hondurans goated for real."

The Hispanic pride is strong at ZB as the students, staff, and community celebrate their distinctive and varied cultures.

Indigenous Peoples' Day clarified

By Maggie Mae McCarthy
Reporter

The historically recognized "Columbus Day is the U.S. federal holiday commemorating explorer Christopher Columbus' landing in the New World on October 12, 1492. It also celebrates the cultural heritage of Italian Americans, since many scholars believe Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy" (U.S. embassy). But what about the people who were here first?

Many grew up learning that pilgrims and Native Americans worked together and traded to help each other survive. However, the reality is not so. According to Britannica, "Although Columbus remarked in his writings that the natives he encountered were gentle and hospitable, his treatment of them was generally brutal; Columbus's men pillaged villages to support themselves and enslaved large num-

bers of indigenous people for labor, sex, and sale in Europe." Before Columbus discovered the *New World*, Native Americans roamed the area for centuries prior, and they are not often recognized for what they endured after the Europeans' destructive arrival.

"Our country was conceived on a promise of equality and opportunity for all people — a promise that, despite the extraordinary progress we have made through the years, we have never fully lived up to" (whitehouse.gov).

From 1934 until 2022, the second Monday of October has been marked as the federal holiday known as Columbus Day. It wasn't until 1992 when California first recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day. Following that more states began to include it, but it still took 20 years for the federal government to give recognition to natives. "While

Indigenous Peoples' Day remains a non-federal holiday, it is federally recognized as a national holiday" (old farmers almanac). Even though the holiday has been reformed, many people still refer to and celebrate Columbus day, and many are still not even aware of the truth behind Columbus and the Native Americans due to inaccurate education.

In 2020, Les Begay, a member of the Dime Nation and co-founder of the Indigenous Peoples' Day Coalition of Illinois, says, "Each October, when Columbus is honored, it further diminishes Native people, our history and culture." "Bruce Rauner signed a bill recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day in Illinois on the last Monday in September as a commemorative observance, not a paid holiday for government workers" (Chicago Sun Times).

ZBTHS gets new branding

By **Abbigail McLaughlin**
Reporter

As of August of this year, with the help of administration, students, staff and the community, our school upgraded the school's logo as well as the official seal. After talking to Mr. Niemi - Executive Director of Athletics, he says, "I was very happy with the final product, it embraces

our history and tradition but is also a refreshed look that carries with it a sense of P.R.I.D.E." Niemi explains how the whole process of this upgrade took around a year and a half. Through all of the new administration in the district comes fresh ideas. The goal for the Bee logo was to re-brand the district to be more appealing, not change it.

"You can't touch my Zee-Bee," Mr. Niemi expresses. The Zee-Bee mascot is very iconic and is an important part of Zion's history to past students and community members. In fact, our school was asked to be involved at the Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame's (IBCA) 50th Anniversary this year on July 9th as one of the most iconic mascots in Illinois. The old seal simply showed "District 126," but as of now, the improved seal added "Zion-Benton Township High School" - as New Tech campus has had their own for some time. Adding to the refresh of ZB, the administration worked together to solidify an official maroon color for all sports, activities, clothes, and more, to be clean and

unified across the board. Mr. Carlson, Executive Director of Student Services, shares how the Bee mascot grows and evolves with our school, giving the students and growing community a voice and sharing ideas on what the evolution should look like. He says, "Still holding true to the legacy, the bee is a representation for all the bees that graduated and the bees that soon will graduate." We hope you love the new logo and are excited for the upgrades to come for our school!



The Zee-Bee mascot was recognized at the IBCA hall of fame.

Bathroom access concerns students

By **José Zavala**
Reporter

Now that the renovations on the Science Wing have come to a close, Zee-Bees have noticed that a new area of the building is under construction: the hallway that was formerly the lower half of the English hallway, the downstairs study hall, and four widely used bathrooms, two for students and two for faculty use.

Some of the recent changes in the hallways have forced Zee-Bee students to seek out new accessible pathways to their classes. Additionally, the current remodeling in the hallway also blocks off some student bathrooms.

This all leads students to a big question: What will be available to students when the hallway is all said and done? When asked if there was anything for stu-

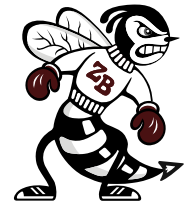
dents to look forward to in the hallway, Mr. Henry said, "I'm not sure what the plan is with the hallway, but I do know there were some questions about classrooms, offices and bathrooms." As the hallway gets closer to completion, it will hopefully be made clearer to the students.

But renovations are not the only reason for concern over bathroom access. Recently, Zee-Bees have been wondering why bathrooms are locked during some periods and how the bathroom policies have changed. When asking a fellow student about his thoughts on locked bathrooms, Angel Aguayo says, "I understand that the school doesn't want kids to smoke in the bathrooms, but the kids who have certain needs and conditions shouldn't be punished with the rest. I

feel that if there is a necessity to lock the bathrooms then why not have a para-pro in the bathroom."

Some students have a different opinion. Senior Zee-Bee Earlham Wright admits, "It don't really bother me much."

Despite some mixed feelings, for the most part, students seem to understand the purpose of locked doors within bathrooms. When asked about the question at hand, Mr Henry says, "There are two reasons that the bathrooms are locked: first, the main reason is mechanical and maintenance that is needed within the bathrooms due to sometimes flooding. The other reason is there will be some occurrence of vaping or smoking that requires us to shut it down, all it takes is two knuckle heads to ruin it for everybody else."



The new Zee-Bee logo



The alternate new Zee-Bee logo



The previous Zee-Bee logo



The new district seal

October Feature: Wellness

Vegetarians celebrate October 1st

By Trinity Camara
Editor-in-Chief

On October 1st, National Vegetarian Day is celebrated all over the world. A vegetarian is defined as a person on a meatless diet. This could be for a few reasons, such as health, religion, or ethical reasons. This is a day where vegetarians can celebrate their lifestyle, share their favorite recipes, and encourage others to go meatless.

Based on scientific research, it has been discovered that a vegetarian diet could have multiple health benefits. A Harvard University article states, "There's some evidence that vegetarians have a lower risk for cardiac events (such as a heart attack) and death from cardiac causes. In one of the largest studies — a combined analysis of data from five prospective studies involving more than 76,000 participants published several years ago — vegetarians were, on average, 25% less likely to die of heart disease." (www.health.harvard.edu)

Another health benefit of this diet is a reduced chance of getting cancer. For example, Harvard University also said, "Hundreds of studies suggest that eating lots of fruits and vegetables can reduce

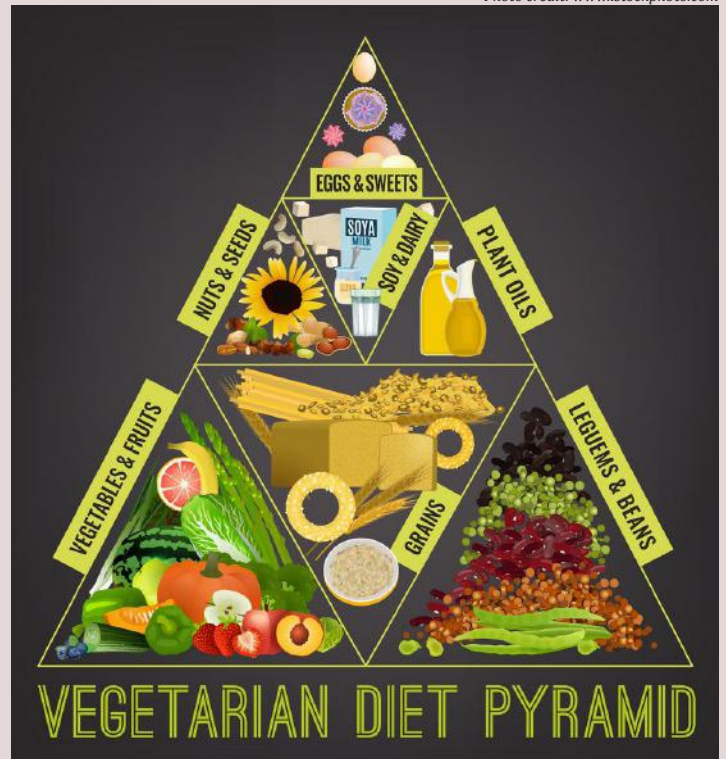
the risk of developing certain cancers, and there's evidence that vegetarians have a lower incidence of cancer than non-vegetarians do. But the differences aren't large." While it's not much of a difference, there is some evidence that a vegetarian diet could potentially reduce the risk of cancer. (www.health.harvard.edu)

A number of students of Zion-Benton Township High School took a survey to share their opinion about

National Vegetarian Day and were given the opportunity to share if they are vegetarian or not. Based on the statistics, 67.7% of students are not vegetarian, but 33.3% identify as vegetarian. One student said, "My name is Caitlin Gordon-Tard and I think National Vegetarian Day is a really good day for vegetarians to be recognized."

This day could potentially have the ability to influence others to become vegetarian.

Photo credit: www.istockphoto.com



COVID Update: New Variant

By Trinity Camara
Editor-in-Chief
By Esmeralda Vara
Reporter

The new Covid-19 variant, BA.2.86, has officially been globally detected as of August 23, 2023. This variant is a development from SARS-CoV-2.

Scientists and medical professionals are research-

ing this variant to discover more information. The CDC states, "there is currently no evidence that the BA.2.86 variant is causing more severe illness and the current increases in cases and hospitalizations in the United States are likely being driven by infections with XBB lineage viruses, not the new BA.2.86 variant." (https://

www.belfercenter.org) As of right now, there is no immense threat or risk of the BA.2.86 COVID-19 variant.

As scientists study BA.2.86, more information will be released to the public. Continue safety precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 such as washing your hands, wearing masks, and getting tested regularly.

Homecoming dance has popular theme

By Euriah Williams
Reporter

The ZB Homecoming dance, scheduled for Saturday, October 14th from 6 to 9 pm, is around the corner, and students are excited to see how it will turn out.

The event requires weeks of preparation by Ms. Sherman, sponsor of the event, and the homecoming committee before the big night of glamour.

Like most homecoming themes, some students like the idea, but others have reservations. This year's Homecoming Committee created a Google Doc to let students cast their votes on the theme. Out of all of the options put forth, the *Barbie* theme won with the most votes.

As happens regularly, a heated debate followed the homecoming theme's announcement, despite the fact that it was chosen democratically. Some aren't huge fans of theme because they simply don't like the color pink or because

they feel that the theme might be too feminine.

The true aim of the theme is to embrace your own unique qualities and express yourself with confidence, just like Barbie has done throughout her illustrious career.

It's not just the *Barbie* decorations that will make this homecoming special. The *Barbie* theme brings with it a sense of nostalgia and fun. A less vocal majority of students believe it is a great choice, are excited about the theme, and are looking forward to enjoying their night.

Tickets for the event went on sale on Tuesday, October 2nd. They cost \$10 and can be purchased from the book store as long as the student doesn't have outstanding fees and has fewer than 12 tardies.

As an additional part of the evening, students are looking forward to visiting the food trucks that will be selling meals, snacks, and deserts out-

Photo credit: www.marca.com



side. Students will be able to purchase tacos, rice, and fries from Grub N' Go; wings, burgers, and fries from Frankie Mae's Catering; and mini-donuts and drinks from The Sweet Life. All food trucks will be accepting cash or cards.

In order to commemorate the event, students are encouraged to have their portraits taken pro-

fessionally in front of a themed backdrop. There are several photo packages available, ranging from \$9 to \$30. Attendees will need to bring cash to the event to pay the photographer.

We encourage you to buy your ticket if you haven't already so you don't miss the chance to have an amazing and memorable evening with friends.

Your Two Cents



"I think the hoco theme is a little silly, but I like it because I LOVE the color pink."

Jada Moore



What do you think about this year's homecoming theme?



"I think the theme is really bad because it doesn't give us a good variety of colors to wear."

Tayvion Boyd, 12



"I think it's really basic, but there could be some good ideas."

Tashi Borko, 12



"I think it's kenough."

Jaxon Zaugra, 11

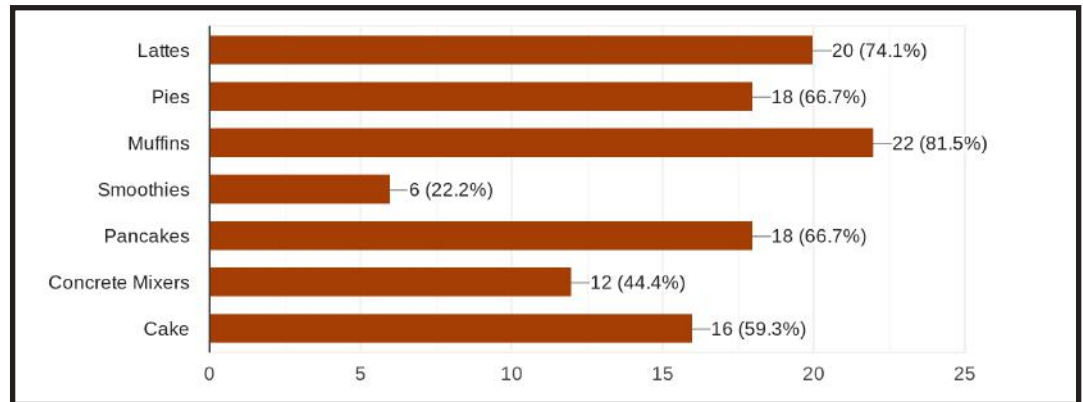
By Euriah Williams - Reporter

Spicy reaction to seasonal food

By Rebekah Hampton
Reporter

With the turning of the leaves on the trees, we all turn a new leaf as sweater weather is back in season. Some may wonder what the first signs of fall are, but here at ZB about 90% of students agree that when pumpkin spice hits the shelves, the *beauti-fall* auburn leaves are soon to come.

Although it's a fall staple, about 25% of ZB students roll their eyes at the mention of pumpkin spice, let alone it being in a latte. That still leaves about 75% of ZB's falling for their favorite pumpkin spice fixes, with pumpkin muffins being the most popular and pumpkin spice lattes coming in at a close second. Everyone has their own opin-



ZB students reported what things they like to have pumpkin spice flavor.

ion on the seasonal craze, but have you ever stopped to wonder what's in it? When questioned why he didn't like pumpkin spice, Mr. Shaw responded, "I'm just not a fan of pumpkin things." When guessing the ingredients of the fall seasoning your first response might be "pumpkin" just

like Mr. Shaw had assumed. Pumpkin spice is actually a combination of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and ginger; with a name like "pumpkin spice" I wouldn't blame you for assuming pumpkin to be an ingredient. This begs the question, how did pumpkin spice get its seemingly deceitful

name? Originally, pumpkin spice was meant as a flavoring for yet another fall staple, pumpkin pie. With that knowledge in mind, the name really does make sense. Whether you crave or detest it, if you ever get to try a delicious pumpkin pie, you'll get some pumpkin spice in every slice.

Zee-Bees' top Halloween flicks

By Janalise Jimenez
Reporter

As we move into fall, and October is finally here, there's one thing everyone is doing: watching movies. To help get into the fall spirit, our surveyed Zion students choose their favorite Halloween movie. The top two movies tied with 13.1% and most watched, *Scream*, won with 16.4%.

The Nightmare Before Christmas

One movie made it into the top three chosen Halloween movies by 13.1% of surveyed Zion students with an average rating of 4.6 stars: *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. One student even says, "Nothing beats this Tim Burton Classic," describing *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. The animation film was originally released on

October 13th, 1993 and continues to be watched. Tim Burton's story follows Jack Skellington and Sally. Jack, the Pumpkin King of Halloween Town, is bored of the same routine each year. Searching for something to make this year special, he stumbles on a door to Christmas Town and takes his new ideas back to Halloween Town. As Jack becomes obsessed with taking over Christmas as well as Halloween, Sally worries for him and Halloween Town.

Coraline

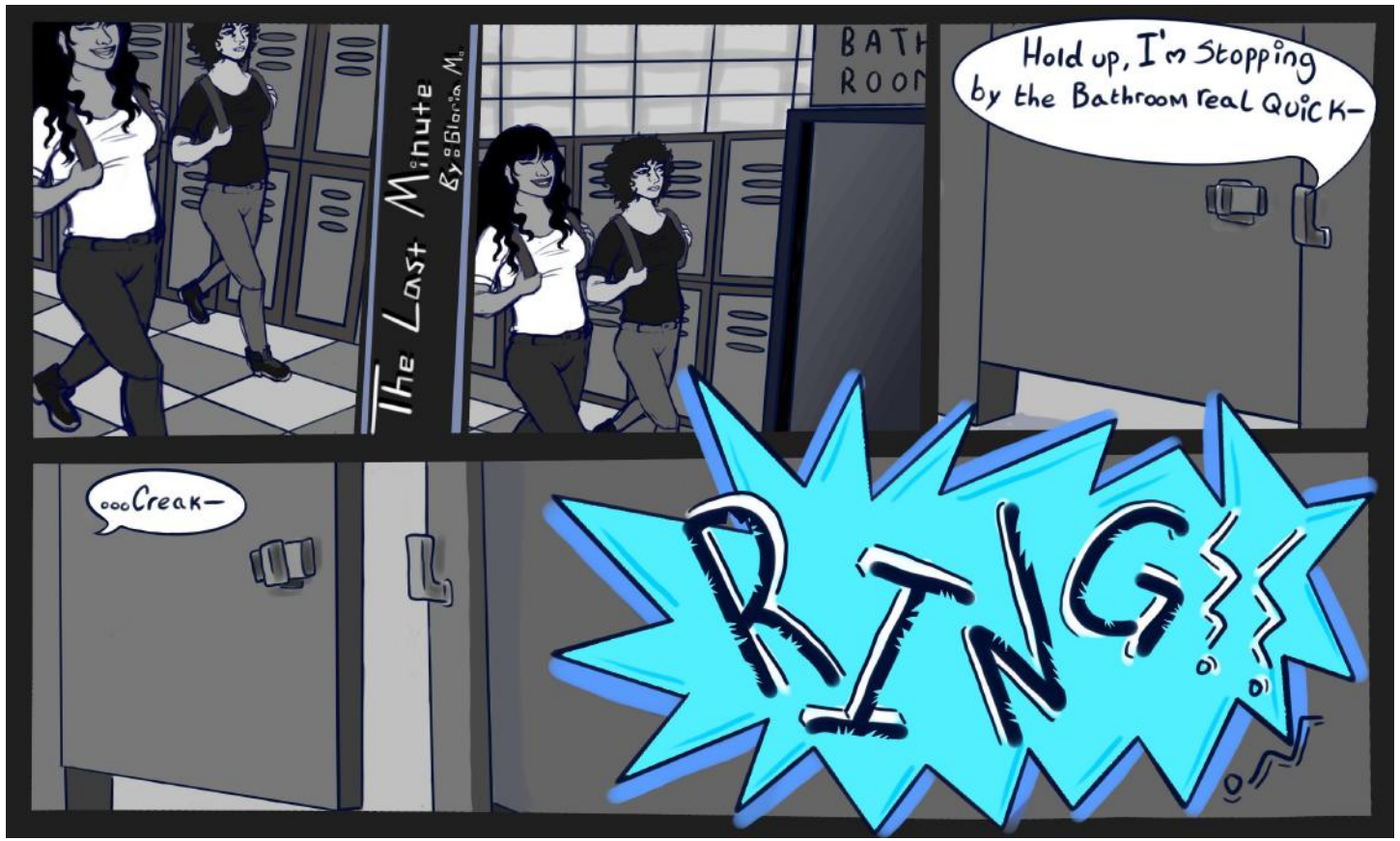
According to our survey, 13.1% of Zion students who participated agreed that *Coraline* is one of the top three movies to watch during Halloween. *Coraline* was first released February 6th, 2009, however, it was recently re-

leased in theaters in August. Once again the film received incredible support from fans and landed 3rd most bought tickets behind *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer*. The animated story itself follows a young girl, known for her vibrant blue hair and yellow rain jacket, as she discovers her house's living mysteries and the strange world that lives inside. *Coraline*'s story shows us the difficult relationships between families and appreciating the life you have before it gets taken from you. If you loved the movie, try the original book on which the movie is based. Neil Gaiman's *Coraline* has a lot of the same elements, but it certainly more spooky than the feature-length animated film version. There is even a graphic novel version of the incredible story.

Scream

"It's a nice way to start the spooky season," one student describes the *Scream* movies. The *Scream* movie series is a film franchise including 6 movies, merchandise, and even more popularity. The series has gained a significant fan base through the 27-years from *Scream*'s first release in 1996 and the most recent in 2023. A ZB student says it's the best Halloween movie, "because it's one of the best original horror movies of all time that is still going on." Each movie surrounds the original story of Sidney Prescott in Woodsboro, California, where Sidney, her boyfriend, and friends begin being taunted by the killer. Sidney needs to unmask Ghostface before more innocent people end up dead, her friends included.

The Last Minute by Gloria Myers



What's the BUZZZZ by Stinger Staff



T. Swift concerts come to theaters

By **Samantha Whitlow**
Reporter

This year's hot concert was Taylor Swift, who hasn't toured since 2018. She has earned \$1 billion after only 35 shows in the United States. She sings 43 songs + two surprise songs (differing each show). "It was the best experience of my entire life. No joke," said Ella Neal, a senior at ZBTHS. However, the demand for these tickets exceeded the amount available leaving a lot of people unhappy and missing out. Since only a fraction of people could get tickets, fans of Swift found ways to participate in the concert regardless of attendance by creating "Swiftball," a version of Fantasy Football for "Swifties." Fans predict what outfits she

will wear from each era or album, what the surprise songs will be and whether there will be any surprise guest appearances. Due to its popularity, Swift has decided to film two of her shows in Los Angeles and make them into a movie.

With \$26 million worth of tickets sold through AMC on the first day, *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour* is making its way to the theaters worldwide on October 13th. High traffic is causing movie theaters' websites to glitch and shut down. Tickets to this concert film are \$19.89 for adults or \$13.13 for senior citizens and children under the age of 12. The 2 hour and 45-minute concert film will allow fans an opportunity to experience the concert even if they

weren't able to attend the tour in person. Such traditions as making friendship bracelets, dressing up as iconic Taylor moments, and belting out lyrics will likely carry on into the the-

aters. There has been no mention of whether the film will be made available for free on streaming apps such as Netflix, with Disney+ being an probable exception to this.

Photo credit: [houstonchronicle.com](https://www.houstonchronicle.com)



Mortal Kombat remade

By **Gabriel Acosta**
Reporter

The latest installment of the popular fighting game *Mortal Kombat* finally released as of September 14th 2023. The Game features new mechanics that have never been seen before in a *Mortal Kombat* game: Kameo fighters. What is a Kameo fighter? Like a "cameo" in a film, wherein a famous actor delivers one or two lines as a surprise to the audience, a Kameo acts like a tag team player for when you need assistance to get out of a Combo. The assisting fighters are fan-favorites from previous releases of the game.

The mechanics differ from the old school *Mortal Kombat* with way more combo potential, better graphics and visuals, multiplayer options, a good

storyline, and more of an engaging experience overall.

But why is it called "*Mortal Kombat 1*" if the original *Mortal Kombat* came out in 1992? Well, as the previous game hinted, the timeline was reset by Lui Kang. He shaped a new era to his liking, making it more peaceful and less bloodthirsty. However, beings want to disrupt the peacefulness and cause chaos in the world.

The new *Mortal Kombat* installment offers a variety of skin choices, customization, and better community feedback when it comes to any bugs or game breaking glitches that happen. Granted, it just came out and has some remaining issues, but it still retains the fun *Mortal Kombat* feel everyone in this community craves.

Overall score: In my



Photo credit: <https://store.steampowered.com>

personal opinion for the review I give this *Mortal Kombat 1* a 8/10. As I love to see the new game play mechanics, I want to see more old fan favorite fighters from old titles return back as fighters in this game. Overall, the game feels great. I feel

like there is some room for improvement, faster movement speed, more fighters to the roster, and more old characters for nostalgia purposes. *Mortal Kombat 1* is out now and I recommend it for those who love a good fighting game with a great story.

Zee-Bee Artist Showcase



Allison Bradbury



My art usually stems from an obsession with a topic, or a specific question I have for myself. I take that, and make something tangible from it. Art, for me, is a type of self-reflection where I can look back on past layers and processes, and learn/gather information. When I am creating, I like surrounding myself with things I can be inspired by, whether it be certain objects, or by watching pieces of media.



Izzy Solis

My creative process is very simple. Before going into my projects, I usually have a set sketch for either design, shape or colors I'd like to use in the piece. Sometimes, ideas just flow through me and I have a creative mindset, so I just create my vision. I draw my inspirations from other ceramists or designs I'd like to recreate and add to to make my own. I've been taking ceramics since I was a freshman. I am now a junior and I absolutely love making my visions come to life. It means so much to me that I have the opportunity to appreciate my own art.

ZEE-BEES YOU SHOULD KNOW

Featured Student

Ashley Castro



"My name is Ashley Castro, and I am a junior at Zion Benton. I'm part of the NHS, German club, and I am a part of the wrestling team. I'm currently taking a medical assisting course at Tech Campus and am a part of community service at Feed The Starving Children."

Featured Staff

Ms. Fajardo



"My name is Ms. Gigi Fajardo and this is my 7th year at Zion-Benton. I am an administrative assistant for the director of safety. I love working here, and enjoy working in safety to build relationships, keep students safe, and to treat students as my own. I love my job."

Featured Teacher

Ms. Parmacek



"My name is Ms. Parmacek and this is my 5th year at Zion-Benton High School. I am a teacher in the special education department. I currently teach Latin studies, African studies, U.S. Government, driver's education, and life management. Outside of school I enjoy spending time with family and friends, building my shoe collection, and playing with my animals."

ZEE-BEE FOCUS



By Daniah Anderson

How are you adjusting to freshman year of high school?



Olivia Martinez

"Freshman year has been good so far; I've been passing. It's bigger, nicer, and chill to meet new people."



Cashius Collins

"The school is pretty large, and harder to find my classes, but it's going good. I like how there's more people to see and talk to."



Alexi Santana

"I'm liking it here so far. It's so much bigger but harder to find my way around. I thought it would be harder, but I like the community and am enjoying it so far. I like how there's more people to see and to talk to."



Kaloni Moore

"It's good. At first I thought it was going to be hard, but after the first week, I knew where my classes were. I was actually thinking about switching to honors for a challenge."



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Parking concerns students

Continued from page 1

... so that's part of the reason the changes were made. We want everyone to be safe, but by the rules." These requirements are also how you obtain a parking pass in the first place, along with a review of your student discipline record. If these rules are not followed, parking permissions could be taken away.

One of the biggest fears student drivers have with these rules is their car getting towed. According to Mr. Henry, "Towing a vehicle is our last resort, but if a student is towed, the responsibility will fall on the family." In other words, if students do get towed, paying for it and picking up the car is their responsibility.

Students have a lot of opinions on the new changes based on different experiences. Sidney Carlson, a junior at ZBTHS, states, "I feel that getting a parking pass was a struggle. I get the attendance

rule for your parking pass, but we should have enough parking for all our students." Carlson also shares an experience she had earlier in the year: "I had a bad experience as a straight-A student trying to get one, I come to school everyday and still my parents had to make a call for me to get one." Opposite of that, Julisa Cardenas, Senior at ZBTHS states, "I think the parking rules this year are reasonable. I've had no problem following them, and so far, have had good experiences."

All in all, it seems as though the parking rule and lot changes are here to stay, since the flow of school traffic seems to be running much smoother than before. If students wish to maintain or obtain a parking permit, then the requirements and rules must be followed. If they're not, "we do provide bussing for everybody," Mr. Henry states.

Televised news comes to ZBTHS

By **Kassie Barbanida**
Reporter

The ZB News Club is a newly-formed club by Jordan Lawrence and Adrian Mendoza. Separate from the ZBTV class, the club aims to inform the students of ZBTHS about news that the ZBTHS Notice Board and the bulletin may not cover and do so in an entertaining way.

ZB News will completely change the way information is spread around school to keep everyone up to date with episodes lasting about seven minutes. Their main goal is to efficiently promote clubs, activities, events, and classes. On top of that, they want to spread positivity and inspire everyone.

As a team, the members work together by

expanding on ideas and learning new things along the way. They have different days to meet up to keep a balance between school and club work. As of right now, the club is excited to display their hard work through the weekly news.

The production team currently consists of Jordan Lawrence (anchor and

director), Adrian Mendoza (video producer), Amy Andujar (certified editor), and Alundre Brown (lights and sound). Each member plays a unique role in the production of videos with a wide variety of coverage.

Jordan Lawrence, a lead member and a junior student at ZBTHS, shared, "we encourage people to

join so that we can grow as a club, and make the media quick and relevant for our student community here at ZBTHS." They will also encourage admission to the club through the notice board, announcements, and other advertising alternatives.

ZBTHS can expect weekly broadcasts on Fridays. The club wants to cover as many topics as possible and promote as many clubs as possible with the time given.

It isn't yet totally clear how students will be able to watch the videos. Some suggestions include emailing links to all students and staff in the building as well as sending video links to advisors to play for students during the advisory period once per week.

Image credit: The TV Club & The Stinger Notice Board

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Tennis team excels at teamwork

By Megan Galeana
Staff Editor

Every sport requires some sort of teamwork. Whether that is through cheering each other on, or simply playing a sport together, it is one of the most important parts of athletics. The girl's tennis team here at Zion-Benton is learning how important teamwork is, even though it can be hard sometimes.

At the recent tennis game against Wauconda, the team had to learn the importance of working together. Maggie Mae McCarthy, a member of the tennis team, had the opportunity to practice her teamwork skills. McCarthy explains, "The match was pretty frustrating

because the girls who we were playing against didn't have the best attitudes, so my partner and I tried our best to stay positive, push through, and help each other get through the match."

Their coach, Ms. Wilson, helped the girls with finding the value and importance of getting along as a team, and using teamwork. Wilson says, "Regular and meaningful communication is the key to building a healthy team."



Ella Neal and teammate Maggie Mae McCarthy each play singles on adjacent courts against North Chicago.

son, helped the girls with finding the value and importance of getting along as a team, and using teamwork. Wilson says, "Regular and meaningful communication is the key to building a healthy team."

One girl who displays positive energy and good teamwork on the JV team is Gloria Solis. According to Yamilet Gomez, another member of the JV team, "She is a hard-working player, and she always has a positive attitude when it comes to a lot of things, especially in games and when she is having a rough time. She knows how to get through it because she makes sure that her teamwork is the first thing on her mind be-



Solis took second place for JV doubles.

cause she would not want to stress out anymore."

Overall, the girls tennis teams here at Zion use teamwork, trust, sportsmanship, and high-spirits every time they play a match, especially in doubles. Just like any sport, it is crucial to have these skills as a teammate, and it will help lead the team to success, just like it has with the girl's tennis program at ZBTHS.

Cross Country rebuilds and succeeds

By Donnie Anilao
Reporter

This year's cross-country team has had to spend time rebuilding a successful team of hard-working runners due to the loss of many varsity runners last year. Some of our graduated varsity runners, such as Audrey Luell and Riley Franz, were able to qualify for the state competition last year, so it'll be a tough line to cross for our current senior varsity and new runners this year.

Fortunately, it seems that the team overall has been doing well, as Coach

DiGrazia says, "Tuesday [September 12th] was a home meet, and twenty-one out of twenty-four girls ran their season or lifetime best."

The new runners are also doing their best for the team, as Senior Varsity Elizabeth Torres says, "I feel like they are doing a good job because they ask questions and it shows that they care about the sport and give it their all during the workout."

The team's impressive drive to succeed stems from a positive team environment, as Coach An-

derson states, "It's a wonderful group of athletes that forms a wonderful team culture of excellence and character." New runner Robert Flores doubles-down on this, saying, "The team is great; they're a good group of people, and it's a positive environment for people of all experience groups."

Junior student and Varsity runner Lauren Hamilton adds, "I'm looking forward to racing at regionals with my teammates, proving that we deserve a spot at sectionals, and fighting for a position to run at state."


Photo credit: Emerald Night Photography




Varsity runner, Lauren Hamilton, runs at a home meet vs Stevenson, Lake Forest and Lake Zurich.

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