



Volume 33, Issue 7

What's the Buzz?

Check it out!

"I've always wanted to continue playing sports, so getting the opportunity is a dream come true." - Carter Shogren

Follow to pg. 12

This Day in History
May 16th, 1985



"May 16th, 1985 - Michael Jordan named NBA Rookie of Year"

www.onthisday.com

Senior singer to perform at graduation

By Trinity Camara

Notice Board Manager & Stinger Reporter

As graduation approaches, one senior has been selected to sing the national anthem at the graduation ceremony held on May 26th. The senior who has been chosen for this opportunity is Junique James. She explains the process of how she was chosen for the chance to perform: she states, "We were notified of the audition date. We had to have the song memorized, and we got to pick any key to show off our voice best. We auditioned in front of the other singers, our band and choir directors, Dr. Stephenson, and our class officers. Then sang and just waited to see who they would choose."

She then talked about

her hopes for this day: she said, "I didn't set any expectations for how the day would go. I mean, I hoped it would go well, and that I'd hit all the right notes, but I really just wanted to live in the moment during that day." When asked what made her want to audition to sing the national anthem at graduation, she responded, "I'm a part of choir, and I thought it would be a great experience to end my high school experience. I'd get to end it doing what I love."

She was then asked why she thinks it's important for a student to perform the national anthem at graduation, to which she replied, "I think it helps the other graduates connect more with the song and appreciate the song and understand the moment that

they're in. Like the fact that we're graduating and one of the students is singing for all of us now."

Lastly, she was asked how she feels about this day overall. She replied, "It's really exciting and scary. I don't want to mess up but I'm really glad I was given the opportunity, especially because all of the other people that auditioned are just as amazing singers."

Overall, this opportunity was added to graduation to give seniors one last memorable moment in their high school career, and Junique James was chosen for this opportunity. Students and staff will enjoy this performance on May 26th as our seniors graduate and are sent off into their futures.

Value of women's health recognized in May

By Megan Galeana & Isa Solis
Stinger Reporters

Women's Health Care Month takes place in May. As the name suggests, this month brings awareness to women taking care of their health.

Nationaltoday.com tells us more about Women's Health Care Month: the annual celebration was started by the U.S. Department of Health. Taking care of their health should be a priority in every woman's life, and Women's Health Care Month makes the mission easy by setting up ways to help women: setting up health camps, promoting specialized care, and raising awareness of the many ways women

can improve their health.

When women have health issues, they tend to avoid taking care of themselves and instead worry about other people and their health issues. It is a problematic pattern in our culture. The consequences of neglecting health can be extremely serious. That is why it's always important to take care of yourself by making an appointment with your doctor for a checkup. Women are twice as likely as men to experience depression, so taking care of one's mental health is also important.

A goal of Women's Health Care Month is to empower women to help them make their own health a priority and also equipping

women with the knowledge to improve themselves and even help other women. Bayhealth.org tells us to manage stress. It is important to address the mind-body connection and take time for self care. Yoga, epsom baths, and even ten-minute meditation are all techniques that will help women reduce stress. Bayhealth.org also tells us to engage in regular exercise. Physical activity is important for health and should include a mix of strength training and cardio exercises.

Here at ZBTHS we try to make sure everyone is healthy and safe throughout the year. The Stinger staff reached out to some women to learn

their views of the month.

Meli Solis Martinez, a senior at ZBTHS says, "It is very important because being a woman is the epitome of beauty, so we must be protected. Health is wealth, ladies, so make sure you are really focusing on that self care #pilates princess." She also adds, "your body is your temple so make sure you are getting those fruits and veggies and make sure to eat foods that make you feel as pretty on the inside as you are on the outside. Remember to keep your peace; I like to journal, read, or fix up my space. Do not overwork yourself, give yourself some time to breathe. I recommend one spa day a week and stay active #girlboss."

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2022-2023

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Mother's Day celebrated differently for some

By Esmeralda Vara
Stinger Reporter

Mother's Day is just around the corner, and here in the U.S., we celebrate our mothers and how they've helped us grow as people. The day focuses on the concept of motherhood. A majority of the countries, including the U.S. and Germany, celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May. In Mexico, Mother's Day is on the 10th of May, but why are there two different dates?

Mother's Day has different beginnings across the globe. In Mexico in 1922, mothers day began when the newspaper *El Excelsior* promoted the conservative role of mothers in families. In other ancient cultures and religions goddesses were sacred figures held high in regards. The Greek goddess Rhea was known as the "mother of the gods," and the Romans

called the goddess Cybele the "Great Mother." Mother's Day in Vietnam is on the 8th of March, and some countries celebrate the day during completely different months. Some countries celebrate Mother's Day on the 10th of May: Mexico, El Salvador, and Guatemala.

We interviewed two different teachers at Zion-Benton who are also mothers. Mrs. Hamilton, a social studies teacher, said that the way her family celebrates Mother's Day is "usually to have a nice breakfast, go for a long walk or bike ride, and spend time together. Family is the glue that holds everything together." Mrs. Hamilton also expects children to "strive to be the best they can be in everything they do. Whether it be on the sports field or in the classroom, giving 100% should be the bar. Never settle or strive for medioc-

ity. At the end of the day, if you have given your best, it doesn't matter if it is a 'B' or a last place finish."

Mrs. Haley, an biology teacher, spoke about her family on Mother's Day. She said, "My boys usually help my husband make me breakfast and bring me gifts that they help pick out. Then, as a family we go to buy plants and flowers, and if it is nice enough, we plant everything in our yard. Sometimes we have to wait a few weeks until it is warmer, though." Mrs. Haley also lists gifts that her boys usually get her: flowers, sometimes a gift card for a spa day, and they love making cards with drawings of us. Mrs. Haley says, "It's very sweet!"

Remember to remind your mother of mother figure how much she means with a hug and a "thank you" for being there and being a part of your life.

Exchange student reflects on a year in America

By Mathilde Grail
Asst. Sports Editor

This year, Valentina Bertaglia decided to move across the globe to live her dream: becoming an exchange student. She left Italy for the United States at the end of August.

Valentina had many expectations for this year and learned throughout her experiences that being an exchange student is about changing the place and people, but is still everyday life: you have to lower your expectations. However, she also figured that she accomplished what she wanted in terms of relationships. She said, "I had the expectation to start being able to take care of myself. I could get out of my comfort zone, made new friends, and built a strong relation-

ship with my host family."

One of her favorite memories is her birthday. She celebrated this special day in a way she had not done before, being with new friends, relationships that she built by herself in the US." But all these experiences come to an end, and she knows that June 12th, the American high school, Dunkin' Donuts, her host family and friends will be only memories; but they will be with her forever.

Bertaglia adds that the most difficult part of her year will be when it all ends. She shares, "I think that the hardest thing will be to leave." However, thanks to this experience, Valentina grew up and became more independent. This year allowed her to discover a new culture and be-

came confident in herself.

Bertaglia ends by sharing that, if given the opportunity to do it all again, "*Si, non ci penserei due volte.*"



Bertaglia and Grail enjoy their first American Winter in Chicago.

Students make post-graduation plans

By Amanda Bennett
News Editor

College decision day was May 1st, and with graduation right around the corner, many Z-B Seniors have the plans laid out for after graduation.

We spoke to the counselors from our College and Career Center: Ms. Peterson, and Mrs. Zameck. When asked what and where they noticed a majority of students are planning to do after graduation, they said, "Based on the survey sent out to seniors in April, 61% of students plan on attending a school which includes 4-year, 2-year, and trade programs at CLC. 27% plan to attend a 4-year university, 25% to CLC or other community colleges, 7% plan to enroll at a career/trade program at CLC, 6.9% plan to apply to a trade apprenticeship program, 5% plan to join the military,

and 16% plan to work."

Every school has goals that are set for what they hope their students achieve after graduation. When asked about our school goal for students' plans, Ms. Peterson and Mrs. Zameck shared, "The goal is for all students to have a post-secondary plan, which includes employment, enlistment, or school/program enrollment. 721!" She clarifies, "Perhaps you've seen 721 displayed in the College and Career Center. Approximately each school year includes 180 days. In four years, students will have completed 720 days here at Zion-Benton Township High School. The goal for students is to have a plan for day 721. This could include employment, enlistment, or enrollment!" When asked if they thought students on average have a plan for after graduation,

they both responded, "Yes!"

What Mrs. Zameck hopes for the students after graduation is "that students realize their potential and take advantage of opportunities." Ms. Peterson's hope for the students after graduation is that "students are comfortable and confident in their plans after graduation."

We also heard from some seniors about their plans. Paisley Finley said that she is attending Illinois State University. ISU is located in Normal, Illinois, and is about a two and half hours drive from Zion. Paisley shared that she is studying psychology. When asked why she chose the major, she responded, "Honestly we all need a therapist in this day and age."

Savannah Walsh said that she is attending University of Louisville in the fall. Louisville is a city in the state of Kentucky, and

it is about 5 hours from Zion. Savannah said that she is studying criminal justice. When asked why she chose Louisville, she said, "The atmosphere, but also it has a good program and a cool campus."

Shamari Anderson said that she is attending University of Wisconsin at Parkside. Parkside is located in Sommers, Wisconsin, 30 minutes from Zion. Shamari is also studying psychology. When asked why she picked Parkside she said, "It was close to home and had everything I was looking for in a school."

Sarah Ondo said that she is attending Illinois State University studying exercise science. She said, "Everything there was fitting into place and it was the option that made the most sense."

Whatever seniors have planned, the Stinger crew wishes them great success.

NJROTC celebrates retirement of beloved Commander

By Nyasia Johnson
Guest Reporter

This May marks the retirement of Commander Steven Schulte from ZBTHS's NJROTC program. Words that students have used to describe him include "supportive," "fair," and "courageous."

This retiring naval instructor has taught at Zion-Benton for the past 20 years. He's shown a lot of commitment to our school by creating a well-rounded ROTC program with Chief Nelson, Master Chief Hackstein, and other past instructors.

Commander Schulte began in California and sought an education at the Naval Academy. He later enlisted in the Navy and worked as a P3 Pilot for 21

years. He eventually retired and became a naval science instructor at Zion-Benton.

In Commander's words, "I just feel extremely fortunate to have found Zion-Benton. It's really been the experience of my life to work here. I'm just extremely grateful." As a commander, he organized important events such as Pass in Review and the military ball.

Students and teachers are saddened to hear the news of his retirement because Commander has always been a light-hearted, relaxed, and respected instructor.

Ms. Martinez, a former Z-B NJROTC cadet and current English teacher, had Commander as her instructor for two years. She says he's "generous, hardwork-

ing, and just cool. He's very chill about teaching and has a 'learning is on you' kind of vibe. He's been here for a long time and knows the ins and outs."

Of course, his fellow co-workers will miss his energy and willingness to be of service. Chief Nelson says, "Commander is always the most calm and level-headed of the three of us."

We all are very thankful to have had Commander Schulte as our naval instructor. We hope retirement treats him well, and he gets to relax, but knowing Commander, he's

not going to that. He's always put in 100% effort into our NJROTC program, and we all thank him for the years of hard work.



Commander Schulte's 2004 yearbook portrait.

"This was not like High School Musical at all!"
-Taylor Wiley

"2/10, but I'll miss the memories."
-Shamari Anderson

"Never give up on your dreams; the future is built on dreams."
(Optimus Prime)
Nyasia Johnson



"My stomach kinda hurts."
(Vash the Stampede)
-Joshua Hatcher

"I am so grateful to have met all these new people. Thank you, guys!"
-Mathilde Grail

"Don't trust what you see; even salt look like sugar."
-Serenity Davidson

"Yo siempre persisto por lo grande, para siempre llegar a mis papás en mi cabeza."
-Cassandra Camarena

"They told me aim high, so I went on cloud9."
-Marcus Hicks

"God is Good all the time."
-Enoch Kayiwa

"Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning."
-Lily Musich

"If you follow your dreams, you are capable of anything."
-Amanda Bennett

"Support small artists! Say 'NO' to AI art!"
-Samantha Ward

"Jesus is my why and my because. Jesus is the true definition of king, hero, savior, and him."

-Adan Chiquito

"The possibility of all these possibilities being possible is another possibility that could possibly happen."

(Mark Lee)

-Rosa A. Limon

"You never need the chance if you living like you could die."

(daddyphatsnaps)

-Tyler Clay

"If it don't make money, it don't make sense."

-Waver Lear

"Praise the Lord. Have Faith."

-Ki'Ary Taylor

"If there is a will, there is a way. If is a Quizlet, there is an 'A'."

-Angel Smothers

"Living life"
-Brian Bielma

"All those wishes about growing up...we finally grew up."

-Akcel Omar Guadarrama

"Continue being a student."

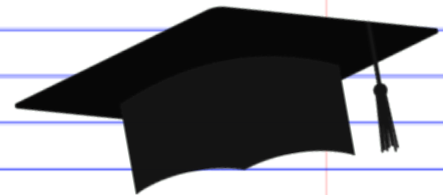
-Ajani Crenshaw

"No amount of money

-Jonathan Brito

...ever bought a second of time."

-Sofia Villalobos



"Just stick to yourself."

Julio Galeana

"In my glo make
people point. I al-
ways say it. That's

"Live Life to
the fullest."

-Tahir Ahmad

"This due at
11:59 p.m. too?"

-Ta'Nia Mason

the brand."

-Tyrell Blake

"Live. Love. Laugh. Rea."

-Mackenzie Wisch

"Call me Katara,
cuz I'm a water
bender."

-Janae Waters

"Thanks to every-
one for the best
year of my life! I
swear I lived."

-Valentina Bertaglia

"Live Life to da
fullest. #11 out."

-Monte Mason

"Mendokuse."

-Xavier Staples

"It is what it is."

-Abraham "AB" Vazquez



"No cap and gown. I ain't
go to class. I'd rather die
before I come in last."

-Nathan Roberson

"None of my assign-
ments are finished, but I
definitely am."

-Kennedy Bradley

"You only have one life.
Life it to the fullest.
YOLO."

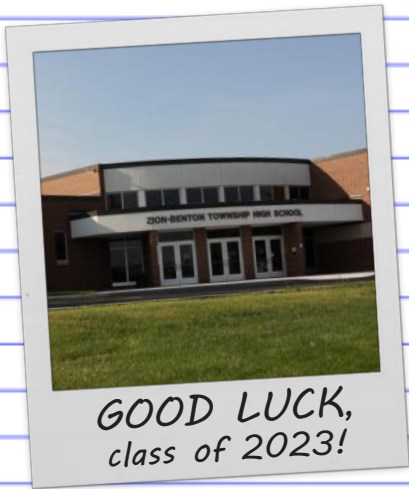
-Anniya Patterson

"Hocus-pocus every-
one focus on be-
coming millionaires!"
-Zor'Nelle Duffie

"I don't under-
stand, but I luv
you."
(SVT)
-Alexa Hernandez

"Thanks for the memo-
ries. Even though they
weren't so great." (Fall-
out Boy)
-Madelyn Garris

"Live a life a quarter
mile at a time."
"Life is like a deck of
cards, play them well."
"You can't choose the
hand you were dealt,
but you can choose how
you play the cards."
"Life is like a vend-
ing machine. You have
many choices, but they
come with a price.
Float Like a butterfly,
Sting like a bee."
-Jacob Vandervere



"Become a you
that's better than
yesterday."
-Jocelyn Limon

"Another day, an-
other slay."
-Vianay Gurrola

"If you don't take
risks, you can't cre-
ate a future."
(Luffy Onepiece)"
-Molly Shower

"KACHOW!"
(Lightning McQueen)
-Rebekah Rittenhouse

A farewell to two years of Stinger leadership

By Molly Shower
Editor-in-Chief

I've been the Editor-in-Chief of *The Stinger* for two years. That will be changing soon. With graduation on the horizon, change is inevitable, a paradoxically stable promise. You can't stop change, but in letting it run its course, it's easy to get swept up, too.

Whether we like it or not, massive changes have the tendency to dismantle everything we thought we knew. As predictable routines dissolve, we're left to fend for ourselves. That's especially true at a time like a graduation, when all our peers are changing alongside us. It can feel chaotic, like there's no light at the end of the tunnel, or like there is no dark shade to rest in, and regardless of which boat we fall into, change will rock it to the point of seasickness.

When stranded in a sea of memories old and new, it's exceptionally disorienting when you can't remember what it was really like before the change. The normally rose-tinted goggles of nostalgia warp our vision cruelly, and leave us feeling even more alone in the present.

Except we aren't alone. We have each other, but as already mentioned, that's small solace when it seems everyone is drowning equally. Instead, I'd argue that our most important lifeline is the truth which has remained stable through words, pictures, and recordings. The collective memories of a time before everything changed remains to tell us what was as we wade through the chaos into what will be.

Whether it's events impossible to forget, like fireworks in the bathroom, or

small details we already don't remember, like the particulars of COVID-19 finances, all of it's been written down in these pages. They are a time capsule. Even if our minds are lost in the sea, or we come to be stranded on a far-away island, there will always be a compass eternally fixed to the past in a drawer at our school.

There are binders full of old issues of *The Stinger*, stretching back decades, in that same drawer. We will not be the first generation to benefit from this lifeline. Parents, grandparents, and even our future children will sail the same waters. Though we're alone by technicality, unique in our specific experience, friends, and post-graduation plans, our charted course is shared by countless other sailors of these turbulent tides.

I've only been at the helm of this publication for two years, a comparatively small slice of its entire history. But isn't that how life always is? Our voyages, however long they may be, will never outlast the sea itself. But when all these voyages combine together, they form an intricate tapestry of history, memory, love and life—the human experience, with all its ups and downs.

Without outside influence, that tapestry would weather in time, ends fraying as we forget the past to make room in our minds for the future. That's the nature of our life; we can only fit so much into one ship, and have to cull excess weight to stay afloat.

I know most of my stories, if read at all, will be forgotten. But even an old lighthouse, its beacon long unused, creates a striking

landmark against the unforgetting sea. I'll keep writing after leaving *The Stinger*. It will exist for long after I depart, and more stories will be written. They'll fit into the tapestry, too, hemming its ends to protect its details.

It's probably a small comfort to read this. A few saved stories can't make the sudden shift into adulthood any less jarring. But it's the mission of a journalist to help inform their audience of the truth, and if you leave with any truth in mind, it should be this: You won't get far by working against the tide. Change will come either way, and it will at times scare you, but there's no shame in fear so long as you remain courageous in the face of it and push on nevertheless.

Mind the lessons you've learned in childhood, and keep the line to the past of this paper somewhere for safekeeping, but most importantly, don't avoid the waves ahead. Ride them out, shifting your course along the way, and rebuild anew wherever you land. The place you left behind will still exist, even if only kept safe in a file cabinet.

P.S.—to any non-seniors who may be reading, as you watch this class drift off into the world, know that we're trusting you to keep our memories alive for as long as you can manage. To this end, if you have any free periods in the coming years, I'd highly recommend joining the staff of *The Stinger*. :)

Teachers and staff enjoyed a week long celebration

By Madelyn Garris
Features Editor

Throughout the week of Monday, May 8th through Friday, May 12th, ZBTHS celebrated Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. According to *National Today*, "though the origins of Teacher Appreciation Week are somewhat murky, it's clear that it was in 1944 that an Arkansas school teacher, Mattye White Woodridge, wrote to politicians and educational professionals about the demand for a day to appreciate teachers.







However, it wasn't for nearly a decade that the idea was introduced to Congress by none other than Eleanor Roosevelt. In 1953, she was successful in convincing lawmakers to adopt the day.

This year at our school,

administrators planned several things in which the teachers and staff could participate. Monday they had Doughnuts & coffee, Tuesday they received T-Shirts printed by American Outfitters, Wednesday had a Nacho Bar, Thursday had scones and coffee, and on Friday there was a Country Cookout so staff members could have lunch with their colleagues.

You may have missed the opportunity to voice your appreciation to your favorite teachers and staff members around the building, but it isn't too late to try a little harder on your school work and be a kinder for the rest of the semester. It will make a world of difference to the staff members who work hard here every day.

Finals Schedule

Tuesday (5/23)	Wednesday (5/24)	Thursday(5/25)	Friday (5/26)
<i>Test Taking Skills (2nd)</i> 7:50-8:35	<i>Test Taking Skills (1st)</i> 7:50-8:35	<i>Test Taking Skills (3rd)</i> 7:50-8:35	NO SCHOOL - Graduation at 6:30 pm at the Athletic Stadium
1st period 8:45-10:10	2nd period 8:45-10:10	7th period 8:45-10:10 	
3rd Period 10:20-11:45 	8th Period 10:20-11:45 	4th Period 10:20-11:45 	
5th Period 11:55-1:20 	6th Period 11:55-1:20 	Test Make-ups 11:50-1:51 *Buses will take students home multiple times a day.	

District 126 Summer School

Each summer, District 126 provides a variety of programming during the summer months to meet student needs.

Please note that summer school runs Monday through Thursday with the building closed on Fridays each week. **THE LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR IS THURSDAY MAY 25, 2023. SUMMER SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS.**

Session 1: June 5 - June 26
Session 2: June 27 - July 19

Times vary depending on the class. General Summer School hours are 7:30 am to 12:30 pm.

Non-Attendance Days for Summer School:
 June 19, July 3, and July 4

Address questions to Mr. Jake Carlson, Executive Director for Student Services via email jacob.carlson@zb126.org or phone at 847-731-9356. Dr. Joaquin Stephenson, Zion-Benton High School Assistant Principal, will also serve as the 2023 Summer School Principal. He can be reached via email joaquin.stephenson@zb126.org or phone at 847-731-9794.

Scan to access the summer school page.



A Zee-Bee You Should Know

Nathan Roberson



I am a senior at ZBTHS. I am about to graduate and am very excited about it! My favorite color is soft pink, I love Chipotle and everything they serve, and one of my favorite things to do is make people laugh when they are upset. Also, my birthday is this Thursday!

Staff Showcase

Mr. Garner



My name is Chris Garner, otherwise known as "Mr. G", and I proudly hail from Zion, IL. I reside here with my wife, Rainbow, and our three children (left to right) Zephaniah, Evangeline, and Aramis. My wife and I are honored to serve the community and hope to partner with others for the foreseeable future.

FOCUS "What are your plans for after you graduate?"

By William Phinney - Opinion Editor



"I plan on going to Columbia College Chicago to study audio and continue making music. Check out my album "Meet Me At Rosa Beach" by DIRTY HATS should be on every platform."

Adrian Guzman



"I'm attending Macalester College! I'll be studying Computer Science, and I'm excited to meet new friends and leave Zion. :P"

Luna Munoz Maldonado



"Studying architecture at WashU!"

Oswaldo Silva-Alcala

Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba returns for third season.

By Joshua Hatcher
Stinger Reporter

The animation behemoth that is *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba* returns for a third season to consistent critical and commercial acclaim with the release of each new episode. The season will run for a total of 12 episodes spanning 12 weeks on the air with each episode spanning around 21-25 minutes in length.

Following the insanely successful second season, which adapted the Entertainment District Arc of the source material, season three

will adapt the Swordsmith Village Arc of Koyoharu Gotoge's magnum opus work. In standard *Demon Slayer* story arc fashion, the Swordsmith Village Arc will follow the main protagonists as well as a crowd of new and returning characters, many of whom have become fan favorites despite their previously limited screen time.

Animation studio Ufotable continues to consistently deliver industry-leading and drop-dead gorgeous visuals on their *Demon Slayer* projects. With each new installment in the

animated *Demon Slayer* lineup, it seems that the visual quality only gets better and better, with even small moments in the story receiving high-quality, crisp, flowing animation.

The third season surpasses every expectation for spectacle set, and that's no easy feat given their previous benchmarks such as season one, episode 17, *Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba-*

The Movie: Mugen Train, and the final episodes of the second season.



photo credit: www.beebom.com

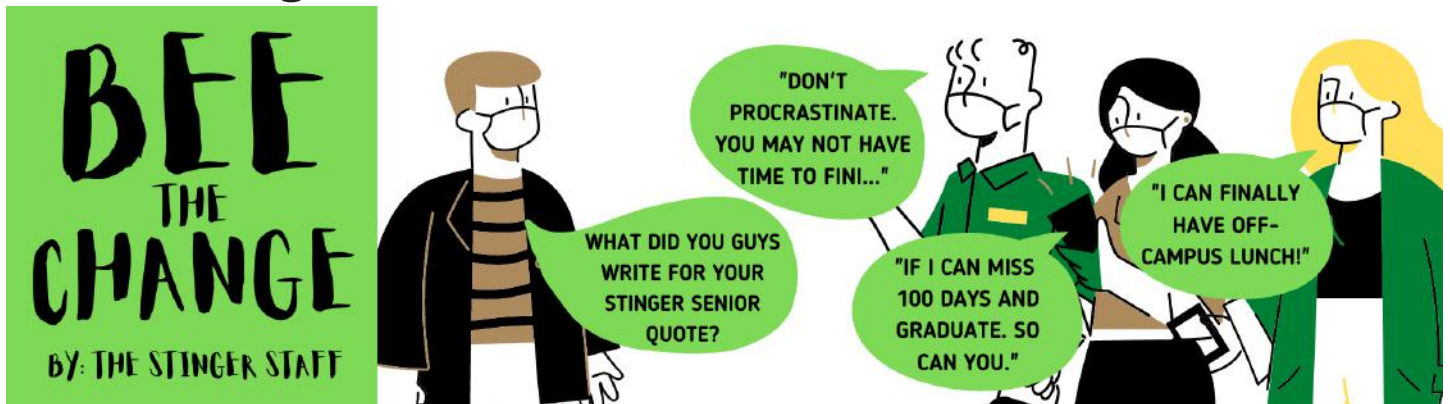
What's the Buzzzz?



Is It 2:38 Yet?



Bee the Change



Student athletes sign to play in college

By Mia Mitchell
Sports Editor

As the year comes to an end, most senior athletes at Zion have to say “goodbye” to the sports they play. However, that is not the case for some really talented individuals. Some seniors this year have committed or are trying out in the fall to play collegiately.

This year, we have a wide range of sports that students will continue to play. Those sports include tennis, volleyball, basketball, track and field, cross country, and baseball. There are also a wide range of college divisions that these individuals are going to, ranging from CLC (Community College) to Division 1.

Some of our seniors are still undecided about what their plans are for next year. Ximora Corona, a Tennis player at Z-B is undecided about continuing her athletic career at CLC. Two of our cross country runners are also undecided about where or if they want to continue their XC careers. Audrey Luell is undecided about where she wants to commit, and Estrella Navarrete is deciding whether or

not she wants to continue her running career at CLC.

Coming from Zion, we also have a few Baton Twirlers who are going to try out for their college twirling teams. Sarah Ondo is trying out for a twirling position at Illinois State University this coming June, and Lily Musich is considering trying out for a twirling position at Carthage College this coming fall.

While some of our Zee-Bees have decisions to make, other seniors already have their minds made up. Both Carter Shogren and Jonathon Vertiz (*pictured on the right*) have committed to Marian University to continue their volleyball careers. “Playing a sport in college is big for me, as it was my only athletic goal in high school,” Vertiz said. Getting to that collegiate level is very challenging, so it is a big accomplishment. “I’ve always wanted to continue playing sports, so getting the opportunity is a dream come true,” Shogren added. It’s clear that both of these young men are excited to continue their athletic careers at Marian University, and hope to



Vertiz & Shogren sign. - Photo courtesy of Emerald Night Photography

continue being successful at a higher level.

Some other commits include Kelsey Green to play Volleyball at CLC, and Arceli Guadarrama-Sosa to continue playing Tennis at CLC. We also have some seniors committed to larger schools to continue their athletic careers, such as Riley Franz to run track and cross country at St. Louis University, and Trinity Hoover, to play basketball at Mineral Area College. These universities and colleges will bring great opportunities for these young women, and we wish to see them continue to thrive at the collegiate level.

A baseball commit, Henry Stried, is also coming from Zion-Benton, committing to UW-La Crosse. Stried has worked very hard to get to where he is today, so he has some ad-

vice for those who might be looking to play college sports in the future. “In order to play sports at the next level, you have to be willing to make sacrifices. You will spend more time practicing and working out than you will hanging out with friends or playing video games. You need to spend a significant amount of time in the offseason getting stronger and faster before the next season. Another major factor in playing college sports is your grades. School comes first and you will 100% not be a college athlete if you do not have the grades for it,” Stried said.

So, with that in mind, if you are striving to become a college athlete, make sure you work hard and have your grades in check. Clearly all of these talented individuals, whether they are decided or not, have worked very hard and maintained good grades in order to be where they are today. We wish the best of luck to all Zee-Bees continuing their athletic careers, and look forward to seeing what other successes come for them in college.

Badminton team sees new popularity

By Mia Mitchell - Sports Editor
& Enoch Kayiwa - Reporter

As the school year starts to come to a close, so do the spring sports. Badminton is one of the most popular spring sports we have at ZBTHS. All of the young women who play seem to love it, and continue to play throughout multiple years during their time in high school.

Some students at ZBTHS don’t understand how the Badminton team has grown so much this year. After talking to Vianay Gurrola, a senior on the Girl’s Badminton team, things became more clear. “I played last year, so I wanted to do it again for my senior year, and my teammates and I

are close friends,” Gurrola explained. Since the team keeps getting larger, we can assume that Gurrola’s explanation is the reason most girls keep coming back to play.

Some helpful changes made this year have also given many girls reasons to continue playing in the future. “This season, we have an extra coach to help all of the players,” Gurrola explained. Having an extra coach can give the players further instruction and help on what they need to work on, which overall helps the program.

Another improvement that has been made this season is “more people are willingly wanting to be better players,”

according to Gurrola. Clearly, the more players that are involved and working hard, the more wins there will be. This also creates a better environment overall for everyone involved with the program.

Gurrola recommends playing badminton to any girls

at Zion-Benton who want to try it. Gurrola thinks that some fun things about the sport are “that you can play by yourself or with a partner.” So, if any girls are interested in playing badminton next year, Gurrola says, “Just go for it, it’s really easy to learn how to play.”



Badminton Senior Night - Photo courtesy of Emerald Night Photography