



THE BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SINCE 1980

VOLUME XLI 🍁 ISSUE 2 🍁 FEBRUARY 2021 🍁 www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

Bulls Celebrate!

See details pp. 8-9



Photo: Jane Owen

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PLEASE ♻️ RECYCLE

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2018 & 2019

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Newsletter Category

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THE AWARD-WINNING BLOOMINGDALE GAZETTE

YOUR INSIDE CONNECTIONS

Bloomingtondale Neighborhood Association, Inc.

3509 Bell Shoals Road - Valrico, Florida 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com, www.Bloomingtondale.life, Coming Soon!

BNA Board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingtondale Community Office.

President: *Suzy Watts*

Vice President: *Sean Donahue*

Treasurer: *Grace Lewis*

Directors at Large:

Bobbi Ferraro

Billy Hightower

Charlie Woodcock



YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER



JOY BOISSELLE

Editor - The Bloomingtondale Gazette

3509 Bell Shoals Rd.

Valrico, FL 33596 - (813) 681-2051

Email: InBloomingtondaleNews@gmail.com

Website: www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com

www.bloomingtondale.life, Coming Soon!

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Staff Writers: Michelle Colesanti & Jane Owen

The official publication of the BNA since 1980

The Gazette is delivered free to Bloomingtondale residents on the first Wednesday of each month.



ANDREA DALY

Community Publications Manager

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Tampa, Florida 33602

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Email: adaly@tampabay.com

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Tampa Bay Times

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BNA COMMUNITY CORNER

2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STARTS

BLOOMINGDALE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
3509 Bell Shoals Rd. • Valrico, FL 33596 • bloomingdalehoa.com
BNA Membership Notices are mailed to the owner on file with the Hillsborough County Tax Collector.

Your Name
Your Address

2021 BNA MEMBERSHIP
\$35.00 TO JOIN OR RENEW!
Return This Card With Payment

BLOOMINGDALE

2021 Membership	\$35.00
Community Scholarship Donation	\$
Total Enclosed	\$
Check Number	#

As we begin our 2021 Membership Drive, we invite you to be part of making Bloomingdale a great place to live, work and call home!

READY, SET, JOIN!

The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association membership drive started on Jan.1, 2021! Along with our new name, we have a lot of new initiatives to help strengthen and bring our community together. Your \$35 membership fee will turn these initiatives into reality. Please send your membership in today and be part of making Bloomingdale a great place to live, work and call home!

“TEAM BLOOMINGDALE” NEEDS YOU!

We need residents like you to add your energy and a little of your time to the Association.

Do you care about our Bloomingdale Community, and want to take an active role in its future? Do you enjoy meeting people and working for a common goal? Then, the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association (BNA) wants you! Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bloomingdale Community Office at 6:30 p.m. The BNA encourages all interested residents to attend a few board meetings to see if joining the Board is a good “fit.” Current board members are residents, like you, who want Bloomingdale to thrive.

Why consider being part of the BNA board? Vice-president Sean Donahue said, “To help maintain the standard of living in the Bloomingdale community, to make positive changes and improvements to our community or to help when residents and businesses have issues.”

Call 813-681-2051, 252-0252 or email Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com for information.

LIKE US ON  **FACEBOOK!** www.facebook.com/Bl.Neighbor1

Please Note: Our event dates may change, be rescheduled or even be cancelled due to COVID-19. We will make decisions based on the safety of our residents.

MONTHLY EVENTS

Bloomingdale Special District Monthly Trustee Meeting/ Monday, February 8, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. / Bloomingdale Community Office, 3509 Bell Shoals Road. / Call 813-684-6667 for information. You can access the meeting via GoToMeeting at this address: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/207413181>. You can also dial in using your phone.

Phone: (571) 317-3122

Access Code: 207-413-181

BNA Board Meeting / Tuesday, February 9, 6:30 p.m. / Offsite, Send topics you want addressed to bl.neighbor1@gmail.com.

Bloomingdale Area Community Council / HCSO's Security and Safety meeting, Cancelled Until Further Notice / Bloomingdale Community Station, 3622 Erindale Drive, 813-635-8040

2021 SAVE THE DATES

2021 Membership Drive: Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2021

2021 Scholarship: Applications available Now, Deadline is April 1, Presented May 11

Spring and Fall Community Clean-ups: TBD

Easter Bunny Drive-Through: TBD

Community Garage Sale: TBD

Campo YMCA Trunk or Treat: TBD

Santa Drive-through: TBD

BNA BRIEFS

New Name, New Door, New Energy!

Our new email is Bl.Neighbor1@gmail.com. The old email is still operational for now. We hope to have all name changes and updates completed soon.



2021 Community Scholarship Applications Available!

Don't let the opportunity for \$2,000 in college scholarship money slip through your fingers.

Applications are available online at www.bloomingdalehoa.com, www.bloomingdale.life, the BNA office, and via email at bl.neighbor1.com. The deadline is April 1. Mail completed applications to BNA, 3509 Bell Shoals Rd, Valrico, FL, 33596. Or, drop off the application at the office. Call 813-766-2188 to make sure someone is available to take your application. Good luck, seniors!

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Compiled by Jane Owen

Be sure to stop by these new local businesses! Want your new business recognized? Email inbloomindalenews@gmail.com.

Donovan's Meatery

Location: 11206 Sullivan St., Riverview (Winthrop Town Centre)
More Info at: (813) 295-8445
www.donovansmeatery.com
Facebook: @donovansmeatery

Donovan's Modern American Meatery opened in October 2020. Donovan's carries a large menu that includes both carnivore-friendly entrees, as well as vegetarian friendly dishes. Starters include shareables such as a cheese boards and an increasingly popular edible candle made from beef tallow. Along with the savory, you do not want to miss the hand-crafted drinks and delectable desserts (including their delightful peanut butter pie).



Photo: Jenn Boisselle

Bin and Board

Location: 807 West Bloomingdale Ave, next to Stein and Vein at Bloomingdale Ave and Kings Ave.
More Info at: (813) 438-5252
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www.iernaAir.com



The Bin and Board offers a wide variety of wines from around the world, local craft beer, and small plates with a focus on cheeses and charcuterie. Opened by Ty and Lacey Mathis, owners of Stein and Vine, the Bin and Board opened the first weekend in December 2020.

Heights Meat Market

Insert Pictures
Location: 1019 E Bloomingdale Ave., Near Firehouse Subs
More Info at: (813) 654-6730, www.heightsmeatmarket.com

Tampa Bay's Premium Meat Market. Est. 2018. The Market proudly carries Snake River Farms Wagyu, Certified Angus Beef, Exotic Game, L&D Smoked Sausage, antibiotic free pork and chicken, seafood and so much more!





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Military Retiree Finds Fountain of Youth In Bodybuilding

By Michelle Colesanti

When Colonel (Retired) Roland Tiso, Jr. retired from his military career, he wasn't content to let his fitness decline.

"Following my mandatory retirement from the Army in 2004, I chose to continue to serve as a defense contractor. I looked for the toughest assignments that took me back to the Middle-East and ultimately back to Iraq and Afghanistan. I knew that my assignments would be both mentally and physically demanding, so I pursued a very demanding physical fitness program while I worked at US Central Command at MacDill AFB."

A member of Campo YMCA since 2005, he takes his workouts very seriously. He had always been an avid body builder, and in 2010 on a friend's suggestion, he decided to return to his passion and became a competitor in the Masters Level Bodybuilding.

Tiso said, "So I gave it a try and entered my first competition in June 2010 and placed second on the Masters 50-Year-Old Light-Heavy Division. I was hooked. I use bodybuilding more as a venue to stay healthy and fit than for anything else."



Photo: John Hawley



He has won many subsequent championships throughout Florida since then. Turning 70 on Feb. 2, and he proudly states that his doctor has told him he has the medical profile of a 25-year-old Olympic athlete. He takes no medications.

"Bodybuilding is a great hobby and I meet a lot of good people," Tiso noted.

Most recently, he won the Iron Bay Bodybuilding Classic Masters 60 Championship in Tampa in September 2020, and plans to compete in the Masters 70-year-old Division in the Florida State Championships in 2021.

Colonel Tiso entered the Army in 1969 and graduated from the Virginia Military Institute. He was commissioned an Infantry Second Lieutenant in 1973. His 35-year military career included command of two infantry companies in Korea and the United States, the 1st Battalion, 508th Airborne Infantry in Panama, and United States Task Force Sinai, Multi-National Force & Observers in Egypt. He was one of the primary planners of the Iraq War Plan and also served as the Executive Officer to the Commander of U.S. Central Command (General A.C. Zinni, USMC), 1998-2000.

A graduate of the U.S. Army War College, the Command & General Staff and the Armed Forces Staff Colleges, Tiso also held infantry assignments in Korea and throughout South America, the Middle East and Central and South Asia. He saw combat action in Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He holds the Combat Infantryman, Master Parachutist, Pathfinder and Air Assault Badges, the Ranger Tab, and numerous individual decorations for meritorious service and heroism in combat including awards from five foreign nations. He is the only American to have received the Ukrainian Order of Valor and Honor for combat action in Iraq in 2003.

Tiso and his wife Judie have lived in their Bloomingdale home in The Greens since 1998. They have two daughters; Catherine Inzirillo who resides with her husband Michael; and Alexandra Argentine, who is married to her husband Per. They also recently welcomed their first grandchild, Lena Jean Inzirillo, born in July.

Although retired, Colonel Tiso is still fit to fight! He and those who serve in our military make our world a safer place to live.

Community Celebrates Bulls Football Team

Winning may not be everything, but it sure feels great – just ask the Bloomingdale Bulls Football Team who racked up a 12-1 season claiming District and Regional Championships and finishing the season as State Semi-Finalists.

This accomplishment couldn't go unnoticed, so on Jan. 24, The Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association coordinated a parade around Natures Way and a reception at Bloomingdale East Park. After the team and coaches rounded Natures Way, the BNA board, National Honor Society volunteers, The Rajun Bull Drumline, community fans, and sponsors gathered at the park to show the team and coaches some love for a job well-done!

BNA President Suzy Watts said, "The Neighborhood Association loved celebrating the team because they are our neighborhood team! The team and coaches worked hard and worked together to achieve greatly. They gave our community something to celebrate during these stressful times."

This event could not have taken place without our fantastic sponsors and volunteers. Our sponsors were thrilled to support the team that gave us a reason to look forward to weekends in 2020. We thank you on behalf of the Association, the team and our residents!

Our sponsors included Publix Supermarket, Gasparilla Pizza, Your Pie, Times Square Pizza, Grace Lewis, CPA; The Brenda Wade Team, Rivard Buick GMC, Magruder Insurance, Appleton Reiss, PLLC; Glory Days Grill, LA Petite Academy, and Kona Ice. We also had resident and National Honor Society volunteers as well as members of the Brandon/Valrico Mustang Enthusiasts who gave the team some "muscle car" rides in convertibles! BVME members include: Reggie and Annie Ostenton, Liz and David Kuhns, Larry Anderson Jr., and Maria Storer

Continued on Next Page

Photo: Maria Storer



Brandon/Valrico Mustang Enthusiasts

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Photos: Jane Owen, unless otherwise noted



It's Only Natural to Love Circle B Bar Reserve

By Michelle Colesanti

I stand quietly (camera in hand) watching as the great blue heron strolls slowly down the path with its prize catch; a catfish tucked safely within its beak. It hangs on tightly to the fish, I imagine, preserving it for its next meal.

This is a place where nature is king. Circle B Bar Reserve is located in Lakeland, 50 minutes from Bloomingdale, but a world away.

Although any day at Circle B Bar Reserve is a good one, the Florida winters make this time of year exceptional. Circle B is a prime breeding area for many local and migrating species. Late winter is a great time to see nesting birds and maybe catch a glimpse of the babies.

This is not a zoo, and what you see depends on the season. No outing is ever the same. On my last trip to “The B” it was pretty quiet. Even a quiet day at Circle B provides you with enough inspiration for taking the perfect picture or just enjoying the natural side of Florida.

Circle B used to be a cattle ranch. Polk County and the Southwest Florida Water Management District acquired the property in December 2000. The reserve is 1,267 acres and with over six miles of trails, which are well marked and vary in length, you will actually pass through various types of ecosystems.

The Polk Nature Discovery Center is on property and is open to visitors. Be sure to bring your mask if you want to enter and visit the exhibits indoors or to use the rest rooms. It is also a good idea to carry it on the trails as some of them are narrow and you may prefer to have some extra protection even though you are outdoors.

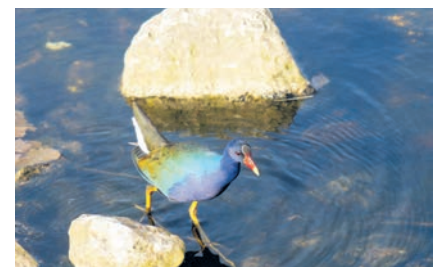
I like to start my walk on Heron Hideout then turn down Marsh Rabbit Run to the Wading Bird Way. It wraps around to Eagle Roost and then to Alligator Alley which will take you back to the Discovery Center. This particular route is around four miles. Trail maps are available at the Discovery Center or online. The trails are well marked.

If you choose to visit, please leave your pets at home. Many alligators inhabit Lake Hancock and the trails are close to many waterways. Alligators do cross the paths (they have the right of way). Please respect their space and any other animal that may cross your path. If you are lucky enough, you may also see raccoons, otters, bobcats and wild boars.

Walk slowly so that you can spot the birds, butterflies or gators and turtles hidden almost right in front of you. Watch the birds sunning, preening and feeding. Listen to their songs. Take a few deep breaths; forget your cares if only for the present and just enjoy the view.

Circle B is free to visit and is located at 4399 Winter Lake Rd. in Lakeland. It is open daily from sunrise to sunset. For more information, visit www.polknature.com/explore/circle-b-bar-reserve.

Photos: Michelle Colesanti



Enjoy a few hours visiting Circle B Bar Reserve, which is located in Lakeland. This is one of the best places to commune with nature.

February School News: A Look at What's Happening

Compiled by Jane Owen

February 12/Non-Student Day

February 15/ President's Day, Non-Student Day



ALAFIA ALLIGATOR ALLEY

School Website: alafia.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Alafia Elementary PTA

Feb 22-26: Book Fair



CIMINO COUGAR CENTRAL

School Website: cimino.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Cimino Elementary Media Center and Cimino PTA

Feb 1-14: Love to Read Campaign Sponsored by Cimino's National Elementary Honor Society to benefit partner schools

Feb 11: Math Celebration for iReady Top Achievers

Feb 19: CEO's in School Volunteer Partnership

Feb 22: Spirit Night at Tijuana Flats



BURNS BRUINS BANTER

School Website: burns.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Burns Middle School PTSA

Congratulations to these 8th grade Burns students for earning their first Industry Certification in Microsoft Word 2109/365.

Alexander Hart
Baylinn Pisowicz
Bristol Patel
Faith Herrera

Julianna Grossglass
Kenneth Jackson
Nathaniel Grossglass
Thomas Del Valle

Tyler Hacker
Tyler Way
Noah Brown
Joseph Brown

Evan Baker
Ella Martos-Calderon

School Calendar information is tentative. Please follow school websites, social media pages and the Hillsborough County Public School site for up-to-date information.



BLOOMINGDALE HIGH BULL BUSINESS

School Website: bloomingdale.mysdhc.org

Facebook Page: Bloomingdale Senior High School

Follow us @BloomingdaleSHS

Feb 8: Beef O'Brady's Spirit Night 6-8.



BULLS BRIEFS

Juniors and Seniors: Order class rings, grad announcements, cap and gown at: balfourfl.com. Questions? Email: traditions@balfourFL.com

Congratulations: Congratulations to Jake Delikat, president of the BSHS Computer club, for earning first place in the C++ individual programming challenge at the first national virtual Hackathon.

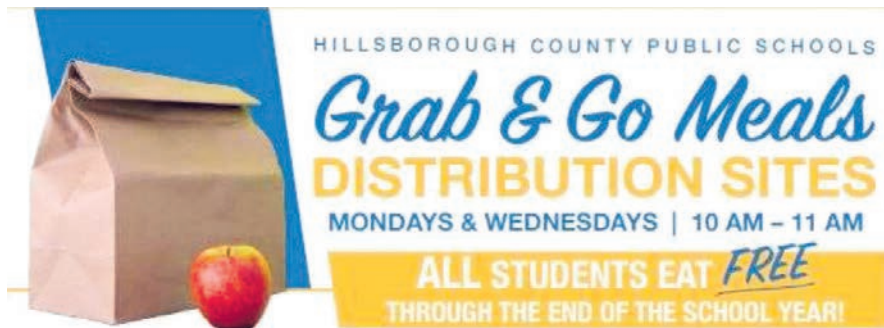
HCPS Notes

Grab-and-Go FOOD LOCATIONS

Reminder, Bloomingdale HS is a Grab-and-Go Food Location! We are serving nutritious meals at no cost to all children 18 and under thanks to USDA government funding. All brick-and-mortar students can receive free hot, nutritious meals in our school cafeterias and students who are learning virtually will be able to pick-up their free Grab-and-Go meals at one of 75 school sites. Again, this is for all children 18 and under. Our 75 Grab-and-Go sites will be open Monday and Wednesday ONLY from 10am – 11am for students and parents to pick up meals. This opportunity will last through the rest of the school year.

2020 GRADUATION RATES

Thanks to the hard work of our students along with teachers, school counselors, support professionals, school-based leaders and parents – Hillsborough Schools reached the highest graduation rate in its history! The Florida Department of Education released its 2019-2020 graduation rates and Hillsborough County Public Schools stands at 88.8%, climbing nearly 10 percentage points over five years! Thank you to everyone who had a part in helping our district reach this impressive milestone!



Bulls Football Team Toasted at Awards Banquet

Brief/Photos by Jane Owen

The Bloomingdale Bulls Football team celebrated their winning season at their annual Football Banquet on Jan. 12. Seniors were honored, Letters were handed out, and players received special recognition and awards. Congratulations to the team and the individual award winners!

2020-21 Award Winners

JV MVP: Tristan Perot

Principal's Award: Joe Skinner

Most Improved Players: Javon Hall and Elijah Calhoun

Spirit Award: Britton Pascoe

Weight Room Award: Brycnn Bennett

Big Stick Award: Jon'athon Dixon

Hutch Scholarship Award: Wa'Myron Howard

Coaches Awards: Jayden Segarra, Jac'son Boone and Jamarion Neal

Rookie of the Year: Isaiah Lowery

Offensive Trenches Award: Carson Wynperle

Defensive Trenches Award: Malik Simmons

Special Teams Player of the Year: Jayden Williams

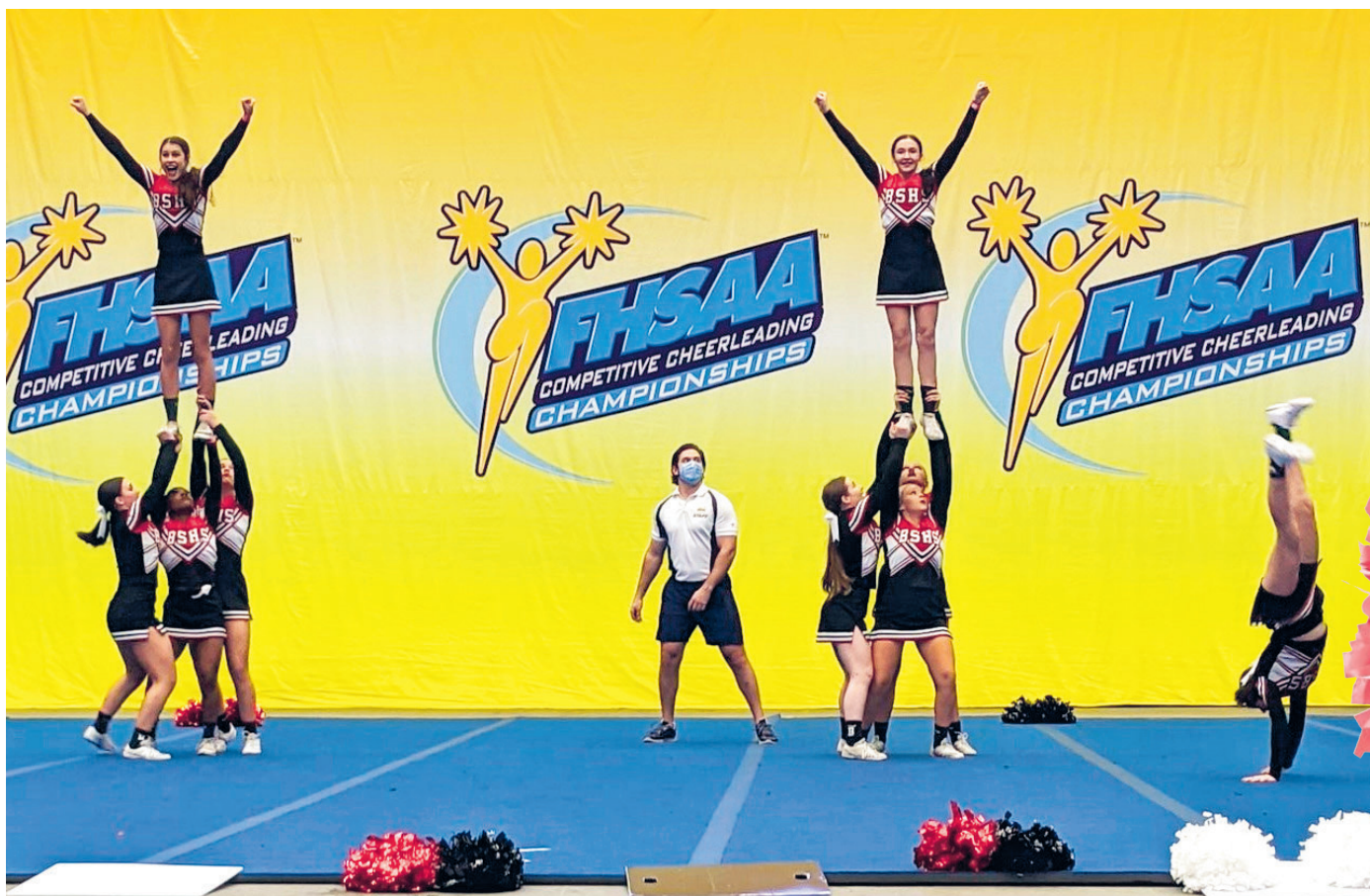
Offensive Player of the Year: Dinero McClendon

Defensive Player of the Year: Jordan Guerad

MVP: Tre Simmons



Spirit Excellence

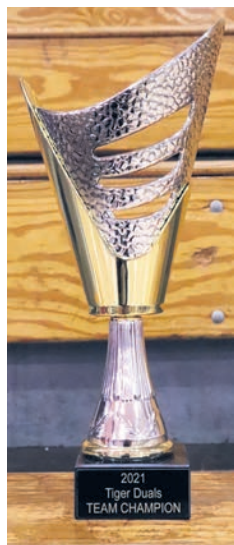


Congratulations to Bloomingdale Cheer for their performance in the State Finals held Jan.22. The Bulls performed a high energy routine just falling short in the final standings. Great job advancing from State semis to the State Large Varsity Finals. Go, Bulls!



Bulls Keep Pinning and Winning!

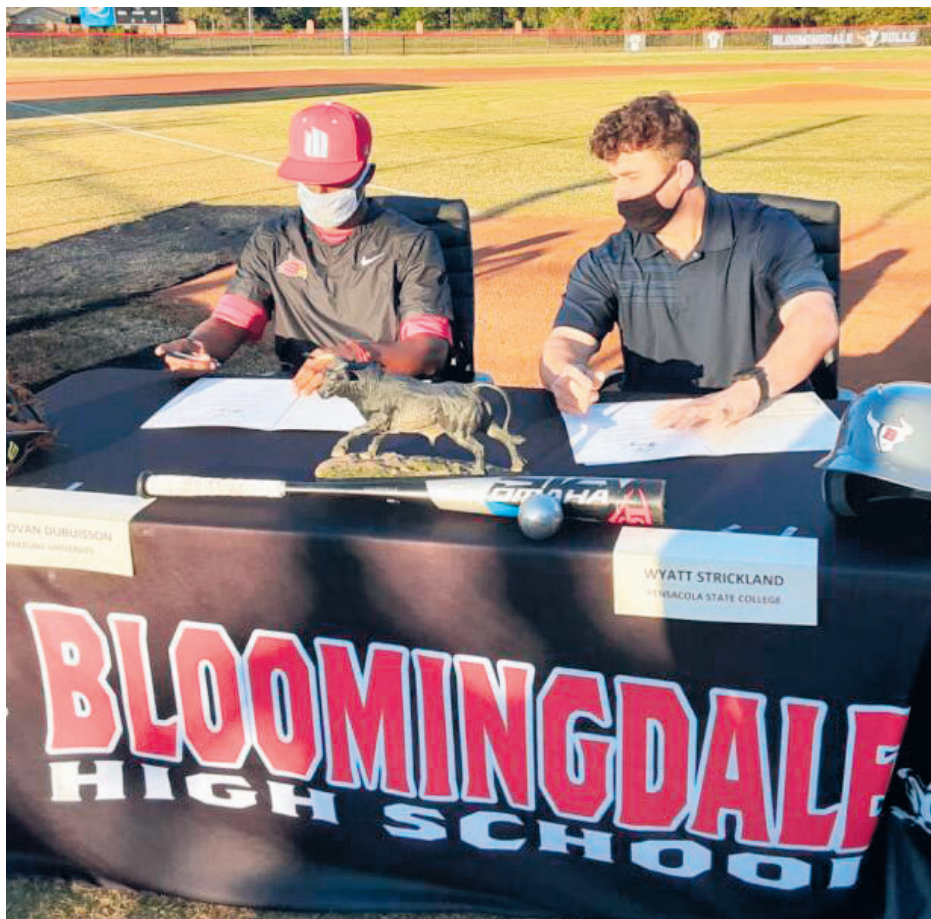
At press time, the Bloomingdale Bulls Wrestling Team is 24-1 for the season. Congrats to the team! Keep pinning them, Bulls!



On Jan.23, the team won first place at the Tiger Duals at Columbia High School in Lake City, FL.
Photo: Ray Chaviano

Let's Play Ball!

Bloomingdale baseball players Donovan Dubuissou and Wyatt Strickland signed Letters of Intent to play collegiate level baseball! Donovan is headed to Wheeling University and Wyatt will be attend Pensacola State College. Congratulations on your hard work and good luck on your next season!



Photos: Sheena Strickland



Love

The Way You Feel
When You Lose Together



Denise & Richard,
actual patients,
lost 87 lbs![†]



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[†] On average, patients compliant with the Medi-Weightloss® Program lose 6.4 pounds the first week and 14 pounds the first month. Rapid weight loss may be associated with certain medical conditions and should only be considered by those who are medically appropriate. For Florida patients only. THE PATIENT AND ANY OTHER PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYMENT HAS A RIGHT TO REFUSE TO PAY, CANCEL PAYMENT, OR BE REIMBURSED FOR PAYMENT FOR ANY OTHER SERVICE, EXAMINATION, OR TREATMENT THAT IS PERFORMED AS A RESULT OF AND WITHIN 72 HOURS OF RESPONDING TO THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE FREE, DISCOUNTED FEE, OR REDUCED FEE SERVICE, EXAMINATION OR TREATMENT. © 2019 Medi W, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

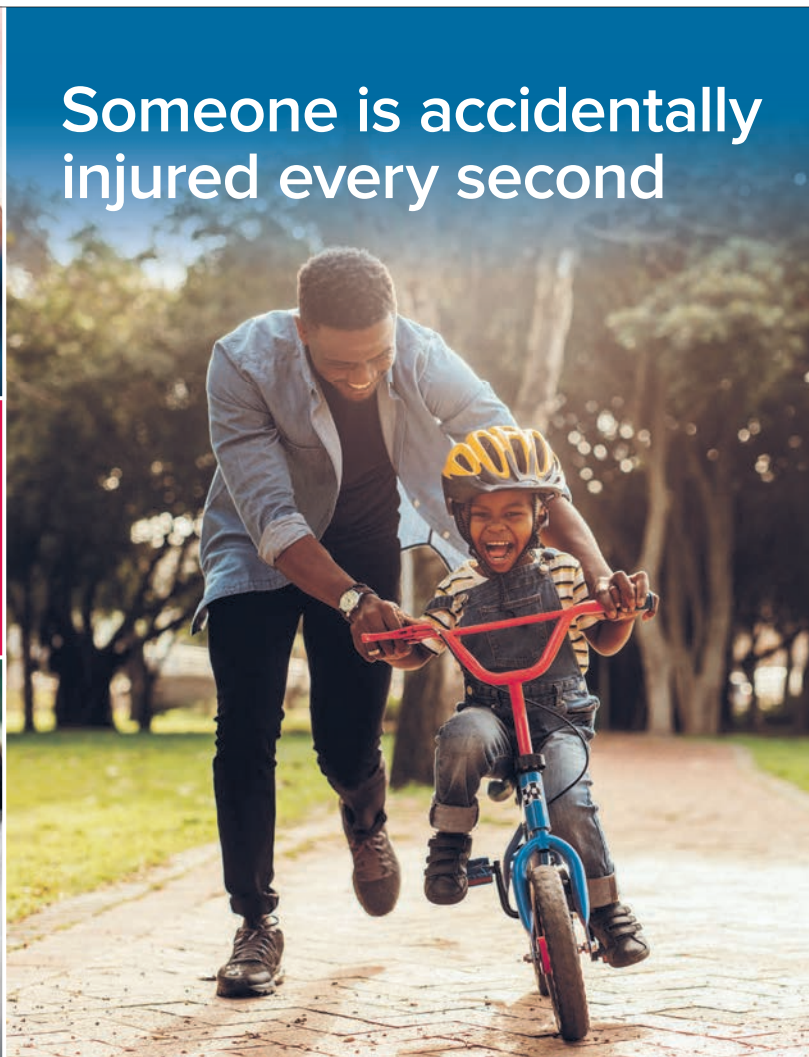
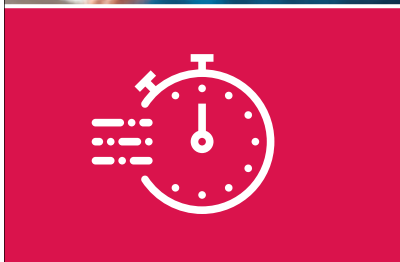
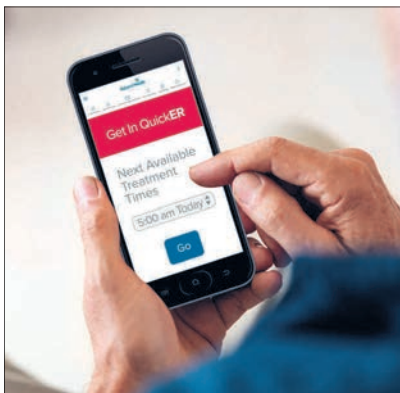
FEBRUARY 2021

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Burns Artist Recreates Dali Masterpiece

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery... Burns 8th grader Cole Murray pays homage to Salvador Dali's "Persistence of Memory" painting. He recreated this masterpiece on a ceiling tile in the Art room. Burns Art Teacher Pamela Reeves said, "I have had Cole for three years at Burns. He has always been a talented young man. Whatever career he chooses, through his art experience, he has gained the creativity, perseverance and problem solving skills that any employer would be lucky to have."

Photos:
Burns Art teacher Pamela Reeves



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Golden City Gymnast Vaults Over Competition

Submitted by Amanda Watson, Proud Mom

Bloomington High School Freshman KJ Marterson excels at gymnastics. Without a team at the high school, the 14-year-old quickly found a home at Golden City Gymnastics. Jan.22-24, KJ traveled to Orlando to take place in the first meet of the season – the 2021 Sand Dollar/Whitlow Invitational. He placed First in the following events: Floor, Vault, High-Bars, and All-Around for his division and level. He will be competing at the Presidential Classic in February at the Gaylord Palms also in Orlando. Good Luck, KJ!



Photos: Amanda Watson



Don't Miss Out on the Bloomingdale Scholarship!

Attention Bloomingdale Seniors!

Important Dates

January 1 - April 1
Applications accepted.

April 1
Application deadline (firm).

May 11
BNA Board meeting
Scholarship winner
announced.



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Requirements:

Candidate

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- Must be a graduating senior accepted at a 2 or 4-year college or university. Proof of acceptance is required.
- Weighted 3.2 GPA

Candidate's Parent/Guardian

- **Must be a resident** of the Bloomingdale community.
- Bloomingdale Neighborhood Association 2021 membership **dues must be paid prior** to the scholarship application deadline. Membership drive begins January 2021. **Deadline is April 1, 2021.**
- Proof of residency is required.

Selection Criteria

- Community service
- Extra-curricular activities
- Well-written essay
- Academic Standing
- Reference letters

Scholarship application and requirements are available online at www.BloomingtondaleHOA.com, www.Bloomingtondale.Life, at the Bloomingdale High School Guidance Office and at the Bloomingdale Community Office.



BNA Community Office: 3509 Bell Shoals Road, Valrico, FL 33596 • By Appointment, Call (813) 681-2051/252-0252 • Email: bl.neighbor1@gmail.com • BloomingtondaleHOA.com



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