

Taking initiative: students organize personal fall formal for friend

By Brennan Crain

Alyssa Britt hasn't had the ideal senior year. Instead, the year has been spent at the hospital and her home.

Britt, senior, has a chronic illness, cystic fibrosis.

CF is "a progressive, genetic disease that causes persistent lung infections and limits the ability to breathe over time," according to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

Britt, senior, battled pneumonia and has been hospitalized two times since Aug. Despite her unfortunate diagnosis, Britt endured further complications of cystic fibrosis.

Complications of CF arise from the lungs' susceptibility to certain airborne disease and irritants such as cigarette smoke.

Britt has been healthy for most of her life, except for this year.

Britt turned 18 on Oct. 12. She had a celebration with friends, and the next morning she awoke with a fever. Upon her first visit to the pediatrician, Britt



Alyssa Britt, senior, gasps as she finds her friends holding confetti poppers for a surprise party. Britt missed her senior fall formal and was surprised with a party her friends planned.

Emily Houchens Photography/ Photo Submission.

was believed to have had a virus. After the disease persisted, Britt was sent to Vanderbilt hospital where she was diagnosed with pneumonia.

Britt was kept under observation, leading to a

1 ½ week stay at the hospital.

The timing could not have been more inconvenient. Barren County's fall formal was scheduled Nov. 2. Britt was in the hospital.

"I was really

sad," Britt said. "I cried the whole day of formal."

The regret this year came from a decision Britt made last year.

"I didn't go last year because I thought as long as I make it to my senior formal, that's

all I really wanted to make it to," Britt said.

Britt prepared for the dance ahead of time. She purchased a dress and made plans with friends for the night.

"I really wanted to wear that

dress," Britt said.

With thoughts of being at formal, Britt sat in her hospital room and cried, according to Andrew Gentry, Britt's boyfriend.

"I wasn't with her that night, but she was texting me pictures

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Keeping a tradition: FFA wins second place on Christmas parade float

By Rachel Sergent

The excitement in the air is easily felt when entering the FFA barn. Students can be heard chattering excitedly and seen working together on the Christmas Parade float. The FFA club goes all out on the creation of their Christmas parade floats, and this year was no exception.

Barren County High School's FFA has made a tradition of placing a float in the Glasgow Christmas Parade for four years. FFA makes the float to show the community what they are capable of.

"We make the float to show everybody what we can do and get our name out in the public," Brianna Ridlen,

chapter president said.

The group began constructing its float three weeks ago. To complete the float, agriculture classes spent class time working on the project.

"We try to tie in class material to the creation of the float," Andy Moore, FFA sponsor, said. "The construction part ties into animal technology, for instance. Class facility upkeep and maintenance is a topic in this class, so if you can do construction on this parade float, then you can do it in a barn."

The overall theme of the Christmas Parade this year was "Twelve Days of Christmas."

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Brianna Ridlen, senior, paints a portion of the FFA float. The float went on to win second place in the Glasgow Christmas parade.

Brennan Crain/Trojan Times.

BCHS students organize first a Capella group

By Lillian Barry

In Sept. the Barren County High School choir announced an idea for a new group enthusiastic vocalists could join. The a cappella choir was an idea of the high school's new choir director, Raeann Brown. After encouragement from students passionate about singing and those inspired by pop culture, the idea got results.

Ella Jones, a first soprano, and Bradley Houchens, a second

tenor, are involved members in the new choir. Despite being busy students, they still made time for a cappella

"Everyone in choir loves music so much," Jones said. "A lot of us love Glee and Pentatonix, and all the popular a cappella stuff. That's why we created it."

Brown has also had previous experience with a cappella before she joined BCBS.

Auditions were held

in Sept. The group selected 12 girls and 12 boys for two separate groups.

They had their first practice after fall break, but rehearsals have often faced issues.

"Getting people to show was one of the main struggles," Houchens said. "It's surrounded by people who are involved with other things, such as theater and musical kids."

Despite this, Houchens and Jones agreed the experience has been very rewarding. The members get along and have bonded with each other due to their shared interests.

"A lot of times the rehearsals have been really laid back," Jones said. "We can have fun and laugh while we're learning."

The a cappella choir has been practicing pieces for the holiday season and plan to per-

form them soon.

Their original plan was to perform at the Glasgow/ Barren County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade, but amidst rescheduling they performed at a local nursing home's dinner.

They will likely perform at the full-choir Christmas concert. More confirmed dates for the a cappella choir to perform will come soon.

SBDM meets, BCHS addresses CSIP, freshman rotations to change

By Brennan Crain

Barren County High School SBDM council met Thursday. The meeting was rescheduled from Nov. 12.

Trina Rickard, assistant principal, spoke at the meeting regarding the school's CSIP, Consolidated School Improvement Plan.

The CSIP has been changing a lot lately, according to Brad Johnson, principal.

The school sets its CSIP, although the state can amend learning targets, forcing the school to adjust its CSIP.

"They're [Kentucky Department of Education] sending emails daily," Johnson said.

With new requirements of education stipulations, the Kentucky Department of Education updates schools with information used to amend their CSIPs.

The CSIP is formed to close gaps among different performing groups in a school. Per the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, and a mandate to begin this year, schools become targeted for support and intervention if a portion of students perform below the state accountability scores.

BCBS has been placed in TSI, Targeted Support Intervention.

"Around 30 students have caused us to go into TSI," Rickard said.

The group is defined by lower test scores and performance levels than the general population.

"We've addressed this and addressed this," Johnson said. "We're doing all we can to raise these numbers."

Johnson said the school is trying to change some environments, such as test proctor and student dynamics.

The consequence beyond TSI is CSI, Comprehensive Support Intervention. School's recede into CSI when consecutive school years demonstrate at least one group in the school who continues to perform below state accountability measures.

The state has set stipulations describing consequences when schools perform consistently low. The school has set goals to improve some areas. Student who attain proficiency in math currently sets at 45.6 percent but is planned to increase to 52 percent.

"We try to make it reasonable," Johnson said. "Each year, you

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