



# The Panther Press

January 26th, 2023 - Issue 1

## Varsity Boys Basketball Finishes 2nd in Christmas Tournament

By LCHS Journalism Staff

The Lake City High School Varsity Boys Basketball Team finished as the runner up at the District 9 Officials Basketball Christmas Tournament that took place December 27th-30th at Manning High School. The team won its first three matches handily, defeating Laurence Manning Academy, Frederick Douglass HS, and Timberland HS by a combined score of 179-81.

Those 3 victories led the Panthers to a showdown at Morris College in the championship match with Crestwood High School. The Panthers went toe to toe with their opponent in a fast-paced game that tested the depth of both teams. At halftime, the Panthers trailed 26-27.

The second half continued to be a dog fight as neither team could break away from the other. In the final minutes, Crestwood knocked down some crucial free throws that ultimately made the difference as the Panthers fell 62-61.

Sophomore Antwain Jones said, "Crestwood has been dominating this tournament for years, but we came in and gave them a great game. We had some bad breaks and came up a little short, but this experience has made us hungry for a chance to play them again once region play starts."

The Panthers' season continues as they take on several region opponents next month to determine their place in the region.



Pictured: Coach Stan Adams and the Varsity Boys Basketball Team receive the runner-up trophy at the District 9 Officials Championship Game held at Morris College.

### Schoolwide: Dates to Remember

February 2nd - Parent-Teacher Conferences  
February 3rd - Half day for students  
February 11th & 18th - Saturday School, 8-12  
February 20th-24th - Intercession Week

### Athletics: Dates to Remember

February 3rd - Sweetheart Game vs Darlington  
February 9th - JV Softball Home Scrimmage  
February 11th - Varsity Soccer Alumni Game  
February 18th - Varsity Softball Alumni Game



## **Staff Spotlight: Ms. Ashley Dress, LCHS Assistant Principal**

By Emiyah Thomas

### **Compared to the previous roles you have served in (i.e. coach, teacher, etc.) what do you think is different about your current position?**

I have been a teacher for 15 years, but my position now is much more broad as I get to interact with all the student body. There is definitely more responsibility, and I get to make a broader impact for the whole school, such as planning events, activities, etc.

### **How do you juggle your school life and personal life?**

I can't stress myself out too much, so I give myself grace and put top priorities first. I am big on having a detailed planner - that definitely helps keep me organized.

### **What are your responsibilities as an administrator?**

I have a number of listed duties but some that stick out are that I serve as the 10th grade administrator and title 9 coordinator. I am also in charge of creating incentives and ensuring students, staff, and teachers are supported.

### **As sponsor of the Key Club, what are your goals for this organization?**

I want to see kids step up in leadership roles and impact other students in any way. The students are positive, solid, forward thinking, and constantly thinking of ways to help others. The club is a community-centered organization, so it is a

lot of fun to know that the members are making an immediate impact in our community.

### **What's your favorite part about being an administrator?**

I enjoy having the chance to interact with all grades levels, and the opportunity to help solve problems to better the school. I am also able to serve as a role model for some students, so I try my best to be fair and make a positive impact.

### **What do you like or see in students at LCHS?**

Endless potential. Kids do not always realize their potential and the opportunities they have. The resilience here is amazing. I get excited to see motivated students who step up to be leaders.

Teachers and staff are willing to go far for these kids, but it's ultimately the kid's mindset that can determine just how successful he/she could become.

### **How do you handle situations where students are disrespectful, and it's rock bottom for you?**

Going back and forth does not solve anything. Teenagers often do not know how to communicate effectively and are still growing - that's why I do not take anything personally when they say things in anger. Their disrespect could be coming from a different place; they just might be struggling to express themselves and communicate.





### **What have you learned this first year in your new role as an assistant principal?**

I have honed a lot of skills I used in the classroom, such as maintaining a calm demeanor and problem-solving. I learned the value of having to make quick decisions and to adjust to situations. So much of

serving as an administrator is learned hands on as you go, and a degree in administration can only go so far. My team has definitely helped me grow, so having that support helps. I am fortunate to have co-workers that are invested in seeing me be successful professionally.

## **Jackson's Nomination Marks Historical Moment in History**

By Tierra Burgess

On February 25, 2022, President Joe Biden nominated Ketanji Brown Jackson as the first African American woman to be enlisted as a justice in the United States Supreme Court system.

Ketanji Jackson was born on September 14, 1970 in Washington D.C, but she grew up in Miami. Both of Jackson's parents were public school teachers, and her father was a student in law school. Watching her father complete his assignments is where Jackson's passion for law began.

Jackson attended Miami Palmetto High School in 1988 and graduated from Harvard University of Law in 1996. She then worked several jobs revolving around the legal system, which then led to her wanting to be a judge.

Jackson now takes the seat of Justice Stephen Breyer, who has retired. Jackson's nomination is a phenomenal accomplishment for the African

American female community. Her nomination reminds African American women that they can achieve anything, even when society doubts them.



LCHS Alumna Victoria Mcfadden (02) added, "Her nomination opens minds and proves that history is in the making." This quote from Ms. Mcfadden highlights Jackson's significance and shines light upon our everyday lives.

LCHS Student Imyria Jones (24) added, "I believe the nomination of Mrs. Jackson is a development to all communities and it's significant because more women of color will be acknowledged."

It's not everyday that African American females get the chance to become a monumental source of inspiration, but now they will stand and take their chance.



## The Birth of Presidents Day

By Christopher Scott

Presidents Day is a day of remembrance, but also a day of celebration. Originally, this day was a day of remembrance for the 1st United States president, George Washington. This holiday was later adapted to honor the birth of the 16th U.S. president, Abraham Lincoln.

In the early 1800s, President Washington was celebrated as the most important figure in American history. Several events such as the centennial of his birth in 1832 and the start of construction on the Washington Monument in 1848 were cause for national celebration.

In the year 1862, there was a statement issued by President Abraham Lincoln declaring the 22nd of February as a day of celebration honoring President Washington. This day became widely known as Washington Day. However, it was not until 1879 that the date officially was signed into law as a federal holiday.

Although originally designed as a way to celebrate George Washington, an executive order issued by President Nixon in 1971 shifted the date from Washington's birthday



to the third Monday in February. This new date landed right in the middle of Washington and Lincoln's birthdays. Thus, the former Washington Day became what Americans today call Presidents Day.

Presidents Day now lands on the third Monday of February. Many different communities have started to celebrate and make their own traditions such as: barbecues, musical celebrations, and writing letters to the White House. However sometimes, Presidents Day gets lost amongst all the other holidays.

LCHS History teacher, Mr. Thomas Bucks, added, "Even as a country we tend to brush over it as just another holiday. To be completely honest, a lot of holidays that are celebrating certain things, we brush over in favor of the bigger holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, Easter, and July 4th). Learning our nation's history, both the good and the bad, is an important part of being an American citizen."

Everyone celebrates President's Day differently, but ultimately this holiday is an opportunity for all Americans to come together as one and celebrate the freedom these men fought for.





## Let's Remember the “Y” in Black History Month

By Kira McGill

Many teenagers in this generation do not understand the importance of Black History month and have just started celebrating the event because they see their peers doing it. It is important that this generation and the generations behind us always remember the reason(s) WHY we celebrate Black History Month.

LCHS senior Brandon Gerald cited the importance of heritage when examining the role that Black History month plays in students' lives.

“[Black History Month] is a celebration of my culture, my people; it recognizes the important people of my culture because black is beautiful,” Gerald explained.

Black History Month traces its origins all the way back to 1915. A group of African American leaders started an organization called the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915, which led to a week-long appreciation and celebration of Black History in 1926. However, the black community quickly realized the importance of its contributions to the world and decided that a week was not long enough to give recognition to each African American who played an important role in our history.

In 1976 the association decided that the accomplishments of African Americans should have a full month rather than just a

week. Black History Month had become so well known that presidents after presidents would send out messages to support/recognize African American citizens and their contributions to the world.

On January 21st, 1986 the United States Congress passed a law that was approved on February 11th, 1986. This law declared that Black History Month would be celebrated the entire month of February.



FSD3 District Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Contessa Bradley, emphasized how important it is that Black History Month remain celebrated and relevant as new generations grow up in America. “It’s through those people that gave their life so that we can sit in this classroom” Mrs. Bradley explained. “We

made sacrifices so that you all would never have to do that again, but these privileges are taken for granted.”

Black History Month is a month that highlights not only the most famous African Americans, but also the ones who don’t receive the kind of recognition they deserve. These names include, and not limited to: Bayard Rustin, Marsh P. Johnson, Jane Bolin, Max Robinson, Bessie Coleman, Paul Robeson, Jane Bolin, Wangari Maathai, Claudette Colvin, Daisy Bates, and so many more! It is important that each and every one of these African American heroes are



remembered for their significant additions to American history.

It is crucial to remember the importance of the people who came before you - don't just celebrate the month because you feel obligated to do so. African Americans have fought long and hard so that their contributions to the world can be remembered and so they can receive the recognition that they deserve.

LCHS senior E'layshia Morris acknowledged the need for the black community to celebrate its history and the strides made in recent years.

"You should always know your history," she said. Let's ensure that our generation lives up to its history and recognizes the sacrifices of those before us.

## **Yamekia Robinson Elected Lake City's First Female African-American Mayor**

By Tierra Burgess

On January 9, 2023 Yamekia Robinson was elected as the first African American female mayor of Lake City at the Continuum in Lake City, South Carolina.

Robinson will be taking the place of Lovith Anderson Jr., who has served as the mayor of Lake City for the past 16 years. Robinson won the election with 1041 votes against her competitor, Michael Nero, who secured 478 votes.

Robinson was an honor graduate at Lake City High School and went on to graduate from the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina,

where she obtained a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Biology.



Robinson initially thought of becoming a dermatologist, but later pursued a career as a pharmacy technician. She's now the office manager at Biospine Health and Wellness LLC.

Robinson is a mother of five children and though she's working throughout the community she still enjoys spending quality time with her family. She's also passionate about reading, writing, and improving the community.



39 student-athletes were named to the 2nd Quarter All-Academic Team for maintaining Honor Roll grades while participating in a winter sport. The students attended a luncheon at Holt Oil Co. where they were served ribs, chicken, BBQ, and various sides.



## Body Selfdom: Maurice Tillet, The Man Who Looks Like Shrek

By Emiyah Thomas

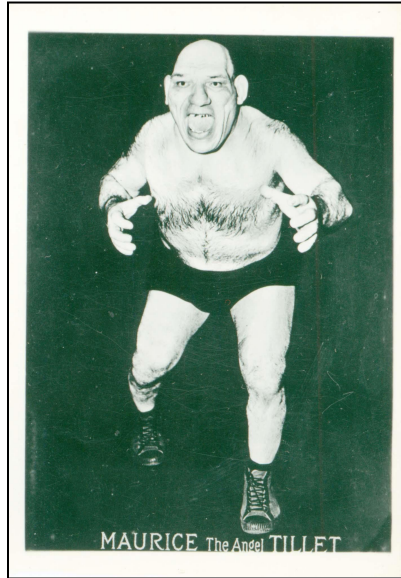
Was there ever a point in time when you took a look at yourself, or a flaw that made you feel discouraged? Or someone says something disheartened about you? Maybe you've even struggled with something that no one knows about. If so, look no further than Maurice Tillet.

There is speculation that the film *Shrek* was inspired by Maurice Tillet, but there is no concrete evidence. At the age of 17, he was diagnosed with acromegaly, a rare condition, which causes the body tissues and bones to grow more quickly, due to growth hormone producing too much. He noticed swelling in the hands, feet, and head.

His initial ambition was to become a lawyer, but that changed after he joined the navy and later turned 20. From his cherubic face to the media's perception of him as a monster, his appearance drew attention everywhere he went. However, he eventually captured the attention of the professional wrestling community.

Tillet was dubbed *The French Angel* by promoter George Bowser after he saw potential in the young fighter. Tillet was a professional wrestler. Maurice Tillet

captured the AWA World Heavyweight Championship, May 1940, and held it for over two years.



According to IMDb, Tillet's persona was "fierce, and although he was sold as a heel, he was kind, gentle, educated, and well-mannered." Maurice Tillet was advertised as unstoppable until his health began failing by the time he won his second title. Additionally, several "Angel" impersonators had emerged, diluting his brand.

He discovered his true calling when he was introduced to the society of wrestling, which made him stand out from the crowd. He believed he would never be successful because of his deep voice and physical appearance. He overcame these odds and embraced who he was in spite of the critics.

Sophomore Zirriah Brown remarked, "Hearing negative comments about your body can change your perception of yourself, which can be harmful to your mental and physical health. You quickly become self-aware and choose to change your way of life, resulting in the loss of sight of their natural beauty and the avoidance of eating."

Tillet accomplished a great deal in his lifetime. He did not give up in the midst of his condition, allowing others or overthinking to hinder him. We should all follow his example.



## LCHS Hosts Blood Drive to Combat National Blood Shortage

By Cody Butler

In January of 2022 there was a major blood shortage throughout the United States. This January the American Red Cross teamed up with the health science class at Lake City High School to get students and teachers to donate blood to try and help meet the national need for blood.

LCHS Health science teacher, Ms. Brooke Price, spearheaded this initiative. Mrs. Price explained, “Our course talks heavily about all the benefits of giving for that small second of discomfort. One unit of blood can save up to three lives.”

Price initially stated that her goal for the blood drive was to obtain 18 units of blood from 25-30 donors. The drive concluded with a total of 19 units of blood being collected.

Research suggests that one of the biggest obstacles to obtaining blood from teenagers

is because they are scared of feeling bad or passing out in front of other people.

“I think young people are most scared of needles. It’s really a very small percentage of teens who donate blood,” Price added.

To reduce the chance of you feeling unwell at your next donation, experts recommend that donors drink plenty of fluids and eat normally, but avoid any beverages that might dehydrate you

(tea, soda, etc.). The Red Cross also recommends that donors drink a full 500ml of water before they give blood.

The opportunity to help work the blood drive also gave Mrs. Price’s health science students hands-on learning experience. “I really enjoyed participating in the blood drive because it gave me an opportunity to help people in need,” senior Camryn Nero said.





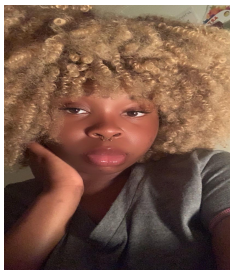


## Newspaper Staff



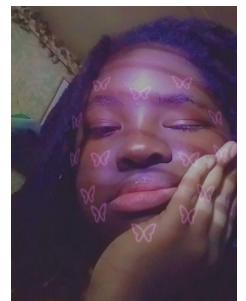
Kira McGill is a senior at Lake City High School. While being a full-time student and a part-time employee, she also sells jewelry. She is very interested in the way the mind works and hopes to become a mental health counselor. She lives by the quote, *“I love it when people doubt me. It makes me work harder to prove them wrong.”*

Emiyah Thomas is a sophomore at Lake City Early College High School. She is very ambitious, understands and connects well with others! She is undecided about her career choice, but she has a few options she’s thinking about pursuing, such as computer science, dance choreography, architecture, or writing. She enjoys dancing, playing games, writing stories, going to the gym, watching tv shows, and creating YouTube videos in her spare time.



Tierra Burgess is a sophomore at Lake City Early College High School. Tierra is extremely passionate about going to college and pursuing a career in forensic science. In her spare time she enjoys reading.

Madisen Graham is a student at Lake City Early College High School. When she is older she hopes to pursue a career in art. Currently she is looking into becoming a graphic designer. Her hobbies include painting, drawing, reading, and listening to music.





## Newspaper Staff (continued)



Cody Butler is a journalism student at LCECHS. He loves to write and is thinking about writing his own graphic novel or book someday. In his spare time, he enjoys playing video games and watching anime.

Christopher Scott is a junior at Lake City Early College High School. He is extremely passionate about cars and hopes to pursue a career in the automotive industry. One day he hopes to either own his own business or work for another company and become a manager. In his spare time he enjoys traveling and seeing new places.





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