

# The BOBCAT BULLETIN

SPORTS | SPOTLIGHT | ADVICE | FOOD

October Issue



## HOMEcomings: HURRICANE EDITION

On October 12th, the Buchholz Mall transformed into the homecoming dance floor— although it didn't come without challenge.

Our homecoming week was interrupted by Hurricane Milton. Two spirit days— Western and Bobcat Pride — were canceled, a sad loss for many. Monday's Pajama Day and Tuesday's Twin Day, stayed, while Dress as Your Hallway Day got moved to Friday. These days brought some great outfits, and featured an epic battle between Spider-Man and Thor in the mall to close the week.

Homecoming Night was a night to remember. The balloon arch led students into the dance, themed after the musical-turned-movie Mamma Mia. The cafeteria featured a great selection of snacks to choose from— Chick-Fil-A seemed to be a favorite among all attendees.

The dancing concentrated around the DJ, right outside of the cafeteria. General consensus seemed to be that the song choices— many of which had been submitted by students— were not the best, however there was definitely some music that brought everyone to their feet. If you were wondering if they played Fein, they did.

All in all, Homecoming was a great night to spend with friends, but there could have been some improvements. Along with a more refined playlist, a safe place for people to put their bags down would have been appreciated. Many had to either hold their bags the whole night, or find a teacher willing to hold it for them.

Thank you to everyone who put it together and made Homecoming possible! Next year, let's make it better than ever before.

# Sports

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## The Homecoming Game: Bulls vs. Bobcats

It's one of the most anticipated games of the year! Buchholz vs. Toco Creek, The Homecoming game for Buchholz High School.

During the first quarter of the game, Buchholz took a lead— the score was 7-0 within the first ten minutes. Right before the beginning quarter ended, Toco Creek pulled off an impressive comeback to make the game 7-7.

As soon as the second quarter started, Buchholz High scored two touchdowns and an interception, a truly incredible feat, making the game 21-7. Then, they secured one more touchdown in the second quarter. Toco Creek managed one last touchdown before the quarter ended. The score was 35-14 when half-time started.

The theme of the game was Men in Black. Most people showed up wearing ties, though some had formal designs printed on their shirts. During halftime, the band did a special performance to announce the HOCO winners. The band marched in the shape of a heart, the Homecoming Court in the middle, the King and Queen the epicenter of it all.

Congratulations to Freshman Sweethearts, Jaliyah Rollins and Kade Griggs, to Sophomore Sweethearts, Na'Toniyah Mason and Kingston Stone, and to Junior Sweethearts, Elizabeth Birkner and Maxim Nikitin. Our Senior court consists of Mr. and Ms. Black and Gold, Harrison Zunkel and Lauren Gandy, Mr. and Ms. Bobcat, Kyle Cono and Tamiya James, and the 2024 Homecoming King and Queen themselves, Austin Hudnall and Camila Aguilar!

Afterwards, in the third and the fourth quarter, the score ended up being 63-22. It was a high for Buchholz. Wide receiver Justin Williams scored seven total touchdowns for the school, breaking a long standing school record.

## BUCHHOLZ V MANATEES

This football game started on September 13th, 2024, between Buchholz High School and Manatee High School. During the first quarter of the game, the Manatees took a lead to make it 0-7.

Early in the second quarter, the Bobcats came back with an early interception that unfortunately did not lead to a touchdown. However the Bobcats were still able to get a touchdown and a field goal later in the second quarter. We ended the half with 22 rushing yards, 154 passing yards, and 176 total yards. Ultimately, we took a lead as soon as half time ended, leaving the quarter 10-7.

Going into the third quarter, the Bobcats had an early field goal to make the score 13-7. Not long after, the Bobcats got another touchdown, keeping the lead as 20-7. However, the Manatees quickly caught up— they got a touchdown and brought the score to 20-13, followed rapidly by another, tying the game at 20-20.

As soon as the fourth quarter started, the Manatee's gained a lead, making the score 20-27. One touchdown later, and it's 20-34. The Bobcats then managed one final touchdown to make it 27-34, a last ditch effort to win the game before time ran out.

But it wasn't enough! As the game concluded, the ending score was 27-34, securing a win for the Manatees. We'll get them next time, Bobcats!

# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

## MRS. MICHELE BROTHERS



**Michele Brothers**

## Michele Brothers: Not All Business

The Academy of Finance is some of Buchholz's finest. Michele Brothers, third Director of the program, spearheads its path to success with an iron fist and an unmatched passion.

She teaches a plethora of subjects, ranging from AP Macro-Micro to Economic and Financial Services, which arm her students with the financial literacy needed to take on the world. Even just one year in the program is beneficial; freshmen become certified tax preparers, learning how to ready tax forms and complete tax returns for themselves, critical skills that you'll need later in life.

Brothers may be strict in the classroom, but she isn't all business— her favorite part of the Finance Program, hands down, must be the trips. Each year, she and her senior students travel to New York City for nearly a week of Broadway shows, Wall Street exploration, and a visitation to The Empire State Building, commemorating four long years of hard work. Earlier grade levels can look forward to amusement parks, indoor race car tracks, laser tag, and other fun-filled activities to complement an educational outing.

Though this is her eighteenth year directing the program, once upon a time, Brothers was a math teacher from northern New York. Nowadays, having moved to Florida in 1988, mathematics is a continued interest of hers — this year, she'll be heading Buchholz's very own math team. She looks forward to another string of competitions dominated by our school, and is "living the dream" despite her packed schedule.

By the weekend, Michele Brothers takes on a different role. A dedicated mother, she tends to her son Jake, who turned twelve years old this month. She's a self-proclaimed shopaholic in search of "that one good pair of shoes", just like Cinderella. Her quest continues even to this day.



# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

## MR. JOHN PETTIT

# From the Economy to the Environment: Mr. Pettit

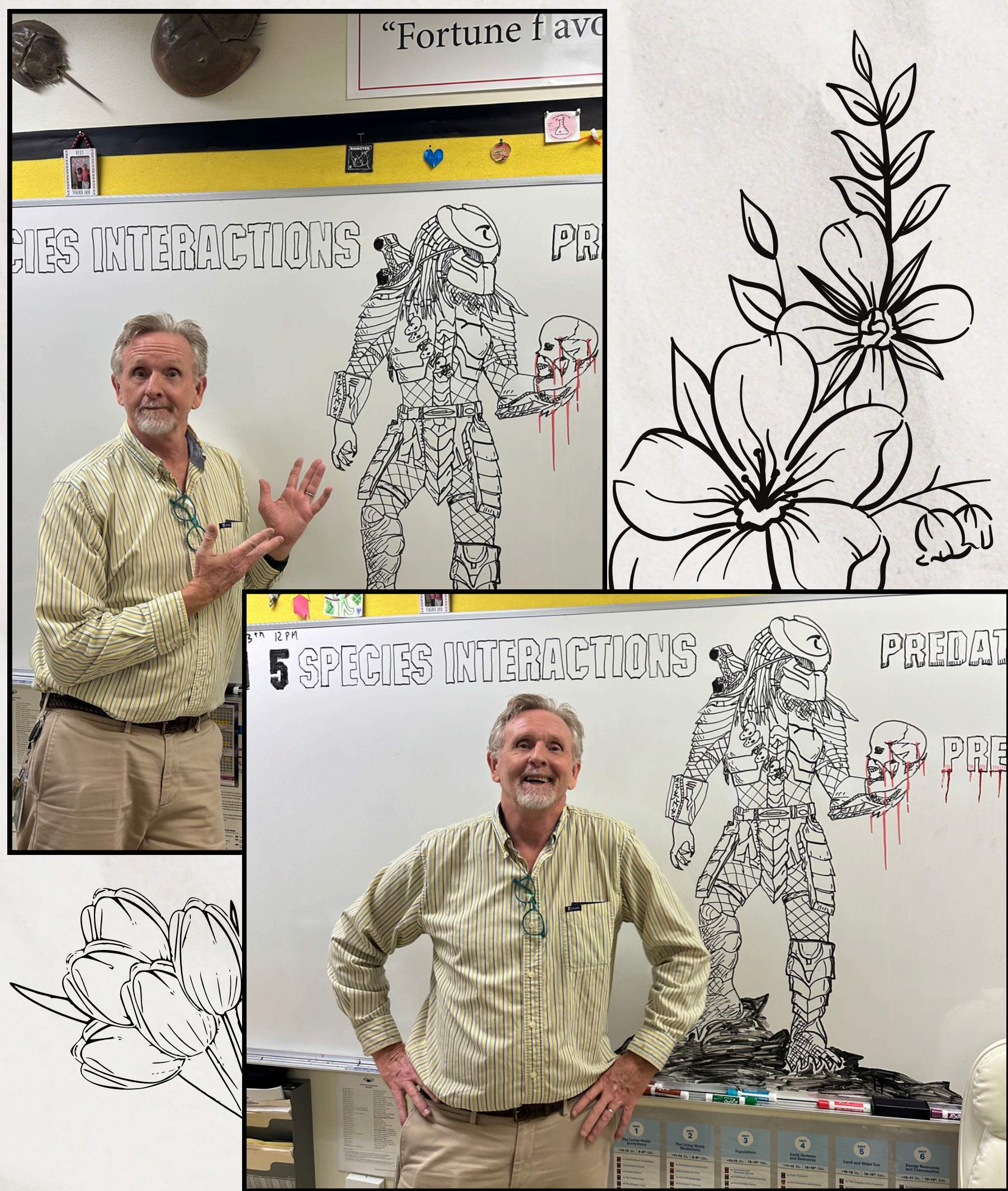
John D. Pettit, Buchholz's AP Environmental Science teacher, has been teaching for fifteen years. He's taught the gamut in grades 6-12, from science to history to mathematics. When asked about his favorite class to teach, he responded that it was AP Environmental Science. He'd been gearing up to it throughout his career, and explained, "I wanted the opportunity to work with the absolute best and brightest. And ninth graders taking an AP Science class is about as cutting edge as you're gonna get."

His Bachelor's is a double major in science and history. He has a degree from Seminary, so he has a Master's of Divinity with Languages, which he says prepared him for his overseas work. He comments on his degrees, "[I have] toes in both the scientific and kind of liberal arts side of things." His varied and well-rounded education definitely makes him one of the most qualified teachers in the school.

Pettit also has an extensive background working in third world countries, mainly in Southern and Southeast Asia, advising economic development. Operating in Pakistan, Nepal, Thailand, India, and Bangladesh, he helped to, in his own words, "get villages from really a subsistence level to an economic level where they could, you know, fend for themselves."

He claims this experience, along with his time teaching, has given him a different worldview and allowed him to see from many different perspectives. "Teaching gives you a big swath of humanity," he says. Seeing how kids and teens see and interact with the world is refreshing when compared to the outlooks of many adults. Pettit explains, "... young people.. are still excited about life, and [they] see the future and what's going on," while adults can get "beat down and in a rut, [thinking that] we're not really gonna make a difference."

To close the interview, I asked him about what advice he'd give to freshmen, as he mainly teaches them. He said that freshmen and highschoolers in general need to get involved with school, whether it's sports, spirit week, or clubs. "High school is like life: it's what you're gonna make of it. But get involved, have some fun, make some new friends, and, you know, keep the grades up, but it's not necessarily the most important thing that you have all A's."



**John Pettit**

# GUS MEUCCI: LIVING LIFE WITH GUSTO

You might recognize him from the morning news, donning his iconic money suit as the mascot of The Academy of Finance, or perhaps you've seen him on stage in the auditorium, portraying The Amazing Karnak in our school's latest musical production, Ride The Cyclone. His name is Gustavo "Gus" Meucci— this is his third year at Buchholz, and he's a friendly face to anyone who's spotted him towering over our crowded halls, decked out in alternative fashion and merch from his favorite local bands.

"Money Gus was born by rock, paper, scissors," Gus says. There is no legacy behind it; no title passed down over the years, no extraordinary name to live up to. Rather, Money Gus came from imagination and a costume he played to win. Since then, he's become a staple of The Finance Program. On top of starring in them, he directs and edits many of the academy's videos himself.

He spent all of Ride The Cyclone confined to a box, the animatronic narrator of the tragic tale of the St. Cassian High School chamber choir. Behind the curtain, however, Gus' aspirations go beyond theater. While taking advantage of his financial knowledge gained from The Finance Program and running his own business, he aims to attend

acting school and take Hollywood by storm in a more serious role— a character undeniably real on the big screen. Some years from now, you just might see him walking the red carpet.

In the meantime, Gus frequents the style and music scenes. His love for glamor stems from observation and experimentation, and some of his best finds are from thrift stores and metal concerts around Gainesville. Every weekend is different, although he often goes night swimming with friends and stretches his artistic muscles by drawing.

Above all else, Gus encourages the students of Buchholz to be themselves. Admiration might be good in moderation, but you should strive to be authentic— it's from there that your people will find you. If you're having trouble in high school, "just wait, 'cause there's college, and then there's your whole life after that."

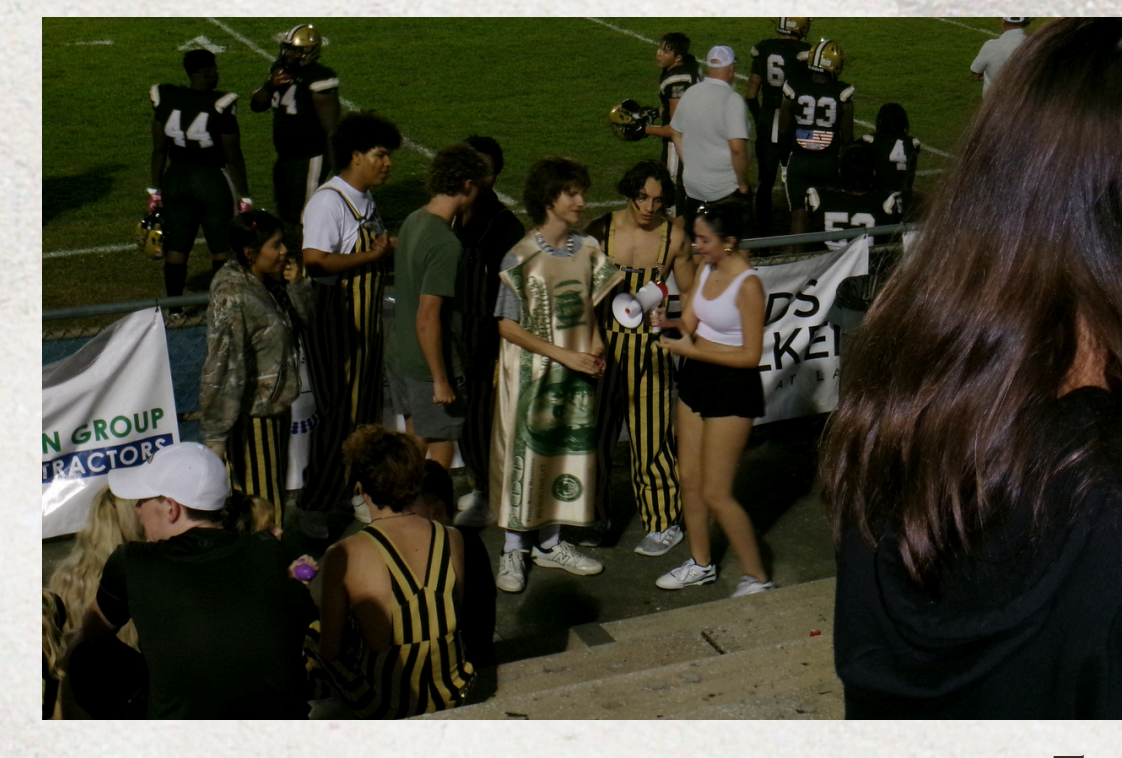


# Advice

**WRITTEN BY PAIGE DAVIS  
EDITED BY CY STROSNIDER**

Have you ever felt like you were just going through the motions of everyday life? Like every day is the same, to the point where you don't know what day it is? Having a motivation, a goal, and a plan are the key to getting out of this slump.

First, you need to find your motivation. It's what do you want to accomplish— why, exactly, do you do what you do? What drives you? To create a goal, you need to have something you want to achieve, such as getting all A's in a quarter, or completing all of your missing assignments. Then, you should create an affirmation statement, such as *I want to have all A's* or *I want to complete all of my missing assignments*. This will help solidify the weight of the task ahead of you. Then, you need to create a plan. Plans are like a schedule— they're when you are going to complete the task, what time, how many times a week, how long it's going to take you to complete the goal, etcetera. Once you have a motivation, a goal, and a plan, you can implement these into your routine. If you want to accomplish this faster, it might be helpful to write it down repeatedly to increase your chances of success, as this helps it stick in your brain.



# The Bobcat Kitchen

by Izzy Velazquez

As fall comes near, an array of flavors and scents fill the air. It's one of the best seasons for baking— there's many classics, and it can be hard to pick between decadent pumpkin, tart apple, and sweet pecan. There's no shortage of pies for this season, all ready to be savored. Pumpkin spice is undoubtedly a favorite of many, from lattes to hummus; it's everywhere. The cozy feeling of the autumn season is unmatched, with the scent of cinnamon whirling through kitchens all around the country. It's hard to find a warmer feeling. Hot chocolate soaking into marshmallows brings a feeling of nostalgia and warmth without fail. Baking cookies with loved ones always brings joy to a season.

Every family has treasured traditions, adding to the unique touches that make each holiday dish so special. Whether it's a dash of cinnamon or a little extra sugar, there's the secrets that make the season that much more personal. That's why, this month, I'm sharing my family recipe for pumpkin bars. Feel free to add your own twist after all, that's what makes food so special.

All photos credited to Tacos 352 website  
 Edited by Simon Denahan & Cy Strosnider

## Izzy's Pumpkin Bars

The taste of fall is that of pumpkins, and these bars are just that. The smell when they're baking drifts through the air, the cinnamon mixing with sweet pumpkin— it's irresistible. With each bite comes a fluffy and moist texture that will draw you back for another piece. While Starbucks sells pumpkin bread, nothing compares to biting into a still-warm, freshly baked piece of cinnamon goodness. This is a classic comfort food that adds to the magic of autumn.

- 4 eggs
- 1 2/3 cup sugar
- 1 cup canola oil
- (1) 15oz can solid pack pumpkin
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tsp baking soda

Step 1: Mix eggs, sugar, oil, and pumpkin together until creamy with a whisk.

Step 2: In a separate bowl, mix together flour and other dry ingredients.

Step 3: Slowly add dry ingredients to the wet mixture and blend well with a whisk.

Step 4: Pour into a 10x15 baking tray. Do not grease or flour the pan.

Step 5: Bake in a 350° oven for 20 to 25 minutes until a toothpick comes out clean from the center.

Cream cheese frosting(optional)-

- 4 oz cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar (adjust to taste)

Step 1: Beat all ingredients with an electric mixer until fluffy

Step 2: Use a spatula to evenly spread over top of the bars

Hope you enjoy! I've made this recipe with my mom every year since I've been able to pick up a whisk. Try incorporating it into your family's traditions this year!

## GOOD EATS: TACOS 352

Bold flavors and fresh ingredients are Tacos 352's specialty. This authentic restaurant on 39th is a must try in Gainesville.

### TACOS | BURRITOS | STREETCORN

Tacos 352's Birria tacos are a best seller and a personal favorite, although all of their tacos are great choices. They pair well with their house made sauce, which definitely packs a punch. Every meal they prepare is a hit whether you're dining in or taking out. They have a wide selection of the best of Mexican cuisine. Serving tacos, burritos, tortas, quesadillas, taco salads, nachos, and more! Tacos 352 sells bites for the adventurous eaters *and* the picky ones. From lengua (aka beef tongue) tacos to plain quesadillas, there really is something for everyone!



### SIDES & SWEETS



Dessert is arguably the best part of a meal, and their churros are a must have. They come with either a side of melted chocolate or deliciously good

caramel, which perfectly pairs with their sweet treats. The churros are always the perfect mix of crunchy on the outside and soft on the inside. They also sell flan, a vanilla and caramel flavored gelatin enjoyed across Latin-America.



Their street corn is another favorite of anyone who has tried it. Other sides available are chips and their many dips, including queso and guac! Their chorizo quesadilla is amazing, too! All of these are great to pair with any of their meals, along with their special agua fresca.

# THE HAUNTING HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

The screeching of bats fills the air, ghosts and ghouls running amuck – Halloween is just around the candy corner.

Our favorite spooky holiday has an extensive history dating back thousands of years to the Celtic Festival of Samhain, one of the four quarterly fire festivals. During the event, they'd set up huge sacrificial bonfires of cattle and crops to ward off spirits. Early accounts depict the celebration as mandatory. Those who failed to show up were rumored to fall sick and die. Other accounts mention feasts filled with alcohol that lasted up to six days.

After Rome's capture of Celtic territory in 43 CE, Rome merged two of their existing festivals – Feralia, a celebration similar to the Mexican Day of The Dead, and the celebration of Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees whose symbol was that of an apple, believed to be the origin of apple bobbing, which is practiced even today– with the celtic festival of Samhain.

Eventually, the Holiday spread to parts of Colonial America, and it soon merged with various native groups, gaining a distinct american accent.

The first couple celebrations consisted of dancing, singing, and telling stories. However, it wasn't until the 1850s, when an influx of Irish immigrants landed in America, that it began to reflect modern traditions of costumes and superstitions.

The practice of trick or treating was introduced during the first half of the 20th century. Individuals passed out candy to prevent tricks from being played on them, hence the phrase "trick or treat."

Nowadays, according to a National Retail Federation study, the average American spends roughly \$104 on Halloween festivities, be it costumes, candy, or decorations. This is second only to Christmas, which is about \$1,000 per person.

Now armed with this history of Halloween, what are you dressing up as this year?



## Upcoming Events

- 11 / 9 / 2024 - Simon's Mom's Birthday
- 11 / 11 / 2024 - Veterans Day
- 11 / 12 / 2024 - Parliament Meeting
- 11 / 21 / 2024 - STUCO Thanksgiving membership motivation
- 11 / 25 / 2024 -
- 11 / 29 / 2024 - Thanksgiving Break.

# Information

## Credits

- History of Halloween - Ben
- Spotlight Articles - Emmet Deehan (Pettit) & Cy Strosnider (Brothers, Gus Meucci)
- The Bobcat Kitchen - Izzy Velazquez
- Advice - Paige Davis
- Sports - Gleb Kryzhinskii
- Photos - Benny Gurralla, Emmet Deehan, Gleb Kryzhinskii
- Layout - Simon Denahan, Paige Davis

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