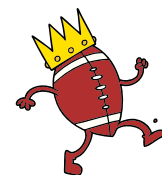


GHS HOMECOMING 2025 OCTOBER 6-10

Homecoming is a week that everyone looks forward to: students, staff, and the community. From dress-up days to athletic competitions and games, there were many ways to get involved and show school spirit. Homecoming at Gibbon Public Schools is rooted in traditions with homecoming royalty, Class Color Day, and the pep rally to end the week. Mixed in this year were newer activities that sparked excitement such as a rock, paper, scissors battle, the the lip sync competition, and the class Spirit Stick Award. Here are highlights of the fun-filled week!

ROYALTY ANNOUNCED AFTER FOOTBALL GAME



Homecoming royalty was selected by the student body. In the first round of voting, students in grades 7-12 voted on their top three male and female candidates from the senior class. This year, there were only two rounds of voting because the senior class is smaller than previous classes so students voted on just the top candidates.

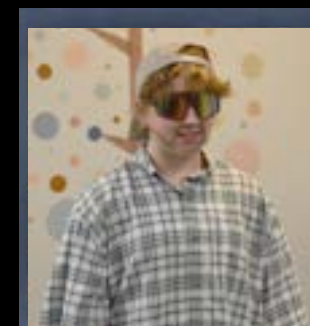
The top three male and female candidates were announced at the football game. Each one wrote an introduction speech which was read before the king and queen were announced. This year, each candidate included a humorous ending statement.

The final candidates were Natalie Contreras, Kacie Jarmin, Kassandra Trevino, Keaton Heikkinen, Giovanni Ramirez Hernandez, and Reuben Reyes.

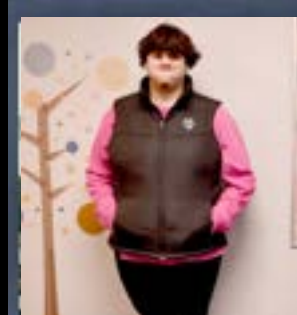
First, Giovanni Ramirez Hernandez was crowned as the king. His introduction speech said, "After graduation, (Giovanni) plans to attend Trinidad State College where he hopes to play soccer and enroll in their barbering program. His goal is to become a certified barber and eventually open his own barbershop where he dreams of one day having the honor of cutting Coach Fehringer's hair."

Next, Kacie Jarmin was crowned as the homecoming queen. Her introductory speech said, "Kacie's future plans are to become a licensed nail technician and start her own business. Kacie also loves to travel. She hopes to one day travel all the way to Neverland and live happily with the sparkly fairies."

Congratulations to Giovanni and Kacie on your selection as the 2025 homecoming royalty.



ADAM SANDLER
DAY



BBQ DAD
SOCCER MOM



DECADE
DAY



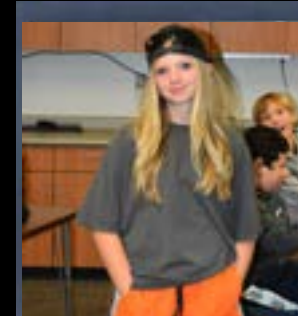
CLASS COLOR



SCHOOL SPIRIT



SCHOOL SPIRIT



ADAM SANDLER
DAY



BBQ DAD
SOCCER MOM



DECADE
DAY



CLASS COLOR

HOMECOMING
DRESS-UP DAYS
2025

SPIRIT, STRENGTH, AND SMILES: GIBBON HIGH'S HOMECOMING GAMES UNITE THE SCHOOL

by Abbie Miller

 The energy was high, the competition was fierce, and the school spirit was unmatched as Gibbon High School wrapped up its homecoming week with the annual Homecoming Games. Students and staff lined the court and the sidelines, showcasing their Buffalo pride in one of the year's most anticipated events. The games are a long-standing homecoming tradition and include three exciting competitions: tug-of-war, girls' football, and boys' volleyball. Each event brought many cheers, laughs, and friendly rivalries, keeping everyone on their feet Friday afternoon.

The games kicked off with the much-anticipated tug-of-war. This got the entire school fired up, with every class determined to prove its strength. The competition started with the 7th and 8th graders, with the 7th graders earning the win. Next, they battled against the freshmen. The freshmen took the win away bringing them to face off against the sophomores. The freshmen class proved to be dominant after they took another win away against the sophomores. As the rope tightened, the upperclassmen waited for their moment. The juniors shocked everyone by pulling a win away from the seniors in what seemed like an easy match. The juniors went on to

defeat the freshmen in another impressive pull. Their back-to-back wins had the juniors chanting and set the tone for what was shaping up to be a big day for the junior class. “The junior class winning the tug-of-war challenge was simply based on pride,” said a junior, Wyatt DeBrie. “We wanted to prove that we are the best tug-of-war class, as we lost last year and came back stronger than ever and more focused.” Following the huge tug-of-war win by the junior class, the energy shifted to the practice field. The Buffaloes began the girls' power buff football game. This flag football matchup

“
WE JUST
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HYPE EACH
OTHER UP
”

between the senior and junior girls is always a highlight of the day. With the junior and senior boys acting as coaches, there were plenty of laughs and dramatic plays being drawn up by the boys. “We just started chanting to show our spirit and hype each other up,”

said junior Scarlett Bragg. Some of the junior girls joined the smaller senior team to even things out, but the juniors quickly found their rhythm and took control of the game. Despite multiple timeouts called by the seniors, the juniors' teamwork and speed helped them pull off a solid 20-6 win. The final event of the afternoon was the boys' power buff volleyball game between the juniors and seniors. The players took to the gym floor as students packed into the bleachers. The juniors started strong, taking an early lead in the first set, but the seniors weren't going to give up that easily. With strong serves and quick plays, they came back to win the set, gaining momentum and confidence.

In the second set, a few junior volleyball players joined to try to aid their classmates, but the seniors held their ground and swept the juniors in two sets. “It felt really good to play with my class and just see us beat the juniors,” said Reuben Reyes. “I was just happy to play with my friends and enjoy my last homecoming.” By the end of the day, everyone agreed that the homecoming games were a huge success. Whether students were competing, coaching, or cheering from the side of the court, the event brought the whole school together. The spirit, laughter, and friendly rivalries made an unforgettable afternoon that perfectly captured the essence of Gibbon pride.



TOP: The juniors work together as Coach Fehringer referees the tug-of-war.
MIDDLE: The freshman class use all their strength as they work together.
BOTTOM: Claire Clark, Brianna Gomez and Andrea Montanez celebrate a winning play during the football game.

TOP: The juniors show good sportsmanship after losing to the senior class in volleyball.
MIDDLE: Keaton Heikkinen hits the ball over as the juniors try to block it.
BOTTOM: The junior girls pose with their coaches after winning the football game.



CULINARY TRADITION CONTINUES WITH MY SIGNATURE DISH COMPETITION

ANNUAL TAILGATE COOK-OFF HIGHLIGHTS STUDENTS' TALENTS WITH SMASH BURGERS, STUFFED MANICOTTI, AND SWEET DESSERTS

by Reuben Reyes

Gibbon High School has hosted a tailgate cooking competition called My Signature Dish during homecoming week for the past three years. This year, it was Friday, October 10, 2025. Students could sign up to cook a main dish, side, or dessert. The judges include teachers, community members, and administration. They rate each entry using a rubric based on taste, preparation, and the presentation of the food.

This year many teams competed including 9 main dishes, 2 sides, and 11 desserts. Teams began setting up in the student parking lot at 7am, and the judging started at 12:15. The top teams in each category were given their choice of a gift card to local businesses. All the prizes were donated by the Gibbon Booster Club.

The winning main dish team featured two sets of siblings. They prepared a smash burger and carne asada. Team member Maritza Mozqueda said, "I was super happy to get first place again this year and hopefully I will be first next year. I was happy to work with my sister." This team has members who have been the main dish champions for three years in a row.

Korben Smallcomb, Marco Solares, Chase Herter, and Wyatt DeBrie were another of the teams that competed in the main dish category. They prepared smoked brisket and ribs. Smallcomb said they competed "to promote our business HOLY SMOKES." They came away as the runner-up main dish. "We were very happy with second place," said Smallcomb.

There were only two participants for side dishes. Mason Benker won first, and he made stuffed manicotti. "I chose my side because my mom's friend made it once, and I thought it was really good, and I found a recipe," said Benker. "I was very happy with my placement and was surprised that I did that well for the side dish."

There were many students who decided to make desserts, including three groups that made versions of fresas con crema. The first place winner was Giovanni Hernandez Barriga's group who made one of the versions of the delicious dessert. Hernandez said, "I chose this delicious dessert because not many people have tried it, and it is very good. It's sweet, and the strawberries make it even better. I was shocked when the judges announced that our group got first place."

There was also a Judges' Choice award; the winner received the same prize as a first place award. Tyler Hodges won with his amazing smoked cinnamon rolls. "I like making cinnamon rolls and have been making them for the past couple of months," said Hodges.

Overall the My Signature Dish competition was very competitive with many students showing off impressive culinary skills. Students enjoyed preparing their signature dishes. One of the judges, teacher Meredith McQuay said, "It was obvious that students took time in planning and preparing their foods. They should be proud of their cooking skills! It was a fun way to end homecoming week."

MY SIGNATURE DISH WINNERS



PICTURE 1: Main dish winners Fatima Mozqueda, Reuben Reyer, Maritza Mozqueda, and Milli Reyes. PICTURE 2: The winning main dish smash burger and carne asada. PICTURE 3: Side dish winner Mason Benker and Judges' Choice winner Tyler Hodges. PICTURE 4: The Judges' Choice smoked cinnamon rolls. PICTURE 5: The winning side of stuffed manicotti. PICTURE 6: Dessert winners Giovanni Hernandez, Sujeili Martinez, Carlos Salguero, and Cassandra Trevino. PICTURE 7: The winning dessert fresas con crema.

DOOR DECORATING CONTEST



ABOVE: The winning door design was Mrs. McKay's advisory.
BELOW: Mrs. Yockey and some elementary students help judge the doors.



ROCK, PAPER, SCISSORS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Rock, Paper, Scissors, Shoot Rules

- Students and staff pick up a necklace before school.
- Students can challenge any other student to a game.
- The winner collects all the loser's necklaces.
- Once you lose, you're out of the game.
- When a student has five or more necklaces, they may challenge teachers.
- The person with the most necklaces at the end of the day wins.



Early in the day, 8th graders Peyton Hennings and George Hoffmeister compete.



Tenth grader Eric Cedillo gives his beads to Alex Aquino after losing a battle.



Treyvon Davis battles Mrs. Bender and loses.

At the end of the day on Wednesday, Mrs. Bender had the most beads. As a crowd gathered, outside the library, students challenged Bender. First, Maritza Mozqueda stepped up, but lost. Then Treyvon Davis tried his luck, also losing. Finally, Elvia Aquino was able to defeat Bender and earn the title as the champion of the homecoming rock, paper, scissors battle.

The champion Elvia Aquino shows off all her beads.



HOMECOMING SUCCESS & CELEBRATION IN GIBBON SPORTS

by Ximena Urbina González

GIRLS GOLF DISTRICTS

The Gibbon girls golf team finished an incredible season with a strong showing at districts, proving that hard work and teamwork pay off. The competition held on October 7, 2025, was at Indian Head in Grand Island. The girls competed with some of the best golfers in Class C, and at the end of the day, Junior Natalie Bendfeldt punched her ticket to state

The team was hit by colder temperatures starting in the 60s, but as the day went on the weather got better. At districts, four girls competed. They were senior Sahara Vasquez, junior Natalie Bendfeldt, sophomore Ximena Urbina González and freshman Kasey Ackley. Senior Bianca Corona did not compete due to injury.

Bendfeldt said, “When I saw the screen and saw I was tied for tenth, I believed I didn't make it.”

Bendfeldt was convinced that she came up short of being able to go to state.

“Then a coach came up and congratulated me. I was confused and she explained that ties

also go to state.”

There was lots of emotion from the team at that moment, and they were so proud of Bendfeldt.

Congratulations to the Gibbon girls golf team on their success during homecoming week and for an incredible season. The team showed dedication, teamwork, and steady improvement throughout the year, representing our school with pride on and off the course. Their hard work and positive spirit made this season one to remember.



Courtesy Photo: Gibbon Golf. Bianca Corona, Ximena Urbina González, Sahara Vasquez, Natalie Bendfeldt, and Kasey Ackley at district golf:



PINK FOR BREAST CANCER AWARENESS



The Gibbon and Elm Creek volleyball teams wore pink on Tuesday, October 7, to support breast cancer awareness. The student section had a Pink Out! at the game to show their support.



Courtesy photo: Gibbon Cross Country At the conference cross country meet, the team wore pink warm-up shirts.



On Friday, October 10, Gibbon football players wore pink gloves and wrist bands to support breast cancer awareness.



CONFERENCE XC

On October 7, 2025, Gibbon hosted the Lou Platte Conference cross country meet at the Gibbon Golf Course. The course is known for being challenging and hilly, but with some great weather and solid runs, the Buffaloes ended up with three individual medal winners.

The girls team had tremendous success finishing as the runner-up. Junior Kaleigh Pracht finished in fifth place and junior Maria Zaldana placed ninth. On the boys team, senior Giovanni Hernandez earned eighth place.

Other team members that ran included junior girls Amilliona Reyes, Ila Jurgens, and Haidyn McKinley along with sophomores Victoria Nissen and Keely Biegler. Freshmen Collin Pracht and Caleb Isackson competed for the boys team.

“Our hard work really showed at the conference meet,” said Jurgens.

The Buffaloes have been making steady progress meet after meet and took advantage of the homecoming week home course advantage.

“The only bad run is the one that didn’t happen,” said Hernandez of his medal winning effort. He felt that the conference race was better than the last one earlier in the season at the home course. “The weather was perfect.”

Congratulations to all the runners on a great homecoming week conference meet.



RIGHT TOP TO BOTTOM: Kaleigh Pracht, Maria Zaldana, and Giovanni Hernandez run at their conference cross country meet at the Gibbon Golf Course.

SING IT: LIP SYNC BATTLE BRINGS COMPETITIVE FUN

SIX TEAMS COMPETE FOR CHEERS AND BRAGGING RIGHTS

by Caleb Isackson

Gibbon’s 2025 lip sync competition was held on Friday, October 11, as part of the homecoming pep rally activities in the high school gym. Six teams signed up to compete and lip sync to a song of their choice.

The teams competing included the high school teachers who used a musical mix, FFA members who sang to a Justin Bieber mix, Coach Fehringer and company who performed “All the Single Ladies,” junior high football players who sang to “Call Me Maybe,” junior high volleyball players who performed, “Let It Go,” and a group of freshmen boys who sang “I Want It That Way.”

The performances were limited to two minutes or less. During transition times Mrs. Gellerman led dance songs such as “The Chicken Dance,” “The Macarena,” or “Baby

Shark” which was particularly popular with the elementary students.

The FFA team won with a performance of a medley of Justin Bieber songs. Their show included the participating members dancing with each other and “Justin Bieber.” The winning team was voted on by the crowd with applause. The response to FFA group was thunderous and shook the bleachers. They were the clear crowd favorite.

Senior Giovanni Ramirez Hernandez who performed as the FFA’s “Justin Bieber” said, “The last homecoming for me was unforgettable. I had to make the most out of it. It was a good experience.”

FFA president Andrea Montanez said, “The lip sync was a unique experience. It was amazing to win because we practiced so much.”

Coach Fehringer who thrilled the crowd with his dance moves said, “The lip sync battle was fun. I think the kids enjoyed it, and I know for myself and Maria, we enjoyed it. It was a good time.”

This was the first lip sync battle held during Gibbon’s homecoming festivities. From elementary to high school, it was a joy for everyone to watch.

- 1--The winning FFA team
2--The teachers
3--Fehringer and company
4--Junior high volleyball
5--Junior high football
6--freshmen boys

TAILGATING: A HOMECOMING TRADITION

by Andrea Montanez

Homecoming week always has fun activities including the annual tailgate on Friday afternoon. This year students were able to tailgate from 12-1.

Students were able to walk around the parking lot and try different dishes from each category of the My Signature Dish competition as well as listening to music, playing small games, or just having fun during the hour.

It may not have been the main activity of the day, but it still added some entertainment for everyone.

“It’s very fun to see how everyone gets together to cook, eat, and share the school spirit all in one day,” said sophomore Sophie Schuster.



ABOVE: Students enjoy the tailgate during lunch on Friday during homecoming week.

TINY BUFFALO-DUCKS ON THE LOOSE



This year, part of the Spirit Stick competition was to find small buffalo-ducks hidden around the school. The idea came from sophomore Victoria Nissen. She suggested the fun game during one of the homecoming planning meetings with sponsor, Mrs. Stark.

Teachers hid the tiny plastic buffalo-ducks in the hallways and classrooms. Each duck turned in was worth 10 points in the Spirit Stick competition.

A total of 26 ducks were turned in with the junior class leading the way, earning 90 points for 9 ducks. The activity was a small but fun part of an exciting week.

BELOW: Junior Abbie Miller shows off the two ducks she found for the junior class.



JUNIORS CLAIM SPIRIT STICK VICTORY

GIBBON HIGH’S WEEK OF COMPETITION AND PRIDE ENDS WITH THE JUNIOR CLASS ON TOP AFTER A SPIRITED WEEK OF GAMES, CHALLENGES, AND SCHOOLWIDE FUN

by Ximena Urbina González

Last week, students at Gibbon High School showed their school pride during a fun and competitive spirit week. Each grade competed in a variety of games and challenges to earn points toward the ultimate prize—the Spirit Stick. With their teamwork, enthusiasm, and loud school spirit, it was the junior class that came away with the top spot. Their dedication paid off as they were announced as the Spirit Stick champions during Friday’s pep rally.

Points were earned in many different ways. Students earned ten points by finding a baby buffalo-duck in the school, winning homecoming games, and having a class member voted the daily best dressed. Twenty points were earned by showing the most school spirit at the pep rally and by having class members win the My

Signature Dish competition. Fifty points were awarded to the winners of the Lip Sync Battle. Classes that had the most attendance at the volleyball game and at the cross country meet were also awarded 50 points. Additionally, the winner of the rock, paper, scissors battle earned points for their class.

“Our class really worked hard this week. We deserved to win, and we did,” said Junior Landi Weldon.

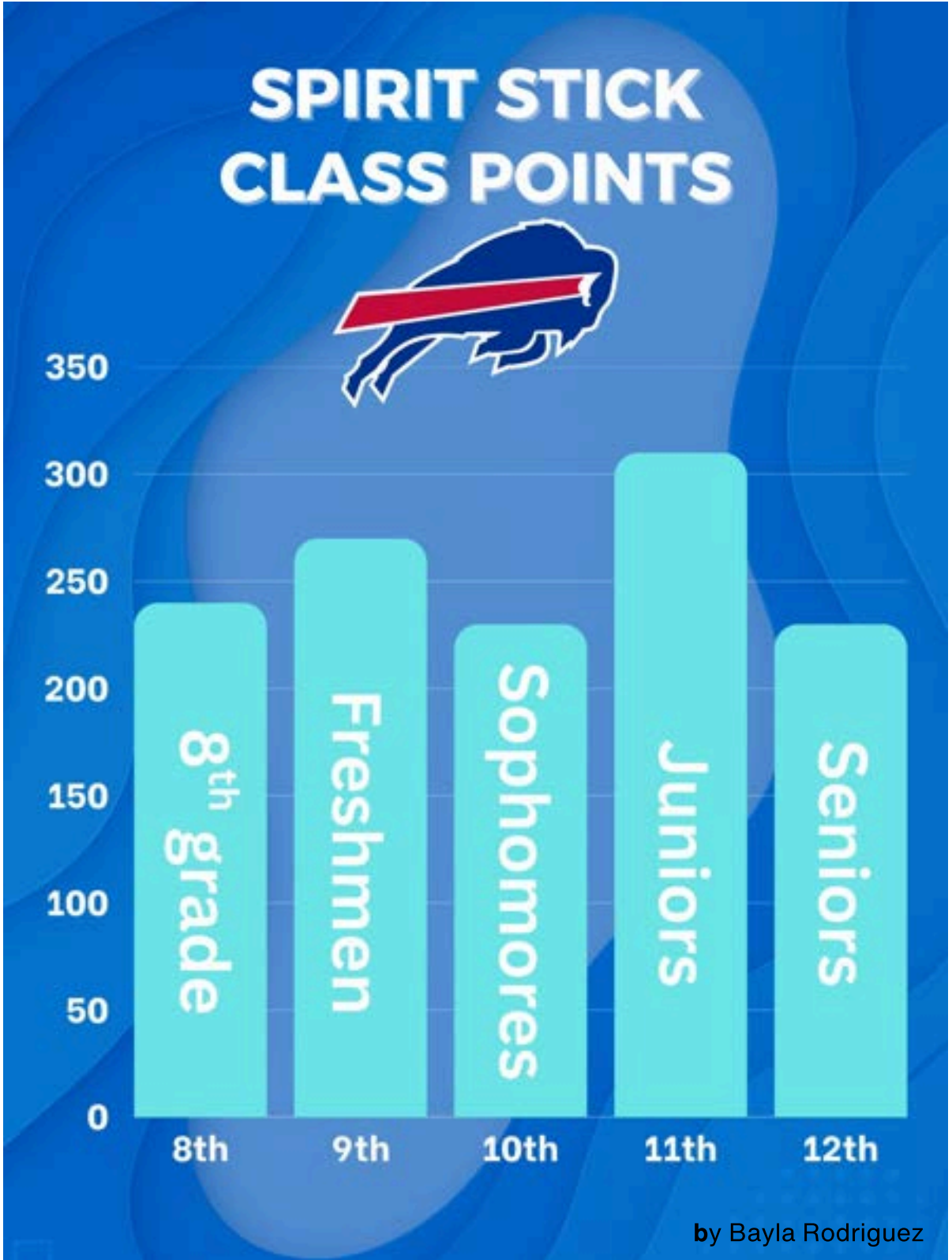
Flor Tejada said, “Our class encouraged each other daily to earn the points we needed to get the win. It was fun being the winning class.”

The Spirit Stick competition brought the whole school together, reminding everyone that school spirit isn’t just about winning. It’s about showing pride, participation, and unity.

Congratulations to the juniors on their big win!



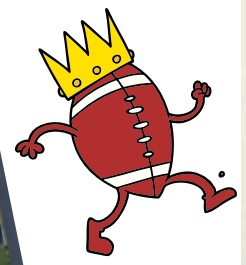
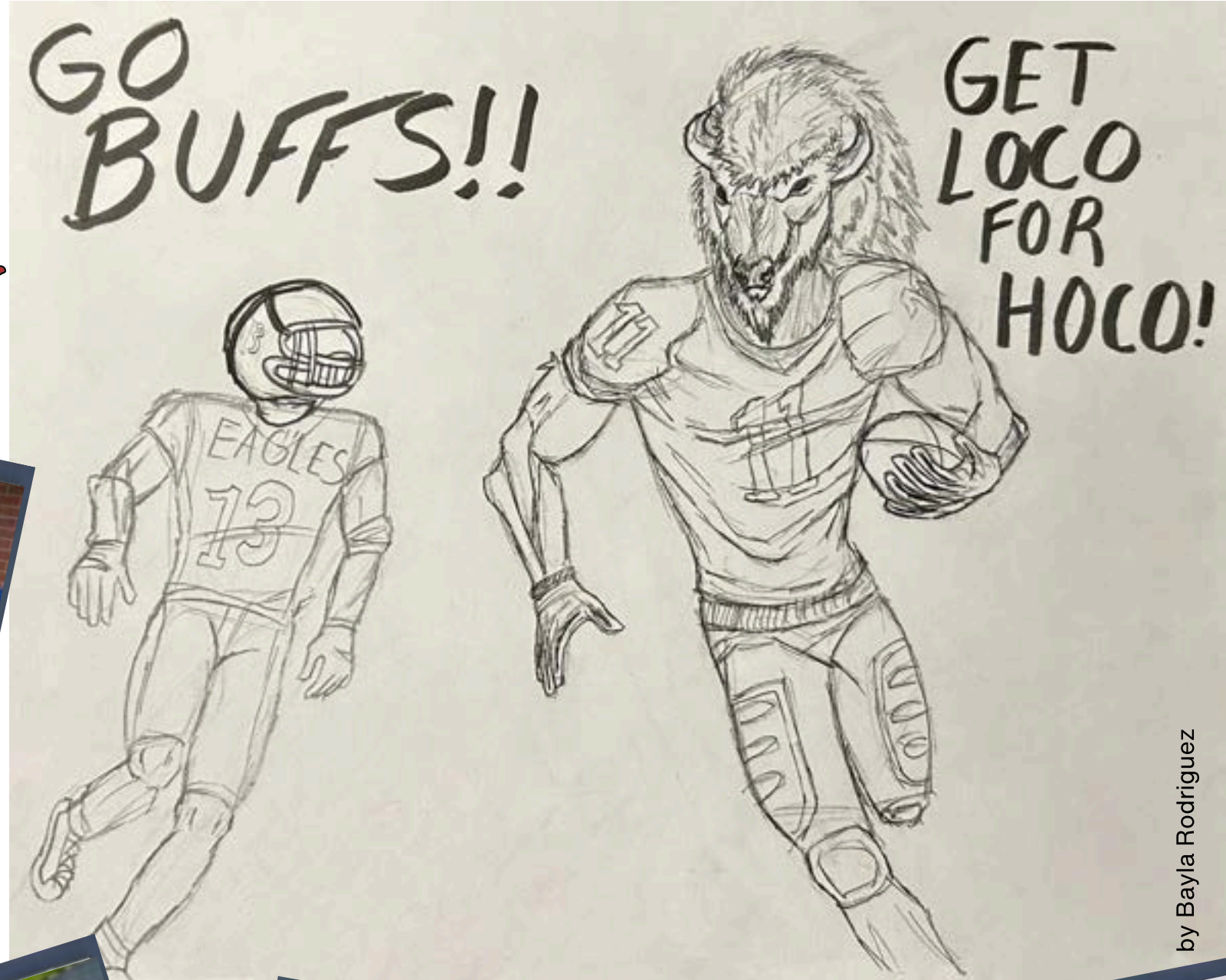
ABOVE TOP: Flor Tejada explains how she made her signature dish at the tailgate. ABOVE: GHS students react to the final rock, paper, scissors battle. BELOW: The junior class poses together after winning the Spirit Stick.



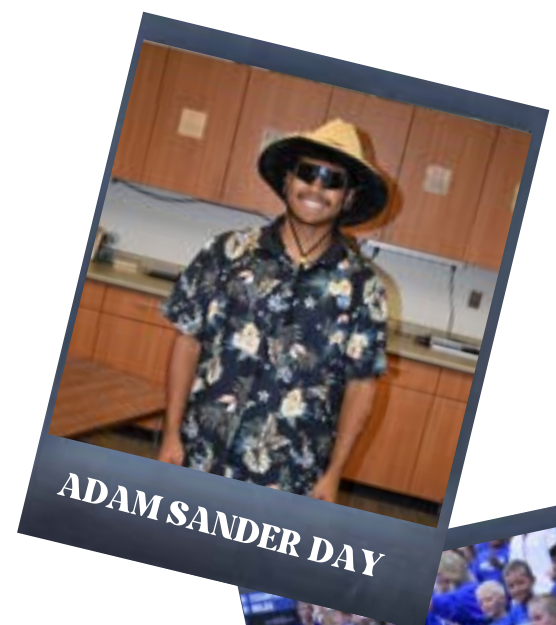
by Bayla Rodriguez



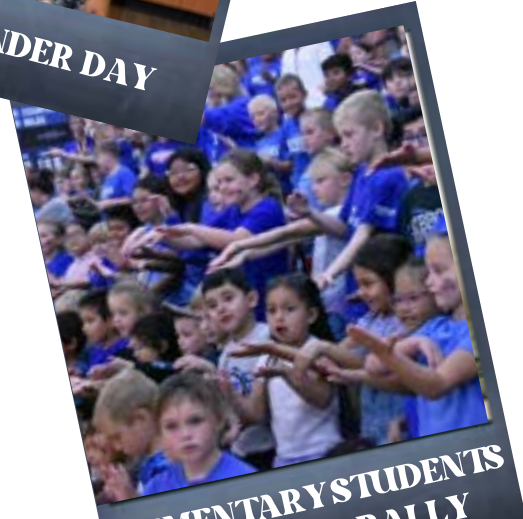
FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL



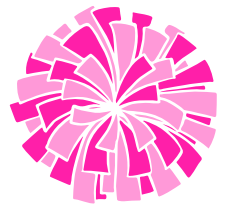
by Bayla Rodriguez



ADAM SANDER DAY



ELEMENTARY STUDENTS AT THE PEP RALLY



ART STUDENTS PAINT WINDOWS



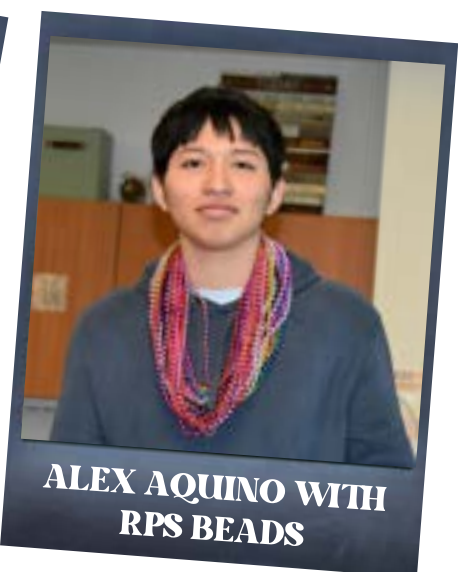
PEP BAND AT THE FOOTBALL GAME



MRS. STARK CHEERS FOR STUDENTS



CHEERLEADERS AT THE PEP RALLY



ALEX AQUINO WITH RPS BEADS



SOME OF THE FOOD JUDGES



DECADE DAY



Thank you to all the teachers, administration, and staff for making homecoming week amazing, especially to the homecoming sponsor, Mrs. Stark.

- In-Depth News Group Members:
- Caleb Isackson
 - Abbie Miller
 - Andrea Montanez
 - Reuben Reyes
 - Bayla Rodriguez
 - Ximena Urbina González