



# A Load of Bull



Issue #2: October 19, 2017

\*The votes are in.  
We keep the name!

## In the Know

### History of Independence High School, Pt. 1 by Kaiden Riddle

We all know about the current building Independence resides in, the ghost stories, like the one about the janitor who hanged himself in the basement. (Happy Halloween.) But do we know the beautiful history this block has known? What was here before IHS?

We'll get to that, but first, we need to go over some basic history of schooling in Blackfoot.

Education in Blackfoot, ID, started in 1879. It was called "Subscription School" and was held in the private home of John Montgomery. It then moved to a three-room school house, built by the community. It stood where the district office is now. A stout board fence enclosed the school and served as a hitching post for the pupils' ponies. In 1887 there were three teachers at work, and the district rented an additional room for the primary grade.

Two early directors were James McTucker (he dug the first well in Blackfoot) and Albert T. Stout (the street is named after him).

By 1881, Blackfoot had grown to about 400 people, about 70 of them school-aged children. In 1885, Bingham County was established with Blackfoot as the county seat. Our school district was also established: Bingham County No. 8.

The first flag that floated over the Blackfoot schools was purchased in 1892. The children each paid ten cents for a share in the flag. Every parent was very proud of their children's loyalty to their school and flag.

Around 1893 the original 3 room school was moved away, and the Central School was built, a four-room brick building. A South and East Wing were eventually added to keep up with the growing population. Later, more classrooms and a gymnasium were added, and that section of the building was referred to as the "Tin School".

We'll cover the history of Independence in our next issue. Remember that Central School building. It will be important!



The Central School, Viewed From University Ave., 1908

### Where was the Bear? by Madison Given

Bear Spray! Who knew?

On Thursday, October 5th, during breakfast, a student who was messing around where he wasn't supposed to be, took Mr. Baguley's can of bear spray and sprayed it in Mr. Baguley's classroom. The fire department showed up and tried to get the spray cleared out, but at first, they only ended up spreading it around the whole school. Teachers were asked to shut their doors and windows while the firemen used fans to pump the spray out of the building.

Many kids were affected by the incident: itchy throats, watery eyes, even asthma attacks! The kids in Baguley's class were affected more than others, of course. They were not allowed back into the room for an hour.

I have just one question about this incident. Where was the Bear?

### The Halloween Carnival! by Amity Mullins and Katelyn Peterson

It's that spooky time of year again – children in costumes, candy everywhere; it's the holiday of Halloween. Here at Independence High School, we celebrate with a carnival. The Halloween Carnival is on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 6:00 P.M., here at Independence High School.

This is a family-friendly open house for the entire community. All ages are welcome. There will be fun activities all around you: mini-games, prizes, face-painting for the kids, and did we mention all the candy? Oh yes, candy! And a hot dinner – chili and cinnamon rolls for everyone. Everything is free!

Don't miss out on this spectacularly spooky event!

### Our School Mascot by Richard Jepson



Have you ever wondered how our school came to be named Independence High School? How did we become the Mavericks? Is that a... bull? A black and teal bull?

When our school first started, it was called Second Chance. That seemed to give our students a bad name in the community. So in 1997, Principal Mark Kartchner and the teachers came up with the idea to rename the school.

They gave all the students a survey to rename the school and choose the mascot. We've been the Independence High School Mavericks ever since!

A maverick is an unorthodox, independent-minded person. Seems fitting, doesn't it? But a maverick can also be an unbranded range animal, such as... a wild bull!

And the colors? Lisa Parmenter, who was secretary then, remembers it this way:

"It was the '90s. Black and teal was pretty cool right then. Some students put it on the ballot. It was unique. The kids liked it, and that's what they voted for."

### Join in the Fun by Amity Mullins

The After-School Program invites you to join their activities! You do NOT need to be a member to tag along.

On Saturday, October 21: Gather at IHS for the 10:00 bus to head to ISU. Come and join art activities with the ISU clubs. The program is about six hours long. And no worries about paying for lunch. The After-School Program will buy your lunch – on-campus, or possibly out on the town.

This is the first of three art outings. There will be one in November and another in December. There will be a pottery activity spread across all three outings: 1) sculpt the clay, 2) glaze the sculptures, and 3) fire the sculptures in the kiln. But, of course, each outing will also include other activities besides pottery. The first one on October 21 will also feature tie-dye!

There are many other upcoming activities for you to join...

- Oct 23: Air Rifles at the American Legion
- Oct 24: Help prepare for IHS's October 26th Halloween Carnival, baking cupcakes
- Oct 25: Frost the cupcakes and put up decorations
- Oct 26: Bowling, then join the Halloween Carnival, where there will be a free chili and cinnamon roll dinner at IHS.
- Oct 30: A College and Career Readiness outing at ISU's Career Center.

Be aware that joining the After-School Program will earn you elective credits, one for every 70 hours that you attend. But, once again, you do not have to be a part of the program to join in these activities. Just have fun with it, guys!

### Foreign Language Class? by Sierra Ramos

How would you like to study a second language at IHS? Some students have asked about this possibility recently, so I interviewed a few of our staff members to get some insight!

We've had foreign language classes at this school before, and it didn't go so well, I was told.

Becky noted that most countries in the world teach a second language in their schools, (often English). She thinks it would work out here if we were a little younger, maybe thirteen. People have more aptitude for learning languages when they are younger.

Becky is fluent in Spanish, but the last time she taught it as a class was about five years ago.

And that's one of the problems we'd have with offering foreign language classes: finding someone qualified to teach them.

Another problem, as Mark explained, is that most of the kids who come to this school, (by their own choice or otherwise), pretty much have their electives taken care of, and it would not be in their best interests to add elective credits to our curriculum.

Josh, on the other hand, thinks that a second language course could be extremely beneficial if the kids taking the class actually want to learn. The problem, he notes, is that many kids come here for credits, not to learn. (Josh, for the record, will be offering the closest thing we have later this year: Hispanic Medical Terms!)

So what do you think? Would foreign language classes be beneficial to us here at IHS? Spanish? French? Sign Language?

## Block 4 at IHS

### October 23 – November 10 (Block 4)

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
23 Impact Aid Due ASP: Air Rifles	24 ASP: Carnival Prep	25 ASP: Carnival Prep	26 ASP: Bowling Halloween Carnival	27
30 ASP: ISU Career Ctr	31 <b>Halloween</b>	1	2 ACT Signup Deadline	3 SAT Signup Deadline
6 Daylight Savings: Extra Hour of Sleep!	7	8	9	10 Vets Day Observed (Actual Day 11-11)

### Classes

Baguley, Lance: English 10B	Grimes, Dan: Algebra 1A (w/ Geom)	Nelson, Lisa: Math Skills, Cred Rec
DuPuis, Bonny: Teen Living	Hong, Lesa: Business Math B	Price, Becky: Biology B
DuPuis, Eric: English 12A	Jex, Rose: Economics	Torngren, Josh: Grade 8

## Good Friends at IHS

### Footloose by Madison Given

Have you ever kicked off your Sunday shoes? Well Tatjana did in her school play *Footloose*. Tatjana Lentz and her friend Sage were in the play *Footloose* before she came to Independence High School. Both were back-up dancers in the play, and they were able to dress up and have fun. As Tatjana put it, "It was very joyful and fun to do."

The play is based on the movie *Footloose* (1984). It is about how a man who moves to a joyless, ultra-conservative town and shows them the joy of dancing.

Tatjana's play lasted for a whole week! Each night she got to dress up and entertain the audience with her fellow classmates. Being able to perform with Sage and her other classmates made Tatjana feel important and happy. According to Tatjana, this was a wonderful bonding experience for her and for Sage. They have grown very close to each other and even consider themselves to be sisters.

### My Car is Loud, Huh! by David Sanchez

Calvin Ruiz lives in Shelley and is a junior at IHS. He expects to graduate in 2019.

One day Calvin was taking his friend Skyler Haywood home. They had been hanging out that day. As Skyler was walking to his house, Calvin tried to drive away, but he forgot that he had shifted his car into park! He kept revving his engine instead of driving off!

He looked out the window and saw his buddy Skyler laughing his butt off. There was nothing to do but play it off!

"My car is loud, huh!". He shouted out the window. Skyler wasn't fooled.

"No, bro, you forgot it was in park!".

Calvin was embarrassed. "Bye, bro." He rolled up the window and drove sheepishly away. But he can laugh about the story today. At least, when he shared it with us, he was laughing about it!

California – A Blast! by Katelyn Peterson

California – the land where dreams come true... or at least fun and memories! For Kylee Kolczak, her eighth grade California trip was one of the greatest experiences of her life.

The bus ride was long and boring. For Kylee, it was filled mostly with sleeping through the day and being awake in the middle of the night.

But after the bus ride, the fun began. She went with her class to Sea World, Universal Studios, a Dodgers Game, Bryce Canyon, a dinosaur museum, Disneyland, and Medieval Times.

But the best part for Kylee was the hotel stay. In their hotel room, Kylee and her friends made a lot of memories. They had that basic girl sleepover with prank calls, snacks,... a few embarrassing moments. (She's not sharing those!)

So that California trip you're planning on taking someday – make it memorable!



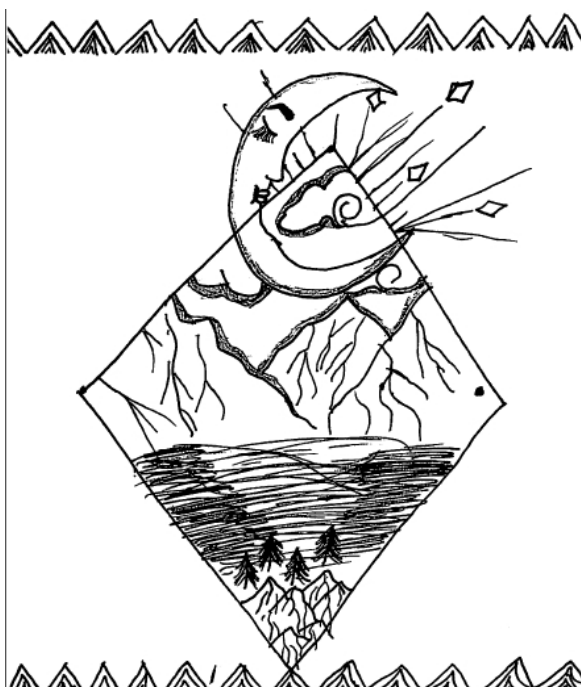
Medieval Times in Buena Park, CA

## Mavs Got Talent

### Anai Brings Her Art to IHS by Kaiden Riddle

Anai Patino started drawing in the Fourth Grade while she was still in Mexico. She loves drawing, because it helps her to relieve stress and anxiety, and it is just a fun thing to do! Her specialties are Roses, Crosses, etc.

She continues to draw, because she wants to get better, and eventually, she wants to be a tattoo artist!



Original Art Pieces by Anai Patino – Thank You, Anai, for Sharing Your Talent With Us!

## Catching Up With Our Graduates

### Marcellis Apodaca – It's All About Family and Friends by David Sanchez

Marcellis Apodaca graduated IHS in 2016, the first in his family to graduate high school. Marcellis didn't know what he was going to do after high school, but he knew the kind of person he would be.

"I saw all this negativity in the halls, and it changed me into who I am today." Marcellis tries to be positive in every situation and even tries to cheer anyone up that's being negative. He just tries to lighten up the mood. The hardest thing about high school, he said, was trying to make sure his friends wouldn't give up on school. He is making sure to be a good example to his little brother and to make his mom proud.

Marcellis is currently a supervisor at Sage Hill, a recent promotion! He would like to go to a college that's close to his family, so he can still visit them. He plans to start college next fall.

### Aaliyah Bautista – You Don't Realize How Much You'll Miss It by Katelyn Peterson

Graduation. The thing we all deal with twelve years of school for. Seems scary at first. Well, for Aaliyah, it was pretty scary at first; but once she was walking across the stage, getting her diploma, excitement flowed through her!

Aaliyah lives as an adult in Blackfoot now, but as she told me, "I wish I was back in school!" She is currently working full time. But she plans to go to college eventually.

## Getting to Know Our Staff

### Goodbye to Megann Lawhon

by A Load of Bull Staff Writer



Megann Lawhon

Megann Lawhon is taking a new job at the Blackfoot School District Office.

Q: What will your new job for BSD be?

A: My new job title is EL (English Learner) Regional Coach, so I will be working for the school district but also with the Snake River and Aberdeen School Districts, specifically with their EL staffs.

Q: Why are you making this transfer? What opportunities does this new job offer?

A: I took the job for a couple of reasons. I am getting my degree in English with a professional writing emphasis in May, and an internship is part of the requirements for my degree. This position will allow me to use the hours I work to satisfy that requirement and also give me experience for any future jobs.

Q: What will you miss at IHS?

A: I'm going to miss going to work and seeing everyone at the school. When I went in to interview for the job three years ago, I could feel as soon as I walked in the door that I wanted to work at HIS, and it's been a great place to be.

Q: Will we still see you sometimes?

A: You'll definitely still see me once in a while. I will have to visit other schools in the surrounding districts so my time at IHS will be limited, but you will see me.

### Lance Baguley, Future Generalissimo by Shonathen Richards



Lance Baguley

Lance was born in 1957. As a child, he enjoyed a number of outdoor activities, including camping, fishing, and hunting. His dad worked for the railroad, causing them to move around a lot while he was growing up.

In high school, Lance liked to play basketball for whatever local high school he was attending at the time, because he moved every three years.

During this time, Lance wanted to be an archeologist when he grew up. He also took up photography as a hobby.

In college, Lance's first love and his major was history, though he teaches mostly English and speech today. Lance loves being a high school teacher, and he enjoys shaping the young minds of today's youth

When Lance retires, his goal is to take his life savings, travel, and become the dictator of a small South American Country, the kind of leader who keeps a dead body chilling in the corner of his audience chamber – just to keep all his underlings properly motivated.

### Goodbye to Betty Salinas by Sierra Ramos

Our support staff here at IHS are some of the greatest, nicest people I've ever had the pleasure to meet. Take Betty for example.

She has been our custodian for about 2½ years now. She enjoys and appreciates all the staff and "most of the kids".

Betty is self-motivated and absolutely loves what she does. It's not necessarily the cleaning that she really loves but rather, "It's the satisfaction of walking into a situation and making it better."

Sadly, our beloved Betty will be leaving us soon. She got a better job, making better money with better benefits. We don't blame her, but we'll sure miss her!

## What They're Reading

(Wondering what to read next? Take a recommendation from...)

Mark: ***In Farleigh Field*** by Rhys Bowen

World War II comes to Farleigh Place, the ancestral home of Lord Westerham and his five daughters, when a soldier with a failed parachute falls to his death on the estate. After his uniform and possessions raise suspicions, MI5 operative and family friend Ben Cresswell is covertly tasked with determining if the man is a German spy. The assignment also offers Ben the chance to be near Lord Westerham's middle daughter, Pamela, whom he furtively loves. But Pamela has her own secret: she has taken a job at Bletchley Park, the British code-breaking facility.

Mary: ***The Unremembered Girl*** by Eliza Maxwell

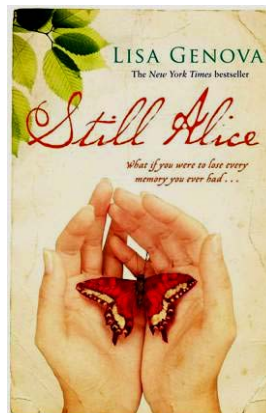
In the deep woods of East Texas, Henry supports his family by selling bootleg liquor. It's all he can do to keep his compassionate but ailing mother and his stepfather—a fanatical grassroots minister with a bruising rhetoric—from ruin. But they have no idea they've become the obsession of the girl in the woods.

Lesia H.: ***Tyndale*** by David Teem

It was an outlawed book, a text so dangerous "it could only be countered by the most vicious burnings, of books and men and women." However, what book could incite such violence and bloodshed? The year is 1526. It is the age of Henry VIII and his tragic Anne Boleyn, of Martin Luther and Thomas More.

Eric: ***Ireland*** by Frank Delaney

In the winter of 1951, a storyteller arrives at the home of nine-year-old Ronan O'Mara in the Irish countryside. The last practitioner of an honored, centuries-old tradition, the Seanchai enthralled his assembled audience for three evenings running with narratives of foolish kings and fabled saints, of enduring accomplishments and selfless acts



Becky: ***Still Alice*** by Lisa Genova

Still Alice is a compelling debut novel about a 50-year-old woman's sudden descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease, written by first-time author Lisa Genova, who holds a Ph. D in neuroscience from Harvard University.

# Happy Halloween!

## IHS's Darkest Tragedy by Zach Burnett and Amity Mullins

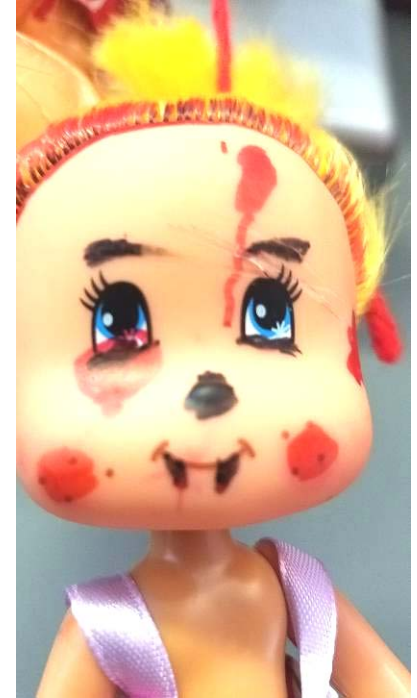
It began on a cold October night. Everything was as quiet as a mouse, except for the state hospital near our school, here in Blackfoot. A patient there had escaped and was on the run. The only clue was that she'd headed toward town. The date was October 19.

The janitor at Independence High School was having a late night cleaning up; cleaning up everyone's messes, that is. He forgot to close the door after taking the trash out. The janitor was found dead the next morning. Next to his lifeless body, a doll with his blood all over its clothes. The police tried to get any clues they could on who could have done this, but no one except the janitor had been at the school that night. Who could tell them anything? Eventually, the police gave up and closed the case.

Everything went back to normal, or so they thought. One day, a year later on October 19, a student left class for a moment to get a drink of water. On his way back to class, he saw the same doll that had been found next to the janitor's body. The student was shocked and could not believe what he was seeing. He just stared. Then suddenly, the doll started moving on its own toward the scared student. He ran as fast as his legs could take him back to his class. He told everyone in his class what had happened. Nobody believed him, so they went out in the hall to see for themselves, but the doll was nowhere to be found. They called this student names and made fun of him.

After school that day, this kid missed the bus. He called his father and told him he needed to be picked up. His dad was on his way when the student went to the restroom. There were no students left at school, and the teachers were in a meeting. He was eerily alone, looking in the mirror. All of a sudden, his head started spinning, and there were loud screaming voices in his head. The mirrors cracked. The lights were flickering and buzzing off and on. He fell and hit his head hard on the sink. The last thing he saw was the doll!

The father discovered the dead body soon afterward, a doll lying beside it. Everyone at school was devastated. To this day, no one has shed any light on the causes of these deaths. For years, many students refused to come to school on an October 19, but all that seems to be in the past now.



## Halloween Party Treats

### Hawaiian Halloween Cheese Ball

(Recipe Shared by Alisha Sorensen)

- 2 8oz pkgs cream cheese, softened
- 2 tbsp minced onion
- ½ tbsp minced green bell pepper
- 1 8oz can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ tsp garlic powder
- ½ tsp onion powder
- 1 c chopped pecans

Mix all ingredients other than the pecans together until well combined. With damp hands, roll the mixture into a ball and then roll in chopped pecans. Wrap it in wax paper and put it in the fridge to chill and firm up a bit.



### Two-Ingredient Pumpkin Brownies

(Recipe Shared by Bonny DuPuis)

- 1 Family Size box (19½ oz) brownie mix
- 1 (15 oz) can pumpkin
  - For the Frosting (optional):
    - ½ c butter
    - 2 c powdered sugar
    - ¼ tsp pumpkin pie spice

Pumpkin Brownies:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line 9x9: pan with foil and spray lightly with cooking spray.

In a bowl, mix together brownie mix and pumpkin until smooth.

Spread batter into pan and bake 25-30 min until set.

Let cool completely. Frost if desired.

Frosting:

Cream butter and pumpkin pie spice until smooth.

Turn mixer to low and add powdered sugar. Turn up mixer to medium and beat until fluffy.

Spread on brownies.



### Iced Pumpkin Cookies

(Recipe Shared by Christa Shumaker)

- 2½ c all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp ground cloves
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ c softened butter
- 1½ c white sugar
- 1 c canned pumpkin purée
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 c powdered sugar
- 3 tbsp milk
- 1 tbsp melted butter
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, ground cloves, and salt; set aside

In medium bowl, cream together ½ c softened butter, white sugar, pumpkin, eggs, and vanilla to butter mixture, and beat until creamy. Drop on cookies sheet by tablespoonfuls: flatten slightly.

Bake 15-20 min in oven. Cool cookies, then drizzle glaze with fork

To make glaze: combine powdered sugar, milk, 1 tbsp melted butter, and 1 tablespoon vanilla. Add milk as needed to achieve drizzling.

## Hot Fall Soups

### Chicken Poblano Soup

(Recipe Shared by Lesa Hong)

- ¼ c olive oil
- ½ tsp cumin
- 1 tbsp chicken bouillon
- ½ tsp thyme
- salt and pepper to taste
- ½ bunch cilantro, chopped
- 2 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 c diced or chopped carrots
- 3 poblano peppers, veined, seeded, and diced
- 3 qts chicken broth
- 1 roasted chicken
- ½ stick (¼ c) butter, melted
- ¼ c flour
- 1 small bag frozen corn
- 2 c cooked rice.

Pour olive oil in a large saucepan. Mix cumin, chicken, bouillon, thyme, salt, and pepper in the oil. Pull the cilantro leaves off the stems and chop. Add the cilantro, garlic, onions, carrots, and poblano chilies to the oil and spices. Stir and cook until soft.

Add the chicken broth. Next, make a roux with the butter and flour and add to the soup. Remove skin from roasted chicken and discard. Tear chicken into pieces and add to the soup. Stir in cooked rice and frozen corn; simmer until warm. Serve and enjoy.

### Zuppa Toscano

(Recipe Shared by Becky Price)

- 1 lb hot Italian sausage, casings removed
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- kosher salt
- freshly ground black pepper
- 6 c low-sodium chicken broth
- 4 large russet potatoes, diced
- 1 bunch curly kale, leaves stripped and chopped
- ¾ c heavy cream
- 4 slices cooked bacon, chopped
- ¼ c freshly grated Parmesan, for serving

In a large pot over medium heat, cook sausage, breaking up with the back of a wooden spoon until browned through (5-7 min) Transfer to a plate to drain.

Add onion to pot and let cook until soft, (5 min), then add garlic and cook until fragrant, (1 min more). Season with salt and pepper. Add chicken broth and potatoes and cook until potatoes are tender, (23-25 min).

Stir in kale and let cook until leaves are tender and bright green, (3 min), then stir in heavy cream, sausage, and bacon and simmer 5 min more.

Season with pepper, garnish with parmesan, and serve.

### Cheesy Potato Soup

(Recipe Shared by Nanette Duncan)

- 8 oz bacon
- 1 c water
- 2 c milk
- 1½ c potatoes, washed and cubed (Leave the peels on)
- 1½ c carrots, peeled sliced ½" pieces
- 2 tbsp flour
- ½ tsp salt
- ⅛ tsp pepper
- ⅛ tsp celery salt (optional)
- 1⅛ tsp onion powder
- ⅛ tsp garlic salt
- 1½ c sharp cheddar cheese, grated (Variant: try garlic-flavored sharp white cheddar)
- 2 tbsp butter (or bacon fat if preferred)
- 1-3 tbsp liquid smoke (optional)

Cook and chop bacon, reserving 2 tbsp bacon fat if desired. Set bacon aside.

Boil vegetables, salt and pepper in the water, until fork tender (10-15 min)

Meanwhile, prepare a white sauce in a 3-qt saucepan by adding the flour to the melted butter (or bacon fat). Cook over med-high heat, whisking constantly about 2 min. Add ½ c of the milk, whisking well to eliminate lumps. Continue whisking and add the rest of the milk, ½ c at a time. Stir in celery salt, onion powder and garlic salt. Add remaining seasonings and continue to cook, whisking constantly to prevent scorching until it thickens (7-10 min).

Add the cheese. Turn off the heat and stir until cheese is completely melted. Add liquid smoke if desired, adjust seasonings to taste. Add vegetables and bacon. Try serving with goldfish crackers!

## Movie Review

### Kingsman: the Golden Circle by A Load of Bull Staff

If you enjoyed *Kingsman: the Secret Service*, then *Kingsman, the Golden Circle* is the sequel you were hoping for.

This time, Eggsy and our other heroes are secret service agents without a headquarters! Someone has destroyed it and killed many of their friends and brothers! Now it's time to figure out whodunit and deal out some fierce justice!

The journey takes the Kingsmen to the United States, and finally to the ruins of an Aztec temple in the jungles of Mexico. Along the way, they recruit help from their American allies, the Statesmen.

The villain, the evil Miss Poppy (played by Julianne Moore), turns out to be a psycho with a messiah complex. She thinks it's her mission to cleanse the Earth of misfits, specifically drug addicts. In her quest for mass-slaughter, she will kill the Kingsmen or anyone else who gets in her way.

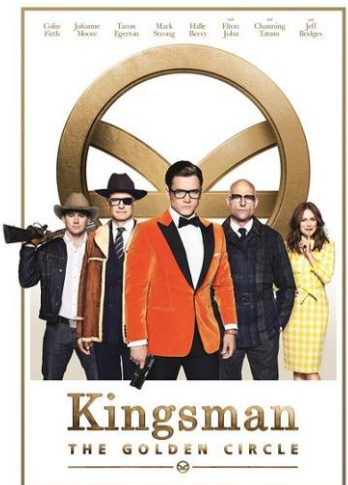
The greatness of the Kingsmen sequel is its powerful characters, especially Kingsmen Eggsy, Harry, and Merlin, played by the smooth trio Taron Egerton, Colin Firth, and Mark Strong, respectively. These three brothers-in-arms bring all the loyalty, emotion, and heart-pounding excitement you remember from the first movie!

And speaking of excitement, the action in *Golden Circle* is everything you could have wanted: fast-paced choreography, slick and razor-sharp stunts, dazzling special effects. Just try to remember to breathe once in a while as you watch.

On the whole, this was a fine film, and I recommend the movie, especially if you're a fan of the first one. The acting is fantastic. The music hits all the right dramatic high notes. The stunts, action, and special effects are fast, eye-popping, and breathtaking, and I just have to say it... those smooth accents and slick, tailor-cut English suits will make you want to get your British on! If it's a bit unoriginal in places, well... it's a sequel, what do you expect? As sequels go, this one is a worthy successor to the dazzling original.

Sadly, one of the disappointments of the film was the less-than-inspiring performance of Julianne Moore. The villain was psychotic, all right, but a bit cliché and monotone at times, the kind of thing you'd put up with from a rookie actress, but hard to figure from the talented Moore. Part of the problem was that the evil plot was essentially recycled from the first film – Take "Valentine cleanses the world" and sub in the name Poppy for Valentine. You won't miss a step. She picks up right where he left off.

Hand it to the set designers, though – a '60s or '70s theme park in the middle of an Aztec jungle... there's something you don't see every day. The film might almost be worth your \$10 plus popcorn just to say that now you've seen everything!



## Block 4: Special Days to Note

**October 28**

### **Happy National Chocolate Day!**

Take the seeds of the Mexican cacao tree. Ferment them. Roast them. Grind them, and mix them with liquid ingredients (such as vanilla), and you have chocolate liquor. Now you're ready to add sugar and spices and create chocolate solids for candy or baking – or make fine brewed chocolate beverages like cocoa.

Ah, that intoxicating, sweet fragrance. That transcendent flavor of love and inner peace! No wonder chocolate is America's favorite flavor. In fact, we're all addicted!

Really.

As it turns out, chocolate is an intoxicating drug. Native Americans have acquired thousands of years of tolerance, but when the Spanish first arrived in the Americas, chocolate was a powerful new intoxicant. One story tells of an abbey in the mountains that stopped communicating with their religious superiors. Fearing that the nuns had been attacked and killed, the Spanish sent soldiers to investigate. They found that the nuns were spending all their time getting loaded on Mexican chocolate! The church banned the devilish brew at once, but it didn't keep the addicts from their drug!

Generations later, we've all acquired a tolerance, but... be honest, a sweet bite of quality chocolate still gives you a mellow buzz, doesn't it?

**October 29**

### **Happy Cyrus the Great Day!**

Ancient Persia's great king Kurush, known to westerners by his Greek name Cyrus, founded the Achaemenid Empire and made Persia into the greatest civilization in the pre-Classical world: leader in trade, science, philosophy, art, literature, and...

Wait for it...

Human rights!

Yes, you read that right. The Greeks would later clash with Cyrus's successors. They would come to hate Persia and to write disparagingly of all things Persian, leaving us a written legacy that describes the Persians and their kings as cruel tyrants. But Cyrus's record speaks for itself.

Wherever his armies were victorious, he established the equality of all citizens under the law. He freed thousands of religious prisoners and established the freedom of all citizens to worship as they pleased. He is named in the Jewish Old Testament as "Cyrus the Great", because he freed the Jews held captive in Babylon and allowed them to return to their Holy Land in Israel.

Today the people of Iran (Persia) celebrate Cyrus the Great Day, and the government proudly trumpets his name, wishing to associate themselves with this great figure of Iran's ancient past.

What a shame that the blood-soaked Iranian government has learned nothing from their hero, Cyrus. The Iranian government today is notorious for persecuting religious minorities and anyone who tries to stand up against this abuse. In the years since 1979 (when the current government came to power), hundreds of thousands of "enemies of the state" (especially Bahá'ís and Zoroastrians) have been killed, imprisoned on false charges, tortured, and driven out of the country.

Let's celebrate Cyrus the Great today, and let's hope that the government who cherishes his memory actually learns something from him. (For the record, Cyrus himself was a Zoroastrian. Today's Iran would throw him in prison!)

**November 1**

### **Happy Calan Gaeaf!**

Today is known in Wales as the First Day of Winter: Calan Gaeaf or Ysbrydnos.

Traditionally, Welsh people avoid churchyards, crossroads, and stiles (gateways and other passages) on this day, as the spirits gather in these places.

To celebrate in the traditional manner, write or carve your name on a rock. Gather round a bonfire with the rest of your villagers, and circle your rocks around the fire. Then dance the night hours away until the fire begins to die down. Now run quickly home. If you leave early or stay late, the evil spirit Yr Hwch Ddu Gwta (a headless woman leading a tailless black pig) will chase you down and devour your soul.

Then the fun really begins. After you check in at home, go back out with your buddies. Carry the skull of a mare from house to house in your village. Sing, dance, and chant poetry outside the homes, and they have to tip you with money, bread, and beer. This only works if you're a man, though. The women have to stay at home. (Sorry.)

Tomorrow morning, a village elder (maybe Lance) will go and check the rocks around the bonfire. If your name is still there, you're safe for another year. If your name is gone... better make your funeral arrangements. You're going to die this year.

**November 3**

### **Happy Feast Day of the Virgin Saint Winifred!**

Winifred was born in the 600s to the outstanding Christian family of Wales. Her father was Tyfid, Chieftain of Tegeingl. Her mother was Wenlo, relative to the King of South Wales, and sister to Saint Bueno, who raised seven people from the dead in his lifetime (including Winifred herself, as we shall see).

Winifred was betrothed to a violent-tempered man named Caradoc. Preferring perpetual virginity to this match, she announced her intention of becoming a nun. The outraged Caradoc cut off her head. It rolled down a hill, and where it came to rest, a spring of miraculous healing waters burst from the ground. The Welsh town of Holywell now stands on the site. Pilgrims flock there to Winifred's Well to this day.

Winifred's Uncle Bueno rejoined the virgin's head to her body, calling her back to life. Then he pronounced divine sentence on the evil suitor. The ground opened up at once and swallowed Caradoc. For good measure, Winifred's brother Owain cut off Caradoc's head. Quite how he did this, when Caradoc had been swallowed up by the Earth, has never been part of the telling. Perhaps he dug Caradoc up.

Winifred went on to become a nun and a beloved abbess.

When she died, her coffin made a funeral procession through western England, and things really began to happen! Her remains lay for a night in Woolston, Shropshire, and the next morning, a healing spring was bubbling from the ground there.

A few more stops: Holywell Farm in Cheshire, Lansdown Hill in Bath, and darned if miraculous waters didn't spring forth from the Earth at those sites too! (Pilgrims are healed at these wells even today, it is said.)

At this point, one senses the possibilities. Carry the coffin across the length and breadth of England, stopping overnight at every town, and the country might be awash in miracle water forever after. But no one seems to have thought of this.

Winifred's body returned home and was laid to rest in her Welsh abbey, near the waters once raised by her severed head. Five centuries later, monks from England exhumed her coffin and re-interred it at Shrewsbury. They must have figured it was worth a try! But time takes a toll on anyone's abilities, even Winifred's. No healing waters surfaced in Shrewsbury so far as we've heard.

On the other hand, the town has since sported a lively and unusually popular brewing industry. Perhaps the brewers of Shrewsbury know something we don't.

## November 5

### Happy Guy Fawkes Day!

On this day in 1605, English soldiers captured a religious terrorist named Guy Fawkes in the chambers beneath Britain's House of Lords. Fawkes was standing guard over kegs of gunpowder. That night the king was to speak before Parliament, and Fawkes had meant to obliterate most of Britain's government in one great explosion.

The grateful public celebrated the deliverance of their popular king, James I, and an act of Parliament soon made this observance a national holiday: Gunpowder Treason Day. Within a few decades, the holiday became one of England's most lively and cherished celebrations, but it also became a pretext for centuries of annual anti-Catholic abuse by mobs. (Fawkes had been trying to replace the Protestant government with a Catholic one.)

By the 1900s, religious hatred had died down. The holiday had become Guy Fawkes Day, a sort of Fourth-of-July meets Halloween, with little thought of historical commemoration! The celebrations included public fireworks displays and trick-or-treating (usually for pennies, not candy.) Children knocked on doors and chanted, "Penny for the Guy!" while holding out their treat bags. They sang grisly songs too, like the following example and its many variants:

Remember, remember  
The Fifth of November:  
Gunpowder, Treason, and Blood!

Oddly, Guy Fawkes has been widely re-imagined today, in books, film, and public folklore, as a kind of Robin Hood, a champion of the people against government oppression. Fawkes, not James I, is now the hero, and an act of religious terrorism has been recast as popular defiance against tyranny!

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