



Mock Trial wins state championship

By: Klara Rochau (guest contributor)

Bright and early on February 24th the STHS Mock Trial Team competed at Regionals in Lexington.

Under the supervision of teacher and coach Thomas Behr and volunteer attorney coach Ms. Massey, the team improved their skills immensely during the last months of practice. Mr. McKinney, who has taught drama for many years at STHS, supported the team as well and helped with the characterization of the witnesses and the presentation of the attorneys. Ms. Jackson, a retired history teacher from Strom Thurmond High School, made the team better by giving advice that she learned from years of experience, and Dr. Mosely, a middle school teacher, supported the team emotionally.

Thanks to Ms. Ginn, the yearbook teacher at STHS, took beautiful pictures of the competition. Not to forget the amazing bus driver Ms. Owens without her the team would not be able to attend the competitions all over the state.

Mock Trial is an imitation trial where kids from different schools compete against each other. The witnesses are given an affidavit which they have to study and know by heart. The team also has attorneys who will ask their witnesses and the opposing counsel's witnesses, who are fictional characters, questions. They are also allowed to make objections.

As team RB the plaintiff as well as the defense side had an incredible run at the Regional Competition. The case before the court was Jo Harrelson as personal representative of Bryce Harrelson, a pilot with Cardinal Airlines who died when Flight X1027 crashed shortly after take off.

Along with Harrelson on board were copilot Dale Hammilton and 56 other people, who all died upon impact, and the FFC 500 Super, the plane, was destroyed. Now the question is whether the pilot is at fault because he was not sufficiently trained to use the new take off and landing software called "EZ- Flight" and was unattentive during training, or was it a faulty software system designed by Forrester Flight Company that caused the crash and led to the death of all people on board.



(participants not listed in order)
Mina Allen, Raina Barrs, Elizabeth Busby, Joseph Greene, Julianne Harper, Carter Massey, Olivia O'Gorman, Kimberly Ramirez, Toney Robinson, Klara Rochau, Emma Smith, Lilly Smith, Evan Williams, Autumn Wingard, Eriz Zelmer. Coaches Ms. Blair Massey and Mr. Thomas Behr

The Mock Trial team in Columbia, South Carolina where they placed first in the state and will now go on to Nationals.

First, the witnesses for the defense, who represented Forrester Flight Company in the case were called. In order: Lake Gambell (Julianne Harper), Costa Jackson (Joseph Greene) and Jaden Holly (Lily Smith) who competed with their attorneys Raina Barrs, Evan Williams and Mina Allen.

In the second round the plaintiff, representing the deceased pilot's husband, went. The plaintiff team as well has three witnesses: Fisher Street (Eric Zelmer), Jo Harrelson (Toney Robinson) and River Lynch (Olivia O'Gorman). The lawyers for the plaintiff team were Raina Barrs, Evan Williams and Carter Massey.

In the third round the defense team went again. The team's time keeper was Elizabeth Busby and the two Bailiffs were Kimberly Ramirez and Autumn Wingard. In case of illness the team had two subs: Klara Rochau and Emma Smith.

After a long but very successful day the team celebrated at Shealy's. After weeks of hard training and a lot of memorization all the kids were thrilled to finally compete. Of course all the kids were nervous at first, but once they took their place in the witness stand no one could have guessed. The lawyers as well as the witnesses did an amazing job. It almost went flawlessly and the team was ready to compete at state.

A few days later the team came together to find out whether they advanced to the State competition or not. In the end they not only won first place in their region but also won the Professional and Civilians Award. Which means they attended the state competition which was held in Colombia as well on March 8-10 in Lexington.



The state competition was similar to the regional competition but it was held over two days. On the first day the STHS team competed two rounds as team CT (one round defense and one round plaintiff) and on the second day the team went defense again. After those rounds it was announced that team CT along with another team advanced to the championship round. After a quick lunch the team went as defense again and then as plaintiff.

All that was left, after the STHS Mock Trial Team showed what they had and put in their best effort and work, was waiting and hoping.

When the jury came back in the room it was dead silent and everybody was shaking and praying inside, that STHS would win the State Championship. Before the winner was announced, the jury told everybody that something happened that never happened before in a Mock Trial Championship Round: The teams ended at a tie. Which means the jury had the incredibly hard job to find little things which made one team better than the other. When the opposing team was announced 1st runner up, tears rolled down everybody's eyes, but nobody realized that that meant the Strom Thurmond High School Mock Trial Team won the State Championship for the 10th time!

The team now advances to the national level and competes at the National Competition in Delaware on May 1-5.

Congratulations to all team members and coaches, you did an amazing job and represented STHS proudly. Good luck at Nationals!

A deeper career focus offered for 2024-2025 school year

By: Bryanna Jackson

To offer students more opportunities for career and college readiness, teachers at Strom Thurmond High School are preparing for a new career focus for next year's students.

Freshmen will participate in a career wheel, where they are exposed to each career class. Students will make their final career choice the following year when they go to 10th grade. "We are trying to change the career tracks, making sure that students are picking classes that are in line with fields of interests," Ms. Lauren Tate said.

Administrators and teachers want students to know that, "When you go to college, you have a major and that major might not be targeted to a specific career, but it's an academic category field and a career academy is going to allow our students to get inside it with hands-on experience in a field of study. Whether that might be health and human services or whether that might be the STEM academy. Making sure that the classes that they are taking are in their field of interest," Ms. Tate said.

Classes will stay the same next year for freshmen. For 10th, 11th and 12th grade students there will be added courses for the 2024-2025 school year including AP Language and Composition, AP Seminar and AP Art 2D.

As STHS plans for next year, "departments have been working this year on pacing and alignment to standards within their content. Next year they will plan with other teachers across the content area and with Career Center teachers. Our Freshman Academy teachers are already planning and working together, so that will continue. We currently have a small cohort of Health Sciences students whose teachers work together as a Career Academy," Principal Mrs. Fran Altringer said.



During the changes Mrs. Altringer has been preparing the departments. "I have been explaining step by step with the department chairs so they can in turn help the teachers in their department. We are trying to keep people informed and allow them to make as many decisions as possible," Mrs. Altringer said.

The most challenging part for Mrs. Altringer is to keep everyone focused on the goal and thinking about the whole picture and not just their piece, while at the same time not overwhelming people with the work.

Students have been included in the development of the academies as well. Recently students attended grade level sessions where they gave their input. They were asked the following questions and came up with meaningful responses that have helped guide in planning and implementing.:

1. What hands-on experiences or real work projects would you like to be involved in?
2. What do you think sets a great academy apart from an average one?
3. How can the school best support you in your career exploration and development?
4. What skills or knowledge do you hope to gain from an academy program?
5. What clubs or activities would you like to see offered in the academies?
6. How can the school ensure that each academy is inclusive and provides equal opportunities for all students, regardless of background or interests?

Students at STHS now have more opportunities than ever to focus on their futures and attain their goals.

2024-2025

The Academies of Strom Thurmond High School

Grade 9



Grades 10-12

Human Services and Business Academy	STEAM Academy
<u>Healthcare Majors</u> Health Science Sports Medicine	<u>Security Majors</u> Cybersecurity Military Science
<u>Human Services Majors</u> Cosmetology	<u>Technology Majors</u> Mechatronics and PLTW Engineering
<u>Business Majors</u> Information Management General Management Finance Marketing Communication	<u>Education Majors</u> Education <u>Arts Majors</u> Band Theatre Chorus Visual Arts
	<u>Manufacturing Majors</u> Construction Automotive Welding Agriculture Horticulture Agriculture Plant and Animal Systems



A Writer's Way

Down the Rabbit Hole

By: Keon Batson

“Alice in Wonderland,” published in 1865, is a novel written by Lewis Carroll. The story follows a young girl, Alice, as she chases a white rabbit down a rabbit hole. She ends up in the whimsical and nonsensical world of Wonderland, where rules and logic are completely turned around.

A sequel, “Through the Looking-glass & what Alice Found There”, was published in 1871. Six months after the first book, Alice goes through a mirror and ends up in the looking-glass world, which represents a chess board.

The book has many bemusing situations which create a plethora of themes and motifs that can be deduced from the book. One possible theme is the juxtaposition of the child and adult viewpoints by Alice. An example of this would be how Alice often talks or plays games with herself. The ‘adult’ Alice wishes to follow the rules and often scolds Alice for acting out, while the ‘child’ Alice disregards the rules.



A scene to support this theme is when Alice is falling down the rabbit hole, and she remembers how she hit herself in the ears when she cheated during a game of croquet against herself. (Hyland, Peter. “The Ambiguous Alice: An Approach to Alice in Wonderland”).



Alice in Wonderland features many interesting characters. One is the Queen of Hearts, who continuously shouts “off with their head!”, the Cheshire Cat, who has a chilling smile, and the Mad Hatter, who infinitely has a tea party and enjoys frustrating Alice.

All of these characters go against societal norms, causing Alice to frequently be annoyed at the residents of Wonderland.

The book has received much praise, warranting future adaptations. The most popular was the movie “Alice in Wonderland”, directed by Tim Burton, released in 2010 (along with a sequel in 2016), which follows Alice’s return to Wonderland from the 1951 movie adaptation by Walt Disney.

My favorite adaptation of Alice in Wonderland is the video game “Alice” series by American McGee, specifically “Alice: Madness Returns”. In this game, Alice Liddell is traumatized by the death of her family in a fire, and with the help of her therapist, travels through a corrupted Wonderland to uncover the truth about her past.

Ever since I watched the movies, I have been in love with the very confusing but enthralling aesthetic that Alice in Wonderland has.

I recently read the books, which were very different from the adaptations, as there are events like a caucus race and court trial in the first book, and the entirety of the Looking Glass world in the second.

One of my favorite scenes in the first book was when Alice came to the Hatter’s tea party, and had a very sour time.

I highly recommend reading the two books, since I find them to be very funny and enchanting. Curiouser and curiouser!



Do you love to write?

Entries are being accepted for the

1st annual STHS writing contest

sponsored by: The Rebel Report

poetry (no more than 10 stanzas), short fiction (750-1500 words) flash fiction (500-750 words), one act plays

Only STHS 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students are eligible.

The **deadline** for entries is **May 1st**

See Ms. Pataro for entry forms and details in
Room# B-501

Sleep's effect on achievement

By: Abigail White

Sleeping is one of the many things people love to do at night; however many students do not get much sleep because they have to wake up early for school after staying up too late.

Students need sleep to focus and do their work. With enough sleep students will be able to stay active, complete their assignments, be more alert in class, and most likely not fall asleep.

On the other hand, students who do not get sleep are more likely to fall asleep in class; sometimes they'll be moody which may affect everyone else's mood.

There may be a solution. According to apa.org "Later school times promote adolescent well-being." It states that if schools moved their start time they would see students get more sleep.

Many studies have shown that when the school start time gets set back students have been more engaged in school. The studies also suggests car accidents involving tired students could decrease.

A later start may increase student GPAs; if students get more sleep they would be more productive and energetic for school.

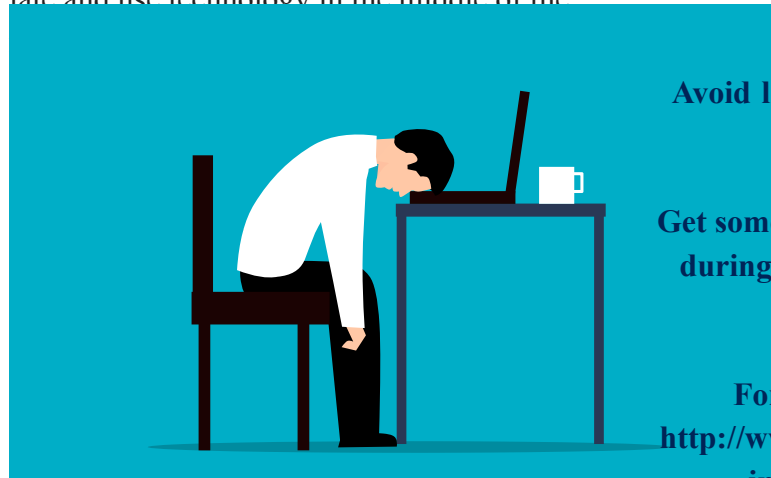
Schools may want to consider pushing back their start time, if so, maybe students would feel better about school, perform better, and be more awake.

Sleep amounts vary among students. Freshman Ray Richardson said he gets, "usually four hours or more." On the weekends Ray said, "At Least 6 hours depending on when I go to sleep." He says that he does wake up in the middle of the night and when he does he plays video games. "Sleep is important and we should get at least 7 hours of sleep every day. I also know that if you don't sleep for an entire week your brain will shut down and you'll die," Ray said.

Ray believes that sleep "helps us re-energize ourselves when we are tired." When asked if he would want to change his sleep schedule he said, "I wouldn't. I'm perfectly fine with the amount of sleep I get as it is."

He said that if he can't sleep it means he has stayed up too long or went to sleep too early. Ray has taken a sleep aid. "Melatonin is the only thing I've taken to help me sleep," Ray said. As a strategy to help him sleep better he sets an alarm for the time when he has to sleep, and he takes melatonin.

If they choose to, students can take a more active roll in their sleep-wake schedule. Their choice to stay up too late and use technology in the middle of the



CDC suggests ways to improve sleep

Be consistent. Go to bed at the same time each night and get up at the same time each morning, including on the weekends.

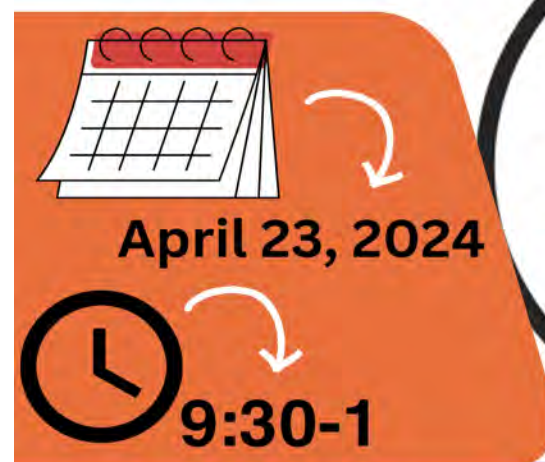
Make sure your bedroom is quiet, dark, relaxing, and at a comfortable temperature.

Remove electronic devices, such as TVs, computers, and smart phones, from the bedroom.

Avoid large meals, caffeine, and alcohol before bedtime.

Get some exercise. Being physically active during the day can help you fall asleep more easily at night.

For more information contact:
<http://www.sleepeducation.org/essentials-in-sleep/healthy-sleep-habits>



Requirements:

You will need to bring a resume

Come dress to impress!



Location:

James A. Taylor Memorial Gym at Aiken High School

Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee

By: Nathaneal Mims

One of the greatest boxers of all time is the one and only Muhammed Ali whose extensive career was reflected in his famous saying "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. The hands can't hit what the eyes can't see."

He was born Cassius Clay on January 17, 1942 in Louisville, KY. Clay was an African American professional boxer and an activist who was nicknamed the "Greatest of All Time."

In 1964 he formally announced that he felt his name was a "slave name." He then changed his name to Muhammed Ali because he had become a Muslim.

Ali was married four times and had seven daughters and two sons. As Cassius Clay, he made his professional debut on October 29, 1960, winning a six-round fight by decision over Tunney Hunsaker.

From then on, until the end of 1963, Clay's record was 19-0 with 15 wins by knockout and four by decision. As he kept moving on in his boxing career he defeated boxers such as Tony Esperti, Jim Robinson, Donnie Fleeman, Alonzo Johnson, George Logan, Willil Besmanoff, LaMar Clark, Doug Jones and Henry Cooper.

These earlier fights for Clay were not without trial or error. Clay was knocked down by Sonny Banks and Henry Cooper. In the Cooper fight Clay was knocked down by a left hook at the end of the round and he was saved by the bell. He ended up winning the fifth round because of Cooper's severely cut eyes.

In March of 1969 Ali refused to join the armed forces because it meant he would fight in the Vietnam War. As a result of that he was denied his boxing license in every state and stripped of his passport. He did not box from March 1967 to October 1970 from ages 25 to almost 29 years old.

His legal case worked its way through the appeal process until his conviction was overturned in 1971. During his absence he was condemned worldwide by American media. They had fears that Ali's actions could lead to mass civil disobedience.



By the end of Ali's boxing career it was estimated that he absorbed 200,000 hits. In 1984 Ali was diagnosed with Parkinson's Syndrome which usually occurs from excessive head trauma. Even after his diagnosis, he remained active in society as a human rights advocate.

On June 2, 2016 he was hospitalized with a respiratory illness. Later that same evening his condition worsened and he passed away due to septic shock.

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Siblings share school space

By: Skylar Corley and Devin Corley

Siblings, at times, attend school together and have different experiences with their relationships at school.

Many siblings have interactions with each other throughout the day; however, some try to avoid each other. "I remember avoiding my sister as much as possible when we were in school together. Now we are close friends," English teacher Ms. Pataro said.

Throughout the different sets of siblings at STHS, there are various interactions and different feelings towards one another. A junior (name withheld by request) feels that having a sibling at the same school "is very weird because I don't see him being as old as he is already."

Having a sibling going to the same school means they can lead their younger sibling or learn from their older sibling about the way things are run in the school. "It is nice to have someone to go to that's been at it longer than me," freshman Devin Corley said.

It is not always easy to have a sibling at the same school. Another junior says about his brother, "He's crazy and gets himself into drama that I have to hear about." Some siblings get themselves in trouble or hang around the wrong people.

If siblings communicate at school, they may use nicknames. Siblings usually have been raised calling each other by nicknames. Some have never had a nickname for their sibling at all. A junior said "we never had nicknames for each other, I've always just called him by his name." For Devin Corley it is different. "I've always called my sister sissy."

Most siblings have their own friend groups, but some stick around their siblings. A junior said "we don't have the same close friends, but we do have some of the same mutual friends." Devin and his sister Skylar "have the same friends, and we usually all joke around with each other."

Not all siblings are the same. Some are glad they are in the same school as their siblings, some are not. Whether avoiding each other or not, siblings still share time and space in one location or another.

Fields made of dreams for state wins

Softball players and track and field throwers' determination on display

By: Kinley French and K'Mya Moore

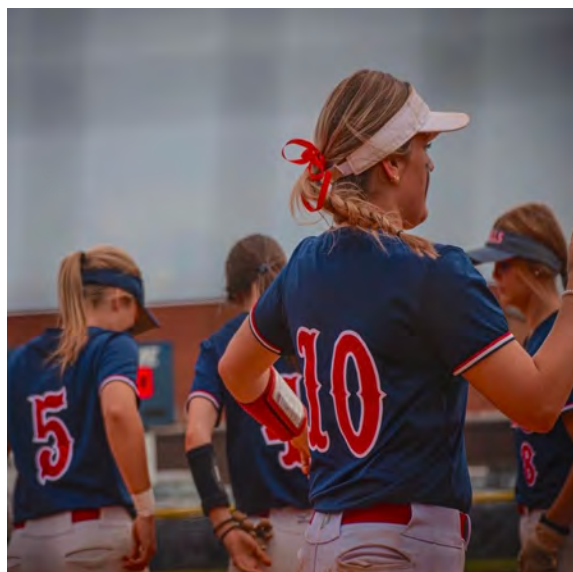
Softball and Track have started their spring season here at Strom Thurmond, and both strive for the same end goal which is to win a State Championship.

Softball just won, for the second year in a row, the Tomahawk Invitational beating Swansea, South Florence 4A Lower State Champs, Irmo, and Fox Creek to take home the win.

They had two scrimmages against Midland Valley and North Augusta and just played 3A Dreher High School and won 17-1.

One of their pitchers, Emmy Mckie, a junior said, "My favorite memory of playing softball here was last year when we traveled to Ninety Six High School to play for the District with all the odds against us and we won!"

Softball has impacted her life. "It's made me some of the best friends I could ever ask for and people I know would be there for me. It's given me a leadership role to use in my everyday life when needed". Emmy also stated that, "A State title is everyone's main goal."



Number 10 Emma Mckie

Freshman Lawsyn Lowe said, "The most important skill for success in softball is the ability to move to the next play or pitch without dwelling on the last."

Lawsyn also stated, "The skills most important are sportsmanship, a good attitude, and 100% effort".

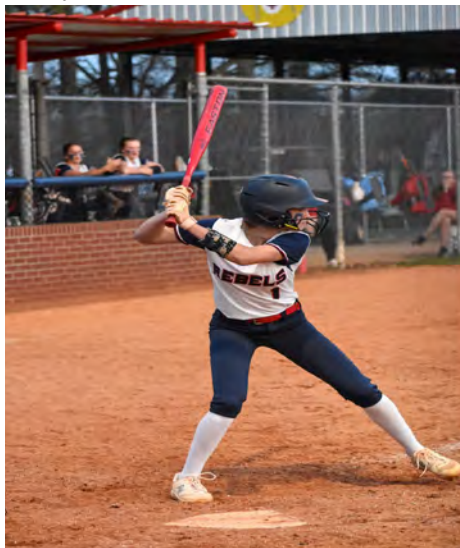
The main goal for Softball here at Strom Thurmond is to win a State Title and use the skills everyone has on the team to their advantage to accomplish this goal.

Track and field throwers also have their eyes on State where they hope to bring at least more than one thrower to the competition.



Lawsyn Lowe, Addyson Harrison, Olivia Gran, Reagan Clark, Lindsey Corley, Gracie Ryan, Micah Kennedy, Emmy Mckie, Kinley French, Mollie Bartley, Madison Rodrigues, Jules Sides, Blaire Ball, Leigh Ann Strook, Sara Beth Mckie, HaylInn Smith

To reach their goals Coach Felton's philosophy is wanting "them to focus on two aspects of throwing technique and strength. When you get those two things, everything else you kinda gotta feel out for yourself, and once you start getting everything to click in your head and with your body."



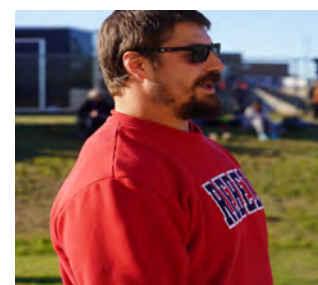
Lawsyn Lowe at bat

Sophomore Sydeny Collins understands the importance of technique. "The most challenging aspect as a thrower is learning technique and learning how to stick with it." Sydney also spends a lot of time working on her technique "I practice at track practice and whenever I'm off work I practice technique." For many throwers, their inspiration came from a former thrower or a current thrower.



Adriyanna Johnson

Softball Coaches;
Drake Dunlap
Greg Clark
Ashley Chinn
Heather Webb



Coach Felton



Amya Randle

Sophomore Imani Gilchrist looks up to former thrower Hailey Collins, class of 2023. Other inspirations include Sydney Collins's sister. "My sister inspired me when I was in 7th grade, but I didn't start until I was in 8th. I look up to my sister as a role model but on the track team I look up to Imani, my best friend," Sydney Collins said.

As a thrower everyone has their own needs. Coach Felton feels that coaches have to tailor to the needs of each thrower because it is a very individualized sport.

"One thing at a time, let's find one thing you can work on and fix that and then move on to the next," Coach Felton said.

As in any sport there comes a time where challenges are faced. The STHS throwers say the most challenging aspect of throwing is technique.

Every coach-athlete relationship is special. "I like to joke and have a good time but also be serious and find success for each thrower," Coach Felton said.

The throwers all say their relationship with Coach Felton is great. He is one of the best coaches they have ever had, he listens and helps and is like a father figure to the throwers.

For any future throwers Addison Temples advice is "talking to someone who has thrown before and get to know what all you need for throwing. Like the type of shoes. I would also talk to Coach Felton to tell him that they are intrested and don't be scared, it was everyone's first time at some point."

The softball and track teams at STHS are ready for a season that could include winning a state championship.

Senior spotlight

Leaving high school behind and reaching for what is possible

By: Haley Gilliam

Senior year is full of bitter sweet moments. Seniors start to realize their childhoods are finally coming to an end. Memories will be all they have after Graduation. Challenges are faced, decisions are made, and consequences are in effect.

Being an average senior who does not play sports, participate in clubs or school activities is harder than it looks. Senior Kyla Gilliam says this year has been an adrenaline rush for her. Kyla has faced many challenges such as turning in her work on time, having projects due back to back in every class, going to school and working eight hour shifts almost every day after school.

Although she only has two classes a day, she still struggles with finding time to complete her work on time. These challenges are just challenges to Kyla. She still manages to stay on the honor roll every quarter. Kyla thanks her sister for helping out and her mother for supporting her the whole way.

Senior year can be the most challenging year. There are many events that come along with senior year. For starters graduation, prom, awards day, etc. Most of those events require spending money.

Kyla says this is why she works so much. She has to pay off her senior package, prom dress, and she likes to be able to afford nice outfits for the other events.

Another challenge Kyla is facing is deciding on which college to attend. She has at least 12 acceptances. She just wants to make sure she makes the right choice.

Kyla Gilliam
(photo provided
by Prestige
Photography)



That choice includes financial considerations. Kyla does not want to be in debt after she graduates college, and she also wants to make sure they have a great engineering program.

Senior Year is different for everyone. Some students fly through it with a breeze and others struggle with all that comes with it.

Kyla's advice is to "stay strong through it all, go for everything you want, and do not get distracted and fall behind. This is your last year make the best of it."

Faculty reveal special talents

By: Ny'Asia Stevens

Outside of the walls of Strom Thurmond High School, teachers have many special talents that most people are unaware of.

Media Specialist Ms. Burnip stated that in her spare time, she tries to do a lot of exercising such as walking and running. She also does pottery and loves cooking. Ms. Burnip's special talents are drawing, cooking/catering. Mrs. Pride vouches that Ms. Burnip is a good caterer because she has eaten her food.

Her family, friends, and a few people at school know about her talents, but she doesn't broadcast them. Ms. Burnip discovered she had these talents because in school she received feedback from teachers that she was talented.

Her art was influenced by her mom because she used to paint. Ms. Burnip has been artistic since childhood. Ms. Burnip said "I feel like I'm in another world, like I can turn everything off and it just feels like, I'm in the zone. I just feel like I'm doing something that really makes me happy."



Coach Felton

Outside of school, Coach Felton spends time with family, plays video games, lifts weights, and watches anime and youtube. He also enjoys history and science. His special talents are moving heavy weights and knowing things.

Anybody he is close with knows he has these talents, and if anyone asks, he will tell them. He discovered he had these talents by having an interest in lifting weights and continuing to be a lifelong learner.

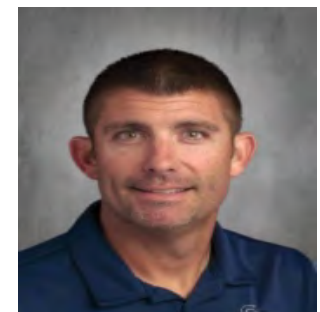
His dad was a big inspiration to be strong and smart. Coach Felton says he feels fulfilled when he does these talents. "It is always great to be healthy and continue to learn about the planet and universe we live in," Coach Felton said

He states that he has been lifting weights since he was 12 years old with a couple years off after college and that, as far as learning new things, he thinks that he has been doing it his whole life.

In his spare time, Coach Hayes enjoys spending time with his wife and kids, going to his parents' lake house, and going to the mountains and the beach. His interests are playing golf, watching college football, and cooking.

Coach Hayes thinks that he does not have any special talents, except maybe his grilling and cooking skills. His wife and close friends think he is a great cook. He shares his talents with them. He discovered he could cook because his family did not go out to eat very often, so they had to learn how to cook and enjoy good food at home.

He was introduced to cooking by his father and his fathers' friends. He stated that they would cook big meals at the lake during the summer. Coach Hayes also stated that he feels comfortable and happy when he "feeds a large group of people, especially if they enjoy the meal." He says that he's probably been doing these talents for 20 years and that he started when he was in college.



Coach Hayes

Inside of the classroom, teachers display their teaching skills, but outside of the classroom they may have talents that are unknown to students. At STHS there is no end to the talents teachers show.

Scratch, wild style, blockbuster, piece: it's all graffiti

By: Alan Estrada

Graffiti can be found almost everywhere: on school desks, walls of buildings, sidewalks, or even on cars.

It's no surprise that the word "Graffiti" actually means "scratch", with some of the earliest forms of graffiti being scratched or carved into rock. For example, one of the earliest traces of graffiti found dates back 30,000 years ago in the Chauvet Caves in southern France.

Even more intriguing is the lost city of Pompeii, which has graffiti written on the walls of the excavated buildings, which supports the fact that graffiti has been around for thousands of years.

Starting in Philadelphia in the 1960s was the beginning of the Graffiti movement. This popular movement spread across nearby states.

In the early 1970's, when graffiti made its way to New York City, everything changed, and drastically too. Graffiti itself experienced a significant transformation, from graffiti to 'modern' graffiti. The change came when graffiti changed from a simple name or little doodle drawn on a wall, to an integrated art form with many styles.

From a simple 'tag', to a 'throw-up' style, a 'wildstyle', a 'blockbuster' style, a 'piece' or to a 'character' style, the outbreak of so many different styles of graffiti changed graffiti into 'modern' graffiti. All in all, graffiti seems to have always been a part of human history and daily life, but with graffiti now being a common entity, the controversy and backlash against graffiti is just as common as graffiti itself.



Is modern graffiti even considered a form of art, or is it considered a form of vandalism - a common question - and how is it viewed by the public? It wasn't always like this; in fact graffiti was viewed as a youth movement, as a type of renaissance, an uproar in artistic and imaginative creativity in the late 20th century.

Graffiti is a radical way to express yourself, to make a point, or to leave a mark for all to see. It is used as a type of expression, and for some, it was a life calling. Take the famous street artist Futura2000 for example. His role in being an early pioneer of 'modern' graffiti and being one of the first well known taggers of the early days of graffiti, earn him a top spot in the realm of graffiti.

What made Futura2000 stand out from the rest was his way of tagging, which started with early signs and hints of "abstractism" being formulated into his tags, to Futura2000 going completely abstract with his form of blending other forms of art into graffiti. He completely mastered colors, geometric composition, and lines, earning him respect as a top street artist. His work, which caught enormous attention in the 1980's, led to having most of his artworks featured or hosted, and displayed in famous art exhibits.

But within the rising popularity of graffiti and the people who influenced it, backlash came and unfortunately in an unexpected way.

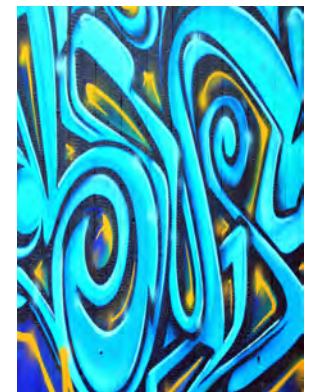
Backlash came when many street artists tried to pitch into the "graffiti art movement" that exploded in NYC, which led to a plague of graffiti sprayed or painted onto buildings used by the public, enraging the building owners who contacted law enforcement thus tying graffiti to the word 'vandalism'.

While graffiti is considered a controversial form of art, it is art, but with a bad reputation. Graffiti was heavily used by certain gangs to mark their territory around neighborhoods, leading to "graffiti gang wars".



Nevertheless, the spread of graffiti was far too great, and it spread at a worldwide level, from murals of graffiti art in Chile and Brazil, to beautiful art depictions of nature and life found in the streets of China and Japan, and to the rural and wild Aztec inspired graffiti art in Mexico.

Graffiti will continue to leave a deep mark in the cultures of mankind as a tool of expression and art.



Opinion/Editorial

God's Understanding

By: Zanna Flynn

Christians align themselves with Christ Jesus, admitting one has sinned and that ones' sin is really offensive to God. It's recognizing that there is nothing that that individual can do to pay the price for their sin. It's confessing sins to God.

Even though he already knows them, he wants people to confess them to him, to come to grips with them. It's following God, getting to know God, reading God's word and doing your best to follow God daily.

People sometimes use the word of God quite casually, usually in an expression of surprise, in swearing or jokes.

Christians believe that God is the eternal being who created and preserved all things. God is all powerful, all knowing, everywhere present, perfectly loving and just, and in control (Holy Bible).

Some people say they don't believe that God exists and demand proof. "Proof" is the key term here because people can prove things in a number of ways. Proof for God's existence falls into three categories: logical, natural, and personal (Holy Bible).

The logical one that is the most talked about is the proof of intelligent design. The natural proof highlights the natural availability to everyone.

The personal proofs relate to your pursuit of the meaning of someone's life, someone's appetite for wholeness, someone's impatience with a daily routine that fills their stomach but leaves their heart empty. We long for a home, and our home is finally found in God.

Since God is a spirit, we can't see him, but he has revealed himself to us. All people wherever you go can know something about God through nature, seeing the creation. God also tells us about himself through "special revelation" found in the Bible (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

So we can learn about God by reading and studying scripture. God also revealed himself perfectly when he became a man in Jesus which was God in the flesh.

So we can look at Jesus and see God (see John 1:14; 14:19; Colossians). So we can look at Jesus and see God. God spoke to Moses through Joshua.

God put music in David's heart and warnings on the lips of the prophets, but when God wanted to let the people he loved see and feel his presence to talk face to face with him and watch miracles unfold he sent Jesus (Galatians 4).

I have always been a Christian, but when my mom got sick with cancer and passed away I started to really get closer to God and my faith in Him has definitely gotten stronger.

God has helped me gain the strength to be able to get through each day and be okay. I've learned that I don't need to depend on my own strength, but God's. I've learned that I just need to surrender all to God and then I don't need to be worrying about different things because I trusted God so much for me to surrender all to him.

Me getting closer to God is definitely one of the best things I've ever done in my life. God will give you peace, joy, and just pure happiness. And of course there will be hard days where all you want to do is cry, and it's okay to cry but let out what you're feeling to God.

God understands you more than anyone on this earth, no one can compare to him. God's love is unconditional. God is your safe place, your comforter, your steadiness, your anchor. And he will be there when no one else is.



Easter brings different traditions

By: Emma Mims and Abney Mims

Spring is a season of new beginnings, and along with this season is one of many peoples' major holidays, Easter. The tale of the Easter Bunny is a staple on Easter Sunday, but with this holiday there are more traditions to it than what meets the eye.

As little kids, Easter is commonly celebrated with the Easter Bunny bringing gift baskets, and participating in early- morning Easter egg hunts. On the other hand, many STHS students think of this holiday as, " Jesus Chirst rising from the dead, three days after being crucified and defeating death," sophomore Linsey Corely said.

With Easter widely celebrating Jesus, it is also one where families have many traditions they partake in each year. Some of our high school students' traditions may include, " Going to my Grandparents house and my cousins and I hunt for Easter eggs, then eat a nice family dinner," sophomore Reese Hidlay said.

With holidays, there is most likely always someone missing. A lot of family members in the student body have passed, but that does not stop them from remembering them on this holiday and holding them close to their heart.

Losing a loved one is especially hard when holidays come along. Freshman Gabbie Courtney remembers her dad," He always hid my eggs very hard as a kid, and I'll miss the jokes he made about it."

Despite all the extra things about this holiday Christians remember Easter's true meaning. Easter is about Jeesus's rebirth and his love for people. So religious or not, Easter is a sign of growing and celebrating new beginnings.



The Wonderful World of Wonka

Movie Review

By: Anthony Carson, Conner Hadden, and A. Estrada

The world of Willy Wonka has been through a few adaptations, from a book in 1964, to *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* in 1971 with Gene Wilder as Willy Wonka, to *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in 2005 with Johnny Depp as Willy Wonka, and now to *Wonka* in 2023 with Timothee Chalamet as Willy Wonka. The most recent is an interesting story with great quality visuals, a nice supporting cast, and an amazing plot.

The story of *Wonka* follows a young Willy Wonka (Timothee Chalamet) arriving in Europe in 1934, ready to establish his chocolate shop. Having been tricked by a lady named Mrs. Scrubbit (Olivia Colman), he soon becomes a servant, befriendng a little girl named Noodle (Calah Lane), and eventually a creature known as an Oompa Loompa, named Lofty (Hugh Grant). Fighting the corrupt chief of police (Keegan Micheal-Key), the Chocolate Cartel, including their leader Arthur Slugworth (Paterson Joseph), and other forces, Wonka escapes and sets out to create his chocolate legacy.

After freeing Noodle and the other servants under Mrs. Scrubbitt, Wonka, Noodle, and Lofty fight to unveil the Cartel's misdeeds to everyone. After defeating the Cartel and getting the corrupt chief behind bars, Noodle is able to return to her mother (Tracy Ifeachor), and Lofty and Wonka buy and settle into a castle, ready to make Wonka a legacy in chocolate making. Additional cast include Sallys Hawkins as Wonka's mom, Matt Lucas as Prodnose, and Jim Carter as Abacus Crunch.



The cinematography of *Wonka* is a wonderful experience. Two particular scenes stand out. The first is when Wonka and Lofty are in the ruins of a castle and Wonka talks about what he could turn the castle into, and the scene changes and shows all the extravagant details.

The second scene is when Wonka shows off his magical candy, and every part of the scene is filled with wonderful colors. With bold greens and neon yellows, the scene looks amazing.

All in all, *Wonka* is a must-watch, with all sorts of qualities that are enticing to the audience, young and old. A sweet movie indeed.



Timeline from book to movie:

Roald Dahl writes *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* 1964 (book)

Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory 1971 (film) directed by Mel Stuart

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory 2005 (film) directed by Tim Burton

Wonka 2023 (film) directed by Paul King

Teachers show the importance of positive interactions and attitudes

By: Kristian Brown and Isabella Mora

Students and teachers have various ideas of what makes a good teacher at Strom Thurmond High School. Well, in simple terms, most people would think that good teachers show up, do their job, and go home, but there is more to teaching than that. Most teachers really do have a passion for teaching and they develop skills such as: communication skills, time management skills, leadership skills, and more.

According to Ms. Caitlyn Key “patience and compassion” is what makes a good teacher. In response to whether Ms. Key thinks she is a good teacher and she said “I think I’m a great teacher. I think I’m a great teacher because I am compassionate, I understand that things happen, and I like to take that into account with my students. I also think I’m a great teacher because I try my very best to make learning fun”.

Mrs. Shannon Bonczek has been teaching here for two years and she is already a favorite amongst students. Ninth graders Alaysia Lee, Renyshia Thomas, Aniyah Lee, Kristian Brown, Crayton Strickland, Joseph Greene and many others say that Mrs. Bonczek is a good teacher. “...she’s very sweet and yeah she loves her students.” According to many students she teaches her lesson clearly and understands her students.

Sophomore Shakiyah Weaver’s favorite teacher is Mrs. Clark-Stevens because “She is very inspiring and she helps me a lot.” Math teacher Mrs. Clark-Stevens said that a good teacher is a teacher who, “has good relationships with students so that they can conquer whatever we need to in the classroom.” Most teachers seem to agree.

Teachers have to build relationships with their students and have to have good communications skills to make the job easier.

Juniors share the same opinion of teachers. Junior Trekel Stevens said that his favorite teacher is, “Mrs. Pataro because she’s just cool.” Ms. Pataro said that the most important thing about teaching is to, “Always consider your students first, and what their needs are.” Since she cares about her students, it’s probably why so many students love her.

Another 11th grader, Blaze Kinsley said that her favorite teacher is, “First-Sergeant Harry Johnson, because he’s really cool and he does his job well.”

Senior Anthony Carson is in his last year and throughout his years of highschool, Mr. Steven McKinney also known as PNut has remained his favorite teacher. Another fan of Mr. McKinney is 11th grader, Alan Mote Estrada. “He’s just a really cool guy... chill,” Alan said, “His teaching is always really good and doesn’t need any tweaking.” There are also many others who favor Mr. McKinney.

Other than the good aspects, obviously there can be some things that still need to be improved, and there can be some difficulty when it comes to teaching. All the teachers interviewed said that the most difficult thing about teaching is not knowing what their students are going through. This shows that the teachers really do care about their students and how they feel. Ms. Bonczek states, “The most difficult thing about being a teacher is seeing a kid having an issue that you can’t intervene about.”

“There are some things teachers are limited in what we can do and when you have a problem I can’t help any of y’all with, that is the hardest thing in the world.” Ms. Bonczek also has some good criticism of herself and says that she doesn’t think she’s a good teacher yet, since it’s only her second year teaching. She must be doing a great job since she is a big favorite of students.

Overall, all the teachers at STHS seem well liked. From what students have to say, Strom Thurmond has some of the best teachers this state could ever ask for.



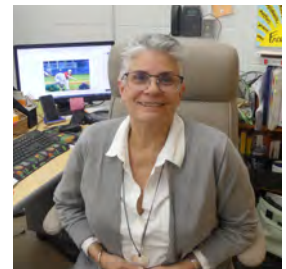
Caitlyn Key
English



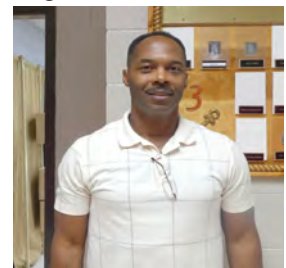
Shannon Bonczek
English



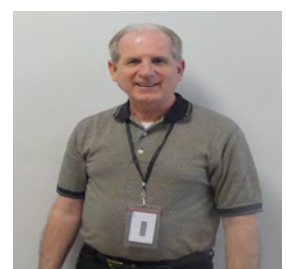
Janelle Clark-Stevens
Math



Francesca Pataro
English



1st Sgt. Harry Johnson
NJROTC



Mr. Steven McKinney
Fine Arts

Tumbling through school with Stanley cups

Seen everywhere, Stanley cups' popularity outweigh the cost



Xaver McAdoo and Brookly Hicks



By: Mary Hamilton and Shelby Waters

Around the globe, Stanley tumblers are popular this season keeping drinks cold or hot.

Stanley Tumblers were invented by William Stanley Jr. in 1913 and have been used for many generations. Recently, the Stanley “Quencher” has become popular.

Stanley Quencher cups are made of recycled stainless steel which makes the cup durable. The Stanley cup keeps a drink insulated so it will regulate and stay cold or hot.

Stanley tumblers come in a variety of colors including neutral colors like black to vibrant colors such as pink. The most popular colors are green and pink. There are themed cups such as the Valentine’s day Quencher which went viral on social media.

Stanley Quenchers come in an assortment of sizes and designs; There are sizes from 14 oz to 64 oz and include a three position lid and straw.

Freshman Gabbie Courtney said, “I like the cup with the straw and handle. I love my 30 oz and 40 oz, I use both often,” when referring to the design and size of Stanley Quencher that she uses.



Spanish teacher Ms. Emily Kayes

The cups are not without issues. A common problem found with the cups is that they do spill. Gabbie Courtney said, “It’s big and bulky, it spills, but it holds ice really well.” Freshman Blaire Ball said what is bad about the Stanley is that “they spill.”

There was a viral tiktok going around of a lady whose car caught on fire, and she had her Stanley in the where everything but the cup was in ashes. There was still ice in the cup, and the family corporation replaced her car and her Stanley Cup.

Stanley Tumblers can be purchased from many retail stores such as Walmart or Target, and online stores such as Amazon and the Stanley website itself.

The quencher H2.0 Flowstate Tumbler 40 oz cup costs \$45.00 whereas a 30 oz Flowstate Tumbler costs \$35.00. The ice flow flip straw tumbler 30 oz costs \$35.00 and the 20 oz costs \$30.00.



English teachers Ms. Savannah Carter and Ms. Caitlyn Key are never without their Stanley cups. Of course Ms. Key's is pink which is perhaps a shout out as a Swiftie!



Kinley French, Blaire Ball and Beau Whitfield

Many Argue that Stanley cups are overpriced, which might be true, but the quality is well worth the money according to English teacher Miss Caitlyn Key. “It is absolutely worth it because I use mine every day.” While Ms.Key is all for the price, science teacher Ms. Harley King states that Stanleys are “basic and overpriced.” For people that don’t use a Stanley Tumbler typically prefer brands such as Yeti, Hydroflasks, or even just a styrofoam cup.



Carter Hill with a borrowed cup just chill'in.

Mathematics teacher Mrs. Misti Padgett said, “I’ve got Yetis and Ozark trails,” when referring to cups she used while sophomore Maryann Bunch said that, “I own a Swank off version” of a Stanley Tumbler.

There is a lot of hype for Stanley cups, but overall Stanley Tumblers are sustainable cups to use and have many benefits. The only downsides are that they tend to spill and sometimes can be aggravating to haul around all day if on the go.

Rebel jv and varsity baseball bring it to the field



By: Aundrea Davis and TeAjiah Lee

The Strom Thurmond Rebels baseball team is officially back for the year, and they are ready for their competition.

To be competitive the Rebels practice 7 days a week to get ready for games. The team have different coaches for each position. Not only are the coaches dedicated but so are the players.

Many STHS players have a passion for baseball. Senior Justus Hammet got a passion to play at 7 years old and has continued his baseball career. Watching his older cousin playing baseball gave Justus the confidence to also play. Justus's positions on the team are first and third base and catcher. When hitting, his favorite bat to use is a Demarini one piece.

This is Justus's senior year, which he feels has gone by really fast. He plans on heading to college, but he hasn't picked a specific college yet.

Playing 2nd base and shortstop, is Junior Bryston Bryant. His favorite bat is a Catx 1 piece. When he was younger "my dad wanted me to play sports. I started playing basketball then I figured out baseball was my thing," Bryston said. He is on Varsity and says that "It's a lot more fun than jv because we are playing for regionals".

Their biggest rival has been Fox Creek for the past few years because "one year they would win Regionals then the next we would win," Bryston said. He plans on getting a college scholarship for baseball, and if that doesn't work out he just wants to go to college to get an education.

Freshman Ben Johnson is on the jv baseball team. His position is outfield. He was inspired by his dad and has been playing his whole life. Although he loves baseball, he doesn't plan on playing baseball in college. Ben feels the jv baseball team is even better than varsity.

Coach Horton is the head coach for the Strom Thurmond Baseball team. This is his 3rd year coaching here at Strom Thurmond. Coach Horton feels "really good" about this year's team. His goal for the team is to "get better every day." For Coach Horton the biggest challenge for him is dealing with all the different personalities. He has been coaching for 10 years and has also played in high school and in college at Presbyterian.

Both varsity and jv benefit from solid coaching. One of Justus's coaches is Coach Ahrens. Coach Ahrens is excited for this year's ball club. This is his second year coaching at Strom Thurmond. He is especially pleased with the pitching staff and their potential. Coach Ahrens's biggest challenge is to get everyone to buy into the team over their mindset.

The Strom Thurmond baseball teams, through their determination and strong coaching staff, could have a shot to be Regional Champs.

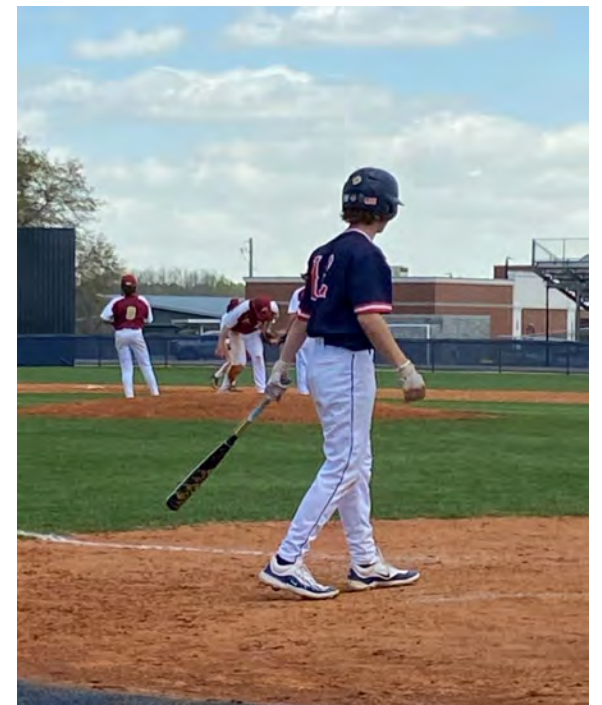


Justus Hammett waits for the play.

(PICTURES PROVIDED BY MIKE ROSIER.)



Bryston Bryant tries for a bunt.



Freshman jv player Ben Johnson



Student spotlight on Emmy Mckie



Junior Emmy Mckie

By: Blaire Ball

Junior Emmy Mckie is a student at Strom Thurmond High School who has many interests and participates in a variety of activities.

An enthusiastic Rebel, Emmy says that her favorite part of Strom Thurmond is, “the atmosphere and the environment that the school brings.”

Emmy is very involved in school. Emmy is a multi-sport athlete. In addition to sports, she supports the Rebel-Tees program at the Career Center. Emmy is responsible for selling and producing t-shirts and other merchandise.

Emmy plays softball and tennis for Thurmond. “My favorite part of tennis was probably the post game meals where we did team bonding,” Emmy said.

Emmy says that playing sports has made her grow closer to the school and to her teammates. “Seeing my friends and having good teachers is what I look forward to every day,” Emmy said.

Emmy has a positive view about herself. “My favorite quality about myself is the work effort I put in,” Emmy said.

In Emmy’s free time she not only plays softball but she also hunts and listens to music. “Riley Green or George Strait are my favorite artists,” Emmy said. Emmy’s favorite food is Chick-A-Fil. “My favorite person is Blaire Ball because we are ‘twins’,” Emmy said. Emmy plays a big part in making the STHS sports and Rebel- Tees what they are today.

“Strom Thurmond has made an impact on my life through the friends I have made”, Emmy said.



A favorite pastime of Emmy Mckie's is duck hunting.

It's getting pretty peachy in Johnston, South Carolina

By: Gabbie Courtney and Jamirah Lites

Edgefield County is peach country, and it is one spot that proudly claims the title of “Peach Capital of the World.”

Johnston’s peach fields are more than just fields; they are a way of life. Even though Georgia is considered the peach state, South Carolina produces more peaches than Georgia.

Strom Thurmond High School is surrounded by many peach fields and students who are building strength or playing sports are known as “Peach Field Built.”

Peaches are Johnston's town specialty. During peach season, there are many places to buy peaches like “Sarah's Fresh Market” and “Cooks Farm Stand” who offer the freshest peaches.

Farms like Titan Farms, the biggest peach grower, are vital to providing fruit to the area. Edgefield County produces the most peaches in the state. Peaches were found in South Carolina as early as 1600. South Carolina averages more than three times the amount of peaches than Georgia. Peaches are the official fruit of the Palmetto state of South Carolina.



Freshman Shelby Waters states she “loves peach cobbler with a scoop of ice cream.” Peaches are usually ready by June or July, depending on the variety. So Shelby can satisfy her cravings by then.

Traveling around Edgefield County there are many peach fields. As students drive to Strom Thurmond High School in the Spring, it is beautiful to see the peach trees go through different stages of blossoming.

Peaches are high in fiber and contain potassium, antioxidants, vitamin A, B3, and C. Peaches are nutritious and important in a person's diet.

Peaches are a great sweet, healthy treat for a hot South Carolina day.

Inspiring teachers lead to teaching careers for two STHS faculty

A look at a veteran and a first year educator

By: Trinity Brown and Haley Pixley



Veteran teacher and administrator Ms. Fran Altringer

Many teachers help students learn so they can have a career and a future they enjoy. Teachers play an important role in students' lives by helping them learn and grow. They guide them by encouraging new knowledge and skills.

Being a teacher is not always easy because they have to face various challenges every day from managing classrooms to creating engaging lesson plans. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to become a great teacher.

Before Mrs. Altringer was an administrator and STHS principal she taught high school algebra and geometry. Ms. Caitlyn Key teaches 9th and 10th grade English. This is Mrs. Key's first year teaching.

When Mrs. Altringer became a teacher she taught for 7 years and has been an administrator for almost 21 years. She does not plan on retiring yet, but Ms. Key said since it's her first year teaching she has a lot of years to go.

For those teachers who have taught for many years, retirement is such an important milestone in a teacher's life. It marks the end of their dedicated service and the beginning of a new chapter. Teachers retiring is a bittersweet moment as they reflect on their years of shaping young minds and making a difference in their students' lives.

Some teachers were inspired by their own teachers who made a difference in their lives. Others have a natural love for learning and enjoy sharing that enthusiasm with others.

Many teachers also have a genuine desire to help students grow and succeed, both academically and personally. Mrs. Altringer became a teacher because in high school she was a teacher cadet. Also in elementary and middle school a teacher used her to help tutor kids and she felt like she could explain things so they could understand. After her teaching cadet experience in high school, a teaching career seemed good for her.

"I had a really impactful teacher in high school that really helped me choose what I wanted to do with my life and ultimately I wanted to follow in her footsteps," Ms. Key said.

Teachers do not typically have a specific grade they would not teach. They are usually passionate about sharing knowledge and helping students learn, no matter the grade level.

However, one grade Mrs. Altringer would not teach is middle school because "they're all over the place." And Ms. Key said kindergarten because she "doesn't like 'little' kids".

Most teachers really like the current grade that they are teaching because they can connect with the students, share their knowledge, and help them grow academically and personally. Mrs. Altringer enjoys high school because "I have always been at high school and as a student I loved high school." Ms. Key said, "Yes, because it's fun."

A lot of teachers might like teaching but there are some negatives about teaching. For example, sometimes teachers might find some challenges in managing large classes, "dealing with" individual students' behavioral issues and more. Ms. Altringer said that she wished that she could take everything "extra" away from teachers so that they could just teach." Mrs. Key said it is difficult "when students are rude to me because I am just trying to help them."

Whether in education as an administrator with many years of experience or a first year teacher, educators continue to inspire generations to come.



First year teacher Ms. Caitlyn Key

