



STHS soccer: not just the jersey

By: Mary Hamilton, Shelby Waters, and Emma Mims
(additional reporting by: Isaiah Cunningham, William Stringer
and Bryanna Jackson)

As the 2024 soccer season approaches, Strom Thurmond High School soccer players condition and practice to prepare for regional and state competition.

A standard soccer game is 90 minutes split into two 45 minute halves and the purpose is to get the ball up the field and into the goal for a point. Soccer is a contact sport and “there’s a certain level of physical fitness soccer players should be able to meet,” Varsity Coach Kayes said.

Coaches condition players months before the season starts, Kayes said, “We just want to make sure players are ready at the beginning of the year,” which is when tryouts kick off.

Players run and do various exercises including footwork drills as well as power and finesse.

When it comes to positions, a team needs eleven players to set one side of the field, including one designated goalkeeper and ten outfield players.

Sophomore Sergio Agustin said that he plays, “any position coach puts me in,” while other players like Carter Massey who plays only left defensive back and Beau Whitfeild plays right mid or forward, stick to specific positions.

Coaches are the reason the team exists; coaches are also a vital part of growth in players which contributes to the success rate of the season. Coach Bundy, with eleven years of coaching experience said, “More than anything else I wanted to give students who wanted to play soccer an opportunity and help them grow and try to achieve their level of success”.

While there are many benefits to the game of soccer, along the way players will discover many difficulties such as lacking physical fitness, and at time poor communication. This is why coaching can make a difference.



When referring to coaching, “Taking it to heart, losses for a fact are a big chunk of the coaching experience. When we lose of course, I just feel like it’s my fault and of course it is, and we can’t win them all. You win some, you lose some, that’s the way I look at it.” Junior Varsity Coach Wilson said. “Trying to develop all the players so they can potentially move up to varsity,” is one of the hardest parts of coaching and preparing players for the season.

Teamwork and communication are the most crucial things to have when playing soccer; without teamwork and communication a team will fall apart. Freshman Mary Hamilton said, “if there’s even the smallest amount of conflict before games, as a team we will not be successful and give a hundred and ten percent like our coaches expect.”

Even though soccer is constant and competitive, there are great memories made in the process.

Coach Kayes said, “Every day is something new, I can’t say that it’s ever been boring,”

Soccer is a competitive sport and requires a lot of practice, “North Augusta was probably the hardest team we’ve played, but Fox Creek is our rival,” Freshman Beau Whitfeild said.

For the first time, coaches are requiring players to do three fitness tests: the w test, beep test, and cooper run which are being taken into consideration during tryouts/ Coaches are pushing players to give their all to the team. “Remembering who I do it for, and I really want to make a career out of it,” is freshman Toney Robinson’s focus.

Celebrating Love

By: Bless Gichrist, Jamirah Lites and
Ya'lexia Jeffery



For many people Valentine's Day, a day to express love, is one of the most special dates on the calendar in the month of February.

One of the most iconic traditions on Valentine's Day is giving flowers to loved ones. Roses, some of the most common flowers purchased, are the most romantic flowers on earth, especially the red ones.

If interested in purchasing flowers they can be found at grocery stores or flower shops.

The price of roses at a grocery store varies depending on the quantity and quality purchased. They can range from \$10.00 to \$100.00. Roses tend to be higher in cost than most flowers because of the meaning and popularity behind them.

Red roses have become the symbol of love and desire and were often used in romantic rituals. The traditional significance of the red rose is love and passion.

Valentine's Day appears to be more important to women. In theory, they receive chocolates, cards and perfume from their loved ones. Men often go all out to impress their partners so that they can feel special.

Valentine's Day has its roots in an ancient pagan festival Lupercalia. Valentine's Day gets its name from the martyr Saint Valentine.

The first Valentine's Day card was sent in 1477. The love letter was sent by Margery Brews to her husband John Paston. Margaret and John were deeply in love with each other. All of the love letters that were written led to the couple's marriage. In one particular letter in February, Margery described John as her “right well beloved valentine” and she signed the letter ‘your valentine Margery Brews’. Valentine's Day is also a day many pop the question to their partner. Last year, there were over 6 million couples getting engaged on February 14th.

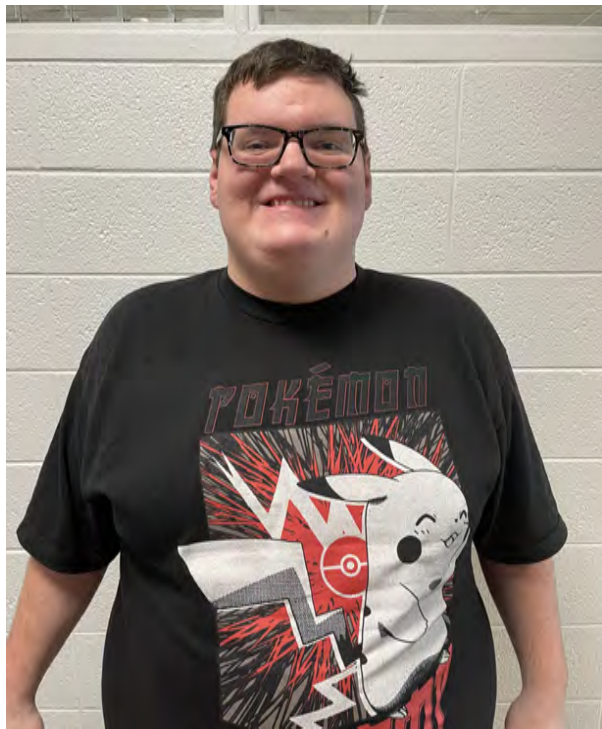


Interestingly, 87% of women said a gift is not important, and they would rather their partner just spend time with them. About 23% of women said they would like to receive flowers, candy, and perfume. Traditionally, Valentine's Day is about being with loved ones. Love is even a common religious theme in the Bible “...love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” 1 John 4: 7-12.

Valentine's Day will most likely continue to be one of the most popular holidays of the year.

Student Spotlight

By: Jace Penley



Braeden James Coleman, otherwise known as "Moose" is a very talented student at Strom Thurmond High School. He was born in Hawaii. In Hawaii he liked surfing and he liked coconuts. Besides Hawaii, there are a lot of places he has visited and a lot of things he has done. Some of those places include San Francisco, California, Charleston. South Carolina and Jamaica.

When he graduates he plans on going back to Jamaica. He loves it in Jamaica.

In addition to traveling, he also enjoys boxing which he just started. One thing he is looking forward to learning in boxing is the uppercut, "Boxing is very cool and fun," Moose said.

In his free time Moose enjoys watching movies and his favorite movie is Godzilla.

At school, Moose works in the canteen where he sells snacks and drinks to hungry Rebels.

Finally, one of Moose's talents is calculating the dates of when things happened. He can tell anyone what actual day they were born based on the year, month and date they were born. Moose also knows the year and month of any movie made. "When Moose asked me when I was born, he told be the day and he was absolutely right!" English teacher Ms. Pataro said.

"Braeden is not only a hard worker in and outside of the classroom, but he is also a joy to be around. He brings a smile to everyone he comes in contact with, and I am grateful to be one of his teachers," teacher Mr. Hunter Wilson.

Moose is a very kind, respectful and pleasant person to be around and a great addition to Strom Thurmond High School.

Class of 2024 gets ready to leave

By: Isabella Mora, Kristian Brown, and
Adeliah Luna Cordera
(Students names withheld to protect privacy)



Strom Thurmond Seniors get ready to say goodbye to their school, friends, and say hello to a new chapter in their lives.

Adjusting to a new life can be difficult, especially since it can be intimidating. Fortunately for these seniors, they are sure of what they want to do after school.

One senior plans to enter the radiology field with cosmetology as their back up plan; a smart thing for everyone to do in case their first plan does not work.

She plans to go to Duke University. Her stay here at Strom Thurmond was "very good," she said, "they, like, opened pathways for me if I couldn't get to them myself."

Many seniors would recommend Strom Thrumond to other people just because of the Career Center. Strom Thurmond's Career Center helps students find out what they might be interested in learning more about and what they might like to do in their future, while also figuring out who they are.

One of our other seniors decided that he would go into the Air Force for four years right after high school, so he wouldn't have to pay for his college tuition. He hopes to attend USC Aiken, and major in biology.



A large part of these seniors' last year in school is figuring out if they want to go to college, what college they want to go to, contacting these colleges, and getting ready for graduation. Seniors are extremely busy.

Seniors feel they have grown academically during their years at Strom Thurmond. A big reason is due to the teachers and their environment. "I think I grew academically because I'm smarter than I was when I was younger." a senior said.

Teachers are one of the most important people in a student's life because they give them knowledge and take part in shaping who that child becomes as an adult.

STHS seniors' favorite thing about Strom Thurmond is their football games. Seniors say they will also miss their teachers who have helped them grow throughout the years.

Lastly, our seniors had advice for their underclassmen. A lot of them said that students should pay attention to their teachers because they are teaching lessons that can be used later in life. Also, keep up with schoolwork so they do not get behind because it is hard to get back to the position we were in. And finally, underclassmen should enjoy their time here at Strom Thurmond because it will not last forever and soon they will all have to be adults sooner than they realize.

Graduation
Friday, May 31st
9:00 a.m. at
STHS



The Good Place

Let's talk D & D

(Review)
By: *Keon Batson*

Dungeons and Dragons, also known as D&D, is a popular American roleplaying board game that is loved and played worldwide. The first edition of it was published in 1974 by Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson. It became popularized in the late 1970s and 80s and since then, has influenced other roleplaying games and the game industry as a whole.

Dungeons & Dragons is an amazing outlet to express creativity and gaming skills. The fact that players contribute to the creation and storyline of its world, players can create a character using a multitude of races, classes, and backgrounds, while the DM (Dungeon Master) creates and narrates the world the characters play in.

In a recent The Good Place podcast episode, I briefly explained D&D with my best friend, Alana Chinn. I helped her make a character and even set her on a quest. “I want to be a Blood Hunter,” Alana said. “You said something about a far traveler? That’s who I want to be,” Alana said when choosing her background.

One great part of D&D is the storytelling aspect. Players and DMs get to create elaborate storylines for the characters and the world they are in, which makes everything more fun.

“Your character just came to this new land. She left her country to start her job hunting werewolves,” I said, making a plot for Alana.

We had a small campaign in which she came across a party, a small group of people, and decided to help them slay a dragon.

Ever since the internet was introduced, people have been streaming D&D and other games like it online, such as on Twitch or YouTube. Groups of friends get together and record themselves playing the game, creating a fun experience for them and viewers.

Some popular groups that do this are Critical Role, Dimension 20, The Adventure Zone, and High Rollers. Dimension 20 was a great place to start when I wanted to get into D&D.

There are many resources online to get started with playing D&D. Some places where people advertise their games for players are Discord servers and Reddit subs. However, it is best to watch people play first before outright joining a game. The rules are quite hard to understand if it is the first time engaging with them, but after some guidance, it gets simple. After that, it gets fun.



Call of Duty continues popularity

By *Porter Dykes, Demarkus Gordon, and Jakari Gordon*

The Call of Duty games franchise has been around for 21 years and has been one of the most popular games of all time. There are a few Call of Duty games that are more memorable because of how popular they are, such as Black Ops 2, Black Ops 4, and Modern Warfare.

Call of Duty Black Ops 2 was released November 12th 2012 by Activision and came out as a sequel two years after the first Call of Duty Black Ops game. Call of Duty is a first person shooter game that has three modes: campaign which is the main story, multiplayer where you can play with other real people, and zombies.

The campaign has two connected storylines, one set from 1986 to 1989 during the last years of the first cold war and the other is set in 2025. Call of Duty Black Ops 2 is one of Activision's biggest games they have ever made, and many consider it as the best Call of Duty game of all time.

There have been three other games released alongside Black Ops. All these games are available on Ps3, Ps4, Xbox, and PC.

Call of Duty Black Ops 4 was released October 12, 2018. Black Ops was a multiplayer game where players could also play as a single player. Black Ops 4 had four different modes.

They also have a zombie mode where players can play with their friends to beat the waves of zombies. Most people really didn’t like battle royale because the map looked just like every other Black Ops map.

The graphics weren't perfect but the game was fun. Most people played zombies and multiplayer instead. The game had camouflages that could be earned when players reached certain objectives. The camouflage was wraps that changed the color of the weapons that players used. Black Ops also had seasons and battle passes to it like any other battle royale game.

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare is a 2019 first-person shooter video game developed by Infinity Ward and published by Activision.

According to Polygon.com Call of Duty Modern Warfare is “Serving as the sixteenth overall installment in the Call of Duty series, as well as a reboot of the Modern Warfare sub-series, it was released on October 25, 2019 for PlayStation 4, Windows, and Xbox One.” Modern Warfare's multiplayer has been revised from its predecessors to allow for a more tactical gameplay style, including a focus on map exploration, door breaching, and a Hardcore "realism" mode that removes the HUD.

The mini-map was originally removed in favor of a compass-style marker, with visual cues to detect friendlies and opponents.

People play Call of Duty video games because they are fun, and they will continue to be popular. Call of Duty is one of the most popular video games not only because it is fun, but it is also a competitive game that has tournaments for money and a large following where players can connect to others internationally.

Powder coating: a useful process to coat metal

By: Devin Corley

Powder coating is a process of painting which uses powder (any color), heat, electricity, and air to cover or coat the metal surface of any object. A process called ESD, or electricity spray deposition, is typically used to achieve the application of powder coating to a metal surface. This application method uses a spray gun, which applies an electrostatic charge to the powder.

Vehicle wise, powder coating is usually used on lift kits, wheels, and tow hooks. People use powder coating for many other reasons.

Powder coating protects the roughest, toughest machinery as well as household items like mixers and other countertop kitchen appliances in the home. It provides a more durable coating than most liquid paints can offer, while still providing an attractive finish. "Powder coating has just about the same amount of prep time as painting but the finish product is a lot more durable with scratches, heat etc," powder coat user Scott Corley said.

The powder coating process was invented during the 1940s by Daniel Gustin, so needless to say that even though powder coating has been around only 80 years, it has grown tremendously in popularity such as in the truck scene.

Driving in luxury

By: Zach Morris, Chandler Gagnon, Ray Richardson and Irvin Ojeda Garcia

2022 Lamborghini Huracan Evo 2



Enjoyed by those who can afford them, luxury cars provide a unique ride and status among car owners. The 2022 Lamborghini Huracan Evo 2 has a starting price of \$306,100. The 2022 Lamborghini Huracan Super Trofeo Evo 2 has an 5.2-liter naturally aspirated V10 which has a power output of 620 CV. 2022 Lamborghini Huracan Evo 2 has an adjustable speed limiter, rear track of 65 inches, new roof hatch system, safety belt, aero kit, and fire

extinguisher.

This car has a rating of 3.5/5 leading it to be discontinued in 2024. A little history on According to CNET, the motor vehicle company Lamborghini, Italian Ferruccio Lamborghini founded the company in 1963 with the objective of producing a refined grand touring car to compete with offerings from established marques such as Ferrari.

The company's first models, such as the 350 GT, were released in the mid-1960s. Interestingly, Ferruccio Lamborghini owned a tractor company before purchasing a Ferrari. According to Motor Web Museum upon buying the Ferrari he complained that it had bad shifting. Enzo Ferrari responded "The shifting is fine you just don't know how to drive the car."

2024 Cadillac CT5



The company "Cadillac" was founded by Henry Leland in Detroit Michigan and was intended to be "The standard of the World" according to Autonews.com.

The 2024 Cadillac CT5 is one of the newest models of Cadillac, and this car has many different prices due to its different models.

The 2024 Cadillac alone starts at about \$38,395. The premium luxury model costs up to \$42,895 and the sports trim costs about \$44,095. With a Sedan body style this car's 2.0 L 4-cylinder, 3.0 L V6 engine helps gain a horsepower of 237-335 miles per hour. Interestingly, this car has an automatic stop/start function.

Expert ratings for the Car are 3.7/10 and customer ratings are 5/10, and lastly the car is expected to be discontinued in 2025 or 2026.

1987 Ferrari f40

The 1987 Ferrari f40 was the first road car to beat the 230 mph mark. This car came with a 5 speed manual transmission powered by a V8 engine and has 471 horsepower. The Ferrari f40 was released on July 24 1987.



According to ferrari.com, no car had such intense acceleration, excellent steering precision and also better road handling and braking power. It was also the first car to use composite body panels. Only 1311 of the 1987 Ferrari f40s were made during their time of production. The 1987 Ferrari f40 has a price tag of \$400,000 dollars.

Ferrari is an italian car company that has made some of the most recognizable looking sports cars in the world ever since 1947. In reality this car company can go all the way back to 1929 when a man named Enzo Ferrari formed the Scuderia Ferrari racing team.

The first plans to make a car were made by Enzo Ferrari in 1937. Today all Ferraris are made in Maranello, Italy and still are one of the world's greatest sports car factories.

2022 Bugatti Chiron



The Bugatti Chiron is one of the most expensive cars with a price tag of around 3 million dollars. The Bugatti Chiron has a 16 cylinder engine that can go 300 miles per hour or more.

A Bugatti Chiron has 1.69k horsepower. The Bugatti Chiron is an automatic and can get 104 miles per gallon. In March 2017 the first 3 Bugatti Chiron were delivered to their owners and by September of 2023 every Bugatti Chiron was sold out.

Bugatti was founded in 1909 and started in Italy. The Bugatti was originally know for their design and racing victories.

STHS offers health care training

By: K'Mya Moore and Kinley French



As part of his phlebotomy class, senior Joey Brooks practices drawing English teacher Ms. Pataro's blood during her break.

At Strom Thurmond High School students are able to take health science classes throughout the year which can lead to a completer certification.

Some of the courses offered here, according to Mrs. Wall are, "Health Science 1 which is the basics: vital signs, CPR, handwashing etc, Health Science 2 gets into more of the skills: bedmaking, bathing patients, catheter care, vital signs, dressing a patient, and then the Clinical Class which is the most advanced where students take what they have learned in HS 1 and 2 and actually use it in the real world."

If students take Health Science 1 and 2 here at Strom Thurmond, they can be chosen for one of the top 18 in their class, that way they can complete their clinicals their senior year.

According to Mrs. Wall "During our clinical class we actually provide direct patient care where the students apply knowledge they have learned."

Some of the experiences students have in the clinical class are, "During the senior year clinical class you will go to the nursing home and hospital for clinicals" Ms. Wall said.

Students can also "go to the vet, dentist, doctor's office, radiology, PT/OT, ER, and OR for observations."

By the time a health science student becomes a completer and can choose to take the clinical or phlebotomy class they could have four certifications.

For example they could get their Patient Care Tech certificate, EKG certification, phlebotomy certification, and CPR.

All of the Health Science teachers have goals for their students but Mrs Wall says, "The primary goal of our health science classes here at STCTC are to prepare students that are interested in careers in healthcare for their continuing education. Students can also receive certifications as a patient care tech, ekg tech, and phlebotomy tech."

If students choose to take health science courses they would more than likely be able to find a job in the future because of the shortage of healthcare workers, and there will always be a need for healthcare workers.



Phlebotomy class offers hands-on experiences

By: Aundria Davis

Strom Thurmond Career and Technology Center offers a phlebotomy program through health science taught by Kate Wall.

Phlebotomy is the process of drawing blood from a vein. The purpose of Phlebotomy is for laboratory testing as a diagnostic tool to narrow down a differential or can be used therapeutically for certain conditions.

The benefits from taking Phlebotomy are "At the end of the class you will be able to take the certification exam and be work ready when you graduate high school as a phlebotomy tech," Ms. Wall said.

There are some activities students can participate in if they are in Phlebotomy like blood draws from veins and capillary sites, proper PPE (personal protective equipment) use, and infection control methods.

Also, students can get a certificate as a phlebotomy technician. In the class, part of class time is learning by doing bookwork, and the other part is the skills where students practice on mannequins' arms and live patients.

Many people join Phlebotomy because it can provide essential services that can diagnose and treat patients if they are suffering from a disease or illness.



There are many ways to find veins but the main way is the Palpation Technique. This is where the phlebotomist gently presses their fingers on the skin surface to feel for veins. The technique helps practitioners familiarize themselves with the structure and location of veins, making it easier to locate them.

Students interested in taking phlebotomy next year should contact their counselor at STHS.

Food traditions of Hinduism and Islam

By: Nathaniel Gagnon

Throughout the year, Muslim and Hindu people follow food restrictions based on their religions.

Muslims follow Islam; Islam first started in 622 C.E. The food restrictions are to eat no food from carnivorous animals, no pork because pigs are considered unclean, and no intoxicating liquor. Muslims can eat lamb, beef, goat, and chicken. This food must be halal which means butchered in a certain way and blessed before slaughtered.

Muslims Follow this restriction because they follow Muslim religious law which forbids eating the mistreated flesh of any animal.

Muslims follow the food restrictions of Islam but only 1.1% or 3.45 million Americans are Muslim. This makes it difficult to find acceptable food outside of the home.



If someone does break these restrictions they have to repent by testifying their faith. The only exception to these restrictions are if they are actually starving and only the restricted foods are available. A restaurant around the Edgefield area that provides Islamic food is Laziza Mediterranean Grill in Augusta, Georgia.

Hindu people follow Hinduism and Hinduism started between 1500 B.C.E. and 2300 B.C. E. The food restrictions are they must not kill animals or eat any animals.

Many Hindus follow these restrictions because they believe in living in harmony with all Gods' creations. Most Hindu people follow these restrictions.

Only 1% or 2.5 million Americans are Hindu, so there is not much Hindu food available in America.



The restaurants around the Edgefield area that provide Hindu food are Taj of Aiken, Taj of Augusta, and the Curry Hut of Augusta.

If Hindus break food restrictions it would haunt them for the rest of their lives, but no one will punish them. Also there are no exceptions to these food restrictions.

The food restrictions of Hindus and Muslims may vary and may seem unusual to most Americans; however, this cuisine is available for everyone to enjoy.



Strom Thurmond High School welcomes spring sports

By: Blaire Ball and Abney Mims



Spring Sports are the talk right now and Rebels are in the middle of conditioning and trying out for teams. Softball will have tryouts for the 2023-24 season on January 29. The head coach is Coach Dunlap and the assistant coaches are Coach Greg, Coach Ashley, and Coach Webb.

Lawsyn Lowe, a freshman, has played softball for 11 years. Her position on varsity is 2nd base. Lawsyn claims that "96 is the toughest competition." Baseball will have tryouts on the 29th-31st of January. Knox Rauton, a sophomore, has played baseball for 10 years. His position on the field is catcher. He will have to wait until after tryouts to find out which team he will be on this season.

In addition to baseball, soccer is gearing up. Freshman Beau Whitfield, plays soccer for Strom Thrumond. Beau said that her goal for this season is "to not quit". The position Beau plays is a forward. The coach for girls soccer is Mrs. King.



Freshman Isaiah Cunningham says that his goal for this soccer season is to win 6 games. He lays on the defensive side of the game. The boys soccer coaches are Coach Wilson and Coach Bunch.

Finally, track shares a position in the spring sports lineup. Shenique Muldrow, senior, runs track. The events that Shenique participates in are triple jump, long jump, 4 by 1, and 4 by 4. The coaches are Coach Hill and Coach Merriwether. Through Shenique's career she said "I have won many awards and broken school records that haven't been broken for years."

All tryouts for spring sports will be the 29th-31st of January. Rebels are excited to kick off the spring season.



Creativity emerges from mental illness

By: Alan Estrada

It's no surprise that art contains beautiful contrasts, in such a way for art to be majestic with a unique story behind every art piece, and even more with the painter themselves.

Art is a statement of those wanting to fulfill their imaginative sight, thoughts, or ideas, and show it off to the world.

There's a chance we have come across the likes of Leonardo da Vinci's artwork before, such as the "Mona Lisa", or "The Last Supper". Or maybe, we've seen Michelangelo's artwork before, like "The Creation of Adam", or even "The Last Judgment", which were some of his most remarkable paintings.

But what if we came across art made by artists who struggled with mental illnesses. In the world of art, there have been countless famous paintings and art pieces made by artists who struggled with mental illnesses, and perhaps we have heard of these artists and their work before, such as the likes of Vincent van Gogh, and his painting "Starry Night", or of Edvard Munch, and his painting "The Scream".

These people truly suffered from mental illnesses, and used art to express how they felt, how they saw the world around them, and how they lived life with their illnesses.

An in-depth example of an artist who suffered with mental illness, was no other than Aloïse Corbaz. A Swiss artist, born in 1886, her art practice was deeply linked to her being diagnosed with Schizophrenia, and with a 46 year internment in a psychiatric ward.



Her first paintings and art pieces started during her time in the psychiatric ward; she used crayons and pencil to make her artwork, and she would infuse the stains from crushed floral petals, or even mix in toothpaste to further compliment her art.

Corbaz's art was quite her own "personal cosmogony filled with princely and political figures, and of blue-eyed historical heroines" www.artbrut.ch/en. She depicted Napoleon Bonaparte, or Queen Elizabeth for example, she also drew such figures like Abraham Lincoln, and Marie-Antoinette. www.outsiderartfair.com.

Another example of an artist with mental illness was the man himself, Louis Wain, who lived an 'electrical life'. He is most known for "Kaleidoscope Cats", which reflects his mental illness, depression and schizophrenia.

Wain, who was born in 1860, as a child had a passion for art. His mother was a designer for church embroideries and carpets, which encouraged his deep interest in art, which led him to West London School of Art.

He would first start as an art journalist, drawing many different subjects. It would be his drawings and paintings of cats that would later make him famous, but despite his fame, he wasn't happy due to the death of his wife, Emily Richardson.

He never made much money, and during this time, WWI had broken out. This made Wain "suffer real poverty," and perhaps this is what changed him from "previously, a mild and gentle man" into "increasingly suspicious, abusive, and occasionally even violent" museumofthemind.org.

Eventually, he was certified insane and committed to Springfield Hospital. He was later transferred to Bethlem Hospital, and finally, Napsbury Hospital, near St. Albans. He would continue drawing until his death in 1939. But during his time at Napsbury, this is where his art took a sharp deteriorating change in tone and style, from lovely cats doing "daily human activities", to his "kaleidoscope cats".

All in all, Louis Wain was a very loved artist and shortly after his death, a memorial exhibition was placed in his honor. Illustrationchronicles.com

Art is a powerful tool, a tool of projections for personal ideals, feelings, or thoughts. It's all a glimpse into the artists' minds. Using Corbaz or Wain, they both play parts in representing the face of art made from artists and painters who struggled with their mental health and illness.

There is a bittersweet beauty behind each painting, for whatever artist or painter that had any mental health problems or illness. It comes to show that art, more than just a painting or simple drawing, has a story behind every artwork, and that is truly beautiful.

Editorial

WGA strikes for better working conditions

By: Gavin Poole



In the fall, the Writers Guild of America (WGA) struck over labor disputes between screen writers and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers (AMPTP) which had 11,500 supporters.

It's the second longest strike to ever happen between the 1960 strike which was 148 days and the 1988 strike which was 153 days.

Last year's strike lasted 148 days, lasting from May 2 to September 27. Screen writers complained that AMPTP had terrible negotiation skills when it came to conditions, pay, and providing real work and ideas writers can write about.

The strike went along with the Screen Actors Guild of America (SAG-AFTRA) which lasted until November. Both strikes contributed to the biggest interruption to the American film and television industries since the Pandemic.

Some studios had to stop production on some shows and movies. Some also had to reduce staff. Marvel studios has had to push back multiple projects including titles like Deadpool 3 because of it. From the VFX industry to prop making studios. Almost all work fields in the industry were hurt.

In October the WGA team ratified the contract and 99% of workers voted in favor of it. Combined with the SAG-AFTRA strike, 45,000 people lost their jobs, and around 6.5 billion was lost to the southern California economy.

In any business or industry things have to and are supposed to be fair. If WGA and SAG-AFTRA never stood up people would still be working without getting paid like they are supposed to. Writers would experience harsh conditions by being overworked and underpaid.

Eventually there was going to be a change either way, but most members feel it is for the better of the people who really entertain the public. Most people should be thankful for them and all the things they have done.



Students shadow jobs above ground

By Kamira Johnson Williams



February 2nd, 2024 Strom Thurmond High School will be letting the 10th, 11th, and 12th graders have a job shadowing day to experience various career fields.

Last year STHS did not have job shadowing, but Ms. Johnson, STHS career counselor, finds it to be an important experience. "I think it's fun because job shadowing ties into the groundhog seeing his shadow and not seeing his shadow," Ms. Johnson said. "The main purpose of this day is to let the students think about what they would like to do after school and to shadow someone in a job the student is interested in."

Ms. Johnson also stated "Students could reach out to that employer and ask if they could spend a couple of hours with them to see what the job is all about". Ms. Johnson doesn't set the times up where they can go. She does give students ideas or advice on where to ask to attend the day. Ms. Johnson has the forms students need to complete for a job shadowing opportunity

Groundhog Shadowing Day is named after Groundhog Day and was created by newspaper editor Clymer Greas in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. Greas was a part of the Groundhog hunting club called Groundhog Club. Groundhog Day is when a groundhog comes out from its borough and sees its shadow. It will retreat to its den and winter will go on for six more weeks. If it does not see its shadow, Spring will arrive early.

There is still time to sign up for job shadowing. Currently there are only nine students signed up.

If students would like to receive further information or even sign up for the Groundhog Job Shadowing Day see Ms. Johnson in the Career Center.

GROUNDHOG "JOB SHADOWING" DAY

Friday, February 2, 2024



Groundhog Job Shadow Day!

Requirements :

- ▶ This opportunity is for 10th, 11th and 12th grade ONLY.
- ▶ Job Shadowing experience must align with your future career goal.
- ▶ See Mrs. Meghan Johnson for details and paperwork!

Paperwork deadline: January 26, 2024

STHS counseling provides support for student mental health issues

By: Makhaiya Lovett

Students at Strom Thurmond High School may struggle with mental health issues, and when they start to feel overwhelmed with their emotions they can go to their guidance counselor to get help and talk about how they feel.

A number of students seem to be struggling with anxiety, panic attacks, depression, grief and even addiction. In a recent interview with Ms. Gail Hicks, from the STHS counseling department, she was asked what teachers needed to do more of to help students with their mental health problems.

"As school counselors I believe that we should work with teachers to help them identify certain behaviors that may indicate when students might be experiencing a mental health issue in the classroom, so teachers can then refer that student to a school counselor," Ms. Hicks said. Teachers benefit from being taught more about body language and emotional changes and how kids react differently when they're going through stressful experiences.

Administrators have taken a leap in recent years by having a mental health counselor on campus most days. To meet with an STHS mental health counselor students have to have a referral from their guidance counselor or any other adult in the building. Once they have a referral students will set up an appointment. There are fees but they are determined by insurance and household income.

As of now, STHS does not have a suicide prevention program, but the district does have a protocol and the suicide prevention hotline number 988 is printed on the back of all students i.d.s.

Ms. Hicks agrees that no one should be ashamed of their mental health issues and it's okay to reach out for help. "I don't think anybody should be ashamed if they're having an issue or concern or feel embarrassed about it. Just like we go to the doctor for an illness or sickness, or we have to get treatment for a condition like diabetes, I think it should be acceptable for individuals to be able to see counselors or therapists with their mental health concerns," Ms. Hicks said.

There are people available at STHS who want to help students get better and counseling services can provide that support.

Suicide Prevention Hotline Dial 988



Prom 2024

Theme: **White and Gold
Masquerade Ball**

Date: **March 30th, at STHS**

Time: **7:00pm**

There will be photo and video opportunities as well as a caterer who will provide food.

Ticket prices will be announced later. Seniors and Juniors can attend, but if underclassmen want to attend an upperclassmen has to invite them.

Wins continue for Rebel basketball

By: Ayanna Franklin
and NyAsia Stevens

Rebel basketball is in full play for the 2024 season with wins heading towards a Region win.

On December 19, 2023 boys varsity Rebels played home against Aiken High School. The Rebels won a hard fought victory 52-49. There were some misunderstandings at the game; a fight almost broke out against the two teams that could have led to a suspension. Some of the players got held back by girls basketball coaches and their coaches.

On December 27, 2023 the Rebels faced Newberry High School in the first game of the Bennie Bennett Memorial Tournament. The Rebels looked to extend their record to 10-3 for the season, unfortunately the Rebels took a loss against Newberry High School 53-62. The Rebels looked forward to bouncing back against Mid-Carolina which they did with a big win 61-40.



The Rebels rang in the New Year with a matchup against Greenbrier in the "Battle at the Border" showcase at Fox Creek High School. Reberls celebrated after a hard fought win against Midland Valley High School, 56-37. The Rebels enter region play sitting at #7 in the AA state rankings.

The Rebels are 12-5 for the season heading into region play. The Rebels continued their winning streak with wins against Batesburg-Leesville, Columbia and Pelion. The Rebels are looking to capture their ninth straight region win.

On December 1, 2023 the Lady Rebels played a home game against South Aiken.



It was a close game, but the Lady Rebels lost 43-48. A few days later, they played Saluda and won 32-27 and Emerald 45-31. At home, the Rebels played South Aiken again. The ladies tried to push through but fell to the Thoroughbreds 32-36.

On December 12, 2023, the ladies had a game against Aiken High and lost 40-60. The game that had everybody on their toes was against Saluda.

Sadly, the Lady Rebels fell short 37-40. A couple days later at home, the Lady Rebels played Emerald and won 36-22.

The next day, they had another home game against Aiken on December 19, 2023. The ladies fell to the Hornets again 18-43. The following week, the Lady Rebels played a close game at and against Washington-Wilkes and lost 37-45. The ladies played against Washington County at home and lost 36-48, but won against Lincoln County.

They played hard as a team, which gave them the 41-37 win. On January 5, 2024, the ladies played Midland Valley again, but this time, they lost the game 33-45. After their last loss, the ladies played at and against Batesburg-Leesville. They played their hearts out and blew out the Panthers, winning the game 54-19. On January 11, 2024, the ladies played Columbia at home and won the game 41-14 and finished the week off with a win.

Their overall record is 11-9 and in the region they lead 2-0. Region play continues for the next few weeks.

More student writing on
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