

STHS graduate aims for tomorrow

By Shelby Waters

Jace Anderson, a senior at Strom Thurmond High School, has become known for competitive shooting.

Jace started shooting competitively in 7th grade; however, he has been hunting and around guns since he was 5 years old.

His father was the one to teach him about hunting and shooting. Jace's early hunting experience led to his interest in shooting clay.

Throughout his shooting career, Jace has won many awards such as scholarships, money, and trophies. "I've been offered 10 or so scholarships, at many different colleges," Jace said. However he isn't planning to attend college after high school but will continue competing and working, and earning income through competition awards.



Even if he doesn't take his shooting career to college, he could possibly go to the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Jace has also been approached by law enforcement as a firearms trainer as well.

He recently competed on the Abbeville team at the local Palmetto Shooting Complex. He took home the state title for highest overall score and won a \$1000 scholarship. Shooting competitively has opened many doors for Jace and given him many new experiences.

There are many different methods of shooting clay. Jace said, "One is sporting clays which have stations in the woods, skeet which has two houses high and low in a field, and trap which is on the same field as skeet."



Competitive shooters have many struggles throughout their career but Jace's biggest one is his attitude. "My biggest struggle is keeping a good attitude. You can miss one at the first station and still win. I used to be bad about my attitude, but I'm better now. Shooting has helped me with my attitude," Jace said.

Whatever Jace decides to do in his future he is sure to continue making shooting his target in life.



Principal Fran Altringer reflects on her first full year at STHS

By William Stringer

Mrs. Fran Altringer has been the principal at Strom Thurmond High School since January 2023 when she took over in the middle of the year.

Ms. Altringer has many years of experience as a teacher, assistant principal and principal. She describes the current year as "so far so good. I'm enjoying it. It was nice to be here at the beginning of the year for football season since that's such a big part here at Strom Thurmond, and it was nice to start the year off with teachers and students." Since Ms. Altringer became principal in the middle of last year, she has finally enjoyed a full year.

Serving as a principal "can be stressful. I think I get stressed the most when I have a lot to do. Some of the things I knew I had to do and some of the things people asked me to do at the last minute, so I'm pretty good at planning out what I have to do." She also said, when I have extra things I don't know about, I have to fit them in, and I don't feel like I'm maybe giving my time doing enough, so that puts stress on me," Mrs. Altringer said.

Safety is a concern for any administrator. "I have the responsibility of the safety of every person in this building; that's a big responsibility. I feel responsible for the well-being of all our students and teachers, so I want everyone to be in a good place mentally and not feel depressed or anxious or anything like that," Ms. Altringer said.



Receiving keys for a new driver's education car donated by Herlong Chevrolet.



Ms. Altringer joins the Veterans Day celebrations.

Along with safety, managing the school budget takes up some of her time. "I have a responsibility for the money. I have to make decisions with the department chairs and other leaders about how they spend money for the students," Ms. Altringer said. She also has, "a responsibility to answer questions from the students. I have the responsibility to make sure that people are doing their job. I have the responsibility to make sure that the building functions, doors work, the lights, all those are my responsibilities."

One of her favorite things about STHS is the students. "I always tell people that we've got wonderful students and that y'all care for each other. I've been at high schools where this group of kids doesn't like that group of kids and all the time there is drama and conflict; I feel like we're not perfect, but we're a family. I feel like the teachers care for y'all and that y'all are very respectful towards them and that's my favorite thing," Mrs. Altringer said.

Ms. Altringer learned a lot about students when she was a teacher. "When I first started teaching I had some students who didn't do well in a class, and they were a few points away from passing the class. When you're a new teacher you have your line and you say that the kids have to do it, and I've learned over time that it's okay to give kids another chance to try things. And if I was a teacher now, there are things that I would do differently. I'd have a little bit more understanding for students than I did when I started teaching," Mrs. Altringer said.

As a teacher, "I taught mostly algebra and geometry. I taught my first two years at Strom Thurmond, but I've also taught at North Augusta High School and Midland Valley High School. I've taught seven years and been an administrator for 22 years, so this is my 29th year," Mrs. Altringer said.

Teaching requires many hours of work in and out of school. It can be a challenge if a teacher or administrator has a young family. "It's a lot easier now because my kids are grown. My baby is a high school senior, so he's 17 and my oldest is 23. I still spend time with them, but when you have little kids they wake up in the middle of the night and you gotta take care of them."



Ms. Altringer receives a gift basket from Bela Family Dentistry filled with dental care products for students.

Ms. Altringer makes sure to have time for her personal life. I go to church on Sundays, and I make sure that I don't let things interfere with that time. I eat with my mom and dad and just set some times that are dedicated to my family. If something comes up with work, I just make sure that those times are off limits," Mrs. Altringer said.

Ms. Altringer continues to enjoy her time at STHS and looks forward to working with the Rebel community.



Mock Trial Participants: 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 and Eriz Zelmer. Team coaches include: teacher coach, Thomas Behr; attorney coach, Blair Massey; and assistant coaches Denise Jackson, Steve McKinney and Derek Rhodes.

STROM THURMOND MOCK TRIAL TEAM TAKES SIXTH PLACE AT HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS; SOPHOMORE EVAN WILLIAMS NAMED TOP TEN ATTORNEY IN THE NATION

By Mike Rosier

Public Information Officer

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May 5, 2024

Wilmington, Delaware – The Strom Thurmond High School Mock Trial Team was named as the sixth-place team in the nation during Friday's celebratory gala marking the conclusion of the 2024 High School Mock Trial (HSMT) national championships. The Delaware Law Related Education Center, Inc. hosted the competition, which took place from May 1 to May 5, 2024.

In a competition also featuring international high school mock trial teams, including those from Guam, South Korea and the Northern Mariana Islands, the Rebels more than held their own and proved they belonged among the most elite high school mock trial teams in the world.

Strom Thurmond Mock Trial attorney Evan Williams, a sophomore, was named as one of the Top 10 high school mock trial attorneys in the nation during the awards gala.

Strom Thurmond Mock Trial team members include 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 and Eriz Zelmer. Team coaches include teacher coach, Thomas Behr; attorney coach, Blair Massey; and assistant coaches Denise Jackson, Steve McKinney and Derek Rhodes.

According to the South Carolina Bar Association, which organizes and leads HSMT, the goal of the program is to educate students regarding the American judicial system and the mechanics of litigation. Through participation in the Mock Trial program, students increase basic skills such as listening, speaking, writing, reading, critical thinking and problem analysis.

Each participating school enters a team sponsored by a teacher volunteer that is composed of between seven and 18 students. Teams at the national finals have nine participants. Teams try each year's fictitious case against other teams at regional competitions in February. The top 12 teams compete at the state championship in March. The South Carolina Bar High School Mock Trial champion then represents South Carolina at the national finals, which poses a completely different court case forcing participating teams to form their arguments in a short amount of time.

The Rebels have earned the title of South Carolina Mock Trial State Champions in 2024, 2022, 2020, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2012, 1987, 1985 and 1984. Additionally, Strom Thurmond High School was the South Carolina state runner-up in 2014 and 2011. Team's highest finish at the national finals was fifth place in 2019.

The Rebels are most appreciative for the tremendous assistance received from the South Carolina Bar Association, the Edgefield County Board of Education and the Edgefield County School District, without whose support the trip to Delaware would not have been possible.

Opinion/Editorial

Enhancing writing skills through journalism

An unexpected reward

By Kinley French and K'Mya Moore

Our time with the Rebel Report has come to an end for the 2023-2024 school year, and we have enjoyed writing many articles this year.

We have both written articles varying around sports, clubs, and student athletes, and unfortunately this will be our last.

Journalism was never something either of us had in mind, but who knew how fun it would be to go around the school, interviewing people and hearing what everyone has to say.

Interviewing people has given us better communication skills and has helped us gain confidence to talk to people we don't know.

Coming into this class I thought that I wouldn't really learn anything new because I already knew how to write an essay, so how different could it be from a news article? But, there is actually a huge difference.

Not only did we learn how to write articles, we also learned how to create podcasts. When we first began podcasting it was weird to hear our own voices, but as we continued to record through the months it became more natural. We would say our favorite podcast was "Creep It Real".

I loved all the articles we wrote but my favorite was definitely "Life as a Student Athlete".

It was about how some people don't understand how hard it is for students to manage playing sports while in school. We talked about how Kinley manages her school work and sports when she plays them year round.

Journalism has enhanced our communication and writing skills. It has also helped us with our time management. We spent many late nights working to get articles in before the deadline.

Our organizational skills also improved drastically, from having to keep up with our interview questions, to knowing who we interviewed and what they said.

I would say the only downside of this class was trying to find different ideas for our articles.



K'Mya Moore and Kinley French prepare for their monthly podcast.

There are multiple Journalism classes, and you can end up writing the same article as someone else. This creates less of a chance your article will make it to the actual published paper. Because of this, we would always try to come up with a unique topic. That way we could have a better chance of making it to the published paper.

In conclusion, Journalism has taught us many new skills and helped us learn new writing techniques that will help better our writing in the future. We can't believe this is our last article. We had so much fun writing these and hate that it has to come to an end.

Unfortunately, we will not be taking journalism next year because we can not fit it into our schedule, but we hope to take journalism again in the future before we graduate.

Strom Thurmond High School

CLASSES | **UPCOMING DATES**

- 4/29 MANDATORY Senior Meeting**
Meet in the auditorium at 9am. Get important grad info and sign your contract.
- 5/10 to 5/16 Senior Exams**
Pay Fees & Return Books: 9:30am - 11am in the Commons. All fees are to be paid by May 28th!!
- 5/17 Senior Day - (bring cap & gown)**
Signing Day - report 8:15am to auditorium
Class Picture - report to football field at 10am
Parade of Graduates - 10:45am load buses
Lunch & Games on the football field - 12:30pm
Last day if you are passing all classes & meeting attendance.
- 5/30 MANDATORY Graduation Practice**
Meet in the cafeteria at 1pm. Wear hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen!
- 5/31 GRADUATION DAY!**
Be at school by 8am. Go to your assigned room on the 300 Hall.

Strom Thurmond High School

Spotlighting seniors with final thoughts about graduation

By Faniya Blacks

This year, 2023-2024, will have a new set of graduates that are ready to leave high school, and some have plans for what they want to do and where they would like to go.

Wondering how the other students feel about graduating here at Strom Thurmond High School, Senior Alexia Backmon said “It feels good; I am ready to get out of school.”

Some kids are not ready to graduate which is challenging, and some are mentally prepared. Alexia replied “I’m mentally prepared. I have been on my own since middle school.”

Most days kids do not think about their future when it comes to going to college, but Senior Lacey Backmon said, “I am going to Lander for my first year and Francis Marion for my last three.” Getting a high school diploma is an important step for getting independence. “Getting my high school diploma is important to me because I feel like the way the system is set up, the best paying job for you is best to get your high school diploma,” Lacey said.

Other Strom Thurmond students will move up to their senior year in the future. Senior Cassidy Long’s advice to underclassmen is “Don’t mess up your attendance and stay focused on your credits and stuff. Get all your classes out of the way so when you are a senior you won’t have 300 classes.” The most valuable thing that Cassidy has learned is to “STAY CONSISTENT, and it’s not where you start, it’s where you finish.”

At this point in the year most seniors are ready to get out of high school and start their futures. Congratulations to the class of 2024.

Graduation draws near for STHS

By: TeAjiah Lee and Aundria Davis

Strom Thurmond High School senior graduation will be held on May 31st at the Strom Thurmond High School football stadium.

STHS is getting ready for graduation. Practice will be held on Thursday, May 30 and will be held in the STHS cafeteria from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. No family and friends can attend this; it will be a closed practice.

Seniors who have fees due must pay their balance. Pay fees and return books from 9:30 -11:00 a.m. in the Commons (All Fees are to be paid by May 28). If fees and school books are not returned by May 28 at 3:30 p.m., students will not be allowed to attend the practice or graduation ceremony.

More upcoming dates for seniors are 4/29 which is a mandatory senior meeting at 9 am. Seniors should meet in the auditorium to get important grad info and sign contracts

From 5/10 to 5/16 are senior exams. Senior Day on 5/17 will be busy. Seniors should report at 8:15 a.m. to the auditorium to take a class picture, then report to the football field at 10:00 am, parade of graduates loading buses at 10:45 a.m., and finally lunch and games on the football field -12:30 p.m. This is the last day if seniors are passing all classes and meeting attendance requirements.

On 5/30 there is a mandatory graduation practice at 1:00 p.m. Seniors should wear hats, sunglasses, sunscreen and bring cap and gowns. Seniors will also be participating in signing day.

There are some rules for graduation that seniors must follow.



Ladies and gentlemen do have a dress code; ladies have to wear black, navy or nude shoes, no heels, simple jewelry and dresses have to be hidden by the gown.

Gentlemen have to be dressed in navy or black dress pants, white oxford shirt, traditional tie, and black or brown dress shoes.

Once all of the activities are over, these seniors have an opportunity for a successful future and life ahead of them.

Along with graduation comes future plans. The students at STHS will be prepared to do anything their heart desires with all the knowledge, education and experience they have had.

Chris Barnes will be attending Methodist University for football. He stated his biggest challenge will be “not being around the people he grew up with.” At STHS his biggest support system was teachers, students, and his family. Barnes really enjoyed the Friday night games with his coaches and teammates.

Another fan of Friday night lights is Molly Wise. Molly will be heading into the medical field at Aiken Tech. Her biggest fear is not being able to find a job due to the workforce she's going into. Besides football games, her teacher Ms. Wall was a support system to Molly throughout her senior year the most. Her advice for the underclassmen is to “finish your work and try your hardest.”

Congratulations to the class of 2024. Enjoy your last days at STHS and bring with you into the future knowledge and determination.



Opinion/Editorial

A senior evaluates her high school experience, gives advice

By Haley Gilliam

My senior year has come to an end. Graduation is May 31st, literally a month away! I do not know whether to be excited or afraid of the real world. Time went by so fast. I was just thirteen years old in the eighth grade. I can not believe I am seventeen years old and about to graduate.

I wish I could turn back the clock. I want to do it all over again. I would do things so differently. I will miss school. Not the people or the time I had to wake up every morning but learning something new every day just by observing others.

I accomplished so much this year than all three years of attending high school. I am very proud of who I have become and things I have prioritized. I no longer walk around with the same mindset as I did in ninth grade. I no longer surround myself around others who are not mature and their priorities are not straight.

High school has come to an end and I think I may be ready for the real world. I have taken on many challenges in my life so I am sure I can manage being a young adult in the real world.

There is nothing that I want more in life than to be successful. It does not matter if I have to sign up for the military. Whatever helps me strive in life I want it! I already have a plan after graduation but life is full of surprises. If my plans do not work out I will do whatever God has in store for me.

I signed up for an apprenticeship at Savannah River Site. I signed up for the apprenticeship because it is like still being in school but you get paid while doing so. I also signed up because I am not old enough to sign up for any healthcare courses to achieve my career as an ultrasound technician.



I will not say I enjoyed high school but it did prepare me for life ahead of me. So I have a message for upcoming seniors, juniors, and sophomores.

High School is supposed to be fun but do not let it interfere with your future. Prioritize your school work, sports and spending time with your friends. Pick your friends wisely, hanging around the wrong people at the wrong time can affect you in the long run. Make the right decisions, think before you act, and keep up your grades! Having a good gpa is everything! Once you mess it up it is very hard to get it back up.

I wish you all good luck on your high school journey !

Senior poetry

Death of a Phoenix

By: Keon Batson

The world used to be as gray as the ashes of a fire
And nothing felt worth it anymore.
I wanted to disappear
With every decision and mistake I made.

I could not root for myself,
And I could not think of anything joyful.
All my hobbies felt futile.
Even time with my loved ones went to waste.

But being depressed had gotten so tiring.
Each day spent wallowing in darkness.
I thought about all the things that made me happy
And cherished them until I could smile again.

All my friends love me despite my flaws,
I can write anything I put my mind to,
And music brings me to serenity.
I have so many things to be happy about.

So I exploded into brilliant flames
Until I emerged from the ashes of sorrow.
I rose with a newfound idea of freedom,
And ignited the sky with my golden wings of rebirth.



Driving down the court to better skills

Summer basketball programs for South Carolina youth

By NyAsia Stevens

Summer youth basketball camps exist throughout the country, but to get invited to USA basketball camps players have to reach out to camps by submitting an application proving their advanced-level skills mastery, accolades, and have a letter of recommendation or camp recruiters simply reach out to players.

Upcoming basketball camps in South Carolina are June 11-13, 2024 in Myrtle Beach at The Sports Center. The coach is Dexter Lyons and it costs \$245. June 17-19, 2024 in Rock Hill at Rock Hill Sports & Event Center. The coach is Donte Wright with the camp costing \$245. Both work with grades 3rd-8th on essential skills.

On June 25-27, 2024 in Spartanburg, Donte Wright is also going to be the coach of the camp. The camp works with 7th-12th graders on shooting and ball handling. It will take place at Burg Sports and costs \$295.

Dexter Lyons is the coach of the camp which takes place on July 10-12 and July 30-August 1 in Spartanburg. They will be working on ball handling and scoring skills with 3rd-8th graders. The camps cost \$245.

Another camp takes place on August 6th-8th in Columbia at Recreation Arena and costs \$295. The coach is Ryan Thomas. They will be working with grades 7th-12th on shooting and ball handling. All camps have a limit of 60 players.

Nike is hosting a basketball camp in North Augusta at Fox Creek High School. The coach is Jason Harman, and the camp dates are June 24-28, 2024. The age group is from 9-16. The time is from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. and costs \$325. The program has a 5 star review so far.



Dawn Staley has an upcoming basketball camps as well. Her camp is called "Little Gamecock Day Camp." Eligibility is boys and girls, rising 1st-5th graders. Half a day costs \$190 and a full day is \$240. Each day is broken up into shooting, defense, passing, ball handling, and footwork. Bag lunch is also needed every day.

The other camp is called Elite Individual Day Camp. Its dates are June 24-27, 2024. Those eligible are rising 6th-12th grade girls and the time is 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. The cost is \$370 per person. The location of both camps are at USC Athletics facilities in Columbia, South Carolina.

Opportunities exist throughout South Carolina for youth to improve their basketball skills and connect with many professionals in the sport.

Shortened summer still brings opportunities

By: Emma Mims and Abney Mims

Many Edgefield County students and teachers are desperate to get out for summer break, and for many students this is their favorite time of the year. Summer break now starts on May 30th, due to the year round schedule that has recently been put in place.

Summer is a getaway for students; during this time off many enjoy doing activities such as swimming, tanning, and going to the beach," freshman Magdelyn Heos, said. During summer many students get jobs and like to work. In freshman Crayton Strickland's case he will work 40 hours per week, at his job.

Most Summer activities are local, like going up to town and getting ice cream or taking a short drive to Lake Thurmond to have a relaxing day on the lake.

One question that many wonder is whether the beach or lake is a more preferred summer spot. We asked 16 students what they thought about the question and the more preferred place was the beach 13-3. So if you're looking for a hot spot to go this summer, the beach it is!

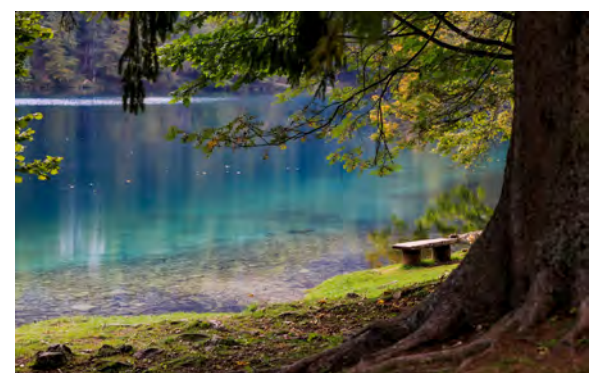
There are other places available to go such as rec centers and parks, and places like Vampire Penguin and Pelicans Snoballs if you're looking for cool treats to have with friends.

With the new year-round school calendar, the summer break is shortened. This new timeframe for summer is disliked by many students, most saying they think the break is far too short. One student in particular thinks "I don't like the shortened summer because I have so many things I want to do this summer, and I can't do everything because I don't have time to," freshman Shelby Waters said, and this can be agreed with by most of her peers.

Summer brings both new memories and nostalgia from the past. There are so many things to do, and places to see during the break.

Freshman Magdelyn Heos has many favorite things. She says that she loves to, "Ride around with her cousins blasting her favorite summer song Riptide by Vance Joy with the windows down. She says it is super fun and that it has become a common thing to do now.

Looking back at some of the past summers, leaves students more thrilled with the upcoming one. Although it is a fun break you still must remain cautious with things such as the sun and wearing sunscreen, driving safely, and acting responsible both at home and when you're out.



Swinging for the stars takes practice

By Mary Hamilton

As the 2024 baseball season approaches the end of the year, baseball coaches and team members prepare themselves to knock this season out of the park at Strom Thurmond High School.

Strom Thurmond baseball players have a great team of coaches, including Coach Yonce, Coach Ahrens, Coach Horton, and others. Junior Reese Lowe is the team manager and baseball just happens to be his favorite sport.

Multiple members of the baseball team also play travel ball, including but not limited to Griffin Thompson, Landen Jones, Keith Newsome-Jones, and Evan Bates and have bettered their performance. Evan Bates shared that he is, "involved in showcase baseball which improves my skills."

Baseball ranges in skills a player needs to be equipped with, from team communication to better technique. Brandon McAllister as well as some of his teammates, including Hayden James, Gage Cockrell, Ben Johnson, and Kaleb Simpkins have been playing since as young as age four.

Baseball is a worldwide sport that involves a glove, a bat, and a ball on a diamond shaped field with four white bases, first, second, third and home plate.

An average high school baseball game has seven innings, and the purpose is to hit the ball with the bat and run around the bases until a player reaches home plate. The team that is not up at bat has nine players on the field.

In the middle of the infield, is the pitcher's mound, where the designated pitcher stands to pitch to the catcher in hopes to strike out the batter.

After three outs, the defensive and offensive players switch. How is a player declared "out" in baseball? Players receive an out when the base is tagged before the batter reaches the base, if the ball is caught, or if the player strikes out.



Kaleb Simpkins

A batter can hit a home run, foul ball, or even a fly ball when at bat. The umpire, "the official who judges the legality of individual plays, and who otherwise enforces the rules of the game"(pbs.org), determines the ball, strike, etc..

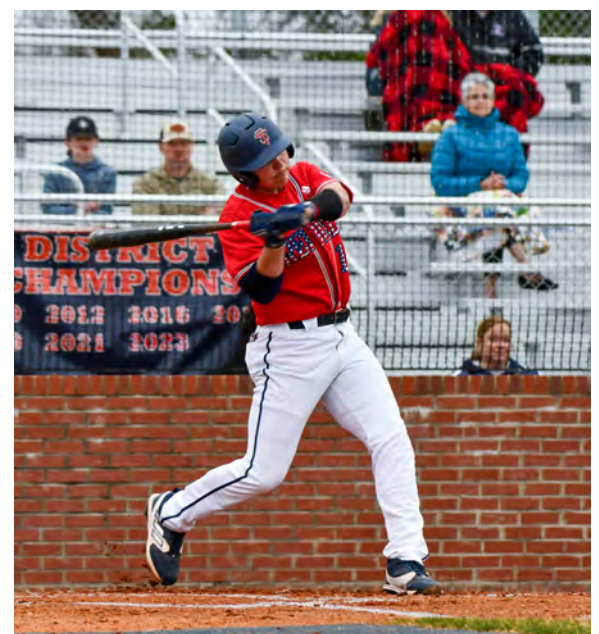
There are many positions in baseball, including pitcher, catcher, shortstop, first, second and third basemen. Other players on the field are placed in the outfield.

Baseball makes the Strom Thurmond High School team players happy because they all get to do what they love, no matter how many difficulties they face as a team. Sophomore Hayden James said, "we all are going to have ups and downs; there's no way around that, but it's how you respond to them, come back and battle it." The team's attitude sure has paid off as they have overcome hardships and entered the playoff rounds.

This baseball season was a valuable lesson to the team. The preseason started rough, but we "bounced back" as Evan and Hayden like to say as they are now District I champs, placed second in Region and played in the State playoffs.



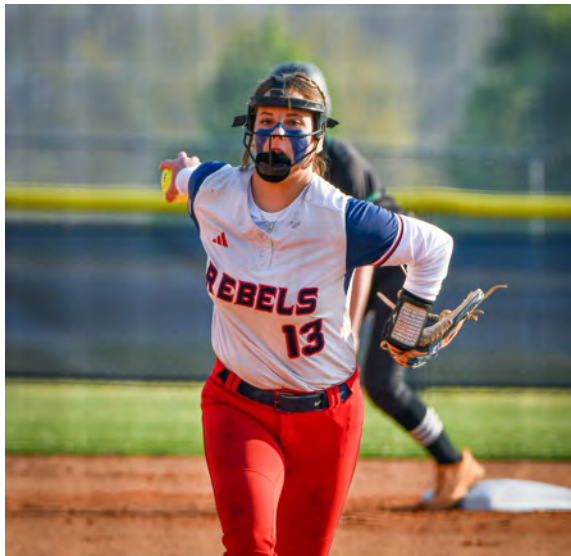
Cody Davenport



Justus Hammett

Lady Rebels run home to their best season

Softball celebrates a 15-0 regular season



Madison Rodriguez

By Blaire Ball

Strom Thurmond Softball has had an outstanding season for the 2024 school year due to hard work and dedication.

Strom Thurmond Softball started off the 2024 very strong and ended with a winning season. Strom Thurmond played Keenan, Landrum, Mid-Carolina, Saluda, Chesnee, and Gray Collegiate.

Their record for playoffs ended in 5-2 wins and losses. Wednesday, May 1 Strom Thurmond won against Keenan with a 15-0 shut out. Friday May 3rd Strom Thurmond again won 3-0 against Landrum and again on Wednesday, May 8 against Mid-Carolina. Winning the Mid-Carolina game made the softball team District Champions which is an important achievement.

Saturday, May 11 the softball team traveled up to Gray Collegiate to play a hard fought game, but came up short with the score of 11-1.

Strom Thurmond bounced back from that loss and had a big win at home against Chesnee Monday, May 13 with the score of 8-1. The softball team took that energy from Chesnee's game to win a game against Saluda Wednesday, May 15.

Strom Thurmond made it all the way to the Upper State Championship where they had to play Gray Collegiate. They traveled to Gray to play a crucial game to see who would make it to the state championship. Gray started off really strong and hard and our Rebels just couldn't keep up. They fought to the end, but it just wasn't enough.



Addison Harrison

"I think we could've gotten through state by not letting our competition psych us out and us going into games like that knowing we are the best and can win any game. Overall I think we had our ups and downs but we have made history with this team and I wouldn't trade one girl on this team for anyone," Freshman Kinley French said.



Olivia Grant



Haylan Smith

"We went pretty far in the playoffs this year. We definitely would have made it to state but sometimes we fall short and that's okay. We had a really good season and made history for the school. I love playing with this group of girls. I wouldn't change anything. Next season we are going for it all," Freshman Lawsyn Lowe said.

Strom Thurmond Softball had a great season and the Lady Rebels can not wait to see what the future has in store.



LeighAnn Strock

e.l.f. cosmetics popular and affordable for teenagers

By: Gabbie Courtney, Jamirah Lites and Ya'Lexia Jeffery

The cosmetic brand e.l.f. is an inexpensive, drugstore cosmetic brand, with a goal to make men and women more beautiful.

e.l.f. cosmetics are sold in many stores, and have professional quality affordable makeup and skincare products.

e.l.f. was founded in 2004 in New York City. Joseph Shamah and Scott Vincent Borba are the founders of e.l.f. e.l.f. products are 100% vegan. No animals are tested. e.l.f. stands for eye, lips, and face which reflect the products they sell.

Most items are six dollars or less. e.l.f. cosmetics' customers are 20.9% male and 79.91% female. e.l.f. has around 3.9 million members in the e.l.f. beauty squad program.

e.l.f. cosmetics profitability score is around 69/100. The higher the score the better the product. e.l.f. beauty made between 980 million and 990 million in fiscal year 2024.

Freshman Shelby Waters states "I love my e.l.f. eyelash curler. e.l.f. carries a wonderful mascara that is really underrated." Most of Shelby Waters' makeup routine is e.l.f. However, her favorite thing she uses from e.l.f. is her Pinky Promise Blush.

The best selling products are their new bronzing drops that just came out in April, their pencils grip primer and setting spray and their halo glow. All e.l.f. products meet the highest standards of clean beauty.

All e.l.f. products meet the highest standards of clean beauty. All e.l.f. products are manufactured by third party suppliers primarily in China. e.l.f. is considered safe for any type of sensitive skin. Freshman Mary Judith Hamilton states "I love my halo glow because it makes me glow," e.l.f. is sold at many stores; however, Sephora does not sell e.l.f. Sephora sells higher end products, so they don't carry drugstore brands. e.l.f. has 22 stores, but they get most of their orders online. By joining the e.l.f. Beauty Squad, Customers receive better-than-ever rewards and the loyalty program lets customers earn points for every dollar they spend on their favorite makeup and skincare products from e.l.f.

Most likely, e.l.f. will continue selling to teens due to the cost and quality of products.



Blue Jays: loud, beautiful birds

By: Zanna Flynn



Blue Jays, considered perching birds, live in Eastern and Central North America; they can also be found living in some natural forests. When Blue Jays migrate they fly in flocks of about 5 to 250. A group of Blue Jays are called a party or a band.

Blue Jays are known for their blue, white, and black feather patterns. They also are known for being very noisy. One reason why they do make so much noise is because before they eat they alert other birds in the area. Blue Jays like to eat peanuts, sunflower seeds, and suet.

Blue Jays can lay up to 2-7 eggs and the eggs are light blue with dark brown spots on them. When seeing a Blue Jays, an observer can spot the difference between the males and females because the male Blue Jay is larger than the females.

Blue Jays can live up to seven years, but the oldest Blue Jay lived fourteen years. Blue Jays can fly up to 20-25 mph.

Blue Jays can be very aggressive towards other birds, and they can also mock the call of a Hawk.

Blue Jays symbolize strength, confidence, and communication. They symbolize these things because they are known for their loud calls, so Blue Jays encourage us to speak up.



Netflix turns reality into fiction in *The Watcher*

By: Abigail White

The Netflix show *The Watcher* is based on a true story that goes back to the 1920s.

In 2014 Maria and Derek Broaddus and their three kids moved into a very nice house at 657 Boulevard, Westfield, N.J. It was a lovely two story house, and nothing went wrong until they started getting very harassing notes from someone called The Watcher.

The first note read, "My grandfather watched the house in the 1920s and my father watched in the 1960s. It is now my time. Do you know the history of the house? Do you know what lies within the walls of 657 Boulevard? Why are you here? I will find out" (Radiotimes).

After that, many more notes appeared. The mystery person would threaten to kidnap the three children, and said, "Once I know their names I will call them and draw them to me. Welcome my friends, welcome. Let the party begin" (Time).

More would arrive at the house; the letters would always say something about their house and how they would keep a close eye on the home owners.

Finally, Derek and Maria got tired of the notes, so they found out who the previous owners had been. John and Andrea Woods were in that house before the Broaddus; they also had the same incriminating notes which wouldn't stop until they moved.

Then there was a family before who can not be named who lived there for 23 years. They got letters, but they would always throw them out thinking it was a prank, so they didn't really have anything to say about the whole situation.

Later on when the police got involved they made sure that the notes would be taken seriously, The Watcher has already threatened them and their children and knows the whole layout of their house and, at this point, The Watcher knows everything about them and they know nothing about whom this is.



About a year later Mr. and Mrs. Broaddus and their three children moved out of the house selling it to Andrew and Allison Carr in 2019; they're still living in the house. Of course they got notes like the last couple of families; however, the notes finally stopped and the family has lived peacefully in the house.

The Watcher was never caught and never heard about until 2022 when a Netflix show called *The Watcher* was released. It was only a one season fictional show with seven episodes. If interested in being "a watcher" it can still be streamed on Netflix.

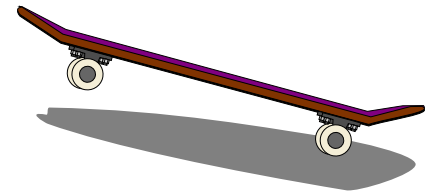
Skateboarding is more than a fad

By: Porter Dykes

Skateboarding was invented in 1976, and while it is unknown who created skating it quickly rose to fame and is still a huge sport/hobby today. Some of the most infamous skaters are Tony Hawk who is known to be one of the best skaters of all time. Others include Rodney Mullen and Steve Nesser, but someone from a more recent generation would be Burberry Erry.

Burberry has been skating all his life and started uploading videos of him skating to the internet. This is when he was noticed by an artist named Playboi Carti and they quickly became friends with Burberry appearing on stage at multiple of Carti's concerts.

Burberry was signed to Playboi Carti and landed multiple modeling deals with Balenciaga. What made Burberry so iconic was his hair because he was only ever seen with liberty spikes.



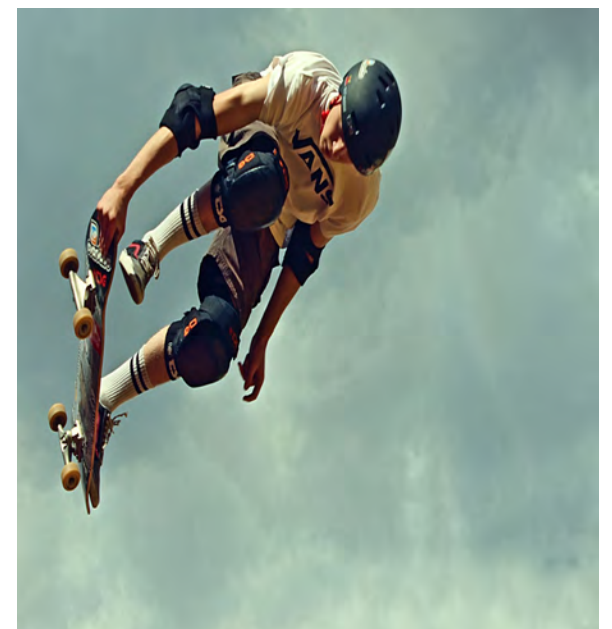
Tony Hawk is known as one of if not the best skater of all time. He is known as the first person to land a 900 flip.

There has been a series of 20 video games made about Tony Hawk with the most popular being the Pro Skater series. Tony Hawk Pro Skater was originally released for the PlayStation on September 29, 1999 but was then available on the N64, Dreamcast, and N-Gage and also received a Game Boy Color. The newest game Tony Hawk's Pro skater 1+2 was released September 4th 2020.

Tony Hawk has been skating all his life and has influenced and changed many people's lives.

Skating was a huge deal in the 80s and is still very popular today with many other skating games such as Skate. The first Skate game was released in 2007 with three other games following, Skate it, Skate 2, and Skate 3. Skate 3 has been the most popular of the series and many people believe it is the best skateboarding game of all time. The Skate series is available on Playstation, Xbox and PC.

With skating's history, it's safe to say that Skateboarding has had a huge impact on people and sports and continues to be extremely popular in our society.



South Carolina hunters follow specific dates for hunting season

By: Chandler Gagnon, Zach Morris

Hunting seasons are used to regulate and protect wildlife from hunters throughout the year and turkey, deer and duck seasons are among them..

Turkey season starts in South Carolina March 1st and lasts until April

1st. According to

<https://www.eregulations.com/> in South Carolina residents can kill a total of three turkeys while non-residents can kill two turkeys. Residents and non-residents can only kill one turkey a day until they reach the legal limit which is also a national law. Bearded hens are illegal to kill because they are rare compared to other turkeys and they are carrying eggs, so hunting one would be killing its brood.



In South Carolina it is legal to kill turkeys with a 12 gauge shotgun with a four, five, or six size shot and are the most often used weapons for hunting turkey. Other weapons allowed are bows and crossbows, but any other weapons are illegal to hunt turkey. Turkeys also eat berries, frogs, lizards, and worms, so using these prey as bait will be effective.

Using hunting dogs, live decoys and recorded calls are also illegal in South Carolina for hunting turkey. Finally, turkeys are mostly hunted for food as they can provide a dinner for large families.

Deer season starts on September 15-30 for bows, October 2-10 for primitive weapons such as bow, muzzleloading shotguns of 20 gauge or larger and October 11-January 1 for rifles and shotguns.



Many hunters use bolt action rifles to hunt deer for range and power. Hunters are allowed to shoot two deer per day and five all season.

There are 200,000 registered hunters for deer in South Carolina. Most people use deer corn to draw deer in to shoot them.

The average whitetail deer in South Carolina weighs 135 lbs, and the most common shotgun to use is a 10 gauge shotgun.

Some of the laws in South Carolina are that the deer must get tagged before the deer gets moved from the woods.

Another law in South Carolina is you can only hunt one hour before official sunrise and end one hour after official sunset. Dogs are unlawful in South Carolina's zone one and zone two.

Micheal Dylan Morris, who hunts deer using a 12 gauge shotgun or a 308 Winchester, also uses deer corn and stays in a stand while waiting for a deer to show up. Dylan thinks "the most often used gun for hunting deer is the 308 Winchester which was designed in 1952."

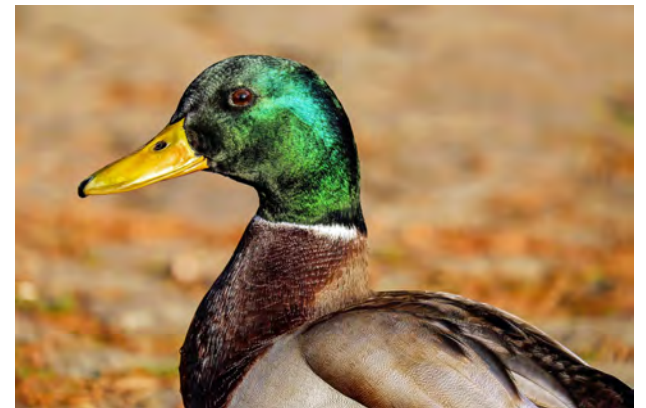
Duck season starts on November 18 and lasts through November 25, and it starts again on December 12 and ends on January 31. The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources says hunting must be "away from areas east of I-95, with one black duck or one mottled duck in the total bag of no more than six."

For areas west of I- 95, two black ducks or one black duck and one mottled duck in the total bag of no more than six ducks. The best place to hunt for ducks is in the coastal area of South Carolina.

The Santee Coastal Reserve Wildlife Management area offers permits to hunt them in that area for the whole season with a regulated number of 6 ducks per person .

The most commonly used gun to hunt ducks is a 12 gauge birdshot shotgun. Bows and crossbows are allowed in S.C., but people can only use arrows or crossbow bows with flu-flu fletching (a type of arrow used mostly for short distance travel).

People who hunt ducks can not use traps, snares , nets, rifles, pistols, swivel guns, shotguns larger than 10-gauge, punt guns, battery guns, machine guns, fish hooks, poison, drug, explosives or stupefying substances to hunt ducks.



Most people eat their ducks that they hunt, and most people also pluck their feathers to make feather fans, mask accessories and also earrings.

Hugo Doyle of Strom Thurmond High School has been hunting ducks since he was little. He says that for his hunting gun he uses a 12 semi automatic shotgun. After he had killed a duck he said that his "hunting dogs retrieve them off the water." He had also said that the place where he hunts ducks the most is in the lakes of Edgefield.

When respecting the rules, hunting can be a rewarding experience in the state of South Carolina.

Musicas de diferentes culturas latinas

By: Jennifer Fuentes Murillo

Honduras musica : PUNTA. Como bien sabemos, cada pueblo tiene sus propias costumbres, tradiciones, comidas y por supuesto su propia herencia musical. En nuestro caso tenemos la punta, que se puede decir que es el ritmo oficial de todos los hondureños.



Se conoce como la punta, es una danza originaria de los garifunas, que llegaron a honduras hace 226 años y desde entonces ellos son los descendientes de esta danza, que forma parte de la cultura hondureña.

Algunas de sus musicas: Alguien Te Va a Hacer Llorar. La Gran Banda. 04:21 · 2. Chiquilla, Chiquilla. La Gran Banda. 04:18 · 3. Punta Mix: Mandele Gas / Cielo / Rompiendo el Cuero /Kazzabe agrupacion.



Mexico musica : Géneros musicales mexicanos. Existen alrededor de cinco géneros principales de la música mexicana: son, corrido, ranchera, mariachi y banda . Cada uno de estos géneros tiene características, instrumentos y estilo de interpretación únicos. También tienen antecedentes únicos que influyeron en el desarrollo de estas cualidades.

El norteño, banda, duranguense, son mexicano y otros géneros de música country mexicana a menudo se conocen como música regional mexicana porque cada estado produce diferentes sonidos y letras musicales.

Algunas de sus musicas: Lucha Reyes, “Canción mexicana”
Pedro Infante, “Amorcito corazón”
Jorge Negrete, “México lindo y querido”
José Alfredo Jiménez, “Camino de Guanajuato”
Javier Solís, “Payaso”
Chavela Vargas, “Paloma negra”



Musica puerto rico: Una mezcla de instrumentos, sonidos y culturas, la música de Puerto Rico tiene toques de influencia caribeña, africana, española y taína. Desde salsa y merengue hasta plena y reggaetón , descubrirás que tiene un estilo propio, tan animado y único como la propia isla.

El reggaeton es un tipo de musica que bailan todos los jovenes de hoy en dia, ya que se baila de una manera muy exotica y esto llama la atencio a la mayoría de jovenes.

Algunas de sus musicas: Pobre diabla – Don Omar.
Dale don dale – Don Omar.
Candy – Plan B.
Llamado de emergencia – Daddy Yankee.
Salió el sol – Don Omar.
6am – J Balvin y Farruko.
Qué tengo que hacer – Daddy Yankee.
Baila morena – Héctor & Tito.

Music of different Latin cultures

English Translation:

Honduran music: We all know well that each town has its own customs, traditions, foods and of course their own musical heritage. In our case we have la punta, that you can say is the official rhythm of all Hondurans.

Known as la punta, it is an original dance of the Garifunas that arrived in Honduras 226 years ago, and since then the descendants of this dance form part of the culture of Honduras.

Some of this music includes: Alguien Te Va a Hacer Llorar. La Gran Banda. 04:21 · 2. Chiquilla, Chiquilla. La Gran Banda. 04:18 · 3. Punta Mix: Mandele Gas / Cielo / Rompiendo el Cuero /Kazzabe agrupacion.

Mexico's music: Mexican music genres. There are about 5 main genres of Mexican music. They are corrido, ranchera, mariachi and banda. Each one of these genres has characteristics, instruments and unique styles of interpretation. Also, they have unique backgrounds that influenced the development of these qualities.

The norteño, banda, duranguense, are Mexican and other genres of music include country mexicana and menudo and are known regionally because each state produces different sounds and musical lyrics.

Some of these musicians and songs include: Lucha Reyes, “Canción mexicana”
Pedro Infante, “Amorcito corazón”
Jorge Negrete, “México lindo y querido”
José Alfredo Jiménez, “Camino de Guanajuato”
Javier Solís, “Payaso” and
Chavela Vargas, “Paloma negra.”

Music of Puerto Rico: a mix of instruments, songs, and cultures, the music of Puerto Rico has touches of Caribbean, African, Spanish, and Taino. From salsa and merengue to plena and reggaeton, you'll find that it has a style all its own, as lively and unique as the island itself.

El reggaeton is a type of music that all young people dance today, since it is danced in a very exotic way and this attracts the attention of most young people.

Some of the music and musicians are: :
Pobre diabla – Don Omar.
Dale don dale – Don Omar.
Candy – Plan B.
Llamado de emergencia – Daddy Yankee.
Salió el sol – Don Omar.
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Baila morena – Héctor & Tito.

Brain rot: it's real

By: Anthony Carson and Conner Hadden

Strom Thurmond High School is full of young adults, and most of the young adults have been exposed to one form of media: brain rot. The mainstream definition of brain rot is “the degradation of mental faculties, intelligence, common sense, or moral character,” according to Wikipedia, but to Generation Z, and Gen Alpha by extension, it has come to mean something different: really dumb videos, most of which appeal to children, but are not really meant for them.

Plenty of media can be viewed as brain rot, especially platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. One of the biggest examples of brain rot is the YouTube series Skibidi Toilet, by YouTuber DaFuqBoom.

Various opinions were given by Tatyiana Dukes, Natalie Dolph, Kristian Brown, and Dallas Norris on the topic of brain rot. On the topic of brain rot being so popular, Dukes, Dolph, and Norris all said the same thing: “it’s not that bad.” Brown gave a different opinion, as she said “I think it makes the brain hurt and just affects it negatively.”

When asked about why they watch the sort of media that they do, all four interviewees said it is because they have nothing else to do. They also all think that there should be age limits on certain forms of brain rot.



Some of the most recognizable brain rot terms are sigma, skibidi, rizz, and mewing, according to pop culture. Skibidi means evil or bad. Sigma means a person with a lot of money or power. Rizz is just a shortened form of charisma. And mewing is the practice of exercising one’s jaw to the point of a chiseled jawline. There was also a list read out to the four interviewees, full of brain rot terms, and those four were the one everyone recognized. Norris was quoted as saying, “I think watching brain rot doesn’t really affect me.” Dukes and Dolph had similar ideas, with Dukes saying, “I still function normally, well, as normally as I can,” and Dolph saying, “It’s just normal to me now.” Brown had a very different view, “I think people need to stop watching that stuff, it just rots their brain.”

Brain rot, no matter if you want to see it or not, is now a part of pop culture, and people will have to learn how to deal with it.

Opinion/Editorial Looking forward to summer

By: Mckenzie Fleming

Summertime is coming up fast and there is about two weeks left of school. I have a lot of exams and EOCs to prepare for, so I can not wait for it to be summer. I am so excited to be out in the sun and go to the beach.

My family goes to Edisto Beach every year to stay for the week. Usually, some of our other family goes and stays in a house right down the road from us. We go to their house because it is a beachfront so we just use their beach access. I usually try to find shark teeth because there are always so many of them. We spend all day on the beach from at least 10:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon.

My cousins, sisters and I usually spend the whole day swimming in the ocean and jumping over the waves. Sometimes we take round tubes to sit in and let the waves take us away. Then, when we get tired of swimming, we take a break and lay in the sun. It’s hard to sit still for a while though because it’s always so hot. By the time we all get home I am as red as I can get. Last year I was so red I thought I had sun poisoning on my shoulders.

I am also excited to go to the lake to go tubing. That is my favorite thing to do, especially getting flipped out of the tube. I like when they make us hit every bump and try to throw us off. I also love driving the Jetski. It is so fun. We used to take a camper to the lake when I was younger every year and stay at the lake most weekends, but we sold the camper.

The rest of the summer when I don’t have those things going on, I just spend my time in the sun, swimming in the pool, or going to do something fun with my friends. I also spend a lot of time at my friend's house. This summer is going to be even more fun now that I have my license. Sometimes I wish it could go back to the way it used to be during the summer, but I’m still going to enjoy every second of it.



Celebrating an amazing spring sports season

Rebels show wide scope of talent



Gracie Roberson



Halynn Smith



Leigh Ann Strock



Erin Williams



Jules Sides



2024 Soccer Region Champs!



Olivia Grant



Sara Beth Mckie



Jalin Collins



Tillman Miller and Jakari Gordon



Girls Sprinters and Mid Distance



Distance and Throwers



Adriyanna Johnson



Amya Randle



Girls Distance

