



The Gata Data

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STA Swim splashes back into the season

BY: LIBBY WILKINSON
Gata Data Reporter

The St. Amant swim team coaches Andrew Wilkinson and Jessica Kling are eager to show off their talented swimmers. Coach Andrew said, "I'm hoping for another strong showing and to build on the success of last season. Both the girl's and boy's teams had their highest placements and scores in team history at the state meet last year. The girl's team ended last season as the top public school swim team in the state."

Coach Kling said, "I see this season going great for our swimmers, I am predicting to have the best season we have ever had." Altogether this is going to be another big year for St. Amant swim.

On September 7, the St. Amant swim team participated in the Capital City Swim League season opener to kick off the season. Wilkinson said he "was pleased with what I saw out of our swimmers at this meet." Mainly because 18 out of the 25 who participated in the meet went personal bests.

The biggest challenge that the team will face this season will be "developing our younger swimmers," says coach Wilkinson. This year there are 12 seniors and a foreign exchange student, out of the total of 30 swimmers. So in order for the team to continue to be

successful in the future the underclassmen will need to step up when necessary. Especially for the bigger meets, such as the city and state championships.

Another big challenge the team will face is trying to get state qualifying times. In swimming, there are four different divisions based on school size, due to St. Amant being the third largest public school in the state of Louisiana, we are classified as division one. The reason this is such a big challenge for the team is because the times are rather fast, especially for high school swimmers.

The overall goals of the team this year "is to improve upon the team results at the state meet each year," said coach Wilkinson, alongside, "for everyone to meet their own goals and get some personal records for their swims," says coach Jessica.

Coach Wilkinson said that "This takes a lot of work away from the pool as well as poolside by tracking results from around the state throughout the season to determine which events our swimmers need to compete in that gives them the best opportunity to succeed." The coaches are dedicated to what they do, and want the best for the team.

Wishing good luck to the team as the season progresses. The next meet will be Saturday, September 28 at St. James Parish Schools Aquatic Center.



STAFF PHOTOS

STA's new secret garden mural is complete

BY: OLIVE CARROLL, SAVANNAH MATLOCK
Gata Data Reporters

St. Amant High School completed a new addition to its campus this past school year, a mural in the secret garden located in the area between the main building's front doors and the main office. Its creator, former student Madison (Mars) Roussel, spent the duration of her senior year on the project, leaving a piece of her art forever with STA.

The mural depicts a lush, green landscape featuring a variety of plants with a flower in the center. Roussel's inspiration was a mural by Bailey Sullivan on display in Nashville. "I really loved their line-less style and wanted to incorporate that into the mural," said Roussel.

Roussel left behind not only an art piece for students to enjoy but also a piece of herself on her former high school campus that will live on for years to come. "It feels really awesome," said Roussel, "It makes me super happy that I was allowed to do something like that before I left."

The mural took about two weeks to paint and around a month to plan. "I didn't have help with the mural as I preferred to work alone, but I know

some of the members definitely did me a favor by prepping the wall with white for me," said Roussel.

Hannah Malkawi, a sponder of the environmental science club says she is proud of the students that worked on the mural. "I love the collaboration the club did with the art club. It's positive because there's more help and there are more ideas," she said.

Roussel saw a few obstacles like weather and finding time to paint the mural, which extended the time it took to paint it. Overall, she says she is proud of her project and is satisfied with how it turned out.

"I think the mural is really beautiful." Says Emmerson Longenecker, a four year member of the club.



The new mural's inspiration design by Bailey Sullivan located in Nashville, Tennessee.



The STA secret Garden Mural finished project, located in the space where 7 Brew is sold on Tuesdays.

NJROTC establishes community through renovation

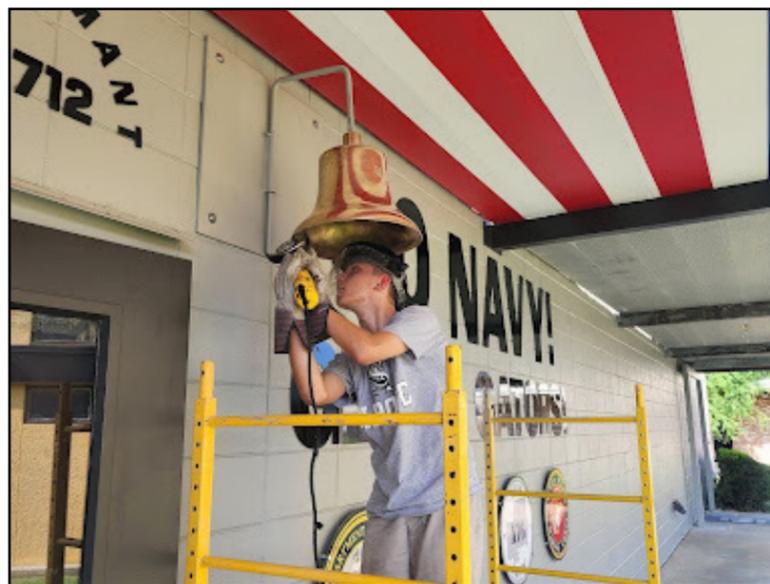
BY: SANIYA SMITH

Gata Data Reporter

During the summer NJROTC cadets were given an astounding opportunity to come together and renovate their building. During this rehabilitation process, these students strengthened their bonds while forever cherishing the work they put forth during this beautiful process.

NJROTC is one of St. Amant High's examples of a union, by calling out all hands on deck and setting a standard, these students showed dedication alongside perseverance by putting a momentary halt to their practices and solely focusing on the renewal of their building. LDCR Aaron Bates states proudly, "Everything in our unit stopped its call 'all hands on deck' and that translates into stopping everything you're doing to participate in renewing our building. We made it a priority. They can bond and strengthen their relationships because of mutual collaboration, and these kids can say that they have rebuilt their building." The teens had their initial focus on prioritizing collaboration and getting a beautiful result.

One symbol of unity that will be hanging outside of the building is a 300-pound brass bell, student senior Shannon Braezeale was specifically chosen by his instructors to shine the bell. Naval history tells about the



friendship going on and friendships built it's always fun and so compassionate when it comes to meeting the other cadets." Braezeale raved about the connections he'd created, the new people he met, and the immense dedication he felt when assigned such a task. LCDR Bates communicated, "We chose Jack and our supply team and we had him shine the bell we had Brazil shine the bell he spent about ten hours shining the bell, and we were able to see our reflection due to his hard work. The bell is unrecognizable due to his hard work."

The renovations during the summer opened doors for the cadets to bond and create something that will be forever embedded in their memory. NJROTC is about learning the fundamentals of teamwork, discipline, and structure. Not only is it teaching the students resilience, but it's also a safe space that feels like home.

NJROTC has changed the lives of students, senior Braezeale says, "It changed me very well, I'm more physical and more ambitious, and I'm able to feel comfortable in my skin, I'm disciplined especially when it comes to my attitude and control I'm able to shape myself into a stronger and well-rounded young man."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY STA NJROTC

Micah Kiletico, Aaron Bates and Shannon Braezeale stand in front of the new NJROTC renovated building.

significance the naval bell holds. CDR Micah Kiletico says, "If you go on any navy warship there's a bell, a 100-pound brass bell and we have one that came off of a World War II ship, it was tarnished and discarded for years." He also states, "When we started our rebuilding project we were thinking about a warship and wanted to hang the bell as if our troops were entering a battleship." There are two parts of a naval ship. Both sides enter a collaboration and ensure the bell is in peak condition.

Shannon says "I took my role with honor and it motivated me to shine the bell. I was genuinely honored. They were so happy to send me to do it. It was something I felt pride for doing." Shannon also stated, "From working with the other students I felt extraordinary, and I felt like there was



OPINION

BY: HAYDEN LOUPE

Gata Data Reporter

From Hot to Go

From being a small musical artist and opening for Olivia Rodrigo to having a record breaking crowd at Lollapalooza, Chappell Roan has risen in popularity. Her hit song "Good Luck, Babe!" was released on April 5, 2024 and has 58,267,694 Spotify streams. At festivals or concerts, Roan turns her shows into a fun and interactive experience for her audience. Before the performance of her hit song "HOT TO GO!" Roan teaches a dance to make her fans feel included. As the song plays, the fans make arm gestures in the letters H-O-T-T-O-G-O and dance with Roan. Often people state that she has crazy talent and her music is very catchy. Her song "Good Luck, Babe!" and performances at the Governor Ball and Coachella brought attention to many new fans due to the amount of crowd work she uses.

While Roan has become a celebrity, many people do not like her music. They say her songs are overplayed and repetitive. Chappell Roan gets millions of streams weekly, so it is expected that people will hear her songs quite often. Just walking in a store or listening to the radio, Roan's songs have a high chance of playing. Some say they want more diversity in Roan's lyrics instead of consistently repeating the same thing over and over again, like the repetitive H-O-T-T-O-G-O. Some people are also just not fans of synth-pop, a genre of music that takes beats from songs in the 80s-90s and creates a more modern mix with it, the genre of music the majority of Roan's songs are. People feel as if synth-pop is overdone. These people also claim that they have no problem with Roan as a person, their main issue is just her style of music.

Roan has spoken out about how she doesn't care about the harassment and stalking because it is normal for celebrities to encounter this, especially with how quickly she grew. She also does not care if people call her selfish if she doesn't want to take a picture or hug a random person who runs up to her on the street. Many fans have sent messages to her supporting her decision to take a step back and regroup herself. On the other hand, many people claim Roan was not cut out for being a "pop star," or that she should be more open to accepting hugs and photos with fans. As of now, Roan has yet to elaborate on the situation but many fans hope she returns.



Chappell Roan performs during the 2024 Boston Calling Music Festival at Harvard Athletic Complex on May 26, 2024.

Senior Boots and Jeans

BY: LAILAH GRANIER
Gata Data Reporter

As a tradition of the first football game, seniors take part in decorating festive boots along with jeans to celebrate the first real game of the season. Seniors choose black rubber boots and use a variety of fun items to decorate them. The themes can range from football to things that represent them being seniors. Senior jeans are also decorated with a variety of colors and normally display the year the students graduate in. Students love coming together to create this memory with one another and take photos surrounding this tradition.



Annual College and Career Festival sees another successful year

BY: MICHAEL MUMPHREY
Gata Data Reporter

On Tuesday, September 17, the 3rd Annual Ascension College and Career Expo was held at the Lamar Dixon Expo Center. Over 3,000 students were in attendance at the event. When asked about the participants' responses to it, career Coach Carla Hollifeild stated "All of the participants said that they really enjoyed it, they really enjoyed speaking to the students." A plethora of careers with multiple disciplines ranging from Agriculture to Law made an appearance at the event to talk about their respective careers. Similarly, many colleges from both in and out of state, including LSU, Northwestern Louisiana University, University of South Mississippi, and more were also present to answer questions from prospective students. Hollifeild also pointed out that, despite the bad weather being a possible deterrent, "at 7:30 (participants) were still coming in" in an effort to gain knowledge about possible career pathways they could take.



STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL MUMPHREY

Representatives from the U.S. Army advise an interested attendee.

