

# Issue 14 RAMPAGE

March 13, 2025

**MOE'S TACO KITS ARE  
BEING SOLD BY THE  
SPANISH CLUB. ORDERS  
UNTIL MARCH 16TH AND  
PICK UP MATCH 18TH.  
SEE A SPANISH CLUB  
MEMBER TO ORDER.**

**The 2025 spring musical cast of *42nd Street* takes their final bow this weekend. Don't miss it! Buy your tickets now. Remaining show dates: March 14-15**

Delivering high school news...one page at a time!  
Pine-Richland High School

**COME AND  
MEET THOSE  
DANCING FEET!  
GET TICKETS FOR 42ND STREET**

**"Our ecstatic audiences felt like I was performing in a Broadway show!"  
-Junior Conor Barcaskey**

Photo by Brandon Pierce



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# Student Life

## Tapping Into Theater

### *Freshmen Share Their First Musical Experience*

VIENNA RESTELLI STAFF WRITER

Entering high school makes way for many new opportunities — for freshmen such as Lily Orellana, Sarah Lattari, and Ashlee Bernesser — it was joining this year's musical, *42nd Street*.

Freshman Lily Orellana auditioned because of her love for musicals, singing, and dancing.

She said, “I’ve wanted to do this since the middle school musical.” One of her favorite parts of the process has been seeing the set come together and watching everyone improve. She was surprised by how many friends she made, especially with the upperclassmen. However, balancing the musical with school, dance, piano, and singing has been tough.

She uses breaks during rehearsal to do homework or stays up late to finish it, admitting, “Which is not good, but do what you gotta do.” Her dream roles are Mary Poppins, Ariel, Sebastian, and Elphaba. She hopes to pursue music and theater beyond high school.

Her advice to future performers is “Don’t be afraid to ask for help... and don’t be afraid to make new friends.”

For freshman Sarah Lattari, she decided to join the musical after doing her middle school show and outside theater programs. She enjoys singing and acting, even if she isn’t the strongest dancer.

The most exciting part for her has been the moment when everyone masters something for the first time—“It’s really fun when we all finally get it,” she said.

She was surprised by how much bigger the cast for the high school musical was compared to middle school musical. The biggest challenge for her has been the dancing, especially since the show involves tap, which she had never done before.

“Learning how to do that was difficult but was made easy by everyone supporting one another and our amazing choreographer,” she said.

To keep up with schoolwork, she tries to complete assignments during rehearsal downtime, but tech week has made that more difficult. Even though she doesn’t have a favorite number, she enjoys watching the various performances. She plans to continue doing musicals and hopes they’ll be just as fun in the future.

While she isn’t sure about pursuing theater long-term, she encourages others to join, saying, “If you’re not perfect at something, it’s fine, do it anyway... but prepare to have no time at all.”

Freshman Ashlee Bernesser’s love for tap dancing is what made her audition.

When she found out the show was *42nd Street*, she thought, “Oh, I should do this because I love to tap dance!”

For her, the best part of rehearsals has been learning the choreography.



(left to right) Freshmen Ashlee Bernesser, Lily Orellana Photo by Ashelle Bernesser

Unlike some of her cast members, she wasn’t surprised by much, although she did expect it to be more intense.

“I kinda was expecting it to be a lot more intense... but also everyone had to learn how to tap dance, and then learn the show,” she said.

The most difficult part for her was learning how to tap dance on the steps in the finale because they’re narrow. Balancing schoolwork wasn’t too difficult for her since she has a study hall and does homework immediately after getting home. Her favorite number is “Go Into Your Dance” because she relates to it and finds it really fun. She plans to continue doing musicals and hopes to become a dance captain one day, though she’s happy being in the ensemble as well. Right now, she’s in it just for fun, but she advises future cast members to keep an open mind.

She explained that this year’s musical was more intense due to all the tapping, but said, “Just don’t listen to what people say this year and go into it with an open mind.”

**PROM NEWS: Pine-Richland High School Prom will be held Saturday, May 10th at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. This year Prom theme is Hollywood Night. Tickets will be on sale April 3 through April 9, in the Pine-Richland High School front Lobby before school. Tickets will be 110 dollars per person. Permission slips can be picked up outside of Room 100 and have also been emailed to all students. 10 per table and seating will be determined at time of ticket purchase. Any questions, please email Mrs. Brough and Mrs. McCarthy**



# Student Life

## Student Spotlight: Josh Oklewjewski

### *Get to Know this PR Junior*

GIANNA UNGOR STAFF WRITER

**What is one word that best describes you?**

“Authentic.”

**What is one thing you wish to do in the future?**

“Buy an apartment in the city and decorate it.”

**What is the best piece of advice you've ever gotten?**

“Know your worth.”

**What do you do in your spare time?**

“Boy Scouts, Musical, Working at Chick-Fil-A, belt songs in my car, and cry over school.”

**Are you excited for the musical?**

“Yes! we put so much time and effort into it and I'm happy that we finally get to show it to the people.”

**Do you have any pets?**

“Yes, two dogs; Milo and Molly.”

**What is your favorite food?**

“Honey Walnut shrimp at Panda Express. Every time I get it it tastes amazing.”

**What is your pet peeve?**

“People chewing with their mouths open.”

**Do you prefer spicy foods?**

“No, I hate spicy foods. My brother does and he would eat like anything spicy.”

**What is your favorite tv show?**

“Smiling Friends. It is on Hulu and it's a stupidly amazing mix of out of pocket and great storytelling.”

**Who is your favorite artist?**

“Most definitely SZA. Her music is literally ethereal and I can't ever bring myself to skip one of her masterpieces.”

**What is your favorite color?**

“Purple...Specifically neon purple. I love how calming it looks but at the same time vibrant.”



Photo of Junior Josh Oklewjewski by Josh Oklewjewski

**Who do you look up to the most?**

“I would have to say my mom.”

**What motivates you?**

“This is going to sound harsh but the thought of graduating and leaving Pittsburgh. I want to live somewhere that has warmth and...is not here.”

**What are your career goals?**

“I want to go to school for pre-law and communications with a minor in Spanish so I can be a lobbyist.”

**What would be your “I made it” moment?**

“For me it would have to be decorating my future studio apartment in NYC with my future golden retriever lying on my couch with Fleetwood Mac playing on my vinyl player.”



Spring Musical pit rehearsing before performances of *42nd Street*. Photos by Brandon Pierce



# Student Life



## Spring Musical Celebrates Wonderful Opening Weekend!

Students and families are raving about PR's production of *42nd Street*! Balcony seats are still available for remaining shows: 3/14 at 7:30 pm and 3/15 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm. Photos taken by Brandon Pierce





# Sports

## It's March!

### *Preview of the Three Best Teams Before March Madness.*

DAVIS NATALI STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again; March Madness is just around the corner. From shocking upsets to heart-stopping plays, it is truly the best postseason in sports. For many people, though, March Madness is the only time that they pay attention to College Basketball, so if you're new to the scene and want to catch up, here's a list of the three teams that have been the most constant this season and are most likely to host the trophy in San Antonio.



- 1. Auburn Tigers (27-3)** The Tigers' record reflects their complete dominance this season. Even after coming off a loss at Texas A&M 83-72, ending their six-game winning streak. Auburn is still the overwhelming favorite to be the top overall seed in the tournament. Led by National Player of the Year favorite Johni Broome, the Tigers have rolled through the hardest schedule in the country with key wins against top competition like Alabama, Tennessee, and Houston. Auburn is looking for its second-ever Final Four appearance and its first-ever National Championship in program history.
- 2. Duke Blue Devils (27-3)** The Blue Devils were one of the three teams to beat Auburn this season, coming off yet another blowout win over Wake Forest. The Blue Devils are playing their best basketball at the right time. Duke has been on fire since suffering an early season loss to Kansas, The Devils are 23-1 in their last 24 games, led by the explosive freshman Cooper Flagg. Duke has clinched a share of the ACC regular season Championship and are looking to make the Final Four for the first time since 2022 and try to raise banner number six.
- 3. Houston Cougars (26-4)** The Cougars have been the class of the Big 12 this season, clinching their second straight conference championship and looking dangerous. After a close-fought win vs Kansas, 65-59, moving their winning streak to nine in a row. The question for Houston is, will they be able to make a run deep in the tournament? The Cougars have been a top seed for the last two years but failed to reach the Final Four. This year's team is looking to get over the hump led by leading scorer L.J. Cryer. Houston is looking to break through this March, make their first Final Four since 2020, and bring home the school's first-ever National Championship.



Photos by @pr\_schools

**The PR lacrosse team went to St Barnabas and taught the residents all about lacrosse!**



# March Collection

## History of Leprechauns

### *A Famous St. Patrick's Day Symbol*

VIENNA RESTELLI STAFF WRITER

St. Patrick's Day 2025 is just around the corner. When thinking of St. Patrick's Day, some people may envision the color green, four-leaf clovers, the gold at the end of a rainbow, but especially, a symbol we've all known since we were young, leprechauns. I remember the traps we made in hopes to catch them in elementary school. But why was this a tradition? How did it, and the leprechaun itself, come to be?

According to *National Geographic*, leprechauns come from Irish folklore. They were first known as mischievous fairy-like beings known for their tricks. The word "leprechaun" is believed to have come from the Irish word luchorpán, which means "small body." Unlike the cheerful creatures associated with St. Patrick's Day, original leprechauns were more solitary and grumpy.

One of the most well-known parts of leprechaun mythology is their hidden pots of gold. According to *Irish Central*, the legend likely comes from stories of fairies who stored their treasures underground. Over time, this evolved into the belief that leprechauns hide their gold at the end of rainbows, a place no human could ever reach.

The connection between leprechauns and St. Patrick's Day is more recent. According to *History.com*, leprechauns weren't originally connected to the holiday. It was traditionally a religious feast honoring St. Patrick. However, when Irish culture spread globally, the leprechaun became a recognizable symbol of Ireland. This was further made "official" through movies, advertisements, and the famous Lucky Charms cereal mascot.



Leprechaun traps started in American schools as a fun way for children to engage with Irish folklore. According to *Smithsonian Magazine*, the concept likely comes from the mischievous nature of leprechauns, inspiring kids to try and capture one before it can escape.

Although the modern image of leprechauns may be different from their origins in Irish folklore, they remain a symbol of magic, luck, and Irish heritage. Whether you're setting traps, wearing green, or hoping for a bit of good fortune, remember that leprechauns have a long and fascinating history behind them.



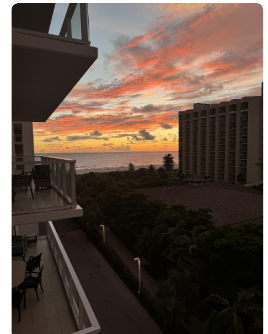
## Spring Break

### *Counting down the days*

TAYLOR SERVAGNO STAFF WRITER

Pine-Richland students' spring break is getting close. This year our spring break is April 14-18, which is just a month away, but students are getting ready for a break from school. It offers time away from school that everyone can take time to relax and enjoy. A popular thing to do for spring break is take a vacation. It could be at the beach or even the mountains to ski or snowboard. Popular places to go are warmer places to get away from the colder weather, like Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina. Each of these places have beautiful beaches and warm weather. For some students they may just stay home or travel somewhere closer to home. Staying

closer to home means you can see your family and be with your friends. Since the weather is getting warmer in Pittsburgh you can do many entertaining activities outside. You can play sports outside with your friends and compete with each other. Have a picnic with friends, you can enjoy a meal with your friends and talk to them. Visiting things like parks, amusement parks, and movie theaters are also great things to do when you have free time. Getting out and doing enjoyable things with friends and family is a great way to spend your spring break. Spring break is a time all students look forward to. They use the time to unwind from school and take a break from studies.





# Serialized Novel

## Chapter 4: Cloaked

The sun shone on the dirty, wooden floors of the barracks. The events of the night prior were still fresh in his mind. Julius, full of questions, rose with the other knights and made his way to the dining hall for breakfast. After walking into the grand, radial room, Julius spotted Henry sitting alone, eating eggs and fresh fruit.

Julius grabbed food for himself, and slowly made his way over to where Henry was sitting, "Oh, hey Julius," Henry spoke, with a caution in his inflection that only he was aware of.

"Morning Henry," tiredness infected Julius's voice. He sat his plate down on the table and lethargically slid into the chair next to Henry. "I've been thinking about what happened last night, I think that we should go back later tonight and scope out the Hallway Tunnel again. Something has been bothering me about it." Henry paused for a moment, almost forgetting to swallow his food.

"Alright, sure." Henry replied. A tense silence filled the air between the two friends. Aside from the scraping of the metal silverware against worn out plates and chattering voices around them from fellow comrades, both men had something occupying their minds. Julius hesitates, his mind wandering back to the thoughts of the mysterious cloak.

"Hey Henry... There is actually something I've been meaning to--"

Henry interrupts, standing up from the table with his cleared plate.

"Let's make our way now, ya? Time isn't stopping for us to laze around."

He joked with an underlying firmness; it was not a question. Puzzled by the sudden eagerness to leave, Julius stood up as well, following in suit of Henry. They both journeyed back to the Hallway Tunnel, hoping to find what they had not before. Julius entered first, with Henry trailing slightly behind him. Henry carried a lantern, the light making out the details of the dark tunnel. Julius would glance at the walls as he walked past. The tunnel had intricate carvings displaying pictures of the kingdom from, what it appeared, centuries ago. Intrigued, he turned his head to look back at Henry, but Henry looked ahead and took no interest in the carvings, as if he had seen them before. Julius eyed the carvings as Henry held the lantern closer, making their way through the tunnel.

"Who do you think made these? A past king?" Julius questioned Henry as he looked at them attentively.

"I'm not sure, Julius. Maybe if we venture further in we could find an answer." Henry replied to Julius, as if leading him towards a conclusion.

Julius, feeling suspicious, nodded quietly and walked ahead.

The dark stone walls of the tunnel glistened as the soft light from the lantern bounced off its humid surface. The only thing to be heard in the tunnel was the monotonous and steady drops of water from the ceiling above them. The carvings continued as the pair travelled, steadily creating a story that Julius slowly put together. So far, it told the tale of a community in ruin, starvation and disease rampant. A prominent character that Julius noticed was a cloaked figure with a halo depicted above its head.

Julius then paused for a moment, and looked up at Henry. "Hey, Henry, there is something I must tell you."

Henry glanced back at him and gave him a curt nod in a wordless motion, allowing Julius to continue.

With a sigh, Julius spoke, "While I ventured in the tunnels... I found a cloak... Will you help me investigate?" There was a moment of silence in the air.

Henry did not halt in his steps, nor answered the question. There was no doubt he heard Julius, but he refused to pause, determined to keep moving.

Finally, the pair came to a large, heavy door fortified with dark iron elements. Soft chatter could be heard from behind, as well as the crackling of a fireplace. Julius looked to Henry out of fear and shock, yet Henry's expression did not match his own. Henry instead displayed a concentrated, focused stare. Henry reached for the door, and opened it slowly. The creaking of the rusted hinges create an awkward break in the quiet of the tunnel. Confidently, Henry stepped inside the room to greet what appeared to be around 13 different cloaked figures. Julius tensed at the sight and paused in his steps behind Henry, observing the figures with a narrow gaze.

Henry interrupted his thoughts, speaking in a firm tone. "Join us, Julius, in the cruel society that the monarchy controls. Join us against King Arthur to end his reign, to bring justice for those less fortunate." Henry offered in a determined tone. "Help us take down King Arthur and destroy the monarchy's dynasty!"

Julius's expression was left puzzled for a moment after Henry's declaration, before he shook his head, shaking himself from his daze. "No!" Julius yelled, looking at Henry as if he was a madman, which, in this aspect, he was. "Are you insane? Taking down the king? That's treason, Henry!"

Henry frowned, turning to face Julius. ".. 'Insane'? It is not insane to pursue in wishing to help the people, Julius!" His voice then lowered, a dangerous air filling the room.. "Last chance, Julius. Join us." Henry warned.

Julius remained firm, his body tensed as he reached for his side, a wordless decision- his choice was clear. "I'd be gone before I would dare to consider such a request."

Henry clicked his tongue, the other cloaked figures looked up in an equal motion.

".. Fine." He paused, his voice raising. "Capture him!" Henry cried, the other cloaked figures following the demand, running to Julius.

Julius had no time to hesitate as he turned to sprint out the way he came. With no light and no direction, the adrenaline fuelled his movements. The cloaked figures followed- but Julius was faster, already ahead.. Julius could not forget he was still at a disadvantage, they knew the tunnels, he did not. His breaths were ragged, the group still on his trail and he could only hope for luck to be on his side.

# Acknowledgments

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The RAMPAGE is available online every Thursday under the high school Resources Tab. It is written by students, for students, and will make every attempt to report all school-related news. We welcome freelance submissions, suggestions, comments, and story ideas from students and staff. Since this is a student-publication, we realize we make mistakes: we encourage readers to report mistakes to the staff writers; you may win a prize if you locate any/all mistakes.

**Got news or want to be interviewed by our staff?**  
**DM the Rampage on Instagram! @pinerichlandrampage**

INSPIRED HEARTS AND HANDS  
& PRHS STUDENT GOVERNMENT

# FOOD DRIVE

**MARCH 6-20**  
**Collection Location: Room 415**  
(before school and between classes)

ONE LUCKY PARTICIPANT WILL WIN ACCESS TO THE RAMS WAY PARKING SPOT

**MOST REQUESTED ITEMS:**

- CANNED VEGGIES & FRUIT
- JELLY
- PASTA/RICE SIDES
- PASTA AND SAUCE
- INSTANT POTATOES
- PEANUT BUTTER
- STUFFING
- CANNED SOUP
- GRANOLA BARS
- FRUIT SNACKS
- CEREAL
- PANCAKE MIX & SYRUP
- TUNA
- CANNED CHICKEN
- ALDI GIFTCARD
- BROWNIE OR CAKE MIXES
- MAC & CHEESE

Dear Readers,

As we wrap up this issue, we want to thank you for your engagement. Our readers are what make the Rampage meaningful, and we are grateful to share these stories with you! We hope this issue helped you stay informed, inspired, and entertained!

Sincerely,  
June McCune and Anna  
Karmanos  
Editors-In-Chief