THE REBEL REPORT

Pride
Class
Courage
Will To Win

Wednesday, May 28, 2025 Strom Thurmond High School Vol. 2 Issue 7

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Seniors move into a new phase of life and take STHS memories with them

By Shelby Waters

STHS seniors prepare to graduate and with them carry many memorable moments from high school, some better than others.

However, when asked about their favorite memories senior Treasure Key said, “My favorite memory of STHS was when the 2024 senior class walked last year. Seeing everybody cheer and smile for them, with no drama! It really made my day.”

While some students' favorite memories are before their senior year, others cherish senior year memories the most.

Senior Shelby Murrel said, “My favorite memory was spending the last bit of my senior year with all my friends. I also enjoyed figuring out my plan after graduation.”

A large part of senior year is figuring out a plan after high school. It is usually considered beneficial to have a plan or a foundation of a plan. Whether that is college, military, work force, trade school, or a gap year.

Ashley Cates said, “After high school I’m going to Lander University for History Education and get certified in both middle and high school”.



Shelby Murrell said, “My plans after high school are to attend Piedmont Technical College and become a vet tech.” Wyatt Roberson said, “My plan after high school is to go work at a landscaping company Mulch and More.” Every possible avenue can offer unique opportunities for growth and success.

There are many different aspects of high school that are all part of the experience. “The hardest aspect of high school is having to understand that you’re going to get an education and it may not matter in those few years to you, but it will matter in life” Treasure Key said. However Ashley Cates said, “Finding a place among so many people and to not fade into the background.”

See page 9, seniors

Remembering Michelle Smith

By Isabella Mora



Strom Thurmond High School and the Strom Thurmond Career and Technology Center recently lost one of its most cherished teachers, Mrs. Michelle Smith. Her kindness, faith, and commitment to students made a lasting impact on our school community.

A Heart of Gold

Mrs. Smith’s warm smile and gentle spirit made everyone feel welcomed and valued. She was always ready to help—whether comforting a student, supporting a coworker, or simply offering a kind word. She lived her faith daily, sharing words of encouragement and drawing strength from God. Her God-fearing nature showed in the way she treated others—with compassion, respect, and love.

“She was the kindest, most caring person I’ve ever met,” Megan Johnson said, who knew Mrs. Smith as both a teacher and colleague. “She believed in every student’s ability to succeed and worked hard to make sure they had the tools and support they needed.”

Dedicated to Student Success

Mrs. Smith was more than just a teacher—she was a mentor, leader, and inspiration.

She pushed her students to believe in themselves, grow in confidence, and chase their dreams. Even while facing her own challenges, she never stopped encouraging others.

Dr. Alan Gray, Director of the Career Center, reflected on the influence Mrs. Smith had on him both personally and professionally:
“I met Michelle when I became Director, and from day one, I knew I could trust her. She welcomed me with a smile and a heart full of service and faithfulness.

When I went through a difficult situation with a family member, Michelle’s strength and faith helped me face it with patience and grace. She inspired me with her resilience, her prayers, and her steady belief in God.”

Honoring Her Work Through the March of Dimes

One of Mrs. Smith’s favorite school events was the March of Dimes walk, which she organized for many years through FBLA.

See page 8 Smith

Seniors receive financial awards for college

By Isabella Mora



As graduation approaches, Strom Thurmond High School seniors are navigating the many opportunities for scholarships to help fund their education. To support students in this process, Mrs. Megan Johnson-one of the school's counselors- shared valuable information about the types of scholarships available and how students can best access them.

"There are many scholarships available for students planning to attend both 2- and 4-year colleges," Mrs. Johnson explained. "A lot are based on the student's intended major or program." She noted that South Carolina offers well-known scholarships such as Palmetto Fellows, LIFE, and HOPE, which are based on academic performance like GPA and class rank.

When asked about how much money a student can receive, Johnson said, "I've seen students get a full ride-tuition, room and board, and expenses paid for. The total amount depends on the college or university."

Last year, the Class of 2024 earned around $8 million in scholarship awards. While it's unclear how much of that money was actually accepted or used, students are encouraged to reach out to other counselors, like Mrs. Hicks, for more detailed data.

Technical colleges also offer strong scholarship support. "SC technical schools will use lottery funding and the LIFE scholarship to pay full tuition for students graduating with a 3.0 GPA or higher," Johnson added.

Some scholarships cover living expenses, though the amount varies by award. Others are tied to students' majors or the specific coursework they've completed.

To stay updated, seniors should regularly check the Class of 2025 Google Classroom, where all current scholarship opportunities and deadlines are posted.

With a variety of scholarships out there, Strom Thurmond's counseling team encourages students to take initiative, ask questions, and apply early and often.
coursework they've completed.

S.C. LIFE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

"General Eligibility Requirements:

• Graduate from high school or complete a home school program as prescribed by law;

• Attend an eligible South Carolina public or private college or university;

• Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) at the time of high school graduation and
be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination
of residency for tuition and fee purposes at the time of high school graduation;

• Be enrolled as a full-time degree-seeking student; minimum FT hours 12; students have through the
end of summer to earn renewal eligibility.

• Certify that he or she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any
second of subsequent alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor convictions within the past academic
year; state certifications mailed to students with LIFE award letters or may be picked up in office.

• Verify that he or she is not in default and does not owe a refund or repayment on any Federal or State
financial aid;

• Must not be a SC HOPE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship or Lottery Tuition Assistance
recipient.

Initial Eligibility Requirements for a LIFE Scholarship:

First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible two-year or technical institution must earn a
cumulative 3.0 GPA based on the UGP as described in (1a) above. The required standardized test score
and class rank for four-year institution requirements are waived."
(source:www.sccsc.edu)

SC HOPE SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

"Award Amount: Students attending an eligible four-year public or private college or university will receive up to $2,800* (including a $300 book allowance) towards the cost-of-attendance during the first-year of attendance only.

*Funding is awarded half in the fall term and half in the spring term. The HOPE Scholarship in combination with all other scholarships and grants shall not exceed the cost-of-attendance as defined in Title IV regulations for any academic year.

In order to qualify for the SC HOPE Scholarship, a student MUST meet the following general and initial eligibility requirements:

General Eligibility Requirements

Graduate from high school or complete an approved home school program as prescribed by law;

Attend an eligible South Carolina public or private college or university;

Be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident (green card holder) at the time of high school graduation and be a legal resident of South Carolina as defined in applicable State statutes governing the determination of residency for tuition and fee purposes at the time of high school graduation;

Be enrolled as a full-time degree-seeking student;

Certify that he or she has never been convicted of any felonies and has not been convicted of any second
alcohol or other drug-related misdemeanor convictions within the past academic year;

Verify that he or she is not in default and does not owe a refund or repayment on any Federal or State
financial aid; and

Must not be a recipient of a LIFE Scholarship, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, or Lottery Tuition Assistance.

Initial Eligibility Requirements:

In order to qualify for the SC HOPE Scholarship, first-time entering freshmen must meet the following
criteria:

Earn a cumulative 3.0 grade point ratio (GPR) based on the Uniform Grading Policy (UGP) upon high school graduation."
(source:www.sccsc.edu)

STHS says farewell to retiring educators

By Jamirah Lites, Chandler Gagnon and Nathaniel Gagnon



Ms. Fran Altringer, principal

Mrs. Altringer, STHS Principal, has decided to retire. She has worked diligently in education as a principal for 25 years but started out as an Algebra 1 teacher here at Strom Thurmond for her first two years of teaching.

For some, finding the right career can be difficult, but for Mrs. Altringer, she found a passion for teaching and helping others as a student in elementary school. ¨When I was in elementary school, the teacher would ask me to help tutor other students. From then, I always knew I wanted to teach, but I was not sure exactly what grade level or subject.

When I was in high school I took the Teacher Cadet class. It was then I decided to major in mathematics and teach high school,¨ Ms. Altringer said.

Before teaching she worked as a cashier in high school and for a mortgage company in college.

Mrs. Altringer started teaching in 1995 where she came to admire then principal Mrs. Mullen. "She was fair and firm, but also kind and never lost her cool. ¨Altringer's admiration was the start of her journey to becoming a principal.

In order to become a principal most school districts require educators to teach at least 3 - 5 years, have experience as an assistant principal and earn a graduate degree in School Leadership.

After five years of teaching Mrs. Altringer started as an assistant principal in 2000. Some people say that if you love your job, you won't work a day in your life. For Mrs. Altringer, being a principal is the same. ¨I like that I can help people. I can listen to the ideas teachers and students have to make this school better and then find ways to help them make it happen.¨

As for what she will do after retirement, she has no specific planned activities or hobbies, but she hopes to stay active, travel, and keep up with her family at home and show her support at school events and games.

While one of the reasons for Mrs. Altringer's retirement is to spend time with family, she will miss being principal and "the sense of family" at STHS.



Lt. Charles Bayorek, teacher

Also retiring is Lt. Charles Bayorek, a loving, caring teacher who is well respected by his cadets. Not only is he an NJROTC instructor but also a nurse.

Lieutenant Bayorek said retirement will "allow me to spend more time with my family." However, STHS may see Lt. Bayorek substituting in the future.

Lt. Bayorek is most looking forward to being on his own schedule where he can pursue his hobbies. One hobby he wants to do is working on cars. His biggest dream for the next chapter is to travel to car shows across the world.

Lt. Bayorek said "I hope to wake up every morning with a smile on my face and have that smile all day until I go to sleep at night." That is what his ideal retirement lifestyle looks like. In his free time he wants to be around people with a positive outlook on life .



Mr. Jack Chandler, teacher

Strom Thurmond High School will say goodbye to Mr. Jack Chandler. Mr Chandler has taught for ten years. Mr. Chandler spent his teaching career at Strom Thurmond High School.

Mr. Chandler teaches Digital Video, Digital Publication Design, and Image Editing. Mr.Chandler got interested in teaching due to the stable income it provided.

Mr. Chandler didn't start off as a teacher.

Before he became a teacher he worked in construction and family photography. Mr. Chandler's favorite thing about teaching is the free lunches. The aspect about being a teacher Mr. Chandler is going to miss the most is not receiving full pay.

In retirement, Mr.Chandler plans on catching up on house chores.



Ms. Lisa Ledford, teacher

English Teacher, Mrs. Lisa Ledford is retiring from Strom Thurmond High School after a journey that has been anything but ordinary, as it has been one filled with love, wisdom, and a deep passion for learning.

Mrs. Ledford's love for teaching began at an early age. Inspired by her parents, both educators, she often found herself playing "teacher" as a child; lining up dolls in front of a chalkboard and sharing what she had learned in school.

Before becoming a part of the Strom Thurmond High School Rebel family, she taught at Episcopal Day School and St. Mary on the Hill Catholic School in Augusta, spending one year at each. But it was here, at Strom Thurmond, where she truly made her mark, teaching for the past eight years with dedication, enthusiasm, and a heart for every student.

See page 8, retirement

Once upon a time at prom

By Abigail White



Queen Olivia Grant and King Bryston Bryant



Prince Caleb Simpkins and Princess Imani Gilchrist

On May 3rd, Strom Thurmond High School students gathered for a magical night at prom - the final celebration before the school year ends.

Held in the new gym, the event featured the theme “Once Upon a Time,” which transformed the venue into a dreamy castle straight out of a fairy tale. As students entered the beautifully decorated space and made their way to the dance floor, they were swept into a world of sparkle, music, and unforgettable memories. **See page 8 prom**













Summer includes beach time

Editorial

By Mckenzie Fleming



From the ocean to the lake, and bathing in the sun, summer is easily the best part of my year. Many families go on vacations, do family events, and spend time out on the water when it is pushing 100 degrees outside. My family and I have a beach trip we go on every year, and we go to the lake with friends some weekends.

The beach my family and I go to every year is Edisto Beach. We have been going there for five years and have always loved it.

If you prefer doing activities instead of going to the actual beach then I would suggest going to a bigger place like Myrtle or North Myrtle because Edisto is very laid back withfew people. It is very calm and mostly just houses, a couple of restaurants and shops, and the beach. We go at lunch time to the beach and stay there until at least five in the afternoon. After we get home, we all shower and eat supper then spend our time either riding around or sitting out on the balcony of our house.

The rest of the summer I spend my time outside mostly tanning, swimming, and hanging out. Tanning is my second favorite part about summer. I love the way it looks and it makes me feel better at the same time.

We also go to the lake especially on the fourth of July. The fourth of July is the best holiday because it is during summer. We are usually at the lake; there's tubing and riding the boat, and fireworks. How could it not be your favorite holiday when it is during the best time of the year.

My summer is full of many adventures and activities that keep me very busy. I love every minute of it, with the sun shining on me and playing in the water.

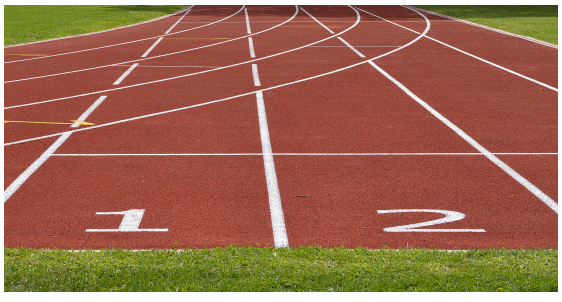






Final competitions for spring sports bring victories

By Aundria Davis and Kamira Johnson-Williams



This year's spring STHS sports teams brought home wins and personal bests.

Several track and field Rebels traveled to the State competition this year. For the girls 4x8 team this includes senior Miah Jones, senior Destiny Jackson, 7th grader Natilee Boyd, and 7th grader Maliyah Harling.

In addition, freshman Miriah Holmes competed in the Triple Jump.

The boys 4x1traveled to State with freshman Braylon Cresswell, freshman Preston Holmes, sophomore Jakari Gordon, and senior Crooze Watkins. The 4x4 team included freshman Braylon Creswell, sophomore Jakari Gordon, sophomore Bladeon Shuster, and senior Nytayvious Smith.

In field events, junior Jalin Collins competed in the 110 hurdles, junior Shaheed Williams in Javelin, Jalin Collins and Shaheed Williams in triple jump.

Shaheed also became STHS all time leader in the javelin which erned him 5th place in the sate for javelin. To add to his success, Shaheed placed 7th in state competiion in the long jump.



Beyond the track and field athletes, this year saw the boys soccer team competing in playoffs. Girls soccer had a strong season with 6 wins and 4 losses.

Softball girls forged ahead with a great season leading them to playoffs.

Rebel baseball won the District title and headed towards Upper State Finals. Both teams placed well in state competition.



Rebel baseball saw a heartbreaking loss in their Upperstate Championship against Batesburg Leesville with a score of 4-9. Their season, however, was impressive and the team earned the title of "relentless rebels."



Rebel Golf, under coach Vernon Ball met with a 8-2 overall season and finished second in the Region 2-AA golf tournament which took them to the state tournament at the Cheraw State Golf Course in Cheraw, S.C.



New Rebel cheerleaders selected

By Isabella Mora

As the school year winds down, excitement is already building for the next season of Strom Thurmond High School cheerleading. With new faces joining and returning members continuing their journey, the 2025 cheer squad is shaping up to be a strong and spirited group.

Coach Shelby Gilliam, who once cheered for STHS herself, now leads the team with high expectations and big goals. “I expect next year’s cheer squad to be a very upbeat, joyful, and energetic group,” she said. “Cheerleaders on our team are expected to represent our school in a respectful way at all school and community events.”

Coach Gilliam emphasized that practices include running, stretching, and perfecting cheers and dances. New team members are partnered with more experienced ones to help ease the transition. “We don’t assign captains right away. We like to see who steps up as a strong, positive leader,” she explained.

Freshman Blakley Kelly has loved cheerleading for as long as she can remember. “I’ve always felt passionate about it,” she said. “Everyone on the team is so funny and encouraging—even when we’re losing, we’re still having fun.” Her advice to future cheerleaders? “Don’t stress. If you mess up, no one will remember it. Just have fun.”

Fellow freshman Riley Joiner started cheering in sixth grade. “My favorite part is cheering at football games with my friends,” she said. Her favorite memory this year? “Definitely the homecoming game. The crowd, the energy—it was amazing.” Allie Enlow, also a freshman, always dreamed of cheering for the Rebels. “When I was little, I’d go to games and imagine wearing the uniform,” she said. She balances cheer with musical theatre and chorus, and says practices start with stretching and running before focusing on cheers. Her favorite memory? “When the whole JV team joined varsity on homecoming night. Seeing Friday night football from the sidelines was so much fun.”

Varsity

Gracie Ryan
Imani Gilchrist
Reese Hidlay
Taniya Dean
Mary Grace Fallaw
Molly Harling
Ashawrie Scott
Kayleigh Bias
Lydia Mims
Alayiah Gordon
Kadence Jones
Natalie Hardy

Junior Varsity

Blakely Kelly
Abigail Miller
Kaianna Buchanan
Kendall Mims
Allie Enlow
Ty’Aijah Johnson
Brilee Turner
Natasha Gray
Nyeema Bruton
Riley Joiner
Jalayah Buggs

See page 9 Cheerleaders

Color guard members named for 2025-2026

By Kristian Brown



The official results for the 2025-2026 color guard team have been posted. Thirteen out of 17 members were proudly selected to be a part of this team. There are still many skills that need to be learned, and more corrections that need to be made, but the coach and color guard team members have made it possible to develop a little family.

Zariah Brown is one of the newly selected students on the team. She is very “happy and excited” to be a part of something she’s never done before. “Being chosen to be on this team will give me an opportunity to make new friends and bond with my teammates,” she says. Zariah has proven that she deserves her place on the team by showing off her amazing dance skills. She aced the dance that was taught for tryouts and believes that that is what helped her make the team.

Glorie’anna Mosley is a bit more experienced with color guard, considering that she was on the team at her old school. She came to Strom Thurmond in the middle of April and that was the perfect time, because color guard tryouts were just around the corner. She was confident and did well during her tryout and feels back at home being a part of a new color guard team. Now, she will create a new family with new teammates. From former experience she knows that the team will be learning more complicated tricks, dances, and tosses. “My listening skills definitely helped me make the team,” she says. She also mentioned that being a part of color guard will help you become a better dancer. Some advice she would give to students wanting to join next season is to “pay attention and don’t do the bare minimum. Practice, practice, practice.”

Chase Lawton was chosen to be on the team. He feels very positive since “all the hard work paid off.” Chase practiced a lot at home which gave him an advantage of making the team. Now that he is a part of it, he is the most excited for competitions which will require a lot of hard work and practice. He believes that "with the team and coach [Ms. Keya] that we have, will be very supportive and will work with one another to get the job done."

Everyone that made the team did their very best and worked the hardest to prove that they deserve to be there. After the team was announced, there was a commitment form given with many important dates informing members about practices, camps, competitions, football games, and more. All the dates show that color guard is going to require hard work and effort, but all worth it in the end.

Here is the full list of the 2025-2026 Color Guard Team:
Weapon groups: Raina Barrs, Amber Doane, Hayden Gregory and Chase Lawton
Flag Group: Aerial Brown, Kristian Brown, Zariah Brown Lizzie Busby, Lucy Cockrell, Kitara Lozier, Glorieanna Mosely, and Anvi’Ana Thomas

Edgefield County Literacy Council Young Authors' Anthology

Winners from k5 - 12th grade celebrated in ceremony at STHS

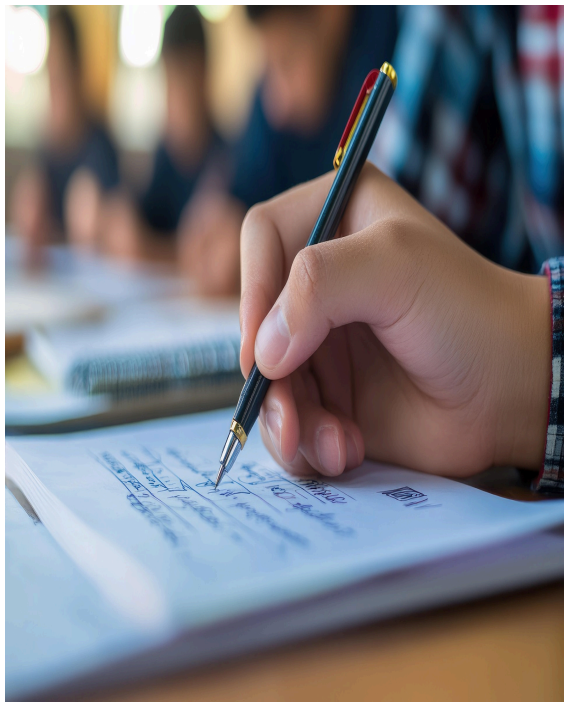
On May 12, 2025 young authors from throughout Edgefield County schools were celebrated for their writing contributions to the Edgefield County Literacy Council's annual anthology.

The evening ceremony and reception was held at Strom Thurmond High School where all writers were recognized for their contributions by receiving a medal and a copy of the anthology.

Selected writers from each grade level were invited to take the stage and read their work to the audience. STHS Sophomore Isabella Mora read her selection "The Spy's Letter" which has also received awards in two other competitions this year.

Congratulations to all contributing writers. These works reflect the focus of the Edgefield County Literacy Council's goal of promoting a love of reading and writing throughout each student's lifetime.





Invited Readers

Kindergarten: Mason Stidem JES
1st grade: Branson Lehman MES
2nd grade: Brayden Chinn WEP
3rd grade: Carly Cato MES
4th grade: Hannah Istrate JES
5th grade: Joselyn Medina JES
6th grade: Aria Toteno JET
7th grade: Gianna Roberts MMS
8th grade: Colbie Harville MMS
High School Isabella Mora 10th grade STHS

Kennedi Washington
Aubree Stidem
Mason Stidem
Jasmine Navarro
Braxtan Hallman
Mikhail Andrews
Cianna Turner
Adaline Whitlow
Amina Quansah
Cade Mathis
Reagan Dooley
Branson Lehman
Avery Baker
Hunter Holliday
Kaiden Nicholson
Brayden Chinn
Madison Curry
Kori Briggs
Aubree Andrews
Griffin Yanizeski
Lamar Griffin
Jeremiah Dobbs
Mariah Ingram
Tegan Kurschner
Kailee Hunter
Callie-Grace Corley
Harper Clark
Greyson Bright
Braylon Baker
Chelsea Simmons
Hannah Leverett
Nahrri' Frazier
Carly Cato
Hannah Istrate
Claire Blackston
Makenna Joiner
Myles McIlvoy
Hollis Jordan
Ma'kayiah Carnard
Zoei Mariha Mathis
Gigi Forrest
Layla Ruff
Makailey James
Kellyann LeSesne
Ava Risher
Lela Fallaw
Emma Key
Luke Leverett
Caroline Booker
Joselyn Navarro Medina

EAdelyn Cullum
McCoy Mishoe
DaNiylah Daniels
Taniylah Jeffrey
Elza Valdez
Malachi Williams
Nicholas Kitsos
Hope Jacobi
Aubree Bibbs
Logan Williams
Emma Clair Sutton
Aria Toteno
Ashton Williams
Molly Fleming
Emerie Fowler
Xavier White
Sarah Price
Maliyah Chinn
Allie Grace Smith
Brylee Posey
Ashlyn Legrand
Gianna Roberts
Emelyn Bishop
Colbie Harville
Izzy Murrell
Safeerah Rahman
Blake Wiggins
Mi'Riah Holmes
Christian Pierce
Selah Varner
Leah Fulmer
Lucero Romero
Flores
John Laster
James Beckler
Brianna Papa
Isabella Mora
Kaylee Hallman
Estefani Cortez
Mary Hamilton
Reece Lowe

Leadership Experience Opportunity
Where there's a need, there's a LEO.

Join / Rejoin the LEO Club
Remind Link - https://www.remind.com/join/stromleo

Continued from Smith page 1

This year, the walk was held in her memory and raised nearly $700 for the organization.

During the event, several FBLA students shared how Mrs. Smith changed their lives. Estefani Cortez: “Mrs. Smith was truly amazing. Because of her, I’m going to FBLA Nationals in California. I hope I make her proud.”

Cherish Harris: “She became the center of my day. Even when she had her own problems, she always checked on us.”

Faith Johnson: “Her classroom was a place of peace and quiet strength. Her belief in us will stay with us forever.”

What We’ll Always Remember

Mrs. Fran Altringer, Principal of Strom Thurmond High School, shared how Mrs. Smith’s influence could be seen across the entire school:

“All the banners and signs she helped create are just a glimpse of her dedication. She embraced everyone, was always willing to help, and was a true team player. I will always remember how selfless and humble she was.”

Her encouraging spirit and morning smile will be remembered by many. Mrs. Smith truly embodied servant leadership, walking in faith and love every day.

A Final Tribute

If we could say one final thing to her, it would be:

“We love and surely miss you, but don’t worry or stress about STCTC—we will take it from here and make you proud,” Ms. Johnson said.

As we reflect on Mrs. Smith’s life, we find comfort in these words from 2 Timothy 4:7–8:

“Michelle, you have fought the good fight, you have finished the race, you have kept the faith. Now there is in store for you the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to you on that day—not only to you, but also to all who have longed for his appearing,” Dr. Gray said.

Thank you, Mrs. Smith. We will never forget your love, your faith, and your legacy.

Continued from retirement page 3

When asked what she loves most about teaching, Mrs. Ledford said she is a “lifelong learner,” passionate about studying and sharing meaningful knowledge with teenagers. Mrs. Ledford's joy came not just from the subjects she taught, but from the growth and pride she witnessed in her students after learning from her.

One of her favorite moments she experienced throughout her teaching career that she said she’ll miss is when students would bring their work to her desk, smiling with pride, eager to show her what they’d created. “I am ecstatic when they are proud of themselves,” she said.

As Mrs. Ledford steps into retirement, she looks forward to the next chapter even though she might not be ready to fully let go of the last. She plans to spend more time with those she holds dearest: God, her husband, her three grown children, her daughter-in-law, her three granddaughters, and her eighty-six-year-old mother.

As Mrs. Ledford turns the page and advances into the next chapter of her life, her students and fellow teachers wish her the absolute best. Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement, Mrs. Ledford.



Mr. Steven McKinney, teacher

Mr. Steven McKinney "Peanut" is retiring after more than 40 years of directing and teaching musical theater. He finally decided to step down due to the birth of his granddaughter.

Mr. McKinney has directed many shows throughout the years. The creativeness and big ideas that Mr. McKinney introduces brings success to his students. It takes patience to direct high school students and Mr. McKinney has succeeded to do so for his entire career.

Both the theatre and chorus students will miss their dear Peanut, but after all the work he’s done, it’s safe to say that his retirement is well deserved.

Continued from prom page 4

Prom has been a long-standing tradition in American high schools, first emerging in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Originally a formal event focused on etiquette and social grace, prom has evolved into a night of fashion, fun, and personal expression. Each year brings new trends, new themes, and new memories.

Junior Ashawrie Scott shared her experience attending this year’s prom: “Yes, I went to prom with my boyfriend Bladeon,” she said. “I got my nails done, bought a dress, and did my hair and lashes as well.” Though she didn’t stick to the fairytale theme completely, she enjoyed the evening. “Yeah, it was cute, but I didn’t follow the theme for real.”

When it came to cost, Ashawrite was candid about her thoughts. “The ticket was $30, plus $20 for my science lab fees,” she explained. “I think they should lower them. I don’t think that whole night was worth $30 - well, $60 with Bladeon.” Students had to pay any outstanding fees to purchase a prom ticket.

Despite the price, prom gave students a chance to dress up, dance, and celebrate the end of the school year in style. For many, it truly was a night to remember - and the perfect way to step into their own “Once Upon a Time.”

Continued from Seniors page 1



One very valuable aspect to have in high school is a support system. That could consist of friends, family, teachers, and colleagues. Shelby Murrel said, “My Ag teacher Mr. Laughlin, he has helped me learn so much and expand my skills on agriculture. Without him I wouldn't have a clue what I want to do when I graduate. I would not have had the opportunity of being an FFA officer. Also, Mrs.Megan Johnson, I wouldn't have had someone to help me get my Piedmont things in order or talk about career stuff in general. Both of these teachers have been a huge impact on my high school career.”

Treasure Key said, “I want to shout out to Jaiden Gibson for being my best friend and understanding me this whole process. I also want to shout out to Mrs. Pataro for being an understanding teacher, and a teacher who is always honest and funny all the time! I needed that. I also want to shout out to Mrs. Johnson! She is amazing and her energy is very much needed some mornings! She really helps people and I hope she realizes that.”

One thing that may be very challenging in high school is balancing extracurriculars and sports along with academic responsibilities. When asked how she does it, Shelby Murrel said, “I put my academics first before anything. I always make sure I am on top of my academics outside of my extra activities.”

Lastly, The seniors left some words of wisdom and advice to the rising seniors. When asked if she had any advice for future seniors Ahsely Cates said, “Drive, drive, drive. Don't let up when you think that, “Oh I'm graduating anyway; it won't matter if I get a little lazy.”

Treasure also added, "Use your senior year to prove to yourself that you can do it and you did it. Don't be afraid to step on some toes about anything. If you have problems with grades, attendance, etc., go to administration. They don't keep on top of everything and most of the time you have to bring it to their attention. Don't be afraid to question things. We, as the human race, have only gotten so far because of people questioning our very existence” Treasure said. “My advice to future seniors is to keep going and keep striving. Make good decisions your senior year because it can sometimes affect your future.”

Saying goodbye to our graduating seniors is a proud but also a sad moment. These students have not only completed their academic journey but have also grown into remarkable individuals.

They've worked hard, been dedicated, and added so much to our school, leaving a mark we will remember for a long time. We hope they do great things as they start new adventures. STHS wishes them all the best in life after high school.

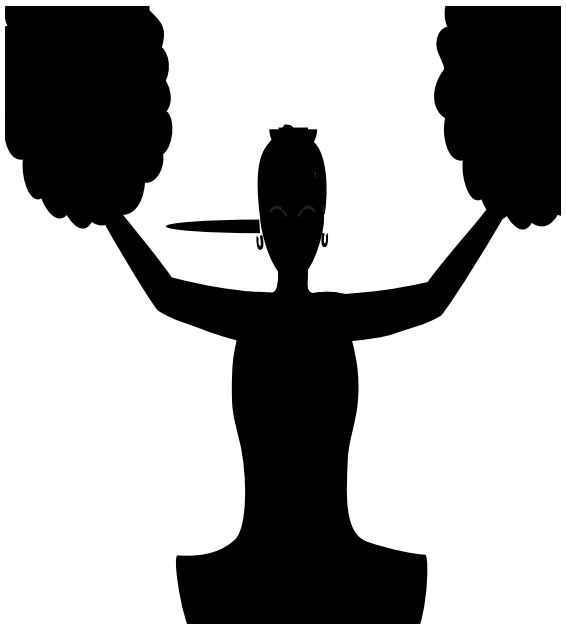
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Sophomore Natalie Hardy brings a bright attitude to the squad. “My favorite part about cheer is brightening someone’s day with a smile,” she said. “You never know who might need it.” Her favorite memory includes eating dinner with the team before games and hosting the Little Rebels Cheer Camp for younger girls.

Junior Reese Hidlay has been cheering since 7th grade and loves hyping up the crowd during football season. “Being on the team is like a sisterhood,” she said. “It’s fun to have constant support and laughter.” She also wants people to know that cheer takes real dedication. “People say it’s not a sport, but we work hard.”

All the girls agree—cheerleading is more demanding than it looks. Whether it’s mastering tough stunts, maintaining good grades, or showing up with a smile even on hard days, the cheerleaders put in serious effort. As Coach Gilliam put it, “Not only do I get to know the ladies on the team, but I also get to watch my other students participate in the sports they love.”

With such a dedicated coach and an enthusiastic team, next year’s STHS cheer squad promises to keep Rebel pride high—on the sidelines and beyond.



Underclassmen earn honors for the 2024-2025 school year

All As

Vivyana Acosta
Kinley French
Anna Acosta
Raina Barrs
John Laster
Bryan Diaz Salvador
Mollie Bartley
Carter Massey
Dennis Fraser
Linsey Corley
Olivia O'Gorman
Layla Mack
Christian Haskins
Garrett Pearson
Frances Miller
Emerson Holmes
Lily Smith
Kendall Mims
Sophia Simpkins
Jayne Whitfield
DeAnthony Roberts
Harry Taylor
Cadence Wright
Ginna Wates
Malcolm Wyndham
Kelley Widell
Adelaide Zelmer
Evan Williams
Sara Willis

All As and Bs

Kinsey Berry
Blaire Ball
Carrie Bartley
McKenzie Brown
Kristian Brown
Shanya Blocker
Carli Burden
Alexander Cain
Noah Brown
Ivey Coleman
Christopher Craft
Lillian Covar
Estefani Cortez
Caylah Doss
Michael Drylie
Mary Fallaw
Mckenzie Fleming
Leah Fulmer
Molly Harling
Joseph Greene
Riley Joiner
Julianne Harper
Mary Hamilton
Blakley Kelly
Addyson Harrison
Kamira Johnson-Williams
Kenzie Knight
Berenice Lucas-Perez
Alan Longshore
Alyson Owen
Caroline Mariano
Lawsyn Lowe
Grant Rauton
Bryan Martinez-Ramirez
Jordan Lyons
Khloe Ray
Jayla Merriweather
Ni'Mah Lyons
Angelica Regino
Ella Miller
Karrington Miller
Lucero Romero Flores
Lydia Mims
Edwin Montiel-Hernandez
Larry Smith
Brianna Papa
Isabella Mora
Rylee Thomas
Tyler Rearden
Avia Sherry
Dylan Tomkinson
Gracie Ryan
Cason Shiver
Lucinda Whatley
Jules Sides
Jalia Simpkins
SaRijay White
Kaleb Simpkins
NyAsia Stevens
Grady Stone
Leigh Strock
Brandon Thomas

