THE REBEL REPORT

Strom Thurmond High School

Pride
Class
Courage
Will To Win

November 7, 2025

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Homecoming celebrates royalty

By Ivey Coleman and Trinity Brown



Imani Gilchrist- 2025 Homecoming Queen

Homecoming is an annual tradition filled with school spirit, excitement, and treasured memories. At Strom Thurmond High School, the celebration took place on Friday, October 17, 2025 a night when senior girls awaited the moment they would discover who would be crowned queen.

Anticipation filled the air as families, friends, and students watched from the stands, ready to witness one of the most unforgettable moments of the school year.

In the end, surrounded by her court and a roaring crowd full of pride and support, Imani Gilchrist was crowned StromThurmond Homecoming Queen.

As homecoming queen, Imani demonstrated grace, sincerity and purpose. When asked what she wanted to be remembered for beyond the title, she expressed that ¨beyond the crown, I hope people remember me for my kindness, the way I lift others up, and the positive impact I make in my community."

She emphasized that "the crown is just a symbol, but the real legacy is how I treat people and the difference I make in their lives," Imani said.

Imani also credited her mother as the greatest influence in her journey. ´´She belived in me, supported me through challenges, and helped me grow into the person I am today." One of her favorite memories from the homecoming experience was the unity backstage, explaining that "the girls felt like a family and that feel special and real," Imaini said.

Looking ahead she hopes to use her platform to "bring people together, promote kindness, and create opportunities for students to get involved and feel valued. For future candidates she encourages confidence and resilience, sharing that her personal theme song would be ¨ Rise Up¨ by Andra Day because it reflects strength, hope, and determination.



Kizziah Cunningham - 1st runner-up

The first runner-up Kizziah Cunningham, also reflected on a night filled with joy and appreciation. When her name was announced, she felt honored, explaining that she was simply excited that her peers believed in her and voted for her to be part of the court.

Kizziah shared that spirit week and the pep rally meant the most to her because those moments brought the entire school together in celebration.

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Student ambassadors promote STHS

By Isabella Mora

This year, Strom Thurmond High School introduced its first-ever Student Ambassador Program, designed to help new students feel welcomed and connected to the Rebel community.

Ms. Gail Hicks, the school's Lead Counselor, explained that the program was created to make the transition smoother for students transferring to STHS. "Transferring to a new school can be difficult and challenging, and student ambassadors can help alleviate that by being friendly and welcoming," Ms. Hicks said.

Lead Counselor
Ms. Gail Hicks



Ambassadors were selected based on specific criteria, including a minimum 2.75 GPA, strong attendance and disciple record, and a positive attitude. Applicants also submitted teacher recommendations and a short video explaining why they would make great ambassadors.



Sophomore Student Ambassador
Cadence Wright

Sophomore Cadence Wright shared that her motivation to join came from her love for the school and her desire to help others feel comfortable.

See page 7 Ambassador

Legally Blond on stage at STHS theater

By Chandler Gagnon and
Nathaniel Gagnon

Ms. Clare Henry, the new STHS theatre teacher, along with STHS students proudly present Strom Thurmond's newest play Legally Blond.

Long before a play's chosen its compatibility with the environment is considered, deciding if the right cast is available, if the community will enjoy it, if the play can be realistically funded and if the theatre department has the ability.

Ms. Henry found Legally Blond to be a perfect fit. "Overall, Legally Blonde is an incredibly energetic and entertaining show. The music is upbeat and fun in addition to the iconic lines from the movie we all know. I knew this show would be appealing to our students and hopefully to our audience," Ms. Henry said.

The play has been in the works since early August. Rehearsing twice a week, students have already committed to over sixty hours of rehearsing. Much like previous plays, music, choreography, and "blocking" (character placement), are part of the production process.

Additionally those backstage, such as science teacher Ms. Ginn, the stage director, often return to the stage on Saturdays to build sets, paint, and create props for the show. "I help by managing the stage. I am the one who makes sure all of the set pieces go on and off at the right time, all the props are where they need to be, costume changes happen without problems, and make sure all of the mics are passed out and put on before the show starts. During the show, I help change set and make sure the show runs smoothly," Ms.Ginn said.

Legally Blonde has a new addition with Tatum Hanna, a teacher at Burns Dance Studio in Aiken who has grown up in theatre. "She is a great teacher and all of the students love working with her!" Ms. Henry said.





The cast includes Ella Miller as Elle, Dallas Norris as Emmet Forrest, Allie Enlow as Paulette Bonafonte, and ensemble cast members Dennis Frasier, Julianne Harper, and Ty'Aijah Johnson. First time participants are Kai'anna Buchanan, Kendall Mims as Cashier, Rhetta Key as Bookish Client/Delta Nu, Taylor Moss, Savannah Campbell as Erin Schultz, Justus Daly as Warner Huntington III, and Lauchlin McLaurin as Winthrop/Baliff.

Justus Daly's interest in theater comes from his family who works in theater. His mom writes screen plays. Justus's role is Warner Huntington III, the handsome rich guy who breaks up with Elle Woods in the beginning of the play.

Justus didn't even know what Legally Blond was about, so he tried out hoping to get any part. Justus says that the play has been prepared during lots of late nights.

There has been a lot of work from Mrs. Henry getting costumes and making sure that everything is done the Strom Thurmond way.

Justus's first acting experience with theater was a little performance in fifth grade, but besides that this is his first acting experience acting with multiple costume changes and not everyone on stage at the same time, as well as his first year in musical theater here at STHS.

A dedicated, and first year cast member is Savannah Campbell. Savannah's plays Aaron Schultz. Savannah didn't necessarily have a role she wanted to play, so she was happy to have a chance to be in the play. Savannah thinks it is going to be a great show. Savannah's favorite STHS play is Frozen.

A dedicated member of STHS Musical Theater is senior Dallas Norris. Dallas wasn't originally interested in theater; he was placed in the Advanced Musical Theater class by mistake.

He plays Emmet Forrest which was the role Dallas wanted and auditioned for. Dallas has been in STHS Musical Theater since his freshman year. He has been in five plays which were Lion King, Aladdin, Mary Poppins, Frozen which was his first lead role, and the current play Legally Blonde where he has the second lead role.

Senior Ella Mathis Miller is another dedicated cast member. Ella became interested in theater at six years old when she saw her first play The Wizard of Oz. Ella began acting for theater in the second grade, and she continued doing shows at Strom Thurmond for many years. She has also done shows with other organizations in the CSRA. Ella's role in Legally Blonde is the female lead Elle Woods. Elle Woods is Ella's dream role. She is excited to do it in her senior year at STHS.

During production students begin by learning music and choreography. They learn blocking after a few weeks of rehearsal.

Every Monday and Tuesday they rehearse, and sometimes on Saturdays and Sundays. Each person in the cast is also responsible for helping with their own costumes and building the set.

While the play has proven more difficult than previous works, Ms. Henry believes in all cast members and stage crew with high hopes for a successful run of Legally Blonde which opens Saturday, November 8 at 7:00 and continues on Sunday, November 9 at 3:30, Saturday, November 15 at 7:00, and the final show on Sunday, November 16 at 3:30 Tickets can be purchased on line at: sttheatre.ludus.com

It is not just turkey for Thanksgiving

By Nia Mack and Taylor Mealing



Students at Strom Thurmond High School have different traditions they celebrate at Thanksgiving. These traditions often include food and family.

Junior Ahmad Norris's favorite Thanksgiving dish is "Macaroni and I guess ham. I like it, but I don't care for meat much. I prefer ham over turkey," Ahmad said. Ahmad celebrates Thanksgiving at his house with his family.

Ahmad was born on Thanksgiving Day after "my mom finished eating," Ahmad said. He states that his family traditions are the same each year. "We eat, we play games and watch TV. My whole family gets together except, sadly, the ones in the hospital."



Senior Ahmad Norris



Senior Amiracle Norris

Another Junior Amiracle Norris's favorite food on Thanksgiving is " ham because it's better than turkey, " Amiracle said. She prefers Ham over turkey because "ham is juicier." She celebrates her Thanksgiving at home because "it's where all of my family comes."

Thanksgivng dinner doesn't always go smoothly. One year, "my grandma dropped the turkey as she was bringing it to the dinner table!" Amircle said.

Thanksgiving is often about spending time with family and friends. Amiracle is looking forward to seeing "my cousins and eating food," Amiracle said.

Her family traditions are " we wake up early and cook and also play family games. My whole family gets together because we don't see each other most of the time," Amiracle said.

Senior Hannah Holmes prefers " Turkey over ham because I don't like the taste of ham." Hannah spends her Thanksgiving at her grandma's house, "That's where we've always done it since I was born."

Thanksgiving usually goes well for Hannah, but one year " my older brother and my baby brother got into an argument and started fighting at the dinner table."

Hannah looks forward to "seeing my baby cousins because I really don't see them that much, and I love spending time with them," Hannah said.

People have different Thanksgiving traditions, but many are similar. The greatest similarities are sharing food and seeing family.



Senior Hannah Holmes

Libby's pumpkin pie recipe



INGREDIENTS
3/4 cup granulated sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
2 large eggs
1 can (15 ounces) LIBBY'S® 100% Pure Pumpkin
1 can (12 fluid ounces) NESTLÉ® CARNATION® Evaporated Milk, (Or substitute with equal amount Lactose-Free or Almond Cooking Milk)
1 unbaked 9-inch (4-cup volume) deep-dish pie shell
MAKE IT
Step 1
Mix sugar, cinnamon, salt, ginger and cloves in small bowl. Beat eggs in large bowl. Stir in pumpkin and sugar-spice mixture. Gradually stir in evaporated milk.
Step 2
Pour into pie shell.
Step 3
Bake in preheated 425° F oven for 15 minutes. Reduce temperature to 350° F; bake for 40 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Cool on wire rack for 2 hours. Serve immediately.
https://www.verybestbaking.com/libbys/recipes/libby-s-famous-pumpkin-pie/

Making ends meet

Students work to save money

By Rayterrious Richardson and Kevin Palma

To make ends meet, STHS students have jobs in the community. Students save money for college, cars and essentials.



Sophomore Charlie Gonzalez



Senior Estefani Cortez

Sophomore Charlie Gonzalez works at Sage Valley Golf Club. “I essentially work as a secretary, checking people in,” Charlie said. He earns $22 per hour and spends his money repairing a 2002 Cadillac Eldorado that he owns. Charlie likes his job for its positive environment and goes on to say “it's full of people who edify each other.”

He claims the most challenging part about working with customers is dealing with their attitudes. His favorite part about his job is being able to help his coworkers when they’re down or in a bad mood because “I’m a talkative person, so I like trying to cheer them up.” His least favorite part about his job is having to deal with disrespectful customers . “It tests our patience as a team,” Charlie said. His dream job is to “join the army national guard, as a 68 whiskey and from there transfer to the Navy and become an SARC.

Besides her personal flower business, Senior Estefani Cortez works at the Edgefield County Treasurer’s office where she is a paid intern. “I started working there because I want to go into accounting and the treasurer’s office is kinda giving me hands-on experience for that, and because the school offers an internship program that gives you a grade for school while having a paid job,” Estafani said. Her hourly pay is $13 an hour. She is saving money for college while adding that she’s saving for a car as well.

Estefani likes her job because “it’s really not hard and it’s stuff that I enjoy doing,” but her favorite part about her job is how well it works with her schedule.

Senior Dallas Norris works at Christine’s Farm to Fork Restaurant as a dishwasher. He began working three months ago, and makes minimum wage. Financially, “It balances out since I get a lot of hours, Dallas said. He is currently saving for a senior trip after graduation. He likes his job because of his coworkers. “They have really good personalities and it’s just something I feel resonates with me because they’re similar to me,” Dallas said. His least favorite part about the job is the late hours. “On nights like Thursday, Friday, or Saturday a lot of time you’ll get out at 10:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., though the latest I’ve worked so far was until 12:30 a.m.” As for the future, "my dream job and actually the job I plan to pursue would have to be a forensic pathologist, anthropologist, or a crime scene investigator, and it’s actually what I’m planning to go to college to become.”



Senior Dallas Norris



Junior Serenity Martinez

Self-employed junior Serenity Martinez sells food and designs clothing online at "Ashes of Serafim". She’s been self employed for “almost a year” now, and was inspired to start her business to “find a way to make money since I don’t have a way to get to work and back and it’s something that I enjoy doing.” Her earnings vary depending on what and how much she sells. "It really depends on the design and what they order food wise, so it could range anywhere from $30 to $50 for the clothes and for the food it’s normally $5 to $20,” Serenity siad. Serenity is saving up for anything she might need like a vehicle and for college.

The most challenging part about her business is finding customers. “My business isn't very well known so it's hard to find people to actually pay for it,” Serenity said. Her favorite part about her job is simply getting money and designing clothes. Her least favorite part is cooking the food. Serenity's dream jobs include tattoo artist, clothing designer, poet and nail tech.

Student jobs may vary, but Rebels find a way to make ends meet.

Rebels battle it out in book competition

By Nathaneal Mims



The battle of the books is a competition between schools where students compete against each other. Afdter the competition, they come together to talk about the books that each team has read. Multiple books will be read in the competition.

Each school will break up into their respective groups, and competition administrators will then come around to ask each team about that respective book. If the question is answered correctly that team will get a point, if answered incorrectly that team will not gain the point for that question.

Eight books in total are used for this competition ranging in genres of books. The competition is held in March, but the date is yet to be decided for 2026. The winning team has the right to gloat if their team ends up winning. After the competition is over, each team celebrates by sharing food that is provided for the participants, ranging from different beverages and snacks like tacos, pizza, cake and many other food items for the participants.

STHS media specialist Ms. Burnip is looking for people who are interested in the battle of the books this year. **If students are interested in joining the Battle of the Book, please go to the media center and see Ms. Burnip for more information.**

Battle Books Include:
Star Splitter
Rez Ball
Chaos Theory
Their Vicious Games
Promise Boys
House of Marionne
Thieves Gambit
Warrior Girl Unearthed

Student spotlight on Rebel juniors

By Bryanna Jackson and LaKhia Norris

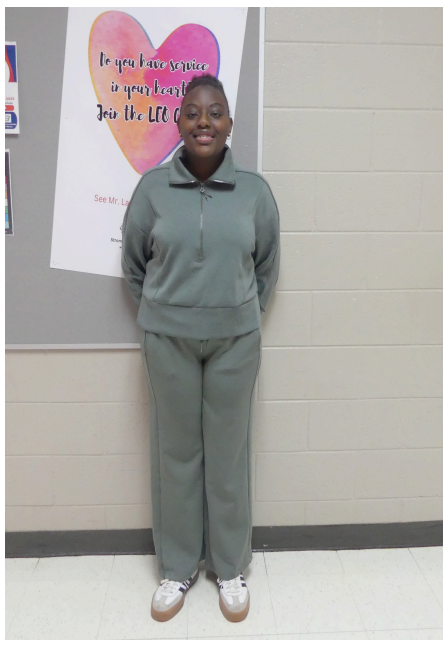
The Rebel Report highlights two STHS students and discovers their shared interests and also their differences.

Besides Junior Kaydense Willams-Carter's regular class schedule, she is also currently enrolled in band. “I joined the band because my momma and my cousin were in the band when they were in high school," Kaydense said.

Band is also something that she wants to do after school in college. If band doesn’t work out then Kaydense will choose no other extra curricular activities since she loves band so much.

At STHS, Kaydense has enjoyed her time in band. "Sometimes, you get to go against other bands, go to games and get in for free and you also get to play some good music," Kadence said.

She often tells students who are interested in joining a band to do it because it's really fun. Kaydnese does plan on going to college for band because it's something that she really wants to do.



Kaydense Williams-Carter



Gabbie Courtney

Another Junior, Gabbie Courtney also has plans after graduation. Her plans are to play softball in college and get a degree in nursing. Gabbie plans on going to any college where she can get a softball scholarship. “ I am taking an extra medical class at our career center to prepare me for medical school,” Gabbie said.

Although she loves animals, she does not plan on going to college to study animals. On her free time she likes to hunt and play softball. “ I remember the first time I shot a deer. It was a lot different than I expected. I thought it would be more stressful. It was my first time ever hunting by myself, my first time hunting in my new deer stand, and I knew as soon as the buck walked out, I was going to shoot him,” she said.

Though Kaydense and Gabbie have different career paths, they are both on a path to be successful. Hopefully STHS can continue to help them as time flies quickly to graduation next year.

Mixing music, trends, and politics

Editorial/ Opinion



By Christian Broadwater

Music trends have been a staple in pop culture and have changed over the years, but what makes them so popular and impactful?

Music is something everyone can vibe and groove too. Good tunes make good times and memories. Music trends are popular because of the freedom that comes with it.

Things like cultural relevance, different genres, and psychological appeal are all things that boost music trends to the top. No matter the genre, a song that is very catchy, easy to sing along too can bring people together and lead to a positive outcome.

This makes a song psychologically pleasing to hear. Music trends allow people to relate, have a good time and learn about other cultures. With most things, however, there are cons and with music trends there are a few such as hating and boycotting music.

One recent controversy that kicked off is the singer and rapper Bad Bunny being confirmed to perform at this year's Super Bowl halftime show. The issue is Trump's right wing followers want country singer George Strait to perform instead of the Spanish speaking Bad Bunny.

The controversy has since gone viral and a petition has gotten 60,000 to 70,000 signatures to push a change to George Strait. The NFL has not responded to the petition, but will continue with Bad Bunny as their main performer.

Music trends can bring joy but can also strip that away when it comes to political controversy or when it is used for financial gain.

Fall sports bring wins

By Shelby Waters

Strom Thurmond Cross Country hit the ground running this season, showing perseverance and determination at every meet. From challenging courses to long practices, runners have proven that success comes from teamwork, endurance, and love for the sport.



Runners on the team got their start in different ways. “Freshman year, I decided to do something different from football and I enjoyed running, so I did cross country to prepare for track”Travis Abney said. Others joined after being inspired by friends, family, or coaches. “Liam Smith invited me to practice with him one day,” Dylan Tomlinson said.

For some, running has been a part of their lives for years, while others are newer to competition. "This is my first year in cross country,” Desean Grace said. No matter their experience, every runner brings something valuable to the team.

Training for cross country is no easy task. The team spends several days each week practicing, running long distances, doing hill workouts, and building endurance. “We do lots of running. Sometimes, it’s long runs, sometimes we focus on pace. But overall it’s lots of running,” Dylan Tompkinson said. There istrmendous preparation and training needed. "We’ll do a slow run to get ready for a hard day. After that we usually do interval training,” Liam said.

Cross Country is more than just running, it is a sport that tests both mental and physical strength. Mental preparation is as important as physical training. Before each race, runners focus on staying calm and confident. “ I pray and hope for the best,” sophomore Allie Wise said.

Runners have trained hard and are still working towards greatness.

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Swimming

The Strom Thurmond High School Swim season is officially in full swing, meeting at Pine Ridge pool preparing to bring home region and state titles.

For many swimmers, the sport has been a part of their lives for many years. "I started swimming when I was 7 years old. But I started swimming competitively at 9 years old,” senior Nate Millings said. Whereas others are newer to the sport like Shelby Tanks. "I have been swimming since 7th grade."

Many swimmers also participate in club swimming outside of school, which helps them get more experience and practice. "I swim for three different swim teams year round; summer swim, STHS swim, and year round swim with Southern Tide," Nate said.

Although there are many positives in swimming, there are also struggles. For instance, Shelby Tanks said, ¨My biggest struggle is doing backstroke." Whereas Nate Millings said, "My biggest struggle is my height and size compared to my competitors. I focus on distance to compensate."

The memories swimmers make along the way make it all worth it. Whether that is cheering on teammates, setting new records, or celebrating victories.

The STHS swim team continues displaying incredible dedication, teamwork, and pride in every meet. Through practice and competition, swimmers prove that success is not just about winning. It’s about pushing limits, working hard, and supporting each other.

Lady Rebels tennis

By Mike Rosier (ECSD public information officer)











Johnston, SC – The Strom Thurmond High School Lady Rebels Tennis Team capped an impressive season recently with a solid showing in Region 2-AA play and a return to the Class 2-A state playoffs.

Led by senior captain, Sophie Simpkins, alongside fellow seniors Kinsey Berry, Emerson Holmes, Gracie Ryan, and Ella Mathis Miller, the Lady Rebels consistently showed determination, teamwork, and leadership in each match throughout the 2025 season.

The team finished 4–4 in Region 2-AA competition, securing third place and earning a berth in the Class 2A State Playoffs for the second consecutive year. This marks only the third time in school history in which the Lady Rebels have advanced to the state playoffs — a testament to the program’s continued growth and competitive spirit.

Under the guidance of their coaches and the leadership of a talented senior class, the Lady Rebels battled through a challenging schedule with grit, displaying tremendous sportsmanship every step of the way. Their hard work this season provides a strong foundation for the team’s underclassmen to build upon in the future.

We congratulate the Strom Thurmond High School Tennis Team on a tremendous 2025 season and thank our senior tennis players for their outstanding contributions, both on and off the court. The future of STHS Lady Rebels tennis is bright!

Contact the ECSD Public Information Office (PIO) by email at ecsdpio@edgefieldcountyschools.org.

Continued from Ambassador page 1

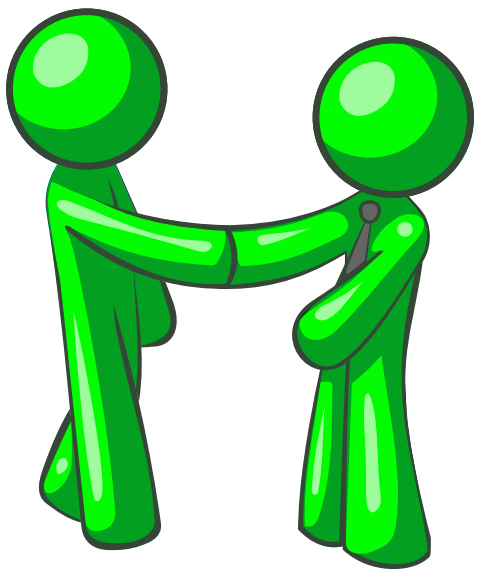
"I just want new students to feel welcomed coming into Strom Thurmond," she said. "Personally, it'll also help me become more comfortable with people and improve my communication skills."

Cadence described what she thinks makes a good ambassador - someone caring, outgoing, and willing to talk to others. "I'm really excited to meet new people and show them how great Thurmond is," she said. "I want to help students find their way around, maybe make posters or little goodie bags to welcome them on their first day."

Ms. Hicks shared that the ambassadors will represent Strom Thurmond at events such as Freshman Open House, middle school visits, Meet the Teacher, College Application Day, and Ed-Op Day. They'll also help with campus tours and assist new students throughout the year.

"The student ambassadors will sharpen their communication and leadership skills, while new students will have a friendly face to help them get involved," Hicks said. "When students feel comfortable and welcomed, they have a better chance of being successful," Ms. Hicks said.

The Student Ambassador Program marks a new chapter for Strom Thurmond High School, building a more inclusive and supportive environment for every Rebel.



Continued from Homecomng page 1

If she could relive one moment, it would be the instant she was announced as first runner-up.

Throughout the process, her mother served as her biggest motivation, supporting her every step of the way. Kizziah hopes future candidates remember to stay confident and positive, reminding them that "y'all are all queens at the end of the day," Kizziah said.



K'mya Moore - 2nd runner-up

The second runner up K'mya Moore, described the experience as unforgettable and emotional. Hearing her name called left her "truly speechless," and she expressed deep gratitude for the love, support and votes that brought her to that moment.

K'mya's favorite memory was the pep rally, where the overwhelming cheers and school spirit created an atmosphere she would never forget. She chose to run for homecoming so she could look back and say she tried, and she especially enjoyed creating campaign flyers that allowed her to express her creativity.

K'mya shared that her twin sister, Jada, was her greatest supporter, and that her encouragement meant the most to her.

To future candidates, she advised students to believe in themselves throughout the entire journey, stay organized, communicate with their sponsors and families, and most importantly, have fun, enjoy every moment, and make your last homecoming experience the best one yet," K'mya said

The 2025 Strom Thurmond Homecoming celebration was more than a ceremony. It was a rite of unity, confidence, tradition, and school pride. From the crowning of Imani Gilchrist to the recognition of Kizziah Cunningham and K'mya Moore, each young woman demonstrated character, leadership, and grace. The evening highlighted not only achievement, but also friendship, encouragement, and unforgettable memories. As each candidate continues through her senior year and beyond, the legacy of that night will remain a reminder that true royalty is defined not by a crown, but by kindness, courage, and the impact left on others.



Callie Agner

2025 Homecoming Court



Mollie Bartley



Amya Randle



Ella Mathis-Miller



Mary Grace Fallaw

Fall marks a busy season for rebels

Fall festival fun at homecoming






Rebel football 2025 region champs







Lady Rebel volleyball ends with strong season



Homecoming pep rally raises school spirit

