THE REBEL REPORT

Strom Thurmond High School

May 22, 2026

Pride
Class
Courage
Will to Win

Page 2 Writing Competition

Page 4 Sports

Seniors make real world plans for life after graduatuion

By Bryanna Johnson
and LaKhia Norris



Senior Christopher Hendrick

The month of May means STHS seniors are getting ready to wrap things up and enter the real world. For these seniors the real world can mean different things.

Senior Christopher Hendrick is overly happy to be almost finished with school. After graduation he plans to become a real estate agent and get his CDL license. He does not plan on going to college. “School’s not for everybody and after four years it is enough,” Christopher said.

After high school he does plan on moving to Georgia because he thinks they have better and newer opportunities. The type of lifestyle that Chris wants to create for himself is to be young and wealthy and also provide for himself and his family.

After graduation, "I’m most excited about finally being able to start my life and start doing whatever I want,” Chris said. Some challenges that Chris feels he is going to face are “ trying to become financially stable and wealthy.” Chris is going to travel more. He wants to visit Texas, Dubai, and California.

"As I look back at high school, I would tell my younger self that I learned to maintain my anger and did a lot to better myself,” Chris said. To all the upcoming seniors, Chris would like to say, “ Stay focused, maintain your priority of school and never fall behind.”

Senior Daisy Lucas-Perez plans to work after graduation and enter the Navy. Daisy does plans on going to college but only after the military. “By the time I go to college, I want to have a house or apartment, “ Daisy said. Once finishing the military and college, Daisy plans on living in South Carolina. “When I go to college, I plan on going for cyber security or some form of Art, “ Daisy said. As she gets older, she wants to live a comfortable life so she can support herself and also her family. “Something that I'm most excited about after graduation is leaving school, starting a new path in life where I can forget every embarrassing moment and leaving people and moments I hated behind.” Daisy said.

One challenge that Daisy thinks she is going to face is having financial challenges. If Daisy does decide to travel then she would probably go to South America or Hawaii. Something that Daisy would tell her younger self is to just focus only on school. Daisy has one message for the class of 2027, "Don't act stupid , you’re close to adulthood so act mature.”



Senior Daisy Lucas-Perez

Mock trial places 14th in national competition



The STHS Mock Trial team returned from Des Moines, Iowa having placed fourteenth in the national competition. This impressive win was due to the dedication of students and their mentors. In addition to the team win, Toney Robinson was recognized as a Top Ten Witness and Raina Barrs as a Top Ten Attorney.

See page 7 mock trial



Senior Caroline O'Neal

After graduation, senior Caroline O’Neal plans to attend Clemson University for business. “ When I go to college, I’m going to be getting a dorm my freshman year,” Caroline said. Caroline is not sure if she is going to leave South Carolina after she completes college. “ I’m going to school for a pre-business bachelor's degree.”

See page 7 real world

Seniors take small steps towards big dreams

As graduation nears, seniors reflect on their journey

By Ivey Coleman and Trinity Brown

High school is a time of growth, change, and learning from both positive and negative experiences. STHS Seniors share their personal journeys, reflecting on their favorite memories, challenges, and future plans.



Senior Shakayla Reynolds

Even though each student has different experiences, they all show how small steps over time help shape who they are today and who they want to become.

Senior Shakayla Reynolds described her high school experience as “hectic,” and full of ups and downs.

"The biggest impact on me was Janelle Clark Stevens. She is not only a great teacher but also someone who gives good advice and really listens," Shakayla said. At the beginning of high school, Shakayla struggled with staying focused and got involved with the wrong crowd. However, she realized she wanted better for herself and began to change. "I started distancing myself from negative influences and focused more on my schoolwork, and stayed out of trouble," Shakayla said.

Looking back, she would “think wiser” and´ make better decisions if she could start over.

After graduation, Shakayla plans to enter the workforce and begin building her future. As graduation gets closer, reality is starting to hit and she knows she will have to take on real responsibilities.

Senior Bryson Yonce's favorite high school memory is winning the state championship in football, especially since the team had not won in 20 years. He said that moment meant a lot to him and is something he will never forget.



Senior Bryson Yonce

Bryson will "miss being around certain people because I know I won’t see them every day anymore." When asked what advice he would give to freshmen, he said to "stay out of trouble and do not get involved in things that could hold them back," Bryson said.

Bryson's main goal right now is graduating so he can move forward. He described his high school journey as “growth,” explaining that he has changed a lot over the years. As he prepares to leave, he said he wants to be remembered as a state champion and someone who gave his all.



Senior Deonte Phillips

Senior Deonte Phillips will mostly miss high school football. "It kept me going and gave me something to look forward to. There is nothing like playing high school football,” Deonte said.

Deonte said Mrs. East also made a big impact on him because "she always motivated me to stay on track."

One important lesson Deonte learned was to believe in himself and depend on himself to succeed.

After graduation, “I am most excited about going to college and starting a new chapter at Newberry." Even though he is excited, he admitted that graduating feels a little scary because once it’s over, there’s no going back.



Senior Sergio Chavez

Sergio Agustin Chavez's favorite high school memory was "seeing everyone make it from freshman year to graduation."

The biggest challenge he faced as a freshman was being shy, but he overcame it by learning how to communicate more with people.

Sergio feels Mrs. Price is a teacher who made a big impact on him.
He also will miss being able to roam the halls and just being around others.

His advice for freshmen is, "Take school seriously from the start but still enjoy it," Sergio said. Looking back, he said he would have made better choices.

After graduation, Sergio plans to go to college and then law school. He described his high school journey as “a roller coaster” and said he feels both nervous and excited. He added that he’s most excited about making “big money” in the future.



Senior Jessica Cooper

Senior Jessica Cooper's favorite memory from high school was being in Mrs. Brown’s class. ¨I will miss the freedom of roaming the halls and being around friends every day," Jessica said. One lesson Jessica learned was to keep up with work.

She advises freshmen to do the same. If she could go back, she would focus more on herself and make better decisions. After graduation, Jessica plans to attend Aiken Tech and then go to nursing school.

She also described her high school experience as “a roller coaster” and said¨ "graduation makes me feel both excited and scared." She is excited about making money and starting her future.



Senior Adelina Ramirez

Senior Adelina Ramirez said her favorite high school memory was spending time with her friends. "I will miss simple things like walking through the halls and seeing people every day," Adelina said.

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Third annual STHS writing competition celebrates student writers

By Nathaniel Gagnon and Chandler Gagnon

This year's Strom Thurmond High School writing contest has now come to an end with several students receiving recognition.

The Categories for the contest included short fiction, narratives, and poetry, requiring poetry to be no more than ten stanzas, flash fiction to be 250-500 words, narrative writing to be 500-750 words and short stories to be 750-1500 words.

Additionally, writing entries must be original or have a new and original spin to existing ideas to earn the most points. In first place is junior Isabella Mora, second place is senior Jada Williams, and an unexpected tie for third with junior Joseph Greene and freshman Kitara Lozier.

Isabella Mora achieved first place with a flash fiction romance called “The Spy’s Letter.” Last year she didn’t know what to write about. “ I made around 15 short stories and Mrs. Pataro helped me pick 5 to explore more. Eventually I picked 2 stories and sent them to the contest organizers.” “The Spy’s Letter” won second place in last year’s contest which got Isabella back into writing.

As her inspiration she continued “The Spy’s Letter” and submitted it once again this year to win first place. Isabella does not have a favorite writer but she was inspired to write by her grandfather and has been interested in writing most of her life.

Jada Williams earned second place in the writing contest with her narrative titled “Not Small.” (Jada was unavailable for an interview.)

This year's third place was a tie between Kitara Lozier and Joseph Greene.

Kitara, one of two people tied for third place in this year's STHS writing contest, wrote a poem about death. “My inspiration was really just vibes and it felt right,” Kitara said. Kitara's interest in writing began in 7th grade. She was inspired to be a writer by her best friend Renee. Kitara said her favorite writer is Katherine Arden.

Kitara will not be pursuing writing as a career but will write as a hobby on the side. Her feelings about being tied for third are “honestly I didn't expect to place above 5th so I'm very happy,” Kitara said.

Joseph, the other person tied for third place, wrote 3 pieces: a flash fiction, a poem and a prose piece all centered around the discovery of one's sexuality. But the one to earn him third place was his poetry. He was mainly inspired by the discovery of his own sexuality. “I thought that I should finally act like a stereotypical English major and write about it,”Joseph said.

He’s always had a love for writing but he primarily focused on writing in eighth grade when he started writing a series of short stories surrounding a dying detective in a modern fantasy setting, which he sadly lost when the school deactivated his student account.

No one in particular inspired him to write but “Ms. Francesca Pataro developed my love for the English language and, in particular, writing essays,”He is uncertain if writing will be his career but he does intend on being an English Teacher.

His favorite writer changes based on his mood but recently he’s been a fan of Mark Z. Danielewski and Fyodor Dostoevsky. He will admit, it stings a bit getting third, but tying with another contestant is not a problem for him.

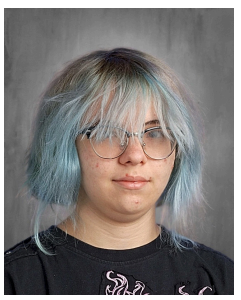
STHS’s writing contests help inspire students to become better writers and encourage them to continue writing.



Isabella Mora



Jada Williams



IKitara Lozier



Joseph Greene

Besides the writing contest winners, honorable mention went to
the following students:
Harry Taylor
Gracie Wood
Jordan Timmerman
Renee Schwalbauch

Kicking Toward Success: STHS Soccer Teams Push Through Challenges and Build Memories

By Isabella Mora and Shelby Waters

The soccer teams at Strom Thurmond High School have spent this season building chemistry, overcoming challenges, and creating memories both on and off the field. From seniors playing their final season to younger players gaining experience, many athletes say this year has been defined by teamwork and growth.

For several players, soccer started simply as a way to try something new. Karrington Miller said she always wanted to play a sport and eventually decided to give soccer a chance. “I always wanted to play a sport, so I tried soccer,” Miller said. Now, one of her favorite things about the team is the friendships. “My favorite thing about our team is how well everyone gets along,” she said.

Senior Ivana Restrepo, who has played center back for five years, returned for one final season with the team she has grown to love. “It’s my senior year and I wanted to give it one last run,” Restrepo said. “I’m excited to keep playing with a team I’ve loved playing with.”

Like many players, Restrepo said confidence has been one of her biggest goals this season.

Emily Casarrubias, another center back, said one thing that makes the team stand out is how close everyone has become. “We’re all friendly with each other and that really brings out the team in us,” Casarrubias said.

Several players said communication has been one of the team’s biggest challenges. Perla Gallegos, a winger, explained that learning to communicate better on the field has been important. “Communication has probably been one of the hardest things for us,” Gallegos said.

Midfielder Jennyfer Flores shared a similar thought and said despite challenges, she enjoys playing alongside teammates she has grown up with. “My favorite thing is the people I’ve grown up playing with,” Flores said.

For many athletes, teammates are what keep them motivated. Restrepo said Emerson Holmes inspires her because of her positive attitude and determination. Freshman Tabby Trap said Holmes also helps her improve. “I really like Emerson because she helps me become a better player,” Trapp said.

Holmes, a senior, said younger players have motivated her as well. “Tabby Trapp is always happy and joyful,” Holmes said. “That attitude rubs off on me.”

On the boys’ side, many players pointed to teammates who constantly encourage others. Senior Fernando Pineda said Ivan San Miguel motivates the team because he always gives his best effort. “He always gives 100% and keeps pushing,” Pineda said.

Senior Edgar Bringas agreed. “Ivan always keeps going no matter what,” Bringas said.

Players also shared favorite memories from their soccer careers. Restrepo remembered a game where emotions ran high after a victory. “After one of our wins we all started crying,” she said. “It was really special.”

Fitz Byrd remembered last season’s Saluda game, while Christopher Lopez said celebrating goals with teammates created memories that stand out.

Several athletes also said bus rides, playoff games, and time spent together off the field have become some of their favorite moments.

Head Coach Emily Kayes, now in her sixth year coaching soccer at Strom Thurmond, said one of the biggest strengths of this year’s team is the support players show one another. “They support each other and build each other up,” Kayes said. Kayes also said accountability has been a major focus. “Accountability is one of the biggest things,” she said.

See page 8 soccer


Coach Emily Kayes


Grant Rauton


Tabby Trapp


Joshua Rafael


Fitz Byrd


Yoselin Cortez


Orlando Rivera


Edgar Bringas


Tommy San Miguel


Eric Zambrano


Emily Casarubias


Christopher Lopez

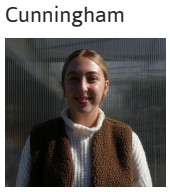

Fernando Pineda


Perla Gallegos Alvarez

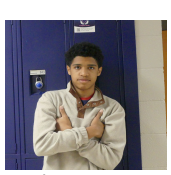

Isaiah Cunningham


Helder Jimenez

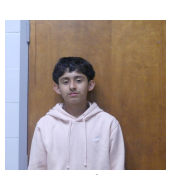

Emerson Holmes


Ivana Restrepo

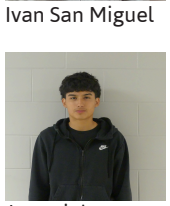

Jennyfer Flores


Gavin Mason


Ivan San Miguel


Jesse Ontiveros


Areli Guevera


Jeremiah Ontiveros


Karrington Miller

Track and field enjoyed by STHS students

By Taylor Mealing and Nia Mack

Many Students at Strom Thurmond High School enjoy participating in track and field. Junior Bladen Shoster competes in “the 400 and 800 because I can beat everyone in it.” He has been running track for two years. Bladen’s favorite part about being on track is “really just the environment.”

The hardest challenge in track is “ being in the right mindset and knowing when to go," Bladen said. Many athletes have different rituals to get ready for a track meet. “I just listen to music,” Bladen said.

His personal best time is “two minutes and five seconds for the 800.” Some people get nervous before competing. “Yes I do. I just tell myself I can beat everyone in it.” Something that motivates Bladen to keep improving is “how close I am to the school record.” A coach that inspires him is “Coach Merriweather because he wants us to be great like he was," Bladen said.



Junior Bladen Shoster

Sophomore Lana Boyd also loves track. She competes in the 200. She has been running track “Since I was in the 9th grade.” For her the hardest part about track is “getting in shape, getting your body right,” Lana said.

Lana’s Favorite thing about track is “competing because I love to be in competition." Lana prepares for a meet by “ stretching before the meet, and getting my body loose.”

Advice Lana would give someone who wants to start track is “ Don't give up and keep focused. After school I make sure I study for all my classes to make sure I pass all my classes.” A coach that inspires her is Coach Hillary "because he keeps me going."



Sophomore Lana Boyd

One more junior who loves track is Jaivaughn Bellamy. The event he does is “ javelin because I don't want to throw shots and discus." He has been participating in field events for one year.

His favorite part about track is “ getting to meet new people.” The hardest part about track for Jaivaughn is “ conditioning days because we run too much.” Like Bladen, Jaivaughn listens to music and then sleeps.

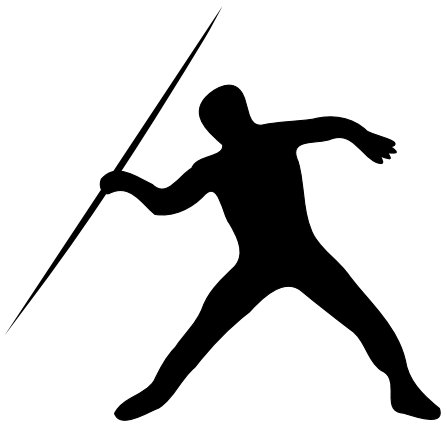
For Jaivaughn, God is his main motivation. A coach that really inspires him is Coach Felton because "he is very chill and keeps me going.”

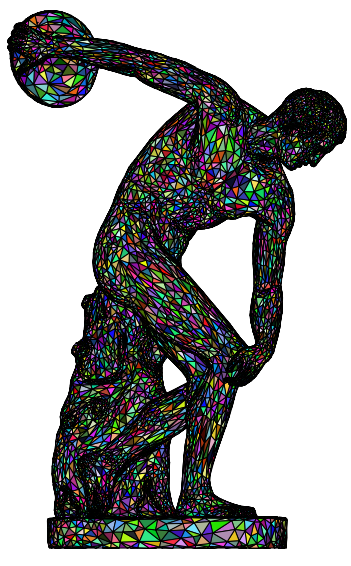
Track and field plays a very important role in the lives of many students at Strom Thurmond High School. Each athlete has different events, routines, and challenges. Supported by their coaches, athletes try to stay focused and perform well in track and field throughout the season at STHS.



Junior Jaivaughn Bellamy







Continued from seniors page 2

One challenge Adelina faced was being shy, but she overcame it by opening up and talking to more people.

Mrs. Price had a big impact on her. She advises freshmen to stay focused and keep up with their work while still enjoying high school.

If she could go back, she would make better decisions. After graduation, Adelina said she plans to go to college and study industrial maintenance. She is both "nervous and excited" about graduating.

Overall, these students' stories show that high school is more than just classes; it's about growth, life lessons, and preparing for the future. Even though they faced challenges, each student took steps to better themselves and move forward. Their experiences show that success does not happen all at once, but through small steps that can lead to big dreams.



Retirement on the horizon for STHS teacher

By Rayterrious Richarson and Kevin Palma

The Rebel Report ends this year with a heartfelt goodbye to the teacher and leader of The Rebel Report. Time has gone by quickly over the past three years writing articles under Ms. Pataro, it has been fun and a great pleasure.

Unfortunately, the newspaper course will not be offered next year which marks the end of the newspaper at Strom Thurmond High School. This is a trend throughout the country. Only 45 percent of high schools have newspapers, down from 64 percent in 2011, according to the Center for Scholastic Journalism at Kent State University.

Ms. Pataro, has been teaching at Storm Thurmond for three years, but she has been a teacher for 22 years. She chose to teach Journalism and ELA because she loves teaching English. Adding "When I was in High School I had some very influential English teachers and I was on the Yearbook and Newspaper staffs. I really enjoyed my time there as a student, so I thought it would also be a fun thing to do as a teacher."

As far as her classes this year, Ms. Pataro said.her favorite thing she taught "depends on the class." In her AP class she loved teaching a work called "A Modern Proposal" and the nonfiction they worked on throughout the year that focused on the importance of diversity. "I have no favorite in newspaper class because I enjoyed every paper we created, especially this last issue since it's the end of an era and I'm retiring," Ms. Pataro said.

The most challenging lessons she taught this year were some "of the analyses" in her AP Languge and Composition class. Mrs. Pataro's favorite aspect about Strom Thurmond High School is the kids, saying that "they're wonderful, and my colleagues are great; it's been really nice working here and I've enjoyed my time over the last three years".

While she has no least favorite part about Strom Thurmond she feels "it's more about the educational system, I don't think that in my 22 years of teaching I have as much creative freedom as I used to have when I first became a teacher," Ms. Pataro said.

The most challenging parts about teaching for Ms. Pataro are "the overuse of technology, dependence on textbooks, cell phone use, and lack of consideration for teachers' expertise," Ms. Pataro said.

When asked about her plans for next school year she said, " Well, I'm retiring, so I plan on doing some traveling, doing some of the activities I enjoy like hiking, swimming, and creating arts & crafts., and spending time with my husband and adult children." Her plans for summer break include "mostly staying at home doing some gardening, cleaning around the house, and visiting my brother and sister."

Ms. Pataro's last words to her students and coworkers before her eventual retirement are "Trust yourselves, rely on people who you know are going to be supportive and who believe in you. Don't pick battles you can't fight, pick the battles you can fight., and enjoy life."

With these parting words Mrs.Pataro moves on from Strom Thurmond to retirement leaving an impact on the school with her wise words and a lasting impact and history with The Rebel Report that will not be forgotten even after it ends its long tradition.



Continued from real world page 1

As Caroline enters the real world she wants to create a lifestyle where she is successful and makes money. “ Something that I’m most excited for after graduation is to start my future life and actually enjoy my classes,” Caroline said. Some challenges she thinks she is going to face are being an adult and living far away from home. She does plan on traveling more. So far she has been to seven countries.

In thinking about the past, “ I would tell my younger self you can do anything you put your mind to,” Caroline said. To all the upcoming seniors, “ Just get involved and have fun, always.”

At Strom Thurmond High School, Seniors approach their last couple of weeks as seniors with well prepared plans and goals for real world.



Continued from mock trial page 1

Team member Evan Williams received Star Attorney and Olivia O'Gorman, Julianne Harper and Lilly Smith received Star Witness honors.

Mock Trial team members include:

Raina Barrs
Rebecca Carpenter
Dennis Fraser
Joseph Greene
Julianne Harper
Carter Massey
Olivia O'Gorman
Toney Robinson
Lilly Smith
Olivia Stevens
Evan Williams



Teacher and sponsor Mr. Thomas Behr is not only proud of the team but also thankful for community participants. "While many, many parents and community members frequently assist, a deserving, special thanks is in order to those who guided us during ths journey: Dr. Mosely (JET Middle), Steven McKinney, Denise Jackson, Judge Joe Anderson, Senator Shane Massey, and of course, our brain trust and attorney coach, Blair Massey. Her unyielding efforts propel the team," Mr. Behr said.

As evidenced in the trophy case in the front lobby of STHS, Mock Trial has a long and impressive reputation as a winning team for over 40 years. Congratulations.

END OF SCHOOL EVENTS:

Academy Fun Day 5/20 at 1:05

Underclassmen Awards 5/21 at 9:30

Senior Awards 5/21 at 6:00 p.m.

Underclassmen exams 5/22-5/28

Grduation Practice 5/28 at 12:00

Graduation 5/29 at 9:00 a.m.

Continued from soccer page 4

While injuries and inexperience have created challenges throughout the season, players continue pushing forward. Senior Orlando Rivera said the team has had to adapt and continue competing. Others, including Isiah Cunningham, said team bonding has been one of the biggest strengths throughout the season.

As many seniors prepare for their final games, players hope to continue making memories and finishing the season strong. Whether through playoff runs, friendships, or simply stepping onto the field with teammates, this season has been about more than wins and losses.

For the players at Strom Thurmond, soccer has become something bigger than just a game.

