



# THE SPRESS

## SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL



### The hills are alive - and so is the Drama Club

SOPHIA DEMATTEO

Optimistic and resilient, the South Park Drama Club emerges from its hiatus with answers to the burning question: can we anticipate a musical?

Short answer: yes.

Although this year's production will look different from its predecessors, the club plans to enchant the audience all the same with the timeless *Sound of Music*. Safety, of course, is a priority, so although the cast and crew will return to their old stomping grounds, the "house" will be split into many houses, and the show plans to be entirely virtual.

The musical is to be recorded and released online for a wider variety of viewers to enjoy. "People are able to tune in online at home, wherever they want," director Mr. Baker excitedly explains. This means that anyone with internet access and a few dollars to spare can enjoy the production. "We are now international!" Mr. Baker says.

Rehearsal has just begun, and any additional help is still very much encouraged. Mr. Baker urges new students to join in the show-making process; it's certainly a rewarding experience. The official production release date is still yet to be announced, but we can anticipate *Sound of Music* later this spring.

### Recognizing women's mark in history this March

CHLOE BYRON

Women have struggled with equality since being young girls. Being able to play a specific sport, or getting an honorable position at work because of diligence has never been looked at in an equal light.

This issue has gone back many years and continues to this day. Obviously it has gotten much better since most of the laws have been removed/changed, so it can no longer be compared, but progress can still be made. In the 1950s, the women's rights movement grew strong.

In 1869, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony founded the National Woman Suffrage Association which began to fight for a universal-suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As a result of this association, women's roles grew in society. More educational opportunities became available for women which made them feel more potential for their professional futures. Their salaries became higher but still not as high as men. In 1963, Congress passed the Equal Pay Act, which made it illegal to pay a woman less money for doing the same job as a man. Women began standing up for themselves. This gave them a voice as time went on, and it should be appreciated and respected.

Education was originally designed for men, but in 1831, Mississippi College became the first coeducational college to give a degree to a woman. In December 1831, Alice Robinson and Catherine Hall both got degrees from Mississippi College. This is one of the many examples of how women's rights have evolved.

So much work has been done to get women's rights to where they are today, and women will continue to achieve even more. A young girl can make her dream a reality now by becoming whatever she wants to be. Women's History Month should not only be recognized by women but anyone. There is a lot of history behind this month, and everyone should try to learn a little about it.



### IN THIS ISSUE

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## SPORTS - BOCCE

## Bocce team back for another fun-filled season

LUKE FURMAN

That's bocce, baby! The bocce team is undefeated thus far in their sophomore season. Mr. Hufnagel's new group, featuring several students from Ms. Sahady's room, is ready for more exercise, team-building, and fun!

The team started last year, joining a league of inclusive teams with the goal of allowing all students a chance to have an athletic career in high school. Zack Huwalt, a junior at South Park High School, has been involved with the team since the beginning. Regarding his choice to join, he asserted "it's always great to try something new. It's awesome to look at a new perspective and enjoy it."

Winning games is a big deal to the team. Huwalt described a beloved tradition that comes with success that everyone strives for. "The best thing about winning Bocce meets is when we chant 'That's Bocce Baby!' It's a great time to see the team united." Despite spectating being difficult this year, the team itself is still as strong as ever.



Members of the SPHS Bocce team are escorted by Officer Todd as they participate in the Polar Plunge.

## Back to school

NOAH FISCUS

Coronavirus infections and deaths are finally decreasing and students are set to go back to school full-time. What do students think about returning to school full-time?

This has been a difficult year for schools and families alike. Thanks to the ambitious Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, COVID-19 infections are slowing down, and the country is opening up more and more every day. Part of this re-opening is affecting students. Some children have already returned to full-time schooling, while others are set to return soon. Many parents have different opinions on this conflicting matter and how they want their children to be educated. Some students like to work at home because of it being more comfortable for them, and some students like to be at school because they like being in-person.

Personally, while I prefer homeschooling and remote learning because of the more relaxed style and the more familiar home environment, I think everything should go back to the way it was because wearing masks and going to school two days isn't an ideal schooling schedule. I feel this way because we aren't seeing our acquaintances and teachers, and some students need more help. Being at home has also made students lazier and less motivated to get their work done.

As we approach a year with the Coronavirus being active, we can only thank the vaccines for being the building blocks to stop this very deadly disease.

## EDITORIAL

*Firsts for Women*

TESS LETTIE

Since 1920, when they gave the right for women to vote, to our present day female vice president, there have been many extraordinary women in our lifetime. Women have been oppressed since day one. I feel we must appreciate and recognize the women who brought us to this point and proved to everyone that they could when others thought they couldn't. The day Kamala Harris became our vice president was the day everyone's perspective and minds were at awe.

For any woman who has felt oppressed, they can be inspired by our first women to prove them wrong. Two women who experienced gender oppression were Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sandra Day O'Connor, the first women to serve in the U.S Supreme Court Justice. These women went through everything to prove themselves as worthy to serve in the Supreme Court. Ruth held a seat for 27 years and O'Connor held a seat for 25 years. O'Connor was appointed by Ronald Reagan.

Some other firsts for women include:

- Florence King was the first woman to win a court case in the U.S. Supreme Court.
- Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman to earn a medical degree in the United States.
- Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman to be an astronaut and to venture space.
- Marie Curie was the first woman to be awarded a nobel prize.
- Hannah Adams was the first American woman to become a professional writer.
- Alice Guy-Blance was the first woman to become a professional movie writer and director.
- Florence Lawrence was the first film actress whose name was used to promote her films.

## SPECIAL INTEREST

## Pittsburgh Zoo Programs

DAN PEPKE

If you are like me and want to work in the field of zoology and animals, The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Paints Aquarium has programs for you to join. The programs offered can help you learn and help find a true passion in what field of animal science you would want to study.

The Pittsburgh Zoo has a program called ZooU. In this program you will learn about conservation and new areas of science. You will take semester based classes on certain areas of conservation. ZooU is offered to students in grades 9-12. They can take these classes summer to winter. While engaged in ZooU there are perks. You can get free admission into the zoo, and you get a discount on food and items. Lastly, my favorite private tours. Private tours are where you will go and meet with a keeper and meet the animals. If you wish to join ZooU or any other teen programs go to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Paints Aquarium website <https://www.pittsburghzoo.org/> and go under the learn tab and select teen programs.



## History of St. Patrick's Day

NOAH FISCUS

Although some people think St. Patrick's Day is only about shamrocks and leprechauns, this was not the original idea for it. What was the original story behind this interesting holiday?

The great Saint Patrick's real name was Maewyn Succat, and he was born in Roman Britain in the late 300s A.D. Originally, nothing about him was Irish. At age 16, he was captured by Irish pirates and was enslaved for six years. Soon after this, he decided to convert to Christianity. Patrick claimed he had a vision that he had to bring Christianity to the Irish people. He returned to Ireland but had to leave because his worshiping ways were not welcomed, so he went to a small island nearby and gained many followers of Christianity. He then went to the mainland to spread more Christianity and even started baptizing his followers. Patrick also was known for popularizing the shamrock, but little actually know that it stood for the Christian Holy Trinity. Even after his death, his legacy was celebrated as early as 17-th century

Though St. Patrick's story was known to little, it was certainly important and without him, we wouldn't celebrate his long-time legacy.

## Many teachers avoiding Dr. Seuss during "Read Across America"

CHLOE BYRON

A lot of students look forward to a day known as "Read Across America." This event is well known and appreciated in many schools across the country.

It is celebrated during the first week of March because Dr. Seuss's birthday is on March 2. This year would be his 117th birthday. Some schools celebrate this by having a theme week as well. This year it may look different because of virtual learning, but like everything else, the teachers will find a way to still make it work for the students! Although students love and enjoy this day, a new issue has risen with Dr. Seuss's books.

Many do not support how he depicted different cultures in a disrespectful way. He showed very poor, some may even say exaggerated, representations of the different cultures. "Of the 2,240 (identified) human characters, there are forty-five characters of color representing 2% of the total number of human characters," a study from the "Conscious Kid's Library" and the University of California-San Diego says. The company who runs Dr. Seuss's estate decided to no longer publish these particular titles. These books include, "And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street," "If I Ran the Zoo," "McElligot's Pool," "On Beyond Zebra!," "Scrambled Eggs Super!," and "The Cat's Quizzer."

Even with all of this going on, teachers will still show the importance and the real meaning behind this week to the students.

## Snow in Texas

DAN PEPKE

A true blizzard in Texas is a rare sight, but in mid-February a snowfall hit Texas hard.

Around February 17 Texas got hit with an estimated seven inches of snow. Cities in Texas were devastated with no clean and working water and no power. This is due to Texas not joining the power plan with the rest of the country because they wanted to have their own independent power. If Texas would have joined the power plan, the result of the storm would have been less harsh. With this snowfall 20 were killed due to the harsh weather. The senator of Texas, Ted Cruz, went to Cancun on a family vacation while Texas was in a crisis. When returning, he stated his reason for not being there was due to family duties.

## Reflections of a senior

CORA SMITH

Going into an entirely new setting of school life can be completely frightening without the right help. However, with insight from senior peers for the upcoming adventure into high school life, taking the first step may prove to be far less terrifying than it may seem.

A complete change of atmosphere can be entirely beneficial, though to others it could mean a loss of their comfort. More often than not, the transition into the high school is portrayed in the entertainment scene as a drastic uphill battle where many issues may cause themselves to appear; though, quite honestly, as someone who has experienced the switch, I cannot say it is anything like that.

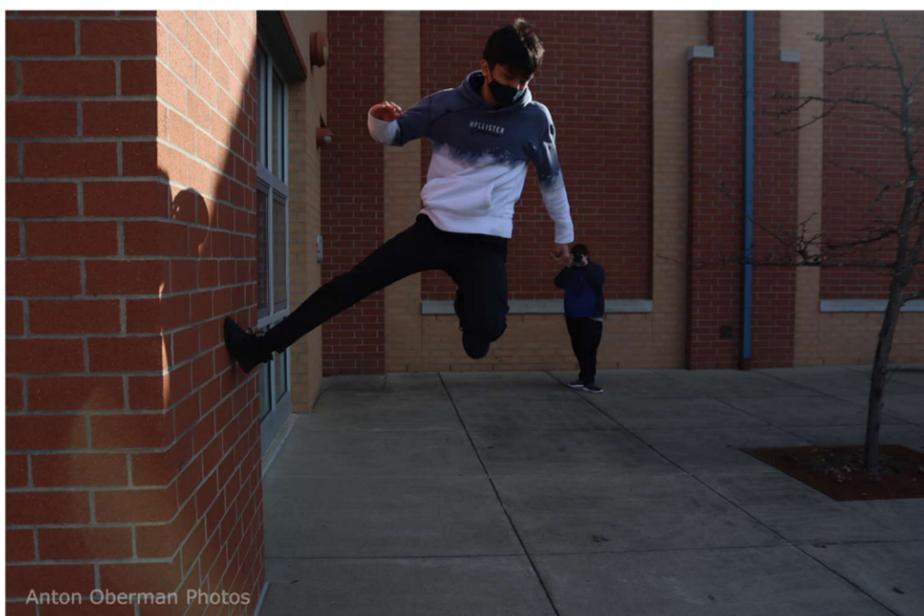
My own personal experience going into high school was rather smooth. I was excited to be able to take classes outside of the normal criteria and was looking forward to the sense of the freedom to growing older. As unexpected as it was, high school life was merely a mix of the two. Drama and unnecessary immaturity gets left behind as students begin to dabble in their futures, adhering to their studies with a determination to succeed. This comes with its own issues though as the courses you begin can be much more difficult than previously taken classes. Worry not though, the staff are always willing to offer aid and you are never truly left to fend for yourself. If I could give genuine advice to the freshmen, it would be to let go of the fears you retained from middle school so you can allow yourself to flourish in the new environment and to take ahold of your last upcoming years in primary schooling; after all, your future self will thank you.

On the emphasis of direct advice; take the hard classes in your earlier years, immerse yourself in clubs, and take elective classes outside of your comfort zone if you are unsure of what you would like to pursue as a future career. My biggest regret from high school is waiting on taking certain classes. Rather than taking chemistry junior year, I held off and took it my senior. If you would like your senior year to feel rather stressless, you should take any difficult classes immediately once it is available to your year options. Clubs were a valuable opportunity that not helped me meet new friends, learn potentially important life skills, and ultimately a boost on my college applications. South Park offers various extracurricular activities and truly every single one will provide you with a similar experience as myself; so take the leap and join a club. Electives are really the most exciting part of your last few school years, the list of options expanding to cover many, many different interests. They can be used to not only supplement your current likings but also can encourage you to open up to a skill you may not have realized you possessed. Sometimes making the decision to join a class you have virtually zero understanding of can be difficult, but from an older student I can guarantee you there is very little harm and a great range of possibility.

Every student will face their own adventure with the transition into the High School, just as each of us will undertake their own learned lessons. While it can be scary, opportunity should be used to your benefit and faced head on, and there's no place like high school to take ahold of those chances.

### STUDENT CORNER

# Digital Photography



## CREATIVE WRITING

# A Pirate's Plea

CORA SMITH

Dreading someone is not a new concept. There has always been something in human behavior that coddled the malicious feeling of wanting to strike another in a burst of expression; such that would create our enemies and very rarely, our friends. Fittingly, that was precisely how the universe had played my cards, its giddy grin staring me down as I fought off the urge of unnecessary roughness.

"I am going to be honest with you lad, I have never seen someone struggle as much as you have with such a simple task," my eyes were drawn to the sailors jumbling hands, a brow raising as he attempted to tie a knot for a third time, "Your loop technique is horrendous."

"It's not easy with you standing over my shoulder, captain," The brute answered, releasing the rope from his grip. I watched as it fell against the wood floor, staring for a moment before glancing up to the new seaman.

"Giving up is a fool's errand, lubber." I huffed, bending down to take a hold of the rope myself and quickly pulling it into a bind. This was the lad's fourth day of training and quite honestly I had already been considering kicking him from the crew on several occasions- an uncommon happening among my working units. After all, we were a laid back collaborative, enough so that our swords had rusted and elderly cannons had grown their own colony of spider-folk; yet, a hand unable to tie a knot was as useless as our weaponry. "The sea will eat you alive, Wells. Perhaps you should reconsider your employment options."

I could recognize a changed look in the man's eyes, though curiously I was unable to denote just what emotion he had conveyed. "I can't find work elsewhere." He muttered, lowering his head under my gaze.

"If you can tie a rope, I can't help you."

"I can wash the decks then."

"We have many men for that."

"I can cook. Not well, but I can make edible meals."

"Wells, I am entirely terrified by that offer." I turned away, beginning to walk off towards my quarters as dark clouds above began to settle. The lad followed in suit, trailing my footsteps and continuing to plead within my ear. For the sake of my own sanity, I blocked out his blabbering and instead focused on greeting the rest of the hearties making due on the base of the vessel.

"Capt'n, there's a man who has asked for your company on the pier." Elman, the ship's coxswain, stated as he approached in a hurry, a bleak look in his eyes telling enough to diminish what jovial mood I had remaining.

"A man you say? Is he peculiar?" I asked, adjusting my hat and belt as I prepared for the answer.

"Most."

My pupils fell, stare drifting into the crevices of the old wooden deck. "Weigh anchor." I commanded, looking back towards Wells as the crew descended into a flurry of rushing men. "Suppose the sea life chose you, mate. Find the Boatswain, he will place you where needed." The lad nodded eagerly, rushing off in haste and leaving me to contemplate the situation as it was. The sound of my footsteps pierced the air as I made my way over to the rails, peering over and towards the outstretched port below.

Sure enough, there stood distantly a man and a horse; our eyes seemed to meet as a soft sprinkle began to fall from the sky. I broke our leering sights first and instead focused my attention towards the marketplace near the entrance of the dock. Expectantly, a large assembly of mounted men were approaching with a deadly grace, all of which wearing the same color as the posted soldier standing alone at the forefront. The army.

"HAUL WIND." Called Elman from the quarter deck, sending more deckhands scurrying to their positions. With a large jolt, the vessel groaned and lurched forward, sails swelling with the incoming breeze. I took in the scent of the ocean and damp air, garments beginning to soak as the rain picked up pace.

"May the chase begin." I grumbled, watching as the stranger below scaled his stallion and rode back towards the militant group at the hilt of the pier.

*To Be Continued...*

SPORTS SCHEDULES

Softball

March 26 - 4:00 PM  
@ Pine Richland

March 29 - 4:00 PM  
@ Peters Township

April 5 - 4:15 PM  
@ Mt. Lebanon

April 7 - 4:00 PM  
@ Ringgold

April 9 - 4:15 PM  
Home vs. Avonworth

April 10 - 12:00 PM  
Home vs. Southmoreland

April 13 - 4:15 PM  
@ Beaver Falls

April 14 - 4:15 PM  
Home vs. Quaker Valley

April 16 - 4:15 PM  
Home vs. Ellwood City

Baseball

March 26 - 4:00 PM  
@ Uniontown

March 29 - 4:00 PM  
@ Shaler

March 31 - 4:00 PM  
Vs. Ringgold @ Wild Things Park

April 6 - 4:00 PM  
@ Avonworth

April 7 - 7:00 PM  
Home vs. Avonworth

April 9 - 7:00PM  
Home vs. Thomas Jefferson

April 10 - 12:00 PM  
@ McKeesport

April 16 - 7:00 PM  
Home vs. Elizabeth Forward

Bocce

March 16 - 3:30 PM  
@Montour  
UCS Semi-Final Championship

Track and Field

March 31 - 3:30 PM  
@ McGuffey

April 7 - 3:30 PM  
@ Keystone Oaks

April 14 - 3:30 PM  
Home vs. Burgettstown

Boys Tennis

March 22 - 3:30 PM  
Home vs. Greensburg Central Catholic

March 24 - 3:30 PM  
@Mount Pleasant

March 29 - 3:30 PM  
Home vs. Thomas Jefferson

April 6 - 3:30 PM  
Home vs. Southmoreland

April 12 - 3:30 PM  
@ Greensburg Salem

April 15 - 3:30 PM  
Home v. Ringgold

THE SPRESS STAFF

Chloe Byron  
Sophia DeMatteo  
Noah Fiscus  
Luke Furman  
Tess Lettie  
Daniel Pepke  
Cora Smith  
Mrs. Finberg – Advisor

*Interested in joining The SPress staff?  
Contact Mrs. Finberg:  
[carrie.finberg@sparksd.org](mailto:carrie.finberg@sparksd.org)  
Room 111*