

THE SPRESS

November 9, 2023

* VETERANS DAY

* NATIVE AMERICANS

* TURKEY PARDON

Soccer scores again!

Callie Heynes



The boys' team celebrating their win at Highmark. Photo courtesy of Christopher Horner at the Tribune Live.



An action shot of the girls' team working hard. Photo courtesy of yearbook staff.

Many students may have seen soccer themed posters in the hall or recognized students being written about in the Pittsburgh Post Gazette. Some students have even been featured on the Instagram barstool. Even though western PA is mostly seen as a football centered region, South Park is a community where all sports exceed expectations. Both girls' and boys' soccer is a sport that carries tradition and talent throughout the years spent at South Park High School. After years of team bonding, superstitions are bound to arise through player beliefs. Not only have the titles and records for playoffs been around for many years but these traditions have been around for even longer.

There must be some reason that superstitions are believed. As seen with the many titles and records that the girl's soccer team has held for almost three decades. Whether it's magic or talent, for 27 consecutive years, the girls' soccer team has held a playoff title. Once again, they're fighting for their title against other teams in the western PA area. When asked about superstitions, the girl's team had lots to say about their astonishing performances, contributing their success to their superstitions.

As claimed by Addison Kerr, junior, they always have a pasta dinner, get eyebrow slits, and make t-shirts for each other. Taylor Vargo, junior, continues on about traditions like these team bonding activities by stating "it's like a good luck charm for us". However, a team with this much success, would not have gotten far without individual talent and ambition. Vargo continues by explaining how making playoffs has always been a personal goal of hers and that she is "inspired to contribute to the legacy and be remembered as a part of a successful era in team's history". The girl's team, years past and present, deserves recognition for all of their hard work and time spent dedicated to the sport that brings them joy.

Not only has the girl's team been racking in titles for years, but the boys' soccer team has also been dedicating their hard work to SPHS's history records. Even certain boys on the team admit to their success and mental preparation as partly superstitious, as seen with the girl's team. When Daniel Battista, junior, was asked about his traditions before a game, he said "I wouldn't say I have traditions; I would more say I have superstitions".
Continued on page 2

Soccer scores again! (con't)

Callie Heynes

Many people believe that superstitions may be bad or negative. As seen with the boys' team, all of them believe that it brings them closer. There is a constant inspiration to keep up these traditions, almost as if they are a member of the team itself. As most members of the team mentioned, one tradition includes hosting dinners at teammates' houses, a long running tradition between both teams. Ryan Wesowski, junior, thinks "if we would change them everyone would feel like we were missing something."

Not only are students proud of both teams, but other major outlets are recognizing them as well. According to the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, the boys' soccer team has made the most appearances in playoffs since 2000. It is now the boys' 18th time in their section.

The girls' team lost in the third round of playoffs. However, the consolation game that took place on November 2nd restored hope of a state championship. The girls' team won their game against Burrel, winning 3-0. Also on this date, the boys' soccer team played at Highmark Stadium, where the Pittsburgh Riverhounds play in a semi-professional league. The boys' team scored 1-0 against Quaker Valley, winning the WPIAL championship, also advancing to the state championships. When it comes to winning, South Park's Eagles soar above all.

The remembrance

Jessa Harmer & Erika Filous

Veterans Day is special to people all around the world. This day highlights the importance of veterans everywhere, honoring those who have served in the military.

Veterans Day first arose in 1919 on November 11. The reasoning for Veterans Day being on November 11 is because World War I officially ended on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day. The original name was Armistice Day, this was to honor the first anniversary of World War I. The name changed after American forces had fought in Korea. U.S. Representative Edward Page proposed a bill that would change Armistice Day to Veterans Day.

Veterans were either drafted or they chose to enlist. A veteran, Ron Orkis, a grandpa of Erika Filous, said that he enlisted because if he was drafted, he would've been given a rifle to fight. If he enlisted, he got to go to a nighttime school to be a special secret agent. This secret agent had to spy on people in nearby neighborhoods in different parts around the world to see if they were suspicious. After this, he got sent to Korea to serve.

A lot of veterans say that being away from family was the hardest part while having to serve. They did not have cell phones back in the day, so they couldn't reach out to anyone. From all these ups and downs of serving, you would wonder if they would ever want to enlist again if asked to. Greg Miller, a veteran, who is an uncle of Jessa Harmer stated, "I would go tomorrow. From what I've seen, the USA is still the best country in the world. Nowadays, we have lost our way but we ultimately have freedom like no other." Along with all the difficulties, veterans would still go back if needed to.

While serving, some veterans make friends, but some don't. A variety of veterans also stay in contact with their friends. Both veterans, Miller and Orkis, said that they made friends while serving but they never stayed in contact with them.

Veterans Day is on Saturday, November 11th, but it is observed on Friday, November 10th. In all, Veterans Day is an important day to remember those who have served for our country.

The legacy of Native Americans

Savannah Booth

As November comes around, we recognize and celebrate National American Indian Heritage Month. This month will be used to explore the diverse culture of Native Americans and how they have contributed to the United States today. Heritage Month is an opportunity to educate the public about tribes so we can learn about the unique challenges they have and still face.

In 1990, a joint resolution was passed by Congress and signed into law by President George H.W. Bush declaring November as Native American Indian Heritage Month. Native Americans were recognized as America's original inhabitants who made important contributions to the United States. Congress has recognized Natives for their roles in assisting early European settlers to North America and the Founding Fathers of the United States.

Did you know South Park, Pennsylvania is surrounded by the Monongahela Culture? An Iroquoian Native American group of Late Woodland people practiced the Monongahela culture. The culture lasted from around 1050 to 1635 and was located in present-day Western Pennsylvania. They lived in laid-out villages and grew maize agriculture. Their villages could have as many as 100 structures, which were referred to as "wigwams." A wigwam is a hut or tent with a domed-shaped roof. They seemed to have disappeared in the first half of the 1600s before there was significant contact with the growing and expanding of European settlements along the coast. The cause of their disappearance has been debated for several years. Some believe diseases brought over were the cause, while others think they could've been killed by other surrounding tribes, according to www.thetravel.com.

You probably didn't know, but so many Native Americans are very famous today. Aquaman star, Jason Momoa is one of the most famous Native Americans and talks about his background from being Native Hawaiian when he can. Princess Nokia is a New York rapper and singer and states, "I am a Yoruba, Taino, and Puerto Rican girl with really brown skin, full curly hair, and a spirit that does not quit. When I hear the drum and speech of my ancestors, I am compelled. I see it and I know it," which she told Teen Vogue.

Well-known star Jimi Hendrix died young but had very deep roots from his Cherokee grandmother. In 2010, Many of Hendrix's belongings were lent to the National Museum of the American Indian for his fans to enjoy from afar.

The Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, located in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania is open to native and non-native people with programs to serve everyone and to dive into the culture. Also, the Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village is located in Washington County, and is home to an authentic Native American village where you can experience what life was like! If you are interested in figuring out what other cultures and tribes surround other areas, you can check out a very broadened map at <https://native-land.ca/>.

IMPORTANT DATES

November 10: Football playoff game @ East Allegheny, 7:00pm

November 11: Girls soccer playoff game @ Montour, 12:00pm

November 16: NHS induction ceremony

November 17: Winter sports start

November 22: Early dismissal @ 11:00 am

November 23-27: Thanksgiving break

November 30: Deadline to participate in November

December 7: Hanukkah starts

Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Addison Yochum

This month is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. This month started as just a day in November in 1995, but eventually as the community grew, it became a full month of bringing awareness to lung cancer, and the effects of vaping and smoking.

Although lung cancer occurs mainly in those over the age of 65, a small number of people under 45 are also diagnosed. Lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. According to the American Cancer Society, there are about 238,000 new cases of lung cancer in the U.S each year. Many think that if you don't smoke, then you don't have any chance of getting lung cancer. However, researchers have found that about 10 to 20% of all lung cancer diagnoses in a year are from those that have never smoked, or have smoked less than 100 cigarettes in their life. Risks like secondhand smoking, family history, and even exposure to a radioactive gas, called radon, can increase your chances. Although vaping is less harmful than smoking, it can still increase your chance of getting lung cancer as much as smoking can. It was scientifically proven that vapes coat your lungs with chemicals and toxins such as carcinogens. These toxins are known to cause cancer.

Those who are diagnosed with lung cancer have many options of treatment depending on treatment. In minor cases, many get surgery. For more severe cases, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy are good options. Immunotherapy is a treatment that uses substances that are either made up in the body, or in a lab to boost the immune system. This is often used alone, but can sometimes be used with chemotherapy. There is also a treatment option called targeted drug therapy, which is a type of cancer treatment that uses drugs that target only cancerous cells and not normal ones. The ribbon color for Lung cancer awareness is white in honor of Heidi Onda, who was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2018, and wanted to

raise awareness about this particular type of cancer. There are also organizations you can support, such as A Breath of Hope. This foundation was created in 2008 by a group of lung cancer patients, who wanted to bring awareness. Some other things you can do in November to support lung cancer awareness is to wear a white ribbon, wear white, and you can paint your nails white.

Therefore, if you are someone who smokes, or you know someone who smokes, warn them about the risk, and encourage them to quit.

The turkey pardoning tradition

Megan Beam

Abe Lincoln is known for a lot of things but pardoning turkeys might not be one of them. Way back during the Civil War, a turkey named Jack was about to become a holiday meal. Tad Lincoln, Abe's son, was Jack's saving grace and he asked his father to save the turkey. He agreed and that was the first turkey pardoning. You might be asking what is turkey pardoning? Or why do we have a ceremony for it?

Even though Abe pardoned that turkey way back in time many other presidents have participated in turkey pardoning for various reasons. However, the turkey pardoning tradition started with President George H.W. Bush because animal rights activists were protesting outside of the White House. He wanted to calm the tension with picketers, so he saved the lives of two turkeys.

Since then, every year the current president will pick two turkeys to save from being put on the dinner table. About 46 million turkeys are put on the table for Thanksgiving. This year, president Joe Biden will be pardoning two turkeys named Chocolate and Chip from Minnesota. Typically the pardoning takes place during a press conference while the turkeys run around.

Even though two turkeys don't make a dent in the 46 million turkeys, it's a light-hearted and fun tradition that also brings publicity to the president.

Birthday corner

November

Brooke Bichler - 13
Elizabeth Penn - 16
Jayla Thorn - 16
Aiden Papciak - 17
Jude Papciak - 17
Justin Papciak - 17
Erin Thagard - 18
Alyssa Rider - 19
Autumn Moore - 20
Pigeon Petruska - 20
Ashton Jones - 21

Gino Derenzo - 22
Luca Ranallo - 22
Ian Hanna - 22
Matt Harmer - 22
Carter Piel - 23
Troy Miller - 25
Donnie Schafer - 26
Nika Contakos - 27
Alex Lashley - 27
Ariella Moelber - 29
Janiah Ligon - 29
Xavier Baumiller - 30
Samel Biswa - 30

MOVEMBER



Attention students and staff!

To help bring awareness to men's health issues, grow a mustache (no beards), and have your picture taken in room 108 by Thursday, November 30. To raise money for the cause, students and staff will vote for the best mustache, and the winner will receive a one-of-a-kind prize. For additional details, see Mr. Boles.