



THE SPRESS

SOUTH PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Do you like Valentine's Day?

SAVANNAH BOOTH

Did you know that Valentine's Day goes all the way back to the 3rd Century? The Ancient Romans may also be responsible for the name of our modern day of love. Emperor Claudius II executed two men, both named Valentine on Feb. 14 of different years in the 3rd century A.D. Their martyrdom was honored by the Catholic Church with the celebration of St. Valentine's Day, which we now still celebrate in the 21st century.

Two freshman students, one in a relationship, and the other not were asked a few questions on their opinions about Valentine's Day, and this is what they responded with. Both students were asked if they liked Valentine's Day, and they both responded with yes. The single student explained that they do not mind the holiday, but they don't understand why it is a holiday since you are supposed to love your significant other and show them appreciation on a daily basis. The taken student explained that he loves the holiday because he really gets to show his girlfriend the appreciation she deserves by doing bigger gestures that he normally wouldn't do every day. The taken student explains that he does believe Valentine's Day is important because he really gets to show his girlfriend how much he loves her. The single student disagrees that the holiday is not important since these acts of kindness should be done every day.

Valentine's Day is an annual festival to celebrate romantic love, friendship, and admiration. Every year on February 14, people all over celebrate this day by sending messages of love and affection to partners, family, and friends.



Chicago round 2

TESSA LETTIE

The past few years have been a hard time for our Drama Department. Back In 2019, due to COVID-19 restrictions, our drama department was unable to perform the musical Chicago. Although all of this is still happening, Mr. Baker and our Drama Club this year are bringing it back to the stage for their 2022 Musical! As sad as it is that they were not able to continue it 2 years ago, the show must go on!

Gabbie Stokes, a senior this year in our drama department, was in the first running production of Chicago. Gabbie said, "When Mr. Baker told us we were doing Chicago again, we were surprised. I was even a little disappointed to find out we were doing it again, but as time has gone on I get more excited that we were doing it again." Parents, students, families, and community members are excited to see Chicago on stage in March 24-27. When asked about

Gabbie's experience and if she recommended drama club to other students she said, "I highly recommend this club to the underclassmen. You become very self-disciplined and you learn so much outside of acting from this club. The best is, there is a spot for EVERYONE. You can act, work lights, work sound, work the fly system, you can be a part general tech, you can work in costumes, the list goes on."

When asked about future productions, Gabbie replied, "This list goes on forever, but if I had to give a top three of other productions I would've liked to have done or what I suggest, it would be 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street,' 'Heathers,' or 'Mamma Mia'."

I don't know about you, but I can't wait to see what Mr. Baker and our lovely actors have in store for us! Will you be watching it?

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Are live action Disney movies better than animated?

EMBER CARMICHAEL

Have you ever watched an animated movie and thought, “Wow, this would be so good in a live version,” or the other way around? Some people may be biased on their opinion based on the actors and plot of the movie. South Park High School students were given a vote between animated and live action Disney movies.

64.6% of students chose animated movies as the better option, while only 35.4% chose the live action option. One student, Sophia Cox, says “I like to watch the live action better to see it in person, just like ‘Beauty and the Beast’.” Zachary Britton, South Park High School student, disagrees, “The live action remakes don’t give the same impact as the original, ‘The Lion King’ was the movie that swayed my vote.” Some movies coming out in 2022-2023 that could possibly sway these votes are “The Little Mermaid,” live-action coming out in 2023, “Pinocchio,” coming out in 2022, “Peter Pan and Wendy,” coming out in 2022. There are also other movies coming out without a certain release date, such as ‘Lilo and Stitch,’ ‘Tinkerbell,’ ‘Hercules,’ ‘Bambi,’ ‘Hunchback,’ ‘Snow White,’ and many more.

Disney keeps coming out with new movies and thinking of new movie ideas every day, with many that can sway the vote of people who chose animation over live-action.

“Lord of the Flies” review

CALLIE HEYNES

In 1954, William Golding first released “Lord of the Flies”. In the book, a group of young boys are deserted on an island. At first, they have rules and a system of government. However, without adults to supervise and the thrill of freedom the boys become violent and brutal.

In my opinion, the book was unlike any other book because of the characters and their reactions to the island. The book was unexpected and left me on the edge of my seat. I agreed with the author when he said, “The theme is an attempt to trace the defects of society back to the defects of human natures.” The author uses this quote to portray the giddy feeling the boys first felt on the island. He then uses the “defects of human nature” to transition to the brutal actions the boys witness and take part in. The author follows up by saying. “The moral is that the shape of a society must depend on the ethical nature of the individual...”

Since the book came out, two films have been released as an adaptation of the book. One movie, first seen in 1963 has been regarded as most like the book. However, the second movie released in 1990, is less faithful.

In the end, this book was one that I would read again in order to experience the characters' thoughts and feelings through the unexpected twists and turns of “Lord of the Flies”.

EDITORIAL

What is going on with the lunches?

PAIGE KELLY

What do students at South Park High School have to say about the cafeteria lunches? An overwhelming majority of students surveyed said they think that the lunches are not healthy nor enjoyable.

A survey of students was taken, with 80 responses out of approximately 580 students. Only 8.8% said that they felt the lunches were healthy, 7.5% said they were enjoyable, and 66 students said they would change something about the lunches. Some students are not happy with the school’s lunch options.

Students’ main problem with the lunch menu is the excessive amount of chicken that is served. At least once a week some form of chicken is the main lunch option. Other students said they would add healthier options, more vegetarian options, fresher foods, more variety, better quality ingredients, a wider selection, and maybe even some special celebration days with take-out.

School lunches should be fuel for learning, not just filler. The federal register from The Department of Agriculture says that each student should have an item from every food group on their tray at lunch time, with ample milk, fruit, and vegetable options. (see photo) Right now, if you go into the cafeteria, you will see pizza, chicken, burgers, and chocolate chip cookies. The food is not only not healthy, but sometime unappetizing.

Schools around the country are struggling with getting high-quality lunches. Bulk food orders are difficult to fulfill right now, as there is no place with enough food to have variety, but President Joe Biden has introduced a solution to this shortage. *AP News* says, “The Biden administration issued transitional standards for school lunches Friday that are meant to ease the path for cafeterias to get back on a more healthful course as they recover from pandemic and supply chain disruptions.” This new solution could make lunches healthier, more accessible, and even more enjoyable.

Black History Month

Malcolm X

SAVANNAH BOOTH

Black History Month was created to focus attention on African Americans coming to the United States. This month recognizes all African Americans for their accomplishments and how far they have come since slavery, which goes back to 1619.

Malcolm Little, better known as, “Malcolm X” was an African American leader in the civil rights movement, minister, and supporter of Black nationalism. He urged his fellow Black Americans to protect themselves against white aggression “by any means necessary,” which became a stance that often put him at odds with the nonviolent teachings of Martin Luther King, Jr. In March 1964, Malcolm X announced he was leaving the movement and a month later he gave his infamous "The Ballot or the Bullet" speech at a Baptist church in Detroit, Michigan, stressing the need for African-Americans to pursue Black Nationalism and arguing against the non-violent protest.

At age 39 Malcolm died on February 21, 1965, when he was assassinated in New York City. Three Nation members were charged with the murder and given indeterminate life sentences, in 2021 two of the convictions were vacated. Malcolm X made a huge impact on history and helped thousands of African Americans stand up for what they believed in. He may not still be here today, but many people still know and love him so much.



Rosa Parks

DAISHA BRISCOE

Rosa Parks was not the first African American woman to be arrested for refusing to yield her seat on the Montgomery bus. She refused on principle to surrender her seat because of her race, which required by the law in Montgomery at the time. Parks was a civil rights activist before her arrest, parks became involved in the Civil Rights Movement as early as December 1943. Rosa Parks is most famous for refusing to obey orders from a bus driver when he told her to surrender her seat in the “colored section. Rosa Parks was born February 4, 1913 and was an American Civil Rights Activist best known for her role in the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The United States congress has honored her as “The First Lady of Civil Rights” and “The Mother of the Freedom Movement.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr is known as one of America's greatest heroes. In the 1950s and 1960s, he fought to end laws that were unfair to African Americans. He worked to make sure all Americans had equal rights. From 1957 to 1968, King traveled over 6million miles and spoke over 2,500 times and he was imprisoned nearly 30 times. King was largely responsible for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the voting rights act of 1965. The Civil Rights Act banned discrimination in the workplace and public accommodations based on “race, color, religion, or national origin.” The Voting Rights Act protects African Americans rights to vote. King sought equality and human rights for African Americans, the economically disadvantaged and all victims of injustice through peaceful protest.



Photo from Smithsonian Open Access

Harriet Tubman

Harriet Tubman was born a slave and raised on Maryland’s Eastern Shore where the lines between slavery and freedom were often blurred. It was not unusual for families in this area to include both free and enslaved members. Tubman escaped and subsequently made some 13 missions to rescue approximately 70 enslaved people, including family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the Underground Railroad. She also was Union spy and the first Black woman to ever lead on American mission during the American Civil War. Harriet Tubman was one of the most courageous and determined freedom fighters in U.S. history. She rose from a childhood of brutal abuse by slaveholders to emancipate herself, and she risked her life repeatedly to liberate others. She assisted many others with her knowledge of safe spaces and escape routes. “I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger,” she later said of her experience. In years conducting the Underground Railroad she had made 19 trips and guided her parents, siblings, relatives, and friends for a total of around 300 enslaved people.

Facebook or Meta?

AVA TURLEY

Facebook has been recently going through a lawsuit with The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) for allegedly abusing their powers. According to The New York Times, Facebook has spread misinformation, conspiracies, and hate speech throughout their platform.

Facebook has decided to completely rebrand themselves and their platform as Meta Platforms. After the lawsuit, Facebook wanted to reinvent their name to distance themselves from the negative connotation around their platforms and brands and to show that their brand isn't tightly linked to one certain product, yet the whole platform. Facebook, and its other apps, Instagram, Whatsapp, and Messenger will be housed in a separate division from Facebook Reality Labs, which makes the companies virtual reality products.

The FTC lawsuit was brought about after internal documents were leaked by a former product manager, Frances Haugen. The documents were provided to Congress, and a censored version was obtained by news organizations. They revealed a rare insight into the company that included making decisions that seem to prioritize profits over the well-being of its users.

Facebook doesn't have a perfect platform, like many others. Do platforms have the right to prioritize profits over the well-being of their own users or not take down false information? Is Facebook in the wrong?

Sharks aren't as dangerous as you might think

MEGAN BEAM

Did you know that about 100 million sharks are killed per year? According to greenpeace.org destructive fishing methods are used in major fishing countries and are resulting in the death of sharks worldwide.

Scubadiving.com stated facts about the movie "Jaws" and how it invokes fear surrounding sharks. However, a professor at the University of South Australia, Brianna Le Busque became curious if other shark movies have the same effect. Le Busque states "The media has a really big impact when it comes to how people view sharks...There are a few studies that have looked at 'Jaws' specifically but there was no research looking at shark films more generally." In all, about 105 shark movies out of the 109 movies Brianna has taken a look at are leaning more towards the fact that sharks are dangerous and potentially harmful to people.

Sharks are portrayed so negatively. However, according to people.com there are "73 unprovoked shark attacks recorded in 2021." Shark attacks aren't extremely common, but people are more scared of sharks than they are car crashes. Six million car crashes happen per year and over 90 people die in car crashes per day, but there are only 72-73 shark attacks and they are rarely fatal. More people are scared of something less dangerous.

We need to protect and save sharks rather than kill them or be scared of them. Sharks are an important part of the oceans and ecosystems.

Tinder: Victims strike back

PAIGE KELLY

As everyone knows, most high schoolers don't have to worry about their use of the popular dating app, Tinder. However, there are legally adult seniors on Tinder with no clue how dangerous it could really be.

There is a documentary called "The Tinder Swindler" on Netflix. This documentary shares the perspectives of three women who fell victim to a manipulative con-artist that they met on the dating app. These three women each shared their personal experiences with a man they thought to be named Simon Leviev, the CEO of LLD Diamonds, and sitting on millions of riches. In reality, Shimon Hayut was a scam artist who had already been reported for these crimes to news companies, but the police had yet to catch him.

The breakdown: Simon had a Tinder profile decorated with pictures of fancy cars, restaurants, and expensive trips. He was also a good-looking man. The first woman in the documentary, Cecilie Fjellhøy, had been wooed by Simon on the first date. He met her at a 5-star hotel, and afterwards invited her to travel to Bulgaria on his private jet, to which she agreed. Once she got back, the two had entered a relationship. After sweet talk and spoils, it came time for Simon to begin his scam. First, he would send pictures of his bodyguard injured and say that he had been attacked by his "enemies" who were trying to kill him and take his company. Next, he'd mention that he was on the run, constantly flying to other countries. He explained that he was unable to use his cards in his name because they could be traced by his "enemies," and that he had to use the cards in the woman's name, through the woman's account. This is when he started asking for funding in cash or in large amounts on the card. He asked Cecilie for \$25,000 cash, and Pernilla for \$30,000 cash, as well as making these women take out several loans at a time to provide what they thought was safety for their significant other. He would pay them back after the first few times, but after that he would continue to demand more money every few days.

Once these women figured out the dangers of this man, he would threaten them if they spoke to anyone that they would be making a grave mistake. However, the last woman interviewed, Ayleen Charlotte, had noticed what the con-artist was doing. She began to sell the expensive name-brand Gucci clothing online and kept the revenue for herself. He got suspicious after she wouldn't give him the money she earned and began to get angry.

This man was not only a con-man, but he was a manipulative narcissist as well. If the woman didn't comply with his requests he immediately attempted to make them feel bad for him, or if they found out his act he would threaten them.

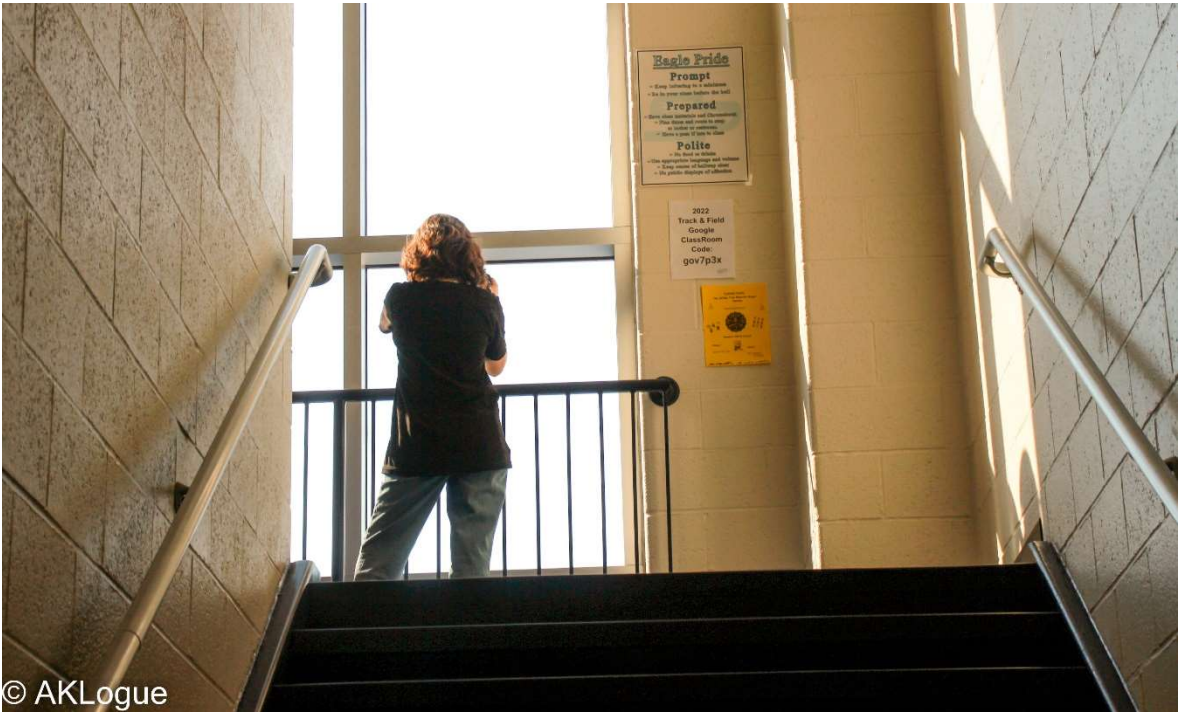
Once Simon was caught, he was sentenced to only 15 months of jail time for taking millions of dollars from these women. He ended up serving 5 months of his sentence. When he got out, he started an online scam business offering advice for a high price. Viewers have since started a fund for the women who were scammed out of their money.

STUDENT CORNER

Digital Photography



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SPORTS SCHEDULES

Bocce

February 14
@ Moon

February 16 – 3:00 PM
Home

February 22 – 3:30 PM
Home

March 2 – 5:30 PM
Home

March 10 – 3:00 PM
Home

Basketball - Girls

February 14 – 7:30 PM
Home vs. Ringgold

Swimming

February 16 - 6:00 PM
Home vs. Ringgold

February 18 – 12:30 PM
Varsity Invitational @ Elizabeth Forward

Wrestling

February 18 – TBD, WPIAL Championships
@ Cannon-McMillan

February 19 – TBD, WPIAL Championships
@ Cannon-McMillan

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