

the TALON

NOVEMBER

OCTOBER 24

Two disasters; one night.

DAB PENS

Accessability allows minors to discretely smoke a new form of vaporizers.

FALCON FANATICS

The falcon makes a comeback.

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COVER PHOTO

Although he can never play contact sports again, senior Sean Murray will be always be there to support his team. Earlier this season, he fractured his spine during a scrimmage against St. Mary's High School. "Sean Murray is truly an inspiration to all of us each day," Coach Bell said. Photo by Shelby Chasser.



1 Students go all-out for football games according to the weekly theme. The Broadneck game was a black-out, so SPHS students covered themselves in black clothes, face paint and glitter. "I love getting ready for football games with my friends," junior Micayla Sloat said. Photo by Katie Ardnt.

2 Many SPHS students attend Woodwork, a mission trip sponsored by Woods Church. This past summer, they built houses in Harrisburg, Pa. "I liked learning how to build houses and become friends with different people," senior Miranda Murphy said. Photo courtesy of Scott Wiley.

3 Junior Evan Blamphin is a center midfielder on varsity soccer. He has been playing since he was six years old. "My favorite thing about soccer is scoring goals and winning games," Blamphin said. Photo courtesy of Evan Blamphin.

4 Tickets are currently on sale for the fall production, "Mamma Mia," with shows beginning November 9. Students have been rehearsing since auditions in mid-September. "We're really excited to perform and see our hard work pay off," junior Lacey Ordakowski said. Graphic courtesy of Annabelle Cotton.

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Should Juniors have Parking Passes?

The exclusive rules of SPHS's parking lots are creating controversy with juniors.

by Ainsleigh Cook | Staff Writer

Seniors at SPHS look forward to parking in the school lot. With the construction of the new and improved SPHS, the senior-only parking lots arrived- by application only. Certain juniors believe that there are enough spaces for both juniors and seniors, challenging the idea that only seniors should be allowed to park in the lot.

Bill Smith, an administrator at SPHS, manages all of the parking passes that are distributed and monitors the amount of spots that are actually in use by seniors every day. "We have 260 spots outside and I've issued over 290 [permits], so in theory I am full. However, there's this gray science to parking where I can't predict everyone's schedule...A day, B day schedule, carpooling, and things of that nature," Smith said, "With most schools, if you have 260 spots, most schools issue 260, and that's it. Whereas I overbook, and I overbook to the point where I still have half a dozen seniors still on the waiting list because I'm not confident that I haven't overbooked the parking lot," Smith said.

Emma Patenaude, a junior at Severna Park who drives to school and parks in the neighborhoods across from the school, supports the idea that juniors should receive parking passes. "I believe juniors

should be given parking passes in addition to seniors. Most seniors are only here for portions of the day, while juniors are here all day and get out at a specifically high traffic time, making it harder on those who park in neighborhoods to get in and out of [the area]," Patenaude said.

Abbi Jones, a junior who lives in Severna Forest, revealed that "[Police] are going through and ticketing everyone on the street in my neighborhood," making parking in neighborhoods more limited.

Senior Molly Feeney believes that "being a senior has certain privileges and obtaining a parking pass is one of them."

Elle Carson, a junior, com-



Parking in the SPHS lots is limited, and spots start to fill by 7 am. On-campus parking has traditionally been a privilege reserved for seniors, but juniors have started to ask for spots, too. "It may not be the most ideal situation, but it's just something everyone has to deal with," Feeney said. Photo by Ainsleigh Cook.

ments on the situation seniors are in, "If all seniors who drive don't have parking passes, it's not fair for juniors to have them, especially when half the juniors don't even have a license or aren't even allowed to drive..." Carson said.

Senior Ethan Mills agrees that "If there are open spots then the seniors should get them and juniors shouldn't."

The senior lot's selective nature may seem like a controversy to many students, however, as administrators continue to work hard to accommodate the many students that attend SPHS, the parking lot continues to be a senior only space.

Provisional Licenses and Potential Consequences

New drivers may face more serious consequences for their actions.

by Lily Dougherty | Staff Writer

When junior year rolls around, most students are preparing for one of their most exciting milestones: getting a driver's license. A driver's license means more independence and more freedom - but to what degree?

When someone passes their driver's skills test, they get a provisional license in order to "gain experience by driving without supervision but with restrictions," according to the Maryland Department of Transportation. Many of these restrictions are easy to follow, such as that drivers "must use a safety belt," and "may not drive between 12 midnight and 5 AM" without a supervising driver or when going anywhere but a work, school, sports or volunteer-related event. A more commonly broken restriction, though, is that provisional license holders "may not drive with passengers under the age of 18, other than immediate family members, for the first 151 days, without a qualified supervising driver." To summarize, for the first five months after getting your license, you can't drive your friends around without a guardian with you.

In Severna Park, many teenagers attend the same schools and activities. Therefore, provisional license holders often disregard the restrictions and drive their friends around unlawfully. Cyrus Jones, a



Senior Olivia Lewis, who has had her license for longer than the 151 day waiting period to drive non-family members, drives her brother, freshman Fyn Lewis, and friends to school in the morning. "Being able to carpool is actually a pretty big advantage," Lewis said. Photo by Lily Dougherty.

junior, decided to drive his friends around on his provisionals and didn't think anything of it. But he was soon pulled over for not using a turn signal and ended up getting his license suspended for two weeks.

Unlike illegal activities such as alcohol and drug use, driving violations have less capacity to impact a student's school life, but they don't stay completely off the school's radar. For example, SPHS School Resource Officer Officer Swartz doesn't typically deal with traffic violations concerning students, but said "the patrol officers out on the street are always in contact with me, and they let me know who they pull over and what's going on." Swartz also emphasized that drivers first "have to do something wrong in order to get pulled over,"

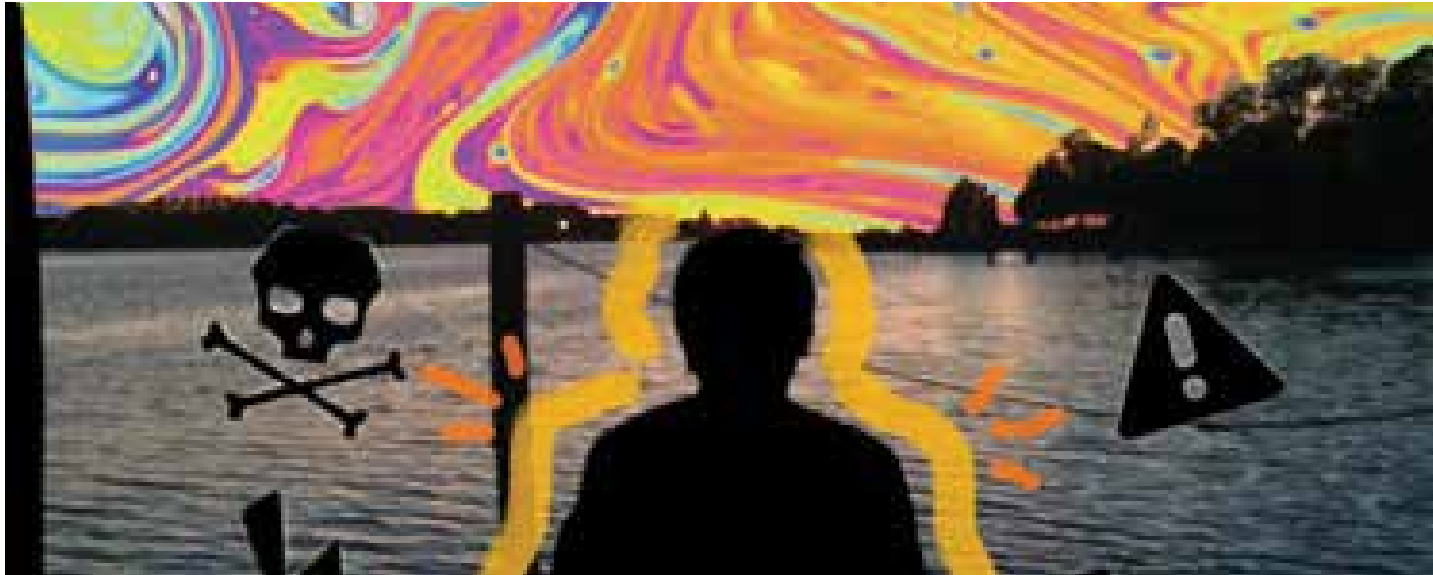
but that once a vehicle full of kids is pulled over, "it becomes pretty quick and easy" to confirm the teenagers are not related and therefore breaking the law once "the officer sees the license and sees that it's a provisional."

After their provisional terms end, however, many new drivers consider having followed the guidelines for those few months worthwhile. Senior Sophia Baron says that being able to drive friends around is "worth the wait, and definitely better than getting your license taken away or having your provisionals longer." When it comes to being a new driver, it's a safer bet to drive in compliance with the MVA restrictions than break them and risk losing your license altogether.

Comeback of the Dab

The dab is making a comeback, but not in the way one may think.

by Carson Whitney | Business Manager



According to drugabuse.gov, marijuana is the most commonly used drug in the United States, and with its legalization in nine states and Washington D.C., it will continue to rise in popularity, leading to new means of marijuana consumption such as the dab pen. Dab pens are a new vaporizer intended for ingesting the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) found in marijuana. THC is a lipid in cannabis that, when heated and consumed will give the user a high.

Although marijuana is currently illegal for recreational use in Maryland, many tobacco smoke shops sell the dab pen vaporizer under the guise of a wax or oil vaporizer not intended for marijuana; "Items sold in head shops only become drug paraphernalia after people leave the store and employ them

Teens are catching on to the harmful trend of dab pens, as they are seeking for a discreet way to consume marijuana. Dab pens began to become popular during the large scale legalization of marijuana. "It's too in right now, too many people think it's cool right now," Officer Swartz said. Graphic by Briana Derosa

in an illegal manner," according to defense attorney Matt McClenahen. Companies selling a product for legal use without knowledge of how the user may use it. As reported by McClenahen, a smoking device can be used for tobacco.

As technology advances, teenagers are increasingly willing to try new substances, and high school students are beginning to use this drug without knowing its long and short term effects. According to drugabuse.gov, around one third of high school seniors have admitted to smoking weed and around six percent are daily users. Students are exposing their developing bodies to a Schedule One drug, and by

smoking it with a dab pen they are adding high levels of carcinogens.

In Maryland, dab pens are regulated similarly to vaporizers, they are considered e-cigarettes and are often sold in vape stores, where one has to be 18 to even enter the store. Minors and first time users typically have a low tolerance to the effects of THC. In comparison to a joint's normal 11 to 20 percent THC concentration, a dab pen cartridge will typically deliver greater than 80 percent THC. Users without a tolerance to the high concentration may have an adverse reaction, although over-dose death by marijuana is not possible.

A common effect of overcon-

sumption is greening out. According to vice.com, users may experience negative effects, such as extreme dry mouth, an increased heart rate, trembling and vomiting. Around 13 percent of marijuana related medical emergencies involved users aged 12 to 17, according to drugabuse.gov.

Dab pens have become popular, as "more than a quarter of students who had used marijuana had experience vaping it," reported by drugabuse.gov. Dab pens are the main means of smoking for those who attempt to get high in school as they emit little smell and just as their name, are typically the size of a pen. While getting high at school may not seem that harmful, an ad-

ministrative complaint is probable cause for the school resource officer who can then perform tests of intoxication. After performing a test on a student, the SRO will usually go to the parents first to "fix the issue," Swartz said. The school bathroom is a popular place for dab pen use, as there are no cameras, but there have been several instances in which students have been caught in school by Officer Swartz.

Locally, a Severna Park area pool had an incident which involved minors and their public use of dab pens. According to pool manager Ian Wiener, several teenagers were caught using a dab pen at the pool, which is illegal as they did not have had a medical marijuana license

and were minors. "Dab pens or any type of marijuana usage in a public place is never safe, especially not at a pool," Wiener said.

Although the inconspicuous smell attract teens to partake more frequently, drug dogs are able to detect the smell. "It's crazy how good the dogs are," Swartz said. The dogs are able to sniff out a car that a dab pen was smoked in, even if the actual cartridge is not present in the car. "Even kids that are smoking dab pens in a car, it's not in the car, but they smoked it in a car, the dogs will hit it," said Swartz.

Dab pens have become a rising concern for SPHS staff members as students are able to discreetly use it with almost no smell. Teachers and SROs are trying to become aware of the clues that will lead them to students getting high with THC-filled dab pens in school.

School bathrooms have been a popular area for students to use smoking devices such as Juuls and dab pens. The lack of smell and the quick high enables students to get away with this illegal activity without detection. "I need a probable cause to do a test, so they have to be doing something wrong," Officer Swartz said. Graphic by Carson Whitney



Parking at SPHS

Staff Editorial

Ever since the new school opened its doors in the winter of 2017, parking has been an issue. Parking passes are only issued to qualifying seniors who apply, and it has become increasingly difficult for juniors and seniors without passes to find spots in nearby neighborhoods without trespassing or annoying a neighbor. Now, many juniors want to be eligible for parking passes as well, so they are more easily able to

drive to school. We at the the Talon believe that the junior class should not be eligible for parking passes, although we agree that there is a lack of parking spaces available in nearby neighborhoods. Seniors deserve to get the passes because many of them have half schedules; buses are not provided in order to get to internships or the community college. We think the problem of lack of parking could be solved by students

riding their provided buses, which would also reduce the traffic around the school. We also understand that parking at the school can be beneficial to everyone, but juniors need to wait their turn to get parking passes, like students every grade before them.



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Questions and Answers:

What do students think of the atmosphere at Severna Park High School?

by Connor Killeen | Online Editor-in-Chief

Photos by Carey Cameron and Amanda Vu



Megan Mouldale

Mouldale is a junior who has participated in Rock 'n' Roll and other theater productions at SPHS. In addition, she is an SGA officer and helped plan this year's homecoming. Photo by Carey Cameron.

What's your favorite school activity? Rock 'n' Roll is fun because everyone comes together, and you make a lot of new friends."

What do you dislike most about SPHS? People here think there's not really a world outside of Severna Park and they spend so much time worrying about what's here. Knowing there are so much better places out in the world makes me want to go there more instead.

How do you feel about the rigor of academics at the school? There's a big competitive atmosphere. There's always people asking what your class rank is or what you got on the latest test.



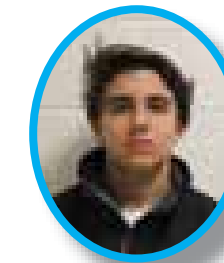
Shane Carr

Carr is a senior who is the president of Spirit Club, a group responsible for selecting the football game themes. He also runs the SPHS Student Section Twitter account which has over 495 followers. Carr is a goalie on the varsity lacrosse team and has earned two rings. Photo by Amanda Vu.

What's your favorite school activity? My favorite activity has to be winning three championships in a row, and getting two rings. It was an amazing feeling.

What do you dislike most about SPHS? I don't like the people that hate on SP; we are all privileged and lucky and we should be thankful. Severna Park has prepared me a lot and these will be the years I look back on.

How do you feel about the school's rigor of academics? Academics are probably a lot harder than other schools. We are really prepared for the real world and it helps us manage our time better on and off the field.



Jack Alpert

Alpert is a sophomore who has sailed for three seasons and is part of the Chick-Fil-a Leadership Academy. Alpert's favorite autumn night activity is to attend SPHS Falcon football games. Photo by Amanda Vu.

What's your favorite school activity? I sail. It's a good program, with lots of leadership involved; you've got to be skilled. It's considered a club here, run by Mr. Hill.

What do you dislike most about SPHS? I don't dislike anything, it's a great school. I have lots of friends, and I like that everyone knows each other.

How do you feel about the school's rigor of academics? We are a great school academically. The workload can get annoying, but I get A's so it's all right. There's always homework. I'd say I dislike that the most.

SPHS Students Take on 2018 Homecoming

This year's spirit week, pep rally, homecoming game and homecoming dance created a week of excitement and a weekend of fun for the students at SPHS.

by CeCe Streaker | Editor-in-Chief

As October is coming to an end, SPHS students waited patiently for homecoming and spirit week. The homecoming dance took place on Saturday October 20 following the homecoming football game. The game was themed to be a pink out and took place the Friday before the dance, October 19. SPHS were able to overcome the Northeast Eagles, 14 to 10 to get an exciting win for the falcons.

The homecoming dance started at 7 pm and took place in cafeteria and outside courtyard. Tickets were sold at lunches the weeks before. The overall attitude from the dance was positive.

"I loved seeing everyone all dressed up and having a good time, it was so exciting," said junior Eric Bloom.

Many students also reflected on the music and all the work SGA put into making the dance run smoothly.

"I was so impressed by the music and the DJ this year, I also was impressed by the decorations and how the dance and homecoming week was so fun and well put together,"

said sophomore Maya Harger.

The students waited patiently till the end of the dance to hear who had been crowned their senior homecoming king and queen for this year. Seniors Joe Matthews and Laura Foltz took the crown this year to be named the 2018-2019 SPHS homecoming king and queen.

"I was so happy they won, they both are so funny and it was so cool to see them get their crowns," said senior Sophie Toomey.

Before the dance the students had spirit week to participate in and get excited for. The themes for the spirit days were pajama day, red white and blue day, character day, throw-back Thursday, and class colors or senior toga day. Many students and teachers were eager to participate in the spirit days.

"I always look forward to spirit week and this year a lot of people participated, the themes were really fun too," said junior Hannah Cobbs.

On the Friday before the dance it is tradition for SPHS to have a pep rally to get the students excited for the weekend ahead. The pep rally

was during fourth period and consisted of performances from dance team, the football team and the cheerleading team. There are games and relays that were played and tug of war competitions to watch. The Student Government Association (SGA) worked hard to run a successful pep rally and get the students hyped up for this year's homecoming.

"I love pep rally, it is my favorite day of the year. Our school really comes together and it's so cool to see everyone's the gym together," said senior Jacque Beall.

As the students return back to school the following week many are sad the excitement is over. But there is always next year and SGA is already working hard to make next year just as successful as this year.



Photo by Greer Long



Photo by Ella Eaton

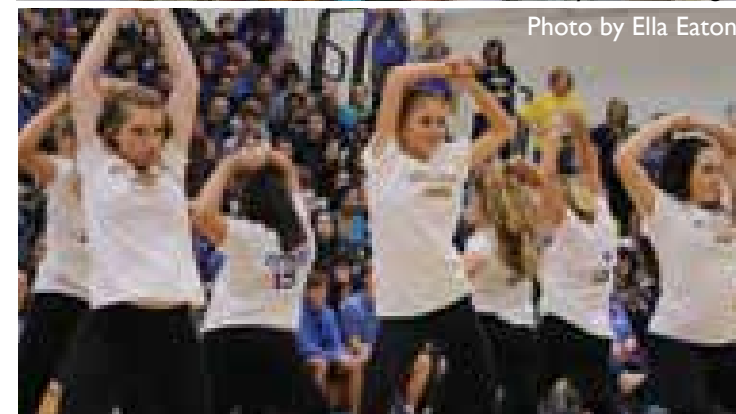


Photo by Ella Eaton



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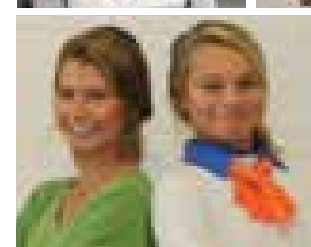


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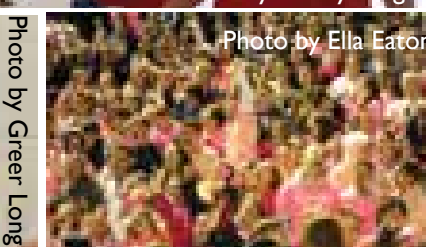


Photo by Ella Eaton



Photo by Greer Long

Homecoming and spirit week gave students an opportunity to come together to support fall sports and participate in spirit activities. "It is awesome to see everyone dressed up and show their spirit," junior Quincey Laughlin said.

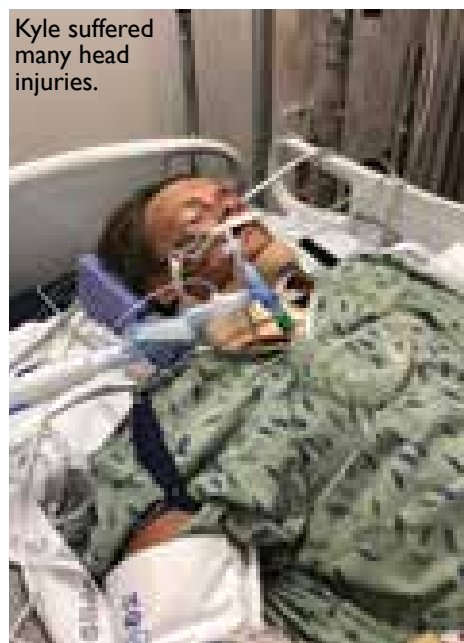
Kyle Lowman

Former SPHS lacrosse and football player has taken a turn for the worse.

by Shelby Chasser | Editor-In-Chief



Kyle laying in bed the day after the accident.



Kyle suffered many head injuries.



"I didn't acknowledge my leg for a couple of days," Kyle said.

A 2017 graduate, Kyle Lowman, laying in bed right after his accident. He was rushed to a local hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla.. "It felt like I was hit by a truck," Lowman said. All photos courtesy of Rich Lowman.

On Aug. 24, a 2017 graduate and a friend of many students at SPHS, Kyle Lowman, got off work and was heading out on his motorcycle to go fishing with his friends. As he was driving, another car ran a stop sign and t-boned the side of his vehicle. "The next thing I know was that I was on the ground with a mouth full of blood and dirt and my helmet was off," Kyle said.

The first two paramedics who arrived at the scene were a critical care nurse and a doctor. The nurse put a tourniquet, a device that stops the flow of blood in a vein or artery, on Lowman's leg, and

the doctor reached inside his leg to pinch his artery in order to prevent more bleeding. He was rushed to Bayfront Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla. and sent straight to the emergency room. Kyle would have bled to death if the two paramedics hadn't arrived at the scene.

He suffered many traumatic injuries and trauma throughout his body; his teeth were chipped in half, his elbow and hip had road rash, but the most notable devastation was the loss of his right leg. "[When I was conscious again,] my dad [Rich Lowman] was by my side and told me I had lost my leg, but I

didn't acknowledge it until a couple days later," he said, "I had too much pain."

The accident not only has affected Kyle, but his whole family as well. "We have gone through numerous different reactions," Rich said, "Thankful he is alive; angry at the person who did this to him. We are trying to forgive, but it is hard. [Also] worried about his future and the mounting medical bills."

Rich has been posting encouraging updates on Facebook and the website he created in dedication to his son, kyle-strong.com. Although most of his posts about Kyle have

been positive, it's still tough to watch Kyle go through this. "While I am always posting the positive side of his rehab there are times where he is in severe pain because of the nerve stems firing," Rich said. Not until Kyle's leg stump heals can he proceed with physical rehabilitation, as of now it is mostly mental rehabilitation.

Many friends from Severna Park have been reaching out to Kyle, sending their support. Senior Jake Cooley played with Kyle on the football team and is a close friend of his. "It was tragic to hear," Cooley said. "It's amazing, his recovery, and how he is being so positive with such an awful thing to happen."

Even those who barely knew Kyle reached out to him. Another senior, Ryan Thorpe, just talked to Kyle a couple of times during his high school years, but still contact-

ed him, sending encouragement. "It's the community who he said was his motivation to keep going, so why not be a part of the community that helps someone get through, probably, the hardest time in their life," Thorpe said.

Kyle believes it's the community that has been making it easier to get through this situation. "My positivity thrives from all my friends back home in Severna Park. I cannot believe how many people had messaged and supported me throughout the roughest times in the hospital and rehabilitation," Kyle said. "It picked me up when I was down, and they were a huge motivation through this experience."

It has not only been his friends that have sent supportive messages, but many teachers, administrators and coaches such as

officer Alex Swartz, coach Will Bell, coach Dave Earl, Ms. Laura Greenlee and former Assistant Principal Staci Cassarino. "God decided to change Kyle's path. I don't like how He did it, but he is going to have a great and successful future. It's hard to fail with a community like Severna Park behind him," Rich said.

A GoFundMe page was started by Leeyla Joyce who is determined to raise \$100,000 for Kyle's extensive medical bills and prosthetic leg. Anyone who wishes to support or follow his rehab can add Rich Lowman on Facebook for updates, visit his webpage or donate.

"Random things happen, and life can change in the blink of an eye. If you're in a bad situation know it's only temporary and don't let it hold you down," Kyle said.



Kyle and his dog Coconut.



Kyle wheeled out by his nurse Santannah.



"My dog gave me lots of comfort when I was in the hospital," Kyle said.

Kyle Lowman is a SPHS graduate and friend of many. In late August, Lowman was hurt in a devastating accident and an overwhelming amount of support was sent to him by the community. "My friends have helped me be strong throughout the whole thing," Kyle Lowman said. All photos courtesy of Rich Lowman.



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On a Mission

Juniors Lexi Richardson and Emmie Hood traveled all the way to Ghana to teach and volunteer in a small village.

by Melanie Reynolds | Opinions Editor

Over this past summer, juniors Lexi Richardson and Emmie Hood traveled to Krobo, Ghana for a two-week long mission trip to help teach children in a local school.

The trip was facilitated by Global Leadership Adventures, a volunteer organization that focuses on teaching teens about different cultures and global perspectives. Hood found out about the organization on the internet, and was immediately hooked. “I knew I wanted to go out of the country to do service, so I just looked it up,” Hood said. “They had an option for Ghana to work with children.”

To get to Ghana, the girls flew with their volunteer group. “We flew with everyone, then we had to drive two hours in this bus that was meant for about 10 people, but we fit 24” said Richardson.

While in Ghana, the girls taught at nursery schools, teaching students math and English. “It was hard because the teaching style is different and the kids wouldn’t really listen,” Richardson said, “the stuff they learned over there was way above the level they should have been learning.”

“They didn’t listen all the time, they just wanted to talk about America,” Hood said, “they all wanted to go to America to see what

it was like.”

The village they stayed of about 200 people, was much different than Severna Park. “In our village, everyone knew each other, everyone was like each others’ family,” Hood said.

The kids had never seen people who looked like the volunteers. “It was great to see how they connected with us, and obviously we’re different than anyone they’ve ever seen before,” Hood said. “When we came down in the mornings, they would run up to us. They acted like we were famous people, it was surprising,” Richardson said.

Outside the classroom, the girls would play with the children and talk with the families, learning more about their lives and their culture. “We got to visit them at their houses, and talk about how they lived,” Hood said.

Along with speaking English, to the girls, the villagers spoke their native language, Krobo. “The kids tried to teach us Krobo, their language, [and] we got to see big parts of their lives,” said Richardson.

Both of the girls were surprised by how different Africa really was from their previous conceptions about the continent. “I felt like it was kind of mind blowing how different it was, also because you



Lexi Richardson and Emmie Hood have many fond memories from their trip to Ghana this past summer. They became good friends with the children that lived there. “[The most rewarding part was] having the kids know your name” Lexi Richardson said. Photo courtesy of Lexi Richardson.

hear a lot of stuff about countries in Africa, how [they’re] poor, but there’s a lot more to it, it was pretty,” Richardson said. “It was a good change of mindset.”

Through programs like Global Leadership and church missions, students are able to broaden their horizons, and meet new people.

“I wish I could go back to say hi to the people and kids that we met down there. We were there for two weeks so we got close with them,” Richardson said.

FEATURES

The Face Behind the Falcon

After the position of school mascot was reopened for the first time in two years, one spirited student wore the Falcon costume for the SPHS rivalry game against Broadneck.

by Matt Mangano | Features Editor

It's a face we all like to see to bring out school spirit; our falcon mascot is a staple at pep-rallies, sporting events and Wish-Week. However, the identity of the person inside the costume is one of the best kept secrets at SPHS. For the past two years, it was Beau Giebels, a graduated senior now at University of Maryland, College Park. With Giebels gone, the spot was left open for any newcomer to fill and generate Park pride.

The Broadneck football game was quickly approaching, and the students were ready for the black-out against our rival. The school was in desperate need for a mascot to bring out the energy and excitement of the crowd and team. Fans hoped that having the Falcon on the sidelines would be the last bit of inspiration the team needed to finally best our rivals for the first time in years. In the nick of time, one blue-and-gold blooded student stepped up.

"I felt it was my duty to keep the spirit high, especially against our rivals," the Falcon said, wishing to remain anonymous. "And it was a lot of fun running around with the fans and team."

The Falcon cheered with just about everyone at the game, even with the cheerleaders.

"I love when the Falcon is there," cheerleader Stephanie



The Falcon cheers on the team and psychs up the crowd at the Broadneck football game on Friday, Sept. 14. It was the mascot's first appearance this school year. "Going to a football game as the mascot has always been something I've wanted to do. It really lived up to my expectations," the Falcon said. Photo by Katie Arndt.

Schmidt said after the game. "My favorite part is when he cheers with us on the sidelines and gets the crowd fired up."

School spirit was high at the game, and its presence encouraged the team to play their best, despite the 17-34 loss to their rivals.

"Having the Falcon at the game definitely motivated us, but he could work on them moves a little," receiver Bryce Marin said.

"The Falcon motivated the students to cheer and the team probably was more motivated when people are cheering for them and

excited about the game," Schmidt said.

The person who wears the treasured Falcon costume remains a mystery, but its presence is enjoyed by all.

"People loved the Falcon, judging by what I could hear people say while inside it, and how many pictures people took with me," Giebels said of his time spent being the school mascot.

With the position opened up, one thing is for sure; whoever volunteers to wear the costume next, sure has some big talons to fill.

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The Science Behind Social

Does Severna Park, with its low diversity excel in inclusivity or live up to its reputation of white picket fences and cliquey groups?

by Amanda Vu | Copy Editor

As you run to the cafeteria to sit with your friends, you can't help to notice that most of those in attendance tend to sit with people that look or act like them. It isn't surprising that the cafeteria of Severna Park High School lacks diversity; the minority population is a meagre 15 percent of the total school population, consisting of three percent Asian, four percent African American and four percent Hispanic, according to US News.

Other than ethnicity, there are many reasons people choose to stay within a specific group, either out of comfort or safety. Personality, sports, religion and social life all influence how individuals act towards one another. However, what isn't seen by the ordinary eye are the mechanics in which the brain processes new profiles and people, and the psychology behind social interaction. How exactly does one's environment affect their behavior, thoughts and actions?

Kaylee Reyes, a Hispanic junior on the track team, feels that "the majority race gets away with a lot of things, and it's just not right to see that other students are favored over others. Even the teachers see it, but they can't go against administration."

Certainly the major gap in eth-

nicities can stir conflict, especially if administration and teachers are not willing to allow those of minority cultures to be represented.

In a population with such an absence of cultures, acceptance can be tough for minority populations. Efforts to eliminate this gap have included signs for Black History Month and informative announcements, but Reyes said, "instead of putting up signs, teachers can try to incorporate it in the actual curriculum."

On the other hand, football player, Matt Hong, said that "there are not many Asian people on the team, and there's a stereotype that Asians don't typically play football, so I feel pretty unique."

For sole talent or ethnicity, the lack of diversity perhaps allows a greater opportunity for minorities to achieve success.

When asked about inclusivity at this school, Blaise Oducaen, a freshman who was born in the Philippines, said, "Obviously there's friend groups, but everyone is always open to meeting new people, but sometimes I feel like it's comfortable to be with people you know, because meeting new people puts you in an uncomfortable situation."

Many students like Oducaen feel the same way: meeting new

people is awkward. Because of that, many students feel that the hassle of meeting someone new outweighs the possible outcomes, and many stray away completely from making new friends in an effort to stay in their comfort zone.

However, this can have negative effects, according to Mrs. Allam, the AP Psychology teacher. "Technology has revealed that in brain scans (done during an fMRI), the same areas of the brain that light up to register physical pain also light up in reaction in loneliness."

Not only does isolating yourself from society correlate with pain, but living in a non-diverse society can also lead to something known as the Self-fulfilling Prophecy, a belief or stereotype that directly or indirectly causes itself to become true. "This can be harmful for negative stereotypes," according to Allam.

In humans, social interactions can sometimes seem like a drag, but in animals, it could be the deciding factor between life and death. According to Mrs. Mossa, the AP Biology teacher, "Everything from insects to mammals to reptiles have some form of communication, whether it be verbal or how they move their bodies."

In the wild, communication

and interaction between animals is crucial for survival. Without effective social interaction, entire species could be wiped out due to high selectivity among females. If females deem that the male is unworthy of reproduction, she will not mate at all, eventually leading to extinction of a species. Those mammalian instincts of social interaction classifies each animal as their own. In humans, social interaction can influence behavior, leading people to act a certain way and ultimately identify to groups.

However, in an environment that lacks diversity, such as the one in Severna Park, finding a way to interact with people from all walks of life can prove highly beneficial, although somewhat difficult. As Reyes said, "Instead of putting up signs for Black History Month or Hispanic Heritage Month, teachers can try to incorporate it in the actual curriculum."

Getting exposure to different cultures and personalities through extracurriculars, sports and volunteering can reduce biased discrimination and narrow-mindedness. Recognition and acceptance of new cultures can open up new opportunities and prove to be a useful tool in the real world.

Social interactions at school can seem like a choreographed dance, with everyone in their place. The lack of diversity in Severna Park has prevented students at SPHS from socially immersing in a variety of cultures, but that hasn't stopped many from accepting all walks of life. "We definitely have separate groups, but it's become more open and inclusive in the last few years," Kaylee Reyes, a Hispanic junior said. Graphic by Harper White



Soccer Stars

Soccer players who are changing the game.

by Greer Long | News Editor

The SPHS boys varsity soccer team is having a successful season so far, with an impressive record and many goals scored per game. Juniors Gordie Bernlohr, Evan Blamphin, Elliot Skopp and Jack Suski have been working hard to achieve wins, and hopefully bring Severna Park to states.

Gordie Bernlohr began playing soccer when he was just four years old, following the footsteps of his older brothers. He plays center midfield and focuses on assisting his teammates and scoring goals. "I like it because you're on the ball a lot," Bernlohr said. He has been

playing on varsity soccer since he was a freshman, and this season he hopes to "score a lot of goals and go far in playoffs." Bernlohr enjoys the competition of soccer and being a part of the team. Being one of the few upperclassmen is new for him; "It's cool but it comes with a lot of responsibility," Bernlohr said. When he is not playing for SPHS, Bernlohr plays club soccer for Maryland United FC. Bernlohr hopes to continue his soccer career in college if it gets him into a good school.

Evan Blamphin started playing soccer at six years old when his dad signed him up to join a team.

Ever since they began playing soccer together at such a young age, Blamphin and Bernlohr have been best friends. "I continued to play because I met Gordie who was on my team," Blamphin said. As a center midfielder, Blamphin also enjoys running down the field playing both offense and defense. "My favorite thing about soccer is scoring goals and winning games," Blamphin said. Blamphin plays club soccer for Maryland United FC and hopes to play in college. This season, he hopes to help the team get better and win games.

Elliot Skopp has been playing soccer for most of his life, starting in kindergarten. "My older brother played and I wanted to do a lot of the things he did," Skopp said. He is a defensive center midfielder and enjoys keeping the other team from scoring during games. "My favorite thing about soccer is how competi-

tive the games are and how fun it is to play with a team," Skopp said. He does not play for a soccer team outside of SPHS and plans on focusing on academics in college. "This season I'd like to score one goal because I haven't in years past," Skopp said.

Jack Suski picked up the sport when he was five years old. "All my friends were playing and I thought it would be fun to join in," Suski said. He plays defense, focusing on keeping the ball from getting anywhere near the goal. "It's fun. I feel like I get to control the game," Suski said. Outside of SPHS, he plays club soccer for Severna Park Vipers. Suski is undecided about continuing the sport in college. "If a college came to me and offered me a scholarship I'd definitely play," Suski said. He hopes to win county championships and make it to states this season.



Gordie Bernlohr scores a goal against opposing team, South River. Severna Park won the game 2-1, thanks to Bernlohr's goal in the last few seconds. "This season I'm hoping to score a lot of goals and go far in playoffs," Bernlohr said. Photo courtesy of Gordie Bernlohr.



Evan Blamphin is a center midfielder on varsity soccer. He has been playing soccer with Bernlohr since he was just six years old. "I hope to help the team improve and win a lot of games," Blamphin said. Photo courtesy of Evan Blamphin.



Elliot Skopp is one of the few talented juniors on varsity soccer. He has played soccer for SPHS since he was a freshman. "This season I'd like to score one goal because I haven't in years past," Skopp said. Photo courtesy of Elliot Skopp.



Jack Suski is a center defender looking forward to this season. He picked up the sport when he was only five years old. "The upcoming season is looking pretty good," Suski said. Photo courtesy of Jack Suski.



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Falcons Support Sean Murray in his Recovery

In the first football scrimmage of the year, senior Sean Murray went down and was airlifted from the field; he will never play again.

by CeCe Streaker | Editor-in-Chief

Gearing up to play in their second scrimmage in the 2018 season against St. Mary's High School, there was much excitement among the SPSHS football players. "Football is my absolute favorite thing about the year, it's all I would think about until it would start," Sean Murray said. The day of the scrimmage, varsity football coach Will Bell recalled a conversation he had with Murray before the Falcons took the field. "Sean stopped me and said, 'Thank you coach. I've never been so excited for football and I can't wait for the season,'" Bell said.

As the clock was ticking down in the second quarter, Murray caught a pass, and was hit from behind. "We all thought it was a normal injury but when we saw he wasn't moving we knew it was serious," senior Ryan Thorpe said.

Murray lay motionless on the field while trainers and coaches assessed his injuries. Paramedics were called when the seriousness of his injury was realized. Players and fans watched with worry as he was airlifted by helicopter and taken to Shock Trauma from the Bermuda fields behind the Roberts Fields Stadium.

The falcon's JV coach, Mike Wright rode alongside him in the

Sean Murray works hard to regain his strength daily. Although his injury changed his plans drastically he remains hopeful. "The injury has changed everything about my life... I am progressing slowly everyday," Murray said. Photos courtesy of Sean Murray



helicopter until Murray's parents were able to meet them at the hospital. While Murray was being taken into medical care, the Severna Park boys waited in the locker room to get back on the field. "When Sean got hurt we went back to the locker room and everyone was quiet, we said prayers for him and for a fast recovery," senior Garrett Edwards said. Despite Murray's injury and the break in the game both teams had to get back on the field and finish the scrimmage.

"It was really hard to focus on anything other than how was he was doing even when we had to keep playing the game," Thorpe said.

At Shock Trauma doctors worked hard to mend his injuries but discovered that Murray had fractured his spine and would never be able to play football or another contact sport again.

Being a football player for five years, Murray has had his share of injuries, including multiple broken ribs and fingers, a broken femur and a torn calf muscle, in addition to his now fractured spine.

Despite the setbacks, he persevered and would return back to the field after he healed, "Sean had the worst luck with injuries, but always persevered through it and inspired all of us to be strong when things didn't go our way," senior Cooley said.

Whether it was his time on the Severna Park Green Hornets or playing for the Falcons, he continues to be talked about positively by his teammates and coaches. "He was always up-tempo and happy on the field, but serious when he needed to



Number 24, senior Sean Murray, was a football player for the Severna Park Falcons. He played all four years for the Falcons, until he got injured in the second scrimmage of the season. "Sean is an amazing friend and player, I was sad to see him get hurt, we all were. We are praying for a fast recovery," senior Jake Cooley said. Photo courtesy Sean Murray

be. He had such a positive attitude and always made us laugh," Edwards said.

Now almost two months after the hit, Murray continues to try to regain his strength everyday. He continues to support his team at practices and games on the sidelines. Even though his plans for the season changed drastically, his positivity and determination to get better have inspired the Falcons to play with a purpose. "Sean still comes to practice every day with more love for the game than half of the kids on the team," senior Austin Persico said.

The injury reminded him and his teammates of how quickly life can change and the seriousness of their beloved sport. "We all thought about how that could have been any of us on that field and it's important to not take anything for granted because at any moment you can have everything snatched from you," Thorpe said.

Murray will always be remem-

bered for his strong athleticism and his positive outlook on life on and off the field. "The injury has changed everything about my life, all the little things I took for granted. I am progressing slowly everyday," Murray said. As his time in high school comes to an end, his legacy on the field will remain in the minds of his teammates in the seasons to come. "Being an underclassmen, I will always remember and pass on Sean's love for the game and support he gave us even when everything was crashing down for him," junior Colin DeFeo said.

The SPSHS football team takes pride in its brotherhood and the idea of supporting each other on and off the field. "He is a brother to all of us and always will be." Persico said. Although he will not be able to play contact sports again, he will always be there to support his team, "Sean Murray is truly an inspiration to all of us each day," Coach Bell said.

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