



the
TALON MARCH

OPIOIDS

A budding issue in Anne Arundel County.

RACISM IN THE COUNTY

It exists.

FINSTAS

An inside look at students' hidden Instagram accounts.

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TALK TO US

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COVER PHOTO

Mia Alexander, Maria Still, Amanda Vu, Sophie Grazioli and Kaylani Arriola Terry represent the diversity here at SPHS. Dr. George Arlotto, the Superintendent of Anne Arundel County Public Schools, creatED a newly-required course for all high schoolers that deals with cultural education. "[Students] can't be putting up hate symbols and causing intimidation to certain classes of people, to certain ethnicities. It's not right," Maryland Delegate Mark Chang said. Photo and graphic by Briana DeRosa.



Rock 'n' Roll Revival is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year at SPHS. All of the songs were selected from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. "I'm really excited about all the songs I'm in," sophomore Jaron Givens said. Photo by Alison Edwards.



The Prom Fashion Show is Key Club's biggest fundraiser of the year. Since the first fundraiser over ten years ago, the Prom Fashion Show has raised more than \$22,000 for March of Dimes. "It's really fulfilling to be able to see the people you're helping," senior Mallory Lentz said. Photo by Campbell Haney.



The girls softball team is looking to capture another state title this season. Last year, they won the state championship against Northwest High School. "I'm hoping to get as far as we can in playoffs," junior Kerri Kazmarek said. Photo courtesy of Campbell Kline.

Opioid Epidemic Affects Anne Arundel County

The opioid epidemic is becoming more prevalent in unexpected areas.

by Carson Whitney | Business Manager



In an attempt to raise public awareness about the issue, there is a sign outside the county police station that updates drivers on the current statistics on overdoses and deaths from heroin. Overdoses in Anne Arundel County have not slowed down for the past four years. "I want to see the number of fatalities go down," former County Executive Steve Schuh said. Photo by Carson Whitney.

Anne Arundel County is the third wealthiest county in the state of Maryland. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, it ranks as one of the most impacted opioid overdose areas in the nation. Throughout the year, the opioid-related death toll reached 155 people, a record high in the county. The previous year's number was reached by mid-November.

Throughout the elections for various Maryland offices, candidates integrated this issue into their campaigns. County Executive Stuart Pittman focused on addi-

tional county rehabilitation centers in the county and State's Attorney Anne Colt Leitess echoed the need for more resources to assist in addiction recovery areas. Former County Executive Steve Schuh has been named the executive director of the Opioid Operational Command Center, which, "works with state offices to coordinate everyone's efforts to make sure that [they] are deploying best practices across the state and to make sure that [they] are filling in gaps in the delivery systems," Schuh said. Throughout his term, Governor Larry Hogan has consis-

tently faced overdoses that plagued the state. In September of 2018, the state was granted \$66 million to combat the issue. In addition, the Government issued a State of Emergency which provided an additional \$50 million over five years to assist in the improvement of treatment and rehabilitation centers.

In 2018, Star Week emphasized on opioid addiction. A panel of guest speakers came to share their stories and provide extra motivation for students to avoid the dangers of opioids through the Not My Child campaign. According to

school counselor Lindsay Brown, the Not My Child presentations are school specific, as administrators and teachers are the ones who design the presentations for the school. Those on the panel ranged from addiction survivors to the former State's Attorney, Wes Adams. For over an hour, students sat in the auditorium listening to the speakers share personal stories on how quickly prescribed medicines can turn lives into a dark and deadly path of addiction. In advisory, students are currently taught about drug addiction and opioids. By implementing these lessons in school, it allows students to hear their teachers and mentors stress the importance of drug avoidance.

One of the panel speakers was science teacher Stephanie Travers. Her son Todd passed away from a heroin overdose on Oct. 29, 2013. Travers stressed the fact affected parents are often unaware. "I really didn't even give it that much

thought," Travers said. Although schools were training teachers on this issue well before the crisis struck Anne Arundel County, Travers' family was more focused on combating alcoholism and depression. "We really didn't have a clue," Travers said.

Todd Travers got his associate degree from Anne Arundel Community College and was employed by various companies before dropping out of University of Maryland, Baltimore County to pursue his dream of cooking. After revealing his addiction to his parents, they were shocked that this could have happened to their own child. "You just don't know if you will be one of those people that can take it and walk away," Travers said. Although they were set on finding a sober house, "the demand far exceeds the supply," Travers said. He continued the fight and became sober after completing the Drug Court Program. Ultimately, he relapsed and-

lost his battle with addiction by using dirty heroin. Although Travers' family was struggling to find proper care covered through insurance and availability, Travers is amazed by the resources available to those in need. "Anne Arundel County is so far ahead of everybody else," Travers said.

Anne Arundel County is facing one of the worst epidemics in the nation as opioids take over numerous communities. Awareness needs to continuously spread and every person must be aware of the detrimental impacts that opioids can have on one's life. Between government funding and school lessons, community members are hoping for just one person to rethink taking a drug and say no. In order to stop the growing trend of overdoses in our area, every effort is needed. "There is help, there is recovery, but people have to ask for it," Schuh said.



Stephanie Travers shares her message on the dangers of opioids. Travers lost her son, Todd, to addiction. "There's something so insidious about that drug," Travers said. Photo by Ella Eaton

// Do you know someone struggling with addiction? Call the county for help and resources at the addiction help line: 410.768.5522 or go to www.aahealth.org/heroin-and-prescription-narcotics/ for additional resources

The State of Hate

Hateful incidents are on the rise in Anne Arundel County and Maryland.

by Carey Cameron | Managing Editor

Severna Park is not a very diverse place. Only 15 percent of the SPHS population is a minority. I have lived here my entire life, becoming a first-hand witness to the homogenous culture of this town. In elementary school, the lack of diversity mixed with our limited cultural awareness, manifested itself in the form of accidental stereotyping and always pointing out the outliers in the room.

As we got older, our cultural awareness grew. We learned what a stereotype is. We learned what not to say to people who do not look like us. Yet our town remained the same: white, Christian, upper class.

The ignorance that has plagued our community is not isolated. Recently, there have been many hateful, racist incidents across Anne Arundel County and the state of Maryland, with incidents at Arundel High School, Chesapeake High School, Crofton Middle School, Chesapeake Bay Middle School and Southern High School. These incidents include hanging nooses in the school, drawing swastikas and other hateful graffiti, videos of students in KKK hoods and even a piece of paper with the words “Kill all blacks” on it.

At Broadneck, a student posted a statement on Snapchat includ-

ing a racial slur after the school lost to Annapolis in a basketball game. “This is really, unfortunately, a sad spreading of racial hate. It has no place in our community, it has no place in our state, it has no place in Anne Arundel County,” said Maryland Delegate Mark Chang (D-Glen Burnie).

Lawmakers like Chang have started to craft their responses to these incidents. When Chang was six years old, he walked out to his front yard and found a dead cat hanging from a noose on his fence because his family was Asian. This scarring event motivated him to sponsor House Bill four, which prevents the affixing of a noose or swastika on any property without permission from the owner of the property. If found guilty, the incident would be classified as a misdemeanor with penalties up to three years of imprisonment and/or a \$5000 fine. “I’ve heard nothing but support for this. The little bit of feedback that I’ve received from folks not supporting it; they’ve got nothing but hate in them. That kind of thinking and those kinds of action has no place in our community,” Chang said.

Other state officials are also working to create a solution to this problem. Dr. George Arlotto, the Superintendent of Anne Arundel

County Public Schools, is in the process of creating a required course for all high schoolers that deals with cultural education, called the Global Community Citizenship Course.

The class would be discussion-based with emphasis on diversity and the local history of each school. All freshmen would take the semester-long class and it would be a graduation requirement for all Anne Arundel County Public School students beginning with the class of 2023. Arundel High School has been testing the course since 2017, and it has now been approved by the Board of Education.

Even though SPHS has not had any public racist or anti-semitic incidents, we still have our fair share of problems stemming from our uniformity as illustrated by discriminatory incidents that do not get public attention, like the everyday use of racial slurs and offensive jokes.

Junior Tamia Manuel started a cultural awareness club called Culture United in order to shine light on cultures that are not necessarily discussed in depth in school curriculum, and combat the normalization of stereotypes in SPHS. Their first event was a Native American celebration in place of a Thanksgiving celebration in order to emphasize the injustices faced by

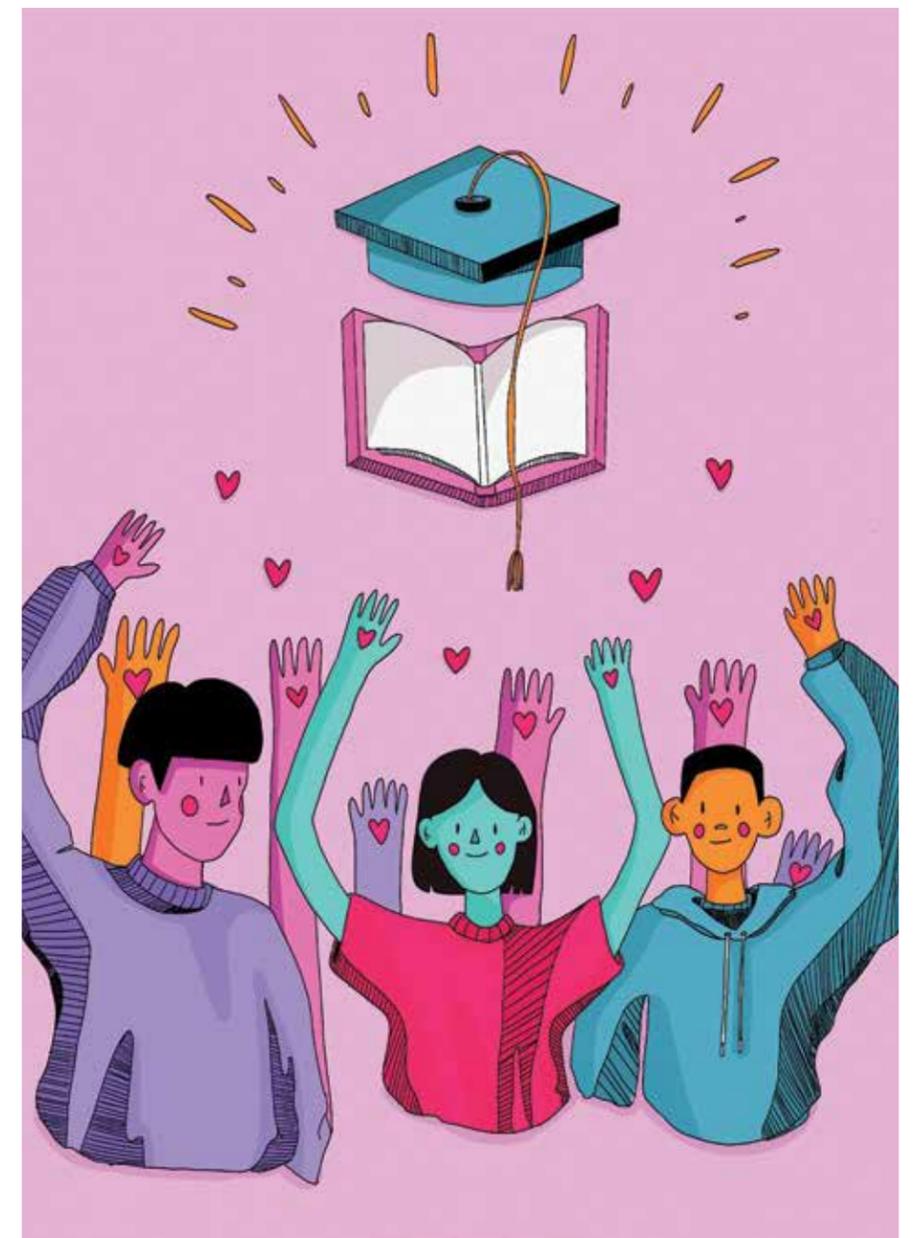
Native American people. “We want to have a safe place for people who don’t feel like they’re represented,” Manuel said.

The club has now become a space for students to talk about their experiences; good and bad. “We’ll end a meeting and people will talk about things that have happened to them,” Manuel said, “Some of the stories that I hear are just awful. People saying that they have the right to say slurs because of the first amendment. It’s not even just the n-word, it’s the f-word for gay people, and slurs that aren’t even used often anymore.”

The ignorance displayed in these incidents is not going to get fixed on its own. In fact, incidents like the ones in our own school system are on the rise. According to Catherine Rentz of the Baltimore Sun, reported hateful incidents in the state of Maryland rose 35 percent from 2016 to 2018. The rapid succession of these hateful acts in Anne Arundel County demonstrate that there is a serious problem brewing. How do we fix it? How do we address issues as complicated as racism, homophobia, anti-semitism, and xenophobia?

Although I cannot give you a sure answer to this question, I can make a suggestion. Listen. Be open to opinions that are not your own and values that are not the ones entrenched in your head. Take a walk in someone else’s shoes.

This is only step one of a long-term process to become better citizens of the world. Combined with impactful legislation and educa-



tion, respect and understanding could be the key to ending the ever-growing plague of hate and ignorance.

Recently, there has been an uptick in reported bias-motivated incidents in the state of Maryland as well as Anne Arundel County. These incidents caused Anne Arundel County, as well as the state, to re-evaluate their approach when it comes to promoting inclusion and diversity. “[Students] can’t be putting up hate symbols and causing intimidation to certain classes of people, to certain ethnicities. It’s not right,” Delegate Chang said. Graphic by Harper White.

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How the Opioid Crisis is Impacting Severna Park

Staff Editorial

that they know. However, the area we live in is so wealthy that the issue is often swept under the rug and is seen as increasingly taboo.

Teachers such as Stephanie Travers have taken part in the school wide panel, "Not My Child," where speakers shared their personal stories involving drug abuse. Anne Arundel County has taken steps to better inform students about the toll that drugs take on them, as well as the people around them, through the creation of the "Not My Child" program, which supports addiction therapy, thus preventing overdoses and deaths.

We believe although raising awareness is important, it's not always effective. Drug addiction is an epidemic that also needs consis-

tent, stable funding to keep people clean, and healthy after recovering as well.

Politicians and government officials are voicing their opinions on the issue, but doing little to prevent it. Even if they are making policies and programs against it, the measures they are taking are not enough. Part of the reason that drug issues like this happen in counties and schools similar to ours is because of the stigma attached to them. People assume the face of addiction is among the homeless or those in poverty, but in reality addiction is all around us, and needs to be dealt with without judgment. We need real laws, proposals and campaigns that can target students before they use drugs, and provide constant, safe help without judgment if they do. We need more of these resources in schools and free clinics that all people could access.

Overall, our staff believes that there is a lot of talking but not enough action being taken in terms of preventative measures to prevent the start of drug use and abuse, and most times, the situation gets worse before it gets better.

Questions and Answers:

What do students think of safety at Severna Park High School?

by Toni Fiocco-Mizer | Staff Writer



Sam Honecker

Honecker is a junior who works at the YMCA in Arnold and plays basketball there. Photo by Melanie Reynolds.

How do you feel about this school's overall security? I think the school is very safe and locked down.

Do you think we need more or less security? Why? The amount of security we have now is good because when the kid brought in the knife it was handled well and nothing really happened.

Regarding the current political climate, how do you feel about teachers carrying guns in school? I think that would not end up well because the community would definitely complain about it and it wouldn't be safe.



Kyra-Leigh Hymons

Hymons is a junior who participates in Culture United, NHS and NFHS. Photo by Melanie Reynolds.

How do you feel about this school's overall security? We definitely get a lot more privileges and have less security because of where we live... I think it's because we are stereotyped as the perfect Severna Park, like people don't think they can do wrong around here.

Do you think we need more or less security? Why? Since we are such a predominately white school, I think if we had more stuff like more cops and maybe bag searches it would become a problem of targeting the minorities of the school.

Regarding the current political climate, how do you feel about teachers carrying guns in school? I don't think teachers should have guns, I don't personally want to be around people with guns especially at school which is kind of obvious.



Elijah Hill

Hill is a senior who has played football for four years at SPSHS and takes additional classes at AACC. Photo by Melanie Reynolds.

How do you feel about this school's overall security? I feel like the school's current security is fine. Swartz does a good job with that.

Do you think we need more or less security? Why? I think we need more security because a kid actually brought a knife into school.

Regarding the current political climate, how do you feel about teachers carrying guns in school? Knowing some of the teachers at this school, that idea seems comical to me.



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Finsta-gram

The truth about the popular side accounts.

by Greer Long | News Editor



A “finsta” is a combination of the words “fake” and “Instagram.” These alternative Instagram accounts have become increasingly popular among teenagers in recent years. “Finstas can be good... people use it as an outlet to show their real personalities,” junior Rosslyn Scott said. Photo by Greer Long.

Instagram has gained popularity among teens over the past decade, as an effective platform for people to interact with others and share photos from their lives. Because Instagram accounts are generally geared towards the public, numerous teenagers have resorted to creating a finsta, or an alternate Instagram account.

A “finsta” is a combination of the words “fake” and “Instagram.” Most finsta accounts are owned by teenage girls, along with some boys. They are more hidden than a “rinsta,” or “real insta,” usually having around 100 to 200 followers. The usernames are often puns of the owner’s real name, making the accounts harder to find than a rinsta.

Junior Ally Gray has a group finsta account with a few of her friends, where they post funny photos, videos and rants about their lives. “I like posting on my finsta to make people laugh at things I wouldn’t post on my real account,” Gray said. Gray and the other account owners allow their close friends to follow their finsta, along with people they know who go to other schools.

Having a finsta allows people to connect online on a more personal level, but for some that may be a downside. Although junior Rosslyn Scott has a finsta, from what she has seen, “finstas are negative spaces where people get in fights with others and it’s socially acceptable to

do that.” It is popular for people to confront others on their finsta, with or without the other person knowing. “Doing this leaves people wondering if the post was about them, which may lead to confrontation and more fighting, even if they were not involved,” Scott said.

Another unique thing about finstas is that the account owners are not concerned with the number of followers and likes they receive. Because people are posting about their lives on a more personal level, having less followers means they have more privacy. “I usually post things I wouldn’t want most of the public to see, like semi-personal stuff,” senior Travis Victorio said.

Having a finsta gives people

the chance to post what they want on their Instagram account without the pressure of getting hundreds of likes on a picture. “Because it’s just for your close friends, you don’t have as many followers. It’s more for your own pleasure,” freshman Abbie Smith said.

Like most social media apps, Instagram is time consuming, especially if you have a finsta. Junior Anna Marcoon recently gave up her finsta to make more time for school and sports. “Since people are constantly posting on their finstas, it made me check it a lot and put off things like homework,” Marcoon

said. Although it is hard not being in the loop of everything that is going on, she “really enjoys not having it now” and spends time doing more important things.

There are plenty of ups and downs that come with owning a finsta. Not only do they help you connect with friends, they also help you meet people from other schools that you may find relatable. “You can make a lot friends on your finsta which is really fun,” sophomore Brittany Seda said.

However, along with the good also comes the bad, including the constant urge to check your phone

and the unhealthy habit of comparing yourself to others. “Some people’s posts are really annoying when it seems like they’re complaining about something that doesn’t need to be complained about,” Victorio said.

All good things should come in moderation, yet many teenagers do not understand this while using social media. Although finstas have many positive aspects, negative features of these accounts appear as well. As social media evolves, finstas may or may not stick around, but for now, they remain very popular for students.



There is a visible difference between what people post on their “finsta” versus their “rinsta.” Finsta accounts originated as an effective way to share personal problems and interact with friends online. “The stuff I post on my finsta is definitely a lot more personal than what I post on my real account,” junior Lexi Kasten said. Photos courtesy of Lexi Kasten.

Life After SPHS

These seniors plan on entering the workforce after high school.

by Melanie Reynolds | Opinion Editor

As the school year reaches its midpoint, most seniors are becoming anxious, awaiting college decisions. Finishing high school and attending a university the following year seems like a rite of passage, and almost a necessity in today's world. However, for some seniors, college is not the next step in life.

Meet Carter Nagel. At eighteen years old, he is already dreaming of working on his family's farm for the rest of his life. "I don't feel like I need college for the trade I'm going down in my life, which is becoming an electrician and working for my dad at the farm," Nagel said.

His family owns and operates Nagel Farm Service, a business that Nagel has grown up with. Instead of college, he plans on doing an apprenticeship for an electric company before joining the workforce. "After high school, I'm going to go work for somebody for four years, learn everything that I can, and then switch back over to Nagel Farm Service," he said. "I'm going to Lyewood Electric on the Eastern Shore, we do a lot of business with them."

In a completely different field, senior Caeden Ackerman has a similar plan for life after high school. Ackerman has been taking cooking classes since he was young, and plans on pursuing cooking as a career. "When I was a lot younger, my



Senior Carter Nagel currently works on his family farm. He has been active in the business since he was younger. "[An electrician] is the position we need filled at the family business so I decided to fill that spot," Nagel said. Photo courtesy of Carter Nagel.

granddad taught me how to cook, and then when I was eight or nine, he passed away due to lung cancer, and I ended up taking a bunch of [cooking] classes," Ackerman said.

As a CAT South culinary student, he devotes about half of the of the school day to learning the art of cooking. Ackerman already works at a five-star restaurant in Baltimore, Woodberry Kitchen, under award-winning chef, Spike Gjerde.

Like Nagel, Ackerman plans on doing an apprenticeship instead of conventional schooling. "You could go to culinary school or you could go do an apprenticeship, which is what I'll probably do for the current chefs I work for," he said. In the future, he dreams of cooking professionally. "I want to

run my own restaurant," Ackerman said.

Senior Brian Bohem plans on enlisting in the Marines instead of attending conventional college. Being in the military was always a dream of his. "I never had an interest in college," Bohem said, "I just want to stay in the Marines and retire after."

His family is what inspired him the most, and since he was a child, he has grown up many around military figures. "I've always wanted to be a Marine," Bohem said. "My grandpa was a Marine and I have five generations of people in my family in the military, that's what inspired me most to do it."

Rock 'n' Roll Revival XXX

Rock 'n' Roll cast members prepare for their annual production and the plague.

by Emma Jeter | Staff Writer

Rock 'n' Roll Revival is celebrating its 30th anniversary at SPHS. All the songs that have been selected for this year's song list are required to be from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. This includes classic hits such as Bon Jovi's "Living on a Prayer," Earth, Wind & Fire's "Let's Groove" and RUN-DMC's "It's Tricky."

However, because students must practice for hours in close quarters, most of the cast tends to get sick. Usually, one person will develop a contagious illness, and then it will spread to the rest of the performers. The illness has been dubbed the 'RnR Plague.'

"They used to have buckets off stage. People would go off stage and throw up and then go back on stage. It was insane" senior Isabel Gonzalez said. Gonzalez is the lead in "Living on a Prayer."

Junior Peter Cope said, "[Sick people] just perform anyways but it's really hard." Cope is the lead in Fats Domino's "I'm Walking" and plays lead trombone in the Rock 'n' Roll band. Cast members work hard to deliver an amazing performance, and they often have to push through their illnesses so they can still have the opportunity to be on stage.

Last year, junior Annabelle Cotton contracted a terrible case of the plague. "I got a virus that had almost turned into laryngitis... I

completely lost my voice. I couldn't sing at all or talk, and I passed out in the hallway," Cotton said. This year, she is the lead in Joan Baez's "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down."

Despite this drawback, cast members are more than excited about the production. Every year, the cast has two tailgates during the run of the show where they play games and eat food. After opening night, most performers will go to the Double T Diner together. On closing night, seniors will give speeches backstage to the rest of the cast about their experience with the show, along with funny anecdotes and expressions of gratitude for being part of the show.

As advice to new and future members of RnR, sophomore Jaron Givens said, "Always think about what you can do to improve yourself. That's always what a director looks for: someone they can work with and someone they can trust in." He is dancing in multiple numbers including "Let's Groove," "It's Tricky" and "Vogue."

Gonzalez also had a piece of advice for new members: "Just be open about [the show]. Every single year is so different for Rock 'n' Roll. That's the cool part about it: you don't really know what's going to happen."



Senior Isabel Gonzalez is singing Aretha Franklin's "Think" in last year's Rock 'n' Roll performance. Gonzalez won the "best performer" senior superlative. "[This year] is the first rock song I've ever had because I've always had R&B songs. It's going to be a lot of work," Gonzalez said. Photo courtesy of Isabel Gonzalez.



Juniors Sofia Urrutia (left), Erin Jeter (middle) and Marie Hilbert (right) are dancing in Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" in last year's Rock 'n' Roll performance. They all have been participating in this show since they were freshman. "This was my favorite number last year. It was so hype and we radiated the crowd's energy," Jeter said. Photo courtesy of Erin Jeter.

Our very own Internet Stars

SPHS students have created a name for themselves on and off the internet.

by CeCe Streaker | Editor-in-Chief

The majority of students have a social media account where they post pictures of themselves and what they are doing. Whether it be Youtube, Instagram or Twitter, these apps have created a platform for young adults to promote themselves. Many students have followers who they know personally or mutually, but a few of our very own classmates have created social media accounts that have gone viral, creating a known name for themselves and a somewhat “famous” reputation.

Sophomore Ellie Cooley created the Instagram account @_elliecooley about three years ago when she was a competitive gymnast. On her account, where she shows and practices her skills, she has acquired over 150,000 followers. Cooley’s account consists mainly of videos of her gymnastic, diving and tumbling skills. Although she does not compete as a gymnast anymore due to a back injury, she still creates tumbling videos that have gone viral on Instagram. “I have over 150,000 followers on my page and sometimes get free gymnastics mats and athletic clothes to promote on my account,” Cooley said.

Another popular Instagram

handle is @lexitumbles, where freshman Lexi Hilliard also shows off her tumbling and gymnastics skills to all of her followers. “I just started posting tumbling videos with my friends and it just kind of took off,” Hilliard said.

Hilliard’s account now has about 20,400 followers and is continuing to grow everyday. She has

also gotten her name out to various companies where she has received positive feedback. “Companies sometimes reach out and ask me to promote their products on my page, so they send me free merchandise,” Hilliard said.

Youtube is another popular social media platform that many high schoolers watch and post vid-



TWIN CHALLENGE!! Who Knows Who Better?

60K views



1.7K



20



Share



Save



Report

Twins Sydney and Luke Herz are freshmen this year and have been working on their Youtube channel for some time now. Today they have over 214,00 subscribers on their account. “We get money and free products everytime someone watches our account but we chose to donate to charity,” Luke Herz said. Photo courtesy of Sydney Herz.

Sophomore Ellie Cooley posts pictures and videos that appeal to her followers. She has been tumbling on her Instagram account for the past three years. “It’s fun and I love to post my videos,” Ellie Cooley said. Photo courtesy of Ellie Cooley.



271,152 views · Liked by mira.zorc and sophiekrejcii

Freshmen Lexi Hilliard is a self-taught gymnast who posts photos and videos on her Instagram page. She has gained over 20,400 followers and her account continues to grow everyday. “I taught myself how to tumble and enjoy sharing it to m followers,” Hilliard said. Photo courtesy of Lexi Hilliard.



33,968 views · Liked by erinrosekearney and paige.g

eos on. Twins Sydney and Luke Herz have created @Sydnastical on Youtube which has over 214,000 subscribers. Their account was started in 2014 and has skyrocketed in views and subscribers over the years. “We have friends who were already famous on Youtube and they helped us to create our account and get it started,” freshman Sydney Herz said.

The account consists of singing, baseball and gymnastic videos, along with twin challenges made by both Luke and Sydney. The account has not only created a name for both the twins, it also has given them

opportunities to promote products and earn money. “We get a half a cent every time someone clicks on our video and get paid to advertise companies and brand names in our videos,” freshman Luke Herz said. Despite the money the twin’s gain from their hard work, they have decided to donate the money that they get from their videos to charity.

Twins Sydney and Luke both said they have gotten hate comments on their accounts too, mostly from people they don’t know. “I get hate comments from my videos but I try my best to just ignore them,” Sydney Herz said.

Many students have social media accounts, however these students have created quite a unique name for themselves. Despite the popularity on the internet, the free merchandise and money, these students have created their accounts to show off their talent and interests.

“I just love showing off what I love to do and am passionate about,” Hilliard said. These students have an abundance of unique talent that has sparked the followers’ attention, and we look forward to seeing where it takes them in the future.

150,000 followers

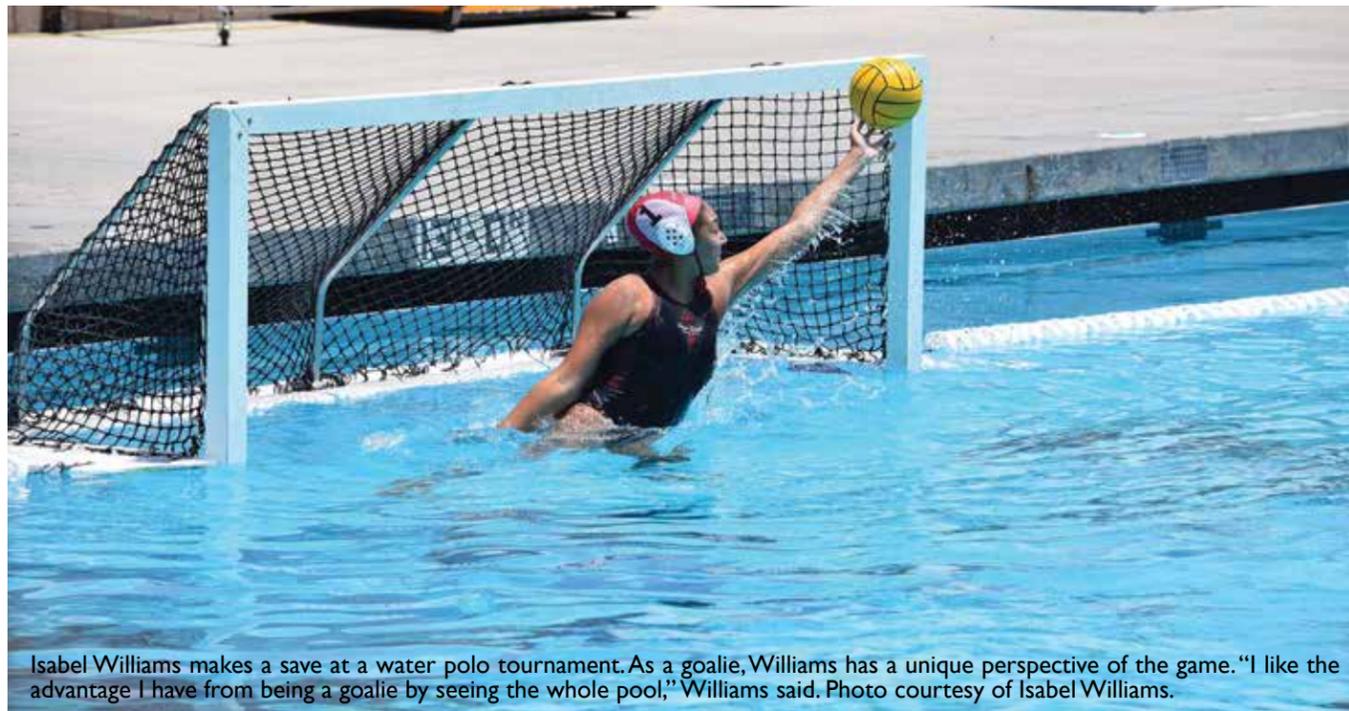
214,000 subscribers

20,400 followers

Isabel Williams

A water polo star shines in the pool.

by Matt Mangano | Features Editor



Isabel Williams makes a save at a water polo tournament. As a goalie, Williams has a unique perspective of the game. "I like the advantage I have from being a goalie by seeing the whole pool," Williams said. Photo courtesy of Isabel Williams.

It is a relatively unknown sport, but for junior Isabel Williams, water polo is her life. For the past ten years, Williams has been playing water polo as a goalie for the U.S. Naval Academy club team. "I love being able to work with other people when we're all trying to win and do our best," Williams said.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, water polo consists of two teams of seven; six field players and one goalkeeper, who attempt to score by throwing a ball into the opponent's net. It sounds simple enough, until swimming for an hour comes into play. "A lot of people get surprised at how long we are treading water because you can't

stand on the bottom, especially as a goalie," Williams said. This makes water polo different from every other sport, and is one of the many reasons Williams so thoroughly enjoys playing it.

Williams was inspired to start playing because of her siblings before her. Her brother, Ronan, best known as the Grit Fairy around SPHS, has been a role model for Williams throughout her life. "He has been an inspiration for me, and I see how successful he is. He's a captain of the water polo team at the Naval Academy, and he's doing great things there," Williams said.

Williams started playing goalie because of her brother, who was

a goalie before her. "I'm quite tall if you haven't noticed. One of my older coaches saw that my brother was tall and a good goalie and said, 'Hey you're probably going to be pretty tall, why don't you start being a goalie?' And I only got better and taller with age," Williams said.

Playing water polo has had a great impact on Williams, and has given her the chance to travel across the world to places such as California, Italy, Hungary and France. Williams got the opportunity to train and compete with many different club teams, including the Rose Bowl Aquatic Club with whom she traveled to California, Italy and France, and the USA Wa-



(LEFT) Isabel Williams dives to make a save at the Junior Olympics in California. Williams and her team won third place in the tournament. "I've gotten to travel and see water polo all around the world," Williams said. Photo courtesy of Isabel Williams.

(DOWN) Isabel Williams poses with her teammates Maddie Schultz and Shaye Story in Hungary. Her team won first place in the tournament. "It was a great opportunity to represent the United States in this tournament and awesome that we won first," Williams said. Photo courtesy of Isabel Williams.



ter Polo Olympic Development Program (ODP) where she competed in a tournament in California with the Northeast Zone team, and was selected for the Futures National Team in Hungary. Her team represented the United States and had great success in the tournament. They won first place and Williams won best goalkeeper of the entire tournament.

Training for Williams is quite rigorous, with practices up to five times a week alongside tournaments on the weekend, making her schedule incredibly busy. "My friends are understanding and support me when I can't make something because I have practice. A lot

of times I'm bringing school work in the car or on the plane," Williams said.

Despite the grueling schedule, the team is sure to have fun while practicing. "While we were in Italy, we had practice at an outdoor pool. Afterwards we had to swim back from our practice in the ocean. It was roughly a mile. We swam across a harbour and boats were honking and yelling at us," Williams said. "It was actually kind of scary; we almost got hit by a boat."

The opportunities afforded by water polo do not stop with travel to new places. Williams hopes to continue to play in college. "I have been in contact with Stanford University,

Harvard University, UC Berkeley and Princeton University within the last few months," Williams said.

Williams plans to commit in the very near future, but is waiting for the decisions of other players and universities before she makes her decision. "It's such a small community with such a small group of people, once someone makes a decision it will impact everyone else's decisions," Williams said. "I hope to know where I'm going by the start of my senior year."

For Isabel Williams, her future playing water polo is filled with clear waters.

4Peat

The boys lacrosse team is looking to win its fourth straight state title.

by Colin DeFeo | Sports Editor

Last season in the 4A state championship there were two minutes and forty seconds left in overtime, with Severna Park all tied up with Church Hill 7-7, when junior Mikie Harmeyer scored a clutch goal to win the game. The SPHS boys have won three consecutive state championships. If the team continues their winning streak, they could have a historic victory by winning four consecutive state championships, but it all starts with a successful season that leads to the playoffs.

The off-season is a major contributing factor for success, especially later on in the state finals. Off-season workouts are “very serious consisting of workouts three days a week with a day of running,” senior Jimmy Maher said.

Keeping in shape for lacrosse is vital due to the quick pace of the game. “The off-season mainly consists of workouts so we are in the best shape we can be in when the season comes,” senior Shane Carr said.

Approaching this season the team has important goals but much depends on how the team performs and reacts to adversity. “I just think about the other teammates that are



Senior Shane Carr celebrating his second state championship win. Carr has been a key component in the past two state championships as the starting goalie. “It’s hard to describe the intensity from the championships game but it fuels me to show out and play good,” Carr said. Photo by Katie Arndt.

gonna step up and help us go for another state title,” sophomore Col-in Shadowens said.

Preparing for the upcoming season has various factors regarding includes mental preparation: “You can just prepare physically but lots of mental things you just have to learn to deal with as it goes,” senior Niles Tinsley said.

Mental preparation for the final game is necessary since it can be “nerve racking but very exciting,” junior Alex Miller said.

The team was graduated numerous Division I players including Josh Coffman (University of Maryland) and Dean Draughn (University of Maryland). “We graduated a

lot of talent last year but we have a good group of kids who are ready to work this year and step into bigger roles on the team,” junior Cameron Bear said.

The number one goal for the season is simple: another state title. With this in mind, the boys are already preparing for tryouts in early March. “I’m really excited about this season and hoping to make another push for a state title,” junior Mark Bredeck said.

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Sports Budgets

How much funding does each sport program get?

by Shelby Chasser & Matt Mangano



It's no secret that in order to keep any athletic program afloat it requires a large amount of money, and with the athletic program being one of Severna Park's largest, the funds must be adequate enough to sustain all of the twenty-three sports. So how does the school distribute said money to fit the budget?

Every year, the athletic department is given an allotment of funds each year identified at Materials of Instruction (MOI). These funds are also given to schools in every department (math, science, art, English, etc.). According to Clayton Culp, the Coordinator of Athletics, "For the past couple school years, the athletics MOI has been in the range of \$18,000 per high school, [and] the exact distribution of those funds is determined at the school level."

One of the most popular sports among students and adults at SPHS is football. Administration at the school seems to recognize this because \$4,000 of the budget is marked for football equipment reconditioning, the largest distribution of the funds. Not to mention every player of the team is required at the start of the season to put in a seven dollar team fee, and every player must participate in a team fund raiser of selling Blitz-cards for \$20 each.

Most athletics teams ask their players at the start of the season for a team fee that helps to purchase additional equipment, fund team dinners and fund team activities. "It is at the discretion of the coach to decide if they feel they need to charge a team fee and what that amount is," SPHS Athletic Director David Lanham said, "If they do charge a fee, that amount has to be approved by me."

On the other end of the funding spectrum, the girl's varsity volleyball team receives significantly less funding than football. They also have a larger team fee, which is usually around \$100 to \$110. This covers the cost of extra equipment the girls need like spandex, game socks and t-shirts. "The team makes a bulk purchase of these things (cheaper) and the girls then pay for the cost of these items (which they keep). We try to keep the cost as low

as possible, and subsidize the cost of the apparel with team funds when available," coach Timothy Dunbar said.

Other teams like varsity cheerleading also require a large amount of funding that is not initially provided by the school. They have a \$50 team fee, \$60 booster fee, a \$30 bow fee and \$100 fee for warm-up uniforms. In addition, they have fund raisers for their main uniforms, in order to minimize the largest cost.

Funding for athletics at SPHS is not portioned evenly between all the fall, winter and spring sports programs, for example, football receives more money than volleyball and cheerleading.

We reached out to the SPHS Boosters president for comment on their budget, but did not receive a response.



The stadium is a relatively new addition to the sports complex. Although the stadium is split between all the teams for practice in fall, football had priority for games. Photo by Campbell Haney.

Ty Broadway

A sophomore wrestler strives to be elite for the second year in a row.

by Nick Carparelli | Sports Media Manager

After a successful season last year, sophomore Ty Broadway reached the state tournament and excelled to his own disbelief. It took just one individual, Brian Creek, the Glen Burnie assistant wrestling coach, to inspire Broadway to try something new.

"Coach Creek, the Glen Burnie wrestling coach, he wanted me to do wrestling," Broadway said, "I originally didn't want to do wrestling because I thought it would be a weird sport, but as the season went on I enjoyed it more and more."

During Broadway's freshman year, he was pulled up to varsity after only two weeks on the junior varsity team. Broadway has been able to improve his game by practicing against other skilled players. "I try to surround myself with the best group of people that can make me better. I wrestle Coach Trevor Bryden often in practice so he can teach me new things," Broadway said.

Even though wrestling is a high-contact sport, the mental aspect is just as important as the physical. "It is such a mental sport because you have to believe you can beat your opponent and if you have the confidence in yourself the physical part will take care of itself," Broadway said.

Broadway is ranked in the top twenty in the state for his weight class. This creates massive amounts of pressure for him, so he tries to keep the distractions out. "I don't



Ty Broadway wrestles his opponent at the state tournament. This year, Broadway tried to focus especially on the mental part of the game. "It is such a mental sport because you have to believe you can beat your opponent and if you have the confidence in yourself the physical part will take care of itself," Broadway said. Photo by LifeTouch

feel any pressure, I just go on the mat and try to do my best every time I am out there, just giving it 100 percent every time," Broadway said.

As a freshman, Broadway competed with seniors in the state tournament and will still have to work his way there again with a chip on his shoulder. "It feels good that I can play at such a high level and compete with the best, at the same time it makes me feel that I can compete with guys like that, that are in their senior year and I was just a freshman," Broadway said. Broadway will be going down to the 195-pound weight class as he seeks different competition.

His teammates are impressed with how far Broadway has come in such a short amount of time. "This is his second year of wrestling ever, and to see how far he has gotten is incredible," teammate Jimmy Hopper said.

Trevor Bryden, the first-year varsity head coach at SPHS, is excited to coach Broadway and see him

progress from freshman year. "Ty is a great kid and a great wrestler. He has improved quite a bit since last year and still has room to grow," Bryden said.

During the season, Bryden worked with Broadway to help him reach his goals for the season. "Ty's goal for this year [was] to place top 8 in the state," Bryden said.

Going in to the state tournament, Broadway was 33-6. After winning his first match, Broadway lost twice and was eliminated from the tournament. However, other members of the team found some success including Connor Bowes, who got fifth in the 220 weight class.

Broadway recommends that anyone who is interested in wrestling should try out for the team. "All coaches want you to do is wrestle hard. You might not have the most skill at it but as long as you are working hard, that is all coaches will want from you," Broadway said.

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