



the
TALON

JANUARY

TEXAS ROADHOUSE

A review of potentially the best restaurant on Earth.

2020 HOROSCOPES

What does 2020 have in store for the signs?

SCRUB BASKETBALL






The best players of the best league.

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TALK TO US

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COVER PHOTO

Every winter, hundreds of basketball players are drafted into teams that compete throughout the season. Scrub basketball has become a treasured SPHS tradition, with many students participating in the sport each year. "Scrub is the most fun version of pickup ever created," senior Joey Killpatrick said. Photo by Connor Killeen.



Junior Ty Broadway prepares to take his opponent down to the ground during a wrestling match. Broadway was a finalist at the state tournament last year. "I don't want to just make states, I want to win the whole thing," Broadway said. Photo by Maddy Fangio.

What's Happening This Month?

- Jan. 20:** Schools Closed (MLK Day)
- Jan. 21:** Indoor Track County Championship
- Jan. 23:** Polar Bear Plunge
- Jan. 24:** Boys Basketball v. Broadneck
Girls Basketball v. Broadneck
- Jan. 28:** Two-Hour Early Dismissal
Girls Basketball v. Glen Burnie
- Jan. 29:** Two-Hour Early Dismissal
End of Second Marking Period
- Jan. 30:** Schools Closed
- Jan. 31:** Beginning of Third Marking Period

COMING IN FEBRUARY

- Feb. 1:** RnR Tickets on Sale
- Feb. 7:** Swimming County Championship
- Feb. 10:** Report Card Distribution
- Feb. 12:** Two-Hour Early Dismissal
- Feb. 17:** Schools Closed (Presidents Day)
- Feb. 18:** Indoor Track State Championship
- Feb. 21:** Wrestling County Championship
- Feb. 22:** Boys Basketball County Championship
Girls Basketball County Championship
Wrestling County Championship

But Bathras, Why?

A Q&A with SPHS's principal.

by Henry Wright | Staff Writer

Q & A

Patrick Bathras has been the principal at SPHS for the past 11 years, and in his time he has had made some pivotal changes. These decisions have shaped SPHS and made it the school it is today. The Talon conducted a Q&A interview to learn a bit more about those determinations and their inspiration.

Q: Why don't we have school-wide WiFi when there could be emergencies?

A: It is not a school choice, it's a technology choice by the Board of Ed. For the ability to have WiFi in all buildings, it's an extraordinary amount of money, which is mainly because this building is so large.

It's not by choice, it's about the building itself. It structurally doesn't allow for a WiFi signal. For emergency purposes, we do have some cell service and then we have an emergency walkie-talkie that goes straight to the police, fire and the computer center at the board. We also have Officer Swartz all the time.

Q: Why can't sports teams play music with lyrics during games/warm-ups?

A: Like the WiFi, it's not a school choice. That's the Athletic Department's responsibility and they stopped that a couple years ago when the lyrics got too vulgar or inappropriate. The Athletic Department and I

were unsure about many of the songs and when they played people would take offense and we wouldn't understand the lyrics or references. But that's across the county, a lot of the Athletic Departments across the county just went straight to the musical beat portion. We offered the captains of the teams the opportunity to make playlists for warm-ups as long as the songs were appropriate. As the season went on, it got more and more tedious for them to adjust and make them. In the end, the idea was scrapped, and everyone settled for the song's beat to be played, as originally planned.

Q: Why do only some classrooms have cameras?

A: That was just the way the building was built. The intention isn't to have cameras in classrooms. With the technology department, they have so much technology and expenses down there in terms of equipment, that the cameras were put in for security purposes, such as defense against theft and other crimes. They're mainly put in hallways, stairwells, main lobby areas and the exterior of the building.

Q: Have you seen any impacts from the 13-minute later school start time?

A: I don't know about the impacts, but it's a lot nicer. Unfortunately, we can't make it any later, because then it gets involved with the morning rush hour and just causes so much traffic. If we moved school start time to 8:20, you'd still have to get up at the same time in order to bypass the traffic. We've heard that northern Virginia used this plan, and they found the same thing that we expected.

Q: Many students complain about scratching their cars on the dip in the road as they leave the SPHS parking lot. Are there any plans to fix it?

A: The biggest thing is, if you take it slow you're not going to hit the bottom. So you really just have to drive slower than you think, if you hit it then you're just going too fast. The second thing is that it moves the runoff. The divot is engineered to move runoff and avoid any buildup. Basically, if we didn't have it, the runoff would then

build up and create a giant puddle or ice.

Q: Why can't athletes or students in theatre productions participate in games, practice, rehearsals or shows if they are late to school or leave early without a doctor's note? Why is the policy so strict?

A: It's been a policy the 12 years I've been here and it's mainly because extracurricular activities are extra, you know. They're a privilege and academics should come first. You can't just skip school and say you're sick so you can rest for the big show that night or big game. We found that most people would skip, or say they were sick so they could stay home and rest, as opposed to actually being sick and having a legitimate reason to miss school. It also does help with our overall attendance rate which gets checked in our annual rating.

Q: Why can't there be posters or paintings on the walls?

A: We have our "What's Happening" areas of current events or posters to advertise things, teachers' rooms have posters of their choice all over their walls and SPTV advertises almost every event along with informing the students about the schools news and whatever may be happening. We just don't want to fill the walls with too many posters, as they can chip the paint or pull it off when being removed. Also, so many posters would make kids numb to the ads and you just wouldn't even notice them after a while.

Q: What happened to the policy of no homework or tests during STAR week?

A: I don't believe it was ever a policy, and just more of a best practice. With all the AP tests and now MCAP, you just have so many tests at the end of the year that it just gets too tough and it gets too hard to not give ANY tests. However, we do have teachers use their best discretion to not swamp the kids with work and give pardons to some kids if the work just becomes too much.

Q: Why doesn't the school recycle?

A: WE DO! I honestly don't know where the assumption comes from that we don't. We do have separate containers. It's just that it's one-stream recycling so we have to hope that they are recycling everything when they take it away. We're not 100 percent sure where it goes when it leaves this building, but just like at home, we hope it gets recycled as advertised.

Q: Why are some student bathrooms occasionally locked/closed?

A: Sometimes it's just cleaning. A lot of times we just shut it down to give custodians time to handle that. We also just have routine maintenance, you know. There's a lot of bathrooms on each floor. Whether or not they lock the bathrooms depends on the cleaning or maintenance issues.

Decade Rewind

A list of memorable events from the past 10 years.

by Peter Regala | Business Manager

2010

- Haiti is devastated by a 7.0 earthquake, leading to a death toll of over 230,000
- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, is signed into law

2011

- The Board of Education gives permission to build the new SPHS building
- Osama bin Laden is killed by U.S. forces
- Snapchat is launched

2012

- An attack on the U.S. embassy in Benghazi, Libya kills four U.S. dignitaries
- Hurricane Sandy makes landfall on the Jersey Shore and Long Island
- Obama wins re-election

2013

- Two bombs detonate at the Boston Marathon, killing three people
- Edward Snowden leaks classified information about the National Security Agency

2014

- The Ebola epidemic becomes a global crisis
- Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappears

2015

- Mock Trial wins the state championship
- The Paris Climate Agreement is adopted
- Same-sex marriage is legalized in all 50 states

2016

- Boys lacrosse wins their first state title since 2010
- Donald Trump wins the presidential election over Hillary Clinton
- Last school day in the old SPHS building

2017

- Women's March on Washington takes place
- Doors open to the new SPHS building
- A total solar eclipse spans the U.S.

2018

- The Winter Olympic Games take place in Pyeong, South Korea
- The Special Counsel investigation of Robert Mueller about possible tampering of the 2016 election concludes

2019

- Rock 'n' Roll XXX takes place at SPHS
- Field hockey wins their first state title since 2015
- President Trump is impeached by the House



Scholarships and Awards

The Support Education Foundation is proud to provide scholarships to students who strive to further their education and professional development awards to educators who have made a difference by positively impacting student success.

High school seniors

- \$3,000 Dorothy Marvil Scholarship
- \$3,000 Rosemary Brinkley Business and Finance Scholarship

Community college students

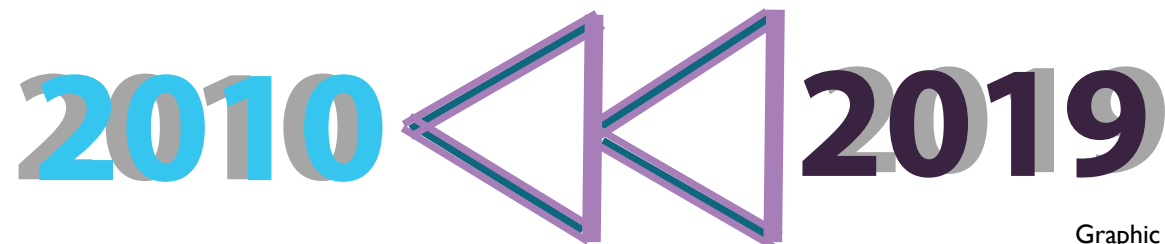
- \$3,000 Community College Scholarship

Public school and community college educators

- \$1,000 Maurice Erly Professional Development Award

Learn more

Visit SupportEducation.org for more information and complete eligibility requirements. Applications are due by April 1, 2020.



Graphic by Greer Long

The Best Books of High School

Favorite novels among the students and teachers at SPHS.

by Sophie Krejci | Staff Writer



Students enjoy various types of books and styles of writing. These books have been read by SPHS students throughout the summer or school year. "Fiction has a way of telling us the truth about life that sometimes factual books miss," Sabra Hill said. Photo by Sophie Krejci.

The books we read are meant to help us learn ways of viewing the world and can be beneficial for the mind. For some people, there is one book that kickstarted their love of literature, for others it was an inspiration and sadly for some, "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck ruined their reading experience forever.

Senior Maeve Harrington's favorite novel is "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini, a book many students read junior year in AP English Language and Composition. "A Thousand Splendid Suns" is a novel told through the voices of the characters Mariam and Lai-

la. Both are Afghan girls who develop an unbreakable bond through their marriage to the same abusive husband. "I became very aware of my blessings and freedoms in this country. The book opened my eyes to the prejudice women still receive today in other countries," Harrington said.

Sabra Hill is one of the teachers that teaches AP English Literature and Composition, a course that students often take their senior year. Hill has taught a myriad of books, however "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood remains one of her favorites. This story is set in a dystopian so-

ciety in the former U.S. where the purpose of women is solely give birth to children. "I love it because I think it really captures our student's imagination, and they can see how it can be connected to events that are happening in modern times," Hill said.

Jennifer Mermod is a new AP English Language and Composition teacher, and the time she spends reading is almost unmatched. In her classroom, she has hundreds of book passages and newspaper clippings saved as examples for just one vocabulary word. Some of Mermod's favorite books to teach are "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald and "Slaughterhouse Five" by Kurt Vonnegut. "Students should learn to appreciate and respect humanity. Good books teach us the struggle of others," Mermod said. To help kickstart students' reading journeys outside of school, Mermod suggests the books she is currently reading: "The Queen of Hearts" by Kimmerly Martin and "Rules for Visiting" by Jessica F. Kane.

Although it can be hard to find time to read, the life lessons we learn from the books we read are worth it. In the words of J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter series, "words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury, and remedying it."

A Home Away From Home

Texas Roadhouse: The Best Restaurant in the World?

by Nick Ivey | Staff Writer



Texas Roadhouse is a safe haven for food junkies, friends and family alike. It was created in 1993 by Kent Taylor in Clarksville, Indiana. "It's the only place that really accepts you for who you are. You could be a farmer, a fireman or even a Wall Street businessman, but once you walk through those doors, you're home," senior Hannah Hall said. Photos by Greer Long.

Although Texas Roadhouse didn't originate in Texas and isn't actually a roadhouse, fans from miles away make the journey to get a taste of their incredible steaks and outstanding appetizer buns. On a brisk Wednesday evening, I ventured out to this legendary location in Pasadena for a meal with some friends, where we decided that the restaurant deserves recognition for its flavorful food, friendly staff and fun atmosphere.

Upon entering the building we were immediately hit with the scent of freshly baked buns and grilled meat. Our waitress fetched menus for us almost right as we walked in the door, and grabbed some steaming hot buns for the table. The buns were soft and fluffy, and the cinnamon butter they came with was divine.

Throughout the building

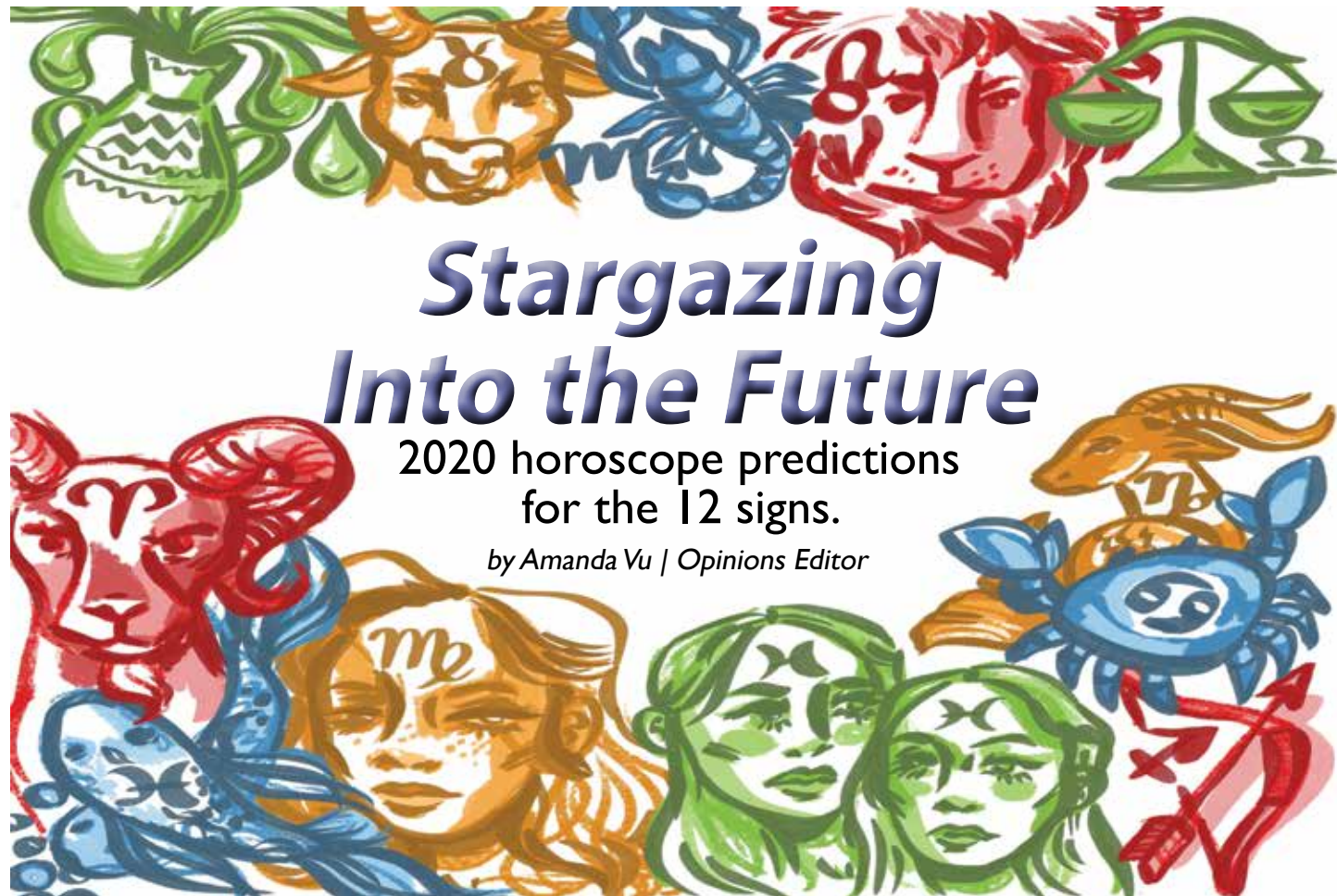
was a collection of eclectic artifacts, which included but was not limited to taxidermied animals and bright neon signs, showing obvious pride for their favorite state. "Texas Roadhouse is my home away from home. I've never felt more welcomed by an establishment. Once a week I am greeted by fresh hot buttery buns and sexy waiters... I live for that chicken critter salad," senior Lacey Ordacowski said.

Our food arrived at the table in only about 10 or 15 minutes, which went by quickly as we spent some time conversing with waiters, plowing through two plates of delicious buns and eating our fair share of free peanuts, which were situated at every table. I ordered an eight-ounce sirloin steak and fries with a side house salad, coming out to \$13.49, which isn't too expensive for a meal that felt like it could serve two

people.

The sirloin was juicy and tender, with a bit of fat to keep the flavor packed inside. It had a beautiful black criss-cross char on the outside. The steak fries were simple, but because the steak was so incredible, it didn't matter. The house salad wasn't overdressed, and it was a nice break from the protein and starch and get some greens.

This not-so-Texas, not-such-a-Roadhouse has to be one of the best restaurants in the area, attracting people from far and wide to eat their food, enjoy their decor and have a great time with family and friends. "It's the only place that really accepts you for who you are. You could be a farmer, a fireman or even a Wall Street businessman, but once you walk through those doors, you're home," senior Hannah Hall said.



Stargazing Into the Future

2020 horoscope predictions
for the 12 signs.

by Amanda Vu | Opinions Editor

Astrology is a study that attempts to interpret the correlation between planetary positions and their influence on a person's character and personality. Becoming more popular than ever, astrology has taken center stage on magazines, social media and mobile apps. "I would encourage everyone to do some research into their horoscopes, if not for education then just for fun," senior Kylie Wehner said. Graphic by Ella Woodbury.

ARIES: March 21-April 19
READY FOR SUCCESS

This year will be a tough one, Aries, but you're not the type to shy away. Bringing you closer to friends and family, challenges will teach you resilience and bring much-needed stability in your life. This year, Saturn's impact will help you achieve great success, so start working on things you've been delaying. Since Wounded Chiron is in your sign all year, this may cause an identity crisis. However, this will also awaken your hidden fire, so don't be afraid to embrace it.

TAURUS: April 20-May 20
BOOKED AND BUSY

Last year may have been the year of big changes and conflicts, but this year, Venus will start out in the ninth house, bringing successes and more stability into your life. As a result, you will be busy most of this year. If you feel overwhelmed, try to keep a cool head; impulsive anger can bring bad situations. Venus will also bring positive results from your romantic endeavors; lost love could possibly return to you this year.

GEMINI: May 21-June 21
LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Things may have been boring for you last year, but this is your year to put yourself out there. With a strong chance of finding a partner, you will connect with more people, romantically and platonically. Trust will be key to these relationships, so be sure to give your partner some space. Family issues might arise so don't forget to spend time with relatives. Starting April 4, you will start to grasp concepts more deeply and intuitively since Venus moves into your sign at this time.

CANCER:

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

STAY GROUNDED

Saturn, Jupiter and Mercury will be positioned in the seventh house at the beginning of the year, indicating major changes in your life. This movement will bring many challenges that will test your values, so be steadfast and stay rooted. You will eventually persevere. There's no need to settle for second best this year, since your friendliness will attract many friends and potential partners.

LIBRA:

Sept. 23-Oct. 22

RELAX AND REJUVENATE

Since major planets Jupiter, Saturn and Mercury are present in the fourth house, get ready for a change, Libra. Put in the work, and you will see a train of successes. Everything you've ever dreamt about might even come true this year so don't lose hope. Don't forget the lessons of love you learned last year; they will come in handy soon. Don't feel guilty if you feel yourself slowing down this year; you deserve a break every once in a while.

CAPRICORN:

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

OPTIMISM IS KEY

After Jan. 20, Saturn transitions in your moon sign, resulting in an increase in your hard work and efforts to get the desired output. Networking will be useful this year and will bring you success. If you have been searching for love for a while, then you might just meet her or him this year. Fulfilling all the wishes of your lover during this year, you will experience a stronger bond than ever before.

LEO:

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

TRY SOMETHING NEW

2020 will be the year for change in relationships, romantic or not. However, Saturn's concurrent transit throughout the year will help keep you productive and energetic. This will give you more energy to find more joy in your work and your superiors will start recognizing it. As a result, you will see many gains this year. Try a new workout or sport since it will benefit your mind and body.

SCORPIO:

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

DO THE THINGS YOU LOVE

This year will feel as though you have been freed from your past. Highly energetic, you will want to focus on your hobbies and do the other things that you love again. Take advantage of this time to learn something new. Even if you have had no relationship experience, this year will offer you some, so don't be afraid to try it. In the first few months of the year, balance your diet to keep you healthy for the rest of the year.

AQUARIUS:

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

PROVE THEM WRONG

2020 is a great year to improve yourself and your surroundings. Recognizing your worth, you will leave those who don't deserve your time and energy. But don't worry, your romantic and outgoing personality will draw new people towards you. Feel free to be yourself; there is no need to keep appearances up around people who won't matter to you in the long run. This is your year to shine.

VIRGO:

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

GO FOR IT

The changes you made last year will impact you this year as well. There will be a few minor changes, but you will aim for more clarity, and will focus better around mid-May as Mercury enters Gemini. If you start expressing your opinions and sharing ideas, you will find that everyone at work is impressed with you. Whatever you plan to do, try to start at the beginning of the year.

SAGITTARIUS:

Nov. 22-Dec. 1

CONFIDENCE IS KEY

Recovering from a rough past year, you will feel stronger and more confident in these next months. This will allow you to sort out any past problems to make a better future. Remember to forgive and move on. You will feel much better. A change of pace in your love life will occur this year, whether you are single or not. When you least expect it, you are likely to find love with someone new rather than an old acquaintance.

PISCES:

Feb. 19 - Mar. 20

ADVENTURE AWAITS

Feeling more impulsive and confident than ever, you will be more open to new experiences and learning opportunities. It is time to begin taking better care of yourself better and put an end to bad habits. You will be happier and healthier. Avoid making any promises at all from Sept. 10 to Nov. 14th since there is a high possibility that you will be unable to keep them as Mars goes into regression.

Yearbook vs. Newspaper

An inside look at how each SPHS publication class operates.

by Carey Cameron | News Editor

If you look inside the publication lab during first and second period on A-days, you will see two classes that do not operate like any other at SPHS. Students enrolled in yearbook and newspaper do not have set lessons and units; instead, students work to produce either the yearbook (Embers) or issues of the Talon. Despite occasionally being mistaken for the same class, yearbook and newspaper are very different.

Newspaper

The atmosphere in the newspaper class varies from day to day. On idea day, when students pitch possible stories for the next issue, there are bagels galore and the room swirls with ideas. If you walk into the lab closer to a deadline, most members of the newspaper team are busily fixing articles and page layouts while others zip around the school gathering pictures and quotes from the student body.

Each year, the Talon produces about six issues. Each

issue needs to be completely finished about a week and a half before its distribution to the student body. The two editors-in-chief (seniors Greer Long and Connor Killeen) make final edits, assign articles to writers and keep the class on track. The team of students below them are section editors. These editors are in charge of a newspaper section, such as sports or opinions, for which they edit articles and give input on how each writer can improve.



Yearbook

Shortly after the newspaper period ends, another class enters the publication lab: yearbook. Split into two rooms, staff frantically hurry about. They get student quotes, take pictures and collect stories during school as well as at school-sponsored events. The yearbook has to be distributed in May, so everything needs to be completed by March of that year. The editors-in-chief (seniors Lila Slattery, Nadia Sobczak and Quincey Laughlin) are in charge of making that year's book. "As Editor-in-Chief, I am in charge of organization like setting up page layouts and creating the ladder. My most important job is to tell Mrs. Earhart when we meet a deadline so we can get bagels," Slattery joked. Their staff carefully lays out each page according to the theme that has been decided at the beginning of the year.

The Talon archives date back over 50 years and remain as proof of the newspaper's long legacy at SPHS. Hundreds of students have been connected through the school newspaper. "The best part about newspaper was the friendships I made along the way. That and the trip to New York," Editor-in-Chief Greer Long said. Photo by Matt Mangano.

One Acts

Behind the scenes of student-directed plays.

by Matt Mangano | Features Editor

Stuffed in between the fall musical and the highly anticipated Rock 'n' Roll Revival, SPHS Drama puts on a series of plays called One Acts. These short plays are student-directed and provide a great platform for the students to showcase their hard work. The directors choose their own plays, hold cast auditions, organize rehearsals and eventually compete against the other One Act plays in front of a panel of judges and audience of their peers. The panel of judges consists of alumni, local theater experts and teachers who vote on Best Female Actor, Best Male Actor, Best Director and Best Play. Junior Lucy Feldmann won Best Director and Best Play for "Where Troubles Melt Like Lemon Drops." Senior Sarah Kalofos won Best Actress in "Old Goat Song" and junior Cade Halloran won Best Actor in "Old Goat Song."

Lucy Feldmann ('21)

Feldmann is seeing a dream of hers come true as she directed her own One Act play this year called "Where Troubles Melt Like Lemon Drops." Feldmann is president of SPHS's Thespian Society, runs her own theater summer camp and has performed in all One Acts since her freshman year. "Last year I was in 'Small Actors,' and we won [Best Play] which was a



great experience because I learned how to direct by watching Zoe Smith," Feldmann said. Her prior experiences in theater have led her to this point, and she is very excited to see what she can do as a director. "We have a lot of freedom to do what we want with our pieces. I love my cast and I think they [did] a fantastic job with the show," Feldmann said.

Rachel Hartley ('20)

Hartley made her directorial debut with "Old Goat Song" by Jules Tasca, a drama set in the mid-twentieth century that follows an insane old man who falls for a young waitress. "This [was] a great opportunity to try my hand at directing with the support of my peers as the actors," Hartley said. Theater has always been a large part of Hartley's life. She is the vice president of SPHS's Thespian Society and has been involved in all of SPHS's fall musicals and Rock 'n' Roll Revivals. Last year, Hartley participated in Lauren Carlson's One Act, "Dinner with the MacGuffins," and she was

Lucy Feldmann, Rachel Hartley and Gordon Mutch take the stage in a different way this year. All three student directors were actors in last year's One Act plays. "I am excited to see theatre from a directoral point of view," Hartley said. Photos by Sam Sullivan.



excited to change roles this year and finally work as a director. "One Acts are so fun to be a part of, and I [couldn't] wait to see how the show comes out with my own unique spin on this play," Hartley said.

Gordon Mutch ('20)

Mutch directed "Check Please" by Jonathan Rand, a comedy about blind dating starring seniors Emily Allgair and Peter Cope. Last year, he played the father in Allgair's rendition of "Oh, What a Tangled Web."

"I had done One Acts the past two years and loved it, so this year I wanted to direct my own," Mutch said. Mutch is involved in a variety of SPHS Drama pursuits: he is the president of the school's improv troupe and did makeup for the fall production of "Cinderella" this year. Mutch boasts that he has performed in seventeen improv shows during his time in high school, but for now, his focus is on One Acts. "There [was] so much talent this year; the shows [were] amazing," Mutch said.

Just Add Water

The SPHS swim team dives into the season.

by Greer Long | Editor-in-Chief

Swimming is unlike any other SPHS sport; instead of sprinting on a field, swimmers propel themselves through the water. Rather than putting a ball into a goal to score, swimmers race for the fastest time to gain points. Swimming may not be the most well-known sport at SPHS, however the team's past victories and strong support for one another is paving the way for success that is worth recognizing, even if you suffer a splash or two in the process.

The team is led by four captains: senior Emma Patenaude and juniors Colin Dennis, Ben Simpkins and Lauren Turk. "The captains are doing a great job making sure the team is a cohesive unit; they make sure that everyone feels included. I also appreciate that it isn't just the captains leading, they leave plenty of room for others to step up," varsity coach John Bachkosky said. As the only senior captain, Patenaude has used her leadership skills and wisdom to foster mutual support from everyone on the team. "I've learned that empathy is super valuable in a team dynamic. Not everyone has their best race every meet and making sure they have some support if they're discouraged is really important," Patenaude said.

While swimming is technically a co-ed sport, it is separated into a boys and a girls

team for meets. The swimmers practice twice a week and have a meet every Friday at the Arundel Olympic Swim Center in Annapolis. "Having a little fun at the end of practice the day before a meet by doing things like relays keeps everyone loose while also doing something that gets them into a racing mentality for the next day," Bachkosky said. Although the swimmers proudly display their success, some details of the team still remain a mystery. When asked if the swim team practices in SPHS's alleged fourth-floor pool, Dennis refused to comment on the subject.

Although swimming is an



Chase Cannon ('22)

individual sport, team chemistry is a key component of the team's success. Hearing words of encouragement from the side of the pool is something that motivates the swimmers to give it their all on that last lap. "At the end of the day, you're there to be a team player. Even though you are swimming by yourself, you're there for your team, you're really doing it for them," Dennis said.

Despite how unique swimming is compared to other sports, the athletes' traditions are quite similar to those of other teams. Every night before a meet, the swimmers gather for a team dinner with themes such as "Spaghetti Night." Additionally, they have an end-of-the-

season "paper plate" award ceremony in which every team member is gifted a paper plate with a word or phrase that accurately describes them. "We make paper plates with a title like 'team mom' or something true to them. It's always really funny," Patenaude said. Last season, Dennis was awarded "team flirt," then proceeded to present Patenaude with "most likely to marry Colin Dennis."



Eliza Patty ('21)

Since its first season in 2007, the SPHS swim team has won a total of five state championship titles. Last season, the boys went undefeated and won the county championship for the third year in a row with a score of 272.50. The girls were not far behind with a score of 236, coming in second to South River. Similar to track and field, swimming is scored based on how a team places in a meet. If a swimmer gets first place in a certain event, their team gains more overall points. "I would

love to see both the boys and girls come away with the county championship. The boys are three-time defending champs, and the girls haven't won in over four years, so while there are different motivations on each side, the end goal is the same," Bachkosky said.

The SPHS swim team's sea of support for one another paired with an eagerness to succeed is sure to make the rest of the season go swimmingly.



Sabrina Bowes ('21)

SCRUB TOP 5

The most prestigious, official ranking of the best players in Severna Park scrub.

by Connor Killeen | Editor-in-Chief



Sean Beradino ('21) contests a player's shot.



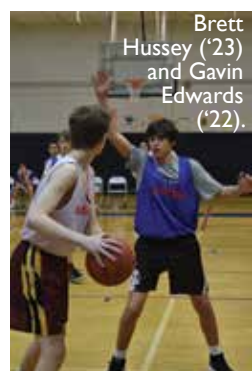
Zach Plummer ('21)



Diego Nanney ('21) and Chase Hillard ('22)



Jeremy Simon ('20) and Brett Butz ('21)



Brett Hussey ('23) and Gavin Edwards ('22)



Brendan Belloff ('21) shoots a floater.



Connor Koistinen ('21) and Bohdan Andrusilius ('20) prepare to rebound.

The 32-team league captivates the SPHS student body all winter long, concluding in a championship game after double elimination playoffs. Last year, the OKC Thunder and Golden State Warriors faced off in the championship with the Warriors coming out on top with a score of 54-46. "Scrub is the most fun version of pickup ever created," senior Joey Killpatrick said. Photos by Connor Killeen.

The Scrub basketball season is nearing its finale: the GSPAA 2020 championship. Players are in peak form as they gear up for the double-elimination playoff bracket. The 32-team, 320-player league is composed of high schoolers from the greater Severna Park area and is the most popular topic in the community during the cold winter months.

The season begins in late November on draft night as coaches head to Chartwell Country Club to select players for the upcoming season. The competition is fierce and players don't always end up on the teams that they intended to be on; however, teams can make adjustments, sometimes trad-

ing players. "Scrub is the most fun version of pickup ever created," senior Joey Killpatrick said.

Each weekend, athletes travel to gyms across the county to go head-to-head with other teams for four quarters of intense play. According to league rules, all players must get equal playing time, so if all 10 players come to a game, the best players can only play two quarters. Because of this rule, teams must strategize carefully about which five-man squads play best together. The season culminates in an electrifying championship in February, with hundreds of high schoolers attending the final game.

"The last game of scrub is hype. My friends and I all go to

chirp the players and the refs," senior Wesley Adams said.



1

ALEX MILLER - PELICANS

Senior Alex Miller plays center for the New Orleans Pelicans. His presence in the paint and his ability to connect with dimes thrown by his point guard, Christopher Roth, makes him a force to be reckoned with on the court. "Our team plays really well together and we have great team chemistry; obviously our goal is to win the championship," Miller said.



2

ANDREW DELAERE - TIMBERWOLVES

Minnesota Timberwolves' senior, known around the league as 'AD' has had a dominant shooting season from beyond the three-point arc. "I mostly shoot threes but I really play every position," DeLaere said. Starting the season 1-4 would have most players nervous for games down the stretch, but not AD. "It gave us something to play for, we had a chip on our shoulders," DeLaere said. The shooting guard's record for most points scored in a game is 39.



3

JACKSON MERRILL - JAZZ

Junior Jackson Merrill, a lights-out shooter for the Utah Jazz, makes his debut on the scrub rankings list at number three. "Just to win honestly, not to get as many points as possible but to just win as a team, that's what we want," Merrill said. Merrill is just as much of an offensive weapon as a defensive one. Being as aggressive as possible helps, and being scrappy; "we're a scrappy team," he said. Since the beginning of December, the Jazz have been on a winning streak with few roadblocks slowing them down.



4

MARK BREDECK - CLIPPERS

The LA Clippers have one of the most physical guards in the league in freshman Mark Bredeck, who drives the lane and scores quick lay-ups. "Our chemistry is pretty good, most of the time we have all 10 players at games, which is a problem for some teams, but we work well together," Bredeck said. His goal for the team is to make it to the championship. "I think we could definitely make a run for the ship. I try to look for my teammate Kevin Lee [senior] when I bring it up the court, he gets real physical in the paint," Bredeck said.



5

ANDRE MURPHY - GRIZZLIES

The Memphis Grizzlies' shooting guard, junior Andre Murphy currently averages 20 points per game against opponents. His ability to shoot threes and get rebounds allows him to bring his team back from any deficit. "My personal goal is to bring my team to the championship, and I'm pretty sure that should be every players goal," Murphy said.

Headshots by Campbell Haney

2020 Senior Commits

SPHS athletes who recently committed to play college sports.

by Colin DeFeo | Sports Editor

The class of 2020 has been a key component to a great deal of SPHS's athletic success over the past four years. This senior class has been a part of three boys lacrosse state titles, a girls lacrosse state title, a field hockey state title, historic state titles from both girls and boys cross country and numerous county championships with outstanding winning records. As the 2020 class is preparing to graduate, many students have made athletic commitments to play at the collegiate level.

Alyssa Combs

Combs is a cross country runner committed to East Carolina University. She verbally committed at the beginning of December 2019. Combs chose ECU for specific reasons in regards to her visit and academic aspirations. "When I did my official visit I felt at home with the team and really liked the coaches. In addition, ECU offers the major I am interested in studying," Combs said. Athletes tend to commit to colleges during their sophomore and junior years. "I decided to commit senior year because I wanted to keep my options open until I found a school I knew I wanted to go to," Combs said.



Senior Alyssa Combs is preparing for college running. She had a fantastic finish this past season with a state title appearance. "Going forward one thing I will definitely miss is my teammates on my SPHS team," Combs said. Photo courtesy of Alyssa Combs.

Toni Fiocco-Mizer

Fiocco-Mizer is a four-year varsity player for the girls soccer team. She committed to play college soccer at Lawrence University. In November 2019 Fiocco-Mizer considered both athletics and academics equally in her decision. "I chose Lawrence because the team is rebuilding, which I'm excited to be apart of, and the school has an amazing philosophy and cultural anthropology program which is perfect because that is what I am interested in studying," Fiocco-Mizer said. Fiocco-Mizer has always thought about playing at the next level due to her love for the sport. "Ever since I was a kid I have wanted to play college soccer and have been playing soccer since day one so it was a natural choice for me," Fiocco-Mizer said.



Senior Toni Fiocco-Mizer is ready for her next soccer season as a college athlete. She has always dreamed of pursuing soccer at the highest level. "There is a feeling you get when you're at the right school," Fiocco-Mizer said. Photo courtesy of Toni Fiocco-Mizer.

Jacob Goodman

Goodman is a starting guard on the boys basketball team. He decided to commit to Juniata College in late November of 2019 to pursue his dream of playing at the next level. Goodman chose Juniata because he fell in love with the school after his visit. "It was my first offer and when I visited I envisioned myself as a student and an athlete as well," Goodman said. Goodman has had a great amount of support from his loved ones to be able to play basketball in college. "My parents, my AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) coach who has coached me for eight years and my grandfather have helped me the most to be able to play at the next level," Goodman said.



Senior Jacob Goodman is committed to Juniata College. He has loved basketball since he was a little kid. "The intensity only picks up at the college level," Goodman said. Photo by Colin Murphy.

Indoor Track and Field

An exclusive look at dominating indoor track and field athletes.

by Nick Carparelli | Online Editor

Junior Carson Sloat running in a team relay against other Anne Arundel County schools. Sloat has been running during all seasons for the past few years. "This sport is not for everyone, but I think I've stuck with it because of the coaches. They make us feel like we're part of a family," Sloat said. Photo by Lifetouch.



Junior Janice Chukwu running the 100-meter relay at the outdoor track and field championship. Chukwu first did cheerleading then switched to track last year. "I didn't want to do winter cheer, but I wanted something to do after school so my mom insisted on trying track and field," Chukwu said. Photo by Lifetouch.



There are many sports that SPHS excels at, such as field hockey, lacrosse and soccer. However, the one that doesn't get the recognition that it deserves is indoor track and field. Despite having the majority of their meets in Prince George's County, sprinters, distance runners and field participants perform at their best when it comes time to race.

Sarah Adams

Senior Sarah Adams has been on track and field since her freshman year.

"I started running...originally to stay in shape for lacrosse then I quit lacrosse because I loved track so much," Adams said. Adams participates in pole vault, 55 meter hurdles, and either the 4x200 or the 4x400 meter relay. As a sophomore, she claimed second place at states in pole vault in both indoor and outdoor track. During her junior year, she won the state championship in the pole vault and claimed first at counties in the 4x200 with Claire Kintzely, Shania Johnson and Janice Chukwu.

Janice Chukwu

Junior Janice Chukwu started running two years ago when she quit cheerleading and joined winter track.

"My mom suggested either track or basketball... I also didn't want to leave school and have nothing to do afterward," Chukwu said. She participates in the 55 meter sprint, 300 meter, 100 meter and 200 meter dash. She also runs in the 4x100 and 4x200 meter relay. "During my freshman year and sophomore year, I made it to states for the 4x200 meter relay and won rookie of the year by head coach Josh Alcombright," Chukwu said.

Carson Sloat

Junior Carson Sloat started running when his sister convinced him to go to cross country workouts during his freshman year and has been on cross country, indoor and outdoor track ever since.

"I loved the team so I decided to keep going with it into track season," Sloat said. With the sport comes certain events which you specialize in and participate in on a regular basis. "I run the 500, 800 and 1600 meter runs and possibly others if needed," Sloat said. The goal for Sloat is to play a sport in college, and he hopes to achieve such a feat.

SMART

Baltimore native, Mike Rowe, of "Dirty Jobs" said it best when he said, "I can say the willingness to get dirty has always defined us as a nation, and it's a hallmark of hard work and a hallmark of fun, and dirt is not the enemy."

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