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EDITORS' NOTE

Hello, Axe readers! Welcome to our first print issue of the 2017-18 school year! Featured inside are stories ranging from detailed coverage of the recent batch of deadly hurricanes, to an inside look at the DACA controversy. In addition, we take a look at a suspicious bump in school spirit at South, and continue our chain of staff profiles. To close out the issue, we include a playlist consisting entirely of artists set to perform in Eugene. This action-packed installment should certainly round out the first trimester, and we hope you thoroughly enjoy the November issue of The Axe!

As always, The Axe Staff is always looking for feedback and recommendations. You can reach us online at theaxe.xyz or in Room 3!

INFO

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HURRICANE HARVEY STRIKES

YULIA NAKAGOME

The Atlantic hurricane season this year was one of the most active on record, bringing major hurricanes that swept through the United States and many of its territories. Among the most destructive was Hurricane Harvey.

On Aug. 17, Harvey formed as a tropical storm in the Lesser Antilles. Two days later, it was downgraded to a tropical wave, but later, it had reformed into a hurricane and made landfall on the Texas Coast. At its peak, on Aug. 25, Harvey was classified as a Category 4 hurricane. According to the National Hurricane Center, this is classified as wind speeds reaching 130-156 mph, and catastrophic damage was expected to occur. This type of hurricane can cause severe damage to even well-built homes.

Former South Eugene High School student Isaac Lee, a junior, had just moved to Houston to attend a year-round program at the Houston Ballet when Harvey struck.

“It all started with the stories on the news as hurricane Harvey progressed from a Category 1 to a Category 4 hurricane,” Lee said. “Living in Houston, we had lightning storms and lots of rain as the hurricane touched down in Corpus Christi. After hitting land, the hurricane became a tropical storm and doubled back over the Gulf of Mexico directly towards Houston, Texas. Buffalo Bayou, which is a waterway running through the whole city, was already flooding. With all of southern Texas’ water draining into Houston, the flooding was expected to be extreme.”

This prediction proved to be true. According to Business Insider, rainfall in Houston reached a total of 43.38 inches. In Cedar Bayou, 30 miles east of downtown Houston, rainfall peaked at

Former South Eugene student Isaac Lee, a junior, had just moved to Houston to attend a year-round program at the Houston Ballet when Harvey struck.

YULIA NAKAGOME

STORY

Texas residents are still recovering from Harvey after the hurricane tore through Texas leaving buildings destroyed, 82 dead, and thousands more displaced.

51.88 inches, surpassing the record for rainfall level in the continental United States set in 1978.

“When the storm hit Houston, we woke up to the Houston Ballet building, which is downtown, completely surrounded by water,” Lee said. “The first floor was completely flooded and as we looked at it from the second floor, we could see a live snake in the water. As we stood in the studio, out the windows we could see the roofs of police vans submerged in the muddy water and porta-potties floating down the street on their sides.”

By that night, many people would find themselves without food, water supply, or power. According to CBS News, the Saturday after Harvey made its landfall, more than a 250,000 people were without power in Texas. In addition, according to The Washington Post, in Beaumont, a city in southeastern Texas, 118,000 people did not have access to drinking water after floods disabled the city’s drinking water system. The situation in Houston was similarly threatening.

“We had eight hours of generator power and then we would be in the dark. Any containers we could find were filled with wa-

Isaac Lee crossed paths with category 4 Hurricane Harvey just weeks after he moved to Houston to join the professional program at the Houston Ballet.



When the storm hit Houston, we woke up to the Houston Ballet building, which is downtown, completely surrounded by water.

ISAAC LEE

ter in case water went out,” Lee said. “Before the power went out, one of the girls had to be driven to the hospital because of extreme sickness and vomiting. One of the counselors for dorm students drove her there with about 3 inches of water on the roads. By the time they were at the hospital for 3 hours, the roads they had driven there on had over 3 feet of water on them. They made it back safely by taking the freeway, which had been raised above ground.”

Because of the dangerous conditions, evacuation was no easy feat.

“The next morning when power went out, we packed up our things and prepared to leave. We could take only the essentials: clothes, food, and blankets,” Lee said. “At this point, the first floor had over 6 inches of water and the basement was com-

pletely flooded. The elevator shafts could be heard leaking water from the roof all the way down. When we opened the door to go outside, the warm brown water rushed in up to our knees. We walked a block through this water holding hands and keeping our knees spread against the current.”

Lee and the rest of the students in his dorm were able to find safety. This, however, cannot be said for all Texas citizens. According to the Washington Post, Texas officials said that by Sept. 14, the hurricane itself and the intense flooding resulting from it had claimed a total of 82 lives, and Houston is still recovering from the aftermath.

“The downstairs theater inside Houston Ballet and the studio on the first floor were destroyed and the floors had to be ripped out and completely reinstalled,” said Lee. “The Wortham Theater Center, where the Houston Ballet performs all of its home shows, is still being pumped of toxic water. It is closed until May, but if the foundation was damaged, the entire building has to be rebuilt. Houston Ballet had to perform the North American premiere of Mayerling at another theater, and all its showings of the Nutcracker have to be moved to different locations.”

Many well-known and local organizations have created funds in order to provide relief for the victims of Harvey. On the American Red Cross website, people can donate upwards of \$10 toward the cause. For every dollar that is donated, an average of 91 cents will be invested in shelter, food, comfort and emergency support to combat the devastation caused by the hurricane. In addition to Harvey, people may also choose to donate to relief efforts for Hurricanes Irma and Maria, two category five hurricanes that hit Florida and Puerto Rico shortly after Harvey in Texas.

Water flooded the streets of Houston, Texas, submerging cars and even houses after Hurricane Harvey dropped a record-breaking 51.88 inches of rainfall on the city.



MARCUS YAM



A WAR OF WORDS

NOSHIN RAHMAN

On Sept. 19 President Donald Trump gave a harrowing speech at the United Nations where he threatened to “totally destroy North Korea”. For years the North Korean government have used propaganda to tell its citizens that the U.S. government wishes to their country. Now they are hearing those words from the U.S. President himself. North Korea’s relations with the U.S. have always been antagonistic; however, with the Trump administration’s fiery words escalating the situation, the dialogue between these two countries is starting to resemble that of the Cold War.

The current tension between North Korea and the U.S. stems from the aftermath of the Korean War. The war took the lives of 1.3 million North Koreans and Chinese citizens. Furthermore, the North Korean government portrayed the U.S. as the instigator of the conflict despite historical accounts of the North Korean government invading South Korea. Although many countries have long since resolved previous wars with the U.S., such as Vietnam, who currently views the U.S. as its ally, North Korea uses anti-American ideology to control its citizens. Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un uses the U.S. as a scapegoat for its current economic situation and brand the U.S. as the ultimate villain that needs to be defeated. Trump’s recent remarks and actions only reinforce the hostile image of Americans to North Koreans according to political analysts.

During his presidency, Mr. Obama adopted a policy of “strategic patience” where he hoped that through espionage and sanctions he could encourage the North to negotiate. He did, however, say that he “will not hesitate to use our military might.” His attempts at denuclearization talks did not evidently halt North Korea’s build up of arms which they claim was necessary for defense.

Despite President Trump’s brash statements about North Korea, the Trump administration’s strategy for North Korea is similar to that of the Obama administration. Both hoped that the Chinese would shut down oil exports to Pyongyang, cut off coal imports, and decrease normal trade between the two nations. Both used the United Nations to approve sanctions. Both believed that exhausting North Korea of its financial resources through sanctions would deter North Korea from expanding its military. However, one noticeable difference between the Trump administration and the Obama administration is their rhetoric.

There are also many people who believe Trump’s speech was a shining light amidst what they believe the hypocrisy, lies, and political correctness that permeates the United Nations. Many nations, such as South Korea, Japan and Israel applauded

STORY

President Trump has been firing bold words at the North Korean Leader, but will such statements escalate tensions with North Korea?

Trump’s speech at the United Nations.

Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu responded with the statement, “over 30 years in my experience with the UN, I never heard a bolder or more courageous speech.”

Furthermore, the U.S.’s perspective on North Korea may not be reliable. Stan Paulic, a social studies teacher at South Eugene High School, personally visited North Korea to get a better understanding of the political and cultural scene there.

“The reason I wanted to go there after I spent a year in South Korea was to get to know the North Korean culture. I came back with a different perspective than I get from the American news and political scene” said Paulic. “I haven’t been real trusting of American news service on their coverage of North Korea.”

The media’s portrayal of the North Korean may be biased and the tensions between these countries are often overstated. Even if Trump’s threats to North Korea may seem excessive, according to the New York Times, The United States has been issuing vague threats against North Korea for more than 15 years. There may be more to the story behind the scene rather than Trump’s and Kim’s fiery dialogue between each other.

Stan Paulic is seen here on the top of Juche Tower, which is on the bank of the Taedong River with Kim Il-Sung Square with two North Korean tourists guides.





YULIA NAKAGOME

SCHEDULING

For better or for worse, the end of first trimester is just around the corner. Grading day is on Dec. 1, which will be a no school day for students. Second trimester will begin the following week, on Dec. 5. At press time, there was not yet any information on schedule correction dates, but if you need to fill that unfortunate free second period, or you are hitting yourself on the head for signing up for that one AP class, it is safe to assume that during the first week of December, there will be time to get this adjusted.



NOSHIN RAHMAN

ARE THERE REALLY MORE FRESHMAN THIS YEAR?

South Eugene High School has seen numerous changes in the 2017-2018 school year. These changes include 11 new staff members, new members of student government, and 404 new freshmen students. The size of the freshmen class is larger than other grades this year, 356 for sophomores, 348 for juniors, and 366 for seniors, the size of the freshmen body size is larger than any grades.

“I think ‘a lot of freshmen’ is a subjective thing,” said senior Blake Bryant. “I feel like there aren’t

more, but I see freshmen more because they draw attention to themselves. They are usually the ones that are packed in one big circle in the middle of the hallway as you try to get through and they are like ‘I didn’t know I was standing in the way.’”

Although it turns out there are more freshmen this year compared to the other grades, upperclassmen may feel like there are too many of them because of other factors.

RICHARD LATHROP

FIRE ALARMS

On Oct. 26, near the end of second period, a fire alarm was pulled in the five hundred hall at South as a prank by a sophomore student.

“After evacuating the building we determined there to be no safety risk for students,” principal Andy Dey said in an email to parents. “We brought students back into the building but within minutes the alarm went off again,” which caused the school to be evacuated again, putting off the school day even more.



KVAL

We brought students back into the building but within minutes the alarm went off again, due to improperly resetting the system.

ANDY DEY

ALYSSA GAO

NEW TEACHERS

New Spanish teachers Rachel Stroh and Christine Tofte have joined South’s foreign language department this year.

“I hope my students will embrace the challenge of learning a new language so that they can experience first hand different cultures and meet new people,” Tofte said.

“Something I like about South is how helpful both staff and students have been with my quick transition to teaching at South this year,” Stroh said. “I hope that this year my students get excited about Spanish and start speaking it with each other!”

South is excited to welcome these new foreign language teachers as well as the nine other staff members new to our school.



ZOE PRINGLE

CELEBRATE SOUTH

South is hosting its seventh annual Celebrate South Event on Nov. 11 at the Eugene Hilton. The reception and silent auction start at 6 p.m., and the induction dinner begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$65 before Oct. 31, after which they will sell for \$85.

Celebrate South is a fundraiser for South, comprised of a dinner and silent auction, showcasing clubs, staff, current students, and alumni. In addition, alumni will be inducted into the South Hall of Fame.

DACA REVOKED BY TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

MARYILYN MOLSTROM-WARNER

In 2012, President Barack Obama used executive action to initiate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA was created in order to allow young children who were brought into the United States illegally by their parents to stay, receive permission to work, attend school, and obtain driver's licenses. In order to enter the DACA program and become a DREAMer, a DACA participant, children had to meet certain requirements. DACA applicants had to have arrived in the United States before the age of 16, resided in the country continuously since June 15, 2007, have clean criminal records and be enrolled in or have graduated from a high school, college, or section of the military. Provided that the applicants continued to meet these requirements, they could apply to renew their status as DREAMers every two years.

Although his aims were based on humanitarianism ideals, Obama knew that DACA was a controversial issue, which is why he opted to use an executive action rather than an executive order. Unlike executive orders, executive actions are not legally binding; they are simply informal proposals made by the president that urge Congress and his administration to act in a certain way and that can be invalidated by the courts or by Congress at any time. After running a campaign that was largely fueled by his promises to take a hardline stance on immigration, it was only a matter of time before President Donald Trump decided to end DACA. The final blow came when 10 republican officials threatened to sue the White House if DACA was not rescinded by Sept. 5. Trump took the threat seriously, ordering

I think that recent rhetoric from politicians has given rise to false perceptions about the dangers immigrants actually pose.

LOIS

STORY

On Sept. 5, 2017, President Trump rescinded DACA, a program that protected the rights of nearly 800,000 young immigrants.

the end of DACA and allowing Congress just six months to develop a reasonable replacement plan before DACA is phased out.

As of Sept. 5, the Trump administration stopped considering new DACA applicants. They are allowing those with permits set to expire before March 5, 2018, to apply for a two-year renewal, but it is a small concession in the face of what has been lost. There were nearly 800,000 individuals protected under the DACA program, and some of them could now be deported. Many people are worrying about what is going to happen to them now. Will they be forced from their homes, or will they be allowed to continue to live peacefully in the country? Where will they go if they are deported? What of the lives and people they will have to leave behind? And at the forefront of their minds: why is this happening? Many DREAMers were raised in the United States, harbor the same beliefs, and work just as hard, if not harder, than native citizens, so why is the government making decisions that could potentially put them in harm's way? And why are people in favor of those decisions?

A DACA participant and medical student protests the injustice of the rescindment of DACA at a rally in front of the White House.



The America we know today was literally founded by a bunch of immigrants... The United States made it a point to practice tolerance and to accept people from all over the world.

LOIS

Lois (name changed), a student outside of the 4j school district who is being personally affected by the rescindment of DACA, shared her thoughts on the issue.

“I think that recent rhetoric from politicians has given rise to false perceptions about the dangers immigrants actually pose. Many people are now wrongly afraid of immigrants,” Lois said.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, one of the most iconic and influential figures working to abolish DACA, argues why, in his eyes, the program is harmful to the United States.

Sessions claimed that DACA presented a massive economic problem. He concluded that an increase in immigrants would lead to a decrease in employment rates of American citizens.

“DACA [denies] jobs to hundreds of thousands of Americans by allowing those same jobs to go to illegal aliens,” Sessions said.

Sessions based this assertion on what economists refer to as the Lump of Labor Fallacy, the assumption that the number of jobs in an economy is fixed and that any increase to the number of jobs will lead to proportional unemployment. Economists have disproved Sessions claims countless times, pointing out that between 1970 and 2017, the US labor force doubled, and rather than facing a 50 percent unemployment rate, the US employment rate also doubled. Economists have also been quick to point out that an expansion in the US labor force would lead to an increase in production and an increase in purchasing power, generating a stronger economy.

Secondly, Sessions claimed that DACA participants jeopardized the safety of American citizens by exposing them to higher rates of crime. Sessions had no legitimate evidence to validate this claim, seeing as how the Washington Post reported that only 2,193 out of 800,000 DACA participants have lost their permits due to criminal activity, which is only a quarter of a percent of the DACA population. Four times as many U.S.-born American citizens are in prison today, and about 35 times as many Americans have found themselves behind bars before. It would seem

that American citizens pose a far greater threat to the general population than DACA participants ever did. And yet Sessions and other like-minded politicians managed to instill such great a magnitude of fear and hatred in the American public that many of them were in favor of terminating a program that protected and supported nearly 800,000 innocent lives.

“I think [many] citizens have confused the word ‘authority’ with the word ‘credibility,’” Lois said. “The United States has this idea of an honest and just government, and the people want to believe in it, so they believe what their politicians tell them. So if their politicians tell them that immigrants are dangerous and that they need to leave or bad things will happen, the American public is going to hear that and panic, because they now believe that their lives are in some sort of jeopardy.”

Despite the fact that most of the arguments made against DACA were unfounded, Trump was still able to end the program with about as much effort he expends while playing golf. He has granted Congress six months to pull together a legislative solution for the 800,000 young immigrants DACA once protected from deportation. If Congress is unable to come to a consensus within this time frame, some DACA participants will begin to lose their authorization to work in the United States by March 6, 2018.

“I think it’s sad that the people of the United States have completely forgotten what their country once stood for ... The America we know today was literally founded by a bunch of immigrants ... [The United States] made it a point to practice tolerance and to accept people from all over the world,” Lois said.

America is the greatest country on Earth — this is what our politicians claim, and Americans are raised to believe in this statement. There is nothing wrong with having pride in one’s country, but the American populace has transcended the bounds of pride and embraced an unwarranted form of nationalism. We boldly profess our courage, justice, and diversification to the rest of the world, but these claims are nothing more than a facade. Our country is deeply flawed, pervaded by greed, cowardice, and racism. No one wants to be labeled as such, especially not Americans, who tend to view criticism as insulting rather than enlightening, but awareness of faults is an imperative aspect of growth, and without growth, there is no progress.

If we truly want our country to be the best, to be the exemplar of how society should function, then as a people, we need to stop simply believing in the ideals this country stands for and start living up to them. The torch on the Statue of Liberty reads: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free... Send these, the homeless, tempest-toss to me...” Let us find the courage, the humanity, and the determination we need in order to honor these words. Let us work towards making this country’s vision a reality.

TITLE IX AT SOUTH

ZOE PRINGLE

Betsy DeVos, the United States Secretary of Education, has announced her plan to rewrite parts of Title IX, reversing many Obama-Era additions. The federal law states that “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Title IX is most well known for its role in securing equality in sports, but it also plays a role in discrimination and sexual assault cases.

Many believe DeVos’ new changes will leave sexual assault survivors with fewer protections than they have had in the past. The new changes may be worrisome, but in order to know how schools may be affected, it must be understood how big of a role Title IX has played in the past.

STORY

Recent national changes to Title IX bring up the relevance of the 1972 act at South, from sports to sexual harassment.

Title IX contributes a significant amount to the politics and makeup of South’s athletics. Before Title IX was implemented in 1972, women’s sports were highly underfunded and undervalued. Oftentimes schools did not even provide sports for girls, forcing students to turn to community clubs. If they were available, resources were limited. Title IX changed this, stating that girls and boys sports had to be equal in all aspects — facility use, equipment, funds, coach salary, etc. An example of this equality at South came about a few years ago: The women’s softball team had been using the city’s softball field, which did not meet proper standards to practice on. The men’s baseball team had their own turf on South’s campus. Because this difference in turf use violates Title IX, the school secured money from the district to build a softball field on South’s campus, equating the baseball and softball teams.

While the new softball field has gone somewhat under the radar, there is one aspect of athletics that has received attention for its inequality: the girls locker room. The boy’s locker room is significantly more impressive, with multiple sections and larger



Title IX is a really important piece of setting climate and changing practice and attitude.

JULI MCGILNSKY

The Women’s Strike for Equality March on Aug. 26th, 1970, spearheaded by Betty Friedan, was created on the same principles as Title IX, which was implemented two years later.

volume, putting the girls small room to shame. One verdict of Title IX is that there must be an equivalent sport for each gender. Some sports are obvious, for example with soccer, where there is a men's and women's team. However some are more unexpected, with women's volleyball being the equivalent to boys football.

This ruling begs the question: Why is the girls' locker room so underwhelming compared to the boys' if there is an equal number of sports for boys and girls? It all comes down to funding. The athletics department is aware of this issue, and has been working on improving the girl's locker rooms for the past few years, with budgets holding the process up.

"When on the outside looking in, you don't see the work getting done. It was the right thing to do, we knew we were not [in compliance]," South Athletic Director, Dave Hancock, said.

Head volleyball coach, Danielle Glenzel, notes that while budget has been an issue for the remodel of the girls' locker rooms, it is the school's duty to find money to provide a safe, appropriate environment.

"I see the demolition of the girls' locker room area probably happening in June", Glenzel said.

There are also some aspects of athletics that are hard for the athletic department to control.

"[Volleyball] get significantly less attention than boy sports," senior Kate Gerl, setter on the varsity volleyball team, said, although she mentioned that she has had a generally positive experience with the athletic department. Title IX can enforce that



CHRIS PIETSCH

Protests have broken out across the nation in response to the Title IX changes, leaving sexual assault survivors with less protections and rights than they had in the past.



ALEX WONG

Betsy DeVos, US Secretary of Education, announced her plans in early June 2017 to rollback a set of 2011 campus disciplinary procedures for students accused of sexual assault.

all games are advertised for equally, however it cannot fight the sometimes ingrained discrimination that occurs surrounding sports — that is up to our school community.

In terms of discrimination and harassment, Title IX does not play a large role in South's actions to resolve said issues. Title IX always has the potential to be used as ruling factor in such situations, however there are other regulatory levers that are used more frequently.

"We have made decisions about whether or not to investigate a situation or to make some type of change based on interpretations of Title IX," South Eugene Principal Andy Dey said regarding discrimination cases.

One reason for this lack of use of Title IX in areas other than athletics is that Title IX is relatively new to K-12 schooling. High schools generally do not use Title IX as a basis for discrimination and harassment, but it is very commonly used in colleges and universities.

Title IX has changed South for the better, bringing equality to sports and increasing awareness. South students can be assured that if Title IX were to be revoked or significantly changed, the South staff and community would uphold the excellent level of equality that has been established out of moral understanding.



CALENDAR

11

NOVEMBER

Celebrate South

Held at the Hilton Hotel, South Eugene will be recognizing notable alumni while fundraising for school activities.

12

Last showing of The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later

South Eugene Theater's fall season will be rounding out with a matinee showing of The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later.

15

Early Action Deadline

Attention seniors! Make sure to turn in your early applications to colleges by 11:59 p.m. on this day.

18

First Holiday Market

This holiday version of a Eugenean tradition will soon be open. Be sure to check it out for unique presents!

21

Choir/Orchestra Concert

South Eugene's choir and orchestra will be performing their fall concert series in the auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m.

22

Festival of Trees

This event at Eugene's Valley River Inn takes place during Thanksgiving week and includes attractions like decorated trees and a candy cane forest.

23

Thanksgiving Day

Get ready for a weekend of turkey, mashed potatoes, and sleeping in. Thanksgiving Break lasts four days for South students.

01

DECEMBER

End of Trimester

After 12 long weeks of hard work, the first trimester will finally be over. Time to count down the next 24 weeks before summer break!



PROFILE: CHAD KESSLER

MATTHEW HILL

Throughout the course of high school, the average student interacts with many teachers. While some are easy to remember, due to their eccentric behavior or unique teaching style, some teachers tend to fall to the wayside. Chad Kessler, the new adviser for Student Government and history teacher at South, is a unique character who has a lot to say about his experience at this school.

“I am a proud South Eugene High School graduate, along with the likes of Jeff Hess, Peter Hoffmeister, and Anna Grace,” Kessler said. “It’s quite a phenomenon: people left the high school and then work very hard to return.”

Many students wonder how and why their teachers decided on education as their career.

“It’s not me deciding, and this is gonna sound cliché, but it chooses you” Kessler said. “You’re drawn to it, and you can’t escape.”

“First, it was working with children at the Downtown Athletic Club, and I really enjoyed that,” he continued. “I’ve always been fascinated with how we treat each other, and had always been kind of a casual history buff. So I thought I would pool those interests and it was a direct path to teaching.”

Kessler has many hobbies and interests, but because of South’s schedule, we never get the time to know what they are.

“I have too many interests. That’s one of my problems,” he said. “I enjoy so many different aspects of living. From learning whatever I can learn about the past in a historical context and its applications on our futures to music.”

He also described his love for the great outdoors.

“Being outdoors is probably one of the most important things to me. I love to hike and spend time on water as much as I can. We’re fortunate enough to have opportunities to go kayaking because we’re so close to the coast. The Ridgeline trail system is also a favorite of mine, and I spend as much time as I can up there.”

As of this year, Chad Kessler is the new adviser of Student Government. Kessler’s move to the program has brought in many differences to the way that it operates.

“Since it’s become a class, which is a new thing for South, we have been extremely busy up to this point with homecoming activities



As the adviser for Student Government at South, Chad Kessler is involved with various school activities, including the Halloween Costume Contest, and Club Day.

along with constitutional amendments that we are proposing,” Kessler explained. “We have many activities and extension programs on our docket to plan for.”

Kessler was positive on the scheduling changes for Student Government, comparing the schedule that it used to have to the current schedule.

“In the past, Student Government met a couple of times a week during lunch, and it seemed to me to be a big commitment for the students and stressed them out quite a bit. The class allows conversations to go further, and expand on everything that everyone had wanted to do, but couldn’t do in the past,” Kessler said. Kessler also talked about the future of Student Government and the inclusion of many more people in the program.

“We’re really looking into having more entities on the campus involved directly with Student Government. I want to create an entity that will reach into the student body and look at some systemic issues around campus. I think that Student Government is now the vehicle for that, and I am incredibly excited about it.”

Given the daily pressures of students at South, they might not get time to fully realize the role and character of the various teachers that they have.

A NEWFOUND ENERGY

JACKSON NAUGLE

Moving into the 2017-18 school year has warranted plenty of change throughout the halls of South Eugene High School. But one thing in particular is quite literally making noise around town: the class of 2018 is living their final year in grade school to its fullest extent, and providing an electric atmosphere for athletes and students to celebrate. This level of school spirit has been dormant for years at South, and teachers and athletes are pleased to see the change finally taking place.

“The fan base has been great,” senior wide receiver Elliot James said. “The student section has been packed and loud every home game, and the school spirit in general has been great as well.”

In the opening home football game against Churchill, students decked out in beach attire tossed a barrage of beach balls and inflatable toys throughout the stands. This commitment toward a theme added a certain energy to the game, an energy that has carried on throughout the remainder of the season.

South’s second home game against North Medford offered a cruel rainstorm as its setting, but loyal students fought through the rain and stayed for the game’s entirety. Outfitted in red, white, and blue for the American theme, this dedicated bunch witnessed a loss, but did not waiver from their spirited ways.

The following week of school was Homecoming week, and countless students arrived in various attire matching each day’s theme. The senior class made an Instagram account dedicated to homecoming week and other spirit-related activities. On this account, they posted pictures of South seniors flaunting their newfound energy. To close off the exciting week, ASB President Zac Shakespear led a stampede of pumped up students through an exciting pep assembly. Throughout the hour-long experience, attendees found themselves cheering for their classmates louder than ever before. Additionally, South’s pep band was present at full strength, playing various familiar songs, which prompted students to join in and sing along. This type of behavior was almost unheard of in previous years, and many staff members are pleased with the direction in which the school is headed.

“I have definitely seen an improvement,” art teacher Peter Saraceno said. “The student body has grown more diverse, Heather

STORY

South Eugene’s school spirit lullaby has finally ceased, and students are beginning to enjoy the many wonders of Axemen pride.

has done a really nice job promoting spirit, and it all feels different. I think this is definitely a step in the right direction.”

Easing through fall, the student body remained energized for the final two home football games, arriving in black and purple respectively. Although the team had its struggles, a flood of students arrived at each game more supportive than ever, placing a spring in the players’ steps and a traditional aura of high school energy around the school.

“It feels amazing playing in front of a more energized crowd,” James said. “It helps to know we have a fan base behind us.”

Additionally, the Axemen’s premier soccer program has also been represented well at every game, and student interest only continues to build as the two teams continue to win.

“Having a large group of students at the games has been a game changer,” senior midfielder Jailany Thiaw said. “Hearing the fans cheer the team and I on makes me energized and actually increases the team’s performance.”

South students pose for a photo following their beach-themed home-opening football game. The Axemen lost to Churchill 38-6, but still succeeded in showing their brand-new spirited ways.



COLE MCANICH

So where did this school spirit all come from? The comfort zone barrier holding South's spirit back for years has suddenly disappeared, serving as a pleasant surprise to the school's community. But why and how did this occur?

"We were all tired of being known as the school that doesn't care about sports" senior Ellie Finrow said. "By starting to make spirit events fun, we can change that."

Moving into the 2017-18 school year, South's image has transformed from "We're too cool for school spirit" to "We support our school wholeheartedly," providing an impressive backing to the incredibly strong athletic department.

The notion that Axemen do not know how to represent correctly is being disproved as we speak, and things are just getting started.

Some of South's most popular sporting events are on the horizon in the form of the basketball season. The men's team has earned a preseason top 10 ranking, and the women's team continues to improve with a batch of promising talent within their ranks. These two factors place the interest level high on basket-

A sea of black cheers on the Axemen football team as they take on Willamette at home. Students wielded cowbells at this game to add to the intense atmosphere.

The notion that Axemen do not know how to represent correctly is being disproved as we speak, and things are just getting started.

JACKSON NAUGLE

ball season, suggesting that school spirit could climb to its peak during the winter.

"I'm excited for basketball season," Finrow said. "It's inside, so it's warmer, and we're going to continue to have fun themes and cheers."

With promising events on the horizon and interest levels rising, South Eugene's enthusiasm is finally making a name for itself. As the school year barrels on, two things are certain: the hibernating school spirit has awoken at long last, and purple once again runs deep.



AXE STAFF

PLAYLIST: FALL VIBES

As the weather gets colder and the days get shorter, our tastes change from summer pop hits, to more laid back fall anthems. This is your go-to playlist for walking through puddles, raking piles of leaves, or driving down country roads.



The Way Life Goes

LIL UZI VERT



Higher Ground

ODESZA



Hey Ma

CAM'RON



19 Hours

GIRAFFE



I Like It

DEBARGE



Selfish

SLUM VILLAGE



Better Off

FILOUS



4422

DRAKE



Turn Up

BRANCHEZ & BIG WET



All I Want for Christmas

MARIAH CAREY

MARILYN MOLSTRON-WARNER

NEUTRON STARS

On Aug. 17, for the first time in history, scientists were able to observe the collision of two neutron stars in a galaxy 130 million light years away from Earth. Born from supernovas, neutron stars are the smallest stars known to exist, sharing the same density as atomic nuclei. With masses 1.6 and 1.1 times the mass of the sun, the two neutron stars crashed into each other at nearly the speed of light. The collision produced a kilonova that released heavy elements such as gold and platinum. Scientists were particularly excited about this development because it revealed the decades-old mystery of how the universe's heavy elements were created.

The neutron star collision has also offered scientists invaluable insight on gravitational waves. Ever since Albert Einstein predicted gravitational waves in his theory of general relativity, scientists have been trying to find a way to detect them.



With the help of LIGO, a gravitational wave observatory located in Louisville, Louisiana, and Virgo, a gravitational wave observatory located near Pisa, Italy, scientists were able to detect and measure gravitational waves for the first time when the neutron stars collided. Einstein argued that objects in the universe warp space and time around them, and that when they move, these objects create ripples in space-time. Six decades after his death, Einstein continues to amaze the world by accurately predicting the nature of the universe. Scientists are now waiting to see if the neutron stars will coalesce into a black hole.

NOSHIN RAHMAN

BEAUTY CORNER: FALL BEAUTY TRENDS

Red, yellow, purple, black, orange, pink, magenta, blue and brown are all colors that characterize the changing shade of an autumn leaf. Not only are these colors beautiful in foliage during the fall, but they can also be a great palette for makeup.



PUMPKIN SPICE LATTE, LIGHT ORANGE HIGHLIGHTER

This fall, metallics, red shades, and a shimmery glow are setting the theme for the season. Recently Etsy seller FeatherRiverbody came out with a Pumpkin Spice highlighter that has been blowing up on the web. Its golden sparkles and subtle pale orange base present a unique look. FeatherRiverBody calls this fall trend “blendable and buildable” and comments that it “lasts all day.”



VAMPY LIPS

Dark lipstick has always been my favorite trend that comes around every fall, and it is always a bold look to wear. With colors of berry shades, plum, maroon, reds, and magenta, embrace your edgy side all season long.



ART

SATURDAY MORNING

In this copic marker drawing, artist and South senior Julia Jordan portrays a child viewing a television show on Saturday morning. The original work features a pull-out tab to change the image on the television.

