

# ALWAYS ON THE BRIGHT SIDE

MADISAN BRYANT | 9

SKYE YAEGER | 10

## Junior Rebekah Rogers dedicates energy to "The SpongeBob Musical" on Jan. 25-28

SpongeBob and Patrick's BFF status is over. Bikini Bottom is set for disaster. But through it all, SpongeBob still looks on the bright side. It is still the best day ever.

In the same way, junior **Rebekah Rogers** found the bright side when rehearsals got tough. From 10-hour rehearsals to four nights of performances, Rogers gave it her all as SpongeBob. In sixth grade, she had her first musical experience in the high school production of "The Sound of Music." That moment made her realize she had to stay in the theater program.

"There's something so addicting about when the lights are on you and you're in your element just doing what you love," Rogers said. "It gets you so excited to tell a story that's not your own, and being able to bring light on certain situations, make people laugh [or] influence people in a positive way is so fun."

Rogers never played a happy character before her role as SpongeBob; she always played the sad little girl. Although it seemed simple, SpongeBob had many complexities and aspects she could play with.

"I love the opportunity to portray an optimistic character and be the shining light that keeps the play moving," Rogers said. "It was a crazy feeling to be the title character of a musical that sparks so much joy and optimism."

Rogers got to work closely with seniors **Carly Fisher** and **Lleytan Watt**, who played Sandy and Patrick, respectively. They helped bring a fun energy to the stage. Fisher looked forward to rehearsals because Rogers always worked to get everyone excited.

"She is one of the most talented people that I have known, but also one of the kindest people that I will ever meet," Fisher said.

Working with Rogers and theater has taught the seniors many important lessons. Something they learned that stuck with them was to keep doing what you love and enjoy the most.

"Obviously, it's easier said than done, but just put yourself out there," Watt said. "You have nothing to lose but everything to gain."

### SUN'S STILL SHINING

SpongeBob SquarePants, played by junior **Rebekah Rogers**, sings to Bikini Bottom during the song "Best Day Ever" in the second act. SpongeBob worked to remind everyone that even though their world might end soon, it is still a great day. "It's a really important message to enjoy every moment that you have because you never know if it will be your last," Rogers said.

PHOTO | DIYA ROY

### WHAT FRUIT WOULD YOU LIVE IN UNDER THE SEA?

"I would live in a pear because I think that'd be fun." MADISON WILBURN | 10



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### THE SQUID OF THE SHOW

Surrounded by dancers, Squidward Q. Tentacles, played by senior **Isabella Murtoff**, stands in the final position for the song "I'm Not A Loser." Squidward's song was a tap number involving the understanding of self worth. "Everyone has a little bit of Squidward in them," Murtoff said. "It's just making sure to understand that you are enough."

PHOTO | DIYA ROY

### ALL FOR CHUM, CHUM FOR ALL

Sheldon J. Plankton, played by senior **Sarthak Garg**, holds a Plankton plush in the air at the end of the song "When the Going Gets Tough." Plankton is constantly demeaned for his size and at the end of it, he had no real effect on the show. "He's literally just there for the jokes because he's not affecting the storyline at all," Garg said.

PHOTO | DIYA ROY



### SHALLOW AND SHALLOWER

Eugene Krabs, played by senior **Addison Elwell**, and Pearl, played by senior **Peyton Scheffler**, argue during the song "No Control" in the first act. They argued about materialistic things even though their world was about to end. "It just sheds light on the priorities of the different characters and kind of makes fun of how shallow both of the characters [are]," Scheffler said.

PHOTO | DIYA ROY



### NOT ANOTHER PIRATE COPY

Patchy the Pirate, played by senior **Montana Staten** and the other pirates, including junior **Allison Moore**, dance to "Poor Pirates" near the beginning of the second act. Patchy wrote the song as a protest against pirate prejudice, which referenced a moment earlier in the musical when Patchy was forced to leave. "With Patchy, I'm allowed to ad lib and associate with the audience as much as possible," Staten said.

PHOTO | DIYA ROY



## JUST LIKE THE CLASSIC

Actors perform various musical numbers that represent characters they play



### SCIENTIFIC SQUIRREL

With her plan behind her, Sandy Cheeks, played by senior **Carly Fisher**, explains how her invention will save Bikini Bottom during the song "Hero is My Middle Name." Up until this point, Sandy doubted herself because of discrimination from the other townsfolk. "This idea was something that could help her reunite with her town and friends," Fisher said.

PHOTO | DIYA ROY

### HOLE IN MY HEART

Surrounded by his sardine supporters, Patrick Star, played by senior **Lleytan Watt**, sings about how much he misses his friend SpongeBob in "(I Guess) I Miss You." Even though he enjoyed the praise he got from the sardines, Patrick missed his best friend. "No matter what people are closest to you, you shouldn't leave them over something that's amazing in the moment," Watt said.

PHOTO | DIYA ROY



## RECREATING BIKINI BOTTOM

Ensemble focused on different ways to bring Bikini Bottom to life

"I'm one of the jellyfish and that's like a main part of one of the scenes. So I feel like I just made [Bikini Bottom] seem like [it] came to life with my jellyfish. It's been a great experience." ENSLEY ELWELL | 9

"I feel like [I helped because] I represented Patrick Star because I'm one of the main sardines. We just praise Patrick Star, and we have our own song for him [and everything]." JAYDEN SHELBY | 10

"One of [my characters] is Gary the Snail and although he doesn't have any dialogue, I'm like [SpongeBob's] support and so I believe that just with my little animal noises, I could help." SKYE YAEGER | 10

"The best way that I contributed to bringing Bikini Bottom to life was in 'Poor Pirates' because I feel like there's so much emotion in that. It's a lot of fun and it's really upbeat." JC MAYS | 11

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### THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

Design | Diya Roy  
Story | Diya Roy  
WINTER