Secretary of State Jesse White Speaks to Students

Mr. Jesse White speaking to the student body at the assembly.

By: Emily Jones

Mr. Jesse White visited Southwestern High School on Thursday, Nov. 15. He discussed many topics with the student body, such as teen driver safety, organ donation, his tumblers and his commitment to helping others, and his service in the U.S. Army and Illinois National Guard.

Mr. White is the 37th Illinois Secretary of State and the Illinois State Librarian. Before his term in office, Mr. White served in the United States Army’s 101st Airborne Division and was a member of the Illinois National Guard. He was elected as Secretary of State in 1998, and was re-elected in 2002, 2006, and 2010.

While speaking about teenage drivers and the age at which students can receive a license, Mr. White claimed, “I want you to drive at 16.”

During the “Q & A” part of the assembly, Mr. White was asked about his road to becoming Secretary of State. He told about how people doubted him, but he persevered and made it to where he wanted to go.

He stated, “So if someone tells you that you can’t do something in life, you say, ‘Watch me.’”

When asked how his visit benefits the students and teachers, Principal Mark Bearley remarked, “Anytime you have someone who works for the state and who knows the ins and outs of things it is benef-

Españoles Club Va a Chicago

By: Katie Wooldridge and Alysa Kaiser

On Nov. 1 and 2, Spanish club took a trip to the “Windy City.” While there, students visited The Museum of Mexican Art, Ed Debevics, Blue Man Group, Shedd Aquarium, and a Latin dance lesson. The cost was $150 per student and 40 students attended, along with five chaperones (Mrs. Hasse, Mrs. Brown, and three parents).

“Shedd aquarium was my favorite place, because it was really cool,” stated senior Katie Baker.

Junior Levi Harter claimed the Blue Man Group was his favorite, because it was an exciting and unexpected show.

Before the Blue Man Group, the club went to Ed Debevics for dinner. There, they had the opportunity to dance to the YMCA in front of the entire restaurant.

Caylin Beeman, sophomore, commented, “It was a fun atmosphere and the food was really good.”

Overall, the students and chaperones were very pleased with the way the trip turned out.

Mrs. Hasse exclaimed, “It was perfect; everyone was on time and got along great!”

Mrs. Brown said that it was a great time and students seemed very interested in the activities. She also added that Southwestern has a good group of dancers.
FCCLA Attends Fall Leadership Conference
By: Alicia Woodman
On Oct. 29, FCCLA members went to Springfield for the Annual Leadership Conference held at Northfield Inn and Suites. The day started off with the opening ceremonies, followed by members attending two sessions, and ending with the closing ceremonies.

The sessions were “Spice it Up” by Kendall College, “Recycle and Redesign”, “Zumba Fit”, “Cosmetology”, “Alzheimer’s Association Awareness and Activities” and “Your Safety is Important”.

Senior Miranda Daube went to the Cosmetology session and remarked, “I learned how to give myself a manicure.”

Senior Erin Huff attended the Zumba Fit. She commented, “Zumba was very fun and energetic.”

The key-note speaker, Craig Schneller, wrapped up the conference with his speech about his daughter Breanna, who was a victim of a homicide. He spoke about the grief he suffered after Breanna’s death. He asked the audience to think about challenges in their lives and he offered coping mechanism for dealing with difficult situations. For more information, visit www.breannasmile.org.

Senior Amanda Beeman added, “Mr. Schneller’s story was inspirational and touching. I learned a lot from it.”

August Schetter Elected as FFA Section President
By: Alicia Woodman
Senior August Schetter was elected Section 15 President in May by a delegate body of members from Section 15. As president, he must do chapter visits with the other state officers to schools in the section. He also must serve as relay between state office and local schools, help run contests and send the results to the state office.

August Schetter commented, “I have wanted to do this since freshmen year.”

“As section president, I help schools fill out their preliminary agendas for the year and get them sent in on time in order to receive grant money from the Perkins fund,” explained Schetter. He added that there are about 14 schools in our section.

Schetter recently went to National FFA Convention in Indianapolis where he served as a delegate for Section 15. He served on a committee that focused on creating a new career development event. He also helped set National FFA dues and set the tone for the convention.

Last year, he was vice president of Southwestern’s FFA chapter and his sophomore year he was vice-vice president and farm plot manager.

After high school, Schetter plans to study crop science at the University of Illinois-Champaign and earn a Bachelors in Crops.
Entertainment

In The Halls
With Danielle & Emily
What is your favorite store to shop at on Black Friday?
Kohl’s- Sarah Bennett
New York & Co.- Hannah Price
Macy’s- Alicia Woodman
Wal-Mart- Erin Huff
Best Buy/Target- Anna Betts
Farm & Home- Kayla Cole
“At home where it’s safe”- Cassidy Jones
Kohl’s & Target- Abi Bregenzer
Macy’s- Emily Bachman
Target- Katelyn Stanley
J. C. Penny’s- Emily Jones
Hot Topic- Sam Rathgeb
Gordman’s- Britney Moore
Maurice’s- Jamie Frederick
Game Stop- Frankie Steward
Amazon-Mr. Mosley
Wal-Mart- Mrs. Mitchell
Mr. DeLong- Target
Corey Moore- Hollister
Mr. Grimes- Bass Pro Shop

Southwestern Band Marching Forward
By: Sarann Boker

This year the Southwestern High school band has marched in the Alton Halloween parade and the Brighton Elementary School Halloween parade.

Other events they have planned are two visits to the elementary schools. According to Mr. Elwyn Mielke, director of the Southwestern High School band, they visit the elementary school twice a year. They visit once in the fall and again in the spring.

This summer they plan to go to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. They will be leaving on the June 2 and coming back on the 6. They will spend half a day marching and going to workshops and the rest of the time they will get the opportunity to roam around the park.

Nine seniors are in band: Shelby Albert, Sarah Bennett, Samantha Horn, Laci Hudson, Kaitlyn Lawson, Ryan Lively, Angela Newby, Caleb Rich, and Sierra Spraggs.

Bennett stated, “What I’m going to miss most about band are my friends and playing at the football and basketball games.”

Spraggs, drum major, commented, “Band taught me that I want a career in music, and I was a musical prodigy at age 2.”

Rich stated, “I’ll miss my friends in band and the music, of course.”

FFA Sales Presentation Team Places 1st

The Southwestern FFA Chapter hosted a section event on Thurs, Nov. 15. Events included Quiz Bowl, Agronomy identification, and Individual/Group Sales presentations.

The Southwestern Group Sales team received first place. Team members included: Nathaniel Sellers, Anna Betts, Rachel Meisner, and August Schetter.

August Schetter received fifth place in the individual sales competition as well. Judges for the individual sales event included Alan Karcher (Carrollton Bank-Jerseyville Banking Center), Kelly Goetten (SHS English/Speech teacher), and Valerie Bates (AgriSolutions).

Mr. Tim Reed, FFA Advisor/Agriculture Teacher, organized the event and stated that over 200 FFA members from 12 area schools participated in the three events.
Scholar Bowl Team Buzzes In for New Season: Varsity Wins First Match

By: Alicia Woodman

The 2012-2013 Scholar Bowl season has begun. This year’s team consists of 11 Varsity and 11 JV members. There are eight seniors, four juniors, four sophomores and six freshmen. Coach Matt Hasquin has been coaching for 10 seasons.

Coach Hasquin stated, “We got off on a good foot. We scored 200 points on Carlinville and we scored 340 points on Gillespie, which is the most points Scholar Bowl has scored since I have been coaching. We have adjusted to the new rules well. We look forward to an extended, fun and productive season.” The team started their season with a Novice Tournament in Greenville. This was followed by the first match of the season hosted by Carlinville. They played Carlinville, Gillespie and Northwestern. Varsity lost against Carlinville, but won against Gillespie and Northwestern. JV also lost against Carlinville and Gillespie, but won against Northwestern.

Sophomore Brandon Murphy remarked, “Knowledge is what you make of it, so we use it wisely.”

Senior Nick Simmons added, “Knowledge is power broken into two parts, the power of mind and the power of knowing it all.”

When asked who he thought the team’s biggest competition was Coach Hasquin stated that it is Carlinville and Litchfield.

Senior Jonathon Montgomery commented, “We don’t work Scholar Bowl, we play Scholar Bowl. I’m looking forward to all the tournaments and to see all the kids I haven’t seen before. Even though this is my last year, I want to see Scholar Bowl last and not be off and on. I don’t want Scholar Bowl to be known as nerds who push buzzers to answer questions.”

The Nerd Birds will have a full schedule with eighteen scheduled varsity dates and many tournaments.

Students Drinking Their Way to Strong Bones

By: Abby Mizerski

The Southwestern Home Economic classes participated in a unit about calcium. During this unit students did many activities with milk, mainly poster making.

Senior Kaitlyn Gunning stated, “The milk posters are to make people aware of the healthy benefits of milk.”

The classes taste tested 12 different kinds of milk. Senior Tarah Wallace exclaimed, “Coconut milk is disgusting!”

The students learned many facts about milk, such as skim milk has the same amount of calcium as whole milk, and teens need calcium more than any other age group.
FFA Members Plant & Harvest Farm Plot  
By: Katelyn Stanley

This Spring Southwestern FFA took on a leadership role of planting several varieties of corn on each side of Brighton North.

Senior August Schetter and Junior Jon Loy were in charge of the plot. Juniors Leighton Grothaus and John Payne also worked on the plot.

They were chosen to be in charge for the plot because they were elected officers.

There were eight different varieties of corn planted.

The project was made possible by local businesses who donated seed, fertilizer, and other inputs for FFA to use as a fundraiser.

“It was an enjoyable day in the field,” Schetter said.

The crops were planted in the Spring and harvested in the Fall.

Foods Classes Sell Pampered Chef Items

By: Danielle Halcom

Michelle Anderson, a Pampered Chef representative, came to Southwestern on November 7, to speak to Mrs. Sinclair’s classes.

She has worked with the company for 18 years.

She prepared pasta carbonara and cornbread for each class throughout the day.

All of the classes that participated are having a fundraiser, to purchase new kitchen equipment for the food labs.

They will sell Pampered Chef products to various people throughout the month.

SHS September Students of the Month

Senior Christopher Catlett

Junior Lenzi Rodney

Sophomore Hannah Greeling

Freshman Zach Long
Attention Seniors: Would You Like Free Money for College?

For almost anyone, the words “free money” would get their attention. This is the time of year when high school seniors should begin applying for college, searching for scholarships, and filling out financial aid papers.

Ms. Debbie Ballard, guidance counselor, wants students to start doing all of these things as soon as possible.

“Some college application deadlines are as early as November 15th or December 1st,” warned Ms. Ballard. “Students must pay attention and keep up with things.”

The Guidance Department is offering a Financial Aid Informational Workshop on Thurs., Nov. 29, from 6:30—7:30 p.m. in the middle school commons.

Ms. Emily Eilers, a representative from Illinois Student Assistance Commission ISACorp, will explain types of financial aid and how to get started. She will discuss when to apply and how to correctly complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms. Ms. Ballard also encourages students to go to the piasabirds.net website and go to the high school page. On the left side, students should click on “school webpages” and click on “scholarship information” to see scholarships available.

“I think it’d be very beneficial to fill out any financial aid forms and apply for as many scholarships as possible,” commented senior Danielle Gillespie.

Construction Classes Learn About Job Opportunities and Union Organizations

By: Frankie Steward

On Friday, Nov. 2, Mr. Buttita’s classes attended the 2012 Construction Career Expo at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville. The event was sponsored by an association of Southern Illinois trade unions as well as the Department of Labor.

Mr. Buttitta said that its purpose was to inform and engage young people in regard to the various trade unions (there were 8 represented this year) so as to generate future interest construction careers.

He added, “It is well planned and the students generally have a good time.”

Students talked to representatives but also participated in various activities.

A nail driving contest was held and students could also learn how to make a metal tool tray. Students also were instructed how to cement work.

Freshman Scott Kasting said that he enjoyed visiting different stations and finding out about construction careers. He stated that the event taught students about all possible careers in this field.

Senior Anna Vinyard said, “I learned about various careers in the union.”

Freshman Jack Turner commented, “The metal work was awesome!”

The group ate at Golden Corral for lunch.

Junior Class Gettin’ Moioooooo000000-La!

By: Danielle Halcom

Before the last home football game, on October 12, at 4 p.m., the Junior Class worked and the Booster Club held a “Betsy Bingo” fundraiser to raise money for the junior class prom and for the sports teams. The event was held on the softball field.

The juniors sold tickets for $10 and each ticket had a number on it. Betsy, a cow donated by a local farmer, was turned loose in a fenced-in area, which will be marked off with 500 numbered squares. Betsy determined the winner by making her first “deposit” on one of the squares. The winner received $1000.00.

An anonymous person won, and donate the money back to the Junior Class and the Booster Club.

“The fundraiser was a big success,” commented junior class sponsor Mrs. Chris Brown.

Hat and Mitten Tree

FCCLA will collect hats and mittens in the office during the first part of December. Items will be donated to the district elementary schools.
SHS Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball Teams Hit the Court

By: Ellie Trombetta and Caylin Beeman

The start of the 2012-2013 boys and girls basketball season is well under way. Girls began in season practices on Monday, Oct. 29. The boys’ season kicked off on Monday, Nov. 5.

Both teams partook in summer activities. The boys held open gyms and hit the weight room. They also played in a summer league and went to a camp at SIUE College. The girls also held open gyms, went to shootouts, and participated in about 30 games.

Assisting boys’ head coach, Jason Darr, will be Brian Madson, Dave Robin- son, Dan Bennett, and TJ Huber. Coaching alongside head girls’ coach Steve Wooley will be Jeff Hall.

Coach Wooley stated, “We’re young this season, but I always have high hopes.”

With eight of the 16 girls on the team being freshmen, the team is still working hard with good attitudes. Coach Wooley said he’s very happy about how practices are going so far. The team consists of eight freshman, three sophomores, three juniors, and two seniors: Alayna Ducharme and Jamie Geisler.

Coach Darr commented that he hopes the intensity level at practices will continue to be high. The team consists of seven freshmen, six sophomores, five juniors, and four seniors: Jonathon Kirby, Erik Sosa, Jacob Segrest, and Chris Catlett.

“I have high expectations for this season, We plan to improve on last year and the kids have really been looking forward to it,” Coach Darr said.

Both coaches expect their teams to represent their school well and work hard. Coach Darr hopes to have at least a 15 win season and place top three in conference.

Both teams will be competing against new teams such as Gillespie and Staunton. They will also be playing Greenfield as a new non-conference game.

**GIRLS—SENIOR SPOTLIGHT**

“**The team is going to have a higher tempo and play with a faster pace. I look forward to the rest of the season and enjoy being one of only two seniors.”**

Alayna Ducharme

“I’m excited for my senior season. I enjoy playing with the freshmen this year. I think we’ll have a successful, winning season.”

Jamie Geisler

**BOY’S**

November 23-Dec. 1- @ Lebanon Thanksgiving Tournament

November 27-@ Carrolton

December 4– Litchfield @ Home

December 7-@ Carlinville

December 11-@Staunton

December 14– Jerseyville

December 18–@Greenville

December 21– Greenfield @ Home

December 26-29-@ Carrolton

Christmas Tournament

**GIRL’S**

November 13-@ North Greene *W

November 15-Greenfield @ Home *W

November 17-24– Thanksgiving Tournament @ Home

November 26– EAWR @ Home

December 1– Vandalia @ Home

December 10-@ Pana

December 13-Litchfield @ Home

December 18– Greenville @ Home

December 20– Staunton @ Home

December 26-29- @ Jerseyville Holiday Classic
Cross Country Team Enjoys Last Supper
By: Danielle Gillespie

The cross country season officially concluded at the Oct. 30th banquet hosted in the high school cafeteria. The athletes and their families enjoyed a meal prepared by Trish Catlett and listened as Coach Gary Bowker describe the 2012 Cross Country season.

Following this, Wannida Artsavapontganet, exchange student from Thailand, was awarded a certificate of participation. The following 17 athletes received their varsity letters: freshmen Evan Lowis and Brandon Myatt (who received a red “B” for Bunker Hill); sophomores Payton Heyen, Sarah McCoy, and Nick Ballard; juniors Sondra Thurm, Lauren Jenkins, Josh Jorden, and Chris Watts; seniors Chris Catlett, Jonathon Kirby, Abi Bregenzer, Abby McNear, Bailey Hallows, Danielle Gillespie, and Alayna Ducharme.

Several special awards and recognitions were also received. Abi Bregenzer was recognized as being the only senior to receive three letters in cross country. Chris Catlett and Danielle Gillespie were awarded with captain’s pins. Plaques were given for the Coach’s Award to Bailey Hallows and Chris Catlett; Runner-Up Runner Award to Sondra Thurm and Brandon Myatt; Most Valuable Runner Award to Lauren Jenkins and Jonathon Kirby.

Lauren Jenkins was the only sectional advancing runner this season and competed in the October 27th SIUE sectional. She finished her season with a personal best of 21.44.

“A special thanks to the Booster Club for paying the athletes meals, and to all those who helped to make this such a successful season!” Coach Bowker added.

Lady Birds Volleyball Banquet Is a Kill
By: Alysa Kaiser and Katie Wooldridge

The top three servers for the 2012 season: (from l to r) Demi Lowis, Lauren Jenkins, Ashlyn Ringhausen.

The volleyball team officially ended the 2012 season with their annual banquet. The banquet was held at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, Nov.12, in the high school cafeteria. The meal was catered by Femai’s. After eating, Coach Julie Kinser, Assistant Coach Danielle Darr, and principal Mr. Bearley each spoke about the girls’ accomplishments.

Tarah Wallace, senior, was given a 3rd Team All-Conference award. Although she was happy to receive the award, she was also disappointed, considering last year she made 2nd Team All-Conference.

The team’s stats for the season were also announced at the banquet. Junior, Lauren Jenkins, held the highest serving percentage for the varsity team with a 97%. Closely following were senior, Demi Lowis, and sophomore, Ashlyn Ringhausen, both with a 96%.

Wallace led the team with an attacking percentage of 87% and 184 kills.

Throughout the season, Katie Wooldridge, junior, had 297 balls served to her, managing to pass 86% of them. Very close behind was senior, Alayna Ducharme, who had 295 balls served to her, with an 84% passing percentage.

Bowling: For People Who Have Talent to “Spare”
By: Lauren Peiffer

Parents Patty Heineman and Elaine Grothaus have volunteered to organize and coach the bowling team for the second year in a row. Practices began in late October, at Bowl Haven in Alton. Anyone was welcome to join the team.

Junior Brian Heineman quoted “Bowling was taken away two years ago, and then eventually got it back last year.”

Bowling is a good sport for students to participate in because it doesn’t just end in high school; bowling is a lifetime sport and can be enjoyed by all ages. The first match was on November 19th.

Soccer Coach Wanted:
Boys and/or girls soccer coach wanted for the 2013-14 season. Position closes November 30. See office for more info.