SHS Makes Homecoming Memories

By: Chelsey Milligan

The 2013 Homecoming Week kicked off on Monday, Sept. 30, with dress-up days (see pictures on page 3). When asked what their favorite day was seniors, Jaide Trevino and Amber Freeman agreed that it was Blast from the Past.

On Wednesday the powder puff games took place with freshman playing juniors and sophomores playing seniors.

Then Friday, the championship powder puff game was played after the pep rally. The Homecoming parade began at 5:45 p.m. in Shipman and was followed by a bonfire.

On Saturday, the Southwestern Piasa Birds football team played the Staunton Bull Dogs at 1 p.m. The homecoming court candidates were announced as they drove around the track in golf carts.

Homecoming week came to an end with the dance Saturday night at 8 p.m. The theme was “A Night in Paris” and a mural of the Eiffel Tower was painted by junior Brandon Murphy.

He stated, “It took an entire week after school and I definitely couldn’t have gotten it done without the help of my friends.”

Senior James Krankel commented, “We danced the night away and I had a bunch of fun!”

Coronation took place at 9:30 p.m. Retiring King Phillip Reedy and Queen Kairegan Johnson crowned the new king and queen, Josh Jordan and Katie Wooldridge.

Senior Josh Jordan said, “I was not ready for it. I thought Garrett was going to win by all the cheers, but it feels good to represent the school!”

Senior Katie Wooldridge added, “It was a big surprise and I wasn’t expecting it at all. I had a lot of tough competition.”

Mrs. Borkowski, student government sponsor commented, “We sold around 350 tickets. I think it went very well.”

Class of 2014 Triumphs in Powder Puff Action

By: Ricci Flannery

When homecoming week starts so does the great game of Powder Puff football. High school girls get the chance to get “tough and tough” like the football players. Coaches for this year’s teams were: freshmen-Mr. Fricke, sophomores-Mr. Skertich, juniors-Mrs. Bowman, and seniors-Mr. Hasquin.

The semi-finals were held on Wed., Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. on Knapp Field. The juniors defeated the freshmen in the first game, 22-0. The seniors overcame the sophomores, 26-12.

Sophomore Rebecca Vogt played for the first year and stated, “Although the seniors beat us, it was a lot of fun to play.”

On Fri., Oct. 4, the seniors dominated the juniors, 20-0. Seniors Hannah Wilfong was the quarterback scored a touchdown while running back Lauren Jenkins drove in a touchdown.

When asked who the most aggressive player was, referee J.P. Mueller, stated, “Lindsey Snyder was tough.”

Assistant coach for the seniors, Rachel Meisner commented, “Morgan Cates and Hannah Wilfong stood out the most to me. Morgan stood out to me because she was always pumped up and ready to go. Hannah had a very positive attitude and was a good team leader.”

Meisner added, “I think they played well and fought for the overall win. They also played fair for being seniors.”

On Fri., Oct. 4, the seniors dominated the juniors, 20-0. Seniors Hannah Wilfong was the quarterback scored a touchdown while running back Lauren Jenkins drove in a touchdown.

When asked who the most aggressive player was, referee J.P. Mueller, stated, “Lindsey Snyder was tough.”

Assistant coach for the seniors, Rachel Meisner commented, “Morgan Cates and Hannah Wilfong stood out the most to me. Morgan stood out to me because she was always pumped up and ready to go. Hannah had a very positive attitude and was a good team leader.”

Meisner added, “I think they played well and fought for the overall win. They also played fair for being seniors.”
Shipman Hosts 3rd Annual Homecoming Parade

By: Brittany Means

On October 4, Shipman hosted the annual homecoming parade for the first time. The tradition of this parade started two years ago and was held in Brighton and last year Medora was the destination.

The lineup for the parade started by the Methodist Church with the Color Guard team who was followed by the Fire Departments of all three towns (Brighton, Medora, and Shipman) and ended with Deputy Mathis at the Shipman Community Park where the bonfire was held. There were many clubs/sports that participated in parade.

When asked how the parade came to be, Mr. Mark Bearley, high school principal, said that he and Mr. Skertich agreed that it would be a good idea to start a homecoming parade. They worked with community members to plan a parade that would rotate each year.

Mr. Bearley said that the community that hosts the parade has done a wonderful job in showing their support for the students and the school.

“The parade is getting bigger each year. There are more and more clubs participating,” added Mr. Bearley.

A contest is held for community floats. This year’s winners were: Zion Lutheran Church, first place; Cheney’s Market, second place; and placing third was the class of 1957.

Freshman Taylor Means said, “It was my first homecoming parade and I really enjoyed it.” She also stated that she is looking forward to being in the parade next year.

Sophomore Samantha French was part of the soccer float and commented, “The parade went great and the weather was perfect.”

Senior Emily Bowman, Publications student, explained, “Though it took a long time and teamwork to get the float together. It turned out great and I couldn’t have finished it without the rest of the class.”

Spanish Club members on their float waiting for the parade to start. (l to r) Jessica Hannikan, Samantha Cranmer, Ashlynn Sellers, Taylor Cranmer, Grace Starret, and club sponsor, Mrs. Beth Hasse.

Senior (l to r) Lauren Jenkins, Morgan Crane, Megan Pence, Lenzi Rodney, and Amber Freeman pose in front of the senior class float.

Homecoming float decorated by the SHS Industrial Tech Department. Josh Norris and Eric Beyer are preparing to launch T-shirts into the crowd.

SHS basketball team show off their float. (l to r) Ethan Gallaher, Randi Hopkins, Malea Bailey, Graham Bachman, Zack Seymour, and Kody Golike.

Leo Vinyard shows his excitement as the junior class finishes decorating their class float before the Homecoming Parade.

The students of the SHS Publications class prepare to start the parade. (l to r) Leah Cohrs, Rebecca Vogt, Mrs. Goetten, Hayley Neibel, Emily Bowman, Neely Goetten, Breanna Fowler, Ricci Flannery, Marib Black, and Casey Moore.
Parade

Homecoming candidates Brendan Schiller and Lora Fritsch smile for the camera.

Homecoming candidates Ryan Goeken and Morgan Cates give a “thumbs up” to the camera before the parade.

Court candidates (l to r) James Krankel, Katie Wooldridge, and Jared Gisy await for the parade to begin.

Homecoming candidates Garrett Simpson and Keri Watts ride in a silver convertible.

Homecoming candidates Josh Jorden and Alysa Kaiser seated in their Chevy convertible.

Homecoming candidates Leighton Grothaus and Hannah Wilfong get ready to cruise in their yellow Mustang.
Students Enjoy Dress Up Days for Homecoming

Mr. Delong and Jacob Rotermund decide to be twins on Celebrity Day.

Mr. Borkowski stands with a few students to show off their Blast from the Past attire.

Juniors (l to r) Ayla Pace, Amber Barnett, Shelby Donahue, Tyler Skelton, and Troy Wild are true “blue” in their class color.

All in Black: Seniors (l to r) Trenton Hagen, Brendan Schiller, Daniel Woodman, Ethan Gallaher, Frankie Steward, and Jamie Huber show off their class color.

Chelsey Milligan, Rachel Meisner, and Amber Freeman cover a variety of eras on Blast from the Past day.

(l to r) Randi Hopkins, Hanna Moore, and Morgan Crane imitate pop singers for Celebrity Day.

(l to r) Superman a.k.a. Garrett Simpson poses with Colton Leber, Trevor Moran, Danny Merideth, and Brendan Emmens who dressed up for Celebrity Day.
On Sunday morning, June 6, former band teacher Mr. Elwyn Mielke along with 46 students, and several parents boarded a charter bus and started their long ride to Orlando, Florida. Once the band arrived in Orlando they had the first day to part into groups and explore the "land of magic." The parks they could enjoy were Magic Kingdom, Hollywood Studios, Epcot, and Animal Kingdom.

After day one was done the band took day two, June 3rd, to perform and participate in a workshop. The students performed four songs that had been practiced over and over again. The songs played were "The Thunderer", "Pacifica", "Glory of The Yankee Navy", and "Denbridgeway". These were played in Downtrip was the workshop and being able to

By: Leah Cohrs

This month’s Artist of the Month is junior Briana Gillespie. Briana became interested in art at a very young age. She specializes in drawing realistic portraits of people.

When asked if she had anyone or anything that inspired her to draw, she said her sister Danielle Gillespie, who is now graduated, inspired her a lot.

When asked about making a career out of her artistic talent, she replied, “I’ve thought about it, but I’m not really sure yet.” Gillespie now takes art classes with Mrs. Ruyle, and stated that, “Art has really made a great impact on my educational life.” She offered advice for younger students getting involved with art. She suggested, “Draw whatever you want, take part in art classes, and just really enjoy what you do.”

Gillespie commented that she’s most proud of her charcoal portrait of Keira Knightley that she drew and won “Best of Show” in last year’s Art Show.

In the Halls

By: Casey Moore

The first official art club meeting was held on Tues., Oct. 15, in the room of Mrs. Susan Ruyle, Art Club sponsor. The Southwestern Art Club is painting a new canvas for the new school year.

The students will work on art projects that are randomly selected from group suggestions.

The first project the Art Club worked on this year is pumpkin carving/decorating. It was held on Oct. 24.

Many things are being planned for the Art Club this year. They will sponsor a family for Christmas and will be making gingerbread houses for the season.

The Art Club will also be holding an art auction this year to raise funds, which they will use for the trip to the St. Louis Art Museum they are planning. They will sell original pieces of artwork that the members create.

Art Club member, Morgan Cates, commented, “I really enjoy the thought of my artwork being sold to help fund the art club.”

The number of monthly meetings held will depend on whether or not the students can attend. Meetings are based on the members’ schedules and the date is voted upon during the previous meeting.

What is your favorite Halloween Candy?

Tanner Moore - Sweet Tarts
Josh Dupont - Snickers
Cody Roberts - Twix
Sean Maronie - Skittles
Sydney Walden - Whoppers
Mr. Redfern - Reese’s
Kyle Spurgeon - Sour Patch Kids
Brianna Large - Milky Way
Mrs. Hasse - Kit Kat
Tyler Mayhew - Skittles
Mrs. Borkowski - Anything chocolate
Nathaniel Sellers - Twix

What is the scariest movie you’ve seen?

Jacob Churchman - Exorcist Beginning
Sarah Dupont - Chucky
Aliee Manns - Orphan
Marion Black - The Strangers
Mr. Hasquin - Signs
Jamie Moore - Insidious
Janina Vomand - Mirrors
Mrs. Borkowski - Exorcist
Kayla Holman - IT
Sara McCoy - Chucky
Dallas Sherman - IT
Mrs. Goetten - Halloween
“Oh the Places” Yearbook Goes: 2012-13 Theme is a Hit

By: Leah Cohrs

The 2012-13 yearbooks were delivered during 8th hour on Friday, September 27. The theme for this year’s yearbook was “Dr. Seuss: Oh the Places We’ve Been.” Last year’s seniors picked the theme themselves because their senior class quote was from Dr. Seuss.

Mrs. Ruyle, Art teacher and yearbook sponsor, commented that the yearbook staff had some other ideas, and they spent about two weeks brainstorming ideas before coming up with the Dr. Seuss theme. She also mentioned that Jostens gave some good ideas as well.

When asked if this was the first time they’ve ever had a theme like this before, she informed, “Yes and no, this is the first time we’ve ever really patterned it off a book in a long time. We have patterned it off movies a couple time though.”

Mrs. Ruyle also mentioned that her favorite thing about yearbook is the behind the scenes stuff. She said that she likes creating the yearbook with the students and also loves hearing the funny comments that can’t be printed in the yearbook.

Mrs. Ruyle also hinted that the 2013-2014 yearbook theme will be very ‘magical’! Yearbook class is held during 8th hour. This year’s editors and staff include: Ashley Krashaar, Hannah Price, James Krankel, Sydney Walden, Marion Black, Hailey Smith, Mackenzie Rose, Ryan Goeken, Ashlyn Madison, Morgan Cates, Jaide Trevino, Sandra Thurm, Emily Jones, Hannah Price, Bubba Cummings, Danielle Churchich, Sam Durham, Leann Bennington.

Mrs. Ruyle wanted to thank the yearbook staff who helped with the making of the Dr. Seuss yearbook: Jessica Pugsley, Ashley Dunham, LeAnna Christopher, Erin Huff, Amanda Dey, Tarah Wallace, Jamie Geisler, Libby Linhares, Devynn Wittman, and Heather Main.

Band Marches in Alton Halloween Parade

By: Brittany Means

On Thur., Oct. 31, the High School Marching Band will be participating in the Annual Alton Halloween Parade. The parade will be held in downtown Alton and is over a mile long.

The band members have been participating in this parade for at least a decade. The traditional songs that will be played are: “Ghostbusters,” “Thriller,” and a newer piece, the “Batman” theme.

Ms. Alex Weinberg, band director, commented, “We have been preparing for this parade since the first day of school and they are definitely ready.”

The SHS marching band receives a plaque for participating in this event.

Ms. Weinberg said that the band is also going to the Shipman Elementary School for the community Halloween parade on Oct. 31.
Football Season Nears An End

By: Rebecca Vogt and Juliet Wooldridge

Football is nearing an end with a record of 0-8. With many injuries this season and the team still trying to add a win to their record, the Birds have struggled but the underclassmen have gained experience.

Freshman Zach Barnett feels that high school football is a lot harder than middle school football. When asked what he feels has improved, he responded, “My technique.” Barnett has hopes that he will be a successful varsity player in the future. He commented that senior J.P. Mueller is a great role model. “He’s a good player and dedicated,” stated Barnett.

“High school football is fun, but it’s a lot of work and practice,” commented freshman Michael Nolte. Nolte said that he has improved on weightlifting since high school football season has started. In the future Nolte sees himself playing varsity football.

“I look up to Corey Moore, because he’s funny and a really good football player,” stated Nolte.

Junior Connor Robinson said that he feels that this season has made him stronger, faster and seems to have pulled the team together.

Four Players Inducted Into Football Hall of Fame

By: Amber Freeman

On Sunday, Sept. 29, the Southwestern Football Homecoming Dinner was held at Brittany Trap Range in Bunker Hill. The dinner began at 6 p.m. with Brass Door catering.

After the meal was served, Mr. Scott Hopkins, emcee of the event, spoke about the newly established Ring of Honor committee that has been formed.

The committee created a football Hall of Fame in order to honor those players who have excelled as players or coaches for the Southwestern High School football program. Those inducted into the Hall of Fame have brought extraordinary pride to the school and the community.

Before attending, the inductees received a letter congratulating them on their nomination to be inducted into the Ring of Honor. These individuals were chosen due to their outstanding achievements and dedication to Southwestern Football.

Mr. Hopkins introduced the inductees: Harold Knapp, Ken Schrier, Frank “Jack” Howard, and Sam Kahl. Each inductee said a few words and shared memories of Southwestern football.

The first coach at Southwestern was Harold Knapp who coached from 1956-1965. The football field is named in his honor. He passed away therefore his family accepted the award.

Senior Corey Moore has wrapped up his high school football career and is looking forward to playing in college.

2013 Hall of Fame Inductees: (l to r) Jack Howard, Sam Kahl, Harold Knapp (son), and Ken Shrier were given the Ring of Honor.

Senior John Paul Mueller attended the banquet and commented, “It was cool to listen to all the former players and their stories.”

Senior Corey Moore said that Ken Shrier was very interesting to listen to and shared funny stories about playing college football at Mizzou.
Lady Birds Soared in Season, Now Look Forward to Regional

By: Breanna Fowler

The Lady Birds Varsity volleyball team has had a successful season and tournament play, placing 3rd in the Alton Tournament and 3rd in the Macoupin County Tournament. Junior Ashlyn Ringhausen and sophomore Karlie Green were named to the Alton Tournament All-Star team. Senior Lauren Jenkins was placed on the County All-Tournament team. The team is 6-2 in conference play.

When asked about her thoughts for the season Coach Kinser replied with, “We have faced some adversity with injuries, but are still able to produce results with a variety of line ups and rotations. We are currently 15-8 and JV is 9-6. I have been pleased with the season.”

Coach Kinser said that the team has been working together great. She commented, “This team works well together. The players all get along both on and off the court, which helps team chemistry.”

Sophomore Madison Greeling added, “We work good as a team, and we all get along.”

The girls have put in a lot of hard work this season but it is far from over. Regionals are being held at Southwestern this year and will begin the week of Oct. 28th.

When asked about regionals being at Southwestern Coach Kinser said, “I’m very excited! It’s going to require preparation involved with hosting, but we get to play on the same court we practice on, which is a huge advantage.”

Greeling also commented on regionals being at Southwestern by saying, “It gives us an advantage because it’s our home court and we have our fans.”

Coach Kinser noted how she thinks the team will do in regionals, “We only have to win one match to get to the championship. Getting there is our first goal. Then we have the opportunity to make school history.”

The JV team has had a winning season. When asked if she was happy with the season, JV player Samantha Burns said, “Yes I’m happy, it has been a very productive season.”

Burns added, “It’s exciting to have regionals here at Southwestern.”

SHS Boys Soccer Team Logs First Win Ever

By: Hayley Neibel

Coach French and the team enjoyed the inaugural season of boys soccer at Southwestern. Although finishing with a 1-11 record, the team showed competitiveness against established programs.

Coach French said that the team improved noticeably with each game. He added that 65% percent of the team were freshmen going up against Varsity level teams.

Trenton Hagen, senior, quoted, “The season was great. Nothing would make it any better.”

The team got their first win in regional play against Gillespie, 5-4. In their next regional match-up, the Birds lost to Litchfield 0-9.

Junior Tyler Mayhew stated, “I’m going to be improving my skills for next year by going to Schneider and running the track, and also practicing making goals.”

Freshman Bret Schiller said, “As we get older and have one year under our belt, we will have more experiences and we will do better next year”.

“After a couple years they will be a lot better,” senior Brendan Schiller commented.

Hagen agreed and added, “When the freshman class is juniors they should have a lot of wins.”

“This season we improved a lot. Getting our first win made the season better,” quoted Hagen.
Spanish Club went on a field trip to the Fox Theatre in St. Louis on Thursday, October 17, to see the musical Evita. The students went to the West County Mall to eat and shop before arriving at the Fox for a 2 p.m. performance.

Mrs. Beth Hasse, Spanish teacher, explained that the musical is based on Eva Peron who was an admired person of the Argentinian people for her many donations to the lower class. After she married the soon to be president of Argentina, Juan Peron. She spoke a lot about women’s rights and was credited with gaining the right to vote for Argentina’s women. Eva was loved by the people but died of cancer at a young age.

This was the first time Spanish Club had been to the Fox.

“We talk about Evita a lot and sometimes I show the movie version in class and when Mrs. Hasse found out it was coming to the Fox we got excited,” commented Mrs. Christine Brown, Spanish teacher.

“I loved the musical!” exclaimed Mrs. Beth Hasse.

Freshmen Emma Kelly and Kaylen Walker both agree the musical was very fun and entertaining.

“The inside of the Fox was very beautiful,” stated Kelly.

“One thing I learned from the musical was that Eva Peron died of uterine cancer,” said senior Randi Hopkins.

Spanish Club Sees Evita at the Fox

“I loved the musical!” - Mrs. Beth Hasse

SHS Pep Club Takes Flight

The Pep Club is starting preparations for the upcoming winter/spring sports. Mr. Roger Henry has been getting students involved in the pep club for many years and this year, seniors Randi Hopkins, and Ryan Goeken took over the reins as co-presidents.

Goeken stated that, “It’s about to go down.” Both presidents said that they are going to all games this season, including baseball, softball, basketball, track, bowling, etc.

When asked if the pep club will be attending the away games along with the home games, Hopkins stated, “Yes, but we can’t get a fan bus so we will have to provide our own transportation.” Hopkins and Goeken are working on ordering t-shirts. They will be designed to say, “Thank you for flying with the Birds” and will have a picture of every sport on the front.

The theme for the pep club is “Flight Club.”

FFA State Officer Visits SHS

On Tuesday, Oct. 1, during SAS, FFA state treasurer, Joe Heavner visited the high school along with, section treasurer, Adam Rosentreter (Carlinville High School), and section president, Amy Raymond (Highland High School).

Heavner started off his presentation for the FFA members with an ice breaker activity where everyone lined up, and try to flick a ping pong ball off of a glass bottle. He wanted to encourage students “to get involved” and to “not be scared to participate”.

Then Rosentreter and Raymond each described what they do for the section as well as the state.

Heavner ended the presentation talking about setting goals. He handed out a notecard, and had everyone write down a short-term, mid-term, and long-term goal that they want to achieve in the future. Heavner discussed all about opportunities in the FFA that will help students when trying to achieve the goals.
Mrs. Oleson Relocates to High School

By: Leah Cohrs

Mrs. Louise Oleson, special education teacher, isn’t new to the district; she’s been teaching here for 22 years. She started teaching at Brighton North then transferred to Southwestern Middle School and Brighton West, and now she’s made her way to the high school.

“I am happy to be here,” commented Mrs. Oleson about the change.

She said that she enjoys all the students and she likes what she’s doing. She explained that she’s getting used to the new faces but she believes it was a good move.

When asked how she was adjusting to a new school, her she replied happily with, “Everybody has been very nice and supportive. Teachers have made me feel welcome and everything is good.”

Her goals for this year are to get more comfortable in the high school and make the adjustment. She would also like to get to know the students and teachers better and help kids meet their needs.

Mrs. Middleton Joins SHS Staff

By: Casey Moore

This year, the high school has welcomed a new lunchroom monitor, Mrs. Jeanne Middleton. This is her first year in the high school even though she has been employed in the district for five years and also drives a bus.

She was previously employed at other school districts and in the medical field but needed a “change of scenery”, so she started working in the Southwestern school district.

Mrs. Middleton stated that she likes being able to interact with the students.

“I like coming here and spending time with all of the students,” she commented.
Environmental Biology Class Identifies Trees in Medora

By: Hayley Neibel

The Environmental Biology class took a field trip to Mr. George Lahr’s property in Medora. The students walked around Mr. Lahr’s land and keyed out and identified native trees. The group learned how to use the dichotomous key to identify trees with their guide book. They also had free time to go on a hike.

Twenty-nine students went on the field trip and Ms. Gaffney has been going for five years.

When asked if she had any issues, Ms. Gaffney said, “They are always very well behaved, that’s why we get invited back every year.”

Ms. Gaffney stated that her favorite part of the trip was, “To see the students interact outside of the classroom and interact with former science teachers, Mr. Lahr and Mr. Stuckey.”

Marion Black, senior, said her favorite part was, “Being able to spend time with my peers and my fantastic teacher, Ms. Gaffney, in a nature-filled environment.”

Senior Mackenzie Rose stated that her favorite part was “lunch and enjoying nature.”

Josh Jorden Wins DAR Award

By: Austin O’Heron

Every year in October, the DAR Good Citizen award is given to a senior who demonstrates patriotism, dependability, leadership and service. The DAR program and contest is intended to encourage and reward the qualities of good citizenship. DAR stands for Daughters of the American Revolution.

This year, senior Josh Jorden was selected for the award.

“This is a great honor,” commented Jorden when asked how he felt about winning the award.
Seniors playing offense walk off the field after scoring a touchdown.

Senior Hannah Wilfong looks over the plays before taking the field.

Juniors (l to r) Mehan Kirby, Sarah Dupont, and Kristen Doerr goof around before the game.

Senior (l to r) Payton Heyen, Morgan Porter, and Hannah Greling get ready to take on the freshmen.

Sophomores Evan Lowis and Taylor Nixon enjoy the playoff games.

Mr. Skertich coaches the sophomores during their match-up with the seniors.

Freshmen (l to r) Paige Kirby, Rachel Lahey, Kaitlyn Cathorall and Brandy Leggett played their first year of powder puff.

Freshmen have fun before their game against the juniors.

Freshmen Whitney Runyon and Mallory Novak show their school spirit.

Faculty members serve snow cones to the students during the championship game.

(l to r) Spencer Heinemen and Adam Keene take a break from watching the powder puff championship game and cool off with a snow cone.