Southwestern Mascot Flies Back to the Field After 20 Years

By: Sarann Boker

The Southwestern Booster Club graciously donated a new Piasa Bird mascot to pump up school spirit. It was designed by “By Designs” (Lillian) in Alton and unveiled at the first home football game on August 24th at 6:30 pm. The last time a Piasa Bird mascot was used was in the early ‘90s.

Senior Anna Betts will be wearing this costume along with juniors, Morgan Cates and Mike Sweeney.

Mr. Mark Bearley, Southwestern High School principal, stated that he would like to see the mascot at as many home events as possible.

The Piasa Bird will also be available for events in the Alton Riverbend area.

Mr. Bearley noted, “I think it’s nice to try to encourage school spirit and to get fans more involved in the game.”

Cates stated that she thinks the crowd reacts really well to the mascot.

When asked how she would pump up the crowd, she replied, “I will dance until I can’t dance anymore.”

Southwestern Homecoming Court

Coronation begins at 9:30 p.m.


Homecoming Week Themes

Monday – White Out Day (wear all white)
Tuesday - 80’s Day (wear fashions from the 80s)
Wednesday - Camo Day (wear camouflage clothes)
Thursday—School Spirit Day (wear green & gold)

SHS Homecoming Parade, Bonfire, & Movie To Be in Medora

The annual Southwestern Homecoming parade is taking place in Medora this year on Friday, Oct. 5th. The parade is kicking off at 6 p.m. with a bonfire and pep rally following its conclusion.

Community floats will be judged at 5:30 p.m. Prizes will be given to the top three. No school floats will be judged.

There’s also going to be a big screen showing of the football film Remember the Titans (PG-13) beginning at 8 p.m. at the old Medora elevator.

The movie was released in 2000 and stars Denzel Washington as Coach Boone and is based on the true story about the new African-American coach who tries to lead his team to the finals in a recently racially integrated school district.

Stop by and support the Green & Gold!
Homecoming Travels Back to Ancient Greece

By: Alicia Woodman

This year’s Homecoming theme is “Ancient Greece”. The motto is YOGO (You’re Only Greek Once). There will be plenty of activities for everyone to attend. All activities will be held during the week of October 1.

At 6 p.m. on Tuesday, the powder puff playoff games will be played on the football field. The freshmen and juniors will play first and then the sophomores and seniors will face off.

There will be a pep assembly during the school day on Thursday to get everyone pumped for the homcoming game.

On Friday evening at 6, there will be a parade held in Medora. All classes, organizations and clubs are encouraged to build a float.

Saturday, October 6, the Homecoming game will be held at 1 p.m. The Piasa Birds will face the Vandalia Vandals. On Saturday night from 8-11 p.m. the Homecoming Dance will be held in the MPR. Tickets will be $10 and will be sold two weeks before the dance beginning September 24.

Homecoming Court was selected by the senior class the week of September 10. The returning king and queen are Zach Mansfield and Kaci McAfee.

When asked what Homecoming meant to him, senior Phillip Reedy answered, “Everybody looks nice. It will be nice to see who gets King and Queen. I can’t wait to dance the night away.”

Student Government advisor Shannon Bowman added, “There will be a Homecoming event for everyone to participate in. We hope everybody in the community comes out to support Southwestern.”

Science Labs Up and Running at SHS: Open House Set for Sept. 27 from 6-8

By: Alicia Woodman

Student Government is an organization sponsored by Mrs. Shannon Bowman at Southwestern High School. The organization plans Homecoming activities, participates in community service projects, and organizes end of the year events and cook-out.

The 2012-2013 Student Government Representatives are: Freshmen Evan Lowis, Juliet Woolridge, Emme Hays, Cody Catlett, Samanthia French, and Laura Raymond.

Sophomores are Chelsey Milligan, Ashlee Wittman, Jessica Werts, Courtney Bangert, and Keely Egelhoff.

Juniors are Morgan Cates, Ashley Kraushaar, Keri Watts, Lenz Rodney, Morgan Crane, Katie Woolridge, Ellie Trombeta, Lauren Jenkins, Randi Hopkins, and Hanna Moore.

Seniors are Nick Simmons, Alicia Woodman, Demi Lowis, Lucy Kroschel, Erin Huff, Kylor Smith, Amanda Beeman, Abby McNear, and Libby Linhares.

The student body is encouraged to share their ideas and opinions with the student government representatives. Student Government meets weekly to plan events.

ANCIENT GREECE

HOMECOMING TICKETS WILL BE SOLD THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 24TH DURING LUNCH. TICKETS ARE $10 EACH.
Southwestern Welcomes Three New Foreign Exchange Students

By: Katelyn Stanley

Southwestern welcome Wannida Artsavapongtanet from Bangkok, Thailand. She is a junior and lives with the Rayson family of Brighton.

Her favorite thing about living in America is the freedom. “We have freedom where I’m from, but more rules than in America,” stated Artsavapongtanet.

She is communicating with her family in Thailand through Skype.

She seems to be enjoying her stay so far and she’s very excited for the rest of the year!

By: Danielle Halcolm

About two weeks ago, foreign exchange student Axle Sjoeborg from Falun, Sweden, came to America, and is staying until May 2013. He is currently a junior and lives with the Rayson family of Brighton.

Axle said he’s looking forward to “learning better English, homecoming, and football games.” The most difficult change for him is the language. So far he doesn’t miss anything about home.

When asked what he likes most about the U.S. so far, he replied, “The food, oh yeah, I love Applebee’s.”

Also he said that he doesn’t like riding the school buses in America.

By: Abby Mizerski

Foreign exchange student Florian Rambow, came here from Frankford, Germany, and is currently a junior.

He’s been here for two weeks, and will be here for 10 months.

Florian’s favorite thing about living in America is the schooling system. He commented, “The people are much nicer, and open minded!”

For his stay in the United States, he will be living with the Rich family of Brighton. The most difficult adjustment for Florian will be the language barrier.

He quoted, “Reading and English are very difficult for me.”

Florian is most excited for the school year, especially Friday night football games, and homecoming.

So far he’s enjoying himself in the United States, and can’t wait for the rest of the year!

Celebrity Birthdays in September

Sept 1st: Dr. Phil, 62 (Dr. Phil was first seen on Oprah before signing to his own TV show.)

Sept 2nd: Mark Harmon, 61 (Mark Harmon has starred on the TV show NCIS since 2003 as character Agent Gibbs.)


Sept 4th: Beyonce Knowles, 31 (Beyonce has had eight number one singles in the USA.)

Sept 6th: Jeff Foxworthy, 54 (Jeff Foxworthy played the voice of the character Lyle in the Fox and the Hound and hosts the TV show, Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?)

Sept 9th: Adam Sandler, 46 (Adam Sandler owns his own film company called Happy Madison Productions that has produced many films such as: Paul Blart, Mall Cop.)

Sept 17th: Kyle Chandler, 47 (Kyle Chandler played the role of Coach Eric Taylor in all seasons of the hit TV series, Friday Night Lights)

Sept 22nd: Tom Felton, 24 (Tom Felton played the role of Draco Malfoy in the Harry Potter Series)
Southwestern Welcomes New Teachers!
By: Caylin Beeman and Ellie Trombetta

Southwestern welcomes to our school this year, Mr. Wade DeVries, a University of Illinois Graduate. He joins our math department teaching Algebra 1, Algebra 1 honors, and Algebra 3.

Mr. Devries, a former teacher at Alton High, Bunker Hill High School and Middle School, has so far been impressed with our school.

He explained, “So far my year has started off well.”

After going to college at U of I and majoring in sports business, Mr. Devries decided to go back to school and get a teaching degree. He has now been teaching for 3 ½ years.

Mr. Devries also enjoys coaching.

He stated that it was his inspiration in becoming a teacher along with just being around the students and watching them learn.

When asked about his free time, Mr. Devries replied, “I coach football and basketball. I really don’t have time for much else!”

Also joining the SHS faculty is Mr. Chris Redfern. He graduated from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) with a degree in secondary education and Biology. He now teaches Biology, Honors Bio, and Astronomy.

As a first time teacher, Mr. Chris Redfern said that he has enjoyed starting his career with Southwestern.

He commented, “I like it here. The people, staff, and kids are very welcoming and nice. I really like the size too.”

Mr. Redfern has expectations out of his students such as being respectful, responsible, mature, and overall have a positive attitude.

Mr. Redfern thoroughly enjoys his job.

He said “I like to see the kids learn and grow. It’s ever changing and never boring.”

In The Halls
By: Alicia Woodman and Danielle Gillespie

What’s your favorite class this year?
Veronica Trevino- Algebra 2
Jonathon Montgomery- Environmental Biology
Jon Moulton- PE
Rebecca Pugsley- Photography
Darby Jones- World Religions
Kayla Cole- Geography
Cassidy Jones- Geography
Alayna Ducharme- Photography
Bailey Hallows- Photography
Sarah Bennett- AP Bio
Jacob Segrest- CAD
Sondra Thurman- American Government/Sociology
Britney Moore- Forensics
Clarissa Means- Chorus
Sam Rathgeb- English 3
Katie Baker- Pop Culture
Rachel Luly- Food Services
Samantha Horn- Choir

Where Did You Travel to This Summer?
Mrs. Simpson- Current River
Amanda Beeman- Gulf Shores, New Orleans and Branson
Jon Moulton- St. Louis
Mrs. Mathis- Washington D.C.
Darby Jones- Michigan
Kayla Cole- Keethsburg, IL
Emily Bachman- Disney World
Anna Betts- All of the major cities on the East Coast, outer banks
Abi Bregenzer- South Carolina for Basic Combat Training
Jamie Frederick- Rode along with Zach to college in Iowa
Erin Huff- Wisconsin Dells
Sondra Thurman- Midwest
Clarissa Means- Texas
Ms. Ballard- Lego Land in Florida
Allison Moran- Columbia, Missouri and Kansas City for softball
Mr. Lansaw- South Haven, Michigan
Emily Jones- Virginia
Sarann Bowker- Arkansas

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Sports Editor: Ellie Trombetta
Entertainment Editor: Hannah Price
Copy Editor: Alicia Woodman
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Advisor: Mrs. Goetten

The Bird’s Eye View is produced by the Publications 1 class. Copies will be handed out once a month during lunch. See Mrs. Goetten if you would like a copy. The newspaper will also be available on www.piasabirds.net.
Segrest Makes Two Leaps and a Bound to State Track Meet

By: Danielle Gillespie

Last year, when many of us were kicking off our summer, 2011-2012 junior Jacob Segrest was traveling to Charleston to participate in the boys State Track Meet, along with fellow teammate and junior Mitchell Nunley. Held on May 27-29, the meet was the culmination of a season’s hard work for Segrest. He qualified for both long and triple jump at the boy’s sectional meet.

Even without jumping personal bests, Segrest managed to snag two medals in Charleston: fifth in triple jump and sixth in long jump.

When asked if he expected to do as well as he did, Segrest admitted, “I expected to place in both, but not as high in the long.”

The best part of his State experience (besides placing) was being able to talk to all of the other competitors. And as for being able to stand on the State platform: “It felt good to stand on it twice,” Segrest joked.

Segrest’s goals for his upcoming senior year of track are to place in the top three for long jump and to win his favorite of the two, triple jump.

FFA Is on the Road to Success

By: Hannah Price and Emily Jones

This summer, FFA went to Springfield for the Illinois State Convention for three days. From the Southwestern chapter, 16 members attended. Overall, there were over 300 chapters in attendance. At the convention, FFA members were able to network with others and discover their agricultural abilities.

Senior Emily Wilson, the Southwestern chapter president, stated, “It was a good chance to see the organization as a whole.”

While there, they participated in several events. They competed in a display contest in which they received first place and will be competing in the national convention in late October. Their display theme was called “The Road to Success Begins with Knowledge.” They also competed in a scrapbooking contest in which they received silver. Among different events, they witnessed 2011 Southwestern Graduate Jacob Meisner retire as the State FFA Secretary and also attended a state dance.

Mr. Tim Reed, FFA Supervisor, commented, “It was good for students to see what they can accomplish,” referring to the career show they attended.

Over the summer, FFA also made several changes to the outdoor Agriscience Learning Garden. This includes starting to grow sweet corn and other plants to sell from the greenhouse. Mr. Reed commented that they are planning to have an open house in the spring.

The Southwestern FFA Chapter recently participated in The Olden Days by helping park cars and direct traffic. Upcoming in September, they have the Horse Evaluation CDE, the Leadership Training School, the Forestry CDE, and their first meeting of the school year on Wednesday, September 12.

PBIS Introduces Bird Bucks at SHS

By: Frankie Steward

The PBIS committee has created a new incentive for students this year called Bird Bucks. These rewards are given to students by teachers or administrators when students have done something positive such as being helpful to a teacher or student, or even just showing good character.

Mrs. Peg Mitchell, dean of students, explained that each buck is worth one point in a classroom, and students can save them and spend them in any class they want.

“BB’s” can also be used for other reasons, such as 5 BB’s can be spent to be able to listen to iPods in class or to get an extra bathroom/water fountain pass.

Mrs. Mathis and Mr. Butitta have worked hard to organize the “Bird Bucks” program.

Senior David Freeman said that he got one from Ms. Ballard for listening to her presentation about college.

“Mrs. Borkowski gave me a Bird Buck for helping a student in SAS,” added Freeman.

Mrs. Mitchell hopes that the Bird Bucks will give students an incentive “to do the right thing.”
Students Help Change The World through Service Project

By: Alicia Woodman

World Changers is a Baptist organization that travels around the United States to make a difference in people’s lives. During this time, participants roof, paint, and do other construction projects. Over the years, Macoupin Baptist Association World Changers has been to Hannibal, Missouri; Roanoke, Virginia, and Clarksville, Tennessee. In July, six people from Southwestern High School volunteered for a week in Florence, Alabama.

Senior Sarah Bennett, who has volunteered with World Changers for the past six years, commented, “I’m a Christian and in the Bible, God tells us to do mission work.”

Junior Daniel Woodman, a third time volunteer, added, “World Changers goal is to spread the word of God. The work aspect is important, but it’s most important role is to get people curious. When people drive by and see ten kids on a roof and a massive dumpster, they want to know more. This provides a great opportunity to share the gospel.”

During this time, volunteers learn a lot spiritually and construction wise. Bennett explained, “Even though construction is a lot of work, it’s a lot of fun and you get to meet people from all over the country.”

Woodman stated, “God pursues this year was the “pursuit”.

Lessons can be learned from this week that these students can use for the rest of their lives.

Bennett added, “I don’t take what I have for granted, because people have a lot less.”

Senior Erin Huff, first time volunteer, said, “Our life here is very short, so we shouldn’t waste our time on Earth.”

Juniors Katie Hemberger, second year volunteer, and Sondra Thurm, six years volunteer; and sophomore Audrey Thomsbury, second year volunteer, also participated in World Changers.

They added that the community was great and the people were open and curious. All of them keep in contact with people they met during their trip.

“Piasa Bird Dedication To Excellence” Award Winners

By: Katelyn Stanley and Lauren Peiffer

In 2011, the Southwestern School District created the “Piasa Bird Dedication to Excellence Award” which recognizes district employees who have displayed outstanding performance in their profession. Recipients of the reward can be nominated by district employees and parents. Nominations are accepted until the last day of the school year and winners are announced on the opening day institute. Awards are given in three categories: Pre-K to 6 certified staff; 7-12 certified staff; and non-certified employees.

This year, Mrs. Betty Mills, cafeteria worker, was the winner of the “Piasa Bird Dedication to Excellence Award” for non-certified staff. Mr. Brian Borkowski, high school English teacher, nominated Mrs. Mills.

Mrs. Mills said that she had no idea it was going to happen

“I was very surprised,” Mrs. Mills said. She received a glass trophy and a $200 gift certificate to a local business.

Mr. Joe Buttitta, high school construction teacher, was also a winner of the “Piasa Bird Dedication To Excellence Award” for certified staff.

Mr. Rodney Knittel nominated Buttitta.

“Joes rapport with students is tremendous. Students know that he will do anything to see them achieve and in return they give him 100% in the classroom,” Knittel said.

Buttitta had no idea he was nominated so he had quite the shock on the first day of school when he received the award. He received a glass trophy, and $300 to spend on classroom materials.

“It was really a classy thing,” commented Mr. Buttitta.
Southwestern Football Team
Kicks Off The Season With A Win
By: Ellie Trombetta and Caylin Beeman

The 2012 Southwestern Varsity football season started with an impressive win against Hillsboro with a score of 28-6. Seniors Walter Mitchell and Jacob Segrest, and junior J.P. Mueller contributed a touchdown. The team lost their second game against Greenville, 21-49. They also lost their third game against Litchfield in overtime, 6-12.

The boys are looking forward to fierce competition against teams like Carlinville and Vandalia.

Coach Jeremy Lansaw, head football coach since 2006, claimed the win against Hillsboro was a good and positive start.

He commented, “I think this season is going to play out well. The boys have good, positive attitudes. We have good depth and I’m excited for this year.”

Mitchell, running back and one of 11 seniors, commented that this year’s practices are harder than normal, but they get a lot done.

Mitchell stated, “We have a good chance of making it to playoffs if everything goes according to plan!”

Freshman, Jacob Ritzhaupt, seems to agree with his teammate.

Ritzhaupt explained that he believes he and his team have a good chance of making this season one for the books.

Ritzhaupt claimed, “High school football is different. There’s more competition and the people are way bigger.”

Coach Lansaw’s goals for his team include making playoffs and contending in the SCC conference.

Volleyball Team Digs for a Winning Season
By: Alysa Kaiser and Katie Wooldridge

This summer revealed the hard work and dedication of the 2012 volleyball team. The girls put in over forty hours at open gyms in June and July, and another 40+

hours in August preparing for the Green and Gold game.

When asking Kristin Cox, freshman, about her first two-a-day she stated, “I hated two-a-days, there was so much running.” However, she also said that she enjoyed the watermelon as a reward for her hard work.

This year’s 2012 volleyball team consists of seven seniors: Demi Lowis, Amanda Beeman, Tarah Wallace, Jamie Geisler, Alayna Ducharme, Allison Moran, and Lucy Kroeschel. Each of them seems very excited to play in their last high school season of volleyball.

Along with the seniors, the new freshmen are certainly playing their part on the team. Maddy Greeling, JV setter, was rewarded with a varsity uniform this year.

Alayna Durcharme, senior, noted that if she could give any advice to a freshman player, it would be, “In a game, don’t dwell on your mistakes because there is always another chance for you to improve.”

With hope for improving from last season, 6-20, Coach Kinser stated that the goals for the team this year are to flip the record and finish at the top of the conference standings. Other than the record goals, she is looking for good chemistry between the players.

This year the team is also welcoming a new assistant coach, Danielle Darr, Southwestern alumni. Darr graduated in 2010 and played volleyball, basketball, and ran track.

“I plan to help Ms. Kinser demonstrate a few things, and be another set of eyes.” She is happy to be back and to be starting a new role at Southwestern.
Golf Season In Full Swing
By: Ellie Trombetta and Frankie Steward

Southwestern golf has had a good start to this year’s season. With new volunteer coach, Gary Ballard, the team has already won their first match with a score of 198.

The varsity team consists of seniors Josh Foiles and Nick Parrino; sophomores Nick Ballard, Jessica Werts, and Chase Bowman; and freshman Austin Hudson. The team holds their practices at Rolling Hills golf course in Godfrey.

Throughout the season they will participate in nine matches and then compete in regionals. After regionals they hope to continue on and make an appearance at state. Nick Ballard was a medalist at their first match. He had the best score of the day. He was closely followed by Jessica Werts just one point behind.

Ballard stated, “We’re pretty strong this year. We have good people and I think we’ll go far this season.”

Cross Country Season Starts with a Bang
By: Danielle Gillespie

Approximately 50 schools were represented by nearly 500 girls and boys. They competed in the Metro-East Debut Cross Country Invitational at SIUE on Saturday, Aug. 25. The annual meet was an opportunity to break-in the 2012 cross country team and introduce the athletes to the sectional course.

The course, nicknamed “Mud Mountain”, was a challenge for the athletes, but Coach Gary Bowker’s opinion of how the team performed was very positive.

“Super!” he stated. “I was very pleased.”

This year’s team consists of 16 members: nine girls and seven boys. Brandon Myatt, a freshman from Bunkerhill, was the only Minuteman to co-op with Southwestern this year and is turning the fastest times for the boys—followed closely by seniors Chris Catlett and Jonathon Kirby; and sophomore, Nick Ballard.

When asked whom he considered to be his top girl this season, Coach Bowker revealed that he believed there were seven girls who could be his top runner on any given day. However, Sondra Thurm, the girl’s top runner last season, is recovering from an injury and expected to make a fierce comeback.

Coach Bowker hopes to see each runner improve consistently throughout the season and would love to take both teams to sectional, but his number one goal is this: “I want all of my athletes, when they reach thirty, to still appreciate running and what it does for them.”

Cheer on the Cross Country Team at their home meet on Oct. 3 at Schneider Park!

Cheerleaders Fired Up for Football
By: Morgan Ozark

Head coach Mrs. Connie Sackman and assistant coach Mrs. Jennifer Borkowski are once again in charge of the SHS cheerleaders.

“The cheerleaders’ number one priority is to get the fans involved and bring positive spirit to the crowd,” stated Mrs. Borkowski, who has been coaching cheer for 14 years.

Coach Borkowski also stated that all she wants from her squad is, “to give everything they got!”

The squad practices 4 days a week.

Senior Brendan Lawson, first year cheerleader, hopes for college cheer opportunities. Lawson noted, “I’m an outgoing person and it didn’t even past my mind what people would think of me doing cheerleading.” Lawson enjoys performing in front of people to show off what he can do.

Senior Erica McCord, a cheerleader of six years, said that she is going to miss competition the most of all. She feels cheerleading is as hard as any sport.

“You have to run, jump, lift people, tumble, and memorize about twenty-five cheers,” McCord quoted. “You have to give it your all!”

Senior Kaitlyn Lawson, a cheerleader of two years, commented that she enjoys being a part of a cheer squad because she loves to work with people.

Currently, the cheerleaders are busy organizing a pom-n-cheer clinic and the Homecoming pep rally.

Tryouts for the basketball cheerleading will be held at the end of September.