Snow-Coming Blows in Storm of School Spirit

By: Hayley Neibel

During the week of February 2, International Club will host the third annual Snow-coming Week. Mr. Darren Mosley, Mr. Matt Hasquin, and a group of international club members volunteered to organize dress up days. Juniors Grace Starrett and Evan Lowis, and seniors Brandon Murphy, Briana Gillespie, Darby Jones, and Halie Bolini determined the following themes: Monday-Mismatch Day, Tuesday-White Out, Wednesday-Superhero vs. Villains, Thursday-Battle of the Ages, and Friday-Formal Friday.

Starrett said that students must still follow the dress code and are not allowed to dress in morph suits. On Friday morning, there will be a pep assembly and winter sports and clubs will be recognized. The boy’s basketball game will be played Friday night at 6 p.m. against North Greene. Students who wear white to the game will receive free admission. The International Club will be holding a Chili Supper from 4-7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria to help fund their Europe trip this summer. Adult meals will be $6 and children (age 8 and under) are $4.

Student Gov’t to Host 1st Snow-Coming Dance

By: Ashlee Wittman

On Friday, Feb. 6, after the basketball game against Greeneville, Student Government is holding the first informal Snow-Coming Dance. The dance will be held from 10 p.m. -midnight in the MPR.

Tickets were sold from Jan. 19 -Feb. 5, for $5. If students wish to bring an outside guest a permission form must be turned in by Feb. 4.

There will be no food or drinks sold. TKO DJ company will be providing music. Students who purchase a ticket can be entered into a drawing to be crowned Snow-coming Queen and King. Coronation will be held at 11 p.m.

Attention Drama Club!

Meetings and practices are underway! All members must be at the first meeting on Thursday, Feb. 5, at Bunker Hill High School in Rm. 19. Please see Mrs. Naugle with questions for concerns.
Prom Plans Underway for 2015

By: Breanna Fowler

Since second semester is well underway, the count down to prom is on. This year, class sponsors Mrs. Susan Ruyle, Mrs. Beth Hasse, and Mrs. Laura Naugle are helping the junior class officers organize the event.

Prom will be held on Saturday, May 9, at the Lewis and Clark Community College Commons from 8-11 p.m. Promenade will begin at 7:30 p.m. A mandatory breathalyzer test will be given at the entrance.

The prom committee has chosen a theme but has not yet announced it at this time.

Seniors get are free while juniors must purchase a ticket. The cost of tickets is still unknown. Freshmen and sophomores will be allowed to attend as a guest of an upper classman, but will have to purchase a ticket.

Outside guests must fill out a permission slip that will be approved by administration in order to attend. The guest must be under the age of 21.

Before getting too excited about prom, every student should keep track of their attendance. If you miss 10 or more days the student handbook states (p.62), “a student who has met or exceeded more than 10 absences will not be permitted to attend dances/prom unless approved by administration.”
Voice of Democracy Recognizes Egelhoff

By: Ailee Manns

This year, senior Keely Egelhoff entered the Voice of Democracy competition in November. The Voice of Democracy is an essay contest for high school students in which the 2014 theme was, “What do American Veterans mean to our history and future?”

“I heard about the contest from a college classmate, Jake Medford,” explained Egelhoff. Egelhoff received a letter in late December informing that her essay won at the local VFW post in Alton and moved on to the district competition. At the district level, there were over 200 entries and Egelhoff was among the top sixteen recognized at a banquet held on Saturday, Jan. 10, at 6 p.m., at the VFW in Collinsville.

Egelhoff’s mother, Donna, and her sister, Ashley attended the banquet. Egelhoff also invited a family friend and veteran Sgt. First Class Lonnie Slone who she honored in her essay, her English teacher Mrs. Kelly Goetten, and Medford, who edited the essay.

After dinner, a ceremony was held in which the top sixteen were announced and the 1st place award went to a student from Litchfield who won $400 and will represent District 12 at the state competition in Springfield. Egelhoff won $100 and a certificate at the post level and she received a certificate at the district level.

“I have always had a passion for military, and some of my best friends are currently serving. The one man I did write about in my essay has made such an impact and I believe everyone should honor veterans,” expressed Egelhoff.

Prizes and scholarships are awarded at the post, district, state and national level. Department (State) winners receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., to tour the city, be honored by the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary and receive their portion of $152,000 in national awards, the top scholarship being $30,000.

SHS Gives Back During Holiday Season

By: Meghan Pomeroy

This past December, Southwestern School District clubs, students, and staff gave back to the community. School nurses Mrs. Mary Cambron and Mrs. Kari Burns found families within the school district that could use help to buy presents and food during Christmas time. The nurses then assign these families to volunteer classes, clubs, and staff members.

This year’s volunteers were Mrs. Goetten’s Publications class, Mr. Henry’s Sociology class, Art Club, Spanish Club, Astronomy Club, Mr. Darren Mosley’s SAS class, Band, Mrs. Saxton’s class, and Mrs. Cottingham’s advisory.

When asked why she runs this program, Mrs. Burns answered, “It’s a good moral thing to do.” Mrs. Susan Ruyle, Art Club sponsor, said that members shopped for presents, wrapped them, and made gingerbread houses. “Everyone had fun and felt good because they were giving back to the community,” she added.

Sponsoring families is not the only thing that Southwestern did to give back. Spanish Club organized the Hat and Mitten Tree where students and staff hang hats and mittens on a tree in the office. The items are then distributed to children in the district.

Spanish Club officer, Brandon Murphy, said, “There were so many hats and mittens this year that you could barely see the tree. It was a huge success.”

P.E. classes also held the Toys-for-Tots drive and collected over $1600 in toys.

Southwestern students and staff were very generous and definitely helped the community. “What’s so great about all of these programs is that both the volunteers and families in need benefit from this experience,” commented Mrs. Goetten.
Band Students Participate in SIUE Festival

By: Kristen Doerr

Recently, eight students were nominated by Ms. Alex Weinberg, band director, to participate in the SIUE Honors Band Festival that was held Friday, Jan. 16, through Saturday the 17th. Brad Spurling, Jacob Roturmund, Kimberly Behrends, Ben Gallaher, Blake Beeman, Tyler Allen, and Chelsey Milligan participated in the event. Kaeden Kessinger was accepted, but did not attend.

To be nominated, students had to meet including: the exceptional students must be strong music readers, be good with technique, and be confident in their scales.

Upon arrival on Friday, the students registered for the festival and began auditions at noon starting with the clarinets and ending around 9:30 by getting to see performances from the Becker Festival Band, Black Festival Band, and Smith Honor Band.

This is the first year that Southwestern High School has participated.

When asked about the festival, senior Jacob Roturmund commented, “I loved it! I got to meet and play with some incredible musicians, and it was directed by music professors from major universities.”

American Idol Sings Off in 14th Season

By: Sarah Dupont

Fox has kicked off its 14th season of hit show American Idol hosted Ryan Seacrest and featuring judges Keith Urban, Jennifer Lopez, and Harry Connick Jr. Over the years, the show has produced thirteen winners and an enormous amount of talent. But, who has been Idol’s “most successful” performers?

The first American Idol winner Kelly Clarkson and season 4 winner Carrie Underwood, without a doubt, have been the most decorated performers from the show.

Underwood has released four studio albums, all certified Platinum. She’s won six Grammy Awards The country singer also won the Academy of Country Music’s Entertainer of the Year Award twice, being the first female to do so. Underwood was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry.

Clarkson just released her 7th album and has compiled 10 top 10 pop singles since 2001. She has won three Grammy Awards and her albums are all platinum.

After winning Season 11 of American Idol, Phillip Phillips released his coronation song “Home” to the most sales in the history of the show’s winning-numbers, selling more than 4 million copies.

Chris Daughtry follows Clarkson and Underwood in regard to sales and popularity. Jordin Sparks, Adam Lambert, Jennifer Hudson, Clay Aiken, Scotty McCreery, and Kellie Pickler have also been highly successful as well. All having their rightful placing in the “Top Ten most Successful American Idols.”

Senior Hannah Price has been dedicated viewer of the show and commented, “It is a good medium to bring out undiscovered talent.”

In the Halls

What is your New Year’s Resolution?

Josh Nagel—To finally meet his weight goal
Breanna Fowler—To go to more concerts
Ms. Reed—More patience with kids
Abrey Thornsby—Hit her weight goal
Meghan Pomero—Read more
Mrs. Naugle—To exercise more
Tyler Shelton—To gain weight
Brandon Murphy—Finish his resolutions from previous years
Jamie Brockway—Marry Dave Franco
Alex Silvester—To get better grades
Blake Lawson—To get superpowers
Mr. Bearley—To run more
Amber Whithead—To graduate high school and get into a good college
Justin Grizzle—Focus more on myself then others
Lee Vinyard—not to flush toilets
Jacob Rich—Get yolked
Scholar Bowl Team “Buzzing” About 2014-15 Success

By: Josh Nagel

On Saturday, Dec. 13, the Southwestern Scholar Bowl team hosted a trivia night in the high school MPR at 7 p.m. The event drew in a crowd of 150+ people, and brought in more than $1,200.

Coach Matt Hasquin made up the questions and was the emcee for the event. Mr. Hasquin said that he’s happy with the turnout, and would be happy to host another.

On January 10, the Varsity A team travelled to Macomb for the Macomb Rotary Tournament and placed second in the consolation rounds.

When junior Brandon Thomas was asked about the team’s toughest opponent, Thomas stated that “all of the schools are strong, it really just depends more on the questions asked than the team itself.”

He also commented that he is happy they placed, but he feels the team could’ve done better.

Junior Kaeden Kessinger was selected to the All-Tournament team in Macomb. Making the team is an honorary title but as Kessinger claimed, it is “muy muy prestigious.”

While the A team competed in Macomb, the B and C teams were participating in the IHSSBCA Turnabout Tournament in the O’Fallon H.S. Neither team placed in the tourney.

On Jan. 17, the A and B teams took part in the Springfield H.S. Invitational, in which the A team placed 7th overall.

Captain Darby Jones said that the main goals were to advance to the playoffs, which was more difficult than usual since this was one of the more difficult tournaments of the season. Jones stated, “This level of competition readies us for all tournaments.”

Coach Darr believes that the team rivaled against Macomb’s team the most, not only “because of how they compete, but also because a former Southwestern student that played for our team was on Macomb’s team. We had to make him (Isaiah Barnett) regret leaving us.”

Boys Basketball Team Shoots High for Season

By: Leah McGaughey

The varsity boys basketball team has glided through the season with many accomplishments while adding a lot of competition.

Following their 1st place finish in the Metro-East Lutheran Thanksgiving Tournament, the boys played in the Columbia/Freeburg Holiday Tournament in Freeburg over Christmas break. They started out strong with wins against Valmeyer, Sparta, and Civic Memorial, but ended up with a loss against Columbia, to bring home a 2nd place trophy in the event.

Senior Briston Johnson and junior Tyler Rose were both placed on the All-Tournament team at the Columbia/Freeburg Christmas Tournament.

The boys have faced some tough competition throughout the season. Head Coach Jason Darr believes that one of the most competitive games has been against Waterloo in championship game of the Metro-East Lutheran Thanksgiving Tournament where the Birds came out ahead.

Coach Darr believes that the team has “become a better team because of the better competition”.

On January 17, the boys started County Tournament play at Gillespie where they beat North Mac. They overcame Carlinville on Jan. 23, to make it to the finals.

The championship match up followed the next night between the Birds and the Gillespie Miners.

Although the gym was packed and the majority of fans were “anti-Birds,” the boys rose to the occasion and won the championship 62-51.

Tyler Rose and Andrew Fry were named to the All-Tournament team.

The team is holding high hopes for the rest of the season. They are anticipating the next few games against known rivals like Roxana and Vandalia. The Birds will hold senior night on Feb. 20, when they take on Pana.

Coach Darr said, “There is a lot of season left. There’s a good chance to beat anyone on our schedule.”

The team is looking forward to regionals and Coach Darr stated that the team, “could possibly win regionals and could play in sectionals.”

Southwestern will be hosting the IHSA Class 2A boys regional this year which begins on Feb. 24. Sectional games will be played at East Alton-Wood River on March 3.
Girls Basketball Hits Half-way Point in Season

By: Payton Heyen

After a strong start to their season, the Piasa Birds girls basketball team continued to soar through their regular season games. They spent most of their Christmas break in Jerseyville at the annual Holiday Tournament. After defeating Granite City, Carrolton, and Collinsville, the team took on the Calhoun Warriors for the championship.

Although the Birds controlled the Warriors at home earlier in the season, it was Calhoun who owned the Jerseyville Championship. With three players over six feet tall, they dominated post play, but earned the win by hitting outside shots and finishing free-throws late in the game. “They did a better job of catching the ball lower in the post,” commented coach Steve Wooley.

He said that over all, it was a “very productive” tournament, and that the loss “woke (the team) up” and reminded them that every game they have to “show up to play.”

Junior Erin Laubscher received her first All-Tournament honor with three-time Jerseyville Holiday Tournament All-Tourney veteran Maddy Greeling and two-time award winner Ashlyn Ringhausen.

The team took a few days off after the holidays, and bounced back with wins over Greenville and Wesclin before they took on the Carlinville Cavaliers at home on January 14.

The South Central Conference match-up was highly anticipated, as Carlinville hoped to end Southwestern’s 30 game winning streak on their home court.

The Lady Birds came ready to play, and handled the Cavies with ease as all five starters scored in the first four minutes of the game. “It’s some of the best basketball we’ve played in a few weeks,” said Wooley.

“While the Cavs missed their first seven shots and turned the ball over three times, Maddy Greeling broke out for 10 unanswered points,” wrote Greg Shashack, in his January 15 article for The Telegraph.

“She’s an outstanding basketball player,” Cavie Coach Dar- rin DeNeve commented in The Telegraph. “It’s not a matter of just shooting or just driving, she’s got the whole package. She’s the focus of our defense and I’m sure we’re not alone. […] We try to do what we can to contain her.”

Coach Wooley said, “Obviously she’s a play-maker,” but added, “Our defense was pretty good, and that takes five players.”

The next week, the number-one ranked Piasa Birds looked for redemption at the Macoupin County Tournament after losing to Carlinville by one point in the championship game last year.

On January 17, the team tipped off the tournament against Gillespie and won easily, although junior Kelsey Rhoades sustained a season ending knee injury. They continued their domination against Bunker Hill the following Thursday with a final score of 49-22, leading them to the championship against Carlinville.

“It wasn’t for a lack of effort,” Wooley said in the locker room after the game. The Lady Birds worked hard, but had trouble scoring against the Cavaliers, leaving the Macoupin County Tournament Championship plaque in Carlinville’s hands.

As for the rest of the season, the team looks forward to playing Gillespie, Staunton, Roxana, and Hillsboro, as they continue in their quest for a consecutive SCC title.

Laubscher stated, “The team is very cohesive this year which is vital to the team’s success as they near the close of their regular season.”

“Looking back at how we ended last season,” commented Rhoades, “we want to close this year feeling like we accomplished more, and make it as far as we should.” Both players agree that the team’s goal, at this point, is to make it out of sectionals.

Bowling Team Throws Last Strikes as Season Comes to a Close

By: Karlie Green and Reagan Rinacke

Southwestern bowling team so far has had a great season, and 2015 can only get better according to juniors, Erika Daube and Jewel Gaither.

Daube has already set some post season goals. “One of my main goals is to get my average higher by the end of the season” stated Daube.

As for Gaither she doesn’t have any post season goals yet, but has been very pleased with her highest score of 187 so far.

Sophomore Joey Gaither got his highest score of 225 and hopes to get it up to 250. “If I could beat anyone on our team, I would love to beat Tyler Mayhew, he’s really good!” said Joey Gaither.

Daube, Jewel Gaither, and Joey Gaither agreed, “We would love to beat Alton.”

“They (Alton) are a really great team and they will be the toughest competition for us,” Daube stated.

The team competed in regionals at Bowl Haven in Alton where 4 teams and 10 individuals not on one of the 4 teams advance. Sophomore Alex Watts was the lone bowler from SHS to move on to the sectionals. Watts did not advance to the state level.
Artist of the Month: Nathan Beilsmith
By: Brittany Hand

This month Nathan Beilsmith is Southwestern High School’s Artist of the Month. He has been fascinated with art ever since he was a little kid.

Beilsmith is in Drawing II now but has taken 2D, 3D, Photography, Ceramics, and Drawing I. He even wants to become a theater designer in the future. In theater design he will outline new costumes and the sets for each performance.

The main reason he creates art is because it is “a good hobby that keeps him preoccupied.”

“It’s a good way to relax myself,” Beilsmith said.

His cultural background and Russian culture itself has inspired him about art. He aims to use Russian designs to fit them into other artworks.

His favorite style is impressionist art paintings, which is simple shapes, but when he draws it is “more cartoonish.”

“Never give up. Never let anyone tell you that you aren’t good just because you can do something they can’t. You have your own special talent,” is his advice to any aspiring artists.

SHS December
Students of the month

Freshman Karly Bachman
Sophomore Alex Watts
Junior Graham Bachman
Senior Hannah Price

On Friday, February 6, the Southwestern High School International Club will be hosting a Chili Supper to help fund their biennial trip to Europe this summer.

Meals will be served from 4-7 pm in the high school cafeteria.

Prices:
Adults: $6.00
Children (ages eight & under): $4.00

Prices include: Bowl of chili, hot dog or chili dog, peanut butter sandwich, dessert, and ice tea or lemonade.

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