SHS Does Good Deeds For Kids In Need
By: Carmyn Gust

Toys for Tots was back at Southwestern High School for the 20th consecutive year. The event began on Monday, November 31, and ended on Wednesday, December 9. A box was set up in the office and students were asked to donate a toy.

Teachers in the P.E. department encouraged students in their PE classes to bring in a new toy or $5 dollars. As a reward for helping others, students in Ms. Kinser’s, Mrs. Mitchell’s, and Mr. Dempsey’s classes could opt out of the running the mile for one class. Mr. Hanslow rewarded his weight lifting students by letting them play hockey for a whole week.

Mrs. Mitchell said, “The reward is a way to say thanks to all the students who donated toys and money to make this fundraiser a success.”

Mr. Hanslow will use the money to go on a shopping spree to buy more toys.

Junior Shauna Faulkner said, “I believe the program is successful at Southwestern because of the active role the P.E. department takes in promoting and encouraging kids to help others.”

Successful Start for Varsity Scholar Bowl Team
By: Brandon Wyatt

The scholastic bowl team wrapped up the first half of the varsity season by winning the South Central Scholastic League (SCSL) regular season and tournament. After the tournament the team has amassed 26 wins. Kaeden Kessinger, Jacob Simmons, and Brandon Wyatt made the Varsity All-Tournament team, as some of the top scorers in the SCSL tournament.

At the first Saturday tournament for varsity, Southwestern qualified two teams for the Small School National Tournament in May 2016.

Coach Matt Hasquin noted that the quality competition in the Saturday tournaments has been a challenge, but he is “proud of both varsity and JV with their performance in the fall league.”

When asked about what he would like to see from the team in May at nationals, Coach Hasquin stated that he would like to have a good showing and have fun against some great teams from all across the country.

The scholastic bowl team will be back in action January 9, in Macomb, at the Macomb Rotary Invitational.
Door Decorating

SAS Classes Deck The Halls

The 1st place honor was given to Ms. Gaffney's class who created “Santa Coming Down the Chimney.”

Ms. Spencer’s class received 2nd place for their “Hand Christmas Tree” design.

Third place went to Mrs. Ruyle’s class with their “Nightmare Before Christmas” theme.

Mrs. Goetten’s SAS class got into the holiday spirit with a Mr. Bearley Elf on the Shelf design.

Student Government sponsored the door decorating contest.

Mr. French’s SAS class created a combined Buddy the Elf with a “Christmas Wrecking Ball” creation.

Mr. Durham’s SAS class showed off their Christmas spirit with Mr. Bearley as the Grinch.

Mr. Allen’s SAS class shows off their elf selfie!

Beyonce was included in Mrs. Borkowski’s SAS class’ “Sleigh My Name” creation.

Third place went to Mrs. Ruyle’s class with their “Nightmare Before Christmas” theme.
**NHS Historian: Mackenzie Wolff**

By: Brittany Hand

After being involved with National Honors Society, senior Mackenzie Wolff has been elected as the club historian, making this her first year as an officer. Wolff has been an officer in other clubs, such as being president, secretary, and historian of her 4-H Club.

Besides NHS and 4-H, Wolff has been involved in softball, basketball, Spanish Club, freshman mentoring, pep club, and student government.

Wolff wanted this position because she “enjoy[s] documenting the events of a group and taking pictures that will last a lifetime.”

Throughout the year, Wolff has the responsibility of documenting the activities that NHS does. This process involves writing about these events and taking pictures. Wolff stated that her favorite thing about NHS is that “students get to work together to help our community.”

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**Spanish Club Warms Up the Tree and Sweet Treats**

By: Hunter Kahl

Spanish Club is sponsoring the Hat & Mitten Tree again this year and it is up in the office now. The hats and mittens collected will go to families in the area. Students are encouraged to donate to help keep local families warm this winter.

The Spanish Club took over the tree after Mrs. Sue Sinclair retired two years ago and FCCLA was no longer available to provide the Hat and Mitten Tree.

Spanish Club just started the annual candy bar fundraiser, in which the money raised goes towards scholarships for seniors, field trips, Spanish Club activities, and supplies/equipment for Spanish classes.

Attention members: those who turn in their money by December 18th are eligible for the EARLY BIRD DRAWING. Prizes of $40, $20, and $10 will be given. The final deadline to turn in money is January 8th.

A prize of $25 will be awarded to the student who wins the drawing for turning in the balance in the form of a check.

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**Piasa Pride Club Helps School & Community**

By: Hunter Kahl

Help get your brain going! Peppermint candy has oil and sugar, both of which energize your brain.

Research has shown peppermint stimulates the brain by improving memory and increasing alertness.

It also is soothing and helps with relaxing.

With these facts in mind, the Piasa Pride Club will be selling candy canes on December 21 and 22, for 25 cents.

These festive final treats will be sold at 7:45-8:10 before school and 3:00-3:20 after school.

On December 16, the Piasa Pride Club, led by Mrs. Michelle Ernst, went Christmas caroling at Robings Manner in Brighton. The group left after school and visited the nursing home and brought some holiday spirit to residents.

The club will continue to meet during SAS next semester and plan community service events.

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**Spanish Club Fundraiser**

**CHECK IT OUT!!!**

- **Caramel!**
- **Almonds!**
- **Dark Chocolate!**
- **Krunch!**
- **$1 Snacks**

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Watch Out, Rudolph!

By: Dalson Cummings

For many people this time of the year is their favorite because deer hunting begins. Archery season runs from October 1st through January 18, and youth season (up to age 15) was Oct. 9-10. Two firearm seasons took place Nov. 19-21, and Dec. 2-5. Muzzleloader season was December 10-13. Two late winter antlerless seasons will be open Dec. 30-Jan. 2, and Jan. 14-16.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources has reported that 86,771 deer were harvested in the seven day firearm season this year. This number is up from the 2014 season with 76,575.

Senior Savannah Brinkman, who has been hunting since she was six years old, commented, “I shot a doe while hunting out of a deer stand in Godfrey.”

Brinkman commented, “The weather was perfect in the first season. I don’t like when it is too cold”

Sophomore Dalton Durham, veteran hunter, said, “I was disappointed that I didn’t get a deer this year because the weather was just too windy and cold and the deer weren’t moving.”

Durham explained that there were deer tracks everywhere just wasn’t moving when he was hunting.

“I plan to go late firearm season and continue to bow hunt,” added Durham.

By: Christine Fisher

The Art club decorated gingerbread houses for the ninth year, on Dec. 15, after school. The art club spent about 2 hours creating and the gingerbread houses.

The house that won Best Ginger Bread House and Best Icing Skills was “Gumdrop Lane”.

The house with the Best Christmas Theme was “Mark and Jack’s House”.

The house with the Best Pop Culture Theme was “Candy Land”.

Sophomore Dylan Elliott commented, “It was fun experience.”
Girls Basketball Place 2nd in Thanksgiving Tournament

By: Karlie Green and Kelsey Rhoades

The girls basketball team hosted their home opener on November 17th against North Greene. Both JV and Varsity won.

The varsity team then headed to Pana for their Thanksgiving Tournament. They played Centralia, Athens, and Mattoon for their pool play.

On Friday, November 20, they beat Centralia 69-34. On Saturday the 21st they played Athens, and beat them 57-40. That night, they played Mattoon and lost 46-35.

Senior, Maddy Greeling explained, “It was a rough, but it’s the beginning of the year, and we have a lot to work on.”

The team still pulled out a 1st seed in the tournament, and moved on to play in the semi finals against Williamsville. They beat Williamsville, and moved to the championship against Central

Cheer Squad Falls Short in First Competition at AHS

By: Kelsey Rhoades and Karlie Green

On Sunday, November 29, the competition cheer squad headed to Alton High School for their first competition of the season. Coach Amanda Madsen and Coach Tammy Seymour had set high expectations for the squad.

Fifteen minutes prior to the start of competition, sophomore, Madison Scates pulled her hamstring. The girls had 15 minutes to prepare a new routine. Unfortunately, the girls didn’t qualify for state.

Coach Madsen stated, “They did well considering the circumstances. The team worked together to redo the routine, and did very well under pressure.”

Coach Madsen and Coach Seymour agreed the squad needs to work on jumps and tumbling. Coach Madsen also said, “The girls have had positive words of encouragement, which is great!”

The girls then headed to Highland high school for another chance to qualify on December 5th. The girls missed qualifying by a few points.

Senior Samara Parker said, “Its disappointing, but it was a great experience.”

As for basketball games, Coach Madsen commented, “Basketball games have been great! The girls were excited for the basketball season to start in anticipation of the gym atmosphere. We have been working on a new song routine. The squad is excited to show our fans!”

In the first few weeks of games, the JV team has beaten Calhoun and Wood River. The Varsity has lost to Calhoun and beat Wood River.

The Lady Birds had their first conference game against Vandalia, and won 62-40.

Junior, Jenna Moore commented, “It was a good first conference win.”

Volleyball Banquet Wraps Up Season

By: Karlie Green

A ceremony to honor the volleyball team was held on December 4, at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Drinks and Ginger Bean’s cupcakes and cookies were available.

Coach Julie Kinser started the event by handing out varsity awards. Juniors Sam Burns, Stephanie Korte, and Sydney Ambruso all were awarded their first year varsity letter.

Coach Kinser also awarded the Junior Varsity with awards, and finished with commenting on the season. She explained, “It was a record breaking season, and I was so proud of the girls.”

Madison Greeling was named first team All-Conference, Stephanie Korte got second team recognition, and Karlie Green received third team honors.

Senior, Taylor Nixon commented, “It was a great season, and I’m going to miss everyone!”

Senior Taylor Bozarth has competed for the past three years.

Seniors Maddy Greeling, and Kelsey Rhoades pose with their Thanksgiving All-Tournament medals.

Varsity Volleyball huddles up at a home game.

A&M. They lost 44-33. The Lady Birds placed 2nd in the tournament, and seniors Kelsey Rhoades and Maddy Greeling were named to the All-Tournament team.
Boys’ Basketball Continues Home Stand

By: Grant Francis

To get the 2015-16 season started, the boys’ basketball team competed in 35th annual Metro East Lutheran Turkey Tipoff in late November. The Birds won their first three games against Marissa, Roxana, and Litchfield. In the Litchfield game, the boys put up 73 points; 40 of which coming from sophomore Justin Bailey, who hit 13 shots from the three-point line, breaking the school record for three-pointers in a single game.

Despite the impressive effort, Southwestern dropped their last two games against Metro East Lutheran and Marquette, putting them at 4th place in the tournament. Junior Collin Baumgartner and Bailey made the all-tournament team.

Three days later, the Birds opened their regular season against Carollton. It was a close game, being tied at halftime and after the third quarter. In the end, it was Carollton who pulled away in the 4th quarter, beating Piasa 65-53. Baumgartner led the game in scoring with 28 points.

The Birds suffered another loss after traveling to Litchfield on December 8th. 64-57 was the final score, and Sophomore Ben Lowis led the team with 16 points in the game, followed by Baumgartner and senior Zack Seymour, who both put up 12 points.

Junior Collin Baumgartner and sophomore Justin Bailey made the Thanksgiving All tournament team.

Boys’ Basketball Continues Home Stand

By: Dalson Cummings

The Southwestern boys’ bowling team is off to a good season with a varsity record of 3-1 and Junior Varsity record of 1-2. The season can only get better for junior Alex Watts setting a new personal high score with a 279 and junior Trevor Kiel setting a new personal high score of 256.

Varsity beat Metro East Lutheran with a total score of 1007, 979, and 927. The top bowlers for that match were Watts, Kiel, senior Scott Kasting, juniors Joey Gaither and Tanner Mayhew, and freshman Connor Schobernd.

The boys and girls Christmas Party will be held on December 20, at 1 p.m. at Bowl Heaven Lanes.

The girls lost to Pana on December 10. The top bowlers for the varsity girl’s game were Alyssa Norrell 661, Alexis Tucker 443 and Kaitlyn Cathorall 435.

Tucker said that “it was an interesting game.” Cathorall added that they would most definitely want a rematch with Alton because they are good competition.

Bowling Strikes Off A New Season

By: Dalson Cummings

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Upcoming Boys’ Basketball Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Away</th>
<th>Home</th>
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<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>Carlinville</td>
<td>SW Piasa</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/15</td>
<td>Staunton</td>
<td>SW Piasa</td>
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<td>12/18</td>
<td>Jerseyville</td>
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<td>12/19</td>
<td>SW Piasa</td>
<td>Williamsville</td>
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<td>1/5</td>
<td>Greenville</td>
<td>SW Piasa</td>
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Football Team Holds Banquet to Recap Season

By: Grant Francis

On Thursday, December 10, the 2015 football season officially came to a close after a banquet was held at St. Alphonsus Church in Brighton. The banquet was catered by Fema’s. The banquet lasted for about two hours.

Through the course of the banquet, there were many special awards handed out to members of the team. To name a few: defensive MVP—junior Lane Sparks, offensive MVP—seniors Jacob Ritzhaupt and Josh Manns, special teams MVP—junior Michael Nolte, and team MVP—senior Ryan Paslay.

“The whole night was really good,” said Southwestern head coach Aaron Fricke. “The place was packed, we had about 250 people who showed up.”
An Exclusive Interview with Santa
By: McKenna Harper and Kaylee Fisher

Q: How has this year been for you?
A: It’s been a very busy year, especially since everyone is wanting a little more this year.

Q: How have you prepped for this years’ Christmas?
A: Of course I’ve made the Naughty or Nice List, and I’ve already checked it once, but I’ve also had to go on a diet in preparation for all of those cookies I’ll be eating on the 24th. I get my daily exercise in when I make a dash towards the fridge to pull out the eggnog and more cookies.

Q: Who does the most work? You or the elves?
A: Well I don’t mean to toot my own horn… But I am the big man around here, and I am the one who delivers presents all over the night in just one night. But the elves do lend a helping hand with the making of the presents, which I greatly appreciate.

Q: What is your favorite cookie? Why?
A: Of course I love all cookies, but this year my favorite is chocolate chip cookies. It’s what the missus makes quite frequently, and I love them.

Q: Whose on the Naughty or Nice list this year?
A: I can’t disclose that information, but I can tell you the Nice list is very long. People have been very good this year.

Q: How much do you weigh?
A: Grrrr…now I know of another person whose on the Naughty list.

The Force Awakens
By: Drew Fredrick

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens* is the latest sequel to the Star Wars saga. It comes out on December 18, 2015. With everyone raving to go and see it, the movie already has many fans waiting in line for the tickets.

Tickets are selling fast, with many sold out days before the film is released, particularly in IMAX screenings. Movie theaters are continually adding show times, Online Ticketer reports.

*Star Wars: The Force Awakens* presales also broke every IMAX record, generating over $6.5 million. The film eclipsed “The Dark Knight Rises,” and “Avengers,” with each film earned around $1 million for their first reported presales.

On MovieTickets.com “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” is currently the top-selling film.

*The Force Awakens* is set 30 years after *Star Wars: Return of the Jedi*. With new faces, and enemies coming to the movie franchise.

So if you love Star Wars, go get your tickets soon because the force is too strong to resist waiting for this movie that’s coming out on Dec. 18th.

Over 200 students answered the question: Who Is your favorite Star Wars Character?

Here’s the top 5 favorites!

#1: R2-D2

#2: Chewbacca: 23%

#3: Yoda: 38%

#4: Luke Skywalker: 6%

#5: Han Solo: 3.5%

In the Halls
With McKenna & Kaylee

What’s on Your Christmas List?

Kevin Cox - Real Life Pokemon
Mrs Mitchell - To Win the Lottery
Hayle Arnett - An iPhone Case
Avalon Wasson - A Big Red Ferrari
Tori Eanis - World Peace
Payton Boyd - Xbox One
Dustin Goodpasture - A Big Bag of Coal
Jase Holt - Fly Clothes and a Xbox One
Savannah Brinkman - A Laptop
Evan Lewis - Segway/Hover board
Erika Moore - Ramen Noodles
Mrs. Sinclair - A Calendar with Grandchildren’s Pictures
Grant Francis - A Steeers Playoff Victory
Elly Carrillo - 16 more copies of Fallout 4
Winners Announced for Don Buscher Memorial Photo Contest

By: Alyssa Payne and Shauna Faulkner

Mr. Don Buscher, a former teacher at Southwestern High School, passed away January 17, 2012. Since 2012 Dan Thornton, of Thornton Photography, and a former student at Southwestern High School, has held a photo contest in honor of Don Buscher. This is Mrs. Ruyle’s fourth consecutive year entering the contest. She only enters her photography students in the photo contest as long as it is sponsored by Thornton.

The object of the photo this year was an egg, because it’s a house hold object that everyone has. Three master photographers judged the photos by the story they tell, the title, and the quality of the picture. Mrs. Ruyle was allowed to give her opinion only if the student turned the photo in early, but she wasn’t allowed to judge. The 1st place winner would win $50, 2nd place winner would win $30, and the 3rd winner would win $20.

The winners were announced to Mrs. Ruyle’s photography class on December 15th. The 1st place winner was Lauren Waller, the 2nd place winner was Jewel Gaither, and the 3rd place winner was Cody Catlett. Mrs. Ruyle also enters her students in this contest to help with their photography skills.

When asked if she believes this contest helps her students in becoming better, or more experienced, photographers; Mrs. Ruyle stated “I think they can if they take it seriously.” Many students gained more experience from this contest.

Do you have an Elf on the Shelf? (180 students and staff surveyed)

Yes: 28
No: 152

What kind of Christmas tree do you have? (180 students & staff surveyed)

Results

Real: 34
Fake: 135
None: 11

In the Halls
With Alyssa & Shauna

What is your favorite Christmas tradition?

Mrs. Goetten: Decorating the tree
Hayle Arnett: Opening 1 present on Christmas Eve
Dalson Cummings: Baking Cookies
Kody Freytag: Baking cookies
Brittany Hand: Wearing Christmas Sweaters
Randy Hewitt: Christmas meal
Zoe Swift: Christmas P.Js
Dylan Green: Eating the cookies
Maggie Burton: Watching Christmas movies and feeding the reindeer
Blaine Beard: Going to church on Christmas Eve and spending time with family
Molly Novack: Putting up Christmas lights
November Students of the Month

Senior Savannah Brinkman

Junior Lauren Camerer

Sophomore Ben Lowis

Freshman Alyson Walter

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Artist of the Month: Brittany Hand

By: Andrew Nixon

December’s Artist of the Month is senior Brittany Hand. She said that she has “been into art pretty much all her life.” She sees art as a positive way to express herself.

Most of her pieces come from “raw emotions, such as pain, happiness, etc.” Her favorite medium is pencil and sharpies.

When asked what advice she would give to other artists, she commented, “The highest degree of art can be created from the lowest points in your life. Take your pain, happiness, sadness, and excitement and express it.”

Banksy is one of her favorite artist; he is a graffiti artist from London. She said that she first saw his art about two years while searching online. She explained that she goes to his art for some inspiration for she feels that he is bolder with his art which she really admires.

She also enjoys Tim Burton’s work, such as his The Nightmare Before Christmas. She really likes the creepy side to his art that she feels she shares with him. One of her favorite pieces that she has drawn is in a similar fashion. The drawing is of a woman named Zezili who has a stitched up mouth with no eyes or nose.

Last year, Hand won first place in the marker category in the school’s art show. In the future, she plans on making art her profession and is looking into graphic design and ad design.

Happy Holidays!

—from The Bird’s Eye View Editors & Staff

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Sports Editor: Karlie Green
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