

Music students marching to Big Apple Spring trip one of many events that keep them humming

By Reagan Callan

It's an exciting and critical time in the Southwestern Music Department. The band and choir are buzzing with different activities. From Solo & Ensemble to a trip to New York City, the Music Department is busy as ever to prepare for the many events they have ahead.

The choir has gotten it's news on the students accepted to the Dorian Vocal Festival in January. Each year, for the past 66 years, Luther College hosts its Dorian events. Students from all over the midwest submit applications and have a chance at being accepted. For the Vocal Festival this year, there will be around 1,125 students attending and singing together. This year is the most students Southwestern has had accepted in a few years with five students, three girls and two boys. Last year three were accepted. Congratulations to Blair Schuler,

Lena Frank, Reagan Callan, Owen Brummer, and Tim Krieger on their acceptances this year.

Adrian Festival, similar to Dorian, will be holding their Choral, Band, and (new this year)

Drama/ Dance festivals.

The Adrian festivals are very new, less competitive, and a much smaller event, held at the University of Dubuque. The Choral Festival was started a couple years ago, then band was added, and then Drama/ Dance.

Southwesterns choir participates in the Choral Festival. No news yet on who will be attending.

Select students will also be participating in Honors Band and Choir, a group of exceptional musicians from schools in the area that are put together to show their talent and play/ sing together. many students will also go to Solo &

Ensemble (both band and choir) a competition where a student plays or sings either a solo, duet, or other group event in front of a judge. **Continued on Page 2**



Above: Choir; Below: Band



The band will also be participating in the Dorian Band Festival in February. No students have been announced for acceptance at this time.

English students create!

By Mamie Redfearn

Brian McLane, the 11th- and 12th-grade English teacher, has brought technology to language arts. The writing class did every step of their research papers online using various websites, toolbars, and other internet applications to write the perfect eight page paper. McLane also incorporated eco friendly work habits into the school newspaper he assigned to the writing class. Each student writes a current or past event of the 2015-2016 school year to present in this year's "Paw Print." McLane also taught the juniors in American Literature how to be creative. He assigned the class to make board games based of the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Next semester, McLane also plans to make technology a priority in the communications class with video projects, podcasts, and multimedia presentations.

Kristin Ehrler has an extra grade to teach this year. On top of the usual English 9, English 10,

and career English she now adds on the eighth grade. Although the new faces are welcoming, she feels almost overwhelmed but honored with the responsibility to teach approximately 130 students five days a week. Apart from the number of students, Ehrler takes her tenth grade English class to the American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin every year in the fall. This past fall the play was "The Merry Wives of Windsor." Along with a trip to look forward to, the ninth and tenth graders also have to plan their quarterly book talk presentations. The twelfth grade career English class had their demonstration speeches to prepare and present early winter that dealt with using the skills they have learned in the workplace.

There seems to be many exciting projects happening in the English department this year. Stay tuned for more to come.

Music continued...

Students with a class A have a chance at advancing to state if they are rated a 1*. The New York trip will be in March. Fundraisers have been made to help the music parents and students with the cost of the trip.

The band and choir worked exceptionally hard for their Christmas concert and did a phenomenal job. The Music Department would like to thank Mr. Iserman for his help with one of the bands pieces, and Mrs. Rochelle for being the choirs accompanist.

Southwestern High School does a musical every year that students can participate in. Whether they are music students or not, have always been welcome. This year's musical is called "Just Another High School Musical", which is a comedy about students who have to put on a show without any direction, help, and have to pull it off so the crowd doesn't get angry.

This year's cast includes Kayli Reese, Blair Schuler, Lena Frank, Tim Krieger, Owen Brummer, Reagan Callan, Jared Frieburger, Ben Gleason, Stephanie Rueter, Brandon Snyder, Brandon Cerney, Dillon Husemann, Madelyn Funk, Alex Rueter, Emily Erschen, Jordan Banfield, Maddie Beaver, Morgan Grau, Katie Theisinger, Staci Reynolds, Mackenzie Funk, Brie Becher, Abby Reiff, Carolyn Rutherford, and Kora Sandri.

As of press time, the crew consists of Isaac Lucas, Keagan Lisk, Bryce Deckert, Jordyn Schuchart, Nick Leahy, and possibly Kalli Craugh.

Paw Print Staff

The staff of the Paw Print consists of the students in Brian McLane's writing classes: Jacob Banfield, Reilly Birkett, Michelle Budden, McKenzie Burkholder, Reagan Callan, Jared Frieburger, Madelyn Funk, Ben Gleason, Miranda Kemp, Madison Kuhl, Miranda Molzof, Mamie Redfearn, Abby Reiff, Stephanie Reuter, Ali Smith, Jenna Stienstra, Kurt Tranel, and Kyle Tranel'

We have attempted to cover most of the news and events from first semester. We regret that our coverage has not been complete, and we apologize to organizations and individuals we have omitted.

This newspaper is the result of a project-based learning unit and no further editions are planned for the 2015-2016 school year. Throughout this project, students have developed creation, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication skills.

We wish to thank Cynthia Lacey, SWHS principal, yearbook advisor Myleen Ward and her staff, and Woodward Printing Services for their assistance and services.

Spring Musical

"Just Another
High School Musical"

March 17, 18, 19

SWHS Student Council plans many events

By Ali Smith

Student Council, StuCo, a school-related group, focuses on service work throughout the district. The members serve as liaisons between students and administration. To become a member, students must submit a self-nomination form which is voted on by classmates. Nineteen members serve in the group including three freshmen (Isaac Ershen, Jaxin Kuhl, Abby Saylor), five sophomores (Allison Kruser, Julia Olson, Kora Sandri, Zack Splinter, Trystan Turk), six juniors (Amber Brand, Taylor Fleege, Brooke Kunkel, Mamie Redfearn, Claire Splinter, Hannah Welter), and five seniors (Madelyn Funk, Madison Kuhl, Stephanie Reuter, Ali Smith, Melissa Tranel). Serving as treasurer is Tranel. Secretary is Madison Kuhl, and serving as co-presidents are Smith and Funk.

The group meets roughly once a month. During meetings, the group plans upcoming events and brainstorming new activities to unify the school.

Sue Sabers has been the advisor for 20 years. Sabers also works at SWHS as the Spanish teacher. "StuCo is important because the members work diligently to better the school through activities which extends into the community," said Sabers. To Sabers, the ideal member has a positive attitude with lots of great ideas, is a diligent worker, as well as being efficient.

Each year, Student Council organizes many activities such as helping at freshman orientation in August and organizes homecoming week in the fall. Student Council decides dress up days, organizes the pep assembly, and even puts on the homecoming dance. Other activities organized by StuCo includes blood drives, the winter dance, concession stands, and

Earth day activities. Sabers said her most rewarding activity is shopping for families in need during the holiday season.

"Student Council means a lot to me because of all the service work we complete. It makes me feel like I am making an impact on the community which makes all of our hard work worthwhile. It is a very fun group to be a part of," said Kunkel, who is currently serving her third year in Student Council.

Student Council has lots of upcoming activities. In February, the StuCo will sell Southwestern apparel district-wide as a fundraiser receiving hundreds of orders annually. Order forms will be found in either office, Sabers' room, or from any member of student council. The apparel is expected to arrive in early March. In April, the StuCo will organize Earth Day activities. The next blood drive will be in May.

Six SWHS students are DBQ Area Leaders

By Madelyn Funk

On Wednesday, September 9th, six members of the class of 2016 attended an award ceremony for the Dubuque Area Youth Leadership Conference (DAYLC). Their names are Madelyn Funk, Madison Kuhl, Blair Schuler, Melissa Tranel, Abby Reiff, and Ali Smith. Over the course of the year, the girls attended days at Clarke University and University of Dubuque participating in different

character building activities. At the awards ceremony, the top 10 DAYLC leaders were chosen. Reiff received the honor of being among the top 10, winning \$100 in scholarship money. Kuhl received third place overall and won a \$300 scholarship. Kuhl stated that she really enjoyed DAYLC. "It was a great experience where I learned a lot about myself and how to be a better leader," she explained. "I

met a lot of new people while learning what it means and what it takes to become an exceptional leader."

The purpose of DAYLC is to better leadership skills. To become a member, a student must apply and be chosen out of hundreds of applicants. The DAYLC board chooses 100 of the best leaders in the Dubuque area.

Youth Engaged in Service give back to SWHS

By Madelyn Funk

Youth Engaged in Service (YES) is a class option available to juniors and seniors for .5 credit and is done over the course of a semester. Each student who is enrolled in YES is placed with a teacher. The student does projects and basically anything else the teacher needs done. A daily journal is kept and the teacher does a weekly rating of their

student. The student does a final project for the teacher, and in the end, turns in a portfolio to Mrs. Goranson, the Southwestern School guidance counselor, which includes their daily journal, the weekly rating sheets, and an explanation of their final project for grading. Kyle Tranel, YES student of Mrs. Ingersoll and Mrs. Burkholder, really appreciates the

opportunities it has given him. "I really like the fact that I can give back and I enjoy interacting with the young students," he states. Overall, students really enjoy YES; Abby Reiff also explained, "It's a very rewarding process and I'm very glad I got the chance to be a part of it."

New teachers bring experience; some district employees have new roles

By Reilly Birkett

Being a new teacher doesn't always mean the same thing as being an inexperienced teacher. New teachers Matt Winkler (math) and Brian McLane (English) bring teaching experience with them to SWHS.

Winkler found the SWHS job opening as a math teacher after the previous teacher, Ben Schneider moved to Chicago. Winkler had been looking for a job after leaving



Matt Winkler

his previous job teaching in Potosi. Eight people contacted him with messages on Facebook about the job. Winkler used to student teach at Southwestern, so he loved the fact that he was comfortable with the school already. He was offered the job on the spot when he came in for his interview.

"A boss can make or break a job," said Winkler. He knew he would be happy with the administration here. Winkler did

find a few interesting things about Southwestern, though. He found the smell of the farm next to the school very interesting. In addition to his regular classes, he would love to teach a calculus class. He loves how the concepts of calculus apply to many other areas of study and all math knowledge is used.

Another change in the SWHS staff brought McLane to Southwestern High School. After



Brian McLane

Sandra Evans left her job as the previous English teacher, McLane was hired just a few weeks before the start of the school year. McLane had actually already contacted

Southwestern last spring before he retired from his last job teaching driver's education in East Dubuque. He contacted the school to see if Southwestern was looking for a technical job where he would be helping teachers incorporate technology into their classrooms. Southwestern did not have a job

available for that, but later in the summer he found an online advertisement for a job as Southwestern High School's new English teacher.

"I was beginning think I wouldn't find a new job," said McLane, who intended to continue teaching in Iowa or Wisconsin. Location was a big factor in his job search since he had no intentions of relocating.

Just like Winkler, the fact that the school was right next to a farm was interesting to him. English teaching had been McLane's college major, so this job fit perfectly. He loves to teach American literature; however, McLane would like to teach a desktop publishing, web design, and video editing class as well.

Southwestern also experienced some larger changes, such as the retirement of superintendent Dr. James Egan. John Costello has replaced Egan. Since Costello had to leave his position as the principal of Southwestern's middle school, Jennifer Gallagher was hired to replace him.

Sabers engages Spanish students with variety of activities

By Reilly Birkett

Learning a new language can seem like a daunting task, however, teachers like Mrs. Sue Sabers make it fun and delightful.

Spanish is one of the most challenging and important classes our school has to offer. "I love to help students do something they never thought they could do," Sabers said. There is an increasing amount of people who speak only Spanish, not English, and it is advantageous for people who can speak both languages. Spanish is universal, it doesn't matter if you're a mechanic, hairstylist, etc. there's people everywhere who speak Spanish, Sabers said.

In Spanish classes students are taught through vocabulary lists, listening portions, learning phrases, and of course, playing Spanish games. In these games students are given a sentence or word in either English or Spanish and then must translate it to the other language. The first person to finish must raise her whiteboard, and the first to answer correctly gets two points, while everyone else who gets it right gets one. In a Spanish-themed board game, students must correctly translate a sentence or phrase. This gives students a fun and competitive way to learn.

Students also learn about Latin culture. Spanish IV students are also learning about several famous artists who have lived in either Spain or Mexico, including Picasso and Salvador Dali.

Spanish III students make murals to learn about the Mexican holiday Dia de Muertos, or "Day of the Dead." Many Mexicans believe that on day of the dead, the spirits of the dead come back to earth and visit their home. The murals have pictures or items of what the spirit enjoyed when it was alive, to comfort and welcome it back for the day.

Why Trump is running away with nomination

By Jacob Banfield

Real estate mogul Donald J. Trump is leading in nearly every poll across the country while seeking the Republican nomination to become the next President of the United States. Mr.

million illegal immigrants that are not paying taxes, bringing rape, crime, and drugs into this country, and he will then build a wall at the southern border that Mexico will pay for. Trump is a proven job creator too and has stated, "I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created." He has a detailed tax plan that benefits everybody and will cut tax brackets from seven to four, which will simplify the tax code. But the ultimate reason Trump has been surging in the polls is because he speaks his mind. Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, and an independent voter who loves what Trump is doing, adds, "I don't care what his



Trump is worth over \$4.5 billion dollars and is looking to "Make America Great Again."

Trump believes that one of America's biggest is being too politically correct. He is looking to fix that problem. Trump speaks his mind and can't be bought out by donors and private interest groups. He also has called for a temporary ban on all Muslims entering the U.S. "until until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on." In addition, he will deport all 11

actual positions are. I don't care if he says the wrong thing. He says what's on his mind. He gives honest answers rather than prepared answers. This is more important than anything any candidate has done in years."

On February 1st, Iowans have the chance to make a difference in politics and the United States by helping Trump run away with the Republican nomination by voting in the caucuses to truly "Make America Great Again!"

Book Review: *Never Die Easy*

By Kyle Tranel

Never Die Easy summarizes the life of Walter Payton from a young child to a retired NFL Hall of Fame football player. Payton's life on the field was legendary, but his legacy off the field set him apart from other stars. Payton grew up in the South, going to Jackson State before being drafted to the Chicago Bears. He never worried about the money, fame, or individual stats. He was a team player who would play every down to the fullest for the people who only got to see him play once, not just the season ticket holders. The amount of life lessons told by Payton, his family, and close friends are endless. Payton was always humble with his success, and made time for signing autographs for children. This book shows Payton's generosity through the Walter Payton Foundation and giving back to the community. I would recommend this book to high school athletes, because it shows how hard work, sweat, and determination are the recipe for success. It also shows the magnitude of how one player could have such a strong impact on his family, teammates, community, and the NFL.

2016 Presidential Debates

Monday, September 26, 2016 First presidential debate

Location: Wright State University, Dayton, OH

Tuesday, October 4, 2016 Vice presidential debate

Location: Longwood University, Farmville, VA

Sunday, October 9, 2016 Second presidential debate

Location: Washington Univ. in St. Louis, St. Louis,

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 Third presidential debate

Location: Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

Art

“Art has more meaning than you think,” Myleen Ward said. “Do you cherish your grandmother’s homework or something she made.” Ward is the art teacher here at Southwestern and teaches 8th graders and high schoolers the wonders of art. Ward talked of state standards for art that include: developing an image, the time periods of the arts various art careers one could go in, and, of course, the basic design elements. Ward has to teach to anyone who takes an art class. When asked why is art important Ward had this to say: “Art is a nonverbal way of telling what we are and what’s important to us.” The art department is also planning an art show along with the music department to have a concert and art show to really show off the arts departments.

Physical Education

By Jacob Banfield

In her 30th year at Southwestern High School, Ann Lutes has made her mark in physical education classes. She lets all of her students know that, “attitude and effort are a choice and you must work hard every day.” The current unit being taught is basketball. After basketball, badminton, conditioning, handball, tennis, archery, and finally softball will be taught. Lutes has had assistance this year from a student teacher, Dakota LaMaack throughout second quarter. LaMaack attends UW-Platteville and plans to teach close to home in eastern Iowa after finishing her degree. She has learned a lot from Lutes such as, “Classroom management skills and the ability to more effectively structure units.” Lutes spoke highly of LaMaack, “She’s very well organized, has a great work ethic. And most importantly, she demonstrates professionalism every day.” LaMaack loves seeing how students improve and how much they grow. She has learned a lot from Lutes and has a great shot at becoming a great gym teacher like Lutes someday.

Driver’s Education

By Kurt Tranel

Driver’s Education classroom instruction can be completed online or at Southwestern. Tom Koeller has taught Driver’s Education for 12 years, and serves as a social studies teacher, Athletic Director, District Assessment Coordinator, and National Honor Society advisor. Koeller loves the opportunity to connect with students behind the wheel. “Behind the wheel with students isn’t as bad as people think. We start simple, progress slowly; then we go to the highway. I like to keep the mood light, use sarcasm, and remember my driving experience as a beginner. It helps with patience.” said Koeller. While driving with Koeller, students drive through Hazel Green, Cuba City, Galena,

Dubuque, Fairplay / Louisburg backroads, Potosi, and Platteville. “I don’t have to tell students to buckle up, it’s become a habit.” said Koeller. Driver’s Ed classes take place in June at Southwestern. Students then make appointments for behind-the-wheel training.

Building Trades

By Kyle Tranel

Building Trades consists of senior students (Cory Miller, Carmen Rigdon, Noah Westemeier, Dylan Kieler, Kyle Tranel, Blake Lyne, Harry Kies, Tristan Weiland, and Dillon Uthe) that have completed Intro to Tech and Building Planning & Construction. The students are engaged in various construction projects in the community such as building decks, docks, picnic tables, doors, and putting a ceiling in a calf barn. Mr. Chet Hillary, the Industrial Tech teacher, said, “Building Trades allows students to learn & perform tasks using commonly-used tools and equipment in construction-based career fields.” “My favorite part of teaching shop is the different types of jobs I get to teach and work with students on” said Hillary. Hillary went on to say, “The most embarrassing moment this year is when a student needed to go to the bathroom on the job site and did not make it in time.” Hillary also teaches 8th grade Tech, Intro to Tech, Manufacturing, Intro to Engineering, Building Trades, Woods, Basic Auto, Welding, Building Planning & Construction, & Electricity & Robotics.

Math

By Miranda Kemp

The math department has changed in recent years, but the SWHG math teachers are dedicated and excited to teach this year’s students. New to the district is Matt Winkler, who started off as an electrical engineer but has always enjoyed math. He decided to become a math teacher. “The most rewarding aspect of my job is the students,” said Winkler. Winkler likes to get to know each personality of the students. Trigonometry and pre-algebra are the most time-consuming classes for Winkler to teach. “Trig takes the most prep time while pre-algebra has a wider dynamic of students so adjusting to each students’ personality is taking a little time to get to know each student,” said Winkler.

The second math teacher is Jenna Buss. She shares her love of sports with the students as well teaching math classes. Buss is teaching her third year of math classes at SWHS. Buss is passionate about her students and helping them learn the lessons thoroughly. Buss enjoyed sports during her high school career and is now the assistant softball and girls’ basketball coach at SWHS. An upcoming event in the math department is the SWAL Math Competition where 4 students from each math class go and represent our school. The competitors have yet to be announced.



Business students operate corporation

By Miranda Molzof

During the month of December, Beth Taylor's Introduction to Business class started their own business called Cozy Christmas to understand what it's like to run and operate in a corporation setting. Together, the students determined a business contract, which required each student to complete an extra 100 minutes of work outside of class, and a \$10 investment to get the company started. The students all wrote down the position they wanted to work and split off into three groups; those who worked on snowmen, mugs, snacks, marketing, and then the accountants. The class sold sock snowmen to teachers before they

were available to fellow students and parents, customized mugs, an assortment of hot chocolate, and snacks such as chocolate-dipped pretzels and puppy chow. These items were created by the students during class time along with available study halls and homerooms. The following Sunday, after the project had ended, students were able to volunteer to work at the Craft Fair at the high school to try to sell their remaining items. In the end, the whole class received a pizza party from a small investment from the class's total profit along with each of Taylor's 21 students made an individual profit of \$36

Area veterans recognized for their service

By Jenna Stienstra

On November 12th, 2015, Southwestern honored area veterans who have served or are still serving in the branches of the military. "The most important part is the recognition of veterans when they stand and are honored," said Joe Vogt, Leo Club advisor. The program commends all veterans living or deceased and their

relatives in the community. Over 100 local residents attend this event to pay their respects to veterans annually.

The program has been held for over 10 years. "This affects people in a good way. Hopefully it makes people feel good about their service to our country, and it also lets them know that people want to recognize them for their service," said Vogt.

Homecoming

Sept. 28th, 2015 marked the first day of homecoming, a week all the students at Southwestern look forward to. The week is full of activities such as dress up days, a pep rally, a parade through town, a football game, and a dance. A lot of hours are spent planning for this fun filled week. Many of the activities put on by the school such as the dance and pep rally are planned by the Student Council. "We decide the theme of the week, get a DJ for the dance, decide dress up days, plan activities for the pep rally and more." said Madelyn Funk one of the presidents of Student Council. The student council members start booking the DJ and photographer a year in advance but the real planning starts in August. "There is a lot of work that goes into it but the outcome is always rewarding." said Funk.

Friday is the busiest day of the week, as students spend the day doing activities at the pep rally, playing powder puff, macho man, and parading through town. This year the seniors stole both the wins in powder puff and macho man with the boys even taking down the staff in a well fought game of volleyball. "Powder Puff is always my favorite part of the week because it something fun we only get to do on homecoming week," said Senior Jenna Stienstra.. Friday night the boys took on the Darlington Redbirds in a well fought football game but fell short of the win. "We started off good offensively moving the ball around but are defense is what cost us. Any team in the SWAL has a tough time containing Hunter Johnson and the rest of the Darlington players,"quarterback Jacob Banfield said.

The week ended off with a dance the night of Oct. 3rd in the high school commons. Students got dressed up for this event in their best attire. The night was filled with pictures, music, dancing, and memories.

FFA officers attend national convention

By McKenzie Burkholder

The Southwestern High School FFA program, run by advisor, Katylynn Heisz, stands by their motto: Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve. The program consisting of 12 Southwestern High School students is lead by President Lena Frank. Frank runs the FFA meetings during homeroom while keeping fellow members informed on upcoming events like the district speaking contest, similar to forensics but all topics are related to agriculture. Merry Luedtke works closely alongside Frank as the Vice President.

Luedtke does a lot of behind the scenes work like planning FFA meetings and brainstorming new ideas for the FFA to carry out. One

of those ideas, according to Heisz, was a pillow fight between Southwestern and Cuba City FFA. The goal was for pillows and blankets to be donated to the programs for the pillow fight, but after the feathers flew, the pillows and blankets would be donated to needy families for these cold winter months. Unfortunately, Cuba City FFA could not fit it into their schedule.

Remaining FFA officers are Tim Krueger, Secretary, Brandon Cerney, Treasurer, Jared Freiburger, Reporter, and Derek Carnes, Sentinel.

Of those officers, Frank, Luedtke, Cerney, and Carnes accompanied by Heisz, traveled to Louisville, Kentucky for the National FFA Convention in the last week of October. The

convention is held to award America's future farmers who have made achievements at the national level. There are close to 30 different SAE categories. SAE stands for supervised agricultural experience. For example, one of the SAE categories is Dairy Management, which has two subcategories: Entrepreneur and Placement. In the Entrepreneur subcategory, one would build their own herd, and in the Placement subcategory, one would work for someone else. In both subcategories, individuals are awarded for their time put in, investment, and outcome among other factors. Currently, the FFA members are working hard planning activities for the upcoming National FFA Week. This year, FFA Week is February 20-27.

Social studies connects students with life

By McKenzie Burkholder

Southwestern's Social Studies Department, taught by Tom Koeller and Joe Vogt, is booming with activity. Koeller juggles teaching Current Events, Street Law, and U.S. History and carrying out his duties as athletic director as well as District Assessment Coordinator. Due to his job as the A.D. and District Assessment Coordinator, Mr Koeller does not get to teach as many classes as he would like and misses his World History class the most. Vogt teaches Geography, Citizens, Social Behaviors and Psychology, World History, and Wisconsin History.

Among those classes, students enjoy electives like Street Law, Social Behaviors and Psychology the most. Students excel in Koeller's Current Events class, and according to Vogt, students do well in electives opposed to mandatory courses like Geography and Citizens because they want to be there.

According to Koeller, Social Studies classes offer important information students can use the rest of their lives. Vogt believes that taking history courses is important for young people because it is up to the younger generations to see to it that the low points we learn about in his history classes do not repeat themselves.

Both Koeller and Vogt try to keep classes fun and focused by connecting the information learned in class back to the daily lives of students. For instance, Vogt likes to assign projects that help students to better understand the lives of past societies or watch videos and documentaries pertaining to the topic being discussed. For example, students in Vogt's Social Behaviors class drew playing cards from a deck. The number on the card corresponded with a past society, like the hunter gatherer society, and students would study their way of life. After gathering the information on their

society students were assigned to write a fictitious journal outlining their daily life in the society.

All the Social Studies courses offer a wide variety of culture and history. It is up to the students to decide which course works best for them.

**Thank You, PTO
and SWSD**

for the purchase of
**60 Chromebook
laptops**

&

2 Chromebook carts

for use at the
High School

V-Ball back-to-back state runners-up

By Miranda Kemp

Southwestern ladies' varsity volleyball team has accomplished another successful season. With 7 seniors, strong leadership was demonstrated resulting in back-to-back state tournaments. Head coach, Jane Wills, has coached the team for 9 years. She has made 3 trips to state in the last 5 years. With her coaching assistants, Jennifer Berning, Arlee Stodden, and Abby Wills, the season was unforgettable.

The Southwestern varsity volleyball team began their winning streak during tournaments last summer. After tying with Benton, the team swept Highland, Argyle, and Dodgeville taking first place at the Highland tournament. Leading the team were senior captains, Michelle Budden, Madison Kuhl, and Melissa Tranel. For their first conference match, the Lady Cats won over Mineral Point 3-1. The Wildcats had an intense win 3-

0 over long-time rivals, Cuba City Cubans, during a Pack it Pink breast cancer awareness night. The Wildcats continued their winning streak by sweeping Darlington, Iowa-Grant, Boscobel, and Mineral Point 3-0. The varsity team lost to

during regionals as the cats won both games 3-0 and won against Benton 3-1. Next stop on their road to state was sectionals where the Cats had a 3-0 win over River Ridge. With a nail-biting start at the sectional finals against Royall,

the ladies won the first set 26-24, lost the second set 23-25, and won the third set 25-22. To make their state dreams come true, the cats won the last match 25-16. At the state tournament in Green Bay, Southwestern played Clayton at the Resch Center ending with a 3-1 win. They met Newman Catholic at the state finals for a second year in a row

the following morning. The Varsity team brought home the silver ball after a 1-3 loss. "They had a dream and they are living out the dream for the second time this year. I'm so thankful to have been able to coach them all, and they will go far in life." said Wills.



the Cubans 0-3 but bounced back for the next three games in a row 3-0 against Fennimore, and Riverdale. The girls ended their season with a conference record of 11-1, tying with Cuba City for Co-Conference Champs. Belmont and Pecatonica didn't slow them down

1st-year Evanoff: GBB hungry for wins

By Michelle Budden and Abby Reiff

Girl's varsity basketball is well underway at Southwestern. Their first game had a final score of 32-42 losing to Lancaster. Next, the Lady Wildcats fell to Belmont with a final score of 35-53. Wildcats then bagged their first win over Cassville with the score being 45-42. Mineral Point came to Southwestern where the Wildcats fell hard with a loss of 32-83. Darlington's game was closely fought but the Wildcats came up short as the score was 51-55. Riverdale was next and the girls suffered another loss with a total of 34-72. The ladies then traveled to Fennimore and fought hard but lost 49-53. River Ridge was the following Friday night where the

final score was 24-48. They kicked off the new year with a well played game vs. Galena, falling 42-63. They went straight to play against

ended up short with the score of 36-51.

Coach Rachel Evanoff is in her first season as girls varsity basketball coach. When asked about the transition from junior varsity to varsity she responded, "The transition from junior varsity to varsity coach has been incredibly humbling. I am lucky enough to have a great group of girls to work with and have received outpouring of support. I am looking forward to seeing where the second half of the season will take us. We are hungry and ready for a string of wins and are hoping to be playing our best ball going into regionals."



their rivals Cuba City, that final score was 24-69. Clayton Ridge was the girls most recent game, where they played well together, but



Gymnasts 3rd at Reedsburg

By Jenna Stienstra

At the Invitational in Reedsburg, Southwestern/Cuba City/Benton took third place out of nine teams, with one of the strongest teammates incurring an injury during the second round. Still having seven rounds to go, giving up was not an option. The manager, Rain Bennett, said, "Nice job ladies, the more you work hard, the more you will improve!" The excitement within the team was inexplicable. "We can still do this, you girls just need to work extra hard," said Coach Goffinet. After all, the team lost one sophomore and two juniors in result to injury during the season and had seven individuals competing in the meet. During the awards ceremony only the first three teams receive plaques. First place scored a 136, second place scored a 121, and third place, SW/CC/B scored a 118.



CC has best finish in four years

The 2015 cross country team had its best conference finish in four years, placing 4th in the 8-team conference. Other results: Monroe 10th out of 13, Darlington 9th out of 13, River Valley 20th out of 20, duel meet: Iowa Grant won 28 to 29, Richland Center 2nd out of 6, Platteville 11th out of 12, Boscobel 6th out of 11, Riverdale 4th out of 12

Sectional Meet at Monroe 12th out of 14



Boys BB expected 5th in conference

By Jacob Banfield & Kurt Tranel

The Southwestern boys' basketball team were ranked #5 in the SWAL conference for preseason rankings. Coaching the team for the last 3 seasons is Clint Nemitz. "I love the maturity that the team has displayed and the emotion they put into each game. I see this team going wherever their heart and mind takes them," said Nemitz. Leading the team are senior captains, Kyle Tranel and Ezra Vaassen. The first game of the season, the Wildcats took on state-runner up, Mineral Point. Seniors, Kurt Tranel and Vaassen, led the way with 17 points each. Garrett Jochum, senior, added 12 points as the team surged to a 60-47 victory. Southwestern traveled to Lancaster and fell 52-58 despite the efforts of Vaassen with 22 points and Kyle Tranel with 15 points and 10 boards. The #3 pre-season projected team in the SWAL, Iowa Grant Panthers, defeated the Wildcats 67-71 with Southwestern falling to 1-2. Kyle Tranel scored 24 and Vaassen pitched in 17 points while dishing out 5 assists. The Cats again were on the road taking on the #10

ranked Shullsburg Miners. Though the boys distributed scoring well with Vaassen led the way with 19, Jochum and Kyle Tranel added 15 points each, 65-50 was the final score.

"We've worked hard during the off-season and I'm excited for all the hard work to pay off. I believe we have a really great team this year and I believe we can go far in the post-season," said Kurt Tranel.

The Wildcats took on the Benton Zephyrs over winter break. Taking care of business early, the Wildcats defeated the Zephyrs 68-41 with a 20 point effort from Vaassen, 15 points from Kyle Tranel, and 11 points from Austin Stangl. The Wildcats kicked off vs. Galena falling 67-68. Kyle Tranel sliced up the Pirate defense scoring a career-high 39 points with 11 rebounds in a valiant effort. The following night the Cats fell to Darlington 63-47. Vaassen led the team with 18 points and Kurt Tranel added 13 points. Against Riverdale the Cats won 76-43 with Vaassen scoring 20, Kurt Tranel with 14, and Jacob Banfield pitched in 12. The following day, the Cats beat Clayton Ridge 65-48.

SWHS athletes compete out of school

Stopping the puck

By Jared Freiburger

Jennasea Schmerbach is a junior at Southwestern and has an unlikely talent. Schmerbach plays goalie for, not one, but two hockey teams. Schmerbach is part of the Dubuque Devils as well as the AAA Dallas team. Schmerbach travels to Dallas once or twice a month to practice with the team. From Dallas, Schmerbach travels all over the country to places like Colorado, Boston and even Canada. Schmerbach also plays regularly with the Devils, a boys team in their local tournaments. Schmerbach had to travel to Dallas to tryout for the team. Playing hockey is in her blood, Schmerbach explained, that her uncle and mother played Hockey and currently still do today. Schmerbach plans to continue her hockey career and hopefully get a scholarship and keep playing in college. Schmerbach has been on the ice since she was 2 years old and has been playing hockey since three. Schmerbach had this to say: "when i'm on the ice i don't think of anything else but stopping the puck."



J. Schmerbach

Pigeons beware!

By Reilly Birkett

Southwestern's Bradin Steil and Jake Brant shoot their way to victory almost every year. Steil's grandpa introduced him to the sport of trapshooting, something that they both love to do. Since shooting guns has always been a hobby of Steil's, he started the sport at age 10. His team consists of his grandpa, great uncle, SWSD student Jake Brant, and Brant's brother. "We get in the top three every year," Steil said. Each team is made up of 5 men who shoot in Potosi, WI, on Thursday nights and Sunday mornings where they try to shoot 25 "birds". Each time around there is a chance to have a score of 250, and once it's added up, ends in a score of about 2000. Since Steil's team ends up winning the competition each year, he has received awards like trophies, plaques, and medals.



Bradin Steil



Jake Brant

No bunny hills here

By Mamie Redfearn

Reilly Birkett, a junior at Southwestern High School, is an outlier in our sport's field. She participates in ski leagues outside of Madison, Wisconsin and has since she was two years old. Since entering high-school, she has been in three separate leagues. "I love skiing because it is something I can do the rest of my life. I don't have to stop doing the sport as most people do out of high-school," Reilly said. She describes skiing as "the most social thing ever." Reilly has met a variety of friends on the slopes and will continue to as traveling leads to interaction with new people and is a huge concept of her ski life. Later in the 2016 season Reilly will even be traveling to New Hampshire on the east coast for her most important race to qualify for nationals since she is too old to compete in the Junior Olympics this year. Support our Wildcat Reilly as she races this season.



Reilly Birkett

Girls Golf wins 11 meets in completing their best season

By Abby Reiff & Ali Smith

The Benton/Cuba City/SW Varsity Ladies' Golf team completed another successful season last fall. The team

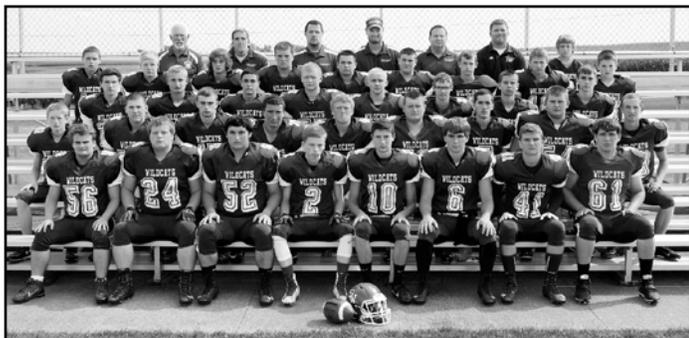
consisted of Bailey Bussan (10th), Lexi Fladseth (11th), Abby Reiff (12th), Chloe Riniker (11th), and Ali Smith (12th). Lena Frank (12th) and Kate Wright (9th) completed the varsity reserve team. The tri-op won 11 meets making it their best season yet. "The season was a great success. We recorded our lowest scores as a

team. The varsity team advanced to the sectional qualifying round for a 2nd year in a row," said Coach Al Reiff.

At the conference meet the team placed 2nd behind Lancaster with Bussan finishing in first place after a playoff. On The team scored a 409 in regionals to advance to sectionals where they placed 5th out of 8 teams with a 405.



Difficult season for SWHS football



By Ben Gleason

This past year in football was a disappointing, yet necessary process in Southwestern football's turnaround. At the beginning of the season, it seemed as though the football team had taken a step back, instead of forward. The team was depleted by injuries. The severity of these losses were apparent after being an upset loss to Rio, then Beloit-Turner who Southwestern had dominated the year before (40-14). The team switched to a spread offense, and heavily relied on passing for the first few games, whereas the year before they were known for their strong rushing attack.

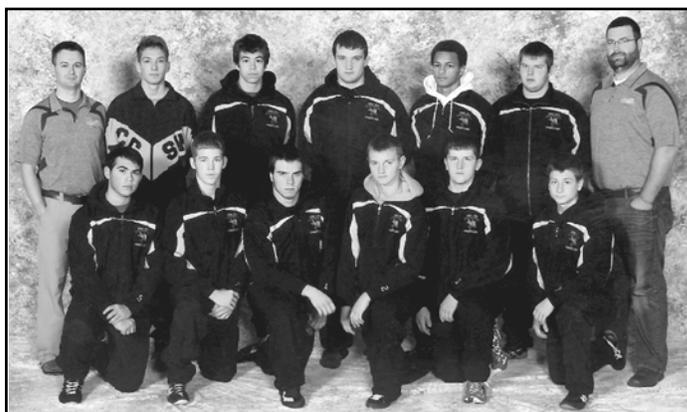
The identity of the team finally became apparent when Southwestern would play their first home game, against the Boscobel Bulldogs. Most of the players, who were previously inactive, were able to return, and the Wildcats finally had the personnel for a balanced offense. Running back Cory Miller and quarterback Jacob Banfield each rushed for 2 touchdowns in Southwestern's 28-6 rout of Boscobel. The game was also arguably left tackle Carmen Rigdon's best. The rushing attack ran behind Rigdon on the majority of the plays. Rigdon's dominance was so fierce that on passing plays defensive lineman eventually wouldn't even engage with him and try to rush the quarterback. The defense played just as impressive that game, however. Southwestern's defense, led by a veteran defensive line, allowed only one touchdown.

Southwestern won its next game (45-26) on a Saturday at Riverdale. The game was the Chieftain's homecoming. Southwestern's offense benefitted by Quarterback Jacob Banfield's 5 touchdown game, his career best. Banfield rushed for four touchdowns and passed for one, and his performance earned him the Telegraph Herald Athlete of the Week.

Southwestern, before the season started, was predicted to come last place in SWAL. Instead the team came out with two conference wins and only one win short of making the playoffs. Senior lineman Harry Kies was asked to come back next year to coach, and he agreed. The team had two All-Conference players. Left tackle Carmen Rigdon made All Conference 1st

team, and All-Area offensive lineman. Quarterback Jacob Banfield made honorable mention after having a 1,000 passing yards, 500 rushing yards season. The leading rusher and passer was Banfield, the leading receiver was Sophomore Diego Lopez. For team awards, Banfield earned offensive player of the year and MVP, Linebacker/Defensive Lineman Cory Miller earned defensive player of the year, Carmen Rigdon was lineman of the year, and the four Captains included Banfield, Miller, Rigdon, and Gleason

Wrestlers holding at .500



With a record of 134-134, the CC/SW wrestling team has accumulated a total of 712 team points as of press time. Hakiem Belhaj (10-13) has contributed 53 points while Nick Leahy (7-7) and Brandon Cerney (7-7) have earned 26 and 23 points, respectively. Dillon Huseman and Alex Keck also represent Southwestern on the team which is coached by Southwestern's Joe Vogt.

Athletes honored

By Madison Kuhl

Football - Carmen Rigdon - 1st Team All-Conference, All-Area honorable mention; Jacob Banfield - Conference Honorable Mention.

Volleyball - Michelle Budden, Madison Kuhl, Melissa Tranel - 1st team All-Conference; Miranda Kemp, Claire Splinter - Conference Honorable Mention.

All-Area Team: Budden - 1st team; Kuhl - 3rd team; Kemp, Tranel, Splinter - honorable mention.

Budden - 3rd Team All State; Budden, Kemp State All-Tournament Team