



Springfield Advance-Press

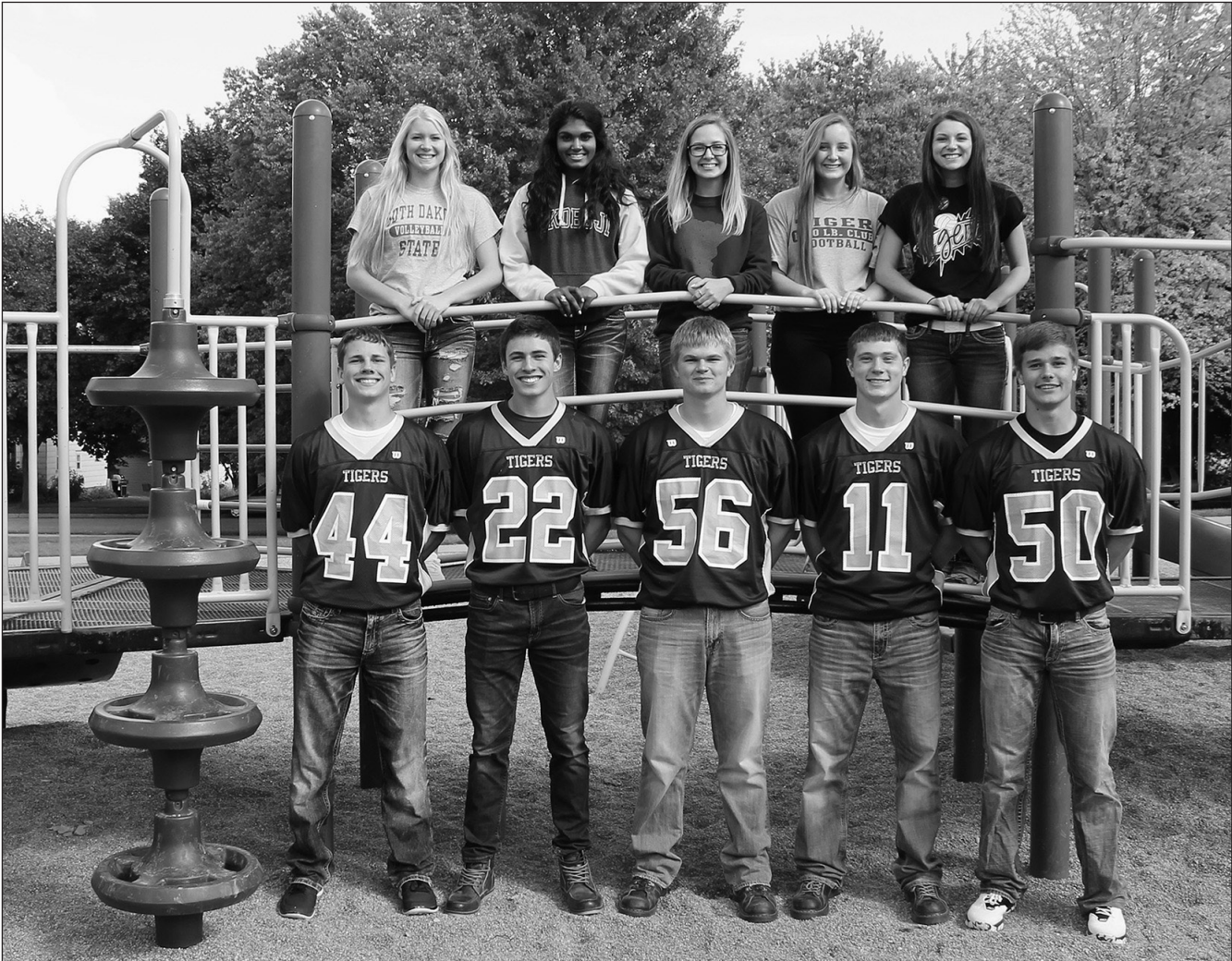
12 PAGES

OUR 129TH YEAR

SPRINGFIELD, BROWN COUNTY, MINNESOTA 56087

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

NO. 38



Who will be Homecoming King and Queen?

Springfield High School will celebrate homecoming next week and candidates for homecoming king and queen were elected last week. King candidates, from left, are Ben Runck, Joe Pieschel, Will Vanderwerf, Kale Meendering and Brett Berberich. Queen candidates are: Alyssa Streich, Hana Anderson, Taylor Streich, Sydney Krueger and Jena Roiger. Homecoming coronation will be at 8 o'clock Monday evening, September 26, in the school auditorium.

Minnesotans can vote early starting Friday

Minnesota voters have more options than they've ever had in a presidential election year.

Minnesotans can begin to cast no-excuses absentee ballots in this year's general election Friday, Sept. 23, in the first presidential election year that voters can request absentee ballots without providing an excuse for why they can't get to a polling place. Early voting also will

be available to most Minnesotans beginning seven days before the Nov. 8 election day.

Secretary of State Steve Simon predicts the new options will change the way many Minnesotans vote and make it more convenient for those who cannot vote within a 13-hour window on a specific Tuesday.

You may register online. It's quick and easy! You will

need your Minnesota driver's license or Minnesota identification card number, or the last four numbers of your Social Security number.

To vote by mail, apply to have an absentee ballot mailed to you. You do not need to be registered to apply.

You can vote early with an absentee ballot at your local elections office. If you are not registered, you can do so in person if you show proof of residence. Your local

election office is the Brown County Courthouse, 14 S. State Street, New Ulm, (Tel: 507-233-6613) in the office of the auditor-treasurer, who also serves as a resource to cities, townships and school districts in the election process.

Need help?

Need help? Call the Office of Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon at 1-877-600-VOTE (8683) or contact your county election office.

Local students score very well in ACT testing

Springfield High School seniors, who took the ACT test as juniors during the past academic year, scored very well and with great improvement.

The ACT, originally an abbreviation of American College Testing, is the leading U.S. college admissions test, a standardized test measuring what students learn in high school to determine academic readiness for college. The ACT consists of four tests: English, Mathematics, Reading and Science.

College-bound high school students may wonder whether taking a preparation class for the ACT test is worth the time and money. The short answer: Ask local educators!

The Class of 2017 did an outstanding job, says Springfield High School Superintendent Keith Kottke.

The ACT scores achieved by the 2017 Springfield High School senior class increased in all four areas — English, Math, Reading and Science — with the greatest increase in English of 3.6 points.

"We have been working on ACT scores. We have always felt our students' ACT performance could be better and continuously have been working on developing strategies to help their performance," said Supt. Kottke, speaking to the Board of Education during their regular monthly meeting the evening of September 12.

When Springfield first tested 100 percent of the junior class in 2015 (the 2016 graduating class) their ACT scores decreased in four of five areas, even though the Minnesota ranking of Springfield improved because other schools dropped significantly more.

"I like to say that we changed something," High School Principal Patrick Moriarty told the Board of Education. "The thing that we changed is that we used John Baylor Prep."

In February 2016, the Board of Education approved the purchase of the

John Baylor ACT Prep. "Our students had not prepared for a test like this," Principal Moriarty said. "We had a plan. We used it in the classroom two days a week for six weeks, and we had an ACT Practice Test. Prepping for a test isn't always the easiest thing to sit through. John Baylor clearly communicates and motivates students by identifying the importance and advantage of doing well on the ACT test and provides tips in effectively approaching this high-stakes timed test. For the kids credit ... they stuck with it and they have been rewarded with strong results. I cannot be more proud of how they did it."

The second time Springfield students took the ACT test in the spring, they scored 23.4 in English, an increase of 3.6 points; 21.4 in Math, an increase of 1.4 points; 22.7 in reading, an increase of 1.8 points; 21.8 in Science, an increase of 1 point; and district composite score of 22.6, an increase of 2.1 points. A phenomenal increase.

The lowest score you can get on the ACT total is 1, and the highest you can get is 36. A composite score of 20 is the national ACT average. About half of students score above that, and half of students score below. The top 25% of ACT takers score about 24 or more, so if one scores 24, that's excellent. The bottom 25% of ACT takers score 16 or less.

"Our seniors have access to take the test again and we recommend that they all do that," Principal Moriarty said. "It's likely that their scores will go up 1 to 2 points every time they take the test. It just means more money in their pockets at scholarship time. That's the information we want to give to kids. One of the selling points is that studying for six weeks is the best summer job they can have. I believe there are high dividends for kids with high ACT scores."

"Springfield, under the leadership of teachers and

ACT Test — See Page 2

Farm Safety . . . A Legacy to be Proud of

The theme "Farm Safety . . . A Legacy to be Proud of" reminds local and rural communities that agriculture is one of the most dangerous occupations in the U.S. and farm injuries and fatalities are preventable through education. The most recent data from the U.S. Department of Labor indicates that in 2014 farming accounted for 568 fatalities, with an estimated 70,000 injuries.

Each year since 1944, the third week of September has been recognized as National Farm Safety & Health Week. This recognition has been an annual promotion initiated by the National Safety Council and has been proclaimed as such by each sitting U.S. President since Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the first document. Over the years, the development and dissemination of National

Farm Safety & Health Week materials shifted from the National Safety Council to NECAS. NECAS is the agricultural partner for the National Safety Council and has been serving the agricultural family and business community since 1997.

As we recognize National Farm Safety & Health Week this September, please join us in promoting safe and healthy practices on our

farms and ranches across the U.S. and in our neighboring countries as producers enter the harvest season. NECAS welcomes the collaboration and participation of community members in this year's observance, and would like to thank the Illinois Farm Bureau for its work in developing the "Farm Safety...A Legacy to be Proud of" logo this year.

Look left. Look right. Look again. Flags out. That means stop!

Back to school means increased traffic, and school administrators and law enforcement officers remind motorists to drive with care and with extra caution near schools.

Motorists sometimes get comfortable in their daily drives and don't always realize how fast they are traveling. Although there's a warning light at the school crossing at the intersection of Central Street and Burns Avenue, it's a very busy crossing that is cause for concern for the safety of pedestrians.

Motorists coming off Highway 14 cruise down Central Street, often gaining speed on the downhill coast, and sometimes lose sense of where they are. At this time of the year the morning sun is low and causes a blinding effect to eastbound motor-

ists. The setting sun late in the day creates challenges for westbound motorists. At times it's difficult for motorists to see pedestrians crossing in the shadows under the umbrella of trees that line the street.

The new, larger parking lot on the east side of Springfield Public Schools has increased traffic at the Central Street and Burns Avenue crossing. Central Street is a busy thoroughfare, but extremely so before school and after school.

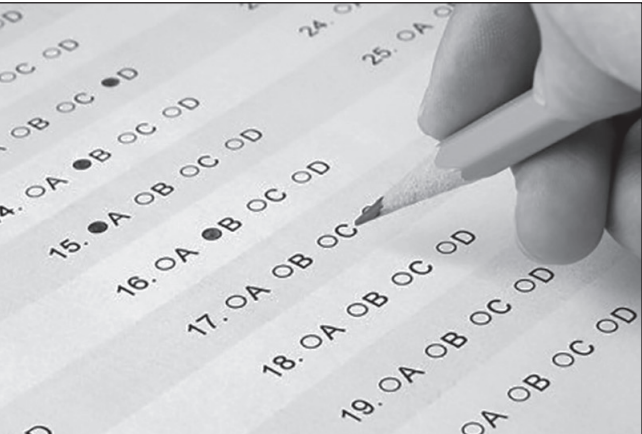
The School Safety Patrol is on duty at the crossings before and after school. The school patrol is composed of sixth-graders and led by teachers James Eckstein and Denise Hauger who help set up teams, train, coach and guide them through the process. The School Patrol has

School traffic safety — Page 2



Madison Welch and Annie Holles are two members of the sixth-grade School Patrol.

From the Front



ACT scores up here

administrators are determined to give the students the best preparation possible for the ACT test. The school is justifiably proud of their accomplishments,” said Dr. James D. Sheehan, former educator and school administrator who founded SchoolFinances.com. “Simply stated, I believe that the John Baylor Prep program is a pivotal piece in helping change the culture in high schools to one of achievement, college and career preparation.”

John Baylor, who runs Lincoln-based John Baylor Prep, emphasizes the ACT score because it affects how much scholarship money is offered. Students need to get the best score to get into the best college for them at the lowest cost, he said.

Baylor said he works to motivate students while reviewing test content. He

described his program as about 80 percent content, 10 percent test-taking strategies and 10 percent motivational. “Our program is more of a coaching effort than teaching effort,” he said. A motivated student will benefit a lot, he said.

There are several ways that students can improve their profile. For one, they can dedicate themselves to increasing their grade point average in high school. Most colleges and universities place a great deal of importance on a student’s grade point average as well as their class rank. The number of extracurricular activities in which a student participates is a factor in the decision of many college admissions offices. Also, a student can take the necessary steps to improve their ACT score.

School traffic safety

A very important job and they take their job seriously. The School Patrol is there to prevent any accidents in the crosswalk area. But it is everyone’s job to help ensure safety for school children.

Annie Holles and Madison Welch were on patrol at the Central Street and Burns Avenue intersection during the first two weeks of school. “The first three days were sort of scary . . . because we didn’t have a lot of confidence, I guess,” said Madison. “We knew what we were doing, but it was scary for us. The cars are going so fast all the time. We don’t know if we should go out in the street or not. It’s hard to know when to stop people, because the cars were going really fast.”

“There were concerns brought to our attention, and we revisited how things are working out there,” said Principal Jeff Kuehn. “I stood out there and I got a sense of what they were facing. We put some measures in place, put some adults out there to help supervise, and added a sign at the intersection. It looks like most people are responding to the sign. Even when there’s not pedestrians at the crossing, motorists are slowing down because they recognize the sign and being more aware at that intersection.”

“Now we’re having a conversation with the high school students,” added



The School Patrol is on duty every school lday — mornrng and afternoon — rain or shine, cold and snow. Carter Asmus and Shane Burden were on duty when this picture was taken in the rain on September 15.

Principal Kuehn. “Even though they are at that stage in life where they are more independent and can make some of those decisions by themselves, we want them to still honor the crossing guards and the time when they’re letting pedestrians cross. We want them to set a good example.”

“Our concern is getting kids to school and home safely,” said Principal Kuehn. That calls for everyone — pedestrians and motorists — to pay attention and be aware. “We don’t want an accident to occur.”

School’s Open Drive Carefully



Maria Flor
Registered Nurse and
Trauma Coordinator

ing check-in times so someone knows whether or not you’re OK. If you’re caught in a machine or bleeding in a field without the ability to call for help, things could end up dire.

“Harvest season is a memorable time filled with hard work and family tradition. But it can also be a dangerous time if you don’t take the proper precautionary measures,” says Flor. “Keep the aforementioned tips in mind to stay safe, healthy and happy on the farm and in the field. Thank you to our farming community for all your hard work and dedication.”

Correction

In regard to article “With 9-1-1 call to Sanborn, local ambulance will be dispatched,” that appeared in last week’s Advance-Press, we wish to clarify that Comfrey received their First Responder rig from Gaylord and forwarded their rig to Sanborn First Responders.

SHOW RESPECT even to people who don’t deserve it, not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours. —Dave Willis

Autumn arrives... tomorrow!



The autumnal equinox ushers in fall at 9:21 a.m. on Thursday, September 22. At that moment the sun crosses the equator into the southern sky and lights Earth from pole to pole. It’s not until the 25th that we see a day and night of equal length, however. A major reason is because

Earth’s atmosphere is a gigantic lens that bends sunlight over the horizon and makes the sun visible for a few minutes before and after the actual moments of rising and setting, respectively.



Today is International Day of Peace

Today, September 21, is International Day of Peace. The United Nations started the International Day of Peace in 1981. This day is celebrated worldwide in an effort to work together for a better world, and specifi-

cally the absence of war and violence. The theme for this day is, The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace.” Let us all join with people around the world praying and working for peace.

The Weather

The past week’s weather summary: Average high 72.0 degrees, average low 53.3, and a mean temp of 62.6 degrees. We received 1.21 inches rain. A 30-year precipitation normal for this time of year in this part of the country is 28.16 inches. Year-to-date we have 30.77 inches. This past week we were 6.3 degrees colder than the previous week. A normal mean September temp is 60.6 degrees, so we are cooling down. Growing degree unit’s last week was 87.5 units.

WEEKLY CROP REPORT

CORN 2.91
BEANS 9.21
Courtesy of Harvest Land Co-op, effective September 19, 2016.

Weather Observer Russell Rogotzke reported this week’s weather report at Springfield, Minnesota:

DATE	HI	LO	PREC.
Sept. 11	80	52	
Sept. 12	75	61	
Sept. 13	61	48	
Sept. 14	71	43	
Sept. 15	65	57	1.21”
Sept. 16	77	58	
Sept. 17	75	54	



National FarmSafety Week

September 18-24, 2016

The Springfield Advance-Press

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It's on Sale. Sept. 8-22, 2016

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SEPTEMBER is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

BROWN BAG “LUNCH” LEARNING SERIES

Sponsored by Brown County Local Advisory Council on Mental Health
Springfield Public Library • 120 N Cass Ave, Springfield, MN 56087

SUICIDE PREVENTION – Monday, September 26 – 6 PM to 7 PM
To erase the stigma of mental illness and suicide, we need to understand the complexity of how suicide can become an option for a person who has lost hope. This presentation focuses on asking 4-HELP and Be-A-Link to help prevent suicide. Learn how to identify possible risk factors and warning signs while building a safety net for yourself and those you love. Presented by Emily Reding, Certified Yellow Ribbon Trainer.

MENTAL ILLNESSES, LET’S MAKE IT OK – Thursday, September 29 – 6 PM to 7 PM
Each year, one in four Americans experiences a mental illness. Most will wait an average of ten years before seeking treatment, largely due to the stigma. September is suicide prevention month, which makes it the perfect time to start talking about mental illness and what we can do to Make it OK. Presented by Bonnie Timm, PHN, Brown County Public Health.

All sessions are FREE and open to all. No need to pre-register -just come and join us!
Feel free to bring your meal along and learn.

23rd Annual
Rotary Rose Sale
\$15 dozen

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Jeff Krueger or Doris Weber at the Springfield Advance-Press 723-4225
Amanda Frank at Reiner Real Estate Office – 723-5233
or e-mail Kahla Petersen at deluxe@newulmtel.net

Orders must be in by
Thursday, October 6.
Roses will be delivered
October 10-13.

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