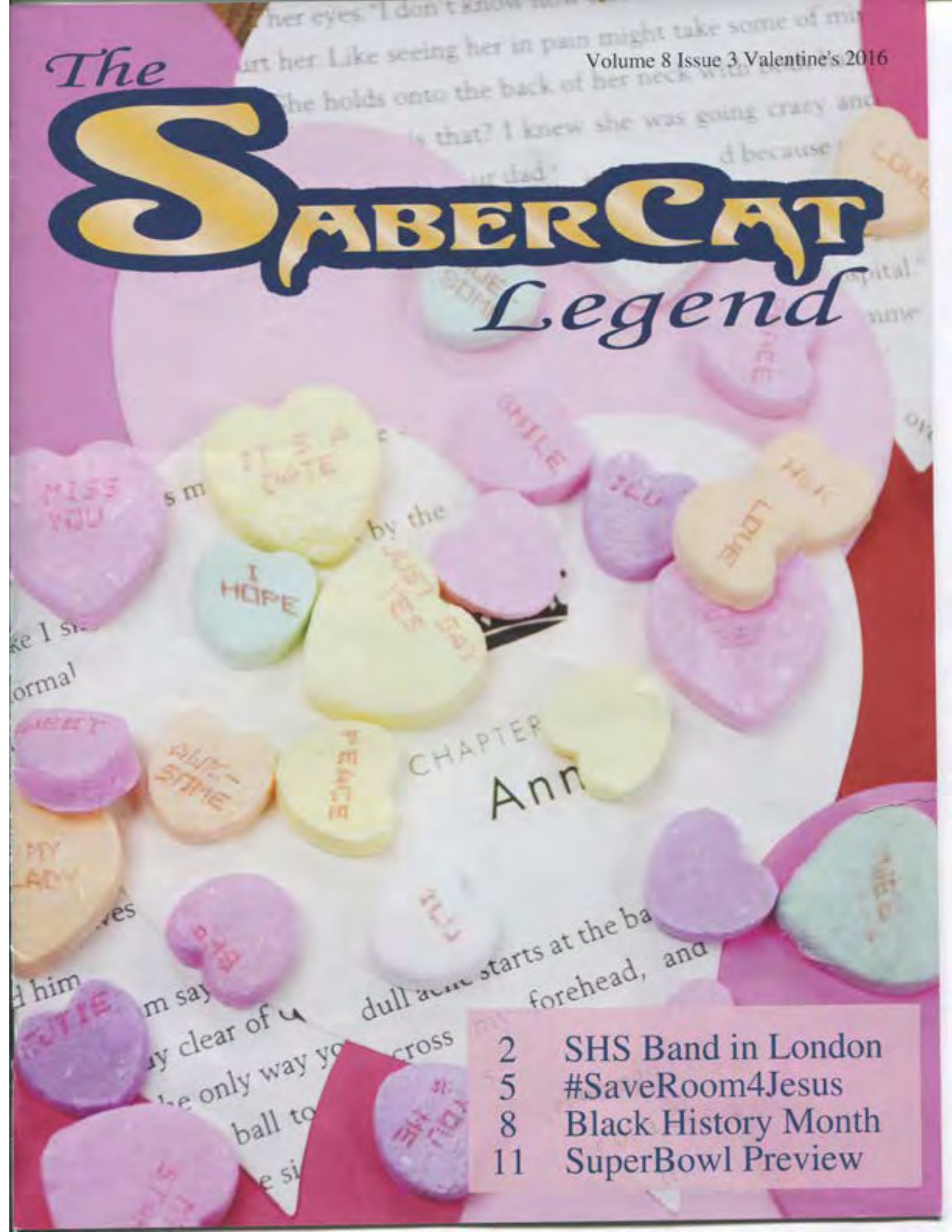


The

SABERCAT

Legend



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By Kaylee Deisering

Photos by various band students and David C. Burton

SOUTHMOORE TAKES

The students in the Southmoore High School Marching Band traveled to London in the end of December 2015, and came back home in January 2016 with a lot of memorable experiences. The excitement started for sophomore, Karsyn Clifton, when her band director in eighth grade, announced that they had about two years of fundraising and saving up to prepare for this trip. Two years later and they were in their buses with the high school's band director, Adam Mewhorter, and many members of the band on their way to London. Karsyn was asked how long preparation took, "Preparation with the band took about a month with the music, and only a couple days for packing."

When they arrived in London they got to visit a lot of landmarks, such as the London Bridge, the London Eye, Big Ben, and so much more. When they arrived, they had a tour guide and everywhere they went he told them all about the places they visited. The band also gave their all as they performed at the 30th Annual London New Year's Day Parade. They returned from London after 8 days and a successful London performance. They truly made Southmoore proud.

THE UK



By McKenna Lindsay



Valentine's Day Around the World

Valentine's Day is most commonly considered to originate in Rome. The Roman Emperor, Claudius II, did not think men should marry during wartime. A Roman priest named Bishop Valentine disagreed with the Emperor and continued to marry couples in secret. He was eventually caught and executed. While he was in jail he wrote a letter to the daughter of his jailor and signed it "from your Valentine," and with that began the tradition of Valentine's Day.

In America, Valentine's Day is celebrated with elaborate date nights, chocolate, and flowers for one's significant other. It is undeniably a romantic celebration of love and relationships. Other countries and cultures have different traditions and for some Valentine's Day isn't about romance at all.

In Japan, Valentine's Day is celebrated by women giving chocolate to men. They also do not just give chocolate to their

significant other; the type of chocolate they send represents a different relationship with the receiver. There is chocolate reserved for bosses, coworkers, brothers, or fathers and a different kind of chocolate given to boyfriends and husbands. But women don't receive anything. March 14 is White Day in Japan, where men reciprocate the gifts they received and give women chocolates.

Valentine's Day in Denmark and Norway was a holiday not celebrated until recently. Nonetheless, they've already formed a unique and humorous tradition. On this day, men anonymously send women short, funny poems. The only clue as to who sent the poem is the number of letters in the man's name, which is represented by a dot for each letter. The woman then must guess who sent her the card. If she is right she receives an Easter Egg later that year. If she is wrong, she owes the man an egg on Easter instead.

Finland and Estonia do not celebrate Valentine's Day. Instead, they celebrate what they call "Friend's Day" where people send gifts and cards to show their love and appreciation for their friends. However, it is still a popular day for marriage proposals.

The Welsh celebrate Valentine's Day on Jan. 25. Among the Welsh, it is common for men to send "love-spoons" to women they're interested in. This tradition most likely originated with sailors who would carve wooden spoons into intricate designs. The designs were often symbolic, for example: keys represented the man's heart, a wheel represented his hard work, and breadcrumbs represented the number of children he wished to birth. The tradition is still practiced today.

France, considered one of the most romantic countries in the world, began it's own tradition called "drawing for love." This was a sort of game in which single men and women would gather in houses across from each other and call across to the other house following the voice of a specific woman or man until they found each other. Men who did not like their match would leave the woman and search for a new partner. Women who remained unmatched by the end would all get together around a bonfire that night and throw pictures of the men who left them into the flames while yelling insults and dancing. The tradition grew so out of hand that the French government eventually banned the practice of this tradition.

So however you choose to celebrate your loved ones, we wish you a Happy Valentine's Day!

Did you know?
Many love letters are signed with Xs and Os and those simple letters have come to mean kisses and hugs. But why? Some consider the X symbol came to mean kisses in the medieval times. With so many illiterate people who couldn't write their names, they improvised by signing their card with an X in front of a witness (who would confirm who the sender of the card truly was). The X was then kissed to show the sincerity of the sender.

For those who procrastinate buying your gifts, you're not alone. More than 50 percent of all Valentine's Day cards are not purchased until the week before the holiday.

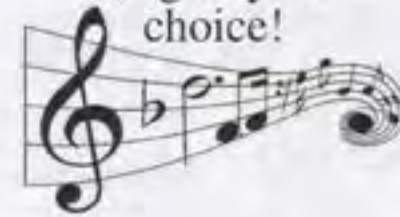
In Victorian times it was considered bad luck to sign a Valentine's Day card.

SHS Celebrates Valentine's



Buy a Crush Gram to send to your Valentine! Have it delivered or deliver it yourself!

Support Southmoore's choir by purchasing a Singing Valentine! The SHS choir will serenade your Valentine with the song of your choice!



If you filled out your data match form in January, don't forget to buy your results and discover who in the school is your best match!

By Noah Cornell

#SaveRoom4Jesus

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, we are sure that more couples will pop up and begin to show their affections for one another. Relationships in school have progressively become more expressive and public. PDA is a topic addressed in many school handbooks including our very own. The Moore Public Schools Student Handbook states, "The school campus is not considered a place for public display of affection. Students are asked to avoid embarrassment to themselves and others by refraining from displays of affection during the school day and at school events. Any student violating the PDA rule may receive disciplinary action."

Now, many students disagree with this policy. According to Junior Josh Elliston, "Kissing doesn't bother me as a student, but if you get up on each other and make-out, then it's a little gross to me."

A lot of students are fine with it as they have been around it since junior high. On the contrary, many teachers think there is no place for it in schools. One of Southmoore's long-standing teachers, Michelle Hanneman, agrees with that. When asked if she thinks there is any place for PDA in schools she said, "Absolutely not! This is a public institution not your room. Have some common courtesy and get on with your life. Do it on your own time."

Whether you agree with students or teachers, we can all agree that some common courtesy goes a long way.



By Gina Pham

Lunar New Year: Legend of the Chinese Zodiac



Lunar New Year is a significant event celebrated by Asians around the world falling on the eighth of February this year. Preparation for the new year can be extravagant in heavily populated cities with a large Asian population. Like the New Year celebrated on the first of January, it is an important event marking the start of something new.

Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year to many people first originated in Asia out of fear. Old legends include a story of a terrible mythical monster named Nian, the Chinese word for year. Nian is a monster who preyed on people only during the New Year. The story includes a wise, old man who counsels the people to make loud noises and hang red paper cutouts and scrolls outside their door to scare off Nian. For reasons not explained Nian is scared of the color red. This myth is how the Lunar New Year started and why the color red is seen everywhere during the celebration.

Preparations and festivities for the new year consist of large gatherings which can include lion dancing and firecrackers. Lion dancing is a form of traditional dancing in which two performers in a colorful lion costume mimic a lion's movement and is accompanied by the sound of gongs, cymbals, and

drums. Other festivities include giving out lucky money. Lucky money is given to children in small red envelopes and is known as a symbol of good luck because of the red envelope it comes in.

Following the tradition of the zodiac animals, 2016 is the year of the monkey. Those born the year of the monkey are expected to have amazing luck this upcoming year. The zodiac animals are what they are today because of an old legend that is speculated to have been written during China's Song Dynasty. The legend begins when the Jade Emperor ordered that all animals will participate in a race on his birthday because the people of China needed a way to measure time in twelve year increments. The first twelve to cross the finish line would receive the honor of a year named after them.

The race started off with cat and rat as friends who agreed to win the race together by asking the strong and kind ox for a ride promising to cross after the ox. While crossing the river the cunning rat pushed the cat into the water. When the ox and rat neared shore the rat jumped off crossing before the ox making the rat the first sign and the ox the second.

Next, the tiger, who was considered king of all creatures, after fighting against the current comes in third. Rabbit, the luckiest of the twelve signs, found a path of rocks to hop across becoming the fourth animal. The powerful and mystical dragon who was the favorite to win, as he can fly, flew in after the rabbit, explaining how on the way he stopped to make rain to quell a dangerous fire. Soon the horse approaches the finish line but before crossing the snake jumps out ahead after sneakily hitching a ride on horse making the snake sixth and the horse the seventh zodiac.

Monkey, sheep, and rooster quickly follow helping each other along the way and crossing the finish line in the order of the sheep, monkey, and finally rooster. The dog crosses next. Last, but not least, the pig who came in being designated as the twelfth animal despite being stronger than most of the animals. His excuse to the Jade Emperor was that he was hungry and wanted to take a nap first. The cat, however, after almost nearly drowning, managed to cross the finish line after pig. In response to the rat's betrayal the cat vowed to forever hate the rat, which is also why cats chase rats and are forever enemies.

By Erik Eaton

Leaping into a New Year

2016 is starting off the new year a different way, by adding one more day to the calendar. A leap day, February 29, is added to the calendar during leap years, which is every four years. This means there are 366 days in the year instead of the normal 365.

Why add a leap day?

Leap days are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the sun. Without these leap days we would lose almost six hours every year. This would make our calendars off by about twenty-four days in relation to the seasons. The ancient Roman calendar added a whole extra month to maintain the correct seasonal changes. Roman general, Julius Caesar implemented a new calendar, the Julian Calendar, in 45 B.C.E. with an extra day every four years. At that time, Leap Day was February 24, and February was the last month of the year.

Leap Day as a concept has existed for more than two thousand years, and is still associated with age-old customs, folklore and superstition. One of the most popular traditions is that women propose to their boyfriends instead of the other way around.

By Erik Eaton

Extreme Performance

Speech, Debate and Mock Trial held their showcase Friday, Jan. 15, to show us what they're all about. If you got a chance to see it, you saw some funny sketches, and some serious sketches. But what you didn't see is all the preparation, and hard work put into making these things happen.

The students are first asked to pick out what kind of sketch that want to perform. They can choose anything from T.V. commercials to scenes from a movie. They have free reign to do whatever they please with this. They can showcase something meant to be serious and make it funny, or vise versa. From then on they practice and memorize what they have chosen to do. Freshman Orion Dorman said "It takes about a month to completely get all of it done, But you can never really be ready. We have practice every Wednesday but we are encouraged to go every day we are able to."



By Jordan Johnson



February is observed as "Black History Month" in America. It's precursor, "Black History Week," was created by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926 and observed on the second week of February. A staunch Republican, Woodson chose that week in that month to honor the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Woodson created Black History Week because black Americans and their accomplishments were largely left out of the educational curriculum of that time. When African Americans were mentioned, it was usually very demeaning imagery or discriminatory ideas.

Woodson founded the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History in 1915 and the Journal of Black History in 1916. He was dedicated to helping educate black and white Americans about blacks and their accomplishments and potential in a way that would benefit everyone. His week-long observance was expanded to become Black History Month which was officially recognized by the U.S. government in 1976.

Unlike it often seems to be today, Woodson never intended black history to be about the race's first accomplishments and a parade of black icons. Woodson was a scholar; he intended this observance as a means to get around the institutional hatred of the era and ultimately have this new information included in the teaching of American history. In particular, Woodson wanted black Americans to understand the strong family values, work ethic, sense of individual responsibility, spirit of entrepreneurship and incredible dignity that was indicative of black Americans and their African ancestors.

Black History Month often sparks debate about the continued usefulness and fairness of a month dedicated to the history of one race.

"It's a celebration and recognition of the accomplishment of and towards African Americans," said Southmoore teacher Kasie Hill.

Many people believe that black history should be integrated with the remainder of US or British history, for instance. Eliamar Ness, SHS art teacher, said, "I think it is important to learn history and we need to acknowledge all minorities that played a vital role in developing this country."

Others view this approach as encouraging the "hero worship" of historical figures rather than inspiring a greater appreciation of the larger social history of communities and their contributions. American actor and director Morgan Freeman has criticized Black History Month, saying, "I don't want a Black History Month. Black history is American history." Freeman argued that there was no White History Month, because white people did not want their history relegated to just one month.

Whether or not you agree with the concept of Black History Month, we as a society still choose to acknowledge the sacrifices many African American leaders made during the civil rights movements.

Southmoore teacher Jamie Jackson said, "If a race has no history, it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated. I think it is important for everyone to learn about African American history."



By Kaylee Deisering

Welcome to the 2016 HUNGER GAMES

2016 is a very important year for politics. We as U.S. citizens will be voting for our next president. New laws will be voted on and many things could be changed to be extremely different than how we see them today. One topic in general that is sparking lots of debate is education. Common core, debt-free college, and the teachers' paychecks have all been discussed and debated by many people. All of these decisions depend on who we vote for as president. These possible changes affect the high school student body, most of whom cannot vote yet. What some of them don't realize is they still have a voice and can tell people what

they think, and might even be able to change the opinions of those who can vote.

This election is very important to students. World History teacher Teresa Seabolt said, "The people elected now set the budget for education. 27 million dollars was cut from the education budget in Oklahoma which has created a hiring freeze in a time of teacher shortages. What that means to students is their class sizes will be even larger."

Common core outlines what students should know and be able to know for each grade they complete. It is set for the classes of language arts and math. There is a lot of debate with common core because many people, especially teachers, believe that how they teach shouldn't be determined by the government. It makes education difficult for the students and teachers.



Students aren't the only ones that could be affected. Teachers will also face many issues. Several teachers were questioned if they've seen the "Breaking the Silence" video and what they thought of it, and every teacher asked said they have seen it. They all agreed that teachers are not paid enough and they would like to see a change in the way Oklahoma distributes its money to teachers. According to the video, there was even a teacher that didn't want to teach here in Oklahoma, considering it is the state where teachers are paid the least in the United States.

So who are the candidates that could be elected that will have the option to keep things the same or change them for better or for worse? There are many people running in hopes of being the next United States President but only a few that stand out in the lead. From the Republican party is, Ben Carson, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, and Donald Trump. Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, and Martin O'Malley are running for the Democratic position. As of January, Hillary Clinton has the lead vote for the Democrats with a little over 50% of the votes, and Donald Trump has the lead in the Republican votes with over 30% of the votes. From the looks of it Hillary Clinton could win the Democratic primary and be one step closer to the Oval.

November 2016 is when we could experience lots of change. The new president, new laws, and especially changes in the way school works. Common core could become a huge part of our lives, or be demolished and never used again. Debt-free college may happen and be either good or bad for the economy. Teachers may even get paid the money they deserve. Let's hope that whoever it may be, will be able to make changes to better our country and our schools.

Basketball

With the fall sports season wrapping up, it is time to check in on the basketball and wrestling teams who are quickly approaching mid-season. Southmoore's guys basketball team has improved to a 7-9 record and earned third place in the Bartlesville tourney. Unfortunately, our Lady SaberCats are sitting at a 2-13 record. They look to continue rebuilding this year after losing many seniors. Both teams have proved in recent weeks that they are a force to be reckoned with as they have been playing their best basketball of the season. After shaking off a slow start to their season both teams have rebounded in preparation for the Regional Basketball tournaments. Both teams look forward to their Homecoming games. The Court consists of:



- Freshman: Isaac Johnson, Esteli Lasiter, Karli Perry, and Shay Russell.
- Sophomores: Casey Thompson, Raquan Wicks, Era Ulaj, and Angelina Cook.
- Juniors: Ty Blaine, Jiffo Amissah, Haley Eaves, and Alexis Young.
- Seniors (pictured above, from right to left): Zach Norvell, Paige Foss, Sarah starwall, and Tinsley Payne.

Wrestling

The Southmoore wrestling team is determined to finish off the year strong in their postseason tournaments. Headlined by Senior Jakobe Walker, Junior Alex Garcia, and Sophomore Brey Walker the Cats look to take home gold in the state tournaments. The Homecoming Court for wrestling includes

- Freshman: Marshall Mack, Dalton Denwalt, Mackenzie Stinnett, and Sahara Wiles.
- Sophomores: Hannah Hood, Joe Reynolds, Jamie Seargent, Conner Bell.
- Juniors: Alex Cah, Austin Hall, Cheyenne Tee, and Alex Garcia.
- Seniors: Ashley Stover, Jakobe Walker, Juree Green, Caleb Watts, Makenzie Fox, and Josh Stow.

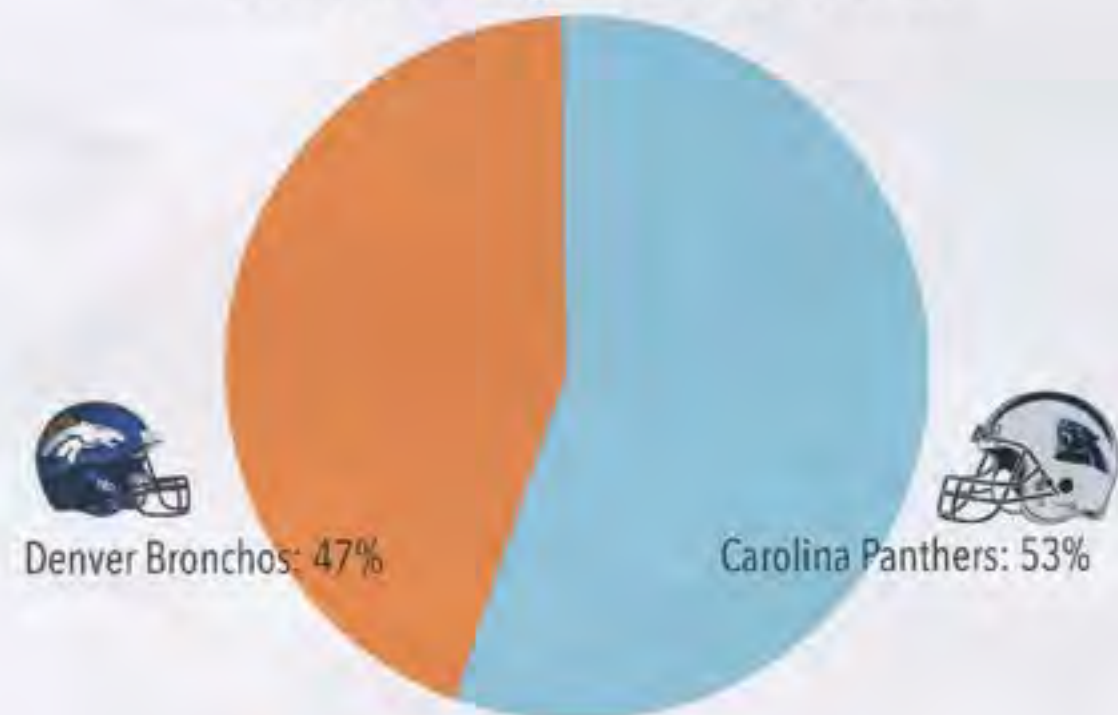


From Right to Left: Josh Stow, Makenzie Fox, Ashley Stover, Juree Green, Caleb Watts



The people have spoken! A twitter poll conducted by @SabercatLegend (Follow Us!) shows the prediction of the Southmoore student body's pick for the winner of the Super Bowl. The road to the Super Bowl was no cake-walk for either team. The Panthers, led by the No. 1 overall pick in the 2011 NFL Draft, Cam Newton, swept the NFC with an eye-popping record of 15-1, plenty good enough for the #1 seed in the NFC. The Denver Broncos on the other hand have had some ups and downs this season but they were able to rebound and finish with a record of 12-4. Led by two-time NFL MVP, Peyton Manning, also the No. 1 pick of the 1998 NFL Draft. Both teams have the No. 1 defense in their respective conferences (DEN AFC, CAR NFC). This year marks the first ever Super Bowl meeting by two #1 overall quarterbacks. Will it be Manning and the Broncos or Dabbin' Cam and the Panthers? According to Southmoore, the Panthers will win the Super Bowl on Feb. 7.

Super Bowl Predictions SaberCat Legend Twitter Poll



YEARBOOK

Buy your yearbook!

The deadline is fast approaching! Don't forget to buy
Southmoore's 2015 - 2016 yearbook!

Yearbooks are \$60, prices will rise February 10.

To buy your yearbook go to *JostensYearbooks.com*

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