

The Redbird Report

2022 Homecoming Festivities

BY AMELIA HAYS AND GABBY YOUNG

Virginia High School hosted the 2022 homecoming games for the first time in four years. The games took place on Wednesday September 21st to kick off homecoming week. High school students from all three schools (Virginia, Triopia, Meredosia) gathered to compete for a battle between the grades. The games consisted of egg toss, relay races, hungry-human-hippos, leap frog race, and many others. The annual powder puff and boys volleyball game took place at Triopia High School later that evening.

After a long day of battles, the seniors came out on top

winning the games as well as powder puff and volleyball. Throughout the week, the students planned different dress up days as a way to allow everyone to participate in homecoming. The themes of spirit week were: Monday- country or country club, Tuesday-patriotic day, Wednesday-class color day, Thursday-Adam Sandler or fraternity, Friday- school colors.

Megan Reynolds, a senior from Virginia high school, said "I think homecoming festivities are a good experience for high schoolers because it brings school spirit and enjoyment." To wrap up

the week, the students gathered at Meredosia High School for the dance. The theme of the dance was Mardi Gras and the members of the student council helped set everything up in preparation. During our interview with Megan Reynolds, she also stated "I had a fun time participating in the games and spirit week but the dance was kind of boring and didn't have the greatest music." Homecoming week has always been a mix of events for high schoolers to participate and enjoy the week of fun.



Jayden Lucassen (top) and Trevor Hudson (bottom) showing school spirit during homecoming games. Photo by Jake Stewart

Aspen's Back!

BY GREYSON FRITSCHÉ
The hamster we all know and love has finally returned for his second school year with Virginia High School. On Monday September 26 I interviewed Ashley Moon about Aspen, the emotional support hamster. Aspen was donated from a local family who is very involved in our school.

Just as Aspen was, Co-Jack was immediately welcomed by many of our students and staff. Remember if you are having a bad day you can always go see our beloved Aspen in Ms. Moon's office or set up an appointment with Co-Jack.



Aspen, the "emotional support" hamster. Photo by Greyson Fritsche

This was the first informal step our school took into offering animals to support our students' mental health. The second step was having a service dog come in once a month. That is how we ended up with visits from a pup named Co-Jack.

DonorsChoose Grants Teachers' Projects

BY SAVANNAH BOWMAN AND BREANNA BEHREND'S

Several Virginia school teachers received projects this year from DonorsChoose. After a project gets funded, DonorsChoose donates materials to teachers when needed, shipped to the school, and ready to go as early as a week after they request them. DonorsChoose donates to help teachers have projects to teach the students more things with more fun.

"I got independent reading books and science fiction books,"

said English teacher Heather Crivilare. The school administration informed teachers about DonorsChoose opportunities, so they can look for people to grant their projects. Teachers can request where their projects come from included websites like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Target. People from all over the world are able to donate or grant to teachers so they can create and get the projects they need.

Sports & Activities

2022 Trojans Football Season So Far

BY KENLEIGH MCHATTON AND CHELSEA BELL

The 2022 Triopia Trojans Varsity Football Team began their season about five weeks ago; so far they have had a very challenging season. They are coached by their head coach, Adam Brockhouse and assistant coach, Rich Thompson along with many others. They have coached their varsity players through five games this season, and have a 0-5 record.

Even though the team has seemed to play their hardest and they have the right skill set, they have not yet been able to pull out a win. One of the four star captains, senior Aiden Neathery, states this is how his final season is going.

“Most people would probably say I should say terrible and yes I hate losing but it is more than that. I’ve been really proud of a lot of our underclassmen standing up and giving it all they got. That to me means more than anything.” He describes his playing experiences as a huge teaching moment. With his teammates he said, “I love playing football with my buddies. It’s a big reason I’ve gone out all 4 years.”

So far the Trojans have played against West Central, Greenfield, Brown County, Beardstown, and Mendon. The next upcoming games

are against Camp Point, Routt, Pleasant Hill, and North Green.

Even though the boys have had their ups and downs, by having starting player Evan Bell out from a broken foot and by being stuck in a losing streak, they won't give up. Senior Brady Hildebrand stated, “We don’t let it affect us.” Instead, the boys study every Saturday in the weight room; where they went wrong and to correct.

They really do put in a fight. The JV team has been looking up to them. JV’s current standing record is 3-1.



Triopia head coach and players standing for the National Anthem on Don Kemp Field. Left to Right: Adam Brockhouse, Aiden Neathery, Evan Bell, Will Bateman, Garrett Sheehan, Brandon Bottens, Jack Cox. Photo by Carol Link

Trojans Volleyball Hopeful For A Season Turn Around

BY LILLY CARSON

The Triopia/Virginia Trojans volleyball team is in the midst of its 2022 fall season. They are now 7-6 after a big conference game against South County. They went to three sets, winning the first but losing the last two. Chelsea Bell, of Virginia, leads the Trojans in total kills with 91, she also leads the team in blocks with 18. Megan Reynolds, of Virginia, leads the team with digs per set with 6.4. Ava Ganz, of Triopia, leads the team with aces and assists

with 15 aces and 212 assists; she also just hit 1,000 career assists.

The Trojan's season hasn't been perfect though, with some big losses. “The season is going good. We are on a losing streak but we will bounce back. We just need to work together, especially with all the lineup changes that coach is making,” says Megan Reynolds, a senior libero. The Trojans have some big games coming up, with two tournaments and some conference games left.

Gold Star Mission Makes a Stop in Our Community

BY REAGAN MASTERS AND MEGAN REYNOLDS

The Gold Star Mission 500 riders stopped in Virginia on Tuesday, September 20th. Virginia’s Jr./Sr. High School student council members handed out refreshments.

The Gold Star Mission riders biked 500 miles from September 20-24th to raise awareness for fallen soldiers and raise money for scholarships. The Gold Star Mission explains on their website, “The Gold Star Mission is an opportunity to ensure that these service

members' names live on forever, and that their sacrifices create opportunities to enrich the lives of others. Thus, we must Never Forget.” This nonprofit organization’s goal is to “pay tribute to fallen heroes and their families” and to “honor and support Gold Star Families by preserving the memory of our Fallen Heroes through service to others in need.”

The bikers that arrived in Virginia rode from Springfield to Quincy

over these four days, with one of their stops being at Jennie Marr Memorial Park, where the student council members distributed water and where other GSM volunteers handed out snacks for the bikers. There were around thirty riders making this trip ranging from ages 17 to 70.

Continued on page 4

A few student council members take a photo with some of the Gold Star Mission 500 riders. (Student council members from left to right: Jack Cox, Megan Reynolds, Emily Pratt, Dace Morrow) Submitted photo.



Log Cabin Days Brings Awareness to the Natural Prairie

BY DELANEY TURNER

On October 8th 2022 the Rexroat cabins will be having their annual Log Cabin Days, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. having food, vendors, and more.

Park staff and others volunteer to help with

Log Cabin Days to help spread awareness about the prairie and inform the younger generations.

Debbie G. stated “ I love to see the excitement on peoples faces and hearing them talk about all they

have learned from the prairie.” The volunteers enjoy giving their time and effort to support something that's so important to the community with plenty of things to do and enjoy.

Virginia FFA Chapter Holds Fundraiser, Attends Convention

BY MONTASIA BAPTIST AND SIDNEY WATKINS

The Virginia FFA Chapter is getting involved in fundraisers and various events in the month of October. The Chapter will not be hosting any of the events, but will be holding the fundraisers in the town of Virginia. The event and fundraisers include: Feed the Farmer, Log Cabin Days, the pork chop sale, and the National Convention which is being held in

Indiana. The conventions cover a wide range of knowledge related to specific career areas, and they require you to apply what you learn in other areas of life as well as school. We were able to interview Jennie Birdsell (Chapter advisor) and Kenleigh Machatton (FFA Chapter member). When asked about her experience contributing to FFA events, Advisor

Jennie Birdsell commented, “It is fun to see students get out of their comfort zone and to get involved.” We asked Kenleigh Mchatton what drove her to join the FFA Chapter and she stated that it would look good on a college application. The pork chop sale will be ongoing throughout the month of October.

New Event Brings Fall Family Fun

BY ETHAN CARPENTER

Volunteers and the Virginia park board are putting on a new event for all families to come and enjoy on October 22nd from 2 to 9 p.m. at the park. The brand new event is called the Jack'o' Lantern Spooktacular and will host many things for families to engage in and enjoy.

Since not many other events for families typically happen in Virginia during fall, a group of Virginians decided to make this event for all to come and experience.

This event will have many businesses attending for attendees to shop for many different goods. When asked about whether this event would be annual, Trish

Carpenter said “we would love for this event to be an annual thing and hopefully it will grow over time as we do it.” Many people have put a lot of effort into the event so far and if this one goes as planned then we should expect another around the same time next year. The event is also affordable when it comes to getting tickets. They are six dollars and children two and under will be free. In addition to vendors, events will include ,a spook walk, tractor rides, games and more. These will require many helpers and they are still accepting help from anyone who wishes to volunteer.

The members of the 2022-2023 Virginia High School Chapter of FFA.

Front Row (L to R): Payten Petefish, Kenleigh McHatton, Lindy Parlier, Izzy Garner, Mia Minor, Natalie Force, Devin Cave, Kylie Stock, Brock Mayes.
Back Row (L to R): Raegan Masters, Delaney Turner, Ellie Krause, Sidney Watkins, Emma Lyons, Jack Cox, Evan Bell, Steven Reynolds, Jack Parlier.
Photo by Jennie Birdsell.



Ask Amelia and Gabby

BY AMELIA HAYS AND GABBY YOUNG



Dear Amelia and Gabby, How do I stay organized and on top of my homework?

Dear anonymous, staying organized in high school is very important because it allows you to stay on top of your homework and grades. With that being said, these things come to benefit you in the long run when it comes to college after high school. Some things we recommend are to use the school agenda that you are given to write any and all assignments as well as having a folder for each class. Another important tip would be to label or color code your folders to a certain class. When life gets in the way, it's hard to stay on top of your homework. Some tips to stay on track are prioritizing your time at school and finding a motive to get the work done. One last thing to remember is that when prioritizing your time in school, it gives you a lot more free time after!

Dear Amelia and Gabby, How do I deal with being bullied?

Dear anonymous, high school can be such a hard time on someone especially if you're being bullied. We recommend meeting with the school counselor or administrator and telling them your issues first hand. Also if you feel comfortable enough, talk to an upperclassman as a guide to help you. Finding a friend (even if it's just one) will help even if it seems like it won't. There is always someone that will listen and care, so go to a school counselor, parent, upperclassmen, etc. to start getting the help you need.

What's New in the School Library

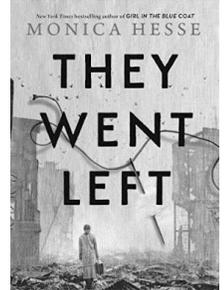
BY REAGAN MASTERS

Novel descriptions from Amazon.com

Young Adult Fiction

***They Went Left* by Monica Hesse**

Germany, 1945. The soldiers who liberated the Gross-Rosen concentration camp said the war was over, but nothing feels over to 18-year-old Zofia Lederman. Her body has barely begun to heal; her mind feels broken. And her life is completely shattered: Three years ago, she and her younger brother, Abek, were the only members of their family to be sent to the right, away from the gas chambers of Auschwitz-Birkenau. Everyone else - her parents, her grandmother, radiant Aunt Maja—they went left.



Graphic Novel

***Just Pretend* by Tori Sharp**

Tori has never lived in just one world.

Since her parents' divorce, she's lived in both her mom's house and her dad's new apartment. And in both places, no matter how hard she tries, her family still treats her like a little kid. Then there's school, where friendships old and new are starting to feel more and more out of her hands.

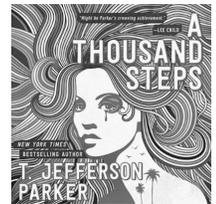
Thankfully, she has books and writing. And now the stories she makes up in her head just might save her when everything else around her—friendships, school, family—is falling apart.



Thriller

***A Thousand Steps* by T. Jefferson Parker**

Laguna Beach, California, 1968. Folks from all over are flocking to Laguna, seeking peace, love, and enlightenment. Matt Antony is just trying to get by. Matt is 16, broke, and never sure where his next meal is coming from. Mom's a stoner, his deadbeat dad is a no-show, his brother's fighting in Nam...and his big sister, Jazz, has just gone missing. The cops figure she's just another runaway hippie chick, enjoying a summer of love, but Matt doesn't believe it. Not after another missing girl turns up dead on the beach. All Matt really wants to do is get his driver's license and ask out the girl he's been crushing on since fourth grade, yet it's up to him to find his sister. But in a town where the cops don't trust the hippies and the hippies don't trust the cops, uncovering what's really happened to Jazz is going to force him to grow up fast.



Continued from page 1

The riders stayed in Virginia for about half an hour before departing to their next destination on the list, Beardstown, IL.

When we asked the senior student council member, Emily Pratt, what she would say to the riders if she had a chance to speak to them at the event, she

responded, "I would tell them that they are doing a good thing and that they are riding for a good cause." The Virginia High School Principal Jake Stewart planned in advance our way to show support for these riders. Stewart knew that the riders would be arriving during our high school's spirit week for homecoming, so he suggested to the student council members to schedule Tuesday as the day for our students to wear red, white, and blue.

Reviews

Paladins

BY ETHAN CARPENTER

Many students at Virginia play video games on many different platforms and will eventually get bored of playing the same ones all the time. This game recommendation is multiplatform ready and is super easy to get into.

The game I am talking about is none other than Paladins: Champions of The Realm. In my opinion this game is super user friendly and easy to navigate due to having a simple HUD, and many controls similar to other games. This makes it easy to feel comfortable controlling your characters so that you can perform well with whoever you choose. Characters are unlocked by gaining currency in game from accolades and challenges being completed. These challenges are daily or weekly and refresh at the same time every day/week once completed. When you have enough coins you may purchase any character you wish so long as you have the correct amount of coins to do so. New characters are introduced every season which lasts about a month and a half. For that month and a half you can buy a season pass in order to unlock many cosmetic items and free currency packages to deck out your characters that you unlock. There are also many different game modes including limited time ones that usually rotate with new ones every week for you and your team of friends to enjoy.

If I had to give this game a star rating out of ten this game would have to be at least a 7. Trust me when I say this game will probably be at the top of your list to play once you have your homework completed and decide to give it a try.

Top Gun: Maverick

BY LILLY CARSON

Summary: After more than 30 years of service as one of the Navy's top pilots, Pete "Maverick" Mitchell is where he belongs, pushing the envelope as a courageous test pilot and dodging the advancement in rank that would ground him. Training a detachment of graduates for a special assignment, Maverick must confront the ghosts of his past and his deepest fears, culminating in a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those who choose to fly it.

Review: Tom Cruise, the actor of L.T Pete "Maverick" Mitchell, did a phenomenal job. He does things to a superior and unmatched level. What blew me away most in this movie was how REAL it was. The footage of the aircraft carrier, the footage of the birds, the realistic plot and storyline, the emotion and relationships, and the humor and drama. Every element was real.

Overall: 4.0 stars out of 5

Can watch on: Vudu, Google Play Movies, Amazon Prime Video, Apple TV, Youtube



Hocus Pocus 2

BY KENLEIGH MCHATTON

"Hocus Pocus 2," a comedy directed by Anne Fletcher, is mainly set in the present day. Besides for the beginning, which goes back in time to a little town in 1653. The movie is a thrilling sequel to "Hocus Pocus" filmed in 1993. The directors bring back Bette Midler, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Kathy Najimy to play the Sanderson sisters.

This movie begins with the main character, Becca, and her friend, Izzy, talking about her birthday ritual later on halloween night in the woods. Following this ritual awoke the Sanderson Sisters once again and the two girls try their best to undo this. All throughout the movie, they come across obstacles when trying to get rid of them.

"Hocus Pocus 2," represents a kid friendly and funny movie for a family to watch this October. I feel like with the big gap of 29 years from the first to the second movie, the directors did a good job keeping the feels and plot of the movie alike. It has a really good storyline and was executed smoothly. Also, the cast did a great job capturing the spooky, halloween feeling in the movie. Compared to the original movie, I will have to say that I like both equally. This will be a movie to watch every October just like I did with the original. If you liked the first one, I highly recommend giving the new one a try.

Fall Flavors

RECIPES CONTRIBUTED BY DELANEY TURNER, CHELSEA BELL, BREANNA BEHREND, & MONTASIA BAPTIST

CARAMEL APPLE PIE

FOR THE CRUST

- 3 c. all-purpose flour, plus more for surface
- 1 c. (2 sticks) butter, cut into ½" pieces
- 2 tbsp. granulated sugar
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- 1 tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 6 tbsp. ice water (or more, if needed)

Step 1. Make crust: Place flour and butter into the freezer for 30 minutes before starting the crust process.

Step 2. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, and salt. Add butter and using your hands or a pastry cutter, cut butter into flour mixture until pea-sized and some slightly larger pieces form. Add vinegar and ice water 1 tablespoon at a time, until dough starts to come together and is moist but not wet and sticky (test by squeezing some with your fingers). Mixture will be crumbly.

Step 3. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface, form into 2 equal size balls, and flatten into disks (making sure there are no/minimal cracks).

Step 4. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until dough is very cold, at least 2 hours or up to overnight.

Step 5. Preheat the oven to 400° with a large baking sheet on the middle rack.

Step 6. In a large skillet over medium heat, add apples, brown sugar, lemon juice, cornstarch, cinnamon, and salt. Cook until liquid has thickened and apples are tender, 12 to 15 minutes. Let cool while rolling out dough.

Step 7. On a lightly floured surface, roll out one disc of dough into a 12" circle. Transfer crust to a 9" pie plate and gently press to fit. Trim edge to a 1" overhang, then tuck under itself and crimp edges. Layer apples on top of crust, then pour caramel over apples.

Step 8. Roll out a second disc of dough into a 12" circle. Cut into 10 strips. Lay 4 strips over the apples. Fold back the first and third strip and place a fifth slice over apples in the opposite direction and lay folded-back slices over the fifth slice. Fold back the second and fourth strip and repeat lattice top with remaining crust. Trim strips and press into crimped crust. Freeze for 15 minutes or until the crust is well chilled.

Step 9. Brush chilled crust with egg wash and sprinkle with coarse sugar. Place the pie plate onto a preheated baking sheet and bake until the crust is very golden and the filling is bubbling, about 50 minutes. If the crust starts to darken too quickly, cover loosely with foil. Let cool on a wire rack at least 2 hours before serving.

Step 10. Serve topped with more caramel and ice cream, if desired.

FOR THE FILLING

- 3 ½ lb. assorted apples (Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, Gala) cored, peeled, and thinly sliced (about 7 apples)
- ¼ c. packed dark brown sugar
- 2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tsp. cornstarch
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. pure vanilla extract
- ¼ tsp. kosher salt
- ½ c. caramel, plus more for serving
- 1 egg beaten with 1 tbsp. water (egg wash)
- Coarse sugar, for sprinkling
- Ice cream, for serving



CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS

Ingredients you will need:

- 2 tablespoons of butter
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 3 stalks of celery, sliced
- ½ cup matchstick carrots
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- 3 cups cooked and shredded chicken
- 8 oz evaporated milk
- 1 (10.5 oz) can of cream of chicken
- 40 oz chicken broth
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 (16.3 oz) cans of buttermilk biscuits
- ¼ cup of all purpose flour

Cooking Instructions

In a large deep bottomed pot, melt butter over medium high heat. Add your Onion, celery, carrots, and garlic. Cook, stirring often, for about 6-8 minutes or until tender

Next add your shredded chicken, chicken broth, evaporated milk, and a can of cream of chicken and bring to a simmer. Season soup to taste with salt and pepper Then cut the buttermilk biscuits into fours and lightly toss them in flour Finally add them to the pot and cook for about 8-9 minutes. Make sure to taste one of the biscuits to ensure they are cooked through and are not raw in the middle. Once biscuits are cooked through, serve immediately.



PUMPKIN SPICE WHITE HOT CHOCOLATE

Ingredients and Measurements:

- ½ cup of pumpkin pie or pumpkin spice creamer
- Whipped cream (optional)
- Cinnamon (optional)
- 1 ½ cup of white chocolate chips
- 3 cups of whole milk

Directions:

- Blend milk, white chocolate chips, and creamer together
- 2 Then top with whipped cream and cinnamon (optional)

Student Driver

BY SIDNEY WATKINS AND SAVANNAH BOWMAN

Some students have recently gotten their drivers license and started driving themselves to school. Sophomore Savannah Bowman has spent a lot of time and effort fixing up her truck.

Before fixing it, her truck was very beat up and did not run very well. She still decided to purchase the truck and fix it up because it would have more sentimental value. She has mixed feeling about her experience fixing the truck but she liked the time she was able to spend with her dad.

When asked how much money she spent on her truck Savannah Bowman commented, "Don't want to talk about it." Her favorite part about her truck is her top lights and she commented that driving her truck makes her feel cool.



Savannah Bowman, VHS sophomore, drives a 1999 Dodge Ram that she has fixed up with her dad. Photo by Savannah Bowman

New Year Brings New Administration

BY EMILY PRATT

This year Virginia Schools welcomes two new administrators to the administration team, while Mekelle Neathery transitions from Elementary Principal to Superintendent at Virginia school.

Jeff Bourne has come from Griggsville Middle School to be the new Elementary Principal. Jake Stewart has come from Porta High School to be the new Jr./ Sr. High Principal.

Mekelle Neathery transitioned from Elementary Principal to Superintendent at Virginia school.

Many school districts are feeling changes after the pandemic. All three administrators are wanting to work more closely with the community and students to get back to normal.

On this topic, Neathery commented "This is a year to gather thoughts and work with students."

When asked about changes for the year, Stewart commented "I don't know what I don't know," "If students have issues I have to be told about them to help them."

Similarly enough Neathery commented "This is a year to gather thoughts and work with students."

When Bourne was asked about what he would like to see more in our school district he responded " I would love to see more



(L-R) Elementary Principal Jeff Bourne, Superintendent Mekelle Neathery, Jr. Sr. High School Principal Jake Stewart. Submitted photo.

community involvement and input." Getting back to normal after 3 long years of a pandemic is the main goal of

Virginia schools and working with community members and students will help ensure it goes smoothly.