



HOMECOMING

High school royalty crowned
SEE PAGES 5 & 8

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THE ELYRIA SCHOOLS Pioneer



Press

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Fall 2018

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Feeling those good vibrations

Amy Higgins

Communications director

There's a positive vibe at Prospect Elementary School, and it's rippling all the way to Columbus.

The school recently learned that it is the recipient of a prestigious award that recognizes superior practices that lead to a positive school climate.

Positive how, you might ask?

The staff and students have built an atmosphere that goes to great lengths to reward positive traits and behaviors, while spending less time dwelling on negative behaviors.

The Prospect team's approach has been so effective that it caught the eye of the education-minded folks in the state's capital.

Education administrators at the state level chose Prospect as one of a select number of Ohio schools to receive the Ohio PBIS Bronze Award for 2018.

The ceremony will be Nov. 29 at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North in Worthington, Ohio.

PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention and Support. It focuses on teaching students positive behavior across different school settings, and provides consistent reinforcement and praise for good choices.

According to the Ohio Department of Education, the benefits of PBIS are:

- Reduction in problem behavior.
- Increased academic performance.
- Improved perception of safety.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS

ABOVE: Cleveland Cavaliers mascot Moondog visited Prospect Elementary School last year for a dance party. Students who met their quarterly goals attended the event.

BELOW: Grandparents Day is a favorite day at Prospect Elementary School. Hundreds of grandparents and 'grand-friends' join students for a breakfast and a morning assembly, followed by activities in the classrooms. This is one example of how Prospect strengthens its school-community connection and reinforces a positive school climate.

- Reduction in bullying behaviors.
- Increased administrator time for instructional leadership.
- Reduction in staff turnover.
- Increased perception of teacher efficacy.
- Improved social-emotional competence.
- Increased positive school climate and culture.

A team from Prospect will be headed to the ceremony in November to receive their award.

Check out the next issue of Pioneer Press for photos.



Renewal on Nov. 6 won't raise taxes

Amy Higgins

Communications director

On Tuesday, Nov. 6, Elyria Schools will be on the ballot with Issue 6, a renewal that won't increase taxes.

Issue 6 on Nov. 6 is not related in any way to the city's issue of several years ago, or city issues on any ballot. School and city funds are never co-mingled.

The Elyria School District places top value on advanced curriculum options and specialized services that meet the needs of every student, at every level of learning and ability.

Issue 6 funds day-to-day operating expenses like teachers and technology, bussing, utilities and the like. It generates \$3.6 million per year and has been in place since 1999 and renewed every five years since.

The Elyria Schools prides itself on its progressive approach to teaching and learning, offering advanced curriculum options and highly qualified teachers who are masters in their trade.

The district offers cutting-edge programs like robotics at the middle and high school levels, and coding and computer programming as early as elementary school.

In the Elyria Schools, preschoolers have access to two preschool programs rated five stars by the Ohio Department of Education; all-day kindergarten at no cost; enrichment opportunities in elementary and middle school; small-group and one-on-one intervention services at every grade level; highly acclaimed special-education services; small class sizes; and non-traditional spaces for non-traditional learners like makerspaces in middle and high school, and Pioneer

See LEVY, 3

A new era dawns for Ely Stadium

Dedication celebration for new Ely Stadium showcases military vets, EHS band, Olympian

Amy Higgins

Communications director

On Friday, Oct. 19, 2018, Elyria School District will formally dedicate its new Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium in an unforgettable night marked by exciting performances and historic appearances.

The evening's dedication ceremony is part of an already special event at the stadium: Senior Night, which honors senior student athletes in football and the cheer squad, as well as senior members of the EHS Pioneer Marching Band.

The night's activities are also designed as a special tribute to our country's armed forces. Veterans will receive free admission by showing their military credentials. Pride in our veterans and pride in our Pioneers will emerge as the underlying theme of the celebrations.

The timeline is as follows:

- 4:30 p.m. — Stadium gates open.
- 5:30 p.m. — Senior night recognition ceremony.
- 5:50 p.m. — EHS Pioneer Marching Band takes the field for pregame show.
- 6:30 p.m. — Dedication ceremony begins. (Fans should take seats by 6:15 p.m.)
- 7 p.m. — EHS Pioneers take on Strongsville for the last home game

of the season.

Dedication ceremony

Guests of Honor: Veterans Dana Bowman and Doug Doss

At about 6:30 p.m., fans will look to the sky for an extraordinary entrance by the evening's special guest: North Ridgeville native Dana Bowman, a retired Sgt. First Class with the U.S. Army and a member of the Special Forces and the Army's elite parachute team, The Golden Knights.

Bowman will fly in with a 2,000 square foot American flag to honor U.S. veterans. (Weather permitting.)

Bowman lost both legs in a training exercise with the Golden Knights in Yuma, Arizona, in 1994, when he collided mid-air with teammate Sgt. Jose Aguillon, while practicing a maneuver they'd nailed dozens of times before. Aguillon died instantly. Bowman spent months in recovery but was determined to continue his military career. After only nine months, he jumped again with the Golden Knights. He became the first double amputee to re-enlist with the U.S. Army.

Bowman retired from the U.S. Army in 1996 and is now president and founder of the HALO for Freedom Warrior Foundation, a non-



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

A bird's eye view of the new Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium during the first home game of the season on Aug. 24, 2018.

profit dedicated to wounded warriors.

Assisting Bowman at the dedication ceremony is Elyria native Doug Doss, EHS Class of 1981. Doss, a former Corporal with the U.S. Marine Corp, now works as a supervisor at Nordson Corp. He is a member of the board of directors for the HALO for Freedom Warrior Foundation.

Doss was trained in skydiving by Dana Bowman and members of the Golden Knights. He assists Bowman all over the country whenever possible, helping to raise awareness and improve the

lives of veterans.

Guest of Honor: Tianna Madison Bartoletta

Joining the special guests on the Mercy Health Field of Ely Stadium is Elyria native Tianna Madison Bartoletta, a two-time U.S. Olympian and three-time Gold Medalist.

Madison Bartoletta first made her mark in track and field at EHS as a student athlete, earning multiple team and individual championships, including a record-breaking long jump. She graduated from EHS in 2003 and attended the University of Tennessee, where

she continued her stellar athletic career, earning multiple titles and setting new records.

As a professional, Madison has traveled the world, earning championships and setting records. Most notably, she is a two-time U.S. Olympian with three Gold Medals. She is currently training for the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

Tailgate Party

The pregame festivities kick off at Elyria High School at 3:30 p.m.

See **STADIUM**, 3

APPLE ART CONTEST AT APPLE FESTIVAL



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS

Thousands of elementary through high school students entered their artwork into the Apple Art Contest at the Elyria Apple Festival last month in Ely Square. Art pieces were judged in the categories of Most Creative, Best Use of Color and Best Apple Message. The judges also recognized one piece as the Best of Show. That title this year went to Emelia Hale of Elyria High School.

BIG HERO



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Last month Northwood Elementary Middle School student Taylianis Bauzo was recognized as a hero for saving the life of a toddler while on vacation last summer.

STADIUM

From 2

at the annual Tailgate Party Fundraiser, sponsored by the Elyria Citizens Committee for Quality Education. The tailgate party ends at 6 p.m.

U.S. Olympian and Gold Medalist Tianna Madison will make a special appearance at the tailgate party.

Food will be served at EHS dining hall, with Sodexo Foodservice grilling hamburgers with the works. Sides include homemade macaroni and cheese and potato salad, along with desserts and beverages. Diners can eat in or carry out. Meals are just \$10 apiece.

The Elyria High School Pioneer Marching Band will treat guests to a special performance at the Tailgate Party, beginning at 4:30 p.m. At 5 p.m. the band

will then march from EHS to Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium, where fans can catch them for the special Senior Night pregame show.

First Student shuttles will begin running from EHS to Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium at 4:30 p.m., running continuously to and from the high school and the stadium throughout the night, until all fans are returned to their vehicles.

Fans can also catch a ride to the game on the Lorain County Transit Trolley, which will loop between EHS and Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Trolley and shuttles can be picked up at Elyria High School off West Avenue.

Tailgate Party tickets are \$10 each. Purchase them in advance by calling (440) 284-8203 — or buy them at the door on Oct. 19.

LEVY

From 1

Academy at Elyria High School.

This list goes on. Programs and services like these are only possible with a solid budget that provides the financial foundation for innovative learning.

A recent award from the Ohio auditor acknowledging the district's high standard of financial management further

illustrates how residents' tax dollars are put to good use.

With all new elementary and middle schools in the works and a new sports complex for the community to enjoy, it's an exciting time to continue the progress of Elyria Schools.

Election Day is Nov. 6 and early voting has begun. More information about Elyria Schools Issue 6 is available at www.elyriaschools.org.

Dedication Celebration for the new ELY STADIUM

Friday, October 19th

Senior Night

Honoring senior athletes, cheer squad and EHSPMB members

Armed Forces Tribute

Veterans will receive free admission by showing military credentials

Event Schedule:

4:30 PM - Ely Stadium Gates Open

5:30 PM - Senior Night ceremony

5:50 PM - EHSPMB Pregame Show

6:30 PM - Dedication Ceremony begins

7:00 PM - Elyria Pioneers vs. Strongsville Mustangs



Guest of Honor: Tianna Madison Bartoletta

Elyria native, 2003 EHS graduate, two-time U.S. Olympian and three-time Gold Medalist



Guest of Honor: Dana Bowman

North Ridgeville native, U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class (retired), Special Forces and member of The Golden Knights elite parachute team. Assisted by former Marine & 1981 EHS graduate Doug Doss



Tailgate Party Fundraiser

Join us from 3:30 to 6:00 PM in the EHS DINING HALL
Hamburgers, Mac & Cheese, Potato Salad, desserts and beverages
Meals are \$10 per person (eat in or carry-out)

**Special performance by EHSPMB at 4:30 PM*

FREE shuttle service from EHS to Ely Stadium begins at 4:30 PM



On the fast track: New schools to open in 2020-21

Amy Higgins

Communications director

It sounds like the title of a movie: "The stream runs through it."

But really it's one tiny picture of the massive construction project underway at the Northwood Campus on Abbe Road.

Crews on the Northwood site have cleared the property between Rosalee and Abbe Road. This month, they'll begin installing a culvert that will allow stream water on the property to continue flowing unimpeded, while giving access to vehicle and foot traffic that's moving overhead.

Crews also will begin grading the soil and installing water, sewer and storm lines, with an estimated completion date of December.

Meanwhile on Gulf Road, tall fences and heavy equipment are clear indicators that Ely School is under construction. Crews there are just weeks away from finishing early site and utility work.

The bidding process is underway for the new Ely and Northwood sites. Once contracts have been finalized, residents will begin seeing sure signs of the schools going up as workers begin pouring concrete slabs and footers, and the mason work begins.

Like Ely and Northwood, all of the new school sites are on the fast



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Students of Franklin Elementary School put their hard hats on June 8, 2018, and shovel dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Hamilton Elementary School on Middle Avenue.

track for completion.

The district's master plan calls for five new buildings total with three campuses and two elementary schools.

The campus sites include Northwood on Abbe Road, Eastern Heights on Prospect Street and Westwood in Elyria Township. The elementary sites include Ely

School on Gulf Road and Hamilton School on Middle Avenue.

The bidding process on Hamilton School, Westwood Campus and the Eastern Heights Campus

will take place within the first half of 2019.

All of the new schools are tentatively scheduled to open in 2020 and 2021.

A ghostly good time set for Halloween at EHS

Amy Higgins

Communications director

Calling all superheroes, princesses, ghouls and goblins: Elyria High School will host Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in the West Avenue parking lot.

Now in its fourth year, Trunk or Treat offers a safe, one-stop shop for little ones who want to trick or treat without going door to door.

The event is hosted by the Elyria High School Student Council.

Events like these have gained popularity with parents and children because there's less walking, and they take place in a controlled, safe setting.

At Elyria High School, students will decorate their vehicles and park in an easy-to-navigate



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS

arrangement in the West Avenue lot. They'll deck themselves out in fun costumes and distribute candy from the trunks of their vehicles.

Children can easily walk from car to car in a short amount of time, collecting a variety of goodies and all the while staying close to mom and dad.

Holiday craft fair seeking vendors

The parent organization of Eastern Heights Middle School is hosting a craft fair in December and vendors are still being sought. The craft fair will be 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at Eastern Heights, 528 Garford Ave.

The fair is hosted by the Eastern Heights Parent-Teacher Organization.

Parent organizations like the Eastern Heights PTO raise money through fundraisers to support student activities and to support a positive school climate.

If you'd like to be a vendor at the Eastern Heights craft fair in December, please call Robin McMillan at (440) 864-3115 or email her at jeffandrobin70@aol.com.

METRO CREATIVE



Homecoming 2018 at EHS



The Elyria High School Homecoming game was played at Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium on Friday, Oct. 5, 2018. The pregame festivities welcomed students who were nominated by their peers to represent the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior classes in the homecoming court. Pictured at top from left: Freshman Jaylah Howard, sophomore Olivia Martin and junior Myanna Hawkins. Pictured at center: Homecoming queen and senior Semari Duncan. Pictured bottom row from left: Senior nominees Izzy Stewart, Leah Coolbaugh and Madi Smith.

AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS



THE KICKOFF

The new Mercy Health Field at Ely Stadium was introduced to the community on Aug. 24, 2018. Fans packed the house for the first home football game of the season, and for the chance to walk the grounds of the brand-new multisport complex that replaced Elyria's 90-year-old Ely Stadium.



AMY HIGGINS / ELYRIA SCHOOLS PHOTOS

Drama club looks through looking glass

Amy Higgins

Communications director

You won't be late for a very important date if you purchase tickets soon for the Elyria High School Drama Club production of "Alice in Wonderland."

The Elyria High School Performing Arts Center sets the scene for this beloved whimsical tale.

Performance dates are Friday and Saturday, Nov. 9 and 10, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.elyriaschools.org.

The Elyria High School Performing Arts Center is host to delightful performances all year long, but during the holiday season, the theater truly comes alive.

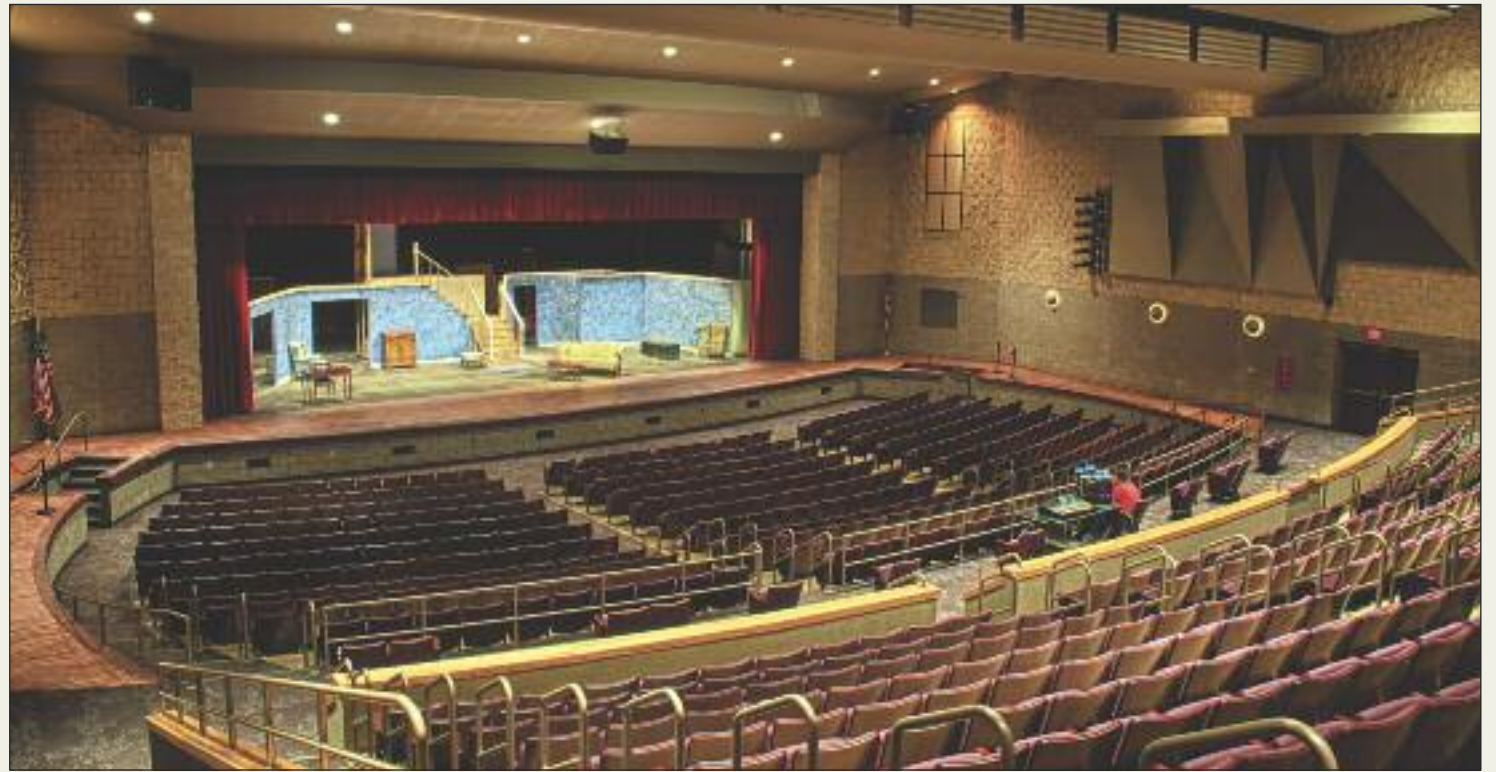
Most nights in November and December you can catch a musical or special performance like "A Charlie Brown Christmas" by the EHS drama and choir departments.

Vocal and instrumental performances are plentiful. And most student productions are free and open to the public.

The theater also hosts many outside performances, including local and professional productions.

In December, for example, the Performing Arts Center will welcome JAM Dance Academy with its production of "The Nutcracker."

The full holiday schedule is posted at www.elyriaschools.org, but here's a sneak peek of what's to come:



ELYRIA SCHOOLS

Elyria Schools Performing Arts Center performances

- Oct. 24 EHS Choir Concert — 7 p.m.
- Nov. 9 and 10 EHS Drama Club Presents Alice in Wonderland — 7 p.m.
- Nov. 11 EHS Drama Club Presents Alice in Wonderland — 2 p.m.
- Nov. 13 EHS Orchestras — 7 p.m.
- Nov. 14 Eastern Heights Band and Choir — 7 p.m.
- Nov. 19 Middle School Orchestra Concert — 7 p.m.
- Nov. 26 Ely Holiday Concert — 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 27 EECV Holiday Concert — 7 p.m.
- Nov. 28 McKinley Holiday Concert — 7 p.m.
- Dec. 1 JAM Dance Academy Presents "The Nutcracker" — 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2 JAM Dance Academy Presents "The Nutcracker" — 2 p.m.
- Dec. 4 Crestwood Holiday Concert — 7 p.m.
- Dec. 5 Oakwood Holiday Concert — 7 p.m.
- Dec. 6 Franklin Holiday Concert — 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 8 EHS Drama Club & Madrigals Present "A Charlie Brown Christmas" — 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14 & 15 EHS Christmas Spectacular — 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17 Northwood Band & Choir Concert — 7 p.m.
- Dec. 18 EHS Choir 89th Annual Reunion Concert — 7 p.m.
- Dec. 19 EHS Band Concert — 7 p.m.

Competitive wages, flexible hours in Elyria Schools

Amy Higgins

Communications director

You don't have to be a teacher or a principal to work in a school district.

There are food servers, lunch monitors and truck drivers ensuring the daily delivery of school meals.

There are custodians and maintenance workers to clean and fix school facilities, and to maintain the grounds.

There are aides and attendants to give specialized assistance to

students with special needs.

There are office professionals and skilled technicians to manage the day-to-day business of schools.

And there are teachers, certainly, to educate and serve the nearly 6,400 students who attend Elyria Schools, along with specialized personnel like nurses, counselors, physical and occupational therapists, psychologists, speech and hearing therapists, school administrators, and so on.

Full time and part-time posi-

tions are available.

The district regularly seeks qualified individuals as substitute teachers. Substitute teachers earn more than \$100 per day. To be considered as a substitute teacher, candidates must hold a bachelor's degree.

The district also seeks subs for part-time cleaners and custodians, food service employees, secretaries, and aides/attendant positions. These positions do not require a formal college degree but they do require a high school diploma. Such positions earn

competitive wages, from \$9 up to \$12 per hour.

The district has immediate openings for substitutes and for full- and part-time positions in typical and special education settings.

A "must-have" for any position in the Elyria Schools is a cordial, congenial personality, and a desire to work with children.

If a full-time job is your ultimate goal, kicking off your career as a substitute or part-time employee is a good way to get a foot in the door. From cus-

todians to teachers, many of the district's full-time employees began their school careers as a substitute or part-time employees.

The Elyria Schools offers competitive wages, flexible scheduling and excellent work environments. To learn more, call the Elyria Schools Human Resources Department at (440) 284-8232 or (440) 284-8211.

More information can be found at www.elyriaschools.org, popular links, and then job postings.



The Herald

A supplement
to the
Pioneer Press

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

ELYRIA HIGH SCHOOL, ELYRIA, OHIO

Fall 2018

A who's who of EHS Homecoming 2018

There's no shortage of personality or skill with nominees of the EHS senior Homecoming court. Meet the candidates here.

Semari Duncan (queen)

Interviewed by
Brandon Hernandez

Cheering, mentoring and sports, namely track, are all activities that Homecoming queen Semari Duncan loves to do. She's cheered with the Pioneers since middle school and all throughout high school. As a mentor with and member of Elyria Teens Achieving Success, she helps tutor students in math. She also enjoys singing and has been a member of a capella choir for three years, and Madrigals for two. This funny, caring and reliable senior plans to attend a four-year college to earn a bachelor's degree in psychology, criminal justice and music performance. Upon learning of her nomination, Semari said, "It was a really cool feeling because I usually don't put myself out there like that, and it also made me be more involved within the school." After graduation, Semari said that she will miss how EHS comes together as a community, no matter what circumstances.

Madi Smith (nominee)

Interviewed by Parker Skutt

Madi Smith is not only a proud member of National Honors Society, she's on the varsity volleyball team, too. She said she intends to continue playing in college, where she hopes to major in athletic training or secondary teaching. Madi is outgoing, kind and funny, echoed by her family and friends who said she's special all the time. Madi strives to be a good example and a strong leader for her teammates and friends. She said is glad to be nominated to represent her class. After graduation, Madi said

she will miss the memories she's made at Elyria High most and the connections she has with people.

Leah Coolbaugh (nominee)

Interviewed by Parker Skutt

Leah Coolbaugh is not only super excited to be on the senior court, but is thankful to all her friends and classmates who nominated her. This cheerleader has a knack for competitive cheer, and is kind, caring and positive. Though she said she's unsure where exactly she wants to go, Leah's plans include college with a focus on nursing. She dreams of visiting Hawaii, and loves chocolate. After she graduates, Leah said she will miss all her great teachers the most.

Isabelle "Izzy" Stewart (nominee)

Interviewed by Celeste Kapalin

Isabelle Stewart, also known as Izzy, is a very busy student. She is the co-president of Pioneer Pack, vice president of National Honors Society and the librarian of A capella choir. The independent, confident and quick-witted senior plans to attend Kent State after graduation to major in fashion merchandising. She said she would love to be a bird for a day so that she "could see the world at a different point of view," and also dreams of visiting Paris. She prefers candy to chocolate and has the special talent of bringing comical relief to any situation. She said she will miss the environment of Elyria High School, as well as the rad teachers and students she met along the way. She was surprised to be nominated for Homecoming queen but thinks it's cool that she has been noticed by the people around her without having to put herself out there.



PHOTO COURTESY KALEB ROBINSON

The Elyria High School Senior Homecoming Court, from left: Izzy Stewart, Charles Gullet, Leah Coolbaugh, Alex Heighberger, Semari Duncan, Caleb Rogers and Madi Smith.

Caleb Rogers (king)

Interviewed by Celeste Kapalin

Funny, smart and kind, Caleb Rogers is happy to be the 2018 Homecoming king. Caleb is a basketball player and plans to attend college after graduation. With the chance to be any animal for the day, he said he would choose the lion because "they own the jungle." He would love to vacation in New York City, prefers chocolate over candy and knows how to do a backflip! What he will miss the most about Elyria High School is being around his friends, and the EHS Rathskeller (senior dining area).

Alex Heighberger

Interviewed by Parker Skutt

Alex Heighberger — who once juggled a soccer ball 1,609 times

without it touching the ground — is really excited his fellow classmates nominated him for the Homecoming court. This soccer, track and field star loves chocolate (especially with peanut butter). He is smart, athletic and tall. Alex plans to continue playing soccer through college, where he will either attend Mount Union or Baldwin Wallace to study economics. His dream vacation is Destin, Fla., and if he could be any animal for a day, he said he'd be an eagle so he could catch some good views. Alex said he will miss his friends after he graduates, especially those who he's become close with over the years.

Charles Gullet

Interviewed by Celeste Kapalin

Energetic, funny and outgoing

Charles was surprised to learn he was nominated for Homecoming king. "I never campaigned or anything so I think it's really cool," he said. He is a member of the swim team, the tennis team, Link Crew and National Honors Society. He said the thing he will miss the most about EHS is the Rathskeller pizza. If he could be any animal for a day, he would be a bird, "so I could fly everywhere instead of having to walk places." His dream vacation destination is Hawaii, and he said he prefers candy over chocolate. After graduation, Charles intends to go to college to get his bachelor's degree in chemistry and to pursue a career as an anesthesiologist.