

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: YEAR 7

Powered by Danville Area Community College



Provided

AT UNITY: A SPECIAL DELIVERY

Unity students (left to right) **Maliyah Ortiz, Avery Watson, Lexie Gady, Shelby Hoel, Natalie Ellars, Callie Ellars** and **Anna Amias** prep for the culmination of the school's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. On Friday, 50 or so Rockets will finish up boxing food that this weekend will be delivered by about 20 student council members to 72 Champaign County families in need.

"Making the holidays a little brighter for our commUNITY," student council adviser **Jennifer Meyer** said. "The kids that do the actual delivering really find it rewarding to see how happy the families are."

The holiday food drive has been a staple at Unity since the 1960s, made possible by creative student council fundraising and a caring community.



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Tuscola

For Red Ribbon Week, the school's Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) group promoted a series of dress-up days, including wearing red to show a commitment to drug-free lifestyles. Photo courtesy **Christy Hoel**, who helped organize the event.

— KALEB JEFFERS

Oakwood

For Halloween, students dressed in costumes ranging from a bunny, Sans from Undertale, a fast-food worker and an NBA player. Three boys decided to dress as wrestlers just before the season begins: **Grant Brewer, Zeke Smith and Harley Grimm**.

— KALIE TISON



G-RF

Students and staff at Georgetown-Ridge Farm dressed up for Halloween.

— IZABELLA WILLS

SCHLARMAN

Seniors offer helping hands



The senior class, as part of its weekly volunteer efforts, helped sort foods at the Holy Family church food pantry in Danville. Pictured: (back row) **Adam Duncan, Carson Pollom, Chris Brown, Dylan Taylor, Karlee Belton** and **Father Thomas Szydlak**; (front row) **Mia Martinez, Makayla Blurton, Natalie Vasquez, Lilli Perez, Audrey Cejka** and **Chris Lucky**.

— LILLI PEREZ



BHRA

FFA members attended the national convention in Indianapolis. The group enjoyed several guest speakers, including WNBA player and Olympic gold medalist **Tamika Catchings**, who showed the group how to be bold. The group visited Tuttle Orchard to learn all about apple production and attended a hypnotist show. Those in attendance included: **Chelsey Makemson, Cooper Carpenter, Elaine Pierotti, Emily Dice, Gunnar Sroufek, Landon Potter, Oliver Sroufek** and **Rileigh Allsopp**.

— CODY DRAKE

St. Joseph-Ogden

The football team's season ended in the second round of the playoffs against Olympia. The Spartans went 7-4. Pictured, left to right: **Alex Funk, Aidan McCorkle, Ty Pence, Aidan Moberg, Coy Taylor** and **Logan Smith**. Photos courtesy **Kendra Pence**.

— ALYSSA ACTON



Cerro Gordo

On Friday and Saturday, the play "Makin' It" was held in the auditorium. The cast involves both students and teachers, including some teachers playing students. The play — directed by communications literature teacher **Vicky Gilpin** — focused on the struggles of high school and the question of what happens next after you've already tried your hardest to participate.

— HANNAH COPELAND

Unity

The school's show choir, Vocal Rush, hosted its fall showcase. There were performances from Vocal Rush, Unity's a cappella group Surreal Sound, individual choral students and even three teachers — **Delaney Jablonski, Alec Heist** and **Matt Reed**. There were multiple raffles throughout the night as well, with proceeds benefiting the school's music program.



— JOLIE MEYER

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Urbana

The theater department staged "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical." In addition to their regularly scheduled performances, the cast performed two special versions for Urbana Middle School students. Pictured, left to right: **V Bechtel**, **Willow Weisman**, **Ameriah Lockett**, **Paulina Angrave** (sunglasses) and **Rachel Wiley** (holding light); Angrave (green dress) and **Sophia McCartney**; and **Ally Bauer**, Bechtel and Lockett. Photos courtesy **John Phetchareun**.

— JENNIFER ARRIAGA-LOPEZ

ALAH

Club's trip to Charleston a tasty treat



Students in the school's Spanish course had the opportunity to visit Eastern Illinois University for a Culture Day field trip led by teachers **Faith Rund** and **Cathryn Baldwin**. The group ended the day by eating at a local Mexican restaurant.

— JACOB ADCOCK



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Champaign Central

On Nov. 6-7, the school's Future Business Leaders of America chapter participated in the Illinois Fall Retreat in Normal. The retreat acts as a substitute for FBLA's National Fall Leadership Conference, which will be held in Colorado this year — too distant for many Illinois chapters to attend. "I'm looking forward to just (seeing) all these Illinois FLBA members that I got to meet during the summer," committee head of community service **Samaira Sandil** said prior to the event. "They are really great, and I can't wait to spend more time with them." The retreat featured dozens of workshops focused on networking and resume building while preparing students for future FBLA competitions that test anything from creating websites to impromptu speaking. "It's very casual: All these chapters are getting together to have fun," Sandil said. Central's chapter also plans on attending the National Fall Leadership Conference next week. Pictured (top), left to right: **Ellie Kim**, **Viraj Singh**, **Aashini Sanapala**, **Sophia Cowan**, **Hayden Davis** and **Nil Patel** showing their FBLA pride; (right) FBLA chapter members pose for a picture with their sponsor, **Eric Fagerlin** (orange shirt).

— JANANI PATTABI



Rantoul

Administrators dressed the part for Red Ribbon Week. Pictured, left to right: (front row) **Tanya Turner**, **Megan Anderson**, **Brooke Billings** and **Rhea Modglin**; (back row) **Chris Dryer**, **Todd Wilson** and **Scott Amerio**.

— CAYA FLESNER



Danville

The high school hosted a Health Services Career Fair sponsored by OSF, Carle and Danville Area Community College. Juniors and seniors were asked to submit updated resumes to potential employers. Students were given the opportunity to talk to industry professionals and DACC representatives where they could learn which careers were in demand, majors to choose from and ask questions about obtaining a job. Students who visited three stations could collect a star on their scavenger hunt to submit for a free Kona Ice.

— JOSIE HOTSINPILLEN



Shiloh

Student council hosted a leadership district event with two other schools at the Newman community building on Nov. 4. Pizza was served with desserts, and participants listened to speaker **A'ric Jackson** on the topic of leadership. Pictured: Shiloh members **Jack Houlihan**, **Lily Brown**, **Andy Houlihan**, **Lydia Richardson** and **Logan Gerberding**. Photo courtesy **Dorene Boland**.

— LYDIA RICHARDSON



Centennial

Congratulations to three state-bound fall student-athletes: cross-country's **Aaron Hendron** and **Brooklyn Sweikar** and swimming's **Marin McAndrew**.

— ELENA REIFSTECK



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Academy High
Students volunteered by working concessions at last Saturday's Illinois football game. Money raised was donated to Eastern Illinois Foodbank.

— ROSIE ATKINSON



Judah Christian
On Saturday, juniors on the volleyball team organized the annual Block Out Cancer fundraiser. Seven teams competed in a round-robin tournament, the team of **Kenzie Jackson, Riley Pritts, Ava Carder, Klementine Davis, Brelyn Riesberg, Hannah Jackson** and coach **Grace Maxwell** going undefeated. The event raised around \$1,700, which was given to teacher **Amanda Winters**, who is battling cancer.

— BETHANY JACKSON



Mahomet-Seymour
Economics classes resumed Cookie Week, which hasn't happened the past few years due to COVID-19. Four different companies were created — Snoopy Sweets, Baking Bad, Kachow Kookies and Stars and Stripes Sweets — with a goal of advertising and selling their products.

— MADDIE GRINDLEY

BEMENT
Food drive hits home



Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) had its annual Foods For Families food drive last week. Groups went door to door in Bement, Ivesdale and Milmine, collecting over 700 non-perishable items.

— EMILY PARRISH



At news-gazette.com
Read the first seven weeks of High School Confidential



Monticello
Students wore orange on Monday to support former teacher **Natalie McDowell**, who died in a traffic accident last year. Pictured, left to right: **Jacq Maxey, Kelton German, Tynley Jackson, Reese Patton, Mabry Bruhn, Katie Mesplay** and **Jose Ocadiz**. Orange was the favorite color of the former school nurse.

— WILL ROSS



LeRoy
Senior National Honor Society members **Kailey Hubble, Lily Monigold** and **Fiona Campbell** had the honor to wake up three juniors and three seniors at their houses early Halloween morning. They were treated to a surprise breakfast at Jack's as a way to celebrate being selected into NHS. On Wednesday, a banquet was held in the new auditorium to induct members into this highly selective organization. Pictured, left to right: **Luke Griffin, Abby Clapp, Kailey Hubble, Aubrie Flegel, Monigold, Izzy Pray, Lucy Thayne, Sydney Owens** and **Campbell**. Photos courtesy **Meredith Little**.

— LILY MONIGOLD



Iroquois West
Senior **Bryson Grant** placed eighth at Class 1A state cross-country. Both the girls' and boys' teams advanced to sectionals, capping a rewarding season. Pictured, left to right: (girls' team) **Riley Klump, Samantha Hartke, Gretchen Willms, Tiphaine Arcas** and **Alexa Jancola**; (boys' team) **Grant, Daygan Williams, Oliverio Ochoa, Jake Kocher** and **Damian Alvarado**.

— CALLI KRAFT



DeLand-Weldon
Cheerleaders are hard at work preparing for the upcoming season, ending a recent practice with team-building activities.

— ABIGAIL TRIMBLE

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Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

An action-packed Friday saw juniors and seniors inducted into the National Honor Society in the morning and students perform in the annual Variety Show at night. The show had students and teachers dancing, singing, acting in skits and playing instruments. To conclude the night, the first-ever fall play, "Dumb Inventions," written and directed by drama club member **Kale Bauer**, took the stage.

— KATIE STEIDINGER

PAXTON-BUCKLEY-LODA

Students showing their true colors



Students and staff wore orange and red last Friday for CRPS Awareness Month. CRPS is complex regional pain syndrome, a rare nerve disease. Junior **Rebecca Lackey** was diagnosed with CRPS and brought up the idea of wearing red and orange to create awareness.

— KATE WILSON



St. Thomas More

Last Thursday, **Jennifer McCoy's** senior agriscience class took a trip to Gordyville in Gifford. Students enjoyed a rodeo, walked around the arena and had lunch at Stagecoach Steakhouse & Saloon.

— JOSE ANDINO GUERRA



Heritage

Lauren Hopper's anatomy students

used movie techniques to create fake wounds while studying the integumentary system. Students researched different wounds, recreated them and learned how to treat them.



— KATELYN LEARNED



Hoopeston Area

Health class students spent a day learning CPR. The fine arts department held a fall concert which consisted of a choir performance and the marching band's last show of the year at the school.

— EMMA RAYLS



Arcola

Spanish Club hosted a Día de los Muertos celebration last week in the high school library. The event included a demonstration by **Sandra Saldivar** on how to make "pan de muerto," trivia, snacks and an "ofrenda" assembled by the Spanish Club. The event brought students, teachers and parents together to remember those who have passed away and celebrate the impact they made in all of our lives.

— KARINA WARFEL





Cissna Park

With Halloween on a Monday, students participated in dressing up in costumes that included “Scream,” Michael Myers, a banana, a lawyer and much more. Pictured (middle), left to right: **Madison Long, Arabella Battles, Tricia Karas, Emma Malabehar, Macy Sinn, Julia Edelman, Luke Petry, Aiden Richards and Benny King**. Also, sophomore chemistry students participated in a lab, testing the properties and characteristics of different metals. Pictured: **David Ehlers** (left) and **Sarah Chatterton** (right).

— MIKAYLA KNAKE



Milford

FFA students hosted a trunk-or-treat on Oct. 31, dressing up in various costumes and decorating their cars to match. Pictured: **Colt** and **Owen Halpin** (top), **Kirstyn Lucht** (left) and **Luke Trumann**.

— MADDIE HARDWICK



Fisher

Students not only celebrated Halloween, but in Spanish class also learned about the Day of the Dead. Students decorated the classroom, designed cookies and learned about the history of the holiday. Science teacher **GINNY WILLIAMS** even dressed up for Halloween as none other than **Winifred Sanderson**.

— EMMA McFARLING



Salt Fork

FFA leader and teacher **Stacey Rickard** taught her favorite lab of the year: pig ear notching, in which students enjoyed making their own pig ear headbands. On Saturday, FFA members spent the morning competing at the livestock skillathon at the University of Illinois, and later in the day provided hot dogs at the football playoff game. On Sunday, members woke up early to get some livestock judging practice in.

— MACIE RUSSELL



Armstrong

Students and staff dressed up for Red Ribbon Week, put on by Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD).

— GIGI MULVANEY



Chrisman

The junior class put on the annual Junior Carnival event. On Friday, a Small Town Throw Down volleyball tournament took place between students, parents and staff. On Saturday, a meal was served with a variety show following. To end the night, a dance was held at the school for students.

— REESE ANDERSON

