

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Powered by Danville Area Community College



BOO!

AT ST. JOSEPH-OGDEN: Student council brought the Halloween spirit into the community Saturday night by turning the high school into a haunted house for everyone to enjoy. Students volunteered as hallways were decorated with scary themes such as zombies, witches, clowns and creepy dolls. The school had its lights on during the first portion to make it a more tame environment for the younger children. But as the night went on, lights were turned off, making it much more creepy and intense for those who wanted a bigger scare.

— Alivia Learned



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YEAR 11 OF HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL: POWERED BY DACC



This year's group includes a record 46 students from 44 schools (*visit news-gazette.com for our photo gallery*). We'll spotlight each correspondent in Top of the Morning on Wednesdays.

Academy: Nicolle Scifres
ALAH: Leighton Poulos
Arcola: Aymara Leal
Armstrong-Potomac: Myah Bartlow
Bement: Makenna Kindred
BHRA: Addie Kruse
Blue Ridge: Cheyanne Smith
Centennial: Kayla Boyd
Cerro Gordo: Jessa Cross
Champaign Central: Sophie Nixon-Gasyna
Chrisman: Morgan Simpson
Cissna Park: Ava Henrichs
Danville: Ashanti Conaway
DeLand-Weldon: Michael Rogers
Fisher: Emily Coulter

Georgetown-Ridge Farm: Liz Walls
Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley: Kasen DeFries
Heritage: Micah Sommer
Hoopeston Area: Hallie Allen
Iroquois West: Jordyn Meents
Judah Christian: Kelsi Drollinger, Xavier Russell
LeRoy: Adrienne Underhill, Jacey Hageman
Mahomet-Seymour: Abby Eden
Maroa-Forsyth: Riley Hackleman
Milford: Kami Muehling
Monticello: Rory Cooper
Mount Zion: Macie Veale
Oakland: Olivia VonLanken
Oakwood: Sidney Dunavan

Paxton-Buckley-Loda: Alex Jones
Rantoul: Jayla Allen
St. Joseph-Ogden: Alivia Learned
St. Thomas More: Quinn Miller
Salt Fork: Anna McCollum
Schlarman: Reagan Trogia
Shiloh: Ali Cash
Sullivan: Claire Kursell
Tuscola: Emma Spillman
Uni High: Krishna Jaswal
Urbana: Sophia Sheyko-Frailey
Villa Grove: Maya Garner
Watseka: Vansah Hickman
Westville: Myla Mackiewicz



School tours

Carrying on a social-media tradition, each student will take over The News-Gazette's Snapchat account to go behind the scenes at their school (**above:** Paxton-Buckley-Loda).





Armstrong

At the school's monthly assembly, students with perfect attendance, extra IXL minutes and the STEM Student for the Month (**Elle Jameson**) for September were celebrated. Teachers who work in those departments nominate students each month for the award. The school started the award last year to give recognition to the hard work students put into academics.

— MYAH BARTLOW



Cerro Gordo

Abby Michalak is the school's new band director. Students also practiced safety drills to prepare in case of emergencies. The volleyball team beat Villa Grove on Thursday, and the football team beat Unity Christian on Friday.

— CORLEY CROWE



ALABAMA PRESS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
Champaign-Urbana, Danville and East Central Illinois

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LeRoy

This year's Senior Trip saw students bus to Six Flags in St. Louis for Fright Fest. Seniors got to spend their day riding roller coasters and the evening going through haunted houses and other haunted attractions. It was a great trip to make new memories together.

— JACEY HAGEMAN, ADRIENNE UNDERHILL



MONTICELLO PUCKER UP

For the annual Kiss the GOAT fundraiser to support Paint Piatt Pink, football and cheer captains have jars with their faces on them placed in the cafeteria. Whoever gets the most money in their jar has to kiss the goat. This year, **Zeke Young** and **Emma Arnold** were selected, both raising over \$100 each.

— Rory Cooper





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Unity
The football program proudly honored those who have served. On Oct. 9, the Rockets held a special pregame tribute to express gratitude for the dedication and service of veterans.

— GRACE WHERLEY



MAROA-FORSYTH SENIORS ALL SMILES

Hannah Gruenewald, Jacy Ravenscraft, McKenna Munjoy, Sydney Pottala and Tulsi Dalu were honored on Senior Night as the volleyball team beat Petersburg Porta. The student section showed up and came through by chanting on the girls and helping encourage success. Many students followed the theme, dressing up as senior citizens.
— Riley Hackleman



Blue Ridge
National Honor Society held a blood drive where students, staff and community members could donate to help save lives. Pictured: (below) NHS members Kelly Weiss and Drake Hardesty helping run the blood drive; and (above) Principal Brian Easter donating.
— CHEYANNE SMITH



Heritage
On Oct. 6, the boys' cross-country team won the Lincoln Prairie Conference meet, defeating schools such as ALAH, Villa Grove and Sullivan. Runner Clark Roland, who finished third individually, said, 'It went really well. I think everyone ran hard, and I'm proud of our team.' Pictured, from left: Christian Paul, Owen Elmore, Colby Schrock, Roland, Greyson Guevara and Joao Vega.
— MICAH SOMMER



Georgetown-Ridge Farm
Fall break was busier than ever: The chess team (below) kept winning matches (from left, back row: Cheslyn Kelly, Hanley Nichols, Madison Winkler, Daniel Scott, Reece Walls, Franklin Sullivan and Kayne Morgan; front row: Maggie Scott, Nick Tedrick and Cullen Jones); the volleyball team had a fun night with an ESPN theme (William Runyan, Calen Leeman, Cade Roberts and Adyn Alvarez); and football made it to the playoffs.
— LIZ WALLS



Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley

The Future Business Leaders of America chapter attended the annual Wave of Light ceremony at Gibson City North Park. The event honors and remembers babies who have died during pregnancy, at birth or in infancy. Members helped light candles. Organized by Jamie Summers and Danielle Kearfott Brown, the ceremony brought people together for an evening of remembrance and support.



— KASEN DEFRIES



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Urbana

Students involved in National Honor Society volunteered at Cunningham Children's Home's 'Be A Hero 5K.' Members cheered on runners and made posters to contribute to the 5K. Students reflected on the event as enjoyable and a great way to support the community. Pictured, from left: **David Apolonio**, **Uygar Arikoglu** and **Khang Phan**.

— SOPHIA SHEYKO FRAILEY



Judah Christian

Judah has become a member of the Chick-Fil-A Leadership Academy, one of four in Illinois to have students involved. Eighteen students are participating: 12 high school students — pictured: senior **Kelsi Drollinger** and freshman **Colton Joines** — and six junior high students. Throughout the year, they will join together for service and leadership labs. High-schoolers will go through Awareness, Communication, Teamwork, Innovation, Ownership and What's Next (ACTION), while junior-highers will invest in Gratitude, Integrity, Vision, Empathy and Service (GIVES). The students will grow in Christ-like leadership.

— KELSIE DROLLINGER, XAVIER RUSSELL



CENTENNIAL WELL-DESERVED FUN

The Marching Chargers traded their practice field for thrill rides at Six Flags in Eureka, Mo., capping an amazing season with an electrifying performance. It was the perfect victory lap for the band, combining a well-deserved day of fun with one final, high-energy show to celebrate their hard work.

— Kayla Boyd



Mt. Zion

For **Quincy Petersen's** Eagle Scout project, he is putting up a display that will show the names of alumni from Mt. Zion High School who served in the military. Quincy saw other schools creating these displays and felt called to honor his local heroes. The display is meant to recognize veterans as well as be an example to students of how to respect those who served. He has been collecting donations at home football games. He also has an email for his project — qp.eagleproject@gmail.com — to answer any questions anyone has.



— MACIE VEALE



Uni High

As the first quarter wraps up, clubs have been in session for several weeks. Uni's Engineering Club, led by **Abdurrahman Alturki**, **Lucas Braun**, **Luka Gruev** and **Samuel Troconis**, has begun building balsa wood gliders. The goal is to design a glider that can fly as far as possible. Club members first learned about aerospace principles related to stability before splitting into groups to develop their designs. After refining their designs, the club had their first major build day. Groups began constructing their gliders by measuring, cutting and gluing pieces of balsa wood together. Some groups even took their gliders to the hallway to test them out. Photos courtesy Alturki and Braun.

— KRISHNA JASWAL

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Cissna Park

Students have been busy cooking in Farm to Fork, **Matejah Rook** (left) shredding cheese for homemade pizza. In science class, **Evan Feuchtenberger** (right) is teaching how to fillet a fish he caught that same morning before school. In volleyball, **Ella Schluter** (center) was recognized for her 1,000th career assist.

— AVA HENRICHS



RANTOUL
THIS ONE'S FOR THE SENIORS

Senior Nights took place the last couple of weeks as players were announced with family and friends — along with a teacher of their choice, too. Pictured: (clockwise from top left) **Addyson Sherick**; **Victoria Cowell**; **Camryn Conner** and **Aubree Emkes**; **Harmoni Kirk** and **Alexcia Thomas**; Rantoul Rowdies; and **Nicolas Francisco Hernandez**, **Iysean Autman**, **Jordyn Rice**, **Killian Thacker**, **Damian Salinas Reyes** and **Symonn Ndumbi**.

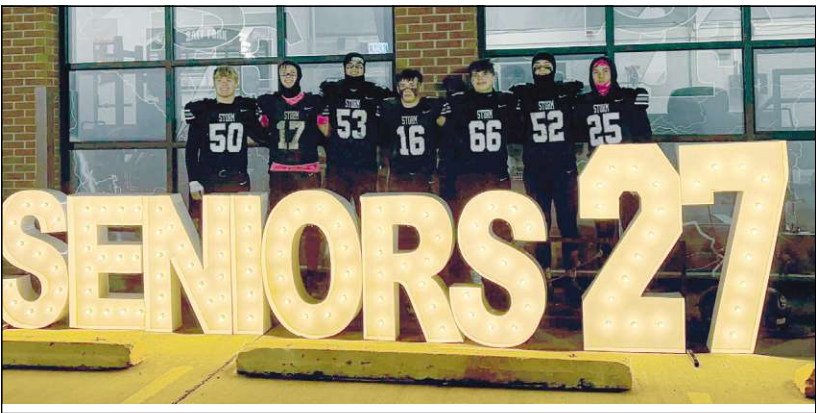
— Jayla Allen



Salt Fork

Fall senior athletes got recognized for their hard work and commitment over these past four years. A total of 27 students were acknowledged at Thursday's volleyball game and Friday's football game: one cross-country runner, seven football players, six cheerleaders, four football managers, seven band members and two volleyball players. Different activities were put on to honor the bittersweet feeling of Senior Night, such as personalized gift baskets for the volleyball players, a 'Senior Sign-Out' using handprints for the cheerleaders, and a light-up photo op for all of the seniors. Pictured: **Morgan Russell** and **Addison Williams** with their Senior Night gift baskets made by the volleyball team; football players; and **Hannah Downing**, **Jordyn Colby**, **Belle Torbit**, **Audrina Mowl**, **Palyn Provost** and **Lanie Birge** painting their hands for their 'Senior Sign Out.'

— ANNA MCCOLLUM



Fisher

The volleyball team celebrated **Brooklynn Kellems** after a junior varsity match last week. Brooklynn was recognized for reaching 1,000 assists in her career. At **news-gazette.com**: Kellems visited for Faces of the Fall.

— EMILY COULTER

Academy High

Alumni **Bre Patten** visited Oct. 14 to talk to the juniors and seniors about their experience as a freshman in college. The lecture took place during the college planning course taught by **Natasha Capell** in the science room. Photo courtesy **Deborah Bodony**.

— NICOLLE SCIFRES



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Danville

The Pompettes and cheer team had a cow-tastic fall break as they helped bring spirit to the ribbon-cutting of the brand-new Chick-fil-A in Danville. They enjoyed the first taste of Chick-fil-A, welcomed invited customers and even taught 'Tiny' some moves.

— ASHANTI CONAWAY



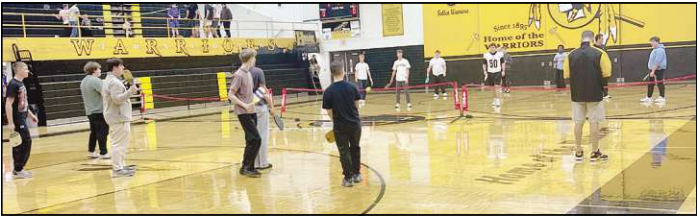
MILFORD
SHOWING OUT

On Thursday of a homecoming week themed 'The Greatest Showdown' (circus), the Variety Show was followed by coronation. Homecoming attendants, escorts and the senior court were announced, along with king and queen **Mario Martinez** and **Anna Mann**. Left: attendants and escorts (from back, left) **Jack Van Hoveln**, **Yi Brittenham**, **Juan Santoyo**, **Noah Brittenham**, **Ryder Lucht** and **Maddox Muehling**; **Jalynn Shelton**, **Brinlynn Gredy**, **Taylor Handy**, **Hannah Borgers**, **Kendall Liefer** and **Claire Mathews**; Homecoming court (above, from left) **Sydney Seyfert**, **Kamryn Muehling**, **Seth Seyfert**, **Eliana Salinas**, **Tessa Schroeder**, **Brycea Brown**, **Mann**, **Martinez**, **Gage Mann**, **Mario Grimaldo**, **Braydon Kissack** and **Jaden Souders**.
— **Kamryn Muehling**



Oakwood

What's COOL in SCHOOL
Freshman **Olivia Enos** was accepted to perform in the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA) District Festival for Choir. Olivia is the first Oakwood student to ever be accepted to ILMEA — a huge achievement. With a quick turnaround for auditions, Olivia had to work diligently in order to be prepared for the rigorous choir audition, which included singing scales, triads and four different song excerpts — one being in Latin. On Nov. 14, she will perform at Olivet Nazarene University with other top performers in our district. She will spend an intense, single-day immersion in all-day rehearsals and sectional lessons with a public finale concert led by guest conductors. She has worked hard to earn these experiences with ILMEA, while also sharing her talent as an active performer in the community, including being a member of the Comettes dance team and performing musicals with the Danville Light Opera.
— **SIDNEY DUNAVAN**



Tuscola

It was a fun-filled Friday to end the week, with hayrack rides, pickleball, cake walks, coloring and board games to entertain students and staff — capped by an apple bobbing contest involving class representatives: senior **Finn Means**, junior **Austin Bennett**, sophomore **Kai Estock** and honorary freshman **Mark Usher**. The apple bobbing champion was Bennett.

— **EMMA SPILLMAN**



Schlarman

Football picked up its first win in three seasons Friday night after not having a varsity football team for the last two years. It was also Senior Night for **Jacob Lewallen** and **Camdyn Wilson**, and there was a special performance from the Toppettes.



— **REAGAN TROGLIA**

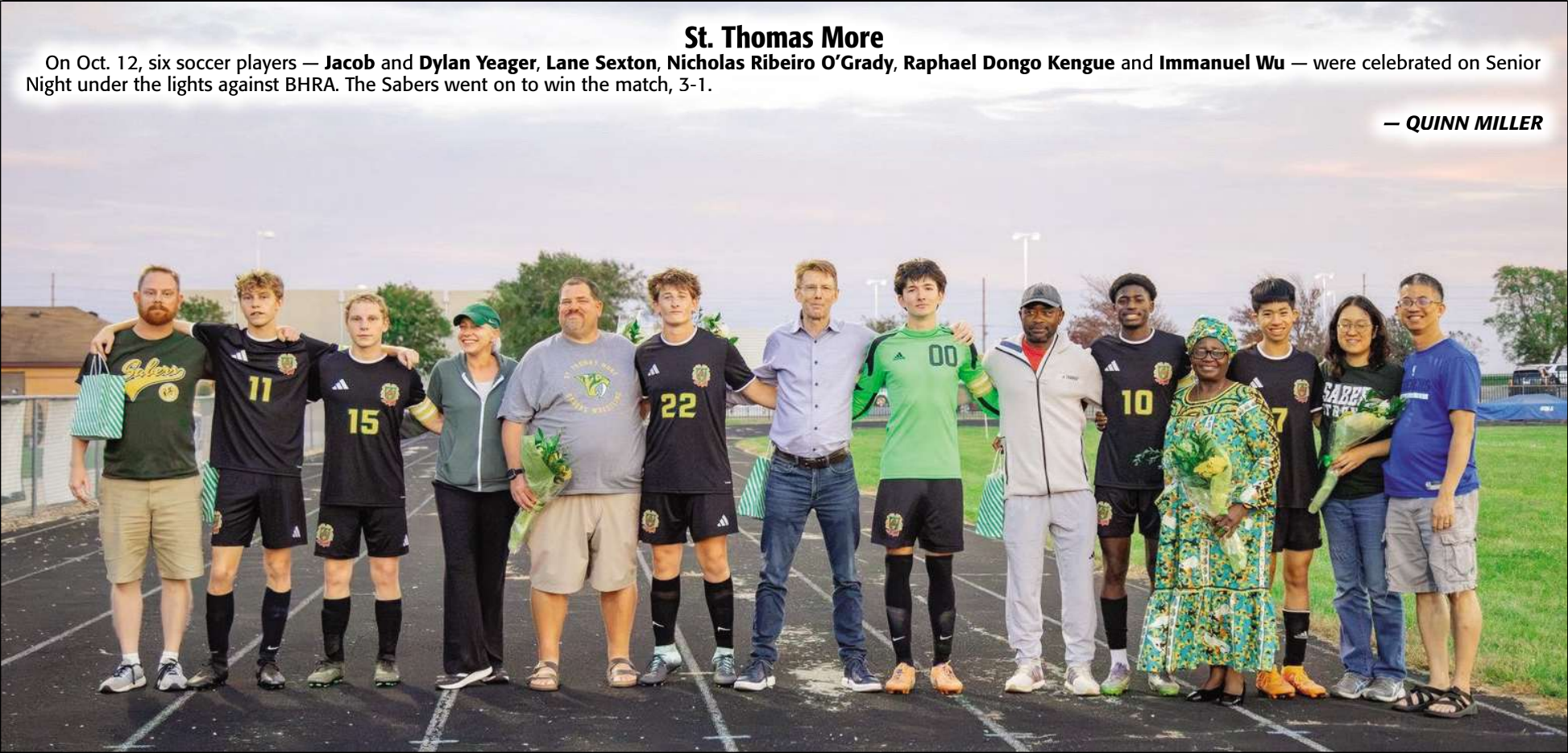


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St. Thomas More

On Oct. 12, six soccer players — **Jacob and Dylan Yeager, Lane Sexton, Nicholas Ribeiro O’Grady, Raphael Dongo Kengue and Immanuel Wu** — were celebrated on Senior Night under the lights against BHRA. The Sabers went on to win the match, 3-1.

— QUINN MILLER



SULLIVAN
ALL ABOUT THE ARTS



‘Latin Fire’ show, which included the songs ‘Malagueña,’ ‘Sway’ and ‘Fireball.’ Singers sang ‘Idol’ and ‘What It Sounds Like’ from ‘K-pop Demon Hunters,’ as well as ‘Love Train,’ ‘Kiss the Sky’ and ‘Celebrate.’ Pictured, from left: **Gavin Wade, October Artrip, Annalinise Palmer and Claire Kursell.**

— Claire Kursell

Fine arts has been thriving as color guard/band celebrated wins, singers were showcased in their annual Fall Revue, and Art Club designed a record player for the nationwide Crosley Custom Cruiser ‘Crate Culture’ Contest. Guard/band was second in the Normal marching band competition and first overall in the JG-TC online competition with over 40 percent of all votes for their



Iroquois West

At the annual Breast Cancer Awareness volleyball match against Milford on Oct. 14, students and fans wore pink clothing and pink ribbons, and bracelets were given out. A couple of local breast cancer survivors spoke to the crowd about their experiences.

— JORDYN MEENTS



BHRA

Jennifer Guminski’s world history classes were asked to build and present a cardboard weapon based on the middle ages. Students were required to research and accurately craft their weapon using only cardboard, tape, glue and paper. They were then asked to present their weapon and answer questions. Five students were picked to earn a ‘Forged in Fire’ award — **Alaina Hamilton, Ben Brown, Caralynn Randolph, Steven Wease and Xzane Evans** — for their accuracy and attention to detail.

— ADDIE KRUSE



Mahomet-Seymour

Last Friday was Senior Night for the cheerleading team, football team, marching band and color guard. Each team had traditions to celebrate their seniors: Marching band and color guard seniors wore costumes of their choice and were announced before their halftime performance; senior cheerleaders were announced before the game before their moms joined their daughters for the first quarter; and the football seniors were announced before the game, then walked up and down the field with coach **Jon Adkins** for the last time after the game.

— ABBY EDEN

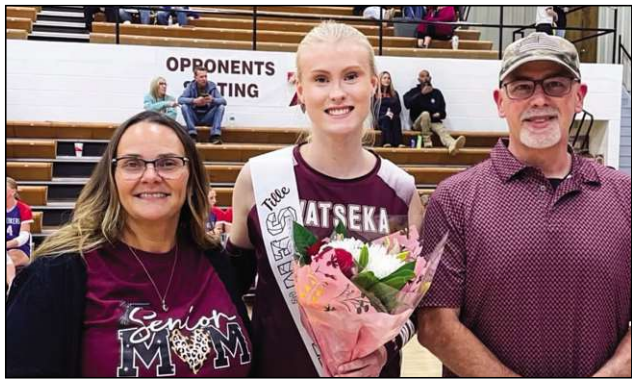
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Bement

Members of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America club volunteered at Bement's Fall Festival. Students helped plan and manage kids' crafts and Halloween games while also monitoring inflatables. The activities, run by club leader **Angela Corum**, gave students the opportunity to earn service-learning hours while enjoying their town's festivities.

— MAKENNA KINDRED



ARCOLA
ONE LAST HURRAH

Last week, the school celebrated Senior Night for band, color guard, football, cheer and volleyball. Photos courtesy the AHS Torch.
— Aymara Leal



Watseka

Last Thursday, volleyball recognized six seniors: **Vanyah Hickman**, **Addissen Ulitzsch**, **Taylor Chattic**, **Danica Le-menager**, **Kinzie Smith** and **Tillie Lindgren**. To celebrate Senior Night, the Warriors recognized the players prior to the regular-season matchup with Hoopeston Area and took photographs post-win. Senior **Evan Longfellow** also performed the national anthem on his electric guitar.

— VANYSAH HICKMAN



Villa Grove

Congratulations to **Hollie Wilson**, a 2026 Judy Elder Spouse Award recipient. Hollie is a huge part of the school's football family, always going above and beyond for the team — whether she is cooking up amazing meals for team dinners or supporting players in countless other ways. Her recognition brings a \$500 donation to the Villa Grove Snack Program, which will directly benefit students. Pictured, from left: **Addisyn Wilson**, **Aim Wilson**, coach **Heath Wilson**, **Hollie Wilson** and **Max Wilson**.

— MAYA GARNER



Oakland

On Saturday, members of the FFA officer team visited a local elevator to bring farmers lunch for the day. Farmers were given a hot dog, chips and a bottle of water. Pictured: **Alivia Krabel**, **Adlee McQueen**, **Cooper McQueen**, **Abigail David**, **Madison Herrington**, **Levi Shaffer** and **Grace Edwards**.

— OLIVIA VONLANKEN

