

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIDENTIAL

Powered by Danville Area Community College

FORGING FRIENDSHIPS



GIBSON CITY-MELVIN-SIBLEY seniors traveled to Allerton Park in Monticello for a trip focused on building friendships and bringing the class together. Students participated in a variety of activities that challenged them to use teamwork, problem-solving and determination while working with classmates. The trip was organized and chaperoned by P.E. Department teachers **Crystal Richard**, **Seeff Grauer** and **Creighton O’Boyle**, who, along with the park staff, helped guide students throughout the day.

— *Kasen DeFries*



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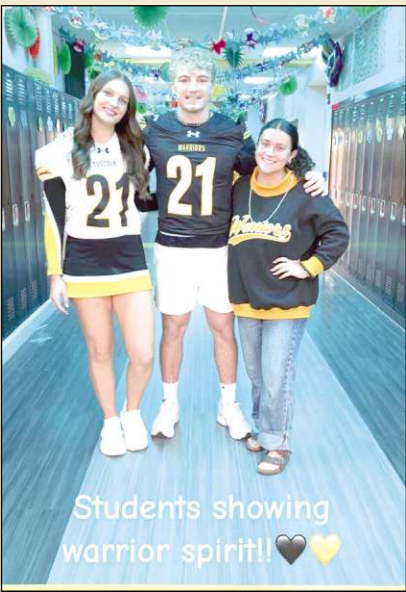


This year’s group includes a record 46 students from 44 schools (*visit news-gazette.com for our photo gallery*). We’ll spotlight each correspondent in Top of the Morning on Wednesdays.

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
Unity: Grace Wherley
Urbana: Sophia Sheyko-Frailey
Villa Grove: Maya Garner
Watseka: Vanyseh Hickman
Westville: Myla Mackiewicz



Students showing warrior spirit!💙💛

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:** Tuscola’s homecoming).



Judah Christian

Spanish classes are now offered to junior high students. With an early start, students will have a better understanding of the language and more opportunities to use their skills. Students like **Gabriella Bouton** have a better opportunity to lay a good foundation for Spanish success.

— KELSIE DROLLINGER, XAVIER RUSSELL



Fisher

Three students placed in different events and sports: **Addilyn Bent-Perzee** was second in the FFA job interview LDE competition; **Ana Cullotta** placed first in Ag Education LDE; and golfer **Emily Coulter** was fifth overall at regionals and qualified for sectionals on Monday.

— EMILY COULTER



SHILOH
SIGHTSEEING SCIENCE

A dozen bright, science-loving junior high and high school students took a wild ride with teacher **Pam Evans** on Sept. 30. The crew took an almost three-hour drive to St. Louis, Mo., to hop in a canoe and paddle the raging Mississippi River — a 10-mile journey that took 5 ½ hours. The travel party also stopped on a 110-acre island that has been mostly untouched by human life. “Trips like these are how to get kids to care about our environment, by getting them out in it,” Evans said.

— Ali Cash



Milford

On Sept. 30, freshman **Jackson Johnson** won a Class 1A boys’ golf regional title, shooting 70 and winning a playoff. “It feels really good to be able to prove myself to everyone that I can do really good things as an underclassmen,” Johnson said. Pictured (left to right): **Lucas Bonds, Issac Schaumburg, Samuel Mann,** Johnson, **Joey Bushnell** and **Dylan Potter** celebrating the win.

— KAMI MUEHLING



Bement

Students involved in Family, Career and Community Leaders of America and Lifesavers led each high school homeroom in a mental health activity called “What’s on Your Plate?” Students were taught the importance of mental health and why it should be addressed. Each high school student anonymously wrote about things they have been stressed about on paper plates that will be hung in the school. The goal of this activity is to help us better understand what students are going through each day. Pictured courtesy Angela Corum: **Noah Flach** and **Joanna Mie Soriana**.

— MAKENNA KINDRED

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Centennial

The audience in the Centennial Auditorium was treated to beautiful evening of music performed by the Centennial Symphonic and Concert Bands on Oct. 1. There were two soloists — **Jayden Jackson** and **Ellie Marinichev** — as the band and conductors **Brian Ford** and **Micheal Allen** did a fantastic job. There was also a plant and dessert raffle to raise money for the bands.

— KAYLA BOYD



BHRA
VOTING EXPEDITION

Civics students were given the chance to visit the Vermilion County Courthouse in Danville. They were brought by their teachers, **Jennifer Guminski** and **Stephanie Tidwell**. Students received a tour and were able to mock vote. Student **Cami Carpenter** said: "I believe our class really benefitted from this trip. I'm glad we got to learn about our future voting experiences and opportunities."

— Addie Kruse



Maroa-Forsyth

Seniors painted parking spots Sunday. Pinterest came to reality with their artistic skills.

— RILEY HACKLEMAN



Paxton-Buckley-Loda

For the football team's game against Unity on Friday, PBL players wore pink for Breast Cancer Awareness. Some players also had shirts in memory of **Brooke Mullins**, who passed away from breast cancer.

— ALEX JONES



Rantoul

Homecoming week festivities included a pep assembly, a fun-filled parade, a football game and a dance.

— KAYLA ALLEN



Westville
Tenley
Miethe

was named Student of the Month for October. She has showed amazing dedication to the school with her academics and involvement and always has a smile on her face to brighten everyone's day.

— MYLA
MACKIEWICZ



Mt. Zion

Medics hosted the WSOY Community Food Drive, an annual canned food drive across Decatur and Macon County. The food drive works to help fight hunger and supply local food pantries. It takes place in the high school because one of Medics core values is service in the community. The students in Medics helped to collect donations, encourage student participation and promote the drive. The Medics members also helped to drop off cans at Kroger in Airport Plaza on Oct. 2.

— MACIE VEALE

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Iroquois West

On Sept. 29, the boys’ soccer team played Oakwood on Senior Night. Seniors **Axel Andrade**, **Keylan Leon**, **Benjamin Hack**, **Anthony Hager** and **Landen Kraft** were announced one final time on their home field.

— JORDYN MEENTS



St. Joseph-Ogden

Band and choir students performed together at Friday night’s football game. As a part of their “Future Spartan Night,” the SJ-O music department invited seventh- and eighth-grade students from Prairieview-Ogden and St. Joseph Middle School to learn more about what the music department has to offer. The choir students sang “The Star-Spangled Banner” alongside the high school choir, and students in band played the fight song with the high schoolers on the football field to energize the crowd.

— ALIVIA LEARNED



St. Thomas More

Last Thursday, the volleyball team defeated Unity in straight sets, 25-19 and 25-20.

— QUINN MILLER



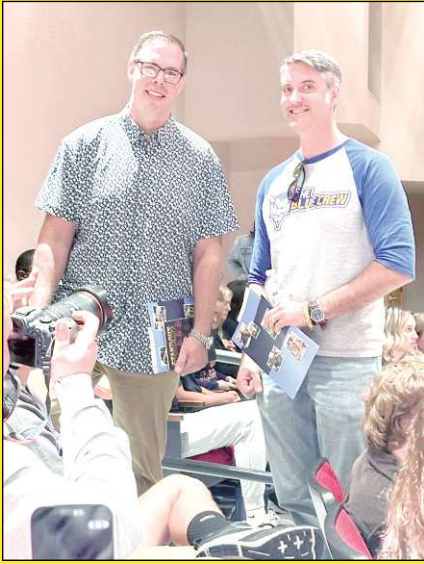
Tuscola

Honors Choir took a trip to Eastern Illinois University for the Youth and Harmony Festival, improving their barbershop skills. Rehearsals also started for the fall musical, “Frozen Jr.” It will take place Nov. 12-15 — and students are ready to take the stage by (snow) storm.

— EMMA SPILLMAN



VILLA GROVE
LASTING LESSONS



Students involved in Jostens Club attended an event at Parkland College in Champaign that will forever change the way they treat, include, love and care for others: a “Love Mondays, Jostens Renaissance Regional Conference” featuring Dr. **Phillip Campbell** and **Lori Hayes**. Students played games and learned new skills on how to make school a better place. However, the most important thing they learned was how to treat others and how to be a true leader. Hayes and Campbell made a huge impact on the club by sharing real-life stories and experiences Pictured: teachers **Brian Cordes** and **Eric Brooks** (left); and (top) students **Maya Garner**, **Dominic Horein**, **Brianna Day**, **Kinleigh Pellum**, **Cameron McGaughey**, **Garrett Knierim**, **Starlynn Grice**, **Anna Craig**, **Quinn Lillard** and **Matt Montgomery**.

— Maya Garner



DeLand-Weldon

Four students traveled to Illinois State University for a Rural School Leadership Conference where they listened to panelist and shared conversation with students from ISU and other rural schools in central Illinois. Pictured: **Ella Morgan**, **Maddie Rigg**, **Mason Randall** and **Michael Rogers**.

— MICHAEL ROGERS

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Monticello
The Marching Sages went to their first competition Saturday and gave a stunning performance. The Sages earned the title of Mt. Zion Marching Games grand champions for the second year in a row. Junior and drum major **Maggie McCleary** said: "The feeling that came about when that announcement happened was (indescribable). With the overall work ethic this year, I believe that we have many more victories ahead of us."

— RORY COOPER



Armstrong
The school was excited for homecoming week. Community Art class spent weeks planning and creating photo booth backdrops for students to use. They split into groups and each chose a spirit day to make a board for Ironman volleyball is a recent tradition. Each day during homeroom, the grades had time to practice for the event — a friendly competition that brings the school closer. Parade float decorating started Oct. 2. Each class receives a theme to follow and they secretly design and build their float in hopes of winning first place.

— MYAH BARTLOW

URBANA

IT'S ALL GOOD

Homecoming included spirit week and float building. Childhood Character Day and White Lies were a success. Pictured via **Maria Poblano**: **Chris Moller**, **Torianni Aldana**, **Samiia Clanton**, **Winner Nana**, **Honor Dillon**, **Melvin Braxtyn**, **Kalandria Hughes**, **Moreno Mbemba**, **Naveah Carter** and **Alisa Aksimentyeva**.
— **Sophia Sheyko-Frailey**





Salt Fork
The boys' and girls' golf teams have been on a roll this fall. **Daniel Surowka**, **Leighton Miethe** and **Ava Donaldson** each earned all-conference and all-county honors titles at the Vermilion Valley Conference match. **Adalynn Heckerson** was named all-county, too. At the IHSA girls' regional, Donaldson finished in first place, the junior securing her spot at sectional. The boys' team finished third to qualify, too. Surowka, a senior, placed fourth to advance as well. Pictured: (left to right): Heckerson, Donaldson, Surowka and Miethe at the VVC tournament; and Donaldson after her regional win.

— ANNA MCCOLLUM



Heritage
In September, the school's journalism class received a check from the Illinois Press Foundation and Illinois Farm Bureau for \$1,329. The funding will help with the purchase of new equipment, including cameras and microphones, to improve media productions. Superintendent **Kim Norton** said: "We are grateful for this investment in our journalism program and the opportunities it provides for our student journalists."
— **MICAH SOMMER**



Chrisman
The FFA chapter competed at Land Use and placed second. Individually, **Lyndsi Smith** and **Autumn Ellis** tied for seventh, **Izzy Barrett** was ninth and **Remi Laughead** was 10th. The theme was America, so students had their eye black and red, white and blue sunglasses. Also, EcoTeam was held at Camp Camfield at Lake Shelbyville, where students studied three categories: edible and medicinal botany, river ecology, and watersheds of Illinois. Congratulations to **Payton Heroux**, **Carter Swinderman**, **Laken Prisecaru** and **Ave Miller**, coached by **Jennifer Lorton**.

— MORGAN SIMPSON

Unity
A competitive tradition during homecoming week is class float building. Students are given Saturday through Thursday of that week to build a float. This year's theme was "board games." On Friday, the class brings the float to the school to be judged and take part in the homecoming parade. The seniors won this year with a float themed "Battleship." It was the seniors' third year in a row winning.

— GRACE WHERLEY



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Mahomet-Seymour

Intro to Ag classes were visited by the Illinois Association FFA State Treasurer **Lane Perry** and members of the 17 Officer Team. “During the chapter visit, students worked in teams to complete a challenge, learned about the legacies that have shaped agriculture and the FFA, and how they can leave a legacy for the future. They wrapped up their experience (by) learning about goals: filling out their own goal cards to set short-, mid- and long-term goals,” said Mahomet’s FFA chapter sponsor, **Jacob Meisner**. Pictured (left): Chapter President **Callie Turner**.

— ABBY EDEN



Sullivan

School spirit was on proud display during homecoming week. Students filled the halls in silly dressup day outfits ranging from wear inspired by **Adam Sandler** to that of their favorite teacher. The energy flooded on to Friday as everyone celebrated a full day of games before the parade and football game, the former themed around world travel. First place was awarded to the juniors and their Greece-themed float. Additionally, **Alexis Russell** won the Rowdy Redskin competition for school spirit and talent, becoming the school’s first Lady Redskin. On Saturday, students dressed up to dance the Paris-themed night away, with **Kaylee Smith** and **Christian Bennett** crowned homecoming queen and king, capping a week made possible by the hard work of student council.

— CLAIRE KURCELL



BLUE RIDGE DOING THEIR PART

The Knights marked Breast Cancer Awareness Month by wearing pink at various sporting events. The soccer team (**Aaron Covington**, bottom right) wore pink socks, the volleyball team (**Ava Franzen**, bottom left) wore pink jerseys and used a pink volleyball, and the cheer team wore pink shirts and used pink pom-poms. Back row, left to right: **Addison Dodson**, **Kynlee Johnson**, **Mandy Ash**, **Ellie Clark**, **Aubrey Kile** and **Izzy Jenkins**; front row: **Linnea Warsaw**, **Emma Johnson**, **Addie Browning**, **Presley Whisman**, **Cheyanne Smith** and **Aerilyn Johnson**.

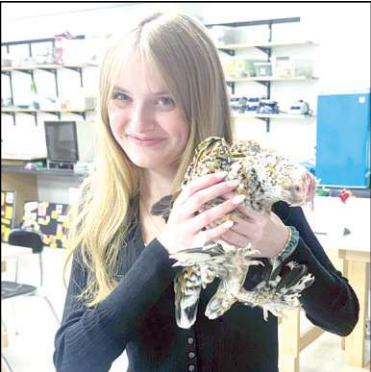
— Cheyanne Smith



Watseka

Students were selected to participate in leadership training led by **Ted Wiese**. Brought in by Superintendent **Kyle Nevills**, Wiese taught about the keys to leadership. Several junior high and high school students were given the opportunity to participate in the seminar, and each spoke very highly of the outcome. Students played games and competed in individual and team-based challenges. Nevills hopes to continue inviting Wiese to talk to WCHS leaders.

— VANYSAH HICKMAN



Academy High



At the Discover Academy High event on Sunday, sciences teacher **Natasha Capell** led a blood-typing lab in order to find out the culprit who stole her missing chicken, **Confetti**. **Max Milling**, **Isaac Sulkin**, **Asher Watson**, **Chris Chan**, **Piper Fields** and **Nicolle Scifres** acted as lab assistants while guiding the middle school attendees through the activity.

— NICOLLE SCIFRES

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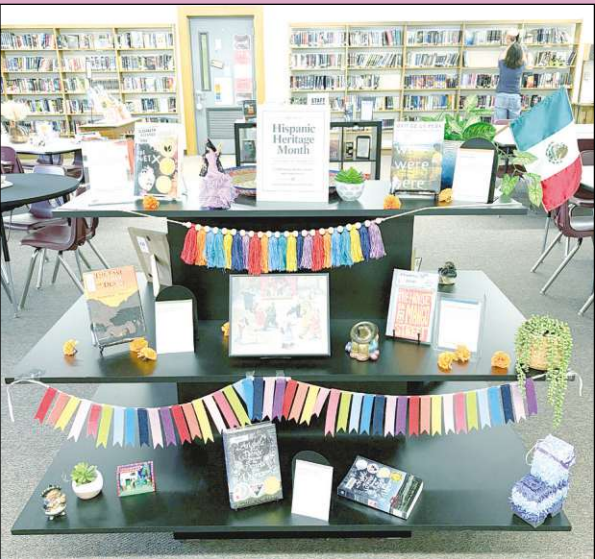
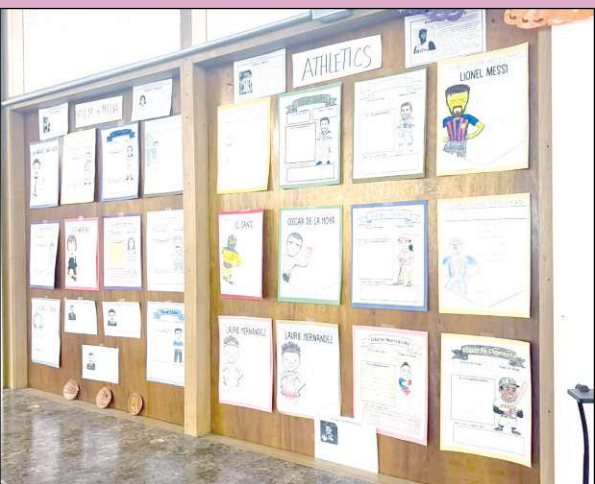


LeRoy

Band competed in the Panther Marching Band Festival at Eastern Illinois University. The team won best color guard, best percussion, best general effect, best visual performance and best musical performance. These victories led them to winning first place overall in Class 1A.



— JACEY HAGEMAN, ADRIENNE UNDERHILL



OAKWOOD
IT'S A MONTH TO REMEMBER

Students in Spanish are helping the school celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, conducting research on a notable Hispanic figure who has inspired them. This research was displayed in the library alongside other Hispanic decorations, including sombreros, Spanish Barbies, papel picado, Hispanic books and authentic clothing. It was set up by Erica Ramirez's Spanish 4 students. Pictured (left to right): Ramirez, Lucas Tyas, Addison McFadden and Sidney Dunavan.

— Sidney Dunavan



Uni High

On Friday, Asian American Association, led by Ruijing Tang, Hyelynn Lee, Chloe Burton and Faith Lee and sponsored by Valerie O'Brien, held its annual Moon Festival during lunch. The Moon Festival is a traditional celebration of harvest and family reunion in many Asian cultures. At Uni, the celebration brings the community together through a variety of cultural events, performances and Asian dishes. Earlier in the week, the Asian American Association also hosted a joint event with Uni's National Art Honor Society to create a paper mural for the Moon Festival. The celebration itself featured performances from student clubs, teachers and the University of Illinois' Jasmine Field Orchestra. From live musical performances to a Kendama demonstration, students sat on the grass to watch the performances and enjoy the food.

— KRISHNA JASWAL



ALAH

A group of class officers took a trip to Parkland College for a leadership conference where they heard ideas on ways to motivate and boost the school climate. Pictured: (top row, left to right) Griffin Hilton, Beau Green, Gabe Brown and Mace Stirrett; (front row) Brynlee Hood, Layla Beck, Bella Romine, Payton Tinkle, Bentley Parsons and Kyndrie Carter.

— LEIGHTON POULOS



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Cissna Park

Throughout homecoming week, students showed their school spirit by participating in dressup days, including USA/Founding Fathers Day, Formal Day and White Lies Day. The week wrapped up with the homecoming games on Friday, giving students a chance to come together, have fun and celebrate with their friends. Pictured: (right) Jace Comstock, Ayden Schaffer, Hudson Young and Austin Kaeb; (middle) Brianna Thilmony, Raegan Thilmony, Trinity Comstock, Sarah Kuester, Lily Heaton, Laura Eisenmann, Mady Marcott and Annika Stadeli; and (left) Skyler Estay, Jonah Yergler, Asher Scheffe and Wyatt Long.

— AVA HENRICHS



Schlarman
After Pre-ACT testing was finished Friday, students started to decorate their hallways for homecoming. Others worked on routines for the lip sync battle. It was a good way to jump-start the fun and excitement of homecoming week.

— REAGAN TROGLIA



Cerro Gordo



Spirit week for homecoming included dress-up days 'Merica Monday, Holiday Pajamas (Tuesday, Rhyme Without Reason (Wednesday), Class Colors (Thursday) and Friday's Spirit Day. The spirit committee decorated the school with orange and blue streamers and painted windows. On Friday, students participated in a series of class games outside, followed by a homecoming parade filled with floats that students created throughout the week. This year's theme: holidays. Seniors had a 4th of July float, juniors had Valentine's Day, sophomores had Christmas and freshmen had Halloween. On Saturday, the school hosted a football game.

— BRYNLEIGH WELDY

GEORGETOWN-
RIDGE FARM
SENIOR MOMENT

Friday was special as the school celebrated Senior Night for football players, cheerleaders and band members — families, friends and community members gathering for a night of smiles, pictures and plenty of purple and gold spirit. The Buffaloes delivered a victory, making the celebration even more memorable.

— Liz Walls



Danville

A Senior Night celebration for football, cheer, pompettes and marching band was a memorable moment that recognized their commitment, hard work and dedication throughout their high school careers. From Friday Night Lights to performances and school events, these seniors made an everlasting impact on their team and peers.

— ASHANTI CONAWAY

